

# Human beings don't like life

Kurt Vonnegut explains it simply: "Human beings don't like life", he says. "They pretend to like it some, to smile at strangers, and to get up each morning in order to survive, in order to somehow get through it. But life is, for most people, a very terrible ordeal. They would just as soon end it at any time."

Canadian scientist John C. Polanyi says it stems from "the fatalism of those who believe that the actions required to avert disaster can only be taken after the meaning of a nuclear cataclysm has been made fully apparent—forged in the fire of the holocaust".

Dalhousie political scientist James Eayrs sees it as two giants suffering from "paranoid schizophrenia" of the chronic type. The Soviet and American behemoths have hallucinations, hear voices and have delusions of persecution. Some mysterious virus instills in the Soviets a fear of capitalist motivated counter revolution and a fear of having the dark secrets of their terror network revealed to the world.

The U.S., on the other hand, according to Eayrs, regards all of history as a "gigantic conspiracy" by the "red menace", "international communism", the "Soviet threat" or whatever other term is in vogue to depict the ideologies lurking behind the Iron Curtain. Their paranoid spokesmen see the future as an "apocalypse", an "now or never", with time "forever running out". (And as Ronald Reagan's election to the presidency Tuesday night showed, the American people listen.)

The problems of a solution to the arms race are complex, tantalizing, horrifying and frustrating. But they must be faced. In the time leading up to Dalhousie's referendum on disarmament in the spring of 1982, students should have time to consider all sides of an issue which may have more influence on the future than any other. Council representatives, as Gord Owen pointed out Sunday night, have been taking stands on disarmament through the National Union of Students for many years. Council should be applauded for finally bringing the debate back to the average student.

## the Dalhousie Gazette

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America is getting  
back to basics!



## Letters to the Editor

### Dalorama dictionary endeavor

Sirs:

We are writing this letter with regard to the weekly "Dalorama" feature of the Dalhousie Gazette.

We believe that the purpose of such a feature is to provide an entertaining vocabular challenge to the average reader of your publication. We feel that the Dalorama has failed to achieve this purpose.

It has exceeded its scope by becoming a ponderous dictionary endeavour rather than an entertaining word puzzle. The use of such linguistic gems as "ptomaine" and "pomander" has discouraged many students from playing the game because of the

inability to solve the puzzle in one (typically lecture room) sitting. Armed only with pen or pencil, the typical Gazette reader often finds himself at a loss when confronted with the aimless dictionary wanderings provided by the author.

In conclusion, we can only wonder whether Mr. Hartt is vying for the position of

Strange Words Analyst at Dalhousie's English Department. Perhaps if Mr. Hartt restricted himself to a more limited vocabulary, we peasants of the English language could enjoy his puzzle as much as he so obviously does.

Truly yours,  
Andrew Mosher  
Stephen Lownie

### Keen communist logic

Dear Sir:

How refreshing it is to have the keen logic of a Communist aired in the pages of the Gazette again! I was almost resigned to the fact of unbiased editorial policy when I read first the interview with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Lois Wilson and then the 'article' by Comrade Spurr, who apparently got to read the interview before the proletariat at Dalhousie did. How perceptive of Spurr to read

through what I thought was metaphorical speech, to discover that Christians have two cars, etc. It is almost enough to make me (one of Paul Clark's 'medieval' people who are concerned with trifles, private issues like my relationship with God) become an opium addict! Come on. No one needs Communist hysteria-mongering at Dalhousie and very few want it.

Joseph Mroz, Dal Student