

THE EAST PALO ALTO PROGRESS

August, 1986

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Tenants Evicted Casa Palo Motel to Close

By Carlos Romero

The four remaining low-income families residing at the Casa Palo Motel may soon be out of a place to live. Owner George Buck issued notices on May 27 informing all tenants they would have 30 days to leave the motel.

Buck, who has owned the motel since 1981, has said that the mass evictions are due to his inability to make the necessary health code repairs to the units.

When the notices were first issued, tenants occupied 20 motel units. By June 27 only nine rooms remained rented and within one week four more families had left.

For over seven years, many residents of East Palo Alto's only motel have been renting rooms on a month-to-month basis, their stay making the establishment more akin to an apartment complex than a motel.

The tenants, aided by East Palo Alto councilperson Ruben Abrica and East Palo Alto Community Law Project attorney Francisco Lobaco, organized themselves to fight the evictions.

"What we are asking for is not unreasonable," Abrica said. "We're not asking Buck to keep the place open indefinitely. But we do feel that the tenants should have been given more than thirty days notice."



At issue are two East Palo Alto ordinances: the Rent Stabilization Ordinance, and the Ordinance to Regulate the Withdrawal of Controlled Rental Units Ordinance. Buck and his Attorney, Robert Sturges, feel that neither of the two ordinances affect his motel.

The City maintains that Casa Palo does not fall under the definition of a motel and is therefore not exempt from the Rent Stabilization Ordinance because the term of tenancy for the motel units was greater than 14 days. This is the maximum consecutive rental period for a motel specified by the Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

Lobaco asserted that the nine families in possession of their apartments on June 27 all had cause for suing Buck.

"These tenants have been living in

Circus Comes to Town:

Wherever painted faces, jugglers and clowns are to be seen, children are soon to follow, and the Bell Street Park was no exception on Sunday, July 13, when the "Make-A-Circus" rolled into East Palo Alto for a day of do-it-yourself shenanigans.

sub-standard housing," Lobaco said. "The owner has failed to register his units with the City and is thus illegally collecting rent. He's also trying to evict these tenants with improper notice."

In addition, the City's recently passed ordinance governing the removal of rental housing from the market requires that Buck give his tenants a six-month notice to inform them of his plans to remove the units. Buck and his attorney contend that the Ordinance does not apply to Casa Palo because the 30 day notice he gave to his tenants was distributed before the ordinance went into effect.

The City has countered that any eviction proceeding initiated one month before the law takes effect is considered by the ordinance to be unenforceable. According to the city,

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EPA City Council Beat

Compiled by Tom Auer

May 5

Proclaimed the week of May 18, 1986 as Traffic Safety Week in the City of East Palo Alto.

Resolution passed proclaiming May 14, 1986 as Day of the Teacher in the City of East Palo Alto. **Unanimous (5-0).**

Appointed the following members to various commissions: Rosetter Crockett, Human Services Commission; Barbara Witherspoon, Arts and Culture Commission. Reappointed Ruben Avelar and Faye Knox to the Arts and Culture Commission. **Unanimous (5-0).**

Agreed to hear an appeal of the Planning Commission's issuance of a conditional use permit to the J.C. Torres Corporation on Weeks Street. On appeal, overruled the Planning Commission and withdrew the use permit. (A 'yes' vote is a vote to withdraw the permit.) **Yes (4):** Abrica, Blakey, Bostic, Mouton; **No (1):** Coats.

Approved the Fiscal Year 1986-1987 Budget Hearing Schedule, which calls for special council meetings on May 12th and 27th, and June 3rd, 23rd, and 30th, in addition to regular meetings. **Unanimous (5-0).**

Resolution passed authorizing transfers of unspent appropriations between certain departments for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1985-1986. **Unanimous (5-0).**

May 19

Resolution passed approving application for State grant monies for rehabilitation of the athletic fields at the Civic Center. **Unanimous (4-0, Mouton absent).**

Reappointed Khumba Tendani and Acratic McGill to the Human Services Commission. Declared a vacancy on the Personnel Commission. **Unanimous (4-0, Mouton absent).**

Accepted the design for City logo. **Unanimous (4-0, Mouton absent).**

Resolution passed approving final parcel map for the Ravenswood High School site. **Unanimous (4-0, Mouton absent).**

Resolution passed authorizing the Police Department to request State funds for a community assistance program (school resource officer). **Unanimous (4-0, Mouton absent).**

June 16

A proclamation honored Sister Sandra Ann Silva for her community work while associated with the St. Francis Church.

Proclaimed June 21, 1986 as Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics day in the City of East Palo Alto.

Accepted the first-year status report from the Personnel Commission. **Unanimous (4-0, Abrica absent).**

Resolution passed authorizing the Mayor to accept the Grant Deed for Parcel B of the Ravenswood High

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National Black Women's Health Project

Health Network Targets Black Women

By Jane Maxwell

Black women in the U.S. share with Native American women the dubious distinction of being more prone to life-threatening health problems than any other U.S. born people. For Black U.S. born women, estimates are that 9 to 10 million of them suffer from chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, lupus, obesity, kidney disease, nutritional deficiencies, heart problems, and cancer.

In an effort to focus attention on this, the National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP) was formed in

1981 by Bylye Avery, now its executive director, and a small group of other Black women. The organization has since grown to 45 groups nationally, including a 3-year-old, Oakland-based, Bay Area chapter, the Bay Area Black Women's Health Project (BAWHP).

Since the NBWHP was founded, Avery and her colleagues have found that many people, including health workers and Black women themselves, do not realize that there are serious health problems among Black women, and that the women may be sick, or even dying, without knowing it.

State Budget Cuts To Affect Ravenswood School District

By Carlos Romero

Ravenswood School District will lose tens of thousands of dollars this coming school year due to the budget-cutting hand of Gov. George Deukmejian.

Deukmejian cut \$706 million from the State Legislature's \$37.4 billion budget in late June when he signed the document. Over \$260 million of those cuts came out of educational programs.

"The cuts bode poorly for poorer school districts with hard-to-teach kids," said Paul Holmes, a budget analyst for the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

Of particular interest to Ravenswood were the cuts made in the Urban Impact Aid (UIA) program, which is designed to help supplement school budgets in poorer districts. A total of \$75.4 million was trimmed from this area--the largest single cut in the area of education.

Charlie Mae Knight, Superintendent of the Ravenswood School District, is quite concerned about how the budget cuts will affect the

district.

"We already know that \$37,000 will be lost from our Food Service Surplus Food Program in which the district is allowed to purchase surplus food at a considerably low rate," said Knight.

"We also believe that the bus program and special education will be affected."

The State had previously said that if poorer districts had cost overruns in the area of special education, it would cover the excess spent. According to Knight, however, that will not be the case. Special education includes programs such as learning disability classes, resource rooms, speech and language disability classes.

In addition to the UIA cuts, \$17.5 million for voluntary school desegregation was also slashed from the budget. Ravenswood recently agreed to a voluntary desegregation settlement in which some Ravenswood students would be integrated into five surrounding school districts. Knight

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Pressure Pays Off: Consumer pressure, student activism and the moral outrage voiced by church groups seem to have been behind the recent decisions by Bank of America to impose a blanket ban on future loans to South Africa, and by the Regents of the University of California (UC) to eliminate its entire stock portfolio with companies doing business with South Africa.

Bank of America, the nation's second largest bank, is also the first major U.S. bank to formalize its opposition to apartheid, according to Stop Banking On Apartheid, an Oakland-based group.

The decision surprised many observers since only a few months ago, Bank of America management had vehemently opposed a shareholder resolution calling for the bank to stop making loans to South Africa.

The UC divestment plan, which is to take place over a four-year period, will require stock sales of over \$3.1 billion. The only larger divestment move to date was by the state of New Jersey, which recently voted to sell of more than \$3.5 billion in holdings.

GM Cars Recalled: Eighty-seven thousand cars, including the Chevrolet Cavalier, Oldsmobile Firenza, Buick Skyhawk and Cadillac Cimarron have been recalled by General Motors Corporation for removal of a plastic ornament that could cause an engine fire. The plastic cap, which fits over the air cleaner and is stamped with the words "2.0 Liter Fuel Injection" should be removed and thrown away, according to GM spokespersons.

Repressive Laws Strengthened: Bothe's regime in South Africa imposed a nationwide state of emergency on Thursday, June 12th. Under the new but not unfamiliar regulations leaders, activists, and Africans generally considered unsympathetic to the regime were subjects of massive roundups and detentions. Reports indicated that at least 2000 were arrested. Media freedom was seriously curtailed. These measures were, even for uninformed observers, indications of the desperate actions the South African government was forced to undertake in its attempt to offset demonstrations commemorating the June 16th, 1976 Soweto uprising. Meanwhile, the wanton violence engendered by the apartheid system went on unabated.

New Names For District Schools: Charlie Mae Knight, superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District, told a sparse crowd at a Juneteenth week event that plans are under way to change the names of the schools of the district. She indicated, for instance, that she would like to have Brentwood School renamed after Chicago educator Marva Collins. Knight admitted she still had to convince the Board of Trustees.

The superintendent has been invited to spell out the plan she announced for turning the school

In the News

Compiled by Meda Okelo

district around. In her relaxed, eloquent presentation, which was hosted by Friends of The East Palo Alto Library, Knight elaborated on several plans to improve both the quality of instructional programs and the physical environment. She revealed that several grants by the Raychem Corporation and Hewlett-Packard would be used to remodel the grounds at Brentwood and the Middle School.

Opera Singer Honored: Marian Anderson, the first Black artist to sing at the renowned Metropolitan Opera House, has been selected by President Reagan as one of nine U.S. cultural figures to receive the National Medal of Arts for their contributions to the nation.

Anderson, now 84, is one of the greatest U.S. singers ever. But because of discrimination against Blacks, she was not allowed to sing at the Met until she 1955 when she was 53. Her debut there also opened the doors at other opera houses for the many Black opera singers who have since followed.

The National Medal of Arts was proposed two years ago by President Reagan to give artists the same recognition that has long been accorded scientists.

Anti Apartheid Act: The Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 would bar all new investment, loans, and aid to energy development in South Africa. It would also prohibit lending rights in the U.S. for aircraft and imports of coal, uranium, and steel from South Africa. The bill also provides \$25 million per year for community development programs.

One year following enactment, the bill would require divestment from the computer industry and a ban on exports of computers to the South African government unless Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners

are freed and "good faith negotiations" with the indigenous population begin. **School District To Reduce Personnel:** Ravenswood School District plans to reduce its staff in anticipation of an approximate 25 per cent cut in next year's budget. Willie Richardson, the district's director of federal and state funds, apparently recommended that cuts be made in the Compensatory Education program, a program particularly benefiting students with English as a second language. The reduction is being partly blamed on the Gramm-Rudman Act, a plan that seeks to reduce the federal budget through across-the-board cuts.

U.S. Chamber Of Commerce In South Africa Condemned: The keynote speaker at the East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce's Fifth Annual Installation and Award Banquet, Mr. John Head, strongly condemned the U.S. Chamber's collusion with the apartheid regime. A high-school dropout who succeeded in the business world, Head termed "puny" efforts by some U.S. companies to help Africans with their "inevitable daily transgressions" of racist laws.

The well-attended \$25 dollar-a-plate banquet was held in late May and honored twenty-six students from the Ravenswood City School District for their impressive achievements in the course of the year.

ANC and SWAPO Representatives In East Palo Alto: Three officials of the African National Congress (ANC) and South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) visited East Palo Alto in late May. ANC and SWAPO are the two primary organizations fighting the South African regime in South Africa and Namibia, respectively. Pallo Jordan, a research officer with the ANC, urged the people who crowded the East Palo Alto Council chambers to apply pressure on their government to stop its support of the Bothe

regime.

Bingham Acquitted: Stephen Bingham, the lawyer accused of smuggling a **New Hope For Sickle Cell Victims:** Penicillin can significantly reduce the risk of deadly infections for children suffering from sickle cell anemia, according to experts at the National Institute of Health (NIH). A study by the Institute found that children diagnosed in the early stage of the disease and placed on a regimen of penicillin had an 85 percent reduction in infections.

Clashes In China: Violent clashes were reported in late May between African and Chinese students at Tianjin University. The confrontation reportedly began when 400 Chinese students attacked 40 African students and their guests as the students celebrated African Liberation Day.

Shell Won't Pull Out: Shell (U.K.) chairman Peter Holmes told a recent shareholder's meeting that although Shell Oil knows "evil is being done" in South Africa, the company would not pull out. Meanwhile, new measures have been taken in England against Shell. Britain's Methodist Church will sell about \$2.3 million worth of Shell stock, and consumer boycotts of Shell products were to begin in July.

Fela Released: Nigerian singer Fela Anikulapo Kuti was recently released from prison after serving 18 months of a five-year sentence for allegedly trafficking in foreign currencies. The release followed a judicial inquiry into and confirmation of allegations that Fela had been wrongly convicted. The judge who convicted him has since retired.

pistol to jailed Black activist George Jackson in 1971, was acquitted in late June. Bingham went underground for thirteen years for fear he would not get a fair trial. He finally emerged in 1984 to face accusations that he slipped a 9mm pistol and ammunition into San Quentin resulting in the August 21st, 1971 prison shootout in which Jackson and five others were killed.

SWAPO, ANC Leaders Visit City:

John Yaoto (center), Secretary of Labor for the South West African People's Organization, joins Pallo Jordan (right of Yaoto), Research Officer for the African National Congress, in a discussion of South African politics with guests at a June 27th reception at City Hall.



Your Legal Rights

This is one in a series of articles by Eric Cohen, a law student working at the EPA Community Law Project.

Do you have a friend who is being physically or mentally abused, threatened, or harassed? If so, tell your friend that he or she can do something about the situation, and that there are both legal and non-legal ways of dealing with it.

Legal Options

An order prohibiting domestic violence or harassment is a paper signed by a judge forbidding the abuser from hessing your friend. This is often called a restraining order and can tell the abuser not to get within 100 yards of your friend's house, not to assault or threaten your friend, or to contact your friend by telephone. Your friend can get one of these orders against anyone, including a family member, who has harmed or threatened him or her.

The abuser can get arrested for violating the order. Merely having the order can also scare the batterer from hassling your friend again.

To get one of these orders, call the East Palo Alto Community Law

Project (853-1600), Legal Aid (365-8411), or San Mateo County Women's Shelter (342-0850). Your friend may need just a restraining order. If your friend is married to the abuser a divorce may be in order. If they are not married but have a child together, a paternity lawsuit ordering the abuser to pay child support and setting up a visitation schedule may be in order. The people at these programs can help you decide what is best.

Before trying to get an order your friend should work out exactly how to explain what happened. The more clear and detailed your friend's story, the better chance a judge will grant the order. Practice by telling a friend what happened, and get any witnesses to help.

Once in court, your friend must follow all the instructions provided and keep copies of all papers. Sometimes it helps for him or her to have someone else come and help to figure everything out.

Non-legal options

A successful way to stop abuse is

for your friend to move where the abuser does not know how to reach him or her. One should move, change addresses and phone numbers, and stay away from places the abuser frequents. For those who cannot move or change jobs easily, a restraining order may be useful. One may be able to move to a friend's or to the Women's Shelter (342-0850).

If your friend and the abuser are involved in a family or love relationship, speaking with a church leader or counselor about the problems may help.

Another alternative for abused women is to join a support group like the one at Family Services in East Palo Alto (324-0520). The group consists of women and a counselor who meet once a week to talk about violence in their respective households.

The group's goal is to give victims a chance to meet and speak with others in the same position. After talking with each other, the women begin to see it is not their fault they are being abused, and that they do not deserve the constant criticism their husbands or boyfriends give them. The group provides the women with a

chance to learn about regaining their self-respect and taking more control of their lives. In the past, women from this and other groups in the Bay Area have worked to help other victims.

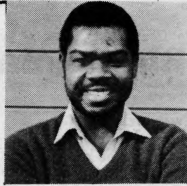
Family Services also has a support group for men who have been violent toward women. The goal of this group is to get the men to talk openly with other group members, and teach each other how to recognize stress and deal with it in a non-violent manner. By talking with each other, one man sees a characteristic in another which he doesn't like and calls him on it. After a while the same man sees that characteristic in himself and this helps him deal with the problem better in the future.

Individual counseling sessions with women, men, couples, and children involved in household violence are also offered at Family Service. (A focus of the counseling is the negative effects family violence has on children.)

Although changes will not happen overnight, these types of groups have been very successful in the past and are positive alternatives to the suffering caused by abuse.

Ron's Corner

By Ron Drake



She was beautiful. Her skin and her hair were so white they hurt my eyes. She wore a dress that flowed around her like white water. Her small feet were bare and the dirt from the street seemed never to touch them.

Here was where I met her; here on a street where nothing that beautiful seemed possible. We met at what I thought was just the right time. My new job hadn't started yet; the job I always wanted. I paid a lot of dues to get that job and now they were going to pay me a pile of money for something I love to do.

I was walking down the street thinking how lucky I was. Guys I grew up with looked like they'd been left naked in the desert for a year. Their faces were dry and their eyes looked like pieces of fresh, raw bacon. They didn't know how to deal with the man. I did. They didn't know how to deal with reality...I did. Now, I was face-to-face with a dream.

"I know you," she said.

"Everybody around here knows me."

I stood under the street light as she walked around me. She looked me up and down. Her hips swayed like...

"I'm a woman who knows what she likes, and I like you."

I was flattered. I'm usually suspicious when a woman is that forward with me. That kind of interest has always cost me money. This time was no different but, somehow, I didn't mind. I had a chance with this girl. She was special. That made me special.

"A woman like you don't play for fun. What's the deal?"

"Throw down, baby."

"I got a hundred."

"For you?...more than enough. More than enough."

"Can we go somewhere?"

"We can start here."

She tiptoed on those pretty little toes and kissed me lightly on the lips. I couldn't taste her but she was delicious. I couldn't feel anything but I knew she was soft. I didn't know anything but I knew I had to have her. We started to walk together.

"What's your name?"

"You can call me Quechua," she said.

"Quechua?"

I know Spanish well enough to know that her name meant something unusual, exotic and...

She stopped me, faced me squarely and kissed me on the nose.

My heart skipped a beat.

I forgot what I was thinking. I was in love. I told her so.

"So you are in love with me," she laughed. "Your kind always is."

We walked along the street. Her arm was entwined with mine and I'd never felt better. I saw my friends--not nearly as lucky as I--watch us as we passed. Their faces were envious. They were longing for the merest touch. But I knew I couldn't take her home to mother. I couldn't show her off to my



brother. I couldn't flaunt her in my wife's face. Letting my son see me with her certainly wouldn't do. They wouldn't understand. It was between her and me.

We had walked about half a block when I asked her to kiss me again.

"...you sure?"

"Very sure."

She put her arms around me and kissed me again.

It wasn't enough. I had to have more.

"Come on, now," she said as she pushed me away.

I tried again.

"Please."

I grabbed her by the arms and tried to kiss her again.

"Is...is this what you really want?" she asked.

"Yes."

"Then your Quechua will give it."

She embraced me again and kissed me.

My heart skipped a beat...

My heart skipped a beat...

My heart skipped a beat...

My heart skipped a ...

My heart skipped a ...

My heart ...

My heart ...

Quechua?

Her arms held tighter and tighter. I couldn't breathe. My heart...

Quechua?

Tighter...

My heart ...

My...

My...

Quechua?

Quechua? Unusual...Exotic...(Dangerous)...

Tighter...

COCA?

"Yes," she said, "my name is Cocaine. La Quechua. You wanted me. You have me. Ya me tienes, vato!"

My heart skipped a beat...

My heart skipped a beat...

My heart skipped...

My heart...

skipped...

THE...

beat...

I can hear you. I know you're there. I tell myself that this is a joke or a dream and that I could reach up and touch your face anytime I wanted to. I want to. I really want to. But something has gone terribly wrong. My heart. This isn't supposed to happen to me. Not me...this isn't supposed to happen...

(I just killed your friend. He loved me. I could kill you, if you want me. My name is Len. My name is Don. My name is Sarah. My name...I have so many names now. Juan. Esmeralda. Komali. Komala. Will my name be yours? My name is Quechua. I have so many names. Snow...Blow... Girl...Crack... My name is Cocaine. My name is Death. Will my name be yours?)

Birthwatch

Compiled by Lon Otterby

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|--|--|
| <p>May 6, 1986
A daughter to Antonio Martinez and Guadalupe Garcia.
A son to Pulei Taufalele.</p> <p>May 7, 1986
A son to Arquilla Ann and Doral Miller</p> <p>May 8, 1986
A daughter to Antonia Sosa</p> <p>May 9, 1986
A son to Jose Garcia and Maria Garcia Santana</p> <p>May 10, 1986
A daughter to Bobbie Andrews
A daughter to Keletiola and Tim Benisini</p> <p>May 11, 1986
A daughter to Erma Rodriguez</p> <p>May 12, 1986
A son to Hbilly Lynn and William Duckett
A son to Nancy and Carlos Aguilar</p> <p>May 13, 1986
A son to LaDonna Oldena</p> <p>May 14, 1986
A daughter to Deborah Holloway and Patrick Prior
A son to Todd Lewis and Dannett Frank</p> <p>May 15, 1986
A son to Loaise Saena
A son to Ana Maria Martinez</p> <p>May 18, 1986
A son to Christina Calloway</p> <p>May 19, 1986
A son to Inga Ryan
A daughter to Conna Seawell and Chuck Butler</p> <p>May 20, 1986
A daughter to Guadalupe and Rosario Aguilar</p> | <p>May 21, 1986
A daughter to Noah Wilbert and Thelma Marshall
A son to Jose Luis Vasques and Maria Elena Zamora
A son to Shelly and Shawn Mullen</p> <p>May 26, 1986
A son to Yoshiko and Charles Reeves</p> <p>May 28, 1986
A son to Edward Zarazza and Natividad Valencia</p> <p>May 30, 1986
A son to David Hodges and Linda J. Evans</p> <p>May 31, 1986
A daughter to Joseph J. Smiley and Broquet L. Wiley
A daughter to Tracy Malone
A son to Olivia Cazares</p> <p>June 5, 1986
A daughter to Booker Robinson and L'Tanya Lewis</p> <p>June 6, 1986
A son to Kris and Richard Bruner</p> <p>June 7, 1986
A daughter to Ymelda Villalobos</p> <p>June 9, 1986
A daughter to Araceli and Pablo Valencia</p> <p>June 10, 1986
A daughter to Paula Lamb
A daughter to Edison Allen and Sheila Reese</p> <p>June 12, 1986
A son to Hermes B. Mejia and Dejon Campanella</p> <p>June 13, 1986
A daughter to Michael Tatum and Barbara Simpson</p> <p>June 15, 1986
A daughter to Todd Kelly and Ada Bell</p> |
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Evictions

Continued from Page 1
Buck's eviction notices were issued within that time period and are thus void.

Lobaco, Abrica, and EPA City Attorney Tesfaye Tsadik began negotiations with Buck and his attorney to settle the matter in early July. The main issues involved in working out a settlement are an extension of the 30-day Casa Palo Motel notice and a provision for tenant relocation benefits.

After several settlement attempts, a tentative agreement was reached in which the remaining four tenants and one former tenant who had vacated on the day the settlement negotiations began, were each offered one thousand dollars in relocation costs and 30 days to vacate the motel. The City is also considering dropping

its attempt to collect the fees and penalties Buck owes the City if Buck can arrive at a reasonable and fair settlement with the tenants.

Less than two years ago, a majority of the 38 units in the motel were rented to low-income Latino or Asian families who lived in one-room apartments with as many as eight family members per room.

Over the last six months, Buck had slowly refused to renew leases and had not rented out vacant units. More recently, he refused to receive rent payments made to him by some of the present tenants.

Buck has been trying to get out of the housing business and close the motel down completely ever since his earlier attempts to sell the land to a mini-storage development group were thwarted by the City's Planning Commission which refused to rezone the area for light industrial use.

Oakes' Acorns

By Carmaleit Oakes



The other day, as I sat through a graduation program, a flood of joy overwhelmed me. As each candidate walked proudly forward, his or her step quickened to receive the coveted diploma. I shared their achievement as I thought, "Yes, we've come a long way."

I began to reminisce as I thought, Lest We Forget! As I tried to put my thoughts in perspective, many of them were negative. I could not blot out the consuming reason why -- the consuming legacy of slavery.

Picture the young Civil Rights workers who interrupted their college careers to join the Freedom Marches in the 1960s. They were so young and not unlike today's youngsters in Soweto. Some did not re-enter college. Perhaps they were too old. Perhaps they were disillusioned. Perhaps they paid the supreme price. But for whatever reason, may each June graduate remember, no matter what job he or she finds -- from custodian, to legislative member, to corporate manager -- all of us who are employed are the beneficiaries of these sacrificing Sisters and Brothers. Lest We Forget!

Education can move us out of the depths of poverty and into the mainstream of society. Today you can make a pretty accurate guess on the basis of the color of one's skin what kind of jobs and education are available to them, and where they can live.

A child needs a stable family and a stable neighborhood. Parents are a child's first teachers. With good communication, a parent can teach a child manners, ethics, how to read and think straight, how to cope with life, and how to face adulthood. One spends much more of life as an adult than as a child.

How a child turns out depends a great deal on the foundation that was laid in the formative years. Hence, strong neighborhoods, good schools, and a well-maintained library are important ingredients. Books can be obtained free of charge at your local library. Introduce your children to the wonderful world of books and do so before they enter school. When they are grown up they will thank you for it.

What part does the school play in this scenario? Teachers have an awesome responsibility. They can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. They can humiliate or honor, hurt or heal. Their personal approach creates the climate in the classroom. It's the teacher's daily mood that makes the weather. They have the power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. Lest We Forget!

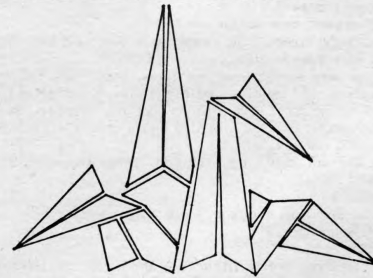
Hiroshima Day Activities Planned

A day-long series of activities will take place on August 6 to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The Coalition for Congressional Dialogue, a group of 26 local organizations, will urge for a Comprehensive Test Ban as the most reasonable solution to the problem of the arms race and the best way to fulfill the promise inscribed on the Memorial in Hiroshima: "Rest Ye In Peace, For This Shall Not Be Repeated."

The day's events will focus on the signing of petitions by local citizens. A noontime rally in Lytton Plaza (University and Emerson, Palo

Alto) will feature a speech by David Bernstein, Consultant at the Center for International Security and Arms Control. In a press conference to follow, community leaders will formally begin the signing of the petition.

At an evening service beginning at 7:30, Dr. Craig Schindler of Project Victory and Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing, will speak. Singer-composer Linda Arnold and the Stanford Summer Choir will provide music, followed by a march with the whole audience to the Palo Alto City Hall, where Rev. Penelope Duckworth will officiate and Linda Arnold will lead the vigilants in singing.



Peace Symbol: The folded-paper crane has become a popular symbol of peace and disarmament, after the story of a young girl who survived the Hiroshima bombing but later died of radiation sickness, before she could reach her

goal of making 1,000 of the origami creations. A garland made of hundreds of these cranes, made by Japanese peace activists and sent to the Mid-Peninsula Peace Center, will be on display in Palo Alto on Aug. 6.

CALENDAR MOAI

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAYS★BRAZIL

1	VOZ DO SAMBA	Voz do Samba returns from a tour of Europe for another evening of non-stop dancing. Catch them while they are in town! \$5.
8	VIVA BRASIL	PEÑA MOAI welcomes the Bay Area pioneers of contemporary Brazilian music! This 4-person group has traveled internationally, has recorded 3 albums, and promises an evening of music that will keep your feet dancing all night long. \$5.
15	CHALO EDUARDO & BRASILIAN BEAT	Featuring Claudia Gomez on vocals. Brazilian Beat brings us samba, batucada and other Brazilian rhythms, with lots of drums and, of course, plenty of dancing. \$5.
22	VIVA BRASIL	See August 8.
29	CHALO EDUARDO & BRASILIAN	See August 15.

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as to provide education for 100 children	as to build 500,000 new homes	as to equip 50,000 village pharmacies

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Discrimination Problems?
contact

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The East Palo Alto Progress

A non-profit monthly community newspaper serving East Palo Alto, California. Persons interested in contributing articles, photography, or poetry may do so by submitting them to

The East Palo Alto Progress.
P.O. Box 51203
East Palo Alto, CA 94303

Editor This Issue: Carlos Romero
Staff: Elena Becks, Michael Blake, Ron Drake, Glenda Jones, Jane Maxwell, Barbara Mouton, Carmaleit Oakes, Meda Okelo, Carlos Romero, Lucy Sargent

Contributors: Tom Auer, Michael Blake, Eric Cohen, Jacqueline Jackson, Carmaleit Oakes, Meda Okelo, Lon Otterby,

Health Network

Continued from Page 1

instance, if she cannot pay her rent, she won't be able to afford nutritious food, and if she is ill and cannot work, her childcare services may be cut off.

For Black women, this is compounded by the fact that they earn only 56 cents for each dollar a man earns in the U.S. White women do a little better -- they earn 60 cents.

A general distrust of the medical system, Wards says, by all Black women, regardless of economic status, means that fewer of them than white women make use of the early detection tests available today. Fewer of

them do breast self-exams, and fewer get regular Pap smears, a test that can detect cancer of the cervix very early when it is still treatable. Consequently, more Black women die unnecessarily from these types of cancer because they don't get treatment early enough.

Even for women who do seek out medical care, the National B-W-P finds that doctors and other health workers are only able to deal with the symptoms of a physical illness and not the stress of the environment in which Black women struggle.

The B-W-P's goals are to provide enough information and program activities that work toward self-esteem and empowerment to help Black women make lifestyle changes that will offset

diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, heart disease and other stress-related illnesses.

"It is essential that we pull our health off the back burner," founder Bylye Avery has said. "We must realize that we can have control over our lifestyle and its effects on us. Every Black woman must begin to take charge and care of her health."

The B-W-P hopes to see other women's self-help health groups form, such as one for Native Americans, and that they will all eventually share information.

For more information about both the National and Bay Area Black Women's Health Project contact them at 477 - 15th St., Oakland, CA 94612; phone: 834-7897.

Crossword Answers

H	U	L	E	5	O	R	Y	C	12	R	A	O	B		
8	T	I	C	3	A	L	A	N	A	17	O	L	E		
13	N	E	H	14	N	D	I	N	8	18	I	D	G	E	
15	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	D	25	C	E	A	N		
21	E	N	16	C	H										
23	L	A	19	E	R	20	A	T	H	10	11	17			
1	A	V	E	2	A	T	H	E	3	A	V	E			
7	N	E	4	I	S	5	H	6	I	7	R	E			
11	A	R	12	O	S	I	E	13	I	R	N				
14	D	I	S	15	O	R	T	S	16	B	I	C	T	S	
18	R	A	S	19	B	E	R	S	20	F	R	E			
21	V	O	I	C	E	22	W	T	H	E	C	H	O	I	R
23	A	B	L	E	24	O	I	E	S	25	L	L	A		
26	L	E	E	R	27	A	R	I	E	S	28	W	A	L	T

Alcohol Abuse High Among Nation's Blacks

By Jacqueline Jackson

If absolutely pressed, each of us could think of someone we knew who maybe drinks a little too much, gets a little out of hand when drinking, or at most has an occasional "problem" with alcohol. But how many of us are aware of the extent of alcohol use and abuse in the Black community?

An estimated 10-12 percent of the nation's population are alcoholics. For Black people that estimate is 14-16 percent. Conservatively, there are four to five million Black alcohol abusers who spend about \$11-12 billion each year on alcohol.

Black people consume one-fifth of all scotch sold in the U.S., two-fifths of all gin, and one-eighth of all cognac. In fact, Blacks consume one third of all alcohol sold in this country yet make only one sixth of the income earned.

Alcohol abuse and alcoholism are not the leading causes of death after heart disease and cancer, but they are the leading health problems in the Black community. In addition to being implicated in deaths from cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, strokes, hypertension, and heart disease, alcohol abuse is a major factor in family violence, increasing crime, and the growing rate of deaths among Blacks. Alcohol abuse is also a major contributing factor in 80 percent of the homicides, 60 percent of the accidents, and 65-70 percent of intentional suicides occurring among Black families.

Historically, alcohol abuse and alcoholism, especially by Blacks, have been considered, especially by Blacks, to exist only among the "lower classes". The fact is that less than three percent of alcoholics are "skid row bums", and an even lower percent of "skid row bums" are Black.

When we think of Black alcoholics, we think of brothers and sisters standing on the corners, passing around a bottle. In reality the greatest increase in alcohol abuse among adults is in working women under the age of 35 who are divorced or separated. There has also been a ten percent increase in alcohol abuse among the elderly and an 18 percent increase among teens.

Alcohol abuse and alcoholism are seriously threatening the health of the Black community. It is not only depleting us of our resources but robbing us of our future. To stem this loss, we must learn more about alcohol abuse and alcoholism, and launch aggressive prevention efforts.

In future issues of **The Progress** we will continue to explore substance abuse among Blacks.

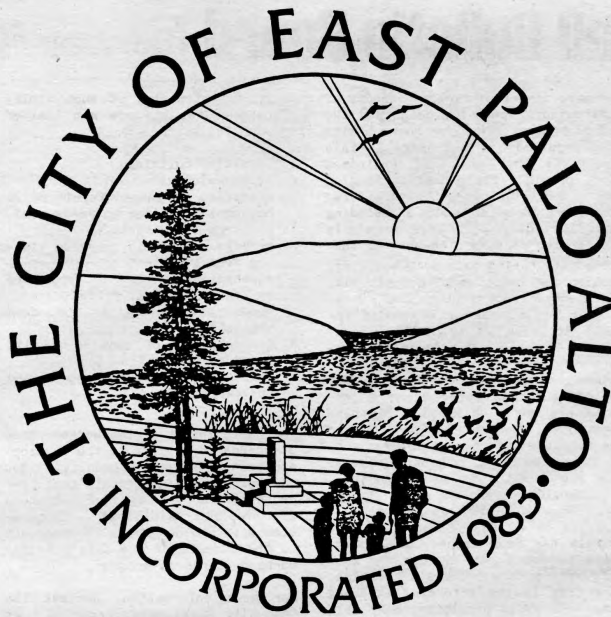
State Budget Cuts

Continued from Page 1

noted that the implementation of the Tinsley settlement would not start until Fall of 1987 and thus is not affected by these cuts.

"They (the California Department of Education) have made it crystal clear they will provide funds for Tinsley so long as there is money available", said Knight. "We certainly hope to get reimbursed for some of the expenses involved with Tinsley's implementation in 1987, but we cannot count on that with any degree of certainty."

There is, however, a glimmer of hope for recouping some of the money cut from the district. If the Legislature passes a separate bill involving a surplus in the state employees' retirement fund, \$168 million dollars could be restored to educational programs. Should this happen, only the cuts to the UIA program would be restored.



New City Emblem: The new logo for the City of East Palo Alto, which was unanimously adopted by the Council on July 2.

On the Lighter Side The California Driving and Baseball Institute

By Michael Blake

July 12 was not an easy day for me to be a Giants fan.

It may not be obvious why. In this miracle year, the Lads were still tied for first place. The sun was shining, and there was a home game at the 'Stick. There was a classic matchup between the Giants' Mike Krukow and the Pirates' Rick Rhoden, two pitchers who would be teammates just 3 days later in the All-Star Game. What could be wrong? I'll tell you-- I couldn't attend, because I had to go to traffic school.

It all started on April Fool's Day, when a Menlo Park cop stopped me for doing a California Rolling Stop through a stop sign in his fair city. Any minute, I thought, he'd pat me on the back and say April Fool! and congratulate me for so well executing that classic driving maneuver. I was wrong -- he gave me a ticket. The only consolation came when he told me I could go to traffic school and wipe out any record of the ticket.

It seemed like a good idea at the time. Sometime in the next 60 days, I could trade the \$42 bail for a \$12 court fee and eight hours of my life. What I didn't realize was that I also had to pay \$20 to the private company that ran the school, and also that 60 days can creep up on you pretty fast. I applied for an extension when my time ran out, and they gave me 7 more days. One Saturday was left. I would have to miss the Giants and the Pirates.

Or would I? Could I be in two

places at once? Slowly a plan began to form. I discovered that the headphone jack in my Walkperson stereo could be replaced with one of those skinny yellow earphones, and that I could thread the earphone



through the hole in my pocket to the receiver. The other end went up my shirt to the back of my right ear, and if I sat on the right side of the class, how could anyone notice? This was real James Bond stuff. And surely it would be better than the class.

What I hadn't banked on was that the class would be pretty interesting. The instructor was a retired CHP patrolman with a library of war stories to tell, as well as some interesting videotapes to show. He knew we all resented being there, so understood he would have to put on a performance. He promised we'd get to see actual footage of a horrible motorcycle wreck in which the driver escaped unscathed because of his helmet, and another movie in which real people volunteered to intentionally drive cars into trees, walls, and other cars with only the protection of a seat belt. He also said that we wouldn't be forced to see the blood-and-guts morality movies they used to make us watch (remember 'Red Asphalt?'); those films went out of vogue about 10 years ago.

In general, he delivered the goods as promised. It was a pretty painless

City Council

Continued from Page 1

School site. **Unanimous** (4-0, Abrica absent).

July 2

Resolution passed setting refuse collection and disposal service charges at \$82.08 per parcel for Fiscal Year 1986-1987. **Unanimous** (5-0).

Ordinance passed declaring intent to amend regulations on moving and removal of building and structures. The amended regulation, which must be passed by the Planning Commission, would allow three options for owners to insure completion of the projects: a bond of twice the amount required for completion, a deposit of the same amount, or a contract causing transfer of deed to the City in the event the structure is not completed. Allowable completion time would be increased from 90 days to one year. **Yes** (3): Abrica, Bostic, Coats; **No** (2): Blakey, Mouton.

Approved black-and-white City logos instead of color, due to cost considerations. **Unanimous** (5-0).

8 hours, and the instructor even received a round of applause at the end.

But what of the Giants? I went on with my plan, and for the next few hours, my spirit drifted impetuously between Candlestick Park and a classroom at Menlo College. Often it was hard to figure what was happening at which location. Robby Thompson hit the first triple of his major-league career in the first inning, but was stranded, just as we began to discuss what to do when you're stranded on the roadside.

Later, Thompson hit the second triple of his career. While Jack Palance came on the video machine to tell us that a lot of motorcycle helmets are useless, Jeffrey Leonard struck out trying to score Thompson, and he flung his useless batting helmet to the ground. There was a big chain-reaction accident with the aforementioned volunteer drivers wearing only seat belts, right when the Giants turned in a 6-4-3 double play on the Pirates. I was getting woozy.

When Chili Davis scored Thompson from third and the Giants were safely in the lead, I began to think I should pay more attention to the class. The instructor was talking about local authorities and their Jewish Diction, and that made me pull out my earphone. What kind of racist was running our class, and how the heck do Jews talk differently from any of us anyhow? He repeated what he'd just said, and I realized the word was 'jurisdiction'. Maybe I should let the Giants take care of themselves.

Still and all, I couldn't resist putting in the old earphone for a scoring update. We were watching a video on drunken driving, a wrenchingly sad story of a teenager who, on "Just Another Friday Night," took the lives of eight of his friends by mixing a six-pack of Bud and a Toyota HiLux. The film was pretty gripping, but I thought I'd just have a quick check on the game. Ninth inning, two out. Short fly to Leonard. The ball game is over, and the Giants win, 3 to 1. The drunk-driver kid faces the judge for sentencing.

Just then it all came together for me. I thought of 19,549 happy, beer-soaked fans filling out of the stadium and putting their cars on the Bayshore Freeway to go celebrate somewhere. Maybe it wasn't such a bad time to be in a classroom at Menlo College.



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1986-87 BUDGET APPROVED

On June 30, the City Council approved Resolution No. 316, adopting the City Budget for fiscal year 1986-87 in the amount of \$5,671,273. The budget breakdown is as follows:

Operating Expenditures	\$ 4,861,273
Reserves	60,000
Capital Improvements Prog.	750,000
TOTAL	\$5,671,273

The approved budget reflects a fund balance of approximately \$1.3 million, revenues of about \$4.9 million, and budgeted use of the fund balance in the amount of \$3.8 million, leaving a projected fund balance of just over \$5.5 million at the end of the fiscal year. Although the total budget represents a decrease from the previous year, the operating budget is increased and it is the Capital Improvements Program that accounts for the overall reduction. Three major activities are included in the CIP at this time, two at the Civic Center, and City Manager Howell indicated that additional projects can be included during the fiscal year as funding is secured. He said that it is Council Policy to not include "soft" or grant monies in the budget without reasonable assurance that the funds are available. He also pointed out the effects of federal legislation and the liability insurance problem in his budget letter. Additionally, he noted that "...important decisions must be made and actions taken..." to make certain that the City remains in relatively good financial condition. Mr. Howell concluded by expressing his expectation "... that the City Council will direct and the Community will support efforts that bring our City closer to the realization of sustained independence.

SECRET WITNESS PROGRAM LAUNCHED

The City Council recently approved a Secret Witness Program in which individuals can receive up to \$200 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons dumping illegally or destroying City property. In recent months, the City has experienced an increase in the amount of illegal dumping on both public and private properties. Also, incidents of damage to City property have been noted. City property is YOUR property; you pay for its acquisition and maintenance. If you allow it to be destroyed or damaged, your maintenance costs increase and you lose other valuable services. You can help to make and keep our City beautiful by reporting illegal and destructive behaviors. It is not necessary to give your name. Simply call 853-3100 for details of this program. Do your part for our City. It could be worth up to \$200.

EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE

The East Palo Alto Library has exhibit space available for community artists, photographers, and crafts-persons.

For further information, please phone Shirley Mack, East Palo Alto Librarian, at 321-7712.

SECOND ANNUAL CITY AND CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT SET

The second Annual City of East Palo Alto and Chamber of Commerce Celebrity Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Sunday, September 14th, 1986 at the Lew F. Galbraith Golf Course in Oakland, California. Over 100 players are expected and according to Community Services Director Hoover, "this year's tournament will be bigger and better than 1st year's."

More information on the tournament will be available in the next issue of CityConnection.

BUILDING PERMIT PENALTIES

In the past issues of CityConnection

we have described various aspects of the building permit process and the types of work for which such permits are required. The message in this issue is that the City Ordinance Code provides for penalties ranging up to ten (10) times the permit fee for work done without a building permit. City staff are carefully monitoring construction work in the community during this peak building, season and "stop work" notices will be issued for unauthorized work. The major purpose of a penalty for this activity is to PROTECT occupants, owners, and prospective buyers of property in our City. Sometimes, owners pay contractors for building permit fees, but the permits are never obtained. In these instances, the maximum penalty can be applied. If you are using a contractor for work on your property and you do not see a permit posted, you should contact the Community Development Department of Building Inspection at 853-3100 to see if a permit has been issued. Remember, this is not a new law but one that has been on the books all the time; the City is now enforcing existing law. To avoid penalties, make certain that all construction work at your property is covered by the required building, plumbing, or electrical permits.

NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS BEING ENFORCED

On March 17, 1986, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 275 concerning Policy Guidelines for Neighborhood Standards. The Council also directed staff to provide an education and warning period of at least 90 days before vigorous enforcement of the Guidelines. Any person who does not comply with the Neighborhood Standards is now subject to the City's Citation System and a possible fine. What are the Neighborhood Standards? Generally, they involve the maintenance of private property in a manner that does not violate the City's planning or building codes, that is not detrimental to the public health, safety, or general welfare, or that is not a public

nuisance. Examples of such violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- o unpainted buildings
- o broken windows
- o discarded or unused furniture or household fixtures in yards visible from the street.
- o garbage and debris in yards visible from the street
- o clotheslines in front yards and on fences in front yards.
- o weeds and overgrowth or dead vegetation;
- o property out of conformity with adjacent properties; and
- o inoperable vehicles in yards and driveways.

The basic intent of the Neighborhood Standards is to improve the physical appearance of our Community. You can help by making certain that your property and that of your neighbors are properly maintained. Cooperation with you neighbors is important to the success of the City's Neighborhood Standards program.

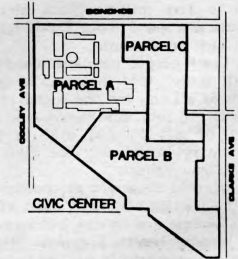
For more information, contact the Community Development Department at 853-3100.

GARBAGE RATES UNCHANGED FOR 1986-87

On July 7, 1986, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 00318, confirming service charges for garbage collection in the City of East Palo Alto for Fiscal Year 1986-87. This charge of \$6.84 per month (\$82.08 per year) is the same rate charged in Fiscal Year 1985-86. According to City Manager Howell, "this is a major example of how City staff have worked under Council direction and through other agencies to maintain services for local residents without an increase in cost. Our Public Works Director, Jesse Smith, III, is largely responsible for this and all of our citizens need to be made aware of his tremendous contribution as the City's representative on the South Bay Transfer Station Authority."

CITY ACQUIRES 1ST PART OF CIVIC CENTER

Mayor Mouton announced the recent acquisition of Parcel "B" at the Civic Center, formerly the Ravenswood High School Site. This important purchase marks another significant step in the multiple-step process for eventual ownership and control of the total site. Parcel "B", shown in the accompanying diagram, contains approximately 11.24 acres which are dedicated to outdoor recreational and open space uses. This is consistent with the City's General Plan, terms of the Acquisition Agreement approved by the Sequoia Union High School District and the City, and the provisions of Community Development Block Grant funding used by the City to purchase this property. The purchase price for Parcel "B" was one million dollar.



TEEN CLUBS

The Teen Clubs are for teenage boys and girls in Junior High and High School. Teen members participate in the development, planning and scheduling of activities that include dances, field trips and fundraisers.

Teens meet weekly with Adult Advisor to discuss a variety of interests and for academic counseling and personal self-development.

- Original Teen Club - meets every Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- Polynesian Teen Club - meets every Monday at 6:00 p.m.

CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO MEETING SCHEDULE

	Meeting	Time	Location
City Council	1st and 3rd Monday of every month	7:30	Council Chambers 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto
Redevelopment Agency	1st & 3rd Monday of every month	5:45	Council Chambers 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto
Planning Commission	2nd & 4th Monday of every month	7:30	Council Chambers 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto
Parks & Recreation Commission	2nd Tuesday of every month	7:30	Council Chambers 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto
Public Safety Commission	3rd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of every month	7:00	Council Chamber, 2415 University Avenue East Palo Alto
Arts & Culture Commission	2nd Monday of every month	7:30	Conference Room 2B 2nd Floor, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto
Human Services Commission	1st Tuesday of every month	7:30	Conference Room 2B 2nd Floor, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto
Economic Development Task Force	1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month		Conference Room 2B 2nd Floor, 2415 University East Palo Alto
Rent Stabilization Board	1st and 3rd Thursday of every month	7:00	Council Chambers 2415 University Avenue East Palo Alto
Personnel Commission	2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month	6:30	Conference Room 2A, 2nd Floor, 2415 University Avenue, East Palo Alto.

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South Africa is among the top seven food exporters in the world. Every year it exports more than a billion dollars worth of beef, grain, vegetables and fruit.

Yet every day 136 black children die from hunger.

The problem is not a lack of food but a lack of justice. It is *apartheid*—South Africa's system of racial domination—that keeps the black majority hungry.

- Blacks are 70% of the population but can own land in just 13% of the country.
- Blacks can own no more than 4 acres of land, while white farms average 3,000 acres.
- Black workers earn as little as \$30 per month, and unemployment is over 25 percent.
- Blacks are denied basic rights such as voting and deciding where to live.

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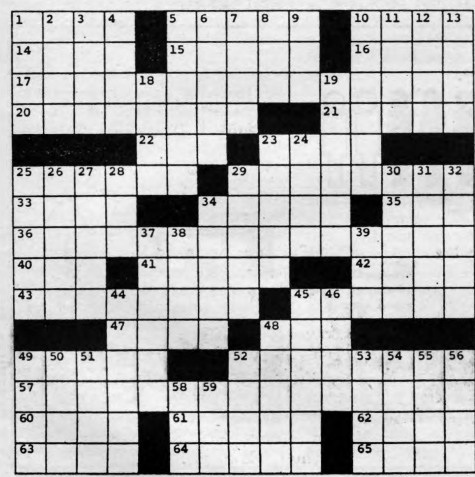
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Crossword Puzzle

By Michael Blake



- ACROSS**
- Stubborn beast
 - Acid used as eyewash
 - Trim the edge, as of a photo
 - Of the ear
 - 'Dale, one of Robin Hood's Merry Men
 - Objective for 10 Down
 - EAST (4 wds.)
 - Turned to (for help)
 - Sea
 - Bo Derek film
 - Updike hero
 - Kind of piano
 - Portable tub for baby
 - Terrific critical review
 - Wood-shaping machine
 - With 'Merica', it means 'hail'
 - PALO (4 wds.)
 - Unit of corn
 - Famed riveter
 - Iron Obs.
 - Twists (e.g. the meaning)
 - Decreases
 - Regrets
 - Initials of gratitude (esp. with 'F' for Friday)
 - Gumbo need: pl.
 - Sweat
 - ALTO (4 wds.)
 - Competent
 - Livers: Fr.
 - Fitzgerald
 - Ogle
 - First sign of Zodiac
 - Disney
- DOWN**
- Othello was one _____ Reader ("the Leftist's Readers' Digest")
 - Falsehoods
 - Canyon repetition
 - Tease mildly back and forth
 - Days when knights were bold
 - Brand of pesticide
 - Motel
 - Taxi
 - Golfer Rodriguez
 - Drove a motorcycle
 - Korbut
 - Type of hammer head
 - Johnson of 'Laugh-in'
 - Boulders: Fr.
 - Have a wash
 - Before cal or opia
 - Used a crowbar
 - Veranda
 - Declares
 - Yearning
 - Foundation
 - Of the nostril
 - Chris Lloyd's maiden name
 - Adolescents
 - Leans, as a ship
 - Ill-tempered game bird?
 - Traditional belief
 - Skater Babylonian
 - Air-raid bullet
 - Exit, to P.T. Barnum
 - Type of jockey
 - Giggling sound
 - Elliptical
 - Japan's beef capital
 - Enrage
 - After the first Part: abbr.
 - "I'm bushed!"
 - Hardy Boys' girlfriend Morton
 - Small brook
 - Part of G.E.D.
 - "_____ body catch a body, coming..."
 - Neither's mate

The U.S. and Central America — Crisis in Health

(Reprinted from *CHIRICA NEWS* by permission from the Committee for Health Rights in Central America.)

Health care in Central America is facing problems and challenges that have escalated in recent years, worsening already poor conditions in some countries and creating setbacks for hard-won gains realized in others. At the same time, community hospitals and clinics in the United States are scrambling to adapt to decreasing government support. The numbers of poor and homeless continue to grow while the military budget increases.

Comparing and contrasting health care in Central America and the U.S., and examining United States policies in both regions bring into focus some of our government's priorities in allocation of resources, and raises questions of racism, sexism, and imperialism. The picture that emerges in a "Guns or Butter" analogy is one of a gluttonous military, one that clearly takes the upper hand in a modified "Guns or Good Health" comparison.

In the United States

Although Americans in the U.S. are healthier and living longer than before, they are paying steeply for it, and health indices for the poor and for ethnic minorities continue to be far lower than for the rest of the population. More than 30 million Americans lack any kind of medical insurance, according to David Hiliker, M.D., author of "Healing the Wounds: A Physician Looks at His Work."

Although infant mortality fell to an estimated 10.6 deaths per 1,000 births in 1984, the rate of decline appears to have slowed. Japan and six countries in Europe have infant mortality rates below 9 per 1,000. (New York Times, February 2, 1985.) Black infants in the U.S. are almost twice as likely to die in the first year as white infants.

In the poorest neighborhoods in New York City, infant mortality stands at an appalling 22 deaths per 1,000 births -- more than twice the national average. According to Donna O'Hare, M.D., and Richard Schwarz, M.D., co-chairs of the health-professional advisers of the New York March of Dimes board, at least \$30 million is needed to provide low-income women in New York state with access to quality prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum care.

The federal Task Force on Black and Minority Health estimated in January, 1984 that more than 60,000 deaths could be avoided each year if mortality rates for Blacks and members of other minority groups were as low as the rates for non-Hispanic whites. A recent report by the Office of Technology Assessment, a research arm of Congress, concluded that American Indians continue to be sicker and die younger than other Americans. (New York Times, May 4, 1986.)

From 1980-82, the mortality rate of Indians in areas served by the Indian Health Service was 1.4 times that of the figure for all United States citizens, the report said, and 37% of all Indian deaths occurred in those under 45 years of age. Indians continue to die of pneumonia and influenza at twice the rate of other Americans, and the death rate from cirrhosis of the liver was 4.2 times higher than the country's general rate. According to Suzan Shown Harjo, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians, these problems have been exacerbated by Reagan Administration budget cuts and will be exacerbated even more by the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing law.

Directly related to poor health statistics are numbers for the poor, hungry, and homeless in the U.S. Though the rate of poverty remained virtually constant for 11 years

(increasing from 12.5% in 1969 to 12.9% in 1980), it shot upward to 15% by Ronald Reagan's third year in office (1983). Unemployment grew from 7.6 million in 1980 to 10.7 million in 1983, according to Ronald Takaki, professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

The Physicians Task Force on Hunger in America recently reported that "hunger in America is a national health epidemic." (New York Times, April 20, 1986.) The group noted that as the need for food assistance has increased, the use of food stamps, the government's major nutrition program, has declined. A local study by Oakland's Community Action Agency found that "close to 90% of female heads of households with children in Oakland are living in poverty and receive AFDC assistance."

Women and children make up a disproportionate share of the poor. According to Ruth Sidel, professor of sociology at Hunter College, two out of three poor adults are women; one out of five children and one out of four preschool children live below the poverty line. Again, the statistics are more devastating for nonwhites and for female-headed households. "The United States is virtually alone among the industrialized nations (and many developing nations as well) in not having a just and coherent family policy," Professor Sidel reported.

"The U.S. today may be the first society in history where children are much worse off than adults," Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-New York) said in an interview with the New York Times (October 20, 1985). About 13.8 million Americans under the age of 18 live in poverty. Though the poverty rate for children has grown since 1969, the value of payments from the main welfare program Aid to Families with Dependent Children has fallen by one-third. "If welfare payments had just kept up with inflation," said Wendell E. Primus, staff economist for the House Ways and Means Committee, "we'd be spending \$6 billion to \$7 billion more per year." (New York Times, October 20, 1985.)

In a speech at Stanford University in April, 1985, Marion Wright Edelman, director of the Children's Defense Fund, quoted a study that estimates poverty-induced malnutrition, infection, and other problems cause the death of about 11,000 children every year in the United States. "Over a five-year period, that means that more children die from poverty in this country than the total toll of our armed forces during the whole of the Vietnam War."

Edelman pointed out that the U.S. planned to build weapons in this decade at an estimated cost of \$71 billion, when merely half of the proposed defense spending increase for 1986 alone could lift every poor child in the U.S. out of poverty for one year.

Homelessness in the U.S. is also on the rise. According to many articles and studies, the current number of homeless is anywhere from a low of 250,000-350,000 to 2 million or 3 million or more. Homelessness is increasing at anywhere from 10% to 38% per year. (Los Angeles Times, July 18, 1985.) In San Francisco, there are an estimated 4,000 to 10,000 homeless. Of those in shelters, 48.3% are veterans, though veterans constitute only 11% of San Francisco's population.

In Central America

Throughout all of Central America, poverty and malnutrition burden the population with poor health and high infant mortality rates, and rural and indigenous peoples are hit hardest of all.

In El Salvador, the infant mortality is 81.7 live births per 1,000, and life expectancy is a mere 45 years, according to the Pan American Health Organization (1983). The rural population is largely deprived of health care due to military repression and the fact that 77% of doctors work in the three main cities.

The United States is providing approximately \$1.5 million per day in aid to El Salvador, the main factor that keeps the Salvadoran government afloat in face of a \$2 billion foreign debt. At least 23.3% of the Salvadoran budget in 1984 went to the military, while 8.7% was allocated to health, reported the Official Daily of El Salvador. In addition, the U.S. maintains approximately 1,000 "non-military" advisers in El Salvador; the number of military advisers is limited by Congress. Operation Phoenix, a brutal purge of the Salvadoran countryside conducted recently by the armed forces, cost nearly \$60 million.

Though Guatemala may be the richest Central American country because of its natural resources and relatively developed economy, 80% of its people live in poverty, the large majority of them indigenous Guatemalans. Little health care is available, and most of the clinics operating in the highlands have been shut down because of government-sponsored violence. The United Nations ranked Guatemala 27th out of 30 countries in the American continents for poor life expectancy.

The leading causes of death in Guatemala are enteritis, influenza, or pneumonia, and death by homicide. Twenty-five percent of all men die from violent causes. Though a new government was elected in Guatemala in 1985, repression of anyone espousing social change remains intense. A health educator who was to give a speaking tour in the U.S. in March of this year disappeared shortly before her scheduled departure.

Though impressive gains were made in health care in Nicaragua in the first five years following the 1979 revolution, the U.S.-backed contra war has taken a heavy toll. Immunization and malaria abatement programs have been curtailed due to contra attacks, hospitals and clinics have been destroyed, and health workers killed. Because of U.S. interference with international loans, the U.S. economic embargo, and attacks by the contras, Nicaragua suffered an estimated \$1 billion in losses since 1982, and has been forced to shift most of its national budget to defense, decreasing the amount available for health programs.

The contra war has already cost U.S. taxpayers nearly \$1 billion, some of it spent illegally, and has "thrown the region into chaos," according to Rep. David Bonior, D-Michigan. (San Francisco Examiner, April 6, 1986.) The Reagan Administration is currently asking Congress for another \$100 million in military aid to the contras.

In the Meantime...

While poverty, hunger, and homelessness are rising, and funds for health care are being cut back, the

U.S. Government spends billions on military programs in Central America and elsewhere. According to the War Resisters League, 64% of the U.S. federal budget for 1986 (excluding Trust Funds such as Social Security) was allocated for current and past military spending.

Examples of mismanagement and questionable priorities in the federal government abound. A recent audit of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) found large-scale waste totaling more than \$3.5 billion. In 1985, the Reagan Administration spent nearly \$437 million in tax revenues on public relations for executive branch programs. The Administration is now proposing to increase the budget for military bands to \$154.2 million (while decreasing the budget for the entire National Endowment for the Arts to \$144.2 million).

The argument that money is better spent on non-military programs can be made in many ways. For instance, the figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Structures of the U.S. Economy in 1980 and 1985," show that \$1 billion spent on the military creates 75,710 jobs. The same amount spent on health care creates 138,939 jobs, and if spent on education it creates 187,299 jobs in the U.S. -- a country containing over 60 million functionally illiterate adults, according to Jonathan Kozol, author of "Illiterate America."

In his annual chart of "Guns vs. Butter," Seymour Melman, professor of industrial engineering at Columbia University, had these comparisons to make (New York Times, April 22, 1985):

- 460 meals for the homeless in Grand Central Terminal equals \$439, or one 155-mm. (conventional) high-explosive shell;
- Proposed 1986 cuts in funds for veterans' medical care and housing equal \$336 million, or 220 Phoenix air-to-air missiles;
- Proposed 1986 cut in Medicare services equals \$4 billion, the cost of proposed low-altitude antistellite weapons;
- Proposed 1986 cut in AIDS research and control activities equals \$10 million, or 5 air-launched cruise missiles;
- The amount needed to abate the growth of hunger (a one-third increase in funding for the Federal school-lunch program, food-stamp program, and Women, Infants, and Children program) is \$3.5 billion, the amount spent on the Army's single-channel ground and airborne radio system.

As we call for an end to U.S. military programs in Central America and improved health care there, the same should be urged for the disadvantaged in the U.S. Strengthened priorities for health care must be promoted in the U.S. Congress and public, and the human cost of current budget policies brought to light.

As Professor Edelman wryly asked in last year's Stanford University talk, "How many four-pound babies will it take to balance the federal budget?"

