

Editor-in-Chief board report for Jan. 27, 2013

Shandi Shiach

Hello, Martlet board,

Nash76

I already see evidence of strong benefit for staff who attended Nash. It's also already had opportunity to spread to staff who didn't get to go. Erin hosted a Nash briefing that all staff were encouraged to attend. Several did and seemed to take away knowledge, new areas of interest, renewed motivation, and questions about everyone's vision for what we want the paper to be.

Kaitlyn, junior designer, has gained a lot of confidence since the design critique at Nash, and is pushing for greater creative control and design flexibility.

Adam and Janine, staff writers, seem to have honed their interests a bit, with Janine more focused than ever on arts and Adam employing brand new interview skills toward a more journalistic approach to his pieces than prior.

Hugo and I attended a video session together and agreed there were some fun, simple innovations we can implement to the Martlet's videos, like anchor points, or story-telling through photos with text and ambient sound overlays.

Klara brought back a bunch of new fundraising and volunteer co-ordination ideas. She also won the JHM for robotcomics.ca! Since she was present, she got to make a short acceptance speech, so that was fantastic, and it gave her an in for an exciting chat with Chris Jones at the gala. Geoff Line, last year's humour editor, won for humour.

I learned a bunch about the cutting edge of journalism technology and the ethics of net security for journalists, and even picked up awesome new interview techniques. I only wish we could have sent more staff to directly benefit.

CUP - The other aspect of Nash was further evaluation of potential benefits of CUP membership. Hugo and I attended the more organizational events, like the western regional caucus, I went to the CUPwire roundtable, and he saw most of plenary, so we got to hear a lot of criticism of CUP, of large papers who've recently jumped ship (like us), and of a reform proposal put forward by the organizers of the NUW (new university wire), which the Martlet participates in. While I felt a little like a second-class citizen at some more CUP-centric activities, other staff met many delegates from other non-member papers and had a blast.

Martleteers

Our investigative reporter had to return to Arizona, and while he originally planned to be our foreign correspondent, this hasn't panned out. Erin, Will and I have offered the hours to a keen volunteer who was about to reach volunteer staff status. We have a bunch of talented and dedicated new volunteers lately!

Outreach

We struggled for quite a while trying to find a new contributor to profile interest groups in the SUB, but now JP has volunteered. That should foster relationships in our immediate community.

Workshops and guest speakers

I set Beth up with a list of names and contact info of potential speaker series guests, and she's managed to line up four already. It looks like they will run Fridays, possibly a couple times per month. I've also asked editors and staff writers to avail themselves for a 'readability and other things I commonly edit for' tutorial.

The Paper and Website

Both look great to my eye. UVSS elections are on the horizon. I really like the way meetings go with the new cover and editorial systems so far. I'm excited about a lot of the work our team is doing, and I'm sad there are only eight issues left this volume. This week: the sex issue.

Please, let me know if you have suggestions.

Thanks!