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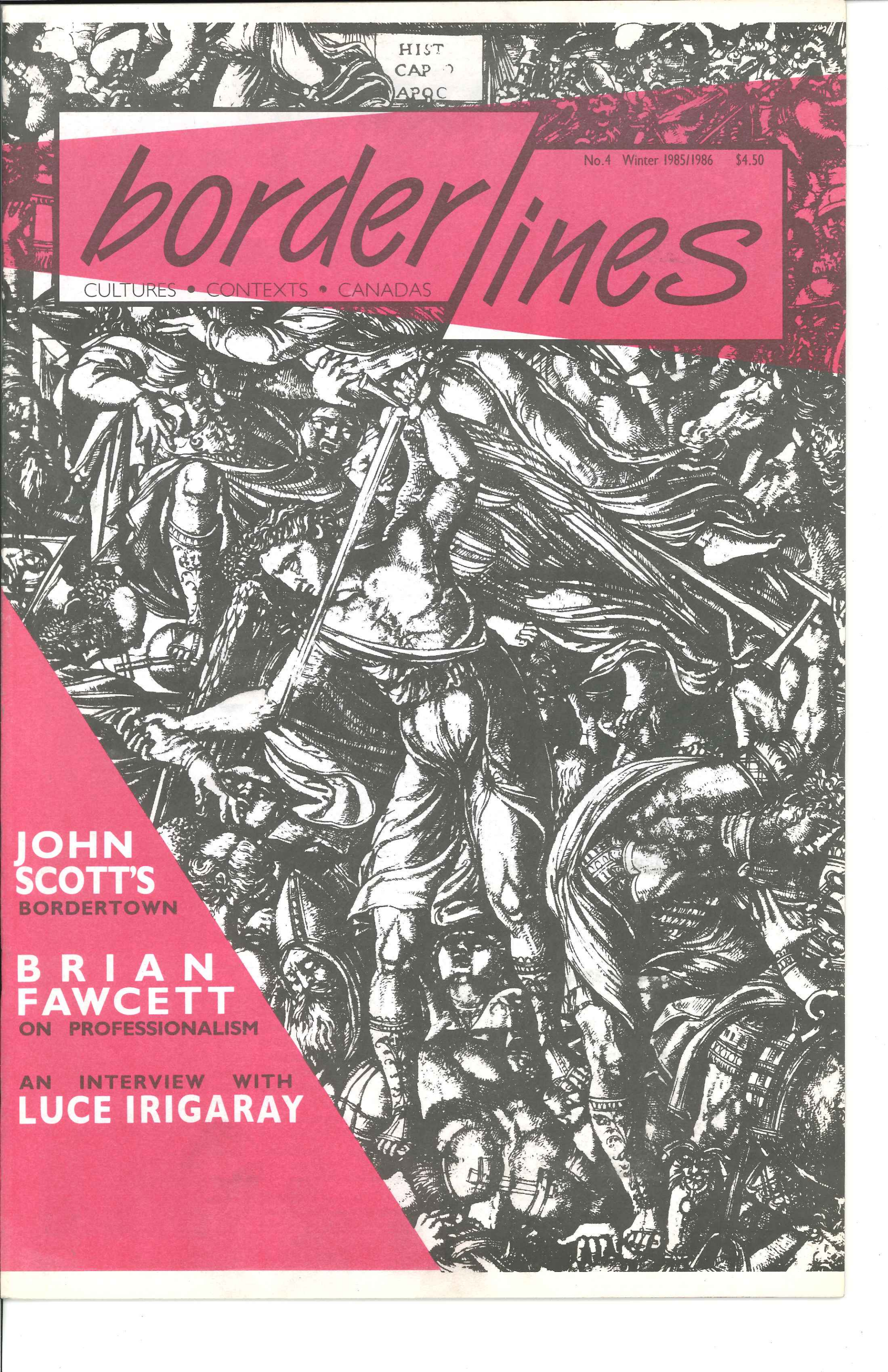
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CULTURES • CONTEXTS • CANADAS

**JOHN
SCOTT'S
BORDERTOWN**

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ON PROFESSIONALISM**

**AN INTERVIEW WITH
LUCE IRIGARAY**





FEAR AND FAITH

For the past thirty years we, as a society, have lived with the knowledge that we can destroy the world. Our ability to end it has become more assured, and more terrifying. Public awareness of the danger of nuclear war, fuelled by very extensive media coverage, has increased.

Graphic descriptions of the increasing danger, prominently displayed in films, on TV, in magazines, and in daily newspapers, have made us aware of our vulnerability.

This terrible knowledge, combined with the helplessness that most of us experience when confronted with the relentlessly advancing arms race has changed our psychological climate. We now must live

with the certainty that everything could end quite suddenly. With the announcement of his Star Wars scheme to create a high tech defence system for the United States, Ronald Reagan has taken the high ground. While embracing the American dream of the invincibility of technology and the pursuit of progress, he has at the same time been able to declare himself against nuclear weapons, against first-use strategies, against the MAD doctrine, horrified and disgusted by war. Arguing for space-based defence, he also argues for limiting arms proliferation, for reducing current stockpiles, and for sharing future technological breakthroughs with the Soviet Union. He has been able to do this, and be taken seriously, at the same



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Newsweek

The Nuclear Nightmare

time that he has actually presided over the greatest buildup of both conventional and nuclear arms ever.

Radical activists face an ideological challenge. Star Wars is widely supported by many people because they want or need to believe that the high tech umbrella will shield the American way of life, that it will protect the cities, their homes, farms, dogs, and cats from danger. There is widespread support for Star Wars even though the most optimistic predictions in regard to its effectiveness say that in 15 or even 30 years there might be a space-based system, that might stop 90 per cent of all incoming missiles during an attack (if it is not destroyed first). Yet even 10 per cent would be more than enough to

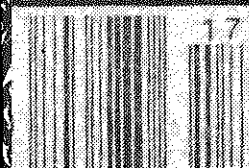
destroy most life in the North American continent. In fact, at best, Star Wars might be able to protect the American missile bases, thus safeguarding their retaliatory ability.

Many peace activists oppose Star Wars but they seem to have little understanding of what a master stroke the concept is. Even though it may not happen for 30 years, and it may not work, it has already worked as propaganda for all those who, exposed to the hard realities of modern nuclear strategy, find the insecurity, the minute-by-minute threat of annihilation unbearable. Star Wars works. It draws on our deep-rooted faith in progress, our belief in technology, and our need to believe in the future.

A. Sorensen

The Growing Outcry Over The Bomb

How Can The Arms Race Be Halted?



Andropov:
The Honeymoon Is Over



America's
Great Chocolate Binge

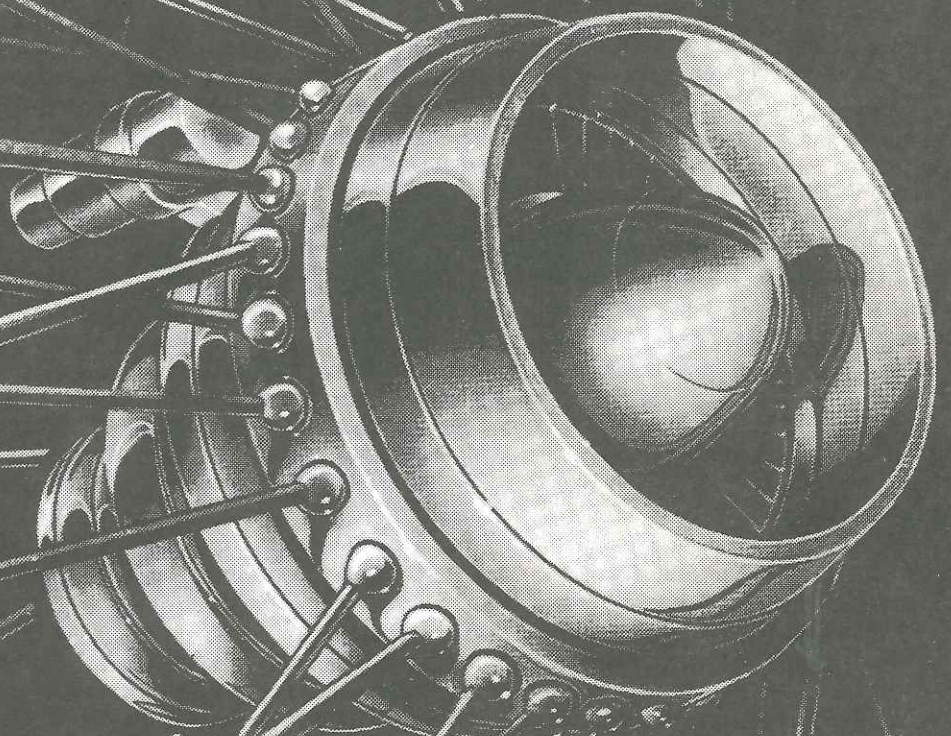
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STAR WARS

Reagan's New
Nuclear Strategy

Will Space Be the
Next Battleground?



The X-Ray Laser Battle Station



FAITH IN TECHNOLOGY