

The World Can't Wait!

But what exactly are we going do about it?

by Heather Hutchinson
Staff Writer

Mixed opinions on campus have been circulating concerning the planned walk-out on Thursday, Oct. 5.

Apparently the walkout, entitled Drive Out the Bush Regime, is taking place in over 190 cities throughout America. I'd say that's a pretty big protest. It's not just colleges and universities either; It's people walking out of their jobs and their high schools—taking time out of their lives to make a difference. After all, it was student protesting which ultimately helped to end the Vietnam War. How about the Civil Rights Movement? That, too, was people engaging in civil disobedience, making themselves heard, and coming together for an important cause. This Oct. 5th could be history in the making.

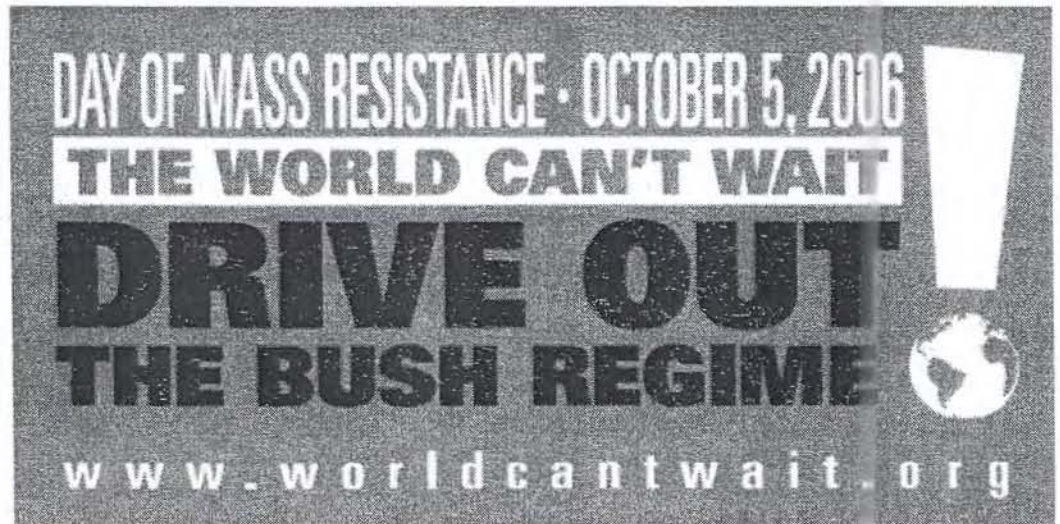
So why walk out in the first place? I encourage you to visit www.worldcantwait.net, and check it out for yourselves.

It has become quite apparent that the government is making our country look very little like a democracy, even though we're trying to force our "democracy" onto Iraq. Maybe we should first learn to practice what we preach. According to worldcantwait.net, US soldiers have been "openly torturing people and justifying it."

The United States government seems to be attempting to turn our country into a theocracy, disregarding any separation between church and state. Habeas corpus has been turned against us; we no longer have rights during arrest or imprisonment. No longer does "innocent until proven guilty" actually mean what it says. There is no "you have the right to remain silent." There are so many other intricate issues that have screwed our country in the past 6 years; as Americans, we need to take a stand against what we disbelieve in, and take charge of our futures.

We need to break the silence.

Yet, there are others on campus who, although opposed to the current state of our nation, believe that a rally will bring about no change.



Samantha Hawkins is the voice of these students, and asserts:

"First off, let me say that I am glad to live in a place where people are welcome to act on their beliefs. While I think it's a ridiculous practice, I respect you for sharing your opinion. Do I like bush? No, I don't. I think politics in general are a sick publicity shock effect that pathetically alters the lives of more than 300 million people. However, I don't think that drum circles and poetry readings are an effective way to say 'hey, Bush...we don't like you.'

Our generation has seen so much— we have so much to conquer in our lifetimes, and we can only look up from this dark hole. Think about it: our generation has witnessed the Oklahoma bombings, the Olympic bombings, a prevalent rise in awareness of child molestation, domestic abuse, environmental crises, the terror of 9/11, tsunami devastation in the Indian Ocean, and Hurricane Katrina. As the list grows, the responsibilities mount—just in time for our generation's coming-of-age. We can make improvements, or we can worsen the global situation.

This walkout is a harm to each individual in attendance. Give me a forum atmosphere, in which decisions are actually made, and contracts created— between all cultures— to move progressively toward a common goal. The chasm between our nation's ever-polarizing political

parties requires bridging. Until then, hit it twice for me.

Have fun on Thursday, and change the world: prove me wrong."

Community Walk-Out Scheduled Events:

9:00 a.m. – Students interested in the rally meet at the Bell Tower, during which time there will be a silent protest about the orange alert under which our nation currently stands.

9:30 a.m. – Students will carpool to the UNC campus at Asheville

11:30 a.m. – There will be a rally held on the student quad at the UNCA campus

12:30 p.m. – People will walk out of work and school to join the March to Pritchard Park in downtown Asheville.

6:00 p.m. – Pritchard Park will host an impromptu speak-out and accompanying drum circle.