

## Torn between two cultures

Teens are forced to choose between the old world and the new

By Divina Ojascastro  
Mosaic Staff Writer

"Chinese! Japanese! Dirty Knees! Look at these!" Mike Mai, 18, remembers this childhood scene all too well, where his playground buddies would flatten their noses, squint their eyes, and laugh and point at him.

"Because I was treated like an outcast in elementary school, I was embarrassed to be Vietnamese," recalls Mai, of San Jose. "But when I tried to act more American, I began to lose a sense of my own cultural identity."

Like many first- or second-generation immigrants in America, Mai feels torn between two cultures. On the one hand, he grew up feeling pressured by his parents and his peers to become more Americanized. On the other hand, now that he cannot speak his native Vietnamese tongue, he is ashamed for not feeling like part of his parents' culture.

Because mainstream America and its institutions, especially schools, are predominantly white, there is a tendency to "try to act American," said Lisa Dufour, 17, a senior at Oakland Technical High.

"A lot of people are not in touch with where they came from," she said. "But as they learn more about their culture and history, they learn more about themselves and their identity."

Immigrants find that, consciously or not, they must make a choice to preserve their native culture, assimilate into American society, or try to identify themselves as part of both.

Some deliberately choose to hold on to their native culture. Saul Verdusco, 17, born in Mexico and fluent in Spanish, dances *ballet folklórico* and is involved in various Latino awareness and civil rights groups. Being involved in promoting his culture, said Verdusco, gives him a sense of pride and identity that he doesn't receive in mainstream society.

"I would not feel like a true Mexican if speaking Spanish and celebrating Mexican tradition didn't play a part in my life," he said.

However, not every immigrant teen feels as enthusiastic about preserving his or her own culture. In fact, many feel that taking on a mainstream American lifestyle is better.

Zeeb Guarneros, who immigrated here from Mexico eight years ago, said that American culture is better because there are more educational opportunities. Still, he said, there is a downside to Americanization. Guarneros says that, when he visits Mexico, he feels like a stranger in his own country because he grew up in a different environment, wears expensive clothes, and speaks Chicano slang.

Some parents, who want to give their children what they did not have, often try to help them assimilate by teaching them to speak only English at home.

David Jung, a Taiwanese parent, does not regret using only English to raise his two sons.

"Mandarin is not important for them," Jung said. "They are living in America and they need to speak English to succeed in society."

Sometimes, as younger immigrants pick up English more quickly than their parents do, they start to lose respect for their elders.

"When I was younger, I used to get embarrassed when my father spoke broken English in public," said Eduardo Anderson, 17, a junior at Lincoln High in San Jose. "But then I would feel guilty because I thought I was better than him."

Some second-generation immigrants, such as Pamela Risho, 17, of Oakland, believe it is possible to become Americanized and still hold onto your culture. Risho, half Filipino and half Syrian, said, "It depends on the individual to want to learn more about his culture and not get sucked into the

See **Identity**, Page 5

## Graffiti: Is it worth \$300?



Photo by Sal Castro | The Mosaic

Donna Homen explains the frustration of having to deal with graffiti in her neighborhood. "They even cut my window on my (car) door."

## San Jose officials hope law to fine parents will deter taggers from leaving their mark

By Gerardo Rodriguez  
Mosaic Staff Writer

In an effort to get tougher on taggers, the city of San Jose has decided to charge up to \$300 to the parents of juveniles who get caught vandalizing public property.

The San Jose City Council last week created a law that would make it possible for the city to fine parents for their kids' "tagging," or spray-painting their names on public property. City officials said they do not expect to make money from the new plan, but they hope it will help make up for some of the money the city already spends cleaning up graffiti.

City council members agreed that the new law will not eliminate graffiti. As one woman said, "It wouldn't help 100%, but it would help."

The city spends \$1.2 million a year cleaning up graffiti, according to Maria León, a supervisor for San Jose's anti-graffiti program. That money goes toward painting over vandalism on city property and private homes. Each year, approximately 430 young people get caught tagging—but only two-thirds of those caught ever make it to court because vandalism is considered a minor crime.

Those who go to court are usually sentenced to probation. As part of their punishment, some taggers must also clean up graffiti on the weekends.

Through the city's existing clean-up program, a total of four crews go out from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday to clean up graffiti. First-time offenders may only have to spend three weekends cleaning up, while

repeat offenders must work several months. Most people interviewed, including teens, approve of the clean-up program.

Maria Ortiz approves of the clean-up program, but dislikes the city's new law to fine parents.

"Spray paint is another part of art," said Ortiz, organizer of Union del Barrio, a group that works to unify the Latino community. She said the city's new law unfairly targets Latino youth and parents.

Ortiz and others are still bitter about a police sting two years ago in which undercover officers posed as documentary producers. At that time, tagging was a big fad, and taggers wanted to be recognized for their work. The phony producers asked taggers to show them where they had tagged, and

See **Graffiti**, Page 5

## MY GIRL

Photo by Sal Castro | The Mosaic

Gabriel Ramos has custody of his 16-month-old daughter, Llesenia. "They decided to let (my daughter) stay and gave me a chance to be involved, which very few teen fathers get."

*'I committed myself to becoming the rarest of species: a teen dad who sticks around.'*

By Gabriel Ramos  
Mosaic Staff Writer

See **Dad**, Page 4

## Meditations on a life measured in hours starved

By Antje Rybak  
Mosaic Staff Writer

Looking out the window, I catch the small stripe of sky I can see from my bed. It changes its color about every two hours, and around 8 p.m. it's my favorite, light purple. Sunset time. My eye wanders across the room to the pink balloons swinging in the air; the TV sitting in the corner, the pretty curtain just opened so I can see the hallway.

My eye stops. I don't want to look any further because the other side of the room is not pretty. There is the cardiac monitor, which is connected to my body, reminding me with that annoying sound every other moment of my

low heart rate. I can see the numbers going down: 45 ... 43 ... 39 ... ALARM - PATIENT UNSTABLE.

I am used to it by now. Day after day, no change. I am on unit 5 South of Lucille Salter Packard Children's Hospital, the unit for adolescents with eating disorders. Most of them are anorexic.

I look at my past and I wish I had been here a year ago, although I know I would have

played by Anorexia's rules. I considered blue fingernails, dark under-eye circles and the knowledge that I had eaten only an apple by day's end a major success.

I don't really know why I started starving myself. There were many reasons. At the age of 15 I was in

hated it. But this program would have saved me months of struggling and fighting a war that nobody can win without help. I see that now.

I am lying in my bed, on strict bed rest as they call it, which means I cannot even use my bathroom. I try to think back to when it all began.

that difficult stage of insecurity, unsure about myself, between being a child and an adult. Some little comments, the media image of beauty (or better, the role model of the modern woman in our society) and a lot of other unfortunate experiences pushed me on my way. Not a good way, but a dangerous one. A path that has a very false friend waiting for you at the end, a friend called Anorexia.

I did not know that I was heading in the completely wrong direction. I started dieting in a healthy way, I thought, with lots of vegetables, salads and all that stuff. I was exercising, too. First a

See **Anorexia**, Page 5

"London, Paris, Rome, San Francisco. It's beautiful," Sambrano said. "But London, Paris, Rome, San Jose? Oh, no."

David Sambrano  
concerge at the Fairmont Hotel

## San Jose puts 'small town heart' into luring tourists

By Nate LeBlanc  
Mosaic Staff Writer

The course of San Jose's billion-dollar investment in downtown is taking a new turn.

Originally designed to lure business travelers and convention delegates with such publicly funded projects as the Fairmont Hotel and the McEnery Convention Center, more emphasis is now being placed on luring the leisure traveler, the tourist.

Tourism? In San Jose? Several agencies are working with your tax dollars to erase the question marks from that statement.

The Convention & Visitors Bureau receives \$3 million in public funds annually, and another \$1 million from private businesses that would benefit from increased tourism. The investment in downtown is seen as the cornerstone of San Jose's renaissance.

"I think that the changes made promote tourism, and residents benefit also," said Leonard Hoops, Director of Public Relations for the Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Ten years ago, this was a different city."

While San Jose is working to develop its own tourism industry, San Francisco is an established tourist Mecca, drawing 16 million visitors each year.

The shadow coming from the north is measured not only in dollars, but in reputation.

"A lot of people try to compare San Jose to San Francisco and Monterey, but we're not trying to be those cities," said Miguel Salinas, communications manager for the San Jose Downtown Association. "We're not trying to compete with them, so it's not a fair comparison."

But according to San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau spokeswoman Helen Chang, there is no comparison.

"We don't consider any destination a threat," Chang said. "I see San Jose as a good partner in tourism. San Francisco is a hub. We're a gateway to the Bay Area." San Jose's recently-launched marketing campaign, which centers around the city's new motto — "Small Town Heart. Big City Soul!"

See **Tourism**, Page 5

# Not just working 9 to 5

### Despite child labor laws, many under 18 work late into the night

By Cathy Lee  
Mosaic Staff Writer

With summer here and teens eager to find work and earn extra money, some local businesses may be abusing child labor laws.

Jeff Paganian, 15, attends Santa Clara High and often works at Bulbini's Family Food 'n' Restaurant in San Jose.

"At Bulbini's, we're assigned to different work shifts. On weekdays, I stay as late as 11 p.m.," he said. "I know that's illegal, but it gives me more money. I don't mind that."

Most teens interviewed were not aware of the child labor laws. According to the California Labor

Laws, children between the ages of 12 and 18 must obtain a worker's permit. The permit allows a child between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m., for no more than four hours during school nights.

On a non-school night or during vacation, students 14 to 17 can work eight hours a day until 12:30 a.m. Students 14 to 16 can only work from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays.

Besides money, some teens feel pressured to work late hours because they feel a personal obligation.

Williama Balubar, 16, works

each weekday until 10:45 p.m. "At the end of the night, everyone has to pitch in and clean the place up. There's tables to clean, dishes to wash. We can't go home until it's all done," said Balubar. "I stay because it's my responsibility."

Yoshiyumi, 17, works five days a week until 11:30 p.m. at Bulbini's. Jay works to support his mother and sister, and his friends.

Every night, his manager asks him to clock out at 10 p.m. at a clothing store at Vallecito Fashion Park in Cupertino.

"It's a pain to work this late because I can't go out. They schedule me in for this time," said the 16-year-old.

It's what you have to do to keep your job. Also, I see it as extra money.

Although child labor laws are being abused around the world, organizations such as Free the Children are coming to the aid of young workers.

Free the Children is a youth group dedicated to the elimination of child labor and the exploitation of children internationally. It is organized and run by young people between the ages of 8 and 18. They involve themselves in educating the public, petitioning government leaders, fundraising, and getting children to help one another.

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# Been a year since our drive

## Officials fear date rape pill has arrived in Bay Area

By Cathy Lee  
Mosaic Staff Writer

Coming to teenage nightclubs, raves, and parties near you. A horrifying, life-threatening and trendy drug that some young men have used to sexually assault unsuspecting women.

Known as "rookies," "ropies," "circles," "R2," and "roaches," the small, white Rohypnol tablets "knock out" their victims, leaving them unconscious for more than two hours in places like Miami, New York, Los Angeles, and possibly, San Jose. The pill has been used by young men to commit date rape without the knowledge of their female victims — giving it the name, "the date rape pill."

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has documented 2,469 federal state and local cases involving the date rape pill as of March 1, 1996. Recently, Rohypnol found its way into the Bay Area.

Police suspect the involvement of Rohypnol in an alleged rape that took place in East Palo Alto earlier this month. The alleged rape involved a 19-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy, both of whom attend Woodside High School. According to East Palo Alto Police Sgt. Donald O'Keefe, the girl told police she remembered kissing the boy and drinking tequila in his bedroom, but not having sex. He said that although there is no evidence the drug was in the girl's system, memory loss is a common effect of Rohypnol. The victim called a rape crisis center after a friend confirmed that she had sex with the boy. This led to the

boy's arrest for suspicion of rape. Within the community, the drug has caused mixed reactions, including rage, confusion, and indifference.

If you're caught with this pill, you should be severely punished," said Brandon Hunter, 18. "I'm definitely more conscious about this situation. Now, I don't accept drinks from people and watch whatever someone puts into it. I'm more alert now."

Rohypnol is made by Hoffman-La Roche of Switzerland, and is sold in Latin America and Europe, where it is legal and can be obtained. However, the drug has recently been secretly smuggled into this country.

In the United States, people have discovered a different purpose for Rohypnol. Rapists take advantage of it because it has the ability to dissolve in drinks and disappear from the body without a trace. Predators can easily obtain "Rokies" from schools and streets, where it is sold for \$1 to \$5 a tablet. Carolyn Glynn, company spokesperson for Hoffman-La Roche, told Newsday that more than a million doses are sold every day worldwide. "Rokies" leave victims with decreased blood pressure, memory impairment, drowsiness, dizziness, and confusion.

interviewed had different opinions about the drug. "I wasn't aware of such a drug, but it could be a major concern for people," said Christina Cardenas, 24. "It's scary in today's age. It's so sad that you have to worry about so much stuff."

In contrast, Le Le, 16, said, "I think it's not a concern to teenagers. It's more of an adult issue because I don't think it affects us. Despite the fact that usually happens to us."

Noting Le's belief, experts warn that this pill does not discriminate. "This is going to affect a large majority. Rape happens to people of all ages and all shape and form," said Yvonne Sorrentino from the Alameda Prevention Information Service. "We've had rapes committed by 14-month-old babies and 65-year-old women."

Within the next three months, the Drug Enforcement Administration will categorize Rohypnol as a Schedule I drug, along with LSD and heroin. Right now, possession or use of the drug carries minor penalties. The change of categories will result in harsher punishments. Simple smuggling offenses of Schedule I drugs result in a minimum 10-year prison term.

While the DEA has not issued a warning about the date rape pill, it is not to be taken lightly. "If you wear clothes like Metallica (T-shirts), you'll pick you up real fast."

By Marie Onaga and Chin-Chin Yeh  
Mosaic Staff Writers

With San Jose's curfew law nearly two years old and a national curfew law possibly on the way, local teenagers are speaking out against the restrictions.

"I got caught at not less 15 times for breaking curfew," boasted Tom. "They take me to the station, my house, they leave. I leave."

Other responses included "I'm not a fan of it," said Tom. "But, that's too early to get drunk," said Benjamin, 16.

Bill Yeh, a father of two teenagers who considers himself "very strict," said 10 p.m. is an ideal curfew time. He said he would not make his children come home at 8 p.m. every night, even if it was the national proposal were to take effect.

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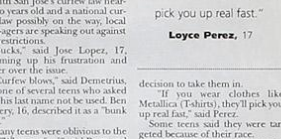
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Photo by Shery Llanos | The Mosaic



Photo by Monique Nguyen | The Mosaic



# Curfew? What curfew?

### Teens call San Jose law 'bunk'

Photo by Shery Llanos | The Mosaic

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# Sexual harassment lawsuit local school in spotlight

By Cathy Lee  
and Gerardo Rodriguez  
Mosaic Staff Writers

The past few years have shown a dramatic change in the attitudes of Bay Area schools and teens toward sexual harassment. Schools are taking notice; teachers are more aware, and they won't stand for it anymore.

No longer are nude whistles, name-calling, and sexual touching tolerated. Schools have realized the seriousness of this type of behavior, and are strongly enforcing sexual harassment policies.

At Santa Clara High, the realization began last year when five girls decided enough was enough. The girls were members of the "Teddie Bears," an all-female squad that had kept statistics for the school's football team for 18 years. Last year, members said certain football players called them vulgar names, spat in their hair, and displayed lewd drawings of the girls' genitals and breasts.

Angered, the girls started an anti-sexual harassment campaign against the boys and the school administration. In protest of their treatment, the 15 "Teddie Bears" resigned. After a long school investigation, three boys were suspended and one was expelled.

The girls have filed a lawsuit against the school district charging a violation of Title IX, an anti-discrimination law passed by Congress in 1972. The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Jose, California. The school district had paid a \$1 million settlement to the girls' parents. The settlement was the largest in the history of Title IX litigation.

## The Santa Clara Unified School District Administrative Regulations regarding Sexual Harassment prohibit:

- Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations or gestures.
- Unwelcome sexual jokes, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexually derogatory descriptions.
- Graphic verbal comments about an individual's physical appearance, or overtly personal conversation.
- Sexual jokes, stories, drawings, pictures or gestures.
- Spreading sexual rumors.
- Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class.
- Touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way.
- Teddie Bears first complained of harassment, it never would have snowballed to bring the lawsuit.
- The school district had paid a \$1 million settlement to the girls' parents.
- The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Jose, California.
- The settlement was the largest in the history of Title IX litigation.

Butch Pastorini, director of personnel for the Santa Clara Unified School District, said he will be testifying at the hearing at the school this coming year. "At this time, we're not planning any changes in district policy. However, all schools will engage in sexual harassment training," Pastorini said.

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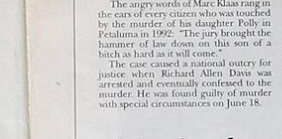
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Photo by Shery Llanos | The Mosaic



Photo by Monique Nguyen | The Mosaic



# Media frenzy 101: lessons from the Klaas trial

I walked away with very important knowledge: Don't forget your cell phone, and do anything for the story.

Laura González

Thirty seats were available to the public, and I was the 32nd in line. Disappointment was not an option. I still had to get to the story.

Nate LeBlanc

I walked away with very important knowledge: Don't forget your cell phone, and do anything for the story.

Laura González

## THE TRIAL OF RICHARD ALLEN DAVIS



Mark Klaas hugs a well-wisher on the steps of the San Jose Courthouse moments after hearing the guilty verdict for Richard Allen Davis, who was found guilty of murder.

# Klaas trial: Public applauds guilty verdict

By Nate LeBlanc  
and Laura González  
Mosaic Staff Writers

The angry words of Marc Klaas rang in the ears of every citizen who was touched by the murder of his daughter Polly in Palmdale in 1992. "The jury brought the hammer of law down on this son of a bitch as hard as it will come."

Reaction at the Santa Clara County Hall of Justice immediately following the verdict included an emotional statement from 21-year-old Lance Hill, son of a murder victim with special circumstances on June 18.

"I'm just here to support Mr. Klaas. He's a hero," Hill said. "I just really admire all of the work he's doing for children."

Young people in San Jose expressed similar opinions about the Davis verdict. They also had a few things to say about his rule gesture.

"He got what he deserved," said 15-year-old Vince Brown of San Jose. "I think he looked heroic," said Danny Anderson, a 28-year-old from Castro Valley. "He showed no remorse."

Eighteen-year-old Alma Loquago simply said, "Kill him."

San Jose resident J. Lee, 19, said, "I think he showed his true colors."

After five days of deliberation, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty on all five counts, which included first degree murder and four special circumstances robbery, burglary, kidnapping, and lewd acts against a child under 14.

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# Citizenship or mush?

## Naturalization process works to make sure no one adds spice to the pot

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# NON-Christian in a Christian World

When 16-year-old Steven Tamekuni partakes in the morning prayer each day at Bellarmine College Preparatory, he isn't praying to God.

It may come as a surprise, but during the week Tamekuni attends a Catholic high school, while on Sundays, he attends a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Church.

"I didn't really look at Bellarmine as a Catholic school," said Tamekuni, "but rather as a place for a good education, that's why I went."

Living in two different worlds is common for many non-Christian students in the United States. While determined to preserve their own religious beliefs, they face the challenge of living in a Christian society.

Tamekuni said the application for Bellarmine asks a student's religion. He said teachers have been pretty respectful of the fact that he is Buddhist rather than Catholic.

Brian, who graduated from Bellarmine in 1995 and now attends the University of California at San Diego, said he only "felt left out" because he wasn't Christian on the weekend.

When studying the Bible for a college humanities class, Brian said students aren't expected to know the material already, but if they do, they have an advantage.

Bellarmine religion teachers aren't trying to force students to convert to their religion, they just want students to experience it, said Ken Yoshida, a recent graduate of Bellarmine who is also Buddhist.

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When Eli Jacobs-Fantuzzi, an 18-year-old Jewish student, attended Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento, he was required to take courses in Christianity.

"A lot of these kids had been doing all their life (attending Catholic school), so I just had to open up a book and read for a while," Jacobs-Fantuzzi said.

"Everything was based on Christianity - TV, holidays, people I knew," Basseri said. "It made me look upon religion as a whole as pretty new."

Basseri says that he has been expected to know about Christianity and the Bible in class.

Salles said she felt she was at a slight disadvantage because most students were already familiar with the Bible. She said she's uncertain if it is right to have a grade dependent on the Bible because "some people are raised in Christian homes and some aren't."

## From honoring earth's elements to doing the cha cha, communities celebrate girls' ascent to womanhood

By Laura González  
Music Staff Writer

The flying feathers of their headpieces moved to the rhythm of the drums as the Mexica dancers competed in honor of the young women celebrating their *Xilonen*, the indigenous Mexica rite of passage.

Behind the dancers at the recent ceremony in San Francisco were four altars with burning incense. Elders, representing wisdom, sat at the northern altar. At the southern altar were children, symbolizing parents and innocence. At the eastern and western altars were warriors of the indigenous nation, young men and women who protect the traditions of the people.

Corn is the symbol used to represent girls because corn's life is very similar to a young woman's life. It starts small, sprouting. As it matures, it grows. (The corn) is honored because it's the substance that sustains our people," said Joe Montoya, a Chicano writer who took the role of elder in the ceremony. "The girls represent the tenderness of the corn before it matures. It is a coming out."

Just as the Mexicas celebrate their coming out with the *Xilonen*, girls in other cultures have similar rites of passage.

The Mexican *quinceañera* is for Catholic girls who celebrate their 15th birthday with a grand party. After a mass where the priest gives a blessing for the young woman's future, family and friends celebrate with food and music.

The 13th annual *Xilonen* was held by a group of dancers and community members trying to preserve the Mexica culture in Dolores Park in San Francisco's Mission district.

"It's a spiritual ceremony where we pray to keep things in harmony," said Adriana Betti, a dancer and teacher. "This ceremony was to pray, to honor and prepare the girls for life's responsibilities. They are going to be life leaders."

All the young women must make a year-long commitment before the ceremony. Once the girls are nominated through their dance troupes, they are responsible for saving in school, getting good grades and helping out in community service events.

To be a part of the celebration, held on the first Saturday after the summer equinox, "the girls have to be good role models," said Montoya. Different community groups come together to host the ceremony every year.

Celebrations like this are "once-in-a-lifetime occasions" for the girls, said Elizabeth Martinez, who celebrated a *quinceañera* just a few months ago.



Photo by Muntize Nguyen | The Mosaic  
A solemn ceremony in San Francisco recently.

# RITES

## OF PASSAGE



The *Xilonen* Feast of the Tender Corn celebrates young girls' coming of age.

# It's not just about you

## Gay student decides to break the silence

By Chin-Chin Yeh  
Music Staff Writer

Alvin Chen likes to make himself inconspicuous. Sitting at a local restaurant, he doesn't slurp his soda pop. He dresses down. And he speaks softly.

But on the subject matter of this conversation, Chen speaks out loud and clear. After years of silence, Chen is finally talking about his being gay.

Chen says he realized he was different from others as early as the fourth or fifth grade. However, he says he showed the issue aside and formed a vague plan of work, work and I'll be so that he would not have to deal with his difference.

Chen, who will become a sophomore at the University of California at Berkeley next fall, says he decided to come out publicly in his high school newspaper a year after he graduated from Leland High School in San Jose.

Chen says he feels lucky because after he announced his homosexuality, he received little negative response. Many people congratulated him for coming out of the closet.

However, he says animosity toward gays and lesbians still exists because of the media's stereotypical portrayal of them as men dressed in leather harnesses and women acting like men.

Chen recalls an incident at Berkeley which involved a gay couple sharing an evening in the park.

"Three girls came around the corner, saw two guys together, freaked, and tripped over each other. One literally fell," Chen laughs. "At first it was funny, but it really messed up. Why should it be such a big deal?"

He adds, "People fail to see gays and lesbians as people first."

In addition to negative stereotypes, gays and lesbians also face another obstacle - religion that views homosexuality as a sin.

Dan Moon, a 16-year-old member of the Korean First Baptist Church, sees "no point in being gay." He says being gay defeats the whole purpose of sex and reproduction, which is what he believes God intended.

"God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve," he says.

Don Kim, a pastor at the World Mission Church, agrees. He cites passages in the Old Testament in which gays were severely punished or even killed for their sexual orientation.

But he says his church would allow gays to join under certain conditions.

"They have to be willing to be open to what God says. They have to be willing to change," he says.

Other religions also discriminate against gays. Sumner Mabergha, a Muslim, says her religion disapproves of gays and lesbians because the Koran or sacred book of Muslims, and the sayings of the prophets describe them as evil.

Unlike the World Mission Church, Mabergha's mosque would not allow gays into the community under any conditions.

Chen says teenage gays and lesbians either tend to keep their homosexuality a secret, or they become assertively open about it because of discrimination and the constant bombardment of heterosexual images. "We want to be out and give people a chance to see an alternative lifestyle," explains Chen.

One of the biggest problems teenage gays and lesbians face is their families. This is especially true for teens who come from certain minority groups. Because these families already face racial discrimination, they often feel that having gay family members exposes them to even more hostility.

As a result, Chen says, gay sons have been disowned and lesbian daughters beaten.

For Chen, coming out to his family has been the most difficult problem. "My parents" told me I was still young, that I hadn't found the right girl," says Chen. His parents also forbade him to tell his younger brother. His father refused to finish reading the high school newspaper article in which he announced his homosexuality.

Chen's former classmates say they do not understand why he put himself out on a limb by publishing the article.

"Alvin has a reputation for being totally smart and all," says Wendy Shea, a Leland High School student. "I just don't know why you want people to know that he is gay."

Chen says he does not regret writing the article. The visibility of gays and lesbians at Leland is zero, he says. "I know there are still a lot of closeted students there. This was my chance to talk about it."

In arranged marriages parents try to find someone who their daughter will be happy with for the rest of her life, and the rest is up to her."

Sneh Gerg, women's rights advocate

## I married a stranger:

For some girls, the man of their dreams will be the man of their parents' dreams

By Kelly Yamanouchi  
Music Staff Writer

While most of us dream of finding our Prince Charming at the mall, getting married and living together for the rest of our lives in holy matrimony, life for Sina Chea is quite different.

Chea, 17, already knows who she will marry, though she has never met him. Her parents set up an arranged marriage two years ago with a relative in Australia. The practice of arranged marriage, as ancient as it seems, is still common in several cultures.

Chea, who was born in Cambodia, belongs to a culture that believes it is better if parents decide on a husband for their daughters because they know what is best for their children.

She says she still goes out with other people and doesn't take the arrangement too seriously. She usually tells her dates that she has an arranged marriage, and they think it's fate. "I've never met the guy. He's not my fiance. . . . You can't love someone you've never met."

Chea is not preoccupied with the future, and says "love is ultimately, 'I don't really matter to me. OK, so I have an arranged marriage, no big deal."

In the Cambodian culture, while parents arrange marriages for their daughters, boys can usually decide whom they will wed. Chea does not plan to continue this tradition with her children, though her parents expect her to. "Although there is no divorce in her culture, Chea said arranged marriages don't always work out well, and she doesn't know if she'll be really happy. She plans to meet the man she will marry for the first time this summer, after two years of not seeing so much as a photograph of him."

Because her parents are lenient, Chea hopes that if she met someone else and insisted upon marrying him instead, her parents would realize that it is her happiness at stake and acquiesce to her judgment.

Along with Cambodians, East Indians also practice arranged marriages. Ninety percent of Indian marriages are arranged, says Nandini Verma, who is president of AASKA, which means shelter in Hindi, and a member of SAVE (Shelter Against Violent Environments), both of which are Fresno-based organizations that provide support, referrals, and advocacy to South Asian victims of domestic violence.

The percentage of unsuccessful arranged marriages is increasing, Verma says, but she still believes arranged marriages work out better than love marriages, because they include an entire family in support of the couple in an effort to make the marriage a success. Verma also explains that arranged marriages are not a cause of domestic violence and that the rate of domestic violence has nothing to do with whether the marriage is arranged or not.

Sneh Gerg, who also works with women involved in arranged marriages through SAVE and AASKA, says that because times are changing, marriages for Indian girls are only partially arranged. Parents allow their daughters to date their chosen husbands after the arrangement is made, and the marriage takes place after the bride and groom's education has been completed.

Parents look for husbands who will provide security to their daughters, based on social status, religion, personality, and upbringing. Gerg says that in arranged marriages, parents are looking for security instead of just love because love often tends to be temporary, while marriage is a long-term relationship.

Indian children are raised to understand that marriage occurs only once, and women learn to love their husbands and families. Even though the marriage is arranged, Indian girls do have some influence in the matter. If they disagree with their parents' choice of a husband, they may refuse their decision, which leads to the search for a new candidate. Gerg says she will tell her own daughter that she will be free to find someone she would like to marry, but that Gerg would like to be 100 percent involved in the process.

"In arranged marriages," Gerg said, "parents try to find someone who their daughter will be happy with for the rest of her life, and the rest is up to her."

# Passages

P A S S A G E S

# Youths buck law for tattoos

By Matthew Kwong  
Mosaic Staff Writer

These days, make-up and finger-nail polish aren't the only things decorating young bodies. Over the past few years, tattoos have surfaced as a popular fad among high school and junior high students.

"It's not cool-cool, but it depends mainly on where the tattoo is," said Cesar Vasquez, 16, a senior at San Benito High in Hollister. Some people get tattoos to show off, and some get it for themselves, to know that it's there.

Johna Victoria, 16, a senior at Prospect High in San Jose, got her tattoo because she says it describes who she is and what she represents.

"Mine is a flaming sun with a dove, and it symbolizes sunny days ahead and living life to the fullest," she said.

However, one factor young people sometimes overlook when getting tattoos is the law, according to the California Penal Code. "Every person who tattoo or offers to tattoo a person under the age of 18 is guilty of a misdemeanor." If convicted, a tattoo artist who works

on an underage customer can face up to six months in prison and a \$1000 fine.

Nevertheless, youths continue to get themselves a "tatt" from unlicensed as well as licensed artists. "I feel it's right if they get it for the right reasons," said Victoria. On the other hand, he said he does not think tattoos used to identify allegiance to a gang are right. "I think that anything that has to do with gangs is bullsh--

Rick Gardner, deputy district attorney of the Livelyville Gang Unit, said tattoos can often subject a person to danger.

"Gangs will see others with a different tattoo and see them as rivals, and in this country, they will get jumped for their perceived gang membership," said Gardner. "Given what could happen, it wouldn't bother me to make (getting a tattoo) a felony because it could cost someone their life."

Some young people, like Vasquez, will tattoo each other without the proper training.

"It's fun and okay as long as you're careful," he said.

According to Krivon, a professional artist at Perez Ink in San

Jose, some youths use such materials as guitar string, a battery and a cassette deck motor to make their own tattoos at home. However, since the possibility of contracting AIDS and hepatitis exists when those methods are used, most tattoo parlors sterilize all of their equipment.

Ether Garcia-Mota, coordinator of the Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program for the city of San Jose, said tattoos often get in the way of employment and educational opportunities.

"Tattoos are permanent unemployment marks on a person's body," said Gardner. "If I were a parent and someone tattooed my child, I'd take them to court."

The tattoo removal program, which accepts people ages 18-25, removes visible tattoos which often times discourage potential employers.

"All too often, I hear people saying, 'Man, I shouldn't have gotten that tattoo,'" said Garcia-Mota. "People are going to do what they're going to do, but they should also consider what will happen in the future."



Photo by Sal Castro | The Mosaic  
Two customers await service at PerezInk, a tattoo parlor in San Jose.

## Get active

Many devote free time to helping others

By Marie Onaga  
Mosaic Staff Writer

It's 4:30 p.m., and Johanna Rochester's work has just begun. A fallen baby bird has just been brought in, and there is not a moment to lose. Hungry, dehydrated and very scared, the bird appears to be a dove. That means its meal will consist of one tablespoon of cat food mixed with a jar of chicken baby food.

"Because doves cannot suck, the only way to feed it will be to suck up the mush in an eyedropper and push the dropper all the way into the bird's stomach, where it can be digested. This is always the scariest part. But there's no time to think about that now."

Rochester, 17, of Palo Alto, has been a volunteer for the past three months with Wildlife Rescue, a program that treats injured, sick and abandoned wildlif and returns them to their natural habitat.

While it is serious work for such a young person, volunteering is not as rare as one might think. And it is not just a form of punishment for bad kids. Many teenagers are getting involved these days.

"I think it's really fun," said Dream Camp, 16, of San Jose. Camp, a Girl Scout of ten years, volunteers at Santa Teresa Hospital, Second Harvest Food Bank, Martha's Kitchen, homeless shelters, and is a member of her school's Interact Club, which refers students to other volunteer opportunities, such as the Special Olympics.

Scott Wong, 17, of San Jose, and Asher Hodas, 16, of Palo Alto, also play an active part in their communities. Scott, who also volunteers at Santa Teresa Hospital, is a member of his church YMCA, runs a (food bank), and the city's paper recycling program. He has also been an Eagle Boy Scout for two years. Asher was one of the first Food Not Bombs members in Palo Alto, the group feeds and fights for the rights of homeless people in the city.

One might suspect that these teens are merely hungry for a more attractive college transcript. They said they were not. Instead, the work would add to their transcripts, but that was never the reason for getting involved. Curiosity and great expectations were.

"[I did it] just to see what it was like," said Hodas.

Working at the Wildlife Rescue was something Rochester had wanted to do ever since she brought in the little bird her cat had hurt, when she was only a child. And the fact that the baby dove she helped heal is now doing better inspires her. She hopes her volunteer clothes and hat will help prepare her for the veterinary field.

And all were encouraged not by their parents, nor their teachers, but by their peers.

"I heard about it from my friends," Wong said.

Once they had begun, each person had a different reason for continuing to volunteer. None of them says they're quitting any time soon.

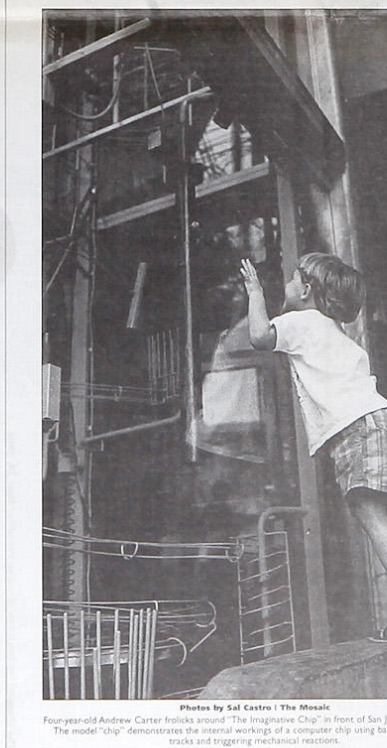
"After I got started, I really started to enjoy it. I was surprised, and I don't think that you can do different things here," said Wong of his work at the hospital. "You get to handle specimens and do the patient interaction fun."

Hodas said teenagers are not given as much credit as they deserve. Seldom are they recognized for anything good. But this Food Not Bombs member is not troubled by that. As he says, "Working with (the homeless) is truly a reward in itself."

These days, make-up and finger-nail polish aren't the only things decorating young bodies. Over the past few years, tattoos have surfaced as a popular fad among high school and junior high students.



## Chip off the old block



Photos by Sal Castro | The Mosaic  
Four-year-old Andrew Carter focuses around "The Imaginative Chip." The model "chip" demonstrates the internal working of a computer chip using balls traveling along tracks and triggering mechanical reactions.

## Heartache and responsibility

Children of the terminally ill cope with adult pressures

By Ha Trinh  
Mosaic Staff Writer

For many teenagers, getting a kangasid on in on prom night or being mercilessly dumped by a sweetheart can be the most tragic experience of their young lives. But for 17-year-old Noreen Reyes, there is a much more difficult situation to deal with.

Her mother, Doreen, has multiple sclerosis, a chronic progressive disease of the central nervous system, leading to paralysis and eventually, death. Like other teens living with terminally ill parents, Noreen does not have the opportunity to live the kind of carefree life a typical teen enjoys.

"The adolescent years are a time when teens separate from their families, leave the security of childhood and try to find their own identity. So when they have to handle the death of a loved one, this becomes too overwhelming for them," said Susan Bocaccio, a bereavement counselor at Wilbur and Hoopie in San Jose.

Doreen was stricken with multiple sclerosis 20 years ago, but the illness did not become critical until last year, around the same time her own father died. Since her grandfather's death, Noreen said her family has felt empty, and the loss between them is not as strong. She said she fears the same consequences when her mother dies.

Although Doreen has had the disease ever since Noreen was born, her daughter did not learn about the illness until she was 11 years old.

"At first, I really did not understand it, and it was hard to deal with because I wanted to do everything I could to help. But I didn't know how. So now, I just do my best and hope that I can help," Noreen said. Doreen is Noreen's illness, the bond between mother and daughter has grown stronger. However, despite their closeness, Noreen does not talk to her mother about her illness because she prefers avoiding the subject.

"It's very depressing," Noreen said. "I've never responded to anything of my parent's terminal illness."

Often, if a loved one dies after a long illness, teens may push away the pain, and so they feel great numbness and shock than an adult," Bocaccio said.

Living with a terminally ill parent consumes Noreen's thoughts and time. She says there are times when she does not go to school or out with her friends because she feels her mother needs her more.

Unlike other teens her age, the first thing Noreen does when she gets home is check on her mother. Afterwards, she takes care of such chores as cleaning the house, washing clothes and taking care of several nieces and nephews who live with her.

Noreen says she sometimes feels that life has cheated her because the teenage years should be about laughter and fun, not pain and sorrow.

My older brother and sisters have to work and being the youngest, I often have to go home and care for my mom. She will leave her home behind for us, and she'll always be in my thoughts."

Despite the hardships of living with a terminally ill parent, Noreen said she has learned some valuable lessons. As Noreen points out, "I can take care of myself. I can be more responsible and mature."

One thing Noreen does think about when she is alone is the day her mother won't be there anymore. "I'll miss her presence the most. I'll miss everything she is. Although she'll be gone, she will leave her example behind for us, and she'll always be in my thoughts."

When Broderick cannot handle Carrey's annoying obsession any further, he tells him to stop. This is where Carrey gets psycho and becomes Broderick's worst nightmare. When Broderick starts rejecting Carrey's

"I'll miss her presence the most. I'll miss everything she is. Although she'll be gone, she will leave her example behind for us, and she'll always be in my thoughts."

Noreen Reyes

friendship advances, he gets caught in a series of madcap escapades devised by Carrey, including ending up in jail, losing his job, and being rescued by his family and ex-girlfriend.

In the stereotypical happy ending, Broderick comes out the hero when he rescues his ex-girlfriend after Carrey kidnaps her. They get back together, and Carrey is taken away in a helicopter after surviving a fall from a satellite dish tower.

All in all, the storyline does not really go as expected. It's basically about a mentally unstable cable installer named Chip Douglas who has a speech impediment. He offers free cable to people in order to stop their friends' fight. Matthew Broderick costars as a real estate developer who has his own relationship separated from his girlfriend, Robin.

In the beginning of the movie, Broderick meets Carrey when he comes by his new apartment to install cable. After a brief conversation, Carrey tells him he has a new friend in Broderick and begins to stalk him. Carrey then wants to hang out with Broderick all the time.

When Broderick cannot handle Carrey's annoying obsession any further, he tells him to stop. This is where Carrey gets psycho and becomes Broderick's worst nightmare. When Broderick starts rejecting Carrey's

## 'Cable Guy': Not worth the installation price

By Ha Trinh  
Mosaic Staff Writer

With so much hype surrounding his new movie, and being an avid fan of Jim Carrey, I looked forward to seeing him star in the comedy flick, "The Cable Guy." But after an hour and a half of sitting through a weak plot, selfish, petty characters, and old, bland jokes, I found the movie to be very disappointing and a waste of my \$7.

In "The Cable Guy," Carrey plays a friendly cable installer named Chip Douglas who has a speech impediment. He offers free cable to people in order to stop their friends' fight. Matthew Broderick costars as a real estate developer who has his own relationship separated from his girlfriend, Robin.

In the beginning of the movie, Broderick meets Carrey when he comes by his new apartment to install cable. After a brief conversation, Carrey tells him he has a new friend in Broderick and begins to stalk him. Carrey then wants to hang out with Broderick all the time.

When Broderick cannot handle Carrey's annoying obsession any further, he tells him to stop. This is where Carrey gets psycho and becomes Broderick's worst nightmare. When Broderick starts rejecting Carrey's

A R T S

# At the movies

Before you spend your hard-earned dollars at the box office, check out what Mosaic staffers had to say about this summer's attractions

## 'Rocky Horror Picture Show': Trapped in hell with men in garters

By Matthew Kwong  
Mosaic Staff Writer

When I first caught a glimpse of the crowd lined up to see the Rocky Horror Picture Show, I knew something was wrong. The stench of the cigarette smoke and the open beer bottles only added to the effect made by the unusual outer-wear almost everyone was wearing. At the time, returning to the safety of home was an option, but I decided to stay.

Oh, boy.

For a fair \$6 ticket fee, and a complimentary frisking for whoknowswhat, I entered the building, innocently located on South First Street. The interior was basically that of a cinema theater. However, fear still wrapped its tentacles around me as I sat not knowing what to expect. Then the show began.

Oh, no.

The movie itself, made 21 years ago, is really fun. Tim Curry and Susan Sarandon star in this terrible musical about a married couple getting a bad tar in the middle of nowhere. They proceed to enter a house full of horrors. What makes the show somewhat interesting is that live actors perform the movements of all the characters right in

front of the screen. So there were actually performers going on at once.

Oh... kay.

This was no ordinary showing of a film. Unlike most shows, the audience can interact with the show itself. The diarchs who come every week know the altered script by heart. Unfortunately, all the scenes had, in some way or another, offensive material. What made it worse was that the actors all looked like idiots with their painted faces and assorted clothing - ranging from tight black leather to nothing but oversized briefs. They even had an orgy contest to see who could make the best moans.

Oh... my... God.

It was, by far, the worst thing I've ever paid for. The show was perverted and repulsive. I even dozed off a couple of times before airborne rice, toilet paper and a piece of toast rudely woke me up. Nonetheless, the cast members deserve credit for all their hours spent practicing, and the audience they've attracted. It's a freak show and the experience was the only positive thing I got out of it. The show was all over, I turned out of that building like someone coming from hell. I was free.

Oh, yes.

## 'Hunchback': Breath-taking animation, mature themes make it an instant classic

By Chin-Chin Yeh  
Mosaic Staff Writer

"Take it from someone who's actually been to Notre Dame. Its splendor and beauty is all captured in Disney's newest feature-length cartoon, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The film begins with the death of a gypsy woman at the hands of Frolo, a selfish, egoistic judge intent on purging the world of pagans, whom he considers scum. He is just one more to drop her defilement and then when she is stopped by the archdeacon of Notre Dame.

For the first time in his life, Frolo fears for his soul. As penitence, he agrees to raise the child as his son, provided that the baby stays in the cathedral. He names the child Quasimodo, which means "half-formed."

Somebody's hair-waiver. Quasimodo is not thinking that he is unfit for the world, being to him about the evil of pagans, and telling him that his mother abandoned him.

Quasimodo's quest for acceptance, and his struggle to trust and love, provides the

## 'Cable Guy': Not worth the installation price

By Ha Trinh  
Mosaic Staff Writer

backbone for the story. After meeting the beautiful gypsy Esmeralda, Quasimodo begins to question Frolo's teachings. From then on, he helps Frolo by coming to her rescue on several occasions.

Despite the fact that "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" is a Disney cartoon, its themes may be unsuitable for young children. The film is darker than most Disney cartoons, its images of torture and cruelty may be a bit much. Also, the film contains sexual innuendo, such as Frolo lust after Esmeralda.

For older audiences, however, the film might be considered one of Disney's best.

The animation remains as magnificent as ever. There are scenes in the film that literally take one's breath away. The climax of the movie stops the heart and drains the soul.



Photo by Naoke Takeuchi/Kodansha • TOEI Animation  
Top, left to right: The stars of the popular TV series "Sailor Moon" are, Sailor Mercury, Sailor Mars, Sailor Moon, Sailor Jupiter, Sailor Venus, and bottom right, Chibi Usa.

## Anime-nia

Japanese-style animation captures a huge following in America

By Gabriel Ramos  
Mosaic Staff Writer

Mania Mania, Anime craze, Japanimation. What's all the hype about?

For those on the off-ramp of the animation super highway, Anime (pronounced animi-may), is a series of popular Japanese animated cartoons. They include the increasingly popular "Sailor Moon" and "The Ronin Warriors." Older cartoon fans might relate to "Speed Racer," "Voltron," "Star Blazers," and "Robotch."

Those already familiar with the cartoons know that they are not only for younger children, but attract teenagers and adults as well.

People are turned on to Anime because the stories are different and the animation is unique," said Eric Locher, 28, who is involved in his very own Anime club at Foothill College in San Jose. "Anime clubs are popular all over the Bay Area. They stretch from San Francisco through San Jose all the way to Oakland."

Locher was introduced to Anime when he was a child. He watched "Robotch," which he says many consider to be the foundation of Japanese animation.

Some say Anime is unique because the characters have exaggerated features such as oversized eyes and heads, and they display a range of emotions. If an action appears alone a character's head, it represents frustration or anger. A giant teardrop stands for embarrassment or sadness. And when a character gets angry, wach for a blue aura around his or her head and shoulders, which signifies a fighting spirit.

"It's the action, the detail in the artwork," said Alberto Mila, 17, from Gilroy. "There are good story lines and a soundtrack in Japanese and English."

Elias Hernandez, 19, a friend of Mila's, said he enjoys the comedic aspect of the anime work." he said.

"Like the comedy, especially the freedom of expression the artists use in detailing their work," he said.

When Anime cartoons and movies are

imported from Japan, they are sent to such places as "Beef Ball Anime" in Oakland, where subtitles are added. Some of the cartoons, which are dubbed in English, are not very popular with some fans.

In America, the (anime) have no heart for the work they do in voice dubbing. They simply record their voices, get their check and leave," Locher said. In a Japanese cartoon, an actor will do the voices of two or three characters in the same cartoon.

When a series airs on American television, it is commonly "chopped." In other words, the series is modified to fit American television standards.

"What is humorous in Japan can be offensive here in America," Locher said. "Parents don't want their children watching hits of nudity and shameless violence."

At present, the most popular series among all ages is "Sailor Moon." It is a story featuring five junior high school girls who become characters called Sailor Scouts, each representing her own planet. Sailor Moon's destiny is to become queen of the universe. She and the Sailor Scouts battle creatures from the "Negaverse," an alternate universe of badness trying to stop the girls from succeeding.

Many Anime fans agree they have a soft spot for the ongoing series, which is currently being picked up by Turner Broadcasting System. Fans throughout the country circulated a petition on the Internet to keep the series on the air after the UPN Network's began making plans to cancel the show.



# Sports

## Women's pro league to tip off

### Graduation no longer end of the road for female basketball players

By Liz Violet Villanueva  
Mosaic Staff Writer

After many years of watching men hit the boards, women can now begin to professionally strut their stuff on the court as well.

Beginning in mid-October, San Jose, along with Atlanta, Columbus, Denver, New England, Portland, Richmond, and Seattle, will have its own ABL (American Basketball League) for women. Each team will hold a 40-game season.

This new league will be a way for women athletes to play even after they graduate from college. Until now, women could only play organized basketball through college. After graduation, they could

pack their basketball gear and head for Europe.

The ABL was formed so that women basketball players wouldn't have to move to another country to continue doing what they love most. They'll have the opportunity to stay home and play in a pro league that puts their interests first. The league will help expose some of the finest players in the world while providing exciting, affordable family entertainment. The average ticket will cost \$10.

Christine Forter, the general manager for the San Jose team, is in charge of recruiting for the league and has spent a great deal of time watching tapes of the players and ranking them by position. Forter said she will recruit no less than the best to make these teams

a sure success.

A former basketball player for Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, Forter understands the importance of basketball to these players. She plans to organize the league, which will enable women to play on a year-round contract for the first time.

The women athletes will be paid an average of \$70,000 a year. The minimum salary will be \$40,000; premier players will be paid from \$100,000 to \$125,000. The players will own 10% of the league. Thirty-six top players, including 10 members of the U.S. National Team, have already signed up for the league. Among them are Jennifer Azzi, Teresa Edwards, Lisa Leslie, Nikki McCray and Sheryl Swoopes. Forter said that people will



Monique Nguyen | The Mosaic  
Christine Forter is general manager for San Jose's women's team.

come out and support these girls on the court because of the different style the women bring to the court.

"I think women play better (than men) because they work the basketball," Forter said. "They're not passing the ball to the tallest

player for a dunk and so forth. I think that's what makes basketball exciting. The crowd will make an acceptance to women's basketball. Once you get the people to watch one game, the girls prove that their game can be exciting, and the crowd will want to come back. There's a saying that 'basketball was invented by men, but perfected by women.'

The first pick for San Jose's team, which has not yet decided on a name but is taking community suggestions, is Azzi, the All-America guard from Stanford.

During a phone interview on the day of the draft, Azzi said that being the number one pick for the San Jose team is a dream come true for her, especially because now she won't have to go so far away to play.

Azzi, of Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been playing basketball for nearly 20 years and was the National College Player of the Year in 1990 when she led Stanford to the NCAA Championship. She is a

member of the ABL advisory board.

"This is definitely the most exciting thing that's happened in women's basketball for a long time," Azzi said.

She said the league will help to nurture young female athletes.

"Nowadays it seems like many young girls need confidence, you know. They need something to shoot for, and sports have always been great for that."

Edwards, a University of Georgia player from Atlanta who was also drafted, will be playing on her fourth U.S. Olympic team this summer. "As a player, I'm overwhelmed to have the opportunity to play professional basketball here in America," she said. "This will allow a lot of little girls' dreams to come true."

#### If You're Interested:

To suggest a name for the San Jose Women's team, call (415) 930-3197.

## Some minor matters

### Youngest Bonds makes name for himself in shadow of brother, dad

By Nick Masuda  
Mosaic Staff Writer

Even though Bobby Bonds Jr. is not as popular as his brother and father, Barry and Bobby Bonds, there is a story behind this "unknown Bonds."

Bobby Bonds Jr. was born in Palo Alto in 1970 and grew up with his brother, Barry. Because Barry is five years older, Bobby said they never really got to play baseball together.

"My brother and I just played baseball in the back yard, but he was always older, bigger, stronger, and better," Bobby said. "There was really no family competition for me. But when Barry left, I broke all of my records in Little League and Babe Ruth (youth league)."

When asked about his relationship with his famous brother, Bonds said: "My brother and I have a 'brother' relationship. I wouldn't say it is solid because we don't see a lot of each other. When we do get together we talk about baseball. We get along, we don't have any fights."

Bobby Jr. said he does not feel he has been overlooked in baseball because of his brother, who is left fielder for the San Francisco Giants and his father, who is one of the team's coaches.

"I think I am looked at more because of the name 'Bonds,'" he said. "Also, I think people come out to see me more because they want to see if I am as good as my dad and brother."

Bobby was the 17th pick in the June 1992 amateur draft, and went to the San Diego Padres, but has bounced around the minor leagues ever since. In the Padres farm system he played for teams in Arizona, Spokane, Waterloo, Rancho Cucamonga, Las Vegas, and Springfield.

Bobby, 27, has only reached Triple-A — the step below the major leagues — once, with Las Vegas in 1994, where he only played in four games and only had four at bats before being sent back to Single A once again.

Bobby then went on to play for the Visalia Oaks, who are not affiliated with any major league team, as other minor league teams are. Bobby signed a one-year free agent contract with the Giants this year and was assigned to play for the Giants' San Jose Class A team.

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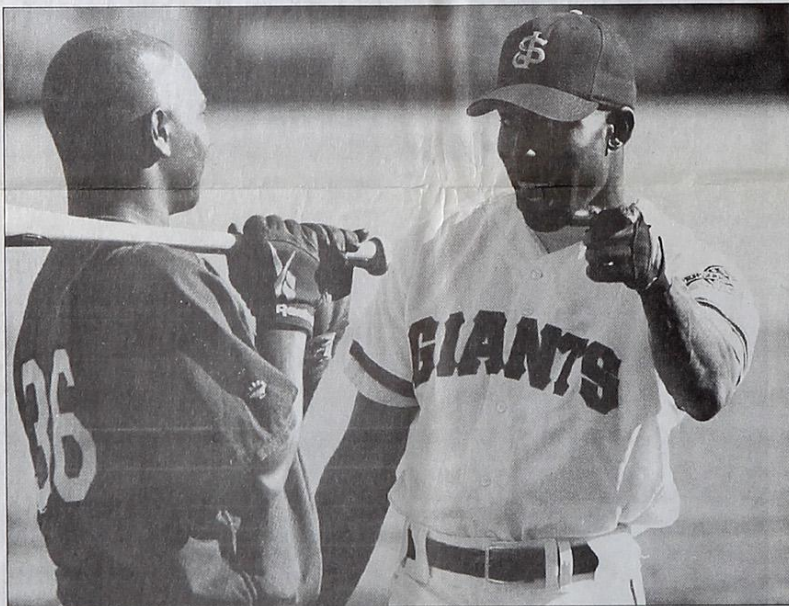


Photo by Sal Castro | The Mosaic  
Bobby Bonds Jr., right, is fighting to get out from under his brother Barry's and his father Bobby Sr.'s shadows.

## A pitcher's ascent

### Hard slider and biting curve put Villano steps away from major league

By Nate LeBlanc  
Mosaic Staff Writer

Mike Villano is not a superstar. He is not gawking at in public, or worshipped in private. He's just a normal guy from Bay City, Mich., with one striking quality: His 95 mph fastball.

Villano is one of the select few whose talent allows him to live out his dreams. He is one of the top pitching prospects in the Class A California League, only two or three steps away from his dream of playing major league baseball.

Every little boy, at some time or another, strives to be a professional athlete. For most, especially in baseball, the dream comes crashing down when their ability cannot match their drive. The odds against playing for a major league team are astronomical. For every guy that gets to even the minor leagues, there are millions who lovingly oiled their first mitt, bonded with their dads at their first game, and played for the pure, unadulterated love of baseball who will never make it.

Villano's voyage began in his back yard 20 years ago.

"I started playing when I was a little kid,

"We could justify moving him up (to Double-A) next season on numbers alone."

**Matt Nerland**  
assistant coordinator of scouting for the Giants

before the leagues started, just for my Dad," said Villano, now 24. He progressed through the Little League system without discovering pitching and went on to play for Handy High School, where, "people had more power than I did. I didn't stand out. I was noticed more in college."

Saginaw Valley (Mich.) College was where the self-described late bloomer was noticed. The Giants took a chance on him with a 25th-round draft pick in 1994. He reported to the Giants' Class A Burlington farm team as a catcher with tremendous arm strength and left as a pitching prospect.

"Somebody on our staff down in Burlington saw him as a catcher with a

strong arm and converted him two years ago," said Matt Nerland, assistant coordinator of scouting for the Giants. "Now we've got him on the mound where he belongs."

According to Nerland, Villano's strength lies in many of the categories pitchers must possess in order to be effective at the major league level. Among them are his delivery, mechanics, fastball and mastery of a range of pitches. Scouts are impressed by his hard slider and biting curve, both of which have good movement. Nerland also said that reassignment of Villano to Double-A, one step up from where he is now, is inevitable, and may come as soon as next season.

"We could justify moving him up next season on numbers alone," Nerland said.

Though the California League does not provide stiff competition, Villano's stats are exceptional. He is statistically the best pitcher in the league, posting a 5-1 record, a .44 ERA and 95 strikeouts in 62 innings pitched.

San Jose's heralded staff leads the league in pitching so far this season. While

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## Rhinos' secret weapon: diehard fans

By Gabriel Ramos  
Mosaic Staff Writer

The San Jose Rhinos roller hockey team, or better yet, the world champion San Jose Rhinos, are the latest craze in a series of sports teams specifically made for the San Jose Arena.

The Rhinos proved last year in their inaugural season that they have what it takes to win a championship.

But what is the backbone of their success? The players, coaches, and organization click together with some awesome chemistry. But in the always competitive Roller Hockey International league, some would say the team possesses one other hidden weapon that is perhaps its most valuable asset: the fans. "They're the world champions," said Dolores Angel, who sported team spirit by wearing a solid purple shirt with the Rhinos' logo on it. "Need we say more?"

Only an average of about 4,500 fans attend each home game, but the small crowd more than makes up for it by making as much noise as the more than 9,000 fans who regularly show up for San Jose Grizzlies indoor soccer matches.

So being built primarily for ice hockey, what attracts fans in general to attend a roller hockey game at the Arena?

Deborah Greel, 41, of Vacaville, a San Jose Sharks season ticket holder, attended her first Rhinos' game because she received free tickets. She said she liked the atmosphere so much that she would definitely come back.

"My friends kept telling me I got to check it out," Greel said. "This is an alternative for people who can't afford ice hockey."

As a matter of fact, compared to the other teams that compete in the arena — the Sharks, Grizzlies and Sabercats indoor football team — Rhinos' tickets are the least expensive. They range in price from \$8-\$14. A \$14 ticket buys a seat in the first few rows of a Rhinos' game, while \$14 won't even get you in the door to a Sharks' game.

"It's a nice family atmosphere where I can spend time with my son," said Tamy Hoshino, 36.

When asked why he attends Rhinos' games with his mom, Blair Hoshino, who is 3 and a half years old, simply said: "Because I wanna."

So there you have it, straight from the source that makes the Rhinos organization what it is today, the fans! These dedicated people may need the Rhinos for entertainment, but the Rhinos need them just as much for support. For more information on Rhinos' tickets and scheduled games call 1-800-20-RHINOS.

Game coverage from June 16  
See Page 11