

Storm  
Edition

# Daily Nexus

UC Santa Barbara

Volume 78, No. 71

Two Sections, 12 Pages



MORGAN BALL / DAILY NEXUS

Some areas of Isla Vista experienced flooding after the Monday night deluge. This truck was stranded in more than a foot of water on the 6600 block of Abrego long after the rain stopped.

## El Niño's Savage Wrath Blasts I.V.

BY TONY BIASOTTI  
and GRETCHEN MACCHIARELLA  
Staff Writers

Believe the hype.

El Niño struck Isla Vista with a vengeance Monday night, disproving once and for all its reputation as an overblown media weather phenomenon. A number of homes, cars and power lines were damaged or endangered by falling trees, the result of high overnight winds.

One of the largest trees to fall victim to the storm toppled at around midnight in front of 6554 Del Playa Drive. According to sophomore business/economics major Travis LoDolce, a resident of the house, the tree's demise was not entirely unexpected.

"We actually had somebody in the house predict that it would fall. He's kind of a worrywart," he said. "He said he wasn't going to sleep upstairs. He was reading and he heard it start to crack and he jumped out of bed and started running."

The tree narrowly missed the house, but the property did not escape damage, LoDolce said.

"[The tree] broke our fence. It sounded like an earthquake. [Two] bikes are trapped underneath it," he said. "We didn't call anybody because it snapped right through our phone lines."

Sophomore music major Jon Harris, who also lives at the house, surveyed the damage this morning and offered his assessment.

"Our house is all fucked up," he said.

A palm tree in front of the Varsity Bike Shop on Pardall Road was leaning precariously after being partially uprooted, which caused the I.V. Foot Patrol to close the street between

See TREES, p.2A



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### Inside Story

Residents of 6504 Seville were evacuated to Rob Gym after a eucalyptus tree crashed into the corner of their building Tuesday morning. See story, p.3A.

## Campus Affected by Storm's Force

BY TENNILLE TRACY  
Staff Writer

Nature's brute force assaulted campus Monday night in an orgy of torrential rain and gale-force winds, demolishing buildings and scattering debris.

Winds measuring up to 40 mph toppled trees, resulting in one injury and several hours of repair work. Maintenance crews began clearing the debris around 2 a.m. yesterday. Approximately 30 trees were uprooted around the residence halls, the Music Building and Phelps Plaza; others crushed a trailer between Davidson Library and Broida Hall, according to Vice Chancellor David Sheldon.

The most damage was done to a grove of eucalyptus trees south of the San Nicolas Residence Halls, where approximately 25 or more of the trees collapsed onto one another and surrounding roads, according to acting Facilities Management Di-

rector David Gonzales.

"[Eucalyptus trees] are very brittle," he said. "They have a small root structure, and when they get wet, they fall. Many of these have been out there since this became a campus."

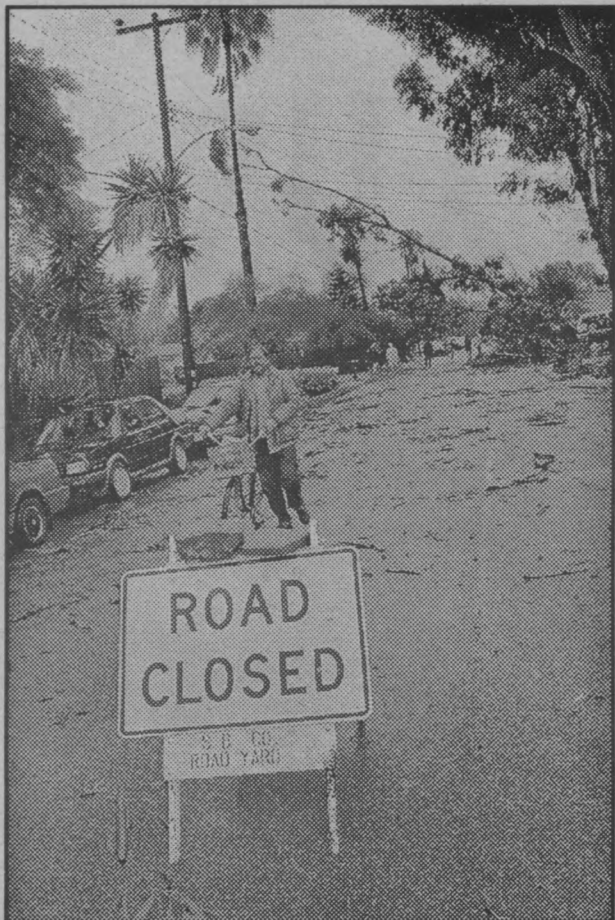
According to Randy Bittner, residence hall manager for San Miguel and Anacapa residence halls, the on-campus living quarters experienced many problems due to fallen trees, which included two pine trees and two 40-foot palm trees that completely uprooted and landed on the bike racks in front of Anacapa Residence Hall.

"The trees were actually just lying across the bike racks. One of my student workers said that a whole row of men's bikes were turned into women's bikes," Bittner said.

Pacific Tree Service of Santa Barbara was employed by Facilities Management early Monday morning to clear roads rendered inac-

See STORM, p.3A



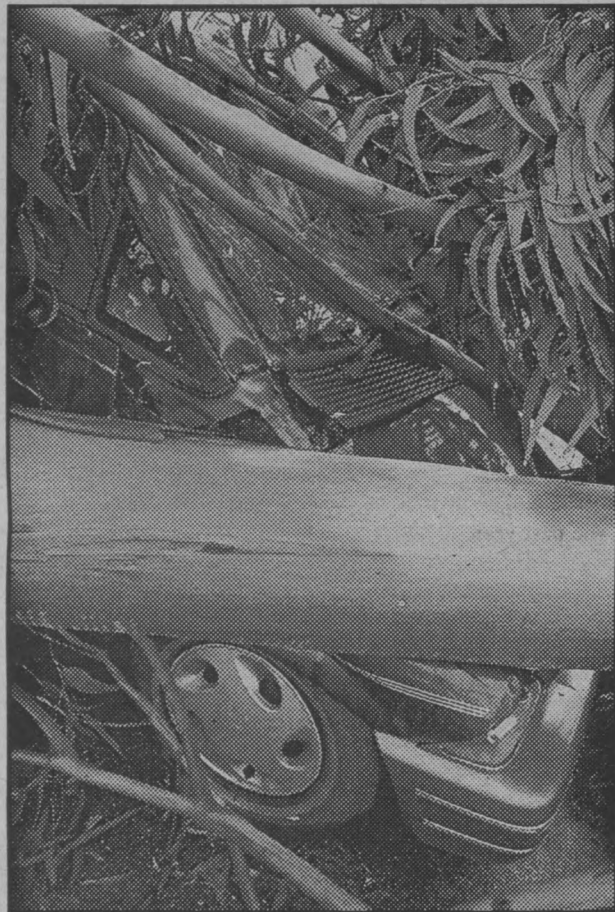


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Leah Balecha examines her car tire, which melted due to a high-voltage wire that fell onto her car and electrocuted it.



ERIN DERBY / DAILY NEXUS

Pasado Road (top photo) was closed temporarily due to trees and debris lying in the middle of the road after suffering the brunt of strong winds in yesterday's storm. Above, a eucalyptus tree laid low by the tempest decided that it would not fall in vain, and crashed into a parked Ford Aerostar, leaving the front end of the vehicle mutilated.

## TREES

Continued from p.1A

Embarcadero Del Mar and Embarcadero Del Norte, according to IVFP Lt. Butch Arnaldi.

"The only thing we're waiting for is that big palm to fall," he said.

Senior communication major Danny Burke's Ford Aerostar van was damaged by a tree that fell on it on the 6600 block of Pasado Road.

"My roommate woke me up and said, 'Check out your car.' I walked outside and thought, 'Oh shit, I should have moved my car,' because I had known a tree had already fallen," Burke said.

The same tree also tore down a power line, which fell near senior communication major Adam Rudder's window.

"Between 1:30 and 2 [a.m.] the power went on and off and then the sky lit up and sparks came into my room. I ran out and my roommate called 911," Rudder said. "It smelled like burned rubber, it was raining hard and it was so windy. If the power pole wasn't there [the tree] would have hit my room."

Senior women's studies major Leah Balecha awoke at 2 a.m. to find two of her car's tires melted.

"I noticed a tree had fallen on an electric wire and was afraid the wire would fall on my car," she said. "I went to move my car and noticed ... a high-voltage wire had fallen onto my car."

One of the emergency personnel began to assist her, but the car had already been affected by the power line, according to Balecha.

"A fireman said he was going to try to move my car, but he noticed the two curbside tires were flat," she said. "The wire fell on the car and electrocuted it."

The electricity caused Balecha's tires to melt, but the rest of the car remained intact, she said.

"The only thing blown were the tires," she said. "The electricity was being currented through the rims into the

curb because it was so close to the curb."

Southern California Edison Regional Manager Ernie Villegis said that a large number of people were forced to go without electricity due to the storm. In addition to their own crews, Edison contracted additional crews to restore power to an area stretching from Carpinteria to Goleta and Isla Vista.

"Approximately 16,000 customers were impacted by the storm," he said. "Most [losses of power] were caused by fallen trees, lightning striking transformers and wind pushing lines down."

Villegis added that while most of the power has been restored, the power losses could continue if the storm returns.

"If the storm continues the way it has, we could have continued power outages," he said.

Villegis also cautioned residents to exercise good judgment in these unsafe conditions.

"Stay clear from the downed lines," he said. "Utilize flashlights and gather candles. Safety is paramount."

International Food Market owner Lin Noh expressed his frustration with the lack of electricity.

"Ice cream, pie, everything melts — bad news," he said.

Noh was exasperated at the unexpected nature of the situation.

"It happened last night about two, never happened before," he said. "Only maybe two hours, three hours at most. I lived here 15 years, and every year I say maybe I should buy back-up electrical, but haven't."

As the proprietor of one of the few shops that remained open, Sam's to Go owner Merdad Somhomay made the best of the situation.

"People love us today," he said. "I don't think I have a problem. As long as I have bread I'll keep going. ... We're glad to be open and helping people."

— Staff writers Marc Valles, Stacy Jones and Alexis Filippini contributed to this story.



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I.V. resident Tod Severson, right, went out Tuesday morning to move his car, hoping to keep it from being flooded in. Instead, he found workers cutting away branches from the tree that had landed on his vehicle during the night.

### Emergency Calls Only 911 (9-911 on campus)

#### Nonemergency Calls Only

Fire  
Goleta \_\_\_\_\_ 681-5500  
Isla Vista \_\_\_\_\_ 681-5500  
Santa Barbara \_\_\_\_\_ 965-5254

Police  
Goleta \_\_\_\_\_ 681-4100  
Isla Vista \_\_\_\_\_ 681-4179  
Santa Barbara \_\_\_\_\_ 897-2300

To Report Downed Power Lines  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1-800-611-1911

Southern California Gas Company  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1-800-427-2200

County Information Hotlines  
Flooding \_\_\_\_\_ 568-3451  
Roads \_\_\_\_\_ 568-3044

State Highway Hotline  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1-800-427-ROAD



# Falling Tree Slices Through House; 55 Residents Evacuated

BY KERRI WEBB  
and ALEXIS FILIPPINI  
Staff Writers

Eleven Isla Vista families were left with no place to call home after high winds from Monday night's storm thrust a large tree into their house.

All the residents of 6504 Seville Road were evacuated when a eucalyptus tree crashed into apartment #9, according to Sgt. Jim Peterson of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Dept.

"Fifty-five tenants were displaced from their building when a tree fell down on the building," he said.

The residents walked to the I.V. Foot Patrol station in the rain, where they were told to go to the UCSB Events Center. According to resident Vincente Camacho, the families were provided transportation only after they protested having to walk in the storm.

"We had to walk to the I.V. police station with our children in the rain," he said. "They wanted us to walk over to the Events Center, but we protested that we couldn't do that with our children. So finally they did give us transportation at about 4 a.m."

According to Peterson, the evacuated residents were taken to campus by bus.

"Residents were taken to ... UCSB via an MTD bus that we were able to get to transport them," he said.

Yesterday morning, the families were sheltered in Rob Gym, and were later moved to a temple in Santa Barbara, according to Red Cross volunteer Tori Lynn Gleason.

"These families [were] bused out of here at 1 p.m. to B'nai Brith," she said.

Gleason added that the Red Cross will make every effort to provide specialized assistance to each family.

"We'll address each family's need," she said. "It's possible that the need is so great that we'll have a shelter for several days. If not, we'll work with them on an individual basis."

Estrella Ybarra, another displaced resident of the building, recalled that the building's landlord seemed preoccupied by the extent of the damage and told the residents that he couldn't help them.

"The owner came and his only concern was the insurance he had on the building," she said. "He said that he only had insurance on the building and left us on our own."

County Building Inspector Fred Gonzales inspected many homes in I.V. and red-tagged the building on Seville.

"I posted it as unsafe because it has structural damage," he said. "Who knows what else would have happened there — [problems with] gas lines, etc."

Red Cross Public Relations Specialist John Bastian said that the red-tag classification would allow residents to return on a limited basis.

"The red-tagging means people can go in and get their stuff, but nothing else," he said.

Chief Building Inspector Nick Andrade explained the significance of a red-tagged building.

"A red tag basically means that the building has been declared uninhabitable because the damage is so severe that it



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After being rudely awakened when a storm-tossed tree crashed into their apartment complex at 3 a.m., these children were taken from location to location and finally were able to rest in the comfort of the Red Cross shelter set up at Rob Gym.

poses a danger to the occupants," he said. "This one is pretty severely damaged, so essentially, it's a condemned building that no one can live in."

UCSB Transportation Dept. employee Glenn Devlin thought that the building was substandard even before the eucalyptus tree made itself an unwelcome guest.

"They should have condemned this building anyway," he said. "This place is disgusting."

Twelve-year-old resident Ariana Camacho said that the wind and the tree were at odds, and the wind ultimately won out.

[The tree] fell on the roof, and when it fell the roof started leaking ... some windows broke, and the water came in.

— Ariana Camacho  
12-year-old I.V. resident

"It was really windy at about 3 a.m. ... and the tree was moving more than usual," she said. "It fell on the roof, and when it fell the roof started leaking ... some windows broke, and the water came in."

The outpouring of support from the community was tremendous, according to Counseling and Career Services employee Sandra Barrios. Several local businesses and citizens helped with food and beverage donations as well as volunteer work.

Gleason stressed the importance of the community's contributions to the shelter.

"There were actually donations from the community," she said. "Carrillo Dining Commons ... that was great. We also got some other community donations. Lunch was from the dining commons, breakfast from some other people."

According to I.V./UCSB Liaison Catherine Boyer, the Red Cross will be assisting displaced residents.

"They're going to be allowed to stay for five days [at the shelter], and during that time Red Cross will work with them to find other shelters for them," she said. "If there's a demonstrated need, especially financial need, [which] there will be for these families, I hope that they can help them. That will be important."

Boyer added that the timing of this disaster was economically unfortunate for these residents.

"If they move into a new place, they'll need money for a deposit," she said. "All of these families have just paid their rent for February, so all that money's gone."

However, manager Carlos Castillo demonstrated sympathy for the residents, even though the situation could be financially damaging to him.

"[I'm] looking at a loss of rent," he said. "I returned the rent to all the tenants, so they're not paying for February."

Bastian mentioned that contributions can be sent to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund at 707 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93105.

— Staff writers Gretchen Macchiarella and Tony Biasotti also contributed to this story.



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Havoc was wreaked upon a TA trailer located between Davidson Library and Broida Hall after a branch smashed through the ceiling of the building. The destruction was one of the few incidences of storm damage on campus.

## STORM

■ Continued from p.1A

cessible to service delivery because of the fallen eucalyptuses, according to Pacific Tree Service Supervisor Brian Ames.

"We're just trying to clear the fire lane for any service guys," he said. "All [Facilities Management] wants us to do today is get everything to the side, then probably we'll eventually cut all of the leaning trees down. It's going to look pretty barren around here."

Along with fallen trees, an alarming amount of leaking windows have been reported in residence halls — predominantly in the upper levels in towers facing the ocean, according to Ardley Nicks, residence hall manager for Santa Cruz and San Nicolas.

"We've always had branches break and a few windows leak, but nothing like this. I'm actually a little worried," Nicks said.

Concern for the storm's effects has not been limited to campus staff but felt throughout the student body, said freshman computer science major Julie Powell.

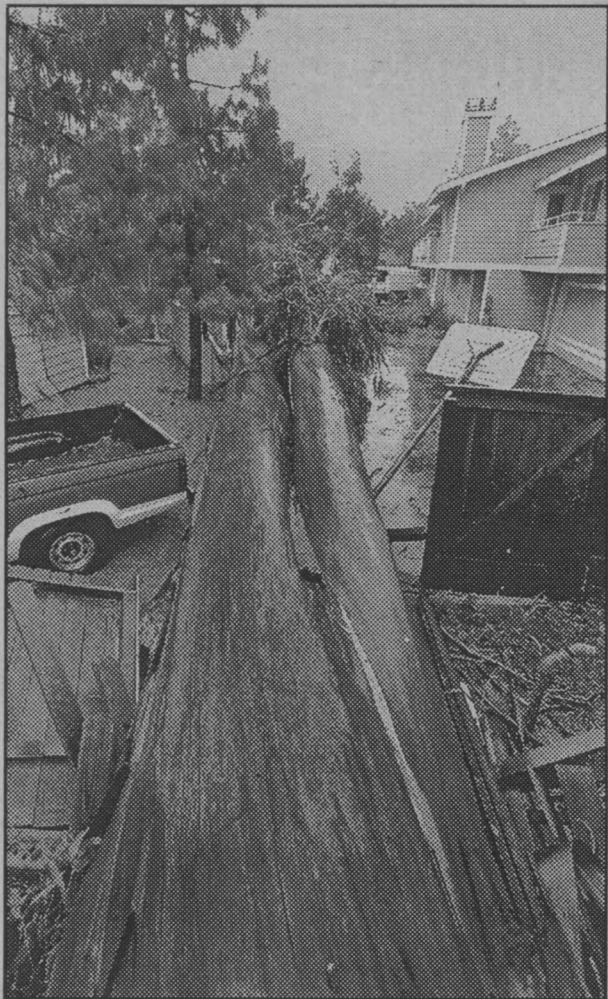
"It was gnarly. We have cheap windows and I could feel the wind coming through [them] because of the storm," she said.

Despite the laborious tasks still required for storm cleanup, Sheldon expressed satisfaction at the prompt response made by all campus departments. All roads were cleared by 3 p.m. Tuesday afternoon and electrical power was restored throughout campus — except West Campus — by 6:30 a.m., he said.

Sheldon added that Monday night's storm has prompted a review of processes enacted for weather disasters.

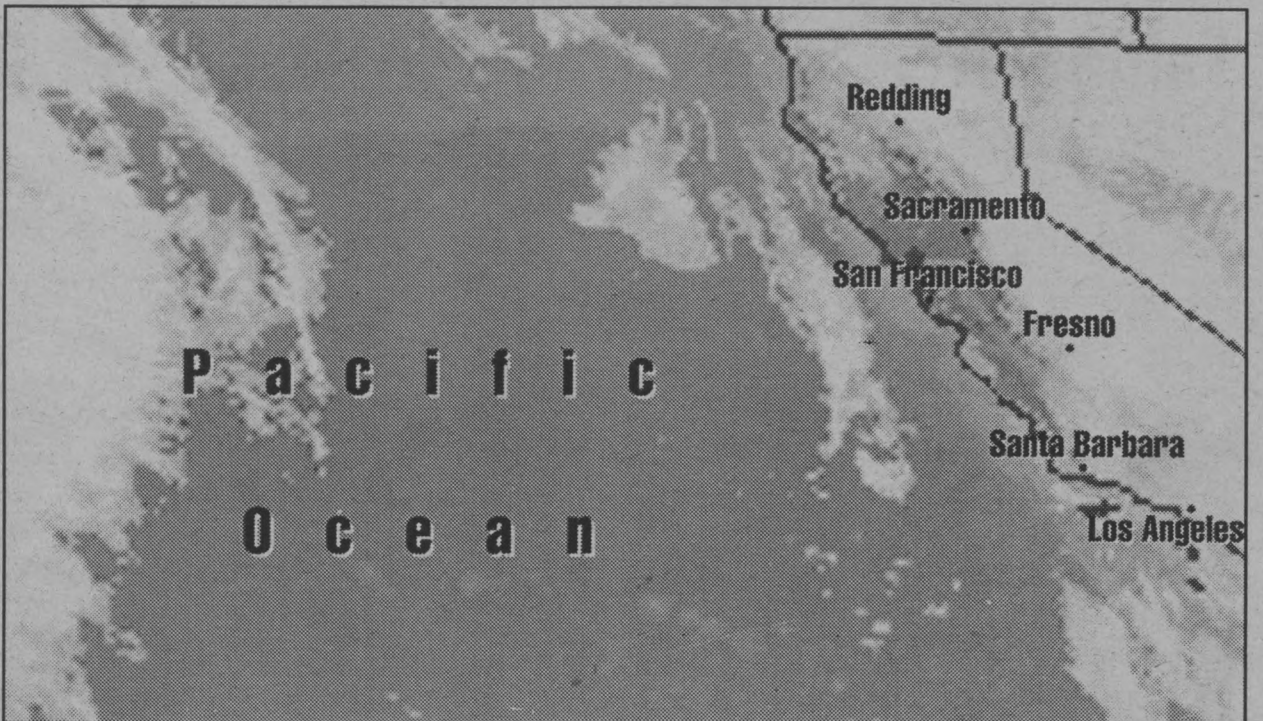
"The reports are that we may have another storm, which will be in relation to this one. If the weather worsens we will be in touch with the media to inform the university as to emergency procedures," Sheldon said.





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A 150-foot tree fell through a fence separating two condos near Ellwood Beach Drive and Entrance Road, pulling up a gas main and damaging a shed and an RV.

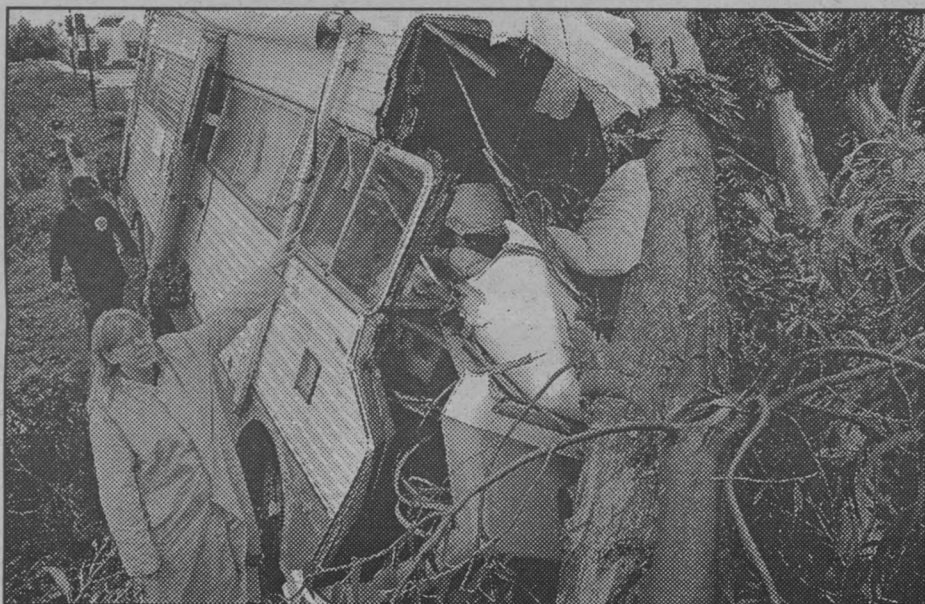


Source: National Weather Service, Los Angeles/Oxnard Bureau

CHRIS KOCH / DAILY NEXUS

This satellite photo, taken early Tuesday evening, shows Monday night's storm continuing inland. A new storm, which is expected to hit at the end of the weekend, brews over the Pacific. A gale warning and heavy surf advisory will be in effect, and residents are urged to be extra-cautious.

## Storm Edition



JEFF CLARK / DAILY NEXUS

Nancy McCradie (left photo) came home from work to find her camper crushed under a tree. Her daughter, Krystal Freedom, 13, had been sleeping in the camper before the tree toppled, but had left after being disturbed by the storm. Meanwhile, near Stearn's Wharf (right photo), several boats were found washed ashore as a result of tides swelled by the furious weather.



JEFF CLARK / DAILY NEXUS



JEFF CLARK / DAILY NEXUS

A few adventurous souls wander out to the harbor jetty, hoping for a closer look at the crashing 14-foot waves hurled toward Santa Barbara by an El Niño-churned ocean.