

Oakland

CELEBRATING THE EAST BAY

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Wineries and Wine Tasting in the East Bay?

Go-to Shops for Infants, Toddlers and Kids

Halloween Mania: A Haunting We Must Go

The Evolution Starts Now

Mills College Pushes the Limits of Contemporary Sound

OCTOBER 2007

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HOOKED ON YOSHI'S

The Best Sushi in Town

BY THE NUMBERS

1873

The year Fanny Rouse Snell, the first woman lawyer in New York State, graduated from Mills College.

1973

The year Congresswoman Barbara Lee graduated from Mills College.

1981

The year Renel Brooks-Moon, the first African-American woman stadium announcer in sports history (for the San Francisco Giants) and KMEL-FM morning show host, graduated from Mills College.

6

The ranking of Mills College among 58 western colleges and universities in *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges (2008). Mills also ranked sixth in the category of "Great Schools, Great Prices." These rankings recognize Mills for the high quality of its academic programs and the exceptional value of the Mills experience to students.

25,070

In dollars, the average cost, after needs-based grants, for a student to attend Mills College in 2006-2007.

1964

The year the first Moog Modular Synthesizer was debuted by Bob Moog at the Audio Engineering Society Convention.

1

The number of notes the first Moog synthesizers could play at once; producing a multilayered piece required many hours of studio time.

52

The number of swords swallowed simultaneously by nine swallows, a world record.

14

In years, the age of the youngest sword swallower on record in the United States: Alex Zander Morrow in 2003.

44

In pounds, the record-setting weight suspended from a sword swallowed by Matty Blade Henshaw in 2005.

—Patsy K. Eagan

Sources: www.mills.edu, www.moogmusic.com, www.swordswallow.com

ABOUT A LINEBACKER

Hometown Hero

KIRK MORRISON'S STORY READS LIKE A DISNEY MOVIE. Not only does he make it from West Oakland to the NFL, overcoming a rough environment and perpetual underdog status in the process, but he also gets to play for his hometown team, the Oakland Raiders.

Morrison, a 6-foot-2, 240-pound middle linebacker, is in his third season with the Raiders, and the novelty has yet to wear off.

"Every day you go out there, it's a dream come true," Morrison, 25, says. "At that moment, when I'm about to come out of the tunnel, it's just one of those feelings. I can't explain it. It's unbelievable. The same feeling comes across me every time I come out on that field."

It's pretty rare for professional athletes to play for their hometown team in any sport. It's even rarer to start out their career with their hometown team, as rookies have very little control over where they land. Morrison went from Pop Warner football with the Oakland Saints to high school football at Bishop O'Dowd to college ball at San Diego State before being drafted in the third round by the Raiders in 2005.

Morrison was a Silver & Black diehard growing up. Though the Raiders were in Los Angeles when he started following the NFL, Morrison was still born into Raider Nation because his family remained faithful fans. He used to drive to L.A. for Raider games with his father, David, who has owned a block of four season tickets since the team returned to Oakland.

Morrison was there almost every game until he got drafted. Now he is there every game, with a much better view.

"There are just so many things, being at home, I have to play for," says Morrison, who led the Raiders in tackles last season. "So I have to bring it. I always have to be on my toes, give everything I've got. I know how our fans are, because I was one. I know how everybody feels about the Raiders. I'm not just doing this for myself."

—Marcus W. Thompson II