

# THE BLUE BANNER



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Volume 37 Issue 3

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

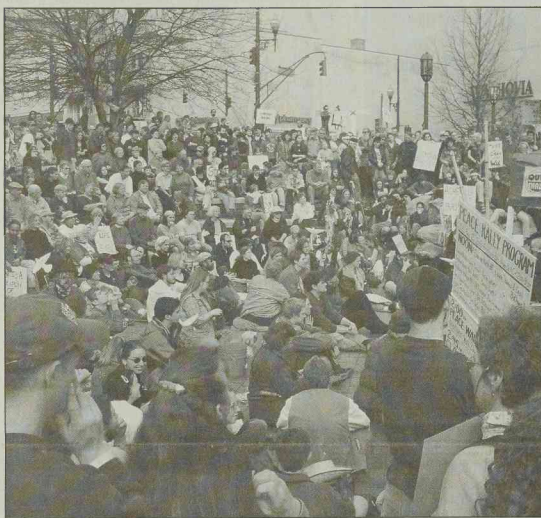
February 20, 2003

## Asheville residents protest war in Iraq

## War with Iraq?

Beth Wyche  
News Reporter

Just 10 days after Colin Powell's United Nations address and only two weeks after President Bush's State of the Union address, anti-war protesters around the world rallied to voice opposition against a United States war with Iraq. Asheville's own peace rally packed an estimated 2,000 people into Pritchard Park to coincide with the global outcry on Feb. 15.



TARA BARONE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Approximately 2,000 Asheville residents attended a peace rally in Pritchard Park Feb. 15. The event coincided with protests around the world to voice opposition to possible war with Iraq.

"I think it's awesome that all these people are here to speak their minds," said Mary Snow, an undeclared sophomore. "They're here to say how they feel, state what they believe in and are united in what they stand for. I'm inspired by all this."

that's really just moved intellectually forward to the point where they can really see what's just in the world," said Rob Close, a senior philosophy major. "I wanted to see how big and strong this could be. I'm pretty blown away."

However, some protesters still hoped for an even stronger turnout. "I'm pleased with the turnout, but I expected more to be honest,"

said Chris Wiener, an undeclared sophomore. "But it's always really good to see people supporting peace. It's a positive vibe and you can just feed off the energy."

Protesters demonstrated in other countries such as Iraq, South Africa and Greece, where several scuffles broke out between protesters and police, according to the CNN Web site.

Rally attendees cheered as speakers periodically announced the latest numbers of protesters throughout the United States and the world. The global grassroots connection impacted those in Asheville. "This movement is even greater in other countries than it is here in this country," said Brown. "People all over the world, I think they just want peace and I think other countries look at the United States as a bully. And it troubles me that the U.S. is viewed like we are."

Many in attendance felt the anti-war movement in Asheville has strong roots. "I think it's great. I expected there to be a lot of support in this area anyway," said Caroline Grady, an undeclared freshman. "I think the fact that there are so many people out here from obviously so many different walks of life is really great. It's just good to hear that echoed [peace], the fact that there are a lot of other people out there who really want peace and the fact that it's worldwide too."

However, the Bush administration remains undeterred by the weekend protests, according to *The New York Times*, a realistic fear echoed by many peace rally attendees.

"I think its [protesting] the only thing we can do," said Connie Schrader, a lecturer and health and fitness instructor at UNCA. "But sadly, I don't think that our administration cares at all. Bush doesn't care. It's a sad time. Our representative government is obviously unresponsive."

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"The lack of support alone is reason not to go to war. This past week-end there were staged global protests against the war. That should let the President know that it's not something the U.S. or other allied countries want."

Brunilda Rodriguez,  
junior marketing major



"I believe that we should go to war with Iraq, but be careful and look at all possibilities."  
Christina Robinson,  
freshman history major

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## Student governments voice concerns to NC legislators

Becky Reese  
News Reporter

Three members of the UNCA Student Government Association (SGA), along with two other UNCA students, attended Students' Day at the Capital in Raleigh to talk to local state representatives about issues facing N.C. universities Feb. 5.

"It was basically a gathering of students from all 16 institutions of the UNC system to come together at the capital for a day and talk to our different legislators," said Anne Chesky, SGA sophomore senator. "We came to talk to them about budget cuts and tuition hikes that have been going on in the last several years, this year especially."



COURTESY OF THE APPALACHIAN

Benjamin S. Ruffin, of the UNC system Board of Governors, speaks to SGA members in Raleigh Feb. 5.

raise awareness in the legislature and also in the general public," said Cady Etheridge, SGA sophomore senator. "Just to get things out in the public about the state of education right now as far as the budget goes."

Chesky. "Everyone on campus has to pay tuition and student fees to go here, and they've frozen tuition but they haven't frozen student fees," said Chesky. "One of the things I was concerned about was that, 'well we're not getting any money from tuition, so let's charge them a little more for this or that in student

fees. And that's sort of an individual university problem, but tuition is frozen and student fees can still go up."

"We only got to talk to two of them because we talked to them for so long," said Etheridge. "It seems like they knew what we were going to say before we said it, and they had their answers ready. I thought Metcalf was honestly very concerned about it to begin with, that's just the impression that I got."

"The students heard about the representatives' stances on education, limiting time for questions, according to Chesky.

"We got to find Metcalf's and Nesbitt's stances on education, so if anything we know who to vote for in the next election," said Chesky. "Because every student may not be aware of the budget cuts and tuition increases, it's important to go talk to state senators as opposed to letting them do whatever they want, said Chesky.

tion, he wants to direct it towards the larger universities in the UNC system, according to Etheridge.

"He was talking about (North Carolina State and UNCG) Chapel Hill, and about how they had all this extra money running around," said Etheridge. "He said that those institutions were started for educational purposes, not for research purposes."

"He said that people here see him as anti-education when he talks about budget cuts, but he's talking about cuts that would, in theory, affect Chapel Hill," said Etheridge.

Metcalf appeared sympathetic about budget cuts and tuition increases, having gone through the UNC system himself, according to Chesky.

"He really seemed to understand the value of education, given his background," said Etheridge.

Only five students from UNCA attended the event, mostly due to a lack of notification and preparation time, according to Etheridge. Chesky estimated 200-300 students were at the rally, with the majority

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