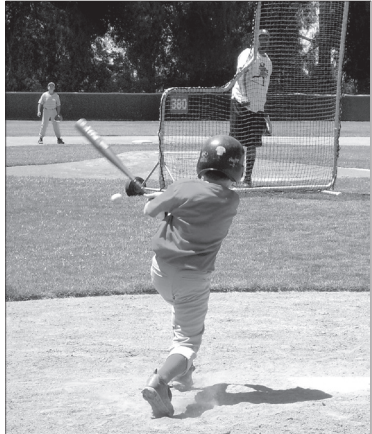


Thursday,
August 2, 2007

Sports



Batter Up!
Kids take in baseball camp at CSUEB.

See page 6.

News



Hot Nights, Hot Rods:
Car show returns to Danville.

See page 3.

A&E



Schooner's:
Good Beer and vittles at popular Antioch bistro.

See page 5.

**Concord Campus
to Serve up Myth,
Religion and Witches**

Isabella Price, lecturer of global history and comparative religions at California College of the Arts, will lecture on "Religion, Symbols and Myth" Wednesday, Aug. 8 at the Concord campus of Cal State East Bay.

The program is offered under the aegis of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, sponsored by the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The lecture will be at 2 p.m. in the Oak Room of the campus library, 4700 Ygnacio Valley Road, Concord.

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The PIONEER

Serving California State University, East Bay
Free

Trash Talk:

Oakland residents owe
Mayor Ron Dellums.



See page 2.

Summer Shakespeare Offering Wins Over Audience

By Tammy Northington
Staff Writer

The Highlands Summer Theatre's updated production of William Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" opened Friday night to a half-full theater but ended with the small audience laughing and sighing at all the right places.

This 1940s-era update of the classic tale of lovers and deceit is directed by Melissa Hillman and Dawn Monique Williams, both members of the university's Department of Theatre and Dance faculty.

Much Ado revolves around Hero and Claudio, who are in love and wish to be married in one week. They want to pass their happiness along and set a love trap for Hero's cousin Beatrice, a sarcastic woman who claims she has never wanted a husband, and Benedick, a confirmed bachelor.

In the meantime, the evil Don John tries to break up the wedding by making it seem as if Hero has been unfaithful and is therefore not fit to marry Claudio.

Jessica Kiely (Beatrice), last seen as a burlesque dancer in Impact Theater's "Sinfully Delicious," uses a cutting sarcasm to convey how much she detests the thought of marriage. But her eyes manage to send the audience the message that she just hasn't found a man who will challenge her and satisfy her soul.

Kiely's hair blocked her face and speech a few times during the play, making it difficult to understand what she was saying, and she slouched as if uncomfortable on stage on occasion. Despite this, she stayed true to her role as the tough-hearted Beatrice.

"Much Ado About Nothing" is Grace Sewuese Khasar's first show at Cal State East Bay's Highland Summer Theatre and she shines throughout the production as Verges, an eager, comical watchperson who catches the villains. She runs and dances on stage – at one point falling down on purpose – and she made the audience laugh more than any other actor.

In fact, she eventually had the audience laughing as soon as she stepped on stage, trying to anticipate

See **Much Ado**, page 5



A Big To-Do: John Terrell, Seth Thygeson and Brian Turner strut the boards in "Much Ado about Nothing."

Photo/ Richard Olmsted

American Language Program Helps Foreign Students Find Their Voices



Speaking in Tongues: ALP volunteers had orientation meetings on campus this week

Photo/ Linda Ly

By Landen Koepkey
Staff Writer

Imagine getting accepted to an outstanding university overseas. You endure a long flight, unpack your things, and begin to settle into a new way of life. The only catch is, you cannot actually attend the college without passing a foreign language test.

What are you to do?

This predicament is an all too familiar one for some foreign students at Cal State East Bay. Luckily, the American Language Program (ALP) can help.

ALP helps non-native students familiarize themselves with the English language and American culture, while at the same time preparing them for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

The TOEFL examinations include four sections: listening comprehension, structure and written expression, reading comprehension and writing.

The tests last three and a half hours, and are very thorough.

Students that are unable to pass the TOEFL test with a score of 525 or higher are unable to enroll in classes at CSUEB. This makes the ALP an invaluable resource.

One of the services ALP offers is called "Speaking Partners." This program pairs a volunteer English-speaking native student with a non-English speaking student and allows a natural education to take place.

"It is really a great way to study," said Kenji Mokoyami, a newly transferred junior. "Speaking with someone face-to-face is much better than reading it in a book."

English-speaking volunteers do not need to know any foreign language and do not act as interpreters. The only requirement for volunteers is time. By simply talking about your day, your likes and dislikes, or anything at all, you are helping your partner with the familiarization process.

New Financial Aid System Backs Up Summer Aid

By Neda Way
Staff Writer

Two weeks into the summer quarter, many financial aid students at Cal State East Bay still had not yet received their financial aid checks. This was not unusual.

However, when over a month passed and students were still waiting for their checks, it became apparent that something was not right.

"The quarter is almost over and I still haven't received my check," said Janee Stevens, a 22-year-old communications student.

Stevens is not the only student who has voiced complaints over the delay in aid checks. Many summer students have felt an inconvenient financial pinch over the past several weeks due to sluggish processing of their 2007-2008 financial aid packages.

"It's been a very challenging time for all of us," said Rhonda Johnson, director of financial aid, "for us and for students, but we're about at the tail-end."

While the week between the spring and summer quarters is normally very busy for the financial aid office, this year turned into a scramble due to setbacks while a new student management service for financial aid was being implemented.

"We had to pick a term to do the migration from the old system to the new system," Johnson said. "This summer was the first time it was implemented."

The summer term was chosen because it begins the fiscal year, she said. By switching systems during the break before the summer quarter, the financial aid office would be able to start with fresh data rather than having to deal with student data scattered between two systems.

However, the office ran into unexpect-

ed technical problems that affected about 17 percent of summer students, Johnson said. The first disbursement of financial aid is normally mailed by July 5, but some students were not included in the first round of checks — and would not receive any money for several weeks.

Johnson said students were helped several ways: each got a temporary fee deferment; campus housing fees weren't required up front; and \$500 book voucher were issued to pay for books at the University Bookstore

Those who required additional assistance could request an interest-free emergency loan of up to \$1,000. The normal 90-day repayment deadline is being waived until students receive their financial aid.

"We really try to accommodate students," Johnson said. "We try to work with students on an individual basis."

Despite the lateness in aid disbursement, there have not been many requests for the emergency loan, Johnson said. Most loan requests are made to pay for books, so the availability of the book voucher kept loan requests down.

Financial aid problems did not solely rest with the implementation of the new system, however, Johnson said. One cause of delays was students who owed the office documents necessary to complete processing of their aid packages.

The setbacks have pushed the office staff into devoting extra hours to finalizing financial aid for the new year.

"We still have a few things we're working on," Johnson said. "Some things have come up unexpectedly, but we have a consultant working with us and things are going much

better."
Pioneer staff writer Krystal Burns contributed to this report.

Campus Police Investigates Sexual Assault

By Neda Way
Staff Writer

The University Police are investigating an alleged sexual assault on the Hayward campus Wednesday night of last week.

The incident occurred at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, along the walkway between the bookstore and library according to a statement issued Friday by the university administration.

A female victim was physically accosted by the attacker, whom she pushed away. He then fled on foot toward parking lot B.

The assailant was described as a black male, 15-16 years old, 5 feet 2 inches tall with a medium build and short, spiky orange and yellow hair. He wore a large, white T-shirt, baggy light blue pants and camel-colored Timberland-style hiking boots.

The University Police asks that anybody with information on the incident contact the police department at (510) 885-3791.

"The purpose of releasing this information," said University Police Chief Jan Davis in the statement, "is not to cause alarm, but to encourage members of the campus community to remain alert and vigilant at all times."

Students, staff and faculty are reminded to walk in pairs or groups to increase personal safety, or to request police escort services at (510) 885-3791 or extension 53791 from campus phones.

Emergency services are also easy to contact on campus: 911 can be dialed from any campus phone, elevators are equipped with phones that connect to the campus police dispatcher and emergency

"blue light" phones are located in each campus parking lot.

Since the incident, university police have increased patrol of campus grounds and are also performing more checks of the area.

"There are no more officers on duty (than usual)," said University Police Commander Pamela Cherry, "but members of the police have been made aware of the situation and are more visible."

Victims of sexual assault are encouraged to report incidents immediately.

"Incidents need to be reported as soon as possible for two reasons," said Cherry. "One is for the apprehension of the suspect, and the second is for the collection of evidence."

Once a report has been filed, the police can then notify members of the community.

Cherry said officers also can help refer victims to counseling, which is very important. A victim of an attack may decide to keep his or her emotions inside, which may prolong psychological effects. The sooner victims receive counseling, the better they are able to cope with the experience.

The most recent published crime statistics for the Hayward campus show no reported incidents of sexual assault from 2003-2005. Crime statistics for 2006 are still being compiled but, Cherry said, "We seldom have problems with sexual assault."

Crime statistics for all three CSUEB campuses are collected and published every year in accordance to the Jeanne Clery Campus Security Act which requires schools to disclose statistics of crime on



Assault Reported: Campus police are investigating a sexual battery allegation at CSUEB.

Photo/Linda Ly

and around campus. These statistics become available every October and can be accessed through the university website.