

Unity Chronicles

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November 2007

Unity curriculum gets a boost New course offerings give all seniors a full schedule

By Brittany Douglas

This year Unity High School has gotten an upgrade with five new courses added to the curriculum. Seniors are now able to take Art II, Business, Journalism, Spanish III, and Advanced Placement Calculus.

The addition of these new electives allows all seniors to have a full schedule.

"In years past, we had seniors taking from three to four classes, not spending a lot of time on campus," said principal David Castillo. "For them, school was a thing that they could just drop into, so their heads and hearts may not have been into it a hundred percent."

This year, however, all seniors are required to be on campus the entire school day. For some students, the full course load can be difficult to juggle.

"I like my classes, but at times, they are really challenging," said senior Mori Franklin.

Other students, however, feel that their full schedules may improve their chances of getting into college. In fact, the most demanding classes at Unity have become popular among many seniors because they believe that having



PHOTO BY BRITTANY DOUGLAS

From Physics to Art II, seniors Tayler Davis and Tatiana Alexander tackle a full course load.

classes like AP Calculus on their transcripts helps them stand out against other students competing to get into the same school.

When asked which classes they would like to see added in the future, students said they wanted more classes in the arts.

"If I could add one class, it would be dance," said Mori.

"I would add martial arts and bring back music," said senior Alfredo Moran, referring to the fact that music class was available last year but not this year.

Senior Tatiana Alexander said, "I would add a theater or performing arts class."

Overall, students feel the new classes strengthen Unity's academ-

ic reputation and make the school more competitive with Oakland's other public high schools.

"I give it a ten compared to other public schools in Oakland," said Mori.

Tatiana agreed. "Academically, I think we go above and beyond other schools."

Students take the summer by storm Internships offer Unity seniors real world experience

By Brittany Douglas

Over the summer Unity High students were out making a name for themselves. During the break seniors Tayler Davis, Zakiyah (Kiyah) Murray, and Juan (J.M.) Zamora all participated in enriching programs and internships. J.M. participated in the Youth Court Law & Justice Summer Institute at Stanford University in Palo Alto while Kiyah and Tayler found jobs here in Oakland.

Tayler and Kiyah both worked during the day. Tayler was a fire consultant for a job she found through Youth Employment Partnership (Y.E.P.).

"I didn't get to choose my job. Y.E.P. picked it for me," Tayler said about the Youth Employment Partnership. "In order to participate in this program, I had to go to three two-hour long workshops and complete a resume. But it was worth it because at the end of the day, I had a job."

Kiyah served as an assistant for Brady-Harbord-Payne insurance company where she helped file papers and answer phone calls. Unlike Tayler, Kiyah was not the happiest with her job at times.

"I had to be around people so many years older than me in a hot office all day," she said. "In the beginning it was hard, but as

time went on and I got the hang of things, my job started to get a little easier."

J.M.'s summer program was an extension of his work with McCullum Youth Court during the school year. Along with seniors Edwin Santay and Martin Rochin, J.M. participated in a variety of activities at the Summer Institute including mock trials.

"It was a great experience... I would have regretted not going," said J.M.

As lead bailiff, J.M. conducted jury training and made sure that the jury and audience were quiet and focused in the courtroom. Although he was initially intimidated by Stanford's huge campus, he soon began to enjoy the responsibility of being on his own.

"At first it was [intimidating] because I didn't know what to do. After two days it was normal, like I knew the area."

Other Unity students also spent their summers on college campuses, focused on academic pursuits. Lucero Valdez, senior, participated in the prestigious Stanford Medical Youth Science Program, a five-week residential program that prepares students for careers in the health profession. Seniors Susana Tinoco and Maria Barajas both received a scholarship to take classes in writ-



PHOTO BY BRITTANY DOUGLAS

Seniors J.M. Zamora, Kiyah Murray, and Tayler Davis spent their summers pursuing internships and enrichment programs.

ing and environmental science at Smith College, a women's college in Northampton, Massachusetts. Juniors Ana Lopez, Emelin Hernandez, Erica Pena, and Lissete Frausto all attended the Techbridge Summer Academy.

Although many of these students might have preferred doing something more relaxing this summer, they said they valued the lessons they learned. Tayler learned about fire safety, and she also learned to use resources that the city offers such as job programs like Y.E.P. Kiyah gained

experience in office work and feels that this job helped sharpen her organization and communication skills.

For J.M. his experience at Stanford taught him to work with people that he didn't know.

"I learned to work with everyone because I always work with Edwin or Martin, but after this week, I worked with everyone," said J.M. "The program taught me to work with people outside of my comfort zone."

Zarazua explores Japan

By Daniel Barajas

This past June, as Unity students were entering their last week of school, anxious for the summer to begin, history teacher Daniel Zarazua was on a plane headed to Tokyo, Ogaki, and Gifu, Japan. Mr. Zarazua had applied for the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund, a program paid for by the Japanese government that allows 200 American teachers to spend three weeks learning more about the Japanese educational system.

"This is not the Fulbright program that people usually think about, although it's named in honor of the same person," said Mr. Zarazua who successfully competed against teachers from all 50 states.

At the schools he visited in Japan, Mr. Zarazua noticed that everything was very clean and efficient, and almost no one was ever late.

"People over there seem to take much more pride in educational achievement, and people are more aware of the community, not just their own needs," said Mr. Zarazua.

When he returned from Japan, Mr. Zarazua based his entire summer school curriculum on his trip and what he learned there. In this class, junior Gustavo Suarez discovered a few surprising facts that he had never known about Japan.

"I actually learned that Japanese people like to sing Mexican music and that there are Mexicans over there," said Gustavo.

Although Mr. Zarazua does not speak Japanese, he did not have difficulty getting around Japan. Program activities during the day were very well organized. For the evenings, Mr. Zarazua would do research a day before and print out a map of where he was going.

He said, "Most of the people I was around spoke basic English, and they were very friendly, so you just had to be creative."



PHOTO BY DANIEL ZARAZUA

Kimono clad seniors Arelly Arias and Justin Ryles learned about Japanese culture in Mr. Zarazua's summer school class.

Unity Live dishes out healthy lunches

By Beatrice Rivera

Food that is bought from markets can contain pesticides that may harm the human body. It can cause birth defects, nerve damage, cancer, and other effects that might occur over a long period of time. These effects depend on how toxic the pesticides are and how much of it is consumed. Now what does any of this have to do with students? Everyday at 11:00 a.m., Unity students stand in line to receive lunch from Mr. Jason Harvey or another staff member from Unity Live.

For three years Mr. Harvey has been at Unity fixing students' lunches and making sure it is healthy for them. Before he became the school's lunch program manager, he ran the Unity Live gardening program. It came to his attention that the school did not have an official lunch program. Everyday a teacher or a parent would volunteer to bring in food for the students.

"I would have to wait to get home to eat or go to the hoagie shop after school," said senior Omar Velazquez.

"I can't stress the health issue enough," said biology and chemistry teacher Rowan Driscoll. "I



PHOTO BY BEATRICE RIVERA

Mr. Harvey serves lunch to freshmen John Hernandez, Oscar Avalos, and Rodolfo Cornejo.

would say only about 75% of the students used to eat. Students were tired by the end of the day."

He also said that a student's mother would come three days out of the week and sell nachos.

"She was trying her best, but the food just wasn't healthy... I brought my own food everyday," said Mr. Driscoll.

Mr. Harvey, the founder and

executive director of Oakland Food Connection, a program for people of color or low income, stepped up and began cooking the food for Oakland Unity High.

Since World War II, a lot of the foods grown in the United States have been grown with pesticides to protect the foods from bacteria, mold, weeds, insects, and rodents, but those pesticides are shown to

hurt infants, children, and even adults given a certain amount of exposure. So instead of buying food from Luckys or Safeway, Mr. Harvey travels to farmers markets and Berkeley Bowl because he knows these foods are not grown with pesticides and aren't highly processed.

Not only does Mr. Harvey help Unity, but he's also helping

small family farmers. Small family farms are being pushed out of business because grocery stores are only buying food from farms that are 500 acres or more. Many of those family farms are the ones that are pro-nutritious food like Mr. Harvey and don't use pesticides. That's another reason he prefers to buy the crops from them. That way they will not be pushed out of the market. He also attends business meetings for nutrition and tries to raise money to help support his cause.

"It's what I love to do," said Mr. Harvey. "It takes a lot of time to keep this going. I could go to Costco and get it at wholesale prices, but I don't."

He looks at food and the art of cooking as meditation. When he's mentally blocked the food comes out burnt or not as expected.

"When my mind is free and clear of drama, my food comes out better."

If people want to see something different for lunch, said Mr. Harvey, then all they have to do is request it. A breakfast program has been tried a few times and students didn't step up and take the food, but if they want to try it out again, all they have to do is ask. Take advantage of the food and do not waste is all that the staff asks.

Stress swamps seniors

By Carolina Cordero

"I know that I want to go to college. I don't have to be reminded everyday that if I do badly, I won't get in," said Unity High senior Alejandra Ruiz.

Most seniors at Unity have this thought in mind. They know that they can't afford to mess up in their schoolwork or dare to lag behind. It can cost them dearly. They might not get into the college of their dreams. They stress over the simple fact that they have to get everything "perfect" for their college applications. Stress leads to frustration, which leads to giving up.

Seniors stress for many reasons.

"I know that this is the last year, and this is when I have to put in the most effort in everything I'm doing," said Alejandra.

Many seniors are also concerned about leaving the safety nest of their homes and high school.

"When I leave, it's going to be like moving to a whole new country all over again," said fellow senior Amado Rosas.

Senior adviser Daniel Zarazua said, "They have a fear of the unknown."

Seniors also stress over the tremendous pressure that they are put under by teachers, family, and themselves.

"We're trying to find a balance in not overdoing it, but at the same time making sure that they learn," said Mr. Zarazua.

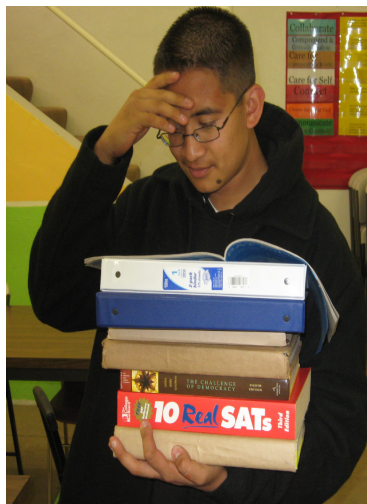


PHOTO BY MARTIN ROCHIN

Senior Amado Rosas is stressed out from the over dosage of homework and studying.

What does stress cause seniors to feel? Many people feel like they can not handle all of their classes.

"People want to drop classes!" said Mr. Zarazua.

One of the classes that some seniors want to drop is physics. Some seniors get so frustrated that they feel like they can't do any of the work at all.

"My hands get really clammy, and I get writer's block," said Alejandra.

Stress is a mental challenge. To try and minimize their stress level, seniors have tried to take up new hobbies. Alejandra dances, whereas Amado participates in Unity Live. He gardens and cultivates some of the vegetables students eat here at school. Whatever students decide to do, ultimately, it's just a matter of relaxing and trying their hardest.

"Stress forces people to take action. It's a life lesson," said Mr. Zarazua.

Students attend protest for life changing DREAM

By Daisy Barraza

On Oct. 4, 2007, young people from all over California gathered at the capitol building in Sacramento to persuade Governor Schwarzenegger to sign the DREAM Act into effect. The DREAM Act is the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, which would allow all undocumented students in the state to qualify for financial aid. About twenty-three students from Unity High School and five from Fremont High attended the march.

"We got there by bus. The ride was kind of long, but it was worth it because we did something that was right for us and our Xicano community," said Kevin Lopez, a senior at Unity High.

Students marched around the capitol building holding signs for an hour.

"I would consider it a very good march. I honestly think that this will help us a lot," said senior Juan (J.M.) Zamora, one of the organizers of the march for Unity High. "This will show Schwarzenegger that Californians all need an opportunity to go to college. If the governor doesn't sign the Dream Act, a lot of them will notice that he is just a racist guy and that he doesn't really care



PHOTO BY TAYLER DAVIS

Seniors Juan Cerna and Jestin Ryles attend the DREAM Act protest in Sacramento.

for Californians. That is why I am optimistic about this. I am pretty sure that he will sign it. Just in case he doesn't, next year we will try again, and this time it will really look so bad if he doesn't."

Even though the march was mostly a success, some students saw room for improvement.

Sara Martinez, senior, said, "One of the things that really got me mad was that when we were at the rally, the police came and took the speakers because we were talking in Spanish.

Many of us think that this was discrimination. Another thing that really got me mad was that all of the news was there except for the Latin channels. They were not there, and they should have been supporting us and talking about the protest. But they didn't even go. This shows that not all the people are always there for you and that sometimes you can't trust people to support your cause."

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THE UNITY CHRONICLES
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New teachers bring diverse experiences to Unity High

By Daisy Barraza

Damon Grant, Unity's new English, Academic Literacy, and Cultural Geography teacher, grew up in Brooklyn, New York.

"One thing that is different about Brooklyn and Oakland would be that the weather is nicer here. Also, people are more relaxed and friendly," said Ms. Grant.

Ms. Grant lived in Brooklyn until she was 18 years old, then went to Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

"Life in college was a lot of fun," she said.

At Dartmouth, Ms. Grant majored in English. She also took a lot of other interesting classes including a course in education.

"That's when I knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said.

Ms. Grant found out about Unity on the internet. As part of her interview, she taught last year's senior class and fell in love with the students.

"I wanted those students to be my students," she said. "I really like Unity because the kids are fun. The students are friendly and interesting."

One thing that people don't know about Ms. Grant is that she likes to snow board.



PHOTO BY DAISY BARRAZA

Ms. Grant teaches 11th grade English and 9th grade Cultural Geography and Academic Literacy.



PHOTO BY DAISY BARRAZA

Ms. Key-Newton teaches 10th and 11th grade History and 9th grade Study Skills.

"People might also not know that I lived in Honduras," she said.

Ms. Grant lived abroad for three months working for the Catholic Church, helping people build houses and teaching.

Chinela Key-Newton teaches Study Skills to freshmen, World History to sophomores, and U.S. History to juniors. Ms. Key-Newton was born in Oakland and returned to Oakland to teach. She attended Pitzer College, which is in southern California. Like Ms. Grant, it was in college that she started to consider a career in education.

Ms. Key-Newton really likes Unity.

"It's really different," she said. "The students are focused."

Sophomore Elmer Hernandez said that Ms. Key-Newton is a very good teacher.

"I really like her classes. I learn a lot of things that I really didn't know before," he said.

What made Ms. Key-Newton choose this school?

"I chose Unity because I liked the small school setting and the beyond-traditional curriculum. Unity seemed like a school that was willing to try new things, a school that I could really be a part of and contribute to, not just in the classroom. Luckily, I was right."

Something people don't know about Ms. Key-Newton is that she

is the proud mother of a one-year-old son.

Phillip Harr is the new Unity High School P.E. teacher.

Mr. Harr was born in Sacramento, California but grew up in in Granta Bay. Mr. Harr attended University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

One fact most people don't know about Mr. Harr is that he went to three different high schools.

"I was just looking for a different fit, but at the same time, I wasn't making as much friends," he said.

Mr. Harr learned about Unity through a friend.

"One of my friends told me that they needed a P.E. teacher. That's what I wanted to do, physical education, so I started doing research on it."

What Mr. Harr likes most about Unity is the people.

"The best part of working at Unity would be the kids and working with the staff. They're very supportive, and everyone works pretty well together."

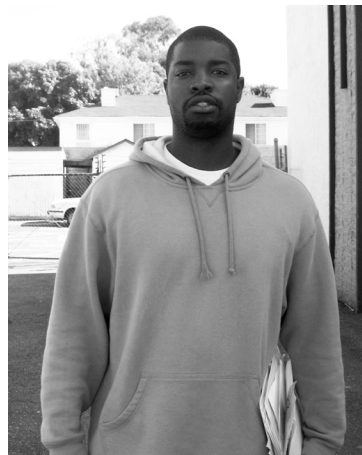


PHOTO BY DAISY BARRAZA

Mr. Harr teaches 9th grade Study Skills and 9th and 10th grade Physical Education.

Advisories battle to win door contest

By Alejandro Gomez

On Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007, the first ever Unity High School advisory door contest took place. This idea was created thanks to Frankie Ramos, the school counselor. She wanted to give advisories the opportunity to get to know each other better.

She said, "I wanted more school wide competitions."

Ms. Ramos, one of the judges of the door contest along with principal David Castillo and Dean Jane Searight, said, "My favorite was a tie between Zarazua, Ms. Hsu, Mr. Carter, and Mr. Barragan."

Even though they didn't win first prize, she said, "They had it all."

The eleventh grade advisory of Ms. Chinela Key-Newton won first prize in the door contest.

Asked if she was proud of her advisory, she said, "Yes, very proud."

Ms. Key-Newton said that the door contest made her advisory stronger. She also said that she wants more points for the final



PHOTO BY EDWIN SANTAY

Mr. Barragan's door earned second place behind Ms. Key-Newton's winning door.

prize. Her advisory's "wings" led them to a first prize win.

"The students thought of every single thing," she said. "I supplied them with some materials. Everybody participated and helped on the door."

She now has her sights set on winning the next contest.

Fabian Ortiz, a junior in Ms. Key-Newton's advisory, said, "It was fun, and we worked together as a team to do the wings. It was not that hard, but it wasn't easy to do."

Fabian said that participating in another contest would be fun, and next time they should make the contest even more competitive.

After school program expands

By Andrea M. Perez

This year's after school program is different than in previous years. All ninth graders must now stay after school everyday. They have study hall in the beginning to do some of their homework, then have a break, and participate in a club.

"This school year is going to go really well. There are a lot of things that need to get fixed, but in the end it will turn out good," said Demetrie Broxton, the After School Site Coordinator.

The extracurricular programs offered include soccer, basketball, Unity Live, yearbook, digital photography, and a homework and tutoring center for students who need to bring up their grades.

There are so many students to fill up all the activities, so the chances of a club being cancelled are slim. According to Mr. Brox-

ton, the most popular clubs are digital photography, dance class, Art in the Public Sphere, and soccer.

Freshmen are not the only ones in the after school programs. Students in other grades are also dedicated and stay after school every week.

"Upperclassmen are always welcome to join clubs," said Mr. Broxton. "The only difference is it's not mandatory."

Phillesha Brown, a senior, participates in TechBridge, the basketball team, prom committee, and Black Student Union.

"I like all of the clubs I'm in," she said. "They allow me to work with others and help me learn how to plan things that others and I can enjoy. The best thing that we planned was the trip to Atlanta...it opened my mind to new things."

Unity chess team checkmates competition

By Martin Rochin

On Oct. 17, 2007, five students represented Unity High School in the first Annual Chess Kings Invitational at the San Francisco Design Center. The tournament met and exceeded the players' expectations.

"I was expecting to see a park with tables from end to end... and rap performances," said Unity senior Jestin Ryles.

Instead, the players found that the entire center had been reserved for the tournament. Chess players, reporters, and celebrities like RZA and GZA from Wu Tang Clan filled the center. After the luncheon, a panel spoke about what the tournament represented to them. Speakers included RZA and Josh Waitzkin, an eight-time National Chess champion and

twenty-one-time martial arts national champion in Tai Chi Chuan Push Hands.

The panel spoke about the connection between martial arts, chess, and hip hop. Josh Waitzkin explained that he first saw a connection when he was playing about 20 chess games at a time, and he noticed that he was no longer playing chess but responding to the situation as a martial arts fighter would do.

"I had never thought about the connection between chess, hip hop, and martial arts," said senior Alfredo Moran.

Immediately after the panel, an exhibition match took place between Emma Bentley, the 10-year-old chess champion, and Ralek Gracie, a ju-jitsu fighter whose family founded the Ultimate Fighting Championship in the

early 1990s. The game was over in less than a minute, and then the student tournament started off.

The tournament took place onstage with 12 simultaneous games each round. The games also had a time limit, 15 minutes in the first round and 10 minutes in the next three rounds.

"The tournament was rugged. It was no joke," said Jestin.

As a team, Unity placed third in the tournament. The players went home with gifts courtesy of the Hip Hop Chess Federation, including a chess board, Timberland boots, trophies, \$2150 in educational scholarships, and, of course, the benefit of participating in an actual chess tournament.

As Alfredo said, "The tournament helped me improve my skills and see where my standing is in chess."



PHOTO BY DANIEL ZARAZUA

Unity High School students Jestin Ryles and Roman Barry compete in the Chess Kings Invitational.

Where are they now? Alumni make the leap to college

Faviola Diaz, Unity '07, settles into Laney

By Alma Ramirez

Unity alumna Faviola Diaz, class of 2007, now attends Laney College. Hearing about Laney from her English teacher, Ms. Hsu, made her look more into the college, even though it wasn't her first choice.

"Well, I didn't want to attend this college. I wanted to start at Cal State East Bay, but since it's too much money, I decided to attend a community college first, just to get my general education out of the way. Then maybe [I'll] transfer to Hayward," said Faviola.

Explaining why she chose Laney specifically, she said, "I got no choice; it's the closest community college to my house."

When asked whether Unity had prepared her well for college,

Faviola said, "Yes it did! And very much! Well, my current classes are just like high school except they don't get behind you all the time telling you that you have missing assignments and stuff. It's all up to you if you do it or not."

Her last thought about the teachers at Laney is that her English teacher does not have the same energetic voice as Ms. Hsu. This makes it a bit dull and boring to her, since it is a big change.

Faviola, who attended Oakland Charter Academy before Unity High, said that having gone to small schools made it easier for her to blend in with Laney's small campus environment. According to the Collegeboard.com, Laney, a small community college

in downtown Oakland near the Oakland Museum, has only 12,022 undergraduates, which is small compared to large universities like UC San Diego where there are over 21,369 undergraduates.

After she graduates from Laney, Faviola plans to transfer to a four-year university.

"It's either Hayward or Chico," she said. "The reason is East Bay is a university not far away from my house and Chico because I have family there as well."

Although she is considering becoming a Dental Assistant, Faviola is still unsure about what she wants to do with her future.

"I'm not even thinking about the future. I am just going as the days pass," said Faviola.



Photo by Faviola Diaz

Faviola Diaz heads off to another day of class at Laney.

Alumna Livier Perez, Unity '06, conquers University of San Francisco

By Andrea M. Perez

Entering a Chinese restaurant and being able to order in Chinese; that is one of the things Livier M. Perez can do now that she could not do in high school. She is a student at the University of San Francisco (USF), and she loves it there. Livier, or Livy as friends and family call her, graduated from Oakland Unity High School in June 2006 and began attending USF in August 2006.

"There's no comparison between high school and college. High school is too immature. College is like its own world." With that strong of a quote, it is obvious how much Livy is loving the college life. She claims not to miss anything about high school.

Livy is a sophomore and seems to be busier this year.

"So far it's harder than last year. Classes are more challenging, but I enjoy it more than last



Photo by Livier Perez

Livier Perez, a sophomore at the University of San Francisco, shows off her school spirit.

year," said Livy.

Livy does regular accounting but is hoping to incorporate accounting for sports business. The college she is in is called McLaren School of Business. Since she is majoring in accounting, it is for sure she is very busy at school. She gets homework everyday and does at least four hours of studying almost every night. Her favorite class is Principles of Accounting Level 1. The second favorite class of hers is Mandarin class. Mandarin is a dialect that is spoken in China.

College life may seem like it is a lot of work and as if it's all studying, but there is time for fun. Since the university is in San Francisco, there are plenty of things to do. Students attending schools there can go to many different restaurants, go shopping, go to clubs, or just explore the city. Students can go out and have

relaxing three-day weekends since most of the students at USF don't have classes on Fridays. When she is taking a break from all the academic work, Livy enjoys going to Union Square to look around the stores and go eat at different restaurants such as the Cheesecake Factory and Lori's Diner. With all the different choices of clubs, Livy enjoys going to a few of the clubs right in the city. When she does not want to go out too far away, she just goes to a soccer game or a boxing match right at her school.

Livier M. Perez has another two and a half years left of school before she graduates. She is looking forward to it because each year there is something different.

"Once I get my diploma and I know I can do accounting professionally and speak fluent Mandarin and get started on my fourth language, I will feel like I really accomplished a lot," said Livy.

Christopher Bibbens Williams, Unity '07, cruises into Cal State East Bay

By Carolina Cordero

Christopher Bibbens Williams, class of 2007, is currently attending Cal State East Bay in Hayward. Almost immediately since leaving Unity, Chris has been extremely busy. At Summerbridge, a four-week program in

July organized by the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Chris took three classes focused on math and English.

"The counselors there helped me ease my way into college. So when I started college, I wasn't shocked," said Chris.

Chris is settling nicely into

East Bay. He likes the fact that the campus is much bigger than Unity and much more diverse.

"There's white people here that can't even speak English. I remember I went up to this one white guy and asked him something about the campus, and he just started to talk in some other

language," said Chris.

When asked how hard college life really was, Chris said, "It's way easier than I expected, but then again it's only the beginning of the year, so it'll get harder."

He just started his fall semester on Sept. 26 and is currently only taking four classes. According to Chris, Unity prepared its students well for college, so his new academic demands weren't so dramatic or difficult of a change.

"I was more challenged in Ms. Hsu's class. My English teacher here won't trip if I don't have my paper finished. I can just tell him that I'll have it done by Friday, and he'll just say ok," said Chris.

One difference in college life is living in the dorms. Chris lives in a co-ed dorm, which means that some of his neighbors are girls. He has a roommate whom he says is laid back.

When he first entered East Bay, Chris wanted to major in Business Advertisement. When asked if his goals had changed, Chris said, "I'm undecided, but I know that I would like to own my

own Record Label."

Chris has one piece of advice for Unity's class of 2008.

"Stay on it. Don't fall apart now. If you have good grades, keep them up. It still counts."



Photo by Lillian Hsu

Chris Bibbens all smiles at high school graduation as he looks ahead to Cal State East Bay.

College Timeline

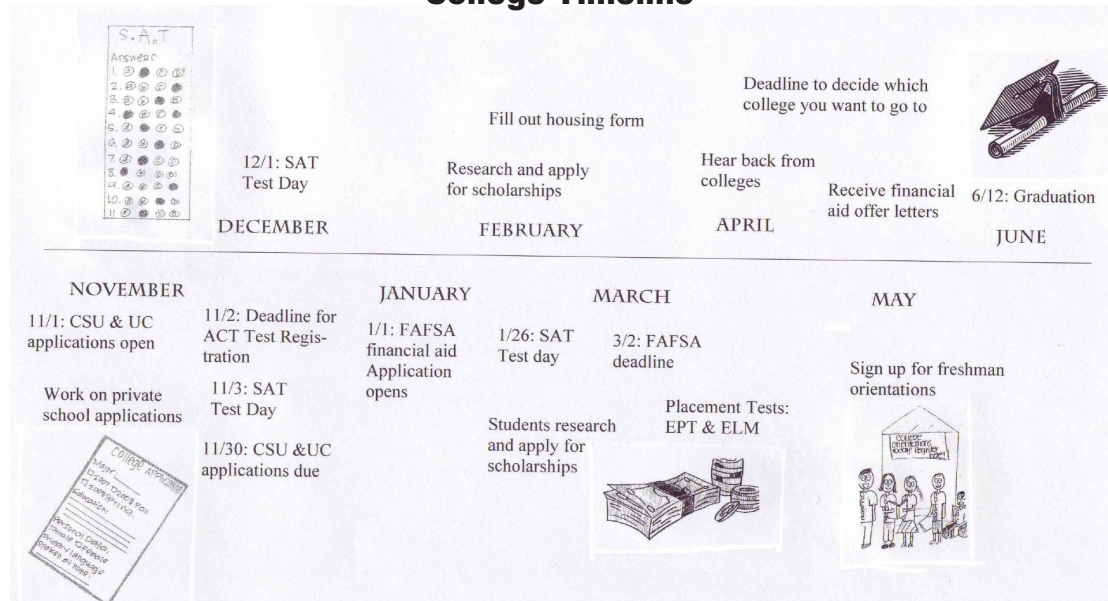




PHOTO BY ZAKIYAH MURRAY

Senior Phillesha Brown considers her options for college.

Unity seniors ponder their college options

By Zakiyah Murray

As colleges across the country begin to accept fall applications, many Unity students are narrowing down their college choices. There are so many options for students to choose—from two-year community colleges to four-year universities, including private schools and public state schools. All of these schools can provide students with a quality education and unlimited opportunities.

Senior Jessica Martinez, 17, wants to attend Laney Community College in Oakland, CA.

"I always wanted to go to college because I want to be something in life. Nothing in particular interested me about Laney. I just wanted to go there for a couple of years and then transfer to a four year university," she said.

Senior Phillesha Brown hopes to attend San Jose State University. San Jose State is a four-year California State School (CSU).

"The college trips we took definitely affected my decision," said Phillesha. "When I visited the campus, I experienced a warm positive environment that made me want to go there even more."

Seniors Tayler Davis and

Amado Rosas hope to attend private universities. Amado has his eye on Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA.

"I would like to go to a small school and be in an area that I have never been in before," said Amado about why he chose Whitman.

Another factor that attracted Amado to Whitman was their strong study abroad program, which he plans to take full advantage of.

Taylor wants to attend Spelman University in Atlanta, GA. Spelman is a very well known all-female Historically Black University located near Atlanta's Clark University and Morehouse College. As a second choice school, Taylor is considering Clark.

"It is getting more and more costly to go to college," said Taylor. "So I plan to apply for various grants and scholarships to help with my expenses."

All of these schools, both private and public, offer students the majors they need to prepare them for their future careers.

Jessica said, "I'm good at computers, and I know how to work different programs. I don't know everything about computers,

which is why I want to major in Computer Engineering and learn more about them in college."

Because she loves working with kids, Phillesha plans to major in Child Development.

"Kids have open minds. You can mold them and shape them into beautiful, caring human beings."

Phillesha's career choice is also connected to her background.

"When I graduate from college, I'd like to enter the field of social work or child development. Because I'm in the system, I'd like to help people like me overcome obstacles they face."

Taylor's reason for her choice of major, Psychology, is simply that she likes helping people solve their problems. Psychology, the study of the human mind, includes many different subfields like clinical, counseling, and educational psychology.

Taylor plans not only to obtain a Bachelors degree in college. She also plans to go back and get a Ph.D. in Psychology.

"Having a Ph. D. would mean a better income, a better life. Having a good job and making good money would make me happy."

Unity prepares its students to leave the nest

By Martin Rochin

Seventy percent of freshmen in California State Universities have to take remedial English and Math classes. Most of Unity's alumni also fall into this statistic. Preparing students for college is not solely the school's responsibility; however, the school plays an important role in preparing its students. So is Unity doing enough to prepare its students for college?

At Unity, all seniors are required to take a College Prep class, which was started specifically to help students through the multiple steps of applying to college. The class guides students with tasks such as preparing a resume, registering to take the SAT and ACT exams, filling out the application, and researching potential colleges' minimum entrance requirements and financial aid.

A big part of getting into college is getting a decent SAT score, and scoring well on the SAT is no easy task. For the last couple of years, most students at Unity have not scored any higher than the fiftieth percentile, meaning they did better than half of the people who took the test but worse than the other half. However, to help improve the results, Unity offers free SAT prep classes. This class is provided by the People's Test Preparation Service, an organization founded in 1995 at the University of California, Berkeley to help college-bound students from the Oakland, Richmond and Berkeley areas improve their SAT scores. Four students from UC Berkeley teach these classes twice a week. Normally, a student would have to pay about \$500 to take these test preparation classes.

The next step after getting students into college is to prepare them for the huge transition from

high school to college.

"Unity is trying to close the gap between high school and college," said principal David Castillo. "It is important for students to be able to locate support, both academic and social."

Unity helps students apply to a program that can help them through the shift from high school to college. The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is a program that helps students that are first in their family to go to college, from an inner-city, or from a low income family. The EOP offers a variety of resources.

"They can help with everything from choosing classes to declaring majors," said Frankie Free Ramos, counselor.

Students at Unity also receive the advantage of visiting many colleges so they can see for themselves which ones they find most suitable. A student that is at Unity for his or her full high school career will visit at least seven CSUs, four UCs, and a private university and may visit up to 10 CSUs, seven UCs, and three private universities. Trips to these universities help students by giving them tours of the campus and information on what they can find at each of the schools, such as which kinds of sports are available and which fields of study the university specializes in. This can really help them with the decision of which colleges to apply to.

According to former senior adviser David Carter, the ultimate goal is "to get you [the students] into college and give you access to the world, but also to help you think critically. To me, when you start thinking critically you fully become a human being."



PHOTO BY MARTIN ROCHIN

Senior Tatiana Alexander balances multiple responsibilities in preparation for the demands of college.

CollegeWorks offers help

By Edwin Santay

"Only 60% of America's low-income youth (defined as students eligible for free and reduced meals) can expect to graduate from high school. One in three can expect to enroll in college. Only one in seven will earn a bachelors degree," said the Bridgespan Group, an organization that helps non-profits.

For this reason there are programs like CollegeWorks designed to help students who have the determination to go to college.

"Our mission is to provide high achieving, low-income students and their parents with the knowledge to select, attend and graduate from the nation's leading colleges and universities,"

said Andrew Henrington, the executive director of CollegeWorks.

"College is predominantly white," said Andrew. This is one of the reasons that he encourages students of color to go to college because most college campuses are not diverse. He also recommends that students apply to private colleges because they have a better chance of getting in there, as long as they meet all of the requirements.

Three seniors from Unity High are currently involved in CollegeWorks, and this year eight juniors joined the program. One student from Unity High School that is currently involved in CollegeWorks is Andrea Perez.

"The counselors at CollegeWorks have helped me in deciding which universities I should apply to," said Andrea.

When asked if she would recommend CollegeWorks to other students, she said, "Yes, if they are serious about going to college, and if they are willing to do all of the required assignments that CollegeWorks gives them."

CollegeWorks primary focuses on Oakland and Napa County. When recruiting students to join the program, they target juniors because it's the year during which they need to start thinking about college and focus most on their grades.

Healthy food, no sports! Where's the fun in that?

By Leopoldo Zubiri

Should taste be sacrificed for healthy food? During lunch here at Unity, students should have more of a variety to choose from. Most of the time, students are forced to eat the food served because they are hungry even though they don't necessarily enjoy it. Some students complain that sometimes the food is just no good. Food should be something delectable with a smell that makes you want to keep eating. I am not saying that they should totally ban this food. I am just saying that we should have more choices on what we eat. We should have Mr. Harvey sell food two days, and the other two days eat other different types of food.

"The food at Unity is good, but we should have more choices," agreed Juan Zamora, a senior at Unity High.

The school only gives us what they want us to eat. My solution to the problem is to have more fundraisers so that we can have other types of food. Students and parents who want to sell food can come in twice a week. This way we get healthy food some days and different food the others.

In addition, many students complain about not having any-

thing to do after they are done with their lunch. Before, in our freshman year in 2003, Unity staff would let students play sports during lunch, and now they have banned it. My question is: should they be so strict with the rules?

Principal David Castillo said, "Lunch is an important time to eat and socialize. With only having 30 minutes of lunch, if students are playing a sport, sometimes time goes by and they don't have time to eat. With having no sports at lunch, it helps make sure most of the students are eating. With that said, everything is negotiable."

Mr. Castillo also said that

sports were banned because it distracted the students that were in class. The teachers complained about students hitting the ball against the classroom doors.

I think what we should do is to come up with a compromise, one that allows the students to play sports and keeps the teachers happy. What I suggest is to maybe let the students play for 15 minutes and then stop. Maybe we can also have a teacher that is willing to supervise the students. This will keep the students from hitting the ball against the doors. We can have the students promise to stay away from the doors during lunch, and if someone doesn't obey this rule, then ban the sports for that one person. All I'm saying is give us another chance.

"We should have sports during lunch to take our minds off stress," Luis Herrera, a senior at Unity High School said.

Once we get to the tenth and eleventh grade, we don't get any more P.E., and students need some exercise. We instead just sit around and wait until the period is over so we can go back to class. If students don't get exercise at school, then they never will because they don't do sports at home, only in school.

Students playing sports during lunch and having a variety of foods that they can choose from: this is what the school lunch period should be like. This is my vision.



Zubiri



PHOTO BY LEOPOLDO ZUBIRI

Seniors Gorgonio Enriquez and Mario Gordillo finish up their meal, not having anything else to do at lunch.



PHOTO BY ALMA RAMIREZ

Senior Eric Martinez has caught Mr. Castillo's eye with the color of his shoes.

Uniforms, enforce consistently — or get rid of them!

By Alma Ramirez

It's Monday morning, and it's still foggy and cold outside. You can still see the students outside getting out of their parents' cars and meeting their friends before walking into school. Too many people see the same old thing. Same faces, same clothes,



Ramirez

classes and teachers. They slowly walk into the gate trying to evade entering the classroom they dread yet not slow enough to get detention if they come in late to class. Outside at the front gate, you can see Mr. Castillo, Ms. Craig, Mr. Carter or anyone else from the school staff on gate duty, welcoming the students in or warning the late ones to get in before it gets too late. It's a normal day at Unity High School. To the students who are used to it, they come in to the school like it's nothing to them. Yet many new students do not seem to understand the main rules—rules that are just so simple, it's hard to believe someone can not follow them.

All of a sudden, you see Mr. Castillo outside pulling a freshman to the side. He is wearing a red and white backpack. The freshman is told that he cannot bring it to school because it is not part of the school code. Unity's code is only white, khaki or black because our school does not endorse anything associated with gangs. Red or blue is not allowed on the uniform in any way, not in jewelry, shoes, or clothing. Yet it is shocking the way that many people still can not follow that simple rule.

Since many people cannot seem to follow the simple rules, they influence others to do what they want to do with their clothing. If a student sees one person coming the way they want, then he or she too will want to do the same. By doing so, this causes an epidemic of students not following the dress code.

Yet why do only a certain amount of students get caught? For example, Senior One has been at Unity for three years, and he is well known by everyone at Unity. Senior One was wearing some Jordans that had a colored design on it and was told to change shoes. Senior Two just started Unity this year and for most of the days at school has not been following the shoes rule. Senior Two comes with shoes with red, blue and other colors on them but yet is not told anything. What can that mean?

I believe that the school staff really has only two options to rely on. Either drop the uniform code, or really reinforce it. If it is dropped, everyone would be able to wear anything they want, enabling them to express themselves with their clothing. Or the staff should really enforce the uniform rule and actually keep track of it, which means that they would have to keep a check on every student and not only a certain percent of students. It really is a hard job, but if it's done better, it would turn out great and would help avoid problems between the students and the teachers. If only some people are told to change and they see other people wearing what they please, then they will go and tell their parents or other teachers on the staff. These complaints will begin unpleasant discussions. So by treating everyone with consistent enforcement, the staff can create a steady lifestyle once more here at Unity High.

Those longer school days torture Unity Freshmen

By Jessica Patino



Patino

2:00 p.m. Freshmen at Unity High School are waiting eagerly for the bell to ring, announcing that it is time to go home. But there are still three hours left.

2:20 p.m.

Freshmen are already falling asleep, lazy to do work, and trying their hardest to keep their heads up. As they try to stay awake, they realize that they still have study hall and after school programs.

This year at Unity High, several new clubs and after school programs were added. Among these changes, a new after school program was created for the freshmen.

"The after school program for freshmen is mandatory," said Demetrie Broxton, who is the after-school program coordinator. "The program is an enrichment that helps them, also in college applications."

However, the freshmen don't seem to agree.

"It's too much. I get tired and barely have time to do my

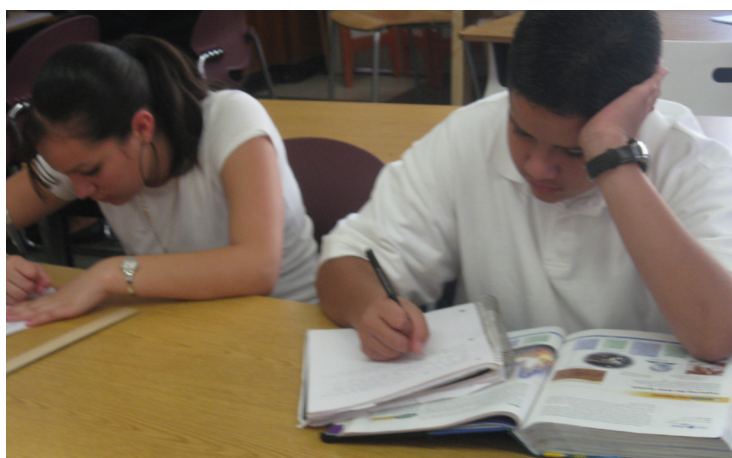


PHOTO BY JESSICA PATINO

Freshmen Lupita Contreras and Jonathan Chavarria in despair because it seems as if the school day will never end.

homework," said Manuel Campa, a ninth grader at Unity High.

Considering the fact that the ninth graders don't get out from school until 5:00 p.m., it seems as if they are spending too much time in school. Although Mr. Broxton claims that it is helping the freshmen, is it a good idea to end the program at this time?

Even though the freshmen seem to be getting benefits from being involved in after school programs, I believe it should be reconsidered and changed to a schedule that suits the students. The school should provide these programs to help students, but it

doesn't mean that it has to end at 5:00 p.m. Students have other things to do after school like go to work, help out at home, and pick up brothers and sisters.

Rather than being forced to participate, students should be able to decide which after school programs they really want to be in. By allowing this, they will be more interested in it, and they will not be wasting their time in something they don't want to do. In short, these programs should not be mandatory. If the students are able to decide what they want to do, they will be more enthusiastic about it.

Unity men's soccer team makes the finals

By Edwin Santay

Even though it was a difficult journey, the Unity Butterflies made it to the soccer finals.

The semi-final match against Lighthouse Charter School was one of the most important games of the season because Unity was one game away from being in the finals. The game was played at 3:45 in Lowell Park on Oct. 24. The referee's whistle went off, and the ball started rolling through the field. Both teams were giving their best on the field because it was the pass to the finals. At half time, the game was tied zero to zero. As soon as the ten minute break was over, the players returned to the field, some of them looking more inspired and others looking confident to win the game.

Suddenly from nowhere, senior Edgar Bautista received a pass from another player, stormed through the defense, and had to battle between the goalie. As he kept running with the ball, he



PHOTO BY DANIEL ZARAZUA

Freshman Hector Uribe runs towards the goal against a Lighthouse player.

kicked the ball to the left of the goalie, and the ball went all the way inside.

Everybody started to cheer and scream because five minutes later, the whistle went off, and Unity had won the game and advanced to the finals.

On Thursday, Oct. 25, all of the players from the team knew that it was the final game and that it wasn't going to be easy because they were going against a team that had always defeated Unity, Oasis High School. Oasis started with the kickoff, and a few minutes later, Hector Uribe, a freshman, scored a goal.

Hector said, "It felt good and bad scoring that goal because we started off winning, and it felt bad because players on our team could have scored but they didn't."

The Unity crowd went crazy because the team had an advantage one to zero. At the second half, the teams began to slow down and weaken. Oasis tied with Unity in a penalty shot. Soon after that, three

more goals were made by Oasis. The final whistle was blown, and a lot of screaming and cheering could be heard from the other side of the field, as the Unity players walked off the field with their heads down. Even though Unity ultimately lost against Oasis, the Butterflies had made it to the finals and come closer to defeating Oasis than ever before.

One major improvement to this year's soccer team was the addition of a permanent goalie. At the start of every game this year, the crowd could see Juan Carlos Perez in the goal area.

Juan said, "It feels good playing my position because my team supports me."

Throughout this season, Juan managed to impress the team with his ability to handle the goal area.

Soccer season is over, but the team needs more practice to get prepared for the spring. The team has shown that it has the potential to be number one next season.

Soccer team suffers from players who flake

By Alejandro Gomez

Two in five soccer players don't go to a soccer game. Some soccer players aren't going to the games because of jobs; others don't have rides or are bothered by the lack of leadership. Many soccer players say that the soccer team doesn't have enough support because the Unity High soccer team doesn't even have a coach.

On Wednesday, Sep. 12, 2007,

the soccer players were running through the grass up and down the field, trying to get warmed up for the big game. Unity was playing against Oasis High. Amado Rosas, a senior from Unity High, was shooting soccer balls to the goal to get the goalie warmed up. It was already 3:50 p.m., and almost half of the players hadn't arrived yet. The game started at four p.m. Every soccer player should have arrived at 3:40 p.m. to get warmed

up. Only some of the seniors and sophomores were there.

"The players should start focusing on going to the games and win," said Amado.

Five minutes later, the rest of the seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen arrived. The seniors told them to start warming up because the game was about to start. They saw that not all of the players came. Ten minutes later, the game started, and the soccer

players saw that the other team had cheerleaders.

On Unity's sideline, some of the substitute players and some teachers came to cheer the team on. It was embarrassing for several players to see that Unity had teachers instead of cheerleaders.

Rowan Driscoll, Unity's chemistry teacher and basketball coach was cheering on the soccer players.

Later, when asked what the

team needed, Mr. Driscoll said, "We need a committed coach. We need practices and conditioning. We also need the equipment."

Rene Rivas, a freshman soccer player at Unity High, believed that what the players needed most was support from their friends.

"Yes, we have soccer balls," he said. "But we don't have fans."

Unity hoops faces an uphill battle

By Leopoldo Zubiri

Unity High School's basketball team has had a challenging time in its preseason so far. In total the Butterflies have been dealt four losses against no wins. The team has three more games left. For them to make it to the finals, they have to win all three games. The team's biggest challenge is its problems communicating on the court. This is a young team with a lost leader from last year, Chris Bibbens.

"It's hard to give advice because people don't take it. They say they are going to do it, but they don't," said Leroy Anderson.

Leroy has been playing for the Unity High Butterflies for three years. Before every game he prepares by going to the YMCA where he does weight training and jogs up and down the stairs.

The players can still win in the preseason, but what will it take? "We need to learn how to score as a team. We can go to the finals, but we need to bond together for the next three games in order to get the spot for the charter league. We'll be ready," Leroy said.

Coach Rowan Driscoll said, "I think players are giving outstanding effort, but I don't think they are playing to their full potential. There is room for improvement. We need to play team defense, and we need to work as a team better.



PHOTO BY DANIEL ZARAZUA

Junior Leroy Anderson jumps to take a shot to the basket.

We need to run some more offense in place."

The Unity High Butterflies ended up in fourth place last year, and this year they might have a fighting chance. They are preparing by playing against other rec groups that are much older than them and have more experience on the court.

"We are getting prepared for the season by playing in the Fruitvale Youth Basketball League. This league is all boys. They are all much more advanced in their abilities. I don't know what the rest of the league (Bay Area Charter School Athletic League) looks like in terms of how much talent there is, but I have a feeling it will be very competitive for the league title," said Coach Driscoll.

The players hope to get more support from the school by seeing more students at the games. Games take place every Wednesday at Cesar Chavez School on East 12th Street in Oakland.

The Butterfly: Mascot that stabs players in the heart?

By Daniel Barajas

A group of guys dressed in black and white walk onto a soccer field feeling very strong and confident. All of a sudden, a group of people screams, "Go Butterflies!" Full of embarrassment, the guys don't know where to hide their red faces. The players feel so embarrassed that they lose confidence and start playing badly, resulting in a defeat.

Do you know how Unity's school mascot was chosen? Rowan Driscoll, Unity's basketball coach, said that the staff chose a butterfly as the school mascot because the first students to attend the school didn't know what a wolverine was. Some people like our mascot because of its meaning, and others just don't like it at all.

"I like the fact that a butterfly comes from a worm, a cocoon that transforms into a beautiful animal," said Cesar Barragan, Unity's Spanish teacher.

He said, however, "I wouldn't know anyone intimidated by a butterfly."

Many members of the guy's soccer team feel uncomfortable about the mascot being a butterfly, but they try to have fun with it.

"I actually feel embarrassed about the school's mascot," said Eric Martinez, a senior at Unity.

He feels that a soccer team of guys whose mascot is a butterfly



PHOTO BY LILLIAN HSU

Juniors Eduardo Zaragoza and Ezequiel Alvarado and sophomore Marcos Ramos make the butterfly sign.

is not taken seriously by other soccer teams unless the butterfly is 40 feet tall.

Mr. Driscoll disagreed.

"I think players care more about how we play than what our mascot is," he said.

Students and teachers have suggested some ideas to change our school mascot. One very interesting idea that they have suggested is to have students vote in advisory about whether they want to change the school's mascot and

what mascot they want to choose. Some students think that the best idea is to change the school's mascot to a more frightening animal like a leopard, tiger, or lion.

"A leopard can put intimidation in the rival's mind," said Eric.

"I'm okay with a butterfly," said Mr. Barragan. "But if I was to choose another mascot, I would choose a rattle snake."

ENTERTAINMENT

Tantalizing tacos tickle taste buds

By Kevin A. Lopez

It's 1:30 a.m., and a black Buick Le Saber pulls up to the 54th taco truck slapping "Getting It" by Too\$hort. Five guys come out of the car with their roaring stomachs screaming out for some cheesesteak fries. As they approach the truck, they see a long line of people who they think are waiting to order. Luckily, all those people are just waiting for their food. As they order, their stomachs can't take it, so they let out a big roar of hunger.

The 54th taco truck is one of the few taco trucks that are open till late. Being open until three in the morning may seem too late but not for those who party the whole night. Being open until late also satisfies the cravings of those who are pregnant and those who are well, let's just say, not sober.

"The taco truck being open until like three or four in the morning is good because getting cravings when you're pregnant is a got to have thing," said Unity senior Alma Ramirez.

Being in the middle of East Oakland is very convenient. Although the distance is not very important to some people, it is to others.

"When you are so hungry and want something real bad, you'll do whatever to get it," said senior Omar Velazquez.



PHOTO BY KEVIN LOPEZ

The 54th Street taco truck is a popular late night snack spot for Unity students.

The truck's location on 54th and International does not make it hard for people to see. Being placed on one of the busiest streets in Oakland gives them a lot of business.

Apart from being open till late, they also have a special item that other taco trucks don't really have. Cheesesteak fries is the main attraction: a styrofoam box filled with hot crispy fries, grilled juicy

pieces of steak, and melted white cheese for the price of five dollars. Next to that is the steak burrito. It comes with grilled juicy steak, soft brown pinto beans, golden orange rice, white creamy sour cream, and Monterey Jack cheese, all wrapped in a soft yet crunchy flour tortilla.

Although the place and food is good, the timeliness of receiving the food is not.

"The food is good, but it takes too long sometimes," said Roxana Jimenez, a junior at Skyline.

As the wait for the food gets longer, the customers' stomachs get louder. They lose patience and start making problems. That's the downside of this taco truck, the wait for those scrumptious cheese-steak fries.

Students' favorite taco trucks

1-Tacos Sinaloa
International & 22nd Ave.
Specialties:
tacos de carne asada,
ceviche de camaron

2-Tacos el Gordo
International & 42nd Ave.
Specialties:
tacos al pastor, suadero

3-Tacos Zamorano
International near 48th
Specialties:
burritos al pastor and
carne asada, tacos de
carnitas

4-El Ojo de Agua
International & 104th Ave.
Specialties:
torta cubana, tacos, and
burritos al pastor

5-El Grullo
International & 26th Ave.
Specialties:
burritos de carne asada,
tacos de carnitas and
carne asada

Is it 'Retro'? If so, it's 'in'! Retro is back!

By Yareli Ortiz

Big buttons, oversized sunglasses, collared floral print shirts, bell bottom pants, cowboy boots, and biker jackets. These items of clothing all share one thing in common, and that's getting criticism for being out of style and out of touch. In today's fashion world, however, they have come back to style. Now the question is: Are they retro or not?

Retro is clothing from the 1960s, 1970s, and also 1980s that come from the United States' hippy era and England mod. What makes hippy clothing retro is the oversized shirts sometimes containing big buttons, the huge feel for bright colors, and, of course, the extraordinary floral prints. Mod is known to be retro for its neo-grungy look of oversized pants with super loose shirts for women and tight pants with vests and pointy shoes for men.

"Some retro things are fabulous. For example, floral patterns and geometric shapes on shirts are gorgeous," said fashion critic Dino R. from Seventeen Magazine. "It just makes me laugh when young girls make fun of the '70s wardrobe because in actuality these girls who wear print shirts don't realize they are '70s prints."

When walking down the street, the first thing we notice about other people is their clothing. We're not critics, but we acknowledge what others are wearing to keep up in fashion. It's a comfort zone for many people to wear the same clothes as other people instead of scrambling and

trying to find what is the big thing. Men's clothing in Oakland is usually the same year round, baggy pants and dark colored shirts or neutral colors depending on the person's mood. Women's clothing usually consists of leggings, oversized shirts, or skinny jeans, which are very flattering.

Emmanuel Gutierrez, a Unity High senior known for his iconoclastic fashion sense, shared his thoughts about men's clothing today, "I'd like to see more men with fitter pants and jeans with a white shirt and vest. And no baggies: it really looks unprofessional."

Yet fashion slowly changes by the season. Each season brings a new era or time period of clothing. The '70s free flow clothing has been continuously coming in style season after season; therefore, those vintage floral prints and oversized shirts will never get old. They're a hot buy. Eighties clothing has been slowly drifting back into the markets. For example, hoodies for men are ubiquitous, except this time around they contain detailed images of everything from cartoons to money prints.

Other items for both men and women are biker gloves, leather jackets, leggings with short skirts, pointy heels, and skinny jeans. Renaissance style clothing is always pointed out as retro, but a few other items that are on the retro list include: turtleneck shirts, balloon sleeves, balloon shirts and quinceanera dresses. These items listed above have been partly called retro, yet they come back in style better than ever with a new name. If a person knows how to

flaunt fashion, then it will never be retro or tacky.

Dominique Crosby, a Unity high junior and a part time model for Star Steal Top (an afterschool program in fashion design and modeling) said, "My expectation for the winter season's clothing is simple. I'd like to see sweaters with layers and layers of drapes, thin sweaters with fancy looking scarves, high cut boots, leg warmers over pants, and leggings with oversized shirts with a belt to top it all off."

Simple pants cut to the shape of one's body with a simple black overcoat are comfortable for on the go or just for a fancy lunch in. Some more great outfits are leg warmers, peacoats and fleece. For men, look for the infamous blue jeans with collared shirts with some buttons unbuttoned. Colors to expect for the winter season are purples, dark greens, oranges, grays, browns, mustard yellows, and of course, black. Ultimately, nothing is too retro in the fashion industry. What makes fashion retro is the level of human interest and how individuals decide to draw attention to their outfits.



SKETCH BY YARELI ORTIZ

For ladies, floral print skirts, semi-short dresses, and jackets with oversized buttons give off a retro vibe. For the gents, oversized wool sweaters with black skinny jeans perfect the mod look.