

Public forum discusses impact of Measure E projects

meeting addresses environmental, parking concerns resulting from construction at De Anza

by Krystal Gibbs
STAFF WRITER

Traffic circulation was the focus of controversy at a community forum held last Wednesday to discuss the Environmental Impact Report.

As required by law, the report was released last March to address the implications of Measure E to the De Anza campus and surrounding areas.

Measure E, a \$248 million bond, was issued to the Foothill-De Anza District in November 1999 to renovate existing and construct new facilities.

Several new buildings will be situated on what are now parking lots, and renovations of existing facilities have moved faculty offices and classrooms to tempo-

rary modular structures, located on parking lots, said Mike Brandy, De Anza's vice president of finance and college services, who hosted the forum.

There are 4,438 parking spaces on campus for the roughly 25,000 students who are enrolled at De Anza, which leads students to seek parking spaces on Mary Avenue, said Brandy.

Based on field observations, Mary Avenue and Stevens Creek Boulevard, especially near the Highway 85 exit, were identified as problem areas in terms of circulation surrounding the campus.

Susan Sievert, who lives on Monta Vista in San Jose, said managers of Measure E construction are focusing on internal traffic

congestion and parking deficiency and are ignoring the environmental implications for the community.

According to Sievert, there are residents in the perimeter of De Anza College, particularly on Mary Avenue, Stevens Creek

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Boulevard, and McClellan Road, who are afraid to leave their house because of traffic congestion and reckless drivers.

"[The district] didn't want to take any responsibility for the problem," Sievert said after the meeting. "It sounds like they are

turning a blind eye to it."

Brandy said the managing offices of Measure E are trying to find solutions to mitigate traffic congestion and parking by building a Valley Transportation Authority Center on campus and encouraging carpooling.

In following months, the district will try to pass a series of measures to create programs for carpooling and commute alternatives, such as bicycle riding, said Brandy.

According to Brandy, the FHDA District may increase parking fees to encourage use of commute alternatives and public transportation.

David Greenstein, a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the City

of Cupertino, said the city is planning to build an overpass on Mary Avenue, creating an alternative way to enter and exit campus.

Although the city has not yet drafted plans or schedules of this overpass, Greenstein said the structure will be easily accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

Brandy said that despite efforts to alleviate the major problems associated with Measure E, traffic will be an area of strain to students and faculty.

"We can't mitigate everything ... there is definitely going to be an impact," he said.

There will be a Town Hall meeting this Wednesday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Campus Center to discuss the progression and further implications of Measure E.

Local activist talks about issues of social justice in Silicon Valley

former De Anza student discusses experiences during last installment of 2002 Visiting Speaker series

by Monica Sane
STAFF WRITER

Tom Izu wants De Anza College students to think about the life of workers in Silicon Valley, to challenge the area's image as a high-tech land of plenty.

"What it is seen as is a really high-paid and rich society, which does hold some truth. But there are a whole lot of other people who are just like anywhere else, temporary workers who are hired by a lot of companies because [companies] don't have to pay them benefits and [workers] are paid less," said Izu, executive director of the California

- Raj Jayadev,
writer and activist

History Center.

To this end, Izu invited writer and activist Raj Jayadev to speak in the last installment of the 2002 Visiting Speaker series on May 16. About 150 people attended "Silicon Valley Debugged: Organizing Workers in Silicon Valley," which took place in Conference Rooms A and B of the Hinson Campus Center.

Jayadev's visit was also part of De Anza's celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Izu said that Jayadev was chosen for both his field of expertise and his South Asian origin.

A former De Anza student, Jayadev is an editor for a magazine he helped create last year called De-Bug. The magazine's Web site, www.siliconvalleydebug.com, described the publication as "a platform for the unheard voices of Silicon Valley's young and temporary."

Jayadev explained the meaning of the term "de-bug."

"'De-bug' is to inspect the product, to

get to the root cause of the problem in order to correct the malfunction. We see ourselves as an organization collectively doing something similar to that, on social, political and economic fronts," Jayadev said.

Jayadev spoke about problems and issues facing temporary workers, immigrants and young people.

He recounted his first experience as an activist, organizing his fellow workers at Hewlett-Packard to file a lawsuit over the company's incorrect calculation of wages.

Later, Jayadev won another lawsuit against Hewlett-Packard that disputed employee health problems overlooked by the company.

Awareness of labor issues in Silicon Valley is important for the De Anza student body to have, according to Jayadev.

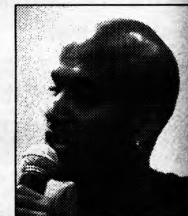
"Students at De Anza need to be knowl-

edgeable and aware of the problems of temporary workers as many students do work on a temporary basis," Jayadev said.

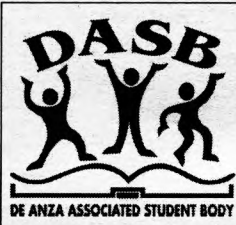
A story published in the May 20 issue of *La Voz* featured the projections of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The projections indicated that service and technology industries will be among the largest-growing occupations over the next decade.

Izu agreed with the message of Jayadev's speech.

"We want to encourage students to critically think about what is happening around them in the Silicon Valley, to know its history and to know the kind of activism happening here," said Izu.



Jayadev



DASB Senate Weekly Update

- by Vice President of Finance Rafael Beyer

There is no update this week.

The DASB Senate meets every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Council Chambers on the lower level of the Hinson Campus Center. The first meeting of each month is at 4:30 p.m.

For questions and comments please contact Rafael Beyer in the Senate office next to the Student Council Chambers. Call 408-864-8694 for additional information.

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