

Students nationwide protest possible war

Associated Press

Thousands of students around the country walked out of class Wednesday to protest a war with Iraq, joining rallies that ranged from a few quiet demonstrators to crowds that erupted into shouting matches.

Manon Terrell, a 19-year-old sophomore, missed three classes to take part in a rally at Stanford University attended by about 300 people carrying signs bearing slogans such as, "It's the Middle East, not the Wild West."

"This is a personal thing for me because my friends are going to fight this war," said Terrell, a civil engineering major. "It's not going to be Bush and his cronies in business suits on the front lines. They're going to take people of color and poor people."

It could not be determined Wednesday night how many students participated across the nation, and the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition had no immediate estimate. The group said earlier that tens of thousands of students at more than

350 high schools, colleges and universities had pledged to join.

"If we don't come out, then our opinion isn't heard by the White House, by anyone," said tenth-grader Bernard Mantel, 16, who gathered with classmates at Union Square in New York City.

Thousands of students also rallied for peace in Britain, Sweden, Spain, Australia and other countries. The U.S. protests were also geared to call attention to the effects of a war on education, health care and the economy.

Students attended by the hundreds at some campuses around the nation; at others, attendance was light. Some were met by groups calling for support of the Bush administration.

In Madison, Wis., organizers estimated 5,000 students rallied, though police put that figure at 2,000. In Milwaukee, 40 students lined the sidewalk in front of the Marquette University student union during an

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Saori Yoneda / Daily Staff
Craig Clouded, a senior majoring in history, held a card to protest the potential war against Iraq on Wednesday afternoon at SJSU.

Some at SJSU walked out of classes

By **Carrie Mattingly**
Daily Staff Writer

Students and citizens protesting the war gathered in the Art Quad at San Jose State University on Wednesday to participate in a student strike. SJSU was one of 230 schools involved in the organized walkout protesting the war.

Anti-war fliers were passed out and picket signs opposing the war were held up. Students pounded on drums while chanting slogans. At 9 a.m. as the chanting grew louder, the crowd of nearly 150 people grew bigger.

Miniature, white-colored cardboard coffins were placed along the perimeter of the gathering place. Most coffins, no bigger than two feet long, had black and white paper photographs attached to the front. Some children smiled in the photographs while others were pictured naked and crying. Most of the children's pictures used for these coffin displays were malnourished, exposing their thin, bandaged skeletal bodies.

Muslim Student Association member Muhammad Abu-Haneefa, a sophomore communications major, led the start of the talks while randomly breaking out in chant. Some of the more popular chants were "No justice, no peace," "The people united will never be divided" and "Books not bombs."

Some spectators became active participants when the megaphone was opened up to the crowd. Most voiced their opinion on the war. Initiating a new chant, Ahmed Al-Sheikh, a sophomore English major, said, "Drop Bush, not bombs."



Vicki Thompson / Daily Staff

Annie Sayo, a senior majoring in social science, leads protesters in a chant outside Tower Hall.

To the side of the growing crowd, wearing a shirt that read, "Stop the war against Iraq, act now to stop war and end racism," graduate student of education, Anna Lawrence stood beside her fifth grade son.

"(I want to) get my son into peaceful movements and direct action," Lawrence said.

Instead of wearing clothing that boasted anti-war sentiments, other students used creative, humorous signs to draw attention. Senior Lisa Maiffret, a major in comparative religious studies, expressed that President Bush was going to war for personal reasons and that he is "finishing up what daddy did." Her sign read, "Drunk frat boy drives country into

ditch."

"This is supposed to be a democracy, but (Bush) ignored the protests," Maiffret said. "He said he doesn't care about the American people."

Thin black bands showed up on arms of individuals who opposed the war.

"War is not a way to solve things," said William O'Connell, 67, while cutting up a black shirt. "It's a mourning color. We are mourning the people that will die in war."

Students for Justice held a white banner at the front of the crowd, ready to march. The group of students marched away from the Student

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Autumn Cruz / Special to the Daily

Jassin Ubaid, a junior majoring in computer science, and **Karyna Fraser**, a sophomore majoring in music, shout in protest of the impending war with Iraq during a student walkout at San Jose State University.