

Word of the wise

“I don’t get why a guy that reviews deep fried pizzas would feel threatened by a writer that reviews smoked Atlantic salmon.”

- Patrick Greco in our Letters to the Editor

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Students vote to change name of student newspaper

UPEI has applied a new name to campus news.

The UPEI student newspaper, known previously as The Cadre, has elected to go with a new name, the Panther Post, as the new face of UPEI newspaper. The change has been met with both optimism and skepticism as students clamour to opine in on their views of the change.

The name change was brought into consideration following the failure of the 2007-2008 newspaper, as well as the numerous problems associated with the newspaper in past years, Post editor-in-chief Lucas McInnis said.

“We analyzed the situation and realized there was so much negativity associated with the name that it may be in the best interest of everyone to evolve.

“An evolution that we felt should potentially include a name change.”

The newspaper had been rife with problems under multiple editors, including a decision by former editor, Ray Keating, to print the infamous Muhammad cartoons, sparking media backlash beyond school property, garnering international attention.

Other problems include the printing of a particular story entitled Christfucking Christmas, which dealt with numerous faux-pas topics, specifically female body parts.

The summer following the folly of the 2007-2008 newspaper year, in which only five papers were printed in total, found McInnis discussing potential changes with a number of people who had the best of intentions for the newspaper, including newly-elected Student Union president Justin Douglas, Shawn Younis, the vice-president of activities, and McInnis’ fellow

Holland College journalism program grad Cheryl Murray, as well as another journalism grad and current Post reporter and columnist Jarrod Yeo.

“The concept of a potential name change had emerged from the get-go,” McInnis said.

“It was no secret the Cadre name had been hurt throughout the years and the question of whether a name change would be in the benefit of the newspaper was always on the table.”

The Cadre board of directors, consisted of McInnis, Younis, Chad McGuigan, the vice-president of finance, Martha MacIntyre, the Cadre business manager, and a member at large, at the time held by Asher Fredericks. They decided to leave any decision of a name change up to the student body, deciding to hold a referendum after students passed in what they felt would be viable names for the student newspaper.

“It was felt that any change to the student newspaper should be left to the students, who, after all, pay for the newspaper,” McInnis said. “I met the decision with criticism, to be honest. The paper’s content has been evident of multiple individuals more interested in joking around than providing campus news and I feared these would be the individuals to provide any new names.”

McInnis admits he was wrong in his conclusion. After many new names began to be offered he found there was an assortment of students who also wanted a change.

“I was amazed. As Chad (McGuigan) began to tell me the names coming in I thought, ‘wow, maybe people are ready for a change.’”

What did catch the board of directors off guard was the multitude of

suggestions to keep the name as is.

“It was at this point we realized change is sometimes dangerous, and to make such a dramatic change we would need to leave the option of what was normal to the students.”

Regardless of the option of leaving The Cadre as The Cadre, students dutifully elected the Panther Post as the best choice for the new name, a choice that McInnis has heard both praise and questions for.

“People have told me they voted for Panther Post because they felt a change was necessary. They’ve told me they voted that way because [the board of directors] so desired a name change. And I’ve heard people say the name change is a mistake.”

McInnis recalls sitting in the UPEI campus pub, The Wave, upon release of the December issue, the first issue named the Panther Post, only to hear such criticism.

“I was pleased with the last issue. I thought the reporters really went up and beyond their expectations. But the name change has been questioned, and whether or not it will stay as the Panther Post will be shown in time. If it proves not to be a progression than we would have to rethink the changes we made this year.”

“Criticism is to be expected. We need to remain obdurate.”

McInnis admits meeting criticism hasn’t been easy.

“Anyone who does anything to the best of their ability, as we all at the paper have, is going to be hurt by criticism. Unfortunately, criticism is impossible to avoid. All you can do is smile and hope for the best. And the positive compliments for the paper this year have easily surpassed the negatives.”