

# N.C. college students beginning to protest prospect of gulf war

The Associated Press

Some North Carolina university students have started speaking out against the prospect of war with Iraq, starting movements that include "teach-ins" and a plan to occupy a campus Reserve Officer Training Corps building.

Rallies were held Friday at Duke University and at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

About 500 Duke students heard the Rev. E. James Lewis, an Episcopal priest, speak about his recent trip to Baghdad.

"Organize! Come together!" Mr. Lewis urged. "The best way to support our troops is to raise our voices now."

Duke student groups plan to continue the protest action, with a plan to occupy a campus ROTC building sometime this week.

"Shutting down ROTC for a few hours is a symbol about how the military infiltrates our society," student organizer Andrew Neather said. It would be the first campus sit-in since students occupied the administration building in 1968 to protest the Vietnam War.

Other students have formed the

Duke Committee for Conscientious Objectors. They plan to educate students about procedures required to obtain conscientious objector status in the event of a draft.

An anti-war rally at UNCW on Friday drew loud responses from fatigue-clad counterdemonstrators.

Speakers at the rally were heckled repeatedly as they tried to speak out against the idea of war against Iraq.

"I refuse to accept that war is inevitable," said the Rev. Bob Haywood, campus minister. "We don't have a unified national will. The president does not have the politics or moral right to start a war."

"I honestly don't think any of you are prepared for the body bags" in which dead soldiers would return, he said.

Spec. Richard Anthony Pinkham, a soldier stationed at Fort Bragg, was in Wilmington visiting friends after returning to the United States from Saudi Arabia for surgery when he heard about

the UNCW rally Friday. He said it hurt morale when soldiers overseas learned that the public was divided over the gulf crisis. He said he wanted to speak for them.

"I'm a soldier, and I'm a...good soldier," he told the crowd.

He said he worked 36 hours at a time without sleep and in 130-degree temperatures. Sometimes when he woke up, he had to brush scorpions off his bed coverings, he said.

"I can say who are you to condemn me or my government," Spec. Pinkham, 21, said. "If I die, then so be it. Don't condemn me or the military or my country. If you don't like that then you need to leave and get...out of my country," The crowd cheered.

Students at four Greensboro-area universities held a rally Saturday. About 150 students marched from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro campus to downtown. Their chants included "Hell No, We Won't Go. We Won't Fight For Texaco."

## Feeling a Tuition Crunch?

Education Loan Funds for 1990-91 Still Available through College Foundation

College Foundation, Inc. (CFI) announced this week that education loan funds are still available for the 1990-91 academic year.

Three types of loans are available: Stafford Loans for Students are for dependent or independent students and are based on financial need; Supplemental Loans for Students are for independent self-supporting students and are not based on financial need; PLUS Loans to Parents are for parents of dependent students and are not based on financial need.

The loan funds are available for applications received by the Foundation up to 30 days before the end of the academic period specified on the loan request. Students may specify the full academic year, or specific semesters, as their loan periods.

Additional information and applications are available from the Office of Financial Aid (3rd floor, Johnson Hall.)



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## Project Santa Already in the Christmas Spirit

by Janie Mullis

Are you looking for a heartwarming activity on Sunday afternoons? Consider Project Santa. "Project Santa was organized to remember forgotten senior citizens in rest homes and to help handicapped and needy children," says James H. Phelps, chairman for Project Santa/Helping Hands for the Handicapped. Project Santa visits these people several times each year to let them know they are cared about. Some of their projects include distributing candy to nursing homes and handicapped children, sending packages to the troops in Operation Desert Shield, and taking toys to children in low-income neighborhoods.

Sunday, November 18, four Meredith students participated in Project Santa as a service project for 2nd Faircloth. Sophomores Jenny Robbins, Karen Nipper, Dawnyelle Thrush, and Janie Mullis stuffed bags with shampoo, candy, razors, and magazines to be sent to the men and women of Desert Shield. In

addition, bags were filled with chocolate candy and crackers to be taken to nursing homes.

Project Santa receives all of the items through corporate donations. American Greetings donated thousands of greeting cards and another company donated 350 pounds of chocolate candy.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of projects, from donating toys, distributing advertisements, packaging goods, to monetary contributions. Volunteers are also needed to participate in hayrides for children in the Halifax public housing area.

According to volunteer Jenny Robbins, "During this busy time of the year, being able to stop and have fun by helping the needy made me realize how thankful I am."

Contact James Phelps at 782-1942 or Janie Mullis at 829-7753 for information on volunteering. Donations can be sent to: Project Santa, 4505 Hershey Court, P.O. Box 30861, Raleigh, NC 27622