

Thousands Crowd Memorial for Slain Newsman Chauncey Bailey

By DaBora Lovitt
Staff Writer

Chauncey Bailey was the type of journalist who would hand a newspaper to a stranger on a bus in an effort to win another reader. But despite his friendliness and outgoing nature, he would never avoid asking the toughest questions—even when interviewing a politician he personally liked.

These were some of the reflections that were made during last week's public memorial to Bailey, 57, who was shot to death in downtown Oakland earlier this month.

Over 3,000 family friends and dignitaries attended the funeral of the Oakland Post editor on Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007.

The funeral was held at the St. Benedict Catholic Church in East Oakland. The church pews and the aisles were overflowing as guests paid their last respects to the fallen journalist.

Bailey was murdered on the streets of Oakland while walking to the Oakland Post newspaper office.

"Chauncy always carried an arm full of newspapers to give out to potential newspaper readers," said his former wife, Robin Hardin from Chicago.

"Chauncy loved to connect with the people," she continued, "and he took public transportation when he worked at the Chicago Tribune. One day, I remember, Chauncy came home and said, 'I got on the bus and everybody was just staring out of the window.'"

"So the next day he brought a stack of newspapers to give to everyone to read. He kept this up for six years until everyone caught on," Hardin said.

Only a select group of individuals spoke at the funeral because of the size of the ceremony.

Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums gave a powerful and emotional testimony to the murdered editor. The mayor spoke with sadness and despair as tears ran down his face.

experiences with Chauncey in a somewhat tenuous relationship between journalist and politician," Dellums said. "Chauncey was always there and he would ask the tough and pointed questions."

Bailey's photo was centered in front of the stage for all to view as each speaker stepped up to the podium.

"Chauncey lived in the trenches with his community," said Paul Cobb, publisher and owner of the Oakland Post. "He wrote the news that the people needed to read to keep informed. He always carried a pen and notebook in one hand and a camera on his shoulder."

Other attendees of the funeral shared similar words of respect.

"There are no words," said Susan Barber from Connecticut. "You touched my life thirty years ago and I have long admired your talent and your passion. I'm glad we had a chance to

meet again a few years ago. This is all so horrific and surreal. The world has lost a great man and I have lost someone dear to me.

"You will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with your family and loved ones. May your son, Chauncey, be strong and find peace in love that is eternal," Barber said.

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"If we are to pay tribute to Chauncey Bailey and all who have lost their lives in this city to violence," Dellums said, "we must at this moment embrace the quality of human life."

Dellums took a moment's pause to collect himself as the crowd gave him overwhelming support for his words on the slain journalist.

He continued, "We will not be cowed by fear. We will take back our community, because you will commit."

Dellums said that Bailey has his respect. "I had several

Tie-Dye and a Good Time from Hair

Hair, from page one.

toward the play's end which Hassan-Evans sings with Stephen Hargrove (Steve) is director Fajilan's favorite scene.

The costumes consisted of tons of tie-dye and—of course—bell-bottoms. Love beads and a woman pregnant with a love child give this musical a more authentic 1960's vibe.

Brittany Harrington (Sheila) portrays a New York University film student who is in love with both Claude and Berger and is the most focused political activist of the group.

She puts great emotion into "Easy To Be Hard" and her smiling rendition of "Good Morning, Starshine" shows Harrington can play the heartbroken soul as well as the girl looking forward to a new day.

"Hair" opened less than a week after the close of "Much Ado About Nothing" and shared cast and stage props.

"It was rough since we share actors, space, technical resources—but then that is always the challenge of a rep situation," said Fajilan.

Scenic designer Jason Butcher designed the stage set up for both productions and actually used the same building structure for each. It was a believable hotel for "Much Ado" and a convincing pseudo-construction area for "Hair."

"The 'Much Ado' set had to be reasonably specific in design," Butcher said. "You had to know what you were looking at and where it was taking place."

"Hair," on the other hand, didn't have to clearly be a specific location. So my process really relied more on building a basic structure that would work and

make 'Hair' visually interesting to look at, but at the same time I could dress it up to make it look like a hotel for 'Much Ado,'" said Butcher.

“The songs are enjoyably upbeat and the dance numbers are just risqué enough to make your grandma flush.”

The fact that the band was situated on stage under part of the set was interesting and made the musical numbers loud and inviting. A few audience

members sang along with some of the better-known songs.

This Highlands Summer Theatre production provides a definite good time. The songs are enjoyably upbeat and the dance numbers are just risqué enough to make your grandma flush.

However, with multiple references to drug use, sexual promiscuity and numerous uses of the "F" word, this may not be a musical to take your younger siblings or children to.

The only real problem was the sound. Even with the main singers being fitted with personal microphones, some dialogue and lyrics were lost because they couldn't be heard.

"Hair" will be performed on Fridays and Saturdays, Aug. 10-18, at 8 p.m. and on Sunday, Aug. 19, at 2 p.m. The show is rated PG-13 for language and content.

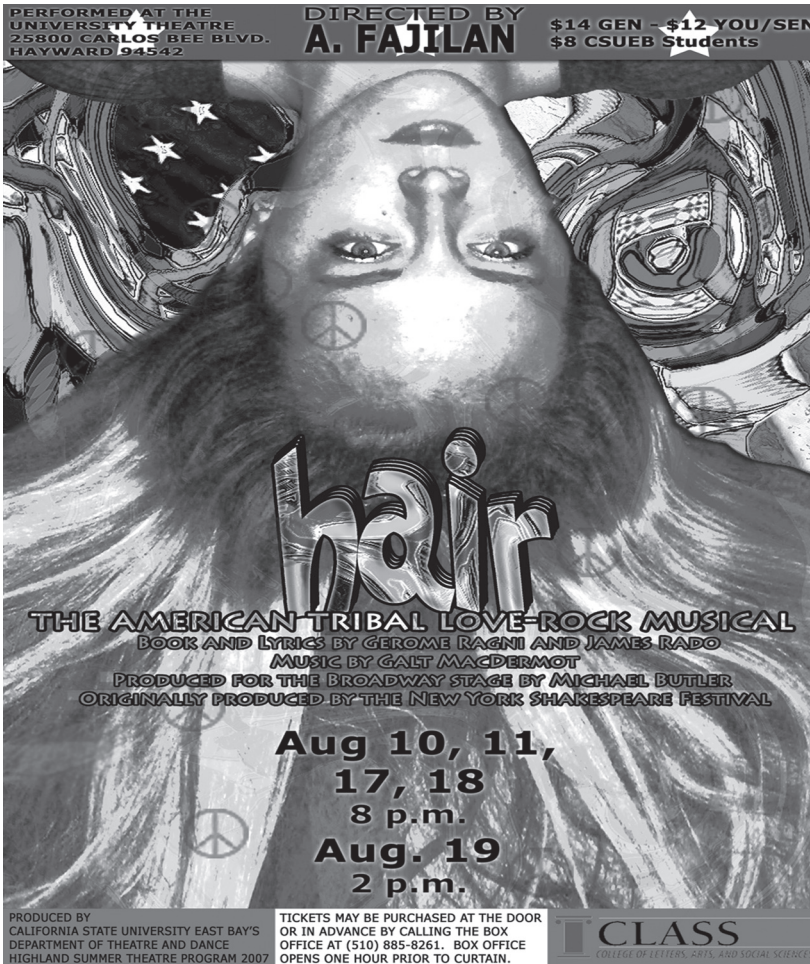
Tickets for the CSUEB production cost \$14 for general admission, \$12 for seniors, youths, and alumni, and \$8 for CSUEB students.

Reservations are available via e-mail at tickets@csueastbay.edu or by telephone at (510) 885-3261.

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