

News

FEEDING THE NEEDY

CMU aids in
Iraqi food projectErin Boyd
Pilot editor

For over a month now, the whole world has been subjected to images of war-torn Iraq via newspapers, television and the Internet. G W U students wanting to help these victims may have thought there was nothing they could do.

Think again.

Campus Ministries United (CMU) has recently joined with the North Carolina Baptist Men and the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association to collect food as part of an Operation Iraqi Freedom relief work project.

Led by junior Amber Inscore, the Gardner-Webb student representative for the project, CMU has collected money over the past several weeks.

"Because the [food] specifications are so strict, we only

asked for money [from GWU students]," said Inscore.

During exam week, Inscore and other students will use the money to purchase and box food for the project.

"We will need help buying the stuff and loading the boxes," said Inscore.

Various churches throughout North Carolina are participating in the project. The Cleveland County community is hoping to fill 1,000 boxes.

"A box company donated 1,000 boxes," said Inscore.

The food will be collected throughout North Carolina until May 17. It will then be sent to Iraq as soon as possible.

"This is a great opportunity to provide for these people's [the Iraqi's] needs in the name of Jesus," said Inscore. "They see America as a Christian nation, and this will give them a good example of that. This is a non-threatening way to portray Christ to them."

Inscore noted that each box will have John 1:17 written on it: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Inscore at ext. 4004.

**Helping
out**

• Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Amber Inscore at ext. 4004.

WAR 101 — PART 3

The media in war time

Emily Killian
Pilot copy editor

Every good journalist is taught to avoid letting opinion seep into their stories. Opinion, the journalist's worst enemy, may come in the form of biased or incomplete reporting. And for some, opinion may be the one thing that ruins an otherwise sterling career for a journalist.

For journalists in Iraq, it is hard to avoid opinionated reporting, said Robert Raiford, a journalist during the Vietnam War, who speaks from personal experience. Journalists are spending months of their lives in a foreign country with perfect strangers. As people, they will want to develop friendships. More than likely, Raiford said, these friendships will be formed with the people who are physically close to them—the soldiers.

Because reporters are making friends with their sources, they have a very high potential to be biased in their portrayals of the war in Iraq, said Raiford. Faced with the pressure of being in the field, as well as the pressure of the business side of journalism, they will be faced with the pressures of potentially having to portray their friends in a bad light, he said.

"The media business today is entertainment driven," said Chad Raymond, assistant professor of Political Science. "The reporting from Iraq is what will grab viewers' attention."

For Raymond, the media is not necessarily doing a good job covering the war, although he believes the situation with embedded reporters is better than the Persian Gulf War of 1991.

"The media today are showing firefights without an explanation of the events. This gives viewers incomplete information, and they rush to judgment without knowing all the facts."

— Chad Raymond

Having correspondents giving reports from the field "gives reporters less chance to put a spin on things," said Raymond. "Reports are more accurate and more direct because they [the media] do not have to rely on the chain of command for information."

Raymond also said that viewers now can see what is going on during the war as it is happening, and they can compare the things they are viewing with the things that the military leaders are saying. This allows viewers to make their own decisions about the war, he said.

He did not say, however, that the media situation in Iraq is perfect.

"The media today are showing firefights without an explanation of the events," said Raymond. "This gives viewers incomplete information and they rush to judgment without knowing all the facts."

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The Pilot wishes everyone a great summer and good luck on exams. Be sure to keep up with The Pilot online over summer to get all the latest news.

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