

# THE GAZETTE

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## Opposition to proposed arms plant

By LOIS CORBETT

OPponents TO A WEST German company's proposal to build an armoured tank manufacturing plant in Cape Breton say the federal and provincial governments are using economic blackmail to push the area's unemployed into accepting jobs without any questions.

Shirley Hartery, a member of a Port Hawkesbury peace and development committee, says Cape Breton is in a "vulnerable economic position", but she hopes the negative reaction the proposal has generated will persuade the government to turn it down.

"It is tied into the whole arms build-up debate and suddenly, it's right here on our very own doorstep, and we really have to take a stand against it," says Hartery.

Federal Defence Minister Eric Nielsen confirmed last Friday that the federal government is considering a proposal from Thyssen, a major West German arms manufacturer, to build an arms plant in Bear Head Point, outside Port Hawkesbury, to export tanks and armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

Neilsen said the Thyssen proposal is one of "several hundred inquiries received with respect to the establishment of businesses in the Cape Breton area."

Both provincial and Cape Breton municipal politicians have welcomed the firm, with Nova Scotia premier John Buchanan telling reporters "you're darn right we would (accept the plant). We want jobs," and Port Hawkesbury mayor Almon Chisholm saying he is "delighted. I support the venture 100 per cent."

Buchanan says the proposal could create more than 4,000 direct and indirect jobs in an area where unemployment is among the highest in the country.

But Muriel Duckworth, a spokesperson for the Halifax Voice of Women, says Buchanan is "irresponsible and immature" in his quick approval of the Thyssen proposal.

"He will not recognize the long-term implications of this proposal. He is being immature. Instead of thoughtfully examining the issue, he says it's a great idea," says Duckworth.

"These kinds of jobs are not a decent option for the unemployed in Cape Breton," says Duckworth. "It's been proven that arms production is the most expensive way to produce jobs. Dollar for dollar, it takes more money to provide jobs in military production than in any other industry."

Hartery says her committee realizes there are a lot of unemployed young people in the area, "but our rationale, as part of peace and development, goes

beyond having jobs."

"When I first heard of the plant I got a lump in the pit of my stomach and it just stayed there. I can't even get rid of it by not thinking about the plant. I'm fearful that the issue is this close to my home. What's happening in Cape Breton is very similar to what is happening in many third-world countries," says Hartery.

Hartery says she does not publicly battle her town's politicians, but she wants her side of the issue presented. "We want people to see all the sides. We are not out to make enemies, but we have a right to present our case and state our point of view."

No one in Port Hawkesbury where the unemployment level has increased 40 per cent in the last year opposes jobs, says Hartery, but the area needs employment that has "dignity".

"There is no dignity attached to a kind of job where the end product is used against people," she says.

Hartery was one of many of Port Hawkesbury's weekly paper the *Scotia Sun's* readers to condemn the Thyssen proposal. Other writers have denounced the proposal and the politicians who welcomed it, one saying the area was "saddled with what appears to be a majority of politicians who wouldn't know a moral issue from a breadfruit."

Sheila Pitt, the *Scotia Sun* editor, says the letters to the editor

are "mostly against the plant. But I don't think the majority of the people in Port Hawkesbury are opposed to it, just the majority of letter writers."

Pitt's editorial immediately after Neilsen confirmed Thyssen's proposal calls on politicians to attract "other options" to Cape Breton.

## Youth ignored

By DWIGHT SYMS

UNLESS SOMETHING IS done immediately, many youth will never have jobs in their lifetime, says the Report of the Special Senate Committee on Youth.

The report, tabled last week on the floor of the Senate, outlines social, economic and educational problems currently facing youth, and lists 26 recommendations designed to alleviate the problems.

"The message we are trying to get across is that we are not facing an ordinary situation," says Senator Jacques Hebert, chair of the Senate committee.

Hebert is touring the country speaking on the results of the committee's work and the need for action.

At present, the unemployment rate for youth, people between the ages of 15 and 24, is 18 per cent. An estimated 600,000 young people do not have jobs, and many more are underemployed, working at part-time jobs.

"The situation is intolerable," says Hebert. "We are paying the social costs."

He cites increases in the consumption of alcohol and drugs and in the suicide rate among youth as examples of the effects of unemployment.

"We have to create a notion of emergency. The emergency, however, is diffused in our society," says Hebert.

"Politicians in general are not worried about youth. The idea that Mr. Wilson would have a budget without mentioning youth is incredible. The only mention of youth is the cancellation of Katimavik."

Hebert is one of the founders of Katimavik, a national youth program begun in 1976 and recently cut by the Secretary of State. The committee report endorses Katimavik and recommends the program be expanded.

The report also dedicates a chapter to the problems of Native youth. Six of the recommendations propose increased funding to Native youth programs and self-determination as solutions to their problems.

Other recommendations of the Senate committee include the establishment of a Canadian Youth Channel and of a "National Task Force" to study the educational qualifications and entrance requirements of secondary and post-secondary institutions. It recommends more cooperative education programs and community "Youth Action Councils".

"We propose Youth Action Councils where leaders of the community with an equal number of young people get together. They would solve the problems (in the community)," says Hebert. "Instead of looking at the immense problems, look at the fifty youth that are unemployed in our community."

## Strike delayed at NSCAD

By TOBY SANGER

FACULTY AT THE NOVA Scotia College of Art and Design have delayed a strike vote planned for yesterday, postponing the possibility of a walk-out for at least five or six weeks.

Alvin Comiter, president of the 42-member faculty union, says the strike vote was delayed because "last week for the first time we felt that we had started to make some progress at the negotiating table."

"The threat of a strike may have impressed the Board of Governors with the seriousness of the issue," says Comiter.

Student union president Sue Klabunde says students were divided over the strike issue. "They are very happy to see the negotiations continue so they can get along with school," she says.

The nine month old union has been negotiating since last July for its first collective agreement with no substantial progress until last week.

Although the college is the most expensive of its kind in Canada and the faculty are among the worst paid, the most contentious issues under

negotiation have been academic rather than financial.

The union has called for a decentralization of authority in the college by demanding procedures for just dismissal, a system of peer review with faculty, student and administration representatives, grievance procedures and academic freedom.

These provisions, common at other universities, do not exist at NSCAD, where virtually complete control rests with president Garry Kennedy's administration. Contracts are for a maximum of five years with no need for just cause being given when they are not renewed.

The faculty also wants an

increase in their salaries to achieve parity with the average for the region.

A confidential letter from the administration's lawyers leaked last week described these demands as being "exorbitant."

The letter stated the position union negotiators have taken displayed an "intransigent attitude" and outlined appropriate strike defence and public relations procedures for the administration to take in the event of a strike.

The ire of many faculty members was raised last November when Kennedy sent invitations to his Vancouver exhibition, which they took to be

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## Political survey

By HEATHER COUTTS

A POLITICAL SCIENCE class at Dalhousie University recently took a survey of the community's knowledge about political affairs, including South Africa, free trade and university education.

In the portion of the survey concerning South African issues, people with higher levels of education showed a better understanding of the situation in South Africa, said Elizabeth Vibert, one of the students conducting the survey.

Vibert also found that 83.9 per cent of post graduates believed that Whites are to blame for South Africa's problem while 40 per cent of junior high students believed Whites are to blame and

25 per cent of junior high students put most blame on communists.

Michelle Burrows, another political science student, said questions in the survey concerning free trade showed supporters of the NDP party to be highest in general awareness about free trade, while liberals were the lowest. Middle income and high income families were also most aware.

Burrows also found that Liberal supporters believe the nature of free trade issues is mostly political, while supporters of PCs and NDPs believe it is mostly economic. Most women believe it to be political and most men believe it to be economic in nature.

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