

# Journalists recount war coverage experience

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Staff Reporter

Reporting near the front lines in Saudi Arabia didn't always mean giving the audience at home a bird's-eye view of the war, two journalists said Wednesday.

At a forum sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Senate, the journalists agreed that freedom of the press to cover the war was a problem.

Mike McKnight of WOWT Channel 6 and Mary Williams of KMTV Channel 3 traveled to Saudi Arabia in late December to cover the 55th Reconnaissance Wing based out of Offut Air Force Base in Bellevue.

They said that during their stay in Saudi

Arabia, they were always accompanied by public affairs officers from the United States and Saudi Arabia who monitored their stories.

"You are not allowed to travel freely in the country," McKnight said. "No one really knows what is going on in the front lines because the press is not allowed there."

Williams said, "You see what they (the military) want you to see. You get more feature stories than hard news."

"I believe journalists understand there are some things we can't report," she said. "But the military is holding a lot back."

McKnight said he thought some in the military believed the media had hurt military efforts in Vietnam.

"They are not going to let this be another Vietnam in that regard," he said.

The two journalists showed a brief film of soldiers talking about their experiences and sending greetings to their families.

The journalists said the morale of the troops was good.

"The soldiers are homesick, of course," Williams said, "but they were generally upbeat."

McKnight said there was a lot of camaraderie among the troops. "They want to get it all over with and come home," he said.

"The soldiers were all very scared inside, but they realize what they signed on for and are ready to do their jobs," Williams said.

The two journalists said Saudi Arabia was a very different country from America.

Williams said she in particular felt the differences between our two cultures.

"Women are not equals there," she said.

Williams said she was not allowed to drive, couldn't pay the bill in a restaurant and was forced to wear a long black robe when she was off base.

"But the women there seem accustomed to it," Williams said.

McKnight described the Saudis as "cool and removed." He said they didn't like their country being filmed and weren't receptive to Americans.

"You got the idea they were tolerating us," McKnight said.

## Resolution introduced

# Senators urge respect for flag

By Tabitha Hiner  
Senior Reporter

Supporters of a resolution introduced Wednesday in the Nebraska Legislature to protest desecration of the U.S. flag are hoping the war in the Middle East will further their cause, one of the resolution's proponents said.

Sen. Stan Schellpeper of Stanton said the timeliness of the resolution may help it pass the Legislature.

"I think especially since we're having this conflict in the Middle East, that it's only right that we stand up for the flag," Schellpeper said.

The resolution may have had a

tougher time before the crisis, he said.

Sen. Elroy Hefner of Coleridge, who introduced the resolution, agreed that the timing may help the resolution.

U.S. patriotism is high, he said, adding, "we see so many people flying their flags right now."

"A flag is a symbol of liberty and freedom and we need to respect it," he said.

Sen. LaVon Crosby of Lincoln, one of the 14 other senators who signed the resolution, also said that the American symbol should be preserved.

"To take it and stomp on it . . .

shows disrespect," she said.

Although flag desecration was permitted by the 1989 Texas vs. Johnson U.S. Supreme Court decision, the resolution states that "the flag is not private property subject to a private prerogative to maim or despoil in the passion of individual protest."

If the resolution receives legislative and gubernatorial approval, the Legislature will petition the U.S. Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution.

The amendment would allow Congress and the states to prohibit desecration of the U.S. flag.

## Dean to provide 'Food for Thought'

Karen Craig, dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Home Economics and a professor of consumer science and education, will be the speaker for the first spring semester "Food for Thought" program Friday.

Craig and other speakers in the spring brown-bag luncheon will address the question, "If not by bread alone, . . . then what else?" She will give her perspectives on what is needed for a fully human life, once the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter are met.

The lunch will begin about 11:30 a.m., and the program will start at about noon.

## ASUN

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of our generation and we need to discuss it."

But Chris Pouter, College of Arts and Sciences senator, disagreed, saying he thought ASUN was overstepping its boundaries.

"I don't think we were elected to make pronouncements on acts of foreign policy," he said.

A resolution supporting student soldiers in the Persian Gulf was passed, however.

The resolution expressed concern for the student soldiers and hope for their safe return and smooth transition back into their classes.

Two government bills authorizing the Government Liaison Committee to lobby in ASUN's interest also passed. One stated ASUN's opposition to legislation that would subject NU regents to the possibility of recall.

ASUN also voted to lobby the Legislature to delay until next year action on a bill creating higher education learning centers in Scottsbluff and Grand Island. Next year a strengthened Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education will be in place, the ASUN bill states, ensuring that there would be no duplication between the learning centers and other postsecondary programs.

Senators also passed an amendment to require election of students to the Committee for Fees Allocation. Currently, CFA members are appointed.

CFA candidates will have to run in ASUN's spring elections, but independent of student election groups.

Legislation recommending parking improvements on East Campus and scholarships for black South African students also passed.



Doc Homer/Daily Nebraskan

## Social Studies

UNL freshman Greg Gray studies his Education Sociology notes in Henzlik Wednesday morning.

## Commission

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could include the addition of doctoral programs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and master's degree programs at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Chadron State College and Wayne State College, the bill says.

The commission's comprehensive plan would include admissions standards, tuition and fees and financial aid policies.

The commission also would prioritize capital construction requests to the Nebraska Legislature. NU capital construction projects currently are prioritized by the NU Board of Re-

gents and go straight to the Legislature.

Scherer said the regents still would prioritize projects at NU, but would be supervised and coordinated by the commission.

He said the bill to create a more powerful commission would not take original supporters by surprise because there is a "strong notion by both the Legislature and the people that the state needs a stronger commission."

Wood said he is "generally pleased with the language in the bill."

He said some "fine-tuning" might be needed to ensure that the commission's powers under the bill agree with the powers granted to it under the constitutional amendment.

## POLICE REPORT

Beginning midnight Tuesday, Jan. 22

11:30 a.m. — Wallet stolen, Cook Pavilion, \$22.

1:14 p.m. — Three buckets of soap stolen, Hewitt Academic Center, \$180.

1:22 p.m. — Two hubcaps stolen from car, 19th and S streets, \$40.

1:33 p.m. — Fire alarm cable

accidentally cut, Ruth Staples Child Development Laboratory.

3:22 p.m. — Fire alarm accidentally tripped, Abel Residence Hall.

4:10 p.m. — Auto accessories stolen, Harper/Schramm/Smith complex parking lot, \$50.

4:17 p.m. — Coat stolen, Lee & Helene Sapp Recreation Facility, \$227.

## Rally

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at war."

Traver said that in times of war, people cannot be divided in their support.

"Don't be ashamed of your feelings. If you support the troops,

you're right," he said.

Traver said people may have questions as to why the United States is in the gulf, but now is not the time to ask them.

"We are at war. Support the troops now, and after it is over, ask questions and demand answers if necessary," he said.

## Free Microcomputer Classes

The Computing Resource Center is offering a free microcomputer seminar to UNL students. The seminar will feature an introduction to WordPerfect on the IBM.

No Reservations Required

The seminar will be held in the Sandoz micro-computer lab.

WordPerfect on the IBM

Thursday, January 24

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

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