

CALL OF DUTY

Students share their opinions on the possibility of going to war

By Nishat Fatima
THE BATTALION

Jacob Price said he would enlist to fight in a war against Iraq or North Korea if he needed to.

"If I get the call to go to war, I will definitely go because I think that answering to the call of our country is a noble thing to do," said Price, a junior animal science major.

Price said his family has a strong military history and he would like to continue the tradition.

"My brother is a prime candidate for the draft," he said. "Our parents and grandparents defended us, so we have to do what we have to in order to defend our children and return the favor."

With the current events in Iraq and North Korea, many students and faculty members have mixed opinions about whether the United States should enter a war.

Alfred Hannah, a junior electrical engineering major, said wartime will mean greater divisions within our society.

"War is definitely something that we should use to defend ourselves against foreign enemies," he said. "But, we need to be informed about other cultures and religions in order to prevent negative feelings against the people in our society that share the same culture with the people we are at war against."

Hannah said Americans should understand the background of those they are at war with.

David Cervenka, a sophomore biology major and member of the Corps of Cadets in Company C-1, said he is willing to go to war, but has a hard time believing that the situation would actually come down to it.

"The people up at the top of our society know that the value of life is great, and losing too many lives will lose support from allies for their cause," he said. "But if it comes down to war then we are ready to do it."

Cervenka said war shouldn't have to be a last resort, and should be used when necessary.

"Freedom isn't free and defending the nation is a job that somebody has to do," he said. "We all have to be strong and do

what we have to do for the sake of the country during wartime. Unfortunately there is a painful price for peace."

Dr. Edward Murguia, a sociology professor, said he paid that price in the Vietnam War.

"War for me meant first, months of training," he said. "Later, in combat, dying becomes a real possibility and several of my fellow soldiers did not make it back alive. But in a combat situation, one's is focused on the task at hand, and one does what one has to do to do ones job and to stay alive."

Murguia said if a war situation presents itself now, new soldiers should look at the situation realistically. Nobody should go into war thinking that it will be a glorious experience, he said.

"In between times of intense activity, there is a lot of time when nothing is happening and one has to be in a waiting mode," he said.

"Large stretches of one's tour of duty can be basically boring."

Price said the United States should hope for the best, but be prepared for the worst.

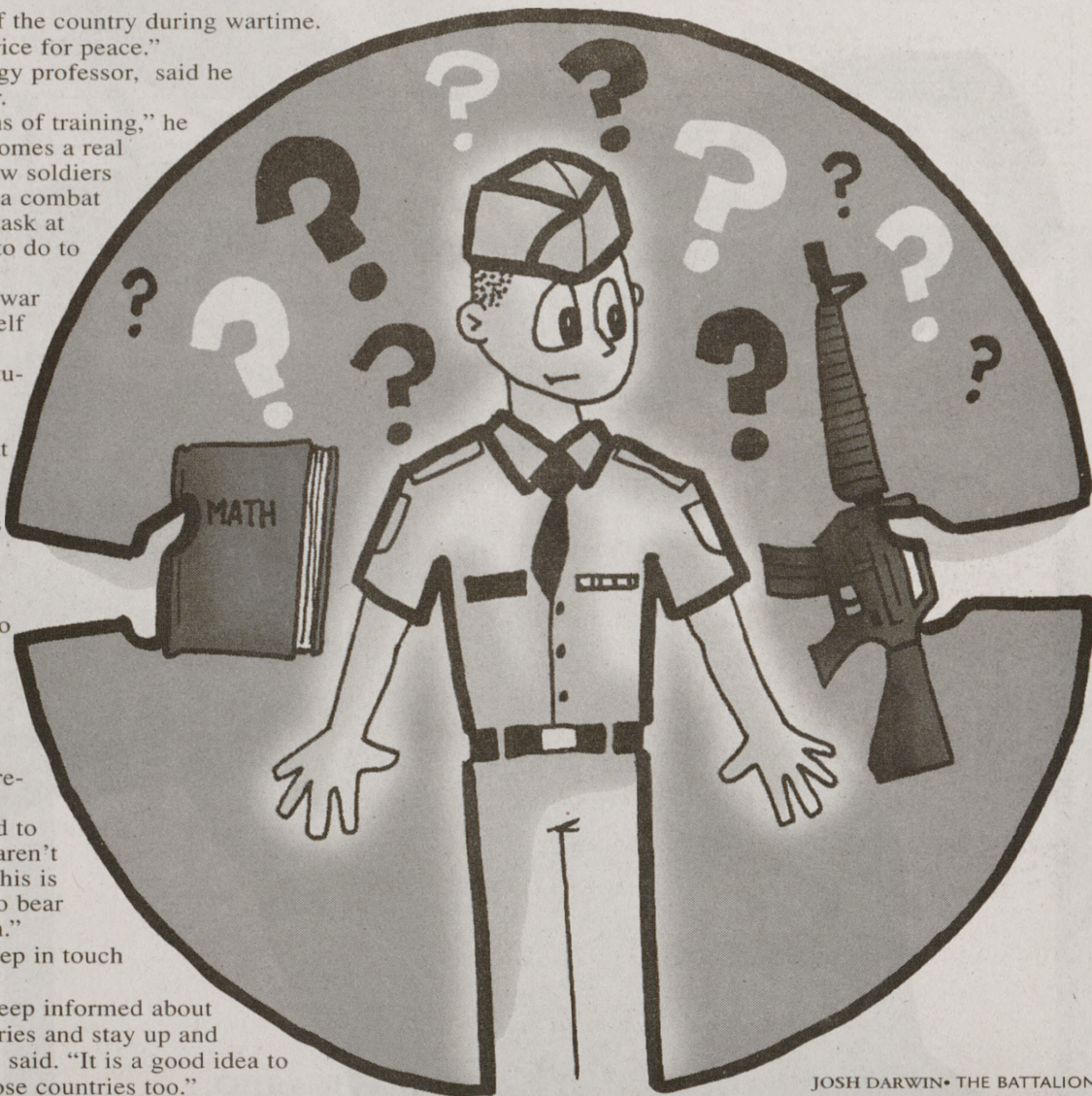
"The public should be equipped to defend themselves in case troops aren't there to protect them," he said. "This is one of the reasons why the right to bear arms should not be infringed upon."

Price said everybody should keep in touch with the situation overseas.

"It's really important that we keep informed about what is going on with other countries and stay up and current with the developments," he said. "It is a good idea to keep tuned to the civil news in those countries too."

"Freedom isn't free and defending the nation is a job that somebody has to do."

— David Cervenka
sophomore biology major
member of Company C-1



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