Employees rally for better contracts

BY KAYLA BOARDMAN
Copy Editor

San Jose State University lead custodian Sarah Portiles deoned and chanted with others outside of Clark Hall Wednesday. The California State University Employees Union (CSUEU) joined together to fight for higher pay and equal treatment.

“We’re negotiating our contract for more pay because it’s hard,” Portiles said. “It’s really hard in this area. I can’t even pay my rent and the rent just went up. We want respect and we want more money.”

The current contract, which expires on June 30, covers employees from different units throughout the CSU system. The current rallies and negotiations are focused on competitive wages, more training and better work environments.

Portiles said she is hoping for her and other employees to be better represented in the upcoming contract negotiations.

The units that are covered under the CSUEU consist of employees who work at public job, public community. These jobs include custodians, groundskeepers, receptionists, pharmacists, programmers and information technology consultants.

Protest

BY PAYJE REDMOND
Staff Writer

After waiting more than an hour for a taco from Street Eats food truck, communications senior Raisa Nogueira opted for the Student Union.

On Wednesday morning, an issue with the food trucks at The Common a semester.

Nogueira said she was frustrated with the wait.

“Students just have to swipe in like normal,” Guerrero said. “They can also available.

As of March 2017, SJSU has 2,122 meal-plan-holders according to the University. The Village Market located in Campus Village along with the Campus Commons a semester.

Guerrero said the food trucks were not enough to satisfy the demand of the amount of people present.

Commons a semester.

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Without water, we cannot service our students,” Guerrero said. “I just came back from the gym with plans to get immediate food, [and] two hours later we’re finally eating,” Nogueira said. She is a in campus.

According to the CSUEU, employees who hold jobs in campus have the right to be represented by the union.

Nogueira opted for the Student Union.

Rallies on different CSU campuses are held to bring awareness to the contract negotiations and to the people who hold the jobs.

“We are hoping that the CSU will 

See movie review on page 3

BY KAYLA BOARDMAN
Copy Editor

Although the dining hall is open to all students, it is being temporarily closed.

As for deciding to show “The T Word,” Nguyen said that much of the decision relied on exposing the general student population to the complex and often harsh realities that transgender individuals face on a daily basis.

According to Bonnie Sugiyama, director of the PRIDE Center, having actors and LGBTQ advocate Lauren Cox in the film also helps to show students that “one of the reasons we chose this particular [documentary] because Lauren Cox is in it and it’s an MTV special,” Sugiyama said. “So marketing wise, it’s good because [students] recognize the name because she’s popular.”

“The T Word” is executive-produced and narrated by Cox, who won an Emmy Award for her work on “The New Black.” She won an Emmy Award for her work on “Orange is the New Black.”

“…”The T Word” works to raise awareness

BY NICOLE CHUNG
Production Editor

The PRIDE Center and the Office of Student Involvement jointly held a screening of the documentary “The T Word” and a discussion as a part of Trans Day of Visibility.

The event was held in Student Union Meeting Room 1A/B.

“…”The T Word” works to raise awareness

A.S. Student Government Elections 2017

MEET THE CANDIDATES MIXER

Candidate Debates

Candidate Debates

Monday, April 10, 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Diaz Compere Student Union
Meeting Room 1A/B

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2017

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Health science senior Emiliano De Guzman was sitting under a shaded umbrella near the food trucks with a pop-up wrapped sandwich. “I’m supposed to have a taco, but it’s taking a while to make them,” said Guzman.

Business freshman Cesar Cueva visits The Commons every day and bartered something with the water pipe. Cueva attempted to go to there at 9:30 a.m. and found it closed. The Village Market was his breakfast alternative.

“At this point, I don’t really care what I get because I’ve been waiting forever,” Cueva said. “I’m actually supposed to be in class right now.”

At 2 p.m. the Pacific Gas and Electric Company arrived on campus. PG&E gathered around the exposed pipe on the San Salvador side of The Commons and consulted with Hunt Construction Inc.

“The construction of the new Student Recreation and Aquatic Center surrounds The Commons. It also stretches to San Salvador and Seventh Street and parts of campus along Paseo de San Antonio,” Cueva said. “I’m actually supposed to be in class right now.”

Further information from construction is still pending according to Fabian. The Commons will also be closed on The Commons will also be closed on March 31 and April 1.

Child Development freshman Sayra Sanchez uses the dining hall five days a week about twice a day. “Today, because The Commons was closed I had to go to my test without using San Jose.”

Brown said residents on campus housing were notified by email of the alteration announcement.

Film
Continued from page 1

This film covered the experiences of seven transgender youths as they navigate a world that doesn’t always accept them. Some of the seven featured individuals are Kya Allums, the first openly transgender NCAA athlete. Following the film screening, sociology lecturer Sonja de Bourbon facilitated a discussion that covered the customers.

Hughes said. “I’m willing to pay an extra 92 cents versus 87 cents — a nickel more. Or, let’s say you’re planning to buy a car for $10,000 or in sales tax to pay — that’s a $50 difference.”

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Downtown San Jose takes on The Beerwalk

BY CAROLINA IBARRA

The Beerwalk hosted its first downtown San Jose event and made its way through local bar-beer offering breweries, a custom glass and a brew passport to participating patrons. Bright orange balloons marked the entrances of assigned spots for tasting and passport marking. The brew journey began at Local Color, a self-designated artistic haven located on First Street.

“It’s really fun and we’ve already made new friends,” San Jose resident Susana Macedo said. “It really brings people in the community together.”

The Beerwalk featured beers from over 20 breweries to be sampled at 15 tasting locations in the downtown area.

Beer-walkers made their way through tasting spots, mingled with other participants and marked locals off their passports. The passports mapped out a brew path for drinkers to make their way through the 15 featured breweries.

At locations, lines of 20 to 30 people filed out of doors, but patrons quickly made their way in and out of each spot.

Participants stopped at some points to compare passport progress and compete for the most stops. Volunteers were a big part of the event, running a few of the beer tasting spots and the check-in lines at Local Color.

“I’m really enjoying the experience of being a volunteer and think it’s a great way to do volunteer work,” said Local Color volunteer Hallie Gennett.

The Beerwalk gave craft brew lovers and makers alike the opportunity to give back to local organizations in their path to inebriation tastings.

“We have representatives from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as well as other organizations,” Bui said. “They’re located at different stops throughout the downtown San Jose area. The beerwalk gave craft brew lovers and makers alike the opportunity to give back to local organizations in their path to inebriation tastings.

The event benefits different organizations in its designated location. The event coordinator Cindy Bui said that proceeds also go to organizations that have volunteers present and help run the event.

“We have representatives from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as well as other organizations,” Bui said. “They’re located at different stops throughout the downtown San Jose area.”

While we will probably never see a Power Rangers movie with an R rating, the film makers should have given the characters more depth and been a bit more mature for the audience that was part of the film maker’s target audience.

This movie was definitely tailored for a younger crowd, and while it flirted with some deeper issues, it simply was not mature enough for the audience that was excited to see the Power Rangers morph back to life.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Power Rangers is nostalgic but exceedingly conflicted

BY DAVID TAUB

After 22 years, the Power Rangers have morphed back into the big screen. Director Dean Israelite has brought back the ’90s kids classic with powered up special effects and a cast that could potentially carry a franchise.

“Power Rangers” is the origin story of how Jason (Dacre Montgomery), Kimberly (Naomi Scott), Billy (RJ Cyler), Trini (Becky G.) and Zack (Ludi Lin) become the Power Rangers. The movie opens in true blockbuster fashion with a massive battle that takes place during the Consumer era between the time generations of Power Rangers, led by Zordon (Bryan Cranston) and the ranger’s sworn enemy, Rita Repulsa (Elizabeth Banks). Zordon, the last remaining Power Ranger buries the power coins, the objects that endow every ranger with their abilities, and calls in a final strike killing himself in the process.

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DJ ‘MR G’ and rapper ‘Codes’ rock the quad

BY ANDRE JAQUEZ

Staff Writer

The show began with Spencer Green, known as DJ MR G. He was a back sound flor cap with headphones as he delivered the anticipated set. His Pioneer turntables were laid out for him to twist, turn and fluctuate amongst the plethora of bongs, sounds and pops.

From the get-go, Green was fully engaged, didn’t look away from his turntable. Anyone there could tell you he’s a guy committed to his craft just by the way he prepared and showcased his music.

The music was finely tuned, there was a sound engineer standing by. They maintained a good volume, enough to draw interest from onlookers and others walking by. Students enjoyed the elaborate array of mixes as they hit the launching launch near by.

Spencer Green was since in high school, at that point he had played only weddings, but now he’s been getting considerable attention with gigs of him in his own in Santa Cruz, San Jose and recently at the All-Kega Game Lounge in Santa Clara.

“I really love it, I really enjoy it,” Green said. “I work with a large passion and that’s why I’ve always love DJing.”

Green called his style of music “future Bass,” a new form of instrumental hip hop reminiscent of the sound from “trap” and "drum and bass." As a DJ, he enjoys working with rappers, especially Codes.

“I told Codes prior to the show I’m going to build you up and you’re going to make it amazing and he did. He killed it,” Green said.

Before the set, I did not find Cody Dang — Codes for short — until someone pointed him out. Unbeknownst to me, he’s Codes.”

Cody Dang, also known by his rap name “Codes,” performs a song at the Live at Noon event on Wednesday. Spencer Green, also known as ‘DJ MR G’ first noticed him.

“Cody is not your stereotypical rapper. He’s quite unassuming, so much so I nearly missed him. He’s slender, even-looked and wore a black tee and jeans — just your ordinary college student. His friends all came to support him. They sat close and eagerly awaited his performance — smiles all around.

Amongst them, was one of his main supporters and cousin, Tristan Nguyen.

“Tired him knowing him since forever,” Nguyen said. “I’ve supported him since he started rapping, back when he was called Rapping English Major and now he’s Codes.”

Codes first started rapping in 2012 and wrote his first song in 2013. Dang said nowadays he’s serious about rapping.

He got the opportunity to perform at Live at Noon, a weekly live performance on campus, after he participated in an open mic in the Starbuck lounge at the Student Union. There, he was approached by LaShae Ingram, the program coordinator for Live at Noon. She offered him a paid contract to play the Live at Noon gig on the Wet Patio of Student Union.

MC’s are one man face-to-face and another one he gets on stage. Up there is where the person’s Codes quickly emerges.

Codes commanded the stage and occasionally engaged the audience — often for a call and response. He made many force gestures as he held the mic strong. He steadily stepped back and forth with the beat from the platformed, concrete stage.

DJ MR G and Codes played the remainder of the show together much to the audience’s pleasure.

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‘Big Little Lies’ brings the murder mystery to Monterey

BY RYAN BARNHART

News Editor

Most prestige television tends to gives the viewer a glimpse of powerful male figures. Be it “Breaking Bad,” “The Sopranos” or “True Detective,” the focus is almost always centered around men and the reverberating repercussions of their actions.

In a change of pace the new HBO show "Big Little Lies," strips away these tropes in exchange for prominent female figures. The limited series, based on the 2014 novel of the same name, wraps a murder mystery around a bitter feud between mothers living in Monterey, Calif.

Shailene Woodley plays James, a single mother who leaves her parents in the nearby city of Santa Cruz to run away from a scarring moment in her life.

In hopes to start a new life in Monterey, she comes across Madeline, played by Reese Witherspoon, helping her up after spraining her ankle as they both send off their children to their first day at elementary school.

There, the two build a connection as Madeline introduces her to the rest of the community, including her best friend Celeste, played by Nicole Kidman, and her ex-husband’s hippie millennial wife Bonnie, played by Zoe Kravitz.

However, Jane makes rivals as quickly as she makes friends, as she is accused of assaulting a girl in his class. This alleged act quickly creates a rift between the women in Monterey, as the girl’s mother Renata, played by Laura Dern, begins to point the finger, leading Madeline to quickly defend her new friend.

Tensions between the mothers quickly builds throughout the series, leading up to the eventual death that the show teased in the opening moments. Interactions between the other family members are sprinkled throughout, narrating key moments before the incident as well as highlighting the themes of lavish lives damped by infidelity and abuse.

Director Jean-Marc Vallée makes full use of the available oceanic backdrops, with beautiful shots of crashing waves and sandy shores set in front of multimillion-dollar beach houses.

Lunch is served at local coffee houses rather than Starbucks. The nightlife involves sifting at a fireside lounge drinking glass after glass of pinot noir, airing out their dirty laundry.

Witherspoon embraces the actors female role to near-perfection, displaying a wide array of emotions. One second she is friendly and the next she is cunning. In the blink of an eye, Witherspoon showcases the best of her acting chops in a way that feels genuine.

Kidman, on the other hand, gets her message thanks in part to her body language. With Celeste living in an abusive relationship, she accentuates the physical and emotional toll taken on her character that comes off as real.

Great acting and directing tied around an enthralling story make for a series that is difficult to pass up. Big Little Lies may just be one of the best shows of the year — and that’s the truth.

NEWS EDITOR

BY RYAN BARNHART

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Director Jean-Marc Vallée makes full use of the available oceanic backdrops, with beautiful shots of crashing waves and sandy shores set in front of multimillion-dollar beach houses.

Lunch is served at local coffee houses rather than Starbucks. The nightlife involves sifting at a fireside lounge drinking glass after glass of pinot noir, airing out their dirty laundry.

Witherspoon embraces the actors female role to near-perfection, displaying a wide array of emotions. One second she is friendly and the next she is cunning. In the blink of an eye, Witherspoon showcases the best of her acting chops in a way that feels genuine.

Kidman, on the other hand, gets her message thanks in part to her body language. With Celeste living in an abusive relationship, she accentuates the physical and emotional toll taken on her character that comes off as real.

Great acting and directing tied around an enthralling story make for a series that is difficult to pass up. Big Little Lies may just be one of the best shows of the year — and that’s the truth.
Non-smokers rejoice with new tax increase

The negative health effects from smoking tobacco is well-documented. Not only does smoking cost you your health, but it will affect your wallet as well. As of April 1, the tobacco tax has been raised in California from $0.87 per pack to $2.87 per pack. I feel this is a positive change because it makes the decision to quit smoking easier for smokers that have been on the fence.

This $2 tax increase was driven by California Proposition 56 which was on the Nov. 8, 2016 ballot and passed with a 64 percent vote. California Proposition 56 which was on the fence. 

According to the Official Voter Information Guide, Proposition 56 allocated the additional tax revenue to physician training; prevention and treatment of tobacco-related diseases; Medi-Cal, tobacco use prevention, cancer research and school programs to help reduce the use of tobacco.

Tobacco products such as the e-cigarette, cigarettes and is extended to other harmful products that have a sin tax attached to them. Alcohol and tobacco are good examples of harmful products that have a sin tax with the cost of treating tobacco-related illnesses stemming from chronic use of tobacco products. This type of tax helps to incentivize people to quit since they will feel immediate impact on their finances. I also think that it makes sense for those that choose to put their health at risk to help finance programs that they may have to take advantage of later in life when their health begins to fail as a result of smoking.

With the advent of the e-cigarette, there is even more risk to public health because this form of tobacco is touted as having less health risks due to the fact that the product does not contain tobacco. E-cigarettes are marketed as a safe alternative to traditional cigarettes. However, the Food and Drug Association has pointed out that e-cigarettes do contain carcinogens and toxic chemicals which could lead to cancer even though they do not have tobacco in them. Ultimately, I feel tobacco taxes should scale with the increase in health care costs associated with illnesses stemming from tobacco usage. 

According to the California Tobacco Control Program, it is estimated that tobacco costs California $9.6 billion dollars in health care expenditures in 2004. This cost has almost certainly increased since then, and non-smokers should not have to foot the bill.

Non-smokers should not be burdened with the cost of treating tobacco-related health issues. I feel that those who choose to use these products should not only be contribute to covering the increased health costs, but also provide financial assistance to improve education and prevention.

These types of taxes are often referred to as a sin tax and are applied to products which are undesirable or have health risks associated with them. Alcohol and tobacco are good examples of harmful products that have a sin tax attached to them.

Prior to this tax hike, California had one of the lowest tobacco taxes in the nation, but this has changed. California now has one of the highest tobacco taxes in the country.

I believe that this tax increase is warranted because of the strain tobacco place on our health care system. This is partially due to the illnesses that stem from chronic use of tobacco products. These types of taxes are often referred to as a sin tax and are applied to products which are undesirable or have health risks associated with them.

I also think that it makes sense for those that choose to put their health at risk to help finance programs that they may have to take advantage of later in life when their health begins to fail as a result of smoking.

April is the month to save your grades! Spring break may be over, but SJSU students are grinding on their work and staying active on campus.

Follow Margaret on Twitter @maggieslara

Margaret Gutierrez, Staff Writer
Senators must reconsider the sake of justice

O n Monday the Senate Judiciary Committee announced its plans to filibuster to block the vote of President Donald Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch. Enough Democrats in the Senate have stated that they cannot support his nomination.

For once, the Senate is doing what’s right and standing up to block the vote of Gorsuch. Former President Barack Obama nominated him in 2016, but the Republican leaders in the Senate announced that they would abstain from voting for any nominee until a new president was in the White House.

Obama nominated Garland eight months before the presidential election. Even if Obama nominated him 24 hours before the election, his nomination should still be taken with utmost sincerity.

The fact was that Obama was in his full right to nominate someone to the highest court, since that is one of the most important responsibilities that a president can carry.

This is something that the Senate did not accept simply because Republicans thought Garland was too close to the election.

“Well, I think there is a constitutional responsibility that members of the United States Senate have to consider the President’s nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court,” said former White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest in a press briefing in March last year. According to Article II of the United States Constitution, the president is required to nominate a Supreme Court justice and thereafter with cooperation of the Senate, the nominee is confirmed and a new justice is appointed.

Essentially the U.S. Senate violated the constitution by ignoring Garland’s nomination.

Due the incompetence of the Senate, the Supreme Court was forced to continue to rule with a vacant seat. In one of the most crucial cases regarding immigration in the case of the U.S. v. Texas regarding Deferred Action for Parents of American and Lawful Permanent Residents, the court was split 4-4 and was thus unable to give a ruling.

It seems like the Senate has no sense of democracy, justice and the values of the American government.

Republicans tried to excuse their reasoning by stating Garland’s nomination was too close to the presidential election. Ironically in 1988, Justice Anthony Kennedy was nominated and confirmed during an election year by former president Ronald Reagan.

“You don’t fill the Supreme Court vacancies in the middle of the presidential election,” said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on “Meet the Press.”

The hypocrisy both McConnell and Republicans in the Senate have displayed to blatantly ignore the Constitution is baffling to a point where Republican leaders should be ashamed of themselves. As much as they tried to justify their reasoning it’s seen it’s clear that they could care less about democracy, justice and the values of the American government.
Junior right-handed pitcher Cameron Keup has appeared in 12 games so far for SJSU.

the Spartans this season and has a .333 batting average.

conference-leading Lobos

Spartans square off with

conference, which is one of the reasons home — their balls don’t fly so well at Municipal Stadium.

improved from its last series and hope it continues

of New Mexico this weekend in a three-game series.

The expectations are high for the Spartans

San Jose State senior Marie Klocker has a combined singles and doubles record of 12-6 this season.

line against Fresno State

SJSU puts win streak on the line against Fresno State

SJSU senior Marie Klocker has a combined singles and doubles record of 12-6 this season.

BY JALEN REYES

the University of Nevada, Las Vegas — top 20 in the conference.

San Jose State University baseball team is scheduled to take on the University of New Mexico this weekend in a three-game series.

As for Keup, he believes playing home at SJSU will give the Spartans an advantage.

The expectations are high for the Spartans

Softball team prepares for home stand vs. Colorado State

BY KELLY BURNS

San Jose State’s softball team (23-12, 3.5 MW) will be facing Colorado State (16-12, 4-5 MW) at home in a three-game series beginning Friday.

the conference than breaking a record.

BY ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ

the San Jose State University women’s tennis team is preparing to take on Fresno State on Sunday after a last minute cancellation against the University of New Mexico, Rams" to weather.

We had tough matches against St. Mary’s, a tight match against Santa Barbara, two higher ranking teams than us," Kobayashi said. "My job as a coach is to keep them focused and keep them confident.

"We have a good veteran team that is totally capable of playing the way they are right now," said coach Chad Skorpik in regards to any changes to the team’s style or strategies.

Although Kobayashi has set a record, she’s not letting it go to her head. "I've gone through a lot of pressure," Kobayashi said. "You have to maintain a positive attitude."

The Spartans won their match against Fresno, this will mark their sixth consecutive win.

The Spartans will play against Fresno State on Sunday at 11 a.m. in Fresno.

"We have a good veteran team that is totally capable of playing the way they are right now," said coach Chad Skorpik in regards to any changes to the team’s style or strategies.

Although Kobayashi has set a record, she’s not letting it go to her head. "I've gone through a lot of pressure," Kobayashi said. "You have to maintain a positive attitude.

"I think we need to continue to do the things that we do well," Turner said. "I wouldn’t make any wholesale changes at this.

"We've got a team that is better than it was a week ago," Kobayashi said. "We have a good team that is better than it was a week ago.

"We had tough matches against St. Mary’s, a tight match against Santa Barbara, two higher ranking teams than us," Kobayashi said. "My job as a coach is to keep them focused and keep them confident.

Although the Spartans won’t be traveling for Sunday when they head to Fresno, the challenge of keeping up with their school work is still a priority.

"We hope it brings them closer together in the conference than breaking a record."

Although Kobayashi has set a record, she said she feels no additional pressure as she prepares to go against Fresno State.

"We’re one of the top teams in the country."

Going into their 36th game, the Spartans are 11 games over .500 with 18 Mountain West games remaining.

"I think we are in a really good place right now," Lintford said. "I’m sad though because I’m a senior and don’t have much more time left."

"I've just been working hard so that I'm ready to pitch more and continue my "hot-streak.""

SJSU senior Marie Klocker has a combined singles and doubles record of 12-6 this season.

According to Klocker, out of her four years at SJSU, she feels that this season has been the most successful due to a great line up, great players, and the close relationship the players have with each other.

"It’s the team atmosphere when we all get along," Klocker said. "We are all friends and that’s what our team works off.

We have a good veteran team that is totally capable of playing the way they are right now," said coach Chad Skorpik in regards to any changes to the team’s style or strategies.

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Patrick Aguayo’s 15-year-long cheerleading career is coming to an end. After cheering for San Jose State since 2013, 28-year-old Aguayo is set to graduate in May.

“I will never have another opportunity like this again,” Aguayo said. “I’m so grateful that I got to experience it here at this campus for the last four years.”

Aguayo, a French and music education senior, describes cheering for SJSU’s athletic teams as a humbling experience.

“Being on the field during football season, hearing the fans go crazy as I run the flag out to start the game — it’s exciting and crazy,” Aguayo said.

Aguayo started cheering in high school as a way to get closer to his sister.

“I got addicted to the creativity involved in the sport,” Aguayo said. “It’s constantly evolving so it lends itself to becoming more creative.”

Being a male cheerleader has meant that Aguayo has faced some difficulties. However, Aguayo said cheering made him feel more masculine.

“When I was younger, it was very much stigmatized by homophobia,” Aguayo said. “I felt so manly in this ‘female’ sport. Everyone wanted to stunt with me because they trusted me with their lives and there is nothing cooler [than] holding someone over your head by yourself. I feel like Superman.”

Brittany Garland, Aguayo’s former cheerleading teammate from Gunderson High School, explained that he gained many opportunities from cheerleading.

“After high school, he cheered for an All-Star team, NorCal Elite,” Garland said. “He also competed at Worlds in Florida multiple times with NorCal Elite.”

While cheering for NorCal Elite All-Stars, a cheering program located in San Jose, Aguayo and Garland were offered a rare opportunity. Garland and Aguayo were invited to act as extras in “Bring It On: Fight to the Finish” which aired in 2009. Aguayo has some vivid memories of the experience.

“We filmed from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. in Los Angeles and it was 100 [degrees] outside,” Aguayo said. “We were ‘talented extras’ so they had us [doing] stunts and tumbling that whole time … I was exhausted but I made $300 for the day and I got to meet Christina Milian so that was cool.”

For Aguayo, cheerleading has been more than a sport as it has offered him a support system through some tough times.

“When I was 20 I got jumped by three gang members on the East Side and they broke my jaw and stabbed me in the arm a couple times,” Aguayo said. “Life sucked because I couldn’t eat, I couldn’t sleep or use my hand because of the nerve damage, but my teams that I was on were there to help me with literally everything.”

Patrick’s grandmother was diagnosed with cancer, so he decided to attend a vocational school to become a medical assistant.

“One of her dreams was to see one of her grandkids graduate from college and that was the fastest thing I could do to graduate,” Aguayo said.

During his time on the SJSU cheerleading team, Aguayo helped the team win first place in the USA Collegiate National Championships in 2014 and 2015.

“We were back-to-back national [champions] and that was the most amazing feeling in the world,” Aguayo said. “We got a huge ring from the school and [it validated] everything we had done all year.”

Aguayo’s ambition to succeed is something that his close friends admire about him. Robert Ortiz, Aguayo’s coworker at The Cheesecake Factory, is one of those friends.

“He’s driven to achieve his goals 110 percent of the time,” Ortiz said. “He can be serious and professional but always have a fun time doing it and always puts a smile on the faces around him.”

As Aguayo’s time as a Spartan nears its end, he is experiencing some mixed feelings.

“I’m excited to be finished … but it’s also really sad,” Aguayo said. “SJSU has been my home for the last four years and I wish I had more time just to be with the people I’ve come to call family.”

Follow Jennifer on Twitter @jayembeee1

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK AGUAYO

BY JENNIFER BALLARDO

Staff Writer

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