

THE EAST PALO ALTO PROGRESS

June 1983

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Candidates Back Housing Controls

By Ron Drake

Prospective candidates for the East Palo Alto city council were nearly unanimous in their approval of measures to control rents and condominium conversions in a candidates night held Wednesday evening (May 25) in the municipal building.

The panel, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, advocated the creation of a body to oversee the new city's housing practices.

Anti-incorporation candidates, with the exception of Arn Cenedella, were absent from the forum.

The candidates addressed a variety of topics including possible means of providing police protection for the new city; employment in the city government; economic develop-

ment; and means for financing city services.

"Condo conversions have to be dealt with quickly and decisively," said candidate Keisha Williams in response to a question about protecting rental property in East Palo Alto.

Despite some reluctance to impose outright rent controls, the need for some oversight was observed by most speakers.

"Housing and health care are human rights," candidate Ruben Abrica said. He cited rat infestations and unsanitary conditions as intolerable and proposed a "Bill of Rights" for the city to ensure safe housing conditions.

Councilwoman Barbara Mouton urged a moratorium on condo conversions and rent increases as the first order of business for the new city and favored a rent stabilization board over outright rent control.

Arn Cenedella, the sole anti-incorporation candidate present, advocated an increase in the supply of rental housing to meet the demand crunch and resulting rise in prices.

Cenedella also addressed a question from audience member Joseph Goodwill on why the forces opposing incorporation have as their slogan "Save Our Homes." Cenedella responded that it was an "extremely extreme example" of what might happen. He attributed the slogan to council candidate Gertrude Wilks.

Most of the candidates agreed that strong people were most needed in the positions of city manager and police chief. Although the San Mateo County Sheriff's department would provide services for the first year of the city's existence, a majority favored hiring a chief of police directly responsible to the city council. Some candidates favored contracting for police services with the Menlo Park or the San Mateo County Sheriff's department.

"By having our own police department we can afford to be creative," said a candidate.

Most of the candidates also favored a residency requirement for city employees although the sentiment was not unanimous. And they all attacked favoritism.

"When it comes to doing business, I have no friends," said candidate Peter Evans.

The candidates expressed confidence in the new city's ability to finance itself and generally agreed that surpluses would be available to the government in its first years of existence.

Panel member Roosevelt Cox recited a litany of funds that would be returned to the city from the county as a result of incorporation. These included fines, penalties, fees for districts, funds from the state and federal government, and charges for city licenses.

"We know what we have to do," said candidate James Blakey, "we've worked hard. I want to stop economic leakage."

The candidates touted retaining the money generated within the community as the best way to foster economic development.



Well over fifty people attended the candidates nights sponsored by the League of Women Voters of San Mateo County and held in the Municipal Council Chambers. Candidates supporting incorporation were out in force. Only one candidate of the five opposing incorporation was present.

Business Thrives in East Palo Alto

By Carlos Romero

Businesses in East Palo Alto have come and gone over the years. In this respect the area is no different from the surrounding communities in which businesses thrive or languish according to the demand for goods offered.

However, the concept that some people have about East Palo Alto, both resident and non-residents, is that the area is incapable of sustaining or attracting businesses.

Jerome Sims, owner and manager of the recently opened Old Fashioned Goodies ice cream shop on University Avenue rejects these stereotypes.

Sims explains, "There is a big fallacy about the community. People think that all its residents are low income and penniless." When in reality, says Sims, "People in East Palo Alto are from all socio-economic groups; we're not just a community of the poor."

An employee of PG&E, Sims opened his establishment on Mother's Day and is reasonably content with the way business is going. If business continues at the same pace, he hopes to realize a profit by mid 1984.

"All one needs to do is look around East Palo Alto and see what the needs of the community are in terms of businesses," said Sims. Most of his clientele comes from East Palo Alto, both East and West of the freeway. Sims continued, "A lot of people have expressed gratitude that they no longer have to go all the way to Palo Alto to buy good ice cream."

Originally from Detroit, Sims moved to East Palo Alto in 1979 and purchased a house in the area where he now lives with his parents. His father manages the store during the day while Sims can be found behind the counter in the evenings.

Sims would recommend to anybody who wants to start a business in the area to do so. "Do a shallow market analysis. You can see the needs of the community are numerous," said Sims, "But whatever you do, do it right the first time."

Old Fashioned Goodies is located at 1943 University Avenue and is open seven days a week from 11AM to

Continued on page 3

Group Studies Fate of Ravenswood High School

By Roosevelt Cox

The June 7th election is centered around creating a city of East Palo Alto, and one of the biggest issues facing the electorate is whether the people of East Palo Alto should have the right to develop the 31.3 acre site known as Ravenswood High School into a City Park/Community Development Center. If Proposition A passes, then as early as July 1983, East Palo Alto could suspend the plans to develop a condominium project, which would be unaffordable to most residents.

Current data show that East Palo Alto now contains the lowest ratio of parkland in the county with only 12 acres of land devoted to park and recreational uses, about .67 acres per 1,000 residents. In comparison, the city of Menlo Park contains over 77 acres of parks, an average of 3 acres per 1,000 residents. This park shortage has forced many of our citizens to take long drives to neighboring cities in order to participate in sports and recreational activities.

This election may be the last chance for East Palo Alto to control the utilization of the valuable buildings and land. For years community representatives have been trying to convince the Sequoia Union High School District to turn over control of the land to either the local Park and Recreational District or the Ravenswood City School District. The Sequoia District has sought to change the zoning of the land to industrial or high density residential use. However, the San Mateo County Planning Commission in the process of updating the General Planning Document for East Palo Alto, voted 5-0 to preserve the entire Ravenswood site for community use. Fortunately for East Palo Alto, the lone community member on the panel, Omowale Satterwhite, along with strong testimony from community members, swayed the other commission members to vote against the economic arguments presented by

Continued on page 2

CAIN Lawsuit Overturned: Election On

By Carlos Romero

In a 2-1 decision, the appellate court overturned an earlier decision by San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Melvin Cohn that stated that the county had failed to follow the correct state law in approving the June election.

The state Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that the election officials in San Mateo County acted properly in setting the June election.

The election is on and preparations are well underway by both the county and incorporation supporters.

Five days after the reversal, opponents of incorporation petitioned the California Supreme Court to hear their arguments on why the election

should not take place.

Tom Adams, counsel for the East Palo Alto Citizens Committee on Incorporation, is doubtful that the state Supreme Court would hear the case before June 7. But as he stated, "it is not impossible."

Barbara Mouton, municipal councilwoman and an incorporation supporter, asserted that the opponents to incorporation are merely afraid of an election and thus are trying to block the election at whatever cost.

"If they really thought they had the votes, they would be willing to test it at the polls," said Mouton. "It is a question of power we are dealing with here and the opposition wants the power to reside outside the community."

Editorial

Back Pro-Cityhood Candidates

Tuesday's election represents the culmination of many years of hard work by people who desire to govern themselves. The necessity for local control of land and resources becomes more clear every day. Last year Alviso was inundated by runoff from torrential rains. The residents were driven from their homes by flood waters. They had to depend on the city of San Jose for emergency services and information on the availability of food, clothing, housing, and supplies. Many residents found San Jose wanting in the performances of these duties. It is abundantly clear that these as well as other functions must be carried out on a local level.

The opponents of incorporation have tried a variety of means to turn back self-government in this community. They have tried inflammatory rhetoric with a 'save our homes' campaign that has no relationship whatsoever to reality. Even anti-incorporation candidate Arn Cenedella characterized the 'save our homes' theme as extreme. They have poured out a torrent of misinformation regarding funding for the new city. This newspaper and other organizations have pointed out time and again the viability of the new city.

County governmental bodies, from the top down, have given the go-ahead to East Palo Alto's incorporation. Most importantly the majority of the East Palo Alto voters chose it in 1982. The city of Menlo Park has time and again rebuffed annexation of East Palo Alto as unworkable and unfair to citizens of both communities. (This does not excuse their previous eagerness to gobble up valuable open space that East Palo Alto should by right, be administering.)

Landlords have done their utmost to avert incorporation in full knowledge that their status as the least regulated of any business group in the county is in jeopardy. The anti-incorporation forces have even accused their own candidates—those candidates who have participated in the Municipal Council—of being too dim to run a city! As amazing as all this sounds there is one recent development that passes all understanding.

When Pete McCloskey was congressman for this district, he stated, in

gathering after public gathering, that East Palo Alto ought to govern itself. He consistently pointed out the advantages of incorporation and the advantages it would have in fostering business, jobs and government funding, and, every two years, he campaigned for votes from East Palo Alto residents. While McCloskey was dependent on our votes he lauded incorporation. Now that he no longer needs them, he has hired himself out to cCAIN for their effort to subvert self-government here. For them he has even gone so far as to challenge the validity of duly authorized elections!

At this writing, their appeal of the court decision upholding the validity of the upcoming election in the California Supreme Court is under consideration. We can only wonder what his reaction would have been had the right of the people to decide in the voting booth what their future would be been bandied about in the courts. McCloskey obviously knows which side his bread is buttered on and he

obviously prefers the side with the most bread. It is clear that his tune changed depending on who he was talking to; it is clear that he is representing the interests that he has always represented.

One would think that candidates in this election would be embarrassed to be on the same side with McCloskey in this travesty of the democratic process. Further, one would think that candidates opposed to cityhood would be uncomfortable having their names on the ballot for city council in full knowledge that they would have to change their minds or sabotage the new city. We have to wonder if these candidates are really aware that their intellect and their abilities are under direct attack from their own allies as a major reason against incorporating.

The opponents of incorporation would be glad to retain a toothless, impotent municipal council. They want an East Palo Alto where you can go to bed at night and wake up the next morning with a factory next door. They rejoice in having a place where a nine-hundred square foot house can go on a thousand square foot lot. Even though there are county standards, the observance of housing ordinances in the area's apartments and some of its homes is almost non-existent.

The opposition operates under the guise 'save our homes.' They do so irresponsibly. They know quite well that without a definite dictated direction by the people who live in East Palo Alto, the future of its homes is in jeopardy. The people of East Palo Alto must see to it that taxes and fees are in line with what they can pay. Home-owners must see to it that new businesses are welcome and that they are brought here safely and responsibly. They must insure that landlords, tenants and the community as a whole get a fair shake. They can determine how good and how honest their government and the police will be by keeping a close watch on them. They can insure the safety of their children by demanding the drafting and enforcement of good zoning, traffic, environmental and housing laws.

By opposing incorporation, McCloskey and his friends advocate inaction. They have candidates who are perfectly willing to run for council, but are those candidates willing to act? After all has been said and done, are they really willing to do the things that will make a city work? Whose interests will they represent? We have a right to know.

Vote yes on Proposition A. And vote for candidates who are squarely committed to making the city work for all its citizens.

If Walls Could Talk . . .

By Ron Drake

I was walking down Albemni, minding my own business, when I heard a small, pitiful cry. "Save me! Save Me!"

I looked around for the source of the voice, but there was no one within blocks. I looked into a couple of cars—no one there. There were no kids in the bushes. There were no ventriloquists around. There was just this plaintive voice whispering "Save me! Save me!"

I soon found the source of the call for help. It was a neat, two bedroom one-and-one-half bath home. It had a garage and a large, well-kept yard. A cat (obviously bothered by the noise) was sunning on a Buick out front.

"Save me!"

"What's your problem," I asked as I walked up the driveway.

"I'm in danger. The three-bedroom place with the shingle roof down there on the corner says we're in trouble."

I was still leery of the idea of talking to a house but this one was so sincere I decided that it needed consolation.

"What makes you think you're in danger?" I asked.

"My humans say that if East Palo Alto becomes a city, the taxes on us are going to go up and people won't be able to afford to live in us and we'll fall into decay and we'll be torn down and . . ."

"Hold it! Hold it! Calm down!"

I patted its siding and sat down on the porch.

"First of all, nobody is going to tear you down; you're too valuable."

"I am?"

"Sure. There are Silicon Valley engineers who'd give their eye teeth for you. Homes are too valuable to just throw away. Do you realize that you're sitting on one of the richest areas in the world?"

"I am?"

"You are. Unless your humans either can't or won't pay for you, you have a nice long life ahead of you."

"But the three-bedroom house says my humans won't be able to pay the taxes and fees for a new city!"

The house's side swelled with emotion. Its window panes were moist.

"Listen, your humans aren't going to lose you unless they have no control over the land you're on. They've got to vote for incorporation so they can control the land. If they and their neighbors decide that you won't be torn down for a factory or a hotel, then you won't be."

The house was so happy, its shutters flapped.

"That's going to be easy!"

"Well, we've also got to elect candidates who are in favor of incorporation."

"What do you mean?"

"The people who've got you crying 'save our homes' are running candidates for the city council. They're totally against the idea of incorporation and we just don't know what they'd do once they got into office if they were elected."

I rose to leave. The house was creaking and cracking at the joints. Even the dog house in the side yard was shaking.

"That sounds worse than termites," it said with a shiver.

"Just tell your fellow houses that if incorporation passes and we get good counselors, everybody stands a better chance."

"Thanks . . . I will. By the way, thanks for stopping to talk to me."

I was about to say something else but the house was shouting too loud. It even dove the cat off the Buick.

"Vote Yes on Proposition A," it shouted.

"Vote Yes on Proposition A!"

Ravenswood School Site . . .

Continued from page 1

the Sequoia District.

Just before the last incorporation election in April 1982, the County Board of Supervisors postponed action on the Planning Commission recommendation. After the election, the Board of Supervisors met in Redwood City and voted to allow condominium development on the land. The Board's decision, which reversed the vote of the East Palo Alto Municipal Council, pointed out the council's powerlessness to make final decisions.

The 23 acres containing baseball fields, soccer fields, basketball courts, track and football stadium, tennis courts, and open space are up for sale to the highest bidder for a mere price of 3.5 million dollars. The buildings containing classrooms, auditorium, gymnasium, and swimming pool will also be sold to private interests once the county's option expires in December of 1983.

Efforts by East Palo Alto organizations to influence the county of San Mateo to reconsider its actions have

failed. Both the county and the Sequoia District have ignored the community as represented by the Committee to Save Ravenswood High School which lobbied both bodies and collected hundreds of petition signatures in an attempt to stop the District from evicting community based groups such as the Senior Nutrition Project, Ravenswood Youth Activities Boxing Team, Ecumenical Hunger Project, Big Sisters of East Palo Alto/Menlo Park and the Head Start Program.

According to the convener of the Committee to Save Ravenswood High School, Sam Floyd, "This incorporation election could provide the community's last chance to see our land be used for the benefit of East Palo Alto. We must vote yes on incorporation to save the thirty-one acres."

By state law the new city of East Palo Alto would have total control over the use and zoning of the land after July 1st.

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**.

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Know Your Polling Sites



| PRECINCT NUMBER | POLLING PLACE |
|-----------------|---|
| 406001 | 1 Hardy Garage 176 Wisteria Dr. |
| 406002 | 2 Brentwood/Oaks #2 Multi-Purpose Bldg. 2033 Pulgas Ave. |
| 406003 | 3 St. Francis Church 1425 Bay Road |
| 406004 | 4 Municipal Building 2415 University Ave. |
| 406005 | 5 Costano School Library 2695 Fordham St. |
| 406006 | 6 Ravenswood Children's Center Toy Library 1286 Runnymede St. |
| 406007 | 7 Ravenswood Recreation and Park District 550 Bell St. |
| 406008 | 8 St. Francis Church 1425 Bay Road |
| 406009 | 9 St. Francis Church 1425 Bay Road |
| 406010 | 10 Palo Alto Mutual Water 2190 Addison Ave. |
| 406011 | 11 Brentwood/Oaks #1 Multi-Purpose Bldg. 2086 Clarke Ave. |
| 406012 | 12 Brentwood/Oaks #2 Multi-Purpose Bldg. 2033 Pulgas Ave. |
| 444003 | M3 House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church 330 Donohoe St. |
| 444004 | M4 House of Prayer Missionary Baptist Church 330 Donohoe St. |
| 444005 | M5 Creekside Trailer Park Garage, 1895 Woodland |
| 444006 | M6 Hair Power Beauty Shop 1925 University Ave. |

POLLING PLACES FOR INCORPORATION ELECTION: JUNE 7, 1983

Your voter information slip will have your precinct number and polling place. The numbers on the map above correspond to your precinct number.

If you are a registered voter and have not received your voter slip, go to your polling place on election day, your name should be on the voter index. If your name is not on the index, request the voting judges to phone election central so that you may vote.

EPA Business . . .

Continued from page 1

9PM. In addition to selling Bud's Ice Cream, cakes, cookies and other assorted goodies are also available.

Less visible to the public of East Palo Alto are the businesses located in Ravenswood Industrial Park. Over thirty industries are housed in the Park, ranging from chemical manufacturing plants to paper recycling centers.

Among the largest establishments are Bain's Moving and Storage, Zoecon Agricultural Chemical, Arrow-McBride, R.E. Bormann's Steel Co.

Smaller industries include: Peck and Hiller Co., International Health Services, Cal-Spray, Peden Engineering,

Mastern Corporation, Masero Labs, Dynamic Chemical Industries, Bay Road Nursery, Stonehurst Floral Products, Precision Tool, Watson's Auto Center, Charles Cannon Antibody and Paint, Import Specialties, Gates Auto Service, Walts Volkswagen Works, Electrite Plating Co., Paper Recovery Recycling Center, Flexico Metal Products, Brown Wood Products Inc.

In combination, medium to large sized industries like the ones above and small business ventures like Jerome Sims' Old Fashioned Goodies, form a stable and growing business base in East Palo Alto.



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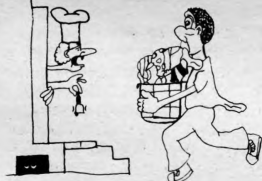


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Blacks Vie For Bayside Homes

A History of East Palo Alto (Part 3)

By Bob Lowe

Several weeks before Ravenswood High School first opened its doors in 1958, the East Palo Alto community fair featured a barbershop quartet and square dancing. The young woman selected "dream girl" of 1958 was—as always—white. Indeed, the community fair paid homage to the white aesthetics, values, and tastes of a rural world that was rapidly receding into the past. Despite this bit of nostalgia played out on a warm summer weekend, the East Palo Alto flower growers were being replaced by factory workers, the poultry colony lands had been largely transformed into housing developments, and the body of farmers known as the Grange has been reduced to a symbolic organization. These festivities, in addition, failed to reflect the interests of a growing Black population in East Palo Alto. The origins of this growth lay in the previous decade.

In the early 1940s, the exigencies of the war effort and the demands of A. Phillip Randolph's March on Washington Movement had opened up job opportunities to Blacks in war-related work. In search of better livelihoods, they left Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas for the shipbuilding industries of San Francisco, Oakland,

and Richmond. With war's end, however, the familiar rhythm of last-hired, first-fired once more entrapped Blacks, who suffered more than 30% unemployment in the Bay Area by the end of the 1940s.

Like whites, Blacks were attracted to East Palo Alto by the relative availability of jobs, by the perfect climate and the physical beauty of the locale, and by sturdy and inexpensive housing. That fine homes might be had for \$10,000 meant that many Black families could purchase a small piece of the "American dream." But as in most of California and the rest of the country, restrictive covenants and discriminatory practices of realtors conspired to deny Blacks entry into attractive areas, East Palo Alto included. Access to East Palo Alto, then, required struggle.

The fight was originally taken on by The Council for Civic Unity of Redwood City. This interracial civil rights organization encouraged whites to "front" for Blacks in the purchase of homes. Beginning in 1949 such a procedure made it possible for a number of Black families to move into the area. And once a foothold was established, realtors engaged in block-busting. By using scare tactics, these profiteers encouraged white families to sell their

houses cheaply, and then they re-sold them to Black families at considerably higher prices.

It is difficult to discern the extent to which raw racism, inflamed by realtors' unethical practices, accounted for white flight. But whites did leave East Palo Alto in growing numbers as the 1950s progressed. Certainly part of the explanation lay in greater opportunities for whites to become upwardly mobile. Indeed, job and housing discrimination against Blacks fostered mobility for whites by assuring them a monopoly of most white collar positions as well as a preserve of most residential neighborhoods beyond East Palo Alto.

Clearly institutional racism had a significant impact on Blacks in East Palo Alto, despite the alleged liberalism of the surrounding communities of Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Police violence was also a serious problem and "justifiable homicides" with Black victims all too frequently occurred. Yet there were few virulent acts of racism by private individuals on the order of dynamite hill in Birmingham, where Black families' new homes were bombed with impunity.

The ugliest physical incident in East Palo Alto that received newspaper coverage took place in 1954 when a

hammer was thrown at the home of the Baileys, the first Black residents of the Gardens neighborhood. This act complemented a move by the Palo Alto Gardens Improvement Association to buy out the Baileys. Newly swollen with members voicing segregationist sentiments, the organization might have had vigilante potential. The situation, however, was quickly calmed by the intervention of the Redwood City NAACP and other civil rights groups, and the Baileys remained. Over the next five years both Blacks and whites moved into the Gardens without incident.

By 1960 Blacks constituted 25% of the population of East Palo Alto, though a much higher percentage in some of the older areas. This unincorporated part of San Mateo County had come to represent both opportunity and limitation. It was a place where Black people might own their own homes and pursue lives unencumbered by legal discrimination, yet limits sprang not only from institutional racism, but also from a lack of community control inherited from their predecessors. The next installment of this series will discuss the founding of Ravenswood High School and the first serious attempt to incorporate.



To the victor go the spoils: From left to right, Mariba Perkins, first place finisher in the Run for Incorporation; run organizer and dynamo, Hamad Karim; third place finisher, Paul Organ; and second place finisher Jerry Waters.



Little League Starts Baseball Season

By Lon Otterby

Saturday, May 12, the Ravenswood Little League kicked off the 1983 Baseball Season with a parade and Opening Day Ceremonies.

The parade, featuring a drill team and eight baseball teams, wove through East Palo Alto from the Municipal Building on University Ave. to Martin Luther King Field in the Gardens.

The Opening Day Ceremonies started off with Marcherle James singing "Lift Every Voice" and Rev. Franklin of True Light Missionary Baptist Church giving the invocation. Rev. Bill Calhoun of the Wo'se Community in Oakland, Ca. spoke to the crowd of 500 about "Strength and Purpose."

Mr. Charles Price introduced the

teams and managers. They are: Campbell Realty, manager Willie McCullum, coach Steve Wilkerson; NAACP, manager Ronnie James, coach Lionel Johnson; Glendale Federal Savings, manager Percy Puckett, coach Roy Puckett; Bonaventure Set, manager Reggie Pryor; EPA Chamber of Commerce, manager Johnny Vickers, Jr., coach Johnny Vickers, Sr.; Palo Alto Elks Club, manager Bruce Swain.

To end the festivities and get on with the season Ms. Keisha Williams, Chair of the Ravenswood Recreation and Park District, threw out the first pitch.

The Progress wishes the teams, coaches, and managers the best of luck in the coming season.

EPAOIG Holds Cityhood Run

By Elena Becks

Enthusiastic incorporation supporters, runners and walkers alike, attended and participated in the Run for Incorporation Saturday morning, May 28, at the Ravenswood High School track.

The event, coordinated by Hamad Karim of the East Palo Alto Organizations for an Independent Government (EPAOIG), featured fifteen runners and a large group of enthusiastic spectators. Younger tracksters took the course before the race began.

Marathoner Mariba Perkins won first place honors in the race with Jerry Waters and Paul Organ taking second and third place respectively.

Perkins, who began running in 1971, has participated in four marathons since 1978. He also finished in the top five hundred runners in the 1979 Bay-to-Breakers race.

Participants and fans were sporting "Run for Incorporation" T-shirts designed by William Jones who was in the race.

Another race at the Municipal Council building is scheduled for Saturday morning, June 4th at nine o'clock. Many of the participants of the Incorporation Run are to take part in the event. It is being sponsored by the Kuumba Circle.

'Spirits Are Free' Night of Culture

By Keith Archuleta

Over 50 people recently attended "Their Spirits Are Free," a cultural night of fundraising for the incorporation of East Palo Alto. The event, held at Runnymede Gardens on Saturday, May 14, was sponsored by the East Palo Alto Citizens Committee for Incorporation (EPACCI) in cooperation with the Runnymede Gardens Senior Club and the Kuumba Ensemble of Stanford University.

Poetess Kalamu Chace, master of ceremonies for the gathering, shared her inspirational songs and poetry with the capacity crowd. The program included poetry, music, discussion of incorporation, refreshments, and the film "Doubts and Certainties," about the philosophies and teachings of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A special feature of the evening was "Their Spirits Are Free," a one-act play with Babatunde Kayode and Keith Archuleta who played Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko, freedom fighters in the South African liberation struggle. Mandela has been a political prisoner of the government since 1964, and Biko, leader of the Black Student Movement, was killed by the South African police in 1977 while he was in prison.

The cultural night was presented in honor of the elders of the community who have struggled for the right of East Palo Alto to govern itself, and in celebration of the courage and commitment shown by brothers and sisters who have continued to struggle for self-determination and democratic rights in East Palo Alto, as well as in southern Africa.

Willow Holds Science Fair

By Elena Becks

Over one hundred parents turned out Wednesday night, May 25, for the Willow School Science Fair coordinated by Principal Othene Thomas and Education Specialist Bob Howington.

All grades participated (K-5) in this community event. Class projects of particular interest included one on spiders, development and use of the wheel, study of the brain, and the chemistry of the lemon. Other favorites were projects on volcanoes, and rock collections.