U.S. involvement in the Middle East: where Rider students stand

By Kate Rose
Staff Writer

Lack of time and interest topped their reasons for not keeping up to date with current events, even when a possible war is in the future, according to Rider students.

For the past few weeks, U.S. international affairs have focused primarily on Saddam Hussein and Iraq’s possession and possible intent to use weapons of mass destruction.

President Bush has said that Iraq is a strong threat to the United States and action must be taken. He has gone before the United Nations and Congress urging pre-emptive action against Iraq. The new Bush doctrine is his plan to attack Iraq before it attacks the United States. However, even ally nations seem skeptical of the President’s foreign policies.

After a week-long observation and student inquiry, it was found that students studying politics often have opinions to share about current events and U.S. foreign policy. However, many other students feel they are not well informed concerning these matters.

“After Sept. 11, students realize they have something at stake,” said senior Guertalene Noel, a leader of the Model United Nations team. “But we are still not at the level of awareness that we should be.”

According to sophomore Joe Shinn, the Iraqi situation is being made worse by Bush’s actions.

“The less informed are happy he’s doing something,” said Shinn. “Personally, I think Bush is an idiot…and he’s in way over his head.”

Communication/political science major Chidinma Abia, suggested that students are overexposed to the media coverage and are tired of hearing about Middle Eastern conflicts.

“The people assume they already know everything there is to know about the situation in the Middle East and therefore no longer pay attention to the coverage, which is quite unfortunate, because it leaves them ignorant to the world around them,” said Abia.

“There is a great deal of information available to college students,” said junior Rebecca Soffen. “It is all about time management and what affects us.”

Senior Rob Croskey said that he believes many students only tune in to the news when it directly affects them or someone they know.

“A draft could affect us,” said Croskey.

“A war with Iraq may seem, to some students, inevitable and possibly necessary, but a common concern, according to political science student Tony Li Veechi, is the aftermath of such a war.

“While it is clear that Saddam is a bad guy, it is not clear that we have any mandate to an unprovoked attack on him,” he said.

“A war with Iraq may seem, to some students, inevitable and possibly necessary, but a common concern, according to political science student Tony Li Veechi, is the aftermath of such a war.

“While it is clear that Saddam is a bad guy, it is not clear that we have any mandate to an unprovoked attack on him,” he said.

“A war with Iraq may seem, to some students, inevitable and possibly necessary, but a common concern, according to political science student Tony Li Veechi, is the aftermath of such a war.

“While it is clear that Saddam is a bad guy, it is not clear that we have any mandate to an unprovoked attack on him,” he said.

“A war with Iraq may seem, to some students, inevitable and possibly necessary, but a common concern, according to political science student Tony Li Veechi, is the aftermath of such a war.

“While it is clear that Saddam is a bad guy, it is not clear that we have any mandate to an unprovoked attack on him,” he said.

“A war with Iraq may seem, to some students, inevitable and possibly necessary, but a common concern, according to political science student Tony Li Veechi, is the aftermath of such a war.

“While it is clear that Saddam is a bad guy, it is not clear that we have any mandate to an unprovoked attack on him,” he said.

“A war with Iraq may seem, to some students, inevitable and possibly necessary, but a common concern, according to political science student Tony Li Veechi, is the aftermath of such a war.

“While it is clear that Saddam is a bad guy, it is not clear that we have any mandate to an unprovoked attack on him,” he said.