

COLUMNIST'S ARGUMENTS FLAWED

May 15 1999 (Letter to the editor, *The Sudbury Star*; published May 22)

Oswaldo Croci and **Brian K. MacLean**, Laurentian University

Dear Editor:

The column (Bombs Accomplishing Mission -- May 14) by syndicated columnist Claire Hoy contains two glaring flaws.

Hoy claims that without the ongoing bombing Yugoslavia would never have allowed an armed international force to operate in Kosovo.

This is incorrect: Serbia rejected a NATO force on its territory during the so-called Rambouillet negotiations but before the bombing began the Serb Parliament passed a resolution accepting a UN peacekeeping force. And remember that an observation team of the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe was present in Kosovo until bombing began. Serbia, moreover, has repeatedly stated that it would be ready to accept a UN peacekeeping force as soon as the bombing stops.

Second, Hoy states the Chinese embassy bombing was unfortunate but that in war innocent people die and "it's hard to accuse the Chinese of innocence, given their support for the maniacal murderer Milosevic." These vaguely formulated words, as we think you will recognize, are inappropriate in both their tone and their possible implications: is Hoy intimating that the three Chinese journalists had less of a right to life than war supporters like himself? Or is he questioning the rights of all Chinese who support China's policy? Or even anyone who opposes the NATO approach?

Those demonizing the "enemy" and slandering war opponents should remember that neither Canada nor its allies are under attack.

Canada is participating in a NATO campaign that is an apparent violation of international laws recognizing sovereignty except when military intervention has UN sanction, and of NATO's own charter restricting it to self-defense. The campaign appears to be making life worse for everyone, including Albanian Kosovars.

Whether it concerns the few people killed in the Chinese embassy bombing or the dozens killed in NATO's latest mass killing of Albanian refugees or the hundreds of Serbian civilians killed by NATO bombs launched at Yugoslavia's infrastructure, we may one day be grateful to the many voices, Chinese or otherwise, that have questioned all this killing and the rationale offered for it.

Our column ([Support for Bombing Meagre](#)) was published on the same page of *The Sudbury Star* as Hoy's and was marked with a box labeled ANALYSIS.

We have joked to friends that Hoy's column would have benefitted from the insertion of a box labelled WAR PROPAGANDA.

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