



SPENCER MARLEY / NEWS-PRESS PHOTOS

# AND THE VOTES ARE IN . . .

UCSB student Jamie Warm performs as part of the rapping duo I.V. Mob on Saturday at UCSB's Embarcadero Hall in a bid to be named "I.V. Idol," but student and solo singer-songwriter Sam Rolens, top left, won the honor and took home the \$100 prize.

## UCSB students strive to be "I.V. Idol"

By **ROB KUZNIA**  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

The crowd enjoyed the a cappella singers and the rapper duo, but it was the solo singer-songwriter who took home the \$100 prize in the final round of "I.V. Idol." But troubadour Sam Rolens didn't make a fuss about the feat. "I didn't know that anyone else knew about it off campus," the UCSB student said. "Now I can buy some

more CDs." Created in the likeness of "American Idol," the hit TV show that has produced stars such as Clay Aiken and Kelly Clarkson, the local contest took place in Embarcadero Hall at a venue called I.V. Live, a weekly variety showcase UCSB launched early last year to provide students an alternative to keggers and frat parties. Saturday's four finalists were winnowed by the judging audience from a field twice as large last week. The show was created in part to

generate interest in I.V. Live; some shows have failed to draw even double-digit crowds. "I don't think we've changed the world here yet," said Ellen Anderson, I.V. Live's assistant public events manager. "The students probably go out after the shows. But at least they have something interesting to talk about. Maybe they've seen a student acting like a monkey on stage. It's art." Indeed, the 90 people in the audience on Saturday night did see members of an improvisational theater troupe make like monkeys on stage in a skit shoehorned between "I.V. Idol"

acts. It's this kind of loosely structured setting that gives some budding artists the courage to try something new. "I do drama in school but don't get parts in all the plays," said Clayton Hoff, one of the monkeys — er, actors — in the theater troupe The I.V. Players. "I get to perform here." That was the case for Mr. Rolens, who hadn't thought much about trying to play local venues until having unexpected success in the contest. Similarly, Jamie Warm and Jason Hardy of the rappers duo I.V. Mob started rapping as a joke in high school, but I.V. Live has encouraged

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**Sam Rolens,**  
UCSB student and singer-songwriter named "I.V. Idol"

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