

# Of war and truth

They say that the first victim of war is truth.

As we try and navigate our way through the current cold war between the Soviets and the U.S., one has to seriously question how much of the information we are receiving is actually truth, how much is distorted and how much is empty rhetoric.

Take the recent events in Grenada for instance.

Regardless of whether or not the invasion was justified, let us look at the kind of information we have been receiving.

At first the U.S. contended it was necessary to invade the island to protect U.S. citizens there. Then the invasion became necessary to stop the build-up of Cuban arms there (no doubt intended to foster revolution in Central America). Now as the TV cameras show smiling faces of Granadians saying they welcomed the invasion, undoubtedly it will become a war of liberation within a few days.

The U.S. invasion is no particular surprise, just as an invasion of Nicaragua will happen when the U.S. feels that it can aptly justify it.

Grenada is just a part of a continued war of spheres of influence that has been happening for quite some time. It is the American versus the Soviets in Lebanon, in El Salvador, in Afghanistan, in Nicaragua ... although neither side may be directly involved in all the conflicts, American and Soviet support is evident in each of the conflicts for obvious reasons.

Nightly for the last week we have been entertained by the American propaganda machine at its finest.

Ronald Regan appears on TV with an emotional speech about American service personnel dying overseas for freedom. We see U.S. defense department footage of what are obviously Cuban construction workers described as Cuban troops. We see stockpiles of small arms in Grenada described as a threat to Central America. The fact that it would make a lot more sense to store arms in Havana for such purposes — since Cuba is four times closer to the Central American conflicts — is ignored.

The nightly diatribes against the Soviets and the Cubans are interesting in light of the fact that both the Soviets and the Cubans were dismayed themselves by the recent coup in Grenada. What if the Soviets or the Cubans had invaded under the same pretext?

The government prior to the coup has been repeatedly characterized as stooges of the Soviets and Cubans. What the nightly reports ignore is that since the take-over of Grenada by the New Jewel Movement four years ago, unemployment was reduced from 49 per cent to 12 per cent. The country also boasted a 5.5 per cent rate of growth — and this in the midst of a world-wide recession.

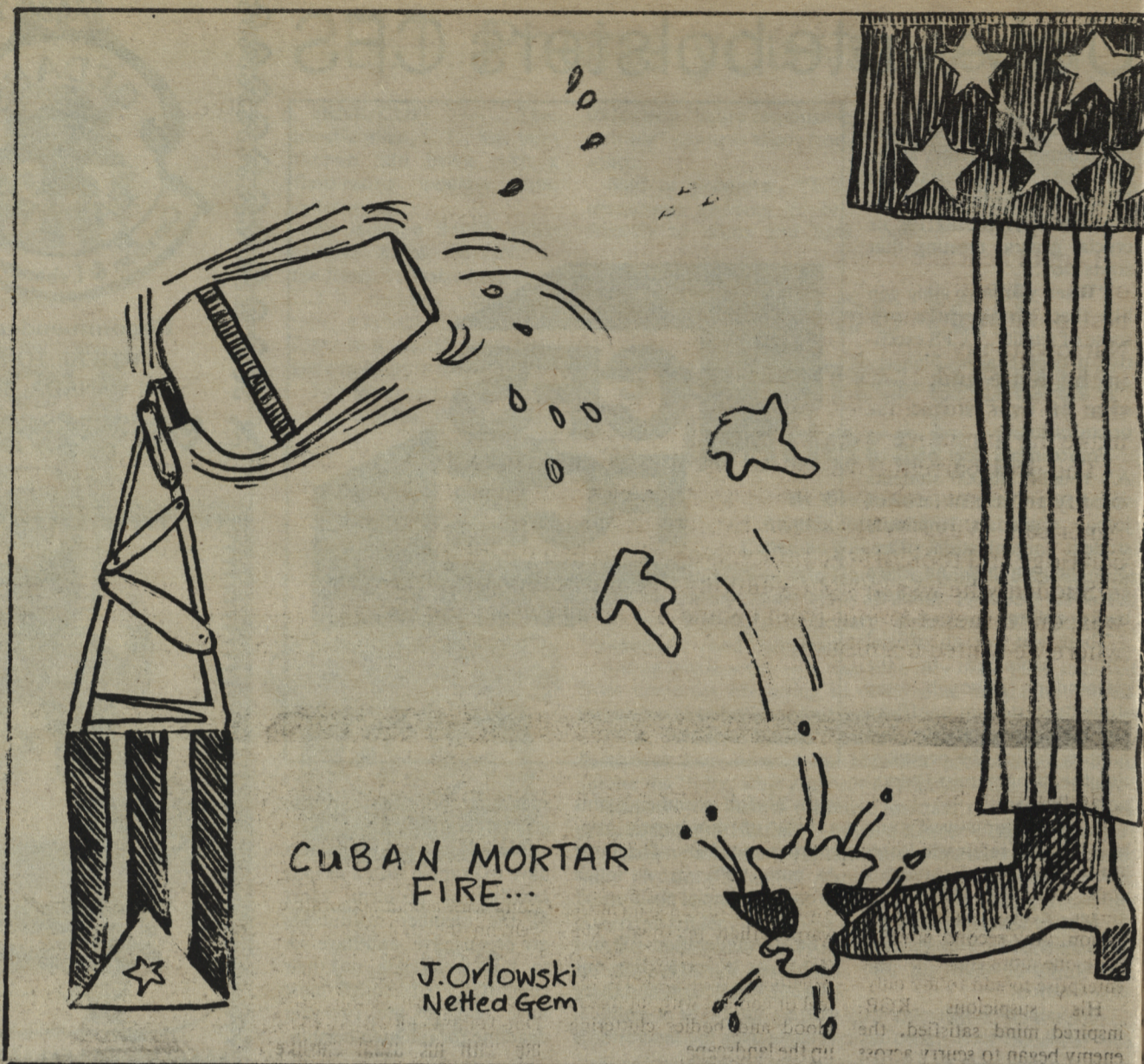
The government of Maurice Bishop — although a so called Marxist one — was popular among Grenadians.

Now that so called "democracy" has been restored to Grenada at the point of a gun, we can be sure the country will not be permitted to slip out of the U.S. sphere of influence again. We can be sure in the upcoming election the business oriented Granadian Democratic Movement will be financed by the Americans, after all it wouldn't be the first time Americans have poured money into international political parties.

If the Americans are concerned about being at the forefront of wars of liberation, maybe they should send troops to combat repressive regimes in Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador and South Korea — all incidentally U.S. allies.

For students and educators, the name of the game for any free society is being able to read between the lines. To sift through the information we receive and come to our own analysis of the situation — not the analysis governments and big business media would have you believe is the absolute truth.

As 1984 approaches it is imperative that we prepare ourselves to deal with the ultimate tool of power — knowledge.



## University threatens Sociology/Anthropology again

Lets take a trip down memory lane. Remember last year at this time when everyone was busy cramming for mid-terms and suddenly we were awakened by the president's advisory committee report?

One clause regarding the sociology/anthropology de-

partment suggested that a joint major should be provided in sociology/anthropology instead of a major in each discipline. Most of us students were quite upset we were not consulted. Well — it's happening again.

At the present time, the de-

partment of sociology and anthropology offers a sociology and an anthropology major. There is a proposal before senate which states:

The the university offers one joint major in sociology/anthropology with two pat-

ference would be that each student would be known to have a bachelor of arts with a major in sociology/anthropology.

For those sociology and anthropology majors out there — do you want your

## The Netted Gem

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**Staff This Week:** The all-star crew of this week's paper includes the likes of (in no particular order) Carolyn Ryan, Jonathan Orłowski, Sharon Leighton, Ruth Edgett, John Dougan, Joanne MacKinnon, Darrel Blackquiere, Denise Richardson, Biff Bart Jr., Mickey Place, and cup master of ceremonies this week, Rick Janson. The door is still open to more!

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## LETTERS

terns of concentration (or indeed equal distribution of courses). The department should attempt to have the materials on these patterns approved in time for the 1984-85 calendar.

What this means is:

1. There would be one joint major. Thus one could no longer receive a bachelor of arts degree majoring in sociology or anthropology.
2. The department could offer a sequence in sociology or a sequence in anthropology, or even the combination of the two.
3. However, even with these sequences, the dif-

degree combined? The statistics seem to suggest not.

This joint major has been available for the past two years and no one has ever chosen it. We have about 60 people declared majors in either sociology or anthropology.

If you disagree, if you are concerned about your future and the future of students following you, a petition will be circulaed soliciting your support. Furthermore there will be a short meeting on Monday November 7 at 7:00 pm in the library, room 102.

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