



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IS PEACE POSSIBLE?

AN EXAMINATION OF THE NUCLEAR DILEMA

An examination of the nuclear dilemma will be the subject of the next event in the current Cariboo College season of free public lectures, scheduled for Friday evening, October 12.

The lecturer, Al MacKinnon, identifies himself as a long-time "Peacenik", but has only recently become actively concerned about the nuclear issue. He regards himself as one of those who has "awakened from slumber" to discover, with Dr. Helen Coldicott, that the "world is wired for destruction". He is convinced that only clear, hard thinking and a profound change in our approach to conflict resolution can save us from ourselves.

In recent years, mass nuclear disarmament protests in major centers in Europe and North America have highlighted a growing public awareness of the enormous and imminent dangers of nuclear war.

One of the most passionate and profound commentators on the nuclear peril is the American author Jonathan Schell. His 1982 book: The Fate of Earth, served as a beacon to the growing Peace movement and awakened millions from the slumber of "deterrance". Having forced us to consider the possible extinction of all life on the planet in his first book, his latest work: The Abolition, (1984), offers an alternative to oblivion.

Whatever merit his conclusions may have, no one has addressed the question of planetary survival with more intellectual clarity and passionate commitment than Jonathan Schell.

Schell's analysis of the nuclear predicament will be examined in detail and used as a basis to explore some of the implications of current nuclear policy and the feasibility of alternatives to "mutually assured destruction". Insights from the psychological and psychiatric literature will be included in an attempt to seek solutions to humanity's most pressing problem. The essen-

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tial question under review is this: Is Peace Possible? "Embracing, as it does, the life and death of every human being on earth and every future human being, it embraces and transcends all other issues". (Schell)

Mr. MacKinnon's October 12th lecture will be held at 7:30 in the Cariboo College Boardroom. The public is invited to the lecture and to participate in the discussions. Coffee will be served. For further information contact P. Peters at 374-0123, Local 341.

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Al MacKinnon is an instructor of Psychology in the Social Sciences Department of Cariboo College. He received his first degree, majoring in English, from Saint Francis Xavier University in his native province of Nova Scotia. After extensive travel and employment in Northern Canada, Europe and Africa, he completed a Master's degree in Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan. Following a period of lecturing at various Canadian universities, he continued post-graduate studies at the University of Maryland in the United States and Sheffield University in Great Britain. Before coming to Kamloops in 1975 he spent several years engaged in psychiatric research in mental hospitals, prisons and in the Canadian Arctic.

Beyond his professional concerns, MacKinnon's main interests are in his growing family, politics, poetry, opera and improving his squash game.

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For further information please contact
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