



Community mourns loss of two murdered youth

Those who knew the two victims sang their praises as ideal students, citizens and young people. “These were not bad kids. They were just great to be around. Whoever did this ... they had to be the lowest form of being on the earth.” teacher Steven Orsinel

[GRETCHEN LOSI Staff Writer](#)

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HELENDALE —Christopher Cody Thompson and Bodhisattva “Bodhi” Sherzer-Potter were special kids.

They were stand-outs at school, with the talent and ambition to lead them to success. And they were all-around good kids who loved each other very much.

But news of their murders over the weekend at an abandoned military bunker has shocked their family, friends and teachers, who are mourning the loss of so much potential cut short.

“It’s surreal. You think these things will never happen around you,” said one of their teachers, Steven Orsinelli, of the Lewis Center. “When you know someone and they die such a horrible violent death ... My wife and I cried ourselves to sleep last night.”

Cody, 18, of Apple Valley, and Bodhi, 16, of Helendale, had been dating for about a year, said Bodhi’s mother, Leah Sherzer.

“They were very much in love,” she said.

On Monday, those who knew the two victims sang their praises as ideal students, citizens and young people in our community.

Bodhi was a model 11th-grader at the Lewis Center while also taking a class at Victor Valley College, Sherzer said. She was musically gifted and planned to attend L.A. Film School and dreamed of becoming a film director.

“She had a way of putting life into words in a way that most of us couldn’t,” Sherzer said.

“They were both incredible film makers. The nicest kids you ever met,” Orsinelli said. “These were not bad kids. They were just great to be around. Whoever did this ... they had to be the lowest form of being on the earth.”

Sherzer said her daughter’s bedroom has become a shrine of sorts, where her friends and family are coming to feel close to Bodhi.

“Her room is filled with friends, all who knew her are welcome to come,” she said. “They sing, play songs, pray. It’s theirs. She would want it that way.”

Cody, also a gifted musician and film maker, was an avid outdoorsman too. He loved off-roading and recently bought a used jeep.

“I couldn’t keep him out of the river bottom,” said his mother, Pam Thompson. “And when people would hear him play music they were amazed. He could pick up any instrument and just start playing.”

Cody graduated from the Lewis Center last year and recently began working with his father in the family business as a contractor.

His mother described him as a funny, quick-witted prankster who loved his pets and the outdoors.

“He was always a good boy. He was the easiest kid to raise. Just never a problem,” Thompson said. The couple were as committed to one another as they were to their future goals.

Cody would wake up for work at 4 a.m., work a full day and make it back up the hill in time to pick-up Bodhi from school and bring her home.

“He did this. He was a sweet, sweet kid. He was the frame who framed her,” Sherzer said.

The two were well known in their community and school. Gordon Soholt, principal at the Lewis Center, said the school psychologist will be in all week to counsel the students and staff through this loss.

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