



FIRE ON THE FOUNTAIN

EVAN REINHARDT | SPARTAN DAILY

San Jose State homecoming tradition returns after two years, hundreds attend

By Christine Stevens
STAFF WRITER

Many San Jose State community members expressed joyous relief about reconnecting with peers at the university's 14th annual "Fire on the Fountain" Thursday night.

While the homecoming tradition was canceled in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, hundreds of people gathered on Tower Lawn from 4-9 p.m.

International business junior Anika Puri said it was her second time at Fire on the Fountain since attending her freshman year.

"It reminds me of high school in the sense that everyone comes out and has this spirit and

there's this whole atmosphere of everyone coming together," Puri said.

The event featured an alumni social, student organization fair, student performers and a pyrotechnics show followed by the homecoming court announcement.

Puri said she enjoys the Fire on the Fountain performances because they portray a wide variety of cultures, reflecting SJSU's diverse campus.

Some performances included Spartan WUSHU, a contemporary Chinese performance based martial art, Korean Entertainment Club, the Sikh Student Association, Spartan Mambo and Grupo Folklorico.

Justin Amanita performs corn starch fire breathing on a Tower Lawn event stage Thursday at about 8 p.m. Amanita is part of the group Organic Pyrotechnic, also known as OG Pyro, who perform fire breathing with acrobatics, technical skill and dance style, according to its website.

HOMECOMING | Page 2

Local activists: agricultural protesters in India need US backing

By Saumya Monga
STAFF WRITER

Many San Jose State and Bay Area community members continue to support farmers in India who've been protesting since three contentious agricultural laws passed in September 2020 pertaining to the "mandi system."

Amar Singh, Bay Area Kisaan Movement co-founder, said the mandi system is a market for farmers to sell their crops.

As "Kisaan" stands for farmers in Punjabi, Singh said the group has been organizing local protests in support of repealing India's recent agricultural laws for more than a year.

"With these new laws that went into place, the [minimum support price] was taken away in the mandi system. When the farmers go there to sell their crop, they're going to be at the mercy of these big corporations that can literally put any price on anything," Singh said. "These laws also take away the governance."

The minimum support price is the lowest price farmers are guaranteed for their produce, according to a Feb. 3 Juggernaut article.

The Juggernaut is a media company that reports on South Asia, which consists of countries in the Indian subcontinent, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan, according to its website.

India's recent farm laws eliminate the minimum



ILLUSTRATION BY HANZ PACHECO

FARMERS | Page 2

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AS ASSOCIATED STUDENTS SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

HOMECOMING

Continued from page 1

The Sirens of Sparta, SJSU's competitive dance team, was the first to perform.

Eve Garibay, Sirens of Sparta member and communications freshman, said Thursday was her first time performing in years.

"It's really thrilling," Garibay said. "The last time I performed I was a junior in high school, so it's been a really long time."

Marketing junior Saul Mendez said he didn't have a favorite performer but he was excited to attend Fire on the Fountain for the first time.

"I think the performance was just impeccable so I give them all a 10 out of 10," Mendez said.

He said the biggest benefit of this event was having students, faculty and others be a part of the university community and show their school spirit.

"Everybody was having so much fun and it's a great way to finish midterms as well," Mendez said.



EVAN REINHARDT | SPARTAN DAILY

Esiah Gomez, Spartan Spectrum dance team member, promotes Friday's homecoming football game.

“Coming back to campus has been a little hard for recruitment but I feel like Fire on the Fountain is a good opportunity for us.

Tony Lopez
quidditch club president

Ikaika Rapanot, Associated Students director of co-curricular affairs, said the event planning began in August and required

multiple A.S. committees' involvement.

"All the departments of A.S. just got together and wanted to collaborate and work with recognized student organizations to give this community back what it needs to have," Rapanot said.

The evening-long event had giveaways and free food for students including a taco truck. The A.S. handed out blue and gold shirts that said, "Homecoming 2021 Return of the Spartans."

Other student organizations present were the SJSU Quidditch

Club and departments on campus including the Chicax/Latinx Student Success Center.

Tony Lopez, quidditch club president and English senior, said this was the first time the club tabled at Fire on the Fountain even though they've been on campus since 2014.

Lopez said the club joined in hopes of gaining 15-20 new members.

"Coming back to campus has been a little hard for recruitment," Lopez said. "But I feel like Fire on the Fountain is a good opportunity for us."

Brianna Navarrete, social work sophomore and Chicax/Latinx center's student success leader, said she hoped having a table at the event would bring more Latinx and Chicax students together.

"I'm so happy to be here and to be able to be a part of this," Navarrete said.

Around 8 p.m., professional fire dancers came on stage and twirled rings of fire while dancing to rock and pop songs. The performers breathed fire as the crowd cheered.

Kristy Fortes, a performer

from Infinite Spin Performing Arts, and Organic Pyrotechnic performer Ian Plimmer were part of the fire show.

The headliner group was hired by the university to perform at Fire on the Fountain.

"I think what we do is really unique with the fire performance style," Plimmer said.

Fortes and Plimmer both said they were excited to be able to perform in front of a crowd again, especially in such a big event.

SJSU President Mary Papazian made an appearance on stage and encouraged everyone to attend the homecoming game.

The event concluded with football players, the marching band, SJSU's Spartan Spectrum Dance Team and Sirens of Sparta coming on stage and rallying the crowd with school spirit for Friday's homecoming game.

The four finalists for the 2021 Homecoming court were also announced at the end of the event.

Fire on the Fountain ended with fireworks around 9 p.m. to celebrate the closing of one of SJSU's biggest events of the year.

Eve Garibay said school events including Fire on the Fountain are critical for making connections at SJSU.

"I think these [events] are really important to have a sense of community with my peers, people that I haven't been able to ever get to meet," Garibay said. "I may not take the same classes as them or have the same schedules, where they may commute so they're not on campus as much."

PHOTOS & VIDEO | Page 3

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FARMERS

Continued from page 1

support price and will mostly apply to Punjab and Haryana states, according to the Juggernaut article.

Farmers from Punjab and Haryana, the last two states under the mandi system, were wealthier than those from other states according to the same Juggernaut article.

The agricultural laws were developed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan to bring all states under similar market laws, according to the same article.

These laws abolish the mandi system, which all other states except Punjab and Haryana had already removed, according to the same article.

The biggest rally within the months-long demonstrations throughout India was on Sept. 5 with hundreds of thousands of farmers in the streets of India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh, a predominantly agricultural state, according to a Sept. 5 Reuters article.

Farmers from Punjab and Haryana states are concerned about the effects removing the minimum support price will have on them, especially because they've seen the way other states have been changed by a free market, according to the Juggernaut article.

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What most of our community does in Punjab is farming so to take that away from a community and put a company's rule over it is like taking your entire livelihood away from you. In a sense, it's like taking away a person's land, a person's homeland.

Amrit Gill
political science freshman

When the mandi system was removed in Bihar there was a dramatic fall in crop prices as farmers were left to bargain against large private retailers and food processors, according to the same article.

Farm laws' effects

Political science associate professor Karthika Sasikumar said any disruption to India's food supply will affect the rest of the world because of its large population and food export.

"India has the second-largest population in the world so any sort of disruption to the food available to Indians [has a] worldwide impact

on hunger," Sasikumar said. "Anyone who cares about hunger as a global issue [should] be concerned about the food supply in India because it is so large."

India makes up about 18% of the world's population, according to Worldometer, a world statistics provider.

About 60% of the Indian labor force relies on agriculture, which accounts for about 15% to the country's \$2.7 trillion economy, according to a Nov. 30, 2020 New York Times article.

"Anything that you're eating or you're wearing, where do you think it is coming from?" Singh said. "A lot of these things are coming from [India] so everything comes back full circle."

Indian farmers grew \$128 million worth of vegetables that were exported to the U.S. in March 2021, according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity, a data visualization platform.

India is also the third largest wheat producer in the world and Punjab alone provides about 17% of that wheat, according to a March 5 article by Statista, a platform that provides people with market and consumer data.

Political science freshman Amrit Gill said the Sikhism religion is deeply intertwined with agriculture.

"What most of our community does in Punjab is farming so to take that away from

a community and put a company's rule over it is like taking your entire livelihood away from you," Gill said. "In a sense, it's like taking away a person's land, a person's homeland."

Sikhism is a religion founded in Punjab by Guru Nanak Ji about 500 years ago, according to a BBC article.

Guru Nanak emphasized a single divine force that united people from different backgrounds, according to an Aug. 9, 2018 article by The Conversation, an independent news outlet.

About 60% of Punjab's population follows Sikhism, according to an article by World Population Review, a platform that provides

readers with accessible data on world statistics.

There are about 500,000 Sikhs living in the U.S. and California has the third largest concentration of Sikh residents, according to a Dec. 2016 informational graphic by the Sikh Coalition, an advocacy group based in the U.S.

"Our founding guru Guru Nanak Ji emphasized farming essentially. Everything goes back to agriculture," Singh said.

Protest movement

Gill said she has attended protests and held educational events to show solidarity with farmers in India.

"There have been multiple protests. We had a really big one up in [San Francisco] that shut down the [Bay Bridge] and that got us a lot of publicity," Gill said. "There [are] also weekly protests in front of the [San Francisco] Indian Embassy just to show solidarity with the farmers."

Hundreds of local advocates demonstrated on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge on Dec. 5 last year in support of the farmers, according to a Dec. 5 Mercury News article.

Singh said even though the Bay Area Kisaan Movement has been organizing monthly protests and demonstrations, it's crucial for more residents to get involved.

"It's on us to talk about [the protests] and raise awareness," Singh said. "The struggle is getting everyone to come together."

Singh said he wishes a more diverse group of people came out to the protests in the Bay Area instead of just Punjabi-Americans.

Gill shared Singh's sentiment, adding "We need international solidarity. I think it is very important in the overall fight for our community back home."

International solidarity became stronger when Rihanna, a singer, actress and fashion designer who has about 103 million Twitter followers, linked a Feb. 3 CNN article regarding India's farmer protests in a February Twitter post and asked, "Why aren't we talking about this?!" according to a Feb. 4 NBC News article.

After Rihanna's post many other celebrities including Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg followed suit and spoke out in solidarity with the protesters, according to the NBC News article.

"Americans don't really care about an issue until people they look up to speak up about it," Gill said regarding Rihanna's post. "If you try to educate the American community about issues they'll probably agree just [to save face]."

Advocacy momentum

India's protests have continued to escalate with demonstrations and protest camps

occurring throughout the country, according to an Oct. 4 New York Times article.

The government has responded with drastic measures including violence and

“

Anything that you're eating or you're wearing, where do you think it is coming from? A lot of these things are coming from [India] so everything comes back full circle.

Amar Singh
Bay Area Kisaan Movement
co-founder

internet outages, according to the New York Times article.

Both Singh and Gill agreed it's hard to keep the movement's momentum, especially because it's been more than a year since the farmers began protesting.

"The farmers are serious about this, they're not just going to let the government come in and literally push them around. Their voice was not heard before the laws went into place, their voice [is] not being heard right now while [they've] been protesting for the past year," Singh said.

Singh said despite the challenges, the unity of first generation young people fighting for their grandparents in India is amazing.

He said he's also inspired by elder farmers protesting in India.

"[I am just] putting myself in [the farmers'] shoes and thinking how fortunate we are and then using that as energy to keep going forward and keep talking about it and raising awareness because [the farmers are] the real protesters," Singh said.

Singh said it's important to educate surrounding people on what's happening to farmers in India.

He said while some may believe those in other countries shouldn't speak on the situation, it's at least those of Sikh diaspora that have a duty to take action.

"The land is in our blood. The land is our right," Singh said. "[So we must be] true to where we come from and being a voice for our people."

Follow Saumya on Twitter @MongaSaumya

Fire on the Fountain

Photos by Evan Reinhardt



Above: A member of Grupo Folklorico Luna y Sol de San Jose waves her dress during Fire on the Fountain Thursday night on Tower Lawn.

Top right: Justin Amanita, an OG Pyro club member, dons a Spartan helmet as he performs his pyrotechnics routine.

Bottom: Members of the Sikh Student Association perform Bhangra dance, a traditional folk-dance that originates in the Punjab region of India.



CHECK OUT THE SPARTAN DAILY'S VIDEO COVERAGE BY STAFF WRITER EVAN REINHARDT ON YOUTUBE

CLASSIFIEDS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15				16				
17					18				19				
20					21				22				
			23					24	25				
26	27	28	29		30			31					
32					33			34	35		36	37	38
39				40				41	42				
43					44	45			46				
			47		48		49		50				
51	52	53				54			55				
56					57	58			59	60	61	62	
63					64				65				
66					67				68				
69					70				71				

- ACROSS**
1. Small slits
6. Wanes
10. Nursemaid
14. A green fabric mixture
15. Mangle
16. Indian dress
17. Anoint (archaic)
18. Monster
19. Sprockets
20. Portion
22. God of love
23. Stage
24. Conceit
26. Catholic church service
30. Mayday
31. A late time of life
32. Pearly-shelled mussel
33. Once more
35. Impudr
39. Whorl of petals
41. Wolfsbane
43. Urgency
44. Pervert
46. A ball of yarn
47. Skirt's edge
49. Calypso offshoot
50. Ouches
51. Kittenish
54. Rubber wheel
56. Emanation

57. Impasse
63. Neuter
64. Carry
65. Egyptian peninsula
66. French for "Head"
67. Angers
68. Finally (French)
69. Clairvoyant
70. To tax or access
71. Shop
- DOWN**
1. Smack
2. Solitary
3. Not under
4. After-bath powder
5. Horse
6. Agitated
7. Pulp
8. Town (American slang)
9. Record protector
10. Dominance
11. New Zealand native
12. Lingo 13. _____ fit
21. Twangy, as a voice
25. And
26. Large indefinite quantity
27. Dwarf buffalo
28. Knights
29. Seer
34. Outlandishness

36. Storage cylinder
37. Goulash
38. Evergreens
40. Scallion
42. Common beet
45. Demesnes
48. Occult
51. Abstains from eating
52. Indian monetary unit
53. Angry
55. S S S S
58. Ripped
59. Hue
60. Data
61. Den
62. Connects two points

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

5				6				1
		3	1	8				
1	4			9		5		
	9			4				2
	7							5
2			8					6
		4		5			3	7
				6	8	4		
7			2					5

JOKIN' AROUND

"What did one wall say to the other?"

"I'll meet you at the corner."

SOLUTIONS Oct. 14

A	R	S	E	S	A	L	V	E	B	E	R	M	
D	U	N	G	P	R	I	E	S	A	S	I	A	
I	D	E	O	L	O	G	I	S	T	L	O	C	
O	D	E	I	N	U	I	T	A	S	P	E	N	
S	Y	R	I	N	G	E	M	Y	N	A	H		
			N	E	E	S	E	A	T	M	A	T	
S	O	U	N	D	W	O	N	K	S	G	O	A	
E	R	R	S	T	O	F	T	S	Y	U	R	T	
E	G	G	A	R	R	A	S	F	A	S	T	S	
R	Y	E	G	R	A	S	C	A	W				
			N	Y	M	P	H	S	E	R	P	E	N
D	E	C	R	Y	I	O	T	A	S	D	O	E	
U	R	I	A	O	P	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N
P	O	E	T	R	E	E	V	E	A	L	S	O	
E	S	S	E	E	R	N	E	S	T	E	E	N	

2	1	9	4	5	7	8	3	6
7	8	3	2	1	6	5	4	9
6	5	4	3	8	9	2	7	1
9	3	5	7	6	2	1	8	4
4	6	1	5	3	8	9	2	7
8	2	7	9	4	1	6	5	3
5	9	8	6	7	3	4	1	2
1	7	2	8	9	4	3	6	5
3	4	6	1	2	5	7	9	8

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TRAVIS WYNN | SPARTAN DAILY

San Jose State running back Shamar Garrett runs with the ball past the Aztecs' defensive line during the first quarter at CEFCU Stadium Friday.

Spartans lose in homecoming game

By Estevan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Homecoming was not a welcome return for San Jose State as the football team fell short 19-13 against San Diego State on Friday night at CEFCU Stadium.

The Spartans (3-4, 1-2 MWC) took the No. 24, undefeated Aztecs (6-0, 2-0) to double overtime but a late interception on quarterback Nick Nash set the stage for the Aztecs' game-winning touchdown.

The first half of the game was not as thrilling, however.

Both teams were scoreless in the first quarter and could only muster a combined 12 points in the form of three field goals.

SJSU almost scored off a Nash 35-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Charles Ross but it was called back by

a face mask penalty in the first quarter.

The Spartans trailed the Aztecs 6-3 at halftime in a low-scoring defensive showcase.

SDSU ranks 10th nationally in rushing the ball as it averages 244 yards a game. Yet, the Spartan defense held the Aztecs to only 70 yards on 36 carries.

Head coach Brent Brennan said he was thrilled with his team's defensive performance but penalties stopped any offensive momentum the Spartans created.

"I thought [we] battled tough but the thing that's going to make us sick are the penalties which are just ridiculous," Brennan said. "We need to eliminate them because we missed opportunities to win."

SJSU ended the game with a season-high 12 penalties that cost the team 101 yards.

The defensive

showdown resulted in a combined total of 14 punts, with one punt by the Aztecs being 86 yards which pinned the Spartans in their own end zone.

SJSU kicker Matt Mercurio tied the game



I think there's a lot of positives that we can take out there but what hurt was penalties and making dumb mistakes, but you know it was a hard-fought battle. Obviously, it hurts to lose.

Nick Nash
quarterback

at 6-6 with a field goal in the fourth quarter and eventually had the game in his hands in the final seconds.

Nash and the Spartan offense moved down the field in the last minutes of regulation to set up Mercurio for the

game-winning field goal with about 20 seconds left.

Mercurio looked to be the hero for SJSU but missed the field goal wide right, sending the game to overtime tied at six points.

The sole spark on offense for SJSU was running back Tyler Nevens as he finished the game with a total of 74 yards rushing and one touchdown.

"I think we played great tonight and our chemistry as an offense

came together and we're more sound than ever before in the past weeks," Nevens said.

Nevens' touchdown came in overtime after SDSU scored first to tie the game again at 13-13.

SJSU almost gained control of the game in double overtime but Nash was intercepted by the SDSU defense in the end zone.

The Aztecs capitalized by scoring the walk-off touchdown in the following drive, winning the game 19-13.

Nash finished the game with 16 of 34 pass attempts and one interception.

"I think there's a lot of positives that we can take out there but what hurt was penalties and making dumb mistakes, but you know it was a hard-fought battle," Nash said. "Obviously, it hurts to lose."

Before the game, SJSU inducted former wide receiver and Super Bowl-

winning NFL player James Jones, who was in attendance, into the SJSU Ring of Honor after the first quarter.

Jones was congratulated with a TV message by Brennan and his former Packers teammates Aaron Rodgers, Randall Cobb and Devante Adams who said, "You are a legend."

Rodgers, who played with Jones on the Packers from 2003-06, said in the video, "No one talks as much about their alma mater as you do. I'm so thankful to have played with you for so many years and to call you a close friend."

The Spartans (3-4) look to bounce back as they are expected to take on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (0-6) on Oct. 21 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas at 8 p.m.

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<p>SHOWTIMES</p> <p>FRIDAY 1:00PM 5:35PM</p> <p>SATURDAY 3:00PM 7:20PM</p> <p>SUNDAY 12:30PM 5:05PM</p> <p>TUESDAY 5:45PM</p>	<p>SHOWTIMES</p> <p>FRIDAY 3:35PM 8:10PM</p> <p>SATURDAY 1:00PM 5:20PM</p> <p>SUNDAY 3:05PM 7:20PM</p> <p>TUESDAY 3:45PM 8:05PM</p>		

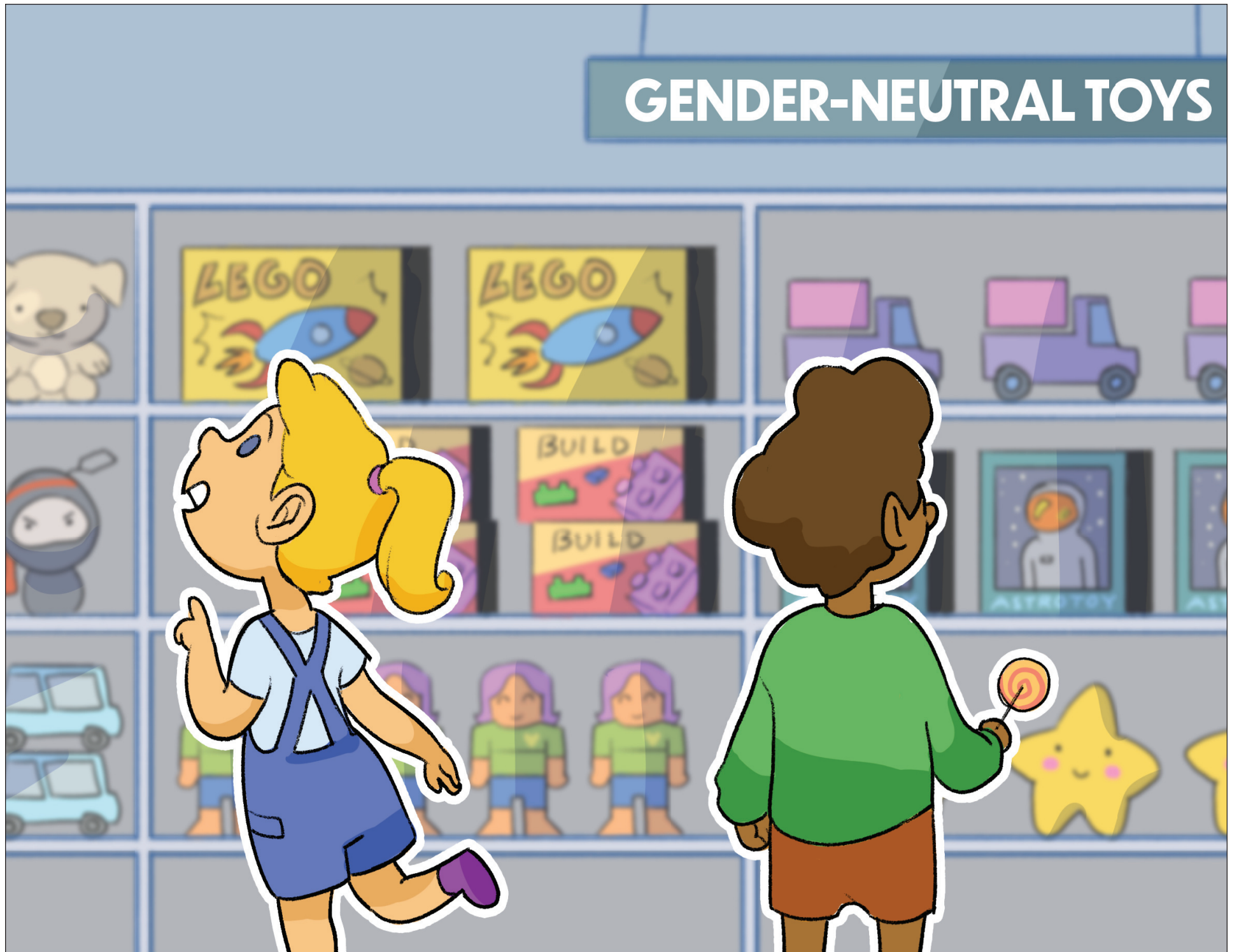


ILLUSTRATION BY BIANCA RADER

California embraces children's diversity

Toys shouldn't be gendered and kids deserve unlabeled self-exploration



Estevan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

Parents shouldn't get to decide whether their child wants to play with the G.I. Joe action figure or the Barbie doll, the decision should be left to the child.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom passed a bill on Oct. 9 mandating major retail stores to include a gender-neutral toy aisle for children.

Assembly Bill 1084 will force retailers that employ more than 500 people to have non-gendered toy sections starting in 2024, according to an Oct. 11 Washington Post article.

The bill is helping children feel less pressured to conform to a certain gender stereotype and allows them the freedom to express themselves from a younger age.

To limit a child to a toy section that matches their biological sex is not only wrong but unfair and damaging to a child's developing interests.

However, one of the biggest issues when discussing gender-neutral toys is gender dysphoria.

Gender dysphoria is a mental health disorder where adults or children experience intense emotional distress because they feel they were born as the wrong gender, according to the Child Mind Institute website.

The Child Mind Institute also specified being transgender or gender non-conforming is not a mental disorder. Gender identity isn't the issue, the turmoil that comes from being unable to express that identity creates those detrimental symptoms.

It's crucial for children to express themselves early on as gender dysphoria can affect a child as early as 7 years old, according to a June 16, 2020 Cedars-Sinai article.

Cedars-Sinai is a nonprofit academic healthcare organization that provides a wide range of community benefits, according to its website.

A 2016 Cedars-Sinai study found 73% of transgender women and 78% of transgender men first experienced gender dysphoria by age 7.

AB 1084 will help children feel comfortable in their own skin and encourage them to play with toys they're interested in.

The bill will not ban male and female gendered aisles but will add a gender-neutral aisle that applies to childcare products and toys but not to clothing, according to an Oct. 10 KTVU article.

that delivers comprehensive treatment for substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders, according to its website.

Many children who have issues with gender at an early age struggle later in life with mental illnesses as they deal with the fact that society won't accept a child's right to choose who they want to be, according

only help children explore themselves but also help parents give children freedom to choose who they are.

This could build healthier relationships and futures for their children.

However, some Republican leaders believe AB 1084 isn't beneficial for kids and the government shouldn't tell parents how to shop for their children, according to an Oct. 9 Associated Press News article.

The government isn't telling parents how to shop, it's expanding gender paradigms that are pushed by society and allowing freedom for kids to express themselves.

In fact, for parents who believe their child should choose what interests them, starting with a gender-neutral toy section is beneficial.

This law will help many children explore who they are as an individual.

The way children perceive their place in the world based on their gender matters.

We should be more sensitive to the experiences of others in order to build a more inclusive society.

Royvi Hernandez contributed to this article.

Gender-neutral aisles not only help children explore themselves but also help parents give children freedom to choose who they are. This could build healthier relationships and futures for their children.

This is a step in the right direction to help end gender dysphoria and let children have a feeling of independence and security from a young age.

People who have gender dysphoria have a higher rate of suicide than the general population, according to The Recovery Village website.

About 32%-50% of people with gender dysphoria attempt suicide in their lifetime.

The Recovery Village is a drug and alcohol rehab program

to a Jan. 17, 2018 Research Digest article.

If a girl is drawn to cars and building toys then she's labeled from a young age as a tomboy and if a boy is drawn to dolls then it's seen as girly.

This could be extremely damaging to a child's mental health and sense of self.

However, gender-neutral toys help avoid depression and further struggles in their adult lives.

Gender-neutral aisles not

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ABOUT

The Spartan Daily prides itself on being the San Jose State community's top news source. New issues are published every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the academic year and online content updated daily.

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