

# Dyke blasts Graham Commission

by Stephen Syms

On Tuesday evening we were at it again discussing and debating some of the more important (and not so important) issues that the Graham Commission raises. On this particular evening it was teachers night out. Drs. T. Parker and D. Dyke discoursed on the Graham Commission proposals influencing the role of the teacher and teacher education.

Dr. Dyke began tactfully commending the report for the "imagination and thoughtfulness" it shows on the education topic; that was the last favourable comment on the report she elicited for the duration of her presentation. Specifically, she characterized the chapter on teacher preparation as "shoddy", "not precise" emphasizing that the commission did not consult directly with the appropriate members of the university community preferring to solicit opinions from education personnel outside the province. Indeed, Dr. Dyke took exception to the 'facts' as presented by the report. She cited Graham's comment that the educators of teacher personnel do not have any real background experience themselves. At Acadia University the average background experience is 10 years for their personnel. Here at Dal., Faculty of Education people have a total of 75 years teaching experience behind them. The commission, on balance, she said, "did not spend much time checking on the accuracy of their evidence".

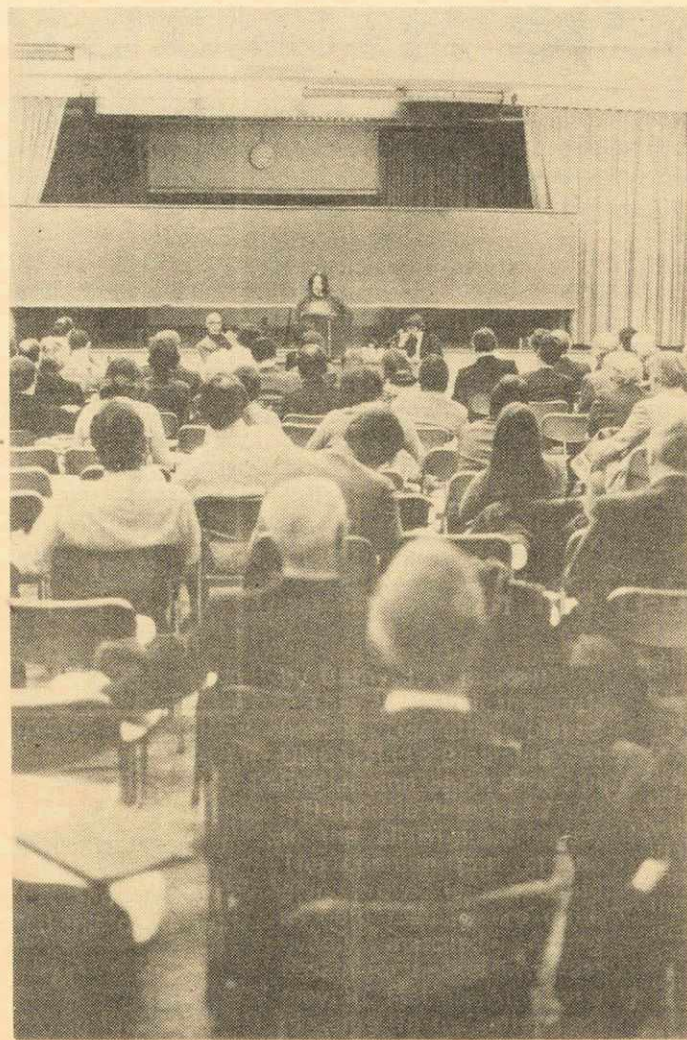
The report proposes one institution for teacher training for the province. Dalhousie was named the candidate for the home of the Nova Scotia Teachers College. The reason for the proposal seems to be based on matters of economy and effectiveness. Dalhousie has more and better resources at hand than do the other six agencies that 'train' teachers. These resources could be deployed more efficiently and with greater effect if the 'one main institution' proposal was accepted. "The biggest does not produce the greatest", said one in an admonishing tone.

## Time for a new Tomb

by Tom Clahane

The Crypt has for the last six years served as an alternative to the regular, drunken, carousing type of Saturday night. Located in All Saint's Cathedral it has for the benefit of the other people of the night provided some of the finest folk entertainment this side of Montreal.

Unfortunately, for many reasons, the most obvious being a breakdown in communication with the church authorities, the Crypt has been given it's notice or what has previously been termed as their walking papers.



Graham Commission meeting

The commission fails to take into account the advantage of the current situation in Nova Scotia. Acadia, Truro, St. Mary's, St. Francis Xavier, Mount St. Vincent, which all have education departments, provide diversity, flexibility in program content, allow for freedom of choice, and also allow for a better expression of community values. "The report seems to think that this situation is unacceptable", said a cynical Dyke.

Dr. Dyke, still shooting, reminded the audience that the central institution has been tried in other provinces with, at best, only marginal improvement. And, if that's not enough, she stated that the efforts of the Atlantic Institution of Education to rationalize education for the past five years have not come to fruition. So, "it would be much wiser to consider the strengths of what we do have", advised Dr. Dyke. Good shooting Doris.

They will be allowed to remain at the Cathedral for an unspecified period of time while they find another place to locate. This will be more difficult than it first appears as they have been existing rent free in the church to this point, and they are basically a non-profit organization. For this reason it would be financially disastrous if they were forced to rent at a new location. Already the financial burden will be hard to carry as there will have to be an added outlay of funds for chairs and tables, and redecoration (they previously had the

Dr. Parker, for the most part, agrees with much of the report's proposals. The proposals mean a greater voice in overall policy and administration for teachers from the point of view of their professional organization. The report establishes a situation, said Dr. Parker, "that gives teachers the central spot in the education process". You will now have greater freedom for your own judgement...your own mistakes". Summarily, teachers will be involved in establishment of the schools' educational goals, procedures, programs and the evaluation of their own progress towards the attainment of their commitments. This basically is the challenge. It will be interesting to note the response.

Some of the education reforms suggested by Graham would be:

- no grades
- continuous progress, work at your own speed.
- no provincially uniform school texts or outlines to

use of church materials).

If there is any student knowing of a suitable location, or a possible lead to finding one it would be appreciated if they would forward such to the Gazette office immediately so operations can continue unaltered. As of late there has been a theatre program as well as a folk performance, and so it is necessary that the area be available at all times throughout the week. Anyone interested in working helping with the relocation process, and once again anyone knowing of a suitable location, can forward same to this office.

be imposed on schools.

- mandatory and non-mandatory mix of courses
- no handicapped child is to be excluded from regular class environment unless a special advisory group concurs
- special 'inhouse' teaching services to aid those handicapped
- interdisciplinary teams from health, social services, education, and related agencies will be established in permanent quarters throughout the province.

Dr. Parker agreed with Graham that salaries should be divorced from certifications. He admits what we know or suspect, that teachers often take summer or part time courses because it means more shekles in the bag. Once it was necessary; today it may be 'harmful'.

On matters of Tact, Parker said "In the current year there are 11,000 teachers in the province, 38% are men, 62% women. The average male teacher is in his seventh year of service. 82% of the men have BA's, BEd's, or better, while 42% of the women hold BA's, BEd's, or better. The average salary of the male is higher than that of the woman for at least two reasons; firstly, most of the administrative

positions are held by men and secondly, there are a large number of females in lower certificate categories. The average for all teachers is approximately \$11,000 per year.

The question period following the presentation, (home made doughnuts and coffee) centered on, at least initially, the issue of teachers recompense (\$) for the additional responsibilities he/she will assume. This quickly translated itself into a question of incentive. "If taking courses to 'better oneself' does not mean added income, what is the incentive?" queried one "teacher".

The question of evaluation emerged. "What about student evaluation of teachers and program construction," asked one. Most unfortunately the commission leaves it up to parent and teacher to decide the fate of the population who is to ultimately "benefit" from all this gobbledygook, the poor kid in the classroom.

At the end of the meeting, I overheard one woman talking to another; "They've missed the whole point. They are talking about money, responsibility, and organizational changes. What about the kids?"

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