Uncertainty and fear have left thousands of local vendors on edge over the possibility of displacement because of new city development plans, said Flor, a long-time vendor at the San Jose Flea Market.

“[City leaders] call it progress, but really it’s just showing to our face that we are disposable to them and don’t matter,” said Flor in a phone call she asked to be referred to by only her first name.

The San Jose City Planning Commission voted during their March 24 Zoom meeting to delay sending plans to city councilmembers about replacing the flea market on Berryessa Road with residential and commercial units.

The vote arose after flea market supporters voiced concerns over the effects redevelopment could have on the community without plans to relocate vendors.

Many community members said the flea market is a focal point for entrepreneurship despite some vendors experiencing language, literacy and documentation barriers.

“The Market is the heart of our Latino Culture,” flea market vendor Lape Verduzco said in Spanish during public comment. “The fact that some of you want to use our situation as a platform for a campaign scares me. We are not a political platform, we are people who fight to keep food on the tables of our family.”

However, Pierluigi Oliverio, former District 6 councilmember and a current member of the San Jose Planning Commission, urged fellow leaders to consider vendors and the community as a whole.

“It is very important that the vendors are included in this [planning] process. If they are not at the table then they will be on the menu.”

Jesus Flores
Latino Business Foundation
Silicon Valley president

Latino Culture,” flea market vendor Lape Verduzco said in Spanish during public comment. “The fact that some of you want to use our situation as a platform for a campaign scares me. We are not a political platform, we are people who fight to keep food on the tables of our family.”
support the development plan and not feel obligated to listen to public opinion. Oliverio was in office from 2003-14. “I can’t find any reason of merit to vote against the staff recommendation,” Oliverio said during the meeting. “There’s no legal obligation from a property owner to tenants. It’s unfair to make a property owner do something that is not legal (obligation).”

San Jose Planning Commissioner Jorge Antonio Garcia proposed a motion to deny the redevelopment plan altogether and not present it to city council.

Oliverio seconded the motion and said, “I’m going to second it for the purpose of the discussion because I’d really like to understand why you [the planning commission] legally think that we should deny this applicant.”

The public hearing on the reason for the flea market was pushed to May 12 after a 6-1 motion tabled the discussion. After the May 12 meeting, the item will move to San Jose City Council if approved by the planning commission.

Flea market history and redevelopment plans

The flea market, also known as La Pulga, was established by George Bumb Sr. in 1990, according to a 1999 Metroactive article, a Silicon Valley website. “There’s no legal obligation from a property owner to tenants. It’s unfair to make a property owner do something that is not legal (obligation).” According to the planning commission, the Bumb family and city staff met with the Bay Area Flea Market Vendors Association (BFV A), a union and advocacy group for the flea market, to discuss a location alternative and come to a consensus.

Planning commission members suggested the Bumb family and city staff meet with the Bay Area Flea Market Vendors Association (BFV A), a union and advocacy group for the flea market, to discuss a location alternative and come to a consensus.

Continued from page 1

At the planning commission meeting, Jorge Garcia suggested a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), a contract signed by community groups and real estate developers that outlines the agreement between the BFV A and planning commission.

CBAs require developers to provide specific amenities and/or contributions to the local community or neighborhoods that are being redeveloped, according to the For Working Families Community Benefits website. The Partnership For Working Families is a network of regional advocacy organizations that support solutions to U.S. economic and environmental problems, according to its website.

Vendors demand recognition and inclusion

Most community members and vendors were unaware of the March 24 meeting and other redevelopment plans, which left many feeling unvalued, Flor said.

“Some Spanish-speaking community members said they urged commissioners to reject or postpone plans until vendors are included in the conversation and offered a relocation plan. “It is very important that the vendors are included in this [planning] process,” said Jesus Flores, president of the Latino Business Foundation Silicon Valley, during the meeting. “If they are not at the table then they will be on the menu.”

Latino Business Foundation Silicon Valley is a San Jose nonprofit that supports small businesses and organizations in the Bay Area. Many community members said their concerns were inaccurately translated by city staff, making the vendors feel unheard.

The fact that some of you want to use our situation as a platform for a campaign scares me. We are not a political platform, we are people fighting to keep food on the tables of our family. Lupe Verduzco

“I raised my hand again because my comment was translated. I want to bring awareness about that,” said Lupe Verduzco, a community member who originally spoke in Spanish during the meeting and didn’t provide a last name.

“Hey, like most vendors here, you only speak one language and it’s not English,” Flor said in a phone call after the meeting.

Although the meeting lasted about six hours, community members voiced additional frustration at some councilmembers who didn’t have their cameras on for a majority of the Zoom meeting.

“We have zoomed in on the tables of our family. People who fight to keep food on the table then they will be on the menu.”

The fact that some of you want to use our situation as a platform for a campaign scares me. We are not a political platform, we are people fighting to keep food on the tables of our family. Lupe Verduzco

Following Facebook on Twitter @jo_zunigaa
While some people are still limiting contact with the outside world, they've found a way to escape the monotony of stay-at-home by immersing themselves into the experiences of television and film characters.

Communication studies junior Kim Ngo, found herself watching a number of time period TV shows and movies during the pandemic and allowed the allure of a wealthy lifestyle and allowed the allure of a wealthy lifestyle and opulence of royal families, such as Netflix’s “The Crown,” Ngo said she felt contempt and anger at the outside world, they’ve been expected to be working in cubicle desks their whole careers,” Ngo said over the phone. “It feels a little outdated because nowadays jobs are trying to become less of that.”

Kern also said the TV shows and movies he watches are comforting to him, including Marvel movies and cartoons from his childhood.

“All these cartoons that I’ve been watching, it puts me in a really nostalgic place and kind of returns me to a simpler time and it’s nice, especially times like this where I can’t really go out that much,” Julian Kern said.

Kern also said the TV shows, films and TV shows that are historical and cultural elements that contribute to the entertaining nature of certain films and shows. A show’s reception, “Todd said.

“Design studies senior Julian Kern watched the Matrix trilogy during the pandemic and said the movies are reflections of the era they came from. “I don’t know if it’s much of a thing now but, like, at least during that period people were expected to be working from their homes. Film and TV are meant to divert the attention of viewers and during difficult times, the importance of distraction is invaluable.”

Follow Christina on Twitter: @christina_casi

“Webster, escapism is the habitual diversion of the mind to purely imaginary activity or entertainment as an escape from reality or routine.”

Ngo said she’s drawn to shows she finds aesthetically pleasing, such as "The Iorgias" and “Medici,” but she’s not a fan of the excessive lechery laced throughout them.

“Another part of me can’t help but feel really fascinated by watching how the elite few live,” Ngo said in a phone interview. “It’s almost addicting to talk about political tensions, " Todd said in an email.

“Some movies that reflect the hard times in their plots. "I think many assume this is true of all movies, " Todd said.

Fascinated by watching how the elite few live, "Ngo said, "I think I gravitate towards films and shows that are historical and cultural elements that contribute to the entertaining nature of certain films and shows. A show’s reception, “Todd said.

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Athletes call for more financial freedom

By Madilynne Medina

Athletes who compete in the NCAA men’s basketball March Madness tournament began protesting the organization’s restrictions on athletes using their own names, images and likenesses for monetary use, according to a March 18 Washington Post article.

While the NCAA does offer many scholarships to student-athletes as a means of compensation, kinesiology senior and women’s soccer defender Lauola Amanoni explained this isn’t enough. “I’ve heard ‘just because you’re on a scholarship you should be fine,’ but it’s not enough,” Amanoni said. “I have to plan financially just to be OK.”

She said during her junior year of college, she had to be completely self-sufficient, working a part-time job and taking on many time-consuming practices which cause them to take out an excessive amount of loans. “As much as I would want to have the same benefits as a nonpaid athlete. “

Amanoni said although she’s on scholarship, many of her athletic peers outside of San Jose State don’t have the same luxury. She said she’s seen a majority of her peers outside of anesthesiologists who aren’t on scholarships unable to work because of time-consuming practices which cause them to take on an excessive amount of loans. “If you're a student-athlete, society is changing and prices are going up,” Cobanu said. “I feel like especially if we are only confined to our sports and academics, we should get more for our time. "

According to the NCAA website, the organization’s “member-led mission is dedicated to the well-being and lifelong success of college athletes.”

Over the course of several weeks, the trending Twitter hashtag #NotNCAAProperty has called for change in the National Collegiate Athletic Association’s treatment of student-athletes.

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Amanda Hall, a March 18 New York Times article. Amanoni said despite the SJSU women’s soccer program not generating as much revenue and publicity as sports with larger programs such as football, the community has tried its best to assist each other. “As much as I would want to have the same benefits as football, we just don’t generate as much money,” Amanoni said. “However, the football program is very generous and they give us a lot of food and extra for our team, which I really appreciate.”

Communication studies junior and former SJSU women’s soccer player Amanda Hall said she appreciates the experience she received. “I am a firm believer that hard work pays off,” Hall said. “In most jobs, you have to start from the bottom and rise your way up. Similar to an athlete who is on the bench wanting to get minutes on the field, you must work your way up.”

As the Michigan basketball players and other student-athletes across the NCAA continue to advocate for change, new developments regarding their rights could surface depending on the results of the current movement.

“I’ve heard ‘just because you’re on a scholarship you should be fine,’ but it’s not enough. I have to plan financially just to be OK.”

Lauola Amanoni

Looking to spring into action following the Michigan basketball players and other student-athletes across the NCAA continue to advocate for change, new developments regarding their rights could surface depending on the results of the current movement.

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**Finding freedom from a painful cycle**

Samantha Herrera PRODUCER

I remember being curled up on my cold bathroom floor holding my stomach, crying while gasping for air and begging God to stop my pain. The pain was so bad, I felt as if I was being dragged up on pain pills, being cut these five days in a bear of artificial rhythm.

**Having hormones pumped into my body not only helped control my awful period pain, but also cleared my acne, maintained my weight and allowed me to practice safe sex when I was first exploring my sexuality.**

The pill was so overbearing when I turned 15 that I couldn’t take it anymore. My doctor suggested I try birth control, but it was one of the best things I’ve ever done.

My birth control journey began with taking the pill. The pill is 99% effective against pregnancy if you maintain the medication’s strict schedule, according to Planned Parenthood.

The pill is taken once a day at the same time in order to reproduce hormones in order to reproduce hormones. Having hormones pumped into my body not only helped control my awful period pain, but also cleared my acne, maintained my weight and allowed me to practice safe sex when I was first exploring my sexuality.

However, all good things come to an end and so did my hormone birth control method.

After the pill was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1968, many women experienced similar and even worse side effects when they started taking the pill. I soon realized it’s a great birth control method

**Doctor’s neglect almost ruined my life**

Madison Fagundes STAFF WRITER

Despite millions of women and people around the world using birth control, the violent side effects are rarely brought to light. Birth control isn’t inherently bad, but the struggles faced because of it often aren’t taken seriously and that needs to change.

When doctors don’t respect our wishes, they imply we’re incapable of assessing our own bodies and that we aren’t in control of what happens to them either.

Some people’s lives are disrupted by birth control complications every day, yet we’re dismissed and made to feel like we’re crazy. When doctors don’t respect our wishes, they imply we’re incapable of assessing our own bodies and that we aren’t in control of what happens to them either. This needs to be more research on treating or eliminating these side effects and doctors must listen to us.

We are the masters of our own bodies and we deserve to be in full control.

**Abortion rates will drop with accessible contraception**

Jamie Bennett STAFF WRITER

Safe abortions are becoming rare difficult for women to access and states that oppose the procedure should be focused on preventing pregnancies by implementing policies to provide accessible birth control and resources to people who need it.

We are currently at a cultural crossroads in the U.S. According to a 2016 study from the New England Journal of Medicine, 40% of pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned and disproportionately affect low-income women.

Abortion rates provide a way some can prevent pregnancies, especially with many women facing access to free or low-cost birth control.

However, the right to an abortion has been fiercely debated in the U.S. Supreme Court over the past decade, particularly during the terms of former president Donald Trump’s administration.

The Supreme Court found restrictions about to be unconstitutional in 1973, ruling 7-2 in the landmark case Roe v. Wade.

Politicians have tried bypassing Roe v. Wade by implementing Targeted Restrictions on Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws. These laws are so specific clinics don’t receive enough state funding to make changes and are forced to close down, according to a May 15, 2019, Bostomian Senate article.

TRAP laws include strict measurements on the size of procedure rooms, width of clinic aisles, corridor and regulations that would admit women to hospitals if complications arise. This is deeply beyond the laws that result in complications that require hospital visit.

Laws similar to those prevent. Physicians from getting safe abortions and also from receiving other resources available at women’s clinics.

"Politicians make rules that are counterproductive in abortion prevention," Karine Tessier and several others shared their stories of doctors not taking them seriously when they had complications with birth control.

Tessier suffered complications from intramural devices (IUDs) for seven years before she found a doctor who listened to her and respected her wishes. She endured severe pain, cramps, hair loss and depression throughout her ordeal. Doctors tried to diagnose and operate on Tessier for endometriosis, a painful disorder that affects the female reproductive organs, despite her arm implanting through a free school program. She was told to remove the implant and began without worrying about taking oral pills.

It took me about three months to realize something was wrong with how the implant was interacting with my body. I was sick, continuously menstruating and losing weight rapidly. After great consideration, I decided it was time to have it removed and turned to San Jose State’s Student Wellness Center for help.

When I arrived at my appointment however, the doctor told me I wasn’t "sick enough" for her to remove it. I explained my ordeal and said I was desperate to have it removed. Despite my begging, she outright refused its removal.

I went home and cried in despair. After eight months on the implant, I finally had it removed at Planned Parenthood. I was so ill then that my family decide it was time to remove it and I’d lost more than 30 pounds, was sick to my stomach every day and my mental health was in the gutter.

So many people’s lives are disrupted by birth control complications every day, yet we’re dismissed and made to feel like we’re crazy. When doctors don’t respect our wishes, they imply we’re incapable of assessing our own bodies and that we aren’t in control of what happens to them either.

This needs to be more research on treating or eliminating these side effects and doctors must listen to us. We are the masters of our own bodies and we deserve to be in full control.

Preventing people from receiving free and affordable birth control is counterproductive in abortion prevention. If politicians wish to stop abortions, they must first help prevent unplanned pregnancies.

This culminated in a July 7, 2020, Supreme Court decision allowing employers to opt-out of women’s health benefits (in the Affordable Care Act (ACA)) for religious or moral reasons. The ACA previously required employers to provide employees with contraceptives.

Doctors must be the only ones who can prevent pregnancies, especially with many women facing access to free or low-cost birth control.

The state also avoided a heavy expense of $70 million by preventing labor and delivery costs, according to an Oct. 21, 2019, Colorado Sun article. Teen birth rates in Colorado decreased by 54% with a 64% drop in abortion rates among teens ages 15-19, according to a Nov. 30, 2017, Denver Post article.

The state also avoided a hefty expense of $70 million by preventing labor and delivery costs, public health, food stamps and child care, according to a 2017 Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment report.

If programs like these were implemented around the United States, lawmakers would limit abortions while still allowing women to keep their body autonomy.
After decades of trying on women to take birth control while men whine about wearing a simple condom, it’s time for us to take some responsibility. We would be more open to the idea of male birth control.

Women have undergone different treatments to prevent pregnancies dating back to 1850 B.C., including inserting a laxative and crossing their legs in between their vagina, according to a May 13, 2020 WebMD article. However throughout history, the responsibility of contraception and birth control has almost always fallen on cisgender women. Currently, the three most common birth control forms for females are: sterilization, the pill (which contains hormones that prevent pregnancies) and LARCs (long-acting reversible contraceptives). About 40% of pregnancies in the United States are unplanned, according to a April 20, 2020 JAMA: Sexual Medicine and the study's senior investigator, Laura Fields, “at the end of the day, birth control is that woman’s responsibility and family planning. In other words, it’s always the woman’s job to ensure she doesn’t get pregnant rather than put an equal role on the man when it’s time for us to take some responsibility.

The lack of sexual responsibility from cisgender men is outright unfair to women. While men do have limited methods of contraception, a birth control option will make it easier for us to take control of our fertility, especially because the options we have now aren’t the most appealing. Vasectomies, or male sterilization, are potentially permanent and a little scary to many men. Condoms or pulling out during sex aren’t always effective and there is abstinence, but let’s face it, the average guy probably doesn’t even know what that word means. But more male birth control options could change that.

Researchers are actively working to limit as many side effects as possible so males can be more responsible in their sex lives. Since the birth control pill became available in the U.S. in 1960, cisgender women have had the luxury of deciding for themselves or if when they choose to become pregnant, a monumental shift in history. Pregnancy changes a woman from the inside out, transforming our bodies into life giving vessels that nurture and protect the life within us. It’s also women who traditionally raise children and receive blame when things go wrong. Correcting this gender imbalance would give the autonomy women achieved back to men.

A contraceptive pill must be taken at the same time every day in order to be 99% effective, according to Planned Parenthood. How can women trust men to be responsible for taking a birth control pill daily when it’s already hard for them to factor it into their own lives? Also, what’s to say a man won’t lie and say he is taking the pill just to get into someone’s pants? Who will have to hear the consequences? Certainly not males.

It’s not just behavioral tendencies that make male birth control more difficult to create. Males produce one egg a month while males produce millions of sperm. So it’s easier to stop females from reproducing producing one egg than it is to lower male’s sperm count enough to render them sterile, according to a Nov. 3, 2016 NPR article. “With women, you can take advantage of their normal monthly cycle with the birth control pill. There’s nothing equivalent to that in men,” the article continues.

Male participants in a birth control study published in The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism reported having severe acne and mood swings because males constantly make new sperm cells triggered by high testosterone levels, according to a March 31, 2020 WebMD article. The main issue with creating male birth control is that it would temporarily block the creation of new sperm cells without lowering hormone levels, creating increased testosterone levels that make male birth control pills difficult to develop.

However, researchers from the Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute and the University of Washington are testing a new male birth control model, according to April 2, 2019 Healthline article. The pill, called dimethandrolone undecanoate (DMAU), reduces male hormones to amounts that are low enough to suppress sperm production. Researchers are actively working to limit as many side effects as possible so males can be more responsible in their sex lives. Dr. Stephanie Page, professor of medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine and the study’s senior investigator, told Healthline in the article that “sexual functioning, libido, performance — our analysis of the reports we received showed no differences in sexual health between the men taking the pill and those on a placebo.”

Many men are opening up to the idea of taking the pill it’s developing with low side effects. Research shows men would welcome a hormone-based birth control pill with up to 85% success saying they’d use it, according to a WebMD article reviewed on Aug. 13, 2020. But developing a safe, reliable and effective male birth control pill has been slow. Not only that, it raises the issue of whether women would trust men to take the pill. A 2017 survey from Anglia Ruskin University in the UK found 70 out of 104 women worry their male partner would forget to consume the pill. While clinical release of DMAU could take a decade or longer, it’s nice to see research pursuing new treatment options that promote shared accountability for contraception.

How can women trust men to be responsible for taking a birth control pill daily when it’s already hard for them to factor it into their own lives? Men should have a birth control pill option because males can’t become pregnant. Creating male birth control pills would give the autonomy women achieved back to men.

Follow Laura on Twitter @swimgirllaura

Contraceptive use in college students is already spotty. A November 2009 study of students at a large northeastern U.S. university in the journal Sex Roles found that students’ heavy drinking influenced risky sexual behaviors, something we should not encourage to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

When the risk of unprotected sex is so high during drunken encounters, women can’t rely on men to take a pill when condom use in these encounters alone is considered “non-normative.” My colleagues mentions the current two forms of birth control for men: condoms and vasectomies and that there ought to be more safe, reversible options. The reason why there are limited birth control options for men is simply because males can’t become pregnant themselves.

There are enough options for men on the market to prevent pregnancy. The variety of birth control options for people with a uterus, the individuals who inevitably bear the brunt of pregnancy, serve their purpose. A June 6, 2017 Study Breaks article says it all, “at the end of the day, birth control will never be the ‘blamed responsibility’ of the feminist ideal.” It should only be up to the man to take the reins regarding birth control. They can make effective decisions that could drastically alter their bodies and lives.

Laura Fields
OPINION EDITOR

Laura Fields

With this male birth control pill it could be easier for men on female contraceptives have in on unwanted pregnancy.

A March 26, 2019 BBC News article, “this male birth control pill will have more effect on men. Men with male contraceptive have in on unwanted births,” meaning deceased levels of testosterone.

So, heterosexual couples who try out the new pill might have trouble getting in the mood because of it.

Laura Fields, OPINION EDITOR

Creating male birth control pills would give the autonomy women achieved back to men.

The lack of sexual responsibility from cisgender men is outright unfair to women.

COUNTERPOINTS

Follow Laura on Twitter @swimgirllaura

Creating male birth control pills would give the autonomy women achieved back to men.
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