



SAUL LOEB/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Tucson resident Sara Nicolai has a moment to herself during the singing of "Amazing Grace" last night at a memorial service at the Trinity Presbyterian Church for three professors killed Monday. Nicolai is a member of the Tucson chapter of Healing Touch, an international energy-based therapy organization developed by nurses as a support group.

## Tucsonans gather to share grief, comfort

BY BRITTANY MANSON  
Staff Writer

Between the lightly-colored pews and the marble background of the large copper cross at the front altar of the church, about 100 friends and colleagues gathered to seek comfort in each other following the shootings at the College of Nursing on Monday.

A service was held last night to help the community deal with the College of Nursing shootings Monday.

The service was sponsored by Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Blvd., to serve as a "community resource," said director of congregational life Norman Steffenson.

"People need a place to go and

share and know that they're not alone," he said.

The service included speakers from area churches, the College of Nursing and a member of the Tucson City Council.

"I was in denial and disbelief," said Carol West, Tucson's vice mayor.

See MEMORIAL, Page 6

## Letter reveals bloody motives

BY STEPHANIE SCHWARTZ  
Staff Writer

Robert Stewart Flores Jr. listed numerous grievances against the College of Nursing, from the way professors treated him to problems with administrators, in a 22-page letter he sent to the *Arizona Daily Star* to explain why he killed three nursing professors and himself Monday.

In the letter, titled "Communication From the Dead," Flores wrote that he was behind on bills and child support, never had time to socialize and rather than selling what he had, he would end his life now.

"Greetings from the dead," the letter began. "You have received this letter after a rather horrendous event."

Flores complained about the perceived lack of caring he experienced in the College of Nursing, specifically mentioning two of his victims, Robin Rogers and Barbara Monroe, as well as a member of the nursing college who was not harmed, assistant dean of academic affairs Pam Reed.

Flores wrote that Rogers confronted him with statements documenting complaints from hospital staff about Flores being disrespectful and rude in the job he held as part of his nursing degree.

He added that he began to explain to Rogers that, aside from one complaint, he didn't understand what prompted the complaints.

"Ms. Rogers cut me off and stated that it didn't matter what I did as the statements in themselves showed a trend and that she was failing me in clinicals," he wrote.

Monroe also gave Flores a failing grade, saying that he was unsafe, which made it impossible for him to pay his student loans or renew his nursing license, he said.

"Ms. Monroe stated that 'It doesn't matter,'" he wrote. "The worse insult arrived when she stated I was unsafe. That was the biggest insult."

Students who were in the room when Flores shot Monroe remember Flores saying to Monroe, "Well, it does matter to me," before he shot

See LETTER, Page 6

## Regents discuss new directions

BY JENNY ROSE  
Staff Writer

Tuition was a hot topic on the minds of members of the Arizona Board of Regents yesterday.

Regents met in Tempe to discuss the Changing Directions initiative yesterday, which would allow the three universities to raise tuition, pursue different goals and restrict enrollment.

President Pete Likins presented the Arizona Board of Regents with a description of his Focused Excellence plan, which would limit the number of classes and majors offered at UA, increase admission requirements and possibly increase tuition.

Likins did not present any information to the regents that hinted at which programs could be cut or merged, nor did he quantify new admissions standards or tuition levels for the institution; but he did say the universities haven't done a good job of focusing their course offerings in the past.

"Frankly, that's something the universities don't do well. We haven't done a good job pruning the tree that is our university," he said.

He did, however, come to the meeting with a lengthy reports and graphs on why the regents

See REGENTS, Page 8

## Nursing college reopens Monday

BY RYAN GABRIELSON  
Staff Writer

Almost as quickly as the College of Nursing was fragmented Monday by the shooting death of three of its professors, on Tuesday faculty and university officials began planning to regroup and reopen.

Next Monday, Nov. 4, has been set as a tentative date for classes to resume a normal schedule, said Dr. Raymond Woosley, vice president for health sciences.

Administration officials, including Woosley and Provost George Davis, met with dean of the nursing college Marjorie Isenberg and faculty on Tuesday to determine how students and staff will work through both the emotional and academic

aftereffects of the murders.

"It's very difficult for faculty to deal with this. They are wanting to be leaned on but are finding they have to lean on others," Woosley said. "They're not ready to be victims yet."

Isenberg will be available to nursing students today in two rooms of the Arizona Health Sciences Library, just west of the College of Pharmacy. Woosley said other nursing faculty are also expected to be available to students in the library. Among the professors at the meeting, Davis said the level of enthusiasm to get back in their offices and classrooms varied person by person. Some wanted to get back as soon as the rooms are cleaned.

"Other faculty feel that the space has been so violated they

are tentative about returning so soon," Davis said.

Students are now able to communicate with nursing faculty through a message board on the college's Web site, Davis said.

The UA and Tucson police departments have cleaned the rooms where assistant nursing professors Robin Rogers, Barbara Monroe and Cheryl McGaffic were shot to death by a disgruntled nursing student, Robert Stewart Flores Jr., Woosley said.

The investigation at the College of Nursing is finished, said UAPD Chief Anthony Daykin.

"On a very limited basis we have escorted people back in," Daykin said. Some students and staff have been allowed into the building to retrieve keys, cell phones and other belongings left

behind while evacuating the building that morning.

Isenberg must also find three new instructors to finish out the courses taught by those killed, Davis said. Other professors and members of the nursing community have already volunteered.

"We've got three very major positions to fill. But the faculty that are here are (Isenberg's) major concern right now," Woosley said.

Repairs of 25 doors that police damaged while searching the college for the suspect and other hazards will begin today, said Steve Holland, UA director of risk management.



STACEY STARISLAW/special to the Arizona Daily Wildcat  
A nursing college door damaged by police gunshot stands open. The police shot open all locked doors to secure the building after Monday's shooting.

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