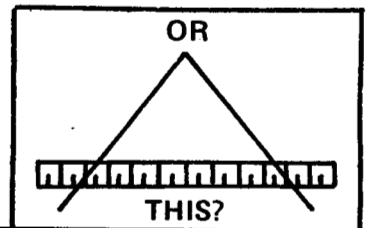


# the Martlet



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"Truth wears no mask: bows at no human shrine: seeks neither place nor applause: She asks only a hearing."

Redfield

# An Open Letter to the Students of U Vic

*There are two points which I would like to bring up in this letter. The first concerns the editorial philosophy; the second concerns the mechanical operation of the Martlet itself.*

*The editorial philosophy of the present editor is to give the paper back to the student voice. Not just a vocal minority but to the more studious and thoughtful students as well. The Martlet editor therefore opens his door to all students on the campus, not merely the politically minded or socially oriented radicals. In doing this the paper takes on a new editorial tone. The Martlet editor including this issue has published five Martlets along these lines. To be sure these Martlets are imperfect, but when the paper was turned over to the new editor the organization was in complete chaos. This brings me to my second point: the mechanics of the operation of the Martlet.*

*When George Manning, Publications Director of the AMS approached me to take over the editorship, I was at first skeptical of the possibilities for the Martlet but George suggested that I speak with Steve Hume, former editor and to discuss with him the problems of the Martlet. This I did.*

*After speaking with Steve, and after looking into the various aspects of the Martlet, Steve convinced me that there was a great number of improvements that could be made and I found the challenge worthwhile and so I accepted the job on the basis of a brief written by Steve, entitled: **The State of the Martlet**. (On page 4 you will find a copy of the brief). This brief was accepted in principal by the Representative Assembly at the end of the last session. You will notice if you read the brief that it calls for a paid editor at \$60 per week; the reason given by Steve who had worked his ass off the previous year, is the most important part of this brief. Quite simply, the job of communications, (i.e. with respect to the Martlet) is just too time consuming and has too much of a physical demand on a person for the job to go unpaid. No student can undertake this job without a reduced course load; and this brings us up-to-date.*

*The question of whether the AMS can function effectively without adequate communications in the form of the Martlet newspaper seems to be some type of political football that certain council members who control the purse strings have been kicking into the face of your present Martlet editor.*

*Clearly this indicates that the political independence of the Martlet is at stake. By constitution, the Martlet is independent of these financial considerations. You the students want it that way because it is the only fair way to bring divergent points of view together in a reasonable newspaper forum.*

*While it is true that the Martlet is engaged in an evolutionary process toward a paid editorship and possible paid staff writers, it is a process that is based on the experience of the chain of editors who have handled the Martlet in the past.*

*It is the choice of students to move with this evolutionary process or to stagnate and allow the Martlet to sink into complete irrelevancy. The present editor feels that he cannot allow this to happen and that he will not allow the independence and growing stature of the Martlet to be controlled by a small clique of petty bourgeoisie student financiers who think that they can call the tune of the Martlet.*

*Indeed the only people who legitimately call the tune are the students themselves and I urge all concerned students to read this letter and to make themselves heard immediately either through their elected representatives or through the Martlet which has always an open door to the student voice.*

Yours sincerely,

Ray Kraft, Editor-in-chief  
1969-70 Winter Session

**THE COMING SCENE**

BY MIKE FARR

*On Charity**There should be charity but there is none.***Farr Here**

BY TONY FARR

*On Faith*

"Come on people, now,  
Smile on your brother,  
Everybody get together,  
Got to love one another right now."\*

ALL SYSTEMS RUN ON FAITH. WITH THE FIRST 'SUCCESSFUL' BREACH OF A CONTRACT, ALL OTHER CONTRACTS LOSE MEANING. AS SOON AS ONE COMPONENT OF A SYSTEM LOSES FAITH IN ANOTHER COMPONENT OF THE SYSTEM, THE WHOLE SYSTEM IS ON THE DECLINE. AT THIS POINT, THE SYSTEM MUST EITHER COLLAPSE, OR THE COMPONENT WHICH CAUSED THE LOSS OF FAITH MUST MAKE AMMENDS.

**THE I OF YESTERDAY** BY BRIAN GREEN*On Hope*

*The hope of this publication lies in one fact-communication. Hope is that one human experience that transcends all the trivial earthly pain. Hope must be communicated. Without hope we are doomed to the "pestilent congregations of paper and sorrow", and to the curse of an existential life of continuous no exit signs. It is only with hope that we can transcend this type of life filled with seeming absurdity.*

**A Message.....  
from the publications  
director**

**George Manning**

**"hogwash  
and  
poppycock!"**

# The State of the Martlet

BY STEVE HUME  
FORMER MARTLET EDITOR

Newspapers, even in their simpler forms, are manifestations of a highly co-ordinated sequence of events that form the intricate process of data gathering, information synthesis and interpretation, and the technical aspects of design and presentation to the reading audience.

The quality of the newspaper in terms of content, interpretation and quantity of news coverage, is in all cases, a direct function of the qualitative efficiency of these processes. Consequently, in news-gathering, interpretive and medium-design structures of the newspaper lie highly important factors in the achievement of polished quality in the content-design frame of reference.

Structure within the student newspaper can be seen to break down into three broad areas of function, data-gathering, data-interpretation and data-presentation.

The data-gathering region of responsibility encompasses those members of the newspaper staff actually engaged in reporting events and writing them.

Data-interpretation is the prime responsibility of the editorial staff, who must exercise discretion in the prominence given certain data and the extent of coverage to be given in particular areas. It is also the responsibility of the editorial staff to re-write and/or re-organize any data supplied by active reporters and to recommend areas of investigation.

Finally, and equally important, there is the area of data-presentation. It is this area that is most often forgotten in any discussion of structural realities within the student newspaper, but is this area which is most time-consuming and has most effect on the reading audience. Linked closely with the area of editorial interpretation, presentation is an art in itself. The design and format of the newspaper are what make it appealing or unappealing from the point of view of audience-participants in the medium.

In this area the Martlet has greatly improved in sophistication and visually pleasing design until its open page compositions must rank among the best in the country as far as student newspapers are concerned.

But it is in the other two of these essential areas that many of the contemporary problems troubling the Martlet have originated.

In short, the difficulties currently plaguing the student newspaper at the University of Victoria are inherent in the structural design and tradition of the Martlet as it revolves around the editorship.

The problems are basic: chronic staff shortage, lack of continuity from year to year, and lack of an efficient program for training new staff - without which continuity is impossible.

These problems have been allowed to continue since the inception of the Martlet, and as the demands on the paper and its editors have grown, along with the campus, so have the inherent, structurally-bred problems.

Because of these problems tremendous pressure is inevitably brought to bear on the Martlet editor as he strives to keep his publication meeting weekly deadlines.

Time he should spend organizing staff must be spent increasingly in dealing with administrative day-to-day problems, time he should spend training new staff must be spent designing each issue, and the remainder of his time must go into course work.

This kind of severe overloading creates a situation whereby the editor must give up on the newspaper to concentrate on his academic life, or yield to the pressure of responsibility and forsake his course of studies for a year. Most choose to be loyal to the idea of their newspapers. Never has a Martlet editor survived the year with feet in both camps.

Asking a potential candidate for the editorship to choose, virtually, between editing the Martlet and passing his academic year is asking a great deal. Asking him to do it on an amateur basis is asking too much.

This year a co-editorship was attempted as a method of alleviating some of the pressure, but one of the editors felt compelled to leave at Christmas anyway because the problems became so pressing.

He is now working as a professional journalist with the daily press.

The only solution is evident. The Martlet editor must be enabled to complete his academic program and at the same time have enough time to devote himself to organization of the Martlet staff and administrative structure.

He must be enabled to assume a full-time and professional attitude towards his job with the student newspaper.

Under the present system none of the above is possible. Unless the editor is willing to forfeit his academic year he cannot attend a full slate of lectures, design the newspaper, and organize staff for coverage and eventual continuity.

Obviously the first thing to do is make it possible for the editor to engage in a lessened program of studies so that he can devote more time to the Martlet without eventual economic backlash.

The recommended solution is easy, can be accommodated within the current Martlet budget at minimal cost, and will enable the editor to assume a professional attitude with corresponding responsibility and work out-pit.

The recommendation is that in conjunction with a stipulation that the potential editor take only three courses during the winter session and a further two during the summer session, The AMS pay the editor a salary of \$60 per week during publishing months of the Martlet and also absorb his tuition for the two sessions.

This can be done by reorganizing the Martlet budget so that an increase in cost of only \$100 would be incurred by re-allocating the above amount to an editor's salary.

Total budget for the Martlet was \$17,484 with an AMS grant of \$8,108. Under the new arrangement, allotting \$2,280 for the editor including salary and tuition fees, the budget would increase to only \$17,584.

For this minimal increase the Martlet would gain an editor able to give full time to his position with no fear of losing his academic year, and would enable the Martlet to continue publishing during the summer session.

It would mean, overall, more complete coverage of campus affairs, a more professional product, and the first firm basis for an editor to start building staff for a year-to-year continuity in the history of the paper.

It would lend administrative stability to the productive structure, while leaving the editor free to encourage the tradition of anarchy and intra-Martlet instability within the newspaper staff.

Such a tradition is vitally important to the creative drive and life of the publication, for it leads away from incestuous clique-ism and enables constructive argument and participatory democracy within the structure.

This may seem to contradict previous statements about increased stability, but there is a difference between organization instability deriving from the editorial structure and the Martlet itself and anarchy among staff members who contribute to the newspaper expecting no remuneration.

While there is no real argument against the statements regarding a kind of controlled anarchy within the Martlet staff, there may be some against the participation of a paid Martlet editor in such activity. The only defence is that in this way good staff relations and continuity can be established.

Financial remuneration to the editor's two immediate subordinates on the editorial staff should also be considered, although such payment for services is not as essential as that of the editor.

There is a great deal of precedent at other universities in this area, with Toronto's Varsity, McGill's newspaper and UBC's Ulysses all receiving funds for payment of editorial salary and honoraria to the top four or five subordinate editors.

Honoraria of perhaps \$50 for the Martlet news editor and city editor should be perhaps considered. Both play a vital role in production of the newspaper and receive little recognition for their duties.

Another recommendation regarding Martlet budgets has to do with membership in the Canadian University Press link with other campuses. Service in the organization this year cost \$500, but if the paper continues as a weekly next year, as it should until the new structure can stabilize, service costs can be reduced to \$300 by requesting only two mailings per week.

Membership in the organization should continue merely in order to maintain contact with universities across the country.

However, membership in the underground Liberation News Service at approximately \$240 per week was commenced this year, and easily takes up the slack of the reduced CUP services. It is valuable in that it maintains contact with much of the university activity in the United States.

Both these services, however, lack any sort of unified regional coverage of university and junior college activity in British Columbia and that is an area that should be investigated.

Since the establishment of BCUS there are all kinds of possibilities for establishment of a regional service involving UBC, Simon Fraser, University of Victoria, Notre Dame and the Junior colleges of the province.

This is an area that should be jointly investigated by the new Martlet editor and the AMS. It could be extremely beneficial to all concerned.

The retiring editor officially endorses Ray Kraft as his appointment to the Martlet editorship, and council should contact Mr. Kraft to discuss the possible ramifications to recommendations presented here.

Other recommendations are that Robin Burgess be appointed news editor of the Martlet and Marlene Almond be appointed city editor.

Following as appendices are the 1968-69 budget and a tentative budget for 1969-70. They should be used as guidelines concerning consideration of recommendations regarding an editor's salary.

Steve Hume  
Martlet Editor  
hereby retired forevermore.