Government mandates Constitution Day for schools

UNI to hold program this Tuesday

**AMIE STEFFEN**
NI News Editor

A law passed in December by Congress requires all schools that use federal funding to observe and plan programming for the newly-created Constitution Day.

In accordance with the mandate, UNI now will hold a video and host a discussion Tuesday, Sept. 20 from 7-8:30 p.m. in three different locations.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va) drafted the legislation that mandates all educational institutions, from primary to post-secondary, "to hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17...for the students served by the educational institution," according to section 111(b) of the law.

This day was chosen to commemorate the signing of the Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.

Sen. Byrd, a constitutional scholar, drafted the legislation because he believed that students lack significant knowledge of the United States Constitution.

Under the new law, schools must construct and present educational programming that relates to the Constitution. However, no specific curriculum was included in the law's wording, leaving interpretation of the programming up to individual schools.

Because Constitution Day falls on a Saturday this year, schools have the option of implementing programming the week before or the week after it.

In compliance with the law, UNI will implement programming for Tuesday, featuring a National Public Radio (NPR) video broadcast of "Justice Talking."

The topic of the video will be "Free Speech in a Digital Age," and professors and department heads will be on hand to facilitate discussions after the viewings.

History Professor John Johnson is the chair of UNI's Constitution Committee, which is made up of faculty and staff.

The videos will be shown in the Communication Arts Center Rm. 108, the Center for Multicultural Education Rm. 109, and Seerley Rm. 115. Faculty and community members will be on hand to facilitate discussions after the viewings.

The NPR broadcast will examine the legality of attempted government regulation of libraries, textbooks and the Internet, and the discussion will be moderated by faculty and community members knowledgeable about the First Amendment.

The排骨 to the Constitution of the United States is shown here on its original parchment. A new law mandates that all federally-funded schools observe Constitution Day on Sept. 17.

The preamble to the Constitution of the United States was drafted by a group of 55 men, from countries such as India, that are threatening the economic status of individuals inside the United States.

Friedman calls this the "flattening" of the world and argues that individuals will drive the global market as desktop freelancers and Internet startup companies will be able to operate from anywhere - not just from the United States - with minimal equipment.

Before his lecture, Friedman held a 45-minute Q & A session, during which he fielded questions from students, faculty and staff.

In his response to questions, a frequent analogy arose comparing the new flat world to the world during the Cold War. Friedman mentioned that the American response to the USSR's Sputnik launch was to aim for a lunar landing, and said "The moon shot was the national goal that inspired an entire nation."

Friedman continued by saying, "energy independence inspired an entire nation."

See Friedman page 5
Students worried about possibility of military draft

Friedman says youth should study for energy independence

The all-volunteer military does the job better, she said. They put their lives on the line in the name of freedom, she said.

Jonathan Kazemaini, 19, said troops who are forced to fight wouldn’t work as hard as those who volunteer.

"I trust the president," said Kazemaini, a BCC sophomore.

U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel introduced a bill in Congress making the military draft, saying fighting forces should more closely reflect the economic makeup of the nation.

Minorities make up more than 30 percent of the military, Rangel said. Many of the poor are enticed by promises of employment and free college tuition, he noted.

On its Web site, however, the Selective Service System prints a disclaimer that says the House of Representatives, by a 402-2 vote, defeated the bill.

Opposition to the draft is nearly complete, the site says.

Others, however, say rumors spread by Internet bloggers that a military draft is imminent are justified.

Edward Rhodes, an associate professor of political science at Rutgers, said the president has a "credibility gap" with his draft-age students.

He said the Bush administration misunderstood the political climate in Iraq.

If there were a national emergency, the Bush administration could expand the active-duty military, Rhodes said. But the additional salaries would be too expensive, he added.

They [students] can do the math," Rhodes said. "They [the administration] can’t keep doing this for ever years to reinstate the military draft, saying fighting forces should more closely reflect the economic makeup of the nation.

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