

# Oregon DAILY EMERALD

Thursday, January 10, 1991

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 92, Issue 76



Photo by Sean Poston

Quinn Seiffert, 1, attended a candlelight vigil with his mother Wednesday evening to urge lawmakers to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East.

## Vigil initiated; calls for peaceful solution

By Rene DeCair  
Emerald Reporter

About 50 people gathered at the Federal Building Wednesday night to initiate a candlelight vigil urging lawmakers to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf conflict.

The 24-hour-a-day candlelight vigil, organized by Eugene Peaceworks and the No Gulf War Coalition, will continue until Jan. 15 — the deadline President Bush has given Saddam Hussein to withdraw his troops from Kuwait.

"I'm here because I'm afraid and I'm scared and I don't want any more soldiers coming back in body bags," said Shirley Gauthier, mother of a 20-year-old soldier stationed at a Saudi Arabia port.

Gauthier and Cathy Coulson, mother of a son who is in the Air Force and stationed at an island off of Saudi Arabia, said

they have stood outside the Federal Building each day since Jan. 1 to protest the government's reasons for being in the Gulf and the government's hurried move toward war.

"We didn't raise our sons to defend oil," Coulson said. "This is not a security problem... We could grow oil in Kansas (using corn)."

The two women said they support the soldiers but not the actions of the president.

"We need to let the sanctions work," Coulson said. "It doesn't matter if it takes years. Why are Americans so impatient?"

Other community members at the vigil who did not have sons in the Gulf said they were there to show support for a peaceful solution. Some of those who attended held placards that read "Tell Congress

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## Families of those in Saudi Arabia find support

Red Cross sponsors local, non-political meetings

By June Russell  
Emerald Reporter

Twice each month, the Red Cross offers a chance for family and friends of military personnel deployed in Operation Desert Shield to question military representatives and gain practical information on mailing problems, regulations and other common concerns.

The meetings also offer friends and family members something else — a source of valuable emotional support, and the feeling that they are not alone in their concerns.

"It's good to sit down and talk with people who know exactly what you're feeling," said Caryn Grossman, wife of a Marine Corps corporal who has been in Saudi Arabia since August.

"Representatives from the different branches are invited to every meeting to answer questions about mail and what they thought would happen over there," she said. "There's real concerns with moms that their sons aren't going to come home."

"Most of our support group gets together to share things and talk. Last

week we shared pictures. You find that a lot of people are experiencing the same problems. It makes you feel better to know that you're not the only one feeling that way."

Mike Pentecost, whose daughter is an officer with an army unit stationed with Operation Desert Shield since late August, began attending the meetings last month. The group, Pentecost said, offers support and a chance to discuss mutual concerns.

"A lot of us have the same concerns about it becoming another Vietnam," Pentecost said. "Just being able to talk helps relieve our frustrations and concerns. We're all worried about the prospect of open conflict. We all want our husbands, daughters, sons and wives back."

"The group also helps by giving us insight into some of the other parents' lives," he added. "It gives us the feeling that we're not alone, that others are just as angry and just as scared."

The Red Cross began holding the meetings in November, in response to a growing need for information and support as the number of personnel de-



Photo by Andre Ranieri

Caryn Grossman, with 5-year-old daughter Sadianne and 3-month-old son Stephen, finds support with a local Red Cross group. Her husband, a Marine Corps corporal, has been in Saudi Arabia since August.

ployed to Saudi Arabia increased and the situation dragged on, said Red Cross spokesman Gary McElroy.

"The National Red Cross encourages support groups like this in times of disaster, and the Red Cross does label war or conflict a disaster," McElroy said.

"We also try to stress that the Red Cross is non-political. We're letting people know that if they want to discuss the political aspects they need to take it somewhere else."

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### Inside

Representatives from both a building firm and U.S. Bank of Oregon told the Eugene City Council Wednesday that they are very interested in working with the city to construct and occupy a large office building in downtown Eugene.

A representative of the Seattle firm Lorig and Associates said his company is ready to proceed with construction plans for an 80,000 to 100,000 square-foot office building on the corner of Eighth Ave. and Willamette

St., if its construction proposal is approved by the city.

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A one cent tax on carbonated beverages and additional funding to state programs were among the recommendations made Wednesday by the State Task Force on Hunger following an 18-month investigation of the hunger problem in Oregon.

The task force found that in 1989 more than 380,000 Oregonians — 14 percent of the state population — accessed the emergency food system. Almost 50 percent

of these people are children under the age of twelve, said task force chairman Steve McCoid.

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### Gulf Crisis

GENEVA (AP) — Secretary of State James A. Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met for six hours on Wednesday but failed to defuse the Persian Gulf crisis that threatens war in the Middle East. "The time for talk is running out," Baker said.

President Bush, in Wash-

ington, accused the Iraqis of "a total stiff-arm, a total rebuff," and refused to rule out launching the first attack if Iraq doesn't withdraw from Kuwait by next Tuesday's deadline set by the United Nations.

Aziz blamed the United States for the crisis and said, "We will not yield to threats" demanding Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

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### Sports

Division I-A football pro-

grams will have one less full-time assistant coach for the 1992 season.

The decision, reached at the NCAA Convention in Nashville, Tenn. Monday, means colleges and universities will be allowed to have only eight full-time coaches instead of nine.

That includes Oregon, where Coach Rich Brooks will be forced to decide what to do to trim his staff by August 1992, the date set at the convention.

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