

The Brunswickan

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The Brunswickan, in its 140th year of publication, is Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication.

We are an autonomous student newspaper owned and operated by Brunswickan Publishing Inc., a non-profit, independent body.

We are a founding member of the Canadian University Press, and love it so. We are also members of U-Wire, a media exchange of university media throughout North America. We publish weekly during the academic year with a circulation of 10,000.

Letters

Must be submitted by e-mail including your name, letters with pseudonyms will not be printed. Letters must be 200 words maximum. Deadline for letters is Friday at noon.

Editorial Policy

While we endeavour to provide an open forum for a variety of viewpoints and ideas, we may refuse any submission considered by the editorial board to be racist, sexist, libellous, or in any way discriminatory.

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Submissions

If you have some info about news around campus, our news editor would love to hear from you at bruns.news@gmail.com.

Same goes for Sports. If you'd like to get coverage of an event or make an announcement, contact our sports editor.

Website concerns

Dear Editor,

I am appalled by the Brunswickan website. The most recent issue on the website is from November 2005. In a time when the environment is a growing and extremely important concern, you cannot even keep the on-line content updated so as to reduce the amount of paper used to print each issue. Just imagine how many trees are used to print the horrible articles that the Brunswickan staff pops out each week. This number can be greatly reduced by having the Brunswickan updated online in an easy to read format, much like [here] magazine (www.herenb.com) and coalfish.ca. The online edition could then be easily advertised in the student e-newsletter.

I am generally concerned about the way UNB regards the environment. Recycling receptacles for both bottles and paper are often in inconvenient places or not easily visible. A recent online article on the CBC website (www.cbc.ca/nb) outlines the steps being taken by residences at Mount Allison university to reduce waste and to become more sustainable. They're donating all leftover items at the end

of the school year, such as unwanted shampoo, clothing, and furniture, to the Salvation Army to reduce waste. Mt. A is also introducing biodegradable food containers and are encouraging students to reduce energy consumption in residence. I am not a resident student at UNB, but is there anything being done here? It doesn't take much. Just simply turning off lights and other electronic equipment when not in use can save a lot of energy when everyone takes part.

I want to see more done on campus concerning environmental issues. Hopefully the candidates in the upcoming SU election will consider the environment as a part of their campaigns.

Sincerely,
Concerned Environmentalist

Editor's note: Our new website is now active. You can view all our content online at www.thebruns.ca

News or slander?

Dear Editor,

I was absolutely shocked when I read the article "STU Player a Classic Hockey Villain" in the February 7th issue of the Brunswickan written by the Bruns Sports Dept.

It quickly became apparent that this article was not news, but rather a sad attempt by a UNB hockey fan to insult and humiliate a player of a rival team. It accuses Nick Theriault of being "annoying," "dirty," "Irritating," "a true hockey villain," and "a coward," then finishes by referring to him as "fatty."

Next time you plan to slander an AUS athlete in the sports section, calling him a "coward," at least have the courage to put your name on the article instead of hiding behind the pseudonym "Bruns Sports Dept." Congratulations, now all who read that article believe that the Bruns Sports Dept is as narrow minded and uneducated as you.

The article was so poorly written that at times it is almost comical. It goes on to accuse Theriault of trying to "stir shit." Stir shit? Is this the best journalistic description the Bruns Sports Dept can come up with?

This is NOT sports news nor does it belong in the sports section of our school paper. If you wish to be one of those people who like to call names, do it in the stands with all the other clowns at the game. Don't report it as sports news and tarnish our school paper with this mindless garbage.

Freedom of speech is one thing, but a line here has most definitely been crossed and I believe an apology is in order by the Bruns Sports Dept.

Oh, and I looked into it, and this same "fat coward" was first in goals and second in assists in the league last year.

Donald Everson
Year 4 UNB Student

Correction

We failed to acknowledge local photographer, Oliver Flecknell for his work in the Arts & Entertainment section of the January 31st issue. He should be properly credited with the photograph attached to the Emerge Submissions article.

An open letter to the UNB Board of Governors

Members of the UNB Board of Governors:

I wish to bring to your attention several problems the Student Union has had recently with respect to student elections for the Board of Governors (BOG). Unfortunately it appears that the Union is determined not to rectify at least some of its electoral problems, and this worries me.

A fall by-election held to fill a "vacant" seat on the BOG was overturned by the SU because of several problems. The vast majority of graduate and part time students did not know about the by-election; other students were turned away when they tried to vote online; and some ballots were thrown away after a name was left off the ballot. The nomination period was not advertised to any acceptable standard (the SU's own standard, in fact), and there is no way of telling whether students who wanted to run were left out.

To top it off, the BOG by-election should never have happened in the first place. The SU held the by-election to fill a seat that wasn't even vacant; neither of the two Fredericton students on the BOG had resigned.

This month, the SU is holding a

by-election to fill a BOG seat (which is now actually vacant). The by-election is happening at the same time as the general election for next year. However, there will not be a new nomination period for the new BOG by-election: only those who ran in last fall's by-election will be on this month's by-election ballot.

There are two problems with this. In deciding not to hold a new nomination period, the SU is allowing only candidates from a flawed, unadvertised nomination period to stand. Although the SU has accepted that another by-election is needed, it has also insisted that using a flawed candidate list is appropriate. Any student who was shut out of candidacy last fall because of poor advertising is still left out.

The most distressing implication is that the SU has decided that it will accept a candidate list that was compiled during a by-election that should never have happened in the first place. If the by-election was not valid, why does the SU insist that its nominations were valid?

When asked why there would be no new nominations, SU President Jessica Stutt informed me that Council took this decision because there are only two meetings of the BOG remaining this year. Apparently expediency is required. However, the

by-election will happen at the same time as the general election for next year, and a full nomination period is being held for that race. Why is it that two elections happening at the same time can't have two concurrent nomination periods? Using the same nominations will not elect a student member any more quickly, so it is no reason to refuse new nominations. The goal of expediency is not served by Council's decision.

I applaud the Union for recognizing that a new by-election is needed given the number of problems in last term's by-election. However, the SU's refusal to hold a new nomination period is absurd. It raises serious doubts about the Union's commitment to integrity in the elections process.

Therefore, I am requesting that you direct the University Secretary to require that the SU examine and revise its processes for future BOG elections. This will ensure a fair, valid and accurate result when selecting student members of the Board of Governors.

Nick Ouellette

Nick Ouellette is a first year law student and a former member of the UNB Board of Governors and the UNB Fredericton Senate.

A different take on wrestling

Dear Editor,

Yes, wrestling has its "vice" as Brett North is quick to point out in his or her 7 February article "Dropping a weight class potentially unhealthy." In reply I wonder what sport does not have an ugly side?

Alpine Skiing has speed, people get hurt and killed, in leisure, competition, and training. Ice hockey requires of its players a certain amount of violence; same as Rugby requires brutality to the point of self-hatred. Every year, the governing bodies of these sports try to reduce the impact of their respective vices by making competition more technical. Wrestling, for the appearance of brutality, is already an incredibly technical sport. Wrestling gives athletes the opportunity to compete with other athletes who are evenly matched in size, leveling the field for athletes of all body types in ways that other sports do not, as North points out.

Unfortunately weighing in is the mechanism for that leveling, the Yin and the Yang, a necessary evil. And it is a subject that requires calm examination of the physiological and psychological factors as they relate to the athletes, and their coaches. Mr. or Ms. North provides neither. In fact, the author provides little more than unchallenged, decontextualised academic quotations and an inflammatory reference to seven-year-old tragedies, which have not been repeated despite the "potential" danger

the author alludes to. Instead, the author has spoken to some young athletes still articulating the relationship between themselves, their bodies and the fuel they need and are, as yet, ill-prepared to address underlying reasons for the guilt they associate with eating. There are more pressures than weigh-ins weighing on 16-year-old girls with regards to their bodies, not to mention 19-year-olds and 22-year-olds, but the author fails to cast the net any farther than bullying coaches.

The author poses the question "if athletes are starving themselves why is weigh[t] cutting acceptable while the mental illness of starving oneself is a disease?" I can only speak from my own experiences. The athletes (there are exceptions to every rule) are not starving. I maintained a healthy balanced diet despite losing a significant amount of weight to compete for the UNB wrestling team in 2004. It was too exhausting not to.

We made our weight-classes by working very hard at practice, in the gym and on the track over several months. And at no point did any one affiliated with the program encourage, imply or insinuate that we should do otherwise.

In fact, it was much the opposite. One teammate noticed I was bruising easily. He recommended natural sources of iron, like raisins, to stop it. Veteran athletes were more likely to share the best ways to lose weight in the long term than show you how

to cut weight quickly, because they were avoiding it too. I was warned away from relying on coffee to fill my stomach. The author failed to mention that drugs -- laxatives, emetics, diuretics -- are banned for use by all varsity athletes, and it is enforced by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, with testing at tournaments and randomly [throughout the year]. Peeing in a cup in full view of a witness is another necessary evil, I guess. The author implied there was no such action in place to protect athletes.

The challenge for the coach is to find the right weight class for each of their athletes, a class they can reach healthily and can compete in. Wrestling is about what you bring to the mat, about soundly outwitting and outwrestling your opponent, about who you can beat. While losing weight is part of that reality, cutting large amounts of it in a short time will only undermine those very goals. The UNB coaching staff would not ask for the impossible. They wouldn't have the winning record and loyal alumni that they boast if they did.

Kate Betts-Wilmott
BA (Hon), UNB 2004
UNB Varsity Reds Field Hockey 2000-2004
UNB Varsity Reds Wrestling 2003-2004
MA, WLU 2007.
University of Waterloo Warriors 2004-2006
Department of History

Frontpage article lacks quotes

Dear Editor,

At the end of last week's frontpage story about supposed inaction on the part of the UNB Student Union ("What has the SU done for you?"), the writer suggests "the voice of UNB's student population seems to be searching for credibility." Well, they're certainly not going to find it in the news section of their student paper. Only two students are quoted in an editorial -- disguised as a news story -- that apparently aimed to discredit the students' union. The rest of the supposed students are unnecessarily anonymous, leaving readers to question whether the quotes were made up on the newspaper's production night. How many are the "many students" that feel the SU isn't useful? Three? 12? 36? C'mon, Bruns, you can do better.

Sean Sullivan

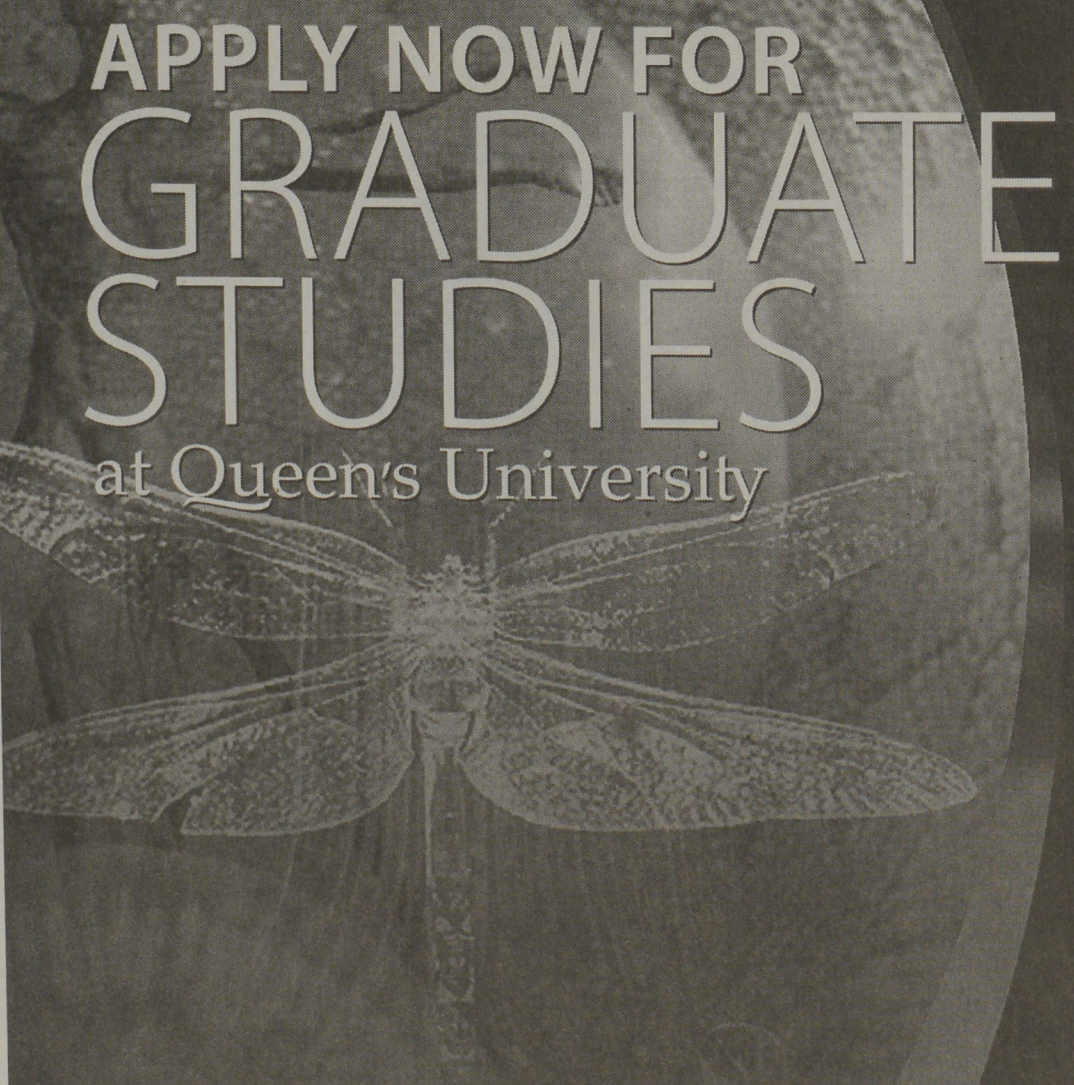
Editor's note: All quotes used in the article were credible. Students chose to remain anonymous for various reasons, including friendships with members of the Student Union.



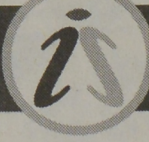
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