

## Navies gorge themselves

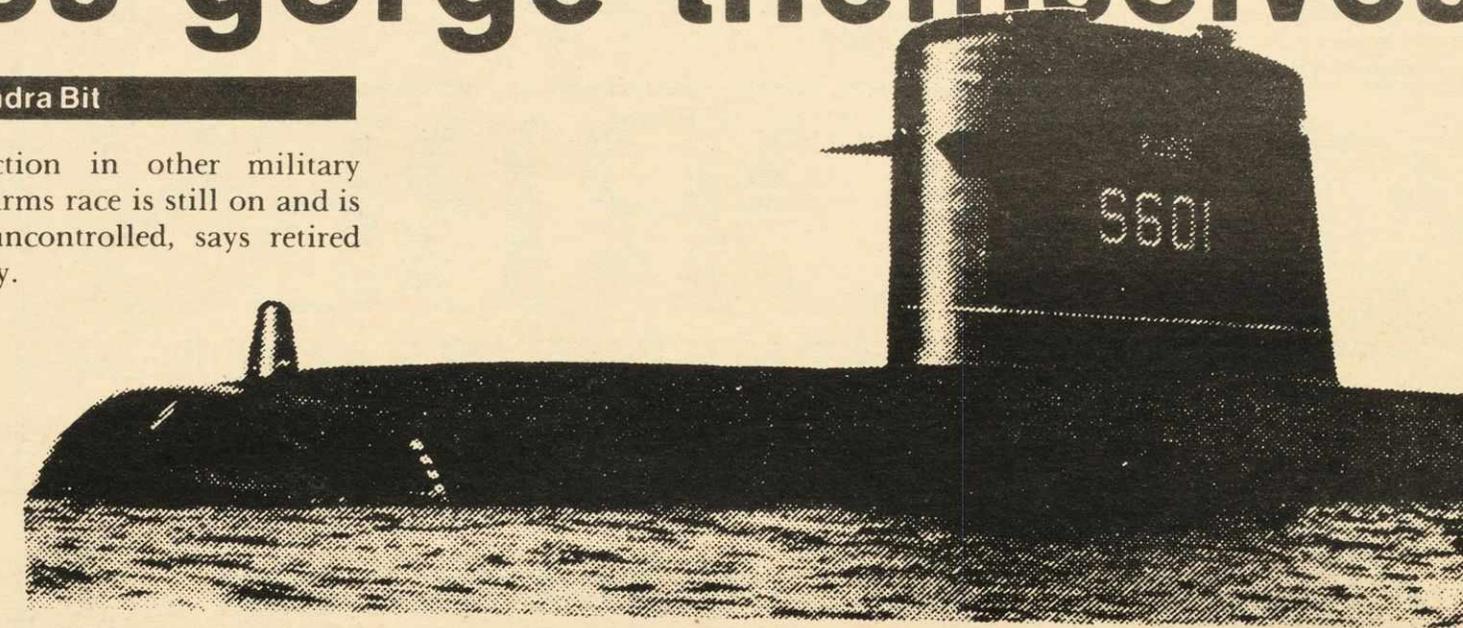
by Sandra Bit

**D**espite arms reduction in other military spheres, the naval arms race is still on and is becoming increasingly uncontrolled, says retired navy captain, R. A. Creery.

At a press conference held at the Defense Research and Education Centre, Feb. 13, Creery reported on the recent Moscow seminar on naval arms limitation.

Initiated by Soviet non-governmental organizations such as the Soviet Maritime Law Associations, the seminar involved nearly 120 public activists, government representatives, military personnel, and scholars from more than 40 countries, as well as over 250 Soviet delegates.

N. I. Ryzhkov, chair of the USSR Council of Ministers, Javier Perez de Cuellar, United Nations secretary-general and a number of Soviet and foreign organizations and institutions sent messages to the seminar. In



total, over 100 people spoke and a variety of useful and constructive proposals were advanced.

All the delegates welcomed the trend toward disarmament manifested by such efforts as the implementation of the treaty between the USSR and the USA on the elimination of interme-

mediate and shorter-range missiles, the substantial progress achieved during the talks on conventional armed forces and the 50 per cent cut in US-Soviet strategic nuclear forces.

What is of continual alarm, Creery said, is the unceasing naval arms competition and slow

progress toward naval disarmament. Surprisingly, naval forces are not covered under general arms control negotiations and new destabilizing systems of naval armaments are still being developed.

The lack of representation from the Canadian navy was, Creery said, a sign that "it is keeping itself out of the mainstream of modern thought on arms control, although whether or not this is deliberate or the result of traditionalist thinking, is difficult to answer."

In contrast to our navy's poor showing, Creery said, the United States sent five retired admirals, two from RAND, an independent military think-tank, and three from other independent organizations studying defense policy. Other non-military delegates from Canada did attend, two of

whom presented papers on naval arms control.

Creery stressed that the aim of the conference was to adopt new ways of dealing with the "overcapacity" of many of the world's navies. This excess of armaments can be disastrous, as Admiral Hyman Rickover, "father" of the U.S. nuclear navy, has proven, Creery said.

Rickover has documented a number of naval accidents involving nuclear weapons: the sinking of several British ships carrying nuclear weaponry off the southern tip of South America during the Falklands War in 1982; the explosion and sinking of a U.S. destroyer at anchor in Valletta, Malta, when a merchant ship ran into it, damaging a nuclear weapons storage site; and the explosion and sinking of a

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## Taking a byte out of porn

by Alistair Croll

Last week, Dalhousie's University Computing and Information Services removed two message bases from the school's VAX network. UCIS had received complaints about the distribution of pornography and hate literature on the network.

The removal follows a similar deletion by the University of Toronto on Jan. 22, which was also the result of complaints about pornography.

Dalhousie and U of T's computer networks are connected by permanent phone lines to most universities in continental North America, as well as Australia, Great Britain, and several other countries. Users of university computers can communicate via a program called NEWS, which allows discussion on a variety of topics.

A recent series of messages in two message areas which commonly deal with sex presented graphic portrayals of rape involving sodomy, corrophilia (sex involving excrement) and sadism.

UCIS executive director Peter Jones removed the two areas from Dalhousie's NEWS program following complaints by Professor Susan Shaw.

Shaw complained to the UCIS director on Feb. 14. She said the

system was "not an excuse to allow propagation of violence and hatred."

Shaw, who is president of the Dalhousie Women's Faculty Association, explained that she was "not trying to get rid of stuff because of sexual content; it's because of hatred against women."

Jones, who hadn't heard of the

**"...graphic portrayals of rape, involving sodomy, corrophilia and sadism."**

U of T removal, said, "In my view, this was hate literature." Normally, he explained, there is no censorship imposed on the NEWS system or any of the computer network.

Jones will report the deletion to a senate committee. He does not normally have the authority to remove message bases from the system but, he explained, this was

"a dilemma for which I took extraordinary action."

Users of the NEWS system called the stories "inhuman" and "indicative of condoning rape and torture." Several other universities in the U.S. have also removed the two bases from their NEWS directories. Dalhousie's NEWS system still contains stories about bestiality and incest, but no complaints have yet been made concerning these.

A message about rape and fraternities also caused complaints from users.

The stories in question did not originate at Dalhousie. They were distributed throughout the world on the UseNet system, and Canada's NetNorth computer network. Both were written by anonymous authors.

The messages raise the question of what is decent use of Dalhousie's computer systems, said Jones. "We are in danger of souring reasonable use of a system for healthy discussion," he cautioned, noting that there are many other message areas discussing a variety of important issues.

Jones plans to raise the question of censorship and pornography with other computer administrators at a communications conference in June. Ironically, the same network that distributed the pornography will allow Jones to discuss it with his colleagues.

## Cold, alien environment

### "access" defined

by Alistair Croll

On Monday, Feb. 26, the Dalhousie Senate redefined "accessibility." Following a motion by the student union, Senate members voted unanimously to accept a two-page definition of accessibility.

In an earlier meeting, the DSU had tabled a motion defining access. Ralph Bastarache, senator for the faculty of science, explained that the definition was important to the DSU because "any arguments we make about making Dalhousie accessible would be shot down without it."

The definition is a modified version of one suggested by *Breaking the Barriers*, a study commissioned last September by Dalhousie president Howard Clark into physically and socio-

economically disadvantaged students.

The DSU motion defines accessibility in terms of affirmative action for those "students who, for social, economic, and other reasons beyond their control, have been unable to pursue their university education."

Clark objected to parts of the motion that called Dalhousie a "cold and alien environment" for some students. He also criticized a section of the motion that proposed changing "Dalhousie's elitist image," saying Dal doesn't have such an image.

Despite these objections, the definition of accessibility was accepted unanimously by the Senate, and will not have to be forwarded to academic administration for approval.