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Tuesday, February 7, 2017

## State Trustees propose tuition increase

#### **By David Taub** Staff writer

The California State Board of Trustees has proposed a five percent tuition increase for the entire California State University system starting in the 2017-2018 school year.

The Board will be holding its official vote on whether to approve the tuition hike in March. If the board votes yes to increase tuition, over 418,000 undergraduates will see an increase of \$270 a year in tuition according to Students for Quality Education (SQE).

Because of state law the CSU Board of Trustees has not been able to raise tuition for the past four years, however that law expires at the end of this school year. The Board of Trustees' website said that the potential increase would allow the CSU to recruit more faculty, hire more advisors and add more classes.

Ryan Eckford, a sociology senior and member of SQE, said those things are already the CSU's responsibility.

"[The Trustees] seem to have this deranged idea that we [the students] can afford this," Eckford said. "When the truth is the CSU system is merely trying to balance the budget on the backs of the students."

SQE is a statewide organization that works to pursue free higher education that is of high-quality and accessible by everyone. Eckford said that SQE's short-term goal is to oppose the five percent

See **RAISE** page 2



MACLA GALLERY

**SEE ART EXHIBIT ON PAGE 3** 

## INSIDE

#### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



## Plans Advance for New Science Building

**By Payje Redmond** STAFF WRITER

San Jose State University has revealed plans to construct a new science building. The long-awaited building is predicted to break ground in July 2018.

Carl D. Duncan Hall (DH), which was completed in 1972, houses most of the College of Science's labs, but the fortyyear-old building has outdated facilities and cramped space. Brenda Serrano, a lab instructor and lecturer in the college of science said, "Probably this building is not as bad shape as the Science Building in terms of equipment and facilities." The preliminary building site proposal suggests using the area just north of Duncan Hall, encompassing the adjacent parking lot and the Associated Student lawn. Associate Dean of Research Marc d'Alarcao said the building will primarily contain teaching and research laboratories. The Science Building, the older and smaller companion to DH, is where most of the lectures are currently held.

There is an ongoing complaint about the building having uneven heating and cooling throughout, along with organic chemistry labs that are in poor condition. New plans aim to combat these concerns.

"This is far beyond the scope of what we were initially working," said Stanley Vaughn, Instructional and Research Facility Manager. "It's time to dream." He envisions an outdoor classroom, interactive self-guided tours with sculptures, an amphitheater and more. "I see this as a living holistic organism where students are not going to want to leave," Vaughn said. Graduate students would also benefit from a new building which would provide more research labs. Diane Eilerts, graduate chemistry teaching assistant, said, "My research lab is very small; it's hard to find space."

Eilerts said students in her biology lab would be an even larger beneficiary because they often lose valuable lab time adjusting outdated equipment.

Among d'Alarcao's top priorities is including informal study spaces such as cubbies and huddle rooms where student can work on problems together.

The planning committee is scheduled to select the contractor and architectural

## kylee baird i spartan daily Onesie Pub Crawl in San Jose

**By Kylee Baird** Staff writer

Amongst all the Super Bowl madness going on throughout the weekend, people gathered downtown to drink and socialize while dressed in chipmunk, giraffe and cookie monster onesies. As part of the Onesie Pub Crawl, participants were able to enjoy the night with a nice cold beer or a strong fruity cocktail, all while playing drinking games like beer pong and flip cup.

The Onesie Pub Crawl started at San Pedro Square Market Bar, while slowly making its way to Old Wagon, then The Brit and lastly The Loft.

Creator of the Onesie Pub Crawl event, Jahna Lukas, created the event to bring people together while showing off their unique choice of onesie.

This event information spread like a wildfire.

Colin Schaefer, a child care worker, heard about the event through a friend and took part in the crawl.

"I heard about this event through a friend," Schaefer said. "She sent me this facebook event and we were all like okay let's go and all wore onesies."

See **BARS** page 3

team in late March.

"It's at a concept of about \$130 million," said Vaughn. The funds come from the state and must be approved by the chancellor's office. In addition, there are hopes to get additional funding from University Advancement.

Vaughn said San Jose State's Science and Innovative Complex will be unique compared to other California State Universities. The building will be environmentally friendly. Leadership in

See FACILITY page 2

#### WEATHER

## Winter Storm Watch: La Nina brings heavy rains to the Bay Area

#### By Margaret Gutierrez STAFF WRITER

January brought several rainstorms which pummeled the Bay Area and reduced the six year drought in California. The heavy rains caused flooding, mudslides, sinkholes and downed trees in many parts of the Bay Area but provided much needed relief from the long dry spell.

During the height of the storms, Highway 17 — connecting San Jose and Santa Cruz — was completely shut down for approximately two hours due to a major mudslide which blocked southbound and northbound lanes. Commuters were impacted as cleanup crews worked to remove the blockage and restore traffic flows.

"I noticed before the heavy rain how dry it was and then now you are able to see how it looks unstable," said business analytics senior Brigitte Canseco, "They have put up fences along [Highway 17] where you can see other hills that don't look safe." According to the San Jose Mercury News, San Jose received 10.39 inches of rain since October 2016, 122 percent of normal rainfall levels. Many locations in the Bay Area also recorded their second or third wettest January on record. These wet weather patterns are being driven by lower than normal sea surface temperatures in the Pacific which is a result of La Nina.

#### I noticed before the heavy rain how dry it was and then now you are able to see how it looks unstable.

#### Brigitte Canseco Business analytics senior

When La Nina is active in winter, the Pacific Northwest can experience higher than normal air temperatures and increased rainfall. Although the increased air temperatures can bring high rainfall, it can keep snowpack totals low which can affect how much water is available to fill reservoirs and rivers in the summer months. La Nina typically follows a strong El Nino year and can last from 10 to 12 months.

"It is important to remember that precipitation in California and the Bay Area varies considerably from year to year so we can't be complacent about water conservation," said environmental studies professor Katherine Cushing.

The increased rainfall is not only turning the surrounding hills green with vegetation, but it is also restoring reservoir and groundwater storage levels which provide water to the residents of Santa Clara County.

According to the Santa Clara Valley Water District website, there are 10 surface reservoirs which were constructed in the 1930s and 1950s for water conservation. The reservoirs serve multiple purposes which include flood protection, provide recreation for residents and benefit the

See **DROUGHT** page 2

# 2|NEWS|

## SO FRESH helps students find food resources

The workshop aims to help hungry students find what they need to meet their nutritional needs.

#### **By DAVID TAUB** STAFF WRITER

Cesar Chavez Community The Action Center held SO FRESH on Friday. A workshop made to help San Jose State students who experience food insecurity.

The goal of SO FRESH, or Seeking Out Food Resources Empowering Student Health, is to "help students who are looking for various food resources on campus that are affordable or low cost," according to Elizabeth Agramont-Justiniano. Agramont-Justiniano, a sociology grad student and program assistant at the action center organized the workshop.

SO FRESH highlighted many of the food resources that exist on campus for hungry students. Agramont-Justiniano explained that there are 15 food shelves throughout the campus that have non-

perishable items for students that need immediate assistance. There are multiple food shelves in the Student Wellness Center and Clark Hall, as well as shelves in the Student Union and the Library.

Students who would like a full list of where they can find all 15 food shelves on campus can find one in the Cesar Chavez Community Action Center in the Student Union.

A study that was released by SJSU in fall 2014 showed that one in three students were experiencing food insecurity and that one in five students were going entire days without eating. That means that nearly 6,500 students are going hungry at San Jose State.

Kevin Gomez, a computer engineering sophomore is one of those students.

Gomez grew up in South Central Los Angeles and was on his own when he moved to San Jose. He had to worry about things like grocery shopping, how to cook and how to afford food for the first time.

"In high school and before my parents of course just fed me, they took care of that," Gomez said. "Since coming up here now I have to take care of myself ... so for me food insecurity started once I became independent."

"They [SO FRESH] have given me resources to feed myself," Gomez said. "After going to the food pantry I have peace of mind that allows me to focus on other things like studies."

Coleetta McElroy, director of the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office and co-chair of a mobile food pantry service on campus called Just In Time, believes the cost of living in San Jose is a contributing factor to students at SJSU going hungry.

McElroy said that all too often students have to decide what bill is their main priority. Do they choose to keep a roof

Ryan is a transfer student

that just recently took out

a loan to cover the cost

A tuition increase

isn't something

you should just

be able to spring

on people.

Marketing concentration junior

For many students like

Ryan, an increase in tuition

would mean higher loan

amounts and ultimately

more student debt.

Sutton Ryan

of college.

over their heads, food in their bellies, or books in their backpacks.

Just In Time is partnered with SO FRESH and was one of the many resources that they highlighted on Friday afternoon. The mobile food pantry brings the food to the students instead of forcing students that are already struggling to afford food to find transportation, and students are taking notice.

"This past Monday we [Just In Time] had about 570 students. But, in December we had nearly 700," said McElroy.

According to Agramont-Justiniano, SO FRESH will be holding more workshops to spread the word about resources for students such as Just In Time and the food shelves however a date for the next meeting has not been confirmed yet.

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#### FACILITY

Continued from page 1

Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) established by the U.S. Green Building Council is a rating system that looks at materials, performance, smart grid and water efficiency.

"We are looking at very specialized areas, looking at LEEDS rating," Vaughn said. "We'd like to get to gold or platinum,"

This building will cost more than others on campus because of the utilities such as: vacuum, natural gas, compressed air, fume hoods and other equipment specific to research and teaching science laboratories.

The design team will be responsible for making sure classrooms, labs and research can function during construction.

The construction is scheduled to be completed in 2021. "We don't shut down. In science, we do work 365 days a year," Vaughn said.

> Follow Payje on Twitter @Theyasked

## RAISE

#### Continued from page 1

increase in tuition.

This is not the first time that the Board of Trustees has proposed a raise in tuition. According to SQE's website the CSU raised tuition by 283 percent from 2002 to 2012.

The majority of students in the CSU system are between the ages of 18 and 22 years old according to the CSU website. Eckford pointed out that many of the students that he talks to about the proposed tuition hike are not aware that it even exists.

Marketing concentration junior Sutton Ryan said the proposed increased was horrible news. Ryan was upset to hear that he may have to pay more because of the possible tuition hike at the beginning of the next school year. He said that he would have liked the CSU system to be more transparent when it came to the potential increase in tuition.

Ryan's mother still claims him on her income taxes which means he is not eligible for all the financial aid that he would be if he filed independently. This means that more of the aid that he does receive will have to go to tuition as opposed to food, rent and other living expenses.

"A tuition increase isn't something you should just be able to spring on people," Ryan said.

## DROUGHT

#### Continued from page 1

ecosystems by maintaining water flow in creeks and tributaries.

"The rainfalls helps," said Chris

Both Ryan and Eckford are worried that rising tuition rates could systematically keep certain groups of people from being able to achieve a higher education.

Eckford said that students can get involved in fighting the proposed tuition hike by advocating to the board of trustees.

Stopping the proposed tuition hike may seem out of reach to many students. "Students have won fights against tuition increases in the past and we can do it again today," Eckford said.

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sustainability for future use.

"Forty percent of our drinking water in Santa Clara County comes from the ground and it takes a long time to replenish that," said environmental studies senior Richard Tejeda.

The heavy rains in January may

## **STUDENT** PARKING MADE EASY

#### Fourth Street Garage **Only \$175 for SJSU Students**



Spring semester permits are valid January 15 through May 31. Permits are available for purchase at the Fourth Street and Market & San Pedro Square garage offices.

> Students must provide valid student ID and proof of enrollment (minimum 6 units). Please bring originals with copies.

For more information, call (408) 794-1090.

Get parking information, directions, maps and more at **ParkSJ.org** 





Boyer, senior recreation official at Alum Rock Park. "It fills up our reservoir and that's what maintains the creek flow throughout the year."

In addition to the surface reservoirs, the Santa Clara Water District maintains groundwater basins known as aquifers that are restored by rainfall which gets absorbed through stream beds and other sources. The rainy season is crucial to restoring these underground water sources which are carefully managed by the Santa Clara Water District to ensure

have ended the drought in many areas of California, but it will take several successive wet years to restore all of our water sources to optimal levels.

The extended weather forecasts indicate that rain is coming for the South Bay in February which will provide additional opportunity to restore reservoir and groundwater storage.

#### Follow Margaret on Twitter @maggieslara



MARGARET GUTIERREZ | SPARTAN DAILY A sign put up by Alum Rock Park officials warns park guests against using hiking trails after heavy rains have made them dangerous to use, effectively closing it to the general public.

## Artists make political statement at MACLA Gallery

#### **By CAROLINA IBARRA** STAFF WRITER

San Jose is a culturally diverse city and its many intercultural attractions exemplify that quality. From Japantown to Little Italy, one can experience different aspects of international cuisine, pastimes and art.

Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA) is among those culturally rich attractions that exhibit intercultural art. MACLA's gallery organizes an art exhibition that offers San Jose locals and visitors alike the opportunity to experience the societal message behind Chicano/a art.

The small gallery found on South First Street is currently home to distinctive art installations with politically-charged messages based on Latino culture.

Chicano/a pieces featured in the exhibition are diverse representations of strong political statements as depicted by participating artists. Each is creatively different and relevant to current events.

"It is a little untraditional, but really topical considering the political climate," said Rachel Livergood, a 22-year-old communications major at Santa Clara University.

Upon entering the MACLA gallery, visitors are welcomed by cold modern steel curtains and then surrounded by stark white walls. These seemingly blank spaces, however, are splashed with brightly colored pieces mostly bearing icons of Latino culture.

Some employ motifs from indigenous cultures and others focus on untraditional Latino-American culture.

One piece that stands out among the various displays is an interactive installation that asks the audience: "How will you step up in 2017?"

The collaborative piece is accompanied by a nearby table with pens and multicolored sticky notes where visitors can write their commitments to making a change. Visitors pin their entries to the wall to form a collage made up of the aspirations of MACLA gallery visitors.

"I wrote that I want to use my platforms and power as a student and youth," said Jennifer Nguyen, a 17-year old Independence High School senior who added a bright orange slip to the wall.

Another installation depicts immigrants reaching through the narrow gaps of a wooden fence with open hands. Their faces are slightly obscured by the thick boards, yet sad and desperate expressions peek through.

Topical to the current political atmosphere, this painting seems to be a reflection of political immigration issues, particularly in regards to political borders and their human impact.

The piece is a popular installation constantly gathering a crowd of visitors trying to catch a glimpse.

Visitors that made their way through the gallery were eventually led into a small theater. Occupants in the room eagerly awaited a samba performance and dance lesson from San Francisco-based dance group Sambaxe as part of MACLA's South First Friday event.

Samba is a rhythmic, traditional dance from Brazilian culture that is intended to make up yet another interactive part of MACLA's exhibition, according to Sambaxe dancer Christina Barreto.

Dancers in flamboyant clothes and large, bright, feathered headdresses mingled with the audience.



Miliene Morales, San Jose State University student, adds a sticky note to an interactive art installation.

#### Loud, driven percussion beats ignited a fiery dance fiesta as the Samba dancers began their performance. The exuberant colors of the costumes and syncopated beats easily drew the crowd.

Community-based aspects of MACLA's gallery event were displayed again as the dancers invited the audience to participate in this high-energy dance show.

The event was brought to a climax amid

the throes of a cultural dance party in which everybody was invited to participate. Overall the open and interactive nature of MACLA's gallery event clearly demonstrated the community-building effect of art and music, especially within Latin culture.

 $\mathbf{A\&E}|\mathbf{3}$ 

Follow Carolina on Twitter @xoxoxcaro

#### BARS

#### Continued from page 1

Like Schaefer, many heard about it through Facebook, while getting invited by friends that were also attending.

Some people bought brand new onesies, while others borrowed from a friend or had them stored away in their closet for years. Esa Williams, student at Cañada College, said she received a onesie for Christmas and was finally able to show it off.

"This one I have on was a Christmas gift," Williams said. "I can finally wear it and people can actually see it."

The crawlers were able to keep warm and comfortable in their onesies, all while enjoying the fun that Friday night had to offer. your pajamas and not be ridiculed for it," Brittany Haynes, an Estate Manager said. "It's like the best thing ever."

"My friends and I have been wanting to do a onesie crawl since last year," Lukas said. "I saw that SF was doing one next month and decided we should set one up for SJ too and see how it turned out. It was meant to be private, but I figured it'd be more fun if we had it open to everyone who was interested."

While Lukas was only expecting less than 100 attendees, but she was surprised when over 200 people showed up. While most were dressed in onesies, others who opted out also joined in on the drinking festivities. People from all around the Bay Area, as well as from out of town as far as France attended the event

## EVENT REVIEW Lady Gaga gives monster Super Bowl performance

#### By Natalie Gramajo staff writer

From roof-jumping to micdropping, Lady Gaga made her grand entrance and exit something to remember. During her halftime performance of Super Bowl LI she opened the show by singing "God Bless America" from the roof of the NRG stadium. Gaga then proceeded to free fall onto the main stage. Halftime shows, such as Beyonce's halftime performance in 2013 when she brought together Destiny's Child for one last performance, have been known to be extravagant. Yet diving from the roof was something unheard of that makes Gaga's performance stand out, although the rest of the performance was moderate in comparison. She made a subtle political statement by singing "This Land is your Land" by Woodie Gurthie in the beginning of the show. Gaga was able to send a positive message without an abrasive approach during such a controversial time.

her greatest hits from "Just Dance" to "Bad Romance." It would have been nice to hear some of her new content, however. It felt more like 2012 Gaga rather than 2017 Gaga.

Her wardrobe changes weren't as over the top as expected, but it's hard to top the dress made out of meat she wore to the 2010 VMA's. She kept it simple opting for a purple sequined body suit and matching boots. During the last half of the performance she got into the football spirit and sported a white crop top resembling shoulder pads.

"It's so great to go out drinking in



KYLEE BAIRD | SPARTAN DAILY

Esa Williams (**left**) and Brittany Haynes (**right**) enjoy ice cold drinks while staying comfortable in their onesies.

With the night ending, many people were headed out asking when the next "crawl" would be. Photographer Jennifer Rapinchuk mentioned how she loves dressing up in silly costumes, as well as what safety precautions to take before a night out.

"As long as you make a plan before hand," Rapinchuk said. "I think that's really really important to stay safe and be aware of how much alcohol you are drinking, and how you are getting to and from places,"

Another Onesie Pub Crawl is being held in San Jose on March 11, hosted by VIP California. The event will go from 6 p.m to 1 a.m.

> Follow Kylee on Twitter @kyleemakae

In true Gaga fashion she brought her eccentric energy singing some of Gaga made sure to give her parents a heartfelt shout out during her performance of "Million Reasons" where she paused to say, "Hey dad, hi mom."

Considering Gaga hasn't had a hit in a while, she seemed like an unlikely choice to perform during the halftime show. Despite the numbers, Gaga proved she can still shock the crowds and catch a football at the same time.

> Follow Natalie on Twitter @Gramnat1



#### Tuesday, February 7, 2017

## Boy Scouts of America show LGBTQ progress



4 OPINION

MARGARET GUTIERREZ **STAFF WRITER** 

The Boy Scouts of America has recently changed its admission policy to allow boys to join based on their gender identity rather than the gender specified on their birth certificate. Children and young adults who identify as male will be accepted and placed in units that will better serve their needs, according to the statement on the Boy Scouts of America website.

This change in policy stemmed from a case that occurred in Secaucus, N.J. in Dec. 2016. Eight-year-old transgender boy Joe Maldonado was kicked out after other children's parents complained about his gender identity. The Boy Scouts of America and its policies were criticized after Maldonado received media attention in response to the incident.

The parents of the other troop members had a right to know that Maldonado was transgender. They should have been notified prior to his admission in order to give them the opportunity to voice any concerns or complaints.

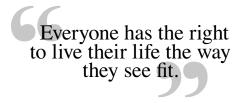
According to CNN, the initial response on this decision was issued by director of communications for the Boy Scouts of America Effie Delimarkos. "[Joe] does not meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the program," Delimarkos said. "[We] defer to the information provided for an individual's birth certificate and their biological sex."

Within three months of the Maldonado incident, the Boy Scouts of America reversed their decision and aligned their gender identification policies with local and state laws. This was not the first time the Boy Scouts of America changed their policies related to the LBGTQ community. In 2015, it lifted the ban on allowing gay adults to be Scout leaders and just a year prior it began to allow gay youth to join.

"[We] have ultimately deferred to the information on an individual's birth certificate to determine eligibility for our single-gender programs," said Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh in a video and written statement posted on the Boy Scouts

of America website. "Starting today, we will accept and register youth in the Cub and Boy Scout programs based on the gender identity indicated on the application."

In contrast to the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the United States of America first broke ground on this issue in 2011 when they allowed a Colorado transgender girl to join. The child was initially blocked from joining by the local troop leader but that decision was quickly reversed once the mother of the child reported it to a CNN affiliate.



The topic of transgender children joining a gender-based group had already been addressed by the Girl Scouts of America six years ago so the Boy Scouts of America should have been better prepared.

The topic of gender identity issues are not only complex but extremely divisive, and they become even more so when it comes to transgender children.

Some may argue that children do not have the necessary maturity nor self-awareness required to make the decision to consciously live as a transgender boy or girl. These are formative years for a child and this life choice can bring with it negative attention and ridicule from their peers. This can affect self-confidence and create emotional scars that they could carry into their adulthood.

On the other hand, not allowing these transgender boys and girls to live their lives as the gender they most identify with could make them feel ashamed of who they are which can be equally damaging. Learning to suppress these feelings and hide who they are just so that they can fit within acceptable societal boundaries could prevent these children from being able to truly love themselves.

The changes implemented by the Boy Scouts of America help to sow a seed of change which can have ripple effects in many other areas of society and help to create more normalcy and acceptance of the LGBTQ community. I believe that we can all agree that everyone – including the transgender community - has the right to live their life the way they see fit.

#### Follow Margaret on Twitter @maggieslara



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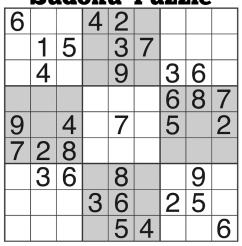
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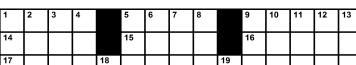
## Antina Chen **Chantel Ricks**

Editorial (408) 924-5577 spartandaily@gmail.com Advertising (408) 924-3270 spartandailyadvertising@gmail.com

#### Sudoku Puzzle



#### **Crossword Puzzle**



#### **Employment**

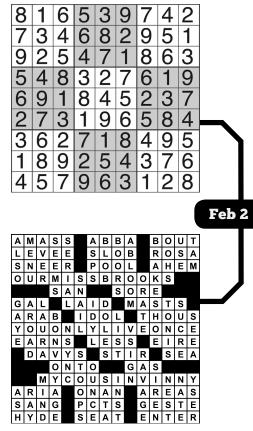
Ghostwriter I need help writing a fantastic story that my friends assure me will be a Best-Seller. Part of it centers around a near death experience with many miracles surrounding that event, but that is not all...!

**Advertising Staff Dustin Martinez** Peter Babakhan **Contact:** 

DIFFICULTY RATING:  $\bigstar \bigstar \diamondsuit \diamondsuit$ 

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#### **Previous Solutions**



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I'm looking for someone with literary writing skills (perhaps English Lit major), who can help interview, write, and market which I envision will be a medium sized novel. This will take several months, and for the right candidate, I'm willing to pay hourly and discuss a percentage of the net sales once published.

Please send your credentials and availability (I can work around academic studies) to chasmoses@comcast. net, and I will arrange interviews. Mostly weekend work and/ or some evenings, but can prove to be a very interesting project!

I look forward to hearing from you! -Charles

Email chasmoses@comcast.net

# Sports 5

#### **GYMNASTICS**

## SJSU scores season-high against U.C. Davis

**By Satvir Saini** Staff writer

The opening home meet for San Jose State University gymnastics didn't end in its favor as University of California Davis won in marginal fashion, 194.825 to 193.925.

Spartans entered the meet ranking 49th nationally in scoring with a 193.213 average.

There were four events judged at the meet including vault (48.175), bars (48.800), beam (48.075) and floor (48.875). SJSU did its best on the bars compared to UC Davis with a lead of 0.65 points.

Between rotations and warmups, head coach Wayne Wright was motivating his team to get ready to show off their skills.



"We try to focus on the little things every day and focusing on going hard," Wright said.

Kaitlin Won led the Spartans on the vault with a 9.800. Erica Matos finished with a 9.750, Haleigh Shepard with a 9.725, Rachel Heinl with a 9.675, Taylor Chan with a 9.225 and Josalyn Ray with a 9.150.

Bars, on the other hand, was led by Kaprece Nandoza with 9.850 followed by Won with 9.800, Heinl with 9.750, Stephanie Relova and Kendal Watts tied at 9.700 and Shepard with 9.150.

The beam was led by Alisa Bogdan and Won with 9.775, Chelsey Andrada with 9.650, Michelle Shalit with 9.525, Relova with 9.350 and Chan with 9.250.

The highest scoring event for the

Spartans was floor, which was led by Won with 9.850, a 9.800 for Ellie Pascoe-Long and Chan, Andrada with 9.725, and a tie between Matos and Madison Loomis with 9.700.

On vault, bars and floor, Spartans had higher scores with gymnast Won and Nandoza keeping SJSU in the lead. Won recorded her career best at 39.225 for all-around.

During the events there were little things that Wright thought the team could have been done to avoid losing the tenths of a point.

"We had a lot of corrective mistakes tonight especially like on vault where a kid tripped over a mat, that shouldn't be happening," Wright said. "I call them gimmies. I like to say if you're going to fall, fall going big and going hard."

Won and Nandoza, originally not from San Jose, discussed their gymnastics backgrounds and goals for the season. Won, who is originally from Mesa, Ariz. and Nandoza who is from Palmdale, Calif. won a few titles during this meet for the events.

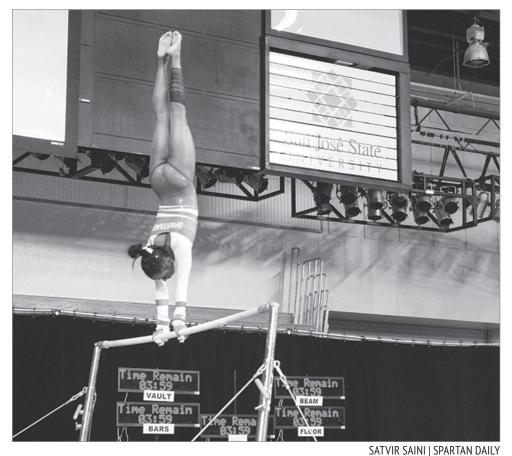
"What we would do in a competition we try to implement that into our practices and get our nerves worked out a little bit," Nandoza said. "We have keywords that help calm us down and we use that in practice and use it in the competition too."

For a team that features many freshmen and sophomores, Wright likes the advancement that comes with that.

"We're a young team and we keep getting better," Wright said. "That's what you want, you want some improvement, from week to week so you know you're moving into the right direction."

The Spartan's next meet is on Friday at 7 p.m. at the event center against their Northern California rival, Sacramento State.

> Follow Satvir on Twitter @satvirsaini\_



Haleigh Shepard performs her routine on the bars at San Jose State's first home meet of the season.



SJSU's gymnastics team comes together for a pre-game huddle prior to their meet with U.C. Davis.

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# 6 Sports

# Spartans look to even score against Aztecs

#### By Andre Jaquez Staff writer

The San Diego State Aztecs (13-9) got the best of the San Jose State Spartans (11-10) in early January.

Despite a red-hot Brandon Clarke who scored 25 points in 26 minutes, the Spartans were defeated 76-61 points. Clarke, recently named Mountain West student-athlete of the month, looks to spark another brilliant display of basketball tonight against the Aztecs.

When asked about the significance of defeating New Mexico on the road, Wojcik said, "It was a huge win for our program — it might be the best win in school history." Time will tell if that belief will help the Spartans take down the Aztecs.

What makes this Spartan basketball team most effective is when it remains poised. This latest win amid the chaos of "The Pit" in New Mexico should bode well for the team moving forward. If the Spartans can overcome that, they can overcome even greater obstacles.

Forward Ryan Welage was very optimistic after the game against New Mexico and noticed growth within the team.

"We've gotten a lot better at being able to close games," Welage said.

Welage added that this team has more of an "it" factor than that of last

season's. If given the same circumstances, last season's team would not have been able to pull off a win like

that over New Mexico. Back at home, the Spartans now look to build off momentum from their last win. This is an opportunity for the Spartans to strike back against the Aztecs and even the conference series.

Much like the Spartans record, this one's a coin toss. Unless, at this point in the season, the Spartans never look back and continue to stack wins.

Fresh off a Fresno State beating, the Aztecs are no pushovers as they have won five of their last seven. Moreover, they are the top ranked defensive unit in the Mountain West Conference in nearly every major defensive category including points allowed, field-goal percentage and blocked shots.

The Aztec's defensive success can largely be contributed to 6 foot 5 guard Dakarai Allen, who is ranked first among all Division I players in points per possession allowed at a staggering 0.591 points.

This sets up the marquee match-up of the evening: Allen defending Clarke. Whoever gets the edge here may determine the outcome of the game.

On the other side of the ball, the Aztecs main offensive threat is guard Trey Kell, who is averaging 14 points, 4 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game.

A win against the Aztecs would extend the Spartans' winning streak to three games and put them in position to move up in the Mountain West standings — this is important as the Mountain West tournament is approaching in March.

A loss, however, would evaporate any mojo San Jose State has gained as of late and snap its twogame win streak.

Tip-off is at 8 p.m. at The Event Center in San Jose.

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KAVIN MISTRY | THE SPEAR Freshman guard Terrell Brown rises up for a three in San Jose State's home matchup against UNLV.



San Jose State University's bench rages in excitement after one of its teammates makes a game-changing play.

KAVIN MISTRY | THE SPEAR

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