



## Erasing signs of old life

HOPING TO LEAVE GANG DAYS BEHIND, TEEN COMPLETES S.J. PROGRAM

By **Stephany Espinoza**  
MOSAIC STAFF

Betty Siqueros was 11 years old when she got a single gang tattoo. The three tiny dots on the fold of skin between her thumb and forefinger, almost destroyed her life.

At 13, Siqueros joined a gang and was kicked out of school. Last year her boyfriend, whom she loved deeply was slain in a brutal, gang-land-style shooting at a fast food restaurant.

By the time Siqueros was 14, that simple tattoo had turned her life into an angry whirl of violence, drugs and gang-banging. And that was only a year ago.

Today, the San Jose girl is hoping to rebuild her life and erase an ugly past symbolized by the three navy-blue dots that used to say she was a Sureño, a Latino gang member with ties to Southern California and Mexico.

At first, Siqueros was happy about the marks engraved onto her hand by a friend at a party. All she remembers about the night it happened is that she was high on drugs and drunk.

When Siqueros was an eighth-grader at Fisher Middle School in East San Jose, she said she was "jumped" into a street gang called LPT — that means she allowed other members of the group to punch and kick her and throw her to the ground in a ritual initiation to show her toughness.

"I ended with many bruises," see **CLEAN SLATE**, page 8



**Lisette Arellano**

## Finding faith, but shedding religion

The lights in the cathedral were dimmed, relaxing almost, but I felt I was about to choke. In my hand, lay the holy host, the body of Christ, passed on from generation to generation, carrying an immense onus despite its obvious frailty and paleness. Usually, I would simply pop the flavorless round wafer into my mouth and kneel for the customary prayer without as much as a blink. But this evening was different.

I felt disgusted with myself. "Why am I doing this, again?" As guitars droned and a baby intoned a screech, I decided I was tired of following a religion that did not satisfy me.

So, very slowly, I folded my fingers to hide the holy Eucharist and glanced around apologetically, first at the people beside me and then at the pallid saints on the stained-glass windows. I placed the paper-thin cracker in my jacket pocket without a word. I haven't been to a Mass since that fall evening.

But my musings about religion and the nature of faith continued, taking me in a search for answers.

The secret ritual that finalized my separation from the Roman Catholic Church did not come abruptly, but rather was the

see **ARELLANO**, page 8

# Tanning law put to test

DESPITE REQUIRED PARENTAL CONSENT, MANY SALONS KEEP OPEN-DOOR POLICY

By **Samantha Zenk**

MOSAIC STAFF  
When Michele, 16, of San Jose went to a tanning salon eight days in a row to even out the farmer's tan she had gotten from playing softball, she knew her parents wouldn't approve.

What she didn't know is that it's illegal.

California law requires teens between

Editorial: Since California has a law to protect minors from tanning danger, authorities should enforce it. **PAGE 13**

the ages of 14 and 18 to have a written and signed parental consent to tan at a salon. When a 17-year-old Mosaic staff member visited six tanning salons this week, three of them told her she could get a tan

without parental consent. As state legislators become more aware of the risks of skin cancer, they're becoming more aggressive about regulating tanning salons that serve younger customers. But some question whether it makes sense to create new laws when existing ones are not enforced.

Jim DeBoo, chief of staff for Assemblyman Joe Natton, D-San Rafael,

said authorities often have no way of finding out whether salons are breaking the law.

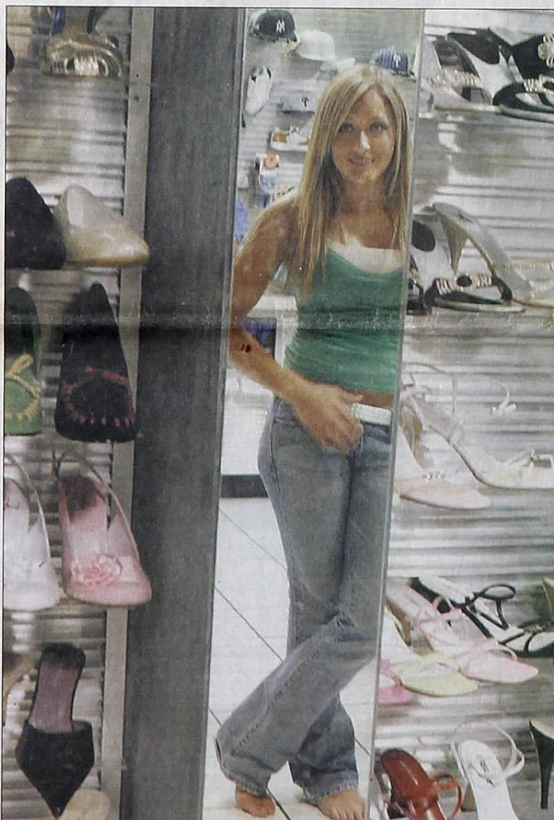
"A 17-year-old is not going to report it," DeBoo said.

An underage Mosaic staffer was informed by employees of some tanning salons that paperwork or parental con-

see **TANNING**, page 6

# DREAMING OF A CROWN

Beyond the old-fashioned beauty contest



NICOLE MARQUEZ — MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHS

Kalen Bigger, 14, shops for shoes in preparation for the upcoming Miss Northern California American Co-Ed pageant.

PAGEANTS ARE MORE ABOUT SUBSTANCE, CONTESTANTS SAY

By **Inci Atrekk**

MOSAIC STAFF  
The puffy pink dress was hanging just outside her fitting room but Kalen Bigger knew she couldn't have it. The 14-year-old beauty pageant contestant gazed at it longingly with big, blue eyes, and reluctantly accepted that it was time for a change.

"I wore pink last year," Kalen said while shopping last week for a dress at the Jessica McClintock boutique in San Jose's Westfield Shoppingtown Valley Fair. "I wanted something more mature."

Kalen's desire to show more sophistication runs parallel to beauty pageants' efforts to evolve. For decades, feminists have been criticizing the way these contests objectify women. Some pageants have responded by adding more categories that focus on intellect and character.



Pageant contestant Ashley Carrion, 17, tries on dresses at Westfield Shoppingtown Valley Fair. The Miss Northern California American Co-Ed pageant will be Carrion's second pageant.

July 15-16, Kalen will present

see **PAGEANTS**, page 7

# 'I'm so glad I said something'

LELAND HIGH STUDENT STEPS FORWARD TO REPORT ALLEGED TEACHER-STUDENT AFFAIR

By **Tiffany Liao**

MOSAIC STAFF  
Nancy, 18, of San Jose, said she listened to her best friend talk about her alleged relationship with her chemistry teacher for months on end before she told police. Investigators then told her not to tell anyone she had reported the crime — not even her best friend.

Now, former Leland High School chemistry teacher Earl Roske, 61, awaits trial in jail on \$1 million bail. Roske is expected to enter a plea in the coming days. There is no publicly disclosed evidence Roske did what he is accused of.

The girl, whose first name has been changed to protect her identity, reported Roske in September to the San Jose Police Department. After an investigation, he was arrested May 6.

Nancy knew of the alleged relationship between Roske and her best friend — who was 17 at the time — for most of the 2004-05 school year.

But she said she didn't know how serious it was.

But as the months passed, her concern grew.

"The fact that she was so deeply in love with him, that made me upset," Nancy said.

When Roske allegedly sent her best friend a photograph from his Web camera, Nancy said she had enough.

She told her mother about the accusation against Roske, who then set up a meeting at Leland High with an investigator.

"I was scared because I didn't want to get in trouble or anyone to get hurt," said Nancy about filing the report.

San Jose Unified School District spokeswoman Karen Fuqua said it was a clandestine investigation. That meant officials from the school and district, students, and parents were not notified.

The secret was a huge burden on Nancy during the nine-month investigation.

see **LELAND**, page 8



JOSE IBARRA — MOSAIC STAFF

Protesters wearing masks march through Palo Alto during a recent rally to promote anarchy. Many of the young activists wanted to protect their identity while still pushing an anarchist agenda.

# Young anarchists stage P.A. protest

GROUP BUILDS SMALL MOVEMENT; POLICE RESPOND TO DEMONSTRATION

By **Maria-Cristina Lalonde**

MOSAIC STAFF  
Teen anarchists dressed in black masks and hoods sit in the middle of a street, shouting, "What does a police state look like?" This is what a police state looks like! "Dozens of police officers in orderly, Army-like lines approach, some with batons, some on horseback.

This is not Berkeley, not San Francisco, not Oakland. It's posh Palo Alto.

The June 25 protest and a similar one a month ago were staged by teens whose parents are doctors, lawyers, bankers and college professors.

The teens are building an anarchy movement. It may be

small, but it has nonetheless intimidated police and city officials.

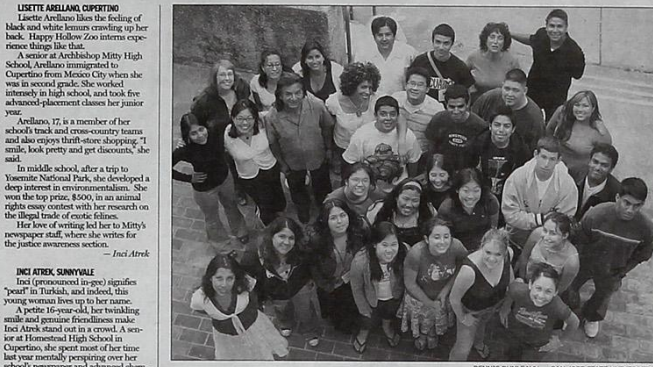
Experts say teens are drawn to the rebellious philosophy of anarchy. The homogeneity of suburbia in particular can foster it among youths, experts say.

"Teenagers often find the idea of anarchy sexy and appealing without thinking about history or context of anarchist motions," said Maristella Huerta, a sociology professor at Foothill Community College in Los Altos Hills.

"They don't have the ability to juxtapose it to our system, and are seduced by the

see **ANARCHY**, page 6

# MAKING THE MOST OF NEWS



**MEMBERS OF THE MOSaic 2005 STAFF** include high school students from around the Bay Area and journalists from the San Jose Mercury News. In two weeks, the students learned about reporting and photography and produced the *Mosaic*, this 20-page newspaper.

## From strangers to family

**By Diane Quintanilla**  
**MOSAIC STAFF**  
For the last two weeks, 30 teens who were complete strangers, ate, slept, worked, swayed and, at times, played together to produce *Mosaic* 2005. The high school students came to SJSU from all over the Bay Area, from East Palo Alto to San Francisco (and even Tracy). We got the Spartans Daily newspaper into a potpourri of talents, talents and accents. We became friends. And we became a family.

*Mosaic* 2005 was a wild and crazy adventure. It moved quickly, but we made sure no one was left behind. We all had a hand in our success. We each wrote and compiled ideas, giving moral support and getting feedback from our fabulous and patient editors.

Photographers lugged their cameras and heavy bags full of lenses. Frustrated reporters roared over their computers. At least we were well-fed, riding the snack room filled with M&Ms, green apples and a lot of other treats.

We laughed, especially when Diane's phone rang and the sound of LL Cool J hung over the newscasts. "Waiting for you tonight..." We cried, particularly over a certain staff member's painful rendition of the Backstreet Boys' (Timmy Chang's) "And We Became a Family."

By midnight, we were most often ready to go back to the dorms. But before sleeping, our laughter echoed through the

red-brick Washburn Hall.

We played pool and pingpong. During football games, some girls screamed over the intensity and MC did crazy victory dances.

Our "Orem parents" — the "Aashoon" Anne-Marie and "Jumping Jack Joe" — provided us with even more fun. They let us play poker and renter movies like "Hitch" and "Do the Right Thing."

And a few of us stayed (until we had hours of the morning like 6 a.m.), talking about everything under the moon, from first impressions to our class.

The staff certainly overcame trials and tribulations to produce the paper. Now we will never be able to talk up a newspaper again... and not think of the collective dedication behind it.

know for his quirky sense of humor and explosive personality. He has been known to talk for 10 minutes straight. Lately, he has been contemplating his future. "I don't know where I want to go to college or what I want to be," Pransavali said.

That frantic, non-plan style of living is not usually a recipe for success. But Pransavali — known by his nickname, "Sunavich," for his extreme love of the food — pulls it off with style and grace. He also enjoys computer design and drawing. He may want to be a photographer or a cop. "Whatever I end up doing, I want to have fun," he said.

### **KOREY PULLIAM TRACY**

Korey "Cahn" Pulliam seemed calm and collected as he began the beginning of the *Mosaic* workshop. But, in fact, he is very active. The Tracy High student traveled the farthest and gave up summer football training to attend *Mosaic*. He spends most of his football fall on a cornerback. He also tears through 100-meter track runs in less than 12 seconds. Although athletics are his primary interest, he hopes to attend a quality journalism program in college.

When he is not found from running about like a hurricane, Pulliam relaxes by watching tennis and cheeping on cheerleaders.

— Pratik Pransavali

### **DIANNE QUINTANILLA SAN JOSE**

Dianne Emilyana Francisco Quintanilla winds by playing piano and hula dancing at Hula Hula O' Pillau dance school.

Quintanilla said she enjoys the atmosphere. "It's like another family; they are very supportive," she said. Dancing gives her confidence. "I love dancing. The adrenaline is so great."

A senior at Notre Dame High School, Quintanilla wants to attend University of California Los Angeles or Santa Clara University. She participates in six different clubs including the Filipino Student Association, Ambassador Program and Big Little Sister Committee, and she writes for her school newspaper.

Quintanilla was in Manila, Philippines, and moved to the United States as a baby.

— Nicole Marquis

### **EMILY SHEN SAN JOSE**

Lynbrook High School junior Emily Shen plays basketball, volleyball and three other sports. She also writes for her school newspaper. She likes to play.

She has had an adventurous life, living in many different countries around the world and raised in China, has explored Alabama and Los Angeles, and finally made her way to San Jose.

Shen has a collection of 20 pairs of shoes, like bowling, miniature golf and lawn shuffle. She's also a fan of professional sports.

Shen, a reporter for her school newspaper, has an interest in photography and is currently working on a picture when covering a wedding match.

— Samantha Zerk

### **TITANY LIANG SARATOGA**

The phrase "will waters run deep" applies to Tiffany Liang, who has always been a bit quiet.

"It is not that I'm shy," said the 16-year-old Saratoga, "I just feel more comfortable talking to people one-on-one or two-on-one."

An incoming senior at Saratoga High School, Liang is an editor for her school newspaper. She volunteers at the Discovery Museum, takes art classes and practices the Chinese piano.

Liang hopes that participating in *Mosaic* will be a first step toward becoming an editor for a publishing house someday.

"I don't want to waste this opportunity," she said. "My greatest fear is that I won't take the opportunities as they come, and I'll regret it. I don't want to have any regrets in my life."

— Maria-Cristina Lalonde

### **NIKE BEANE MARQUET SAN JOSE**

Nicole Beane has read the newspaper every day since he was a cat, and he got his start in journalism at his school paper.

Kakada is an active member of the Red Cross club and speech and debate team. He enjoys reading books like "Catcher" by Joseph Heller as well as watching tennis and TV shows such as "The West Wing" and "24."

When everyone else has gone to the gym, Kakada is still at the gym.

Maria-Cristina Lalonde

### **PHRATIK PRANSIVALI SAN JOSE**

Pratik Pransavali, 16, is a junior at Lynbrook High School in San Jose. He is known for his quirky sense of humor and explosive personality. He has been known to talk for 10 minutes straight. Lately, he has been contemplating his future. "I don't know where I want to go to college or what I want to be," Pransavali said.

**SOURCES:** Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, California Chicano News Media Association, San Jose Mercury News, San Jose State University, Journalism Journalists, News Communications and the Cattleman Ball.

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Paramount's Great America.

# NEWS

## Skip rental fees, 'rent' at library

### DRAWBACK: WAITING LISTS CAN BE LONG

Library patrons started purchasing just DVD rentals instead of videos.

Because libraries often have fewer copies of films than video stores, naturally there's a waiting list at many. At some, people can sign up for movies online.

"Sometimes, you're in position number 100-something, and you need to wait a really long time," said Shaah La, a San Jose resident.

Local libraries have tried to update their movie collections — when funding allows.

"Some we get just after the release date, and others we wait until the price goes down," according to Debbie Erwin, the youth services coordinator for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library in San Jose. The library recently started purchasing just DVD rentals instead of videos.

The Santa Clara County Library system is one of the few libraries that has eliminated late fees. There's another film source you might want to check out: public library.

"That's right, libraries aren't just for books any more. They've become a range of DVD and VHS titles that can be alternatives for movie-enthusiasts.

The best part is that the rentals are 100 percent free — as long as you return them in time. To be sure, renting from libraries is far from perfect, say those who frequent library video departments. VHS are often long and parents lack control over what kids rent.

The selections include television series such as the second season of "24," classic like "Rosemary's Baby" and new releases such as "Seabiscuit."

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## Third S.J. skate park opening in August; new site offers street-style shape



At the Plata Arroyo skate park, located on the corner of McKee and King roads in San Jose, a skater works on his form recently as others wait their turn. Another park is slated to open in August.

## TREATING NEW GROUND

It was easy to spot 15-year-old Steven "Kitty" Fock at the bustling San Jose skate park Plata Arroyo recently. Wearing an unbuttoned baseball cap, "I'll wear a hat or a beanie, but not a helmet."

It was a first-opening party in August, and he was the teenager closest to following state law.

It was illegal for minors in California to skate, skateboard, ride scooters or roller-blade without a properly fitted helmet. However, this 2 1/2-year-old boy still hasn't changed the ways of many Silicon Valley teens who say they

"don't" wear helmets, an employee of the South San Jose State Parks says. "Kids who don't wear helmets are the plan. Bowl-shaped parks are kind of dumb," he said.

San Jose's parks department is planning to open a total of 10 skate parks as part of a 20-year "recreation plan" to provide more meaningful activities for the youth. "Government plans to provide more meaningful activities for the youth. "Government plans to provide more meaningful activities for the youth."

"We're looking for each city council district, and each park will provide a different skating experience."

"Skating is a fast-growing sport in America," said May Beth Carter, associate landscape architect for the city's Parks, Recreation and

**WHERE SHOULD THE MONEY COME FROM? Funding for skate parks should come from private sector, not government. See editorial, Page 13**

**Teacher's intensity brings teen's inner journalist to life**

It may seem like an odd bond. A 35-year-old petite Indian woman, her student and Allen Iverson. And it started in an eighth-grade literature class.

The bond began when I wrote a 10-page report about basketball player Allen Iverson.

The woman was my teacher, Mrs. Rami Chaudhri. She stood no taller than 5'2", had a slight accent, and had an intensity in her eyes that burned into me.

She didn't know much about basketball. But when she read my report, she told me it brought tears to her eyes. Those words changed my life.

Mrs. Chaudhri and her words are the reason I'm taking photos and writing for *Mosaic*, the two-week journalism workshop

**YOUNG SKATERS, BIKERS OFTEN DON'T WEAR RIGHT GEAR, POLICE SAY**

**By Inci Atrak**  
**MOSAIC STAFF**

It was easy to spot 15-year-old Steven "Kitty" Fock at the bustling San Jose skate park Plata Arroyo recently. Wearing an unbuttoned baseball cap, "I'll wear a hat or a beanie, but not a helmet."

It was a first-opening party in August, and he was the teenager closest to following state law.

It was illegal for minors in California to skate, skateboard, ride scooters or roller-blade without a properly fitted helmet. However, this 2 1/2-year-old boy still hasn't changed the ways of many Silicon Valley teens who say they

won't take a tumble, are concerned about appearance or cannot afford protection.

"I'm against wearing a helmet," said Ben Walker, 16, of San Jose, while sitting on his skateboard, wearing a baseball cap. "I'll wear a hat or a beanie, but not a helmet."

Tenms caught violating the law, often through excuses as police officers, said that his trendy or looks good is unimportant. "That's something we need to get past," San Jose police Capt. Ken Ferguson said.

Meanwhile, teenagers are busy trying to get past the law. When Jos Carter rides his skateboard without a helmet, he avoids the places where he

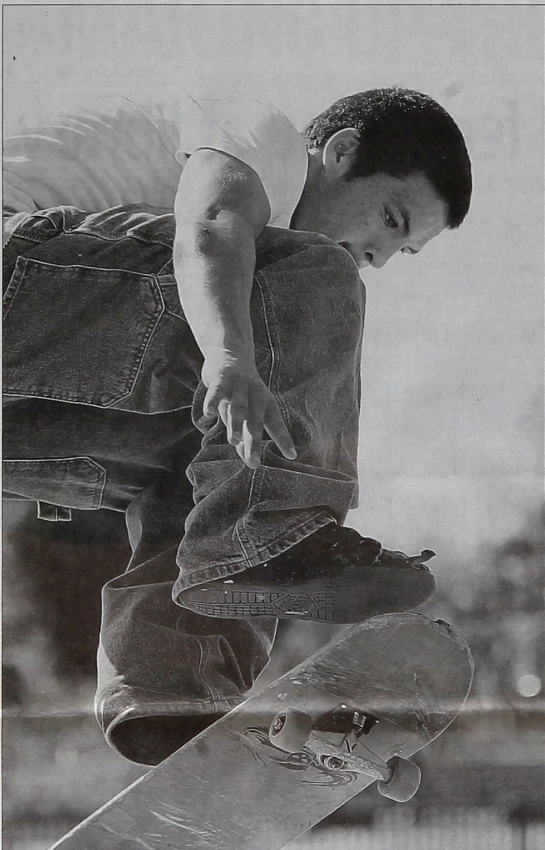
Even though some officers reward law-abiding skaters with Blockbuster movie rental coupons, say they are struggling to convince teenagers that what's trendy or looks good is unimportant. "That's something we need to get past," San Jose police Capt. Ken Ferguson said.

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**SPECIAL THANKS** to Mercury News Publisher George Riggs, Executive Editor Susan Goldberg, Managing Editor David Satterfield, Carl Witt and the Mercury News imaging department, pressroom and plantroom.

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Paramount's Great America.



Gabriel Hernandez, 21, practices on the ramps at Plata Arroyo in San Jose, one of two parks built by the San Jose recreation department. Another is set to open in August.

# SKATE Third S.J. park will open in August

SHAN SHEN — MOSAIC STAFF  
By Tom Cooke  
The park, which costs about \$400,000 to construct, is set to open in August, Carter said. The park is located at Guillet and Snow drives, near a ten center and a middle school. The Great Oaks park represents an effort to show cultural respect. "We listen to the people, to what

# DRIVING Teacher's intensity inspires teen

**Continued from Page 3**  
"Mrs. Chandra died in a car accident," he said. He said it a few times before it sunk in. She died June 23 when a pickup truck coming from the other direction struck the Buick. She was riding in on her way home from a family vacation at Yosemite National Park. Before I knew what was happening, the tears started to fall. My mascara smeared. My eyeliner bubbled off. And a whole box of tissues sat undecided in my fist. My editor said she would take me off the assignment. If I wanted, I'd needed some time to regroup and talk to my parents. The first thing I thought was that I should be professional and see the assignment through. Then I remembered about Mrs. Chandra's personality and how, with everything she did, she wanted to bring out the best in her students. She was not an ordinary teacher. Class started off every day with "Hey homies, what's up? Show some love," followed by a high-five — in an eighth-grade literature class. In that classroom, she helped her students bring their writing to life, especially mine. I wanted to finish the story for her. I felt like it was the

# HELMET Police say skaters, bikers don't wear right gear

**Continued from Page 3**  
... But high school students might get chided. "I don't go downtown," said the 17-year-old San Jose resident. He prefers to stick to Plata Arroyo where the police come often but with different priorities. "They're always over here, but they don't say anything about a helmet," Walker said. His own police officers at Plata Arroyo recently, but their hands were full dealing with a fight. Since the helmet law took effect Jan. 1, 2003, advocates have been talking to San Jose elementary and middle school students to raise awareness about it. Police officers said they see more teenagers than younger children violating the law but have limited funding for outreach. So "we try to get them young," said Rosana Carrasco, school safety coordinator for the San Jose Police Department. Soon Silicon Valley middle schools' traffic safety lessons will teach about seat belts, as well as helmets under a new program by the Santa Clara County Public Health Department. Alice Kawaguchi, a health department education specialist, said skateboarding safety has taken a back seat to automobile safety at many schools, where it's the instructor's job to

# LIBRARY Free rentals draw many

**Continued from Page 3**  
Dr. Liu, who runs the Saratoga Library's movie service once a week. Librarians generally have fewer copies of movies than video stores. Despite the hassle, Saratoga High School senior Pamela Liu said the library is a great option for a simple reason: "It's free."

**You can't have Skittles and Coke for breakfast. You have to make the right choices.** — DIANA WRIGHT, LOS GATOS NUTRITIONAL CONSULTANT  
For Kim Vuu, who shares her home with hundreds of birds, both the sight and smell of meat can make her sick. "I don't know what it tastes like anymore," she says.



# DON'T HAVE A COW

### With planning, a vegetarian diet can be perfectly healthy

**By Tiffany Liao**  
MOSAIC STAFF  
Oriana Chase, 16, plays soccer year-round, shoots and develops photos as a hobby, and pitches in behind the scenes for school plays as a technical crew member. When the Gunn High School junior decided to be a vegan, her mother was concerned her new diet wouldn't support her busy lifestyle. Chase compromised and became a vegetarian, which is defined as a non-meat diet. All animal products are excluded. The debate Chase had with her mother over her newfound diet is one that is becoming more common. Teens are increasingly avoiding meat because of personal beliefs, health reasons or because it's simply trendy. While some parents' beef with vegetarianism isn't totally unwarranted, if the diet is properly planned and managed, nutritionists say it can be harmless or even healthy. "You can't have Skittles and Coke for breakfast," said Los Gatos nutritional consultant Diana Wright. "You have to make the right choices." The American Dietetic Association has endorsed vegetarianism, stating "appropriately planned vegetarian diets are healthful, are nutritionally adequate and provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases." According to Penn Research Unlimited, a marketing-research firm specializing in teenagers, 25 percent of teens think vegetarianism is "cool." Nutritionists recommend teens consult a registered dietitian, book or reliable Web site.

The thing I noticed about teen vegetarians is that they usually haven't studied it," said Dorothy Terrell, a registered dietitian from Saratoga. "They just suddenly dropped meat out of their diet and don't try to substitute to give them their nutrients." Kim Vuu, 17, admits she doesn't particularly pay attention to what she eats. Usually, she will eat a Vietnamese or Chinese dish with imitation meat cooked by her mom and paired with rice or chow mein. "I don't really think about getting the nutrients I need," said Vuu, a high school student who attends ACCEL Middle College in San Jose. Vuu renounced meat at age

**"You can't have Skittles and Coke for breakfast. You have to make the right choices." — DIANA WRIGHT, LOS GATOS NUTRITIONAL CONSULTANT**

of calcium and egg yolk as a good source of iron. By pairing certain foods, Terrell said, vegetarians can get the protein they need. Eaten separately, beans and rice aren't enough. However, when you eat them together, you get a complete protein," she said. Not getting the right nutrients can have a serious impact on the body. Lack of iron can cause anemia and loss of energy, Terrell said. Without vitamin B12, certain mental and heart functions can be thrown off. A calcium deficiency can lead to osteoporosis, which causes weak

bones. A nasty side effect of zinc deficiency is acne. Chase said she is aware of the dangers and maintains a healthy diet. "I wish what I eat... I think about what I've eaten that day and make sure it's in balance with enough vegetables and carbohydrates," she said. A typical meal for Chase, who cooks for herself, might include tofu, vegan sausage or a vegetable stir-fry. "There's basically a vegetarian product for practically any food product," she said. "It's not a big deal. It's really easy to do now."

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# Teens find way to express political beliefs

**By Daniel Chin**  
MOSAIC STAFF  
It may not be on the level of the youth protests of the '60s — most teens today spend more time online than marching in the streets — but some teens are again finding and expressing their political identities. These Bay Area teens take their politics seriously. Instead of grouping themselves with one party or another, or simply following their friends or parents, they're committing themselves to being well-informed about issues that matter to them. For them, politics is a complex merging of their beliefs, their upbringing, what they see in the news and what they learn from their peers. At age 16, Andrew Mak is a youth member of the American Civil Liberties Union and takes part in Asian New America, a non-partisan, non-profit Bay Area organization, which aims to promote civic participation for teens in under-represented ethnic groups, starting with the Asian-Pacific-America community. Mak started paying attention to politics at age 12, after the 2000 presidential election. The close race inspired Mak to get other people in his Cupertino community involved, because he felt that the Asian population there needed political representation. Mak considers himself a centrist, but he supports the Democratic Party's positions on economic policy and national security. He said he also feels that the Republican Party has misled the world on terror and international relations. If asked why he held these views, however, he did not give the expected answers. "I'm actually conservative on the issues of taxing and spending," Mak said. "But the Bush administration has been increasing spending drastically. That's why I support the Democrats on this issue, even though they don't have a solid fiscal plan." While most of Mak's friends are interested in politics and admire his involvement, few commit themselves to becoming involved in politics.

"I try to encourage others to become involved in politics, but even if they're interested, few put the time in," Mak said. Kimberly Ang, an active member of the California Young Republicans who attends local GOP activities, is one who does put the time in. Her level of involvement in politics stems partly from her strong belief in her ability to make a difference in her community. "I feel that what's happening now is going to shape the core issues in the future in politics," Ang said. "Like Mak, Ang was drawn to activism by her views on political issues. She was also motivated by a strong conservative community at her Santa Vista High School in Cupertino. "Having this group means that you can voice your political beliefs and count on them to back you up," said Ang, who attributes much of her activism to having such a support group. "It creates a feeling of being alone. Because we are a minority, we bond together with our cause to get mutual support and keep going on our core beliefs."

Although the firmly supports the Republican Party, her stance on key issues drives her political activism. "When people are out there making decisions, it should be based on hard-core facts and how they're presented, and not on media bias," Hudson said. "I wish there were more teens who put energy into being informed about issues, instead of mindlessly agreeing with their parents or the majority," Ang said. This lack of interest has been a common trend in mainstream teen culture almost since the close of the 1960s. Ken Tri teaches Advanced Placement courses in government and politics at Lowell High School in San Francisco. In his youth, Tri took part in many of the movements and protests of the 1960s. His classes often break into lively debates and discuss some of the movements and protests of the 1960s. His classes often break into lively debates and discuss some of the movements and protests of the 1960s. His classes often break into lively debates and discuss some of the movements and protests of the 1960s.

# Sleep-starved students pay price for staying up late

**DISTRACTIONS — BLOGS, IM, CELLS — KEEP THEM AWAKE AT NIGHT**  
By Kushal Kadakia  
MOSAIC STAFF  
Before tackling a huge homework assignment after dinner, 17-year-old Stephanie Chiao pulls down two cups of coffee and two cups of tea. Then she gets to work — while surfing the Internet and zinging instant messages to classmates, who keep her company online until 4 a.m. From like Chiao are increasingly suffering from sleep deprivation as they balance academic responsibilities and resume-building extracurricular activities with ultra-distractive technologies like Web surfing, instant messaging and blogging. Doctors and parents worry that these students end up cheating themselves out of the rest as they try to do it all. "You don't learn as well," said Dr. Michael Z. Winsor, a sleep-disorders expert at the University of Southern California. "Your attention is impaired, your focus is impaired... your performance is impaired, and your mood is impaired." Teens normally need eight to 10 hours of sleep each night, Winsor said, but many only get six or seven hours. Chiao usually clocks five hours a night. She often hits the sack at 9 a.m., after skipping through the school day, debating on the makeshift table, dreading the younger sister, laughing out with friends and then chatting with them again — online — seven

**SCHOOL START TIMES**  
Here is a sample of high school start-times in Silicon Valley:  
Andrew P. Hill (S.J.) 7 a.m.  
Lyndbrook (S.J.) 7:35 a.m.  
Mission San Jose (Fremont) 7:40 a.m.  
St. Francis (Mountain View) 7:45 a.m.  
Notre Dame (San Jose) 7:50 a.m.  
Verba Buena (San Jose) 7:55 a.m.  
Los Altos (Los Altos) 8:15 a.m.  
\*9:15 on Wednesday  
MOSAIC REPORTING  
said, "so I'm just going to take my time."  
Surprisingly, science wouldn't completely disagree with her. As youth go through puberty, their biological clocks delay their ideal bedtime from 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., Winsor said. The realization that some school start times interfere with their teen body's ideal schedule has caught the attention of several school districts across the country, which in the 1990s started pushing back the start of the school day as late as 9 a.m. Congressman Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, would like U.S. secondary schools to start no earlier than

8:30 a.m. She has introduced resolutions to that effect, known informally as the "ZZZZ to AA" bill, four times since 1998. Although these bills have not received hearings, she said merely introducing them has increased awareness and spurred change. Lofgren drafted the bill after realizing that her teenage kids had trouble getting up on time for high school because their school start times were no longer consistent with their biological clocks. "The same thing that happens, for so very good reason, we make them go to school earlier," said Lofgren, who in late June signed the resolution to help lead to healthier teens. Her grades and safety afterwards," she said. "If Chiao could sleep in longer, maybe she would start eating breakfast before rushing off to school. "When you're really tired, you're not really hungry." And maybe she wouldn't have to drink coffee at lunch from time to time to avoid falling asleep in class. In fact, she would like school to start later. Regardless, she convinces herself that she doesn't mind sliding into her first period, better grades and safety afterwards," she said. "I have this attitude that I've survived my high school career so far," she said. "You, 'Yeah, I haven't fallen asleep at the wheel, so I'm OK."





# FINDING STRENGTH IN MUSIC



Pink Converse high tops are the footwear of choice during a recent performance by vocalist Nicole Munoz, a member of the band Miss Flo.



Nicole Munoz sings during a performance of her band, Miss Flo, at the Gaslighter Theatre in Campbell recently.



Nicole Munoz, 16, left, drummer Adrienne Keel, 18, left, hold a rehearsal in Keel's San Jose garage recently. The Miss Flo band members aim to battle the stereotype that music is a man's game by inspiring girls to be musicians.



Miss Flo drummer Adrienne Keel, 18, left, slaps palms with bandmate Nicole Munoz, 16, a vocalist. The band members, all lesbians, try to promote empowerment and encouragement for women with their music.

### Photographs and story by Nicole Marquez

MOAIC STAFF

Miss Flo is not the typical rock band — not by a long shot. The '80s-influenced, experimental indie/alternative rock trio encourages women to stand up and be themselves through their music. The band is made up of young multi-ethnic San Jose lesbians: Adrienne Keel, 18, April Thompson, 19, and Nicole Munoz, 16, who preach acceptance and empowerment.

"I think it's great because they're not bashing boys," said Dawn Saunders, a 19-year-old female fan, after a Miss Flo performance at the Gaslighter Theatre in Campbell last week. "But they are empowering girls at the same time. The lyrics to a lot of the songs just blow my mind. They're not just meaningless words."

The band members want to inspire girls to be musicians themselves, and battle the preconception that music is a man's game.

"I'm proud of what we represent," guitarist Thompson said recently during a break from rehearsal in Keel's living room. "Like, dressing how we want to and not trying to impress boys and be all about women."

Not only do these young performers have courage and confidence, they have worked hard for what they have accomplished, they said.

"We do everything ourselves," Keel said. "These kids in other bands have their parents doing all this stuff. They have an uncle that has a recording studio, they have managers, they have people getting them shows."

The band members are not afraid to face those who are hostile to their sexual orientation or gender. Sometimes they hear whispers when playing in front of new crowds. One time, they said, they played a show in an all-male establishment where a man was wearing a T-shirt that said, "No M'aim," accompanied by the female symbol with a line through it.

"We deal with it," Keel said. "But we're not afraid."

"We want to encourage diversity in music because the underground scene is supposed to be the most liberal and tolerant scene."



Bandmates from Miss Flo say they want to encourage diversity in music, and that's why they're open about their lesbianism. Here, vocalist Nicole Munoz reads SF Weekly, a regional alternative magazine.



Shadows and light bounce off the windows of the Knight-Ridder building as the sun moves across the afternoon sky. (DANNY SHELL — MOSAIC STAFF)

# MOMENTS IN TIME



A pedestrian walks in front of posters for the movie "Four Brothers" outside of Camera 12 Cinemas in downtown San Jose. (NICOLE MARQUEZ — MOSAIC STAFF)

## GLIMPSES OF BEAUTY IN THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF DOWNTOWN S.J.

By Lisette Arellano

MOAIC STAFF

Photons scatter and neurons fire as light enters the pupil. Somewhere in the recesses of the brain an image forms — a composition of colors and shapes, a juxtaposition of people and places, a collection of reflections.

As you walk through downtown San Jose, jackhammers batter the cement, traffic barges through the streets, and introspective preoccupations block the fleeting moments and sights that can enlighten each day. Perception is a luxury. In the blink of an eye, an image has dissolved forever.

It only takes a moment for the sun's rays to destroy the specter of a reflection and all its possible interpretations.

The shadows on the wall and the pavement shift constantly as you and other people walk and as the planet spins in the vacuum of space.

So, let these impressions of beauty trapped in the pavement and glass of downtown take hold of your memory before they, too, are gone.



Dancing waterspouts provide relief from the summer afternoon at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez. (JOSE IBARRA — MOSAIC STAFF)



Visitors young and old have made the Martin Luther King Jr. Library a popular downtown destination. (PRATIK PRAMANIK — MOSAIC STAFF)

# Video game violence fuels free-speech debate

Forget iPods, even CDs are too high tech

On a hot Thursday afternoon in June, I walked into what some Silicon Valley residents consider an oasis: Fry's Electronics, a technology superstore housed in what looks like a Moroccan temple. But I didn't find relief. I saw clusters of cell-phone toting teens. And middle-aged men drooling over computer displays. I fidgeted. Even though I am 36 years old, I am heretofore out of tune with technology. No iPod. No CD player. No text messaging for me. And I was ready to admit that to Fry's customer service staff. I waited in line for someone, anyone, to show me what all the technology hoopla was about.

I hoped you to Fry's would help me understand my friends' infatuations with their tech toys. They all own some kind of device that they never seem to put down. Our friend depends on her PDA for phone numbers, dates — everything. Another friend loves his PlayStation Portable which he got as soon as it came out. Edward Sales, a 23-year-old salesman, gave me a full tour of Fry's. "You know, a lot of teenagers like to make their own computers now," he said.

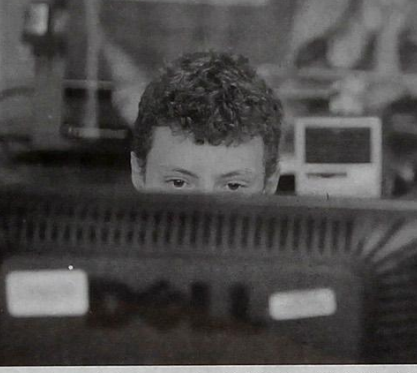
Great. I'm even more behind than I thought. At no time in the near future will I be able to build a computer. We head over to the iPod section. These colorful mini-music devices are more powerful than the laptop I type my essays on at home. Even the iPod mini has two or three gigabytes, depending on how much you pay. Compared to my measly laptop, which boasts less than one gigabyte, it's so small and compact," Sales said of the \$109 device. "Teenagers are looking for cheap."

Maybe they're also looking for friendship. My iPod-pocketing friends accuse like they have personal relationships with their attractive little devices. It may be something serious. I find teens all over campus listening to their iPods instead of talking to the people surrounding them. I don't know what that's about. Neither does Angela Appalo, an 18-year-old I met at Fry's. In fact, the third-grader doesn't even know what an iPod is, I said instantly later.

But Appalo is slightly more tech-savvy than I am. When she started telling me about her Gameboy, I thought she was referring to the equivalent of floppy magnetic disks. "It's so small and compact," Sales said of the \$109 device. "Teenagers are looking for cheap."

Which is more in the line of the iPod? How stupid. The screen is too small. It's not just iPods and MP3 players. I have never owned a CD player. No CD-ROM, no CD-spinning boombox, no Discman stereo (no car either).

Oddly enough, I was the owner of one — and only one — CD. I bought "The Postal Service," a CD of indie rock techno music, a year ago. Wanting to share my admiration for my new album, I played it for my parents as we rode to a campsite in their truck. But I stupidly stashed the CD in the driver-side door, and it fell out when my dad opened the door to get out of the truck. "Nobody noticed, which is how my dad drove over it. Twice. He backed over it when I insisted we return to retrieve it. It was like fate was out to keep me as far from technology as possible."



Teens code video game scripts during a programming session at ID Tech Camp at Stanford University. The workshop is for students who aspire to be video game designers.

## GAMING INDUSTRY, LEGISLATORS AT ODDS OVER AGE RESTRICTIONS

It seems to be getting harder for California kids younger than 17 to get their hands on violent video games.

Best Buy, a major tech retailer, recently reiterated its policy restricting the sale of mature video games to minors. And the California Legislature expects to see the result of a failed bill that would make it a crime to sell 17-and-under video games to youth.

Even a tech camp at Stanford University this summer is limiting the violent content that students produce and play. Despite all the attempts to protect kids, the line between what's acceptable gameplay and what's gratuitous blood and gore remains hazy. It's also unclear whether a one-size-fits-all approach benefits everyone younger than 17.

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## Getting charged for tech careers

SEMI to host the region's sixth annual IT careers fair at its corporate headquarters June 29-30. They especially wanted to spark IT interest among females, African-Americans and Latinos — groups that are significantly underrepresented in IT.

According to a report released in June by the Information Technology Association of America, women represented only 22.4 percent of all IT workers in 2004, a decline from 41 percent in 1996. African-Americans accounted for 4.8 percent of IT workers in 2004, compared to 9.1 percent in 1996. And Latinos represented 6.4 percent of IT workers in 2004, an increase from the 5.3 percent in 1996 but still significantly lower than the percentage of Latinos in the overall U.S. workforce.

Andrés Ramirez, a junior at Latino Prep Academy in San Jose, signed up for High Tech U at the urging of his

parents of Yee's bill said the legislation would stifle the free-speech rights of game developers and publishers.

In an e-mail ranting video game industry members to speak out against the bill, the International Game Developers Association pointed out "no other entertainment industry's production is regulated by the state, even though other media have controversial content."

Electronic Arts, the world's largest video game publisher, underscores the First Amendment issue. Tammy Schachter, spokeswoman for the Redwood City-based company, declined to comment specifically on violence in video games but did say game developers, just like filmmakers and book publishers, should be free to create content that caters to a wide range of customers.

Entertainment Software Association spokesman Dan Hewitt said Yee's bill is "unconstitutional, unnecessary and unwarranted." According to Hewitt, the industry supports Yee's goal, but insists government regulatory policies are not needed. Rather, politicians, community groups and the industry itself should educate parents about which games contain violent content.

When at the tech camp, who may grow up to be tomorrow's game developers, have mixed ideas about video game violence.

Sixteen-year-old Aaron Solomon thinks it's fine for kids to play violent video games as long as their parents approve.

The parents of Daniel Adams won't let their 13-year-old play games rated for audiences age 17 or older because they contain violence, actual or foul language.

But they made an exception once. Two years ago, his father made an exception once. Two years ago, his father made an exception once. Two years ago, his father made an exception once. Two years ago, his father made an exception once.

## Education before indoctrination

Freedom year, first day of school, first period. The door swings open, and lo and behold: a mosaic of anti-Bush political cartoonish hangs from the inner door, most prominently a monkey-faced picture of President Bush. Now on guard, I step through the doorway, and find yet more welcoming signs, most notably a Gore 2000 flag and corresponding bumper stickers on the wall.

I was shy back then. As I moved from one inner-city middle school to the one that Monta Vista High was a top-notch school, and the transition would be easy. The teacher would go on her usual "you know how things are" political rant. And I'd roll my eyes and swallow my outrage. I bit my lip and said nothing. Little had I known that I was entering Brainwashing 101.

Political cartoons, video clips from TV commercials and excerpts from political books have taken the taste of squatters and feral hounds on school property. This lack of teacher inhibition is transforming houses of learning into venues for indoctrination, like the likes of Maoist China and Stalinist Russia.

Effective learning is based on mutual respect. I accept the authority of my teacher, because the teacher respects my willingness to learn. But that means we discuss this respect side by side in a spirit of an agenda, they lose their credibility and the learning potential of the classroom environment.

If politics are integrated into the curriculum, it should be through a forum-style format that provides all students with a safe, comfortable way to speak their minds. The antics of an ideologically imposed teacher can intimidate youth and make them feel threatened, as I had felt, detracting from any learning that should be gained.

Arvid Stricker, a Monta Vista High School junior, has been in that situation before. "I'm a teacher and he has the authority in the classroom, and I don't feel like I wanted to undermine that. Students do have rights to give their own opinion, and I felt like those rights were being completely ignored. I felt like I was being looked down upon."

It's easy to say that students should speak up if they feel like they're being oppressed. To be fair, it's a school, not a home. There are too many kids in one place at one time, and your teacher is not your father. When you can see the anger in a teacher's body language when he talks and his hands what students' rights to give their own opinion, and I felt like those rights were being completely ignored. I felt like I was being looked down upon."

# Teenage tanning Slow burn over lax enforcement

It's no secret that being out in the sun for too long can cause skin cancer. The risk is especially high for minors, which is why our moms received sunburn sludge over our chubby toddler faces. It's what good responsible mothers do.

So why are parents, teens and salon owners so ignorant about the fact that it is illegal for minors to go to tanning salons without parental consent?

That's right. A 1988 state law bans minors from tanning salons if they consent to it without the approval of their parents. But as Mosaic Staff Writer Samantha Zenk revealed in this issue, parents don't know that. And teens, who are at the highest risk for skin disease later on in life from using the devices, are being allowed to frequent tanning salons that let them in without even checking their age.

What's the point of passing a law if it's not going to be enforced? If the threat to teens is great enough to warrant legislation, then it should be important enough to enforce properly.

## Skate parks



Edward Suarez flies off a jump at Plata Arroyo, a San Jose skate park at the corner of McKee and King roads.

"Flash!" That's the sound of wasted money. The city's master plan for skate park construction envisions 11 skate parks in San Jose, one per district in addition to a regional park.

Not only is it grossly wasteful to build a skate park in each district at a cost of nearly a half million dollars each, but in so doing, the government is also misdirecting the root of teen boredom. By applying a solution that will address skate skateboarders, the city is not tackling the issues of teens at large.

Skateboarders can ride on some sidewalk areas and in locations designated for skating, like skate parks. But malls and high-traffic areas are off-limits. To discourage teens from violating the law, the government stepped in to build an alternative venue for recreation.

Skate parks need? You bet. But building them should be a private responsibility, rather than a public one. Just as Laser Tag, which is a private business, should have its own venues, private businesses can follow suit with the youth skateboarding industry. For the government to intervene and compete against individual businesses by providing access to skateboarding facilities for free challenges the American tradition of private enterprise.

While walking the increased presence of public skate parks, Chris Overbeek, the national director of communications for Vans, an apparel company that owns skate parks, said skate park business experience pressure from government competition.

"It's really hard to compete with free," he said.

For the public, skate parks pose the threat of draining parks and recreation funds. Public skate parks don't have the same level of personal risk, so these liability issues can lead to lawsuits against cities, which can limit other projects the parks and recreation department plans.

Some might argue that businesses don't get involved in the skate park industry, so skaters are left to defend city property. Even if that were true enough to validate the making it a major draw to all area youths.

Nevertheless, the city of San Jose is on track to re-evaluate its master plan, titled the "Overcommit," in a few years. And re-evaluate it should.

My Beth Carter, the assistant landscape architect for the city's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services department, said the skate parks built to date have been in neighborhoods with the highest demand.

Considering that the demand is distributed as it is and that the average cost per skate park has risen from \$250,000 to \$450,000 with a construction cost rising 15 percent each year, constructing skate parks all over the city is a waste of money. If dollars are going to be spent on teen recreational facilities, they need to be spent well. Let's keep in mind that the government can't do, and what teens want to do. City officials must be mindful of clogging the drain.

# Maybe skating is a crime

## Parks plan rides off with recreation funds for all teens

## Flag burning amendment

### Leave issue alone and take care of real business

The House of Representatives has decided to take care of its first job: protecting flag desecration. This issue has already been dealt with.

Let's be honest. This isn't just about burning flags. Much of this is a case of the government's power of emotionally charged rhetoric. An attempt to shore up political support in the run-up to an election — and the rest of it is a waste of money — ignoring the issue and instead devoting itself to solving the complex and more relevant tasks that we elected its members to take care of in the first place.

Social Security is headed toward insolvency. Nuclear proliferation threatens to kick off a third world war. And don't forget that we're involved in a war on terrorism.

The full text of the proposed flag burning amendment reads: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

Flag burning is blatantly distasteful

Besides leaving the problem unresolved, ignored laws make a mockery of the entire legal system and foster the resentment among people who are not protected by legislation, and a working system of protecting teens from ignorance needs to be implemented.

If all else fails, there's always good of fashions sunlight to give you that golden-brown glow. The best part of that looking in the sun will never require parental consent.

Supervisor Jennifer Straton, of the Santa Clara Center, said, it holds more nights and Xbox and pool tournaments.

Skate parks hold no such special occasions.

Ten centers also hold events such as hand jams and fundraisers that can attract up to 250 teens.

The bonds of some Fry's Arts centers are even collaborating to host teen different occasions for local youths.

If skate parks are going to be integrated into teen recreation programs, they ought to follow the Santa Clara Center's lead. It has a skate park directly adjacent to

making it a major draw to all area youths.

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Students from Silicon Valley high schools work on projects during a session at High Tech U, a workshop at Stanford.

interested in information technology.

But it's not something that would stop her from competing against the guys in the IT profession, where the job range from computer programmers to electrical engineers.

One of the kids, Kathryn Daniels, said being intimidated by boys is "kind of embarrassing."

**PLACES TO GO FOR 10 BUCKS**  
Where to find cheap entertainment this summer  
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Thursday, June 30, 2005 The Mosaic 14

Jessica Chavez

## Have a 'friend with benefits'? Be careful

I remember during field hockey practice a few years ago, a girl on my team was talking about a certain guy who would pick her up at home and take her out for ice cream.

At least that's what she told her parents. Really, the two friends would drive somewhere, park and make out. She and this guy weren't boyfriend and girlfriend. They were "friends with benefits."

When teens talk about the phrase "friends with benefits," the definition is understood: It's a friendship between a guy and a girl who share some of the closeness of a boyfriend and girlfriend, meaning they make out, or even have sex.

And they don't have to worry about being exclusive. They can have multiple friends with multiple benefits.

Anthony Daniels, 19, of San Jose, describes friends with benefits like this: "Men around with other people and not have to worry about being tied down."

For many teens, a friends-with-benefits relationship sounds appealing at first, because there are no strings attached. That is, until feelings get involved.

I've seen with my friends how that so-called relationship often ends in heart-break. It starts with the thrill of physical activity and often ends in an unexpected emotional downhill, because someone's feelings get hurt.

I've seen this happen, repeatedly. A female friend of mine has been involved in a friends-with-benefits relationship for years, beginning when she was a freshman.

I've witnessed how happy the guy makes her — they go to dances, to dinner and to the movies. But I've also seen how he makes her cry. As part of their relationship, he gets to be with other girls, although he discourages her from seeing other guys.

My friend acknowledges she can't get mad at him for being with other girls, because she knew from the start what she was getting herself into.

It's sad. Most of the time, the girl in a friends-with-benefits relationship ends up suffering.

Sure, there are a few guys out there who do more than sex from a relationship, or who don't want to be without you, or who don't want sex at all.

But seriously, how many boys would pass up five weeks of something very intimate and precious. It should be shared only with someone you love, as long as that person loves you back.

If teenagers decide to be friends with benefits, they should seriously realize the type of situation they could get themselves into. If not, they're likely setting themselves up to get hurt.

# COPIING WITH TEEN PREGNANCY

## 17-year-old learning to balance baby, plans for future



Jessica Esparza, 17, shops for a nursing pillow with her mom. Stacy, who was also a teen mom, Jessica plans to finish high school and attend college, although her plans for getting both degrees have changed since her pregnancy.

**By Mai Le Hong**  
Jessica Esparza, 17, breezed past a store window full of sparkling prom dresses without even glancing at them. Instead, she beckoned to her mom to check out the crib and bouncy chair for the baby that Jessica will give birth to soon after starting her senior year of high school.

But unplanned pregnancies do derail dreams, and they happen in the United States more often than in any other country, according to the National Sexuality Resource Center at San Francisco State University and as reported by the *Los Angeles Times*. About three out of 10 pregnant U.S. teens in 2000 — or 233,970 girls ages 15 to 19 — turned to abortion, according to U.S. government health statistics. Other teens raise their newborns at the expense of finishing their education.

That happened to Stacy Esparza, 16, when she was a teen. As a girl raised in a tough Mountain View neighborhood, surrounded by gangs and drugs, Esparza was trying to pull herself out of the only life she knew. Along the way, she stumbled several times and wound up having an abortion and two miscarriages. She moved out of the house and lived in a car. To scrape by, Esparza worked as a cashier at Taco Bell.

## Trends leave some feeling exposed

BODY-BARING FASHIONS TRIGGER CONFLICT WITH PARENTS

**By Samantha Zerk**  
If guys give 14-year-old Melanie Parola, she thinks that's their problem. "These are the type of clothes I wear," Parola said Friday, dressed in a low-cut orange tank top and skin-tight jeans. "Women have the right to wear what they want."

Parola is increasingly wearing eye-catching, body-baring tube tops and Day-Duke shorts. Some do it to attract older boys. Others, such as Parola, say they want to be stylish and like the attention. But some teens and parents say the trend could sexualize children at too young an age and make girls focus too much on their body image.

"If you want to look older, you are going to attract older men," said 16-year-old Salva Rabhad. Rabhad was shopping for clothes with 13-year-old Dominique Vera at Westfield Shoppingtown Valley Fair and in San Jose, Vera, who was wearing

# Wiggle that nose and make 'Bewitched' disappear

Review

**By Vikram K. Srinivasan**  
MOSAIC STAFF

Are you caught up in the wave of movies with more emphasis on special effects than on acting? Yearning for a blast from the past?

With "Bewitched," a remake of the popular sitcom from the 1960s, that's exactly what you'll get — and it hurts. With the down-like Will Ferrell and the Oscar-winning Nicole Kidman, the movie seems to promise an 88-well-sent, or at least a good laugh. However, viewers will leave their local multiplex wondering why they didn't just buy a whoopee cushion instead.

In one scene, Ferrell's character Darrin makes quite a show of throwing himself on a bed. That behavior inspires a few audience laughs, but when Darrin makes the motion for the fourth time, you're just proving for the movie to end. The character development works fine in the beginning, Ferrell's Darrin is the arrogant and self-absorbed buffoon of the story, another oddball role for him (could we forget "Zelig," "Anchorman" and "Old School"?)

Kidman's character Samantha is more textured, as she tries to rid herself of the hex of witchhood and fit in. This might have played out well, but the get-to-know-you stage of her character development is designed more for laughs than actually setting up her internal conflict. The viewer feels out of the loop for the rest of the movie.

Nevertheless, Kidman pulls off the witch role marvelously, and the movie floats only because of her acting. Without her, the movie would have been one big magical disaster. Kidman is always in-the-moment and delivers excellently.

When Samantha expresses frustration at Darrin's egoism, Kidman perfectly captures her character's rising anger.

"Bewitched" aficionados, these bizarre personalities won't make an iota of sense and will just end up among the countless other failed jokes.

Plus, "Bewitched" milks Darrin's wackiness in trying to generate laughs. In the beginning, Ferrell — apparently the kid who never grew up — does manage to be stupid-funny, but like cheap knock-out that wears off within 30 minutes.

One of the hallmarks of the original "Bewitched" was Samantha's nose-wiggling, and the movie does initially make a couple good jokes out of this. After the jokes are repeated tirelessly, it seems like filmmakers envisioned an audience with a 6-year-old's sense of humor. By the credits, if you're still awake, your stomach will hurt from laughing at the movie.

To be honest, the movie isn't awful. It's disappointing, panders to the choir and tries too hard, but Kidman's performance saves it from being a complete train wreck. It's also occasionally charming and draws smiles or a drollish laugh in the first quarter of the movie. But with consistent nods to the television show's traditional fan base, the movie leaves the casual viewer dizzy. If you still choose to go, bring a barf bag.



Nicole Kidman is the only bewitching part of the classic sitcom remake.

## "I don't want this to cripple her. Just because she's pregnant doesn't mean she has to give up her dream."

— STACY ESPARZA, WHO WANTS HER DAUGHTER TO CONTINUE HER EDUCATION



Stacy Esparza and her daughter, Jessica, shop for a crib for Jessica's baby, due in November.

# TEEN MOM: Girl balances baby, plans for education

Continued from Page 14  
Jessica and her mom cried when they found out the avid math and science student was pregnant, despite using condoms and birth control pills. But they decided against an abortion.

While pregnant with her third child, Esparza returned to school to earn her GED. She rode the bus with her kids to drop them off at daycare. Then she spent all day in class, where she sometimes vomited because of morning sickness.

When she speaks to William Huie, his soft-spoken voice reveals his personality — even before he says he is shy. But when he is in front of a computer screen, he is a different person. He smiles, furiously types and sometimes laughs while instant messaging and playing games with online friends.

That heart-wrenching history has helped Jessica's mother find a silver lining. "Now, because of the pregnancy," Esparza said, "she looks for me when she needs to talk or when she needs help."

That's what something Esparza couldn't count on with her own parents. "My family was ashamed," Esparza said. "They got so upset."

While the whole family excitedly plans for Jessica's career, they also are enthusiastically preparing for her baby, due Nov. 29. Jessica has picked names: April Marie, if it's a girl; Isaac Anthony, if it's a boy.

Because Jessica will continue to live at home with her parents and siblings, "we're not going to need a baby monitor," Esparza said. "Everybody's going to want to hold the baby."

Despite all the support, Jessica knows that staying in school and raising a child will be tough. "She told me, 'It's very hard,'" Jessica said, referring to her mother's advice and experience. "The only difference between her and me is that she didn't have anyone to help her."

## ONLINE Social skills can get stunted

Continued from Page 14

son," said 17-year-old Robin Liu, an Irvington High School senior. Classmates often rely on Liu to help them remove viruses from their computers or deal with other technical problems.

Liu said he would rather meet people in a chat room than in person, because the conversation is more informal and less personal — which makes him feel more at ease.

"There's no need to get to know each other well," he said. But the impersonal nature of electronic communication also can be considered a major downside, said Bridget Barrow, an associate professor who researches technology in classrooms at Stanford University's School of Education. She suggested families create a technology room to confine all electronic communication to one space.

She said the new trend isn't all bad. She said it can help students communicate better because they learn how to think and write faster. "I see it as a new way of chit-chat," she

"I see it as a new way of chit-chat. If kids are social, they'll interact in IM and in public."

But the general lack of social skills is a concern, said Robert Taylor, a computer game, at the cafe on a recent afternoon. A buddy from Palo Alto, whom he sees only once every couple of months, signed on and joined him in the game. "At one point, Hue checked."

"My friend, 'I got stabbed,'" he explained, smiling. "In the game."

The Internet is a way to socialize and, at the same time, to miss out on the social skills that come with being in person. "It's so quiet-time to you self," he said.

Some teens said technology makes them more social because it allows their friends to reach them anytime. Lyndbrook High School student Makhlajja said she keeps AOL instant messenger on all day, every day. "People send me text messages whenever, whenever, whenever. I'm not there," Makhlajja wrote — in an interview conducted over instant messenger.





The region's public transit system makes it easy for non-drivers to get to hot spots

# AROUND THE BAY MASS TRANSIT

By Daniel Chin

Anyone can get from Silicon Valley to San Francisco for a day of sight-seeing or shopping—a no-car needed. Public transportation can be a big boon for teens, especially those who aren't old enough to drive or can't afford a car. There are discounted fares for youths and a wide range of destinations, both of which can broaden riders' horizons far beyond the local strip mall.

The Bay Area boasts some of the best public transportation systems in the country. BART recently was ranked as the No. 1 system in America, based on service and reliability reviews by the American Public Transportation Association. And Caltrans was recognized by the California Transportation Foundation for improving the operation of its Baly Billed express service.

So not having access to a car should not be an obstacle for teens who want to travel around the region.

**Getting There**

In Santa Clara County, the Valley Transportation Authority operates bus lines through every city, as well as light-rail service from Mountain View through South San Jose. Youth bus riders can buy day passes for \$4.50 at any light-rail station or bus depot, or pay \$4.50 per ride to the driver.

Oyoakira Favors, a technician at Great America and a regular rider of VTA's bus and rail systems, can testify to the system's usefulness.

"The trains and the buses are pretty good, and they're almost always on time," Favors said. "It's a huge plus since I live everywhere in Santa Clara."

VTA connects to Caltrans and BART, so riders can get to the North Bay easily. Every Caltrans station between San Jose, Diridon station and Palo Alto's downtown station is accessible by bus, and the new Campbell light-rail line will also connect directly to the Diridon station.

VTA also runs an express service that connects downtown San Jose with the Fremont BART terminal. Check the destination of each bus, or ask the driver for the major transfer points for trips outside of Santa Clara Valley.

Ron Ferguson gets around the Bay Area on bus and bike. A frequent rider of both VTA and Caltrans, Ferguson knows the system's strengths and weaknesses.

"BART trains are reliable and work well for getting around," Ferguson said. "But they would be faster if they had fewer stops. Caltrans express service is really good. It goes from San Jose to San Francisco in less than an hour."

Although it may not be the fastest way to get there, Caltrans does offer the most direct service to San Francisco. Trains run about every half hour on weekdays and every hour on weekends. The standard train takes about an hour and a half from San Jose to San Francisco, but the trip is rewarding. The seats are soft and comfortable, and the large windows offer an up-close view of green trees and bushes that practically hug the train.

"It's an experience," said Ronan Dorevany, who rode a recent midday Saturday train for a family outing with his daughter. "It's cheap and it always comes on time."

Local express train stops at regular intervals in San Mateo County. Some of the stations are very close to parks and shopping centers. The passenger coaches are double-decker, allowing riders on the upper level to see areas stretching beyond the stations. As the train approaches San Francisco, bayshore factories and highways give way to the oceans and high-rises of the South Beach District. The train ride ends in the heart of downtown, within one block of SFOC Park, the home of the Giants, and five minutes by MUNI metro to Embarcadero Center.

**Once you're there**

On game days, the streets around SBC Park are swarming with activity. Follow the crowds and banners with Giants' names and numbers to get to Willie Mays Plaza. On other days, there is a small concessions and amusement center on the base of the stadium, which offers a view of the field and grounds from under the scoreboard. Although it caters mainly to younger kids, it's still a fun way to see the field and get into the baseball spirit.

Embarcadero Center is a few blocks away from the waterfront, and can also be reached by MUNI metro.

The youth fare on all MUNI buses and trams is 45 cents for three hours of unlimited travel. This makes it easy to explore the sights around San Francisco, from the bay-side teen attractions at Pier 39 to the maritime museum and aquarium at Sausalito. Park and the specialty stores in North Beach and Chinatown.

The area north of downtown Market Street is accessible by cable car, which has two lines operating. It allows riders to see the world whizzing by from Second Street in downtown San Jose, VTA Express 100 provides direct transit to the Fremont BART terminal and links Santa Clara County with local destinations like the McAfee Coleman in Oakland, which connects with the Oakland airport BART station via a concrete pedestrian bridge. This gives riders the advantage of attending A's and Raiders games without facing the cracked sidewalks of the surrounding industrial back alleys.

BART also goes to one of the most interesting East Bay intersections: Rowland and Telegraph avenues in Berkeley. This pocket of counterculture looks (and smells) like a scene from the hazy late-'60s.

From anti-war T-shirts and bumper stickers to novelty jewelry and music, every revolutionary and rebel can find a symbol of self-identity from the street vendors. Follow the southern edge of the University of California, Berkeley campus, past Cal Stadium, to get there from the BART station.

While there weren't many teens riding BART on a recent Saturday afternoon, other Bay Area residents like Greg Thomas have discovered how useful public transit is.

Thomas, who was going to a friend's birthday party, had a long drive home from a friend's birthday party, but his car was broken down. He was stuck under his white car, which peaked out from under his helmet. "This older BART veteran still goes all around the Bay Area on his bike."

BART is really a wonderful system," Thomas said. "I like to ride to the end of the line, as far as BART will go, and then take back. It's the best way to get around the bay."

For more information, go to 511.org.



Conductor Rene Chua, above, helps passengers on a Caltrans car as the train heads toward its destination. VTA bus driver Carol Shaw, top, drives a route between Great America and DeAnza College in the Sunnysvale area.

PRATIK PRAMANIK—MOSAIC STAFF PHOTOGRAPHS

Conductor Rene Chua, above, helps passengers on a Caltrans car as the train heads toward its destination. VTA bus driver Carol Shaw, top, drives a route between Great America and DeAnza College in the Sunnysvale area.



Sateson rides VTA bus #55, which runs between Great America and DeAnza College. VTA has more than a hundred transportation routes throughout the region.

# FEEDING BODIES, FEEDING SOUL



Danny Tran, 15, distributes bags of groceries to the patrons of the Sacred Heart Food Pantry in San Jose. The Pioneer High School student volunteers at the pantry three times a week.

## 15-year-old lends a hand at San Jose food pantry

By Dianne Quindiguan

Three days a week, that's Danny Tran's job. During his time in the community center, Tran usually packages food, sorts clothes and "helps the needy," said Katrina Honk, a colleague of Tran's at Sacred Heart. Honk says Tran is "dedicated, pretty friendly and works hard."

He deals with a wide range of customers—some young, some old, some just needing to bring a comforting volume. "On a recent afternoon, Tran, dressed in jeans and a blue plaid shirt buttoned just enough to still reveal a red shirt underneath, was working in the front of the pantry. He was responsible for handing out food. A woman walked up to the counter, seeing a bit embarrassed for being in the center. "Can I have diapers?" she asked. "Sure, I asked the coordinator, but we don't have any more."

Tran said sympathetically. The woman's face fell. But Tran said, "Have a nice day, and I handed the woman a bag of food. For a moment, she smiled brightly. "Since the customers are in a situation where they need to get food, I don't really care about how I feel when people are mad," Tran said. "That's the best part of working here...with mild people."

Tran isn't volunteering was triggered when he researched world problems for a project at Pioneer High School in San Jose last October. Focusing

on poverty, the project consisted of 30 hours of experiencing poverty, working with the community and writing about it. That's when he began working at Sacred Heart. After he finished, however, he realized how much he enjoyed volunteering his time. Tran began trying to find ways to give back to the community. His 30 hours long past job is still at Sacred Heart. "At least I'm doing something for an organization," said Tran, who will be a junior

in fall. Aside from spending his time sorting, giving and packing food, Tran has a full life beyond the homeless shelter. He's been doing karate for a year. He plays badminton. He performs in school musicals, such as "Fiddler on the Roof." He can "play playing tennis, eating out with friends, having study groups or going to the mall. But he's sacrificed all of it for one or another for his volunteer work. His favorite TV show is "The Simpsons." When asked which character he can relate to, he was usually asked, "Does gender affect it?" He chose Lisa and followed with a laugh, explaining, "I'm not mischievous like Bart." "It's fun to hang around with," said his friend Melissa Nguyen, who describes Tran as a fan-boy. "You never get bored with him. He's shy here and there, but he's great." Tran hopes to become a graphic designer and create ads and commercials. He adds that he plans to keep volunteering. "I want to come up with TV ads that will give more motivation to get people to volunteer," he said. "If people stepped up and did a couple of hours once in a while, then the community would be a friendlier and stronger place."

## BORED AND BROKE THIS SUMMER?

If you want to have a fun-packed summer but are low on cash, Mosaic has a few suggestions for activities you can enjoy for \$10 or less:

- ICE CREAM AND CANDY**  
Reminisce about the good old days with dessert at O'Brien's Ice Cream Parlor and Candy Store. Tucked in Historic Park in Kelley Park, O'Brien's has been around since 1978. While you wait, you can check out other historical buildings, including a print shop and a working 1919 Ford. Admission: By the gate, a free. History Park is at 1450 Senter Road, San Jose.
- OUTDOOR FILMS**  
Movie goers can bring a blanket and a snuggly bag to watch classics such as "Catch a Thief" and the modern classic "Bridget Jones's Diary" every Wednesday at sunset in Park Vista in San Jose until Sept. 24. Movies are free and a vendor sells fresh popcorn.
- USE A BOOKSTORE**  
Get lost in a good book at Feldman's Bookstore in Menlo Park. The bookstore sells everything from rare, out-of-print books to children's books. "You name it, we've got it," said owner Jack Feldman. The store is located at 1177 E. Camino Real, Menlo Park.
- HAPPY HOLLOW ZOO**  
Check out the Happy Hollow Zoo and Park's recent addition, a square named Sophia. Regular admission is \$5.50. Seniors (age 62+), children younger than 2 and people with disabilities get in free. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Happy Hollow Zoo and Park is at 1300 Ferrier Road, San Jose.
- STAR GAZING**  
Find your favorite constellations from telescopes at Grant Park in San Jose. The park entrance fee is \$5. The telescope hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Telescopes are at 1559 W. San Carlos, San Jose.

## 10 BUCKS IS ALL IT TAKES TO STIR THINGS UP

- 1840S Mount Hamilton Road**  
**COFFEE BREAK**  
Perk up with a caffeine-loaded CCC or Chocolate Coffee Cruise for \$4.00 at Great Bay Coffee and Tea in Los Gatos. The cozy surroundings make it a popular spot among locals. The Great Bay is at 19 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos.
- LASER QUEST**  
Run around chasing friends at Laser Quest in Mountain View. It boasts two stories of twisted mazes and three towers to hide and shoot from. The equipment is provided at \$8 for a 45-minute session. "It has a lot more depth because there's multiple rooms. Here," said a student at Palo Alto High School, "you have more of a scale of one to 100. Stam poetry is free therapy, and that's what we're going for," said Lee Knight, Jr., the host of the poetry slam. The entrance fee is \$5 and \$3 for students with identification. Referrals are free. The slam is at 715 p.m. on the first and third Monday of every month at Art 21, 539 Alma St., Palo Alto.
- SALSA LESSONS**  
Spice up the night by dropping in on a salsa lesson with the staff of the Santa Clara County YMCA in San Jose. Beginner lessons cost \$10 and are from 8:30 to 10 p.m. Fridays. To save money by pre-registering, call 799-1240. The Santa Clara YMCA is at 1777 The Alameda, San Jose.

## Eye candy isn't worth admission

By KUSHI Kadaka  
**MOSAIC STAFF**  
There are probably several legitimate reasons that could explain why Tim Cruise and Steven Spielberg signed up for the latest "War of the Worlds" adaptation.

Here are a few worth mulling over. A Cruise and Spielberg only came to the first half of the event before lunch. Spielberg thought—and later forgot—they could change the climax and everything after it. C. Or maybe Cruise and Spielberg didn't even bother to read the screenplay beforehand—the big dollar signs were enough to capture their attention.

The only dollar signs that should matter to potential viewers, though, are of the movie's 10 bucks. It's not a better deal than that.

To be fair, this adaptation of H.G. Wells' sci-fi classic offers stunning special effects that almost justify admission prices. But the eye candy can't carry the movie over the story-falls-apart.

Though it starts impressively with reports, intriguing conspiracy and breathtaking tension, none of it lasts.

The bright spot is Tim Robbins, who shines with lines like "I'm dead-set on living... dead-set... get it?" His psychotic ranting over the film ends with Cruise bawling nearly unrecognizable. Dede Fierstein's black, blue-eyed stare grows sallow.

But the film's merits are overshadowed by a messy, over-the-top, senseless and anticlimactic climax that crashes and burns with the entire "War of the Worlds" in tow.

**"War of the Worlds"**  
Director: Steven Spielberg  
Cast: Tim Cruise, Justin Chambers, Dakota Fanning, Tim Robbins  
By Tiffany Liaw



# CRICKET SCORES BIG WITH FANS

## Bay Area's South Asians fuel surge in sport's popularity

By Kushal Kadakia  
MOSAIC STAFF

A few teens waited tensely in the outfield as a scrawny boy whacked the ball and then dashed off, holding his bat. As the outfielders scrambled for the ball, the boy raced back to home base, then away from it and back again. He continued this routine twice more.

If this sounds like a baseball player gone mad, it's not. It's a game called cricket and it's becoming more and more popular in the Bay Area — in part because of the recent surge of South Asian immigrants.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, 143,000 Indo-Americans live in the Bay Area today — three times more than a decade ago, before many South Asians immigrated to meet Silicon Valley's demand for technology workers in the late 1990s.

Since then, the popularity of cricket has been on the rise. It is one of the most popular games in countries such as India, England, Australia and Pakistan. It has also been played for centuries in the United States.

"Cricket is one of the genuinely unknown aspects of American sports history," said Tom Melville, the author of "Cricket for Americans: Playing and Understanding the Game" and "The Tented Field: A History of Cricket in America." "People don't know that George Washington played cricket with his soldiers at Valley Forge."

Aroon Vijaykar picked up his first cricket bat at age 5, when he moved from Fremont to Bangalore, India. He quickly fell in love with the sport. When he returned to the United States five years later, he was disappointed that so few people played cricket.

"If it was such a famous sport in the rest of the world, I figured that the U.S. would have some kind of major league for cricket," he said.

Aroon, 16, and his older brother, Nikhil, decided to do something about it. When Nikhil was at Saratoga High School three years ago, the brothers formed a cricket club at the school.

The club started with less than 10 members and has grown to about 20, including a few girls and students who are not of South Asian descent. Aroon is the team captain.

In recent years, students have created cricket teams at Homestead, Monta Vista, Bellarmine and Irvington high schools.

The California Cricket Academy, a non-profit organization formed in 2003 to organize cricket games for youth, started out with 22 players. Participants practice twice a week and play games every weekend, including occasional tournaments as far away as Chicago and Toronto.

Kinjal and Hemant Buch, the academy's founders, said they helped form the group because their 7-year-old son said he wanted to learn how to play cricket.

"That summer we thought that we would gather a few kids and have them play," said Buch, 40, a resident of Cupertino.

The Buchs got more than they expected. They ended up hiring professional coaches and this summer, the academy has 60 players, ages 9 to 15.

Most of the academy's players are of South Asian descent, but the Buch family has been distributing handouts at schools in the area to try to get others involved.

Cricket enthusiasts have a vision that the game will someday become part of the mainstream American sports scene, much like soccer did a few decades ago, Melville said.

"Potentially, I suppose cricket could be the next soccer," Melville said. "Ten, 15, or 20 years from now, maybe we'll have cricket moms running around."



Navneet Waraich practices with the Pros youth cricket team, which is part of the Californian Cricket Association, on June 23.



Above, Ankit Dubey finishes his bowl — similar to a pitch in baseball — during cricket practice, above. At left, cricket team the Centurions run a drill during their practice on June 23.

## Downtown gets ready to host Grand Prix

By Dianne Quindigagan  
MOSAIC STAFF

The first San Jose Grand Prix will be changing the face of downtown July 29-31, turning the metropolitan area into a high-speed racetrack.

Champ Cars, known for their open-wheel style, will zoom around the 1.6-mile track at speeds that top out at nearly 200 mph. The number of fans is expected to exceed 100,000.

The race starts on Almaden Boulevard, between East San Carlos Avenue and Balbach Street. The track continues past San Fernando Street, where it makes a hairpin turn and continues back down Almaden before heading left on Park Avenue. It cuts right on Market Avenue, at the Tech Museum, then right on Balbach and right again to the finish line on Almaden.

Racers will be making 100 laps around the track, totaling 11 turns and the one hairpin turn, which Bob Singleton, the vice president and general manager of the Grand Prix, describes as "the most exciting part in racing."

Changes to the downtown area include street repairs, a special asphalt paved on the Almaden-Market-Balbach block and newly erected grand stands.

Downtown businesses such as restaurants and hotels are expecting increased business. A few residents will stay in hotels for the weekend because the path of the race is so close to their homes.

"We try not to impact the lives and businesses of people," Singleton said.

Representatives of the Fairmont Hotel said last week that the hotel's rooms were 85 percent booked, and the Montgomery Hotel is anticipating being full for the three days.

"It will bring thousands and thousands of people all over California to visit us," said Lina Brody, the public relations director at the Fairmont Hotel.

Organizers estimate that the three-day event will attract about 120,000 people; most of the attendees are expected to be men, ages 18 to 41.

To attract families and children, the Grand Prix will feature the Tech Museum and a variety of entertainment events will stretch as far as Santana Row.

The event was started by Silicon Valley executive Don Listwin and is a benefit for the Canary Fund, a non-profit organization committed to detecting cancer in its early stages.

The Champ Car Series consists of 14 stops, including cities such as Toronto, Cleveland, Montreal and Long Beach. Ten of those, including San Jose, are held in downtown areas.

"It is a street circuit and it showcases the city," Singleton said about why San Jose was selected to play host.

Around downtown, people are aware of the upcoming race.

"It will help businesses highly, to the max," said Albert Morales, the manager of Ben & Jerry's.

Although there are a few things Morales is worried about, such as the danger of a car crashing or tires flying, he notes, "It's an outside event and it's going to be hot. Doesn't everyone want ice cream when it's hot?"

One of the owners of Hawgs Seafood Bar, Scott Grangreco, has been promoting the race with fliers and posters on the restaurant's windows. "It's a great event that will bring people downtown," Grangreco said. "July and August are slow months. We are going to greatly appreciate and will thrive on the people who will come. We need more events to generate business in the late months."

Montgomery Hotel General Manager Greg Mauldin said the Grand Prix is a "compelling event" because of its focus on helping the fight against cancer. He recalled when his stepfather passed away from cancer.

"The doctors didn't expect him to live another three years. He was classified with lung cancer at stage four, which is terminal," Mauldin said.

"But if there was a way to detect cancer before it started, he would probably still be here today. If more money went into detecting cancer, you'll get to the finish line faster ... like a race car."

### IF YOU GO

What: San Jose Grand Prix, a downtown Champ Car race on July 29-31.  
Cost: \$25 to \$150.  
For more information: [www.sanjosegrandprix.com](http://www.sanjosegrandprix.com), (408) 277-9470.