

Debate

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chapter of VMND, introduced the discussion by explaining the goals of his organization. "We find ourselves in the midst of prejudice between those in the peace movement who see people who have been in uniform as being for war at any cost, and those who have been in the military who see peace activists as naive Soviet dupes," says Gifford. Gifford says members of VMND, as veterans who are also peace activists, can help increase world understanding simply by reducing hostility between these two groups.

Johnson says the idea of seeking peace through strength is fundamentally flawed. He says an example is the old Roman saying, "If you wish for peace, prepare for war."

"From the fate of the Roman empire I'd have to say it didn't help them very much," says Johnson.

Johnson says the basic problem is that all military systems have potential for attack as well as defense.

"If you had manifestly defensive strength that could have no effective offensive use, you would have peace through strength," says Johnson. "I don't know how this would work or what it would look like." He says all of today's defensive arrangements instead rely on mutual threat of attack.

Johnson says even if the world continues to avoid war under the current system, it does so at enormous cost.

"The worst aspect is the breeding of fear and mistrust," says Johnson. He also points to "the world-wide rise of militarism," with particular reference to the U.S.

"Arms spending, about \$300 billion this year alone, has made the U.S. the greatest debtor nation in the world," says Johnson. He says this policy has led to high interest rates, unstable currencies and inadequate funding for essential social programs. "For all these reasons, we must learn to measure strength in another way," says Johnson.

Porter, speaking on the topic

"peace through strength," says he compares the role of military forces with that of police forces.

"The public have given police the strength to preserve the peace," says Porter.

Porter says he is concerned with the decline of Canada's military strength since World War II. "Our strength is not as great as it should be," he says. Porter this decline has led directly to a decline in Canada's world influence. Porter says the western world must remain on its guard against expansionist designs of the Soviet Union. While admitting "the Soviets remain an enigma to me," Porter says he believes they have an "intuitive concept of geographic expansion" and that they feel they "ought by right to maintain military superiority over the states of western Europe." "I think the Russians do want to be the dominant world power," says Porter.

Faced with this threat, Porter says "today a credible deterrence depends more than ever on all three elements of the (NATO) triad: conventional arms, tactical nuclear arms and strategic nuclear arms."

NATO's basic goal has always been to deter war," says Porter. However, Porter says, "I believe all here will agree that the nuclear arsenals of both sides are overstocked."

Porter says peace activists must learn to "live in a world with two superpowers who are at least 180 degrees apart."

"Even if peace has been established, you must be constantly on your guard to maintain it," says Porter. "I believe the proposition 'strength through peace' is an illusion."

The discussion following the remarks of Johnson and Porter was not entirely peaceful. Delegations from the Royal Canadian Legion and the Royal Nova Scotian United Services Institute tried to pin down Johnson, while supporters of VMND had questions for Porter.

One member of the Legion stood at the beginning of the discussion period and angrily questioned Johnson's patriotism, and another accused Gifford of misrepresenting the Legion's stand on issues of disarmament. For the most part, however, the questioning was pointed but polite.

Students turned away

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some first and second year chemistry slots has been especially critical.

Chemistry dean John Bridson said as many as 300 first-year students were turned away from introductory courses. Two senior courses have a combined waiting list of 55 students, courses that Bridson said students need if they wish to pursue post-graduate degrees.

Bridson said an extra laboratory, which the department requested eight years ago, would have averted this semester's crises.

"Had we had the lab, we could have accommodated all the first year students," he said.

Bridson said underfunding within the university has meant further headaches for his department.

"I don't have the money to buy chemicals or pay teaching assistants," he said.

Bridson said if immediate funding should come through, the department may offer an accelerated one-semester course of organic chemistry, which is usually taught over two terms, next summer.

Peter Heald, dean of science, hopes the university will be able to convert space in the chemistry-physics building to usable lab space, though he recognizes the financial problems facing the administration.

"The university cannot find the capital funding for what it hopes to do," says Heald.

High enrollment in education prompted the administration to offer many additional slots to the courses already offered. Leslie Karagianis, dean of education, said his faculty faces many other problems.

"The circumstances are not ideal, but I think we're doing the best we can," he said.

The students' council agrees with Karagianis, but some councillors insist the situation must be improved.



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