

Sign up for disarmament

Editor's note: This article is the opinion of a student who attended the conference, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Brunswickan.

By RICHARD KILPATRICK ANDERSON

The nuclear stockpiles of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. contain the same explosive power as ten thousand times all the bombs dropped in WWII.

That was one of the mind-boggling statements Linus Pauling made to an audience at St. Mary's University recently. Not twice as much. Not ten times as much. Ten thousand times as much. This is 60,000 megatons of nuclear warheads. The immediate effect, within seconds of the detonation of a 20 megaton bomb dropped on New York would be the death and destruction of the city. Buildings would be flattened for an area 16 miles in diameter. Everything would be set on fire for an area 50 miles in diameter, about 2000 square miles.

Linus Pauling knows what he is talking about. One of the most eminent scientists in the world, he is the only person to have won two unshared Nobel prizes in two separate fields (Chemistry 1954; Peace 1962).

In a war, if the nuclear warheads we have today killed people at the same rate as the two bombs dropped on Japan, then by the most conservative estimates the U.S. and U.S.S.R. can kill the human population of the entire world one hundred and fifty times over.

Anti missile missiles are not a viable solution, says Pauling. Even if we could block and render harmless 99 percent of the warheads in a war, an obviously unrealistic figure, we would still be killed one and half times over.

Pauling declares laughable the idea of a limited nuclear war, or the idea that some semblance of civilization could survive one. A war will be over in a day, likely within hours.

A war today would kill practically every human being, and most of the living things on this planet. Most of our Northern

Hemisphere would be set on fire. A massive amount of soil and other material would be vaporized and sent into the atmosphere. For months the sun would not be able to reach the earth. There would be few of us left to be killed by radiation and starvation.

We all want peace. But what can we do to help prevent this mutual suicide by the superpowers? The media continually misrepresents Pauling and other peace mongers as proposing unilateral disarmament by the West. Pauling is not so stupid. If we completely dismantled our nuclear arms the U.S.S.R. would destroy us. Pauling knows that is not the solution.

Pauling proposes instead a cautious series of steps toward partial disarmament. Nuclear arms will always be with us, but if we can even halt the arms race, the tensions between the superpowers would slack off and we would be a lot safer. The danger today comes not so much from the presence of nuclear arms, but from the atmosphere the arms buildup creates.

Thus, Pauling states, you and I should put pressure on our governments, not to disarm and render us vulnerable, but to unilaterally take cautious steps towards halting the arms buildup and then gradual disarmament. Once on this road we will be able to sleep more safely.

Watching the world since 1901 has led Pauling to the conclusion that making treaties is too slow and unsatisfactory a process; instead, we in the West need to take cautious steps unilaterally, that is, by ourselves.

What makes Pauling believe the U.S.S.R. would match our steps? There are three reasons.

First, the Russian GNP is only about half the U.S. GNP, so when the Russians spend money on arms it comes from a much smaller pie. They cannot afford it nearly as easily as the U.S. can. If they could stop playing catch-up as they have since 1945, they would be able to pump more money into their economies preventing political

unrest. Pauling believes this is the rationale behind Reagan's defense spending to bankrupt the Soviet Union.

The second reason Pauling believes the Soviets would follow U.S. moves to halt and reduce the arms buildup is because they are much more frightened of war than we are, since they have felt its effects more tellingly. They lost 20,000,000 people in the last World War. In comparison, the U.S. and Canadian loss was minimal.

Thirdly, for years the U.S.S.R. has been proposing arms reductions and cessation of testing in the U.N., but just as consistently the U.S. has rejected them. With our massive nuclear advantage we in the

West continue to force the U.S.S.R. to follow our lead.

Verifying U.S.S.R. compliance with a freeze on testing today is trivial, Pauling notes. Our seismographic and satellite technology has progressed to amazing levels, any test anywhere is closely monitored.

Inflation, unemployment, University cutbacks, and saving the whales are all important issues. But don't all these pale to insignificance beside the question of survival of the human race?

If you support the following statement, whether you are faculty, staff, student, or other reader, then come into the Brunswickan offices in the SUB and sign your name to be

counted. All names will be delivered to the Canadian Parliament:

"I believe the Western countries should, in addition to making treaties with the Russians, begin making small cautious steps towards a nuclear weapons freeze and eventual partial disarmament. These cautious moves are to be made to reduce the dangerous tensions that threaten the survival of civilization, and are to be closely tied with monitoring of soviet reaction. In particular, I want all of Canada to be a nuclear weapon free zone, with no testing or development of nuclear weapons in our country."

UNB places second

By DAVID MOGILEVSKY

UNB did extremely well at a math competition last Friday at Dalhousie. Twenty-five of the best math students in the Atlantic provinces participated in the three-hour examination. Individually, UNB students placed second with Chris Friesen and fourth with Randy MacDonald. These two people also formed a team in the com-

petition. This team placed second in the tournament. Last year, a UNB team also placed second at the same competition.

The next competition in mathematics will be held in the first week of December. This contest is sponsored by the American Mathematics Association, and between 2000-2500 students from

Canada and the United States will participate.

Last year's UNB team placed 21st out of over 300 teams. Some of these teams are from MIT, Harvard and the University of Toronto. The students, are challenged, in this contest, by a six hour exam made up of twelve questions. If a person completes just one problem he has done well.

McLeod afflicted by illness

By DAVID MOGILEVSKY
Brunswickan Staff

At the Edith G. McLeod House last week, about forty out of 210 students were af-

flicted by some sort of illness. The Health Department started their investigation last Friday by taking samples of the residence kitchen. They returned on Monday to take

samples of the water. They are also investigating the possibility the illness could have been caused by a flu. The problem facing the Health Department is finding out exactly what is causing the problem. It is very important to find the cause of the problem in order to prevent a recurrence. Tests on the food were done early this week and proved negative while no other results are yet known.

The first case of illness was reported on Wednesday or Thursday of last week. Joy Kidd, Dean of Women, stated in an interview she believes the problem is confined to McLeod House. The symptoms of the illness resemble those of a flu.

Association forming

This is to notify all students living off campus, be they boarding, rooming, or living at home, that there will be a meeting Nov. 8 at 3:30 in Room 103 of the SUB to discuss setting up an Off Campus Residence Association (OCRA).

This association would aim to organize socials between those off campus and those on campus, to act as go-between in tenant-landlord disputes, and to organize the Off Campus Housing Office more efficiently.

One of our long term goals would be to purchase a house in Fredericton where students can go, temporarily, if they cannot find accommodations immediately. In effect, this would be a place to "hang your hat" for a month or so until a permanent place could be found.

All off campus residents are urged to attend the meetings to see what is going on and to

air any grievances that you have concerning off campus affairs. If you cannot attend, but

have a grievance, please feel free to call Tod Bovington at 455-4196.

Student Services

Men's Residence

Students who are currently on the waiting list for Mens' Residences should contact the Residence Office in person or by calling 453-4858 to let the office know whether they are still interested in moving into residence before Christmas as spaces become available.

Students who wish to move into residence after Christmas, who have not already come into the office to file an application form, should do so at their earliest convenience. It is necessary for the office to have an address or telephone number at which interested students can be reached.

Any Full Time Student interested in applying for the position of Assistant Comptroller should apply in writing no later than November 12th to:

Darren Evans
Comptroller-Elect
c/o SRC Office

UNB Campus Mail