

La Voz

A FIRST AMENDMENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Speech program honored as best in west

BY KATHERINE NGUYEN
LA VOZ

De Anza College's speech department received national recognition as the best program in the Western United States.

Donna Stasio, chair of the speech communication department, was presented with the Model Teaching Program Award

on Feb. 22 at the annual Western States Communication Association convention in San Francisco. The award, which will be displayed at the language arts division office, is one of the most prestigious from WSCA.

"The association is 76 years old - I do not know exactly when the award was established, but departments have been receiving it since I joined the association

over 30 years ago," said speech instructor Edwina Stoll.

Stoll and Stasio were among those that presented the program on the luncheon at the convention.

The award is given to honor a program that shows depth in oral communication and a faculty specifically trained in the field.

Other criteria include whether the department is supported by

the administration, if it offers extracurricular activities and opportunities and if it is aligned with the mission of the school.

According to John Swensson, dean of Language Arts, the speech department has increased their courses and offerings by over 34 percent in the last three years.

Some of the additions are the Listening and Speech labs and an

award winning Forensics Team.

Course offerings include public speaking and business and professional presentations.

The speech department was nominated by Judy Miner, Vice President of Instruction at De Anza and Sally Murphy, Chair of the General Education Program and professor of Communication Studies at California State East Bay, formerly CSU Hayward.

YEAR OF THE ROOSTER



De Anza College student Andrew-Brian Nguyen displays vietnamese costumes for different occasions and celebrations as part of the Lunar New Year celebration in the campus main quad last Monday.

FESTIVAL CELEBRATES LUNAR NEW YEAR

BY LESLIE CASAJE
LA VOZ

Color and music filled the main quad during the Lunar New Year celebration last Monday.

"We hold this event every year," said Betty Yu, president of the Asian Pacific Americans for Student Leadership. APASL and the Vietnamese Student Association co-sponsored the event.

Student Andrew Brian Nguyen had a traditional Vietnamese booth. He had on display the traditional clothing called ao dai, worn during the New Year. The clothing is colorful, embroi-

dered with intricate designs.

The booth contained peach flowers, which are symbol of spring, red envelopes and tea.

"Tea is very popular during the New Year. Many children will give their grandparents tea as a gift," Nguyen said.

Student senator Sanjeet Heyer had a lantern-making booth. "I'm so excited," said Heyer. These lanterns are quick and simple to make and they represent the Chinese New Year."

Student Kenny Bui had glass containers filled with water. Participants threw ping pong balls into them and those who got the ball in the containers received goldfish.

"It's fun, you get to win free stuff," said student Grace Chuang after winning a goldfish.

"I'm involved because all aspects of the Asian culture are explored," said APASL member Alex Candia.

"This brings people together. It's really nice to share your heritage and culture," he said.

"This event is important to De Anza because there is a large Asian community here on campus," said student Thai Ray

Other booths included a Chinese zodiac display, calligraphy writing in Chinese, a snack station and origami. After circulating through all the booths, participants were given prizes.

De Anza artist wins national student award

On Feb. 20, De Anza College art student Kathleen Elliot was one of 19 student artists to win a national 2005 NICHE Magazine Student Award at the Philadelphia Buyers Market of American Craft. BMAC is the nation's largest wholesale craft event.

The awards ceremony was sponsored by NICHE magazine, an exclusive trade publication for North American retailers of American craft.

Elliot won in the sculpture category for her sculpture "Botanica Plums." The award was based on technical excellence, creativity in surface design and form and distinct quality of unique and original thought.

Elliot said that winning the award really boosts her confidence.

"I spend a great deal of time alone working in my studio," said Elliot, who owns and operates her own glass studio in Cupertino.

"Except for my work in the classroom, I don't have many opportunities to talk with other artists or have my work critiqued," she said.

see AWARD, page 11

Instructor memorial to be held Thursday

A celebration of the life of Ellen Crannell, a De Anza College speech instructor who passed away on Feb. 15, will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday in Conference Room A.

Crannell passed away a few weeks before her 36th birthday.

She began working in De Anza in 1996 for the Intercultural/International Studies division. She later joined the speech department.

Crannell is survived by her husband and her 16-month-old girl.

A scholarship fund was created to pay for the education of her daughter. For those wishing to donate can pick up pre-paid envelopes in the Language Arts division office.

"She was a teacher of teachers in how to create a comfortable community in the classroom," said John Swensson, dean of Language Arts on a e-mail letter.

The event is open to everyone at De Anza.

What - A celebration of the life of speech instructor Ellen Crannell
Where - Conference Room A
When - Thursday, March 10 from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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Textbook policies of DOOOOOM

Editorial

It seems like a scene from Terry Gilliam's classic film "Brazil." A simple idea is enveloped in a soft bureaucratic cocoon and emerges almost two years later as a bloated, deformed butterfly of a policy draft.

When, if ever, the De Anza College academic senate approves a policy on textbook selection, as a set of "recommendations" it will have little impact. It seems ridiculous that the senate, full of talented and serious academic professionals, has not accepted the conclusion staring them in the face: writing a textbook policy is a waste of time.

There are major obstacles to the creation and adoption of an effective and useful set of recommendations.

If the academic departments decide which textbooks to use, there will be less difference between equivalent

courses taught by different instructors, but this stifles an individual instructor's ability to teach with the texts they feel are most effective.

Instructors who authored the texts they assign can help or harm students. Professors can profit unfairly by assigning texts they've authored, which may not be good or reasonably priced. Or, assigning their own texts can help students if the professor is developing better, lower-cost texts for their students.

The academic senate has broadened the range of topics they can argue over by bringing bookstore prices, the reserve collection at the library, copyright issues, and printing services into the mix.

We appreciate what the academic senate is trying to do. We know their intent is to improve the experience stu-

dents have at De Anza. We know textbooks are at a weird nexus of academic freedom debates, campus bookstore issues, and a tangled web of ethical dilemmas.

That's why we think developing a written textbook policy is a doomed venture. No policy can adequately cover all the murky gray areas it attempts to address. What's important is the debate. Open, ongoing discussion among faculty will serve students better than any written policy ever will.

There is no single "right answer" to the question of how instructors should choose textbooks. Instead, the academic senate should encourage discussion – in the classrooms, in the departments and among the faculty. There have been two years of debate already – maybe the best thing is to let it go on forever.

Letters to the Editor

Misconceptions of poverty and race

Dear Editor,

Scott Peterson's letter in the Feb. 22 edition of *La Voz*, in response to the article by Pedro Paulo Viagas de Sa, "400 Years and Counting," contained errors in reasoning and omissions pertaining to the African American family, and as the Intimacy and Marriage Today instructor I feel I must respond.

Mr. Peterson claims that "one of the greatest predictors of poverty in children is whether or not the child is born into a family with a married mother and father."

Here he commits a logical fallacy: confusing correlation with causality.

Peterson fails to show exactly how out-of-wedlock births lead to poverty; in fact, much of the evidence points to the opposite conclusion.

Kathryn Edin's study of poor white and black women (*Social Problems*, 47, 1, 2000) shows that many poor women do not marry because their potential partners are also poor, so for a poor woman to marry a poor man is economically irrational.

We also know that, according to the Census Bureau in 2003, about 24 percent of African Americans are below the poverty line, compared to about 10 percent of whites.

Poverty is a predictor of non-marriage, and therefore out-of-wedlock births, rather than out-of-wedlock births are predictors of poverty.

Controlling for marital status, we still see income disparities based on race. According to the Census Bureau (2001), white single mothers have a median income of \$28,091, compared to \$20,894 for black single mothers. Among married couple families, whites have a median income of \$61,000, compared to \$51,514.

Why do whites earn more than African Americans, even when controlling for family structure? Clearly, something is happening and it is not the "pathological" African American family—it is institutional racism.

However, I am most disturbed by Mr. Peterson's personal attacks on Mr. de Sa. Mr. Peterson states "What African-Americans like Mr. de Sa owe is an acknowledgement that they too have behaviors to correct before they can complain about everyone else." First, I happen to know that Mr. de Sa is not African American.

Second, it is inappropriate for a faculty member to publish a letter telling any particular student what behaviors they need to correct.

Mr. de Sa should be free to analyze race relations in American society without being told that he has "behaviors to correct," and any criticisms should be of the analysis, not the person.

That borders on another logical fallacy: if you disagree with the message, attack the messenger.

Sincerely,
John Fox
Sociology instructor

Corrections

"Women Studies celebrates its first decade"

Feb. 28, Page 1

Event will happen on March 7, not Feb. 28.

Editorial

Feb. 28, page 2

Jared Diamond is the author of "Guns, Germs and Steel," not Richard Dawkins.

De Anza Voices

COMPILED BY DANIELLE STOLMAN
LA VOZ

Do you think De Anza students are too materialistic?



"No, I don't think so. They are mostly normal students struggling to make ends meet."
– Hulda Muraka



"Yes, I think people with their laptops are materialistic. It's all about status with your cars and obsessive spending of money for the eyes of other students is what it's about."
– Michael Hughes



"I'd have to say no. People are so diverse at this school, but it's not a university where most of the people are wealthy."
– Samantha Ten Eyck



"I don't think so. In fact, it seems maybe less materialistic than other campuses I've seen like Santa Clara."
– Tom Guffey



"I think it depends on the person. We have a cross section of many ways of life. Personally I am, but many people are not."
– Kelly Geiger

Material World



LESLIE CASAJA

Just last month, De Anza College student Andre Noles exchanged his \$500 Motorola Razor phone for a \$600 Sony Ericsson S710A mobile phone. Cingular Mobile customers can receive a \$189 mobile phone for free with a two-year plan. What drove Noles into buying a phone worth that much?

"I don't consider myself materialistic, I just have an expensive taste," said Noles, who almost bought a \$5,000 Vertu mobile phone.

For the cost of a new mobile phone alone, which boasts a 1.3-megapixel camera and a swivel screen, Noles could have funded a whole quarter at De Anza. With no financial aid, a California resident could use the price of Noles' phone to pay for 12 units' worth of tuition, \$300 of books, other basic fees and a parking permit.

While "money can't buy happiness," prancing around with an authentic Louis Vuitton purse might make a college student pretty pleased.

Singer Jessica Simpson popularized the "necessity" of having your own Louis after bringing her own Louis Vuitton Multicolore Speedy 30 on a camping trip in an episode of her MTV reality show "Newlyweds."

Inexpensive fakes are produced by knockoff purse companies galore, but the real deal is equivalent to the cost of a used car.

At \$1590, Simpson's Speedy 30 could get you one McDonald's Big Mac extra value meal per day for almost 400 days straight. That's a burger, fries and soda every day for more than a year.

De Anza students can think of one LV Multicolore Speedy 30 as equivalent to the cost of three quarters at De Anza with no financial aid.

Basic fees plus a quarter parking permit costs about \$50.65. With \$204 in tuition and \$300 in textbooks, you've got about \$554.65 a quarter. Multiply that by three and you'll get \$1663.95, which still won't cover the price of a Louis Vuitton Multicolore Speedy 30 if you throw in California's 8.25 percent sales tax.

"Material things are neither bad nor good," said James E. Burroughs, assistant professor of commerce at the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce, as quoted in "Consumerism and its Discontents" by Tori DeAngelis.

"It is the role and status they are accorded in one's life that can be prob-

lematic," said Burroughs. "The key is to find a balance: to appreciate what you have, but not at the expense of the things that really matter — your family, community and spirituality."

You don't need to whine and cry like Ava on MTV's "Sweet Sixteen," who did just that when she didn't receive a brand new Range Rover on her 16th birthday.

"Princeton sociologist Robert Wuthnow reports that 89 percent of people say 'our society is much too materialistic,'" said David G. Myers, psychology professor at Michigan's Hope College in the article "Wealth, Well-Being and the New American Dream."

"Eighty-four percent also wished they had more money and 78 percent said it was 'very or fairly important' to have 'a beautiful home, a new car and other nice things,'" said Myers.

If you are lucky enough to have your parents buy you a 2005 Ford Mustang for being the "perfect son," or a Louis Vuitton Multicolore Alma for being the "perfect daughter," thank your folks profusely, then feel free to enjoy what you've got — humbly. Even though most De Anza students wouldn't imagine spending \$2,000 on a cowhide purse decorated with little "LV" monograms, most of them wouldn't mind having one, either.



Graphic by Marianne Kim/ LA VOZ

Guest perspective | PC hate: the new spring fashion

A letter to La Voz

Steve and Virginia Percy hang an image of a United States soldier in effigy outside their Sacramento home bearing the words, "Bush lied, I died."

Ward Churchill, a professor of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, writes a paper in which he says that the people in the World Trade Center deserved to die, calling them "little Eichmanns."

De Anza student Pedro Paulo Viegas de Sa draws a political cartoon in which he refers to Colin Powell as "Uncle Tom," and places President Bush in KKK robes.

These incidents, and many others in recent times, share the disturbing trend in political speech of using the most hateful words and images one can produce in an effort to demonize those they are criticizing. What is more disturbing is that this trend is close to becoming the primary weapon of the extreme liberals, a group who attack conservatives as being "hate-filled" and who demand tolerance for their political viewpoints, while displaying an amazing intolerance for any message that fails to fit their view of the world.

The Percys' message is a legitimate political topic. Their method of expres-

sion, however, is of poorest taste, clearly meant to be inflammatory, and a shocking attack on those men and women who bravely serve their country. While they are, unsurprisingly, attacked by conservatives, the Percys have defenders, including the American Civil Liberties Union, who back the couple's claim that they have a clear First Amendment right to hang such an effigy.

For those of you who support the Percys' message and the manner of its conveyance, and agree with their usage, or abuse of, the First Amendment, imagine if the message were an antiterrorist message and the image of a Muslim was hung outside a house. What would be the response if neighbors, in response to surging illegal immigration, hung an image of a Hispanic person outside their home with the message, "We taxpayers don't need to support criminal behavior"? The response would be fast and furious, calling these messages "hate speech" and demanding prosecution for hate crimes. The reality is that both examples demonstrate that even political speech has limits, perhaps not in absolute legal terms, but in terms of what intelligent civilized society considers proper. What has become apparent is that those who claim to be the most civilized are often the most repugnant.

The view expressed by Mr. Churchill,

whose position reflects his alleged wealth of knowledge, was just vile. To suggest that the innocent, ordinary men and women working in the World Trade Center deserved to die, and that some relation between them and Adolph Eichmann (the head of Hitler's Secret Service and architect of the Holocaust) can be made, is so utterly repugnant and offensive that any sane person should condemn it. Yet Mr. Churchill has a number of defenders who say that the First Amendment and academic freedom are at stake.

In a similar vein, Mr. de Sa's portrayal of President Bush flies in the face of the fact that the president appointed the first African-American, who also happened to be a woman, to the prestigious position of secretary of state. He also overlooks the appointment of the first attorney general of Hispanic origin and four African-Americans to his cabinet, all in four years, while President Clinton appointed only Ron Brown as commerce secretary in his eight years. However, it seems acceptable political speech to imply that President



This "Crunchy Life Bites" strip ran on Nov. 22, 2004.

Bush is racist. This clearly displays the fundamental contempt that liberals have for those who do not share their views. Many people of diverse political orientation think that they are anointed with a greater vision, and this debilitating arrogance is often made clear in political discussions.

Political expression is so important that our founders decided it was critical that we provide nearly impenetrable legal protections around it. Unfortunately, uncivilized people use these protections as a means to cheapen discourse, which ultimately cheapens society as a whole.

The next time you hear one end of the political spectrum demanding "tolerance," ask yourself just what tolerance they themselves have shown.

Scott Peterson, De Anza math instructor

Budget shortfall leaves center in jeopardy

BY KATHERINE NGUYEN
LA VOZ

It's unlikely that years from now, you will look back on your time at De Anza College and say, "wow, those placement tests were awesome."

That's OK.

Placement tests help De Anza students use their time and money wisely. However, the Assessment Center is short on money for the upcoming spring and summer quarters. The impact on students will be immense if funds are not found quickly.

The Assessment Center administers placement tests which help students determine which classes they should take.

The Assessment Center will need \$29,350 for test proctors, essay readers, printing, supplies, and maintenance to finish off the remainder of the school year.

This sum is usually provided by matriculations, programs and grants from the state. This year, the money never appeared.

The center is now straining under financial difficulties and must find its funding elsewhere. Bert Manriquez, Director of the Assessment Center, has asked DASB for funding for the whole year.

DASB had granted partial funding of \$10,750, a third of the sum the Assessment Center needs.

"This is not something the DASB normally funds, we felt it was important to make sure that assessment testing is offered with reasonable frequency," said Nadine Foster-Mahar, DASB President. "We approved \$10,750 in funding, which was more than 25 percent of what they needed."

DASB hopes to encourage other divisions on campus to help fund the center.

"We are hoping that the counseling, biology, chemistry, and language arts divisions see this as important, and that they share in the financial responsibility to fund at least a portion of the Assessment Center's needs," said Foster-Mahar.

But with the recent cuts in various departments, including math and language arts, it is not always easy to get the necessary funds.

"In the [language arts] division budget, I have only \$1,000 for assessment," said John Swensson, Dean of Language Arts.

The placement tests are required by the state but without their funding, it leaves De Anza in a very delicate situation. Where are we supposed to find our funding and how are we supposed to do it?

"It's hard to say how much money the state will have in the future," said Manriquez. "It's a cycle where money is available for a few years and now they don't."

"Right now, we have to economize and make cuts to find money wherever we can," said Manriquez.

According to Swensson, 16 percent of students will place in EWRT 1A. Before the essay tests, only 8 to 9 percent would place in EWRT 1A.

The math, science, language arts and ESL departments all depend on the placement results to place students in the appropriate classes.

"If as an institution, we chose not to read the writing samples, we would have a major reduction in students' success and a major increase in inaccurate placement," said Swensson. "As an institution, the college has chosen to spend these funds to help all students because all students will get a better chance of success."

Even with the financial difficulties, Manriquez is optimistic.

"It's hard right now, but I don't think it'll last forever," said Manriquez.

UC students could pay for excess units

BY TRACI KAWAGUCHI
U-Wire

Some students who exceed unit caps for graduation may have to shell out an extra fee to the University of California if a state-driven proposal to charge students for excess units gets the nod from the University of California Board of Regents in May.

Freshmen and transfer students entering UC next fall who take 10 percent more units than the minimum graduation requirement would be affected by the proposal, which was drafted by the university last month in keeping with a compact reached between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and UC President Robert Dynes last May.

The university agreed to take state funding cuts to UC for stu-

dents taking more units than needed for graduation.

Although the state permanently cut \$1.1 million from its annual payout to the university in anticipation of the policy beginning this year, the money will remain cut even if the proposal does not go into effect.

If the proposal is passed, a fee will be added to each unit that exceeds 110 percent of the minimum total required for graduation, as specified by the 2004-05 state budget.

Although the exact amount of the fee is not set, it would be "equivalent to the marginal cost of education" according to the proposal, and will be calculated by dividing a student's tuition by the number of units taken, said UC spokesperson Ravi Poorsina said.

At UC Berkeley's College of Letters and Science, students would get billed an extra fee for

taking more than 132 units, a fee cap 10 percent higher than the 120 minimum graduation requirement.

Preliminary estimates suggest, however, that 75 to 100 UC Berkeley students - including adjustments made for double majors - would be affected if such an initiative were put into place, said Dennis Hengstler, executive director of the Office of Planning and Analysis.

Hengstler said the campus is currently measuring the potential impact of the fee and what kind of students would be affected.

But on campus, the excess unit fee has not been well received by faculty.

"The whole logic of [the proposal] is not there, so that leaves us with struggling to implement a policy that doesn't fit just because we're being told by the governor's office that we have to," said Robert Knapp, chair of

the UC-Berkeley Academic Senate. "It's a pretty frustrating process."

Still, with enrollment on the rise and state funding declining, pushing students to graduate in four years is the best option, and the policy would work toward that goal, Poorsina said.

"It's much more strategic than putting a Band-Aid on a problem," she said.

But university officials said the proposal would need to be flexible enough to account for students who switch majors late or pursue more than one major, both of which are leading causes for exceeding the unit cap, Knapp said.

"The sentiment here is that there needs to be allowances for legitimate and circumstantial imperatives that would reasonably push you over the 132 units," Knapp said.

It would not be fair to punish

those students taking on double majors, which "most academics feel ... is a legitimate intellectual enterprise," Knapp said.

But with four-year graduation rates on the rise and a potential laundry list of exemptions, the impact of the policy change may prove to be quite minimal, Knapp said.

The unit count will only apply to units taken for degree credit at the university and units carried over from previous institutions or examinations, such as advanced placement credit, will not count toward the 132 unit cap, according to the proposal.

In keeping with the agreement with the state, students exceeding the unit threshold will also not be eligible for university based financial aid but will retain eligibility for federal aid packages.

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It's all about the money (that we don't have)

A look at the impact of state budget cuts on De Anza College

9.0 million
The original projected shortfall for De Anza College

8.4 million
The adjusted projection of the shortfall

5%
The original projected percentage of the budget that would be cut

3%
The adjusted percentage of cuts for the school.

Budget forecast stronger but college still in trouble

BY LISA GU
LA VOZ

It's coming. You might not have understood it. Regardless of your stance on it, the budget has been cut and De Anza College will be experiencing the effects of those cuts soon.

"Our current assessment of the budget is that we will have about an \$8 million budget shortfall to make up for the 05-06 year," said Mike Brandy, vice chancellor of business.

The \$8 million shortfall is the total shortfall for the district, not just De Anza's, and might increase to \$10 million or decrease to \$6 million depending on how the year goes, Brandy said.

"We are beginning to assess ways to balance the budget by using some of the income we will receive for the next year and or by reducing positions and other budgetary sav-

ings," he said.

Due to the cuts, there might be a \$1 increase per unit for foreign students, but there are no proposals yet for other students, Brandy said.

Brandy is proposing to use some of the cost of living adjustment money given by the state to offset the shortfall, said Jeanine Hawk, vice president of finance and college services.

"That will be helpful in terms of solving the overall district problem," Hawk said. "That still leaves about \$3 million ... in unsolved structural problem," she said.

A structural problem is when the school spends on more money than money it takes in.

De Anza will be helping the district by dealing with about \$1.2 million of the \$3 million shortfall by itself, Hawk said.

An ongoing \$1 million shortfall

see **BUDGET**, page 6



Graphics by Pedro Paulo Viegas de Sa (3)/ LA VOZ

Academic divisions start preparing for coming budget cut

BY CYRUS HEDAYATI
LA VOZ

Layoffs, cuts in classes and reductions in salaries may all be on the horizon for De Anza College academic divisions, due to state budget cuts.

At the beginning of this quarter, the De Anza administration notified deans of each division to prepare themselves for a budget cut of 5 percent.

The notification was based on the projection of De Anza's budget shortfall done earlier this year.

Recently, the projection was changed to a 3 percent cut, but divisions are still prepared for the worst.

The threat of 5 percent cut has forced every division to prepare budget scenarios, should there be no alternative.

For many divisions which have already made substantial cuts in class offerings, this could mean cutting salaries of personnel and potential layoffs.

"In our division, we had already made fairly drastic cuts in the past two rounds, so we don't have a whole lot more to give," said Anne Leskinen dean of physics, math and engineering.

She said that for her division, a five percent cut would be \$230,000, which is more than double the division's "B budget."

The B budget is money set aside for supplies, student tutors and other necessities.

"The only way I could really make that kind of a cut would be to reduce salaries," she said.

For other divisions, such as intercultural and international

studies, this would mean significantly reducing the number of class offerings.

"We don't have any positions to give up or people retiring, so it's all in classes," said Duane Kubo, dean of the division. "We would drop all of the non-GE courses," he said. That would mean the end of language conversation, independent studies and classes that last for less than 40 minutes, for

creative arts, have prepared scenarios for cutting over 20 sections, in addition to reducing their personnel budget, should the current budget proposal be approved.

Some deans expressed concern over the effects of potential cuts on the students of De Anza.

"If we have to reduce classes ... it'll take each and every one of you a longer time to get the education you want to transfer," said Nancy Canter, dean of Creative Arts.

"There's no mismanagement of funds going on in this district," said Sellitti. "We manage our dollars better than almost anybody ... The bottom line here is that we're underfunded."

Kubo said he believes the lack of focus on education has repercussions for society as a whole.

"Jesse Jackson used to say it best: if you intervene in the front end with education, you won't have to intervene in the back end with prisons," said Kubo.

Canter said that most powerful voice in convincing the state government to make education a higher priority is that of the students.

Events like the recently cancelled March on March gave students a prime opportunity to make the governor and state legislatures take notice, she said.

"I was disappointed that students aren't going to rally. I think that would help ... I think they're going to regret it," said Canter.

"I hope the students activate themselves because it is their future. We're just trying to provide it."

The final draft of the budget will be presented by the governor on May.

"We would drop all of the non-GE courses ... All of that would be cut."

- Duane Kubo

example. "All of that would be cut," said Kubo.

Other divisions have already cut so many classes that losing any more would result in a significant loss in revenue, complicating the problem.

"If we had to make a 5 percent cut, it would have to be in people," said Steve Sellitti, dean of special education and applied technology.

"If you cut your number of classes to the point where you cannot generate enough revenue to pay for your overhead, you're out of business," said Sellitti.

Other departments, such as

Cabana and news editor Pedro Paulo Viegas de Sa.

Cabana and de Sa will attend a full-day symposium to explore the role of the newspaper in a democratic society.

Only American Association of State Colleges institutions partnered with the American Democracy Project have an opportunity to participate in this event. Each school that is eligible to participate can send up two to people.

ADP wants to develop under-

graduates who are committed to doing meaningful things for the community, according the ADP Web site.

This initiative involves many campuses and tries to create undergraduates who have a good understanding of what civic engagement means.

Representatives from other student papers will also be at the event and will have the opportunity to work with in the Times newsroom.

Students will meet with edi-

tors and other staff of the Times and take part in workshops on editing.

They will be able to be learn from people who make important decisions on what goes into Times as well as from fellow students.

The symposium will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Times headquarters

The trip will last for two days.

Budget | Cuts

continued from page 5

from previous years makes the total shortfall for De Anza to be approximately \$2.2 million, she said.

"This is better than what we talked about last time," Hawk said. "Last time we talked about a 5 percent reduction, which equated to about \$3 million."

Two million is only approximately a 3 percent reduction in funding.

The reduction from 5 percent to 3 percent was decided because that is all it will take as of now to solve the shortfall, she said.

"On a relative scale we're in a little bit better position than we thought we'd be," Hawk said. "That's the good news, because that \$800,000 difference ... would have represented quite a few positions. So we're glad that we didn't have to go to the \$3 million level."

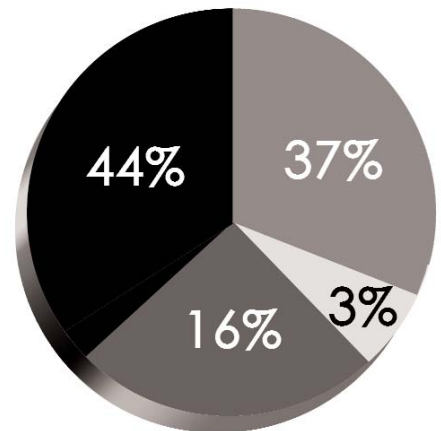
De Anza will try to lessen the effects that the cuts have on students as much as possible, she said.

"Generally speaking, you know we're going to have to be looking at positions because so much of our budget now is tied up in wages and benefits that we just don't have enough discretionary budget in order to solve that large of a problem," Hawk said.

There might also be reductions in finance and college services, student services and instructional areas, she said.

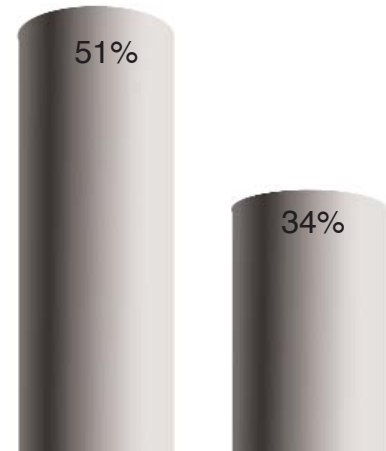
In mid-May, the budget will be revised and the revised budget is expected to come out in July, Hawk said.

source: Public Policy Institute id California



Forty-four percent of Californians think the state should spend more money in public colleges and universities. Thirty-seven think the amount is sufficient, 16 percent think less should be spent and 3 percent don't know.

source: Public Policy Institute id California



Fifty-one percent of Californians disagree with the way the governor is handling the budget concerning education. Thirty-four percent agree with Schwarzenegger.

La Voz editors to visit New York Times

La Voz has been with De Anza College through sun and rain, literally - because some of the newspapers racks are right out in the open.

Now after all the work and the late nights working to put out the paper, two La Voz staff members are getting the chance to fly to The New York Times and gain experience to better the paper even more.

The two staff members that will be going on this trip are La Voz's editor-in-chief Steven

Cabana and news editor Pedro Paulo Viegas de Sa.

Cabana and de Sa will attend a full-day symposium to explore the role of the newspaper in a democratic society.

Only American Association of State Colleges institutions partnered with the American Democracy Project have an opportunity to participate in this event. Each school that is eligible to participate can send up two to people.

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Cabana



de Sa

Campus Events

Rough Cuts

Rough Cuts is a theatre performance sponsored by De Anza's Creative Arts division. The event will be held in G3 on Mar. 16 starting at 4 p.m. Contact Neil Schwartz at (408) 864-8999 for more information.

DADDIOS In Concert

De Anza College's evening jazz ensemble will combine with the Homestead High School jazz band to perform on Mar. 16 at the Homestead High School auditorium. This event will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. General admission costs \$7 and admission for seniors and students costs \$5. Warren Gale, a well-known jazz trumpeter, will be performing at this event. Contact Steve Tyler at (408) 864-8999 for more information.

Vocal Jazz Concert

A vocal and jazz concert will be held in A 11 on Mar. 18 starting at 8 p.m. This event is sponsored by Creative Arts. For more information contact Roger Letson at (408) 864-8879.

Chorale, Vintage Singer, Women's Chorus

Performing Arts will be holding an event on Mar. 20 starting at 4 p.m. The location of this event is to be announced. Admission for this event is \$7 for general admissions and \$5 for either seniors or students. For more information contact Roger Letson at (408) 864-8879.

De Anza Student Art Show

An exhibit will be held at the Euphrat Museum in A93 at De Anza on May 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit will display paintings, drawings, photography and other art by former students of the Creative Arts division. For more information contact Jan Findfleisch at (408) 864-8836.

Honoring Asian culture through films

Intercultural Studies department hosts event to show how Asian Americans fit in the American Society

BY ANGELA TSAI
LA VOZ

De Anza College hosted a preview for the upcoming Asian American Film Festival last Thursday in ATC 120.

The event was hosted by Duane Kubo, dean of intercultural and international studies, and Karen Chow, English instructor.

The festival will be held from Mar. 10 to Mar. 20 and will show some clips made by members of Visual Communication.

The non-profit organization was founded by Kubo and his colleagues in 1970.

It encourages students to make films about Asian descent in America.

The films presented at the festival show a lot of how Asians tried to live in America, said Ngoc Phung, audience member.

"It shows Asian Americans in American

society and how they fit in to it," said Helen Toung, another member of the audience.

"Asian Americans are multidimensional," said Kubo. "Asians need to be portrayed as normal people instead of just stereotyped as kung fu fighters."



Asian American Film Festival shows films that teaches about Asian history (above). Dean of Intercultural Studies Duane Kubo (right) explains the importance to have more Asian role models in films.

Textbook policy debate ending

BY RYAN BELL
LA VOZ

The De Anza College Academic Senate has spent the past two years debating a textbook policy to provide instructors with a set of recommendations on ordering texts for their courses. The end may finally be in sight.

At the end of the 2002-2003 academic year, the Academic

Senate created a subcommittee to draft a De Anza College textbook policy. Prior to this, De Anza only followed the district-wide policy, which prevented faculty from profiting from district-used materials they have authored.

Math instructor Karl Schaffer lobbied for the creation of a textbook policy to address issues of academic freedom and conflicts of interest.

In a telephone interview with

La Voz, Schaffer said he was concerned with restrictive textbook policies in the math department.

Last fall, Schaffer said the department chose selected textbooks for all but six of De Anza's 154 math sections.

"The two areas where discussion has been heated deal with academic freedom and conflicts of interest," Schaffer said. "Faculty who sell [their own] textbooks have clear conflicts of interest."

In fall of 2004, the subcommittee brought their recommendations to the executive committee, and formal drafting of the policy began.

"I hope the senate finalizes it before the end of this academic

year," said Dan Mitchell, President of the Academic Senate.

Mitchell explained that the textbook policy was not a "legislative, imperative kind of thing." Instead, it will serve as a basis for future policy.

"You have to get people to decide on what principles they agree to," Mitchell said.

Creating an "implementation policy" would be the next step after the textbook policy is finalized, Mitchell said. It would specifically

define the procedures instructors would follow when selecting texts.

"We don't want you to pay a little bit of money for a textbook that's worthless, nor would we want you to pay too much for one that is good," Mitchell said.

"The two areas where discussion has been heated deal with academic freedom and conflicts of interest."

- Karl Schaffer



Graphic by Marianne Kim/ LA VOZ

Bowl

Bowls are made of clay, glass or metal. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Tip: Wider bowls put out more smoke.

Tobacco

Hookah tobacco comes in myriad flavors. It contains 35 percent tobacco, 65 percent molasses and fruit pulp, and about 0.5 percent nicotine.

Tip: For best results, tear the tobacco into small pieces and pack it loosely in the bowl.

Valve

The valve is used to clear stale or harsh smoke. It is unscrewed and air is blown through the hose.

Tip: If your hits are too harsh and smoke repeatedly comes out of the bowl when you clear the hookah, your tobacco may be on fire; take the coals off for a few minutes to fix this problem.

Base

The base is filled with enough water to submerge the end of the stem by two to three inches. The smoke is drawn out through the end of the stem and cooled as it bubbles up through the water.

Tip: Put ice cubes in the water to cool the smoke.

Coals

It all starts with the coals. Most hookah charcoals are square or round. Typically, they are cooked on an open stovetop for three to five minutes, although some self-starting coals can be lit instantly with a lighter.

Tip: Periodically drop your coals into the tray to shake off excess ash.

Stem

The smoke travels from the bowl, down the stem and into the base. Some stems have external chambers to hold ice and some can spin 360 degrees.

Tip: Using a large pipe cleaner, clean your stem out every few weeks.

Smoke Responsibly

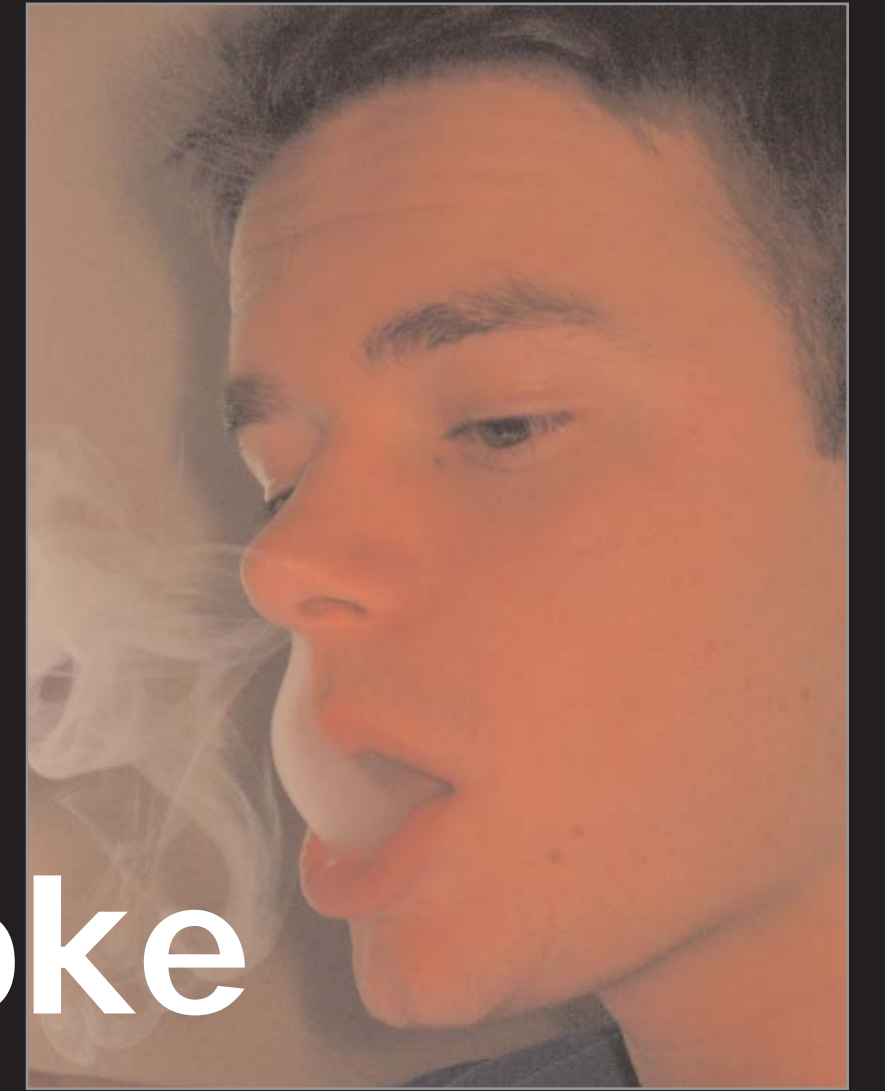
The health effects of hookahs are not yet fully known, but some recent studies have suggested that regular hookah smokers face the same risks as cigar smokers. For more information on these reports, see <http://health.yahoo.com/news/46552> and <http://health.yahoo.com/news/34904>

Hose

Hookah hoses are made of leather and have carved wooden handles. They are often adorned with velvet, woven fabric or other decorations. Variants with angled tips, called "cobra necks," are quite popular.

Tip: Remove your hose from the stem and blow it out before you use your hookah.

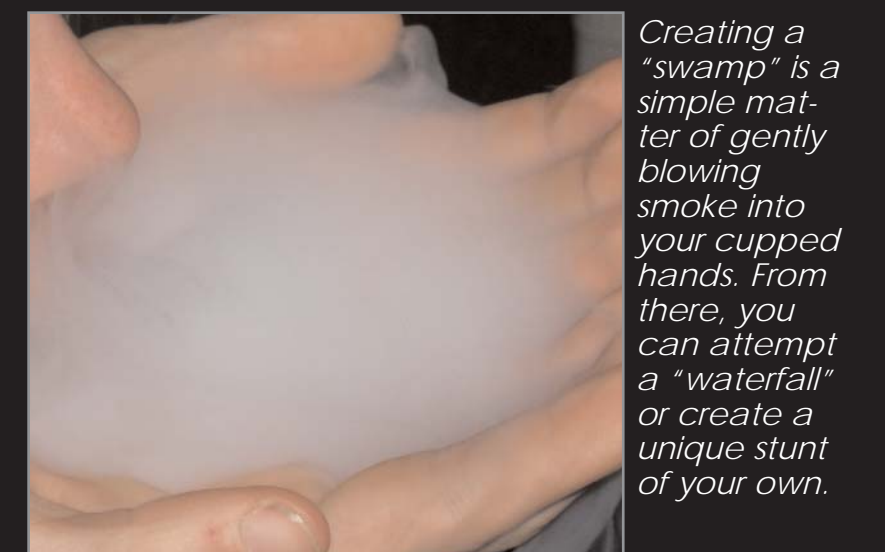
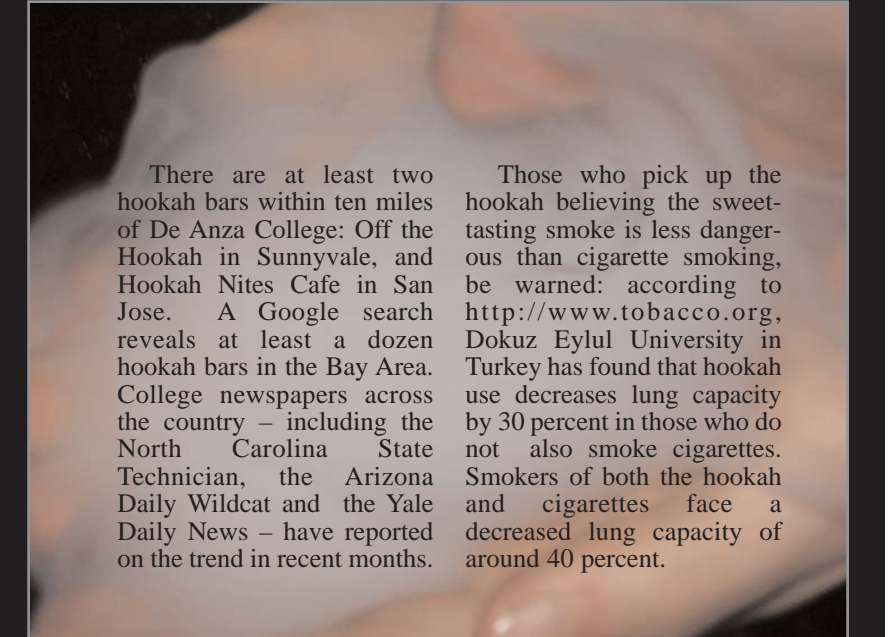
The bridge, or "French inhale," should be within the abilities of a beginner. Hookah enthusiast Grant Wollen says to "curl your lips outward and let the smoke float out of your mouth in front of your face, then inhale through your nose."



Up in Smoke

By Ryan Bell

The smoke ring, or "O," is one of the hardest tricks to learn, and takes a lot of practice to master. Veteran hookah smoker Rick Griner suggests, "form an 'O' with your mouth and blow quick but gentle bursts of air from the back of your throat - think of the way a subwoofer works."



Creating a "swamp" is a simple matter of gently blowing smoke into your cupped hands. From there, you can attempt a "waterfall" or create a unique stunt of your own.



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Award | Artist credits De Anza influence in art



The sculpture "Plums in Glass" by De Anza College student Kathleen Elliot won the 2005 NICHE magazine Student Award.

continued from front page

she said.

Elliot attended Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle for three summers and now studies art primarily at De Anza. She also took an intermediate drawing class at Foothill College.

De Anza art classes have been the most beneficial, Elliot said.

"I appreciate art history that includes learning about art in different cultures and how it unfolded through history, as well as learning about different artists and their styles of work," said Elliot. "In addition, I enjoy hands-on classes such as design, drawing and ceramics."

Elliot considers her piece "Plums in Glass" as one of her favorite artworks, which she

said takes on a distinctive life of its own.

"My own art is inspired by such wonders as flower petals, the pattern of veins in leaves, the shiny blackness of crows and changing colors of autumn leaves," said Elliot. "A hundred intricate and intimate moments in a day that

Her favorite aspect of creating art is exploration and experimentation with new techniques, new materials and new designs.

"All of that creativity really feeds the development of my work, and I just need to do that," said Elliot. "I can't just make the same things over and over, I'll never stop learning!"

Elliot lives with her husband Brent and their five children.

NICHE magazine began the student awards program in 1966, to honor the next generation of craft makers and artisans. It was also created to collaborate with its

professional awards competition that began several years earlier.

To find out more about the NICHE magazine awards, visit at <http://www.american-craft.com>.

"I can't just make the same things over and over. I'll never stop learning."

- Katherine Elliot

can take my breath away if I remember to stop, listen, look around."

Elliot's art niche is in glass. She participated in various workshops at art schools specializing in it.

New California bill to fund students' financial aid

BY KATIE PLOURD
U-Wire

If passed, a new bill will provide billions of dollars in funding towards financial aid in California's public universities in an attempt to make it easier for residents to attend college here.

According to the annual report from the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, California is at risk when it comes to getting students to attend public universities. The number of students attending high school in the state is on the rise, yet the likelihood of the students attending college after graduation is declining, says the NCPPE.

The problems is caused by high school students not taking enough college prep classes in high school and high school graduates are not going to college right after graduation. Another cause may be financial disadvantage, according to the

report. The net cost of going to a public university in California is over 50 percent of the income for a low- to middle-income family. This makes it very difficult for students in those situations to attend, says the NCPPE.

Son Tran, a third year student at Cal State Long Beach, said that those who receive grants and loans from the government do not have to worry so much about the financial burden of a college education. He thinks that such financial aid helps students a lot.

"If you have grants it makes it less of a problem," Tran says. "I have grants and scholarships so I never look at money as a problem."

The California Hope Endowment proposed by California State Treasurer Phil Angelides claims that it can help the financial situation in California's public higher education system.

According to the National Association of College and University Business

Officers, the California Hope Endowment will provide the seventh-largest amount of funds to universities in the nation. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT and University of Texas and Stanford rank higher.

The proposal has two parts, Angelides said. The first is the Cal Hope Trust. The trust will help California manage its state-owned property through a high-charged real estate business.

The state-owned property in California would first be transferred from the government to a public trust corporation. From there it would be managed like any real estate business.

The endowment would yield \$2 billion in over 10 years for California's financial aid fund through the neglected public asset of state-owned real estate.

This asset would be enough to provide complete scholarships to 385,000 community college students or 19,000 students in the California State University System,

according to Angelides.

The Endowment will support and give funding to many different programs to help increase students in California to earn a college degree, Angelides say.

Tran supports the idea of the government doing more to help Californians attain a degree.

"I think the government should play a big role in helping people go to school," he says.

"A lot of tax money is going to them and that money should be spent on education before a lot of other things."

The bill proposes that the funds operate like a charitable function by accepting donations from individuals and businesses and to be governed by a public board of trustees appointed by the governor and members of different governing boards, says Angelides.

The California Hope Endowment was announced on Feb. 17 and will go before the state legislature in mid March.

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ESL students put on their thinking caps

ENGLISH TURNS OF PHRASE A CHALLENGE FOR NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS

BY SHERRY SANGUINET
LA VOZ

When someone says "don't look a gift horse in the mouth," native English speakers don't glance around, wondering where to find their free pony.

Because their meaning is often only loosely based on a literal interpretation of the phrase, idioms can be challenging for English as a second language, or ESL, students.

Idioms are even more complex because they are specific to certain geographical location, meaning different regions sometimes have their own idioms. The tutorial center in building L47 is a place where students can level the playing field and become more idiom-savvy.

De Anza student Shuyan Wang said, "Idioms exist in my writing and reading classes, I find them confusing. But I have an advantage; my husband speaks English."

When asked what the idiom "A bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush" meant, Wang said that she didn't

understand. She broke the idiom down into two parts and tried to figure it out by the context of the words. Wang was then able to figure out what the idiom meant. She explained, "One bird in the hand is a sure thing, whereas two in a bush is a gamble. You could get two birds or one bird, but you could also be left with nothing."

Not all idioms are so simple to figure out. Sometimes you can't make heads or tails of an idiom.

For idioms that can't be figured out from their contexts, students can use an idiom dictionary. The tutoring center has a collection of such dictionaries. Once a student learns the meaning, the idiom needs to be memorized like a vocabulary word.

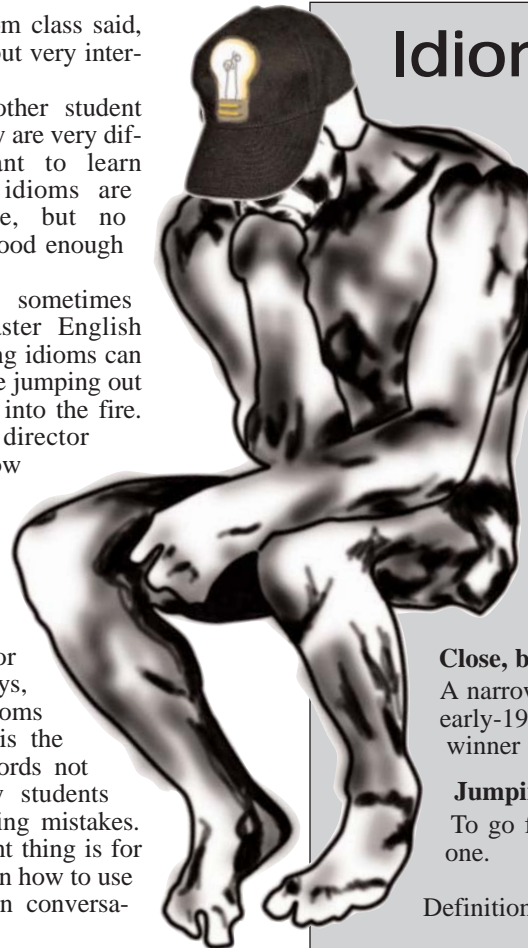
Tutorial staff member Jeannie Kastelic said, "Idioms are hard to teach, they fluctuate and change with generation and locale." While a leopard can't change his spots, ESL students can change their idiom fluency while at DeAnza. The ATC 308 listening and speaking lab offers a half-unit class focusing exclusively on idioms. May Cheng, a

student in the idiom class said, "Idioms are hard but very interesting."

Tse-Yi-Lee another student in class said, "They are very difficult, but I want to learn idioms." Where idioms are concerned, "close, but no cigar," just isn't good enough for these students.

After working, sometimes for years, to master English vocabulary, learning idioms can sometimes feel like jumping out of the frying pan, into the fire. Tutorial center director Sandra Blackborow said, "Idioms give students the most trouble. They are harder than grammar for the students to learn."

Lab director Maryanne Ifft says, "What makes idioms difficult to learn is the oddness of the words not connecting. Many students are afraid of making mistakes. The most important thing is for the students to learn how to use idioms naturally in conversation."



Idioms unraveled

Don't look a gift horse in the mouth:

The state of a horse's teeth give clues to its age. The phrase means "appreciate any gift you are given."

Level the playing field:

To create a fair situation.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush:

It is better to keep what you have than to risk losing it by trying to get something better.

Can't make heads or tails of it:

To be confused by something.

A leopard can't change its spots:

Peoples' characters rarely change.

Close, but no cigar:

A narrowly-missed success; this alludes to the early-1900s practice of awarding a cigar to the winner of some competition.

Jumping out of the frying pan, into the fire:

To go from a bad situation to an even worse one.

Definitions from <http://www.dictionary.com>

Partnerships help bridge culture gaps

BY ANGELA TSAI
LA VOZ

The Cross Cultural Partners exchange program is where De Anza College's "English as a second language," or ESL, students are paired up with students who can acquaint them with American culture and language.

CCP has come a long way since its inception. Five years ago, the program had only a small room, a desk, a lead volunteer and a handful of participants. Now, Cross Cultural Partners has both volunteers and employees and serves an average of 300 students per quarter.

"I heard from many friends that if we meet with native speakers, we can keep in touch

later and improve English," said Jun Hwan Bang, a CCP participant this quarter.

"As an ESL teacher, you wish your students were able to practice English more," said Gloria Heistein, CCP's coordinator.

The program helps ESL students improve their conversational English, learn about other cultures, gain confidence in speaking and socialize in a foreign country.

"Student helpers are very important," said Heistein. With the number of students per quarter, helpers were the ones to go out and promote the program to different classes, coordinating schedules for volunteers and matching up partners.

"I get paid and I still get to enjoy the program. This program

is not only challenging, it really helps, ESL students in practicing English outside of class," said Ruzer Nagai, a CCP employee.

Liu Zhen, a participant of CCP from China, said that it was a "different experience."

She left China hoping to learn new things and make new friends. Her partner emigrated from Russia eight years ago. Zhen likes to talk to her partner about everything, especially politics.

Jian Hong Yang, also from China, said she was partnered with an American student. "He is happy, and nice." They talk about music, she says, and she has even had dinner with his family.

Yukiko Harada and Tsubasa Mahaera, both Japanese partici-

pants of CCP, left Japan because they were "bored, and wanted to come to America and learn about new things."

Crystal Siu, a CCP volunteer this quarter, came from Hong Kong two years ago.

When she first joined CCP from her ESL class, she didn't think she would be able to talk to her partner because of their differences.

"My partner is really wild - she was funny, open, really different from the conservative Hong Kong girls," Siu said. "She taught me how to skateboard. I tried, but I am not good at it."

Siu loves the simplicity of life here in America. She feels that life in Hong Kong is too complicated. She does miss the food in

Hong Kong - American food does not fit her tastes.

"It's kind of meaningful being a helper," Siu said. She likes that as a helper she can not only organize parties, promote the class, and get paid, but she will be able to improve her public speaking skills.

"You get more than you thought," said Siu. "It is a miracle when you meet new people. You would become friends with them, and [it is a] really good way to meet people totally different from you."

To learn more about the Cross-Cultural Partners program, contact Gloria Heistein at 408-864-7500, extension 5440 heistingloria@deanza.edu, or visit <http://www.deanza.edu/ccpartners/>, the CCP Web site.

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Instructor puts the "Math" in "Mathios"

DIANE MATHIOS NAMED "DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR" FOR MARCH

BY SARAH JOY CALLAHAN
LA VOZ

If professor Diane Mathios' name doesn't give clues to the subject she teaches, then perhaps the scarf she wears will. Mathios is the Distinguished Educator for the month of March, an award whose winners are selected by De Anza College faculty, staff, and students.

Mathios has been at De Anza for nine years and teaches a variety of math courses, from pre-algebra to trigonometry. A student once pointed out the resemblance between "Mathios" and "Math 105."

"I think it's kind of neat," said Mathios.

"There's a beauty about math that most people are not aware of," she said. "I'm constantly in awe of the way things happen in mathematics. There's a connection with art, science, and music."

Apparently there's also a connection with knitting. Mathios often wears a black scarf with colorful wavy lines that represent math curves. She has also knitted a scarf in the shape of a Mobius strip. A mobius is a continuous one-sided surface that can be formed from a rectangular strip, invented by the German mathematician August Ferdinand Mobius.

"I started knitting when I was a child," Mathios said. She took it up again years later because "I wanted something to do while I was watching TV." She took three months to make a sweater and wore it "constantly" once it was done.

Mathios said that she became a math major because she always liked the subject. After obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees from UC Berkeley and teaching high-school math for 17 years, Mathios remembers thinking, "Wouldn't it be nice to get a job at De Anza?" After that, she said that her first year was like "walking on cloud 9."

The thing that she likes most about De Anza is "all the ideas and creativity," not to mention the wildlife. Recently Mathios spotted a hawk in the trees outside her office in the S-squad, and she enjoys watching it every morning.

Along with teaching her standard classes, Mathios is also

involved in the Math Performance Success, or MPS, program. A frame filled with photos from the program, collected by an MPS student, hangs on her office wall.

The program began in response to the high failure rates of entry-level De Anza math students, something the division has been criticized for in the past. Mathios refers to the MPS program as "my most rewarding thing." She said, "I feel as if it's my job to empower students. I firmly believe that they can [pass the classes], they just don't have the self confidence. I have faith in them even though they don't have faith in themselves."

She smiled as she recalled the results of a new survey that showed that students who go through MPS also have better success in English 1A, the highest level English class required for an associate's degree.

Mathios believes that teaching can always be done better.

"You're constantly making split second decisions," she said. With experience, those decisions are made more wisely.

"I'm constantly looking for ways to improve," she said.

Next quarter, Mathios will test the connection of math and music as a student in De Anza's Vocal Chorus class.

Mathios is the fifth winner of the Distinguished Educator award.

"It's such an honor," she said, "but any success my students have is their success. It belongs to my students."

De Anza math instructor Diane Mathios shows off the one-sided Mobius scarf she knitted.



Sarah Joy Callahan/
LA VOZ

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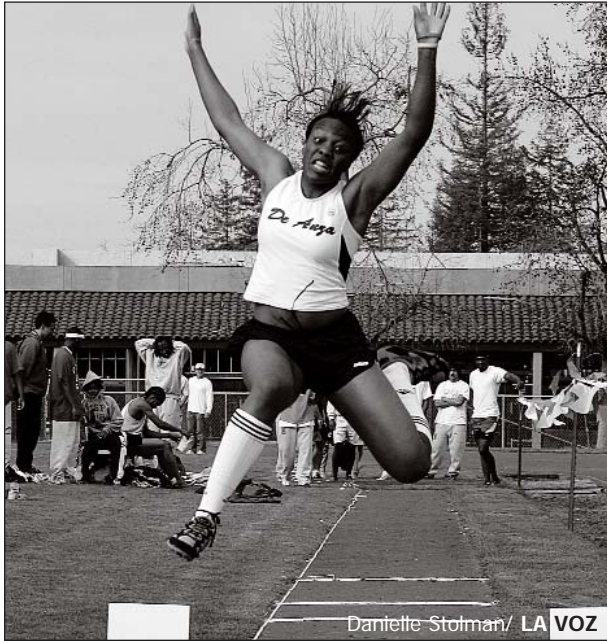
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Stephanie Ekeh jumps to her second victory competing in the long jump on Feb. 25. Ekeh also won the triple jump.

Women finish second in Rotational Perry and Claveran win to lead De Anza

BY ALEXIAS LAZAR
LA VOZ

The threat of rain didn't hinder the De Anza College track and field team from giving their all as they played host to the annual De Anza Rotational on Feb. 25.

Teams from Modesto Junior College, Monterey Peninsula College, College of the Sequoias, Community College of San Francisco and Chabot College participated alongside De Anza athletes.

The De Anza women's placed second overall with a score of 68. The men's team placed fourth with an overall score of 70.

De Anza faced stiff competition

from visiting teams. "Sequoia is home to some of the best sprinters and throwers in the state and the men of CCSF are currently the defending champs," said head men's coach Charlie Peters.

David Claveran opened for De Anza in the Men's Javelin throw. At 6 feet 4 inches and 320 pounds, Claveran took first place with a score of 160-09. Teammate Shaun Eagen placed second with a score of 141-09.

The Dons' Laura Perry finished first in the women's 1500-meter run with a final time of 5:08.

Perry is currently ranked first in the state in the 800-meter run and took the event with a time of 2:32.56.

Tatyana Povolotsky represented not only De Anza, but also Foothill

College, where she attends most of her classes. "Their hard work, dedication and motivation inspires me to do my best," Povolotsky said about her fellow teammates.

Athlete Natalie Beck has returned to the track, after having sat out recently due to an Achilles tendon injury. Despite this Beck took second place in the Women's 200-meter dash.

"Everyone is working hard, hitting their PR's (personal records)" said assistant coach Paul Fuller.

Assistant coach Dave Flynn was most impressed with the overall quality of athletes competing at the Rotational.

Official results were gathered from <http://www.directathletics.com> and <http://www.norcalstat.com>.

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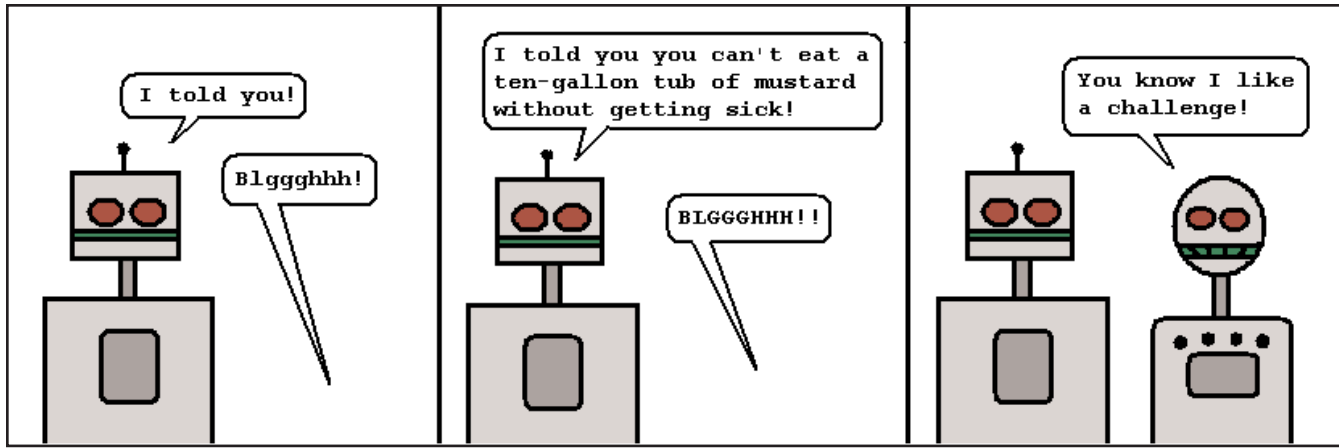
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The Horoscope: BY SARAH GAHAN

♈ Aries · If it weren't for windows, humans would probably reproduce by budding.

♉ Taurus · Mammary glands are basically sweat glands, evolved to produce a more nutritious beverage – milk. Mmm, a tall, frosty glass of milksweat sounds delicious right about now. Who's up for some chocolate milksweat?

♊ Gemini · There should be more poems about silverware.

♋ Cancer · A smile may fade, but it usually does not fall. Faces fall, but usually do not fade. It is important to remember this so you do not embarrass yourself in social situations.

♌ Leo · Sphincter, though not technically a dirty word, sounds like one. Use the word "sphincter" too frequently, and others will distance themselves from you.

♍ Virgo · I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each. I do not think that they will sing to me. Stupid mermaids.

This week, we had an argument with the stars. They refused to reveal your fates because we made some comments about their parentage. We refuse to apologize! So, your horoscopes this week are not so much about your fates, and are mostly just random statements. They may or may not make sense, but we feel that it is time for society's anti-nonsense bias to end. We will no longer be oppressed! Or downtrodden! Our thanks to Arlette Thibodeau for her contributions.

♎ Capricorn · Nuclear physicists are an unruly bunch.

♏ Pisces · Doubt thou the stars are fire, Doubt that the sun doth move, Doubt truth to be a liar, But never doubt I love nachos.

♐ Aquarius · Whisper "Oh, yeah" at the end of every sentence for fun and profit. Just think about it.

♎ Libra · "Would you like some fries with that shack?" "I'd better call heaven, they're missing an angle." "What's your sine?" Misspelling gives things whole new meanings.

♏ Scorpio · The first person to slam a door wins the argument. Always.

♐ Sagittarius · Red flags are easy to spot. Unless they are metaphorical. Or you have bad eyesight. Or someone swallowed them.



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