Comment Leads to Protesting

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Members of the student body and Isla Vista residents gathered yesterday afternoon to accuse the Daily Nexus of printing racially insensitive information.

Protestors in front of Davidson Library held signs and demanded apologies from the Daily Nexus [We were mistaken] by printing what the source told us without ... substantiating it through another source.

— Marc Valles
Daily Nexus
Editor in Chief

and the I.V. Foot Patrol for a quote made by IVFP office manager Dianna Halliburton that was printed in the newspaper. The demonstration was intended to express the sentiments felt by the Vietnamese and Hmong community who felt the article unfairly represented them, according to protestor and undeclared sophomore Chris Giang.

“The Daily Nexus printing up such a racist statement is like condoning it,” Giang said. “To put unnewsworthy material on the front page, which will drag the names of certain minority groups of the community through the mud, the dumps, that — to us — seems like they are condoning racism.”

The article, which was printed in the Wednesday, March 4 issue of the Daily Nexus, was titled “Number of Dogs in Classes Declining This Year.”

The quote stated, “The problem disappeared after the Vietnam War when the state subsidized housing for Vietnamese and the Mong [sic] in I.V. Not only did the packs disappear, but you couldn’t keep your dog out. You never wanted to look in a dumpster ‘cause you would commonly find heads and other discarded portions [of animals]. Since then the dog population in I.V. has been under wraps.”

At the protest, Daily Nexus Editor in Chief Marc Valles admitted that the lack of information rendered the article invalid and will result in amends made to the Vietnamese and Hmong community.

“[We were mistaken] by printing what the source told us without either substantiating it through another source or allowing somebody with perhaps a more expert opinion to challenge it or by allowing it to be printed at all,” he said. “We’re going to apologize for that.”

See PROTEST, p.9
PROTEST

Continued from p.1

Further dialogue between the protesters and Valles included the manner by which a written apology would be delivered to the public, according to senior English major Son Nguyen.

“We want an official recognition that the Daily Nexus screwed up,” Nguyen said. “We expect this to be on the front page.”

In a prepared statement delivered to the Daily Nexus office, Chancellor Henry T. Yang explained that the concerns of the protestors were shared by many.

“I am deeply concerned by the statement that appeared in the Daily Nexus on [March 4]. This statement perpetuated stereotypes and prejudices in ways that are clear that the faculty, staff and students of this campus take great pride and honor in being part of a diverse community that must be built on mutual respect,” Yang stated.

Another demonstration will be held today at the IVFP Office, according to Giang.

Attempts were made to contact Halliburton, but she was unavailable for comment at press time.

—Staff Writer Jill St. John contributed to this article.