

# THE MOSAIC

FRIDAY // JULY 6, 2007  
SAN JOSE URBAN JOURNALISM WORKSHOP  
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## SPORTS

### BONDS LEAVES MIXED LEGACY

Fans respect home runs, worry about steroid use

PATRICK LIU // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Ryan Allen grew up watching the San Francisco Giants and Barry Bonds.

He followed Bonds' journey to hitting 73 home runs in 2001, an accomplishment that stands as the sizzlegame-season home run record. He witnessed the Giants come oh-so-close in 2002 during the World Series against the Anaheim Angels.

Yet, he still does not know where he stands on the controversy over Bonds. Allen said he is aware that although numerous allegations of Bonds' link to steroids have been made, Bonds has never been proven guilty.

If Bonds is ever proven guilty of intentionally taking steroids, Allen said "I think there should be an asterisk [next to his record]."

Despite the embroilment of Bonds' alleged steroid use and Allen's own misgivings, the 17-year-old senior at Hanford High School in Hanford, will always acknowledge Bonds for the great player that he is. "He's probably the best player I've ever seen."

LEGACY >> PAGE 17



John Geawy, pitcher for the Cupertino National Junior Twins, prepares to throw a fastball into home plate. // JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF

## INSIDE >>



## THE STATE OF JOURNALISM

### DECLINE OF JOURNALISM AS WE KNOW IT

Newspapers redefine themselves during media landscape transition

EUNICE CHAN, SHIRIN GHAFFARTY, JESSICA CHOI, ASHWIN SHANKER, AND ANDREW HSIEH // MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

Don't deny it: Newspapers are dying, and the state of journalism is in flux.

Major newspapers in California are cutting their newsroom staffs. The San Jose Mercury News recently laid off 31 employees from its newsroom, severely cutting its number of staff members. The same goes for the Los Angeles Times, which in April cut 150 jobs; 70 positions were newsroom jobs, according to the International Business Times.

The boom of the digital age has put newspapers at a disadvantage by posing as a serious competitor for news distri-

A memorial to Rich Ramirez, right, Mercury News veteran. // PAGE 9

// SHIRIN GHAFFARTY // MOSAIC STAFF



IN MY OPINION: THE ROLES OF READERS AND JOURNALISTS // PAGE 9

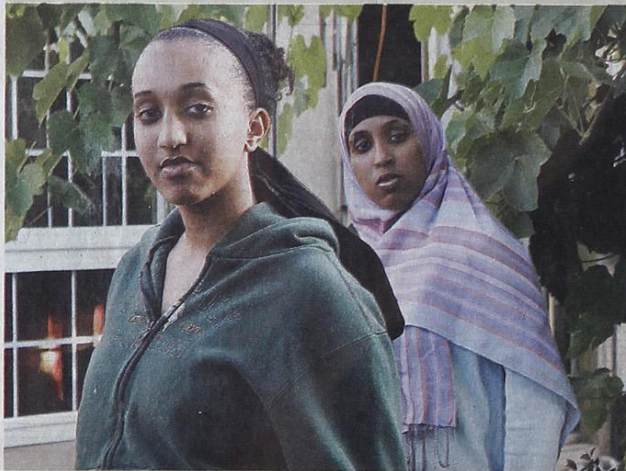
but. Instead of relying on unbiased, trained journalists, people are turning to bloggers, the ultimate everyman.

Newspaper journalism as a career option also looks bleak. High school newspapers, staffed by the journalists of tomorrow, suffer from a lack of trained teachers, funds and student interest.

Still, many say this is not the slow spiral to the end, rather a transition period during which newspapers find a means to balance the changing technology with the respected tradition of print journalism.

"I think in two years the newsroom will JOURNALISM >> PAGE 9

### Muslim girls weigh personal decision to wear Islamic scarf



Sabrin Said, right, wears a traditional hijab scarf symbolic of her Muslim faith. Her sister Seham, left, chooses a different approach to tradition. // SHIRIN GHAFFARTY // MOSAIC STAFF

## A SYMBOL OF THEIR FAITH

SAMERA HADI // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

As a Muslim teen, Sabrin Said had been thinking about wearing a hijab, the head scarf worn by women of her faith, when she had an epiphany during fajr, or early-morning prayer. She felt an uneasy shiver all over her body and wanted eagerly to read the Koran. She had never felt such fear and took it as a sign that it was time.

But the 16-year-old student at Gunderson High School in San Jose also thought about how she would be perceived by her peers and faculty.

"I knew going into this situation I was going to be the only muhajaba person in my school," she said, using the term for a Muslim woman who wears a hijab. "And I knew that being the only person would bring up

HIJAB >> PAGE 12

"The misconception in the West is the hijab is oppression. Muslim women who wear it are not narrow-minded or backwards people." SAMINA FAHEEM SUNDAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN MUSLIM VOICE.

MOSAIC REPORTER SAMERA HADI FEELS THE SOCIAL STIGMA TO TRADITIONAL DRESS // PAGE 12

## IMMIGRATION

COMMUNITY GARDEN VIGNETTE // PAGE 18 STUDENTS FAST FOR DREAM ACT // PAGE 19

### HARD ROAD TO SUCCESS

Not all immigrants make transition easily, but opportunity still exists

PAULINE NGUYEN // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

After 14 years, Hajrudin Hodzic has stopped fighting.

The battle started when he came to America, where he compared his life as a busboy with that of his native Bosnia, where he was a reporter.

"Do I belong here or there?" the 53-year-old asked himself after he settled in San Jose with his wife, Margareta, and their two young children.

He's one of many immigrants who left

behind lucrative careers as attorneys, doctors and teachers in their homeland only to labor in lower-paying service jobs in this country.

According to Julian Chun-Chung Chow, a professor of social welfare at University of California-Berkeley, it can take immigrants up to four generations to adapt to a new society.

"Once they move from their home countries to the United States they have to (change jobs)," says Chow. "It doesn't mean that they don't have the skill. It's just a

IMMIGRATION >> PAGE 19



Hajrudin Hodzic, previously a journalist in his home country, and now a welfare worker after immigrating to the United States. // JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF

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IN MEMORIAM // Rich Ramirez, a Mercury News journalist and friend of MOSAIC.

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MOSAIC 2007 STAFF // Top row from left: Kathy Corcoran, Marc Cabrera, Andrew Hsieh, Jordan Hung, Ashwin Shanker, Anuj Biyani, Patrick Liu, Jessica Poblacion, Joe Rodriguez, Jose Lopez, Josie Lopez, Ardua Harris, David Early, Rosanna Madrigal, Charlie McCollum, Mark de la Vina, Virdu Goo, Peter Delavert, Nitai Meyer, Dan Sugano.

MAKING HEADLINES

MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS // "Media's obsession with eyes." You can feel the tension as 20 teenagers sit in a circle waiting to see if they had played in the game's murder. After a pause, Jessica Poblacion, the "god" of the game, proclaims, "Anuj is... the Mafia!" The players explode into screams of victory and disbelief as Anuj reluctantly reveals his face of diamonds. Welcome to Mosaic 2007. Not long after meeting, the 20 students from different backgrounds connected through their enthusiasm for journalism—and their love for the role-playing game Mafia. From morning to evening, the students immersed themselves in all things journalism: They read the Mercury News every morning and were quizzed about the day's paper. They went out into the community and interviewed sources for their stories. They listened to a panel of journalists talk about the future of journalism. Through it all, they came to understand the frustrations—and rewards—of the profession. "It's interesting to be able to view journalism in a new perspective other than school," said Anuj. "To be able to talk to sources that you wouldn't normally talk to made journalism so much more exciting."

ANUJ BIYANI // Anuj Biyani likes to be referred to as "Photographer Extraordinaire," although he is so much more. He is an ambitious photographer who made the most of the opportunities at Mosaic, always at a photo shop getting the perfect shot. He is also athletic, funny, and relaxed. JESSICA CHOI // Jessica Choi is a leader. As a freshman at Independence High School in Palo Alto, she, she marched into the principal's office and handed him an eight-page proposal to revive the school's journalism program. She succeeded—and she was named the independent Voice's editor-in-chief ever since.

JORDAN HUNG // Don't play ping-pong with Jordan Hung—unless you want to lose. He is now a junior at California High School in San Ramon in the fall, and hopes one day become a professional musician. He is a self-proclaimed Motown enthusiast who often listens to such groups as The Temptations and The Four Tops. Poblacion stands out from his own friends in not only music, but other interests. Claiming a curiosity in English, the 16-year-old sees a future for himself in either journalism, teaching English or even accounting, which he describes as "the most interesting of all professions."

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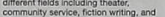
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to all Mosaic 2007 staff members. Born in Veracruz, Mexico, the 16-year-old Dulce has experienced and overcome obstacles that many adults will never have to deal with, from immigration issues to gang-related activities. When she really wants to accomplish something, and is a very well rounded person. Her interests span a number of different fields including theater, community service, fiction writing, and journalism. This fall, she will serve as junior class president at Downtown College Prep and as editor for her school's newspaper, The Chronicle. Family troubles have driven Martinez to become an excellent student in the hopes that someday she will become an immigration lawyer and fight for her people. She is also interested in becoming a novelist or actress. Her interest in journalism branches from the belief it will expand her career options and because she enjoys meeting new people. —Jenna Hodzic



SABRINA MERCADO // It was hard for Mosaic students not to enjoy Sabrina Mercado's company. She quickly warmed up to the program.

PAULINE NGUYEN // Pauline Nguyen is a 17-year-old who is senior at Harker High School in San Jose. A loving family, Pauline, who lives in Palo Alto, and her toping team, have qualified to compete in the U.S. Rowing Nationals. Not only has she managed to acquire new knowledge and skills, but they also met a few new friends.

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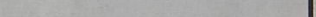
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Steve Wozniak

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# COME AWAY FROM HOME

## Effects of divorce send teens shuttling between parents

BY SABRINA MERCADO // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Samantha Rodriguez, a sophomore at Evergreen Valley High School, arrives home from school on a Monday afternoon. She puts down her books, goes to her room and packs up everything she needs for the week. Then she waits for her mom to pick her up and take her to her other home a few minutes away.

At her dad's house, Samantha shares a room with her younger sister, Diana, and has a pet turtle. At her mom's house, Samantha has her own room, as well as three dogs. She admits that while her room at her mom's house is always clean, her room at her dad's house is always messy.

"I don't remember what it's like to live at one house," said Samantha, 14, whose parents have been divorced since she was 3.

In the United States, courtless divorce rates have increased 54 percent since 1950, though rates have declined slightly since the 1980s.

While often one parent takes custody of a child, many parents share custody, meaning kids have two homes. Statistics on just how many teens shuttle between homes are hard to come by.

Nancy Quiggie, a psychologist and clinical coordinator at the University of California-San Francisco, believes joint custody can be good and bad.

"It's very family-specific. Quiggie said, "I think you work out very well if the parties cooperate and focus on trying to miss their differences. And of course teens should be listened to."

Samantha keeps all her clothing and belongings at her dad's house, so when it comes time to switch houses, she must pack everything she needs. She doesn't mind living at two homes, but her parents are constantly pressuring her to choose one.

"They always ask who I want to live with. They say I need to choose eventually," said Samantha. "It's hard to pick between them. I love them both."

Other teenagers don't like being



Samantha Rodriguez hangs up in her bedroom, shared with her younger sister at her father's house in East San Jose. She divides her time between both her mother's and father's houses, transporting belongings between visits. // JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF

**"They always ask who I want to live with. They say I need to choose eventually, but it's hard to pick between them. I love them both."**

**SAMANTHA RODRIGUEZ, AGE 14, WHOSE PARENTS HAVE BEEN DIVORCED SINCE SHE WAS 3**

In a joint custody situation, rather than living with two homes, they feel they don't have any.

"People don't realize how lucky they are to live in one home," said Shari Chabarsky, a 16-year-old at Gunn High School in Palo Alto. "I feel like I don't have a home to call my own."

Sam's parents have been divorced since she was in the third grade, and now live within a few minutes of each other.

"I have to move stuff all over the place. It's not as easy as people think," she said.

Even the most responsible student can forget something at the

other house and have to go back and get it. When most teenagers are worrying about what grade they got on a math test, teens of joint custody worry about packing up all their stuff for the other house, or making sure they're not forgetting anything. One day, Samantha left her math book at her other house and wasn't able to get it. As a result, she couldn't do her homework and received a zero the next day.

DK Simoneau, author of the children's book "We're Having A Tuesday," which focuses on kids who switch back and forth every week, knows all too well the effects

of divorce and shared custody. A child of divorce herself, Simoneau switched back and forth between her parents' houses and most of her adolescent years. Now divorced herself, her two children also live at two homes.

"It's a good idea as long as the parents can make it work," Simoneau said. "Kids need the influence of as many positive adults as they can."

Simoneau is a strong believer in joint custody, but also believes that each situation is different. "If going back and forth is really becoming bothersome for the child because of logistics, I would recommend talking about other solutions. Maybe the schedule needs to be looked at, or other processes need to be in place. I wouldn't just blanket say you should live with one parent."

There is no right or wrong answer to joint custody; different solutions work for different situations.

"The adults put their children in these situations. It's up to them to find solutions that work for every

body. Parents need to stop worrying about what the parents want, and focus on the kids," Simoneau said.

Teens in joint custody often say their lives would be easier if they lived in one place because they find themselves constantly having to choose between families. Holidays and graduations become stressful times because they don't know which family to sit with, or which to spend time with. When they find out good news, which parent does a teenager call first?

Shari admits living with one parent would be less hassle, but she doesn't want to choose between them. "I would much rather live with one parent, but then the other would be really upset or offended," Naomi Shachter, 17, of Palo Alto, says.

Although she doesn't necessarily enjoy living at two homes, she would never choose to live with one parent.

"It sucks. It can be a big hassle," said Naomi. "But it's the preferable option."

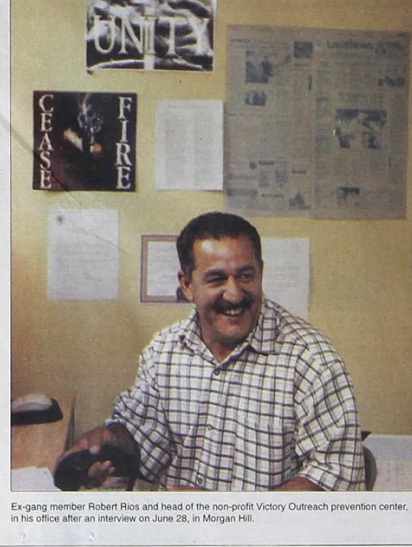


A Morgan Hill police officer pulls over in front of a group of teenagers at the Victory Outreach center in Morgan Hill on June 28. // JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHS

# BREAKING GANGS

Local, global groups help members find new paths in life

DULCE MARTINEZ // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER



Ex-gang member Robert Rios and head of the non-profit Victory Outreach prevention center, in his office after an interview on June 28, in Morgan Hill.

Wearing Nike Cortez shoes, baggy pants, a black T-shirt and a sad expression, Juan Rivera recalls his time as a gang member in elementary school. He remembers being hit by gang members without realizing to get "jumped in" or initiated. He also remembers getting stabbed with a screwdriver in fifth grade. By his freshman year in high school, he wanted out.

"I felt bad that I made my mom go through all that, watching me in pain," said Juan, 16, a sophomore at Downtown College Preparatory, a charter high school in San Jose. "I left all that behind in the past."

Many teens like Juan, who start out glorifying the gang life, get to a point where they want to get out. Juan is changing his lifestyle on his own, and his goal is to become a lawyer who helps juvenile delinquents. He says whenever he's tempted by his ex-Northern lifestyle, he thinks about the lock in his mother's eyes.

But for those who can't go it alone, there are programs — both local and international — to help them find another path in life.

"What gang-involved teens need in order to seek the language of most gang members, One poem on a Cease Fire CD describes the destruction that North-South divisions causes.

Each one of you has a gift," Martinez recently told the seven members of Bellos's class. "I'm here because I think that all of you are savable."

Worldwide programs also exist to focus on older gang members. Victory Outreach Cease Fire is a faith-based program led by evangelists who want to bring peace between notorious gangs all over the world, including in San Jose.

God uses his ministry to go back to the basics and reach the gang members, drug

Ex-gang member Pastor CARLOS MENDOZA JR. Ex-gang member DANIEL CONTRERAS Ex-gang member DANIEL JORGE GONZALEZ

# SCHOOL / History plays role in philosophy of schools

<< FROM PAGE 3

Cameron said.

"We always have to ask ourselves, 'We have a really good program here. How can we be even better?' And if it's better, will it change?" Cameron said.

Castilleja blends tradition with innovation. "When something has long and successful history, it's hard to change. But sometimes a change could make for a really good thing. Some schools can be stuck in their ways, but I don't think that's true," Cameron said.

Castilleja gradually changes the school culture to reflect the changes in society. Some traditions, such as the Madrigal dance — a traditional folk dance where girls dance with ribbons around their waists on May Day celebrations — have been abandoned as society has changed. Cameron cites the school's recent shift in focus to global awareness as an example of its progressiveness. Two years ago, Castilleja began holding a Global Week each January to educate students on global warming.

At GMS, however, the lack of tradition has benefits and drawbacks.

"The lack of tradition can draw a lack of students to the school within the school," Hof said.

Though traditions provide a sense of comfort in the school, Hof said, not having them allows for more freedom and experiential learning. The school is slowly building traditions, such as the eighth-grade graduation during which each class member speaks, and the annual sixth-grade camping trip.

Moreover, the GMS student population is a reflection of the cultural and socioeconomic diversity of Silicon Valley. Forty-six percent of GMS students are people of color, and 20 percent of those stu-

**"We want to meet the needs of kids who are the first generation of their families to receive an education."**

**DEB HOF, FORMER DEAN OF STUDENTS AT CASTILLEJA AND CURRENT HEAD OF SCHOOL AT GMS**

dents are on full scholarship program here. How can we be even better?" Hof said.

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frustrations — and rewards — of running a business.

"The entrepreneurial program was very educational. I cannot believe that seventh-graders were allowed to run a company. That was really cool," said Kersten Schurrie, a 2003 GMS graduate and a 2007 Castilleja graduate.

"The entrepreneurial program was really creative — now I want to start my own business," said Monica Chen, a 2004 GMS graduate.

So now is the typical Castilleja student different from the typical GMS student? According to Schurrie, the Castilleja student is generally more confident and more leadership-oriented. She said that can also create more stress on the Castilleja campus.

"In general, Castilleja students seem a lot more stressed-out than GMS students. There isn't that, 'Oh man, I only got five hours of sleep' mentality at GMS that there is at Castilleja," Schurrie said.

But that may have more to do with the age of students at GMS. "We can jump into stress when we're older," Hof said. "The kids here are in eighth grade — they don't need to worry about college yet."

That's not to say GMS students are less motivated. They want to learn but aren't getting their hands dirty as well.

The students' young age also proves to be an advantage at times. The school does not need to become the stereotype of all-girls schools as "finishing schools."

"Other schools have to break away from the white dresses and white-gloves image of all-girls schools," Hof said.



**IPHONE // Excitement worth the hype**

<< FROM PAGE 3

It was a spur-of-the-moment thing. It was more like a dare, Leonard said.

Lindsay Guillen, 21, of Campbell walked one hour to buy her iPhone. "I'm a nerd; I just have to have it."

"I think most people are getting it just because it's Apple," Juan Figueroa, 24, of San Jose agreed. Both say the iPhone would be more useful to the corporate person, but to the average consumer, "it's just too rich."

Scott Manthey arrived early the afternoon of June 28 to get in line at Oakridge.

Part of the hype about the iPhone was the fear that there might not be enough for everybody who wanted one. But after the masses left Oakridge Mall, there were still iPhones left at the Apple store, So Manthey's long wait was unnecessary, Hof said.

"It's OK. It was fun, and I still got good things out of the experience. Has the iPhone lived up to the hype? So far, the answer seems to be 'Yes,'" Leonard said.

Jason Rangel, 20, of San Jose walked in line for 23 hours, but that didn't bother him, Hof said. "But the iPhone is still so young. You never know."

# College applications spur growth in teen volunteerism

ANGELA CHIANG // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Twelve high school students were packed into the San Jose Regional Medical Center (RMC) volunteer office, waiting for their orientation to begin.

"Wow, this is a big group," a nurse commented as she passed by. "Are you guys all going to be volunteers?" At least one doctor, peering into the cramped office.

Although 12 may not seem like a large number, the surprise of the hospital staff is understandable. As of May 2007, the hospital already hosted a total of 112 high school volunteers. The addition of 12 new members makes a program expansion make a significant impact.

The steady increase in teenage volunteers is a phenomenon that has become more prominent during the past couple of years. According to a study by United Community Service, the percentage of teenage volunteers jumped 32 percent from 2000 to 2004.

RMC is one of many institutions that expanded its already extensive volunteer program. The Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (VMC) receives about 300 calls for every 35 to 40 volunteer openings, according to VMC volunteer director Kathleen Dolci.

And that's without advertising, publicizing or recruiting.

"We have volunteers from all over the country. Our students come all the way from Montezuma High School to Milpitas High School," said Dolci.

So why do so many high school students participate in community service? Although they offered many reasons, almost of their own accord, answers had one thing in common.

"Yeah, I'm going for college applications," was the bashful admission of 11 of the 12 RMC volunteers.

According to the teens, the phenomenon of volunteering for college applications is painfully obvious.

"I'd say about 70 percent of my friends volunteer just mainly for college resume-padding," said Boris Terzic, 16, of San Jose.

Added Jennifer Shen, 16, of San Jose, "Most teenagers' parents make them volunteer because they think it looks good on their kids' college applications."

When asked about their personal reasons for volunteering, however, most teens answered with very different reasons, from wanting to gain experience a hospital environment for future career pursuits to seeking a meaningful way to spend their free time in a busy hospital setting.

Although teens volunteer for a variety of reasons, they respond with embarrassment when affirming that college applications are, indeed, one of the most prominent reasons for joining a volunteer program. Their evident internal conflict brings up a seldom discussed issue: Is it back to volunteer solely for college applications? Is it immoral? Does it matter?

"No, absolutely not," said Andrea Ziegler, director of volunteer services at the Tech Museum in San Jose. "I emphasize to my volunteers that as long as they have good intentions and a positive attitude when helping our visitors, their reasons for volunteering matter little in comparison."

Rhonda Joshi, 14, of San Jose said that even though teens may volunteer for college applications, they can at least choose a cause that is of interest to them. For example, in addition to volunteering at RMC, Joshi also volunteers at her Hindu Sunday school an hour each week. She teaches younger children, and although she admits it would look good on a college application, she teaches because she loves it as well.

Unfortunately, not all students choose to participate in volunteer activities that they truly enjoy. Many have mixed feelings about the usefulness of the hundreds of hours they dedicate to community service.

"Sometimes when we're really busy, volunteering seems like a chore, but it can also be really fun," said RMC volunteer Pia Cardenas, 14, of San Jose. "During downtime, we goof off, play cards and do homework."

Some volunteers, however, say that the activities performed at the hospital were a long stretch from what they had hoped for.

"It seems like all I did was run errands and do busy work," said RMC volunteer applicant Jessica Phan, 14, of San Jose. "We can't talk to doctors, we don't do anything worthwhile. I don't think I really want to volunteer [at RMC] anymore."

The ultimate judgment, though, resides with the college and university admissions officers.

According to Miranda Nichols, associate director of admissions at Santa Clara University (SCU), the majority of students — an estimated 80 percent — include community service on their college applications.

"It's incredibly obvious when a student does community service just to pad their resumes," Nichols said. "Students often have a bunch of random hours here and there, and other times when I read their personal essays, I see that the work they do is not meaningful to them."

She added that community service plays a minimal role in the application process, displacing the common misconception among high school students. Those who have done community service do not have a distinct advantage over those who do.

"Often, I see that students are committed to a sport or artistic talent, or something like that, and it doesn't even occur to me that they don't have community service," Nichols said.

Although universities generally agree that students should not volunteer to impress them, they also recognize the good contributions students bring to the community and that after some time, the volunteers' motives may evolve.

Regardless of their motives, teens are sustaining the spirit of community service.

"I look forward to volunteering each week, and I'm grateful for the opportunities it has given me," said Terzic.

# HOSPITALS INCREASE LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

### More action needed to widen access to medical care for non-English speakers, advocates say

BY JESSICA CHOI // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Y.K. Lo, a 70-year-old San Jose resident who immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong in 1986, visits his homelands at least once a year for a health check-up. Although he can speak enough English to request an interpreter in a U.S. hospital, he says the process is irritating. Lo also could bring his son with him to the hospital to translate, but he chooses not to.

"It's bothersome when my son has to take a day off to come with me to the hospital," Lo said. "It's easier that I do my check-ups in Hong Kong where I can speak Cantonese with them."

Language still a barrier for many seeking health care in California. Late last year, a Korean woman in Los Angeles died while receiving treatment for stomach cancer because of the lack of language interpreters. According to Korea Times, she made several unsuccessful attempts to request an interpreter, and she was discharged in 2005 without having received the cancer treatment she needed.

A 2006 study of Alameda County hospitals showed that 44 percent of the people calling for emergency care in a language other than English failed to reach a person speaking the caller's language. Specifically, 63 percent of the calls in Cantonese and 62 percent of the calls in Korean failed to connect to a proper interpreter.

"I had a suspicion that there was a problem going on, but the extent of the number of people being hung up on was a surprise," said Jessica Rota, research associate at the Discrimination Research Center, a non-profit organization that researches, advocates and provides public education on discrimination in various settings.

While Rota estimates that more than 200 languages are spoken in California, the state Department of Education reports 50 languages spoken by English learners in public schools.

When the Kopp Act of 1983, a California state law, hospitals became bound to provide a translator for languages spoken by at least 5 percent of patients being served. But some health-care advocacy groups believe the need is not being met.

For example, the California Primary Care Association, a professional organization for more than 600 community clinics and health care centers, is advocating that all health-care workers be trained in cultural training as part of their certification.

One of its problems occur when people with limited English receive health care, especially with their prescriptions and how to use the medicine.

Some hospitals have hired translators such as Edward, the group's associate director of special programs. "Our No. 1 goal is to have doctors and nurses receive training about being sensitive to cultures, culturally competent and to be able to provide a personalized approach."

Some people opt to have a family member accompany and translate for them instead of requesting an interpreter at the hospital.

"Others who do not want to burden their children prefer to go to health clinics tailored to their ethnicity. The Asian Americans for Justice center has a dedicated clinic for the elderly."

Some hospitals have tried addressing the need for language interpreters. Since 1997, the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center has used the Automatic Call Distributor system, hoping to address all language interpretation needs through a single call. Calls are routed to one of four locations with 27 interpreters. Instead of focusing on face-to-face interactions, the hospital has relied on what it considers a more efficient approach to the

community involvement (AACI), a non-profit service organization located in San Jose, provides education and health programs for Asian Pacific Americans in Santa Clara County.

Most of our clients "cannot speak English and they don't have education here. Their primary language is their mother language," said Jennifer Tseng, compliance and quality improvement manager of AACI. "They want to be entitled to know about their medical condition, so this place is their first choice."

"Some patients who don't speak English rely on community members for help."

"I go to the clinic, and I see people who don't even understand when their name is called. Because I can speak multiple dialects of Chinese, I am able to help translate for them," said Katherine Chen, a retired banker and occasional interpreter for those she sees in need.

While some patients such as Lo prefer traveling to their homelands for medical treatment, South Bay resident Yuk-Mei Tang says she needs to go to San Francisco to get comfortable taking medical care.

"After Tang immigrated to the Bay Area from Hong Kong 10 years ago, her first encounter with the U.S. health care system was intimidating. She felt uncomfortable talking to an English-speaking hospital clerk, who was trying to determine the language she spoke. After what seemed like hours of waiting, the clerk finally reached a Cantonese interpreter."

Since then, Tang travels an hour to San Francisco to receive health care at a Chinese hospital, where most employees speak Cantonese or Mandarin and most medical services are provided in one location.

"The hospitals are a lot better now with interpreters, but my husband and I still prefer going to a hospital where I don't need to rely on a speaking English," Tang said.

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language access problem.

"Our model allows efficiency that is not possible available with face-to-face. If you see in a call center, you could help three or four people in the time it would take you to walk over to help one," said Jerry Wallerstein, director of language services at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. "Last month, we answered 17,000 calls and had an average waiting time of 60 seconds."

Kaiser Permanente Hospitals in Oakland and Fremont connected non-English-speaking callers to the Emergency Room almost 100 percent of the time, according to the Discrimination Research Center study.

"The Kaiser Permanente Fremont Medical Center was recognized as one of the best among 12 Alameda County hospitals surveyed for its language assistance over the phone and in-person services," said Calvin Wheeler, physician-in-chief of the Fremont and Hayward Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers. "In Northern California, Kaiser Permanente has professional interpreters available at our medical centers or by phone who can assist in 140 languages, including American Sign Language."

At El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, staff members carry Vocera Badges — lightweight wireless devices that allow instant voice communication — which enables them to use the language line at any given moment. The hospital, paying for ATAT Translating Services with medically certified interpreters, receives calls in about 40 to 50 languages a month.

"I've never had an instance where I haven't reached someone," said Chris Varner, interim director of patient and emergency services at El Camino.

While many hospitals and organizations have tried to fix the language barrier over the years, there is still more to be done.

"Access to trained health care interpreters is essential to improving the health outcomes of limited-English-proficient health care consumers," said Janet Ovey, senior media relations associate for the California Endowment, a group advocating greater access to health care. "Though many providers do ensure access to these services, we still have a long way to go to make sure that individual needs are being met."

"I don't look 'normal'."

My hair is pink so they think 'Oh she's like this or like that,'" she said. "They probably think I'm ghetto from Oakland."

Regardless of what people say about her, Logan said she is true to herself. "I get complimented a lot, so I like it. I DON'T CARE WHAT PEOPLE

think of me."

He says she's tagged as a gangster and troublemaker because of the way she dresses.

"I'M ALWAYS BEING WATCHED AROUND STORES. There could be other people there, but the person working will only look at me," he said.

HE ALSO SAID HE'S TREATED DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE HE'S LATINO, but he says there is nothing he can do about it.

"I don't mind being stereotyped," he said. "But it can get to a point where I want to hit them."

She says she is considered the "rockier" type. Her black clothes and style choice lead people to cast her as dark or moody.

"I was wearing a jacket that had a Heartagram, but everyone thought it was a pentagram. SO THEY CALLED ME A DEVIL, WORSHIPPER AND GOTH, WHEN IT WAS TOTALLY NOT LIKE THAT."

She not only gets discrimination from strangers, but also from her friends.

"My friends have tried to dress me differently, BUT I TELL THEM I'M NOT GOING TO DRESS THAT WAY JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT ME TO."

Even though she has people judging her, she still expresses herself the way she wants to. "I think I'm just me. Some days I do dress emo or Goth. I just dress how I feel!"

# STEREOTYPES

# BEYOND FIRST IMPRESSIONS

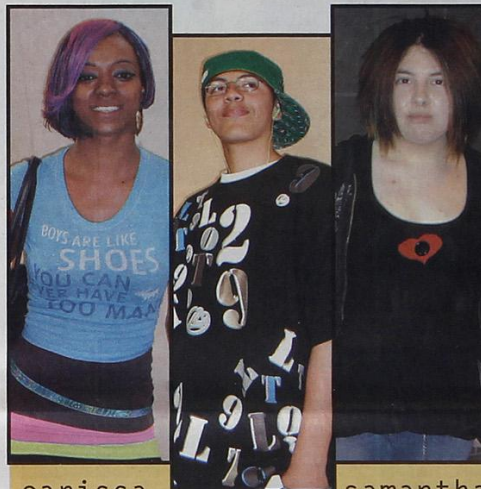
### Teens' Looks Attract Unfair, Incorrect Stereotypes

SABRINA MERCADO, SAMERA HADI AND DULCE MARTINEZ // MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

>>>Everyone has experienced being stereotyped. Whether it's because of how you dress, your nationality, or who your friends are, people are constantly making judgments about you before they get to know you. We

assume "gangsters" wreak havoc, "white people" are rich and preppy, and that "rockers" are emo.

This is how these young people stepped at Eastridge Mall say they experience stereotypes.



carissa COGAN AGE: 22

moises PEREZ AGE: 15



samantha ANGUELO AGE: 14

kacie KERRO AGE: 23

# IN MY OPINION

## RACQUEL THOMPSON

### OREO? NO, JUST ME

Don't Assume Anything From The Color of My Skin

I like polo shirts instead of Apple Bottom jeans. I like Green Day instead of 50 Cent. I don't listen to hip-hop music. In the time, I don't listen to a lot of gospel music, and I have absolutely no talent when it comes to singing. I like to shop at a variety of places such as American Eagle, Hot Topic and J. Crew.

My aunt, cousins and close friends have called me an "Oreo."

An Oreo is made up of a sweet white cream sandwiched between two chocolate cookies. Get it? They're referring to my black exterior, which is my skin color and my so-called white interior, my character.

I transferred to Leigh High School, a public school in San Jose, for my sophomore year. My first day at Leigh, I met a girl in my PE class. She started asking me questions about my school sports, my class schedule and my teacher.

"You know, the usual conversational starters," she said. "I played basketball."

"You must be really good. You look really good," she said.

"This girl had never seen me play, and already she was making assumptions about my athletic ability."

**"I'm learning that people are going to judge other people no matter what. It happens unconsciously."**

I was at a journalism workshop, and one day, I was being completely good, singing old Britney Spears songs. We were talking about singing ability, when one boy said, "All black people are good singers. I was astonished that he actually seemed that. I had never even seen "American Idol!"

Before they got to know me, they were making assumptions about my friends made a lot of assumptions. They assumed that I knew the meaning of phrases such as "ghost ride" and "go back to where you belong."

"I didn't. I'm high in affluent, suburban private schools most of my life, and I didn't consider the definitions for those words because they were rarely used among my friends, most of whom were white. Instead, I could tell you about the latest lingo on MTV."

Eventually, my new white friends realized that I wasn't the person they were expecting me to be. I didn't go up to their preferences and notions of black people.

All of this confusion has caused me to question who I really am. I want to belong, but I don't want to have to change who I am to do that. But that's what I do.

When I'm with black friends, I begin acting more like them, and the same goes for when I'm with my white friends. I'm letting their expectations determine who I am. But oddly enough, it is helping me figure out some things I don't know before.

I'm learning that people are going to judge other people no matter what, that they're unconsciously making assumptions about me to fit a certain stereotype that I'm really not. I am free to be who I really am. I can be goofy, nerdy, sassy or nerdy around everybody. I don't have to act a certain way just to fit in.

I'm trying to figure out where I stand among my friends. Am I the black girl, or am I the girl who acts white?

I'm hoping that I'm not. I'm hoping that to my friends, I'm just me.

"I AM WHO I AM."

"I AM WHO I AM."

"I AM WHO I AM."

"I AM WHO I AM."

"I AM WHO I AM."

"I AM WHO I AM."

# IN THE TREASURY

## Demand growing for gender-neutral restrooms at workplaces and campuses

CAROLINE HODGE // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

For some people, a bathroom can make all the difference.

Two years ago, a woman in the women's restroom at City College of San Francisco accused Nidia Cabezas of being a man and slapped her across the face.

But Cabezas was not a man—she was a transgender student, who was born male, but identified as female.

The incident prompted transgender music Professor Bob Davis, who identifies as female, to launch a campaign to add a third kind of restroom to the campus, one that was not male, not female, but gender-neutral.

The school—which now has gender-neutral restrooms in nine of 13 buildings—is among a growing number of colleges and grassroots organizations working to increase the number of bathrooms that could be used by either gender.

"It boils down to safety," said Alexis Rivera, policy advocate at the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco. "People who don't feel comfortable necessarily using the male or female bathroom need to have the option to use the gender-neutral restroom."

A San Francisco Human Rights Commission survey found that about 99 percent of nearly 500 trans and non-trans people want gender-neutral bathrooms at various reasons.

Transpeople specifically want them because they've been targets of harassment in gender-specific restrooms. Some were even escorted out by police. At Bailey Stevens, co-founder of www.safef2pep.org, who lists gender-neutral bathrooms across the country.

Almost half of the transpeople who responded to a 2002 San Francisco Human Rights Commission survey reported they had experienced assault or harassment in restrooms.

However, not all transpeople want to use gender-neutral restrooms, said Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights based in San Francisco.

"Transsexual people would generally like to use the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity and the other [genderqueer] folks would prefer to have a gender-neutral bathroom available," Minter said. "It's important to accommodate both groups."

Minter has worked with numerous colleges across the country to design national single-gender restrooms as gender-neutral.

## Transgender youth finding it easier to live in their skin

# TRANSITIONING IDENTITY

ANDREW WEEKS // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

A week after she turned 20, Danielle stood in front of her family to tell her secret.

She braced herself, waiting for their negative response as she told them she was transgender.

"I thought it would be a really big deal," says Danielle, of Santa Rosa. "But my family was just open about it, and they seemed to know before me."

Biologically a male, Danielle, who told them she had transitioned to a woman, says she is doing better than she expected in her lives than ever before.

Only 15 years ago, transgender people were wary of revealing themselves. But the advent of the Internet has allowed a new generation to meet in chat rooms and message boards to discuss their most personal issues.

"That has systematically made it a better understanding and an increasing acceptance of transgender people to go mainstream, although some prejudice still exists.

"There is a lot of recognition that people who are transgender can take a lot of discrimination and that there isn't a lot of protection for it," says Brad Decker, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian,

"Transgender people weren't always seen as legitimate - or kind of real - people in the media. It's always been tricky or challenging, but now they [can] see themselves in the media in a much more accurate and positive light."

CASSIE BLUME, YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR

ATZ THE BILLY DECKER CENTER, SAN JOSE

Bleaux and Transgender National Hotline. "A lot more people are now calling themselves transgender."

Hormone replacement therapy—which is essential to the transition from one gender role to another—is done so a transgender person's body matches the gender they identify. But regardless of what age or gender transgender people are, most have problems with health care and insurance. Financial problems limit the medicine they need because of barriers insurance companies use to raise transition-related treatment.

"While gender identity is classified as a psychological issue, and insurance companies rarely include it in their coverage, forcing many transgender people to pay for everything out of pocket.

"There is a lot of medicine that may not pay for hormonal treatments or may not pay for sex reassignment surgery," says Decker. "Often there's a financial burden that individual even if they have insurance. It's

Some schools even list on their Web sites gender-neutral bathrooms. These schools include the University of Texas-Austin, the University of Vermont, UCLA and UC-San Diego.

Davis uses the list of the gender-neutral bathrooms at the City College of San Francisco when she recruits students from transgender organizations and communities to show that "the school is aware of their needs," she said.

Five colleges - American University, New York University, Ohio State University, UC-Santa Barbara and Washington State University - have committed to including gender-neutral, single-occupancy restrooms in all future buildings, according to Minter.

School districts, on the other hand, have been slower to adapt. Because most junior high and high schools don't have many single-occupancy restrooms to convert, providing gender-neutral bathrooms for students can be difficult.

Instead, several schools that allow transgender students to use the restroom that corresponds to their gender identity, even if it differs from their birth sex.

The San Francisco Unified School District and the Los Angeles Unified School District recently adopted such policies. Minter said it will be an "uphill battle" to get other school districts, especially in conservative states, to implement gender-neutral bathrooms. "But, it will only be a matter of time before it's absolutely standard to have gender-neutral bathrooms along with the more conventional division" at all schools.

Minter has also worked with agencies to create gender-neutral bathrooms and ensure the restroom of their choice. Employers who employ employees have been contacting the organization, he said. "We're gender-neutral bathrooms grow in popularity."

In restaurants and airports and other public places where people wait in and out, it is increasingly common to have a gender-neutral bathroom," he said. "It's quite safe to use a single-occupancy bathroom as either male or female. It serves no purpose at all."

But how do people find out about these bathrooms? Enter www.safef2pep.org.

Stevens and two other co-founders launched safef2pep.org in December. The directory lists entries for 870 bathrooms in more than 260 cities in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"Anybody can add an entry to the directory search for bathrooms and have restroom location information."

"People are really receptive when they understand this is really an issue about safety and dignity and practicality," he said.

"We're working really hard, but there's a lot more expression and a lot of people coming forward without our help."

For her part, the younger generation thrives, though not without some difficulties. "Having known almost nobody outside of the transgender community, some transgender people can't help but feel like outsiders," says Blume, who has a multitude of students still in various stages of transition and camps.

"Basically, transgender people are not at all their handiaps, many transgender people and their supporters retain a larger sense of confidence regarding the younger transgender generation and its advocates."

"Transgender people weren't always seen as legitimate - or kind of real - people in the media. It's always been tricky or challenging, but now they [can] see themselves in the media in a much more accurate and positive light."

"There's a lot of issues where transgendered youth want to take hormones or do surgery or any other changes like that," says Cassie Blume, youth program coordinator at the Billy Decker Center in San Jose. "I've seen them work harder to express themselves in the same

particular city or ZIP code sent to their cell phone.

The group hopes to expand the site to include listings worldwide, although Stevens says the need for a directory of gender-neutral bathrooms is especially an issue in North America, "where there tends to be fewer such restrooms."

Another organization, the Transgender Law Center, is working with businesses and schools to designate single-occupancy restrooms as gender-neutral.

In response to numerous requests for something about bathroom harassment, the San Francisco-based center published "Peeking in Peace: A Resource Guide for Transgender Activists and Allies."

The extensive guide includes information on the history of bathroom segregation, the process of persuading schools and businesses to designate bathrooms as gender-neutral, as well as tips on how to deal with harassment in the bathroom.

The center plans to approach schools, universities and businesses and encourage them to use the guide.

"It's basically identifying the location and switching the sign makes sure all administrators and employees know why it's important that there is another option," Rivera said.

In San Francisco, at least, the group has the law to back up its request. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission added a stipulation to its compliance ordinance regarding gender identity discrimination that "strongly urges" employers to provide a gender-neutral bathroom to employees.

On the national scale, federal agencies are considering all but what would prohibit workplace discrimination, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Although the bill does not include a specific provision about gender-neutral restrooms, Minter said, "It's quite safe to use a single-occupancy bathroom as either male or female. It serves no purpose at all."

But Minter said the best way to end discrimination and promote gender-neutral restrooms is not through legislation, but education — the same kind transgender and student groups have been doing for years.

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After the bill does not include a specific provision about gender-neutral restrooms, Minter said, "It's quite safe to use a single-occupancy bathroom as either male or female. It serves no purpose at all."

After 15 years without a school newspaper, Independence High School in Saratoga started its own newspaper, the Independent. It's not just a school newspaper, it's a community resource.

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"His big dimples, his smile. He could always make us laugh." JOHN BOYLE, COUSIN OF RICH RAMIREZ

# FRIENDS, FAMILY AT END MEMORIAL FOR JOURNALIST Ramirez, 44, loved alma mater USC and Mercury News



Attendees at Rich Ramirez's memorial held in the First Union Church in San Jose. SHIRIN GHAFARI // MOSAIC STAFF

JESSIE PHLAN AND EUNICE CHAN // MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

Slowly, they trickled into the First Union Church, some with bowed heads, others with tears.

No one said a word as — single file — they made their way inside, where they gazed at photos of well-known, veteran San Jose Mercury News journalist Rich Ramirez.

Those who knew Ramirez, who died June 20 from an apparent self-inflicted wound, couldn't mention his name without following it up with the love for his alma mater and, more important, his football team.

Many who attended the June 28 memorial wore the school's colors — cardinal red and gold — in memory of Ramirez, who was never short of fans.

Rich Kahler, a longtime friend and fellow Mercury News colleague, recalled a friendship that spanned from their USC connection.

Seventeen years ago, Ramirez searched the newspaper for Kahler simply because he was the new intern from USC, Kahler told the 300 people who attended the memorial.

Ramirez took Kahler under his wing, coaching and mentoring him, despite the fact that Kahler admitted not to know much about the sport.

When USC football games were going on, Rich would come out in his Reddell name and whenever the USC band sounded its first point, he would open a beer with a bottle opener that played the USC fight song, Kahler said, as the church filled with laughter.

Ramirez, who close friends knew as Richie, became a major link between the

USC and the Mercury News.

"I've gotten very comfortable," said Kim Nya, a religion reporter for the Mercury News, who said she was not the happiest people around. "We love newspapers. We love digging into news stories and discussing them. And we got so comfortable."

Although newspapers have traditionally stayed close to pen and paper, the Internet has been able to change the face of journalism through the exchange of information it can readily allow.

However, even with knowledgeable journalists, it's difficult for reporters to keep afloat without funds.

Jerry Cappos, a former executive editor of the Mercury News, worked closely with Ramirez.

"Much has been shared about how rich was a quiet professional, but not enough has been said of Rich's quiet warmth," he said. "His capacity to share personal stories despite his introvertedness was amazing."

Cappos described Ramirez's passion for journalism, especially the day he told him he was going to leave a weekly magazine called the Alameda Weekly, and how years formed in Ramirez's eyes.

Everyone who worked with Ramirez echoed the sentiments, including Da vid Yermol, a former Mercury News executive editor who worked closely with him.

Ramirez's job title, he said, "His job title barely describes what he did. He could've been called a managing editor, an assistant editor, and I don't think assistant covered it."

Yermol described Ramirez's love of the Mercury News. "He was fiercely ambitious, particularly for the Mercury News. If he had our name attached to it, he wanted it to reflect the high standards of the paper."

Perhaps the most powerful words during the memorial came from a man who was as close to Ramirez as anyone could be — his cousin John Boyle.

Boyle couldn't make it through the first few sentences of his remembrance before he stopped to cry.

"When you looked at him, you were drawn in," he said. "He had this big smile. He could always make us laugh."

The two shared a love for sports, and planned to take in a football game in a couple of months.

Boyle will go to the game, not because he wants to, but to remember the cousin who was more like a brother.

"I'll be seeing Richie," said "I'll be there," said Yermol.

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IN MY OPINION

GENEVA IRWIN

# TRUTH IS MULTIFACETED AND EASY TO MISINTERPRET

Journalism has always been looked upon with a considerable amount of doubt. The general public never seems surprised if a journalist accidentally misrepresents someone or something, and many people go as far as to openly disbelieve everything the media present to them.

Why does this happen?

The thing is, after it's out in the public, it's out of our hands. The reader is the one who really defines what is right or wrong in the article. And more often than not, the reader's opinion is negative. Not very fun for us journalists, but they're everyone knows we're too busy to care. Right?

I ran head-on to this problem when I wrote about a new, long-term substitute teacher at Wilcox High School's newspaper, the Scribe. As an opinion writer, I had a considerable amount of freedom. But apparently I took the liberty of freedom to a whole new level.

Overall I meant to write a positive article that covered how when the press is free to report, it honestly thought he wasn't the brightest. And then I went on to explain that as time passed, he became a very good teacher with some great ideas. After the column was finished, I sent it in, and the newspaper adviser, a much-loved English teacher, approved the piece and into the paper it went.

However, the principal talked me into my use of the term "top sharpshoot in the shed" and "nerdy." The principal then put our adviser under a lot of heat, as she had been reflecting the high standards of the paper."

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article" echoed around me for several days. The experience, to be completely honest, sucked royally.

All the negativity toward journalists is one of the main reasons I was originally skeptical about pursuing my life of journalism. It's impossible to enjoy the idea of having a group of people out there in the world who literally hate you — just because you're a journalist!

So, what can be done about this?

Obviously the public needs to recognize that journalists are not out to get them and weren't put on this earth to give the average man to sneeds. We are here to shed light on important issues and let people see the facts, whatever they may be.

A wise man once said, "The truth is rarely pure and never simple." But apparently I took the liberty of freedom to a whole new level.

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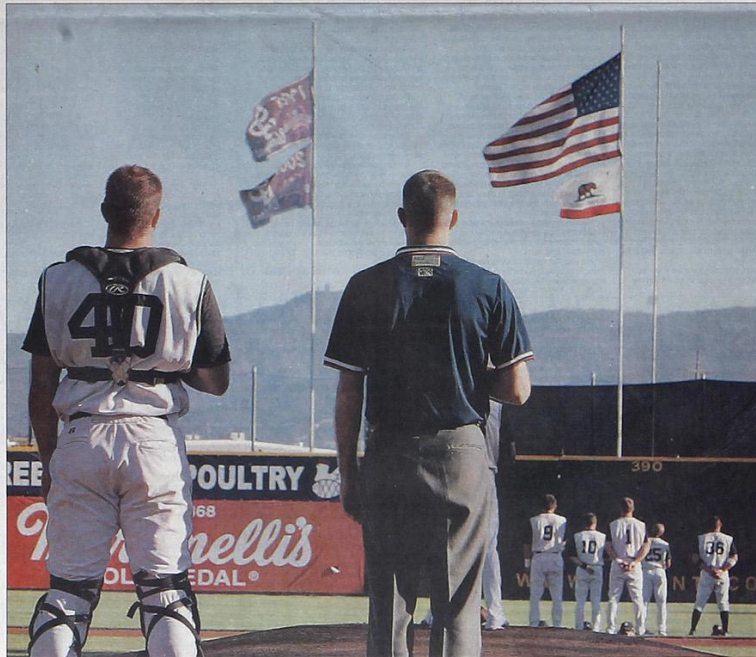
Fireworks launched after the San Jose and Lake Elsinore Storm game. ANUJ BIYANI // MOSAIC STAFF



Chris Cancilla shows her American spirit in an unusual place during a San Jose Giants game versus the Lake Elsinore Storm. JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF

# American tradition

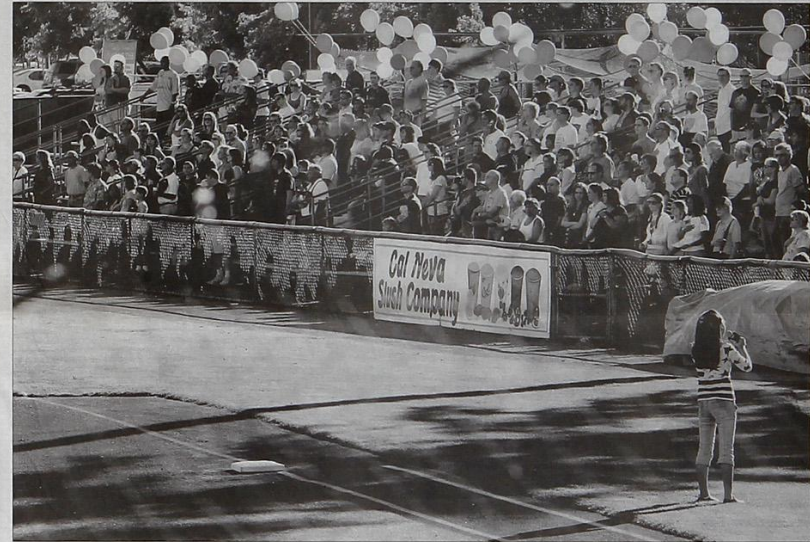
Independence Day brings fireworks, festivities, fun



Players and umpires salute the American flag while the national anthem is sung at the San Jose Giants and Lake Elsinore Storm game at the Municipal Stadium, San Jose, on July 3, 2007. ANUJ BIYANI // MOSAIC STAFF



A crowd at the San Jose Giants game versus the Lake Elsinore Storm cheers on their home team at the San Jose Municipal Stadium on July 3rd, 2007. JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF



The crowd stands during the National Anthem at the San Jose Municipal Stadium during a minor league San Jose Giants game versus the Lake Elsinore storm on July 3rd, 2007. JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF



San Jose Giants players (left to right) Nathan Pendley, Ben Boyer, and Henry Sosa hang out at the dugout at the San Jose Giants vs. Lake Elsinore Storm at the San Jose Municipal Stadium on July 3, 2007. SHRIN CHAFFARY // MOSAIC STAFF

IN MY OPINION

CAROLINE HODGE

Looking for a religion

Religious teens' camaraderie is attractive, but not enough to win over a skeptic

Technically, I'm Jewish, but I still haven't found a religion. My family is hardy religious. My mom is Jewish and my dad Christian, but neither one was knowledgeable or dedicated enough to teach my sister and me much. My parents settled on celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah as a bare bones way of giving us some sort of religious education.

Our Christmas celebrations extended little beyond a tree and presents. I knew that Jesus was born Dec. 25, but this day I'm fuzzy on the details of the nativity story.

We celebrated Hanukkah by lighting our menorah, albeit earnestly, and reading translations of the three essential prayers from a photocopied sheet pasted into one of my mom's cookbooks.

When I was in elementary school, my mom had a change of heart and decided that she wanted us to get a real Jewish education. We had a temple and my mom enrolled us both in the Hebrew school.

I liked the classes, but never felt much of a connection to Judaism. My favorite parts were the weekly quizzes on Hebrew vocabulary words and the doughy challah bread we ate after services. I gave them thought to the subtle religious messages entwined in each lesson.

By sheer accident, I ran to a Mennonite youth convention in San Jose a few days ago. As the group of almost 4,000 teenagers walked to enter the worship hall, they erupted into cheers and applause. They threw beach balls and blown-up plastic animals into the air.

As I stood outside the door in the moist heat steaming off the crowd, I couldn't help but feel a pang of jealousy that I didn't have a community like this one to call my own. Inside the worship hall, the Mennonites clapped and sang to the boy-band rock music that overflowed from the stage. They listened intently to a man speak passionately about finding God.

For a moment, I wondered why I had never rejoined my congregation or sought out another religious community.

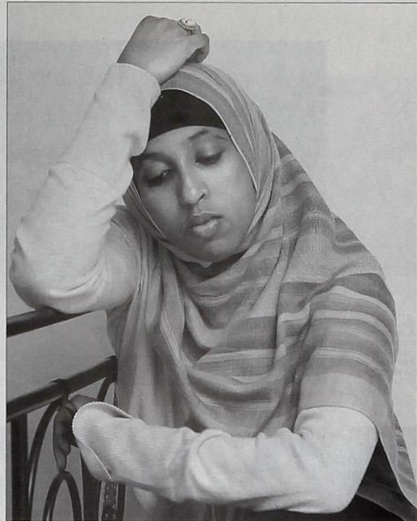
The Mennonites were self-assured, too. The young people I spoke with talked about their futures with a candid confidence that I find uncommon among people my age. They know that they want to remain chaste until marriage. They know that they want to do good in their communities to emulate the life of Jesus. Most importantly, they know they want to live their lives for God.

For another, I wondered why I had never rejoined my congregation or sought out another religious community. I found myself in a similar situation a religion — proscribing, over-nudging philosophy that I could refer to if I ever wanted to determine what I should think about certain issues or how I should conduct myself in daily life.

But the more I thought about it, the more I realized that the Mennonites don't have a religion. I don't have the same type of community that usually comes with it, but I have something else: the opportunity to connect with my own beliefs.

So instead of a religion, I've been looking for a philosophy on life. I try to find out how people around me choose to live and take their ideas into consideration as I mold my own set of beliefs.

Sometimes I visit with a group of people who wear hijabs and a religion, which science to discern value. I went to a nearby Buddhist center to find out more about the religion and attended a service. I read a book about Buddhism and occasionally try to submerge my mind in rotness. I frequently talk to my friends about their religions and what they think the meaning of life is.



Sabinr Said wears a head scarf that represents modesty and commitment to Islam in a U.S. society where covering your head can perpetuate negative stereotypes.

HIJAB / a symbol of their faith

thoughts of what would students think of me, but how would teachers react to me? How was I supposed to act? Am I going to act differently? Or the same? There were a lot of things going through my mind, but there was a stronger bigger than these thoughts.

Said, now a 19-year-old student at the University of California-Los Angeles, is one of many young Muslim women who weigh the hijab decision to wear the hijab. The head scarf represents modesty and the commitment the girls make to Allah and Islam. While many Islamic countries require girls to wear the hijab once they reach puberty, the decision is harder in a society where covering your head is not only optional, it also can perpetuate negative stereotypes.

"The misconception in the West is the hijab is oppression," says Samira Faheem Sundas, executive director of the American Muslim Voice. "Muslim women who wear it are not narrowly minded or backwards people. They are the opposite."

Some American women who wear hijabs were afraid to leave their homes after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, for fear they would be physically harmed. According to the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights group, women often targeted by their hijabs.

In June, a Georgia woman was barred from entering a courthouse for "homeland security reasons" when she tried to contest a speeding ticket. Also in June, at Seaside High School in Monterey County, a lunchroom supervisor



Sabinr Said says her choice was not influenced by the negative connotations and was just not ready for that dedication. SHIRIN GHAFFARY // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

yelled at a 13-year-old student to take off her headscarf, even when she explained she wore it for religious reasons.

So for young women like Said, something that is meant to be a spiritual decision ends up having to be weighed against what's "appropriate" in the United States.

Said's sister, Seham, 18, came to a difficult conclusion when considering whether to wear the hijab. She says her choice was not influenced by the negative connotations; rather, she just was not ready for that dedication.

"The hijab is like wearing Islam on your sleeve," Seham said, adding, "One day I would like to be like my sister because I know she is strong in her deen (religion). And I know I am as well, but I'm not capable like her to do the requirements to be on her level."

For many women who wear the hijab, the meaning is the opposite of Western stereotypes. "The scarf is not an emblem in society; it's an option of attire," said Zakiryan Hyatt, a psychologist who was part of a team that started a youth mentorship at the Muslim Community Association in Santa Clara. "In our society, women are perceived as sexual objects. So when people, mainly men, see a woman covered up, her knowledge and abilities stand forth to him, not the fact that she has tight jeans on or he likes her hair looks."

To many girls the hijab is a symbol of becoming a new person.

"The hijab is not just a physical change, it also changes our attitude," says Alynette Kafri, 17, a freshman at U.C.-Davis. "You're more humble, and you respect yourself a lot more."

Whether it's to be treated equally, or to be modest, wearing a hijab is a choice only a girl can make for herself, young women say, and it can't be decided overnight.

"In Saudi Arabia I was forced to wear it. In America I can take my time," said Amal Shehda, a sophomore at DeAnza College in Cupertino.

Sabinr Said says Allah gave her the strength to wear the hijab despite the stereotypes.

"I fazed me, but not to the point that I wouldn't wear it," she said. "Don't let your hijab be your boundary. I may be muhajiba, but that's not all I am. It's what you make of it."

The golden age pioneers of hip-hop from 2Pac and Biggie Smallz have already had such a lasting impact that each other equally? This cultural distinction is like a game of tag.

After my experiment, I had a sudden awe attached to the mundane. What makes me different from those people who judge me? Answer: I play a role they want me to play by accepting Western culture's demands.

I felt that at the moment, I had been considered the "safe" Muslim. People had never seen me comfortable with me as opposed to someone who wears the hijab.

IN MY OPINION

SAMERA HADI

Outcast at home

Wearing hijab, abaya draws stares at the mall

How is it that in the most diverse nation in the world, one can feel like an outcast?

In my part of the country, everyone is put into five ethnic categories: white, black, Latino, Asian, and Arab. You might not even have a single drop of any of these races, but with so much indifference and ignorance that so many people have, you are what they think you are.

I feel that in a country that is known for diversity, we seem to fall short of actually embracing it. We instead have become hypocrites, shooting out ways to conform to cultures rather than celebrating them. I'm Arabian, but to many people I look Asian Indian or black. As a Muslim female living in the United States, I'm basically expected to have stories of post-9-11 discrimination, but surprisingly, I haven't. I don't "fit" the stereotype because I don't wear the hijab or abaya.

I have never been in as uncomfortable a position as this. It felt like I was doing something wrong by just wearing my religious clothes.

The hijab is a religious scarf that Muslim females wear to cover their hair. It goes around one's face, covering not just the hair but also the neck. The abaya is a long, loose, black dress that hides one's whole body. The hijab to Muslim women represents complete dedication to their religion and to God.

So I decided to visit the local mall while dressed in a hijab and abaya to see what the reaction would be. From the moment my friend and I drove in to the parking lot, people started to get stares walking, buying things, sitting down, God forbid! It was like they had no sense of humor. I even had some juvenile delinquents staring me down, trying to start something. When they weren't staring, they were actually avoiding me.

The thing that really got me mad was the fact that everyone or looking at me with either hate or pity. No matter how unobtainable the constant negative exposure that Islam and the Middle East get, it never seems to really get over. It's as if because many people view the hijab as oppression, forced upon women, the hip-hop community, in turn, doesn't seem to really understand why it's a person, conscious or not, who wears it. Or why they might think differently. People have this mentality that if you're a Muslim, you're a terrorist. You think it is either written off, or they decide that it's wrong. Many Muslims don't understand that there is no one uniform way to be an American. You are still playing a role that you want to play for the music in part of your culture.

The golden age pioneers of hip-hop from 2Pac and Biggie Smallz have already had such a lasting impact that each other equally? This cultural distinction is like a game of tag.

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I felt that at the moment, I had been considered the "safe" Muslim. People had never seen me comfortable with me as opposed to someone who wears the hijab.

The reaction I received at the mall helped me realize that I should acknowledge my culture and maybe use that near the hijab. When that day comes, I will know I did it not because I felt I had to, but because I was accepted in my culture and I will be my personal choice, with no sense of pressure to conform.

IN MY OPINION

JORDAN HUNG // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

"Trappers" ruining rap's rep

Vulgar hip-hop lyrics overshadow music from the heart

The day 2Pac died, the West Coast died with him. The day Biggie Smallz died, the East Coast died with him. With the two inspirational hip-hop powerhouses gone, a different breed of rappers from other major areas — such as Houston, the Midwest, and the South — took over the industry with a foul and degraded form of rap.

Ever since, hip-hop record executives have mastered the concept of keeping hip-hop on the map, right smack dab in the middle. It's just too bad that hip-hop is on the map for the wrong reasons: explicit lyrics based upon illegal drug use, homophobia, and misogyny. Sure, 2Pac and Biggie weren't the most positive role models, but at least they had something to say from the heart.

Hip-hop is meant to be the soul. It is meant to uplift and strengthen your confidence through rich poetry matched perfectly with urban beats. It's a tragedy for the genre that pure-minded, positive hip-hop artists are being forgotten by the media, which condemns all of hip-hop as vulgar and offensive.

CNN's Paula Zahn ran a segment last year titled "Hip-Hop Art vs. Prostate Cancer." It pained me to witness how the country was getting the idea that the entire hip-hop culture was distasteful in every characteristic.

When hip-hop silently came to the music industry almost 40 years ago, during the New York City block parties, the world was totally unfamiliar with the loquacious rhythms and rhymes of the new rap.

Now, everyone is all ears. There is a long, loose, black dialect to follow in the paths of legends such as 2Pac and Biggie Smallz — and probably none ever. Trapper rappers — recording artists who only rap about issues such as drugs, violence, and sex — are more common than ever. It has come to the point where you can get a major recording label if you simply buy a rough image and can recite a few elementary rhymes.

The record labels know that in order to sell, they need to portray the recording artists as tough, hard individuals. Their primary audience are not listeners who love the same lifestyle, but other suburban listeners who are fascinated with and in awe of the gangster mentality.

It's a shame to see the hip-hop community — the Bay Area's incompetent sub-genre of rap — now stand for the West and continue the hip-hop recording labels, like Dispat and G-Unit, for the East.

Hip-hop is simply not for everyone. It was never meant to be. Mainstream hip-hop fans need to stop focusing on the images gangster rappers — and their music videos — and pay more attention to what the culture is really about.

Hip-hop culture revolves around creativity and originality. No matter how unobtainable the constant negative exposure that Islam and the Middle East get, it never seems to really get over. It's as if because many people view the hijab as oppression, forced upon women, the hip-hop community, in turn, doesn't seem to really understand why it's a person, conscious or not, who wears it. Or why they might think differently. People have this mentality that if you're a Muslim, you're a terrorist. You think it is either written off, or they decide that it's wrong. Many Muslims don't understand that there is no one uniform way to be an American. You are still playing a role that you want to play for the music in part of your culture.

The golden age pioneers of hip-hop from 2Pac and Biggie Smallz have already had such a lasting impact that each other equally? This cultural distinction is like a game of tag.

After my experiment, I had a sudden awe attached to the mundane. What makes me different from those people who judge me? Answer: I play a role they want me to play by accepting Western culture's demands.

I felt that at the moment, I had been considered the "safe" Muslim. People had never seen me comfortable with me as opposed to someone who wears the hijab.

The reaction I received at the mall helped me realize that I should acknowledge my culture and maybe use that near the hijab. When that day comes, I will know I did it not because I felt I had to, but because I was accepted in my culture and I will be my personal choice, with no sense of pressure to conform.

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Warren Hurts shows his hip-hop dance skills at Eastridge Mall. // ASHWIN SHANKER // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THE BAY THEY GET IT

Music, culture dominates area youth

ASHWIN SHANKER // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Walk past the clubs on South First Street in downtown San Jose and loud music plays you like a sharp wave. It's not just any type of music — it's hip-hop. Five years ago, it would have been considered the Bay Area music that involves the use of ecstasy would be successful. Yet, hip-hop is taking over, leaving some wondering what this new music genre entails, and how it affects the Bay Area's population.

Hip-hop started out full of energy and rage. It is often played on radio stations, like WJLF 94.9 and has become its own sub-culture. The phrase "hip-hop" was coined when Keek Da Sneak, a popular rapper, coined the term "hip-hop" as a reference to his own record, "I Wee My Surreal Glasses at Night," a popular song that sampled the Bay Area rapper, Keek Da Sneak's "I Wee My Surreal Glasses at Night."

How can 50 Cent, one of the most controversial rappers today, sell more copies to his debut album, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" than Eminem's recent album, "Relapse" in his entire 15-year career?

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unable that it has put the Bay Area on the hip-hop map. Warren Hurts, a dancer who appeared in the popular hip-hop movie "Step 2: The Streets in Three Dimensions," is one of the hundreds of world-class analysts at the Pentagon, is the only human capable of breaking the Deception's code?"

Also, the excessive advertisements can get on your nerves. The camerawork emphasized logos and other product placements such as car brands like GMC and Pontiac, which became repetitive. The ads were advertised from Apple and Xbox also made me feel the movie was overbearing in advertising. Online auction website eBay was also featured prominently. Hip-hop music is not valued for the song lyrics as much as the dancing and energy involved. At Eastridge Mall in San Jose, a woman in her party clothes who referred to herself only as "Pearl," associated hip-hop with clubbing.

"I'm going to a club, then I like hip-hop music. [Also] if you're hella' down or hella' tired, you want to go to a club. Many people listen to hip-hop music mainly because of the lifestyle it promotes. Even if it's about dancing to it and other provocations. Despite our joint appreciation of the movie, we did differ on one aspect."

Patrick: I thought the animation blended really well with the roads, buildings, and humans in the background. I liked how the Transformers would change from a muscle car into a robot. This was a breakthrough in animation that it's worth seeing for its special effects.

Jessie: You're right, but for me, the sequences get old by the end of the movie and I don't think it was as much of an innovation as you say. When you see the logo, it's not that innovative. I think I am excited about working with it with Steven Spielberg producing, it's going to have great looks, but it's only the fun and offbeat one that makes it worth a viewing.

All in all, check this movie out.

Movie review: Transformers

★★★★

PATRICK LIU AND JESSIE PABLONCO // MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

The special effects are all the reason you need to see "Transformers," especially if you're an action movie junkie. The transformations are so realistic, they make it believable for a two-story tall robot to fit inside the body of an average sports car.

In the movie, two factions of automobiles and other types of vehicles, have been fighting a civil war on their home planet of Cybertron for hundreds of years. When the Allspark, a massive cube with the power to create other members of their race, somehow ends up on Earth, the two sides take their war to our home and duke it out over control of the Allspark.

Directed by Michael Bay of "Independence Day" and "Pearl Harbor," this robot epic stars Shia LaBeouf as Sam Witwicky, the boy with who holds the key to finding the Allspark. Peter Onie represents the role of Autobot leader Optimus Prime. For anyone who has a hunch about acting having played with the Astroloy as a kid, don't be. Transformers is a mature film, its tone is nowhere near the campiness of the original 1980s Saturday morning cartoon. At the same time, watching Transformers is a great treat if you're a fan of the original series.

The action sequences are packed with explosions and exciting special effects — some of the best ever created. The first appearance of a Transformer was especially brilliant.

This is a good popcorn flick, though and through, it's a simple idea — robots coming back each ends off — so don't expect movie critical. Ladies be warned: Your choice of date movies might not mesh with the Transformers. About in general, guys are going to like it more than girls. It's a great way to spend a guy's night out if you're looking for an alternative from the usual.

Despite a lack of quality acting or dialogue, we still gave it a high score of four stars because of its humor and thrilling action. But the movie comes off as cheesy at times, bordering logical.

For instance, who would believe that a grandma's boy super hacker named Glee played by Anthony Anderson rivaled one of the hundreds of world-class analysts at the Pentagon, is the only human capable of breaking the Deception's code?"

Also, the excessive advertisements can get on your nerves. The camerawork emphasized logos and other product placements such as car brands like GMC and Pontiac, which became repetitive. The ads were advertised from Apple and Xbox also made me feel the movie was overbearing in advertising. Online auction website eBay was also featured prominently. Hip-hop music is not valued for the song lyrics as much as the dancing and energy involved. At Eastridge Mall in San Jose, a woman in her party clothes who referred to herself only as "Pearl," associated hip-hop with clubbing.

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IN MY OPINION

Growing up with Harry Potter

Rowling's magical world spills over into real life

I'm not a freak, really. I'm not, but I've read the six Harry Potter books by J.K. Rowling at least 50 times each and review them nearly every night before I go to bed.

Needless to say, I love Rowling's magical world of Hogwarts. And I am not the only one. With more than 325 million copies of the first six books sold worldwide, Harry Potter has become nothing short of a phenomenon that has deeply affected the lives of children who have grown up absorbing the boy wizard.

In fact, every year children run into a wall at Kings Cross Station in an attempt to get to Platform 9, the supposed entrance to this magical world. Although I have never tried this myself, Harry Potter has been a fundamental part of my childhood as well. These books have helped me in social situations, benefited me academically, and taught me to always believe in magic.

Because of the book's popularity, everyone, even the "cool" kids are always eagerly anticipating what will happen next. As a former new schooler, I have taken advantage of the book's popularity and used this topic as a conversation starter. We talk about what we like about the first book, the upcoming one, how funny it is that Harry is our age, etc. Now my very best friends are throwing Hogwarts parties. Even on dates, when the conversation starts to cover the subject of Harry Potter, my dates, out of 10, out-educates as to who will die next, takes us all the way through dessert.

In an academic sense, Rowling's made-up spells such as wingardium leviosa (which makes things float) of the grounds has helped me memorize massive vocabulary lists with words such as "alibi" and "fish class." In Spanish class, those same spells have helped me learn verbs such as "averiguar" (to inquire). Furthermore, the whole plot of Harry Potter is a lesson in perseverance. The ascending theme of Harry Potter will be connected to our very world. I used this analogy for my SAT essay, comparing Harry's perseverance to that of the American spirit to non-magical parents to various generations.

I truly am lucky to have become immersed in this magical world at a young age. Back when there were no Harry Potter movies, action figures and mass commercialism, I pretented to be Harry Potter on my own. For Halloween in the fourth grade, I dressed up as Professor Dumbledore with a foam-constructor made out of wire, a long gray beard and homemade wizard's robes. The games were understandably to my imaginative play, creativity and cognitive development. I always believed that I, like those children in the Harry Potter magical world, are never going to grow up.

Then, one night in the summer before sixth grade, my father started to complain of a disturbance, possibly an owl, in my room. So with great trepidation, I went to my bedroom where to my surprise I found a large envelope addressed to me. It was my Hogwarts acceptance letter with a list of necessary school supplies!

I was elated. After all, I'm not like every magical person whose parents aren't wizards in America gets to go to Hogwarts in Britain. And even though, as I later found out, it was clearly a joke, I still held onto a strand of hope that the magical world existed.

Despite growing out of the phase where I pretended to be a wizard in my back yard, I still associate with Rowling's novels. I am an orphan in England in my heart, and nevertheless connect with his concerns over homework and tests, his relationships with teachers and friends, sports and album releases, and love interests. Such similarities with my relationship with my classes and teachers and the knots in his stomach before a Quidditch match analogous to those I feel before my softball games.

MORE THAN A FEELING

Islas Sernaia Jr. rifles through vinyl records at Streetlight Records in San Jose on June 26, 2007. // ANJU BIYANI // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHS

Music collectors and DJs prove vinyl is a lasting revolution

JORDAN HUNG // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

For some music lovers, that tiny mp3 player just won't do. "The purest form of music is on vinyl," said Nate Leblanc, an employee at Streetlight Records in San Jose. "I probably have about 4,000-5,000 pieces of vinyl. It's what keeps me going."

The LP has survived the introduction of 8-tracks, audiotapes and CDs. And it's still here despite the massive success of digital music and portable media players. Tyler Narciso, 21, of Salinas said he shops for vinyl records at least once a week since obtaining his grandparents' vacant turntable.

"Vinyl feels more intimate because it forces me to listen to the whole song. You can't fast-forward, rewind or skip a song like the way you would with CDs and just look for a single," he said. "I feel like I'm more involved when I play vinyl," Narciso said.

Vinyl records, sound recordings consisting of a disk with a continuous groove, are still being mass-produced by record labels, with the most up-to-date singles and album releases, whereas 8-track cartridges and audiotapes have been discontinued. According to the Associated Press, Nielsen SoundScan reported that \$83,000 LPs were sold in 2006.

There are numerous record stores in the Bay Area such as Streetlight Records, Amoeba Music and Rhapsody Music that specialize in selling modern and classic vinyl records, as well as CDs and other music products. The digital album covers for vinyl records

are also covered. Many collectors frame them as they would works of art.

"If you purchase a download and use it from your hard drive, your hard drive can stop working and you are left with nothing," Lewis said. "At least with vinyl you are able to record the song onto their fingertips makes the entire music experience more worthwhile.

One drawback is the price of vinyl records. A sealed vinyl album can range from \$20-\$30 while the same CD can be bought for \$10-\$15. Perhaps the main reason that disc jockeys continue to use vinyl comes with the mental aspect of knowing that the vinyl record stands as a recognized trademark for anyone who labels himself or herself a DJ.

"I feel like a true DJ when I'm using vinyl," said Isayas Sernaia Jr., 30, of Hollister. "I hardly buy any CDs because there is so much originality on vinyl."

Nevertheless, because there is so much gear to transport from event to event, some mobile DJs who use vinyl records are digitalizing their music collections. This means they will now have to purchase CD-capable turntables, also known as CDJs, but they gain the convenience of carrying just a binder of CDs with the same amount of music as abundant crates of vinyl.

But Leblanc refuses to ever DJ with CDs. "I never understood digital mixing," he said. "It just never felt right."

San Jose, said Summers. Various dining guides place the number of strictly vegetarian restaurants in San Jose around nine, a number that is expected to grow because of the increasing number of people in the South Bay who refuse meat, said Summers.

If you're ready to sample local vegetarian cuisine, but don't know where to go, here are some places to get you started. "You'll discover much more than salads, tofu and garden burgers. These ethnic restaurants show that being vegetarian is all about flavor.

Patrons choose their meats from the deli case, which features 15 to 19 choices every day. Choices are a corn item plate (\$4.50), a two-item plate (\$5.50), a three-item plate (\$6.50) and a buffet \$8.99, consisting of any item from the deli along with black beans, rice, sauce and veggies.

For his three-item plate, I had a chick, creamy pesto Alfredo, spicy mashed potatoes, tofu in black bean sauce and white rice. The mini BBQ chicken (\$1 each) was a fine side dish, though clearly imitation meat, and it paired in comparison to the veggie pork bun (\$2). This incredible finger food was heavenly, bursting with flavor.

Udupi PALACE Udupi Palace in Sunnyvale is one of a small chain of restaurants serving authentic South Indian vegetarian dishes in the Bay Area. The kids' buffet (\$4.95) and lunch buffet (\$7.95), with over 12 items including spicy soups, refreshing sauces and palak paner—a spinach and cheese dish—leaves you so full that even the biggest carnivore won't miss meat. There's also a 100-item menu to order from with a variety of curries and dattes, which in some cases made with rice and lentils. The gratifying masala dosa (\$5.75) is one of a long list of items including sambar and coconut chutney and filled with spiced potatoes and onions. It's enough food to fill up two people. Even the appetizers such as medhu vada (\$3) fried lentil chutney, which will satisfy any carnivore, and the last of MSG, salt and oil. "Health conscious my waiter," is very important."



VEGETARIAN HOUSE: Sunday Banana Fritters consist of tofu ice cream with strawberry syrup (left). A full bar serves vegan drinks for customers (right). // ANJU BIYANI // MOSAIC STAFF



GOOD KARMA: Victoria Avashchenko and Alife Professa enjoy their veggie meals (left). A combo plate of white rice, mashed potatoes, tofu in black bean sauce and potato Alfredo. // ANJU BIYANI // MOSAIC STAFF

A FRESH PATE

Local ethnic vegetarian eateries offer variety, spice

MONICA CHEN // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

With all the outrage over global warming, atrocities in slaughterhouses, and food-borne health threats, more people are following the lives of Aarti Lavigne and Clint Eastwood and taking the vegetarian pledge.

A 2006 poll by The Vegetarian Resource Group estimated that approximately 2.3 percent of adult Americans do not consume meat, fish or poultry, and 6.7 percent never eat meat.

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Vegetarian HOUSE 520 S. Santa Clara St. Suite 901 Tel: (408) 292-7787 Closures: 9:00-11:00 p.m., Mon-Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat-Sun.

RESTAURANT type: International Recommendations: Banas (Banana Curry) \$9.99 and Sunday Banas (Banana Curry) \$10.99 Hours: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Mon-Fri., 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat-Sun.

GOOD KARMA 3745 First Street, San Jose 95112 (408) 294-2854 Restaurant type: International Recommendations: Medhu Vada (\$3.75), Mung Bean Curry (\$5.75) Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Mon-Fri., 12 p.m.-9 p.m., Sat-Sun.

FRAGRANCE LAND 2160 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 414 Tel: (408) 966-8449 Restaurant type: Chinese Recommendations: Banan Vegetable, Mung Bean Curry, Chiken (\$6.50) Hours: 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Mon-Fri., 12 p.m.-9 p.m., Sat-Sun.

Udupi PALACE 970 E. El Camino Real, Suite 100 Tel: (408) 300-0600 Restaurant type: Indian Recommendations: Medhu Vada (\$3.75), Mung Bean Curry (\$5.75) Hours: 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri-Sat.

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New vintage stores cheaper than ever

Valuable now-old "finds" found in thrifty vintage stores

The second I walked into a thrift store, I flipped out by my list: A navy blue polyester flower print tunic, the attached sash loosely tied to the waist; a bright, spatch-neck leather purse; an ancient Elton John vinyl record that hasn't been played for decades; and "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

I found all of these seemingly expensive items for bargain prices at a new breed of stores, which I'll call "thrifty vintage" stores. Clothes are one of the first things that people see, and definitely the last thing they remember when you walk away. For me, vintage is everything. The new old finds are so plentiful that I can't even count the thousands of dollars on designer bags, shined shoes, and high-end, name-brand dresses.

Whatever happened to the vintage store, which America found? Democracy, I think. Check it out. Thriftiness: Well, that's not our strongest suit anymore but it should be. Fashion can be classy and cheap at the same time. In fact, "thrifty vintage" shops are only found in rural towns with no malls. In fact, they are found only in the San Francisco area, but where are all the good ones?

I've searched far and wide in search of the best "thrifty vintage" stores in town and have found a few. I had to say that one of my favorite destinations in the quest to find the best thrifty vintage stores was right here in my own city, San Jose. Moon Zoom on W. San Carlos Street, is a small "thrifty vintage" store that focuses on authentic re-related clothing, shoes, hats, and accessories for men and women.

The store has an eclectic mix of quirky clothes and sections that display items with a fresh offbeat flare. Underneath displays of posters of the original 70s television show, Charles O'Connell, you can find go-go dresses in nearly every color imaginable, those dreaded bell-bottom jumpsuits, and women hippie style and sizes for both men and women. To anyone who has any taste and body shape will be able to find something to add to his or her closet.

I was grateful having to leave behind an authentic baby-blue go-go dress with faux fur trim for \$25. The upstairs '80s boutique was completely adorable, and the vintage rock band t-shirts that most are worth the extra bucks, because I would, however, let otherwise.

I was very impressed by the huge collection of shoes. Everything from dress shoes to combat boots was on display, some not even used. The store was a complete shoe paradise. Tip #4: If the shoe fits, don't always buy it. Make sure the soles are not too worn-out. A few are a thumbs up. The most wow-est store I visited while in San Francisco, with an even wider name, was Bazaar's.

The shop was decorated with tropical outfits, wacky wigs, and antiquated hats that added a certain je ne sais qu'il I visited Bazaar's. Of all the vintage stores I visited, Bazaar's was one of the only ones that had reasonably affordable items. You could find everything, even, pastel dresses, and women who have a grimace when they see \$10. They were also items for stealer prices such as a Jackie-O wearing long black coat with over-sized round buttons and a faux fur collar for \$40.

Close the vintage store step by step. Tip #5: Be wary of stains and tears. Check all items before you buy. Be especially suspicious of white clothing. The thrifting craze isn't just to include economically unstable teens, elderly women in Christmas sweaters, or people who have a grimace when they see \$10. They were also items for stealer prices such as a Jackie-O wearing long black coat with over-sized round buttons and a faux fur collar for \$40. Close the vintage store step by step. Tip #5: Be wary of stains and tears. Check all items before you buy. Be especially suspicious of white clothing. The thrifting craze isn't just to include economically unstable teens, elderly women in Christmas sweaters, or people who have a grimace when they see \$10. They were also items for stealer prices such as a Jackie-O wearing long black coat with over-sized round buttons and a faux fur collar for \$40.



MONICA CHEN



KAREN DIAZ

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IN OUR OPINION

SABRINA MERCADO EUNICE CHAN

Nightclub scene is not for us

Group of teens attracts unwanted leers, stares in "new" downtown

On a tour of the nightclub district in downtown San Jose, 20 Mosiac students were stalked by a drunk man...

"This is how we do in downtown San Jose!" yelled a drunk girl leering on strobe lights.

"We were across the empty dance floor, with him catching her graceful ballet leaps.

"But like other dancers, one wrong move could sideline their careers, jeopardizing their ability to perform and cutting short their dreams of being on stage."

"It's not just the uncomfortable attention that makes the whole nightclub experience so unsettling."

"In December 2003, a man was stabbed inside Zoe's Bar, Grill & Nightclub on South First Street."

"It is an outrage that people today voluntarily spend the night bumping and grinding with strangers."

"Those girls, but do you really want to attract people like that?"

"The whole nightclub scene defies the philosophies of feminism, self-esteem and body image."

"We saw women of all shapes and sizes, and all of them were, to say the least, scantily clad."

"As we passed by the entrances to different clubs, some of the owners told us to come back when we were 21."

"I like sluts to win the affection of a dozen dirty pigs! What do you have to lose except your own respect? Honestly, it's what we have to look forward to when we turn 21, then frankly we're not that excited about the new nightclub scene in downtown San Jose."



Young dancers of Ballet San Jose, Danielle Dumrine (left) and Svenja Reinschmidt (right) practice a routine. // SHRIN CHAFFARY // MOSAIC STAFF

PRESSURE POINTE

Ballet dancers balance mental, physical obstacles while perfecting their craft

KAREN DIAZ // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

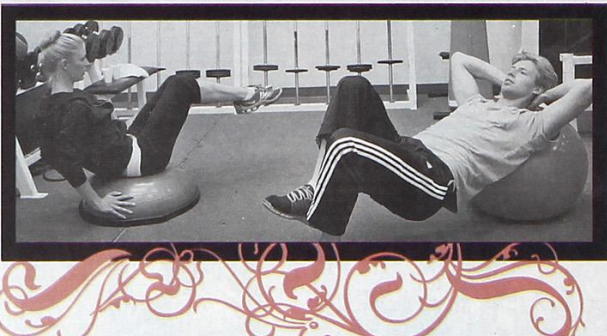
"This is how we do in downtown San Jose!" yelled a drunk girl leering on strobe lights. We were across the empty dance floor...

"The best way for dancers to avoid devastating injuries is by cross training, such as incorporating different exercises into their daily cycle like swimming, biking and other activities."

"For now, two of Ballet San Jose's most talented dancers are taking 10 days off at a time, trying to master the nuts and bolts of a competitive dance career."

"Doctors warned me that my career could end just so long. When I threw that fear aside, the injuries slowly went away."

Newlywed ballet partners Haley Henderson-Smith (left) and Easton Smith (right) work out at the gym in San Jose. // SHRIN CHAFFARY // MOSAIC STAFF



eat three hamburgers in a row. Ballet San Jose dancers often practice while off-season to stay in peak shape and prevent injury.

"I had to deal with shin splits and plantar fasciitis (inflammation of the toes and heel region)," says Svenja Reinschmidt, 15, a student at the Ballet San Jose School.

"Keller, the physical therapist from San Francisco, attributes many of the injuries of young athletes to their narrow range of activities."

"I would also stress the importance of a college education to my students. I would encourage them to follow their dreams but to also have a backup such as taking some college classes to be prepared."

"In his first season with the Sharks, Thornton helped Jonathan Cheechoo win the Rocket Richard Trophy as the top goal scorer by hockey players don't break into the NHL until they're 21."

"I think the media will do whatever it takes to sensationalize a story."

Although Wilson is a Padres fan, he appreciates Bonds for what he's done for the game of baseball. He believes Bonds is a tremendous world's greatest baseball pitcher."

"Bonds may be the best, most controversial, and most influential player of his time, but when everything is said and done, his legacy remains on the air. Ultimately, Bonds' legacy will be determined by the youth of today, the ones who grew up watching Bonds play and will live on to tell the world about it."

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IN MY OPINION

PATRICK LIU

Shotmaker Turned Sharks Around

Trade Brought Them Into Stanley Cup Territory

Logging on to my computer on a chilly afternoon two years ago, a sports headline caught my immediate attention: Boston Bruins Star Joe Thornton traded.

My first impression was, "What a stupid move by the Bruins." I did not yet know which team acquired Thornton. When I clicked on the link and found out he was coming to the San Jose Sharks — my favorite team — I was at a loss for words.

Last week, the Joe Thornton era in San Jose was extended to at least the 2011 season when the San Jose Sharks awarded Thornton a 3-year contract extension.

Even though he's made some mistakes he deserves to be recognized as one of the best players ever to play the game of baseball.

It's summertime, and the sounds of baseball are alive and well at AT&T Park in San Francisco, home of the San Francisco Giants and the site of the 2007 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Ryan's dad, Mark Allen, 47, agrees with his son about the asterisk. Mark Allen also ragged on Bonds for taking time off every five games he plays.

Aside from the steroids, there has been controversy over the reason Barry Bonds is playing this season.

Fans such as Daniel Ruz, 68, believe Bonds is still in the Major League today just to break the record.

"I was definitely playing to break the record," Ruz said. "He should be on the Giants to help them win, and he can do it with base hits and walks, not necessarily with home runs."

Along with Ruz and his wife were their two grandchildren. When asked what he would tell his grandchildren about Bonds, Ruz said, "I would say to my grandkids he's a great player."

"Absolutely, I want Bonds to break the record, and he will," said the grey-haired Ruz.

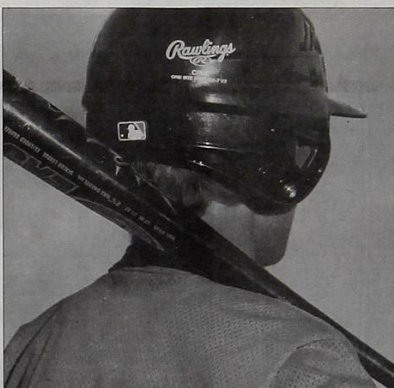
"I hold Major League Baseball responsible, which includes all the owners and player unions. Barry Bonds is being made a scapegoat for not breaking into the NHL until they're 21."

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Tyler Sullivan awaits his turn to bat during a little league game. JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF

ADMITTED LEGACY

BONDS // Fans respect home runs, worry about steroid use

BY FROM PAGE 1

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ABOVE // The Cupertino American Cardinals gather for a team photo. LEFT // Ryan Winston of the Cupertino National Junior Twins takes a swing during a Little League game. JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

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Bosnian immigrant Jasmina Blazevic and her granddaughter Amina share a laugh while taking a break from gardening. // JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHS

# Diversity thrives in garden

BY PAULINE NGUYEN // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

The little girl — brown wavy hair, big green eyes, wide smile — dashes across the garden to pluck a flower from a bush.

She spins around, spots her grandmother and giggles as she's playfully scolded in Bosnian.

This is the Green Thumb Garden, a 1 1/2-acre spot where the cultures that comprise San Jose's rich diversity cross paths.

Each morning, when the air is still cool, the gardeners converge on their plots of crops, many of which reflect their cultures.

In one corner, a Mexican gardener grows towering cornstalks. An old Bosnian man stoops over and slowly separates a mass of tomato plants with

his bare hands. "I shouldn't have planted them so closely," he says.

Nearby, a young white man jabs the dirt with his shovel, tossing soil to either side. An old Russian couple hobbles along, tending to their rows of cabbage.

Behind a trellis of climbing green beans, an African-American man tends to his brother's garden. "He's sick today," he says, carefully labeling the strawberries and the carrots.

An Iranian man grows Swiss chard. Beside him, an old Chinese couple cultivates leafy bundles of bok choy that they readily give to appreciative members of this tight-knit group.

In this garden — located beside an inexpensive apartment complex at

Rhoda and Roewill in West San Jose — the myriad of ethnicities collide, yet coincide.

Some gardeners are old, some are young, some come every day, while others come only once a week.

Seeds are shared and laughter is heard, despite barriers — ages, backgrounds, languages — that would divide most.

They come together a few times a year to share vegetables they prepare at a brick barbecue in the garden. At their annual celebration, everyone offers something for a salad that becomes a cornucopia of cultures.

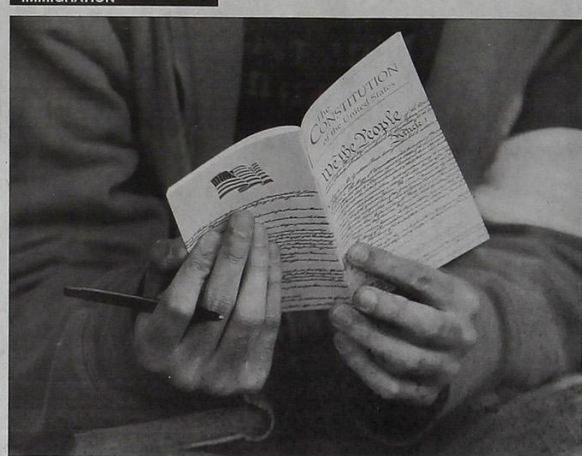
To these people, this garden offers more than a sentimental space, it offers an entire world.

// a cornucopia of cultures



ABOVE: Jasmina Blazevic seizes the opportunity to teach granddaughter Amina how to water plants. LEFT: Tomato and pepper plants from a plot at the Green Thumb community garden.

## IMMIGRATION



A protester reads the Constitution during a rally for immigration reform July 2. His white arm band symbolizes that he is fasting in support of the DREAM Act. // JASNA HODZIC // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHS

# STUDENTS PROTEST IMMIGRATION LAWS

Students march, fast for reform

BY PAULINE NGUYEN // MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

A weeklong protest calling attention to the need for comprehensive immigration reform and a legal pathway for undocumented immigrant children to attend colleges ends today on the doorstep of the San Francisco office of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco). College students from across the state spent the last four days fasting outside legislators' offices in support of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, which would fix immigration laws and increase education opportunities for undocumented immigrants who are students.

The protest in favor of the so-called DREAM Act started Monday when a caravan of five departed Los Angeles and headed north. The caravan picked up participants in towns along the nearly 400-mile route to Pelosi's office, where hundreds were expected for a rally today.

Five South Bay college students also took part in the fast in which they sat in front of the office of Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose) near downtown San Jose. The five are also taking part in the rally.

"I think it's awesome," said Alisa Cardenas, 22, one of the protest's organizers. "It's great so many students are trying to get a better future. Passing the Act would be extremely helpful. I'm a very strong supporter."

Father John Pedigo, the Director of the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform, on Monday prayed for the five student fasters in San Jose, and declared the Catholic Church's support.

"We, as the Catholic Church throughout the

U.S., believe these demands are reasonable and achievable," Pedigo said.

The fast was organized by Student Advocates for Higher Education from California State University, San Jose, and the Coalition for Human Rights of Los Angeles.

Organizers want the 12 million undocumented immigrants in the United States to have a way to gain citizenship without having to first return to their home countries. Organizers also want full rights and protections for current and future undocumented immigrant workers, preservation of due process and civil rights, and a stop to raids on businesses that might employ undocumented immigrants and deportations of any such workers identified. Organizers also want immigration law to continue to stress family reunification.

As part of the campaign, a mock graduation was held Tuesday in front of San Jose City Hall to dramatize how the DREAM Act could change lives of students by allowing them to complete higher education in the United States. Eighty vigils were held throughout the week in front of city hall.

Under the DREAM Act, students who enter the United States at 15 years old or younger and demonstrate good moral character will be eligible to apply for conditional status, which would authorize up to six years of legal residence.

If during those six years, the student graduates from a two-year college, completes at least two years towards a four-year degree, or serves in the U.S. military, permanent residence will be granted.

Each year roughly 65,000 high school students graduate who would qualify for the DREAM Act's benefits, according to the National Immigration Law Center, a Los Angeles-based advocacy organization.

job nor in the country one calls home.

Today he finds happiness in his garden. In photography, and in his love for puzzles and anagrams. At the sound of puzzles he spontaneously lets him, while driving the other day, he noticed that the sign "public storage" was made up of 13 different letters.

"I belong here. I'm okay here," says Hodzic. "I stopped fighting 'Where am I going.'"

Hodzic has gone from being a client of Social Services to working side-by-side with the very people who helped him gain his footing in this country. Today he helps those who are in the position he used to be.

"When people tell me 'you don't know what I'm going through' I can say, 'yes, I do,'" Hodzic says.



Mark Silverman from San Francisco speaks in favor of the DREAM Act.

The passing of the DREAM Act also would restore states' rights to determine state college and university fees for undocumented immigrant student residents.

Julia Cury, an assistant professor at San Jose State University and an advisor to some of the student fasters, also spent a day this week faxing letters to the California Legislature in support of the Act.

"I wanted to make sure that they know we support them and (legislators) should be supporting them as well," said Cury.

## IN MY OPINION



DULCE MARTINEZ

# ALL STUDENTS DESERVE AID, DESPITE STATUS AS IMMIGRANTS

Mayra, a 17-year-old who graduated recently from Downtown College Preparatory with top grades, had hopes on going to a four-year university and becoming a lawyer. There is only one problem.

She entered the United States illegally at four years of age, when her parents knew that if they stayed in Mexico they could starve. As an undocumented immigrant, she's ineligible for government financial aid.

At her high school, Mayra was in Leadership, a program for students who help with campus activities. She was a member of the associated student body and M.E.C.H.A., a Latino student group. She prepared and distributed sandwiches and water to day laborers in front of Orchard Supply Hardware while they waited for jobs.

"I feel betrayed by the country I call my home,"

PERLA, A STUDENT FROM THE MEXICAN STATE OF VERACRUZ

Mayra thought that she was as American as anyone. She never thought that being illegal was going to be a problem until she applied to a university. Then she found out that she qualified for almost no aid.

That limited her college choices. "I feel that it's not right that I worked so hard to improve my future and now I'm not sure what would become of my plans," said Mayra. A tall, brown-haired and brown-eyed girl from a poor village.

I know many teens who, like Mayra, had their dreams destroyed by the latest immigration reform bill. They shattered the hopes not only of legal students in San Jose but also students living all over the country.

Another deserving undocumented immigrant student worried about her future in San Jose. "Jaschoa" from the Mexican state of Veracruz.

Perla's parents smuggled her into America when she was nine. She graduated from Downtown College Prep graduate, she has all the qualities universities look for. She participated in student government, passed advanced placement classes and earned a 3.8 grade point average. And yet when it came to applying to a university, she had all doors slammed in her face.

"I feel betrayed by the country I call my home," said Perla. When the congressmen declared the immigration bill, they punished innocent young people who had no input in their family's decision to enter this country illegally.

Undocumented immigrant students in schools are not treated any differently than citizen students. They are always told that they can succeed, become lawyers, psychologists or teachers. But that's a lie if they are not given the same opportunities as citizens. They don't deserve to be treated so badly.

What happened to the American dream? For these students, the dream became a nightmare and now they have no choice but to remain here, stuck in the lowest tier in our society because they can't go back to a country they no longer consider their own. All men are created equal, but Congressmen don't think about that when they put the life of thousands of undocumented students on hold.

The Congressmen should face the problem with their heads up, high instead of running away and hiding. Is this what America wants, to destroy the hopes of so many bright and hard working young people who want to become citizens?



People of all ages gather to watch "Rear Window" at Cinema San Pedro in San Pedro Square in San Jose. // ANUJ BIYANI // MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHS



Carlos Elizalde, lead singer of La Ventana, rocks the mic, at Metro Music in the Other Park.

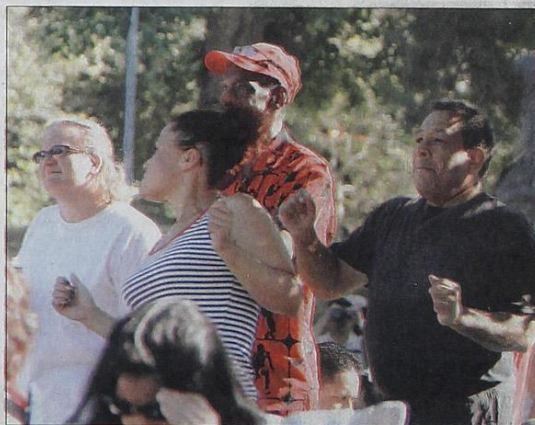
# SCENE+HEARD

Scene: Cinema San Pedro, San Pedro Square, San Jose  
 Heard: Music in the Park, St. James Park, San Jose

Summer is here! Dust off that lawn chair and catch a flick every Wednesday at Dusk at Cinema San Pedro, located at San Pedro Street between Santa Clara and St. John streets. Arrive early to secure a spot. Cost: Free.

Back in swing for its 10th season, Music in the Park rocks downtown 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Thursday at St. James Park, First and St. James streets. Bring a blanket or chair. Food and beverages are available. Cost: Free.

For more information and the summer schedule: [www.sjdowntown.com](http://www.sjdowntown.com)



ABOVE // Finding the perfect moment to dance, the crowd at St. James Park hops to their feet.

LEFT // A fan from the crowd jams with the band La Ventana on stage.