



Editor's Note

This issue wraps up our print editions for this quarter. We'll be continuing with our Web site over the break. You can look forward to Web exclusive media, including slideshows, videos and podcasts, over the last few weeks of the quarter.

We'd like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you on Jan. 7.

-Tom Guffey, Editor in Chief

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.LAVOZDEANZA.COM

WRITE US OVER THE BREAK
LAVOZDEANZA.COM/LETTERS

COLLEGE TO OPEN ON WEEKENDS

WEEKEND CLASSES, SERVICES AVAILABLE WINTER QUARTER

FULL STORY ON PAGE 5

The week ahead

Poet/activist to speak at WRC

Eddie Zheng will talk about his first anthology of writings called "Other: An API Prisoner's Anthology."

Writing and Reading Center
(ATC 309)
Tuesday, Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m.

'Daddios' jazz bands perform

The Daddio's "Six O'Clock" and "Eight O'Clock" jazz ensembles will perform big band contemporary jazz, along with the Lynbrook High School jazz ensemble and the Miller Middle School jazz band.

Lynbrook High School Theater
128 Johnson Ave.
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
Tickets are \$5.

De Anza orchestra performs classic

The classic musical "Peter and the Wolf" by Serge Prokofiev will be performed by the De Anza Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Lauren Tayerle.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 8 p.m.
Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, \$8 for general admission.

Find a complete list of campus events on **PAGE 2**

HOLIDAY GUIDE

FROM US TO YOU, FIND WHAT YOU NEED FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON

HOLIDAY SPECIAL ON PAGES 7-8

EXTRA

News

Funds run dry for Perkins loan

SCHOLARSHIP NO LONGER PAYING OUT TO STUDENTS

John Capuchino/LA VOZ NEWS

De Anza College Perkins Loan borrowers have been notified that the winter and spring 2008 disbursements have been canceled. There is no disbursement for the summer quarter. Students will not receive money from the Perkins Loan Program until next fall.

"I don't know what happened this year, but

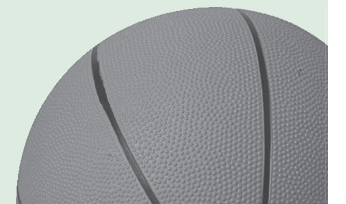
it's really bad. This is the second time in my nineteen years at De Anza that this has happened. The first time, ten years ago, we only had to cut the spring disbursement. This year we have to cut the winter and the spring," said Nicholas Huynh, an official in charge of Perkins Loans and Pell Grants.

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Sports

Women's basketball beats Sacramento

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Opinion

Laws shouldn't restrict citizens' rights to own guns

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Columnist takes some time out to thank her peeps

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News

Teacher alerts counselor over controversial poem

PAGE 3



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Warm yourself with online exclusives over the cold Winter break!

@ WWW.LAVOZDEANZA.COM

CAMPIUS Events

INFO

Send event notices to Happenings@LaVozDeAnza.com by Wednesday noon preceding the week of publication with "Happenings" in the subject line. La Voz does not guarantee publication. All events take place on the De Anza College campus and are free, unless stated otherwise.

Happenings@LaVozDeAnza.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 3-Jan. 6
Continuing Student Registration
Dec. 10-Jan. 6
New/Former Student Registration
Monday, Jan. 7
First Day of Winter Quarter
Friday, Jan. 18
Last Day to add Quarter-Length Classes

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6pm
Merritt @ De Anza
Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7pm
College of Redwoods @ Eureka
Saturday, Dec. 22, 6pm
Sacramento City @ De Anza
Sunday, Dec. 30, 7pm
Ohlone @ De Anza

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7pm
Las Positas @ De Anza
Saturday, Dec. 15, 2pm
American River College @ De Anza
Saturday, Jan. 5, 6pm
Solano College @ Fairfield
Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7pm
San Jose City College @ De Anza

LIST OF INTER CLUB COUNCIL DRIVES

The Inter Club Council, ICC, is sponsoring two drives during the winter quarter. Start saving up and donate. All items donated will be given to a good cause or aid in saving the environment.

WINTER 2008

Eyeglass Drive-
Monday Jan. 14-Friday Feb. 1
Donate unwanted eyeglasses for people in need in other countries.
Cell Phone Drive
Monday Feb. 11-Friday Feb. 29
Donate your unwanted cell phone(s) for victims of domestic violence.
Drop off donations at the following locations:
-Student Activities, lower level of Campus Center
-Administration Building Lobby
-Learning Center Lobby
-Advanced Technology Center Lobby
-Wellness Center

WINTER 2008 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

The online Schedule of classes for the Winter 2008 quarter is available online. Find it at www.deanza.edu/schedule.

NON-FICTION TO FILM WORKSHOP

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 12:30-1:30pm
The Writing and Reading Center is hosting an event with author/screenwriter Javed Mohammed in ATC 109.

POET/ACTIVIST EDDY ZHENG

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 4:30-6pm
After serving 20 years in prison for robbery, Eddy Zheng has committed his life to crime prevention with at-risk youth. Zheng has written and published articles on his experience as an Asian-American inmate. Zheng will talk about his first anthology of writings called "Other: An API Prisoner's Anthology." The event will take place in the Writing and Reading Center in the upper level of the Advanced Technology Center.

EVENING OF CONTEMPORARY BIG BAND JAZZ

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7pm
The De Anza College "Daddios" Evening Jazz Ensembles, directed by Steve Tyler, will present a program of contemporary big band jazz. The "Six O'Clock" and "Eight O'Clock" jazz bands will perform, along with the Lynbrook High School jazz ensemble and the Miller Middle School jazz band. The event will take place at Lynbrook High School Theater, 128 Johnson Ave, San Jose. Tickets are \$5 general admission.

DE ANZA COLLEGE BOOKSTORE SALE

Thursday, Dec. 6, All Day
The De Anza College bookstore will be offering 25 percent off on all logo items for the whole day. Items include shirts, sweaters, hats and backpacks.

STUDY IN FLORENCE, ITALY SPRING 2008

Thursday, Dec. 6, 12:30-1:30pm
Students interested in studying in Florence, Italy during the Spring 2008 quarter can attend an informational meeting. In Italy, students will study the language, literature, history and humanities of the country. Hosted by the Campus Abroad Program,

the meeting will take place in Admin 103.

PETER AND THE WOLF, A MUSICAL TALE BY SERGE PROKOFIEV

Thursday, Dec. 6, 8pm
The De Anza Chamber Orchestra will perform the classic musical Peter and the Wolf conducted by Lauren Tayerle. The event will be held at the Choral Hall in A-11. The cost of admission is \$5 for students/seniors and \$8 for general admission.

PLANETARIUM SHOW

Saturdays, Dec. 8 and 15, Closed Dec. 22 and 29
Celebrate the newly opened Planetarium by going to one of the shows. Shows are every Saturday and are projected from a state-of-the-art star projector.
Dec. 8
Astronomy Shows
6pm The Planets
7pm Infinity Express
8pm Infinity Express
Laser Shows
9:30pm Holiday Magic
10:30pm Pink Floyd: Darkside of the Moon
Dec. 15
Astronomy Shows
6pm The Secret of the Cardboard Rocket
7pm Astronaut
8pm Infinity Express
Laser Shows
9:30pm Holiday Magic
10:30pm Pink Floyd: Darkside of the Mood
For future shows or more information visit www.planetarium.deanza.edu/

GUITAR SOCIETY PRESENTS PHUNG TUAN VU

Sunday, Dec. 9, 7pm
The guitar society presents Vietnamese solo classical guitar artist Phung Tuan Vu. Vu will play in room A11 in the Coral Hall at De Anza College. Tickets range from \$15-\$20 and can be ordered through www.sbg.org or 408-292-0704.

LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

Tuesday, December 11, 12pm
The Latina/o Recognition Ceremony Committee will host an event featuring traditional Mexican food and Guatemalan fashions modeled by Puente students. Tickets are

\$20 and all proceeds go to a scholarship that is given out at the end of the year. The event will take place in the Hinson Campus Center. For more information on the event or purchasing tickets contact Marc Coronado at 408-864-8409.

CLUB DAY

Thursday, Jan. 24, 11am-1pm
The Inter Club Council will be hosting their quarterly Club Day. Club day is an event that showcases the diversity and interests of over 60 clubs that De Anza has to offer. Meet new people and get free stuff. The event will take place in the Main Quad, in front of the De Anza library. For inquiries about clubs or starting a club visit www.deanza.edu/clubs or contact La Donna Yumori-Kaku at 408-864-8692.

BURDEN & BONUS EXHIBIT

The California History Center is exploring the history of the preservation and demolition of the De Anza campus. The exhibit will continue until April 2008. For more information, contact 408-864-8986.

SCHOLARSHIPS AT DE ANZA 07-08

Apply to more than a hundred available scholarships provided by various organizations. Applicants must meet the requirements for each scholarship and get a recommendation from a professor. Most applications are due on February 14. To get the forms to apply or for more information check out <http://www.deanza.edu/financialaid/scholarship.html> or visit the Financial Aid office.

OUTREACH JOBS AVAILABLE

The De Anza Outreach program is hiring five Student Ambassadors for winter and spring quarters at \$10/hr. They are looking for students who have a good understanding of the high school populations De Anza serves and have good communication and interpersonal skills. For more information about the job contact Rob Mieso at miesorob@deanza.edu.

BOOKS FOR WOMEN IN THE ELMWOOD JAIL

The Santa Clara County Commission on the Status of Women launched a book drive for women in the Elmwood jail in Milpitas.

Easy-to-read paperbacks on women's health, parenting, self-help and fiction can be dropped off at the Administration Office through Jan. 3.

FINANCIAL AID

Receive money for classes by filling out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Students may qualify for a governor's fee waiver or receive money for books. Offices are located downstairs in the Campus Center and the north side of the Patio.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE

Sign up for a 15 minute appointment with lawyer Ron Goularte to discuss a legal question. Goularte can be found in the Student Activities Office in the lower level of the Hinson Campus Center. Students are asked to make an appointment and show a current DASB card. For questions or to make an appointment visit or call the Student Activities Office at 408-864-8756.

DISCOUNTED AMC MOVIE TICKETS

De Anza's Student Accounts Office is offering discounted AMC tickets. Tickets range from \$6-\$7.50 depending on when the movie will be watched.

VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Rotary Club of Palo Alto announces the availability of vocational scholarships for the 2008-2009 school year. Visit www.rotarypaloalto.org under the Scholarships Menu for more information or for application forms.

FACULTY AND STAFF EVENTS

FACULTY AND STAFF HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
Monday, Dec. 3, 11:30am-1pm
In the Hinson Campus Center Conference Rooms A & B

HOLIDAY BOX TO IRAQ

Donate by Friday, Dec. 7
Johnny McCarth, the De Anza Veterans' Coordinator, is coordinating efforts to send a holiday box to a battalion in Iraq with a soldier who is planning to attend De Anza when discharged. The battalion has access to a microwave, stove and cooking pots. Items can be dropped off at Admissions and Records.

DASB Senate Meeting
Every Wednesday, 3:30pm
(4:30pm every first Wednesday)
at Student Council Chamber



STUDENTS WORKING FOR STUDENTS

De Anza Associated Student Body
Office location: lower level Hinson Campus Center
Phone number: (408) 864-8694
Website: <http://deanza.edu/dasb>
DASB Blog: <http://deanzacollege.blogspot.com>

WE GIVE OUT FREE SCANTRONS BLUEBOOKS PARSCORES
(With your DASB CARD)
on Thursday, Dec 6, 2007
From 11 am to 1 pm,
& 5 pm to 6 pm
At MAIN QUAD
(Limit of 4 items when supplies last)
Event supported by DASB Diversity & Event Committee

Gifts from DASB...

DASB Winter Scholarship

4.0 GPA:
7 @ \$500 each

Full Time Student:
12 @ \$500 each

Part Time Student:
2 @ \$500 each

Book Grant:
5 @ \$200 each

Stop at the DASB office and pick up the application

Job Announcement
Secretary to the De Anza Associated Student Body

- Looking for dedicated and organized person to serve as secretary for DASB
- Must be able to work 20-25 hours a week, Monday to Friday With the flexible schedule

For more information about duties, responsibilities, and requirements, pick up an application (available in Student Activities, lower level Hinson campus center).

Pays \$10 per hour (\$12 starting Jan, 2008)

YOU ARE WANTED

- Want to be involved in DASB
- Want extra money?
- Want excellent working experience?

JOIN US!!

Perkins loan money runs dry

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

According to the letter sent out to Perkins Loan borrowers, since July 07, repayments are down 43 percent.

Cindy Castillo, the director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at De Anza College, said "The Perkins Loan is a sort of revolving account. The government does not give us any money for the Perkins Program. The money that is being repaid from former borrowers revolves back to the new borrowers. I've been here thirty years and what we do is look at the collections from last year, take a conservative estimate of the total repayment for this year, and then project how much we'll have. Then we award based on that projection."

Castillo said that previous borrowers were attempting to pay. She said that many checks received could not be used, because the account holders simply did not have the money in their checking accounts.

Huynh said that students had contacted the Financial Aid Department worried that they were not on the wait list for disbursements and seeking further explanation of the circumstances.

Castillo said that there is no way to know why a group of borrowers are acting a certain way at a particular time.

She said that she could only speculate why borrowers were not repaying. "People go into repayment at different times," said Castillo.

"Students could go into repayment years from now if they stay in school, get their Ph.D. We could not see a repayment for up to ten years."

Cindy Castillo, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships

Perkins Loans do not accrue interest until after the student exits college for six months. Because borrowers went

into repayment at different times, it was impossible to know for sure whether the recent housing bust was the reason borrowers weren't repaying.

Financial Aid officers are telling students relying on Perkins money to apply for Stafford loans, or if they already have Stafford Loans, to increase the amount they are borrowing.

Concerning a student facing financial hardship, Huynh said, "I replied to her and urged her that if it's not enough for her, to keep her in school, that she must go ahead and see Joe Ngo, for a Stafford Loan. If she already applied for a Stafford then she should consider an alternative loan."

Instructor alerts counselor over poem

Ehssan Barkeshli

LA VOZ NEWS

After turning in a poem with an oral disclaimer that it was an experimental piece and to "not take it seriously," Yao Fa Lu, a De Anza College student, was escorted to the Admissions and Records Office to discuss what prompted him to write the poem.

The poem said the Virginia Tech shootings were blown out of proportion by the U.S. media. Lu also wrote about personal ailments such as anorexia and post-traumatic stress syndrome from fighting an unjust war. Dean of Counseling Howard Irvin, a counselor and a campus security guard escorted Lu.

"The counselor who spoke to me kept shaking her head, and at one point said 'I blame hip-hop for this,'" said Lu.

Irvin said that pulling students out of class does not happen often. "Since I've been here, it hasn't been a regular occurrence," he said. "We don't just

go to classrooms and take students out because we do not prohibit students from learning. A student has a right to learn and pursue their education. We will not do anything unless there are extenuating circumstances."

Since turning in the poem, Lu is required to include a written disclaimer and a letter of intent every time he submits a poem to his instructor, Rain Jordan.

Jordan said she was not able to speak about Lu's situation due to confidentiality issues. But said, as an analogy, that if someone was having a heart attack you would help them.

"I feel that one of the great things about De Anza is freedom of speech, and I think this impinges on that right," he said.

Lu placed third in the annual "Red Wheelbarrow" poetry competition last spring for his piece about cocaine use and other social problems, for which he also won a cash prize.

A student in Lu's class who wishes

to remain anonymous said, "What I can tell you about Yao Fa Lu is that he's a student who has been through a lot, and his work is edgier than most people's, but if you understand where he's coming from and what he's been through, you'll understand his writing. Let me give you some context. He grew up in Burma, which, if you know anything about Burma, is one of the harshest environments you can come from. On top of that he served in the army in Singapore, for which the traumatic drills training is infamous."

"Let's say you were a teacher and you received some of this offensive material and you're aware of some of the things that happened at Virginia Tech and some other schools," said Irvin. "What you would want to do is have someone else look at it."

Irvin said it is policy to make contact with a student based on an instructor's feelings or concerns. He said campus security is also made aware.

"It's a protective measure, and we try not to be imposing," said Irvin. The security officer who escorted Lu would have taken action if Lu was considered to be a hostile element, said Irvin.

Lu said his teacher singles him out on a regular basis.

"She told me that if I whisper to my friends during class once more without being called on, or even utter a laugh, she'll drop me from her course without discussion. Others are not treated the same way, even though they are being far more disruptive than me," he said.

"If [the instructor] was really concerned about my well-being, I expect that she would come and talk to me first, rather than giving my personal poem to somebody outside of class, which I never would have anticipated, and then having me pulled out of class without so much as saying a word to me," he said.

News in Brief

Inter Club Council approves travel budget

Ehssan Barkeshli

LA VOZ NEWS

At the Nov. 21 Inter Club Council meeting, the travel budget for the De Anza club Christians on Campus' trip to Anaheim for Dec. 24-29 was approved. They requested \$1,950 to cover registration and lodging fees for four students and an adviser at the 2007 Christian Winter Training Conference. The conference will include a strict daily schedule of Bible study seminars in the morning and listening to speakers at night. The approval passed by consensus putting the ICC travel balance at \$7,300.

Student enrollment increases

Anna Rendall

LA VOZ NEWS

Student retention increased at De Anza College fall quarter. The number of students who enrolled in fall quarter on-campus classes increased by approximately 2 percent from fall quarter, 2006, according to an e-mail De Anza President Brian Murphy sent to De Anza faculty. Student retention refers to the number of students who remain enrolled in classes for a full quarter and students who enroll again for the following quarter. Murphy said that he credits faculty and staff for increasing enrollment because they implemented strategies discussed on opening day, such as providing students with financial aid guidance, giving directions on campus and other "myriad small gestures."

Students advocate for Proposition 92 on campus

Nitzan Beck

LA VOZ NEWS

Tara O'Sullivan, a De Anza College student majoring in social science, is promoting proposition 92, which will be on the ballot Feb. 5.

"Proposition 92 is going to lower student fees, so it is important that we vote yes on the proposition," said O'Sullivan. "It also puts a cap on how much they can raise student fees and they have to inform us before they do it."

The proposition consists of three parts, one of which is lowering student fees from \$20 to \$15 per semester and limiting future fee increases so that fees cannot exceed the cost of living. De Anza's fees would be lowered from \$13 to \$10 per quarter.

O'Sullivan and Jessica Smith are two of many students who are canvassing and handing out flyers promoting the proposition. "We've been doing it every day, Monday through Thursday since last Monday," said O'Sullivan. They say

they will continue until finals week.

They are doing this as a Civic Engagement project for their political science class taught by Nicky Gonzalez Yuen. Students are putting flyers under faculty office doors and conducting three to five minute presentations in class.

A second part of the proposition would adjust government funding. De Anza instructor Richard Hansen, as the president of the Faculty Association for the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, was involved with creating the proposition. He said the proposition will create stable funding for community colleges. Although another proposition, 98, protects community colleges, it caused fees to increase in bad economic times, he said. The most recent fee increase was in 2003 when fees increased to \$26.

The third component of the proposition guarantees that the governing structure of community colleges consists of a board of trustees. Gon-

zalez Yuen, who is also on the board of trustees for the Peralta Community College District, said that when Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected, he proposed elimination of all community college boards of trustees.

"It would have established a board in Sacramento that was completely out of touch with local conditions of community colleges," said Gonzalez Yuen. "Well, Cupertino is very differ-

"It will give people the impression that community colleges are taken care of."

Theresa Wheeler, a campaign manager on No on Prop 92

ent than Oakland. Local student populations are so, so different, it's really important to have a local board. They know what makes sense for their local schools in a way that people in Sacramento don't quite nearly get (because they are in Sacramento)."

Opponents of the proposition say that Prop 92 "will cause more problems than it claims to solve," despite their general support for community colleges. "It's just not the right funding mechanism. There's nothing to help low income students with costs at all," said Theresa Wheeler, a campaign manager on No on Prop 92.

The No On Prop 92 Web site states the proposition may reduce fees supporting health care and K-12 public education funding. The California Teachers Association, California Faculty Association, UCs and CSUs are groups that oppose the proposition.

Library offers access to LexisNexis database

Ehssan Barkeshli

LA VOZ NEWS

Access to LexisNexis Academic is now available to De Anza College students through any computer with Internet access using their student IDs.

LexisNexis Academic is a collection of public records, unpublished opinions, forms, legal, news and business information. It includes all current United States statutes, laws and published legal case opinions that date back to the 1770s.

"We have really good reasons for going for LexisNexis," said Interim Dean of Library Services Judy Mowrey. "One is our large paralegal program, which will benefit from what is probably the strongest research database for legal issues around. We also

have a great business program, and business students should be familiar with how to use LexisNexis in doing business and market research."

Students need to use the library Web site www.deanza.edu/library/ to enter into the archive system. The De Anza College Library was able to order a subscription to this archive due to falling prices in the marketplace and recent boosts in the library budget.

The cost of a LexisNexis Academic subscription for De Anza is \$7,875.12 annually. De Anza pays less than the regular rate because of the membership it shares with a consortium of California Community Colleges.

The consortium receives discount rates because it purchases databases as a group. "What we used to get for \$10,000 or \$15,000 per year in terms

of subscriptions, we're now getting exponentially more," said librarian Lena Chang.

"We're trying to get a broad range of specialized programs, and we have ample funding this year. We expect to have ample funding next year," Mowrey said.

After next year, however, access to the databases may be affected. De Anza is on a three year cycle for subscriptions and funding. Mowrey said she expects subscriptions to diminish once funds run out. "I think we're one of the few community colleges that have the full bundle of databases, including EBSCOhost, Info Trac, ProQuest and now LexisNexis. We may not have all of these forever. One of things we're trying to get a feel for is which ones we're really going to use,

which ones are stronger so that when we reach the next time when we have to cut back, which will happen, we'll be in good shape."

Other subscriptions that have been added to De Anza's inventory are Automotive Technology, Nursing databases and another database called "The Vault," which has career information for students.

"We have had requests for MLA, which gives us access to the scholarly journal JSTOR, and that's probably the next one down to get when that time comes," said Mowrey. "PsychLit, which is a major player in the field of psychology, is the other database with information that students have wanted access to, but the company that owns it has everything locked up into their product, and it's really expensive."

The library is pursuing a format change in the way students can access archives of the New York Times. "We have just sent out the order to purchase rights for the New York Times historical database, which contains every issue [of the paper] digitally from 1850 onward," Mowrey said. "That's something we're doing as a legacy for the future. "We have the microfilm from 1950 on, which we spend \$7,000 every year to expand, but nobody wants to come down to the library and look at that. This actually comes out more cost-efficient for De Anza in the long run."

The New York Times database will be available in the winter quarter.

Celebrate with

De Anza College Bookstore



Aline's Birthday

SALE

Including Free
Cake and Punch!

25% off

All De Anza Logo Items*
inc. Clothing, Binders, Logo Gifts

* Instock Items ONLY, Discount Taken at Register, Cannot be Combined with other discounts,
Excludes All Textbooks and Computer Department Products.

De Anza College offers new weekend classes

WEEKEND COURSES AND SERVICES AVAILABLE WINTER QUARTER AT DE ANZA

Weekend Hours

Admissions and Records
Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bookstore
Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
(until 5 p.m. on Jan. 5)

Cashier's Office
Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Counseling
Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Le Café
Saturdays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Library
Fridays 4 to 7 p.m.
[Library Express only]
Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Sundays noon to 6 p.m.

Placement Tests
See test subject schedules for evening and Saturday hours.

Weekend Student Ambassador
Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Student and Community Services Lobby Desk

Benefits

- Early registration for continuing students
- Flexibility in scheduling
- Counseling by staff designated for Weekend College Plus students
- Transfer workshops
- Online tutoring
- Reserved parking in the Flint Parking Structure on Flea Market Saturdays. (Student parking sticker or \$2 required)

Anna Rendall
LA VOZ NEWS

De Anza College classrooms will no longer be empty on weekends this winter. Students will be taking EWRT 1A, watercolor painting and over 80 other classes that will be held only on Saturdays and Sundays.

"We hope that students will take advantage of the broad range of class offerings," said Marisa Spatafore, the Director of Marketing and Communications at De Anza about the new Weekend College Plus program.

"The college has long held weekend classes, but this is a more comprehensive program," she said. There will be about 900 total offerings in the Weekend College Plus program starting winter quarter.

The "Plus" entails the amenities offered to weekend students, including services, evening, open-entry and distance learning classes.

"We wanted to serve students better, we wanted to use our facilities better, we wanted to serve faculty better," because some faculty prefer to work on the weekends, said John Swensson, the De Anza vice president of Instruction.

Many staff members are excited about the facilities being open on the weekends and the extended amount of classes, especially the general education classes, said Patty Guitron, the program coordinator.

Weekend College Plus classes are highlighted in yellow in the print edition of the 2008 Winter Schedule of Classes, to allow busy students to find them better, said Guitron. They will be offered year-round, including the summer quarter.

The new classes give students who normally wouldn't — or couldn't — attend classes during the weekdays a chance to get a degree. Within Weekend College Plus, students can obtain an A.A. or A.S. in two years by attending week-

end classes plus a few night classes and/or distance-learning classes.

"What we're trying to do is let the students do their own learning during the week and then come in on the weekends for a [few hours] and ask us questions. During the week they use software or pictorials," said Lenore Desilets, a De Anza math instructor. She has implemented new technological support for students in her classes, including an electronic professor and a slideshow on her Web site that shows students how to solve algebraic equations. For a peek, students can go to <http://nebula.deanza.edu/math/ft/desilets/> and click on "Algebra on your time."

The new classes will be accompanied by new hours at many of the college facilities, including the bookstore, library, Le Café and counseling services. In addition, a new student ambassador will join the program to promote community outreach.

The fees will be the same as weekday courses, and Swensson expects the classes to be popular.

"In the past we've always had more students than classes," he said.

The new weekend hours for facilities such as the bookstore and counseling are part of the strong support network necessary for students to succeed, said Swensson.

Weekend classes with student support infrastructure were offered in the 1990s at De Anza, but because of budget cuts, were discontinued in 2001. Now, Weekend College Plus is expected to be a permanent element of the college.

"[We're] hoping to set it up for the future in a really big way," said Desilets.

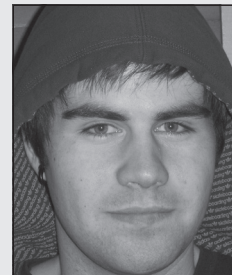
For more information, call 408-864-5400 or go to <http://www.deanza.edu/weekendplus/faq.html>. La Voz staff reporter Erin Sullivan contributed to this report.

WEEKEND COLLEGE plus

IMAGE COURTESY OF DEANZA.EDU

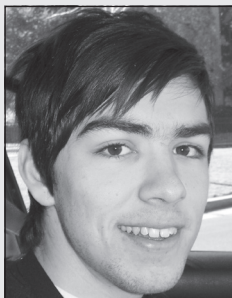
DE ANZA VOICES: Would you take advantage of weekend college classes?

"I think it's a great idea. I'm not sure if I'd use it, but I can see how it would be helpful for people with full time jobs or kids."



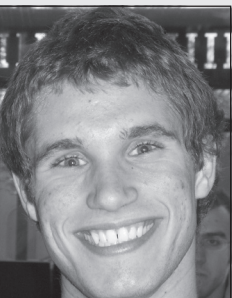
Michael Tomkins
undeclared major

"I might be willing to go to school on the weekends. It would really free up the week for going to work."



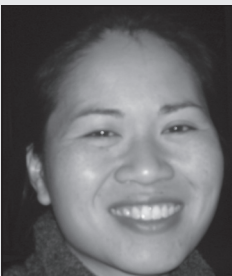
Anthony Perez
sound engineering major

"I think it would be worth it just to skip the commute traffic in the mornings and at night. [Highway] 85 is always a nightmare, except on the weekends."



Jake Baker
marine biology major

"I have two part-time jobs and the only time I have to study is the weekend, so it would be great to have it on the weekends."



Karen Calpo
computer science major

COMPILED BY CODY LEACH/ LA VOZ

Students and instructors celebrate self-expression through anthology

Sonia Easaw
LA VOZ NEWS

De Anza College English instructor Marshall Hattori said he has seen many Asian American students in his class do really well in their school work, "but they never say a word in class," he said. "Their voice isn't being heard."

The influence of Asian-Americans in the classroom, in art, in literature and in film is weaker than in the traditionally recognized subjects of math and science where they are assumed to excel, said Hattori.

"A lot of creative work being done by De Anza students isn't being recognized," said Hattori. To encourage De Anza students to express their opinions and their work, an Asian-American and Pacific Islander-American Anthology will be released at the end of next spring quarter. The anthology will be a compilation centered on the theme of losing one's identity.

"They're Here," an anthology pub-

lished last year, was the first of this kind of compilation, and included creative expression such as photography, art work and poetry.

Students do not have to be Asian-American to submit entries for next year's anthology, said Hattori, but can submit any creative work that relates to the theme of losing cultural identity or the immigrant experience.

Celebrity Asian-American figures in the spotlight include Kal Penn, Margaret Cho and Lucy Liu, but there just are not that many role models for students to look up to, said Hattori.

Through the anthology and the videos posted online of students reading their poetry or showing their artwork, Hattori hopes that De Anza students will have more role models to encourage them.

Anyone who is interested in submitting their work for entry into the anthology should e-mail Marshall Hattori at hattorimarshall@deanza.edu.

Women's basketball triumphs

Erin Sullivan
LA VOZ NEWS

The De Anza College Women's Basketball team played their first home game against the Sacramento City College Panthers last Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

It was a slow start for De Anza, and up until the middle of the second quarter, the Dons trailed Sac City by a shot or two, but that's where the tables turned. Sophomore Derisa Taleni and Freshman Lisa Rhett stepped up and hit two three point field goals in a row, with Taleni finding her sweet spot for the rest of the night and finishing with 4 three-pointers in all and 26 total points. One spectator said, "The hoop could have shrunk three inches smaller and she still would have caught all net!"

At the half, the Dons led by 9 with the score, 39-30. With both teams aggressiveness and the committing

of fouls, the game shifted from a shoot-out toward a free throw battle. Ranecia Fields led the Dons by working her magic, not missing one free throw.

All in all, she scored 8 points just in free throws, not to mention her 19 points earned with defenders in her face.

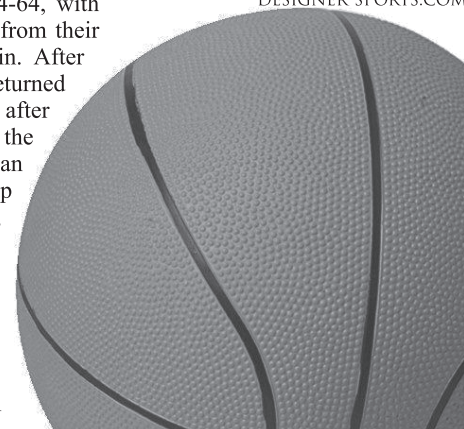
The final score was 74-64, with the Dons walking away from their home opener with a win. After the game, Taleni, who returned to De Anza this season after playing overseas during the Summer for the American Samoa team chopped up the game's success to, "Stepping it up on D" (defense that is), and expressed that the team's goal this year is consistency."

So far the Dons are ranked 10th in northern

California and 20th overall in the state.

The Dons' next home game will be on Dec. 12 against Las Positas College at 7 p.m. Their first Conference game will be held on Jan. 9 hosted at home, against San Jose City College, also at 7 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.DESIGNER-SPORTS.COM





HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Feliz Navidad

Joyeux Noël

Maitgoyang Pasko

Froehliche Weihnachten

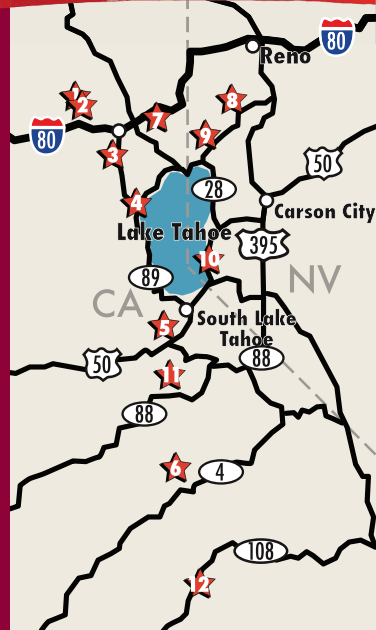
Chung Mung Gwang Sunn

Merry Christmas

The Hanukkah menorah has nine branches, representing each of the eight days that the menorah burned in he Temples after the Seleucid Empire was defeated by the Maccabees. The ninth branch is the Shamash, which means servant in Hebrew, and on this menorah is located in the center. The Shamish is lit first and then is used to light the other eight candles, one each day of Hanukkah.

- 1. Boreal
Lifts open: 2
Snow depth: 8-14 inches + machine snow
530-426-3666
- 2. Donner Ski Ranch
Closed
530-426-3635
- 3. Squaw
Closed
Projected Opening Date: Dec. 1
800-403-0206
- 4. Homewood
Closed
Projected Opening Date: Dec. 8
- 5. Sierra-at-Tahoe
Closed
530-659-7475
- 6. Bear Valley
Closed
Projected Opening Date: Dec. 8
209-753-2301

The Slopes Report



- 7. Northstar-at-Tahoe
Lifts open: 4
Snow depth: 12-18 inches
800-466-6784
- 8. Mt Rose
Closed
800-ski-rose
- 9. Diamond Peak
Closed
Projected Opening Date: Dec. 13
775-832-1177
- 10. Heavenly
Lifts Open: 4
Snow Depth: 12-16 inches + machine snow
775-586-7000
- 11. Kirkwood
Lifts Open: 1
Snow Depth: 6-14 inches + machine snow
209-258-6000
- 12. Dodge Ridge
Closed
Projected opening date: Dec. 7
209-536-5300

Resolutions to keep it healthy

I know it's a little early to be thinking about New Year's resolutions, but I'd like you to consider joining the 10,000 Step Challenge this upcoming winter quarter. This is a fun and easy way to increase your daily physical activity without a huge commitment of your time or money.



MARY-JO LOMAX
your health

In addition to the individual challenge, you will automatically be assigned to the "student team" or "employee team." This is simply an added level of motivation for you competitive types. (For you non-competitive types, don't worry; just focus on your individual goal.)

Fortunately, signing up for the challenge takes only three small steps:

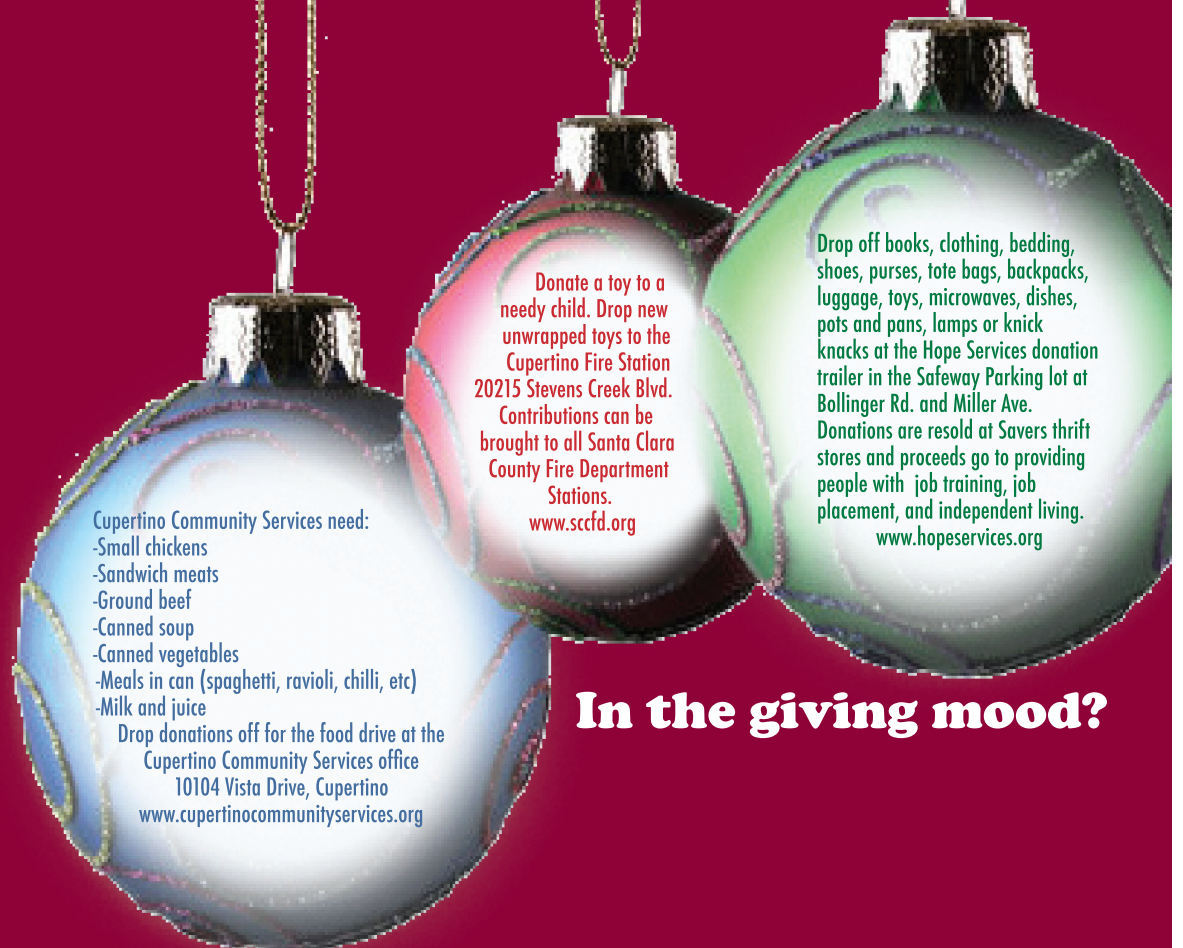
Step One: E-mail me at lomaxmaryjo@deanza.edu to let me know that you are interested. Your name will be added to our master list.

Step Two: Beginning mid-December, the 10,000 Step Committee will email participants with instructions on how to sign onto the 10,000 Steps website and how to pick up your pedometer packet.

Step Three: Start moving. The challenge will officially start the second week of winter quarter so that everyone has enough time to sign up and get their pedometers. You are welcome to start walking prior to the challenge date, but your steps won't start to be calculated until the start of the challenge: Monday, Jan. 15.

Ten thousand steps is the recommended daily step goal for a healthy adult. Getting 10,000 steps a day (about 5 miles) can be a challenge for many of us who have more sedentary lifestyles. Wearing a pedometer has been found to help motivate people as they progress towards the goal of 10,000 steps. A recent study found that people who counted steps were more likely to reach their goal than those whose goal was to walk for 30 minutes.

The beauty of this challenge is that you can be at any level of fitness. You start where you are and you challenge yourself to increase your daily steps throughout the quarter. Being physically active has many benefits, including increasing your energy level, improving your mood, reducing tension, assisting in weight management, and reducing the risk of chronic diseases.



Cupertino Community Services need:

- Small chickens
- Sandwich meats
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- Canned soup
- Canned vegetables
- Meals in can (spaghetti, ravioli, chilli, etc)
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Drop donations off for the food drive at the Cupertino Community Services office
10104 Vista Drive, Cupertino
www.cupertinocommunityservices.org

Donate a toy to a needy child. Drop new unwrapped toys to the Cupertino Fire Station
20215 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Contributions can be brought to all Santa Clara County Fire Department Stations.
www.sccfd.org

Drop off books, clothing, bedding, shoes, purses, tote bags, backpacks, luggage, toys, microwaves, dishes, pots and pans, lamps or knick knacks at the Hope Services donation trailer in the Safeway Parking lot at Bollinger Rd. and Miller Ave.
Donations are resold at Savers thrift stores and proceeds go to providing people with job training, job placement, and independent living.
www.hopeservices.org

In the giving mood?

A short history of ...

Chanukah

Dec. 4 - Dec. 12

Chanukah is an eight-day festival celebrated by Jews to commemorate the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem following the defeat of Antiochus IV by Jewish guerilla forces in 165 BCE. According to Jewish tradition, there was only enough olive oil on hand to keep the eternal flame in the temple burning for one day, but miraculously, the flame continued to burn for eight days, enough time for more oil to be pressed and purified. Jews around the world celebrate Chanukah by lighting one new candle each night of the festival on a special candelabra called a Chanukiah, while reciting prayers and singing songs. Traditional Chanukah foods are fried potato pancakes and jelly-filled doughnuts, and a popular Chanukah game involves a spinning top called a dreidel, which according to legend, was used in ancient times as a ruse to conceal religious study, outlawed by Antiochus IV's Hellenist regime.

Christmas

Dec. 25

The Christmas holiday celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, a Nazareth Jew accepted in the Christian tradition as the anointed son of God and in the Muslim tradition as one of God's favored prophets. The name Christmas is derived from "Christ's Mass," and the holiday gained prominence throughout Europe during the early Middle Ages as a series of celebrations honoring the birth of Jesus, his naming and circumcision, and his later baptism (the Twelve Days of Christmas). In the United States and other western countries, Christmas is associated with the figure of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus), a character from German and Dutch folklore who resides at the north pole and distributes presents to good children from a sleigh drawn by flying reindeer. Another common tradition involves the decorating of Christmas fir trees with religious and other ornaments, and displaying the trees at home or in town squares.

Kwanzaa

Dec. 26 - Jan 1.

Kwanzaa is a secular holiday celebrated primarily by African-Americans to honor African culture around the world. It was created in 1966 by political activist Ron Karenga, founder of the US Organization, in order to provide African-Americans with an opportunity to celebrate black heritage. Over the years, the holiday has increased in popularity, and is now marked by both an official U.S. Postal Service stamp and an annual presidential message. The word Kwanzaa is derived from a Swahili term meaning "first fruits," and the holiday's traditions include candle-lighting, musical performances, libations and the recitation of the Seven Principles of Blackness: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith.

International author visits De Anza

Katie O'Hara

LA VOZ NEWS

Manju Jaidka visited De Anza College to discuss gender roles in Bollywood and Jhumpa Lahiri's Pulitzer Prize winning book "The Namesake" in the Writing and Reading Center on Nov. 20.

Jaidka, who lives in India, is a professor of English and was the former chairperson at Panja University in Chandigarh, India. She has published eight books and organizes international conferences for Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the World.

Jaidka is also on the International Advisory Panel of the International American Studies Association. She has traveled to many universities around the world conducting discussions to raise awareness about gender issues, specifically in India, as well as diaspora matters.

At her visit to De Anza, Jaidka discussed the woman's commonly accepted roles as being daughter, wife or mother, instead of having her own

identity. In India, arranged marriages and the dowry system still exists, and women are expected to be docile home-loving virgins when taken for brides.

Even in current times, there is still significant discrimination around the globe against women. Problems include domestic violence, unreported rape, infanticide, selective abortion, limited or unfair education and work opportunities, and honor killings.

"Among educated working women, they still have housework and their salary goes to their husband and in-laws. It is said that only if she is wicked, will a woman spend on herself," said Jaidka.

When women do get opportunities, equal pay is not a common practice and women at the top are accused of compromising themselves, Jaidka said.

She also reflected upon the film "Fire," a controversial English film dubbed in Hindi about two lesbians. At the time it was released, it had received

so much angry feedback from Indian conservatives, that the producer went into hiding.

Jaidka answered questions about another controversial event regarding the topic, which was when Richard Gere kissed Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty at an AIDS awareness event. Conservatives were outraged and demanded an apology. Jaidka said sexuality is not to be expressed by women because they are predominantly expected to be shy and quiet.

Some legal action has been made in India to improve oppression of women, like the Domestic Violence Act, but progress can be slow because most women don't want to dishonor their family by reporting crimes, she said.

"Are we unhappy about it? Well there is so much to be unhappy about, but then there is so much going on in the world we forget about it," she said.



KATIE O'HARA/LA VOZ

Manju Jaidka, an English professor, author and member of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the World, visited De Anza College on Nov. 20 to discuss gender equality and women's rights.

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HOME GROWN SOUNDS:

Pericardium is full of heart and music

Paula Warner

LA VOZ NEWS

Down to earth and passionate about music, politics and the future, Pericardium wants to make a difference in the world.

A pericardium is the membrane sack that surrounds the heart, according to Sean E. Sullivan, co-lead singer, guitarist and synthesizer player for the band, Pericardium.

This is fitting since Pericardium is full of heart. The band's promo package reads "Pericardium strives to bring power back to the people, creativity to a dwindling scene, and information and understanding back into the minds and hearts of everyone they meet."

Two years ago, singer and guitarist Sullivan got together with lead singer and keyboardist Brooke Dabalos and formed Pericardium.

They began writing songs and were soon joined by Emily McDaniel on violin, Dave Marshall on Bass, Jeremy Reuter on Drums, David Flores as a vocalist and Kevin Sullivan.

They have since built a small local following playing shows around the Bay Area.

"The band came about very naturally," Sullivan said. Most of the band members met in high school and are between 18 to 20 years old. Marshall, Flores and Sullivan are students at De Anza, while the rest of the band members are attending local state colleges.

Pericardium is in its infancy and still trying to find its center. Influenced by Pink Floyd, Porcupine Tree, Radiohead, Opheth, Circa Survive, and Led Zeppelin, they are not afraid to take risks by blending classic rock with jazz, art rock, psychedelica and hip



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KELLY MCMANUS (3)

Pericardium (left to right): Jeremy Reuter, David Marshall, Emily McDaniel, Brooke Dabalos, Sean E. Sullivan, Kevin Sullivan and David Flores.



Sean E. Sullivan, a De Anza College student (left), and Brooke Dabalos, are members of the band Pericardium, who will play Dec. 15 at San Jose Skate.



hop.

The hip hop comes from Flores, a refreshingly talented young rap vocalist, lending his vocals to the project. Flores met the rest of the band members while in high school. His music and intelligent lyrics stand alone and seem oddly out of place within the context of this band.

Pericardium recorded a full-length 55 minute long CD "Apartheid of the Mind," that was released last July.

The album has promise, but it is disconnected artistically on the whole. There is a lack of cohesion throughout, probably because Sullivan and Dabalos divide the songwriting tasks and write separately.

Their styles differ considerably and it shows in the final product – the CD

sounds as though three different bands recorded it.

Paula Warner: How would you define your sound?

Sullivan: It's kind of a big cluster. Jazz, hip hop, progressive rock ... sometimes it's hard to get across to audiences. We have a very unique sound.

PW: What makes your sound unique?

Marshall: We have violin playing throughout each song. That is unusual for a rock band.

Sullivan: We are very political. We speak out against the war and what's going on with the administration. We have both a male and female as lead singers.

PW: What are your goals for the

future?

Sullivan: I want to be an English major and a music minor. I am happy to do music underground for the next few years.

Marshall: I want to get my degree. Music comes second. If something came along right now [musically] I would go for it, but once I am at [a university] I am going to focus on school full-time.

See Pericardium perform live at San Jose Skate on Dec. 15, with other local bands Self against City, Make Believe and Stero Chromatic.

To hear their music and see information about upcoming shows, visit www.myspace.com/pericardiumband.

'Beowulf' in 3D retells old story with new twist

Ehssan Barkleshi
LA VOZ NEWS

The first thing to say about "Beowulf" is that you should see it. Students who have read the original poem might be tempted to skip Robert Zemeckis' take on the legend, but don't make that mistake. There are certainly similarities between the two stories, yet at best the characters and locations keep their original names. The new film, which plays mostly in 3D, feels like a modern statement, more advanced in the literary evolution.

Beowulf's character is conflicted and more pompous than ever, and still closer to the original Beowulf. Ray Winstone ("The Departed")

provides the voice and some of the hero's face, which were scanned into the computer with Zemeckis' motion capture technology.

Aaron Stevens was used as a model for Beowulf's stunning physique. Animators dressed the hero and gave him form to slay demons along the Danish strip of old England.

Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins, and John Malkovich were all involved in bringing to life a story where Beowulf defeats a monster for King Hrothgar (Hopkins), the monster's father.

Years before the events of the film, Hrothgar had made a Faustian bargain with a Grendel's mother (Jolie) to bring him fame and fortune in exchange for a son.

After killing Grendel and meeting his mother (Jolie), Beowulf makes the same deal, and like Hrothgar, he hatches into bitter regret that his fame and honor had been unfairly earned.

As much as the film is projected in 3D, Beowulf is a modernized 3-dimensional personality, replete with prideful flaw. The whole film is a post-romantic equation, as close from the themes and spectacle of the original tale as the Bible is to "Rosemary's Baby."

The screenplay, by Roger Avary and Neil Gaiman, interprets several moments of the original tale as told by unreliable narrators, such as Beowulf's recounting of his swimming competition with an old friend, which Unferth (Mal-

kovich) heckles him about.

As Beowulf tells the story to a crowd of drunken Danes, we see it occur differently than how he tells it. This narrative conception comes from the Renaissance, not to be found until Chaucer wrote his Canterbury tales.

For die-hard fans of the poem, the anachronism dogs the film with an uncanny perserverance, draining it of all notions of the honor and heroic feats that dazzle in the original text.

This film doesn't dazzle. It scintillates. It arcs, like lighting. The digitalized characters have a magnetism that few can resist, and their actions are as delicious as their art.

Stegosaurus

By Katie O'Hara



JULIA ECKHARDT
I < 3 ...

I love De Anza College. And I'm not just saying this either. Like a true De Anza lover, I even have my own special reasons. So, in honor of all my homies, I'd like to give a special shout-out to my peeps in the hood that make every day I spend here a little better.

First of all, Coffee Lady who has the coffee place on the corner of the L-Quad by the mural, you get primary props in my book.

You make my Irish Cream double shot coffee perfect every time. I don't know how you made such a perfect ratio

of Irish cream syrup to espresso, but you did it. Without you I never would have made it through the never-ending sleepless nights of working on the newspaper.

Custodial Lady who cleans the bathroom behind the La Voz office, you put up with so much shit, literally. But you are always funny and nice and don't even make fun of how college students don't have the hand-eye coordination to get a paper towel to the wastebasket.

Also, Guy With the Long Hair who works in the cafeteria that used to work in the white trailer near the main quad, thanks for the way you pack my little to-go box with fries as if it's the last time I'll ever eat fries. They are really good.

I've also had a few special instructors when I really knew had my best interests as a student at heart.

Professor Beth Grobman, you know everything about everything, seriously.

Professor Mae Lee, I always knew that if I missed a session of your class, I was missing something really amazing.

Professor Wendy White, you opened up my mind about things I hadn't thought about before.

Professor Lydia Hearn, I still think about all the weird facts I learned in your class, on top of the tremendous literary knowledge I gained.

These are just my favorites, but I know that every student needs the people who make this school great. Thank you to you all!

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LA VOZ Weekly

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Holiday etiquette for your dysfunctional family

THE OPINION OF THE LA VOZ WEEKLY EDITORIAL BOARD

Every family, regardless of race, religion or creed, has to deal with annoying relatives. We've all got them and we all have to see them year after year at every single emotionally hazardous gathering.

Maybe seeing your mother-in-law makes you want to pull your hair out. Maybe your uncle hits the eggnog punch a little too hard. Whatever is ailing your holiday festivities, rest assured that there's a solution to your problem.

Problem #1: Grandma never approved of Mom marrying Dad, or Harry, or Richard, or Tom.

Odds are nobody even likes your mom, especially by the time she's brought around hubby number four. She has emotional needs nobody can fill at this point, and maybe Grandma blames herself or is upset that her

daughter doesn't spend time with her anymore.

Comfort dear old Grammy by reminding her that while divorce rates in America are at an all time high of 50 percent, that figure only applies to first marriages. Second marriages have a divorce rate of 67 percent and third marriages a divorce rate of 74 percent, so marriage number four must be doomed. She'll be seeing her little girl more often very soon.

Problem #2: Uncle John goes all Mr. Hyde after hitting the holiday punch bowl too hard - a.k.a. The Return of Mr. Grabby-Hands.

There's a fine line between touchy-feely and manhandling. And when a

snaggle-toothed hillbilly uncle is involved, it's definitely the latter.

You might try polite warnings or just walking to the other side of the room when you see the town idiot of the party stumbling towards you, but if that's all you've got the "cajones" for, you need to learn how to man up and try something new. Next time, hit the fire alarm. Once the sprinklers go off and everyone is distracted, whip out your mini bottle of mace and squirt old Grabby right in the eyes. Later, after he wakes up, tell him that in all the commotion, he obviously must have spilled vodka all over his face.

Problem #3: Your big sister/brother loves you, but finds it hilarious to dis-

cuss your most embarrassing moment at the dinner table.

This one takes some planning ahead. What you need to do here is completely bypass mature confrontation and go straight to underhanded cruelty. For the few days before the dreaded gathering, start leaving anonymous notes in your sibling's car or backpack about how generally disliked he or she is.

You could go with the ugly angle, or even throw the stupid person insults in there. The point is to get them weak. At said family gathering, bust out your carefully collected arsenal of every photo of him/her when they were fat with braces.

Pretend that you put it together because it's "just so cute!" Not only will your irritating sibling probably never get on your case again, but also might spend a few years in therapy to boot! 🍷

Criminalizing guns only puts them in hands of criminals



CODY LEACH
another voice

On Nov. 20, the United States Supreme Court announced that it would hear a case involving the Second Amendment to the Constitution for the first time in nearly 70 years. This case may very well yield the most significant decision handed down by the Supreme Court since the 1976 Roe vs. Wade ruling on the legality of abortion.

At the heart of this case, and the District of Columbia's ban on handguns from which it emerged, is the vague wording of the Second Amendment. It states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

What does this mean? Does every U.S. citizen have the right to keep guns at home, or only members of the aforementioned "well regulated militia"? And even if one side is proven "more legal," does that necessarily make it "more right"?

The central basis of the argument for gun control is gun violence. If guns are harder to buy - or outlawed outright - there should then be a subsequent decrease in crimes committed with guns.

Unfortunately, there are several flaws in this hypothesis.

Anyone who uses or plans to use a firearm in an act of violence is already a criminal, so there really exists no deterrent to obtaining a gun illegally. In fact, there are significant benefits for criminals who obtain their guns outside the law.

When a firearm is obtained legally through a licensed dealer, there are background checks, paperwork, permits and waiting periods. All of these processes are designed to link a gun to its owner, so it would be advantageous for a criminal to bypass all of these steps to buy an untraceable gun on the black market.

The result would be that law-abiding people are left unprotected in their homes while armed criminals roam the streets. Gun bans and strict gun control often only hurt the people who follow the laws, not the ones who will actually commit violent crimes.

Certainly, not just anyone who comes in off the street should be able to throw down some cash and walk away with a Glock. There can be a middle ground. American citizens should be able to purchase and keep guns to protect themselves and their families, but there also should be some control, so not just anyone can buy a firearm.

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear this case in March 2008, and truthfully, the verdict is, at this moment, unpredictable. The only question you need to ask yourself is, "Do I feel lucky?"

Well, do ya, punk? 🍷

America's fortunate problem

TERUYOSHI SHIMIZU
another voice

A couple of weeks ago, a group of animal rights activists came to De Anza College and distributed brochures promoting a novel idea. Instead of trying to move heaven and earth to get everyone to become a vegan, this idea implored people to do something far more reasonable: if you have to eat meat, go ahead - just eat less.

This is a good idea for many reasons, the most important of which is that eating less meat not only means less animal cruelty, but also less waste.

Every American household throws \$590 worth of food in the trash per year.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans waste 96 billion pounds of food each year. Timothy Jones, an anthropologist at the University of Arizona, estimates that "40 to 50 percent of all food ready for harvest in the United States never gets eaten."

On the household level, this figure indicates that every American family of four throws \$590 worth of food into the trash per year.

Before we consider the impact that our consumption habits have on animals, perhaps we should consider their impact on the millions of people starving around the world.

Buying food and then throwing it out literally takes meals out of the hands of the poor, as the action of purchasing this wasted food needlessly drives up prices. Just how bad is the problem? Every year U.S. households perform the equivalent of burning \$43 billion for naught. Think of the many other uses to which we could put that money.

While many of us view meat as an irreplaceable component of our daily diet, we can certainly consume less of it by simply reducing our waste. This approach can even be incorporated into our favorite cuisines.

Ramen, for instance, is a type of Japanese noodle that, when professionally prepared, is served in a soup called Torigara. This soup, in turn, is made from the broth of boiled chicken ribs. According to the Chinese tradition book "Collected Wisdoms," chicken ribs are "inedible things, but useful in some ways," and so we can see that one method of reducing waste is to simply branch out our tastes.

Real cruelty comes from an ignorance of our own impact, not just on animals and the environment, but on each other. 🍷



"Love & sex"
by Shabnam Mahmoudkhan
at lavozdeanza.com

Letters

We know, we know! Now help us quit

In "After decline, smoking rates remain dormant" (11/19) Patricia McLaughlin is quoted as saying: "We want teens making decisions on their own, but we also want them to be armed with appropriate knowledge."

As noted in the story, this year alone there is a combined \$107 million budget for tobacco education from California tax money and the Truth campaign.

Although the Truth campaign's intentions of educating teens about the propaganda the tobacco industry uses to get people addicted to their product is good, I believe the campaign is ineffective. The last Truth campaign commercial I saw on television was based on tactics used decades ago involving people dressed up as cartoon characters to target young children.

But when was the last time you

saw a dinosaur roaming the streets promoting smoking?

The fact of the matter is, "smoking is bad" is something that has been embedded in our brains since we were in elementary school. It is time to stop shaming smokers and show them that they can cut the habit. Being an ex-smoker myself, I know it is much easier to light a cigarette up than to put one out.

Anh-Thy Nguyen
San Jose

It's the season of giving, but keep illness to yourself

Winter is coming; it is the season of illnesses. In response to "Sick at school? A little courtesy goes a long way" (11/26), I think students coming to school sick is a serious problem without an easy solution. I feel bad when someone next to me sneezes and coughs the whole class period.

What can I say? I cannot be mean and tell him to move away. What can I do? I don't want to hurt

someone who already feels bad. It is scary, especially during finals.

On the other hand, do people who get really sick want to stay home and rest? Most people would say they have to go to school. During finals last quarter, I suffered internal gland inflammation inside one of my eyes. I couldn't even open my eye, and of course it really hurt.

I know you want to say, "Why didn't you stay home?" I wanted to. But what if my grade dropped to a B? I had to go to school embarrassed, knowing people would look at me weirdly. We do have sick days, but some students use them just to hang out with friends and skip class; eventually the teacher doesn't believe students anymore.

Having a healthy body is the best, but if your condition is really bad, think about your classmates. If you don't give your illness to them, they will hope you feel better and come to school soon.

Lu Li
San Jose

Corrections

RE: "Gobble Gobble"
11/19, page 6

The Turkey Trot Race in Downtown San Jose was run on five and ten kilometer courses, not five and ten mile courses, as printed.

Write us

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

online: lavozdeanza.com/letters/
OR

in print: Room L 41

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



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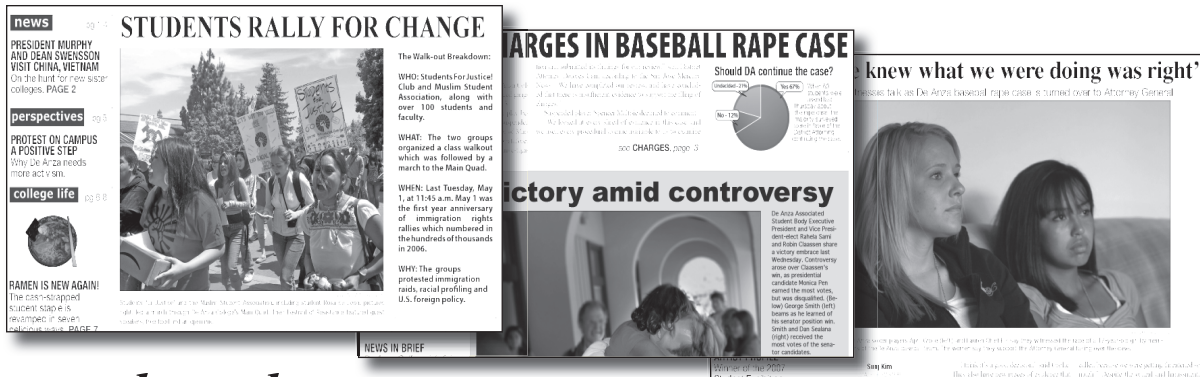
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