



Alejandra Corona creates smoke rings during MESA Day at UC Santa Cruz on Saturday.

JON WEIAND/SENTINEL

STUDENT

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cas, 17-year-old seniors at Soledad High School, designed a prosthetic arm to perform various tasks such as screwing a nut onto a bolt and throwing a ball across the room.

The arm was the result of several weeks of brainstorming after school, Hol-

guin said.

"Just the physics behind it, you know what I mean?" he said. "It's more than just the arm. It's understanding it."

In competition, the duo was each given a chance to lift three bolts of varying sizes into corresponding holes in a wooden board and then attach nuts onto them.

While it sounds easy in theory, using the arm they engineered, the task seemed

painstakingly difficult as each person carefully lifted each bolt and tried to insert it into the hole.

The team came up with a new design after a earlier design didn't mean the competition requirements, Yes-cas said.

"Now that I've been introduced to all projects with engineering and other projects, I really want to pursue a career that involves mathematics," she said.

Santa Cruz High School math teacher Ave Cope has been involved with the program for eight years as a teacher and a judge.

"It has been one of the most profound experiences," she said "Kids that thought they were never be interested in science were inspired."

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