MORE than six thousand anti-war protestors took to the streets of Nice on Saturday afternoon to participate in the global peace marches that saw over thirty million people demonstrate worldwide.

The march started outside the railway station and progressed peacefully down Avenue Jean Medicin and the Promenade des Anglais. Protestors waved banners emblazoned with slogans such as “Non a la BUSHerie”, and “Ferme ta Bush”, along with “Non a la Guerre”.

Huge turnouts were seen in neighbouring European countries, with over 1.5 million in London, 2 million in Madrid, 2.3 million in Rome and 500,000 in both Berlin and Athens. On top of the 800,000 demonstrators in Paris, sixty other towns and cities across France also hosted marches.

The protests come at a time when President Jacques Chirac’s anti-war stance has sparked heavy criticism overseas, dubbed ‘French Bashing’ in the British and US media.

The New York Post labelled France and Germany’s anti-war alliance “the axis of weasel” and America’s Fox News Channel captioned the French anti-war stance “French Whine”.

References to France’s capitulation during World War Two have led to jokes circulating on American websites such as “What do you call 100,000 Frenchmen with their arms up? – The army”, and one caller to a US chat show asked “Don’t they remember what we did for them in the war?” Borrowing a phrase from popular American sitcom The Simpsons, sections of the US media have begun referring to the French as “Cheese-eating surrender monkeys”.

Meanwhile the UK’s Sun newspaper sent a man in a chicken suit to hand out white feathers in front of London’s French Embassy last week.

The feeling is not mutual according to Jacques Chirac, in an interview with Time on Sunday. He told the magazine “I know the US perhaps better than most French people, and I really like the United States. I’ve made many excellent friends there, I feel good there, I love junk food, and I always come home with a few extra pounds,” he declared.

His sentiments were mirrored in a poll published yesterday, which showed more than three in four French people dislike President George W Bush but most have nothing against Americans in general. Although dressed up as good-natured jibes, US anti-French feeling is now beginning to affect exports, too. One French website selling cheeses around the world has been receiving e-mails from American clients who say they can no longer give them their custom. “At the moment we are losing American clients, but on the bright side we have our supporters in other countries,” Bruno Groux of cheese-online.com told The Riviera Gazette.

Other French exports thought to be hit are mineral water, wine and champagne. And, last week, the speaker of the US house raised the possibility of putting sanctions on French imports in retaliation for France not being behind the drive for war.

The spectre of US tourists staying away from France, the World’s top tourist destination with 76.7 million visitors in 2002, now looms – a prospect that would hit the Riviera’s economy more than most.
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The Riviera Gazette™

The Côte d’Azur’s English-language newspaper
**The Côte d’Azur’s colourful Mardi Gras season gets into full swing this week**

**IT’S CARNIVAL TIME**

**THE RIVIERA festival season gets off to a flying start this weekend with carnival fever gripping Nice and St Martin Vesubie, the Fête de la Mimosa in Mandelieu, and Menton awash with colour for its lemon festival.**

Up to a million confetti-throwing and costumed spectators are expected for eighteen days of fun during Nice’s 199th festival and has earned it the reputation of being the Mimosa capital of the Côte d’Azur.

More than 75,000 visitors will attend the event, which started on Friday and runs until the 23rd. There’ll be colourful parades, traditional dancing and exhibitions. Contact the tourist office on 04 92 97 80 89 for further details.

**Parades**

Meanwhile Menton’s Lemon festival has an ‘Alice in Wonderland’ theme this year and features two weeks of fun-filled activities from the 21st of February to the 9th of March, with parades, sculptures, exhibitions and the chance to meet Alice herself.

Giant fruity floats will parade every Sunday during the festival, and enormous moving orange and lemon ‘sculptures’ in the shape of characters from Wonderland will enchant spectators in the town’s Bioves gardens.

On March 4 children in fancy dress can meet Alice, and listen to her story. And there’s plenty for adults too with guided citrus plantation tours and fruit and jam tasting. Call 04 92 41 76 76 for a full programme or see www.villedementon.com.

**Queen**

Among the highlights are the crowning of the carnival queen on Friday evening, the Bataille de Fleurs flower procession along the Promenade des Anglais on Saturday and the ‘Carnastrin’ swim on Sunday. Telephone 08 92 70 74 07 for full festival details or check www.nicecarnaval.com.

The four-day St Martin Vesubie Carnival starts on Saturday with colourful costumed parades through the medieval village streets on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Telephone the tourist office on 04 93 03 21 28 for further information.

**Dancing**

Mandelieu La Napoule’s Mimosa Festival dates back to 1931, and Dancing Mandelieu La Napoule’s Mimosa Festival dates back to 1931, and Dancing Mandelieu La Napoule’s Mimosa Festival dates back to 1931, and has earned it the reputation of being the Mimosa capital of the Côte d’Azur.

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**MENTON... last year’s festival focussed on Pinnochio, this year it’s Alice in Wonderland**

**Mona Lisa smile enigma cracked**

THE Mona Lisa, painted by Leonardo da Vinci in the 1500’s and now hanging in the Louvre in Paris, has intrigued art lovers for years with her ‘enigmatic smile’. Research unveiled by Harvard University this week shows the smile is painted in tones that show up best with peripheral vision, so it is visible when seen ‘out of the corner of the eye’, but disappears when it is looked at directly.

**Pink stink ends in clink**

A 21 YEAR-OLD student who dressed as the Pink Panther and ran onto the pitch during a football match landed a year in prison and a €15,000 fine last week.

**Pervert admits killing**

THE man suspected of sexually assaulting and murdering 13 year-old British schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson in a Brittany youth hostel in 1996 has finally admitted playing a part in her murder, according to prosecutors.

Francisco Arce Montes, a Spaniard, has said that he was there but did not want Caroline to die. Montes 52, was extradited from Florida two years ago. His trial is expected later this year.

**Feeling thorny?**

A FLORIST from Chateauroux gave out a free condom with every Valentine’s bouquet last week. Pierre Chabanne discreetly inserted the little packets into the middle of each bunch of flowers as a safe sex reminder.

He got the idea after seeing people shyly approaching the condom machine on the wall of the pharmacy opposite his shop.

**The Riviera Gazette**

Thursday 20 February 2003
The mayor of St Tropez has refused to install video surveillance cameras in the town. In a statement last week he declared that “the very least of personal freedoms is that when someone comes to St Tropez, they are not being watched.”

The stand comes after several recent armed burglaries at villas in the area and amid new statistics showing that while crime was down overall in the VAR in January, the only place it increased was St Tropez, which saw a whopping 40% year on year rise.

**MED SEA SANCTUARY WORLD FIRST**

St Tropez says no to surveillance cameras

**TWENTY-FIVE delegates from Italy, France and Monaco met in the Principality on Monday to decide on the management of a new sea sanctuary that has been agreed between the three states.**

The sanctuary is the first in the world to include areas outside the coastal jurisdiction of the countries it borders, which in the Mediterranean extends only 12 miles offshore.

A steering committee was appointed at the meeting, which will seek funding for research into ways in which man and marine mammals can co-exist in an eco-friendly way within the sanctuary.

“We have three aims,” the committee’s Patrick Van Klaveren told The Gazette: “To enforce EU regulations on drift-net fishing, to research ways of preventing collisions between high speed ferries and marine animals, and to observe good whale and dolphin-watching guidelines by developing codes of conduct.”

The sanctuary is seen as a significant step towards protecting global marine biodiversity.

**Antibes railway station fire ‘accidental’**

The fire at Antibes railway station in July 2001 was accidental, according to fire chiefs, who have concluded that the blaze was an accident. But further tests are needed to establish if the building is structurally sound before rebuilding can start. The work is expected to take at least seven months, meaning it will be 2004 before the ticket office is reopened.

Meanwhile travellers face long queues at the automated ticket machines during peak travel times.

**St Tropez says no to surveillance cameras**

THE mayor of St Tropez has refused to install video surveillance cameras in the town.

In a statement last week he declared that “the very least of personal freedoms is that when someone comes to St Tropez, they are not being watched.”

Scott free after scooter drink drive charge

ONE lucky Gazette reader has escaped with his license intact after finding an unexpected loophole in drink-drive laws.

Scott X, from Antibes, was stopped last Saturday night for being drunk while riding a scooter.

“I was taken down to the station, spent a night in the cells, and then was amazed when they came in and gave me my keys back in the morning,” Scott told The Gazette.

**RUSH TO SNOW CAUSES TRAFFIC CHAOS...**

The RN202 from Nice to the ski resorts at Isola and Auron again came to a complete standstill, and even caused jams on the A8 as cars queued to exit, last Saturday morning as hundreds of families headed up to the mountains for the start of the school holidays. The road, which quickly becomes a windy single carriageway mountain road outside Nice, frequently suffers from congestion as day-tripping snow-goers term towards the popular resorts. The resulting traffic jams often extend onto nearby roads and even the A8 motorway as traffic queues at the RN202 exit. Making the journey in the early hours, or around lunchtime to take in an afternoon’s skiing, are recommended ways of beating the jams.

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**Canoe Crazy ... Life in a Kayak**

**Canoe couple make Monaco port pit stop**

A GERMAN canoeing couple paddled into Monaco harbour on Monday, two years and nine months after they first set out. Rainer Ulm, 38, and wife Franziska, 31, have paddled through the rivers and seas of ten countries, and are the first people to have attempted to kayak around Europe. Their final destination, Hamburg, is still two years and 10,000 miles away.

This interesting, new route is one idea, to experience the culture and vistas of Europe, to live close with them,” Franziska told The Riviera Gazette.
RENOIR'S MEMOIRS

GREAT painter Auguste Renoir’s great-grandson appeared at the Librairie la Pléiade bookshop in Cagnes sur Mer last Friday to sign copies of his new book.

The book, Le Table Amoureux, recalls author Jacques Renoir’s childhood at the famed artist’s house in the town during the early twentieth century. "I wanted to re-live that period of time” Jacques, who is now in his nineties, told The Riviera Gazette. "I had the privilege of growing up in ‘Les Collettes’ with my great-grandfather and his sons. "This is not merely a biography of Renoir and his work. I wanted to remember a man who was a strong character, profoundly tender, a man of convictions and strong beliefs, but full of contradictions. He was a man who lived life to the full. "His young sons also discovered an appetite for life rich with pleasures and dramas. This was during the tragedy of the First World War. History as a whole is also full of little stories. It is these anecdotes that interest me.”

Jacques Renoir lives close to his great grandfather’s house, which is now open to the public as a museum. The book, Le Table Amoureux, is written in French. The signature session went well and Jacques has plans to come back to Cagnes sur Mer at the end of March to present his next book.

Not all of these are permanent Menton residents however; "Only five of our members actually live full-time in Menton - the others are winter or summer visitors,” Mrs Warrillow explained. "This is one of the most wonderful things about services on Sunday - you never know which faces you will see each week." St John’s was built at a time when Menton was fashionable with winter sun-seekers, Victorian, around the late 1860’s. The church, which occupies a prime spot near the sea front, was opened by the Bishop of Gibraltar on the 19th of February 1868, and features Italian marble walls and mosaics in the style of Burne-Jones, along with beautiful stained-glass windows.

Menton’s St John's turns 135

ST JOHN’S English Church in Menton celebrated its 135th birth-day on Tuesday with a special ser-vice followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Over fifty people turned out in the brilliant winter sunshine to pay homage to the much-loved old build-ing and its rich history. Incumbent chaplain the Reverend Brian Warrillow led the celebrations. Rev Warrillow took up the post in March 2002 after moving with wife Kath from the Midlands in England. "We fell in love with the place as soon as we saw it,” Kath Warrillow told The Riviera Gazette. "The church's congregation comes from far and wide,” she continued, "We now have over 150 regular mem-bers, from all over the world.”

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Sadly, the original spire has been removed, but the building otherwise remains almost exactly as it was when it was built. Among the worshippers over the past 135 years have been King Edward VI, who visited when he was the Prince of Wales. A special side door was constructed for the occasion, and is now known as The King’s Door. It is also widely believed that Queen Victoria visited the church in 1883. Services are held on the first, third and – if there is one – fifth Sunday of each month with a Eucharist at 9.30am. Every second and fourth Sunday two services are held; a Holy Communion at 9:30 without hymns and – if there is one – fifth Sunday of each month with a Eucharist at 10.30am. Every second and fourth Sunday two services are held; a Holy Communion at 9:30 without hymns and, at 10:30, Matins with readings from the 17th century Book of Common Prayer and hymns.

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The Riviera Gazette Thursday 20 February 2003 5
I COME from the very scenic building here in Nice’s port, where we work as an estate agent today. It used to be my grandparent’s olive oil factory. In the vats of the BNP bank next door there are still old olive oils on the floor.

I grew up in Nice and am from an old Niceois family. I lived in Nice almost all my life. In the ‘80s I left to study in London. For two years I was there and I really liked London so much, he brought his job back to Nice...

There’s a very big market in London for people wanting to buy French properties. It’s true – you can ask five times more than it’s worth. It’s the same in Nice. We live out of town, in La Colle sur Loup, which is a very nice place with large open spaces. It’s a nice place to walk our dog, Dolly – not our choice of name, but she came from the Battersea Dogs Home! So we didn’t want to traumatise her further by changing it.

We’re lucky to have a twenty-four hour permanent nanny service – my parents go for it, so we go out to have a look around, buying different properties.

I prefer Provençal or Niceois cooking, and usually go for something that would be too difficult to cook at home, like at ‘Chez Barale’, where what the old lady cooks is amazing. Personal favourites are pissaladière, a lovely savoury pie that is a close cousin to pizza, and handmade ravioli à la douce. In my experience, Chez Barale is the only restaurant in Nice where you can have a genuine ‘Chez Barale’ Niçoise. This is rubbish, just a misconception. My Italian restaurant is part of local tradition, like Salad Niçoise. This is rubbish, just a misconception.

I think this is the first time in my life I’d made a living out of town, in La Colle sur Loup, which is a very nice place with large open spaces. It’s a nice place to walk our dog, Dolly – not our choice of name, but she came from the Battersea Dogs Home! So we didn’t want to traumatise her further by changing it.

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Then perhaps later on well sing some songs. We play music like as Niceo or Nissart, which is a mix of Provençal and Latin. All the old girls and women in Nice speak it.

Then of course there’s Aurois, a kid’s paradise in the summer, there are great big fields and it’s not as hot as the coast. There are just thousands of kids riding on bikes. You can also go horse-riding and discovering the lakes.

Niceo were stay up late all week, with the kids, and the husbands go up at weekends. I played there as a child, and now I see my children’s friends up there, all with their own kids.

I started up the French arm of Hamptons from scratch. I wanted to bring the British approach to buying properties. Something I can do because of my time in London and because I know the area, the local people and their ways. For example, you can often buy a property with a cash under the table element is part of local tradition, like Salad Niçoise. This is rubbish, just a misconception. Our French people think that if you go to England you eat minced beef every day.

Having worked in the London market for so long I’m well positioned to help British buyers overcome these misconceptions, see things from their point of view, and help with the language barrier.

And I love the fact that I’m not just helping people to make a purchase, I’m selling them a dream.

Estate agent Olivier Morvan tells Jenny Paul how he liked London so much, he brought his job back to Nice...
We cannot earn the respect of others” — René G Torres

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The Riviera Gazette Thursday 20 February 2003

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**Thursday 20**

- **Guillaumes** is hosting a traditional fair and carnival today starting from 9:00.
- **Head to the Théâtre des Oeuvres bar in Nice tonight** – bring many many pounds and play against the computer to win as many points as possible within ten minutes. Prizes of €20 are up for grabs for the three highest point scorers. Don’t forget your photo ID. Tel: +377 92 16 63 16.

**Saturday 22**

- The Riviera Expatriates Golf Society is hosting a North versus South golf tournament at the Gauze Country Club, teeing off from midday. Teams will be grouped by country-of-origin. Entry is €50 and close on Thursday 20th. Competitors are invited to bring a prize from their country. Tel: 04 93 20 74 74.
- La Colombe hosts the Coupe de France de Snowboard today and tomorrow. A carnival starts at 14:30 today, before night-time snowmobile racing. The racing continues tomorrow from 10:00. Tel: 04 93 23 37 90.
- The 5th Forum de la Petite Enfance is on this weekend at the Palais des Congrès, Juan- Les-Pins. An exhibition, demonstrations, Magicians and lots of other activities for pre-school children are on offer from 9:00 to 19:00. Entry is free. Tel: 04 93 01 07 49.

**Sunday 23**

- More than two hundred cat gather at the Congress center in St Raphael for the Internationale de Beaute Feline, a pedigree cat show, from 10:00 to 18:00. Entry is €5 but, understandably, no pets are allowed. Call 09 82 74 27 99 for more details.
- Continuing today is the Fête du Citron in Menton, the Nice Carnival, the Coupe de France de Snowboard in Colomiane, video poker and the first International Convention of Painters on Porcelain and Glass in Monaco, the St Martin Veubale Carnival and the 5th French Federation Snowboard licence to the British Association of Monaco is hosting the Fête du Citron in Menton, the Nice Carnival, and the St Martin Veubale carnival.

**Tuesday 25**

- The British Association of Monaco is hosting Margaret Blaik, ex-choreographer of the Ballet of the Monte Carlo, tonight at 18:30 for a talk on “Night at the Ballet” in the church hall of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Avenue de Grande Bretagne, Monaco. Tickets for the talk and drinks afterwards are €50 for non-members and €12 for non-members. Call +377 93 90 19 52 to reserve a seat.
- Continuing today is the Fête du Citron in Menton, the Nice Carnival, and the St Martin Veubale carnival.

**Wednesday 26**

- Every second and fourth Wednesday the Croisette Care Mission – a church delegation – meets at Maison Jean Dehon in Montiugis between 12:00 and 15:00 to offer a place for English speaking people to talk about life and share a meal. Tel: 04 93 59 95 83 or 06 42 60 90 33.
- Continuing today is the Fête du Citron in Menton and the Nice carnival.

**Monday 24**

- There’s horse racing at the Hippodrome in Cagnes sur Mer from 13:00. Entry is €4 50. Tel: 04 92 02 44 44.
- Continuing today is the Fête du Citron in Menton, the Nice Carnival and the St Martin Veubale carnival.

**Riviera Weather**

- **Guillaumes** is hosting a traditional fair and carnival today starting from 9:00.
- **Head to the Théâtre des Oeuvres bar in Nice tonight** – bring many many pounds and play against the computer to win as many points as possible within ten minutes. Prizes of €20 are up for grabs for the three highest point scorers. Don’t forget your photo ID. Tel: +377 92 16 63 16.

**Saturday 22**

- The Riviera Expatriates Golf Society is hosting a North versus South golf tournament at the Gauze Country Club, teeing off from midday. Teams will be grouped by country-of-origin. Entry is €50 and close on Thursday 20th. Competitors are invited to bring a prize from their country. Tel: 04 93 20 74 74.
- La Colombe hosts the Coupe de France de Snowboard today and tomorrow. A carnival starts at 14:30 today, before night-time snowmobile racing. The racing continues tomorrow from 10:00. Tel: 04 93 23 37 90.
- The 5th Forum de la Petite Enfance is on this weekend at the Palais des Congrès, Juan- Les-Pins. An exhibition, demonstrations, Magicians and lots of other activities for pre-school children are on offer from 9:00 to 19:00. Entry is free. Tel: 04 93 01 07 49.

**Sunday 23**

- More than two hundred cat gather at the Congress center in St Raphael for the Internationale de Beaute Feline, a pedigree cat show, from 10:00 to 18:00. Entry is €5 but, understandably, no pets are allowed. Call 09 82 74 27 99 for more details.
- Continuing today is the Fête du Citron in Menton, the Nice Carnival, the Coupe de France de Snowboard in Colomiane, video poker and the first International Convention of Painters on Porcelain and Glass in Monaco, the St Martin Veubale Carnival and the 5th French Federation Snowboard licence to the British Association of Monaco is hosting the Fête du Citron in Menton, the Nice Carnival, and the St Martin Veubale carnival.

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**Now booking**

- Michael Harley’s Irish dancer spectacular Lord of the Dance is on the Palais Nikaia, Nice on Friday February 28 and Saturday March 1 at 15:00 and 20:30. Tickets from €34 50. Tel: 09 82 69 70 73 to book.
- Also appearing at the Nikaia in Nice is ex-Diana Strait Footman Mark Knopfler, on Monday April 28 at 20:30. Tickets from €38 75, call 09 82 69 70 73 to book.