

# University-Useless?

HALIFAX (CUP) - A Nova Scotia Royal Commission (The Graham Commission) has sharply criticized the mindless fashion in which many universities have been growing.

The report which covers a wide range of problems is provincial-municipal relations and public services argues that universities have moved away from their proper function in a search for larger enrolments and more money.

The overselling of education in the 1960s led by the Economic Council of Canada,

was based on what the commission calls "Overstated and damaging arguments" which emphasized the amount of money a university degree would be worth to a person.

"By passively responding to higher and higher enrolment projections ... without considering whether vastly increased numbers of university educated people are needed, whether there are jobs for them or whether all of the prospective students want or can benefit from a university education, the universities have abandoned

one of their primary responsibilities."

The commission, headed by Dalhousie University economist John Graham, also blames society as a whole for part of the universities' problems because of its "misplaced preoccupation with academic credentials."

Even though a student's course of studies might be totally unrelated to the job he was seeking, employers look on university degrees as the only acceptable form of credentials.

As a result, students are going to university not so much for a higher education as for "the certificates that would make them employable."

A better alternative for young people looking for credentials, the commission suggests, might in many cases be other post-secondary institutions or even on-the-job training.

"The function of the universities is, or should be, primarily to provide an opportunity for higher intel-

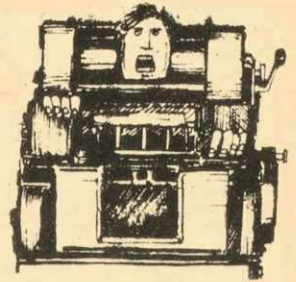
lectual study to those both able to pursue and interested in pursuing it, and, in some instances, to prepare people for the intellectually demanding professions.

The arguments of the 1960s that society benefits in economic terms for the universities have also been shown to be extravagant, says the commission.

If society is not reaping tremendous benefits from those universities, the Commission asks, why should it subsidize them so heavily?

The people who benefit most in money terms from a university education are the graduates themselves. Since they get the rewards, the commission argues, they should pay a heftier share of the cost.

Graham and his colleagues couple that suggestion with a strong recommendation for generous student assistance in both grants and interest-free loans. That, they say, would keep universities from being restricted to an economic elite.



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possibilities. It sounds more than a wee bit worse than South Boston or Lumberton, N.C. And segregated elementary schools plus poverty environments of Blacks will pretty well perpetuate the sad condition. Even hockey, Canada's legalized form of violence, has not permitted any noteworthy Blacks to break through.

The short article on "N.S. Blacks" by Ainsley Crawley and Sandra Gough might set off two small actions: 1) better elementary schools and economic possibilities provided for Blacks by N.S. fellow-citizens; 2) re-valorization of the word "Black" by Black citizens to mean not ugly, humiliating, ignorant (basic for White social control) but beautiful, proud, intelligent.

If the Scotch could do it with tartans and bagpipes and curling -- not to mention whiskey! -- the Blacks have a least their own equivalents to these (and more) to redefine their status as free citizens in the years ahead.

Sincerely,  
Ralph J. Thomas

## Disgusted Ladies

Dear Editor,

Please print this as there may be other young, "decent" ladies in our position. On a dare from other "good" God-fearing people, we the three of us, went to the Grawood and we were shocked. We are Christians and want to say we don't like what we saw there and think something should be done about the rowdy, bawdy males (they are not gentlemen) that are there. They laughed at us when we went in the door and we were not funny. (We were even 'fraid because it was the first time any of us went into such a place.)

As I said we were not funny, we were all dressed respectably and are here for a proper education. We would like something to be done about what goes on there -- it certainly contradicts a good education. People drunk and stoned!! Does Dalhousie encourage this behavior!?

We sat down and 5 loud, bawdy males bought us a drink (we didn't know what was in them; they could have been spiked with marijuana). Being good girls we wanted to accept as they wanted to share (a good Christian virtue), in whatever small way they knew how.

We were surprised at this 'blasphemous' situation and are going to talk to Mr. Hicks after our hangovers get better.

Truly yours,  
Buelah Soloman  
Ezra Fitzgerald



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OPTICAL

## Jacques Loussier Trio

by Kathy Tyler

The Jacques Loussier Trio, with Loussier on the piano, Christian Garros on drums, and Pierre Michelot on bass, is an exceptionally talented group. They gave a sensitive and innovative interpretation of Bach, varying the tempo, rhythm, and melody of familiar Bach works such as "Minuet in G Major" and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (Chorale no. 16). Michelot on bass received a standing ovation for his incredible melodic solo in Jacques Loussier's composition "Etude for Trio". Garros played mainly percussion instruments rather than drums alone. In "Minuet in G Major" he tenderly carried the cymbals and drums instead of indiscriminately banging on the drums with no ear for cadences and nuances.

"The Fugue no. 5 in D Major" was rendered as a chromatic conversation between cymbals and piano. The notes sounded like bumblebees flitting up and down the keyboard with a thematic reply from the bass. A bass solo followed with a mournful sound. The cymbals started quivering like rain on a tin roof. Garros scraped the sticks over the cymbals like rain drops. The "Minuet in G Major" beckoned my imagination to the Alps with the chimes and harplike sound of the piano and chimes. Wild goats scampered up and down the peaks in a childlike melody and then the musical line deepened in complexity, the grandeur of an alpine storm. The drums were played ever so delicately.

A dramatic rousing beginning opened the "F Minor Concerto" with dancing cymbals and a marchlike basso continuo. The melody forged ahead. The highlight of the

evening was the brilliant execution of "The Etude for Trio". Minor chords gave the impression of a simmering smoldering fire. Crashing cymbals burst the imaginary sparks into a blazing fire highlighted against a black velvet background. The music circled faster and faster with thundering cymbals. The piano soloed in octave runs, bursting to fever pitch, broke into chord runs, more octaves and a boogie left hand bass. The bass solo followed carrying the melody instead of just providing rhythms.

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring", a very familiar choral piece, was introduced in the traditional manner on the piano and then was varied according to different jazz motifs: left hand melody, rhythm changes, expanded melody and crescendos. The cymbals trembled as the tempo and decibels changed. The finale was the "Finale of the D Minor Concerto" with its dramatic one-one-two beat and fast tempo. The drums and piano formed a military dialogue. A humorous note was introduced when Loussier knocked on the piano to echo the beat of the drum. The trio received another standing ovation and for an encore played a lullaby to wind down the audience.

All in all, it was a brilliant performance that even traditional classical music lovers could not find offence with. Jazz interpretations enrich rather than detract from classical pieces in expanding and contracting melodies, and forming a dialogue between the different instruments. For interested audience members, some Jacques Loussier records are available in the Metro area at most music shops.

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