

# Marching away from war

## Thousands join anti-war rally

By STEVE PEREZ  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — No war, period. That was the message of thousands of people who marched from the UC Santa Cruz campus, bicycled through town, and rallied at San Lorenzo Park Sunday in opposition to the possibility of U.S. involvement in a war in the Persian Gulf.

Police estimated 1,500 people turned out; organizers and others said, variously, that anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 people showed up. Participants and observers said it was the largest single demonstration in the city since the Vietnam War era. More than 40 local groups co-sponsored the event.

There was a sense of urgency to the day's proceedings, with the United Nations' deadline for Iraq to withdraw or face military force coming up Tuesday.

"Don't stay home and watch it on the news (if war starts)," speaker Terry Teitlebaum told the gathering shortly after noon. "Hit the streets and make the news."

Teitlebaum, of Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze, was one of a



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel photos

The no-war throng went from UCSC, down Mission Street, above, and to San Lorenzo Park, below.

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## Councilman calls for 'tax resistance'

By STEVE PEREZ  
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SANTA CRUZ — City Councilman Scott Kennedy raised some eyebrows when he advocated the "prospect of war tax resistance" to thousands gathered at an anti-war rally Sunday at San Lorenzo Park.

Kennedy, a progressive who began his first term on the council this month, was introduced to the crowd as a staff member of the Resource Center for Nonviolence, a pacifist organization in Santa Cruz. But he was also identified as a newly elected councilman, and someone who had recently returned from Iraq after delivering medical supplies and securing the release of some hostages.

"Seriously look at the prospect of resistance," he said. "A lot of

people in this county refuse as a matter of conscience to pay all or part of their taxes for such militarily ridiculous adventures like what is now being anticipated in the Persian Gulf."

Kennedy urged those "seriously considering" the idea, to contact the Resource Center, and announced the telephone number.

A private citizen who did not want to be identified contacted the Sentinel after saying he heard the statement and thought it "outrageous, coming from an elected representative."

Reaction from local officials contacted for comment was less extreme.

"I think it's rather inappropriate for a member of the city council to infer, suggest or indicate they would assist members of our community in breaking the law," said...

conservative who, like Kennedy, is beginning his first City Council term.

"I don't know whether citizens should start deducting anything from taxes selectively," said John Mahaney, a conservative, who along with Rittenhouse was on the losing end of a 5-2 vote on an anti-war resolution last week.

"He's entitled to his opinion," said south county supervisor Ray Belgard, former police chief of Watsonville. "I'm a different breed, a product of the '30s. I'm behind the president and what they're doing all the way."

Contacted later at his home, Kennedy said he has been a war tax resister dating back to the Vietnam War era and has had bank accounts and assets seized...



## Anti-war march

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host of speakers who urged a peaceful solution to the standoff and massive demonstrations if U.S. troops attack.

"They're spending our peace dividend in the Persian Gulf," she said, to cries of protest from the audience.

The first half of the day's proceedings began around 10 a.m. at Lighthouse Field State Park, where hundreds of cyclists gathered. They then raced through the streets of Santa Cruz, urging motorists waiting for them at various intersections to get out of their cars and join them.

At the same time, more than a thousand demonstrators massed at the Bay Tree Bookstore in the center of the UC Santa Cruz campus, launching an hour-long march that wound its way down Bay Street and north on Mission Street, then to Water and Ocean streets, before ending at the park.

Among the handmade signs and banners they waved were "Bush, what

happened to a kinder and gentler nation?" "Queers Against the War, Peace Now and Forever," and "No Dipstick Diplomacy"

Jessica Damon, 15, a member of Santa Cruz High School Students for Social Responsibility, was waiting to join the march with some of her fellow students at Hagar and Coolidge drives on the campus.

"I feel Bush was rash to make an ultimatum like that," she said. "We haven't given enough time for the alternatives to work. There are more important things we need to spend our money on."

"I just don't want to see anyone die," one of her friends chimed in. "This is like our Vietnam."

Perhaps the youngest member of the march was 11-month-old Mirabai Troll, who was being pushed in her stroller by Iris Moore and Greg Troll.

"We're going headlong into a battle that would lead to massive destruction of human life," Greg Troll said.

Once the march reached Mission Street, the crowd took over both sides of the street and for about half an hour, motorists had to defer to pedestrians as the procession passed.

At the park, the marchers danced, chanted, signed anti-war petitions and listened to more than four hours of speeches and music.

City Councilman Scott Kennedy urged participants not to pay a portion of their taxes if they were opposed to U.S. military action and said his 8-year-old daughter asked him why this country was going to war on Martin Luther King day, which coincides with the Jan. 15 United Nations deadline.

Julie Marten, a member of UC Santa Cruz Students for Social Responsibility, the group which spearheaded the day's events, said she was "very excited" by the turnout. "People are upset about the decision in Congress (to authorize Bush to use military force)," she said. "There are a lot of people here at the park who want to let their

voices be heard."

The day's proceedings were not entirely peaceful. A brief scuffle and argument broke out between an unidentified motorist and several unidentified demonstrators after witnesses said the motorist drove through the middle of the march at the intersection of Mission and Laurel streets, striking an unidentified participant.

The young man did not appear hurt and the altercation ended after a few minutes when the victim's companions noted the vehicle's license plate number.

Police Sgt. Bill Aluffi said the department received about 30-40 calls from citizens complaining about the traffic tie-ups.

"Some of the people got caught in the thing had to sit and wait it out," he said. "They were a little upset. But we did not receive anything of a very serious nature."