

brunswickanopinion

editor@thebruns.ca

DONEWICKAN BANQUET



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

The 2008-09 Brunswickan staff pose at the Brunswickan Alumni Awards last Saturday night. From left to right: Mitchell Bernard, Alex Wickwire, Colin McPhail, Josh Fleck, Sandy Chase, Dave Evans, Josh O'Kane, Tony von Richter, Christian Hapgood, Bill Traer, Dan Hagerman, Doug Estey, Sarah Ratchford, Andrew Meade & Hilary Paige Smith.

the brunswickan

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The Brunswickan relies primarily on a volunteer base to produce its issues every week. Volunteers can drop by room 35 of the SUB at any time to find out how they can get involved.

About Us

The Brunswickan, in its 142nd 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 6,000.

Letters

Must be submitted by e-mail including your name, letters with pseudonyms will not be printed. Letters must be 400 words at maximum. Deadline for letters is Friday at 5 p.m. before each issue.

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.

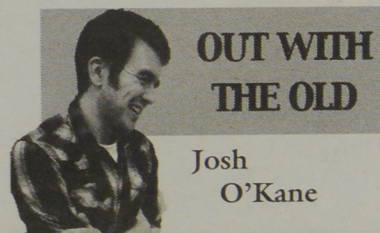
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I'm outta here



OUT WITH THE OLD

Josh O'Kane

You take what you can from life's experiences. I walked into university fully intending to go to medical school after a chemistry degree. When I couldn't get on the UNB Saint John Student Council, though, a friend told me to write for the campus paper.

Turns out that pop culture commentary was a lot more interesting than chemistry. My interest in writing snowballed, and by 2008 I had somehow become editor-in-chief of the Brunswickan – a position I somehow wanted to be in.

I walked into this job with a head full of ideas and a series of lofty ambitions. The Brunswickan had gone through a series of ups and downs since I first got involved in 2005, and I wanted to cram the best parts of each year into this one to make it amazing. Was it amazing? Well, it could have been better, but I'm damn proud of what this paper has accomplished this year.

Sean Patrick Sullivan, a former Brunswickan Editor-in-Chief, wrote in his final editorial in 2004 that running a newspaper is akin to treading water – you can do all you want to move forward, but you spend most of your time trying to keep afloat. If you stop for a second, you start to sink and you bring your staff with you.

Sean was definitely right – you can do all you want to fight against that metaphor, but it'll always come back to get you.

We forged ahead as much as we could this year, though. I've had the pleasure of working with an incredible group of editors and staff, and I wouldn't trade any of them for anyone else. The amazing cohesion I've seen this year has not only made the Brunswickan a better newspaper for students, it's also been an amazing place to work that I look forward to each and every day.

We went forward with a massive redesign this year to rebrand the Bruns as a modern, more accessible product. The redesign went even further as our budget slowly deflated because of declining national ad revenues – making the Brunswickan, one of the last remaining

broadsheet student papers in Canada, finally switch to tabloid format.

News coverage this year has been the most interesting of my five years in the student press. Canada had an impromptu election that saw Fredericton go Conservative for the first time in 15 years. A 21-year-old student was elected to represent Fredericton's most student-populated ward on city council. Our chief competitor, the Aquinian, suffered major financial setbacks, leading us to cover their story with the help of the Canadian University Press.

We started regularly covering UNBSU council meetings, leading to better coverage and, hopefully, more accountability – though some members of the Fredericton's far left community would disagree. The SU general election itself was more active and engaging than it has been in years. Despite the fact that I stepped back from any and all election coverage, I was slandered numerous times in the process for my connection to President-elect Jon O'Kane, my awesome brother who won a great election fair and square. (*Editor's note: Despite allegations, the previous sentence is the first and last in which I have used the Brunswickan to comment on the UNBSU election to any degree.*)

Our opinion section was also rebranded this year, with more student commentary than we've ever had since I joined the Brunswickan. We brought in regular columnists and looked at issues both local and abroad, instead of filling opinion pages at the last minute on production nights. Students truly began to embrace it as a forum for dialogue at UNB – which is exactly what it should be.

I've taken what I can from my opportunities at the Brunswickan, and I hope you have too. This year has been a great one.

Sean Patrick Sullivan went on to become president of the Canadian University Press. It's with a great deal of pride that I am leaving my desk at the Bruns for another office Sean once occupied: in August, I'll be heading to Toronto as National Bureau Chief with CUP. The Brunswickan is a founding member of CUP, which makes me even prouder to continue our paper's involvement with the organization.

I've embraced as many opportunities as I can here at UNB. I hope you have too.

Josh O'Kane is outgoing Editor-in-Chief of the Brunswickan. He can be reached at editor@thebruns.ca – for a little while longer, anyway.

Nice to meet you, UNB



IN WITH THE NEW

Sarah Ratchford

Good morning.

In my introductory article for the Bruns this year, I tried to stress to students how important it is to embrace life as much as possible, to always take risks. You never know how things will work out unless you try – I firmly believe in this outlook.

Throughout my year as News Editor, I learned my own lesson: the people who say that students are apathetic party animals who don't know anything about life are sadly mistaken.

I have met some absolutely amazing people during my first year at the Bruns: people who selflessly volunteer their time for others, people who are strongly committed to social causes, people who create incredible inventions, people who are powerful environmentalists and activists. The best part is that all of these highly engaged and fascinating people are students – you guys.

At the risk of sounding completely Pollyanna, which I'm sure I already do, I want you to know that I really love UNB, and that I really look forward to acting as your Editor-In-Chief for the 2009-10 academic year.

Remember that the Bruns belongs to all students, and anyone can use it as a vehicle to express their passions and get their voice out there. Everyone has a passion, so why not share it with the rest of UNB through writing?

In terms of next year's Brunswickan, I have a lot of plans already. My main goal is to include as wide a variety of opinions and outlooks as possible. UNB is a mosaic of amazing people from across the world, and I'm very proud to be part of our campus environment. I want black, white, brown, yellow, pink, purple and blue people writing. I want gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, trans and asexual people writing. I want angry, happy, sad, perturbed people. I want perspectives. I'm greedy when it comes to other people's opinions. I eat them up like Popsicles on a hot day – so feed me.

Whether you decide to write or not next year (some people are shy, I know), you can rest assured that you will have an awesome campus paper with as broad a scope as possible. This will not be due to me, but to student writers and our epic incoming editorial board. Each editor at the Bruns next year really fits into the niche of their job, and together I think we will be able to create something fabulous.

The gist of what I'm trying to say is that I am completely open to whatever people want to say. Freedom of speech is key, and the Brunswickan is your forum to exercise that. As of May 1, I can be reached at editor@thebruns.ca with any concerns, comments or ideas.

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting more of you.

2009-10 Brunswickan Editorial Board:

Editor-in-Chief: Sarah Ratchford

News Editor: Lee Johnstone

Arts Editor: Doug Estey

Sports Editor: Colin McPhail

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Production Editor: Christian Hapgood

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Want to be our managing editor next year? Contact editor@thebruns.ca.