

Submarines should stimulate debate

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A recent proposal to put anti-submarine mines in Canada's arctic waters should stimulate debate on the nation's role in the western alliance, two leading analysts said at a recent University of British Columbia debate.

Military historian and journalist Gwynne Dyer said the proposal is "marvellous" because it highlights Canada's critical strategic relationship with the two superpowers.

"I'm not really crazy about mining our arctic waters, but I think it's a lovely idea," Dyer said.

Dyer also advocated Canada's withdrawal from NATO, in a debate with Doug Ross, a UBC political science professor.

Dyer said the major argument against using Captor mines to assert control over the far north was the possibility of computer error, as the weapons are programmed to distinguish between "friendly" and "unfriendly" ships and submarines.

The proposal was made in a report by David Cox, research director at the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security in Ottawa. Cox argued the mines would deter both Soviet and U.S. submarines and "signal Canadian determination to refuse to passively accept the militarization of the Canadian arctic."

Defence minister Perrin Beatty immediately said the idea was not an option, but UBC professor Doug Ross disagreed.

"That's the kind of proposal we have to be looking at rather than automatically saying submarines are the answer and nothing else will do," he said.

Although Ross made a similar proposal at a 1986 conference in Toronto, he said a better way to assert sovereignty for civil, environmental or military purposes won't be a limited number of northern bases and aircraft.

During the earlier debate on NATO membership, which drew about 450 people, Ross argued there is little Canadian influence within the alliance because other members perceive Canada as a "free rider", unwilling to contribute its full financial share. Whereas Canada spent 2.1 per cent of GNP on defence in 1983, the United Kingdom, for example, spent 5.5 per cent, and France spent 4.2 per cent.

"Canada does not say anything about security relationships, about the big issues of the day," said Ross, referring to cruise missile testing, Star Wars and the Soviet proposals for arms reductions at Reykjavik.

"This is a by-product of not spending enough on defence," he said. "We need to combat the American commitment to nuclear war fighting strategies, which people in Ottawa do not want to touch with a ten foot pole."

Ross asserted that one of NATO's functions should be to moderate paranoid and isolationist trends within U.S. strategic thinking.

Calling NATO a second-best alternative to the United Nations, Ross argued the alliance system promoted stability, especially in the context of nuclear proliferation.

But Dyer, a veteran of three western navies, argued Canada should leave NATO and become neutral, a view also presented in his new film, "Harder Than It Looks," co-produced with filmmaker Tina Viljoen.

Citing the example of Finland's relationship with the U.S.S.R., Dyer said a neutral Canada would be responsible for securing its own airspace and oceans, reassuring the U.S. that the Soviets could not use Canadian territory to attack. Assumptions that neutrality signified a passive, isolationist or cost-saving approach to defence were false, added Dyer.

"There is a lot we could do in terms of demilitarizing the northern zone between the superpowers," said Dyer, who pointed to the possibility of creating an arctic buffer zone with countries like Finland and Sweden.

Dyer said the alliance system increased the likelihood of nuclear war, and criticized deterrence as "brutal".

"If the deterrence ever gets tested and fails, then we lose the northern hemisphere, and that's a pretty high

price to pay for a strategy like that," he said.

Dyer referred to North American troops in Europe as "hostages", present only to guarantee participation in any war between western and eastern Europe. He further charged that Europe was getting a subsidized defence.

"What happens essentially is western Europe gets a free ride, or at least a very cheap ride, in the

sense it has at least as large a population as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, but does not attempt to match the Soviet forces in conventional terms," said Dyer.

In this current state of affairs, the U.S. then agrees to defend Europe with nuclear weapons and receives the psychological gratification of being the leader of the free world, Dyer said.

Chinese Book Exhibit

by Ken Hui

Reading Week was a working holiday for the students who organized the coming Chinese Book Exhibition which runs from February 27 to March 2 at HUB Gallery Lounge. The executive of the Chinese Library Association are behind the event.

"I hope people will find reading Chinese books no longer a headache," said Danny Yu, the president of C.L.A. Yu points to interesting books written in English about Hong Kong, China and Taiwan. Among these books are Chinese poems with English translation, Who's Who in Communist China, pictorial history of Taiwan, and Hong Kong Ways and Biways.

Yu said that more than 200 volumes will be displayed in the exhibition. These books include novels, literature and science.

All the books will be available for circulation in the Chinese library after the exhibition. The Chinese Book Exhibition is part of the International Week which starts on February 23.

The Students' Union has endorsed financial support to the exhibition by meeting CLA's funding request.

"There will also be a movie night on February 25 in Tory Lecture Theatre, and slide shows on 'The Exploration of Hong Kong' and 'The Silk Road' on March 2," said Yu.

Gateway Archives

January 21, 1955

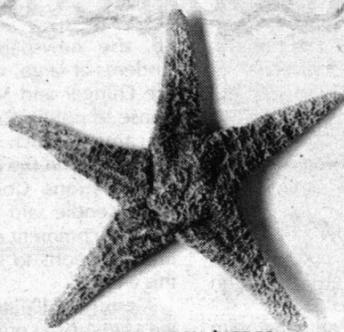
Students are urgently requested to show their campus A cards each time they borrow books from the Rutherford library. This is to distinguish them from the general public, who are not allowed to remove books from the library. These precautionary measures are taken only to assure that the students will always be able to obtain the books they desire.

February 18, 1955

To the Editor:
To judge from the letters pouring into the Gateway, most University students are Disgusted, Disappointed, or generally Disheartened. However, I (though strictly speaking not a student) am quite content with life in general.

Bessie Holstein, University Farm.

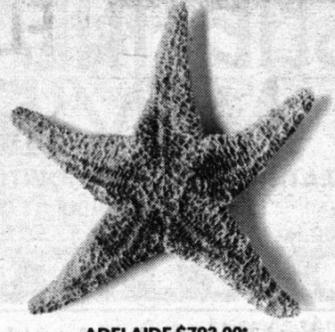
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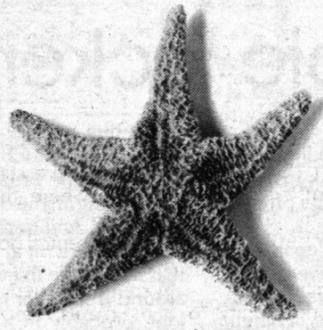
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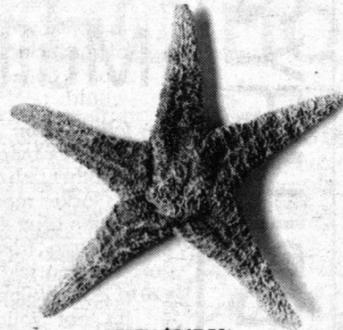
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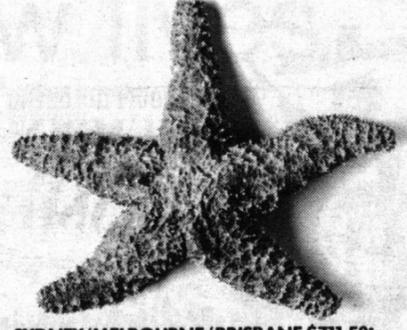
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