

Draft Bill Alarms Students

By Tara Conry
STAFF WRITER

Politicians fighting for amendments to the Selective Service Act could force college students, males and females alike, to be drafted to Iraq.

Circulating throughout college campuses, an e-mail explaining this bill and its possible implications on college students has provoked fear and uncertainty on many young voters as the election draws near.

The bill in question, The Universal National Service Act of 2003, also known as HR 163, was introduced to the House of Representatives last January and rests in the hands of the Committee on Armed Services. The bill states that "it is the obligation of every United States citizen, both men and women between the ages of 18 and 26 to perform national service either as a member of an active component of the armed forces; or in a civilian capacity that, as determined by the President, promotes the national defense."

This bill would grant deferments to students enrolled in secondary schools, postponing their service until they have graduated from high school or reached the age of 20. Unlike in the past, there would

be no exemptions for students attending college.

Charles Rangel, a democrat from New York, along with other liberal members of Congress introduced this bill in an attempt to reinstate a draft that would force all Americans to share the sacrifice of war.

In a speech to the National Press Club in April 2004, Rangel stated that "research with the Department of Defense has found that 26 percent of those killed in action are either African-American or Hispanics, and 46 percent come from towns and counties that have less than 20,000 people in population and the highest unemployment."

For decades the military has served as an opportunity for the poor and minorities to advance themselves in life. However, as the war on terrorism continues to intensify and the United States military spreads itself across the world, more soldiers are being forced to extend their services, raising the question of whether a draft is necessary.

"I feel it will definitely happen, but it will be a question of how large it will be," James Benjamin, a senior social science major, said. "And while I hate the idea, I respect the fact that it would be fair and unbiased."

According a Fox News survey conducted in October 2001, 76 percent of

Americans said if it became clear that more soldiers were needed in the war on terrorism, they would approve of reinstating the draft. A mere 41 percent gave this response when asked in April 2004.

Benjamin Fink, a junior psychology major who shares the sentiments of the majority of Americans, said, "If it does pass through the gridlock of Congress, I'm leaving the country and going to New Zealand. I would only go if it was to defend my country against an invasion."

While the subject of the draft has spurred fear among college students, Blyth Barnow, a junior social sciences/creative studies major said, "The youth of today won't stand for it and it could revolutionize the problem of apathy among our young voters."

Alyce Burton, a spokesperson for the National Selective Service office released a statement in November 2003 that said, "The administration thinks the war is becoming more unpopular and costly than anticipated. There may come a day they won't be able to conduct their policies with an all-voluntary Army."

In his closing arguments during the first Presidential debate, Bush reaffirmed

(See DRAFT on page 4)

Blackboard Down

Blackboard could not be accessed due to a system failure

By Adam De Lucia

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A storage device in Washington, D.C. caused a hardware crash for the Blackboard system on Friday, leaving University students unable to access information on Blackboard.

The Blackboard Application Service Provider (ASP) is based in Washington, D.C., said Laurie Harvey, the director for Student Computing Services and Help Desk. The Blackboard ASP site communicates with Snapshot, a program maintained by the University, to deliver the Blackboard application to the University community.

Harvey said Snapshot sends secure transmissions of the latest student enrollments to Blackboard every night. Early Friday morning, the Blackboard ASP site experienced a storage device failure while updating enrollments.

"Class enrollments that went through prior to the communication breakdown were unaffected," she said. "All other classes lost their Blackboard enrollment."

The Blackboard ASP site delivers services to thousands of campuses worldwide. "Hofstra was affected along with many other schools," she said.

It is estimated that 80 to 90 percent of University students were left without access to Blackboard from 3 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. After a failed second attempt to send data to Blackboard, the University realized "an alternate means" for secure transmission of information via a "private line," Harvey said.

During the outage, approximately 25 calls were received between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. alone, James Shuart, the manager of Student Computing Services, said.

Paul Carson, the University Blackboard facilitator, said Blackboard had similar problems in the past.

In September 2002, Blackboard collapsed because the system was built for

(See BLACKBOARD on page 2)



Stephanie Woodrow/The Chronicle

Participants at Light the Night commemorate those touched by cancer. See story on page 2.

NEWS

BEER, BOOZE AND BONG

-PAGE 3

OP-ED

KERRY GIVES BUSH A RUN FOR HIS MONEY

-PAGE 11

FEATURES

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

-PAGE B2

ENTERTAINMENT

MEET JOEY

-PAGE B10