

THE EAST PALO ALTO PROGRESS

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Police Chief Wants Community Based Force

By Jane Maxwell

Being first at something is nothing new to Tecumseh "Danny" Nelson. He was the first Black command officer on the Richmond police force and now, as this City's first police chief, he's made history again.

"I'm very proud to be the first police chief in East Palo Alto," Nelson said during a recent interview with the Progress.

Nelson's new position has been called the most controversial in the City, but that doesn't trouble him.

"I've been in the hot seat before," he said. "And I don't see anything here I haven't had to deal with before in Richmond."

Nelson's number one priority is hiring a police force, and he is looking for people from the community to train.

"I'd like to have Blacks, women, Hispanics and whites to get the right mix," he said. "But that won't be an easy task. When you're dealing with police applications, you have to have a great number to get a few. If I test 100 people, for instance, and I come up with a list of 15 that I can send to

Underground Phone, Power Lines on Bay Road

Digging began on November 26 on Bay Road from University to Newbridge for the installation of underground phone and power lines. This will be the first step taken in a major construction effort aimed at improving Bay Road. Plans call for a resurfaced roadway, sidewalks on both sides, bike lanes, and rounded-off corners to help motorists turn from side streets where visibility is now poor.

The original plans for Bay Road improvements called for extra auto lanes, but when residents voiced concern over increased traffic, the City Planning Commission decided on the present plan. Most of the improvements are to be paid for out of county funds, but the street-to-house hookup of the underground phone and power lines will be paid for by each homeowner along the route.

R. Flatland Company, the contractor doing the underground work, has passed out flyers to area residents, warning that some driveways along Bay Road will be temporarily closed during the digging. Steve Siegman of Flatland said that they will try to keep the nuisance to a minimum.

"We can make arrangements with people so they can get into their driveways when they come home from work," said Siegman, who added that in the afternoons temporary ramps can be placed once they find out at what time people need their driveways. For more information on the digging schedule, call the Flatland office at 348-5000.

Ethiopian Crisis Is "News," But Not New

By Julie Marquis

At a time of year when many Americans are accustomed to feast and fete, news of widespread famine in Ethiopia comes as a barrage of tragic images and information.

Since the story "broke" in an NBC/BBC broadcast in October, we have been told, quite abruptly, that 7 million Ethiopians are on the brink of starvation, that 900,000 will perish by the end of this year, and that thousands travel up to 50 miles from their homes to relief stations where assis-



Newly hired police chief, Tecumseh Nelson, expects the transition to be relatively smooth, though he's pessimistic that the changeover can occur by July 1.

He met recently with Sheriff Brendan McGuire who indicated he would be as helpful as he could.

The Council Beat Council Introduces City Department Heads

By Jane Maxwell

During its last few meetings, the East Palo Alto City Council adopted a variety of measures ranging from the introduction of the new City department managers and the City's first Police Chief, to the environmental impact of the Dumbarton Bridge connection, and the use of dogs by the Sheriff's department.

On November 5, the council introduced the City's new management staff to the community: James E. White, assistant city manager; Jirane Kovattana, clerical services manager; Robert S. Hoover, community services director; and Don Provost, community development director. The question most frequently asked of the new managers by community members regarded place of residence. Only one manager, Hoover, said he lives in East Palo Alto. Kovattana resides nearby in Menlo Park, but the other two managers plan to commute from their homes in Oakland.

The pride in Mayor Mouton's voice was obvious when she introduced the City's first Police Chief, Tecumseh "Danny" Nelson, to the community. Nelson was chosen after weeks of interviews and screening, during which Sergeant Sarita Ladet of the Menlo Park Police Department, and Sergeant Hugh Johnson of the Redwood City Police Department were also considered for the City's most controversial post.

"I'll have an open-door policy," Nelson told the citizens present. "If you have a problem, give me a call.

tance often proves to be too little and too late. We have seen pictures of children starved to less than half their normal weight, and of mothers struggling to keep them alive.

A three-year drought and civil war waged between separatist groups and the Ethiopian government generally are considered to be responsible for the crisis. Yet neither situation is new to the region. Ten years ago, drought claimed the lives of 250,000 Ethiopians, and the civil war has been going on

I'm accessible."

University Avenue Connection

The council heard a report from Ken Jones, project manager of Construction Control Services, an Oakland-based firm the City hired to study the environmental impact of the newly opened University Avenue connection to the Dumbarton Bridge.

Using what he called a "grab sample" technique, Jones reported that after taking readings from eight different locations throughout the City, he found no substantial changes in air quality. He did find an increase in noise level, though, especially during the early morning commute hours, but not enough to warrant the construction of a noise wall.

Lieutenant Wells of the San Mateo County sheriff's department told the council that his department is giving out double and triple the usual number of speeding tickets along University Avenue, especially during the morning commute. The lieutenant also said that until all official truck route signs are in place in the City, his department is unable to give tickets to trucks driving on streets that are off-limits to them.

"The sheriff's department expects the trucks to be cooperative when the signs are in place," said Wells. "Tremendous fines are levied on truck owners if they are ever cited."

After hearing Lieutenant Wells' report, as well as citizen complaints of speeding traffic and of cars using residential side streets as shortcuts to get through the City, the council decided to accept the findings of Jones'

for 23 years. Though the crisis is unprecedented in its dimensions and has caught the camera's eye only recently, the problems at its origins are longstanding, according to those familiar with the region.

David Klein, an American freelance journalist who was in Ethiopia 14 months ago, said that what he saw there was the results of chronic conditions of chronic starvation.

"I didn't see campfuls of starving

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"But there is a problem with two jurisdictions trying to police the same district," Nelson said. "Different philosophies will make for different approaches."

Take Nelson's philosophy on dogs, for instance. The Sheriff's department continues to use them, but Nelson doesn't plan to.

"I'm totally against dogs for general police work," he said.

Nelson has been quoted as saying he sees the City "in a state of siege." He said he called it that because he heard from other people and perceived for himself that there was a lot of crime here.

"I look at the statistics, and for a community of 18,000, the burglary rates are high," he said. "And I saw lots of bars on windows when I drove around. You don't have to be a law enforcement type to notice that."

He added that he saw it as no different from any other inner city.

"This is no different, and the statistics are no different, from Richmond, Oakland or Berkeley," he said.

Community involvement is very high on Nelson's list of priorities. He strongly believes that small police

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report. The report also recommended ways for the City to regulate the flow of commuter traffic. These ranged from synchronizing traffic lights, to creating one-way streets. However, before moving on these recommendations, the council plans to study the problem and develop a system of traffic control that will best meet both citizen and commuter needs.

A unanimous decision gave priority for the use of the council chambers to appointed City commissions first, followed by East Palo Alto community groups, and then outside groups.

Use of Dogs

The council also considered the sheriff's department's use of dogs and decided (with Wilks absent) that because the item was so controversial, to let it stay as compromised. This means that from now on, police cars will have bars on the windows so that the dogs won't frighten citizens so easily. The council agreed with the plan because the City's own police force would be in place next year and would not be using dogs.

"It's a good faith effort on the part of the sheriff's department to compromise," said councilmember Satterwhite.

That same evening, the council voted 4-0 (with Wilks absent) to purchase a new photocopying machine for the City's administrative staff use.

Dirt Hauling

Persuaded by community members who complained to them about holes in the road and spillage caused by dirt hauling trucks, the council unanimously adopted the Earth Hauling Ordinance. From now on, the use of City streets by dirt hauling trucks is regulated. A written permit must be obtained in advance by truck owners from the Director of Public Works, and owners will have to pay for any damage their vehicles cause to City streets.

Also approved, with Satterwhite abstaining, was a resolution to retain the law firm of Stuckey and Johnson, City Attorney to the City.

The council was unanimous in its decision to limit to one the number of

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Editorial

Vote NO On A

Why should you make a point of voting against Measure A on the January 8th ballot? Why should you as a tenant, homeowner or landlord work together to defeat Measure A? Why should everyone expend every effort in getting to the polls? The Reagan Administration is gearing up for another 4 years. People here and all over the country are going to need as much power and control as they can exert. Reagan and his supporters are like junkies squeezing the last good measure from a dime-bag of dope—the dime-bag, in this case, being the pocketbooks of the poor and working people. This is the issue in defeating Measure A.

The Democrats were unwilling to present a clear alternative to the Reagan Administration. They, in many cases, tried to out-Reagan Reagan. They lost the high ground set by Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow Coalition at a time when poverty is tugging at the sleeves of people who, just a few years ago, thought the "good life" would never end. The rise in the rate of the poverty-stricken and the homeless has risen dramatically, especially

among women and children. The sick and the disabled are being hounded—some to the point of suicide—by a Reagan Administration determined to wrest their benefits and livelihood from them. The need to build a clear, organized alternative is more critical each day. East Palo Alto is an important expression of that alternative.

Measure A is a direct attack on the law voted for overwhelmingly by East Palo Altans in a special election. Special elections are expensive. The supporters of Measure A have the money and the will to take this issue to the ballot as many times as it takes. They have been voted down on this issue and on incorporation. They are bound and determined to dictate to the people of East Palo Alto. The landlords and other supporters don't live here, by and large. The statement in support of the initiative says: "... we believe that you, the citizen and voter, will choose freedom over government regulation and ... price controls on property." Like the Reagan Administration, they brandish the term "freedom" like a sword and place the rights of property over the rights of people. This special election is costing

the city more than \$20,000. That's \$20,000 the city could be using to help the people who are sleeping in cars and barely eating. The rights of money and large property interests are the only rights they feel compelled to respect.

Make a point of voting. People in other cities where the landlords are fighting to take the right of citizens to determine their own destinies have sent a message. The message is NO! East Palo Alto must also send a message. The people who are homeless are waiting for our message. East Palo Alto's own people wait for the message. Will East Palo Alto's pocket be picked or will the people have their say?

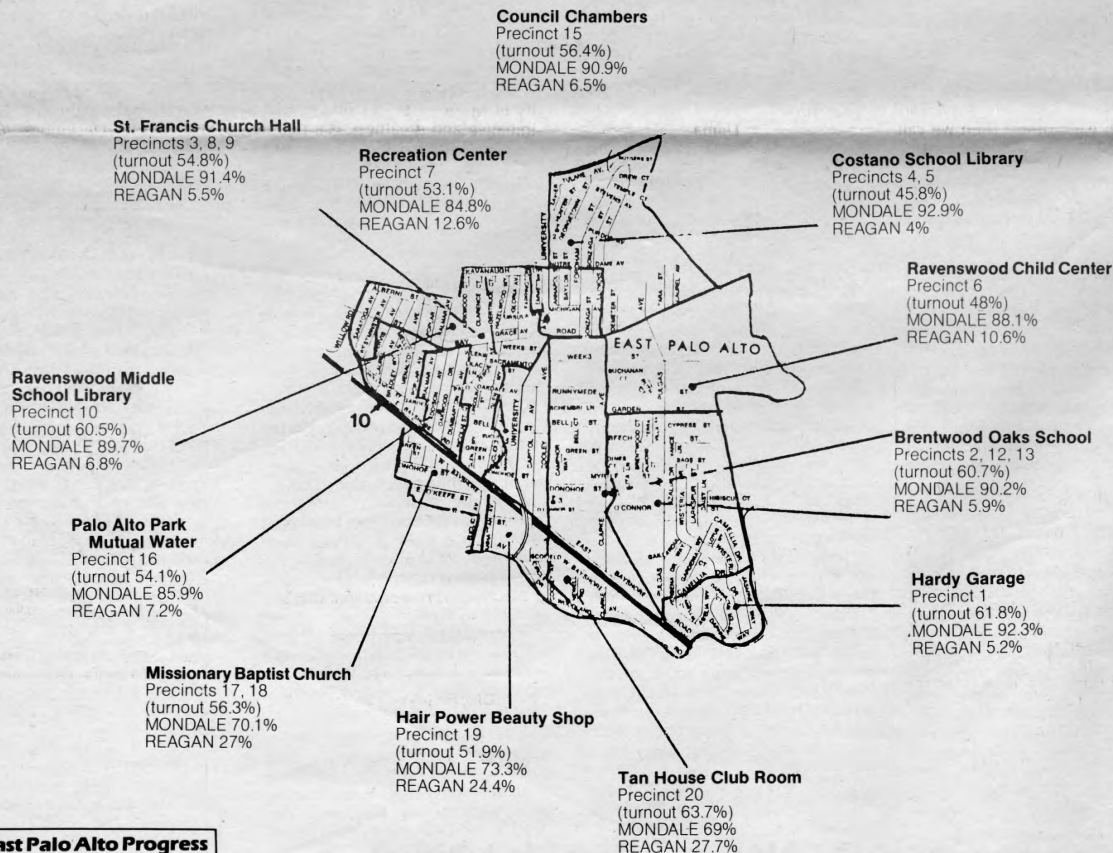
The Absentee Landlords say that their ability to make windfall profits are a right that is being violated. But, there is a more important, more basic right: the human right. No property—no inanimate object—can deny a human being the right to shelter and sustenance. That is the issue in this election. That is the issue in the nation. That is one of the major issues in the world today.

East Palo Alto expressed its desire for that alternative in the June primary and the November election. It voted for Mondale/Ferraro after having overwhelmingly picked Jesse Jackson in the primary. East Palo Alto helped defeat the anti-welfare initiative. East Palo Alto voted in favor of retaining bilingual balloting. East Palo Altans must vote against Measure A.

In argument for Measure A (called the Property Owner's Civil Rights Initiative), Edrik Haggans says this: "The ... initiative is a statement of a cherished American principle: the right to buy, sell, lease, transfer and exchange real property free of oppressive laws, regulations, and controls."

Haggans statement is deceptive. By including sales, transfer and exchange in his argument, attention is diverted from the real issue. The rent control ordinance under which the rent control board functions does not now or ever will set the price at which property may be bought, sold, transferred, assessed or exchanged. These rights are not at stake! It addresses only the issue of rents, and in some cases leases.

In EPA, Reagan's Landslide Rolled the Other Way



The East Palo Alto Progress

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A look at the Nov. 6 Presidential vote at East Palo Alto's 13 voting places shows that local residents were far from ready to give the President a mandate to continue with his policies. East Palo Altans cast nearly 6,000 ballots, giving Reagan only 12.9% of the vote. Mondale was the choice of 83.8% of the voters. In the neighborhoods east of Bayshore, the difference was even more dramatic, with voters in some places favoring Mondale by an 18 to 1 margin.

Kwanzaa: A Celebration of African-American People

By Keith Archuleta

One way of dealing with a society that at best ignores our history, values, and culture and at worst murders our children, assassinates our leaders, and allows our people to bear the burden of unemployment, military service, poverty, and imprisonment—one way of dealing with such a society is to develop and promote Black institutions that support Black values, culture, history, spiritual orientation and world-view.

As the Kwanzaa holiday approaches, a discussion of Kwanzaa is appropriate in the context of understanding the role Black values play in institution and community building.

Kwanzaa is an indigenous African-American creation and is the only nationally celebrated non-heroic African-American holiday in the U.S. It is not a continental African holiday, but rather it is an African-American holiday which by its very definition reflects the dual character of the identity and experience of the African-American people.

Kwanzaa is a time for the gathering in of our people, celebration of ourselves and our achievements and re-dedication to greater achievements and fuller, more meaningful lives. Moreover, the collective values and spirit which pervade the Kwanzaa holiday have their historical and cultural roots in Africa.

The holiday, celebrated December 26-January 1 each year, is reflective of our need as a people for a cultural revolution which introduces and establishes principles and behavior to alter our fundamental values and relations with each other. Then we can move from competition to cooperation and from negative individualism to collective planning and practice

which insure our liberation and a higher level of human life.

Kwanzaa is not an imitation, but an alternative. It is not a Black Christmas, and therefore, is not a time for expensive gift-giving. Kwanzaa has definite principles, practices and symbols which are geared to the social and spiritual needs of Black people in the U.S. Its reinforcing gestures or rituals honor our past, critically evaluate our present and commit ourselves to a productive future.

The above core principles of Kwanzaa are the Nguzo Sava (The Seven Principles) which Karenga developed and proposed during the Black Cultural Revolution in the sixties as a necessary minimum set of principles by which Black people must live in order to begin to rescue and reconstruct our history and lives.

Umoja

The first principle is Umoja (unity), which is a commitment to the principle and practice of togetherness and collective action on crucial levels such as building and maintaining unity in the family, community, nation, and race.

Kujichagulia

The second principle is Kujichagulia (self-determination), which is a commitment to defining, defending, and developing ourselves instead of being defined, defended, and developed by others. Self-determination is the essence of freedom, for freedom is the right and capacity to act in our own interests according to our own definition of them. We are our own liberators.

Ujima

The third principle is Ujima (collective work and responsibility), which is a commitment to active and informed

togetherness on matters of common interest. Without collective work and struggle, progress is impossible and liberation unthinkable. Being Black is not just an identity, it is also a destiny and a responsibility. Ujima means that we accept the fact that we are collectively responsible for our failures and setbacks as well as our victories and achievements. Such a commitment implies and encourages a capacity for self-criticism and self-correction which is indispensable to our strength, defense and development as a people (notice I said criticism, not pessimism).

Ujamaa

The fourth principle is Ujamaa (cooperative economics), which is essentially a commitment to cooperative living and shared wealth and resources. It grows out of the fundamental African communal concept that the social wealth belongs to the masses of people who created it and that no one should have such an unequal amount of wealth that it gives him/her the capacity to impose unequal, exploitative and oppressive relations on others. This value is a refreshing principle and practice which can begin to alter negative attitudes and behavior acquired from a context, a society in which money is the measure of all things and little thought is given to the rights and needs of the masses of people.

Nia

Nia (purpose) is the fifth principle, which is a commitment to the collective vocation of building, defending and developing our national community in order to regain our historical initiative and greatness as a people. Personal purpose that translates itself into a vocation which involves and benefits the collective whole gives

fullness and meaning to a person's life in a way that individualistic and isolated pursuits can't. Positive and proactive purpose has its most definitive roots in a positive, proactive and clearly-defined identity, or self-knowledge.

Kuumba

The sixth principal, Kuumba (creativity), is a commitment to building rather than destroying. It is the commitment to do as much as we can, in our own way, to leave our community more beautiful, effective and beneficial than we inherited it. The principle of creativity involves both aesthetic and material production, writing poems as well as raising cities, developing new forms of art and music as well as developing new medicines and new ways to win an old war for liberation and a higher plain of human life.

Imani

The seventh principle is Imani (faith), which is essentially a profound belief in and commitment to ourselves as persons and as a people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle. Inherent in the principle of Imani is the call for a humanistic faith, an earth-oriented, people-centered faith in the tradition of the best African philosophies and values.

A point worth noting is that Kwanzaa, by its very purpose and principles, requires the full, active participation of children. The principles are especially for them, for they are the future. However, we would all do well to learn and teach each other these principles.

Perhaps one new year's resolution we can make right now is that this year, during December 26 through January 1, we can all say:

"Kwanzaa yenu iwe na heri!" (Happy Kwanzaa!).

Christmas—What It All Means

By Carmeleit Oakes

Living the holiday virtues of Christmastime should be our goal year-round. We each feel in our hearts at this time of year a sense of inner peace and gladness. Peace, love, joy, the innocence of children, and general good will get top billing at Christmas. But what about the rest of the year? What the world needs is a constant, year-round commitment to cooperation for the good of ourselves and all others.

At Christmas we usually think of the past in the preparation of the present, so that our good deeds may live in the future. For service is the price we pay for the space we occupy on this planet. To give a service, we must give selflessly, for it is more blessed to give than receive.

We have seen the faces of hunger, despair, and the homeless on T.V. We pause and think, "there, but for the grace of God, go I." The pain of everyday living is not necessarily caused by individual action but rather the irrationalities of the larger social system.

We have empathy with the drought-ridden African countries; our African heritage demands it.

When do you really feel the most human? Is it when you unexpectedly receive a spontaneous gift? I mean a real gift—when somebody gives you something simply because he or she likes you. It might be the homemade art a child gives her parents, or a home-baked treat given to a friend, or a necessary chore for someone who is housebound. Such gifts can be offered daily, thereby extending Christmas cheer—love—into every day of the year. The influence you exert is through your own life and what you have become yourself.

Truly joyful people are always open to experience—yes, open to all the inevitable heartaches and illnesses and family traumas. Yet they are the ones who face life positively, proud of their longevity and of the experience and wisdom they have accumulated. I salute the senior citizens of our community. Their self-esteem comes from knowing they are much-loved children of God. Some seniors never once consider they are 'old.' We never grow old emotionally. We all want to be loved. Our bodies change, but our emotional needs do not. As one senior said the other day, "I've just lived longer than most people!"

And so we honor the spirit of Christmas. We honor it now. And we intend to honor it the other 364 days of the year. To us, that's what it all means.

*Somehow
not only for Christmas
But all the year through
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.
—John Greenleaf Whittier*


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Police Chief

Continued from page 1

departments need the assistance of the community.

"When I have hired a commander, one of his or her first charges will be to formulate training for paraprofessionals," he said. "I would certainly appeal to any good citizen in this community who is concerned about crime to get involved in this. I believe in civilian input into police departments, and I would like to form a reserve corps."

Nelson also plans to start a program where citizens will ride along with police officers at night to get a feel for what's going on.

"This is one of the barometers of how a community feels about its police department," Nelson said. "We need that participation."

Another priority for Nelson is dealing with the "perceived" narcotic problem in the community. As he has worked extensively in the East Bay, where drug problems are rampant, Nelson is not perturbed by the situation in East Palo Alto.

"I'm not that ready to say that it's insurmountable," he said.

Nelson strongly believes, though, that citizen participation is the key to effective law enforcement.

"One fallacy about law enforcement is that police prevent crime," he said. "Police can deter some, but people themselves do it. Crime prevention programs are one way. It's neighbor looking out for neighbor, not neighbor telling on neighbor."

Nelson says he welcomes criticism from the community too, seeing it as helpful.

"If there's some criticism out there, maybe you should be looking for something," he said. "Where there's smoke, there's fire, and it will backfire on you if you always insist on doing things your way."

Nelson said he applied for the chief's position in East Palo Alto because his own department in Richmond did not have any higher posi-

tions open.

"I did test for the Richmond chief position but I came in second," he said. "So if I wanted to advance, there was no place else for me to go but out. But I'm a realist. If you're going to look at departments who want a Black police chief, you have to have a very receptive community. Liberal California is not as liberal as one would like to think." Nelson only knows of three other Black police chiefs in California, in Berkeley, Compton and Long Beach.

"Being a chief is a unique position," he said.

Nelson said he has mixed feelings about leaving Richmond because much of the work he did there is starting to pay off.

"I've had heartaches over there," he said. "I was one of the people who fought the Richmond system, basically dealing with affirmative action, for policy changes in hiring and transfers,

and for handling citizens."

Nelson and his wife have three sons ages 17, 22 and 26. Only the youngest still lives at the family home in Hercules. Nelson's contract with the City gives him two years in which to move here, but he and his wife don't know at this point when that move will take place. They will consider building a house if redevelopment plans in the City take effect.

"You form a lot of attachments to a community through churches and schools," Nelson said. "It's very difficult to break those contacts."

Hercules was only incorporated five years ago so Nelson is very familiar with the development of a new city.

"There's a certain amount of civic pride in this community which is very good," Nelson said. "I see (incorporation) as a positive step toward self government. It signals people taking control of their own destiny. I'm going to give the City the best law enforcement philosophy and services available to me, based on the resources I have."

Your Government Representatives

U.S. Senators:

Alan Cranston (D), 45 Polk St., San Francisco, 94102, (415) 556-8440, or New Senate Building, Washington D.C., 20510, (202) 224-3553.

Pete Wilson (R), 450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36004, San Francisco, 94102, (415) 556-4307, or New Senate Building, Washington D.C., 20510 (202) 224-9652.

U.S. Representative:

Thomas P. Lantos (D), 520 El Camino Real, Suite 800, San Mateo, 94402, (415) 342-0300, or House Office Building, Washington D.C., 20515, (202) 225-3531.

California Assembly:

Byron D. Sher (D), 785 Castro St., Suite C, Mountain View, 94041, (415) 961-6031, or State Capitol, Room 2136, Sacramento, CA, (916) 445-7632.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration

1985

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"Brother, Can You Spare A Dime?"

By Ron Drake

I was driving down University Avenue a few days ago when I did something I don't usually do. I picked up a hitchhiker. The hood of his Mercedes was up, his hair was uncombed and his patent-leather Gucci loafers had lost a bit of their shine.

Now, I'd normally let his car club take care of him but those big, sad eyes and the downish turn of his mouth made me take pity on him. So I pulled over and told him to hop in.

"Thank you, my good man," he said as he brushed my car seat for any stray bits of dust (bad for his D'Abruzzi suit, don't cha know). "I was wondering if you'd spot me a dime for the price of a phone call."

"You look like you can afford a mobile phone," I said. "What's a guy like you bumming dimes for?"

He dissolved into a sobbing heap. "I'm a landlord."

"There, there . . . you'll be all right, Pardon my callousness. I thought you were just rich."

"You're so kind."
He dabbed at his eyes with a silk handkerchief the size of a horse blanket and heaved a deep sigh.

"You don't know what I've been through. What with incorporation and the passage of rent control and my usual grief with the tenants and now my dear 450 Turbo Diesel . . . if Measure A doesn't pass . . . I . . . I . . ."

"Measure A? But that would repeal rent control!"

"Oh! Those heavenly words. I do hope it comes true."

"But people need rent control. Especially here. Especially with the way things are now. How can you . . ."

"Oh, yes! You can talk about the rights of the blasted tenants! But what about our rights? Huh? Have you ever given a thought to how much we have to go through?"

"Well . . ."

"Do you realize how much effort it takes to turn a profit on rental property these days? Why, I've got to cut corners everywhere I can. Tenants crying for maintenance on a lousy bathroom sink when I need that money for more Treasury bills. People complain about coming up with a lousy \$2,000 for first and last months' rent when my vet is asking that much for poor Binky's shots and kennel fees. You just don't pick up and leave for the Caribbean with your dog uncared for."

His Ray-ban sunglasses were a sop-

ping mess.

"But you've got people sleeping in cars, for God's sake," I said, "women and children with no place to go. You may think you've got a right to charge what the market will bear. But what about their rights?"

"They've got the right to live anywhere they can afford to live. I hear tell of studios in Turlock you can have for almost nothing."

"That's because they are almost nothing. Don't you have a sense of responsibility? Times are hard, buddy!"

"Hey, I don't live here," he sniffed. "It is not, Thank God, my problem."

"Oh, but it is your problem. You and your buddies are spending piles of money—\$75,000, the last I heard—to defeat the right of people here and elsewhere to govern themselves. You've bought lawyers, you've bought—time—hell, you've even bought people. And you're doing it in the name of freedom. You want to be free to charge what the so-called "market" will bear. What are you gonna do when you've sucked all the money out of this community? What are you gonna do when your kids can't afford to buy a house?"

"Their trust funds will be more than adequate."

"Yes, now. But what happens when the inflation you'll help promote finally comes home to roost? A million dollars, ten years from now won't be worth . . ."

"You can let me out here, my good man. How about that dime? My money's out there working for me and I can't afford to carry cash."

I took out paper, a pen and a dime. I wrote something down and handed it to him.

"Read it and sign it," I said.

"This is ridiculous."

"Oh, is it? You've had the services of my car—wear, tear, depreciation—you understand. My dime loaned at the going rate of interest compounding daily. Add that to the aggravation of listening to you and that comes to \$37.52 . . . so far."

"But that's outrageous!"

"You see my point exactly," I said as I patted him on the back.

He threw my dime down and got out. I've still got my dime and I'll not see the other \$37.42 in this lifetime but I got at least that much enjoyment out of the sticker I'd pressed onto his jacket.

What did it say?

VOTE NO ON JAN. 8.

Dolores Randall Remembered

On November 18, approximately 60 members of the Mid-Peninsula community met to honor the memory of the late Dolores Randall, who had lived and worked in East Palo Alto for many years.

Various segments of the community came together to give thanks for Dolores' life, and to laugh and rededicate themselves to the kind of world that we all want for ourselves, our children, for Dolores' children, and for all humankind. People came from as far as Los Angeles to take part in the special ritual for a very special human person.

Edward Becks opened the gathering with an invocation, and Helen Harvey set the tone by asking everyone to celebrate life. Mary Hoover served as M.C. Song and music by Vulindlela Wobogo, and Faye Knox and her daughters, and commentary (mostly humorous) followed.

Steven Randall sang the song, "If I Could Help Somebody Today," and Andre Randall joined with Elbert Mitchell, Barbara Mouton, Beverly

Scott, Helen Harvey, Gelsomina Becks and others to share special stories about Dolores.

They talked about her driving, child rearing, and nine-to-nine shopping.

Wanell Coats told of her bravery and how she prevented a shootout over SLA food handouts in the University Village parking lot: A brother was about to rip off a crate of chickens. Some of the young men connected with Nairobi College took the chickens from him and sent him home angry. He returned angrier still, with his double-barreled shotgun. Mrs. Randall put herself in front of him and said, "Give me the gun, honey." No one was injured that day.

More comments by Robert Hoover and others followed, and Mayor Mouton said that the City of East Palo Alto is in the process of making a dedication in Mrs. Randall's honor.

All in all, November 18 was a day to remember. It was a day of tribute to a fighting sister who will always live in our hearts.

Local Births

October 1984

- 1—A daughter to Lois Gregory
- 2—A daughter to Maria Chavez
- 4—A daughter to Elisa Sandoval
- 5—A son to Eida Gil
- 6—A son to Maria Duarte
- 9—A son to Sandra and Robert Ragan-Kelly
- 13—A daughter to Melodi Djahanbani and Rainer Berker
- 15—A son to Nadine Homan
- 16—A son to Mary and Michael Grant
- 18—A son to Nancy and Pierra Kouchekey
- 22—A son to LaSaundra and Ron Brown
- 26—A daughter to Stephanie and Lemul Thomas
- A son to Kimberly and Robert Wernick

27—A son to Darlene Holmes

29—A son to Shanah and Kenneth Cole

November 1984

- 2—A daughter to Suzanne and Rick Nelson
- 3—A son to Priscilla Montes
- 5—A daughter to Yolanda and Manuel Orozco
- 9—A son to Sofia Acuna
- A daughter to Helen Williams
- A son to Judy Singleton
- 10—A son to Kimberly and Keith Gross
- A son to Earlene and Edwin Morgan
- 11—A son to Judy and David Cox
- 13—A son to Pamela and Verthis Young Jr.
- A daughter to Gloria Alcaraz
- 14—A daughter to Mayumi Peterson and Robert Johnson
- A daughter to Delina Williams



FOR OUR PEOPLE

by Keith Archuleta

Adapted from the poem, "For My People" by Margaret Walker

For our people everywhere
singing their slave songs repeatedly
their dirges and their folksongs
and their blues and jubilees
praying their prayers nightly
to an unknown god
bending their knees humbly
to an unseen power.

For our people everywhere
waging their democratic struggles
continuously
for voting rights and civil rights
and equal opportunity
witnessing those long struggles
being wiped out by the stroke of
Reaganism's pen.

For our people
losing their jobs continually
because Atari can get away with
paying workers slave wages
in Taiwan.

For our people
the Haitians, the Cubans,
the Mexicans, the Salvadorean
facing restrictive immigration laws
and never seeing the statue of
liberty smile for them in welcome.

For our people
who bear the brunt of
budget cuts and are blamed
for the bad economy, the Vincent
Chins and the migrant laborers
and the working mothers of the
land.

NAACP Proclamation Condemns Measure A

Editor's note:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People issued a press release condemning the so-called "Property Owners Initiative," calling it an effort "to destroy rent control and thereby discredit the City itself." The NAACP Press Release follows:

Last spring, the South San Mateo County NAACP passed a resolution supporting East Palo Alto's Rent Stabilization and Eviction for Good Cause ordinance as a measure "which protects low and moderate income families, senior citizens, persons on fixed income, and fair-minded landlords in the City of East Palo Alto." The branch also urged East Palo Alto residents to vote in favor of the ordinance at the April 10, 1984 referendum placed on the ballot by anti-rent control forces.

East Palo Alto voters registered their support for rent control by a 59% vote in favor of the ordinance, thereby giving a vote of confidence to the four out of five City Council members who put this measure into effect and thus fulfilled their campaign promise made during the campaign for incorporation and City Council seats.

Absentee landlords and their supporters refused to accept this mandate

of the residents for rent control, and have managed to force a special election to repeal rent control, to be held January 8, 1985. Not only are they spending thousands of dollars to try to destroy rent control and thereby discredit the city itself, but they are also forcing the city to spend thousands of dollars in much needed city funds to defend the law passed by the Council members who have worked to fulfill their campaign promise of rent control.

The measure to be voted on January 8th states that the city shall make no law to abridge the right of a property owner to establish the price for selling, leasing, renting, transferring or exchanging said property. East Palo Alto's rent control ordinance in no way affects the right to sell, transfer, or exchange property at the price desired by the seller, and our NAACP branch believes that no law should affect that right. But East Palo Alto residents should be protected against excessive rent increases and unjust evictions, therefore at the November 13, 1984 general membership meeting, the South San Mateo County NAACP resolved to urge all East Palo Alto citizens to vote NO on January 8, 1985.

New Bus Service Makes East Bay Connection Easier

By Michael Blake

Alameda County Transit has begun a new bus service that Mid-Peninsula commuters can use to go to East Bay cities on BART. Six "DB Line" buses now make the daily trip across the Dumbarton Bridge. They pick up passengers at the Palo Alto Transit Center (the University Avenue train station) and take them to the BART station at Union City. Buses travel from 6:30 to 8 AM and 2:30 to 6 PM. The fare each way is \$1.25.

Before this service began, commuters who wished to take public transit to Oakland, Berkeley, or other East Bay cities had to take a bus or train to San Francisco and then connect with BART or other transbay buses—about a two-hour trip, at best. On the new AC Transit-to-Union City link, a commuter can board a bus in Palo Alto at 7:22 AM, for example, and arrive in downtown Oakland just an hour later, even allowing 13 minutes to transfer from bus to BART in Union City. The cost is about the same.

Buses leave Palo Alto Transit Center at 6:47, 7:22, 7:50, 8:25, 8:50, and 9:16 each morning and return from Union City at 2:38, 3:08, 3:39, 4:09, 4:39, and

5:09 each afternoon, Monday through Friday. The trip takes approximately 35 minutes, depending on bridge traffic.

For East Palo Alto residents, the greatest inconvenience of the service is having to go to Palo Alto to get a bus. Residents can go to Palo Alto Transit Center for 35 cents on either a 50V or 50C Samtrans bus, but Mike Curry of the AC Transit marketing office thinks East Palo Alto should be able to get a local bus stop for the service.

"We will recommend this for study," said Curry when asked by the Progress why there is not a stop. He agreed that a bus stop could probably be added at the corner of Willow and Newbridge if there is adequate demand. "We encourage the public to let us know what service they want," said Curry, who added that East Palo Altans can start a petition campaign if a request for a bus stop is denied.

For information on the AC transit bus, call 797-6811. To receive a free "trip plan" on AC transit and BART, along with a free coupon for a ride on a local bus back to your BART station, call 839-2882.

And for our people who have seen
social programs replaced by
increased military spending
to set the state for war
as Reaganism goes wild—
cut welfare
cut social security
cut educational loans
to college students
cut CETA
cut bilingual education
cut school lunch programs
cut medicaid and medicare
cut loans to developing nations
cut aid to families with
dependent children

Reaganism Express: when you
absolutely, positively have to cut the
budget overnight

And for our people standing,
staring, trying, struggling
to fashion a better way from

confusion, from hypocrisy and
misunderstanding, trying to fashion
a world that will hold all the people,
all the faces, all the adams and eves
and their countless generations.

Let a new earth rise
Let another world be born
Let a bloody peace be written
in the sky
Let a second generation
full of courage issue forth

Let a people loving freedom
come to growth
Let a beauty full of healing and
strength of final clenching be
the pulsing in our spirits
and our blood

Let the martial songs be written
Let the dirges disappear
Let the people of the earth
now rise and take control.

Ethiopian Crisis

Continued from page 1

children. I saw campfuls of blind and retarded children," Klein said. He attempted to interest several broadcast and print media outlets in a story on Ethiopia, but was repeatedly turned down by editors who claimed that their audiences were not interested.

According to Sue Dorfman of Grassroots International, a relief organization based in Massachusetts, both awareness and aid have been limited in the case of Ethiopia.

"People are not willing to deal with the issue," Dorfman said. It has received little direct media attention until recently, and the Ethiopian government has been reluctant to admit aid agencies during a period of internal strife. The agencies that have been admitted to the country have been forced to watch their step.

"They're afraid of being kicked out," Dorfman said.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society is one such agency. According to Joe Carniglia, International Services Director for the American Red Cross, the Society in Ethiopia may have been aware of the country's critical situation, but it could not direct the League

of Red Cross Societies in Geneva to go out on appeal for international aid without the sanction of the Ethiopian government. Assistance has only been sanctioned for the past six months.

Americans concerned with relief matters agree on the enormity and the urgency of the crisis in Ethiopia. They differ, however, in their explanations of the delayed reaction on the part of the U.S. government, which is now the single largest donor of aid.

In a recently telecast PBS *Frontlines* documentary, "Cry, Ethiopia, Cry," U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency director, M. Peter McPherson, stated that until the NBC/BBC story broke, there was a lack of clear view as to dimensions.

"It shocked everybody," McPherson said.

Representative Howard E. Wolpe (D-Michigan) strongly disagreed.

"Aid organizations have known for a long time the dimensions of the crisis," Wolpe said. He cited several reports and appeals of various relief agencies dating from 1982 to support his claim.

Wolpe also maintained that there was ideological resistance to helping the communist Ethiopian government. But McPherson denied that

politics was a "factor in feeding." He said it was only a factor in method of distribution because the U.S. government could not trust the Ethiopian government to distribute food aid where it was most needed in rebel territory.

Meanwhile, the League of Red Cross Societies and other emergency relief organizations such as the British-based Oxfam, Catholic Relief Services, and Save the Children, are engaged in all-out stop-gap efforts in Ethiopia.

Carniglia estimates that the Red Cross has poured \$62 million so far into Ethiopia and 27 other drought-afflicted African countries. Sylvia Sykop, media coordinator for Oxfam claims that her organization has raised over \$1.8 million since the NBC/BBC broadcast last month.

"But it's basically a drop in the bucket," Sykop said. She added that Oxfam is mainly trying to set an example for governments with far greater resources than private agencies.

Aid organizations encourage concerned individuals to send cash, not food, to local agency chapters or to churches. Sykop suggests that employ-

ees take up collections and request matching funds from their employers. Oxfam has also been encouraging individuals to canvass door-to-door. For more information from Oxfam-America, contact them at their toll-free number (800) 225-5800.

In East Palo Alto, the Reverend Gerald Green spoke on Thanksgiving Day at St. John's Baptist Church about the Ethiopian crisis. Mayor Barbara A. Mouton, and newly appointed community services director Robert S. Hoover were the first of many whose donations that day went to the famine relief effort.

Information on Ethiopia is also available from the Eritrean Relief Committee (212) 866-4293; the Relief Society of Tigray (202) 328-8350; and Grassroots International (617) 497-9180.

Donations can also be sent locally to The American Red Cross, Palo Alto Area Chapter, 400 Mitchell Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94301; and The American Red Cross, Golden Gate Chapter, San Mateo County Headquarters, 3540 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025. Donations for African famine aid to any Red Cross chapter must be earmarked "for Africa relief."

Julie Marquis is a freelance writer based in Berkeley.

Council Introduces City Department Heads

Continued from page 1

boards on which a public official can serve. This does not apply to any private boards to which an official might belong, or to ad-hoc task forces, but only to standing groups and committees elected or approved by ordinance.

Use of Schools

The decision was also 4-0 (with Wilks absent) to sign a joint powers agreement with the Ravenswood City School District. This now gives City residents the use of facilities, buildings, grounds and playgrounds at the Ravenswood, Brentwood Oaks, Garden Oaks and Costano Schools for after-school, summer vacation and recreational programs. In return, the school district can make use of all City parks and recreation facilities. Maintenance of all facilities is a joint responsibility.

Trash Problem

A presentation by city manager Fred Howell showed that, despite a well-orchestrated three month cleanup program by his office, during which 34 trips to the dump were made, the

dumping of trash in the City remains a problem.

"Retrashing is a problem," Howell told the council. "It's really hard to stay ahead if it."

Councilmember Satterwhite said he had observed that citizens aren't cleaning up the areas in front of their own residences. He also said that the City needs more clean-up staff to get ahead of the problem instead of behind it.

"One or two more people and one more truck, coupled with some kind of education program would give people a sense of living in a clean community instead of a pigsty," said Satterwhite.

The council voted 3-1 (with Wilks absent) to put the \$5,000 discretionary grant city manager Fred Howell received from the Peninsula Community Foundation into the bank to gain interest.

Mayor Mouton voted against her colleagues stating that her decision was not a reflection on the city manager, but on the Peninsula Foundation from whom the City has received

funds in the past, but always with many strings attached.

"This certainly makes me unhappy," said Mouton. "It's a blatant disrespect of the City. If the Peninsula Foundation wants to salute the City, they should have given it to the City and not to an individual."

Comments and reports by councilmembers during the past few meetings have been varied. Vice-Mayor Blakey expressed concern about the speeding cars he has noted on University Avenue since the Dumbarton Bridge connection opened, while councilmember Wilks told citizens of the need she sees in the community for housing and food, especially among women and children.

Bilingual Ballot Vote

Council member Abrica, speaking on behalf of the City's Latino community, thanked the citizens of East Palo Alto for overwhelmingly voting for the initiative to keep bilingual ballots in California.

"We were one of the only cities in California to do this," he said.

During the community forum, the council heard complaints from citizens about continued drug dealing in the City, about trash dumping, and about difficulties getting into the post office parking lot because of transients congregating there.

Among other measures the council is considering are a plan for distribution of general revenue sharing funds, and an ordinance that would require auto wrecking yards in the City to comply with certain regulations such as providing off-street parking for their customers.

For full details regarding actions taken by the city council, contact the council chambers at 853-3100. Meetings covered here were on October 15, November 5, and November 19. Councilmembers present at all three meetings were Abrica, Blakey, Mouton and Satterwhite. Councilmember Wilks attended only the first half of the meetings on October 13 and November 5, and was absent from the November 19 meeting.

SISTER

by Elishi Malema

SISTER

you stand now
along a road you have traveled alone
you are
the apex of a beam that widens
towards me to light my ignorance
of you

to expose me, now
under the shade where i installed
myself
with the comfort of monthly pay
and watched you
blind to your search for meaning
and satisfaction beyond the thirstings
of the body

when you dropped out from school
to work the banana grove and the
coffee shamba
when you said, "I will give to
something
my eye can see"
i could not catch the meaning
of the resolve
and from the shade i could give you
no beam to light your way

you turned the soil
planted and harvested
but it was not your land
not your harvest
the dream escaped your grasp.
when the yearnings sucked your will
i said, poor girl,
the earth has burned her feet.

but you broke away
from the snare of the soil
went to town
where you found the current
fast and swift
i tried to reach you with advice
i said, float.
"I am a swimmer, sister," you said
and you swam.
against the current.

before you broke
you left with your three children
(their father adrift downstream)
to the land you did not own
the texture of the soil
was the only thing your eye could see
and the green crop in the fields
made you break out in song

sister
i stand to shame
for having thought you hopeless
when you brought home yet more
children
each to a father
angry at you
from my safe place
i could not see
it was your continual searching
of something more than the physical
i could not see
that you come from a tribe of people
who do not break.

you left again
in search of a home
and you found it, dear sister
in three poor acres of virgin land
a simple hut
a fire at the hearth . . .

i stand to shame now,
for not having recognized
the landmarks of your road
as mine.

Tanzanian poet Elisha Malema is currently living at Stanford.

Local Theater Welcomes Community Involvement

By Elena Becks

"I want to educate people a little bit more," said Judith Dresch. "I want to open their eyes to what is going on in the world."

Dresch, an actress, playwright and producer, owns East Palo Alto's Manhattan Playhouse with her husband of forty-five years, Fran.

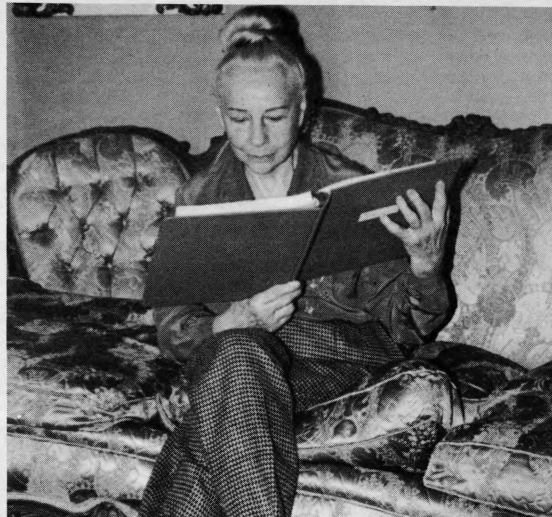
Dresch is a petite woman who speaks in fiery bursts enhanced by a Russian accent. She and her husband bought the building, a former silk screen factory, in 1963. Since its first production, Anton Chekov's "A Month In The Country," the Manhattan Playhouse has presented a broad spectrum of dramatic works.

The Manhattan is located at the junction of Manhattan Avenue and West Bayshore Road. Although Dresch uses Palo Alto as its mailing address, it is East Palo Alto's own theatrical showcase.

Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" just finished a run there. Dresch emphasizes classical theater, non-commercial musicals and original plays. Musicals have included "The Merry Widow," "The Amorous Flea," and "The Chocolate Soldier."

But Judith Dresch does not shy away from the controversial. She has staged "Hello Uncle," an anti-draft play. "The Blacks" has had a turn on the Manhattan's boards as has "Man and Superman."

"The more controversial the more interesting," she said. "People should



Judith Dresch, proprietress of the Manhattan Playhouse.

know every side of (an) issue."

When the Manhattan Playhouse was incorporated as a non-profit organization, the original plan was to teach.

Dresch, who emigrated from the Soviet Union in 1934, described the area as a "cultural desert" when she arrived.

She says that the major difference between Russians, Europeans and

Americans is the American lack of cultural awareness.

"Cultural things are not taught in the U.S.," she says.

She believes that this lack of cultural education is, in part, responsible for the problems children are experiencing with their schoolwork.

Theater attendance has dropped off in the last few years. Judith Dresch

would like to build that back up with more community involvement. By taking more interest in the productions, bringing organizations and groups to see future productions, and helping with publicity, people in the community can participate.

For those who think they've been bitten by the acting bug or are desirous of a role behind the scenes, the Manhattan Playhouse may be able to provide a niche.

With so many struggling artists around, how to get involved in theatre is a question to which many people would like an answer.

"Acting is the most demanding profession someone can undertake," said Dresch.

"You must be sincerely interested and be willing to do anything (anything meaning lighting, props, errands, etc.)."

The Manhattan Playhouse's next production is an original play co-written by Dresch and scheduled to open New Year's Eve. The play, entitled "The Breakpoint," is an emotional drama about the interrelationships between Blacks and Whites. It will be launched with a New Year's Eve Gala which will include supper, a party and musical entertainment.

For more information about the Manhattan Playhouse, its productions, or to find out how you can get involved, call 322-4589.

Drew Progam Helps Teen Parents

By Jane Maxwell

To be a parent is not easy for anyone. But to be a teenage parent can be overwhelming. In East Palo Alto, the rate of pregnancy among teenagers is higher than anywhere else in the county. The latest statistics from the state department of health services show that in 1981, 9.3 percent of pregnant East Palo Alto women were 17 years old or younger, compared with 2.6 percent for San Mateo County, and 4.7 percent statewide.

Most of these young women are barely out of childhood as they struggle to cope with the physical, emotional and social aspects of preparing for childbirth and motherhood. To give them extra support, the Drew Medical Center began in April of this year a free parenting program to teach teenage mothers how to care for their babies, from before birth through the first year.

So far, 24 young women from age 14½ to 20 have been through the program and have learned about birth and delivery, growth, development and care of the newborn, home accident prevention, and approaches to finding work.

"The program gives them a chance to talk together about experiences with their babies," says health educator Annjeanette Jones, the program counselor. "They like that, and they often make friends."

Jones says that none of the pregnancies of the women she has coun-



Drew Medical Center's parenting program helps teenage mothers how to care for their children.

seled was planned.

"They all tell me it just happened," she says. "It's rough on them after they deliver. They really grow up after the babies get here, especially if their own mothers work, because that means they have to take care of the babies themselves."

Although Jones thinks the Drew program is good, she doesn't think it goes far enough. She would like to

see it expanded to include classes in the schools, where girls who have been through the program would go and talk about their experience. Jones would also like to see the schools teach more about birth control.

"I saw one girl who had never heard about birth control pills," she says.

The fathers of the babies are usually

also young and, Jones says, just like the young women, they don't know what to do.

"They're awed by the whole experience," she says. So far only three young fathers have attended the parenting classes.

Free transportation to the program is provided, and a limited amount of emergency shelter, clothing and bedding for babies is also available.

Car seats that will hold a baby up to age three to four months can also be obtained for a \$10 deposit. The money is refunded when the car seat is returned. Drew has 10 of these car seats which were purchased with funds donated by the Stanford Black Medical Students' Union.

Both Jones and the program coordinator, Bertha Price, say the young women who have gone through the parenting program have done well.

"I admire them," says Price. "They've become very conscientious mothers. They're all trying to get jobs because they want to live alone. And they want their babies to be healthy, so they don't want to live with smokers."

The parenting program meets every Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 at the Drew Medical Center. Husbands, partners, family and friends are encouraged to participate, and babies are always welcome. To register for classes and transportation, call 328-5060, extension 249.

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Time: 7 pm every 2nd & 4th Thurs.
All interested people are welcome.
For more information call: 323-2644
323-5861

We the residents and friends of East Palo Alto endorse a NO Vote on Measure A.

Marlowe Thompson
Lakiba Pittman
Crystal Carr
Jefferey Carr
Hasani Perkin
Eugene Perkin
Constance McRae
Robert Thornton
Anthony Starkey
Kuumba Glenn
Donald Lawson
Brad Davis
Marlene Davis
Pinky Gibson
Cynthia Hawkins
Nohuja Lomotey
Nobantu Ankoanda
Jawanza Osayimwese
James Hernandez
Ida Bell
Calvin Kennon Jr.
Joseph Blakey Jr.
Mary Harmon
Michael Harmon
Cornell Blakey
Willie J. Hentz
Nancy M. Hentz
Sadie Tinsley
Archie Marshalk
Juanita Hughes
William Tinsley
Herbert A. Perkins
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Ruth H. Daniel
Dorothy Sanders
Florine Lindley
Elena Becks
Gelsonima Becks
Marilyn Scherzer
Abena Richardson
Reggie Nugent
Amir
Edmund H. Sledge
Jane Maxwell
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David Ayon
Lon Otterby
Dianne Otterby
DeAnna Jennigan
Ed Becks
C.D. Walker
Jo Black
Janice Parkinson
Charlotte Becks
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Patricio Dunn
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Leticia Marquez
Ruben Abrica
David Acosta
David Romero
Shirley Brandon
Barbara Mouton
Glenda Jones
Jane Burton

Do Not Be Deceived

STOP Absentee Landlords

Vote NO Jan. 8th.