

The Brunswickan's beginning steps into history

Dear Sir

I noticed your letter in the Telegraph-Journal and thought you might like to know how I came into possession of the only copy, known to exist, of the first Canadian University Newspaper, the forerunner of the Brunswickan. At the time that I became the first professor of History at UNB, in 1938, there had become public concern as to how this province had fared under Confederation, and for discovering the influences that had shaped the development of New Brunswick. I planned a series of graduate theses on the subject which I planned to publish in the interest of public information. Unfortunately, there was nothing to work with. This province was the only one in Canada without a public archives. I therefore set out developing a collection of sources as a basis for a programme of graduate studies at UNB. When I became head librarian I transferred the collection to the Library as the Archives Department. At a conference of the Rockefeller Foundation in the U.S. I gave an address on the needs of New Brunswick which led to grants to support research in local history, the first grants the University ever received for research in the social sciences and humanities.

I was very anxious to collect old New Brunswick newspapers as one important source of information, and I advertised in the press with that in view. A Mr. Clark, who lived on Charlotte Street, responded, I went to his house, and bought several old papers from him. He said "I have something that might interest you", and he brought out the first college paper and made a present of it to me. It was called

The University Monthly and was dated September 1867. I afterwards gave it to the University and it is now in the Archives of the Harriet Irving Library. Mr. Clark was well over ninety years of age and said that when he was a boy of seven he had helped his father set the type for it.

I am not sure that the present generation of students know to whom they owe the honour

of having the oldest college newspaper in Canada. The enterprising editor was a boy called George E. Foster. He later became professor of Classics at UNB; then a member of the House of Commons, Minister of Finance in Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet for thirteen years, was said to be the greatest orator in Canadian parliamentary history, was knighted by King George V,

and was Canada's representative on the League of Nations. I heard him speak on two occasions and visited him in Ottawa not long before he died. He was chairman of the Committee that raised the funds for building the Memorial Hall in circa 1922-23.

The Editor-in-Chief of the Brunswickan in 1925-27 was R.R. Henderson who not lives at York Manor. I was Verse Editor in those years, trying to revive

the literary tradition of the University that had produced Bliss Carman and Sir Charles G. D. Roberts.

I hope these remarks may be of some interest.

Sincerely,
Alfred Bailey
Professor Emeritus

What's in a phrase?

Musings on the title of "Canada's Oldest Student publication"

by Eric Drummie

Dear Jack:

On February 9th, 1949, the Dalhousie University Gazette claimed itself Canada's Oldest Student Paper through an article published in the Gazette.

The article stated "... on the basis of statements made by a professor at Dalhousie the Gazette ceased the use of the 'Oldest' slogan in favor of 'Canada's Oldest Student Publication'..." and they have not been disproved..."

These statements brought forth a rebuttal from the Editorial staff of the Brunswickan to disclaim the Gazette.

The rebuttal was in the form of a letter to the Gazette Editor, Mr. Jack Lusher.

Mr. Jack Lusher
The Editor, Dalhousie Gazette,
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS

With reference to the story in the February 9 issue of the Dalhousie Gazette entitled "Canada's Oldest Student Publication is America's Oldest College Paper" I wish to inform you that THE BRUNSWICKAN has a history dating back to the year of Confederation, 1867. In the Archives of the UNB Library is a copy of the UNIVERSITY MONTHLY (Name changes to Brunswickan in 1931) dated September, 1867. It is also marked "Vol. 1, No. 1." The first editor was Mr. G. E. Foster. If you wish, the Brunswickan will mail you a photo of this copy, the only one in existence as far as I know. Under the circumstances, since the Dalhousie Gazette became official student publication in 1869, The Brunswickan therefore claims the title of "Canada's Oldest Student Publication".

Further comment concerning the 1867 issue will be found in the

April 26 issue of the Brunswickan for 1947. Mr. G.E. Foster is probably better known for his later political activity under the title, Sir George E. Foster. Foster was granted a B.A. degree from U.N.B. in 1868 and received an LL.D. degree in 1894. For a number of years he was Professor of classics at U.N.B.

Entering the political arena he became a Liberal M.P. for Kings (N.B.) later York (N.B.) and finally North Toronto. He served in both Sir Wilfred Laurier's cabinet and Sir Robert Borden's Cabinet. At various times he held the Ministries of Marine, Trade and Commerce, and Finance. In 1921 he served as Vice-President of the League of Nations. His career as a politician was crowned with his appointment as a Senator.

Such a career did Sir George E. Foster have following his editorship in 1867 of the University Monthly (now the Brunswickan) ...Canada's Oldest Official Col-

lege Paper"

The following week, March 7, 1949, the Brunswickan ran the masthead they had the previous week except for the addition of the phrase "Canada's Oldest Student Publication".

To date many publications have disputed the claim made by the Brunswickan, but they have been unsuccessful to prove otherwise.

The following is a list of some Canadian university papers and the dates they were founded:

The Brunswickan (UNB)	1867
The Gazette (DAL)	1869
The Varsity (UofT)	1880
The Xaverian Weekly (FX)	1892
The Journal (SMU)	1935
The Athenaeum (ACD)	1938
The Fulcrum (UofO)	1940
The Muse (MUN)	1950

The Brunswickan has had an enviable tradition of dynamic sports writing but there are a few outstanding years which demonstrate this fact brilliantly. Below is a reprint of a story by Steve Twitchell (probably a pen name) writing about a Red Raiders basketball game. In those days, the Red Raiders were a formidable team. The year is 1962, the venue is Mt Allison's New Athletic Centre.

Raiders tip Mt. Allison in thriller

by Steve Twitchell

Labonte swished an outside setshot with 8 seconds remaining, Saturday afternoon, to give the UNB Red Raiders a 61-59 victory over the Mt. Allison Hawks, at Mt. A's New Athletic Center. It was definitely the most exciting basketball game of the season for UNB thus far.

From the beginning of the second half to the final buzzer, it was a nip and tuck ball game all the way with neither team taking more than a 5-point lead at any time.

In the first half it was a different story, however. It looked like a Mt. A run away as the Hawks got

off to a roaring start and were out in front by fifteen points while the fans were just getting settled in their seats.

After recovering from this early shock UNB began to settle down and play basketball. Former Mt. A stalwart, Laird "Mouse" McLennan, put the Raiders back in the ball game with his not too stylish but tremendously accurate shooting. McLennan netted 13 points in the first half. The rest of the Raider quintet followed suit and managed to tie up 30-30 at the half.

From midway through the sec-

ond half on it was easy to see that this game was going right down to the wire as neither team could gain a substantial lead.

With one minute remaining Mt. A went out in front for the last time. Bill Gould, Mt. A's sensational freshman, sunk 2 foul shots to put his team ahead 57-55. UNB's Don Morgan evened the score with a jump shot from the foul line. Then Labonte put the Raiders on top as he swished 2 consecutive free throws with 40 seconds to go, and it looked like UNB might have sewed it up.

UNB tried to stall for the remaining 30 seconds; but immediately the Hawks' Bill Blair stole the ball

and drove the length of the court for an easy lay-up to make the score 59-59. Then UNB brought the ball down the court and passed around for a few seconds looking for an opening. Not finding it Labonte fired his outside setshot and the Raiders had won what could prove to be a decisive victory as far as the NB-PEI Championship is concerned.

Don Nelson summed up the game when he said, "Mt. A has a real good club. They are young and aggressive. They outplayed us at times but we kept them under control."

The Raiders are at home this weekend for two big games. They

meet Aroostook State Teachers' College on Friday and St. Dunstan's University on Saturday in what should prove to be two great games.

UNB - 61

Miller 9, McLennan 17, Tomchak 6, Morgan 8, Labonte 8, Baber 4, Browne 13, Lay.

MT. A. - 59

Wallace 13, Storey, Gould 22, Carey, Blair 13, McKinney 1, MacAulay 9, Hierlihy, McCubbin 1.