

Rodriguez's 'Roosters' Something To Crow About

By Erin Murphy
Staff Writer

In a fine performance, Cal State Hayward students gave a raw depiction of family dysfunction and the powerful interference of love in last Saturday's performance of "Roosters."

Directed by CSUH alumnus Leo I. Rodriguez, the play captivated the audience with the characters' struggle to define a personal reality and the riveting, athletic cock-fight dances featuring James Cooney and Nico Dietrich, as well as "the Shadows," Bong Dizon, Dorcas Sims/Ellen Marzan.

"I thought it was very good," said Wendy Wisely, who was the

judiciary representative for the American College Theater Festival, a yearly opportunity for selected student actors to explore the world of performing arts at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

"It's a very difficult script and I think the students took a big swing and did well," she said of the work by award-winning playwright Milcha Sanchez-Scott. "I think the movement was particularly exciting to watch."

The story takes place on the Morales family lands, where Juana Morales (Trystyn M. Vasquez), accompanied by her sister-in-law Chata (C. Lindsay Cross), awaits the return of her husband, Gallo (Armando

Torres), who has just finished serving a murder sentence. He returns and resumes a passion that troubles his broken family, cock fighting.

Hector (Joe Midyett) vehemently resents his father's obsession with roosters and neglect of the family, while his younger sister, Angela (Marissa Keltie) holds onto her illusions about her father and the little love that survives in the family.

The harshness of Hector's spite provides the heavy drama and the audience is exposed to a permeating tension throughout. This tension is balanced by the humorous and innocent anecdotes of Angela, whose arrested development leaves her in a mystical world where she can have

faith and communicate with saints and angels.

All the Morales family members, except for Gallo, displays uncertainty, personal anguish and discontent over their identities. Conflict and confrontation provide the emotional leverage for the climactic intercession of spirituality and unconditional love.

The audience was moved by dance, music and dialogue as Rodriguez instilled a mystical and spiritual quality into the characters.

The ambiguity in the ending leaves the spectators free to draw their own conclusions about Angela's significance and the play's resolution.

Rodriguez doesn't stray from

Latino tradition and shows a belief in magic where it is needed, as he was quoted in a previous interview as wanting the audience to walk away feeling a "sense of possibilities. Anything can happen. Sometimes it's not always what you expect but it's always for the best."

"On the surface it's about a father-son relationship," Rodriguez said. "On a higher level, it's about unconditional love."

First-time performers like Armando Torres graced the stage and impressed members of the audience, but it would be difficult to pin-point one actor as dominating the outstanding cast.

Wisely, a drama instructor of 15 years who currently is teaching at Santa Rosa Junior College

and Las Positas Community College, said she hoped the new actors would "stay with it."

"Some of the actors were very good," agreed Lois Crabtree and Mary Ann Gibbs, who frequent the CSUH drama performances.

Hayward students, faculty and residents can catch the Rodriguez's directing in the remaining performances, May 11, 12, and 13 in the Studio Theater, before he moves at the end of May to pursue his passion for the theater with a company in Montana.

Persons wanting ticket information may call the box office, (510) 885-3261. Tickets will be on sale from noon to 4 p.m., \$5 for students, \$8 general, \$6 youth and seniors.

Photo Exhibit Chronicles Immigrant Experience

By Sukhjinder Thethy
Staff Writer

A photographic exhibit on the experience of thousands of immigrants at the Angel Is-

land Immigration Station and Detention Center between 1910 and 1940 is being held at Cal State Hayward.

"Gateway to Gold Mountain" is a traveling exhibit that may

have a "home" at CSUH for one year.

"A universitywide contract between CSUH and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) is being negotiated,"

said Gale Young, associate dean of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences and a professor of speech communication.

Both Young and Philip Hofstetter, an assistant professor in the Art Department, are members of the AIISF Board of Directors. The exhibit, which was housed at the presidio in San Francisco, was in need of permanent home, Young said.

"Having it at CSUH really honors the experiences of the ancestors of a number of our students," Young said. "The exhibit heightens awareness of the Chinese Exclusion Act and of Angel Island as an immigration station and detention center. It reminds us that we all have the power to exclude and include."

Angel Island, often referred to

as the "west coast Ellis Island," was the port of entry where immigrants were processed. Although most immigrants passing through the island were Chinese, immigrants from Russia, the Philippines, Japan and Korea also were detained there. After the administration building burned down in 1940, the station returned to a San Francisco wharf. The barracks, where thousands of immigrants were detained, are still intact today.

"The reason for the preservation of the barracks is that there is poetry carved into the walls of the barracks," said Colleen Fong, an ethnic studies professor. "The carvings reflect the depression, frustration, bitterness toward the U.S. government and the unfairness of the exclusion laws felt by the immigrants

detained there."

Fong said Cal State Hayward was the perfect site for the exhibit because the photos constitute a tribute to the immigration experience - both its challenges and its successes.

"Students may not be immigrants, but their parents are," Fong said.

The exhibit will be on display in the Biella Room of the CSUH library until May 30, when it will be sent to the Smithsonian.

Persons wishing to attend the opening reception today from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. may respond to presoff@bay.csuhayward.edu.

The Ethnic Studies Academic Society is planning a May 20 trip to Angel Island. Persons wishing to participate may contact esas-info.csuhayward.edu.



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Milwaukee High School Senior Poses As Student-Teacher

by Billy O'Keefe
TMS Campus

A 17-year-old Milwaukee high school student masqueraded as a student teacher for more than a week at an elementary school located on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus.

UWM Police Dept. Director Phillip Clark said that the student, whose name has been withheld, had sat in on classes at Hartford Avenue University K-8 School, an elementary school proliferated by university faculty and students studying educa-

tion. They had even escorted a group of seventh-grade students to the university's student union.

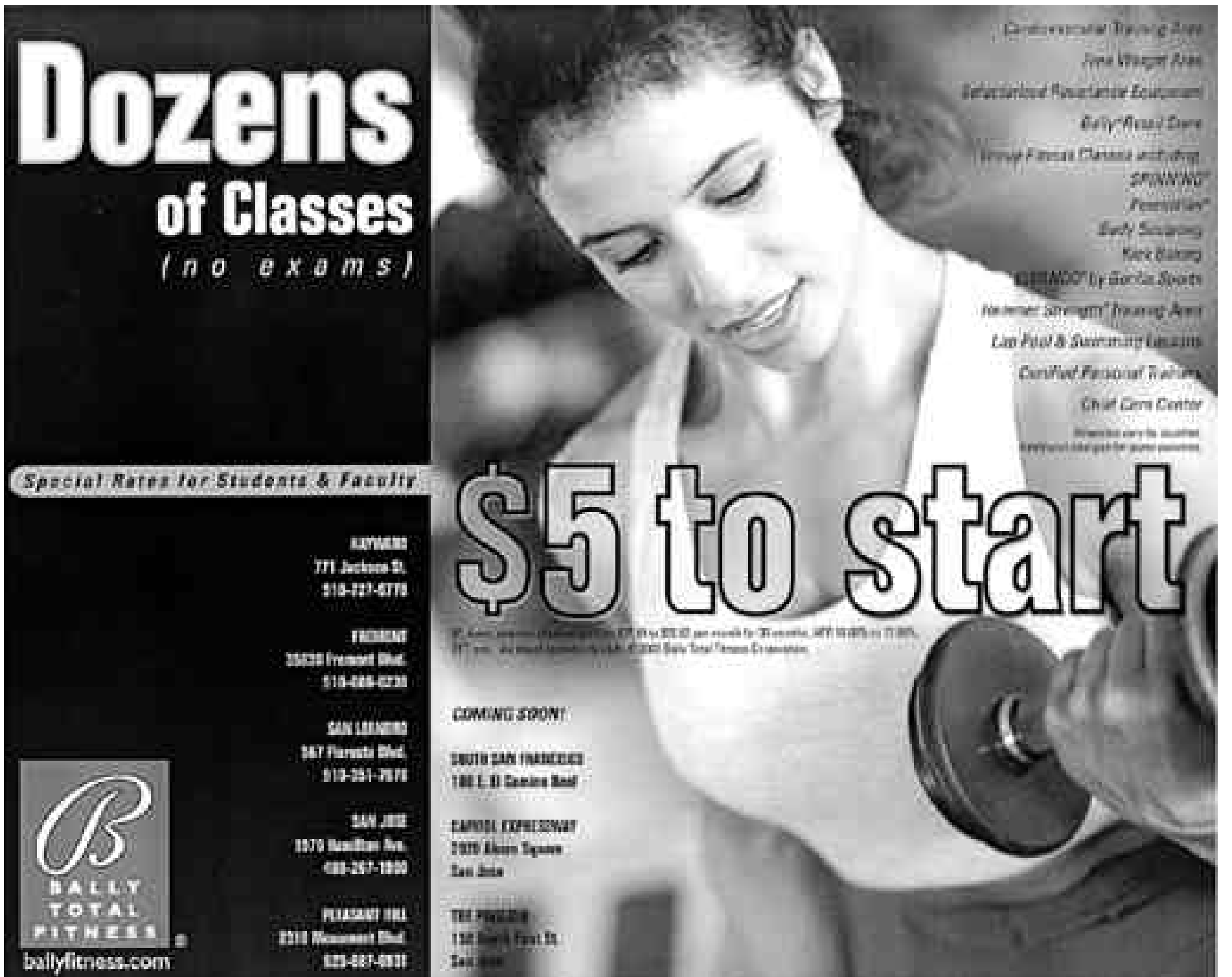
Hartford Avenue Principal Cynthia Ellwood said she believed the student, who attends nearby Custer High School, was a UWM education student who wanted some classroom training, a common request considering the school's placement on campus.

Clark said that the student's cover was blown after campus police accused him of stealing food from the student union. During questioning, it was discovered that the student did not at-

tend the university, and Ellwood eventually escorted the children back to class. Ellwood said that the school only requires would-be student instructors to submit an application and sit through an interview before volunteering in the classroom.

"That, of course, could change now," she said. "We don't want this sort of incident being repeated by others."

Clark said that the student was cited for stealing and lying to a police officer, but broke no laws while volunteering at the school.



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