

Students stage anti-war demonstration

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Last Saturday afternoon, you may have noticed a little extra commotion outside your dorm room window. What you were most likely hearing was the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) chanting various cheers to show protest against the war in Iraq during a national event called "Funk the War."

SDS is a nationwide organization that fights for "solidarity, equality, peace and freedom" established on the Gettysburg College campus by Sophomores Emily Silverstein and Ethan Hall.

According to Hall, Funk the War was more of a "light-hearted" way of showing resistance to-

ward the war in Iraq and was meant to help students "creatively voice their opposition to the continued commitment of U.S. troops to the war in Iraq." The event was also held to address the apathy that is often seen on Gettysburg's campus. Hall argues that both our school and our nation show too much indifference toward Iraq.

Last Thursday, Mar. 19 was the sixth year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, and Funk the War was staged to generate the public message that we are still a nation at war. Hall said that the SDS believes that the exhaustion of an ongoing war combined with the poor state of our nation's economy have made us forget about both the costs of the war and "the dan-

gerous foreign policy that brought about a conflict that endangers American and Iraqi lives."

Silverstein estimated that the turn-out at Funk the War would be anywhere from fifteen to twenty people, and looking around, she noticed around thirty. The participants started outside the CUB on the lawn at around noon and decorated signs, made t-shirts, and painted faces. They then marched all around campus chanting non-threatening cheers. The signs that students carried read catchy sayings like: "Drop beats, not bombs" and "Arms are for hugging." After the march people regrouped on the lawn outside of Bullet and listened to a concert promoting peace. There was

a band at the event from Washington, D.C. as well as a band of students.

Hall said that the final portion of Funk the War was meant to allow students to gather and reflect on the wrongs of the past six years of war "while simultaneously giving an optimistic viewpoint with hopes that our voices can influence the way the American people feel about the Iraq War".

Sally Quinn, a sophomore participant, said that she took part in the event because she believes that it is "important to make noise" and she wanted to help reach out to a "different crowd." Quinn was pleased with the turn-out but noted that there is always room for more.

When asked why she

chose to help organize Funk the War at Gettysburg, Silverstein said that she believes that it is "important as a young college student to maintain and spread awareness." She thinks that young adults have the ability to effect change and that events like this help demonstrate that. She realizes the importance of getting people motivated, and that is just what Funk the War was meant to do.

As of now, SDS at Gettysburg is working on a Financial Transparency Campaign. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the SDS, the group meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. and can contact Ethan Hall or Emily Silverstein for more information.