Media from page 1

stations were the most biased and which give balanced news reports.

"Television doesn't make corrections like magazines and newspapers," he said. "My first recommendation is to avoid Fox News. It's the worst journalistically. It's unbalanced and the slippiest. MSNBC is just a notch under Fox. CNN, ABC, NBC and CBS are good."

McKinley showed clips of Fox News using retired military generals as "experts."

"These so-called experts are not by any means," she said.

Simonet then went on to talk about the 500 embedded reporters currently in Iraq. He discussed the pros, which included the ability to get detailed reports and live, comprehensive coverage. One of the cons, according to Simonet, is that the reporters may be giving a one-sided picture. In addition, there may be trouble with going live.

"There is no time to check reports when they go live constantly," he said. "I think [embedded reporters] don't contribute, but they might be unbalanced, so look further."

"Media as Big Business" was the next topic on the Powerpoint. McKinley showed news clips and demonstrated that news reporters tend to use the same techniques they do for reporting a football game. In the new clip, a map of Iraq was shown while the reporter drew circles and Xs to explain what he was talking about.

The professors then moved on to a patriotism versus nationalism debate. According to Simonet, there is a clear difference. He explained that patriotism is a love for your country, while nationalism is believing that your country is right no matter what.

"Nationalism goes over the top," said Simonet. "Patriotism is the right to question our country."

Simonet encouraged students and faculty alike to use the web to find alternative media. He and McKinley provided a handout with a list of sites mentioned during the forum, complete with magazines to look at to go beyond the usual Time. Some of the sites McKinley brought up were http://english.aljazeera.net, an English version of the Iraqi news site and http://www.robert-fink.com which is run by an independent journalist in Iraq.

Simonet closed with some words of advice. "Your responsibility is to understand how the media works and to be an informed consumer; seek out alternative media," he said.

"All media should be approached with a critical eye, I think. It's so much easier to sit in front of the television and think you're getting informed," he added.

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According to FLAG Treasurer Gio Buscetta, an unknown student in a group standing outside of the Gee Residence Hall attempted to extinguish the candles by throwing a water balloon at the gathered students.

"Later on I found out that they knew we were standing out there for equal treatment of lesbians and gays and they were documented, but their hate crime didn't go as well as they planned anyway because the balloon didn't pop," he said. "It didn't stop us at all because we still stayed out there and did our thing."

"It just proves that hate and intolerance has no voice and body to it because people who hide behind acts of violence and discrimination without revealing who they are show a lack of validity and pride that they have in their own values," added Zack.

Nonetheless, the event was viewed as a success by all involved for its ability to get students in the community to come together for a good cause, said Conover Hall Residence Director Amanda Wylie.

"I had a very positive experience and a lot of fun," she said. "I enjoyed the fact that people came, homosexual or not, to show their support. I think it was a really good showing of the Rider community coming together."

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