

Debrouwer elected new president of local Chamber

Former VP assumes new responsibilities in January

By **FANNIE SUNSHINE**
The Champion

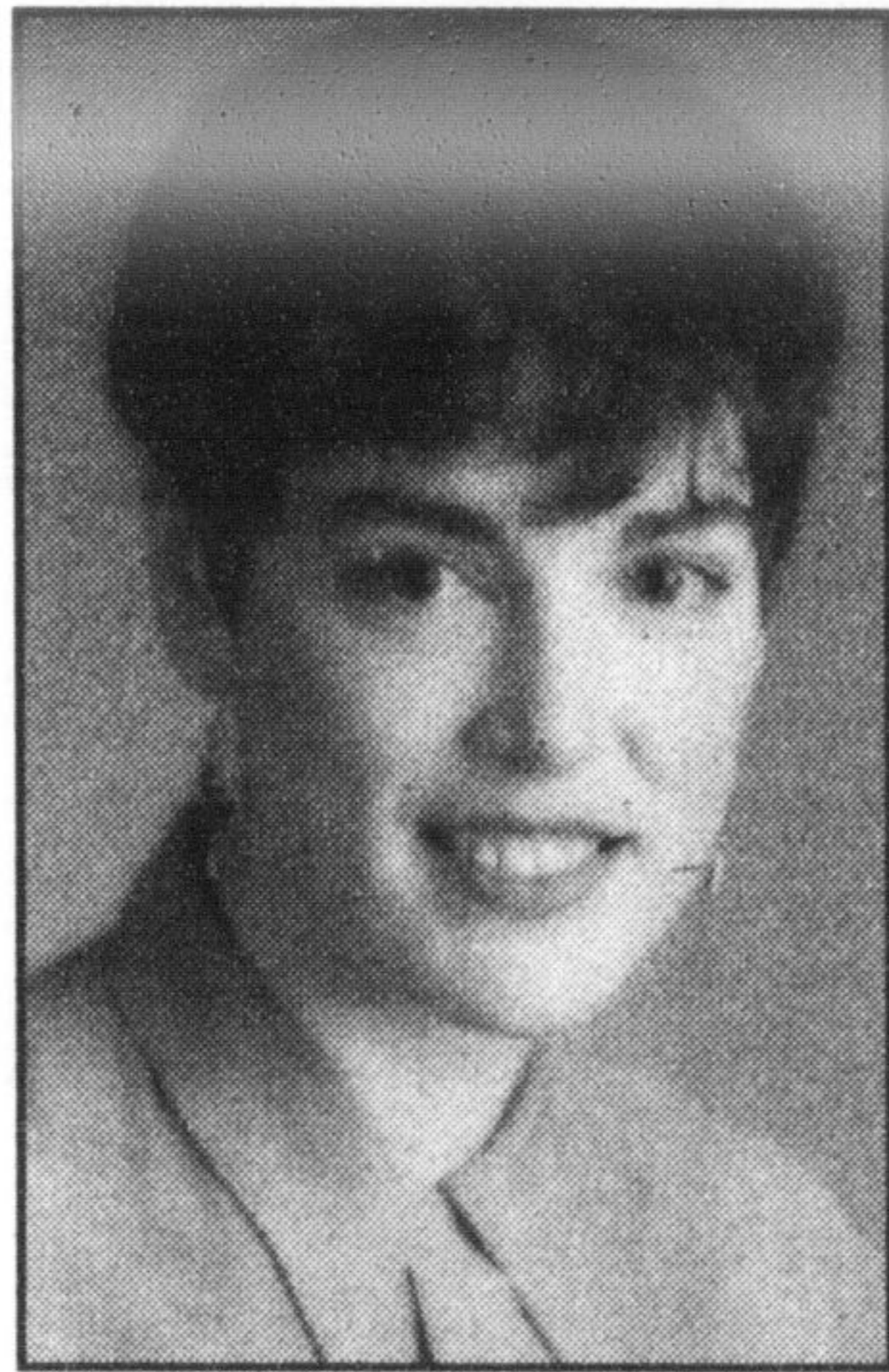
Although Melissa Debrouwer was satisfied with her position as vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce, she felt it was time to move up.

On December 19, Ms Debrouwer got the opportunity to do just that when she was elected president of the Chamber.

"I find the position interesting, to find out what's going on in the community and to stay on top of upcoming events and issues. Being president seemed like a big job and I was up for the challenge."

She'll officially take over the position from outgoing president Dawn Case Thursday. The election of vice president and treasurer will take place January 16.

"The Chamber is really growing, we have close to 600 members now," Ms Debrouwer continued. "I think it's exciting."



Melissa Debrouwer

Even though the position of president was challenging at times, Ms Case said it was also rewarding.

"This year really went quickly," she said with a laugh. "I really enjoyed my time and it helped me with personal growth. At times it was challenging but one of the really good things about it was the staff and (executive director) Sandy Martin made it easier."

She also had some advice for incoming president Ms Debrouwer.

"The best advice I can give is she has a great board behind her, they are all helpful. And I'll still

Hudson, Derek Wilson, Angelo DeMedicis, Doug Francis and Blake Mercer.

Paul Attack and Hazel Carlin served their final term on the board of directors.

Sandy Martin will continue in her position as the Chamber's executive director.

be there (for guidance)."

Ms Case will remain on the Chamber's board of directors as past president for another year.

Returning to complete a two-year term on the board of directors are Jamie Burton, Lesley Anne Gough, Joyce Hagevik, Ron

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