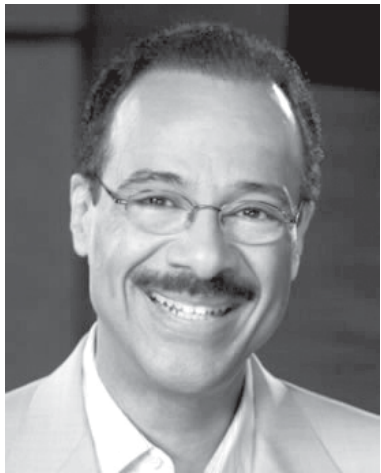


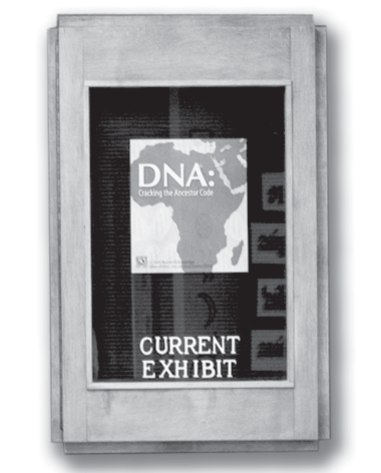
Thursday,
March 8, 2007

News



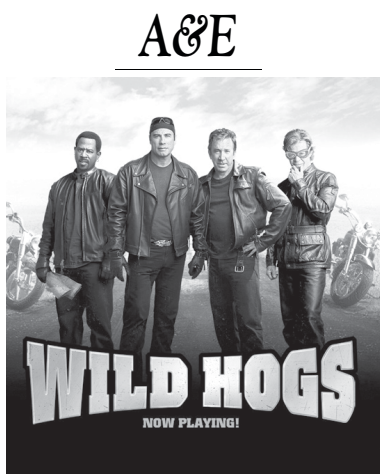
Spencer Christian:
He knows which way the wind blows.

See page 3.



Code Breakers:
New DNA exhibit opens at Meiklejohn Hall.

See page 5.



Hog Wild:
Mid-life crisis resolution calls for a two-wheeled escapade.

See page 7.

These are Taxing Times

Running out of time to do those taxes? Feeling confused? Whipped even? Well, help is at hand in the form of accounting students hip to tax preparation. They can be found in Room 2501 of the Music and Business Building on the Hayward campus through Mar. 17 and April 2-14. Hours of operation are 4-8 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. For further information, contact the VITA information line at (510) 885-2444.

Inside This Issue:

- News2,3,5,6
- Editorial4
- Movies6
- Classified Ads7
- A & E7,8

Tech Center Opens
The new campus building lives up to its advance billing.

See page 4.

Hundreds Flock to African-American Education Summit

By **Lola Akanmu**
Staff Writer

Hundreds of high school students and their families packed the new Cal State East Bay University Union to “Live the Dream” at the African American Education Summit held Feb. 24 in honor of Black History Month.

The Union was teeming with local leaders, a pastor and educators who wanted to empower black youth and their families, and persuade them of the importance of education.

“This event was important because there was a need, because we as African Americans don’t have a tradition of education,” said Kevin McCaskle, executive director of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce.

More than 400 people registered for the event, which was co-sponsored by the Oakland African-American Chamber of Commerce and numerous businesses, said McCaskle, who termed the gathering a success.

Speakers repeatedly stressed the importance of education.

“I’m not supposed to be standing here because people gave up on me, in the 4th grade,” said Sandré Swanson, a member of the State Assembly’s 16th District and the keynote speaker at the conference. “It was tragic.”

“If you’re lucky you might find a professor, parent, or counselor who will believe in you,” Swanson said. “The nuns at the school I went to took an interest in me.”

Education is an investment in the future, and higher dropout rates have been linked to truancies, obesity and other kinds of problem, said Swanson.

Swanson said he believes there should be an honest debate on education because he thinks schools are no longer fun because they are not challenging.

CSUEB is doing its part to increase diversity while educating the student body.

“As a state university, we realize that we have a responsibility and an opportunity to help meet the needs of our region ranging from employment, work force preparation and multicultural inclusion,” said Mo Qayoumi, CSUEB president.

Other university officials agreed with his assessment.

“For a number of years some of the Cal State East Bay administration have been planning to help improve the college rate for black men, and that outreach is the summit,” said Sonjia Parker Redmond, vice president of student affairs.

See **Education**, page 5.

Campus “Wiz” Features Multi-cultural Cast

By **Joe Weiss**
Staff Writer

“The Wiz,” featuring a multi-cultural cast and a set design reflecting the Bay Area, opened to a packed house at Cal State East Bay Friday night.

The musical did not disappoint an audience that turned out to see a modern remake of a time-less classic.

Colorful costumes, humorous dialogue, and creative set designs were just a part of a very entertaining musical directed by Darryl V. Jones, assistant professor in the CSUEB Department of Theater and Dance.

Based on the original story written by Frank Baum in 1900 and the unforgettable motion picture released in 1939, “The Wiz” was updated as a Broadway musical in 1975 and won seven Tony Awards. The play, which was in production until 1979, featured more than 1,600 performances.

In 1978, the musical was released in a feature-length film version starring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson.

For the local production presented by the Department of Theater and Dance at Cal State East Bay, a multi-ethnic group of performers were cast to represent the familiar characters in the story, a style meant to mirror the diverse student body at CSUEB.

“The Wiz is just great entertainment. The show takes off from the traditional Wizard of Oz and puts Dorothy on a much more modern road,” said Professor Tom Hird, chair of the CSUEB Department of Theater and Dance.

All the familiar characters in the story resurfaced, but each one featured a modern, urban personality warming the audience with charm and humor.

Dorothy, played by Netankea Robinson, was the most traditional of all the characters in the play as she was able to project the same charming and caring personality that made audiences fall in love with Judy Garland.

The Scarecrow, played by Shawna Darling, was a bubble gum chewing, pigtail wearing, girl with a valley accent that coincidentally, but not surprisingly, was looking for a brain.

Perhaps the most natural actor in the musical

was the Tinman, played by Jermaine Alexander. His costume was made from dilapidated old car parts, but his charisma and personality got the most out of the audience as he was able to deliver funny, modern hip hop dialogue and be believable at the same time.

The Lion, played by Adam Rabinovitz, featured a mane of blonde dreadlocks and played a very entertaining role as well on his way to try and find some courage.

A musical ensemble, featuring CSUEB orchestra students, recreated the catchy 70’s tunes while the characters sang along with the music written by Charlie Smalls for the Broadway show.

The orchestra was perhaps the brightest part of the entire production as they were virtually mistake free, on key, and in synchronicity with the actors the entire night.

Each set change featured a projected image of a recognizable spot in the Bay Area from the skyscrapers of the San Francisco skyline, which were meant to represent the Emerald City, to gates of local BART stations and the familiar traffic jams found on Bay Area roadways.

“For our East Bay production, people should come to see how Professor Jones, the designers, and the student cast bring the story even closer to home. You have to come see it to believe it,” said Hird.



Move on down: The Cal State East Bay production of “The Wiz” featured a multicultural cast showcasing the diversity of the campus.

Photo/ Courtesy

“The Wiz” will also run three more performances tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday. The first two shows will begin at 8 p.m. with the Sunday show starting at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$14 for general admission, \$10 for children and seniors, and \$8 for CSUEB students.

Morning After Pill Has Consumers Confused

By **Amy Cellini**
Staff Writer

It has been six months since Plan B, commonly known as the “morning after pill,” was FDA approved for over-the-counter distribution, but the medication still causes confusion, even among consumers at Cal State East Bay.

“There is confusion about (Plan B) because when people hear about someone who has taken the “morning after pill” they aren’t sure how it’s working,” said Jennifer Miranda, a health educator at the Student Health Center on campus.

“They confuse (Plan B) with the abortion pill when they are two separate medications,” said Miranda.

Both medications are used after having unprotected sex, but they work differently, according to Miranda.

The abortion pill, technically known as “RU486,” can be taken up until about the seventh week in pregnancy and causes an abortion, explained Miranda.

“Plan B is used to prevent pregnancy,” even though it is taken after the-fact, said Miranda.

If a fertilized egg has already attached to a woman’s uterus, when she takes Plan B the pregnancy will not be terminated, explained Miranda.

However, if a woman has conceived and the fertilized egg has not yet attached to her uterus, when she takes Plan B it will be unable to attach and will then leave the body, according to Miranda.

When asked about Plan B, some students said they believed that taking the medication worked like the abortion pill and would terminate an unwanted pregnancy, as long as it is taken within 72 hours of having sex.

“I’ve (taken Plan B pills) several times and it has



Photo/ Navipat Chomchergapat

worked every time,” said one CSUEB student who would like to remain anonymous.

“It’s an emergency (contraception) pill that helps to stop unwanted pregnancy,” said the student.

This student was under the false impression that Plan B can abort a pregnancy and that it is acceptable to use it on a regular basis.

The FDA has approved the medication strictly for emergency contraception. It is a backup method, hence the name Plan B, and not intended for routine use as birth control

medication, said Registered Nurse Karen Benburg who works at the Plan B Information Center.

“It just wasn’t designed for that,” Benburg said.

Plan B is different than the majority of other birth control pills because it does not contain estrogen. The medication contains levonorgestrel, which is a synthetic for the hormone progesterone found naturally in women’s bodies, ac-

“Plan B consists of **2 pills** that are taken **12 hours** apart.”

cording to Benburg.

Plan B consists of 2 pills that are taken 12 hours apart, said Benburg.

The medication is only 78 percent effective, and that is only if the medication is taken within 72 hours of having unprotected sex, according to Benburg.

Female students 18 years old and older can get Plan B without a prescription from the Student Health Clinic for \$33.95, said pharmacist Sam Fong.

Experts Say Sexual Assault is Often Unreported

By **Amy Cellini**
Staff Writer

Although only one rape reportedly occurred at Cal State East Bay in 2006, police say that seemingly small number can be deceiving.

The campus trend for the majority of these crimes to go unreported is in line with national and local statistics.

Nationally, about 65 percent of rapes and 74 percent of sexual assaults were not reported to police according to the Crime Victimization Survey for 1992-2000, conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

That number gets even larger in the local statistics. About 90 percent of rapes go unreported according to Betty Davis, a community educator at the Hayward chapter of Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR).

Christina Rodrigues, a senior in kinesiology, said she is “not surprised” with the national statistics and believed they apply on campus.

Rodrigues said she was warned by students at CSUEB about the danger of being victimized.

“I was told that I needed to be careful here because (sexual assaults) happen at the Hayward campus,” said Rodrigues.

“A surprisingly shocking number of rapes and sexual assaults go unreported,” said Ryan Guetersloh, a Marriage and Family Therapist counselor at the Hayward Hills Campus’ Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS).

“Many of the rapes and violent crimes go unreported to police and will not be included in the campus crime statistics,” said Guetersloh who explained that over the past six years working with CaPS, he has personally treated several students who were raped or sexually assaulted on campus or in the area.

“Unfortunately, this is something we treat quite frequently,” said Guetersloh, “Many people come in that are dealing with the after-effects of sexual assaults.”

Students can come in to CaPS for treatment during emergency walk-in hours, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or can call (510) 885-3690 to schedule an appointment. The counselors will do their best to accommodate students seeking help.

A female counselor can be requested if victims are uncomfortable working with a male therapist, according to Guetersloh.

Counseling records are kept confidential, so victims can seek help at CaPS even when they are unwilling to report the crime, according to Guetersloh.

While the counseling office was able to state that they have treated numerous victims of rapes and sexual assaults, their office does not keep track of crime statistics.

Sgt. Kevin Gonzales of the University Police Department said he would like to encourage more students to come forward

See **Rape**, page 5.