

Lookin  
good...

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**VP Internal narrowly misses impeachment**

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

In the end, Nick Murphy was saved by a move that scrapped two votes against him and replaced it with a new one — his girlfriend's.

The vice-president internal of the Dalhousie Student Union was facing impeachment for charges of failing to do his job and "bringing disrepute to the union," by yelling at a staffer and shoving another vice-president while drunk.

The climax came at the end of the nearly five-hour council meeting Wednesday, as out of a vote of 31 people, 21 voted in favour of the impeachment. The vote required a two thirds majority to pass and did, by one vote.

Immediately two people popped out of the crowd and questioned the legitimacy of two

Science Society reps whose terms had expired April 1.

The reps' votes were struck, and one was replaced with Science Society member Kathleen Terroux's. She voted against the impeachment. She's also Murphy's girlfriend.

The new vote was 19 for, 10 against, one abstention. It failed by one vote.

As Murphy's girlfriend burst into happy tears and was surrounded by friends, Murphy seemed shellshocked.

"I don't know — I'm glad council decided not to impeach me... [but] I'm a little disappointed [in the vote numbers]," he said. "It was a pretty political process. Maybe I should have done the political thing."

Murphy is at the end of his

term, with only 23 days and a paycheque left before it's officially over.

Student union president Ted Chiasson, who brought the motion to impeach Murphy forward in the first place, wasn't impressed with the results.

"This sets a new low standard for Dal students," he said. "We won't see much of him. He'll be

around for a couple of days to gloat, but that'll be it."

The meeting had a courtroom feel, with two lawyers, two third-year law students and a slew of amateur Matlocks doing their best impressions of closing arguments.

"This is like Ally McBeal," said one onlooker.

Council seemed unable to decide if the real issue were charges

of poor job performance or Murphy's drunken behaviour at the student union's Student Appreciation Night — at which he screamed "You fucking bitch you're going down" at student union employee Lilli Ju.

Murphy apologized to Ju for what he called a "minor incident"

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**Breaking ground****New med school dean to focus on  
advocacy, overall excellence**

BY DONNA LEE

Noni MacDonald didn't think her new job would make her a ground-breaker.

"It's been called 'medical history'," she chuckled. "[It's] kind of a surprise that everybody's so interested."

MacDonald, who will become Dalhousie's new Dean of Medicine in time for the next school year, is the first woman in Canada to hold such a position. "I realized I would be the first woman dean of medicine," she said. "but I didn't realize that was a big deal."

But as more people talked with her following her appointment, she realized she was breaking a 'glass ceiling' that had been holding women in medicine back.

"It's very sad that it's 1999 before the first woman dean of medicine in Canada has been appointed. There have been women in academic medicine for a long time."

"It is a big deal, and I'm much more respectful of that now, because I have a better understanding having talked to a lot of women... they have said, 'you are providing a leadership model for people.'"

But while everyone else is focussing on her gender, her attention is squarely on her new job.

During her five-year term as dean, MacDonald says she plans to lead Dal's medical school towards overall excellence.

Her goal is to balance the faculty's emphasis in three areas: research, patient care, and education.

"Some medical schools have really focused on research as being the major thing," she said. "Others have said teaching is where it's at."

"I think all three... have to be done well."

In doing so, MacDonald says she hopes to encourage dialogue between all medical faculty members, so those who work in research can stay connected with specialists in teaching and practical care.

Apart from teaching the usual medical know-how, MacDonald also wants to educate Dal's medical students in a unique skill — social advocacy.

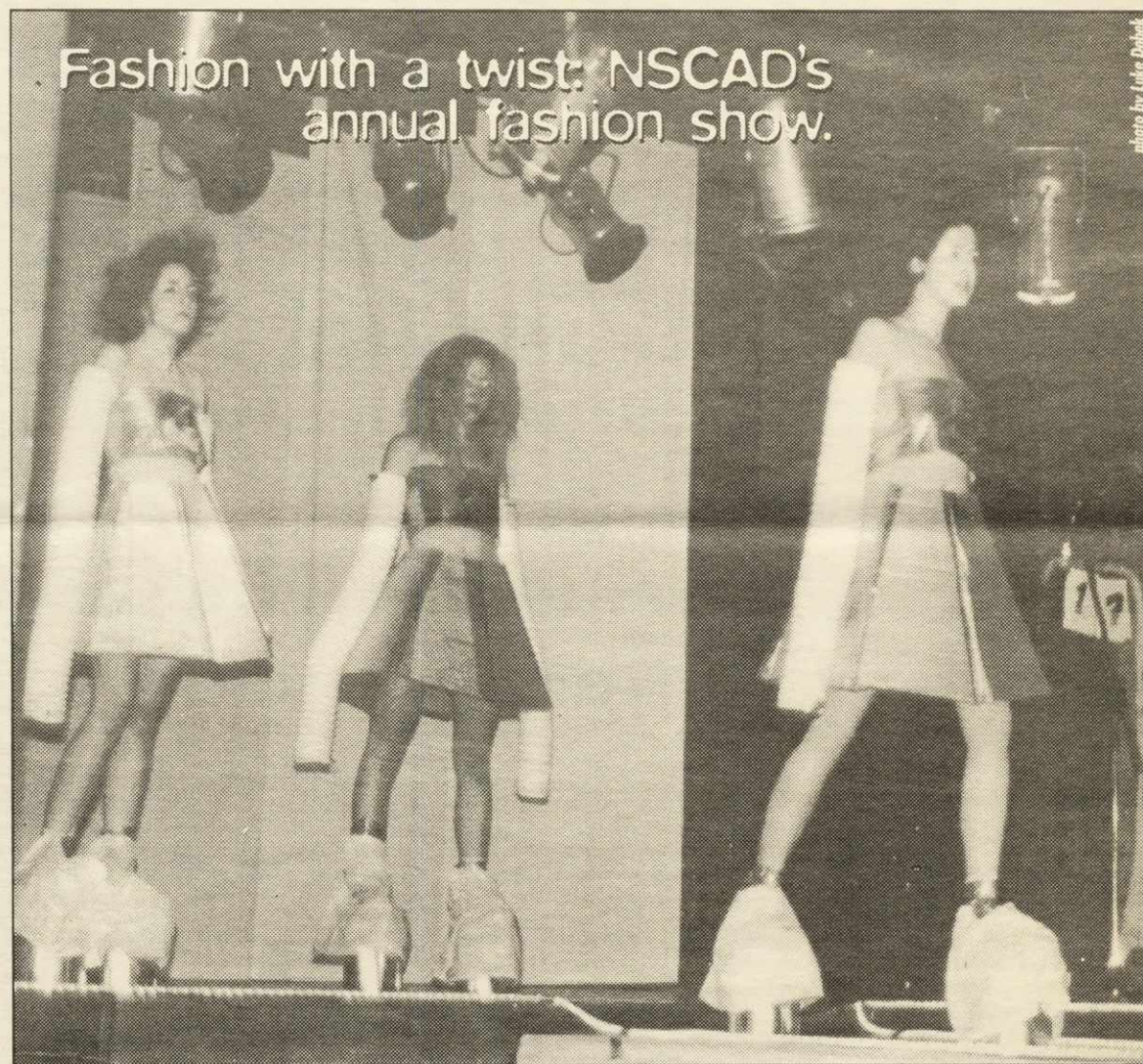
For MacDonald, advocacy is acting upon the social issues related to medicine, and she says Dal is a prime location to do it.

"Nova Scotia is the right size for there to be a really good dialogue between government, the medical profession, faculty and other health care providers," she said.

"I am interested in [students] learning advocacy skills so they can advocate for their patients."

Macdonald says advocacy can be applied to any social setting, whether addressing the needs of seniors to a town council, working with health boards to ensure access to the proper medical facilities, or improving the health components of

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**UPEI dissatisfied with  
MacLean's survey**

BY SARAH MURPHY

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) — Students and administrators at the University of Prince Edward Island are questioning the methodology used by Maclean's magazine in its annual ranking of universities, saying one of its calculations is misleading.

Concerns over the magazine's November, 1998 Survey on Canadian Universities were raised in January but were only recently made public.

Fourth-year student Crystal Doyle, who sits on the university's senate, in January asked for clarification of the university's operating budget that was reported in the survey.

Maclean's reported that out of the 21 institutions surveyed, UPEI has the highest operating

expenditures per student, about \$9,577.

But after researching the matter, the university's senate reported that \$9,577 represented all expenditures related to day-to-day operations of the university, including salaries, utilities and supplies.

"The money needed to cover these operation expenditures come mainly from government grants and tuition revenues," said vice-president academic John Crossley in a memo to the senate.

He added that if the cost of the Atlantic Veterinary College is taken out of the calculations, the expenditure-per-student figure would drop to \$6,761.

This would place UPEI eighth out of the 21 schools surveyed by Macleans, behind schools like Mount Allison University and

Lethbridge University.

Doyle says the survey is doing a disservice to UPEI by misrepresenting the facts.

"This small error on behalf of MacLean's may be replicated in all university stats and could be the cause of many students taking their business elsewhere."

The issue has highlighted long-standing criticisms of the methodology used for the popular survey.

"Different universities may report differently on their operations. This would likely result in variations in calculations and discrepancies in results," Crossley said. "For example certain universities will include the amount of money spent on scholarship and bursaries in their calculation, unlike several institutions which will choose to exclude them."