

# Local / State

Editorials • Comments • Valley Lo

## A rally for the planet



Orry Parker — Mercury News

Ralph Nader addressed Earth Day crowd at Santa Teresa Park on a beautiful spring day

## Earth Day action focuses on ozone



# Earth Day action focuses on ozone

By Marcos Breton  
Mercury News Staff Writer

More than 500 people from across the Bay Area descended on a South San Jose park Saturday to celebrate Earth Day — billed as a day to raise awareness about the depletion of the world's protective ozone layer.

San Jose's celebration at Santa Teresa Park matched protests in three other U.S. cities and 10 countries worldwide, organizers said.

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, teen idol Esai Morales and rock star Midge Ure were among the many who spoke and sang on the issue of the world's environment at the daylong demonstration.

The celebration began with music reminiscent of a '60s gathering and culminated with a protest march to the gates of IBM's South San Jose testing plant. There, demonstrators tied green and white ribbons bearing political messages to the gate of the facility while a large group of San Jose police, county sheriff's deputies and IBM security guards looked on.

"I'm not a radical, and I've never done anything like this before, but something has got to be done about the chemicals damaging our environment," said Scott Sipes, who was among the several hundred who marched about a mile from the park to the plant.

Demonstrators said they chose to pro-

test at IBM because they are very concerned that the earth's ozone is being depleted by chlorofluorocarbons being used by IBM and other computer and electronic companies.

Chlorofluorocarbons are used in packaging and high-tech manufacturing that protesters said destroys the ozone layer and contributes to global warming.

"IBM is going to have to be a leader in accelerating the pace to get rid of (chlorofluorocarbons)," Nader said during a 30-minute speech at Santa Teresa Park.

"In this beautiful setting we are dealing with a problem that in 20 years could be deadly. In 20 years, it may not be safe

See EARTH DAY, Page 8B

## Earth Day celebration in S.J. focuses on ozone layer concern

EARTH DAY, from Page 1B

for people to lie in the sun. It then falls on our shoulders to generate pressure and knowledge regarding this problem," said Nader, who was given a standing ovation after his speech.

This year marked the 19th consecutive year that Earth Day was celebrated worldwide, said Erik Johnson of Greenpeace, which co-sponsored Saturday's events in San Jose and worldwide.

There were events in New York, Houston and Wichita, Kan., and Earth Day was recognized Saturday by Sweden, Denmark, Italy, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, India, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Esai Morales, who co-starred in the movie "La Bamba," said he came to celebrate Earth Day because ecology and San Jose are close to his heart.

"Being back in San Jose is nostalgic for me because we filmed

'La Bamba' near here," Morales said.

"I came to speak from the heart. . . . If I can get involved in this issue, others can also," Morales said.

While speeches were being given and songs were being sung, the hundreds of participants listened, danced and milled around several booths set up by environmental and human and animal rights groups.

Many in the audience brought their children, families and dogs to the demonstration, which organizers hope will be enormous next year, when Earth Day celebrates its 20th year.

While the world's environment was foremost on the minds of those attendance, some had additional reasons for being there. Gary Zouzoulas was one of them.

"I came because I was nostalgic for the '60s," he said.