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Gulf Crisis

University students gathered around TV sets Wednesday afternoon with fear and disbelief as they heard the news that U.S. planes were bombing targets in Baghdad.

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Bombs raining on Baghdad drew thousands of protesters to streets in scores of U.S. cities Wednesday. Some came in anger, some in sadness. Some burned the flag, some clung to candles in prayer.

Two of the largest and most unruly demonstrations came in San Francisco and New York, where crowds estimated at about 5,000 each lighted bonfires, marched, chanted and carried protest signs with messages like "War Gives Us Gas Pains."

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Inside

Many women who have been active in the University's Gay and Lesbian Alliance recently formed a separate group that will focus specifically on lesbian issues.

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Last week's closure of the Rape Crisis Network created questions about why the center closed so suddenly, and what the future holds for crisis services in Lane County.

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Sports

The up-and-down Oregon men's basketball team heads north this weekend to face the Washington schools on their first extended conference road trip of the year.

The Ducks, who are tied with UCLA for third in the Pacific-10 conference at 2-1 and 7-6 overall, meet Washington in Seattle Thursday night, followed by a Saturday afternoon date with the Cougars of Washington State in Pullman.

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War in Iraq begins



Photo by Sean Poston

About 2,000 people joined a march through the streets of Eugene on Wednesday night to protest a U.S. military attack on Baghdad.

Angry protesters fill city streets

By Brian Bloch
and Pat Malach

Emerald Staff members

A small, somber crowd of protesters turned into a firestorm of more than 2,000 strong moving through the streets of Eugene on Wednesday night as the community cried out for peace in the Middle East.

Just hours after conflict broke out between U.S. and Iraqi troops, local protesters began a massive gathering downtown at the Federal Building, 211 E. 7th Ave., that concluded with a march through downtown and campus.

Protesters chanting slogans such as "George Bush, hey, hey, hey; how many kids have you killed today," and "Hell no we won't go; we won't fight for Texaco," surrounded entire blocks, waving signs calling for an end to military engagement with Iraq. At one point the parade of protesters covered all of 13th Avenue between University and Kincaid Streets.

"We're here to mourn the fact that our country has gone to war," said one protester.

Police stopped traffic at cross streets along 13th Avenue as the crowd marched through and around campus, moving back toward the Federal Build-

ing. U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, who spoke to the crowd at the Federal Building as they began the march, said he believes military action in Iraq will only create more tension and conflict in the Gulf region.

"This war will not bring a new world order," DeFazio said. "You do not preserve peace by launching a war."

"We're not smart enough as a society to figure out a better solution to our problems," said Eugene City Councilor Shawn Bowles.

Although an overwhelming anti-war mood dominated the protest, a small gathering of 20

to 30 war supporters waited across from the Federal Building for the protesters to return from the marching. The war supporters, carrying flags and voicing support for U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf chanted "U.S.A." as the two sides faced off in the street.

A small scuffle ensued when a peace marcher grabbed a flag waved by war supporter Don Frisbie, but police quickly diffused the situation. For the most part, the gathering remained peaceful.

Frisbie said he and his friends were at the gathering

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Daylight brings second wave of bombing

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq today claimed U.S. warplanes and missiles struck densely populated areas of Baghdad. Saddam Hussein called President Bush a criminal and vowed to crush "the satanic intentions of the White House."

An acrid smell filled the air, but Western journalists in the city of 4 million residents saw no sign of major damage in the center of the capital.

The extent of casualties was not reported.

After a lull, the U.S.-led forces launched a second wave

of air attacks on Iraq this morning, according to Western journalists in Baghdad and a Western military officer in the Persian Gulf emirate Bahrain.

Hundreds of American, British, Saudi and Kuwaiti warplanes launched the initial pre-dawn strikes in Iraq and occupied Kuwait, U.S. officials said.

"The great showdown has begun! The mother of all battles is under way," Saddam said in a radio message monitored in Nicosia.

Bright missile trails and the

blaze of warplanes lighted the moonless night sky over Baghdad, Western journalists said.

"It has been one hell of a night here in Baghdad," said CNN's Bernard Shaw. "Wave after wave after wave of planes came in. ... When the bombs fell and when those bombs exploded it shook you to your soul."

Foreigners and reporters in the plush Al Rashid Hotel in the center of Baghdad were initially hustled down to the basement air raid shelter by hotel staff.

Some of the Arab guests shouted "Death to Bush" as they huddled in the basement.

The command of the Iraqi armed forces said the warplanes struck densely populated residential areas of Baghdad, "and fled into Saudi Arabian airspace after unloading their bombs from high altitudes to avoid the ground resistance batteries."

But American TV reporters in Baghdad said most of the damage apparently was on the out-

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