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Students say war opposition is waning



photo by Mark Trockman/College Press

Some say the anti-war movement will pick up now that the ground war has begun.

by B.J. Hoepfner

(CPS)—As the war reached the one-month mark on Feb. 16, the student anti-war movement seemed to be slowing down, various organizers said.

"I think we're seeing students challenged by the Bush administration's successes in creating a front of support for the war," admitted Carl Le Van, a leader of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East.

Le Van, whose Washington, D.C.-based group helped draw

about 75,000 protesters to the Capital Jan. 26, said it's been getting harder to wrest people from their studies to demonstrate their opposition to U.S. policy.

"I think it's the calm before the storm," said Sharif Al-Saifi, a protest organizer at Georgetown University, in explaining why protests there have died down.

"From what I can tell, people are getting very very apathetic," agreed Chris Gilbertson, a senior at the California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

A Cal Poly symposium featur-

ing speakers about the war on Jan. 29 drew only 100 people.

Even at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where news of war's outbreak on Jan. 16 spontaneously sent students onto the streets and prompted 500 students to occupy the administration building, criticism of the war seems to have subsided.

The number of students participating in a letter-writing and telephone campaign sponsored by UCSB anti-war activists, for example, has been dwindling since the first days of the war, organiz-

ers report.

"Everyone went to the marches, they went to the rallies, they chanted, they missed their classes, but it's not going to end the war," Student Anti-War Coalition member Valerie Sharpe told the Daily Nexus, UCSB's student newspaper, in explaining why fewer students have been attending anti-war efforts.

Active groups of people gathered at a round of anti-war rallies and teach-ins the weekend of Feb. 15-17.

Approximately 8,000 people marched in New York City and protests were reported in 85 other cities, said Joyce Johnson, a protest organizer.

"There are a lot of things on students' minds" besides the war, pointed out Harold Scheub, an African language and literature professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who has followed student protests since the Vietnam War.

"As I recall, the protests came and went during the Vietnam War," Scheub said.

"I'm not sure (the student movement) has slowed down on this campus," Scheub added, noting that a recent teach-in at Wisconsin had been well attended.

And members of the National Student and Youth Campaign are encouraged by the support they have received for the International Day of Student and Youth Mobilization Against the War planned for Feb. 21.

Organizers want students around the world to stage "rallies,

walkouts, student strikes, mass demonstrations, sit-ins, teach-ins" and other anti-war events.

Colleges in 28 states and five countries have said they will participate.

"The momentum is still there," reported Leslie Watson, a student organizer at Southern University in Louisiana.

However, attendance at weekly demonstrations at Southern fluctuated, Watson admitted.

"The response for Feb. 21 demonstrates the movement really didn't die down," Le Van said.

Most agree the level of protest will depend on the events of the war.

"As long as nobody's going to draft anybody, nothing really is happening," Cal Poly's Gilbertson said.

"There's a large student population that feels uncomfortable with the war and would certainly oppose any sort of mandatory conscription," Le Van agreed.

The start of a ground war with heavy American casualties also would bring out more protesters, Le Van speculated.

Finally, many students still are trying to decide whether they are for or against the war, Scheub said.

"Students are really trying to stake out a position, and that's very healthy," Scheub said.

"People need to find their niche and how they feel about the war," Southern's Watson added.

Maxson hosts dinner for high school seniors

W. Morgan Fisher

The second of two dinners for Clark County's brightest high school seniors and their parents was held in the board room at the Thomas & Mack Center on Feb. 21. The dinner, sponsored by President Maxson's office, allowed the students of Clark County to meet the president, faculty and student ambassadors. Afterward they were given tickets, provided by Maxson, for the UNLV vs. Pacific game.

Nearly 200 Clark County students whose GPA accumulated 4.0 or better were able to attend one of the two dinners.

"We go to schools all over the state, in search of Nevada's best and brightest, so that they will come to UNLV," Maxson said. "We don't want a single student to leave

Nevada because they think they have to in order to get a good education."

The dinner was catered by the Thomas & Mack Center. After the students had their fill of prime rib and chicken they listened to Maxson and the student ambassadors speak about themselves and UNLV.

"I can't think of anything better that I could do with my life than to enroll in the honors program here at UNLV," said Lisa Isernhagen, an honor student at UNLV who graduated from Western High School in 1988.

Randi Sue Smith, a sophomore from Reno told the students that, "any sacrifices that you have to make in order to go to college is worth it." These and many other student ambassadors, from Nevada and throughout the United States, told what UNLV has done for them.

Some of the high school students explained why they attended the dinner.

"I came tonight to see what UNLV had to offer. I'm looking at other colleges, so I'm still thinking," said Jill Hardy from Logandale, Nev.

Matt Talpis from Bishop Gorman High School explained that although he was applying to other institutions the dinner helps UNLV's recruiting.

Maxson said he was very encouraged by the turnout and he wasn't worried about students looking into other institutions.

"Many of the students are not sure and are looking into other options," he said. "When you talk to them you'll find out that they are looking into other universities. But because of events like this many will come to UNLV."



President Maxson speaks directly to potential UNLV students.



photo by Jennifer Ellidge

"Watch for falling sandbags" sign alerts students of the danger of walking near the Lily Fong Geoscience building. The ceiling collapsed in places in January due to 18 years of leakage.

Grades are better late than never

by Thomas Moore

The late grades and even later grade point averages were (believe it or not) a result of progress. Registrar Jeff Halverson said the university was switching over from one system to another. He said that the GPAs were not "calculating" correctly, and he was holding off sending out the grades until they did.

Halverson said that finally, even without the GPAs, the decision was made to send students the information they needed. The main problem was trying to

adapt the new software to the university's way of doing things. He also said that in an emergency the Registrar's office would have done it the old way—on hard copy.

Halverson also explained the current situation with the transfer credits from Clark County Community College. Previously, credits from CCC were calculated into the overall GPA, a situation Halverson described as unique in the United States. Now the credits will only count toward total hours earned, which is consistent with standards in higher education.

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WE SALUTE OUR FRIENDS OVERSEAS.



MAY THEY RETURN SAFELY AND SOON.