

Roadside Displays Symbolize Traffic Safety Struggle

By Steve Angelides

Roadside memorials to young people killed in motor vehicle accidents have become all too familiar a site in Moraga. So far this year there have been three tragic deaths, each of which was followed by a roadside memorial. Two displays within a few blocks of each other on Moraga Road last week symbolized Lamorinda's ongoing struggle with traffic safety.

At the corner of Moraga Rd. and Devin Dr. stood the colorful memorial to Ryan Holt. Holt, a Moraga resident who had just turned 20, died after an accident at that location on May 18. According to preliminary information provided by the Moraga Police Department, he lost control of his motorcycle, crossed into the opposing lanes, and was struck by an approaching vehicle.

The roadside memorial to Holt included a large poster board filled with pictures and e-mail and handwritten messages. In front of the poster board were many bou-

quets of flowers and a few candles which had apparently been lit during the night. Holt's nickname was "Rye Bread," and several loaves of rye bread were also part of the memorial. The memorial drew a steady stream of visitors last week.

A few blocks down Moraga Rd., near Rheem Blvd., was the Moraga police van. On the side of the police van was a large "Slow Down, Lamorinda!" banner. On the morning of May 21, passers-by noticed something unusual about the police van's banner. Vandals had painted over the "Slow Down" and in its place had scrawled "Speed Up."

Moraga Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal said the police have information on individuals who may have been involved in the vandalism and will be speaking with them. Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf would like to know why anyone would do such a thing. "Whatever the reason," said Metcalf, "it suggests that some-

thing is seriously wrong."

Banners, signs and bumper stickers are part of the education and outreach component of the "Slow Down, Lamorinda!" 12-week traffic safety campaign being conducted jointly by Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. The campaign also includes targeted speed enforcement, and Moraga Police Sgt. Julie Valdez notes that there is "definitely an increase in enforcement activity in non-target areas as well."

Lee Borrowman
contributed to this article.



The memorial to Ryan Holt on Moraga Rd



The vandalized Slow Down banner

Photo by Steve Angelides


5th Annual

Weber Demo Day

Saturday, June 2nd 10-3

Hourly Prize Giveaways

★ ★ see ad page 3 ★ ★



MORAGA
HARDWARE & LUMBER
SINCE 1967

Free popcorn every Sat/Sun 10-3



MON-FRI:
7:30AM-6PM
SAT: 8AM-6PM
SUN: 9AM-5PM
(925) 376-3600
1409 MORAGA WAY
MORAGA SHOPPING CENTER

MORAGA HARDWARE AND LUMBER