

The *Sun* still burning bright after 40 years

After 40 years in the news business, the *Sheridan Sun* continues to rise

KATHERINE RAGETH
SHERIDAN NEWS

The *Sheridan Sun* rose more than 40 years ago and is showing no signs of setting.

The college's campus newspaper marked its 40th birthday last year.

The first issue came out on Oct. 15, 1970, printed completely in black and white aside from the masthead, which added a splash of bright blue ink.

A notice titled "The *Sun* rises" appeared on page one, introducing the paper to its readership.

It outlined the challenges of starting up the *Sun*, compared to a paper with its own plant and full-time staff.

"It's something else again attempting to publish a college newspaper with a commercial plant several miles away, a small crew of part-time journalism undergrads, and catch-as-catch-can photographers and dark-room facilities."

And so it began.

Jeff Rosen was one of the students using the darkroom facilities.

"We took our own pictures and we learned how to develop them as part of the *Sheridan* program."

Rosen graduated from the program in 1982 and now works as a news and Internet editor at the *Canadian Jewish News*.

Forty years later, the dark-room facilities are no more, and

a wave of digital photography and editing software has swept the industry.

Roy Wilson witnessed the *Sun's* most significant technological changes, from manual to electric typewriters and finally computers.

Wilson began looking after the newspaper's production in the fall of 1980, when he was filling in at *Sheridan* for about 10 hours a week.

In 1988 he became a full-time staff member and looked after the *Sun* as well as a number of other courses.

"We had a planning meeting on Thursday morning, everybody did their assignments and then Monday and Tuesday afternoon we would lay out page dummies," said Wilson.

The page dummies were sent to the *Acton Free Press* plant, where they would lay out the pages and print the paper.

"And we sent them by school bus," he added.

A memory that stuck in Wilson's mind occurred after he and another teacher went into the newsroom over the summer to set up all the new electric typewriters, using two outlets and extension cords.

"The first day in September when classes started . . . everybody sat down, turned their typewriters on at the same time, blew out the power in all of C Wing, knocked the radio station, which existed at that time, off the air, and just everything came to a halt because we had overused the power supply," he recalled.

Brian MacLeod, managing



Sheridan alumni Rod Jerred, managing editor of the *Oakville Beaver*, reads the *Sheridan Sun* in his office.

I think the lesson I learned there was that every person, if you really get to know them, has a story worth telling."

-Rod Jerred

editor of the *Sudbury Star* and an '86 grad of the program, had his own portable mechanical typewriter.

"They never shut down, they never freeze, they never lose the work that you've done," he said.

But he cautions that they did run out of ink ribbons at the most inconvenient times.

"Writing essays and stories at 11 at night when your ribbon runs out is very frustrating," he said.

MacLeod also remembers that pouring his thoughts down on paper and rearranging them wasn't an easy feat with a typewriter.

"Back then if you wanted to move the paragraph you had to cut the paper and then take some Scotch Tape and Scotch Tape it back in somewhere else," he said.

He also said researching was a laborious task in the times pre-

dating the Internet.

This made background information hard to find, and people a lot harder to track down.

"We didn't have Google," said MacLeod.

Rod Jerred, managing editor of the *Oakville Beaver*, attended the print journalism program from 1974-76.

He told a memorable story of two students that had met before attending *Sheridan*, one from Nigeria, and one that hitchhiked through Africa. They had reunited at *Sheridan* and Jerred overheard them talking.

His article ran on Jan. 23, 1975 with the headline "Live poles apart, friends reunited at main campus."

"I think the lesson I learned there is that every person, if you really get to know them, has a sto-

ry worth telling," said Jerred.

When Jerred was writing for the *Sun*, the guidelines were strict.

"Everything had to be about news events that happened on campus or about students at *Sheridan*," he said.

This included plays that were happening, sports, covering the senate and tuition increases.

Wilson said the story content of the *Sheridan Sun* changed as the size of the class grew and the size of the newspaper grew.

"It allowed us to do some things off campus that weren't possible when you only have an eight-page paper and the entertainment section would be half a page," he said.

With more space available, a lot of concert and theatre reviews now appear in the paper, as well as stories about provincial politics.

Israeli Apartheid Week packs a big punch at McMaster

JORDAN A. TWISS
COMMUNITY NEWS

McMaster University's Israeli Apartheid Week, which was part of a global event aimed at organizing a boycott against Israel, ended last Thursday.

The events included lectures and screenings of films about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has been ongoing since 1948. But organizing Israeli Apartheid Week proved difficult.

"When Yves Engler came March 8, there were two undercover cops in the audience," said Riaz Sayani-Mulji, a third-year health sciences student at McMaster, who helped organize the events. "It's funny, because Engler came to campus in September to speak about Afghanistan, and no securi-

ty was needed. But when someone speaks about Israel and Palestine, it's a different story."

Lia Tarachansky, an Israeli-Canadian journalist with the Real News Network, ended the events with a lecture about media coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which was attended by a small crowd of about 20, but well received. Using video and images, Tarachansky argued that the media has reported on the conflict without placing events in proper context or giving Palestinians an equal voice.

"When Palestinians commit violent acts in the West Bank, people are going to get killed, arrested, or spend their lives in jail," she said. "When settlers attack Palestinians, which happens a lot

more frequently, almost nothing happens. Israeli legal organizations have found that only 8 per cent of Israeli settlers are indicted for their attacks."

Tarachansky blames biased media coverage of the conflict on the political interests of Western governments. She says Canada, which has become a staunch supporter of Israel under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is one of the worst offenders, since most media outlets are run by corporations or the government. As proof of this, Tarachansky played footage from a CBC report in which Palestinians were compared to Nazis. No Palestinians were interviewed.

Tarachansky added that Palestinian voices are hard to hear, because it's impossible to get into

Palestine, and most media outlets don't have reporters in the Middle East. Instead, large media outlets like the Associated Press and Reuters, which have reporters in the region, set the global news agenda.

Tarachansky's lecture also explored the impact of the conflict on Israeli and Palestinian children.

"A recent Palestinian Community Mental Health Centre report found that 95 per cent of children in Gaza experience anxiety, and almost 25 per cent see no point to life," she said.

"Meanwhile, in Israel we teach our children to count on pictures of jet planes, and flags, and soldiers and M16s."

Gregory Molev, a fourth-year women's and peace studies student at McMaster, who grew up in

Haifa, Israel, added that the Israeli media deliberately misinforms people.

"For me, [the violence] was mystifying," he said. "I knew who was doing it. It was the Arabs. In Israel, there's no such thing as Palestinians. Even in the media, we call them Israeli-Arabs. So I had no idea why there was conflict."

Tarachansky says this is changing. Israelis are meeting with Palestinians and non-violent, anti-Israel protest movement is flourishing in Israel.

Tarachansky will speak in Toronto on March 30 to raise funds for the Real News Network, which is independent and receives no funding from corporations, government or ads. The location of the event has yet to be determined.