



Dalhousie Gazette

Vol. 103

November 6, 1970

Number 6

Like a vicious beast
of fury the city stalks
its prey
people
seizing their identity
in its crooked claws
and crushing it
to nothing
the streets
the buses
the houses
the stores
only noise, pollution
confusion
and men
like children
playing in a jungle
only to be lost
forever
amid nothingness
and nobody

Cathy Gillis



Poverty in Halifax is on the uprise, and for those of you who have never experienced poverty, I will tell you about it.

Poverty is indefinable, it must be experienced, and it can be best described by those who have lived through it, not by those who stand on platforms, describing it and saying what they plan to do. These are the ones who neglect it and allow it to exist. While they say they'll do something about it, the attempt is never made.

Poverty is the parent of revolutions and crime — in fact, poverty makes depression look like a picnic.

To live in Halifax as one of a "lower class of people" is to be "lazy, useless, stupid, and ignorant" people; but in fact, it is society who is lazy, useless, stupid and ignorant for permitting such a state to exist.

To live in poverty is to be called names, to be looked down upon as dirt, to be degraded by those who have the power to put an end to poverty.

To live in poverty is to live on welfare, given enough money to exist, without any privileges given to human beings in higher classes, i.e. no cars, no drinking, no smoking, no social evenings. There is no way out; any extra money made must be reported. If you live in poverty, you must also put up with cockroaches, rats, rundown houses and leaking pipes. Being on welfare doesn't exempt you from high rent, and the high cost of food and clothing.

Then, a child in the family realizes that his family is "living in poverty" or wonders why he hasn't got what the next child has. Result, he's going to go out and get it, if it

means beating up someone, or stealing from a store, and getting arrested.

Ignorant people never see why this happens, but, as I said, **Poverty is the Parent of Crime and Revolution.** This fact cannot be erased until Poverty is gone and, as long as you have greed, lack of communication, and a corrupt society, you can expect poverty. Where communication stops, violence begins. Think about it hard, for poverty is a social disease, not a contagious disease which one human being can catch from another.

Most of the people never know what poverty is. All poverty is about is the failure of some greedy people to communicate with their brothers in society, as human beings. This failure is old and universal. Man is the only one who can end it, but not until he realizes that he is the cause.

Poverty exists in any country where the economic system is based on private property, competition, and the country's wealth is in the hands of a few. This system yields a lack of jobs and a low minimum wage: two of the major problems of the poor. Laziness and skin color do not cause hatred and a lower class of people, but, rather, the system and its corruptness.

What can one do when asked "Why don't you get a job?" when there are no jobs to be had? Where does one go? One alternative is Halifax, Nova Scotia, where work is as scarce as banana plantations.

Tim MacIntyre