

# Protesters

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Sacred Heart Medical Center and instructing them to walk with, not against, traffic on one-way streets for safety reasons, Stronach said.

"(Good communication) made those marches a lot smoother, and everybody was happy," Stronach said. "But if we can't take first precautions to prevent gatherings from becoming unlawful, it can be a nightmare."

At the Feb. 15 protest, EPD officers prevented a "splinter" group — typically separate from the majority of protesters — from physically blocking the Ferry Street Bridge, EPD spokeswoman Kerry Delf said. Estimated to include more than 2,000 marchers, the overall protest was based at the Eugene Federal Building where three individuals were cited in lieu of custody, meaning they were arrested but not jailed. Officers were forced to shut down Seventh Avenue at Pearl Street to accommodate for the overflow into the street, Stronach said.

At a march a month later, another splinter group attempted to block the Ferry Street Bridge and were turned around by a line of EPD officers. At that protest, seven people were arrested during what Stronach said was more of a local spectacle than a demonstration for a political cause.

"It's not what we would have liked to have occurred," he said.

In both instances, EPD officers were able to keep marchers from obstructing traffic on the bridge, but Stronach said that doesn't mean the groups' intentions are forgotten.

"Recent protests have gone well, but we will not close streets the way we have in the past."

During an anti-war march on April 3, EPD officers reported that three female University students persisted in stepping off the sidewalk and obstructing traffic while walking toward the Federal Building. When they reached the building, two of the students were cited for "suddenly leaving the curb" during the march.

Freshman Vanessa Dudley, one of the two cited, said she didn't have much of a choice because a patrol vehicle stopped in front of her and her friends as they were leaving the protest. Although aggravated by the \$89 fine, Dudley said the violation will not deter her protesting spirit.

The third student, however, refused to stop walking when an officer attempted to cite her, Delf said. In her EPD report, the arresting officer repeatedly instructed the student to stop, then grabbed her by the backpack — which she shrugged onto the ground — and even reached for her hand, which the student yanked away, Delf said.

The officer reportedly advised the student that she had increased the severity of her charge from traffic obstruction to failing to obey an officer

to interfering with police, at which point the student stopped walking and was handcuffed and arrested. As a result, what would have been an \$89 fine for unlawful use of a roadway became more than \$500 bail with higher fines, Delf said. The student was reportedly charged for failure to obey the lawful order of a police officer — by walking away — and interfering with police — by pulling away — and was released shortly after.

In general, Stronach said problems that lead to protest arrests sometimes have less to do with the message of the protests and more to do with marchers making a scene or desiring a confrontation.

"Our number one objective is preventing protesters from infringing on other people's rights," he said. "The cops don't object to people protesting, but the sheer numbers at these protests wouldn't allow them to fit in the area. So they extend into the roadway."

Although some individuals may think it's their right to walk away from a police officer issuing a citation, Delf said, civilians don't get to make that decision.

"If an officer says 'Stop,' it's in your best interest to allow yourself to be cited," she said. "Otherwise, your refusal can be a new offense."

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current anti-war movement and peace protests during the Vietnam War, but there are also several differences between them.

One thing that set the current protest movement apart was that it started before the United States had even gone to war against Iraq, whereas the American public had been in support of the Vietnam War at the start of the conflict.

Another dividing line between the two anti-war movements was that during the Vietnam War, many people thought that losing the war against Vietnam would be a good thing and would teach the U.S. government a lesson in humility, and this line of thinking hasn't been prevalent in the peace movement against the war in Iraq.

Pope added that even though anti-war protests didn't stop the United States from going to war with Iraq, people shouldn't dismiss protesting as an ineffective way to create change. He said the Bush administration had been hell-bent on going to war for months, and nothing that the movement did was going to change that.

However, Pope added he has hopes that the current movement will be able to prevent the U.S. government from attempting to engender regime changes in more countries.

"I don't think we should underestimate the power of large-scale, sustained protests," Pope said.

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# Advocacy

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"In this business, you very rarely get a hands-down win," Bergel said.

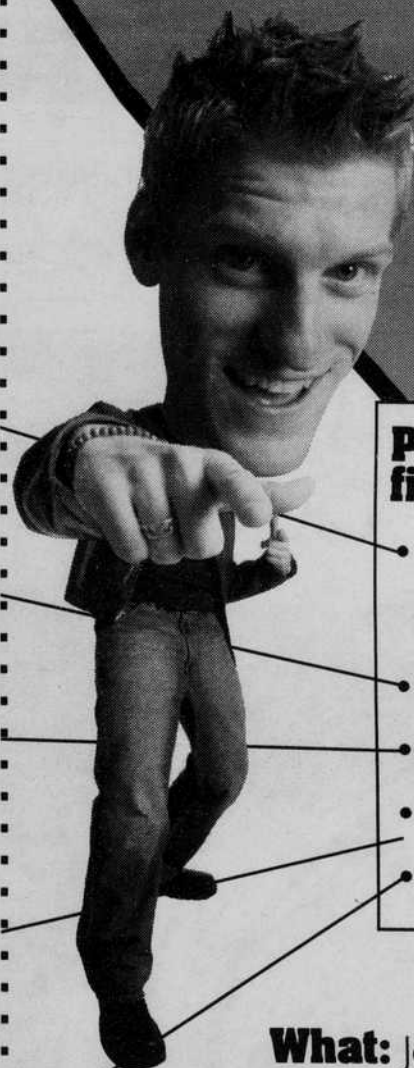
Alex Gonzalez, an organizer and founding member of Students for Peace, agreed that peace protests aren't a radical method of overturning public policy, but rather a gradual way of adding new perspectives to public consciousness.

"It might not change overnight, but the mentality of people starts to change," Gonzalez said.

History Associate Professor Daniel Pope, a University expert on movements of protest and dissent in America, said many people might draw parallels between the

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