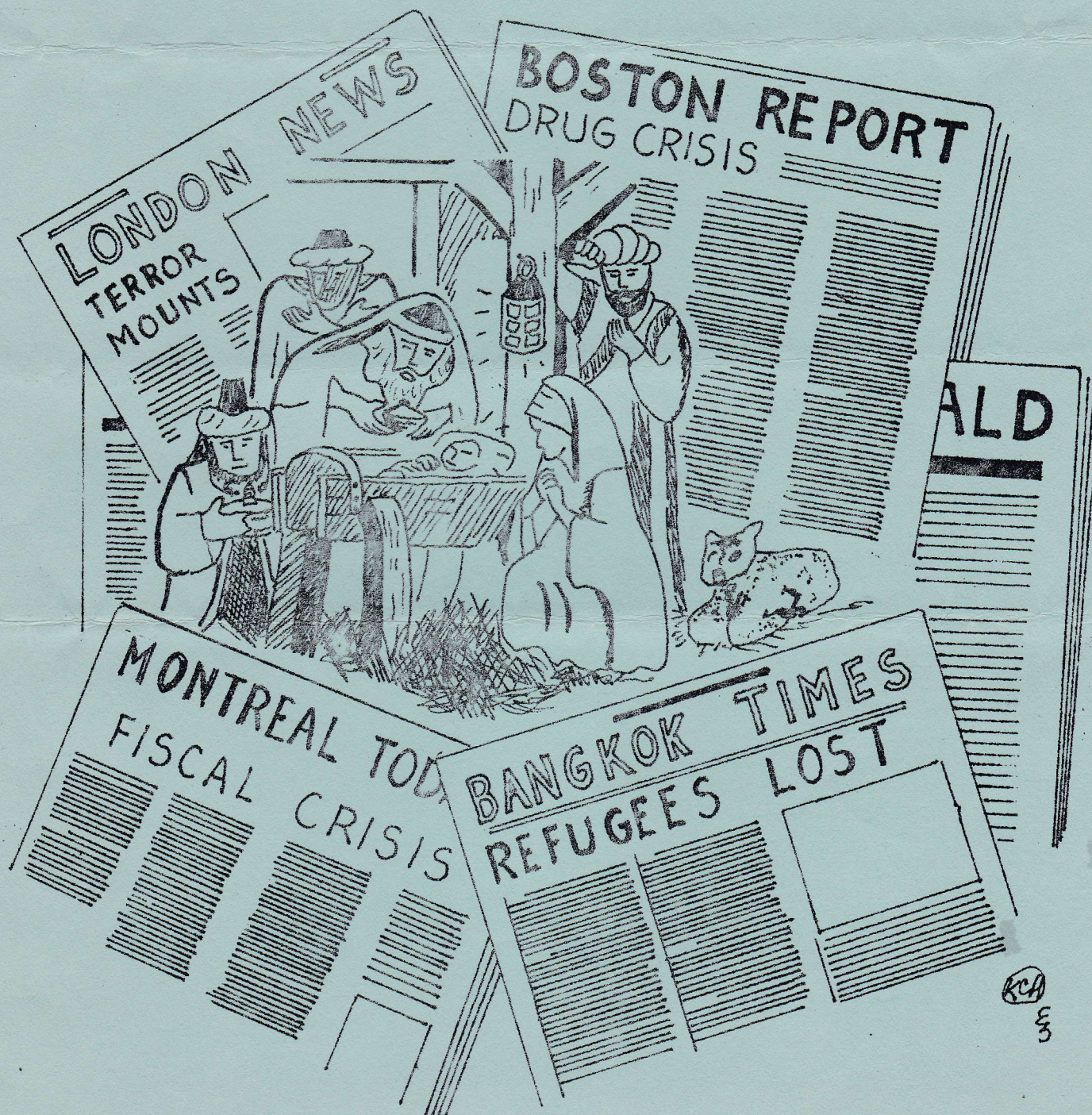


# Digger

DEC 86  
# 14

And  
CHRISTIAN ANARCHIST

FOR A CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH





CHRISTMAS: THE SONG  
REMAINS THE SAME  
by Kenny

Once again Christmas is almost upon us, and two separate bodies of people will try to spoil our celebration. The first is the capitalist robbers who will bury our celebration under tons of greed and glitz, and the second is those who moan and grumble and bitch about the commercialism of it all and not even try to find a sign of goodness in it. Every year at this time, I start to psyche myself up to enjoy the holy day. You see I am determined not to let either of these groups ruin my Christmas.

When I was a boy, Christmas was the best thing that happened all year (apart from summer holidays); the most exciting and beautiful party of celebration and singing and giving and receiving and visiting of every year. I still remember as a small boy of seven or eight that many of my toys were handmade by my Dad and painted by my Mom. Shinning in reds, greens and silvers, made from wood, they lasted for years and the feeling of love that was built into them still lasts. A little later when money wasn't so scarce, there would be one really special gift, one year a huge geology set with minerals and a bunsen burner and glass tubing to melt, and another year a magnificent castle of tin with Robin Hood and the Sheriff fighting it out on the living room rug. For years I received a parcel every year from England and one year it contained a brave knight on prancing steed all in lead and it weighed about half a pound and if I had it today it would be worth a small fortune.

For several weeks before Christmas, Mr. Hussey our music teacher at school would have us all going through hours of choral work for the Christmas concert, How we sang those carols! God we were good, we sounded (to our minds) like the choir at Cambridge or Oxford in England. I wish kids still did choral singing. I would love to hear it again. I remember the Christmas concerts at club 35. Seventy or maybe a hundred clod hopping farmers and loggers and their wives all brave in ill fitting suits from the Eatons catalogue, simple but decent folks crowding in to see the biggest show of the year. The nativity scene with us wearing bath towels around our heads and a fat Santa coming out of a cardboard fireplace, and a kid with two teeth blacked out singing "all I want for Christmas is my two front teeth". That's how Christmas was for me as a kid. Today it's almost still like that. Now I go to the Christmas concert at my kids school and sit in the audience like an old man and watch my kids and my neighbours kids do their stuff. I love it. I sing the carols out loud making no excuses for my corniness and the words of Hark the Herald Angels Sing still make me emotional and I still feel like a kid living that real Christmas of long ago. No, no one is going to spoil my Christmas this year. The capitalism and commercialism isn't going to bother me because my Christmas is a glowing little ball of happiness inside me. My friends cynicism wont dampen my spirits either because I know that despite it all they are good people maybe just a little older and more tired than me. Anyway that's the kind of Christmas I wish for all of you and know that you will have if you keep it in your heart.



## A DISARMING CHRISTMAS by Fr. Emmanuel Charles McCarthy

The spirit of Christmas is above all the spirit of peace. It is not the spirit of war. It is the spirit of joy and meekness not revenge and violence. The decorations, the lights, the trees, the music all come from and speak to that universal longing for genuine peace on earth.

Yet, the sale of war toys has increased 350% since 1982. The top selling toys are toys that seduce children into playing homicide. G.I. Joe, a grotesque and vicious killer, the utter opposite of the spirit of Christmas is continually a big seller at Christmas. We can assume that this year one company or another that could not care less about the truth, love and holiness of this Christian feast day will try to Ramboize Christmas for a quick buck. It is also reasonable to assume that they will succeed and that Christian parents and children will gain by the pagan con artist of Hollywood and Madison Avenue.

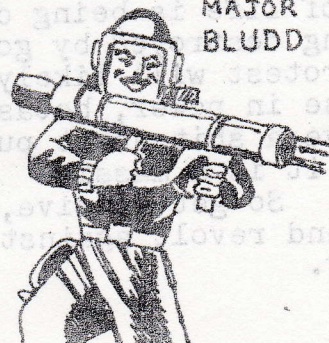
What this means is that on Christmas morning in front of the stable of the Prince of Peace, millions of little Christian children will be living in the murderous, hate-filled spirit that Rambo, G.I. Joe, toy machine guns etc. require them to use. To play homicide one must put on the mind of homicide. But the homicidal mind is not the mind of Christ. To give a child a war toy is to entice him or her into putting on the killer consciousness where conflict is resolved by the destruction and humiliation of the other party. Indeed to give a war toy is to nurture him or her into enjoying the subtle but powerful pleasure of the destruction and humiliation of those with whom one disagrees.

To those who say, "War toys are educationally and morally neutral," I say, "That is not true - and you know it." To those who say, "War toys allow a child to vicariously experience a homicidal fantasy world and therefore reduce the possibility that he or she will participate in such activity outside of the mind," to those who say this I say "That is not true and you know it." If little children are not damaged by presenting them with toys that coax them into homicidal fantasies, then why not present them with toys that arouse them with lustful and pornographic fantasies? We all know what the truth is in this matter regardless of how many kept psychologists and educationists the big toy companies pull out in order to justify the desecration of the Christian holy day.

Jesus said, "Anyone who welcomes a little one in my name welcomes me. But anyone who is an obstacle, to bring down one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the sea with a millstone around his neck. Alas that there should be obstacles. Obstacles there must indeed be, but alas for the one who provides them!"

Please Christian parents give your children only what Jesus would give them on his birthday. Please, no war toys at Christmas.

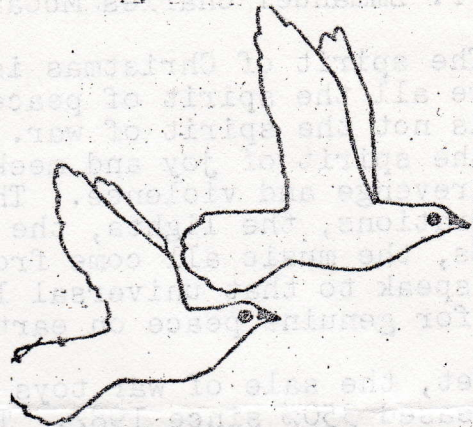
MAJOR  
BLUDD





## INNU UNDER ATTACK

On November 26, '86, ACT Peterborough demonstrated against the harrasment of the Innu of Labrador by low level jet training flights. Canada is soliciting to get a new NATO testing and training centre at Goose Bay. The Innu of Ntesinan (Our Land) are not being consulted of course but they are the ones who are suffering. Jets sometimes in pairs zero in on hunting camps at 600 miles per hour often only one hundred or two hundred feet above the ground. This may happen as often as 12 times in two hours. Children and the aged are terrified. The department of Defence itself admits that the F 4 Phantom II of West Germany emits a noise level of 110 to 126 decibels, the pain threshold for most people. Jet exhausts foul the lakes, small animals die for no reason (scared to death or poisoned?) and the caribou these people depend on have been scattered for hundreds of miles. The planes involved are from Canada, Britain, and West Germany. ACT Peterborough rented sound equipment and broadcast sonic booms to the people of Peterborough and handed out leaflets describing the situation. About one hundred leaflets were given out and despite the fact that the technology didn't stand up it was a good action. There will be a meeting of ACT to discuss this concern at the Peterborough public library, on Dec. 1 (Tues). In the meantime, call Dave Webster at 745-4004 (Projects for Change, 219 Hunter st.). The meeting will be to discuss future actions, consequences, ideas, etc. This is an important matter, as a way of life is being destroyed. It is being destroyed by government. Your protest will likely be ignored by those in power, because they do not give a shit about public opinion unless it is a massive revolt of the people. So get massive, support the Innu, and revolt against government tyranny.



## FOOD BANK NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The food bank at Projects for Change has been providing such a needed service that as demand has grown, resources have declined. At the time of writing there is eight dollars in the account. We could sure use a cash infusion right now. Recently we have been giving out about fifteen or twenty bags of groceries per week. What's in a bag? Usually it contains something like this, 1 can of beans, 1 macaroni dinner, 2 cans of soup, 1 six ounce bag of rice, 1 can of tomatoes, tea bags, 1 packet of Jello, 1 jar of peanut butter, and assorted powdered juice mixes, cookies etc. Obviously this is just enough to hold someone over for a day or two, usually before their benefits come in. Who uses the bank? Not surprisingly, young single mothers with little kids, but also young single men, and a few more elderly folks. Is there a catch? No, we do not charge, we do not preach, we do ask if our friends will fill out a questionnaire, but they do not have to and it is strictly confidential, we do not ask for names. THE SALVATION ARMY HAS TOLD US THAT WE CAN REFER PEOPLE DIRECTLY TO THEM thus they will not have to fill out forms at Sally Ann. (cont.)



## ANVA ACTION IN OTTAWA

On November 12th, a contingent of Peterborough peace activists travelled to Ottawa, the nations capital to join hundreds of others from all over Ontario in demonstrating against Canada's involvement with U.S. weapons testing.

The action took place at National defence Headquarters. It began at 7:45 a.m. as hundreds sat in front of the doors and blocked the way of arriving employees. Several people dumped containers of blood (both human and animal) outside the building, this was to symbolise the blood which will be spilled through the eventual use of these horrendous weapons. Those who dumped blood were immediately arrested and charged with mischief to property. About 25 Ottawa police officers made the arrests while RCMP stood by ever ready to assist if these violent (non-violent) terrorists should get out of hand. The sit-in, chanting etc. lasted about an hour. Eventually 58 activists were arrested. Among this number were our own locals.

Our folks had to return to Ottawa for a court appearance on the 24th of November and this time they were put off until July of '87. Apparently they will not all be charged at the same time (that is tried), but must appear on three separate days, the 6th, 7th and 8th. This is an unnecessary ploy on the part of the 'justice' system to punish the defendants by inconveniencing them, even should they get off.

"People in the country are not aware of the extent that Canada is involved in (U.S.) weapons testing. The Mulroney government is taking us deeper and deeper into an inextricable process with the U.S." says spokesman Peter Dundas of Kingston.

(Food bank cont.)

The food bank is not funded in any other way than by your donations. We do not receive grants or loans, that is because we have not sought these things. We feel that we would be binding ourselves to state control which we will not do. Further we believe that works of mercy, charity, solidarity with the less fortunate should come at some degree of personal sacrifice. In this way we make common cause with the poor. We are no better than they, we only share what we have and urge you to do the same.

Food donations should be either canned or dried or in sealed containers. This is because we have no refrigeration. We will take a gift of money. Any amount from a dollar up would be greatly appreciated. Drop by the store at 219 Hunter st. on Mon. Wed. or Fri. or Sat. Any other time the store is open is fine too. You can call us at 745-4004. Thank you all for your support.





## DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE AND PLOUGHSHARES

Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace hosted a meeting at the public library, Nov. 27th. About 70 people heard from two local and two out of town speakers on the role of the laity in transforming the church today. Charity is necessary to relieve poverty but justice must work to change the structures causing the poverty. Development and peace work has a low community profile, does not yield quick or easily visible results, and demands consummate patience. Peterborough is trying to form a diocesan council for CCODP.

Kawartha Ploughshares is naturally disappointed at the city's official rejection of the opportunity to become a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. The 7-3 vote against the motion is probably indicative of the political climate in Peterborough. The campaign was a success however, in that it raised awareness of the nuclear threat, brought into the open the arguments of the 'peace through strength' constituency, and gave us a good forum to present Jesus and the non-violent cross. I believe we must continue this debate publicly, constantly challenging the use of force, or its threatened use. The new way of thinking Einstein said was necessary challenges us to make non-violence our method in working for justice at every level in our community, whether it is in tenants rights work, food bank entrepreneurship or nuclear disarmament. The devil theory about those who maintain the current system has to be avoided. They are not bad people who must be overcome. They are decent people with whom we can work.

Sheila Nabigon

Write Digger at 642 George St. North, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, News, events, opinions and small gifts are all welcome. God bless.

## THE DANGEROUS JESUS (from 'Christians and Non-Violence in the Nuclear Age by Gerard A. Vanderhaar)

If his teaching ran counter to the prevailing climate of opinion, so did his actions. Jesus was a friend of outcasts, criminals, prostitutes, and, above all, the poor, with whom he spent so much time. He did not have a steady job, did not settle down, get married, and raise a family. He repudiated wealth, and consistently refused to provide for his own security. His life, like his teachings, ran counter to many culturally accepted attitudes. But they got right to the heart of what the kingdom of heaven was all about.

Social relationships, according to him, should be based on service and humility, not authority and exploitation, or subservience. The society of his time involved domination and exploitation, maintained by violence. Jesus rejected domination. After describing the way Gentile kings like the Romans, lord it over their subjects, he said to his followers, "But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves." (Lk 22:26)

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And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the Kingdom of God is within you,

St. Luke

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WHY WE ARE ANARCHISTS  
by Errico Malatesta

Apart from our ideas about the political State and government, that is on the coercive organisation of society, which are our specific characteristic, and those on the best way to ensure for everybody free access to the means of production and enjoyment of the good things of life, we are anarchists because of a feeling which is the driving force for all sincere social reformers, and without which our anarchism would be either a lie or just nonsense.

This feeling is the love of mankind, and the fact of sharing the sufferings of others. If I eat I cannot enjoy what I eat if I think that there are people dying of hunger; if I buy a toy for my child and am made happy by here pleasure, my happiness is soon embittered at seeing wide-eyed children standing at a shop window who could be made happy with a cheap toy but who cannot have it; if I am enjoying myself, my spirit is saddened as soon as I recall that there are unfortunate fellow beings languishing in jail; if I study, or do a job I enjoy doing, I feel remorse at the thought that there are many brighter than I who are obliged to waste their lives on exhausting, often useless, or harmful tasks.

Clearly, pure egoism; others call it altruism, call it what you like, without it it is not possible to be an anarchist. Intolerance of oppression, the desire to be free and to develop one's personality to its fullest is not enough to make one an anarchist. That aspiration towards unlimited freedom, if not tempered by love of mankind may well create rebels who if strong enough soon become exploiters and tyrants; but never anarchists.

AGAPE NEWSLETTER

Digger was very glad to get copies of the Toronto AGAPE newsletter 'Diakonia'. This name was chosen because in Greek it means to render service from which we derive the english term deacon. The purpose of the newsletter is 'to be a simple link and service rendered to different groups and individuals interested in keeping in touch with each other and sharing. Secondly it serves as a reminder that Christian non violence cannot be properly understood except in the vision of the whole message of the Gospel and in the particular calling that we as a church have received by Jesus to serve the suffering humanity and give our lives as He did for the life of the world.' To receive your copy of Diakonia, write to that name, c/o Jane and Roberto Ubertino, 1363 Queen st., E. #8, Toronto, M4L 1C7.

TOLSTOY'S WILL

Tolstoy's idea of saintliness worked much hardship on his family. Even as he despised the notion of property inheritance, his own large estate troubled him with paroxysms of guilt. His altruistic intentions to give it all away split his household, and his last days were marred by violent quarrels as his wife and sons tried to preserve some security for themselves. Hating the very idea of wills, Tolstoy signed several of them in an effort to close every loophole; the last only four months before his death on a forest stump to prevent family spying. Accordingly, his land and literary estates went 'to the people' through his sole family ally, daughter Sasha.





Dear Digger:

Thanks for reviewing my book. I read the rest of your publication and although we start from different places (I am not religious) we wind up with a lot of similar conclusions. It's certainly good to hear your voice with all the right wing religious bombast (coming from people of a variety of religions all over the world) going on these days. The best of luck to you. Sincerely...

Harvey Pekar  
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Dear Digger:

I was very impressed with your mag. You seem to have a sense of history that roots what you are seeking to live and say in a general movement of history that transcends any particular experience. I say this without diminishing the value of personal experience but what I mean is that many of us in the left field of things act and think as if nothing ever happened before our appearance in history.

I especially liked your article on what you have described as old church practices that you would like to see again practiced in the churches. I think you would be happy to know that all that you describe in that article has in fact been lived by us here at AGAPE. We were very encouraged that you saw this as positive even from an anarchist perspective. I would be very happy to discuss this with you

in more depth if you are ever in Toronto, why don't we get together? Please forgive the spelling mistake but what can I say...I am an immigrant...

In Jesus the foolish man from Galilee that we worship and adore as God,

Roberto  
Toronto AGAPE

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MORE ANCIENT CHURCH PRACTICES  
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Charity: The church paid for the burials of its members. The Church offered hospitality to travellers. A Christian brother on the road was entitled to three nights lodging with no questions asked.  
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#### PRAY IN A COAL HOLE

A minister wrote to John Ruskin the British essayist and art critic and asked for a loan to help build a church. Ruskin replied with a blistering refusal, "Starve and go to heaven - but don't borrow. Try first begging. If it's really needful, stealing, Of all manner of debtors, pious people building churches they can't pay for are the most detestable. Can't you preach in a coal hole first?"

