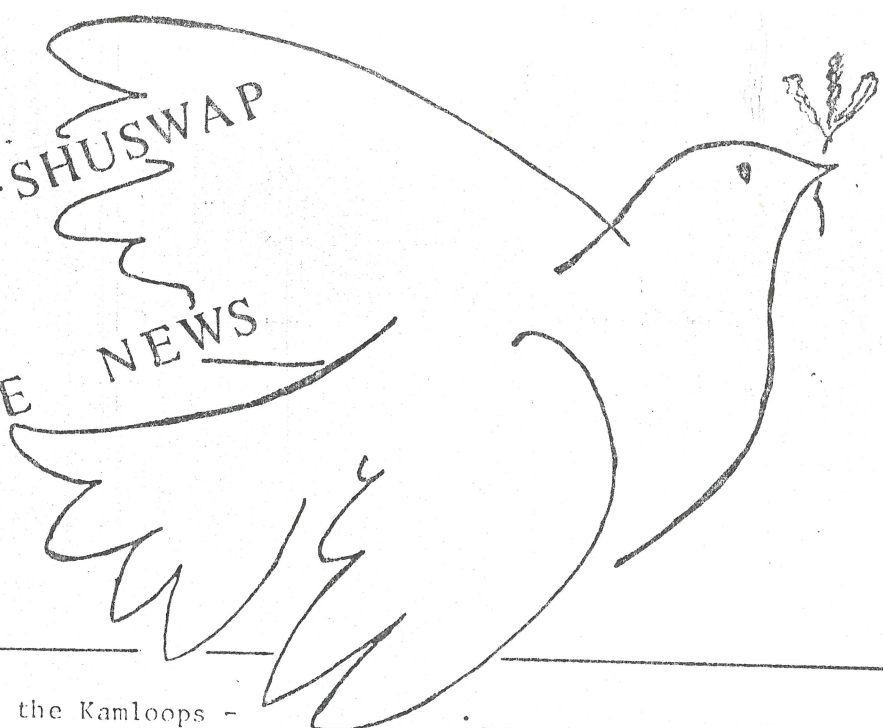


KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP PEACE NEWS



PEACE NEWS is published by the Kamloops - Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1, ph. 374-3269. Membership in the KSPC is open to any individual or organization, regardless of philosophical, religious, or political outlook, which subscribes to the need for a secure and lasting global peace through disarmament. The KSPC is a member council of the B.C. Peace Council and through it, the Canadian Peace Congress and the World Peace Council. We welcome your comments or opinions on any material printed in PFACE NEWS.

ISSUE NO. 30 SEPT/OCT 1984

EDITORIAL by Bill Ferguson

The ultimate In Sick Jokes!

I guess that we have all heard our fair share of sick jokes; Polish jokes, Ukrainian jokes, Newfie jokes, East Indian jokes, etc. To those of us, who stand opposed to discrimination against minorities, and indecency of any kind, these so called "jokes" are not only unamusing, they are down right offensive!

On August 11th 1984, while preparing a radio address to the American people, President Reagan coined the ultimate in sick jokes,

"My fellow Americans, I am pleased to tell you that I just signed legislation which outlaws Russia forever. The bombing begins in five minutes."

Even though he may have believed the microphone was not switched on, it is inconceivable to believe that a person, who holds such a high office, could joke about the world's most serious problem, unless the subject matter of the "joke" is a permanent feature of his thinking. Show me a person who tells racist jokes, and I'll show you a racist.

To the forces of peace, worldwide, Mister Reagan's statement indicates that a secure peace is a long way off, and that renewed effort and vigilance is needed.

Peace Petition Caravan Campaign

The final agenda for the PPCC has arrived. Caravaners hope to arrive in Ottawa on Oct 22nd, for the opening of the new parliament.

The first arrivals, will be the Cyclists for Peace on August 28th, in Kamloops. KSPC has arranged a supper for them the first evening. The United Church has kindly arranged for them to stay in the Christian Education Centre; with showers being provided by the Kamloops Y.

The main caravan will leave Vancouver Island on Sept. 29 in the west; and St. John's, Nfld, in the east the same day. The western group will be going through the Okanagan, bypassing Kamloops; therefore Kamloops people will meet them in Vernon on Monday evening, October 1st.

Locally, the PPCC has not been going very well because of summer activities and the federal election. We still need to collect many more signatures. September can still be an active month. Project ploughshares has agreed to help us during that month, so let's get the petitions rolling! We want a good representation from the Kamloops area.

Please contact Chum (374-3269) or Val (376-6053) if you need more petitions or information. Also, attend the KSPC meeting in September for the latest details.

The following article is from "The Canadian Nurse", April '84, and is reprinted in its entirety because we feel that it is such a good article.

PREVENTING GLOBAL WAR! WHAT CAN NURSES DO? by Richard Stollery, BSc

I bring to your attention the greatest moral and public health issue of our time: the prospect of a nuclear war in our lifetime. For some of us, it is hard to fathom what would actually happen in the event of a nuclear war. That is understandable: it is not pleasant to think about dead bodies lying on our streets or the populations of entire nations suffering slow and certain deaths. Helen Caldicott, an Australian physician, describes an nuclear explosion this way:

"A firestorm covering 1,500 to 2,000 square miles... your clothes would instantly ignite 26 miles away... The heat in the bomb shelters would suck out the oxygen... Persons 50 miles from the blast would be blinded instantly... typhoid throughout the world.... ozone layer so damaged it's possible every human on earth will suffer third degree burns."

Think of the television program, "The Day After", then consider that experts state that a real nuclear war would be much worse than that illustrated by the dramatization. If the people of the world let nuclear war happen:

"200 million people would be killed immediately with more than 60 million injured. Eighty percent of the Soviet and U.S. hospital beds would be destroyed or damaged. Eighty percent of health care professionals in these two countries would be killed or incapacitated. Thirty percent of the immediate survivors of a nuclear war would die... within a year, Leukemias and solid cancers would be increased by global radiation fallout."

These figures do not even include the casualties that would result in countries other than the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. When the Uranium bomb dropped on Hiroshima, only 30 out of 150 physicians and 126 out of 1780 nurses survived to help the 100,000 injured victims who did not die immediately.. This is the reality of nuclear war. The message is clear. Health care personnel who do not immediately die could not possibly treat the overwhelming numbers of dying victims. If these figures frighten you, then you feel the same way I do.

Politicians, scientists, retired military officials, and medical personnel believe that today, nuclear war has become a very real possibility. Other health professions (Physicians for Social Responsibility, for example) have already voiced their opposition to the proliferation of nuclear weaponry. What is preventing Canadian nurses from voicing their opposition? The nursing profession must be prepared to take a stand, to oppose government decisions to produce, test, and deploy nuclear weaponry in Canada and other countries. Governments the world over are diverting taxpayers' money from health care services into the arms race. The World Health Organization's budget for the whole of the current decade is equal to three weeks of what is now being spent on arms (by all countries). In fact:

"World military spending, in 1980, amounted to over \$500 billion, or \$1.4 billion daily. By comparison, the cost of eradicating smallpox was less than that of six hours of the arms race. Less than a day's military expenditures could finance the entire malaria-control program of the World Health Organization."

As nursing professionals, we must fulfill our role as our patient advocates - not only for their sake but for the sake of the human race. As caring individuals, we must attempt to end the arms race that threatens the destruction of human life on this planet. Most physicians "have no special expertise...on the purely political issues surrounding nuclear strategic policies." The same argument can apply to nurses. We can make a difference by providing our expertise on the health care consequences of mistaken political decisions. As individuals we can read about the nuclear war issue and become better informed as to the awesome threat that confronts us. As nurses, our role as public health educators makes us influential.

We must voice our concerns about this issue to others so that they might become better informed. We are each represented by our members of parliament. By writing our elected representatives we encourage them to vote against government policies that support the Canadian nuclear weapon escalation, and can help to make Canada a nuclear weapons free zone.

Last month, the testing of the U.S. cruise missile began in Cold Lake, Alberta, even though a gallop pole had earlier indicated that a majority of Canadians opposed the testing on Canadian soil. If Canada really is a democracy, then we must insist that the issue of nuclear weapon testing in Canada be put to a referendum for the Canadian people to decide upon. After all, this is a question that threatens the very existence of humanity. Cruise missiles (which carry nuclear warheads when deployed militarily) are so much smaller in comparison to other weapons, they can easily be concealed. They are, therefore, more difficult to enumerate. The ability of governments to verify nuclear weapon limitations by other governments (as one of the first steps to viable peace

WHAT CAN NURSES DO? (con't)

treaties)is seriously hampered by the Cruise.

As individuals, we have the power to lobby our representatives in parliament to stop "the procuring and exportation of natural materials needed to construct nuclear war-heads, or the withdrawal of...(secret) and/ or explicit support of the aggressive policies of nuclear super powers." In the past for example, the Canadian government sold a nuclear reactor to India with the understanding that the resulting nuclear power would be used only for peaceful purposes, but shortly after, in 1974, India produced and exploded its first nuclear device.

We can ask our M.P.'s to send us information on gov't policies concerning nuclear production, deployment and testing, not only in Canada, but also in other countries. We can encourage them to protest against countries that continue to build, test and deploy them. We can, as J. Martin urges, "put a stop sign on the road to nuclear madness", by requesting that:

"our tax dollars be used to set up institutions for the study of world conflict, and to support peace initiatives at home and abroad. We can provide money and time to organizations that attempt to reduce the international imbalance in standards of living that breed so much violence and potential for nuclear confrontation."

In our campaign to promote peace by opposing the arms race, nurses can only be regarded as working from our sincere commitment to mankind.

The campaign of presenting peace proposals to world leaders is an honourable move by the Prime Minister of this country. However, he can't solve the problem alone. We all must become involved because our lives are at stake. If we all work for peace, we become truly accountable to our own consciences. There is much truth to the statement that if we are not part of the solution, we remain a part of the problem. I sincerely hope that the nursing profession chooses to be a part of the solution. It is for this purpose I propose the formation of an organization called "Nurses for World Peace". Together we can combine our ideas and formulate a constitution through which policies can be designed to promote world peace and harmony.

We stand to gain a great deal from the effort to stop nuclear war. First, of course, we save our own lives and the lives of our fellow human beings. Second, perhaps we can learn to care for one another more, knowing how much we depend on each other for survival. Clearly these achievements are worth the effort. Before we are members of any particular ethnic or political system, we are human beings with a desire to live long and healthy lives.

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI MEMORIAL

About forty people gathered at Memorial Park in Kamloops on the 39th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the city of Nagasaki, August 9, 1984, to remember the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The event was co-sponsored by the KSPC, Project Ploughshares and the Ba'hai community. Music was provided by Gary Nielsen and Caroline Pemberton-Piggot. MC was KSPC chairperson, Val Carey, who reminded the group that the death and suffering caused by the two bombs is not over, as over 3,000 people had died in the last year from bomb related causes.

Reverend Bruce Chamberlayne, of St. Paul's Anglican church spoke of the Christian responsibility in the peace movement. Kathy MacArthur, of the Ba'hai faith spoke of the need for unity, and stressed that the people of the Soviet Union are as concerned for peace as we are.

In a candle-lighting ceremony. the participants pledged to work for peace, each in his or her own way, and recalled the words on the atom bomb memorial in Hiroshima, "Rest in Peace, the mistake shall not be repeated".

KSPC WILL HOST FILM FESTIVAL

The KSPC will be hosting a film festival at Cariboo College on October 27th, 1984 for United Nations Disarmament Week.

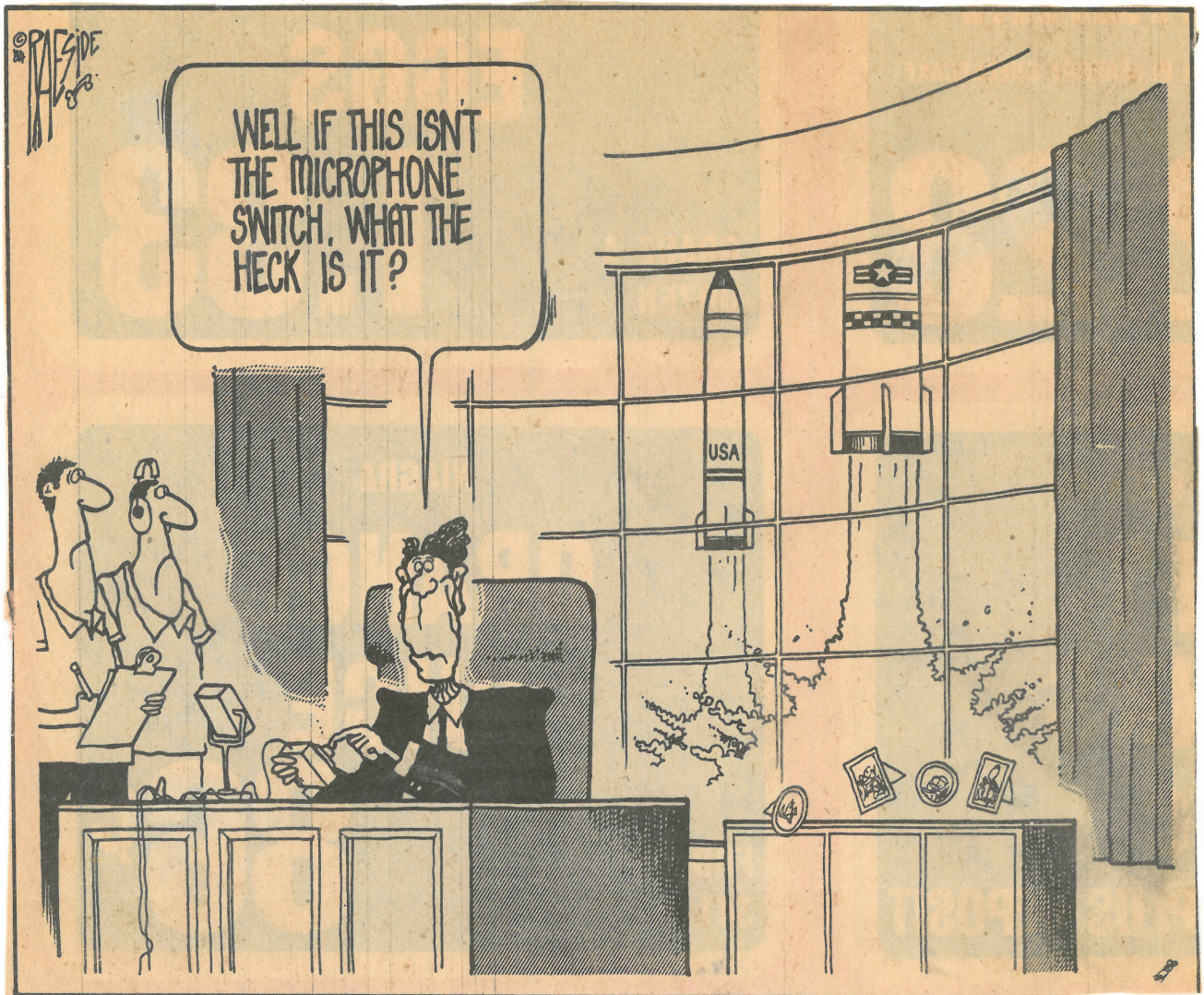
The festival, which gets underway at 10a.m. in the Boardroom, will feature three films; "Dr. Strangelove", "On the Beach" and "The Atomic Cafe".

Lunch will be available at a nominal fee, and billets can be arranged for out of town participants. Please see registration form below. A cost of \$5.00 will be charged to cover the cost of film and room rentals.

FILM FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTAL CODE _____
TELEPHONE _____
FMI Phone Val 376-6053 Chum 374-3269

BILLET REQUIRED yes()no()
Please return to: KAMLOOPS — SHUSWAP
PEACE COUNCIL
P.O. Box 973
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1
before October 15/84
FEE ENCLOSED (\$5.00) yes()no()



PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Immediately after the election, sit down and write a letter to the newly elected Prime Minister. Let him know about your concerns for a peaceful future, and urge him to carry on with Trudeau's peace initiatives. Send a copy to your M.P., or write an individual letter to him.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept 10th/Oct 8th - KSPC meets the second Monday of each month at the North Kamloops Library, 7:30 p.m.

October 1st - PPCC caravaners will be travelling through the Okanagan. Kamloops Peace groups will meet them in Vernon, Monday Oct. 1st. (evening)

October 27th - KSPC will hold it's first film festival at Cariboo College, 10 a.m.

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