

the mosaic

Friday, June 26, 1998

San Jose Urban Journalism Workshop

Community seeks answers in slaying

By Melissa Phan, HongDao Nguyen and Michael Yardley

MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

All that remains of Oscar Perez are a few splattered blood drops amid wilting flowers and loving messages at the site of his death in Willow Glen. Scrawled sentiments such as "We will always love you" and "The Lord is with you" decorate the pavement of Settle Avenue.

This shrine, dedicated to the memory of a beloved friend and family member, is a reminder of a crime that has devastated his family and the community since it happened June 13.

On the eve of his 15th birthday, Perez was br-

Neighborhood unites against violence in wake of S.J. stabbing

tally killed in broad daylight by the occupants of a white compact car, who chased him down as he walked with his girlfriend to the Jack in the Box on Willow Street. They cornered him in the parking lot of a law office near the restaurant and stabbed him to death. It was an unusual crime for a neighborhood considered safe and desirable to live in.

Police, family members and friends are still searching for answers.

San Jose Police spokesman Louis Quezada refused to talk specifically about the investigation. However, he did say that police are continuing to talk to Perez's friends and family, in hopes of gaining insight into his life. Quezada would not divulge any information about witnesses or possible suspects, but did say the police are following any and all leads pertaining to the investigation.

Friends and family, still baffled and upset by Perez's death, describe him as sweet and joyful.

Musing about her cousin's mischievous nature, Marysol Ponce fondly recalled him as a prankster.



Flowers and photos form a shrine at the Settle Avenue site of Oscar Perez's slaying.

CAROLINE MONTANO/ THE MOSAIC

PLEASE SEE OSCAR PAGE 5

You've got porn

Sex mail spams users

By Abhi Brar and Melissa Phan

MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

Internet users read more than 35 million junk e-mails in an average day. Among the normal get-rich-quick schemes are also provocative inducements reading something like: "Our live sex shows will make your computer screen SIZZLE," or "Live Florida beach babes do it all right in your browser."

These unsolicited inducements are more often than not a nuisance, according to a World Research Inc. survey that claims 67.85 percent of e-mail account holders dislike receiving junk mail.

Internet users have described junk e-mail as not only annoying but also inappropriate and obscene. Internet junk mail, also known as spam, is an increasing problem. Formally known as unsolicited commercial e-mail, junk mail accounts for more than 30 percent of the entire electronic mail in circulation, according to Internet Service Provider's Consortium.

"The most common form of spam is sex mail," said Deb Howard of the consortium.

Sex mail refers to all the advertisement e-mails that promote pornographic sites on the World Wide Web. For example, mail from New York-based Softwell Marketing Inc., a junk e-mail sender promoting pornographic Web sites, blared "The Mega Sex Site of All Time is Free for You." Seven of the companies on America Online's "10 most wanted" list of spammers were sex mail spammers whose mail promoted items such as live strip shows or transgender and bisexual sex shows. Five percent to 30 percent of mail coming from the Internet on AOL is spam.

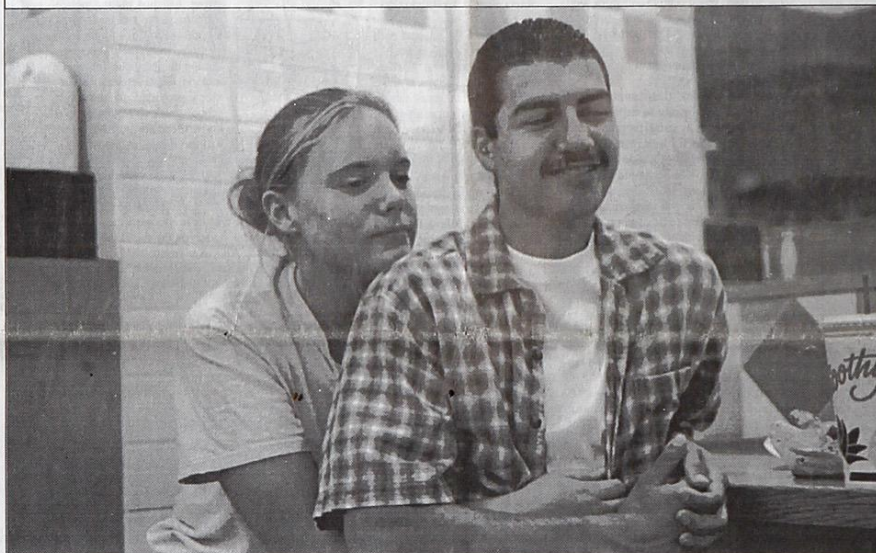
The cost of sending bulk e-mail is next to nothing. Someone can

PLEASE SEE SEXMAIL PAGE 5



Illustration by Kumi Nakamura

side by side



CAROLINE MONTANO/ THE MOSAIC

Jeremy Rodriguez and Tania Brumbly sit inside Orange Julius at Oakridge Mall enjoying each other's company while eating nachos and quenching their thirst with a smoothie.

Teen interracial couples face challenges of being together

By Juanita Ortiz

MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Dating as a teenager can be complicated enough, but when teens become involved with someone outside their race, things can become even more complicated. There are questions from people within their respective races about whether their own people are good enough for them. There are stares and weird looks from people on the street who haven't fully accepted interracial couplings. Also, if family members don't approve of the person, extra tension and stress can be added to the relationship.

Often it isn't discussed. Andres Millan, who is Mexican, said his mother doesn't approve of his Japanese girlfriend, 17-year-old Emi Maruyama. Instead of talking things out at home, he simply avoids bringing his girlfriend around.

"Maybe there's extra stress for Emi because my mom doesn't like her," said Millan, 18. "It's not too hard on us, though."

PLEASE SEE INTERRACIAL PAGE 4



DAPHNE DADOR/ THE MOSAIC

Sara and Walter Brown smile for the camera. "We're not married," Sara giggles.

Gay teens come out

Community, pride help them make life-changing decision

By Matt Morelos

MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Joe Schelman is a sociable, witty, normal teenager who found himself alienated from his peers because of one simple difference: He is gay. Because of his sexual preference, he was taunted and ridiculed in school.

"When I first came out, I was going to St. Francis High School, and I was called every name you've heard of," said Schelman, 16. "It was hard the first few weeks, but after a while I got used to it. I began to answer to 'faggot' like my own name."

An estimated one out of every 10 young Americans is homosexual or bisexual. For many of these youths, the most difficult task they will ever face is coming out of the closet, or announcing that they are gay.

There are several factors in modern society that have made it easier for gay youths to reveal their sexuality, including gay youth groups, a more prominent gay community and the increase in gay role models.

Youth groups can help gay teenagers find others who feel the same emotions they do and provide them with an outlet to become involved in community activities.

Rainbow Youth, a group for teens ages 14-17, meets Sunday afternoons in the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center in San Jose. Officials from the DeFrank

PLEASE SEE GAY TEENS PAGE 4



The Stats

There are no official statistics on interracial dating, but the U.S. Census Bureau reports that interracial marriages have increased nearly tenfold from 149,000 in 1960 to 1.46 million in 1990.

A majority of teenage interracial couples said most problems of intolerance come from their parents, not from schoolmates or society.

Teens said that if they experience criticism for dating someone outside their race, usually it is subtle or made in a joking way.

— Juanita Ortiz



The Mosaic is a publication of the sixth annual San Jose Urban Journalism Workshop. For two weeks, under the guidance of reporters and photographers from the San Jose Mercury News, high school students from all over the Bay Area become reporters and photographers for their own publication. Their goal is to produce a 12-page newspaper. Many of the stories in this publication are based on story ideas the students themselves developed. To learn more about the staff of The Mosaic, see Page 10.

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Guns, gangs are a way of life for some, but there are alternatives

By Vih Hittal and Abbi Brar
MOSAC STAFF WRITERS

Over the past 20 years, San Jose has been involved with the city council since the 1984 campaign to pass the Measure A, a county-wide sales tax for transportation. Gonzales, 47, is the education program manager for Hewlett-Packard. Where do they stand on issues related to young people? Mosaic reporters Abbi Brar and Kristina Ruidas sat down with both candidates and asked what they might do for teens if elected. Here are excerpts from that interview.

Q: The city of San Jose does not have enough places for teens to hang out. If elected, how would you improve this situation?

Dando: One of the first things that I would like to do is work with the city government, which is made up of students across the city from every aspect of the city. Identify those areas where it makes sense to have youth centers and work with school districts to use school property, maybe moving in double portables and having kids decide what goes in them. It will be an entertainment area operated by a board of teens.

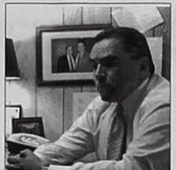
Gonzales: I think there are a lot of opportunities for the city to expand after-school programs, evening programs and weekend programs for teenagers. I'd like to hopefully provide activities that do more than just provide a place to hang out (but also allow them) to use that time productively whether it is to improve their education, help them to do career planning or provide them with homework centers.

Q: Are you in favor of the nighttime curfew for minors? Why or why not?

Dando: Since we've had the nighttime curfew, we have not had any complaints from the juvenile justice system. I've gone down on the street of San Jose, so far as I can see, it's working. And unless I find out otherwise, I support it.

Gonzales: Yes, I think it's been useful and productive in reducing the amount of youth gang violence in these hours. If has

Pat Dando and Ron Gonzales explain what they would do for young people



PHOTOS BY DANIEL STRAND/THE MOSAC

By Kristina Ruidas and Abbi Brar
MOSAC STAFF WRITERS

In November, San Jose voters will choose between two candidates for mayor. San Jose City Councilwoman Pat Dando and former Santa Clara County Superior Ron Gonzales, Dando, a San Jose resident for the past 25 years, has been involved with the city council since the 1984 campaign to pass the Measure A, a county-wide sales tax for transportation. Gonzales, 47, is the education program manager for Hewlett-Packard. Where do they stand on issues related to young people? Mosaic reporters Abbi Brar and Kristina Ruidas sat down with both candidates and asked what they might do for teens if elected. Here are excerpts from that interview.

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countries and be up at adult eye level. We need to be proactive and give kids from starting to smoke, that will serve them better when they are older.

Gonzales: I'm very disappointed in the actions of Congress not to approve the anti-smoking bill. It was a huge mistake on their part. I think it is reflective of the tobacco industry's control of special interest (groups) in Congress. I have been a strong supporter of the county's anti-smoking program. I strongly believe that the city should enforce the state laws regarding the sale of cigarettes to minors.

Q: Are you planning to create any employment programs for teenagers?

Dando: Yes, this is so exciting. I worked for the Redevelopment Authority for four years. While I was there, one of the programs that I started was the Youth Hire Program for the summer and it not only included college students but high school students. Students submitted interests, and we'd interview them in areas of the city where they live. It was not just a job program. The teens were responsible for organizing the whole thing. What I would like to do is not only work with private businesses to develop jobs, but also with the city of San Jose. We have people that are electrical engineers, architects, computer technicians, teachers and all kinds of people. I'd like to have a hiring program where kids can work for the city of San Jose.

Gonzales: Right now, for the Hewlett-Packard Co. and a national initiative that is trying to increase the number of young people who go into engineering fields. It's very important that that program provide internships to young college students to work at local H.P. facilities. I'd like to expand that idea to other high-tech companies and downward into the high school level. We shouldn't wait until they become of working age to get that exposure. Young people, through the Role Model Program that I founded, are taught about planning for their dreams. Even in middle school, they are making decisions to impact their ability to do what they want to do in our area. We bring in 150 role models from all kinds of jobs in Santa Clara County into San Jose classrooms to talk to them about staying in school, working hard and getting an education, staying away from drugs, alcohol and gangs.

Q: How would you deal with the amount of youth gang violence that has experienced violence and it has worked.

Dando: I've been working with Judge Len Edwards and a professor at San Jose State to put together a curriculum for young children who have been victims of domestic violence. You need to start working with them at the elementary age to help them understand that (violence) is not the right way to act out anger or frustration. I think that a lot of the reasons why we are seeing violent behavior in schools has a lot to do with kids growing up with violent behavior not just in their home, but movies and music and areas that have violence in it. The tragedies that we have seen are so much, unfortunately, unpreventable. I think that the only way I can think of to control it is to have adults that have guns in their ownership be more responsible for how they store them and keep them out of access of young people.

Gonzales: I support adding more police to the streets, but we found that there is more to fighting crime than just putting police officers on the streets. It takes a combination of things, such as after-school programs, continuing the gang task force and making improvements to services provided at the high school level, so young people know there are positive alternatives to joining gangs.

Q: How do you plan to control teen smoking?

Dando: I'm very proud of the young people of San Jose, because they are the ones who had brought the issue to city council. And as a result, we now have a program that is trying to reduce the number of young people who go into engineering fields. It's very important that that program provide internships to young college students to work at local H.P. facilities. I'd like to expand that idea to other high-tech companies and downward into the high school level. We shouldn't wait until they become of working age to get that exposure. Young people, through the Role Model Program that I founded, are taught about planning for their dreams. Even in middle school, they are making decisions to impact their ability to do what they want to do in our area. We bring in 150 role models from all kinds of jobs in Santa Clara County into San Jose classrooms to talk to them about staying in school, working hard and getting an education, staying away from drugs, alcohol and gangs.

Ron Gonzales, left, explains where his philosophies come from and why his topics differ from opponent Pat Dando's in the mayoral campaign. Dando, right, discusses the topics she is focusing on for the 1998 San Jose mayoral campaign.

Colleges woo minorities

Hongbin Nguyen
MOSAC STAFF WRITER

Sergio Soria, a student at Oak Grove High School, opened his mailbox one afternoon to find a pamphlet from Stanford University on top of the bills and junk mail. On the cover of the pamphlet was a Latino girl, and inside the pamphlet was information on opportunities for Latino students.

In another part of town, Vanessa Woolfolk opened her mailbox to find the same type of pamphlet from Stanford, except the person on the cover was black, and information inside discussed opportunities for black students.

In the wake of Proposition 209, which ended affirmative action in admissions at the University of California, private schools are stepping in, taking advantage of uncertainty in the UC system by aggressively recruiting minority students.

"When Vanessa and I found out that we got the same pamphlet from Stanford with different races featured on the front, we were like, 'What is Stanford trying to do?'" Soria said in an interview.

The specially designed materials are one way Stanford is trying to encourage minority students—particularly those who come to its

campus. Stanford officials do not return phone calls, but in a written statement they discussed their commitment to diversity.

"Stanford seeks undergraduates of varied ethnic, social, cultural and economic backgrounds whose talents, achievements, and characters suit them for leadership," Stanford University President Gerhard Casper wrote in a statement on affirmative action.

Stanford is not the only campus interested in enrolling a diverse student body.

Several years ago, University of San Francisco President John P. Schlegel started the Multi-Cultural Action Plan to ensure diversity throughout the university.

Marlon Villa, assistant director of media relations, said the plan was designed to hire workers in the faculty or administration to recruit minorities. The plan also encourages university officials to find minority commencement speakers and seek diversity in other areas in hopes of sending the message that U.S.F. encourages diversity.

The result is that these private schools now have more diverse campuses than several UC schools do. For example, underrepresented minorities make up 30 percent of the freshman class at Stanford.

By contrast, enrollment of underrepresented minority students at UC campuses has

Private schools take advantage of uncertainty in UC system after Proposition 209

receive mail from these really good programs, but I'm not quite sure if I'm getting it because I'm a regular person or because I'm a minority, so it seems tainted in a way."

"When I first got the pamphlet I got mail from Yale or Harvard, they just laugh and say it's because I'm Mexican," he added.

"Boah Ha, the UC-Berkeley School of Law took extra steps to bring minority students to Berkeley by allowing the students to sit in on classes and meet the professor, and by holding receptions nationwide for the school and alumni to talk to high school students.

The American Association of University Professors also expressed their belief that the diversity that comes from affirmative action has great educational value.

"Recent studies by Alexander Astin and others have shown that direct student experience with racial diversity corresponds to increased awareness and commitment to promoting racial understanding," the group wrote in a statement. "This exposure comes at a critical time in students' lives. The university in essence serves as a controlled microcosm previewing the larger society and working world into which the students will graduate."

Each campus engages in different programs," he added. "Chancellors call prospective students, but the best outreach are the college students meeting with the students, showing them around and meeting the high school students."

Casper, in a written policy on affirmative action at Stanford, said: "It is the responsibility of educational institutions such as Stanford to find and educate those who can become the leaders of the future in a multi-ethnic and multicultural society. As an society is quite color conscious, and we therefore cannot yet afford to be colorblind."

The end of affirmative action in the UC system, however, does not mean the diversity is not committed to having a diverse student population.

Terry Lightfoot, the senior public information spokesman for the UC system, said he identified, said, "We are concerned about our own efforts to have a diverse population. The UCs have always competed with private schools

for the best students."

Both teens and store clerks who sell to them are in violation of penal code Section 308. This state law makes it a misdemeanor to sell or furnish tobacco products to minors. Minors who buy the product face a \$15 or 30 hours of community service if convicted.

Despite the tougher rules, teenagers said they have no concerns about buying cigarettes and smoking in public.

Terney Jacobs, a 17-year-old smoker, said she was "not intimidated" by the tobacco law, and that she would continue to buy cigarettes illegally.

"You gotta be stubborn against the law, right?" she said. "Besides, the cops never bother me."

Many underage smokers said they don't take the law seriously because they have never been approached by police for smoking.

"I don't think the cops are making that big an issue out of it," Martinez said. "It would be a waste of time when there are so many violent crimes for them to handle, anyway."

Officer Joyce Taylor of the San Jose Police Department said that although the teen smoking epidemic is a health concern, enforcement of Section 308 is not really a top priority to law enforcement officers on the street.

"It's a very important part of the dissemination of the Community Services Division, and it has been a focus since 1992," Taylor explained. "Our focus on 308 enforcement is two-pronged. We want to ensure the compliance of the stores with the law and promote education about it by leaving information with the stores that don't know it."

Taylor said the police department organizes about four sting operations a year in which officers send teens decoys into stores to buy tobacco products. Taylor said the stings— and the help of the community—enable police to bust stores that sell to minors.

Minors themselves, however, are usually not targets of police action. Therefore, the fear of legal action does not deter teens from smoking.

And addicts neither do health risks.

"I'm aware of the health dangers, but we're all gonna die anyway," said 19-year-old smoker Christal Pizarro.

"Health dangers don't bother me, everything is bad for you nowadays," added 17-year-old smoker Jennifer Kraft.

"If the law or the threat of illnesses like emphysema and cancer won't stop teens from smoking, then what will?"

"I'm quitting when they raise the prices," Kraft said.

State law hasn't stopped teenagers from smoking

Kumi Nakamura



Caroline Montano/The Mosaic

Jeff DeLeon, 17, enjoying a cigarette outside Eastridge Mall, says some teens do waste their money on cigarettes.

ENDORSEMENT

Based on our interview, we feel that Pat Dando is the most suitable candidate for mayor of San Jose. She is very direct and explained things thoroughly. She was open to criticism and wanted to know our opinions. She is willing to talk and collaborate with youth on issues that are important to them. We liked that she had specific ideas to deal with these issues rather than general proposals.

Dando has had a lot of experience in the field of education and has specific plans to improve the lives of young people. In the past, she said she had the input from her

now grown-up children to help her work with issues concerning young people. She is proactive and believes in finding the source of a problem and working to stop it before it becomes a big problem, said Lori Hatt, who has been more qualified to be mayor because of her constant exposure to the inner workings of city government.

Ron Gonzales is an experienced politician. But when it comes to issues concerning young people, his focus is elsewhere—on business and industry to be exact. When asked about issues concerning teens, his answers were short and vague. He said that he would introduce programs to

improve education but did not specify what they were. He wants to offer teens more opportunities to explore careers in high tech and to take advantage of the benefits of living in San Jose.

Gonzales did not seem to be as interested in the interview as Pat Dando. We asked both candidates the same questions. It took Dando over an hour to answer them; Gonzales answered them in 20 minutes.

—Kristina Ruidas and Abbi Brar

Teens could get more sleep under proposal

By Kristina Ruidas and Felix Hinzbe
MOSAC STAFF WRITERS

They hit the snooze button several times. Their parents wake them up. After a long and strenuous night of doing homework, playing sports and participating in after-school activities, the tired students drag themselves out of bed each school day. Many times, students are in a haze as they start their morning, finding themselves struggling to focus in class.

"We're just too tired in the morning to concentrate," said Monika Folson, a senior at Pioneer High School, where the day begins at 7:25 a.m. "The combination of traffic and waking up late makes it really hard to get to school on time."

With sleep experts' research showing a correlation between sleep deprivation and greater in the late '90s than in the early '90s. Eastham currently works with a 13-year-old and an 18-year-old who were both shot in the same. One of them was involved in gang-related shootings. Eastham is also working on a documentary about the lives of young people who have been shot.

"From a medical observation, they are doing great. They're walking and they survived," Eastham said. "From a personal observation— they're taking life.

than 8:30 a.m. A federal grant of \$25,000 per district would cover transportation, operating and administrative costs.

"It's hard for teens to get to sleep early and wake up early," said Leffgren, who introduced the bill. Research has shown that later school starting times improve student performance in class.

Bryan Huang, a spokesman for the National Sleep Foundation in Washington, D.C., said studies show that the more sleep people get, the more alert they will be. There is an afternoon dip in energy, but because energy levels are higher with extra sleep, the dip is not as much of a factor.

"Peak energy periods are between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. for teens. Experts say that by pushing starting hours back, students will get the extra boost they need to apply themselves during the day."

If the measure passes, school districts that choose to participate must submit an application to the secretary of education verifying that high school classes will start after 9 a.m. within two years.

Folson, a Minnesota spokeswoman for the San Jose Unified School District, said there are many good reasons for pushing back the start time for teens. The high schools in the district have varying start-

ing times that range from 7:25 a.m. to 8:25 a.m.

With 32,000 students who have extracurricular activities, jobs and other interests, it will be a challenge to find a starting time that works for everyone.

Mike Hawks, associate superintendent of administrative services for the Fremont Union High School District, said that the Z's to S's bill is a good idea because the current curriculum is very demanding for the students. However, he said he also believes that schools should give students a choice on the starting time.

"Students that have trouble focusing because of sleep deprivation should be given the option of starting later," he said. "But there are some drawbacks."

Carolyn Cristofani, former teacher and advising services counselor for the Campbell School District, said the later starting times is excellent for students, but teachers are divided on this issue. Many prefer the earlier starting time because of leaving later from work would cut into the time they spend with their families.

Folson, the Pioneer student, leaves school every several days a week to go to work from 3 to 6 p.m. Leaving later would start the same while sacrificing either work or classes.

"I'm quitting when they raise the prices"



Kumi Nakamura

Gay teens

GAY TEENS FROM PAGE 1

center could not be reached for comment, but according to the center's literature, there are approximately 7,000 teens in Santa Clara County between the ages of 14 and 17 who may be lesbian or gay. The center's youth program provides support services to those young people, who often have no idea where to turn for help once they discover that they're gay. Sally Struchalin, 17, who has been involved with the group for almost a year, said, "It's really nice to be able to come to a place where you know it'll be easy to be accepted for who you are."

Schelman, who has been involved with the group for just over a year, said, "It (the group) has given me a sense of family. I know I can come and be totally open and no one will judge me for being gay."

The emergence of a more prominent gay community, as evidenced by the recent San Jose Gay Pride Parade, has also helped gay teens who struggle with coming out. Many teens say it is easier to come out when they know other people who are gay because they do not feel completely alone.

Colt Pifer said that once he came out, more of her friends felt comfortable also coming out of the closet.

"When I came out, most of my friends started to come out," she said. "I think it's easier to come out with others because you all feel the same."

Some young people said that seeing more positive gay role models such as Ellen Degeneres, the lesbian star of the TV show "Ellen," makes them more confident about coming out.

Alto Gonzalez, 16, said Degeneres is his hero.

"She's done a lot to make people more aware of gay issues," he said. "There have been a lot more gay role models for young people to look up to."

Role models help young people develop a sense of pride in who they are and foster a more positive self-image.

"A lot of gay and bi people live up to stereotypes because of how they've been brought up," said Godfrey Morita, a teen who recently came out of the closet. "Since they were raised without any real gay role models, they just go with what they know, which are the stereotypes."

Despite the increase in acceptance and awareness of homosexuality, a great deal of prejudice still exists toward gay people. A gay youth faced with the decision of coming out risks being ostracized by others, especially parents.

"Coming out is easier now because people are open-minded, but problems come when you tell your family," said Nichole Kusuba, who realized she was gay in eighth grade but did not come out until she was in 12th.

Many gay youths say that parents from a strict religious background are the hardest to tell about their sexuality. Gonzalez, who came out in eighth grade, said his parents nearly forced him back into the closet.

"My parents are really religious and they made me pray to get the devil out of me," he said.

Amy Agudo, whose parents are also very religious, added, "When friends of my parents come over, they make me hide in their room."

Other parents adopt a slightly more understanding policy and tolerate their children's homosexuality as long as they do not come into direct contact with it.

"My parents are old-fashioned, but they say if they don't think about it (homosexuality) and if they don't know it, it's not a problem," Morita said.

Many youths also agree that prejudice against gays and lesbians still exists to a certain extent but is just fading by the general population. This acceptance was recently demonstrated by the remarks of Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., who compared homosexuality to alcoholism and other social diseases.

"People are more afraid to be known as racist or sexist rather than homophobic," Morita said.

It is also difficult for gay couples to be openly affectionate in the same way straight couples can show affection.

"We're still unable to be open in schools," Agudo said. "We can't hold hands or kiss or anything that straight couples can."

"People on the street get offended when I hold hands with my girlfriend," Pifer said. "They say hateful things and call me names."

Experts say the key to gay youth and coming out is to lie in developing a positive self-image.

"I think the issue of being secure is mostly personal," Gonzalez said. "A person has to address what's within before he or she expresses what's without."

Indian Health Center may have close down on cut programs

By Michael Yardley
MOOSAIC STAFF WRITER

The Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley is in danger of closing down because it is being asked to repay money that it has already spent.

The State Department of Health Services in Sacramento recently reached a decision to deny the center's appeal, which it filed after it was notified that the state erroneously allocated \$300,000 to the center for fiscal year 1992.

"This is important because of the possible services (that could be) lost," said the center's executive director, Louise Van De Veere. "The people who are uninsured wouldn't have a place to go. If placed in a medical situation, the Native American community would have to start going to the emergency rooms and their bills would be outrageous."

Twenty years ago, the small health center focusing on American Indians' needs was established with the goal of providing services such as counseling for alcoholism and drug addiction, medical and dental care and youth programs. Clients were treated in a culturally sensitive manner that took into account the traditions that are important to American Indians. Over the years it has served more than 15,000 people, Van De Veere said.

The error was discovered in October 1995 when the Department of Health Services conducted an audit of the health center's Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) contract, which is an accounting of its spending.

In April 1996, the state issued findings stating that it was disallowing all of the health center's claimed costs because the center had failed to meet an FQHC deadline.

The state had already given the center funding and the center had already spent the money by the time the error was discovered. Appeals have not been filed and denied.

Ken Padilla, spokesman for the Department of Health Services, said his department is still investigating what exactly happened and what steps the state needs to take to remedy the situation.

Van De Veere said that she is mainly concerned about having to pay the \$300,000 back, which would wipe out many of the center's programs. Most in danger of elimination are the youth programs. Van De Veere has started a petition drive in an effort to gain support.

"Our main effort is to get the debt written out, so we don't



Leah Mata, a case manager and HIV counselor, explains her role and the Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley's role in helping American Indians maintain strength both physically and psychologically.

have to drop any programs or layoff any of the employees," she said.

Rose Leyva, 42, has been involved in a number of programs at the health center over the years. She has been in a smoking cessation program, which helped her stop her habit, and has been attending Mensing Nations, a therapy group that incorporates sewing with talking and meets on Friday nights.

Leyva, who lives in San Jose, said that when she needed transportation, the health center provided it. The staff of the health center also provided counseling for her to help keep her family together, something she said is extremely important to her in her culture.

"If the health center closes down, it would be like part of my life closing down," Leyva said.

When the sun goes down and night falls, First Street comes to life. Stand



Jason Melendez, right, makes his move against his companion, Leticia Costa. Both are enjoying their daily dose of coffee outside the Keystone Cafe, one of many coffee houses found on South First Street.

Hey, what's happening on S. First St.?

By Abigale Almerido
MOOSAIC STAFF WRITER

Nearly three decades later, First Street in San Jose has taken on a new look, catering to the entertainment wants of a variety of people from traditional "suppers," draped in bakus and polo shirts, to the jiggly-styling youth, who pay tribute to the fashion gods with their Tommy Hilfer and Calvin Klein apparel.

One thing you will always find, though, is a place to relax. South First Street overflows with coffee houses and dance clubs, chess games and street performers, all there for the public's enjoyment.

When the sun goes down and night falls, First Street comes to life. Stand

below the street lights as you breathe in the smoke-encrusted air. The street becomes flooded with moviegobs and coffee drinkers. Light comes from all different directions as you stride along the sidewalks waiting for the inevitable surge of excitement. There you are amid the colors of First Street.

Up and down First Street take a look at the people around you. People talking. People watching. People wandering. They are the people of South First Street. They are the dancers, moving their feet to the salsa and reggae sounds of the surrounding clubs, the intellectuals contemplating life's atrocities, the wanderers, wandering in and out of doorways.

South First Street draws many people for both entertainment and sanctuary. You may find a disheveled man riding a bicycle, peddling flowers to anyone who can spare a buck, or college students drinking a cup 'o joe out one of the street's many cafes.

If you know the way to San Jose, you know your way to First Street.



Under the stage name "Richard Fox," Richard Omelius sings "Good Lovin'" outside the Keystone Cafe as he does every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



Conrad, right, sits outside the South First Billiards pool hall, with his friend Lindsay, as he finishes his sketches. Both are homeless teens who hang out on South First Street every night.

PHOTOS BY ABIGALE ALMERIDDO FOR THE MOOSAIC

Teenagers decry assault on rights

By Tina Dwyer
MOOSAIC STAFF WRITER

More than 20 unless there is a licensed adult older than 21 in the car. For an entire year, teenagers will also not be allowed to drive between midnight and 5 a.m. unless an adult older than 25 is in the car. Parents must certify in writing that they have spent 50 hours, including 10 hours at night, driving with their teen before the Department of Motor Vehicles will issue a license. There are some exceptions: Students may drive to school or work or for family or medical reasons. In San Jose, kids under 18 and younger have to be home by 11:30 p.m.

In San Jose, if students are picked up by the police, they are taken to a curfew detention center. Their parents are called and a notice is required to file out a form that will be used to track repeat offenders. In some cases, police will follow-ups on some students to make sure they are staying out of trouble. ("The program has been good for us," said Luis Quesada, spokesman for the San Jose Police Department. He recalled an incident during the first few weeks after the curfew began, when a teen's life might have been saved because of the law. An officer picked up a youth for violating curfew and soon after a shooting took place where the juvenile was standing.)

"I don't really like (the curfew law), I think that the parents should decide on when the child should be home because it's not up to the government or law to say whether your child is responsible enough to stay out so late," said Heather Schweitzer, 15, who was shopping in

Statistics show that teenagers are in five times more likely to be a part in an injury collision," Nossoff said.

Nossoff added that the new law is designed to reduce deaths among teenagers. "I've seen that," she said. "I've seen accidents with a 16-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 17-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 15-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 14-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 13-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 12-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 11-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 10-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 9-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 8-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 7-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 6-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 5-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 4-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 3-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 2-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 1-year-old. I've seen accidents with a 0-year-old."

Old Hispanic man, said they face no serious concerns don't add to their problems, she said. He said that his friends are of many different races so they are all very accepting and supportive of their relationships.

More often than not, at least one parent or set of parents of the teens in the relationship is unresponsive or unaccepting. Teens say it is helpful and encouraging, at least one set of parents welcome the couple into their home so the teens have a place to feel at ease.

"Her parents wouldn't approve of us being together, so we won't even tell them," Kevin David, a 16-year-old, said of his 20-year-old Asian girlfriend, Sharon Moh. "I would be home altogether. But my parents love her, she comes over all the time."

Although David says that race and discrimination on an everyday basis, he can recall

once instance when he was made to feel uncomfortable for being with Moh. "At her graduation, nearly everyone was Asian and they all looked at it weird," David explained. He said that it was a big issue for them, though.

David said he believes that interracial couples are lucky because in spite of the fact that they may experience some degree of prejudice or discrimination, they are exposed to another culture and their lives are enriched because of it. Furthermore, he feels that it is not allowed to hold hands, hug or give a peck on the cheek. We're supposed to be responsible for their children."

Oakridge Mall. Tucker, the Santa Clara student, said the wonders if the curfew law is for teen's well-being or to keep them at bay.

"Of course the curfew isn't going to reduce crime," said Melissa Martin, 16, who will be a senior at Live Oak High School next fall. "The hoodlums aren't going to obey the law and the kids who do obey the curfew are the ones who don't cause trouble anyway."

Schweitzer said she believes parents are responsible for their children. "I think it's really up to the parents, mainly because the parent knows you, because you're their kid. That's why they're raising you. But then again there are some parents that really don't care."

"Curfew is reasonable. I lived back East and we had a curfew when I was kid," Hanson said. "The driving (law) is going to be more of a pain to me."

Another policy prohibits students at two schools in the Campbell Union High School District — Del Mar and Prospect — from showing public affection. For cheerleaders at both schools, kissing, hugging and holding hands is unacceptable when in uniform. If they violate the rule, they can be benched.

"Our son was not involved in any gang activities," Oscar Perez Sr. insisted.

But at a community vigil held June 18 at the shrine, the issue of gangs was a recurring theme as community members struggled to come up with a plan to stop violence in their neighborhood. At the evening gathering — where the theme was "Stop the Youth Violence in our neighborhood," Oscar's parents say they are stunned that something so cruel and brutal could have happened to their son. They say they are sorry that Santa took an incident of this magnitude to "open everyone's eyes" up to the lack of unity and involvement in the community.

"Don't close your doors and your curtains to what's happening around you," Perez Sr. pleaded. "Don't wait until the same thing happens to your son, your child."

"There is no honor in one kid being chased by a lot of kids. Hyrax act in that way," he said. "It is a stupid thing to kill a human being because of the color of their skin or because of the words they say."

Andrea Perez, a member of the Santa Clara County Violence Prevention Center, encour-

aged the neighborhood to "support the families, which are the basic institutions in the community, and work at the investment of our kids to prevent something like this from ever happening again."

Perez said the boys to collect at least 10,000 signatures on the non-violence pledge within the next few months. The hope, she said, is that Perez's legacy will be a community of peace, not violence.

Perez's parents said they have over-wondered by the media attention, but believe it's the chances are that another tragedy like that can be prevented," Perez Sr. said.

In the wake of Perez's death, the Willow Glen community has rallied. Shortly after he was killed, a car wash set up by family, friends and volunteers at the Gardner Youth Center raised \$1,400 for funeral costs. His funeral, held June 19, was attended by some 200 people. An anonymous woman contributed three limos for the funeral service and Jack in the Box donated 100 buns for a gathering after the funeral.

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— Abigale Almerido

Mosaic Staff Writer Abigale Almerido contributed to this report.

Oscar

OSCAR FROM PAGE 1

"One time he chased me around with firecrackers."

Perez's sister, Veronica, said he was really popular.

"People would always come up to me and ask me if I was his sister," she said. "They always told me to tell him 'what's up.'"

Perez was known as a "cool homieboy" by Jose Valencia, one of the frequent visitors of the Gardner Youth Center, a recreational establishment that Perez had been going to for the past two months.

Perez's parents have adamantly denied that their son was involved in a street gang. His mother, Adela, has even told reporters that she wouldn't allow him to wear his favorite color, red, because the color that it had gang connotations in their neighborhood.

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Sexmail

SEXMAIL FROM PAGE 1

send mail to thousands of people all over the world with one click of a mouse. It costs less than 5 cents to send more than 10,000 e-mails, according to consortium research.

It's easy for spammers to get your e-mail name and screen name. Internet programs such as Harvestor can get addresses from Web pages and Web posts and bring them to the attention of spammer who can spam a buck, or college students drinking a cup 'o joe out one of the street's many cafes.

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Internet service providers, including AOL, Prodigy, AT&T and MCI, have filed many lawsuits against Internet spammers. On March 11, AOL won a major lawsuit against Springfield Publications of Glendale, a California-based junk mail sender. Springfield Publications agreed to permanently curtail its practices of sending junk e-mail to AOL members.

"When we began our campaign against junk e-mail, we had one goal — to protect our members from the nuisance of spam," CEO George Vadsenberg senior vice president of AOL. "And it is working."

Although successful in their attempts, Howard said, most Internet providers are unable to cope with the increasing amount of sex mail reaching their users.

"This is why many Internet and online providers offer certain filtering features to their users. AOL has 'mail controls' that let its users choose what sort of mail they want to receive and when they want mail to arrive. AOL has 'mail controls' that let its users choose what sort of mail they want to receive and when they want mail to arrive. AOL has 'mail controls' that let its users choose what sort of mail they want to receive and when they want mail to arrive."

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Basketball with a few normal young guys

What do Sprung Monkey, Harvey Danger and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy all have in common? If you can't answer that then most likely you're not a big fan of alternative rock, and chances are you weren't one of the crazed fans in attendance at Shoreline Amphitheatre to see a barrage of bands play at the fifth annual Big Friggin' Deal (BFD) concert.

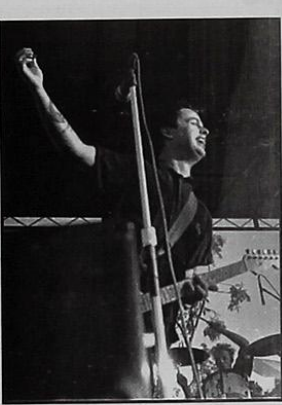
To tell you the truth, before Friday's concert I would have told you that Crystal Method was an expensive stimulant, and that Billy Joe is a quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons. I didn't know Big Bad Voodoo Daddy from the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, or The Defoneses from the Boostones. And now, long after the concert has ended, I still can't name songs from half of the bands who performed.

But I must confess that I did enjoy the experience. It was the music that I enjoyed so much — it was the basketball. Yes, I did say basketball. A portable basketball hoop was set up backstage and was open to anyone who had VIP access. After hanging around by the court for 10 minutes, I found myself being invited to play in a pickup game by a couple of guys who, with their holey jeans and colored hair, looked like they belonged at some sort of rock concert.

Going into the game I wondered how long I would be sticking playing with these guys, and whether they had ever set eyes on a basketball before. That changed at the end of the first game, when my teammate hit a game-winning fade away 15-footer, and I realized that these guys weren't quite as bad as I had perceived.

As we began our second pickup game I noticed that the attention of most of the backstage crowd was focused on us, and I wondered why all these people were so attentively watching our little game. I eventually decided that it must have been my dazzling basketball skills and array of breathtaking moves that captivated their attention. I was wrong.

It ended up that when we're watching an all-but-unknown band or other players on the court who I later discovered were members of the groups Harvey Danger, Save Ferris and Faithful. I must admit that these people didn't act in a way that I would expect national celebrities to act. They just conducted themselves like normal, loquacious young adults, just having fun with their friends on the basketball court. If you were with them on the court you never would have been able to tell that only moments earlier, they were set up on a stage performing in front of tens of thousands of raucous fans.



Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong smiles at the screaming BFD crowd at Shoreline Amphitheatre on June 19, above. At right, fans march faithfully between BFD's two stages at Shoreline. Fans who wanted to see every band perform had to hustle between the two stages. They often missed parts of sets as they ran from one stage to the other.

Photos by Daphne Dador/The Mosaic

Big Friggin' Deal

concertgoers get an earful of bliss, sore feet and a whole lotta fun at concert



Cherry Poppin' Daddies lead singer Steve Perry, left, plays around with fellow band member Ian Early backstage at BFD.



concertgoers get an earful of bliss, sore feet and a whole lotta fun at concert

By Melissa Phan and Isabella Fritz
MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

Chattering wildly and swaying to the pulsing beats, the crowd expressed its enthusiasm for the band on stage. Those in reserved seats stood up and danced while others created mosh pits on the lawn. Judging from the audience's intense reaction, one would expect a group such as Green Day or The Prodigy to be playing on stage. Instead, the masses were greeted with the smashing, raw emotion and alternative-metal energy of the Sacramento-based band The Defoneses.

The Defoneses were part of the fifth annual rock festival put on by Bay Area radio station Live 105 called BFD, whose initials officially stand for Big Friggin' Deal. A total of 13 bands performed this year on two stages at Shoreline Amphitheatre: the first stage featured groups like Blink 182, The Prodigy and Marcy Playground and the second stage highlighted others like Harvey Danger, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and Green Day.

This was the first time in BFD history that Live 105 attempted to split the act between two stages. Unfortunately, concertgoers had to hike back and forth around the amphitheater to catch their favorite bands perform. Someone who wanted to hear two bands scheduled in the same time slot either had to sacrifice hearing one band for the other or miss about half of both sets. While some managed to see all of the bands play, most missed at least one or two performances.

While most people came to see the headliners, plenty of lesser-known bands were refreshingly energetic and talented. The Bay Area-based band Creeper Lagoon fired up a raucous crowd at the second stage with their enthusiasm and heavy, wicked riffs. People began to slam dance or raise their hands in approval as the quartet's vibrant sounds blared out of monstrous high speakers. Those who ventured closer to the strategically placed speakers without earplugs experienced temporary deafness and a distinct ringing in the ears. The performance was quite an enjoyable surprise for those who had never heard of the band before as well as for those who had.

Also surprising was the disappointing performance of Marcy Playground. The band failed to capture the interest of the audience, which sat as motionless and unresponsive as if they were simply listening to the radio. Band leader John Wozniak professed his irritation at the silent crowd with verbal assaults colored with explicit profanity. The audience responded finally, only to wave "concrete gestures" and attempt to boom them off the stage.



Billie Joe Armstrong stares out at the BFD crowd.

underneath electric atmosphere. Some of the definite crowd-pleasers were Save Ferris, whose brass section was powerfully pleasing, and Blink 182, who elicited wild cheers from an enthralled and energized crowd at the first stage. Two other bands that played the first stage, The Crystal Method and Faithful, gave fairly mediocre shows and failed to draw much approval from the audience. As much excitement as there was expressed for the other bands, the majority of the audience had come with a clear objective in mind: to see Green Day and The Prodigy. Green Day was featured on the second stage, located in Shoreline's parking lot. Anticipating their performance, fans streamed into the lot, and the audience became one pulsing body. Some climbed trees in the hopes of getting a clearer view of the stage while other stood atop dumpsters and volunteered shoulders. In the month-plus hundreds of sweaty bodies cranked together while supporting others who were crowd-surfing. The group played several songs off its latest album, "Nimrod," as well as many familiar favorites that

kept the crowd pumped and cheerful. Because The Prodigy was scheduled to perform immediately after Green Day on the first stage, there was a hectic race to catch the beginning of the show. The amphitheater, which had been about half-full all day, was packed with people who came to BFD only to watch The Prodigy perform. The crowd knew it was in for an awesome show when stage hands began setting up dozens of strobe lights and fog machines. When it came time for The Prodigy's long-anticipated arrival, the audience went wild. All the psychobolic lights and surreal swirling patterns on the stage appeared Maxim Reality, one of the band's lead vocalists. He lit up like a disco ball, eyes scanning the screaming crowd and he bared his teeth as the stage exploded in sound and fire. The deafening music was accompanied by the angry lyrics of Keith and Maxim, who invited the crowd to come down to the stage. The psychobolic symphony captivated the audience, whose ultimate desires had been fulfilled.

As viewers took their seats for the movie premiere at the AMC-Mercado theater in Santa Clara, there was the murmur of hundreds of children anxiously anticipating the feature presentation. They were rewarded by the powerful classic that fit the screen well and the entertaining plot that stood out because of Mulan's integrity and respect for her family. Disney's first venture telling a Chinese story was put together well and was told better than many Chinese movies that are done by Westerners. But you can't expect any less from the best animation studio.

The amusing characters made the movie funny; the humor was probably the best yet in a Disney film. Mushu, for example, is a dragon summoned by Mulan's family to be her guardian. He is voiced by the main man, Eddie Murphy. Murphy's voice gave the dragon a black personality that played well within the story. Murphy carries the movie for most of the youth audience, providing a hilarious backdrop to the serious tone of the film.

'Mulan' lives up to Disney name

Animated story of female Chinese warrior another classic

By David Doi and Shigale Amerido
MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

Movie buffs and critics who made their way to this year's Disney production, "Mulan," found out what all the fuss was about as they were entertained by the conventional Disney style of animation. For years Disney has been praised for creating movies that have become classics, and "Mulan" is on its way to becoming part of that tradition. As viewers took their seats for the movie premiere at the AMC-Mercado theater in Santa Clara, there was the murmur of hundreds of children anxiously anticipating the feature presentation. They were rewarded by the powerful classic that fit the screen well and the entertaining plot that stood out because of Mulan's integrity and respect for her family. Disney's first venture telling a Chinese story was put together well and was told better than many Chinese movies that are done by Westerners. But you can't expect any less from the best animation studio.

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"Mulan" in its entirety proves to be a commentary on women's roles both globally and within the Chinese culture. It breaks the status quo of the male-dominated world with a female warrior, Mulan, voiced by Ming-Na Wen ("The Joy Luck Club"), joining the ranks of the Chinese army against the Huns and the villain Shan Yu, voiced by Miguel Ferrer. Mulan shows that a strong female can prove beyond a stereotypical assigned role. Wen, Murphy and Pat Morita ("The Karate Kid"), who provided the voice for the emperor, were the only "big" name performers in the "Mulan" entourage but only one main character dominates throughout the whole film. Mulan Characters one would believe to be part of the standard five-part Disney leads — lead male, lead female, villain, henchman and mentor — merely fade in and out of the limelight, leaving Mulan to support the film.

Tickler buyers shouldn't expect any less than the usual high-caliber Disney films when standing in line to see "Mulan." Though Disney poses nothing radical or spectacular, "Mulan" will prove to be just as entertaining as its other animated films. Rated G.

movie reviews



'The Opposite of Sex' lacks appeal

By Michael Varley
MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

"My mother was always the kind of mother who always said she was her daughter's best friend. Wherever she did, I thought, 'Great, not only do I have a — mother, my best friend's a best — mother.'"

As you can see, "The Opposite of Sex" character Dedee, played by Christina Ricci, didn't value her mother as a young daughter should. The story begins with Dedee as a hateful teenager looking for a way out of her reality. Dedee decides to move in with her half-brother, Bill, who is played by Martin Donovon in a sharp performance peaking his career. Bill lives with his teen-idol boyfriend, Matt (Ian Serge), whom Dedee sleeps with, convinces that he's heterosexual and steals from her half-brother.

Within the first 15 minutes, the audience's exactly what to expect from this character. Not only does Dedee ruin everyone's life, she also narates the film with outrageous wit and keen observation. Enter Lucia (Lisa Kudrow), sister of Bill's late lover, Tom. Lucia seems to be Bill's best friend, but in fact is secretly in love with him. Lucia suspects foul play from Dedee. Bill, unfortunately, learns the hard way after Dedee and Matt confront him with the surprising news that they are in love and expecting a child. As if this weren't enough, Dedee and Matt fly the coop with Bill's money — which was left for him by his deceased lover. Keep in mind, this occurs within the first 15 minutes. You might want to stick around to see what develops later in the plot. Then again, this is a cliché.

It seems as if these tragic events are the last of Bill's problems due to the calm, rational way he approaches each situation. For instance, after Dedee confronts him, he offers to correct her grammar. Typical English teacher, right? In another scene, Bill asks one of his students — who has just been caught writing derogatory remarks about him in the school rest room — how the student might be able to fix the sentence. When the movie aims toward sentimental situations, it creates unrealistic humor, such as when Bill pathetically crutches ex-boyfriend Min's shirt and pillow. When the movie aims toward comedy, the jokes fall flat.

'The X-Files' leaves you seeking the truth



By HongDae Gygen and Felix Fimbres
MOSAIC STAFF WRITERS

FELIX: "The X-Files," "The X-Files!" "The X-Files!"
HONGDAE: Man, it wasn't all that great. Really now, aliens from 35,000 B.C. coming out of liberation to take over the world! The only real good thing about it was the graphics and how they totally showed the aliens taking over the people's bodies and turning their organs into mush! F: I'll admit it's not the most realistic movie in the world but forget about that, "Independence Day" and "Men in Black" were not realistic but they were still good movies. I went into the movie not expecting any answers, just a good show. And it is. Unfortunately for those expecting answers, that's all it is.

F: None of the questions raised in the show were answered. We still don't know if Scully was really abducted by aliens, we don't know what happened to Mulder's sister, I left the theater so unsatisfied with all these questions bouncing around in my head. I want some answers!!! And their kiss was — lame.

F: I can understand why the movie didn't answer any questions ratings. Fox didn't want to lose its prime-time hit. Here's an idea: For the series finale, make it a movie, wrap up all the loose ends and finish it. But just because a movie leaves you wanting more doesn't mean it's "lame"; it's leaving itself open for a sequel. And if they had answered all the questions, one would watch the show?

H: I can see your point, but I guess I expected a little too much from Fox. What was really cool, were the alien worm things crawling up under the boy's skin and into his eyeballs. It was so disgusting that I had to look away, but I always ended up peeking to see more!

F: "The X-Files" starts off with the usual "X-Files" premise used in the show. They give you something weird, such as extraterrestrials killing Neanderthals, leaving you thirsty for more. And then they fade to black. The eyeball effect was cool, but I think that it is not a typical summer movie — eye candy does not pop up every two minutes — and there is plot! (Gasp!) There are plenty of twists and turns and it all ties into a massive alien conspiracy that is the Cancer Man in the show.

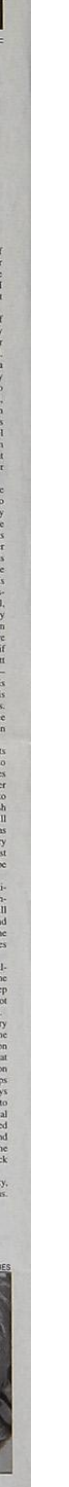


PHOTO © WALT DISNEY PICTURES

PHOTO © SONY PICTURES

Just because I looked different: Bad judgment or discrimination?

It was 10:55 p.m. on a Friday night. I was driving on McLaughlin Road in South San Jose. Suddenly, a cop standing in the middle of the road signaled me to slow down since his flashing fluorescent light red.
"Please pull over to the side sir," the officer said. And that is what I did. "Let me see your driver's license."
I handed him my driver's license hesitantly, hoping there was nothing wrong. After reading my name, the officer asked me if I was Mexican.
"No, I am not," I replied. Realizing that his assumption was wrong, he told me to leave.
This incident took place earlier this month. I was driving home after dropping off a friend from work in my dad's new Honda Accord. There were police officers circling the block that my friend lives on, so we had to take the dark and gloomy alley behind her house. After dropping her off and wondering what the heck was going on I headed home, only to be stopped by the police officer.
I was driving 27 mph. That was 2 mph over the posted speed limit. I was in 11 p.m. yet, so I was not breaking curfew either. I hadn't committed any crime, but I was still pulled over.
It was the first time that I had been pulled over while driving or had even talked to a police officer on duty. I was scared.
The officer — who was white — only asked me three questions. Who I was, if he could see my driver's license, and whether I was Mexican. Then he let me go. I felt very lucky at the moment that I did not have to go through any of the tension or turmoil I had heard about from cousins who had been arrested before.
It was later that I realized I was let go only because I was not Mexican — and was pulled over only because I looked like I was. What puzzled me the most was that the officer did not even explain to me why he had pulled me over or what I had done wrong. I was not driving fast or without the headlights on. I wasn't smoking or drinking in the car. I even had my seat belt on.
And on top of that I was not loitering. I was driving home from my job at Baskin Robbins. But based on his judgment that I looked Mexican, he pulled me over.
The California Highway Patrol, the sheriff's department, and the police are all required by law to stop a probable cause. Probable cause can pull anyone over. Violation of the law can lead to serious consequences, including lawsuits and suspensions.
In my case the officer did not have probable cause. I think that I was pulled over on the hunch that I looked like a minority individual, driving a nice car late at night. Nothing but the color of my skin seemed to have affected the officer's judgment.
I think that is what scared me the most.

Japanese or American schools? Many things make them different

People often ask me if I like attending Japanese school more than an American school. The answer is, "I like both." I can't decide which is better because both have good points, and both are very different.
I moved to Tacoma, Wash., after I graduated from Japanese junior high school. I moved to Campbell when I was 16. The first day at an American school in Tacoma was so exciting. I had English as a second language (ESL) class during my first and second periods. There were Mexican, Korean, Puerto Rican, Vietnamese, Thai and Filipino students in the class. I liked to ask them how to say "hello" and "good-bye" in their languages. They also asked me to teach them Japanese. American students are really lucky because they have the chance to learn about many cultures from international students through ESL classes. In Japan, we had only Japanese students at our school.
The third period was technology. The students in that class wore fashionable clothes. The girls wore makeup and many rings. The boys wore fancy jeans and had colorful backpacks. They were friendly with the teacher and are into music in class. None of this is allowed in my Japanese school. We all had to wear black uniforms. The girls wore blazers, vests and skirts. Boys wore slacks and blazers. I think that uniforms helped us get into the proper attitude for studying. Students did not eat food in the classroom or wear makeup. Teachers and students had a formal relationship. We were more respectful toward the teachers. In Japan it is important to respect older people.
After my third period class in Tacoma, I saw one couple kissing and holding each other. "Oh no!" I was so surprised because that never happened in my Japanese school. I like that American schools are more lenient and allow such openness.
My first impression of the cafeteria was that it was just like McDonald's. It was all fast food, hamburgers, hot dogs, Coke and french fries. It was not healthy at all. In my Japanese school, the lunch was just like my

mother's home-made food, and really nourishing. The menu changed every day and we could have anything we wanted. I loved the food like curry rice and fruit parfait.
After lunch, I went to algebra. When I got to the textbook, I was so surprised by its size. I thought, "How thick it is!" Japanese students buy textbooks from school, and they are really thin and small. I like Japanese textbooks because they are easy to carry, and I can write in them. But I also like American textbooks because they have many details with good examples and color pictures.
Fifth period was physical education. When I was in Japan, I was changing my clothes. I was really surprised because the girls didn't cover their bodies. They didn't care if people could see their underwear. In my country, the girls try to show their underwear, and change their clothes very quickly. I was also surprised that we had to lock our things in a locker. In my Japanese school, we didn't have any lockers. The atmosphere was very rare. Since I came to the United States, my purse had been stolen twice in PE. The teachers always said it was my fault because I forgot to lock it up. They didn't try to find the person who stole my purse. It was not my fault, and I think it is wrong that having a lock is the only way to keep things safe.
In Japan, every student in the same grade takes the same subjects. The schedule changes every day. Monday to Saturday, so we would take about 10 different subjects in one semester. This system is good because every student can learn how to swim, how to draw, how to cook and how to sew. But the drawback is that they don't learn the subjects in depth. In



Illustration by Kumi Nakamura

when I moved to America. The students in America are not permitted for keeping their school clean. They put gum under the desks and throw candy wrappers everywhere. The school would become so messy after lunch. Who knows how messy it would be if janitors didn't come to clean up. American schools should have cleaning time at least once a month. We should do it all together. We also should ignore the misconception that goes on among students. In America, teachers know that many people smoke on campus, but don't really do anything about it. In my Japanese school, when the teacher found one cigarette butt in the back of the gym, we had an assembly and everyone was forced to stay until the student who did the smoking confessed.
Fifth period was physical education. In Tacoma, the students wore their own clothes, but I look me up to my house after school. I said "Adore" to my Mexican friend, and she said, "Sayonara!" to me. Most of the junior high school students in Japan go to school by walking. My parents tried to show their high schools are much farther from my house. However, high schools are much farther away because everyone can take their very own car to school. Most of the students use a train or bus.
I really liked school festivals in Japan because they had an ambient acoustic ballad while "Apples-Oranges" and "Pug" are examples of electronic, beat-driven instruments. All five are good songs, but none have the power of older Pumpkins material.
The album's low point is definitely "Annie-dog," a fairly flat and dry song driven by unmelodic piano playing and Corgan's wincey but fingerplink-on-the-blackboard worst.
High points include the melodic and energetic "The Tale of Dante and Pistol Pete" and "Behold! The Nightmare," whose power is in the resonance of its instrumental. The eight-minute-plus "For Martha" is the most dynamic and multifaceted song on the album, reminiscent of past epics such as "Thus the Eyes of Ruby" and "Soma."
Also impressive is the pairing of the dreamy and optimistic "Perfect" with the somber and moody "Daphne Descends" through a segue provided by mink guitar feedback. The former is about the hope that exists in a new relationship while the latter tells of a love gone bad. When juxtaposed, these two songs provide insight into Corgan's philosophy on love. Naive and innocent optimism is inevitably followed by disillusionment and disappointment.
Arguably the most emotionally potent song on the album, "Tea" features a tragic portrait of a woman of a love one in a car crash through its melancholy keyboards and breathy lyrics. In "Corruption" Corgan most effectively captures the essence of the entire album's message of the pain and loss resulting from a love gone bad.
"Blank Page," the final track (aside from the inconsequential 17-second piano doo-wop "17"), adequately sums up the album with the line "I catch the rainfall through the window of my room that you are behind you remind me of that leak in my soul."
The Pumpkins must be admired for making such a risky change, especially after the wild popularity of "Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness." However, their new melodic approach lacks the potency of earlier, more aggressive albums because they abandoned their trademark volume shifts and layers of distorted guitars. Also, their new album performed mellow ballads, and though there is merit in developing that aspect of the music and trying to reach a wider audience, their new sound has eliminated the dynamic nature of their music by creating a play-at-all-guitar rock.

Change is good, but an old fan cannot help but miss the energy and passion of their heavy songs.

I really like American schools because everybody is unique and there are fewer obstacles to developing talent. There is more freedom in American schools. I've graduated from high school. Now it's summer vacation. I've never enjoyed my American school, so I can't decide which is better: here or Japan. Maybe you would say, "here," if I told you, "We only have 40 days of summer vacation in Japan!"

Teen dreads day parents choose his future wife

'Adore' some, ignore some on latest Pumpkins CD

New approach lacks potency of earlier work

By Matt Moriles
MUSIC STAFF WRITER
A gently finger-plucked acoustic guitar and a raspy male voice herald the start of "To Sheila," the most song on the new Pumpkins "Adore." This simple, warm ballad sets the tone for the remainder of this comparatively mellow offering with its lovelick lyric and long melody.
The band's fifth full-length release, "Adore" marks a departure from signature angst-ridden anthems like "Cherub Rock," "Zero" and "Bullet with Butterfly Wings." It is also unique because it is the first album since the departure of drummer Jimmy Chamberlin. Instead, singer/guitarist Billy Corgan is accompanied by various session musicians. Another difference is that in addition to composing all the songs, Corgan produced the bulk of the album himself. "To Sheila" is followed by "Ava Adore," whose hypnotic drum beat and compelling lyrics have made it a prime candidate for radio play. Lyrically, it epitomizes Corgan's trademark cynicism toward love with lines such as "You'll be a lover in my bed/dan a gun to my head/ever must never be apart."
These first two songs demonstrate the fairly limited range of the album: heartfelt ballads and somber, gothic mood pieces. "Crestfallen," "Shame," and the lullaby-esque "Once Upon a Time" are ambient acoustic ballads, while "Apples-Oranges" and "Pug" are examples of electronic, beat-driven instruments. All five are good songs, but none have the power of older Pumpkins material.
The album's low point is definitely "Annie-dog," a fairly flat and dry song driven by unmelodic piano playing and Corgan's wincey but fingerplink-on-the-blackboard worst.
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Country star gives a little extra during Shoreline concert



Shania Twain's lively performance at Shoreline Amphitheatre captivated the crowd and left them asking for more.

Twain's love shines through Country star gives a little extra during Shoreline concert

By Caroline Montali
MUSIC STAFF WRITER
Seeing people with their cowboy hats, shiny buckles and boots is not common in the Bay Area, but June 19 was an exception. June 19th, Shoreline Amphitheatre that day to see one of country music's biggest artists, Shania Twain.
Although some of the crowd showed up in country attire, Twain did not join them in their look. She is known for her trendy styles and voguish looks and this opened her show dressed in a shiny blue top that was joined with a shiny red "pleather" jacket, tight velvet pants and platform tennis shoes.
Trying to calm the male-dominated boisterous audience, Twain opened her show with two hits from the "When in the Mood" album, "You Win My Love" and "Who's Best Have Your Boots Bene Under."
While most of Twain's show was entertaining, some of her choreography seemed purposeless. The stage was almost bare, consisting of two colored drapes used to cover the lights. The stage floor was equipped with hi-zare circular plates that gave band members an opportunity to turn 360 degrees and without actually moving.
Before singing her fourth song, "Twain walked toward the back of the stage and she and her guitarist were turning 360 degrees throughout the entire song. This spinning not only made fans think, "What is the point of this?" but also gave a sense of momentum to the song.
Although Twain's choreography doesn't deserve much acclaim, what does is her closeness to her fans and the community. In her two-hour concert, Twain expressed her love for people three ways. One was receiving four seats in the front row for fans that were stuck in the back. After she awarded them their seats, she followed her generosity by inviting an 8-year-old fan named Katherine to the stage to sing with her. Later, she continued her kindness by inviting the choir of local Ignacio High School and two percussionists from another high school to perform with two songs.
If that wasn't enough, Twain gave 17-year-old David Bellom the chance to go before a live audience and sing. Brevi sang "What Made You Say That," the first song Twain ever recorded. Twain told the audience the song was appropriate and that hopefully it would help launch Brevi's career as well.
Country — and later gave many thanks to those who came out to see her. At the end, she was given a tour around the reserved seating area to "high-five" her fans as well as give autographs.
A Touch of Aloha opened five years ago and is much more than a place to eat. Many homesick Hawaiians visit Aloha to enjoy the food they used to eat at home. Over the years, they go there to meet other Hawaiians and occasionally will meet someone from their hometown.
A warm atmosphere, friendly service, unique lua (steamed rice, poi and food) make a Touch of Aloha a five-star restaurant that is definitely worth the "high-five" her fans as well as give autographs.
A Touch of Aloha is at 148 N. Milpitas Blvd. Call (408) 946-9260.

Restaurant brings flavor from afar

Experience Hawaii at A Touch of Aloha

By Kristina Buldas
MUSIC STAFF WRITER
Imagine yourself at a Hawaiian luau, feasting on kalua pig, chicken teriyaki, lomolomi salmon and an array of other exotic Hawaiian foods. Ukuleles play in the background, serenading you in a cool breeze wafting through the palm trees. Now imagine yourself spending hundreds of dollars to do this.
Instead, imagine yourself driving to Milpitas to eat at A Touch of Aloha, a Hawaiian restaurant located in the Milpitas Town Center. When customers first walk in, they are greeted by Joyce Fujimoto, one of the hostesses. As they walk into the dining rooms, they are surrounded by walls lined with posters depicting the lush scenery of Hawaii, advertisements from hula festivals, and photographs and murals of prominent Hawaiian figures such as musicians, solo dancers and hula dancers.
There are also a few pseudo-palm trees and plastic shrubbery to give the restaurant a touch of the islands. While you dine, a television plays footage from music concerts, hula shows and other Hawaii-related entertainment.
Hawaii is a melting pot of many different cultures. Hawaiian food has influences from the Philippines, Japan, Portugal and the Polynesian Islands. To get the most variety of food, a lot of different influences.
For just \$8.95, I was able to help myself to all the kalua pig, chicken teriyaki, vegetable or fried rice, chicken long rice, lomolomi salmon, rice, salads, hupia (a Jell-O like dessert made from coconut milk) and malasadas (a Portuguese pastry) I could stand. The food was incredibly flavorful and filling. Once again my eyes were bigger than my stomach. I ate much more than I anticipated.
There are some rules about the buffet. Sharing is not permitted, and excessive waste will lead to an extra charge of five dollars. However, I am sure most people should not have a regular lunch with excessing these other items available on the regular menu are chicken adobo, multi-meat, won ton soup, lumpia and egg rolls, and specials with combinations of the foods mentioned above. The prices are reasonable, ranging from \$12.25 for a salad to \$12.95 for the perpetual luau buffet.
"Aloha friendly restaurant," server Helen Bellmont said as she answered the phone. For the past two years, Bellmont has earned the title of Best Waitress in Milpitas. It is not hard to see why. All servers are incredibly friendly and always willing to help out. They usually will briefly engage in a friendly conversation with their customers, making them feel like welcomed guests.
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When it comes to race relations, we're on the right track

Though discrimination exists today, and will undoubtedly continue to some extent, I don't think there should be any hate in our society. Today, we see other cultures on the television screen. We chat to foreigners via the Internet. We see men and women from all backgrounds on the news. It has changed. For once, I am, a Filipina, in a classroom sitting next to a Hispanic boy and across from a black one.
Fifty years ago this would not be the case. Fifty years ago, I don't think we would have even been in the same school, much less in one room. The world is getting smaller; we are living in an age of communication. Communication is important because through it we learn about other races. When we see others laughing at the same things we laugh at, and crying at the same things

we cry at, it helps us understand each other. It helps us recognize that we share things in common. Today, we see other cultures on the television screen. We chat to foreigners via the Internet. We see men and women from all backgrounds on the news. It has changed. For once, I am, a Filipina, in a classroom sitting next to a Hispanic boy and across from a black one. Fifty years ago this would not be the case. Fifty years ago, I don't think we would have even been in the same school, much less in one room. The world is getting smaller; we are living in an age of communication. Communication is important because through it we learn about other races. When we see others laughing at the same things we laugh at, and crying at the same things



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House of Siam offers a tasty Thai dining experience

By Tina Dyson
MUSIC STAFF WRITER
House of Siam provides delicious Thai food at an inexpensive price. It was more than worth the wait. Upon entering, one of the first things I noticed was a collection of dark, Thai wall hangings with embroidered elephants and native people and places on them. This music played softly in the background.
We were seated immediately. Our food arrived quickly. The garlic prawns were fried and sautéed with garlic, shrimp sauce, cracked pepper, steamed carrots and honey. coli — all served on a bed of cabbage. This dish was by far the best thing I noticed was a collection of dark, Thai wall hangings with embroidered elephants and native people and places on them. This music played softly in the background.
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Jordan's secret: a pure motive

Prior to the NBA finals, sports analysts complained that Chicago Bulls leader Michael Jordan was too tired and too old to win a sixth title. Even in the final moments of Game 6 of the Jazz series, TV announcers said that Jordan had been on the court too long. However, a moment later when Jordan hit the jumper to give the Bulls the final

advantage in the series, they said he was simply amazing and that he could maintain his focus no matter what the situation.

Some sports fans and critics alike questioned where his fountain of determination and will to win came from. Many speculated that it was the pressure

of making millions of dollars a month and having to prove himself. Others reasoned that he was just an exceptionally talented player with great skills.

The answer is none of the above.

His focus and drive to continue to stay at the top of the game come from something even more pure than his God-given abilities. They come from his love of the game. That's how he does it. You can't win championships without a motivation as pure as one's love for the game. You can't win championships with money as your primary motivation. This notion is evident throughout all of the sports world, not just basketball.

Look at Mike Piazza of the New York Mets for example. He's probably the National League's best-hitting catcher, yet when he played for the Dodgers last year, the team didn't even advance into the postseason. Nevertheless, Piazza went ahead and demanded a \$100 million dollar contract at the end of the season. He was offered a contract by the Dodgers that would have made him one of the highest paid players in baseball, but he wanted to become the hundred million dollar man.

Why? Was he trying to break up a talented young team at the core?

Well that's what he forced the Dodgers management into doing when he was traded. Although Piazza is brimming with talent, until he goes back to playing for the same reason he picked up a glove when he was 5 years old, he'll never lead a team to the World Series.

And for that matter, he'll never lead a team to the League championships.

Shaquille O'Neal illustrates how a basketball player with the wrong motivation cannot succeed in attaining an NBA championship. He's got to play for the purity of the game, not the media. This season, he began to play as if he wanted to win a title for the right reasons. But he was still lacking leadership. Rather than lifting his teammates up to play at a championship level, he would complain about their performance after the game.

O'Neal's focus must remain completely on the floor — not off the court — if he wants to sit on a championship throne. He can't be worried about whether he'll win an Oscar next year or not. He has to fall in love with the game again and express his passion for the game on the court.

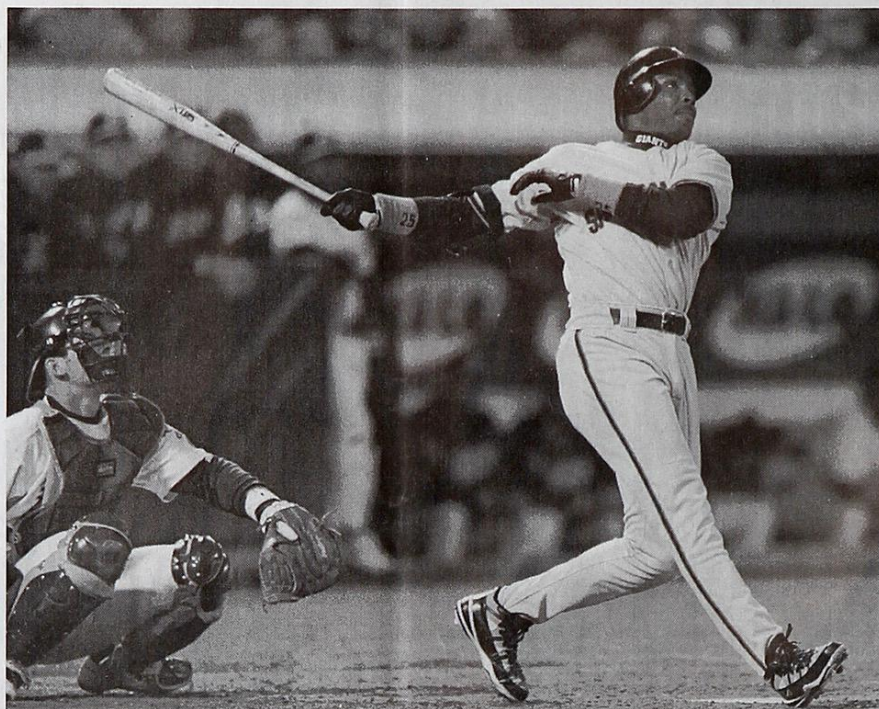
Also, don't forget that these superstars are not only athletes but practically father figures for America's youth. They're setting the wrong example in their pursuit of millions while they should be teaching lessons about dedication and work ethic. These role models must make an effort to teach by example and correct their faulty motivations.

Jordan's love for the game has branched out and blossomed over the course of his career. While initially Jordan was motivated to win a championship for himself, his motivation grew into something less selfish and more redeeming for others. He began to love the hard-working people of Chicago. His passion for the game gave birth to a desire: a desire to bring joy into the lives of Chicago's people.

A true champion possesses the desire and the strength to keep striving for excellence even after their goals are met. Yet, more and more young players appear to lack these championlike qualities.



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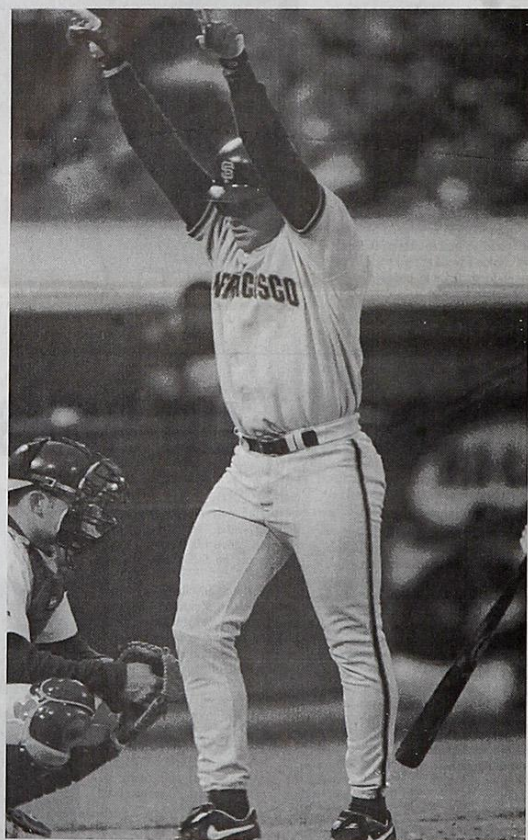


A solo home run by Barry Bonds in the top of the sixth inning put the San Francisco Giants ahead 3-2 in the June 23 interleague game against the Oakland A's.

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE MONTAÑO/THE MOSAIC



Barry Bonds' teammates congratulate him with high-fives after his solo blast down the right field line.



J.T. Snow hit the first of two Giants home runs in the top of the fifth off Tom Candiotti, which got the Giants on the scoreboard, 2-1.

Interleague play helps bring fans back to baseball

By Nik Ajagu
MOSAIC STAFF WRITER

It's late October 1989 and baseball fever is in the air. The Oakland Coliseum is packed with 40,000-plus fans watching a game between the A's and Giants in a series that was given the name "The Battle of the Bay."

The crowd is screaming, the lights shining, and the wind blowing — you could cut the intensity with a knife. The fans have one and only one thought on their minds and that is baseball. That one game was all that mattered in the world, and all that would matter for the next three hours. It was baseball at its best.

Now it's June 1998 and the A's are hosting the Seattle Mariners. Just over 15,000 fans sit scattered about the Coliseum to see the last-place A's take on their latest adversaries in an intradivisional match-up. Most fans don't even concern themselves with the outcome of the game, and the excitement of earlier years has long since faded away.

The Bay Area has experienced the best and the worst that baseball has to offer in a span of only 10 years. Baseball has lost much of its popularity in recent years for a variety of reasons — both external and internal.

Major league baseball has seen the NBA and NFL emerge to take its place on the top of the sporting throne. On top of that, major league baseball has been forced to deal with embarrassing situations including ethical violations and player lockouts, which have strong foundation upon which "The Great American Pastime" once stood.

But with every problem there is a solution, and baseball may have found it.

It's called interleague play and it has captured the interest of sports fans the world over. The idea for interleague play was first proposed 20 years ago, but the concept wasn't seriously considered until recently. The idea behind interleague play was to allow intradivisional teams in both the American and National leagues to play in games against each other during the regular season.

The aim was to create regular season matchups between teams that in the past, could only face each other in the World Series. If all went according to plan, interleague play would boost attendance by giving casual fans something new to go out and see, and generate excitement by giving the sporting community something to talk about.

But would it work?

Tuesday's A's-Giants game drew a season high 45,169 fans to Coliseum

Now in its second year of existence, many fans say that interleague play is everything it was expected to be and more.

"It has definitely heightened the interest amongst the fans," Giants fan Brandon Notario said. "For the first time I'm hearing people talk about baseball on the street."

Interleague play has not only gotten people talking, it has also done what Major League baseball executives hoped it would: gotten people in the seats. A season high 45,169 fans piled into the Oakland Coliseum on Tuesday night to watch the Oakland A's host the San Francisco Giants in their second interleague match-up of the season.

On an average day, the A's draw about 15,000 people to the Coliseum, one-third the size of Tuesday's crowd.

"This kind of crowd is what you get with this interleague play, just look at the Angels and Dodgers, they're sold out too," said the A's Kevin Mitchell, who led the San Francisco Giants to the 1989 World Series. "We haven't had this big a crowd since I've been here."

With so many fans attending the games, interleague play has re-created some of the excitement inside the park that was lost after the strike in 1994. For several seasons after

the strike, many fans lost interest in baseball, and in their disgust, shifted their support to other sports including basketball and football.

It's not just the fans who get a rush from interleague play.

"I actually felt like it was a playoff game," said Mitchell, referring to Monday's A's-Giants game. "You could see all of the intensity in everybody, the first couple at-bats everybody had to get the jitters out."

The biggest argument against interleague play has been its effect on travel. The increase in teams has forced the league to schedule more two-game series, which has caused increased travel and fatigue among the players. But in the eyes of most players the benefits of interleague play are worth the added travel.

"You have to think about the fans," Mitchell said. "I mean, it's bringing more fans out to the park."

It appears as if interleague play is here to stay. The fans are buzzing about it, and the players are loving the crowds that it is generating. Baseball appears to be on its way back to the top, and interleague play has made all of that possible.