

# EDITORIAL

## A year in review

This is our last serious issue for this term. Next week will be the week of the traditional "spoo" issue. The victims of our wit will remain a secret, but it should be an enjoyable publication. After that issue, the Brunswickan will be put to sleep for a few months. We will return in late August with the fullest intention of putting out an even better paper than we did this year. Much has been learnt during this academic year both about the content and layout of the paper as well as the management of a largely volunteer staff. The support and encouragement that we have received here at the Brunswickan from students, faculty, and the city dwellers in Fredericton has been invaluable. It is important to make our readers aware of some of the areas in which we hope to improve in the coming year so that we can be forced to stick to our word if we fail to carry-out these plans.

The over-all look of the paper has gone through a series of transformations over the past year. We had significant problems with layout during the earlier part of the term which had much to do with ignorance and the lack of training. It is clear that things have improved significantly since then and we are now trying to regularize our design for the coming year. The advice and encouragement of people like Kay Brookland and Melynda Jarret deserve our thanks. With greater appreciation of the computer capabilities in this office we will have no excuse for not putting out an attractive and efficiently laid-out paper next year.

The News Department suffered some of the same growing pains that lay-out did during the year. Allan Carter is, however, a very committed and determined worker who is bent on increasing the depth of investigative journalism in the paper. His appreciation of the importance of training for staff writers combined with the offers being made by Alumni to assist in training workshops suggest that next year's news team will be an even more formidable one than this year's. Closer scrutiny will be made on the Student Union's activities, while a calculated attempt will be made to ensure that no area of student life is neglected by the paper. This will be achieved by identifying correspondents in faculties, residences, clubs and societies who can keep us abreast of the news that pertains to them. It must be noted here that the allegations being made by the Student Council that the Brunns has had a policy of barring the submissions of clubs and societies from publication is a total fabrication. While in principle the paper reserves the right to judge what is fit for publication, a significant effort has been made this year to ensure that all groups that have requested the publication of press-releases are given ample opportunity for publication. We intend to maintain this policy next year.

The Sports Department was blessed with a lively and largely successful varsity-sports programme this year and the editors and writers did a good job of covering the events that took place. Sports benefitted from the assistance of individuals like Eric Drummie and Bill Traer who have been past sports editors with the paper. The support of the University's Athletic Department was positive this year and we hope this will continue next year. The introduction of the editorial section "View From The Cheap Seats" brought a welcome element of analytic writing to the section that we hope will continue in the next year. The challenges for next year will include the perennial trial of trying to cover all varsity sports and finding writers and the space to do so. With the introduction of a Sports-Shorts section, the student body can at least remain informed of results of all games.

One of the reasons given by the Student Council for the cut in honouraria for the Editor-in-Chief and the Managing Editor of the Brunswickan this term has been the problems faced by the off-set department this year. Contrary to the popularly held position, the Brunswickan has made every effort to understand why the off-set department went over its budget this year as early as November 1989. Attempts were made to rectify the situation and a great deal of time was spent in editorial meetings trying to come to grips with the problem. It is curious that the Student Council didn't chose to take action on this issue last term since they claim that the Brunswickan ignored the problem for all of last term. Despite the obvious disregard that the Student Union has for the efforts made by the Brunswickan to correct its problems we will continue to do so. Training for the technical staff will be a priority next term and every effort will be made to ensure that proper accountability for the use of materials is carried out. The off-set department is a very important one to this paper and we anticipate that this will continue to be the case next year.

This year, the Brunswickan has managed to complete the year with a surplus of over ten thousand dollars in our accounts. This is so despite the marked increase in the average size of the paper, and despite the fact that we did not miss a single week of publication. Our advertising revenue was nothing like what it should have been this year because of significant management problems in that area. But the people who did work in that department manage to generate enough revenue to ensure that we could cover the printing cost of the paper. Next year's revenue should be such that we may be able to do more ambitious things with the paper. There are considerations of a Brunswickan news flyer for important and pressing issues for next year. These are ideas that could lead to an expansion in the scope of the paper. We will see.

In retrospect, it is true that the paper had not always been tidy, nor has the writing been free of major glitches and serious typographical and layout blunders. But we have had some very challenging contributions to the paper and have managed to be a forum for lively and often intelligent debate about some very important issues. The regular columnists like Alexandre Fremont, James Gill, the law students who write Legal Ease, Bill Stewart, Luis Cardoso, John Valk, and Matin Yaqzan, among others have stimulated good discussion in the paper this year. We look forward to similar contributions next year. The profusion of letters to the editor this year is positive indication that students regard the paper as theirs. We encourage even more letters next term. Those letters that never made it were either completely anonymous (we publish anonymous letters as long as the Editor is informed of who the writer is. Their name is kept confidential on request.), or they were totally inappropriate for publication.

Next year's staff is looking forward to working on improving the paper and from all indications this is something that will happen. We now have a proof-reader and we intend to increase the number of readers in the team. We have had problems with the Student Union this year and one can't help but wonder whether the Student Union's policies towards the paper are wholly dependent on whether we criticize them negatively or not. While the threat of further cuts in honouraria looms over the heads of Brunswickan editorial staff, we remain determined to be a responsible newspaper committed to keeping the student body informed of the positive and negative things that their elected council does on their behalf. Our agenda is of course broader than the Student Union, but coverage of their actions is an important part of our mandate as a student paper. We encourage all students interested in seeing changes and improvements in the paper to come forward and make suggestions. We promise that they will be treated with utmost respect and attention. We are always in search of new staffers to add to our roster of volunteers, so we encourage you to drop in at the paper and see how you can help us.

Finally, I must thank the Brunns Alumni Association, President Downey, the Public Relations Department, the secretaries "Marlene and Marlene" in the Student Union Offices, and my anonymous nemesis whose letters to me during last term really kept me on my toes with regards to my writing and the news element in the paper. I guess their point was made.

On an unrelated note, I would like to express my support for Wayne Carson in his attempts at seeing Council begin the process that will lead to the expansion of the Student Union Building. This is an initiative that reflects positively on his far-sightedness, and his appreciation of the importance of laying the groundwork for future generations of students. I hope his successor will inherit such vision.

by Kwame Dawes

# The Brunswickan

Canada's oldest official student publication

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