

# onsible & worried

- to educate its members
- to educate their colleagues
- to educate our students
- to educate outwards in the community
- to do research

In the area of educating medical students, Van Stolk mentioned that the U of A has set aside three hours for lectures on the medical consequences of radiation hazards and nuclear war and the psychological problems associated with nuclear proliferation.

Van Stolk said this is the first course of its kind in Canada, but several American medical schools have similar courses.

PSR works in the community through a variety of lectures and seminars to service clubs and interested individuals.

PSR is also doing research into the effects of nuclear anxiety on school children.

Van Stolk believes better East-West communication is the first step in preventing nuclear confrontation.

"It removes us from the dehumanization. You make an enemy to match the horrendousness of the

weapon. If you have weapons like nuclear arms you can only justify them if the enemy is totally evil - like Reagan's evil empire."

Van Stolk added that Schwitzer often said the level of civilization of a person can be measured by how many people that person can encompass.

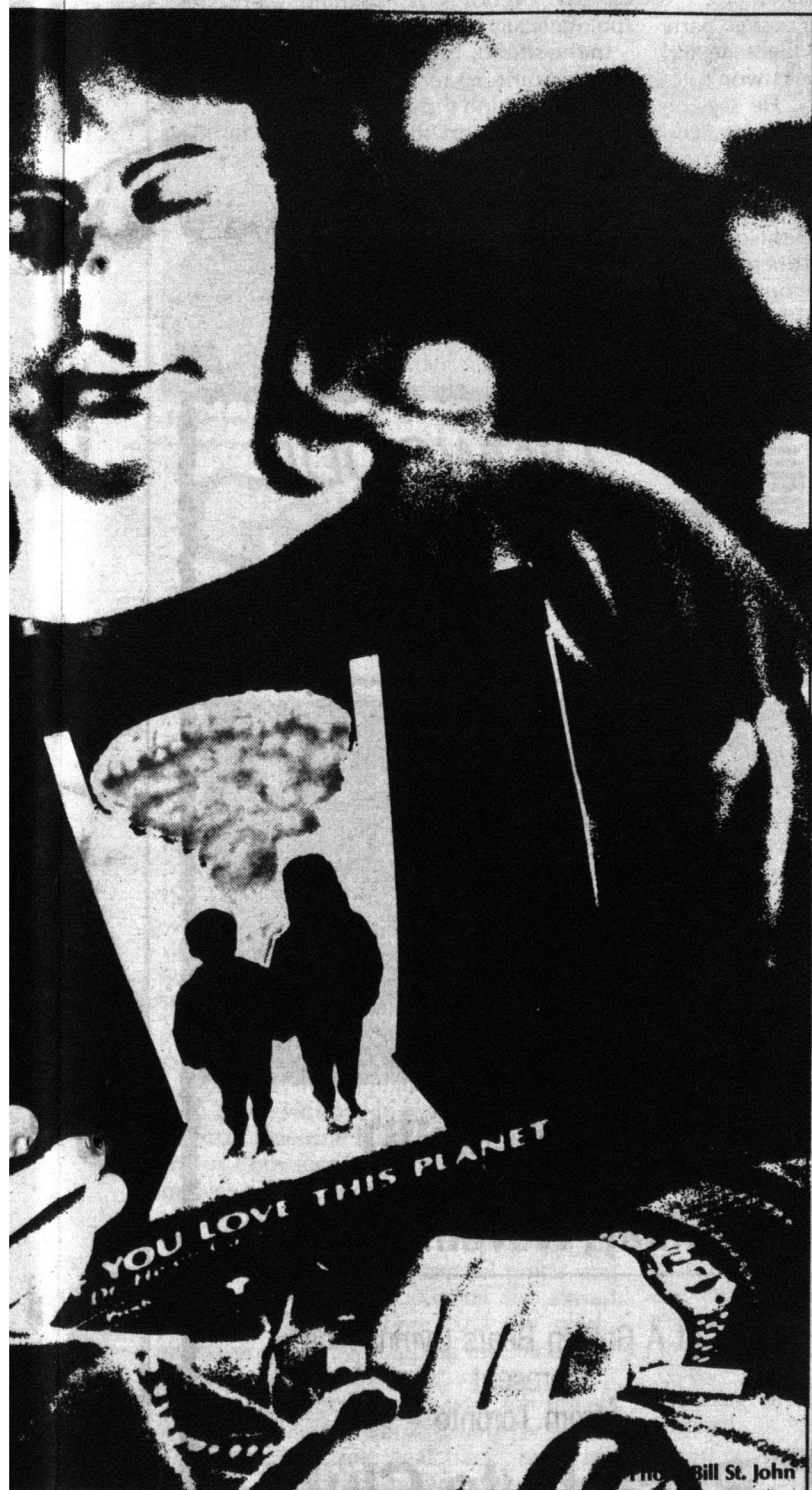
"We have in us this feeling of 'us' and 'them' is very ingrained. To overcome this feeling, we are going to have to overcome the dehumanization of the enemy," he said. "The only way we can survive is to get in touch with our humanity and communicate with the enemy."

Nevertheless, Van Stolk is still optimistic. "If there are enough people like Helen Caldicott, eventually it will develop into a flood of people and I don't think you'll be able to stop it. If there are enough people saying 'no', the government will have to give in. The government is always ten years behind the people."

Van Stolk believes change is possible but that "social change will only happen if we have a public acknowledgement of our sadness. We need to blend East and West, and male and female."



National vice-president of Physicians for Social Change in Canada Jan Van Stolk and Edmonton publisher Mel Hurtig listen attentively to Caldicott's emotive speech



## More Caldicott

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entitled "Missile Envy a la Freud" and will explore this hypothesis in detail.

She says missile envy has resulted in three arms of America's military demanding their own nuclear weapons. "America already has over 30,000 warheads and Reagan intends to build 17,000 more in the next ten years."

Caldicott explained that 200 warheads could easily kill over 100 million Russians.

Caldicott was also quick to point out that France, China and Britain can destroy Russia with their nuclear stockpiles.

"Four out of the five nuclear nations can independently destroy Russia," said Caldicott. "Russia is paranoid for good reason and it is not a good thing to threaten a paranoid patient."

Caldicott also said that the only alternative to trusting the Russians is to trust complicated defense computers whose record is far from perfect. "Over an 18-month period, the computers made 150 errors that put the whole defense system on red alert. Last year alone there were 255 serious computer errors, one in particular that thrust us within 13 minutes of nuclear confrontation."

As far as Edmonton is concerned, we would have no hope of surviving a nuclear attack.

"Edmonton is an important industrial target," said Caldicott. "Everything in North America is targeted, which includes every town over

10,000 people."

Caldicott commented that if a nuclear war were to take place in the summer, America would burn from coast to coast.

Caldicott also added that the Russians don't believe in limited nuclear confrontations. "One billion people would die in the first hour of a nuclear war, and another billion people would die in the next two weeks."

Caldicott is also concerned that America may still be plunged into nuclear war despite its horror because of the ignorance of its people and the ignorance of President Reagan.

"Americans are ignorant because the television has not told them the truth," said Caldicott.

Caldicott was invited by Reagan's daughter Patty to speak to him and found the president "an ignorant, pig-headed man who won't listen to his aides, doesn't read his briefing materials and is being deliberately hidden from the press."

Reagan also showed signs of clinical paranoia. "Reagan has never met a single Russian," said Caldicott, yet is willing to call Russia a godless, evil nation.

Caldicott was also shocked by Reagan's mistakes. "Every statement he made was factually inaccurate. Reagan believes you can 'recall' ballistic missiles — that's like trying to recall a bullet."

Caldicott also said America's current first-strike mentality coupled with weapons like the cruise that defy radar is increasing the Rus-

sians' fear.

"Russian paranoia over Pershing missiles and the cruise is leading to the computerization of launching mechanisms — launch on warning. Launch on warning means if a computer error lasts for longer than six minutes (the time needed for a Pershing missile to reach its target) that means war."

"There is a 50 per cent chance of self-activation of such a launch on warning computer system," said Caldicott.

Caldicott is also concerned with Reagan's doomsday attitude. "Reagan has said 11 times since 1968 that we are the last generation before Armageddon."

Reagan reminds Caldicott of Jim Jones. She said that America is "following him towards the Kool-Aid vat."

Caldicott said if Canada and the other 92 per cent of the world's population that is not Russian or American "just sit back and take it," they are going to show what "wimps they are."

"Canada is an integral part of the nuclear situation," said Caldicott. "It's your moral obligation to educate your politicians here in Canada."

Caldicott said Canada could take New Zealand's example and go as far as to declare itself a nuclear-free zone.

"Nuclear war is the world's ultimate issue," said Caldicott. "This generation was born for one reason: to save the world."