

The following is the first of a three part interview with Student Union President Wayne Carson. This week Carson evaluates the performance of the Student Union during this term. The text includes selected quotes from Carson's responses to the questions asked by our Bruns Reporter.

Carson: "No failures this term"

Student Union President Wayne Carson evaluates the Union's efforts this term.

Bruns: How would you evaluate this term in light of the objectives that were set out by council last spring?

Carson: Generally speaking I think this term has been very successful, positive and tremendously productive from our perspective. Earlier in the spring, when we were first elected last March, we sat down and identified the projects and issues that we would like to focus on. At that time, we identified twenty-one. Since then we have identified another five, so, in effect, we are working on twenty-six projects and issues not all of which have come to a full resolution. About five or six have been completed and the other twenty-one still remain to be completed. I think we've been very comprehensive in the tasks undertaken; ranging from internal management to campus entertainment; to our external view within the community; to more efficient running of our clubs and societies (and financial controls in place in that matter). Our role with campus entertainment has really turned around over the last year. Last year at this point in time the Student Union had spent all its Budget on Campus entertainment for the whole year and, to date, we are under budget, and it's been because of hard work and a lot of good promotion. In effect, we've also been able to ensure student representation on almost every committee in Board of Governors, Senate and the Student Union. I think that's a first. Not only do

we have a large council but are also have more people involved. There is one or two areas where I wish we were further ahead, but its difficult to say. We've all, (the executive) each of us with the exception of the last two-weeks, have spent easily forty to fifty hours a week in the offices working and that in itself is a lot of time. And when you multiply that by twenty-three councillors, again all spending a minimum of probably three of four hours and some of them fifteen-twenty per week, in effect we've had a lot of people doing a lot of work. And I think the results are evident from our perspective.

Bruns: What would you say is the single most important achievement of the Student Union this term?

Carson: Of all the questions that is the most difficult one, because my job in large part is to keep the entire Student Union in context and to make sure that all of its parts and functions are receiving proper attention and it's difficult to pick out one and say - bang! - That's the most significant achievement. Also, twenty-one of our projects and issues are still on going. But what I did manage to do was I came up with three areas that I thought were significant achievements. The first one and the one that I perceive to be the most important issue that we've dealt with this term is the opinion attitude survey. We had approached the Business Administration

Faculty and asked their fourth year Marketing course to undertake a marketing research plan for us and in effect it is an opinion/attitude survey. So they came up with a questionnaire. There were about a hundred responses to the questionnaire which covers all aspects of our operations including our external image, The Brunswickan, CHSR, Campus Entertainment, CFS; the legal information programme. So, in fact it will give us some really solid information with which to compare our action. This opinion Attitude survey will be good for us because it will, in effect, help indicate our progress to date, and tell us what areas the students are interested in. The final report will be available Thursday. (The other two were the Union's involvement in CFS and Campus Entertainment).

Bruns: What would you regard as your most significant failure this term?

Carson: I don't believe there was any real failure. To date we haven't picked up a project or an issue and not dealt with it effectively. Or we haven't picked up. . . I guess you can look at the sex pamphlet and say "is that a failure". I disagree. We as a Student Union firmly believed in the idea of distributing the Sex Pamphlet. However, people disagree. Dr. Downey and I had a discussion on it and we were on very opposite ends of the Spectrum. It was what some would call a heated debate. We talked of his concerns about the flak the administration and Grace Getty received about the pamphlet being distributed form various parents and alumni. But again, I simply explained to the University our position. We came, we disagreed; it was that simple. There was a disagreement but it was one in which we believe we were justified in doing and if I were doing it over, I would do it again. It is not something that I would say is a failure by any means. It's a decision which was a little bit controversial in the eyes of not only the administration but some students as well, but on a whole and the comments that I've been able to perceive, I think it was a wise thing to do. There were two things that I thought were by no means failures but with hindsight were areas that I would improve upon. The first one is; I would have spent more time on P.R. within the University community because the

student body is not aware of what councillors are up to. So, second term that is one thing I will spend more time working at. This does not mean we haven't spent some. We have a weekly column in the Gleaner. We have the Student Union page (I am not happy with that in its entirety) but on the whole it's not bad. The second one is one I should have begun working on earlier - which is SUB expansion. After undertaking it about six weeks ago I realize now the phenomenal amount of work involved. But it is something that I have personally been convinced of the merits of, and the issue was left in my hands to deal with. It should be at the stage at the end of this term where we, as student, have determined what we want within this new building. Do we want a new Student Union building? I have learned that not all student perceive the same needs that I do and so next term it will be a major feat if we are able to negotiate an agreement to expand the building. And whether you see a signed agreement or money set aside for certain I believe you will see progress. Once I (I shouldn't say I because it is not just myself) but once the SUB Expansion Committee determines the additional requirements of the building, it's a matter of going to the students and saying: "Do you think these requirements are necessary from your point of view, because you're gonna be asked to vote on a referendum to pay one third of the cost on a new building - set aside twenty to twenty-five dollars?" And the students will probably say "no" unless we really convince them of the merits of it.

Uncle Stevie steps down

Entertainment Editor Steve Griffiths of the Brunswickan has decided that he will be finished as Entertainment Editor at the end of this term. Griffiths has been editor for three years.

Griffiths has several other commitments such as a graduate thesis on the Molecular Characterization of surface structures associated with selected bacterial pathogens affecting Atlantic Salmon.

Though Griffiths is able to rely on at least three writers whose work he finds "extremely stimulating". He feels there is, overall, a lack of dependable staff for the section.

According to Editor in Chief Kwame Dawes, the Entertainment Section is open to Griffiths if he is available. "It will be very hard

to replace someone as innovative and challenging as Griffiths", Dawes said.

In response Griffiths said

"please find it within yourself to prevent this story from finding its way into the news section."



Griffiths

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