

The week ahead

**AUTHOR/ARTIST
WHITNEY J. LEBLANC
TO SPEAK**

As part of the Black History Month celebration, Whitney J. LeBlanc, author, glass artist and designer will read selections from his novels "Blues in the Wind" and "Shadows of the Blues." For information contact Jennifer James at jamesjennifer@deanza.edu.

Come to rooms A&B in the Campus Center on Feb. 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

CAMPUS ABROAD: SUMMER IN SYDNEY

An informal meeting will provide information about the summer Campus Abroad Program to Sydney, Australia. For more information and an application, contact Kathy Fransham at 650-949-7614 or franshamkathy@foothill.edu.

The meeting will be in the Santa Cruz Room on Feb. 11 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

CULTURES OF CHINA, FESTIVAL OF SPRING

"Cultures of China, Festival of Spring" is presented by Nan Hai Arts Center with highlight performances by Dong Wenhua and Yan Weiwen, two of China's most popular virtuoso singers and the China Central Nationalities Song and Dance Ensemble. Tickets are \$30 - \$100 and available through Ticketmaster.

The event, which starts at 7:30 p.m., will be in the Flint Center on Feb. 13.

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La Voz is a First Amendment newspaper, produced by students for the campus community of De Anza College

Opinion

Politically correct: A paradox in itself



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Sports



**Dons defeat
Lobos 57 - 44**

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PHOTO BY QUAN LUONG/LA VOZ

Transfer prerequisites not offered spring term

James Chen
LA VOZ NEWS

Some transfer prerequisite classes will not be offered during the spring quarter of this academic year.

However, this is not directly caused by the ongoing budget crisis, nor related to the classes cut during winter quarter.

De Anza students often use Assist.org to check and confirm which classes they need to fulfill transfer and major prerequisite requirements.

A recent investigation into Assist.org and De Anza College's spring course catalog showed a disparity between what is expected of transfer students and what is available next quarter, especially in relation to sequenced classes.

FLIP TO PAGE 3 FOR FULL STORY
SEE "PREREQUISITES UNAVAILABLE
IN SPRING"

Board of Trustees to use emergency fund to offset cuts

Ernest Chavez
LA VOZ NEWS

In response to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed \$330,000 million budget cuts from California community colleges, the Foothill-

“The ‘one-time money’ is a pool of money the district had saved for a rainy day, and now it’s being spent to try and offset recent budget cuts.”

PATRICK AHRENS
STUDENT TRUSTEE

De Anza College Board of Trustees is dipping into a one-time money fund saved for urgent

situations.

“The ‘one-time money’ is a pool of money the district had saved for a rainy day, and now it’s being spent to try and offset recent budget cuts,” said Patrick Ahrens, De Anza College Student Trustee.

The board made the decision at a meeting on Jan. 20. It is presently debating whether the district should spend the entire fund this year to offset the current budget cuts, or spend it over the next three years to offset potential future cuts.

De Anza College is currently facing approximately \$4 million in budget cuts. By using the emergency money, the administrators hope to avoid raising fees and laying off part-time faculty and classified staff.

FLIP TO PAGE 3 FOR FULL STORY
SEE “BOARD DEBATES ON BUDGET CUTS”

Arts & Entertainment



Valentine's Day Special

- Cheap date ideas
- Love without sex?
- True meaning of Valentine's Day

Features

Comedy show

De Anza alumnus sets up comedy show supporting cancer research

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News

Hiring organizer

Student senate to hire organizer for march protest against budget cuts

see page 4

Opinion

Stop using 'N'-Word

African-Americans need to stop saying the “N”-word

see page 7



LA VOZ WEEKLY ONLINE

www.lavozdeanza.com

what's the buzz

WAUSAU PAPER RECOGNIZES DE ANZA COLLEGE:

De Anza College was recognized for its environmental responsibility by Wausau Paper on Jan. 5. In addition, Manny Da Silva, manager of custodial operations, was given a framed certificate.

De Anza uses EcoSoft Green Seal 100 percent recycled paper products. Wausau is a wholesale manufacturer and distributor of paper products to organizations.

WRITTEN BY NITZAN BECK

MULTI CULTURAL CENTER PLANNED CONSTRUCTION:

Construction to develop the Multi Cultural Center into a center for Multicultural Democracy is scheduled to begin in April and be completed by Nov. 2010.

The proposed facilities will incorporate academic programs along with community oriented learning experiences. According to the MCC Web site, the center will help students become civic minded, cross culturally competent, and well informed as well as active participants in their communities.

WRITTEN BY NITZAN BECK

SUSTAINABILITY EFFORT FOR CAMPUS:

In an effort to maintain De Anza College's commitment to sustainability, fruit and vegetable trimmings are recycled by the Dining Services, Custodial Services and the Grounds Department. They have been recycling since October of last year.

First the trimmings are taken to a composting site on campus, and two months later they are used as a fertilizer for the herb garden as well as the college's landscaping.

"Not only does this save money on fertilizer for the campus grounds, Dining Services will get fresh herbs this spring," says Campus Center Director Patrick Gannon. "It's great to see our organic and regular trimmings complete a full circle."

WRITTEN BY NITZAN BECK

DE ANZA COLLEGE ISSUED CHALLENGE:

The Biological, Health and Environmental Sciences and Workforce Education Division issued a challenge to De Anza College last December. They asked the college to donate to the Student Contingency Fund, which supports the book and bus pass voucher program. In the winter quarter of last year, \$5,000 was given to students.

The BHES Division won the challenge.

Once again the division is challenging De Anza, and is asking for a few extra dollars.

Donations will be accepted at the Financial Aid Office. The Student Contingency Fund is account number 332124. Make checks out to De Anza College and place the account number or "Contingency Fund" on the check memo line. When donating please specify which division or area is represented.

WRITTEN BY NITZAN BECK

CAMPUS EVENTS

Happenings@LaVozDeAnza.com

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

Tuesday, Feb. 10

AUTHOR/ARTIST WHITNEY J. LEBLANC TO SPEAK
TUESDAY, FEB. 10, 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M., CAMPUS CENTER, RMS A&B
As part of the Black History Month celebration, Whitney J. LeBlanc, author, glass artist and designer will read selections from his novels "Blues in the Wind" and "Shadows of the Blues." For information contact Jennifer James at jamesjennifer@deanza.edu.

Wednesday, Feb. 11

CAMPUS ABROAD: SUMMER IN SYDNEY
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 1:30 - 2:30 P.M., SANTA CRUZ ROOM
This meeting will provide information about the summer Campus Abroad Program to Sydney, Australia. For more information and an application, contact Kathy Fransham at 650-949-7614 or franshamkathy@foothill.edu.

Thursday, Feb. 12

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY
THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 8 P.M., FLINT CENTER
Charles Dutoit will conduct Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade, along with Stravinsky's Symphony in C and Debussy's Prelude to an Afternoon of a Faun. Tickets start at \$40 and are available at Ticketmaster.

Friday, Feb. 13

CULTURES OF CHINA, FESTIVAL OF SPRING
FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 7:30 P.M., FLINT CENTER
"Cultures of China, Festival of Spring" is presented by Nan Hai Arts Center with highlight performances by Dong Wenhua and Yan Weiwen, two of China's most popular virtuoso singers and the China Central Nationalities Song and Dance Ensemble. Tickets are \$30 - \$100 and available through Ticketmaster.

Tuesday, Feb. 17

JAPANESE-AMERICAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
TUESDAY, FEB. 17, 1:30 - 3 P.M., CAMPUS CENTER, RM B
The California History Center presents the seventh annual De Anza College Day of Remembrance. Join with Japanese-American communities throughout the country who annually commemorate Feb. 19, 1942, when an executive order was signed that led to the imprisonment of over 120,000 Japanese-Americans without due process or regard for their constitutional rights. Speakers include Shizue Seigel, author of "In Good Conscience: Supporting Japanese-Americans During the Internment," and Richard Konda, executive director of the Asian Law Alliance of San Jose. For information contact Tom Izo in the California History Center at 408-864-8986.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

GUARDIANS OF THE WORD: DRUMMERS AND STORY TELLERS
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M., CAMPUS CTR, RMS A&B
In celebration of Black History Month, Jaliya, Inc. presents the Guardians of the Word - Drummers and Story Tellers. For information contact Jennifer James at jamesjennifer@deanza.edu.

Thursday, Feb. 19

PANEL OF JUDGES, DEFENDERS: EDUCATION NOT INCARCERATION:
THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M., CAMPUS CTR, RMS A&B
To celebrate Black History Month, a legal panel will discuss "Education Not Incarceration: How to Deter African American and Latino/a Students from Being Impacted by the Criminal Justice System." Guest speakers include Judges La Doris Cordell, Rise Pichon and Sharon Chatman, and Deputy Alternate Defenders Steve Bermudez and Traci Owens. For information contact Jennifer James at jamesjennifer@deanza.edu.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN GREEK NIGHT
THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 6 - 9 P.M., CAMPUS CENTER, RMS A&B
The Black Student Union and the African Ancestry Association present African-American Greek Night. For information contact Wendy White at whitewendy@deanza.edu.

Friday, Feb. 20

ASL GAME NIGHT
FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 6:30 - 8:30 P.M., ROOM TBA
The American Sign Language Club is hosting a game night at De Anza, followed by an 8:30 p.m. social at Starbucks. Participants only need to know ASL numbers and letters to play Deaf Bingo. For information email deanzaamericansignlanguageclub@gmail.com.

Monday, Feb. 23

YAABA SOORE - THE PATH OF THE ANCESTORS: ON BECOMING A GREAT STUDENT
MONDAY, FEB. 23, 10 A.M. - 2:50 P.M., CAMPUS CTR, RMS A&B
"On Becoming a Great Student: A View of the African-American College Experience" will be held as part of the Black History Month celebration. This presentation focuses on techniques used by local African-American participants who have successfully moved through the education system, managed challenges, obtained college degrees and benefited from the college experience. The Yaaba Soore program supports dialog between members of the African-American community and De Anza College students. For information contact Phong Lam at lamphong@deanza.edu.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

BLACK STUDENTS SPEAK OUT: A LESSON FOR OUR TEACHERS
TUESDAY, FEB. 24, 12:30 - 2:30 P.M., CAMPUS CTR, RMS A&B
In celebration of Black History Month, a panel of students will talk about what helps them succeed in classes. For information contact Cynthia Kaufman at kaufmancynthia@deanza.edu.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

CAMPUS ABROAD: SUMMER IN SYDNEY
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 1:30 - 2:30 P.M., SANTA CRUZ ROOM
Learn about the summer Campus Abroad trip to Sydney, Australia at this meeting. For more information and an application, contact Kathy Fransham at 650-949-7614 or franshamkathy@foothill.edu.

Thursday, Feb. 26

CAMPUS ABROAD: SUMMER IN CHINA
THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 1:30 - 2:30 P.M., CAMPUS CENTER, SANTA CRUZ ROOM
Learn about the summer Campus Abroad trip to China at this meeting. For more information and an application, contact Kathy Fransham at 650-949-7614 or contact franshamkathy@foothill.edu. This meeting will be repeated on Thursday, March 12.

Wednesday, March 4

FIRST 2 BILLION YEARS OF THE UNIVERSE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 7 P.M., SMITHWICK THEATER, FOOHILL
Astronomer Steven Beckwith, former director of the Space Telescope Science Institute and current vice president for Research and Graduate Studies for UC, will give a non-technical, illustrated talk on "The Dawn of Creation: The First Two Billion Years" as part of the Silicon Valley Astronomy Lecture. In 2004, Beckwith led the team that created the Hubble Ultra Deep Field Image, resulting in the discovery of the most distant galaxies ever seen. For information call 650-949-7888.

Friday, March 6

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER RIBBON CUTTING, TOUR
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 10 - 10:45 A.M., VPAC
Join President Brian Murphy, faculty and staff from the Creative Arts Division, students and community members for the official ribbon-cutting of De Anza's new Visual and Performing Arts Center. An optional tour will follow the event. The Euphrat Museum of Art opening exhibit is "Looking Back, Looking Forward."

PIANO CONCERT: HOWARD NA

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 8 - 9 P.M., VPAC
Howard Na, former De Anza College student and Van Cliburn Competition participant, will perform.

Saturday, March 7

DE ANZA FLEA MARKET
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 8 A.M. - 4 P.M., PARKING LOTS A&B

Thursday, March 12

BRIAN COPELAND TO SPEAK
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., CAMPUS CENTER RMS A&B
Brian Copeland, KGO Radio host and author of "Not a Genuine Black Man," will speak at De Anza as one of Silicon Valley Reads' series of events. His memoir is the foundation of his popular one-man show performed in New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco. Classes are invited. Information about Silicon Valley Reads is at <http://siliconvalleyreads.org/2008-09/>.

EXHIBITS

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH THROUGH FEB. 20, DE ANZA LIBRARY
The De Anza College Library is featuring a display titled "Celebrate Black History Month."

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: INSIDE TERRORISM: THE X-RAY PROJECT THROUGH FEB. 27, DE ANZA LIBRARY

"Inside Terrorism: The X-Ray Project" uses X-rays and CT scans from the two largest hospitals in Jerusalem to explore the effects of terrorism on civilian populations worldwide. The exhibit does not take sides in the Middle East conflict, but documents the devastation to human life and the challenges to those in the medical field who work to save victims. For information see <http://www.x-rayproject.org>.

EUPHRAT MUSEUM OF ART: 'LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD' TUESDAY, FEB. 17 - THURSDAY, APRIL 16, VPAC

The Euphrat Museum of Art will reopen in the new Visual and Performing Arts Center on Feb. 17 with the exhibit "Looking Back, Looking Forward." This exhibit is an eclectic look at Silicon Valley's varied and colorful growth through visual media and shared narratives. This inaugural exhibition honors our past and looks to the future as we weave together the stories of artists and Silicon Valley residents and groups in an effort to understand the fascinating community where we live. Over 10 artists will be featured, including Paul Pei-Jen Hau, who has a museum named after him in eastern China. For more information go to <http://www.deanza.edu/euphrat/inthemuseum.html>.

ONGOING EVENTS

PLANETARIUM SHOWS
SATURDAYS THROUGH MARCH 21
Journey to the stars with the Planetarium's Infinium S Star projector and laser light shows. Astronomy presentations include "Astronaut," "Extreme Planets" and "Blackholes." Light shows feature the Beatles, Led Zepelin, Jimi Hendrix, the Doors and Pink Floyd. Costs range from \$7-\$9. For information and a list of shows and times go to <http://www.deanza.edu/planetarium>.

MASSAGE THERAPY CLINIC
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, THROUGH MARCH 19
PE 12L & PE12U, SESSIONS AT 9:15, 10:15, 11:15 A.M.
Enjoy a massage from a student in the massage therapy program clinical class. Cost is \$15 for students, \$20 for faculty/staff, \$25 for the community. To make an appointment call 408-864-5645. More information is at <http://www.deanza.edu/pe/massage/clinic.html>.

FOOD COURT SPECIALS
WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS, CAMPUS CENTER FOOD COURT
In addition to the regular offerings on Wednesdays, the Food Court is featuring a comfort station with dishes such as meatloaf, beef ragout, winter vegetables, rice pilaf, garlic bread and roast chicken. Price range is \$6.95-\$7.50. On

Thursdays the Food Court offers a special low carb, healthy dish featuring grilled fish and fresh vegetables for \$7.50.

ACADEMIC SKILLS WORKSHOPS

Skills workshops are small, interactive presentations to help students improve study skills. All workshops are open to any De Anza student, but students enrolled in Skills classes are given priority. Sign up in advance in the Workshop Sign-up Binder at the Skills desk in L47. Rooms are subject to change, so please confirm the locations in L47.

Monday, Feb. 9
12:30 - Textbook Reading, L28
2:30 - Braingame: Engaging Ethics, L21
5:30 - Test Taking Tips, L47A

Tuesday, Feb. 10
12:30 - Making Effective Decisions, L28
2:30 - Writing Thesis Statements, L21
3:30 - Sentence Skills, WRC
4:30 - Memory Strategies, L47A

Wednesday, Feb. 11
10:30 - Braingame: Concentration, WRC
1:30 - Time Management Strategies, L63
2:30 - Critical Thinking Tips, L21

Thursday, Feb. 12
9:30 - Note-taking Strategies, L36
10:30 - Tests with Less Stress, WRC
1:30 - Communicating in Study Groups, L63
2:30 - Sentence Skills, L21

Tuesday, Feb. 17
11:30 - Study Skills for Math and Science, S72
12:30 - Sentence Skills, L28
1:30 - Anti-Procrastination, L63
2:30 - Spelling Strategies, L21
3:30 - Vocabulary in Context, WRC

Wednesday, Feb. 18
9:30 - Communicating in Study Groups, L26
1:30 - Test Taking Tips, L63
2:30 - Note-Taking Strategies, L21

Thursday, Feb. 19
1:30 - Engaging Ethics, L63
2:30 - Hot Topics/Cool Summaries, L21
3:30 - No Freakin' Speakin' Speeches, WRC
Friday, Feb. 20
8:30 - Braingame: Concentration, L45

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 12: Deadline to apply for many of the De Anza scholarships from the Financial Aid office.

Friday, Feb. 13 - Monday, Feb. 16: Campus closed for the President's Day holiday.

Saturday, Feb. 28: Last day to drop a class with a "W."

Monday, March 9: Spring registration for continuing students begins.

Friday, March 13: Last day to add CAOS and Skills self-paced classes.

Tuesday, March 17: Registration for new and former students begins.

Friday, March 27: Last day of winter quarter final exams. Also, last day to file for a winter degree or certificate.

Monday, April 6: First day of spring quarter.

Saturday, June 27: Graduation.

continued from page 1 | Board debates budget cuts

>>Meeting Notes<<

Impact of cuts

Feeling the effects:

Programs such as the Writing and Reading Center and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services have been affected by the cuts.

Classes cut:

Classes that haven't met the required number of students have been cut.

Faculty and staff:

There have not been any layoffs, yet there is a freeze on hiring new employees.

The debate over the one-time money was whether or not the district should spend it all in the current year to offset the budget cuts, or to spread the money over the next three years, to offset cuts yet to come.

De Anza College is being hit with about a \$4 million cut, but by using the money, De Anza is trying to avoid raising fees and laying off part-time faculty and classified staff. Earlier this school year, the board implemented a hiring freeze.

"The idea is that we don't want to hire people, just to lay them off in a year," said Ahrens. However, there are also many vacant positions in the administration that De Anza will have to deal with, in one way or another.

Some of the consequences of the cuts are already in effect.

At the beginning of the quarter, students reported that some of the classes they signed up for were cancelled, and when they tried to add the same class in a different section, the teachers were not accepting any more adds.

"In my opinion, part-time faculty and programs such as Extended Opportunity Programs and Services along with the Writing and Reading Center, are all seeing cuts, whether through the college structure, or from imposing cuts from the state," said Ahrens. "This is already affecting us this year. Next year, it's going to be terrible. The one main goal that everyone has under the current economic crisis - to serve as many stu-

dents as possible, and to preserve as many faculty as we can."

"In my opinion, part-time faculty and programs such as Extended Opportunity Programs along with the Writing and Reading Center, are all seeing cuts, whether through the college structure, or from imposing cuts from the state."

**PATRICK AHRENS
DE ANZA STUDENT TRUSTEE**

The Board recognize the need to keep fees as low as possible, to avoid having to turn away students. It is generally understood that even if community colleges fees were raised by \$5 per unit, several thousand students would be unable to afford an education. ▣

Ernest Chavez is a staff reporter for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: ernestchavez@lavozeanza.com.

DASB Senate

The De Anza College Associated Student Body Senate is the governing body of De Anza College. It meets every Wednesday afternoon.

WHAT HAPPENED: Funding for a student organizer for the March on March was approved at \$2,400 along with \$6,000 for buses. A student organizer has yet to be selected

WHY THIS MATTERS: The March on Sacramento is a protest against the recent cuts made to the California state education budget. The Senate is spearheading an effort to get the legislative attention to the effects the cuts have had on state education.

WRITTEN BY JAMES CHEN

continued from page 1 | Prerequisites unavailable in spring

Classes not offered

- Arabic 1
- Arabic 2
- Auto 60A
- Auto 60B
- Cantonese 2
- Chemistry 12A
- English Literature 46A
- English Literature 46B
- English Literature 48A
- English Literature 48B
- Film/Television 42
- Music 3A
- Music 3B
- Women's Studies 3C
- Women's Studies 17

According to Christina Espinosa-Pieb, vice president of Instruction, this is not a cause for concern.

Though De Anza College will attempt to make classes available for students as often as possible, she said, they cannot and have not offered every available prerequisite class every quarter, even before the budget cuts.

"Prerequisite courses won't be affected by the cuts," said Espinosa-Pieb. As long as a class is required for advancement or transfer, it will be available during the school year.

According to Espinosa-Pieb, there have not been any cuts yet to the spring program. Cuts will occur only after the initial registration period, and will only affect non-essential classes that fail to meet the twenty-person headcount minimum by the start of the quarter.

There are, however, factors that do influence their availability.

According to De Anza President Brian Mur-

phy, while all prerequisites will be available over the length of the school year, some sequence classes, or classes whose passing is

"Prerequisite courses won't be affected by the cuts."

**CHRISTINA ESPINOSA-PIEB
VICE PRESIDENT
OF INSTRUCTION**

a requisite for another, are available only on a quarterly basis.

Their availability, according to Murphy, is dependent on the availability of faculty to teach the sequence courses.

For example, if there are only one or two professors for ELIT48A through C, the three classes will be spread throughout fall,

winter and spring quarters to guarantee availability for all three during the school year. This was the case for the 2008-2009 school year, with only ELIT 48C being offered in the spring. ▣

James Chen is a staff reporter for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: jameschen@lavozeanza.com.

Inter Club Council

The Inter Club Council is the governing body which allocates funds to De Anza College's more than 50 clubs. The ICC meets Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. in the Student Council Chambers.

WHAT HAPPENED: An orientation for new club officers on the procedures of requesting funds occurred.

WHY THIS MATTERS: New club officers now understand the protocol for receiving funding.

WRITTEN BY ANSON LAI

Police Log

TRAFFIC COLLISION

Traffic accident - No Injuries
Location: De Anza College
Friday, Jan. 30 at 11:02 a.m.

INVESTIGATION

Pedestrian Stop
Location: Soccer Field
Saturday, Jan. 31 at 2:49 p.m.

PROPERTY VANDALISM

Damage to Property Over \$400
Location: Flint Garage Level 1
Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 9:03 a.m.

BURGLARY

Burglary (Dispatch Code)
Location: Parking Lot B
Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 11:12 a.m.

PROPERTY

Lost Property
Location: Pool
Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 2:39 p.m.

Corrections

In the Feb. 2 issue, a picture of Joey Certeza was published instead of Joseph Buckley as Artist of the Week.

Campus Snapshot



PHOTO BY JOE CHUNNIC/LA VOZ

Despite the cold winter nights, brave individuals still have the courage to go swimming in frigid February weather. At least the De Anza College pools are heated.

Senate to choose student to organize, represent De Anza

James Chen
LA VOZ NEWS

The De Anza Student Body Senate is in the process of selecting a student organizer for a budget rally in Sacramento on March 16. The rally is in response to the continued cuts to California's education budget, and is expected to involve multiple institutions.

To protest the effects the budget cuts have had on De Anza College this quarter and with anticipation of Governor Schwarzenegger's intent to further reduce the education budget, the Senate has agreed to select an event organizer to organize the second Sacramento demonstration of this academic year.

There was debate during the last senate meeting as to whether to hire a professional or student event organizer. Though some senators have expressed concern about the professionalism of using a student organizer, the Senate ultimately decided to select an organizer from the student body.

"A professional event organizer would be expensive, and it would be easier to communicate with a student," said Joyce Sims, a DASB Senator. "Because we want other schools involved, we want to take a more grassroots approach."

A De Anza alumnus, who was a professional event coordinator, organized a previous rally in Sacramento. The template she used, considered successful by the Senate, will be used by the student organizer for this quarter's rally.

The organizer will work directly with the De Anza Emergency Budget Committee, which has been assigned to oversee the planning of the March rally.

Though the senate has yet to formally decide on the student organizer, there is only one applicant. "So far, there's only one candidate, and that's Ernest [Chavez]. As a representative of the DASB, we feel

that Ernest is strongly qualified," said Karthi Kumar, vice president of student services.

Chavez has been a vocal member and treasurer of Students for Justice, an on campus activism club, often speaking on the club's behalf.

The state deficit continues to affect De Anza. The cuts to public education have included a freeze on hiring new faculty and administrative members, decreased class availability and enlarged class sizes.

The college administration has expressed uncertainty as to any future impact, as the California legislature has yet to pass a state budget. The state budget shortfall is more than

“A professional event organizer would be expensive, and it would be easier to communicate with a student. Because we want other schools involved, we want to take a more grassroots approach.”

**JOYCE SIMS
DASB SENATOR**

\$40 billion dollars.

A budget rally organized by the Senate along with several clubs was held at De Anza on Jan. 13 and 14 on the Hinson Campus Center Patio. ■

James Chen is a staff reporter for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: jameschen@lavozeanza.com.

Comedy for cancer: De Anza College alumnus, Cops Care Cancer Foundation host stand-up

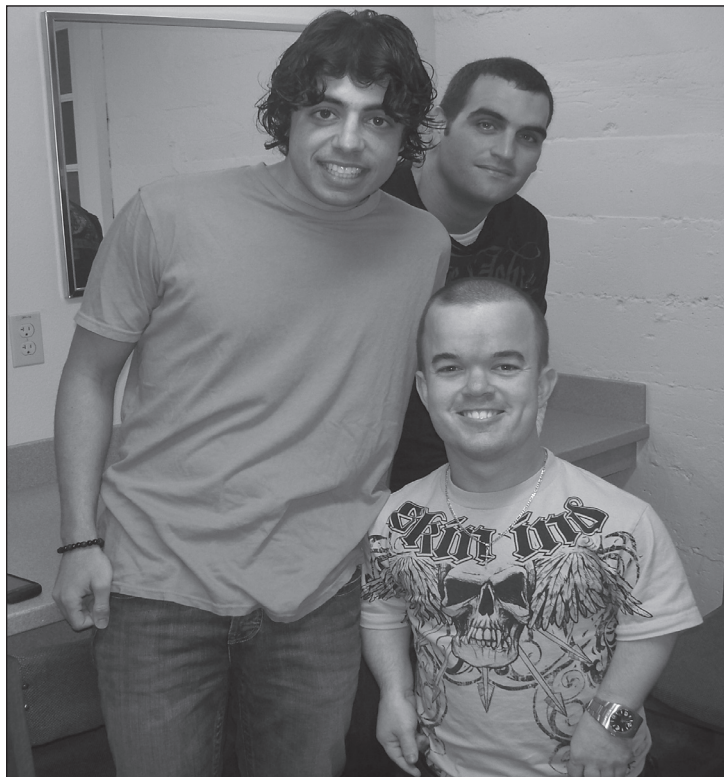


PHOTO BY SOHEIL REZAAE/LA VOZ

Comics Sammy Obeid (left), Bret Ernest (center) and Brad Williams (right) backstage before the San Jose State University Cops Care Cancer Foundation show Jan. 30.

Soheil Rezaee
LA VOZ NEWS

Laughter is sometimes the best medicine. The stand-up show in the Morris Dailey Auditorium at San Jose State University Jan. 30 was more than just another comedy act on a Friday night. It was also an act of charity to benefit cancer patients.

The event was set up by local production company Clownshoe Entertainment with the cooperation of the Cops Care Cancer Foundation and support from SJSU's radio station 90.5 KSJS, along with SJSU's Jewish Student Union.

The doors opened at 7 p.m. with 25 percent of the proceeds from the \$15 ticket being donated to the Cops Care Cancer Foundation.

The event was hosted by one of the comics, Sammy Obeid, winner of the San Jose Improv Comedy Competition. The other comics included local comedian Jim Panetta, president of Clownshoe Entertainment and a De Anza College alumnus, along with headliners Brad Williams from "Mind of Mencia" and Bret Ernest from "Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show."

The show began about a half hour late, at 8:30, due to people slowly trickling in. Sixty five people

attended.

First up was Obeid, whose humor reflected growing up in Fremont, along with life in the Bay Area. After his routine, Obeid introduced Panetta onto the stage.

Panetta captivated the audience with his raw humor. He focused on politics, the economy and his family, using the signature style he is known for.

After Panetta's performance, a raffle with a fruit basket prize was offered by 90.5 KSJS. The winner was Rochelle Farlow, a San Jose State alumnus, who heard about the show from the Metro.

Next up was Williams, whose humorous performance centered on his dwarfism, while taking a few moments to joke about Barack Obama.

Ernest delivered the final performance of the night, entertaining the audience with the routine that fans know and remember from "Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show." Unfortunately, there were some technical problems with the CD player during his "Roller Skate" routine.

After the show, audience members had the opportunity to meet Williams and Ernest for an autograph or photo opportunity along with the chance to purchase a DVD copy of "Rockstars of Comedy" and t-shirts.

The Cops Care Cancer Foundation is a charity established by Brian Simuro, a San Jose Police officer and cancer survivor, to help and support people and families affected by the disease.

The organization has been collaborating for a year with Clownshoe Entertainment to set up comedy shows in the Bay Area to raise awareness for cancer. ■

Soheil Rezaee is the news and features editor for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: features@lavozeanza.com.

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NY Yankee great Yogi Berra: Deja vu all over again



stephenZILL

**Opinion:
Economics
for Everyone**

Economics is a peculiar subject. For example, much to the chagrin of the other social sciences, economics is the only member of the club to receive its own Nobel Prize (officially known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences).

Another peculiarity of the dismal science is that it seems as though if you cling onto a prophecy, theory or body of theories long enough, it or they will often turn out to be correct!

As we flounder in the midst of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and are confronted with perhaps the worst economic downturn since that dark time, there is a chorus of "I told you so!" by a handful of doom sayers, led by New York University's Nouriel Roubini.

For years he has been predicting a global economic crisis on par (or worse) with the one we are currently mired in, which just goes to show that even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

In addition, economists and policymakers of almost all stripes have conjured up the ghost – having passed away almost 63 years ago – of the great English economist John Maynard Keynes, due mainly to the magnitude of the current crisis. His theories dominated the field for roughly 30 years, but had seemingly been tossed into the dust-bin of history (a bit of an exaggeration perhaps).

Now, in a more stable economic environment, government authorities have typically relied – over the last 30 years or so – on monetary policy to cure that which ails the macroeconomy.

Depending on the situation at hand, the Federal Reserve uses changes in the money supply to influence the direction of interest rates (and vice versa).

If the economy appears to be slowing and could use a bit of goosing, the Fed pursues "easy" monetary policy, which involves an increase in the money supply, and if inflation becomes the main concern, they pursue "tight" monetary policy by doing the opposite.

But presently the economy is far from stable. With the federal funds rate target in a record low range of 0.25 to 0 percent, as well as other strategies the Fed has used simply to get credit flowing again just short of threatening banks with physical harm, it appears that monetary policy has hit a wall. Perhaps it has entered a liquidity trap, which is when monetary policy becomes ineffectual and there is a general lack of willingness to lend, spend or borrow.

(Re)enter the Baron of Tilton, Lord Keynes, who penned as his magnum opus the highly influential and controversial (and confusing) "The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money" during the Great Depression.

He attempted to explain how and why free market economies can become bogged down well below potential, and seemingly be unwilling to budge, along with a few suggestions as to how the government might assist in pulling the economy out of the quagmire.

But be aware that the current economic crisis is unlikely to reach the same horrific proportions as the Great Depression.

He also briefly noted instances where monetary policy would not work, thus fiscal policy – use of changes in taxes and/or the level of government expenditures in an effort to influence the direction of the economy – becomes the necessary implement with which to dig us out of the hole. ▣

Stephen Zill is a professor of economics at De Anza College. He comes fully equipped with a shovel.

FACES of De Anza College

Professor of the Week: Salamander Breiter

Breiter asked to star in reality show

Amy Franklin
LA VOZ NEWS

Three years ago, humanities instructor Salamander Breiter received a call from Warner Brothers, asking him to audition for the Gilligan's Island Reality TV show. While skimming through RateMyProfessor.com, looking for instructors with "hot" ratings, Warner Brothers spotted Breiter's high ratings and gave him a call.

At first, Breiter thought it was his brother playing a joke on him, but then found out that was not the case.

Breiter declined, due to the nature of the role as a womanizing professor. Breiter saw it as an opportunity to become a "laughing stock" and didn't find the role suitable since he was married. But he did see the offer as more proof of the role that RateMyProfessor plays in our culture.

For Breiter, RateMyProfessor brings the word "superficial" to mind along with the idea of reality TV shows. In his class, he has a project similar to this idea. "I have my students design a show in my class called De Anza 95014," said Breiter. "We use it to critique the impact reality TV has on American consciousness."

Breiter has looked, along with other professors, at his ratings on RateMyProfessor. "I take my rat-

ings with a grain of salt because of the anonymity," said Breiter.

Breiter said he became an instructor because he loves to learn and be of service to the community. "Plus both of my parents and my grandmother are teachers, so I grew up understanding that teaching is intellectually stimulating and socially rewarding," said Breiter.

After teaching at a private high school in Kauai, Hawaii, Breiter came to De Anza and has been teaching humanities for the past eight years.

His most influential professors were the ones who were engaged and honest. "The things that I like best about my own influential instructors were that they were people who were deeply passionate about their disciplines, and they brought all their strengths and all their weaknesses to that discipline," he said.

He once had an anthropology instructor for a class called War, who would start class by talking about where she was emotionally. "She was super present with herself in front of us, so that we could learn to study war in a way that was honest," Breiter said.

In his free time he surfs while keeping away from sharks. "They scare the living daylights out of me. One of my favorite spots is 'Shark Bites Rights' which got its name for a specific reason," he said. He also enjoys going to Ano Nuevo, where the elephant



PHOTO BY AMY FRANKLIN/LA VOZ

Although he is afraid of sharks, humanities instructor Salamander Breiter enjoys surfing.

seals live.

Breiter puts a great deal of care into his teaching, which is evident to his students and to those who read his RateMyProfessor profile. He encourages his students to participate and learn by using a range of learning methods from experiments to visual aids; he asks his students to be reliable and asks for them to commit. ▣

Amy Franklin is a reporter for La Voz Weekly. Contact her at: amyfranklin@lavozeanza.com.

Artist of the Week: Phillip Jaco

Jaco was born a triple threat

Brittany Sims
LA VOZ NEWS

Very few people are triple threats in the world of entertainment. It takes hard work, confidence, an eagerness to learn and, of course, passion. Meet Phillip Jaco, a 20-year-old second-

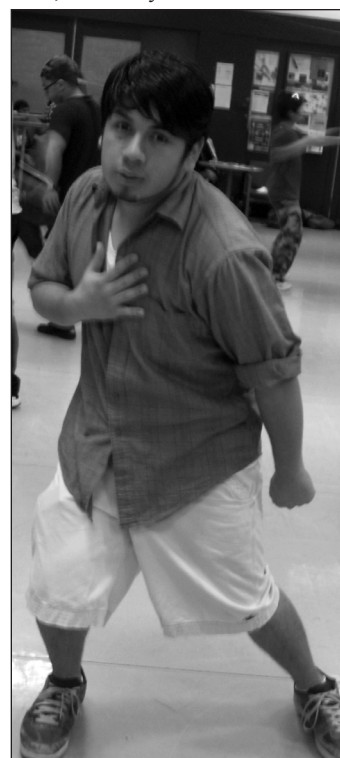


PHOTO BY BRITTANY SIMS/LA VOZ
A 20-year old student Phillip Jaco, is most interested in the hip-hop and Cumbia styles of dance.

quarter De Anza College student, who has had the talent to sing, dance and act since birth.

On June 26, the day before he was born, his mother was dancing the night away at a party for his grandmother's birthday. "I came out dancing," said Jaco.

Dance, especially hip-hop and Cumbia, a Spanish genre of dance, interests him because he loves the feeling of freedom he feels while dancing. "It's like you're in your own world," said Jaco.

It wasn't until he was a sophomore at Willow Glen High School that his interest was acknowledged. His love for musicals led him to meet the musical director of a play he was in during high school.

Mark Alabanza helped him realize his gift of song; he taught Jaco how to challenge what he could do with his voice. He changed his bass voice into a baritone, and trained him how to harmonize and learn different melodies.

He would continue to develop his now well-established skill by performing in talent shows, plays and musicals. He joined the Atlas School of Dance and took classes for two years in advanced hip-hop.

Instructor Vernon Gallegos said Jaco "is one of the seasoned dancers and a leader in the class," and "he also has a great attitude, he remembers everything and is easy to work

with."

Jaco currently volunteers at the Sunnyvale Community Players, choreographing the junior production of the musical "Once on this Island" which opens at the end of the month.

"Once on this Island" is ironically the same musical where his singing talent was first discovered. Now it is the same musical where he is getting his first experience at choreographing.

He invents the moves for part of the show, and plays the part of the villain known as Papa Ge, which is the same part he had in high school.

He hopes to be a paid choreographer in next year's Sunnyvale Community Players production of "High School Musical 2." He also wants to open up a studio to teach the art of dance to other enthusiastic dancers.

His one-year-old niece is his biggest inspiration. "She is impulsive like me and picks up on a beat and dances," he said.

By studying the choreography of musical artists such as Chris Brown, Janet Jackson, PCD and Britney Spears, one can become as talented at dancing as Phillip Jaco. After all, says Jaco, all you have to do to know how to dance is, "let your mind run free and let your body follow." ▣

Brittany Sims is a freelancer for La Voz Weekly.

Goodbye Gitmo, next up Blackwater



soheilREZAAE

**Opinion:
As the
World Burns**

It's probably music to the ears of many to hear the detention camps at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base will be closed under executive orders by President Barack Obama.

After one dark embarrassing chapter in our history has been closed, it feels right to end another one. All that is left is for President Obama to shut down Blackwater Worldwide, along with any similar organizations, just like Nelson Mandela did in South Africa.

Allowing a business such as Blackwater to operate is evidence the economy is on the border of entering a market of anarchy, where stocks for a mercenary army are available on Wall Street.

There are those who claim that Blackwater is a "private security contractor" (it could be assumed that they don't know the definition of the word mercenary).

But this claim is frivolous, since they operate like a real military, and I have yet to see mall cops wearing Kevlar vests and patrolling the food court with assault rifles.

The most obvious problem with Blackwater is that because they're mercenaries, they are labeled as an unlawful organization according to United Nations Resolutions 44/34.

According to Article 47 of the Geneva Code, mercenaries are labeled as unlawful combatants and are not entitled to the same treatment as prisoners of war.

One would think that such an organization would try and hire professionals, but instead, they take any sociopath who feels he or she did not get a chance to kill enough in the real military.

With probably two weeks of training Eric Prince has his own platoon of trigger-happy drunks who think they're the best mercenaries since Mike Hoare or Bob Denard.

The results, thanks to a little immunity law, were that mercenaries could enjoy a few shots while going on a little killing spree during their happy hour. Or they exercised crowd control by opening fire at innocent civilians.

Finally there is the issue of loyalty and where it truly belongs. It should be obvious that anyone who enlisted into the United States military did it because they felt it was an obligation to serve their nation.

But where does a Blackwater mercenary's loyalty belong? Is it to their wallet or Prince? Being a business, there is more of a loyalty to their investors rather than to any state that employs their service.

If an army like Blackwater is allowed to continue to make a profit at literally the life of another, then what's stopping someone from starting up their own assassin firm? Since Prince is allowed to have his own private army, there is most likely another entrepreneur who would love to have an army of assassins at his or her disposal.

Yet the worst-case scenario would be if Blackwater were offered a contract to overthrow a legal government, and put in its place a puppet regime, like what Sir Mark Thatcher tried to do in Equatorial Guinea.

With Executive Outcome now just a memory, any regime could use Blackwater to assist their own military in putting down civil unrest in cities or to help wage a war against a neighboring country.

In a world where conflicts will be breeding, thanks to humanities, greed and an army of gun for hires, all we can do is sit back and watch the world burn. ▣

Soheil Rezaee is the news and features editor for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: features@lavozeanza.com.

Dons down Lobos 57-44

Quan Luong
LA VOZ NEWS

The De Anza College Lady Dons picked up their second straight victory Jan. 28 against the Monterey Peninsula College Lobos, winning 57-44.

With the score 4-2, the Lady Dons went on a 17-0 run to take their lead to 15 points at 19-4.

The Lobos struggled to make their shots in the first half and didn't score for 12 minutes missing easy layups and open shots.

Monterey also struggled to maintain possession of the ball, committing turnovers against De Anza's pressure, resulting in bad passes.

"If a player on my team is struggling, I would do whatever I could to help them overcome that obstacle," Lady Dons head coach Arden Kragalott said. "For us, it varies from time to time so it all depends on the situation."

Midway through the first half, the Lobos were able to make a small comeback, narrowing the lead to 23-15. But it wasn't enough to keep the Lady Dons from attacking the basket, as they were able to close out the half with the lead, 33-23.

In the second half, De Anza's defense was still strong, keeping Monterey from scoring for six minutes after the Lobos opened the half with a basket.

The Lady Dons took full advantage of Monterey's struggles and went on a 5-0 run, pushing the score to 40-25 with just over 13 minutes remaining in the game.

"Motivation is what helps up to pick up the victories," point guard Kathleen De La Cruz said. "We want to make sure that none of our opponents get in our way in terms of making the playoffs because that's our common goal here."

Midway through the second

half, the Lobos got in foul trouble as guards Briana Matthews and Anastasia Jones fouled out of the game, after each of them picked up their fifth personal foul.

The Lady Dons were aggressive, getting to the free throw line 38 times on the night, compared to Monterey's 29. De Anza made 24 of their free throws, while the Lobos only made 11.

The Lobos couldn't match the Lady Dons as they trailed by 12 points with just over eight minutes left in the game.

Sherina Summers led De Anza offensively with 13 points and nine rebounds. Guards Marisa Carion

“Our communication helped us pick up the victory.”

**KATHLEEN DE LA CRUZ
POINT GUARD**

and De La Cruz each chipped in 11 points with a total of 35 points for all three players.

Forward Keidra Stanley led the Lobos offensively with 13 points but it wasn't enough to overcome the Lady Dons' defense.

"Our communication helped us pick up the victory," De La Cruz said. "That's what our coach expects us to do. We didn't think the Lobos met our expectations at all."

Both teams struggled with their shots as Monterey made only 16-77 field goal attempts and shot 20 percent from the field. De Anza shot 38 percent and made 15-39 field goal attempts. ■

Quan Luong is the assistant sports editor for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: assistantsports@lavozeanza.com.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING SPRING A LEAK:

De Anza College's first swim meet was to be held at Ohlone College on Jan. 31, but was cancelled due to a broken pool heater and moved to American High School in Fremont.

Five colleges competed in the pentathlon, which meant all swimmers performed the same five events.

"It gives us a chance to see where we are, so we're not guessing so much about where to put people for a duel meet," said coach Jerry Koch.

The men have a few returning members from last season, but for the women, it was their first college swim meet for all. "It was okay, it could have been better," said Jessica Garcia, one of the stars according to Koch. "We just need to train a little bit more."

The results have yet to be calculated by computer or distributed. Koch said, "We did fair."

WRITTEN BY ANDREA NOTT

Athlete of the Week: Zach Stevenson

Stevenson nets 18 points against West Valley

Quan Luong
LA VOZ NEWS

Zach Stevenson
Men's Basketball Team
Position: Shooting Guard
Major: Kinesiology

In two losses to Cabrillo and West Valley College, Zach Stevenson scored 31 points. He was the top performer against the Seahawks and led the team with 13 points and had 18 against the Vikings from West Valley.

What got you interested in joining the basketball team at De Anza?

Stevenson: When I came here for my first year, I saw the tryout list for the team. The first time I tried out for the team, I got waived, but then I was able to make the team after my second year here.

Do you have any siblings in the family and do any of them play any kind of sports? Would you consider it a family thing where everyone plays a sport?

S: I have a younger brother who likes to play volleyball and an older brother who plays basketball. We consider sports as a family thing because my brothers and I are athletic.

Which four-year college are you planning on transferring to? What do you want to do as a career and why?

S: I'm planning on transferring to San Jose State University. In the future I want to be an athletic trainer so I could help the athletes out.

Who is your favorite athlete of all time and why? How did he inspire you?

S: Emmitt Smith is my favorite athlete of all time because he had passion for the game of football and I consider him as my idol.

When was the first time you played basketball?

S: I started playing basketball in third grade.

What is your favorite sports team and why?

S: My favorite sports team is the Dallas Cowboys because they have a lot of talented players on their team and some of them are clutch players themselves.

During your free time, what kind of activities do you like to do besides basketball?

S: I like to relax, go bowling and hang out with my friends. ■



PHOTO BY QUAN LUONG/LA VOZ

Quan Luong is the assistant sports editor for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: assistantsports@lavozeanza.com.

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Food for the masses

FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THE LA VOZ WEEKLY EDITORIAL BOARD

Before the opening of the newly remodeled Hinson Campus Center, there was once a time when the cuisine from food stands dominated the appetites of everyone on campus.

But once the new cafeteria opened in 2007, those food stands mysteriously disappeared, leaving only fond memories for those who were around to enjoy them.

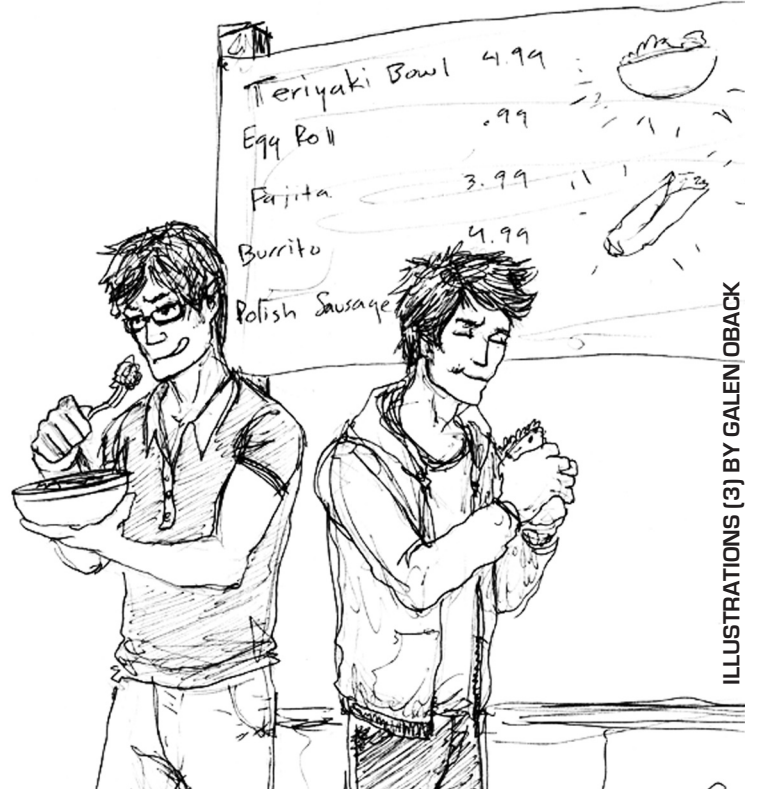
While the food stands are nothing more than a myth to some, for those who remember the good times, this loss is a tragedy. The stands offered students a plethora of food options from a variety of cultures. They sold everything from Polish sausages to teriyaki bowls, adding diversity to the De Anza College menu.

They also made it easy for anyone in a hurry to get a quick meal, rather

than having to make a detour to the cafeteria and being forced to wait in a long line. Sure, our cafeteria is award-winning, but it's less convenient and lacks the spirit of the food stands.

The stands were more than just a location to get meals; they attracted students to an ideal gathering spot, encouraging a sense of community. When the food stands went, so did seating arrangements around the fountain, and with them went the crowds. Sadly, the plague against prime hang-out locations didn't end in the Main Quad – it spread to the L Quad this past summer, when the trees and coffee stand went, too.

The food stands need to return so that campus culture can reemerge and offer students and faculty a break from their stress. ■



African-Americans: no more 'N' word

brittanySIMS

The overused, repulsive "N" word needs to be washed out of everyone's mouths. Black, white, Indian, Hispanic, Asian – any and every race, I absolutely hate the use of it.

Being African-American, I see this as an enormous issue in our community, which is why I specifically want to address other African-Americans saying it.

Using the "N" word does not make you cool or hip. It is sometimes said that people use it to replace, "Hey, my brother!" This is ridiculous. If it's that hard to use your head and think of an alternative to the "N" word, then carry around a damn thesaurus.

It's just as bad as when people use the word "gay" as a derogatory term. Slurs such as these are unacceptable and should be a crime. Our ancestors were beaten and killed because of their race, and the "N" word was used to humiliate and hurt them.

People today, especially rappers, use it freely as though no one notices. It has spiraled out of control.

I get extremely upset when people say, "Oh, we say it now because we have changed it into something positive. Since we all use it now, it has brought us together."

It hasn't brought anything together – it has torn people apart with all the rules placed on how and when it can be said. For instance, if you say it with an "er" you're racist, but if it's with an "o" or an "a," you're accepted and down with the in-crowd. The only thing you're down with is ignorance, a disrespectful attitude and a bad vocabulary.

There's an unspoken rule amongst African-Americans who throw the

word around that other races can't use it. Well, why not? If you're all going to be thoughtless people, then why not let others join your little

Other African-Americans have judged me for not using the "N" word, telling me that I'm not black enough. My mind can't even comprehend that logic.

African-Americans who use the "N" word, understand that it is you who make it harder for us to break the barrier of discrimination. It is you who make the stereotypes about us true. It is you who is setting us back 150 years.

Is this all we are to be known for, an idiotic word? This is what our culture is? African-Americans can't speak correct English? I tell you to rise!

For those who don't use the word, I applaud you, I appreciate you, keep it up. For the rest of you, especially my African-American brothers and sisters, remember that every time that poisonous word leaves your lips, you're putting another whip on our ancestors' backs. ■

Brittany Sims is a freelancer for La Voz Weekly.



club of stupidity? There's no copyright that says only blacks can say it and others can't because it would make them either racist or "trying to act black."

You can't "act" a race!

Well, the correct term is ...



patrickGARTNER

Isn't it a paradox to use your own freedom of speech to tell someone they should limit their vocabulary? Where can we draw the line between being respectful and being overly sensitive? Lately, I have been concerned about the lengths some are willing to go in order to end "incorrect speech." It seems to me that the list of words labeled "politically incorrect" is growing with each passing year. Which begs the question: do personal feelings really hold more sway over First Amendment rights?

Radio host Don Imus calling the Rutgers University women's basketball team a group of "nappy-headed hos" is the perfect example of being politically incorrect. He said a deplorable thing on the air and those women had every right to be upset. However, Imus was, by contract, supposed to be politically incorrect.

As a talk show host, his career is based on outrageous rhetoric.

The college, instead of just calling him out on being a racist SOB, fought to get him fired and sought

not everything falls into such clear categories. Who has the right to decide what is inappropriate for everyone else?

When a word or phrase is banished, it is only given more power. The ability to hurt someone with that language intensifies. I propose endorsing all hate speech in order to finally end our sensitivity to it.

If you can imagine a post-racist, sexist, anything-ist society, do you really think it would include a list of no-no words? Let's grow thicker skins, stop playing the victim and confront stereotypes through open and honest conversation.

What if instead of being fired, Imus was given a choice between losing his job or having to look into the eye of each woman and call her a "nappy-headed ho" to her face? He could then have chosen his own unemployment or confronted how hurtful and wrong his statements were. I bet \$1,000 that his apology afterward would have been com-



pletely sincere.

The idea that you can end the stigma behind phrases by outlawing them is absurd. I don't want to live in a world where the only thing keeping someone from calling me a honky-cracker-jack-vanilla-faced-weto is the possibility that they might get sued for doing so. Personally, I would rather hear the person express their true feelings about me than pretend to accept me as I am.

To end incorrect "isms," we do not need legislature, policies or punishments. What we need to do is recognize that everyone is prejudiced and ignorant to a certain extent. That's right, I said it! Everyone is prejudiced. Seriously, whenever I hear someone say that they do not see color, sex or affiliation, it makes me want to gag. I see color, sex and affiliation all the time and I love it. Only when a stereotype is spoken aloud in the presence of the stereotyped can it be proven ridiculous and incorrect.

I truly believe in the idea of equality for all. But I also believe that the road to absolute equality is paved with honesty and communication, not censorship and punishment. ■

Patrick Gartner is a reporter for La Voz Weekly. Contact him at: patrickgartner@lavozdeanza.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Valentine's Day Special

Cheap date ideas: celebrating this pink holiday doesn't have to be expensive

Brittany Sims
LA VOZ NEWS

If you're looking to put a smile on his or her face without emptying your bank account or going to yet another movie, here are a few ideas to help you out.

The bowling date: \$20

Recommended for competitive daters

Let the good times roll! Set up a replica bowling alley in a backyard or on an empty street. Get 10 two-liter bottles of soda and set them up like bowling pins.

Use a watermelon for the bowling ball and see how many soda-bottle-pins you can knock over in 10 frames.

Eventually the melon will bust open and that's when you use the ball (watermelon) and the pins (soda) to have a sticky, messy food fight with each other.

After you win, rub it (and the watermelon) in his or her face!

The Picasso date: \$15

Recommended for confident, sensual daters

Make a masterpiece together. Buy some cheap and colorful non-toxic paint from your local craft store, along with a big piece of white butcher paper or a cheap white queen-sized bed sheet.

With a bathing suit or some sexy underwear on, start painting each other's bodies. You can use brushes or, for a closer experience, finger paint. When finished, lie on your sheet or butcher paper and press your bodies on it. The picture won't look perfect, but who cares? Pour the remaining paint on each other and without using your hands make sure every inch of your partner is covered in paint. So be creative!

Make art and have fun doing it.

The hiking-notes date: \$10

Recommended for adventurous daters

Get to know your date the affordable and cute way. Find a few sheets of bright colored paper and paperclips.

Together, go shopping for picnic-type lunch items (e.g. ham, chips, water) and, before the hike, tear up the paper and write facts or funny secrets (e.g. I always wished I had a third ear) about yourself that you want the other person to know. If you already know each other fairly well, write messages about what you love about the other person or what you want to say to each other.

Then go on a day hike in the mountains. As you hike up to your destination, attach these notes to thin tree branches with paper clips so they don't blow away.

Enjoy a picnic at the top of the mountain. Then on the way back down, take the same path as you did going up, picking up the other person's notes and reading them.

When you reach the bottom, you will have plenty of cool information about or compliments from your date.

A side benefit is that you get to exercise while forming a deep connection with the person you love. (Or want to love.)

The ice-block date: \$3

Recommended for extreme daters

Here is a little something for those who don't mind getting down and dirty.

Go purchase an ice-block from 7-Eleven or Safeway. (Most stores have it back-stocked.) Pick up a towel or two and couple of blankets from home and you're all set for your date.

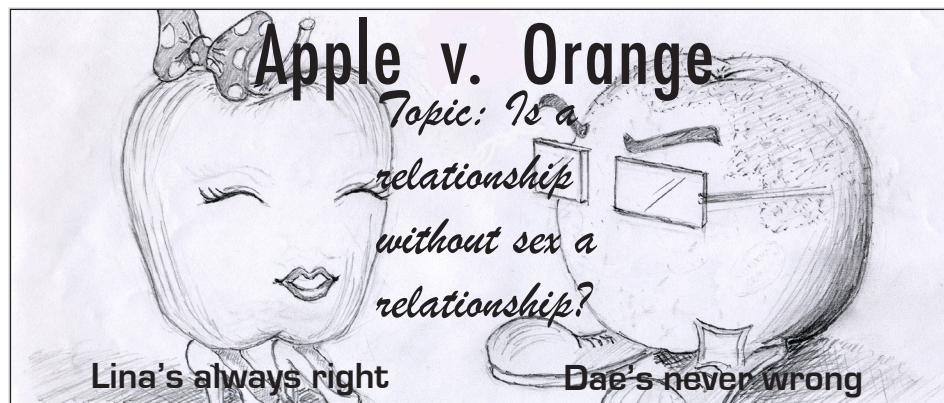
Find a hill nearby and go up to the top with the ice-block and the towels. Put the towel on the ice and slide down the hill together! Cheap and totally fun!

Other free and fun dates:

Read to each other in a library, go bicycling or go to the beach.

Remember, when planning for this year's perfect date, the focus is not the amount of money you spend, but the quality time you are spending with that special someone. ▀

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The value of the supposed declaration, "I love you," has become vague: a reason why I must even defend this case, "relationship without sex is still a relationship."

Sex is an extra feature that makes the relationship a little more special but it's still just sex. Why ignore the many other aspects that make up the relationship? Trust, faith, memories – or more importantly – love?

For example, take a man who has had sex before but was paralyzed. Does his relationship with his wife count for nothing now because he is no longer able to carry out in bed? Does the lack of sex make their life together less of a relationship?

The core of any relationship should ideally be love. If a man or a woman can oppress his or her sexual desires for the small chance of a future together, isn't that true love?

It is difficult to shut down a natural feeling, but not impossible. An easy game isn't worth playing.

Ultimately, love outweighs sex. (If you don't think so, I'm terribly sorry.)

Being able to hold someone in your arms, opening up your eyes next to someone you are infatuated with, being able to enjoy each other's presence even until the day you turn old and wrinkly is love.

Whereas sex? It's a mechanism that relies heavily on physical attraction. Good sex is something that can be improved on with multi-tasking techniques (e.g. kissing on the neck during intercourse). Who cares? This one tiny aspect is nowhere near on par with the magnitude of love.

Love and sex are interrelated, I admit. However, love justifies sex. Sex doesn't justify love. I don't need to have sex with my boyfriend in order to defend my love for him.

Just like an intuition, the indescribable feeling of love is enough reasoning for a relationship.

"A relationship without sex is not a relationship," is a spoiled statement. What about those who can't afford to have sex? Those who have to face the barriers of war and religion can't have a real relationship?

Sex is important but not that important. ▀

Two cups of flour, three eggs, a teaspoon of salt, a stick of butter and a cup of sugar. All the ingredients at the correct measurements ... but where's the cupcake? What's missing? The oven. You need heat to cook. That's what sex is. It's a catalyst.

Ever hear the term "consummate a relationship"? Consummate means to bring to a state of perfection, to fulfill. Without the sex your relationship is incomplete. An incomplete relationship is called dating.

Sorry kiddies, holding hands and kissing on the lips does not mean you are in a relationship – no matter how much you profess your undying love to someone you've known for less than a year. That doesn't mean it can't develop into a relationship, but for now, you're just dating.

It's like playing poker with money vs. playing for potato chips. You can "play" poker with potato chips. You follow the same rules and go through the same motions, but without anything important at stake, you aren't experiencing the real thing. Making a decision in poker isn't hard. Making a decision under pressure, under the threat of losing a significant amount of money, is what makes it hard.

Can you really say you're in a real relationship with someone without experiencing one of the most intimate experiences (physically and emotionally) possible with that person?

Sex changes things. Sex changes people. Maybe the sex itself isn't important, but what if the sex turns your significant other into a jealous, obsessive, control freak? What if during sex, you find out that the other person has some sort of perverted, bizarre fetish? That isn't going to change your opinion of that person?

It works the other way as well. Sex alone isn't enough to validate a relationship, but sex is a major part of it. Relationships are full of good and bad moments. Sex can expose you to both.

If you know the other person is a horrible lover, if they do not satisfy you sexually, yet you decide to stay committed and stay faithful now THAT, my friends, is true love. ▀



ILLUSTRATION BY ALENA STAJOSTINA/LA VOZ

True meaning of St. Valentine's Day

bellaYashayev

Valentine's Day is almost upon us! The women are excited to proclaim their love, the men complain about overpriced gifts and single people are getting depressed. Everyone has an opinion about Valentine's Day, but who actually knows how, when and why this holiday originated?

It's great that most people know it has something to do with Valentine, and a thumbs up for those who knew he was a saint, but isn't that somewhat vague? Wouldn't you want to know more about the name you use to refer to your significant other every Feb. 14? Here are a few theories about the origins of this special holiday:

a renegade priest

Valentine was a third-century priest who served under the rule of Roman Emperor Claudius II, who prohibited young men from getting married. The emperor believed that would make them better soldiers, but Valentine continued to secretly marry young couples. He was discovered and sentenced to death. Legend has it that while in prison, Valentine fell in love with a young girl, presumably the jailor's daughter. A day before the persecution, Valentine wrote her a letter and signed it, "From your Valentine."

romancing with goat blood

Valentine's Day can also be connected to the pagan Lupercalia festival celebrated in ancient Rome on Feb. 15. Young women would place their names in a hollow and single men would pick a name of the woman he would romance for a year. Boys would sacrifice a goat and use its skin and blood to go around the streets and touch women. It was believed that the goat's skin would make them more fertile.

twelfth century poetry

In 1382, English writer Geoffrey Chaucer wrote the poem, "Parlement of Foules," which includes the following line: "For this was on seynt Volantynys day /Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make."

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