

Flunk the Budget Rally

By **Andrea A. Firth**

About 120 parents, students, teachers, administrators and classified employees participated in the Flunk the Budget Rally at Las Lomas High School last week to protest the State's proposed cuts to education spending. Speeches by several employees and shareholders from the Acalanes Union High School District at the rally included pleas, demands, strong words, and even a parody of the Governor all sending their message that the current budget crisis should not be solved through cuts to education.

Describing himself as the CEO of a 50 million dollar corporation whose product is the education of children in California, Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent Jim Negri indicated that the State was not providing the proper investment

for him to make his business successful. "[The State] needs to make the financial commitment if they expect a quality education," said Negri. Bolstered by similar comments from Contra Costa Schools Superintendent, Dr. Joseph Ovick, and other Acalanes District teachers, Las Trampas Creek Council PTA legislative representative Cindy Millard concluded the rally by noting that the recent letter writing campaign and rallies like this one were essential to changing the mindset in Sacramento. "We're making a difference, and we have to keep sending this message." stated Millard.



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Photo Andrea A. Firth