

the Dalhousie Gazette

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The **Dalhousie Gazette** is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a libelous, sexist or racist nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor and announcements is noon on Monday. Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o Dal Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Friday before publication.

The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd Floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

Subscription rates are \$15 per year (25 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507 or (902) 424-2055. The business office may be reached at (902) 424-6532.

The Last War

Truth isn't always stranger than fiction. But last Sunday, Nov. 20, truth sure was more interesting than fiction.

The panel discussion held by ABC News after their broadcast of the film *The Day After*, a film about death and life after a nuclear war in the United States, had much of what the film itself was missing. The ABC News "Viewpoint" program featured great performances by famous character actors like Henry Kissinger, William F. Buckley, jr., Carl Sagan, and George Schultz. The film couldn't offer such convincing performances. The program was full of dramatic tension, unlike the film. It was an example of the best TV has to offer (unlike the film).

The mini-drama of ABC's follow-up news program even had an unlikely hero for disarmament advocates—former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert MacNamara. Amid a fairly hawkish panel of "experts" save for astronomer Carl Sagan and the very confused philosopher Elie Wiesel, MacNamara called for many things strange-sounding from a former Secretary of Defense under Kennedy and Johnson. He stressed a number of unilateral actions the U.S. can and should take to reduce both nuclear arms and world tensions. He ridiculed the American paranoia about Soviet nuclear arms and the "window of vulnerability." And not too many disagreed with him.

While MacNamara still emphasized working within the existing system and coming to the understanding that the world will have nuclear arms for quite some time, there is much in his approach the international peace movement could work towards.

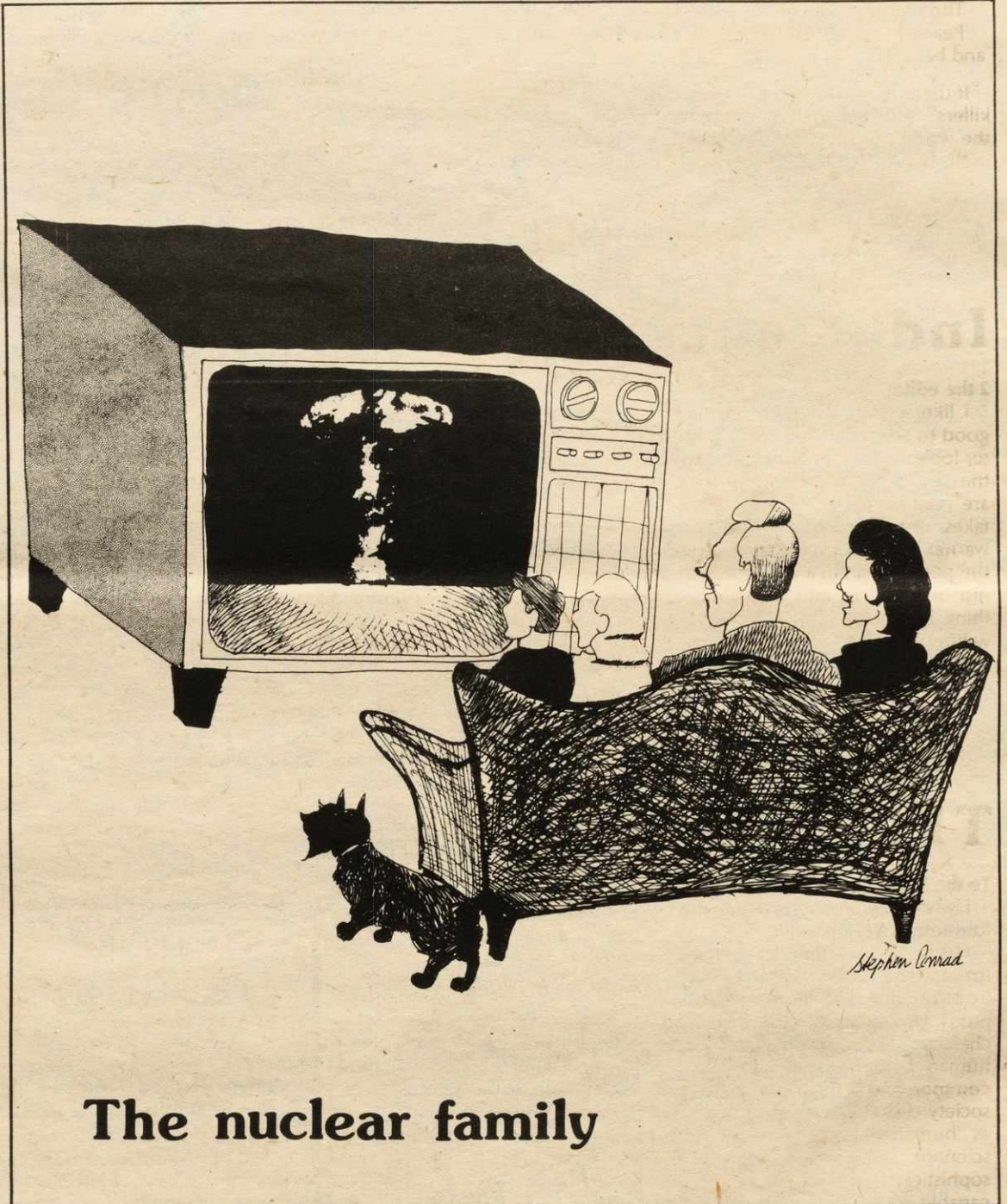
Announcing and accepting "no launch on warning" policy would be a good first step, for instance. Since under no circumstances could a "sneak attack" by one side result in their not also being destroyed (due to submarines, planes, surviving silos, etc.), it makes no sense to hold the option to launch nukes on the basis of radar alert (the "warning"). As he indicated, there was no "advantage" gained by firing before missiles actually landed. "No launch warning," which he said the U.S. should unilaterally accept, would prevent past errors such as computer malfunctions, inaccurate radar readings or even flocks of birds as being the cause of the final World War.

MacNamara also advocated unilaterally moving all NATO missiles away from the West-East German border. If any invasion of West Germany occurred, these missiles may be fired in the fear they will be overrun. MacNamara also said the number of warheads in Europe could easily be unilaterally halved, and stressed the need to understand and communicate with the Soviets. In peace and disarmament, the U.S. must "be more daring, more imaginative—not just as a people, as a society."

These are just a few of his proposals. MacNamara's ideas are certainly no end solution for world disarmament. But they are worth working towards as a means to lessen the probability of the Last World War. MacNamara also has what is called "product respectability"—people inside the U.S. Defense establishment listen to him. He could be a very influential ally in bringing about the changes in government policy needed to see a world where peace really is given a chance.

He sure sounded a hell of a lot better than Billy Buckley or Henry K. on the 20th, too.

K. B.



The nuclear family

GAZETTE GENERAL MEETING

SEE HOW WE RUN

Dec. 1 7:30 pm Rm. 100 SUB