

Three discuss war and spirituality

by Jeff Olson

Speakers Russ Wigfield, Andi Scott, and Mark Horst met with students Tuesday night to discuss feelings about the war and how it is related to spirituality.

The event was the second of three parts in Residential Life's February series on spirituality.

Wigfield, a Macalester graduate and former Macalester Chaplain, was active in with the civil rights and peace movements of the past three decades. "I have seen all of that as part of my spiritual involvement," he said.

Horst, a Methodist minister, was disturbed at seeing the appearance of what he called the "spirituality of war," characterized by the "reclamation of the glorious image of the war hero".

Scott, a program director for Fellowship of Reconciliation, spoke about how each person reacts to the war. "It lands for everybody where they live," she said. "It is very personal."

At one point, the group broke into pairs, and each person shared what was most disturbing about the war to his or her partner.

Students also voiced their feelings about the war. "I realized I don't even know how my faith works into this war," said one student.

"If I have control of my own thoughts and actions, I can be content spiritually," was another comment.

"Spirituality is about the feeling of connectedness, internally as well as externally," Scott said.

The students at the event seemed encouraged by the evening.

"This sort of thing is therapeutic for both of us," said Wigfield.

The third and final event in the series on spirituality will be Saturday, Mar. 2, in Cochran Lounge from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday's event will focus on celebrating spirituality and will look at the various cultural expressions of spirituality.

Students react to end of war

by Jennifer Abel and Frank Stone

As the Gulf War draws to a close, many questions remain regarding the future of the Middle East. We decided to pose two of these questions to a sampling of Mac students.

The students surveyed were first asked the following question: With the Gulf War seemingly over, do you think the overall issues and problems of the Middle East can and will be resolved in the near future?

"I have no doubt, having been in Israel this summer, that Saddam Hussein was the most serious threat to the Middle East. He did not merely wish to take Kuwait; he wanted to gather all the Arab countries behind him through a combination of pan-Arabism and terror," senior David E. Miller said. "Had he gathered the Arab nations in line behind him, Israel's very existence would have been threatened and the U.S. would have faced a new Cold War, but this time with the Middle East."

Junior Brett Gorres expressed a significantly different view.

"Our war is never over. We Americans often guilty of clouding the globe with only destruction," he said. "Any solution to these problems is far off. These operations and their designers are ruthless idiots. George and Saddam: you both suck. Murderers!"

Sophomore Celia Mullen felt pessimistic about the chances for quick resolutions.

"I don't see how relations between the U.S. and Arab nations are going to get any better. I don't know which way the [Arab] allies will swing. Their governments

tures in general," Overbey said. "I don't think that those questions have been resolved at all. As a matter of fact, I think the war has probably hurt those sorts of religious and ideological issues. In terms of our own nationalistic reasons and motives, I think that a lot of those motives were fulfilled."

Junior Muhib Rahman offered a Muslim point of view.

"Liberating Kuwait doesn't do anything, if you want to keep it that way, that is. I think now, even if you do disarm Iraq, the anti-U.S. sentiment has spread over the whole Muslim world, especially by staying in Saudi Arabia and building up a huge force and fighting against another Muslim country, in a Muslim country, when actually it's a fight for Saudi Arabia to fight. I don't know how Bush will deal with it. The U.S. might

"As soon as America pays for what it has destroyed, then I'll start believing in 'paying reparations'."

Mullen believed that reparations should be made, but with Iraq practically in ruins, the demands shouldn't be too severe.

"Some reparations should be made for the destruction of the environment because that was a policy not designed to win the war, it was just malicious behavior. I wouldn't ask too much because they've been hit pretty hard. They could pay in services. There should be a payment to the government of Kuwait for the [atrocities committed] because behavior like that violates the Geneva Convention. Cruel behavior should be punished."

Overbey felt the Arab countries affected by Iraq's actions should play major roles in deciding what reparations should be paid.



Photo by Katrina Olds

Russ Wigfield and Andi Scott, two of three speakers who spoke on war and spirituality. Mark Horst not pictured.

"The U.S. might have won a military battle, but there is still a political battle you have to win, too."

-Muhib Rahman

have won a military battle, but there is still a political battle you have to win too."

The second question asked the students was: Do you feel that Iraq should have to pay any reparations, either symbolic or concrete, for its devastation of the environment and/or the supposed atrocities committed in Kuwait?

"Although it would be satisfying to find individuals responsible for environmental

"I guess what I am ambiguous about is the United States' role in setting the terms for that reparation. I would hope to see that the governments that are immediately impacted in that area would get together to discuss the terms of reparations and that includes Jordan and Iran and the United Arab Emirates and certainly Israel. I think they paid a price."

"I guess I feel more strongly about some sort of apology or act of reparation towards the Israelis than I do to pay Kuwait anything. It seems to me that Israel was really sort of led on and I think it is to their credit that they really held their ground and didn't get involved," Overbey said.

Rahman felt Iraq should be able to put itself back together before it should be required to pay reparations.

"You have to consider two sides: the practical side and the moral side. Morally, the Iraqis do owe some sort of apology to Kuwait. I don't know about Israel, but to Kuwait since they attacked just like that. The U.S. bashed up Iraq so badly, it seems a very nonsensical thing to ask Iraq to pay up right now. [They should pay up] probably later when Iraq gets back its economic power if the U.S. ever lets Iraq do that again."

"Had he gathered the Arab nations in line behind him, Israel's very existence would have been threatened..."

-David E. Miller

and people may be moving in different directions. There have already been demonstrations against [alignment with the U.S.]."

Junior Terry Overbey felt that many political and cultural questions remain to be answered.

"I think there have been some deeper questions that don't really concern war in general but that have to do with our relationship with other governments, with other countries and with other cul-

or other terrors and try them, I'm not sure it's practical," Miller said. "The Iraqis should certainly pay for the cost of clean up and perhaps some form of restitution to families of Kuwaiti citizens rounded up and killed by Iraqi soldiers. In any case, whatever individuals did, they acted under orders of the government and the government should therefore be made to pay."

Gorres said he believes in America and its people, but not its leadership.

Taking The GRE?
GUARANTEE YOUR SUCCESS WITH
barbri
 Professional Testing Centers
GRE PREP COURSE
 • Live Lectures • \$495 Tuition
 • Small Classes • Convenient Location
 • Unique "Math Made Manageable" Study Program
 • Grad School Admission Counseling

Mpls. Class Begins Mar. 19

For more information, call:
338-1977
 a Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Company