

Debate heats up on parental consent for abortion

BY DIVYA CHOWDARY
Mosaic Staff Writer

She died at 11:30 that night and didn't even know she was still three months pregnant. Seventeen-year-old Becky Bell wanted to have an abortion, but didn't want to tell her parents. A law in her home state of Indiana required girls under the age of 18 to have their parents' permission to get an abortion. So, Bell had one done illegally. By

the end of the week, she was hospitalized due to complications from her botched abortion. An infection eventually killed Bell and her unborn child. Cases like this have spurred the California Supreme Court to bring up the controversial subject of abortion yet again — but this time in regard to whether or not parental consent laws are necessary. In 1987, the state Supreme Court affirmed a California law which

required doctors to obtain consent from at least one parent of an unemancipated minor before performing an abortion. The law does, however, allow the minor to get consent from a judge if the teen is subject to abuse or neglect at home. In response to this law, organizations such as Planned Parenthood appealed the decision. Then, in a twist of events, during the 30-day waiting period for the law to come into effect,

two of the Supreme Court justices in favor of the law stepped down. In what is considered to be a rare circumstance, the court decided to hear the case again. This is presently where the case stands — caught up in almost 10 years of bureaucratic complications and appeal processes. Until a decision is reached, the current policy provides teenagers with the option to get a legal and confidential abortion of their own

volition regardless of parental consent. Similar to the landmark case of Roe vs. Wade in 1973 — which voided the abortion laws of nearly every state — this case is another milestone in the ongoing battle regarding abortion. But for most teens, as well as pro-life and pro-choice activists, the decision to either uphold or revise this law will have severe consequences. See **ABORTION**, Page 10

“This is flat-out war against young women.”

— Susan Fogel, pro-choice advocate with Bay Area Abortion Defense

Tobacco ruling

Young smokers targeted in landmark settlement



PHOTO BY ANDREW DOLPH — MOSAIC
Adrian Young, 20, takes a drag off her cigarette, while hanging out with her friends.

BY TY LIM AND YVES LAURENT CASTANEDA
Mosaic Staff Writers

Andy Libra, 21, began smoking cigarettes when he was 11 years old. Acquiring cigarettes was never a problem for Libra — he would steal them from his father or stand in front of a liquor store and ask strangers to buy them for him. Ten years later, Libra is still hooked.

The recent tobacco settlement orders cigarette companies to pay \$368.5 billion in compensation to 40 states over the next 25 years. Cigarette vending machines, and billboard and internet advertisements are now banned under the settlement.

Human and cartoon characters in ads such as the Marlboro Man and Joe Camel are also prohibited. No longer will cigarette-makers be allowed to have their products showcased in movies and on TV. And brand name sponsorship of sporting events must also be discontinued. As a way to reduce sales, the price of cigarettes will soon rise between 75 cents and \$1.

One of the main goals of the settlement is to reduce the number of teen smokers. According to the American Heart Association, approximately 3,000 teenagers start smoking every day.

“Teen smoking is at rise and kids are smoking at a younger and younger age,” said American Heart Association spokesperson Lynn Gaster.

The tobacco industry is subject to fines if youth smoking does not drop 30 percent in five years, 50 percent in seven years and 60 percent in 10 years. The availability of cigarettes in vending machines, and the prevalence of icons like Joe Camel are factors in the rise in teen smoking.

“Ads can be very effective hooking kids into smoking,” said Dr. Joel Killen of Stanford University School of Medicine.

But Libra said advertisements did not influence his decision to smoke. See **SMOKING**, Page 12

FINDING RELIEF IN CANNABIS



Liad Stein smoked pot to combat the painful side effects of chemotherapy.

PHOTO BY ANDREW DOLPH — MOSAIC

the Marijuana Solution

BY JACINTA JIMENEZ
Mosaic Staff Writer

Clutching his pipe tightly in his sweaty palm, Liad Stein made it to the top of the hill behind school. Hiding behind a tree, he could hear the voices of his peers down below. As he pulled the lighter from his pocket, excitement surged through him.

He held the flame over the bowl of his expensive glass pipe, which contained marijuana.

As his lips touched the pipe, the familiar taste filled his mouth. He sucked in hard, as if it were his last breath. The smoke made his throat dry, but he managed to hold it in — allowing it to settle in his lungs. The voices of his peers had grown distant.

Then alarm struck him: If he didn't hurry, he'd be late to class. Liad looks like a typical 16-year-old, but he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease on his last birthday. Hodgkin's disease, a type of cancer that develops in the body's immune system, accounts for only one percent of cancer cases in the United States.

Liad's is one of the first known cases in which a teen is using marijuana — both with his parents' and doctor's approval — for the treatment of his cancer.

The first time Liad used marijuana for medicinal purposes was the day after his first radiation treatment in 1996. During the night following the treatment, Liad was awakened by intense nausea, and vomited for more than 30 minutes. It was the sickest he had ever felt.

“I was crying,” he said. “There were tears everywhere.” The next day, still feeling “extremely sick,” Liad went to a friend's house. Worried about him, the friend offered Liad a joint.

He accepted. “I remembered hearing about marijuana for medicinal purposes and decided to try it out,” Liad said. “It was See **MARIJUANA**, Page 10

Tattoo removal program offers hope

PROJECT NEW START HELPS TROUBLED YOUTHS MAKE CLEAN SLATE

BY DIVYA CHOWDARY
Mosaic Staff Writer

There were 30 of them up and down her arms and legs, serving as constant reminders of her life of violence, drugs, and gangs. Dawn Repose of Fremont was only 17 when she started tattooing her body. Now, at 22, Repose had moved on and is celebrating her new drug-free life without her tattoos. Thanks to Project New Start, Repose and many others have had the opportunity to get their tattoos removed free of cost. But not free of commitment. The Southern Alameda County

“It's more than just getting a tattoo removed, it gives people a new image of themselves.”

— Karen Sealz, Friday Night Live

Tattoo Removal and Lifestyle Change Project — also dubbed Project New Start — is for Alameda County residents between the ages of 13 and 25. The catch, however, is that participants must commit themselves to making a positive change in their lives as well as performing at least 50 hours of community service.

The program was founded in Southern Alameda County by County Supervisor Gail Steele. Similar ones already exist in Oakland and Hayward. During a meeting about gangs, a public health nurse suggested implementing a tattoo removal program. Steele devised Project New Start to fit into the county budget, but when budget cuts hit, the program was first to go.

“It's not like there's any political opposition, it's just that there's no money,” said Steele. It costs anywhere between \$300 and \$400 per person to remove a medium-sized tattoo. Currently, the project is surviving on volunteer work, donated money, and whatever Steele can manage to scrounge up. Kaiser Permanente provides doctors, nurses, and clinic See **TATTOO**, Page 12

About Mosaic

The Mosaic is a publication of the San Jose Urban Journalism Workshop. For two weeks, high school students from all over the Bay Area become reporters and photographers. Their goal — to produce a 12-page newspaper. To learn more about the staff of The Mosaic, see Page 11.

INSIDE

- Culture Clash: melding old world values with American life / Page 3
- A cyber adventure: Have we lost the human touch? / Page 5
- S.F. Giants, S.J. Clash: Bay Area sports and more / Page 6
- Hercules: Will it muscle out the competition? / Page 8
- Looking for shelter: inside the world of a homeless teen / Page 10

News

Caffeine

Surviving over java

Jr Miss: Beauty is more than skin deep

When I first shared with people the exciting news that I had made it to the state finals of California's Junior Miss, I ended up with a totally different response than I expected. The first reaction was something along the lines of: "How wonderful. You entered a beauty pageant? That is so fantastic."

I find this very frustrating because then I have to explain that Junior Miss is based on everything but looks. I have found that most people think that anything that has the word "pageant" and is related to participating in it is girls' only. That's not wrong, especially in this case. To prepare for a competition like California's Junior Miss, girls do more than just primp. These motivated young women have demonstrated excellence in all areas of their lives. For example, the Junior Miss class of '95 included 11 valedictorians and four salutatorians; and 43 of the 50 young women were National Honor Society members.

I cannot think of a better way to give outstanding young women a chance to win scholarships.

The California Junior Miss organization gives me, along with other girls my age, a chance to be recognized and to receive scholarships.

Organizers of California's Junior Miss give out approximately \$5 million in scholarships and other awards at the local, state and national levels. Each year, 200 colleges and universities contribute prizes. Each state winner receives a full four-year college scholarship that includes tuition, room and board.

It's not a strange, bald man with a nose ring. Red Bull is a company promoting its European energy-booster drink in the Bay Area by distributing free samples.

More and more teens are drinking coffee and other caffeinated beverages and are finding themselves hooked. But not everyone is aware of the positive and negative effects of caffeine.

TEENS MAY NOT REALIZE THAT CAFFEINE IS A DRUG ... IT CAN BE VERY ADDICTIVE.

There has definitely been an increase in young people hanging out and drinking coffee at the cafes," said a local Starbucks worker who can remember hanging out drinking coffee herself a few years back.

According to the International Food Information Council Foundation, when caffeine enters the body, it is absorbed by the stomach and intestine, then goes throughout the blood stream. After that, professionals say, blood pressure, pulse rate, and stomach acid production are increased. Stored fat is broken down and fatty acids are released into the body.

In a sense caffeine is not all that bad. It can result in positive effects, such as calming hyperactive children, and of course it can give you an edge when you need to wake up.

With regards to moaning saying caffeine will stunt your growth, "Research has proven it true," said Ann Coulouton, research dietitian from Stanford University.

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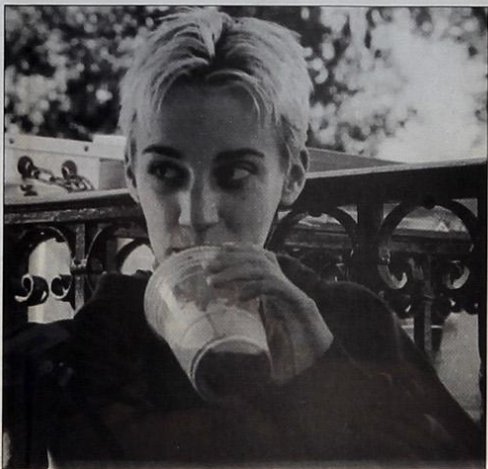
There are more demands on our physical bodies," said Tom DeTark, a promoter of Red Bull.

Comparing Energy Bars

Calories, carbohydrates, fat and protein are the essential ingredients of energy bars. Here are the results of a survey of the Top 10 most popular energy bars, conducted by Welles Lobb and published in a 1995 issue of *Runner's World*.

NAME	CALORIES	CARBO (%)	FAT (%)	PROTEIN (%)
Exceed	280	76	6	17
Clif Bar	250	83	7	8
Edgebar	240	77	7	15
VOZ Max	230	78	12	12
GoBar	220	89	8	5
PowerBar	225	75	8	18
Carbo-Crunch	180	60	19	20
PR Bar	180	39	30	31
Balance	180	36	33	31
ATP Tour	160	74	21	5

Compiled by GERALDINE ESCALONA



Megan Freeman enjoys an iced coffee in front of Cafe Leviticus on a warm afternoon. PHOTO BY ANDREW DOLIN - MOSAIC

for asthma because it can open the air sacs. It was also once used as an antidote for snake bites, due to its wakening effects, and for opium overdoses.

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(This table is identical to the one in the previous block, as it is a data table.)

Compiled by GERALDINE ESCALONA

News

Technology

http://www. what the heck have we come to?

By Ty Lim and Pearl Lu
Mass Mail Worm
I finally realized all the advantages our technological revolution has presented us.

I worked up to the sound of deafening sirens from my laptop's alarm clock. Without even stepping out of bed, I had the Sunday paper on my LCD screen. Sign... how barbaric it was for people to walk to the front door to pick up the delivered paper. Hee hee.

I was a little low on Raisinets so I headed towards the virtual Lucky L to shop for groceries. Scrolling down the aisles, I clicked on the images of items I wanted to buy.

I checked the clock on my menu bar. It was about noon and I wondered what was on TV. I clicked on my TV (boy, that Clapper! Really beats e-mailing my room on the second story to come and turn it on for me!)

By that time, it was almost 8 o'clock. I forgot to buy Lora a gift so I made her a custom E-Card! I entered the chat room, "Lora's Birthday Party." A window opened, and my eyes lit up to the name Bloop. I sent her an instant message, asking her measurements.

The Net

Teens - doing more online than research

By Edward Hsu
Mosaic Staff Writer
What are teenagers up to on the Internet. They're wasting time. They're breaking the law. They're cracking stupid jokes, building the future, and having fun.

WareZ & FTP
WareZ is the Internet's unique subculture; it's dangerous, illegal, and addictive. It's complete with its own social hierarchy, protocols, slang, and a preference for ending words in "instead of."

SEK AND INTERNET RELAY CHAT

Cybersex was the No. 1 reply from teens when they asked what they do most often on the Internet. This "sex" wasn't the total reality experience you saw in "The Lawnmower Man," however.

The Big Three Networks

Chat networks are formed when chat servers agree to share the same chat rooms at the same time. Your chat client should list these three at the top of its chat server list.

Public art

Valley's immigrant past

By Mavis Laurent Casteneda
Mosaic Staff Writer
In an industrialized and progressive place such as the Silicon Valley where technology is the fastest growing industry, a sculpture was unveiled commemorating the first settlers, a family of farmers from Mexico.

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Citizens view the newly unveiled work of the East Los Angeles Streetcapers, located at Parque de los Pobladores. PHOTO BY ALI BELGACHA - MOSAIC

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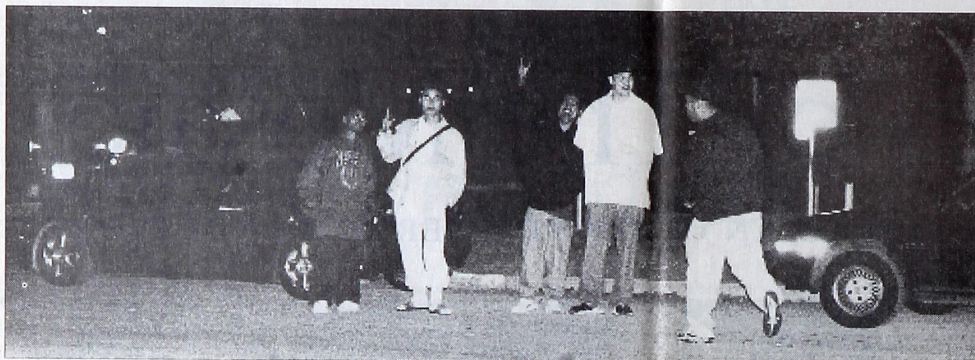
About 50 people gathered along with Mavis Susan Hammer to see the air/walk/roll to honor the artists.

The 14-foot tall three-sided concrete columns were shown to the public at the Parque de los Pobladores also known as the Gore Park, last week. The goal of the artwork is to remember the lifestyle and history of the first immigrants.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Blanca Alvarado was emotionally touched by the work when she addressed the crowd.

"It is part of the history which commemorates the agriculture, family life, transportation, soldiers, settlers, village life and public art."

NEWS



A group of teens come to the "tracks" just to watch. Many racers complain that spectators make it too easy for the police to spot them.

PHOTO BY O JAE BALGOS - MOSAIC

Night life's a drag

Racers get high on speed

BY TY LIM
Mosaic Staff Writer

We pulled up to the grocery store parking lot on Berryessa Road at 11:40 p.m. and as I got out of the car my eyes lit up. Before me were 20 Japanese imports - Niche rims, racing stickers, city lights, trust exhaust, body kits, lowered springs, and popped up hoods with sparkling heads. As I walked closer to the group, I realize it was just a lot of friends who share a similar interest - drag racing.

These illegal late-night races have been popular among teenagers for some time. During these drags, racers come together to show off their cars and race each other while racing away from the police.

"Five-O!" someone screamed as the police rolled into the parking lot and everyone ran for their meek Daytona vehicles. My partner and I jumped into his Accord and followed the pack.

Their advanced techniques and high speeds made it difficult to follow. We weren't dealing with cars, we were dealing with machines. However, it was easy to recognize their intended destination because of the cars' ostentatious gleam. The show - a line of cars - looked like a shining serpent slithering toward the freeway exit. A show's obvious togetherness makes it easier for police to predict their intention of racing.

Steve, a member of Team Racing Evolution (every team has a name) said spectators who lengthen the line make it easier for cops to identify them.

After entering and exiting about three streets - also known as tracks - the pack stopped at about 1 a.m. on a secluded industrial street illuminated by dull yellow crime lights.

The smell of cigarette smoke filled the air while the sound of laughter echoed throughout the street. I noticed the racers

seemed to separate into their own little groups. There has always been a sense of pride within racing teams which creates some animosity between competitors.

There weren't any intricate tunings or last-minute adjustments being made by the racers. The sounds of *Akmele* weaved into the web of laughter and roar of engines.

About 100 spectators gathered along the street, awaiting the first race. When the flagger signaled the start, the cars peeled out loudly.

Vroom, vroom, eeeerrrrrccchhhhhh! Two cars whizzed past us in a blur. After passing the finish line, two sets of brake lights simultaneously lit up like red beady eyes.

Shouts of ridicule came from the crowd as the losing car returned to its crew. Throughout the night, about 20 cars ran - term for raced - while everyone talked and joked around.

"I race because you get a lot of respect

from others," said a member of Wicked racing team.

As I walked toward the starting line, I noticed three security guards staring contemptuously as the cars continued to race down the track. We approached them, inquiring why they were watching the drag races.

"Can I ask you a couple questions?" I asked.

"No," they answered fearfully.

We left after hanging around for another 30 minutes. As we rode home on the vacant I-280 Interstate looking over the city lights, I thought of how the night didn't turn out the way I expected.

The actual racing environment was a contrast to my previous assumption. I always thought racers were thugs who wreaked havoc.

Last Saturday I found out racers are like most teenagers - they just like to have fun.



Fountains of youth

Rosalinda Acosta, left, cools off in the fountain at Cesar Chavez Plaza in downtown San Jose while her sister, Helena, chases her.

PHOTO BY O JAE BALGOS - MOSAIC

Teen smokers unfazed by anti-tobacco campaigns

SMOKING, From Page 1

"TV didn't glorify smoking for me," said Libra.

And Mhater Bongbonga, 20, who began smoking at the age of 15, said she would continue to smoke even if the price of a pack rose.

Supporters of the settlement say it is important to target teen smoking because young people tend to disregard the consequences of smoking.

Smoking causes lung cancer, emphysema, prostate cancer, bronchitis as well as increased risk of death from lung disease. According to Lynn Gaster of the American Heart Association, there are nearly 40,000 people in the United States who die every year due to second-hand smoke and cardiovascular diseases. And the American Lung Association has said that inhaling second-hand smoke is 20 times more harmful than smoking.

Brian Pors, of the American Lung Association, visits schools to talk about the effects of smoking on teenagers. He used to chew tobacco and has shared his story with more than 3,000 students.

"I started when I was a sophomore in high school and quit six years after," Pors said. "It was hard to quit at first. I did it because of health concerns."

Sixteen-year-old Joe Martinez started smoking when he was 13. He now smokes about one pack a week.

"I let my older friend buy me a pack of cigarettes," he said.

A state law was implemented in January which imposes penalties on minors who are caught buying cigarettes. Minors who are caught can either pay a \$75 fine or attend the Smokeless Saturday seminar at the American Lung Association.

Hope gained through tattoo removal

TATTOO, From Page 1

space; Browning-Ferris Industries Waste Systems (BFI) donated \$5,000 to pay for the laser rental; and various youth agencies which act as sponsors for the participants.

Tattoos were removed through a laser process that broke up the pigment of the tattoo and caused it to fade over the course of several treatments. This treatment usually took four to 10 visits. Dr. Jed Weissburg, of Kaiser Fremont, volunteers his Saturdays to remove tattoos.

"The process isn't too painful," Weissburg said. "Most participants describe the feeling as a rubber band snapping against their skin."

Besides the doctors and nurses, the success of the program can be attributed to the sponsors of the participants.

Karen Seals, of Friday Night Live in Alameda County, sponsors five youths in the program. Seals helps them find jobs, makes sure they serve their community service hours, and basically watches over them.

"It's more than just getting a tattoo removed, it gives people a new image of themselves," she said. Seals helps participants follow through with their commitments to the program in order to acquire this "new image."

"Ninety percent of the kids are from some sort of gang background," she said.

Many teenagers get tattoos to show their affiliation to a gang, but as they get older and tried to get jobs, they found it almost impossible to get hired.

Ricardo Moreno, who recently completed the program, used to have tattoos on his hands as well as other parts of his body. "People automatically think that you are a thug or a hoodlum," said Moreno, 18. "But that's not who I am."

Project New Start provides participants with something simple, yet rare: a chance. Supporters of the program say it is unique because it is based on the commitment of the individual.

"We're here to help those who want to be helped," said Seals. Unlike other teen programs, it is the responsibility of the young person to seek help. Once admitted to the program, they must work to stay in it.

Even before the tattoo-removal process begins, participants must serve a part of their 50 hours of community service. In order to stay in the program, they must meet the goals set with their sponsors, refrain from getting new tattoos, and not be convicted of any crime. Failure to comply with these requirements results in expulsion from the program.

"I did it for my mom," said Moreno.

Whatever their reason may be, those who want to make a positive change in their lives can turn to Project New Start for help in taking that critical first step.

"Once these young people have decided to get back into society, they need every possible support and encouragement we can give them," Weissburg said. "That's what we're here to do."