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Ex-spy finds peace in subs

by Jens Andersen

"Peace groups have to offer a constructive alternative to the nuclear arms race," ex-spy Peter James told an audience of 50 in SUB Theatre last Thursday night.

"Tonight I am going to give you a viable alternative."

James' solution is to scrap all land-based nuclear bomb delivery systems, from cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe to the B-1 bomber, and put the entire U.S. nuclear force in submarines.

Such a plan, he claims, would save "hundreds of billions of dollars", reduce the risk of an accidental nuclear war, and make the U.S. immune to the nuclear moves of the Soviets.

"The U.S. could tell the Russians point-blank: we don't care what you do" said James.

In addition to his central thesis, he proposed a mish-mash of other reforms. He also threw out observations on the current political scene and anecdotes from his days as an aerospace engineer for Pratt & Whitney, when he worked covertly for the CIA, spying on the U.S.S.R. at East-West scientific conferences.

On the subject of Cuba, he argued that US hostility and sabotage have driven the country into the arms of the Soviet Union. Friendlier relations, he believes, are the answer. Many Cubans have told him they would like to compare American products to the "junk" the Russians send them.

On the other hand, he pushed for boycotts and economic warfare against the Soviet Union itself. He also thought the U.S. should proceed with its "Star Wars" program, though with the understanding that it would only provide a limited defense.

James' proposals were not particularly detailed. They were general ideas intended to "start a dialogue... to plant some seed you can take and run with."

When discussing what to do with the savings from his sub-nukes proposal, for instance, he suggested that the U.S. could "turn Kennedy's Peace Corps loose" in Central America and the Third World.

"This would magnify their economy ten times," he said.

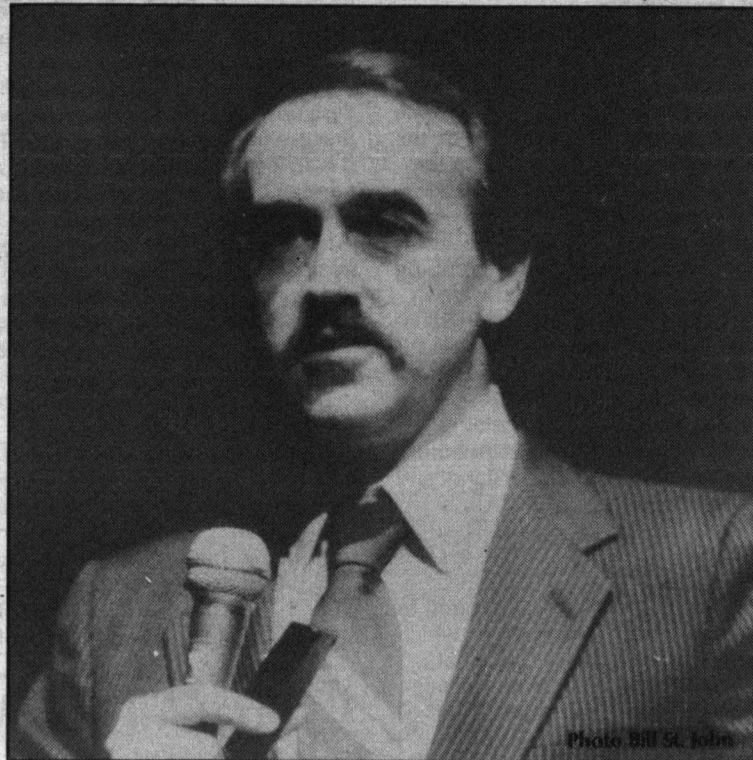
Reminiscences about his spying career comprised most of James' presentation. Most of the reminiscences in turn, were contained in a slide show illustrating his 1962-71 spy activities.

One of his main duties as a spy was to photograph notable Soviet scientists and KGB agents for the CIA's files. He would do this by playing the tourist when he went to international conferences.

Another was to "pick the brains" of Soviet scientists.

As far as could be determined from the presentation, however the spying produced few technical discoveries. The only ones that James mentioned were the Soviet capabilities for re-using missile silos, and building space-stations and Shuttle-type reusable re-entry vehicles. Nor did he make it clear whether these were the result of conference espionage.

He also cited an instance where



See Peter James. He is an engineer. He is an ex-spy. He is a writer, a world-traveller and muckracker, but he is not a breath mint. He has a lot of solutions for the world's problems.

American intelligence was fooled into believing a prop from a science-fiction film was a new piece of Soviet aerospace technology.

James was eventually fired from Pratt & Whitney in 1971. He says this came about because he threatened to expose corruption within the military-industrial complex. He later wrote a book, *The Air Force Mafia*, on the subject.

There was a fair bit of show-biz in James' performance, for instance the slides of his Porsche, his beautiful ex-wife, numerous important-looking dossiers and documents, and profuse outer-space photos and illustrations.

During the question period afterwards he told the audience that Soviet leaders regard Ronald Reagan as a "crazy cowboy" who should not be aggravated too much.

When asked how the Soviets would respond to unilateral disarmament by the West, he replied

that they would see it as a weakness, a "final sign of decay" leading to the victory over the West which they feel is inevitable.

James also regards the peace movement as sincere, though he believes that the Soviets would very much like to exploit it.

He himself struck up many friendships among the Russians and told how, once they had been loosened by drink, they would talk about World War II, the much greater sacrifices of the Russians, and their aversion to war.

The seminar ended somewhat abruptly, after a member of the audience interrupted a discussion of death squads in El Salvador by asking, "What about death squads in Edmonton?"

He was apparently serious, and kept on interrupting James' answers. Finally, a minute or two later, James declared the show finished.

Lecture loses money

by Jens Andersen

The Student's Union lost over \$1,000 on ex-spy Peter James' lecture last Thursday. Only about 50 people attended the event in the 700-seat SUB Theatre.

Theatre manager Gerry Stoll is not overly worried about the loss, however.

"We are losing about \$300 a day on the "dollar" movie program," he says. "Making money is not the issue; we are providing a service. I was originally thinking of bringing James in for a free "nooner". We double-booked with NAIT and got a good discount."

Stoll expects a better turnout for the upcoming Helen Caldicott appearance at the Butterdome.

"Caldicott is better known and more topical," Stoll says.

"I was happy to bring James in - he is a good guy compared to Liddy,

and only one-tenth the price - but the students didn't know who he was."

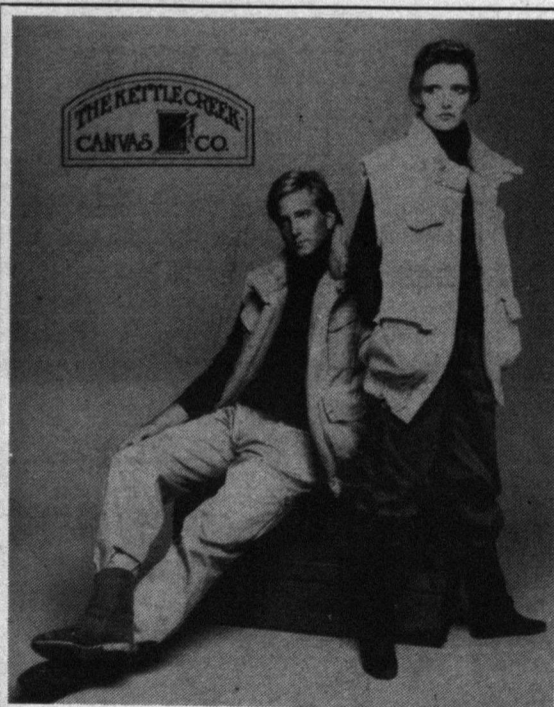
James' fee was \$800. Stoll wouldn't disclose Caldicott's fee but stated that the SU will have to take in \$2,500 to break even.

"At \$3.50 to \$5.50 a ticket, it's high-risk," Stoll says.

He also expects a good turnout for a recently confirmed screening of *Hookers on Davie*, a sympathetic film about prostitution in Vancouver. Janice Cole and Holly Dale, the film's producers, will be present after the movie for a question-and-answer session. Admission will be free.

The reduced admission prices for "dollar" movies has not increased attendance, Stoll noted.

SUB Theatre rental prices were reduced at the end of this summer.



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Autopsy breaks the ice

by Neal Watson

Petty Officer John Torrington, the "iceman" discovered on Beechey Island by U of A researchers, probably died of pneumonia, says pathologist Dr. Roger Amy.

Amy and anthropologist Owen Beattie held a press conference on campus to discuss the results of the autopsy report on Torrington.

The autopsy report suggests no specific cause of death can be identified, but Amy said Torrington died of a lung-related disorder, probably

bly pneumonia.

According to Amy, there was no evidence to support the contention Torrington died as a result of violence.

Beattie said he was excited by the findings because they contributed to "finding the truth" and "building a new body of data."

"The findings are part of the chain in the investigation that helps to create a historical perspective," said Beattie.

The discovery by the team search-

ing for the Franklin expedition of the 1850s has sparked international interest and Beattie said he was "flabbergasted by the extent of the public's interest."

Beattie said he has received letters from Britain asking for information regarding descendants.

A major interpretive report on the expedition is planned for the spring of 1985. Beattie said plans for the next year's field work would be finalized in the next two months.