

# No winners with weapons

by Paul Clark

With a backdrop of alarming facts about the buildup of military arsenals and the increasing threat of nuclear war, various speakers elaborated on the nature of the arms race and solutions to it at a conference at St. Mary's University this past weekend.

Project Ploughshares sponsored the conference on Canada's Foreign Policy in the 80's which featured speakers from the United Nations, Norway, Dalhousie University and the Russian Research Centre of Nova Scotia.

Peggy Hope-simpson of Project Ploughshares introduced people to the themes of the conference suggesting perhaps that "war has to be outlawed" and that "with today's weapons, there can be no winners". She questioned the public image of Canada as a peaceful nation, pointing out, for example, that "Canadian produced military commodities find their way around the world".

Hope-Simpson went on to isolate several issues she said should be of concern to everyone: the support of a Canadian defence industry; the continuing participation of Canada in NATO; the contradiction between Canada's declared foreign policy and its actions; and the growing absorption of the Canadian economy into the American.

The aim of Project Ploughshares, she said, was for Canada, with other countries, to break the deadlock in disarmament negotiations be-

tween the superpowers.

"Beating swords into ploughshares is not a unified industry yet, but just think what could be done", she concluded.

On the wall behind her in Theatre B of Burke Education Centre several posters boldly displaying the contradictions in the world's military expenditures: the world spends 20 times as much on the military as it does on aid to developing countries, for example, and 40 percent of the world scientific research and development is now devoted to military purposes.

Ronald Huisken, the co-ordinator of Disarmament and Development Research Projects at the U.N., spoke on the arms race and development needs. One of his main points was that politicians must learn to see security in being more than political, but involving the economic well-being of a country and indeed the whole world. Looked at in this way, he said, there is a lot of evidence showing military expenditures represent a drain on security.

He said there are several studies showing within a country that an increasing burden of military expenses clearly inhibited the growth rate of a country. Military expenditures are the least efficient for creating jobs, he said, and cannot compete with expenditures on education, housing, for example. Further, since arms can neither be consumed nor invested, they are inflationary.



He also said countries will have to take a more global perspective on the allocation of renewable and non-renewable resources. "The phenomenon of underdevelopment holds a profound threat to global security", he said.

"We need a review of the fundamental system of values on which industrial societies are based."

Ken Booth, a professor of political science at Dalhousie and an author of numerous books, challenged the posi-

tions of many at the conference by rejecting disarmament as a "non-starter".

"A world totally without arms is almost impossible to imagine and create", he said. "International politics is not a psychological game played by neurotics but about fundamental political and ideological issues."

"Military force is an inevitable part of statecraft", he added.

Booth criticized the U.N. as being out of touch with reality. He also said the prevailing ethos there does not allow one to raise questions such as whether increased security really would result from disarmament.

"Whenever they don't know what to do", he said, "they finance a study." But Booth claimed most politicians don't lack knowledge about disarmament, but political will.

Berit Aas, a member of the Norwegian parliament and a psychology professor, criticized Booth's presentation as being a series of unsupported statements. "I found I couldn't see the logic. I don't feel quotations and slogans make a conclusion", she said.

She accused him of contradicting himself in saying it is a waste of money to do disarmament studies at the U.N., but then not acknowledging how much money is wasted on arms expenditures. Aas cited Scandinavian countries as being examples, counter to Booth's claims, where money for military expenditures has been channeled into foreign aid.

## Council helps students fight court battle

by Paul Clark

Dalhousie Student Council is sending \$150. to support student Guy Heroux in his court fight against the Université de Montréal.

The university is charged Heroux with theft and posses-

sion of \$70,000 in cheques, which U de M students voted

to withhold in an assembly last March, protesting a

residence fee hike. Heroux, secretary of the U de M student council, followed the

assembly's mandate to collect and deposit the fees in his safety deposit box. He now risks serving up to 10 years in prison.

"It's a precedent setting case," said student council president Gord Owen, who moved the money be donated at last Sunday's council meeting. "If the U de M wins it

means no student group will be able to hold any tuition or fee strike. It would hold very ill for the student movement."

The National Union of Students (NUS) and the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) earlier voted unanimously to give their support to Heroux.

Some councillors said the decision to send money to RAEU, the Quebec student association supporting Heroux, might be construed as contradicting a previous decision not to provide funding to Project Ploughshares for a conference on Canada's foreign policy in the 80s.

"You don't have to convince me (about voting for the motion)," said Commerce representative Bruce McGowan. "But I don't want it

to be played up by the media."

Law rep Burt McCann said this is a situation directly concerning the student union, and "we would be very derelict in our duty if we didn't send money to the defence fund."

"Project Ploughshares did

not have a direct link to the university, there was no

recognizable benefit to us in giving them money," said

Health Professions representative Marie Gilkinson. "But here there is."

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ed president Gord Owen how seriously he was taking the questions raised by Rans.

Owen replied that as the largest institution in the Maritimes, Dalhousie has to take a leading role on the social issues coming to council.

"To date we haven't," he continued, "and although we aren't entirely to blame, we are to some degree."

Vice-president Jeff Champion then attributed Rans' complaints to part of a larger problem — student apathy.

"But are we doing anything important enough for anyone to know about?", persisted Zayid. "Are we doing anything worthwhile or could everything be handled by John Graham and his staff?"

Owen responded by asking councillors if they could

justify what they were doing in the room right then.

There was no answer.

Owen said rooms 410-412 had been reserved on Wednesday night at 7:00 so councillors could engage in a discussion about their roles. Zayid and others said they could not attend at this time and began an unresolved dispute about where and when this should take place.

"I'm willing to sit down anytime," said Owen. "But only two people in the last six months have come in and asked what their roles and responsibilities are. I sit in this office 12 hours a day and I don't see you."

Owen said he thought one way the problem would be solved was with the long awaited publication of the councillor's handbook which he said would be ready before the next meeting.

## 5,000 march in Montreal

MONTREAL (CUP)—More than 5,000 demonstrators marched to the Université de Montréal October 22 to protest theft charges laid against a student by the university.

Chanting slogans, the demonstrators, mostly student delegates from CEGEPs and universities throughout the province, peacefully protested the case of Guy Heroux, whose preliminary hearing began October 23.

Heroux is charged with theft when he collected rent payment cheques from university residence students to protest a hike in fees. Residence students had given Heroux a mandate to withhold the cheques.

While the major issue of the demonstration was to pressure the administration to

drop the charges against Heroux, there were many placards and slogans supporting the U de M in their fight against the university's demand for a permanent injunction to stop fee strikes and boycotts.

After two hours of rallying and marching, the demonstration ended with a mass gathering in front of the U de M's administration building.

"Welcome to the prison of Montreal", said one student.

In addressing the crowd, Heroux said, "we are showing what the student movement will be like for the next ten years."

Picket lines were set up in front of the municipal court house where Heroux will face prosecution October 23.