

# *Workshops evoke discussions on war*

Intellectual interaction, debate and discussion, an anti-war and protest songs were the elements forming what was termed one of the most constructive portions of the Vietnam Moratorium at Monmouth-the workshops.

Gary Stasse, Student Moratorium Committee chairman, said that "the workshops provided a much needed dialogue on issues concerning the war in Vietnam between professors and students in an intellectual atmosphere."

Nearly twenty professors and hundreds of students participated in eight workshops

organized by the Moratorium committee on campus.

Discussion for the most part centered on finding answers to questions such as why are we still in Vietnam, how should we get out, and what was the value of the moratorium.

Dr. Kenneth Stunkel, assistant professor of history, said that the United States is in Vietnam because of "bureaucratic inertia" adding that we have so much in government contracts that it would be economically troublesome to pull out. Also, 150 billion dollars would have to go towards veteran's benefits.

Thus "we'd be paying for the war for the next 20 years."

Frederik Pohl, Editor of Galaxy Magazine said that our irrational fear of the term "communism" has also caused much of the thinking which supports the war's continuation. We are "not fighting a war against international communism." Pohl added.

Dr. Stunkel followed by adding that the Vietnam situation is largely a nationalist movement rather than a fight against a world wooing monolithic communism.

Both Pohl and Stunkel felt that the only way to break into the "rarefied area of politics" which allows the war to go on is to flood politicians in Washington with letters threatening their political positions. "The military goes out of its way to be kind to politicians and like contented cows the politicians keep the milk flowing."

In another workshop, Laurence Gurman, instructor of history, also discussed Communism by defending the Domino Theory of Communist Expansion. He explained that the youth of today is less afraid of Communism than the generation which had experienced the Red Scare of the McCarthy era. Dr. Albert Friedman, chairman of the Department of Sociology,

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# Workshops

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maintained that although Communism is not a "monolithic block" as Gurman had said, it is still a dangerous threat to the free world.

Father Mokrzycki, in a workshop with William Mitchell, assistant professor of sociology, commented on the reasons we are involved in this war. Father Mokrzycki said that some people claim that we are in Vietnam to protect ourselves. "So why don't we protect ourselves at home instead of in some else's back yard, destroying their property. We should defend ourselves at home where we are affected."

Assistant Professor of English Murray Levine and Dr. Benjamin Rigberg, professor of History, discussed the Moratorium effort in their workshop.

Mr. Levine said that "if you are young people and have a stand to take, you must tak a stand. We are doing something today, with reason as a basis, not violence." He also indicated that the efforts of the Moratorium can and must be continued. The community must commit itself to the cause. When asked through what methods this could be achieved, Levine said "provide permanent, strong pressure on us, get your votes out."

On the same point, Dr. Rigberg said that "force will be used. But peaceful change will be exhausted first." He said, primary importance now is working to gain amnesty for the young men who have avoided the draft and are in other countries.

Students, too, had a chance to present some of their own views. For instance, when a professor asked his group "How did we get into the war?" a student answered "Anything the Communists want, we want."

A student in Mitchell's workshop discussed the problem of communication. "We, the students have a moral obligation

to educate the people, because they are not being reached. The construction workers, the housewives, the water workers, the mailmen do not know what's happening. Because of their ignorance, they do not take any definite stand."

In the same workshop, another student felt that "We should have entered the war with the idea of promoting peace and not with taking sides. The United Nations should have entered during the beginning revolutionary stages."