

# Not much has changed in 125 years

## A brief history of The Brunswickan

by Lynne Wanyeki

The *Brunswickan*, UNB's weekly student newspaper, claims to be "Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication". Although this statement holds some truth, the publication has changed in many ways since its conception.

The publication started as a monthly in the school year 1867-68. Apparently, only 9 issues were published of this first *University Monthly*. UNB then went for 14 years before the publication was revived in March 1882.

The second *University Monthly* evidently did not suffer the same fate as its predecessor. In its first anniversary issue on March 1883, a reference is made to the original publication:

The *University Monthly* is the lineal descendant of a journal of the same name, published in the year '67-'68. Of the old *University Monthly*, however, we know little, having seen but one copy, dated May '68. As this is numbered "9" we suppose the first number appeared in September '67. Be that as it may, the old *University Monthly* was born, flourished for at least nine numbers, and died... It bore the patriotic motto "Non nobis sed patriae."

"Not for ourselves but for our country" was not the motto but rather, the intent of the second *University Monthly*. This publication, "published in nine numbers during the session by the Literary and Debating Society" was intended primarily to increase community interest in and support for the University. In its opening issue, the Salutatory stated:

Something is needed to awaken public interest in the University. As an institution it is only known to a few, our aim shall be that it shall be known and favourably known to the many and that the poorest shall be led to see that the country's interest consists in having it efficiently maintained. We shall therefore endeavor, so far as we are able, to show from time to time the influences of a University training upon society in general, and we shall seek to show that instruction in the University should be free to all.

The *University Monthly* was concerned with literary articles or "the wide field of literature". This perhaps reflected the notion of the University as a place to seek knowledge for its own sake. The Editors in 1882 categorically announced that they would "strictly eschew all controversial matters relating to politics and religion." Subscriptions to the *University Monthly* cost "the sum of one dollar in lawful money of Canada."

The *University Monthly* continued along these lines for 22 years. Then, in October 1922, the name of the publication was changed to the *Brunswickan*, in order to give it more "flavour".

But interest in the *University Monthly* was nevertheless slowly dying. Students wanted more "newsworthy" stories. An Editorial in March 1931 came to these conclusions:

The establishment of a weekly paper at UNB seems to us... a wise move, and would be falling in line with most of the universities throughout Canada... A weekly paper would require a larger staff... which would be more representative of the student body; and this after all, is the proper manner to conduct a college publication... If a weekly paper were established, write-ups on student activities would appear while they were still alive in the minds of the students... In general everything would be conducive to the

revival of that much-discussed "collegespirit" which at present seems to be decidedly on the wane.

And so, after much debate, the *Brunswickan* became a weekly publication whose first issue appeared in September 1931. The weekly *Brunswickan* proved itself to be an improvement on the monthly publication. The campus was provided with news and sporting information. The Engineering and Forestry Societies regularly contributed Editorials. The publication grew in size, in diversity and in membership.

Criticism was, however, inevitable. On April 14, 1932, towards the end of the weekly *Brunswickan's* first year, "the opinion [was] advanced by a few that the change to a weekly [had] led to deplorable shading of the staunch old literary talent of the University". The Editors' response was: "To those who frown upon the journealese of the present weekly and abhor the dearth of poetry, may we quote the opinion of one of our professors on the subject: 'It is better to sin against journalism than to sin against art'."

The Editors of the same year, in accord with this humorous streak, were also responsible for a *Brunswickan* tradition which continues to this day: the end of year "Spoof

Issue". They declared: "The final number to appear will be in the form of a comic issue, and will be in the hands of a special staff."

The history of the *Brunswickan* reveals some curious parallels. The frustrations of those who work with the publication are the same today as they were in the 19th century. These recurring and always hotly debated issues are: whether or not to confine attention to strictly university affairs; the aims and purposes of a student publication; how to entice new staff into the publication; how to deal with criticism, be it justified or not; autonomy from the Student Union; etc... The "resolution" of these issues always depends on the students ready to participate in the *Brunswickan's* rich tradition.

You will find in the *Brunswickan* a fair medium for expressing your student opinions... Remember the *Brunswickan* is YOUR publication and will always be just what YOU make it. On you depends its success or failure... It [is] necessary for every student in the University to get right behind it and give it a great boost.

J.D. Kingsley  
Editor-in-Chief  
September, 1931

## Devilish history

Varsity hockey at UNB is almost as old as the 20th century. Since UNB's first City League game in January 1902, when "the Red and Black" defeated a team of local bank employees 2-1, UNB hockey has altered and expanded as much as the University itself. From the era when "home ice" was a flooded field borrowed from the local garrison and the players, not a Zamboni, cleared the ice; when the team captain doubled as couch and the 7-man starting line-up ("every man in College capable of putting on a sweater") was the entire team — UNB Hockey has evolved from January/February weekend recreation (weather permitting) into the Red Devils' present 26-game regular-season schedule.

UNB has been a part of maritime intercollegiate hockey competition since MIHL's inception: the first varsity league game (January 1906) saw UNB defeat Mount Allison 3-2. In the 84 years since then — as the MIHL evolved from the original 4 teams (Mt. A, Dal, St. FX and UNB) into the AUA's 10-team league — UNB has missed only 2 years: 1912 when hockey was dropped at Mount Allison and Acadia also, and 1919, owing to closure of Fredericton's Arctic Rink. These apart, and despite the effects of the World Wars — enrollments declined, Officer Training claimed many would-be players, and travel was severely curtailed — UNB continued to compete (sometimes in more than one league) every year.

In 1911 the team hired its first coach, Sandy Staples. This development was funded by the Class of '10, thus initiating a solid tradition of Alumni support for UNB's hockey program which has continued to the present. Since Staples guided his 10-man team to the 1911 New Brunswick League Championship, 19 others have succeeded him as coach. Some came and went; but four men in particular came (two began as players), stayed, and marked notable eras in UNB Varsity hockey.

Throughout Fred MacLean's tenure (1921-30 and 1933-37), UNB had no rink of its own, and had to compete with other city teams for ice-time outdoor Arctic Rink. Nonetheless, despite the lack of facilities, despite enrolments and athletic levies lowered by the Depression, UNB became permanent holder of the Summer Cup in 1928, and won the MIAU title in 1934. In '36, when they were NB Intercollegiate Champions, the varsity hockey budget reached \$935 - the

highest ever.

Former NHLer Pete Kelly's 19 years behind the UNB bench coincided with major developments in UNB athletics in general and hockey in particular. Kelly was also Director of Athletics — a measure of the increasing importance of hockey on campus despite the relative weakness of the war years. His emphasis on conditioning underlined the inadequacy of existing facilities, more critical than ever now that most of UNB's varsity opponents enjoyed indoor rinks. In his first year, 1948, the student voted overwhelmingly to dedicate funds provided by Lord Beaverbrook to the construction of an indoor arena. In 1950, athletic financing, hitherto administered by the Student Council, came under the control of the University Senate. UNB's varsity team moved into the newly completed Lady Beaverbrook Rink with a new name: the appearance of the "Red Devils", whose MIAU titles in '60, '62 and '64, inaugurated the modern era in UNB hockey.

Bill MacGillivray, captain of the MIAU-winning team of '62, succeeded Kelly as coach in 1967. While the next decade saw a number of play-offs but no titles, future prosperity was nonetheless preparing. UNB's "building boom" was in full swing: in 1976, the Red Devils abandoned the Lady Beaverbrook Rink to the Saint Thomas Tommies (rivals relocated from Chatham in 1964) and moved up the hill to the new Aitken University Centre — a change no less momentous than the shift to the LBR from the outdoor college Rink of the 1940's

And as Kelly was succeeded by his protégé, so MacGillivray in his turn coached Don MacAdam. Player for three seasons (1970/71 to 1972/73), then coach 1977-85, MacAdam took the 1983/84 Red Devils to an AUA title, their finest in 20 years.

The Red Devils have had three coaches since 1985: Doug MacLean (now an assistant coach with the Detroit Red Wings), Rick Nickelchok, and current coach Mike Johnston, whose first season was UNB's best by far in five years. In 1989/90 UNB was twice ranked in the CIAU Top Ten; finished fourth out of the ten AUA teams; and made the playoffs for the first time since the championship year.