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Life after 9/11 still uneasy for some citizens

Christina Clayton
News Reporter

Media coverage of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, anthrax scares and the recent sniper shootings induce fear and impact the way some American citizens live, according to a study conducted earlier in the year by Carnegie Mellon University. The emotional responses of many Americans "clearly influence everything from future support for military action to decisions to travel," said Jennifer Lerner, an assistant professor of social and decision sciences at Carnegie Mellon and lead author of the study.

Some UNCA students said the Sept. 11 attacks changed the way they feel about their security.

"I don't walk around in fear, but now it's in the back of our heads," said Matthew Seale, a senior accounting major. "I think financial security is the biggest fear."

The terrorist attacks affected the American economy, according to the Carnegie Mellon study. "Feelings of fear likely fueled the sense of pessimism that contributed to the national economic downturn after Sept. 11," according to the study.

The recent sniper shootings in the Washington D.C. area also raised fears.

A week after the capture of the alleged snipers, students at Cornell University in Washington, D.C. were still learning to cope with the tragedy, according to the Oct. 31 "Cornell Daily Sun."

"Although most students tried not to give in to fear, some were reluctant to go on with daily tasks such as shopping or walking to work," according to the "Cornell Daily Sun" article.

For Seale, the sniper shootings brought a more personal fear.

"His cousin works at the Home Depot where one sniper shooting took place, and his mother and brother were in the D.C. area during some of the shootings."

"I was really scared for them," said Seale. "I was surprised at how scared I was."

Kate Hove, a senior studying culture and development in Latin America, fears terrorism on American soil.

"America is trying to impose things on other countries and other people, and nothing is really being done about it from America's standpoint," said Hove. "As long as the U.S. keeps trying to impose things and doesn't lay off, then people are going to keep being unhappy and do things like the sniper did."

Despite the recent anthrax scares, Hove feels the threat of biochemical warfare does not affect America as much as it does other countries. "I'm not as affected by it as people like the Palestinians, people in the Middle East, who are faced with that every day," said Hove. "We may be faced with it too, but it's reduced a lot."

"It doesn't really affect me on a day to day basis. I'm not walking around in fear like a lot of people in other parts of the world."

Republicans gain majority in elections

UNCA community responds to Congressional election results and the Bush agenda

Sara Miller
News Reporter

This month's midterm elections put President George W. Bush and the Republican Party in position to move forward with party policy in Congress.

"If you don't like Bush's policies, you need to brace yourself, because this is coming," said Dolly J. Mullen, an assistant political science professor at UNCA. "He's very aggressive about doing what he is going to do. He's unrelenting in pursuing his agendas."

The Nov. 5 election included races for seats in the entire House of Representatives and one third of the Senate. The House is made up of 435 seats, with elections for them every two years. There are 100 seats in the Senate, with one third of the Senate going through the election process every two years and each Senator serving six-year terms.

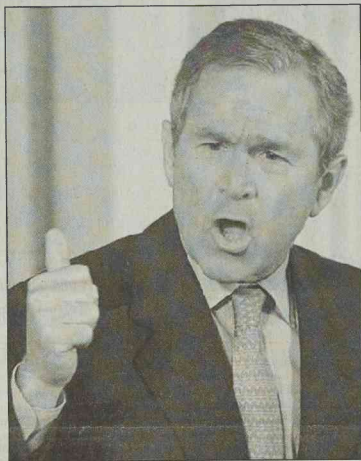
The House of Representative's design should represent the public mood of America, according to the Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC) Web site. CBC also describes the Senate as a more stable body than the House.

Prior to the Nov. 5 elections, the Senate was evenly split among democrats and republicans with 49 votes each. The Independent Party represented the other two positions. After midterm elections, the republicans edged over the democrats with a 51 to 47 lead, with one independent senator, according to The Green Papers, a non-partisan Web site dedicated to giving facts and numbers for elections.

"I think it's historically very unusual for the presidential party to gain seats in the House and the Senate during a midterm election," said Derek Jones, senior environmental science major.

"The low (voter) turnout and the general apathy demonstrate that nobody was really clear on what to do regarding the war on terrorism," said William A. Sabo, a political science professor at UNCA. "Since the invasion of Afghanistan, nothing's been done, there have been no major wars, no American accomplishments. So as an issue, it just sits there looming."

"There's no progress on it but there are no failures on it either."



Experts say that the new republican majority in both the Senate and House of Representatives will move President Bush's agenda forward.

"The administration will be far better off if it realizes that the democrats lost this election," said Sabo. "If they think they were victorious, it could lead them to take some risks on policy that might backfire."

Winning candidates perceive their victories as a sign that their agendas reflect public opinion. "When a candidate wins office, it doesn't matter if it is by one half of a percentage point, he or she takes that as a sign that what the people

"The concern with Iraq is really quite separate from the war on terrorism. They are trying to be linked, but are distinctively different types of things. Voters aren't even clear in their own minds what the difference is, or if there is a difference"

-William Sabo

UNCA political science professor

want to have happen is what was he or she articulated," said Mullen.

With republicans cushioning Bush in both the House and the Senate, there are worries about tyranny of the majority, according to the CNN Web site.

"Majority rule implies that there is a coherent majority, that there is a clear-cut united coalition," said Sabo. "The republicans have divisions within their party just like democrats. They're just not as deep or as bad. They've been able to paper over them."

There are certain defenses for the minority party in Congress. The minority party can go along with the majority, hoping the incumbents will fall. Or they can argue, hoping to make some changes, according to Sabo. They can also take a more aggressive stance, the filibuster, a tactic that uses prolonged speech making to purposefully delay legislative action.

"I can't see democrats following that kind of combative strategy for foreign policy issues, although they

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'Buy Nothing Day' aims to curb consumption

Melissa Doyle
News Reporter

The magazine "Adbusters," an independent publication noted for its complete refusal to run advertisements, is sponsoring the annual Buy Nothing Day, Nov. 29, in an effort to curb the over-commercialization of Christmas.

Buy Nothing Day occurs the day after Thanksgiving, the busiest shopping day of the year, and the kick-off to the Christmas shopping season.

"I think Buy Nothing Day is a good idea," said Rebekah Andrews, a sophomore mass communication major. "People start thinking, 'Oh it's Christmase time. I have to buy everything for everybody,' instead of thinking about the meaning of it."

"This sentiment prompted Kalle Lasn to start the campaign 11 years ago, challenging people to buy nothing for one day, according to the 'Adbusters' Web site adbusters.org. "I am in debt because of Christmases in the past," said Jennifer



Buy Nothing Day, sponsored by "Adbusters Magazine," asks consumers worldwide not to spend any money the day after Thanksgiving, traditionally one of the biggest shopping days of the year.

Whittenauer, a junior education major.

Alerting the public of Buy Nothing Day has been difficult for Lasn, according to the Web site. Major television networks have not cooperated with attempted advertising for the day. The only major network that agreed to sell Lasn a time slot was CNN, and it still the only major network to have run commercials advertising Buy Nothing Day.

A rejection letter for the commercial

from Westinghouse Electric Corporation's CBS read that Buy Nothing Day "is in opposition of the current economic policy in the United States," according to the Web site.

"I think we do need to be out shopping and supporting the economy," said Whittenauer. "I don't think that one day is going to affect the economy in any way."

Some students felt Buy Nothing Day would hurt the nation's economy.



COURTESY OF ADBUSTERS.ORG

"I think it might (hurt the economy) because the day after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day of the year," said Melissa Ward, an undeclared freshman. "I also know that it is the day that sales start, which is really good."

James Croom, a junior psychology major, agrees with Ward.

"I think it will hurt the economy. During Thanksgiving, every one of my family members stay at the same house," said Croom. "And the next day, they all go shopping, and each

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