

# Litton 64 fined

**GUELPH, Ont. (CUP)** — The trial of the "Litton 64" is over, and the peace demonstrators who entered Litton industries' property last Remembrance Day have been found guilty of trespassing.

All 64, including several southern Ontario students, were fined \$75 each. Eleven defendants were also given one year's probation.

Defendants argued it was their duty as Canadian citizens to oppose the manufacturing of Cruise Missile guidance systems. But Justice of the Peace Paul Chandhoke rejected all arguments offered by defence counsels Peter Rosenthal and Mike Smith during the four-day trial.

Rosenthal, a University of Toronto mathematician, quoted Section 197 of the Criminal Code, which states everyone must provide the necessities of life for a spouse and child. And he argued the Canadian Charter of Rights guarantees the "right to life and security of the person."

Smith said the defendants were simply acting as responsible citizens. He cited the Nuremberg Principle 6, which says everyone has a responsibility to oppose crimes against humanity.

The Litton 64 contended their actions were necessary to prevent larger crimes. Rosenthal told the court: "It's like seeing a murder being committed in someone's backyard, so you jump the fence to prevent the murder, then the murderer charges you with trespassing."

On the day of the protest, some activists tried to speak to Litton management about converting its guidance system production to activity which would benefit society.

Other demonstrators attempted a citizen's arrest of Litton president Ron Keating for violations of the Criminal Code. They cited Section 46, treason by sale of military equipment that may endanger the safety of Canadians, and Section 79, making an explosive substance with intent to endanger life or cause property damage.

The court's refusal to hear the testimony of several expert witnesses hampered the defence.

Those denied expert witness status included anti-war activist and author Philip Berregan, Rosalie Bertell, who testified at the Nuremberg tribunal, Ernie Regehr, arms industry researcher and journalist, Frank Sommers, chair of Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow.

The testimonies were expected to prove to the prosecution that Litton's production threatens society. Justice of the Peace Chandhoke ruled the claims did "not relate to the charges before the court."

Many of the defendants explained their motivations for protest, vowing to continue their non-violent opposition.

Defendant Len Desroches summed up the feelings of many of the accused: "We found a way to physically express the urgency of the situation ... of the servant way we are willing to build and test the weapons which are only capable of genocide."

Another defendant Mike Irvine criticized the court's tacit approval of Litton systems. "By finding the demonstrators guilty, the court creates a deterrent for the prevention of future demonstrations, and is thus supportive of the government's war preparations which is immoral and, given the occurrence of a nuclear war, the court would be guilty of conspiracy to commit genocide."

Seven members of Guelph

Action for Peace are awaiting trial for their actions at Litton during the same Remembrance Day action.

Litton continues to manufacture the guidance system, which allows the cruise to approach its target undetected. Testing of the weapon began March 6 in Cold Lake, Alberta after a last minute bid to block the tests was rejected by Canada's Supreme Court.

## Shutdown!

**FREDERICTON (CUP)** — The student council at St. Thomas University effectively shut down the student newspaper, the *Aquinian*, by preventing its publication unless there's cash in the bank.

The move culminates a year of fierce battles over the paper's budget and content. The paper ran into debt and survived on money owed in advertising.

The motion, passed at council's Feb. 7 meeting, forces the *Aquinian* to gather enough advertising revenue in its account before it publishes.

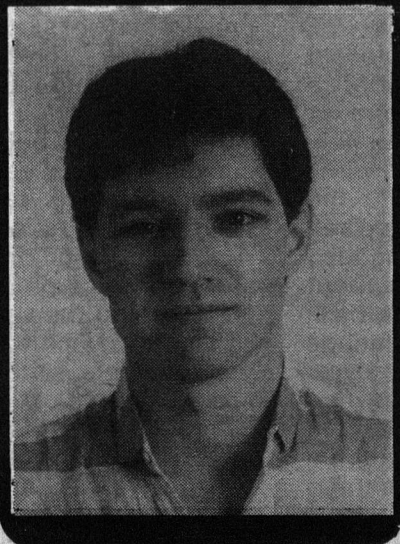
"We had allotted the money they had asked for," said student council president Barry Power. "They spent it and they should be willing to pull up their socks and do something for themselves ..."

*Aquinian* editor Peter Boisseau said the staff hopes to produce a paper independently of council.

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