

Renaud-Wilson Dance Festival Starts Tomorrow Proposed Hooters Draws Fire in Fremont

By Michael Chung
Staff Writer

The Third Annual Renaud-Wilson Dance Festival will begin tomorrow and run through Sunday.

The festival, named after dance advocate and former Cal State East Bay dance instructor Laura Renaud-Wilson will include workshops and performances.

All performances will take place in the University Theatre on the Hayward Hills Campus.

The Friday performances will feature professional work by facul-

ty, companies and choreographers, along with special guest artists teaching in Dancer's Groups' 2007 Summer Dance Intensive.

The Saturday performance will feature "Excavating Other Realms: A Tribute to Mel Wong," who was also one of the first Chinese-American professional modern dancers. Wong also became internationally renowned as a choreographer, teacher and performer with the Mel Wong Dance Company.

The Sunday performance will feature work by faculty and students that will be performed by students from dance schools.

Renaud-Wilson, who was a guiding light for the CSUEB dance program for more than 20 years, also helped in the transition of the dance program from the Kinesiology and Physical Education Department to the Theatre and Dance Department.

Admission for the entire weekend of activities and performances will be \$40 per person; the price per performance will be \$12 for the general public, \$8 for seniors and youth, and \$5 for CSUEB students, faculty and staff.

By Cynthia Schick
Staff Writer

Like it or not – and many residents and city officials say they do not – Fremont will soon be home to the fifth Hooters restaurant to open its doors for business in the Bay Area.

Calling itself "Delightfully tacky, yet unrefined," the international chain plans to open for business at the former Spoons location on Mowry Avenue as early as March.

Because Hooters is opening the restaurant in a facility that is already

set up for restaurant use, public hearings and city council approval are not required which is proving to be a bitter pill for some community members, as well as city council members, to swallow.

"We are in the process of pursuing higher-end retail," said Councilmember Anu Natarajan, "and to have Hooters in there does nothing for Fremont."

City officials have long clamored for more upscale dining and shopping in an on-going campaign to bring back to Fremont the revenue that is lost to trendier destinations such as Palo Alto, San Jose, and San Francisco. In addition to the many discount stores in town, many feel Hooters is a black eye for the city.

Long-time Fremont resident and California State University East Bay alumna Cathy Gobel agrees with Natarajan. "I am really disappointed. This is a family-oriented community," she said. "We need more places where we can feel comfortable taking the kids, not one that is degrading to women."

The Atlanta-based chain, known for its scantily-clad waitresses, defends its business plan on its website. "Sex appeal is legal and it sells," reads the statement.

Unapologetic when criticized for operating a business that some claim objectifies women, the company has "no plans" to alter its controversial concept.

Hooter Girls, who are billed as "the All-American, Surfer-Girl-Next-Door" type by the company, sport tight tank tops and short-shorts as their uniform. The double entendre of the name "Hooters" is not lost on Natarajan, either.

"The company says that high school kids today wear much less clothing than the wait staff at the restaurants," she said. "What kind of example are we setting for young women? It objectifies women as sex objects and I find that offensive."

While the restaurant isn't the first choice of eateries for Mayor Bob Wasserman, he says the news isn't all bad.

"They are a very successful chain," he said. "I expect they will do a good business and run the place quite well, even though I will not personally find it attractive."

Further lessening the Mayor's distaste, the restaurant will employ about 130 people and bring much needed revenue to the city's coffers.

Councilmember Steve Cho pointed out that there was nothing the city could do to prevent Hooters from coming to Fremont even if it wanted to. He has a solution for those community members who don't like it: "Do not patronize the business," he said.

That suits Natarajan just fine. "I'm not eating there, that's for sure," she said.

Housing Slated for Site Where Park Was Planned

By Claire Johnson
Staff Writer

A 24-acre parcel of undeveloped land that was going to be used to build a new park in Castro Valley will now be turned into private homes because of the rejection of a bond measure by voters last fall.

The property located between Carlton and Stanton avenues in Castro Valley is currently owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). It was to be the primary target for \$30 million in bond money raised by Measure Q, but will now be sold to developers who will build 100 homes on the site.

The measure received 63 percent of the vote, three percent short of the two-thirds majority required to pass.

John Gouveia, business manager for the Hayward Area Recreation District (HARD) and a Cal State East Bay alumnus, answered some questions for the Pioneer about Measure Q. While HARD was the intended recipient of taxes from Measure Q, the Recreation District did not play a role in promoting the measure.

"By law, HARD cannot fund a campaign or have its employees work on a campaign during district time," Gouveia said. "A separate campaign committee, Castro Valley Citizens for Parks and Open Space (CVCPOS) was formed and headed by Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley," he said.

Gouveia said HARD established a special Castro Valley Park Zone in August 2006.

"The Zone was created for election and taxation purposes only and was dissolved when the measure did not pass," he said.

In Castro Valley, HARD currently

administers 20 parks and facilities. HARD oversees 110 total parks and facilities in Alameda County spread over 64 square miles and serving about 270,000 people.

Parks are maintained out of the HARD general fund, which is provided through property taxes, a parcel tax and user fees. HARD has a current budget of \$21.7 million per year. Funds from Measure Q could not have been used for park maintenance; there was a restriction in the measure that the funds be used only in the creation of new parks and preservation of open space.

"The two-thirds majority is difficult to achieve but we respect that any new tax should not be an easy thing," Gouveia said. "While we are disappointed that the 63 percent who voted in favor of Measure Q fell short of the needed majority, we feel that attaining that lofty number justified placing Measure Q before Castro Valley voters and allowing them a voice in the future of their community."

While homeowners would have been taxed an average of \$28.54 per year under Measure Q, businesses would have been taxed \$199.78 per acre.

Valorie Robles is the executive director of the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce, which has around 500 members.

"We publicly endorsed (Measure Q) and supported it," Robles said. "We also went to their events. We also made sure that they had articles in the newsletter and any kind of publications that we could get out that we could speak positively about Measure Q."

"Part of what we do is, we're a business-to-business membership organization, but because (Castro

Valley is) an unincorporated area, we spend a lot of time networking and marketing back into the community," Robles said.

Robles said she personally felt it was a shame that Measure Q did not pass.

"It was a great plot of land," she said. "I think what they had intended for it was amazing. I also am a Castro Valley resident, so I think it was a huge opportunity lost."

"As the Chamber of Commerce, we always hate to see anything that we support not pass through. Unfortunately, it does happen because there are rules and stipulations to the votes. It's just really sad to see a big plot of land that we considered to be good open space to be going to development," Robles said.

Because Measure Q did not pass, Gouveia said HARD will be unable to purchase the 24-acre EBMUD site.

"There is a possibility that HARD can obtain some of the EBMUD land

for a smaller park, consistent with zoning regulations that oversee development of new housing," Gouveia said.

Gouveia said the Quimby Act requires developers of new housing to set aside land for parks and open space.

"In the past HARD has met with the developer and the land zoning authority to work out an agreement," Gouveia said. "These negotiations have resulted in agreements ranging from simple payments of in-lieu fees for smaller projects to complete parks (such as the Alden E. Oliver Sports Park) for others."

While Measure Q was HARD's first attempt at getting voter approval for a general obligation bond, in June 1997 the District successfully got a district-wide parcel tax passed. At this time, HARD has no plans for placing bond measures on the ballot in the 2008 election.

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Will Freedman – Men's Basketball
Marriott December Athlete of the Month

Freshman Will Freedman averaged 15.3 points and 5.5 rebounds during the month of December. He shot 60.3 percent on 41 of 68 attempts. Freedman scored a season-high 32 points on 16 of 22 from the field against University of Redlands on December 1. He scored in double figures in four other games including 19 versus Simpson University. For the season, Freedman leads the Pioneers in scoring with a 15.1 point per game average while shooting 62.1 percent from the field. He is averaging a team-high 7.5 rebounds a game. The Pioneers are 5-13 for the season and 4-7 in Cal Pac Conference play.

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