FEATURES

Al-Jazeera reporter encourages students to seek truth

By JD Sullivan

Guest Writer

Josh Rushing grew up in small town also appeared Texas, became a Marine stationed in Qatar on Al Jazeera and said that he was "not exactly the most International, open minded" person. "But I could see a which Rushing fact for what it was," he told an audience of describes as "the about 300 students and employees at a Sept. most power-23 Lecture and Symposium.

That conviction to the facts led him into Middle East." a controversy over the media coverage of Rushing said, "I the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. And that is was the face of where he found his voice. Resigning from America on Al the Marines, he soon found his work as a correspondent for Al-Jazeera International English.

While serving in the Marines, Rushing was commanded to serve as a public affairs officer. His job was "to sell the war" said Rushing. Yet, even though his military training told him that the only answer to "why are feld began to we at war" should be "because the President characterize Al orders us to," the White House told Rushing Jazeera as being that his message would be: "to destroy the terrorist organi-WMD and to liberate the people of Iraq."

Rushing appeared daily on the major said. Fox News CNN and MSNBC via satellite with the Jazeera as a "propaganda network ... bent

task of putting the White House spin on on encouraging violence and sympathetic to make choices about who do we pay atten-

the war. Rushing ful voice in the Iazeera."

Yet, the Bush administration called Al Jazeera "the mouthpiece of Osama Bin Laden," "Rumszation," Rushing



Josh Rushing

Western news networks including NBC, Channel's Bill O'Reilly referred to Al are not always happy with what we get."

terrorists."

Rushing described Al Jazeera as "PBS on steroids," fines the con- and search." versation" in the Middle East."

Rushing lecture, journalism Assistant Professor Gary Smith commented that "We ask the media to give us different perspectives, but we

"Global communications forces us to

tion to, whose voices matter and whose do not. And how do you find your voice?" said

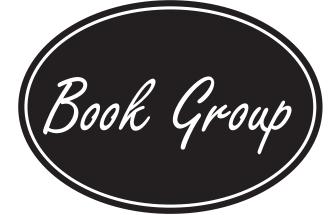
Olivet College freshman Maya Prechtel said, "Before, I would trust what I was that reaches 180 told to be accurate." But after attending million homes Rushing's lecture, Prechtel said, "I was in the Middle raised to be open minded, but he shocked East, Rushing me about how little I knew about the world said, "it is the and how sheltered I was from it. I am more engine that de- motivated now to make an effort to go out

Rushing is the author of "Mission Al Jazeera: Build a Bridge, Seek Truth, Change In his intro- the World," and now covers in-depth stories duction of Josh on topics such as the treatment of mentally ill people in prisons for a Web documentary news show FaultLines.

> In answering a question from the audience about how students can be sure to get better information, Rushing said, "I am optimistic because each one of you have access to more information than the news director of CBS" years ago. After his 40-minute talk, Rushing encouraged his audience to rely on more than one news source and to "seek truth."



Tuesday, Oct. 20 @ 3 p.m.



Betsy Dole Women's Resource Center 140 Upton Conservatory



Centenarians

The members of Iota Kappa Omicron, also known as Soronian, are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the construction of their home, Sperry Hall. This year they are hosting "Movie Nights" every Monday night at 8 p.m. Sperry Hall is located on the corner of Cottage and Shipherd Streets.

Jacob McCans/ECHO