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The PIONEER

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Before and After...



Cracked art: Artist Bruce Beasley's glass sculpture, recently installed east of Meiklejohn Hall, met an unfortunate fate last week. A small crack was reported at midday Friday, and by the time CSUH staff members arrived to inspect the work, a large chunk had broken off the main body, cracking the cement base on which the sculpture was erected. The piece, which had been in storage at CSUH for nearly 20 years, was donated to the university by Southland Mall, according to Randy Gale, director of facilities management. It was erected on campus on Monday, June 18, 2001. There is no plan yet regarding disposition of the sculpture. Photo/ Nicole Pestana

Ground Breaking Delayed for New Business and Technology Center

By Tiffany Grogg
Staff Writer

Ground breaking for the 100,000 square-foot Business and Technology Center, the first new building to be erected at Cal State Hayward since 1971, was tentatively scheduled for later this year, but has been set back pending further fund raising.

The project's estimated cost is about \$20 million, with half of that money coming from private sources and the other half matched by public funds. So far the university has raised \$6.5 million, most as a \$5 million pledge from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation.

With a new architect brought in to help scale down the project to meet financial limitations, the construction of the new center still may be under way in the near future, according to university officials.

"We are cautiously optimistic to break ground in late 2002," said Darwin Patnode, director of major gifts for the Department of University Advancement.

"The new center has been a dream of the faculty, staff and students as long as I have been here," said Sam Basu, associate dean of the School of Business and Economics. "The quality of the programs will increase and hopefully have a positive impact for everyone."

The CSUH Educational Foundation is helping raise money for the project through its "Buy a Brick" program. Participants may purchase an inscribed brick for either the foyer or the courtyard of the new building.

The price ranges from \$250 for the courtyard to \$1000 for the foyer. Purchasers either pay in full or over a five-year period.

"Buy a Brick" already has raised \$165,000 for the new center.

The new building is designed to enable students to keep up with the demands of the ever changing high-tech world and will have the capability of providing satellite contact with CSUH learning facilities in Hong Kong, Moscow, Vienna and Singapore.

Students in the School of Business and Economics say they are excited to have the project under way.

"With all the new technologies out there, I think a new building would be a great idea," said Breshna Sherzad, a senior in the School of Business and Economics.

Be Afraid: Be Very Afraid of Credit Information Fraud

(Editor's note: The following and its accompanying story constitute the second installment in *The Pioneer's* series on privacy issues.)

By Lisa Moiley and Benjamin Wynn
Staff Writers

The Federal Trade Commission thinks you should be worried about your credit information falling into the wrong hands.

The selling of your personal and credit information is a growing phenomenon that is hindering consumers nationwide, in many cases without their having any knowledge of what is going on.

Companies that gather and sell personal and private information are called Consumer Reporting Agencies (CRA). CRAs sell consumer reports to creditors, employers, insurers and other businesses.

With a growing number of CRAs comes a growing number of identity theft cases, according to Flash, an organization concerned with privacy issues.

"Practically anyone can impersonate you using fake identity and obtain fraudulent credit cards," said Matt O'Brien of Flash. "With your Social Security number, driver's license number, and a fake credit card, anyone can receive additional valid credit or debit cards in your name."

"Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America, affecting 1,000 people every day," said O'Brien.

In 1997 the U.S. Secret Service made 9,455 arrests involving identity fraud, according to the FTC.

According to the Privacy Clearing House, there are over 400,000 thefts of identity each year, with annual losses of more than \$2,000 per person. The problem is expanding by 50 percent per year. You may be a victim and not even know it.

Hundreds of databases contain detailed information that can give someone access to credit in-

formation as well as personal information about your life, buying habits and much more. These databases are established when you apply for a charge account, a personal loan, insurance, or even a job.

"More than likely everyone you know is part of some type of database," said O'Brien.

This detailed personal information is also avail-

Personal Data Seen As Fair Game for Some Financial Institutions

By Loren Miramontes and Christy Turangan
Staff Writers

Most Americans probably have done business with financial institutions and have received privacy policies regarding their account.

However, most likely the long, complicated documents specifying a company's policy on the release of personal information usually end up in the garbage.

A customer service representative for Citibank said that firm released customer information only to its affiliates. Other banks, like Bank of America and Wells Fargo Bank, say the same thing.

By doing so, they say that they "will deliver superior service to customers."

"We use clients' information within our system company," said a supervisor for the San Leandro Washington Mutual branch.

She added that some information might be given to others that were within the corporation.

However, Citibank's privacy notice pamphlet states that the company may disclose personal in-

formation to certain types of nonaffiliated third parties as well. Those include financial services providers such as banks, credit card firms, consumer finance, securities, and insurance, and non-financial organization.

So where has everyone's right to privacy gone? In a recent commentary, Scott McNealy, chief executive officer of Sun Microsystems, said, "You have zero privacy anyway. Get over it."

However, the government doesn't believe this

See **Fraud**, page 4.

See **Data**, page 4.

Students Cope With High-Cost Housing

By Tiffany Harris
Staff Writer

Just as many Cal State Hayward students begin to replace their Scantrons for magazines and head to the beach, many more are already planning for next fall.

On July 6, Pioneer Heights residents will be dishing out their first rent installments for the 2001-2 academic year. Payments range from \$130 to \$3,510 depending on individually chosen student payment schedules.

Regina Metoyer, the director of Housing and Residential Life, anticipates that all 100 units of the on-campus apartments, which house a maximum of 400 students, will fill quickly.

"In 1999 we had 20 people on the waiting list, and 50 last September," she said. "We anticipate even more this year."

With the rent in a two-bedroom Pioneer Heights apartment averaging a total of \$3,510 for three quarters, it is no surprise Metoyer has her hands full. As most students are aware, finding affordable housing in the Bay Area is a very difficult task.

A two-bedroom apartment with two bathrooms in Castro Valley, advertised for \$1,500 a month, would cost the renter over \$13,500 for the academic year. An empty studio in Berkeley was posted with a rent of a whopping \$985 a month.

In addition to sky-high rent, students have to factor in books, transportation and other personal expenses. According to the Office of Financial Aid, the average undergraduate student living off-cam-

pus will spend about \$1,164 per quarter on books, transportation and other personal expenses. A student living on-campus will spend \$1,068.

With housing, gas, and electrical prices continuing to soar, how do Cal State Hayward students make ends meet? Roommates, roommates, and more roommates seems to be one of the most popular solutions to the cost-of-living dilemma.

"I have five roommates," said Hiroka Yamada, a speech pathology and audiology major. "We rent a four-bedroom house. One guy uses the living room as a room and another uses the den."

According to Yamada, of the \$1,700 monthly rent, she pays \$350. She estimates that her monthly expenses average just under \$1,000 a month. Yamada says her family pays for the majority of her expenses, and she pays for the rest through her part-time job on campus.

Marcio Costa, a computer science major, works part time at Carlos Bee Hall in exchange for a free room and meals. Costa, an international student from Brazil, tried living in off-campus apartments but it became too expensive.

"I lived in Carlos Bee at first, then I became friends with some people and the four of us moved into a two-bedroom in Wimbledon Woods," Costa said. "Our rent was \$1,800 a month, so we each paid \$450 plus utilities."

Costa received some help from his family, but paid most of his \$700 monthly expenses with his

See **Housing**, page 4.

Cyber Kids Found In University Union

By Kamané Malvo
Staff Writer

It could have been the scene from a *Romper Room* television special as 10 Cybercamps participants and their counselors sat around a lunch table, chit-chatting in the University Union at Cal State Hayward.

On 41 campuses nationwide, Cybercamps offers computer courses in programming, robotics, digital arts, cyber explorer, and game and Web design.

The curriculum at Cybercamps allows boys and girls from many different backgrounds to familiarize themselves with technology that can help them with educational and professional goals.

According to Kat Fitzgerald, area director for Cybercamps, participating children are exposed to a wealth of invaluable knowledge that transcends ethnicity and gender.

Lunch ended early so Annalisa Maashoff, the camp director, could let the children have a little free time before returning to cyber headquarters, on the first floor of the Union.

The most popular attractions that afternoon were the video games glowing from the arcade and the television network playing the latest music videos of pop stars like Christina Aguilera and Mandy Moore.

"You have to talk to Felicity, my 8-year-old [camper]. She is something else," Maashoff said pointing to a 55-pound, three-footer dressed in a chic lavender short set with matching socks. Her tanned face was perfectly accented with round-rimmed glasses.

Felicity clapped her hands and shimmied in time with the intricate choreography of Jennifer Lopez's last hit video, "Play."

"I'm the smallest," Felicity exclaimed, pointing to her chest. "So, I have to work really hard."

She tugged on a blue-and-white neck chain with the Cybercamps logo printed on it. Dangling from the end of the chain was a shimmering, golden key that she proudly held high in the air.

"I get to wear this because I'm special and I

work the hardest," she said with a wide grin.

A crowd of boys huddled around a video game machine, eagerly waiting for their chance to play a round of X-Men vs. Street Fighter.

Andrew stood out from the excited pack of little men. He was a couple of years older than his pals and possessed a patient manner that made him seem old beyond his 13 years.

"We do other activities besides computer games," he explained with a cool half-grin. "Tomorrow we're going swimming at the pool and we will have a water gun fight on the lawn."

See **Cyber**, page 4.



Cyber Power: Felicity (l.) and Azura (r.) get ready for group activities. Photo/ Jessica Cahill