

A rush to donate blood

Anti-war UCSC students among those waiting to give

By TOM LONG
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1-23-90
SANTA CRUZ — By 2 p.m. Tuesday, the line of people waiting at Messiah Lutheran Church to donate blood to the Red Cross ran out the door and onto the lawn.

That wasn't a surprise — people across the country have been rushing to donate blood since war broke out in the Middle East last week.

But some might have been surprised that many of those in line were UC Santa Cruz students who are against the war.

"I would say a majority of people on campus support the troops but not the war," said Brenda Morrison, a UCSC senior from Canada, as she munched on a cookie after donating. Morrison and others on campus had distributed fliers on campus advertising Tuesday's bloodmobile drive at the church on High Street.

"I think this turnout is because people think it might be needed, whether they support the administration's policies or not," said Morrison while wait-

ing to donate.

According to Marlene Hanning, the nurse in charge of the bloodmobile drive, the Red Cross had hoped to receive blood from 50 people between 1-6 p.m. There were 50 people in line by the time Morrison was done getting her blood drawn at 2 p.m.

"This is certainly more than we usually get," said Hanning, who estimated local Red Cross chapters had taken in "three times normal" amounts of donations since the bombing of Baghdad began last Wednesday.

Carole Evans, executive director of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Red Cross, said the Red Cross is being asked to donate 1,000 units of blood a week to the Persian Gulf forces, a goal made easier by the increase in donations in the past week across the country.

"At this point most of the blood is being provided from our chapters on the east coast," Evans said. "It hasn't had any impact at all on the normal blood supply."

"We're encouraging people to donate, but we don't want people rushing in and rolling up their

sleeves right now," Evans said. That's because donors have to wait 57 days between donations and if everyone gives blood right now, they may not be able to if there's a sudden need from a bad turn in the war.

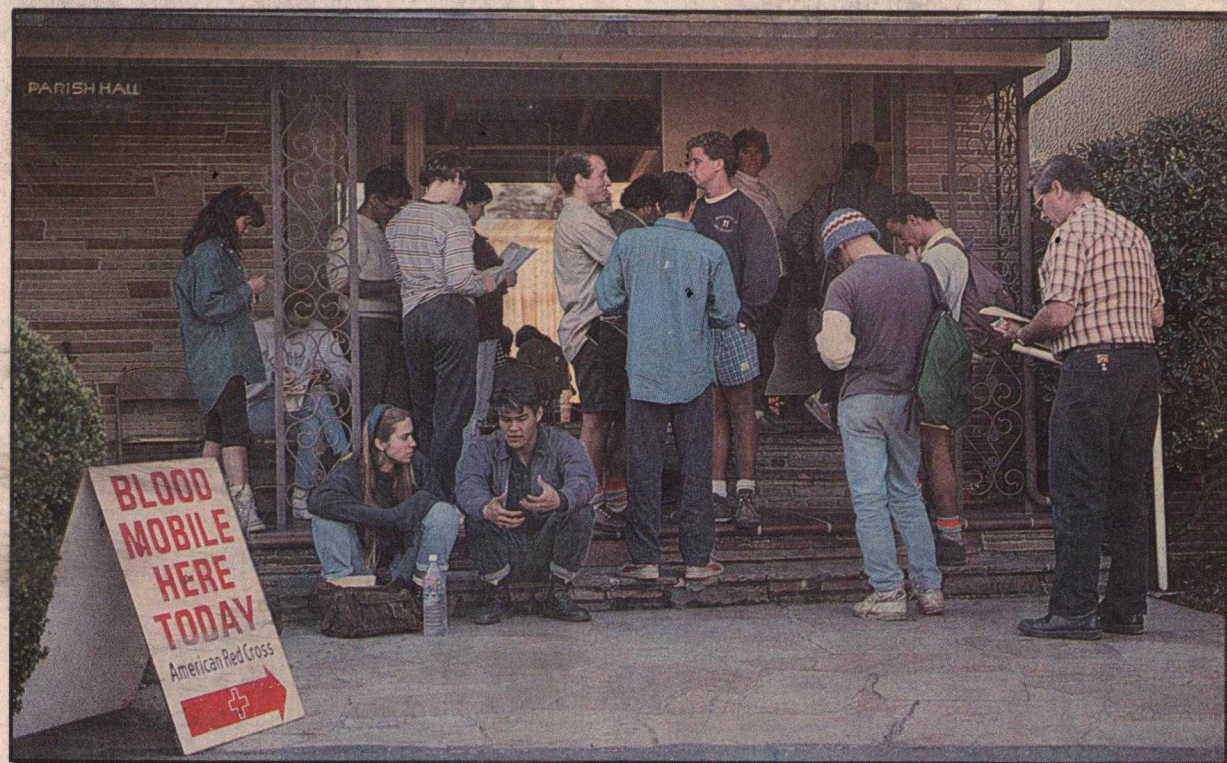
Americans who want to give blood for the soldiers are being asked to wait a while because it may be needed more later, said a spokeswoman for the national Red Cross.

Still, donations continue. "Our blood drives before the crisis were down, we were a couple hundred units short of our goal for the month," Evans said.

Now that goal has been met and daily goals are being exceeded. The Santa Cruz Chapter had hoped to get about 20 donations at their main office Tuesday afternoon, but Evans said there were at least twice that many people waiting to give blood.

"We've got a full house," she said.

Evans said the Santa Cruz Chap-



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

As elsewhere in the nation, lots of people showed up locally to give blood to the Red Cross.

ter accepts donations from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Mondays and from 12:30 p.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays, while the Watsonville Chapter accepts donations from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fri-

days.

Upcoming bloodmobile stops include the Scotts Valley Soroptimists at city hall on Jan. 26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Santa Cruz City and

County employees on Feb. 4 at 1080 Emeline Ave., Building D, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Feb. 19 at Messiah Lutheran Church again, 1 p.m.-6 p.m.