

Letters

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Beware military solution to unemployment

To the Editor:

The threat of imperialist war and the prevention of such a war are a growing concern to youth. Over the next weeks, the Halifax Committee Against Nuclear War will hold informational pickets to oppose the federal government's scheme to draft 25,000 to 50,000 unemployed youth into the Armed Forces under the hoax of eliminating unemployment.

The number of unemployed youth in Canada between the ages of 15 and 24 is now more than 600,000 according to Statistics Canada figures. It is estimated that 1.5 million - about one third - of the youth live below the poverty line. This mass unemployment and impoverishment is an indictment of the capitalist system which is interested only in maximum profits and which cannot provide work or an education for the youth or meet their material and cultural needs.

This summer the job situation facing the students will be the worst ever. The students will come to a job market in which there are already over 57,000 unemployed workers in the province. The bourgeoisie is preying on the great anxiety of the youth over the lack of jobs to entice them into the Armed Forces with promises of career training. Recently a local daily newspaper promoted in their by-line "Need a job? Join the Navy," (suggesting) the creation of 300 low skill jobs at 5 N.S. military bases at scab wages as a solution for the many Nova Scotians who are unemployed and have exhausted their U.I.C. benefits. Last week the St. Mary's Journal reported that 13,000 students will be hired by the federal government this summer across Canada as military cadets and reservists or R.C.M.P. constables. An article in the Dalhousie Gazette states "From only a couple of placements last year, the Armed Forces will hire 45 from the Technical University of N.S. this year." On February 4, the Mail Star quoted Brigadier-General (ret'd) Victor Oland as saying "I can think of no better way to train 50,000 or even 100,000 Canadians than to give them two years of training with the militia."

Many of the 800 people in Halifax who have already signed the H.C.A.I.W. Declaration Against the War Preparations have been students and unemployed youth. The increasing war preparations which are being carried out by the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and their military alliances of NATO and the Warsaw Pact pose a grave danger to the lives and liberties of the people of the world. One of the features of the preparations for war is the

recruitment of the Canadian youth into the Armed Forces and other branches of the military apparatus. This recruitment by the Canadian military is neither for "peace" nor "defence" but for war and aggression. We call on the youth to wage vigorous struggles against the military recruitment and all the war preparations.

Yours sincerely,
Bill McKeggan
H.C.A.I.W.

Shrouded in conjecture

To the Editor:

The Dalhousie Newman Club, a Catholic student club, brought in on the past weekend a Father Donovan to speak on two subjects dear to his heart, Cardinal Newman, after whom the club is named, and the famous Shroud of Turin. The first talk on Friday night at the SUB was on Newman, a leader of the Oxford Movement in the Anglican Church which tried to get back to the original form of Christianity in the first four centuries.

Father Donovan's assessment was that of a hero worshipper, a guy who had slept in Newman's bedroom, who had stood in every pulpit Newman had preached a major sermon from, either as an Anglican or Catholic etc: so he ignored the effect of the Oxford Movement after Newman converted (i.e. the setting up of some of the first monasteries and nunneries in England in 400 years and these were Anglican orders not Catholic) and the fact that Newman was suspected of heresy by Cardinal Manning as well as Newman's opposition to the definition of papal infallibility in 1870.

As far as the Shroud of Turin, Father Donovan was outrageous claiming early in his lecture that it was the actual shroud of Christ. The general scientific belief is that this idea is yet to be proven for the following reasons: the age of the shroud is not yet known and if it is 2000 years old how could be prove it's Christ's or is it just Joe Blow's? The shroud first appeared in 1389 at a time when there were many competing "True Shrouds," some with images and some without. A similar shroud was seen in Constantinople about 1203 but we don't know if it was the same one. If the material was carbon dated using a patch about 1 cm square out of a cloth 14 ft long we would know its age within 150 years. Should the shroud turn out to be less than about 1800 years old it would be a brilliant fake and if it was about 2000 years of age we'd hit the second problem. Many men of similar build and hair style to Christ were crucified by the Romans up to its outlawing in the 3rd or 4th century so we probably couldn't be sure who this poor tortured and broken man on the shroud was. The cloth is admittedly amazing, probably not a painted image, but a negative that appears 3-D via a computer density scan of its photograph, so if it was faked we don't know how and if it's real we don't know how to prove that either.

Peter McGuigan
freelance programmer

The double standard

To the Editor:

I am writing in reference to a leaflet distributed on campus by Iris Kohler or the anonymous organization that Iris Kohler represents.

The commentary printed on the back of a select collection of newspaper clippings is giving us the message that Israeli actions in Lebanon are somehow justified by Syrian actions in Syria and Lebanon, Nigerian expulsion of Ghanians, and the murder of hundreds of Moslems in India. It is strange that the apparently well informed person who wrote this commentary has not noticed any criticism of these actions in the media. The actions of Third World countries are irrelevant to the issue of the Israeli involvement in a bloody massacre in Lebanon last summer.

Iris Kohler is quite right that the murders in the Sabra and Shatilla camps were carried out by Arabs. However, western society, of which Israel claims they are a part, clearly recognizes the guilt of the person who hires the assassin as well as the assassin himself and it does not matter whether that assassin is paid in money, arms, favours or any other commodity. I do not think that the Jewish people who suffered and died in camps in the past put any less blame on the official standing at the gate directing or facilitating murder than on the guard inside; nor should they. The Israeli position has always been that those who stand by and watch infringements of human rights taking place are as guilty as those who perform them. Iris Kohler would have us acquiesce to last summer's events in Lebanon. The term "double standard" is certainly apt.

"Where were the voices of humanity during massacres and injustices of the past." This reference to these same camps in Europe of which I speak is a worn out justification for murder, by the Israeli government, of Palestinians in the Middle East. The atrocities which occurred in Europe do not justify the murder of any person in the Middle East - the Palestinians are not tainted by the blood let in The Holocaust.

Lynn Reiersen

High school reunion called

To the Editor:

The 25th Anniversary of St. Pius X High School (formerly St. Pius X Preparatory Seminary) will be celebrated from May 19th to 23rd 1983.

We are trying to locate the names and addresses of past students and graduates for our Homecoming. It would be sincerely appreciated if you would insert in your publication a request that they forward their recent addresses to the Alumni Association, 1481 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 1X4. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sylvia Bredeson
Executive Secretary
HOMECOMINC '83

Applications are invited for the following two positions:



Recording Secretary
Used Book Store Manager

Applications can be picked up at the Student Council Offices, 2nd Floor SUB, and should be returned to Sue McIntyre by March 30th, 1983.

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