THE UBYSSEY

katherine monk photo

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CLASSIFIEDS

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05 - COMING EVENTS

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35 - LOST

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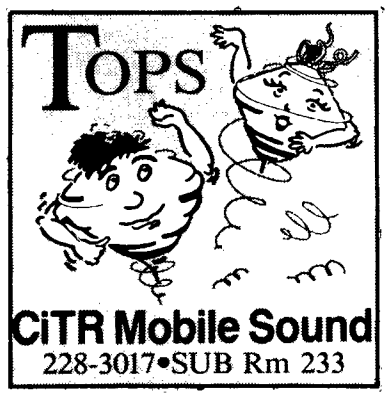

60 - RIDES

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BETWEEN CLASSES

Note: "Noon" = 12:30-1:30

FRIDAY

Muslim Students' Association
Friday lecture and prayers. 12:40 p.m., International House.

Family and Nutritional Sciences
Exam Ender Bender Party. Dec. 18th, 8:00 pm. SUB 207-209.

International Relations Students' Association
Bzzr Blowout. 4-10 p.m., International House (down from Faculty Club).

SATURDAY

UBC Women's Centre
Meditation Workshop for Women. 1-3 p.m., SUB 119.

UBC Karate Club
2nd Annual Goodwill Cup Tournament and Demonstration. 2 p.m., Osborne Gym B.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship
Vigil, 5 p.m., St. Andrew's Hall, 6040 Iona Dr.

SUNDAY

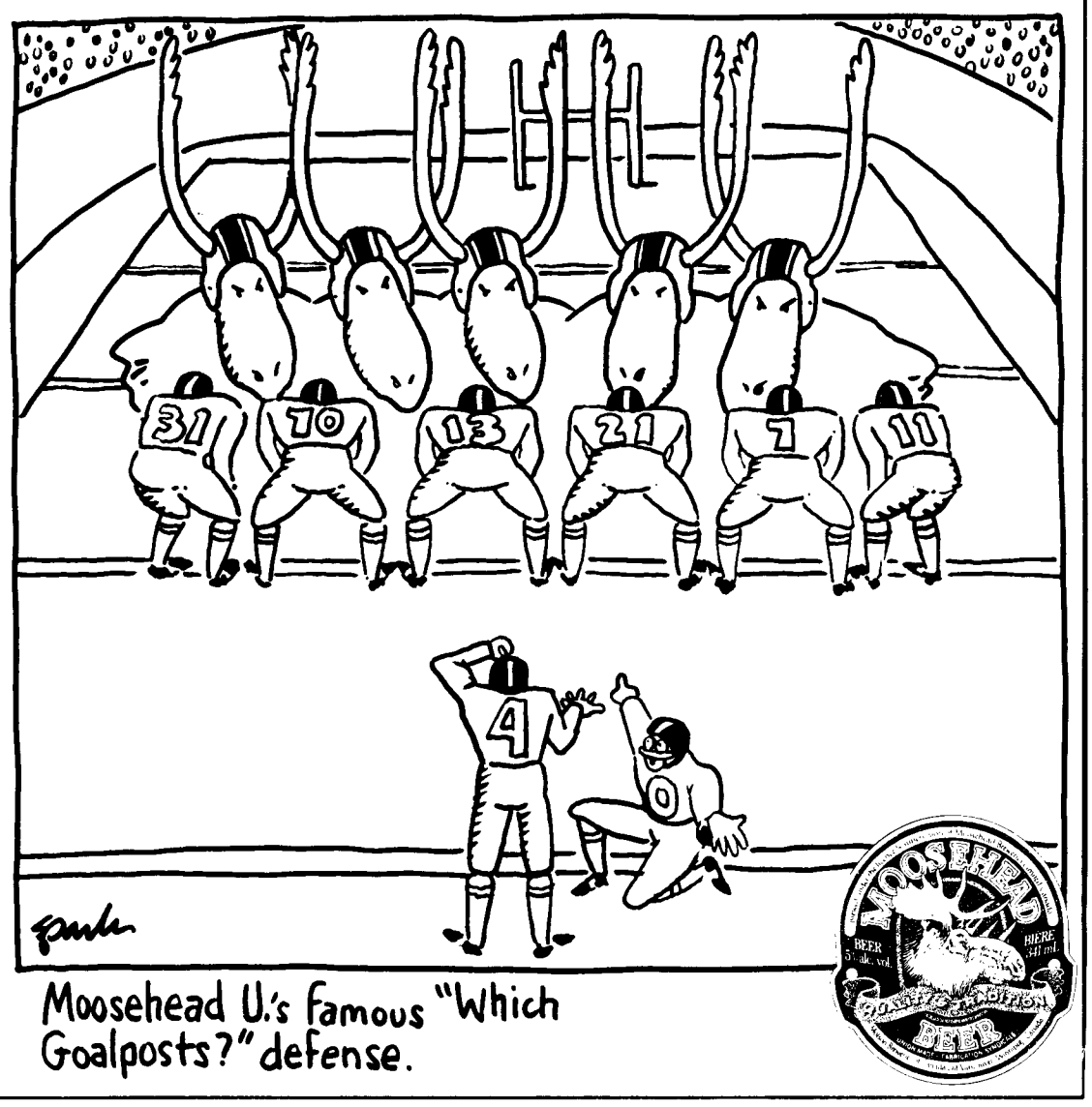
Orthodox Christian Fellowship
Divine Liturgy: St. Nicholas of Myra in Lycia. 9:30 a.m., St. Andrew's Hall, 6040 Iona Dr.

Lutheran Student Movement
Communion Service, 10 a.m., Lutheran Campus Centre. Also: Co-Op Supper, 6 p.m.; Fireside, 7:30 p.m., both at Lutheran Campus Centre.

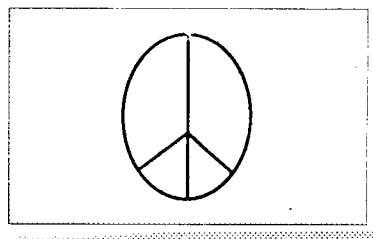
UPCOMING

The Saints Christmas Carollers
Door-to-door carolling and collecting for "The Empty Stocking Fund." Sun., Dec. 20, 7 p.m., at Dunbar Community Centre, 4747 Dunbar St.

The MOOSEHEAD 'U' Chronicles



Moosehead U.'s famous "Which Goalposts?" defense.



Hi Duke and Seamus

'Sco

STUDY SZECHUAN

SALMON ORIENTAL

STAGES ON BROADWAY
705 West Broadway at Heather

Tuition to rise four per cent

Graduate students exempted, athletic fee up

By Corinne Bjorge

The UBC administration recommended fee increases of as much as five and a half per cent to the board of governor's yesterday.

The board will vote in January on the administration's proposal to increase tuition fees for September 1988, in all faculties, excluding graduate studies, including a half to one per cent miscellaneous fee to cover such things as lab fees.

"The government is pushing the university to provide 20 per cent of (its) operating budget. It's currently between 17 and 19 per cent," student board member Simon Seshadri said.

"It's probably reasonable on the face of it as an inflationary increase," said Seshadri, "but you've got to consider over the past few years there has been a serious increase, and it really adds up."

Seshadri said the graduate students were exempted from proposed tuition increases because of current inequalities in the tuition structure.

"We're so out of wack with the rest of the country that we can't justify an increase (in graduate tuitions) at all," said Seshadri.

Seshadri said the miscellaneous fee is a positive step because if it's added on to tuition it can be subtracted from taxes that students pay.

The administration's recommendation is that the student acitivity fee should rise at the same rate as tuition. The activity fee is administered by the board and goes towards athletics. The Alma Mater Society fee is separate.

Seshadri said having the activity fee tied to tuition is constrictive. "What about years when tuition goes up extraordinarily high?" said Seshadri. He said the board can't know if they will always want the same rate for athletics and tuition.

The board is also considering implementing a $100 deposit requirement to use the new teleregistration system, which will begin registering students for next winter session this coming summer. "They (the board) are afraid people are going to abuse (the system)," said Seshadri.

Students will pay the money within two weeks of registering to weed out 'bogus' applications, said Seshadri.

Students are also being asked to approve a policy of paying their first installment of tuition fees 'in full' the first Wednesday before classes begin.

Seshadri disagreed with the clause saying it could cause undue hardship. "It eliminates the late payment fee," said Seshadri. "People who work an extra week before (coming into town) will suffer," he said.

"There definitely is a need for an appeal process or a way for examining extenuating circumstances," said Seshadri.

"I don't have a problem with when we pay it now, but a reasonable compromise (if the board pushes ahead) would be at the end of the first week of classes," said Seshadri.

Students receiving financial aid will be exempted from paying fees before classes begin, according to the administration's proposal.

An increase in the late registration fee may also be voted into effect in January. The current $40 fee would be increased to $50 in the proposal.

No form, no cash for student loan says Victoria

By Corinne Bjorge

As many as fifty per cent of the students receiving financial assistance from the provincial government will not receive the second part of their loans next term if they don't mail their forms in.

A clause in the new student loan assistance program requires students to return a 'Statement of Personal Responsibility' to Victoria outlining their summer employment before they can receive the rest of their cash.

First year students who qualify for equalization payments will have their grants cancelled if they fail to complete and return their forms according to UBC's director of financial aid and awards Byron Hender.

And second term loans for other students may be delayed if the forms are not in by the end of the academic year.

Students are also in danger of losing eligibility for the new loan remission program which excuses loans over $12,000.

Provincial student loans representative Mary Browning said she felt the government had done everything in its power to inform students about the changes in the student loan policy.

"We've notified students who haven't sent in (their forms yet," said Browning. "I think we've done everything possible," she said.

"By the time we get to next year it should be okay," she said.

But Canadian Federation of Students executive Roseanne Morin said the whole program was introduced so quickly that students found it difficult to keep up with all the changes.

"It's one of the sore points of the program," said Morin. "It seems sort of like an afterthought and possibly comes from a sort of mistrust of the students," she said.

The new clause was introduced because a lot of students apply for their loans in early summer before they confirm their summer jobs, said UBC's director of awards and financial aid Byron Hender.

"The government wants to ensure that the students are doing the most to contribute towards (the new program)," said Hender.

Hender said if students have misplaced their forms, they can pick up duplicates in the financial awards office.

The peace movement, like this doorway in downtown Vancouver, is the victim of techno-fascist culture see page 20 for more details

AMS president grounded after collision with unhappy council

By Deanne Fisher

Widespread complaints pushed student council to take away the Alma Mater Society president's lottery ticket sales bonus Wednesday night.

Rebecca Nevraumont sold the winning ticket drawn November 20 in the AMS tuition lottery, and was to be awarded a trip for two anywhere United Airlines flies.

But council members felt a member of the AMS executive winning the prize constituted conflict of interest.

"I took a real shit-kicking from students who were outraged. If council gives her the trip, I'll walk around with my head in shame," said board of governors representative Simon Seshadri at the meeting.

But Lawrence Zucher, a law representative on students' council, spoke in favour of letting Nevraumont keep the prize.

"We didn't set the rules before hand," he said, "I don't think we have the right to make retroactive legislation."

Council members said Nevraumont used her position as president to sell tickets. She sold 2,000 of the 3,400 tickets sold. Many were in the form of donations, sold to corporations and people associated with UBC. These non-students were not eligible to win the two $1500 prizes.

Her solicitation for donations "went out on AMS letterhead," said AMS director of finance Don Isaak.

"If you receive that, you're not buying a ticket because it's Rebecca. It's for the AMS," he said.

Seshadri advocated reforms for the running of the lottery. "No one should fault Rebecca for selling to people like Peter Brown", (a member of the board of governors whose winning ticket, a $1500 prize, will be donated to the Awards office.)," said Seshadri.

Though the motion to rescind the prize "may have been unfair," he said, "(the AMS) has got to have some integrity."

"As soon as (Nevraumont) found out she won she should have stepped down. There would have been no embarrassment in stepping down," said Seshadri.

Nevraumont, who was not in attendance when council decided to veto her prize, simply said, "C'est la vie."

As for what to do with the trip Nevraumont would have won, lottery organizer Tim Bird said he is in favour a raffle of the tickets left in the box "until we get a ticket not sold by an executive." The draw will probably take place in January.

Bird said he hopes to satisfy "the ones who've been complaining about this issue."

In the past, said Bird, executives who have won the trip have turned it down. Bird said he will make a reccommendation to next year's organizer so that "no executive member can win the trip."

Parking problems in '88

Tennis courts, a totem pole and the traffic loop will be replaced by temporary parking lots while a 1000 car parkade is built West of Gage Towers. The eight month construction project will begin January 8.

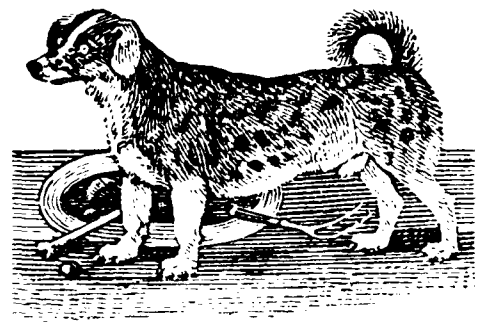
The 400 parking places in the existing gravel lot will be replaced by the temporary lots, which will cover the north end of McInnes Field, the adjacent tennis courts, and the loop.

"Most of the construction will take place over the summer, and a lot of it is precast. It shouldn't be that loud," said physical plant designer Dennis Haller.

AMS director of administration Tim Bird said "There will be no place to drop people off at SUB."

THE TEST THAT'LL STOP YOU COLD

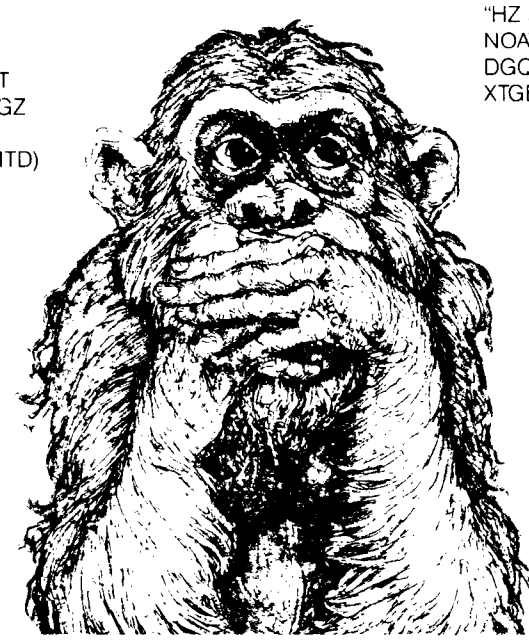
NO. 5 IN A SERIES



"O QEOAM YT GDT IANZ AIY UTPOA-AOAP QI GXXDTBOGQT YEGQ XGRNIR EGW JIAT CID QET WBOTABT IC ELHGA UTEGROILD." (A. UTQELAT)

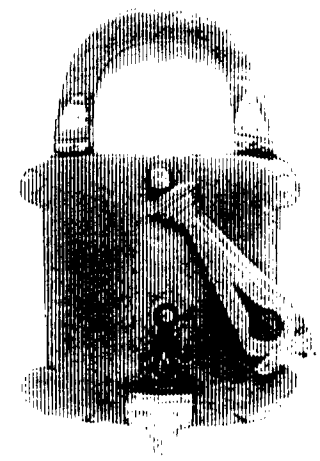
"HZ HOAJ JITW AIQ DLA OA QET NOATW IC YGD; HZ HOAJ DLAW DGQETD GNIAP QET NOATW IC XTGBT." (HGBMTAVOT MOAP)

"YT EGJ G ELNNGUGNII OA QET EILWT ZTWQTDJGZ ... WXDOAP OW IA QET YGZ GAJ QEOW XLQW HT OA RTDZ PIIJ WXODOQW." (FIEA JOTCTAUGMTD)



"HZ TGDNOTWQ ZTGDW YTDE WBTAQTJ YOQE QET WYTTQ XTDCLHT IC, CID HZ UTNIRTJ CGQETD XTDHOQQTJ AI IAT QI WXTGM TRON OA HZ XDTWTABT." (NILOW DOTN)

"QETZ EGRT WXOTW GAJ QEOTRTW GAJ HTA IC TWXOIAGPT YEI YILNJ XOBM ZILD NIBM GAJ WQTGN ZILD AIQTUIIM." (FIEA G. HGBJIAGNJ)



"O EGRT AI WZHXGQEZ CID QET HGJ, AIOWZ, JLNN-YOQQTJ GAJ WEIDQ-WOPEQTJ QEDIAP YEI BNGHILD CID YGD." (YONCDOJ NGLDOTD)

The most famous Canadian lets its taste do the talking.
Solve cryptograms by letter substitution (eg. G is really A).

UBC-military ties result in cash for science

By Ross McLaren

UBC scientists may not be making nuclear bombs in their labs, but some academics are receiving money from the Canadian military.

Twenty-two researchers in the last three years have worked on projects from titanium alloy casting to strategic studies with funds supplied by the Department of National Defence.

Some of the scientists, such as mechanical engineering professor Stanley Hutton, have no qualms about receiving money from the military.

Hutton, who studies vibrations in ship structures, says he applied for money from the military "because the civilian sector doesn't have the money" to give him funds.

"I'm thankful they (Defence Research Establishment) are choosing to spend their money this way. It's equivalent to funding from other government (civilian) agencies," he says.

Hutton says any civilian research can have military applications and that his studies into vibration free environments will lead to "better aircraft, better ships and better trains."

Canada's defence department also funds the work of UBC electrical engineering professor Mabo Ito. His research — setting up a computer software program to help clear unexploded mines from practice ranges — is just "contributing to knowledge," he says.

"If this research was top secret I'd be concerned," says Ito.

But some peace activists think research for the military, even for defensive purposes, is suspicious.

"The problem now with sophisticated weapons is that there is a grey area between offensive and defensive weapons," Elizabeth Leach, executive member of the Unitarian disarmament committee, says.

"The U.S. promotes star wars as a defensive weapon, whereas the planning for star wars satellite systems is offensive," Leach adds.

Ito's research, like all research at UBC, is unclassified. According to vice president research Peter Larkin, UBC can keep something confidential for 90 days so that the university can patent the research results.

"We don't do secret research," Larkin says.

When asked if strategic defense initiative research takes place at UBC, Larkin said "anything done at universities is likely to be subcontracted and will concern basic research that may have some application to SDI."

Scientists, however, who want to work on classified military projects can do so by working outside the university.

Professor Derek Paul, physicist at the University of Toronto, says the "suitcase physicist" is common to Canadian universities.

"People do outside consulting or research off campus. This is how people get around that, (the ban on classified research) and keep their hand in military research," he says.

Paul says scientists work for the military because there is "loads and loads of money" in the military sector.

"There is a kind of scientist who likes a challenge. It is heartbreaking to do science and not have the equipment to do it," Paul says.

Paul worked for a US Air Force-funded lab doing physics research in the 1950s.

"If you apply for a military contract you get 100 times the money. But you pay a price for that kind of thing," says Paul.

Some peace activists see no problem with military research for defensive purposes.

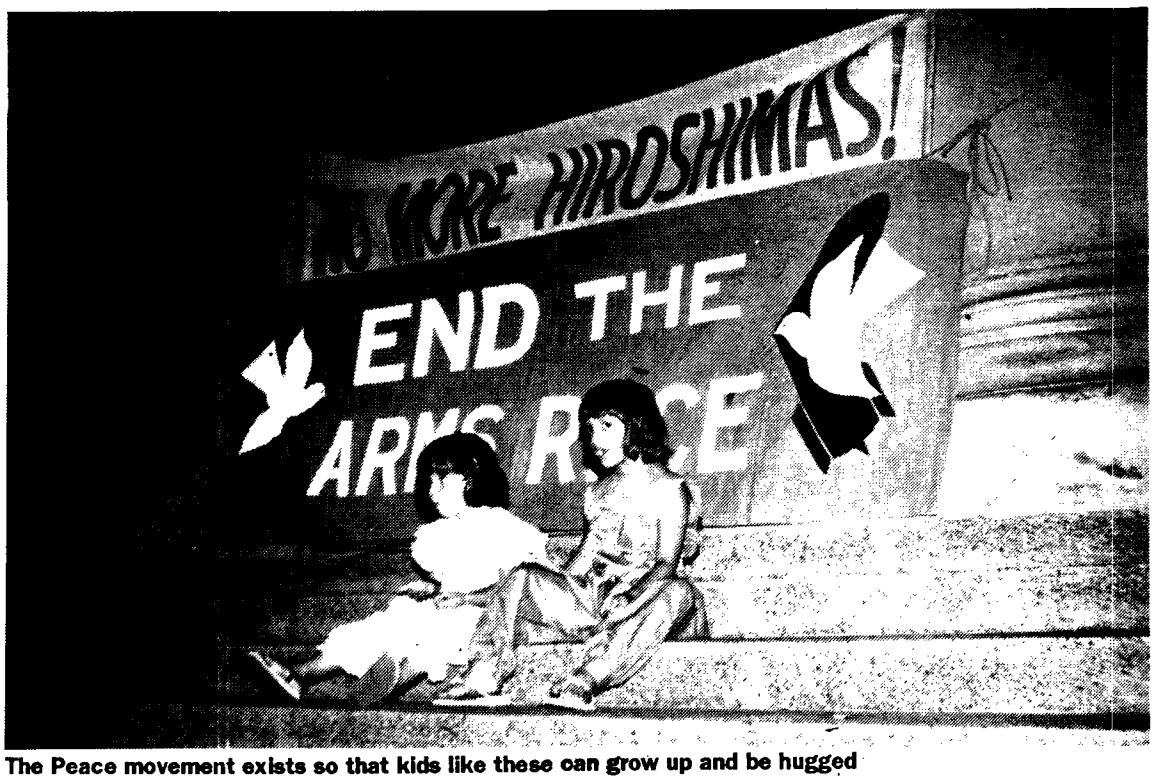
UBC physicist professor Louis Sabrino, acting president of Scientists for Peace at UBC, says scientists asked to do military research must ask themselves if the research will benefit society.

"In most countries, military research is unconstructive and threatens the security of people. That research is unethical to do. But some research is constructive, that is non-provocative research," Sabrino says.

Paul, also a Scientists for Peace member, says some military projects are valuable.

"It was logical for Canada in the 1970's to develop clothing to protect Canadian soldiers from chemical weapons," Paul says.

Research assisted by Tim McGrady



The Peace movement exists so that kids like these can grow up and be hugged

University-industry links threaten academic freedom, says historian

by Chris Wiesinger

Universities are being turned into profit orientated operations rather than institutions fostering "untrammeled inquiry, bold judgement, and social criticism," said controversial author David Noble last Thursday night at Robson Square Media Centre.

Noble said that academic freedom in universities across North America is being undermined through strong ties with private sector industry and public sector military. His message, he said, is one which continues to cause discomfort in the boardrooms of both universities and corporations.

Noble said government funding cutbacks to universities was a purposeful move to build an alliance between business and the academic community. The pursuit of knowledge has turned into the pursuit and sale of what he calls "knowledge capital".

But Noble said that universities were not "hapless victims" in this process of commercialization of knowledge.

"The universities have not been silent partners in all of this, but have actually been initiators."

This alliance subverts academic freedom because the corporations are now in the position of dictating the direction of research, and the military, in a similar manner, promotes "mission-orientated" research like SDI. As a result, according to Noble, academics are no longer free to pursue their own interests, but must mould their research interests to those which can be profitable.

Recently, said Noble, an employee of Fuji Corporation was admitted to Rochester's School of Management. Toby Chandler, Chairman of Kodak, also on the board of Rochester, demanded the Fuji employee/student be "disadmitted". The student was transferred to MIT.

Noble contends that the links, sometimes indicated by interlocking directorates, are putting the university system into peril. The University of Rochester "is basically a holding company for the optics industry", he said, mentioning the university's ties with Kodak and Bausch & Lomb.

Noble, a professor of history currently tenured at Drexel University, was denied tenure and fired by MIT several years after publishing America By Design, a critical examination of the links between private industry and universities. One part of the book details the link between MIT and DuPont, a corporation which he calls a "death-dealing arms manufacturer".

In Forces of Production, his latest work, Noble accused MIT of stealing the work of the designer of numerical control systems.

Noble said that members of his profession who speak out against the trend are censured. As a result, litigation against universities on the basis of the First Amendment (free speech) has increased dramatically.

"There are more suits versus universities (now) on First Amendment grounds than during the McCarthy era."

Noble said a Sri Lankan doctorate student in physics who had spent one and a half years developing his thesis, was told by his supervisor to change topic. The student refused and was thus denied his PhD.

Investigation of this incident by Noble (and his partners in The National Coalition for Universities in the Public Interest, Ralph Nader, Albert Meierhoff, and Leonard Minsky) showed that the supervisor had fallen behind on work for the military, and thus wanted the student to take some of the pressure off him by doing his research project.

"[The student] was worried that if he protested, the university would appeal to the immigration office and have him deported... You have this perverse situation where a foreign student is being conscripted into the US military without his knowledge, and under duress."

"The only thing that's unusual about this example is that we know about it. It's happening all over the country."

Students push for peace

By Catherine Lu

Canada should take a more active role within the North American Treaty Organization, says the president of UBC's student peace group.

Jim Christian, a longstanding member of Students for Peace and Mutual Disarmament, said Canada should work within the organization to balance the more aggressive foreign policy of the United States.

"NATO is a democratic alliance of democratic states, and we have the right to disagree when we want to," he said.

"Being a part of an alliance doesn't mean that we have to support every ally's policies without question. NATO itself is important because it ... keeps the most reactionary tendencies in the United States somewhat under control."

Christian, a zoology graduate student, said public pressure has changed how U.S. president Ronald Reagan thinks about the world.

Reagan has gone from saying "the Russians are evil" to pushing through the medium-range missile treaty in Europe, Christian said.

"It's a really important precedent, because it's the first arms control agreement that's actually going to dismantle existing weapons rather than simply limiting the development of new kinds," he said.

Christian, however, thinks the superpower's priority should be limiting new weapon developments.

"What's really needed is restrictions on testing new kinds of weapons ... It's just not realistic to expect that the numbers are going to be decreased below the threshold where they could totally devastate the world," he said.

"The most important thing is to restructure the arsenals in a way that makes it less likely that those weapons are ever going to be used, and the way to do that is to put restrictions on the kinds of weapons deployed, not on the numbers," Christian said.

He also emphasized the importance for superpowers to adhere to the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, "the only treaty ever to restrict deployment of a whole class of weapons," he said.

"We already have a very significant restriction on the deployment of defensive-type weapons. What we need now is new agreements on the deployment of new kinds of offensive weapons."

When questioned about Western Europe's apprehensions of such an agreement, Christian said Europeans have "a lot of legitimate fears about Soviet conventional forces."

But the imbalance in nonnuclear forces in Europe has been overestimated, he said.

"These missiles were put there as a political guarantee from the United States. They don't really serve any military purpose," Christian said.

"Now, that guarantee isn't there anymore. What Europeans are worried about is political support for European defence in the United States."

Christian said the new medium-range missile treaty will not reduce the U.S.'s ability to fight a European war. In addition, the British and French have nuclear arsenals and "the Americans have a lot at sea," said Christian, referring to U.S. submarine-based missiles in the Atlantic.

"The most secure component of the arsenals of the superpowers in terms of the other side's ability to knock it out is the missiles that are based on submarines."

But both superpowers keep ships near each other's submarine ports to be able to attack quickly if war breaks out. This activity has been greatly escalated over the past few years, he said.

"You can see that even in Vancouver with the massive increase in the number of visits of American ships (in the last couple of years)," he said.

SPMD will hold a series of lectures on nuclear issues next term, Christian said.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! from

Super Valu

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Star Trek

continued from page 18

"Ooooooooooooh," replied "Bone" Wiesinger. "Dammit, I'm a doctor, not a comedian." Just then chief engineer Laura "Scooty" Busheikin said "I'm giving it all I've got." No one laughed. "She can't take much more." Still no one laughed, except a demented and funnily shaped giant Stephen Hunt, on holidays from the instellar All Mighty Suckhole corporation, down the hall and through the double doors (on the right). Dangling from his giant necklace were Ian McLaren, Jennie Mott, Peter McDougall, Tim McGrady and Florence Louie, singing We Are The World with their little chubby legs flailing alluringly in the interstellar wind and space dust. Space. The last frontier.

"We can't violate the Preinsperg directive 'make intellegent conversation to have sex with the natives,'" wailed Mary Ainslee, Shari Abdullah, and Dan Andrews in awe-inspiring syncopation. "The Captain said `Go forth and multiply!'" Rick Hiebert started ..."One times one is ... uh...three? Or four if you're lucky ..."

Just then, blazing out of the Nowhere system, came the Millenium Falcon; on bored were Dusan Milotovik Solo, Princess Peter Francis, and Victor "Chewbacca" Wong. They were board flat. "What the hell are you guys doin' here? Wanna beer? Wanna do some interstellar surfin' man?" belched First Orficer Pat Kirkwood. "Where's Darth Lucente?", belched the Princess. "I wanna boot him in the reproductive zone." "Don't pay any attention to him," swaggered Ross "Luke" Ostrom. "Where's Jabba (the Kevin Harris) Hut?"

"Youse guyzz is in da wrong set." Shouted Director Sean McLaughlin. "Gettafuckout!" The bouncers, Carol Ann McKenna, Deanne Mould, Nicola Marin, Mary McAlister, Angie McIldoon, and Celia Henslowe, escorted them out the garbage shaft.

Meanwhile on board the Ubyssey, Communications Officer Grace Aquino, transferred an errie message to that big thing in the front ... uh... the screen. It read "uhyfgjhgjh kjgkhfxs ksjdgjfw uuuugh, and a small coke." Steve "Sulu" Chan turned the starship west and headed for the golden arches. "Whaaat are ye doooin, Cap'n?" shrieked a perturbed Scooty Busheikin. "I'm a cleanin the stove pipes and havin meself a wee bit a scotch... Yah spilled it!"

"Captain, there's too many people aboard. The ship'll sink if we don't download some of them," said Weapons Officer Katherine Monkov. "Where'll we put them?" asked Captain Ross. "We can beam them into space ... it won't hurt cuz they'll never hit the ground," chanted Bob Harris, Kivan Kennedy, and Roger Kanno. "We'll pack 'em in and roll 'em out!" said Ross.

Slowly, people started dematerializing. Gone were Yaku, Anya Waite, Kathy Young, Chris von Borman, Chris Wong, Tyrone Waite, Ada Wong, Sany Zein, and Teresa de Bou.

"Dammit Jim, they're dead" said Bone Wiesinger sadly, taking a swig from his hypodermic. You know, the one that goes "Pppphhffffttt" and has no sharp thingie on it. Yeah, that one.

"Not dead ... just resting," said Tom Bode. "Pining?" asked Rolf Boone. "No, firring," quacked Melody Cook. "We've only got half-impulse power!" shouted Scooty Busheikin. "Have yah got a few people to throw into the furnace so we can get some more power, Cap'n?"

"Yah," said Cap'n Ross. " Teena Carnegie, David Chu, Nancy Canning, Greg Davis, Martin Dawes, Barry Davis,and Stuart Derdeyn ... come on down, you're the next contestants on The Furnace is Ripe. Now we've got power. Let's go neutralize that pussy Hiebert thing on the scumhole planet."

"Ay, ay, cap'n," chortled old hack Robby Beynon, "Aargh." Chief griddle engineer Lisa Langford wheezed, pulling her greasy uniform off her skin with a loud plop, "Where's dem fishsticks? *&^%$(*&^%" Peter Lancaster's troller, Stinkyfishfactory, pulled alongside with a rattle, and beamed abored three tons of wriggling space cod onto the bridge. Slipping on the entrails, organs, eggs, ovaries, testes and guts of thousands of stinking fish, Lana Olson, George Oliver, Alar Olljum, Malcolm Pearson, Paula Poikone and Elizabeth Piccola, danced wildly and unpredictably to the strains of "I'm bad, I'm bad..." sung by Gloria Loree, Hai Le, Svetozar Kontic, Allison Felker, Aaron Drake and Carolyn Diamond rolling amongst the bloody fish.

"Dammit Jim, we've got fish guts seeping through the floor boards. I don't think we can take any more. We're full up," said Scooty Busheikin. "Beam these fish to the horrendous, awful, smellyl, slimepit planet, c/o the slimehole, beastly realestate broker-cum-+wholesaler-dum-exterminator, the beastly Hiebert, bane of the twelve galaxies surrounding the triple planet Scumhole."

"The beamer's broke. Start bailing. Roll down the windows," said Alex Johnson frantically. Just then a troupe of bailers dressed in nothing but hipwaders and T-bird caps, Susan Morrison, John Merrick, Nancy Mior, Brent Lymer, John Boeh, Chris Brereton, appeared with a pirouette and a flourish.

"You old fish. Go eat space dust," said Jennifer Lyall, shovelling furiously, accidentally pushing Franka Cordura V. Specht into the path of an approaching space bunny/iguana which ate her at a gulp while passing Justine Brown and Allison Bell who were flying in the slow lane.

Admiral and costume designer, Deanne Fisher, official voice of Klingon's for a free Namibia, hooted: "booger", across the universe, disturbing Chris Fraser from a stellar sleep. Stephen Wisenthal, James Young, David Young, and Jody Woodland cheered from in front of their three dimensional t.v. in SUB 241k.

Cut. That's a print.

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Fröhliche Weihnachten	(German)	Ein Frohes Neues Jahr
Kellemes Karácsonyt	(Hungarian)	Boldog új évet
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Nuclear subs

Defence minister's plans under attack

By James Young (CUP)

In June 1987, when Canadian defence minister Perrin Beatty unveiled his fifteen year, $200 billion plan for the country's armed forces, the most powerful symbol of military commitment was a fleet of 10 to 12 nuclear-powered submarines.

The hunter-killer attack subs would solve a number of problems for the Canadian navy, or so the youthful minister thought.

Beatty argued that the fleet, coupled with other forces, would patrol the Atlantic, Pacific and especially the Arctic, where conventionally powered subs cannot venture under the ice.

Other analysts object to the subs' hefty price tag, which has risen from Department of National Defence estimates of $5 billion in February to a current $8 billion.

And like the new uniforms awarded in a previous Conservative defence budget, the subs would give the navy a new sense of pride and purpose, replacing older vesels on the verge of "rust-out".

In a single daring move, the Canadian Navy would move from the embarrassment of owning fewer submarines than the West Edmonton Mall to joining the world's five great military powers in an exclusive nuclear sub club.

While the Canadian vessels would not be nuclear armed, the plan has drawn sharp, continuing protest. Writing in the fall issue of Peace and Security magazine, Dalhousie political science professor James Eayrs calls the fleet "the most bizarre decision in Canadian weapons policy since (1915, when) the premier of British Columbia bought two submarines, originally built in Seattle for Chile."

In the political arena, both the Liberals and the New Democrats strongly oppose the subs, indicating the fleet deserves to stand alongside free trade as an issue in the next federal election.

Liberal defence critic Doug Frith says the subs could be a destabilizing factor in the continuing submarine confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, and recommends a combination of underwater sensors, increased air patrols and surface ships instead.

NDP defence critic Derek Blackburn goes further, accusing Beatty of a "mindless lust for nuclear submarines." Like some experts, Blackburn believes the Canadian fleet would become involved in a dangerous U.S. strategy to attack Soviet subs in their home ports.

And like the Liberals, Blackburn supports a range of surveillance equipment, aircraft and surface ships to meet Canada's legitimate defence needs, as well as advocating a fleet of cheaper, conventionally powered subs.

Other critics are numerous. Despite government claims that nuclear subs have a worry-free operating record, some opponents fear a Chernobyl-type accident at a base — probably Victoria or Halifax— or in treacherous Arctic waters.

Arms control specialists such as United Nations advisor William Epstein say the highly enriched, weapons-grade uranium used as fuel would violate the spirit of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Canada signed in 1968. Thus, the fleet would set a bad example to Third World countries — like Libya and North Korea— which may be looking for an excuse and means to develop nuclear weapons programs.

But the two most serious objections deal with strategy and cost.

Michael Wallace, a political science professor at the University of British Columbia, is worried the Canadian subs will become drawn into U.S. nuclear war fighting plans, in oceans where the Soviets are challenging U.S. superiority and American forces are operating at a higher tempo than during the Vietnam War.

For example, the strategy of forward deployment directs American hunter-killer subs to penetrate Soviet submarine sanctuaries in the Barents Sea in the Arctic and the Sea Okhtosk near Japan.

"As each side deploys more submarines in a given area, the probability of a chance confrontation increases quite substantially and quickly,"says Wallace, who specializes in the study of accidental nuclear war.

In a time of international tension, like the Cuban missile crisis, the Soviets would send their large ballistic missile-firing subs from northern home ports to deep water sanctuaries —usually this would help stabilize against nuclear war, as the U.S.S.R. would have a secure retaliatory force and would feel no immediate need to attack.

But the U.S., depending on its confidence in launching a first strike, could attack the Soviet subs and ask the new Canadian fleet to join in. Canada's participation would come from a previously defined operational plan, like NORAD, or as a last minute okay from Ottawa.

In these situations, however, the Soviets might feel so nervous they would send their missiles towards North America first, rather than waiting for an American attack.

"If we are to buy these subs and operate them in the way I suspect they will be operated —in conjunction with the American doctrine of escalation dominance— then what we are doing is increasing the risk of strategic nuclear war," says Wallace.

"Therefore this policy is wrong —not just a little bit wrong, but 180 degrees against the national interest of Canada," he argues.

While defence analysts, including those at the Canadian Center for Arms Control and Disarmament in Ottawa and the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, believe the fleet risks becoming involved in strategies undermining the nuclear balance, the government did not give it a second thought. In June, Admiral Charles Thomas, chief of maritime doctrine for the Canadian Navy, admitted that his department had not done a single detailed study study on how U.S. strategy would affect Canadian submarine operations.

Even without Wallace's disaster scenario, other analysts object to the subs' hefty price tag, which has risen from Department of National Defence estimates of $5 billion in February, to a current $8 billion.

Independent sources say it will be much more.

Scarcely a week after the white paper was released, British naval experts Roy Corlett and John Moore scoffed at the Canadian estimates, saying they grossly underestimated real costs which would include bases, as well as facilities for refuelling, communication and training. Corlett put the final bill at about $16 billion.

Thus, according to many observers, the government is pursuing a Rolls Royce option, when a Volkswagen would do the job.

"We don't feel that the nuclear-powered submarines are vital for the naval missions Canada performs," says Dan Hayward, a research assistant at Ottawa's Center for Arms Control and Disarmament, a think-tank which sees strong armed forces and arms control as complementary.

Noting that the subs' primary role would be in the Atlantic and Pacific, Hayward would replace them with a combination of surface ships, diesel-electric subs, aircraft and sonar devices in Arctic channels, at about one half the subs' estimated cost.

Within the government itself, there is opposition to the subs from the treasury board, which reportedly delayed the white paper this spring, worried about the fleet's deluxe price tag as the national debt slides toward $300 billion, with yearly interest payments of about $1000 for every Canadian.

Costs also concern Doug Ross, a political scientist at the University of British Columbia and a long time advocate of increasing Canada's defence budget to secure coastal waters and Canadian airspace.

Currently the minister is on a submarine shopping spree, comparing British Trafalgar class vessels with the French Rubis design.

"If we do go down the route of buying those subs, we are going to postpone buying other equipment which is needed urgently," he says.

Although Ross believes the armed forces have suffered 20 years of budgetary neglect, he also believes the government is doing the country a disservice by pursuing the plan without demonstrated support from the public and the opposition parties.

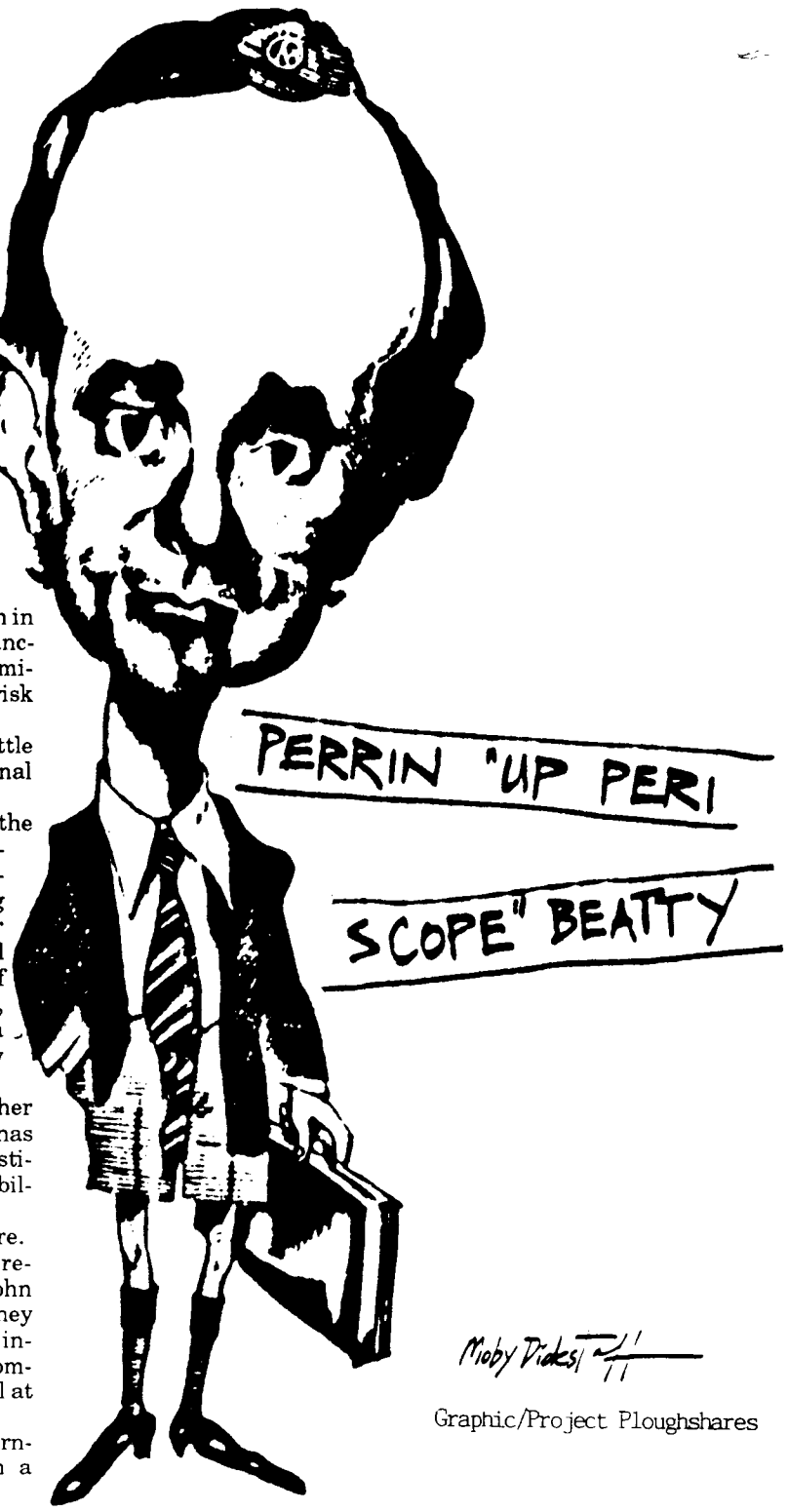
"As a worst-case outcome, we'll sink a whole lot of money into this and then the next government will cancel it,' he says.

With nuclear accidents, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, destabilizing strategies and backbreaking costs, Canadians may wonder how the sub fleet got up enough momentum to sail through the department of national defence in the the first place.

Until 1986, when Beatty became defence minister, the navy was expecting a fleet of conventionally powered subs.

But now, some Ottawa observers think Beatty is staking his political career on the nuclear version, in a move calculated to alleviate public fears about Arctic sovereignty, while showing Conservatve lead-

see page 17; 'subs'



Graphic/Project Ploughshares

Professors at war over defence issue

By Elynn Richter

A great debate is raging over what role Canada should play in international defence.

Two UBC professors considered leading specialists on defence issues are at odds over Canada's defence strategy.

Political science professor Michael Wallace believes our defence strategy is "180 degrees opposite" of what it should be.

Though he's not against a Western alliance, Wallace believes the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has a "dangerous set of doctrines (which) emphasize early escalation and early first use (of nuclear weapons)."

The Cold War rhetoric of the federal government's defence paper, and our continued support of NATO, whose "action plans and strategy are destabilizing" are not in our best interests, says Wallace. "The only threat to our safety is a nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union."

But political science professor Douglas Ross believes our continued membership in NATO is crucial if we want to be part of the dialogue with the Soviet Union.

Though we have a seat at the negotiating table, "for almost 20 years we haven't had a voice (in issues of collective security)," said Ross.

"We don't speak out and we should. Our government doesn't speak out for fear of reprisals because we are not pulling our share."

Ross believes that Canada needs to increase its defence-spending three per cent above its gross national product in order to have a larger voice in NATO.

But Wallace disagrees. To think we can increase our say in collective security issues by increasing our defence expenditures is "garbage," says Wallace.

"We could spend 15% (of our GNP) but we're not going to get a bigger political role," said Wallace. "They won't pay attention to a little ally."

But Ross maintains that "the best way to have influence is to have expertise and information under our direct national control."

Wallace thinks Canada should withdraw or give notice to withdraw from Central Europe.

"Any defending we should be doing should be at home," he said.

Wallace said he doesn't think the threat of Soviet attack in Europe is real. He says it would take weeks, even months for them to mobilize their forces, and would be ridiculous to think they would leave borders such as China,

see page 17; 'defence'

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Art into action

painter Carl Chaplin dares us to despair, prods us to protest

By Laura Busheikin

In many ways it's just a typical contemporary family scene: father, son and daughter sitting in front of a sophisticated home entertainment system, watching TV. A teddy bear rests in the girl's lap. The scene is cozy, insular. But something is seriously amiss: the daughter is holding a shotgun to her mouth.

What could drive a young girl to suicide? The answer beams out from the TV screen: an image of a nuclear bomb exploding. The video cassettes on the shelf bear titles such as "Dr. Strangelove", "On The Beach", "If you Love This Planet". And outside the window, life imitates art: a mushroom shaped burst of violent orange flames signifies the end of the world as we know it.

The nuclear family meets the nuclear war—and even children are driven to despair.

A depressing scenario. Perhaps you'll find it less depressing once you know that it is art, not life. For now, at least, the scene exists only in a painting called Watching World War III on Pay TV, by Vancouver artist Carl Chaplin. According to Chaplin, however, art should be no less disturbing than life.

"Anybody in America who was white, middle class and had any brains about them knew how to get out of the draft, and they did."

"Artists have an obligation to express in their art a reflection of what's happening around them today," says Chaplin, speaking from his studio-cum-office in Kitsalano, "And what's happening around us today is not situation comedy and football games—or at least not just that. It is also the deteriorating environment and the threat of nuclear war, and any artist that does not reflect that in his work is missing the significance of living in the nuclear age."

Despite his political beliefs, Chapman still believes that "the search for beauty is the main driving force behind art.

"But you can't express the beauty of the world with any integrity without expressing the threat to that beauty," he insists, "If you have a beautiful rose that has a bag of cement hanging over its head, and you take a photograph of just the rose, without photographing the bag of cement, you're doing the rose an injustice.

"Any artist who's worth his historical record is dealing with the subject of the deteriorating, threatened environment, and the threat of nuclear war. Hopefully then the audiences will become motivated and active to influence the political social situation around them."

Chaplin makes no bones about the fact that he wants his paintings to provoke a reaction. Watching World War III on Pay TV is just part of a series called Art Nuko, most of which depict, in lurid detail, nuclear bombs exploding over major cities. Sounds frightening? Chaplin wants it to be.

"The Art Nuko show is a warning, a vision of the future which is a possiblity or even a probability; it is meant to scare people, to get them to become active.

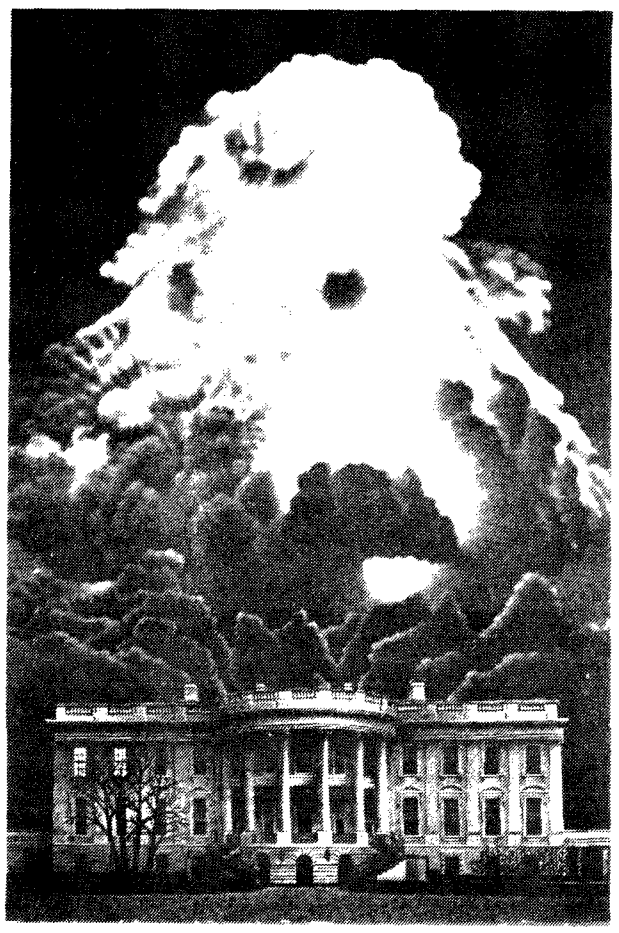
"I actually believe in a Darwiniam, biological sense that exposure and fear is one of our more important hereditary traits. If we did not have fear, we would tend to walk over the edges of cliffs and into the jaws of lions. I think that it's important that we have fear and that we express that fear.

"There is a danger, I realize, that you can scare people and cause them to do just the opposite, to stick their head in the sand or become nihilistic. I take that chance because they're already sticking their head in the sand."

Asked who he wants to see his pictures, Chapman answers, "Everyone."

"The list of where it's been shown...in university campuses, in museums in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, in art galleries in Vancouver, at peace rallies, represents only a small proportion of the people who actually do see them because most people see them via postcards and posters. These have a very wide distribution all around the world. They get mailed off to politicians, find themselves on bulletin boards at the headquarters in the Democratic party in Washington, and the White House itself; several hundred of them were purchased by one of the advisers to Jimmy Carter, and even hung in people's living rooms and dens. That way many more people get to see the show; it's a much more democratic form of art".

Chaplin hopes that people, having seen his pictures, "won't be able to hide from the vision of the world gone mad, will have to face it directly, and deal with it."



Chaplin hopes that people, having seen his pictures, "won't be able to hide from the vision of the world gone mad, will have to face it directly, and deal with it."

Chaplin is convinced that a collapse of the economic, ecological, political, and military situations is almost inevitable. "The bomb," he says, "is only part of a greater human problem...even if the bombs don't come, this civilisation is collapsing on all other fronts."

The root of the world's problems, he says, is "that there are too many of us and more specifically, too many of us living lifestyles which degredate our environment, which use up our support system. We consume our natural resources greater that they can be replaced, and we're adding new poisons, new pollutants that have never been seen before on the planet, and these are of such potency and such longevity that they are posing a tremendous threat to us."

While Chaplin advocates that people take action to prevent world destruction—"by writing, by voting for politicians who take a pro-peace, nuclear disarmament stance, by forming and joining existing groups, by getting the attention of the media, by creating events that make protest a celebration"—he doesn't have much hope that such action will actually work.

"There's not enough people willing and able to influence the situation," he says, "The overall course of events and the momentum of the political economical system is going to run its course, so I advocate that people create their own back-up system to prepare themselves for what seems inevitable."

Chaplin shows that he's ready for WWIII

Chaplin has a bomb shelter, "a large concrete structure with lots of windows looking out on one of the most beautiful views in BC.

"Its most important feature is not that it's made out of reinforced concrete, but that it's out of the primary target (the city)... the political-ecological problems of the next twenty or thirty years will make almost every city of the world virtually uninhabitable."

The question begs to be asked: with such pessimistic views, how does Chaplin get up in the morning? How does he keep despair at bay? Or does he?

Chaplin seems to expect the question. "I get up every morning with enthusiasm--because I sleep well at night, with a clear conscience, because I'm not contributing to the war or to the deterioration of the planet, and I'm also trying to do something about it, and that gives me a certain relief and a certain self-satisfaction. I look forward to working with other people in the peace movement, because I find that many of the people involved in striving for peace are the most creative, the most industrious, the most hard-working and most self sacrificing of people. And yet, I do have despair. Anybody that doesn't have some degree of despair today is a fool. Despair is a human emotion to express during depressing times, and these are depresing times.

"But it's not total despair. There is a glimmer of hope that we can turn this thing around, or that we ca minimize this impact, and it is towards that hope that I work".

This hope is providing the energy for a new series of paintings, which Chaplin says "will balance the doom and gloom with some bloom". The first painting of this series portrays 1000 origami cranes flying high above Vancouver on their way west to Japan. Chaplin painted it as a calling card to take on his trip to Japan with the Art Nuko show.

The cranes have a symbolic significance rooted in a Japanese tradition which inspired Chaplin.

"One of the more touching traditions that has developed out of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been the folding of 1000 origami cranes. There's a Japanese proverb that says if you fold 1000 cranes you'll have long life," explains Chaplin, "There was a young girl in Hiroshima who, although she wasn't damaged by the atomic bomb itself, came down with leukemia as a results of the lingering radiation. While in her hospital bed, she took the project to heart and started to fold 1000 paper cranes. The young girl eventually died from the disease and her schoolmates folded the rest of the cranes. When the rest of the kids in Japan heard of this very touching situation, they started folding 1000 Cranes by the millions. Now when you go to Hiroshima or Nagasaki, you'll see people coming in from all over Japan, from around the world, bringing strings of these Cranes to hang on the monuments.

"When I went to Japan, I wanted to take with me 1000 cranes, and instead of folding 1000 cranes I painted a picture of them. The series is now expanding at least in my mind so that eventually I'll be able to paint a picture of 1000 cranes over each of the cities that I've depicted in the Art Nuko show."

Chaplin grew up in the United States, and his experiences there, both as a child and an adult during the Vietnam war, channeled him into an acute awareness of the dangers of war.

"As I got into college the Vietnam war was accelerating...I was peripherally attending meetings of some groups, but the biggest movement of all was the peace movement. It didn't have a membership, it didn't have a committee or a president or a chairman. We were members of the peace movement and our aim was to stop the war."

Asked how he avoided the draft, Chaplin's response carries a weight of implied criticism: "Anybody in America who was white, middle class and had any brains about them knew how to get out of the draft, and they did. It was only the poor slobs, the blacks, those that didn't have enough knowlege of how the system worked and those gung-ho-ers who went."

His sensitivity to the war/peace issue (Chaplin says that the two issues are "one and the same, two sides of one coin") began well before the Vietnam war.

"I can remember being in grade school having air raid drills. They'd make us go down into the basement and cower down around the furnace in the building. What we were doing was practicing to avoid having an atomic bomb dropped on us, and that always conjured up great visions of war and destruction.

"All the boys played cowboys and Indians, and war games, on Saturday afternoons, and once a month they's turn on the air raid sirens around the city as a test so our games of cowboys and Indians soon deteriorated into games of World War Three," explains Chaplin.

Perhaps it was these early experiences that gave Chaplin the strength to not only contemplate the imminent demise of the world, but also to create graphic images of global destruction. Yet he finds in others a marked reluctance to consider the topic.

"Anybody that doesn't have some degree of despair today is a fool."

"The most important question," he says, "is how long have we got. It's the one question that everyone avoids asking, and when I reverse the question, inevitably people hesitate, and 98% of the people refuse to answer.

"Given the real situation," he says with a challenging stare, turning the interview situation around, "not what you'd like to see, but as an alien anthropologist having just arrived here on earth in a flying saucer, or having been circling the earth for the last ten-thousand years, having no interest in this what would you report back to home base the chances are? ...How long?"

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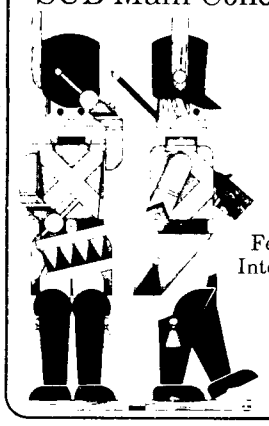


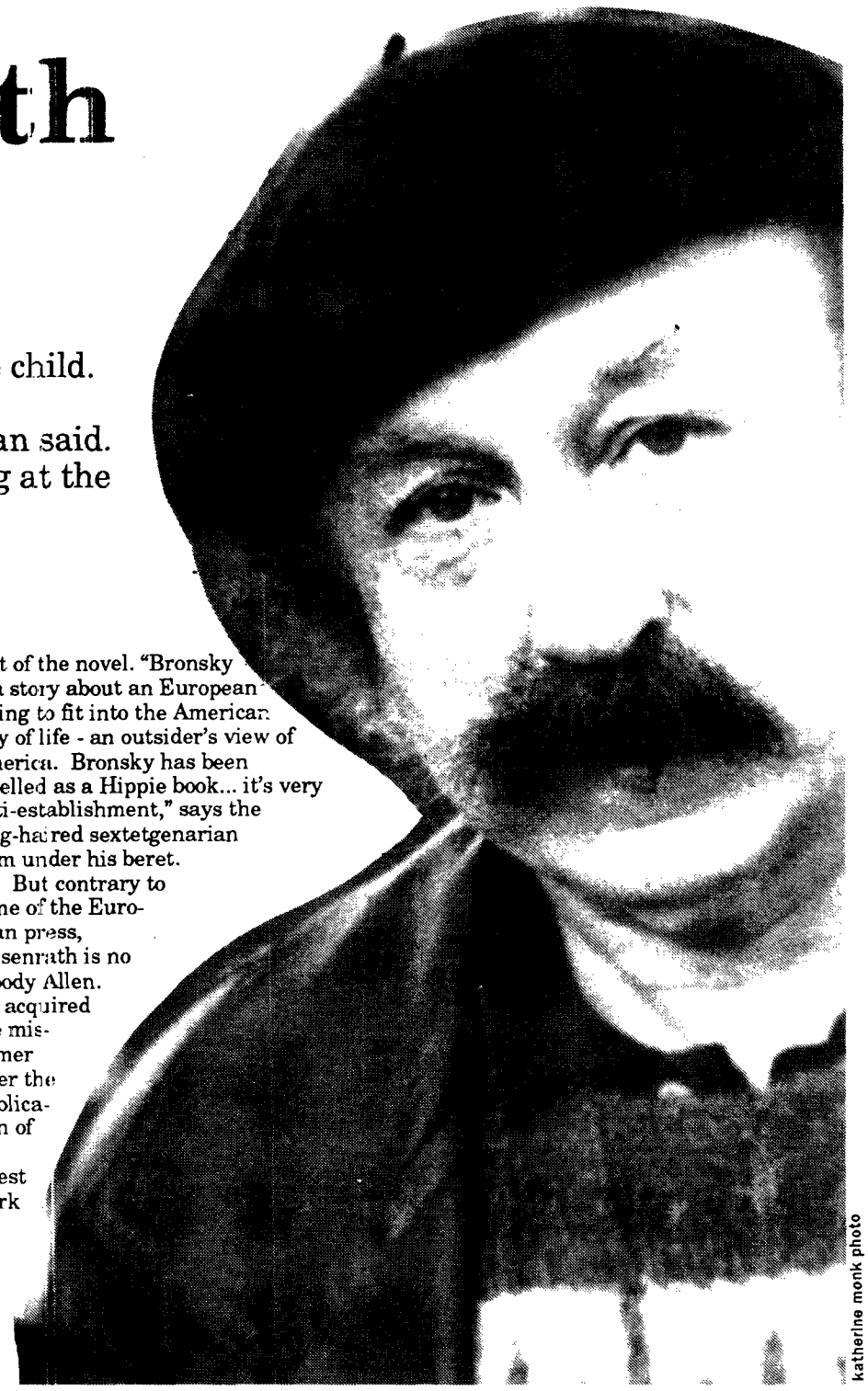
Featuring: International Arts & Crafts

Edgar Hilsenrath

West-Germany's Cult crusader

By Katherine Monk

...."sit down there," the woman said to the child.
"Next to the man?"
"Between the man and Daddy," the woman said.
"Is that Daddy?" the child asked, pointing at the wet package on the ground.
"Yes, that's Daddy," the woman said.
- Excerpt from "Night"



katherine monk photo

"Of all my books, I am most proud of Night. You see, Night is my personal story," says Edgar Hilsenrath as he lights up another unfiltered Camel cigarette in the deserted basement of the Faculty Club. "Night" explores the reduction of man in a world gone insane: life in a Jewish ghetto in the Ukraine during the second world war.

Hilsenrath has fought for personal freedom his whole life. At the age of thirteen, he and his family were shipped to the Mogilev ghetto in the Ukraine, after spending three years in the Roumanian Bukowina in an effort to escape the Nazi effort to purge Germany of Jews. After the Russian liberation in 1944, he was arrested, and sent to another forced labour camp, this one in Russia. Hilsenrath, however, managed to escape and made his way to Palestine with one of the first convoys of refugees. In 1947, Hilsenrath was reunited with his family in France and they picked up their emigration visas for the United States which they had intended to get ten years earlier.

The industrial refrigerator hums to life as Hilsenrath tells me about how he had recently tried to find the house where his family had lived in Halle, now a part of the East-Germany, before they were forced out by the Nazi relocation of the Jews.

"I went to school in Halle, and I was trying to find the house where my parents lived. I knew we had a backyard with three trees, and there was a grocery store nearby. My friend and I were simply walking around. The next day, my friend was questioned by the Volkspolizei (the East-German police). In such a state there is no freedom, people must work, or else risk imprisonment. I have nothing against communism, but not at the price of personal freedom."

"We are both good and bad. We know war is possible, now we must see if peace is possible," said Hilsenrath with a challenging smile beginning to appear under his moustache.

"I look at the young people who surround me, and I see they are bored. They don't know what they want to do, what to believe in - so they join the Neo-Nazis because it means action."

Hilsenrath says he has tried to show a world where the system took hold and perverted the masses, and reduced man to a terrible state, but without making intellectual comments - simply from the stance of the victim.

"I think the reason why Hilsenrath's books have become underground classics is that he gets across what happened in the Holocaust from a different approach. German writers have been unable to deal with the Holocaust in a fictional way - it's usually permeated with guilt. Hilsenrath uses such tools as black comedy which German novelists have never used in relation to the Holocaust - but underneath the grotesquerie you find out what happened in Germany during the second world war," said UBC Germanic studies professor Peter Stenberg, organizer of Hilsenrath's visit.

"Most German writers are very bad because they write with their head, not, not," Hilsenrath clutches his stomach, ' not aus dem Bauch.' I write because I have to get something out of my system, and because I think I have had a lot of interesting experiences which I can share - a message - yes, but the real reason I write is because I feel I can do something in the field of art."

Although Hilsenrath has proven successful in Europe, selling over eighty-thousand copies of Night alone, his American publishers went bankrupt, leaving the English translations out of print. And no one, as yet, has been bold enough to pick up the English rights.

In Bronskys Gestandnis (Bronskys Confession), Hilsenrath relates his experiences in New York. "The Prologue, or FUCK AMERICA" is the title of the opening chapter, and sets the tone for the rest of the novel. "Bronsky is a story about an European trying to fit into the American way of life - an outsider's view of America. Bronsky has been labelled as a Hippie book... it's very anti-establishment," says the long-haired sextetgenarian from under his beret.

But contrary to some of the European press, Hilsenrath is no Woody Allen. He acquired the misnomer after the publication of his latest work "Zibulsky", a collection of what Hilsenrath calls "short satires". "I don't have anything to do with Woody Allen," after all, when was the last time Woody Allen embraced the topic of the Holocaust with his "O.K,-I'm-a-wimp" wit?

Hilsenrath's satirical style has won him one of the best seats in the arena of the publishing world: staring the lions in the face. The Germans don't like satire, especially when it comes to the Holocaust, said Hilsenrath.

"My best known book in Germany is "Nazi and the Barber", and because it is a satire, I am called a "Satyriker", but whether I am a satyriker (satirist) or not, I don't know."

Nazi and the Barber tells the story of Max Schultz, self-admitted mass murderer, and death camp commander. After surviving the allied invasion Max assumes the identity of his childhood friend, and Jewish barber's son, Itzig Finkelstein. Max absorbs the character of Itzig and becomes what he calls "a good Jew", up to the point of becoming a rabid Zionist who takes pride in rejecting the reparations paid out by the German government.

"In Night, I used the grotesque, but in Nazi and the Barber, I explored the grotesque in every way" - right up to the thousands of gold teeth which Max stole from his victims and exchanges for a place in the post-war black market. "The story is told from a crazy man's viewpoint, but the whole world is crazy," said Hilsenrath.

The Library of Congress can't really decide if Hilsenrath is a German, American, or Jewish writer, so his books lie isolated in a section unto themselves.

see page 14; 'Black'

Biko film cries for inspiration

By Carolyn Sale

Cry Freedom. It's probably the most talked about film of the year. In bringing the story of South African black activist Stephen Biko to the screen, producer-director Richard Attenborough is working with an emotionally charged and politically timely subject. With sensitive handling, Attenborough would have had a sure winner, and arguably the decade's greatest film.

FILM
Cry Freedom
Oakridge Theatre

To say that Attenborough fails, one would have to overlook Cry Freedom's finer aspects, notably Denzel Washington's portrayal of Biko. Stephen Biko was regarded by many as the man who would succeed Nelson Mandela as South Africa's black leader. His line was moderate. He focussed on the raising of black consciousness rather than the destruction of the white system. Washington captures Biko's soft-spoken manner and his articulateness, rendering a charismatic portrayal that lingers long after he disappears (far too soon) from the movie.

The action builds too quickly to Biko's arrest. This gives Washington and Kevin Kline too little time to develop and portray the friendship between Biko and newspaper editor Donald Woods, a white 'liberal' who is introduced to Biko after he writes an inflammatory editorial lambasting Biko's work towards black liberation.

Biko educates Woods to the true state of the black in South Africa through conversation that involves weighty statements from Biko and a lot of eyebrow-raising from Woods. Unfortunately, Woods's 'conversion' to the black cause is too facile. He offers little counter-argument to Biko's stance which prevents any revelation of the white South African mindset. The only other type of white South African the film presents is that of the vicious policeman, at its most deceitful and hypocritical in the figure of Kruger, the Minister of Police. That means that a movie that is ostensibly upholding the sanctity of the individual and condemning the typing of people by group, class or skin colour relies itself upon crudely drawn characters and a blunt dichotomy between good and bad.

The movie reaches an unnaturally early climax with the arrest and murder of Biko well before the halfway point. The film then changes pace, tone and focus and becomes the story of Donald Woods's attempt to get out of South Africa with his manuscript about Biko. By no stretch of the imagination can Woods's predicament be equated with Biko's murder at the hands of the South African police. The movie's second half is consequently anti-climactic. What should be merely the sub-plot becomes the main plot, and the movie loses momentum and (dare I say it) integrity because of it, and degenerates into the stuff of Hollywood suspense, manipulative soundtrack included.

Kline's performance is uninspired (and uninspiring) and Penelope Wilton's (Wendy Woods) is flat. Attenborough reputedly has a nasty habit of treating actors as little more than animated parts of his film set and the film suffers as a result. Dialogue takes a backseat to fancy camera angles.

Woods's flight becomes a drawn out epilogue intercut with flashbacks to scenes with Biko. It's hard to rejoice when the plane carrying Woods and his family makes it safely out of South African airspace. You're left with the leaden feeling that some terrible wrong is being done in this world and that Cry Freedom has done nothing to alleviate it.

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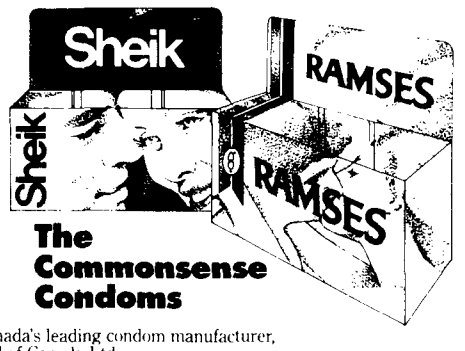

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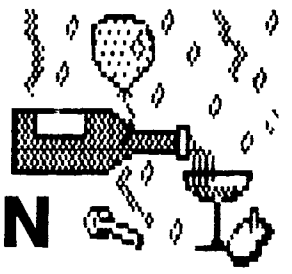

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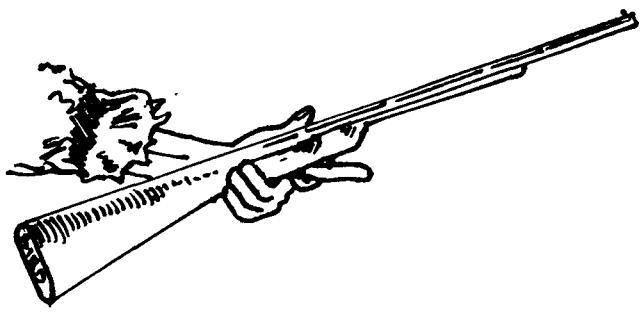
Laura

Holy smokes, it's half over! Thanks babes.
love, Chew

OUT OF CONTROL
and almost beyond belief

If Leslie Cockburn's Out of Control is one of the year's more important books, it's not because of the startling revelations it contains about the Reagan administration's "secret" war in Nicaragua, the arms pipeline to central america and Iran, and the financing of contra terrorism through massive drug sales.

Cockburn turns up little to surprise any dedicated reader of the alternative press. Much of her story, too, is summerized in a lawsuit filed last year by the Washington-based Christic Institute. That lawsuit charges key figures in "contragate" with direct involvement in drug smuggling, and complicity in a 1984 bomb attack against renegade contra leader Eden Pastora that killed eight



people. It also claims that top Reagan Administration figures, including superpatriot Ollie North, were involved in plans to suspend the US constitution and imprison 400,000 latin american residents of the US in the event of a direct American invasion of central america.

What's really significant about Out of Control is that this is no cheaply-marketed, limited-printing effort by a small radical publishing house. Instead, the book comes to us from a veteran CBS news reporter; its release by Atlantic Monthly Press was accompanied by at least two full-page advertisements in the New York Times.

That doesn't mean that the Times, or any other mainstream publication, is more likely to pick up on the story. As Cockburn comments, noting the reluctance of nearly all investigating authorities to move beyond the barest superficialities of the Iran-contra scandal: "Perhaps the truth is so shocking that it produces a collective refusal to accept it."

If there's one thing Cockburn establishes beyond doubt, it's that the recently-released congressional report on the Iran-contra "affair" is a cheap whitewash. The congressional investigation centered on very peripheral elements like president Reagan's senile "management style" and the refusal of the aides to properly inform congress of their actions.

The real story, as Cockburn presents it in her vivid narrative, is a perverse and deadly blend of "All the President's Men" and "Miami Vice." According to Cockburn, when congressional restrictions were imposed on aid to the contras, sympathizers at the highest levels of the Reagan administration quickly established an extensive network of arms and drug-running to siphon funds to the "freedom fighters" in the field.

To manage the arms side of the operation, two veterans of the opium-funded CIA campaign in Laos in the mid-1960s — Richard Secord and Theodore Shackley — were hired on. As CBC's Sunday Morning confirmed in a recent special report, Florida drug-smugglers were contracted to supply planes for arms shipments to the contras. To reciprocate, the smugglers were given top-level CIA immunity on the return leg of their flights: immunity that enabled their planes to ignore US radar systems, land at US Air Force bases in the southern states, bypass customs, and import thousands of kilos of dope.

What's more, the office of the attorrney-general Edwin Meese consistently intervened in district-level prosecutions that threatened to blow the operation, ensuring that investigations were stopped, charges dropped. Given this degree of high-level cooperation, south american drug barons were easily convinced to contribute millions of dollars for the contra cause - all at a time when Nancy Reagan was piously urging the youth of America to "Just say no" to drugs.

Then there's the assassination attempt againsst Pastora, who was resisting incorporation into an artificially "unified" contra force. The CIA operatives and administration officials involved in the bombing of a Pastora press conference also had something more imaginative up their sleeve: a plan to blow up Lewis Tambs, the US ambassador to Costa Rica, and blame the deception and violence."

There's plenty that's of interest, too, for those of us who have hung on every word for years.

The subtitle, "The Managua Lectures," tells you something about both content and format.

First, this is the text of five lectures, delivered at the University of Central America in Nicaragua last year. They're as accessible as they are devastating, and accessibility can be an important factor with Chomsky. Most of his political works run around 300-400 pages, with a daunting array of documentation and footnotes (sometimes running to a hundred pages or more) at the end.

What's more, in his major works Chomsky has a tendency to translate his mind's "tightly packed conceptual coils" (as Norman Mailer put it, reporting on a day he passed with Chomsky in a prison cell back in 1967) into elaborate and discursive prose that can take a couple of readings to figure out. Lecturing, like the rest of us, he's limited by his lung capacity. Thus the pieces here are notable for their terseness and informal "feel".

"On Power and Ideology" slides down smoothly, stylistically at least. You can read it on the bus.

Then there's the nature of the audience. Chomsky is here addressing a mixed bag of central americans, mostly Nicaraguans, and that - as he notes a number of times - lends a special immediacy and poignancy to his treatment of familiar themes.

That visit last year clearly had a powerful impact on Chomsky; he alludes to some of his discoveries in an eloquent introduction. (As he wrote shortly after the trip, "I was frankly much surprised with how impressed I was (by Nicaragua). One can see why it has to be destroyed." It's not surprising then, that the most powerful lecture in "On Power and Ideology", titled 'Our Little Region Over Here', is a superb, furious indictment of U.S. policy in central america and the caribbean.

Afficionados of Chomsky will be interested to read his comments on some of the more obscure dungeons in the region, particularly Haiti and the Dominican Republic. For the newcomer, Chomsky recites a litany of horrors.

Another bonus in "On Power and Ideology" is the question-and-answer sessions that accompany most of the lectures. It's fascinating to see Chomsky explaining aspects of North American society and political culture to an audience that seems, frankly, a bit perplexed by the vapid illusions that are paraded in the west as holy truths.

Which is not to say that some in the audience don't have illusions of their own. One revealing exchange occurs at the end of Chomsky's lecture on global U.S. policy. In passing, he has made several statements highly critical of Soviet behaviour. Clearly, Nicaragua is a country where a significant degree of naivete exists with regard to the junior superpower (not surprising, given how Soviet treatment of the Nicaraguan revolution compares with the official U.S. response). So the criticisms touch a nerve in a member of the audience, who asks pointedly whether Chomsky isn't merely parrotting the "reactionary" line of Peruvian Author Mario Vargas Llosa and others.

Chomsky's response is a model of straightforwardness. "I have been accused of everything and that therefore includes being a reactionary," he says, then explains: "One of the truths about the world is that there are two superpowers, one a huge power which happens to have its boot on your (Nicaragua's) neck, another, a smaller power which happens to have its boot on other people's necks...I think that anyone in the Third World would be making a grave error if they succumbed to illusions about these matters."

We have no way of knowing whether that Nicaraguan questioner found Chomsky's explanation instructive. But it's unquestionably of interest to anyone in north america, of whatever political stripe, prepared to lay aside a few preconceptions. The same is true of the rest of "On Power and Ideology", and for that matter of almost anything Chomsky writes. Check it out.

Okay, okay, I know I reviewed a Noam Chomsky book a month and a half back. But be honest: how many of you paid attention? It was the second week of classes or thereabouts, mostly chaos on campus, and to top it all off the book in question was subtitled, "International Terrorism in the Real World." When school's just a mess, who wants to hear about the real world, right?

So here we are again, thanks to the extraordinarily prolific ways of the continent's foremost radical commentator. Scarcely a month goes by without a Chomsky essay appearing in one of the better-known "alternative" publications. If it's not an essay, it's a new book. On Power and Ideology will shortly share Canadian shelves with The Chomsky Reader, a long-awaited compendium of twenty years of matchless political commentary. With Pirates and Emporors, the subject of the Ubyssey review I mentioned, that makes three books for 1987. So far.

Clearly, he's driven. That's a rare thing these days - kind of inspiring - and it's one reason why you should consider picking up On Power and Ideology, which fits a broad spectrum into a slim (140 pages) volume. The other reason is, as a classmate of mine recently put it, "central." That is, he's pretty much indispensable to an understanding of what goes on under the political and cultural veneer of this world.

In brief, if we can look forward to the Chomsky Reader, with On Power and Privilege we have a Chomsky primer.

For the uninitiated, it covers many of the dominant themes in his work: the role of the elite "New Mandarin" intellectuals in bolstering the state structure of western (particularly U.S.) society; the global framework of superpower geopolitics; media hypocrisy and distortion; and "the genius of the incomparable U.S. system of indoctrination, with 'doves' and 'hawks' competing to determine who can be more abject in their service to state

Prime Chomsky

REVIEWED BY ADAM JONES

Spielberg grows up

By Katherine Monk

"I learned a new word today: Atomic Bomb. I saw a white flash in the sky, like God taking a photograph," says the British brat turned sage Jim Graham (Christian Bale) in Steven Spielberg's latest, and best film to date, Empire of the Sun.

FILM
Empire of the Sun
Directed by Steven Spielberg

The sunbathing empire of the title is the expanding Japanese empire of the nineteen-thirties and forties. Little Jim's family has found itself in the most unpleasant of situations: filthy rich through the exploits of English colonialism in the middle of Shanghai during a Japanese invasion. As this fine kettle-of-fish progresses, tiny Jim loses his mummy and daddy, in perhaps one of the most effective mob scenes ever filmed.

From the minute Jim finds himself alone he is forced to view the world in a different way. The comforting walls of the country club lifestyle have crumbled around him as quickly as a powdercake hit by a sledgehammer.

After a few Oliver Twist-like adventures, Jim finds himself in a Japanese-run internment camp, where the majority of the film takes place. The camp is home to British, American, and Japanese prisoners and the heirarchies are quickly established among them as the quest for the potato-a-day rations slowly turns the inmates into emaciated animals.

But Jim is a survivor, and in a feat of acting ability, Christian Bale manages to combine the qualities of a greasy street kid with the pathos of a poet.

Spielberg has kept the promise of "rediscovering the word" which he made two years ago at the Academy Awards, and pulled out one of the biggest guns in the modern literary world to write the screenplay: Tom Stoppard.

The magic of the words and the screaming artistic expression of the cinematography fuse together to make celluloid poetry. Spielberg was obviously intending to weave this kind of magic, and at times the film's self-consciousness was distracting: "It was just tooo pretty" said one of the viewers as they walked out of the theater wiping the tears from their glasses.

So, it was a little too long at close to three hours, and there were some comic book scenes which little boy Stevie Spielberg can't seem to get from, but you know what? I didn't care.

Watching Empire of the Sun was kind of like eating a big piece of butter cream chocolate cake: it was rich, full of texture, thoroughly enjoyable, and I got a lot out of it.

Black comedy

from page 9.

"I don't know who decides these things, but I am a German writer, I write in German. I don't believe in Judaism. I never believed in religion, and I'm too small to know if I believe in God. It's all such a miracle to me," says Hilsenrath with a boyish twinkle in his eye.

"What the Bible tells us is a good idea, but it's all man-made. People have to live according to what they believe in, and try to make a perfect life for themselves in order to be happy. Once the individual is happy, then they can share that happiness with others, it is only in this way that man can come closer to some sort of ideal state," said Hilsenrath, although he doesn't believe such a state could ever exist.

Now living in Berlin, to get back in touch with the language he writes in, Hilsenrath sees himself as an outsider living on an island of outsiders. "I have no home. Heimat ist wo man wohl fuhlt, home is where one feels ... at home," he says as he looks off beyond the dart board and the wood panelling into space.

Hi Dad, love, Corinne.

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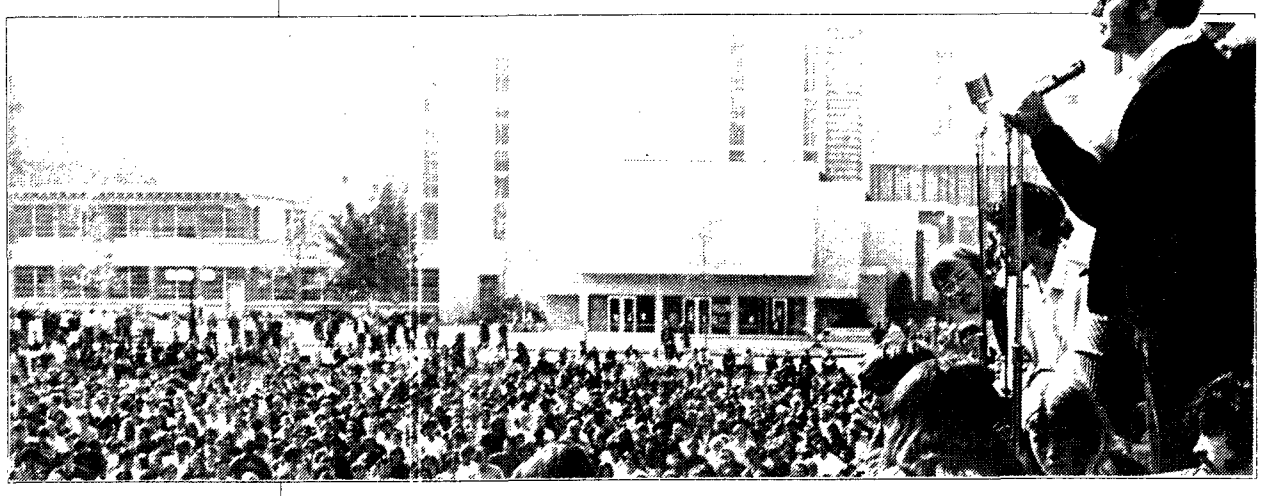

Anarchy is a hair colour

American humorist P.J. O'Rourke says Generation X has a "crabbed outlook" on life. I say 18 to 25 year-olds alive today are the most maligned generation ever.

If I may speak for myself, and not necessarily for my generation, I would like to say it is time for baby boomers to give peace, and us, a chance.

People my age have been called boring, apathetic, the blank generation and yuppies-in-training. Give us a break.

We stand in the shadow of the supposedly glorious sixties, some of us dance in the footsteps of the free-loving flower children, but mostly we are trying to do our own thing in our own way.

The tail end of the baby boom, and those that follow us, are tired of being sat and shat on by the generation that has entered middle age. Let us define ourselves without your labels and put-downs, please.

O'Rourke's comments appear in the current issue of Rolling Stone magazine, a special twentieth anniversary edition which contains his interview with Gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson.

O'Rourke doesn't use the term Generation X, but I think that's what he means when he refers to those of us coming of age. It's an appropriate term for the group of people born, as opposed to being of university age, in the sixties because X implies mystery and potential.

(X-people is actually a term invented by literary critic Paul Fussell to describe independent minded people who dislike being assigned to categories).

In the interview, O'Rourke asks Thompson why he calls college kids a "generation of swine." Says Thompson: "You call them fruit bags, that doesn't work. You call them yuppies, that doesn't work either. I found that 'generation of swine' makes them jump."

C'mon! Keep your anti-youth insults to yourself, Mr. Duke. We're not conservative pigs any more than the baby boomers are capitalist dogs.

Not all of us are boring, uncreative drones, in the same way that not all of you are boring, money-crazed sellouts. Not all of us lack imagination, wit and a sense of social concern. Some of us beg to be different.

And believe it or not, some of us still dream of changing the world. In the so-called dreary eighties, that means trying to dismantle the rotting houses that Mulroney, Reagan and Thatcher have built, among other things.

If we have learned anything from your experiences, besides what a great lot of fun we missed, we have learned that social change takes much time and effort and often requires being involved in the establishment. More is needed to offset power structures than a hip counter-culture.

The point is, you may sneer at us all you like, but not all young people today fit into your snug and smug generalizations.

It's true that a vast majority of us don't march in the streets for peace and justice as you did. It's true that many of us don't turn on, tune in and drop out of university.

It's also true that for some, radical hair, dyed blue, purple, pink, red, black, has superseded radical politics. You know, anarchy is a hair colour, not a political philosophy. It's become more of a set of clothes, more of a circled capital A on a tattered leather jacket, than a movement to liberate the human spirit from governments everywhere.

Some of the shifts in trends among the young in the past 20 years are significant and disturbing. I completely agree. But our generation isn't all to blame for apathy in the world, for the replacing of ideology with fashion.

It is the money system, primarily, that has made both generations, you and us, what we are today. It has cheapened your ideals and seduced us into scrambling for jobs instead of fighting for freedom. It has sedated both of us.

Unfortunately, it's a system that not only many of us support, but also an overwhelming number of you.

So, the second point is, some of the criticisms levelled at youth these days are justified, but I don't think baby boomers are in any position to start throwing stones.

Tell me, what did all your talk of revolution amount to? Sure, the ideas have filtered down through the past two decades and changed some people's lives. But is the world really that different?

When you can answer these questions, I will take your criticisms of my generation seriously.

I used to think that I was born 20 years too late. I was born in time to be part of the tail end of the baby boom, roughly designated as between the years 1946 and 1964, but there was no doubt in my mind that I missed the action.

Whenever anyone asked me, what were you doing when JFK was assassinated, I could only say, I dunno, I was 17 days old.

I went to Berkeley and San Francisco when I was 21 years of age to see where the student movement in North America all began. It was a time when I believed a massive student uprising for a better world was possible. Instead of student radicals, I saw cheerleaders on the Berkeley campus. Instead of propaganda tables, I saw frozen yogurt stands on Haight Street.

Needless to say, it wasn't what I expected.

Now I think the sixties was then, the eighties is now. As French philosopher Michel Eyquem de Montaigne put it: "The thing of it is, we must live with the living."

As for Generation X, not the blank but the misunderstood generation, repeat after me:

I don't want your psychedelic revival... I don't want your hippie nostalgia... I don't want to hear about your glory days no more, no more, no more... Let us be, man, let us be.

Muriel Draaisma is a member of the Fresian Liberation Movement and former Ubyssey City Desk editor.

98 lb. Peaceling

"You're okay, man," grunts the former karate champ. Daniel, also known as The Karate Kid, has won the goon's respect by kicking him in the face. The audience, of course, cheers.

Our society, perhaps like all other societies, prizes strength and abhores weakness. A man must be able to "fight for himself." How many little boys have come home from school crying, the victim of a bully, to be told to "fight your own battles" by a parent embarassed by his child's lack of manliness?

In the Karate Kid, Daniel is embarassed because he keeps getting beat up by five goons who are karate experts. He is so embarassed he will not tell anyone what has happened to him. His only recourse is to win the respect of the goons by becoming strong and skilled, like them, and then demonstrating his ability by hurting one of them.

> Myagi explains one learns karate so one won't have to fight—so that everyone will be so intimidated by you, they won't consider starting a fight. We have just entered the mind of Ronald Reagan.

"When are you going to teach me how to punch?" Daniel asks his karate instructor, Myagi, (played with endearing charm by Pat Morita). Myagi responds that the primary use of karate is not to fight, but ... (here we expect the part about learning self-discipline, the control of the body, but, no ...). Myagi explains one learns karate so one won't have to fight—so that everyone will be so intimidated by you, they won't consider starting a fight. We have just entered the mind of Ronald Reagan.

But Mr. Reagan is not alone. All over the world people must unlearn the lessons of what is strength, what is shame. Jimmy Carter lost the American presidency to Reagan in the midst of the Iran hostage affair. Carter was perceived as weak, as an embarassment. Reagan said he would have handled the crisis differently, though he never offered much detail of that.

It is instructive that Carter's action saved the lives of all those hostages, but he was publicly condemned for having shown America to be "weak". The American public read Carter as the father reads his victimized little boy. Conceivably, had Carter bombed Iran, killed all the hostages, killed hundreds of Iranians, and secured control of Iran, Carter would have shot up in popularity and won re-election. The Falklands took Margaret Thatcher to the top of the polls.

One problem for Reagan's argument for arms build-up is that to establish his strength, he will have to destroy the world. Hence the need for public concern. For Reagan, and many others, a refusal to fight a war, a unilateral disarmament, is a sign of lack of masculinity. Reagan would be ridiculed—his sexual prowess questioned at the country club. Men fight, wimps get beat up.

Do we attack the weak in our society? It appears to be the basis of the capitalist system. The strong survive. Yet the world still looks with awe at the non-violence practiced by Ghandi and the American civil rights movement in the 60's. The non-violence practiced in India probably meant independence took longer than had an armed revolt been prepared. But the dismissal of violence means that there is strength in refusing to fight.

Might Daniel have refused to fight the bullies? Might he have talked to the bullies, called the police, told his mother or his principal? No. Given our international mind-set, he would have been laughed at by all of these people, perceived as weak and deserving mistreatment. For the characters in The Karate Kid's ugly picture of America, the only route to dignity is brute force.

The current peace movement, as a reaction to the nuclear arms build-up, suffers from the neccessary fact that the movement is based on the refusal to fight with all the means at our disposal. The men of the world have grown up knowing that men fight, will fight for what they believe in, and don't walk away from a fight. Not fighting is the action of a wimp: something less than a man.

And as long as our society values physical strength and violence above peace and a refusal to fight, as long as peace continues to bruise the male ego, bullies will be empowered, and peace will be perceived as the pursuit of the weak.

Michael Groberman is a former Ubyssey Entertainment editor who thinks violence is bad.

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Political apathy hurts

by Mary Ainslie

"Does a mouse pick a fight with a bear?" asks Sverre at the beginning of Orion's Belt. He is defending the Norwegian's neutral position in the power struggle between the United States and Russia for a strategic area in Norway, known as the Orion's Belt. He might well be referring to the Norwegian film industry making a commercial thriller to compete with American movies.

Orion's Belt is the first film funded by private investors in Norway. This new entrepreneurial spirit in the industry is reflected in the style of this comparatively big budget (it cost all of 2.2 million dollars) film.

FILM
Orion's Belt
Van East- Dec 4 - 10

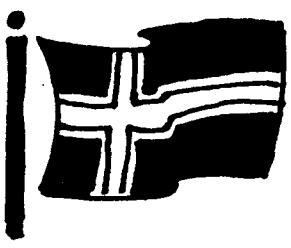
Tom, Larse, and Sverre own a small boat which they use to take tourists around the district. There is no money in this harmless enterprise, and they accept an opportunity to make a bit of money illegally. On the way back from this furtive excursion they are caught in rough weather, and find themselves stranded on a supposedly deserted side of Svalbard Island in the Orion's Belt. But the island is not deserted- on the contrary, it is host to a secret Russian listening post. Once the three men discover the Russians, the action never stops as they try to escape their pursuers.

The attitude of the victims is indicative of the times in which we all live. What do three guys trying to keep their business going care about Cold War politics? The men are ignorant until they are thrust into the middle of the situation. This is what makes the movie all the more politically stimulating; Tom learns that in the '80's there is no such thing as political indifference.

When he escapes the Russians and returns to Oslo, Tom discovers that the government does not want to cause any furor over the incident. Both Tom and the viewer are shocked to discover that the little men, and their boat, mean nothing in the greater scheme of things. Tom's earlier apolitical sentiments must be reevaluated, and the message is clear: political apathy can be dangerous.

This movie is a commercial venture in the style of American fast-paced thrillers. But it has a refreshing difference: the captivating style, charming innocence, and a startling conclusion. The end of this small Norwegian film successfully challenges a Hollywood "formula". Finally, a new approach to an old American genre.

Will a dubbed Norwegian film have much success with viewers that value star-studded casts, and recognizably glamorous settings for its thrillers? This movie may be a mouse in the greater scheme of movie releases, but let's hope the bear is in hibernation.



pointer sisters • john cougar mellencamp • earythmics • bon jovi • alison moyet • stevie nicks • pretenders • bruce springsteen

Xmas album rocks

By Deanne Fisher

Now here's a breakthrough for hurtin' Christmas Parties! No longer do yuletide D.J.'s have to resort to Bing Crosby's Family Christmas or Band Aid for holiday sing alongs. It's called A Very Special Christmas and apparently, it's the fastest selling album in stores right now.

Partyers can now chug eggnog with the tackiest women in entertainment - The Pointer Sisters. The Eurythmics, unfortunately, don't liven up the festivities with their really dull version of "Walking in a Winter Wonderland", but Whitney Houston's "Do You Hear What I Hear?" is utterly heart wrenching.

The real fun starts with Bruce Springsteen's "Merry Christmas Baby". I'm assuming this is an original - who else would come up with classic lyrics like "lotsa nice little presents for my baby and me."

You can almost hear Chrissie Hynde learning to smile during The Pretenders' "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". It reeks with sincerity.

ALBUM
A Very Special Christmas
Various Artists
A&M Records

John Cougar Mellencamp catches his mom kissing Santa in what is probably the coolest tune on the album. This one is actually getting radio play. (LG73 anyways.)

You can always count on Sting to bring gloom to Christmas — and he does with his choir-like, eerie, echoing track. This one is a real downer - bypass it at the party.

But no party would be a hit without Run DMC's Christmas in Hollis. A typical line is "The time is now, the place is here. And the whole wide world is full of cheer." Don't expect to be able to sing along but even a mormon would dance to this.

And what mainstream album would be truly commercial (in the spirit of Christmas) without U2? It's not even political or religious - holy turkey! It's called "Christmas Baby Please Come Home". (It was probably co-written by Springsteen.)

Madonna will seduce anything. She makes a play for a large bearded man in a red suit with "Santa baby". She sounds like a cross between Bernadette Peters and Shirley Temple, twenties style.

Fast forward through Bob Seger, Bryan Adams and Bon Jovi.

The party's final slow dance just has to be Stevie Nicks' "Silent Night". It's tear-jerking and drags on forever so you can extend yuletide smooching. Or torture yourself watching from the sidelines.

Don't buy this album for hours of listening enjoyment. Buy it for those party tracks to put to use once or twice a year. It's a hilarious collector's item.

The real reason to buy this album is that proceeds go to the Special Olympics. (Get it - A Very Special Christmas?) Let's face it - Christmas is peace, peace is harmony, harmony is sharing, sharing is giving, and giving is buying this album.

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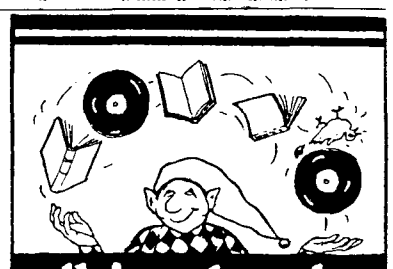
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UBC voices against the arms race

By Kent Hill

Three UBC scientists involved in the peace movement are concerned over the escalation in the arms race, a build-up they fear could end the human race.

Dr. Louis Sabrino, Physics professor and member of Scientists for Peace, calls the threat of nuclear war "the biggest problem humanity faces". Sabrino says testing cruise missiles increases the problem further. The federal government argued that the tests are part of the NATO agreement, but Sabrino says the agreement is for land missiles and not air projectiles.

He questions why Canada is still testing the cruise missile, noting that if the Soviet-initiated Intermediate Forces Treaty is ratified the missiles will be dismantled.

Chris Fraser, of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, says it took public pressure by the peace movement for the US government to even consider the INF treaty. Fraser says "the INF treaty only reduces the nuclear stockhold by 4 per cent. " The treaty is more a political statement than anything else, so Reagan can go down in history as the negotiator of a peace plan ... but it is a step in the right direction."

Fraser recently visited the Soviet Union. He says "there is a sincere effort to reduce nuclear build up." He applauds the Soviets' attempt at a unilateral test moratorium, and although the U.S. didn't agree to the moratorium, PPNW hopes for a comprehensive test ban treaty one day.

Fraser says the main threats to peace in society today stem from scientists being willing to continue to develop nuclear weapons for personal financial gain, and the government's unwillingness to reveal clear defensive and offensive objectives to the public.

Every day money is going to designing and building new and better bombs.Many people think the money could be spent in better ways,Dr. Sabrino said it is estimated that what is spent in a few days on defense could cure small pox.From this figure,does the financial and technological gains of the scientists justify the suffering of others?

The scientists who design the defense technology come from universities. Dr.Sabrino,of Scientists for Peace, said the motivation to accept government money to design defense technology is encouraged within the university institutions. "The university structure is organized for the student to get grants wherever possible, and then they are evaluated on how many grants they recieve. The university does not reward knowledge for uniting society."

Dr. Sabrino said the scientists who are involved in defense design "believe it is the right thing to do", but the decision remains one of the personal ethics of the scientists.

Jim Christian,of Students for Peace and Mutual Disarmament, said the reason the government spends so much on defense technology is from their "nonobjective view of reality".He called the military "logically inconsistent, not scientifically sound, and without clear public objectives." He maintains that science has an objective reality,it is governed by laws of nature, and it can't produce what we want just by throwing money at it.

AMS executives on Peace

Rebecca Nevraumont, President

As far as Canadians are concerned, the INF agreement, or any reduction in nuclear weapons is a positive step. I hope the trend continues and that the Russians and the Americans continue to reduce the number of nuclear weapons.

I am vehemently opposed to the testing of U.S. cruise missiles in Canada. They should test their own cruise missiles on their own soil.

I like the the idea of Vancouver being a nuclear weapons free zone, but I think that it would be more legitimate if U.S. warships carrying nuclear weapons were not allowed into our harbour.

As the AMS president, I am responsible to my constituents for educational issues. I would personally support something like a peace symposium on campus but organizational and financial support would have to come for SAC or Council.

Jody Woodland, Vice-President

The government should be doing what it was set up for doing - spending money on building roads and hospitals and educating students. I don't think that they should be spending all that money for F-18 fighter planes and nuclear powered submarines. Even if we armed every Canadian citizen, we still couldn't stop the Russians or even the Americans from invading us. An extra few billion dollars in defence spending wouldn't make any difference.

I don't know why the U.S. can't test the cruise missile in their own country, but it's going to be tested anyway so it's not such a big deal for us to let them test it here in Canada.

The AMS could support the peace movement's activities depending on the circumstances, but I don't feel that peace is a burning issue for most students so I think that some students might not approve of this.

Don Isaak, Director of Finance

Peace is a good thing, but it's no way to keep the economy going.

We owe it to NATO and the U.S. to allow testing of the cruise missile in Canada. After all, they're the ones who are looking after us. We've been getting more than our bang for the buck out of NATO. It's time we started pulling our own weight. In fact, I agree with the White Paper on increasing defence spending. I read the pamphlet on it.

The idea of Vancouver being a nuclear weapons free zone is a waste of time and money. The referendum and the signs saying that it's a nuclear weapons free zone don't mean a thing.

We also have to watch out for that Gorbachev guy. He's lulling us into a false sense of security with his slick, west coast style. We have to remember that he's a commie first and a nice guy second.

Defence of the realm

from page 7

unguarded.

"I'm tired of Europeans telling us about their insecurities when there is no real prospect of invasion," said Wallace. "Europe must engage in their own defence.

"Our role in Europe is very peripheral...we can't make a useful contribution to the battlefield," he added.

Ross, on the other hand, believes our "airbase contribution is signifiant," and instead of pulling troops out of Europe we should have "20,000 troops, an armed division, ready to roll."

"It's no time to be backing out, it's the time to be plunging in."

Ross thinks NATO "should remain a security community indefinitely and would like to see it grow to include Japan, Australia, and New Zealand."

But Wallace believes that economic problems in the United States and other factors are pushing Europe into an independent stance, and that the only influence Canada has is to make the world climate less confrontational.

Sub option criticized by experts

from page 7

ership on defence issues.

Currently, the minister is on a submarine shipping spree, comparing British Trafalgar class vessels with the French Rubis design.

But since the final contracts will not be signed until late 1989-90, and the Conservatives must go to the polls by September 1989, the Canadian public could still cancel Beatty's line of credit.

As with cruise missile testing, which the government supports, and the declaring the country a nuclear-weapons free zone, which it opposes, the sub purchase draws a clear line between the Conservatives, on the one hand, and the Liberals and NDP on the other.

While the next election would appear to be dominated by free trade and questions of economic and cultural survival, there is a good case to be made that the defence policy of a nation sandwiched between the superpowers could affect survival itself. Polls conducted soon after the subs were announced showed about 50 per cent of Canadians supporting the purchase, but it seems possible that a better educated public will torpedo the fleet.

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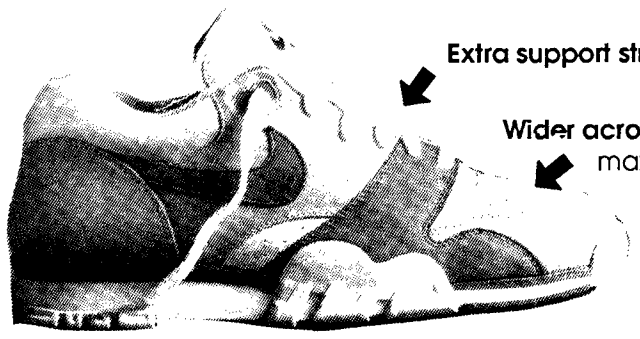

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Editorial

Peace of mind

World peace is a topic which often comes up at beauty pageants and summit meetings. And on Canadian campuses. Students have traditionally questioned and acted against conflicts that threaten humanity's survival.

The Ubyssey hopes our special issue focussing on peace will make the reader think about those who wake to unrest and terror. By writing and rallying, learning and teaching, by doing whatever we can to avert nuclear disaster, we will ensure that the planet is here for future generations.

Enjoy the holidays, and may peace be with you.

Ho Ho Ho

We're makin' a list, checkin' it twice... It is time for The Ubyssey to play Santa again, and dole out presents to the naughty and nice.

The Absentminded Muddlers Society tops the list. In a cunning financial move, we give director of finance Don Isaak some Chernobyl real estate, and assistance in choosing sensible footwear. Vice president Jody Woodland gets a new Scaphoid bone. Director of administration Tim Bird gets the office next door. To president Rebecca Nevraumont we give a trip for two out to Surrey on the skytrain. One-way. To Caroline Rigg we give a twenty dollar food voucher. Blair Longley, for being extra good this year, gets his long-sought year in jail. To Simon Seshadri, a life-time job with the dairy marketing board. Moo. To Kurt Preinsperg, black textured condoms, and a home AIDS test kit. To Dr. David Strangway, all our best, and Stan Persky as Chancellor. To The Competition - writers. To UBC Reports, our best - hot paper. To Frank Smith we give Eric Putoto. To premier Vander Zalm - time to grow tulips, lots and lots of time. And to the disabled students, an accessible campus.

Happy new year.

THE UBYSSEY
December 4, 1987

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da da daaah daah daahdah.

Space. The final mind blower. These are the continuing voyages of the starship Ubyssey; its five year mission, to meet newsworthy people, to meet powerful people, to meet boring people and make them all look like shit...

Captain's log: stardate 1248.9. We are circling the Scumhole planet, locked in space. "Who's the fuckin' captain," screeched a Sailen Black. "Put the planet on the screen," shouted first officer, second officer, third officer, fourth officer, sub-officer to the second officer alternating for the third officer, Alex Bradley, spinning wildly on the science console. There were Steven Chess, Norm Keevil, Tim Pearson, Kinga Kriston, Kenneth Kam, Noel Delahunt, Lisa Doyle, and Wanda Chow.

The Starship Collective couldn't collect themselves, among the millions of tribbles (the fucking little white furry things, for those dinks who don't know what we're talking about). Jeremy Fraser, Judy Mah, Rona Oger (from the planet Ooooooooog), Adam Jones, Cathy Chung, Michael Bryant, Dale Enns, and Cathy Lu, appeared on the screen, munching human limbs.

This was the planet Scumhole, home of the evil, ferocious, timetravelling, scumbucket real estate broker Hiebert. "They're putting terrible things through our ears," snivelled Frank Nezil, Mantel Ngan, Allan Nichols, and Myron Neville. "And dangling us dangerously from dangle city."

Michael Groberman, Mike Gordon, Robert Groberman, Oran (the onan) Michael Gostinik, Panos Grames fell over like skittles, or dominoes, or ten pins, or mah jong tiles...come to think of it. "Dammit, Ross, they're dead," said Chris "Bone" Wiesinger. "Can you save them," shouted first officer Corrine the Borg. "Dammit, Corrine, I'm a doctor not a sump pump." "Ooooh."

Michael Smart, Carolyn Sale, Lydia Schymansky, Tanis Sawkias, Randy Shore, Bob Snowdon, Steven Scrimshaw, looking on in awe and drivelling, with dried puke on their nifty starship tunics. "Oooooh," they mumbled together.

see page 6 Star Treck

Letters

The Ubyssey welcomes letters on any issue. Letters must be typed and are not to exceed 300 words in length. Content which is judged to be libellous, homophobic, sexist, or racist will not be published. Please be concise. Letters may be edited for brevity, but it is standard Ubyssey policy not to edit letters for spelling or grammatical mistakes. Please bring them, with identification, to SUB 241k. Letters must include name, faculty, and signature.

Fire Chief hoses hooligans

The Fire Department has read with interest the letter questioning the tactics of Student Housing Administration when dealing with persons causing false alarms.

We have reviewed our responses to Totem Park and the Student Union Building for the calendar year to date in 1987. The calls can be broken down as follows:

Totem Park	
Deliberate Malicious False Alarms	39
Fires	01
Ambulance	16
Faulty Equipment	01
Special Service	11
Student Union Building	
Deliberate Malicious False Alarms	14
Fires	05
Ambulance	12

On December 1, 1987 at approximately 1:11 a.m. six persons riding in a Volkswagen Beetle crashed into a tree on Chancellor Boulevard. All occupants of the vehicle were residents at Salish House in Totem Park.

The Fire Department responded to the incident and utilized the Jaws-of-Life and every available firefighter on shift. Trapped occupants had to be extricated from the vehicle. Additionally, two Emergency Health Services ambulances were summoned to assist in transporting the injured students to hospital.

One student did not require hospital treatment while the other students had a variety of injuries. Included were broken wrists, legs, collar bone, numerous cuts and bruises; one student had his spleen removed.

Every firefighter was fully committed to the rescue and to providing medical aid. Fortunately there was no malicious false alarm in any of the residences that night.

Last year at Totem Park, a student fell six stories down a stairwell to his death. Our ambulance was involved in a nuisance call at the Student Union Building at that time.

In November 1985 our crews responded to two deliberate, simultaneous false alarms at Totem Park. While checking out these false alarms, the Fire Department was also called upon to respond to a motor vehicle accident with four injured patients; and also to respond to an ambulance call at the Student Union Building.

We insist that Student Housing take action against any student identified as causing a malicious false alarm. The minimum punishment is eviction from Student Residences. If neccessary we will press for criminal charges.

I am certain that the responsible students in the residences are fed up with being forced out of the residences in the middle of the night.

The current number of malicious false alarms is completely unacceptable. We will be involving all campus agencies in stopping them.

Students, be warned. Charges will be laid against anyone responsible for a malicious false alarm.

W.J. Ferguson
Fire Chief

AMS lottery critized...

As a student new to UBC and Canada, I have until now been a silent observer of UBC life to acquire some knowledge of what this place is all about. However, every now and then I encounter events that seem to overstress my mental capacity to absorb and I have to raise my voice to timidly inquire if somebody could explain them to me. This happened again on Tuesday, Dec.1 when reading the Ubyssey's front page article on the AMS tuition lottery.

I find the fact remarkable that the AMS president walks away with a grand prize for selling the winning ticket of the lottery. Stating that "some of the people I sold tickets to had nothing to do with my position" (as AMS president), she implies that most of the people she sold tickets to had something to do with her position.

But, I guess I'm a bit unfair for after all she said that she "saved the lottery from going broke" and she didn't even claim anything for the tickets she sold like "some clubs and organizations were entitled to". That's jolly decent of the "Nevraumont organization" (or is she a club?), I must say. But then she accepts a free airfare for two anywhere United Airlines flies as a small recognition for her selfless labour, a prize that is worth a multiple of the 20 cents per ticket that "her organization" could have claimed (or could it not?). And all (sorry, most) of this just because she has the right connections as AMS president?

Well, back home in politics everybody would be up on the barricades shouting scandal and corruption. A president personally enriching herself due to her position would be regarded as a disgrace for the society that elected her. In Germany, there would be no choice but to resign from office. What do corrupt presidents do over here?

Ludger Basten
Geography 3

...blasted

Talk about the height of stupidity!!

AMS runs a tuition lottery and a substantial number of tickets are sold to non-students. Yet by some inconceivable thought process, the problem of non-student winners was not anticipated (?!). To top it off, the AMS president reaps a mighty reward due to her "commendable" ticket sales. Cozy coincidence that she didn't foresee the potential problem .... or maybe they're not so stupid after all.

What about a recount to determine who won the ticket sales for the most individual student purchasers? Or wasn't that who it was for?

Y.S. Mehmet
Law 1

...& explained

This year's A.M.S. Tuition Lottery has landed me a lot of complaints in the past week - and rightly so.

As coordinator of this lottery I am legally bound to the rules that were laid out at the begining of the lottery. Why fix something if it's not broken? Well now it's broken. But it was never "fixed" (pun intended).

As a student council member, I am not bound by these rules. Student council can overrule an A.M.S. executive from winning the prize for being the seller of the winning ticket; and did so on Wednesday night.

At the next council meeting I will recommend that another draw take place (AMS Executive excluded) to give the trip away.

Tim Bird
Director of Administration, AMS

Editorial on objectivity slammed

The editorial in the November 24 issue of The Ubyssey (Debunking the Popular Myth os Press Objectivity) fills white space better than it demonstrates a valid argument. It is riddled with holes and vague generalities.

It begins by asserting the obvious; "Objectivity is the first myth of journalism." Anyone ignorant enough to believe that the press is objective has probably never read a newspaper. Budding journalists learn very early in their reporting careers that as humans we are all subject to our biases.

The editorial elaborates on these words of wisdom by revealing that "the choice of news topics and the decision of where to place items in the paper reflects the biases of the editors and sometimes the publisher." This is a banal statement considering that it is merely the logical extension of the first "fallacy" that was cunningly exposed.

And, stating the obvious ultimately becomes detrimental to the argument put forth. The gist of it is as follows; since "the commercial press is usually run by middle age, middle class, white men", (who if they work for Southam or Thompson, are influenced by money), their selection of news and its placement not only reflects their middle class status but also demonstrates a neglect of the "other issues". "The role of the alternative press, then, is to recognize that a bias exists in the mainstream press, and to recognize the need to give fair play to the 'other issues' .

Weekly community newspapers may not fall into the category of mainstream commercial press but they do come under the heading of commercial press, which the editorial implies are one and the same. I sucessfully ran two Alberta weeklies. I am not middle aged. Strike one. I am not middle class. Strike two. I am white. A hit, but one that is way out in left field. I'm sure there are many other weekly newspapers being run by people like myself, who do not ignore the "other issues".

When the editorial mentions the "other issues", I believe it is referring to the concerns of minority interest groups such as farmers, labour unions, women's rights activists, and church groups. Unlike what the editorial asserts, the commercial press does not ignore the voices of such groups. Stories about the struggles of farmers, women's rights activitists, labor unions and other small interest groups can be located simply by reading the dailies regularly.

While these stories may not always make page one, or page five even, they can usually be found elsewhere. And smaller interest groups can air their views in the letter to the editor sections of newspapers if perhaps the press deems their stories not newsworthy. Recent studies indicate "that more people read letters to the editor than any other section of most newspapers", according to author Peter Elbow.

Ubyssey editors would benefit by examining their own editorial pages before hastily condemning the commercial press as "pablum".

Brian Braaksma

Losers game strategy questioned

I am intrigued by the recent phobia regarding "losers." On one hand, the UBC Losers' Club suggesting that people like myself, who strive for total success are losers. I wonder how someone who tries to be all that he/she can be can possibly be a loser. In order to reach the sky, you have to shoot for the stars. On the other hand, Colin Erb suggests that anyone who isn't destined to reach the sky is a loser. Mr. Erb, I ask you, when will you become prime minister? Or premier? Despite your statement that you are not loserphobic, I'd have to say that you are. What are you afraid of? Furthermore, you suggest that "the world does need more garbagemen." Fine, but we also need middle level office staff, which many of these self-proclaimed "losers" may end up to be.

I'd like to suggest alternative definitions. I suggest that a loser is someone who does not strive to do the best she/he can; or, someone who tries to be better than can be reasonably expected. Mr. Erb, how would you classify yourself? And to the Losers' Club: are you losers by these definitions? If so, aren't you trying to be losers? Remember, it's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.

Ken Armstrong
Arts

Dear Santa,

I don't want G.I. Joe and I don't want a Rambo doll. I want an explanation. Ever since I was small you've spread propaganda concerning your alleged activities around the end of December every year. "Spreading good will to all the good little boys and girls" is a common theme. Children are apparently intended to believe that when they go to bed on Christmas Eve, every other little child on earth is also anticipating the joy of waking up in the morning to presents and good cheer.

This just isn't so. A very large number of children know nothing of these joys. Children still old enough to believe in you are being trained for combat in Iran and Iraq. Give them wisdom. Children in South Africa who are too young to understand are waking up to discrimination and oppression. Give them hope. Children in Cambodia fall asleep with visions of automatic rifles and bombs dancing in their heads. Give them tenderness. Children in Ethiopia dream of getting enough food the next day. Give them a future.

And for the children of Canada, give them awareness and compassion. I know it's a lot to ask, but Ive been good.

Sean Kelly

Snack bar in Sedge baffles

Alas, it's true! There really are still some smokers among us- quite a few, in fact- and contrary to popular belief, some of them really do care about the majority; the non-smokers. It is because these smokers respect the rights of their non-smoking peers that they are faced with two choices when studying; either to study in the privacy of their own homes (if those they live with are sympathetic to their addiction), or to seek out the smoking sections at their local campus libraries. Needless to say, these latter areas are a real rarity...

I am a smoker. The people I live with are not sympathetic to my addiction - certainly not the the extent that they will allow it to adversely affect the air that they breathe. Fair enough I figure, and thus I am left with no choice, save quitting: I must study in the smoking sections of the UBC libraries. The only section I have found where smoking is permitted and safety is relatively assured during evening hours are at the four rectangular tables to the west of the vending machine area at Sedgewick. True, this area is far from ideal; the noise level is exceedingly high, and the tables get grabbed up really quickly. But hey, that's O.K.- I wear ear plugs and either get to the library right when it opens or during "down" times.

Last Saturday morning (Nov.28), I arrived at Sedge at 10 a.m. sharp, ear plugs, cigarettes and books in hand, all ready to settle in for a long day of studying. Imagine my alarm when I saw, instead of those four smoking tables, a construction site. "Expect disruptions...we're building a SNACK BAR" said the signs liberally plastered all over the area. Bloody hell, I immediately thought, what about the smokers? And what about the already ridiculously high noise levels?

On further thought, more questions sprang to mind: Questions like who decided to build this snack bar? Why is it being built? Who is paying for it? A snack bar in a library? Construction starting just as final exams are fast approaching? Yet more money being dwindled away on stupid, superfluous little projects when no one seems to be able to cough up the scones for crucial new daycare facilities, or new sports facilities, or any one of a number of necessary things...? Only at UBC, I sigh, as I decide to pull out my smokes anyway, pop in the old ear plugs, and get on with the studying...

Robin Hunter
Arts 3

Longley's legacy
Dope opponent smoked

David Li (Dec.1) attempted to refute my philosophical arguement in favor of liberalizing marijuana use. However, I found Mr. Li's arguments were as cogent as a three dollar bill. Mr. Li did raise a few practical questions. I feel they have solutions that follow from the theoretical argument I offered earlier. Let me address his questions.

Mr. Li asked, "Why should others have to justify the maintenance of the law?" Mr. Li wants to know why the onus of proof is on him to defend the status quo marijuana laws. But unless a coercive law that seeks to prohibit an action can be defended, that law is unjust and should be abolished. We accept Mill's principle that unless an action can justifiably be limited, on the grounds that it causes harm to others, that action must be permitted in the greater interest of individual liberty. Marijuana use does not cause harm to others if it is used in the home or at advertised social functions, and so we must permit its use in those circumstances.

Mr. Li is quite right that the context of debate should be rational argument when he says, "It should be people like Randy who should provide rational arguments for why the law should be changed." I did. The ball is in your court, Mr. Li.

Next in his letter, Mr. Li asked me how I intend to keep marijuana away from minors, as I had argued that marijuana should have the same legal age restrictions as acohol. But my liberalization plan would deglamorize the use of marijuana, and thus reduce teenage peer pressure. And I would condone laws that prohibit the trafficking in marijuana to minors, with reasonable punishment, similar to such laws regarding alcohol.

Mr. Li's strongest concern was regarding the health effects of marijuana consumption. But we allow each person to choose regarding alcohol and tobacco, despite their bad health effects. Why not let people have a fair choice about marijuana use? Can such a paternalistic attitude to restrict the behavior of adults be justified?

Mr. Li asked a strange question regarding individual rights. I said marijuana use should be allowed in the home. He asked, "...if a member of a family uses it, but others do not, does that not infringe on those people's rights?" But dope smokers, like cigarette smokers, have a responsibility to respect the rights of others, but do not have to refrain from marijuana consumption entirely. The home dope smoker must come to some agreement with his or her roomates just as a cigarette smoker would have to.

Mr. Li offered an invalid "slippery slope" argument. He thought that the legalization of marijuana would lead to a decrease in the price, and thus greater consumption. But the legalization of marijuana could lead to it being sold in government liquor stores, heavily taxed to provide revenue for the government. There would be no decrease in price due to taxation and government regulation to control supply would not necessarily lead to a great social health hazard.

Thus I would like to thank Mr. Li for having the courage of his misguided convictions to respond to my challenge to defend the status quo. Unfortunately, theoretical principles of social justice and particularily utilitarian concerns provide a solid foundation for the view that our present marijuana laws are unjust and should be abolished.

Randy Reiffer
Philosophy 4

I would like to address the "Philosopher fails" letter in the Dec. 1 Ubyssey. Mr. Li finds fault with many arguments against legalizing marijuana, but fails to consider many far reaching effects of keeping marijuana illegal.

To say that legalizing marijuana would cause an immediate and corresponding increase in the consumption of the drug is completely unfounded and irresponsible. The fact is, by keeping marijuana illegal, keeping track of the number of people who use it now would be limited to nothing more than an educated guess. At least, if it was legal, we would have some way to keep track of how many do use the drug.

And, as is common with many, the witer has an undying concern for the cost of legalizing marijuana. Unfortunately, the scope of these economic considerations is very limited.

The writer ignores the fact that, legal or not, the drug will still be used. So, in my way of thinking, it would be better to legalize the drug and have the government of Canada responsible for the sale and distribution of the drug. This way the government could charge enough tax to keep the price at about the same level. Then, with the tax revenue, the government could possibly put more money into health care or into a system of educating the public as to the possible hazards of marujuana.

Also I would ask the writer to consider where the revenue from present "pot" sales is going. It sure as hell isn't going to you and me. And the people who are receiving this money surely are not donating it to build new hospitals. The underworld, organized crime groups, who control the distribution and sale of most illegal drugs, use the revenue from "pot" sales to finance other illegal activitites, such as hard-core porn, weapons smuggling and also to finance the import of the harder drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Unfortunately, the writer and many others, refuse to recognize this fact. They have the attitude that if you can't see it then it must not be there.

I grant you, the opponents to the legalization of marijuana, that the use and possible abuse of "pot", along with alcohol and tobacco, may be a problem in our society. But, I ask you, would it not be better to put control of the sale and distribution of the drug into the hands of the government. Since, by doing so, we could get a good grasp of the number and types of people who use it. Then, armed with this information we could set about to educate the users of the drug as to the health hazards instead instead of making criminals of these people (which I might add is a huge financial burden on the police, judicial, and corrections branches of the government).

I would suggest to the writer that instead of arguing on the basis of sentiment he should try using some logical and rational thought. I propose that, instead of bringing this debate down to a question of "for" or "against" pot, we should consider what would be the best way to deal with the issue while safeguarding the health and happiness of Canadians.

Darryl Boon
Arts 2

David Li's defence of Canada's marijuana laws in the latest issue of the Ubyssey was rather pathetic and in fact nothing more than an uninformed defence of the status quo.

I was not surprised to read Mr. Li's ignorant question, "Why should others have to justify the maintenance of the law?" Mr. Li is obviously implying that because a law exists it is justified and therefore it is up to those who oppose it to convince others it is wrong.

If we are to have an informed debate on the marijuana laws both sides should give sound arguments as to why marujuana should be legal or illegal. People like Randy Reiffer and Blair Longley make a very good case for the legalization of marijuana, whereas David Li is totally unconvincing.

Mr. Li's most problematic argument runs something like, "Society should collectively stop anything that is damaging to a person's health and therefore marijuana should be illegal because it causes health problems." Aside from the health argument, there is a more serious fallacy in Mr. Li's reasoning. For Mr. Li's information, our society does not hold that we should stop people from harming themselves with drugs, as can be witnessed by our tobacco and alcohol laws. Mr. Li should realize that his interpretation of Canada's health regulations is incorrect.

We must conclude that since Mr. Li and others like him are not arguing from a sound basis, they are attempting to enforce their groundless beliefs on the rest of us.

John Richmond
Philosophy 3

and the corporate media culture

In a large, old auditorium seething with tradition, a throng of bright, cheery, multiracial faces, clad in the 'uniform' of individuality — brand new Levi jeans, and shiny new white sneakers — anxiously await their leader.

In what could be described as a youth rally for the 18 to 20 year-old ad market, the hall echoes eerily as they clang the trademark aluminum cans above their heads in unison, chanting his name.

Finally, a single TV screen blips to life. The crowd roars, as the blond, blue-eyed,, computer-chiseled face chirps on screen. They laugh, on cue, and follow his command with utmost enthusiasm: drink Coke.

Nowhere is the myth of the benevolent corporate state, using and producing technology for the public good, more prevalent than in the media.

While Max Headroom's chipper delivery of "Catch the Wave" makes it seem hip to be part of the collective "we," it does more than capture the 'tradition' of drinking Coke. He is the cartoon spirit of the computer age, a popular and likeable character that puts a happy face on one of the world's most criminal multinationals.

In promoting the idea that technology and progress are inseparable, corporations become part of a twisted cultural logic that paints them as 'progressive' institutions.

That shows, across the mass media landscape. The computer age has spawned a legacy of 'technoculture,' from the Bionic Man to Go-Bots, to Westworld and Knightrider.

In fact, US president Reagan starred in a late 1950s movie called Murder in the Air, as a US pilot sent to destroy an enemy plane carrying a device which could destroy aircraft using a powerful electronic beam of energy— not unlike the Strategic Defense Initiative or 'Star Wars.'

Technology is made seductive, and despite its global threats, it is readily accepted as a natural extension of industrial, consumer capitalist economies. "Business as Usual" is the phrase applied to what former US president Eisenhower and Lewis Mumford termed the "military-industrial-complex," the interconnecting economy of defense contractors and government agencies that gives society its corporate structure.

Both as consumers and citizens, the public is hooked into that complex for a technological 'fix.' "Security" for example, is a key word in many ad campaigns. On a personal level, you might not make it through the day without the right underarm deodorant. On a national level, your country might be open to attack if you don't have the latest in nuclear weapons.

James Macintosh, a graduate student in communications at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., is researching the concept of technology as a cultural 'fetish' for his thesis.

Macintosh says technology has become a subject in itself, usurping traditional fantasy and folklore, and limiting our cultural landscape. The result, he says, is a greater popular acceptance for a 'technocratic' society, and the notion of a corporate (vs. social) welfare state.

Technology evades being labelled a 'fetish', says Macintosh. 'Fetishism' is usually seen as dark, primitive and feminine, leaving the 'rational' as male and logical.

"Technology has a male face," he says, adding that since culture tends to reinforce male figures of authority, it also reinforces the importance of technology in society.

In doing so, it also covers how technology causes social suffering, as when used by the military. "We are covering over irrationality with rationality."

Todd Gitlin, a professor of sociology and communications at University of California, Berkeley, is outspoken in his analysis of how the mainstream media frames images to reinforce the systems of power and privilege on which it is based.

In Watching Television: A Pantheon Guide to Popular Culture (Pantheon, 1986), a collection of essays he edited, Gitlin supports the notion that cultural devices can be used to mask corporate motives, and garner endorsement for technocratic values.

For example, he explains how by creating a mythical, surreal landscape of appearances, a corporation can sell anything from cars to law enforcement.

"We build excitement," is not only Pontiac's newest commercial slogan for cars, says Gitlin, "But about the current incarnations of America's perennial dreams: freedom, power, technology."

Gitlin says this style is a current through popular television and film like Miami Vice, which rely more on show than substance to create a false image of reality for entertainment.

From the simplistic legal forum of People's Courts to the comic book battle-scenes of the A-Team, in order to succeed, TV must come as close to the line of simulation as possible, without going over it, says Michael Sorkin in Watching Television.

This, in turn, puts news in the context of entertainment. By giving equal priority to images, writes Sorkin, "that makes a can of pop as consequential as a murder, that allows the cut from commercial to carnage, from starving babies in Ethiopia to Morris the Finicky Cat."

Not surprisingly then, he extends the analogy to America's top figurehead: "We all know that Reagan is only 'acting', but he's so damn good that we can't quite be sure."

In this sense, it becomes very easy for corporations like Pepsi, or politicians to co-opt popular or traditional themes and figures (like black musicians) to sell their image.

Pepsi's real operations behind their public spokesperson for the 'Pepsi Generation,' Michael Jackson, reveals a less innocuous picture.

Take, for instance, Pepsi president, Donald Kendall. Kendall was instrumental in securing Richard Nixon's first job on Wall Street. With Pepsi's extensive bottling plants in Chile, he later chaired a council of 40 multinational corporations that helped finance the CIA-backed 1973 coup that overthrew democratically-elected socialist president, Salvador Allende, and imposed the current fascist dictatorshop of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

"They don't want you to know that when you're drinking Pepsi you're helping a corporation that has set up a fascist regime," said long-time Canadian peace activist, Ken Hancock.

Reagan was elected by 'selling' his own patriotic vision of America. Using charm, rhetoric, and a nostalgic, inaccurate recounting of history, he is able to maintain a popular image despite policies that might otherwise be seen as disasterous and inhumane.

It is this kind of "fantasy of innocent power," says Gitlin, that led to the slaughter of three million Vietnamese, and 60,000 Americans in the Vietnam war.

Reagan's Star Wars vision comes from the "wishful premise" that whatever problems technology has caused, no matter how devestating, it can solve.

This, however, is not a point the commercial media is wont to stress, being owned and controlled by a few conglomerates. As part of the corporate system, the seeming dissidence of mainstream news is only aimed at deflecting any structural criticism against itself. Even the most 'credible' sources, such as TV network news, only give the public the impression they've made informed conclusions on their own.

The same irony is employed from TV news to advertisements, says Mark Crispin Miller in Watching Television, to preserve the status quo. "These corporations too pretend to take our side (while taking sides against us), defusing our rebelliousness by seeming to mimic it.

"AT&T advises us, through the soft-spoken Cliff Robertson, to reject its big, impersonal competitors, as if AT&T were a plucky little mom-and-pop enterprise; Apple likens IBM to a totalitarian state,as if Apple Computer Inc. were a cell of anarchists; GE depicts a world of regimented silence, its citizens oppressed and robotized, until the place is gloriously liberated by a hip quartet bearing powerful GE tape players, as if that corporation were a hedonistic set and not a major manufacturer of microwave ovens, refrigerators and — primarily — weapons systems."

The same comment applies to 'satirical' film produced by major corporations. After all, Columbia Pictures is owned by Coke, and Paramount by Gulf & Western which, among other things, owns enormous amounts of land in Latin America and Western Africa.

Robocop, now grossing millions across North American theatres, is being touted as 'satirical' entertainment, poking at the military corporate state, and the role of news media as mere entertainment.

But Sorkin's earlier comment about Reagan also fits here: Robocop is just an act, but it's so darn good we just can't be sure.

Films repeat the same deceptive 'subversions' as TV, says Miller. They debunk the macho heroism of the past by parodying genres such as the Western or spy-thriller, "yet preserving and intensifying the most hostile impulses of that defunct heroism: xenophobia, misogyny, paranoid anti-communism, each enacted graphically, and yet with a wink that tells us not to take it too seriously, however we might like it."

Robocop was shown for a mid term in Hissey's SFU course, asking, "Is Robocop a movie of the Right or of the Left ?"

"Students were split right down the middle," she says. "Some thought it was satire— at least open to subversive readings. Others though it endorses the status quo, the worst elements of technism and scientism in society."

Hissey sees valid points in both interpretations. She says the film does question the notion that technology and progress are inseparable, but also puts violence on a more mundane level of entertainment, endorsing a world without values or morals.

She believes there is room within the mainstream industry for clearly "oppositional" films, like Terry Gilliam's Brazil.

"It's a technowestern," says Macintosh. "It's entertainment first. The violence business is an aesthetic thing...That's the ideology of Hollywood."

Macintosh says despite satirical moments, the film reinforces the notion that technocratic goals override social ones. "It's the technocrats that win in the end, the corporation still has control of the military."

What Gitlin, Hissey and others stress is the crucial need for 'media literacy' — to educate the next generation of media 'consumers' to use critical analysis and see through the ideological role of the media.

But in recognizing Cold Warortechnocratic ideology in culture also comes a responsibility— the need to expose the roots of that ideology, and refuse consent for corporations and governments that threaten our very survival.

By Mike Gordon (CUP)