

The PIONEER

Thursday November 11, 2010

BOOKS

By the Sword:

Richard Cohen writes about the evolution of swords and society.

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Demonstrators spray paint a mural in memory of Oscar Grant.

RICHARD DUBOC / THE PIONEER

Oakland, Political Groups React To Mehserle Verdict

By Richard Duboc
Business Editor

On Friday, a scene played out on the streets of Oakland that can only be described as premeditated chaos. Both protesters and police came well prepared for a confrontation.

The events started with a planned rally outside Oakland City Hall, which occurred after the sentencing of convicted former BART police officer Johannes Mehserle was announced. Earlier that day, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Robert Perry gave Mehserle the minimum prison sentence of two years for the involuntary manslaughter of Oscar Grant and dismissed the additional gun enhancement charge.

The rally, which began around 2 p.m. and immediately followed the sentencing, was peaceful. It was centered around art displays, musical performances and impromptu speeches. Although the crowd was justifiably emotional, the mood of those in attendance was not overtly hostile.

Around 6 p.m., rally organizers vacated the stage in accordance with a prior agreement with Oakland city officials. At this point the crowd began to thin out, and it seemed for a moment that the day might end as it had begun: in peace and order.

Just then, a crowd that had formed on the corner of 14th Street and Broadway, began to march south. As the protesters made their way towards Lake Merritt, a small number began jumping on parked vehicles, with spo-

radic cases of vandalism being reported.

At 7:30 p.m., Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts held a press conference confirming that car windows had been broken. Following an incident that allegedly involved a protester stripping a firearm from a police officer, Batts announced that the march had become an "illegal assembly," stating that the police would take "very serious action."

This marked a dramatic shift in policy as the hundreds of police officers who had converged on Oakland from all over Northern California began arresting anyone who remained in what was now referred to as the "crime scene."

The 152 protestors that remained in the sectioned-off area between Foothill Boulevard and 18th Street were arrested by riot gear-clad police and placed on buses that were to make their way to the Alameda County Jail for processing.

Chief Batts confirmed that the majority of those arrested were from outside of Oakland. Most will face minor charges such as trespassing. However, a handful of protestors were charged with crimes including destruction of property and assault. Police reports also indicate that several backpacks were found containing gasoline and razor blades.

No Justice, No Peace?

Without pointing fingers, questions linger over whom amongst the crowd could be responsible for

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CSU Increases Tuition for Next Term

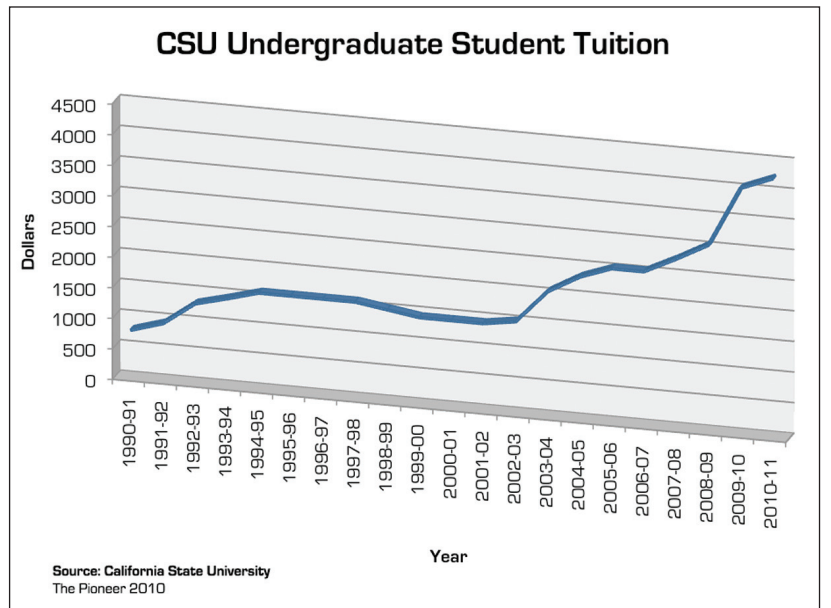
By Richard Duboc
Business Editor

On Tuesday, the California State University Board of Trustees Committee on Finance voted to approve a 5 percent tuition increase that will go into effect at the start of the 2011 Winter quarter.

In only a month, resident undergraduate students taking a full course load will be required to pay an additional \$81 in tuition.

This news is coming a day after the CSU Board of Trustees voted to officially start calling student charges that precede the start of every quarter (or semester) "tuition" instead of "fees." Historically, public higher education in California was always envisioned to be "tuition-free"—however, times have changed. "Fee increases"

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CSUEB students bring a modern edge to a Greek tragedy.

ALDRIN BULAYO / THE PIONEER

"Xtigone" Premieres This Weekend

By Ashley Matuszak
A&E Editor

The African American Shakespeare company and CSU East Bay have come together to create a relatable and rhythmic version of a classic.

"Xtigone," a modern adaptation of Sophocles' Greek tragedy "Antigone," is set to premiere at CSUEB's University Theater this Friday night.

"Xtigone" is directed by

CSUEB associate professor of theatre and dance Darryl Jones and written by Nambi E. Kelley, who grew up in the Projects of Chicago in the 1970s. The music in "Xtigone" is by San Francisco actor, educator and musician Tommy Shepherd, and brings in a variety of styles, from jazz, blues and even some reggae influences. "Xtigone" also features spoken word, rap and has a contemporary, edgy cho-

rus line that perfectly accents all of the music stylings.

"Xtigone" is set in Chicago, where gang violence and children being lost by their families to the streets is a common occurrence. Antigone, along with her sister and the rest of the black community, are devastated when Antigone's two brothers are killed in a drive-by shooting. Antigone's corrupt uncle and Illinois gubernato-

rial candidate, Marcellus, is actually contributing to the violence rather than amending it—something his devoted followers are oblivious.

Antigone, determined to get someone to hear her cries of frustration, goes against a new rule of Marcellus, and a series of tragic events unfold.

In a world where fear of being a victim of the

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