

# Editorial

## Divine Explosion

**T**o err is human, to forgive divine.

In 1711, Alexander Pope published his piece, "An Essay on Criticism," which contains this famous quote. Pope was, of course, referring to the human capability for transgression and God's — as well as people's — capacity to pardon those mistakes.

Based on Pope's usage and the usual definitions of divine — exalted, perfect, heavenly — one has to wonder at the naming of an upcoming U.S. military experiment at the Nevada test site: "Divine Strake."

The experiment, originally scheduled for June 2, has been postponed until June 23 due to battles taking place in court to prevent it, including a lawsuit brought by the Winnemucca tribe.

The use of the word "divine" in relation to an explosion of this magnitude is interesting — and is that "strake" thing a typo meant to be "strike?" If this is the first time you have heard about the experiment — and that would not be surprising considering that the mainstream media aren't talking about it — the name is worth pondering for just a moment to consider it in comparison to other government operations.

Consider "Infinite Justice," the title given to the U.S. military action in Afghanistan that was later re-named "Enduring Freedom" after it was revealed that Muslims believe that only Allah can dispense infinite justice. However, the implications of the project go well beyond its unusual moniker.

There have been no tests of nuclear weapons on the site in 14 years, and according to the Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency, "Divine Strake" is not a weapons test, much less a nuclear one. Instead, it is a test of the effects of using 700 tons of ammonium nitrate/fuel oil on deeply

buried targets.

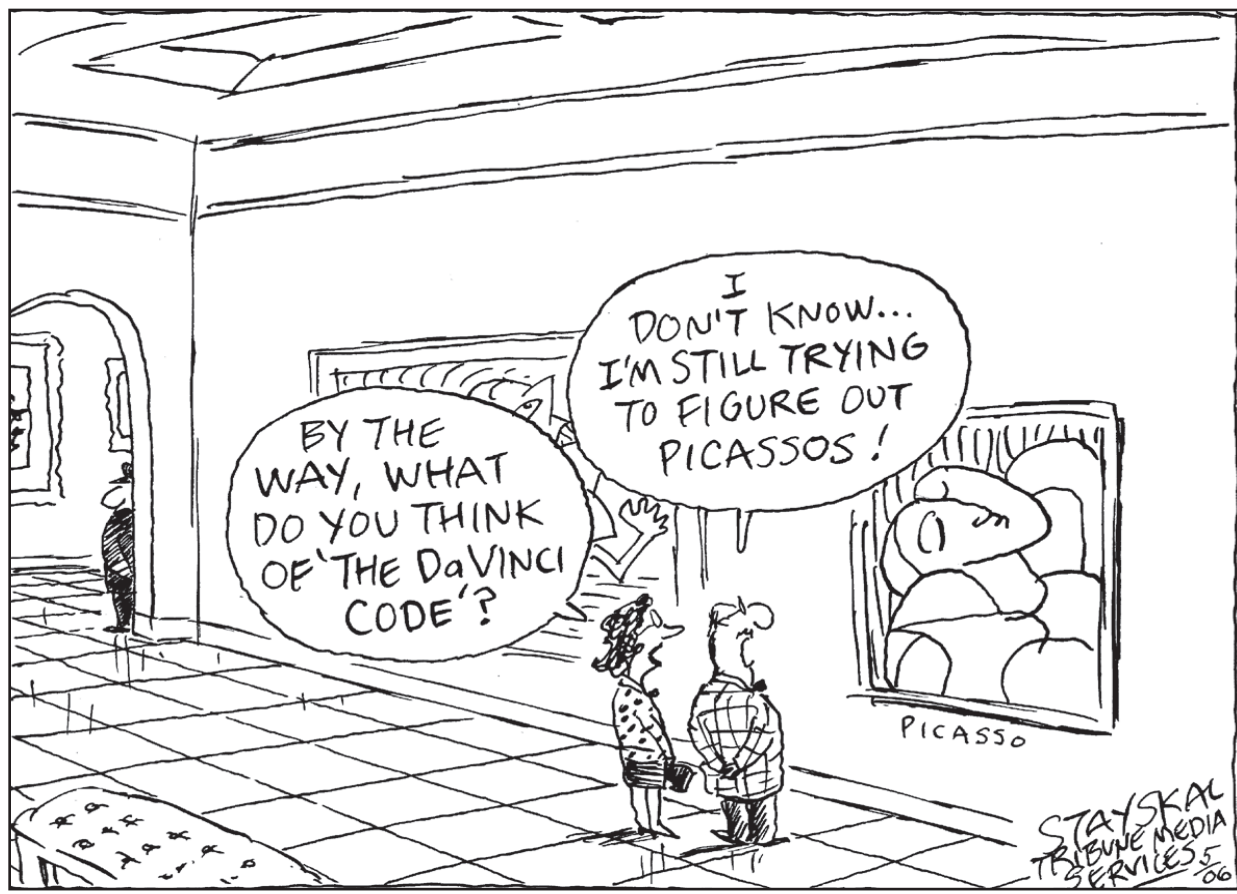
Although DTRA has claimed that the experiment will be safe, protesters are concerned about the disturbance of radioactive particles remaining from tests conducted at the test site in the past and that this particular test will eventually lead to the reinstatement of nuclear weapons testing in the United States.

It comes as no surprise that some who live in the area are skeptical. The government acted as if it was perfectly safe to test atomic weapons in the same desert in the '50s and '60s. The results of the tests were illness for many people downwind of the test site in St. George, Utah and other points east.

The government also acted as if it was perfectly safe for rescue workers during 9/11 to work at ground zero, and the result was massive illness for people with little or no access to health care. The government doesn't seem to worry about depleted uranium in Iraq either, and the result is danger to our troops and to innocent lives in that country.

The price of the test in dollars is very high: 23 million big ones, and that price tag does not even take into consideration other details, like the possibility of danger to the environment and human health. And once again, this nation spends needed funds on destruction rather than on measures to alleviate the country's burgeoning energy troubles.

"An Essay on Criticism" is the same piece that contains the often uttered phrase, "a little learning is a dangerous thing." Certainly, our government will learn something from the execution of "Divine Strake." But if the test takes place and the negative effects that are feared come to fruition, it would be reasonable to expect people's reactions to be something a bit short of divine.



IN THE U.S., MINIATURIZATION HAS BECOME VERY POPULAR. CELLPHONES, VIDEO, COMPUTERS, IPODS.....



## Commentary

### Vote! Local Campaigns Impact College Students

**E**lection Day is coming up on June 6th and one of California's most competitive legislative races is taking place here in the Bay Area. The 10th State Senate District stretches from San Leandro to San Jose, and out to Pleasanton, and includes Fremont and Hayward, the fourth and fifth largest cities in the Bay Area, respectively. The open seat is contested by three qualified candidates, all of whom have legislative experience in the State Assembly: Ellen Corbett, John Dutra, and Johan Klehs. In the State Senate, where decisions are made regarding the budget, funding for public schools and tuition at community colleges, the successful candidate in this race will have a significant impact on the future of the state.

**Isra Abid**

*Sometimes as college students we forget, or don't even know, how these elections affect the future of California, but the fact is that choosing who represents us in the State Senate will impact our generation in many ways.*

Sometimes as college students we forget, or don't even know, how these elections affect the future of California, but the fact is that choosing who represents us in the State Senate will impact our generation in many ways. The growing budget deficit, for example, which now exceeds \$50 billion, will prove to be a burden for young, college-age students. Addressing this issue is difficult for many politicians; most cannot provide coherent solutions and usually avoid the issue. Unfortunately, avoiding this problem contributes to a growing deficit and continuing budget cuts that will cause further harm to our generation. One striking example of this is what has happened over the past few years at the state's higher education institutions.

Deficit spending by the State Legislature has led to significant fee hikes at community colleges and the CSU and UC systems. Since 2002, community college tuition has increased 136 percent with the cost of a single unit

rising from \$11 to \$26. UC and CSU systems have also struggled with a 14 percent fee increase in the past three years, a result of cuts to higher education programs by the legislature and governor. In addition to slashing programs and growing class sizes, the tuition increases have left recent college grads with significant burdens: the average student graduating from a four-year university now leaves with nearly \$20,000 in debt.

It is our generation that will struggle to resolve this debt, both the state's \$50 billion and our own personal debt accumulated to achieve a higher education. Often we think that state legislative races do not affect us because they do not always involve student fees or textbook prices, but it must be remembered that management of the state's finances will affect the state's future financial health. We should look at the options we have for this State Senate race and take advantage of the power we have as voters. We must vote for the candidate that can best address — and solve — the state's pressing challenges. We must find the candidate with the knowledge and experience to balance a budget. We must vote on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. We must care, because our future depends on it.

More information on the campaigns for State Senate, District 10 can be found on their individual webpage, or on [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org), an excellent resource for all local, state, and federal elections.  
*Isra Abid  
Junior, Business Administration  
Minor, Political Science*

### Pioneer Letter Policy

The Pioneer welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and provide a phone number. Letters may also be shortened to fit allocated space, and they may be edited for libelous content. Send letters via e-mail to [thepioneernewspaper@yahoo.com](mailto:thepioneernewspaper@yahoo.com), or by postal mail to Letters to the Editor, The Pioneer, Cal State University, East Bay, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward, CA 94542.

## Letter to The Editor

### Vandalism Smears Good Intentions

**A**s student leaders who are active on a commuter campus like Cal State East Bay, student involvement and raising student awareness are extremely important to campus life. The past two weeks of ASI's elections prove how individuals and organizations rise to the challenge of student representation and governance.

For the first time in several years, ASI elections are competitive, with two opposing slates vying to represent student interests. Although this spirit of competition has the potential to highlight issues and bring student interests to the forefront of the debate, this same competition has unfortunately fostered an atmosphere where individuals have resorted to vandalizing Diverse Action's flyers and posters.

This vandalism is not just directed at Diverse Action, but also at independent candidates. Imagine finding hundreds of your recently posted crumpled flyers in a garbage can.

Imagine all your hard work and time wasted. Imagine the dona-

tions you collected and personal money you contributed thrown away like pieces of trash.

Vandals don't just destroy pieces of paper, they destroy a student's will to become a student leader. Friends and allies of Diverse Action have called for retaliation, but stooping to such "high school" levels will only undermine the values and principles our slate of candidates stands for.

Diverse Action denounces any and all vandalism to all candidates' flyers, posters, and pamphlets, and we call on all students regardless of affiliation to get out and vote.

If you share our vision like so many student organizations, such as PASA, Black Grad, the POSC Club, Young Democrats, MECha, the Parents of the Early Childhood Education Center, and many more, be sure to get out and vote and stand up for the diversity and democratic process here at Cal State East Bay.

*Brady Calma, senior, political science major on behalf of Diverse Action*

## Letter to The Editor

### Personal Attack Not Appreciated

**I** am writing to voice my concerns regarding your recently published article by Mario Sanchez, entitled "I Thought You Graduated ... Get a Job!" Although this article attempts to deconstruct and rebuke my arguments against the U.S. military being allowed to recruit here on campus during the job fair in a letter to the editor of this paper, it quite literally is simply a personal attack on me. I really question the journalistic integrity of this paper for allowing such rubbish to even be printed to begin with. I realize that this was a "commentary," but Mr. Sanchez goes way too far. Have you ever heard of the word, "libel"? Well, let me spell it out for those who haven't.

Libel is defined as a false and malicious publication printed for the purpose of defaming a living person. Seems to me at least a couple of things Mr. Sanchez says in his article, including that I am "obviously undisciplined"

are totally outrageous. Quite frankly, I demand a retraction. Mr. Sanchez: it's Journalism 101: you don't personally attack people! It's just poor taste and it detracts from your commentary.

I never said to mind your own business. I said to get involved no matter what your opinion is. I said that indifference is our real enemy. So again, excuse me for trying to inspire people to come out to a demonstration on campus once in a while and actually care about something. What's it matter to you if it's five people or one hundred people? We did something. I wonder: what are you doing? We'll still disagree no matter what Mr. Sanchez, but at least I can give my argument without attacking your character. The moment you did that, you lost sir. You lost.

*Tina Phillips  
Alliance for Social Justice*

## Letter to The Editor

### Confused about Proposed Main University Goal

**C** SUEB's Academic Senate has been discussing five proposed University goals and objectives. The first of these states:

"[CSUEB should] develop and sustain rich academic programs that meet student and regional needs and are recognized for their excellence in teaching, learning, research and service."

No quarrel with much of the wording here, but what does it say that our programs are driven by student and regional needs? Could someone answer the following:

1. Will student needs be determined by majority vote? Will remediation of students' votes count the same as, say, honors students' votes?

2. Will faculty have a say? It used to be that universities passed on culture and knowledge "generation to generation" and that faculty were uniquely trained and qualified to do this.

3. Will regional needs be decided by interviewing the noisi-

est and neediest corporations, government agencies, etc. in our region? Does this mean we follow rather than lead in the Bay Area? Since Barnes & Noble just helped put Cody's out of business, does this mean that CSUEB should now supply clerks to shelve books and CDs at B&N rather than well-educated employees at Cody's? Is CSUEB becoming a vocational institute? Shouldn't the new president have a say in this?

4. Will our graduates be out of luck if they move to another region where vocational needs are different? Maybe I've been out of touch, but are all the other CSUs now regionally oriented? I thought universities prepared people to cope better with the unforeseen challenges of their region, state, country, and world. This universal rather than vocational preparation for life was one reason such institutions were called universities.

*Karl Schonborn, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Sociology and Social Services*

## Letter to The Editor

### Target, Wal-Mart and Others Provide Exceptional Job Opportunities

**T**hanks to Editor-in-Chief Mike Rosenberg for attending the Last Chance Job & Internship Fair (along with about 1,500 of his peers) and writing an editorial. I'd like to set the record straight about his perceptions about the employers at the event.

Target, besides being one of the fastest growing retailers, is a corporate sponsor of a number of campus activities (including the upcoming Leadership Summit), as well as a strong contributor to our community. Target pays interns up to \$16/hour and provides training in all facets of management including human resources, asset management, leadership and more. Once interns are trained, they are eligible for promotions and increased compensation. Many people don't know that a store manager at Target can earn \$100,000 per year. Wal-Mart also offers a management training program that provides a solid foundation of experience, allowing motivated employees to move up

quickly. In any case, these employers offer our students meaningful work at competitive salaries. They recruit candidates with 4-year degrees in order to ensure a steady stream of qualified internal candidates to fill high-level openings.

You are absolutely right — to have an edge in the job market, students should get an internship, maintain a high GPA and develop relationships with faculty (and career development counselors). However, life happens, and not all of our students do this. That's why the Job & Internship Fair provided a multitude of employers (148 to be exact) with over 600 possible job openings. Our staff worked very hard to provide a good mix of employers to serve our diverse population. We are grateful that so many attended, and we are indebted to the employers that support our campus.

*Rae Ann Ianniello  
Director  
Career Development Center*

# The PIONEER

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**Distribution**

Kay Rodriguez  
Denny McLaughlin  
**Faculty Design/Production/ Graphics Director**  
Eric Ronning

**Tel:** 510.885.3175

**Fax:** 510.885.2765

**Mailing Addresses**

*Pioneer Advertising*  
CSUEB - M1 1075  
510-885-3526

*Pioneer Editorial*  
CSUEB - M1 1076

25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.  
Hayward, CA 94542

**E-mail Address**

[thepioneernewspaper@yahoo.com](mailto:thepioneernewspaper@yahoo.com)

**Web Address**

[pioneer.csueastbay.edu](http://pioneer.csueastbay.edu)