

The room's not really that much cleaner than when we started, and the boxes of infinite old Danians still sit in the corner. Once more I am alone in this room, as I was at the beginning of September, once more thinking about the book you now hold. Now however, things have changed.

I had never worked on a yearbook before but for developing a snapshot or two for Mrs. Pease in high school, though she didn't care if I did or didn't, so mostly, I didn't. I wasn't interested. And when Dana College came along, I still wasn't interested.

In the spring of 1986, I applied for editorship of the Hermes. I didn't get it. Instead, I was offered the position of Danian Editor. "Danian?" I asked, "What's that?"

"Like the Yearbook," they answered. "We think you're perfect for the job."

"Well . . . "

"Great!" And a slap on the shoulder blade later, I had been transformed. I was a yearbook editor. I consoled myself despite the havok the transformation was wreaking throughout my nervous system. "I don't have to worry about it until next year. "The Powers-That-Be were perhaps snickering then however. They knew better, and quicker than you can say, "I'm not sure I want this job . . . " Next year was happening.

Dr. Heinrich likes to use the analogy of the machine when describing the production of a yearbook. "Once that machine gets oiled and working," he states, "Watch out. For three months we had zero oil pressure. Some of our core group knew what had to be done, some didn't. Some knew when it had to be done, others had no idea even as to why.

Rust was a result, yet we all hung on. And sometime in the two minute headlong rush that was second semester, we got the first page done and that was like dumping a quart of oil right into our chasis.

As I'm writing this, we're 98% done with this book which (paradoxically enough) is 100% done as you read this.

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And that brings us back to the room. The boxes still sit in the corner, I'm still here thinking about this book. But things have changed.

A man named Milt Heinrich made the difference, and gave me a perspective where one hadn't existed. To him go an infinite amount of thanks. Without him, you would not be holding this book now, or paging through it in twenty years.

And I wouldn't have had any fun. Because a year ago I wasn't sure. Now I am. I enjoyed it.

It was a year of good and bad, victory and failure, tradition and change.

A good year.

Let's do it again.

Love and Peace,  
Richie\*  
Editor  
86-87 Danian