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Access Magazine, May 2015

San Jose State University, School of Journalism and Mass Communications

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ACCESS

Magazine
May 2015

Uncurricular
Activities

Trashion Fashion

Veggielution
Volunteer

Green Ninja

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Photo by Neal Waters

Editor's Word

Welcome to the semester's final issue of Access Magazine where we bring you twice as many pages of information, inspiration and earth-friendly education through photographs and prose our talented staff has created. I hope you discover new things like I did. For example, in Daniel Lipson's article on page 5, a rule in the Quidditch Club says you have to have at least two people of the minority gender on the field at all times. Sweet. Have you heard of Veggielution? Neither had I. But if you go to Rain Stites and Tracy Yuen's photo essay on pages 6 and 7, you'll learn why this community farm was created. Our cover feature by Tracy Yuan on pages 8 and 9 is a "no way was that dress made out of plastic trash bags!" kinda story. It's simply amazing how creativity meets resourcefulness when one focuses on a smaller eco-footprint. Why wear Prada when you can wear a Glad bag cinched at the waist with a red drawstring? A tasty bit of

information, valuable to those burning the midnight (olive) oil to study for finals, is Philip Beadle's article called "Survival Restaurants" on page 14. It's where you'll find which restaurants to bookmark on your GPS, because those eateries stay open past midnight – just be sure to tip the wait staff! You'll enjoy Destiny Palacio's article on page 15, how San Jose State meteorologist Professor Eugene Cordero first became interested in science and the environment based on a topic he chose for a speech class: turned out to be the beginning of his Green Ninja Project. Finally, as we near the end of this spring semester, San Jose happens to be chock-full of entertainment, which is why Anthony Nguyen needed almost the full back cover to list all the comedy shows and concerts sure to keep you happy, movin' and groovin' all summer long.



Charleen Earley

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See how this group is changing global climate literacy in schools.

Tulio Flores

Meet the installation artist who turns recyclables into beautiful art

By Rain Stites

One person's trash is another person's treasure.

Recycling is a term most often associated with environmental consciousness. The spiel, for those who haven't heard it from the tree-hugging community, is to "reduce and reuse." For most however, recycling mastery goes no further than merely throwing a used soda can in the bin labeled "recycling." Tulio Flores sees the world through the looking glass.

“When I create, I go into another dimension. I leave Mother Earth but I do always stay connected to Her, other people and life. My art is fighting against the destruction of life by way of industrialization.”

-Tulio Flores, from his website

"Art can be anything," Flores said. "Whatever is creation is art." Flores practices what is known as installation art.

He takes different elements and assembles them in a site-specific way for a certain period of time.

Pieces within this category incorporate the surroundings of its natural environment; using what is no longer used by anyone else.

"The universe is filled with color, life and expression," Flores wrote in his biography.

With the world as his canvas, Flores's creations are unbounded by conventional practices. He has turned his small home into a gallery and his garage into a studio. Framed on the white walls of his dimly lit living room are colorful paintings.

Seemingly hidden throughout his home are his works, both functional and beautiful. Each element of his pieces, Flores described, had previously belonged to something else before it became "art."

"I was driving and I was like 'Oh my God, I need to have that,'" the artist said, eyes widened with excitement, looking toward the piece of art he described.

Flores told the story of his piece. Without hesitation, he said, he got out of his car and grabbed the must-have: an old piece of plywood.

Flores described how there is "something magical" in every one of these mundane objects.

"For somebody else, it was just a piece of garbage on the street. For me, I saw art," he said, patting the plywood-turned-frame, as he looked at his art piece with pride.

Flores continued to walk around his garage, telling the unique story of each strangely exotic piece.

He walked toward a swivel chair sitting in the corner, grabbed a little red notebook and began flipping through the pages.

"This guy's always with me," he said, looking down at the pages.

The notebook, filled with sketches, thoughts, and other ideas, never leaves Flores' side; he is always on the look-out for new installments to his unfinished pieces.

Flores' skills in construction help implement his art in the real world.

He has learned and passed onto others the ins and outs of the creative process of which he considers art.

The organization "Heart of Chaos," according to its official blog, highlights under-recognized individuals involved in creative industries.

Through this, Flores was able to use the money he received from selling his art to visit the local juvenile hall and teach art classes for free.

And while everyone must "capture their own style," he said, his art portrays his sense of letting go and being free. He describes himself as a "little bird."

"When I'm working on pieces, I go somewhere else," he said, as he walked toward a giant bird-like object named "Fly Away."

And just like a little bird, "When you fly, you can create anything," he said.

He crouched down around the piece, pointing to all the different combinations of elements.

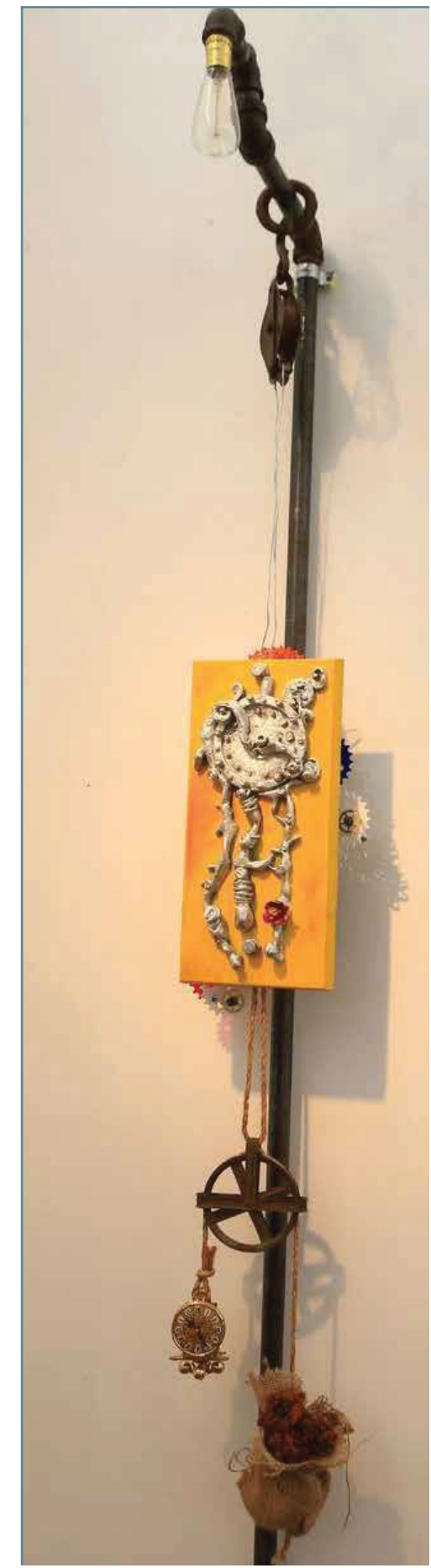
The eccentric bird embodies Flores' love for the artwork he creates.

Many of his pieces include birds in some shape or form because they represent the freedom that art gives him. Whether it is stress from work or his personal life, the art that Flores creates absorbs and releases it all, he said.

Flores said he shares a raw connection with his pieces and while he enjoys sharing his art with others, it is his personal gain, he explained, that keeps him going.

"I don't do it for people, I do it for me," Flores said, a sense of certainty in his voice. "This is my element. This is what I need to do."

Courtesy of Hearts of Chaos 'Time is limit' by Tulio Flores is an installation sculpture created for Hearts of Chaos' SEED exhibit in 2013.



Uncurricular Activities



By Daniel Lipson

San Jose State is home to more than 400 student organizations, ranging from academic clubs such as the Pre-Law Student Society to club sports such as Bass Fishing or even Dragon Boats.

There are religious clubs, cultural clubs, and fraternities and sororities.

Most of these clubs are united by a shared demographic: the same department, culture, religion, or fraternity/sorority.

There are also a handful of activist and charity clubs such as Spartans Spreading Smiles, Strides for the Cure, Speak Out, and others.

All that a club requires is eight founding members with a student adviser, as well as someone to step up as treasurer and president.

These people must go to Associated Students and participate in a new clubs meeting, where you must fill out an online form in order to register the club.

With so many serious clubs on campus vying for attention, sometimes the clubs that are just for fun often get ignored.

Photos by Neal Waters

Juggle at SJSU's Eric Matthews **concentrates on the three clubs he's juggling while his mind is literally growing from the exercise. Juggling actually increases brain matter.**



These three clubs are the ones that are sometimes overlooked in favor of having something impressive to put on your resume.

They both offer people the chance to learn a skill that is fun and unique.

JUGGLE AT SJSU

Juggling burns 280 calories per hour!

Bio

Founded by math professor Brad Jackson in Spring of 1984, Juggle at SJSU performs annually at Fire in the Fountain and other SJSU and local events.

They also teach people how to juggle, including kids at local elementary schools. They have a core group of about a dozen jugglers, and many drop-in members on their social-media page.

Who they are

There are a lot of students from math or computer science. "There's a lot of mathematically related people that like music, so it's something similar to that. I think learning to do math is a lot of trial and error, and certainly learning to do juggling is the same kind of thing." said Jackson.

Why it's cool

"We do juggle flaming torches, so there is a few conflicts every once in a while when we bring our flaming torches out" said Jackson.

"We have to get insurance next time. We typically don't perform with it, but they draw a crowd. Once things get set on fire, everybody will come" said Matthews, another adviser to the club.

It looks impressive, but it's actually not that hard juggling flaming torches. But anyway, it does draw a crowd." said Jackson.

"A lot of people claim they have sore legs after juggling because they have to stoop down and pick up the balls" said Jackson.

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"A lot of people claim they have sore legs after juggling because they have to stoop down and pick up the balls" said Jackson.

How it helps

Juggling is one of the few activities that will increase the gray matter in your brain.

"The part that grows is in the back of the brain, That helps you react to your peripheral vision. You're typically looking ahead, you're not focused on any one club. You start paying attention to your peripheral vision more. Then you become more like Spiderman. When things fall, you're less

likely to let them fall, you just want to grab them, because you can." said Matthews.

If you're considering joining

"Everybody starts out not knowing how to do it, very few people get it in ten minutes or less. Every once in a while we run across someone who gets it in ten minutes, and we have to grill them and ask if they've ever done it before" said Matthews.

Other people may take longer.

SJSU ALL COMEDY

"New Yorkers each create 15 pounds of garbage every average week. Of course, that goes up if you're disposing of a body. "

Bio

Founded by current president Rob Roades in 2014, the All Comedy Club is housed in Sweeny Hall 100. Originally intended to include improv sketches and games, the club has since focused in on being entirely about standup comedy. The club has been successful since the beginning, and new members came very easily.

Who are they

A lot of engineers, a couple business students. "It doesn't seem to attract theater people, my guess is because there's no scripts. You have to improvise, and be truly vulnerable. You can't hide behind a character."

Why it's cool

"Weird people come out, and it's cool to hear people really say how they feel, instead of faking it and saying everything's fine. These people are like, 'no, things are not fine! Let me tell you why!'" said Roades. "It's like a nurturing, loving, open, intimate environment. It's kind of like group therapy."

What's surprising

"Every semester we have new people, and I'm not talking one or two, I'm talking completely new." said Roades, "It's almost like people are done with it, like they're done with their therapy. They don't need this anymore." Yet the club is still very successful. "Most

of the people who come through, standup I think helps them in life, because they're more confident. I think people feel more free, they don't have the burden of whatever it was."

How it helps

"If you're able to do standup well, you're able to do three things that are helpful in life. One is public speaking, two is being funny; that actually is valuable in any job that you do. The third is writing." said Roades.

If you're considering joining

"Come watch, and what you'll see is someone do it really badly, and you'll think, 'I can do better than that'" said Roades. "You'll find your spot. The truth is, we do it in a classroom. Don't you have to make a presentation sometime in your school career? Why not do it about something you care about, yourself?"

SJSU QUIDDITCH

There's an American variation of Quidditch known as Quodpot where players must throw the Quod into a pot before it explodes!

Bio

Muggle quidditch started in 2005 at Middlebury College in Vermont. The SJSU Quidditch Club was founded five years ago by SJSU alumni Emily Knight. The team made it to the International Quidditch Association's World Cup last year. The SJSU club is split between the full contact club sport and the non-competitive Associated Students Quidditch club, which funnels new people into the sport.

Who they are

"You could be a big fat Harry Potter nerd, you could be a jock, you could be anywhere in between those, and Quidditch has something for you." said Elizabeth Barcelos, president of the club. "Our starting keeper Dan is 6 foot, 200 pounds of muscle. He can leg press 1,100 pounds, I was there to see him do it. He laughed, but then he came to our practices and he loves it now. He's an army vet. Arianna isn't 5 foot tall, she's one of our

best chasers because she's small and she's stealthy and people don't notice. And she's gotten steals on Dan, and like I said she's huge." It's the only co-ed full contact sport on campus."

Why it's cool

"It's not just co-ed. There's a rule that there has to be at least two people of the minority gender on the field at all time. I know that sounds like a really wordy way of saying you have to have at least two girls but that's not what it is. If you have any gender identity you counts towards that rule. I've never heard of any other sport that takes people all over the gender spectrum at their face value, 'this is what I identify as, this is what I am.' Quidditch is really inclusive like that. It's inclusive in all ways." Barcelos said.

What's surprising

"In addition to the regular season where you play with your team, there are fantasy tournaments where you put your name in and you get drafted by GMs, and you get to play with people on other teams." said Barcelos, "We play each other and when we're playing it's serious business, we want to win, but then after the games we're all friends. We have this unique thing in common. We're running around on broomsticks and throwing dodgeballs at each other. It's something we share with each other that a lot of other people don't get."

How it helps

It's great for making friends. "My first semester here was really lonely and I didn't know anybody. The Quidditch team became my little family," said Barcelos.

If you're considering joining

"You don't need to be athletic." said Barcelos. "Just to learn how to play Quidditch and join the club, we'll take anyone. And if you want to be on the competitive team, we'll help you get there."

Check out the Sjsu.edu website form more club info.

VEGGIELUTION!

By Rain Stites

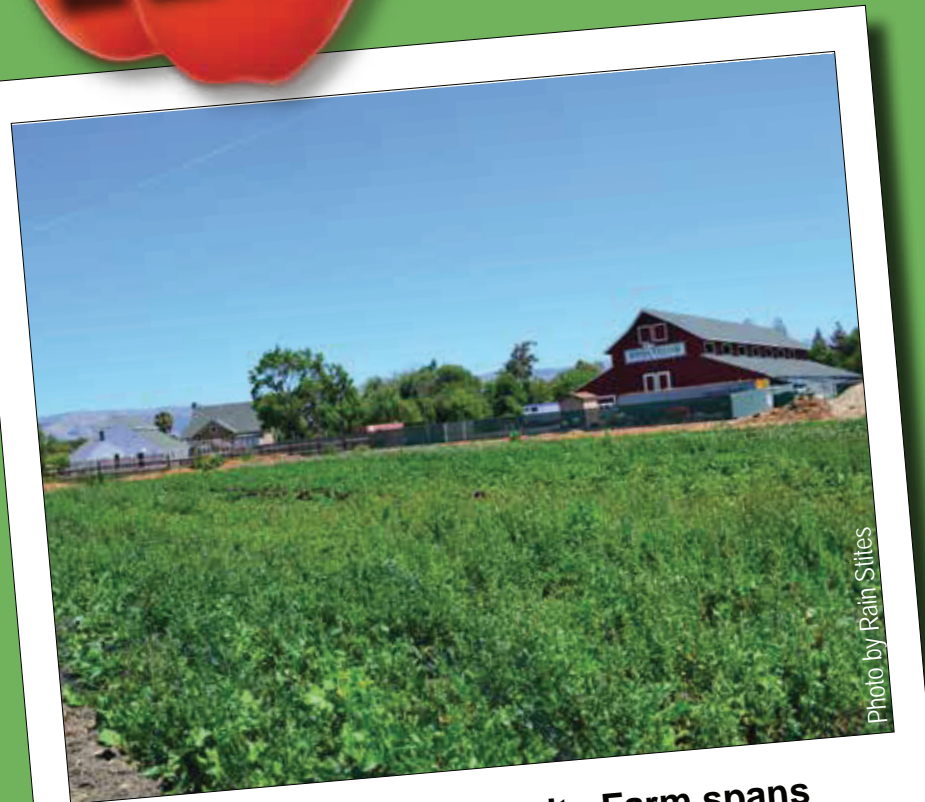


Photo by Rain Stites

The Veggielution Community Farm spans across six acres of land at the Emma Prusch Farm park in San Jose's urban setting.



Photo by Rain Stites

Volunteer Nina Vuoso transplant growing basil plants at the Veggielution Community Farm.



Photo by Rain Stites

Veggielution says the farm wouldn't run as efficiently as it does without the help of volunteers.

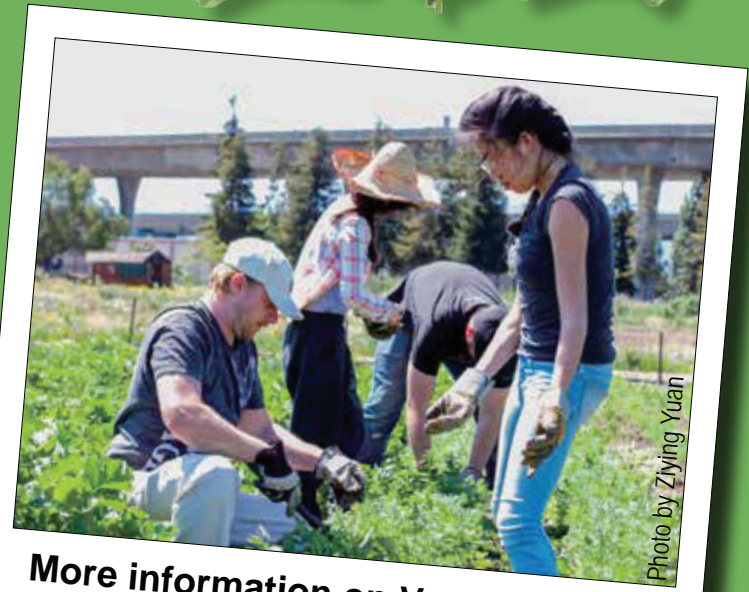


Photo by Ziyang Yuan

More information on Veggielution's role within the community can be found at veggielution.org.

Nestled in the heart of Silicon Valley is San Jose's Veggielution Community Farm where the rural setting uniquely meshes with urban life.

Created in 2008 with the help of a number of local supporters in response to the unhealthy eating habits of the surrounding community, the farm has since thrived on the dedication and time of volunteers and farm staff.

"We are fostering a sustainable food system through our urban farm that engages the community by providing access to organic and local food, creates youth leadership opportunities, and develops creative solutions to environmental and social justice issues," says the Veggielution website.

Keeping to its word, Veggielution sells harvested vegetables at a low cost to the community, even accepting food stamps. Those who volunteer at the farm are able to take home some of the produce they helped harvest.

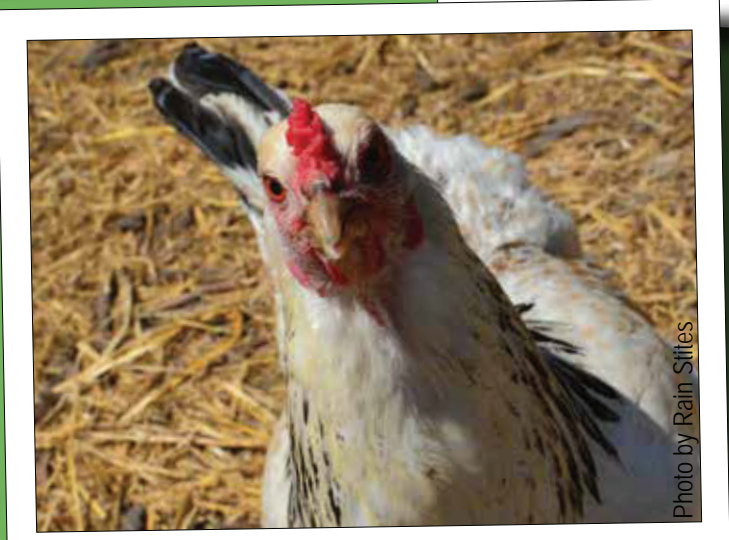
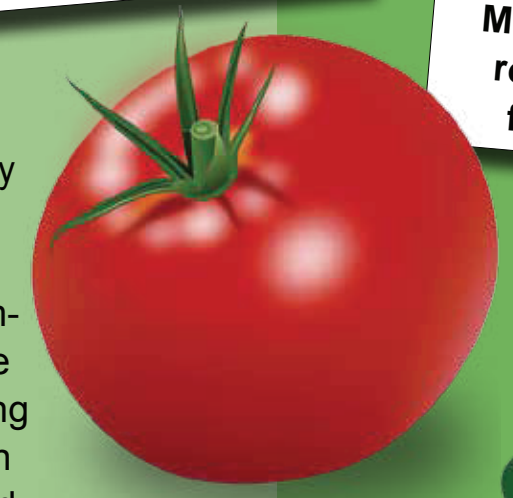


Photo by Rain Stites

The Veggielution Community Farm is home to about 20 chickens and a "resident farm goose."



TRASHION FASHION

Story and Photos by Tracy Yuen



Inspired by an old wedding dress, the designer combined with other recycle materials to redesign a beautiful formal dress.



Using bubble wrap in different colors, this dress brings many hues of purple and blue together.

A box of product labels, aluminum tins, plastic containers and bread bags. These are some of the items collected by student designers for the Earth Day Trashion Fashion Show at San Jose State. The designers search for recyclables and discover ways to employ them as fashionable items of clothing in the seventh annual recyclables fashion show.

Trashion shows promote recycling and are growing in popularity in the United States. It comes as no surprise that this competition brings together the SJSU campus recycled materials, talented student designers, and people who want to protect the environment.

The Associated Students Programming Board will hold its seventh annual Trashion Fashion Show in Campus Village quad on the Earth Day, April 22 at 6 p.m. Kelsey Kilpatrick, director of Programming Affairs, put a call out to prospective artists, designers and anyone who wanted to participate in the show.

In the first portion of the two-part show, entrants have the opportunity to pick up today's trends and stylish

spring fashions provided by a local recycled clothing store. The second portion of the show is a judged competition. Entrants create and submit their own original garments or outfits made out of at least 80% post-consumer materials. Next, they have their pieces selected and readied for use by student models. These models will strut down the catwalk in view of a panel of judges, who will determine three final winners.

This is where art, fashion, and ecology all come together to create a fun and exciting event focused on raising students' awareness about protecting the environment and recycling garbage.

"Recycled materials can make something beautiful, whether it's a piece of clothing, art, or decoration for your room. There are a lot of purposes for recycling materials," said Kelsey Kilpatrick, who also added that the trash you discard, could be someone else's treasure.

Evelyn Nguyen, last year's first place winner, expressed in her work "Paper Couture," her intention for transforming trash into something beautiful. Inspired by Mother Nature,

she designed clothes by using tissue flowers, rhinestones, and newspaper woven together, with a beautiful frilly effect.

Many designers use models to showcase their garments while they handle the runway. However there are also other designers who prefer to model their own garments for the show. There are designers that like to focus on creating outfits for particular individuals, however it is encouraged to create his and hers clothing.

A difference between last year's show and this year's is that A.S. is collaborating with Alpha Kappa Psi, a business fraternity on campus. They will attend the event and set up a booth asking students to donate used clothing. The fraternity will give the donated clothes to the Salvation Army and an independent company that provides clothing to homeless people.

"It's more about professional clothing to use during interviews, so

homeless people can borrow them for interviews, which is really neat," Kilpatrick said.

Except for a few local stores, the students generally see a great deal of support from the local community who try to help the students out as much as they can. Ada Truong, Earth Day event coordinator from The Environmental Resource Center, mentions that the event is very symbolic, as it focuses on sustainability and education while

bringing the community together. It is not just an event for SJSU, but also an event for downtown San Jose.

There were other Earth Day events starting as early as 10:30 a.m. on Tower Lawn on April 22nd. The events include a petting zoo, carnival, vendor fair, an acoustic performance, and workshops promoting Earth Day.

"Earth Day event 2015 will be larger, more interactive and significant, as it is the 45th anniversary of Earth Day," Truong explained.



Designer Anita Emama won first place this year. Her model Ariadna Manzo showcased the dress made of plastic paper. With black and blue, the dress looks elegant and decent. What's more, the suitable accessories made the whole look more radiant.

From your shower to our field

By Brian Stanley

The waste water that flows down the drain during a shower has been helping conservation efforts in the South Bay since 1997. The recycled water keeps grass green at parks and athletic fields across San Jose during California's severe drought. Once treated at the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility, the recycled water, not suitable for drinking, is distributed by South Bay Water Recycling to multiple cities for irrigation needs.

The Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services of San Jose operates 43 sites with

recycled water, including city hall, community centers, libraries, parks and athletic fields according to Jaime Ruiz, Landscape Maintenance Manager. The city's park division website lists 43 community parks with natural grass athletic fields with seven of those fields using recycled water to irrigate the landscape.

All of the natural grass fields on South Campus at San Jose State University (SJSU) are completely converted to using recycled water, with no potable water used for watering, according to Josh Blackford, Director of Athletic Facilities and Events at SJSU.

“We're still conserving water on the sports field, but a bigger hit may happen on the perimeter of the sports field.”

SYNTHETIC FIELDS

Looking for alternative ways to conserve water, both the City of San Jose and SJSU have invested in synthetic turf for various athletic venues.

The parks department of San Jose currently maintains two fields with synthetic turf, John Mise Park in West San Jose and Watson Park on Jackson Avenue and 22nd Street. The city has certain time joint-use agreements with San Jose Unified School District, Alum Rock Union School District and the Boys and Girls Club of Silicon Valley to add four more sites to the roster of synthetic turf fields. “We help

pay and construct for it,” Ruiz said. “In return we get some afterhours use for recreational purposes.”

The three schools in the agreement are Patty O'Malley Community Sports Fields at Allen at Steinbeck Elementary School, William Sheppard Middle School and Leland High School while Smythe Field at the Smythe Boys

and Girls Club provides a field in East San Jose. “Generally they have been set up for soccer but many in recent years have dual purposes,” Ruiz said. Mise Park and Allen at Steinbeck Elementary School have overlapping layouts where the soccer field

serves as the outfield for softball and little league baseball fields.

Spartan Stadium is the only synthetic turf competition field in San Jose State's athletic department. “There is a small synthetic surface outside of the Koret facility that is used for athletic training,” Blackford said. The conversion from natural grass to synthetic turf took place before the 2009 football season, according to Athletics Media Relations Director Lawrence Fan.

“We had been hoping to get more artificial turf sites in for sports fields, one because it uses less water, two you can get more play on it and not wear it out like you can with natural turf,” Ruiz said. “Unfortunately there has been a moratorium on them because there is a concern with the infill that some of the manufacturers use.” The infill can be comprised of either recycled rubber, manmade synthetic material or ground coconut husks according to Ruiz. San Jose State is exploring options with future development plans of south campus to include additional synthetic fields

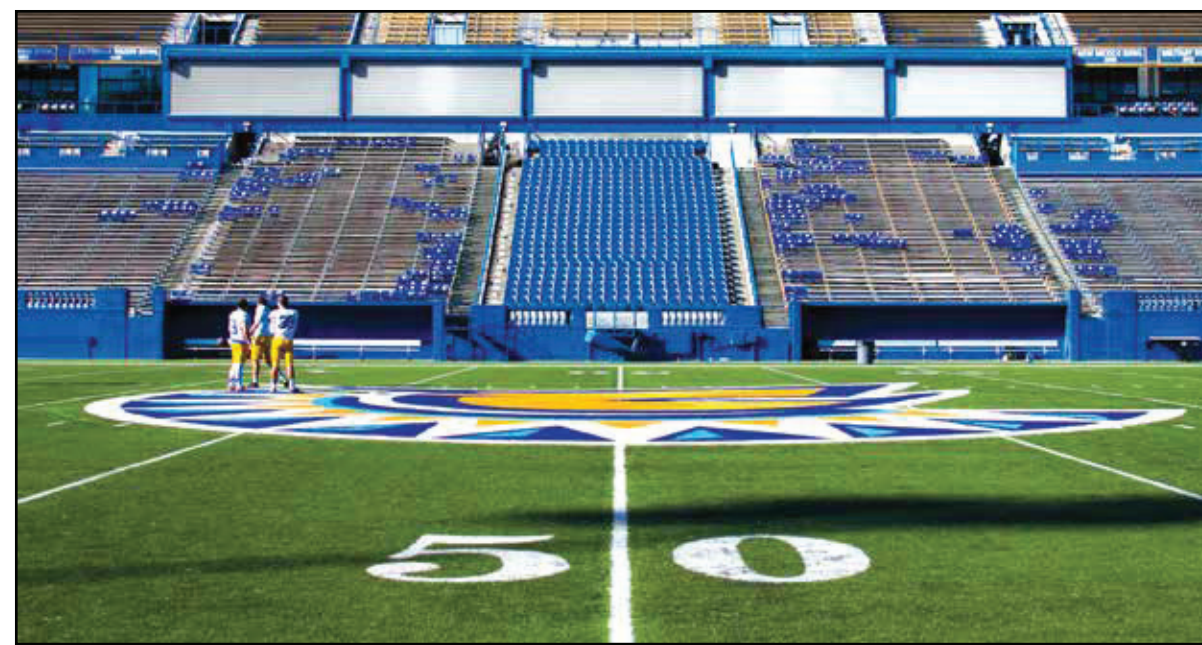


Photo by Brian Stanley

Synthetic athletic turf was installed at Spartan Stadium before the 2009 football season.

for athletic competition, according to Blackford. Ruiz explained the benefit of synthetic turf is that the school will get more playing hours out of an artificial turf than we can a natural turf, because it stands up to wear a little bit longer.

THE UPKEEP

From a maintenance standpoint, there is minimal upkeep needed for synthetic turf, Blackford said.

“There is a cost saving in maintenance,” Ruiz said. “You don't have to mow it every day. You don't have to do a weed abatement program like we would have to do on turf.” Ruiz said the light maintenance required is sweeping for light litter, using a specialized raking to return the grass filaments back to upright position and the occasional replacement of the infill.

The Spartans use brooms to evenly spread the infill pellets once a week, Blackford said. Blackford added that occasionally a turf disinfectant will be applied to the field to clean

any germs and bacteria that might be on the turfs surface.

DROUGHT & CONSERVING

In January 2014 Governor Jerry Brown issued a state of emergency for California's drought condition and requested all residents to voluntarily reduce water usage by 20 percent on all potable water.

According to the Santa Clara Valley Water District's website, the Board of directors unanimously passed a mandatory reduction of 20 percent compared to 2013 usage by retail water agencies, local municipalities and the County of Santa Clara in February 2014. The mandate by the water district trickled down the San Jose's

parks division. “We've reduced water by 20 percent on all irrigation cycles,” Ruiz said.

San Jose plays a balancing act with athletic venues that require purchasing a permit to use and other parks to meet that requested decrease of water use. “We're still conserving water on the sports field, but a bigger hit may happen on the perimeter of the sports field,” Ruiz said.

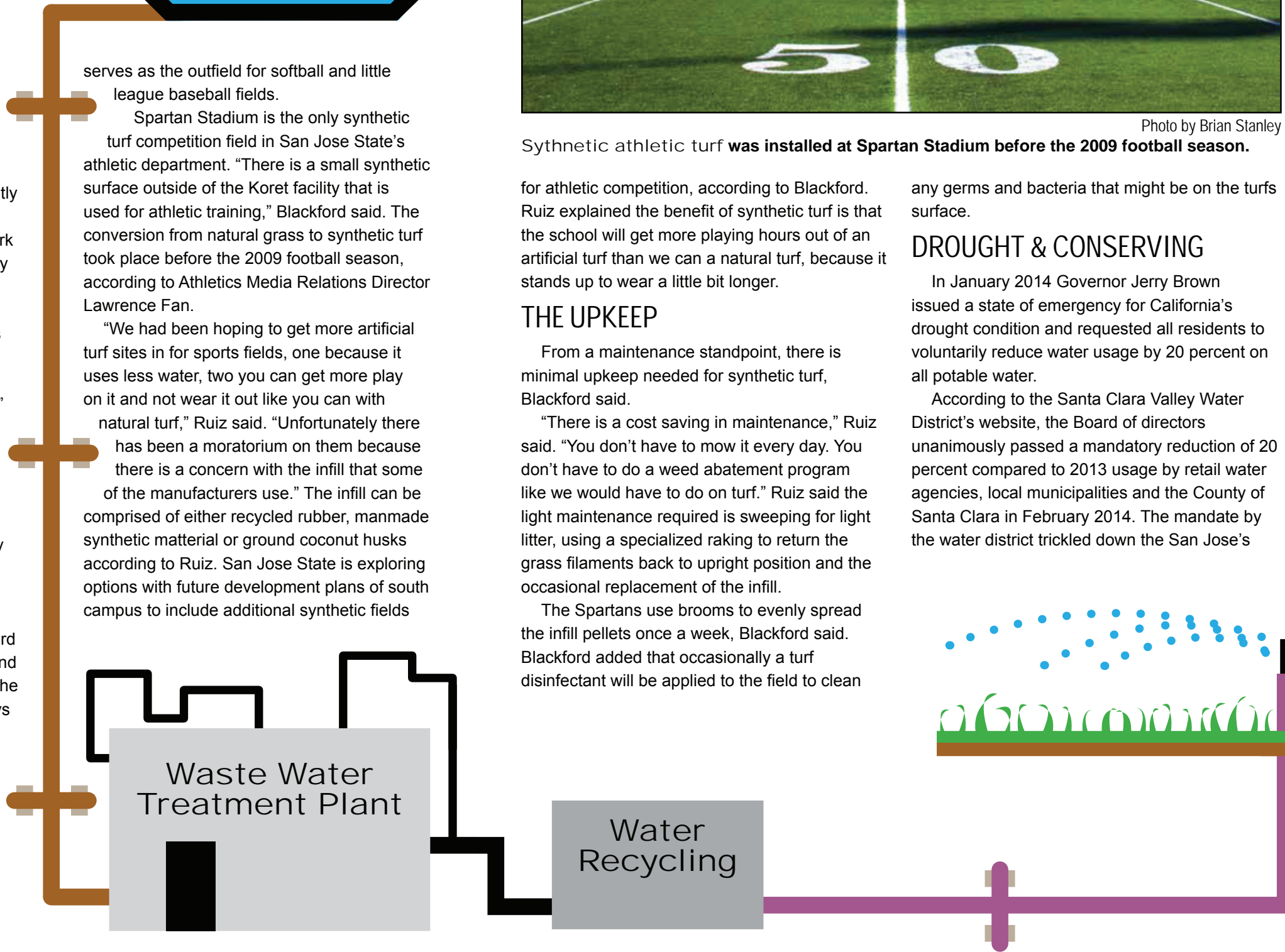
The parks division tries to limit the reduction of water on playing fields to meet their goal of providing safe, clean and green facilities but the limited reduction comes at a cost elsewhere, said Ruiz. The Spartans athletic department works hand in hand with the grounds keepers to constantly monitor the irrigation system during peak times of year and warmer seasons.

“Depending on the field usage and time of year we will increase the watering, if it's a cooler time of year and less field usage we will decrease it to help conserve reclaimed water,” Blackford said. The parks division compared their water bill usage from February to October for 2014 against the usage in 2013 and found a 19.8 percent reduction in usage according to Ruiz.

On March 25, the water district's board of directors issued their second mandate calling for a reduction of potable water use by 30 percent. “It will be a challenge for us,” Ruiz said. “We will try our best to keep our sports fields green and safe to use but it will come at a cost.”



Photo and infograph by Brian Stanley Signs posted at neighborhood parks in San Jose by South Bay Water Recycling notify people of the use of recycle water.



Marti's Musings

by Marti Malloy

To Recycle or Not to Recycle

Do you recycle? You know, the process of discarding an item so that it can be made into something new. I think most of us can remember the mantra taught in elementary school, "Reduce, reuse, and recycle!"

I myself am recycling-obsessed, happy to admit it, and not interested in getting help for my pre-occupation. I'm not really sure when the transformation took place, it very well could have been after a second grade trip to a recycling plant in my hometown of Oak Harbor, WA. It has developed into a habit of sorts, where doing it isn't something I think about, I just do it instinctively.

Basically anything not made of organic materials can be recycled. You know those round, quarter-sized, plastic freshness seals in the openings of cartons of juice? I recycle them (and the carton too of course!). Not to mention things like gum wrappers, the stickers on fruit, receipts

(ripped up of course). You name it, if it is made of recyclable material, it is going in the recycling bin.

Earth Day has come and gone, and what better reason to start refocusing your recycling efforts? Most of us already know that things like paper, plastic, aluminum and glass are recyclable, but don't forget batteries, light bulbs, and old electronics can also be recycled. Most people don't know this and haphazardly throw them away rather than delivering them to local collection sites that specialize in repurposing those materials.

According to Waste Management's 2014 Sustainability Report, in 2013 the company recycled 12.4 million tons of aluminum, paper, scrap, metal, plastics, wood and glass. This saved 43.4 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, 123 million trees, 62.7 million gallons of water, 38.6 million cubic yards of landfill space and 29.8 million metric tons of CO2. The sad part is this was done by pulling recycled materials from trash.

In other words, those salvaged reusable materials were thrown away. Imagine the impact if everyone took a few seconds to actually put these materials in their respective recycling bins, instead of leaving it to disposal companies to attempt to retrieve. For every million tons of recyclables that Waste Management is able to find, millions more go un-retrieved. If everyone took the steps to actively avoid throwing away reusable materials those

billions of kilowatts of electricity, or millions of trees and gallons of water saved could easily become trillions saved.

Waste-sorting companies are doing their part to sift through all our trash, but the responsibility also falls on consumers. While visiting my family over the holidays I attended a party. As I was leaving I witnessed the host lugging three full trash bags of empty bottles to the dumpster. I stopped him and said, "Don't you recycle?" He told me that because his address is outside of the city limits there is no

recycling service that comes to pick it up. Instead of berating him and explaining that a simple stop to the recycling plant in town would be the next best thing, I held my tongue. Now I wish I hadn't.

Instead, I will take this opportunity to make a personal plea to those of you who don't do your part in this avenue. The important question is, why not help reduce your carbon footprint and help make the earth more sustainable for your children and their children's children?

I take it as a personal responsibility to give back on the things I consume. I throw away one bag of trash every two weeks, but three to four bags of recycling per week. It's as easy as having two separate places to dispose of things, one for trash and one for recyclables. Are you motivated and earth conscious enough to do your part? I dare you to challenge yourself to make a change.



Marti Malloy

“Why not help reduce your carbon footprint and help make the earth more sustainable for your children and their children's children?”

Keeping the



Buzzz Alive

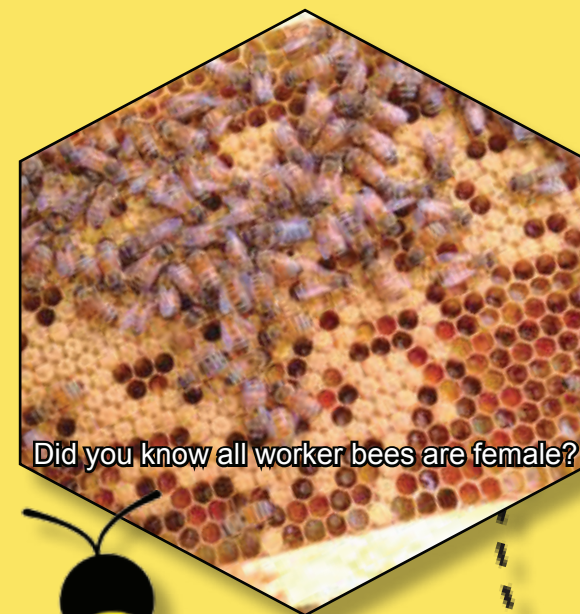


Hey Honey! Newlyweds used to drink honey mead for 1 month (1 moon) hence the term Honeymoon



By Brenda Norrie

Even though I had never been stung, I was terrified of bees. It wasn't until I tried beekeeping – with protective gear and all – did my thinking transition from viewing honeybees as foes to friends. Understanding bees makes it easier to appreciate their busy lifestyle and want to protect them in our tumultuous environmental state. Unless you've been under a rock, honeybees are threatened and the numbers diminish every year thanks to harmful pesticides. Local beekeeper Hillary Bergh said this is bad news for our food supply because bees help pollinate crops – transport pollen for plant reproduction – and account for 1/3 – 1/2 of the food we eat! (Apples, peaches, watermelon, almonds and avocados to name a few). We can help honeybees by planting various pollinators such as poppies, fuchsia, lilac, sunflowers and more to attract them. More bee-friendly plants: www.xerces.org



Did you know all worker bees are female?



Try a beekeeping class at Sunday Honey in Willow Glen. www.sundayhoneybees.com

Visit Planet Bee Foundation to see what you can do to help! www.planetbee.org

SURVIVAL RESTAURANTS

La Vic's gets the big victory in nocturnal eats

By Philip Beadle

It's May, and that means those three always-too-short summer months are only a few late-night cramming sessions away.

Before students taste that sweet freedom however, there are likely to be a few of those late nights leaving the library when hungry students will be dying to taste anything.

Fortunately, there are options in downtown San Jose to get that late-night, even early-morning, munchie fix to help power students through the next morning's final.

These places are sometimes called 'survival restaurants' because, let's be real, no college student is cooking themselves dinner after a six-hour anthropology textbook binge, and people need to eat.

This list is a survival guide, mapping out where to eat, and where not to, after dark.

There is always the Jack in the Box between La Vic's and Dosa & Curry, but I can't in good conscience suggest you go there, especially late at night. The scene is as gross as the food.

La Victoria

La Victoria means "the winner," so it's fitting that the taqueria tops this list.

There are two La Victoria Taqueria locations downtown, but the one on San Carlos St. has long been a student favorite.

It isn't only that La Vic's, as it's affectionately called, stays open until three every morning, although



Photo by Philip Beadle

Super nachos from La Victoria Taqueria come loaded with a choice of meat as well as salsa, cheese, guacamole and sour cream and is served until 3 a.m. everyday.

that is what earns it this spot at the top of this list.

La Vic's is also the home of the original Orange Sauce, which is something special.

The stuff, which certainly isn't just a variation of chipotle salsa, is vegan and acts like catnip for college kids.

Iguana's

Iguana's is home of the Burritozilla, and it's also the next best Mexican option after La Vic's.

It isn't open quite as late, closing at 1 a.m., and is a whole block farther to walk, which matters when one is tired and hungry. The food is on par with La Vic's though – depending on who you ask – and the selection is broader. That's a plus for some, but sometimes – like, at

midnight after a study session – it's easier to just order a burrito without having to decide which kind of beans to put in it.

Flames

Flames is an American bar and restaurant that sits right across from MLK Library.

It stays open until midnight Wednesday-Sunday and 11 p.m. otherwise.

It may close once the clock strikes twelve, but it's one of the few places that isn't a Denny's where one can sit down and grab a decent meal late. They've also got a happy hour that makes the prices more student-friendly.

Dosa & Curry

Dosa & Curry is an adventure of

a place to eat. While the Downtown San Jose market is a bit crowded in curry, this is the only Indian spot that stays open until 1 a.m.

The little hole-in-the-wall behind Jack in the Box may not look like much, but it offers a solid and well-priced menu with a variety most others don't have in their late-night game.

Sa-By Thai

Sa-By Thai is only open until midnight, but it gets an honorable mention.

The restaurant on the corner of Eighth St. and Williams St. serves delicious noodles and curry, even fried chicken.

They also deliver through apps such as Doordash and OrderAhead.

Green Ninja Unmasked



By Destiny Palacios

Some people are born with passion and purpose, some people never find theirs, and some, like Eugene Cordero, just stumble upon it.

Cordero is a San Jose State University professor in the meteorology and climate science department, and he is passionate about protecting the Earth.

While he was at Northridge State, his major was physics and he did not have an interest in the environment. However, while flipping through the pages of a book, his life unintentionally changed.

While choosing a speech topic for a general education course, a particular image sparked his interest.

"I was flipping through a book and kind of discovered the ozone hole and the challenges that the ozone was facing," Cordero said. It alerted and intrigued him.

After he graduated, Cordero said his earliest memory was realizing that he could be interested in science and study it for a purpose, understand the earth and ultimately helping protect it.

He began studying more about ozone depletion.

Today, not only does he teach about global climate change at SJSU, but he also encourages students to be involved activists.

The Green Ninja Project is a



Photo by Tracy Yuen

Professor Eugene Cordero's research interests align with understanding how our climate is changing as a result of both natural and anthropogenic processes. Investigations are performed using observations and global climate models of the Earth system.

diverse organization on campus that promotes awareness and reduction of green house emissions in the environment. The Green Ninja team is a collaboration of the Department of Meteorology and Climate Science, the Department of Television, Film, Theatre, Animation and Illustration, and the Spartan Film Studio faculty and students.

Cordero asked the animation and film group on campus to collaborate with the project, and they helped develop the green ninja and his character.

As of today, they are completing the second season and are on their thirty-second episode.

Cordero has also done an analysis on SJSU student's carbon footprint compared to that of an average footprint.

"We found that one third of the carbon footprint is transportation, one third is housing, and one third is food," Cordero said. "By your choices of what kind of car you drive, how you move around, or what your home is like in terms of energy efficiency and what kind of food you eat, you can reduce your carbon footprint in any of those ways."

Where there is a problem, Cordero emphasizes the solution and remains optimistic. He said he is hopeful of this generation and as long as they are aware, they can and will make a difference.

"The Green Ninja Project is about how we leap over the challenging and depressing things and take action on climate change, because there is so much we can do," Cordero said.

The original target audience was college students, however, the Green Ninja has reached out to 200 middle school teachers to train them about environmental topics to teach their students.

The curriculum features educational material and films that feature the Green Ninja.

Cordero said he knows science can be dull and boring, but the goal is to make it exciting for students involved.



Summer's Events Calendar

MAY

COMEDY

@ San José Improv

- 15** Lil Duval
- 20** K-von
- 22** Ryan Hamilton
- 27** Mike Young

CONCERTS

- 13** Earl Sweatshirt @ Catalyst
- 17** The Early November @ Great American Music Hall
- 18** Death Guild @ DNA Lounge
- 22** Erykah Badu @ Mountain Winery
- 26** Streetlight Manifesto @ Regency Ballroom
- 28** Refused @ Great American Music Hall

CULTURE

- 22-25** FanimeCon 2015 @ McEnery Convention Center

For a listing of campus events at San Jose State visit:
www.events.sjsu.edu

JUNE

COMEDY

@ San José Improv

- 4** Maz Jobrani
- 11** Nemr Abou Nassar
- 26** Bobby Lee

CONCERTS

- 2** Alkaline Trio @ Slim's
- 8** 8bit SF @ DNA Lounge
- 14** Action Bronson @ Catalyst
- 17** Joey Bada\$\$ @ The Regency Ballroom
- 19** Luniz @ The New Perish
- 20** Warped Tour @ Shoreline Amphitheatre

JULY

COMEDY

@ San José Improv

- 3** Dat Phan
- 9** Lachlan Patterson
- 24** An Evening with Kevin Smith

CONCERTS

- 1** The Ting Tings @ The Regency Ballroom
- 10** Thrive @ Catalyst
- 12** Built To Spill @ Catalyst
- 19** The Art Of Rap @ Shoreline Amphitheatre
- 25** Say Anything @ The Regency Ballroom



Photo courtesy Atlantic Records

Rapper Action Bronson performs at the Catalyst in Santa Cruz on June 14.