

In Brief

Table setting causes stir at fair

An entry memorializing the Aug. 6, 1945 nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II prompted a mini-controversy Aug. 5 after it was disqualified from the table setting competition at the Ventura County Fair.

Michele Serros and Dean Karadimos entered the table setting, which featured a black table cloth and spray-painted images of a Japanese table-setting that resembled the burned-in shadows left after the attack, in a contest whose theme was “flashback.”

“We thought, what’s the biggest flash we know,” Karadimos said.

But judges at the competition said the entry wasn’t eligible for the competition because it was not “functional,” as there were not dishes present on the table, only the images of dishes. Although the piece was disqualified — and therefore not eligible for the fair’s People’s Choice award either — fair officials decided to leave the entry up with other place settings for fairgoers to view until the next competition, scheduled for today, Aug. 9.

“I didn’t go in vying for a blue ribbon,” Serros said. “I went in to be a participant for the Ventura County fair. As a fourth generation Oxnardian I have always appreciated the table setting and what it represented as a slice of a fellow resident’s life.”

Serros and Karadimos said they heard both positive and negative comments from fairgoers and officials. Fair attendees at the table setting exhibit interviewed by the VC Reporter Aug. 6 had mixed opinions. Although most appreciated the recognition of the attack, which killed approximately 70,000 people immediately, they appeared to have mixed opinions about whether it was in the right venue.

“I give the fair officials so much credit for allowing it to stay up considering that this entry was disqualified,” Serros said.