Locals share views about war

Most at SLO meeting voiced opposition to war in the Gulf

By Darrell C. Hallenbrook

In the hope that elected officials would know how local citizens felt about the threat of war in the Persian Gulf, a public forum was held at the San Luis Obispo Public Library Sunday afternoon.

Opening the forum was Supervisor David Blakely, who addressed the audience with his concerns and goals for the forum.

The crisis in the gulf, he said, could turn into a psychic wound and divide the community to bring pressure on the United States and the world community to bring pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait through sanctions and diplomatic efforts is correct and should be maintained," the letter said.

Although most of the speakers at the forum called for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, there were a handful of people who believed the United States should use violence against Iraq, because they see Hussein as an Adolf Hitler of sorts.

They said that if Hussein is not controlled now, he could commit humanitarian crimes against innocent people, like Hitler did against millions of Jews in World War II.

Kelly VanNoord, a Cal Poly graphic communication senior, attended the forum and said, "Violence doesn't justify violence," and added that "our government is in no condition to be a policeman."

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During Blakely's opening statement, he read a letter not being at the forum; he was attending congressional hearings and debates. He wrote that "all aggression by one nation must be deterred."

"The unified strategy by the United States and the world community to bring pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait through sanctions and diplomatic efforts is correct and should be maintained," the letter said.

Panetta also said that it is unfortunate that President Bush personalized the dispute with Saddam Hussein, increased the deployment of troops and reduced the available resolutions of the crisis to war or surrender.

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