

EDITORIAL

Learning from the past

by Kwame Dawes

Every few months I pleasure myself and gain some perspective by browsing through past copies of *The Brunswickan*. My last forays took me back to the nineteen fifties. In those days, the MacGill paper was still a daily and there were a handful of campus papers operating in Canada. Ryerson Polytechnic which housed a journalism school was denied membership into the Canadian University Press organization because it was regarded as not being a genuine degree bestowing college. The Ryerson was publishing regularly, but it was felt that while that paper showed itself to be an excellent example in professionalism for true campus papers, its non-amateur status (the paper received advice from the journalism faculty) made it less than equal to the other papers.

In 1955, the Winter Carnival was a huge success, but there were a few questionable incidents that gave the college a very bad name. Apparently a number of unruly students were unable to handle their liquor and proceeded to act in a manner that was deemed inappropriate. The Carnival's success was highlighted by the difficulty that the judges had in choosing the Carnival Queen for the year. Of especial mention was the remarkable support that the event received from the rest of Fredericton. Apparently, all the prizes awarded for floats, beauty queens, snow sculptures etc. were donated by local businesses. The grand fete that rounded off the weekend of events was well attended by non-university people. I got the distinct impression that Winter Carnival was a mammoth undertaking that was promoted grandly and that sought to bring the University community and the local Fredericton community closer together.

There is much to be learned from the events of those days. In a casual conversation with a long time resident of this city, the question of Winter Carnival came up again. She described the magnitude of past Carnivals in a manner that was enviable. She mentioned that Simon and Garfunkel, long before their star had begun to truly shine, were guests at this university for Winter Carnival. Quite a thing, really. The point is that the Carnival entailed a wide breadth of activity and it involved the entire Fredericton community. This fact seemed important to the then editor of *The Brunswickan* in 1955 who argued that the true success of a Winter Carnival rested in the extent to which it succeeded in involving both the university and city communities.

Have times changed so much? Certainly, Fredericton is a much larger and complex city than it was over thirty years ago. Similarly, UNB has expanded greatly and the student population on this campus is many times that which it was so then. However, I am convinced that the changes have not completely destroyed the intimacy that a small town affords, and the collective spirit that such intimacy leads to. Frederictonians have shown themselves to be quite capable of rallying behind a public event that celebrates the spirit of community. I have watched two very recent events emerge in this city in the past three years which indicate this. The first is the annual First Night celebration which takes place on New Year's night. This event has become a mammoth undertaking that is remarkably well supported by the people of this city. Families are granted the opportunity to share the welcoming of a new year together and with a full and diverse slate of entertainment with something in it for each member of the family. The budget for First Night, while being significant has less to do with its success than the fact that it caters to an important sense of community that people seem to aspire towards in this city.

In no way am I suggesting that Fredericton is the bastion of good community spirit, but I think I can argue effectively the point that the people of this town like to feel like a community now and then. This is demonstrated in the success of yet another new event in Fredericton's calendar. Storyfest is now in its third year, and this year was perhaps more successful than the other two. The city supported the small events as well as the larger shows. I was impressed. Again, the important facet of family entertainment prevails. There is a message here.

So, back to Winter Carnival. I would like to suggest something that may seem daring, but is quite clearly a simple, run-of-the-mill suggestion. Why doesn't the Student Union identify the Winter Carnival as that one event that will allow it to share an event with the Fredericton community? We do present plays, we have bands in, and then there is the Red and Black, but none of these events are genuine family affairs. A city wide Winter Carnival that links up with the extensive and impressive Winter Carnival activities that Elementary, Junior High and Senior High schools in this city participate in is what I am suggesting. I am sure it could work with a bit of coordination and imagination. Surely, we are not trying to revive the silly indulgences of past years like beauty queens and the sort, but there are a great deal of ways in which a Winter Carnival celebration could be redefined as a time in which the university students join the entire Fredericton community of all ages in a celebration of the winter.

If events are planned with the rest of the community in mind we may have something wonderful taking place. Here are a few suggested events. This list is by no means exhaustive. A story-telling night in which university students entertain children from the community. The staging of a dramatic production by the Drama Society could coincide with the week and be billed as a part of the festivities. A series of outdoor sporting events that pit university students against high school students. The importing of an entertainment act by the SRC which is not just another big name band. Perhaps a musical company or a ballet. It will take some money, but it is possible. This time, the event may take place in the Playhouse and not at UNB. These are but a few. I don't think I am simply spouting off a series of impossible dreams. I am convinced that such an event could work in this city. Sponsorship for such an event could then be sought from the businesses in town as an endorsement of this spirit of community.

I would be interested in hearing from any of our readers both at the university and from outside as to whether this is at all a useful idea. It just seems to me that there is much that we can learn from the past. As for those who will respond to these thoughts by saying that the *Brunswickan* is one to talk having failed to do its part in this year's festivities, I say bollocks! Thou hast missed the point entirely.

The Brunswickan Questionnaire.

On page 6 of this week's paper readers will notice a questionnaire. This questionnaire was published in last week's edition of the paper and we received a number of responses. We encourage readers of the paper to answer the questions posed in the questionnaire. It will help us to understand your perception of the type of service that we are offering to our readers.

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
Features Editor Vacant
Offest Editor Vacant
Distractions Editor Jayde Mockler
Photo Editor Dave Smith
Advertising Manager Tara Froning

Advertising Design Lori Durley

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Mimi Cormier, Kathleen Johnson-Tracy, Tony Tracy, Gail Anthony, Aime Phillips, Murray Carew, Jenny K Thomas, Leigh Acheson, Paul Arsenaault, Murray Nystrom, Mark Savoie, Kara Topp, Kirk MacDonald, Bill Traer, Chris Lohr, Chantal Richard, Jamie Taylor, Jamie Rowan, Randy Goodleaf, Al S Tare, Steve Seabrook, Pat Fitzpatrick, Al Robichaud, Cris Hunt, Paul Campbell, Karl from 5th Floor HIL.

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.



by Lynne W

Well, well, the Soviet Un the Soviets supporting in trying so desp double standa politics is ful dealing, and g case to get sup that China is participated in that nobody's

I live in a b when I open r lots and lots really concentr a beautiful li wonderful old

It's so easy Fredericton. university tranquility(un we go actively outside the un interesting stu various comm whatever, - h the term that frustrating, an we give up a friends. Or w

Yes! Only Break. (OK misnomer). I hope you r too much trop hope you bre terribly annoy For those of but I'm STUC

By the way incredible su AUA titles *Beavers* for a swim coach f

For those of *Union* positio out. Too ba upstairs, desp But I should budget for ne engineer-wan it, we won't h

But I won't have come ba the time to fi quite positive what you war to see), they p to support ou believe you're

Have a goo