

A Disarming letter

First of all, on behalf of the U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament, I would like to thank you for and compliment you on the excellent coverage the Gateway has been giving this year to disarmament issues. We are very pleased to see that you recognize how important the topic is and how much interest there is on campus regarding the dangers and implications of the nuclear arms build up.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the coverage you have given to both our speakers so far this year: Clarke McDonald and Dinitrios Roussopoulos. However, we do have one complaint to make, namely, that although your articles on these two speakers are both accurately reported and well-written, nowhere is there mention that our group brought them to campus. In the case of Mr. McDonald, the Chaplain's Association and the U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament co-sponsored the event, while our group alone arranged for Mr. Roussopoulos' appearance here. I am sure that you recognize the reasons for which we wish to be mentioned in connection with our speakers; thus, I am trusting that in the future, the U of A GND will be given credit for the events which it sponsors.

Angela Dluzewski

CFS: Right wing gloats

My associates and I were overjoyed upon receiving the news that the infamous CFS referendum has been overturned due to campaign irregularities. The YES campaign — so typical of other socialist causes — proclaimed free speech and democratic elections but nonetheless turned to manipulation and misuse of the election rules in order to serve their own purpose. Truth and justice are triumphant once again.

The Campus Right Wing Old Boys

Just how Marxist was he?

Isn't it nice to see that Mr. Oscar Ammar's views on political dissent are similar to those of Nicaragua; the nation he is attempting to save from the big, bad Americans? No hypocrisy here. If you don't like what you hear, shut it up.

Take the PSUA forum on Grenada held last Friday. Vidya Thakur, apparently Marxist enough to meet the tough standards of the PSUA executive, was invited to speak on the subject. What he said is unimportant (though, needless to say, was exactly what the executive expected him to say). No, far more interesting than Thakur's standard left-wing, anti-American drivel was Mr. Ammar's (who is President of the PSUA) reaction to two pro-American (how awful) students quietly demonstrating at the back of the forum.

Richard Zurba and Pete Quily, both members of the PSUA, were attempting to provide "an alternative viewpoint" by displaying their signs. Upon viewing this obvious insult to man's common decency, Mr. Ammar kicked them out. When the two remained in the hallway outside the room, Mr. Ammar, perhaps believing they had contracted some highly contagious disease, asked them to clear the area. In fact Mr. Ammar, the standard-bearer for Central American democracy, was quoted as saying "get out, or I'll shove you out." That Mr. Ammar has done some of his own forum disrupting in the past makes the incident particularly ironic. Ah, but we all know what power does to a person's or nation's ideals. Just ask Mr. Thakur.

Perhaps if Mr. Ammar and his fellow members on the PSUA executive were to bring in speakers from a wider political spectrum, Mr. Ammar would not have to act as club bouncer at their forums. Then he would be allowed to return to his no doubt busy job of shielding Third World nations from Yankee imperialism. How about it, Mr. Ammar?

Ken Armour
Arts



Gilbert Bouchard

Plato in his *Republic* stresses that all good democratic men that strive to be free must fear slavery more than death (better dead than Spartan).

And for the last couple of centuries our ancestors have laid down their lives in numerous confrontations rather than lose our precious "freedom".

But, now Ronnie Reagan and the boys are willing to go a step further to protect our freedom, they're willing to blast the world to radioactive dust and possibly destroy all life on earth rather than be enslaved.

Now that's stupid. It's one thing to kill yourself, or even a good part of a generation in war, but to risk

all possible life on earth?

What the west should really do if they really love freedom is to disarm, in fact disarm unilaterally.

Mind you, it would be risking a Soviet bloc "takeover" of most of the world, but so what, it beats total annihilation.

Anyway, civilizations regularly fall, and regimes inevitably collapse.

Look at Athens, its "freedom" was lost when it, the great democratic state, was taken over by repressive military oligarchy. But do we see Spartan soldiers on our streets today? No, they along with the Persians, Egyptians, and many others vanished centuries ago. And this Soviet world state of the future would itself collapse under its own weight and men would be "free" once more.

Just think about it if ancient Athens had had the bomb and would rather have blown itself to bits rather than be enslaved, we wouldn't be here. Canada would be a playground for giant mutant cockroaches.

Nope, not better dead than red, better alive and red with the chance of freedom than the death of ourselves, all our descendants and the death of all possible hope.

Let's disarm, no matter what the risk, it beats the alternative.

WHAT'S LEFT

by Mike Walker

Trudeau's "peace plan" is empty words

Pierre Trudeau is a world peacemaker again. It's a handy costume to dust off whenever he's low in the polls.

He went to Europe last week on a "peace pilgrimage" to arrest what he calls the "mindless drift toward nuclear war." But he still favors development and deployment of new NATO missiles. Is he being inconsistent? A glance at the proposals he made on Sunday shows that there is no inconsistency at all. The pilgrimage hasn't compromised his government's slavish devotion to the U.S. government's quest for supremacy.

Trudeau proposes:

- an effort to shore up the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (he hasn't said how);
- reduction of conventional forces in Europe to mutually agreed levels (negotiations have already been going on for ten years);
- a ban on testing and deployment of anti-satellite systems;
- a restriction on mobility of missiles, so they can be detected and their numbers verified (what should we do — tie them down?).

Just words. Not one of his proposals actually touches on the crucial issue: the escalation of danger caused by new missiles in Europe. No wonder the NATO heads of state agreed with him; he wasn't saying anything of importance. They can agree, then go ahead and station all the missiles they want.

If Trudeau really wanted to help, he would stop Cruise missile tests in Canada. He would oppose new missiles in Europe. He would withdraw Canada from NATO.

NATO was formed before the Warsaw Pact even existed, to create a permanent state of war between the socialist countries and those friendly to U.S. interests. This strategy has had three major effects: it has dragged down the Warsaw Pact countries by forcing them to keep up to the wealthier NATO countries in a frenetic arms race; it has helped stifle the growth of socialist movements in the NATO countries by making socialism the enemy; and it has brought the human race to the brink of total destruction. NATO was formed to destroy socialism; it might destroy everything.

The current strength of the Warsaw Pact can obscure the motivation behind NATO, making it look like a defensive alliance. But the Warsaw Pact countries have had to make tremendous efforts to catch up to NATO's strength, in the face of its determination to destroy them. The U.S. has led in every major technological advance in nuclear weaponry since 1945, with the USSR always trailing. And now NATO is deploying Cruise (stealthier than anything the Soviets have) and Pershing II (faster and more accurate than anything of theirs); this is another escalation led by NATO.

NATO remains what it started out as: an offensive alliance. The single largest contribution Canada can make toward world peace is to get out of it.

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