

UPEI number one!?

1997 Maclean's survey once again causes controversy around campus

By Suzanne Williams

The seventh annual university ranking issue of Maclean's magazine has swept up space in newsstands, as well as the attentions of educational institutions nationwide. UPEI took a dip in the standings, moving from last year's ranking of twelfth place in the primarily undergraduate division to a placement at number thirteen this year.

Since last year's ranking of Canadian universities, four post-secondary institutions have been added to the survey: Moncton, Hull, Rimouski, and Chicoutimi -- the Francophone institutions. If these schools had not been added, UPEI would be in the same place as last year.

There is conflict brewing between the editors of Maclean's and the administration of UPEI over the evaluation of the school's operating

budget. UPEI has once more taken the number one slot in this category.

According to the survey, UPEI has an operating budget of \$10,170 per full-time student, yet in terms of student services, the school received a twentieth-percentile rating, and a twenty-first percentile rating was given in terms of library expenses. This may lead students to believe that they are not receiving all they should.

The magazine conducts their research by adding together the budget of the Atlantic Veterinary College and that of the main campus.

Since the AVC has about one-tenth of the student body and almost one-third of the budget of main campus, this makes the total budget seem high. Also, the budget for the AVC is provided through all four Atlantic provinces, while the budget for UPEI's main campus is funded

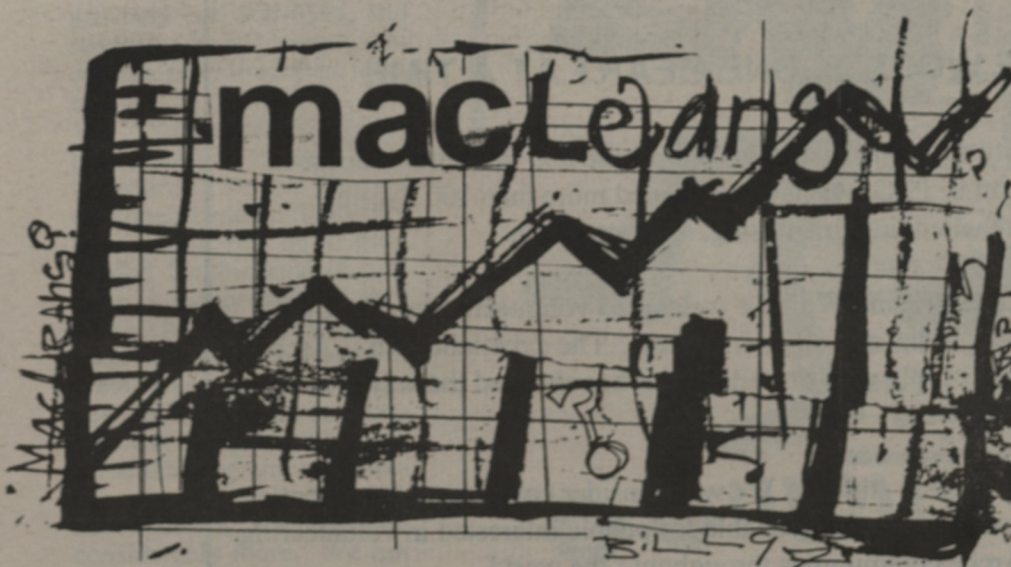
solely through this province.

John Crossley, V.P. of Academic Support, wrote to Maclean's editors last December, describing the incorrect data and how "he believes that the university's image is being distorted." Unfortunately, nothing has been done to correct the situation for this year's survey.

"If the survey were done with only the main campus," explained President Elizabeth Epperly, "we would be right in with all the other universities. It seems as if this has started to become a joke among the presidents of other universities."

If the university were to be judged on the main campus only, it would be in eighth place in terms of operating budget..

Epperly further commented, "we are working on truly being number one for the future."



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