

gateway

Tuesday, October 25, 1983

The only hope...

...is despair

March attracts 1400

Over 1400 people demonstrated against the nuclear armament race by marching from City Hall to the Alberta Legislature last Saturday.

The demonstrators were part of a worldwide protest organized to kick-off United Nations Disarmament Week (Oct. 22 to Dec. 1).

Several disarmament groups, including the U of A group for disarmament took part in the demonstration which focussed against the testing of the cruise missile in Canada.

The demonstrators were joined by 1.3 million others in West Germany, another 400,000 in London, England, and millions more - from virtually every population centre in the world.

There will be several activities aimed at raising awareness on the arms race throughout the week.

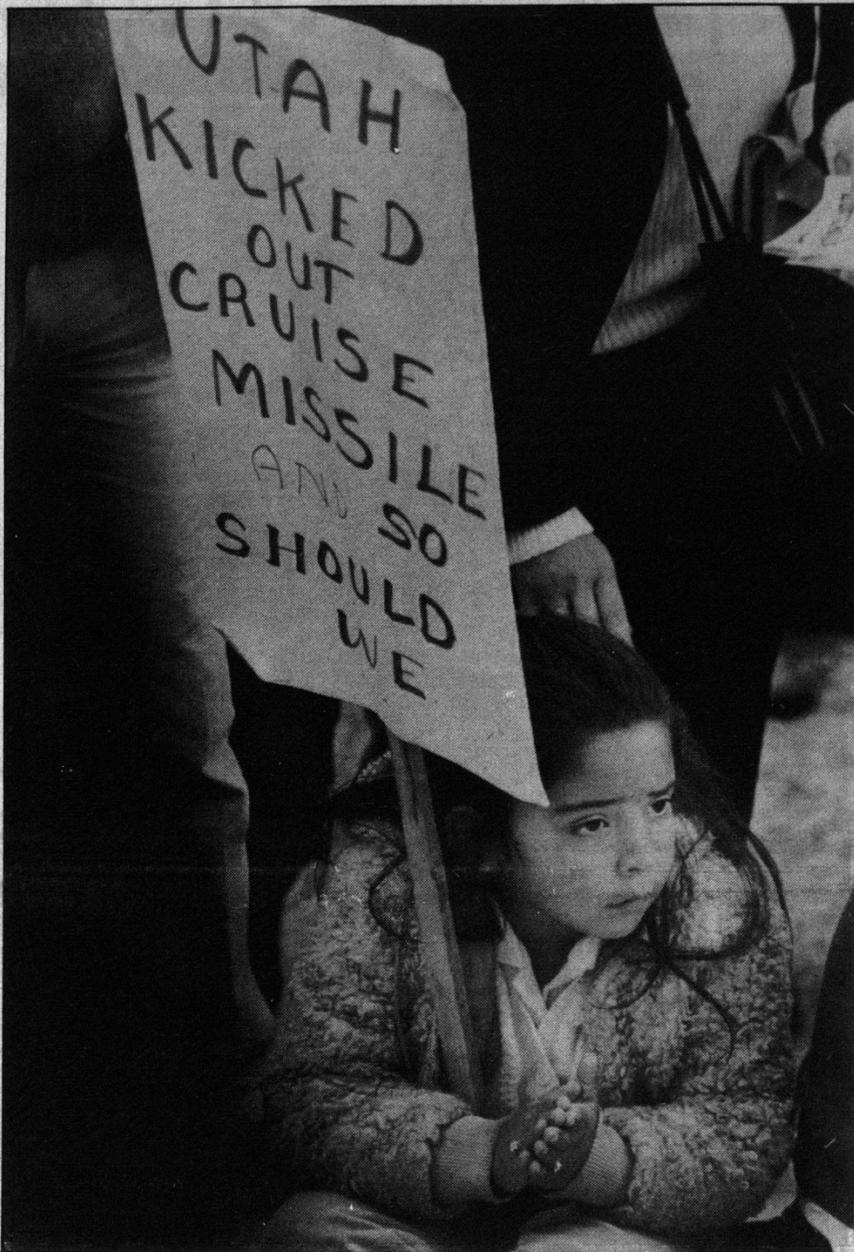
Tuesday, Oct. 25: Two films, *In the King of Prussia*, and *Dark Circle*, will be showing at the Citadel at 7:15 PM and 9:15 PM.

Thursday, Oct. 27: Two delegates to the Prague Peace Conference will be speaking at 11018-97 street at 8:00 PM.

Friday, Oct. 28: A forum on the implications of the arms build-up will be held in Room 4-114 Education North at 3:00 PM.

Saturday, Oct. 29: There will be a phone-link with E.D. Thompson on the Unofficial East European PEace Movement in the Multi-media room, Education North at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, Oct. 29: A peace education workshop will be held in Room 255, Education South at 1:00 PM.



This youngster decided to take a break during the anti-nuclear war protest at the Alberta Legislature on Saturday. The demonstration was the start to Nuclear Disarmament Week.

Federation referendum passes

by Mark Roppel

Undergraduates at the U of A are now members of the Canadian Federation of Students.

Friday's referendum on joining the Federation passed by 55.1 per cent. There were 1811 YES votes, 1470 NO votes, and two spoiled ballots. Fourteen per cent of students voted.

"I can guarantee that count within one vote," said Chief Returning Officer Glenn Byer.

"I just hope now that we've joined, the people who were against membership and who had some complaints - some of them legitimate - can work to improve CFS," said Jim Weir, spokesperson for the CFS-YES campaign. "It's obvious students want a united voice, we must make that voice as effective and as representative as possible."

However, there is a slim chance that the referendum will be overturned.

Third Year Science student Gordon Stamp plans to appeal the referendum to the Discipline Enforcement and Interpretation (DIE) Board.

DIE Board has the power to declare the referendum invalid and order a new campaign.

Stamp claims he was unable to start a NO campaign and that he found election posters still up on the Friday of the referendum. The campaign officially ended last Thursday evening at 9:00. If any campaign material is left up after the official close of the campaign, this constitutes a breach of the election bylaw of the Students' Union Constitution. (See story page 3).

When asked whether he thought Stamp's appeal had any chance of succeeding, Jim Weir said, "I don't think so. I really don't know why the guy is doing this."

The reason there was no NO campaign is that no one came forward with the required petition of 100 signatures and applied to manage the anti-CFS campaign. The official NO and YES committees are entitled to \$1450 from the Students' Union, and are the only bodies which can legally campaign.

There was a small amount of illegal campaigning. Stamp spoke in some classrooms and at least eight NO posters were put up Thursday night and Friday morning. The posters feature a hammer and sickle and say "vote no for CFS." The posters were sponsored by the "campus right wing old boys."

Jim Weir dismisses the posters as a "smear campaign... full of allegations of communism, we don't need that, it was obviously done by people who had no idea of what CFS was."

But Weir does agree with Stamp that the campaign suffered for the lack of an official NO campaign. "It would have been nice to have a bigger turn-out, the lack of a NO committee kept the profile of the whole thing low. The profile of CFS could have been raised."

The last referendum held at the U of A on joining a national student movement was the National Union of Students (CFS' predecessor) in 1979. This referendum managed to draw 25 per cent of students out to the polls after a heated campaign in which NUS was charged with trying to undermine the capitalist system. The NUS referendum was defeated by 66.5 per cent.

CFS received its strongest support in HUB mall where the vote was 301 to 147 in favour of joining. The referendum also passed at the polls in Education, Tory, Lister Hall, Rutherford, SUB and V-Wing. The only major polls to go against the Federation were the two polls in CAB. The vote at CAB North was 285 to 249; at CAB South it was 151 to 124.

Glenn Byer estimates the referendum cost \$5000.

Press restricted by law

by Mark Roppel

If Sally Fields lived in Canada she would be in trouble.

Because, according to Robert Sheppard of the *Globe and Mail*, there is "nothing in Canadian Law about absence of malice."

Sheppard, along with *Edmonton Journal* editor Stephen Hume, was speaking at a forum on *Media Freedom and Responsibility* last Thursday.

Sheppard said Canada has "the most stringent libel laws of the Western democracies," and expressed concern that "we have not developed the same freedom of speech as the Americans."

Sheppard blamed the libel laws for a "cautious approach to reporting generally."

He cited the case of Alan Fotheringham being sued by Jim Coutts.

"If charged with libel," Shep-

pard said, "anything you say later can be used." As a result, Fotheringham was unable to say much about Coutts until the case had been heard.

The *Globe and Mail* is often "sued by people to tie us up in the courts so we don't say anything more," said Sheppard.

Stephen Hume was also fearful of repression of the press, but on a broader scale. "Never before have we seen such a large effort to channel the press. He referred to the attempt by some Third World nations, with Soviet-backing, to have restrictions and guidelines placed on foreign correspondents. "Most Western democracies are concerned about the attempt to license working journalists in foreign countries," said Hume.

Closer to home, Hume talked about the right of journalists to

have access to the courts.

"There is a great movement afoot around the world, and here in Canada, to make the press a special case. You're seeing more and more attempts to narrow and restrain the way in which the press reports.

Probably the most obvious institution (where this happens) is in the courts. We are finding, with greater and greater frequency, the formal mechanisms of law are being used to restrict the press from what ordinary citizens can do."

Hume pointed out that any citizen has the right to go to court and witness the proceedings: "If a citizen can sit in court and go out and have a cup of coffee and tell a friend what he witnessed, the press should be able to do the same thing... we should not be made a special case."

Gateway comics edition coming this Thursday!