

Keep your knickers on, I can't bare it any more

One more naked protest and I am going to protest naked about naked protests. As if we weren't already bombarded with enough naked images, people now drop their drawers at the drop of a hat to protest about anything, anywhere. What an unedifying sight.

We had naked women protesting about the war in Iraq. Dozens went to Central Park and in the freezing cold New York winter spelt out 'No Bush'. I hope they all caught pneumonia.

Sussex-based Barewitness staged a naked protest against genetically modified foods in June 2003. The founder said it was legitimate for the disenfranchised to disrobe. His 'No GM' sign made up of naked men in a field got lots of publicity. Other anti-war protesters got

naked and spelt the word "peace" in another field in Sussex. What is it with Sussex?

A favourite is the New Zealand's National Penis Day penis protest against the ban on health ads that show the penis. That's three penises in one sentence. Three too many.

There have been 'breasts not bombs' protests, World Naked Bike Ride 2005 and the all-time classic - naked sex doll activists. At last, a naked protester whose mind and body are in sync. Not only have Australia, Hong Kong, South Korea and England succumbed, but sadly so has South Africa. With Table Mountain as the backdrop, South African women spelled out the word 'peace'.

Clearly, nowhere is safe. And who are they

that run about naked? Beautiful nubile folk? Rarely. Generally, it's scary people best covered even in the dark.

What does nudity have to do with GM food or the war in Iraq, where protesting in the buff would be likely to end in a visit to a prison cell?

Nakedness in protest, unless protesting something like fur, is a gimmick pure and simple. It's becoming cornier and cornier. The idea of getting naked in this era of sexual freedom, where fashion is more about exposure than cover-up, and everyone is half naked anyway, makes stripping off seem dated, dull and rather quaint, like those rural English women who posed for a money-



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raising charity stunt and inspired the movie *Calendar Girls*.

I'd be amazed if naked protesting made an iota of difference to anyone or anything.

How about some words of advice? Put it away!