



## FEATURES

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Child Development Center's future looks optimistic.

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SINCE 1967

**THIS IS A SPECIAL  
WAR/BUDGET  
ORIENTATION ISSUE  
OF LA VOZ**

# la voz

w e e k l y

The Voice of De Anza College

Vol. 36, Issue 21

A First Amendment Student Newspaper

April 7, 2003

## DASB meets its deadline

AFTER WEEKS OF DELIBERATION,  
DASB FINALIZES BUDGET

BY DANIEL DEBOLT  
*La Voz*

The DASB's 2003-2004 budget was finalized March 27 with an additional \$15,000 taken from the Budget Crisis Allocation fund and distributed among eight programs.

"I am very relieved, very happy," said Jennifer De Leon, vice president of technology.

"Everyone could have been funded a little further, but I am happy with the [additional] \$15,000 allocated."

"I think it's a pretty good budget. There are some things I don't agree with, but you have to compromise," said senator Robert Campbell. "I'm proud of what we did."

However, pride was not the consensus. In order to reach quorum to pass the second vote, two senators voted via phone.

"I have lost a lot of respect for certain senators who didn't show up to these last meetings," said DASB President Melecia Navarro. "We all scheduled this. We all have finals to study for. The sad thing about that is they didn't fulfill their duties and then when they do show up they say, 'We're doing this for the stu-

dents, we're doing this for the students.' Be at the meeting. That's how you can do this for the students."

### Wednesday March 19

The senate meeting on March 19th was packed with students, faculty and staff who had heard of a \$500,000 reserve in the DASB budget and an extra \$105,000 allocation for a marquee sign that was never built.

Many audience members spoke out against the \$100,000 Budget Crisis Allocation Fund proposed by Colin Pickel, vice president of finance, and advocated by John Cagnetta, DASB advisor. The BCA reduced the budget allocations for several programs.

"There is no budget crisis in the DASB, you have created a budget crisis," said former senator Anthony Choice.

Nacime Karami, vice president of student rights and services, said that because of the \$100,000 allocated to the BCA, many programs will not be able to plan for or function well in the fall.

"I have given in too much

see Budget, Page 6

## PROTESTERS MARCH ON CAPITOL

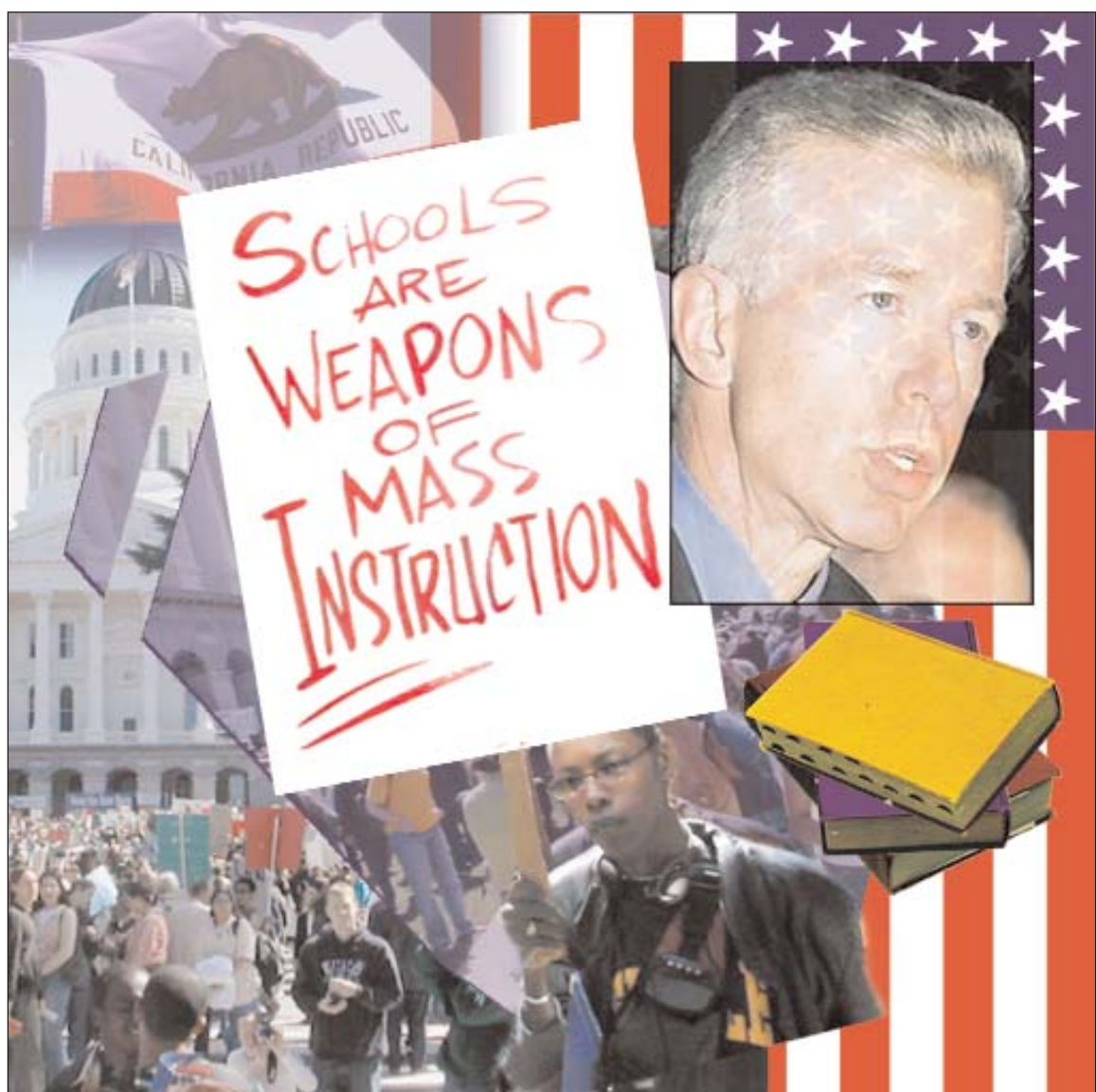


Photo illustration by Karen Uyenco / LA Voz  
Photos courtesy of Language Arts Division

De Anza, along with other California Community Colleges, travelled to the state capital March 17 to participate in the "March in March." They rallied to express discontent with the state budget cut proposals made by Gov. Gray Davis, **STORY ON PAGE 5.**

## Support staff will soon face unemployment

BY LUKE STANGEL  
*La Voz*

Gov. Gray Davis released the 2003-2004 community college budget in January, spelling a \$20.7 million cut in state funding to the Foothill-De Anza Community College District. The district's finance committee has been working around the clock since the axe fell three months ago, meeting with special interest groups on campus to

minimize the resulting impact from the cuts.

Today, faculty and staff will get definitive numbers from the committee on layoffs and reductions in employment. In an early report released by the committee this week, an estimated \$2.3 million will be saved by effectively closing new hiring and engaging in the seniority "bumping" system.

Bumping is the practice of laying off staff members with less seniority, and fill-

ing their open positions with other similar staff members with more seniority. Through bumping, staff members with more seniority are spared the pink slip.

The Service Employee International Union, or SEIU, which represents 507 employed blue and white-collar staff, has been meeting weekly with the district to make the impending layoffs go as smoothly as possible. Plans include early notification of impacted staff, and exit programs to help

laid-off workers find another job easily.

Javier Rueda, chapter chair of the SEIU, anticipates that staff members will not be moving positions or negotiating until July 1st.

"The idea that we have with this committee is to do whatever we possibly can to prevent anyone from suffering through this process of layoffs, [bumped jobs] or a

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HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY  
OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

CONTACT US AT  
408-864-5626 OR  
E-MAIL LAVOZ@FHDA.EDU

**lavoz**  
weekly

The Voice of De Anza College

**MARIECAR MENDOZA**  
Editor-in-Chief  
lavoz@fhda.edu

**KAREN UYENCO**  
Managing Editor  
managinglavoz@hotmail.com

LING-MEI WONG, News Editor  
ERNIE YBARRA, Assistant News Editor  
lavoz\_news@hotmail.com  
REZA KAZEMPOUR, Opinion Editor  
DANIEL DEBOLT, Assistant Opinion Editor  
lavoz\_opinions@yahoo.com  
JULIO LARA, Features Editor  
LUKE STANGEL, Assistant Features Editor  
lavoz\_features@hotmail.com  
PAYAM JAHROMI, Sports Editor  
lavoz\_sports@hotmail.com  
MEERA KUMBHANI, Entertainment Editor  
MARYAM A. ANSARI, Assistant  
Entertainment Editor  
lavoz\_entertainment@yahoo.com  
TERESA OLIVERIA, Advice Columnist  
KRIS ROWBERRY, Freelance Manager

DEBORAH PEREZ, Advertising/  
Office Manager  
lavoz\_ads@yahoo.com  
JOSEPH BRUNA, Lab Technician  
lavoz\_labtech@yahoo.com  
BETH GROBMAN-BURRUS, Adviser  
grobman@fhda.edu

### Our Mission

Produced by students, *La Voz* is dedicated to covering news that matters to the diverse population of De Anza College and the surrounding community. As a First Amendment newspaper, *La Voz* takes full advantage of the freedom of the press afforded to all Americans. However, this freedom comes with a tremendous responsibility not to abuse it. *La Voz* strives to present news in a fair and accurate manner. *La Voz* approaches this task with absolute integrity and actively pursues the input of members of the De Anza community to make sure that goal is achieved.

### About Us

*La Voz* is a First Amendment newspaper written and published by De Anza College students. Staff editorials reflect the opinions of the majority of the editorial board, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the author or the opinion of the *La Voz* staff.

Opinions and viewpoints expressed by staff and contributors are the opinion of the individual, and not necessarily the opinion of *La Voz*.

*La Voz* reserves the right to accept or reject any advertisement. Printing an advertisement does not imply endorsement or acceptance by the *La Voz* staff of the service, event, product or idea advertised. For advertising rates, please call 408-864-5626.

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### Letters Policy

*La Voz* encourages Letters to the Editor. Letters must be signed and include contact information, such as a phone number or e-mail address for verification.

Letters should not exceed two double-spaced, typed pages of no more than 300 words. Letter content must not be libelous or be intended to air unfounded personal grievances.

*La Voz* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity in accordance with Associated Press style, but will make no attempt to alter the letter's meaning.

### Submissions and Press Releases

*La Voz* welcomes submissions and press releases from the De Anza community. Submissions must be signed and include contact information, such as a phone number or e-mail address for verification.

*La Voz* reserves the right to edit for length and clarity in accordance with Associated Press style, but will make no attempt to alter the submission's meaning.

*La Voz* does not guarantee all submissions will be printed and does not guarantee coverage of received press releases.

### Contact Us

*La Voz* strives for fair and accurate coverage. For corrections and clarifications, submissions, letters to the editor and press releases please contact Editor-in-Chief Mariecar Mendoza.

Located: Room L-41 at De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014.

Phone: 408-864-5626

E-mail: lavoz@fhda.edu

Fax: 408-864-5533

# The irony of protesting

STAFF WRITER KRIS ROWBERRY'S THOUGHTS ON THE SF PROTESTS



krisrowberry

With our country at war with Iraq, several thousand people in the Bay Area are taking their opinions to the streets in the form of organized marches. That's OK. Free speech is what this great country was built on.

I do have a problem, however, with the few who are not associated with the main group of peaceful protesters. The ones who make a scene that involves bludgeoning police officers, looting local merchants and having "die ins" in the heart of the San Francisco financial district.

First of all, why are people still protesting? Our president is not going to wake up one day, turn on the local news and say,

"Because of them, I'm going to stop this whole war." The inevitability of war has caught up with us, and there is no turning around now. We must "finish the job." If we were to pull out of the war, it would be like not rolling the final shot in a perfect bowling game.

Second, with our already flat economy, how can the protesters think that by shutting down the financial district, they will get support for their cause? Personally, I see the opposite. When working class families start to lose money in the stock market because their investors couldn't get to work, the figurative line has been crossed.

One of the stories to come out of the protests was the alleged police brutality that occurred in San Francisco. I am sick and tired of watching our media show police officers as cruel, inhumane characters that are hell bent on dispersing and silencing the protesters' voices. Apparently Sept. 11 taught them nothing about the dedication of civil servants to the community.

Even more pathetic is how filtered our

media has become in coverage of such events. The footage viewers are fed shows the crowd getting out of hand or a student pointing to an officer and saying, "He used excessive force on me!" Well, when someone throws punches at a police officer, the officer should defend himself.

According to *Schmidt v. Cook*, bodily injury does not necessarily constitute excessive force. From the accounts from student protesters who felt the police officers used excessive force, it seems as though the force was not excessive.

If you consider being pushed or hit in the knee with a night stick being excessive, or being scraped against the asphalt by accident, look at what our good buddy Saddam did to those who disagreed with his ideals. We should be thankful of such rights here in America.

So go ahead and protest, even though it is a lost cause. Just stay out of the way of people who never asked to be part of your protest. In fact, be thankful of the men and women in the armed services who are in Iraq fighting for your right to protest in America; an ironic parable if I ever saw one.

Compiled by  
Ngan Truong

## Do you think protests are effective?

Opinions



"Protests are effective, depending on how they're implemented. Stopping traffic is only effective for one day and one day only. In San Francisco and other places in the world any longer than that, it becomes news and backfires."

- Robert Ahlquist

"[When it comes to] affecting policy, [protests] are just not effective ... I think that they might need to consider more issues of the war instead of staging full-fledged violent protests against something that we need to be solidified as a nation for."

- Catherine Cox



"Whenever I watch the news, I think it's absolutely ridiculous. I kind of laugh at all these people that are trying to do anti-war protests because it obviously doesn't help anything."

- Adam McAndrews

## LETTERS

### Student asks that we unite during war and peace

Dear Editor,

I am writing in light of the recent "war of the words" that has taken place in *La Voz* in recent months. As I am writing this, our country is in the midst of war, a war that will not only result in the shedding of blood, but a war that threatens our own livelihood as American citizens.

The events leading up to this war have already divided our nation; the antithesis of what should be happening in this time of conflict. Never in my lifetime, a short 22 years, has the need been greater for all of us, as Americans, to put our differences aside and unite as a nation. If we let this war tear us apart, we will have lost this war regardless of what happens in Iraq.

Those that oppose the war and those that promote the war, feel his or her belief is the right one, and there is nothing that we can do to change this fact. When we attack each other's beliefs, we are fighting the wrong battle. We must live and let live, because any other way will result in great loss.

Therefore, I propose a compromise, a treaty of sorts. I propose that we all fulfill the opinions and the beliefs of others, and leave our preconceptions and prejudices behind. We must band together as Americans, but most importantly as people. We must take steps forward, not backward, to the time of the Civil War. We must show the world our resolve as a nation by not killing each other and ourselves. A country

that does this is a country of savages, a country without order. America is not that country.

In closing, I ask you only to follow your hearts, not only in your beliefs, but also in your compassion; the compassion that will pave your path to compromise with your brothers and sisters that you live with beneath the stars and stripes of the American flag. We must unite in times of war and stay united in times of peace and prosperity. Well people, the war is on, and poverty seems to be on the horizon. We must unite.

-Greg Pensinger  
student

### An invitation to become critical thinkers

Dear Editor,

Letters from Michael Matthews and Jeremy Bakin, printed in the March 17 issue of *La Voz*, both make a number of good points. But I have a few counterpoints.

Name calling and/or poor articulation are not the exclusive faults of "liberals" or self-described "revolutionaries," nor is the peace movements the exclusive province of the political left. One of the most popular anti-war Web sites, [www.antivar.com](http://www.antivar.com), is libertarian, NOT liberal—BIG difference! To their credit, the site publishes a wide range of articles spanning from the far right to the far left, but their editorial stance leans distinctively to the right, and they do their share of "liberal bashing." Don't take my word for it, check the site out for yourself.

Moreover, while the war against Iraq and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict are indeed two separate issues, neither are they entirely

unrelated. Just as there are many Jews skeptical of war with Iraq, there are many "avid supporters of Israel" who oppose the occupation, support Palestinian rights, including statehood, and are deeply fearful that current Israeli policies and United States support of Israeli rightists are leading to Israel's long-term detriment or even destruction. It's entirely possible to be pro-peace, pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian all at the same time. One of the best, though by no means only, works of articulation of this perspective can be found at [www.tikkun.org](http://www.tikkun.org). True friends of Israel and others concerned about anti-semitism should especially check out "Iraq, Israel, and the Jews" by Stephen Zunes accessible through [www.tikkun.org](http://www.tikkun.org).

-David Sprowls  
student



## Do you have any idea where you are?

Look below to find out what you need to know as you embark on your educational journey.

### Need counseling?

The Counseling Department is located in the administration building and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., counselors arrive at 9 a.m. Friday hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., counselors arrive at 9 a.m.

You can drop in or make an appointment by calling 408-864-5400.

However, be aware that there are no appointments scheduled the first week or last two weeks of the quarter.

### Paying for your education?

Avoid long lines at the cashier window by paying all fees through the following services:

Credit Card only-- De Anza's online registration system, [www.deanza.edu](http://www.deanza.edu), or Student Telephone Assisted Registration (STAR) at 408-777-9394 or 650-917-0509.

Check or money order only-- "Quick Pay" drop slots located next to the cashier's window on the right.

### Are you broke?

The Financial Aid department is located in the Hinson Campus Center's lower level in HCC-117.

Here you will find information you need for scholarships, grants, loans, work study and fee waivers.

Hours of service are Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For any questions call 408-864-8718 or visit [www.deanza.edu/financialaid](http://www.deanza.edu/financialaid)

### Need to add another class?

If you procrastinated with your registration, then you will probably need to add another class. But how do you do that?

First go to the original class session. Then ask for an add label from the instructor if there are spaces available. Finally, go to De Anza's registration page to add the class there using *My De Anza*. Please note: you need to update your e-mail address. As of last quarter De Anza is only sending out information online, so make sure your current one is on the system.

### Need important dates and numbers?

|                                   |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>First day of instruction:</b>  | April 7      |
| <b>Drop Deadlines: For refund</b> | April 18     |
| <b>For no grade</b>               | April 25     |
| <b>For "W" grade</b>              | May 30       |
| <b>Last day to: Add a class</b>   | April 18     |
| <b>Last day for: Pass/no pass</b> | May 2        |
| <b>Last day of the quarter</b>    | June 27      |
| <b>College is closed</b>          | May 26       |
| <b>Phone Numbers:</b>             |              |
| <b>Information</b>                | 408-864-5678 |
| <b>Financial Aid</b>              | 408-864-8718 |
| <b>Cashier</b>                    | 408-864-8290 |
| <b>Admissions</b>                 | 408-864-5300 |

### Are you scared?

De Anza is patrolled and protected by campus security and the Foothill-De Anza Police Department.

De Anza Campus Security is located in the lower level of the Hinson Campus Center.

The office is open from 7 a.m. to 12 a.m., seven days a week. For any on-campus emergencies call 408-864-5555.

After 12 a.m. and before 7 a.m., call 911 for any emergencies.

### Got condoms?

Located in the lower level of the Hinson Campus Center, De Anza College Health Services is open 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday and on Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

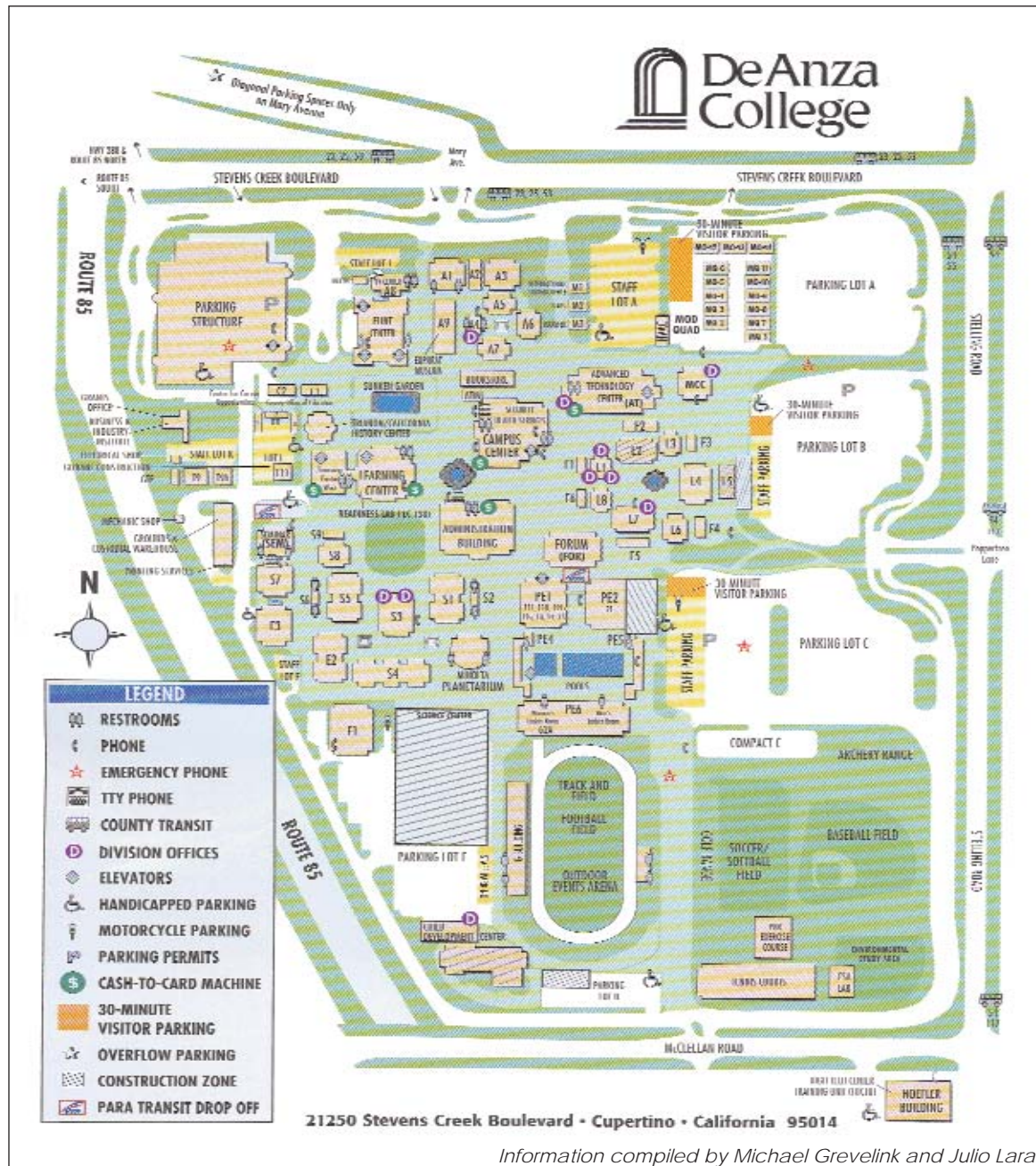
Services include discounted medical assistance, birth control at reduced prices and the popular free condoms.

For more information, contact the De Anza College Health Services at 408-864-8732.

### Where is La Voz?

Learn where the *La Voz* newsstands are and use them as navigation points. They are located at these places:

- Learning Center, by the left entrance
- Behind the Learning Center, in front of the entrance to the Open Media Lab
- Hinson Campus Center entrance facing the patio
- Under the Hinson Campus Center, in front of Lé Cafe
- L-41
- PE Quad
- Administration Building
- Advanced Technology Center on the second level



| LEGEND |                           |
|--------|---------------------------|
|        | RESTROOMS                 |
|        | PHONE                     |
|        | EMERGENCY PHONE           |
|        | TTY PHONE                 |
|        | COUNTY TRANSIT            |
|        | DIVISION OFFICES          |
|        | ELEVATORS                 |
|        | HANDICAPPED PARKING       |
|        | MOTORCYCLE PARKING        |
|        | PARKING PERMITS           |
|        | CASH-TO-CARD MACHINE      |
|        | 30-MINUTE VISITOR PARKING |
|        | OVERFLOW PARKING          |
|        | CONSTRUCTION ZONE         |
|        | PARA TRANSIT DROP OFF     |

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

### NEW DEAN WELCOMES STUDENTS TO SPRING QUARTER

BY MATT KRITSCHER

Dean of Counseling and Matriculation

As the new dean of counseling and matriculation at De Anza College, I wanted to welcome all new, continuing and returning students back from spring break to begin spring quarter classes on Monday, April 7.

While De Anza is facing many challenges right now as are all California community colleges with the state budget crisis, we are committed to student access, retention and success, and are working to constantly evaluate and improve both in-person, on-line counseling and advising services. To this end, we are working with other campus departments to streamline access to services and information students' need to navigate the educational system.

Examples of some initiatives include a proposal to install more student self-service computers in the administration building lobby, put counseling forms and resources online at [www.deanza.edu/my/](http://www.deanza.edu/my/) including placement test results, open class information, and general education worksheets for AA/AS degrees and transfer plans. We also realize that many students have questions and issues that need individual attention, so we are committed to providing as much one-on-

one service as possible, while reminding new students to sign up for an on-line Counseling 100, Orientation to College course to begin their technological development critical to every field of employment while learning the ropes of De Anza academics and student services.

Please make sure Admissions and Records has your most current e-mail address as this method of communication allows De Anza to efficiently inform students of important deadlines and enrollment information such as the spring quarter's last day to drop a course deadline of April 18. We realize a reduction of staffing caused by the budget crisis is causing longer waits than students should ideally have to wait, but bringing prior counseling appointment paperwork such as a drafted education plan, all school transcripts and a written list of questions will make your counseling session be as effective and efficient as possible.

New students will benefit most from counseling by submitting the application for admission and taking the placement tests before visiting the Counseling Center for a walk-in counseling session.

We look forward to assisting you in your educational success at De Anza and beyond and invite your feedback and suggestions on how services may be improved.

#### THE COUNSELING CENTER

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR

SPRING QUARTER:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:30 AM - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

#### ADMISSIONS & RECORDS

HOURS OF OPERATION FOR

SPRING QUARTER:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

# Grounds for a common cause

## COMMUNITY COLLEGES ACROSS CALIFORNIA GATHER IN SACRAMENTO TO PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

BY ERNIE YBARRA

*La Voz*

Thousands of community college students marched on the state capitol on March 17 to protest the \$1 billion in cuts proposed by Gov. Gray Davis for next year.

Students, faculty, and staff from many of the 108 community colleges in California arrived to lobby the possible \$141 million cut this year and the \$530 million cut next year. These cuts would be an 11 percent reduction in the system's \$6 billion budget.

Even with the potential increase, California would still be the cheapest community college system in the country.

The California Highway Patrol estimated 5,000 were in attendance, while demonstration organizers believe the number was closer to 13,000.

College officials described the rally as the largest ever organized by California's community colleges.

Among those at the event were two busloads of students from De Anza, including members from the club Students For Justice.

Armed with a hand-painted banner and two flags with a black fist on each side, a group of approximately 50 SFJ members marched with students from other colleges across the state. They chanted, "Don't believe the hype - education is our right." They also said, "Davis, that fool - he favors prisons over schools," and, "Moovve Bush, get out the way - get out the way Bush get out the way."

"The energy, the unity...there was more than a protest," said DASB senator Saba Zariv. "[The protesters] were really trying to sustain the essence of what a community college really is."

SFJ member Huong Nguyen agreed, saying that the event was a step forward for all community colleges.

"It was wonderful to see so many students turn out for this," Nguyen said. "Many think community college students are hard to organize."

Throughout the rally, dozens of students expressed their opinions on the proposed budget and how it will affect them. One speaker said that increasing tuition costs will disable current students and "our younger brothers and sisters [with] the ability to go to college and receive the higher education necessary to succeed."

Some speakers talked about the advantages that community college has offered them. Among these speakers was SFJ member Shira Leeder, a disabled student who has greatly benefited from the programs offered to her at De Anza.

"Going up there, I felt weird, but when I got there I felt



Photos courtesy of Language Arts Division (2)

Over a thousand students, faculty and staff from 108 California community colleges crowded the front of the Capitol. Prepared with banners and flags, Students For Justice had one of the largest club turnouts from DA.

"The energy, the unity there was more than a protest, because they were really trying to sustain the essence of what a community college really is."

- Saba Zariv student

"Going up there, I felt weird. But when I got [to the event] I felt disabled students needed a voice. If it weren't for those programs and services, people like me wouldn't be able to achieve our goals."

- Shira Leeder student

that disabled students needed a voice," Leeder said. "I'm going to UC Berkeley next year, and it's all due to the programs and services that are [supposedly] being cut. If it weren't for those programs and services, people like me wouldn't be able to achieve our goals."

Leeder wasn't initially scheduled to speak to the thousands in attendance.

SFJ member Ali Rahnoma remembers the trouble it took to get her onto the podium.

"We formed a circle around Shira to get her to the stage," said Rahnoma. We kept chanting 'let the students speak.' A police officer told me, pointing one hand towards me and the other towards his handcuffs, 'you with the bullhorn - I'll arrest you for inciting a riot.'"

The officer left him alone after Rahnoma had passed the bullhorn over to other people in the crowd, telling the officer, "you might be able to arrest one of us, but not all of

us." "We then helped Shira off her [wheelchair]," said Rahnoma. "She crawled up the steps in front of the capitol building and sat down behind the podium. Security told her to stop and go back - they didn't want to touch her. Event organizers eventually gave her a spot on the speaker's list. Everyone there got crazy and cheered when she spoke."

Dang Le, vice president of administration, and SFJ member, felt that the protest was an effective and successful gathering.

"It proves a lot of people wrong," Le said. "Community colleges have been labeled as a stepping stone and [something] that people don't care about. I think [the protest] changed a lot of people's minds in the legislature."

Daniel DeBolt contributed to this article.

### JOIN THE LA VOZ TEAM

The following editor positions are currently open for the Spring 2003 Quarter. Turn in a 300-word description of your qualities, including the position you are interested in, to the editor-in-chief in L-41 or lavoz@fhda.edu

#### assistant sports editor

- \*Must be enrolled in or have passed EWRT 1A.
- \*Knowledge of QuarkXpress is a plus.
- \*Assistant Sports Editor helps with sports coverage, sports news and columns.

#### web editor

- \*Must have prior knowledge of HTML.
- \*Duties include updating *La Voz's* Web site with articles and photos on a weekly basis.
- \* Opportunity for creative input.

#### photo/graphics editor

- \*Adobe Photoshop experience is required.
- \*Knowledge of photography is a plus.
- \*QuarkXpress is recommended.

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# BUDGET | Senate meetings come to a close

## FROM FRONT PAGE

lately ... if we don't fund these programs now, I won't be able to look back and say I did a good job this year," said Karami.

Other senators objected to reducing the BCA because of the predicted reduction in the state budget in the fall, and that they would like a larger safety net for programs that might otherwise be unable to continue service.

Many senators had not known of the \$500,000 reserve or the \$105,000 marquee money. Some asked for clarification on when they would be able to use it and what it was for.

"We will be able to use this money in the fall," said Navarro, referring to the \$105,000 left from the un-built Marquee sign.

At the end of discussion, Vice President of Administration Dang Le moved to make the BCA an open account so money could be taken from it to fund programs in need. The motion failed by one vote.

A motion was then made to cut the Honors Program from \$15,000 to zero. A debate followed with students speaking out for and against the program. Those for the funding said it was needed to pay a new coordinator, so enrollment would increase. Those opposed said it was unnecessary and served a privileged few.

When discussion ended, the senate voted to cut Honors Program funding to zero.

Senator Ole Peterson then moved to cut funding for the Diversity Leadership Training Project to zero. It was then noticed that the quorum had been broken. Senators debated whether the meeting could continue since one senator had returned, but it was determined that it was against the rules and the meeting would continue that Friday. Navarro then scheduled meetings during finals week in order to have the budget passed by March 31.

### Friday, March 21

The meeting on March 21 began with a discussion during the "burning issues" portion, about how to proceed effectively. The two sides that were divided over the Honors Program and the BCA stated that they were willing to make a compromise.

In discussion about DLTP, Peterson presented a report given to the senate in 1999 about the program and its alleged practices of "unlicensed therapy."

During the break called by Navarro,

arguments broke out about the validity of the report. Many expressed disillusionment at what seemed like the unnecessary disruption of a body on its way to compromise.

"It was going so well," said student Huong Nguyen.

The Senate voted to not cut the DLTP's funding to zero. Shortly after, in what was seen by many as an act of compromise, the body voted to add \$15,000 back to the Honors Program.

Le again moved to make the BCA an open account. Once again, the senate voted to leave it intact.

"I felt stabbed in the back. Why only fund honors when other programs are just as important, if not more?" asked Karami.

With the proposal for budget allocations back to what they were the previous week, Campbell moved for the second and final vote, requiring a two-thirds vote in favor to pass. The motion did not pass.

A discussion ensued on how to proceed with no money to distribute. Suggestions included cutting from different programs and opening the BCA. Peterson moved to end discussion, forcing another second and final vote on the budget.

Senator America Navarro then left to break quorum, saying it was unfair for this to be happening. Le followed her.

According to the Senate's rules, once quorum is broken they cannot continue

voting on the budget that session. But with the March 31 deadline approaching, many felt it was justified to break the rules, and persuaded the two senators to come back. A discussion about compromise also helped bring the meeting back together. However, Campbell left to break quorum once again, saying nothing.

### Monday, March 24

The March 24 meeting led with an exercise by Cognetta. Each senator was given a note card to write down his or her feelings and thoughts.

Cognetta summarized what was written on the cards, saying that the majority of the senate was in favor of compromise, and the remaining senators were equally split on each side of the BCA debate.

Cognetta read from the note cards.

"I feel it is impossible to distribute the funds fairly because some students are only looking out for their own interests," read Cognetta. "I feel disillusioned, disgusted. People think I have all of the time in the world' ... 'Only time will make the feelings go away' ... 'Bust open the BCA and fund the programs.'"

Cognetta then gave advice about how to continue.

"We all have our pet projects, that is just the nature of politics," said Cognetta. "I recommend taking \$15,000 out of the BCA. Let's give a little so we

can get this thing passed."

A motion was then made to take \$15,000 from the BCA, passing with only one abstention and no disapprovals.

A discussion followed about how to distribute the funding. Senators were asked to vote on the programs they felt most needed the money.

The budget then received its first vote.

### Thursday, March 27

At the last meeting of the quarter, the budget received its final vote.

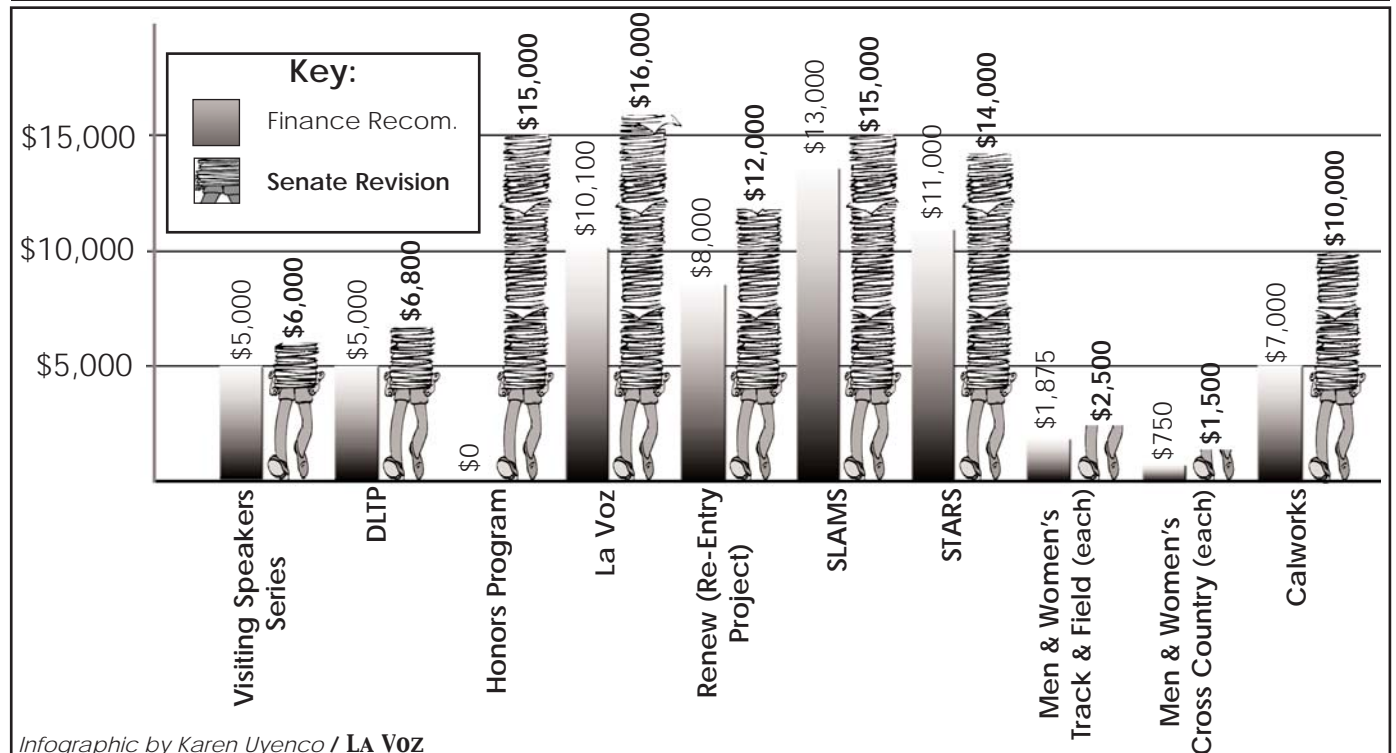
"It took us an hour and a half to make quorum and two minutes to pass the budget," said Le after the meeting.

"I think the students should really appreciate it next year," said Campbell.

Others were not so sure. Melecia Navarro was among many who felt programs were hurt unnecessarily by the size of the BCA.

"There is no definite need for the BCA right now," said Navarro. "If I were to go through the budget process again I would build the foundation first and then go into the voting. I would have researched the reserve account and the marquee myself. I should have kept asking how we are going to distribute the BCA in the fall because right now it's up in the air. It's sad that everyone is burned out on the budget. March 31 is always around finals time so we better change that part of the code. You should not be handling \$1 million in a hurried fashion."

## Programs that benefitted from final De Anza budget allocations



Infographic by Karen Uyenco / LA VOZ

## Travel to Vietnam De Anza Summer School In Saigon, 2003

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- ICS 8/WMST 8 - Women of Color in the USA
- Vietnamese Language and Culture

Contact Information: Art Turmelle Rowena Tomaneng Matsunari

Campus Abroad office Dept. of English, De Anza College

(650) 949-7614 (408)864-8286 email: Turmelleart@fhda.edu email: Rowenatm@aol.com

Informational Meetings: TUESDAY, APRIL 8 THURSDAY, APRIL 10

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. 12:30 p.m. -1:30 p.m.,

Altos Room Santa Cruz Room

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# THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A UNITED

# SEAL

BY MARIECAR MENDOZA

*La Voz*

"I'm not a warmonger, and I don't live to kill, but war is exciting," said Rex Ablao, a former Navy SEa, Air and Land special operations medic and now a Navy SEAL reservist and current De Anza student. "I volunteered to be a SEAL and am still a SEAL reservist for a reason. If my country needs me, I will gladly serve her."

#### A young boy's dream

Raised in a military family, Ablao's father, Ricardo Ablao, who served as a jet engine mechanic for the navy, sparked Ablao's military desires at a young age.

"My dad was in the navy for a little over 22 years, so I had been around the navy for most of my life. I was always around Moffett Field [in Mountain View, California], where he was stationed," said Ablao. "[He] had a very large impact on my career choice."

Although his father tried to convince him to be a pilot, Ablao found his calling in another aspect of the navy.

"When I was about 14 or 15 years old, I was looking at the navy as a career opportunity after high school," said Ablao. "Believe it or not, I watched a 1989 Navy SEALs movie and thought that was the coolest thing ever."

From that point on, Ablao was determined to become a SEAL.

#### Beginning a journey

After graduating high school with the class of '94 at Andrew Hill in San Jose, Ablao enlisted in the navy. However, because he had been involved with the high school's Army ROTC, Reserve Officer Training Corps, he was able to advance and enter as an E3, Enlisted rank 3, or Hospitalman.

After leaving home, Ablao arrived at the Naval Recruit Training Center in Great Lakes, Ill. on Dec. 12, 1994.

"I can still remember that cold day; the freezing Chicago winds cut through my

clothing with ease," said Ablao. "It was the first time I would be away from home for longer than a few weeks. I was scared and excited with the anticipation to join the world's finest Navy. I enlisted in the

Navy for one intended reason — to join the elite ranks of the Navy SEALs."

To become a SEAL, one must pass a series of specialized tests.

Immediately after enlisting, Ablao experienced his first test at boot camp.

"[I had] to swim about 50 yards doing a breast stroke and triangle, and I thought I could do it. I was very confident. So I

jumped off the little 30 foot tower, and right when I hit the water I found it very difficult to tread — and this was in shorts," said Ablao. "That really blew my first chance to go to SEAL training."

After eight weeks of boot camp, and not having the chance to move onto SEAL training, Ablao went to his specialty school to train for 16 weeks.

"When I graduated RTC Great Lakes, I went directly to Naval Training Center Great Lakes to hospital corpsman apprentice school, which is basically grooming me to be a medic, and right when I got there I told them I wanted to be a SEAL medic. During that time, they told me that it was my next shot to get into SEAL training," said Ablao.

When the career counselors at NTC Great Lakes told him that he had to pass this next test within four weeks of declaring that he wanted to be a SEAL, Ablao began training every single day to ensure success. After about four weeks of re-learning how to swim, run, do push ups, sit ups and pull ups, Ablao set out at 5 a.m. to take the test. This time he passed. In fact, he passed the swim portion by a mere two seconds.

"I told my career counselors at NTC that I did everything they asked by the time they asked me to. Then they told me, 'OK, now you have to take the physical portion,' which is basically to make sure you're medically OK. They did my blood test and they found that I didn't have enough hematocrit, which helps you carry oxygen in your blood. I was missing it by two levels, so they put me on prenatal pills and iron pills to boost my hematocrit levels," said Ablao. "Unfortunately, I missed the cut off date and wasn't able to go [to SEAL training] after my hospital corpsman apprentice school, like I should have."

With six months into the Navy, and two previous instances of failing to go to SEAL training, Ablao was left to fulfill his duties as an E3 at his first duty station, NTC Great Lakes. This required him to make a commitment of three years of service. However, as he worked at the military hospital processing new recruits, he continued with his aspirations of becoming a SEAL and trained frequently.

"You have to be [at your first duty sta-

tion] for three years and they won't let you go any earlier regardless," said Ablao.

"But I was persistent. I would arrogantly jump my chain of command and go to the master chief, or any one of the big bosses, and tell them that I wanted to go to SEAL training."

Despite his pleas, the "big bosses" did not grant him privilege.

"Then one of the guys I knew at Great Lakes, one of the SEAL heroes at that time, called Washington D.C. and told them to send me to SEAL training — and they did," said Ablao. "So, after three or four months of working at the hospital, they sent me to SEAL training."

#### Destination: SEAL

Basic Underwater Demolition SEAL, or BUD/S, is training only available at Coronado in San Diego, and was the next destination for Ablao. He arrived there in April 1996 as one of 165 in his class, which ranged from enlisted men to officers in the military.

"In the first few weeks, the 165 shrunk to about 90 people," said Ablao.

This drastic reduction in BUD/S is common. The SEALs have an average of 70 percent attrition rate of both men who either quit or do not pass the requirements to become SEALs. In the past, there have been classes where 100 percent of trainees either quit or fail requirements.

The prospective SEALs are sifted through a process of three phases. The first phase is where the men are put through rigorous conditioning that tests both their

physical and mental abilities. During this time, the 165 men are put through a five-day challenge called Hell Week, which allows the men only an average of four hours of sleep for every two and a half days they are up. The second phase is the dive

phase where prospects learn how to dive both open circuit, which is the regular commercial diving rigs used mainly for training, and closed circuit, which is designed for special operations use. The third phase deals with land and warfare.

"The first phase is where most people either quit or fail the requirements. By the time we reached Hell Week, which was the fifth week of training, we were reduced to 65 guys," said Ablao. "This was where I knew I was going to pass training. About two to three hours [after Hell Week starts], we have to do a four mile timed run and during the run I thought about it and said to myself, 'I'm not going to quit.' All the history I read, heard and watched about BUD/S was in front of me and in full Technicolor. Everything that my dad told me about was all up to this point. And I decided I was going to pass."

After Hell Week, came the second phase, which is primarily conducted underwater. He graduated on to the LAR V Dreger closed circuit system, a system that does not let any bubbles out that so enemies cannot track SEALs underwater.

"When I started diving I was really

"Quitters are exactly what SEALs don't want to have in their ranks. Quitting is worse than losing. SEALs entrust each fellow team member with their lives. They cannot afford to have a 'quitter' on the team. In combat arena second place is a body bag."



Born: Jan. 16, 1976

Age: 27 years old

Major: Speech Communication

Attended De Anza since Jan. 2001

Graduated class of '94 at Andrew Hill High School

For more information about how to become a SEAL, visit the official site of the United States Navy's Special Operations group  
[www.sealchallenge.navy.mil](http://www.sealchallenge.navy.mil)



*“I have memories and experiences about SEAL teams that are only rivaled by Tom Clancy novels.”*

# SEAL | Ready for the call of duty

FROM PAGE 7

scared. It looks so easy on the Discovery Channel. I put the regulator in my mouth and when we were in a three-foot pool, I started dunking myself in the water. I almost got claustrophobic,” said Ablao. “With the systems we were using, you literally have to suck out the air or else you’re not going to get any. It’s like sucking out of a straw.”

Lastly, Ablao went on to the land and warfare portion, and with only 13 of the original 165 trainees, arrived at graduation day.

However, even after proudly graduating his BUD/S training, Ablao’s journey was far from over. Soon after graduation in Oct. 1996, Ablao went directly to Fort Benning, Georgia in 1997. There he trained alongside the army, and beginning with tower jumps, he learned how to jump out of planes.

“[Tower jumps] are about five stories high and you don’t have a parachute yet. You’re attached to a cable where you pretend like you are jumping out of a plane and you’re suppose to simulate your body position. In fact, this training is to prepare for what the 100 first airborne are doing right now in Northern Iraq,” said Ablao.

From there, Ablao continued on to a six-month course at the Special Forces Medical Sergeant Course in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Here Ablao worked closely with other Navy SEAL classes as well as Army Special Forces, Air Force Pararescue and Marine Corp Force Recon corpsman to get his national registry for paramedic practice.

“We get trained together so that if we work together later on and their medic goes down, I can take over an Army Special Forces aid team or vice-versa,” said Ablao.

After yet another medical school in 1997, Ablao finally met up with his SEAL team located in Norfolk, Virginia to begin his basic SEAL Tactical Training.

“Every new prospective SEAL has to go through STT, where they teach you more advanced land warfare, parachuting and diving tactics. This is also where they evaluate whether or not you are ready to be a SEAL,” said Ablao. “At the end of this three month course, if you pass, you have to go through an oral board of about six SEALs who ask you a series of tactical questions like, ‘What’s the range of a rocket?’”

Ablao passed and finally received the SEAL trident, the biggest military insignia in the United States.

## The SEAL of approval

“That’s when you can call yourself a SEAL,” said Ablao. “The whole time you’re not a SEAL. You’re a SEAL pup, but with that trident, I was a full-fledged navy SEAL.”

Navy SEALs, a group that derives its name from the elements in and from which they operate—SEa, Air, Land, are recognized as the most highly trained Special Forces unit in the world. They are characterized with having the most difficult training and selection process in the mili-

tary. They make up one percent of the entire navy and are looked at as the “quiet professionals.”

“There’s a saying out there that [goes], ‘Every good navy SEAL operator can walk through a crowd without making a wake.’ That basically means that you should be able to walk anywhere without people knowing who you are,” said Ablao. “As for me, most people would never think I am a SEAL.”

Soon after, he was selected to take part of a SEAL assault team. There are several different SEAL platoons that consist of 14 to 16 men such as a strike platoon, European Special Operations platoon and winter warfare platoon among others. Ablao was chosen to participate in the SEAL strike platoons where he and his team, for about six months while attached to the USS Roosevelt, were responsible for supporting the jet planes leaving the carrier.

“Let me put it this way, in Iraq right now, the carriers are launching planes off and some of these bombs are being guided by lasers produced by SEAL teams and other special forces groups,” said Ablao.

Aside from that, Ablao’s SEAL team has also conducted

basic “quick hits” in certain areas as well as rescued soldiers.

“If you turn on the TV, you’ll see that there was a Prisoner of War, one of the army soldiers by the name of Jessica Lynch,” said Ablao. “[She was] recently rescued by my teammates in the SEALs.”

Ablao has been all over the nation and to other places outside of the country such as Puerto Rico. In his SEAL career, Ablao has conducted combat missions all over the world, among which took place during the conflict in Kosovo. But after serving his country, Ablao was advised by Chief Mark Newman to get a college degree. Soon after, Ablao returned to his hometown and has been a full time De Anza student since January 2001.

However, because he enjoyed being a SEAL so much, he decided to re-enlist as a SEAL reservist for three years and is now halfway through his enlistment. His SEAL reservist team is located in Sacramento, Calif. and is the only Naval Special Warfare team in California. With the war raging on in Iraq, and more than half of his team already deployed to Kuwait, Ablao expects to be called back to duty.

Until then, however, Ablao supports his fellow military comrades despite protester opposition.

“One of the greatest things about this country is that you get to say what you want. However, many of these [protesters] don’t even know what it is they’re protesting for. They yell, ‘It’s inhumane to go to war!’ And that’s true. Unfortunately that’s a reality in life [and] a reality in the world, and once in a while you’re going to have to throw down the boxing gloves and really go at it,” said Ablao.

Moreover, Ablao reiterates that because of his experience in Kosovo and in the conflict leading up to our War

on Iraq, that the objective of this war is not for oil.

“A lot of people are under the impression that this is about petroleum and it really isn’t ... the war is actually a humanitarian objective. The Hussein regime is tyrannical. And it’s hard for people in America to see this because they are not in that area. But I have been in that area before and he rules his people ... with a lot of controlled fear bursts,” said Ablao. “The objective, once again, is humanitarian. I support the objective, and I support the military and the others in the coalition. The United States is the ‘world police’ and when people want help they look to the United States. We are one of the few superpowers that have the capability to help other countries and we have been called upon to help them.”



Photos courtesy of Hans Halberstadt (2)

Rex Ablao, Navy SEAL reservist, still trains in Sacramento, Calif. as well as trains squad cops and other special forces units. In addition, he currently works at Innovative Battle Designs in Morgan Hill, Calif. to produce weapon slings.