

THE BEAN MASHEEN

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SJSU: For better or For Worse

Parking Shmarking

I have been at San Jose State University for five years, going on six now. In my time here I have found some things that I like and some things that I don't. One thing I definitely don't like, and I'm pretty sure you would be hard pressed to find anyone who does, is the parking situation.

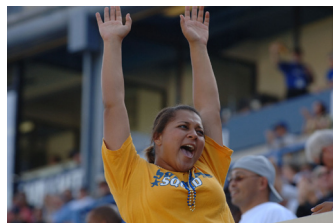
SJSU is a commuter school. Therefore, a lot of students are driving to school as opposed to living on campus. Parking downtown alone is moderately difficult. Parking at school is near impossible, that is unless you plan on showing up a few hours before your classes actually start and you are okay with camping out in your car or maybe wandering around campus or studying in the library in the meantime.



Hey Spartans!! Who hates the parking garage?!

been people biking to campus, but having been here a while now, it seems that bikes have become more ubiquitous these days. This is awesome for a number of reasons. One, everyone who rides is reducing his or her carbon footprint. Excellent. Two, everyone can use a little exercise on their way to and from school. Perfect for the busy student who wouldn't otherwise have time to squeeze in cardio into their ridiculous schedules. And three, no fighting for parking spaces and no expensive parking permit! That's the best part!

Biking to school seems to have become relatively popular in recent semesters. There have always



We do!

Everybody! Bikepool!

I am an advocate for bike riding, this might already be obvious. But just think about it, if SJSU was as big of a biking school as say UCSB, we would be taking a huge step towards being a greener campus!

One thing I really like about SJSU is that it is rather accommodating to riders. I



Bikepooling in action

have only started riding my bike to school this semester, but its benefits have already come to light. I love my ride to school in the mornings. It helps me wake up, I squeeze in a little cardio, I don't have to sit in traffic, I'm simultaneously hugging a tree (figuratively speaking, of course); riding a bike gives you the feeling of being open and free, because essentially, you are.

On top of all that, I don't have to deal with parking! Amazing! SJSU has a bunch of places to park your bike on campus. There are bike enclosures you can use for a one time deposit of ten dollars (refunded upon return of your access key, which by the way can be kept until you are no longer an active student/employee at SJSU). There are bike racks all over campus, a lot conveniently located right outside of your class (hint: check around the whole building, sometimes they are on the

Everybody! Bikepool! cont.

side you don't usually enter through). And although it is not exactly allowed or advised, as a last resort, there are poles and railings and benches or quite frankly anything near your class for you to lock your bike to. Beware though, even though SJSU is a bike friendly campus, UPD can impound your bike for parking it somewhere other than the bike enclosures or racks (it is about \$15 cash to get it out).

Is It Just Me?

You won't find me studying in the library too often. Number one reason, it's not open when I'm studying. I'm in class for a bulk of the day, so it is a bit late when I actually start to study.

Anyone without an SJSU Tower Card or National Hispanic University ID card gets kicked out at 10 p.m. and students with an ID card get to stay until midnight. Yeah that seems pretty late. But if you think about how a lot of students study until the wee hours of the night, it is not that late. I have heard of other universities keeping their libraries open until 2 a.m. or later. Granted, the library is open 24 hours to students during finals week, but not during the rest of the semester.

Our library has an immense amount of resources and study space, it is just unfortunate it isn't open all the time.



Students leaving MLK Library

Awesome Art at SJSU



Have you ever just wandered around school, taking a self-guided tour through all the different buildings on campus? I have. I used to always get stuck with the awkward gap in between classes; too short to go home but too long to be heading straight for your next class. Those were the days when I would wander around, check out the different floors in the library (I recommend the children's section; cozy, colorful, and there are stuffed animals to nap with), all the different rooms in the student union, and all the buildings I never had class in.

My first stop was the art building. I am an advertising major and therefore had never planned on taking any art classes, nor was I anywhere close to having any artistic ability. It is a fun building. The outside is more colorful compared to all the others on campus. There are some cool pieces of art in the courtyard and if you check out the inside, there are a bunch of galleries that always have awesome work on display. Plus if you peek into any of the open doors, you can usually find students actually working on some interesting looking stuff. And no worries, the students are usually too involved in their work to notice you being nosey.

Not only do I like the building, but SJSU has some really good programs. The Industrial Design program is one of the top rated in the nation, and the Graphic Design program has some amazing professors and students. Whenever you get a chance, it is definitely advised to check out any of the shows or galleries.