Community Grieves Together at Campus Memorial

Individuals Share Emotions at Open Mic
Before Procession Into I.V. for Candlelight Vigil

BY JENNIFER B. SIVERTS
Staff Writer

Thursday was a day of remembrance for approximately 5,000 people who gathered to celebrate the lives of the four victims of Friday night’s fatal incident.

The vigil, organized by Associated Students, began at 4:30 in Storke Plaza with key speakers, followed by close to 30 community members addressing the crowd during an open mic period. At dusk, A.S. passed out candles and flowers, and mourners proceeded to the site of the incident.

UCSB students Nicholas Bourdakis and Christopher Divis, Santa Barbara City College student Ruth Levy and San Francisco resident Elie Israel were all pronounced dead on the scene after they were struck by a speeding car on the 6500 block of Sabado Tarde Road on Feb. 23. Albert Levy, Ruth’s brother and a San Francisco resident, is still in critical condition at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

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When my wife Dilling and I arrived at the accident, we wanted to do all we could to console and comfort those who were at the scene, and to grieve with them. On the streets of Isla Vista on those early morning hours, we witnessed some extraordinary examples of courage, compassion, and humanity.

— Henry T. Yang
UCSB chancellor

A woman lays flowers in preparation for Thursday’s memorial in Storke Plaza. The crowd later proceeded to Sabado Tarde for a candlelight vigil.
Administration Halts Vieques Bombing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration suspended Navy bombing on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, while negotiators pursue a permanent solution to the bitter dispute over U.S. military use of the island Thursday.

The decision, revealed by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, is a concession to the new Puerto Rican government, which wants the Navy to withdraw entirely from the island.

The Navy has resisted, saying Vieques is vital to training for its Atlantic fleet.

Rumsfeld discussed the matter with Puerto Rican Gov. Sila Calderon on Tuesday.

On Vieques, the dispute:

**Milicia Begins National Destruction of Statues**

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Defying an international outcry, Taliban soldiers on Thursday began destroying all statues in Afghanistan — even targeting two soaring, ancient statues of Buddha carved into the face of a mountain.

The ruling Islamic militia said they sought to purge the nation of idolatrous images, but their closest ally — Pakistan — wants the action, could be a backlash against Afghanistan's international isolation, including U.N. sanctions.

Pakistani Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider told The Associated Press the Taliban's order "may have been an act of defiance brought on by the isolation they feel."

As troops fanned out to destroy the statues, three ambassadors to the Taliban appeared on television, describing political maneuvers to try to transform this suspension of the Pentagon to leave and give us

We need to redress our efforts now to try to transform the investment into a halt to Navy bombing on the island forever.

"What we want is the Navy to leave and give us back our land," he said.


"We appreciate what's happening," Bass said, "but we hope that this becomes a permanent cease-fire on the entire island and that we can then begin the long road to helping the people of Vieques get their lives together again."

Navy Capt. Mike Brady, a spokesperson at U.S. Atlantic Fleet headquarters at Norfolk, Va., said the decision to suspend training on Vieques affects the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier battle group and a Marine Corps amphibious ready group led by the USS Kearsarge.

It is not a permanent halt to training on Vieques, however, that could be the eventual outcome.

"The battle group and the amphibious ready group are expected to receive an adequate level of training to deploy as scheduled in late April, Brady said. They will use the waters off Puerto Rico to do other training exercises but they will not be able to use Vieques for practice bombing or naval gunfire training.

In seeking to retain the Vieques training range, the Navy has argued that it is the only means of providing the training that battle groups begin their overseas deployments fully ready for combat.

After meeting with Rumsfeld in the Pentagon on Tuesday, Calderon told reporters that she asked him to delay Navy training exercises on Vieques until he reviews a study suggesting noise from the bombing has caused heart disease among residents.

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Local Fraternity House To Celebrate Diversity With ‘Cultural Crossroads’

BY SARAH HALLY
Staff Writer

There’s only one free on-campus show a year that features the belly of a dragon and the bellies of dancers.

“Cultural Crossroads” will feature six acts from community and campus groups such as the Polynesian dancers, the Sherwood Players, the Chinese Lion Dance Club and a mariachi group, and begins at 7 p.m. Saturday in Campbell Hall. Several organizations, including the MultiCultural Center, Residence Halls Association and the office of the vice chancellor for student affairs, are sponsoring the event, which is free to the public.

Sigma Chi Omega has organized the performance, which fraternity President Gabe Enriquez said is one of the only annual events representing a number of cultures, as opposed to concentrating on one cultural group.

“I can’t think of another event where you get such a diverse group of people under the same roof," he said. “We did this to show our commitment to diversity. There are other events that are specifically for one culture, so we want to include everything.”

This is the third year Sigma Chi Omega has organized this event, and the second year it has been held in Campbell Hall. Organizers switched to Campbell Hall, which seats 800 people, after 100 students were turned away from Lotte Lehmann Hall the first year. Enriquez said students filled seats 800 people, after 100 students were turned away from Lotte Lehmann Hall the first year. Enriquez said students filled seats the second year it has been organized this event, and he expects similar success Saturday.

“It’s gotten bigger in the past two years, and I’m hoping it will continue that way,” he said.

Fakshuns Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based group, will perform a piece on hip hop culture featuring turntablists, break dancers and a graffiti artist. Senior business economics major Raj Persaud, a member of Fakshuns, said he came up with the piece because hip hop is becoming more recognized.

“I wanted to do a piece about hip hop culture because it’s become part of our culture slowly but surely. I think it’s transcending from music into a way of life,” he said. “We wanted to do a break from the norm and we think it’s definitely something the people will like. It’s full of music and it gets the crowd going.”

The Chinese Lion Dance Club will also perform a dance based on Chinese tradition. The dance, which dates back to ancient times, was believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck, said Fabian Aguirre, a junior psychology major and dance major.

“This is a way to bring out the Chinese culture," he said. “It’s a dance in which you depend a lot on two people’s unique form, and there’s this big gigantic head you’re dancing with.”

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Thanks UCSB, for voting us as your favorite place to workout

If you haven’t heard, we’ve changed things up a bit. Our newly expanded facility offers you more access and options than anywhere in the area.

You’ll find everything you need to get the workout you want.

Come by today and see for yourself.
The Community Mourns
Most Never Knew the Victims, But None Will Forget

HENRY SARRIA

As a longtime resident of this town I could agree with those observations made by ignorant outsiders whose sole intention is to boost their network's Nielsen ratings. I could, but didn't, based on the facts. While the above conditions do exist, there also exists motor vehicle codes that prohibit driving under the influence of any intoxicating substance — though whether or not the culprit was intoxicated is still unclear — and prohibit driving at excessive speeds through residential neighborhoods. Basically stated, this tragedy could've happened anywhere, but this time it happened here, in our little haven, away from places where these things usually occur.

Saturday was an ugly day. It rained all day long; we raced in ankle-deep mud, it was cold, my BMX bike was caked with mud and the event dragged on way past midnight. We were wet, tired, cold and hungry, but things could have been so much worse. I could've been in my hometown of I.V. on the night of the tragedy, and been either a witness or victim to the tragic series of events that unfolded. Anywhere was better than here in L.V.

It sometimes takes a tragedy such as this one to make you realize the beauty of everything around you, and give you a fresh perspective on the meaning of life. This weekend the opportunity to think about many things was presented to me and thoughts on the four victims plagued me incessantly. There were four good people who never did anything to anyone, that most of us never get to meet, and thanks to someone's evil act, we will never get to meet them. The loss is truly ours.

At 1 a.m. on that cold and rainy night my fellow racers and I got up to the gate pad for our main (final). Time seemed to go slower than usual and this compelled me to do something I don't believe I've ever done. I've never been religious or much of a praying person, but before we got up on the starting gate, the time was taken to say a prayer for the four young people most of us never met and for the safe recovery of the injured victim. I didn't even know their names at the time, but that didn't matter. I just felt that it was finally time to say something, anything, to whoever it is that will listen to such prayers. My only hope is that they were heard.

As this is written there are still tears in my eyes. Coming back home on Sunday was like never before. Something had been taken from our little community, and we'll never get it back.

This is written in loving memory of Nicholas Bourdakis, Christopher Divis, Ruth Levy and Elie Israel. We never met, someday we will. We all miss you and always will.

Henry Sarria is a longtime I.V. resident.
Continued from p.l joined together at the Daily Nexus.

Michael Vas, Christopher Divis’ roommate, stresses the importance of enjoying the beauty of life and not dwelling on the tragedy that occurred last Friday night. A group of friends surrounded and supported Vas as he spoke during Thursday’s commemoration in Storke Plaza.

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Freshman guard Nick Jones and the Gauchos could not handle jump out to an early against Utah State before tumbling in an 83-50 Aggie title] outright, so Christensen said. "We forward Kayte with anybody," junior with back-to-back home *uns from senior third baseman The Gauchos fought for one solid half of basketball If basketball was played in only one 20-minute period, the Gauchos aren't sat­ of the Big West Title UCSB clinched a share With the victory, Thunderdome. the Gauchos aren't sat­ to blow open a tight game, rolling to a 66-55 USU Ruins Santa Barbara Gauchos demonstrated basketball team does Pacific, and the 11-2) opened the sec­ Gauchos Get Defensive; UOP Wilts 8 It will be fun — time to honor a spate of five minutes; Santa Barbara also forced the Tigers to 7-24 shooting with a layup to put UCSB up 25-23. But the Tigers caught fire, taking a 31-30 lead. Pacific point guard Selena Ho then punctured the first half with a three-pointer to give the Tigers a 34-31 halftime lead. Despite the Gauchos' defensive intensity, Pacific was still able to shoot 12-24 from the field in the first half. That statistic, however, only served as motivation for UCSB in the second period. "I think it was defi­ nately a memorable sec­ ond half," Greathouse said. "[Pacific] was shooting .500 from the field, and that gave us automatic inspiration to play defense." In the second half, Santa Barbara found its groove, dominating the Tigers in the final 20 minutes. UCSB began the second stanza with a 21-5 run and surged to a 51-39 lead. But the Gauchos' defense enabled them to take control, holding Pacific scoreless for a span of five minutes; Santa Barbara also forced the Tigers in 7-24 shooting for the period. UCSB received church contributions from Christensen, who finished with a game-high 18 points, and sophomore guard Jess Hansen, who rang up 12 points. "We were back on the boards in the first half," UCSB Head Coach Mark French said. "But Jess Hansen came out with fire in her eyes [in the second half], crashing the boards and shooting the ball well." The Gauchos will now prepare for their Senior Day matchup with UNLV. A victory would give UCSB its fifth-straight, regular-season conference title. "We're very excited about Long Beach com­ ing in the T-dome," French said. "It will be fun — time to honor a spate of our seniors. There is nobody that we would rather play than Long Beach." The Gauchos are looking forward to competing against the Buckeyes and hope their strong perfor­ mance last week will propel them tonight. "(The team) is loaded mentally and physically," UCSB Head Coach Mike Dahl said. "We want to do great and keep up the same way. ... We are very focused." Santa Barbara is also strongly concentrating on its techniques and routines. "At this point in the season, we all have our routines down, so now it's just a matter of perf­ ecting them and smoothing out all the rough edges," Howell said. "We're mainly focused on hitting our routines as a team and keeping the team spirit strong." Although Ohio State is considered one of the top squads in the nation, the Gauchos will try and continue to keep a positive attitude. "We are pushing really hard," junior team captain Michael Kelley said. "We are competing against ourselves [in practice] and there is really no pressure. ... This year we are training harder than the last two years. ... Intensity is up."