

THE EAST PALO ALTO PROGRESS

July/August 1983

Volume 1, Number 4

VICTORY FOR EAST PALO ALTO!

Moratorium Checks Spiraling Rents

By Rene Glover

At its very first meeting, the City Council (Mayor Barbara Mouton, Ruben Abrica, James Blakey, Omowale Satterwhite, and Gertrude Wilks) passed an emergency ordinance establishing a moratorium on rent increases by a 4 to 1 vote, Wilks dissenting. This ordinance covers all rental buildings which have 4 or more units and was passed in order to protect tenants who faced large rent increases immediately after incorporation. Rents were raised as much as 25% in some cases.

The freeze took effect on July 1, 1983. Any landlord who attempts to raise rents in violation of the ordinance and is subject to a \$500 fine and/or 6 months in jail for each occurrence. In other words, a landlord who raises rents illegally in 10 apartments is subject to a \$5,000 fine and/or 5 years in jail. The ordinance also states that the landlord cannot decrease services to the tenant or attempt to evict anyone who refuses to pay an illegal increase.

Most landlords in East Palo Alto have cooperated with the rent freeze, going so far as to return money they had collected before they knew of the ordinance. Others, however, claim that the ordinance is vague and that their increases are illegal. In order to clarify the situation, the office of the San Mateo County District Attorney has given the following opinion:

If the notice of a rent increase was given on or before June 1, 1983, the increase takes effect on July 1 and is thus not covered under the ordinance. If notice of the increase was given any day after June 1, the rent increase comes under the provisions of the ordinance and is not legal.

For example, a rent increase notice given on June 16 and taking effect on July 16 is not allowed, since the increase legally takes place after July 1.

During the freeze, which lasts for 90 days (until October 1), the City Council will be holding public hearings to establish a Renters' Bill of Rights to address problems that EPA tenants face.

If you think that your landlord might have raised rents in violation of the Rent Freeze Ordinance, contact the City of East Palo Alto Council Offices at 2415 University Ave., EPA 94303, or call 324-1308.

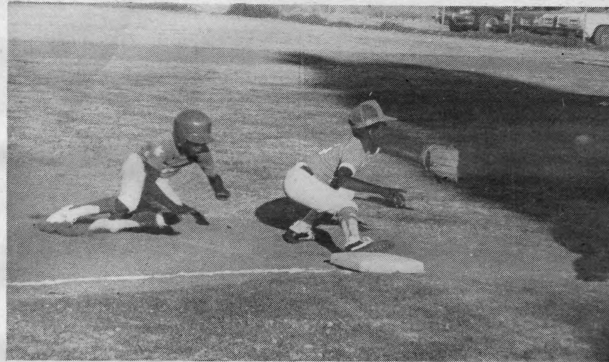
Bridge Link-up to Increase Traffic

By Carlos Romero

A proposal linking the Dumbarton Bridge to University Avenue will dramatically increase the flow of traffic through East Palo Alto. In addition to the University Ave. connection, the Dumbarton Bridge Replacement Project will hook up the bridge with Marsh Road and will widen the original access way, Willow Road, on the East Palo Alto side of the street.

The original plan called for four approaches to the bridge. The fourth, located at Embarcadero Road, would have been the southernmost connector and served as an entrance to Palo Alto.

However, according to Paul Hensley,



Ravenswood Little League ended its fourteen game season in a deadlock for first place between Peck & Hiller and Palo Alto Rotary. Both teams finished with 11 and 3 records. The playoff game held on July 12, deciding the championship, was won by the Palo Alto Rotary. Above, winning pitcher Kenny Garrison steals third base.

Players named to the Ravenswood Little League All-Star team are: Kendrick and Cedric Reed of Palo Alto Elks; Bryan Brown and John Charles of Glendale Federal; Quincy Wood, Kenny Garrison, Tony Gillette, and Chris Stewart of Palo Alto Rotary; Baylen Lemelle and Mark Brown of Peck & Hiller; James Burley of Campbell Realty; Gerardo Gonzales and Mandala Jones of Bonaventure Set; and Dennis Baldwin of Palo Alto Elks. The coach for the All-Star team is Willie McCullum of Campbell Realty, and the manager is Dwayne Jones of Peck & Hiller.

Congratulations to the All-Stars for a second place finish in the District 11 tournament.

Sanitation Services Undergo Rapid Transformation

By Duane Bay

Unlike any other sanitary district in the area, until two months ago the East Palo Alto Sanitary District had no connection fee to make developers help pay for increased sewage system capacity required by new building. Until three months ago the District had no current Master Plan showing what lines needed repair, what lines needed to be enlarged, and what total treatment capacity ultimately would be needed in the District. As recently as last summer the District had denied builders connection permits on the inaccurate assumption that it had insufficient treatment capacity, yet it had no specific plans for using its \$900,000 surplus for improvements.

But that's history. It has taken a year to dramatically change the district. In June 1982, Dennis Scherzer and Duane Bay joined the Board of Directors. Along with incumbents Martin Joyce, Clyde Clark, and Joe Sanders, the new members, with exceptional assistance from District engineers, Mark Thomas and Company, made great strides toward modernization. The District now has modern management that

includes a preventative maintenance program, a formal operation code, connection fee schedules, and a Master Plan. Leaky lines are being sealed right now. This fall, lines will be replaced beneath Pulgas between E. Bayshore and O'Connor and under O'Connor between Pulgas and the levee. Next spring, the Green Street trunk will be upgraded.

And more changes may be in store! Two new directors were appointed in June to replace Sanders and Joyce. They are Charlotte Becks and Edrick Hagans. The new Board's agenda will include disposal of the Martin Luther King Park parcel and selection of District management. Both of these items will offer the District opportunities to strengthen the new City. East Palo Alto would be the most likely buyer for the park parcel, and the District could appoint the City to administer operations. This appointment would allow East Palo Alto to gain a track record needed to convince LAFCO to merge the district into the city. And as District manager, the City could coordinate public works planning—especially, in the "industrial area" and near Cooley Landing.

Big Money Finances Lawsuit

Some big money interests, such as apartment house owners, big land developers, and big investors have decided that East Palo Alto citizens should be denied the right to govern ourselves. They have already poured over \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) into legal action that would have denied us the opportunity even to VOTE FOR THE CHOICE TO GOVERN ourselves; fortunately, they lost in both the Appellate and Supreme Courts. We had an election. WE ARE A CITY.

Now, these same people (or their agents) are gaining access to our homes by pretending to be county election officials, and are coercing people into making statements that may be used in their new lawsuit against East Palo Alto residents.

This article is written to warn you against allowing yourself to be tricked into being used in their new lawsuit against us, and MAKING YOURSELF LIABLE TO PUNISHMENT for violation of election codes you actually may have faithfully obeyed. If these people contact you, first demand proper identification and then write down their names and addresses. If they are impersonators (posing as county officials when they really are not) call 327-5846 to report them and help document their crimes against public justice.

No matter who they are, remember that no one can force you to say something that may be used later in court action against you.

Senior Rally For Cityhood

By Carmelait Oakes

On that memorable evening of July 1, 1983 when the East Palo Alto community acknowledged its cityhood and came of age, Seniors were out in force. These stalwart Christian soldiers understand better than anyone that the new city's future belongs to our unborn generations.

Meeting several days a week Seniors recognized long ago that as we aged we were able to psychologically sustain ourselves through strategies that have helped us through a lifetime of coping: the extended family; kinship networks; and above all, prayer. This faithful group known as the East Palo Alto Senior Club still meets several times a week under the able guidance of its president, Mrs. Ruth Myers. The meetings are held at Brashear Hall located in the Ravenswood Recreation District complex at 550 Bell Street. The club's motto, "If God is for you, the devil can't harm you," has fortified us with the will, the persistence, and the courage to work in our own behalf; ultimately, this meant working for cityhood.

Each of us stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before; the doors of existing opportunities were opened by the struggles of others. As our religious teachings remind us, "We are our brother's keeper." Cityhood is a glorious new adventure. Today we stand sensitive, informed, aggressively honest, and assertively confident. The new city is in our hands: we, the people.

Editorial

The Power To Make A Difference

The East Palo Alto of two months ago is different from the East Palo Alto of today. Today we are the twentieth city in one of the richest counties in the nation. Today we have a city council, the beginnings of city government, and local control. Yesterday we could only look to the county for intermittent sustenance.

We must not delude ourselves into thinking that all our problems can be solved overnight: that drug traffic will cease, that landlords will stop exploiting renters, that unemployment will diminish, that police brutality will end. These problems are played out

endlessly across a country moving rapidly to the right, caring little about people and even less about communities like ours. The present administration has set the economics of the world on a dangerous course. Far from being removed from this we are directly affected. These policies take funds from education, housing, employment, and other social services and pour them into the military. But we are not helpless! The decisions we make, like the 90 day rent freeze, have ripple effect beyond our borders. Every dollar spent in our city is a dollar less for those who don't care about our conditions.

For instance, city residents who decide to shop in East Palo Alto expend less gas, create less pollution, and save money. The dollars spent here will return, in part, through sales taxes.

By setting up a police review board we can ensure access to and control over unacceptable situations that arise too frequently in our community.

By improving our educational and recreational programs we can offer varied and better opportunities to our children, who in turn must struggle to make our community and world a better place to live in.

The things that we can do to change

the conditions of our community are unlimited. Most importantly, a new city means that we have a viable place from which to start the work essential to bringing about the changes we desire. Participation means more than it has ever meant before. We need to get involved and voice our opinions. What we can do is a function of the extent to which we participate.

The world is changing. These changes need not be dictated by corporations and the Federal government. Change starts as we begin to make the decisions on a daily basis. Over time these decisions will make a difference in our community.

A Chicana's Perspective

Nicaraguans Seek Self-determination

By Magdalena Rosales

The victory of East Palo Alto cityhood is evidence of the strength that people can exert when there is commitment to gain self-determination. As this community celebrates a significant step toward taking charge of its destiny, perhaps it is a time to reflect on a celebration taking place not too distant from us: July 19th marks the fourth anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolution. Nicaragua will have its celebrations of freedom in the midst of efforts coordinated by our government to destabilize and overthrow the government of this Central American country. Thus, the struggle of Nicaragua is not yet over, but it nevertheless represents the hope and inspiration that moves forward the struggles in Guatemala and El Salvador.

A trip to Nicaragua earlier this year convinced me of the urgency to take action against U.S. intervention. Nicaragua allowed me an opportunity to witness a revolutionary process involving an entire nation of people. These were proud and courageous people who had risked their lives and had lost many loved ones in the popular insurrection against poverty and injustice. It was an uprising against a dictatorial regime in which 14 families controlled virtually all the country's wealth, in which one of every four children died before the age of one.

As a Chicana, I was welcomed into the community of Nicaraguans; their political awareness and sophistication allowed them to understand what being a woman of color from the United States meant. Nicaraguans have a clear vision of Chicanos, Blacks, and other third world people within the U.S. as colonized people, as victims of the same system that had oppressed Nicaraguans for so many years, and, in calculating ways, continues to do so.

In the past six months, hundreds of Nicaraguans have died in attacks by paramilitary forces financed and trained by the U.S. government. It has been disclosed that \$19 million were allocated as covert aid to support the

rebel forces working to oust the government. During my visit in January, a 13 year old girl and 14 year old boy, volunteer workers in the coffee harvest, were killed in an ambush near the border. We are told that the murderers of these children are "freedom fighters" who deserve our military assistance in their efforts to preserve and defend democracy in the Western hemisphere.

Nicaragua is cited as a communist country being run by a Marxist totalitarian regime. We have heard these words many times. Rarely do we hear, however, of the health, education, and economic programs that have dramatically improved the social and economic conditions of the majority of the people in Nicaragua. Only four years ago, half of the nation's population was illiterate; today, 88% are able to read and write. Also, in these four years the infant mortality rate has been reduced by one-third; an anti-malaria campaign has reduced incidences of this deadly disease by one-half; and over one million Nicaraguans have been vaccinated against polio, measles, and tetanus—all diseases that continue to kill millions throughout the Third World.

Politically too, significant progress has been made. Capital punishment has been abolished; freedom of the press has been honored; and popular involvement in the political process has greatly expanded through participation in block, club, and various party organizations.

A solidarity movement is now mobilizing people from all areas of society. It is spelling out the domestic implications of U.S. foreign policy as well as its impact on the people of Central America. As the Reagan administration increases the amount of our money going to inflate the military machine, we see a fall in support for our social welfare programs. We know by experience that the people most hurt will continue to be women, children, and people of color.

I hope to see the solidarity movement gather strength as third world people within this country begin to



join forces with our brothers and sisters to the south. As East Palo Alto celebrates its newly won right to self-determination, let us also celebrate the gains that Nicaragua has made in its first four years of freedom. Let us dedicate our efforts to work that will

guarantee celebrations of freedom in other cities like our own and in other countries that have suffered the plight of Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. We can fight to build the victory of genuine liberty and justice abroad while we do the same at home.

Of Houses, Cats, and Cityhood

By Ron Drake

I decided to walk back down Albern Street a few weeks after the election to see how the home that had been crying "save me" was getting along.

The shades were drawn when I got there. The house basked in the warm July sun and it seemed to be asleep. I walked up the driveway a bit and called out.

"Hello!"

No answer.

"Hello?"

"Can't you see the house is asleep?"

I'd leaned against the car in the front yard but quickly came to my feet. The voice from under the car sounded like the straining of a first-

year violin student. A large lazy cat crept from under the rear fender and stretched.

"You humans have no respect for the sleep of others."

"I'm sorry I disturbed you. I just came to congratulate the house. It now sits in the City of East Palo Alto."

"Big deal!"

"Well, it gives us the chance to solve our own problems."

The cat sniffed and turned its back.

"Does that mean that the children who tie cans to my tail will be given something better to do? Does it mean you'll send men out to kill the mice? Will you make my kittens safer by getting those infernal cars to go

slower?"

"If people get involved, it could well mean just that."

"Then, except for the killing of the mice, I wish you well. But excuse me if I have my doubts."

"That's the way it is with you cats," I growled, "you think only of yourselves."

The cat leapt onto the porch and sat licking a paw.

"I suppose it is different with you humans? You suppose that I don't notice that there is less spare food in the garbage cans. You suppose I don't notice that your children smell of chemicals that make them do strange things? You suppose I don't notice that the name 'Ronald' is a dirty word around here?"

The cat sharpened its claws on a porch post. The window shades in the house flew open and flapped.

"Hey! Watch it!"

"That human's here again," said the cat as it sidled around the corner of the house.

"Oh," said the house, "how are you?"

"All right. Congratulations; you're now part of the City of East Palo Alto." The house beamed like it has a new coat of paint.

"Thank you! I'm proud to be so. But...uh...things don't seem any different. When will things be different?"

"In very basic ways, things are different now. We rise or fall by our own

decisions. We're responsible for what happens."

"Well, I certainly hope so," said the house. "I want to stay here a long time."

"I'm sure you will," I said as I walked down the driveway, "I'm..."

Just then, the cat went streaking by with a german shepherd hot on its heels.

"Save me! Save me!" howled the cat.

"Save yourself," yelled the house. The cat scampered up a popular tree and glowered down at the dog, the house, and me.

"What kind of a budget does the city have for dogcatchers," asked the cat.

The house and I were laughing too hard to answer.

**East Palo Alto
Council of Tenants**

**meetings held
1st and 3rd Thursdays**



Municipal Building
2415 University, EPA

**For more information:
322-8111 — 326-0985 — 323-0884**

East Palo Alto Incorporated—July 1, 1983



The birth of this City is a labor of love.
It was formed in the womb of our pride
as we learned our work together.
It was grown in the womb of our will to be our own.
It was not hatched, like a plot awaiting
the right time to uncoil;
it was born.
It did not sprout like a seed we visited
with water now and then;
it was born in labor.



And the product of that labor is a City,
is a new life made of many lives,
is a new will made of many hopes.



And the purpose of that labor
is to forge a bond among the laborers,
to forge a bond between the laborers and
the future of what they have made,
and to remind us of our deep reserves,
to make us bigger than ourselves.



Reflection:

W.E.B. DuBois, history and E P A

By Bob Lowe

Due to the momentous outcome of the June 7 election, our regular series on East Palo Alto's history will be postponed until next month. This piece will address the historical importance of East Palo Alto in a broader fashion—by drawing on a work of an intellectual giant who on more than one occasion visited our community.

W.E.B. Du Bois' *Black Reconstruction* remains one of the most significant historical studies of the United States. Published in 1935, it obliterated the prevailing racist conception of life in the South in the years immediately following the Civil War. Rather than a time of mammoth corruption and unseemable crimes perpetrated by Carpetbaggers and their Black allies, as previous historians had portrayed the period, Du Bois docu-

mented the significant steps reconstruction governments took to animate a vision of democracy as rich as prevailed anywhere in the world.

Most importantly, Du Bois emphasized that Black people were authors of their own freedom. Emancipation, he pointed out, did not spring from Lincoln's proclamation; instead, the Emancipation Proclamation simply certified the fact that hundreds of thousands of Black people were leaving the plantations in what amounted to a general strike. Once the North won the war—a victory in no small measure due to the crippling effects of the strike on the Southern economy as well as to the valor of the 200,000 Blacks who joined the Union Army—the most progressive Reconstruction governments were those that had significant Black representation in the state legislatures. The

creation of public school systems, the removal of property qualifications for voting, the abolition of various forms of torture, and the expansions of women's rights stood as permanent bequests from these governments.

From Du Bois' record of events that transpired more than a century ago we may learn something about the ceaseless drive of colonized people to be free. We learn also that the circumstances of oppression often prevent this quest from bearing fruit. When the opportunity arises to exercise a greater degree of self-government, then, it must be seized. To refuse to do so because all the conditions aren't perfect is to fail to realize that such conditions will never be perfected without self-rule. If 120 years ago those men and women had chosen continued servitude over a frail, difficult, and transient freedom,

the social life of our nation today would doubtless more closely resemble the barbarism of the past.

Just as Reconstruction was a decisive break with the past on a national scale, incorporation is a decisive break on a local one. By turning to East Palo Alto's history—to the repeated failures to forge a permanent community in the latter half of the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries, to the seizure of our lands and misuse by the county, to the failed efforts to form a city in 1958, 1967, and 1982—we can better understand the significance of what we have accomplished. Our new city, a triumph of inexhaustible energy and indomitable spirit, will bring forth no instant millenium, but it represents a quantum leap of freedom.

By so powerfully articulating the theme of freedom, Du Bois' *Black Reconstruction* linked past with present. Directly or indirectly it influenced the hearts and minds of many who fashioned the Second Reconstruction of the 1960s and many who continue to work for social justice in East Palo Alto and other communities across the country. Although our achievement hardly matches Reconstruction in scale or consequence, the birth of our city underlines the importance of preserving, recording, and interpreting our local history not only so that we may be inspired and guided in the years ahead, but also so that future generations can link up their present with our past in the unending struggle for liberation.

Summer Relief for Seniors

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for low-income seniors (over 62) and disabled adults:

There is a special state program of financial assistance, starting every May 15 and continuing through the summer, which very few people seem to know about. Every year a large portion of the money appropriated for this program goes unclaimed!

The chief requirement is that the total household income—including social security, SSI (gold checks), Veteran's benefits, etc.—be less than \$12,000 for the preceding calendar

year. Benefits are on a diminishing scale according to income. Renters may get as much as \$240 (if their income is less than \$3,000). A more representative amount is \$162.50, for those with income between \$5,400 and \$5,600.

Homeowners receive a refund of part of their property tax, again depending on income. A person whose house is appraised at less than \$34,000, and whose income is between \$5,400 and \$5,600, for example, would receive a refund of 65% of the property tax paid.

Another program for homeowners over 62 or disabled permits the postponement of property taxes altogether. The state pays the tax as a loan to the owner, at 7% interest and secured by a lien against the home. The loan does not have to be repaid until the property is sold or the owner moves out or dies.

People who have previously applied for these benefits should already have received their 1983 application forms through the mail. First-time applicants can obtain forms and assistance in filling them out from any Senior Center, or by calling, toll free, 800-852-7050.



Farmer's
Restaurant
Since 1982

(415) 324-1892

Pay full price for first meal

50% Discount on second

Good for any meal

FARMER'S RESTAURANT
2240 UNIVERSITY AVE.
EAST PALO ALTO, CA.
324-1892
Beverages not included

Lower Price Complimentary

Dinners

Small Dinner 5:30 - 8:30 pm	
Strip Steaks	6.00
Broiled Steak	6.00
Filet of Sole	7.00
Roast Pork Chops	6.00
Wild Egg Steaks	6.00
Chicken	5.00
BBQ Beef Short Ribs	6.00
Wild Snappers	5.00
Shrimp	6.00
Crab	5.00

10¢ extra for each drink over 1.00
10¢ extra for each beer over 1.00

Special Dinner	Special Dinner
Broiled Pork	6.00
Filet	7.00
Roasted Chicken	6.00
Steak	6.00
Side Orders	1.25

Desserts

Apple Pie	1.00
Small Pecan Pie	.75
Small Custard	.75
Ice Cream	.75
Hot Tea	.75
Hot Coffee	.75
Hot Chocolate	.75
Hot Lemonade	.75

Maluk Cleaners



**Dry Cleaning
Same Day Service**

We do all garments
including leather and suede.

10 am to 6 pm Mon.-Sat.
1435 E. Bayshore,
East Palo Alto

Just Opened

**Old Fashioned
Goodies**

Ice Cream, Cakes
and Goodies




11 AM - 9 PM
7 DAYS A WEEK
943 University Ave.
East Palo Alto

Featuring
Bud's Ice Cream

WE ARE MOVING TO 1940 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
ACROSS FROM WELLS FARGO BANK



The Contour
Hair Care Center

Hair Cutting
Styling
Supplies

(415) 324-4247



Sewing
Alterations

Repair of your clothes
Pants hemmed—1 day or less

King-Charlemagne

2148 University Ave.
Hours: 7am to 6pm
Monday through Saturday

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

STEPHENIE'S FISH MARKET and DOWN HOME KITCHEN
(Formerly Louisiana Fish Market)

2375 University Ave., EPA Tel: 322-8650


HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 am—11:00 pm
Friday 11:30 am—3:30 am Saturday 12:30 pm—3:30 am

Take-out or Eat-in service

We offer fresh Louisiana fish—Die and Go to Heaven Pie—Boudin
Hot Links—Off Sale Beer and Wine

Weekly Specials: Thursday—Cattish Quebion
Friday—Seafood Gumbo
Saturday—Bar-b-que Goat

With this ad, \$1.00 off any purchase of \$10.00 or more. One coupon per customer. Expires 8-30-83




**LUTCHER'S
BEAUTY SUPPLY CENTER**

WE CARRY ALL LEADING LINES
OF BEAUTY & BARBER SUPPLIES

OWNERS
JAMES LUTCHER
MAE ANNA LUTCHER

1491 EAST BAYSHORE RD.
E. PALO ALTO, CA 94303

BUS (415) 324-4468
RES (415) 326-4211



EAST BAYSHORE BARBER SHOP
1497 E. Bayshore Rd., E. Palo Alto, Calif.
(415) 853-8904

Your Hair 's Our Business

Three Full-Time Operators to Serve You
J. BLAKEY C. BLAKEY N. STRONG
Member, East Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce


Shop Hours:
Tues. thru Thurs. — 8:30 am to 8:00 pm
Friday & Saturday — 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

RESIDENTIAL AND
INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

(415) 325-7809
RES. 322-7145

CROCKETT REALTY
ONYANGO S. BASHIR
REALTOR ASSOCIATE

2142 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
PALO ALTO, CALIF. 94303



REALTOR