

FALL MUSIC LESSONS

- GUITAR • BANJO
- FLUTE • MANDOLIN
- AUTOHARP • BASS
- RECORDER • FIDDLE

DAY & EVENING
NO REGISTRATION FEES

**HALIFAX
FOLKLORE
CENTRE**

1538 Brunswick St., Hfx. N.S.
(Just off Spring Garden Rd.)

423-7946

4th annual TORONTO CHARTER DEC. 21 to JAN. 5

\$ **169** & tax
return
from
Halifax

Book with your travel agent or

TRAVEL CUTS

Dalhousie SUB
Halifax, N.S.
424-2054

N.S. education report delayed

By PAT FAGAN

MORE THAN A YEAR AND A half after hearings were held in Halifax by the provincial Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education, its report, including its findings and, more importantly, its recommendations, has yet to be released to the public.

Set up by the Buchanan government to look into the problems of modern university education, the Commission heard presentations from various parties concerned with the problems in the university system. The concerned parties included a group from the Dalhousie administration headed by president Andrew MacKay, as well as student interest groups like Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

Originally scheduled for February of 1985, the report of the Commission was delayed. Most Oct. 18, when it was put off once again. The latest projected date for release is the end of December.

Speculation abounds on the reason for the delay. Most guesses concerned the political side of the situation. It has been suggested that the Commission's report contains material which the provincial government considers 'too hot to handle'.

As well, recent plans by the federal government to make cuts in its transfer payments for education to the provinces has made the Royal Commission more of a factor in determining what will happen to the education system in Nova Scotia.

James LeBlanc, chair of SUNS, says he feels the delay may have to do with the reported upcoming shuffle in the Buchanan cabinet. It has been suggested that a new education minister may be appointed who won't have to answer for the previous education policies.

LeBlanc says the Commission set out to investigate the operations of each university in the province and recommend individual changes for each of them. As a result, he expects there will be cuts advised in certain departments, along with increased interaction between universities, particularly those in Halifax, in order to increase efficiency and decrease costs.

As to the validity of the Commission itself, LeBlanc says, "Definitively, I think that it's valid as long as the report seems to represent everyone who made submissions. But, if it reflects what the education minister has been saying for the last two or three years, then it's a waste of time."

DSU executive vice-president Reza Rizvi feels that his guess is as good as anybody's as far as the Royal Commission is concerned. "Nobody has said anything about it. We've been given some deadlines but nothing has happened," says Rizvi.

"The longer they put it off, the worse it gets," Rizvi says. Rizvi believes the Commission's report will be released after the end of the second term, but would prefer another time due to the fact that it will be impossible to organize

student reaction to the report at such a time.

Rizvi does feel the report must address the current problems in the education system.

"It still does not change the fact that it's underfunded and not providing the services it could to the students if the universities had the money," says Rizvi.

"It's questionable whether it'll contain anything radical," says King's College student union president Tom Rhymes, referring to the recommendations in the report. He notes that there is a fair amount of concern in the Maritimes about what the recommendations will be.

As to reasons for the delay, Rhymes believes too that the report may be held back until after the rumored cabinet shuffle. He adds that the government may not want to release it on the heels of reports such as the MacDonald Commission, which also makes references to the education system. Rhymes mentions that timing plays a role. "It would be political suicide to release that thing in August," he says, when students are worrying where to find money for their fall studies.

"The Department of Education insists they don't now anything about what's contained in the report. I wonder about that. The only point I can see (in delaying the report) is that there are some really contentious issues in it," says Rhymes.

Rhymes worries that any recommended cutbacks may severely damage the cultural aspects of a university education, in that it would create a stifling atmosphere. As an example, he says, "There's a possibility that everyone who takes business will take business at St. Mary's." He feels very negatively about such a situation where, for instance, history students would only come in contact with other history students, rather than a diverse group of interests.

"In a general way," says provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough, "it's my perception that all they wanted was a rubber stamp." McDonough suspects the Buchanan government's motives in organizing the Royal Commission. She believes that the government might have delayed the report because the panel members may actually have come up with recommendations that were found to be politically unacceptable.

"I can't imagine them delaying the report because of a rumored cabinet shuffle," says McDonough, noting that the shuffle has been a rumor for three years now. If the commission acted the way it was supposed to, McDonough says, it should be completely independent of the government's policies. "If it's politicized to any extent, then it's a big worry."

"The other sad truth," says McDonough, "it's that the government really has elevated to a fine art of appointing every kind of task force or commission for making decisions."

Provincial Education Minister Terry Donahoe was unavailable for comment at press time.

Used & Rare Books



BACK PAGES

1520 Queen St.
Halifax
Nova Scotia
423-4750

Dalhousie Theatre Productions

presents

Agnes of God

by John Pielmeir
A DTP Lab Production
Studio 1

November 21, 22, 23 at 8 p.m.
Tickets: \$4 & \$6

Rose

by Andrew Davies
Sir James Dunn Theatre
November 27, 28, 29, 30 at 8 p.m.
Matinées: Nov. 28 at 1 p.m., Dec. 1 at 2 p.m.
Tickets: \$5 & \$7, \$6 & \$8

Dalhousie Arts Centre Box Office
Phone 424-2646 Charge Line 424-3820

For the best in exciting theatre!



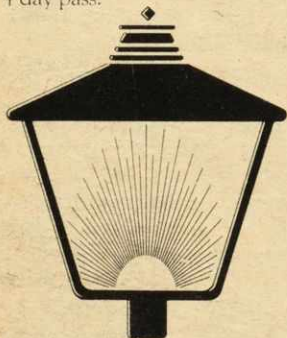
CHRISTMAS CRAFT M·A·R·K·E·T

WORLD TRADE &
CONVENTION
C·E·N·T·R·E

NOVEMBER
21st - 24th

Thursday 1:00pm - 9:00pm
Friday 10:00am - 9:00pm
Saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm
Sunday 11:00am - 5:00pm

All work juried, representing the best artisans of Nova Scotia; over 120 booth displays; demonstrations & entertainment; supervised children's play area; 120 doorprizes; \$1.50 admission for 4 day pass.



Nova Scotia
Designer Crafts Council

BIORESOURCES

BLOOD TYPE B?

This and other types, especially Rh negatives, are needed for clinical studies and special plasma donor programs.

Phone or visit for complete information and testing.

1200 Tower Road, Suite 102
South Tower Building
Halifax, N.S.
Phone: 422-9371

*All donors compensated
for their time . . .*