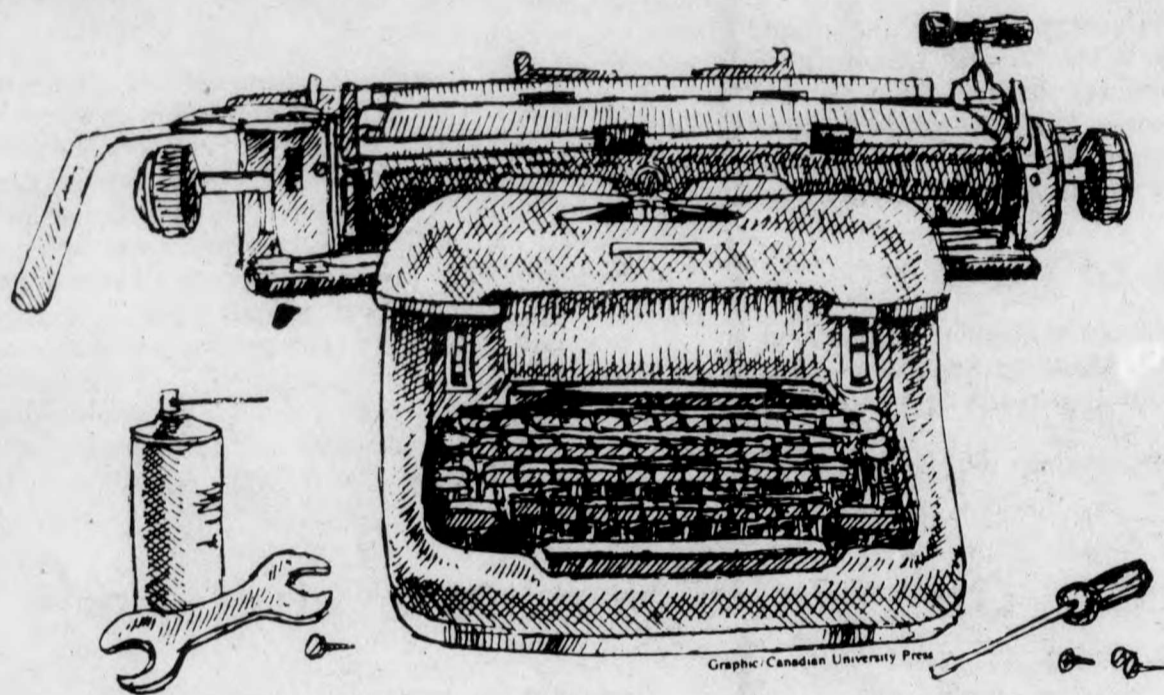


EDITORIAL



What is a "real writer"?

"When you're a writer, you no longer see things with the freshness of the normal person. There are always two figures that work inside you, and if you are intelligent you realize that you have lost something. But I think there has always been this dichotomy in a real writer. He wants to be terribly human, and he responds emotionally, but at the same time there's this cold observer who cannot cry."

Brian Moore

What is a "real" writer? I have often asked myself this question. The "cold observer" that Brian Moore speaks of can write effectively with focused attention on facts, unswayed by emotion and driven by accuracy, but what of "opinion", the sacred right of all individuals? Can a writer be objective simply by ignoring his or her opinion or do we really lose something trying to "report" facts, figures, and occurrences?

I believe that writing cannot be totally detached from one's feelings and beliefs. Journalism, especially in our University newspaper, is a vehicle, a forum for the individual's views and a vestige for liberal thought, as much as a reflection of conservative opinion if the writer so desires. We the University press are free from stringent restrictions on opinion. We do not have to follow a strict editorial policy, nor are we controlled by private interests bent on stifling deviation and free-thinking.

I pity many staff writers who amass piles of information, digest it, interpret it, and then add their personal involvement, beliefs and thoughts, only to be slashed by editors ordered to reflect a certain view and stifle unwanted criticism.

By stifling opinion, we are being no more objective than if it were included. "Opinion" is always open to interpretation. Just as we digest facts so too can we digest opinion. When the reader sees an opinion in print, he/she makes a judgement, opinion promotes thought, a process lacking in much of our daily lives.

This summer, the Brunswickan staff took issue with a very sensitive topic - Nuclear Weapons. We published a special issue, August 6, on the 40th anniversary of nuclear devastation in Hiroshima. The entire paper was dedicated to this contemporary problem and the staff worked hard to make the issue an effective piece of journalism. The motivation for us was simple, we were publishing a paper built on our opinions, our beliefs in the evils of nuclear war and our desire to promote peaceful co-existence for all humanity. The energy expounded in designing this issue unparalleled. We believed in our writing and thus found the appropriate energy to make this issue one of the best efforts I have seen to date. Any attempt to report on this topic, free of opinion would have significantly affected the impact we were searching for. We reported "facts" but added the personal beliefs that come from within. We do not expect all readers to believe our views as the only ones available, but we do reserve the right to show opinion, to promote thought, and express value judgements. There is most definitely a dichotomy in the real writer, we do want to be terribly human but often the cold observer within us brings forward the maximum of attainable and communicable truth. This is the beauty of true writing.

A few words from Jean Paul Sartre seem appropriate; "The writer is committed when he plunges to the very depths of himself with the intent to disclose, not his individuality, but his person in the complex society that conditions and supports him." Writers write to influence their readers and thus they must believe in their stories. It is my hope that the Brunswickan and the staff that work within it maintain opinion as their sacred right, but more importantly, that we write with a conviction to truth and justice that gives value to opinion.

BOO!
BOO!
BOOO!
BOO!

MUGWUMP JOURNAL

by Calum Johnston
MANAGING EDITOR



Bonjour and welcome to the first Mugwump Journal of this academic year. Over the summer the Brunswickan published two issues for graduation and Hiroshima's fortieth anniversary, and I'd like to start off by thanking everyone who was involved. We've got extra copies of these two very fine issues in our office if anyone would like to see them. Hopefully, this year will be as successful as our summer.

As you probably have noticed, our logo is different. Over the summer, while having budget meetings with our esteemed editor, Rikki-dikki-doo, I was looking through old issues of the Bruns and found that the logo was changed every five or six years. The main reason for this probably being that the editor or staff got bored with the present one. That's how I felt about the rhonda logo which is the one we've had since the late 70's. I suggested to the editorial board that we alternate the logo, keeping a few things constant, such as the placement of it (always at the top of the front page), and faithfully ensure that our mascot, "Sharky", is also up there. If you have an idea for a logo design, tell us, and if you don't like the idea, tough, it took me quite awhile to convince people to try it, and I'd like to alternate the logos for a few issues at least. Then you can have me tied up and put away.

Bienvenue Annette! Annette Cote is the SU's bookkeeper and a wealth of knowledge when it comes to filling out invoices and who gets which part of what bill.

Hey, Dougie Budgets, I mean Burgess, when are our phones gonna be back in operation? Over the summer, Burgess had all the phones in the SU offices cut off except for one or two per office as a cost cutting measure, an excellent idea if not for a couple of SNAFU's.

In the Bruns, we had one that worked, which is enough for us during the summer since there aren't many staffers here. Getting them hooked up again was a bit of a problem though. We needed the phones in order to take ads and stories for our first issue. Ever see five people scramble for one phone? Doug says they are to be back in working trim tomorrow (yesterday to you), if not, there will be an execution at noon in the SU general office. Be there or be square.

For new Bruns staffers! There is a party for all Bruns staff tomorrow night. That's Saturday night at around 9pm. The location will be given at the Bruns general meeting today at 12:30. Beaver Foods is going to supply some snacks and the music will be provided by a trio of whistling, humming, and crooning editors. J'espère que tous le monde peut attend. I've got to start practicing my french, so forgive me if I continue to insert phrases with every tense wrong.

You might notice on page 19 the first appearance of "white matter". This is Paul White's new strip, which from the examples I've seen so far, shy's away from continuing characters to explore the gag strip medium. "White matter" will be appearing weekly in the Brunswickan on the Distractions page. Welcome back, Paul White!

On page 9 of this the first issue of the years Bruns, there is a new feature for the Editorial pages. In fact, it's on the opposite page right now. Look over to page 9. Past the masthead that's full of small jokes. Up to the top of the page. That she be, lad. 'Tis the opinion section. The opinion section is a feature in which individual Brunswickan staff members may express their opinions, hence the name. So maybe it isn't original. Sue me.

Before I go, there is one more thing to mention. The Brunswickan has just hired a new secretary-typesetter. Welcome to the zoo-crew, Wendy Douglas! Wendy will be trying to maintain a level of efficiency in the day to day running of the Bruns. Wish her luck.

C'est tout. If anyone out there (is there anyone out there?) has a complaint about anything; the Bruns, school, life, the russians, or even killer scallops, tell us about it and we'll do our best to help. This is your newspaper, one years Brunswickan costs about \$3.50 per student, so if you don't feel you're getting your money's worth, do something about it. Get involved!