**LET THE PUBLIC SPEAK**

**Trustee rethinks vote**

EDITOR: As a nine-year trustee at Santa Rosa Junior College, I cast an extremely difficult vote against a project stabilization agreement in the renovation of the Burbank Auditorium (“SRJC board OKs union-backed project,” Sept 13). At the time, I agonized over technical concerns. However, since the vote was taken, the widespread despicable behavior of those opposing project stabilization agreements had a far-reaching chilling effect on me. My board colleagues were told “things would get worse for them” along with threats to withhold charitable contributions to the SRJC centennial event. Disagreement is one thing, but making threats is quite another. I took a closer look and those technical issues now seem trivial in the face of such horrendous behavior.

There’s actually much about project stabilization agreements to like, but perhaps the most meaningful to us and SRJC is the commitment to local hires and the apprenticeship programs with focused outreach to women, minorities and veterans. The programs are state certified with high graduation rates, making it possible for local graduates to achieve a decent middle-class income and comfortably provide for their families.

Having witnessed and reflected upon the entirely unacceptable behavior of the anti-project- stabilization side and the fact that I’ve resolved the issues I was originally concerned with, I now regret my “no” vote and would vote differently if I could.

**DONALD S. EDGAR**