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San Jose State faculty & staff host annual celebration

By Eva Martin & Jennifer Schildge
STAFF WRITERS
PHOTO BY EVA MARTIN

A few San Jose State faculty and staff members put on the fourth annual International Mother Language celebration on Sunday afternoon at a local contemporary art space downtown dedicated to Chicana and Latinx experience and history.

More than 200 San Jose community members attended the event at the Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana, commonly known as MACLA.

Event speaker Sasha Reisiieh said the idea of the celebration is a yearly worldwide observance to promote the awareness in linguistic, cultural diversity and multilingualism.

"In this community we believe in our work to preserve the differences in cultures and languages that foster tolerance and respect for others," Reisiieh said during the event.

He said arts, games, dance and language are all methods of honoring cultural diversity.

Shannon Miller, dean of San Jose State's College of Humanities and the Arts said the International Mother Language celebration was a "wonderful mix" of parents, children and dance performances.

"We applied for an Abierto grant from the city and that helped fund aspects of the art activity going on here," Miller said. "I want to give a big thanks to both the city and to MACLA."

The event was sponsored by Abierto, the grant program from the City of San Jose.

The Abierto program is a fund of \$1.4 million dollars from the Mayor's Budget Office dedicated to "the arts community and public space activations/events" according to the City of San Jose website.

Miller said she was also thankful for Tina Korani, SJSU media design assistant professor, who organized the celebration.

“

When you see all these people interacting together, you know . . . one of the huge strengths of the city and of the South Bay, and of San Jose State is the diversity and people's willingness to understand and grow and learn from each other.



Shannon Miller
College of Humanities and the Arts dean,
event organizer

"It was my first time organizing this and I was pretty nervous at first," Korani said. "[In] the previous years, we didn't have any performances but this year we were able to have . . . six different cultural performances."

One of the performances was from the Abhinaya Dance Company, which is located in West San Jose and was founded in 1980.

Abhinaya dancers and student-teacher duo Dooja Sohoni and Maitreyi Patel said it was exciting to have an opportunity like the International Mother Language celebration to perform in-person after previously performing virtually.

Sohoni and Patel performed a dance style called Bharatanatyam, which is specialized at Abhinaya Dance Company and originates from South India where it is performed in temples for and about the gods, according to Sohoni.

"I don't speak my mother language . . . however, this feels like I'm still kind of connected to culture in some way which is nice," Sohoni said.

Maitreyi Patel said she speaks her native language but she's from a different part of India.

"I feel like this is a great way for me to connect to different parts around India and not just my own little state," Patel said.

Shadan Mirabedi, the main instructor of Persian Dancing with Shadan based in Paolo Alto, said she thinks it's beautiful when people of different cultures come to learn about each other.

"In this day and age, when politics is what politics is, [it's important] to sort of show the richness and the beauty of the people through the art through the dances and the music," Mirabedi said. "I want to educate and present our culture, which is a really rich, ancient culture, to the general community."

David Vargas, also known as Texomazatl, is a Native American instructor of Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum school based in San Jose. He said the celebration is a way to honor people's ancestors and share their cultures.

"Today, we are here celebrating the Mother Language celebration in Downtown San Jose because we believe in the idea that we should honor our ancestral languages," Vargas said.

He said the discipline taught through traditional arts is applicable in "any area" of life.

Andrea Topete, a teaching assistant to Korani, said everything bought for the event was bought from local businesses and the dance groups were all from the San Jose area.

Casas Topete, who helped organize the event, said she thinks everything being locally based is "cool" because it benefits the entire community.

In addition to the performances, an art workshop allowed kids of all ages to paint flags of the world on canvas with oil paints, acrylic paints and markers.

Artworks from young artists between 6 and 18 years old were displayed on MACLA's walls to showcase their mother tongues, exploring their languages and cultural identities.

The young artists were awarded with certificates for participating and showing their art pieces.

SJSU engineering alumna Anginé Marouty came out in support of Korani, who's one of her best friends, and said this event is all about inspiring and educating the next generation.

"It's a nice event and we should have more . . . [to] spread the word to everyone that people want fun," Marouty said. "People want to live together and be happy and we want to

raise our kids [in] such a society for a better future."

Korani said she felt relieved after the event and was proud of its success.

"I saw the crowd . . . they were really engaged and watching the performances and taking photos with all the performers," she said. "All the effort, all the hard work made it all really worth it."

Shannon Miller, SJSU College of Humanities and the Arts dean, said she saw the event as a representation of San Jose diversity and a way of living together.

"When you see all these people interacting together, you know . . . one of the huge strengths of the city and of the South Bay, and of San Jose State



is the diversity and people's willingness to understand and grow and learn from each other," Miller said.



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Local groups honor diversity, multilingualism through dance, art

..... PHOTOS BY EVA MARTIN



Front page:
David Texomazatl Vargas, the founder of Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum school, dances at the International Mother Language celebration event in Downtown San Jose on Sunday.

Left:
Dancers of the Chinese Performing Art of America raise their hands in unison.

Bottom left:
Dancer of the Tezkatlipoka Aztec Dance and Drum school performs.

Bottom right:
A child in the front row watches the dancers of the Grupo Folklorico Los Laureles perform.



Above: Vovinam San Jose performs lion dances.
Right: Dancer of the Grupo Folklorico Los Laureles smiles during her performance.

OPINION

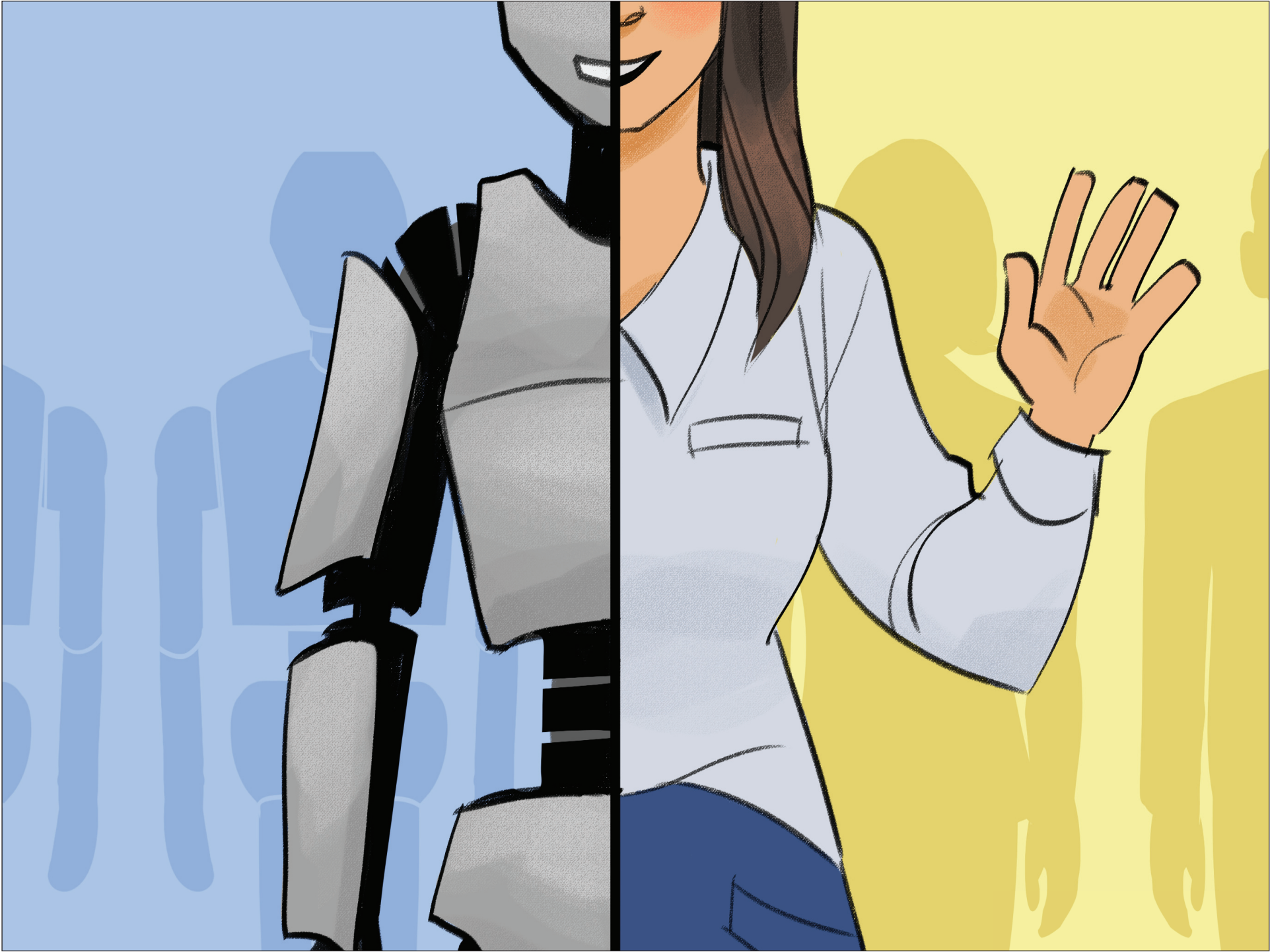


ILLUSTRATION BY BIANCA RADER

The android dilemma: What is human?

By Christopher Nguyen
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As technology continues to develop humans may not be able to tell the difference between an android and a real person in the future.

Movies such as “Blade Runner” and “Terminator,” portray androids, robots with the appearance of humans, as non-autonomous and stoic but recent innovations are bringing androids closer to flesh and blood.

An android is a mobile robot usually with a human form, according to Merriam-Webster.

While people will not be among androids anytime soon, they are around their smartphones.

Sherry Turkle, professor of the social studies of science and technology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said peoples’ relationship with technology affects the way communication works, according to an April 2017 NBC News article.

“If you can’t be alone with your own thoughts [ever], you can’t really hear what others have to say because you need them to support your fragile sense of self,” Turkle said.

Smartphones are not humanlike in appearance, but many people are spending more time on their devices during social interactions, blurring the

line between machines and humans.

Over 89% of smartphone carriers used their phones during their recent social activities, according to an Aug. 26, 2015 Pew Research Center article.

While the current appearances of robots are still distinguishable as shiny, cold and metallic, recent developments are allowing robots to appear and act more “human.”

Promobot, a service robotics manufacturer, unveiled Robo-C, the company’s first autonomous robot, with the capability to speak and more than 100,000 speech modules, according to an Oct. 31, 2019 CNBC article.

office in Perm, Russia, making it the first time a human-looking robot is servicing a government agency, according to Promobot’s website. The Robo-C model is performing humanlike tasks including working with citizens and processing documents and form inquiries, according to the same website.

Most androids still look distinct with visible wires and exoskeletons, but sometime in the future they will be walking or playing next to humans in everyday life.

However, emotions are one distinct characteristic that robots don’t have.

Unlike robots, humans can convey various

Nikola is able to portray emotions including happiness, surprise and disgust, as several actuators are placed around its artificial muscles, head and eyeballs, according to the same press release.

RIKEN is a Japanese research organization with the mission to push forward innovation and research, according to its webpage.

Robots showing emotions can be frightening, but what’s surprising is how close they are to communicating as humans.

Facebook developed two AI robots known as Alice and Bob, two chatbots, that are able to mimic human conversation and negotiations through text, according to a July 28, 2021 USA Today article.

The company shut down the project after the two AI robots were able to develop their own languages and gibberish as the developers did not limit their communication to English, according to the same USA Today article.

There have been ways, including Turing tests, a method created by Alan Turning, to determine if a person is speaking to a real person or a machine, but technology is redefining what it’s like to be human and what it’s like to be a machine.

In the future, robots could look just like humans, emote just like humans, dream just like humans. Will they dream of electric sheep?

Most androids still look distinct with visible wires and exoskeletons, but sometime in the future they will be walking or playing next to humans in everyday life.

Robo-C can perform several human tasks including housekeeping and customer service, according to the same article.

It will be interesting to see how soon a robot will become less recognizable as a robot.

Recently, a humanoid Robo-C model was “employed” in July 2020 at a civil service

emotions using facial expressions, according to a Dec. 16, 2020 Nature article. That distinction though, is beginning to blur.

RIKEN, a Japanese research company, unveiled the results of the Guardian Robot Project featuring Nikola, a robotic head with the capability to convey emotion, according to a Feb. 11 Riken press release.

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Spartans lose final home game 75-52

By **Gio Gaxiola**
STAFF WRITER

The San Jose State men’s basketball team lost to the Utah State University Aggies 75-52 on Friday night at Provident Credit Union Event Center in their regular season finale.

It was Senior Night for the Spartans and guards Trey Smith and Caleb Simmons and centers Eduardo Lane and Harminster Dhaliwal were honored before the game.

The senior players were met by their families, teammates and friends to celebrate their last home game.

“All four of these guys are great and were fun to coach,” head coach Tim Miles said. “It’s too bad that two of them could not play today, but they have always been there for their teammates.”

Sophomore forward Trey Anderson was the leading scorer for the Spartans during the game, scoring 12 points and two rebounds.

The Spartans defense was strong for the first five minutes of the game and prevented the Aggies from scoring.

SJSU went into halftime losing 28-26, but the defense stepped up and forced 10 turnovers.

During the second half of the game, the Spartans were outscored 47-26.

The Aggies came out on fire in the second half and went on a 7-0 scoring run. Spartans star sophomore guard Omari Moore got into foul trouble early and had limited time on the court.

“It seemed like everytime we put Omari in, he would draw a foul,” Miles said. “He was only able to play 23 minutes today when essentially he usually plays all 40.”



PHOTOS BY SANDRA SANTOS-CRUZ | SPARTAN DAILY

Freshman guard Alvaro Cardenas faces off against Utah State University defenders on his way to the basket during Friday’s Senior Night game.

SJSU guard Shon Robinson went down in the second half with an arm injury. He was the team’s leading scorer at the time with 11 points. Although he

returned, it wouldn’t be enough to fend off the Aggies’ attack. Freshman guard Myron “MJ”Amey Jr. finished the regular season on a tear.

During the last three games, Amey averaged more than 10 points per game, including 11 points in a loss to the Aggies.

The 3-pointer was the Achilles’ heel for SJSU as the Aggies hit 11-22 behind the arc while SJSU shot an abysmal 6-23 from the three-point line.

The Spartans have concluded yet another disappointing regular season. However, Miles seemed more than ready to help rebuild a Spartans basketball program that has not seen a winning season since 2010. “I love being the Spartans

head coach and being here at San Jose State,” Miles said. “It’s going to be a big off season for us.”

The Spartans (8-22, 1-17 MW) will now turn their attention to the Mountain West Tournament as the number 11 seed. The team’s first game is on Wednesday night at 4 p.m. against sixth seed rival Fresno State. The tournament will be in the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas.



All four of these guys are great and were fun to coach. It’s too bad that two of them could not play today, but they have always been there for their teammates.

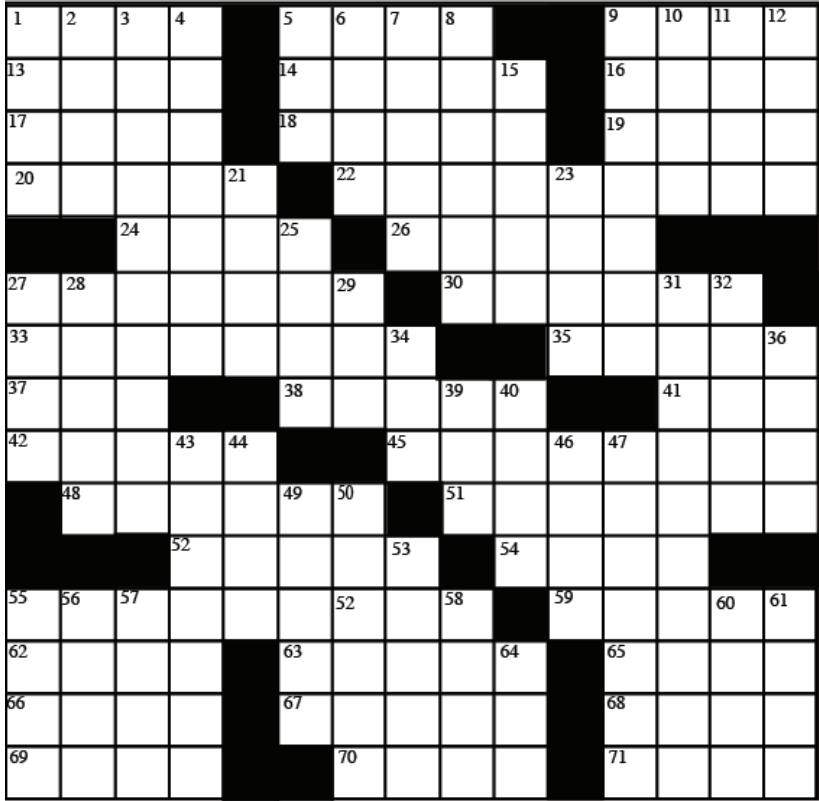
Tim Miles

men’s basketball head coach

Follow Gio on Twitter | @GaxiolaGio

CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Read superficially
- 5. Jewelry
- 9. Dull pain
- 13. City in Peru
- 14. Agitated
- 16. Expresses relief
- 17. European mountain range
- 18. Pry
- 19. Type of cereal grass
- 20. Tumbler
- 22. Small European grebes
- 24. Bristle
- 26. A gold coin of ancient Persia
- 27. Mollify
- 30. Furlough
- 33. One more than a dozen
- 35. Coral island
- 37. Sphere
- 38. Large tropical American fish
- 41. “The Matrix” hero
- 42. Swindle
- 45. Mobster
- 48. Sake
- 51. Advancing
- 52. A part of the small intestine
- 54. To fancy (archaic)
- 55. Disconnected musical

sounds

- 59. Noxious plants
- 62. Frolic
- 63. Naked models
- 65. Urgent request
- 66. Church alcove
- 67. Tall woody plants
- 68. Dash
- 69. Adolescent
- 70. If not
- 71. Cleave

DOWN

- 1. Smelting waste
- 2. Murder
- 3. Unfeeling
- 4. He gives backrubs
- 5. British rule in India
- 6. Footnote note
- 7. Wanderer
- 8. Used to adjust rocket engines
- 9. Mei
- 10. Fashionable
- 11. “Dam it!”
- 12. Female sheep (plural)
- 15. An elastic fabric
- 21. Immediately
- 23. Hello
- 25. Anagram of “Sage”
- 27. “Smallest” particle

- 28. Bush
- 29. Poetic dusk
- 31. Baby’s soft spot
- 32. Fugitive
- 34. Holiday drink
- 36. A titled peer of the realm
- 39. Buffoon
- 40. Be cognizant of
- 43. Hen or rooster
- 44. After-bath powder
- 46. Got bigger
- 47. Cleaning device
- 49. Inclined
- 50. Times to come
- 53. One who poses
- 55. Thin strip
- 56. Adhesive strip
- 57. Backside
- 58. Views
- 60. Prefect
- 61. Found on most beaches
- 64. South southeast

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	5							
	2	4	7			1		
9	8			1			2	
				9				3
		5	1		2	4		
				5				
	3			4			7	2
		7			6	5	9	
							3	

SOLUTIONS

March 3

E	L	S	E		O	B	O	E		S	T	A	R	T
R	O	A	M		R	A	P	S		T	O	X	I	N
S	C	R	I	B	B	L	E	S		A	D	E	P	T
T	H	I	G	H		T	R	E	S	P	A	S	S	
					R	A	D	I	A	N	T	L	L	
O	C	E	A	N	I	C		C	U	E			N	E
C	H	A	N	G	E		F	E	N		B	A	T	H
C	A	S	T		H	E	I	S	T		A	C	H	E
U	S	E	S		A	C	E		M	O	T	H	E	R
R	E	D			U	R	L		R	E	S	T	O	R
					I	N	D	I	G	E	N	C	E	
F	I	N	E	S	P	U	N		A	R	I	S	E	
B	A	L	S	A		S	A	T	I	R	I	S	T	S
I	D	L	E	S		E	V	E	N		E	L	A	N
T	E	S	T			D	A	R	N		S	E	R	E

7	4	2	1	9	6	8	3	5
1	8	9	7	3	5	4	2	6
5	3	6	4	2	8	1	7	9
2	5	4	6	8	9	7	1	3
6	7	3	2	5	1	9	4	8
9	1	8	3	7	4	6	5	2
3	6	1	8	4	2	5	9	7
8	9	7	5	1	3	2	6	4
4	2	5	9	6	7	3	8	1

JOKIN’ AROUND

“What did the buffalo say to his son when it left for college?”

“B!-Son!”

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Night Market

Photos by Evan Reinhardt



Top left: From left to right, computer science sophomore Manasa Gadepalli and software engineering and design senior Aparna Thyagarajan sing for the crowd at the Night Market event Monday evening. Both are part of the Madhura a capella team at SJSU.

Top right: Hundreds of students crowd the 7th Street Plaza during the Night Market event Monday. After registering, students were supplied with free food, SJSU merchandise and several performances by university organizations.

Bottom left: Tim Theoharis, co-owner of HoM Korean Kitchen in downtown San Jose, prepares plates of food for student attendees. The university asked the restaurateurs to join the event because they are known as a local favorite for the campus community, Theoharis said.

SPARTUNES

FEMALE RAPPERS

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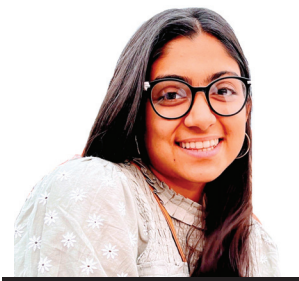
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Elitism poisons higher education



Saumya Monga
A&E EDITOR

Let me create a scenario: there are two students going through the college application process, one student’s a wealthy, privileged white man and the other is a low-income woman of color.

They both share a similar academic standing and are extensively involved in school activities, but the white man could afford the best tutors and went to excellent private schools. His family paid thousands for him to get into an elite university.

The high school the woman of color attended placed a similar emphasis on getting into an elite university despite a severe lack of resources. She wasn’t accepted to the elite university she dreamed of and felt worthless. After she graduated from college, she believed every missed career opportunity was because everyone looked down on the university she attended.

But this is just a scenario and while the reality is far more complex, it highlights an important issue in our education system: the desire for people to graduate from elite institutions.

The main issue pressuring students to attend elite institutions is that we convince students to believe they must be beyond exceptional at a certain talent and they will do anything to get there because once they get to a prestigious university, they can finally feel worthy.

Many pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to go to the finest private high school or they will work themselves nearly to death.

In 2019, wealthy parents collectively paid millions of dollars to

get their children into prestigious universities in a scandal known as Operation Varsity Blues, according to a March 12, 2019 Los Angeles Times article.

Operation Varsity Blues involved many high-profile parents, including American actress Lori Laughlin, who paid a fake charity that falsified athletic records and helped wealthy students cheat on entrance exams according to the same article.

Our K-12 educational system trains students for these universities, which can lead students to attach their worth to the prestige of the college they attend.

This is not to say that there aren’t intelligent, remarkable students at elite institutions who make major contributions to society. But there are also plenty of folks who only made it there because of daddy’s money.

For elite institutions, money is equivalent to intelligence.

Students are expected to turn into robots designed to fine-tune aspects of their identities to match elite and Ivy League institutions. And if you are able to afford it, you can easily find

For elite institutions, money is equivalent to intelligence.

someone who can wire you into the perfect candidate.

Ivy League universities are prestigious universities in the U.S. that are known for being selective and academically excellent. The Ivy League consists of eight universities including Princeton University, Harvard University and Yale University according to Sep. 23, 2019 U.S. News article.

72% of students at Princeton come from the top 20% of the income bracket and only 2.2% of students come from the bottom 20% of the income bracket,



ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH GREGORIC

according to a study done by The New York Times.

Colleges aren’t looking for exceptional students, they are looking for students who they can easily manipulate into capitalistic machines who will find success (if their parents haven’t already given that to them) and indirectly (and directly) continue to support their beloved university.

It’s become more apparent that attending an elite school is not an indication of your intelligence.

be involved outside of school, whether that be volunteering or tutoring young children.

The application essay should reflect a hard life and how despite it all, a student accomplished great things. Oftentimes people of color feel they need to focus on the hardships that come from being of a different race. Rich students focus on how wealth didn’t allow them to escape hardships.

Colleges look for students who could further the institutions’ brands. Reputations are the most important because they’re tied to wealth. If a student graduates and becomes the CEO of a Fortune 500 company, they can attribute many of their skills or success to attending a prestigious university. They can also lure prospective, mostly rich students to attend the university, ensuring the university’s wealth cycle continues.

Students are not brands. They are not products that need to be marketed to be sold.

There are 29 students who became billionaires, some coming from wealthy families, after graduating from

Harvard, according to an April 14, 2021 Forbes article.

Most of these students are legacies, meaning a student’s family member attends or attended the university.

Almost 17% of students at Ivy League Cornell University are legacies, according to a March 25, 2020 article by data provider Statista.

Students are not brands. They are not products that need to be marketed to be sold. They should not be displayed on a shelf while their university gleefully brags about them and claims they only gained success because of them.

Students are human. They are complex and most of the time, they are average.

The hard truth of the matter is that most of us are average at most tasks. You could believe you got into Yale because you volunteered 500 hours a week or

shocking when you discover students at state universities who have “achieved” more.

Aiming to be exceptional is damaging because most of us will never get there, regardless of how much colleges and high schools want us to achieve.

This doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try our best. We should put our best effort into everything we do, but we also shouldn’t be disappointed when we can’t reach the highest level of excellence in everything.

So yes, maybe the wealthy, privileged male man reached the top, but he’ll be in for a rude awakening when he realizes he’s average and likely made it to a prestigious university because of his money. The woman of color might just end up disappointed because she realizes no matter how hard she works, she won’t ever reach the “highest level” of success.

Money cannot buy intelligence, but it can buy a nice Ferrari and for some, an expensive, luxurious car is equivalent to the size of someone’s brain.

The aim of college education should be to improve and learn, regardless if it happens at Yale or a community college.

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ABOUT

The Spartan Daily prides itself on being the San Jose State community’s top news source. New issues are published every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily.

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