

# EDITORIAL

## Facing the past and looking to the future

By Kwame Dawes

This is the last official issue of *The Brunswickan* for this academic year. While next week's issue promises to be even more entertaining than the barrage of papers dumped at you all year, please appreciate that it will not be what one would describe as a serious issue.

There are a few potentially troublesome issues to be found in this issue and I would like to prepare the reader for one of them. Perhaps the most significant is the long article on page 9 by John Bosnitch. For those whose time at UNB has exceeded five years, that name would not only ring a bell, but will also come with a face and a series of perceptions about the character of the person bearing the name. Bosnitch, for those who aren't aware, was president of the Student Union for two and a half terms during the early eighties. His time in office was fraught with controversy and in the wake of his departure from the campus several stories circulated about the regime that he led. These stories have been either absolutely positive or completely negative, with very few holding a middle ground. We at *The Brunswickan* are aware that our predecessors were more often than not opponents of Bosnitch. There is little difficulty in understanding why. When student papers are convinced that their autonomy and control is being threatened by a student government that is causing great turmoil in the university community, there is a tendency to go on the defensive. Unfortunately, this defensive posture, while being grounded on some very reasonable concerns, did lead to fairly incomprehensive coverage of the political events at the time.

The article in this issue is not intended to redress the wrongs of past *Brunswickan* editors, for it is not our place to second guess them since they worked on very difficult and pressured conditions which they, more than any of us, would understand fully. We have published the article because contained in it is one intriguing interpretation of how the Student Union has come to be structured in the way that it is today.

Students tend to arrive on campus with a perception that the systems that are in place have been there for years and years. The present is deemed most important and the past is regarded as irrelevant. The fact is that the structure and organization of student government at UNB has seen several important changes in the past ten years.

What Bosnitch's article does, in a clearly biased, but well articulated manner, is to demonstrate the ends to which some students have gone to bring about change in their university life. The polarity between administration and students which was nurtured at that time was unfortunate if only because it suggested that the entire administration was working against the interest of students. That kind of generalization may well have been politically expedient, but it only increased tensions between the two bodies. At the same time, when administration sought to characterize the initiatives of ambitious student politicians as criminal and against the interest of students, they themselves failed in their role as administrators acting in the interest of students.

No doubt, with an issue of this nature, strong and opposing opinions abound and I have little doubt that there will be a good deal of responses to the article. If this occurs, we will gladly publish a Blood and Thunder supplement with the Spoof issue so as to assure our readers that this was not a sneaky little trick on them. Naturally, such letters will have to abide by the normal Blood and Thunder requirements.

One anticipates, also, response to the Native supplement which we are running this week. We at the *Brunswickan* appreciate greatly the effort made by all who contributed to the supplement. The art work by Victor Nicholas, a native artist went a long way in enhancing the look of the supplement. As always, it is impossible to cover all issues that one would like to cover, but then, there is always next year. Again, if for some reason, there is an overwhelming inflow of letters we will happily publish them in the Blood and Thunder supplement.

It is only incidental that my last editorial as Editor in Chief of this publication should deal with as controversial a topic as the Bosnitch question. At least, people will read this one with some interest. *The Brunswickan* has held elections and has managed to fill all the editorial positions for next year - not a small feat. It was encouraging to note the response of the staff to the elections and it was also encouraging to see the number of people who both qualified for and ran for positions. I anticipate that next year's editorial board will go a long way in improving the content and quality of the paper. They have all shown a great deal of commitment to the paper in the past few years and have each articulated fresh visions about the direction that the paper should take.

The following people are the new editors for *The Brunswickan* for 1991-91. Editor-in-Chief: Lynne Wanyeki. Managing Editor: Allan Carter. News Co-editors: Aime Phillips and Karen Burgess. Sports Editor: Kelly Craig. Entertainment Editor: Chris Hunt. Photo Editor: Dave Smith. Off-set Editor: Jamie Rowan. Distractions Editor: Steve Seabrook. Features Co-editors: Chris Lohr and Kwame Dawes. The positions of Business Manager and Advertising Manager are "paid positions" and they won't be selected until the end of next week.

I pass on the baton to Ms. Wanyeki with full confidence that she will do a good job. I expect that she will constantly seek to challenge the students of this university to embark on greater thought and dialogue about issues that concern them while entertaining them with informative and lively articles. With each new regime comes a different set of priorities and a different series of goals. There is something especially refreshing about that fact and I look forward to a good year with Ms. Wanyeki at the helm.

Finally, I would like to wish all those graduating this year good lives in the future. I encourage you to continue to support your *alma mater* (as soon as you have paid off your student loans, of course). If you are looking for a specific area of the university that you would like to see your contributions used in, I suggest you consider the University Library Service at UNB as a priority. You would be contributing to the enhancement of the educational capabilities of this institution for many years to come by giving such a contribution. For the rest of you students who will be stuck here for at least another year, good luck on the exams and walk good.

## The Brunswickan

Canada's oldest official student publication  
The University of New Brunswick

Editor-in-chief .....	Kwame Dawes
Managing Editor .....	Lynne Wanyeki
News Editor .....	Allan Carter
Assistant News Editor .....	Karen Burgess
Business Manager .....	Josée Guidry
Co-Sports Editor .....	Kelly Craig
Co-Sports Editor .....	Frank Denis
Entertainment Editor .....	Sean Malley
Co-Features Editor .....	Chris Lohr
Co-Features Editor .....	Chantal Richard
Offest Editor .....	Jamie Rowan
Distractions Editor .....	Jayde Mockler
Photo Editor .....	Dave Smith
Advertising Manager .....	Tara Froning
Advertising Design .....	Lori Durley

### STAFF THIS ISSUE

Aime Phillips, Murray Carrew, Leigh Acheson, Murray Nystrom, Paul Arsenault, Dick, Len Longley, Trisha Graves, Lorryann Marr, Mistro, Peter Pitre, Enyinda Okey, SYD, Pamela Fulton, Bonnie Seguin, The Black Smurf, Al S Tare, Randy Goodleaf, Chris Hunt, Steve Seabrook, Tim Judah

### Typists Extraordinaire:

Denise Holloway, Diana Maitre,  
Heather Kitchen

*The Brunswickan*, in its 125th 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.

Articles printed in *The Brunswickan* may be freely reproduced provided proper credit is given.

