

# UO professors address deficit, war aftermath

University professors share their views on Iraq and express concerns about international relations and the economy

**Lindsay Sauvé**

Family/Health/Education Reporter

Political science Professor Jane Cramer has war on her mind. It's hard not to notice. It's in the tone of her voice when she discusses it. It's the time she spends talking about it. The current situation with Iraq has the professor in a state of fervent reflection. And she's hardly the only one.

While a University Assembly meeting failed to gather the necessary votes to make an official statement about a possible war in Iraq, the symbolic statement from academic professionals did not go unnoticed. Regardless of what side University faculty members take in the current debate, their expertise

in fields such as political science and economics can lend a powerful perspective in a debate that has largely been about taking sides.

History Professor Ellen Herman's perspective is all about hindsight. She pointed out that many of the students who marched in peace protests against the Vietnam War are now faculty members at universities across the country.

"Though many people believed the University would be overstepping its bounds by taking a stance, we can't ignore the fact that as academic institutions, Universities are already involved," said Herman, who took part in the Assembly vote.

Cramer had even stronger words. "This is intense," Cramer said. "It's about a vision of global domi-

nation. The Bush administration is making a statement that they can rule without cooperation from the rest of the world."

Cramer said America is risking its reputation in the global community. She said the support President George W. Bush received after his strong response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has now been jeopardized because the threat of force has eroded diplomatic options.

"Before we began this conflict with Iraq, non-proliferation had kept certain countries from going over the edge. Now we may have

wrecked our ability to deal with countries like North Korea and Iran," Cramer said.

The unpredictability of market activity could also be a factor. Economics Professor Chris Ellis said a lot depends on how consumers respond after the war. A quick, efficient action could create greater

consumer confidence while an extended invasion could have the opposite result.

"The classic economic response after war includes inflation, higher interest rates, a small boom, and of course, a larger deficit due to increased defense spending," Ellis said.

Ellis added that America's oil supply could be drastically affected by the policy of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries if war breaks out. OPEC could decide to disrupt the supply of U.S. oil, he explained, and the country could find itself in a state of "stagflation," where the economy is in a depressed state and prices continue to rise.

Contact the reporter at [lindsaysauve@dailymerald.com](mailto:lindsaysauve@dailymerald.com).

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**Jane Cramer**  
political science professor

## Recruitment

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said. "Just that. Plain and simple."

Joseph Helms, an Italian major at the University, said he enlisted in the Army in December 2002 because he feared the floundering job market more than going into combat. He added the Army gave him a \$16,000 signing bonus and the promise of stable employment on top of full benefits including medical, dental and retirement — all of which was too good to pass up.

Sgt. 1st Class Billy Stripling, station commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Station at Santa Clara Square in Eugene, said the offer of an Army job is often alluring to students who are about to graduate. Enlisted students can get training in everything from food service operations to journalism to multimedia illustration, as well as the more traditional Army jobs like ammunition specialist and multiple-launch rocket system repairer.

Ryan Long, a University senior and soldier in the Oregon Army Na-

tional Guard, was put on active duty 8 a.m. Saturday and now has to put his college life on hold. Long could be gone for as little as six months or as long as two years, and depending on where he's stationed, he could face life-threatening combat. Despite the danger, Long says he doesn't regret his decision to enlist three years ago.

"As much as I'm a little bit scared about the possibility of going overseas, I'm also excited to get away from school and do something different," Long said.

He doesn't know where his final destination lies after he trains at Fort Lewis, Wash., but Long said he's proud to be serving in the Army. And despite the negative reaction that some students might have to military service, he said he's never been looked down on for his devotion to the Army.

"When I tell people, most would say, 'That's something I would never do' and commend me for it," Long said.

Contact the senior news reporter at [jenniferbear@dailymerald.com](mailto:jenniferbear@dailymerald.com).

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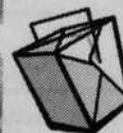
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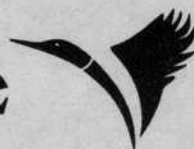
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