



the BRUNSWICKAN

Volume 130 • Issue 13 January 10, 1997 Second Class Mail #8120
 Canada's Oldest Official Student Publication • University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, N.B.

STU reacts to provincial cuts, tuition hikes probable

GORDON LOANE
 THE BRUNSWICKAN

The McKenna government's decision to cut operating grants to New Brunswick universities by up to three per cent in 1997-98 will undoubtedly create a difficult budget exercise at St. Thomas University, according to Vice-President Finance and Administration Lawrence Durling.

Durling had not yet received the exact details of the provincial cuts when contacted just before the Christmas break. But he expects to have them shortly.

Durling points out that the not unexpected cuts come at a time when St. Thomas has been expanding its expenditures on computer resources and student affairs. "These are expenditure areas that have become a much higher priority at St. Thomas over the past five years."

"So we have this area of growth at the same time as a decrease in a major funding source (provincial operating grant) which compounds the difficulty," Durling said.

To top it all off, Durling said there is little flexibility in other areas of the university's budget to shift expenditures to the two priority areas. "We have a pretty lean infrastructure at St. Thomas as it is," he said. "The tuition fee rate is pretty much the only area of flexibility."

St. Thomas raised its tuition fee by \$230 in September 1996 and students might want to anticipate a similar hike for next year, according to Durling.

"I would hope that in dollar terms it would not be any greater than last year," said Durling, in referring to tuition fee increases.

He points out that tuition fees at St. Thomas are lower than at other universities this year. "We are undoubtedly concerned about fee increases and the affordability of post-secondary education."

"But the fortunate part is that our fees continue to be and I think will be even next year, after all the dust is settled, still below other universities."

Overall, St. Thomas gets nearly forty per cent of its annual revenue from tuition fees, while at UNB the percentage is somewhat lower.

"Depending on enrollment numbers, the government grant has a little bit less significance overall at St. Thomas than at other New Brunswick universities," Durling said.

Maclean's survey: UNB slips, STU improves

GORDON LOANE
 THE BRUNSWICKAN

The 1996 Maclean's Annual University rankings are out and UNB has slipped two places in comparison to a year ago among universities across Canada in the comprehensive category.

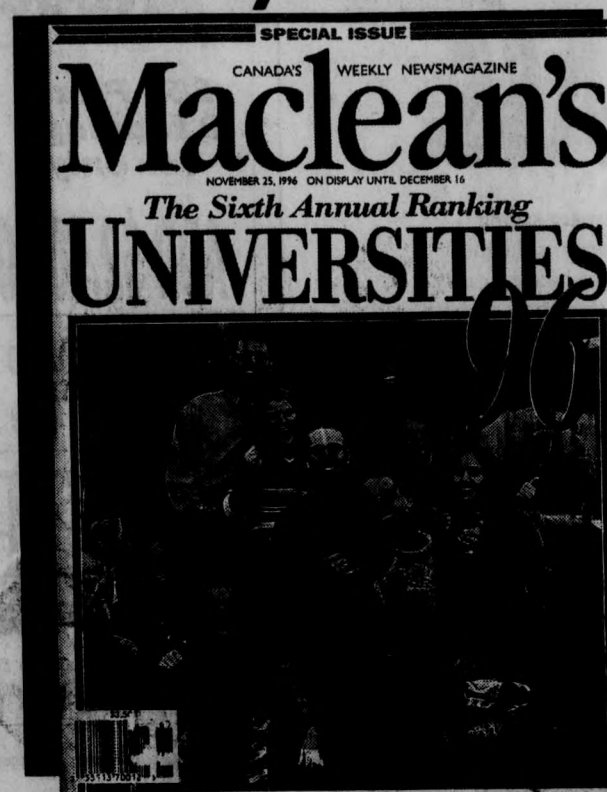
UNB placed eighth this year edging out Carleton, Regina and Concordia. Last year UNB was sixth.

Universities placing above UNB in the comprehensive category this year include the top school Simon Fraser, followed by Waterloo, Victoria, Guelph, York, Memorial and Windsor.

Since Maclean's began ranking comprehensive universities in 1992, UNB has consistently placed either sixth, seventh or eighth in the comprehensive category.

Among the twenty-five categories used to measure the overall ranking, UNB rates number one in the amount of library holdings per student and in the number of out of province first year students, compared to the other eleven universities. However, UNB's library acquisitions budget is the worst of the eleven universities surveyed.

Equally troubling rankings are UNB's operating budget—ninth out of eleven, scholarships and bursaries for students



as a percentage of the total budget—tenth out of eleven, and the percentage of the university budget spent on student services—tenth of eleven.

The number of faculty with Ph.D's, awards per full-time faculty, and medical/science grants or social science/humanities grants rate UNB any where from eighth to tenth out of eleven universities surveyed.

UNB does much better on class sizes rating third of eleven and classes taught by tenured faculty—fourth. Library expenses at UNB are rated the third highest while Alumni support to UNB is fifth of eleven.

At St. Thomas University, Maclean's survey showed a ranking of tenth out of nineteen universities in the primarily undergraduate category, up one notch

from last year.

St. Thomas does particularly well in the survey categories of average entering grade of freshmen students and the proportion of students who enter the university with an average of 75 percent or higher—fourth out of the 19 universities in the primarily undergraduate category.

St. Thomas ranks number one in the amount of scholarships and bursaries spent as a percentage of its operating budget and number two out of 19 universities in the amount of its budget spent on student services.

But St. Thomas has a low rating in the proportion of students who graduate within one year of the expected graduating rate—18 of 19 and in class size—anywhere from 12 to 14 out of 19 universities.

The university ratings are lower as well in the number of faculty with Ph.D's—11 of 19 and the amount of social sciences/humanities grants obtained by faculty—13 of 19.

Alumni support at St. Thomas is ranked 15 out of 19 universities. Among primarily undergraduate universities, Mount Allison University continues to be ranked by Maclean's number one followed by Acadia, Trent and Wilfrid Laurier.

UNB's ranking at a glance:

- 8/11 Overall
- 1/11 Library Holdings
- 11/11 Library Acquisitions Budget
- 9/11 Operating Budget
- 3/11 Class Size
- 4/11 Classes Taught by Tenured Faculty

Special committee to look at UNB's ranking says Vice-President Visentin

GORDON LOANE
 THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB has set up a special committee to look at the whole issue of the Maclean's rankings in light of results which show the university slipping slightly among universities across Canada in the comprehensive category.

"We will look at how we report, what we report and have a discussion with Maclean's about the survey," said Louis Visentin, UNB's Vice-President Academic, who has been named to chair the special committee.

"I hate to slip two notches." "There is a perception and there is the reality," he said. "The reality is that this is a fine institution—academically it is superb," said Visentin, in an interview with *The Brunswickan*.

What is clear though is that Visentin is not altogether happy with the Maclean's survey.

"I think some of the indicators for a lot of reasons are not accurate," he said.

Visentin used the example of research grants to illustrate his point. Maclean's measures the total amount of research grants obtained from two major

granting agencies in the sciences and social sciences. This amounts to about four million dollars a year or two to three million depending on the year, according to Visentin.

What is not measured in the Maclean's survey is the amount of money—some twenty million a year at UNB—that comes from private sector research grants.

"Industry has a very good view of UNB because they do business with us, they give us research grants," he said. "A lot of that money goes to support graduate students."

Another area where Visentin feels the Maclean's survey may not be a true measure is in the area of library acquisitions. UNB rates last in this area of the 11 universities surveyed in the comprehensive category.

Visentin indicated that UNB spends a lot of money on electronic acquisitions issues, which is not measured in the Maclean's survey.

"UNB does very well in this area because we are very advanced in this area."

"The better question to be asked is how accessible is your library, how

accessible is your university, how much money is spent to give students access to other libraries through electronic means and what does that mean to students?"

UNB is also rated at the bottom of the Maclean's survey with respect to the percentage of the university budget spent on student services.

"Part of it is history, we probably should be spending more and it means re-allocation, but we do a good job with student services," said Visentin.

"The question again is the quality of student services as opposed to the amount of money you spend," he pointed out.

Visentin said the Maclean's survey looks mostly at input measures like how much you spend as opposed to the output which is not measured like quality results.

One area that could use improvement at UNB is the amount of money spent on scholarships and bursaries for students. The Maclean's survey places UNB near the bottom of the eleven universities in the comprehensive category.

"It is a concern of mine, it is a

concern of the President, it is a concern of the Board of Governors," said Visentin. "We are trying to do everything we can to increase the scholarship budget, by going after some more money."

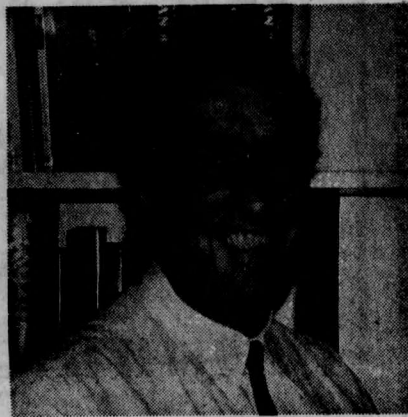
Visentin points to the recent sale of university land near the Regent Mall. The land was sold to Kent Building Supplies—an Irving owned firm.

"The Board of Governors has directed that the money from that sale go into scholarships," he said.

Visentin does see an overall positive in the Maclean's survey, despite his concern about what it measures and what it really means.

"The fact that Maclean's are making a case for universities I think is an important issue."

"Universities are important and the fact that Maclean's takes the time to do



DREW GILBERT PHOTO
 Lou Visentin, UNB Vice-President Academic, may not be as happy as he looks when it comes to UNB's ranking in the Maclean's survey and says plans to look into how the university gets assessed.

this kind of thing draws attention to post-secondary education."

"I think this is a good thing," he concluded.

See also MEMORIAL, page 3

SU President Hellmeister on a winning streak, off to Europe

MARY ROGAL-BLACK
 THE BRUNSWICKAN

Some executive members of the UNB Student Union may feel like their luck runs out when they get into office and discover the pitfalls of the job, but eight months after being elected, SU President Joie Hellmeister is feeling luckier than ever.

Hellmeister recently won a trip to Europe, following close on the heels of a couple of lottery wins.

Hellmeister won a Contiki 20-day European Experience Tour, including \$1500 in Canadian Mastercard

traveller's cheques from the Bank of Montreal. The prize package includes airfare from Montreal to London, England, travel and accommodations in ten European countries and sightseeing tours in major cities.

Hellmeister said she's excited about the trip. "I think it's every student's dream to be able to galavant around Europe for a while."

Two prize packages were given away. The other trip went to a student at the University of Toronto.

Hellmeister entered the contest by mailing away an entry form she picked up at the UNB Bookstore. She is

looking forward to taking the trip in May, following her graduation.

But this wasn't Hellmeister's first lucky strike. Two months ago, she won \$5000 in Atlantic Choice lottery. Just one week later, her Tag number netted her another \$1000. How does she account for her success?

"Hard work and I'm a very dedicated individual, so I think God is probably looking fondly on me now," she joked. "No, I don't know, I think it's coincidence probably. I'm not sure why I'm winning but I hope it doesn't stop."

WITH A FILE FROM GORDON LOANE.

UNB President joins trade mission

GORDON LOANE
 THE BRUNSWICKAN

UNB President Elizabeth Parr-Johnston is among a delegation of 400 business people, heads of educational institutions and municipalities and young entrepreneurs joining Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Premier Frank McKenna on a twelve day trade mission to the Asia-Pacific.

The Team Canada trade mission will attempt to generate new business for Canadian companies in South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand.

The trade mission will focus on

eight important Canadian sectors: agri-food; financial services; education and culture; environment; transportation; energy and natural resources; telecommunications and information technology; and building products and construction.

Two-way trade of goods and services between Canada and the three countries combined totalled \$8.3 billion in 1995. The mission has the potential for more business opportunities since South Korea, the Philippines and Thailand are among the fastest-growing economies in the Asia-Pacific region.

Jason Young appears in Court - News, page 3
 City budget impacts students - News, page 3
 UNB wins \$2 million contract - News, page 5
 The Woman God made - Entertainment, page 9
 Plethora of CD reviews - Entertainment, page 11
 War, debt, and PJ O'Rourke - Books, page 13

How did He-Man spend Xmas?
 Find out on page 15

News	1
Editorial	6
Entertainment	9
Books	13
Distractions	14
Campus	16
Classifieds	17

plus 1 Doz Wings

Plus Taxes 4pm - 8pm