

Halifax Chronicle Herald, published Wednesday, 30th August 2006

Dear Editor;

I have been silent on the subject of Afghanistan for some time, but can no longer do so in good conscience. I spent nearly 30 years in the Canadian military, and have been retired now for 24 years. I am a proud and patriotic Canadian, and I fully support our military; however, I do not support our present governmental policy in Afghanistan.

Mubin Shaikh is absolutely correct when he is quoted in your paper on Aug. 24 as stating that the last one to conquer Afghanistan was Alexander the Great in 300 BC, and asking rhetorically if we think we can achieve victory while all others since that time have failed.

We cannot win the hearts and minds of those people while destroying their economy and killing their citizens, any more than President George W. Bush and his allies can in Iraq. Bring our troops home and let them defend our borders, while we help the people of Afghanistan help themselves out of the quagmire they are in by providing economic help.

Remember, those who fail to heed history are doomed to repeat it! That is the way I see it anyway.

Eric G. Edgar, Waverley