



### Paid Advertisements

- Online Exclusive
- News
- Opinion
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Features
- Multimedia

- Features
- Week in Photos
- The Orion on YouTube

- ### Issues
- Past issues by date
  - Old archives (before 2001)

- ### Interact
- Take our reader survey
  - Article comments
  - Message boards
  - Submit a correction
  - Write a letter to the editor

- ### My Account
- Log In
  - My Account
  - Register

Home > Opinion

Paid Advertisements

## Friends will be there for more than basketball, partying, fun

By: **Sarah Schaale**  
Managing Editor

Issue date: 5/5/04 Section: **Opinion**

Print Email Article Tools

Page 1 of 1

A little more than a week ago, Ryan, my roommate from last year and good friend, was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Finding out he was gone made me know what it was like for time to stand still. The air suddenly seemed heavier than usual, and there was only one thing I wanted to do.

Be with my friends.

Ryan was a part of our group of about 20 friends we call "the kids," who all know each other from living in a hectic apartment complex together over the past couple of years.

The day we found out we had lost one of our finest was when I realized that the kids weren't just neighbors. We weren't just flip-cup fanatics who could be won over with a simple 12-pack of Keystone Light. We were more than Laker-haters, more than movie buddies, more than an excessive network of text messagers.

These were my buddies. All there at the same time, in the apartment complex parking lot, all thinking the same thing but not saying a word about our lost friend.

And not only were these my friends, they were now my heroes, too. No one stood there just wallowing in their own grief, but everyone had come to our favorite place to be there for one another.

- Most Commented
- Most Popular
- Most Emailed

## Go Outside The O

- Chico State
- MySpace
- Facebook
- Wildcat Athletics
- YouTube
- Underground Show Info

## Poll

### What do you think of Sigma Kappa being suspended?

They should be suspended because they should have kept an eye on that girl

They should be reprimanded, but not this harshly

It's not Sigma Kappas fault

The media is taking this too far

Don't know/don't care

Submit Vote

[View Results](#)

## Resources

- About The Orion
- Our online content policy
- Alumni
- Staff contact info
- Sign up for email updates
- RSS Feeds
- Order photo reprints
- Advertise in The Orion
- Advertise online
- Apply to work on The Orion (PDF)
- Corrections

There were free hugs to whoever needed one. When the Kleenex ran out, a roll of toilet paper was passed around to wipe red, puffy faces. The boys spent almost an hour tearing wood apart and bringing out extra chairs for the fire pit they had set up for us to gather around.

Even though I couldn't think of a time when I was more sad, I couldn't help but look around and think that the kids were the greatest group of people I knew.

I never expected to be able to count on them the way I know I can now.

I know that any one of them would have answered their phone when I wanted to call in the middle of the night to say I couldn't sleep. They would have skipped class with me so we could go talk about how much we missed Ryan.

I have to admit, I was surprised. Before this happened, it seemed like my friends were just the people I battled with to see who could recite the best movie quotes. They were the people I loved to party with.

We hadn't experienced anything like this before, so we didn't know that all of us would open our doors for each other, no matter what the reason.

It made me realize I have people who mean more to me than just getting together to watch King's games.

Every silly thing we do together has become more meaningful. Whether we are just driving around town or meeting up for lunch after classes, being with them is what I look forward to. I want these times to last forever, because there is very little else I would rather do than be with my friends.

And even though things are going to be different for a while without Ryan around to be a part of those everyday things, he would have been proud of us for making those moments count.

He would have smiled to see all of the kids sitting around the Third and Cedar parking lot, thinking about him and holding each other's hands.

He would have told us that things would get better, to hang in there and that we're lucky we have the people around us that we do.

And that's just what we did for each other.

Sarah Schaale can be reached at:

[managingeditor@orion-online.net](mailto:managingeditor@orion-online.net)

Paid Advertisements

[The Orion's front page](#)

## Article Tools

Share:

Subscribe:



Click for PDF

Other Sections:



Facebook Blogger del.icio.us Yahoo! Google  
i.e.usdigg newsvine

Viewing Comments 1 - 1 of 1

anonymous889

anonymous889

posted 5/13/04 @ 8:30 PM PST

Sarah,

Thank you for your article about Ryan. It is comforting to know how many people loved him, cared for him and was touched by his goofy sense of humor and caring heart.

(Continued...)

[Details](#) [Reply to this comment](#)

### Post a Comment

Name: (required)

Email: (required)

. NOTE: Email address will not be published

Website:

Notify

me of followup comments via e-mail

Type your comment below (html not allowed)

**I am not posting spam.** I understand posting spam or other comments that are unrelated to this article will cause my comment to be flagged for deletion and possibly cause my IP address to be permanently banned from this server.

---

## Issue Summary

### Online Exclusive

- Japan offers exciting venue for learning
- Men's golf wins in Livermore

### News

- Alcohol violations pose problem in student housing
- Beta hazing case to change hands soon
- First local Persian New Year delivers
- Month of March to honor women, gender equality
- Officials warn of danger in Mexico
- Police Blotter
- Pot use down on campus
- Prop 8 back under scrutiny

### Opinion

- Editorial: Drug wars in Mexico raise safety concerns for break
- Editorial: Legality, fairness of Prop 8 questioned
- Humor no excuse for not being PC; cultural respect should be valued
- Letter to the Editor: Sigma Kappa article offends
- Limbaugh's ill wishes in poor taste
- Masturbation exploration key to women's experience
- Pressure to be politically correct puts unnecessary strain on humor
- Preventing rape not just a women's issue; men need education
- Thumbs

### Sports

- Alternatives to alcohol abound;

### Entertainment

- Blue Room to raise the undead
- Environmentalist author to visit campus
- Eric Wendt: Dear Chico
- Horrorscopes: with the all-knowing Shazam
- Mystic Roots return to Chico for reggae rockfest
- Taste Maker: the good, the bad, & the undecided
- University gallery focuses on Asian art
- Wild Oak rocks solid at 1078, bands give Chico a local taste

### Features

- Features special health section

### Multimedia

- Flash: National news
- Audio slideshow: Greek Step Show
- Flash: California Map
- Video: Greek Stroll Competition
- Video: How to make healthful snacks
- Video: Robotic vehicle


- fitness possible
- Baseball: hitting streak not enough
- Men's lacrosse trump aggies
- Natalia Ferruggia: Women no step closer
- Nomadic catcher to reach new heights
- Softball swept away
- Special Olympic ballers
- Track and field pounce on competition
- Women's basketball fail to advance in tournament

National College Advertising and Marketing | Privacy Policy (8/15/07) | Terms of Use (4/28/08)

Content Submission Agreement (8/23/07) | Copyright Compliance Policy (8/25/07) | RSS Terms of Use

© 2007 **The Orion Online**

Powered by **College Publisher**

College Publisher powered by  and 