

# THE BI-COLLEGE NEWS online

WWW.BICONEWS.COM

Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges

APRIL 13, 2008

NEWS  
FEATURES  
ARTS  
SPORTS  
OPINION

SEARCH

ARCHIVES  
ADVERTISERS  
SUBSCRIBE  
ABOUT US  
CONTACT

## News




ARCHIVES &gt; MARCH 25, 2003 &gt; NEWS &gt; Article View

## For Some Protests are Too Much

**By Kate Makofske**  
STAFF WRITER

Since airstrikes on Iraq began Wednesday evening, protests have been mounting in size and frequency around the world. Within the Bi-Co, both Bryn Mawr and Haverford students have participated, experiencing every kind of reaction to protesting from supportive car honks to arrests by federal law enforcement.

At the separate rallies on Thursday, March 20, one hundred people were arrested for civil disobedience in Philadelphia. Ten of these were students from Haverford, in addition to eleven members of the UPENN community. Throughout the country, people have demonstrated their objection to the war by staging sit ins, laying their bodies down for "die-ins" at busy intersections, and forming human chains to block entrances to buildings.

-  E-mail this article
-  Print this article
-  View a PDF of this issue

Besides a number of grumpy drivers, one of the more negative effects of the actions of the civilly disobedient, occurred on Thursday when a man in Cambridge had been trying to drive his daughter to the hospital and could not get through a human chain that was blocking off traffic. The event brought into focus a risk of damaging the lives of others that perhaps the protestors had not even thought about. Additionally, there is the argument that unlike college students, the average working citizen simply can not afford to take the day off for protests in the city. The questions remains whether not it was fair for the protestors to bar those who already made the decision to go to work on Thursday, despite their political belief.

Though these forms of protest may have grabbed a desired level of media attention, some students within the bi-co feel that the actions taken to disrupt the lives of other citizens were wrong. In reference to the "die-in," Molly Ribble, BMC '05, argues that she doesn't feel it is right for people to place blame on drivers who hold different views. "I could see someone protesting against military officials, by laying down in front of their cars, but not normal citizens who have no choice. It's not right to impose your views on them that way."

However, Andrea Betancourt, BMC '05, believes the action was justified. "Sometimes you need to stop what's going on in order to get people to think." Betancourt mentioned that the most media coverage of the protesting seemed to be of the specific actions of civil disobedience. "Without these actions, everyone will just go on with their lives and pay no attention to the thousands of people who are against this. In order for people to become aware, I think a stronger statement is called for."

For many bi-co students involved with the anti-war movement, the day closed with a candle light vigil outside the Bryn Mawr library in the company of other mainliners. With the exception of chatter, folk singing, and occasional car honks, the vigil had a more solemn feel than the rally downtown, and many students stated that they preferred it to the intensity of the protest. One student mentioned that this form of protest was opposite to that which their friends had gone to during the day, and peacefully advocated the same message throughout the mainline.

This article is © 2008 The Bi-College News. The material on this page is free for personal or educational use, but may not be reproduced, reprinted, republished, redistributed, or otherwise transmitted to a third party without the express written permission of The Bi-College News, 370 Lancaster Ave, Haverford, PA 19041.