

Thursday,
February 21, 2008

Featuring



Division II Athletics:
Coverage continues inside.

See pages 2 and 6.



Urinetown:
Refusal to use public toilets sends people to Urinetown.

See page 5.



Student Profile:
A look at ASI President Ola Dokun.

See page 7.

On Campus This Week:

Today

Chamber Choir Invitational
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., MB 1055

Women's and Men's Basketball
Cal Pac Conference Basketball Championships
1-9 p.m., Pioneer Gym

Feb. 22

University Thesis Due
Last day to submit University Thesis for format to APGS

Women's and Men's Basketball
Cal Pac Convergence Basketball Championships
1-9 p.m., Pioneer Gym

Feb. 23

Senior Piano Recital
Dylan Snodgrass
7:00 p.m., MB 1055

Pioneer Basketball
Women's Championship Game
5:00 p.m.
Men's Championship Game
7:00 p.m.

Feb. 26

9th Annual Night of Jazz
with guest artist Ralph Alessi
8:00 p.m., Yoshi's
Jack London Square, Oakland

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The Administration Raises Eyebrows With Div. II:

Students have concerns about the proposed move to Division II.

See page 4.



DIVISION II ATHLETICS: Headed Toward Resolution Amid Conflict, Finger-Pointing and Students Left Voiceless

By **Neda Way**, Editor-in-Chief
Ginger Staley, Campus Editor
Adrian Ramirez, Sports Editor
Ishita Maheshwari, Staff Writer
Eric Kole, Staff Writer

In the weeks ahead, a decision will be made on whether Cal State East Bay will move from Division III to Division II athletics. If the alternative consultation process continues, the general student population will not have a voice in the decision. If, however, a referendum is conducted, all students will be able to participate in the debate by casting their votes.

The Division II debate is controversial in nature for it pits the representatives of the student body, the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI), against the university administration. While ASI is calling for a referendum to give the student body at large a say in the matter, the administration is pushing ahead with alternative consultation, a method that will not take into consideration the views of students who are not in favor of Division II.

Notably, information from the administration and the ASI on the development of Division II differ. While the administration credits ASI for many of the developments in favor of Division II, ASI indicates that the administration is largely responsible for the push toward changing athletic divisions.

In fact, the administration has been busy garnering support for the transition to Division II. During the alternative consultation process that is underway, the administration has reached out to the campus community with open forums and advertisements in support of Division II. Members of the administration have even reached out to *The Pioneer*, urging reporters to interview university officials in favor

of Division II.

Within just the past few weeks, there has been a visibly significant advancement in the move toward establishing Division II athletics. What few realize, however, is that the process had actually been underway for over a year.

January 17, 2007: Feasibility Study Initiated

Summary: Following a series of discussions with university President Mo Qayoumi, the ASI Board of Directors (BOD), on Jan. 17 of last year, voted to endorse a feasibility study that would look into moving CSUEB's athletic program to Division II status. Subsequently, Qayoumi requested the study be conducted by a consultant firm hired by the CSU Chancellor's Office.

According to Stan Hebert, Associate VP of Student Affairs, the ASI approached the president to initiate the study. However, current ASI President Ola Dokun, who served as ASI director at the time, states that the BOD did not ask the president to initiate the study: "the President offered to initiate the study and the Board supported the idea of conducting a feasibility study at no cost to the ASI," Dokun said.

The meeting minutes of ASI's Jan. 17, 2007 meeting, appear to confirm the statements of Dokun. Under section VI.4. of the minutes: "Chair (Chantel) Johnson mentioned that while at the last meeting with President Mo, they were asked to decide whether the Board would have an interest for the study to be done by a Chancellor's office contact at no cost to the university."

The endorsement of the feasibility study was motioned and carried.

February 12-13, 2007: Dempsey/Leland Visit

Summary: Former National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) executive Dr. Cedric Dempsey was invited to Cal State East Bay to conduct research and help explain the logistics of the transition from Division III to Division II for the athletic program. He promoted that the move would improve the campus life and allow students to compete against other "like" colleges. He met with ASI and numerous university groups to research the attitudes toward the move, and addressed questions from the student body in an open forum.

The meeting with ASI commenced with comments on the positive outcomes of moving the athletic program to Division II. Board members said campus life would improve as would campus pride and competitiveness.

However, ASI was concerned about the severing of the Kinesiology and Physical Education (KPE) department because the move would not allow coaches to continue teaching classes. Dempsey said that it would be a big challenge to continue the symbiosis between coaches and the KPE department because coaches would have to focus more on recruiting and scholarships.

ASI also questioned the funding of the move. Former ASI President Johnson and ASI board member Lilly Marquez both expressed concern about already high university costs and the lack of athletic scholarships.

Dempsey reassured the board, stating that if the move was finalized, there would be a minimum of \$250,000 in available scholarships for student athletes.

When Dempsey spoke with the Greek

Council—which included student athletes—the council said that the move to Division II could potentially jeopardize a student's education because students would fail to recognize the gravity of keeping good grades.

Some students, however, anticipated the move upward because the school could finally have some "bragging rights."

Dempsey told the Greek Council that the downside to the move would be raising student fees, but he saw the increase as trivial in comparison to other institutions.

The second group Dempsey met with was the Student Athlete Council. Members of the council felt the move would be harmful to the water polo team at CSUEB because it was already competing in the upper division. If the team was permanently moved to Division II, it would only be allowed to compete with seven other teams nationwide. The Student Athlete Council also said it would be difficult to raise the caliber of the golf team to Division II standards. They said the move would only be worthwhile if adequate scholarships were available.

After speaking with the Student Athlete Council, an open forum was held for all students to attend. Many students raised concerns about the actual process and the funding for the transition. Dempsey restated that the move required the development of a \$250,000 scholarship pool, but he did not give an estimate as to what the total cost would be.

Minutes taken at the forum said that what was "most consistently heard was concern with current structure with respect to KPE and Athletics," not the financial situation.

Dempsey met with the Hayward Orientation Team the next day to uncover what team members felt about the move. Most expressed excitement and support

See **Division II** page 2.

CSUs Reach Out To Churches On Super Sunday

By **Ginger Staley**
Campus Editor

Cal State East Bay President Mo Qayoumi spoke in front of hundreds of African Americans at Acts Full Gospel of God in Christ in Oakland last Sunday about the importance of obtaining a college education.

"Education gives us the opportunity to spread our wings, fly mighty high, and achieve our mission," said Qayoumi. "And for that, I'd like to make sure that all of our youth go to college."

The CSU's motivation for touring 30 churches throughout California and speaking to an estimated 80,000 people last Sunday was to raise awareness about the steps that students need to take in order to qualify for college. The message was aimed at African American males—one of the most underrepresented demographics in the CSU system.

"At Super Sunday, thousands of students and their families learn that planning for college starts in the sixth grade," said CSU Chancellor Charles Reed. "We are pleased that the efforts are paying off. In recent years we have noticed an increase in African American applications and enrollment. In Fall 2007, African American enrollment increased by 6.5 percent at CSU campuses."

The CSU was welcomed by the church's Bishop Robert "Bob" Jackson, an alumnus of Cal State East Bay who received his B.A. in psychology in 1973.

"I want to thank my old school for still recruiting from the community here in Oakland, and I encourage all of you, amen... Let's go to college and get those kids educated," said Jackson.

Jackie Cotton, a member of the congregation applauded CSU's effort of reaching out to African Americans through the church. Cotton said that last year's visit to the church, "...motivated my daughter to go school. Now she's at Cal State East Bay."

A "How to Get to College" poster that was printed in both English and Spanish was offered to all parents and students who were thinking about an educational future. The poster outlined what classes students need to take, the importance of good grades and how to apply for financial aid.

"Just because you graduate from high school doesn't mean you're college ready," said Qayoumi. "Thirty-five percent of blacks, Latinos and Native Americans aren't even offered the college-ready curriculum."

The CSU also developed a guide for church educational advisors that allows them to assist students with college applications, financial aid applications and how to use the CSUMentor website.

Members of the congregation were also encouraged to attend the African American Education Summit that CSUEB will host on Mar. 1. The summit will provide information about financial aid and scholarships and will offer workshops to empower students, parents and educators.

The CSU also plans to hold a similar event for Native Americans next month.

Alternative Consultation vs. Referendums

By **Ishita Maheshwari**
Staff Writer

The university is using the "alternative consultation" method as means to garner support for the proposed move to Division II athletics. The student government on campus, The Associated Students, Inc., believes that this method is unfair and demands a direct vote by means of a referendum.

So what is alternative consultation? And what is a referendum?

Alternative consultation is a public consultation method which allows comments from the students about the pro-

posals at hand. This process is an alternative to voting by means of a referendum.

Focus groups or open forums are held whereby students can interact with the administration or policy makers and get their doubts cleared. In keeping with this procedure, the administration held open forums with students on Feb. 12 and Feb. 13 at the Bay View Room of the new university union starting at noon.

Although this method counts those in favor of a decision, it does not take into account those not in favor.

A referendum is a process whereby students can directly vote in favor of, or reject a proposal in a ballot. Essentially it is a people's vote which can determine the approval or rejection of a policy independent of the representatives of the administration.

Since a referendum is a form of direct democracy, all students of Cal State East Bay are eligible to vote in a referendum.

With the alternative consultation process underway and the battle that has ensued, the issue to consider is: Which method allows for unbiased, accurate representation of athletes and all students alike?

LGBT Community Educates and Celebrates With QueerFest

By **Ginger Staley**
Campus Editor

Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered and straight allies alike attended a Valentine's Day celebration hosted by CSUEB's Queer-Straight Alliance (QSA) to eat, mingle and watch a drag show in a dim room decorated with rainbow streamers and lustrous pink hearts.

"This event is part of Queerfest III which purpose(s)...to educate and to honor and to celebrate LGBT faculty and staff and students here at Cal State East Bay," said Brian Reinhardt, director of counseling and psychological services.

"Valentine's Day has been hard for some. You can't get married in the United States. There are no rights for LGBT people to have relationships, so Valentine's Day is a special time. We wanted to be inclusive (to provide) a place for LGBT people to come," said Reinhardt.

The show featured performances by drag queens from the Imperial Court System—a nonprofit organization that collects money from shows and distributes it to local LGBT charities. Performers Jessica Avalon and Lisah Aubergine entertained the crowd of about 30 with elaborate costumes, risqué dance and music.

President of QSA Heather Thompson said the weeklong events of Queerfest are needed at Cal State East Bay.

"It's really important to meet people like you if you're struggling...to come out," she said.

Thompson also said many LGBT people feel ostracized when they are open about their sexuality. While manning the QSA booth during the week, she received responses of disgust and was asked why she bothered to have the booth.

QSA's public relations officer Casey Bell-Blasdale said, "To be perfectly honest, I've seen a lot of homophobia on campus.

And it makes me very unhappy...that's another reason why we're holding Queerfest: to get rid of that intolerance."

Bell-Blasdale felt that the purpose of Queerfest is to help spread the word that "homosexuals, transsexuals, bisexuals, asexuals, pansexuals, intersexed, so on and so forth, (are) not that unusual. It's not a big deal. It's OK. It's OK to be a straight ally. It's OK if you're gay."

Thompson also raised concerns about the lack of support from faculty and staff.

"A lot of faculty aren't out here. A lot of our members don't know a single faculty member who's gay. I think it's a serious issue," said Thompson.

Another thing to rejoice about during Queerfest was the increase in membership for the QSA since last summer. Membership jumped from approximately 5 to 30 in the last seven months. They're all expecting bigger and better events in the coming years.



Photos/ Linda Ly (outside-photos) and Ginger Staley (center photo)



QueerFest III: Professional performer Jessica Avalon (left and right) of Alameda and the Queer-Straight Alliance (center) participate in the "Come Out Cal State" Valentine's Day Celebration.

QueerFest 2008: A Time of Change and Celebration

By **Katice Harris**
Staff Writer

As QueerFest rocked the new year with a week of fun, it set new records in student turn-out.

This year's events included "Contemporary Queer Artist: Obstacles and Opportunities," Marga Gomez Live, Safe Zone/Ally Training, Open Mic-Celebrating Love, Queer Corner, a film called "Enter Achilles: Masculinity, Homophobia, and Transgression," Come out Cal State, and "The Education of Shelby Knox."

"Having Marga Gomez as part of the Laugh Your Ass Off Series was definitely a celebration for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation because...she was simply hilarious," said Thompson. "I haven't spoken to anyone who didn't enjoy her event."

The career workshop and the Ally

Training educated both queer and straight allies about issues that come up in the work force and in life, including the need for the straight to be more aware of how they respond to queers.

"The Education of Shelby Knox" film presentation educated viewers on the desperate need for comprehensive sex education in the United States and it celebrated a brave activist, Shelby Knox.

Turnout this year was noteworthy. Thompson counted almost 100 people at the Marga Gomez event—which breaks the record of past events.

Thompson said the drag show social was the best, particularly due to the club's involvement.

"Last year, a few staff members, one alumn(us), and two other students helped put the event on, and we didn't even have drag performers. This year, we had a lot

more help from students. I am so happy with how far our members have come in the past year," said Thompson.

"People assume that because we are a stone's throw away from San Francisco, that queer people feel safe and dandy around here. But that is not always true," said Thompson.

"We need events like QueerFest at Cal State, and we need places like the Light-house Community Center in Hayward because we need safe space everywhere. We need organizations like the Queer-Straight Alliance because people need to feel that they belong and there are people around them who understand them."

So if you did not get a chance to go to QueerFest this year make sure you are involved next year. Who knows? You might find out something about yourself and others that you didn't know before.