

Subject: From the President's Desk**Date:** Wed, 20 Dec 2006 16:16:40 -0800**From:** "Raul Rodriguez" <rrodriguez@deltacollege.edu>**To:** "Campus Wide Business" <campusbusiness@sjdccd.cc.ca.us>

Happy holidays to all! As you know, my life seems to revolve around meetings, meetings, and more meetings. So, I know it is the holiday season when I actually have more parties and receptions on my calendar than meetings! This time of year is fun, but it is not so kind to the waistline. I typically put on five pounds or more during the holiday season, which is then a major struggle to shed. As a result, I am trying to break that holiday tradition, but it is so hard!

Bill Harper

The tenuous nature of life was brought home once again to all of us here at Delta with the untimely passing of Electronics Instructor Bill Harper. From what I have been told, Bill started out his career here at Delta in the Maintenance Department and then made the rare transition from a staff position to a faculty position. That transition alone demonstrates that Bill was a man of rare talents and considerable accomplishments. There has been widespread mourning of Bill as he made many friends and had many admirers here at Delta and in the community. He will be greatly missed.

Manteca Farm Incident

You may have read the newspaper articles or seen some of the television news coverage of the vicious attack by two pit bulls on the flock of sheep at the Manteca Farm. The two dogs apparently went mad with bloodlust and wounded more than twenty sheep and killed eight of them. One of the student caretakers, who lives at the farm and whose job is to protect the livestock, shot and killed one of the dogs with a .22 rifle.

One of the questions that comes up immediately in a situation like this is about whether or not it is legal to have firearms at a college facility like the farm. The answer is that there is a provision in the Ed. Code that allows the possession of firearms at such operations. It may be hard for some people to understand the logic behind such a provision. However, as someone who grew up in rural Oklahoma, it is easy for me to understand as having guns for the protection of livestock in a farm or ranch setting is the norm. Still, whenever the use of firearms is involved there should be a thorough investigation and I have asked Dr. Condon to undertake that task.

Christmas Message

Every year I try to send out some kind of Christmas message that hopefully kindles the spirit of Christmas and gets people to reflect on what this season is all about. After reading the message that Heather Mompean sent out yesterday in regard to the passing of Bill Harper, I have reconsidered. That is, after reading the message that Heather shared, I can't think of a more compelling or timely story. The tale of the little boy who gave away his balloon exemplifies the true spirit of giving. So, I would refer you all to Heather's message for some kind thoughts about Bill and some holiday inspiration!

May you all have a wonderful holiday season. Best wishes for 2007!