

# Arrests in war protest

## UCSC students stage sit-down

By KAREN CLARK  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Nearly 50 UC Santa Cruz students were carted off to County Jail Thursday after refusing to stop blocking traffic on campus in a protest of U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf war.

One of those arrested, Barry Van Driel, has a brother stationed in the gulf.

"He wants me to give him a voice because he has no voice," said Van Driel about his brother, Marty, a private in the Army. "He'd be proud of what we're doing because we're standing up for what he believes in."

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A crowd of students that grew to about 300 watched the protest unfold into arrests. Many of them taunted police as they dragged away people who chose to be arrested.

The afternoon drama began to unfold at 12:15 p.m. when 70 students left the anti-war rally in the Upper Quarry to stage a sit-in on Hagar Drive just off the Bay Tree Bookstore parking lot.

It ended three hours later when a cadre of campus officers, city police and sheriff's deputies curtailed arrests and decided to pull out of the situation.

"They made a statement. We made a statement, and we're done," said campus police Lt. Jan Tepper. "It was going on and on, and what was the point?"

In between, here's what happened:

At about 1:30 p.m., the crowd listening to a speech by lecturer Mike Rotkin at the bookstore blockade heard that arrests were going to be made among the small contingent of students blocking Hagar and McLaughlin drives above the bookstore.

Most of the group decided to walk up to the intersection to challenge police. About 40 students sat down in the intersection and were prepared to be arrested.

One of them, Joachim Han-

wright, a freshman film major, said as he waited: "I just feel that the war is wrong from the basis of my being. . . . I feel that just having my body here is making a statement that someone is willing to fight for peace."

Sitting next to him on the road

was Jason Strasser, a sophomore creative writing and music major.

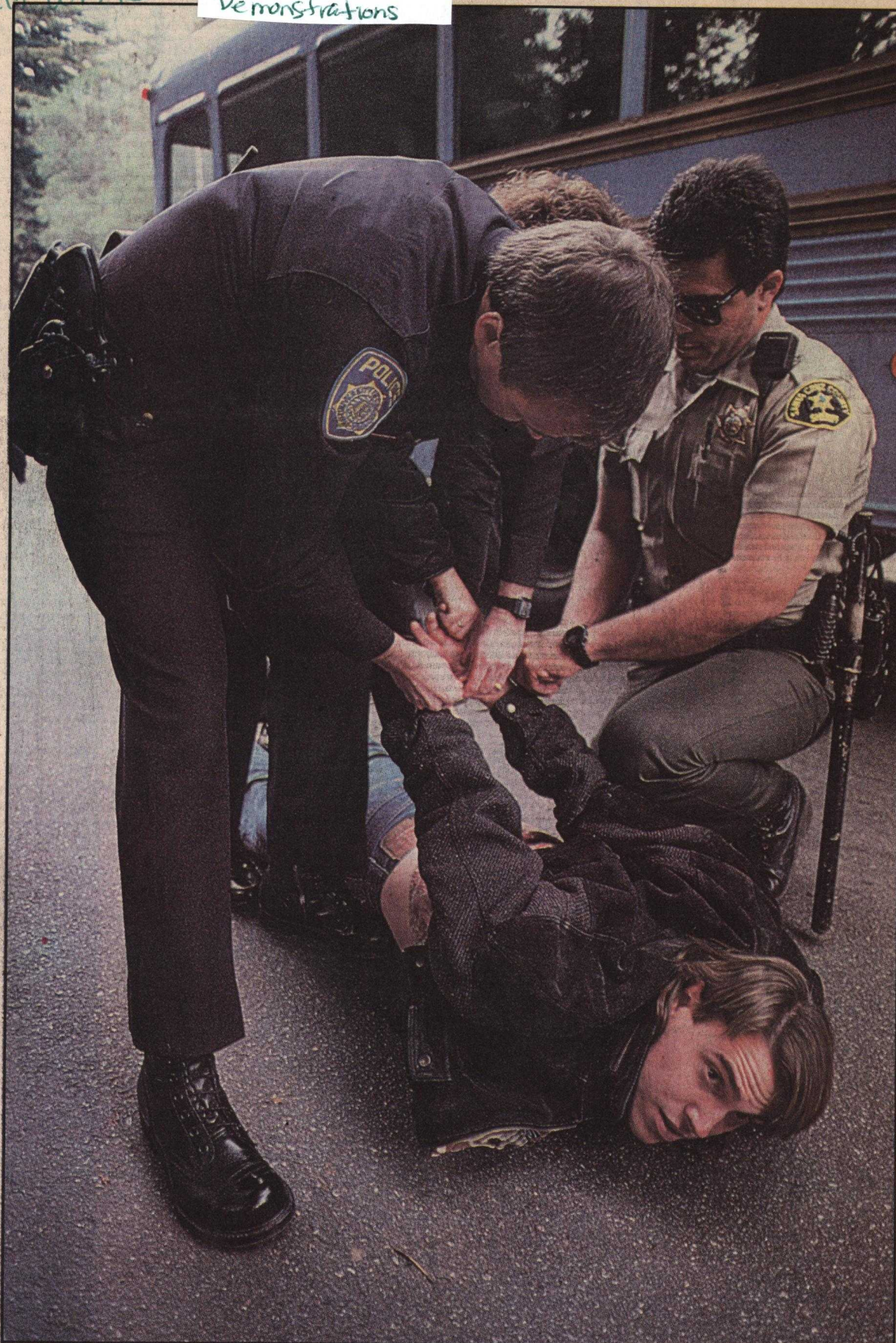
"I'm here because I believe that protesting brings enlightenment to people who see it."

And many of the people who saw it responded.

As the first protesters went limp and were dragged away by police, students who had been watching became participants, sitting down in defiance of police orders.

Eventually, the number of people

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Police handcuff a protester at UCSC demonstration against the Persian Gulf war.

Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel



# Protest

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ple sitting grew to 100.

Not everyone, of course, supported the road blockade.

"I think this is extremely uncalled for," said Don Dornblaser, a senior in computer science and economics. "I just don't believe it's right for a small group of people to suspend the civil rights of others."

"I'd like to see them arrested. ... They have a right to demonstrate, but not in the middle of the road."

Andris Vitols, a senior economics student, agreed.

"I don't oppose it because it's a healthy part of the American system, but to me it's a romantic throwback to the '60s. ... and a little irrational."

Many of the participants were like Leah Gendler, a junior majoring in biochemistry. It was her first time contemplating being arrested for civil disobedience, and she was nervous.

"I'm for achieving peace through peaceful means," she said. "We're trying to decide whether the impact would be worth two days in jail."

In the end, Gendler was among the 48 students led to one of two UCSC blue, 40-seat buses for the ride to County Jail.

As she and the others were arrested, the unruly crowd shouted at the officers to be more gentle, yelling out, "The whole world's watching," and "Shame on you," and "The people — united — will never be defeated."

Sarah Matlock, a senior sociology major, watched from the sidelines after deciding she wasn't prepared to be arrested.

"I think it's atrocious they're arresting them," she said. "They're not doing anything, and they're (the police) being unnecessarily brutal."

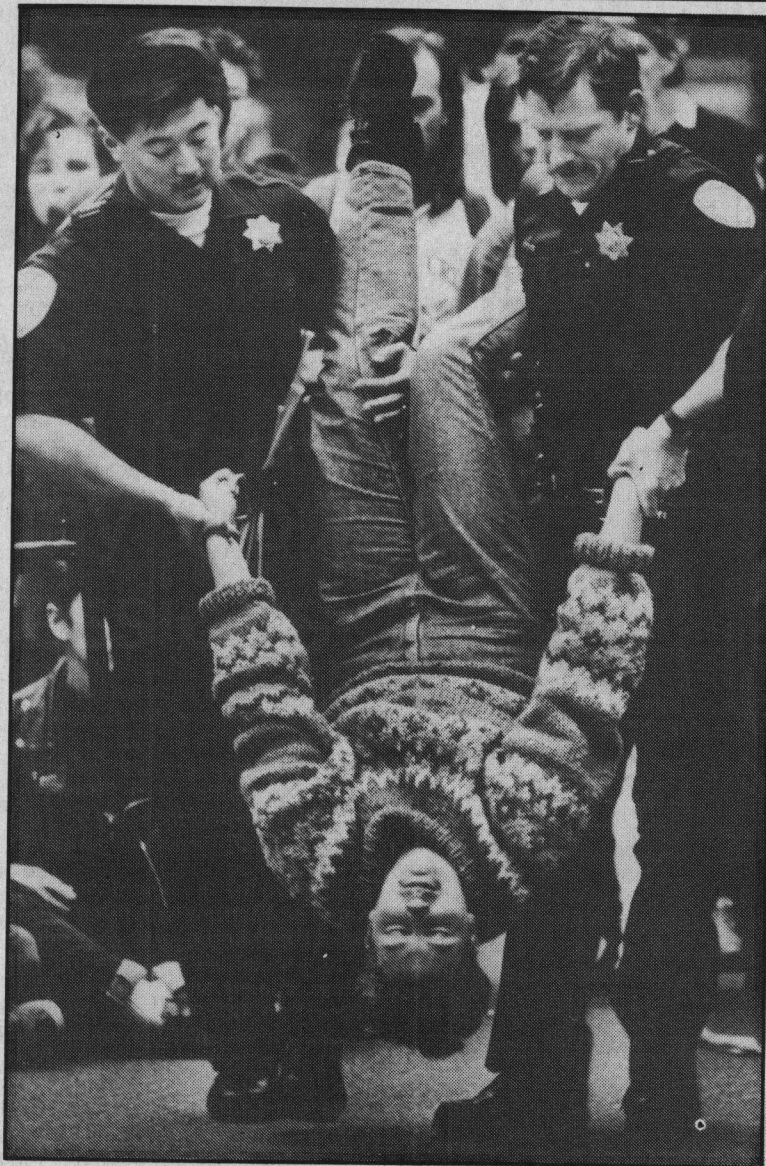
As she talked, two students nearby were deciding what to do:

"Do you want to do it (get arrested)?"

"Do you?"

"Yes."

"I'm scared."



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

UCSC demonstrator is hauled away upside-down.

"I'll be with you."

"But we'll be in jail."

In the end, the two women were not arrested.

While the blockade when on, traffic was rerouted through campus, causing headaches for Larry Pageler, manager of the campus transportation system.

"When we first heard there

might be a protest, we notified the transit district," said Pageler, adding that no city bus got stuck. "We're running shuttles in the most bizarre manner imaginable," Pageler said nine or 10 shuttles were running, "but it's certainly not business as usual. ... It's caused a headache, but it hasn't shut down the campus."

Watching the whole procedure was a handful of observers — trained students, staff and faculty members who are responsible for monitoring such activities.

One of them, Susan McBride, assistant to the director in the Career Services Center, said the program provides neutral observers to potentially explosive situations.

Another goal of the program is "to have a calming effect on such situations because participants (including police) are aware that their behavior is being observed."

After the protest was over, campus spokesman Jim Burns said UCSC police had been willing to allow the blockade of the road leading into the bookstore parking lot.

But when the group moved to the more vital corner of Hagar and McLaughlin drives, police decided to step in.

"The decision was made to arrest the students in a peaceful and orderly manner," said Burns.

He said six students were charged with resisting arrest and obstructing an officer, although County Jail officers said Thursday night no one was booked on those charges.

The others were cited at the jail for a vehicle code infraction of blocking a road and released after signing a promise to appear in court at a later date.

The protest was part of the International Day of Mobilization Against the War. UCSC students had called for a class boycott, but both Burns and organizers agreed most classes were full Thursday.

Andrea Wikzynski, a member of Students for Social Responsibility, said, "People were pretty much going to class, and then attending events in between classes."

Events included a daylong rally that featured workshops, speeches and music against the war.

## Students nationwide protest Gulf War

The Associated Press

Students took part in teach-ins, rallies and marches Thursday, which was declared an international day of student mobilization against the Persian Gulf war.

At the University of California at Berkeley, 60 students staged a mock boot camp, with fatigue-wearing protesters ordering soldiers to "fight for oil."

Police said 350 people, mostly students, gathered at a downtown federal building in Chicago

and marched along Michigan Avenue, a major traffic artery, during the evening rush hour.

Demonstrations were held at schools around the country for the International Day of Student Action, organized by the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East.

The campaign, an umbrella group formed in December, claims endorsement by more than 40 organizations. It said demonstrations also were planned in Canada, France, Japan and the Philippines.

At the University of California, Los Angeles, about 200 student protesters rallied at a mock cemetery decorated with questions marks, symbolizing doubt about the war, along with Islamic crescent moons, Jewish stars and crosses.

In Ames, Iowa, a California Marine reservist wanted by federal authorities for refusing to report for active duty urged college students to oppose the Persian Gulf war.

"I'm putting it all on the line here, folks," said Erik Larsen, a

member of a Hayward reserve unit, who has been denied conscientious objector status and is considered on an "unauthorized absence" from the Marines.

Larsen, 23, told about 250 people gathered in the Iowa State University Memorial Union that he decided to quit the military in August rather than see the branches of the armed services turned into an "international oil police" and asked the audience to question U.S. policy in the war.