

Jenna Parks  
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Day 1 of War Story

About 100 University students gathered at the steps of Wilson Library in the rain Thursday afternoon to watch or participate in an antiwar rally. The weather seemed to set an appropriately dismal mood on the first day of the United States' invasion of Iraq.

A student from Chapel Hill High School stood on the top step of Wilson, speaking into a microphone: "I know both young and old people of America oppose this war- whoever has a breath of life in him should speak out against it. We can still oppose what we feel is wrong and we can still change this world."

Crystal Rozier, a junior communications major from Raleigh, who was at the rally, wholeheartedly agreed with the speaker's stance on war: "It's ridiculous and unnecessary- and that is my opinion on any war. It only perpetuates what we are fighting against. We are opposed to their government, but who are we to go in and remodel it?"

Mike Essa, a senior from Greensboro majoring in exercise and sports science, said: "What's scary is not even the bombing as much as what will happen to the Iraqis when we take away their government and impose another. They won't know what to do."

"We're going to put a hand-picked 'puppet dictator' in power and it's going to backfire just like it did with Chile and Cuba. It's scary because this is just going to trigger more terrorism in America," said Jessica Factor, a senior from Maryland majoring in journalism and mass communication, "There was an unidentified object in my broccoli and cheese soup from Lenoir today- I think it was a terrorist attempt."

While anger and bitterness at the idea of war were prominent emotions at the protest, others seemed to feel more supportive of our country.

“At first I felt like Bush was just being war-hungry,” said Sarah Maine, a drama major from Winston-Salem, “and I’m still against war in general but now I am realizing there is a lot going on that the American people don’t know about.”

Junior economics major Doug Sue said, “I just feel amazed- I can’t believe we’re actually going to war, but I’m not opposed to it. Last night when I watched the explosions on CNN I felt like I was watching Desert Storm again.”

Elizabeth Wright, a sophomore communications major from Bethel, said: “I think we should stand behind our country. I wish it didn’t have to result in war but it did so I support it. I’m tired of people blaming Bush like he single-handedly decided this for the whole country.”

There are certainly a variety of emotions on the UNC campus, but a dreary feeling is certainly shared by all, regardless of political stances.