

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

ON 3 YEAR CAREER

Retiring Editor, Dave Jonah Recaps His Experiences as Reporter, Columnist, Associate Editor, and Editor-in-Chief

Nothing records the moods, feelings, and life styles of any era better than a newspaper, especially a newspaper with such a well-defined area of concentration as campus newspapers.

No one experiences all the moods, feeling, and life styles of an era better than a newspaper reporter, columnist, associate editor, and finally editor-in-chief, who endures a three-year term. Especially one who devotes his every working moment to the goal that the Brunswickan must come out on time, despite censorship, suspension, press breakdowns, lack of time and copy, and overdue essays to non-understanding professors.

The paper, with its continuous, conspicuous consumption of valuable time and money, affects people like a disease invading their lifestream until nothing else seems important but the task of producing the Brunswickan. 'The Bruns', as it is affectionately called, or cursed vehemently, depending on the state of the volunteer's mind, destroys anyone willing to submit to the symptoms of the disease allowing the paper to become central to the victim's campus life.

Every area of the student journalist's life is affected by the symptoms of the 'Bruns disease' which includes: loss of sleep, academic standing, girlfriends - serious loves or otherwise seldom withstand the competition of the seductive Bruns Lady of the Typewriter, and loss of freedom to plan ahead as everything centers around the weekly publishing date.

It is a matter of some significant record that the last six editors of the Bruns have lost the leading lady of their college experience to the 'paper fever.' At least two of the six previous editors developed an affinity for tranquilizers, while five of the six have been known to actively support the expansion of the liquor sales market.

As an editor, it is always interesting to read articles written by well-organized psychologists as to why disorganized journalists generally, and editors especially, consume large amounts of liquor. Simply put, pressure accounts for much of the desire to get stupendously drunk, as deadlines are seldom met and invariably the production equipment 'snafus' at the wrong time.

Most editors and Bruns staff members adhere religiously to Murphy's Laws, one of which states: "In any scientific endeavor, something will go wrong and if it does, it will go wrong at the worst possible time."

However, despite the problems which occur, the newspaper always comes out on time, for the desire to meet the publishing date always overrides to walk away and hide, or even more serious tendencies towards suicide.

Some critics, both intellectual and jock giants, tend to downplay the serious role of the student journalists by criticizing a paper's content, style or grammatical errors. Great delight is taken in pointing out obvious errors, which the intellect of a three-toed sloth could find, to staff members recovering from the energy burn-off expended in producing the last edition.

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was our best
— next weeks effort will be better"**

Mis-spelled words and crooked lines look like a work of matchless beauty when leaving the office for the printer in the wee hours of dawn, only to appear as a serious of mistakes and bungling on publication day. A paper's beauty, to a tired staff member, reaches its height at first glance when returning from the print shop. Immediately the process of disillusionment and disgust sets in until, two days later, the paper looks horrendous.

A paper's technical, artistic design and quality decreases directly to the length of time it has been on the newstands. TIME Magazine explains it this way with their office motto: "To anyone that asks, last week's effort was our best, but to the staff, next week's effort will be better!"

Regardless of quality, a paper serves as a chronicle of the events which, at the time of their occurrence, appear earth-shattering but which, upon hindsight, appear insignificant. Such is the case with the Brunswickan which, this year, enters its 105th year of continuous publication, holding claim to being the oldest student publication in Canada.

In the past three years this paper has recorded the events on campus, some sensational, some dull, but all of them a part of the mosaic which makes university life such a fulfilling experience.

The following account is my personal impression of this campus, from memory and files, during a period of transformation straining at revolution in its every fibre as protest was launched at the structure of the Administration and government. This protest was largely dis-organized and largely non-violent, but upon occasion contained the drama and emotions of a suspense-thriller film.

Events and life at UNB in 1968 were an experience, startling in detail, extreme in scope but, above all, made life here all for the living. In those days no incident was too small, too insignificant to escape the probing, cynical eyes of the Brunswickan. In late spring of 1967, John Oliver was elected editor of the Brunswickan, succeeding the smooth operating but light-weight Allan Pressman. On the night of his election to the top media position on campus, Mr. Oliver was to prophetically state that: "the Bruns has something to say about the campus and that it is going to say it!"

Attempts to shut down Bruns

By the end of his term as editor, several attempts would be made to shut down the Brunswickan and the Supreme Court of New Brunswick would slap Oliver's hands with a fifty dollar fine for publishing libelous and seditious material criticizing the infallibility and holiness of the provincial courts and judges.

A Brunswickan columnist in 4th year Sociology, Tom Murphy, would spend ten days in jail as author of the questionable articles. This action only served to re-inforce the articles' criticisms and created derisions of gaiety and disgust which reverberated across the province.

In answer, and as a result of the handling of the two Brunswickan members, the New Brunswick Civil Liberties Association was organized.

The transformation in the Brunswickan under the editorship of John Oliver was representative of the political forces growing among the intellectuals on campus. The Brunswickan led the way with articles not only on the current social issue of that time, such as the Viet Nameese War, peace marches, protests and Women's Liberation propaganda, but on the structure of the university and rabid criticism of the Administration of Colin B. MacKay.

No one man or issue suffered under the scolding, cocky criticism hammered out by the Bruns staff than did Colin B. MacKay then President of the Administration. If any organ was responsible for pushing him farther out into irrationality and finally into retirement, it was the blazing, radically-operated editorial guns of the Brunswickan.

Under Oliver, copy writing was akin to editorial columns except that editorials were harsher and unyielding while news copy played at being objective in style in a subjective manner of approach.

It was not revealed until much later just how extensive the constant attack of the Brunswickan and the spreading discontent, not only among the students, but in the teaching faculty, was pushing MacKay towards a near nervous breakdown and eventually forcing him to resign.

No chance was missed to record the masinations of the president in his big-stick diplomacy approach to governing and back-room scheming to regain control of the rapidly expanding bureaucracy. MacKay lost control of his patriarchal controlled institution and as he complained more frequently of persecution by students, he sank into despair and frustration. The Brunswickan continued to inspire discontent by accurately, although sensationally, recording the irregular, ill-timed, ill-handled firing of Dr. Norman Strax and accompanying incidents.

The paper's stance in favour of the "Students Struggling for a Democratic Society" and Dr. Strax's cause did much to alienate popular student support from the Bruns although one could get

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