

# Locals trek to anti-war rally

Students and community members bussed to the Bay area for an anti-war protest that drew thousands

**Jan Montry**  
City/State Politics Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO — Sara Worl was on the bus because she wanted to educate herself and to exercise the most fundamental American freedom.

"I've been trying to raise my own awareness of what's going on in the name of our flag," she said. "As an American, I feel it's my duty to exercise (the First Amendment) — to speak out."

Beau Eastlund was on the bus because he wanted to see a big protest.

"I wanted to be part of some manner of protest, and I figured the one going on in San Francisco would garner more media attention than some of the local protests," he said.

With different reasons and varying beliefs, almost 50 students and

community members — a number of them freshmen who had never been to a major rally — got on a bus Friday bound for the San Francisco anti-war rally.

And after the rally, the energized bus riders going to Berkeley for the night were most amazed with the diversity of the people involved with the march, including young, old, liberal and conservative.

"It was just amazing to see how we all had different focuses and different beliefs, but we all came there for one common goal," Lane Community College student Charly Robinson said. "For me, all of these people were strangers yesterday, but I'm leaving with a whole lot of new friends."

Caitlin Gamble and Hana Binder, two University freshmen, agreed.

"I thought we had a great turnout, and it was really good to see all the different types of people that were there," Gamble said.

Binder, who saw President Bush supporters on the street opposing the war, said the diversity

was amazing.

"I just thought it was cool how everyone was open to each other,"

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**Charly Robinson**  
LCC student

she said. "We were all brought together to protest one thing."

But if it wasn't the diversity of the

crowd that struck the local participants, it was its size — about 200,000 according to rally organizers and 55,000 according to police officials — and the impact they thought it had on America.

"The crowd was endless," University junior Hereyzen Perry said. "I think it was loud. There is no way we couldn't be heard."

Travis Dominguez, a recent University graduate, said it was nice to see so many people with a common mindset.

"If it didn't make an impact on everyone else, it made an impact on the people here," he said.

Although most of the bus riders had different perspectives about the strongest points of the march, one message was clear among all of them: No war.

"There are better ways to resolve our problems," University freshman Risa Nabielski said. "There should be a better way."

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## World

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roughed them up and kept some protesters from joining the event.

Egypt is one of the strongest U.S. allies in the region. But the demonstration, like the public psyche in Egypt, blended anger toward America's threat to Iraq with the hostility Egyptians generally feel for U.S. support of Israel in its conflict with

the Palestinians. Both cases are seen in the Middle East as proof of an anti-Arab bias.

Marches in France, Britain, Germany, Sweden and Italy reflected profound resentment of U.S. muscle-flexing. The ideological chasm between Europe and the United States has widened dramatically as many Europeans accuse Washington, D.C., of embarking on a cynical war intended to ensure U.S. access

to oil. The fervent displays of sympathy for Americans that filled the streets of Europe after the Sept. 11 attacks seem a distant memory.

The worldwide rallies were not massive. And the participants tended to be leftists, nationalists, trade union members and other traditional critics of the United States. But just as Iraq has stirred opposition in unlikely sectors of the U.S. public, such as World War II veterans, the

international antiwar camp has attracted unexpected activists as well.

The French newspaper Le Monde published a front-page essay Saturday in which John Le Carre, the British espionage author, delivered a scornful assault on Bush. He said the U.S. administration's policies are "madness" on a scale surpassing McCarthyism and the Vietnam War.

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## D.C. rally

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Peace: Levi Strom, Alex Gonzalez, Melissa Jencks, Marya Lusky, Rachel Dean, Dylan McManus, Merri Bath, Phillipa Anderson, Nick Pandjiris and Nathaniel N-T.

Holding up a handmade banner proclaiming "University of Oregon Students for Peace," the students were greeted with warmth and cheers by Easterners who cried, to the smiles of many in the group, "Hey! Welcome Orygun!"

The day was reminiscent of nearly 34 years ago, when hundreds of thousands gathered in that exact location to protest the Vietnam War. If the cold weather may have withheld some of the day's exuberance,

the sheer number of bodies authenticated and legitimized their cause.

Spirits were high even at the beginning of the event, when more than 20 speakers took to the podium to rally the masses below. Among the speakers was the Rev. Al Sharpton of the National Action Network, who said to the cheers of the crowd, "Mr. Bush held Dr. King's picture in the White House last year, but he needs to have the words. If Dr. King was here today celebrating his birthday, he would be saying, 'Give peace a chance.'" Other speakers included actress Jessica Lange; Rev. Jesse Jackson; former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich.; and Vietnam veteran and "Born on the Fourth of July" author Ron Kovic.

By the time people began to arrive

at the designated end of the march, the Navy Yard, many were still waiting to begin. Surprisingly, a small number of police lined the streets, and their only purpose seemed to be keeping demonstrators off the sidewalks. A number of people on stilts dressed as Uncle Sam picked their way through the crowd, and even a convincing George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld, complete with paper maché heads, greeted the crowd, calling, "Make way for the Bush administration!"

Although the march got under way a little after 1:30 p.m., the University students did not reach the Navy Yard (only a couple of miles away) until well after 5 p.m. Throngs of people were still behind them, and thousands remained in front of the Navy

Yard dancing, chanting and beating drums. While the mood was uplifting through most of the march, many of the demonstrators showed signs of fatigue, and the cold was beginning to sink in toward the end of the day.

Speaking on the importance of being in D.C. for the rally, Anderson said, "I feel a sense of urgency at this time because of Bush's policies and eagerness to invade Iraq. This is a message to him."

And on a freezing day on the East Coast, thousands of miles away from home, the University students made their presence and views known, and joined the thousands of others who braved the cold for peace.

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