



**PEACE, LOVE, AND MUSIC**—Math teacher Michel Paul poses at a peace rally with his alternative country band Old Bull. The band, for which Paul plays keyboard, is working on its first album "T-Top Mullet Jamboree." Photo courtesy of Michel Paul

their lack of one. Little do we suspect that some of our fellow teachers actually do have lives. One such teacher is Michel Paul, math and computer science teacher by day, keyboardist of the alternative country band Old Bull by night.

Paul became a member of Old Bull last October, less than a year after it had been formed by singer/songwriter Eric Rasmussen and lead guitarist Nate McLeary. Paul met the band when he was invited by bass player Lon Miller to play in Old Bull's studio in Topanga.

"After that, I started playing with them there," Paul said. Paul, whose influences include John Lennon, Bach and Vaughn Williams, has always been interested in music. "In high school, he and his girlfriend were part of a rock band with their friends. "We liked to play psychedelic rock like the Beatles and Jethro Tull," Paul said.

Paul has also always been interested in the dynamics behind music. "I like to study music theory and explore different kinds of rhythms and chord patterns," Paul said, "but I mostly just mess around."

Paul describes Old Bull's music to be Americana, a genre that, along with

a birthday party. Most recently, they played at Abuelitas Mexican Restaurant in Topanga and at Canter's Deli. "We'll be playing at Canter's again on April 15 and at the Anarchy Library in Downey later this month," Paul said.

Old Bull's biggest gig yet is going to be at Topanga Days Country Fair, a three-day memorial weekend celebration at the end of May. The band, which currently averages around two gigs a month, is gaining popularity fast. Any hardcore fans yet? "We actually do have a group of people who always show up at our gigs," Paul said. As the fan base of Old Bull grows,

lapsteel player, a keyboardist and, just recently, an amazing fiddle player. From his experiences playing with Old Bull, Paul says that he has gained a new respect for music. "The more I play music, the more I appreciate other kinds of music, like country," Paul said. "I never would have listened to country in high school."

Paul, who claims to be the "rookie" of the bunch—bass player Lon Miller has played with the likes of Jerry Garcia, deceased singer/songwriter for The Grateful Dead—says he's been really impressed by the musicians in the band. "I've just been blown away," Paul said. Will Beverly ever be able to hear its beloved math teacher rocking out? Although Paul has played samples of his high school band's music to his students, he says he hasn't played any Old Bull songs for them. "Some of the songs have lyrics that I can't repeat in school," Paul says. But Beverly students won't be left out for long. Old Bull is currently in the studio recording its debut album, "T-Top Mullet Jamboree." And when the record hits stores, be sure that Old Bull will no longer be kept on the down-low.

# Philanthropy society gives new opportunities to youth

**By Jane Suh** The Society of Young Philanthropists has begun in Beverly Hills to encourage young adults to give something back to their communities and society at large by contributing their time and effort to various causes. They include helping the poor, protecting the environment and getting young people involved with their community.

The organization, which was started by Elishia Shokriani five months ago and counts many Beverly students among its members, welcomes anyone willing to donate time or money to improve the community. Students who participate may earn community service points for volunteering.

"After being given a tremendous amount of education, skills and resources I believed that it was my obligation to start giving back to the community. It was no longer up to my parents or family to fill this obligation for me, but my own contribution that was necessary," said Shokriani.

"Since we started in December, we have received a great amount of support

could suffice. We recognize that there is so much for us to do, and unless we engrain in the minds of young professionals the duty to participate in the community and give back to important causes, the cause will be lost in the future. Community building is very important, and we want to give young professionals a platform to participate."

Internship jobs in the organization range from journalism to organizing events and attending meetings in support of helping to resolve community issues and pitching ideas to support other community-aiding organizations.

Beverly graduates, as there are many in the Society of Young Philanthropist, are also very much welcomed to join the organization. Though SYP involves active young adults and interning students, the organization can also gain the help of parents who want to offer some of their resources in their individual job fields.

"Members are currently from the personal and professional networks of those involved in the SYP steering committee," said Shokriani.

One Beverly grad and CEO of SBE En-



The Society of Young Philanthropists was founded by Elishia Shokriani (seated second from right) to encourage young adults to give back to their community. Photo courtesy of www.philanthropysociety.org

tainment, Sam Nazarian ('93), donated \$10,000 to SYP and contributed packages for the raffle in the Society's May 14 debut event. "As the organization continues to grow within its first year, so will its membership

form all fronts. Many young professionals have become involved and many more want to get involved. There are a lot of leaders in our community and many of them realize their potential to be involved in something that is influential and positive."

The Society has three main goals: to promote more involvement and action among young people; to help other philanthropic organizations fulfill their goals of a brighter future of the community, and to encourage members to contribute their personal resources and assets to the group.

Its first effort towards these goals is a charity fundraiser for Jewish causes on

**“It's not only about fundraising, or donating to causes, it's much more.”**  
—Elishia Shokriani  
Founder of the Society of Young Philanthropists

# Various electives offer choices

By Ryan Cohen way to realize what you're interested in so many classes in every field are

# Dana Berk dances away

that so many classes in every field are