Advocates protest across campus

**SJSU homeless coalition says university needs to fully meet demands, rights**

By Eva Martini  STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday around 40 people gathered at the San Jose State Olympic Black Power Statues prior to a press conference, stopping by the Student Union and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Several SHA members said those campus buildings are often used by homeless students as “last resort shelters.”

More than 30 SHA members and supporting community members marched across campus chanting, “Fight, fight, fight, housing is a human right,” and “We're fired up, Can’t take it anymore.” “Over the past semester, we have been in constant negotiations for the SJSU Student Homeless Alliance (SHA) agreement. The open letter had around 60 signatures as of Wednesday.”

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The Basic Needs Advisory Committee to SJSU Cares, which was founded in 2020 in accordance with the SHA-SJSU agreement, canceled its January quarterly meeting “to allow time to thoughtfully restructure interactions with students,” Mashinchi said. "These meetings were not only hierarchical in nature, but also very unproductive,” Majano said. Rather than building transparency between us and them, they have done the opposite,” He added that Perez said he will personally oversee the advisory committee and work on creating the collaborative partnership envisioned in the 2019 agreement.

Scott Myers-Lipton  SJSU sociology professor and SHA advisor, said the current questionnaire asked in the survey make it difficult for students to understand how SJSU Cares works. "What the students are hoping for is to help create an exit interview . . . so we can understand what's happening, not to criticize the university,” Myers-Lipton said.

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Tower Lawn fair focuses on investing in sustainable practices

By Jennifer Schildge & Don Le

Tower Lawn fair focuses on investing in sustainable practices during the Earth Day Fair Wednesday.

An Aztec performance, fashion show and various organizations from SJU and the city of San Jose advocated for the theme of Earth Day 2022: “Invest in Our Planet.”

The founder of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson, was a 1939 SJSU alumnus. He helped popularize the holiday in February 1970, according to SJSU’s Office of Sustainability website.

Two months before the first Earth Day, students who attended SJU pushed a brand new Ford Mustang from a car dealer’s lot in Los Gatos to the center of campus where it was buried in a pit near the Student Union to protest the use of fossil fuels. Perez said SJU is in the top 6% nationally of sustainable college campuses this year.

At the event, there were many months to promote environmental awareness to SJU and the broader San Jose community.

Ann Jasper, program manager of City of San Jose Department of Transportation’s Walk n’ Roll, was energetic as she promoted safe roads for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

“We’re out here just kind of spreading the word to walk and bike, not just for the environment but also for just personal health and alleviate all the traffic that we have in the Bay Area,” Jasper said.

She said after two years without in-person events, it felt really nice to talk to people again.

If I’m going to be living here for the next at least 70 years, hopefully, I just want to take care of the place I’m in. I want to be able to pass it on to the next generation. So people can see how I see nature versus how humanity has kind of forsaken it.

Seán O’Connell, environmental studies junior

The South Bay Clean Creeks Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to cleaning creeks and rivers in the Santa Clara Valley, promoted the diverse array of animals that inhabit Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek while passing out fliers and promoting sign-up sheets for local volunteering events including trash cleanups.

“It’s good to have the word out about what’s going on with our Earth. Everybody should be interested in it. We all live in it. And I’m very grateful that [the university invited us out here],” said Joshua Lopez, an intern for Earth Day.

The fashion show was emceed by San Jose mayoral candidate and SJU global studies junior Marshall Allen Woodward as he introduced student models while they walked the runway with outfits bought at thrift stores or passed down from family members.

Jackelin Solorio, fourth year spatial arts major, said if people purchase less clothing, they can ease the negative effect clothing has on the planet.

“A lot of the clothing that we have with fast fashion is just in and out and it ends up being in landfill,” Solorio said. “Clothing made correctly and with love can have multiple lives.”

The event also featured a traditional Aztec dance performance during the Earth Day Resource Fair. Lori is the director of Movimiento Cultural Anahuac.
Esports club seeks athletics status

By Christopher Nguyen

Video Games may become part of San Jose State sports as a group of students makes strides in changing what it means to become a competitor.

The SJSU Esports Club was founded in 2018 and opened a fundraising this month to support current and future generations of SJSU Esports student-athletes. The fundraiser has raised $21,000 of its $50,000 goal.

“We’re currently trying to have a facility on campus,” said Anh Tran, business management senior and current SJSU Esports Club president in a Discord call. “We do want to eventually be part of athletics.”

Jogia has been part of the club since his freshman year and originally wanted to be a League of Legends competitor.

League of Legends, an online team-based strategy game developed and published by Riot Games, which primarily consists of a five versus five battle with the opposite team.

Jogia was not able to be a competitor, he said he wanted to “get into esports and gaming in the long-term,” so Jogia worked in the club, he became the group’s president in 2021.

While Jogia has been managing teams and creating weekly meetings, he said he’s also been trying to find gaming-related sponsors for the club.

Sabrina Tran, graphics major and SJSU Esports Club president, has been a member since Fall 2020.

“It was already a designer with the gaming club,” she said over a Discord call. “They didn’t have a graphics person, so I was like their first graphics person.”

As Tran worked with the esports club, her team expanded, gaining a designated successor yet, she hopes by Spring 2023 and while there is no first graphics person.”

A S T R A N w o r k e d w i t h t h e e s p o r t s c l u b , h e r t e a m e x p a n d e d , g a i n i n g a six additional members.

“Snaps and 360s,” Jogia said. “When I am overwhelmed, I’m like: ‘I still do graphics,’” she said. “I am overworked, I should be able to do anything.”

Tran said she plans to graduate by Spring 2023 and while there is no designated successor yet, she hopes the next graphics team lead will be better at management.

God Horsfall, molecular biology junior, team coordinator and SJSU League of Legends Blue team captain, said while several members are new to the team, some members have moved on from the map to support teammates while others have continued to bring in new people.

“With my first position at League at the time, ‘I applied and they gave me the spot.’

League of Legends has many characters to be picked and played into five official roles: Top Lane, Jungle, Mid Lane, Bottom Lane and Support. Horsfall must rule the game for Blue team to currently Jungle, essentially moving around the map to support teammates while also fulfilling extra objectives.

Horsfall said while he’s good at his position, it’s not his favorite role.

“I think our Top and Mid have been really strong players on their own,” he said. While winning competitions is important to Horsfall, he said he would like the SJSU Esports Club to be part of the athletic program, pay the endowment and receiving scholarships and there are schools that would probably end up paying the endowment and receiving scholarships for future players, after he graduates.

“I think some of our players are good enough to where they should be receiving some kind of scholarships and there are schools out there that give out scholarships that would probably end up recruiting them if they had a chance,” he said.

The League of Legends Blue team has won the Mountain West Conference to play in the 2022 League of Legends College Championship. Their first scheduled game in the national championship will be against Michigan State University this Saturday and will be streamed live on the Twitch channel of Esports Event Organizer, at 3 p.m.

Follow the Spartan Daily on Twitter @sjsu.edu.
Engineering experts explain electric vehicles

By D’Netrus Chevis-Rose

The SJSU Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) hosted a Zoom webinar Tuesday in partnership with the Department of History and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning in celebration of Earth Day and to educate participants about the past, present and future of electric vehicles (EVs).

Environmental protection and awareness, has been celebrated every year on April 22 since 1970, according to the Earth Day organization. The event was created by SJSU alumni and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson.

Tuesday’s webinar aimed to be an “annual reminder” for individuals to be mindful of the planet’s health and an opportunity to discuss topics relating to the environment including electric vehicle technology, according to the SJSU MTI webpage.

The event was hosted by Asha Weinstein Agrawal, education director of the transportation institute. Speakers included Gay Mom, former associate professor at the Eindhoven University of Technology and Daniel Spirling, distinguished Blue Planet Prize professor of the UC Davis Civil Engineering and Environmental Science programs.

Mom and Spirling discussed the potential for electric vehicles to become sustainable transportation systems for upcoming generations while examining the infrastructure’s history.

Mom said scientists and engineers have in fact been developing ideas for vehicles to function independently from gasoline and steam engines for nearly two centuries.

Mom said many people have varying expectations of what the clean-energy car should look like, and for decades people imagined “flying cars” as the vehicles of the future.

“The engineering trends in 1800 imagined the future as a kind of congestion in the air, because at that moment the airplane and air balloon were very popular,” Mom said during the event.

Mom shared a vintage image from a Dutch engineering journal published in 1900, which he said was one of the first conceptualized electric vehicles.

He said during the early 1900’s the future of electric vehicles was a topic of interest, but electric engines became a fantasy because of the success of gasoline-dependent internal combustion engines.

Mom said the vehicles did not fail because of technological disadvantages, but because of the perception that transportation by electric vehicles was “for the incompetent.”

Agrawal also said she believes the transportation previously failed because society was not “culturally ready” for the new technology.

“Around 1920 there were both electric vehicles and internal combustion gasoline powered vehicles floating in the United States,” Agrawal said in a Zoom call. “There was this marketing campaign that electric vehicles were for ladies and gas vehicles were for men.”

Agrawal said in the 1920s some favored electric vehicles because they had a shorter range, meaning they didn’t travel as fast or far as a gasoline vehicle.

She said marketing tactics at the time were “gender specific claims,” arguing that women needed slower vehicles to drive around the neighborhood and men needed faster vehicles for longer commutes to work.

She added that gasoline vehicles required a “strong arm” to crank the dirty starter and women were believed to be “better suited” for a “cleaner” vehicle with a button to start its engine.

Many of the speakers said people often favor gasoline vehicles because of economic concerns rather than gender stereotypes.

In his presentation, Mom said there are economic disadvantages of modern electric and hybrid vehicles. “Most experts concluded that for this generation, the [electric vehicle] cannot compete with mainstream vehicles, in terms of cost,” Mom said.

Spirling added that the price of electric vehicles has decreased over the past decade.

Spirling said the manufacturing cost for batteries in electric cars has reduced by 90% since 2010, which has lowered the sales cost of the electric vehicles.

Historically, lead acid was the primary manufacturing method for EV batteries throughout the 90s, until nickel metal hydride batteries emerged in the 2000s.

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Asha Weinstein Agrawal transportation institute education director

“We’ve gone from lead acid to nickel metal hydride and then lithium ion batteries which have been continually improved and cost reduced,” Spirling said. “There’s likely to be new batteries in the future so the costs are continuing to come down, that’s why everyone expects zero emission vehicles to really dominate the future.”

Most experts concluded that for this generation, the EV cannot compete with mainstream vehicles, in terms of cost.

Dr. Gay Mom

former associate professor Einhoven University of Technology

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