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The PIONEER

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Free

Asbestos Discovery Halts University Union Construction

By Scott Berg
Staff Writer

For the second time in the last three weeks, construction on the new University Union building came to a halt due to an electrician's uncovering of asbestos, a hazardous material.

"The discovery of the asbestos has stopped the project for three weeks," said Waziuddin Chowdhury, Cal State East Bay manager of design and construction.

Electricians first discovered asbestos in rooms 101 and 102 during the remodeling of the existing building.

"The suspect material was hidden; they did

not know it was there until they moved some ceiling tiles," Chowdhury said.

The asbestos was in the few feet of space between the ceiling tiles and the floor of the second floor in the two rooms. The discovery stopped the remodeling of the existing building but it didn't halt the steel work on the foundation of the new building, Chowdhury said.

An abatement subcontractor for Robert A. Bothman Construction, the company in charge of the construction, cleaned and inspected the contaminated areas. However, work could not resume due to concern for student and staff safety.

"My concern is mainly for the safety of the stu-

dents and for the safety of everyone in the student union facility," said Monica Pacheco, executive director of University Union Inc.

Pacheco said officials decided to have the rest of the University Union and the job site tested for asbestos before proceeding with construction.

"In the contractor's original conditions for work contract, it stated any time they run across something like asbestos they have to follow proper procedures for safety and notify university officials," Pacheco said. "When they began the work on it they did not give me a plan for their testing. That's why I asked that PSI do some significant testing."

PSI, the university's hazardous material consultant, tested the site and uncovered more asbestos in the spray acoustical material in the tunnel between the new building and the existing building, as well as on the ceiling of the lower entry hallway.

"That discovery put the entire construction job on roughly a three-week hold," Chowdhury said. "Due to the dangerous health risks, we didn't want anyone to be exposed to the asbestos. That's why we put the construction on hold"

The contractor's abatement subcontractor

See **Asbestos**, page 5.

Dimensions Dance Theater To Present 'Spirits'

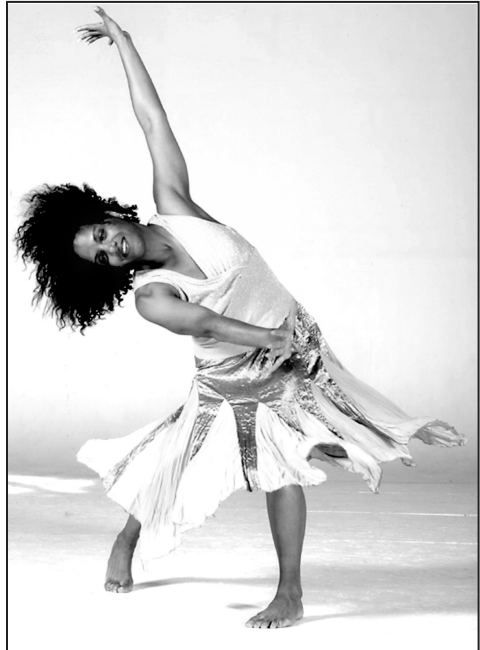
By Sherita Cobb
Staff Writer

Dimensions Dance Theater, in collaboration with Linda Tillery, the Cultural Heritage Choir and the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, will present "Spirits Uplifted I" at the Calvin Simmons Theater in downtown Oakland on Saturday.

Officials said the purpose of the program is to uplift and inspire the Oakland community. The program will include dancer Laura E. Ellis, a lecturer in theatre and dance at Cal State East Bay, the Dimensions Extensions Ensemble, a youth performance group, and one of the classes from the Rites of Passage Arts Academy.

"If you want to be dazzled, you will see some fabulous dancers and hear some fabulous music and singing," said LaTanya Tigner, a dancer, administrative coordinator for Dimensions Dance Theater and director of the Dimensions Extensions.

See **Spirits**, page 5.



Hot Feet: Laura E. Ellis performs at the Dimensions Dance Theater

Photo/ Mat Haber

Police Officers Earn Tips for Special Olympics

Event Raises \$3,860 For Disabled Athletes

By Kaissi Daniels
Staff Writer

Hayward police officers served patrons at a local restaurant Thursday as part of their contribution to the Special Olympics annual "Tip a Cop" fund-raiser.

The night started off with officers having dinner with a couple of Special Olympic athletes before moving on to serve customers who showed up at Applebee's.

Crime Prevention Specialist Alma Cang and Community Service Officer Mary Fabian displayed T-shirts at a designated table, while Hayward Hurricane athlete Ricky Daniels went around to tables and convinced people to buy them.

"It's for a good cause, to help support Special Olympics and sponsor athletes," Cang said. "We like to get involved. The officers enjoy it; it's like volunteering for them."

Officers spent time going from table to table, serving food and drinks, as well as chatting with the customers. They also set envelopes on all the tables for customers to leave donations.

"From what I understand, this is the best it's been in the past few years," Inspector Anne Madrid, who was attending the event for the first time, said about the turnout.

The high turnout kept the officers, who said customers were generous with their donations and purchased nearly all of the T-shirts, busy.

"I love it, working with different types of officers, meeting new ones and seeing familiar faces," said Fremont Eagles athlete Steve Molinaoi, who was also making rounds at the tables.

The "Tip a Cop" fund-raiser has existed for more than 10 years. Similar fund-raisers were held the same night throughout Northern California. The money raised benefits more than 1,400 athletes participating in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Thursday's event raised \$3,860, according to Cang. It costs \$500 to sponsor an athlete for year-round participation, and \$250 for half of a year.



To Protect and "Serve": (above) Lt. Sheryl Boykins and Inspector Mona Hernandez are ready to serve up something yummy to Andrea Pierce in an effort to help Special Olympics.

Crime Dog Posse: (Left to right) Explorer Monica Pech, McGruff, the Crime Dog, Cadet Anthony Pacheco and Tirrell Day all help raise money for Special Olympics.

Photos/ Melanie Rush

The officers' goal is to raise \$1,000,000 for athletes this year.

Special Olympics is a worldwide sports program for the disabled that has nearly 2 million participants.



Students To Vote on Health Fees

By Michael Chung
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay students will vote Wednesday and Thursday whether to increase Student Health Services and Counseling and Psychological Services fees.

If approved, the student health fee will increase from the current \$35 to \$43 per quarter over the next five years. It will be the first student health fee hike in eight years.

The vote will take place on the university's Blackboard Web site.

If increased funds are not provided through the initiative, services will reduce by as much as 25 percent the first year and more in subsequent years, Dr. Cathleen Coulman, executive director of Student Health Services, said.

"There will be no service provided during the quarter breaks and fewer evening hours will be offered," Coulman said.

SHS provides basic health care services to students at no additional cost and specialty services, such as optometry, physical therapy and HIV testing, for nominal fees.

Coulman said if a student received care at a local community clinic for a sore throat, the cost for the visit, lab test and medication would be \$122. In contrast, it will cost the student \$6.90 at the SHS.

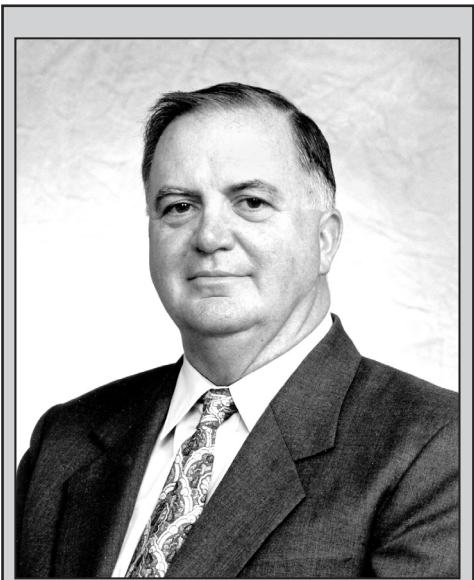
Last year, SHS recorded more than 15,000 student visits, making it one of the most utilized services on campus.

"(We) provided doctor and nurse visits to more than 5,000 students," Coulman said. "More than 9,000 lab tests were performed, 700 X-rays were taken, 700 HIV tests were given and 10,000 prescriptions were filled."

The outcome of the initiative will also affect the Counseling and Psychological Services. If the vote does not pass,

See **Health**, page 2.

Dean Named for College of Business and Economics



John P. Kohl
Business and Economics

CSUEB News Services

John P. Kohl, a professor of business at four universities around the nation and a former dean of the College of Business Administration at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas, has been named dean of the College of Business and Economics at Cal State East Bay. He is scheduled to begin his new duties on July 1.

Kohl succeeds Sam Basu, who has served as interim dean since July 2003. The College of Business and Economics is the largest college on the CSUEB campus, serving approximately 3,500 undergraduate and graduate students each year.

Kohl said he is excited to be a dean again at CSUEB, considered to have one of the most diverse campus populations in California.

"Texas A&M International and Cal State East Bay are very similar," Kohl said. "So many of the recent graduates at both institutions are the first in their

families to earn college degrees."

"Also, both universities have a strong international flavor," Kohl noted. "They educate a significant number of students from other countries. Being right on the border with Mexico, a large proportion of our students at Texas A&M International are Hispanic. I know firsthand that Cal State East Bay has a large Hispanic student population, along with students from Asia and Europe. This kind of diversity is an added benefit for students from the Bay Area as well as for our international students."

Kohl is completing his current duties as a professor of management at Texas A&M International after serving that university as dean between 1999 and 2003. He also served as chairman and professor of management for the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for 11 years (1988-99) and as professor of business at San Jose State

See **Dean**, page 5.