

Thursday,
May 31, 2007

A&E



Shrek the Third:

The big green guy is back . . . for the third time.

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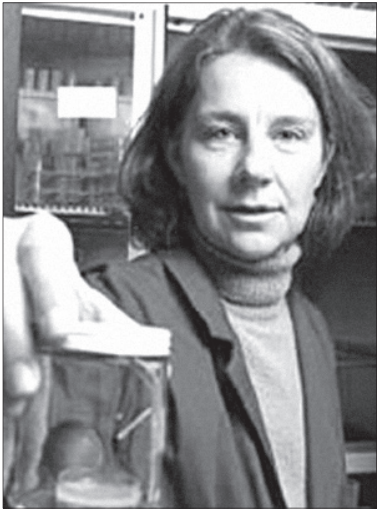


Ne-Yo:

Singer takes few chances in latest CD.

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News



Bugs:

This professor is looking for a few good mosquitos.

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Weatherman:

Spencer Christian visits campus.

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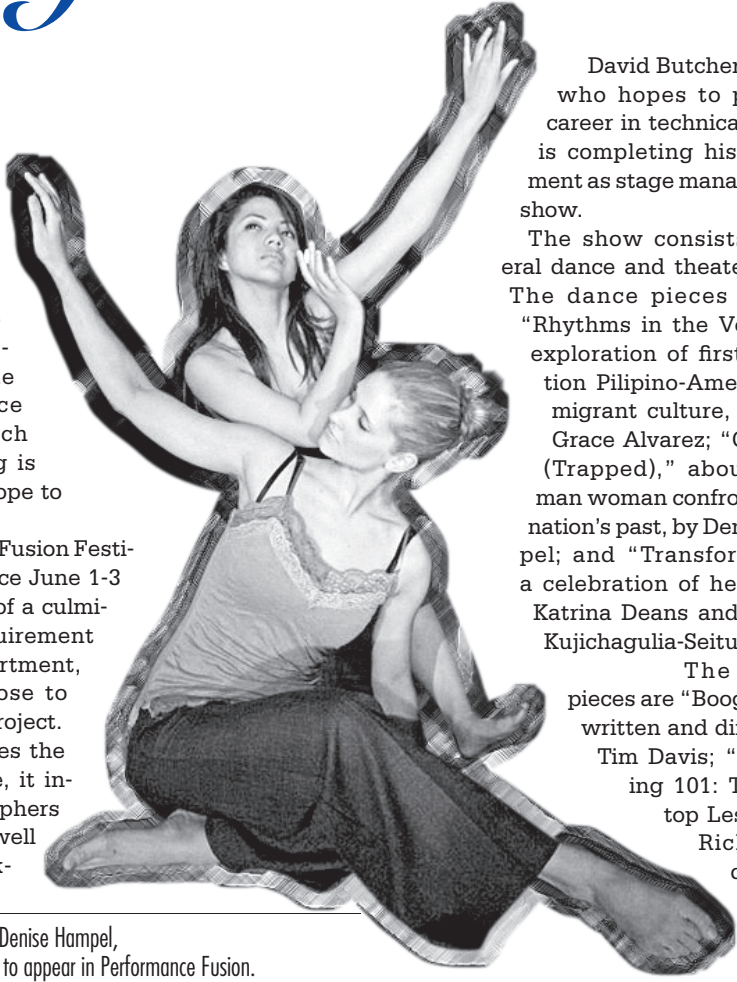
THEATER, POETRY & DANCE
in the up-coming
Performance Fusion Festival

By Mallory Lantz
Staff Writer

In most cases, breaking a leg is something that people would avoid at all costs. But for the Cal State East Bay dance and theater majors, who showcase their senior projects at the annual Performance Fusion Festival each year, breaking a leg is exactly what they hope to do this weekend.

The Performance Fusion Festival is set to take place June 1-3 and 8-10. As a part of a culmination of skills requirement in the theatre department, most students choose to complete a senior project. This not only includes the performers on stage, it includes the choreographers and playwrights, as well as the people backstage.

Fusion: Grace Alvarez, left; Denise Hampel, two of the dancers scheduled to appear in Performance Fusion.



Photo/ Diane Daniel

David Butcher, a senior who hopes to pursue a career in technical theater, is completing his requirement as stage manager of the show.

The show consists of several dance and theater pieces. The dance pieces include: "Rhythms in the Veins," an exploration of first-generation Pilipino-American immigrant culture, by Armil Grace Alvarez; "Gefangen (Trapped)," about a German woman confronting her nation's past, by Denise Hampel; and "Transformation," a celebration of healing, by Katrina Deans and Kehinde Kujichagulia-Seitu.

The theater pieces are "Boogeyman," written and directed by Tim Davis; "Playwriting 101: The Rooftop Lesson," by Rich Orloff, directed

by Kate McDermott; and "The Falling Man," a confession of a gay man just prior to his death, by Will Scheffer, directed by Johnny H. Kim.

Department Chair Tom Hird, of the theatre department, said, "In the spirit of Fusion, people will see a culmination of dance and theater that spans from comedic to dramatic."

One specific piece that falls into a category of its own is "Transformation." A merging of theater and dance, the performance is already building controversy even before it has hit the stage.

People involved with the performance are worried about how the audience will react, because the poem may be too strong.

Taking place in the heart of a community where life is hard, the story examines women at the low points in their lives and deals with issues of control over one's own life and body.

Despite the speculation taking place backstage, the only judgment that matters will come from those who attend the performance.

Performance Fusion will take place in the Studio Theatre on campus. General admission tickets are \$10, \$7 for youth, seniors and Alumni Association members, and \$5 for CSUEB students.

Performances will be held on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.

New Dublin Park Forcing Businesses Out

By Sophia Tong
Staff Writer

East Dublin has seen a surge in new homes and shopping centers, but on the other side of town, Dublin Square mall and its 13 businesses are being forced to re-locate to make room for a park.

"The city of Dublin will assist these businesses to the letter of the law," said Mayor Janet Lockhart. "Our goal is to keep them in town at other locations. We realize it is a great inconvenience but the greater good of the community will be served by our efforts."

Some of the owners of businesses located in the mall that will be affected by the move find Lockhart's offer of aid unsatisfactory.

"I understand that it's their right to do whatever, but not at my expense," said Simin Lalefar, who signed a long-term lease on a business site in the mall late last year and was not warned the site would be demolished when her business license was granted by the city in January.

"They should have let me know. Just remodeling and making (the outlet) presentable, it's a lot of time and money. I'm not going to go away easily."

For years, Berkeley Land Company, the owners of the property, had been thinking of tearing down the shopping center to build office buildings. According to Lockhart, this was when the city council decided that it was best to consider alternatives.

"During our parks master plan update we also realized we had the most severe shortage of park land on the west side," said Lockhart. "Since this property is adjacent to our Heritage Center, it seemed like the most appropriate and available space."

The Dublin Heritage Center consists of a schoolhouse, church and cemetery from the 1850s.

Pam Harvey, who works part-time for the city of Dublin, grew up across the street from the Heritage Center. Her family has lived in Dublin for the last five generations and she is happy that there will be a park in west Dublin to connect with the center.

Tenants, however, are unhappy with being forced to relocate, but also understand the significance of preserving the

See **Dublin**, page 5.

Mall Gone: Dublin Square, home to 13 businesses, is slated for demolition to make way for a park and museum.

Photo/ Sophia Tong



Communication Scholars Present Research

By Neda Way
Staff Writer

Several Cal State East Bay faculty members and visiting scholars from other universities convened in the Biella Room in the CSUEB library Friday for a day-long series of presentations in which they presented their latest research discoveries.

The presentations elaborated on the theme of the conference: Communication Within and Across Cultural Boundaries. Speakers included four CSUEB communication professors and visitors from Eastern Washington University, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and Mercer University in Macon Georgia.

The conference catered to the interests of the scholars, with conference tables for the professors set up in a 'U' before the presentation podium. Members of the audience—which began at 16 in number and increased to near 30 throughout the presentations—were mainly students who came and went, many completing assignments for their classes or earning extra credit for their attendance.

Between each 30-minute presentation was a brief question and answer period during which the speakers were asked, primarily by other professors, to elaborate on unclear topics or were challenged in their reasoning.

CSUEB professor Dr. Lonny Brooks called the conference a "great event (that) creates a good dialogue for professors to share their work. It's rare for us to see each others' work in this context."

Visiting professor Dr. Galina Sinekopova of Eastern Washington University felt the conference was "really amazing." She said, "It's a good title. I think it was a good idea to come up with a conference that is so embracing of so many sides of cultures."

Brooks was first in the lineup with his research presentation titled "Performing the Social Future of Ubiquitous Media and Computing Spaces as a Grammar of Design: Constraints and Unintended Consequences for Social Freedom."

His research focused on how designers are developing visions of future computing. Through the "You Tube" clip, "The Future of Ubiquitous Computing" and additional illustration, Brooks explained that envisioning the future involves mak-

ing the future tangible through performance.

The idea is to "meld the computer with the infrastructure so the user forgets the computer is there," he said. Basically, users operate applications without the use of obvious devices, such as mice and keyboards.

"You touch a table," Brooks said, "and it activates. It becomes an active interface."

Apparently, a number of companies are interested in investigating these new ways of computing. According to Brooks, companies pay as much as \$65,000 a year to provide employees with interactive workshops that envision the future.

Sinekopova then took the podium with her presentation, "Cultural Aspects of Communication Scholarship: U.S. vs. Russia," in which she compared the conception of the communication discipline in Russia and the United States.

The key differences between U.S. and Russian styles, Sinekopova said, is that the Russian style is more theoretical, generalized, and very detailed in linguistics while the style of the U.S. is more empirical, implied and grounded in communication experiences.

The development of Russia's communication scholarship began a year ago at a conference in St. Petersburg attended by U.S. and Russian scholars. The conference opened up dialogue on the topic and brought to the forefront the actuality of American scholars imposing their conception of communication on Russia.

The Americans were advised to learn more about the intellectual roots of Russian communication and to consider the role of cultural values in developing more effective communication between cultures.

Russia is currently facing certain challenges in establishing a communication discipline for

its scholarship. Scholars are working on establishing authority in the discipline and proving there is a reason for communication to exist as a separate discipline.

"An inevitable disadvantage in this process of development is the need to translate topics into English since it is the language of the world's present dominant cultures."

"Something will be lost in the translation," Sinekopova said, "but at least there's a start to discourse."

CSUEB's Dr. Deborah Eicher-Catt followed Sinekopova with her presentation "Edward Sapir's Contributions to Communicationology" in which she introduced her work-in-progress research paper.

In the paper, Eicher-Catt performs a close reading of Sapir's essay "Communication," and revisits ideas she had entertained about Sapir during the past decade. The aim of her paper, she explained, is to change the popular perception that Sapir is a "voiceless name."

The two sections of the paper, the problematic of language and the thematic of discourse, ultimately led to a connection to cross-cultural interaction.

In communication, the focus should not be on individual cultures, she said. It should

Summer School:

Planning to spend part of your summer in school? We offer you some options.

See page 4.



Single Mom
Sets Example
for Others

By Mike Rosenberg
Staff Writer

At 16, most girls are going to the movies with their high school sweethearts, taking their SATs and learning how to drive. For Charvett Blincoe, being 16 meant giving birth in foster care after being abandoned by her second set of parents.

Blincoe was put into an Oakland foster care center at 16 by the people she originally thought were her parents growing up. At 13, however, she discovered that she was adopted right after birth, and she hasn't been able to find a single piece of information on her biological parents since then.

"I don't know who I am," Blincoe said. "I don't know who my parents are, at all—my mom's name, where she lives, how old she is, nothing—my dad, nothing. It's kind of hard; it creeps back up on me sometimes. It's not fair to not know who you are. It's kind of just pretend."

Having to survive the foster care system with her daughter Nylla would be too much for most to overcome. But Blincoe actually harnessed the emotions she had for giving her daughter what she couldn't experience growing up and was able to get into Cal State East Bay after aging out of the foster care program at 18.

"I was determined," she said. "I didn't want my daughter to be in this program, so I couldn't mess up. My daughter was there for me more than any factor."

But the odds were stacked against Blincoe: Just 10 percent of single mothers hold a college degree while a measly 1 percent of former foster youth graduate from college. Now at 22, she's just one year from graduation. She has been an integral part of the CSUEB foster youth program that has spread across the state. And she has also helped start a campus club for student parents.

Blincoe is a member of the advisory board of the Renaissance Scholars program launched last year as the second program in the state designed to help former foster youth. Since its inauguration at CSUEB, 17 different University of California and California State University campuses have started or will be soon starting a version of the program on their campus, said the program's director, Kevin Bristow.

The program gives financial assistance and other services to 10 former foster youth enrolled in CSUEB each year, with Blincoe being a member of the initial cohort established in fall 2006. The program currently helps 19 students and is planning on adding 10 more in the fall.

"I think it will definitely help us—even the first ones in the program—and help disprove the statistics," Blincoe said. "College is hard, even for people who do have a family."

Blincoe now lives in San Leandro because it took her four hours to get from campus to her home in Oakland. After class, or after a shift at her job in the Pioneer Bookstore, she would switch off bus and BART rides to pick up her daughter and get home.

It comes as no surprise that housing is one of the main concerns for Blincoe, who has been a huge advocate for on-campus housing for single moms. She periodically lived in group homes while in foster care, but she said she didn't like it because the foster parents played favorites with all the children. Blincoe, who was put in foster care after her brother and sister entered the system, also recalls the lack of freedom she had during those two years before college—they even put locks on the refrigerators.

She loves taking care of her daughter while attending college but also can't help but feel regretful that she can't simply hang out with friends on the weekend like typical college students. With this in mind, she started the Parents Learning and Networking Together club with a friend of hers, another single mom at CSUEB. The club, known as PLANT, holds events at night designed for parents to get together and enjoy such kid-friendly events as reading sessions.

"That's the hard part about being a young mom; I can't do all the things I want to do," said Blincoe, who mentioned she can't go to Bible study as often as she'd like anymore and can't run track like she did in high school. "We wanted to start a club to help parents feel more a part of the university."

Blincoe may make juggling school, work, parenting and leadership roles look easy, but it's been a struggle. Her 6-year-old daughter takes up most of her time and energy.

"It's so hard—I cried and I cried and I cried," she said. "I could have sacrificed and got mediocre grades, but I don't want that. I want to strive for the best grades because God has given me the opportunity to go to school for free. I feel like it's my responsibility to do my all and my best."

After she graduates, Blincoe wants a public affairs job as a media specialist at Kaiser Permanente, where she has been interning the past three summers.

Six years after she was put in foster care, her life seems to have come full circle. She notes that she now believes she was one of the original Renaissance Scholars for a reason—to share what she's been through with other former foster youth now at CSUEB to help them when they need it most. And it seems as if one of the first things she did when she got to foster care—give birth to her baby girl—may be the same reason why Blincoe is set to buck the odds and become a success story.

"In order to invest in her and her future, I have to really sacrifice, in part, who I am so that she can be a better person," she said. "I really want to see her not have the same issues that I have. No matter what, she's going to love me. I'm going to make the decision to do what my mom couldn't do."

See **Research**, page 5.