

**Terrace Bay
Schreiber**

News

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"Tough scene" for complex problems

The world will fully wake up to the connections between disarmament and development by the 1990s, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament, Douglas Roche, predicts.

And the impact then, he believes, will be profound- similar to the changes in world thinking sparked by the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment and the Mexico Conference that launched the International Decade for Women.

Speaking on the eve of a preparatory meeting for the first-ever United Nations-sponsored International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, to be held in New York August 24 to September 11, Ambassador Roche admitted the 1980s are "a tough scene" for these two complex problems.

World expenditures on military production have soared to nearly \$1 trillion annually while poverty in the poor countries has increased, with low commodity prices and severe debt entrenching their trading disadvantage.

At the same time, military spending in the Third World has grown, to account for 21 per cent of total global military expenditures.

Disarmament and development programs are distinct processes, linked through the common desire of all people for security, Roche said.

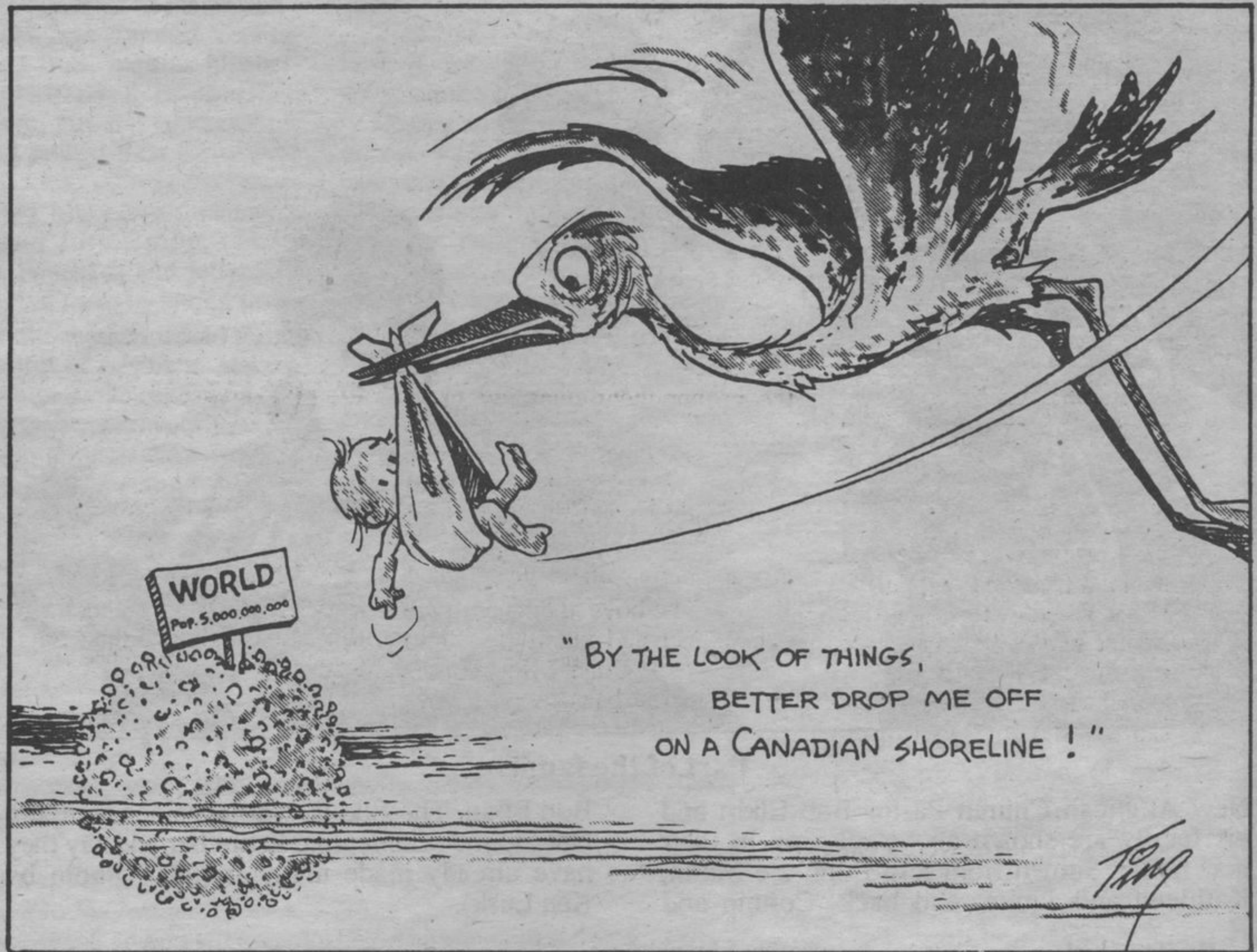
Military spending and development both compete for the same scarce resources in national and international budgets.

The conference will lay the foundations for a common understanding of the two issues. "I hope it will emphasize the need to restrict countries' arms exports, particularly into those areas most disadvantaged, whose economics are most vulnerable," Roche said.

He also noted that Canada submits an annual accounting of its military expenditures to the United Nations and encourages other states to follow suit as an important first step towards the reduction of global military spending.

Disarmament and development- two problems which most bedevil world affairs- are both major foreign policy goals for Canada, and the Department of External Affairs has played an active role in pushing along preparations for the fall conference.

A consensus document in New York next September could help achieve the change in world thinking needed to build a meaningful connection between disarmament and development by the 1990s.



Letters to the editor

MPP Pouliot urges assistance

**The Honourable Murray Elston,
minister of health,
Dear Minister:**

I must bring your attention to an area of great concern among many of the residents of small Northern Ontario towns and other similar, smaller communities throughout rural regions of this province.

Both in my capacity as a representative and in my experience as a resident of Northern Ontario, I am acutely aware of the unique hardships which are faced by recovering and formerly mentally ill patients throughout our remote

communities. In these small communities, patients with even a brief history of mental illness are often the subject of gossip, rumour and alienation. For all too many residents who have required mental health care, this single injustice often undermines their difficult road to recovery and return to normal daily life.

At the time of their greatest need for the understanding of others, and far from the support and networking of self-help groups, organized social workers and health care professionals, theirs often becomes a world of further isolation. Imagine the isolation

of dreading to leave your home, shamed by the shameful reactions of others at the only general store, the only service station, the only church or community hall within fifty miles or more. Under the present health care system, remote communities are simply not equipped to deal with the rehabilitation and integration of such individuals.

Your ministry must address this problem with a meaningful recovery patient support program which is directly related to the smaller community.

The component of public edu-
continued on page 5

Arthur Black

Jesus Christ and the tortilla

By Arthur Black

Religion consists in believing that everything which happens is extraordinarily important. It can never disappear from the world, precisely for this reason.

Pavese

Well, now I'm not so sure about that. Mister Pavese was a lot smarter than I'll ever be, but if his observation is correct it means I'll have to re-think this whole business of Jesus on a Tortilla.

Happened in a kitchen in the tiny town of Lake Arthur, New Mexico, a few years ago. Mrs. Maria Rubio was in the kitchen, cooking burritos as she had done every day for more than twenty years. You know burritos. It is spicy Mexican gorp rolled up in a kind of thin pancake called a tortilla. Senora Rubio was whipping her burritos together when suddenly she glanced at the tortilla shell on the table, gasped and made the sign of the cross. Jesus Christ was looking back at her.

there, on the tortilla shell. The burn marks from her skillet had burned a perfect -- well, to Maria Rubio, perfect -- image of The Lord right into the tortilla dough.

Needless to say, the Rubios did not have the Blessed Tortilla for lunch. Instead, Maria encased the tortilla in plastic, set it on a puff of cotton batting, erected a small shrine around it and turned her living room into a chapel.

It's all because of the Shroud of Turin of course -- the famous and much-disputed relic which some claim is the winding sheet that Christ's corpse was wrapped in, and which appears to show the imprint of a bearded man whose hands are folded across his loins. There are wound marks in the wrists and feet. There is a large wound in the side. Sounds like Christ alright.

Many experts contend that it sounds too much like Christ -- that it's all too pat and convenient and what the Shroud of Turin really is is a cleverly painted

long as 600 years ago. Problem is, there is absolutely no evidence of paint. In fact no one has successfully proven that the shroud is not exactly what it's devotees believe it to be -- a sheet of 1st century Palestinian burial linen used to cover the body of Christ after his crucifixion.

A couple of years ago the Vatican allowed scientific experts from around the world to examine the shroud using the most sophisticated and up-to-date techniques and procedures available. Result: inconclusive. Which is to say no one can prove the Shroud isn't authentic.

Which in turn has given great impetus to the Maria Rubios of the world. Jesus hasn't only shown up on tortilla shells. Last summer he made an appearance in the town of Fostoria, Ohio.

On the side of a soybean oil storage tank.

Joelle Feasel, a Fostoria City Councillor says "It very definitely is our Lord...there's a white gown

posed to be..." A spokesman for the company that owns the tank says the image is a combination of rust stains, bad lighting and peoples' imaginations.

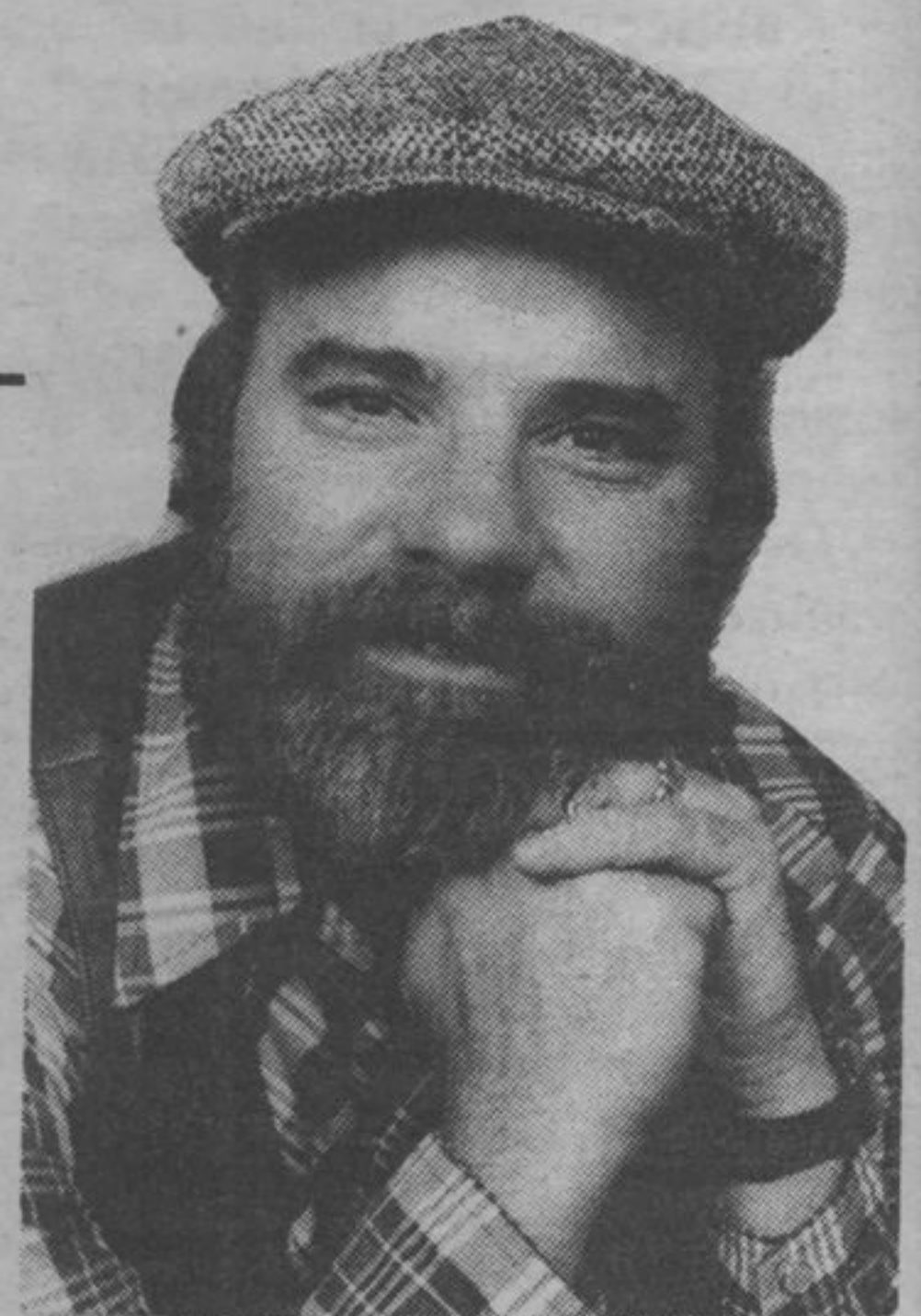
Obviously an unbeliever.

But the vision spotting continues apace -- and in the darndest places. Last year people gathered around the sawed-off limb of a silver poplar tree in downtown Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Yep, they allowed, there was the face of Jesus alright. Staring back at them from the limb stump.

Last month People Magazine ran a feature about Arlene Gardner of Estill Springs, Tennessee.

Actually the article was more about Arlene's freezer which sits on the porch of her mobile home. Arlene claims that when the porch light hits the east side of her G.E. freezer just right you can see -- you guessed it -- Christ's face looking back at you.

Opinion is divided about that in Estill Springs. The local newspaper opines as how the image



Nelson in mid-croon. Others think they see John Lennon, or maybe even the Ayatollah. But true believers will pay such heretics no mind. They know what they know.

Ask Maria Rubio of Lake Arthur, New Mexico. The former maid has quit her job to become full time custodian of the Jesus of The Tortilla Shrine.

Lonely job? Not hardly. So far more than ten thousand people have signed her guest register.

Not that Maria's in it for the money. Admission is free.

Jim and Tammy Faye, eat your