



AMANI HAMED | SPARTAN DAILY

A crowd of protesters arrives at San Jose City Hall after beginning their march for marginalized communities on Hedding and First streets on Saturday morning.

# Activists demand immigration rights

By Amani Hamed  
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State’s Human Rights Institute and many other community activism organizations led a march from Hedding and First streets to city hall Saturday morning, demanding that marginalized communities be included and prioritized in a new U.S. \$3.5 trillion spending bill.

William Armaline, associate sociology professor and director of SJSU’s Human Rights Institute, a research and policy institute, said Saturday’s march and rally were an opportunity for marginalized communities to come together in solidarity.

Armaline said the way in which the \$3.5 trillion spending plan is realized will determine how invested Congress is in creating a more viable future for everyone.

Protest sponsor South Bay Progressive Alliance, which raises awareness of and promotes progressive candidates and policies at a local and state level, stated the march is a call on Congress to provide a path to citizenship for all, free community college and pre-K education, expansion of Medicaid and Medicare, and equal labor rights, in the event flyer.

“It’s absolutely important to be able to stand side by side with our community, with our greater community to fight for worker rights, to fight for immigrant rights, to ensure that there’s comprehensive immigration for all, especially in light of the refugees that are coming in.”

**Sameena Usman**  
American-Islamic Relations government relations coordinator

“This is going to be a statement on whether or not we take seriously the overlapping economic and climate change issues of our time,” Armaline said. “And, frankly, if we’re not willing to make this petty downpayment on what actually needs to be invested, it’s a real signal to us as to what we’re dealing with the state.”

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 was introduced on July 13 through the Senate Budget Committee by its chairman, Vermont Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders, according to an Aug. 9 memorandum to Democratic Senators.

The \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation resolution is designed to be offset by

new tax revenues, healthcare savings and long-term economic growth as part of President Joe Biden’s “Build Back Better” Agenda, according to the same memorandum.

The Build Back Better Agenda aims to create jobs, lower taxes and cut costs for the working class by raising tax revenue, reforming the tax code and taxing wealthier individuals and corporations, according to the White House website.

While the resolution aims to create a “lawful permanent status for qualified immigrants,” it also includes border security measures and investments in the Community Violence Intervention initiative

which according to the White House CVI webpage increases funding for hiring new law enforcement officers and enhancing policing.

Under the Biden-Harris Community Violence Intervention plan, the Justice Department will allocate \$11 million in competitive grants toward programs that prevent and reduce youth violence.

It will also allocate \$156 million to its “Cops Hiring” Program and an additional \$8 million to its Smart Policing program, which assists law enforcement in using data and technology in policing, according to the same White House webpage.

Local activists including Veronica Guzman and Crystal Calhoun said they want marginalized communities to be centered in the \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation because they’re “underfunded and overpoliced.”

Guzman’s brother died by suicide at age 21. She said San Jose Unified School District failed him by neglecting to provide mental health services and basic accommodations for him as an autistic student.

Guzman runs Yo Soy Tu Voz, an

PROTEST | Page 2

# Mu variant breaches Santa Clara County

By Evan Reinhardt  
STAFF WRITER

A new coronavirus variant “mu” has spread to Santa Clara County but is less threatening than other variants, according to the county’s public information office.

“[Variants] may affect COVID-19 transmission, disease severity, testing, treatment or vaccine effectiveness,” a public information officer said in an email.

There are 36 confirmed cases of the mu variant in Santa Clara County as of Sunday, according to the Santa Clara Public Health Department COVID-19 Variant Dashboard.

Mu was first identified in Colombia in January. The World Health Organization dubbed mu as a “variant of interest” on Aug. 30.



COVID-19 | Page 2

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PROTEST

Continued from page 1

organization that helps monolingual Spanish-speaking parents navigate the school system.

She said many undocumented parents and children are afraid to seek help or services and often have their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and privacy laws violated by the school district.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990 as a civil rights law that prevents discrimination against people with disabilities and mandates accommodations for disabled people in all areas of public life. This sweeping legislation also mandated reasonable accommodations for disabled students in schools, according to the ADA National Network website.

Privacy laws include the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, which was created to protect sensitive medical information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge, according to the CDC's website.

"Right now, the process for a parent asking [for] a petition to stay based on their child's disability is a long process," Guzman said. "It's very embarrassing. It is inhumane."

Guzman said for undocumented parents and students, a clear path to citizenship would eliminate the fear surrounding resource access.

Guzman said her brother, Francisco Blanco, would have been 50 years old this year.

Crystal Calhoun volunteers with the San Jose Unified Equity Coalition. Retired with 14 grandchildren, Calhoun said she worries about them growing up in a school system where Black children are policed rather than served.

Although Calhoun and other advocates succeeded in removing police from San Jose Unified School District campuses in

“If we’re not willing to make this petty downpayment on what actually needs to be invested, it’s a real signal to us as to what we’re dealing with with the state.”

**William Armaline**  
associate professor of sociology, SJSU  
Human Rights Institute director



AMANI HAMED | SPARTAN DAILY

Sameena Usman and her daughter pose with their protest posters at San Jose City Hall.

June, the school district voted six weeks later to allow police back on campuses for after-school events.

"This is why I don't just say 'defund the police,' I say 'upfund the students,'" Calhoun said during an interview.

Calhoun said she would like to see funds that are used to police children on San Jose campuses reallocated to provide resources for students living in poverty and experiencing homelessness.

According to the last homeless census of San Jose conducted in 2019, 6% of San Jose's 6,097 homeless individuals were minors. Taken before the coronavirus pandemic began, this figure represented 365 children experiencing homelessness in San Jose.

Sameena Usman, council on American-Islamic Relations government relations coordinator, said standing in solidarity with immigrants in the greater community is crucial to the group's work.

With the departure of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, a new wave of Afghan refugees

is expected to seek safety in the nation, according to a Sept. 3 New York Times article.

"It's absolutely important to be able to stand side by side with our community, with our greater community to fight for worker rights, to fight for immigrant rights, to ensure that there's comprehensive immigration for all, especially in light of the refugees that are coming in," Usman said in an interview.

Luis Angel Reyes-Savalza, an immigration attorney representing undocumented individuals with Pangea Legal Services, said he is concerned about the 3 million undocumented immigrants who are excluded from being able to access a path to citizenship under the pending plan.

Pangea Legal Services, based in San Francisco, provides representation to immigrants in complex immigration and legal matters including asylum and cancellation of removal, according to its website.

"The House of Representatives have presented a proposal that unnecessarily and

unfairly excludes 3 million undocumented immigrants, some of the most marginalized in our community," Reyes-Savalza said during an interview.

Reyes-Savalza said in addition to excluding disabled and elderly people who cannot work, the proposal excludes people convicted even of minor crimes who've completed their sentences, using a "good immigrant, bad immigrant dichotomy" to decide who is worthy of pursuing citizenship.

“This is why I don’t just say ‘defund the police,’ I say ‘upfund the students.’”

**Crystal Calhoun**  
San Jose Unified Equity Coalition volunteer

In addition to petitioning President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, Reyes-Savalza said he and others including the organization Papeles Para Todos are petitioning California Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, who was directly involved in drafting Senate Concurrent Resolution 14.

Papeles Para Todos is pushing for immigration policies that would grant citizenship to all undocumented immigrants,

"Next week, the Senate parliamentarian, who is an unelected person in Congress, is going to decide the fate of millions of undocumented immigrants," Reyes-Savalza said.

The deadline for budget reconciliation is September 30, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

Reyes-Savalza stressed the importance of mobilizing through contacting representatives and through in-person protesting before and on Sept. 30.

He also said he fears Senate Democrats will use the decision of the parliamentarian as an excuse for disenfranchising millions of immigrants living in the U.S.

"This lands with the democrats and this ends with the democrats, and they can override that parliamentarian and they need to override that parliamentarian to provide legalization for all like they promised in their campaign," Reyes-Savalza said. "We can no longer wait."

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COVID-19

Continued from page 1

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) categorizes each new variant into one of three lists based on severity: variants of interest, variants of concern and variants of high consequence, according to the CDC Variant Surveillance webpage.

More prominent variants including the delta variant are considered variants of concern, which are monitored closer than others because of variant severity, according to the WHO Variant Tracking webpage.

The Santa Clara County public information officer said the delta variant, which was first identified in India, remains the most threatening.

“Humanity in general is still learning how to deal with this [virus]. I’m pretty sure most people haven’t been alive since the last pandemic and science has definitely progressed since then.”

**Mark Wong**  
piano performance  
graduate student

"The delta variant has been the predominant variant since July, accounting for the vast majority of COVID-19 cases locally and nationally," the

officer said.

The delta variant is twice as contagious as prior variants and makes up about 99% of current COVID-19 cases in the U.S., according to the CDC COVID Data Tracker.

In contrast, the mu variant accounts for 0.1% of U.S. cases, according to the same CDC Data Tracker.

As the delta variant continues to surge and mu reaches Santa Clara County, some San Jose State students say they want additional information from the university to ensure a safe environment.

Studio arts senior Alyssa Morales said she wishes the university would update students more frequently about variants threatening on-campus operations.

"Having the information is good for people who are more scared than others," Morales said. "If I knew there was a new case [of variants on campus], I wouldn't come."

A total of 17 students and one staff member have reported contracting COVID-19 in the past two weeks, according to the campus COVID-19 Dashboard.

Kenneth Mashinchi, senior director of strategic communications and media relations, said the university is prepared to "address" an outbreak of the mu variant.

"SJSU will continue to monitor the status of variants and follow public health guidance," Mashinchi said in an email.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Joe Biden, addressed the emergence of new variants in a Sept. 10 White House press conference.

"The most important thing we can do to protect against any

# What to know about ‘mu’

- The World Health Organization (WHO) states the variant is “of interest” but isn’t yet part of WHO’s list of “variants of concern.”
- Most cases have been recorded in California, Florida, Texas and New York, among others.
- Variants of concern include the delta variant, which is responsible for 99% of U.S. cases, and the alpha, beta and gamma variants, which are deemed more transmissible or virulent.
- WHO said in an Aug. 31 statement it’s currently unclear how much the vaccines will offer protection against the mu variant.
- Mu variant is the fifth variant of interest currently monitored by WHO.
- The variant was first detected in Colombia in January 2021 and has since been identified in more than 39 countries including the U.S., South Korea, Japan, Ecuador, Canada and parts of Europe.
- About 2,000 mu variant cases have been identified in the U.S., according to the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data, the largest database of novel coronavirus genome sequences in the world.

variant . . . is to get vaccinated, which has always been our predominant message," Fauci said.

Unvaccinated individuals remain more vulnerable to infection and spread, according to the CDC Vaccine webpage.

COVID-19 will continue to mutate and spread newer variants at a faster rate as people continue to refuse vaccination, according to the same CDC webpage.

Piano performance graduate student Mark Wong said he is

confident in society's ability to deal with COVID-19 as new variants continue to arise.

"I am personally of the opinion that [COVID-19] will become endemic," Wong said.

"Endemic" is often used to characterize diseases that generally remain present in a particular area such as malaria, which is said to be endemic to tropical and subtropical regions, according to Merriam-Webster.

"Humanity in general is still learning how to deal with this [virus]," Wong said. "I'm pretty

sure most people haven't been alive since the last pandemic and science has definitely progressed since then."

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@ReinhardtEvan



# Chicanx/Latinx center welcomes community

By Sandra Santos-Cruz  
STAFF WRITER

The Chicanx/Latinx Student Success Center welcomed San Jose State community members to a night of “knowledge, care and trust” – true to Hispanic core values despite distance-learning and an ongoing pandemic.

La Bienvenida, meaning “The Welcome,” took place via Zoom Wednesday afternoon on the eve of “El Grito” in preparation of Mexican Independence Day, which also marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month.

“El Grito de Dolores” otherwise known as “El Grito de Independencia,” led by Fray Miguel Hidalgo marks the revolutionary independence of Mexico in 1810. Hidalgo was a well-educated priest stationed in Dolores, Guanajuato, where he began the revolt against the viceroy of Spain, according to his biography webpage.

People of Mexican descent who live across the U.S. border celebrate this commemoration to show patriotism, but over the years they ended up divided among two cultures and two nations.

Magdalena Barrera, Chicana and Chicano studies professor and vice provost for faculty success, invited students to reach out to El Centro and remember where their heritage comes from while showing pride toward their rooted land.

El Centro, part of the Chicanx/Latinx Student Success Center, is known to organize their welcome events every semester regardless of obstacles.

Barrera also said to be part of the Latinx community, you can “be extra” and proudly represent the culture and heritage.

Criminology freshman Jesus Navarro said he moved from Oroville to San Mateo and was excited that he could attend the virtual event.

Navarro said it’s great to live in such a diverse and broad environment because his hometown of Oroville was too small to grow culturally. As a first-generation college student, he feels welcomed within the Chicanx department.

“I am glad that all of my classes are in person,” he said. “I don’t think I would have been able to get the full college experience if I continued at home.”

Online events usually can’t fully grasp the essence of a traditional event, where people can appreciate each



Rosanna Alvarez (she/her/ella)

SCREENSHOT BY SANDRA SANTOS-CRUZ



We remember that we have the power to reshape those mainstream narratives that are stacked against us. And then, in spite of those narratives, we persevere because of who we are and where we come from.

**Rosana Alvarez**  
chicanx studies professor, keynote speaker and poet

other’s company and presence.

This wasn’t the case for La Bienvenida.

Program coordinator Elisa Aquino said El Centro is a space where students can build a community of leadership and support, so it’s important for students to have a welcome event every semester.

Validation, respect and a vivacious encouraging spirit flew directly from the electronic screen. Message after message erupted in cheering and welcoming messages to

each other as if distance couldn’t hold back such joy.

This was La Bienvenida.

More than 80 attendees joined to embrace the close-knit center. La Bienvenida turned completely silent as Professor Rosana Alvarez, keynote speaker and poet, shared her poetic speech to the group.

“We remember that we have the power

to reshape those mainstream narratives that are stacked against us,” she said. “And then, in spite of those narratives, we persevere because of who we are and where we come from.”

Alvarez also said the expectations society has for our ethnicity don’t come from our stereotypical appearances but within our fullfilnets and contributions to society.

“They are rooted in racism, discrimination, the lack of humanity in which we find ourselves, where people are vulnerable and targeted because of oppressive systems and ongoing choices people make to reinforce that,” Alvarez said.

Marcos Pizzaro, Lurie College of Education associate dean, said he wants to see future generations create an ambience and “schools our grandparents dreamed about.”

La Bienvenida had breakout rooms on Zoom where students could interact

and talk to each other about their careers and experiences at SJSU.

Engineering student Clarissa Llamas said she’s a first-generation student and enjoys the diversity of students at SJSU and the well-coordinated cultural events.

About 29% of undergraduate students at SJSU are Hispanic, as noted on the 2020 Census, and last year 1,373 bachelor degrees were awarded to Hispanic students, according to a College Factual 2021 diversity report.

“What I like most at SJSU is that I can meet people from different backgrounds,” Llamas said. “This is something I did not experience before, I really like that.”

Follow Sandra on Twitter |  
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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHICANX/LATINX STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER



## ABOUT

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ILLUSTRATION BY AUDREY TSANG

# Anti-parasitic agent creates controversy

## ‘Unvaxxed’ individuals need to stop trying vaccine alternatives



Evan Reinhardt  
STAFF WRITER

Anti-vaccination conspiracy theorists continue to drag society down by ignoring medical experts and wagering their health on advice from Facebook groups and Joe Rogan, podcast host and UFC commentator.

Ivermectin, a prescription drug used to treat infections caused by parasites, is heralded as a miracle treatment for those who have contracted the coronavirus after Rogan posted an Instagram video Sept. 1 claiming it helped him recover from the virus.

“We immediately threw the kitchen sink at [the virus], all kinds of meds,” Rogan said in the Instagram video post, which tallied over 6.6 million views.

His intellectually-adjacent attitude about health and wellness encourages his largely right-wing following to further defy scientists and medical experts.

With so many dedicated fans, Rogan wields the power of a pop star with the cognitive ability of your bigfoot-loving uncle.

Rogan’s post discussing ivermectin has likely contributed to the amount of yokels currently trying it as a miracle cure.

Even before his post, the number of people willing to take the drug to avoid getting a COVID-19 vaccine increased, according to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Emergency and Preparedness Response Aug. 26 news release.

The CDC stated in the same news release that human exposures and adverse effects associated with ivermectin reported to poison control centers have spiked in 2021.

Retail pharmacies have experienced a jump in ivermectin prescription sales from 3,600 prescriptions per week in March 2020 to more than 39,000 prescriptions per week in January, according to the same CDC news release.

Unvaccinated people are following a trend in order to one-up the “liberal sheep” who trust medical experts, including Anthony Fauci, without addressing ivermectin’s obvious downfalls.

Ivermectin has shown little evidence of success and can pose additional health risks to those who take it, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) webpage.

Although some clinical trials are starting to show benefits for COVID-19 treatment, the FDA hasn’t authorized or approved ivermectin for use in preventing or treating the virus; and is recommending doctors don’t prescribe it to their patients, according to the same webpage.

This theoretical treatment has been around for months, but now that unvaccinated people are reaping the consequences of their inaction, they’re looking for any option to stay healthy.

Any option except a vaccine.

Unvaccinated individuals are the prominent reason new COVID-19 variants

are appearing so fast, according to Dr. Purvi Parikh, an immunologist and allergist with the Allergy and Asthma Network in New York City.

“If everyone is vaccinated, eventually infections drop to zero and so do variants,” Parikh told Healthline Media in its Aug. 10 article. “But if the virus has an easy host, such as an unvaccinated individual, then it’s easy for it to mutate into a more contagious and virulent form.”

Healthline Media, Inc. is a publication headquartered in San Francisco that provides health and wellness information, according to its webpage.

The refusal to get a vaccine reveals a selfish mindset in many individuals. Getting vaccinated doesn’t just protect you from severe cases of COVID-19, it also limits your ability to spread it, according to the CDC Vaccine webpage.

Along with increasing the spread of COVID-19, unvaccinated individuals are filling up hospital beds after overdosing on ivermectin.

Because of the recent popularity surrounding ivermectin, some people are resorting to the over-the-counter version that’s meant for livestock, according to a study conducted by the National Poison Data System.

The National Poison Data System is the data warehouse for the 55 U.S. poison control centers, according to the American Association of Poison Control Centers webpage.

The national data center reported a 245% jump in exposure cases from 133 in July to 459 in August, according to the same study.

### Listen to the real experts and, goddamn it, get vaccinated.

The mental gymnastics involved in choosing an unsafe livestock drug instead of an FDA-approved vaccine avoids all logic that Rogan fans love to boast about possessing.

I love to hear conspiracy theorists brag about conducting their own “research,” which I imagine as someone sitting on a toilet scrolling through their anti-vaccination Facebook groups.

How many conspiracy theorists are hopping into the laboratory and conducting antigen testing?

Although Rogan may have about 13 million Instagram followers, he has zero medical degrees.

Listen to the real experts and, goddamn it, get vaccinated.

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Jamie Bennett  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Some loyal Joe Rogan fans claim ivermectin is a coronavirus “miracle drug” and allows COVID-19 patients to heal fast and with minimal side effects. However good that might sound, I think it’s important to conduct more research before calling it a miracle drug.

Rogan, a podcast host, UFC commentator and TV personality, claimed ivermectin, an anti-parasitic and anti-lice drug for humans, was a factor in his recovery from the COVID-19 virus, according to a Sept. 1 Instagram video posted by Rogan.

After Rogan recommended ivermectin as a COVID-19 treatment, CNN and other news organizations bashed Rogan for advertising a drug for horses that can kill people who take it.

Clearly, those news organizations don’t seem to know the difference between ivermectin for humans and ivermectin for animals.

Rogan and his supporters aren’t pushing for people to use the ivermectin for horses that get rid of parasites and worms, they’re pushing for the human-safe ivermectin that could possibly be a treatment for the COVID-19 virus.

In the same Sept. 1 Instagram video, Rogan gave updates on what it was like for him to have COVID-19 and went into detail on the array of drugs he took.

“We immediately threw the kitchen sink at [COVID-19], all kinds of meds: monoclonal antibodies, ivermectin, [Zithromax] Z-Pak, everything,” Rogan said in the Instagram video.

CNN host Anderson Cooper claimed Rogan took and advocated for others to take ivermectin or “horse dewormer,” in a Sept. 1 CNN news coverage with headline “Joe Rogan announces he had COVID; Praises horse dewormer ivermectin.”

“One of those drugs he mentioned, ivermectin, is more often used to deworm horses. It’s increased usage has only led to a substantial increase in overdoses after a push from some on the far right,” Cooper said.

Cooper and many others like him can try and spin Rogan’s use of ivermectin however they want, but the commentary is far from the truth.

In a Sept. 7 episode of his podcast “Joe Rogan Experience,” Rogan said CNN made up these claims.

“Do I have to sue CNN? They’re making shit up,” Rogan said. “They keep saying I’m taking horse dewormer. I literally got it from a doctor. It’s an American company. They won the Nobel Prize in 2015 for use in human beings.”

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states ivermectin products for animals are different from ivermectin products for people.

The misinformation about ivermectin

caused by media sources not differentiating between the human-safe use and the animal use is misleading and shameful.

The human-safe ivermectin has been used for decades to treat multiple tropical diseases all across the world and is FDA approved for use, according to the same FDA webpage.

My colleague argues that Rogan encourages his viewers to take ivermectin with little to no knowledge of medicine, but anyone who watches Rogan’s podcast knows he’s always says people shouldn’t consider him an expert and should make decisions for themselves.

### Clearly, those news organizations don’t seem to know the difference between ivermectin for humans and ivermectin for animals.

“Don’t listen to me. I’m a fucking idiot. Why are you listening to me?” Rogan said during his podcast episode #1223.

This doesn’t mean people who tested positive for COVID-19 should go out and test their luck with ivermectin, especially because the FDA doesn’t currently approve the use of ivermectin as a COVID-19 treatment.

However, claims of ivermectin’s effectiveness for COVID-19 are not unfounded as the drug is approved for COVID-19 treatment for some instances in South Africa, the Philippines and certain South American countries, according to a Sept. 3 Forbes article.

Researchers from South American countries and India show positive results for ivermectin as a COVID-19 treatment.

According to a June 2020 study by Monash University in Australia, ivermectin warrants further investigation for possible benefits in humans because it can inhibit the replication of COVID-19 in cell cultures at higher-than-recommended dosage levels.

Also, ivermectin could reduce the severity of COVID-19 symptoms in patients, according to a December 2020 study by the Mugda Medical College and Hospital in Bangladesh.

Until more concrete evidence is published showing the effectiveness of ivermectin with COVID-19 patients, the medical community needs to keep an open mind about the medicine and conduct more clinical trials of ivermectin treatment.

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