

SEPTEMBER 21, 2007

WESTCOAST Newslines

Carnival for a cause: 800 attend INDUZ 2007 festival

Proceeds of the event will go towards Sankara Eye Foundation and Bring me a Book Foundation

SAM RAO

Sunnyvale, Calif.

THE INDUZ carnival 2007 was organized by a local group of the same name at Sunnyvale Temple auditorium on September 8. The program, which drew about 800 people, started at 11 a.m. and continued till 11 p.m.

The day-long event had games, a magic performance, a yoga demonstration by Vasantha Yoga, a story-telling segment, performance by two bands and a fashion show for children and adults.

A singing contest for youth and adults, The Induz Idols, which followed the fashion show, was the most popular event of the day. The contest was kicked off by Fremont city council member Anu Natarajan, who, on behalf of the Mayor of Fremont, awarded a proclamation to Induz. It started with an interview of Zee SaReGaMa 2000 regional winner Moonmita Ghosh.

Anisha Safunkhe won the Induz Idols U-13 contest, while in the adult category, Prachi Naik and Mandeep Singh were declared joint winners. But the crowd's favorite Anand, an engineer at Google, much to the chagrin of

his many admirers, did not find a place among the winners.

The fashion show had three segments—the 1950's jazz segment, a doli segment and the idols segment—choreographed by Piya Mitra. Winners of the fashion show were Richa Shukla and Bhakta Raghavan.

A special drive for bone marrow match also featured during the carnival and led to about 100 donations during the course of the day.



Young participants at the festival

The Mayor of Sunnyvale, Otto Lee, was also present at the carnival and awarded Induz with a certificate of merit, while recognizing its contribution to the community.

The funds raised at the event will be directed towards Sankara Eye Foundation (SEF) and Bring me a Book Foundation. "We wanted one local charity and one centered in India," said Mitra while explaining the mission of INDUZ, which held a concert and fashion show to raise funds for Child, Rights and You (C.R.Y) in 2004 and a dance event for Association for India's Development (A.I.D) in 2006.