

Dal ranked eighth in medical/doctoral programs

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fourth among universities pegged as medical/doctoral, a category it led in 1992 and 1993.

Kelley MacKenzie, President of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) agrees it's difficult to compare Canadian universities.

"Every university is different," said MacKenzie. "It's hard to fit all of these different universities into three categories."

Ian Newbould, president of Mount Allison University, says the rankings are very important and reflect a school's efficiency, (or inefficiency).

"It is because of the contributions of faculty, staff and students that our recognition has been well deserved," said Newbould. The head of Mount Allison, located in New Brunswick, was applauding his school's number one ranking in the primarily undergraduate category for the eighth straight year.

Mount A was first among 21 undergraduate universities, followed by Acadia, Trent, St. Francis Xavier and Wilfrid Laurier.

Many critics insist the survey is misleading.

"The stats that Maclean's uses are just GPA's and who won awards," said Simon Fraser University student Nellie Yee. "The stats are accurate but they don't give an accurate picture of what it would really be like to go to [SFU]."

The University of New Brunswick (UNB) was also disappointed with their ranking.

"Frankly, I feel we deserve a great deal better," said Elizabeth Parr-Johnston, president of the

University of New Brunswick, about her school's ninth place finish in the comprehensive category. "UNB is a very good university and we have been leaders in the development of creative new programs which meet real needs and in the use of information technology."

Canadian institutions disappointed with the rankings are not the only ones who find problems with the annual issue.

This past Wednesday the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, (CCPA), in cooperation with the Canadian Federation of Students, (CFA), released an alternative study to the Maclean's survey.

The CCPA study offered a new method of judging the quality of a postsecondary institution, as well as a way to analyze the commitment of provincial governments to education.

"Flawed indicators, such as entrance requirements, are used [by group's like Maclean's] to demonstrate an institution's quality, instead of faculty job security, a wide range of programs, or accountability to the public instead of to corporate sponsors," said the report in reference to other surveys and media presentation.

The CCPA report ranked British Columbia as the province with the greatest concern and regard for post-secondary education, followed by Quebec. The provinces with the poorest ratings were Newfoundland and Ontario in last place.

The CCPA ranked universities according to a number of elements which included equity within institutions along social,

racial and gender lines, and accountability to the public rather than corporate interests.

However flawed the Maclean's survey may be for some, others applaud its examination of the Canadian education system.

"Some people take it quite seriously in the sense that it talks about education. It's a valuable resource," said MacKenzie.

Perhaps an objective analysis will show the CCPA report is a much better way to judge universities than the

controversial Maclean's survey.

But the important questions — how can universities improve? And how can we keep them accountable? — are often lost in the howls of rage from those with bruised egos.

While academics like UNB's Parr-Johnston demean the rankings, others wonder how much it'll really affect the individual schools' registrations.

Peter Simpson, a third year biology and english student, says the annual rankings didn't affect his decision to come to Dal. He

says there are other factors in choosing a university.

"I wanted a big city university ... Maclean's didn't factor into my decision at all."

MacKenzie agrees that the issue fails to include several important aspects of university life, but says the rankings will affect some student's decisions.

"Parents of high school students probably look at [the rankings]," said MacKenzie. "That's going to affect some of those people in high school."

With files from Amy Durant

Student evicted for drugs

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The student then appealed to UNB's Director of Residential Life and Conference Services Michel Ouellette, who is Craighead's boss.

But despite the appeal and a petition signed by 75 residence students in support of Stapleton, Ouellette turned down the student's appeal and ordered his removal from residence.

Stapleton feels he has been kicked out based on pure circumstantial evidence. He said the matter has resulted in frustration and lost sleep and has affected his academic performance.

"Without the sympathetic support of my professors, who have granted me extensions on assignments, I would not be able to complete my fall term with any measure of success," he said.

With the assistance of friends, Stapleton was able to locate an apartment this week that is within close walking distance to

campus.

Stapleton has been ostracized because of his eviction and can no longer visit friends in MacKenzie House, his old residence, nor attend university events or play three team sports he was involved in.

The ban also means he can only appear on campus to attend classes and tend to his academic work.

Meanwhile, four of Stapleton's friends who were in his residence room on October 30 and who support his claims of innocence visited the Brunswickan, the student paper at UNB, this past week.

"The reaction from many

residence students in MacKenzie House to Stapleton's predicament is 'Wow! That could have happened to me,'" a friend of Stapleton's said.

Several students say the incident has "scared" some MacKenzie residents into believing they could be next on the eviction list.

"It has created an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust less than three weeks before the end of the fall term and the beginning of Christmas exams," one student said.

Ouellette and Craighead were both unavailable for comment by press time.

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Dal Engineering mimicks *Revenge of the Nerds*

The Engineering Society at Dalhousie was billed for \$535 worth of damages they caused by an annual raid on King's. The bill was sent to the society with details on the damage. The damages included broken windows and all the campus police jackets were ruined. The president of the Engineering Society, Keith Wellband, said the list of damages wasn't detailed enough. He planned on

sending the list back for more clarification. Wellband also says the raid was not an event sponsored by the society so they shouldn't have been held responsible. He also said no one had even confirmed that the raiders were even engineering students, so the society shouldn't try and pay the costs. If it did, Wellband says the society would be responsible for any actions by people who call themselves and engineer.

Money does grow on trees

The vice president of the Dalhousie Student Union says the grant committee is handing money out left right and centre. Graham Wells says the debating and political societies are getting too much money.

The debating society was given a \$850 cheque after a lot of discussion by the committee. But when the cheque was to be signed by the secretary, the amount was \$950. The extra money is for a conference fee that didn't have to be approved by the grant committee.

Jim Wentzell, the president of the grant committee says the extra money is justified because the debating society is a good public relations organ for the university. The political science society had their budget

cut by a hundred dollars this year but the deficit they were running was put into this year's smaller budget. Jim Wentzell says if the student union has any problems with the decisions of the grant committee, they can veto them.

Land claims need more guts

The lawyer for the native northern community of Baker Lake says the native land claims need more clout. Aubrey Golden made these comments at the University of Toronto law school last week.

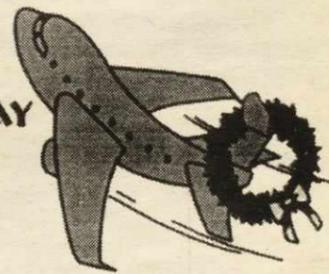
He says the Inuit are claiming the land because they are trying to save their culture. But Golden says the natives aren't negotiating effectively because they aren't forceful enough.

Golden is defensive that the land claims are for money. He says if it was for cash, the claims would have been settled long ago.

He also wants the government to give up control of Indian Affairs and let the Inuit govern themselves. Golden points to Greenland as a model for self government. The big thing Golden wants to see is the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development be split up because they conflict each other.

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