

Hungry for money

By MICHAEL A VLAHOS

The Hunger Project is a world wide organization boasting a membership of 5 million people who are dedicated to ending world hunger by the year 2000. The organization believes it can achieve this goal through the principals with which the organization is based upon.

First, its members must commit themselves to the organization and its goal through a donation or through volunteer canvassing of others. Second, its members must educate themselves about hunger and the hungry. Lastly its members must commit themselves to educating others about hunger and the hungry.

The Hunger Project stresses the point that these principals will create a world wide interest and indeed a world wide coalition of people who will generate the momentum needed to achieve the means with which world wide hunger will be eliminated.

The Canadian branch accumulated one million dollars in dona-

tions in the last two years. From this sum there hasn't been any reported grants to hunger relief organizations. Its United States counterpart accumulated seven million dollars in 1985 alone, of which a mere 3% was donated in grants to hunger relief organizations.

Clearly the Hunger Project has the membership and the means to do something more concrete about achieving its goal. Why then does this organization persist in talking about it?

The answer to this question may have something to do with EST and its founder Werner Erhard, who is coincidentally the founder of the Hunger Project.

EST is a quasi-religious self-discovery movement that is surrounded in controversy over its alleged practice of mind bending. This is a psychological technique that involves the diversion of one's attention away from reality.

As a last result a participant may find it difficult to accept that their attention is focused on surreal concepts. Although it has

Given that the Hunger Project produces more philosophy than food on the tables of the hungry (despite its control of millions of dollars and, it would seem, millions of people), their attempts at separating the organization from its founder and at justifying the intentions of the organization simply do not stand on firm ground.

Despite all this, people continue to pledge their support and dollars to what appears to be a smoke screen of words surrounding countless millions of dollars unaccounted for. To the cause and purpose of the Hunger Project I tilt my hat, but I'm afraid that my donation will be much better spent on food for the hungry instead of the white collars and office spaces for the few.

been founded by Werner Erhard, Hunger Project organizers maintain their organization is legally and financially independent from EST. They also find it difficult to convince people that the principals of the organization are their own and not Erhard's ideas.

Glazov's logical fallacies

By CARLOS JAUREGUI

In his article, "Contra Sandinista", Jamie Glazov sheds some interesting facts concerning one of the lesser objections that have been brought against the Contras. His point is that the leaders and most of the members of the Contra forces are former members of Somoza's National Guard or secret police. Because these men by having taken part in these activities have discredited themselves and therefore do not deserve any claim to credibility. Mr. Glazov points out that many of the present leaders of the Contras have had no connections to the former National Guard and that the Contra forces are made up mostly of peasants and Mosquito Indians, and not former soldiers.

Mr. Glazov's conclusion seems to be that because the Contras are not the thugs their reputation has made them out to be, we should endorse their opposition to the Sandinistas. But this conclusion involves a logical fallacy; it's like arguing that because Hitler 'only' exterminated 6 million Jews instead of 10 million, we should not condemn him.

The question of the validity of Mr. Glazov's facts is not the substance of this article, but what is debatable is his insistence on concentrating on one aspect of the problem and to ignore the more significant ones.

The present leaders in Managua — the Sandinistas — are committed to Social Democracy as their primary goal, whatever may be their particular orientations. Social Democracy has as its central aim a strong commitment to social justice and equality of opportunity for everyone,

not just to the privileged, but to all members of society: the poor, the handicapped, the destitute, women and all ethnic groups.

Elections were recently held in Nicaragua, and according to even the most partial of observers, the elections were free of any government interference or involvement. Political parties of the right and the left were allowed to field candidates and the right even had access to its own newspaper, which was free to publish its own views (such a freedom would not be permitted in a Communist society). The Sandinistas received the highest popular support and this demonstrates that the Sandinistas are the legitimate representatives of the Nicaraguan people.

Under the Sandinistas, the people of Nicaragua have for the first time in their history had access to education on a large scale, such that the illiteracy rate dropped from a rate of 90% during Somoza's last year in power to 12% last year. Due to improved medical care and services the infant mortality rate has decreased dramatically.

During Somoza's dictatorial rule, 2% of the people owned 98% of all the fertile land; under the Sandinistas' program of land redistribution, in just 7 years this has been reduced to 40%. Even the business sector in Nicaragua conceded that the private sector has been allowed to flourish since the revolution. It is also significant to note that the majority of the leading Sandinistas are intellectuals, poets and former priests.

Despite these great achievements, there are a small number of groups who would like to see a return to tyranny in Nicaragua.

The Sandinista accomplish-

ments represent the achievement of genuine Christian principles as laid down by Jesus, yet the Sandinistas are continually harassed by the Catholic church.

Another group determined to defeat the Sandinistas is the U.S. Since the revolution in 1979, the U.S. has waged an illegal and undeclared war against Nicaragua on many fronts. On the economic front the U.S. has tried to impose economic sanctions and restrictions against Nicaragua which have contributed to slow down Nicaragua's rebuilding program. Let's not forget that the U.S. was only too willing to extend economic and military aid to Somoza, and that even today the U.S. is reluctant to impose economic sanctions against South Africa.

The U.S. has, through the CIA and the Pentagon, continued to train and arm the Contras fighting against the Sandinistas. In the past, the Contras have not hesitated to kill innocent people working in hospitals or schools, or to burn peoples' crops or homes. It should also be pointed out that the U.S. is not interested in democracy or freedoms of the individual outside of its leaders.

If the Contras were to succeed in their fight against the Sandinistas, they would have to impose a dictatorship and abolish many of the rights and freedoms that exist today in Nicaragua. The real enemy of the Nicaraguan people is not the Sandinistas, but the U.S. government and its trained killers, the Contras and those who have access to information but who, for whatever personal reasons choose to hide the real facts.

The One

"Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery"

The Only

Serving the university
Community since 1963

LOW PRICES

Jackets, Sweatshirts, T-shirts, steins, swimwear

Wholesale prices for your club, team group, etc.



Open THURS. EVENINGS

Maritime Campus Store

(1985) Ltd.

6238 Quinpool Road, Halifax

Retail 423-6523

Wholesale 429-3391



**"Downstairs
haven for the
young and the
restless —
definitely a
tavern with a
difference."**

SEA HORSE TAVERN

1665 Argyle Street,