

Quiet protesters refuse the Cruise

OTTAWA (CUP)—It was certainly not a passionate march, according to one observer.

But the Oct. 30 Refuse the Cruise protest in Ottawa was the largest peace demonstration in any Canadian city, ever. Between 15,000 and 20,000 people from across the country met to protest the proposed testing of the American cruise missile near Cold Lake, Alberta.

Parallel protests were held in Winnipeg, Toronto, Edmonton and Lethbridge.

University of Ottawa communications student Alan Young said the march lacked passion: "It was so quiet there was a sense of isolation about it. It lacked intensity."

However, Young also admitted

that "a demonstration is a celebration of our freedom and our fear of a freedom that might be lost."

As Canada's role in the arms race increases, he said, "it may get to the point where we're going to have to demonstrate that we want a peaceful country."

It was a march of contrasts and co-operation.

There was a mingling of brush-cuts and beards, soft hymns of church groups and rousing labour songs. Elderly people sporting "refuse the cruise" buttons on their lapels marched alongside toddlers wearing brightly-coloured face paint.

Women's Action for Peace members dressed in vibrant rainbow colours in an affirmation of life while

the University of Ottawa's Health Professionals for Social Responsibility marched in black, posing as pallbearers and carrying a coffin, symbolic of the deaths caused by war.

Carleton University student Susan Arab said the demonstration was successful because it attracted so many people.

"Canadians are finally beginning to realize they have an important role to play in the peace movement," she said. "They now know it is only when they collectively stand up and say to the government 'enough, we want a future without this insanity' that they are listened to."

Arab said it was also significant the march included such a broad cross-section of people from various religions, ages, ethnic groups and political perspectives.

Organizers hoisted a huge sign depicting the Cruise missile at the base of parliament hill and demonstrators were invited to place pictures of loved ones over the missile's outline.

The line of marchers was so long the lead group completed a circuit of the hill while the midpoint of the demonstration was still approaching the gates.

Protesters then filed past the American embassy chanting "Ronald Reagan you are mad, we are not a launching pad," and later "U.S. out of North America."

The crowd at a rally in a nearby park, booed and jeered Allan

MacEachen's Oct. 29 statement that the demonstration wouldn't halt testing of the missile on Alberta's Cold Lake range.

Canada is expected to sign an agreement with the American government within two weeks to permit testing of the missile, one with many times the destructive power of the atomic bomb that devastated Hiroshima during the Second World War.

"For God's sake, don't back down now (opposing nuclear weapons)," Clarke MacDonald, Canada's United Church leader, urged Trudeau at the rally.

Macdonald said the world is

drifting towards a catastrophe "that could destroy the planet earth."

Nuclear disarmament might be an issue that unites all Canadians, NDP MP Doug Anguish told the crowd. But while the NDP opposes the cruise testing, Liberal and Conservative MPs were conspicuously absent from the demonstration.

Meanwhile in Toronto, more than 600 people gathered. Speaker after speaker stressed that, as one local alderman put it, the movement "must put aside political and sectarian differences and give a loud and clear yea" to the disarmament referendum to be held in that city's municipal elections Nov. 8.

Send cables, free students

VANCOUVER (CUP)—B.C. student leaders are urging Canadian students to send cables to Chilean authorities demanding the immediate release of students at an Oct. 28 protest in that country.

Phil Link, staff person for the Canadian Federation of Students-Pacific Region, said he heard of the arrests Nov. 1. He said students at two Chilean universities were protesting funding cuts, oppression and harassment.

Armed troops attacked the protesters, injuring at least one student. Ten others were arrested, and many students were expelled. Some were "banished," so they must

return home, be subject to police surveillance and report daily to local authorities.

The demonstrations—at Santiago and Val Paraisu—were in response to the Chilean military government's pressure to force the universities to become self-financing. This would effectively exclude lower and middle class students from post-secondary education.

Cables are being sent to: CODEPU, Allameda 1594, Santiago, Chile, and to Ministeria de Education, Academia de Ciencias Pedagogicas, c/o Jose P. Alessandri, 574 Santiago, Chile.

Speakers to teach of Middle East

by Allison Annesley

The Students' Union hopes to bring to students on campus two speakers versed on the problems of the Middle East.

Refugee activist Howard Aldeman is confirmed to speak November 10 in Tory B-56. There will be no cost to the SU for Adelman's services.

It is the appearance of Edmund Omaro, member of the PLO Diplomatic Corps in Montreal, that will be subject to Council approval.

Omaro is tentatively scheduled to speak in SUB Theatre on November the 18th.

The Students' Union and the Political Science Department will evenly share the \$435 cost of bringing in Omaro, if Council approves funds.

According to SU VP External Teresa Gonzales, both speakers have been contacted in order to satisfy the lack of information which Councillors complained about during the controversial Lebanon motion last month. The defeated motion called for the SU to publicly condemn the

Christian Phalangists and the government of Israel for the September refugee massacres in Sabra and Chatilla.

Gonzales, who is organizing the speaker's visits, maintains that the SU is not "specifically concerned with the PLO, but want to give students a chance to learn about the Middle East in general."

Gonzales adds that she would also like to contact someone from the Israeli Embassy and the Egyptian Embassy to come and speak on campus.

Lesbians not really man-haters

by Dave Cox

The Women's Centre sponsored a speaker and a videotape in Education North last Thursday to deal with how lesbianism is often misunderstood in our society.

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyons from San Francisco spoke in a taped interview about the stereotype that people have of feminists as "butch". They stated that there is no need to be apologetic about the fact that "lesbians are involved in area of the women's movement," nor does that mean that most feminists are lesbians.

They pointed out some of the more obviously unjust cases of legal discrimination against homosexuals: "What is considered 'grossly indecent' in public is very different for a heterosexual and a homosexual couple."

Cathy, a speaker from the Gay Alliance Toward Equality (GATE), put forth "A positive definition of the term 'lesbian': "A woman whose social, emotional, psychological and sexual needs can only be completely fulfilled by other women. There's a myth about lesbians being a bunch of man-haters," she said. "I don't think

that's true. I personally feel no aggression toward men."

Cathy cited early studies which "considered lesbianism a psychiatric problem, because they were done on psychiatric patients." Lesbianism has now been removed from the American Psychiatric Association's list of psychiatric disorders.

"Coming out" still poses problems for lesbians in their relationships with family and friends, not to mention associates at work. "Do we deny part of ourselves, or do we risk the real dangers like losing jobs?" Cathy asked.

Even in the face of figures which suggest that ten per cent of the population is homosexual, "there's a presumption of heterosexuality in our society. You assume people are heterosexual unless you hear different," says Cathy.

Along with this, "there's kind of a quiet assumption that there's something wrong with lesbianism. That's why a lot of people who come to GATE at first want to know 'What makes me this way?' with the unspoken idea 'What's wrong with me?'" This, she suggested, is largely attributable to our too-rigid sex-role socialization.

According to Cathy, one difference between gay men and lesbian women is in sensuality. "Women tend to focus more on a relationship as a contact. Physical love is an extension of a love relationship."

She concluded with a plea for greater tolerance, "It's a red herring that society will crumble if we accept diversity. Some of the blackest moments in our history have come when people tried to enforce uniformity."

For those who are interested, GATE (Suite 104, 10173-104 st) holds a Thursday night Drop-in every week at 7:30.

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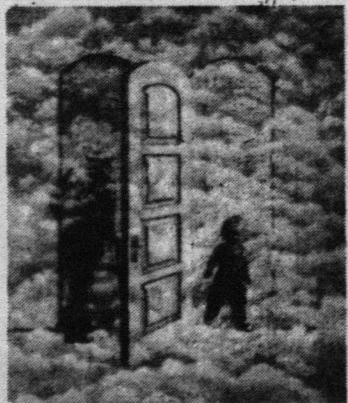


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