

Commentary

Power-tripping and infiltration of peaceniks

The Case Against Disarmament

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to discredit the notion that the disarmament movement is a truly spontaneous and homegrown response to the threat of a nuclear holocaust, and the perception that one should join this movement if one wishes to advance the cause of peace.

First of all, KGB and Communist-front influence permeates the leadership of the disarmament movement. I will cite several examples from Western Europe to illustrate this point.

In April, the Netherlands expelled a KGB agent (ostensibly a Tass reporter) who had boasted, "If Moscow decides that fifty thousand demonstrators must take to the street, then they take to the streets." In October, the Danish government arrested one Arne Peterson as a Soviet spy. (He had had 23 meetings with KGB agents in Copenhagen.) This is significant because Peterson was the sponsor of the Oslo-to-Paris peace march. Norway and Portugal have also expelled KGB agents for engaging in similar activities.

Closer to home, Soviet agents attended all the early strategy

sessions of the important US disarmament groups. (The same practice was probably followed in Canada.) For example, in March 1981, the KGB's Uri Kapralov attended the first meeting of the American Nuclear Freeze Campaign. Kapralov was also present at the birth of the Riverside Church Disarmament Program. Included on the Riverside movement's executive are prominent leftists William Sloane Coffin and Cora Weiss. Coffin recently called for the surrender of the democratically-elected El Salvadorian government to the Communist rebels, while Weiss was formerly a polemicist for the Viet Cong and the Hanoi régime. One is not a McCarthyite for questioning their devotion to liberal-democratic principles.

In addition, a leading disarmament group is the World Peace Council. The WPC is a Soviet front, as is its American affiliate, the US Peace Council. The WPC's president — Romesh Chandra — is a member of the Indian Communist Party.

It is necessary to note that there is no disarmament movement in the Soviet Union. In fact, Tass denounced Russia's only independent peace group — the

eleven-member Committee to Establish Trust Between the USSR and the USA — as a criminal organization "sponsored by Western secret services." Thus, the disarmament movement puts asymmetrical pressure on the West, something the Soviets knew it would do.

Soviet and Communist-front sponsorship of disarmament groups is consistent with that tenet of Leninist strategy which holds that

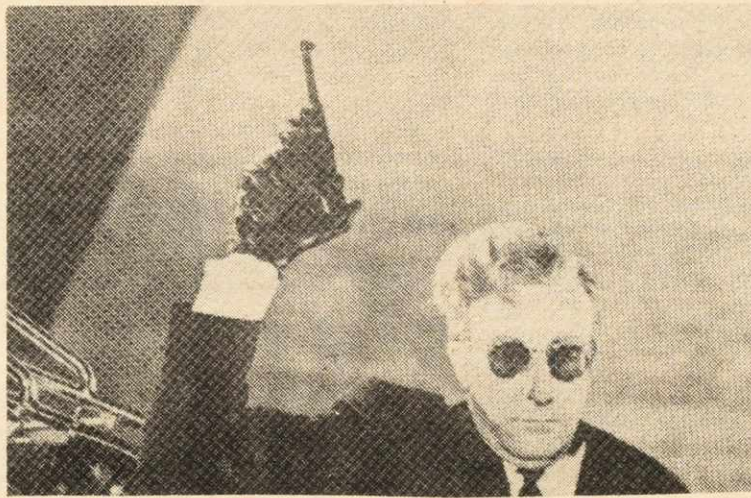
Communists should strive to weaken the military of non-Communist nations. Moreover, a nuclear freeze would place the West in a dangerous geo-political situation. Our superiority in nuclear weapons used to offset the Soviets' advantage in conventional weapons. However, the Soviet nuclear buildup has destabilized this balance of terror. If the disarmament groups prevent Western governments from redressing this balance they increase

— rather than decrease — the likelihood of war.

Some disarmament groups point to Andropov's proposals as evidence of the USSR's sincerity in terms of arms control. Yet Andropov was the eminence grise behind the suppression of the Hungarian revolution and the assassination attempt on the Pope. Such a man does not want peace, except possibly in the Marxist sense of the word.

The facts in this letter (article) are but a sampling of the massive body of evidence that the Soviets and Communist-front groups have their fingers in the disarmament pie. I am not claiming that all those who favour disarmament are Communists or Communist sympathizers. Certainly not! The vast majority — especially in the rank and file — are well-meaning individuals who are genuinely repulsed by the idea of nuclear war. However, despite their good intentions, they are placing the West in a perilous position — militarily and geo-politically — vis-à-vis the Soviet bloc. For this, and for naively accepting Soviet "peace" initiatives as genuine, they can be justifiably condemned.

Yours cordially,
Glen Johnson



Dr. Strangelove learning to love the bomb

Letters

Slander not freedom of speech

To the Editor:

Last week's letter to the Gazette entitled "Disarmament is Necessary" by J.E. MacInnis is clearly an attempt to defame my character and reputation. Rather than using logic in his argument against my views, he stoops to the use of malicious slanders against my person, contrary to the false impression given by MacInnis, I am not "a deadly lunatic".

The truth is that I feel strongly about some issues. On most issues, I am either indifferent or open to the arguments of both sides. What I resent most is being falsely labelled because I happen to have strong views on a certain topic.

I agree that, in a democratic society, free discussion of issues is important. However, freedom of speech also has its limits. Free speech ceases to be "free" when it is used to falsely attack another's character and reputation.

Craig Carnell

In defense of Hunter S. Thompson

To the Editor:

This is in reply to the Jim Lotz letter criticizing the upcoming lecture by Hunter S. Thompson.

Mr. Lotz seems to think that Mr. Hunter's fee could be better spent on regional literary talent.

While recognizing the need to support and sponsor Maritime writers, I also feel that Mr. Lotz failed to realize the rare privilege bestowed on the Dalhousie student body.

Through his books on the 1968 & '72 U.S. presidential elections, H.S.T. gave a unique, insightful and internationally acclaimed account of Nixonian power politics. His classic work *Fear and Loathing in Los Vegas* captures in print the force, emotion, and unconformity of the late sixties. In short, H.S.T.

personifies the radicalness of that generation.

Hunter S. Thompson speaking engagements are infrequent, though in high demand. He makes a paltry half dozen lectures a year. This spring Dalhousie students will be given the experience of one of these rare public appearances. Don't miss it.

Jeff Jones

Calculus grades incalculable

To the Editor:

Lately there has been much complaining among first year calculus students to the effect that their marks have been "scaled down". On a recent visit to the math department office I inquired as to the facts surrounding this rumour, and was assured by a gentleman in this office that this bellyaching by calculus students is based solely upon their misconception as to what "scaled down" means. This gentleman assured me that anyone under the impression that a mark of 85% will yield a grade of A- is sadly mistaken and that the grades are set exactly as they should be.

The mistake made by the complainers is, in all fairness, an honest one. Upon observing that there are ten passing grades (that is D through to A-plus) which correspond to the range of marks from 50% to 100%, I myself lived with the delusion that each grade would correspond to a 5% range of marks, such that 80% will yield a B plus, 85% an A-, and so forth.

Such is the naive mind of the freshman, but not so those infinitely wiser minds of the math department, who know that the fraction of the students to receive a given grade must remain constant from year to year. Thus, 1% of the students must receive an A plus, 20% an A, and so forth. While it may seem absurd to some that under the current system a mark of 70% could conceivably yield a grade of F, the alternate system could cause the even more absurd situation where less than 20% of the students would fail calculus.

I am sure that no reader could possibly dispute the superior-

ity of the current grading scheme. There is no other way the mathematics department could keep the grades consistent, short of learning to produce examinations of consistent difficulty. This system is based upon the soundest and most accurate of socioeconomic inferences as to how students will perform.

Initially this system would have got off to a bit of a shaky start, but after a few years of always giving grades in the same proportions the inferences would become much more accurate. As long as students realize that a grade is not indicative of one's performance relative to the subject matter of the course, but instead indicative of one's performance relative to other students, everyone should be as happy as clams over their calculus grades.

Stephen Conrad

Pharos wants grad photos

To the Editor:

I want to clear up a few questions regarding graduation photographs for the 1983 yearbook.

- 1) If you are graduating this coming spring or FALL, you should have your picture taken by February 1, 1983 if you wish to appear in the yearbook.
- 2) Arrangements have been made with the major local photographers (advertised in The Gazette) to supply us with the black and white photographs we require. All the student must do is book a sitting by February 1.
- 3) The photographers have the necessary gowns and hoods on hand.
- 4) Graduating students have paid for the yearbook through student fees and will receive the book upon publication. Other students may order yearbooks through the PHAROS/Yearbook office.

continued to page 6