



MORGAN BALL / DAILY NEXUS

Students gathered at Storke Plaza on Wednesday, March 11 to further protest the controversial content of a *Nexus* article. A forum followed discussing the issues at hand and was attended by protesters and *Nexus* staff members.

Continued Protest Efforts Result in Rally

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In search of assurances and apologies, students gathered in Storke Plaza to rally against racism and cultural insensitivity.

Students assembled Wednesday, March 11 to continue their protest against the perceived racial statements made by an employee of the Isla Vista Police Dept. that was printed in the March 4th edition of the *Daily Nexus*. The remarks asserted that Vietnamese and Hmong immigrants were responsible for the declining I.V. dog populations during the 1970s by eating the canines. The rally allowed protestors to voice their concerns and frustrations with both the university and newspaper.

"Due to the fact that [the reporters who wrote the article] are UC students who write for our campus newspaper, we hold the university accountable for not fully committing to its goal of promoting diversity," said Blia Yang, a rally speaker and junior biology major. "If this campus was truly committed to diversity, this type of ignorance would not have a footing on this campus."

Yang listed the stipulations required for the *Daily Nexus* to atone for the article.

"We demand that the *Daily Nexus* be reviewed by the UC Press Council for its staff quality, content authenticity and for its racist attitude," she said. "We demand that the Press Council mandate that the editor in chief of the *Daily Nexus*, Marc Valles, print on the front page a formal apology to the UCSB and Isla Vista Asian American communities. We demand that the Press Council mandate Editor in Chief Marc Valles to collaborate with the UCSB Asian American community in printing a special edition dedicated to documenting Asian American history and their contribution to this nation as a whole."

Addressing the crowd, Valles directed protestors to file their grievances with the university Press Council, which oversees publication of the *Daily Nexus*.

At the rally, UC Police Dept. Chief John MacPherson read a statement from the I.V. Foot Patrol employee Dianna Halliburton.

"I would like to apologize to the Asian American community for the distress that they have experienced ... had I realized how hurtful my remarks were, I would

RALLY

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have never made them," the statement reported.

MacPherson also promised the crowd that he will take measures to prevent such mishaps from recurring.

"The more cultural awareness and training that I can provide to our department the better we should be to more sensitively serve our diverse communities," he said. "I would like to assure you that I've already begun this task."

After the rally, a forum between demonstrators and *Daily Nexus* staffers was held in the Multicultural Center. The forum proved to be an effective venue for the ex-

change of emotions from both the protestors and members of the campus newspaper, according to junior business/economics major Kyle Guiao.

"This was it, you can't ask for anything more than this because everything came out, we heard both sides of the story and we got something done," he said. "We made a giant leap this time. This is what we've been looking for, just someone to hear us out."

Others in attendance felt that the forum was positive but further action is needed to ensure that demands are met, such as senior black studies and political science major Tu Huynh.

"I don't know if it was productive or not, that's too

early to say, but I think it's a starting point where we can have ideas on doing something and hopefully something will materialize from this," she said.

Educational Opportunity Director Yolanda Garcia was happy that the campus community came together to reconcile their differences.

"I think what developed was two sets of people becoming one set of students. There was a community of people that emerged in this room, not the *Nexus* community, not the Asian-student community, but a community of students," she said. "The things that happened today will touch people's lives and affect them forever."