

orthodox circles this organization is generally acknowledged as a cult, albeit not as "far out" as the Moonies or the Scientologists. Thus one must approach their propaganda with caution.

The reader may notice that the material quoted in the editorial does not cite specific scriptural references. This is hardly surprising since the Bible in fact does not explicitly teach most of the things which the *Plain Truth* excerpt claims. Far from being teachings drawn out of the Scriptures, the quoted ideas are nothing more substantial than interpretations read into them by the Armstrongites. In that such teachings of a nuclear rapture could be used as a justification for nuclear proliferation, they are indeed slimy — but they are not Christian, so don't blame Jesus!

Concerning the Second Coming of the Messiah, the Bible teaches many things (see, for example, Matt 24:36-44, Luke 17:26-30, I Thess 5:2-3) which indicate that life will be going on pretty much as usual when He returns. In the context of the nuclear issue this admits two possible interpretations: either His return will be imminent, before we have had time to actually "push the button;" or else mankind will somehow learn to live in peace. Either interpretation is certainly more upbeat than the spectres of a nuclear rapture or a nuclear holocaust promoted by contemporary prophets of gloom and doom. We need to be concerned, yes, but mortified by fear, no.

Gordon Weir  
Chemistry

P.S. There is no "A" in "Brethren" and only two "E's".

## Capitalist biology

The budget cuts of our new government have been especially hard on Environment Canada. Although there is less than a 1% reduction of public service positions, Environment Canada has lost 27% of its staff.

This has very serious implications for the future of our wildlife and human health. Most of the studies of the effects of existing and new toxic chemicals on the environment and water supply will be terminated as of March 31, 1985. The "Surveillance of Toxic Chemicals in Wildlife in the Great Lakes" has been eliminated. This program which is part of Canada's contribution to the knowledge of drinking water quality in the polluted Great Lakes has already been effective in discovering some highly toxic compounds in the eggs of herring gulls. It serves as an early warning system of dangerous chemicals in our human environment. Terminating this program will signal to the Americans that Canada is not serious about cleaning of the great lakes.

Our country is large and well provided with resources, but at the same time is composed of many complex and fragile ecosystems that are very easily upset. It is only through long term studies that we can hope to learn enough about these ecosystems to provide them with adequate protection.

Is Prime Minister Mulroney following President Reagan's unfortunate example of severely cutting back expenditures which protect our environment?

I encourage you, the reader, to write to our Prime Minister and Members of Parliament regarding these cutbacks in the environmental sector. Public outcry has been effective in the United States to stop President Reagan from relaxing many of the environmental laws so, hopefully, the Canadian public will also be responsive enough to have an impact on our government.

Heidi Schaefer  
Rehab Med II

## Reagan's morality play

Lady, give me a break! What makes you think you have a premium on morality? If you really were the peace-loving, God-fearing folk you claim to be, why weren't you out in droves protesting Soviet deployment of SS-20's in the late '70's? (Or is that irrelevant?) Let's try, just for a moment, to emerge from the idealistic haze in which you seem to be so lost.

In the land of reality (that's where WE all are), it is generally a good idea to check out the old history books to see what happened in similar situations in the past. (You've heard of history, haven't you Louise? It's all that boring !CKY stuff none of you people like to concern yourselves with.)

Let's take Nazi Germany of the 1930's. There was the ultimate doomsday weapon that the people felt threatened the very existence of humanity back then too: mustard gas. Then a whole lot of people just like you decided "Hmmm, this is bad. Yes, golly, this is bad." As a result of these people, the Western allies took the route of appeasement and disarmament. "Hey, Adolf! Look, we're a bunch of decent people. Just forget all our past differences and let's be buddies! We won't fight - see?! We haven't got any weapons!" Consequently, Hitler looked at the Western allies as a bunch of weak saps and exploited the situation. (In case you don't know, I'm talking about World War II.)

So now all you people propose that Ronald Reagan play Neville Chamberlain all over again. "Come on, Constantin, we won't if you won't, and just to show you we've just been kidding all this time, we'll throw our weapons away." WELL GOOD GOLLY, Louise! Doesn't that just sound peachy?!?

Detente was a failure because of attitudes like yours. "Oh hey, sorry Leonid, have that too, 'cause, hell, we just want peace; so do what you like." Louise, I hate to be the first one to break it to you, that that just ain't gonna work.

Specifically, there are a number of things with your argument. Rushing to your nearest seat of government shouting "inspiring" things like "Hell no! We won't glow!" is not an intelligent way to carry on. Louise, this is *not* the Vietnam war you're protesting - if that's the parallel you want to draw (and I'm sure it is). You don't have the overwhelming public support the anti-war demonstrators had in the 60's - you are only a vocal minority (and annoying at that). Western security is at stake here - not something as abstract as national pride, as it was with Vietnam. No western power is going to compromise its security (and that's what it amounts to, no matter what noise you want to make to the contrary) because Louise and her band of mindless marching morons can't differentiate between hopeless idealism and reality.

Instead of frothing at the mouth with your "I've got a cause, and it's bigger than the both of us" hysteria, it would be far more productive to press for slow, tedious, fair negotiations. No one wants to see nuclear war, and it's (well-intentioned) morons like you who are making it ever more possible.

SOPHISTICATION, Louise - that is what we need from "activists" like you. Simplistic idealism serves no one.

Charles LeRongetel  
B.C. III

## Issues? What issues?

In his letter distancing himself from the need to actively address student issues, Ken Bosman makes a number of obvious misrepresentations of the work I do on Students' Council.

When I was elected along with all other members of council with all other members from Arts, we campaigned saying that the Students' Union had an obligation to inform students about the problems facing the U of A. Since our election we have worked consistently to bring this about. Unfortunately, Mr. Bosman and his supporters on the executive don't see the priority of this action.

What issues are we talking about? Underfunding of the university which causes overcrowding, course section cancellations, declining libraries and quotas and the Student Aid cutbacks that affected hundreds of students this year. If the government knows 20,000 students (and voters) are concerned about these issues they are likely to act. Mr. Bosman calls this "radical" — I call it responsible representation.

I hope this clarifies the confusion left in Mr. Bosman's letter.

Don Millar  
Arts Rep to Students' Council

## We'd like to wish all our staff a Merry Christmas!

Tim Heidt  
Ashley Prest  
Virginia Gillese  
Mike Evans  
Bill Overend  
Don Teplyske  
Peter Block  
Joan Schiebelbein  
Jim Herbert  
Jim Moore  
Shane Berg  
Hans Beckers  
John Charles  
Bill Daskoch  
Sheila Barry  
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Ann Grever  
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Scott Keeler  
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Kent Cochrane  
Doug Olsen  
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