

## Editorial

**Danger:**  
Give us the all  
on all news reports.  
See page 4.



## A & E

**Overplayed:**  
Ubu Roi, sometimes  
good, mostly bad.  
See page 12.



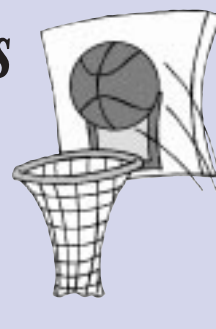
## News

**Corner Store:**  
Kampus Korner has been  
serving hungry students  
since 1979.  
See page 2.



## Sports

**B-Ball:**  
Hoops season  
gets under way.  
See page 6.



# November 15, 2001

- Sports, pp2,6
- Editorial, pp4,5
- Movies, p8
- Classifieds, p11
- A & E, p10,11,12

# The PIONEER

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FREE

## Study Abroad



International Career Fair: A student researches the opportunity to study abroad.

Photo/Nicole Pestana

## Alleged Embezzler Wright Surrenders to Authorities

By Zachary Honeycutt  
Staff Writer

David Wright, the former Cal State Hayward accountant accused of embezzling over \$150,000 from the university, turned himself in to the Department of Public Safety on Tuesday. Wright was charged with grand theft and embezzlement by a public official.

According to Kim Huggett, CSUH director of public affairs, Wright surrendered to DPS Tuesday at 4 p.m. and was booked into custody at the Hayward Police Department. Bail was set at \$170,000.

Huggett said that a warrant initiated by campus police was issued on Nov. 6 and Wright turned himself in after negotiations with his attorneys.

Wright's surrender came nearly three weeks after a university audit report was released to the public. The accountant had been dismissed from the university in August.

The 52-page audit report was highly critical of university accounting practices. It details the allegations of wrongdoing, the background, scope and method of investigation, and the results and recommendations in the case.

According to the audit report, the University Advancement office, where the alleged crimes took place, "did not exercise appropriate and sufficient oversight and control over accounting

and related records" and "did not sufficiently and appropriately report financial transactions for accounts maintained at the Educational Foundation."

The report was critical of the organizational structure of University Advancement's accounting, stating, "The organizational structure of Advancement resulted in insufficient and inappropriate oversight of the accountant."

It highlighted the fact that a great deal of authority was granted to the accountant by Dennis Eloie, CSUH vice president of advancement, and because of this extensive authority, the department had limited knowledge about the records.

According to the report, "The accountant clearly acted to misrepresent payment transactions to the VP of Advancement."

It said Wright indicated that his workload was too much for one man to handle, although university officials have denied this.

Attempts to contact Wright were unsuccessful.

The audit report says University Advancement "did not take sufficient and suitable action upon the presentation of extensive external auditor management comments received with the audited Educational Foundation financial statements."

See **Embezzle**, page 9.

## Funding Controversy Arises as Faculty Votes on Quarter-Semester Conversion

By Christine Sibley  
Staff Writer

The \$2 million promised by California State University Chancellor Charles Reed for Cal State Hayward's conversion to a semester system never has been allocated, but that doesn't mean it won't be forthcoming, according to CSUH President Norma Rees.

Rees was responding to an e-mail announcement from CSUH Professor Russell Merris, who contended that "the \$12 million dollars supposedly set aside for the six remaining campuses to convert has been spent."

Reed had offered \$2 million dollars to each California State University campus willing to undergo quarter to semester conversion, and Merris' e-mail

came as CSUH faculty members began voting on the conversion proposal.

Professor Calvin Caplan, a member of CSU's statewide Academic Senate, said, "The \$12 million was in fact part of the year-round operation budget. The money was earmarked for the purpose of converting campuses that wanted to change."

"A lot of this money had been spent," he continued, "and from a balance sheet point of view the money didn't exist."

But Rees said, "As the campuses were going to convert, Reed would find the money. At this time there are only two campuses that may convert. The money never disappeared, it was never allocated."

Backing her up were Paul Stromgren at the

chancellor's Long Beach headquarters and John Richards, budget director for CSU.

"No money was ever allocated for conversion," said Richards.

"There are other factors when changing from quarters to semesters to be concerned with," said Caplan. "It is precedent when a campus has changed from quarters to semesters, FTE (full-time equivalent) enrollment has shown a drop for the first year and sometimes the second."

"This may in turn affect other funding that the university is compensated," Merris said, "Reed, who replaced former CSU Chancellor Dr. Barry Munitz, is the reason for the conversion. Reed has a vision that all CSU campuses should be on a uniform system. Former Chancellor Munitz believed the cam-

pus had and were entitled to individuality."

The six CSU campuses that operate on the quarter system are Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Hayward, Cal Poly Pomona, San Bernardino, and Bakersfield.

Four of the six universities have decided not to switch from quarters to semesters. CSU Hayward and Los Angeles are still undecided.

Voting at CSUH started on Nov. 5 and will run until Nov. 26, with announcement of the result expected Nov. 29.

Despite controversies of whether the quarter system is more beneficial than the semester system, if CSUH does indeed decide to change to semesters, \$2 million will be made available, said Rees.

## Academic Senate Candidates Differ on Faculty Union

By Christopher Talbott  
Staff Writer

You won't find any backstabbing, accusations about prior misdeeds or dirty money coming in from aggressive lobbyists, but you will find a more than usually friendly competition for a seat on CSU's statewide Academic Senate.

Professors Frank Lowenthal and Henry Reichman are both campaigning for the job. The former opposes the California Faculty Association; the latter is active in the union.

There is nothing that seems too out of the ordinary until one looks at the way these men have handled the head-to-head debate.

"He [Lowenthal] is a nice guy. I like him," said Reichman of his opponent.

Both candidates have sent e-mail to fellow lecturers and professors around the campus.

Lowenthal, a professor of Accounting and Computer Information Systems, sent an e-mail on Oct. 31 that said, "I have opposed CFA from its inception and watched from the sidelines as it failed year after year to get any meaningful gains for the faculty."

He said he was "unalterably opposed" to the CFA and would like to have seen the union use some of its power with Gov. Gray Davis to increase the most recent cost of living raise above the 2 percent granted.

Reichman says that the candidates agree on a lot of the issues but not on the CFA.

As vice-president of the CFA Hayward chapter, he said he doesn't feel that the Senate should become a "major arena" for debating either "the vices or the virtues of our faculty union."

"As our campus experience has illustrated well, CFA and Senate memberships are hardly incompatible," said

Reichman, "but the CFA is not the Senate and the Senate is not the CFA."

The union has assumed a high profile in recent months, holding demonstrations and a teach-in on campus and announcing steps toward a strike authorization.

In response to Lowenthal's email, Reichman explained that there would be a strike authorization vote in the spring, unless there was "major progress toward a settlement of the current contract dispute."

Lowenthal said he would cross any picket line set up by CFA.

However, he and Reichman and Lowenthal agree that neither wants a work stoppage.

Both sent emails that were friendly and laudatory of each other.

Lowenthal's e-mail called Reichman "one of the most distinguished and ablest faculty members at CSUH," while Reichman's expressed his "respect and appreciation of (Lowenthal's) dedication to the university."

According to the Academic Senate office, voting will take place from Nov. 26 through Dec. 7 and the results will be disclosed on Dec. 10.

Only tenured and tenured-track faculty, including librarians and partially retired tenured faculty, will be allowed to vote. Lecturers will not be able to vote.

## Alumnus, Professor, Teacher Honored at 2001 Awards Gala

By Christopher Talbott  
Staff Writer

The second annual Awards Gala of the Cal State Hayward Educational Foundation and Alumni Association was held at the Blackhawk Peterson Automotive Museum in Danville to honor the organizations' top alumnus, teacher and professor of the year.

Gary Wallace was named Alumnus of the Year, Lois Sonneman was Teacher of the Year and Dr. Shyam Kamath was Professor of the Year.

"I am very delighted and truly honored, but when you enjoy what you do, that is enough reward," said Kamath.

Kamath, a professor at CSUH for the past 16 years, attended the gala with his wife and was quick to push the spotlight in her direction.

"This award is really for the hard work and support of my wife," said Kamath.

Over 160 alumni, friends and family attended the second annual soiree, held for the first time at the museum. Last year it was held in a tent between the Science Building and the Arts and Education Building.

"We were thrilled with response and attendance. It [Blackhawk Museum] is a nice venue to hold this type of event," said Stephanie Regevig, associate director of alumni relations. She also hinted that the response from the attendees could possibly warrant a return to the Museum.

The Educational Foundation was started in 1967 under the name of Cal State Affiliates, a non-profit group.

See **Gala**, page 9.

## Guidelines For Handling Mail

By Nicole Lutz  
Staff Writer

In the wake of anthrax assaults in the East, the State of California recently issued guidelines for handling threatening mail or mail that might contain chemical or biological material.

The guidelines were developed jointly by health professionals, the FBI, and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

They say that while the risk of contracting any disease from an envelope is extremely low, awareness of one's surroundings and suspicious mail is only common sense.



General precautions for those handling large volumes of mail include:

\* Wash hands with warm, soapy water before and after handling mail.

\* Do not eat, drink or smoke around mail.

\* If you have open cuts or skin lesions on your hands, disposable latex gloves may be appropriate.

\* Surgical masks, eye protection or gowns are NOT recommended or deemed necessary.

If you see a letter that is suspicious or contains powder or a written threat, do not shake or empty the envelope.

Place the envelope away from all others and ensure that it is not disturbed. Evacuation of the entire workplace is NOT necessary, at least at this point.

Call 911 and describe what was received and why you are suspicious. Wash hands with warm water and soap for one full minute.

Anyone that has been in contact with the envelope should wait until emergency personnel arrive. They will provide further instructions.

John Gonzales, manager of the Shipping and Receiving Department at Cal State Hayward, says that all employees at his facility must wear the gloves when handling the mail.

The guidelines say it is best to have only one person handle the mail on any given day, but this depends on the volume of mail coming into a facility.

Handle Cith Care: CSUH's Post Office is taking precautions with mail.

Photo/Nicole Pestana