

Students, SPCA Team Up to Showcase Artwork

By Kristen Munoz
Staff Writer

The East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, located in Dublin, has teamed up with Las Positas College to showcase student artwork.

The Tri-Valley SPCA, which opened in 2001, is a 24,000-square-foot facility that not only provides habitats and animal care but also maintains a 4,000-square-foot professional gallery.

Now, through an agreement between the college's art school and the SPCA, the gallery features various types of artwork including photographs, paintings and watercolor displays.

The most recent exhibit of paint-

ings and photographs — all with a winter theme — were displayed from November through January 27. The exhibits will continue to change every couple of months in conjunction with the college's class schedules, officials said.

"We wanted to make it a community space, so we've always had art shows going on in here. It helps to bring people to the shelter that might have not otherwise come," said Kirsten Park, SPCA director of marketing. "People are also coming in to see the exhibits while they are looking at the animals, and just this last year we've started working with Las Positas.

Park said a watercolor-themed exhibit would be among the upcoming displays.

She added that the exhibition allows students to display their artwork outside of the classroom and give back to the community at the same time. If an artist chooses to sell their work, 20 percent of the proceeds are donated to the SPCA.

"It's a good way for people to express themselves, and sometimes they decide to sell the art and part of proceeds go to the shelter, so it's really good to have," said Alex Darabian, who works with cats at the shelter.

The exhibits are open during regular shelter hours from 1 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"It's a great idea to bring new people to the shelter with this art gallery because it helps the artists show

their work and helps bring money to the care for the animals. I think that many of these students have a great talent and this space provides them with a community outlet," said Marilou Cabanting, who describes herself as a cat lover.

Charles Stanton, a customer care associate at the SPCA, added: "I really like the art gallery and we get to work with a bunch of different artists. Some of the previous artists were shelter workers and volunteers, so it's a great opportunity."

The shelter is located at 4651 Gleason Dr. in Dublin next to East County Animal Services. Until recently the gallery has been frequently used to display the work of staff members and local artists. For information, call 925-479-9670.

'Annapolis' Falls With a First-Round TKO

By Priscilla Shiohwan
Staff Writer

If you have seen the trailer for "Annapolis," you may have thought the movie included scenes of exploding ships, military aircrafts and maybe even a battle or two.

Well, you thought wrong.

The trailer is misleading as several scenes are not included in the actual movie while the movie itself contains about as much action as the two-minute preview portrays.

The plot centers around the U.S. Naval Academy, but much of the movie, directed by Justine Lin, carries a boxing theme.

"Annapolis" stars James Franco ("Spiderman"), who plays Jake Huard, a young shipbuilder whose dream is to be accepted into the academy in Annapolis, Minn. Although he is accepted into the academy, his friends and, more importantly, his father, are unsupportive of his decision.

Despite the odds, the memory of his mother is the driving force that pushes him to continue as a naval officer.

Although predictable, the outcome of the movie is somewhat entertaining. "Annapolis" gets many messages across to its audience and stresses the core principles taught at a military academy including the importance of teamwork, honor, courage and commitment.

In particular, Tyrese Gibson's

("Four Brothers") character, Midshipman Lt. Cole, stresses how just one officer's decision can affect the lives of other officers in the squad.

The film also shows the rigorous training that naval officers undergo. Still, the movie's portrayal was not nearly as realistic to that of the actual academy.

Halfway through the movie, the film begins to stray from the academy to the intense boxing training that Huard endures to compete against his commanding officer. The climax of the film is the boxing match between Huard and Cole.

Although boxing is taught at the academy, the film focuses too much on it. The shift between naval training and boxing was inconsistent.

As far as the acting goes, Franco and Gibson do an exceptional job. However, Lin makes pathetic attempts to dramatize them by filming slow-motioned shots of each of them during parts of the film.

Although "Annapolis" had its entertaining moments, it was still a poor attempt at a naval-themed movie. Its focus on boxing abandons the storyline, which really killed the film. Seeing Franco and Gibson with their shirts off was probably the best aspect of the film.

"Annapolis" deserves 2.5 stars.

Rating: ★★☆☆

Oakland Museum Celebrates Lunar New Year

By Nikki Delucchi
Staff Writer

To celebrate Chinese New Year, the Oakland Museum of California hosted its annual "Lunar New Year Celebration" on Sunday with a variety of activities and performances.

The celebration is part of the museum's "Family Explorations" program, which highlighted the connections among Asian Pacific American lunar New Year observances in California. The event focused on Japanese, Chinese and Korean lunar traditions.

The Red Panda Acrobats took the stage twice which filled the theater

to its capacity for each performance. The performances showcased contortionist moves and balancing on bricks.

"Balancing on bricks is a very difficult task," said acrobat Wayne Huey. "I haven't practiced this in a while, but I'm excited to be doing so again."

The Mochi pounding and tasting with Kagami Kai demonstration was very popular. Mochi is made from sweet rice that is steamed and pounded into a sticky paste. This performance, accompanied by pounding drums, called for audience participation and there was no shortage of volunteers.

A Tae Kwon Do demonstration,

led by Master William Kim and his Demo Team, as well as a performance by Kizakura and Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensembles of Taiko drumming entertained children and parents alike.

"We are lucky to have the Taiko drumming because the Kizakura and Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble just came back from touring in Cuba while promoting their CD, 'Out of the Box,'" said Chiori Santiago, event emcee and member of the museum's Asian Pacific Committee.

Hands-on activities were held throughout the day including arts and crafts for children, such as creating a "Year of the Dog" ornament, painting one's own snuff bottle or making a New Year's lantern, tast-

ing Far Leaves Tea and making and wrapping wonton with Rhoda Wing also was offered.

The Chinese opera face painting by Master Siu-Fun Lum and Helen Chou was a popular activity.

"My favorite part about today so far is the face painting," said Eric Chang, 7, who attended the event.

Many vendors came out to participate in the celebration as well. The vendors provided many different products, such as Korean 3-D origami by Young Jin Yu, carvings and engraving by Shi Yi Liu and jewelry vendors.

This year's museum lunar celebration was sponsored by the Chevron Corporation.

CSUEB To Host Renaud-Wilson Dance Festival

By Michael Chung
Staff Writer

The second annual Renaud-Wilson Dance Festival will start Friday in the University Theatre in honor of dance advocate Laura Renaud-Wilson.

Officials describe Renaud-Wilson as a guiding light for the Cal State East Bay dance program for more than 20 years.

"Laura taught here for many years and helped immeasurably in the transition of the dance program from (the kinesiology and physical education department) to theatre and dance," said Thomas Hird, chair of the CSUEB theatre and dance department. "She made a significant contribution to the successful integration of dance and theatre in our current major, as well as the creativity of all her former students."

The public is invited to participate in the weekend's dance workshops, which will be directed by teachers from Northern California. The festival will also feature performances by CSUEB students and faculty, along with guest performers.

"This year's festival will build on the jubilant response we received last year, and will add provocative new elements," said Eric Kupers, event organizer and lecturer in the CSUEB theatre and dance department.

A portion of the festival, called "Activist Choreography: Dance as a Vehicle for Social Change," will take place during the Saturday performance. It will feature a diverse collection of professional and faculty



Fine Art: The Renaud-Wilson Dance Festival will run from Friday through Sunday in the University Theatre.

Photo/ Courtesy

choreographers that integrate activism into their dance work.

Kupers said the "activist choreography" portion of the festival is intended to raise questions about the power dance has to affect change in the communities and cultures where it is performed and taught.

"Without looking for final answers, we hope to stimulate discussion about all arts and their relevancy for the current events of the day," Kupers said. "Some dance artists on the program specifically target charged political issues, some make statements about the field of dance itself and some challenge issues of prejudice and privilege just by being who they are in a dance performance context."

Hird said that many teachers have learned how to use the arts as classroom teaching and motivational tools due to Renaud-Wilson's efforts with The California Arts Project.

"Her career continues to unfold, as she volunteers and continues to promote the art of dance," Hird said. "She is a model dancer-citizen, so I'm not surprised that her colleagues would honor her by naming our festival for her. Both the students who help run the festival and who come here to dance should learn this model for conducting their careers."

The festival provides an opportunity for university, college and high school dance departments throughout Northern California to come together, said Alden Reimoneng, dean

of the CSUEB College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

"They will be together in a non-competitive, yet vigorous and passionate environment, for learning, performing, sharing approaches, networking and celebrating our dance community," Reimoneng said.

Performances will take place Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Dance workshops will take place Friday from 4:30 to 6:15 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Admission to the festival is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students and senior citizens. An advance purchase pass to all festival events is available for \$50 or \$35 for a one-day pass.

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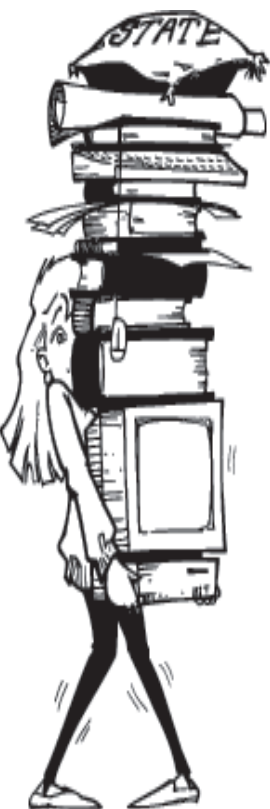
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