

# Salute to the Graduates

## College Track : Celebrating It's 10th Annual Graduation

## East Palo Alto and Oakland 2007 Graduates



The following list shows some of the universities the graduates are planning to attend this fall.

CSU Chico, UC Davis, UC SantaCruz  
 CSU East Bay, UC Berkeley. HNU  
 UC Merced, Santa Clara University  
 CSU SanJose, Stanford University  
 CSU San Francisco, Saint Mary's  
 Mills College, Mahattanville College  
 University of the Pacific. Hamilton College

### East Palo Alto

Jennifer Acuña  
 Renita Bhartu  
 Christafer Brown  
 Johanna Calvillo  
 Anna Diaz  
 Tiffany Duong  
 Sarait Escorza  
 Karina Flores  
 Braulio Gonzalez  
 Ivan Guerrero  
 Atziry Gutierrez  
 Himeka Hagiwara  
 Jessica Jimenez  
 Jesenia Landaverde  
 Noemi Oseguera  
 Lorena Patiño  
 Alfredo Pineda  
 Luis Pimentel  
 Maggie Razon  
 Wendy Renderos  
 Amy Rodriguez  
 Luis Salinas  
 Maricela Torres  
 Maria Valladares  
 Elizabeth

### Velazquez

Karen Zamora  
**Oakland**  
 Oscar Acosta  
 Omar Bala  
 Jai'la Bell  
 Bycha Buxton  
 Juliana Casanova  
 Lina Chhim  
 Ana Duran  
 Mechan Earls  
 Evelyn Garcia  
 Elicha Green  
 Karla Gutierrez  
 Carolina Hernandez  
 Jayme Jones  
 Rachel Kuiken  
 Nohemi Maciel  
 Guadalupe Magaña  
 Isabel Montes  
 Madia Moore  
 Ignacio Moran  
 Anayanci Ortega  
 Stephanie Ortiz  
 Erica Oseguera  
 Leonor Ramirez

Elizabeth Rojas  
 Isabel Ruiz  
 La Creasha Sellers  
 Mai Thinh  
 Huong Vaong  
 Ramon Zavala

**College Track is the catalyst change in the lives of high school students who are motivated to earn a college degree, but lack the resources. We help students realize their potential through academic excellence, community service, and civic leadership.**



## Celebrating Glow's 2nd Annual Awards Ceremony

### Glow 2007 Scholars

The Glow Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2006. Glow's mission is to provide financial education, mentoring, and scholarships to high school students from under resourced communities. Most of their students are from East Palo Alto, San Jose, and East Menlo Park communities. Glow Foundation has provided financial education classes to approximately 50 students and provided college scholarships for 17 students. For 2008 their goal is to provide financial education to 100 students and scholarships to 20 students. **GO GLOW!!**

[www.glow scholarship.org](http://www.glow scholarship.org)



Front row: Angelica Gallardo, Cindy Oseguera, Maricela Torres, Mayra Gomez, Michelle Urmeneta, and Pauline Brown .Back row: Fernando Munguia, Jolene Walton, Luis Martinez, Luis Mora, and Peter Sok.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of the 2007 graduates and award recipients.

From the East Palo Alto Center for Community Media and East Palo Alto Today

## Celebrating June graduates



East Palo Alto Academy High School 2007 Graduates

The Class of 2007  
 By Advisory:

### Marisol Castillo, Advisor

Maribel Angel  
 Ivette Arevalo+  
 Elizabeth Arteaga  
 Rosa Avalos  
 Mayra Gomez\* §  
 Luisa Guerrero

Raul Gutierrez  
 Luis Martinez +  
 Juan Carlos Moreno\*  
 Manuel Vargas

### Misla Barco, Advisor

Celedina Arreguin+  
 Ivon Chavez  
 Maria Galvan  
 Perla Garcia+  
 Erica Guizar  
 Losaline Kofutua+  
 Azucena Mendoza  
 Luis Mora\*+  
 Daisy Patino  
 Quinnesha Powell  
 Nictrae Smith  
 Mayra Tafolla  
 Ereyda Yanez+

### Justin Green, Advisor

Ana Gornez

Patrick Harris  
 Maria Hernandez  
 David Navigato §  
 Yesenia Rodriguez  
 Freddy Rosales  
 Maricela Torres\* §  
 Clara Tuipulotu  
 Tuuta Tuipulotu  
 Luis Villa  
 Nancy Villegas\*+

### Staci Kavanagh, Advisor

Norma Campos+  
 Lilyana Chavez  
 Jose Contreras  
 Richard Cornejo+  
 Folauhola Fiefa  
 Viviana Herrera  
 Ana Jimenez+  
 Jose Moya

Alexander Nava  
 Berenice Nuñez



From left to right: Raul Bentancourt., Mayra Tafolla, Robert Horton, Vice Principal, and Ereyda Yanez.

**Valedictorian:**  
 Mayra Gomez

**Salutorian:**  
 Maricela Torres

\* = cum laude, top 10% of class  
 + = Graduation with distinction (all but one exhibitions with distinction)  
 § = Graduation with highest distinction (all exhibitions with distinction)

# Salute to the Graduates

## Nuestra Casa's 2007 adult ESL graduation celebration

By Lourdes Muguerza  
EPA Today Contributor

Nuestra Casa's Adult English as a Second Language Program held its annual graduation celebration on June 13th. Ninety four adult graduates (all Latino immigrants) received certificates for attending English classes during the 2006/07 school year. The event was attend-

ed by nearly 200 members of the community, including the proud children and other family and friends of the graduates.

The graduates were recognized for the dedication and commitment they showed in attending the two-hour classes three times per week despite busy work schedules and family commitments. During the past school year,

students have increased not only their English proficiency but also their self-confidence and have made significant progress towards reaching



Nuestra Casa 2007 graduates

their goals for learning English. The graduates

received certificates from both Nuestra Casa as well as a special certificate of recognition from the California Legislature Assembly presented to them by the office of Assembly Member Ira Ruskin.

Lourdes Muguerza, Director of Community of Learners Programs, (650) 330-7471

## Graduación 2007 de Ingles para Adultos de Nuestra Casa

By Lourdes Muguerza

El Programa de Ingles para Adultos de Nuestra Casa celebro su graduación anual el 13 de Junio pasado.

Noventa y cuatro graduados recibieron certificados por haber asistido a las clases de Ingles durante el año escolar 2006-2007.

El evento fue atendido por aproximadamente 200 miembros de la comu-

nidad incluyendo a los hijos y miembros de la familia y amistades de los graduados.

Los graduados fueron reconocidos por la dedicación y el compromiso que demostraron en atender clases dos horas al día tres veces por semana a pesar de tener muchas responsabilidades de trabajo y familia.

Durante el pasado año escolar, los estudiantes



Nuestra Casa graduados de la clase del 2007

no solo aumentaron su conocimiento de el Ingles sino también aumentaron

su confianza en poder emprender variadas actividades con éxito.

Los graduados recibieron certificados de

Nuestra Casa al igual que un certificado de reconocimiento especial de la Asamblea Legislativa de el Estado de California que fue otorgado por la oficina de el Representante Ira Ruskin.

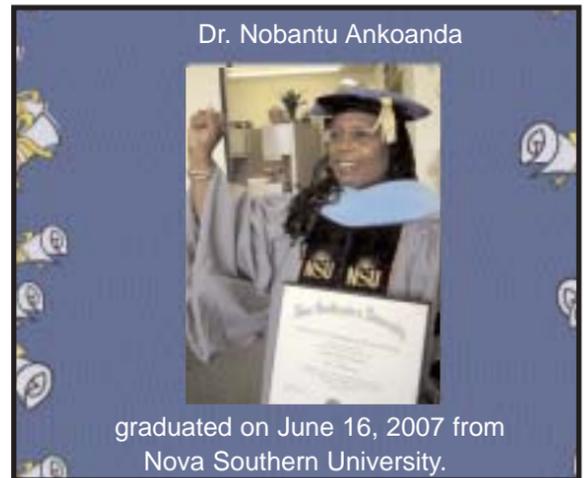
Lourdes Muguerza, Director of Community of Learners Programs, (650) 330-7471.

## Third Annual Baccalaureate Celebration

These are pictures of some people who participated in the program in 2006. This year the event took place on June 3, 2007



Celebrating Third Annual Baccalaureate for African American Students Graduating from Sequoia Union High School District- Carlmont, Menlo-Atherton, Redwood, Sequoia, and Woodside.



Dr. Nobantu Ankoanda

graduated on June 16, 2007 from Nova Southern University.

## SEP Graduation

continued from page 1

The following pictures show some of the graduates of this summer's Sponsored Employment Program. They received their certificates and final checks on August 6, 2007



Boys and Girls Clubs recognize over 350 children for Achievement and Leadership.



"Achievement Matters" is the name of a recognition and awards program that serves to motivate children by celebrating the academic, their character and their leadership achievements.

The program sets specific criteria for academic and leadership achievement it and encourages members to strive for excellence in those areas. When participants meet the criteria, their club rewards their effort and determination in a public way". Christian Canter, Dir. of Development, Boys and Girls Clubs.

East Palo Alto Today would like to salute all of the 2007 graduates from all of the area schools and youth programs



5



4



Ichiro Suzuki



David Ortiz



Dan Haren



Vladimir Guerrero



Josh Beckett

# Splash Hit!

## All-Star Game Takes Over San Francisco

By Daniella Garcia

East Palo Alto Today Intern

When most people think of San Francisco, they think of bridges, cable cars, and clam chowder. However, on July 10th, San Francisco was dominated by images of baseball players, pickup trucks, and a man in a hot dog suit.

This spectacle was the 2007 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

The festivities began at noon with a red carpet procession in which the All-Stars, coaches, and their families paraded past fans on a 2,000 foot long red carpet. This event allowed fans to get within six feet of baseball greats like Barry Bonds, David Ortiz, and Ken Griffey Jr. to name a few.

Many of the athletes signed autographs as they rode by in Chevrolet Silverados. Men dressed as a hot dog, a slice of apple pie, a baseball, and the Chevrolet logo chased after them and entertained the crowd.

The celebration continued inside the stadium where Major League Baseball paid tribute to Willie Mays. The former San Francisco Giants centerfielder received a standing ovation as he rode around the diamond in a pink Cadillac convertible.

After the tribute, it was time to play ball and the All-Stars did not disappoint the sold-out crowd of 43,965.

The American League defeated the National League 5-4 in a game that had the fans on the edge of their seats until the very last pitch.

The Giants may have hosted the game, but the real Giant among the All-Stars was Ichiro Suzuki. The Seattle centerfielder was named Most Valuable Player after going 3-for-3 and astounding the crowd with an inside-the-park homerun off of San Diego pitcher Chris Young. The ball popped off Ichiro's bat and

inning.

With two outs, Washington first baseman Dmitri Young initiated the NL rally with a single. Chicago Cubs' left-fielder Alfonso Soriano then launched a homerun into rightfield to make the score 5-4.

After Seattle pitcher J.J. Putz walked Milwaukee shortstop J.J. Hardy, AL Manager Jim Leyland replaced Putz with Anaheim's Francisco Rodriguez. The Angels pitcher known as "K-Rod" then walked Cubs' first baseman Derrek Lee and Arizona's Orlando Hudson to load the bases.

The crowd braced itself in anticipation as centerfielder Aaron Rowand stepped up to the plate

with the opportunity to break the NL's ten game losing streak in the All-Star game. Rowand ended the game by flying out to rightfield.

Regardless of whether fans were delighted or disappointed with the outcome of the game, many can agree that the 2007 All-Star Game was an event to remember. Baseball's best played with passion, showed love to the fans, and even made history.

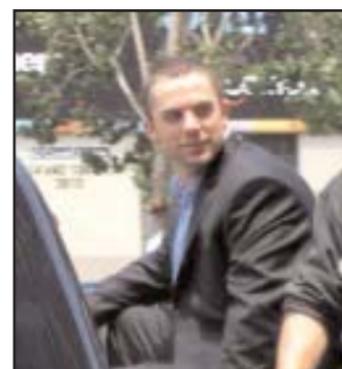
Next year's game at Yankee Stadium definitely has a tough act to follow.



Barry Bonds



Jose Reyes



David Wright



Orlando Hudson



Ken Griffey Jr.



# Working on my first summer job

By Lasara Lacy  
East Palo Alto Today Intern

I am fifteen years old, and this is the first summer I have ever worked in the sense of going to a job and getting paid. I would say it has been a summer of ups and downs. Mostly ups. Serious downs, though, and some of those downs were my responsibility and others were related to things completely out of my control. I am one of the East Palo Alto youth working in the Sponsored Employment Program, and I'd like to tell my story (so far!).

This whole experience started back in the spring

when I filled out an application. My Uncle Doug gave it to me. He said something like, "Sign this paper and you can get a job." So I signed the paper.

It's kind of hard to admit that my expectations at that point were simply that I was going to get paid. For working, of course, but I was mostly focused on the money. I'm not embarrassed to say that I was looking forward to spending that money on me.

I'd had money before-don't get me wrong-but I'd never had money on a regular basis and it had always come from somebody else. It hadn't ever been all mine, every two weeks, to do what-

ever I wanted with.

I was hecka nervous the day I had to go in for an interview. I was embarrassed because my Uncle Doug made me dress up in clothes I'd never worn before. My mom had gotten me these clothes, but I had never thought I'd ever wear them: slacks, this top with a collar and heels. It was weird, especially the heels. And I was nervous. I wanted to get the job, and I didn't know what they were going for and I worried I'd say the wrong thing.

The lady who interviewed me was nice. She loosened me up. I wish I knew her name. She asked me about

my family at home, my school, my grades, whether I had to go to summer school, and why I wanted a job. I didn't really want to talk about some of this stuff, especially my family. That's because it's really nobody's business, in my opinion.

Another thing she asked me was what kind of a job I wanted and what kind of job I didn't want. This was connected to a question about what I wanted to be in life. I want to be a lawyer. I didn't figure there were any summer jobs where I could be a lawyer, and I was right.

I don't know if I should say this, but the lady told me at the end of the interview that I

had gotten the job. Allan tells me that's not what happened, but I was there and the lady told me I got the job. That's why I was mad when nobody called me. Other people got called, but I didn't. I thought maybe I had gotten lied to. I expect people to tell me the truth, but sometimes they lie. This is very disappointing.

My sister got a letter telling her she hadn't been selected. I didn't get anything. This was confusing. Maybe I had gotten the job, but why weren't they calling me? Then, a couple of days after other people started their

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## East Palo Alto Sanitary District

### CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT

JULY 23, 2007

#### Information on your Sewer Service Charges

East Palo Alto Sanitary District (EPASD) is a non-profit public agency providing wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services to portions of East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. EPASD has been providing service to the community since 1939 and looks forward to its continued involvement into the 21st century. The regional treatment plant, located in Palo Alto, treats approximately 26 million gallons of wastewater per day to a quality level that meets stringent Environmental Protection Agency and State standards for discharge into San Francisco Bay.

Revenues to operate the District are collected yearly from residents and businesses whose properties are connected to the sanitary sewer system. The purpose of this newsletter is

to explain how yearly Sewer Service Charges are calculated and what steps can be taken to minimize the charges.

Annual sewer service charges are placed on your San Mateo County property tax statement. Sewer service charges are not a property tax and are not related to the assessed value of a property. They represent a charge for a service provided, similar to your telephone and electricity bills. We simply include the yearly charges on the property tax statement to save the administrative cost of generating and mailing our own invoices. More details on how the charges are calculated are provided below and on the following page.

#### Renting or Leasing

Due to the high billing, commercial or industrial customers who rent or lease their property should carefully consider how sewer service charges are addressed in the lease or rental agreement. Changes in tenants with different demands for water or that have different wastewater strengths will affect the yearly service charge. A property owner may not become aware of potential changes in service charges until well after tenant changes have occurred. All sewer service charges are billed to the property owner. Property owners are responsible for paying the charges whether or not they are able to collect from their tenants.

#### How Wastewater Strength Affects Charges

Sewer service charges for commercial and industrial customers are based on four components: volume, chemical oxygen demand (COD), Ammonia (NH3) and suspended solids (SS). COD, Ammonia NH3 and SS are indicators of wastewater pollutant strength. Wastewater with high strength costs the District more to treat. For example, wastewater with high levels of suspended solids produces more sludge (a by-product of treatment). Sludge is burned to ash and then shipped to Offset Agri Industries Inc. in Merced and used as fertilizer for farm land. See [www.clearbay.org](http://www.clearbay.org) for more info.

#### Flat Rate Charged for Residential Service

Charges for residential customers are on a flat rate per equivalent residential dwelling unit (ERDU). The current rate per dwelling unit is \$380.00 per year. This would be the charge for a single family home, condominium or townhouse. A property with multiple housing units such as an apartment complex is charged the same flat rate (\$380.00 per year) for each dwelling unit on the property. For example, a ten unit apartment complex would be charged \$380.00 x 10 (ERDU) or \$3,800.00 per year.

#### Water Use Determines Commercial and Industrial Charges

Charges for commercial and industrial customers are based on the volume and pollutant strength of the wastewater being treated. The volume of wastewater is determined from records of water usage, as metered by the East Palo Alto Water District, **less any credits for water used that is not discharged to the sanitary sewer, such as landscape irrigation.** Due to the lead time involved to **get yearly charges placed** on the County property tax statements, the sewer service charges on the current year's tax statement reflect services already provided. The current year's charges are based **on water use** and strength factors from the previous year. Water use for purposes of computing the service charge is measured from May through April. The sewer service charge for this period is then placed on the property tax statement that is mailed out in October, with the first installment due December 10th.

#### ATTENTION

SAVE THIS REPORT  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
REGARDING YOUR SEWER  
SERVICES

# Lyrically spoken

LaKia Young, EPA Today Intern

## An Interview with Lady Doe



-India Hodges

Lady Doe is an upcoming rap artist from East Palo Alto. We interviewed her earlier this month to find out a little bit about her music career and where she wants to go with it.

Q: At what age did you start rapping?

A: "I started rapping when I was eleven years old"

Q: What inspired to start rapping?

A: "Just being able to express how I feel and so other people could understand what I was going through"

Q: Do you plan on staying local or going world wide with your music? Why or Why not?

A: "I plan on going world wide because more people will be able to hear my music, understand some of the things I'm going through and be able to relate to it"

Q: What do you rap about in your songs?

A: "I rap about what I've been through growing up, what goes on in my surroundings such as all the parties, society in the hood and people dying.

Q: How many mix tapes have you came out with? What is the title of it?

A: "None, I'm in the process of one now. My title would relate to something representing the ladies and taking over, but I'm not sure yet because I have so many different personalities.

Q: Do you have a favorite rapper and what is your favorite song by him/her?

A: "Young Jeezy-Soul Survivor.

## Speaking with Shortz

Shortz is another upcoming rap artist from East Palo Alto trying to get his career together.

He is a youth trying to do something with his life and earlier this month we decided to interview him to find information about his rapping.

Q: How long have you been rapping?

A: "I have been rapping for 3 years"

Q: What inspired you to start a rapping career?

A: "My cousins because I just like rapping and just seeing how big they were doing it"

Q: Do you plan on staying local or going worldwide? Why or why not?

A: "Both because I just like doing it and I can let other people hear my voice and get money"

Q: How many demos or mix tapes have you came out with and when is the next



-JJ Bivins

one coming out?

A: "I did three mix tapes and I'm working on a little album and another mix tape by me and T-baby (Gudda Squad)"

Q: What does it take to be a rapper?

A: "Express yourself and not let people criticize you. Don't trip off of other people and do what you do"

Q: What do you rap about?

A: "Cars, clothes, money and stuff that I know about in EPA"

Q: What about you makes your music unique?

A: "Because it's just me. I don't copy anybody else stuff. I do what I do and I don't care about what everybody else say"

Q: A lot of rap music puts down women is yours any different?

A: " No I don't because I show a lot of respect for women but sometimes I have to because they talk mess but it's only certain females not all women in general"

Q: Why do you think rap music has a negative impact on kids?

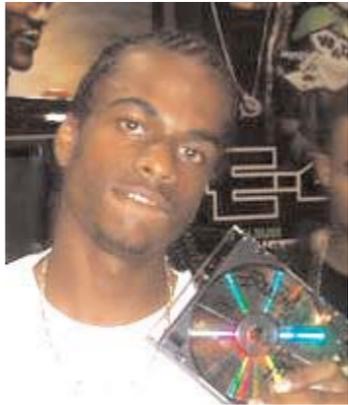
A: "Because they copy whatever everybody else say and do. I don't think rappers try to do that but it just happens"

Q: Why do you think the youth then adults accept rap music more?

A: "Because it's a younger generation and they're getting with the movement."

## An interview with Biv Da kid

By LaKia Young, EPA Today Intern



-Biven Johnson

Biv Da Kid is a very talented young man coming from Menlo Park. Music is his life and he has started a career at the age of 16. Earlier this

month we interviewed him to see how his rapping career is going.

Q: How long have you been rapping?

A: "3 or 4 years"

Q: What inspired you to start rapping?

A: "The Hot Boyz and weak ass rappers and my big brother"

Q: Do you plan on staying local or going worldwide? Why or why not?

A: " World Wide. When you local you just stay in the hood. When you worldwide you get to see more and meet more people and experience stuff I don't want to

stay local"

Q: How many mix tapes have you came out with and when is the next one coming?

A: "I got about 7 mix tapes 51 including stuff I did with groups and 2 albums my next mix tape Biv the Great will be out July.24th"

Q: What does it take to be a rapper?

A: "Um You got to be patient because nobody just blows up real fast you got to really put a lot into it if you really trying to go somewhere with it its really hard in the music business you just got to work hard I guess and stay on top of your game it don't really

matter how good you rap now a days people make the dumbest songs and get rich its all who you know"

Q: What about you makes your music unique?

A: "I know how to rap about different stuff a lot of people make a cd and have 16 songs about the same thing I can't do that also I'm just original the words I use I know how to switch my style on the mic I been doin it for a minute"

Q: A lot of rap music puts down women is yours any different?

A: "I treat hoes like hoes and women like women"

Q: Why do you think rap

music has a negative impact on kids?

A: "I think the parents not raising they children right if a parent raise a kid to have his own mind then its not gone matter what they listen to all we're doing is rapping what's really going on in everyday life in our environment everything I rap about is all I know"

Q: Why do you think rap music is accepted more by the your then adults?

A: " Cuz rappers rap about stuff the kids is into"

## Three views about rap music

### How do you feel about rap music?



-Prince

#### YOUTH:

"I like rap music but I think it promotes drugs such as thizz pills and it leads some kids towards the wrong direction and tells them how they should treat their women"



-Kenny Young

#### ADULT:

"Rappers could be positive only if the rapper been threw it, as long as they display something positive in their music."



-Darell

#### SENIORS:

"In the beginning people rapped for what they believed in, now rap is nothing, its more about the beat. Now is instead of what they believe in."

# Business Profile

## JT Turner reaches a lifelong goal



By Wilfred Opeta  
EPA Today Intern

J.T. Turner has been in business since 1976. He was influenced by a friend who introduced him to the idea of owning his own business. In the following years, he began to think seriously about starting his own business. In 1996, he became an independent insurance agent.

As an independent agent, he assists his clients with their financial needs. He provides several different financial packages, including life insurance, investments, and 401ks. In the process of running his own business, he rented space for a number of years in a building on Bay Road which also housed a



photos by LaKia Young  
JT Turner is interviewed by Wilfred Opeta

barbershop. This year he purchased his own building at 237 University Avenue in East Palo Alto where he will run his insurance company.

He has been driven by his interest in using his business to serve the community by educating people about the importance of having insurance. He also wants to help his customers choose the proper insurance for their needs.

He said that the main responsibility of being a business owner is to give service to people in a wholehearted way that is based on trust.

He also said that the responsibility sometimes gets overwhelming and challenging especially since he has

to work with thousands of customers and adjust his service to meet the expectations of each customer.

Turner has already met some of his major goals. He said that actually purchasing his own building was a major accomplishment because he always wanted to own his own building. The process of building ownership was rigorous because it took about 8 months to meet the city's

requirements, get all of the necessary permits and deal with the construction challenges.

He is happy that he can now create the type of environment that he wants for his customers. He said that, in the future he would like to see more businesses move into

East Palo Alto.

For him, his new office will allow him to provide service for his costumers in a wholesome way so that they can leave feeling that they have had a good experience.

He said that he would like to make sure that all insurance agents are licensed.



J.T. Turner's new location at 237 University Avenue in East Palo Alto.

# Olga Talamante: An Inspiring Person

By Wilfred Opeta  
EPA Today Intern

Olga Talamante is a political activist and the current executive director of the Chicana/Latina Foundation in Burlingame.

Talamante spoke at an OEPA meeting in June. She said that she was born in Mexico and came to America when she was a young girl. When she was in school, she did not know any English at all so she relied on the students that surrounded her to help her with

her English.

Talamante said that she felt that those students who surrounded her were also her first mentors because they were some of the first to give her lessons and advice.

As she grew older she began to understand English better and she also had more people who became her mentors.

One mentor was Mercy who worked with her in the fields picking crops. She said that Mercy taught her to do her work well and she inspired her to do her work



photo by Wilfred Opeta  
**Olga Talamante**

right then and there, not little by little.

Another person Olga felt was her mentor was Maggie Burton who was part of the leadership program for colored students and Talamante said that she inspired her

because even though Maggie was a part of the corporate world, she still came back to her community to help out.

Years later, Talamante said that she became a part of the Chicana Foundation which was a political movement in Mexico so that she could fight with the people who lived there to help them gain their freedom.

She and her colleagues were sent to prison for their involvement in political activities. When she was in prison she was tortured, but she

thought about what she and her colleagues did and she knew that they were doing the right thing.

She said that she taught her inmates a song called "de colores" which basically says that they come from farms and that they will come through.

During her presentation at the OEPA meeting, she urged her listeners to come back to their communities and work to help other people even if they should succeed in the corporate world.

# Happiness comes on payday

By Wilfred Opeta  
EPA Today Intern

Youth SEP employee's start their summer with a training workshop to prepare them for jobs with local government, businesses and non-profit agencies.

After the workshop each participant is given a placement telling them where they will be working for the summer.

The second workshop comes two weeks later. This workshop which was on July 5, is also payday.

When the SEP interns enter the room where the workshop is held each participant has to

sign in. The order in which they sign in is also the order in which they will get their checks.

Before giving out their checks Allan Johnson, OICW's Director of Youth Programs, asked a few participants how they felt about their first two weeks at their jobs. He also asked them if they liked what they were doing.

Some were unhappy about a few things. Others were happy, but overall everyone liked their placement.

The interns were told that they would have to stay at the workshop throughout the entire time from 3:00 p.m. to



photo courtesy of www.epasep.org

SEP participants signing their initials to get their checks.

5:00 p.m. before they could get their check.

So when it was time to get their check, the participants were called in the order that

they had signed in.

Apelu Tito was the first one to get a check. "Yes I can finally go shopping now," Tito said, showing how

happy he was about getting his first check.

After the participants got their checks, they could go home. On their way out I was able to ask one of the participants how she felt about getting her first check.

"I am very happy about getting my first check and I'm so excited to cash my check," Lasara Lacy said, as she explained to me how she felt.

This is also Lasara's first year under the Summer Employment Program and she said that, so far, she felt everything is going well.

# New owners

continued from page 1

When the land for the University Palms project was purchased in 2000, it cost between five and six million dollars. Cropper said that the new owners purchased the property for 10 million to 15 million dollars.

With the change in ownership comes significant changes in the project's layout and structure. The new five-story project features 25,000 sq ft of ground floor retail and 183,200 sq ft of office space above ground in comparison to the 20,000 sq ft and 180,000 sq ft of the original plan.

MacFarlane and TMG also plan on constructing University Palms in accordance with green building standards. In this way, the new project plans will save energy, water, and materials, as well as reduce the impact

of construction on the environment.

Patrick Brock, one of the original partners in the project, acknowledged that the new plans are a significant upgrade over the old plans.

"That was like a 2003 Volkswagon against a 2008 Cadillac," said Brock. "TMG and MacFarlane's project is the Cadillac."

The improvements in the project's design don't come without a price. The new University Palms project will cost \$80 million to build, a \$20 million dollar increase from the original project.

Brock predicts, however, that new property taxes will generate about \$800,000 per year for the East Palo Alto Redevelopment Agency.

Marie McKenzie, the Redevelopment Project Manager with the City of East

Palo Alto, is more circumspect. She said that it is hard to know what the tax revenues will be until the project is built and assessed by the tax collector.

The construction of University Palms is expected to begin in April 2008 and last approximately 18 months.

Prior to the April groundbreaking, a relocation company will move all businesses on the east side of Donohoe Street between University Avenue and Cooley Avenue to another location.

Brock, who owns Brock & Mendoza's Food & Grill at 2118 University Avenue, will be among those business owners who will receive compensation for their business' relocation. Upon completion of the project, the relocated

businesses will have the option of moving into University Palms at a below market rate rental.

Both the former and the new owners of the University Palms project said that the entire East Palo Alto community will benefit from it in terms of increased job and leisure opportunities.

As for the community jobs that will be generated, McKenzie said that that will be based on the type of companies that lease the retail space. It might be restaurants, real-estate firms or other businesses.

On the whole, McKenzie is working closely with MacFarlane and thinks that "the changes are phenomenal." She said that she is more concerned about the businesses that are there now and she wants to make

sure that when the University Palms project is complete that they stay in East Palo Alto.

Ultimately, Brock views the future of the project under the management of TMG and MacFarlane as a business decision that will improve East Palo Alto.

"Owen Byrd, Rockefeller, and Brock Co. don't do projects without community benefits," Brock said.

"In property management, I value myself in helping make this a better community."

The new complex will be designed by Hoover Associates of Palo Alto, the same architectural firm which designed University Circle. The new improvements being proposed must still be approved by the City of East Palo Alto.

# Important commitment

continued from page 1

commitment he made please the clergy and the leaders who were at the meeting to express their concern about the country's immigration policies, it also pleased many in the audience whose families had been affected by current ICE policies.

"My daughter clings to me when I drop her off at school, afraid I might not return" explained Lidia, a Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA) leader from El Buen Pastor Episcopal Church in Redwood City, "this action by the Sheriff is critical to protect peninsula families."

Another PIA leader Maria Teresa said, "Six family members, including my two children, were taken away by ICE, none of them had deportation orders. I had to borrow \$16,000 dollars to get my children out, while the rest of my family remains in detention. I am in debt and don't know how I will pay next months rent."

Since Congress failed to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill this year, several congregations associated with PIA hosted the July meeting to ensure that



A cross section of attendees who heard the speakers at the meeting in San Mateo.

local policies were in place to protect families who have been terrorized by federal immigration raids.

Leaders of the congregations believed that more ICE incursions against local families were likely since federal funding for ICE had doubled over the past two years and was likely to increase.

In February and March of 2007, ICE agents who identified themselves as 'police' waited near schools; approached areas where day laborers gathered, and swept through homes and

apartment complexes in Redwood City, Palo Alto, and San Mateo. According to ICE records, more than 44% of the 400,000 people deported nationwide as part of 'operation return to sender' had no previous criminal record.

"ICE agents posed as local police, went door-to-door in neighborhoods searching for people, stood outside grocery stores and followed parents as they walked home after dropping their kid at school," said Silvia Ramirez, a PIA leader who is a mem-

ber of the Mt. Carmel Catholic Church.

During the meeting where Munks spoke, San Francisco Catholic Archbishop Neideraur also addressed the racially and ethnically diverse crowd "This is not the first issue in American history over which a battle had to be fought between what was legal and what was moral. Our church stood against the immoral laws of slavery and segregation. Today, fight unjust laws that divide families."

In his remarks at the meet-

ing, East Palo Alto City Council member Ruben Abrica encouraged the mayor of Redwood City to take action. Earlier this year, the East Palo Alto City Council passed a resolution that denounced the raids. The resolution also prohibited city employees, including the city's police department, from reporting the immigration status of any resident to ICE.

Mayor Pierce of Redwood City vowed to study the East Palo Alto resolution and to consider taking similar action in Redwood City. Pierce also committed her support to efforts that would allocate funds to provide low-cost legal services to residents who needed help with deportation or immigration cases.

"The peninsula community is united to protect all of our families and we continue to stand together to make sure these plans become a reality" explained Richard XXXX, a PIA leader from the First United Methodist Church, who preferred that his last name not be used.

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# Community Calendar

**Soccer and Karate Signups**

RYAA will be taking accepting signups for soccer and karate on the following days:

**Friday, Aug. 17**  
**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**  
**EPA Charter School**

**Wednesday, Aug. 22**  
**5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
**The Soccer Field at Cesar Chavez School, EPA**

**Friday, Aug. 24**  
**4:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
**The Soccer Field at Cesar**

**Chavez School, EPA**

About RYAA Soccer  
 RYAA Soccer is an exciting league for boys and girls ages 4-18. Practice begins in late August, and games go from September through November. The cost is \$40 and includes a uniform, a photo and an award.

About RYAA Karate  
 RYAA will be hosting FREE, one-month, self-defense classes starting in September. Classes will be on Monday and Wednesday nights for ages 6 - adult at the People's

Plaza, 1848 Bay Rd. in East Palo Alto.

After passing the self-defense class, you can sign up for a three-month Karate session for \$100.

About RYAA in general RYAA is a fun, faith-based league. Activities begin with prayer and participants learn good character as well as good skills. We emphasize fun, positive coaching, and good sportsmanship.

**Monday, August 27**  
**The Critical Mass Health**

**Conductor Initiative** -- an effort to make people of African descent become change agents and conscious health advocates in the African American community will be conducting its second "journey" in the mid-peninsula, beginning Monday August 27th at 6pm at the Ravenswood Family Health Center/California Room located at 1798 Bay Road in East Palo Alto. All interested in making the journey and graduating to become health change agents in the African American community please come to the "Start Journey"

that Monday.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd gatherings will be held respectively on September 17th, October 15th, and November 19th at the same Ravenswood Family Health Center/California Room at 1798 Bay Road in East Palo Alto. Graduation will be on Saturday, December 8 in Oakland. For further information regarding Critical Mass Health Conductor, and the upcoming "journey" please contact Gloria Brown at 347-5724, Patrisha Ragins at 329-9085 or Meda Okelo at 323-4477

**Working on my first summer job** continued from page 14

jobs, Lizz Moala called me and told me I had been selected to be an alternate and that I should hold tight until they got more money and then they would call to tell me about where I would be working.

When Lizz called me back, she told me I had a job but I had to come in for a workshop and they would tell me then where I would be working. The workshop was about taking a test and getting some information about how we should look and how we should act when we started working. The test was easy. Then Lizz told me I'd be working at Canopy.

I had heard about Canopy. They planted trees, so I thought I'd be planting trees. On the first day I found out I'd be doing a lot more than planting trees, and the lot more would be stuff I didn't like to do: pick up trash, shovel mulch, pick weeds, and get dirty. At first I thought I would give it a try, but the second day I

wanted a new job.

Things started going wrong with one of the people who were in charge of me. I wouldn't call her my boss, because I don't think she was my boss. My boss was another person, but she was sort of in charge. We were picking up trash, and she said I wasn't picking it up right or enough or something, but my bag was full. I asked her to look at my bag and look at the bags of the other people, but she wouldn't listen.

Then she did something me and my friends don't think is right: she snitched on me to Allan. Allan is like the director or something. I don't know. All I know is that Allan snitched on me to my Uncle Doug. Snitching is bad no matter what, but it's especially bad if it isn't true.

None of my friends like a snitch. I got really mad and left. I wouldn't talk to the woman. She tried to talk to me, but I

wouldn't say anything to her. I told everybody at my job what had happened-how she had snitched-and I don't think anybody liked her after that.

Then my Uncle Doug called and told my dad that he needed to talk to me. My dad kept asking what he needed to talk to me about. I thought he wanted to talk to me about my school, but it turned out he wanted to talk to me about this woman who thought she was my boss. He talked for like two hours about how I needed this job and how I needed to act like a worker and how I needed to stop being a racist.

I didn't think I was a racist then, and I don't think I'm a racist now. I think this woman overheard me repeating something a friend had said. Whatever, I had to listen to my Uncle Doug for a long time. My Uncle Doug is always there for me, and I love him very much. It hurt me to know he was disappointed. He was right,

too, about everything but the racist part. Even so, my thoughts after that were that I was not going back to that crappy job. I was mad. The money was not even on my mind anymore.

You want to know what I know about racism? One time this lady was driving me to a track meet, and we were driving up the street by Hillcrest. She looked at me and asked if this road looked familiar to me. She was white, and I think she meant she thought I had been in juvenile hall. Because I'm black. I haven't, but even if I had, it was wrong of her to think that I had and rude of her to say it out loud.

My situation regarding this supposedly racist stuff is different. I don't feel bad about it, even if people think what I did was wrong. I didn't say what she thought I said, and it wasn't even me, anyway. I was just repeating what I had heard, and it wasn't any of her business. She made it seem like I was saying it to her. That's not true.

The main point here is that I

didn't go back to that job, but my summer wasn't over. After a couple of phone calls, I had a meeting with Allan and we talked about what I had learned. I don't remember what I said. He says I said I had found out I would rather be working and making money than sitting at home not making money. That sounds OK. I'm glad I'm back at work. Pay day is tomorrow. That's good.

What I've really learned, though, is that work is hard. It makes me tired. Sometimes people ask me to do things that are hard to do, that I don't want to do. This is probably true for everyone.

I've always thought unemployed people were lazy, but getting a job and keeping a job is hard. I still want to be a lawyer. Allan told me this job, working for EPA Today, would be the right job for me down the line-that I was too smart to spend my life waiting tables. He says this job will look good on a resume or a college application. I hope he's right.

**Letters**

continued from page 8

recycled water on our crops. These legislators have passed bills to protect water polluters, raise allowable chemical limits and ignore prop 65 to label our bottle water with arsenic! Are they poisoning us?

Ira Ruskin has ignored the peer review evidence, given to him by Dr. Winn Parker, when Ruskin was head of the BAWSCA water board.

He is now spending millions to restudy the studies on Chloramine. Health Officials are political appointees and they have all ready declared a corrosive, lead leaching, skin burning, kidney and liver damaging, cancer and stroke causing, reproduction malfunctioning, THM producing, mutagen, gene damaging poison safe!

Will they come up with

new findings that it's bad so Dennis Kula-Johnson's group can sue the SFPUC? VOTE IRA RUSKIN OUT! Was Mayor Woods on BAWSCA when Ruskin headed the BAWSCA board?

I spoke for EPA to get bond money to fix your creek. Now this city needs federal bond money for a sea wall. With global warming, they predict the bay will raise

three feet in 20 years.

This city will flood and contaminate the Bay with the poisons from Romic. Newark and San Leandro desalinate water. There is a potential danger to thousands of people. Where are your city leaders to protect us?

Wynn Grcich  
 Union City  
 94587



David Lewis, Henrietta J. Burroughs and Chief Ron Davis talk about a new program to keep our cities safe.

**Talking with Henrietta**

The complete one hour discussion can be seen beginning on Fridays @ noon, Saturdays @ 1:30 p.m., Sundays @ 5 p.m., Mondays @ 8 a.m. and Thursdays @ 8 p.m. on Channel 27, which airs locally. It can be seen on the web at the above days and times at: [www.communitymediacenter.net](http://www.communitymediacenter.net).

**Gentrification**

continued from page 9

the place that molded me into the upstanding young Black man that I am, they won't believe that this small two square mile city was a working class city.

Many of the places where I used to play and eat in this town will no longer be here, and they will laugh at me thinking that I have lied about the neighborhood I so loved to

say I grew up in.

As much as East Palo Alto has been given a bad dose of news headlines slated with murder and drug problems, let's not forget about programs such as College Track, EPA Can Do, and OICW that are shining examples of positivity in East Palo Alto. The gentrification must stop.

# Youth sports page

## Junior Giants, hitting a homerun for East Palo Alto

Samnit Kumar, EPA Today Intern



Arnold Hart with the Junior Giants

The Junior Giants is a FREE summer baseball league for inner cities and rural communities.

The East Palo Alto Junior Giants, established in 1994, offers summer baseball to youths ages 4 to 18.

The EPA Junior Giants was one of the first leagues to join the program. The organization is currently in need of coaches who can teach the fundamentals of the game. The EPA Junior Giants is composed of nearly 20 teams of all ages and skill levels.

The team provides its participants with all of their uniforms and equipment, with coaches who run professional training sessions and with unique opportunities such as clinics, festivals, Giant tickets and special scholarship awards.

To obtain more information about the EPA Junior Giants, contact Hilary Laurie (650) 548-6700 or visit the website [www.jrgiants.org](http://www.jrgiants.org).

**RYAA**  
The Ravenswood Youth

Athletic Association (RYAA) is another youth athletic organization formed in East Palo Alto. In partnership with local churches and school principles, the RYAA offers children a variety of athletic programs. When it began in the fall of 2006, the RYAA initially focused on soccer. Soccer has now become the largest sport in our community, and it is also the sport most in need of development.

Now that soccer has become widely known in the East Palo Alto community, RYAA is shifting it's focus to other sports and working with the city and school district to improve current sports facilities, and expand to make their sports programs more accessible to the community.

They also intend to help the youth within the program by focusing on their academic, social and spiritual needs.

The RYAA successfully finished a season of soccer and is now developing the

winter and spring soccer seasons, with other physical programs such as martial arts and boxing.

Representatives for RYAA said that the organization's partnership with local churches has played a major part in its development, especially since East Palo Alto has many churches, and a strong tradition of Christian faith and activism.

RYAA officials said, "Any organization can be a part of this exciting and empowering program that strengthens families and community." Community businesses are also invited to take part in RYAA's programs.

I recently spoke with Shannon Pekary, one of the leaders of the RYAA program who mentioned

that RYAA has started two new sports programs: basketball and karate.

Pekary said that since 2006, 500 kids have participated in the program and most were East Palo Alto residents.

Several local organizations including, the local law firm of DLA Piper, the Four Seasons Hotel and St. Francis Church, have contributed a lot to RYAA's programs.

For more information call : (650) 248-0488 or visit [www.ravenswoodsports.org](http://www.ravenswoodsports.org)



Shannon Pekary with Basket Ball team

## Running for the East Palo Alto Greyhounds

My name is Lasara Lacy I started running for the East Palo Alto Greyhounds Track and Field Team in January 2007. For years, East Palo Alto never had a track club until January 2006. East Palo Alto Greyhounds has been a big success.



Lasara Lacy and two of her teammates

Eric Stuart the founder and director had a track career in high school and college. That's what inspired him to create this big success plus to give back to his community. He says its something he has a passion for.

This track team means a lot to me. I have a family within the team. I never really knew

what a family was until Eric showed me.

I was what you might call a troubled child. But once I met Eric I wanted to be better because for once someone cared. My coach cared. Now I have tried to better myself in all ways.

Since the club started off rocky, people doubted it from the beginning. All kinds of unfair things were said. People believed that the youth couldn't behave or carry them selves right because we are from East Palo Alto. We showed them. Now we are in the top ten of what some call the most successfully organized track clubs out there.

That goes to show you that East Palo Alto is being judged before people really know who we are. There are so many success stories in this track club. It all started wit Eric who believed in us.

He's a great coach and leader.

Good luck on your nationals. Keep the good work up,

Greyhounds.

Lasara Lacy was an SEP intern when she wrote the above article.

## Local Giant goes off to college

Samnit Kumar  
EPA Today ntern

On August 11th, The Giants Community Fund will honor their first group of graduating students from the Junior Giants Scholars program in a pre-game ceremony.

One of the scholars, Ramon Meacham, a resident of East Palo Alto, overcame numerous obstacles to gain acceptance into Santa Clara University, a university some have called one of the best colleges in the Bay Area.

Meacham was chosen because he was a positive

role model for kids in his area, who are exposed daily to common urban problems.

The Junior Giants had four requirements that Meacham had to meet to become a candidate to receive the award.

He had to show confidence, integrity, leadership, teamwork. Ramon had said a few words about the program.

In an interview, Meacham mentioned how the Junior Giants helped him make it through East Palo Alto's high risk community

"The kids in the community



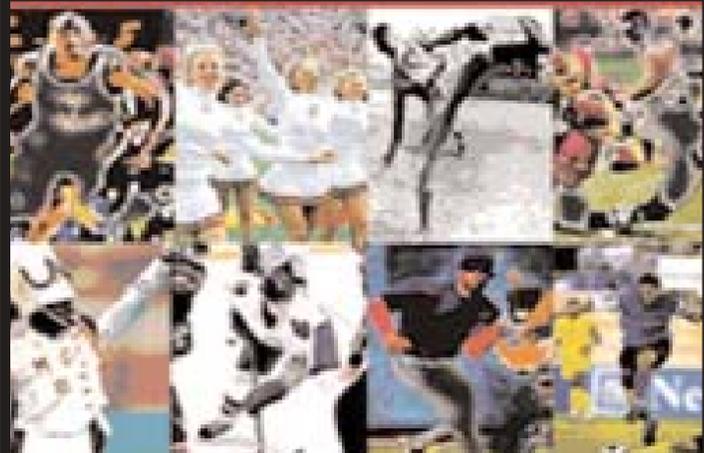
Ramon Meacham

are falling into a life of crime, as they see people selling drugs," he said. "Sports allowed me to gain a different entrance."



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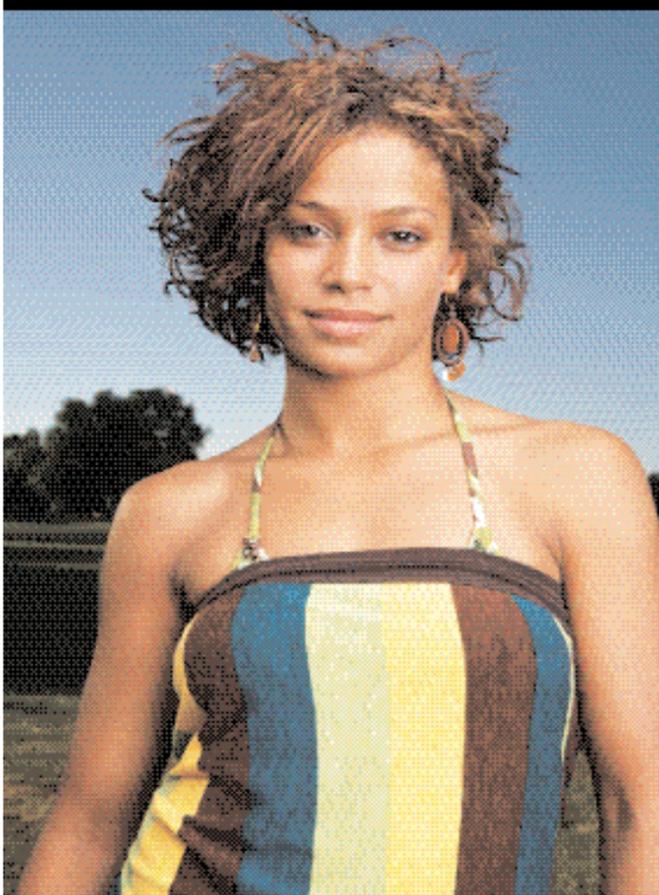
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