

Symposium topic: war inevitable or profitable

By Rose Fitzpatrick

The notion of war being inevitable or profitable was the topic of the global issues symposium on the nature of war Thursday.

A panel of four hosted by Peter Levitov, director of the Office of International Educational Services, centered on the need for disarmament. Principal speaker was John Swomley, who has been active in non-violent resistance and is a professor of social ethics at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City.

Other panelists were Hugh Arnold, from the political science department, Col. Robert Bachman, military science department, and Edward Homze, history department.

Swomley said that conflict among humans does not have to result in war and that humans are not by nature aggressive.

If humans were by nature aggressive, it would not be necessary for governments to propagandize to get them to go to war.

No shootings remarkable

Swomley said it is remarkable that no hostages have been shot by revolutionaries in Iran, considering what he called the U.S.-CIA involvement in unseating Iranian leader Mossadegh, bringing the Shah to power, training SAVAK agents among other things.

Bachman said the Iranians violated international law and the U.S. could have been trapped into going to war in Iran.

Swomley said one has to realize what Iranians have gone through, such as a religious leader he heard about who had to stand by and watch his daughter raped several times by SAVAK agents.

"We must face the facts of our own sins," Swomley said.

Homze said he agreed with Swomley that people in modern times haven't given nearly enough thought and time toward disarmament.

However, Homze said that fascists thought that war was the highest achievement of humans.

War benefits repressive societies

Arnold said that war sometimes benefits people in repressive societies such as South Africa and other countries where people are starving.

Swomley said that if there was a military revolt of blacks in Africa, there will be a "bloodbath."

April 10 is final date to claim stolen bicycles

Students who have lost a bicycle and not reported it should check with campus police before April 10, according to Cpl. Ron Lundy.

Lundy said the department has 27 unclaimed bikes and that 21 of these will be turned over to an East Campus warehouse on April 10. The bikes will be auctioned sometime in May, he said.

"We usually hold these bikes for at least 60 days, and most have been here all winter. This is the last chance to claim them," Lundy said.

Students who wish to claim a bike will be asked to identify it, he said.

The question is whether we have a responsibility to prevent repression and exploitation through U.S. business dealings, banking investments and Krugerrand purchases.

Blacks have gained some success through non-violent strides, Swomley said, and about 60 nations have achieved freedom by non-violent means.

However, Homze said he doubted whether 60 nations achieved freedom without bloodshed.

Swomley previously was director of the National Council against Conscription, executive secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, and on the national board of the American Society of Christian Ethics. He currently is on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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