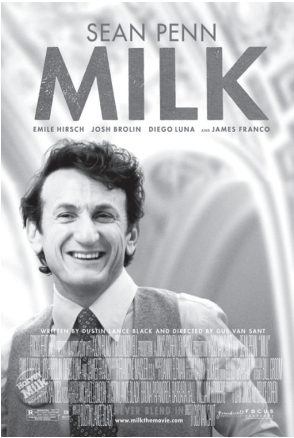


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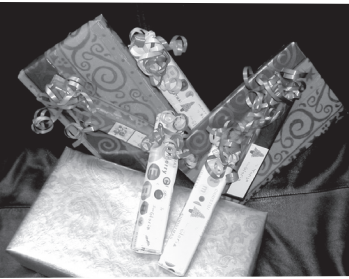
**Harvey Milk:**  
Sean Penn is touching as Harvey Milk.

See page 2.

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**Black Friday:**  
Retail sales may make or break businesses this year.

See page 3.



**Surviving the Season:**  
How to get through the holidays with a semblance of sanity.

See page 5.

Campus Events

Dec 12,13
"Pan and Wendy"
7 p.m.
\$8 gen./ \$6 youth, senior/ \$4
CSUEB students/ \$20 family
Dec. 26-Jan. 3
Campus Closed
Season's Greetings from The Staff of the Cal State East Bay Pioneer

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## CSUEB Alumnus Wins Comic Book Hero Contest

By Anne Bartlett  
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay alumnus Omar Morales has won the CW TV Network's first annual Comic Book Hero Contest this fall for his comic, a "character-driven story about a fractured hero that has to choose between duty and his own moral compass and human desires."

"CruZader" takes place in modern times and is centered on Antonio de la Cruz, a man enlisted by the Vatican to combat groups who oppose the church.

"[The name] CruZader is a bit of a play on words," says Morales. "When you marry the crusades, the soldier-like crusaders that fought for the church, and the name de la Cruz, you get CruZader."

De la Cruz's powers come not from inside him but from the supernatural abilities of holy relics. Although the comic revolves around fighting the enemies of the Catholic Church, the fight between "good and evil" is not the central struggle.

"The idea just naturally evolved over time. I went to Catholic school for 13 years before I came to CSUH and all along I was influenced by comic books, superhero cartoons and Star Wars. Then boom! He was born in 2007 when I decided to get serious about putting pencil to paper."

Morales grew up in the Bay Area in the suburbs of Oakland. After graduating from CSU East Bay, as a journalist affiliated with the Public Relations Student Society of



**CruZading Against Apostasy:** Comic hero fights opponents of the church.

Photo/Courtesy

America, the Delta Chi Fraternity, and several more organizations, Morales landed jobs with three news media stations: CNTV, KCEN, and KRON. After that, he expanded his public relations experience and worked for Community Options, Insurance Information Network, and is currently working at Daymon Worldwide. Looking at how much success and experience he has gained, Morales traces it all back to his

education at CSU East Bay.

"I was trained as a journalist by educators like Marsha Ginsburg and Dr. Terrell," said Morales. "Those classes and experiences in student media really trained me in the fundamental crafts of fact gathering, storytelling, writing and editing. All throughout, my communication degree has helped me in whatever job I was in—and it really helps now in this hobby and passion I have for creating original comic books."

Morales promotes CruZader through his self-made business venture, the Force Productions.

"The Force Productions is just me. It's more like a hobby than a part-time thing. I run it out of a small office in my house and it isn't profitable yet, but that's OK. I'm not in it for the money. I have some video equipment and I tinker with projects here and there as I have free time."

Besides the CruZader project, Morales' next biggest project is a comic book called "Scraper—New York City's Used-Sports Equipment Hero," a twelve-issue comic book.

"I [also] have a movie screenplay and a short story that I've adapted into a 'one-shot comic book.' In reality, all my eggs are in the

See **CruZader**, page 6.



**Good v. Evil:** Morales' comic protagonist gets super powers from religious relics.

Photo/Courtesy

## Campus Greeks Help Those in Need Over the Holidays

By Ursula Ramirez and William Maldonado  
Staff Writers

The Greeks at Cal State East Bay are working hard on various community services to make this holiday season special for families and people around the Bay Area, especially children.

Delta Omicron Chi sorority has each sister donating three hygienic items to the hygiene drive for the Building Futures for Women and Children organization in San Leandro. The organization is designed to serve homeless and battered women and children in the San Francisco Bay Area. The San Leandro shelter, where Delta Omicron Chi will be assisting, offers 24-hour service for over 32 women and children.

This month the sisters will also be going around asking for donations to get gifts for the Adopt a Family program with the Safe Alternatives to Violence Environments (SAVE) organization, which helps people deal with emotional issues without resorting to violence.

The sisters didn't just stop there. They are also volunteering for the Girls on the Run program at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on Dec. 6. to help girls ages 8-13 build confidence. The sisters will be

assisting with registration, monitoring the course, games, food, the drink stop, and the T-shirt and Google bag distribution at the finish line.

But the Delta Omicron Chi sisters aren't the only ones who will help those in need over the holidays.

The Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters have each donated a toy to the Toys for Tots foundation hosted by Texas Roadhouse restaurant on Nov 24. The Marine Toys for Tots foundation collects toys for needy children with the hopes that these children grow to become responsible and productive citizens.

The fraternities on CSUEB's campus have also been lending a helping hand this holiday season.

During the month of November the Delta Chi fraternity tabled in front of the University Union collecting canned food for a homeless shelter on A Street in Hayward for Thanksgiving.

Throughout the month-long drive the brothers made many trips to and from the shelter to provide aid. And while it was called a canned food drive other foods, including perishable items such as milk, were collected in order to provide more immediate assistance.

Meanwhile the Alpha Phi Omega frater-

nity spent the week preceding Thanksgiving teaming up with the Uhuru organization to make Thanksgiving pies.

The Uhuru organization is dedicated to African internationalism, or the liberation of African people and their descendants. The Uhuru movement started in the late 60s and is named after the Swahili word for freedom.

The pies that the fraternity made were sold at farmers' markets, and by Uhuru members to interested clientele, with the proceeds directly funding the Uhuru movement.

The pie-making process lasted multiple days as Alpha Phi Omega made multiple trips to the shared kitchen in Richmond that served as Uhuru's pie making headquarters.

The efforts of the fraternities and sororities on CSUEB's during this holiday season have been a true demonstration of the spirit of Greek life.



**Giving to the community:** Alpha Phi helped Uhuru with its holiday pies.

Photo/William Maldonado

## Campus Dancers Have Their Fingers on the Pulse

By Rhonda Allen-Roberts  
Staff Writer

Launching its new season with an electric jolt, the beat of Eclectic Pulse raced throughout the ICE Winter Showcase on Dec. 6, leaving spectators desiring to know more about this dance troupe.

"They're amazingly talented," said 21-year-old Cal State East Bay student Reginald White of the group. "The stuff they manage to put together is awesome!"

Eclectic Pulse was founded four years ago by former Cal State East Bay students who desired to create an outlet for individuals to share their passion for dance. This student-run organization has worked very hard to make a name for itself on and off the Cal State East Bay campus. Its growing popularity was realized this year during auditions when nearly 30 people showed up to fill only six available slots.

The 13 dancers on this year's team bring a variety of talents to make the group live up to its 'eclectic' name. Many have performed in various capacities including

gymnastics, cheerleading, hip-hop, jazz and lyrical dance.

Newcomer Leslie Paiz, 21, said, "This is my first semester trying something new. I heard about the dance team and I wanted to be a part of it. I was super excited to get the call to be a part of the team. It's nice to be a part of something that's with your school."

Though she brought years of dance experience to the group, Paiz admits that Eclectic Pulse has challenged her in other areas.

"I've definitely learned a lot about teamwork already," Paiz said. "We all have different personalities and styles so learning our routines you really get to see the movement on different bodies. I had to learn going at a little bit faster pace but definitely still having fun with it."

Ellie Fokas, 20, was also among the six chosen at this year's audition.

"It is amazing. I didn't think I was going to make it because there were so many girls and guys and they were all very fantastic but

See **Dancers**, page 8.



**Eclectically Electric:** The troupe is so popular, nearly 30 people applied for six slots.

Photo/Rhonda Allen-Roberts

## Forensics Director in Dispute Over Contract

By Steve Dzung Pham  
Metro Editor

Less than a year after Cal State East Bay's forensics team enjoyed a successful season of competition after being inactive for five years, it is on the brink of dormancy again.

Two years ago, CSUEB hired Dr. Terry West to revive and direct the Forensics team with a commitment towards national competition.

West now says that the university is renegeing on its promises and not allowing him to do a job that he was hired to do.

"I gave up a tenured position to come here and direct the forensics program," said West. "I was there (Southern Utah University) for 12 years. I was hired here to be director of forensics (rhetoric and debate) last year, with the job description asking me to revive a program that had been inactive and lead it to national competitiveness."

In West's first year as CSUEB's forensics program director, the team won four awards at the national championship.

Despite starting three months into the forensic competition season, under West's tutelage, Marie Arcidiacono and Eric Brinkley, the team's star debaters, placed high in national tournaments in March.

Arcidiacono had placed as high as third in the overall "Best Debater" category at the Delta Sigma Rho Tau Kappa Alpha Forensic Honorary Tournament at the University of Florida at Gainesville. A week later, Arcidiacono and Brinkley, competing as a duo, had four wins and two losses at the Annual Novice National Debate Tournament in Pensacola, Fla.

According to West, the days of the forensics team traveling to other states to compete at the national level are over. Ongoing negotiations with the dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (CLASS) have left West frustrated. Under the new proposals, West will have to teach a full load in addition to directing the team. Competition would be limited to local contests. Team members would be comprised of students on wait lists for classes and were willing to forgo the wait and join the forensics team. West's list of grievances are lengthy.

"Directing a forensics team entails literally hundreds of hours for the director in research, student contact (coaching) and tournament travel," said West.

"The job interview promised I would receive four units of assigned time and teach

two classes in the classroom. This was the case all of last year. Beginning this year, the dean's (Diedre Badejo) office removed this assigned time and forced the department to assign a third four-unit class. This leaves me spending hundreds of hours of overload, which I cannot do physically and maintain my other faculty commitments."

“Directing a forensics team entails literally hundreds of hours for the director in research, student contact (coaching) and tournament travel”

"Nor would I do this—no director of forensics would. Likewise, the dean's office decided I must front my own expenses on travel, rather than the perfectly legal practice, done everywhere else in the nation, of using a travel advance. This would put me out of pocket potentially thousands of dollars at any given time. Since the university often takes five to ten weeks to reimburse, I would be unable to pay my rent. No director of forensics anywhere in the country has to front expenses for the program. I cannot and will not."

E-mailed request for comment to CLASS were not returned.

Arcidiacono, now a graduate student of communication at CSUEB, echoed West's sentiments.

"I feel that this is would be a near-impossible feat to accomplish due to the sheer amount of time directing a forensics team takes," said Arcidiacono. "As far as I know, no other DOF (director of forensics) is required to teach a full course load and run a squad. Release time is necessary to run a successful squad."

Arcidiacono said the selling to point for joining forensics was national travel. It allowed her to see different parts of the country and network with other debaters and coaches with whom she is still in contact. She said without travel, the program would diminish. However, she remains optimistic that the program will start again.

"Based on the success we had last year I see the program having enormous potential," said Arcidiacono. "By the end of last year we had generated quite a bit of support within

See **Debate**, page 8.