

demonstrating communication

FIT FOR PRINT: THE MARTLET NEWSPAPER

After 57 years in print the independent paper The Martlet, is still holding strong to its principles to report on news from an anti-oppressive perspective. The paper is committed to providing an alternative representation to the stories and issues that are portrayed in mainstream publications. "We're first of all responsible to look at reporting on issues that happen on campus, but at the same time there is a community focus to it," explains editor-in-chief Sean Patrick Sullivan.

Published weekly throughout the school year, and monthly during the summer months. The Martlet, which is a member of the Canadian University Press, will often use its independent status to report on under-represented issues like institutionalized racism and gender issues. Says Sullivan, "often in mainstream press the owners dictate its content, and the business office dictates the story. Here we are able to do what we want. "

Like any piece of living media the Martlet has evolved through the years. Although the paper still maintains its left of centre bias, in recent years it has shifted from an anti-establishment publication to more of an alternative option to mainstream viewpoints. In light of this shift, the paper has recently abolished its lengthy advertising boycott list, and instead has switched to examining each potential advertising company individually for potentially oppressive practices.

With sixteen paid employees on staff, the Martlet is funded through student fees with each UVIC student paying \$3.75 a semester. Sullivan describes the volunteer base as huge, and a key component to the Martlet's continued success. "We have had about 100 different volunteers come in here this year... students get hands on experience, it's as much a training ground as a newspaper."

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