

# President Bush dials Watsonville

When Pauline Basor sent a telegram to President Bush last week, imploring him to do all in his power to halt the fighting in Yugoslavia, she didn't know what to expect in response.

What she got was a telephone call from the president. Basor, whose family comes from the Dubrovnik area of embattled

■For news of another phone call, see page 8.

Croatia, said the call came a little after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Basor said when she answered the phone, a woman said, "Pauline Basor?" When Basor replied in the affirmative, the woman said, "Hold on; President Bush wishes to speak to you."

Basor said the next voice at the other end of the line said: "This is President Bush calling. I want you to know that I received your telegram. I am doing and will do whatever it takes to stop the devastation and fighting in Croatia. I am greatly concerned."



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## Pauline Basor

Basor said she replied, "President Bush, please do. Croatia needs your help now. Every minute and every hour counts. The situation there is devastating."

"The president replied, 'I will,'" Basor said, "and I said, 'Thank you very much for calling, President Bush.'"

# A war victim's plea for help

By CANDACE ATKINS  
STAFF WRITER

Ivana Kristich, 17, an Aptos High School foreign exchange student from Dubrovnik, Croatia, says she sits in class these days but her mind isn't on her work.

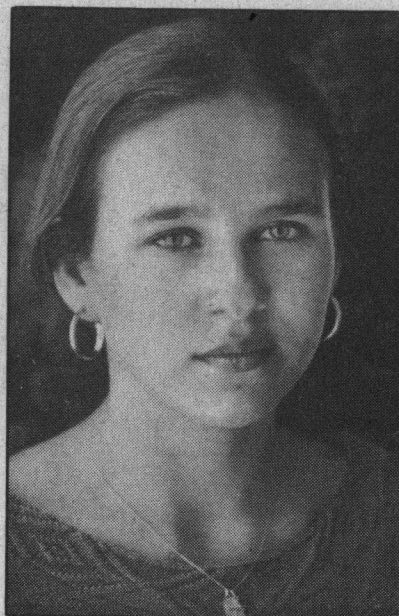
She's thinking of her home and family. She doesn't know quite what to picture because she fears her home has been destroyed by the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav armed forces and that her parents, 6-year-old brother, and 14-year-old sister may be injured or even dead.

Her last communication from her family was a single sentence sent from Croatia by short-wave radio a week ago. The message passed through a network of telephone calls from friends and relatives. Her parents said they were living with other people, and that everyone was safe. Before that, Ivana last spoke with her family by telephone nearly two weeks ago, shortly before Dubrovnik was attacked by land, sea and air.

Since then, all communication has been cut off.

"I'm scared," she said. "I don't even know if my parents are alive. I don't know why they moved. I think there is no more house."

Ivana watches CNN and other major news broadcasts, but says



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## Ivana Kristich

there has been amazingly little information about what she fears is her country's devastation.

She says she's shocked and bewildered by the bombing of Dubrovnik — a historic walled city along the Adriatic coast — and what she feels is the lukewarm reaction from the rest of the world.

"Everyone thought Dubrovnik wouldn't be touched," Ivana said.

"It has such a long history. It was always left alone in other wars. It's a cultural center. It was no worry for us (before the bombing). It was a famous city."

The destruction in Dubrovnik has special impact in the Pajaro Valley, with its large number of Slavs, most of whose families came here from the area in and around that city.

When Ivana left Dubrovnik for the United States on Aug. 21, she said the only signs of civil war there were Yugoslavian military jets flying drills over the city. She said it didn't enter her mind that the maneuvers were anything but a show of strength.

She is living with her uncle and aunt, Kristo and Margaret Kristich, of Watsonville, who, like many of the local Croatians, share Ivana's concerns for family in Croatia. Ivana said they're frustrated with the lack of and conflicting information, and their own inability to help.

A group of Croatian women have decided to take spiritual action — they've succeeded in organizing a public mass for peace at St. Patrick's Church Thursday. The mass is open to all denominations and will be one way to call attention to the situation in Croatia. The local Croatian Choir, led by

Watsonville resident Marlene Radovich, will sing Croatian mass hymns.

Ivana said she will take part in the mass and sing in the choir unless her emotions overcome her.

Ivana is troubled, she said, by the lack of response in the United States. She said students at Aptos High School have little concept that there even is a war, much less that it is affecting a group of local residents, many of whom have immediate family living in the middle of the fighting.

She's writing letters appealing to President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker to help her country, and she plans to ask both Aptos and Watsonville high school students to sign them.

"We need someone to tell them (Yugoslavian military) to stop that," she said. "I'm angry at these people here. They just won't do anything."

**A mass for peace will be said Thursday at 7:30 p.m. by the Rev. Mike Miller, of St. Patrick's Church in Watsonville. The mass will be said across the street from the church in the Notre Dam School auditorium, 133 Brenna St., Watsonville.**