

EDITORIAL

by Lynne Wanyeki

This first issue of the *Brunswickan* is affectionately referred to as the "Frosh Issue". As the title indicates it is primarily intended to welcome all fresh(wo)men to UNB.

When this issue comes out, students will be immersed in the bedlam that is Orientation. UNB's Orientation program has been honoured as being one of the best in all North America, which is something to feel proud of. The activities planned for Orientation are important in that they attempt to bring together the first-year students - quite a formidable task. The unifying factor among you is your choice to pursue a university education. Ironically, this can be a divisive factor too - the words "university education" carry a different meaning for each one of you. You are students from a variety of backgrounds, students with a wide range of interests, students who are going to enter very different disciplines. Orientation events throw you out of the comfortable niches prescribed by such differences. It is to be hoped that the resulting confusion will force you to form alliances which you might not form under "normal" circumstances. This breaking of self-defined barriers can be both liberating and invigorating, and is an excellent way to start the year.

One of the things I am pleased to see running alongside with Orientation events is UNB's first-ever Date Rape Awareness Campaign. The Campaign is one of many projects planned for the year by the newly re-grouped UNB Student Women's Committee. The Campaign includes two awareness sessions which will take place next week, so as to address both the first-year and the returning students. It is important to note that the sessions have been planned in a sex-segregated way. Traditionally, the onus for creating awareness and understanding of sexual assault has been placed on women - and indeed, this onus has been necessarily assumed by women. But in the majority of cases, women are the victims not the perpetrators of sexual assault. Any real and wide-ranging change in the attitudes which motivate rape can only be initiated and effected by the perpetrators themselves. It is therefore encouraging to see a session planned where men can take the onus for dealing with sexual assault upon themselves. It is about time that solutions are put forth openly among us which begin to deal with the root causes of sexual assault - a deadened sense of respect for humanity and misogyny - rather than solely with the saddening consequences of sexual violence on women.

In the most practical of terms, universities are places where we prepare ourselves to be self-supporting financially. Yet if this rather mercenary end were the sole goal of a university education, we might as well refer to universities as trade-schools. We are here to learn, which does not imply passive absorption of facts and formulas and quick, cynical wit to be regurgitated at a moment's notice. We are here to learn how to take an active role in our own education, to ask, to critique, to seek out answers for ourselves. And in this, the attitude of reaching out for understanding - beyond what we already know or think we know - is essential.

This type of learning does not confine itself to the classroom. During this first week, you'll also become aware of the extra-curricular activities offered at UNB. I remain convinced that the gains to be made by participation in such endeavors are invaluable. Being at university gives you the opportunity to pursue your interests and develop your skills to a degree that will likely never be afforded to you again. There are innumerable academic, social, cultural and sporting organizations at UNB for you to become involved with. In most cases, membership is free, and all that is required from you is enthusiasm and a small time commitment.

One such organization is of course the *Brunswickan*, your student newspaper. We welcome you all to come in and learn what exactly goes into publishing a weekly newspaper. While there are many opportunities for aspiring writers to learn about journalism in news, sports, and entertainment, we also need people to help with the technical aspects of publishing. You can learn about photography, developing, and photo-mechanical transfer, become involved with lay-out (both on computer and by hand), earn money by typesetting, help us by proof-reading, or simply relax between classes and argue about the most current campus scandals. If all that fails to entice you, at least come in and join us for our upcoming annual football game against *CHSR-FM*, the campus-community radio station at 97.9 on your dial. I hate to say it, but we need the help!

This is potentially the beginning of the four most varied and therefore stimulating years of your life. Enjoy them to the full.

The Brunswickan

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Where the hell is everybody else, eh?

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