

Lunenburg town council gets Star Wars

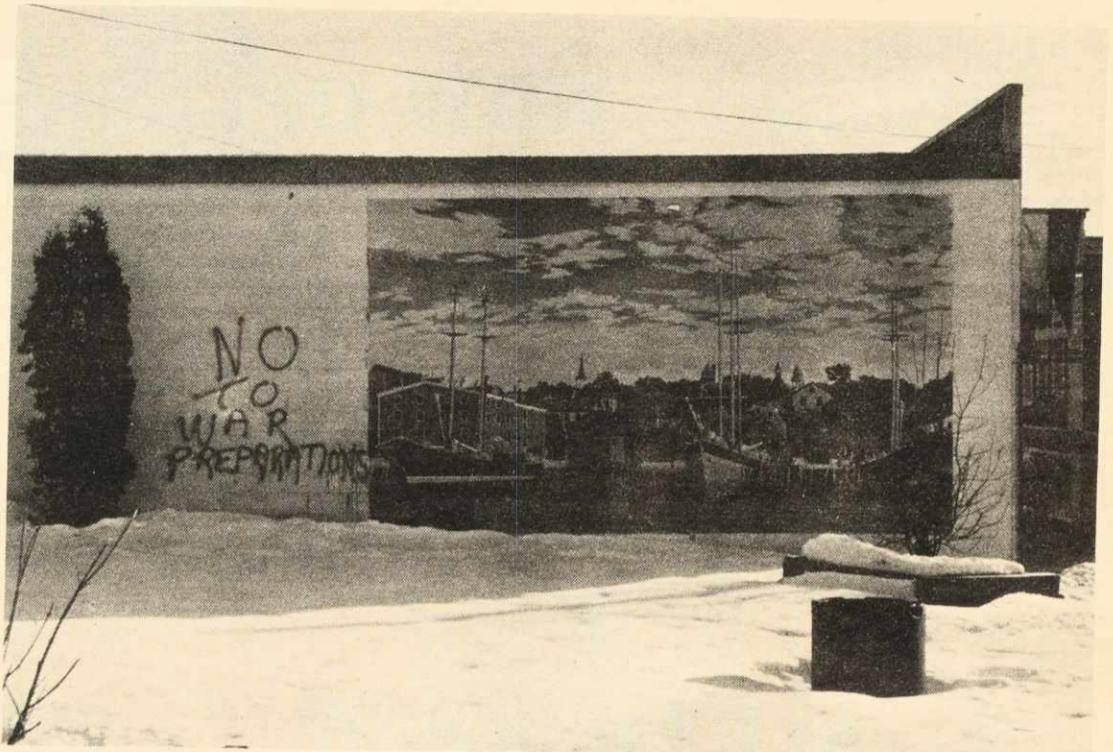
by Lisa Clifford

It was announced in January of 1988 that Cellpack Aerospace, a Swiss-owned plastics plant, was coming to Lunenburg. The main products of the plant are special plastics designed to resist extreme heat and cold. These plastics will be very useful in the American "Star Wars" defense plan.

Star Wars; the name alone is enough to send shudders down the spine of any self-respecting peace activist and this small Lunenburg group is certainly no exception. The Lunenburg AD

HOC Peace Committee complains that the citizens' wishes were completely ignored in the decision to bring Cellpack to Lunenburg. Spokesperson Marrie Berkelaar says "The town council is now spending \$400,000 of the people's taxes for access roads, water, sewer, electrical and other services in connection with this project."

The group is surprised and says that it is unjust for a member of their committee to go on trial for painting the slogan "No to War Preparations" on a Lunenburg building. As they see it, the



A Lunenburg peace activist is on trial for graffiti.

member was only exercising his freedom of expression which is a right guaranteed to him in the

Federal Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

For Berkelaar and the rest of the committee, members of the media are a large part of the problem. In a press release, Berkelaar accuses the local papers of "refusing to print any of our responses to the slanders and disinformation that are being published regularly against us." She labels the media as "charlatans" and parallels them to the political parties that sold out Canada with the Free Trade Agreement.

The group appear uninterested in jobs sure to be created by a new industry in an economically depressed area. They maintain that "such production is detrimental and facilitates preparations for war, preparations already underway throughout the globe and into outer space." No comment is available on jobs that will go to another community if

Cellpack does not locate in Lunenburg.

"Preparations for war lead to war" is a slogan favoured by AD HOC. They seem to believe that such associations with companies like Cellpack will be the downfall of all Canada. A military alliance with the United States will make Canada's role as a peace keeping nation a "sick joke", says Berkelaar.

Members of the public are encouraged to sign a petition being circulated by the committee and turn out to support the individual going on trial for defacing the Lunenburg building.

The group best defines itself by the slogan "If Everyone's For Peace, Then Who's Preparing For War". Being at the dictate of the United States is something that we should all fight against believes Berkelaar. "Fascism Never Again!"

To counter U.S. boycott Peace group sends relief ship to Nicaragua

by Alison Auld

On December 10, a shipment of material and monetary aid will be sent to Bluefields, a small community on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. The Halifax branch of Tools for Peace, a national non-governmental aid organization for Nicaraguan war victims, is responding to the need for emergency relief in the wake of October's Hurricane Joan.

Bluefields was one of the areas most severely affected by the hurricane. Peggy Matthews, head of the Halifax branch, says that one of the most tragic consequences of the hurricane was the devastation of Nicaragua's rain forests. Matthew also says that the "coffee crop, which Nicaraguans rely on heavily for export, was almost completely wiped out." Although the hurricane reached the Pacific coast, the area did not experience comparable damage to that of the Atlantic region, due to the protection of an interior mountain range.

Tools for Peace sends aid only to Nicaragua "because of the U.S. economic boycott", said Matthews. That boycott forbids humanitarian aid to Nicaragua. Although the province's response to the hurricane has been favourable, Matthews feels that people are not particularly aware of the situation in Nicaragua. She says that this is the result of U.S. media indoctrination and the Canadian media's indifference to the issue. Several countries have sent aid to Nicaragua, but international sentiment concerning the existing political structure

and the U.S. embargo have inhibited countries from lending full support to the country. Another hindrance, Matthew says, is the U.S. domination of the World Bank and Nicaragua's ineligibility for a grant. Speaking for the whole of the organization, she says that Tools for Peace "is doing what the Canadian government should be doing". Canada provided Jamaica with \$6 million in aid, compared to only \$2 million given to Nicaragua.

The aid shipment, which includes \$5,000.00 worth of antibiotics, dry foods, farming tools, and building materials, is comprised of donations made by individuals, business and church groups throughout Nova Scotia. Deltonic Shiplines is providing the boat which will transport the

goods from the National Hurricane Committee in Bayside, New Brunswick to Bluefields. From there, they will be shipped by barge and then transported inland. Although a large percentage of the aid will be distributed in Bluefields, a significant amount will go to Managua, where Joan Campbell (a Nova Scotia native) acts as the coordinator for Tools for Peace. She oversees the unloading of the ship and works in conjunction with FACTS, a Nicaraguan humanitarian organization, which advises her on the prioritization of material. Lisa Monk, a member of the Halifax group, stated that goods are distributed according to need, with schools, farming communities, and medical facilities being the major recipients.

Resigns

Continued from page 1

actions. "Our reasoning for decisions should be objective, not subjective," he says.

Inegbedion says he leaves with no feelings of regret. Other councillors agree. Jarvis calls it an unfortunate incident, while Gale says there is no animosity involved. Gale adds that it will hopefully teach Council "to investigate costs and benefits before entering a bidding process". Jarvis hopes that communication within Council will improve as a result of what happened.

An election for a new president

is planned for the new year. Harkins says a returning officer has been appointed and gives credit to the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) executive for going out of their way to assist in procedural and logistical problem-solving.

The new president will have a challenging term ahead. Harkins says grant negotiations involving about \$25,000 still underway with the DSU are far behind schedule. As well, the Graduate House adjacent to the SUB is operating with a deficit. A Marketing Committee has been formed to find new ways to better promote the House's services. Harkins is confident that the House can operate successfully and feels that the positive mood shown by Council will help.

Judge doesn't buy citizen's arrest idea

TORONTO (CUP) — Twelve activists were found guilty of trespassing on University of Toronto grounds while protesting the June Economic Summit.

The twelve — including seven U of T students — were charged with trespassing twice: once for erecting tents and attempting to camp out next to the site of a heads of government dinner, and once for leafletting.

Judge Claude Paris said he "appreciated" the protesters' motivations but two weeks ago he fined them \$50 anyway.

The government heads were in Toronto for a conference of the seven major western industrial nations. The protesters said they wanted to charge the leaders with crimes against humanity, and place them under citizens' arrest. Protesters accused the leaders

of the oppression of minority groups, careless destruction of the environment, participation in the nuclear and conventional militarization of the world, and neglect of basic needs of people in the home countries.

They never got near the government leaders.

U of T graduate student and tent city protestor Michael Polanyi said he expected the judge to sympathize with their motives, but "every judge makes their decisions according to their own beliefs," and anytime the law is applied it's a political decision.

Paris rejected the protesters' claims that their attempt to arrest the leaders was legitimate.

"(These is) no reasonable or probable ground to affect (a citizen's) arrest. I can't just ignore the law because people believe certain things."