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Gulf warship visit protested

BY JOEY GOODINGS

The USS Roosevelt is a dangerous environmental hazard and should not have been allowed to dock at Halifax harbour, says the Coalition For a Nuclear Free Harbour. The Roosevelt is a nuclear powered American aircraft carrier which has been accused of carrying nuclear weapons.

“occasionally nuclear bombs fall off ships and they are lost at sea”

“Canadian law does not permit nuclear weapons to exist on Canadian soil. Therefore, nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed warships shouldn't be docking at Canadian harbours,” said Francis Early of the Voice of Women in a speech to the American sailors. The Coalition organized a cruise around the carrier where people could voice their concerns over a microphone and loudspeaker.

According to the Coalition, U.S. aircraft carriers such as the USS Roosevelt routinely carry 100 nuclear weapons and are powered by 2 water-cooled nuclear reactors.

The Neptune Paper 3 (June 1989), a document available at the Peace Centre, revealed more than 300 accidents involving nuclear weapons of the US Navy between 1965 and 1977, and 220 accidents involving the world's naval reactors from 1950 to 1988.”

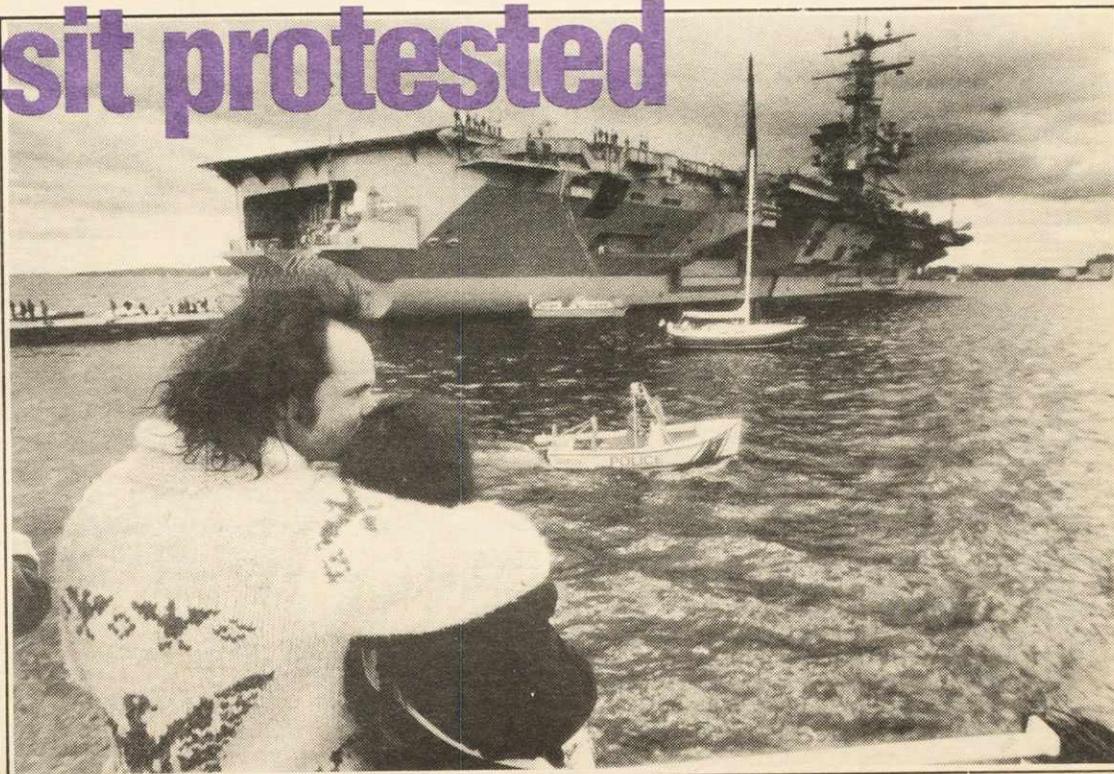
“In Halifax we know that the safety record of those nuclear reactors is not good,” said Dr. Lesley Choyce of Dalhousie University, “and we know that occasionally nuclear bombs fall off ships and are lost at sea. We're worried and you should be too!”

The USS Roosevelt has decided to neither confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons aboard the ship. The USS Roosevelt was docked at Halifax harbour from Sept. 13-15, when its crew enjoyed some time off.

Frank Fawson, a candidate in the municipal elections in Ward 4, said if Haligonians were able to vote for or against nuclear weapons in their harbour, “I'm sure they would vote no' against such action.”

However, two sailors from the Roosevelt (who asked their names be withheld) said there were no nuclear weapons on board. “We can't confirm anything, but rumour has it that there are no nuclear weapons on board... in fact, take it as a definite no,” they said.

“When not in combat we don't



Dark clouds loom over nuclear ship's rest and relaxation visit to Halifax.

PHOTO: JIM RANKIN

usually carry nuclear weapons. Right now we're just training pilots and doing some maintenance.” When asked why the government doesn't confirm this, the sailors responded, “The U.S. has never confirmed the existence of nuclear weapons on any Naval ships, so it doesn't confirm or deny their existence ever.” The sailors did confirm the existence of two nuclear reactors on board, adding that they are “perfectly safe.”

The Department of National Defense has an “Emergency Pre-

paredness” team which is placed on ALERT whenever a nuclear vessel enters the harbour. But according to Francis Early, “there is no adequate response to an emergency resulting in the release of radioactive isotope, in the quantities contained on these vessels.”

The protesters didn't limit themselves to opposing just the nuclear aspect of the Roosevelt. As well, opposition was directed at the carrier as a symbol of American military power and its role in the Gulf War.

The Coalition hit the streets of Halifax as well last Friday, leafleting and displaying protest signs at the Main Branch Library on Spring Garden Road, and showing the signs to rush hour traffic at the Armdale Rotary and MacDonald Bridge. “The response was generally positive,” said one organizer.

With municipal elections in Halifax on October 19, the Coalition is urging Haligonians to pressure candidates into taking a stand to make Halifax a nuclear free harbour.

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Rationalization hits the fast lane

BY SHANNON GOWANS

The provincial government is pushing for rationalization as a fast track solution to duplication of university services, and the resultant underfunding.

Rationalization is the process of making an industry more efficient.

“A few weeks to deal with this [concept] is ridiculous,” says Scott McCrossin, Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) Chair.

A consultants' report on the structure of rationalization was discussed Sunday night at the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Council meeting. At stake is who determines the operating grants for Nova Scotia universities.

On Monday, the report was discussed at a special Senate meeting. Tuesday, it went to a Board of Governors (BOG) meeting; Tuesday night to a joint Senate and BOG committee and finally, to the Council of Nova Scotia University Presi-

dent's (CONSUP) on Wednesday.

The consultants met with each of the universities, as well as SUNS and the Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations (NSCUFA). They then developed a proposal linking four possible bureaucratic changes to the determination of universities' operating grants. The difference between these options is in the amount of power each council will hold.

Various options in the report also include another paid position in CONSUP. Funding for this salary would most likely come from the total post-secondary grant - further reducing money spent on programs - say several Dalhousie Senators.

Already \$40 000 of government money has been spent on the report, “equivalent to resodding Studley Field four times,” says Brian Hill, student representative on the President's Advisory Committee

that prepared Dalhousie's brief to the consultants.

Currently, the power to determine operating grants rests with the provincial Cabinet. The report

“There was no student opinion because there were no students”

recommends that the Nova Scotia Council of Higher Education (NSCHE) and CONSUP be given greater roles in budget determination.

While removing funding decisions from the political control of Cabinet seems positive, Dalhousie President Howard Clark questions if there are sufficient checks and balances on the councils.

At Sunday's DSU meeting students expressed concern about increasing CONSUP's power. They

were concerned about adding another level of bureaucracy to the system, and giving CONSUP funding to do this.

“Rationalization should be a big student issue, bigger than tuition fee increases,” says DSU Vice President-External, Alex Boston.

Boston says this report is approaching rationalization backwards. He says broad assessments of all the possible forms rationalization could take should be done before structured changes are considered.

One of the biggest complaints McCrossin has with the report is the lack of student representation on the NSCHE. SUNS recommended one of the Council members be the Chair or a delegate of SUNS, thus ensuring student representation by a student who is responsible to a recognizable constituency.

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