

# City Hall talks hot button issues

San Jose city councilmembers discuss AAPI issues, customer service and city infrastructure

By Alina Ta  
STAFF WRITER

Mayor Matt Mahan and San Jose city councilmembers discussed several topics about San Jose's community during the City Council meeting on Wednesday.

Councilmembers focused their attention on topics related to finance, AAPI issues, customer service and public infrastructures.

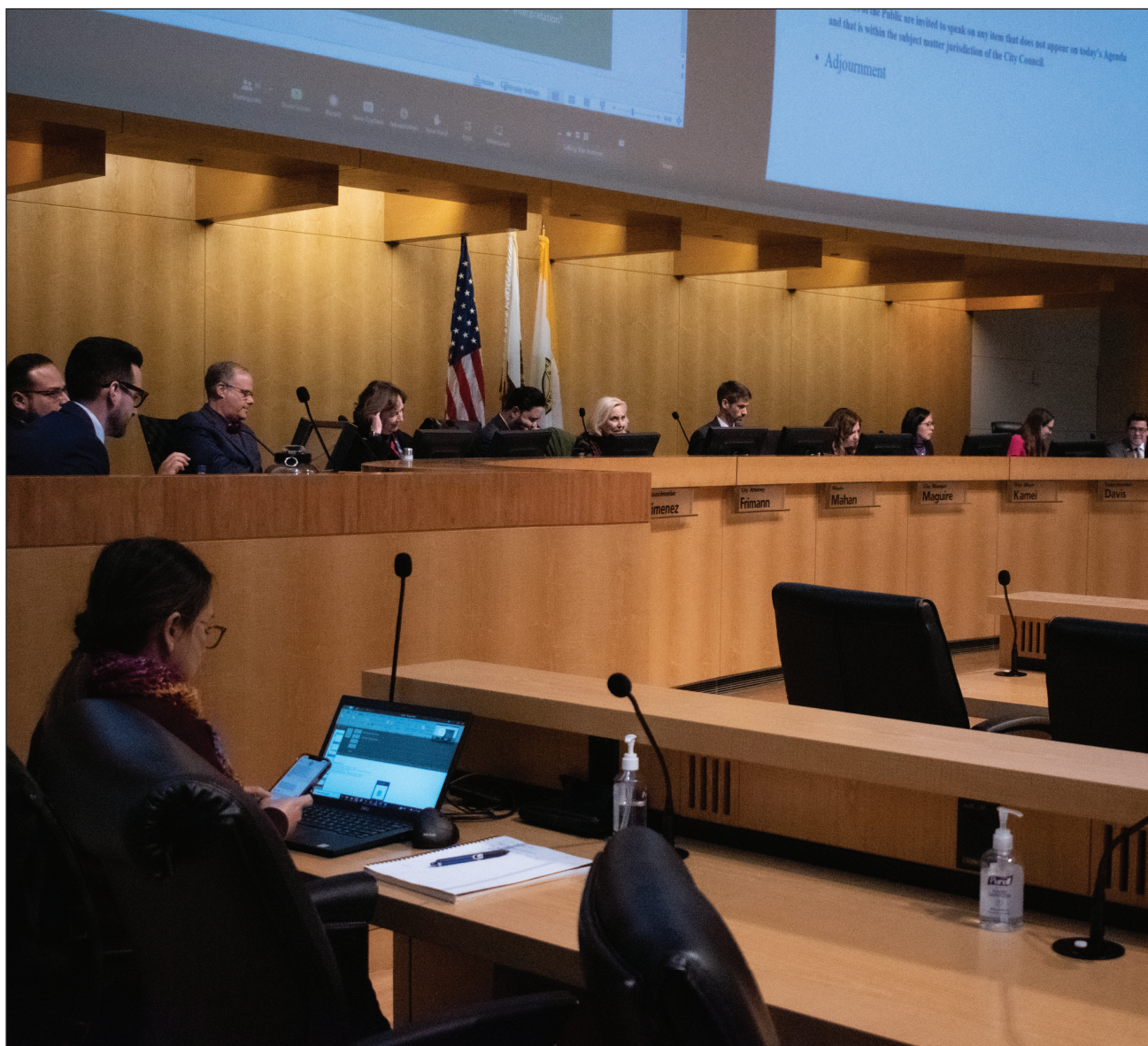
## Anthony Sung Cho v. City of San Jose

At the beginning of Tuesday's meeting, Mahan and city councilmembers approved a \$200,000 settlement with Anthony Sung Cho, who claimed he was the victim of excessive force by the San Jose Police Department.

According to a Oct. 20, 2022 case report published by the Northern District Court of California, Cho alleged San Jose police officers used an excessive amount of force to restrain him after a police chase on June 18, 2020.

The first responder on the scene, Officer Rodriguez, admitted to striking Cho with a baton after alleging that Cho did not cooperate with the arrest, according to the same report.

Rodriguez is currently involved in a pending criminal prosecution in which a San Jose woman named Guadalupe



ALINA TA | SPARTAN DAILY

San Jose councilmembers discuss the Anthony Sung Cho case settlement, customer service and Measure T during a City Council meeting, on Tuesday in City Hall.

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DYLAN NEWMAN | SPARTAN DAILY

A toy tricycle sits parked inside the Associated Students Child Development Center on Monday.

# SJSU child center trains future childcare workers

By Dylan Newman  
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Students Child Development Center, a nonprofit care program across the street from campus on South Eighth Street, has had its staff care for San Jose State students' children for 50 years.

Center director Jane Zamora said the center's priority is providing care for student families.

"We always prioritize the student families," Zamora said. "We have to definitely accommodate our students at large, so that we can ensure that they are getting their work done and being able to graduate."

The Associated Students Child Development Center is licensed by the California Department of Social Services to care for 110 children from four months to five years old, according to the

center's website.

The California Department of Social Services is a state agency providing aid, services and protection to children and adults in need, according to the department's website.

Zamora said although the size of the facility cannot accommodate every student with a child, students are the first people picked from its waiting list.

She said the center differs from day care services because children are actively learning in a classroom environment throughout the day.

"We do include aspects of math and literacy, science, even also conflict negotiation," Zamora said. "We are still a very play based center, so it comes from what the children are actually

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# SJSU climate experts discuss California drought

By Christine Tran  
STAFF WRITER

Over the past two weeks, parts of California are no longer in a drought for the first time in three years.

As of last Thursday, areas of California were still experiencing moderate drought and severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor website.

The U.S. Drought Monitor classification presents five levels of drought, varying from "abnormally dry," to "exceptional drought," according to its website.

The monitor's statistics from three weeks ago found that California was facing both extreme and exceptional drought, the two highest levels of drought conditions.

State officials had previously estimated that California was headed for its fourth year of drought conditions, according to a Saturday Washington Post article.

California's Sierra Nevada experienced around 12 feet of snow over the weekend, according to the same Saturday article.

Last fall, California reservoirs dropped to extreme low levels, but the water supply is projected to improve once the snow melts in the spring, according to the same article.

Katherine Cushing, professor

and environmental studies department chair, studies and specializes in sustainable water resources management.

She said, 17% of California, including the San Francisco Bay Area, is officially out of a drought, and there is a month to go before the end of the water year on April 1st.

The water year goes from October 1 to September 30 of the following year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture website.

"While our unprecedented rainfall events of December and January helped us fill reservoirs and create an incredibly robust snowpack - this weekend we have the potential for another atmospheric river but it is predicted to be warm," Cushing said. "Which could actually melt some of the snow that's been able to accumulate at lower elevations."

The drought has caused Bay Area residents to be asked by Gov. Gavin Newsom to restrict their water usage by 15% starting July 2022.

Environmental studies assistant professor Costanza Rampini, whose expertise is in floods and flood risks, said the rain is good news in terms of water supply because California reservoirs and snowpacks are full.

DROUGHT | Page 3

## CAMPAGNING BEGINS MARCH 13

**ELECTIONS KICK-OFF**  
3/13, Monday, 1-3PM  
A.S. House Fireside Room  
Voter Information Guide (VIG) will be available online and print.

**MEET THE CANDIDATES**  
4/3, Monday, 1-3PM  
A.S. House Fireside Room

**A.S. INSTAGRAM VIDEOS**  
4/6, Thursday, @as\_sjsu  
Candidate photos, statements and videos

**CANDIDATE DEBATES**  
4/10, Monday, 1-3PM  
Student Union Meeting Room 4  
Hosted by the Spartan Daily  
RSO Candidate Endorsements available  
Voting on sjsu.edu/as/vote begins immediately after debates.

**VOTING BOOTHS**  
4/11-12, Tuesday and Wednesday  
10AM-4PM  
Outside Clark Hall  
7th Street (Student Wellness Center)  
Housing Quad

**ELECTION RESULTS PARTY**  
4/13, Thursday, 1-3PM  
Meeting Room TBA

FREE T-SHIRT, SWAG, PRIZES MUSIC & GAMES!





# SJSU institute solves transportation problems

By Enrique Gutierrez-Sevilla  
STAFF WRITER

The Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State conducts research, education and workforce development to progress transportation around the world.

The institute has a workforce of directors, research associates, consulting associates and student research assistants, who are assigned research projects emphasized on policy and management for transportation officials.

Hilary Nixon, Mineta Transportation Institute deputy and executive director, oversees the institute's research programs.

Its research is funded by grants given by the U.S. Department of Transportation, California Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Transportation Commission and private sector companies.

"Within those research grants, there are usually a set of research topics that we are looking to conduct research on," Nixon said. "Each year we'll do what we call a 'comprehensive stakeholder needs assessment,' where we reach out to leaders, stakeholders, decision makers, elected officials, other policymakers in the transportation sector – either at the state level for our California State University Transportation consortium, or nationwide for our U.S. Department of Transportation consortium – to identify what are the most important pressing research needs that they have."

One of the goals of Mineta Transportation Institute is to get its research in the hands of decision makers and policymakers.

"It's that piece about disseminating the work and getting the work moved from the research paper into implementation of practice or policy," Nixon said.

Mineta Transportation Institute was recently awarded a five-year grant of \$15 million from the University Transportation Centers program.

The University Transportation Center program advances research and technology for transportation through investments by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"Within this new grant we have two broad areas of research," Nixon said. "One of them is addressing safety, sustainability and equity through improved multimodal transportation, and second is building a resilient supply chain."

Mohamed Abousalem, SJSU vice president for Research and Innovation, said the grant is a remarkable acknowledgment for SJSU.

"Our faculty and student researchers are pushing the boundaries of today's transportation knowledge to provide innovative solutions to the safety, efficiency, accessibility and convenience challenges of the nation's transportation systems," Abousalem said. "It's with significant awards like this that we



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALVERINA WEINARDY

(Left to right) students Sonia Feria, Jupjeet Rai and SJSU assistant professor of urban and regional planning Bo Yang fly a drone on the first day of the Mineta Summer Transportation Institute on July 11, 2022.

can advance this and other leading, community-engaged and public-impact research at SJSU for the experiential learning of our students, the professional development of our faculty and the overall benefit to our society."

Nixon said Mineta Transportation Institute has over 100 research projects that people across all consortia are working on.

"It is everything from policy work on transportation, finance to transportation, cybersecurity to artificial intelligence [ . . . ] as it relates to transportation, equity in multimodal transportation," Nixon said.

California Senate Bill 1161 requires Mineta Transportation Institute to "develop and make available on its internet website a survey for the purpose of promoting consistency in the collection of specified survey data to inform efforts to improve the safety of riders and reduce street harassment on public transit," according to the Open States website.

"[Mineta Transportation Institute], for a long time, has had a really strong interest in public transit, multimodal transportation and safety," Nixon said. "Kind of the over the arching umbrella of safety of our transit systems is real important to us. Particularly as it relates to kind of questions of harassment and ensuring safety and security for all users riders on the transportation system."

Frances Edwards is the deputy director of the National Transportation Security Center at Mineta Transportation Institute.

Edwards said the institute has been

committed to diversity, equality and inclusion in transportation as an organization.

"It's kind of in our DNA to look at the breadth of the community and involve everybody to bring students of all backgrounds, all races, all genders into this transportation space because we need excellence in leadership," Edwards said. "It's the only way we're going to get it, by opening opportunities to everybody."

Edwards said Mineta Transportation Institute is trying to improve climate change and educate people through their research publications.

"We have a lot of work that's been done on zero emission buses, hydrogen and electric buses [ . . . ] it's that kind of research that asks what it would take to use this technology," Edwards said.

The Lucas College and Graduate School of Business offers a graduate program for Mineta Transportation Institute that offers a Master of Science in Transportation Management degree and three graduate certificate programs.

Edwards said the courses that SJSU teaches have helped people get more transportation leadership roles in the Bay Area.

"When you look at many of the people who are Bay Area transportation leaders today, many of them are our graduates," Edwards said. "More prepared can you be than that commitment demonstrated by earning a master's degree, and almost all of our students have significant experience on the practical side of transportation."

Alverina Weinardy, public programs coordinator at Mineta Transportation Institute, is responsible for the institute's online presence through monthly newsletters, social media campaigns, news releases and blogs.

Weinardy works closely with researchers and partners to develop research and workforce programs.

"When students enroll in the grad program, they become familiar with some of our work and often attend our webinars to gain a better understanding of different topics in transportation," Weinardy said.

Mineta Transportation Institute has a workforce development program educating K-12 students and adults, introducing them to transportation issues.

The institute engages its younger audience through poster contests, essay contests and teaching lessons.

Mineta Transportation Institute collaborated with elementary school teachers to develop a STEM transportation unit that introduced first through sixth graders to the basics of how people and products are moved through transportation, according to its website.

Mineta Transportation Institute has a wide spectrum of responsibilities through researching and educating about the nation's transportation system for officials to implement policy.

Follow Enrique Gutierrez-Sevilla  
on Twitter @mtvenrique

## Crime Blotter

### Motor Vehicle Theft

March 3, 12:37 p.m. at  
North Garage  
Cleared by Arrest

### Tamper with Fire Alarm Vandalism: Deface Property

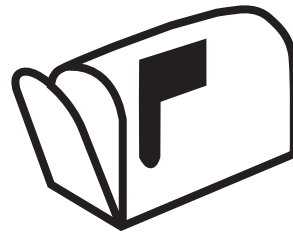
March 3, 8:29 a.m. at  
South Garage  
Cleared by Arrest

### Unauthorized Entrance of Dwelling

March 4, 2:22 a.m. at  
Campus Village 2  
Cleared by Arrest

### Possess Unlawful Paraphernalia

March 4, 4:36 a.m. at  
Alpha Xi Delta Sorority  
Cleared by Arrest



send a letter  
to the editor

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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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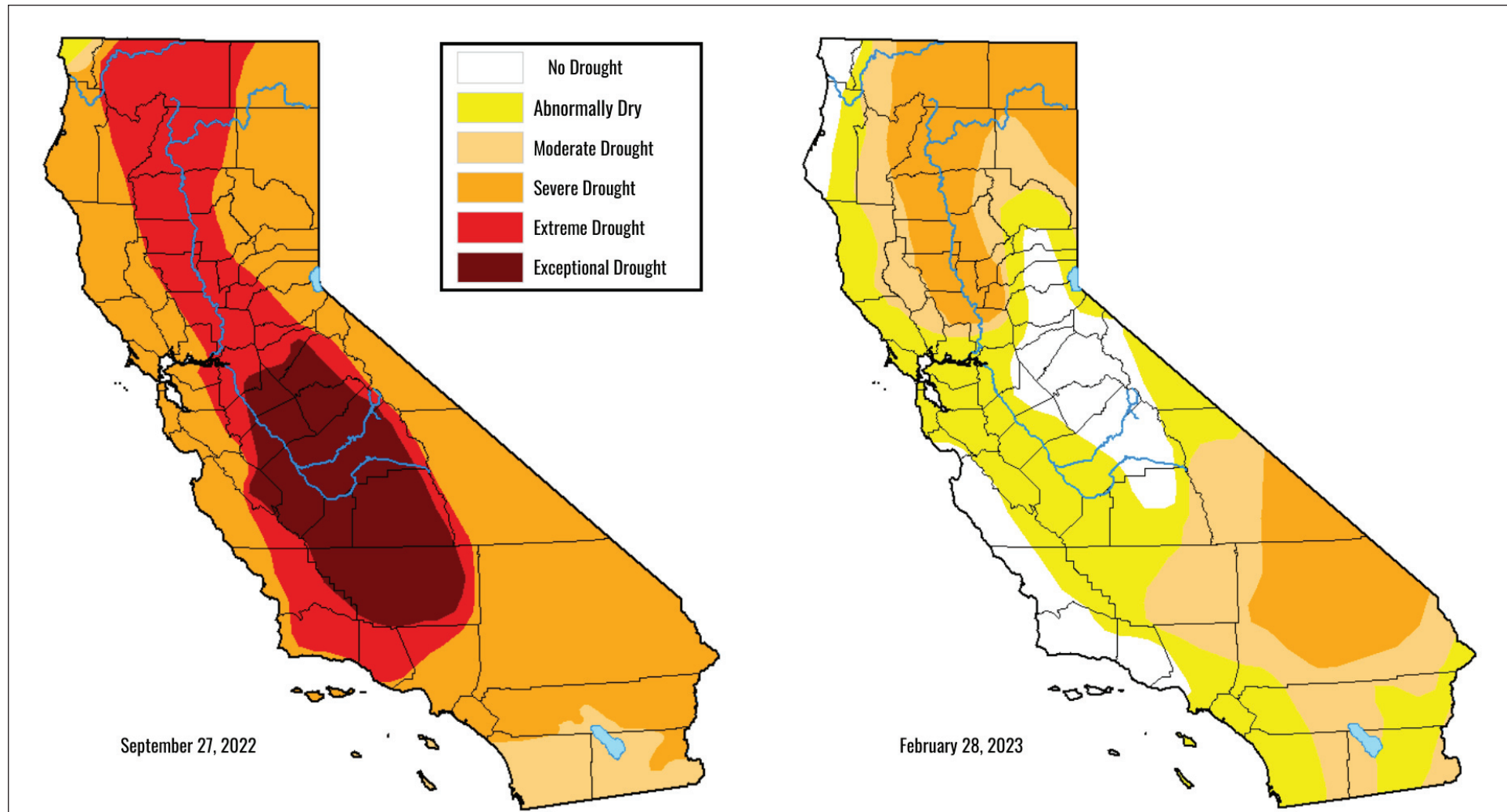
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The Spartan Daily corrects all significant errors that are brought to our attention. If you suspect we have made such an error, please send an email to [spartandaily@gmail.com](mailto:spartandaily@gmail.com).

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Columns are the opinion of individual writers and not that of the Spartan Daily. Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board, which is made up of student editors.





INFOGRAPHIC BY ALESSIO CAVALCA; SOURCE: U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR

**DROUGHT**

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“The consequences of all the rain we’ve been getting is largely positive,” Rampini said.

Cushing said the recent weather conditions made it possible to avoid issues in the future.

“We have bought ourselves some time to think about how we can improve our water infrastructure to capture more storm water in our groundwater

aquifers,” Cushing said. “And how to promote the use of non-conventional sources of water, such as water from our clothes washers, for landscape irrigation.”

However, the recent weather condition had consequences for the vegetation in the Bay Area.

“I live in Santa Cruz and a lot of our trees have fallen due to the soil getting soggy, or they just have weakened during the drought and now they can’t handle the recent storms,” Rampini said.

Experts say the unusual

weather conditions will also have negative effects on Bay Area residents’ lifestyle.

“We are better prepared to manage for extreme precipitation events and know, for example, that students and staff may have a hard time physically making it to campus or logging on to online classes due to impassable roads and power outages,” Cushing said.

Jamsheed Mistry, a master’s student in environmental studies at SJSU, says he does not believe that unusual weather conditions or snowfall will have significant

consequences in California because they are temporary.

“Since snow across California is mostly present on mountaintops and areas of high altitude, I simply don’t believe that it will change the direction of water flow across the state,” Mistry said. “However, I do believe that the quantity of water across our state has slightly increased, which is a great sign for mediating our decade-long drought.”

Rampini said although the current water reservoir conditions are positive,

California residents have to continue conserving water because drought conditions may happen again in the future.

“California has risen to the challenge and significantly reduced their water use,” Rampini said. “We have saved 15% in Santa Clara county but these gains will be lost if people feel confident that we have enough water.”

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**CITY COUNCIL**

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Esperanza Marin alleges he used excessive force in a separate incident on July 22, 2022.

Cho claims he sustained serious injuries after the incident.

**Rick Bruneau: City Council’s New Finance Director**

On Wednesday, San Jose’s City Manager, Jennifer Maguire, announced Rick Bruneau will be San Jose’s new Director of the Finance Department.

She said Bruneau will be responsible for managing, protecting and reporting on the city’s financial condition and financial resources.

Maguire said Bruneau was unanimously confirmed by all council members to take on the position.

She said Bruneau will take on his duties on April 2.

“Thank you for trusting me to lead the finance department,” Bruneau said. “This is such an honor and a privilege to serve in this new capacity.”

**Customer Service**

The staff working for the city manager and representatives from Guidehouse, a consulting firm in management and technology, shared a report about how well the city upholds customer service in public services and their plans to improve.

“The city’s customer service vision is working together to serve our community through reliable, empathetic and solutions

oriented customer service,” said Kristen Jensen, Management Consultant from Guidehouse.

Maguire said it also includes setting and meeting expectations, being responsive and focused on problem solving while also exhibiting empathy.

She said customer service should help support and empower the community, while also acting as a tool for supporting inclusion.

“I know from my experience, customer service is a powerful tool for access and inclusion and that customer service leads to better outcomes and that good customer service empowers the community,” she said.

Maguire said, although the city’s public services have their “bright spots” in customer service, they also have weaknesses.

“We know our services can be complex, frustrating and at times, feel insurmountable,” Maguire said.

She said she is thrilled the city was able to engage every department to give input on how the city could improve its customer service in the public services it has to offer.

Maguire said the city also partnered with Guidehouse and other consulting companies to do research for San Jose and to find new solutions to increase the quality of customer service.

“This is a magic moment for San Jose,” Collin Lopes, a partner from Guidehouse said. “In addition to this approach, you have got a great team in place with the right ingredients to see it through and see it done right.”

Lopes said Guidehouse supported the city in understanding what it is like to have essential customer services across San Jose.

“To do this, we engaged both internally with the city, as well as externally with its customers,” Lopes said.

Jensen said Guidehouse gathered data, did analysis and mapped out the city’s strengths

and weaknesses in customer service in multiple services provided by the city.

She said one tactic Guidehouse used to gather data is called, “mystery shopping,” where teams from the company act as customers and try to access services on their own.

Jensen said Guidehouse conducted 37 in-depth interviews and 170 intercepts or quick interviews to understand what it is like to use different services such as 311.

Mahan said 311 is a service residents can use to report a variety of non-emergency issues around San Jose, including illegal dumping, potholes, street light outages and graffiti.

Jensen said Guidehouse also investigated what it was like to interact with interpreters in Spanish, Vietnamese and English.

She said Guidehouse and the city also made efforts to reach out to more community members by having conversations in different community centers throughout San Jose, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library at San Jose State University.

Through their research, Jensen said Guidehouse discovered one of the city’s strengths was in interacting with customers.

However, she also said employees had a difficult time helping customers because of a lack of collaboration between departments and the lack of a central database for information.

Jensen said these weaknesses resulted in creating a “fragmented, lengthy and ineffective customer experience.”

“Furthermore, customers without deep familiarity of city services often struggle to navigate on their own towards resolution, placing them at a disadvantage from the start,” Jensen said.

Jensen said representatives from Guidehouse and the city said they are continuing projects and will be starting new projects to increase the quality of customer

service through San Jose.

**Measure T**

San Jose voters approved the Disaster Preparedness, Public Safety and Infrastructure Bond Measure, or “Measure T,” on Nov. 6, 2018, according to the City of San Jose website.

According to the same source, passing the bond allowed the city to access \$650 million to finance infrastructure projects that support public safety.

“The bond measure provides proceeds for disaster, preparedness, public safety, enhancements, and infrastructure improvements,” said Nicholas Cochran, the chairman for Measure T Community Oversight Committee.

Cochran said, after this bond was issued in 2019 and 2021, the budget has now expanded to roughly \$210 million.

Cochran said, over the past three years, this money was used to fund money for construction and infrastructure for increasing traffic safety, paving bridges and financially supporting the fire and police departments.

He said the city spent bond money on fixing storm sewers and working on other improvements in clean water, green storm water infrastructure, environmental flood protection and community facilities.

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**CHILDCARE**

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interested in.”

Analisa Perez, Associated Students Child Development Center operations coordinator, said the center grants firsthand-paid experience to the SJSU child development students it employs.

She said mentoring student employees is her favorite part of working for the center because it acts as a crucial point in the students’ career.

“I want students graduating – they’re going on to bigger

things,” Perez said. “We hope to launch them into the world like that.”

Vedani Escudero, Associated Students Child Development Center chef and food program coordinator, said a staple of the center is the variety of healthy cuisines crafted in house by student chefs learning from her.

Perez said she hired Escudero because she felt the center needed a chef that focuses on serving quality meals to children.

“The [Child and Adult Care Program], they taught me how to program [meals],” Escudero said. “We do have to follow, like, one hundred percent whole wheat, no fried food –

practically all the components like the protein, the grains and fruit, the vegetables and then the milk.”

The Child and Adult Care Program is a federal program that provides reimbursements for nutritious food to daycare centers, according to its website.

People who learn from the program such as Escudero have to follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines and meet requirements for each food group while serving children food.

Escudero said the served dishes are from cuisines around the world.

Perez said other daycare facilities serve prepackaged

meals and that it’s important for the children to experience social and cultural meals.

“If you sit down and break bread with somebody, that’s a bonding, and families do that,” Perez said. “For us, that’s important too, so we’d like to see them exposed to certain meals – certain types of food culturally.”

Escudero said a favorite among the children is spaghetti and the kids actively get excited to eat her dishes.

She said seeing the children’s reaction to her food makes her commute worth it.

“When I come here, and I see children, or I see them pass by saying ‘Oh my gosh, Chef

Vedani, it smells so good!’ I’m like, ‘Oh, okay Vedani, you can do this,’” Escudero said.

She said alumni who’ve worked under her in the kitchen have come back to express their gratitude, describing it as a “life-changing experience.”

“It’s really nice doing something, like, a big difference for children, and also working being supportive to students,” Escudero said. “You have to love what you do, you know?”

Follow Dylan Newman on Twitter @th3dylanproject



MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Moore, Miles earn Mountain West honors

By Oscar Frias-Rivera  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Just before the San Jose State men's basketball team headed to Las Vegas for the Mountain West Championship Basketball Tournament, senior guard Omari Moore and head coach Tim Miles received news that cemented their legacies in the SJSU record books.

On Tuesday, Moore was named Mountain West Player of the Year and Miles was named Mountain West Coach of the Year.

This is the first time in history for an SJSU player to be named Player of the Year in the conference.

Moore was also selected to the first team All-MW selection.

It is the third time in SJSU history for a coach to receive the Mountain West Coach of the Year.

"It was a little bit surreal really because, you know, in San Jose we don't typically get a lot of recognition at this conference at basketball," Moore said. "It was definitely a little bit surreal and exciting. I had to call my parents to tell them about it. I was with all my teammates. They're all happy for me."

On the season, Moore is averaging 17.5 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 4.7 assists per game, while shooting 43.1% from the field in 36.3 minutes each game.

Moore averaged 20.1 points per game, leading the Spartans to a 10 - 8 record in conference play.

In the Spartans' final game of the regular season, Moore scored a career-high 33 points and helped SJSU recover from a 20-point deficit, winning on the road against Air Force.

He will finish his career with the Spartans being the 16th player



PHOTO COLLAGE BY NATHAN CANILAO | SPARTAN DAILY

to reach over 1,000 points and will be 7th in career points at SJSU.

"Before the season started last summer, I wrote down a couple of goals in mind for this year and this was definitely on the list," Moore said. "So I can't say that I'm surprised because of how much work I put in. This is something that I've worked for. It's definitely like, I'm grateful for it."

For Moore, the award adds to the other prizes on his resume.

He was named to the All-Mountain West Honorable Mention in 2022 and was awarded the Mountain West Scholar Athlete and the Academic All-Mountain West award in 2020.

In just two seasons as SJSU men's basketball head coach,

Tim Miles took the Spartans from last place in the conference to garnering a first-round bye in the conference tournament this season.

Miles had led the Spartans to their best record since the 1980 season, when former SJSU head coach Bill Berry led the team to 22 wins and an NCAA tournament berth.

With the fifth seed in the Mountain West conference, the Spartans will enter their highest seed in the conference tournament since the 2013 season.

The team is having one of its best runs in recent years, and it is looking forward to possibly bringing home its first ever Mountain West

Championship this week.

"If we want to make the NCAA tournament, we got to win three games in three days. It won't be easy, but you know, we're definitely built for it. We're prepared mentally and physically," Moore said.

The Spartans are scheduled to

face University of Nevada, Reno at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday at the Cox Pavilion in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Follow Oscar Frias-Rivera on Twitter @oscar\_frias408

## Correction

On Tuesday, March 7, the Spartan Daily published a story titled, "SJSU beats Fresno twice at home," in which we misidentified Jonathan Clark.

The Spartan Daily regrets this error.



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## ALBUM REVIEW

## Kali Uchis elevates music

By Christine Tran  
STAFF WRITER

Just when I thought Kali Uchis couldn't sound more angelic, the Colombian American singer transported me into heaven after dropping her third studio album "Red Moon In Venus," on Friday.

I had high expectations for Uchis's new release, and she delivered.

This album is the essence of putting on satin pajamas after a warm bubble bath.

Uchis taps into her divine femininity to explore all stages of love in "Red Moon In Venus," a fitting title because the planet is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty.

Uchis's first single, and second track on her newest album, "I Wish you Roses," is a bedroom pop and psychedelic ballad about wishing the best for a lover after letting them go.

She comes across as the mature ex that listeners wish they could be in the chorus, "With pretty flowers can come the bee sting (Ooh, never thought I would be without you)/ But I wish you well, I wish you well/ I wish you roses while you can still smell them (Ooh)."

Uchis refers to the end of a blossoming relationship with her lover as a "bee sting," but nevertheless, she hopes to be peaceful as the memories of their love fades from memory.

This is how I would expect someone as spiritual as Uchis to process a breakup.

The lyrics "While I'm here, I'm someone to honor/ When I'm gone, I'm someone to mourn," reinforces the expectations she has for her next lover

and how they'll undoubtedly yearn for her when she leaves.

"Moonlight" is a more upbeat song with a flare drum and glittering melodies, but Uchis's soulful sound is still present throughout the track.

Although this is an English album, Uchis masterfully weaves in Spanish lyrics in the chorus, "I just wanna get high with my lover/ Veo una muñeca cuando miro en el espejo/ Kiss, kiss."

The lyrics translate to "I see a doll when I look in the mirror."

She sings in a breathy voice about the cozy feeling of spending quality time with a lover, and about how being in love can lead to having more confidence.

She definitely has the power to carry this album herself, but I'm not mad at her collaborations. Her voice beautifully blends with Summer Walker in "Deserve Me."

Walker is another female R&B artist, and I would vouch for her if listeners want a sultry vibe for a late-night drive.

In the chorus, Uchis sings "I like it better when you're gone/ I feel a little less alone/ You know I never needed you/ Didn't deserve, you don't deserve me," and passes it to Walker who sings "I don't deserve the shit you put me through/ Like you don't know that you're lucky."

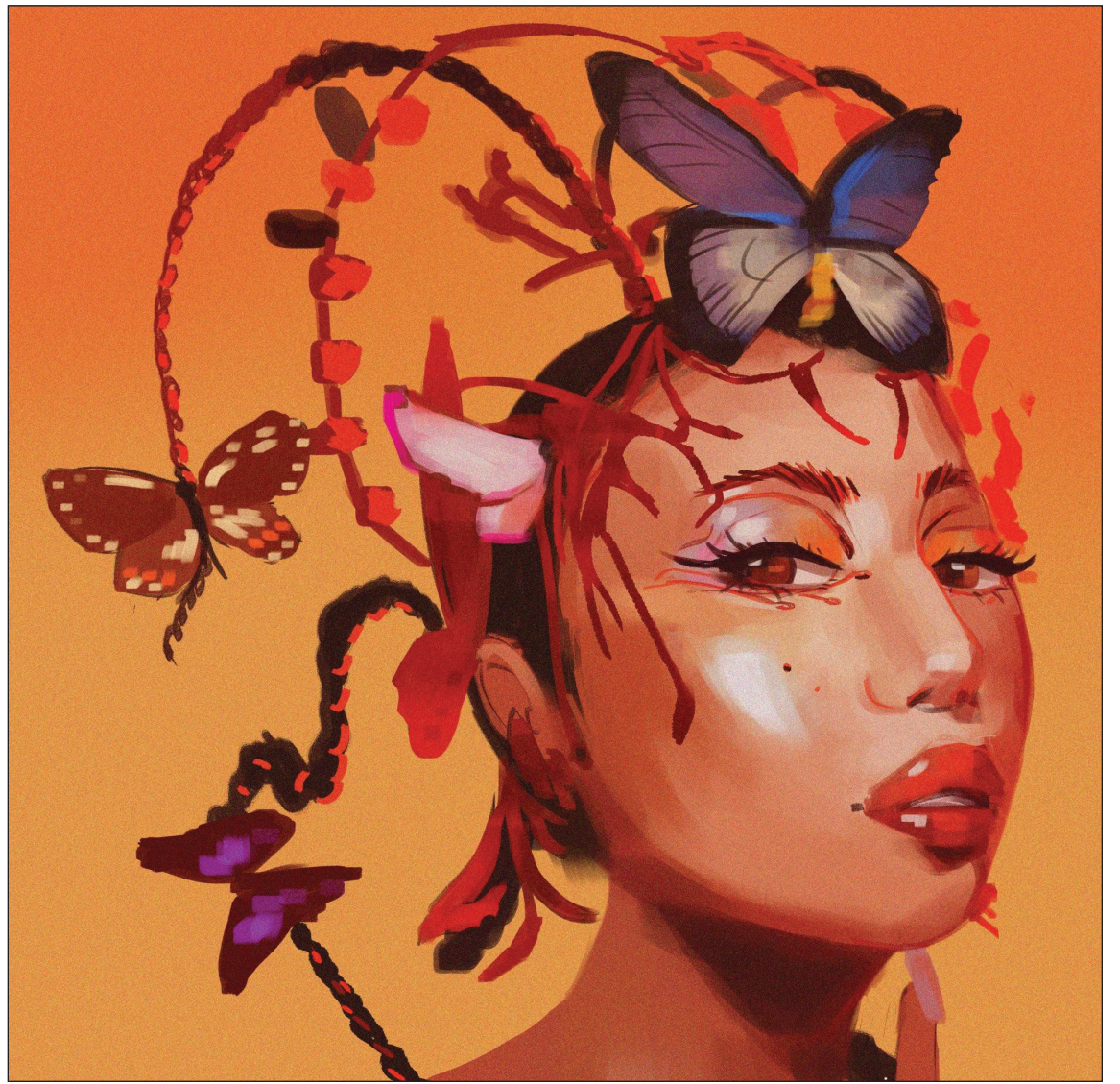


ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH GREGORIC

This is the perfect song to blast if you're thinking of calling your pathetic ex.

However, Uchis and Walker

would be ashamed if you do that after four minutes and 28 seconds of multiple reasons why they don't deserve you.

Overall, Uchis exudes her sensual nature in every track and left me wanting more, even after listening to the album on repeat.

The album calmed my anxiety around dating and helped me realize that when one love ends, another one can begin.

Coming out of a

long-term relationship that ended mutually, this album resonates with me because I have no reason to be bitter about it either.

"Red Moon In Venus" completely entranced me and makes me want to be as self-assured as Uchis, with or without a lover.

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album review	
<b>"Red Moon In Venus"</b>	<b>Artist:</b> Kali Uchis
<b>Rating:</b> ★★★★☆	<b>Release Date:</b> March 3, 2023
	<b>Genre:</b> R&B/soul

## MOVIE REVIEW

## Michael B. Jordan's directorial debut is a hit

By Nathan Canilao  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

When I first watched the trailer for "Creed III," I wanted to run through a wall after seeing the repetitive training scenes with hyped-up music in the background.

When I saw that lead actor Michael B. Jordan was the director, I had doubts about what the movie would look like.

Jordan never directed a film before and certainly wasn't ready for a film of this magnitude.

Fast forward to Saturday night, and all my doubts about Jordan's directing skills went away.

"Creed III" follows Adonis Creed's final phase of his boxing career as he transitions from a beloved boxer to a big-time promoter.

In the midst of Creed starting his new job as a promoter, an old friend from his troubled childhood re-enters his life.

Damian Anderson, played by Jonathan Majors, is a childhood friend of Creed who was imprisoned for 18 years after protecting Creed from people who attempted to kill him in a dispute.

Anderson was a big influence in Creed's early boxing career as he introduced him to the fight game at an early age.

When Anderson returned home from prison, he wanted to pick up from where he left off when he was chasing his boxing dreams.

The main conflict of the film comes out when Anderson's boxing goals clash with Creed's plans to promote his own fighters.

Anderson wanted to use Creed to fast track his way to a world title. Creed, who felt guilty for being part of the reason Anderson

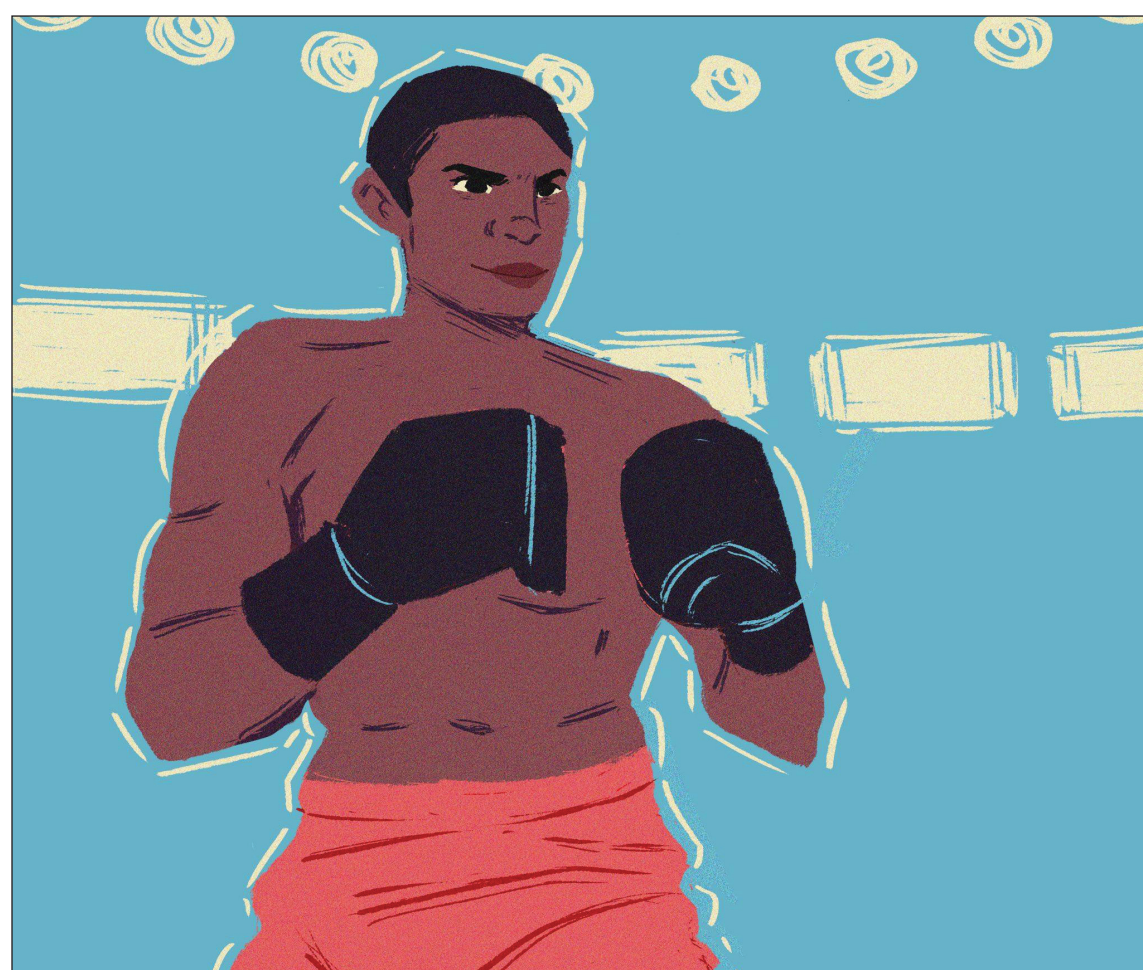


ILLUSTRATION BY HANNAH GREGORIC

went to prison, reluctantly gave Anderson a shot at the title, which damaged his credibility as a promoter.

The conflict hits a collision course when Creed and Anderson decide the only way to achieve their goals is to fight each other in a winner-takes-all championship bout.

What I loved about this film was how the plot wasn't a "good guy" versus "bad guy" storyline. Though Anderson plays the role of the antagonist throughout the film, his "villain quest" is understandable and defines why he's the cold-hearted character he's portrayed to be.

Conversely, Creed is the

story's protagonist, but some of his actions didn't make him look like a "good guy" throughout the movie.

The storyline is complex and makes the audience wonder why the characters act the way they do.

Another part of this movie I loved was Sylvester Stallone not making an appearance. Part of what I thought held back the previous "Creed" films was this looming cloud of the "Rocky" series hanging over the terrific storylines of the previous movies.

And let's be honest: the Stallone that portrayed legendary characters such as Rocky Balboa, Rambo and Barney Ross is long gone.

If I had to hear another "Creed" movie with the old, raspy and tired voice of Stallone, I would have walked out of the theater.

Jordan showed that he could take a beloved series such as "Rocky" and continue the storyline with an equally iconic character, without having ties to the last series.

Aside from the story itself, the fighting scenes were top tier.

The cinematography of the punches thrown in the ring was something that I haven't seen in combat cinema before.

The fight scenes gave me flashbacks of Mortal Kombat, where we could see up close and personal the destruction each

strike does to the human body.

The presentation of the punches themselves were more violent for sure, but it added a different element to the movie.

It was also refreshing to see other professional boxers in the film. José Benavidez Jr., Terence Crawford and Canelo Alvarez all made cameos in "Creed III."

Maybe the biggest highlight of "Creed III" was the obvious eye candy Jordan and Majors presented when they entered combat mode.

There's a reason why I didn't bring my partner to the theater because of the inevitable looks I would see on her face anytime the gun show came on screen.

Overall, I thought that Jordan's directing debut was a magical success. I am excited to see what the future holds for Jordan on the directing side of films.

Follow Nathan Canilao on Twitter @nathancanilao

movie review
<b>"Creed III"</b>
<b>Rating:</b> ★★★★★
<b>Directed by:</b> Michael B. Jordan
<b>Starring:</b> Michael B. Jordan, Jonathan Majors
<b>Genre:</b> Drama/Sport



# Lover’s Peak wears heart on sleeves

By Ruth Aguilar  
ACCESS MAGAZINE STAFF WRITER

Dynamic duos are iconic and the band *Lovers Peak* continues that notion. *Lovers Peak* is a self-taught duo group of Ernesto Moran and Ramiro Moran, two San Jose State University juniors and twin brothers. The band finds an identity in the term indie. Indie by definition means they are, “not belonging to or affiliated with a major record or film company” according to Oxford Languages, but the term has also grown into a word for the alternative music culture that houses the genres of new wave, bedroom pop, lo-fi and so many more. “What indie means to me... in music is independent, but also a raw sound, very authentic,” Ernesto Moran said.

They write all their own lyrics and music. They also attain help from friends for their photo shoots, music videos, styling and things of that nature. Destiny Carillo, a junior creative arts major and longtime friend of the band, is credited with helping them film their music video for their song *Tainted*.

“They have an amazing vision when it comes to music, when it comes to creative direction, when it comes to all of that, and ... I’m always so happy to help out in any way that I can,” Carillo said.

Ramiro Moran is the bassist of the group and a business administration major with a concentration in management information systems. Ernesto Moran is the lead singer and guitarist of the band and a radio television and film major.

He was part of the campus’s radio station, KSJS, and was able to secure a spot for their song to be played on air. The two work together to spread the word about their band in any way they can, including “Fun Fact Day” on the first day of a new semester.

Mayté Castro, a criminology junior, found out about the band during the school year from Ramiro Moran and has become a fan of the band since.

“I can see them being pretty big and you know, I’m glad to be here from the start,” Castro said.

Ernesto Moran, who is the older of the two, had grown up playing the guitar citing no specific age for picking it up but Ramiro Moran first picked up the bass guitar only two years ago.

Being such a small group they have not only learned to play their own instruments but also had to adapt to the lack of other instruments by digitally replacing them. This process consists of creating the sound of the drum piece or finding a specific sound sample and then creating a drum backing track to have ready to play for their performances.

The band started as a separate minor band called *Small Talk* in 2020, composed of the Moran brothers and some hometown friends. From there it was that the brothers officially discovered their love and passion for music, starting their band just a few months later.

They released their first single, *Blue Skies*, in April 2021 and continued to drop other singles for the next year and a half until releasing a five song EP, *What’s It Like*, in October 2022. The subject topic comes from their own experience in love in all aspects from heartache to struggles with mental health to being in love.

The act of spreading love and wearing their heart on their sleeve was heavily pushed on them by their mother when they were young, and still affects their way of living now. The band’s name is a play on words about loving to the fullest while simultaneously mixing up *Twin Peaks*, a popular 1990s mystery TV Drama, and *Lovers Point*, a viewpoint in Pacific Grove near where they grew up in Soledad.

The twins find themselves in the middle of their family line, with an older sister and two younger twin sisters.

The twins were always surrounded by music at a young age from hearing their mother play Spanish rock from artists like *Mana* and *Hombres G* and their maternal grandfather, encouraging them to learn to play guitar.

The musical influence for their songs now comes from different artists such as *Surf Curse*, *The Strokes* and, the late band *Her’s*, also known for being a duo group.

The band has such a unique connection, not just being raised together as brothers but having an even deeper bond because they are twins.

“Especially just growing up, we just know each other so well, and we’re best friends, so ... we know everything about each other [and] how to work with each other,” Ramiro Moran said.

Just a year ago, the band had their first performance at an open mic night at the Bearded Bean in Salinas. Since then they have been playing at coffee shops including Philz Coffee in downtown San Jose.

The brothers stated that their favorite performance so far was at Other Brother Beer Co. in Seaside.

“I think what made the difference for that was people were there just for the music,” Ernesto Moran said.

Ramiro Moran continued that notion and said, “Just like knowing the crowd is enjoying what you’re playing makes me feel like so much more energized.”

The band has many goals for the year such as playing even bigger venues that they’ve done and to release more music.

They are currently working on releasing two singles, one even being in Spanish to gain a wider audience.

The band’s next performances are on March 10 at Pierce Ranch Vineyards in Monterey and the following day at Mid Pen Media Center in Palo Alto.

# “MUSIC IS INDEPENDENT, BUT ALSO A RAW SOUND, VERY AUTHENTIC.”

- ERNESTO MORAN



Ramiro Moran (LEFT) and Ernesto Moran (RIGHT) during their photoshoot in Soledad.

DESTINY CARILLO | COURTESY OF LOVERS PEAK

## LOVERS PEAK LEAVE SJSU WANTING MORE

By Lesley Rodriguez  
ACCESS MAGAZINE STAFF WRITER

San Jose has a diverse landscape of music from DJ sets to local artists, so it is no surprise that San Jose State University has an active music scene to make a place for new up and coming bands like *Lovers Peak*.

This duo band consists of Ernesto Moran as the vocalist and guitarist and Ramiro Moran as the bassist. Originally from Monterey County, they are now one of SJSU’s indie bands.

They released their debut EP, *What’s It Like* in October 2022, with a total of five songs which spans for 15 minutes.

Throughout

that remind me of *Kids* by *Current Joys*. There is a consistent beat in this but the change in speed of it throughout the song makes it more interesting and works for the band.

*New Era* has a strong drum presence that is kind to the ears followed by whispery style vocals. The style of this song and lyrics are similar to artists like *Eye Dress* and *Part Time*. Towards the end of the track they slow down the drums and bring forward the guitar and bass, breaking up the song and creating a memorable outro for the EP.

The repetitiveness of the songs can make listeners feel like it lacks luster, but there are hidden gems outside of the EP.

My favorite songs from this duo are the two singles they released before *What’s It Like*.

*Blue Skies* was released in April 2021, making it the first song they have ever released. Inspiration from the band *Her’s* can be clearly seen in this debut from the collage photo of clouds for their cover photo and soft intro.

This song allows for listeners to actually hear the vocals and guitar riffs, rather than

in their ep where their voice is overpowered. *Tainted* was released in December 2021, a couple months after their first song. It starts off slow, making me think it was going to get lost with their other songs but once it hits the minute mark they speed up with the sound with their bass and guitars.

The indie music bands that these brothers listen to are apparent in their sound, making their debut EP a special project for them.

This duo has made small show appearances in their hometown but recently they played a show at Philz Coffee right across from SJSU’s campus.

Lovers Peak is only getting started and has time to develop more of their sound as they continue to grow in their musical journey.



LOVERS PEAK

### ACCESS MAGAZINE’S STAR RATING



# Like Lovers Peak? Listen to these bands!

With their moody and mellow sound, *Lovers Peak* is piquing the interest of many in the San Jose area. The evanescent, yet seemingly translucent reverb of Ernesto Moran vocals sends visions of an overcasted 80s-90s era of nostalgia to the brain in an endless loop. The twin duo of Ernesto Moran and Ramiro Moran have released eight songs since their April 2021 debut, but that doesn’t stop *ACCESS* from composing our own playlist of bands that remind us of *Lovers Peak* while fans wait for more.

#### MODERN ENGLISH

The new wave post-punk band *Modern English* broke ground in 1979 and are best known for their songs, *Ink and Paper*, *I Melt With You* and *Hands Across the Sea*. With their musical exploration of love, loss and devotion, *Modern English* reminds us of our most intimate moments and leaves us with vulnerable reflection despite its often upbeat sound. The second studio album, *After the Snow* (1982) was well received in the US and sold over 500,000 units according to *Vogue*, a fashion and beauty magazine. Much like *Lovers Peak*, the band became popular with college students and gives audiences a sense of relatability when it comes to the experience of young love.

#### THE CURE

The gothic rock icon that is Robert Smith and his gang of raggedy haired bandmates is one of the first bands we think of when listening to *Lovers Peak*. With their mellow voice and use of overlapping reverberated lyrics, *The Cure* and *Lovers Peak* feels like a foggy, mellifluous dreamscape. The band formed in 1976 from West Sussex, with Smith leading vocals and who remains as the sole member of the band’s origins. Their songs are legendary, ranging from *Lullaby*, *In between Days* and *Lovesong*, the latter of which Smith wrote for his wife Mary Poole, according to *Far Out*, a British online culture magazine. Fans might notice the gentleness of Smith’s lyrics are akin to *Lovers Peak*.

#### THE STROKES

The whispers of a simpler, yet harder times, the early albums of *The Strokes* heavily inspired the Moran twins’ sound when recording their EP *What’s it Like*. The opening track is reminiscent of *The Strokes’* first album *Hard to Explain* having a similar chord progression in the beginning. The low and sustained vocals by Ernesto are in the alley of *The Strokes’* lead singer, Julian Casablancas, that can be heard in *The End has no End* from the album *Room on Fire*.

#### WITCHING HOUR

If you enjoy dark and brooding lyrics with a long instrumental intro, then look no further.

The trad goth band first made grounds in London 1991 by playing covers of popular songs as well as their own original tracks, according to their website. Their song *Ligeia* is a perfect track for long road trips, as it’s easy to just get lost in its hypnotic melody and the mystifying vocals of Trevor Barnes.

