

# The Mercury News

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## Pizarro: The bikes have it in commuter race

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Two wheels were faster than four Tuesday morning as a high-powered team of cyclists beat car and light-rail commuters in the Clean Commute Challenge in downtown San Jose.

The bike team -- which included Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition Executive Director Corinne Winter, San Jose City Councilman Sam Liccardo and Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Carl Guardino -- made the best time in a race from the 88 condo building on San Fernando and Third streets to the County Government Center on First and Hedding streets. They bested teams in cars and on light rail -- and did even better when factoring in cost, environmental impact and health effects.

An avid bike advocate, Liccardo looked the most like an average commuter, wearing a gray suit to go with his blue bike helmet. He rides his bike to various events around downtown San Jose and has been pushing to make the city more bike-friendly.

The lighthearted "race" may have been stacked in favor of the cyclists, but that's because it's just a prelude for Bike to Work Day on May 12 (for more information, go to [www.bikesiliconvalley.org/btwd](http://www.bikesiliconvalley.org/btwd)).

By the way, Bike to Work Day is every day for Guardino, who says it's a rare day that he doesn't make the 32-mile round trip from his Los Gatos home to his office in San Jose.

"It's all about burning carbs instead of carbon," he said.

### MECHANICAL MARVELS:

So when the planet is invaded by a robot army (and you know that's coming at some point), I'll be looking to Bellarmine College Prep to defend us. The San Jose boys' high school's Robotics Team, the Cheesy Poofs, was one of three teams tied for first

with a 9-1 competition record at the World Championships of Robotics in St. Louis.

"I am so proud of all the kids for the hard work they have put in to achieve this result," faculty moderator Rob Janke said. "This was the missing piece to our program and all that have ever been a part of this team are happy and excited for finally achieving the ultimate goal." In its 11-year history, the program has won 73 awards, including regional victories this year in San Diego and Silicon Valley.

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GOT SHARKS? With the Sharks up by two games in the second round of the Stanley Cup playoffs, it's the perfect time to dig up some of San Jose's famous fiberglass sharks.

A hundred of the artistically decorated sharks were placed around San Jose as part of the SharkByte Art project, sponsored by the San Jose Downtown Association.

The sharks were auctioned off in November 2001 to benefit nonprofit agencies, and some of them can still be seen in public places around town. But where are the rest? If you've got one or know the fate of one, email columnist Sal Pizarro at [spizarro@mercurynews.com](mailto:spizarro@mercurynews.com).

He'll report back.



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