Smart Cart offers healthy food alternatives in two locations

Eric Bennett
High-speed rail in San Jose stirs debate

An architectural rendering of the to-be-constructed high-speed rail in San Jose. A trip from San Jose to Los Angeles would encompass 384 miles and cost $51, and the estimated travel time would be 2 hours and 9 minutes, according to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Web site.

ENGINEERING TEAM COMPETES IN CHICO

Eric Van Susteren Staff Writer

Student candidates will be running for three contested positions in the Associated Students government during the elections that will be held from April 13 to 15. A.S. election consultant Elekwechi Elekwachi said:

"Students can vote on their MySJSU accounts or at one of the polling centers on campus from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Elekwachi said:"

"Elekwachi said the polling centers are located outside Clark Hall, the Student Union and outside the Campus Village housing complex."

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"Domingo Castellanos, a candidate for A.S. president, said the budget is one of his main concerns."

"I want to make sure the budget cuts are taken seriously," he said.

"Castellanos, a senior kinesiology major, said he would be an advocate for students and expand student familiarity with A.S."

"I want to allow students to become involved on campus and not have SJU be just a school, but a home as well," he said.

Tomasz Kolodziejak, a candidate for A.S. president, said he wouldn’t be as vulnerable to the steep learning curve as A.S. president because of his current position as the director of international affairs.

"I’ve been on the board and I know how the system works," said Kolodziejak, a senior international business major. "In order to change something, you need to know how to.

"Kolodziejak said he would spend the A.S. funds more judiciously while faced with the current budget crisis."

"We need to cut the programs and events that don’t work," he said. "The popular events, like barbecues, need to be more informative and promote A.S."

Paul Yula, the third candidate for A.S. president, said he will strive to be accessible to students by communicating with them on his Web site and blog.

"I’ll bring a lot of passion and fight for every dollar we have," he said.

"Yula, a senior animation and illustration major, said he would like to review ELECTIONS, Page 2

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Audio slideshow: Spartans show potential on Saturday’s football scrimmage

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Students can again snatch up fresh produce on the way to their classes Thursday mornings as the Spartan Smart Cart returns to its location outside Clark Hall, according to an assistant professor in the nutrition, food science and packaging department.

The cart has been stationed inside the Student Union since January, but Freedman said a dip in traffic at that location means the Smart Cart will be placed in its original outdoor location from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“I think there are students who are on the far side of campus that literally never cross the Seventh Street promenade,” Freedman said. “It’s a very small campus when you see college campuses, yet students tend to stay centralized.”

Jessica Arid, a sophomore liberal studies major, said her friends often mistake the cart in the Student Union food court for a display.

“If they try to tell them, ‘No, this isn’t a display, you can buy this stuff,’” she said. “The carts should all be over campus, and they’re great for the people passing through as well.”

The Smart Cart inside the Student Union food court remains since the campus wants to offer fresh produce in the morning every day of the week, Freedman said.

“The cart’s focus is on grab-and-go items,” she said. “Not a sit-down meal, but you will get a healthy snack. Popular items are fresh fruit, baby carrots and strawberries are in season now.”

David Cheung, a senior digital media major, said he goes to the food court often but always assumes any healthy alternatives come at a price.

“Sometimes junk food is more tasty and healthy food is more expensive,” he said. “But it could be that people need to be educated on what is healthy and what isn’t.”

Junior landscape major Katalyn Ford said all her classes are in Clark Hall but that the cart seems to either be opening or closing by the time she’s done with class.

“I’ve bought from the cart before,” she said. “I don’t like buying fast food so it was always nice to be able to go here instead of waiting in line in the food court.”

Problems she said she found little success when the cart — originally brought to campus in February 2009 — was placed in the food court alongside other dining options. In February 2009, was placed in the original outdoor location from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

“Sometimes junk food is more tasty and healthy food is more expensive,” she said. “But it could be that people need to be educated on what is healthy and what isn’t.”

Senior biology major Eric Bennetts said students don’t go to the Student Union to buy food, which may be why they never see it.”

Freedman said she is looking for ways to increase the accessibility of healthy food for students but her effort has been stymied by issues such as an inability to accept any tender but cash.

“Quite a number of customers either cannot or choose not to use cash,” she said. “I would like to create an sustainable model and we’re looking into wireless technology. Of course, most people aren’t going to throw their change at 50 cents.”

Ford said she may not always have enough money for a snack, but she does carry enough to by a piece of fruit.

“I always have enough change for an orange,” she said.

Freedman said she’s looking for other high-traffic areas to bring the cart, but isn’t sure if students would even take the food if it was given to them for free.

“We do have to make it easier for people to get healthy food,” she said. “I’m thinking of ways of working with organizations to promote a sense of community on campus,” she said.

The director is responsible for raising sustainability issues on campus and for working with organizations to promote a sense of community on campus, said Cathy Bui, a candidate for director of community and environmental affairs.

“The renovations on campus have been quite impressive, but I think the community is doing for us,” she said.

The position of director of community and environmental affairs is also in contention this year.

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