

Cushy Retirement?

Rees receives sweet deal.

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A & E



Ferrell Fiction:
Ferrell goes serio-comic.

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News



Hawaiian Welcome:
Food from the 50th State served with grace.

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Eritrean Community Mourns Death of CSUEB Student

A Cal State East Bay student, her brother and mother were slain in their Oakland apartment during a gruesome shooting on Thanksgiving.

Winta Mehari, 28, her brother Yonas Mehari, 17 and her mother, Regbe Bahrenegasi, 50, were allegedly killed by Mehari's two brothers-in-law.

The accused, Tewodros and Asmeron Gebreselassie, were the brothers of Mehari's late husband, who died under unknown circumstances in March.

Police said witnesses told them Tewodros called Asmeron to confirm that the Meharis and Bahrenegasi were in the apartment. Minutes later, Asmeron opened the door and immediately began firing.

Mehari's two-year-old son was not injured; witnesses said as soon as the shooting began, Tewodros grabbed the little boy and took him to the second-floor apartment he shares with his brother in the same building.

Both brothers were arraigned Wednesday and have been charged with three counts of murder and one count of kidnapping.

Winta, Yonas and Bahrenegasi were all immigrants from Eritrea, a small, East African nation. Winta had been in the US since 1999, and her mother and brother joined her in 2001.

The African Students Association (AFSA) will present "A Nite In Africa" tonight at 7 in the University Union, room 311. The AFSA is committed to serving the African students on campus and enlightening the local community about events affecting the African Continent.

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“Black Friday”
DREW LONG LINES AT BAY AREA STORES

By Kenneth Montfort
Staff Writer

Natural catastrophes, driving rain and high gasoline prices did not deter the spunky – even ravenous – shoppers of the Bay Area the day after Thanksgiving.

Major retailers used big bargains to attract large crowds to San Leandro's Bayfair Mall on "Black Friday."

"My wife told me to do this at the last minute," said Jewell Marshall, 52, of Oakland, sounding slightly annoyed as she loaded boxes of electronic equipment into her trunk.

"When I got here at 8, they told me they only had 10 of them left, and they were gone by the time I got to the display," she said. "That's such a joke; so I couldn't get the one I wanted and ended up paying more for this Compaq laptop."

Several hundred people lined up outside each of the three major stores at the mall, anticipating excellent sales and wonderful

bargains, which gave the San Leandro-based department stores nearly 30 percent more traffic than the same day last year.

"Our folks are diehards," said Bed, Bath and Beyond spokesperson Meridith Andler. "It's a tradition for them to look in the papers on Thanksgiving Day, check the sales, get up early on Friday and plot out where they're going to go. They shop, they go to breakfast and they go back to the store and shop again. They want to be there early."

Hayward resident Sara Lopez, who was carrying three extra-large bags, sat on a bench outside Bayfair mall and waited for her daughter to finish shopping.

"I'm almost done. I just need to hit up Wal-Mart and Target next and then I'll be okay," she said. "I want to check out the shoes sales there."

It appeared the love of bargains trumped real needs or even good sense. Andler said she overheard one shopper, who was buying 50 percent-off flannel sheets, say to her companion, "I'm not sure what I'm going to do with these, but I'm going to make good use of them."

See Shopping, page 5.



Photo/ Navipat Chomchergat

Free Speech Trends on College Campuses Nationwide

By Anne Cunningham
Staff Writer

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) has reviewed the free speech conduct codes of 205 college campuses and found that only 20 do not restrict free speech.

FIRE is a self-described watchdog for free speech issues on college campuses.

"FIRE believes it is essential that our nation's future leaders be educated as members of a free society, learning to debate and to resolve differences peacefully, without resorting to administrative coercion," said a FIRE spokesperson. "Unfortunately, too many colleges and universities have attempted to outlaw speech and expression that do not conform to various 'politically correct' campus orthodoxies. Through this project, FIRE defends and enhances freedom of expression at America's institutions of higher education."

Many campuses include a free speech area, but free speech is still not readily available campus-wide at most colleges.

"This has always been a significant problem in the US, and particularly so since the beginning of the Cold War back in the early 1950s," said Dr. Robert Terrell, Cal State East Bay professor of communication. "This period includes the McCarthy Era, when loyalty oaths were commonly required of professors and students. Many professors were fired because they refused to sign such oaths, including a host of them at UC Berkeley."

The intellectual independence so prized by American academics simply did not extend to the United States government.

Students at Kent State, who protested the American invasion of Cambodia in 1970, were fired upon by the National Guard, who killed four and wounded nine.

Hundreds, possibly thousands of people, mostly students, were killed in the massacre at Tiananmen Square because they peacefully sought democratic reform.

The violence may have been avoided if students had been able to voice their opinions and speak in

an open manner. Today, because of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, many college campuses are experiencing student protests as well, and free speech is once again becoming an issue.

Fast forward to spring 2005 at UC Santa Cruz when students protested the presence of military recruiters at a campus job fair. Violence broke out because the students were not permitted to voice their opinions in an open and forthright manner.

Since then, military recruiters no longer visit the campus, although they are allowed to by law. They know they are not welcomed there by the students, and focus their efforts on other venues.

Led by writer David Horowitz – formerly an energetic liberal activist – some conservatives are pushing for the adoption of an "Academic Bill of Rights" (ABOR) at academic institutions across the nation. The bill takes the form of legislative proposals claiming to protect the academic freedom of college students from ideological indoctrination by professors.

Horowitz founded "Students for Academic Freedom," now with representation on more than 130 campuses, to rally support for ABOR, which provides guidelines regarding what can and cannot be openly discussed in university classrooms. The bill includes a ban on "political" or "anti-religious speech" from classrooms, and the spirit of the bill is intended to curtail students' discussion of topics deemed "politically controversial" and liable to "offend" a sensitive classmate.

Princeton University passed a modified version of the ABOR in April, and Temple University in Philadelphia became the first institution to officially adopt the policy in July.

An important aspect of the bill is that it can be customized to reflect the spirit of each university, either with or without the involvement of students. This allows for great latitude and the bill could possibly be composed stating no restrictions on speech, except those allowed by the First Amendment.

"Temple University is just one of many universities that have enacted an Academic Bill of Rights to protect both students and faculty," said Dr. William Alnor, communication professor and the director of journalism at CSUEB.

Alnor was a student at Temple for over 20 years, while obtaining his doctorate in mass media and communications; he also taught there for 12 years.

"In universities, there is a respected right of academic freedom, and I have never taught in a university where there were approved reading lists or restrictions on guest speakers."

That could all change if the College Access and Opportunity Act – which passed the House in March and is currently under consideration by the Senate – is adopted. The aim of this act is to deny federal funding to institutions not in compliance with ABOR's limitations on free speech on college campuses.

The legislation is opposed by the American Association of University Professors, which represents more than 45,000 faculty members on 500 campuses nationwide. In a statement issued last December, the group said the measures being considered seek to "impose administrative and legislative oversight on the professional judgment of the faculty."

Supporters of the bill argue professors offering new ideas might offend or "indoctrinate" students. They claim the bill will protect students whose political views differ from those of their professors.

"Yes, I am for an academic bill of rights because it protects both the students and faculty," said Alnor. "I have been teaching at the university level now for 17 years, and I have seen professors punish students in grades and even ridicule them if they were too 'conservative' or if they did not buy into what the professor was saying."

Metz to Resign, Hopes University Will Pursue Faculty Housing

By Ah Reum Lee
Staff Writer

Despite his long-time friendship with Cal State East Bay President Mo Qayoumi, Richard Metz, vice president of administration and business affairs for CSUEB, has decided to leave the university.

"Dr. Qayoumi and I have been friends for seven years since (we were in) college," Metz said. "It became apparent to me our friendship was getting in the way. I went to Dr. Qayoumi, talked about the circumstances and agreed between two of us that it would be better for both of us and the university if I resigned and looked for applying somewhere else."

Metz decided to resign in July due to a disagreement with Qayoumi on different types of management decisions.

"We have different approaches to management," Metz said. "So, I offered to leave and Dr. Qayoumi accepted... There is another point, too. Every president deserves the right to build his (or) her own staff."

Metz said he enjoyed the past 12 years at CSUEB, which is longer than he had worked anywhere else in his career. He is enthusiastically searching for another job as he plans to continue to work in higher education.

"I will try to find a new job before I leave, but I may not (be able to find one)," Metz said. Metz said it is time for him and his wife to leave California, which is another reason for his resignation.

"We have been able to take advantage of the real estate growth, and I personally think the real estate bubble is going to pop in California," Metz said. "I would like to sell my house and buy a new one most likely outside of California."

Looking back on his time at CSUEB, Metz said the best decisions he has ever made are the last three construction projects: the expansion of Pioneer Heights, the new University Union (which has been delayed), and the Wayne and Gladys Valley Business and Technology Center.

"A lot of work had to be done by me and my officers," Metz said. "I am very proud of it and I think that has been very good for the university. I think having this residence hall, when the new president comes in, is good for him and for university at the same time. I am very proud of that activity. That is one of the things that I accomplished and am very proud of."

Metz said he hopes the university will aggressively pursue a faculty housing program that will feature a townhouse-styled complex.

"I wish I would have been able to establish more faculty (housing)," Metz said. "We do not have any right now... There is just too much going on with too many other concerns."

Faculty housing would help increase the enrollment target, which would make CSUEB a destination university while reducing inconveniences for the faculty.

School officials have begun to work with the Hayward Unified School District to develop housing that will be suitable for

See Resign, page 5.

'ICE' Showcases Final Projects for CSUEB

By Anne Cunningham
Staff Writer

Winter Wonderland – A Dance Concert will showcase the final projects of Cal State East Bay dance majors on Dec. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m. in the Dance Studio, PE 140.

Produced by Nina Haft, the event will include dancers of all levels performing a wide array of dance styles, including jazz, modern, hip hop, West African, praise dance, spoken word and physical theater performances. Audiences will be treated to original music and sound design composed by CSUEB student Keith Penney.

The evenings are a culmination of several debuts, including the new CSUEB Dance Ensemble, the Mixed Ability Dance Class, and excerpts from three senior projects and one junior project in dance.

"These pieces are works-in-progress that will be developed over the year for presentation both on-campus and off-campus in local touring opportunities," said Haft. "It is a wonderful event, family-friendly and a real celebration of our students' hard work and creativity in dance," she said.

Each piece springs from the individual choreographer's theme, which drives at the heart of each production.

Denise Hampel, an international student from Germany and a junior majoring in dance hopes that the piece she choreographed will raise questions

See ICE, page 7.



Ice women cometh: Top row (left to right): Cherisse Harden, Tala Aflayan, Kristen McGarry. Middle: Grace Alvarez, Mariane Mercado, Denise Hampel. Bottom: Kehinde Kujichagulia-Seitu, Katrina Deans.

Photo/ Courtesy