

People have homes

CRISIS? WHAT CRISIS?

The mayors of Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford, and the warden of Halifax county, have called on the provincial and federal governments to do something to alleviate the housing crisis facing so many of the people of Metro.

With the vacancy rate for rental units well below the "healthy" rate suggested by Central Mortgage and Housing, any observer can see there is a crisis in this area. The problem is even more acute for those who rely on inexpensive rental housing, such as single parents, students, the unemployed, senior citizens, and so on.

On a good day, we might expect our provincial leaders to acknowledge these problems, sit down with the mayors, and at least talk about what can be done.

On a bad day we get a more predictable reaction. Buchanan and Co., who can smell criticism at 100 paces, become completely defensive. Crisis? What crisis?

First off the mark is Consumer Affairs minister Mike Laffin. What, says Laffin, makes the Metro mayors think they have a god-given right to complain about housing? He goes on to say that back in Cape Breton, where he's from, things are a lot worse.

It's not surprising to see Laffin take offense. After all, he's probably best known in provincial politics for punching out fellow Cape Bretoner Paul MacEwan in the Legislature one day.

Next comes Buchanan himself, moving in to the defense of his minister. The crisis, according to

Buchanan, is in the eye of the beholder. Most people, after all, have got a place to live.

True enough. The beauty of the remarks of Laffin and Buchanan is that there's enough truth to them to make it clear they *do* realize there's a problem.

First of all, if things are worse in Cape Breton, then surely they are bad somewhere, so surely there is a problem. What are you going to do about it, Mr. Laffin?

Secondly, Buchanan says most people have homes. This indicates that some don't. Isn't this a problem?

The fact is that most people don't need the help of the government most of the time. Government exists so those who *do* need help can get it when they need it.

They need it now, Mr. B. Stop attacking the mayors and start attacking the problem.

A second look at SUNS

Dear editors,

After the recent withdrawal of Acadia University from SUNS, I think it is about time Dalhousie took a second look at our role in SUNS.

SUNS is essentially a Halifax university lobby group. It has only one member outside Halifax. At present St. Mary's membership is in doubt. The majority of SUNS funds come from Dalhousie students' pockets (\$12,000). Not only does the Dalhousie Student Union pay the lion's share of the funds but we also supply an office free of cost to the organization. SUNS has no financial accountability as it does not do an annual audit.

I see two possible solutions to these problems. Either massive reform or withdrawal from SUNS. Reform should include making SUNS attractive to post secondary institutions all across the province and making the internal operation of the organization more accessible to ordinary students.

The benefits of withdrawal include a large financial saving, more office space in the overcrowded Student Union building and allowing our Student Union to represent us.

At present SUNS is a nice theory but an expensive reality for Dalhousie.

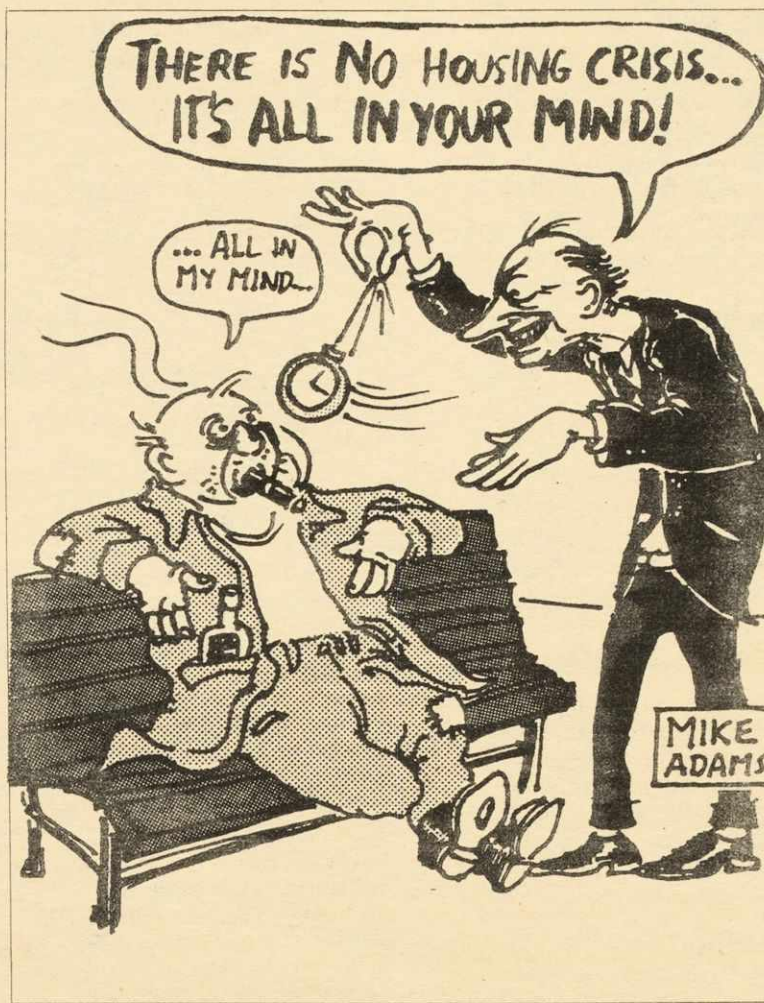
Sandy MacIntosh
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Dispatch supported

To the editors,

I am writing to clarify a point that Ms. Strowbridge made in her letter "Peasants still in the dark" which appeared in your Nov. 7 issue. I did not mean that "there is no place for boring criticism in *The Dispatch*"; I meant "there is no place for boring criticism in *the Dispatch*."

Heavens above! Alan Fotheringham, Charles Lynch, and company are far from being engaged in a "dreadfully dull



pursuit". Their witty words are entertaining and critical at the same time. If we had any Fotheringhams on campus, perhaps we would see better criticism than the dull, boring articles that we do see.

Peter Jarvis

U.S. side supported

To the editors,

Get off your high horses and smell the coffee!!! The fact that the United States is responsible for a militaristic stance in the world is a downright, boldface LIE. The United States and its military industrial complex, as Eisenhower warned us at the end of his second term as President, has played a major role in escalating the arms race to its present level. What the article on the arms race in *The Gazette* fail to comprehend, however, is that the Soviet Union aggravates the arms race just as much, if not more than, the United States does.

The Soviet Union has specific stated aims in its Communist propaganda and ethics. It wants to make the entire world into a satellite of itself and control the world. To this end it has been able to gain control over, and maintain this control, once free and independent people in Eastern Europe: East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Yugoslavia; these peoples are not free any more, they are vassals of the Communist system. As well, the Soviet Union controls nations such as Nicaragua, Cuba, numerous African countries, Vietnam, North Korea, etc. Its empire is slowly stretching itself across the world.

In Afghanistan alone it enslaves and murders those who will not remain under its tyranny voluntarily, i.e. boot kissing

Soviet soldiers as their masters. The Soviet Union may say that it is merely protecting the interests of its borders by invading Afghanistan and the imposing puppet governments. Hitler did the same thing in Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France, Norway, parts of the Soviet Union, that doesn't make it any less worse for the peoples in these countries. The Soviet Union is not protecting its borders, don't be fooled, IT IS EXTENDING THEM.

When the United States places itself in Greece, Britain, France, Germany, the Phillipines and other nations, it does so by invitation and the cooperation of the legal and constituted governments of these nations. The Phillipines may not have the best state system in the world, but still it is their system for now; the United States government accepts the situation there; it must if it is going to maintain a buffer with the Soviets in the Pacific rim area. President Marcos is not the best person to run the country, that is sure, but he is the only alternative the Phillipines has if it is to remain outside the sphere of Communist influence.

The Americans, if they are to maintain friendly relations with an aim to protecting the free world, must put up with things such as Marcos and his cronies. Communism does not work simply by invading nations such as Afghanistan, it works rather subtly as well. It has no qualms about sending in agents to foment and stir unrest in other nations, on the pretext that they can check the unrest with their troops later on in the game. The United States does not need a pretext to come into a nation such as Grenada and free the people from the tyranny of a government that will eventually enslave them to master in Moscow.

It is a rather hard fact to acknowledge, but we have reached the point where we can

destroy ourselves in a matter of minutes just by pushing buttons and turning keys in a silo under ground with nuclear weapons. The United States has them, indeed had them first and used them. The Soviets have and will use them if they feel they can get away with it. The fact that the United States may have used them to threaten other nations does not mean that the Soviets are the good guys because they haven't. What do you think nuclear testing is? It certainly is not just to find out if a bomb works. Don't be fooled by the Soviets, they use their nuclear weapons in the same way the United States does; it is better known in the States than the Soviet Union because it is a free country and the knowledge can be readily made available to anyone who requests it; that is the difference between the Soviets and the United States in a nut-shell.

So, I would like you to print an acknowledgement that the United States is not the only culprit in the arms race. That the Soviet Union is just as much, if not more, to blame for the arms race as it now stands. The same amount of space should be given to the other side of the arms race argument as that given in the issue just made available. Accept these terms, or be branded as Communist, tyrannical sympathizers in the mind of the student, and no doubt, the minds of other students and faculty who read those articles.

Paul J. Chiasson

Remembrance Day signified

To the editors,

Now that Remembrance Day has passed and we can forget about it for another year, I wonder just what it is that young people are supposed to remember. Of course, we can't remember anything we didn't experience and holidays are always welcome. But I think this holiday has a special quality. A special quality that does not deserve a sort of indifferent or ignorant attitude.

Indeed, things might be quite different had it not been for the 600,000 Canadians (one-thirteenth of the entire population) who served in the First World War and the 200,000 of whom were injured or killed. So what did they fight for and what did the 39,319 Canadians who died in the Second World War die for? They did so mainly for the quality of life of later generations of Canadians — so that we may have all the freedoms we enjoy today!

Perhaps there isn't really all that much we can do, but, representatives of only two student groups laid wreaths at the memorial service on their "holiday". One was Saint Mary's Student Union and the other was Zeta Psi Fraternity, in honour of their brother, Dr. John McCrae (1872-1918), author of "In Flanders Fields."

Paul Chiarot

Letters

Students still lose out

To the editors, *The Gazette* issue dated Nov. 14, 1985, carried a front page story entitled "Dal's Deficit Clipped" by Charlene Sadler. Ms. Sadler states that the \$5 million cut in the University deficit was skillfully managed by the University Administration "without cutting services."

A reduction of 3.5 percent of the base budget last year significantly reduced services which directly affect students at Dalhousie. Cuts in security, reduced services within the residences and horizontal reductions through all academic cost centers do affect students. We find Mr. Robbie Shaw's comment that "there are no losers" surprising since Mr. Shaw seemed to have forgotten the students who are suffering from the reduction in services. We remind Mr. Shaw, the real losers are the students.

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