

# Referendum on the bomb

Comment is an opinion column open to members of the University community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.

by Rob Matthews

We have the unique characteristic of being the only generation in the history of mankind to have grown up with the everpresent threat of the sudden and total annihilation of the entire human race.

The BOMB has been as much a part of our lives as winter, school, cancer and bilingualism. We have grown up to live with the fact that the end of the world is only a button away.

In the sixties we revolted against racism, marijuana laws and the Vietnam War and although minority rights were established, marijuana was decriminalized and the Yanks pulled out of Vietnam, nobody ever conceived of telling all the governments in the world to dismantle their nuclear arsenals.

Well, just such a plan is being seriously considered right now. A one time Toronto schoolteacher, Jim Stark, figures that an average of 95% of all the people in the world don't want the BOMB. So why don't we vote it out of existence? It sounds very idealistic but this proposal is getting some very serious consideration by some very influential people like Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary General of the United Nations. Under the auspices of the

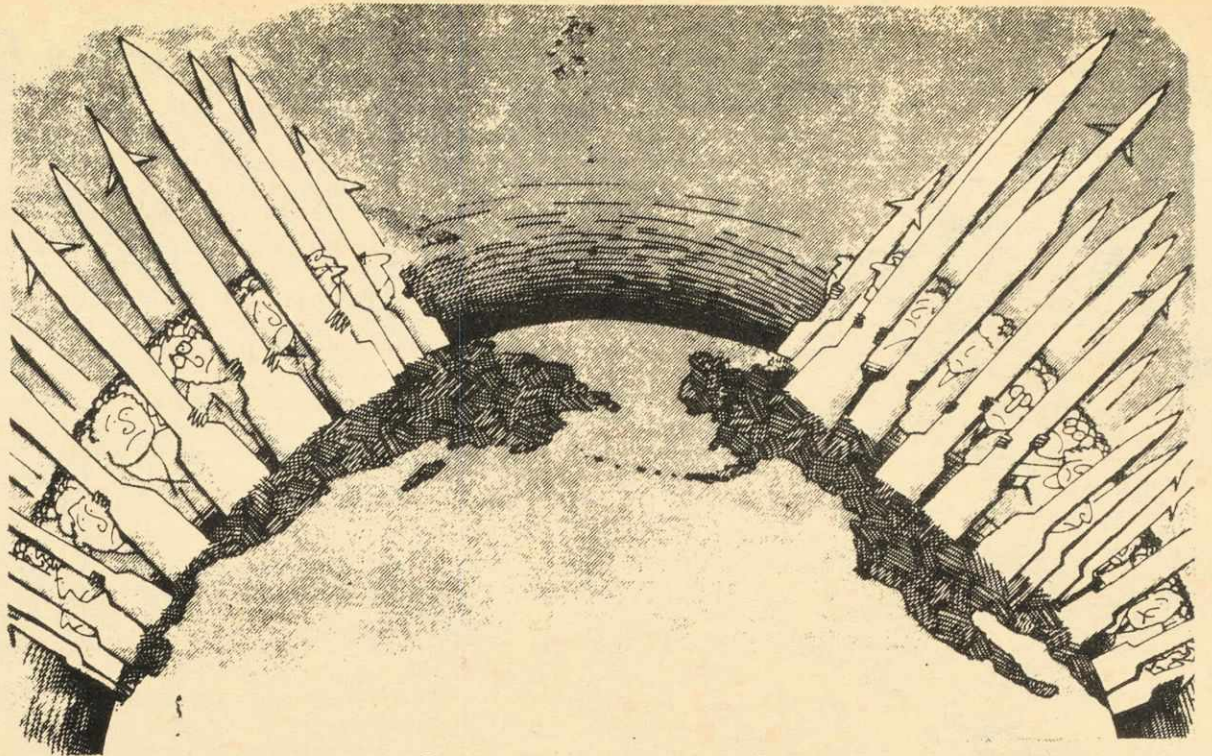
United Nations a Gallup poll or referendum could be held in every country of the world. It would be difficult for governments to ignore the demands of 95% of their people. When you think about it, how many people do you know who are in favour of the present world leaders' insatiable quest to stockpile more nuclear weapons than are mathematically necessary to blow up the whole planet? A Gallup poll has already been taken in Canada which showed that 95% of Canadians are in favour of total disarmament.

One of the statements on the ballot asks for a simple yes or no answer to:

"I am requesting the United Nations to impose total and permanent nuclear disarmament upon all the nations of the earth, to offer an effective peacekeeping force automatically to any nation that needs it, and set up whatever principles and procedures it takes to establish and maintain a world without war."

The proposal is called "Operation Dismantle" and for the first time in a generation someone has come up with a plan that is at least getting some attention and has offered a possible alternative to the ominous reality which we had come to unquestionably accept.

Can you imagine? The world can actually be a better place for our children to live in, if we vote yes for the BOMB to be gone forever! Happy New Year!



Speaking of human rights. . . .

Auth: Philadelphia Inquirer

## Military-industrial complex

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Military spending in Canada has more than doubled this year to \$4.4 billion, according to figures released by the Ministry of Defense.

Two billion dollars is being spent on 130 to 150 jet fighter aircraft equipped to carry nuclear warheads. Employment created by aircraft con-

struction will total about 3,000 jobs.

Considerable money is being spent on civil defense, and military forces in the west are being moved to position near Quebec. The Edmonton base has been closed down and these forces, as well as forces from B.C., have been moved to Camp Pettiwawa,

Ontario, and to just outside Hull, near the Quebec border.

This is happening the same time as massive billion-dollar federal cutbacks, which are estimated by Ruben Bellan of the University of Manitoba to put 100,000 more Canadians out of work this year.

## Nestle boycott having an effect

(CUP-HS)—Organizers of a boycott against the Nestle company, say that the boycott appears to be having an effect on the Swiss-based multinational company.

The Infant Formula Action Coalition, for five years, has been attempting to persuade Nestle to stop promotional practices which encourage bottle feeding in third world countries.

The critics say that poverty, inadequate medical care, and unsanitary conditions in Third World countries combine to

make bottle feeding, to quote a nurse in Peru, "poison" for babies in developing countries.

Gordon Pedersen, a spokesperson for Infant, says the protest appears to be shaking the Nestle company, because the firm flew several representatives from Switzerland to Minnesota recently to meet with Infant organizers.

Pedersen adds that Nestle has started sending representatives to various colleges and committees in the U.S. to give the company's side of the

controversy.

Last week, the National Council of Churches, an umbrella group for several hundred churches across the U.S., voted to join the boycott.

Nestle does not market infant formula in the U.S. Protest organizers, instead, are asking consumers to boycott the company's other products, some of which include Nestle's Quick, Nescafe, Pero, Berringer wines in California, Stouffer's food products and Libby's food products.

## Emotional scene on picket line

CASTLEGAR (CUP)—Tempers flew and tears flowed at the Selkirk College campus here November 29 when striking clerical, maintenance and security workers attempted to close the campus with a mass picket at the entrance.

Most instructors and most

of the remaining students (about one third have left since the strike began) crossed the line, some hurling expletives, some in tears, but classes were finally cancelled by the disruption.

As the strike entered its sixth week the next day,

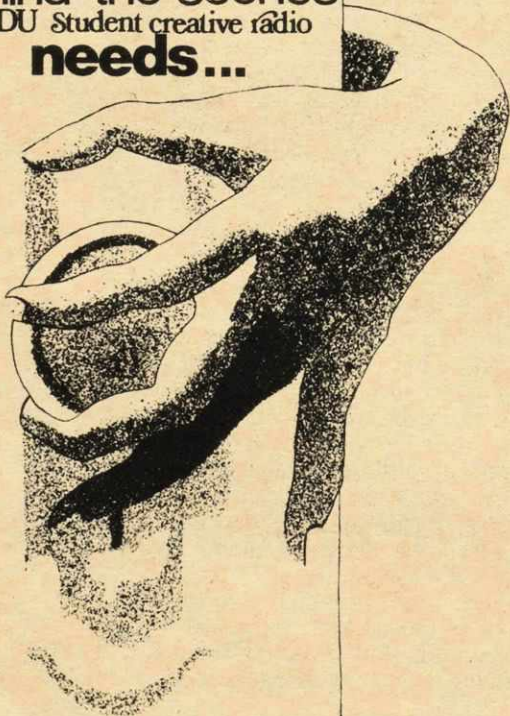
Selkirk students conducted a funeral for the death of education in the area.

They had been briefly tantalized earlier in the week by a promise by B.C. education minister Pat McGeer that government legislation would end the strike within two weeks.

The next day, however, B.C. labour minister Allan Williams said no government legislation is planned and the Essential Services Act could not be used to force the strikers back to work.

A mediator appointed by Williams had been meeting with the union and school negotiators for a week without apparent results.

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