

THE MOSAIC

Lifting the fear

Immigrants welcome relief from deportation



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
Greia Neves waits to speak to other undocumented immigrants at an information meeting sponsored by Catholic Charities in San Jose.

By CORINA MARTINEZ
Mosaic Staff Writer

Greia Neves of San Jose was scanning the morning news online while chatting on the phone with her husband. Suddenly an item leapt out at her: President Barack Obama was changing federal policy – a change that would

protect her from deportation, a fear she's had since she was 12 years old.

"I was so emotional," she said. "My voice was almost gone from crying and screaming."

On June 15, the president announced a new

IMMIGRATION | PAGE 15

Wonder of Wondo

Earthquakes star hopes to raise profile of soccer in America



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff
Chris Wondolowski pauses from training with the Earthquakes.

By GABRIEL QUINTELA
Mosaic Staff Writer

Chris Wondolowski's shots during a recent practice with the San Jose Earthquakes radiated confidence.

Driving the ball hard and low on the ground, Major League Soccer's top scorer with 13 goals on the season, hits the mark on almost every shot he takes.

Wondolowski, 29, pauses briefly to enjoy the sight of a ball rattling the back of the net. Then the Danville native quickly returns to work.

This is the attitude that has brought Wondolowski to a level few thought he could achieve – an MLS Golden Boot winner and member of the U.S. men's national team.

Yet, there wasn't always this much confidence and success in Wondolowski's game.

"He went from nobody being able to pronounce his name to being the first name everyone talks about," Earthquakes goalkeeper Jon Busch said.

Wondolowski was considered a "journeyman" when coming to San Jose during the 2009 season. He started in only 11 games through '09 and didn't become a regular until the 2010 season, when he started 29 games and became the league's leading scorer.

"It's tough," he said, "the league has been growing and there's a lot of talent, so it's hard to break in sometimes."

WONDOLOWSKI | PAGE 17

TEEN TECH

Bay Area kids have designs on the future



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
Riley Lewis, 14, center, sets up his 3-D printer, "The Cube," while students, from left, Julian Najera, Jackson Bryson, Alec Tuason, and Nathan Herrera watch.

By TANYA RAJA
Mosaic Staff Writer

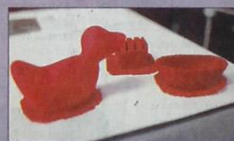
While many teenagers are fixated on video games or catching up with their favorite TV shows, some Silicon Valley kids are inventing devices, building systems and creating tomorrow's dream world.

One budding technologist is

Riley Lewis, a lanky, red-haired 14-year-old, who is teaching 3D printing in his Santa Clara home and in a weekly class at Discovery Charter School in San Jose.

It began two years ago as an assignment for one of Discovery's electives. Riley and eight classmates participated in the Tech Challenge at the San Jose Tech

TEEN TECH | PAGE 16



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
3-D plastic models designed by Riley Lewis are displayed in his garage in Santa Clara.

AP classes: Pressure for a purpose

By LEXY A. BROWN
Mosaic Staff Writer

Every year, students sit in hard plastic seats, sweating over essays analyzing the rise and fall of empires or summarizing the trends of electronegativities to explain atomic attraction.

Is this too much pressure? The purpose of advanced placement, or AP, classes is to provide a challenging academic environment that prepares students for college. However, students and teachers fear teens are being overloaded with stressful classes that don't guarantee reward.

In AP classes, teachers have less than a school year to teach a collegiate level course, at which point students can pay

AP CLASSES | PAGE 17



Photo illustration by Ashley Lugo | Mosaic Staff
Students hit the books for AP classes, but it is worth the pressure?

Meet the 2012 Mosaic staff



Photo by Darlene Tenes | The Mosaic Staff at Union Square in San Francisco.

Andy Fang | He says he's a mellow and easy-going, but Andy is far from mellow. With the passion to "try new things," Andy is in the Naval Academy Summer Seminar and plans to visit New Zealand with his orchestra and Kome with the Sea Cadets. He frequents Ethiopian restaurants and is a serious spooon competitor. The Saratoga High School senior will be Life editor for The Saratoga Falcon. —Nab Man

Ashley of San Bernardino | Ashley owns a Canon Rebel, which she uses to photograph her friends and family. She was on her school newspaper staff last year and will transfer to yearbook staff this year. She knows about the navy sea infection she got about a month before Mosaic and shows everyone pre- and post-operative photos. She has designs on being a teacher or astronaut, while continuing photography on the side. —Margaret Lin

Camille Debreceny | Camille of Danville is a Moraga Vista High school grad and will attend Willamette University in Oregon. She was her school paper's news editor. She has a tattoo of a white cat and has a motorcycle permit. He could be any Disney character, she would be Pinocchio. "Cornal" will reach great heights. At times, she can be quite verbally expressive—tough cookie, but there are signs of her protective instinct. —Nadira Anwer

Corina Martinez | Corina is immersed in her Mexican heritage and after high school hopes to attend a college in San Francisco to study journalism. Corina is passionate about her interests and enjoys animals, children, and doing anything to help her community. "Compassionate Cornal" will reach great heights. At times, she can be quite verbally expressive—tough cookie, but there are signs of her protective instinct. —Kimmy Tejashindu

Creo Noveno | Born in the Philippines, Creo moved to the United States at 8. Her family settled in San Jose. Creo, 17, is sweet, lovable, kind, hard working and passionate. She loves drawing, sleeping, and drawing in her sleep. She has a red

Lexy A. Brown | "Laugh-a-lot Lexy" is the most bubbly person I know, a junior at Excelsior High in Modesto. She participates in the Future Business Leaders of America, Mock Trial and other clubs at school. She's a Girl Scout, has a brown belt in karate and shows horses competitively. When she isn't busy in school or sports, she enjoys reading and writing. She writes for her local newspaper, the Modesto Bee. —Olivia Lucas

Gabriell Quintela | From his calm demeanor to his tall frame, Gabriell is nothing short of awesome. He's able to gain a tunnel vision that allows him to quickly get on his assignment and see it through—with the occasional soccer break. He will be the next sports editor for the newspaper at Mountain View High and hopefully will have a future as a sports commentator on ESPN. He really loves to shoot down on food. Lots of food. —Walter Teng-Tran

Gianna Dimick | Gianna is Mosaic's resident longboarder. She is the oldest of nine siblings and drives a '12 van in which she often chauffeur her friends to the camps and practices. She has a knack for taking beautiful action photos. She lives in Redwood City and attends Garfield High, where she plays water polo, swims the breast stroke for the swim team and is lined up to be the newspaper's editor-in-chief and photographer. —Jewel Devarawood

Jewel Devarawood | Jewel, 16, was born in Jacksonville, Fla., but was adopted and grew up in San Francisco. A sophisticated, independent girl, she also amazes, juggles and performs as a clown. She won Miss San Francisco in 2007 and hopes to run for Miss California this year. Jewel works on the school newspaper at the Convent of the Sacred Heart and as a photographer, loves capturing all the emotions in one shot. —Gianna Dimick

Kimmy Tejashindu | Eubank, Vnuinda, known as "Kimmy" of San Bernardino has captivated writers with her charming, laugh-unforgettable style and interest in what makes you tick. She plans to study communications at UC Santa Barbara. She's writing a novel, "The Moon and the Tide." Kimmy is not afraid to express what's on her mind and will crack a joke and offer her smile no matter the time or place. —Corina Martinez

Olivia Lucas | Olivia is the spread editor for the Head-Boyco School newspaper in Oakland. Olivia came to Mosaic with the creativity to develop story ideas full of potential and the persistence to make them all successful, backed with grace and poise. Perhaps her best quality is

MOSAIC 2012 PROFESSIONAL STAFF

- Executive Director**
Joe Rodriguez
- Managing Editors**
Ardua Harris
Sharon Naguchi
Marcos Antonio Cabrera
- Photo Editor**
Nhat Meyer
- Design Director**
Reynaldo Barrioz
- Designers**
Janet Kim Park
Yvonne Pingue
- Copy Editors**
Sally Bachman
Patty Hannan
Joanne Jacobs
- Editorial Assistants**
Jana Hodic
Audrey Frey
Magali Gauthier
- Guest Advisers**
David Early
Elliott Almond
Josie Lepe
Sean Webbby
Patrick Tehan
- Web Editors**
Patty Hannan
Dan Wong

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AT THE BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

- Publisher**
Mac Tully
- Executive Editor**
David J. Butler
- Managing Editor**
Bert H. Robinson
- Executive Features Editor**
Lisa Wrenn
- Pressroom Manager**
Starr McCullin
- Pressroom Layout Administrator**
Carol Witt
- Imaging Director**
Mark Yamamoto
- Digital Image Specialist**
Rudy Knight
- Makeup Manager**
Gal Terry
- IT Supervisor**
Kathryn McClelland

AT THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

- Publisher**
Gary Omerick
- Executive Editor**
Roy Calkins
- Managing Editor**
David Kellogg
- AT SAN JOSE STATE**
- Director of Journalism**
Bob Rucker
- Production Manager**
Tim Burke
- Business Office Manager**
Pat Wallraven
- THE MOSAIC WORKSHOP IS MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS**
- Knigh Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Castellano Family Foundation
CCNMA Latino Journalists of California
Dow Jones News Fund
San Jose Mercury News
San Jose State University

YouthBuild helps high school dropouts get a fresh start

By CAMILLE DEBRECENY
Mosaic Staff Writer

Rebecca Villanueva's aura of confidence and contentment makes it hard to believe that last October, as a high school dropout and an ex-inmate, she was homeless, jobless and alone.

Villanueva, 23, exuded leadership and pride as she led a crew June 20 in putting the finishing touches on a project to retrofit 28 low-income apartments in Milpitas with new windows.

Two years ago Villanueva spent three months in Elwood women's jail because of a gang-related killing that occurred at a house where she had been renting a room. She was not involved in the crime.

"I had a problem with alcohol abuse, so when the police showed up I had no idea what was going on because I had just been blacked out," she said. "There was blood everywhere and I was trying to clean it up, and I got in trouble with the police because they thought I was trying to cover up evidence, but I was just trying to clean my house."

After being released from Elwood, Villanueva had no job or education prospects and ended up living in her car. She had no family who could support her—her mother is dead and her father is not in contact.

"I was trying to find work but no one would hire me with my background," Villanueva said.

In desperation, she applied to the San Jose Conservation Corps Charter School, an independent high school that provides education and employment opportunities for high school dropouts. Villanueva's story typifies many of the charter school students here. About 60 percent are ex-offenders, and many have children of their own, according to Jim Stoch, who sits on the group's board of directors. The corps placed Villanueva in the YouthBuild job training program.

"I really love YouthBuild because it's helping me build my life," Villanueva said. "Now my friends from YouthBuild are basically the only people I'll hang out with because we're all on the



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff Children at Calaveras Apartments in Milpitas watch construction worker Justin Vuallies retrofit windows on June 20.



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff YouthBuild worker Paul McGinnis takes a break.

same level and we really support each other."

YouthBuild is open to Conservation Corps students who have demonstrated responsibility and commitment to earning their high school diplomas. Its mission is to provide students with job training while at the same time benefitting the community through service projects.

"The families were helping tell us how much they appreciate us, and that's what really affects me," Villanueva said. "I'm making a difference not only

for myself but for others. I didn't realize how much of a difference I could make until I joined YouthBuild."

Villanueva represents San Jose in the 21-chapter California YouthBuild Coalition and recently joined the student leadership team to represent the YouthBuild programs of California. She earned her high school diploma June 15 and hopes to study psychology or criminal justice at West Valley College and possibly pursue a career as a parole officer. She has inspired her two sisters, ages

20 and 27, to join YouthBuild as well.

"The YouthBuild San Jose program has 45 students. Historically, 87 percent of YouthBuild students complete the program, meaning they earn high school diplomas and national certifications in construction and first aid, according to Tom Zizzo, YouthBuild San Jose's chief operating officer.

"YouthBuild students are divided 50-50 between classroom education and working out in the field," Zizzo said. "They rotate between projects and get experience working in different environments, under different management and working with different types of personalities."

Villanueva led six classmates in their most recent window-retrofitting project. The dual-pane, energy efficient windows they installed in apartments throughout Milpitas will help to lower the costs of heating and cooling.

"It's really helpful to my tenants and the city," said Seg Cacao, the owner of Calaveras Apartments. "It looks a lot bet-

ter, and it financially helps the tenants because they're the ones paying the utility bills."

"Funds for the project came from a \$50,000 grant from the city of Milpitas and a \$48,860 grant from the Walmart Foundation.

"I'm intrigued by this project because not only are we providing opportunities for youth in the community but also helping the community lessen their carbon footprint," said Derek Wensky, store manager at Walmart in Mountain View.

"When they began this project six months ago, only one member on the crew had any previous construction experience. At first they could finish only two or three windows in a day, but they eventually averaged 11 per day, while gaining construction experience and leadership skills.

"It makes such a big difference to us, knowing that we're learning something and helping people at the same time, and that's really what YouthBuild does," Villanueva said. "We are so grateful and so happy to be a part of this."

Drop-in shelter gives teens a place to call home

By LEXY A. BROWN
Mosaic Staff Writer

Just past Interstate 280 on the outskirts of downtown San Jose, three Victorian-style houses sit behind a green picket fence. The houses—one gray, one yellow and one pink—are always open to homeless teens thanks to the Bill Wilson Center.

The drop-in center, opened by the Bill Wilson Center in 1998, provides support for homeless youth ages 13 to 25. This site, at 693 S. Second St., was chosen because it's easily accessible from popular hang-out spots for homeless teens.

"This location is convenient for kids to hang out and not stick out," said Michelle Covert, director of special projects.

"We knew there were kids who ran away from home, staying at friends' houses, staying under freeways, staying at abandoned houses," Covert said. "The center was built as a place for teens who are on their own to stay or visit.



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff The front entrance of the temporary housing building at the Bill Wilson Center in San Jose.

900 kids in a year, with about 40 to 60 teens visiting every day.

When teens stay, the program and staff work with them until they are ready to build better lives. "Our job as staff is to motivate them, but if they're not ready to change, they're not going to change," said Steven Nordstede, the center's program manager.

"What's unique is 45 percent of the people who work here have gone through similar situations,"

Michelle Covert, Director of Special Projects

ing easier.

The center starts with the basics. Basic health is a beginning goal. The first floor of the pink building houses the office of Dr. Mitch Gevelber, a pediatrician. He is the only doctor who works there, so he can build a relationship with the patients, following the center's creed to gain the client's trust.

The center considers the gray house "home base." This house has lockers for the teens, laundry machines, showers and food storage. A lot of the program's food comes from Second Harvest Food Bank and Conco.

"We've learned to make meals out of just about anything," Nordstede said.

"What's unique is 45 percent of the people who work here have gone through similar situations," Covert said. "The employees' experiences make connect-

together in the yellow house. This is where most of the work toward building a stable environment is done.

"It takes a lot of hard work to get off the streets. Imagine starting from absolute zero," Nordstede said.

Two case managers help clients develop plans, and staffers teach classes on basic skills. "Kids don't get some of that stuff living on the street."

Once the clients have a plan, the center helps them find a job. A weeklong simulated work program gives the youth work experience to put on their job applications. The drop-in center assists in job searches by helping with resumes, buying interview clothes and taking them to interviews.

"We intend a lot—an initiative, respect, independence," said outreach counselor Amanda Malach.

"In a nutshell, we're trying to instill hope. We want to end poverty," Covert said.

Bringing the farm home

City dwellers cultivate gardens for health, low-cost harvest

By CAMILLE DEBRECZENY
Mosaic Staff Writer

On an average weekday, Donald Sturman pulls into his Almaden Valley driveway in a collared shirt and tie. He disappears inside his house for several minutes, then emerges in a T-shirt and denim shorts — his farming gear.

In his free time, the financial analyst likes to get his hands dirty. He calls himself "Farmer Donald" and his garden "Yummy Tummy Farms."

Sturman is one of a growing number of San Jose residents who grow their own food for health, happiness and sustainability.

"The core values of Yummy Tummy Farms are to promote suburban farming, be more self-sustainable, and reclaim domesticity," Sturman said.

He lives on a quarter-acre lot, practically every square inch flourishing with tomatoes, carrots, eggplants, avocados, herbs, blueberries, apricots, apples and more.

"The rule of the farm is grow what you want to eat," Sturman said. "Grow what you love."

How does a man with a full-



Ashley Lugo | Mosaic Staff
Roberto Martinez works on a chicken coop at VeggieNation Community Farm in San Jose.

time job manage a full-fledged farm? He has help.

"I call it the apprenticeship program," Sturman said. "If you're willing to contribute some labor, I'll teach you something for free."

Sturman advertises on Craigslist and Meetup.com for volunteers to assist in tending to his back-

yard beehives, bottling jams and saucers, maintaining a drip irrigation system, composting with worms, and making his garden grow. In return, he shares his bounty.

"I try to tell people: Just plant something healthy. Take care of it, take pride in it, and use it for inspiration to plant something else. Take small steps."

As a long-term goal, Sturman dreams of using Yummy Tummy Farms to start a local "produce share" system similar to the monthly gatherings in San Jose's Willow Glen neighborhood. This would allow

farmers to focus on growing specific products and exchange their harvests with each other.

Sturman is not alone in his convictions about the importance of local farming. In East San Jose, VeggieNation Community Farm is working toward the same goals, on an even larger scale.

On two acres beneath an Interstate-280 overpass, VeggieNation grows organic produce to help create a sustainable food system and promote healthy eating. It sells its harvest on weekends at Emma Prosch Park and local farmers' markets.

"It's pretty cool to see something from start to finish," said Keri Waller, a summer AmeriCorps worker at VeggieNation, "because you know exactly what's going into the food that's going into your body. You know the hands that planted it and the hands that picked it, and the passion behind those hands."

Another local resource, La Mesa Verde, provides resources and training for about 200 low-income families in San Jose to grow organic gardens in their yards.

"Planting their own food creates accessibility for families to fresh, healthy vegetables at an affordable cost," program founder Raul Lozano said. "They're eating more vegetables, contributing to a healthier climate, and creating a model for future generations."



Jewel Devarawood | Mosaic Staff
Donald Sturman checks on one of his plants at Yummy Tummy Farms in San Jose.

Breast surgery may boost self esteem — but plays into cultural stereotypes

By ROCIO RAMIREZ
Mosaic Staff Writer

When Iris Lopez of Salinas turned 21 this year, she finally got her mother's blessing.

"Let's go ahead and do it," her mom said.

Lopez, who wore a size A bra, had dreamed of breast augmentation surgery since she was in middle school.

"I really had low self-esteem. I wanted to look better, make myself feel better as a person and as a girl," she says.

She overheard boys talking about what they liked about girls' bodies, and she compared herself to women in magazines and took note of what part of her body

she needed to change to "be wanted, to be noticed."

Lopez traveled to Mexico for the surgery, which cost about \$4,000.

Some 307,180 women between the ages of 18 to 29 had breast augmentation surgery in 2011 compared to 296,203 in 2010, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. Women choose to have the surgery for various reasons: to boost self-esteem, to improve their looks or to correct a defect.

Although there are some positive consequences of the surgery, it does not guarantee a better life, say experts.

Dr. Vincent Lepore, a recon-

struction and cosmetic surgeon in San Jose, has noticed over the past five years, that

of younger age, since they tend to be less shy than older women about breast augmentation surgery.

Lepore takes into consideration aspects of the patient before performing a procedure. "Is she in good health, or is there a higher risk if the surgery were to happen? He also makes sure that the patient is psychologically ready and has realistic expectations and reasons for wanting the surgery."

"They won't make your life healthier or let you live longer," Lepore says.

Lepore says he can't "prom-

ise happiness," but he believes the implants serve a positive role.

"Looking at the subject from a self-esteem boosting business, it's a complete success," he says.

But is surgery really the answer for women with body or self-esteem issues? "We have a cultural standard of overvaluing larger breasts," says Carolyn Finn Mitchell, a psychologist in San Jose. "The Internet — it's all focusing on big breasts, low cut clothes. It's all out of balance."

Instead of women giving in to "cultural messages," Mitchell says, "if women liked themselves, accepted how they truly are, and focus

on what they can give, that's when the answers lie."

She says women with body issues can benefit from body therapy because "their body is part of their identity." And although surgery isn't necessarily the wrong thing to do, it might be for the wrong reason, says Mitchell.

"They think they're doing it for themselves, and perhaps they are, but they're really doing it to meet cultural standards," she says.

Lopez, who went from an A cup to a 36 C, has no regrets. "I have more confidence, and I can now stand up and speak up for myself, whereas before I was too shy and couldn't. It gave me a boost."

Taking service learning to new heights

Student volunteers devote time beyond school requirements

By NASHRA ANWER
Mosaic Staff Writer

"Does it swim?" an excited boy asked Happy Hollow Park and Zoo volunteer Alex Marozick.

"No, they don't have webbed feet and their legs are pretty short," answered the 14-year-old Marozick.

"Can I touch it?" the boy asked curiously.

"Sure," Marozick answered with authority.

Brady Burt, another Zoo Teen volunteer, holds out Raj, the blue-tongued skink (yes, skink) to the little boy, who gently rubs two fingers down the reptile's back. His eyes widen and his mouth forms a perfect "O."

"That's so cool!" the boy said.

"That face just killed me," said Burt with a laugh. "I love seeing the kids so excited."

Both Burt and Marozick are among more than 40 other teenagers at Happy Hollow who are spending their summer volunteering. While many of their peers spend hours in front of the TV or playing video games, some high school students have enrolled in summer programs such as Zoo Teens.

Some of these volunteers are obligated to complete a certain amount of hours in order to graduate. Yet they go above and beyond the requirement as they broaden their worlds and pursue a passion that some day could turn into a profession.

"Volunteers always leave with more confidence and leadership skills than they ever thought they were capable of," said Shannon Heimer, the San Jose zoo's education director.

Happy Hollow's Zoo Teen program has been running since 1998. The goal is to educate young audiences to have an impact on their environment.

Leland High School student Kristie Kwak is required to complete a minimum of 40 service hours in order to graduate.

"The Zoo Teens obligations — as well as which animals they're permitted to handle for



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
Volunteer "Zoo Teen" Brady Burt holds Raj, the blue-tongued skink, for children to pet at the Happy Hollow Zoo and Park in San Jose.

meet and greets — depend on their experience.

Entry-level volunteers such as Marozick, an incoming freshman at Leigh High School, handle Raj, the blue-tongued skink, Lucille the python, Madagascar cockroaches, and walking sticks in order to "get used to some, 'steering out of their comfort zone,'" Heimer said.

"Once the volunteers get over the initial discomfort with handling animals like these, they become more confident and can handle higher level animals with ease."

The hands-on experience has inspired careers. Several of our zoo keepers here at Happy Hollow were former Zoo Teens," says Heimer. "It's great to see that the program that they were involved in as teenagers left such a huge impact on them."

LEARNING | PAGE 8

Sea Cadets prep a new generation of soldiers

Navy youth program teaches unity, commitment through sweat and tears

By ANDY FANG
Mosaic Staff Writer

In a pre-World War II barracks, Homestead High School senior Joey Bobrnik fiercely chanted "Honor! Courage! Commitment!" with each up and down of the numerous pushups he had to do, alongside approximately 30 other teenagers.

The sweaty barracks were made of nothing but wood and metal. No air conditioning, no insulation. Just heat. Everywhere.

"This was recruit training command, or more commonly known as boot camp, for the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, a congressionally chartered Navy-based military youth program. Through the program, teenagers experience sea-giving military services, U.S. Navy operations and training, community service, citizenship and an understanding of discipline and teamwork."

As the exercise proceeded, the recruits started to wear out. Some began to cry. Many thought of giving up.

Out of desperation, one re-

cruit started to cheer on a fellow shipmate. Soon, all the recruits began motivating one another. And thus, a crucial tenet of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps was taught: Teamwork.

"I hit me right in the heart. I loved these people so much, and I just started crying. Several of my shipmates came to me and started comforting me. And then some of them began to cry too," Bobrnik said. "This may sound weird, but all of us crying together had never made me feel so connected to others in such a way. They were and always will be my boot camp family."

Nicole Kaufmanova, a senior at Homestead High in Cupertino, has attended the Master-Arms training, which covers law enforcement in the military.

"The training gave me hands-on experience. I was able to experience things that I would not have been able to outside of the Sea Cadet (pro-

gram)," Kaufmanova said. "We got attacked by military dogs and (pepper) sprayed. We also learned combat skills and take-downs as well as participated in a 12 hour ride-along with the Fresno police."

Jonathan Cervantes, a senior at Archbishop Mitty High School in San Jose, has been able to utilize his multiple trainings to learn more about possible career paths.

"The (program) has provided me with direction in my life. It has opened doors and given me knowledge of the military and its many career paths," Cervantes said. "I have learned how to work as a mass communications specialist, taking pictures and writing articles like a civilian reporter."

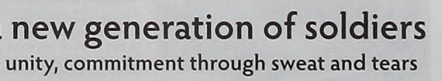
"The Sea Cadets program has opened my eyes to all the benefits of joining the military in my future," Kaufmanova said. "I would gain working experience, an education, a new family and get paid to do what I love."

"I think that it's great that we have to get involved in our community," says Kwak, who is a Zoo Teen. "I want to go into the veterinary field, so getting involved with this program is really beneficial for me. And after a while, it's something that you end up enjoying."

Other volunteers, such as An Nguyen from San Jose's Evergreen High School, aren't required to complete service hours in order to graduate.

"I wish we did have the requirement," she said. "So many students could be doing something productive during the summer, instead of just sitting around and complain that they're bored."

The Children's Discovery Museum (CDM) in San Jose also trains high school volunteers in a program known as Team Lead. One of more than 40 Team Lead volunteers, Shannon Chang from Evergreen High, helps with face



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
Andrea Quan helps a Happy Hollow camper.

"Before I joined the Sea Cadets, I had absolutely no interest in pursuing a military career. However, I learned that being in the military was really more about the camaraderie and strong friendships that you form. (That's) what makes it worthwhile," Sproni said. "I've formed many strong friendships in the Sea Cadets, and that's made me realize that I want to keep that going as a part of the military."

"The Sea Cadets program also reaffirmed Kaufmanova's desire to join the military."

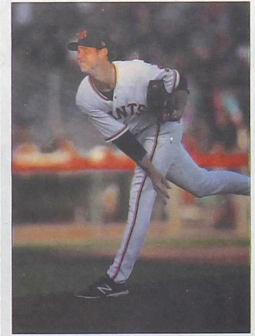
"The Sea Cadets program has opened my eyes to all the benefits of joining the military in my future," Kaufmanova said. "I would gain working experience, an education, a new family and get paid to do what I love."

A day in the life: San Jose Giants

From the food to the game and everything in between, this is what it takes to make a San Jose Giants game. A visit June 26 to the single-A team affiliated with the San Francisco Giants found chaos, activities, barbecue and rowdy mascots. The quote on a mural at San Jose Municipal Stadium summarizes it best: "Minor league baseball is major-league fun."



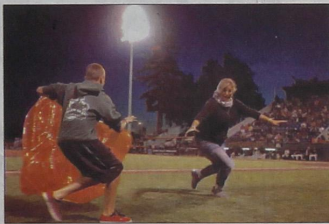
Ashley Lugo | Mosaic Staff
Fans watch the Giants vs. the Stockton Ports as a worker sells toy bats up and down the rows behind home plate.



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
San Jose Giants starting pitcher Taylor Rogers chalked up the win as the Giants beat the Ports, 6-2.



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff
San Jose Giants fans compete to make the most noise as a rolled up T-shirt is catapulted into the stands.



Ashley Lugo | Mosaic Staff
Jonny Brekke steals a chair away from his mom, Bonnie, in a game of musical chairs in between innings.



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
San Jose Giants first baseman Ricky Oropesa of Rancho Cucamonga in Southern California signs baseballs before the start of the game against the Stockton Ports.



Ashley Lugo | Mosaic Staff
A boy from Morgan Hill Pony Baseball holds an autographed baseball over the Giants' dugout.



Ashley Lugo | Mosaic Staff
Players from Morgan Hill Pony Baseball wait to accompany Giants players into the field for the national anthem before the game.



Jewel Devorawood | Mosaic Staff
San Jose Giants mascot Gigante high-fives adoring fans. Gigante appears regularly between innings.



Jewel Devorawood | Mosaic Staff
A grounds keeper smooths the sand around the pitcher's mound before the start of the evening game.

Dose of diversity

Drive in offers culture with much-loved falafels, banana milkshakes

BY CREO NOVENO

Mosaic Staff Writer

The smell of tahini sauce and fried food in the air is the second thing one notices upon arrival at Falafel's Drive-In. The first is the outrageously long line winding around the restaurant, making all other stores around it seem desolate by comparison. The Korean Palace looms forlornly in the background, literally left in the dust where cars rush next door to the drive-in, hoping to fill their need for falafels. And fill it, they shall.

Falafel's Drive-In has been a San Jose institution for 46 years. "Institution is a title that isn't doled out easily, but if the restaurant's longevity and the queue of customers willing to wait in the heat are of any indication, it's a title that's well-deserved."

Anton and Zahie Nijneh settled in San Jose in 1966 and brought the wonders of the falafel to the community, sending out each order with their very own motto: "Try it, you'll like it." Its early days as a hamburger joint mirrors the state of American dining, perfectly — that shift from traditional, greasy spoon roots to one colored by different cultures altogether.

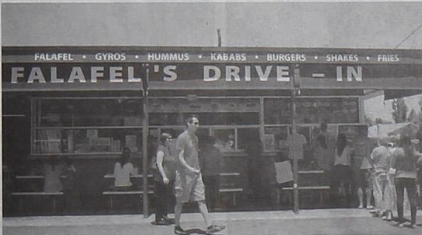
Hamburger patties, while still featured on the restaurant menu, have been eclipsed by the falafel, the restaurant namesake and crowd favorite, as well as traditional Middle Eastern fare, such as bala-hannouj, koubby, and pita chips.

Their banana shakes harken to old American diner days and are perhaps just as popular with the masses as are the falafels.

The restaurant draws fans from all across the state (perhaps even the country) but a majority of the crowd is made up of locals who've heard tales of Falafel's Drive-In passed through the grapevine.

"I heard of it from a friend," said Rich Walkup of San Jose, who's been going to Falafel's Drive-In for the past 10 years. "The service and the people here are excellent."

The typical crowd at Falafel's Drive-In is not so typical at all — it's a congregation of different races and different ages, all

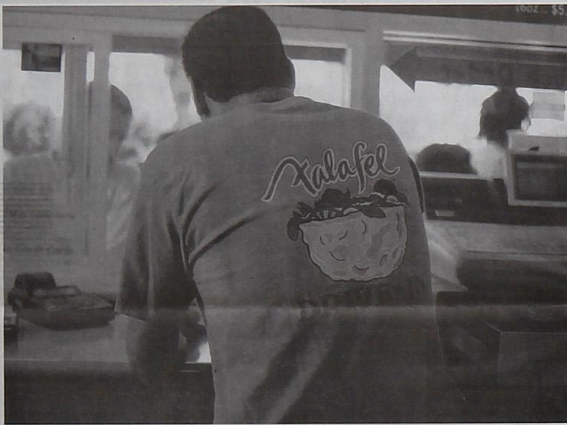


LEFT: Falafel's Drive-In has been a San Jose institution for 46 years.

CENTER: Nassif Grayeb is the friendly face that greets customers. Grayeb says restaurants like Falafel's help "create the diverse identity that makes America unique."

BOTTOM RIGHT: A falafel and fries wait to be enjoyed by a customer.

Photos by Ashley Lugo
Mosaic Staff



brought together by the prospect of freshly prepared food and Falafel's easy atmosphere.

"Everybody loves falafel," said Nassif Grayeb, son-in-law of the Nijnehls and the friendly face who greets every customer at the counter. "American, Asian, Arabic — the thing about California is

that there's a lot of different people around, and restaurants like Falafel's help fuel the American culture. It helps create the diverse identity that makes America unique."

The Nijnehls and their restaurant have become part of this diversity — of an American built not upon assimilation

but also on amalgamation, whose culture is not singular but made up of pieces from the many different countries and the many different families who find their way here.

"It's an experience," said Betty Leong of San Jose, a first-time diner. She was invited to the restaurant by her

granddaughter, who had heard about it from her cousin, who inevitably heard it somewhere along the tangled grapevine of a community tied together by cultures and the food that each brings to the proverbial plate.

It's an experience indeed — a truly American one.

Ethiopian food is a handful of goodness

By TANAYA RAJA AND ANDY FANG
Mosaic Staff Writer

It's not everyday that we are encouraged to eat with our hands rather than utensils. Indeed, that is one of the most appealing aspects of Ethiopian cuisine: Forgoing a fork in favor of injera leads to a more playful and visceral dining experience.

From our culinary adventures at three different local Ethiopian restaurants, we learned that injera is an Ethiopian staple that consists of fermented flour, which is then baked into palatable sour spongy bread. The dishes are presented on a layer of injera, with rolls of injera on the side. The injera on the side is then torn and used to scoop up the flavorful mélange of spices, vegetables, and meat.

Addis Achemu, owner and chef of Mudai Restaurant, located on West San Carlos Street in San Jose, uses tef, an Ethiopian wheat, in his injera. He vouches not only for the tastiness of the wheat but also its nutritionally beneficial properties.

"It's full of minerals, and it's full of iron, so it's healthy," Achemu said.

Eshab Killy, the owner of Rehoboth Ethiopian Restaurant and Cafe on North Sixth Street, has perfected her recipe for the staple after many trials. She's found success with a recipe that calls for 80 percent tef and the remainder composed of barley and other varieties of wheat. She serves it warm and it's fluffier and less jammily soft than the injera of the other restaurants we visited.

While injera is an integral component of Ethiopian cuisine, the majority of the flavor comes from the meats and vegetables. For those who like to sample a variety of dishes, we recommend going with veggie combos, which are served in most Ethiopian restaurants.

At Mudai Ethiopian Restaurant on West San Carlos, from the \$12.95 veggie combo platter, we were able to try alicha alicha, a combination of cabbage, carrots, potatoes and onions, simmered in butter; gomen, chopped collard greens spiced with garlic, onions and green pepper; arat kik, split chickpeas; and misir kik, split red lentils simmered in red hot pepper sauce. Each dish occupied its own niche in the flavor spectrum. Despite the heavy seasonings, the vegetables were still able to retain their inherent flavor profiles. We were still



Photos by Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff
A bite of veggie combo with injera at Gojo in San Francisco.



able to taste the vegetal tang of the collard greens or the faty goodness of the alicha alicha.

Similar deals are offered at other Ethiopian restaurants, including Rehoboth Ethiopian Restaurant and Cafe and Gojo Ethiopian Restaurant on West San Carlos Street. Rehoboth offers a vegetable combination platter of five vegetable entrees for \$11.95 and Gojo offers a vegetable combination platter of four vegetarian entrees for \$12.95.

Ethiopian cuisine is incredibly vegetarian friendly. Vegetarians are able to try a variety of different dishes, all of which pack just as much of a wallop to your palate as do meat dishes.

Initially, the dishes may not seem like enough but don't underestimate the power of the injera. As a source of carbohydrates, injera goes so well with the addictively seasoned dishes that we always ended up feeling comfortably full, if not stuffed, upon exiting the restaurants.

The owners of the Ethiopian restaurants place much emphasis on the quality and freshness of the ingredients.

"We never bring any packed or processed food," Killy said. "Our wheat and legumes are all organic."

Aside from being tantalizingly delicious, Ethiopian cuisine is also deeply reflective of Ethiopian culture in general.

both are very community oriented. All the dishes are served on one large round plate, and diners take turns reaching into the plate with a piece of injera.

The camaraderie established through this practice is integral to traditional Ethiopian society.

"But all that is changing," said Killy.

As more Ethiopian restaurants, even those in Ethiopia, serve individual platters, he feels a crucial aspect of the culture is being destroyed. By continuing to use one plate, Killy hopes to preserve the foundations of family and friendship that Ethiopian culture is built upon.

These principles of Ethiopian culture are apparent even after

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Eshab Killy displays a traditional Ethiopian table setting at Cafe Rehoboth in San Jose; the entrance of Gojo in San Jose; (inset) the veggie combo platter at Gojo; and students eat Ethiopian bread at the Mudai Restaurant in San Jose.

a quick look into the restaurants' layout. All three restaurants gave off a cozy and even intimate atmosphere. The owners often serve the dishes themselves and try their best to get to know their patrons.

Because of this, most of the patrons, even those who have never tried Ethiopian food before, end up becoming loyal supporters.

Both Achemu and Killy enjoy and feed a personal duty to educate newcomers to Ethiopian culture.

"A lot of people don't know Ethiopian food. They don't know what they're missing," Achemu said. "My favorite part about being a restaurant owner is serving the community by introducing Ethiopian food to the public."

Food is critic's love and his career

By CREO NOVENO

Mosaic Staff Writer

Jonathan Gold found the love of his life in high school.

It was senior year, in the middle of dinner prepared by his then-girlfriend's mother. He was seduced by an array of flavors and ingredients and after four dishes (as was the norm for most Chinese dinners), the infatuation was clear: He was in love with food.

"I think the magical relationship lasted longer than it might have just because of the food her mom was cooking," Gold admitted about the high school romance that led him to his true passion.

During a phone interview, Gold said he was enamored by the effort put into the dinners after a teenage diet filled with nothing but convenience food and Hamburger Helper. "The idea that there

was somebody that cared, that took fresh ingredients and cooked it every single day and had it as part of their life — it was eye-opening."

That revelation led to a career as a food critic and a 2007 Pulitzer Prize, making him the first food critic to win in the history of the award. He was nominated again in 2011.

His relationship with food

blossomed after those fateful dinners. His mother's occasional Southern feasts piqued his interest. His culinary fixation led Gold around restaurants in Los Angeles, even before he'd signed on to write professionally.

Writing was a craft he honed long before the thought of restaurant criticism came to him, however.

"I'm a writer first, then a

food person second," he said, citing his past as the music critic for the L.A. Weekly and as the music editor for the Los Angeles Times, Spin, and Rolling Stone magazine.

Armed with a keen eye for detail and physical description, it wasn't long before he turned his sights toward something closer to his heart — food.

GOLD | PAGE 13

GOLD | FROM PAGE 12

"Everybody has their own style of writing, but it's something about the sort of physical description I do that seems to work well with food," Gold said. "I could also be a pornographer, but that's kinda not my kink. But they both describe bodily functions — it's that sort of really, really intimate physical detail."

While Gold takes pleasure in describing food, he's just as drawn to the communal nature of restaurants.

"I don't see going to restaurants as being a separate, discrete activity from the rest of the things that people do. It's part of the things that people do. It fits into their lives in the way that restaurants form a sense of community," Gold said.

The way people interact with their food changes daily, Gold takes notes of those changes just as much as he takes note of the dishes he reviews.

"People who go to restaurants tend to be people who go to farmers markets or Asian markets or even Whole Foods. They know what's in season, they know what's possible, they think for a couple of minutes whether they're buying beef that's been humanely slaughtered," he said. "There is way more of a relationship with what's actually growing than I think there ever has been — the closeness to the farms, the idea of local sustainable cuisine — and I think it's just marvelous."

The excitement that Gold has for food is infectious, and his quest for the best is tireless.

"The thing is, in order to find the great Taiwanese beef stew, you kinda have to eat 25 bowls of what's not the best Taiwanese beef stew before you can be able to appreciate the sort of Olym-pian ideal of the restaurant."

"I look at a lot of foreign language newspapers," Gold said. "I don't read anything except English, really, but I'll look at a Kluener paper and recognize

when something's a restaurant ad. I'll get in my car and go — maybe it'll be good, maybe not. There's something like 26,000 food establishments in L.A. County, and any one of them could be the real."

With thousands of restaurants cropping up daily, Gold's search may be an endless one, but his love for food remains an unflinching constant.

"Nothing one devotes one's life to can ever be considered trivial," he said.



Jewel Devarawood | Mosaic Staff
A marcher for Zynga shows his pride with a rainbow cape.



Jewel Devarawood | Mosaic Staff
Laura Bolles laughs with other Youth Pride Coalition members before the Pride parade.

YOUTH PRIDE

Redwood High School's Youth Pride Coalition celebrates SF tradition



Jewel Devarawood | Mosaic Staff
The 2012 San Francisco Pride Parade was held in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Pride Parade has been a citywide tradition for 42 years. This year's parade was held June 24, and the theme was "Global Equality." It is the largest Pride gathering in the nation; this year the attendance was estimated to be more than 30,000. The purpose of the San Francisco Pride Parade is to give support to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered community and its allies as well as promote awareness for LGBT issues. The Youth Pride Coalition was founded by Ivan Shaw, a junior at Redwood High School, in 2010 with the purpose of providing support and outreach for youth in Marin County who identify as being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and/or Questioning. The Youth Pride Coalition works to bring awareness to LGBTQQ youth issues and design programs that are run entirely by youth, for youth. The organization currently operates out of San Rafael.



Jewel Devarawood | Mosaic Staff
Ivan Shaw, the founder of the Youth Pride Coalition, puts final touches on the coalition's float before the Pride parade.



Jewel Devarawood | Mosaic Staff
A performer sings songs by Adele, Katy Perry and Lady Gaga on the Youth Pride Coalition's float.

Election? Ho-hum, young voters say

By NAIM MIAN
Mosaic Staff Writer

In 2008, the youth vote was key to President Barack Obama's victory, with voters aged 18 to 29 contributing almost a quarter of his support. But this year, with the election season moving into full swing, motivating youth to get involved and vote will be a challenge for both the president and his challenger, Mitt Romney.

Obama's ability to inspire such involvement again is debatable, analysts say, considering his incumbency as well as his track record. On the other hand, they say Republicans will have a harder time attracting students because of Romney's positions on student loans, the economy and social issues.

What is clear is that American youth are not nearly as excited or engaged as they were four years ago.

A walk last week across the San Jose State University campus in search of politically interested students was a challenge, with a number of students stating no interest in politics and no plans to cast a ballot in November.

"The two most energetic campaigns I have ever seen were those of Barack Obama and Ron Paul in 2008, and they were largely run by young people," said Sherry Beltrich Jeffe, political analyst and senior fellow at the University of Southern California. "The campaign is no longer a grassroots movement, but it's really a matter of personality and being able to reenergize voters."

Since the Democrats have become the establishment, they have to win students over with issues rather than the sheer excitement of a movement. Obama focused on change in 2008, and many young people, expecting radical change, were disillusioned by the slow pace of politics and government.

"Continuity is a lot less exciting than hope and change," said John J. Pitney Jr., professor of government at Claremont McKenna College east of Los Angeles.

San Jose State University students Jazzmine Engver, 21, and Tatiana Wilson, 20, plan to vote in the fall, but neither is working for a campaign nor knows of anyone involved.

In contrast, in 2008, "we had all of these people in our high school making giant signs with lots of stickers and wearing all these Obama T-shirts," Engver said.

"I had an Obama shirt that was all bedazzled," Wilson said.

While social issues have been the engaging force for many students, most analysts say the election will turn on the economy.

"The primary concern of young people are the same as those of most Americans — the economy and unemployment," Jeffe said. "Sure, education, immigration, and lesbian and gay rights are important to the youth, but it will all come down to what jobs are available."

While Obama's recent action on immigration and his support of gay marriage has energized some young voters, many see it as coming too late.

Rishi Ahuja, a political science and economics major at the University of California, Berkeley, became interested in politics in high school. Eager to discuss his political involvement and opinions, Ahuja, 18, typifies a small group of students who defy the trend and remains active.

"A lot of young people have lost excitement because of Obama's compromises and slow progress on social issues," said Ahuja, who is involved in phone banking, volunteering and canvassing for Democratic congressional candidates.

Many youth thought

Obama "would wave his magic wand and fix everything," Ahuja said. "Obama will need to get his base excited in his candidacy much like he did in 2008. On the other hand the Republicans haven't offered students much in terms of addressing the issues of student loans, immigration, and equal rights."

The challenge for both candidates is how to inspire youth to turn out to vote. Once motivated, students can generate a large new voting population.

"Youth turnout tends to be low, so young people can be a new source of voters if a candidate is able to generate a higher turnout," Pitney said.

"Students live very much in the present," said Lindsay Lamont, president of the Stanford University Democrats. "We can't really judge student involvement until the fall, but in order to be successful, candidates are going to have to reinforce the importance of social issues and highlight the immediate impacts of the election."

Campaigners have been hard at work, though, trying to get students involved. Campaigners have mobilized young volunteers to make field calls, campaign digitally, and engage with students on campuses, according to the Obama campaign's California press secretary, Linda Serrato.

The Republican effort to engage young people faces its own difficulties.

"Romney is changes which was exciting in 2008, but the youth are more liberal (than he is) on social issues," Pitney said.

Nonetheless, campaigners are hoping young people will get active on campuses, organize, and campaign.

"It just takes a phone call to get involved with a campaign and have your voice heard," Ahuja said. "That's what young people need."

IMMIGRATION | FROM PAGE 1

policy to protect undocumented students from deportation and grant two-year renewable work permits. Across the country, his executive order spawned sighs of relief and shouts of joy from the nearly 800,000 young people like Sanchez.

Neves, 23, came to the country when she was 12 from Morelos, Mexico. She's studying physiology at Evergreen Valley College. For years, she's lived cautiously in the shadows.

Obama's announcement follows the California Dream Act, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown on Oct. 8, which allows undocumented students to receive private financial aid for higher education and state Cal Grants.

"There is a lot of optimism in the community. People are very hopeful," said Jazmin Segura, the federal policy advocate at Siren, a San Jose immigration advocacy group.

Juan, 17, an incoming freshman at San Jose State University whose name has been changed for his protection,

welcomed the new laws. Like many other undocumented students, he came to the U.S. as a child. He was brought from his native state, Michoacan, Mexico, by his mother when he was only a few months old.

He was admitted to the University of San Francisco, but did not enroll because he could not get financial aid without a Social Security number.

The California Dream Act will make it easier for students like Juan to get private and state aid, but not federal aid. "It's going to help not a lot of tuition. My mom and I were both happy," he said.

It wasn't easy getting the act passed in California, and so far a national Dream Act has not passed, Segura said, despite intense lobbying.

Lifting the fear of deportation changes how undocumented students view education. "I was thinking, man, I'm in a tough spot because when I graduate college I'll have a bachelor's in whatever. I decide to get, but who would hire me?" said Juan.

Immigrants still have worries about the new laws. "If Congress decides they don't like it and makes a new rule, passes it, and goes against what Obama is trying to do then I'm worried," Juan said. "If (Mitt) Romney gets elected I doubt we're going to get much help from him."

Immigrants also worry that even if they get a work permit, it might not be renewed in two years.

But opponents see the Dream Act and Obama's new proposal as giving amnesty to lawbreakers, and only encouraging more illegal immigration.

Obama is "thumbing his nose at the rule of law," said Jim Gilchrist, founder of the Minutemen Project, which opposes illegal immigration. "I do not hate Mexicans or people of color. Children brought under no fault of their own should return to their homeland and apply for legal status. It seems unrealistic, but it's the

Patriotism shouldn't be about negative politics



Naib Mian

When I was in elementary school, we would recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" every day. We studied about George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Paul Revere, and I held a great respect for these key figures in our history. I believed in the beauty of American liberty and freedom. I felt like a first-class patriot.

But recently, for too many people, this is not what defines being patriotic in the United States. Unjustifiable military invasion is "patriotic" and trying to get the country back from an impostor, who happens to be the elected President of the United States, is "patriotic."

Since when did patriotism come to be synonymous with nationalism, militarism, and frankly, a blatant disrespect for one's own nation?

America has been famous for its militaristic dominance abroad, but often, these engagements have been unnecessarily justified by patriotism.

America's recent invasions of countries such as Iraq have been sold to the nation with meaningless phrases such as "protecting American liberties" when in reality these are political and either way wouldn't have an effect on the average American.

Patriotism is a love and support of one's country, not a desire to kill those who disagree with one's values.

But if America stands for liberty, why not liberty abroad?

In the past, America has gone abroad in the pursuit of liberty. Providing foreign aid to struggling nations, aiding in the invasions of genocidal nations such as Nazi Germany, expressing support for popular Arab revolutions and placing down America has supported international freedom without resorting to mass killings.

On the other hand, America's record has been questionable. Many Middle Eastern conflicts, such as the invasion of Iraq, have been embroiled

in economic and regional politics. Furthermore, while major civilian crises took place in Rwanda, Darfur, and South Africa, America was slow to show support, if any.

Support for conflict and a relentless blind devotion to a nation's policies is not a love for one's nation — it's naïveté. Would it not show more love for one's nation to educate oneself and rally to bring soldiers home from bad wars? While a presence abroad is inevitable and important, conflict is not.

President Barack Obama has been subjected to many attacks by those who call themselves patriotic. He has been accused of not being born in this country. He has been called a socialist and a Muslim, two statements that are both false and discriminatory.

But most offensive of all was South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson screaming "You lie!" at the president during his health care speech in 2009.

Americans have the freedom to express their opinions, but it has become tradition to provide the president with the honor the position holds.

I believe patriotism is having the courage to speak one's mind, but crude shouting at a country's elected leader in an official environment is quite the opposite of showing adoration for one's nation.

Many of these controversial statements and actions have come from conservatives. If their statements were understood as party politics, they would be partially understandable. Unfortunately, though, they have touted themselves as the patriots who want to protect the nation.

If we truly love the country we live in, then it is vital to live by the liberties and standards of the youth are more liberal (than he is) on social issues," Pitney said.

Nonetheless, campaigners are hoping young people will get active on campuses, organize, and campaign.

"It just takes a phone call to get involved with a campaign and have your voice heard," Ahuja said. "That's what young people need."

When I was in elementary school, we would recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" every day. We studied about George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Paul Revere, and I held a great respect for these key figures in our history. I believed in the beauty of American liberty and freedom. I felt like a first-class patriot.

But recently, for too many people, this is not what defines being patriotic in the United States. Unjustifiable military invasion is "patriotic" and trying to get the country back from an impostor, who happens to be the elected President of the United States, is "patriotic."

Since when did patriotism come to be synonymous with nationalism, militarism, and frankly, a blatant disrespect for one's own nation?

America has been famous for its militaristic dominance abroad, but often, these engagements have been unnecessarily justified by patriotism.

America's recent invasions of countries such as Iraq have been sold to the nation with meaningless phrases such as "protecting American liberties" when in reality these are political and either way wouldn't have an effect on the average American.

Patriotism is a love and support of one's country, not a desire to kill those who disagree with one's values.

But if America stands for liberty, why not liberty abroad?

In the past, America has gone abroad in the pursuit of liberty. Providing foreign aid to struggling nations, aiding in the invasions of genocidal nations such as Nazi Germany, expressing support for popular Arab revolutions and placing down America has supported international freedom without resorting to mass killings.

On the other hand, America's record has been questionable. Many Middle Eastern conflicts, such as the invasion of Iraq, have been embroiled

in economic and regional politics. Furthermore, while major civilian crises took place in Rwanda, Darfur, and South Africa, America was slow to show support, if any.

Support for conflict and a relentless blind devotion to a nation's policies is not a love for one's nation — it's naïveté. Would it not show more love for one's nation to educate oneself and rally to bring soldiers home from bad wars? While a presence abroad is inevitable and important, conflict is not.

President Barack Obama has been subjected to many attacks by those who call themselves patriotic. He has been accused of not being born in this country. He has been called a socialist and a Muslim, two statements that are both false and discriminatory.

But most offensive of all was South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson screaming "You lie!" at the president during his health care speech in 2009.

Americans have the freedom to express their opinions, but it has become tradition to provide the president with the honor the position holds.

I believe patriotism is having the courage to speak one's mind, but crude shouting at a country's elected leader in an official environment is quite the opposite of showing adoration for one's nation.

Many of these controversial statements and actions have come from conservatives. If their statements were understood as party politics, they would be partially understandable. Unfortunately, though, they have touted themselves as the patriots who want to protect the nation.

If we truly love the country we live in, then it is vital to live by the liberties and standards of the youth are more liberal (than he is) on social issues," Pitney said.

Nonetheless, campaigners are hoping young people will get active on campuses, organize, and campaign.

"It just takes a phone call to get involved with a campaign and have your voice heard," Ahuja said. "That's what young people need."



Jewel Devarowood | Mosaic Staff
Language teachers sit in a seminar about effectively using technology in schools at a teaching tool at Stanford University on June 21.

The iPad Generation: Learning through technology

By NAIB MIAN
Mosaic Staff Writer

In a Palo Alto High School classroom, a student draws a Chinese character by following a cursor outlining every stroke and flourish. His tablet screen explains the character's meaning and pronunciation.

Norman Masuda is teaching beginning Chinese on iPads — an innovation that Masuda says, "has transformed the classroom, replaced textbooks, and will save trees."

Many teachers across the Bay Area are incorporating technology into the classroom. While their methods vary and are largely experimental, students are learning faster and extending their education beyond the classroom walls, teachers say.

"This is only the second week of the class, and they're already asking questions, writing and completing listening activities in Chinese," Masuda said.

TEEN TECH | FROM PAGE 1

Before, without iPads, students' progress wasn't nearly as fast.

"The iPad gives instant responses to tell (students) if they are going in the right direction," Masuda said.

layer at a time until the whole thing is done," Lewis said.

Their work generated so much interest that Lewis, who also is a teacher at Discovery Charter School, established a weekly 3D printing class in the fall. The students print out their designs in Riley's garage on Wednesdays nights and weekends.

"It's fun because I have the capability to redesign and rebuild anything," said Riley, while watching his friends jump on a trampoline in his backyard.

During spring break this year, Riley and his friend Nevon Bussler traveled around the Bay Area to promote their work, visiting events like the Maker Faire in San Mateo, where Riley spoke about his program and created products like speakers, chess pieces, jewelry, custom gear, even zip ties using 3D printers.

"The printer takes the CAD design, and it lays down one

Bill Nye: Finding our place in space

By ANDY FANG
and **NASHIRA NOWER**
Mosaic Staff Writers

On June 23, renowned scientists from all over the world gathered at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute's convention in San Jose to raise awareness and answer questions regarding the possibilities and logistics of locating extraterrestrial life forms.



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff
Bill Nye

Bill Nye — an American science educator, television host, mechanical engineer, and scientist better known as "The Science Guy" — is a panelist and a keynote speaker. He serves as the chief executive officer of the Planetary Society, a public organization devoted to astronomy. It is researching the exploration of Mars and the solar system in general, as well as the search for near-Earth objects and also for extraterrestrial life.

Nye spoke with Mosaic about his expectations for his organization and the search for extraterrestrial life.

Q: How did you feel about SETI@Home?

A: (SETI@Home) is cool. These people are visionaries. Understand what's really at stake here: If we were to discover a signal from another world, it would change the world. In my opinion, it's worth investing some of your intellect and treasure into this effort indefinitely, forever, until we find or hear something.

Q: You're the CEO of the Planetary Society. What are your day-to-day responsibilities?

A: We try to engage a community of people who like and believe in space exploration. I engage — by email, generally — the leaders in space businesses around the world. We try to get everybody pushing the same way. Another big thing that's going on right now is that we're going to land on Mars. The Curiosity rover is going to land on Mars on the night of Aug. 5.

Q: So what would you say is the most gratifying part of being involved with the Planetary Society?

A: Well, if we find microbes on Mars, which is really quite reasonable in your life time, there would be many questions. These would be some sort of Martian pond scum.

Q: What do you think we can learn about ourselves if we go to other worlds and maybe encounter other life forms?

A: Well, we find microbes on Mars, which is really quite reasonable in your life time, there would be many questions. These would be some sort of Martian pond scum.

Q: How do you think we can learn about ourselves if we go to other worlds and maybe encounter other life forms?

A: Well, we find microbes on Mars, which is really quite reasonable in your life time, there would be many questions. These would be some sort of Martian pond scum.

BY ANDY FANG AND NASHIRA NOWER | PAGE 19

\$87 to take a test that can qualify them for college credit. According to the College Board, which administers advanced placement tests, taking AP classes can improve study habits, enhance problem-solving ability and, most appealingly, earn students college credit.

Not all students agree. According to Christopher Renteria, the classes "weren't worth it."

Renteria, a junior at California State University, Stanislaus, didn't pass or receive college credit for any of the five AP classes he took at Modesto Christian High School. "Going in, I thought I was well prepared for the AP Biology and AP English tests. I felt confident. I would take all Modesto Junior College courses instead because you at least get guaranteed credit for it."

In 2009, 41.5 percent of students were put in similar positions after receiving letters that informed them they had not passed their AP exams, according to endtheap.org, an organization trying to reduce the pressures the education system puts on students. A student usually has to score a 3 or higher (out of 5) on the exam to receive credit.

Gerson Castro, a world cultures and AP U.S. history teacher at Henry T. Gonserson High School in San Jose, says that taking too many advanced placement classes can become overwhelming.

"I personally wouldn't recommend that many," Castro says, "but if you think there is good" Castro says.

Castro says that taking too many advanced placement classes can have "the opposite effect" and turn teens off from learning.

"It depends on the individual. For me? No, it's not worth it. It's stressful enough being 16 years old," he says.

For others, AP classes were simply worth taking because the classes helped in college preparation. Natalie Stubblefield, an English major at San Jose State University, said that

WONDOLOWSKI | FROM PAGE 1

Yet it is Wondolowski's work on and off the field that has made him the player he is today.

"It's always nice to see the guys who put the work in develop," Busch said.

What differentiates Wondolowski from his peers is his raw passion for the game. When asked what kept him motivated when he lacked playing time, Wondolowski said, "It was really the love of the game. I truly love coming out every day for practice or games."

When a player appreciates the game as much as Wondolowski does, it is only a matter of time before opportunity arrives. It was coach Frank Yallop that gave Wondolowski this chance.

"I credit him for the work he does before and after practice," Yallop said.

Now Yallop is happy how Wondolowski has developed. "It's starting to understand his role other than scoring goals," Yallop said.

"He understands the possession role and knows how to play in every situation." His opportunity came when he was given a spot on the starting line

he took AP classes to develop good study habits and critical thinking skills. Although Stubblefield took eight AP classes, she never gave her college administrators the paperwork they needed to give her credit.

Stubblefield isn't alone in not receiving college credit after earning it. For many students, the colleges they attend do not give them all of the credit they earned from AP classes. Although California State University campuses offer credit for all passed AP tests, that is not common. Among the 34 courses available from the College Board, Stanford University only offers credit for 14 AP courses. Moreover, Stanford limits the number of AP credits its students can receive to 45 quarter units, with each passed AP test equating 4 to 10 units total.

University of California campuses offer credit for AP test scores of 3 or higher, with a maximum of eight quarter units for English, math, music, physics, and a maximum of four quarter units for computer science.

Meghan Murphy, who graduated from Chico High School in May, took AP courses because she liked the challenge. But she also knew it was something colleges looked for.

"When you look into UCs and private (schools) it's absolutely necessary to take AP classes. They want people who look good on paper," Murphy said.

One increasingly popular reason for taking AP classes is the financial benefit of testing out of college courses early.

"It's just to get out of my class as soon as I can. If you don't, you're stuck sitting through it for the rest of the semester," said a student at San Jose State University.

That's how Gunderson High teacher Castro sees it too. "With how expensive it's getting, if you can avoid some of those classes, who's to blame you?"

Girls, teens should be taught early about their value beyond their looks



CORINA MARTINEZ

My 5-year old cousin, Soru, taught me one of the greatest lessons life could give. We were sitting on my bed working on our plans to build a fort later that night when I asked her if she wanted to listen to music.

"Um, yes, just not Katy Perry," Soru replied. "I saw her singing on TV. I mean, doesn't she have bigger dreams than to be named on a cloud?"

She was referring to Perry's music video, "California Girls."

I was so happy when she said this, because before, the all-girls school I attend postponed classes to watch a movie called "Miss Representation," a documentary film on the media's inability to portray women beyond their looks. My cousin in one line what the entire movie said in two hours — that girls absorb what the media gives them like a sponge thirsty for a drop of water, and that they either respond with statements like "My dreams are bigger than that" or "I wish I looked like her."

Even if we decide at age 5 that we are going to dream bigger, some things put you at a disadvantage by just being a girl. I know my sweet cousin is going to grow up and spend twice as much time and money than any man on getting ready in the morning. She'll be doing this rather than her homework or a project at work.

I hope Soru doesn't feel so insecure that she doesn't ask her boss for a pay raise. I hope she doesn't think twice about missing her hand in class because the boy next to her might not think she's cool.

But most of all, I hope she won't fall into other statistics of women in America. I hope she doesn't let a guy take advantage of her and end up becoming a teen

mom. Or make 23 cents less an every dollar her future husband makes. I hope the world shows her she's beautiful the way she is, that she never feels insecure enough to cut herself, that she sees herself as more worthy than what the guys think of her, and that she doesn't put up with relationships in which she's not respected.

Some say America is a front-runner in women's rights compared with other countries. Who could argue with that? But when women make up 51 percent of the population and only 17 percent of Congress, there is something wrong with the way our society views the worth of a woman's ideas. And the media's inability to take seriously any woman candidate for president is shown when they care more about that woman's looks than about her accomplishments or political viewpoints.

"Miss Representation" has gone beyond being a movie about women in the media. The organization started a program where young girls can be a part of their Social Action Team, where they "further the cause of gender equity" by encouraging others in their community to be more critical of the media and not support it as a consumer. Now they are doing a three-day challenge called "Keep It Real," trying to get magazines to use at least one un-Photoshopped image in every issue. Small steps like these can give girls a realistic perception of true womanhood.

I'm sure my little cousin knows that beauty is more than skin deep, but with the average teenager consuming 10 hours and 45 minutes of media a day, it is not certain whether she will always see womanhood that way. What we can do is teach young girls that what they see in the mirror is beautiful, and that their passions and talents are exquisite.



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff
Chris Wondolowski prepares to kick a soccer ball during practice.

In two important demographic areas — Americans between 12 and 24 years of age and Hispanics.

In a poll conducted by ESPN in the spring, Americans between the ages of 12 and 24 voted soccer as their second favorite sport, behind the NFL. And professional soccer ranks as the No. 1 sport among Hispanics.

Additionally, the percentage of Americans over the age of 12 who consider them-

elves "avid" fans of MLS has increased from 24.8 percent in 2000 to an all-time high of 7 percent in 2011.

Wondolowski has taken several steps to encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

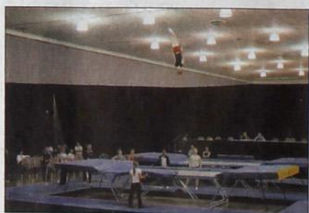
"Something I try to do is help out with the youth anytime I can," Wondolowski said. "I really enjoy coaching and teaching upon the knowledge that I've gained throughout my career."

PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE

PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff
A gymnast with her hoop at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center.



Male gymnasts jump on the trampoline at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center in San Jose.

Margaret Lin
Mosaic Staff

Gymnasts vie for Olympics



Gianna Dimick | Mosaic Staff
Rebecca Bross finetunes her skills on the balance beam before Olympic trials at HP Pavilion in San Jose.



Margaret Lin | Mosaic Staff
A rhythmic gymnast Julia Garbuz warms up at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center.



Jewel Devorwood | Mosaic Staff
Gymnast Alicia Sacramone, who is part of the National Gymnastics team, warms up on the high bars at HP Pavilion during Olympic trials held on June 28 in San Jose.



Ashley Lugo | Mosaic Staff
A male gymnast flips on the trampoline at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center.

While most 15 year olds stress about broken hearts and algebra homework, these young gymnasts worry about broken bones and rigorous practices for the upcoming Olympics in London.

Coaches constantly tell them, "You're not good enough!" and these words ring in their ears until they are standing on a platform with their hearts beating rapidly under a gold medal.

They came to play: Girls join male-dominated sports

By **LEXY A. BROWN**
Mosaic Staff Writer

Forty years ago, on June 23, 1972, Congress passed Title IX. Title IX states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity."

Since then, girls have joined male-dominated sports, often as the only girl on the team. Some were accepted, while others weren't given the respect of their teammates. However, many managed to overcome the problems and succeed.

Patricia Miranda, 33, is now an attorney in Monterey, but in 2004 she won a bronze medal at the Athens Olympics. It was the first time a woman had ever been given a medal for wrestling.

Miranda started wrestling when she was in eighth grade. "I was searching for things that challenged me," said Miranda. "I was reacting to my mother's death. (Wrestling) freaked me out, so I had to."

Miranda wasn't a natural-born wrestler. "I wasn't really good at it." The initial defeats triggered her first short-term goal for wrestling. "My first goal



Courtesy of the Fox family
Elizabeth Fox of San Jose

was to learn how to fight back. I got a real education in how to set attainable goals."

Wrestling in high school was not always an easy task. Miranda said that there was a lot of resistance from the boys around her.

"A girl in a guys sport is always going to be held to a higher standard," she said. "I think it somehow threatened their manhood."

Miranda eventually gained her teammate's acceptance, and was elected wrestling captain her junior and senior years at Saratoga High School.

Initially, Miranda's father did not want his daughter wrestling. A compromise was made between father and daughter that allowed Miranda to wrestle only if she kept good grades.

She attributes her acceptance to Stanford to that deal.

Although the boys at her college were more assured of themselves, Miranda knew that if she wanted her teammate's acceptance, she would have to work harder than them. Miranda would stay after practice to meet her first college goal: "to be good enough that someone would want to wrestle with me."

Sheri Sabado, a 21 year old wrestler for Menlo College, did not have the same struggles Miranda encountered. "At first the coach questioned why I wanted to join," she said. "He was really against it. But he noticed how hard I worked and had a change of heart."

The boys on her team treated her as an equal, she said. "We had a goal. They got used to me being on the team."

Sabado only wrestled boys until her senior year in high school. When her coach started taking her to female wrestling matches, nobody knew her. However, her experience allowed her to thrive. She took first in the California Interscholastic Federation and sixth in state.

Today, athletic girls compete in many sports.

Elizabeth Fox, 10, who's going into

sixth grade at St. Christopher's in San Jose, is the only girl on her baseball team. "It seemed more interesting to me (than softball)," she said.

She has played with Cambrian Little League for two years and plans to keep playing next season.

Coach Gabe Martinez drafted Elizabeth for his team. "I liked what I saw from Lizzy in the try-outs," he said. "I was happy to have her. (Girls) tend to be more mature. Elizabeth was the last to goof around."

Elizabeth never had problems on the team. The boys "just treat me like one of them. They just act normal."

If she continues playing baseball through high school, Martinez fears coaches will tell her to play softball. "I haven't seen girls play beyond 12 years old. I'd like to see it."

For now, Elizabeth will pursue the sports offered to her. "She skateboards, plays basketball, she's a really athletic girl," said her dad, Dennis.

Elizabeth plans on joining her school's football team in the coming year. "(My principal) seemed really nice about it. She seemed like she supported it."

DOUGLAS | FROM PAGE 5

coach she needed to help her achieve her Olympic dream.

At Chow's gym, Douglas has received help from Johnson. "Learning from her was definitely a great experience for me," Douglas said.

On Wednesday, Johnson said she enjoys working with Douglas, whom she describes as "a ball of energy," and has confidence that Douglas will

make the U.S. team.

Because Douglas is the youngest in her family, leaving home has been difficult for everyone. "I almost went into a depression," her mother, Natalie Hawkins told the Los Angeles Times. "Letting her go wasn't easy."

Douglas said that the move was hard for her too, and that at first she "cried and cried" because she missed her three older siblings and her parents. But after a few months the

homesickness wore off.

Even though they are miles away during training, Douglas' family has been instrumental to her success, she said. "They always keep telling me to fight and to never give up and that if we set our minds, we can achieve anything."

The kindness of her hosts, Travis and Missy Parton, has made Douglas feel at home in Iowa. The Partons, whose young daughter trains at

Chow's gym, have become like a second family to Douglas.

At the Partons' home, Douglas takes on the role of big sister to their four young daughters. About Missy Parton, whom she calls her "second mom," Douglas said, "Wow, she can cook. I remember the first night we had these ham balls with ground turkey and ham. I fell in love with that meal!"

Aside from gymnastics, Douglas enjoys reading, shop-

ping, listening to music, playing piano, and going to movies and football games with friends. Douglas is also a huge "Twilight" fan and likes to crochet and knit.

Through her gymnastics, Douglas hopes to encourage others.

"I just want to inspire all those people who gave up and said 'I quit,'" she said. "Never give up. I want to do it for all those who couldn't do it and all those who said they can't do it."