

More Letters

Dear Editor:

I would like to draw attention to what I see as moral hypocrisy in the current American outrage over the alleged torture of their former-hostages released recently from Iran.

As I understand it, America feels itself righteously offended; it's principles of human decency violated. While there is certainly justified cause for such feeling, there

are also objections which I raise to self-righteous indignation felt by many Americans. The American people think of themselves as the defenders of democracy, champions of liberty, and more recently of human rights, while simultaneously overthrowing popularly-elected governments like Chile's, plotting to assassinate leaders whom they don't like (Castro), and actively supporting petty dictators like Samoza, Pinochet and others

who are known for violating every principle of human right! I should think that before people accuse others in indignant tones, they should consult their own record in the human rights question, though with feelings being hyped-up as they are, I don't expect anyone will ask who will be tortured tonight in El Salvador with instruments "Made in the U.S.A."

Yours sincerely,
H. Straub

Uranium baths

Dear Editor:

Goldstick's article, "Uranium Toxic Debris," Jan. 22, pp. 13-14, has been set in type from a printout supplied by the world's biggest, multinational International Propaganda Mills. The article has been expertly prepared, baited with some truths, and would convince the unscientific. The adverse health effects of uranium have, however, been flagrantly exaggerated.

The toxicity of uranium and the associated radioactivity may be judged by this: The health water in the famous hot spring of Bath, England, flows at the rate of hundreds of thousands of gallons a day, and it is used in the local hospital to treat arthritis. It contains some ninety minerals, including so much uranium that the plunge stone in the Roman pool is stained the characteristic uranium orange. People have been drinking of and bathing in the water for three thousand years.

In all that time a plume of radon gas may have been issuing undetected from the Bath water, and drifting over Europe. Millions of Europeans have died. No one can prove that it has not caused brain mutations; some Europeans are even so crazy as to believe the antinuke poppycock.

In my letter of last week, *Gazette*, Jan. 22, p. 6, I told how Sakharov had warned that the Soviets were seeking to create an energy shortage in the West. Energy is the universal essential raw material. Do you want another reference? In 1973 Mao told President Pompidou that the USSR's next geopolitical moves would be aimed at destabilizing the more vulnerable Western area—Europe—at first by destabilizing its raw material suppliers in Africa.

Europe: that is why your uranium articles dwell upon Aquitaine and AMOK (both half French), and Uranertz (half West German). The other 50% of the ownership of

each corporation is held by the Government of Saskatchewan. As it emphatically stated over and over again in the Saskatchewan leftist publications, Briarpatch, Next Year Country, and New Breed, the supply of uranium to Europe from Saskatchewan, from anywhere, must be fought against.

Once we understand the political basis of the opposition to nuclear energy, it is a waste of time to pick out one by one the particular lies in the propaganda. Most of the following words are a quotation:

Political propaganda differs from political education because it systematically takes information ("facts") out of context, or distorts information outright, or suppresses some. The antinukes use all three techniques; there is no other way of prosecuting the antinuke campaign.

F. Graham Millar,
6153 Murray Place, Halifax

'Eight wonder of modern world'

There is an eighth wonder of the modern world.

I know him. I met him.

His name is Dr. Beryl Orris, and for the better part of two days he surprised, amazed, and enlightened the over sixty delegates in attendance at the Atlantic Regional Newman Conference, held last weekend at Mount Saint Vincent University.

The Conference was organized by the Dalhousie Newman Society, whose executive compiled and prepared Conference handbooks which were issued to all registered delegates. The handbook contained an excellent introduction by Mr. Dave McCann outlining the founding principles of the Newman movement:

John Henry Cardinal Newman understood and lived the theme of this conference, because he searched constantly for means whereby he could spread Christ's peace. He was aware also of his total inability to do good without God's help. It was he who said, "Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as thou shinest: so to shine as to be a light to

others."

The theme for the weekend was "Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace," from the enduring prayer of Saint Francis. After being introduced by Fr. Joe Hattie, O.M.I., Dalhousie University Chaplain, the enigmatic Dr. Orris — the Conference's 'guest lecturer' (I know he'll cringe at the terminology) — addressed himself to this theme. But even as I write, I am struck by the inadequacy of my testimony, for Dr. Orris did much more than give an address; he gave himself. In coming before the Conference clothed in nothing more than the generic label "man," this great scriptural scholar (I have no idea what his academic qualifications are, and it wouldn't matter if I did; this great man — 'great' in many senses of the word — can stand quite well by himself, thank you very much) made us all realize how very good it is to be man, to be instruments of peace. Dr. Orris correctly observed that many people resent being likened to instruments; however, he made it quite plain that human in-

strumentality in the cause of Christ's peace is a very good thing — it is the fulfillment of that for which we were created. It is a role we should enjoy to perform; certainly it was good enough for Saint Francis.

Along with exhortations to lead balanced lives, to endeavour to understand, and to always move in the direction of spiritual growth, Dr. Orris gave to the Conference a very special gift; his gift of humour. The message is that we must never lose the capacity to laugh; for laughter is the music of the soul. (Should all else fail, he could always make a living as a stand-up comic.)

Conference delegates had ample opportunity to chew on Dr. Orris's words during discussion-group sessions. Many will undoubtedly continue to chew for some time to come. Masters of mastication, all. In any event, we shall continue to learn.

The next annual regional conference will be held at Saint Francis Xavier University in Antigonish.

Dal Student Union

Nominations open Jan. 26/81 for the positions of

President and Vice-President

and close Feb. 20/81 Friday 5:00 p.m.

Nomination forms may be picked up at Rm 222 Dal SUB

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The Advertising Department For Dalhousie Student Union

Literary Contests

The competitions for the Hon. W.H. Dennis Memorial Prizes, the Mushkat Prize and the Overseas League Prize are now open. Deadlines are March 31st.

Rules for these contests are available at the awards office, Room 125, Arts and Admin. Bldg.

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