

Nuestra Vecindad

Our Neighborhood

Volume 4, No.1

Summer, 1995



A Publication of the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation

Councilman De la Fuente announces shot at mayor's office

By MARIA PALAFOX

At a meeting with Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation Leadership and Journalism participants July 31, city councilman Ignacio De La Fuente announced he would be a candidate for mayor of Oakland in 1998.

Ignacio De La Fuente is a hard-working City council member who represents District Five in Oakland. De La Fuente came to the United States in 1971 as a young man. While he was here he found it very difficult confronting problems that Latinos faced—dis-

crimination and low wages—he decided to make a change in his life. He worked hard to adapt to the English language, but he managed to obtain a job as a construction worker.

When De La Fuente observed the problems Latinos faced he decided to make a change in his life. He joined a union to help represent Latino workers. In 1978 De La Fuente became president.

Gradually his union activities involved De La Fuente in community politics and fi-



CITY COUNCILMAN Ignacio De La Fuente met with SSCF Leadership and Journalism students.

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Teen Journalists

San Francisco Chronicle

FOUNDED JANUARY 16 1865



NEWSPAPER PROS—Oakland teen students Debbie Montalvo, Bernardo Varela, Bessie Quijano, Tyrann Shivers, Jenny Merino and April Nickson are working at the San Francisco Chronicle editing and designing a special reprint as their summer internship with the Media Academy at Fremont High School.

SSCF publishes bilingual history of Latinos Oakland

Chicano/Mexicano Traditional, Contemporary Arts and Folklife in Oakland

If San Leandro, San Antonio, San Lorenzo, Temescal, San Pablo, El Sobrante, Pinole and Alcatraz are familiar place names to you, you will be enthralled by a recent publication in English and Spanish of the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation and Cultural Arts Division of the City of Oakland that documents the history, impact and continuing role of Chicano and Mexicano culture in the life of Oakland and the East Bay.

Chicano/Mexicano Traditional and Contemporary Arts and Folklife in Oakland is a compilation of short essays by four experts in Chicano/Mexicano history and culture. In *A Short History of the Mexican-American Presence in Oakland*, Historian Lori Lujan takes the reader from the first Spanish settlements in San Francisco and the granting of encomiendas, to the development of the Fruitvale district as a distinctive Latino en-

clave.

Freelance music writer Chiori Santiago outlines *The Varied Roots of Mexican-American Music and Dance Traditions in Oakland*, showing how the traditional music of Jalisco, Veracruz, Chihuahua, Sonora and Michoacán have been distilled and synthesized into new forms by Oakland Mexicanos.

Educator and entrepreneur Bobbi Salinas highlights examples of contemporary folk art in *Selected Mexican-American Artists in Oakland and the East Bay*. Muralist Raymundo "Zala" Nevel, mask maker Xochilt Guerrero, Guadalupe Suarez, who specializes in home altars (ofrendas), printmaker Andres Cisneros-Galindo, breadmaker Miguel Garcia and tortilla maker Roberto Berber, Jr. are profiled in her essay.

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Historian Lori

Lujan, writer

Chiori Santiago,

educator Bobbi

Salinas, muralist

Raymundo "Zala"

Nevel, mask

maker Xochilt

Guerrero are

featured.

Back in City Hall, back in business

Historic structure shines as earthquake damage repaired

By RAUL MARTINEZ

In 1989, the Bay Area suffered a major earthquake. Among the losses caused by the Loma Prieta earthquake was the Cypress Freeway and a historic Oakland structure in the heart of the city. This structure was none other than City Hall, located at City Hall Plaza and 14th Street in downtown Oakland.

This magnificent structure was deemed unsafe by city officials, causing a major relocation by its tenants, employees and administration.

This relocation caused City Hall to scatter throughout downtown Oakland.

Those departments which relocated included The Offices of the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager.

City Hall would have to close its doors to its main tenants - the City of Oakland government and the public as a whole from the Earthquake of October 1989 until the Summer of 1995. City Hall opened its doors

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The key concept in affirmative action debate is opportunity

Affirmative action never guaranteed anyone
more than a chance to excel

Affirmative action is an equal opportunity measure that allows race and gender to be considered for decisions in hiring, promotion, public contracting, and public school enrollment. Affirmative action discourages discrimination against people of color, and women. Affirmative action gives hope to people of all ethnic groups. It opened doors to good schools, government contracts, and public jobs.

Affirmative action has its roots in the 1960's when millions of people marched for their civil rights. Unfortunately, now it is in danger of being overthrown. It is becoming rapidly the most prominent target of those trying to dismantle social programs.

Affirmative action is still a necessity because we live in a world full of racism. Some, including government officials, do not want minorities to succeed in life.

Some politicians, like Governor Pete Wilson, are using it as a political issue and to propose a ballot referendum on whether or not we as a society should have affirmative action.

Cities throughout California are fighting in the courts to keep affirmative action. There are rallies held to help educate people on how it affects them and their children. Advocates are collecting thousands of petitions throughout the state to win this battle and to convince the governor that there are millions of voices yet to be heard for justice.

Affirmative action is in no uncertain terms a controversial policy. It has been debated by scholars and poli-

ticians since the 1960's and thirty years after the Civil Rights Act of the 1964 was signed into law, it is still being debated.

In 1963 President Kennedy proposed a civil rights bill which he presented to Congress. He wanted to open up opportunities for minorities and women. He argued it would also better our economy, it would better educate and give skills to many minorities—and eliminate any kind of racial discrimination in employment. He wanted equal opportunity to provide economic benefits for all people living in the U.S.

Legislation proposing affirmative action was presented in the House of Representatives in the 1950's, however as it is defined today, it was not articulated as policy until President Lyndon Johnson spelled it out as part of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment in the Civil Right Act of 1964.

It was argued that the denial of rights could be viewed as an injury for which the victim should be compensated. The form of compensation may vary depending on the right involved. Affirmative action was devised as a solution to a problem.

Equal opportunity helps Latinos get a better education and be successful in life. It gives women of all races a shot at better paying jobs. Affirmative action ensures minorities who are still discriminated against can earn education and employment skills.

Affirmative Action **should not** be revoked because it merely offers *opportunity* for a better education and place in society to all peoples; it is not a guarantee of an education or a job.

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City of Oakland regulations that may affect YOU!

Things you need to

Do you rent out a house or apartment?

All persons conducting any business must first obtain a Business Tax Certificate and pay an annual Business Tax. The term business includes all commercial and residential rental activities, including single family residences that are rented. Failure to comply with requirements could result in penalties and interest, as well as a lien and special assessment placed on your property.

Trash could cost you cash

All property owners must use only City-authorized trash collectors and pay established fees for that service. The City may record a lien or impose special property tax assessments if fees are not paid on a timely basis. A property owner may not shift this obligation to pay for trash collection by requiring a tenant to pay such fees directly to the City.

Record your property changes

Whenever you change ownership of real property you must record that change with the County of Alameda and pay a City of Oakland Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT). The current City tax rate is 1.50 percent of consideration received.

City's Feather River open off season

The City of Oakland's vacation camp in the Plumas National Forest near Quincy in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Gold Country, doesn't close when summer ends, it is still open for individuals and groups until November 15. For reservations or more information contact the Oakland Feather River Camp Office, 1520 Lakeside Drive, or phone 238-3791.

Nuestra Vecindad Our Neighborhood

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Nuestra Vecindad is a publication of the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation which is sponsored and funded by the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation, Oakland Private Industry Council and Citibank. All copy was written by teenage summer interns working through the Summer Youth Employment Training Program. All opinions expressed are of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect SSCF, OPIC, Citibank or SYETP policy.

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Community leadership program trains tomorrow's leaders

BY RAUL MARTINEZ

Community Youth
Leadership
Development
Program spread
throughout
Oakland city this
year. Sara Gullien
was placed at the
Cultural Arts
Division of the
City of Oakland.

The Community Youth Leadership Development Program (CYLDP) is a program in which ten participants are placed within various city departments where they learn about city government up close, gain invaluable experience as well as meet city officials. Participants are paid through the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP).

The Leadership Program will be back once again for another summer. This time participants will be placed at City Hall; during the previous three summers no participants were placed in the facility which was undergoing earthquake repair.

City Hall has now been renovated, retrofitted, re-roofed, and is ready for business once again. Participants were most eager to visit the totally renovated building which had nearly crumbled during the quake of 1989.

The participants for the 1995 Community youth Leadership Development Program were: Monica Sanchez, who worked for Kathryn Hughes, the transportation coordinator for the City of Oakland.

Sara Curiel worked for Denise Saddler, the Educational Policy Analyst for Mayor Elihu Harris.

Rocio Cuillen, one of the Leadership participants, was placed in the Oakland Police Administration Building on Seventh street.

The Office of the City Council agreed to take a few participants again this year. Adrian

Aguilar was placed with Lupe Valdez, who is administrative assistant to Councilmember De La Fuente.

Jaime Herrera worked for Teresa Limon in the District Seven Office of Councilmember Desi Woods-Jones.

The 1995 Community Youth Leadership Development Program spread beyond the Oakland

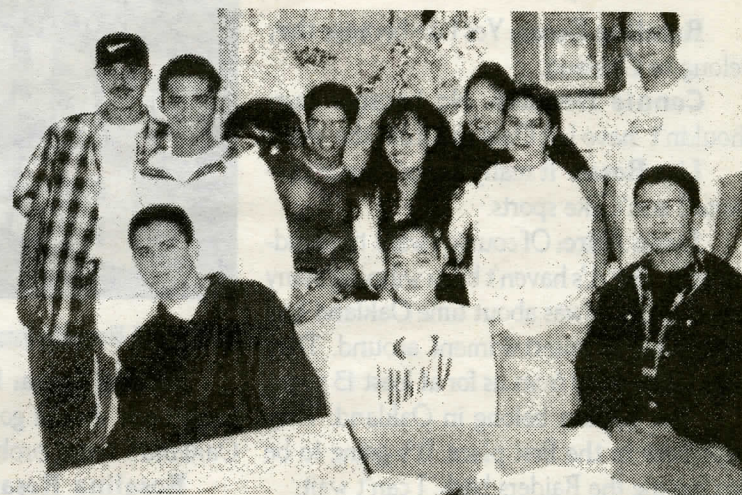
borders this year. Ivan Garcia was placed with Julia Curry at the University of California at Berkeley

The Leadership program is conducted by The Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 1965 to empower the individual with various resources.

The Leadership program consists of two parts: Monday morning seminars and work experience training with their mentors.

During the Monday morning seminars, guest speakers are invited to come in and share their invaluable knowledge and resources with the program participants.

The remainder of the week, Tuesday through Thursday, participants are placed with mentors within City Hall.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM members Martin Sandoval, Leadership Coordinator, Raul Martinez, Assistant Leadership Coordinator, Ivan Garcia, Rocio Guillen, Sara Curiel, Monica Sanchez, Adrian Aguilar, Jaime Herrera, Ana Rosa Sanchez.

A mentor is a city administrator, official, or employee who is willing to take time out to show a participant how the City of Oakland is run, which means exposing the participants to fundamentals of city government such as the roles of the Mayor, City Manager, and the City Council.

The experience gained from the Community Youth Leadership Development Program will last a lifetime and will be of benefit to all who have participated.

Anyone who would like to be a part of the 1996 Community Youth Leadership Development Program, either as a mentor, participant or a presenter please call the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation at (510) 261-7839.

The Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation

CENTRO DE INFORMACION Y SERVICIOS

Serving youth and families since 1965 with information and referral, job development, youth development, social services and citizenship services

The Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation Youth and Family Services, is a nonprofit, multi-service organization incorporated in 1965. Our mission is to empower the individual and community to improve the quality of life while enhancing our cultural heritage.

Currently, we provide comprehensive bilingual (Spanish/English) services.

The Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation Youth and Family Services has a great investment in our community. With a firm commitment to the enhancement of opportunities and to the leadership development of our people, we serve approximately 5,000 people each year. Governed by a committed Board of Directors, the Foundation looks to the future improving our community.

Since the beginning, the Foundation has always depended on the help of our Family of Volunteers, Contributors and Friends. You too can become part of our family. With your help the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation will remain the "Foundation of Opportunities" in our community. The Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation is a member of United Way of the Bay Area (#3488) and the National Council of La Raza. All Donations are Tax Deductible.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Summer Youth Employment Training Program
Youth Journalism Program
Youth Probation Officer
Youth Leadership Development
Community Youth Aides Services
Aztec Scholarship Program
Stay In School Program

SOCIAL SERVICES

Immigration & Citizenship Assistance
Medi-Cal and AFDC
Legal Aid Assistance
Social Security Assistance
Housing and Tenant Rights Assistance

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Crises Intervention
Emergency Food and Shelter Referral
Income Tax Assistance
Client Translation and Interpretation

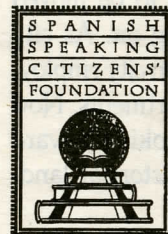
Court Referral Community Service Project
Youth and Family Community Advocacy

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT

Dietary Aide Technician Training Program
Job Announcement Listings
Job Referral

CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE

Citizenship Application Assistance
Citizenship Preparation Classes
Free Citizenship and Immigration Workshops



Contact us at:
1900 Fruitvale Ave,
Suite 1B, Oakland,
California 94601
PHONE: (510) 261-7839

Do you want the Raiders back in Oakland?

Mixed feelings about team's return

Rosalina Rosas: Yes I do because they belong in Oakland.

Connie Heredia: No because they shouldn't have left Oakland from the start.

Lisa Rosas: It really doesn't matter because I don't like sports.

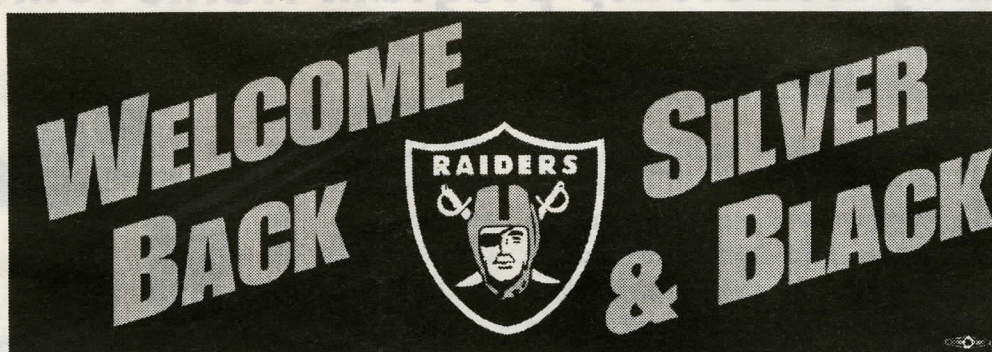
Jason Alire: Of course I want the Raiders back. The A's haven't been winning many games lately. It was about time Oakland had some kind of entertainment around. They were taken away from us for at least 13 years.

The Raiders belong in Oakland. They were here in the first place. It's going to be fun having the Raiders back. I can't wait.

Emerita Ponce: I don't care because I don't like football.

Tavo Miranda: I really don't care about the Raiders, but it will be good for our city and it will let people know we have something good.

Catalina Bautista: No, because the money (the City) is going to be spent on getting them back. They could spend it on better education.



WE REMEMBER—Welcoming banners, bumper stickers and signs popped up all over Oakland when Raiders return was announced.

Sandra Loera: No, money to get the team back should go into solving some of Oakland's social problems.

Rosalina Rosas: No, I don't want them back because if they left us once what makes you think that they won't leave us again?

And the money they are going to use for the renovation of the Coliseum they (the City) could use for something else better, for example, fixing the schools, adding more programs for the youth who need it more than the Coliseum and also, last but not least, the homeless.

Alejandro Rodriguez: Yes I want the Raiders back because they are my favorite team and plus they will be representing Oakland. It would help Oakland but the people would not see the money come in.

The money would go to the team and the corporation that help renovate the coliseum. But people will come and see the Raiders play.

Karla Gonzales: No me importa porque no me gusta el football. Pero en mi opinion creo que deverian haber gastado ese dinero ayudando ha la gente de Oakland.

"Yes, the Raiders belong in Oakland. It's going to be fun having the Raiders back."

"No, money to get the team back should go into solving some of Oakland's social problems."

'Chicano/Mexicano Traditional and Contemporary Arts and Folklife in Oakland' fills historical gaps

From Page 1

maker Roberto Berber, Jr. are profiled in her essay.

Euri I. Ramos, of Mayan descent active in educational and socio-political issues of the Spanish-speaking community, speaks on "four selected Mexican-American artists who have made valuable contributions to the community of Oakland and Alameda county." Folklorico Ballet and music instructor Mariano Tapia, ballad singer Jose Luis Orozco, and businessmen and humanitarians Vicente Perez, and Ramiro Hernandez are profiled.

What makes this publication so valuable is not only the information contained (besides the articles there is a historic map of the East Bay and a chronology that begins with Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and short but valuable bibliographies after each section), but its de-

sign and concept.

Chicano/Mexicano Traditional and Contemporary Arts and Folklife in Oakland is structured as a bilingual document, both graphically and editorially. Frequent attempts at bilingual publications flounder on the execution; the result is two separate publications, one in English, one in Spanish. Editor Willie R. Collins has managed a juxtaposition of content and concept that does not impede those fluent in either language and reinforces the notion of a people with a dual heritage, one Mexican, one Californian/American.

For copies of *Chicano/Mexicano Traditional and Contemporary Arts and Folklife in Oakland*, contact the Cultural Arts Division, City of Oakland, 501 14th Street, Suite 715, Oakland 94612, or the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation.

From Page 1

City Hall home to Youth Leadership Development

once again to its main tenants, citizens as well as the general public in September of 1995.

City Hall has been renovated, retrofitted, re-roofed and is ready for business once again. For the last few years Oaklanders have had a difficult time locating city services because essential offices had to be moved while construction was going on. As city departments moved about even city employees had trouble finding departments. Now employees and citizens are looking forward to entering the renovated historical landmark.

City Council meetings will once again be held in City Hall. For many it will be a

City Council meetings will once again be held in City Hall. For many it will be a new experience; for others it will be like coming home.

new experience; for others it will be like coming home.

Whenever someone thinks of Downtown Oakland, or city government, City Hall comes to mind. Starting in September everyone will be able to find their city officials, city departments, and City Hall once again.

Stay in School Program

At risk youth target of educational guidance program helps Latino teens with high dropout rate stay in school through graduation, step up to college

By Ana Calderon

Each year the Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation (SSCF) Stay In School Program focuses on recruiting 50 to 100 Oakland students who are at risk junior high and high school students in need of educational guidance, advice and supportive counseling to help them stay in school until graduation.

The Stay In School Program mainly targets Latino youth who have the highest dropout rate.

The program not only helps youth, but their parents understand the importance of education. Some Latino families don't understand that a good education now will help their children get better jobs in the future.

For many youth pressure is the main thing that keeps young Latinos from finishing high school and college—the pressure of being the first to graduate from high school and first to enter a four year college in their family, in addition to being a minority, facing discrimination, language barriers, cultural misunderstanding, poverty, teen pregnancy, and worry over legal status. The most severe pressure of all is economic problems that the families face.

That is just to graduate from high school.

This year the Stay in School Program didn't start until March, because of funding problems. Soon after youth aides visited Calvin Simmons Junior High, Fremont High School, and Oakland High School and presented workshops on what a financial aide application is about, how to fill it out, how the process works, and what to do when they receive a letter from the college they will be attending.

Youth aides also gave out information on the Summer Youth Employment Training Program (SYTP), how to apply for a summer job through SSCF, and helped students fill out summer job applications and told them to bring in the documentation necessary to qualify for the program. SSCF is a non-profit agency that provides family services and information referrals to the community of the Fruitvale District.

For more information visit SSCF at 1900 Fruitvale Ave. Suite 1B, Oakland, CA 94601, or call (510) 261-7839

From Michoacan to Oakland, youth struggles to find place
in new land free of drugs and crime

IMMIGRANT STORY

"I realized I was out in the street with no food, money or a place to sleep. That's how my life of crime started out."

BY KARLA GONZALEZ

I wouldn't want to sell drugs again but if I was in need of money I would probably go back to it," said 24 year-old "Gustavo", an East Oakland resident.

"I was born in Michoacan and raised there for 16 years. Then I came to Fresno, California. I had in mind to get a better life for myself but things just came out wrong."

He found himself living with an uncle and being accused of hitting his own cousins which had never happened. Then he decided to leave their home. "After that I realized I was out in the street with no food, money or a place to sleep. That's how my life of crime started out," he said.

What drove this 16 year old into a life of crime? "I was desperate to get out of where I was and I found the easy way to get money as fast as I could." He saw how people inject heroin in themselves and some die, but for him selling drugs was the only way out.

"I later was taken to Los Angeles by one of my uncles who picked me up from Fresno but things just got worse. I met a lot of people who were in gangs and then decided to join one to sell drugs quicker."

In his personal experience the largest percentage of customers who bought drugs were white men followed by African American then the Latinos. Their ages were between, 20 - 24 and up to 50. He didn't know where the drugs came from but he was told by the

people in charge of the drug deals to sell the amount he was given.

The worse things I can think of that I did was set fire to houses, cars, or work places of people who didn't pay rent for living in the barrio which was suppose to be "ours" but they never paid." He believes the reason that he did this to those people was because he wanted to harm them.

Did you feel any guilt? "No why should I. If they had a debt and didn't pay they had to suffer the consequences." Said Gustavo.

"I've seen that with the years it has come to be that the Latino youth is the one that is involved more likely with gangs and into drugs. I'm not trying to put my Raza down but it's the truth."

He also wanted to give advice to all Latino youth. "Never use drugs or get involved in any way with them." How come he gives this advice to the youth when he was the one who used to sell it to them? "It was the quickest way to get money. All I'm trying to say is to the Latinos not to use drugs, forget the other raza's."

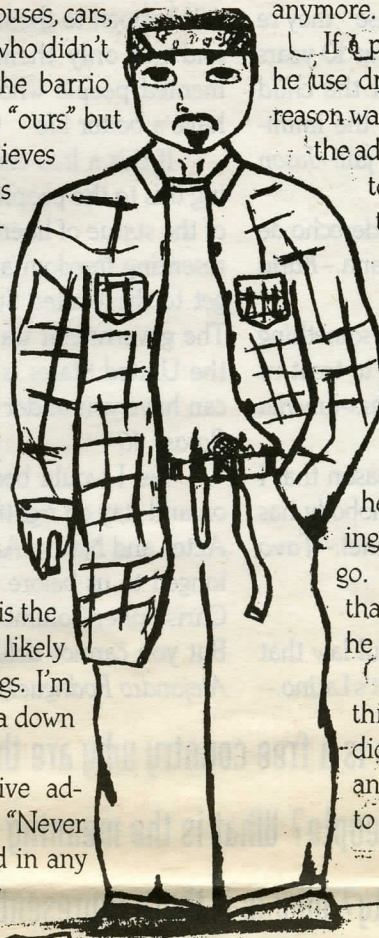
Gustavo didn't want to say more about this question for the reason that he thinks it's dumb and because he doesn't sell drugs anymore.

If a person is a dealer why wouldn't he use drugs too. In Gustavo's case the reason was because he always had in mind the advice his parents gave him. Never to use drugs but he had to sell them to put food in his mouth, clothes on his back and a place to sleep. He knew that some day he would have to get caught and he did, not once but 3 times. He got out on bail.

Now that he's 24 years old he knows that dealing drugs, being in a gang is not the right way to go. Gustavo says he's done with that, he has a stable job and knows he can make it with out dealing.

"I only wanted to do something good for the people but it didn't happen. Now that I work and get good money I've decided to give my help to the people who need it."

I wouldn't want to sell drugs again but if I was in need of money I would probably go back to it. To all Latino youth, don't do drugs or get in gangs, but I do it for need of money, said Gustavo. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that you'll never go back!



Karla G.

Things you'd like to know

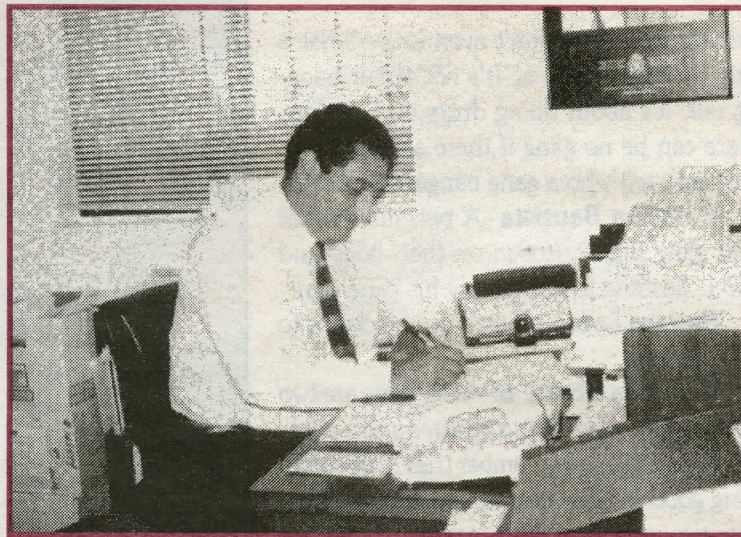
'All that Jazz' Festival at Jack London Square

Regularly scheduled activities at Jack London Square include the Concert Series every Thursday, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Chef on the Square on the second Sunday of each month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Farmer's Market every Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Music in the Courtyard, 1-5 p.m. every Sunday, and a Tuesday Art Series at Barnes & Noble, 7-8 p.m.

Citizenship, naturalization workshops at SSCF

The Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation would like to welcome Permanent Residents to attend and apply for U.S. Citizenship who have been residents during the past five years. The Citizenship Orientations workshops are given on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. at 1900 Fruitvale Avenue, Suite 1B, Oakland, CA 94601. Any individual interested please come and attend the Orientations/Workshops or call (510) 261-7839.

Dedicated to Community Youth



Spanish Speaking Citizens' Foundation Executive Director Jose Arredondo has labored since 1977 to create opportunities for youth in Fruitvale-East Oakland neighborhoods.



What have you learned on your summer job?

I learned organizational skills such as typing, holding meetings for the community—Catalina Bautista

I'm learning how to be responsible—Rosalina Rosas

I am learning how to work with other people and help other people—Connie Heredia

In my summer job I learned about responsibility, that a summer job should be taken seriously, shouldn't be taken as a joke.

A summer job is hard work. You have to have the right attitude. I've learned to communicate with other people and to follow directions—Jason Alire

I'm going to learn a lot, like how to be independent and how to do things on my own—Lisa Rosas

I learned the harder you work, you feel that you don't get what you deserve, ... because of what the government take from you, social security and Federal taxes—Alejandro Rodriguez

Would you engage in civil disobedience if Proposition 187 is ruled legal?

I really don't know because I'm still not even old enough to vote. —*Rosalina Rosas*

Yes because I'll do anything to help my people.—*Lisa Rosas*

It doesn't seem right, just turning someone in to the authorities because they're illegal. If I knew someone who was 10 years old, was going to school, and if the child was illegal I would have to call the immigration so I wouldn't be put in jail!—*Jason Alire*

Si, porque ellos no tienen el derecho de hacernos como les venga en gana.—*Karla Gonzales, 17*

Yes, because when they need something they come to us; now they want to treat us like dirt because they don't need us.—*Emerita Ponce*

Of course I would for the reason that I came here for a better life and nobody has the right to take that from me!.—*Tavo Miranda*

Yes, because it is an unlawful law that made to be racist to one race and it's Latino.—

Catalina Bautista

Yes, because Proposition 187 is a racist law and I won't obey by it.—*Sandra Loera*

Yes I would engage in civil disobedience because I think of my family and what will happen to them if this was ruled legal, and not only them but all the undocumented people who crossed the border to have a better life.

If this a free country why are they doing this to the people? What is the meaning of the statue of liberty? Why is it there representing freedom and liberty if when you get to the United States it is the opposite? The government wants you to believe that the United States is a free country so they can have you under their control.—*Rosalina Rosas, 16*

Yes I would because this land we live on and stay on rightfully belongs to Latinos, Aztec and Native American cultures. It belonged to us before 1492 when supposedly Christopher Columbus discovered America. But you cannot define civil disobedience.—*Alejandro Rodriguez, 17*

If this is a free country why are they doing this to the people? What is the meaning of the statue of liberty? Why is it there representing freedom and liberty if when you get to the United States it is the opposite?"

What is a 'gang member' to you?

Rosalina Rosas—A gang member is someone who claims a color or a street number.

Connie Heredia —I think that you can't really determine who a gang member is just by looking at a person because most of the people dress with baggy pants and a t-shirt. I wouldn't want to be confused as a gang member because I'm Mexican and dress with baggy clothes. A gang member can look like everybody else, the only difference is they always have to watch out to make sure no one is out to get them.

Lisa Rosas—To me a gang member is someone who is always starting fights, wears a colored rag in there back pocket, and talks mess to everybody.

Jason Alire—To me a gang member is someone who dresses baggy pants, hat, and a really big shirt. If they walk up to you and ask you what you claim, if you say any color, if you're not their color, they'll want to beat you up.

Emerita Ponce—I think a gang member is someone who hangs around in groups to use drugs and mistreat others, thinking that they're the bad ones. You can never know who's a gang banger because appearances can be deceiving.

Tavo Miranda—There is no such thing as a gang member 'cause I bet that the people

who are in a gang don't even know what a gang member really is. It's not about hanging out, it's about doing drugs and dealing. There can be no gang if there are no drugs. You can't tell who a gang banger is by looks.

Catalina Bautista—A person who has their gang signs tattooed on their body and who is flashing to the enemy his gang sign.

Sandra Loera—Someone who claims to be in a gang.

Rosalina Rosas, 16—Well there are two types of gang members, a positive and a negative. A positive gang member tries to do something good for his community such as doing activities at a recreation center for young people who are falling in the trap that everybody else has fallen into. A negative one is the one who vandalizes and gets into criminal problems, a person who doesn't care about anything, just about hurting other people.

Alejandro Rodriguez, 17—A gang member is somebody who dresses the same and does things together with people from the same culture. A gang banger would be the same as a gangsta who is involved with a gang.

Karla Gonzales, 17—No creo que haiga una clase de gente que sea pandillero porque una pandilla crece consumiendo drogas y cualquier gente en la calle usa drogas y no son pandilleros.

What's out?

clothes

[All styles of clothes are in, its how you make it look.

| Dress up clothes I think is out.

[Baggy pants with any kind of shirt you want.

| What is out is the preppie look.

[Girls wear tight clothing showing their body to attract guys.

[Everybody believes in their own style.

| Baggy should be out.

[Baggies I think are in.

[The casual style is in

| Stretch pants and tight clothes are out.

[De ropa pues regresamos todos a los 70's.

Music

[Oldies, they never get played out.

| Rap with all those cuss words, like Ez-E, Too Short, etc.

[Banda is in.

[Hip-Hop is in, also Rap.

| Country music is out.

[Oldies, all old school are in.

| Rancheras and that heavy metal music are out.

[Hip Hop and Rap are in.

| Music that talks about killing and death is out.

[La musica en espanol esta de moda mucho la Banda y en ingles Techno.

Film

| Violence, sex, drugs, people dying.

[Pocahontas.

[New Jack City and Interview with a Vampire are in.

| Teen Witch is out.

[Something that makes you laugh (comedy) is in.

| Action packed movies are out, they over-exaggerate.

Sayings

[Expressions that I say often are "Hell naw!" and "I ain't Trippin."

| What's out is "Dude" and "Hey," when people approach you.

[My expression is "Who Rod" and "Alrighty."

Contributors

Jason Alire, Karla Gonzales, 17, Alejandro Rodriguez, 17, Rosalina Rosas, 16, Connie Heredia, Emerita Ponce, Lisa Rosas, Tavo Miranda, Sandra Loera, Catalina Bautista

What's in?



Where is your favorite

place to eat lunch?

El Zamorano. It's at 40th ave, on Foothill-Tavo Miranda

My favorite place to eat is at **McDonalds**-Rosalina Rosas

My favorite place to eat is at **Taco Zamorano** on Rosedale and Foothill Blvd.-Connie Heredia

I really only like **my mom's food**-Lisa Rosas

Pancho Villa Restaurant on Mission Street in San Francisco-Sandra Loera

My favorite place to eat is **McDonald's**, the one on E14th by 25th Avenue. I also like to eat in **Taco Bell**. They're my favorite restaurants because they're so close to each other.

They're just right across the street from each other, I don't have to walk so far from one place to another-Jason Alire

My house-Catalina Bautista

Any **McDonald's** but especially the one by my house at Acorn Plaza-Alejandro Rodriguez, 17

El Restaurante Tijuana y esta por la 14th y la 23rd-Karla Gonzales, 17

Para mas informacion

Para mas informacion llame a N.E.L. "Si Se Puede" (510) 536-4760 la direccion es 425 Vernon St. Oakland, California.

Que consejo le da usted a los chicos y chicas para que no busquen refugio en el alcohol cuando tienen problemas? "Que busquen otra clase de ayuda como, Consejeria Familiar o ayuda profesional, el comunicarse con otras personas hace que la persona se desahogue, y que piensen en su vida que no la hechen a perder asi".

CONSECUENCIAS DEL ABUSO AL ALCOHOL:

- *Cancer of esofago
- *Ulcera Peptica
- *Vena Varicosas
- *Pancritis
- *Gastritis
- *Brain death
- *Liver disease.

Struggle to defeat alcoholism La batalla para dejar el alcohol

By EMERITA PONCE

Edgar Roger, de 22 anos de edad, es un chico que esta luchando por dejar el alcohol. El ahora esta viviendo una vida mucho mejor despues de reconocer que tenia un problema con el alcohol. El reconoció que el alcohol no era la solucion a sus problemas. Roger nacio en Mexico donde vivio por seis anos, despues de lo cual lo trajeron a vivir a Los Angeles, California. Allí vivio con su mama, hermana y un hermano. La mama de Roger habia dejado a su papa porque era un alcoholico que no podia con las responsabilidades de su familia.

Roger es el mayor, y cuando era nino, su mama le daba toda la responsabilidad de la casa puesto que su papa ya no vivia con ellos y Roger era el hombre de la casa. su mama era muy joven y vivia sola con tres hijos. Ella tenia muchos problemas y no sabia como resolverlos, el alcohol fue lo que uso como refugio.

A Roger no le gustaba ver que su mama sufriera, pero tampoco le gustaba que su mama tomara. Cuando el la veia tomar le quitaba la cerveza y se la tiraba. Cuando Roger empezso a ir a la escuela, no le gustaba porque se sentia solo. El necesitaba atencion especial y como su mama trabajaba mucho, siempre llegaba cansada y no podia ayudarlo.

Pasaron algunos anos y Roger continuo viviendo con su mama. Ella seguia con el problema de la bebida. Roger dejo la escuela y fue cuando el empezo a tomar. El penso que tomando iba hacer sufrir a su mama como el sufrio. Cuando el empezso a tomar, su mama dejo y es cuando reconoció lo que le habia hecho a su hijo.

Cinco anos despues de que empezso ha beber reconoció que su problema con el alcohol ya no era solamente una manera de vengarse de su mama, no si se habia convertido en una obsesion, la cual lo estaba destruyendo. Tuvo accidentes automovilisticos, fue arrestado por manejar bajo la influencia del alcohol y poco ha poco fue perdiendo amistades que lo querian. Fue aqui cuando decidio cambiar su vida y dejar de tomar. Roger entro a un Centro de Rehabilitacion y siguió con la lucha de dejar el licor. Ahora tiene personas que lo quieren sinceramente, le deseaban ayudarlo y siempre estaban con el, especialmente su novia. Afortunadamente, Roger reconoció su problema y esta tratando de rehabilitarse.

Miriam Ospina, es una consejera que trabaja en Narcotics Education League "Si Se Puede". Allí ofrecen consejos Individuales y consejos en grupo".

La Sra. Ospina dice "Desafortunadamente, la mayoria que viene a solicitar ayuda, aceptan su problema, vienen porque la corte los obliga, no es porque ellos mismos lo desean y aceptan su problema. El que realmente acepta que tiene el problema ha mejorado. En cambio, el que esta obligado, lo hace por obligacion. Normalmente, de 100 personas que tienen el problema los recuperados son dos. Depende mucho de la voluntad que ellos tengan en recuperarse. Los que tienen este problema son entre de 18 a 45 anos y son 40 porciento latinos, 50 porciento negros 10 porciento asiaticos.

Tambien existe un departamento exclusivamente para mujeres. Se llama "Mujeres Con Esperanza". La direccion es 3315 E. 14th St. Para mas informacion, llame al (510) 536-4764.

"La Casa De Recuperacion" ofrece vivienda mientras estan bajo el proceso de la recuperacion. La duracion del programa es de 6 meses. En este lugar, la persona que no tiene dinero, no tiene que pagar nada, pero la persona que tiene dinero, se le cobrara algo.

Edgar Roger 22, is a young man struggling to leave his alcohol addiction. He is now living a much better life after recognizing that he had an alcohol problem. Edgar realized that alcohol was not a solution to his problems. He was born in Mexico where he lived for six years until he was taken to Los Angeles, CA. There he lived with his mother, sister and brother. Roger's mother separated from her husband because of his alcohol addiction, which contributed to his irresponsibility toward his family.

As the oldest of three, Roger was left with total responsibility. The absence of his father made him the man of the house. His mother was young and alone with three children. She became desperate and saw alcohol as a way out.

Roger did not like to see his mom suffer, but he also did not like to see her drink. Whenever she drank in front of him he would take her beer and throw it away. When Roger began school he did not like it, not because he was lazy, but because he felt alone. He needed special attention and because his mom was busy working to support the family she was not able to give him that attention.

Eventually Roger dropped out of school and began drinking. He thought that by drinking he would hurt his mother the same way she had been hurting him all those years. When his mother discovered he was drinking she saw what her drinking had done to her son and she stopped drinking.

After five years of drinking, Roger began to realize that his alcohol problem was not only vengeful to his mother but was destroying his life. He had several automobile accidents, was arrested for driving under the influence and little by little he began losing the people closest to him. It wasn't until all this happened that he decided to stop drinking. Roger went to a rehabilitation center and continues in his struggle. Now he has love and support from his family and the people who care about him.

Fortunately, he recognized he had an alcohol problem, unlike many alcoholics who deny there is a problem, some of which are forced into rehabilitation programs.

Myriam Ospina is a counselor at Narcotic education League "Si Se Puede," which offers individual and group counseling. Ospina says "Unfortunately those who come to seek help do not come voluntarily, but because the court obligates them to. Those who recognize they have a problem improve their lives and those who are forced to rehabilitate end up going back to alcohol.

Normally, out of 100 people who are forced into the program only two recuperate. Those who come to us with this problem are between the ages of 18-45, 50 percent are Latinos, 40 percent are African American, and 10 percent are Asians. Although "Si Se puede" is exclusively for men there is also a program for women "Mujeres Con Esperanza."

What advice do you give youth today so they don't use alcohol as a way out? "That they look for another way out like family counseling or professional help. Communicating with people allows them to express their feelings and think about their lives and not throw it away.

Some of the serious consequences of alcohol abuse include cancer of esophagus, Peptic ulcer, varicose veins, Pancreatitis, Gastritis, brain death and liver disease.

Baseball great, Mickey Mantle, just died from liver and cancer problems brought on by years of alcohol abuse. He was only 65 years old.

For more information call NEL "Si Se Puede" (510) 536-4760, at 425 Vernon St., Oakland, CA.



Youth to learn building trades through YEP

\$1 million HUD grant will benefit East Bay young adults

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded a \$1 million dollar grant to the Youth Employment Partnership, Inc. (YEP), an Oakland non-profit youth employment and training agency, to teach construction trades to at-risk youth through building low-income housing in Oakland under its Youthbuild Program.

Collaborating with the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC), the Youthbuild Program will train 50 economically disadvantaged Oakland young adults ages 17-25, at least 75 percent of whom have dropped out of school, over a 20-month period.

"Youthbuild will add more meaningful employment training opportunities to Oakland young people at greatest risk for chronic unemployment," said Michele Clark-Clough, YEP Executive Director.

"This program addresses some of the critical issues faced by at-risk youth, and provides real solutions: solid job training in the construction trades, plus skills for life-leadership training, education and GED completion."

The program will include training in the construction trades, plus educational and leadership development during the first 34 weeks of the program. Participants will complete necessary requirements to obtain the GED. After the training component they will spend 52 weeks in a follow-up program where they will continue to receive services, including help with job placement.

Starting August, 1995, YEP will be working with a number of community and public agencies to recruit participants for the program, including the Oakland USD, Alameda County Juvenile Courts, and the Alameda County Youth Probation Department.

Congressmen Ronald V. Dellums (9th District-CA) said: "The \$1 million grant will provide young people with not only mar-

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (YEP) SERVICES

- Computer Training
- Auto-Tech Training
- We Mean Clean
- Partnership for Achieving School Success (PASS)
- Summer Youth Employment Training Program
- Youthworks
- Youthbuild
- Dress for Success Shop
- Career Mentors
- Entrepreneurial Ventures

YEP 1994 CLIENT PROFILE

African Americans	52%
Asian	21%
Latino	25%
White	1%
Native American	1%

10,000+ youth served
90% participants complete training
80% continue in higher education.

ketable skills, but a sense of pride and accomplishment in improving their communities. Teaching young people the valuable lesson of community service while at the same time providing them with job experience, is a priceless opportunity."

YEP is a nonprofit Oakland youth employment and training agency, created out of the 1993 merger of St. Elizabeth Youth Employment Corporation and Oakland YouthWorks.

YEP provides employment training and placement for economically disadvantaged youth in several program areas, including computer training, auto-tech training, environmental awareness training, and library tutors. YEP also runs a large summer jobs program. YEP will serve over 600 youth in 1995.

Centro rec center for children open

BY GEORGE ORTEGA

Narcotic Education League (NEL) Centro de Juventud is running a recreation center for children 5 years of age and up that includes a tutorial program, cooking, games, and sports.

Centro counselors help children with homework and supervise different activities. Sports activities include football, baseball and basketball. There are also video games, pool tables and art activities. NEL also offers a summer school for children 7 through 11 which includes teaching and recreational trips. Lunch is provided for the participants.

Young people who want to use NEL facilities are admitted for one dollar, or they can join for \$20 a year.

Centro is located on the corner Fruitvale and Galindo. NEL Centro is open on the weekdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Centro also has activities geared for adults. They offer aerobic classes for women.

Aztec Run cancelled but youth scholarships awarded nonetheless

BY LIZ ORTEGA

The Aztec Run began in 1983 and has been organized by the Spanish Speaking Citizen's Foundation for the past 10 years. Unfortunately the run was canceled this year because of insufficient funds from sponsors.

The Aztec Run raises money for scholarships for graduating high school seniors who will continue their education at a four year university, community college, art institute, or vocational school.

When cancellation of the Aztec Run was announced the primary concern was the scholarships—would the winners still receive their scholarships? Fortunately the answer is yes, the recipients will receive their scholarships.

CESAR CHAVEZ AWARD

Corona Cuidonce is a graduate of Saint Joseph's Notre Dame School in Alameda whose goal to go to medical school and become a Psychiatrist. Cuidonce maintained cumulative GPA of 3.54 while continuing to be involved many extra-curricular school and community activities. She was a member of the Latino Club and on student council her sophomore year. Throughout high school Cuidonce volunteered after school at Wood Middle School, Hill Haven Convalescent Home, East Campus Continuation school and Meals on Wheels in Alameda and Oakland. She was successful in balancing her academics with being a single parent. Cuidonce will attend the University of California at Berkeley.

DOMINGO GARCIA AWARD

Arturo Heredia is a graduate from Fremont High School with a 3.95 GPA and very active in extra-curricular school activities. He was a member of the Children's East-West Projects which was aimed at Environmental problems. Arturo was selected to travel to Brussels, Belgium and was one of three students chosen from nine countries to attend a conference on environmental issues and address the European parliament. At school, Arturo organized students to demonstrate against racism and strive for better education in the school system. He also served as Student Body Vice President. When Proposition 187 was proposed, Arturo helped organize and educate students about it. He will be attending Laney College.

AZTEC ACADEMIC AWARDS

Maricela Segura is a graduate of Fremont High School where she graduated with a 3.81 GPA. Maricela is the eldest child of three siblings and will be the first to attend college. She will attend Holy Names College in the fall; her major is undeclared.

Yvette Macias is a graduate of Fremont High School. Yvette was very active in extracurricular activities, as a staff writer for the school newspaper, and a member of tennis, bowling, swimming and softball teams. Yvette was on the honor roll and received certificates for outstanding achievement in writing. She will attend Alameda College in the fall and her long term goal is to become a dentist.

Rita Herrera graduated from Saint Elizabeth's High School and will be the first to attend college in her family. Rita was an active member of the Latino Club and a member of the soccer team. Rita was able to obtain second honors all six semesters and received a Bank of America Academic Achievement Award. Rita will be attending the University of California, Davis in the fall.

SAUL U. IBARRA AWARD

Rosa Duenas is a graduate of Fremont High School with a 3.65 GPA. For three years Rosa was involved with the Pre-Collegiate Academy which ran during the school year and summers. She also served as a tutor at the Latin American Library for the Pass Program for almost two years, a program which assists grade school children with their homework. Rosa will attend Chabot Community College starting this fall.

Special Thanks

The following businesses and individuals made generous contributions toward the Aztec Scholarship Program: ABC Security Services, Inc., Barbara Sanders, Berkeley Farms, Inc., Carlos Quintero, CitiBank, Corbett & Kane, Flavio Ibarra, Jose Alvarez, Kaiser Permanente, La Clinica de la Raza, Lori Lujan, M.A., Los Mexicanos, Mi Rancho, Miller Brands of the East Bay, Michael Kinane, Montclair Newspaper, Mr. Barra, Oakland Police Officers Association, Ralph Zachkeim, State Shingle Company, Uren Harrison & Kennedy.

From Page 1

De La Fuente seeks jobs

nally a run for the city council.

De La Fuente said, "Anyone can be involved in politics, they just have to be the person who wants to make a difference and better their own people."

He has made his voice heard in two recent events; he backed the proposal to build a new K-Mart in Oakland and was instrumental in negotiating to bring the Raiders back to the city: "Once I put my mind into making more jobs for Oakland, there is no changing my mind."

The councilman worked hard to save Granny Goose from bankruptcy and keep jobs and benefits for local workers. De La Fuente said if he succeeds in becoming Oakland's first Latino mayor in 1998, he wants Oakland police officers to be city residents.