

## Editorial

# The Not-so-diverse Side of CSUEB

It is no secret that the student body at Cal State East Bay is one of the most diverse in the country. What is sometimes overlooked here, however, is this university's extremely similar-looking faculty.

While the school's students are split fairly evenly—with four different ethnicities having more than 1,000 students enrolled each year this decade—faculty has steadily remained overwhelmingly white—and male.

According to the school's 2003 Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) report, a whopping 70 percent of CSUEB's faculty was white. Further, just seven percent of CSUEB's faculty members were Hispanic, despite Hispanics representing 11 percent of the student body. These numbers compare to overall California State University averages of 74 percent white and eight percent Hispanic faculty at the time. The numbers at CSUEB have changed little since.

It's not just Hispanic students who have a disproportionate representation in terms of student-to-faculty ratios. In the same 2003 report, only seven percent of faculty was black (although it should be noted that this is double the CSU average) while blacks made up 10 percent of students. Asians, meanwhile, made up only

16 percent of faculty (a little above the typical CSU) even though 25 percent of students were Asian.

And these numbers are only bound to get further apart if a more diverse faculty isn't recruited.

In 2001, for instance, 10 percent of students were Hispanic—now, 13 percent are Hispanic. Asian students have jumped from 23 to 28 percent in the last five years, while the percent of blacks has increased from 10 to 11 percent during that span.

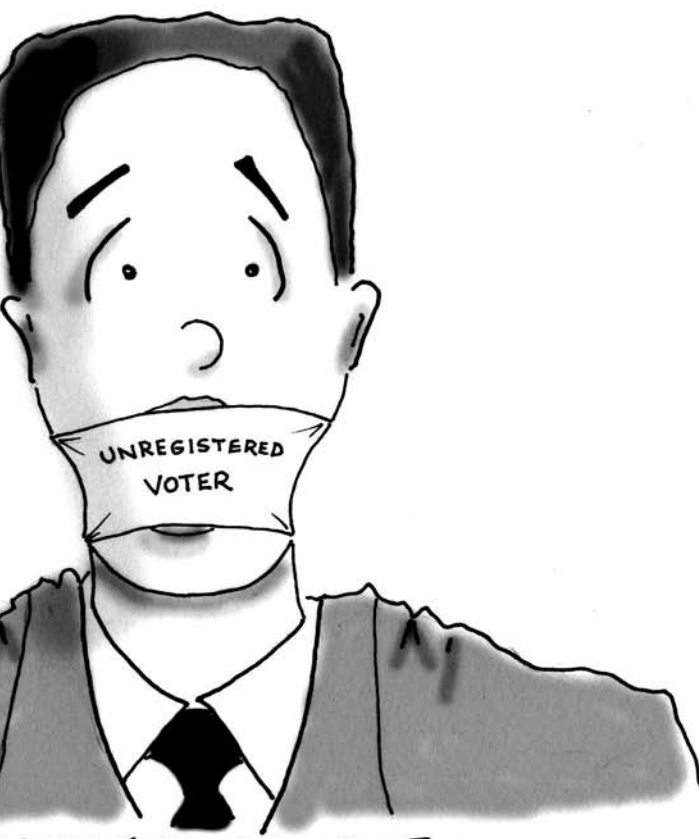
In a school where about one-quarter of the students are white, one-fourth are Asian and the remaining half are comprised of other races, it seems difficult to believe that more than two-thirds of the faculty here is white.

We're not saying that these white faculty members are unqualified—far from it. In fact, our goal as a society, especially in such a diverse one, should be to learn from our instructors and respect their knowledge and experience regardless of their skin color.

For many students, however, learning from professors who are of the same ethnicity gives them a distinct advantage that they couldn't have otherwise. Members of the Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association have pointed out that Hispanic students deal with certain problems that other students do not encounter because

of their race, meaning there are some things they can learn only from Hispanic faculty, especially when it comes to advising.

Evidence shows that discrimination against students because of ethnicity may play a part, as well. In this year's campus climate survey of nearly 2,200 students, three-fourths of white students said all faculty members were fair to students regardless of racial or ethnic backgrounds. These numbers were compared to responses from Hispanics (65 percent), Asians (48 percent) and blacks (46 percent) who said all faculty



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members were fair to students regardless of race.

Another disproportionate ratio involves the lack of women faculty members. Going back to the 2003 WASC report, about 41 percent of faculty members were women, while female students represented about 63 percent of the university's enrollment.

Instructors are predominantly white and male nationwide, but CSUEB is not your typical U.S. school. Because this university has such a multicultural student body—of which the administration is justifiably proud—additional effort to hire more ethnically and culturally

diverse full-time faculty is needed here than at other universities.

An effort to do so would not only aid the students currently enrolled, but would certainly be a major selling point in attracting students from Alameda and Contra Costa counties, two particularly diverse areas that produce for many CSUEB students.

While there is nothing wrong with having qualified faculty who happen to be predominantly white males, there is something wrong with selling the student body short by not given them access to a wide variety of racially diverse instructors from which to learn.

## Letter to the Editor

### Headline

Dear Editor:

Your Oct. 12 editorial "Food Situation on Campus Still Unsettling" is a good beginning. I would expand on it and the Oct. 12 editorial cartoon, which deserves accolades for shining a light on the stupidity of fanfare for burgers, pizza and lettuce salads.

In addition to looking at what is available and buying some of the purportedly hot food, I have been asking other students for their opinions and thoughts. More than one student said that the pizza looked unappetizingly like a hunk of undercooked dough that could only be made worse by a round in a microwave.

One student, who transferred from another CSU campus, pointed out that the lack of nutritional content of the food leaves a student listless, unable to concentrate and angry. The same student also pointed out that the ingredients are inexpensive and being sold at high prices.

The Cal State East Bay powers-that-be should do their best to lure back the owners of Kampus Kerner, which served wholesome, natural foods without chemical additives, e.g., two flavors of freshly made soup daily; smoothies made from orange juice and whole, frozen fruit (no filler ice or prepack chemical base); and fresh salads with a variety of ingredients. The owners also offered much-appreciated Mediterranean cuisine. The tables near where the birds play will become useful once again.

While we're up the hill, many have expressed their dissatisfaction at the loss of the Orient Express, where I used to buy steamed rice and al dente broccoli, without MSG. Everyone I talked to wants Panda Express to label all items with MSG because either they or someone they know is allergic to MSG. I would prefer that the school tell Panda Express to sell nothing on campus containing MSG and put up a sign announcing "No MSG."

Everyone has complained bitterly about the very high prices and not just at the new coffee kiosk or the candy, potato chip and ice cream store on the right side just inside the Union's front door.

There are some very serious problems with the food now available at the Union, some of which should be on the university's risk management agenda. The most serious issue is that the parents of students who are living on or near campus, who are prisoners of the food available on campus, could sue the school for failing to provide nutritious food alternatives three times a day, seven days a week. Parents don't send their children to college to become obese and subject to illnesses because the children are not consistently being offered healthy fare.

The university had an opportunity to replace Subway with a healthy-food sandwich table, like one would find in a business district along with reasonably-priced fruits. Pre-wrapped sandwiches made with who-knows-what and in a take-it-or-leave-it combination is inappropriate for a population trapped and held prisoner by distance from alternative restaurants.

Books and water are heavy enough. This disgusting-looking, unhealthy food requires those of us with kitchens, who could otherwise afford to purchase a meal or two on campus, to pack meals that take time from studying or other of life's activities. On Tuesdays I have classes from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., requiring me to pack lunch and dinner on Monday nights and then, on Tuesday morning, to get up early enough to make and eat breakfast at home before my 90-minute commute to school. And then, I have to schlep an extra bag with the meals in it.

Junior colleges, Laney and San Francisco City College are only two local examples where better food is served. Also, when their cafeterias are closed, there are other restaurants within an easy walk, so that no one has to go hungry or eat frozen, preservative-riddled food from a vending machine, which must then be heated in a microwave—if one can gain access to a classroom building on a weekend.

Everyone I asked and overheard on campus, the shuttle and the AC Transit 92 agreed with the editorial. The lack of international food available on a campus that purportedly caters to the international students is egregious. Traditional, American-diner food is not healthy for anyone and is an insult to international students and the intelligence and palates of the locals.

The way to solve these problems is for all CSU people who participated in the decision to evict Kampus Kerner and Dana's Hot Dogs—and not re-

## The PIONEER

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## Commentary

# Students' Guide to the Upcoming Election

Voting is a right that U.S. citizens over the age of 18 have been granted by our government—a right that many college students fail to take advantage of.

When 50 students were asked why they had not voted in the last election, inconvenience was the most frequent cause cited, followed by a lack of knowledge about the ballot measures or minor races.

If you're lazy, like me, there is an answer called absentee balloting. Taking time to find a polling station and vote is often troublesome. Absentee voting is a process to let voters register and cast their vote by mail. Having a ballot sent to your residence, filling it out and returning it is simple and easy.

To register simply visit the Alameda County Voters Registration Web site and print out the registration card. Once the card is mailed in, you will receive a voter's guide and the ballot. Filling out and mailing a ballot requires no traveling or waiting, and very little effort. Anyone that is asking you to register to vote has the same absentee ballot blank on the voter's registration form they hand you. You have until tomorrow to mail your registration and it must be received by Monday.

The following guide is a list of the major ballot issues in California that will appear on the November ballot:

**Proposition 1A** Transportation Funding Protection – Should the California Constitution be amended to further protect the state sales tax revenues for transportation purposes from general-purpose use and require any funds borrowed to be repaid to the transportation fund? Proponents: Let's Rebuild California (multiple agency association); Opponents: Assembly Education Committee (unknown).

**Proposition 1C** Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006 - Should the state sell \$2.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund housing for lower-income residents and development in urban areas near public transportation? Proponents: Let's Rebuild California (multiple agency association); Opponents: Assemblyman Chuck DeVore (republican assemblyman).

**Proposition 1B** Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention - Should the state sell \$4.1 billion in general obligation bonds to finance disaster preparedness and flood prevention projects at the state and local levels? Proponents: Let's Rebuild California (multiple agency association); Opponents: California Taxpayer Protection Committee (anti governmental spending committee).

**Proposition 84** Water Quality, Safety and Supply – Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection and Park Improvements – Should the state issue \$5.4 billion in bonds for a wide variety of projects related to water safety, rivers, beaches, levees, watersheds, and parks and forests? Proponents: Californians for Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection; Opponents: California Taxpayer Protection Committee (anti-governmental spending committee).

**Proposition 86** Tax on Cigarettes – Should the state impose an additional tax of \$2.60 per cigarette pack to fund new and expanded health services, health insurance for children and expand tobacco use prevention programs? Proponents: Coalition for a healthy California; Opponents: Philip Morris Tobacco Company.

**Proposition 88** Education Funding, Real Property Parcel Tax – Should the California Constitution be amended to levy an annual \$50 real property tax on most parcels with the funds allocated to five K-12 education programs? Proponents: Taxpayers for Better Schools and Smaller Classes; Opponents: Californians Against the Statewide Parcel Property Tax.

**Proposition 90** Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property – Should the California Constitution be amended to require government to pay property owners for substantial economic losses resulting from some new laws and rules, and limit government authority to take ownership of private property? Proponents: California Protect our Homes Coalition; Opponents: Californians Against the Taxpayer Trap.

**Proposition 1B** Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security State of California - Should the state sell \$19.9 billion in general obligation bonds to fund state and local transportation improvement projects to relieve congestion, improve movement of goods, improve air quality, and enhance safety and security of the transportation system? Proponents: Let's Rebuild California (multiple agency association); Opponents: California Taxpayer Protection Committee (anti governmental spending committee).

**Proposition 1D** Kindergarten – University Public Education Facilities - Should the state sell \$10.4 billion in general obligation bonds to fund repair and upgrade of public schools, including kindergarten through grade 12, community colleges and state universities? Proponents: Lance Olson (connected with Lets Rebuild California); Opponents: California Taxpayer Protection Committee (anti-governmental spending committee).

**Proposition 83** Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators, Punishment, Restrictions and Monitoring – Should California amend existing laws relating to violent and habitual sex offenders and child molesters to increase penalties and monitoring? Proponents: Campaign for Child Safety; Opponents: California Attorneys for Criminal Justice.

**Proposition 85** Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy – Should the California Constitution be amended to require notification of the parent or legal guardian of an unemancipated pregnant minor at least 48 hours before performing an abortion? Proponents: Parent's Right to Know and Child Protection; Opponents: Real Teen Safety.

**Proposition 87** Alternative Energy – Research, Production, Incentives, Tax on California Oil Producers – Should California establish a \$4 billion Clean Alternative Energy Program to reduce California's oil and gasoline consumption by 25 percent through incentives for alternative energy, education and training? Proponents: Californians for Clean Energy; Opponents: Independent Oil Producers Agency and Western States Petroleum Association and Chevron Oil Company.

**Proposition 89** Political Campaigns, Public Financing, Corporate Tax Increase. Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Limits – Should eligible candidates for state elective offices receive public campaign funding that is supported by new taxes on corporations and financial institutions, and should contribution limits be imposed on those candidates that do not receive public campaign funding? Proponents: Californians for Clean Elections; Opponents: Chevron/Texaco and State Farm Auto Insurance.

By Aaron Hunger

place her with a broader-alternative (fruit and sandwich) truck on that end of campus—and to bring in ARAMARK, whether still attending and/or working at the Hayward campus of CSU and all employees of ARAMARK who negotiated the contract to be required to eat every meal as many days a week as they are available for, at least, one solid month, regardless of anyone's food allergies and nutritional requirements.

I'm willing to wager that each and every person who is forced to be on equal footing with students and employees who have no other choice will agree that the food ARAMARK is providing is, in legal parlance, not merchantable for intended use. ARAMARK should then be given the opportunity to remedy this by providing nutritional meals with wholesome ingredients at reasonable

prices at all times when students living in dorms without kitchens need to eat three squares a day. With ARAMARK's failing to so provide, CSU will have solid legal grounds to terminate the contract for failure of substantial compliance with (at least) the spirit of the contract, if not its specific language (specific performance). Further, on behalf of all employees, students and students' parents, there is a complete failure of good faith on the part of the university and ARAMARK to provide appropriate food service on campus to students and employees.

The consensus of my informal poll and eavesdropping was that only when the Cal State East Bay powers that be are forced to buy and eat the food they have made available on campus will there be available reasonably-priced, natural-ingredient, freshly-prepared foods—and hot if it's supposed to be.

C.J. Kingsley  
Bachelor's of environmental studies candidate, who is grateful she is in the Class of December 2006