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The PIONEER

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Students Flock to Career Fair



Photo/ Nicole Pestana

By Christine Sibley
Staff Writer

The walkway leading to Meiklejohn Hall was covered Thursday for several hours by students and others crowded into Fall Career Fair 2001, an event offering a chance to speak with representatives of more than 70 businesses and government agencies.

Many booths had lines crossing the walkway. PG&E, for example, had more than 30 students waiting in line. One student said, "It is a stable company. That is why I am applying." Other firms in demand included Genetech, Target and Chevron. Among the crowd were CSUH Criminal Justice majors, standing in line at booths such as U.S. Customs,

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration and IRS Criminal Investigation Division. These agencies were hiring for security jobs and investigative positions. They require travel or relocation.

U.S. Investigation services was

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More Than \$150,000 Embezzled From Cal State Hayward Since 1996 Accountant Allegedly Financed Home Improvements, Personal Computer System

By Zachary Honeycutt
Staff Writer

Taking advantage of a system lacking in checks and balances, a Cal State Hayward accountant embezzled more than \$150,000 to finance home improvements and a personal computer system, according to a university audit released last week.

CSUH officials said David Wright, the accountant who allegedly committed the embezzlement from the CSUH Educational Foundation, perpetrated the scheme over a period of nearly five years.

They said Wright was under investigation by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office and that charges, including possible felony charges, were expected shortly. Wright could be required to pay restitution by the courts, they added.

Wright was the sole accountant in the Educational Foundation, and, the audit says, made his depositions between July 18, 1996, and March 8, 2001.

It says Wright misappropriated funds by forging signatures, producing fraudulent documentation and fabricating check requests, among other actions.

Funds were allegedly misappropriated over 40 times, and at least \$300 each time. The largest single amount taken by Wright, according to the audit, was \$17,000.

Wright was dismissed from the university on Aug. 3 after having been relieved of his accounting duties in June. He had been an employee of CSUH since September 1992, and had worked in the Office of University Advancement since Aug. 1995.

Dennis Eloe, vice president for University Advancement, said he was confident that the university would recover all money lost, and that restitution would be paid by the accused embezzler.

"We have insurance coverage," said Eloe. "Between the two, restitution and insurance, we hope to cover the funds that were allegedly embezzled."

University officials maintain that these crimes will not affect students in any way and expressed confidence that the university would not feel an impact, as the loss amounted to a small percentage of the combined \$20 million endowment of the Educational

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University To Look at New Sites for Internet Center

By Christopher Talbott
And Nneke Opene
Staff Writers

Concerns about air quality have Cal State Hayward looking at new locations for the proposed, on-campus Internet switching facility.

Richard Metz, CSUH vice president for administration and business services, declined to disclose what sites were under consideration, but hinted that the original site south of the university dormi-

tories remained the first choice.

Metz's office announced this week that a campus Facilities Planning Committee meeting on the matter, originally scheduled for Nov. 8, had been postponed. A new date has not been set.

"There were more changes than anticipated and we are not ready to move forward," said Metz.

go-ahead to lease a parcel of land valued at about \$6 million to Geographic Network Affiliates (GEO) for construction of the switching station, a

move that has brought objections from neighbors over degradation of their view and the environment.

The university and GEOgraphic Network Affiliates of Connecticut plan to build two four-story buildings totaling 380,000 square feet and a parking lot that will accommodate 230 employee and visitor spaces.

"The administration at Cal State [Hayward] didn't even describe the center to the neighbor-

hood and also didn't give a public, legal notice for the two buildings that will block our gorgeous views," said Rob Simpson, a resident of the Grandview neighborhood, east of campus.

"This project meets the interests of the neighbors and the campus," said Metz, adding that he felt the university and GEO had followed city and state regulations.

But Grandview residents feel that the university

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Presentation Brings the True Afghanistan to CSUH

By Jennifer Givens
Staff Writer

Since the events of Sept. 11th, students and faculty at Cal State University have been voicing their feelings on the "War on Terrorism."

Tuesday, the perspective was that of the Bay Area's Afghan community.

Selected campus and non-campus organizations joined to bring the presentation "Afghanistan Unveiled" to CSUH.

The presentation was designed to educate those attending about the people, history and culture of Afghanistan and their relationship to the beleaguered nation's status in world politics and its government background.

Also shared were the personal experiences and memories of CSUH students.

The first presenter was Ron Kihara, an administrative assistant in the CSUH department of administration and business affairs, who was spoke on behalf of the Asian American Educators Council (AAEC).

Kihara thanked the other panelists for participating and voiced his enthusiasm for the number of attendees, then introduced Dr. Sonjia Redmond.

Redmond, acting vice president of student affairs at CSUH, brought a welcome message President Norma Rees and said everybody should, "be proud to be a member of this diverse commu-

nity." She added that the event showed that CSUH students wanted to learn more about the various elements connected to the terror attacks.

A. Hadi Azimi of Afghan Students Association introduced Deana Haya of the Society of Afghan Professionals, who stressed the importance of understanding Afghan history - ancient and modern.

The presentation outlined 4,000 years of constant wars and battles for power, both internal and external. The presentation painted an image of Afghanistan that is different than most western eyes have seen. The presentation portrayed a modern nation with a capital city that could have easily been mistaken for a metropolitan city in the United States today.

Her presentation was cut short, due to time restraints, ending with Afghanistan's independence from Britain in 1919.

Then came Baktash Farzana, dressed in Afghan clothing and speaking in Farsi through an interpreter.

Farzana offered a few words about his past before disappearing behind the blue projection screen. A few minutes later, he reappeared in a more western style of dress.

His family left Afghanistan in 1979 and moved to Portland, Ore., where Farzana spent most of his life. He discussed his memories of Oregon and the changes that faced his when his family moved to Fremont.

It was during this time that Farzana learned the importance of being proud of one's background and of the need for tolerance and understanding toward people who are "different."

His main point was that Afghan-Americans should be seen as human beings and not just as a classification.

See Afghan , page 3.

CSUH Enrollment Up 4.1 Percent

By Christine Sibley
Staff Writer

Cal State University Hayward enrollment has topped 13,000 for the first time in 10 years, with a current head count of 13,225.

New figures show a 4.1 percent increase over fall 2000, according to University Enrollment Services. The CSUH campus has not had an increase of over 4 percent in head count enrollment since 1981.

Robert Stroble, vice president of university enrollment services, said there also has been a 4 percent increase in full-time students.

The university also showed growth in the number of students transferring from community colleges and other institutions, as well as in continuing students.

The number of junior transfer students rose by 14 percent. The number of sophomore students increased by 23 percent.

The enrollment statistics were re-

leased on Oct. 19 from the enrollment services student database.

"These figures are current with the enrollment census report," said Stroble.

Since 1996, CSUH's enrollment of foreign students has increased each year. The largest increase was 23 percent during the 1999-2000 academic year.

This fall quarter the foreign student growth rate was 11 percent, representing 241 students, said Stroble.

The terrorist attack on America has caused little or no change in foreign student enrollment.

University president Norma Rees is pleased with the new enrollment data. "We're looking good," she said.

CSU enrollment systemwide is expected to rise by 37 percent between 1998 and 2010, according to the Academic Senate.

"We're reaching our highest enrollment ever, just as the state economy is turning down," said Colleen Bentley-Alder, systemwide CSU spokeswoman.

Pile O' Dirt



Under Construction: Those heaps of soil around Warren hall indicate work is under way on the campus' multi-million-dollar recabbling project.

Photo/ Nicole Pestana