

Dance Students Honored

By Yuka Sugawara
Staff Writer

Students received commensurate honors from the Cal State Hayward Dance Department at a June 14 award ceremony at the home of Bong Dizon, a dance major.

Members of the Cal State Hayward Hot Feet Dance Team received certificates of appreciation signed by their team leader and faculty advisor, the director of department, the chair of the Theater and Dance Department, and the dean of the School of Arts, Letters and Social Sciences.

Edmund Peregreño, team

leader and faculty advisor, handed the certificates to the each student.

He explained that those students competed at Stanford University in a Beginner's Challenge last fall, at the University of California, Berkeley, in the winter quarter and again at Stanford in the Cardinal Invitational last spring, and achieved a great success at each competition.

Honorees included Albert Bautista, Alverna Bautista, Rachel Chen, Gino Gemingmani, Melody Guerrero, Paul Gutierrez, Alex Herrera, Hoi Ho, Phong Le, Kimmie Lee, Gia Luong, Aaron Madsen, Claire Quijano, Yanary Ros, Yuka

Sugawara, and Alfelita Viray.

"Many students work really hard and I think they deserve it," Peregreño said, adding the certificates were "to recognize the students' dedication."

"It's not easy to take classes and to train for the competitions at the same time," he said.

Alumna Gia Luong received a certificate of achievement. Peregreño said, "He supports faculty and students and he has strong influence on the alumni."

Dance Department Director Laura Renaud-Wilson expressed her appreciation for the students' efforts.

She congratulated three stu-

dents, Kristin Peralta, Dizon and Victoria George, who received dance scholarship. She also congratulated students graduating from the dance department, Edmer Lazaro and Frances Sayadao.

She shared a story about one of her students in her class, who couldn't dance very well at the start of instruction but performed a great solo piece at the end of a quarter.

"Dance transforms people," she said.

Sayadao, expressed great appreciation to Renaud-Wilson for making her believe in herself.

"Dance expresses my inner truth," she said.

Minimum Wage Threat

Budget, from page one.

Association filed suit against the state Controller to prohibit payments from state funds in the absence of a budget passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor.

"We wanted the legislature to realize that the budget couldn't continue on autopilot," said Kris Vosburgh, executive director of the taxpayers association. "We never wanted to put citizens in the middle."

The ruling, upheld by California's Second District Court of Appeals, directed that no payments be made using state funds should a budget not be approved by the July 1 deadline.

Often these things get dealt with in the 11th hour," said

Bailey-Breed, who asked that members of the union write to their legislators with an appeal to approve the budget quickly.

California has, in years past, finalized the budget after the July 1 deadline. The 2001-2002 fiscal year budget was passed on July 22, 2001.

Should state Controller Kathleen Connell, whose office is responsible for disbursing state funds, continue to make salary payments during the appeals period the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association will not file a temporary restraining order to keep the checks from going out.

"At the time we filed, the state was paying its bills with IOUs," said Vosburgh. "We don't want to punish employees, just the Legislature."

Public Transit Costs Going Up

By Karen Coleman
Staff Writer

Transportation costs just went up for those carless commuters who need more than their feet to get around.

The two main public transit providers in the Hayward area both recently decided to increase their fares in response to the decreasing funding and ridership that have come with hard times statewide.

The Alameda County bus service, AC Transit, decided June 27 to increase its cash fare from \$1.35 to \$1.50 for a one-way bus

trip. The rate for people with disabilities and seniors will go up from 65 to 75 cents. These changes, along with the addition of a \$5 day-pass for unlimited trips in a 24-hour period, will go into effect Sept. 1.

In a June 28 announcement, the county transit organization noted that it will also cut the price of 31-day youth passes for children ages 5 to 17 from \$27 to \$15 and add a yearly pass for that age group that will cost \$150.

That same week the Bay Area Rapid Transit District decided on a 5 percent, across-the-board fare increase to begin on Jan. 1.

According to BART spokesperson Ron Rodriguez, the increase is the first in more than five years. He said ridership is down about 10 percent.

Fares for BART will increase Jan. 1. The five percent change takes the average fare-per-mile up from 15 cents to 15.75 cents. In addition to the fare increases, BART also plans to add paid parking spots to its 29, free, park-and-ride lots. Riders who want a guaranteed spot will be able to pay \$63 per month for reserved parking.

A pilot parking program is under way in West Oakland,

where riders can pay \$100 per month for new spaces that have lighting and security patrols. Whether hard times will mean changes to the transportation services at Cal State Hayward remains an open question.

In the campus Facilities Planning and Operations Department, Elfred Zalamea, alternative transportation supervisor, said it was too soon to say whether CSUH would have to make any service cuts or fee additions.

"At this time, I haven't heard anything yet," he said, noting that his department's budget proposal is still under review.

Markup College Texts

Books, from page one.

is a 26 percent mark up on textbooks. This helps pay operational costs for the Pioneer Bookstore, which typically makes more than \$6 million in net sales each year.

That gross figure sounds like a lot of money to students who have to shovel out hundreds for books each quarter. Business major Brett Searle's eyes bulged when he heard that the book store earned \$6 million, but said he was surprised the sum was not higher.

"With what I've spent on books, I should have a building named after me by now," he said.

Another complaint students have is the high depreciation rate for books at buy-back time.

Searle spent \$65 on a lower division book that he will never use again. When he tried to sell it back, he was told it was not going to be used anymore because a new edition was coming out.

"I've been using the pages for toilet paper when I read it in the bathroom," he said.

Schmitz said that the CSUH campus had a turn-over rate of 70 percent to 80 percent on titles from fall to winter. This means that anytime a student purchases a book, there is only a 20 percent to 30 percent chance that the book will be used again.

A seasoned gambler would probably fold before placing any bet with an 80 percent chance of losing. Still, students need textbooks for classes and, as with buying a car, they have the choice to buy new or used.

Schmitz said that by selling used books the Pioneer

Bookstore helps students save approximately \$600,000 a year. There is a Blue Book listing similar to those used to price used cars that the Pioneer Bookstore and Books on the Run use when buy-back time comes around.

According to Schmitz, at the Pioneer Bookstore, students are offered the highest price listing for their used books.

Students also can shop around. Books on the Run manager Joannie Chung said that few people are aware that there is another bookstore that sells textbooks for CSUH classes.

"So far sales are OK," she said.

"We had about 200 people buy texts books on Tuesday of last week."

Then there are online "stores."

Allbookstores.com allows students to compare book prices. A mass communications book priced at \$67 at a bookstore cost \$44.50 online. Of course, buying online has its risks. One of these risks involves providing credit card information that may be intercepted by a third party.

Also, the inability to examine the merchandise before purchasing it may be something to consider.

For those students who feel they didn't get enough money back for their books, Half.com allows them to list the prices they want for their books. A student names a price and if there is a buyer - pow! Instant cash.

Another option to buying texts books may be to see if a copy of the text is at the school library.

Workshops Available To Prepare Job Resumes

Help, from page one.

In addition to workshops, assessment testing and on-site employer recruitment also are available. EDD offers a variety of resources, including videos and periodicals, training information in tax, trade and commerce, and employer job listings. All of the services and resources offered through EDD are free.

"We don't find a job for the job seeker," Coleman said. "We teach them and assist them on how to go about pursuing a job."

CalJOBS offers advice and job placement assistance to everyone, from high school dropouts to senior citizens, and can be accessed only through any computer with Internet access at www.caljobs.ca.gov, or by calling (800) 758-0398.

"The Employment Development Department is, I'm sure, very similar to the campus career centers, as far as the assistance

we provide: helping with resumes, applications and interviewing skills," Coleman said.

Eric Dekewari, 19, who has worked for the CSUH Career Development Center for the last five months, said many students don't realize how beneficial the center can be.

"There are plenty of jobs out there," Dekewari said. "Most people just don't know where to look."

He said that every day the CDC received inquiries from companies with high-paying positions, searching for full-time employees.

The CDC operates with the help of corporate sponsors, which include Chevron, Target, Starbucks and Enterprise. Through donations from these companies, the CDC purchases equipment and supplies, hires interns to bolster its programs and services, increases its outreach and marketing efforts and contributes to student

organizations that sponsor career-related programs.

Job counseling is offered Monday through Thursday at the Hayward and Contra Costa campuses.

Career counselors are experienced professionals who are knowledgeable about many career issues, and they can recommend relevant resources to meet the students' career needs.

An appointment with a career counselor can help students plot a variety of career steps: defining career objectives, undergoing career assessment by taking career placement exams, planning career steps, training in interview techniques and resume creation.

The CDC organizes and promotes yearly job fairs, interview sessions and classes on writing resumes and cover letters. Internships that carry college credit are available for some students.

"Cooperative education is

supervised work experience in which students obtain work experience related to their fields of study or career interests through off-campus, paid or volunteer activities," said P. Srinivas Reddy, CDC students assistant and head of the CDC Web site. "Students can get school credit for their work experience."

Hundreds of part-time and full-time paid employment opportunities are available to students through the CDC's Student Employment Office and Career Resource Library. If students are hired, they may be eligible to earn one to four units per quarter by working in approved internships.

In addition to job placement assistance, the CDC offers a test called the "Salary Wizard," which predicts how much participants might expect in salary, based on education, experience, skills and references. The test is free.

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Few Job Positions Available For College Grads

Seekers, from page one.

"We don't really offer any jobs specifically for (college) graduate(s) . . . looking for permanent careers," said a newspaper classified agent who declined to be identified. "All we have are help wanted ads divided by section, with most of the jobs in business."

In larger newspapers, "like the San Francisco Chronicle, the classified sections are neatly divided, with headings for jobs in fields such as advertising, engineer and marketing/sales."

"We have a lot of high-tech jobs available in the Bay Area," said David Oliverio, a supervisor in the Chronicle classified advertising department.

"We have openings for positions in administration and management. We also offer internships to graduate students in our own circulation and advertising departments."

According to Nancy Bambino, owner of Express Personnel in Pleasanton, there definitely has been a change - and a decline - in the job market within the past 12 months.

In early 2001, Bambino said, there were many, high-level administrative positions and office management positions available, but currently she only has openings for receptionists and telemarketers.

"Due to present economic conditions, people are no longer job hopping around," she said. "They are keeping what they have for as long as they can."

"More and more companies are looking for quality individuals who can multi-task," said Trish Brennen of Advanced Resources in Pleasanton.

"Companies are no longer looking for individuals who can only offer one skill set."

Brennen indicated that most jobs she fills are blendings of two or three different positions into one, because companies still are downsizing but realize they still have to hire people to get the work done.

"Now, instead of three people being hired, it's only one. So that individual must be a superstar," she said, adding that people recently laid off are willing to take drastic salary reductions.

"They've been out of work for months and can no longer be picky about the job they get," she said. "They just need to get hired so they can pay some bills."

Over 79 percent of graduating seniors look for jobs immediately after they finish college, according to a national survey by MonsterTRAK. Online job recruiting services are helping to make job finding a little bit easier, because the services combine classified with contacts with recruiting agencies and allow people to place their resumes online and have employers look for whom they want.

They also allow site visitors to view job openings locally as well

as nationally.

Each of these sites lists the types of job fields that are available and allows visitors to post their resumes by field of work. These sites also help people compose resumes by showing samples. Some even offer to compose resumes.

The sites also help set up interviews and even give tips on proper interview etiquette.

Some of the better known job search sites are Monster.com, which has a subsite for college students (MonsterTRAK), hotjobs.com, which recently merged with Yahoo!.com.

Public relations representative Christopher Jones noted that hotjobs.com has a college newsletter that gives students insight on the status of the job market.

Marsha Estarija, press representative for craigslist.com, said, "Though craigslist.com does not specifically cater to college students, it does help to find housing, baby-sitting and just 'everyday stuff' to help out people in the Bay Area."

Online job finding services are

also very secure in that they don't allow anyone besides employers to view information posted by job seekers.

"We don't analyze our data as far as what type of people are looking for work, because we want to respect people's privacy," said Estarija.

Who's Hiring

According to a recent study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, produced by hotjobs.com, the most sought employees are in auto/mechanical work, with 63.2 percent of employers in those fields looking for workers.

Computer/business manufacturers also are in need of employees, with 58.7 percent of companies hiring. Over half of manufacturing firms also are looking for workers.

Businesses difficulty to enter now include consulting, non-profits and merchandising, with less than 10 percent of employers in these fields hiring.

Still says, Ken Ramberg, senior vice president of MonsterTRAK, "College students have a one leg up advantage in employment."

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