

## **Editor-in-Chief board report for Feb. 24, 2014**

**Shandi Shiach**

Hello, Martlet board,

Thank you for taking the time to read my report. Below is a sampling of some of the work and events I've overseen recently.

### **Part-time staff duties**

In December, I reported that I was working on checklists to help editors complete their duties. This project may transition into training material for use with future volumes instead, as I've found that this volume's staff have gotten into their strides. The usefulness of such checklists would depend on how closely future job descriptions match this volume's. Overall, I'm very happy to have the opportunity to work with current staff.

### **Speakers and workshops**

On Feb. 6, staff and I conducted a tutorial/workshop on readability and other common editing tools. On Feb. 21, Danielle Pope came for an hour-long speaker series talk. Both of these events went well, and I'm excited to get feedback from staff and other attendees on how to improve and what kind of events may be good to hold in the future. John Threlfall will be next in the speaker series, on Feb. 28, probably followed by Vivian Smith and Rosa Adler at future dates. There has also been talk among staff of editor-hosted workshops on lede-writing or interview skills. Suggestions or offers welcome!

### **The Martlet**

We've run papers with a few more pages recently, as we had plenty of worthwhile stories and images to print in them, as well as ads. Danielle Pope praised our sex issue and pointed out the Martlet is in a position to do important news well, while other local publications focus on arts and entertainment, business, or other light stories. She said City Hall is not well covered, and the Martlet is rare in its openness to accept accountability journalism that other papers may be shying away from.

The website has been fairly active with the help of Beth and section editors, and our breadth of content is pretty fun lately. Sometimes more depth, in the form of more interviews with tougher questions and greater research, say in the news section, would be nice, so that's something to strive for. Our most recent issue had two psychology related stories in it, and I've asked a UVic psychology instructor whom I noticed with the paper to let us know her thoughts on them.

### **Planning**

I will not be reapplying for next volume in my current position. I've joined the eic/proco hiring and business manager review committee. I hope to not only leave a detailed transition report and training texts, but to help attract as many qualified applicants as we can as a committee, select a candidate we have confidence in, and offer the successful hire(s) as much hands-on training and future support as they find useful.

I am more than happy to discuss any of these matters further on request.

Sincerely, Shandi