A COUNTRY AT WAR

Events, attitudes on campus mirror nation

By Laura Sass
Executive Editor

Anti-war sentiments about the war in Iraq dominated the war panel that spoke to both students and faculty at the art gallery on Wednesday, March 26.

The panel was composed of five teachers from different disciplines: Dr. Kelly Bidle, who teaches biology, Dr. Bosah Ebo, professor of communication, Dr. Frank Rusciano, who specializes in political science, Dr. Charles Richardson from the history department and Dr. Richard Burgh, chair of the philosophy department, who mediated the event, directing the other members and accepting questions from the audience.

“The war has started,” said Burgh. “All we can do is to send our love and support to our troops, even if we do not agree with this war. But to criticize our government is not the same as criticizing our country. You can be against the war, or any action the government takes, and still be patriotic.”

After introducing his fellow panelists, Burgh began discussing in what case a war would be a justifiable one.

“War is an extreme use of violence,” he said. “From a moral point of view, only self-defense makes an attack justified.”

Burgh said that the war with Iraq is not one of self-defense, despite President Bush’s attempts to make it seem that way.

“The war against Iraq is not defensive; it is aggressive,” he explained. “The United States is acting the part of an international vigilante. Vigilation will not bring peace.”

Bidle had a chance to speak next. She explained that she was only there to answer any questions the audience might have about chemical or biological weapons.

“I’m a mother with three young boys,” Bidle said. “If one of them was going to war, especially a war like this one, it would terrify me.”

She passed on to the next panelist, Rusciano, who also opposed the war.

“I am against this war because I trust neither the motives or the judgement of the Bush Administration,” he explained.

Rusciano believed that the actions of the coalition set a dangerous precedent to the rest of the world.

“In the past, we have only fought when provoked or attacked,” he said. “But with this action, we have changed that. It is important to realize that any right we claim for ourselves can be claimed by other countries.”

Rusciano went on to discuss the effect the war might have on the new Iraqi government that the United States intends to set up.

“Democracy has rarely been achieved by the barrel of a gun,” he pointed out.

“History shows us that democracy is best achieved by international isolation.”

Ebo, the next panelist, said that this See ‘War’ on page 2

Media’s role in wartime questioned

By Tim Green
Staff Writer

With images of real-time war footage flooding television and dominating newspaper pages, some students and faculty question if the line has been crossed when it comes to media coverage.

Many agree that Americans should have updates on the war with Iraq, but they also feel that the media is over-saturating the issue.

“The argument of the media is that the American public has a right to know what is happening to our troops,” said junior Matt Thornton.

“But it is wrong that the mother of a soldier or the wife of a soldier should hear the news that their son or husband has died from Tom Brokaw,” said Thornton.

Junior Yvonne Carter and senior Allison Martynovych had similar concerns.

“It’s not good that we are shown everything and told about things before they do it,” said Carter. “I know that we should be told about what’s going on over there, but they should tell us after the fact.”

“I guess I want to know what’s going on, but I don’t need to see it every second of every day,” added Martynovych.

Junior Al Lazaro felt the press has been exploiting the prisoners of war with the constant showing of their pictures in newspapers and on television.

According to Dr. Bosah Ebo, professor of communication, the idea of embedded journalists is a “very suspicious concept.”

“It has the ability to compromise the objectivity of the journalists,” he said. “These journalists are eating and sleeping with the soldiers, getting to know them on a personal level. When you are this close to the soldiers, your objectivity

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Greeks hold candlelight war vigil

By Dana Lynn Platekval
Managing Editor

Gathered in a circle in front of Alpha Xi Delta (AZD), members of the fraternities and sororities held brightly lit candles to commemorate not only those who have lost their lives in battle but also those who will be fighting for freedom in Iraq.

Approximately 70 students were present at the vigil, held on Wednesday, March 26, at 7 p.m.

Each person had the opportunity to give anecdotes about a family member or friend, to say something encouraging or to just vent their feelings.

“I thought about doing something while we were on Spring Break,” said Alyssa Tucker, member of AZD and chair of philanthropy.

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