

## Delectables From Marita's Southern Desserts Are Crowd Favorites

By Janice Lazaro  
Staff Writer

Largely because of the Red Velvet Cake, their best-known creation, business has been going well for William and Marita Brown, founders of Marita's Sweet Potato Pie Co. in San Leandro.

"It's my number one cake," said founder William Brown. "I have perfected it to meet my standards."

The shop's Red Velvet Cake is highly desired by many. Some customers are even willing to travel great distances to purchase the creation from Marita's.

"The cake originated in Louisiana 60 years ago," said Brown. "There's no competition here because there's nobody around that sells this cake. Some travel over 100 miles. Some families even come from Sacramento to buy our Red Velvet Cake."

The Red Velvet Cake creation isn't the only renowned Southern delicacy at the San Leandro bakery.

"Our other special cakes are Sweet Potato Pie, Lemon Pound Cake, Peach Cobbler and more," said Brown.

The baked goods offered to their customers contain originality

and freshness, thus creating mass appeal.

"Our products are made with fresh ingredients," said Brown. "For instance, we don't use margarine. We use fresh butter in our cakes and pies."

Marita's is constantly formulating new cake and pie recipes to please old customers and possibly attract new ones.

"I sit around trying to come up with ideas," said Brown. "I started a Banana Nut Cake and a Gingerbread Cake. I've been trying to perfect the Gingerbread Cake for two years and just three weeks ago, I reached perfection. I reached my standard."

Feedback and suggestions for new recipes are welcomed from incoming customers. As a result, customers are sometimes involved in the creation of new cakes and pies.

"We try to ask for new recipe ideas from our customers," said Brown. "Right now, I've been looking for a good Cheesecake recipe. I haven't found it yet."

Marita's is a take-out bakery located in San Leandro. For eight years thus far, they have been receiving good business.

"This has been the best location for us," said Brown.

"We've been blessed."

Brown mentions how dedicated he is to the bakery and his customers.

"I come in around 5 a.m. to finish working on the orders and requests from my customers," said Brown. "The orders must be out by 8 a.m."

Brown mentioned he is motivated to succeed in his business by following a friend's old saying which serves to inspire his aim for perfection.

"My friend said to always go first class," said Brown. "So, that meant I should aim to sell a better product, not to cut corners."

As for future plans for Marita's, they plan to expand their business by opening a bakery in Contra Costa County.

"We're opening a bakery in Hilltop Mall in Richmond," said Brown. "My brother will be the one running it."

Brown and his wife have come to make their mark on the city since beginning operations.

The two managed to create such appealing desserts by bringing their skills together.

"Marita, my wife, learned how

to decorate cakes. She's really good," said Brown.

He, on the other hand, learned how to bake through actual hands-on work experience.

"Twenty-one years ago, I started out working for a bakery in Richmond, then Berkeley, Dublin, and lastly San Leandro," said Brown.

Also, he was exposed to the art of baking at a young age.

"I remember as a child, I used to sit around with my mom and I watched her bake," he said. "I would try to see what she was doing."

The couple believes in their products and feels their baked goods are of prime choice.

"They're not something you can find at a Safeway," said Brown.

### Marita's Sweet Potato Pie Co.

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## Online TV Show Features Bay Area Rock Groups

By Allison Pheteplice  
Staff Writer

A local music lover has created an online television show that features over 227 streaming videos of Bay Area bands and artists.

PacificNoise.com is in its second year documenting the local creative scene. Mastermind John Swanson wanted a forum to showcase what the Bay Area has to offer.

"There are too many good bands in San Francisco right now," Swanson said. "The idea was that an online TV show is the best way to get to know the local bands in town."

Each episode on Pacific Noise features a band playing live, spliced

with interview footage. This allows the viewer to not only hear some of their music, but to hear them talk about their music as well.

"The goal has always been to expand the potential energy of the local music scene," Swanson explained.

Swanson posts a new episode every week, and has recently redesigned the site to allow bands to sign up and post mp3s, music videos, show fliers and band biographies.

"Publishing the show is the most rewarding thing in the world," Swanson said, "just because of the great amount of music I've been exposed to as a result. I love to find out about new bands."

## World of Warcraft, 8 Hours a Day

By Brett Byars  
Staff Writer

"World of Warcraft," a multiplayer online role playing game in which armor clad characters battle over the fictional lands of Azeroth, has become one of the top selling electronic games in the world.

Though many enjoy the game as casual players, some WoW fans seem to be consumed by the game. One of them is Jason DeSoto, 26, an Alameda County resident, who is recognized by local gamers as "a true World of Warcraft addict."

Surprisingly, DeSoto seemed quite open to talk about his craving for online gaming and invited me into his home to show me the station littered with empty soda cans where the "magic happens."

At first he seemed unprepared for a visitor as he shuffled boxes and crates aside and threw packages of various snacks away so that I could make my way to his computer. He joked that his living conditions were arranged in "typical gamer fashion."

At the center of his sci-fi themed bedroom was his most prized possession: his custom built PC, complete with a 30-inch monitor and an enormous sound system. He was proud to show it off and played several DVDs to demonstrate its visual and acoustic grandeur.

Desoto said he was reluctant to purchase the game at first because he had amassed quite a library of online games already. But he took the plunge a year and a half ago at the request of his sister.

"I knew the addicting nature of the game even back then," he said. "I was hooked instantly."

Long after his sister quit playing, he continues and makes the game a daily facet of his life.

"On an average work day, I can put in about eight to ten hours, on and off," he said. "On the weekends, over fourteen or as much as sixteen."

He added, "it's not as bad as it sounds."

His online activities even enter his daily speech and he catches himself using acronyms similar to those found on message boards and in chat rooms. During my visit, he laughed when he said "brb" (be right back) as he excused himself to leave the room for a moment.

Even DeSoto's job gives him an opportunity to play, he said, showing off his laptop which he often takes to work.

"I don't think they mind too much," he said, "as long as I get my other work done on time."

When asked about the potential dangers of being addicted to a computer game—and what others think about his obsession—DeSoto replied, "I might agree with them; it varies on the person."

He admits he is probably not the fairest judge on the subject, instead preferring to maintain his lifestyle as a "career player."

"At the end of the day, I can look and say 'my character is better than yours,'" he later said solemnly.

"Some people are just afraid of that kind of dedication. They think there's something wrong with them. This is just what I do, what I enjoy."

## Pros and Students Featured in University Theatre Dance Recital

By Miyuki Takahashi  
Staff Writer

This weekend, student and professional dancers will perform in "Go," a dance recital at the University Theatre featuring works by Cal State East Bay professors Nina Haft and Eric Kupers.

In addition to the pieces by Haft and Kupers, the performance will feature choreography by CSUEB graduate students Sergio Suarez and Grace Alvarez.

Haft, a professor in the Theatre and Dance department who has her own dance troupe, Nina Haft & Company, said the performance would give the students "a great opportunity to be directed by professional dancers so that they can grow and can learn new things."

Haft directs two of the five dance pieces in "Go!"—"Things Lost in War" and "Skin."

In "Things Lost in War," said Haft, she wants to send audiences a message about how war affects people that we love.

"(The) kinds of dance we offer here are so contemporary and exciting," said Chair of Theater and Dance department, Tom Hird. "People should come to see this because they won't see dance concerts like this anywhere."

And they don't have to go to San Francisco or Europe since there are companies from Los Angeles and New York. Those kinds of works are here.

"Lots of colleges don't do concerts (like we do)," said Haft.

"It's going to be a great show," said Kupers. "Nina and I... have always wanted to have this kind of concert."

Kupers also has his own Dance Company called "Dandelion Dancetheater." He,

play by Sam Shepard. "I want to experience what it is like to do a play in dance," said Kupers.

Kuper's second piece, "Spinal Fluid," will be performed at the entrance of the University Theatre. This performance will feature a mix of disabled and non-disabled dancers.

"I hope audiences come with sense of openness and curiosity," said Kuper.

Featured performances will include modern dance, dance



**G-O-I!:** Bodies contort and twist into words during a practice session.

Photo/Patricia Crescent

too, choreographs two pieces for "Go!"—"Tongue" and "Spinal Fluid."

"Tongue" is based on a

theater, break dance and written word with dance.

"I think it is great because a variety of dance will be performed,"

## STUDY BUSINESS IN EUROPE THIS SUMMER!



Are you a business major? Consider spending the summer in Germany or France while learning about business operations in the European Union! You can earn CSUEB credit, and financial aid may apply!

### ★ INFORMATION SESSION ★

Wednesday, February the 6<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 - 6:00 PM  
MI 2078

For additional information about these or other study abroad opportunities contact:

Kelly Moran  
Center for International Education  
Student Services Hub 1325  
510-885-2903  
kelly.moran@csueastbay.edu  
www.csueastbay.edu/cie

## COME OUT CAL STATE Queerfest III

California State University, East Bay

**Monday, February 11, 2008**

**LGBT ISSUES IN THE WORK PLACE** Janet L. de Vries, Career Center Director, Casper College, WY. Drinks and dessert provided, bring your own lunch. University Library, Biella Room, 12 noon-1 pm

**Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

**QUEER ARTISTS: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES** Queer, Trans, GenderQueer contemporary artists display and discuss their work. PE, Room 140, 12 noon-1:30 pm

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008**

**MARGA GOMEZ LIVE** One of America's first openly gay comedians, seen on Logo Network's "Wisecracks" and "Laughing Matters." Marga's videos: www.youtube.com/margagomezcomedy. Sponsored by Associated Students, Inc. FREE for CSUEB students, faculty, staff., \$7 general public, www.csueastbaytickets.com, University Theatre, 6-8 pm

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008**

**SAFE ZONE/ALLY TRAINING** Interactive workshop exploring issues affecting LGBTQ individuals; ideas for creating a safe and open environment. Light lunch 11:30 a.m. RSVP requested: Alison.Bateman@csueastbay.edu Old University Union, Room 102 (downstairs), 12-2 pm

**Thursday, February 14, 2008**

**OPEN MIC - CELEBRATING LOVE** Featuring the voices of LGBTQ people and their allies. Safe space to share original writings and poetry. University Library, Biella Room, 7-9 pm

**Thursday, February 14, 2008**

**QUEER CORNER** Tabling event, part of the Sexual Responsibility Fair, brochures, info about LGBTQ issues, dating, sexuality. New University Union, Multipurpose Room, 11am-1 pm

**Friday, February 15, 2008**

**DV8'S "ENTER ACHILLES": MASCULINITY, HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSGRESSION (FILM)**

An all-male dance/theater company takes a startling look at homophobia. University Theatre, 2-3:30 pm

**Friday, February 15, 2008**

**COME OUT CAL STATE** Valentine's social celebrating Queerfest. Food, fun, entertainment. Everyone's welcome to come out, join in the fun. University Library, Biella Room, 6-8 pm

**Friday, February 15, 2008**

**THE EDUCATION OF SHELBY KNOX** A young activist sharing about reproductive rights and her activism for comprehensive sex-education. El Dorado Hall, Pioneer Heights, 6-8 pm

For more information on these events call 510-885-3657 or 510-885-3690, www.csueastbay.edu/slife



Sponsors: Associated Students, Inc., Alliance for Social Justice, Career Development Center, Counseling and Psychological Services, Department of Ethnic Studies, Department of Theater and Dance, Diversity Council, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Freshman Year Programs, Kinesiology and Physical Education, Queer-Straight Alliance, Student Life and Leadership Programs, Student Health Services, University Police Department, Division of Student Affairs