

La VOZ

De Anza College

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A FIRST AMENDMENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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NEW STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING OPENS FOR BUSINESS

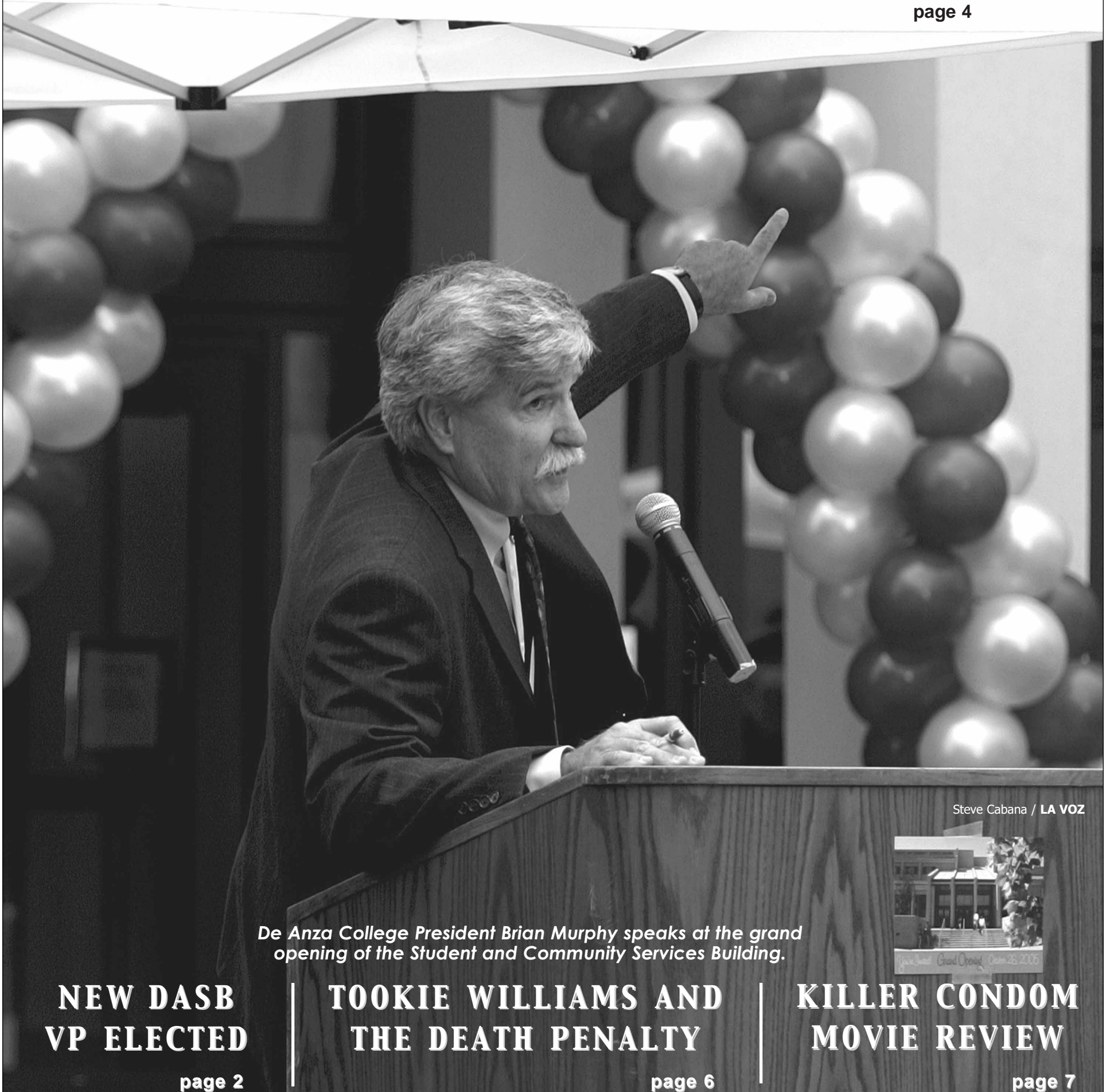
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Steve Cabana / LA VOZ

De Anza College President Brian Murphy speaks at the grand opening of the Student and Community Services Building.

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VP of Student Rights position filled

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT WINS IN CLOSE VOTE

WINNER: "WHAT I LACK IN EXPERIENCE, I WILL MAKE UP FOR WITH ENTHUSIASM"

**BY KARL BERNAL
LA VOZ**

The student senate elected Glenn Ho as the Vice President of Student Rights and Campus Relations at Wednesday's meeting.

"What I lack in experience I will make up for with enthusiasm," Ho responded to senators concerned about his lack of previous experience on the De Anza Associated Student Body Senate.

During his campaign speech to the senate, Ho said, "I think we should increase the number of ashtrays in designated smoking areas and make sure to remove all other ashtrays around campus." In addition, he said there should not be a penalty for breaking the rule for now. "I spoke with Mary-Jo Lomax about anti-smoking buttons that the students will soon be able to wear, so maybe that will spread the message."

Ho also addressed tuition and book costs. "I want to work with the Board of Trustees to find a way to lower the book costs for students, especially our low-income students."

In addition, Ho said he wants to increase awareness of diversity clubs, which he said are important to him because he is a student from a foreign country.

Seven candidates applied for the position. Candidate Siamack Jamshidipour was no longer in the running. To win, a candidate needed to garner 10 out of 18 votes. After the first round of voting, Ho and Xiaoyu "Rain" Xu led the race, each getting five votes. A runoff between the two resulted in an 11-7 vote in Ho's favor.

President Anna Callahan encouraged senators to vote with a show of hands instead of by secret ballot because, according to the Brown Act, secret ballot vote counts have to be recorded in the minutes but with a show of hands, said Callahan, no one outside the people present at the meeting would know who voted how.

The candidates were sent out of the room during voting. However, candidate George Edward Smith, who was also a senator, remained in the room and was allowed a vote.

Some senators expressed concern that Smith would know how they voted. At the suggestion of one of the candidates, the senate decided to vote with their heads down and hands up.

Services building opens



**BY YEKATERINA BARILOV
LA VOZ**

De Anza College witnessed the grand opening ceremony of the Student and Community Services Building last Wednesday.

The building, designed to integrate new and existing student services, was funded by the Measure E bond and completed this summer. It will offer students and faculty a more convenient way to access the college's programs.

The celebration in front of the building consisted of several

speeches translated into sign language and began with a welcome by Dr. Brian Murphy, president of De Anza. The building was "crafted, designed and programmed to better serve our students," he said.

Speakers emphasized the relationships between the programs. "The combination of the programs is really convenient," said Deborah Stern, a counselor for the Disabled Student Services. "Everything is now in one place. If I have a question about a transfer, I can just walk over to the transfer department and ask. I'm glad we moved."

"Students can now go through one door and find everything they need in one place," said Anna Callahan, president of the De Anza Student Body Senate.

This building is the first to "face out toward the community literally," said Murphy with its front doors opening towards Stevens Creek Blvd., and "figuratively" by containing offices related to Community Education, the Extended Year Enrichment Program and Short Courses.

"Robert, you have resolutely pursued the vision of this building — you have made this happen," said Murphy of Robert Griffin, vice president of Student Services and Institutional Research.

Tables representing student groups and programs including the ICC, Community Education, Short Courses, and Extended Year Enrichment Program offered information. Informal tours after the ceremony illustrated the building's facilities.

Martha Kanter, chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, said donations were welcome. "We hope to find that rare individual in the community who might be interested in the endowment of this building so that these services can continue with that measure of excellence that the state does not provide us with today."

New student ID numbers set for winter quarter

CHANGE IN STATE LAW PROHIBITS USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

**BY KAYLA HILTON
LA VOZ**

De Anza College students will have new ID numbers starting winter quarter. When students register for winter quarter online, there will be a link to a site through which they will be given a new student ID number, which will be a randomly generated number.

Students will also be e-mailed links to the ID number generator site, according to Willie Pritchard, vice chancellor of technology.

Currently, the student ID number is the Social Security number of a student. Schools are required by law not to use Social Security numbers of students unless absolutely necessary, as in the case of financial aid. However, this law does not go into effect for another two years. De Anza is getting a head start in changing the student ID numbers not only because of the law but also because of the potential risk of identity fraud.

"Students should get their new ID number as soon as possible," said Pritchard, "Using the Social Security number when it is unnecessary could lead to identity theft and we don't want to support that kind of activity."

The new number will not only be used when students register but also when interacting with the district. This is also to ensure that a student's Social Security number is not easily accessed.

In the age of ID theft and fraud, establishments including De Anza, are taking extra steps to prevent insecurity. The changing of the student ID number will begin with registration for Winter Quarter in November.

Although there is no set date until which students can use their Social Security number as their ID, all students are encouraged to change their ID as soon as possible.

Changing the student ID number will be an inexpensive process, according to Pritchard. The only costs are paying staff and programmers for their labor.

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Preliminary hearing will be set in murder trial of former employee

POLICE ARRESTED LONGTIME DE ANZA STAFFER IN JUNE; MAN ALLEGEDLY KILLED, DISMEMBERED HIS GIRLFRIEND

BY CORINNE REILLY
LA VOZ



File Photo / LA VOZ

On June 5, police arrested Alex Hochstraser, a former De Anza employee, for the murder of his girlfriend. He is currently awaiting trial.

The state has a strong case against a former De Anza College employee arrested on June 5 in connection with the death of his long-time girlfriend, according to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office.

Alexandre Hochstraser, 47, was arrested at the couple's apartment on Malabar Ave. in Santa Clara after police discovered a dismembered human body, later identified as Dolores Gonzales, 43, in large plastic storage tubs in the couple's red Volkswagen Jetta parked at the apartment complex.

"We filed a murder charge, and I feel that we have good evidence against Mr. Hochstraser," said Santa Clara County District Attorney Ted Kajani, who is prosecuting the case.

Hochstraser pleaded not guilty on June 23 to one count of murder. His attorney Kenneth Robinson declined to comment on the case.

According to search warrants, police gathered evidence indicating that Gonzales' body was cut up in the shower in the couple's apartment. Police seized the shower drain system during their investigation.

Police also found a receipt for plastic storage bins and a human model with the limbs removed.

Officers reported smelling bleach in the apartment

and found saw blades on the kitchen table, as well as Gonzales' fanny pack with her identification and keys.

According to police reports, Hochstraser and Gonzales had an argument that turned physical the previous night. A relative of Gonzales called police after her family was unable to reach her the next day.

Police found Hochstraser alone in the apartment, lying in the dark on a bed in the master bedroom when they arrived at 10:05 p.m.

Hochstraser confirmed that he and Gonzales had a physical argument the night before, and told police that he had not seen or heard from Gonzales since she left the apartment around 8 a.m.

Police found the couple's two-year old son unharmed at Hochstraser's mother's house in San Francisco.

Hochstraser worked at De Anza for more than 15 years and held classified positions in the International Student Office, the admissions office, and the math department.

Gonzales worked at Mission College for more than 20 years.

Hochstraser has been held at the Santa Clara County Main Jail without bail since his arrest. He is scheduled to appear in court on Nov. 4, where lawyers will set a date for his preliminary hearing.

If convicted of murder, Hochstraser faces a sentence of life in prison.

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Breaking news and winning awards

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FHDA Board of Trustees Candidates

On Election Day, these four candidates will face off for two seats for four-year terms as members of the district Board of Trustees. They will vote on issues ranging from plus/minus grading to layoffs. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 8.

COMPILED BY LILYA MITELMAN AND SHIRLEY LOO



PAUL FONG

Three-term FHDA trustee (1993-2005),
community college professor

"I will stand against raising fees if the money is not used on students."

Students' biggest concern: "Poor students need more help financially."

Tuition fees: "Most of the tuition fees go to the general fund and we don't get them back. I will stand against raising fees if the money is not used on students." He will fight fee hikes by lobbying state legislators.

Book prices: He said that book prices are too high. He will work with publishers to allow instructors to create custom-made books, where they can omit chapters they will not cover, thus making the books less expensive. He is in support of using public domain, and therefore free, materials. As for instructors assigning their own materials, he said it is all right if the materials are of good quality. "It is hard to say whether it is ethical or not."

Plus/minus grading: "I support plus/minus grading and I will vote for it." The system is fair to students, he said.

Layoffs: He said he attempts to transfer employees to other departments instead of laying them off. "I would only vote for layoffs as a last resort. The employees that I would vote to lay off first will be people that work outside of classrooms, as far away from the classroom as possible, like cleaners."



LAURA CASAS FRIER

FHDA Foundation board member,
education and legislative advocate

"Every time we increase [tuition fees], we close the doors to higher education for our working class students."

Students' biggest concern: "The biggest concerns are the 157 percent rise in student fees over the last two years, high cost of books and class availability," she said.

Tuition fees: "Every time we increase them, we close the doors to higher education for our working class students." She will continue lobbying in Sacramento to keep the fees from increasing.

Book prices: "Books can cost more than your tuition fees." She said she will keep trying to digitalize books and make sure instructors do not constantly ask their students to purchase new editions. She supports putting materials in the public domain. Regarding the issue of instructors assigning their own textbooks, she said, "As long as the book passes some kind of review committee, I don't see a problem with that."

Plus/minus grading: "I support everything that helps our students." She said she would be for plus/minus grading as long as a majority of students support it.

Layoffs: She said she would only vote for layoffs as a last resort, and would look first to areas with duplication of services or employees that aren't necessary for the mission of the college.



JULIA E. (FOX) MILLER

Former mayor of Sunnyvale and current
city council member

"It's kind of obnoxious when you have to pay to park."

Students' biggest concern: She said that the top student concern is available space in classes required for transferring or getting a degree.

Tuition fees: Current per-unit costs are reasonable but shouldn't increase. However, she said she would like to look into parking prices. "It's kind of obnoxious when you have to pay to park."

Book prices: She said current prices are "exorbitantly high." She said she supports putting free materials online. As for books with frequent new editions, she said it is purely a marketing strategy and should be controlled through legislation because it affects students financially. Instructors assigning self-authored books for classes is a "definite ethical issue," she said, and she plans to create a policy prohibiting it.

Plus/minus grading: She said she hasn't considered the issue and thought the system was currently in place. "I think it gives you an edge." However, she said her position may change depending on student and faculty arguments for and against the issue. "I'd have to see how persuasive each side was." Ultimately, she said, a trustee's job is to promote students.

Layoffs: She said she would try to cut services first, but would vote for layoffs "as a last resort." She doesn't know which group of employees she would vote to lay off first, but would look at the demand for that position.



BRUCE SWENSON

Former Foothill VP of finance, department
dean and professor

"I'd love to see [tuition fees] at zero."

Students' biggest concern: "I think the rising costs of education."

Tuition fees: "I'd love to see them at zero." He said fees are increasing too fast and are too high and he would like to see them reduced to the level they were at two or three years ago. "I would lobby with student groups and other trustees to lower the fees, or at least not increase the fees."

Book prices: He said books are too expensive and their prices are increasing too fast. "I'd like to work with our faculty groups to see about using online materials or adopting high quality materials that are of lower cost." If a book frequently comes out with new editions, the instructor should use a different book. Regarding teachers assigning their own books, he said, "I think there's a potential conflict of interest there," and those books must be approved by the instructors' departments and the curriculum committee.

Plus/minus grading: "I don't have a strong feeling one way or another." If students and faculty disagree on the issue, he said, "I would give equal weight to both groups on this issue" since both have "expertise" in the area and "a stake" in the outcome.

Layoffs: "I'm very reluctant to lay off the valuable employees of the district's but might have to vote for layoffs to maintain the financial viability of the district. Layoffs are an absolute last resort to meet budget requirements." He said that since instructors are the closest employees to the students, "they're the last employee group I would involve in layoffs," except during an enrollment decline.

For more information about the candidates, go to
www.lavozdeanza.com

La Voz wins 27 awards

BY KATHERINE NGUYEN
LA VOZ

La Voz Weekly, De Anza College's student newspaper, came back from the 2005 Journalism Association of Community Colleges NorCal convention with 27 awards, the most it has won since first entering the contests in 1968.

JACC was a day long event with workshops for writers, photographers, layout designers, cartoonists and other journalism positions. It was held at San Francisco State University on Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. At least 24 community colleges from Northern California entered their newspapers to the competition.

Mail-in awards were taken from the newspapers from the fall quarter of 2004 to

the spring quarter of 2005. On-the-spot awards were contests at the convention that any *La Voz* staff member could enter.

In the mail-in section, *La Voz* won 24 awards and for on-the-spot, two more awards were gained.

The Web site, www.lavozdeanza.com, also won an award for General Excellence.

"I wasn't surprised that we won because we already had a very good Web site. We have already made it even better with videos, and PDF images of the printed paper so people can see the exact designs and layouts if they wanted too," said Dan Sealana, online editor since winter 2004.

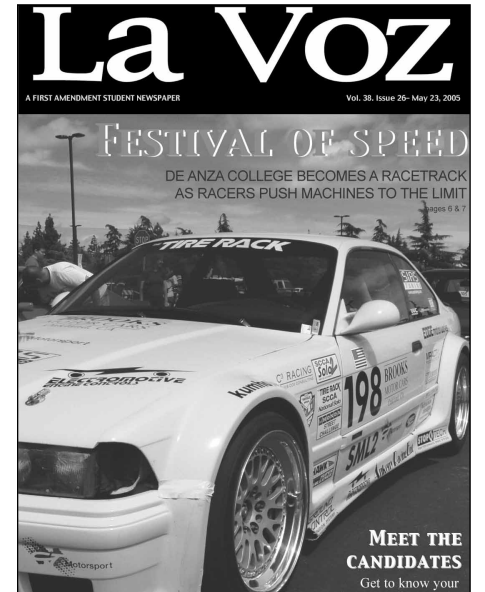
La Voz's Web site has been online for about five years.

"I'm very proud but I have to give the credit to the staff also. It wouldn't have been possible without them giving me such good content," Sealana said.

First place awards include the following categories: editorial, front page design and sports action photo. The second place award is for column writing. Third place awards include the following categories: informational graphic, online photo and profile feature story. Fourth place awards are for inside page layout for tabloid, line illustration, online photo and sports game story.

Honorable mentions include the following categories: advertisement, critical review, editorial, editorial cartoon, line illustration, news story, opinion story, sports action photo and sports feature photo.

"The entire staff worked hard to put out the paper every week, and accomplishing that was enough of a reward. The recognition [at JACC] is simply a bonus," said Steven Cabana, last year's editor-in-chief.



La Voz won first place for this front page design. "It will have great appeal," said a judge at JACC.

DASB stages fashion show for Katrina students at DA

BY KRIS CANA
LA VOZ

The De Anza College Associated Student Body Diversity and Events Committee will be holding a fundraiser for De Anza students who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The fundraiser will take place on Dec. 1, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Conference Rooms A and B. Tickets are available for a donation of \$3 or more.

The money donated by the fundraiser will not only help pay for tuition, but will

pay for books, child care, food, clothing and other everyday needs.

There will be a student-organized fashion show, a silent auction, entertainment, light refreshments and public speakers.

De Anza students will model outfits that attendees can bid on.

Money raised will go to the displaced students to help them finish their schooling.

All auction items will be donated to the event, which will cost almost nothing to organize, according to the De Anza Student Body senate.

There are currently only a few students who transferred to De Anza because of the

hurricane, but within the next year, De Anza President Brian Murphy expects a rise in the number of displaced students attending De Anza.

De Anza has waived out-of-state tuition for Katrina victims and is allowing them to pay the lower in-state tuition rate instead.

In-state tuition is currently \$17 per unit plus basic fees such as health services and the DASB card. This rate is an \$84 per unit savings from the usual fee for out-of-state students.

"We hope to raise as much as possible. Every penny donated will be a tremendous help to Katrina victims at De Anza," said Audrey

Lo, vice president of diversity and events.

Outside vendors will provide men's and women's outfits for students to model.

"Most of the clothing will be donated from Urban Outfitters, although ethnic clothing will be shown," Lo said.

Ethnic clothing will include styles from India, China and Vietnam.

A Web site will feature the program guide for the fashion show.

According to the Diversity and Events Committee they decided on the fundraiser idea because last year's Tsunami Fundraiser was successful. It raised \$4,716.44 for tsunami victims.

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Opinions expressed by staff and contributors are the opinions of the individuals and not necessarily the opinion of La Voz.

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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.

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Editorial

An open letter to new Student Rights VP

Dear Glenn,

At De Anza, a community college in which fewer than 5 percent of the student body votes in the yearly student government election, experience is certainly no substitute for enthusiasm. Many students don't care. But some, like you, do. In that sense, we are similar creatures – and endangered ones at that. As the student voice, we at *La Voz* give to you our advice, a little boost on the way to acquiring that experience you'll need to keep from burning out.

We're going to tackle two problematic, controversial issues: smoking and plus/minus grading.

Smoking isn't reprehensible. It's that De Anza smokers tend to be irresponsible. Cigarette butts littered the campus invariably before anti-smoking regulations. Now, it's a little different. The administration has high hopes that students will hear what they have to say and realize it's wrong – oh, so wrong – to smoke irresponsibly.

But they're using all the wrong techniques. The previous 25-foot rule was a

wonderful idea. It would still be in effect today, if only it had been implemented with any degree of professionalism. Instead, ashtrays were placed next to doors and windows, and coupled with a no-enforcement policy. This taught smokers one important thing: ignore the administration.

Everyone's aware of the policy. However, it's only with an enforcement policy that it will actually affect student behavior.

Imagine not having the money to attend college next year. That might be the case for some students, if the district Board of Trustees votes to fully approve plus/minus grading.

But the hype about the new system is just that – hype, and it will be a gross error on our part if we simply accept the information we're given.

Plus/minus grading, in its current form, will make 4.0 students nearly extinct, 3.0 students ineligible for scholarships and 2.0 students ineligible for nearly any form of financial aid. Since there is no provision for a bolstered A+

grade, students in the A range would suffer – or receive no reward for their efforts. Low B students would find themselves ineligible for many scholarships, and those low Cs would have difficulty doing anything. How many students would lose scholarships and transfer opportunities for the sake of a more specific ranking system?

Don't be fooled by this one. De Anza and Foothill students have battled the implementation of plus/minus grading for over 20 years.

In fact, two years ago, the De Anza Academic Senate discovered that information used to support the proposal was fraudulent and argued against it – but to no avail. The Board of Trustees approved it anyway as a trial over the 2004-2005 school year, despite numerous and vehement objections.

Glenn, the student body is counting on you. Examine the issue and its history. You won't regret being more informed.

Sincerely,
 The Editors of *La Voz*

Williams case challenges our views on criminal justice

FORMER GANG LEADER'S SENTENCE RAISES TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT DEATH PENALTY, PURPOSE OF PRISONS



JAMES NEWBURG

His arms and legs are fastened tightly to the table. He cannot move.

In seven minutes, he will never move again.

A technician swabs alcohol on both of his arms at the elbow. This yields the desired effect. Two veins rise and reach out for the needle that enters them. Another technician loads three chemicals into a machine that belongs to the State of California.

The clock reads 12:01 a.m.

The warden gives a signal to the technician. The technician flips the switch.

The first thing he feels is the sodium thiopental enter his formerly muscular arms. He waited 24 years for this moment to come.

His mind is a churning sea of racing thoughts – a man at peace with how he reformed himself, a man with remorse for the crimes he committed, a man in fear of the death that is now before him. It is as if all of this thinking will fend off the unconsciousness that is coming in 60 seconds.

Sleep.

The pancuronium bromide enters next. The body that once resembled a fearsome NFL linebacker lies prone. The muscles stop moving. The process is no different from the preparation of a patient for surgery.

Then the potassium chloride enters the bloodstream.

The final act is brief and violent. The heart that gave its first pump of life on December 29, 1953 rages against the chemical. It fights a losing battle.

The clock reads 12:08 a.m. The sentence handed down by the Los Angeles Superior Court 24 years ago is served.

In 44 days, this will be the fate of Stanley Tookie Williams.

Our justice system considers this a suitable end to the life of a quadruple murderer. Other people think this a miscarriage of justice for a man who is the exemplar for prison rehabilitation.

Tookie Williams was a feared man when he walked the streets of South Los Angeles. He was barely old enough to get his driver's license when he established a street gang in his neighborhood. Unlike most neighborhood gangs, his expanded into a criminal enterprise that now spans across nearly every state in the nation and several countries on two continents. Thousands of young men today claim the blue flag of the Crips.

Williams went on trial in 1981 for a series of four murders committed over two weeks in February 1979. The prosecution selected a nearly all-white jury composed of 10 Caucasians and no African-Americans to hear the case. The jury saw circumstantial evidence and heard the testimony of three criminals who testified that he volunteered a confession to them. They said he was guilty.

The pride and bravado that made him an indomitable criminal on the outside still carried the day when Williams went to San Quentin Prison. He did not lose his sense of importance after being imprisoned. In the dangerous world of San Quentin, Tookie Williams was still a feared man.

It took a six-and-one-half year stay in solitary confinement for Williams to deeply contemplate the consequences of the life he chose. The isolation of solitary gave room for him to change the course of his life.

Writing allowed Williams to voice his anguish for his past mistakes. In a letter simply called "The Apology," he wrote, "I pray that one day my apology will be accepted. I also pray that your suffering, caused by gang violence, will soon come to an end as more gang members wake up and stop hurting themselves and others."

Williams emerged from his confinement intent on making amends for his criminal past. He wrote two books, "Life

in Prison" and a memoir, "Blue Rage and Black Redemption." His series of children's books are hailed for their anti-violence message. The social impact of his books earned him a nomination for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

But it is Williams' community intervention that is his lasting testament. His "Protocol for Peace" document provides a template for rival gangs to end hostilities. Gangs from cities around the world continue to use the protocol to reach lasting peace agreements. He spends considerable time and effort to mentor troubled youths around the world by phone and in person at San Quentin.

Williams is a perennial nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. President Bush recognized his volunteer efforts with a Presidential Call to Service Award.

The case of Tookie Williams challenges our fundamental ideas about the death penalty. In determining his fate, we are forced to think about why our prison system exists.

We can choose to send a message to society that certain crimes are beyond the pale. These criminals make their lives forfeit by doing such heinous acts. Prison is a place to reinforce the idea that they are completely beyond redemption.

Our society cannot live in a world that does not recognize the possibility of the human condition. Such a world casts out not only those behind the wall. It also casts out the very people Tookie Williams is trying to save. Thousands of troubled souls look to him for inspiration and guidance. His life gives a sense of possibility to people who see none.

And that is the ultimate crime in this death sentence. This is a man who lurked in the darkest corners of society when he was free, a man who channeled his efforts into activities meant to unravel the threads keeping society together. Yet, in the darkness of solitary confinement and the despair of knowing he would never leave San Quentin alive, he committed the whole of his life to serving others in need.

Governor Schwarzenegger, will you grant clemency to Tookie Williams?

CULT CLASSIC SPOTLIGHT



BY JARROD PAPAN LA VOZ

Boasting an Official Selection Award at the 1996 Berlin Film Festival, and enlisting macabre artist H.R. Giger as a creative consultant, this German film flaunts only the best in über camp, demented comedy, hard-edged detective drama, and social commentary.

Originally a best-selling comic book created by screenwriter Ralph König, the movie's exaggerated characters and ridiculous situations help translate that feeling throughout its entire 107 minutes.

Udo Samuel stars as Detective Luigi Mackeroni, a jaded tough guy who ignores authority while struggling to deal with his homosexuality's place in the police department. After being attacked and left short one testicle by the movie's namesake, Mackeroni sets out on a mission to capture the ravenous rubber. After a botched stakeout, he almost loses his badge, and is forced to covertly pursue his pernicious perpetrator. Believed by the department to be a rash of overzealous prostitutes, Mackeroni

finally nabs his contraceptive calumniator, and uncovers a far more sinister plot.

Great supporting characters appear throughout the movie. The most colorful being Babette, a cross-dressing stalker, convinced that the detective loves him due to his close resemblance to Luigi's mother. Their interaction provides a bizarre but enjoyable string of comedic situations that help pull together many of the scenes.

With a soundtrack that barely makes an impression, "K.C." offers its more noteworthy aspects in an amusing selection of Condom-cam shots, interesting lighting schemes, and an overall tongue-in-cheek approach.

Available on DVD, and easy to find online, "Killer Condom" is the perfect answer to those in the mood for a crazy German flick full of raunchy innuendo and inanity. Protect yourself with this timeless piece by adding it to your cult movie library in time for this year's Day of the Dead.

There are many rules to the subtle art of filmmaking. One of the better known is, open your film with a bloody off-screen castration perpetrated by a razor-toothed

prophylactic, and people pay attention. In keeping with the Halloween theme, that's exactly what "Killer Condom," this week's cult classic, does to a tee.



BY JARROD PAPAN LA VOZ

If lyrics like 50 Cent's "I got a hundred grand from crack/ Going to see my dealer, so I can blow a stack" appeal to you, then stop reading this review now. Die hard fans of horror-clown rap need not waste their time.

"The Craft," the newest full-length effort from respected hip-hop group Blackalicious, finds them returning to their independent roots with a thoughtful and clever string of tunes that will leave even the most rhythm-impaired listeners bobbing their heads in approval.

"World of Vibrations" gives the album a strong start, boasting a catchy violin and xylophone line that sets the tone for Gab to introduce the album. Immediately the love of his job is apparent, as he spits effortlessly through the track, which then

gives way to female vocals worthy of Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon."

From there the tone darkens a bit, as Gab addresses the flawed system to which so many fall, acknowledging the lure of quick money and reasoning for some people's turn to violence. In "Supreme People," lyrics such as, "And now you can't feel free/without material possessions you can't just be/ and without them you're left stressin' so anxiously/ so you grab the Smith & Wesson /then aim then squeeze" drive the point home.

The only disappointing track on the album, "Powers" embraces pop styling far more than any other song on the CD. Written solely about meeting a beautiful woman, the song feels empty when compared to its poignant and well-crafted siblings. At fourteen tracks and nearly sixty minutes, its cut from the album wouldn't have been missed.

There are a few other chorus-

es that feel a bit cheesy; but these tracks are saved by the Gab's legendary rapping ability. Gems like "Lotus Flower," "Side to Side," and "Give it to You," boast collaboration with the likes of George Clinton, Kween, Lyrics Born, Pigeon John, and Lateef, and span musical styles from jazz to psychedelic rock, making the few down moments easily forgettable.

Though laced, as always, with a sense of universal spirituality, Blackalicious never preaches. According to Vibe Magazine, Chief Xcel said of naming the album, "The Craft is our passion to bring discipline to this music, the passion to keep growing, keep stretching, keep doing things we haven't done before. The Craft is what we live for."

That's something to keep in mind when faced with the choice of purchasing "The Craft," versus the latest effort of this week's gat-wielding, diamond cross-wearing cliché.

You write the caption!

Sometimes the advertising flyers posted around campus are too funny for words. Submit the best caption for the flyer below and win two movie tickets to the Camera theaters. The winning entry will be published in next week's issue of *La Voz*. Entries must include name and phone number, and can be submitted to the *La Voz* office in L-41 or e-mailed to lavoz@fhda.edu by Thursday.

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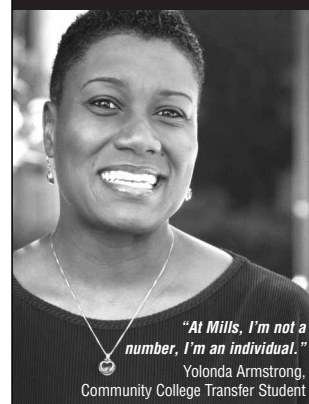
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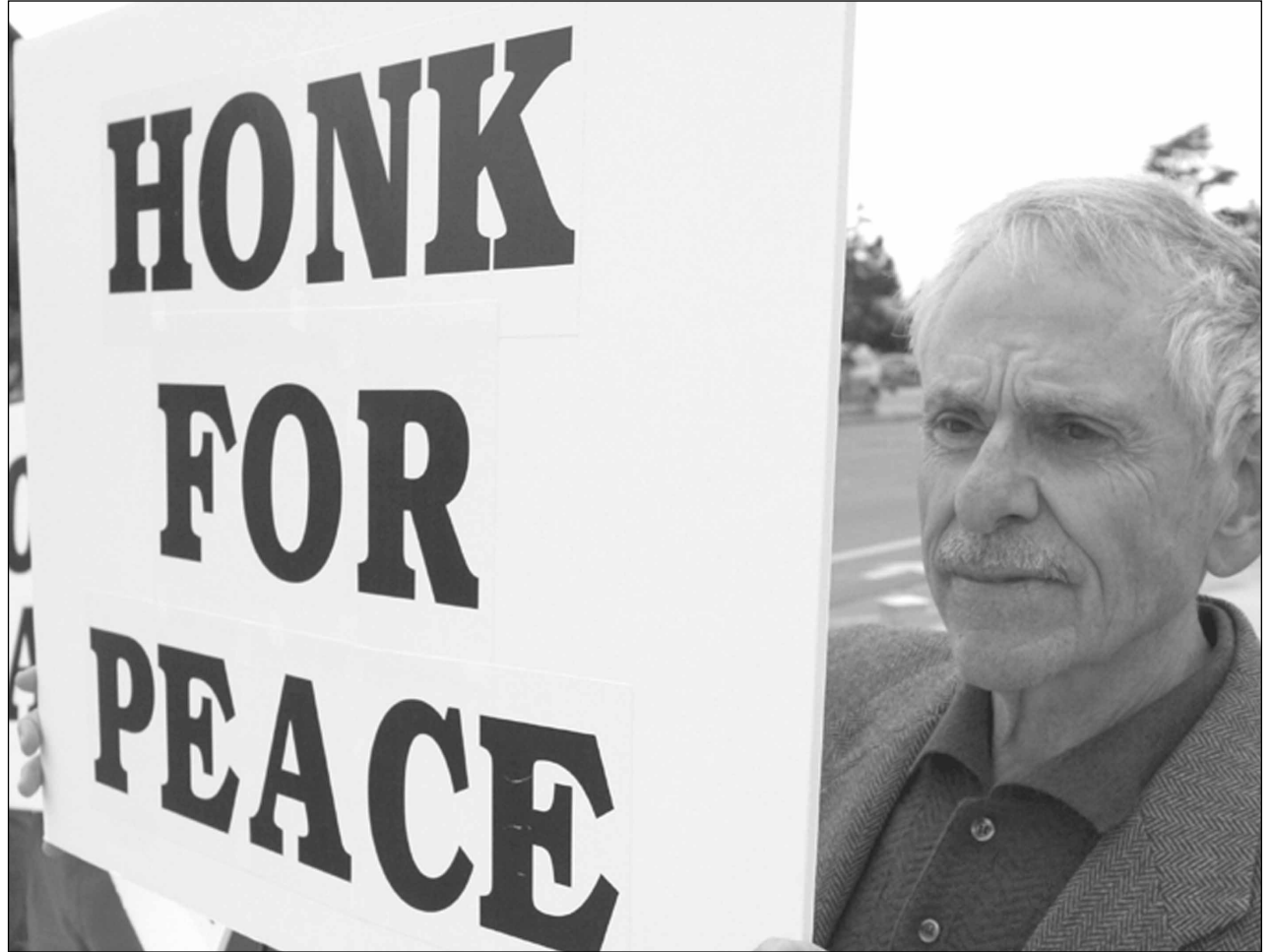
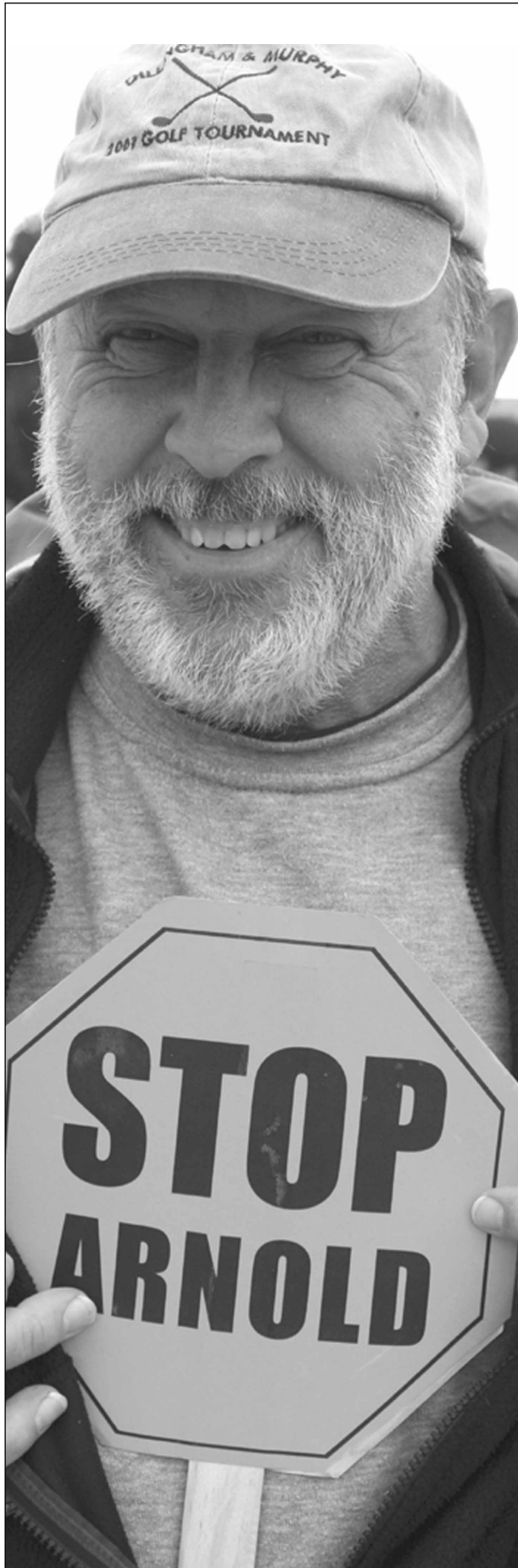
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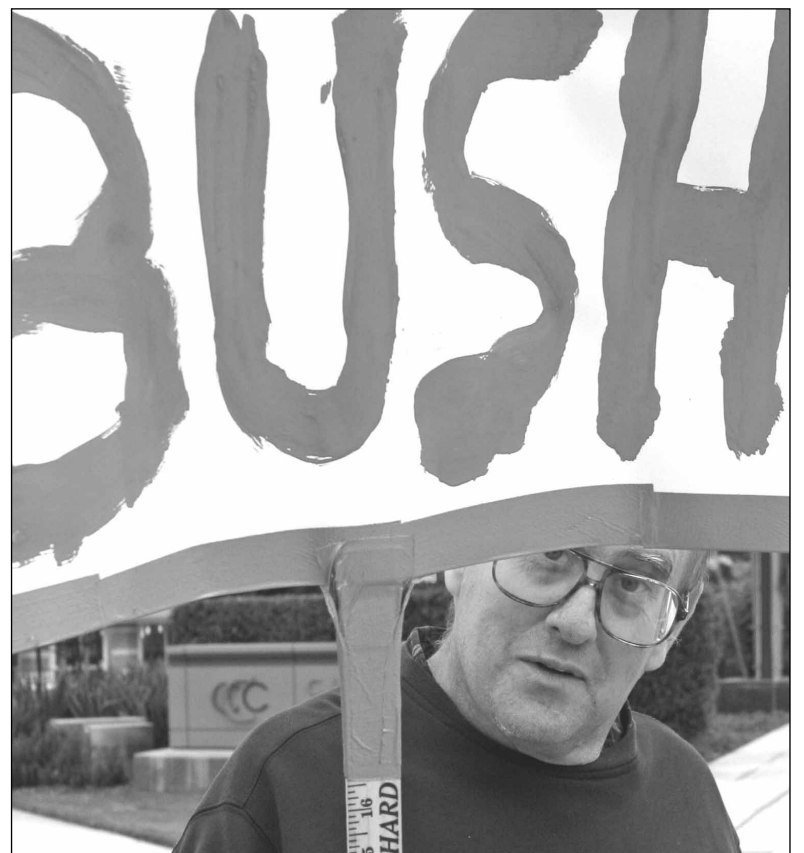
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Community protests war to mark 2,000 U.S. dead

Local antiwar protesters gathered at the corner of Stevens Creek Blvd. and De Anza Blvd. on Wednesday to rally against the war in Iraq. This protest was one of many held nationwide as the American death toll in Iraq surpassed 2,000 soldiers.

PHOTOS BY DAVID CENZER
LA VOZ



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