

Featuring



Five Time Olympian:
The Pioneer talks with Dara Torres.

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University Police:
Meet Acting Corporal Suzanne Cunanan.

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Alameda Fair:
Wine and Art Entertainment for all.

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Campus Events

"Godspell"
Aug. 8, 9, 15, 16
8p.m.
Aug. 17 2 p.m.
University Theater
Admission - \$8 for students

Aug. 15
Freshman
Orientation
Session 3

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Getting Paid:

The CSU ignores governor's request for pay decrease.

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Anna Bella Eema Wows CSUEB

By Ishita Maheshwari
A&E Editor

Directed by Dawn Monique Williams and written by famous playwright Lisa D'amour, 'Anna Bella Eema' was performed by Cal State East Bay's hugely underestimated students on Friday, July 25 to a packed audience at the studio theater on campus.

Not surprisingly, like most of William's previous plays, 'Anna Bella Eema' was insightful and touching. Moreover, the script and dialogues were highly symbolic, intense and poetic.

The story comprises of three characters: Irene- the mother, Anna Bella- the daughter and Anna Bella Eema- a mud doll, and explores the fierce bond between a mother and daughter in a trailer park, who are confronted with the ordeal of having their home seized from them due to the construction of a highway.

Irene is a recluse who hasn't left her trailer in several years and sits in her chair all day, licking postage stamps. She is fiercely protective of her daughter and raises her in an unhealthy, confined environment.

Over the years, their neighbors have left and they are the only trailer left standing in the desolate, empty park. In her need for companionship, the lonely ten-year-old Anna Bella builds a mud doll called Anna Bella Eema - which further aggravates Irene's mental state and increases her insecurity of losing her daughter to the outside world.

Both mother and daughter eventually treat Anna Bella Eema like an actual imaginary person in the house and this supernatural element actually helps both to deal with the events that follow.

When asked what drew her to this particular script, Williams said, "This script is beautifully written. The imagery and metaphors are very strong and poetic. I love that the narrative is non-linear. I like exploring works that are not traditional. The heart of the story is the mother-daughter relationship, which very intriguing to me. The play captures all of the dynamics of this relationship, and doesn't really pull any punches. It demonstrates the beauty, the pain, and the interdependent nature of the mothers and daughters."



Anna Bella Eema: Sarah Vincent, Marry Ann Mackley and Grace Khasaz perform in Anna Bella Eema, a play about a strange mother-daughter relationship.

Photo/Courtesy of Theatre and Dance Department

Mary Ann Mackley, who plays the mother, leaves a lasting impression of the reclusive and rough mother. She haunts you with Irene's quirks, fears, insecurities, and the unspecified demons that plague her and the almost carnal maternal love she feels for her daughter. Mackley was the undoubted star of the play, completely responsible for the generated paths that the play entirely banks on.

Grace Sewuese Khasar, who performed as Anna Bella Eema, left the audience mesmer-

ized by her fluid bodily movements and her beautiful singing. In spite of playing a character that doesn't speak, her magnificently detailed expressions did all the talking necessary.

Sarah Vincent, who played Anna Bella, shone in her role as well, although definitely lacking when pitched along with Mackley and Khasar. While her performance was nothing short of brilliant in the first half, she made some noticeably distracting gaffs

in her dialogue delivery in the second half.

Anna Bella Eema has been performed several times by several different theater groups in the past, with traditionally three people seated in chairs on stage. However, Williams adapted it slightly in that the mother remains in her chair throughout the play but she adds stylized movements giving an

See **Anna Bella Eema**, page 3.

CSU Creates Foster Youth Program

By Nicole Olson
Campus Editor

The California State University was awarded a \$600,000 grant to be paid over the next three years, to help create the CSU Foster Youth in Higher Education project.

The grant, given by the Stuart Foundation, will be paying for Jenny Vinopal's salary, who has been asked by the CSU to be the Assistant Director of the Foster Youth Programs.

"The grant was given to the CSU Office of the Chancellor to fund my position for three years to develop and expand support for youth through our inter-segmental network throughout the CSU, UC and community colleges," said Vinopal. "The goals of the grant are to help support the efforts of current and emerging foster youth programs in the state and in Washington."

"My position is new and it is the first in the country to address the need for services for foster youth on a system wide level. Unfortunately, I am responsible for delivering an ambitious set of goals to the funders. I have a half time secretary and that is pretty much it," said Vinopal.

The Stuart Foundation grant aims to increase college retention and graduation rates of foster youth.

Although the grant the program is the first of its kind, Cal State East Bay has been

no stranger with efforts to help former foster youth.

Through the Renaissance Scholars Program, CSU East Bay already offers services like year round housing, academic advising and counseling for foster youth.

"Most other programs for other schools will benefit more because we are ahead of the curb, setting ourselves up for a model of effectiveness and stability with our program design. We are a leader in that sense," said Kevin Bristow, Coordinator for the Renaissance Scholars Program. "The services we provide and the things we help kids with are not necessarily in place on other campuses. This grant is an opportunity to standardize these practices. I think it has the potential to do a lot of good for foster youth everywhere."

Currently, there are approximately 75,000 youth in foster care in California. They can face significant barriers when making the transition from foster care to higher education because they oftentimes lack mentoring and family support to successfully transition into adulthood.

The CSU reported that two to four years after leaving care, 50 percent of foster youth still have not earned a high school diploma, and only 10 percent enroll in some type of postsecondary education. Just three percent

See **Foster Youth**, page 3.

Cookies and Lemonade Happy Hour At Student Services Hub



Photo/ Ishita Maheshwari.

By Ishita Maheshwari
A&E Editor

Where can you get refreshments on a hot summer day along with a generous dose of world culture?

Every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., the CIE (Center for International Education) hosts a "cookies, lemonade and conversation" hour at the Student Services Hub, where international and resident students are invited to mingle, make new friends and learn about world cultures.

"This is the only way I knew how to have some fun outside of regular work with international students," said Michelle Rossali, a student assistant with the CIE who came up with the idea, in an effort to give back to the university after having lived in Korea for an academic year.

"This way we get to speak English together and exchange conversation," said Rosalli who wants to help international students on campus feel more comfortable with the English language and American culture. The conversation hour held on July 2 saw

excited international freshman from all over the world, eager to make new friends.

One such student present was 24-year-old Nuttanun Chatwikitkun from Thailand who said, "I came to the United States just two weeks ago, so I [would] really like to make new friends."

Apart from students, the event also attracts curious members of the faculty, eager for a quick break.

"It gives me some time to talk to and get to know the students that have been in my class before, and [for] my new students, a time for me to socialize and have fun," said graduate student and ALP instructor, Samuel Paolo Managad Adams, a regular at the weekly conversation hour.

CIE will continue to make this effort every quarter for the benefit of the campus community.

Swaying along to the enthusiastic Bollywood music playing in the back ground, Rosalli said, "We really invite English speakers to come and participate. This is not a job, it is fun and leisure."

Enrollment Skyrockets For Fall

By Ryan Mariategue
Staff Writer

The number of anticipated incoming freshman for the fall quarter has skyrocketed by almost 40 percent on the CSUEB campus.

"Our goal this year was to shoot for 1200 or 1250," said Greg Smith, Associate Vice President for Planning and Enrollment Management.

But because interest in the university has been on an up-swing, CSUEB has surpassed their goal and now is anticipating 1,400 new freshmen. This is a significant improvement considering that last year there were only approximately 1,040 incoming freshman.

"Until everybody shows up you really never know how many students you're going to have," said Smith, indicating that it might be possible that the university will enroll more than the anticipated 1,400.

The enrollment increase has been credited to the multiple outreach programs that the university has been vigorously promoting.

One of these is the Welcome Center and the Enrollment Counselors who work there. "This university really sells itself," said Jean Paul Nguyen, an Enrollment Counselor at CSUEB. "It makes our jobs a lot easier and enjoyable."

Nguyen, along with several other counselors, is in charge of outreach and pre-

admission advising.

"The Welcome Center has made a big difference," said Smith.

"One of the key attributes that the Welcome Center has is that it is one place that sits on its own where perspective students can get their questions answered and decide whether or not to choose CSUEB for their education."

However, Planning and Enrollment Management does not carry the burden of recruiting prospective students alone.

"We are working really close with Student Life on orientation and with the General Education Cluster Program," said Smith.

New buildings have also generated excitement and energy.

"Part of the increase we're seeing is because of our resident halls," said Smith. "More people are wanting to live on campus and be a part of that."

Smith said university is also trying to target high school and community college counselors, who can significantly influence a student's college choice, saying that the planning and enrollment management department is "doing a lot to connect with counselors." One high school counselor might talk to 500 students in a year.

"We see our goal as helping educate people about going to college," said Nguyen. "It's nice to promote a university that I really believe in."

New Women's Basketball Coach is Driving to the Goal

By David Lewis
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay's basketball coach-in-waiting's journey has taken 14 years to complete, and the trip has been long and arduous.

As the miles rang up, her spinning odometer begged for mercy. The road took her from Pleasanton to Santa Clara, Santa Clara to Moraga, and Moraga to Stockton every day. However, despite the miles, she never took her eyes off the prize.

This year, Toni West has finally reached her destination. Following coaching stints at a high school, three junior colleges, and a three-year layover as an assistant, West's work ethic has been rewarded with the post of women's basketball coach at Cal State East Bay.

"There's no doubt the other experiences have prepared me for this," said West. "At the JC level, you're doing things like your own media guides and now have we have people that do those things in sports information. You have more time to concentrate on coaching and [you] appreciate it a little more."

West's humble beginnings in coaching started in 1994 at the junior varsity level at Milpitas High School.

In the 2001 she took an assistant coach job at De Anza junior college under the late Mike Gervasoni.

Three years later, while living in Pleasanton, she was named an assistant at San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton.

West went to work at Intel in the South Bay as a tour guide before heading to Saint Mary's to graduate school. After studying in the hills of Moraga for up to nine hours a day, West would drive back on the 24 freeway and plow ahead to Stockton to work on the Delta budget and supervise the women's summer league.

Her 2001 blue Pontiac Sunfire was mercilessly driven into the ground, a 201 mile round trip that took about 3 hours 14 minutes.

San Joaquin Delta College's head coach, Gina Johnson, was a source of inspiration for West, and Johnson also appreciated West's performance.

"Toni always had a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of energy," said Johnson, who has been at Delta for 13 years. "When she approached me about joining us at Delta, I could tell she did her homework. She would bring that enthusiasm to our program. She's really strong at recruiting and building relationships with players"

Following her stint at Delta, the inaugural year of basketball at Las Positas College in Livermore provided West with her first head coaching opportunity.

West typically began her day at 5:15 a.m. teaching a fitness boot camp at the local community center. She then goes to a student outreach program at Chabot College in Hayward, and teaching two classes at Las Positas - strength and conditioning and

See **Basketball**, page 4.