

Forum explores Iraq war concerns

The last of a three-part series addressed questions and concerns about the effects of the recent war in Iraq

War hits home

Lindsay Sauvé

Family/Health/Education Reporter

Was the war really about oil? How does geography affect the way two cultures interact? And where are those weapons of mass destruction?

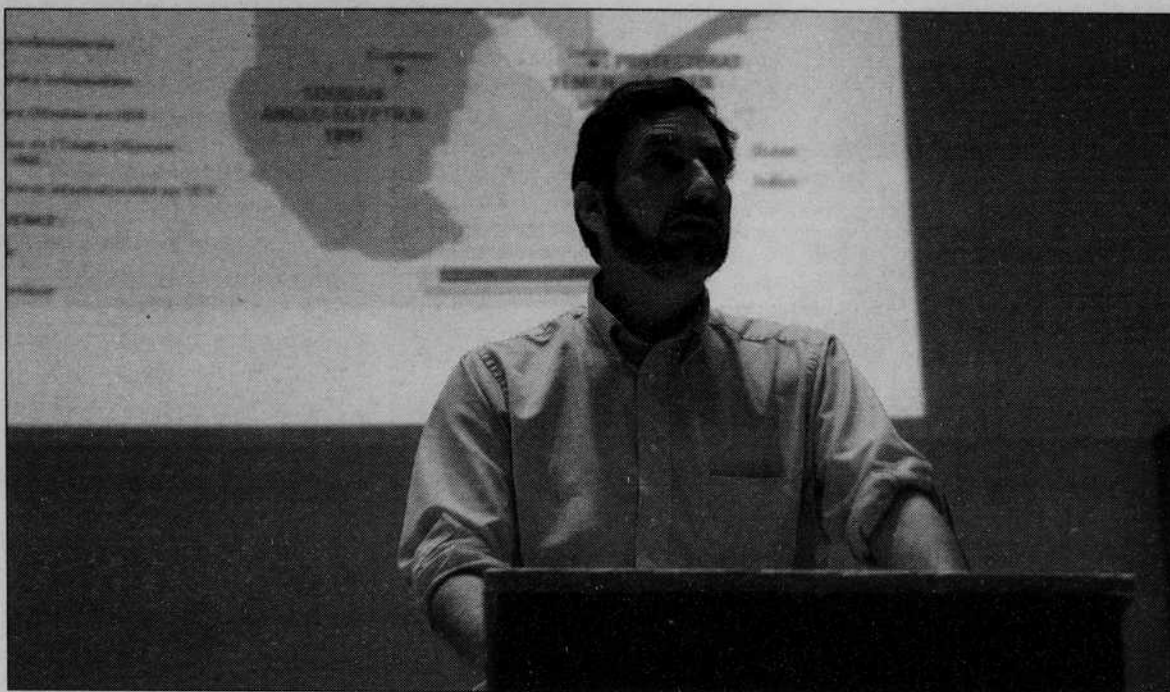
Many questions concerning the recent war in Iraq were brought to the table Wednesday night at part three of the Muslim Student Association's forum entitled "Justice: Islamic Perspectives on Peace and War."

Geography Professor Shaul Cohen examined the British invasion of the Arabian Peninsula shortly before World War I and the influence Britain had in establishing countries and governments that remain today. He said that examining the effects of colonialism is essential for understanding the relationship between the United States and Iraq.

Cohen also said that giving the Kurdish people in northern Iraq independence was part of the United States' rationale for the war, but said he doesn't see this happening.

"It seems there is intent for Iraq to maintain one country under minority rule," Cohen said. "The British, Americans and other Arab states are committed to maintaining Iraq as it has been."

Political science Professor Jane Cramer discussed whether oil interests played a part in the reason to go to war, an issue that has been heavily disputed in academic and



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Geography Professor Shaul Cohen discussed several historical interactions between Britain and Middle Eastern countries in a forum on Wednesday. "The British, Americans and other Arab states are committed to maintaining Iraq as it has been," he said.

media forums. Although Iraq was invaded for many reasons, there is evidence that some of those reasons include oil, she said.

"Iraq could be the world's biggest oil pit," she said. "Interests have put constant pressure on Iraq in several ways."

Cramer formed the argument that oil interests, both strategic and private, were crucial elements in the reasons America declared war. She said that politicians and policy makers, including Richard Perle, former chairman of the Defense Policy Board, and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz have both openly advocated for strategic oil interests. Cramer added that other reasons

for going after Iraq's oil included the desire to weaken the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and not depend on oil from Saudi Arabia, a country the U.S. government accuses of harboring terrorists.

Other speakers included political science Professor Richard Kraus, who discussed the United States' use of human rights issues as a political weapon in conflict situations with other countries. He addressed the recent phenomenon of the United States' efforts to back out of international human rights agreements and organizations, including the international criminal court and human rights treaties.

Journalism Professor Carl Bybee also discussed media coverage of the war in Iraq as well as the war on terrorism. Event coordinator Hasan Kesim offered perspectives on Middle Eastern media coverage.

Kesim said the idea behind organizing the forum was to encourage awareness of the Islamic perspective, something not always addressed by mainstream media in America.

"I wanted people to hear some news about the other perspectives of the people in Iraq," he said. "There are things people need to hear and understand."

Contact the reporter at lindsaysauve@dailyemerald.com.

Wal-Mart

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difficulties with the CD, they can call 1-800-WAL-MART, adding that no one has complained about the CD yet.

However, Robert McCaleb of Boulder, Colo., said he complained to Wal-Mart twice about the CD. McCaleb, who received a copy of the CD from The Colorado Daily — the University of Colorado campus newspaper — said the CD installs a program on the computer as soon as the disk is placed in the CD-ROM drive.

McCaleb also said he thinks TagRecall.exe may not be a trojan horse but spyware, which could register as a virus in programs such as Norton AntiVirus. Spyware is defined as any technology that aids in gathering information about a person or organization without their knowledge. On the Internet, spyware is programming that is put in someone's computer to secretly gather information about the user and relay it to advertisers or other interested parties and can get into a computer as a software virus or as the result of installing a new program.

The cover of the Wal-Mart advertisement has a disclaimer stating, "This CD-ROM has been checked with virus-checking programs and duplicated under strict quality controls. Wal-Mart will not accept any responsibility for any damage or loss caused through the use of this CD-ROM."

Microcomputing Services Manager Dan Albrich ran the CD on two different computers in the Computing Center, one with a Windows 98 platform and one with a Windows 2000 platform. After running the CD program, Albrich then searched the computer hard drive for any spyware the Wal-Mart CD may have put onto the computer

system. On both computers, no spyware was found.

However, when the program was run on the Windows 2000 platform, it did open up an Internet connection — but there was no way to a Web site or owner of the address. Albrich is investigating the unknown address.

Symantec also said in their response that "D:\TagRecall.exe is a non-repairable threat. (Norton AntiVirus) with the latest beta defini-

tion detects this. Please delete this file and replace it if necessary."

Danette Thompson, a Wal-Mart public relations representative, echoed Burk's remarks, saying she wasn't sure why TagRecall.exe would be called a trojan horse, but she was sure no virus existed on the CD. She said Wal-Mart might look more seriously into the possible problem if the company planned on distributing the CD again, which it isn't planning to do.

Albrich said students should scan their computers for viruses with Norton AntiVirus if they have used the Wal-Mart CD and think they might have a trojan horse.

The computing center "doesn't know everything about it," Albrich said. "But users are best protected by having Norton AntiVirus installed."

Contact the reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com.

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