

La Voz

De Anza College

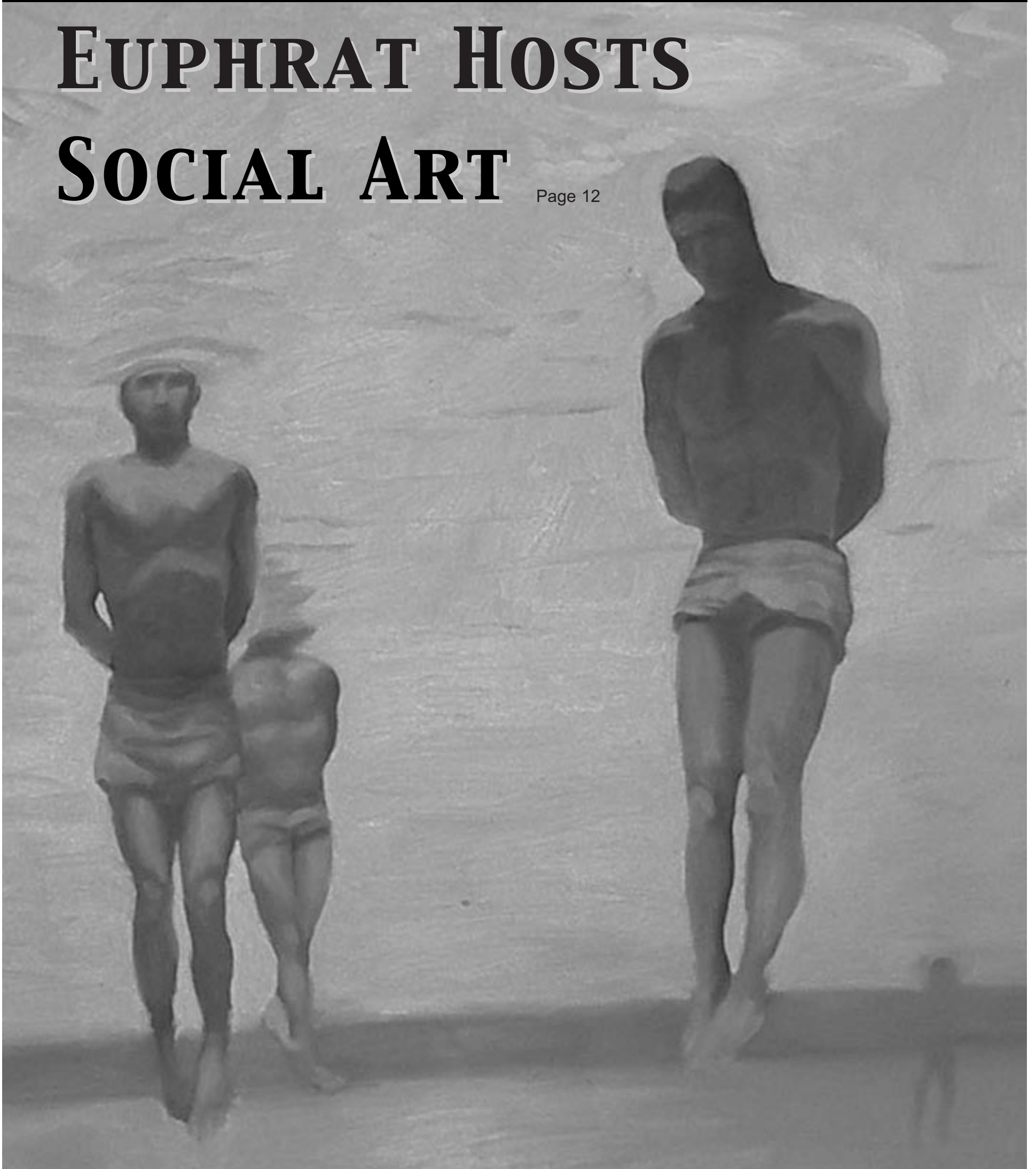
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A FIRST AMENDMENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Vol. 39. Issue 2 - October 10, 2005

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STUDENT LEADERS PASS OFF NO-SMOKING POLICY

BY LILYA MITELMAN
& JAMES SCHULTE
LA VOZ

De Anza College's Student Senate has decided not to take a leadership role in deciding how the school will penalize students who violate the no-smoking policy.

In prior years, the student senate has played a strong role in the campus smoking policy, regularly meeting with De Anza Health Educator Mary-Jo Lomax, unanimously endorsing it last year and funding the no-smoking signs two years ago.

This year, the executive council felt

the senate had more important priorities, said De Anza Associated Student Body President Anna Callahan. "It wasn't our responsibility."

Instead, the senate will follow the leadership of school administration and Lomax. "It's more following leadership than taking leadership," Anna Callahan said.

It would be up to Lomax to recruit students for the campus-wide committee for deciding the punishments, Anna Callahan said. Senators could still participate in the committee "on their own time."

In response, the Inter Club Council

decided to designate a table at next Thursday's Club Day to inform students

about the new smoking policy.

The handling of the no-smoking policy has been handed down from organization to organization and "everyone wants to defer responsibility to somebody else," said ICC Chair Sarah Joy Callahan, Anna Callahan's sister. She decided to make it an ICC project.

At an ICC meeting, Student Nurses Organization ICC Representative Paige Whitney asked why this decision was made, "Why did it get brought down to ICC?"

"Essentially at this point, no one is really doing anything," said Sarah Joy Callahan.

ICC Chair of Finance Mark Schopmeyer said that informing the students about the new policy should be primarily a DASB concern.

"It's a student rights thing. DASB has to look behind who they are, what their objectives are. It just fits the criteria of what they're composed of."

Schopmeyer said that the ICC's main concern should be to focus on clubs. In addition, DASB has significantly more funding than the ICC and the ICC is limited to funding clubs only. "In terms of taking funding from clubs, it's totally outside the guidelines of the code."

"It wasn't our responsibility."

- Anna Callahan
DASB President

"Everyone wants to defer responsibility to somebody else."

- Sarah Joy Callahan
ICC Chair

Tsunami charity changes destination

BY LILYA MITELMAN
LA VOZ

Half a year after holding a tsunami relief fundraiser, the student senate is finally giving the money to a charity – but not to the one they said they would.

Originally, the money raised was going towards rebuilding the Baan Kamala school in Thailand. However, the De Anza College Associated Student Body Senate never got the mailing address for where the \$4716.44 should be sent to, said Vice President of Budget and Finance Sanjeet Heyer.

The person in charge wanted it sent directly to a bank account, which is against De Anza College policy, said John Coggnetta, DASB adviser and director of student activities.

Then, the senate discovered that the school has already been rebuilt.

At last Wednesday's DASB senate meeting, the Budget and Finance Committee recommended to the senate that they donate the money to the Rotary Club of Patong Beach in Thailand with the stipulation that the money be used towards rebuilding schools.

Heyer told the senate that

the committee decided to donate the money to a rotary club because that will allow it to be used towards an educational purpose, which is similar to the charity's original intended destination.

"So we're not really lying and cheating on the people that came to our event," she said.

Senator Zahra Noor objected to the change. "I feel like it's stealing, like it's wrong," she said. "What they thought they're giving their money to, we're not doing that anymore."

"We could be accused of fraud," said DASB President Anna Callahan.

Coggnetta said that there is no way to know if the DASB will be sued but "hopefully" the DASB Senate's explanation will justify changing the charity.

Noor asked if the people that donated will be notified of the change.

Heyer responded that the Budget and Finance Committee's responsibility is only to ensure the money gets allocated but someone else can take on the responsibility if they choose to do so.

The senate voted 15 to two to donate the money to the rotary club. The motion will go through a second vote this week.

DASB Senate

Nominations open for vice president

The student senate will hold a nomination session to elect a new Vice President of Student Rights and Campus Relations at this Wednesday's meeting.

All DASB members are eligible to run for the office. The meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Council Chambers located on the lower level of the Hinson Campus Center.

Nominations will close at the meeting and the election will be held at next Wednesday's meeting.

Usually, in the case of a vacancy, the vice chair of a committee will take the place of the vice president. However, no committee was ever formed since the vice president was never sworn in.

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Long lines for books, counseling

NEW DE ANZA BUILDING OVERCROWDED DURING FIRST WEEK

By KAYLA HILTON
LA VOZ

Fewer bookstore registers and consolidation of services resulted in long lines during the first week of school.

The previous bookstore location had 22 registers while the new one has 14, said Bookstore Director Deryl Jones.

In addition, since the bookstore was closed and moving to its new location this summer, the usual training process for cash registers did not occur so less employees were available to staff the cash registers, said bookstore employees.

Other services, such as the transfer center and the career center, were previously located in other areas of the campus but are now in the Student and Community Services Building with the admissions services.

Originally, the Student and Community Services Building had a larger design to accommodate the additional services but it had to be scaled down due to

budget cuts.

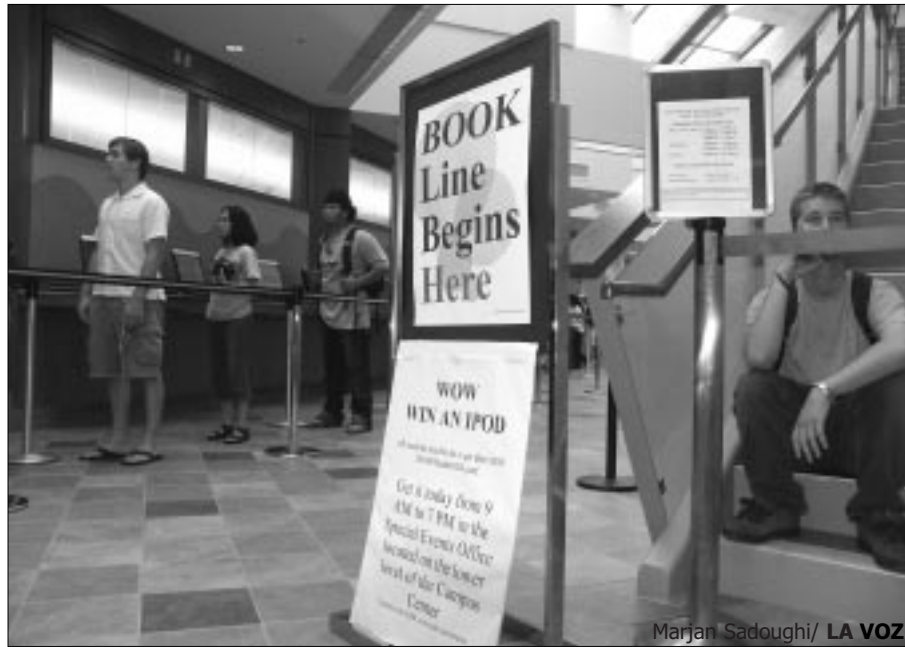
Administrators anticipated long lines and attempted to guess the number of students they would be serving the first week but did not expect "massive congestion," said Jones.

As a result of the long lines, the bookstore line was rerouted upstairs and the counseling line was moved to the other side of the stairs.

"Starting next week we will have meetings over the next month to work it out with all four [deans]," said Jones. "But we should have it figured out by November. The bookstore will have to make the most major changes."

Administrators are trying to have a plan before winter quarter so that students don't have to wait in the rain due to long lines winding outside the building.

"I don't foresee those long lines next quarter," said Dean of Counseling Howard Irving. "We are still in transition into the new building, so that first week we were still moving boxes and we had no furniture.



Marjan Sadoughi/ LA VOZ

Students wait in line for the Cashier's Office, Admissions and Records and the bookstore in the Student and Community Services Building during the first week of school.

There were some areas in the building where we could not let the students because of liabilities."

Irving said the liabilities have since been removed and there are now seats on the counseling floor

so as to avoid long lines downstairs. He also said that student services building staff members are readjusting their hours to better serve students.

Despite long lines, the Student and Community Services

Building is off to a good start, according to Counselor Adrienne Pierre. "It's a nice central location but it takes some getting used to," said Pierre. "It's like a maze: it's hard to tell the best way to direct a student."

How well did the new student center handle the back-to-school rush?



"The lines were huge! It took more than half an hour just to get to the cashier's desk, and the lines at the bookstore were even longer."

- Rocy Cortes



"The lines for the admissions/ records/ cashier were okay at the beginning of the quarter, but the bookstore's lines were outrageous. They need to have more people manning the registers and stuff so that students don't have to wait in line forever."

- Daniel Anderson



"The lines were horrible, and the lines were so ridiculously long the first week that I and a lot of people I know went across the street to Aida's bookstore."

- Katie Vieira



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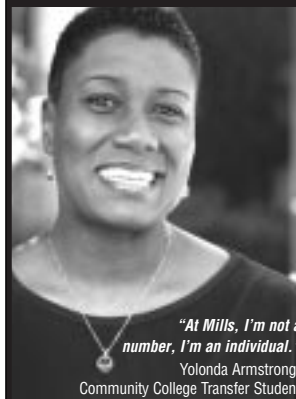
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RAMADAN

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar (which measures time by the lunar cycle).

The Fast of Ramadan lasts the entire month. During daylight hours, followers of the faith refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and sexual relations.

**BY LILYA MITELMAN
LA VOZ**

The Muslim Student Association will be hosting Ramadan events this month.

Starting last Wednesday and lasting through Nov. 4, Muslim students will be fasting from sunrise to sunset. The MSA will have iftaars, the evening meal breaking the fast, Mondays through Thursdays in meeting rooms one and two in the Hinson Campus Center. Hala Hyatt, a member of MSA's Ramadan Committee, said that students will be providing the meals because it is a blessing to feed someone who is fasting.

Muslim rappers and other entertainers will be performing this Monday and on Oct. 26 in the patio area of the Hinson Campus Center.

The MSA will bring in speakers to inform students about Islam and Ramadan this and next Thursday at noon. As of last week, the event locations were in the process of confirmation, said Hyatt.

On Oct. 27, the MSA will have a banquet in Conference Rooms A and B in the Hinson Campus Center.

"The Art of Giving," an art show the MSA will offer on Nov. 3 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature Muslim student and non-student art. The show will

be held in one of the conference rooms in the Hinson Campus Center, said Hyatt.

In addition, the club will hold a fast-a-thon where they will ask non-Muslims to pledge to join the fast for a day for charity. The MSA will ask local businesses to donate money for every person who fasts. The money raised will be donated to the relief effort for Hurricane Katrina, said Hyatt.

To promote the month's events, MSA members will be making classroom presentations and handing out flyers. Ramadan events are funded by the De Anza Associated Student Body's Multicultural Fund.

On the evening of the 27th day of the month, Muslims celebrate the Laylat-al-Qadr (the Night of Power). This marks the night Muhammad first received the Holy Quran. According to the Quran, this is when God determines the course of the world for the following year.

jkcook.net/

ICC organizes new toothbrush drive

**BY SCOTT LIPSIG
& LILYA MITELMAN
LA VOZ**

The Inter Club Council is coordinating a toothbrush drive starting today and ending Oct. 28.

Students can donate new toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, hand sanitizer, lotion, shampoo and conditioner, soap, baby wipes, face wash, combs and other personal care products. Drop boxes are located in the Student Activities office.

ICC Chair Sarah Joy Callahan said that she wants clubs to participate in global causes and think about the things they take for granted.

The donated material will be given

to a personal friend of Callahan's who will travel to Indonesia with missionaries in November to teach hygiene and beauty classes. Callahan did not release the friend's name.

Callahan said that donating the materials to a person instead of an organization is better because it allows the opportunity for physical contact with the person. "I think it's much more secure," she said.

The club that donates the most materials will win \$100. In addition, there will be a \$50 drawing for the rest of the clubs who participate. Callahan recommends that clubs give their donated materials directly to the ICC officers or the ICC Advisor La Donna Yumori-Kaku to avoid the

theft problems plaguing last year's eyeglass drive. Allegedly, some clubs stole other clubs' donated eyeglasses in order to win the reward.

"The point is not the \$100," said Callahan. Last year, some clubs were more focused on the monetary rewards than the emotional rewards, she said.

The drive is replacing the unsuccessful food and coat drive the ICC held in prior years. However, some doubt that the toothbrush drive will prove more successful. "I think that it is easily possible that they will be giving away more money in awards than they receive in toothbrushes," said Jews, Israelis and Friends ICC Representative Ryan Medeiros.

Upcoming Campus Events

Career Workshops | October 11, 12 | 2 - 3 p.m.

The Career Center is hosting workshops through this month.

"The Best You on Paper - Resume" workshop will be held on Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Career Center located on the upper level of the Student and Community Services Building.

On Wednesday, the "Prepare, Prepare for the Job Fair" workshop will be held at the same time in the same place. The job fair will be held next Thursday.

Club Karaoke | October 11 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Inter Club Council will hold its quarterly Club Karaoke event this Tuesday.

The event will take place in the patio area outside the Hinson Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All students are invited to perform, said ICC Chair of Programs Hala Hyatt. The event is to promote next Thursday's Club Day and involvement in clubs.

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A face in the crowd

DE ANZA ALUMNUS THON DENG WENT FROM REFUGEE TO COLLEGE DEGREE

BY KAYLA HILTON
INSIDER

“War orphan.” “Lost boy.” “Refugee.” All of these words have been used to describe 27-year-old De Anza College alumnus Thon Deng, but none come close to describing this self-assured, unassuming, good-natured young man from Sudan whose favorite movie is “Shrek” and his favorite character is “Donkey.”

Deng is a member of the Dinka Bor nation in Africa. When he was nine years old, he escaped the genocide carried out by the Sudanese government by fleeing to neighboring Ethiopia.

Deng, along with many other Sudanese refugees, are now collectively known as the “Lost Boys of Sudan,” the name used by United Nations aid workers monitoring their flight.

Like the other boys, he spent the rest of his childhood shuttling between Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. Deng’s journey eventually led him to San José.

Temporarily housed in a rent-free, one-bedroom apartment by Catholic charities, Deng immediately began to think about his future. Not knowing exactly what direction he wanted his life to take, he knew that he needed a college education.

The church came through for him again. Two days after he arrived, a priest brought him to De Anza.

“I met good people when I came here, so I like it at De Anza. I feel welcome here,” Deng says. While at De Anza he joined the Salt Works Club, a Christian student organization. Spirituality and religion are essential to him.

“I have lived in the Episcopal church most of my life; I am the first in my family to embrace Christianity. Westerners came in when the

war started and Christianity became important.”

Deng’s personal choice of Christianity differs from the mainstream in that he incorporates traditional Dinka beliefs. Both belief systems stress the importance of family and community, and Deng exemplifies these ethics.

For example, he was one of the people who tried to start a Black Student Union at De Anza. “I wanted a place where we could bring all blacks together, Africans and African Americans, a place where the whole black community could be under one voice,” Deng said.

Deng is also very involved in the Lost Boys community in the Bay Area. He spent time in Nairobi and San Francisco translating for the award-winning documentary “The Lost Boys of Sudan.”

His involvement with this project led him to speaking engagements in Washington, DC and at Stanford University. At these conferences, he spoke of his experiences and helped solicit donations for a fund to help the Lost Boys.

With money earned from this and other fundraising events, the Sudanese students started a bank account they still have today. They mostly use the money to buy books for school. Because Deng’s free rent situation lasted only three months, he, like many De Anza students, needed a part-time job in order to survive.

“Thon is a great guy, exceptionally polite,” says his FedEx Kinko’s coworker Matt “MJ” Whittington. Even when his experiences with customers are far from positive, Deng maintains a positive outlook. “One lady said to me, ‘Don’t touch my order with your black hand.’ It made me feel bad, but I just told her, ‘You need to be careful talking like that.’ Racism has



Thon Deng

affected my life largely. I feel bad if I look back into memories, but I have gotten used to it.”

The war in Sudan is largely race-based, pitting the Islamic north against the Christian and Animist south. Deng lost both of his parents and four of his seven siblings to the genocide.

The current peace treaty, signed in July, divides power between the north and south, ending the north’s domination of Sudanese government.

This treaty, though strained by the death of former southern rebel leader and current Vice President John Garang in July, gives Deng hope for lasting peace in Sudan.

Even though Deng has fulfilled the wish of most American kids by going to Disneyland, he has not fulfilled all of his own wishes. He is happy to be going to San Jose State University this fall. He wants to go back to Sudan and use his education to help his family and community.

“My family is on my shoulders; they are not going to leave that spot if I stay here. When I’m done with school I might try and live here but I feel like I will be a better help if I am [in Sudan].”

New ID card to be smarter and faster

BY KATHERINE NGUYEN
LA VOZ

“Free iPods!” “Enter a sweepstakes for money!” These cries were heard throughout the cafeteria on the first day of school as new and continuing students lined up for their brand-new student ID cards.

The De Anza College Student Body cards are new in design and function this quarter. During the first week of school, lines wrapped around the Fireside Dining Room where old IDs were exchanged for new IDs. For students who have procrastinated, the lines are now under the Hinson Campus Center, near the café.

The card can be used for discounts at various Cupertino stores and restaurants including, Taco Del Mar, Erik’s Deli Café, Subway Sandwiches, Carl’s Jr., Homestead Lanes, Coffee Society and Coldstone Creamery.

The card also features a smart money chip where students can deposit money for usage in the Open Media Lab, library and a few vending machines on campus.

More than 6,000 students obtained their card during the first two weeks of school and a projected 12,000 total will have their new card by the end of the quarter, said Casey Dick, special events coordinator.

“The old system had too much redundancy and was poorly organized,” Dick said.

“Each card production station required three computers, three monitors and three keyboards. That was in effect for four years while EFM, Inc. ran the process. When we took over the system two years ago as far as production, we put everything on one computer, one monitor and one keyboard.”

The transition has been very smooth, according to

Dick. “We found that this card has a better system. It is faster and easier to produce and is less expensive than the previous system.”

The old system took five minutes to produce one card, but the new system, with new capture technology, will take only one and a half minutes per card. So don’t worry; the lines may be long but they won’t make you miss lunch.

“The old ones didn’t work and never operated properly,” said John Cagnetta, director of student activities.

“It didn’t take any more new money but just a little more thinking,” Dick said.

The main difference besides a more appealing design is that the card will be updated automatically whenever it is used for the library or vending machines, when before, it did not contain information about whether a student was registered or not.

“The card has endless possibilities but it has to be phased in. Students have to be patient so we can get all the services on board,” said Cagnetta.

Services the card may eventually feature include network printing, voting for student elections, door entry, lab entry, meal plans, bookstore payments, and portals for students to check their balance, information and more.

“I think it is a platform we can expand and grow with,” Cagnetta said.

Students who are clinging to last year’s memory-filled cards will have to let go, since they will not be valid with the new system. Any leftover money will be transferred to the new card account.

Cards are free for both new and continuing students. Lost and expired cards can be replaced for a small fee.

Student Activities Administrative Assistant Dennis Shannakian designed the card, that showcases De Anza’s architecture and landscape.

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Shofar Shop

JIF HOSTS SHOFAR FACTORY IN CELEBRATION OF HOLIDAY

BY KATHERINE NGUYEN
LA VOZ

Loud rock music blasted as work gloves, sandpaper, metal clamps, saws, sanding machines and paint were all available for students to use to make the traditional shofar, a round Jewish instrument made from a ram's horn, in the main quad.

In celebration of Rosh Hashanah, Jews, Israelis, and Friends, a De Anza College Jewish club, hosted the event with a shofar factory last Thursday from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm for anyone who wanted to participate and learn about the holiday and its cultural traditions.

Last Wednesday and Thursday was Rosh Hashanah, literally meaning the "head of the year," ushering in the new Jewish calendar year with a celebration. After ten short days, known as "The Days of Awe," will be Yom Kippur, a day of fasting.

"These two holidays are huge; it's like Christmas and Easter, just ten days apart," said Rebbecca Reice, JIF adviser and JCSC fellow for Hillel of Silicon Valley.

Shofar making has plenty of purposes during the holiday season but the most well-known is that it symbolizes the binding of Abraham in the Torah.

In the story, God wanted to test Abraham's faith and so asked him to sacrifice one of his sons. Abraham followed God's request but at the last minute, God replaced the Abraham's son with a goat. The shofar became a symbol of forgiveness and repentance.

"The sound of the shofar is expected to be heard when the Messiah comes," Reice said. "It is there to remind us that we have

apologies to make and relationships to work on so the new year will start off with a clean slate."

To make the horn, the end is sawed off for an opening and then smoothed with sandpaper. An optional acrylic protective finish is painted on for durability. The last and final step is to test it out by blowing it as hard you can.

The shofar is blown somewhat like a trumpet and should have a deep sound. There was more than 45 horns available for students to make.

"We had a very generous grant from DASB so we were able bring a chabad rabbi on campus who was familiar with the process of creating shofars," said Ryan Medeiros, JIF vice president.

Beside the work area was a small booth with promotional pamphlets, Israeli candy and traditional apples dipped in honey for anyone with a sweet tooth. The sweets are to symbolize a wish for a sweet new year.

Some of the reasons for the event's appeals range from curiosity and interest to unique music and free sweets. Blaring on the speakers was a live performance of the band The Jews.

"It sounded very interesting and I always had a deep interest in other cultures since childhood. I feel that it is a responsibility to be an active participant," said Michaelina Zmijewski, ICC secretary.

A simpler reason, student Daniel Reynolds thought it would be "cool to try something new."

On the event, Medeiros said, "It was very successful and we had a huge turnout of Jews and gentiles alike. [JIF] was able to promote the club to those who were interested and wanted to get more involved."



Marjan Sadoughi (9) / LA VOZ



Left: Naoya Kishida, Aaron Levin and various students put on their protective finish for their newly-made shofars. The finish will help the shofar last longer and be more durable.



Far left and left: Students watched as Rabbi Yisroel Hecht helps them with their shofar making by sanding and drilling holes into it. This makes it easier and safer for the students to use. Middle left: Andy Kennedy holds the shofar down for his friend, Mishga Sohrabi, as she tries to cut the tip off. Work gloves, miniature saws and clamps were provided by Jews, Israelis, and Friends, a religious club on the De Anza College campus. Bottom right: left to right, Andrew Zzeptowski and Van Tram enjoy trying out their new shofars. JIF club members were also available to give out tips and advice on blowing the shofars and the Jewish holiday, Rosh Hashanah.



Shofar crafting made simple (from left to right): Rabbi Hecht saws off the tip with the horn clamped to the table. Then, he drills a hole and sands it down for smoothness. Finally, he inspects the width of the hole and length of the horn before giving a powerful blow to the shofar.



Dons go to Texas

BY NICOLE PYLES
LA VOZ

What is most unusual about De Anza College's men's soccer team is the partnership they formed with the Richland Community College in Dallas, Texas in 1997. Every other year since then, the soccer team has engaged in a rivalry that spans 1,700 miles.

The partnership first began when Sean Worley, former assistant coach to Head Coach Kulwant Singh at De Anza from 1992 to 1993, was hired as Head Coach for the Richland soccer team.

"When he was hired there, we thought it would be fun to play each other," said Singh.

One of the partnership's perks includes the fact that Richland is a three-time defending National Champion in the National Junior College Athletic Association.

Richie Gharapetian, one of the captains for the De Anza soccer team, said the other team is more of a rival now, since the first game De Anza lost and the second game tied.

"They are the most challeng-

ing team we've played," Gharapetian said.

The soccer team is able to take this trip every other year by raising money from soccer camps and clinics.

"It is more of a challenge because they are a team we play out of our region."

"When we travel," Singh said, "we go before school starts so the athletes don't miss any classes."

De Anza plays in the Commission on Athletics, an organization of California community college soccer teams playing primarily against other California colleges.

Singh said it is very common in sports during a non-league season for teams to play against each other but that it is "very

uncommon for a California community college to go out of state to play against a team."

By playing against the Richland soccer team, they will benefit greatly from such diverse experience in future games.

"It brings us to the highest level because they are champs, and we get to see where we are against the whole nation," Gharapetian said.

Osby Gonzales, mid-fielder and another De Anza soccer team captain, said the competition was tougher, and that the Richland team had "better-skilled players than what we usually play."

Gharapetian says playing the team benefits them "because they're champs and we get to see where we are against the whole nation." Gonzales feels the same. "It picks up our level of playing as a team," he says. The competition between the two teams is definitely different for the players. Gharapetian says, "It is more of a challenge because they are a team we play out of our region."

Outside of the soccer field, though, Worley and Singh "talk soccer", and exchange strategies and techniques. "He's my assistant and he has developed into a very good head coach," he says, "We spend as much time together as we can, like any two friends."

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There's too much at stake to cheat

Financial pressures are ratcheting up the tension for us as we try to complete their educational plans. Community colleges, traditionally the first to be squeezed by statewide budget pressures, have been forced to raise our fees. More than that, though, the cost of basic needs, like gas, health insurance and credit card payments, is also skyrocketing.

What this means is that we have to work more and borrow more to pay the same bills, shortchanging our schoolwork to do so. With this comes the temptation to shortcut, to plagiarize and to cheat. This temptation is seductive as we desperately search for relief in our overstressed lives.

But to do this only sells our education short. We can rationalize cheating by saying it's a way to stay afloat as we make our way through a difficult set of circumstances. We can look all around our society and see that we hold up the

best cheaters as positive examples. The actors we admire have fake tans and facelifts. The athletes we idolize take performance enhancers. The politicians we vote for take dirty campaign money and steal elections.

So why not give in? If we decide to cheat, we reduce our education to a commodity. Going to class becomes the same as punching the clock at our jobs. The life is drained from the learning process and when we pass through college, we join the ranks of the degreed idiots.

However, we only cheat ourselves. The world we live in is one where apathy rules the day. A large population of Americans feels left out of the political process. Our brains are deadened by mindless television, our bodies weighed down by the junk we eat. Commodifying our education only serves to continue this state of apathy.

Consequently, we are unprepared to

face the tough questions of today. And there won't be a chance to retake the test. How are we going to develop alternative energy sources when oil becomes too expensive? How are we going to deal with the ethics of bioengineering and cloning? How are we going to diminish the threat of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction? How are we going to seriously address the social problems of the Third World?

It's going to take the cooperation of many knowledgeable people to even begin answering these questions. But we won't even be able to try if we don't take our education seriously. The circumstances are difficult, but there are several resources we can use to help us out, such as the Tutoring Center, the Reading and Writing Center, the Kirsch Center and the library. In the end, the burden falls upon us to use these resources in preparation for the final exam called life.

De Anza Voices

COMPILED BY MOUMITA CHAKRABORTY
 AND DALEEN SAAH
 LA VOZ

What do you think of De Anza's pay-to-stay policy?



"It's very unreasonable. The administration is surely aware that many De Anza students have tight budgets, and that it's hard for them to pay a lot of money in a short period of time."
 — Valerie Post



"It's okay. Students need to take responsibility and plan ahead for how they're going to pay for classes."
 — Marina Brinks



"Everyone should do it — we're supposed to be able to make decisions and know how to uphold them by now."
 — Steven Tapia



"I have more important things to worry about than how to pay for school, like how I'm going to support my family, and I know that lots of other students feel that way too. The administration should understand that."
 — Arthur Yllan

Front page painting by Richard Godinez
 Photographed by Scott Lipsig

Hand picked

BUSH'S CHOICE FOR COURT FITS CORRUPTION CULTURE



JAMES NEWBURG

In nominating his personal lawyer for the Supreme Court, George W. Bush showed his true colors by following the philosophy that defines his White House — corruption and cronyism *uber alles*.

Most of the focus on Harriet Miers has been on what she is not. Conservatives and liberals look at her record but find no paper trail — no written opinions, arguments or notes to indicate much of anything about her legal philosophy. For a Bush White House riddled by scandal, the lack of a paper trail is a point in her favor. If she can follow the John Roberts playbook of stonewalling during her confirmation hearings, Miers will likely sail through without much of a fight.

So, back to the main question. Just who is Harriet Miers?

First, let's look at the corruption that marks her career as a corporate trial lawyer. While she was president of the Dallas law firm Locke, Liddell and Sapp, the firm helped the head of a foreign currency trading company defraud investors out of \$34 million before being convicted of running a pyramid scheme. From 1996 to 1998, the law firm ignored signs of fraud from the company they were representing. Furthermore, they used their private trust fund to direct investor money to the company head. In 2000 and 2001, the law firm paid over \$30 million in class-action settlements to the people who were defrauded. Miers denied the firm's liability in this massive fraud.

Her firm also has ties to Congressman Tom DeLay, an indicted money launderer and criminal conspirator, donating money to his legal defense fund. Some watchdog groups have referred to DeLay as the most corrupt politician in Washington. They credit him for being the mastermind behind the most corrupt Congress in American history.

From this, we can conclude that Miers ascribed to the Enron School of

Business Management at her law firm (suggested logo: an ostrich with its head stuck in the sand). But what about her ties with Bush?

We know that Bush paid Miers \$19,000 in 1998 to research his service history in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War. The allegation, debated at length in the 2004 election campaign, was that a prominent Texas politician, Ben Barnes, used his influence to get Bush into TANG in order to avoid service in Vietnam. Bush served in the same unit as the sons of the then-Governor of Texas and both of its Senators, as well as several members of the Dallas Cowboys.

A year before Miers' investigation, she was the head of the Texas Lottery Commission. During this time, the contract was about to expire for the operator of the lottery, a company called GTech. It was doubtful that GTech's contract would be renewed, as the company was being investigated in a bribery scandal. Their main lobbyist at the time? Ben Barnes, the politician who helped Bush avoid Vietnam.

Before the contract renewal, GTech sent Barnes packing. But cushioning his fall was the \$23 million the company gave him as a severance package. Despite receiving lower bids from two companies, the Miers-led Texas Lottery Commission renewed their contract with GTech.

Either that's a heck of a coincidence or a most skillful (and massive) payoff of hush money. If it were a payoff, it would help to explain Miers' status as a loyal member of the Bush inner circle.

Above all else, though, what it comes down to is this: do we want to trust someone who called Bush "the most brilliant man I have ever met" with a seat on the Supreme Court? Can someone who is such a craven hack for her political patron exercise the independence and intelligence needed to decide the most important court cases? Not in a million years.

And that's exactly what Bush is betting on. Much like him, Harriet Miers is an empty suit (or robe, as the case may be) to be controlled by powerful politicians and corporate interests.

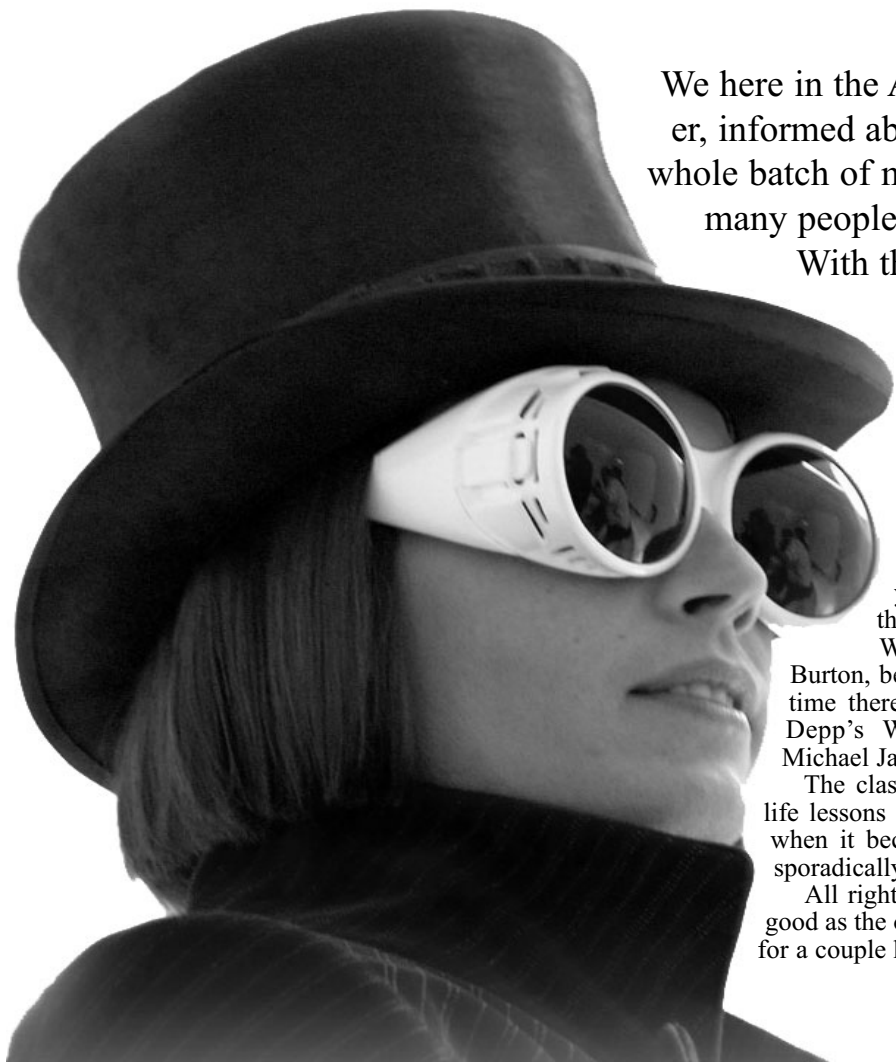
You have to wonder if Bush is smart enough to notice the irony of that.

Then again, this is the same man who thought that inspecting show horses for liposuction made Mike Brown qualified to coordinate disaster relief.

QUASI-FANTASTIC FILMS

BY DAVID GUNDERSON
LA VOZ

We here in the A&E room of La Voz feel it's our civic duty to keep you, the reader, informed about what to do for fun. So every year it pains us that we miss a whole batch of movies during the summer. Were they good? Were they bad? How many people went and saw Alexander because we weren't there to warn you? With that in mind, we've prepared a summary of the big summer blockbusters. You can thank us later.



WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Remember that movie about thirty years back called "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory"?

Well, apparently neither does Tim Burton, because he's made it again. Only this time there's no Gene Wilder. Instead Johnny Depp's Willy Wonka is a cross between Michael Jackson and...Michael Jackson.

The classic story of bratty children learning life lessons the hard way also loses some luster when it becomes obvious that the children are sporadically replaced with cheap CGI.

All right, let's face it - this one's just not as good as the original. But if you can set that aside for a couple hours it's still a good story.



FANTASTIC FOUR

A little-known fact in Fantastic Four history is that this was the second movie adaptation from the original comic book. The first was so bad that when the studio got back it's finished product, the executives decided it would be better to lose all of the money they'd invested than destroy their reputations by releasing the movie. And because of that qualifying information we know that this movie could have been worse than it was. But since nobody on staff has ever seen that version, we couldn't say how. Doctor Doom grows metal armor out of his skin, and Mr. Fantastic's genius has landed him in the poorhouse, yet he somehow manages to maintain possession of a downtown New York office building despite his poverty. Because we all know how inexpensive those are.

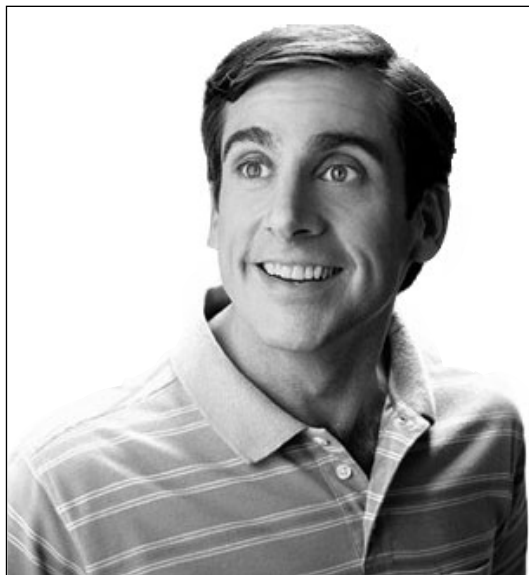
The plot is this: Reed Richards, the Fantastic Four's eventual leader, takes his friend, his ex-girlfriend, and her brother up into a space station owned by Victor Von Doom. And then something sciency happens and they all turn into superheroes. While the Four spend all of their time trying to find a way to reverse their condition, Victor decides he's going to kill them all. There's a fight, Doom loses, and everyone decides they're going to keep their powers. That's it. If you already saw this movie and expected it to be good, let's all join together and write a letter to the studio telling them that if the best joke in your movie is the old shaving-cream on the hand gag, you desperately need a rewrite.



WEDDING CRASHERS

Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson (who knows the names of any of their characters, anyway?) have found the holy grail of meeting women: Weddings.

As the story opens they're using wedding season like last call at a dive bar and carving a swathe through all the bridesmaids on the east coast. Around thirty minutes in you'll start to wonder if what they're doing is morally wrong, and the director addresses that issue head-on. He addresses it by spending the next hour beating them both senseless. The only thing better than watching bad things happen to people is watching bad things happen to people who really, really deserve them. Also look for the Will Ferrell appearance and ask yourself if Owen Wilson can make a movie without having Ferrell as a guest star.



THE 40-YEAR OLD VIRGIN

Ever have one of those nights when no matter how many drinks you send over or how much you spent on your fancy clubbing clothes, you can't get anyone's attention? Yeah, us either. But Steve Carrel has, and plays Adam Stitzer, who's had it for 40 years.

You'll spend the first twenty minutes of this movie feeling bad about laughing at his pain, but by then you'll have laughed so much that the oxygen would have not made it to your brain, so the guilt fades.

Oh, and by the way - that was real chest hair.



YOU NEED "MORE DEEP CUTS"

BY JARROD PAGAN
LA VOZ

More Deep Cuts by Thee More Shallows might be the best Indie album to come out this year. The second full-length effort from this San Francisco-based band is amazing from start to finish.

From note one, a haunting theme begins to work its way through every track. Be it a slight dissonance that rides through the background, a well-placed

singing saw harmony or an ascending violin's wail, these pieces coalesce into an alternating element of beauty and unease that weaves through the melody.

"2AM" showcases a hypnotizing xylophone line that lays the foundation for a vibrantly melancholy ride through one mans' distressing and sleepless night.

"Cloisterphobia" finishes what "Freshman" begins as it builds its minor-laced guitar progression into a sonic dirge. With lines like, "If you have not made your bed/it doesn't matter/you can bang

away; bang away/nobody's going to stop you now," the frustration of futility transforms into the song's driving catharsis.

A feeling of innocence struggles to pervade the album, but every aspect is also more mature and calculated. The band takes their time - an ability vastly unappreciated in today's ADD-ridden culture - but with no trace of self-indulgence or egotism. There's no debating that this band has a couple of Radiohead CDs in their home catalog. An occasional twinge of Ben Gibbard (Death Cab for Cutie and The

Postal Service) can also be heard in the vocals, but every second seems genuinely wrenched from its players.

Soon to be re-released is "The History of Sport Fishing," the band's first out-of-print effort; and their EP, "Two More Cuts" is still currently available.

Thee More Shallows is definitely a band to keep on the radar. This CD should find its way into your stereo or iPod, not because you consider yourself an Indie fan, but because you consider yourself a music fan.

Social catalysts' exhibit debuts at Euphrat

NATURE, SOCIAL COMMENTARY CONVEY THE THEME OF CHANGE

BY DAVID GUNDERSON
LA VOZ

If you haven't found it yet, the Euphrat Museum of Art is located in the arts wing of campus facing the side doors of the Flint Center. Tucked away in that inconspicuous location, walking into the Euphrat is an experience almost like turning the corner on a city street to find you've wandered into Golden Gate Park. And that's probably an impression they'd like.

Tuesday marked the opening of the museum for their current exhibition, Change 2005/2006. Comprising Artists as Catalysts for Change and Revisioning the Museum explore the nature of change in the arts community.

While the Euphrat currently sits hidden in the center of the campus, they are planning a new building. The theme of change not only reflects that move but invites visitors to be a part of it. The new building will be made to interact with the community and with input from anyone who wants to give it. Says Euphrat Director Jan Rindfleisch, "This is a very complicated project. It's not just 'give it to the architect.'" The area displaying informa-



Above: "Disciples" by Richard Godinez juxtaposes meditation and military training. At right: Nancy Hom's work for political, social and community events.



tion about the building will change as decisions are made.

Of the artists featured, two are new to the De Anza College faculty. Juliana Kang displays large paintings, works that inspire a feeling of controlled chaos. Her current works are based on track-patterns she observes in the natural world. In

observing those pieces it becomes easy to find yourself trying to see what is reflected in each line, each groove. Moto Ohtake is another artist to join the faculty this year whose inspiration is aspects of nature. Ohtake is exhibiting in small scale his kinetic sculpture "Stellar Motion." "Change" also displays work from

other artists including Tony May, whose design for a public art piece is now part of Guadalupe River Park, Nancy Hom, who has 30 years of experience in the non-profit field, and Richard Godinez, whose painting entitled "Disciples" graces the cover of this week's issue of *La Voz*.

Sci-fi Western Serenity proves chaotic

BY JAMES SCHULTE
LA VOZ

The roller-coaster ride of the television show *Firefly* has made for one of the more surprising blockbusters of the summer. *Serenity* made it to the big screen because a loyal band of fans became upset that their favorite show was cancelled.

It all started on Fox fall 2002's line up, a quirky sci-fi/Western that had a narrow, but deep, impact. It had those elements that could have made it a legend.

It was a sci-fi show, for only they garner this kind of following. A fanatic fan base that only seems to grow larger by the day.

Its creator was one man with a fully realized vision of his world, and he was willing to try anything to get it to the fans. It featured actors who not only sympathized with their characters but also enjoyed bringing them to life.

The show was *Firefly*, a short run sci-fi series that has started down the same path to fame as its forefather, *Star Trek*: cancelled and called back by the fans, then turned into a movie. Not to mention the novelizations, comics, toys, and other memorabilia lines. *Firefly*, now known as *Serenity*, is in its second phase: The BDM, or "Big Damn Movie," as the fans now call it.

The fans' loyalty did not wane, even as the final show

went off the air. Calling themselves Browncoats, the most dedicated fans formulated an elaborate campaign to resurrect *Firefly* in some form. They demanded action, essentially making it a membership requirement. Joining the Browncoats required sending a postcard to Fox, writing a review, or donating money to something *Firefly*-related.

Browncoats have been there for every step. The movement started in October of 2002 when low ratings were announced. A fan-initiated postcard campaign convinced the network to order two more episodes while other fans were engaged in a publicity campaign.

Despite these efforts, Fox put

Firefly on hiatus in November. In response, fans collected \$4,500 to place an ad in *Variety* pleading for the show. Their efforts were in vain; Fox stopped production in December.

DVD sales were the true pocketbook revolution. The year following cancellation, Fox's home entertainment division released the complete series of *Firefly*. Fans came through big time.

Due to high DVD sales, buzz began about the possibility of a movie. The Internet hummed with activity as the Browncoats churned into overdrive.

They came together to raise \$1,000 for Children's Miracle Network, started a drive to provide winter coats for the home-

less, and after the Iraq war started, donated copies of the series to be sent over to American troops. Browncoats everywhere worked to keep *Firefly* in the public eye while its creator worked behind the scenes, marketing to every home the show might find.

The true test has now come for these Browncoats. The movie is out. At first it looked like the fans had done the impossible and gave *Serenity* the hit it needed. But there were only 10 million dollars to count. Thus, the possibility of a sequel is doubtful. But if the fans show up in the video store to rent the movie like they did the series, we may see more adventures of the crew of the *Serenity*.

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