

L.A. SEVEN TO SPEAK AT BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

BY ROWAN KAISER

At the Friday Forum on February 1st, the group of Antioch College community members delegated to go to Los Angeles met and spoke with the community for the first time together. The delegates, dubbed the L.A. Seven, were nominated by community members and selected by JointCil, a combination of AdCil and ComCil, to travel to L.A. for the Board of Trustees meetings planned for February 7th-9th. The L.A. Seven include students Brandi Ellis and Danny Solis, CG member Deitrich Delrieu-Schulze, staff members Laura Fathauer and Carole Braun, and faculty member Hassan Rahmanian, as well as faculty member, Pat Linn, who could not be present.

The L.A. Seven were not given a time slot by the Board of Trustees. Instead they were selected before they even knew that they would have an official slot to speak to the trustees. The President of Antioch University Southern California, Mark Schulman, however, gave the members of the College community thirty minutes out of his allotted hour and a half to speak to the board.

Last December, a small group of students from the College crashed the Board of Trustees meetings, and it was felt by those present at the Forum that this experience had opened the door for a more professional, legitimate delegation. Of those who met the Board in December, Deitrich is the only one returning to see them in Los Angeles.

The Seven were allowed to express their reasons for desiring to speak with the Board. One of the recurring themes expressed was that the Board doesn't understand the way that Antioch College functions, and they want to try to teach them that as best

they can. Laura, for example, wants to call attention to a recent decision made by the University to change and cut funding for Tech Resources, because she feels it is a crucial and important aspect to the recruitment and retention of students.

The fact that the University made the decision with no input from the College was the other major theme that many of the L.A. Seven expressed. They feel that the University has moved the College from the center of their priorities to being just another part of the system. The history of Antioch, as it was explained, is that Antioch's endowment in the 70's and 80's was spent creating the University system. It

was the College's investment, and the community unanimously felt that the University had supplanted the College from being at the center of the Antioch system. Student Danny Solis was particularly concerned with aspects of this controversy, claiming that he plans to go express to the Board how, as a member of the Financial Planning Committee, he has been frustrated by the feeling that the Antioch community has been given only symbolic power, but has actually decided nothing.

Much of the rest of the meeting was devoted to trying to plan what the Seven should do to make the Board most responsive. They feel that the 30 minutes should be used to try to get the Board's attention, and to convince the trustees to learn more from the delegation, and thus teach them about Antioch.

The L.A. Seven left Antioch for Los Angeles on Wednesday, February 6th.