

R4/4
-5/1
46/6

MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 1991

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 35

excalibur

YORK UNIVERSITY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



Clive Cohen

Peace activist at U.S. consulate:

A young activist hoping for peace joins several thousand others in front of the United States Consulate at Thursday night's rally. Despite

snow and rain, protestors continued to gather throughout the night.

Persian Gulf war brought home to York University

Josh Rubin
and Brent Poland
Thursday Jan 17 1991

As elsewhere in the world, York reaction to the American-led bombing of Baghdad remains mixed.

Throughout the university, groups of students could be found gathered around TV's and radios, listening intently to the latest news from the Persian Gulf.

A bomb threat in central square interrupted classes and forced an evacuation for a period of two hours.

Police cordoned off the elevator to the South Ross building and dusted a phone for finger prints near the area.

Security personnel and metro police refused to answer questions and would only say that a bomb threat had been called in.

Excalibur later learned that security received an anonymous phone call at 1:10 p.m. The male caller stated that a number of bombs had been planted around the campus and were set to go off at 2 p.m.

Police searched the Steacie Science building, along with Ross, the library and Curtis. Nothing was found and people were allowed to return by 4 p.m.

Student reactions to the gulf war covered a wide spectrum from support to outrage to sadness.

"We support the international effort to liberate Kuwait," said Menahem Neuer, program director at the Jewish Students Federation. "We are hoping and praying for our relatives and friends in Israel."

"The government acted in the right way and the opposition acted appallingly, with exception of John Turner, who broke rank and supported the government," said professor J.L. Granatstein of York's history department. "We are now learning the astonishing capability

of modern conventional weapons."

Arab students also expressed concern over the gulf war.

"I was expecting it," said Nouhad Kalmoni. "People are talking that the U.S. has already won; we will just have to wait and see"

For some York students, the reports of missile hits and destruction have an all too familiar ring.

"I was quite upset," said one Iranian emigrant. "It's quite unnecessary and I have experienced it before myself."

Some other students, however, were more resigned.

"I felt strange, but I expected it to happen," said third-year humanities major Robyn Cohen.

Jeff Denberg, a third-year political science major suggested that the gulf war is the fault of the United States.

"It's a selfish war; it's being fought over oil," Denberg said.

"The United States saw this as the perfect opportunity to establish credibility as a super-power," said Barry O'Neil, fellow of the Centre for the International and Strategic Studies. "Obviously George Bush feels that military power is more important than the back-lash that his government will receive for these actions."

For exchange student Maarit Julin, it is not a question of who to blame.

"When I found out [about the war], I started to cry," said the Finnish native.

Although apparently smaller than the anti-war movement here at York, there are some students who strongly support the bombardment.

"[Bush] had to do something now before it would have got worse," said Bruno Miranda, a third-year Math for Commerce major.

York students join in demonstrations

by Jeannine Amber

As their shock turned to anger York students took to the streets, joining thousands of others in anti-war demonstrations.

Wednesday night, only hours after the war began, thousand of protesters met in a show of solidarity in front of the U.S. Consulate.

Despite pouring rain, protesters marched from the consulate on University Avenue, to the Conservative party headquarters on Richmond street and then up Yonge street to Bloor, where they blocked the busy intersection.

One young man, leaning on a cane said, "I didn't think I'd be able to make it this far, but I have a nineteen year old uncle in the gulf, and I want him out of there."

Thousands met again Thursday, and more demonstrations are planned. While many at the demonstration are been too young to remember the Vietnam war, comparisons to the 1960s U.S. anti-war movement is inevitable.

York Political Science professor David

McNally said the war in the Gulf may be as important to students today as the Vietnam war was to students of the sixties and early seventies.

McNally also pointed out that students played a critical role in the anti-Vietnam movement.

With the ability students have to organize they have the potential to "provide a very powerful force for mobilizing and activating other layers of society into anti-war movement," McNally said.

A high school teacher who asked not to be named said, "Today's students seem to know enough about the Vietnam protest to know that they can play a substantial role in the move toward peace."

While young people are sent off to fight, thousands of their peers are fighting to have them brought back home.

The message that the anti-war demonstrators want to avoid is that they are against the men and women fighting in the war.

NDP member of parliament, Dan Heap stressed "this protest is not against men and women who were sent to the gulf — it is against

the people who sent them there."

Protestors in Canada, and those around the world are trying to send a message to world leaders: This war is not being fought with unanimous support. Nor is it being fought with the complicity implied by silence. There is a lot of anger.

Many people at the demonstrations said they found being involved was one way to deal with their frustrations.

As York graduate student Phil Jackson said, "we can only begin to overcome feelings of powerlessness by joining together with others."

In Toronto, unions, environmental and political groups, women's organizations and others have joined in opposition to the war. Both York and U of T have large Troop Out of the Gulf Coalitions which meet regularly on their respective campuses.

Saddam Hussein has called this the "mother of all wars."

Cherie McDonald from the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics, who spoke at Thursday's Rally said what the world is going to see in response is "the mother of all anti-war movements."

Bomb threats begin Thursday

After Thursday's bomb threat in central square, three more calls were received by York security.

At 8:30 p.m. Thursday night, a phone call was placed by a Vanier student claiming the residence hall phone had received a bomb threat.

The area was searched, but students were not evacuated.

At 12-midnight, the Cock and Bull pub phoned York security, claiming they had received a bomb threat.

York Security increased their patrols activity, but again no one was evacuated.

At 2:15 a.m., a Vanier resident was using the main washroom when he noticed a piece of tubing in a washroom and called security.

This time the building was evacuated and the metro bomb squad was called in. At 5:20 a.m. it was revealed that it was only a piece of old pipe.

At 9:40 a.m. on Friday, the Fine Arts building called York Security and reported another bomb threat.

The Building was closed for an hour. Founders college was also evacuated due to a bomb threat at approximately 10:20 a.m.