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LETTERS

voice opposition to budget cu

ason Shechter



CUTS FOR CERTAIN STUDENT SERVICES A 'TRAVEST

legislature, of community disabled and De Anza programs and face up to 45 for the needi- pack thirty to leader, policy nia should be so far, De notice of ter- and highly and out of 15 per- 20 years and in assisting re for and ne college

leadership finds it easier to kill this relatively unknown, non-mainstream program than go after other better-known programs or demand an "across-the-board" 15 percent reduction for the college.

As a 30-year veteran professor of history in California's community colleges -- the last 17 years here at De Anza -- I am appalled at the lack of real leadership in California and the heartless willingness by those who claim to lead to solve the state's economic crisis on the backs of the disabled, the poor, children in our public schools and the disenfranchised. Do those who are comfortable enough to live in upscale neighborhoods, drive expensive SUVs and cars, and eat out two or three times a week really want the disabled, children and other less fortunate citizens to suffer because they can't cough up another couple of hundred bucks in taxes? Are the "haves" really that selfish?

Let's get real, Californians. Stop the vocal minority of conservative Republicans

TION INCREASE WORRIES STUDENT, MOTHER OF FI

ombs or prisons?" in your Feb. 10 edi- know how worried I am about the sition for our community colleges. of five, and I did not always make In fact, I spent some time in prison there, I decided that when I was y life together and make sure I in. e sure that happened was by getting a y the bills, put food on the table for on and books as it is. If they raise the will be able to continue my education.

Chambers, located in the lower level Hinson Campus Center.

January 27, Thursday
Evening of Cultural Dining and Entertainment
Featured Speaker: Tommie Smith, 1968 Olympic Gold Medalist
Entertainment: South African Dance Troupe
Time: 5:00-9:00 p.m.
Campus Center, Conference Rooms A and B
\$15 per person

Several other students, donning Krispy Kreme paper hats, used bull-horns to say the same message. The DASB planned to write a peti-tion to Gov. Davis. The petition was not only to voice disapproval of the

to impose a statewide \$218 million mid-year cut to California Community Colleges." DASB pro-posed a \$158 million cut instead, which is the same amount cut for K-12 schools.

the number of students each commu-nity college can admit. De Anza has exceeded its cap and is losing money as a result. By the end of the rally, over 200 stu-dents had signed up for 120 doughnuts.

Survivor of WWII internment camps speaks out, draws parallels to U.S. domestic policy toward Arab-Americans after Sept. 11

by Luke Stangel
La Voz

Two seemingly dissimilar ethnic groups came together Wednesday afternoon to remember the internment of Japanese-Americans 50 years ago. Executive Order #9066 was signed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942 and led to the rounding up of 120,000 West Coast Japanese-Americans and relocated them to internment camps across the nation.

This year, many Arab-Americans are attending "Day of Remembrance" events with Japanese-Americans to commemorate the past and draw parallels between U.S. domestic poli-cy following World War II and Sept. 11.

At De Anza's "Day of Remembrance," Fred Korematsu described his experience with the U.S. Supreme Court following his refusal to obey Roosevelt's Executive Order. The Supreme Court struck down his appeal for civil liberties, and Korematsu spent the duration of the

war in federal prison on charges of spying. Forty years later, his case was reopened, and he received a full pardon. President Clinton awarded Korematsu the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998, the highest distinction that can be granted to a U.S. citizen.

The 84-year-old Korematsu was met with a standing ovation at the event.

"All my life, I've been an American. I was born in this country. And if the United States went to war, I'd want to participate too—because I'm an American," Korematsu said.

He initially signed up for military duty but was denied entry twice for a physical disability. After the Executive Order was issued, Korematsu refused to comply. He was arrested in May 1942 and found guilty of violating the Civilian Exclusion Order. Korematsu appealed to the Supreme Court, saying his Fourteenth Amendment rights to equal protection of the law had been violated.

He said to the group of 50 students, "If you

think something in your mind is right, then go for it."

Maha ElGenaidi, president of Islamic Networks Group, is doing just that. She speaks out against violations of civil rights occurring in the United States against Muslim Americans following Sept. 11. ElGenaidi drew many parallels between the anti-Arab backlash today and anti-Japanese attitudes in the past.

"Much like what the Japanese-Americans were experiencing [after] Pearl Harbor, Muslims today are pretty much vilified in America's popular culture," ElGenaidi said. "A lot of the images that we get of Muslims are that they are terrorists, extremists, fundamentalists ... people who are intolerant of other religions [and] have a backward culture."

ElGenaidi's greatest concern lies with the recent signing of the USA PATRIOT Act and its curbing of basic civil liberties. In interviews with Arab-Americans that had been detained and questioned following Sept. 11, she said she

heard of prisoners denied legal counsel, medical attention and access to necessities.

The issue of security versus civil liberties was an electric topic in the audience, climaxing when mathematics instructor Scott Peterson said the human rights described in the Constitution did not apply to non-citizens.

Richard Honda, an attorney and the executive director of the Asian Law Alliance, said that the protections in the Constitution applied to all humans, regardless of ethnicity.

Honda said, "Courts and justices really need to not allow the government to have these sweeping pronouncements, to curb non-citizen liberties without really uncovering the facts. The government has to present a strong case against a specific person rather than engage in these kind of over-inclusive roundups and detentions."

"Are we seeing history repeat itself?" he asked. "Or will the words of the Pledge of Allegiance ring true — and will we have liberty and justice for all?"

La Voz

simply speaking the truth

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Jill Sch...

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