

Campuses begin anti-war protests

By Michelle Crouch
Knight Ridder Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — As the war drums grow louder in Washington, an anti-war movement is emerging on college campuses across the country.

Last week, students from more than 150 colleges — from UCLA to Harvard University — staged a series of peace rallies, candlelight vigils and petition drives.

"Retaliating with violence for violence is just going to lead to more violence. The lives of people in Afghanistan are just as important as the lives of people in New York."

Mary Donoghue
Duke University sophomore

In the Carolinas, more than 180 Davidson College students are painting messages of peace onto cloth squares they are joining into a giant "Peace Quilt." Others signed letters urging American leaders "not to duplicate these horrors."

At Duke University, dozens of students, faculty members and staff participated in a peace rally Friday with the slogan: "No more victims."

The events, evoking muted images of 1960s activism, were aimed at encouraging a restrained response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The efforts are united by what students call a need for

"peaceful justice."

"We wanted to bring people together who are interested in finding alternatives to war," said Chris Paul, a student organizer at Duke. "We're not implying there shouldn't be any action, but it should be with the awareness that others will be hurt if we do take military action."

Davidson students said they considered a rally, but decided a quilt would be more appropriate, said student organizer Grant Blecher.

"This is an opportunity for students to use their creativity and leave their mark," Blecher said. "We can hang it up and it will be around for a while. We hope it will get people to think."

Blecher said he's working to get permission to hang the quilt in the college's student center, and he would eventually like to rotate it to different locations.

Quilt pieces were covered with peace signs and quotes from Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy. On one, the words, "It's in our hands," encircle a large globe.

Another is addressed to the president: "Bush, only fools rush in."

A third proclaims, "THINK" in bold white letters on a red background.

"Retaliating with violence for violence is just going to lead to more violence," said Mary Donoghue, 19, a sophomore whose colorful square simply reads, "Shalom." "The lives of people in Afghanistan are just as important as the lives of people in New York."

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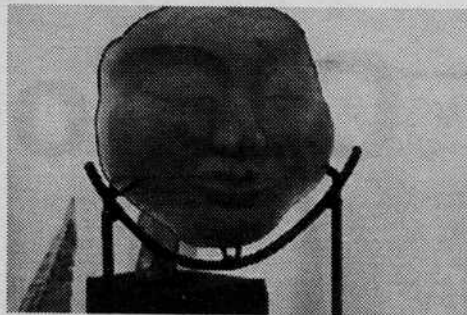


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