



SOHEIL REZAAE/LA VOZ WEEKLY

La Voz Weekly

NEWS

Former DASB chair suspended

Former Senate President Robin Claassen can no longer attend classes, activities in district; says charges against him are false.

Page 1

Bookstore starts rental program

Starting this fall, the bookstore will begin offering books for rent at significantly lower prices than they can be purchased.

Page 3

SPECIAL

Special Edition campus map

Find out where you're going or find something you never knew was there!

We've been all over campus spotting the best sights De Anza has to offer and made a detailed map of what we saw.

Page 4

College services you should know

Lock yourself out of your car? Need a computer but can't afford one? Need free legal advice? Read on ...

Page 5

OPINION

A letter from Martha Kanter

Dr. Martha Kanter, chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, wrote us a letter.

Read what she thinks students should know about De Anza.

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Photos, video, breaking news:
LaVozDeAnza.com

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La Voz Weekly is a First Amendment newspaper, produced by students for the De Anza College community. La Voz Weekly is printed on recycled paper.

SPECIAL EDITION | FALL '08 ORIENTATION ISSUE



SOHEIL REZAAE/LA VOZ WEEKLY

WELCOME

to the neighborhood, new fall students

A calm day in the sunken garden near the center of campus, normally bustling with students.

Audrey Barker
LA VOZ NEWS

For a new student, pulling into the overcrowded, lively De Anza College parking lot can be an intimidating initial experience.

Among any group of De Anza students there are those facing the prospects of familiarizing themselves with a new campus, instructors and perhaps a whole

new town, state or country. It's understandable if some should be trying to cope with serious freshman jitters.

All is not lost, however – De Anza can be a very forgiving place, especially to those who know what they're looking for and how to find it.

Knowing where to eat, for instance, can be quite the troubling

See **WELCOME**, Page 5

On behalf of myself, and the editors and staff at La Voz, welcome all. We look forward to serving you this quarter!

Shawn McGann
EDITOR IN CHIEF
LA VOZ WEEKLY

Former Student Body President suspended from De Anza College

Audrey Barker
LA VOZ NEWS

De Anza Associated Student Body senator and former Student Body President Robin Claassen was informed by college administrators during the summer that he was being immediately suspended from De Anza College for one year.

This forbids him from enrolling in classes or participating in any school-sponsored activities at De Anza or Foothill Colleges, and is to be followed by an additional year of disciplinary probation, should he choose to return to the district.

The reasons given to him for his suspension were outlined in a letter

sent to him by Dean of Student Development Michele LeBleu-Burns which charged him with willfully disobeying five of the college's Student Rights and Responsibilities policies.

A disciplinary hearing was held on Aug. 7 to determine if, in fact, Claassen had violated any of the five college policies he had been charged with disobeying, and to allow him to present evidence and witnesses in his defense. The charges included disruption of administration and disciplinary procedures, in which Claassen allegedly engaged in deceptive and manipulative behavior in an effort to interfere with

See **SUSPENDED**, Page 6



JOSE MARTE/LA VOZ WEEKLY

Former DASB President Robin Claassen is accused of disruptive behavior, undermining college officials, and behaving toward other senate members in "a threatening and coercive manner."

CAMPUS EVENTS

Happenings around De Anza College

Welcome Week

WELCOME WEEK ACTIVITIES

MONDAY - THURSDAY, SEPT. 22-25, 11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M., MAIN QUAD

Enjoy live music and entertainment in the Main Quad, sponsored by the Student Activities office.

Monday: "Tito Gonzalez & Su Son De Cuba" - Music from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Peru

Tuesday: "JC Smith Band" - Blues

Wednesday: "Tacuma King" - Caribbean, African music

Thursday: "Emerald Isle" - Renaissance music

Monday, Sept. 22

DADDIOS, USAF FALCONAIRES IN CONCERT

MONDAY, SEPT. 22, 7 P.M.

GUNN HS, 780 ARASTRADERO RD., PALO ALTO

The U.S. Air Force jazz ensemble "Falconaires" and the De Anza College Daddios evening jazz ensemble will perform for free. Tickets are available at West Valley Music in Mountain View and Peninsula Music and Repair in Palo Alto.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

DASB OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24, 3:30 - 5:30 P.M.

CAMPUS CENTER UNDERGROUND

All students are invited to meet the De Anza Associated Student Body president, vice-presidents and senators, and learn about the projects planned for the 2008-09 academic year.

Saturday, Sept. 27

AUSTRALIAN ANIMATOR TO SPEAK

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 7:30 P.M., ATC 120

Australian animator Dennis Tupicoff will give a retrospective screening of his world-famous films,

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Let us know!

Send event notices to Happenings@LaVozDeAnza.com by Wednesday noon preceding the week of publication. Please type "Happenings" in the subject line.

La Voz does not guarantee publication. All events take place on the De Anza College campus and are free, unless stated otherwise.

display production artwork and hold a Q&A with the audience, as part of the De Anza College Speaker Series. For information contact Martin McNamara at mcnamaramartin@fhda.edu.

Saturday, Oct. 4

DE ANZA FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 8 A.M. - 4 P.M., PARKING LOTS A&B

The monthly De Anza Flea Market contains about 850 vendor stalls including antiques, hand-crafted items, ceramics, phone accessories, ethnic artifacts, pet accessories and garage sale items. The Flea Market is held the first Saturday of every month. Entry to the event is free; parking is \$5.

Sunday, Oct. 5

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY:

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES

SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 3 P.M., FLINT CENTER

Music for Families presents a special birthday tribute to Leonard Bernstein, conducted by Benjamin Shwartz. The program features "Overture to Candide," "Divertimento for Orchestra" and "West Side story Symphonic Dances." Prices start at \$37; children are half price.

Saturday, Oct. 11

ASTRONOMY PRESENTATION 'ASTRONAUT'

SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 7:30 P.M., DE ANZA PLANETARIUM

In "Astronaut," the audience experiences a rocket launch from inside the body of an astronaut and explores inner and outer space, including floating around the International Space Station. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Tickets are sold at the Planetarium the day of the show. For information call 408-864-8814.

LASER SHOW

SATURDAY, OCT. 11, DE ANZA PLANETARIUM

9 P.M.: BEATLES "SGT. PEPPER"

10 P.M.: PINK FLOYD "DARKSIDE"

A fantastic display of laser light images will be featured with music selections from the Beatles at 9 p.m. and Pink Floyd at 10 p.m. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$7 for children 12 and under. Tickets are sold at the Planetarium the day of the show. For information call 408-864-8814.

Thursday, Oct. 16

CLUB DAY

THURSDAY, OCT. 16, 11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M., MAIN QUAD

Come check out various clubs, watch club performances and get free treats.

Saturday, Oct. 18

¡ANDELE! A WELCOME EVENT

SATURDAY, OCT. 18, 9:30 - 4:30, CAMPUS CENTER RMS A&B

¡LEAD! Latino/a Empowerment at De Anza presents ¡ANDELE! - a welcome event for new students and their parents. Student workshops include "Opportunities for Activism," "Latina/os and the Arts," "Sex, Stress and Student Health" and "Money, Money, Money." A parent workshop, "What to Expect in your Student's First Year" will have Spanish and Vietnamese translation available.

Tuesday, Oct. 21

EUPHRAT MUSEUM OF ART RECEPTION

TUESDAY, OCT. 21, 5:30 - 7:30 P.M., EUPHRAT ART MUSEUM

A reception with presentations will be given for the De Anza and Foothill Art Faculty/Staff Exhibition, including an awards ceremony.

Friday, Nov. 24

CONFERENCE:

YOUTH VOICES UNITED FOR CHANGE

FRIDAY, NOV. 21, 9 A.M. - 2 P.M., LOCATION TBA

The annual student leadership conference will empower, educate and engage students to make positive changes for themselves and their communities while connecting them to existing community services. The program will include workshops, motivational speakers, community service opportunities and hip hop and theater performances. Workshop themes include Making Your Own Media, Youth for Human Rights, Healthy Relationships, Queer Rights are Immigrant Rights, and Empowering Girls. Free breakfast, lunch and t-shirts will be given to participants. Information is at <http://www.deanza.edu/communityengagement>.

Ongoing

ART FACULTY/STAFF EXHIBITION

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30 - THURSDAY, OCT. 30, EUPHRAT, A-92

The De Anza and Foothill College Art Faculty/

Staff Exhibition in the Euphrat Museum presents a variety of artwork created by faculty and staff including sculpture, painting, drawing, prints, mixed media, photography and ceramics. Museum hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by arrangement. For more information go to: <http://www.deanza.edu/euphrat>.

The next issue of La Voz will be on the stands Monday, Oct. 6. We will then publish weekly through Dec. 1.

FALL QUARTER DATES

Monday, Sept. 22: First day of fall classes

Friday, Sept. 26: Last day to drop for full refund or credit by foreign and out-of-state students

Friday, Oct. 3: Last day to add classes

Friday, Oct. 3: Last day to drop for refund or full credit by resident students

Friday, Oct. 10: Last day to drop a class with no record of grade

Friday, Oct. 10: Last day to request a P/NP grade

Monday, Nov. 10: Veterans Day Holiday

Friday, Nov. 14: Last day to drop with a W
Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 27-30: Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday-Friday, Dec. 9-12: Final Exams

Friday, Nov. 12: Last day to file for fall degree or certificate

Monday, Dec. 15: First day of winter recess

Monday, Jan. 4: First day of winter classes

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Michelle Oquendo

Michelle Oquendo, DeVry University '08
Technical Management

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Tree removal part of larger plan

Matthew Larvey
LA VOZ NEWS

Many of the trees that once stood in and around De Anza College's L Quad were cut down and replaced with smaller trees during the summer as part of a plan that included removing unhealthy trees on campus and installing a new irrigation system.

Several redwood trees were taken down over the summer as well, near the parking lots and elsewhere. These redwoods are mostly a coastal tree species that only flourish in wet environments. As a result of the dryer climate this far inland, the coastal redwoods are suffering, and several have already died.

The Director of College Services, Donna Jones-Dulin, said that the L Quad Japanese elms were removed and replaced with sap-

lings of ash, crepe myrtle, oak, eucalyptus and others that are better suited to thrive in the local climate.

According to Jones-Dulin, these projects and others are part of a master landscaping plan headed by her and assisted by a facilities committee, an environmental advisory committee and grounds supervisor Joe Cooke, a certified arborist working at De Anza.

Jones-Dulin said the goal was to move De Anza College toward environmental sustainability by using trees that are native to the valley so as to reduce the maintenance cost and water usage associated with caring for them.

Normal methods of irrigation are insufficient to provide the water needed for the coastal redwoods' survival, as they typically take their water in from oceanic fog, absorbing more through their foliage than

through their roots.

The redwoods requires a state-of-the art irrigation system that can spray a heavy mist high into the air so that they can absorb it. Such a system has been installed at De Anza so that the trees may be saved. It is linked to atmospheric sensors that detect temperature, humidity, and wind velocity to optimize efficiency.

The replacement trees, irrigation system, as well as the removal of the older trees were all projects paid for through Measures C and E. Though most of the work removing the trees was done over the summer, Jones-Dulin said work may continue throughout the year.

Matthew Larvey is the features editor for La Voz Weekly. He wrote this article for La Voz. Contact him at: matthewlarvey@lavozeanza.com

De Anza bookstore renting out textbooks

Daniel Gamberg
LA VOZ NEWS

De Anza College students may be startled while perusing the aisles of the college bookstore this fall. It is now adorned with peculiar signs advertising "Save Money Rent Me." Starting Sept. 15, the De Anza Bookstore launched its highly anticipated pilot textbook rental program.

The trial program consists of renting to students eight textbooks from several disciplines in an attempt help make college more affordable for students.

Implementing a textbook rental service has been a top priority for several years, said bookstore manager Jeri Montgomery, who has continually pushed for the rental program. "If we could afford it, we knew this would be a great way to save money for kids who are going to community college," she said.

Students interested in renting textbooks need only meet the requirements for the pilot program – they must be enrolled in a participating course, choose to rent the corresponding textbook and sign a return contract.

The contract contains an agreement to return the book in a timely manner. If students violate their contracts, a hold will be placed on their college accounts prohibiting class registration in the future, and their ability to use the rental service will be suspended.

The eight textbooks offered for rent in the program are chemistry, computer science, pre-algebra, psychology, business, cultural anthropology, physical education and physical anthropology.

The book prices were determined by marking down the original price by two-thirds, cutting the cost to students to a fraction of the original price.

In order for the bookstore to recover costs, instructors must comply with the textbook rental guidelines. For a book to be eligible for the rental program, the instructor is required to use that same text for a minimum of two years. Furthermore, some textbooks may be exempt for rent given their format or purpose (e.g. workbooks or companions where pages are written on or torn out). Also, instructors may be reluctant to commit to the agreements of the program pending new additions or expectations of other available resources in regard to their course.

While the rental service is convenient and affordable for students, it still remains uncertain whether the decision to implement the rental program is financially sound for the bookstore. Depending on how many students rent and return textbooks, the bookstore faces numerous challenges that may result in profit loss.

"If they don't return the books, there's no way we can afford to do it," said Montgomery, "so they need to honor the contract."

Despite the potentially high costs, the bookstore is willing to expand the program in the future depending on textbook returns this fall. An expansion would increase the number and variety of textbooks available for rent while reducing costs for more students.

"We really anticipate this is going to be very popular and that more instructors will come on board," Montgomery said. "We'll fine-tune it and see what works best, and hopefully we'll be able to add more titles."

Last week marked the kickoff of the textbook rental program and bookstore office assistant Charlie Tuttle witnessed the program in full swing. "Students are reacting pretty positively," Tuttle said. "We're already getting a lot of feedback."

"We knew this would be a great way to save money for kids who are going to community college."

Jeri Montgomery

DA VOICES

What De Anza students have to say ...

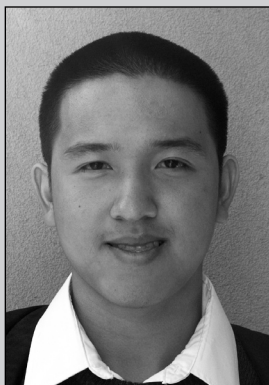
What's the scariest thing about De Anza?



"Academic probation."
Jeremy Quintena

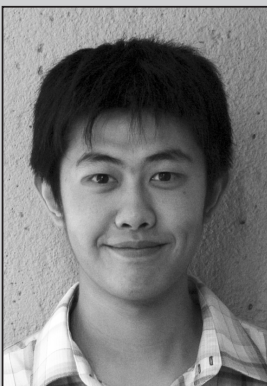


"There is nothing scary about this school."
Louise Templado

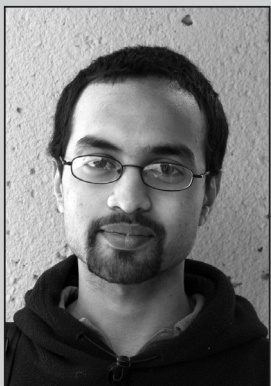


"I heard the classes tend to be hard."
Toan Ngo

What's the most expensive textbook you've purchased?



"A Biology 40 book that cost \$180."
Mark Du



"A sociology book that cost \$150, but I got it for \$70 at Amazon."
Shah Hassen



"A \$110 pre-calculus book."
Jonathan Mai

COMPILED BY SOHEIL REZAEI

CAMPUS SNAPSHOT



SOHEIL REZAEI/LA VOZ WEEKLY

A man clears reeds from a pond in the Environmental Studies Area at the south side of campus.

Daniel Gamberg is the website editor for La Voz Weekly. He wrote this article for La Voz. Contact him at: danielgamberg@lavozeanza.com

SAVINGS: RENTAL VS. PURCHASE

\$63.89
Average amount saved by renting per new book.

\$37.02
Average amount saved by renting per used book.

\$97.75
Highest savings on a book by renting as opposed to buying.

Book: "Understanding Business"

*Prices are calculated before applying sales tax.

SPECIAL EDITION

Fall Quarter Orientation Issue

Here are some places you'll want to see if you get the chance!

SUNKEN GARDEN



A QUAD MURAL



STUDENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING



PARKING LOT



MAIN QUAD



PLANETARIUM



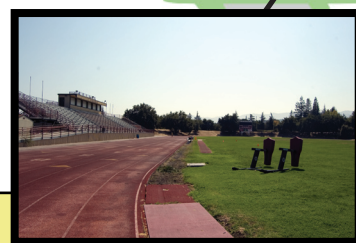
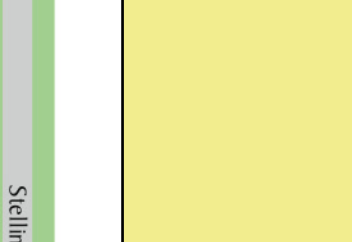
POOL AREA



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER



L QUAD MURAL



SPORTS ARENA



KIRSCH CENTER



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY AREA

De Anza College.

PHOTOS BY SOHEIL REZAEI/LA VOZ NEWS

CAMPUS SERVICES COMPILED BY KELLY TRUONG

CAMPUS SERVICES

WELCOME | Friendly advice for frightened newcomers

Continued from Page 1

a DASB Card Office

Location: Lower level, Hinson Campus Center
Distributes DASB cards that offer holders free admission to school games, legal advice, use of computers in the Open Media Lab, book check-out from the library, plus discounts at various restaurants, museums and movie theaters.

b Career Center

Location: Second floor, Student and Community Services Building
Posts job listings in the area; offers individual counseling; holds numerous career workshops (resumes, job searches, interview skills).

c Transfer Center

Location: Second floor, Student and Community Services Building
Offers drop-in transfer counseling; provides university catalogs for UCs, CSUs and various private schools; hosts visits from university campus representatives; holds workshops on transfer topics.

d Writing & Reading Center

Location: Second floor, Advanced Technology Center
Works with students to improve their writing skills; helps students revise their essays in all disciplines/courses; assists transfer applicants with their personal statements; helps non-native English speakers with their writing.

e Child Development Center

Location: Near Parking Lot C
Provides child care for those between 18 months and five years of age; offers full-day tuition enrollment in a toddler program or preschool.

f Tutorial Center

Location: Rooms L-47, S-43
Provides free drop-in, group and/or one-on-one tutoring in various subjects.

g Campus Police

Location: Lower level, Hinson Campus Center
Provides emergency car service; assists with jumping car batteries or if students have locked themselves out of their cars; will provide safety escorts to students' cars during night; patrol the campus.

Federal Student Aid. The library is located in the A. Robert De Hart Learning Center complex across from the Hinson Campus Center. Between the De Anza library and the Open Media Lab, students have thousands of resources available at their fingertips and free of charge, including books, magazines, journals, videotapes and Internet access.

Librarians and staff are available to help students with accessing information through the Internet, as well as sifting through the thousands of available print resources. Additionally, the library provides free research databases including Lexis Nexis Academic, Student Research Center, business and laws, careers, science and technology, health and medicine, history and social sciences. The Transfer Center and Counseling and Advising Centers work in conjunction to simplify student transfers to four-year universities. If you have educational goals beyond an associate's degree, they can help you reach them. Both of these centers are located within the Student and Community Services Building.

Informational resources provided by the Transfer Center include guaranteed admission information, college catalogs for all the University of California Campuses, California State Universities, and other in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities. The college offers assistance through grants, federal loans, part-time work-study jobs and scholarships. With the exception of scholarships, all of these programs are based on the students' individual financial needs, which are calculated based on the Free Application for

vising services extend from the academic to the personal, and De Anza offers a variety of support services to make them happen.

Academic advising is available for all your scholastic needs. It incorporates educational planning, determination of transfer requirements for different institutions, as well as application for a certificate or degree. Related is educational counseling, which includes selection of major, time management, as well as studying and test taking skills.

For those who are looking past De Anza to the job market, the center offers career counseling. Counselors will help you evaluate your skills, interest, values and personality, and help you explore careers based on that assessment. Sometimes life can get in the way of jobs and schoolwork. Personal counseling involves everything from students self-awareness, interpersonal communication, stress management and relationship counseling.

You should feel free to unload to De Anza's counselors without worrying about word spreading. Sessions between counselors and students fall under confidential privilege. Counselors act as a motivation for students to consider their own questions and alternatives in order to ultimately find their own answers.

Audrey Barker is the news editor for La Voz Weekly. She wrote this article for La Voz. Contact her at: audreybarker@lavozdeanza.com

And now here's a letter from President Brian Murphy

Dear Students,
On behalf of our wonderful faculty, staff and administrators, I'd like to welcome all De Anza students to campus for the start of the academic year.

The campus is humming with activity, as we complete the new Visual and Performing Arts Center and the first phase of our landscaping project, as well as bringing in hundreds of new desks and chairs and computers - all of it financed by bonds overwhelmingly supported

ed by the voters in our district. De Anza is fortunate to have this kind of support, especially when the state budget is so pathetically limited.

But it's what goes on inside the buildings, on the playing fields, in the counseling offices and science labs, that makes De Anza College so special. You'll find superb faculty and professional staff, wonderful programs, and a community of fellow students that make the campus come alive with music and debate and learning. Speaking of debate, the fall quarter is marked by an event of special importance: a national election that may determine the direction of our country for years. The campus will have public dialogue on the issues, sponsor a major voter registration drive, and have a mock election-sponsored and coordinated by DASB - that will give students a chance to make their voices heard.

But in the end it's the real election on Nov. 4 that you have to put on your calendar. Get registered, learn about the candidates and VOTE.

Welcome to De Anza.

Brian Murphy
PRESIDENT
DE ANZA COLLEGE

join now!

>> Sign up now and start working
on the school newspaper <<

La Voz Weekly

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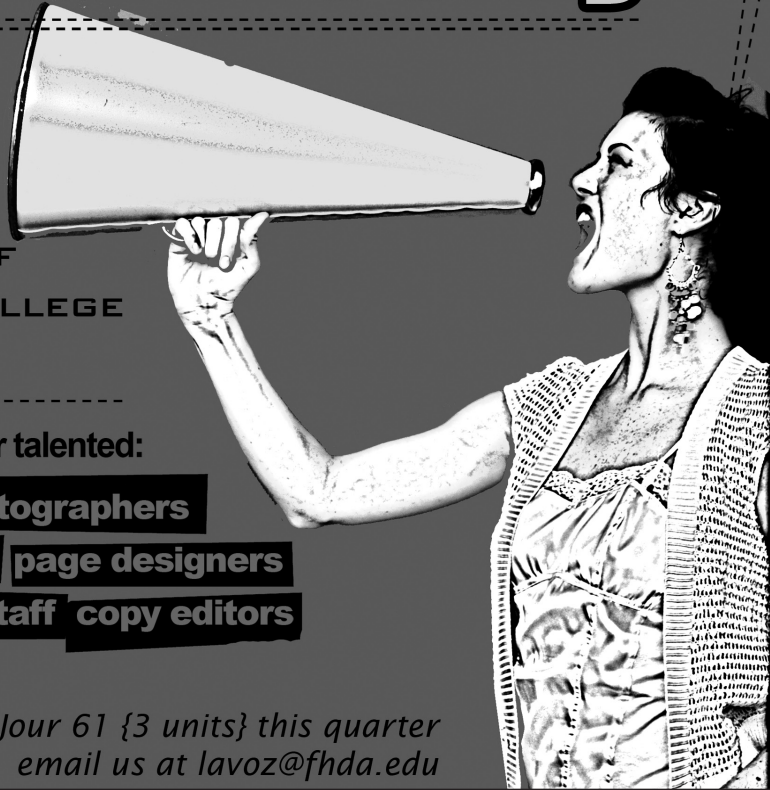
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JOSE MARTE/LA VOZ WEEKLY

Robin Claassen during the election grievance hearing of May 20, where his election coalition was penalized for unfair campaigning.

SUSPENDED | Not first time in hot water for former student leader

Continued from Page 1

Senate Adviser John Cognetta's capacity in assisting the DASB senate in its duties, even going so far as to encourage Cognetta's removal.

The panel found that Claassen acted in violation of all five charges and they recommended as disciplinary action that he be suspended from the Foothill-De Anza Community College District for one year followed by a year of disciplinary probation.

Current Senate President Terell Sterling, who attended the hearing, said of the outcome, "Although I wish Robin the best, he was given ample opportunity to break the habit of behavior. The amount of documentation provided clearly shows that this was not a solitary instance, but a pattern."

De Anza President Brian Murphy informed Claassen by letter that he had considered the recommendations of the hearing panel and agreed Claassen had been in violation of the five college policies. He also concurred with the panel's recommended disciplinary action.

LeBleu-Burns acted as the prosecution during the disciplinary hearing. She defined the specific policies Claassen had been accused of neglecting, making the case for his suspension.

"He has disrupted the educational processes of the DASB," LeBleu-Burns said. "Violated not only the Student Code of Conduct of the college and the district, but the DASB code of conduct as well."

Claassen said that all the charges brought against him are false except for one: his unauthorized entry of college facilities after curfew hours. This refers to an incident on Saturday, June 7, when, according to a Foothill-De Anza Community College Police Report, Claassen was found inside the senate offices at 1:30 a.m. in possession of an electronic door key belonging to former Senate President Rahela Sami, both of whom have previously admitted to being romantically involved with one another.

"The norm was to leave the DASB offices when you are told to leave," said Claassen. "It wasn't unusual for members to be in the office after hours, and I was using the office for its intended purpose."

Claassen's suspension is just the most recent controversy involving the former senate president. He was ousted from the presidency early this year amid scandal and wild accusations when the senate passed a vote of no-confidence in him. Many sena-

tors stated that Claassen's frequent confrontations with Cognetta during senate meetings was a deciding factor in their voting no confidence in him, and the strained relations between the two are well known among school administrators.

"He has refused to recognize Cognetta's role as adviser and has attempted to marginalize him, and injure his reputation among the students," said LeBleu-Burns. "He has also refused to heed my many warnings about this behavior, which constitutes willful disobedience."

During the student elections in May, Claassen's election coalition, the United Students Coalition, was found guilty of violating election ethics codes and was stripped of 10 percent of their total vote count.

One of the five policy rules Claassen allegedly disobeyed was refusing to conform to demands that he improve or correct his behavior, referring to the several meetings he and LeBleu-Burns had in which she advised him that he attempt to improve his relations with Cognetta.

In addition to these charges, Claassen has been accused by two De Anza students, former Inter Club Council Chairs Elaine Smith and George Smith, of having behaved toward them in a threatening and coercive manner when it came to John Cognetta and his role in the student senate.

Claassen denies their claims. "I don't feel that my being critical of John Cognetta was ever abusive or profane," he said. "Furthermore, the situation with the two students was merely a misunderstanding."

Claassen said he will continue to fight to clear his name, insisting that, other than the unauthorized entry charge, "these charges are ambiguous and the prosecution didn't clearly line out how I am guilty of these things. I'm having disciplinary action taken against me for not doing an effective job as a member of DASB senate, which is not grounds for suspension."

Claassen has expressed an interest in appealing his suspension on the premise of bias within the disciplinary panel, and possibly pursuing legal action or seeking local media attention.

His next step would be to appeal the ruling of the hearing panel and President Murphy's recommendation to the Foothill-De Anza District Board of Trustees. Claassen has been suspended since Aug. 19.

Audrey Barker is the news editor for La Voz Weekly. She wrote this article for La Voz. Contact her at: audreybarker@lavozdeanza.com

OPINION



La Voz Weekly

The Voice of De Anza Students

Shawn McGann Editor in Chief
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About Us

La Voz Weekly is a First Amendment newspaper written and published by De Anza College students.

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Come to Room L-42 Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:45 p.m. to attend the newspaper staff class.

Contact Us

Letters to the editor, submissions and press releases are welcome and can be submitted to:

www.lavozdeanza.com/letters

Letters should be 300 words or less; letters more than 300 words may be edited for length. Letter content must not be libelous or intended to air personal grievances. La Voz does not guarantee that submissions and letters to the editor will be printed, nor does it guarantee coverage of events for which it receives press releases. La Voz reserves the right to edit letters and submissions for clarity in accordance with Associated Press writing style.

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Additional Copies

The first copy of each issue of La Voz Weekly is free to everyone. Additional copies can be purchased through Business Manager Reza Kazempour.

EDITORIAL

College had good reason to remove trees

This fall, freshmen attending classes at De Anza College and getting their first taste of the rich campus grounds and breathtaking tall and majestic trees may puzzle over the absence of such trees in L Quad.

Returning students, still wading through the lingering swelter of summer and accustomed to taking refuge beneath the shade of trees on campus might be alarmed to find that no such refuge exists in L Quad any longer.

Well, the giant shade trees that used to grow in L Quad that provided such a wonderful canopy over the fountain area are gone. By the college's decree, they were removed during the summer and replaced with the little trees that can be seen there now.

This, coupled with the recent removal of several tall redwoods that stood in front of the parking lots, has not painted De Anza administrators in a pretty or environmentally-con-

scious light.

However, despite the now sorrowful state of L Quad, the college had numerous reasons to remove the trees, and they acted responsibly in doing so.

As it happens, many of the trees were already dead or dying anyway, most just hanging on by their last limbs (so to speak).

The redwoods, elms and several other varieties of trees that grow on campus and elsewhere in the valley are not native to the climate. They can grow here, but it takes a lot more work to keep them alive than trees that are native to the area.

Also, as was the case with the redwoods, being outside their native

climate can lead to the trees contracting diseases that will eventually kill them. The Japanese elms that grew in the L quad were not the ideal trees to plant in this environment, as they require a great deal of water to survive.

Part of the school's irrigation system in L Quad was replaced during the summer, which would have destroyed the trees' roots during installation, further damaging the already sickly trees.

Trees that are unhealthy or dying can be dangerous to those walking near them. Branches and limbs can splinter or fall and have the potential to cause serious injury or death.

Using money the college had avail-

able through Measure C funds, removing the unhealthy trees now and replacing them with easier-to-take-care-of native trees was the right decision. All the work was done during the summer so as to affect the fewest number of people.

While it may seem irritating that L Quad no longer has the tranquil quality that came with the bigger trees and the shade they provided, removing the trees was a necessary evil for the safety of the De Anza population. By planting the new native-growing trees and redoing the irrigation system, the school has worked to ensure that L Quad will return to its former pleasantness sooner rather than later.

The new trees are small now, but will grow relatively quickly. Within a few years, they will be just as big and just as good at providing shade as those that came before them.

Not native to the area, already dying, harder to care for than other trees: all reasons school officials sought their removal.

OTHER VIEWS

New students need to take De Anza seriously

Soheil Rezaee
HIS OPINION

Welcome.

For some it is a welcome back, while for many it is a welcome to De Anza College for the first time, followed with a little side of truth and reality.

This is not high school, where you show up, write your name on a piece of paper and graduate. A process so easy it's amazing how so many people fail.

For new students, you took a simple walk into a greater challenge.

Welcome to the next stage of life. It's known as responsibility, and it begins by taking De Anza seriously and working to accomplish your academic goals.

The rumors of no homework and not having to show up to class are all false. You need to show up to class, and if you're ill, nobody is going to

call your folks or even worry about your well-being.

It's no longer the job of Mommy, Daddy, or the state to baby-sit you. It's time to start taking responsibility for your actions and that means accepting the consequences, for better or worse.

Here in Silicon Valley, not having a college diploma will only increase your chances of getting a humiliating dead-end, minimum wage job at some fast food establishment. Even with three jobs and four idiot roommates it's going to be difficult to survive.

You're better off living with your folks (no matter how unbearable they are) and developing inner wisdom with their help. College is a costly investment, but it'll be worth it when you're making six figures a year while laughing at your peers with fast food careers.

Clowning around in class like in high school will result in flunking,

which will make your folks stop supporting your education, in which case you will have to pay for your own classes or fail at life. The classes are not cheap and your folks are only paying for them because it's an investment to help your life.

College is not like what you see in the movies with all the parties and 24/7 drinking, but rather a center where young people from around the world gather to learn and share wisdom. No responsible person is impressed with a keg, so save your money for something useful like more classes or books.

One thing is true: this is an important time in your life, and you don't want to mess up. Failing just one class could end up being the anchor that holds you back from achieving your dreams.

If you're not sure how you are performing in your classes, go ask your professors. It's not their job to travel long-distance to inform you of

a problem. It's also not their job to offer any extra credit – take the work seriously and do it.

If your goals in life are low, you can drop out and get a job that requires little ambition. You will be surrounded by simple-minded people, while your parents are disappointed in you and society ignores your meager contributions.

Unless you have some kind of special skill in great demand or you are good at selling something that is needed, it's important to have a college education.

Now is the time to decide whether you want to start your life by getting a diploma or transferring to a four-year university. Or you can fail and be remembered only as part of a statistic.

Soheil Rezaee is the video editor for La Voz Weekly. He wrote this article for La Voz. Contact him at: soheilrezaee@lavozdeanza.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hey class of '08! Time to set your stride

Welcome to De Anza College and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District. You have chosen a college that is brimming with amazing faculty and professional staff who are dedicated to your success!

Foothill-De Anza is known as one of the best community college districts in the country. We are a member of the nationally renowned League for Innovation in the Community College which accepts only 20 community college districts in the country to provide leadership for the more than 1,200 community colleges in America. In California, there are only 73 community college districts.

Many faculty, staff, administrators and trustees from these districts visit De Anza and Foothill throughout the year because they want to learn from our best practices so as not to reinvent the wheel.

Here's just a few examples of why we are in the spotlight so often:

We're known for leadership in environmental sustainability. That should be obvious to you as a student if you walk around the campus. The Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies is the first "platinum" LEEDS certified building on a community college campus in the country and won a national award for sustainability last year!

We ask you to join us in our quest to become the greenest community college district in the country by figuring out ways to get to and from campus by carpooling or using alternative forms of transportation like your bike or the bus. Each of us is part of the larger world and our role in reducing global warming is important for us all and the future of our planet.

Foothill-De Anza is working on ways to reduce the cost of your education. The rising cost of textbooks is one of the biggest obstacles for our students to overcome. Toward this end, your bookstore is pilot testing a textbook rental program and we've established a national consortium to make college textbooks available on the Internet for free.

Known as the Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources, we are working nationally with the Student Public Interest Research Groups (<http://www.studentpirgs.org>) to make textbooks affordable.

As part of this effort, you'll be hearing more about this during the fall quarter from Patrick Ahrens, your

elected student trustee who serves on the Foothill-De Anza Board of Trustees, who will ask you to participate in this effort.

Our students are known for exceeding our expectations time and time again, but we also know that many students begin their education unsure of what they want to do in life.

That's why another example of Foothill-De Anza's excellence and opportunity is the wide range

"Students are the center of our universe and drive our priorities for action"

Dr. Martha Kanter

of student services that we provide to you. Stop in to see a De Anza counselor, find out if you are eligible for financial aid or one of the many scholarships we have, visit the Tutoring Center, and take advantage of the many learning labs on campus where you can study outside of your classes.

Our counselors and advisers will help you plan your schedule in order to study two to three hours for every hour you are in class. We know that many students have to work and, certainly, living in Silicon Valley makes balancing your school, work and family schedules quite an art.

So plan ahead and take advantage

of the many incredible people who have dedicated their lives to your education – our faculty, our professional staff, and the deans who make sure it all comes together in the master schedule of classes for you, our students!

As we look ahead, students are the center of our universe and drive our priorities for action – whether it's the new Visual and Performing Arts Center that will open in winter, the trees and fountains that grace the paths that you traverse across the campus, the wireless Campus Center and Library, and so much more!

We never rest on our laurels because we have so much more to accomplish to help you reach your educational goals.

We wish you much success at De Anza. Make sure to let us know about your experiences and make it a point to do more than you ever thought possible! Thanks for being part of our Foothill-De Anza family this fall! Oh yes, one last point, if you need to work on your English and/or math, do it right away – those who wait take longer to get through and you can change that statistic!

Dr. Martha Kanter
CHANCELLOR
FOOTHILL-DE ANZA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



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and
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Retail price \$100 only \$35 Rental Price
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You are invited to...

DASB Open House

Get to know the 40 members of DASB.
It's a chance to see some of the projects planned for the
2008-2009 Year!

Date:
September 24, 2008
3:30pm - 5:30pm

Location:
Hinson Campus Center near
the Financial Aid Office

Refreshments will be provided.

