

# Brunswickan's personal reflection

## 80's

by KATHRYN WAKELING  
MACMILLAN  
EDITOR 1979-80

I joined the staff of the Brunswickan during my first year of university. I was hooked on the place from the moment I stepped through the door.

I spent the next couple of years writing for the news department and pitching in on Wednesday layout nights. During my second year, I became Offset Editor - I was off and running....

Nothing could have prepared me for the role of Editor-in-Chief. I wanted the challenge - and that is exactly what I got. Luckily for me I began my term as Editor with a full staff. Not many Editors can say they started off the year with all editorial positions filled. We really had a great bunch of people; people that really knew about their respective departments. Anne Kilfoil headed up the Photo Department with great ease, while her brother Joey was the News Editor. Joe was always experimenting with new type styles as well as experimenting with layout techniques. We always had professional looking pages - we just had the hardest time keeping him out of the layout tables! Gord Loane as Advertising Manager

was a great asset, but if you didn't warn him he would have tried to sell the entire paper as advertising space!

When I think of all of the people who contributed to the paper I can't help but wonder what we would have done without the help of Sheenagh Murphy as our typesetter. Sheenagh had been Editor-in-Chief of the Brunswickan the year before and when she decided to return to Fredericton and take on the job as typesetter we definitely thanked our lucky stars. She was always there to give us advice or cheer us on when the SRC crew upstairs began to get a little out of hand.

Yes it was a good crew to help me (the novice) pull through the year. We all worked hard each week to put the paper together and yet we always seemed to be in a panic by Thursday afternoon as the deadline would come and go. I am sure all past editors (and present) can remember those moments when you realize the paper should have been on its way to press hours ago. Even though we had changed printers in 1979-80 from Moncton to Woodstock, which meant only a one hour drive, the paper always seemed to be getting out late. I don't think that scenario will ever change!

It was an eventful year for the campus in 1979-80. After a long and often controversial search, Dr. James Downey was named as the new president of the University of New Brunswick. It was also the year that CHSR had made its application for an FM license and

was anxiously awaiting for news of their CRTC hearing. Within the four walls of the Brunswickan office, the decision to purchase a new computerized typesetter had been made, and a committee was established to research and purchase the machine that exists in the office today.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit to the Brunswickan office by the Right Honourable Joe Clark. Clark was given a full tour of the offices and seemed quite interested in our operation, having been involved in a campus newspaper during his own university days.

In the first couple of years that I was associated with The Brunswickan, I was captivated by the zany atmosphere, as well as the camaraderie of the newspaper staff. I had had aspirations of becoming a journalist then (a far cry from the world of accounting that I now enjoy) and I was hoping to learn as much as possible through the Bruns to help me prepare for a future as a news reporter. I did learn a lot of the aspects of a newspaper but more importantly, I learned about people, and made friendships that still exist today.

by MICHAEL MACKINNON  
EDITOR 1983-84

Being editor in 1983-84 meant that I was lucky enough to have to deal with the student apathy at UNB - something that caused Abby Hoffman to declare that campuses were "hotbeds of social rest".

I first joined the Bruns in 1977, a year I would like to forget because although I contributed a great deal I was forgotten about on a weekly basis - not once did I make the masthead.

*"Students no longer seemed to care about anything..."*

Things had died down considerably on the campuses of North America by that time. No longer were students out protesting and all they seemed to care about was where the next beer was going to come from. Much the same could be said about the year I took over as editor, only it was worse. Students no longer even seemed to care about drinking. Whereas I could go to three pubs on any given night in 1977, in 1984 there were one or two pubs on a weekend. To me, this seemed to be a sad commentary on the state of affairs at UNB. Students no longer seemed to care about

anything.

Of course, this was reflected in the turnout on production nights. Initially, I had thought things were going well. There seemed to be a good number of people coming out to do layout and I thought the year was going to be a fairly good one. Wrong! As I was soon to discover, the interest of new staff usually lasts about two or three weeks and then they no longer show up. Not even the offer of free beer on layout nights was enough. (I admit it, I was desperate.) Very soon we were down to the editorial board and one or two staffers doing the layout.

There was one thing that kept this core of people dedicated and hard working - John Bosnitch.

As much as I resented all that he did that year, I should thank him for giving us a common cause. John and his cronies attacked everyone and anyone. On one occasion he wanted to submit a letter to the editor accusing a past president of various infractions and misdeeds. The letter seemed libelous to me (which I verified by contacting a lawyer) so I decided not to print the letter. Accusations of censorship started to fly and the battle of who owned editorial control of the paper had begun. At one point, the Student Union claimed only they could edit material submitted to the paper. The end result was that we retained editorial control and an even stronger dislike of Bosnitch.

This dislike was channelled toward a good cause - the year end spoof issue. The resulting product was somewhat overzealous in parodying John and his companions (no one was safe) which in turn resulted in several threats of libel suits. They were simply that though - threats.

In the six years I spent at UNB I came to realize that college humour lacks somewhat in subtlety and that of the Brunswickan spoof issues was no exception. In fact, most times it touched on tasteless. Such was the case with a parody ad of the Cosmopolitan. It would not be appropriate to describe here just what the ad said but suffice it to say it was a crude spoof of the club's reputation at that time. This resulted in an exchange of letters and yet another threat of legal action. This too was resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

The years I spent on the paper contained many such highlights and are years I will always remember fondly. It is unfortunate that there weren't more students who decided to become involved with the

Brunswickan. They will never know what they missed out on.

by KEN QUIGLEY  
Editor 1986-87

Keeping a spirit alive is never easy, especially one that has lasted a hundred and twenty years.

This year's high staff turnover served only to hinder our efforts to grow and mature the seeds of journalistic integrity and innovation.

The position of Editor-in-Chief, a veritable hot potato, was assumed at different times by four people: Richard Hutchins, Brenda Paul, Cal Johnston, and finally myself, Ken Quigley. These transitions exemplify the undeniable frustrations felt around the office.

Furthermore, we were beset by van accidents, impeachment attempts, conniving Student Union presidents, denial of honourariums, vandalism, incompetent financial management by our publisher

*"Drove us forward where sanity would have hesitated..."*

(who often did not feel obliged to make out our bills and payments), a St. Thomas newspaper staff being forced to migrate to our humble workplace, and of course the perennial plight of fiscal shortcomings.

But, for a hundred and twenty years the Brunswickan has fended off similar hardships without ever yielding to the abominable defeatist route of copping out.

This may be the intangible bind that has seen the publication into its sixth score and it may be the very thing that drove us forward where sanity may have hesitated.

With regards to our news section, this year we can take pride in being, if nothing else, a vehicle for humility. The staff that composed this section delved into campus news and social issues with an intensity that produced results, much to the shagrin of those with something to hide; they posed questions that not only produced stammers from their targets but shaken convictions of those who may have subscribed to something other than the truth. We used this forum to highlight and scrutinize campus celebrities, bringing to light issues foreign to other

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