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Wednesday,
Oct. 19, 2022

Spartan Daily

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No. 25

SJSU sparks sustainable solutions

Community members: how to combat climate change



By **Alessio Cavalca**
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State community members gathered Tuesday on Seventh Street Plaza for the “Cool Solutions for a Warming Planet,” an event aimed to address climate change issues.

California State Senator Dave Cortese gave a speech during the event

focusing on what measures California is currently taking to combat climate change as well as how happy he felt to see students at the event.

“It’s always great to see so many young leaders here today and there will continue to be opportunities, lots of opportunities, for youth and to be [part of] this climate movement,” Cortese said.

He said he thinks climate literacy is the next big step to take.

“California currently has over 3,200 fellows in their cause for network,” Cortese said. “We’re all working to better their community and, of course, fight the good fight.”

He said he was proud of bringing the California Climate Action Board, the statewide coalition environmental stewards and next generation leaders at SJSU.

The California Climate Action Board is a multi-agency team that coordinates



Few climate service project participants, including many college students in that program, can directly impact climate action for the greater good, as well as engage in climate education.

Dave Cortese
California State Senator

the state’s climate efforts, according to its website.

“Few climate service project participants, including many college students in that program, can directly impact climate action for the greater good, as well as engage in climate education,” Cortese said.

Besides the event speakers, “Cool Solutions for a Warming Planet,” spotlighted vendors who, through their businesses, looked to spotlight climate change issues.

ALESSIO CAVALCA | SPARTAN DAILY
California State Senator Dave Cortese talks about the state’s efforts to combat climate change issues at a podium in front of several San Jose State community members Tuesday on Seventh Street.

CLIMATE | Page 5

SJSU students win grand prize during Intel’s ‘hackathon’

By **Brandon Twomey**
STAFF WRITER

Two San Jose State students won grand prizes during Intel’s AI For Social Good Hackathon event at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center in Downtown San Jose on Sept. 26.

The hackathon featured students who showcased their machine learning skills, were taught how to build full end-to-end products and had the opportunity to study MLOps pipelines using data ingestion to model their deployments.

MLOps is a machine learning engineering culture and practice that aims at unifying ML (machine learning) system development and system operation.

Attendees would also automatically qualify to attend “Intel Innovation,” which is an event where Intel displays their latest advancements in AI technology.

The reward given to the winning team was an Intel NUC 12 Pro X Kit, which consists of a small-form-factor computer. This \$1,400 kit comes with a 4.90 GHz processor chip which can be used towards the 64 GB memory card inside the computer.

Ankur Singh, who is pursuing his masters degree in computer software engineering at SJSU, and Tirupati Venkata Sri Sai Rama Raju Penmatsa, who is also pursuing his masters degree in computer software engineering at SJSU, were the grand prize winning team of the Hackathon event.

Singh said it was so important to him that he had won the entire competition, and winning had revealed his talents to himself.

“Winning this competition has boosted my confidence a lot,” Singh said. “It’s kind of a validation

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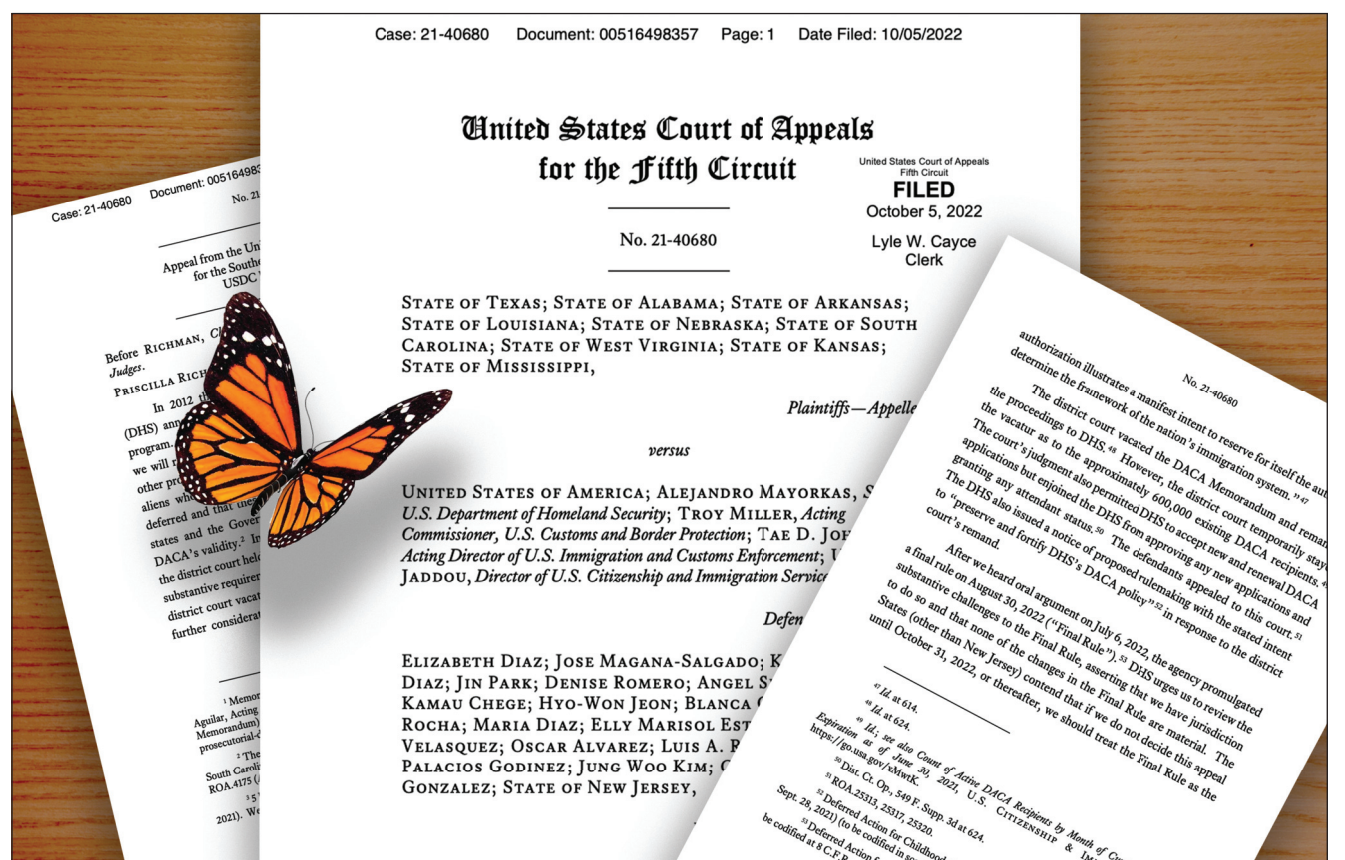


PHOTO COLLAGE BY BRYANNA BARTLETT; SOURCE: U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT OCT. 5 RULING

Appeals court rules against DACA; program continues

By **Adrian Pereda**
STAFF WRITER

Many undocumented students are at potential risk of deportation as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the only policy that allows them to continue to gain an education safely in the U.S., may have its days numbered.

Introduced during former President Barack Obama’s term in 2012, the policy has been in place for a little over a decade.

However, DACA recipients are worried as the Fifth Circuit of Appeals has announced that the Obama administration

had no legal authority to create the program, according to an Oct. 12 NBC News article.

On Oct. 5, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a decision on the DACA policy in which it partially affirmed a decision on the DACA policy in which it partially affirmed the district court’s July 2021 decision declaring the policy unlawful, according to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services DACA webpage.

However, the court of appeals preserved the partial stay issued by the district court in July 2021 and remanded the

DACA | Page 2

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DACA

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case back to the district court for further proceedings regarding the new DACA regulation published on Aug. 30 and scheduled to go into effect on Oct. 31.

With the threat of deportation hanging over their heads once again, Ana Navarrete, the San Jose State UndocuSpartan Student Resource Center program director, said this is a very difficult moment in America.

“The decision of the fifth circuit court of appeals was disappointing,” Navarrete said.

The 453-page federal regulation will codify the Obama-era program into the federal government’s regulations code, according to an Aug. 24 CBS News article.

DACA has permitted hundreds of thousands of unauthorized immigrants who arrived in the U.S. as children to live and work legally without fear of deportation, since its inception a decade ago, according to the CBS News article.

The DACA program currently protects about 800,000 immigrants, according to the American Immigration Council.

The Aug. 24 ruling is designed to address some of the Republican-led challenges against DACA, specifically the July 2021 decision by a Texas federal judge that closed new DACA applications.

The Texas order, which came from the federal court case Texas v. United States, permits the U.S. government to process first-time DACA requests, but it can’t grant or deny the applications, according to a June 29 National Immigration Law Center article.

In accordance with the court’s Oct. 5 order, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will continue to accept and process DACA renewal requests. The service will also continue to accept but will not process new DACA requests.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will also accept and process accompanying requests for employment authorization and applications for advance parole, which allows DACA recipients to travel freely outside of the country and to return without a visa.

Navarrete said as the fifth circuit appeals try to take away the education from the students and children, she still feels like there is hope.

“I believe in the power of advocacy and in the many communities fighting for a comprehensive immigration relief for all undocumented people, including DACA youth,” Navarrete said.

She said if students under the program stay in the state and continue to attend school, everything should be fine.

“Undocumented students in California will continue to receive the same financial aid and in-state tuition benefits regardless of what happens with DACA,” Navarrete said.

Some of the financial aid opportunities that students can continue to qualify for include the Cal Grant, Chafee Grant, Middle Class Scholarship and University of California Grants, according to the California Student Aid Commission DACA webpage.

“We are fortunate to live in a state where state leaders and lawmakers continue to work alongside immigrant rights leaders and institutions of higher ed, such as the CSU, to ensure that undocumented scholars have the resources and support that they need to achieve their academic and career goals,” Navarrete said.

She wants DACA recipients to know that the clock is ticking to get their status renewed, especially since first-time applicants, whose status has expired within the last year, will not have their application reviewed.

Senior student Kimo Anderson, who is outside of the DACA program, said he feels like this is a giant step in the wrong direction.

“I feel like this country prides itself on how we accept so many people here and how this country is a conglomerate of different types of people and experiences,” Anderson said. “But when you do things like this, it begins to put limits on those who come here and it makes DACA receipts feel like they should not be here.”

A junior student who wished to remain anonymous because of security concerns shared their thoughts on what’s going on with DACA right now.

“It is a sad thing to see that those looking to get a good education are facing discrimination again,” the student said.

Even though the program was created under former President Obama’s term, former President Donald Trump repeatedly stated he would try to destroy the program and deport the young scholars back to their countries, according to a June 19, 2020 USA Today article.

“We are not surprised that this is happening,” the anonymous student said. “The program was never a guaranteed thing, but all we can do is hope that we are noticed and given the opportunity to continue going to school.”

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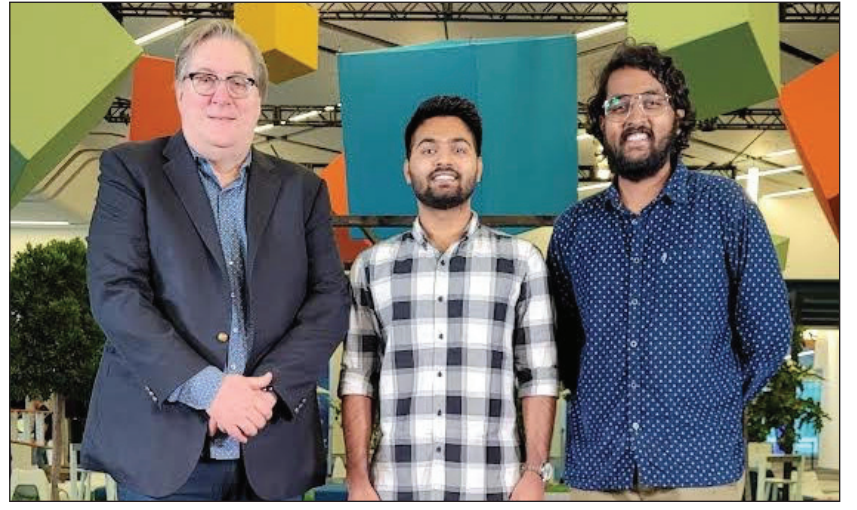


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANKUR SINGH

Intel Chief Technology Officer Greg Lavender (left) and San Jose State students Ankur Singh (center) and Tirupati Venkata Sri Sai Rama Raju Penmatsa (right) smile for a photo after Singh and Penmatsa won the grand prize as a team at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center on Sept. 26.

TECH

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that I am on the right track.”

Singh, who is now leading an ML team at Zoop.one, got into AI work because of his passion for creating.

Zoop.one is an information technology company based in India that specializes in the fields of identity management and security, according to its website.

“I got into AI/ML (artificial intelligence and machine learning) because of my curiosity for building intelligent systems,” Singh said. “I plan to continue developing my skills in AI as the field is growing very rapidly.”

Both Singh and Penmatsa won first place with their AI designs.

“Winning this competition helped me in gaining self confidence,” Penmatsa said. “The kind of confidence that I am in the right direction of learning.”

Like his partner, Penmatsa said he has a passion for building AI, but what pushed him to actually get into it was the 2004 sci-fi thriller movie “I, Robot.”

“I, Robot” stars Will Smith and showcases a world where humans and AI robots live together. The technology behind the film opened the eyes of many to all the possibilities technology can have on society in the future.

Penmatsa said AI is a vast and

complex field of study to get into, which is why he knew he needed assistance.

He said his teammate, Singh, motivated him to join Intel’s competition.

“I got to know about this event through my friend on the research team,” Penmatsa said. “I wanted to join him and thus ended up going together as a team.”

Both Singh and Penmatsa said they have an idea of what their goals are now that they have won this year’s hackathon event.

Singh said he plans on participating in future AI hackathon events and competitions, while continuing to grow his skills in the AI field.

For Penmatsa, he said he sees himself working on his strengths and weaknesses in the technology field.

He said after working on those strengths and weaknesses, he plans on deploying AI models into real world scenarios, where actions can be taken to advance the intelligence system for each product.

“Motivation has always been my fascination, especially with how we could teach computers to recognize various things and give them intelligence,” Penmatsa said.

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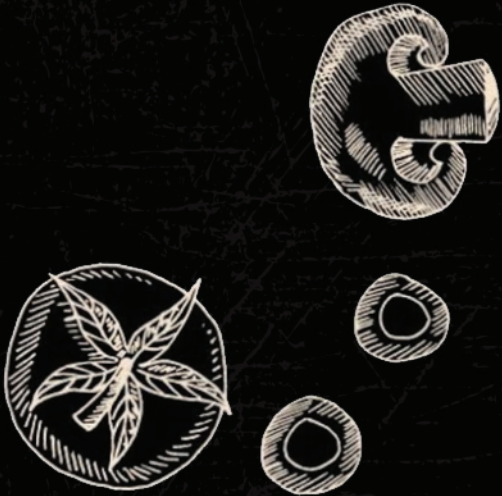
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Pork carnitas, salsa, mozzarella cheese, onions, jalapenos, & cilantro
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Mozzarella cheese, marinated chicken, bacon, & onions
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Mozzarella cheese, marinated chicken, cherry tomatoes, & basil
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'Rebel Yell' offers haunted escape

By Carolyn Brown
OPINION EDITOR

Built in the driveway, garage and side yard of DJ LaForge's home on Rebel Way is Rebel Yell, a dilapidated plywood Victorian home filled with horrors that's eight miles south of San Jose State.

Rebel Yell Haunted House, also called a "haunt," tells the story of a mad scientist living in the Rebel Hill Funeral Home, performing human experiments in a desperate attempt to bring his family back to life.

Originally, Rebel Yell started as a front yard graveyard where LaForge and friend Ernie Lopez would hide and scare people.

"But then we wanted to get more elaborate, put on more of a show," Lopez explained.

The haunt evolved from there, becoming more complex each year.

LaForge said even though nobody can go through and come out with enough knowledge of the narrative to write a book, the story helps make the haunt cohesive.

"We don't have Freddy Krueger, we don't have Jason, we don't have people chasing you around with chainsaws," LaForge said. "We want to scare people, we want to have jumpscars. But, more than that, we want it to be cool."

One of the main inspirations for Rebel Yell is Disneyland's Haunted Mansion.

"It's got that immersive, cool escape from reality kind of thing," LaForge said. "We want it to be an experience that takes you out of reality for a minute."

The haunt isn't just an escape for its guests. "I come out here and work on this, and I'm not thinking about work," LaForge said. "I'm not thinking about bills. I'm not thinking about the fact that I've got to repair my washing machine or whatever else."

Actors jump out from hidden spaces throughout the haunt.

The haunt's eight pneumatics aren't controlled by timers, steps pads or motion sensors. They're controlled by someone pressing buttons while sitting in a central control room.

"Which is, number one, safer," LaForge said. "And number two, a lot more fun."

Pneumatic devices use compressed air, according to Britannica, and can greatly injure someone if they are at a close enough range.

Since the pneumatic devices are controlled by someone watching a camera, they can make sure no one's face is right over the machine when it goes off.

"Also you can time it to get just that person in the group that you want to scare," LaForge said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REBEL YELL HAUNTED HOUSE

A skeleton decoration sits at a desk as part of an attraction at Rebel Yell Haunted House, which is located eight miles south of SJSU.

“We don't have Freddy Krueger, we don't have Jason, we don't have people chasing you around with chainsaws. We want to scare people, we want to have jumpscars. But, more than that, we want it to be cool.”

DJ LaForge
Rebel Yell Haunted House co-creator

LaForge credits Ernie Lopez with doing most of the engineering work behind Rebel Yell.

"He would come to me with 'Hey, how do we think we could do this?'" Lopez said.

Lopez said one of his favorite pieces he's made is the "haunted bookcase" which opens "automatically" when a button is pushed on the control panel.

"Early on, we liked the idea of having a secret entrance," Lopez said. "And you pull a candlestick and open the door. Like a classic movie motif."

Despite being called one of the "scariest home haunts" in America in a 2007 episode of the T.V. show "Route 666," the haunt can get

a variety of reactions.

Tom Logan, a haunt contributor who helped set up the haunted house, says there's a variety of reactions from the attraction.

"I get everything from a scared adult to a five-year-old who laughs at it," Logan said.

The hard part of running the haunt, according to LaForge, is building it – a process that can take over a month – and tearing it down – which can take a couple weeks.

Rebel Yell is free-to-enter, but does take donations for the local charity Angels on Stage.

Angels on Stage is a non-profit dedicated to enhancing the lives of special

needs children and young adults through professional performing arts, according to the charity's website.

"We figured we would just do a local charity that was near and dear to our hearts," Lopez said.

Lopez said seeing the positive impact Angels on Stage had on his daughter made choosing the charity a no brainer.

"Just getting her out of her shell and making friendships," Lopez said. "And becoming – as she gets older – a bit more of a mentor to the other kids."

LaForge estimates that over the past few years Rebel Yell has raised between \$3000 and \$4000.

This year the haunt was expanded by four feet and included another hallway.

"We keep figuring out ways to improve it even with the limited space we have to work with," LaForge said.

Rebel Yell opens for a preview night on Saturday 7-9 p.m., 7-10 p.m. Halloween weekend and 6-10 p.m. Halloween night.

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SAUMYA'S SOUNDS

Exploring resurgence of alternative

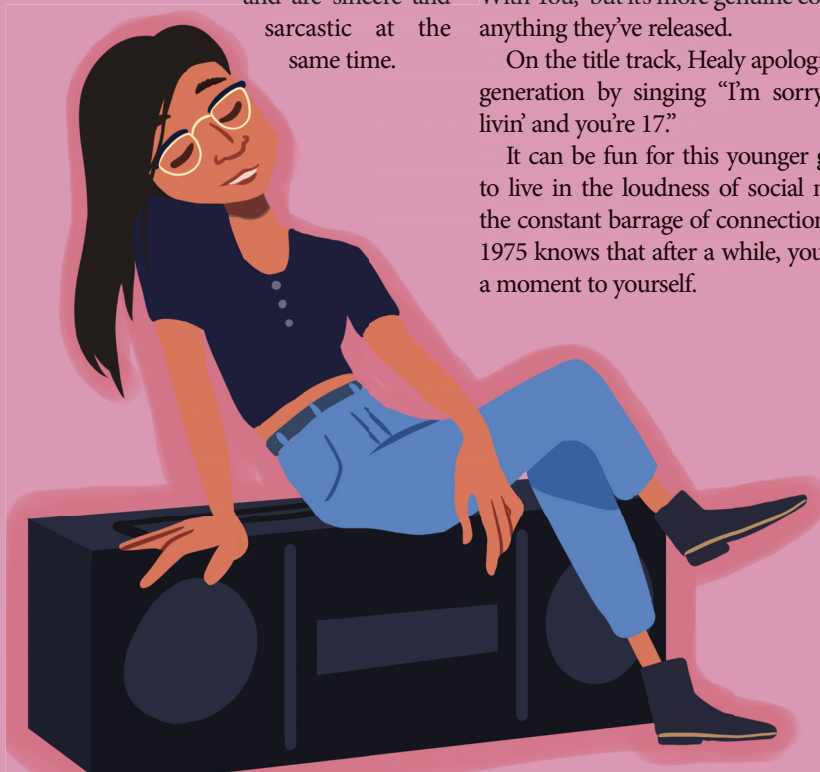
By Saumya Monga
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The 1975, "Being Funny in a Foreign Language" (released on Oct. 14)

The lead singer Matty Healy of popular British band The 1975 is known for his controversial lyrics that tend to name-drop divisive people; namely former President Donald Trump and hip-hop rapper Ye, formerly known as Kanye West.

Because of that political inclination, the band paints a stunning picture of the current zeitgeist.

They are great at being excessive but also minimal. They are aware of this duality and are sincere and sarcastic at the same time.



Their lyrics tend to contrast with their upbeat sound. Ever since their 2013 self-titled debut album, the band has been slowly embracing jazz.

Their sound has always been groovy but their latest album sees them fully leaning into jazz and funk, but a more mellow version.

Every aspect of "Being Funny in a Foreign Language" is much more dimmed down.

If their 2018 album "A Brief Inquiry into Online Relationships" was The 1975 throwing a lavish party, their latest album feels like an intimate afterparty: moody lighting and meaningful conversations.

There is still plenty of groove and excess, especially in catchy songs such as "I'm in Love With You," but it's more genuine compared to anything they've released.

On the title track, Healy apologizes to this generation by singing "I'm sorry if you're livin' and you're 17."

It can be fun for this younger generation to live in the loudness of social media and the constant barrage of connections but The 1975 knows that after a while, you just need a moment to yourself.

Blink-182's new single "Edging" (released on Oct. 14)

Pop-punk has always garnered a largely young and angsty audience.

Since Blink-182's 1994 debut album "Buddha," they have been at the forefront of the movement.

Their spiked hair, obnoxious tattoos and loud voices expressed teenage angst in the most alluring way.

This year, those same pop-punk fans have grown up and so has Blink-182.

"Edging" is their latest single in seven years that features the original band members.

It brings back some of those same heavy guitars and "edgy" lyrics that kids in the late '90s and early 2000s used to listen to on their CD players.

Lead singer and guitarist Tom DeLonge and drummer Travis Barker are both 46. Bassist and vocalist Mark Hoppus is 50. So why are a bunch of 40-to-50 year olds still making pop-punk music?

Their kids are closer to being punk "age" than them at this point.

But since the beginning of the genre, pop punk has never been about being serious. It has always been about taking the piss out of life to the sound of heavy guitars.

Blink-182 has not grown up. Their promotional video for their upcoming album, featuring all three original bandmates, is a parody.

A bunch of strangers talk about how they can't wait for Blink-182 to "cum."

Growing up isn't fun and Blink-182 understands that. So why not stay young for as long as you can?

Album of the week: "Surrender" by Maggie Rogers (released July 29)

I was visiting New York City for the first time in years when I first heard Maggie Rogers' "Surrender."

Her energetic songs became the soundtrack of my trip.

"Be Cool" was playing while I was riding the subway to the quaint neighborhood of Chelsea, located in Manhattan. I rode the bus into New York while blasting "Overdrive" as towering buildings came into view.

Rogers' second album illuminates her finding of freedom.

Her 2019 debut album "Heard It in a Past Life" showed glimpses of Rogers embracing a more electronic-heavy sound but still had a healthy dose of sparse instrumentation.

In "Surrender," Rogers has dropped all inhibitions. The record features her rocky vocals mixed with her lively, dream-pop inspired production.

In 2016, a researcher Tiffany Watt Smith wrote about the unknown emotion of *ilinx*, which she describes as "the 'strange excitement' of wanton destruction," according to a June 15, 2016 article by The Cut.

"Surrender" feels that way. Rogers doesn't want you to think – just do!

On "Shatter," Rogers sings "I could break a glass just to watch it shatter / I'd do anything just to feel with you."

"Surrender" is a visceral record, one that will make you dance, feel and maybe break something.

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PHOTOS BY ALESSIO CAVALCA | SPARTAN DAILY

Above: Members of the San Jose State Environmental Resource Center give notebooks and bamboo straws to students at their table on Seventh Street Plaza Tuesday.

CLIMATE

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Take Back the Tap, one of the organizations that had a booth at the event, works to reduce the consumption of plastic bottled water.

SJSU student John Francis Parsons, who works with Take Back the Tap, said his organization specifically tries to raise awareness about plastic water bottles.

“We have a very limited clean water supply worldwide so it’s really unfair how these plastic water bottle companies are exploiting poor communities and taking advantage of the limited water supply we have with water that’s not safe to drink,” Parsons said.

Take Back the Tap also exhibited a turtle made up of plastic bottles on its table.

“This exhibit is about a turtle and we are trying to show a depiction of what a turtle has to live through and how plastic water bottle corporations are killing marine life,” Parsons said.

The event also illuminated innovative technological transportation.

More specifically, the Solar Powered Automated Rapid Transit Ascendant Network (SPARTAN) Superway, an



Above: A turtle made up of plastic bottles is exhibited by Take Back the Tap vendors at their table on Seventh Street Plaza Tuesday.

“We have a very limited clean water supply worldwide so it’s really unfair how these plastic water bottle companies are exploiting poor communities and taking advantage of the limited water supply we have with water that’s not safe to drink.”

John Francis Parsons
SJSU student

ongoing research and development program developed at SJSU in 2012, showcased an innovative solar-powered transportation system.

Burford Furman, SJSU mechanical engineering professor and co-founder of SPARTAN Superway, said the project is the future for transportation because of solar power with zero emissions and no particulates.

“So it is not like a line-cord, Caltrain or the light rail,” Furman said. “The vehicles

travel along the guideway and on top of the guideway are solar panels, which collect all the energy needed to run the system.”

He also said the project has been developed by SJSU mechanical engineering students who have worked on the technologies for the transportation system.

“We would love to have it ready by tomorrow,” Furman said. “But getting funding for a transportation system is very different from receiving funding for a widget.”

Some of the vendors at the event also

tried to spotlight the importance of food waste and its consequences.

Spartan Eats, the sole provider for food and dining services at SJSU, had a tent at the event where it catered food for the attendees.

Jacqueline Ernst-Smith, registered dietitian and wellness director at Chartwells Higher Education Dining Services, said awareness about food waste is critically important.

“Our food today incorporated imperfectly delicious products,” Ernst-Smith said.

She said utilizing imperfect products from top to bottom, for example to make a sauce or a pesto instead of tossing them, is really important to avoid food waste.

Ernst-Smith also said it is fundamental that everybody starts working on slowing down the effect on a daily basis.

“I don’t know if we can bring it all back to happy lands,” Ernst-Smith said. “But I think we can slow down all that.”

In addition, the SJSU Environmental Resource Center attended the event to bring awareness about how people’s individual choices play important roles in

climate change.

Kalanna Eldridge, the director of the center, said her and other members of the center were asking attendees to make their own independent pledges toward the environment by providing them notebooks.

She said some examples of pledges suggested to students varied from recycling, to reducing carbon emissions by carpooling or riding bikes.

“We are also giving them reusable bamboo straws, instead of plastic straws and we’re giving out environmental stickers and buttons that we’ve made from magazines,” Eldridge said.

She said it is important to start addressing climate change individually and is taking steps herself to create change.

“For example, reducing my plastic use, not buying not purchasing water bottles and staying away from single use plastics,” Eldridge said. “In general, I am just trying to really go to the sustainable aspect of things.”

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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. The Spartan Daily is written and published by San Jose State students as an expression of their First Amendment rights. Reader feedback may be submitted as letters to the editor or online comments.

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