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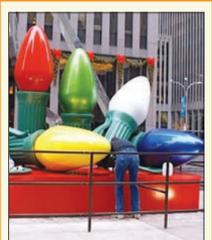
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Transportation art show to
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Sharpen your pencils for that
famed newspaper tradition.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Alameda Sun Inside

Learn about Alameda history in
the Sun's special section.

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**Alameda Sun
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Local College Student Tells of India Internship

Alameda native learns to appreciate social responsibility overseas

Ekene Ikeme

Most College students spend their summer vacation lying on the sand at the beach or at their parents' home playing video games and eating everything in the refrigerator, but that was not the case for one Alameda native. On June 30, Alameda High graduate (class of 2011) and current UC Davis student, Evan Shum arrived in Thane, Maharashtra, India; for a different kind of summer experience.

Though India is one of most renowned tourist destinations in the world, Shum was not there to bask in the cultural beauty of the country; he was there to take part in a unique internship.

The Tata Group, named after founder Jamssetji Tata in 1868, is a multinational conglomerate company based in Mumbai, with offices all over the world. It comprises of over 100 operating companies in seven business sectors. The Tata Group designed an internship program, Tata ISES (International Social Enterprise Scheme), to give students a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"It is a wonderful program that provides students experiences unlike other internship programs," said Niharika Chibber Joe, general manager of Tata Sons North America, a division of the Tata Group. "We educate students about our corporate-social responsibility."

Shum, 20, was one of 20 students from California and London selected for the internship.

"I worked at Tata Capitol," said Shum. "My job was to help create and develop an employee volunteering portal, which will be linked to the company's intranet, generate ideas and evaluate vendors for the same."

Shum spent much of his workdays in the office with a schedule similar to a normal workday in the U.S.

"I'd get up around 9 a.m. and would start work at 10:30 a.m. Most people in India start work around

10:30," said Shum. "I'd work until around six."

Shum lived in a house owned by the company. The house was unoccupied most of the time, but housekeepers helped Shum with basic needs. They also helped him learn a little Hindi. Living in a new country presents a lot of challenges, so the Tata ISES program helped its interns by assigning each one a personal guide.

"They called them buddies," said Shum. "They were people who worked in the same division as the intern. My buddy was Ashwin Ningu Naidu. We were basically connected at the hip."

"He took the weekend off one week to introduce me to his wife and daughter," said Shum. "We went out to lunch at a south Indian restaurant near downtown Mumbai."

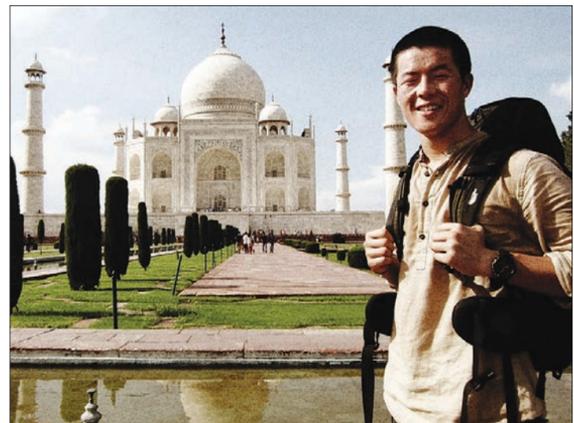
The majority of his work in India was spent inside a cubicle, but Shum was given the opportunity to work in one of the nearby villages.

"We went to the Talawade Village to set up children with educational supplies," said Shum. "It was an eye-opening experience because people there are so far behind in terms of technological advancements, but they don't care. They aren't dependent to an iPad or cell phone the way we are here. They all live in impoverished conditions, but they are all so happy. It made me appreciative of the things I have. They were so happy to see us. This was one of the best experiences I had during the internship."

It was not all work and no play for Shum. He did manage to escape work for a day to visit the Taj Mahal. Shum arrived back in Bay Area on Aug. 30. He said the trip gave him a better understanding of what he wants to do in the future.

"Before I wanted to be a doctor, but after this experience I want to do something that integrates the things I learned in corporate-social responsibility."

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Evan Shum spent his summer travelling in India. Here he appears in Agra, home to the Taj Mahal.

Cops May Get New Scanner

Sun Staff Reports

Acting Police Chief Paul Rollerli spoke to City Council last Tuesday seeking funding for a four-camera automated license plate recognition system. The system helps police identify stolen vehicles, missing persons and potential terrorists through license plate identification.

"It automates a tedious, distracting and manual process that officers regularly complete in their daily operations," Rollerli

stated in a report to the council.

Civil rights advocates fear the systems, which scan and store license plate and location data are ripe for abuse. "Because of the way that license plate readers work, they have the potential to collect vast amounts of information about completely innocent people," said Nicole Ozer, a spokesperson for the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California.

The system would cost an estimated \$22,000.

Pieter Boele Passes

Sun Staff Reports

Alameda resident Pieter Boele, 93, passed away on Sept. 24. He was a respected ship captain, who spent more than 50 years at sea.

Boele was born in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in 1920. When World War II broke out he was serving in the Royal Dutch Navy. He joined the Dutch merchant marine after the Germans invaded Holland in May 1940.

He averted disaster during the war when the German submarine captain who torpedoed his ship helped him and his ship mates survive. After his rescue Boele served

Local Deaths

aboard a Dutch ship that transported American troops to the Pacific theater and wounded soldiers back to the United States. After the war, Boele became an American citizen and captained ships for the American Presidents Line, including the *S.S. President Cleveland*. He retired in 1993.

Boele is survived by his wife, Barbara, of Alameda. His family scattered his ashes at sea and have no services planned.

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Dennis Evanosky

Protesters stand outside City Hall on Tuesday in anticipation of the raising of the People's Republic of China flag. They were jubilant when they later learned the event had been canceled.

Protest Prods Flag-Raising Cancellation

Michele Ellson
The Alamedan

A decades-old conflict festering thousands of miles away took root on the steps of Alameda City Hall on Tuesday when more than a dozen protesters with an assortment of pro-Tibet groups forced the cancellation of a planned raising of China's flag.

The flag was to be raised during a ceremony conducted by the Alameda Sister City Association in front of City Hall to celebrate China's National Day, which celebrates the founding of the People's Republic of China. But flag raising was canceled due to the protest.

"I'm not here to divide the community. I'm here with the Social Service Human Relations Board in the name of peace," said City Councilman Stewart Chen. The sister city association is an offshoot of the board, on which Chen once served.

Protesters said they saw the flag ceremony as an opportunity to raise awareness about China's takeover of Tibet and subsequent human rights abuses.

"Regardless of whether it's politics or not, I think it's important to raise this issue whenever the opportunity arises," said Tenzing Gyaltzen of Students for a Free Tibet.

Event organizers originally planned only to cancel the flag-raising portion of the ceremony, after China's consul general begged off a planned appearance here. But dozens of students from Chinese Christian School who were scheduled to sing the national anthem as the Chinese and American flags were raised were hustled back onto

Students from Chinese Christian School ... were hustled back onto their school bus after a conflict erupted on the steps of City Hall.

Protesters cheered and shouted, "USA! USA!" when former City Councilman Frank Matarrese, who helped organize the event, announced it was being canceled.

"We'll be back next year!" one protester shouted.

The flag-raising ceremonies, which have taken place in San Francisco, Oakland and Alameda over the past several years, are seen by some as a demonstration of respect to the people of China — in American cities with huge Chinese populations. Nearly a third of Alameda's residents are Asian, recent U.S. Census data show.

They are also taking place as Alameda and other cities seek out Chinese investment in development efforts.

San Leandro's City Council narrowly approved a proposal to hold a flag-raising ceremony Tuesday before Mayor Stephen Cassidy canceled it. San Leandro Councilman Benny Lee — who proposed holding the ceremony and who was heckled by protesters — said the council will discuss it again on Monday.

"Through my grassroots development work for China over the past 10 years, I understand how important such a symbolic event is to develop friendship and moving forward to build a better world together," Wujing Harrison, a one-time Alameda resident whose father is from Jiangyin, China, wrote in a flyer she handed out at the event.

Wuxi, China is one of Alameda's three sister cities, relationships Chen said have been developed by American cities for more than 50 years to help people from different countries get to know each other personally, instead of via politics.

But the ceremonies have drawn the ire of Tibet supporters who feel they honor a government that has oppressed Tibetans and others.

"The flag represents a government that ran tanks over their own people who were protesting peacefully in Tiananmen Square in 1989," protesters wrote in a flyer handed out Tuesday. "For others, like Tibetans and Uighurs, it represents a symbol of occupation of their homeland and unremitting oppression."

If anything, the event and protest fostered a discussion between attendees and protesters — some of whom paired off peacefully to discuss the dispute and others who discussed their differences less peacefully.

Chen said there are no plans to raise the Chinese flag at a future date.

"This was supposed to be happy and cheerful and fun. Not to have a divisive community," he said.

Read more Alameda news at <http://webh.it.alamedasun.com>.



Bringing in the New Beach

Dennis Evanosky

East Bay Regional Park District board member Doug Siden talks about the sand-replacement project currently underway along Shore Line Drive. The district is spending some \$5.7 million to restore the beach and dune system to its 1987 footprint. The project will replace 82,600 cubic yards of sand that has washed away over the years. Siden explained that a 14-inch pipe is pumping sand and water onto the beach from an offshore barge. The project is scheduled for completion in November.