Access Magazine

College of Humanities and the Arts

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San Jose State University, School of Journalism and Mass Communications

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Prepare for Prop. 30

Bars in San Jose to dive for!

Step into Access

Former 49ers kicker Joe Nedney

Dew Tour: SF
Halloween was a week ago, but with this issue of Access Magazine, you can continue putting on different identities. One of them is retired San Francisco 49ers placekicker, Joe Nedney. At a position that gets taken for granted, he was one of the few to gain the appreciation he deserved. Another is Ryan Nyquist, who just competed in the Dew Tour in San Francisco. In the contest, he competed against competitors almost half his age, but still came out on top and showed that big air is not just for youngsters.

You’ll delve into the minds of two dancers: Gabriel Mata, who creates magnificent movements with a free-flowing form of delicate but strong gestures and Krisuan Rosalejos who moves with quick footsteps—some steps not even on foot, but on the palms of his hands.

In another article, you’ll find yourself in local dive bars where numerous characters reside and are not entirely who they seem. People of different occupations, ages and financial situations gather in these dens of this engrossing city. Another destination finds you in the newly opened Casino M8trix with a revealing narrative that gives you a glimpse of its patrons.

It is the first time working on a magazine for all of us. We were unsure of what to expect and all we had was our passion for writing and graphic design. We were able to come together and create this great issue that we hope will share a part of our character with you, and we are hiding behind no costumes.

Vince Ei
Editor-in-Chief
Temporary taxes to fund education

Teachers will be continuing to get checks instead of pink slips if Proposition 30 passes. With Proposition 90, unless you’re making $250,000 or more, you won’t be taxed more. The only negative affect is the raised sales tax but, as one ad puts it, you’re paying just one cent more for a four-dollar burger. Our collective pennies will help fund not just San Jose State and its teachers but schools across California.

Professor Scott Fosdick’s Journalism 132C Class is one of many exceptions to the standard curriculum-based lectures that we endure. We at Access believe passing Proposition 30 is the best way to keep these teachers, because each of our staff members have been positively affected by teachers like the ones in this article.

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Ronald Boeder prepares students to take on the industrial design industry

Inside the industrial design factory, workers pace, high-powered air compressors roar and the smell of melting plastic fills the air, but most importantly, are the lit-up eyes of Ronald Boeder’s Materials, Process, and Technology class at San Jose State University. In fact, they visit a new manufacturer every week. Boeder brings a hands-on approach to his students. “There are a lot of YouTube videos out there, but nothing can replace hearing the sounds or smelling the smells,” he says. It’s all about the experience. Boeder is the founder and director of Exodesign, his own product development and design strategy firm. John McClusky, a fellow industrial design professor at SJSU, said, “Not only do our students learn a great deal in the classes he has been teaching, some of them have learned even more from him on the job, as he has hired a few of our past students as interns, contract employees and full-time employees.” Boeder really knows his stuff and his students Daniel Chaffee and Samuel Backes.

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For the full story from Jonathan Hamilton scan the code above.
He can conduct the orchestra and teach theory and work with the opera students,” Benson says. “He’s kind of able to do it all.

“One day I’m teaching singers and working with the opera, the next I’m with the orchestra,” DiGiacinto says.

Marylin Winkle, a graduate cello player, says DiGiacinto has a new and exciting energy that is refreshing for the musicians. As director of the Young Musicians Project, a program that provides private lessons at-risk youth, she is especially intrigued by his plans to build up the music program. DiGiacinto says he feels like a kindred spirit here in the department with his colleagues because, although this is a state school, the professors all expect conservatory quality and the students are rising to the occasion.

“They know that I have their best interest in mind, even when I’m being tough on them,” he says.

Benson says San Jose State has one of the strongest music programs in northern California. Actively recruiting the at-risk youth, she is especially excited about the fresh energy that is bringing new life to the music department.

“I know this is probably crazy, but would you be interested in applying?”

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Cinebar

Dive Rating: ★★★☆☆

“IT’s the drinks,” Rachel VanDusen says about being a regular at Cinebar. “They’re cheap and strong. Really, really strong.” She speaks the truth. A vodka tonic at Cinebar tastes like it’s three parts rubbing alcohol. VanDusen says it’s familiar faces that also make it a great place. Maybe that’s why it’s so difficult to infiltrate. People are categorically divided into subgroups. You have your rockabilly kids here, your skateboarders over there, and a few men in collared shirts, looking lost. But none of it’s important. What’s important is the social scene at Cinebar. People are always passing through, and the bar turns into a lively dance club. At 9 p.m., you might find a middle-aged man in a sports coat and button-up shirt drinking alone and watching recaps of the day’s sports games on a TV positioned above the wooden shelf adorned with liquor. The décor is reminiscent of that of a coffee shop, with standard, uninspiring prints of guitars and abstracts. This early evening impression is deceptive, for like a dive bar, Freddy J’s is electrified late at night. A DJ spins Tag Team’s “Whoomp! There It Is” while on the dance floor adjacent to the bar, girls in tight dresses, heels and fluttering false eyelashes hold cocktails in one hand and raise the roof with the other.

Caravan

Dive Rating: ★★★★☆

Caravan can be summed up as this: white trash meets hipster. A bartender in a Gramps T-shirt serves tall cans of Pabst while patrons with facial piercings wait to hear Friday night’s act, the San Francisco metal band Repaid in Blood. “I like the vibe. It’s our favorite place to play in San Jose,” says drummer Jordon Norton. About this? not will sharman? While food isn’t typically served at dive bars, Caravan offers a selection of Lay’s Potato Chips behind the bar. It is apparent that they value their customers. A box reading “questions, comments, concerns” is exhibited at the front door. If patron J.B. Charlot were to provide a suggestion, he would tell Caravan to keep doing what they do. “I remember seeing a guy in a suit and tie at a metal show here,” he says. “Whoever you are, people don’t give a f---.”

Freddie J’s

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Johnny V’s

Dive Rating: ★★★★☆

Note: the more people smoking cigarettes outside, the hipper the place. Since the Voodoo Lounge closed, Johnny V’s has picked up the slack as downtown San Jose’s venue for diverse live music. “Caravan’s” is mostly metal and punk,” says bartender Howard Ferrel. “We’re the only club that caters to all types of music — hip hop, dub step, surf rock, anything.” Tonight, people wearing horn-rimmed glasses and hoodies are elbow to elbow in the crowded dark room under black lights. They are anticipating tonight’s act, San Francisco punk band Parachute On Fire. Band member Damien Castaneda says he thinks the dark crowdedness serves the bar’s quirky vibe. “We’re not a dive, but we’re not hipster,” he says. In addition to live music, Johnny V’s has karaoke on Wednesday, as well as turntables and the bar’s quirky vibe. “We’re the only club that caters to all types of music — hip hop, dub step, surf rock, anything.” Tonight, people wearing horn-rimmed glasses and hoodies are elbow to elbow in the crowded dark room under black lights. They are anticipating tonight’s act, San Francisco punk band Parachute On Fire. Band member Damien Castaneda says he thinks the dark crowdedness serves the bar’s quirky vibe. “We’re not a dive, but we’re not hipster,” he says. In addition to live music, Johnny V’s has karaoke on Wednesday, as well as turntables and the bar’s quirky vibe.

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Dive Bar

Dive Rating: ★★★☆☆

Of all the bars reviewed, Dive Bar inarguably has the cleverest name. Dive Bar is the exterior sports a neon sign of a woman in a swimsuit and swim cap plunging toward the sidewalk. The interior is equally as inviting. There are neatly arranged bottles of Absolut on a rich wooden shelf. High chairs and brass footrests are reminiscent of a western saloon, while Christmas light chandeliers fuse traditional with trendy. As clever as its name is, Dive Bar is inaptly named because of all the true dive bars covered here, it’s the least divey. At 8 p.m. on any night of the week, you’ll find only a handful of customers, as diverse as the décor, drinking at the bar. But walk in at midnight on a Friday or Saturday night, and the bar turns into a lively dance club.
Gabriel Mata
Interviewed by: Angela Medina

Some dancers are born, others are trained. San Jose State student Gabriel Mata is amongst those who were born to dance. With only five years of contemporary and modern dance behind him, Mata has accomplished much in his budding career.

How did you get into dancing?
My intention wasn’t to audition, but my friend wanted to audition for the high school dance team. She … wanted me to remember choreography for her. In the end, I ended up auditioning and I didn’t make it to the team … So I didn’t start (dancing) until the beginning of my junior year in high school, with a beginning class, and I loved it. Then I auditioned in my senior year and I made it to the team.

What does dancing bring to you?
It’s a mix of emotions because some days I’ll be like “Ugh! I suck, my body is not the way I want it to be.” But that’s not it. In the end, it ends up being very rewarding.

How do you feel when you’re performing on stage?
I went through this whole phase where I had to get everything perfect, but now I’ve just realized that that’s very stressful, and … I’ve learned to let it go and not that I have to get every performance on the spot. I do try for that, (but) go for a different approach to it mentally.

Do you have any special rituals before you dance on stage?
I just always try to be calm. I’m always behind him, Mata has accomplished much in his budding career.

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BMX legend and San José native Ryan Nyquist took first place in the BMX Dirt Jumping at the October Dew Tour City Championships in San Francisco. Nyquist was the third-place qualifier behind Ryan Foster and TJ Ellis. In the finals, a best-of-three-scores competition, Nyquist was tied with up-and-coming rider TJ Ellis until their final attempts when Nyquist scored a 90.87 and Ellis an 89.89.
Daily Happy Hour from Monday-Friday 3-6pm and Sunday-Wednesday 9pm-1 pm

**FAST FACTS**

**SJSU 1991-1994**

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* School record
** Career best

**Story: Vince Ei**

It’s really weird seeing Joe Nedney use his hands rather than his feet. The former San Francisco 49ers placekicker is a goalie in the Brandi Chastain All-Star Celebrity Soccer Event. I see the midst of some talented soccer players like Chastain, former World Cup golden boot winner Sissi, and Kristine Lilly, who scored the third most goals for the U.S. Women’s National team, Nedney has the strongest leg, no doubt. The retired NFL placekicker has a dependable and accurate boot good for 15 years in the NFL, the last five with the 49ers. Nedney actually didn’t kick his longest field goal in the NFL but in college when he attended San Jose State. His 60-yard game winning field goal against the University of Wyoming remained the longest made field goal of his playing experience though he came close in his professional career with a kick just four yards shy. But his ties to his alma mater don’t end with that highlight. “I went back to visit Coach MacIntyre and the team during spring time and spent a couple of days during spring working out with the spartan specialists. They are doing very well, it’s fun to watch and they got a good product on the field so I’m excited for them.”

The football team isn’t the only thing that’s undergone a little reconstruction. “The campus has gone through major reconstruction over the years since I been here, so every time I step foot on campus I always notice a lot of the changes and the improvements. It’s changed a lot and it’s all positive.” He recalls the days when San Carlos Street cut through the campus and how Spartan Stadium’s former glory has been preserved.

Two years removed from professional football, Nedney continues to stay involved with his old team and vocation. He will be on episodes of 49ers Central on Comcast SportsNet Bay Area and hopes to eventually offer youth place kicking and punting lessons by hosting his own clinic. But as much as he enjoys his involvement in football, he can now find time to be “in the position to kick off” and hang out with my kids and help out with my grandparents and really help with the family.”

Almost halfway through his career, he became San Francisco 49ers placekicker is a goalie in the Brandi Chastain All-Star Celebrity Soccer Event.

Almost halfway through the first half of the soccer match, Nedney finally shows off that powerful leg. The same leg that was the talk of the town lining through the years of turmoil where the 49ers did not make the playoffs. Coming off the 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 seasons during the unsuccessful Mike Nolan and Mike Singletary eras. Alex Smith was not what we now know him to be and our defense was just being assembled. In numerous games Nedney scored all the points. Kicking the ball through the upwind was the only way to get the ball into the end zone. “The soccer ball went the length of the field, it wasn’t high enough but it had the distance.”

But what could’ve been doesn’t dwell in Nedney’s mind. “I miss the game. I don’t feel left out. I had the privilege (of being) able play 15 years at the pro level and I’m proud and I’m at peace with everything.”

**15**

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Approaching the casino from Matrix Boulevard, I see a neon sign pulsating from blue to pink on the top story of an eight-floor building towering above the drab Fairfield Inn located across the street. The parking lot is packed on a Saturday night, with cars ranging from pedestrian Hondas and Hyundais to relatively modest Mercedes and Lexuses. I say these luxury cars are "relatively modest" because every so often I spot an Audi, or as is the case with one vehicle parked at the entrance, a Bentley sports car.

The stone wall at the front of the ascending building trickles water down into a bed of plants. Tall and wide glass doors receive people wearing anything from jeans and t-shirts to women in tight, black dresses and heels accompanied by men in sportcoats. I don’t know if the reason they don’t ask to see my ID at the entrance is whether I look mature or not worth their time.

Inside the casino, there are chandeliers covered in violet cloth, the ruches at the hem resembling jellyfish. At least I think they looked like jellyfish — maybe this image is suggested by the pungent, fishy odor lingering in the aftermath of prolific use of ammonia cleaning products — the cost of sterility.

That’s one thing to be said about the M8trix — it’s sterile. You won’t find the dirty patterned carpet or constant ringing of slot machines in Tahoe or Reno. I kind of long for the comfort of that frenetic activity; I feel inexplicably conspicuous at the M8trix.

I’m also painfully sober. The only bar in the casino is a sports bar with multiple, large flat-screen TVs displaying sports games — games of what, I don’t really remember. My only impression of the bar is how unimpressive it is. It’s undifferentiated from the numerous bars of its kind you’ll find in downtown San Jose — not a place worthy of a little black dress.

After I have a mojito, I wander from blackjack tables to poker tables, intending to find one where I can blow $20. I’m already out of luck. The tables are full and the buy-in is $30. I find a seat at a blackjack table next to a middle-aged man smirking at his cards. He tells me I can occupy the seat until his friend comes back.

I only intend to watch. One of my lessons in Catholic school was that voyeurism is a vice, and I came here to sin.

I’m failing miserably at it. I introduce myself to the man who gave me a seat. His name is Sean and Sean is toasted. When he speaks, it sounds like someone rolled over his tongue with a Bentley. He tells me he’s the CEO of his own software company, that he crunches numbers all day, number crunching is fun, and blackjack is fun. I tell him I’m a student.

“You think you’re smart,” he slurs. I blink like an idiot and say nothing. He proceeds to tell me I’m not smart, that I’m an ant. He sits on an anthill all day and the rest of us are worthless. I leave my seat next to him without saying another word.

Only one floor of M8trix’s eight is open. There’s nowhere for escape. No floor to go for a fresh start, no karaoke. I want karaoke!

I’m hungry and my choices are a burger and fries at the sports bar, or a bowl of pho at the noodle bar. No promised gourmet food made clearly available to keep that mojito company.

Around midnight, I find the place I always find when I’m uncomfortable in a situation: huddled over an ashtray, which happened to be outside next to the Bentley. A fellow refuge seeking escape from the casino, a businessman named Craig from Seattle joins me. We share our disappointment in the M8trix while sharing solace in our cigarettes.

Sadly, that moment was the highlight of my evening at Casino M8trix.

Casino M8trix purchased the Garden City Casino in 2009, one of the two card clubs allowed in San Jose. The M8trix is allowed to operate in San Jose because, unlike casinos in Las Vegas, it is a card club only and gamblers bet against each other and not the house. It was scheduled to open April 8 of this year, but experienced contentious delays when San Jose’s police chief failed to grant it a card room permit. This delay left roughly 700 hired employees, 400 of whom were absorbed from Garden City, unemployed for four months until it opened August 7. In late September, the M8trix filed a lawsuit against the City of San Jose to recoup their losses.