

Survey shows old fogies not totally out of touch

A FEW WEEKS ago, I wrote a column saying that I felt that I had fallen off the globe. Certain events mystified me. Among them were the granting of bail to an alleged pimp accused of threatening prostitutes, a British Columbian activist who urged that 95 per cent of the jail population be released, and the blatant sexual promenading of gays in a San Francisco parade.

Now it seems that I am no more confused than most people my age.

In recent weeks we have heard the U.S. presidential and vice-presidential candidates talk about family values. But we might ask what the words mean. It seems that values differ widely among diverse interest groups.

While I was struggling with the notion that my own thinking may be retrogressive and out-of-date, I came across survey results in the *St. Petersburg Times* this morning which dealt with a wide-range of so-called family values.

Let's run through it and find out where most people stand — including yourself.

I might mention that this was not a light, hit-and-miss poll but one that dealt with 7,808 respondents a pretty wide base.

Let's start with school prayer, mandatory in my time and something that I agree with. Well, opinion here is divided. More than half the respondents disagreed with teachers leading students in a daily prayer. The breakdown was roughly 51-49 per cent in favor of those disagreeing strongly or somewhat.

When it came to allowing students a daily minute of silence to offer up their own prayer the response swung in 65-24 in favor of prayer.

And what about hot abortion issue that seems to haunt all societies, including ours? Choice of abortion being left up to the woman and her doctor was the most favored view to the tune of 64 per cent with another 24 per cent favoring abortion in pregnancies resulting from rape, incest

Oct 25/92
Arnie Patterson



or when the life of the mother is at risk. Only 11 per cent felt that abortion should be illegal in all circumstances. I vote with the first premise. The woman in question and her doctor should make the decision, as difficult as it might be.

Another hot issue is homosexuality. The poll asked if homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal.

Here it was 52-40 per cent in favor of legalizing such relations. I would agree. Should homosexuals be allowed to serve in the military? Again the majority came out in favor by a 54-39 margin. Here, I would be opposed.

What about marriage between homosexuals? Should this be recognized by law? The vote was almost 3-1 against, another result I agree with. How about the ordination of homosexuals in the clergy. Again an almost 2-1 response against ordination, with which I agree.

Here's one that will surprise you. While the vote was close, 48-45 per cent, the majority felt that sex before marriage was all right. I would agree. With respect to sex education in the schools and the availability of birth control devices, people felt this the wise course by a 4-1 margin.

In a general topic, this dealing with the question of moral improvement or moral decline in the American society the vote was 8-1 with the overwhelming majority feeling that the nation was undergoing a period of moral decline.

In reviewing my own answers to the above I find that I am some what in the centre of the issues with a leaning to the conservative side of most questions. How about you?

Gays shouldn't be in military

EVEN KNOWING full well the oftentimes militancy of the gay-rights movement, I can't resist quoting a gentleman named Tom Bethell today.

He is a writer with the *American Spectator*, and he recently commented on the raging controversy in the U.S. concerning admittance of homosexuals into the Armed Services.

Bethell wrote: "As a rule, soldiers don't like taking showers with the kind of guys who like to take showers with soldiers."

There I have done it — I expect that I will dominate the letters-to-the-editor page next Sunday

But what a good line. So let the letters flow.

When I took on this soapbox, particularly after more than 40 years of writing opinions — many that have proven wrong and others doubtful — I knew it wouldn't always be a one-way street.

But while I have never been reluctant to express my own opinions, I have never been offended when others have exercised the same option.

After all, it is a free country and nothing is more sacred than freedom of speech.

Back to the issue of homosexuals serving in the military. U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton is getting shafts from all sides for taking the stand that the so-called gays should win admittance into the American armed services.

My friend Bethell, in commenting on his stand, said it seems extraordinary that Bill Clinton in his first policy decision as president should have promised to reverse the ban on homosexuals in the military — and on Veterans Day at that.

This after Clinton ran the gauntlet after being

Arnie Patterson



Nov 27/92
accused of avoiding the draft in the Vietnam War.

Bethell says this decision verges on the reckless, and raises doubts about Clinton's fabled political antennae.

A few weeks ago, I wrote an column in which I said that it was both immoral and unfair for society to deal with homosexuals on a prejudicial basis.

But in this instance, I think an exception should be made.

For one thing, those who run the show are opposed to admitting gays. Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says that removing the ban would be prejudicial to good order and discipline.

In that we are a society that is preoccupied with rights rather than personal responsibilities, I might hasten to point out that there is no right to serve in the military.

Many criteria — height, weight and health for example — are used to exclude whole categories of people.

Further, military institutions have long discouraged homosexuality, and it would be folly and arrogance to assume that this was mere prejudice.

It was not my intention to get carried away on that topic today; I just wanted to share the lead quote with you.

Gay pensions at Dal a modern phenomenon

Arnie Patterson



Gay Pride parade in Toronto: amazed disbelief.

PENSIONS FOR "live-in" partners of gay professors? Dr. A.E. Kerr, the late and distinguished and long-time president of Dalhousie University, would probably have gone into orbit had he been confronted with this recommendation.

He was a strict, no-nonsense, Presbyterian clergyman by training and a staunch Cape Bretoner with God-fearing Scots' roots.

It may be presumption on my part to suggest that Dr. Kerr would be mystified by this request for "boyfriends."

But I would bet that he would give the proposal a frosty reception.

My own reaction to the headline "Gay Partners may win Dal pensions" was one of amazed disbelief.

My God, what next?

With this Sunday column in prospect, I knew I had a topic.

In my day growing up, we didn't talk about homosexuality. We whispered about it occasionally and with an accompanying snicker.

But the "pansies" and "fairies" were different from you and me.

My first thought was that I should write this in a jocular vein. How about free fur coats and prepaid hairdos?

But then I sat at the typewriter.

Despite 40 years of journalistic tribulation, I knew I had tackled a tough topic. And one that I knew little about. Like most of us, I was always too uncomfortable with the question to deal with it.

I also came to the quick realization that it was no laughing matter, particularly with the spectre of AIDS in our midst.

To equip myself, I went to the Bedford public library.

I sheepishly asked an attractive, middle-aged matron where I could find a book on homosexuality.

I strongly prefaced my remarks by saying that I was writing a newspaper column on the topic.

She gave me a coy smile and said, "I know golfers aren't homosexuals," obviously referring to my passion for golf. This surprised me.

WITH HER KIND direction, I found a text entitled, *Growing Up Straight*. While dated — written in 1968 at the beginning of the storm — the book is a thoughtful and sympathetic discussion of many aspects of this increasingly intrusive topic.

The work deals in large part with advice to parents on how to prevent children from drifting into homosexuality.

I can't say that it gave me an answer for the Dal governors who have to make the decision on the pension issue, but it gave me some insights on this perplexing issue in our society.

After a day of reflection, my first reaction stands. This request for pensions for the partners of professors is a bit outlandish.

And yet, I thought, "Am I being intolerant, inconsiderate?"

I have always thought of myself as liberal, largely reasonable, and, hopefully, sympathetic to others. Open up your mind and heart, Arnold, these people are really little different than you and me, save for their sexual preferences.

Further, most of the gays I have known in working experiences have been bright, creative and, in many cases, extremely talented.

There is no question that society as a whole has to adopt a more frank, healthier attitude if we are to understand this new phenomenon.

Now, I don't accept the idea promoted by gay groups that homosexuality is normal, nor the idea that the straights are warped because they don't approve of the homosexual way of life.

But to help reduce the risks and growth of AIDS, we are going to have to approach the matter with sympathetic understanding and not a condescending snicker.

The pseudo-glamor of gay life is, I suppose, a seductive magnet to some.

But it is my observation that it's a life that far too often carries with it some fearful penalties.

DON'T BUY OUR CAR!

AND WE WILL \$100⁰⁰ GIVE YOU ... CASH

OFFER ENDS DEC 20/88

Just test drive a new Excel or Sonata and buy a comparable new car and we will pay you **\$100 CASH — NO GIMMICKS — \$100 CASH**. We are so sure that once you compare out quality features as well as, warranties and price you will see why we can make this offer. Details and comparison list in showroom.

TERCEL • CIVIC • FIREFLY • SPRINT
ESCORT • MAZDA 323 • MICRA • SENTRA
OMNI • FORSA

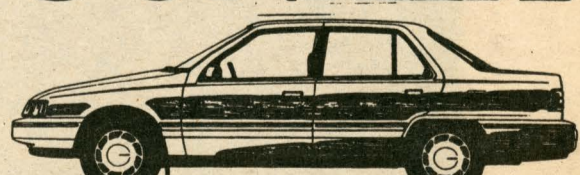
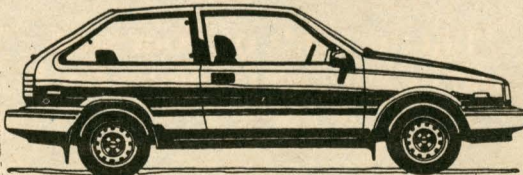
TAURUS • SABLE • CAMRY • TEMPEST
ACCORD • MAZDA 626 • DYNASTY
GRAND AM • CORISCA • PONTIAC 6000

VS.

EXCEL

VS.

SONATA



\$7693*

STARTING AT

WE SELL CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

\$13,995*

STARTING AT

SETTLE FOR MORE

5 YEAR/100,000 KM WARRANTY INCLUDED

ONLY AT:

*Plus Tax, License, P.D.I. & Fees.

HALIFAX
CD
HYUNDAI

453-5550

6419 Lady Hammond Rd, Halifax



CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. priest charged with indecent assault: if priests aren't holy, who is?

Priests' plight a tragedy

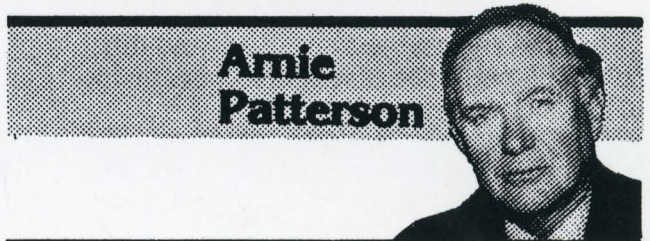
I DREW THE ire of a number of people last winter when I wrote a column saying homosexuality was abnormal. In their ridicule, there was a suggestion that I was not only out of touch with reality but totally in bad taste.

In an endeavor to enlighten myself on the topic — admitting in the first place that my knowledge of homosexuality was somewhat scant — I went to the library in search of reference books. The one I fixed on was apparently dated, and drew condescending giggles from critics who jibed at my suggestion gay alliances involved deviation from accepted social practice.

Unquestionably, the tragedy in Newfoundland has brought the matter back into focus. The Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland is in tatters.

Fourteen priests, oblate brothers, and social workers have been accused of molesting young boys. I use the word tragedy advisedly. While our first sympathy must go to the abused children, their parents and families, there has to be a residue of sympathy for those thousands of honorable and innocent priests who have dedicated their lives to the church and good works.

They sadly are tainted by the story unfolding in Newfoundland. Having attended Catholic schools and colleges I have known, and know, hundreds of priests. They were almost all admirable and exemplary men. It was a church of sterner stuff in those days. The authority of the parish priest was unyielding. Society has changed dramatically in the last



Arnie Patterson

30 years, and there has been an erosion of the church's influence.

While my purpose in the first instance was to talk about homosexuality, it is difficult to separate it from the events in Newfoundland with the clergy. If priests are not holy, who is?

I am not for the mistreatment of any peoples, minorities especially, and yet the practice of homosexuality is a deviation from accepted moral and social practice as we have known through the centuries.

Possibly I am old-fashioned, but I am not for a society that caves in to the demands and whims of gays.

I don't want them mistreated, and I feel sorry for their misguided lives, but I feel society has to be alert to the many dangers this abnormal practice encourages.

I think known homosexuals should not be allowed to teach in the school system, and they should be excluded from sports or social programs catering to youngsters. This is not a stand that will win favor with gays, obviously, but it will be acknowledged and accepted by parents and mature-thinking people in our communities.

Carnival park mocking Scottish heritage

To the editor:

The building of that theme park at Upper Clements was a mistake, as would be the series of parks at one time suggested.

Theme park ideas are something cribbed from the Americans and I feel it behooves those charged with the stimulation and conduct of our tourist industry to have the foresight and originality to preserve the character of this province by backing something better than that type of activity.

Our games of a Scottish-Canadian-Nova Scotian nature need monetary — and other assistance — and they cry the identity of the province, not theme parks, it is too bad that more seated members of that legislature don't think more of what is indigent to us culturally than of a carnival-style theme park whose heritage content is all but blotted out by its circus-like aspects.

Perhaps they will ultimately have St. Andrew's Cross removed from the provincial crest and a hot dog placed beneath the crown!

Roy A. Chisholm
Dartmouth

Symbolic park

To the editor:

The opening of the Upper Clements Park gives us so many symbolic references to the present state of things in Nova Scotia.

Our premier opens the place riding on a toy train, symbolic of the transportation system the feds are going to leave us with.

The "House" is a house of illusions. Nothing really concrete ever results from what you see there. The past sitting of the House in Halifax produced very little other than illusion, the illusion of human rights for all, for example.

The roller coaster was bumpy and had to be closed. We have been up and down, mostly down in the bumpy economic picture and we are coming close to having to close up for repairs.

The costumes are 19th century, just like our human rights legislation.

The premier's toy train burst through a paper barrier, symbolic of the level of difficulty of challenges the government has taken on since the last election and Rollie Thornhill's casting of a glass plate shows the transparency of the achievements.

Well done, chaps.

Tom Creighton
Halifax

What theme?

To the editor:

We read news stories about the opening of the "Theme Park" in Upper Clements. Apparently it has a toy train big enough to carry our dignified premier, the Hon. John Buchanan.

There is also a roller coaster, a black-



smith's shop, soap makers, jugglers, a miniature golf course shaped like Nova Scotia. We can eat 17th century food after going through the fun house.

Could someone please tell me what the theme of this "Theme Park" is?

Taiya Barss
Kempt Head, N.S.

Building on ignorance

To the editor:

I was dismayed to read in the June 18 edition of *The Sunday Daily News* another column by Arnie Patterson in which he explained why society at large has a "problem" with homosexuals. His continued protestations do no credit to your publication, not to its journalistic integrity.

If society does have a problem with the issue of homosexuality — and I suspect that we are all agreed that it does — it is a problem born of ignorance and misinformation, perpetuated by a resistance to education, compassion and acceptance. Mr. Patterson helped to build upon this ignorance in his equating homosexuality with pedophilia — a stand which, while widely-accepted, has been proven time

and time again to be inaccurate.

Bobbi Zahra
Halifax

Claim beyond dispute

To the editor:

In his June 22 column, Arnie Patterson very effectively responded to the comments of Tom Regan and Sharon Fraser on the views that Arnie had expressed in a previous column on the subject of homosexuality, which he described as an abnormality.

It did not occur to me, nor I expect to most of his readers, that Arnie had in mind sexual abuse.

I think that Arnie's view that homosexuality is a deviation from the normal, accepted practice in our society is beyond dispute.

Surely nature provided sexual attraction for the purpose of securing propagation.

On the other hand, I am very sympathetic with those unfortunate to be born with unnatural sexual instincts and am a strong believer in legislation designed to protect them from discrimination. The

Buchanan government failed them badly in this regard.

However, much progress has been made in the direction of the reduction of discrimination without legislation.

We have come a long way since 1948 when I moved into a rooming house in Ottawa. When it came to the attention of some of the roomers on the lower floors that the third floor rooms were occupied by homosexuals who entertained others there, my friends on the lower floors threatened to move out unless the landlord ejected the boys from the attic. He did.

But I am opposed to any suggestion that homosexuals should have the right to marry.

In my view, the institution of marriage was designed to add security to family life and its strength has already been eroded enough by people who don't take their marriage vows seriously.

To allow homosexuals to marry would make a mockery of that institution.

Keith Eaton, Q.C.
Chester Basin, N.S.

Hiding behind medicine

To the editor:

Vera G. MacDonald (Letters, June 22) is disillusioned that Halifax City Manager Paul Calda received an absolute discharge for stealing merchandise from a Canadian Tire store.

Her disenchantment is reasonable. Why should people who steal "medicalize" their actions by having a doctor say those wrong actions were "job stress" related?

World-renowned psychiatrist Dr. Thomas Szasz, of the State University of New York Health Science Center, says that "people who commit crimes (eg. theft) are criminals; they are responsible for their actions."

There is nothing immoral or degrading about admitting to a mistake and making amends. People will accept this. What they don't accept is the hypocrisy of "medicalizing" wrong actions and the appearance of favoritism in the justice system.

As unfair as Calda's case appears to be, we have not yet matched the absurdity of the American justice system as reported in the June 1989 issue of *Reason* magazine.

"Cosmetology instructor Michael Cerami was convicted of first-degree manslaughter for shooting a school official who had asked for his resignation. After Cerami was acquitted by reason of insanity in a second trial, a New York State appeals court ruled that job stress contributed to Cerami's mental breakdown and awarded him workers' compensation!"

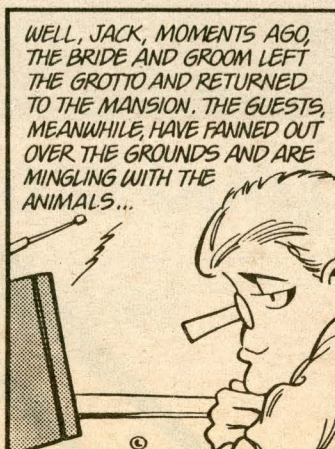
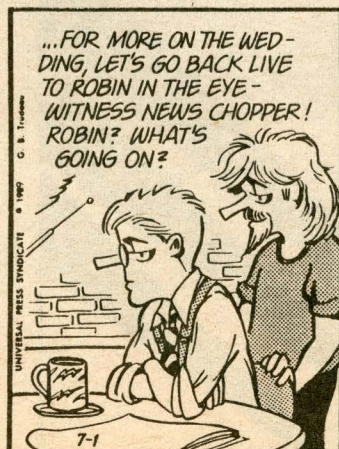
David Morgan
Vice President
Libertarian Party of Nova Scotia

How to write us

Please address letters to: **The Editor, The Daily News, P.O. Box 8330, Station A, Halifax, NS, B3K 5M1.**

Letters can also be hand-delivered to our offices at 202 Brownlow Boulevard, Burnside Industrial Park, Dartmouth. All letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number; telephone numbers will not be published. *The Daily News* reserves the right to edit letters for length. Opinions expressed are those of the letter writer.

DOONESBURY



**Tom
Regan**



Homosexuals born, not made

It's not often that I take exception to another writer's column, especially one I respect as much as Arnie Patterson — after all, everybody is entitled to his or her own opinion. But his column in *The Sunday Daily News* about homosexuals cannot be left unchallenged. The column was sadly intolerant.

I'm not gay, and I consider myself a "mature-thinking" person. But I take great exception to Patterson's remarks. Arnie is entitled to his beliefs — he may consider a homosexual lifestyle "misguided." I do not.

The word "misguided" implies a mistaken choice. But homosexuality is not a choice. Men and women who are gays or lesbians are born that way, just as some people are born with blue eyes, and others with brown eyes.

Nor is a demand for human rights a "whim" as Patterson describes it. As I have written before, gays and lesbians are not asking for people's acceptance — they only ask for the same human rights every other member of a democracy is entitled to.

Patterson raises the issue of the sexual assaults charges placed against members of the Roman Catholic community in Newfoundland. He uses this situation to advocate homosexuals be kept out of schools, and excluded from sports or social programs catering to young people.

Well, I'm sorry, but I totally disagree.

First, in reference to the incidents in Newfoundland, there is a big difference between pederasty (the sexual abuse of young children) and homosexuality (the sexual orientation of a group community within our community). And since we're talking about child abuse, what about the damage done to young children, especially young girls, by heterosexual men — like fathers, uncles, friends? Perfectly "normal" men — often pillars of the society.

The statistics of child abuse by "straight" men far, far outnumber similar stats for the homosexual community. But I don't hear anyone calling for straight men to be kept out of schools, or sports programs. And I'm not being facetious when I make this point.

I had several gay teachers when I was in junior high and high school. Two of them were among the best teachers I ever had. Being a good teacher or coach has nothing to do with someone's sexual orientation. In fact, it seems to matter a great deal more to certain members of the community than it ever has to a child in a classroom.

Being gay or lesbian does not mean you will molest children, anymore than being straight means you will molest children. And that is the truth. But as long as mistaken attitudes linger around this issue, homosexuals will be denied their basic rights in our society.

□ □ □

I just want to take a moment and congratulate Neptune Theatre for appointing Larry Hines as public relations director. It would be hard to find a more knowledgeable P.R. person, or bigger fan of the arts.

Hines helped many amateur and professional groups during his time as public affairs manager at MT&T. Although the bosses made the decisions about the big donations, Hines played a pivotal role in shaping these decisions. It's also a brilliant fundraising move. Hines has numerous contacts all over the province. At a time when Neptune Theatre has to raise much-needed funds, having somebody like Larry Hines aboard is a big plus indeed.

DAILY NEWS

Established 1974

Douglas MacKay Editor-in-Chief
 Bill Turpin Managing Editor Joan Westen News Editor
 Dwaine Turcotte Circulation Manager Mike Hancox Advertising Director

The Daily News is published by The Daily News Division, Robinson-Blackmore Printing & Publishing Ltd.
 Mark Richardson General Manager
 Eric Balkam Comptroller

EDITORIAL

B.C. fish ruling ominous for East

OPPPOSITION MPs have been needing the Mulroney government on its roll-over-and-die attitude toward a ruling on British Columbia fish processing that has broad implications for the East Coast fishing industry.

Canada's original ban on the export of unprocessed salmon and herring — a rule meant to protect B.C. processing jobs — was declared an unfair trade practice by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, after some prodding by lobbyist-conscious Washington. A new Canadian regulation says whole fish must be brought into B.C. ports for counting, and can then be bid on by U.S. and Japanese companies. (The U.S. has also objected to the landing rule, which has been referred to the free-trade pact disputes panel.)

West Coast fishing companies, workers and native fishermen argue that with lower U.S. and Japanese production costs, the B.C. plants will be outbid — and up to 3,500 jobs lost.

The government maintains it is in fact protecting B.C. jobs with the landing ruling, but if so it is a far weaker effort than when it insisted on Canada-only processing.

It has long been a classic Canadian flaw to export raw materials and buy them back in costlier finished form. Do we need to perpetuate it in this case? Is GATT so intimidating that Ottawa cannot make strong objections to its ruling and point out that many other countries do not go around selling raw resources when they can process them profitably at home?

This is a dangerous precedent. One of the means to salvage jobs from the East Coast fishery crisis is precisely in doing more processing in Atlantic Canada and less trucking of round (unprocessed) fish to the U.S.

The federal government's handling of the B.C. issue, the GATT ruling and its free-trade dispute will show how serious it is in the protection of Canadian jobs when it runs into opposition from U.S. business interests.

When in doubt, declare it's oil. . .

THE SCOTIAN SHELF oil and gas industry has been the longest-running offshore show in Eastern Canadian history — and the driest.

Starting with the first seismic tests off Sable Island by Shell and Mobil Oil in the early 1960s, exploration has amassed stacks of undersea information, cost many millions, helped win elections and provoked a certain wariness among Nova Scotians.

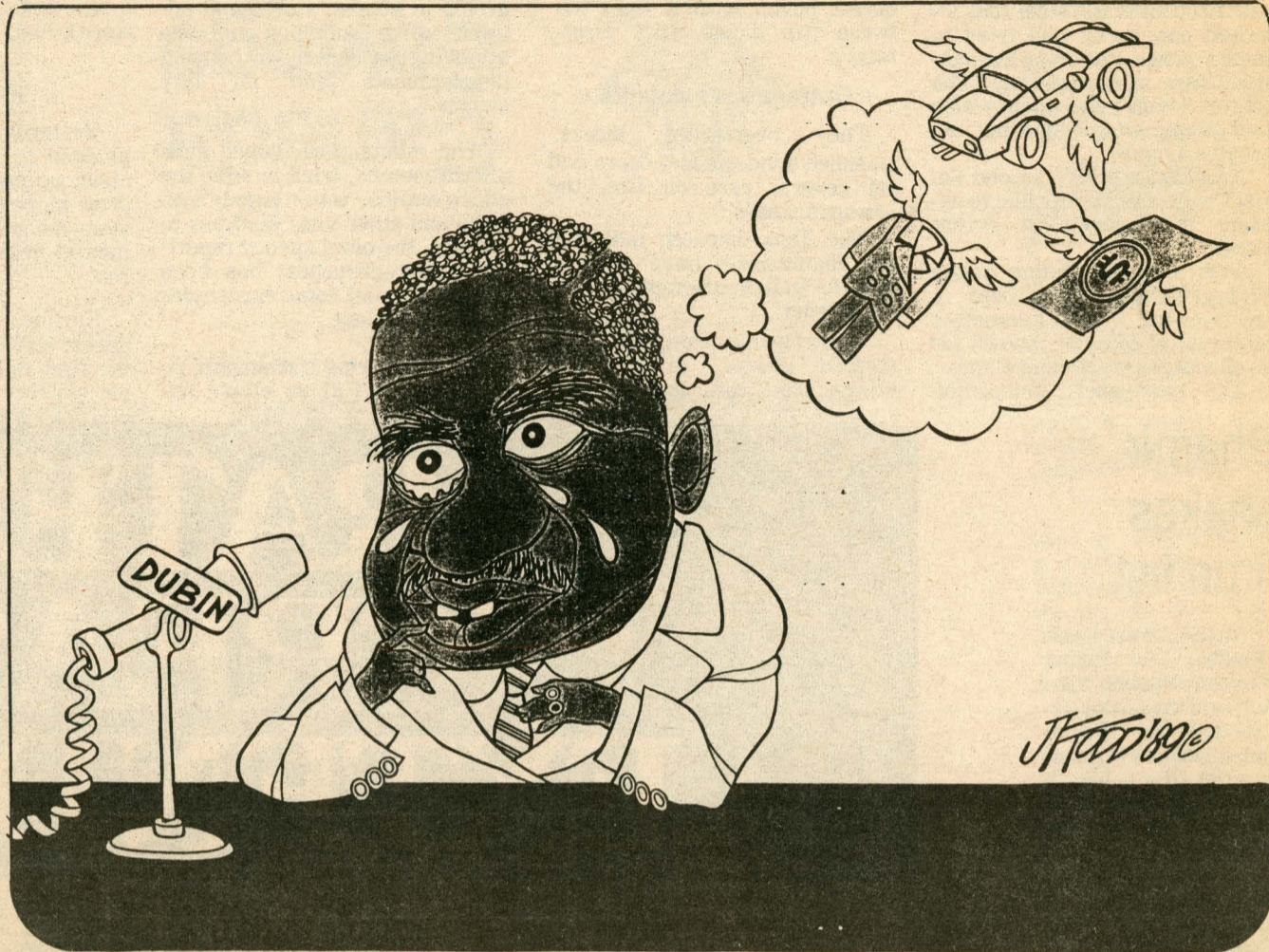
But such skepticism is not part of Premier John Buchanan's makeup, politically at least. So his surprise prediction to a national science conference in Halifax that oil would be brought ashore from a smallish field in "two or three years" should only have been a surprise to oil-industry analysts who see no such thing.

Calgary observers wondered whether the premier had some contact with an oil company that no one knows about, since there has been no suggestions of imminent Scotian Shelf development. Analyst Ian Doig politely termed the forecast "unlikely" and said it has not got the oil patch "overly excited."

Indeed, any examination of the political manipulation of the offshore oil potential since former premier Gerald Regan's day should keep the level of excitement to a minimum.

The big oil companies have long packed their bags and left. That leaves Crown-owned Nova Scotia Resources Ltd., with its millions in taxpayers' investments. Mr. Buchanan says NSRL plans to pump the oil with privately owned Iona Resources, which has an interest in the Panuke field.

Iona was shy about what stage talks had reached. We can see why.



Shallow reports . . . and Arnie

A FRIEND and I were listening to some of the news coverage out of China the day when one of the reporters, voice breaking with emotion, said something about the horror of a government turning against and killing its own people. A terrible thing, to be sure, but hardly unusual, is it?

People from El Salvador, people from South Africa, people from countless repressive regimes around the world must wonder why such an action by the Chinese government was proportionately so much more newsworthy than when such things happen in their countries. Nothing anyone can say can lessen the horror of what happened in China.

Having said that, it's worth making a few observations about the news coverage there and lack of news coverage elsewhere. A few weeks ago, I wrote here about taking part in a multi-cultural conference about media coverage of certain specific events. One of the seminars dealt with the incident at Cole Harbour High School.

It came out during the discussion that one of the things which most disturbed black parents and teachers about the coverage, was the way the media swooped in at the first sign of a newsworthy event and pounced this way and that looking for the angles.

Fair question

But where are the media in between incidents the parents and teachers wanted to know? How can they legitimately and responsibly cover isolated events without having an ongoing knowledge of what leads up to what is considered newsworthy?

It's a fair question to ask about China too. Until the demonstrations started, a common kind of story we got out of China might be a trium-



Sharon Fraser

phant little piece to crow about the introduction of Coke to the world's largest market, or the opening of MacDonald's franchise in Beijing, or a light-hearted look at peasant farmers selling their own produce proving that you can't keep free enterprise down. As though the introduction of western-style capitalism had something to do with the freedom of people in the world's largest and perhaps most complex society.

Once the demonstrations started, there was a veritable stampede of newspeople to China where reports lacking in depth and background were soon bombarding North America. Sidebar stories — particularly the human interest pieces on the American networks — mostly gave the impression freedom for the Chinese people will mean American-style materialism and some good healthy business competition.

ONCE THE government cracked down in Beijing, the coverage verged on outraged disbelief.

It was as if reporters sincerely believed we live in a world of happy endings. I'm afraid I can't help but wonder if American big business was exploiting China to the same degree as it exploits Central America, reaction might be somewhat different. In Central America, after all, innocent people are victimized by their governments regularly — but by regimes firmly supported by the American government. The news coverage, the sources used, and the methods of acquiring information, in each case, seem to reflect that.

Postscript: I thought I would never do this, but I'm going to take issue

with Arnie Patterson. Arnie's most recent column deals, once again, with homosexuality — this time in connection with the Newfoundland priests involved in sexual abuse of young boys. He concludes, after some rather fuzzy thinking, that known homosexuals should not be able to teach in the school system, and they should be excluded from sports or social programs catering to youngsters.

Doesn't know much

Arnie always makes a point of saying that he doesn't know much about homosexuality. And he's right. People who don't know anything about a subject shouldn't write columns about it. But I want him to think about this: most sexual abuse of children is perpetrated on little girls by heterosexual men they love and trust — usually their fathers, although grandfathers, uncles, and big brothers are also often guilty. If Arnie wants to keep homosexual men away from children, would he also agree when a baby girl is brought home from the hospital, all adult males should be banished from the household? Will he make sure he calls the police when he sees a daddy pushing his daughter on the playground swing? Will Arnie warn his own daughters about the high incidence of familial sexual abuse committed by heterosexual men? Arnie winds up his column by saying his point of view will be acknowledged and accepted by parents and mature-thinking people in our communities.

Well, I don't know about that but it will certainly give aid and comfort to John Buchanan and those members of the Tory caucus who have just refused to amend the human rights act to include gays and lesbians. This is the kind of attitude the Tories were playing to and how pleased they must feel now to see it given such a profile.

Arnie Patterson



Remembering Stan Scallion

LISTENING TO CBC radio yesterday, I was reminded of the outstanding calibre of baseball played in Nova Scotia in the late '40s and early '50s.

In a special program paying tribute to Stan (Big Scal) Scallion, former stars Jimmy Gray, an Amherst native, and Dr. Buddy Condy, a legendary home run hitter out of Springhill, recalled the names of a score of American imports who later went on to the big leagues. In all, 23 graduates from the Halifax and District league made the jump to the majors.

Scal, who died at 69, and who was retired from the CBC itself, was a pitcher of considerable speed. There were days, however, when Scal taking the mound was a sure bet to throw a few of his fast balls into Camp Hill cemetery that adjoined the old Wanderers Grounds. A giant of a man at six feet six, Scal was as gentle as he was huge. He will be missed.

□ □ □

I am in a passive mood today and not looking for controversy, but some retort must be made to comments by columnists Tom Regan and Sharon Fraser of this esteemed newspaper. Both were critical of me and my comments Sunday dealing with the question of homosexuality. I said it was an abnormality. While both differed with my opinion, they went on to write about a totally different topic. They made the point that most sexual abuse is directed to little girls by heterosexual men, fathers included. I also deplore that fact but that was not the topic under discussion.

My comments were direct: I said simply that homosexuality was deviation from normal, accepted moral and sexual practice in our society, and society down through the ages. They didn't confront that question, but skirted off in the direction of other forms of child abuse. I have no great argument with people expressing or holding opinions differing from mine, but, girls and boys, if you want to debate the issue stay on track.

□ □ □

Bill Morris, a nifty player from Brightwood, won the Atlantic seniors championship played in New Glasgow this week. He succeeds Dr. Gavin MacInnis of Ashburn as the champ of the veteran linksmen. . . John Buchanan is acting like the man going down for the third time. He is thrashing. His statement that activities on the Sable oil patch will be regenerated shortly met with guffaws from the oil experts throughout the country. Possibly the dismal polls showing his Tories as the least popular government in the Maritimes has something to do with John's search for a new carrot for those of us here. . .

Mike Kelly, former hockey mogul, is now on an extended mandate as the customer relations officer for the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission. Mike joined the commission 10 years ago after a long stint as a vice-president of the Nova Scotia Voyagers. . . Cyril (Bub) O'Hearn is still looking for a location for his Little Nashville operation, which closed when the Zatzman interests took over his property on Alderney Drive for commercial development. Bubba's exit from the entertainment scene has given new life to the Village Gate on Windmill Road, which is now filling the void in country music. . .

Host Travel had its grand opening for its travel operations on Ilsley Avenue in Burnside yesterday. It's an Irving operation with offices throughout the Maritimes. Barbara Weanus, a former Miss Dartmouth, is the corporate manager here.

Tuition hikes blasted

By MARK BLANCHARD
The Daily News

Hefty university tuition hikes hurt the average citizen's access to post-secondary education, a student leader said yesterday.

The provincial and federal governments are to blame for the present cash-strapped climate, said Lara Morris of the Students Union of Nova Scotia.

Acadia announced a 14.5 per cent increase in its fees beginning this fall, hitting its students with the highest tuition in Canada — in a tie with the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Acadia president James Perkin argued "excellence" in education is an expensive fact-of-life.

"Talk of excellence is matched by deteriorating quality," said Morris, who is SUNS chairman.

She said subsidies have dropped in real terms of 40 per cent since 1980, while the price of admission to Acadia has skyrocketed in that time by 125 per cent.

Acadia is now the front-runner in a tuition race among underfunded universities.

Arnie — no expert, 'but learning'

THE HOMOSEXUAL debate is not totally out of steam. My critics, who seem to abound, remain in continuing pursuit. They say that you can run but you can't hide. I don't feel compelled to do either.

It is not my intention to make a crusade of this issue. But it seems that the gay liberation front is well organized, and certainly defensively militant. This newspaper, as newspapers should, has been exceedingly fair to the gays, as they call themselves. Not only did the paper publish a full page of letters calling for my head — and I assume many were from gays — but two of my fellow columnists joined the attack.

Fair enough. They could say that I started the fray. I wrote a column two weeks ago that deplored the incidents in Newfoundland involving young boys and the Roman Catholic clergy. I further suggested that people of known homosexual tendencies be excluded from close involvement with young boys in school, church, and club activities.

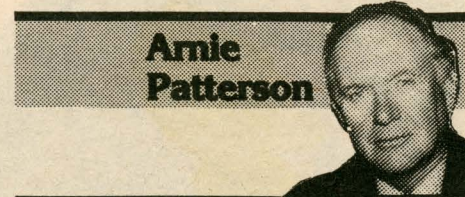
What an outcry that brought.

My thoughts have not changed.

I am not particularly disturbed by sexual alliances between consenting adults of the same gender. That's their business.

The intimidation of children and teenagers is another matter. That is the essential thrust of my argument, although this has been distorted by the gays in an endeavor to distance themselves from certain events of the day.

There is no question in my mind that the molestation of young people is a de-



Arnie
Patterson

testable and deplorable act. There are hundreds of youngsters, many teenagers, traumatized every day in this country. This is a fact. A sad, shocking fact.

Ask the mother of the 17-year-old boy in a Newfoundland fishing village who contemplated suicide. He had been abused by his parish priest for five years.

It was not my purpose to be a "gay basher." I am not.

If I am intolerant and bigoted, as a number of letters suggested, then I would say so are most of the mature adults that I know and have talked to over the past few weeks. They abhor these sexual involvements with children.

I have not sought these opinions. Yet I have had dozens of people, both men and women, approach me and tell of incidents in their own lives when they have been approached by homosexuals. Many of these incidents occurred when the people involved were very young or in their teenage years.

NOW, I HAVE ALSO been told that I am both ignorant and uninformed. I don't pretend to be an expert on the activities of homosexuals, although I am learning. But I have lived a long time. Further, I have

been a journalist and an observer of men and women for 42 years. It offers a lot of experience to draw on.

And again as a journalist I have been offering comment on the passing scene for these countless years. For the most part, my commentary seems to have been well received. Undoubtedly there are few occasions when one gets total agreement from the reading or listening public. After all, differing viewpoints are natural.

There are issues, however, sometimes distasteful, that writers and commentators feel compelled to write on. The situation in Newfoundland, which I suspect is far more widespread than what we have witnessed to date, is one. That is what provoked my column of two weeks ago. It is an issue of the day. I and others would be totally negligent and irresponsible if we did not give it attention.

Now, if I have offended a few of my readers again, and you feel compelled to write, do so. But don't just simply give your name or address. Give me your background outlining your expertise on the matter. Also tell me whether you have had a homosexual experience. At what age?

As I sat down today to write this column I had just received a letter. It was one of support. But its wording was more chagrining to me than those letters which accused me of intolerance and bigotry. It congratulated me for "kicking those bastards around." I am not anxious to kick anyone around, especially gays; they have had enough of that already. But I do want to protect our young people from continuing abuse.

Arnie not off the hook yet for gay remark

Responsible for facts

To the editor:

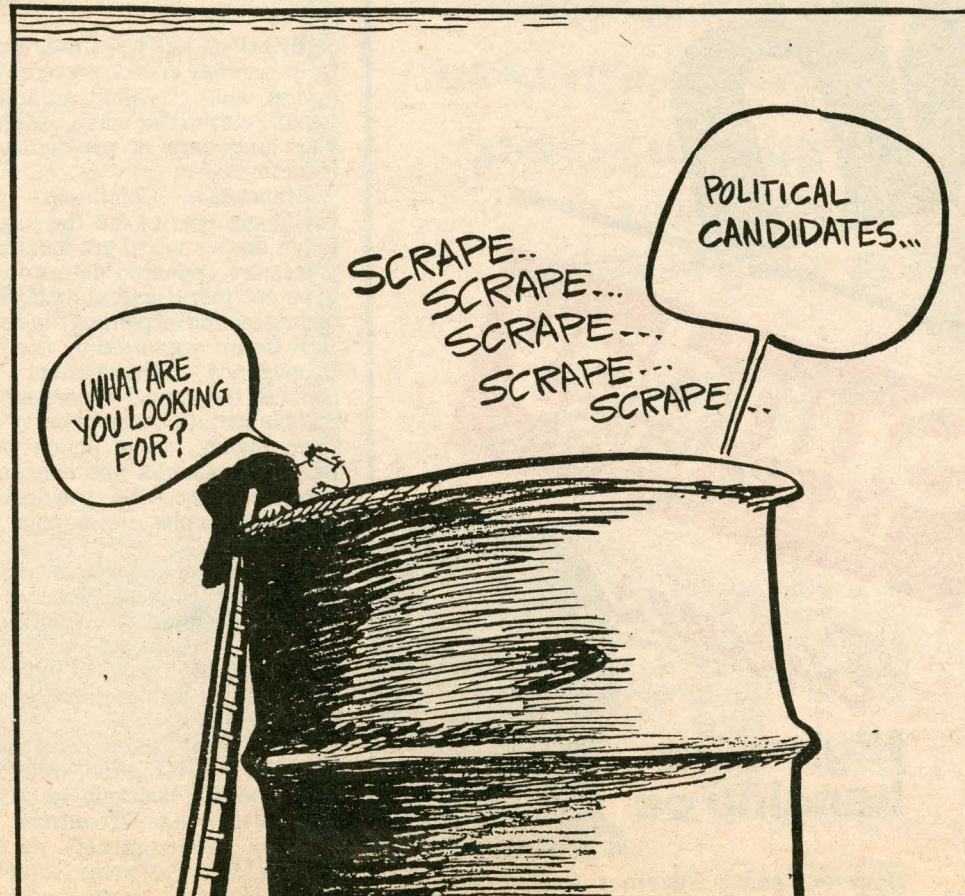
This is in response to your editorial comment June 26 in regard to a letter sent to the press council protesting Arnie Patterson's controversial column about homosexuality.

I did share your expressed concern regarding the stifling of opinion. What does concern me, however, is the not-so-subtle difference in effect between opinion and presenting inaccurate facts. False and misleading facts are used in hate literature to justify discrimination and violence. Interestingly enough these same allegations about child sexual abuse have been used against gypsies, blacks, Jewish people, native peoples, the mentally-handicapped as well as gay men and lesbians.

Such allegations have been used throughout history to justify treating people in a less than human way. When the same misleading "facts" turn up again and again, despite mountains of factual evidence to the contrary, one becomes suspect and fearful of the motives.

I believe the news media can and often do play a major role in educating society and, therefore, also carry a great responsibility in what facts are put forth.

Janet Morrell
Halifax



Beating the Tattoo

To the editor:

Sharon Fraser's column in your paper is 99.9 per cent garbage, and at that, I'm giving her the benefit of a doubt.

But her ultimate piece of trash was the column she wrote for your July 4 issue in which she suggests we should demilitarize the Nova Scotia Tattoo.

The appalling affectation of her inane statement about how much courage it took for her to attend the tattoo was enough to make a healthy person puke.

To demilitarize the tattoo is to eliminate it altogether. Without the military, there would never have been a tattoo because that is what a tattoo is all about. Without the military, I would personally never bother going to another of the performances whatever it may be called because it would no longer be a tattoo. I would not find a watered-down version of a Hollywood musical very attractive.

The tattoo is also a magnificent way to remember those military who died to keep us free. But, of course, she probably would prefer this enormous sacrifice to be forgotten, since to dare to remember would no doubt be just another glorification of war.

Al MacLeod
Bedford

DAILY NEWS

Established 1974

Douglas MacKay Editor-in-Chief
 Bill Turpin Managing Editor Joan Westen News Editor
 Dwaine Turcotte Circulation Manager Mike Hancox Advertising Director

The Daily News is published by The Daily News Division, Robinson-Blackmore Printing & Publishing Ltd.
 Mark Richardson General Manager
 Eric Balkam Comptroller

EDITORIAL

Getting at
'the proper facts'

THE OUTPOURING of letters-to-the-editor, along with a formal complaint to the Atlantic Press Council, all taking offence at a column in *The Daily News* June 18, shows how strongly many readers feel about the rights of homosexuals.

Obviously, the issue evokes deeply held opinions — some would say prejudices. Columnist Arnie Patterson started the maelstrom by linking homosexuality with the assaults on boys committed by priests in Newfoundland. He went on to call homosexuality "abnormal" and "a deviation from accepted moral and social practice."

The debate has prompted accusations of ignorance, homophobia, and bigotry. On the other hand, there is evidence that plenty of people agree with Mr. Patterson. The provincial cabinet, for example, was wary enough of public opinion that it wouldn't proceed with a bill guaranteeing the human rights of homosexuals — a failure we deplored several weeks ago. Homosexuals have not achieved the protection given most minorities.

But the point lies elsewhere. The complainer to the press council wrote that the council "must ensure journalists only write articles when they have obtained *the proper facts*, and when they can divorce themselves from their *uninformed opinions*" (emphasis ours). Several letter writers agreed.

We don't. Why fear uninformed opinions? Why ban them? Why set up a committee to ensure that all but "the proper facts" are withheld from publication? Open debate and challenge are what will clarify issues — not secrecy, gentlemen's agreements, or censorship of the unpleasant. That implies plenty of wrongheaded opinion and more than a few mistakes dressed up as facts. It is part of the process of arriving at what we eventually take to be "truth", and it is not such a high price to pay.

Attitudes to rates rate interest

WE'VE just had a demonstration of the strange politics of interest rates.

On Thursday morning, three members of Parliament — a Tory, a Liberal and a New Democrat — went to the National Press Theatre to tell Bank of Canada governor John Crow on behalf of all members of the Commons finance committee to let interest rates drop.

On Thursday afternoon, Crow gave his opinion by keeping his bank rate exactly where it was last week and the week before.

And the chief economist of Merrill Lynch Canada Inc. found nothing surprising about Crow's total lack of response to the committee.

"I'd be surprised if he changed policy on the basis of that," said Marc Meagher. "It's just a lot of politics."

During question period in the Commons, Lorne Nystrom of the New Democrats (who was at the news conference along with Don Blenkarn of the Tories and Roy MacLaren of Liberals) claimed a national consensus for lower rates.

Just fine

He cited the united position of all 10 premiers and of all parties on the finance committee.

But Finance Minister Michael Wilson said what Crow was doing was just fine with him.

Meagher was right. It was just a lot of politics. But the peculiar politics of interest rates lets the Tories be on both sides of the question.

In the person of Blenkarn, chairman of the finance committee, they favor lower rates and warn, in the

Don McGillivray



words of the committee report, that "the main risk now facing the economy is not new bout of accelerating inflation but a serious economic recession" which will be made "all but inevitable" by continuation of Crow's policy.

But in the person of Wilson, they can be in favor of Crow's policy.

What makes this possible is the lack of democratic control over the Bank of Canada. And what keeps it from changing is the defence, by people like Blenkarn, of a dictatorship in the area of interest rate policy.

BLENKARN told the news conference that a directive from the government telling Crow to lower rates, which is specifically allowed by law, would be the equivalent of a nuclear bomb.

He defended this situation by saying the United States and Britain could not control their central banks either.

Obviously it's handy for the Tories to claim they can't do anything about interest rates without blowing up the whole financial system. They can safely denounce high interest rates at the same time as they defend the mechanism which puts rates beyond the reach of politics.

But politics is the way we run this country in other respects. The elected government, responsible to Parliament, can make war, tax away our wealth, set up or shut down na-

tional institutions, and conclude agreements, such as the free trade deal, with foreign countries.

Transformations

It's hard to believe that people abroad would suddenly lose confidence in a nation which put its money and interest rates under democratic control, especially if they've observed the uncanny change in the attitude of people once in federal power in Canada.

Out of power, they denounce high interest rates and demand they be brought down. In power, they say nothing can be done except what is being done.

We've seen the transformation several times, in both directions.

The Joe Clark government took office just over 10 years ago. While the Liberals were still in office, the Clark-led Tories called for replacement of Gerald Bouey, then governor of the central bank, and a change in his policy.

In office, they allowed him to raise interest rates and reappointed him for a second seven-year term.

Meanwhile, the Liberals switched from being defenders to being critics of high interest rates. They brought down the Clark government by voting for an NDP motion which condemned it "for its outright betrayal of its election promises to lower interest rates."

Back in office, the Liberals forgot promises to quit rather than raise rates. And the Tories took over as critics of high rates — until they came to power in 1984, of course.

No wonder Crow ignores such politicians. He knows they'll never do anything to disturb his unchecked power.