The San Jose State Black Women’s Collective (BWC) and Campus Community Garden hosted an event Monday night about the importance of nature and the influence it has on the community. The Campus Community Garden was created to provide students a space to gain access to healthy food, learn about sustainable organic garden practices and earn service learning hours, according to its webpage.

Aisha Williams, environmental studies senior and president of BWC, said the purpose of the collaboration was to create a program centered around “Black culture and connect it with nature.”

“I want to be able to cultivate that atmosphere for others and myself,” Williams said. “This is my first time doing something like this, so being able to actually do it myself is different from being able to attend it.”

She said as Earth Day approaches on Sunday, this week is “a chance to highlight environmentalism.”

“I think Earth Day is important to spread awareness about our habits with environments, and [people] don’t really think about that on a daily basis,” Williams said.

She said she believes the brown and Black community are mostly affected by environmental damages and there needs to be more education on environmental sustainability.

Aurion Wiley-Green, social justice senior and BWC treasurer, said she helped “build the project”

“I want people to learn, no matter what you do, every day you impact the environment, make sure you take one step to better the environment,” Wiley-Green said. “Even if that’s camping, buying less plastic, whatever you can, one step a day is 365 steps, it will impact in one shape or form.”

Other attendees also discussed their personal connections to nature.

“Nature is everything to me, the way I look at life is 360º, everything has a full cycle,” Wiley-Green said. “Nature symbolizes more than just existing, when I look at a tree it symbolizes strength, resilience, growth.”

She said she believes everyone should appreciate nature and its role in “the circle of life.”

“Life is about appreciating nature, looking up at the sky and just appreciating how blue it is or the sun or even the rain and how it helped me be here today,” she said.

Sociology senior Kenny Jackson attended the event and said it’s great to see the community learn how to appreciate nature and learn new skills, including planting and working with your hands.

“There should be an Earth Day every month,” Spadoni said. “It’s nice to have some solidarity at least once a year to save the planet. It feeds you. Save the planet. It feeds you.”

Follow Royvi on Twitter @lesroyvs
Nothing is more absurd than companies advertising razors that take off body hair that isn’t even there. I didn’t notice the absence of body hair in razor advertisements for women until I saw a short video called “An Adpology” released on YouTube on March 18, 2019 by British director Tina Bull.

“Sorry for shaving already shaved legs,” the video announcer said. It was an eye-opening line. This video made me realize that the idea of a hairless female body was fueled through advertisement campaigns. How did female body hair become such a taboo that even the hair removal industry is scared to show it?

Teen girls entering adulthood discover that their body hair is considered problematic. I’ll always remember hazardously shaving before PE class in school, only to witness girls teasing those who were not yet aware of their “feminine duty.” Society quickly taught young girls that hairiness is ugliness.

For women, puberty marks the beginning of an expensive and time-consuming internal and external struggle against their own bodies. In Britain for example, women spend an average of $29,940 in waxing unwanted hair in the course of a lifetime, according to an April 28, 2017 Harper’s Bazaar article.

Karín Lesnik-Oberstein, professor of critical theory at the University of Reading, edited a book titled “The Last Taboo: Women and Body Hair,” in 2006 which gathered writing from 11 professors each researching a different social aspect of female body hair. According to Lesnik-Oberstein, Western society may have broken a lot of established taboos around sexuality over the past few years but women’s body hair remains an area of silence. This cultural norm could be explained by the need to exaggerate physical differences in genders and a connection between female attractiveness and youth, according to Lesnik-Oberstein’s book.

But changing female body hair perception in society requires some effort from the media industry and also from us, by questioning our gender-based beauty standards.

Emily Ratajkowski, an American supermodel, posted an Aug. 8, 2019 photo of her wearing smoky eyeshadow and a fancy lacy bralette with dark, hairy armpits on full display. Some of the comments from both men and women under the post include “disgusting,” “gross,” and “you look like a man.” Reading this shows how long the road is before we can finally change the perception of female body hair.

Advertisements that show women embracing their body hair, such as the “An Adpology” video, are a start. But changing female body hair perception in society requires some effort from the media industry and also from us, by questioning our gender-based beauty standards. While waiting for more acceptance in showing female body hair, I’ll be dreaming about a swimming pool full of women who aren’t stressed by every single hair uncovered by their swimsuits.
Spartans swept in weekend series

By Gio Gaxiola

The San Jose State baseball team had a rough Easter weekend series against UNLV, dropping the Spartans to a 1-9 record. Thursday’s score was a close one, 10-8. While Friday’s game ended with a score of 13-7, Saturday’s game was another close one with the final score of 11-10. The team is now fourth place in the Mountain West Conference with 19 games left in the season.

After sweeping San Diego State University last week, SJSU could not find its footing in its 3-game series in Las Vegas. The Spartans lost two games to the Aztecs and one to UNLV, with the bases loaded but did not score. Pitcher Corey Sanchez had a tough series in Las Vegas taking the loss. Friday’s final stat line for the weekend was 2.0 innings pitched, five hits, two earned runs and two walks. On the offensive side of the plate, SJSU showed resilience throughout the series as the team hit four home runs, including three on Saturday. This brings the team to a total of 46 home runs, which is tied for second place in the Mountain West.

Brad Sanfilippo, SJSU baseball head coach, said in a Twitter post-game conference on Saturday night’s game was to put the Spartans ahead. After grabbing the lead the Spartans called in sophomore right-handed pitcher closer Brady Hill as he led the MWC with seven saves this season. Hill only got one out in the ninth inning. Then junior outfielder James Shimashita hit a solo home run and no outs but gave up the game-winning hit. Sanchez had a tough series in Las Vegas taking the loss Friday. His final stat line for the weekend was 2.0 innings pitched, five hits, two earned runs and two walks. On the offensive side of the plate, SJSU showed resilience throughout the series as the team hit four home runs, including three on Saturday. This brings the team to a total of 46 home runs, which is tied for second place in the Mountain West.

SJSU has played the last 11 games on the road. “After a long road trip, we are excited to be back home,” Sanfilippo said. The Spartans’ home record is 13-7 and 5-11 on the road. The team will be back at Evert Ballpark today at 5 p.m. to play Santa Clara University.

I’m disappointed for our guys. Especially after the effort they gave. We will be better off down the road because of this series.

‘The Achilles heel in this season is the team can’t find its footing when it needs to. The conference, with 19 games left in the season, is tied for second place with 19 games left in the season. This brings the team to a total of 46 home runs, which is tied for second place in the Mountain West.

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NFTs shape art and the environment

By Joaquín De La Torre
STAFF WRITER

Buying non-fungible tokens (NFTs) is similar to buying rare Pokémon cards because part of their value is determined by their level of scarcity. However, some may feel that there are still unanswered questions about the niche followers of NFTs. NFTs are unique assets recorded on the blockchain, which is a digital ledger features blockchain, which is a digital ledger

Gutierrez said that NFTs can provide various benefits including signing classical art, which he described as “some amount of electricity” because many pieces of art are kept in Europe. Gutierrez said that NFTs are currently working on a NFT that will have one central ghost character that is replaced with various different characters that represent his childhood. “I transferred it to San Jose State from my community college in San Francisco . . . and I got into contact with a student professor, who was getting his master’s. His name was Tyger Stanmore,” Gutierrez said. “He really built the idea of the 3D modeling and 3D environments onto me . . . and there’s where I get the inspiration from in creating an NFT.”

He said he wants to include various themes into his Chicken upstairs, his love of rap music, and his level memories of playing video games.

Ahmed Banafa said one way to think about NFTs is that they are a unique asset, meaning they are usually rare, digital items (although they are not always digital) that are one of a kind. “If you think in a limited edition, which makes them ‘non-fungible.’ ‘Non-fungible’ means that some NFT assets worth the same amount as others. Each NFT has its own value.”

Gutierrez chose the ghost motif because it resonated with this idea of ‘going ghost’ from your community in order to grow as a person. “I really wanted to support that concept of [independence] about . . . having to ‘go ghost’ in certain periods of your life in order to, you know, grow in your success or to grow as a person,” Gutierrez said.

By Joaquin De La Torre
STAFF WRITER

Minting a single NFT using the proof-of-work method uses the same amount of electricity as an average American household over almost nine days.

Ahmed Banafa, SJSU engineering and technology professor

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