

**C O M M U N I T Y N E W S****Chili Cookoff**

**M**ore than 65 JSC organization-sponsored teams participated in the 22nd JSC FOD Chili Cookoff. JSC Director George Abbey started the cookoff more than 20 years ago when he was director of Flight Operations. The tradition has continued through the years and now is a highlight of the spring season at JSC.

For those who want to get started on next year's recipes early, the 2001 cookoff has already been scheduled – mark your calendars for May 5, 2001. ■

An anxious crowd awaits announcement of winners for the 22nd JSC FOD Chili Cookoff. Right, members of the *Space Cadet Cookers* chili team clutch their trophy for Best Chili. Below, the *Red Baron* cooking team won the People's Choice Award.



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**Winners of the 2000 cookoff****Best Chili Award**

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| First Place  | <i>Space Cadet Cookers</i>             |
| Second Place | <i>Wrong Stuff Chili</i>               |
| Third Place  | <i>Dr. Bob's Cosmic Cowboy Cookers</i> |
| Fourth Place | <i>Vacuum Pump</i>                     |
| Fifth Place  | <i>Catalytic Chili Peppers</i>         |
| Sixth Place  | <i>Where's the Booth?</i>              |

**People's Choice Award**

*Red Baron*

**Showmanship**

- |              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| First Place  | <i>Space Shuttle Chili Blues</i> |
| Second Place | <i>Grease Chili</i>              |
| Third        | <i>Surfin' Chili</i>             |



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**JSC observes Asian Pacific American Month**

**A** variety of Polynesian performers gathered on May 18 in the Bldg. 3 cafeteria to celebrate Asian Pacific American Month.

Singers, musicians, and dancers representing the cultures of the islands of the South Pacific performed music and dance from Hawaii and Tahiti among other islands in the Polynesian Triangle.

Some of the performers are employees at JSC or have been employed at JSC in the past. Many come from a rich

musical background developed while growing up through attendance at Hawaii's

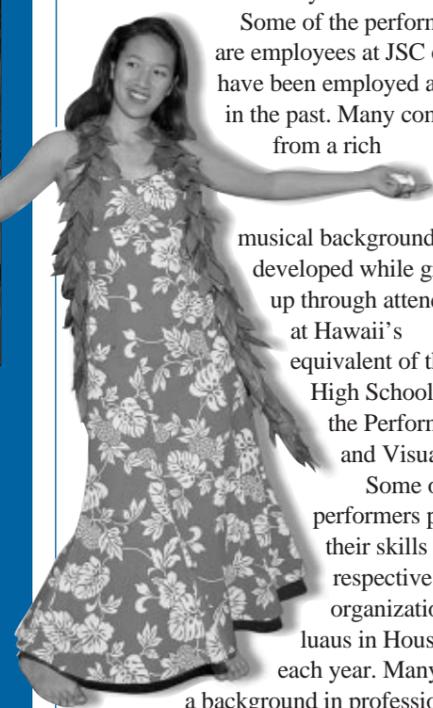
equivalent of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts.

Some of the performers present their skills at their respective organization's

luaus in Houston each year. Many have

a background in professional performance groups for hire. Many of these singers and dancers currently perform or have performed in the Houston area to teach the culture of the islands to our city's residents.

The performers gave those in attendance a flavor of the rich culture of the islands of the South Pacific in commemoration of Asian Pacific American Month. ■

**Home Safety Fair shows the good, the bad, the ugly**

By Mary Peterson

**T**he event was information-packed – much of it practical, everyday things we need to know, and some of it, dark reminders of the evils that exist in our lives. Throngs of JSC employees crowded the Gilruth Center and environs to beef up their knowledge on how to keep themselves and their families a little safer and a little healthier in a world fraught with risk.

The occasion was the "Safety Begins at Home" spring fair, and according to the producer-organizer extraordinaire, Muñiz Engineering's Rindy Carmichael, "This was easily our most successful fair ever, thanks in large part to the sponsoring companies who came up with some really fantastic booth displays along with the enthusiasm to match."

You had only to cruise through to know this was true. The line formed early at the child car seat check where technicians lent their expertise to a total of 92 car seats, finding 21 (approximately 23 percent) that were either recalled or defective. Helen Harris, the event's point-of-contact, said, "Only 9 of the 92, or less than 10 percent, were acceptable and installed correctly. Ironically, that's about the national average." Not good. If ever there were a wake-up call to parents, that should be it.

Meanwhile, inside Gilruth, fairgoers were queuing up to take advantage of the JSC clinic's state-of-the-art teledermatology screenings for skin cancer in hopes of not being caught unaware. If you missed your chance, you can still make an appointment at the clinic for a screening.

One of the more dramatic booths, hosted by Omnisc and manned by JSC Security Officers David Williams and Russ Tucker, featured a startling display of drugs, drug paraphernalia, and gang weapons, all confiscated within the past year by the Montgomery County

Constable's office, of which Williams is a part-time employee. The lethally sharpened letter opener, skull-shaped drug pipe, roach clips, and even the innocent-looking devices disguised as seashells and Coke cans were graphic reminders that the threats to our children are very real.

Even more disturbing was the story related by Tucker, who showed a pretty sticker, not unlike something your third grader would have among her treasures. Only this sticker was laced with LSD.

"There have been cases," Tucker said, "where parents have picked up such

stickers out of idle curiosity, and the moisture from their fingers has been enough to trigger absorption of the drug. Soon after, the parent begins 'freaking out' and has no idea why. A trip to the hospital emergency room then verifies the presence of LSD."

Even teachers have been unwitting victims. Students

have been known, for example, to place a drug-laced sticker beneath a teacher's water glass, and when the glass is picked up for removal of the sticker, bingo! It's trip time.

Another well-attended booth warning of the need to protect our children was the Laura Smithers Foundation, where, in addition to literature, Operation Kid-safe fingerprint kits were handed out with places for prints, a hair lock, identifying characteristics and marks, and a DNA sample – important to have, just in case.

On the lighter side, Armand Bayou handlers gave witty and useful information on coexisting with some of our local critters, charming onlookers with a sometimes sleepy baby alligator, assorted snakes, and for the non-arachnophobic, a chance to pet a live tarantula, hairy legs and all.

In addition to the wellspring of safety and health information, fairgoers were treated to free hot dogs, courtesy Star Toyota, and popcorn. The newest SR&QA mascot, "Safety Man," drew names for a variety of door prizes that were still another way to take safety home.

Attendance was estimated at more than 2,000, a number sure to be beaten next year if interest and positive response are indicators. ■



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Dwight Peake, M.D., gives Marie Robinette a skin cancer screening.