Prayer chants could be heard at the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara as at least 60 San Jose community members gathered for a candlelight vigil for 8-month-old Aroohi Dheri; her mother Jasleen Kaur, 27; father Jasdeep Singh, 36; and uncle Amandeep Singh, 39, who were kidnapped and killed in Merced on Oct. 5.

The Sikh family members ran their own trucking business and were kidnapped at their place of work, according to an Oct. 7 CNN article. Jasleen Kaur, social work sophomore and Students Against Sexual Assault co-founder, organized the event and said he was deeply saddened and disturbed by the kidnapping and killing of the family.

Sikhism is a religion from the Punjab region in India, according to the Britannica encyclopedia. Students Against Sexual Assault, which put on the news conference, is a student organization that advocates for the Sikh community members gathering in mourning in SJ

By Bryanna Bartlett

Some attendees hold up signs that pay tribute to the Dheri family, who were kidnapped and killed on Oct. 5, during a candlelight vigil of about 60 community members at the San Jose Sikh Gurdwara on Wednesday.

The unofficial San Jose State chapter of Turning Point USA, a nonprofit conservative organization, sparked discussions about free speech with passers-by in front of the Chavez Fountain.

Turning Point USA is focused on educating and training students to promote freedom, according to its website.

Although members said the event had been "canceled" by San Jose State because of a university policy violation, the organization was on campus for more than four hours.

Turning Point USA was planning to utilize campus facilities under another student organization reservation through College Republicans, which is not permitted, according to an email statement from the SJSU Student Involvement Office.

College Republicans is not a student chapter of Turning Point USA, so when it booked the space for Turning Point USA’s use, the organization violated Student Union guidelines, according to the SJSU Student Involvement Office email statement.

Morgonn McMichael, Turning Point USA contributor, was on campus to interview SJSU students about freedom of speech and to provide copies of the U.S. constitution and voting registration forms.

McMichael said she felt fortunate to speak to SJSU students.

"The university did not want our organization to have a presence here on campus," McMichael said.

Advocacy group makes its voice heard while DOJ visits campus

By Bryanna Bartlett

Students Against Sexual Assault calls out the SJSU Title IX Office and its staff efforts in front of Tower Hall Wednesday.

The Department of Justice is taking office hours here in Room 110 to hear from the campus community about concerns regarding sexual discrimination and the university's efforts to respond to sexual assault in its Title IX Office, said Alexandra Ferry, social work sophomore and Students Against Sexual Assault co-founder.

"We want to encourage students and faculty to attend these office hours because it’s an opportunity for your voice to be heard," Ferry said.

Students Against Sexual Assault, which put on the news conference, is a student organization that advocates for the
The San Jose State Associated Students Board of Directors unanimously passed a letter of support for the Afghan Adjustment Act during its meeting Wednesday in the Student Union Room A2.

The Act is currently being pushed through the U.S. Senate. The letter was written in collaboration with San Jose State’s Afghan Student Association, which is an organization on campus that aims to provide a cultural safe space and networking opportunity for Afghan students and allies, according to its mission statement.

“It really mattered all the student leaders that really collaborated and united our student voice, to make a statement about how important the Afghan Adjustment Act,” A.S. president Nina Chuang said. The Afghan Adjustment Act would address the more than 82,000 Afghan nationals who evacuated during the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, according to a December 2021 Department of Homeland Security Fact Sheet.

As of now, special immigrant visas for Afghan nationals who are qualifying relatives of a veteran or member of the U.S. Armed Forces. It mandates that the president establish a task force to develop and implement a strategy to assist Afghan nationals who qualify for refugee status if they have been a Csic student, member of an Afghans Student Association.

“Many Afghans, SJSU’s Afghan Student Association president, said she was motivated to create something similar after a meeting with SJC Berkeley, UC Davis and Sacramento State’s Afghan Student Associations.

She added that she reached out to Lus Aquino, SJU A.S. director of intercultural affairs, they began drafting the letter together. “This letter is a staff writer for the Spartan Daily.”

The Afghan Adjustment Act is being reviewed by a senate judiciary committee. The bills are expected to be expanded for special immigrant visa applications from Afghan nationals seeking special immigrant or refugee status, as well as an office in the Treasury Department to implement various tasks such as granting visas if no embassies are operational in Afghanistan. The letter was written in collaboration with SJSU’s Afghan Student Association.

If passed, the Afghan Adjustment Act is expected to expand eligibility for special immigrant visas, modify and streamline the process for permanent resident status and require the Department of State to respond to inquiries from Congress about specific applications from Afghan nationals seeking special immigrant or refugee status, as well as an office in the Treasury Department to implement various tasks such as granting visas if no embassies are operational in Afghanistan. The letter was written in collaboration with SJSU’s Afghan Student Association.

“If they commit a crime, we certainly take them in, but we also point out that we’re not here to speak up for them. We're to free this up,” Bobda said.

“Magna Horan, Associated Students board member and president of the student organization Democrats at San Jose State, debriefed with Bobda in front of the Student Wellness Center.”

“if I am able to be with them for the rally and help to make them feel important,” Herrlin said. “I think it’s really important for people to understand and to know that activism starts right here out here giving our prayers and then nothing happens to our community, and then we’re really important cause.”

Herrlin said he and other students do not consider the standoff issues on that Turner Point USA is known to hold, that’s heavy and more of a local issue, especially with those who have lived in the area for a long time.

“I have a problem with how they elevate this as a national political situation against vaccines and the election,” Herrlin said.

Turner Point USA has forged a strong relationship with former president Donald Trump, with organizers spreading misinformation about the 2020 presidential election and COVID-19 vaccines, according to a July 25, 2021 Washington Post article. It also runs the controversial “professor watchlist,” which “spokes” professors who allegedly discriminate against conservative students and advances “false propaganda,” according to a Feb. 14, 2019 Anti-Defamation League article.

Herrlin said despite that, he maintains, “Hopefully, we’ll able to change some minds today,” Herrlin said.

“They have their initiative and their drive to really represent their community and really make a statement, and having them collaborate and Associate Students, really shows their initiative and their drive to really make change.”

Associate Students board member and president of the student organization Democrats at San Jose State, debriefed with Bobda in front of the Student Wellness Center. Herrlin said he and other students do not consider the standoff issues on that Turner Point USA is known to hold, that’s heavy and more of a local issue, especially with those who have lived in the area for a long time.

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NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH
STARTING OCTOBER 1st

Join us for our Happy Hour Specials!
Get any medium pizza with chicken wings for $19.95 or any XL pizza with 10 chicken wings for $39.95.

PIZZA

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COMBOS

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HAPPY HOUR

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<td>Craft Cocktails</td>
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</table>

180 S 1ST ST, SAN JOSE CA 95113
OPEN MON - SATURDAY 11AM - 9PM
SUNDAY 10AM - 7PM
I've worked at different universities with different students and sometimes they make... demands that could be described as threats to these students. I can see that they have things to do with personnel investments, resource investments, accountability, separation of where information goes and who has access to it, which is all to protect people who are vulnerable.

Jason Laker

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Jason Laker

Advocacy group holds a news conference Wednesday outside Tower Hall, where inside, the DOJ has been holding "office hours."
Chants of "Who got my back, I got your back" rang through the San Jose State club lacrosse team huddle during practice.

Business senior Aaron Escobar, president of the club lacrosse team, said he became involved with the sport in Summer 2016 and started playing Spring 2017 in high school. He joined the SJSU club lacrosse team when he was a freshman in Fall 2019.

"The sport is growing so quickly here in California," Escobar said. "Every year, it seems like you hear about more and more schools getting lacrosse teams and people getting into the sport."

Wesley Hovatter, applied economics graduate student and team treasurer, said the team markets itself as a no-experience-required team. This fall marks Hovatter's third year with the team but he has been playing the sport for nine years.

"People don't realize how good they can get in just three weeks," Hovatter said regarding why the team doesn't require experience.

Last year, the club was struggling to find potential players, but this year has been the opposite. Head coach Derek de Lemos said it's a good problem to have too many players this year.

Escobar said there are many members who are aiming to improve their skill sets by reaching out and practicing with others.

He said one of his favorite memories is when the team traveled to Southern Oregon University and beat the Raiders in overtime 16-15 on Feb. 22, 2020.

"That was my best moment of my freshman year by far because I really got to bond with that team extremely well," Escobar said. "People talk about, 'Oh, you'll make so many memories in college.' Like, that was it. That was a memory that I'm going to keep with me for the rest of my life.'" Escobar said he initially joined the team to play around, but he served in leadership roles including being president last year, he learned competence, leadership and managing responsibilities and relationships with other lacrosse programs.

Hovatter said his fondest memory came during a 17-0 shutout against Cal Poly Humboldt, formerly known as Humboldt State University as well as the time when the team enjoyed "hanging out being bros" at the beach during a Los Angeles trip.

The team is still in the process of constructing its winning formula for when its season starts in Spring 2023 by hosting scrimmages and exhibition matches at the recreational fields located at South Campus.

To prepare, the team is playing other club teams including University of California, Santa Cruz, Chico State University and St. Mary's College while also playing post-collegiate teams such as the Palo Alto Ducks.

Escobar said club lacrosse at SJSU is built by a strong network of alumni who have and want to share the love of the sport especially since all four coaches were former SJSU club lacrosse players.

"Alumni dating all the way back from 2006, come out to play a game against our current team, just purely out of love for the team,'" Escobar said.

Though the team is in the preseason, its players have high aspirations for the spring as they hope to make a playoff push and participate in Nationals.

"We're here to make ourselves better by introducing people to new things and new sports," Hovatter said. "It really is like a brotherhood."

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Jackson Christopoulos, San Jose State club lacrosse player smiles in a huddle before a scrimmage. The Spartans finished the 2022 season 3-5 with a 2-3 record at home.

Above: Kelliah Tarver (left) attempts a pass to a teammate on the run while a defender tries to get in front of him. Below: A player looks on as a coach gives instructions during a break in action.
Blaze in peace: Biden takes step to decriminalization

President Joe Biden announced Thursday that thousands of people will be pardoned for their federal convictions of possessing marijuana and that for the first time, according to an Oct. 6 New York Times article, while that decision is long-oversdue, it is a step in the right direction.

About 6,500 people, who were convicted between 1992-2021, will be pardoned according to an Oct. 6 New York Times article. While the number is relatively small, it’s the thought that counts. Helping the people who have been charged with simple possession is the first of many steps to lead towards legalization.

Black Americans will be the most affected by this as they are more than four times as likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white Americans, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

The consequences of being booked for possessing a small amount of marijuana are brutal and deeply affect those convicted.

While the number may be relatively low, this proclamation by Biden will likely have a ripple effect, according to a report by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

Would you rather have someone ask if you want to go smoke some weed, or shoot some heroin? The two shouldn’t be classified together.

Biden additionally wants to review the classification of marijuana, seeing if it can be placed in a different schedule instead.

Presidents do not have the power to pardon charges at the state or local level. However, Biden’s current action does shine a light for communities to have more control over their lifestyles.

This is not the only step Biden has to take.

For Biden’s attempt at granting these pardons to be seen as a spark, so these beginning steps in the right direction will be seen nationwide.

Momentum will continue to build once it is a spark, so these beginning steps in the right direction will be seen nationwide. This proclamation by Biden will likely restore political, civil and other rights to the individuals who were denied them as innocents for their simple possession of marijuana, according to an Oct. 6 NBC article.

While the number may be relatively low for individuals, granting these pardons, the massive numbers of individuals convicted at the state and local level in the American criminal justice system for simple drug charges have a sign of hope.

Whether it’s 10 convictions or 10 million, all that matters is that something is actually being done. Some form of action must be taken to ensure not only safety, but confidence, to people who just want to smoke weed in peace.

Whether or not the government pushes for Biden’s attempt at granting these pardons at the state and local level, the actions he has taken shows people that he is willing to fight for their causes.

Follow Brandon on Twitter @Brandon_Zime
The track “Basement” off of Easy Life’s latest album “MYARE IN ANOTHER LIFE” starts off with faded noises of sound. The sounds of a camera flash open the track. The lead singer, Joshua Bassett sings “I know we’re not the same but I hope I can still be your friend.” His second studio album "The Long Goodbye," named after the trailblazing women who paved the way for women in the music industry, aims to prove herself as an artist with her newly harnessed, versatile sound. Bassett’s music speaks to the complexity of what it is to be a human in the age of the internet. Whether you are famous or not, we all face the pressures of social media. It can be so easy to make someone a villain on the internet and much of the hate was directed at Bassett, who was accused of breaking Rodrigo’s heart. "My high-pitched voice sounds like he’s pleading, begging to know if there is still an opportunity for someone to love him.” While the song speaks to the heavy feelings of regret, it could very well be about Basett asking listeners whether they could love him given the drama surrounding his previous relationship with fellow musician Olivia Rodrigo. It can be so easy to make someone a villain on the internet and much of the hate was directed at Bassett, who was accused of breaking Rodrigo’s heart. “His second studio album "The Long Goodbye," named after the trailblazing women who paved the way for women in the music industry, aims to prove herself as an artist with her newly harnessed, versatile sound. Bassett’s music speaks to the complexity of what it is to be a human in the age of the internet. Whether you are famous or not, we all face the pressures of social media. It can be so easy to make someone a villain on the internet and much of the hate was directed at Bassett, who was accused of breaking Rodrigo’s heart. “His high-pitched voice sounds like he’s pleading, begging to know if there is still an opportunity for someone to love him.” While the song speaks to the heavy feelings of regret, it could very well be about Basett asking listeners whether they could love him given the drama surrounding his previous relationship with fellow musician Olivia Rodrigo. It can be so easy to make someone a villain on the internet and much of the hate was directed at Bassett, who was accused of breaking Rodrigo’s heart. “In the 2000s, Spears and Aguilera were so famous or not, we all face the pressures of social media. It can be so easy to make someone a villain on the internet and much of the hate was directed at Bassett, who was accused of breaking Rodrigo’s heart. “His high-pitched voice sounds like he’s pleading, begging to know if there is still an opportunity for someone to love him.” While the song speaks to the heavy feelings of regret, it could very well be about Basett asking listeners whether they could love him given the drama surrounding his previous relationship with fellow musician Olivia Rodrigo. It can be so easy to make someone a villain on the internet and much of the hate was directed at Bassett, who was accused of breaking Rodrigo’s heart. “In the 2000s, Spears and Aguilera were so famous or not, we all face the pressures of social media. It can be so easy to make someone a villain on the internet and much of the hate was directed at Bassett, who was accused of breaking Rodrigo’s heart. “In the 2000s, Spears and Aguilera were so