

Mar. 6, 2003. 01:00 AM

## Students around the globe join in anti-war protests

700 protesters take to the streets in city centre 'If Iraq exported potatoes, we wouldn't see this'

CATHERINE PORTER  
STAFF REPORTER

More than 700 students from high schools, universities and colleges across the city converged downtown yesterday afternoon to protest a pending war on Iraq.

"Students have always been at the forefront of every movement for social change," the Canadian Federation of Students' Joel Duff hollered into a megaphone before the shivering crowd swelling inside Dundas Square. "Every other war from now to the end of time, students will be there to say 'Not in our names.'"

The protest was part of an international student outpouring against the pending U.S.-led war. Students in more than 10 Canadian cities, from St. John's to Victoria, and at more than 230 American campuses, raised their voices yesterday, hoping to do what no international leader has been able to — sway U.S. President George W. Bush against attacking Iraq.

Thousands of youths also cut class in Britain, France, Sweden, Spain, Australia, Switzerland, Bangladesh, and Senegal to join the "Books not Bombs" strike co-ordinated by the Youth and Student Peace Coalition.

Also yesterday, half a million Egyptians took part in a state-orchestrated demonstration against war in Iraq, with thousands of workers bused in to Cairo from public companies.

"I don't believe in bombing people," said 17-year-old Kate Cornelson, a rookie protester handing out leaflets to passers-by on Yonge St.

"It's for oil. If Iraq exported potatoes, we wouldn't see this war," agreed Humber Humber College student Graham Thorne, 17, over chants of "World War Three, Not For Me."

Bracketed by more than 40 police officers, some on horseback in riot gear, the protest remained peaceful, weaving its way past the Eaton Centre, to Queen St. into Nathan Phillip's Square and up University Ave. to the American consulate.

Earlier in the day, four protesters at York University were arrested at pickets they set up at three entrances to the campus.

Police shut down the pickets after four hours, sending protesters to camp outside York president Lorna Marsden's office. En route, Yaakov Roth's Canadian Alliance Association table was overturned and his American and Canadian flags ripped away, the 18-year-old student said.

"It's absolutely ironic that anti-war protesters use violence to silence dissent," said Roth, who was pamphletting in favour of the pending war. "I shouldn't be afraid to express my opinion on the university campus."

In Britain, the student protest appeared to catch security at No. 10 Downing St. by surprise. Extra police were brought in to control the protesters — mostly aged 13 to 16 — when some tried to scale the gates to Prime Minister Tony Blair's official London residence.

With Files from REUTERS

---

[FAQs](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Webmaster](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [My Subscription](#)

---

[Home](#) | [GTA](#) | [Business](#) | [Waymoresports](#) | [A&E](#) | [Life](#)

---

**Legal Notice:** - Copyright 1996-2003. Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. All rights reserved. Distribution, transmission or republication of any material from [www.thestar.com](http://www.thestar.com) is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. For information please contact us using our [webmaster form](#).