

Rummage works for peace

analysis by Richard Watts
As the 'Peace Movement' gains momentum the lunatic fringe begins to capitalize on our increasing fear of nuclear war.

Mass disarmament rallies in Europe take on a Hitleresque feel as mobs mindlessly chant "Peace Now! Peace Now!"

Right wing paranoids scream the Peace Movement is all 'Moscow inspired'.

Right here in Alberta a group of radicals claims responsibility for dynamiting an electronics factory which makes guidance systems for American Cruise Missiles.

As the weirdos get more and more active we tend to forget that the concept of global peace has a more ordinary human side to it.

What could be more human and ordinary to us here in Edmonton than a rummage sale held in the basement of the Edmonton Ukrainian Centre.

Except that this rummage sale was held by the Edmonton Peace Council, a group devoted to increasing public support for a de-escalation of the nuclear arms race.

Explains Edmonton Peace Council president Roy Swift, "We hold these rummage sales and do other things to raise money to carry out our activities, like printing information, bringing in speakers....that sort of things."

Roy explains, "We (Edmonton Peace Council) exist entirely on donations and what money we can raise ourselves, we don't pay fees or dues. Any one who believes in peace can belong."

The rummage sale could be a clever front for the Soviets to divert money into the Edmonton Peace Council but I doubt it.

It was a typical rummage sale; smiling Ukrainian women selling pyrogies and weiners; people in-

quiring about the price of toasters and waffle irons; tables of clothes being sorted through by people in search of bargains.

It is sad such a scene would make poor press, since the rummage sale was a lot more comfortable than images of mobs burning effigies of Brezhnev and Reagan.

Says Emma Skewchuck, a member of both the Edmonton Peace Council and the Edmonton Ukrainian Centre, "We have to raise money so we can tell our governments to start helping people instead of killing them."

Then smiling, "I belong to the Ukrainian Centre and they let us rent the hall cheap."

Emma became involved with the Peace Movement after seeing the newsreel of the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

"I was very shocked at that time and thought that I had to do something," said Mrs. Skewchuck.

And Mrs. Skewchuck and those like her do something; it is low profile, it won't make the six o'clock news, but it is infinitely more humane than some of the activities of those who do make front page headlines.



A group of buyers look for a good deal as the anti-nuke rummage sale bangs out bargains.

photo by Zane Harker

NASA aims for moon

by Allison Annesley
The U of A Non-Academic Staff Association hammered out their first draft of demands for the Board of Governors last Wednesday at a general meeting.

The general meeting was in preparation for the actual bargaining process which will begin in January. Proposals approved cover employee benefits and working conditions primarily, rather than salaries.

Says NASA President George Walker, "We have historically keyed our pay demands to the general public employee salaries in Alberta."

NASA wants the Board of Governors to provide for rest breaks during work hours on visual display terminals, and the insertion of standards for the replacement, lighting etc. of V.D.T.s. Complaints associated with V.D.T.s have ranged from eye strain and back problems to general fatigue. Members have also expressed concern over the effects of V.D.T. radiation during pregnancy.

The Association approved a special resolution that would be included in their collective agreement to ensure the Board cannot discriminate against employees on the basis of age, sex, color, race, religious belief, place of origin, sexual preference, or place of residence, for participation in NASA.

One particularly controversial demand is that of pay-out for unused sick days. As the proposal now stands, compensation would equal one vacation leave for each unused illness day.

Sexual harassment is another contentious issue within NASA.

Members want a grievance procedure within their agreement. Says Walker, "We have had three or four cases over the past year that we have dealt with by meeting with people in the (affected) department and attempting to resolve the matter. Some of them we haven't been able to resolve."

Of University President Myer Horowitz' advisory committee to examine grievance procedures, Walker says, "We feel the committee is a good thing. But we generally prefer to have matters like that covered under the collective agreement so that they are final and enforceable."

Other collective agreement proposals state:

- that all overtime be voluntary. (As it now is for employees within the provincial government.)
- that more long service increments or raises in salary be available beyond eleven years service, where they now end.
- that seniority be university-wide to prevent older employees in specific units from being laid off before their newer counterparts at other units.
- that an initial pay raise be proposed at about 15% (figure not yet confirmed.)
- that the presently required statement of nature and duration of illness on medical certificates be deleted.
- that there be six months notice of job abolition.

It was also decided during Wednesday's meeting that the association will seek paid maternity leave. Six months unpaid leave is presently provided for.

New group protecting you

by Andrew Watts

The scene is a dark Edmonton street in the vicinity of Jasper Avenue.

An elderly man is walking back to his apartment after being kicked out of a bar at closing time. It's around 2:00 a.m.

Suddenly, the man is grabbed from behind and spun around to face his assailant: a young man wearing a small toque. He demands the elderly man's wallet.

On the other side of the street six young men witness the attack, one cries out and points in the direction of the tussle. Five of the six race across the street towards the scene, the other sprints in the direction of the nearest phone booth.

Upon seeing the five figures racing towards him, the attacker flees. Now, three of the onrushing five break off and make pursuit of the by now confused and terrified assailant. The remaining two stay by and comfort the flustered old gent. Soon the police arrive and soon after that the assailant returns in the grasp of his three pursuers.

This well coordinated action may suggest to you that the group of six young men were not Dick, Harold and the boys trying to find their car. That's right, these six men are part of a group known in town as the Western Protectors.

The Western Protectors is a group whose formation was conceived some one and half years ago by their leader, Gayla Weekes.

Despite the similarity to the Guardian Angels Weekes claims no prior knowledge of that group prompted her to form the Protectors.

Weekes says that she formed the group because she saw no better way to help people than directly. "I always have been interested in volunteer work," Weekes says.

Weekes explained that she was alarmed by the increasing incidents of attacks and muggings in the city and

by the time involved in normal police action.

Comments Weekes, "If a person sees a crime taking place and they phone the police, it takes them (the police) ten minutes to get there and by that time the guy's got away."

With the Western Protectors, the action is direct and swift. If the group manages to apprehend an assailant, they hold him until the police arrive.

The police in this regard are on uneasy terms with the Protectors. Lance Beswick of the police department says they do not disagree with the group yet they don't endorse them either.

"They're worried about the civil liability and of the risk of injuries," says Weekes, who went on to say that she has checked with a lawyer and the group is operating on firm legal ground and no such liability exists. She also commented that the training schedule for members is extensive and applicants are screened before accepted.

"We have a four month training program, where members are taught self-defence and first aid," explains Weekes.

The instructors for all this, according to the Protectors leader, are experts.

"The self-defence instructors are eighth or seventh degree black belts and the first aid instructors have all taken courses and are experts in that field," she says.

Beswick again stressed that while the police don't discourage the group and can't stop it, they won't endorse it either.

"Anybody who goes to the aid of someone in distress can be congratulated," Beswick says.

The problem seems to be that, aside from the regular citizenry, the Western Protectors "actually go looking for it."

"When this happens," explains Beswick, "the risk of injury to the

group members and the general public increases dramatically."

The Western Protectors were actually operating in Edmonton for six months prior to being pulled off the streets for more legal training over the last two months. Yet despite this, Weekes maintains that the group is legal.

"We fall under the Good Samaritans Act," Weekes stresses.

According to the leader, the predominant sorts of crimes the group runs into are brawls, muggings and individual robberies. Through their first six months of operation none of the group members have been injured.

The patrolling groups of six carry no weapons, only flashlights and they are used primarily to guide them through dark alleyways. When a crime is witnessed, one goes to phone the police, three take after the assailant(s) and two stay by the victim. Weekes notes that many of the incidents have required the members to perform acts of first aid taught them during their training program.

That training and preparation does cost a lot of money. The group is supported by a local business and Weekes herself spends some of her own money. In addition, there is a membership charge of \$40 a month for the first four months and \$25 a month after that. Despite the cost, Weekes says she is deluged with applications.

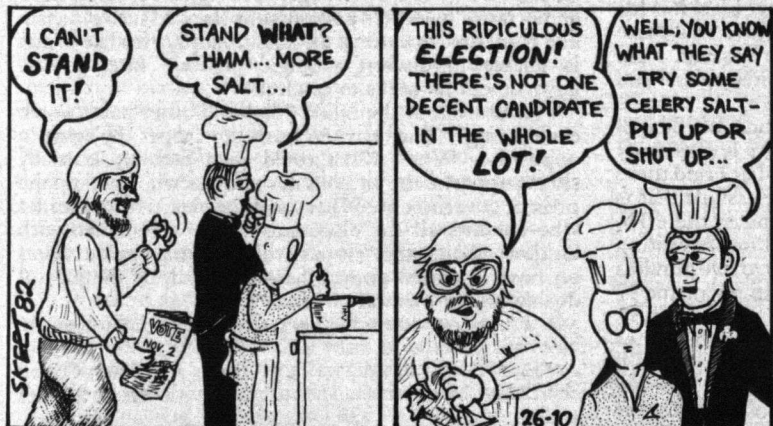
"We've received 175 applications this month," continues Weekes, "I think people are beginning to realize that they don't have to sit by, they can do something."

The minimum age requirement for a member is 16 and the average age of the group is about 22. Predominantly male, the membership now stands at 61.

The Western Protectors are located at 12546-126 st. The phone number is 453-2945.

BAZ

by SKEET and Nielsen



Attempted Sumor



by Abner Malle
Souls Leaving Student Bodies Will Be Penalized.

Faculty members are furious over the rising number of students using astral projection to cheat on exams.

As sociology professor Screechan reports: "I see a lot of students sitting absolutely motionless for great spans of time, almost as if in a trance. Then they seem to jump a little then begin writing on the exam booklet. Afterwards, while marking, I realize that a large number of answers match between students, expressly so in multiple choice exams."

Experiences along these lines have been studied by a committee appointed by the Dean. The task force has accredited such activity to astral projection.

Committee Chairperson, Rosie Butz, states, "Students with understanding of parapsychology leave

their designated bodies during exams; this accounts for the stunned, trance-like appearance professors have been reporting. These students then float around the room in spirit form. This gives them a clear, unobstructed view of other student's papers. When the souls return to their bodies, they simply fill in the computer card or booklet with the material they have just seen. Some people just have no integrity."

Although such actions cannot be prevented, the academic staff had been told to be aware of the problem. Professors have been instructed to disqualify the papers of any student caught out of his or her body during an exam. As well, they will be on the lookout for students using astral projection to skip a class spiritually.