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STU President critical of Maclean's report

by Mark I. Minor

In a press release dated October 16, St. Thomas University President Daniel O'Brien discredited a report on university evaluations which is featured in this week's edition of Maclean's magazine.

Maclean's ranked STU 43rd out of the 45 institutions it evaluated. Universities from coast to coast were judged in four categories: Student Body, Faculty, Financial Resources and Reputation. The categories incorporated 12 separate criteria, a sample of which are acceptance rate, percentage of tenured faculty teaching first year, scholarships and bursaries per student and Presidents' ranking.

The report design was based on advice obtained from Stuart Smith, the head of the Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education, officials of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Council of Ministers of Education, the Council of Ontario Universities, CFS and some individual sources. The schools rated were assigned points with the top possible score being 1000 points. McGill rated highest (705), followed by Queen's (680), Mount Allison (634), UofT (589) and McMaster (582) UNB rated fourteenth with a total point score of 412. The top twenty institutions were comprised of six from Atlantic Canada, four from

Quebec, six from Ontario and four from Western Canada.

The study was based on Arts and Sciences programmes only. In a Maclean's press release dated October 14, Managing Editor, Robert Lewis stated "For students, the decision about where to go to university can virtually change their lives." Unfortunately, the study failed to rank the schools on their strengths in specific areas other than Arts or Sciences therefore producing a study which is skewed. Students interested in Law, Administration or Education would not find the information useful.

Dr. O'Brien maintains that "there are just too many variables that come into play when you begin discussing the relative quality of this or that institution." He also doubts the relevance of residence space or number of out of province students when ascertaining the quality of academic programs. As well, Dr. O'Brien says he doubts that the fact that a university serves a local population qualifies that university as being substandard. He goes on to describe some of the Maclean's criteria as "crude indicators of excellence" and suggests that average class size and quality of library resources may be more appropriate examples of attributes by which a school could be evaluated.

Further, Dr. O'Brien states that "unfortunately, this kind

of report creates an impression in people's minds that there are huge disparities between institutions - disparities that simply don't exist. Sure, our universities are all different from one another, but those differences have less to do with the quality of their programs and more to do with their character as learning communities."

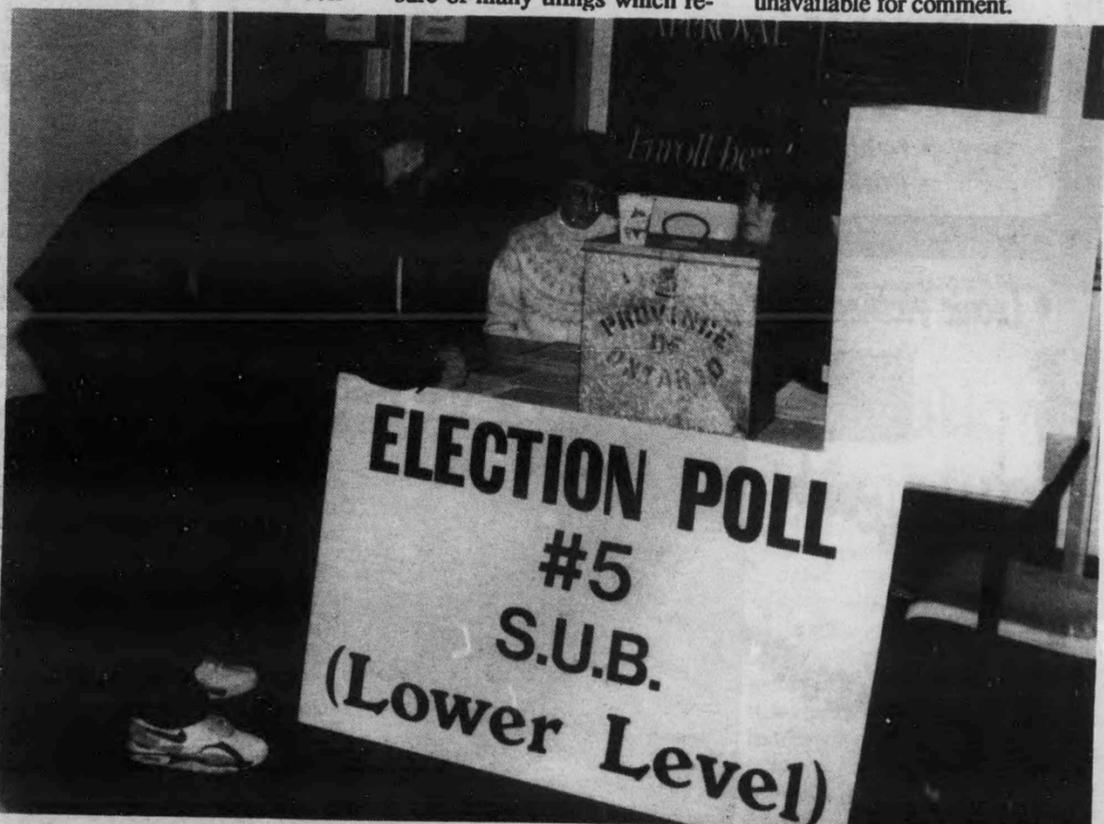
STU Student Union VP Jeff

London was critical of the study as well observing that St. Thomas was a "school on the move" and that growth and development were ignored by Maclean's.

UNB Student Union President, Gregory J. Lutes states that "the Maclean's ranking of Canadian Universities is called a 'Measure of Excellence'. While I agree that it is a measure of many things which re-

late to a university's reputation, it is hardly comprehensive. A CBC Newsworld Anchor made the observation that the higher a university's ranking, the more credibility they gave to the survey. All in all, the survey is a nice idea but not worth taking too seriously, no matter what your ranking".

UNB President Armstrong was in Nova Scotia and was unavailable for comment.



Michael David Smith photo

UNB Student Union bi-elections held.

Pictured is a voter at one of the thirteen polling stations set up on campus

Only 10% turnout for Student Union bi-elections

by Aime Phillips

The 1991 Student Union Bi-election took place Wednesday, October 16.

The election resulted in a victory for: Tammy Yates, new V.P. External, Samantha Ferlatte, fulfilling the 2nd Student At Large vacancy; Tim Klaassen, elected as representative to the Fredericton senate; Martin Jordan, Engineering representative with a yes-no ballot; Tracy Frazer, winning the Education

representative position; and Jane Cunningham, elected as 2nd Science representative.

The results for the positions of Arts representative from which nominations were extended twice, were recounted automatically as there was less than a 5% difference between two of the nominees; Kevin Fritz with 56 votes and David Bridgeo with 52 votes. The results of the recount were the same, with Kevin Fritz elected as the representative.

The results for the V.P. grad

class were close: Paula Shott with 130 votes and Chrissy Hansen with 113 votes. The results were not close enough to warrant an automatic recount. According to Troy Morehouse, Chief Returning Officer, results with a less than 5% difference are automatically recounted whereas candidates must request a recount with a less than 10% difference.

The voter turnout for the bi-election was approximately 10-12% with 754 voters. Last terms SU election saw a 19%

voter turnout.

There was some some complaints from SU councillors and candidates concerning poll stations opening late. Morehouse confirmed some stations were not set up until 9:30. Stations also received ballots much later than expected, such as the MacLaggen poll station which went until 10:15 without any.

Morehouse explained the problems were due to the fact ballots cannot be left at empty poll stations, so all stations must first be set up before any

ballots are delivered.

Morehouse blamed heavy traffic and deputy returning officers' lack of transportation around campus: "We may start the polling stations a half hour later next time Morehouse stated.

There were discrepancies involving stations with only one polling worker, which is against SU by laws. Morehouse stated "its easier to have one person at a polling station than to have it empty or close it down for an hour and then reopen it again."

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