

# East Palo Alto News



April 1996

## Cesar Chavez Day Fiesta

Charles Cheagle, a computer teacher at Cesar Chavez Academy, made cotton candy. Lots of kids had their faces painted like tigers. Noe Monje sold hats. If you missed the Fiesta on March 30, you missed music, dancing, snow cones. You missed seeing that kid Daisy Reynaga and so many others wearing Junior Police badges. Hundreds of people showed up for the event sponsored by Cesar Chavez Academy and Young Latino Leaders.

*(Pictured here: Noe Monje)*



*Carolyn Wyatt*



One day Carolyn Wyatt may be mayor of East Palo Alto. That's her plan. The story begins in East Palo Alto a generation ago. "For thirty-five years my mother, Maggie Bermfield, has gone out to Stanford Hospital to visit patients first thing every Christmas morning. She was also involved with youth in the church. Our house was always open. That's all I've ever known." Now Carolyn is director of the East Palo Alto Branch of the YMCA, president of the newly chartered Bayshore Community Kiwanis, a board member of the American Heart Association/Bayshore Chapter, a member of the Congress of Community Organizations and a member of the City's Domestic Violence Task Force run by the Police Department.

Carolyn was part of the last class at Ravenswood High School. Transferring to Menlo Atherton, she graduated as a junior and then went on to College of Notre Dame in Belmont where she obtained a B.S. degree in Business Administration.

From her desk at the YMCA (located directly across University Avenue from the doors of Community Church), she says, "I really stumbled on this whole world here. On a break from College of Notre Dame, I saw a flier (*see Page 1*).



## PACIFIC ISLANDER UPDATE

By Chester F. Palesoo

O TALA I MEA TUTUPU I TOTONU O LO TATOU ALALAFAGA NEI MA FAFO

E fa'apea ni tala a talanoa tagata i alalafaga aga'i luma, o le City o East Palo Alto o lo'o aga'i pea i luma le maoa'e o mea lelei ua fa'avaeina. I le tele o aganu'u eseese i totonu o East Palo Alto, e tatau lava ia tatou tagata Polenisia ona mataala i mea tutupu ma fa'avaeina i totonu o lo tatou alalafaga matagofie. O isi ia mea sa fa'avaeina e iai le East Palo Vai Taelle (sa tatalaina i le tausaga ua mavae), Fale o le Lautele o tagata fa'alelava le tamaoai, Faleoloa Tetele o lo'o fai pea aiaiga mo le lelei o lo tatou alalafaga, o moli i le University Avenue ua uma ona fai, o le fasioti tagata ua pa'u i lalo, ma le tele o isi mea lelei. O lo'o fai fo'i ni aiaiga mo le mauaina o ni tupe e toe fa'afouina ma fa'alelei le University Avenue.

Ao fa'ateleina pea le aga'i luma o le tele o mea lelei e fa'avaeina i totonu o lo tatou alalafaga, e iai matupu e tatau ona tatou mafaufau ma nofo mataala lelei i ai. O isi mataupu e iai le tupe fa'alafoga (excise tax) ma lo tatou saogalemu lautele. Afai e aga'i pea i luma se lelei o lo tatou alalafaga, o tatou tagata Polenisia e tatau fo'i ona tatou auai ma nofo mataala i mea lelei o le a fa'avaeina aua ia aiaiga. O le tupe fa'alafoga e taua tele i le aga'i luma o lo tatou alalafaga ma le saogalemu, fa'apea ma le fa'aititia o le amio leaga.

O ni isi tala mai Amerika Samoa e taulia ai le tauvaga mo le Kovana male Sui Kovana i le fa'aiuga o le tausaga nei. O ni isi tagata tauva e iai le Kovana A.P. Lutali, Susuga Fofu Sunia, Susuga Tauese, ma le sui tauva taluai i le Susuga ia Pita Tali Kolumane. O ni tala mai Uasinitone e fa'apea sa fa'atalosaga atu le Sui Konekeresi ia Eni F.H. Faleomavaega i le Konekeresi a le Uniate Setete se pili sa pasia i le tausaga ua mavae. O le pasia o lea pili ua mafai ai e tamaiti mai Samoa i Sisifo, Toga, Fiti, ma isi vaega o le Vasa Pasefika i Saute o le amataina a'oga i Univesite i Amerika. O le tele o ia tamaiti e fa'apea o le a a'oga e amata mai i le Univesite o Hawaii.



### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

When we talk about a City On The Move, the City of East Palo Alto extraordinarily exhibits progress defining a city moving forward. In a community that is diversified such as the City of East Palo Alto, we the Pacific Islanders are to be aware of the development stages and issues taken place in our wonderful community. Some of these development projects include the East Palo Alto Swimming Pool (opened last year); Gloria Way Housing Project; Gateway Project plans and negotiations are in progress; street lights on University Avenue, diminished crime rate, etc. Plans are also in progress to secure funds for repairing and re-surfacing University Avenue.

As our wonderful City continues to display extravagant improvement, there are also issues and concerns, the Pacific Islander community are to be consciously aware of. Some of these issues are the excise tax, public policing and safety, etc. In order for our City to continually move forward, we, the Pacific Islanders should get involve and be aware of the positive impact of these issues. The excise tax issue is a vital ingredient in the public safety and development of our community, as well as keeping the crime rate down.

Miscellaneous news from American Samoa include the race for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor later this year. Some of the prominent candidates include incumbent Governor A.P. Lutali, Mr. Fofu Sunia, Mr. Tauese, and former Governor Peter Tali Coleman. U.S. Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega introduced a legislation in Congress last year, and it was unanimously passed. As a result of this legislation, students from Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, and other parts of the South Pacific will soon be entering American Universities. Most of these students will initially enter the University of Hawaii.

### Job Openings at the Library:

#### LIBRARY PAGE

Library pages reshelve library materials, maintain the library collection, and keep and keep the library neat and orderly. Additional duties include checking shelves for materials listed on reports, photocopying, typing and other clerical duties as needed. Experienced pages may assist at the circulation desk, assist with computer tasks, bulk mailings, faxing, and/or special projects.

#### Minimum Requirements:

Applicants must be at least 14 years old. (If under 18, applicants must provide a work permit from school). Applicants must provide proof of legal status.

#### Minimum Qualifications:

Ability to:

- \* Communicate clearly.
- \* Carry out written and verbal instructions.
- \* Learn basic office and library procedures.
- \* Learn filing by dewey decimal number.
- \* Perform detailed, tedious work.
- \* Lift 20-30 pounds, and perform work that is physically demanding.

#### Computer skills and/or additional language a plus!

#### Experience:

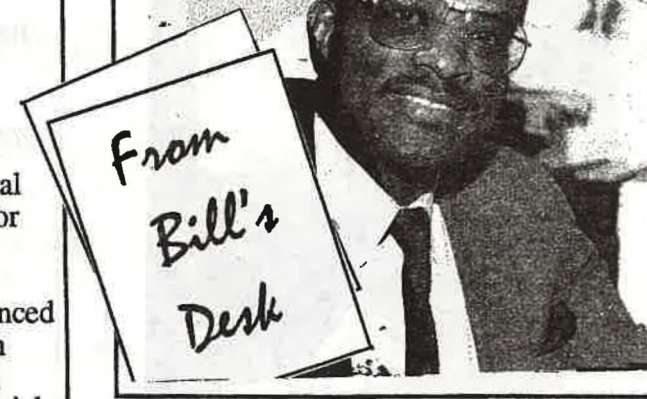
No experience necessary; we will train you.

#### Pay and Hours:

\$5.73 per hour. The position is 10 to 20 hours per week, including afternoons evenings, and alternating Saturdays. Sundays off. This is a year round part time position.

#### To Apply:

Pick up an application at the East Palo Alto library, 2415 University Ave. Library hours are Monday-Wednesday 11:00 to 7:00; Thursday, 1:00 to 7:00, Friday 11:00 to 5:00; and Saturday 1:00-5:00. For information call Eileen Barrie at 321-7712



### The Challenge and The opportunity

We in East Palo Alto are optimists. We believe that our chances of success are not negotiable. We believe that by hard work, diligence, enterprise, and prayer we can do all things. We can make our political and economic traditions models for others to

immulate. We have a great climate and possess undeveloped land, a most valuable resource. With vigilance we will enjoy the benefits of the Gateway 101 Retail Development. Our neighbors and our friends will enjoy it as well. People from all around will move freely within our fair city expressing delight with our accomplishments.

With this as a prospect could we be anything else but optimists? Ordinarily this quality is a great asset. But if we are not careful to remain focused keeping our eye on the prize we may lose it. All of the pieces of the puzzle are put together, minus one. That one piece is the Sportmart Agreement. We have Home Depot, The Good guys and Office Depot. We have the financing lined up, we have the contracts for the infrastructure in progress, we have completed and are ready to implement our relocation plan, we have demolished the old high school, but we need Sport Mart to complete critical mass. The three will not go with out Sport mart. To encourage them to complete the deal we have sweetened the pot for them, we have nurtured and cajoled.

Now it is time for prayer. I was convinced before and remain convinced that prayer changes things. The time has come in our quest for economic freedom to realize that we must not totally rely on our own understanding. **When leaders do not lead change does not occur.** Christian men and women through their knowledge, position, and ability will make the difference. As a Christian man I ask you to join with me in prayer, as you read my words. "Heavenly Father we come to thee with praise and thanks giving. We recognize our limitations, our weaknesses, and we confess our sins and ask forgiveness. We thank you for the lives and energy of all in the City of East Palo Alto and those prayer warriors who are reading this article, Thank you for this serious opportunity to complete this economic development project. Our request is for guidance from the Holy Spirit. We want the work of the City Council, the City Manager and his staff and all of those who work for the completion of the Gateway 101 to be acceptable in your sight. This blessing is asked in the precious name of Jesus AMEN."

Ah, this is the Good News! There are lessons in all this, we can reclaim and recover the legacy and we must face our problems squarely. "Know the truth and the truth will set you free" is the adage. And it is the first necessary step to the success of the 101 Gateway Project.



## Rent Stabilization Board

City employee Calvin Whitaker oversees the Rent Stabilization Board, a panel of citizens that includes representatives for both landlords and tenants (the Board meets every second and fourth Wednesday). We talked with him to bring you this update.

**City's role.** The Rent Control Board is charged with educating the public about laws governing landlords and tenants and with providing paperwork necessary for them to comply with those laws. Says Mr. Whitaker, "The most frequently asked question that we receive is, 'My rent has increased; can they do that?' Next are questions from tenants at some stage in the eviction process. We also receive complaints all the time from people who think that somehow or another we have control over setting policy. That is not our function."

**Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act.** This law mandates removal of rent control on multi-family units after a three year phase-in period. During the first three years--January 1, 1996 to December 31, 1998--upon "voluntary" vacancy or eviction for non-payment of rent, an owner may set the initial rent for the new tenant up to 70% of the HUD fair market rents or up to 15% more than the prior rent, whichever is greater. There are no increases for existing tenants except the usual yearly adjustment. Beginning January 1, 1999, upon a vacancy, a landlord may set the rent at any amount the market will bear. However, once so set, the unit will again be subject to local control until there is a new vacancy. This applies to multi-family units, not to single family residences.

State housing legislation in progress was discussed by Christine Minnehan at the Rent Stabilization Board meeting on March 27. She is a lobbyist for tenants' rights affiliated with Western Center on Law & Poverty, Inc. in Sacramento. There are several pending bills that would impact tenants including approximately eight pre-emption rent control bills. For more information, contact Calvin Whitaker at 853-3100.

## Be a Good Citizen

Help Return Stolen Items  
No Questions Asked

Items taken from 470 Bell, March 29

Answering machine and micro cassettes with valuable recordings of conversations with now-deceased family members (Black ATT machine)  
Burgundy Leather Jacket, short  
Black Leather Jacket, short  
Black Leather Jacket, long  
Wrist Watches (2)  
RCA VCR with remote  
GE Digital Tel. Answering Machine  
Sony Cordless Phone  
Nikon Camera  
Leather Waist Pouch  
Credit Cards  
Numerous Compact Discs

Please call 324-4477

## St. Elizabeth Seton School

K-8 Catholic education at  
1095 Channing in Palo Alto

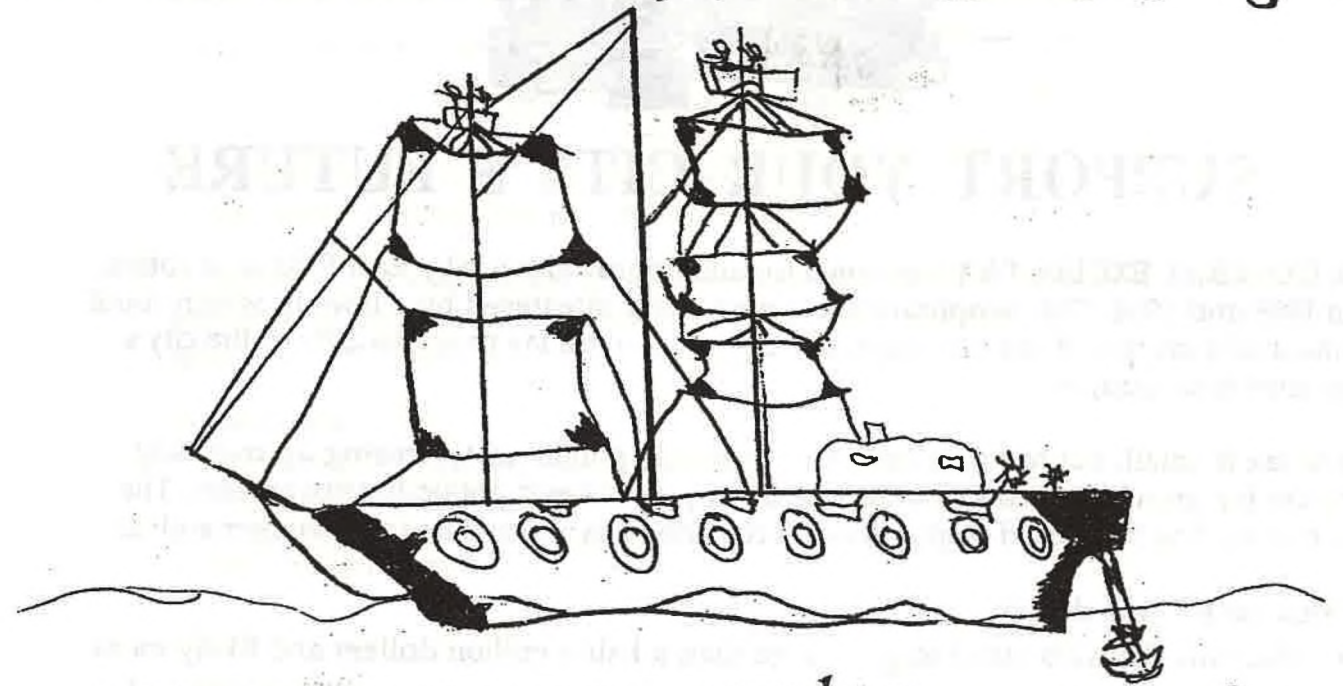
Ninety seven percent of  
our students are from  
East Palo Alto and East  
Menlo Park.

Family discounts: yearly tuition is \$1,900 for one student, \$3,000 if two students in your family attend, \$3,800 for three. Scholarships available.

**Seton students beat the odds.** Virtually every student graduates from high school, many with honors. Two-thirds of those who finish high school attend college.

326-9004 (School)  
326-1258 (Devel. Office)

## East Palo Alto Foundation Invites you to It's Kick off Fundraiser: A Benefit for Community Summer Youth Programs



Set Sail Through a Child's Imagination!

Saturday, April 20, 1996  
7 pm — 10 pm

Cesar Chavez Room, Cesar E. Chavez Academy  
2450 Ralmar Street (corner Bay Road)  
East Palo Alto

Special guest former 49er great **Ronnie Lott** will join our multicultural celebration of "Children, Youth, and the Family". Featuring dance and dramatic performances by **The Mawekama African Dancers**, and the **Tongan Pearls**.

Tickets: \$35 per person  
(includes hors d'oeuvres and desserts)

Available at:

Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce  
325 Forest Avenue, Palo Alto

Spirals  
367 University Avenue, Palo Alto

To charge tickets by phone, or order by mail, call 415-856-3825.

Deadline for mail order tickets: Monday, April 15

For Event Information Call 415-853-3140

We are grateful to our Sponsors

The Mercury News  
Captains Club Sponsor: Catalytica Inc.,  
Palo Alto Recreation Foundation, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, OICW, Holiday Inn Palo Alto, Cafe de Orleans  
Menlo Park, Landmark Label MFG, The Bank of California.

# CITIZENS FOR EAST PALO ALTO



## SUPPORT YOUR CITY'S FUTURE

A GENERAL EXCISE TAX was voted for and approved twice by East Palo Alto voters, in 1989 and 1994. This temporary tax is now being threatened by a lawsuit which could financially cripple, if not bankrupt, our city. The excise tax provides 20% of the city's general fund budget.

The tax is small, but has paid for a lot - primarily public safety, freeing up matching funds for grants for economic development projects and public improvements. The excise tax has been used responsibly, as confirmed by up-to-date independent audits.

### Who gains? (We don't)

- Plaintiffs' lawyers stand to gain more than a half a million dollars and likely more.
- One absentee landlord stands to gain more than a quarter of a million dollars plus interest from his refund. And there are others.
- Residents stand to gain very little.

### Who loses? (We do)

- We lose a functioning city: public safety, economic development, senior and youth programs.
- Money. The city has already used the tax on city services. We, the taxpayers would be forced to pay the refund in future years.
- Loss of our property value.

CITIZENS FOR EAST PALO ALTO (CEPA) is a neighborhood organization that is educating residents about the consequences and status of the court case.

### Please attend the CEPA kickoff rally and workshop to:

- Learn about the issue
- Help move the city forward
- Build support in your neighborhood

**When: 4/20/96, 10:30 AM**

**Where: Community Room, 2415 University Avenue**

**Join CEPA to help save our city!**

## ATTENTION EAST PALO ALTO RESIDENTS !

Please take a moment to add your voice to those who are supporting the excise tax. Fill out the *Waiver of Claim for Refund of Excise Tax* and mail it to Citizens for East Palo Alto, P.O. Box 50400, Palo Alto, CA 94303 or drop it at City Hall or in one of the boxes around the city. All East Palo Alto homeowners, renters, business owners and operators and property owners may fill out this form.

### WAIVER OF CLAIM FOR REFUND OF EXCISE TAX

RE: THOMAS, et al. v. CITY OF EAST PALO ALTO, et al.  
San Mateo County Superior Court No. 388738

The undersigned hereby elects to waive any right to a refund of the East Palo Alto excise tax paid in accordance with Ordinance Nos. 104 and/or 175, whether or not a written claim for refund has been made.

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Address of East Palo Alto property: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

(if different from above)

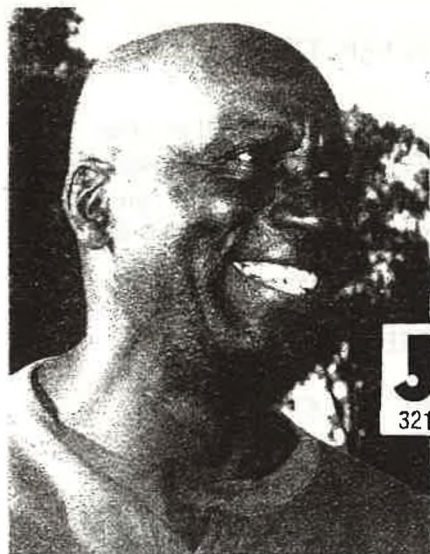
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

### Partial list of endorsers—Lista parcial de apoyadores

#### \* Drop Box for Waivers—Lugares para entregar Waivers

The East Palo Alto Merchants Association	Ruben Abrica	Irving & Mary Hemingway	Charles Price
League of Women Voters	Ben Ahmad	Larry Henderson	David Reyburn
Industrial Development & Employment Assn of East Palo Alto (IDEA)	Nobantu Ankoanda	Robert Hoover	Robert Richardson
*African City Alive	Duane Bay & Barbara Noparstak	Mildred Howard	Tommie Roberts
Lucky's Shopping Center	Ed Becks	Luther Jackson	Horace Robertson
Pete & Keisha Evans	James Blakey	Rose Jacobs-Gibson	Carlos Romero
Bains Moving & Storage	Diana Bloch & George Hunt	Luther Jackson	Armond Ross
Paul Bains	Laverne & Al Bryant	Tiambe Jama	Tom Sagehorn
*Betty's Soul Kitchen	Maurice Bundy	R.B. Jones	Omwale Satterwhite
2417 Pulgas Avenue	Jane Burton	Aretha & Leonard Lawrence	Glenda Savage
Horace Robertson	Rosemary Burgess	Alfred LeGrand-Sawyer	Chet Smith
*Century 21-Alpha Pacific	Emily Campbell	Rev. A.C. Macklin	Stephenie Smith
1926 University	Kalamu Chache	Walter Matherly & Copenhaver Cumpston	Solo Sobayo
Kenneth Harris	John Coyle	Allen McIntyre	Phyllis Smith-Williams
Goldie's BarB-Q	Jeanne & Richard Cuffey-Tatum	Jeanne Merino	Esther J. & Isaac Stevenson
Rochester Jones	Foster Curry & Nancy Leech	Trennie & Laurine Miles	Isaac Stevenson, Jr.
*Karim's Hair Care	Midge & Fred Dorn	Elbert & Dorothy Mitchell	Helen Streck & Chris Woodard
1435 East Bayshore Rd.	Eugene Evans	George Mitchell	Sherry Zalika Sykes
Kammad Al Hajj Karim	Dr. & Mrs. Robert L. Fairley	Janice Mitchell	Lorilee Tomko
McGee's Barbershop	Rebekah Finer	Erma Moore	Solomon & Cheryl Tucker
Curtis Jordan	Wesley Flowers	Barbara Mouton	Dee & Senter Uhila
Sacks's Thrift Avenue	Pat Foster	Maisha Mouton	William & Terry Vines
Stephanie Smith	Paul Gardner	Halim Mustafa	Myrtle Walker
	Claire Gilchrist	David Nebenzahl	William Webster
	Renée Glover	Pamela Noyer	Rev. Huey Williams
	Rev. Joseph Green	Jeri Oakley	Ruby Williams
	Ken Harris	Meda Okelo	Sharifa Wilson
	Esther Hartwell	Chester Palesoo	Nozipo Wobogo
		Georgina Peraza	



# EAST PALO ALTO JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM

321 BELL STREET • EAST PALO ALTO • CA 94303 • TELEPHONE: 415/688-1281 • FAX 415/688-1284

By Bob Hoover

The East Palo Alto Junior Golf Program has witnessed one of its charter members, Ms. Cyprian Shanna Uhila, enroll in Alabama State University with a full scholarship for golf. Shanna was offered golf scholarships at three colleges. Needless to say we are very proud of Shanna and her accomplishments because she represents the attainment of our major goals: to retain youth in our program until they graduate from high school and to have our kids attend college, thereby showing that the program works. Our program is in its sixth year. All of our golfers that are in high school are enrolled in college prep curricula. Seven of the ten students in junior high school and high school have GPA's of 3.0 or better, three of them were on the honor roll, and two of them were Students of the Month at their schools. Of course, we don't take all of the credit for these accomplishments, but based on what parents and the kids tell us, we know that being in the program was a major factor.

There are twenty-four youth (ages 6 - 13) in our Introduction to Golf class and twenty-five youth (ages 10 - 17) in our regular program.

### Introduction to Golf Class

is conducted by Bob Hoover (Program Coordinator and Coach) and Ralph Mattox (Volunteer Instructor) and consists of six one-hour sessions that include explanation of the game (scoring, course layout, etiquette, etc.) and the basic fundamentals of the game (grip, stance, swing, chipping and putting).

### Regular Program

**Beginners (Non-Playing)** Two one-hour lessons each week.

**Beginners (Playing)** Two 1-1/2 hour lessons each week. The first half hour is spent on



swing mechanics or the short game and one hour is spent on the golf course with emphasis on shot making, sand play, the rules, etiquette, proper procedures (for marking your ball, handling the flag ...), and course management.

**Intermediate and Advanced** Two one-hour individual lessons each week. One lesson is taught by one of the teaching pros at the golf course and one by Bob Hoover or Ralph Mattox.

### Contributions

In 1995 we were very fortunate to receive several grants and many contributions of funds, bags and balls, clubs, and instruction. We will never be able to adequately express our appreciation and gratitude to the foundations and individuals for their generosity.

- The United States Golf Assoc. - \$3,000 grant
- Joe Masi through the Hancock Foundation - \$3,500 grant
- The Palo Alto Rotary Club - \$2,000 grant
- The Winged "O" Foundation - \$1,500 grant
- Brad Lozares and Hank Pollex through the Junior Golf Tournament - \$2,000 grant
- The Palo Alto Golf Club - Eight ping golf bags
- Wally Goodwin, Stanford Men's Golf Coach - One week scholarship for two youth to his golf camp at Stanford
- Brad Lozares - Four Golf Camp scholarships
- The City of Palo Alto - Scholarships for five youth to a three-day golf camp
- Members of Palo Alto Senior Men's Club - Countless balls and clubs
- OICW - The opportunity for four of our kids to play in their annual tournament
- Teaching Pros for countless hours of instruction: Brad Lozares, Hank Pollex, Mike McMullen, Herman McKee, Rich Bin, Mike Kiesters, Karl Gross, Mark Madayag, Jamie Short and Ralph Mattox.

By Cyprian Shanna Uhila

Golf has taught me many things. In golf there are many elements against you. Some of these may be the wind, high grass ("rough"), or maybe the



CYPRIAN SHANNA UHILA

dreaded bunker. It was not hard for me to realize that golf and life run parallel to each other. This is a short summary of how the game has helped me.

I'm only seventeen years old, but I have been through many problems. Every day after getting off the school bus I was greeted by a crack fiend looking for someone to make a transaction with. At night, I could hear my neighbor crack a forty-ounce bottle on the head of his wife because she

didn't have any more money to feed his habit. Not only were there problems in my community, but in my life also: peer pressure, learning to say no, staying out of fights and gangs. Many times I have broken down and cried, but it does not help much. I became more dedicated to my game. I learned to think more positively and become determined. Without determination, I cannot better my situation. Consistency and patience are the key to life and the game of golf. Without the help of Bob Hoover and the East Palo Alto Jr. Golf Team, I would not be the person I am today. This team has been and still is my family. I cannot thank Bob Hoover's organization enough. With the scholarship that I received, I will make sure that, when I have finished, I will bring it back to the community and the children here in East Palo Alto.

By Samir Abdul-Mateen

One reason I like golf is because I get to travel to a lot of places that I would not go to otherwise, such as Fresno, L.A., Denver, Seattle, and Vancouver, Canada--just to name a few of the places that I have been with the golf club. I have met a lot of people from these places and made a lot of new friends. I have learned to be more respectful of other people and the golf courses, and I have learned to be more tolerant and as a result have come to like some people that I did not like before.

## 3RD ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF JUNIOR GOLF BARBEQUE • RAFFLE & AWARDS FOLLOW PLAY

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1996 • 8:30AM SHOTGUN START AT PALO ALTO MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE  
ENTRY FEE: \$80 PER PLAYER INCLUDES GREEN FEE, PRIZES, FOOD AND DONATION

### ENTRY/SPONSOR/DONATION FORM

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CDI JR. GOLF. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY AND MAIL THIS ENTRY FORM TO:  
BRAD LOZARES GOLF SHOP, 1875 EMBARCADERO ROAD, PALO ALTO, CA 94303 • 415/856-0881

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB AFFILIATION \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN INDEX \_\_\_\_\_ GHIN NO. \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE NO HANDICAP BUT MY AVERAGE SCORE IS USUALLY \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE NO PREFERENCE IN PAIRING

I WISH TO BE PAIRED WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

I WISH TO RESERVE A GOLF CART AT \$30 EXTRA

I CANNOT PLAY BUT WISH TO MAKE A DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A HOLE AT \$100  I WOULD LIKE MY COMPANY TO SPONSOR A HOLE AT \$100

(ALL DONATIONS TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS ALLOWED BY LAW). TAX ID# 942814128

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: BRAD LOZARES / HANK POLLEX / BOB HOOVER / RAY WIT

## Housing Legislation

Meeting in  
Council Chambers  
March 27  
(Wednesday)

Christine Minnehan, advocate for Western Center on Law and Poverty in Sacramento, reviews upcoming California legislation which could threaten tenants. You are invited to attend the Rent Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

## HOME LOANS - NOTARY - FAX - COPIES

### University Realty/ Peebles Home Loans

**Jim Peebles**  
Real Estate Broker  
Calif. Dept. of Real Estate

Phone: 617-0290

2220 University  
Directly across the street from the doors of Community Church



**Heaven Sent**  
A Mothers' Housecleaning Association  
2066 Capitol Avenue, East Palo Alto, CA 94303

The story of Heaven Sent began in the fall of 1984 when Families In Transition--at the time a program of Catholic Charities--started a support group for mothers living in a large apartment complex in East Palo Alto. The mothers met each week and discussed their concerns as well as their ideas for solving common problems.

The following year, the mothers' group and Families In Transition staff set out to deal with the core problem in the women's lives--chronic unemployment. Over a period of several months, the mothers developed the idea of a cooperative housecleaning project.

The job of housecleaning requires a worker who is responsible and trustworthy. All of the mothers who started the project were mature and respected in their neighborhood and local church congregations. Housecleaning also used skills which were already familiar to the women, or which could be learned in a short time.

With start-up funds provided by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the association, now called Heaven Sent, hired a project developer and the members began serving clients in May, 1986.

By working as an association, we secure the necessary training, pool our resources for advertising and other costs and benefit from the support of the other members. Even more importantly, this cooperative structure has provided us with the opportunities to acquire management and leadership skills.

Our association, now numbering nearly 25, has completed training in self-management and is administratively and economically self-sufficient. All members participate in the governing of the association including establishment of business policy and control of the finances. Our members presently serve several hundred customers from San Carlos to Sunnyvale. It is clear to us and to our customers that we are truly a unique organization.

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

-10- 325-2509

## My GrandMa Ma's House

By Samantha Moorer

My grandmother and her house seemed to reflect each other perfectly, like a soloist in harmony with all the diverse instruments of an orchestra. My grandmother's house was a cherished scene from my recent past, the vivid scene where I spent many long, hot summers admiring its beauty and simplicity. It was the place where my mother and her brothers and sisters grew up. It was and is so different from my daily living and yet, it quickly but willingly became my "other life," if only for a summer. My GrandMa Ma's house was a place I will always treasure and hold close to my heart.

Deep into the lush forest on a thick red country road two miles from the main highway lies my grandmother's house. To its left lies a spacious green field whose inhabitants are rattlesnakes and armadillos. To its right sit tall oak trees almost touching the sky, giving the surrounding area an aura of mystery and protection. Around the house, flocks and armies of chickens and dogs safeguard the fort, watching and waiting until an unfamiliar visitor comes, if he or she comes. They squawk and squabble for little kernels of corn and seek sanctuary from the oppressive Alabama sun. The leaders exerts a great shout welcoming the dawn of a new day. The red earth is pock-marked by little, sometimes big, black and white droppings, which are the remains of the careless army. I always had to be very careful that the droppings would not seep through my cheap jelly sandals. The sandals I loved and admired, as I would constantly wiggle my toes in the transparent plastic like form covering my feet. My grandmother's house sits alone, miles away from anyone and everyone, but in this apparent isolation was my joy. My joy was screaming at the top of my lungs and having no one hear or telling me to be quiet. My joy was emptying my heart through singing, only having the chicken and dogs to be my audience. My joy was living in the nostalgic, red house which had no bathroom, and for a time, no running water. The bathroom was either a small white pot, which I had much difficulty using, or the old wooden outhouse in the back of the house. I always believed men had it a bit easier than we women using the bathroom at my GrandMa Ma's house; they did not miss. Bathing and washing I found was especially difficult, since our tub was a large silver basin

with the hot water warmed by the stove and the cold water from the faucet. There was not a separate washing area, so the kitchen or one of the three rooms served as our temporary "private" place. One was always on guard for fear someone would unknowingly "walk in" and their innocence revealed. When it did happen, however, there was much anger and embarrassment.

Nevertheless, my grandmother's house did have some modern components: it had electricity, a television, a gas stove, and running water. These modern components I, in a sense, disliked simply because they were from my "other world" in California. I loved the informality of my grandmother's house. The natural, crisp air was like a fresh bag of chips. My grandmother, in her plain dress and gentle voice, gave me a greater sense of how extravagant and elegant simplicity could be.

I miss my "other life" in Alabama. Long, hot days seeking shelter from the relentless sun and relaxing under the fan bring back memories of the "other life" I can no longer enjoy. I can no longer scream at the top of my lungs or empty my heart through singing. Since my grandmother's passing, my joy seems lost like a ghost who does not realize he or she is no longer in the land of the living. Even though I will always have the memory, part of me longs to go back in time and hold on to the image and my grandmother, freeze it, and stay there, forever.



Samantha Moorer, who graduated magna cum laude from Saint Francis High School, is a freshman at U.C. Davis.



Drawing by Karin Morris

## Benefit Concert for EPA Youth\*

A moving program of Gospel, Latin American and Tongan sacred music

**Saturday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.**

First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto  
625 Hamilton Avenue

• True Light Missionary Baptist Church and First Free Wesleyan Tongan Church choirs of EPA  
• Berkeley Inspirational Voices • Peace Gospel Choir from Oakland • Coro Hispano de San Francisco • and more!

Tickets at Markstyle Barbershop (828 Willow in Menlo Park), at Gospel Books & Music (San Antonio Shopping Center & by calling 328-4932 before 9 p.m.

\*Bayshore Workers Program / Center for a New Generation / Students for Success

## Peninsula Community Foundation's Dinner Training Session

**Thursday, April 25, 5 - 8 p.m.**

1700 S. El Camino Real (#302), San Mateo

Consultant and lecturer Suzanne Irwin-Wells will teach this seminar for participants who will or have joined nonprofit boards of directors. What are their roles and responsibilities, how can they protect themselves from liability, and how do they evaluate a board?

Cost is \$25/person. For a registration flier call Georgia McDaniel at 358-9392.

## Carolyn Wyatt (from Page 1)

about a YMCA opening for a pool manager at Ravenswood High School. During my job interview for this position, I found out that the Y was looking for a girls' basketball coach. I became the girls' basketball coach, then Summer Day Camp Site Director for two years and eventually director of the Y's East Palo Alto Branch."

The Y has been in its current location in Peebles Plaza for two years, though it runs its programs in schools, parks, churches, homes and at the facilities of other local organizations. Carolyn will be reporting in the *News* on some of the youth that turned their lives around through involvement in the Y. "We try to offer student jobs at the Y to at-risk youth within the community."

Carolyn finds potential in children that is not commonly thought to exist. Through the YMCA, she teaches aerobics to kindergartners at Brentwood and Green Oaks and to first graders at Cesar Chavez Academy. "After aerobics exercises, we stretch and have a cool down period. I ask the students to meditate. I've got a whole gym full of kindergartners standing with their hands on their heads, eyes closed, breathing through their noses and out through their mouths. You don't think kids in this age group could be still for this long. I really blew my executive director away one day because he didn't believe it. You make it into a game and then you test them."

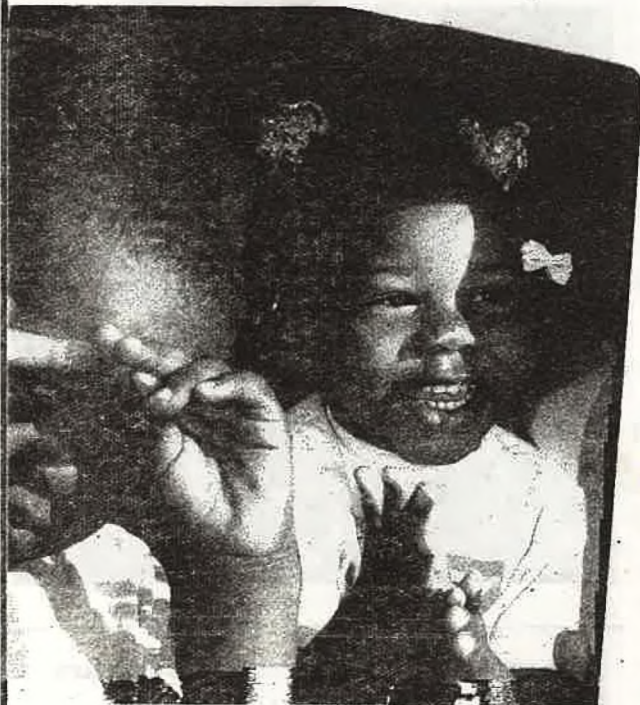
For more information on the YMCA, Kiwanis, COCO, the American Heart Association or the Domestic Violence Task Force, call Carolyn at 328-YMCA.

## Brown's Licensed Day Care

### A Letter from Sheila Smith

As a parent, I looked for the best child care services available. Helen Brown has shown my child more loving care than any of the other facilities I interviewed prior to accepting a spot in her home. As a child care provider, she has always been as careful, conscious, considerate, understanding, patient and fair with my child as if he were her own flesh and blood. He truly enjoys the bible reading sessions and prayers with the other children (and so do I).

My child has grown to love Helen as if she were his mother! He would cry when he knew he was going home or away from Helen because of the time and patience she takes with him. I have seen this happen to several parents, as they attempted to retrieve their children also. I thank God for her services and love given freely to all the children in her care from 6 a.m. until closing--and for the flexibility and understanding she has shown me. On occasion I have been late, and not once has she shown me the least amount of frustration or impatience.



Xavier and Geseana Figg