

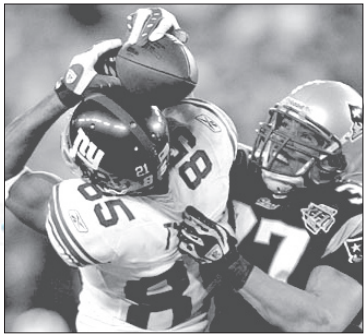


Featuring

**TOTAL
935**

Bush Administration:
A report exposes hundreds of false statements made against Iraq.

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Superbowl XLII:
Unbelievable.

See page 9.



Gear Up For Valentine's:
Top romantic picks, and a different cultural spin to the holiday of love.

See page 3.

On Campus
This Week:

Homecoming Week
through Friday

Feb. 8
Women and Men's Basketball vs. Santa Cruz
5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., CSUEB Gym

Feb. 11-15
Queerfest III
See page 3 for event details

Feb. 11-14
Sexual Responsibility Week

Feb. 12
Townhall Meeting/Open Forum
Discussing Div. II Athletics
12:00 p.m., Bay View Room,
New University Union

Feb. 13
Live@Noon, Gospel
Bianca Pickens and Paris Moore
12:00 p.m.
Agora Stage

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Latino Education Summit 2008

La educación el negocio de todos.

Education is everybody's business.

By Lex Perez
Staff Writer

La educación el negocio de todos. Education is everybody's business. This was the theme for the Latino Summit 2008 that took place on Feb. 2 and was held in the gymnasium of Cal State East Bay's Hayward campus. The summit, the first of which was held eight years ago, is an effort to guide young students and their families as they make their way through the odyssey of college and education.

The summit is the brainchild of Ron Silva, Chair of HBET (Hispanic Business, Education and Training, Inc.), who said he came up with the idea when he, "heard about the widening gap of Latinos and African-Americans in terms of knowledge of technology, which was going to be the business of the future."

He decided then to take a stand to support education as a vehicle to better the circumstances of these people.

"I was appalled to learn that we were outsourcing jobs to people in other countries because people felt that there wasn't enough brainpower in the United States. I knew there was tons of untapped brainpower out there; someone just needed to take the initiative to educate them," said Silva.

One of the most noticed things about the summit was the diversity of the people present. Though the summit was Latino in theme, it was made clear that all were welcome. Several of the interviewed leaders noted that the summit was intended to have more than just Latinos present, that it was necessary to reach outside of the Latino community in order to support one another and bring

power to everyone. In fact, a major message of the summit was to vote at the California primary elections on Feb. 5 and let their voices be heard. The audience was reminded that Latinos were the largest minority in California, but also the one least likely to vote and,



"I knew there was tons of untapped brainpower out there; someone just needed to take the initiative to educate them."

-- Ron Silva, HBET Chair

therefore, the least politically powerful. Arturo Gonzalez, Civil Rights Attorney, in his keynote speech to a crowd of students and parents, said, "One of the best things you can do is vote."

Michelle Mathews, a Human Development major and a mentor for students at local Barnard-White Middle School, brought her young son, William Mathews III an eighth grader, and five of his friends to the summit. William cited his major reason for coming was to, "learn how college life's like...what you need to do."

The young students seemed to know what they expected out of their education or at least knew the value of hard work. William thinks he would like to be a pediatrician or possibly an orthopedic surgeon. His friends, Diane Garcia and Vianney Cruz, have their goals set on being a police officer and a crime investigator, respectively.

Other careers suggested amongst his group of friends—which also included Cassandra Lopez and Amore Hill—were jobs as diverse as chef to as beneficial as teacher.

Mathews said that while she was growing up, she could count the number of Latinos she knew who went to college with one finger. She said the children of her community had no person they could look up to in terms of education and college. Today, she says, it's a bit better: now it's possible to "count them on one hand."

One of the most interesting things about the summit was the take some students had in terms of self-sufficiency for certain minority groups. Opinions ranged from feeling that it was the duty of a group to help their own kind to feeling that the responsibility rests not

only on minorities, but on society at large. By far, the most common opinion was that it was a combination of support from society with large doses of personal responsibility in order to obtain, not only personal self-sufficiency, but success as a society.

Lupita Figueiredo, the Mistress of Ceremonies, felt the summit was a success and has been successful since the very first one held in 2000.

"When we started this thing in 2000, there were 75 people in attendance. Now look today, there must be at least 1,000 people in that audience. It's grown every year."

When asked about her feelings on group self-sufficiency she responded, "I believe that it overlaps. If member(s) of a minority become successful, (they) want to give back to their community. Eventually, it goes beyond and becomes a human thing."

One of the nice surprises of the summit was an impromptu fundraiser for the Theta Lambda Psi (TLP) sorority which was giving away three scholarships to three Latinas from the local high schools: Hayward High School, Tennyson High School and Mt. Eden High School. The fundraiser became exciting when Arturo Gonzalez, the keynote speaker, said that he would match every dollar donated to the sorority for their scholarship.

When asked how the TLP sorority felt about the place of the Latina in their culture, in terms of education and college, and if they felt that enough was being done for them, Angeles Alencastro summed up the group's feelings: "In high school I had my counselor, a Latina woman, guide me through my educational career and into college. That was it. I feel that our parents are still a little old fashioned when it comes to women. They still feel like we should be wives and mothers. Of course there have been enormous steps in changing those attitudes, but I think more progress still needs to be made."

For those in attendance, the information gained was a useful weapon in their arsenal of tools to get into college and succeed in life.

Internship Fair Leaves Some Students Wanting



Meet and Greet: Ivan Shmelev, MBA student (left), and Robyn A. Briggs, human resources manager of BDO Seidman, LLP, exchange information and a hearty handshake.

Photo/ Elena Sadikova

By Elena Sadikova
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay hosted its Internship Fair on Jan. 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the New University Union.

For many, attending the fair was difficult: it was held during the times most students were in class and some could find no signs at all marking the location of the event.

However, some lucky students reached the place and were happy to share their opinions about the fair with The Pioneer. "It seems like there are some good companies here," said health science student Marrika Lopes. "They have different stuff to offer. There is something for educational jobs—which I'm thinking about. I found a company, Seneca Center, which is offering a job which suites me," said Lopes.

An MBA student, Ivan Shmelev, was also satisfied. "I collected a lot of useful information, business cards and scheduled appointments with different companies, for example, with BDO Seidman, LLP," he said.

Students majoring in education and business had a busy time handing out their resumes and chatting with representatives of various companies. However, students from other departments were just pottering around.

"I'm looking for companies from the film industry, possibly an internship as a crewmember," said Michel Owen who is majoring in performance studies. "With my major there is nothing here, nothing at all."

Another disappointed guest of the fair was Chathura Mudalige, Associated Students Inc., (ASI) Director of College of Science.

"There are only around 20 companies and, being a science student, I can hardly find anything interesting for me. Not even one science company! And we are in California, next to the Silicon Valley! It's just ridiculous!"

As a member of the student government, Mudalige decided to respond actively. He contacted Ray Angle, the Director of the Career Development Center (CDC) and proposed to create an advisory committee for the CDC, which will consist of representatives from each college.

"So when they (CDC) get employees to school, they will have a basic understanding of what we—students—need and which companies we want to see," said Mudalige.

Another suggestion for the CDC is instead of sending invitations to potential employees via e-mail, it would be much more useful to hire a specialist who will visit offices of large, perspective companies of the Bay Area and inform them about the university. This will hopefully inspire them to attend the university's internship and job fairs.

It appears that there are a lot of ways to improve the quality of the university's career events. The question is whether or not Cal State East Bay will take the initiative.

Chinese New Year: Celebrating the Year of the Rat

By Ssu-Chieh Wang
Staff Writer

The Chinese New Year, also known as Chinese Lunar Year and Spring Festival, is celebrated every year by Chinese people because of its long tradition and importance. Chinese New Year begins today and lasts for 15 days.

The Chinese New Year is traditionally determined by the Chinese lunar calendar. "A lunar month is determined by the period required for

the moon to complete its full phasic cycle of 29 and a half days, a standard that makes the lunar year a full 11 days shorter than its solar counterpart," according to the Government Information Office of the Republic of China.

The Chinese New Year starts on the first day of first lunar month of the year. As a result, unlike the American New Year, Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year, usually at the end of January or the beginning of February.

On New Year's Eve, family members reunite. Children who have left their hometowns return to share the New Year's meal with their families. However, most Chinese international students at Cal State East Bay can't get together with their families.

"I really want to celebrate the Chinese New Year with my families," said Teddy Chan, 20, an international student at the university. "It's important for family reunion, but I don't have any vacations."

On New Year's Eve, people stay up to watch the old year go out and to bring in the new year.

"We talk, eat and watch television together overnight to celebrate the new year," said Chan.

Chinese people celebrate the new year by wearing new clothes, decorating their homes with Spring Festival couplets (poems written on red paper), giving new year's money in red envelopes and setting off fireworks. The Chinese believe doing those things will bring good luck.

"It is the tradition to celebrate New Year's that way," said MeiHui Chien, 42, a housewife. "I have been doing the same thing every New Year's since I was little."

Although Chinese students at East Bay can't reunite with their families, most of them celebrate New Year's with friends, communities or through the Chinese Christian church. They want to find a place that shares and celebrates the culture they are familiar with and belong to.

"I will surely celebrate with my friends," said Chan. "We might have a meal, watch a movie or sing Karaoke overnight."

In San Francisco, many activities are held to celebrate Chinese New Year, including the Chinese New Year Flower Market Fair, Chinatown Community Street Fair and the 2008 Chinese New Year Parade.

If you are interested in and want to experience the delight of a different cultural festival, you can join in these celebrations. You can also tune in to KTVU Fox 2 or KTSF Channel 26 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to watch the celebrations on television.

At the end of its 15-day run, the Chinese New Year ends with the Lantern Festival. On this day, people eat rice dumplings and enjoy decorative lanterns which symbolize the reunion.

Dancers Score a Major Hit With "Go!" Concert

By Miyuki Takahashi
Staff Writer

The faculty dance concert at Cal State East Bay this weekend was a smashing success that left both audiences and performers satisfied.

"The show was exhilarating," said Nina Haft, a professional dance company director who is also a professor at CSUEB.

Marjorie Ortiz, a senior at the university who was the sound operator for the show, said "I thought it was exciting to see a wide range of themes of performance."

And Ruth Bossieux, a professional dancer from Berkeley who was in the audience of around 120 people during Saturday night's performance, called the recital a "very successful evening with successful dancers."

From the first piece, "Things We Lost in the War," which was directed by Nina Haft, to the last piece, "Skin," which was also directed by Haft, the audience was riveted by the choreography and its execution by the dancers.

"If I have time, I want to come back to watch this concert again," said Matthew Perry, a junior at CSUEB.

During the multifaceted performance, dancers—using such props as candles, musical instruments, a chair and a stick—performed modern dance and even break dance.

In a unique piece of choreography, handicapped and non-handicapped dancers performed in a piece that opened the show.

Among the pieces presented was "Tongues," by CSUEB Professor Eric Kuper, and "Writer's Block" by two graduate students, Sergio Suarez and Grace Alvarez.

The dancers who performed in the pieces enjoyed themselves almost as much as the audience.

"It was definitely fun," said Cameron Williams, a sophomore at CSUEB who was one of performers in "Tongues."

Keith Penny, a sophomore who performed major parts of the piece, said "I was not nervous...It turned out to be better than I thought. Of course, I thought it was going to be good to begin with."

Corissa Johnson, a senior at CSUEB who performed in "Things Lost in the War," spoke for many who were present when she exclaimed, "It was great!"

"If I have time, I want to come back to watch this concert again."

The various pieces were warmly received with cheers and loud applause by the audience. One enthusiastic spectator yelled out "Get it!" at a key spot during one of the performances.

Beth Fein, another professional dancer from Berkeley, said "All the dancers are impressive in quality and in the level of their technique."