

# EDITORIAL

## FESTIVAL OF CULTURES

by Kwane Dawes

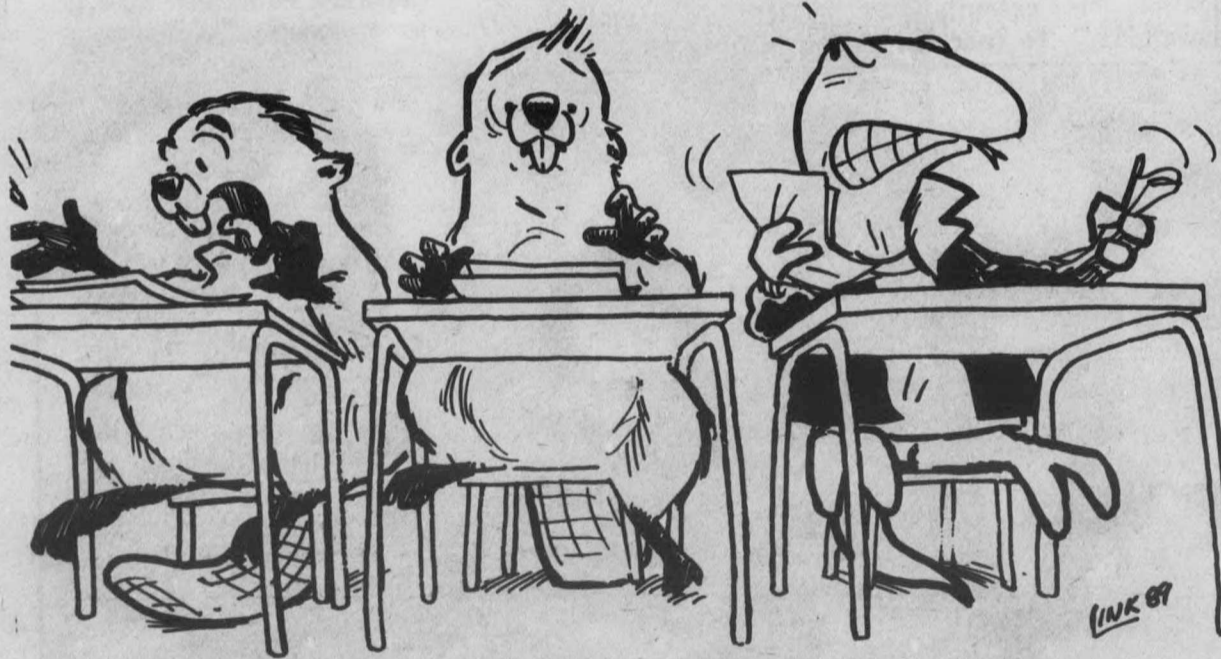
The months of February and March should be dubbed by UNB "Cultural Season." My title is admittedly somewhat innocuous but the idea isn't. A plethora of cultural events take place on this campus during those 40 odd days. It is almost as if International Students from sunnier climes reach their breaking point in winter-trauma by February and they are driven into furtive activity in an attempt at coping with this dilemma.

They plan energetic cultural shows which transport patrons into tropical worlds: touch of difference in the middle of winter. They cook delicious meals, put on traditional costumes, sing and dance their way into another world entirely.

These events are invariably well patronized by Fredericton and UNB ers alike. Many of the shows sell out before the event and people are turned away at the door. People in this region are interested in discovering more about other people and other cultures. Thus it should be possible to make the various events a single season, type of Festival of Culture. It would mean first putting out a brochure with a calendar of events and descriptions of each night. Patrons could be given deals. You could buy a season ticket at a discount rate which will give you entry into all the events. Why, UNB could be perceived as a veritable cultural mecca in the Maritimes!

The Malaysians, the Chinese and the Indians have already had their nights and these, from all reports, were excellent events and well attended. People who attend such events will be impressed at the organizational competence that is demonstrated. The Indonesians, the Africans, the Caribbean people and the International Student Board are yet to host their events. The point should be quite clear by now. This potential for sharing cultural values and ideas is a wonderful thing, and is only possible because of the global microcosm that the university represents.

The Student Union has been quite supportive of these events and one hopes that they give their support primarily because they appreciate the sheer import of these kinds of cultural events in enhancing the experience of UNB students.



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Canada's oldest official student publication

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The Brunswickan, in its 124th year of publication, is Canada's oldest official student publication. The Brunswickan's offices are located in Rm 35 of the University of New Brunswick's Student Union Building, P.O. Box 4400, College Hill, Fredericton N.B., E3B 5A3. Tel. 453-4983.

The Brunswickan is published by Brunswickan Publishing Inc. and printed with flair by Global Printing & Binding Inc., Fredericton, N.B.

Subscription is \$25 per year. Second class mail is in effect - #8120.

Local Advertising rates are available from The Brunswickan, (506) 453-4983. National advertising rates are available from Youthstream Canada Ltd., 1541 Avenue Road, Suite 203, Toronto, Ont. M5M 3X4, Tel: (416) 787-4911.

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