Several San Jose State students agree with the university’s decision to continue an indoor mask mandate.

Santa Clara County lifted its indoor mask mandate on March 2, but the county and state public health departments “strongly encourage” individuals that continue wearing masks in indoor public spaces, according to a March 1 news release.

The decision came after the county met several metrics, including an 80% vaccination rate among the population and a seven day-rolling average of 550 coronavirus cases per day, according to the same press release.

Despite the county’s decision, the university’s mask mandate will remain in effect “until further notice,” SJU Interim President Steve Perez stated in a March 1 campuswide email.

Accounting junior Andrew Alonzo said he believes the university made the right decision. “COVID-19 is still present even if the mask mandate has been removed,” he said.

Although Santa Clara County discontinued its masking requirement, masks will still be enforced in higher-risk settings including healthcare facilities, shelters, long-term care facilities, public transit and jail, according to the March 1 news release.

Sara Cody, health officer and director of public health for Santa Clara County stated in the news release that although wearing a mask in public spaces is no longer required, “it still makes sense to do it.”

“Wearing a mask is part of what we can do to protect others, especially the most vulnerable,” Cody said.

Leonardo Plazola, aerospace engineering sophomore, said he believes SJU should consider continuing to mask mandates because of the high vaccination rate among students and accessible COVID-19 testing, but agrees with the university’s current policy.

“I believe that intimate indoor spaces where people can be pretty close to one another classrooms, classrooms, dining commons, etc. should maintain mask rules,” he said.

“I’m pro-vaccine, so I think we should encourage everyone to get vaccinated. In accordance with the California Santa Clara County COVID-19 policy, SJSU students are required to be vaccinated and receive a booster shot, according to the SJSU website.

Students who are not in compliance with the vaccination requirements will be subject to consequences under the Student Code of Conduct including COVID-19 testing protocols, registration holds and limited access to campus resources, according to the same website.

The university currently offers booster vaccination clinics at the Student Wellness Center, with the latest clinic occurring on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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San Jose State hosted an artistic endeavor throughout February titled ‘Bones, Tones, and Phones,’ led by Futurefarmers, a San Francisco-based art collective. The project aimed to highlight local use and our effects on the environment through the mix of multiple artistic modalities, and will reside in the Natalie and James Thompson art gallery in the Art Building for the remainder of March. Originally pitched as a project to occur in a year earlier, the event featured various artists on campus including ceramicists, pictorial artists, musicians and sound artists. Futurefarmers founder Amy Franceschini said the creative process includes many unknown outcomes that contribute to art’s larger works.
"We Don’t Talk About Bruno," a song from the November 2021 Disney animated film "Encanto," differs from other popular Disney songs because it has a catchy, rhythmic tune and lyrics that are hard to forget.

The viral song has filled the number one spot on The Billboard Hot 100 music chart since Jan. 15. The Billboard charts reflect the most popular songs of the time, genres vary from rap to EDM and even Disney songs.

The charts are ranked based on streams and song sales, according to The Billboard Hot 100 charts. The "Encanto" soundtrack has topped the Spotify music charts with 142.6 million streams according to a March 1 Bloomberg article.

"Let It Go" from the animated film "Frozen" spent 9 weeks on The Billboard Hot 100 peaking at number five, and became a staple song for children that year, according to The Billboard Hot 100 archives.

"We Don’t Talk About Bruno" has captivated listeners with its melodic story about a character in the movie named Bruno who is feared by others because of his rumored gift of being a prophet.

The song is a duet sung by a number of characters who try to warn each other about the "bad luck" Bruno brings into people’s lives.

The song explores trust and loyalty in one’s family and community. The lyrics are sung rapidly throughout the song, making the song fun for TikTok users to use in their videos as they lip sync and dance.

The song is reminiscent of a salsa beat with a hint of modern bass and a catchy rap hook.

The charts are ranked based on streams and song sales, according to The Billboard Hot 100 charts. Compared to last year, over 175 songs have gone viral on TikTok and have been charted on The Billboard Hot 100 music charts, according to a Dec. 13, 2021 TikTok Newsroom article.

"We Don’t Talk About Bruno" also holds the number two spot on The Billboard Hot 100, with over 15 million Spotify streams, according to Spotify charts. TikTok has played a large influence in determining the songs that land on The Billboard Hot 100 charts.

"We Don’t Talk About Bruno" has been used in a variety of lip syncing and dance challenge videos on TikTok, which helped it climb to the top on the charts.

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By Matt Weiner

Spartans end season with OT loss

Amory was in attendance and refused to leave during the Mountain West Conference semifinals on Sunday as San Jose State Spartans’ 68-67 overtime loss to sixth-seed Fresno State at the Thomas and Mack Center.

“This year will be remembered as the beginning of something new,” SJSU junior guard Omari Moore said. All losses are not built equal. Some will fade from your memory like a random dream and others will be etched into your memory’s museum for a long time. This one was the latter.

Every time Fresno State forward Orlando Robinson and Fresno State threw a punch, SJSU came back with a few upper cuts of its own.

Coming down to the final minute and down 60-58, Spartan sophomore forward Trey Anderson stepped in front of Robinson with 39 seconds left to take a charge.

“(Robinson’s) going to try and get downhill, get all the way to the charge line, maybe you can take a charge, “ Mühl said. If you can beat him to his angle, maybe you can take a charge,” SJSU head coach Tim Miles said.

Robinson scored a court-high 31 points on 11 of 21 shooting from the field. Fresno State head coach Mark Fisher said.

“[Robinson’s] going to try and get right through his fingertips giving up a few upper cuts of its own.

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“Weekend Watch”

Friday, March 11

The Thomas and Mack Center.

“The Spear

Follow Matt on Twitter @Mattweiner33

Contact us at 408.924.3270 or email us at

 cls@jpsu.edu

Our office at DBH 213 is closed because of the pandemic.

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March 9

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hypocrisy & exceptionalism

America has empathy for Ukraine but not the other countries it seeks to destroy

Bojana Cvijic

On Feb. 24, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the two countries’ ongoing conflict. This is a Russian President Vladimir Putin's latest step in gaining control over the region, following the 2014 annexation of Crimea, but also backing separatist forces in the southeast region of Donbas. The invasion has brought widespread condemnation unlike any we've ever seen. Western nations including the United States have placed strict sanctions on Russia, making it the most sanctioned country in the world according to a Monday Bloomberg article.

The U.S. track record of meddling in foreign affairs has the perfect breeding ground for dissent including Putin, who have their own intentions for the region of Eastern Europe. Media outlets in the U.S. have also brought sharp criticism toward Russia in support of Ukraine, including a cartoon in solidarity by FOX animated character “Gorilla’s.” Late-night comedy show “Saturday Night Live” also brought in a Ukrainian character into its script on Feb. 26.

The hypocrisy is surreal. The U.S. has helped spur the condemnation of Russia worldwide, with good reason.

Hypocrisy lies in the U.S. actions elsewhere in the world, most recently, in Palestine. Swift sanctions were placed on Russia, but sanctions against countries including Israel for its actions against Palestine have brought on more support for Israel, and condemnation against Palestinian-led movements including Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS). The BDS movement supports economic divestment away from Israel, modeled after the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. While prominent figures including Palestinian fashion model Gigi Hadid have called for support for Palestinian magazines including Vogue decided to remove any references to Palestine in reporting in Ukraine, furthering the hypocrisy of the West. If someone like Hadid is being censored because of Palestinian support, isn’t it time to re-examine how we treat our own home everyday test.

Carving out the U.S. to be the moral arbiter of the world when it’s so far from that.

The U.S. has caused so many of the problems the world faces today, including the cold war, which eventually led to the Taliban’s emergence, a consequence of the U.S. involvement. Within these ten days of watching this conflict unfold, it almost makes my head spin thinking about the amount of time conflicts like this take, it's complex and frustrating to watch everyone have an opinion on something so egregious, but have a blind eye to what has really gone on before. You almost feel hopeless in thinking, will this ever stop?

Putin's Government incredible because of its cruelty toward its citizens and other countries with its own show of imperialism, but the U.S. is no better. In fact, it's worse. Both countries have impacted governments focused on furthering agendas behind a capitalistic backdrop.

Following the Soviet Union’s December 1991 collapse, democratic elections were held and U.S.-backed Boris Yeltsin became Russia's new president. During the country's transition from communism to a capitalist market economy, inflation and economic volatility ensued while oligarchs obtained a massive majority of national wealth. Not only did this lead to corruption within the government, it created a perfect opportunity for Vladimir Putin’s emergence. Ukraine's push towards the west by joinging NATO and the European Union has created an excees for President Putin's government to attack Ukraine and gain control over a region that was once part of the Soviet Union.

Whether its racism, showing the hypocrisies of how we treat brown and black refugees, or how the West collectively forgets the most recent conflict in Europe prior to Ukraine, the West has shown its compassion extends only so far as to where its interests lie.

I hope it won’t always be like this. There will be a reminder of how western countries have treated their own history, including the Black Panther Party, anti-war justice movements with projects including the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. The problems western imperialism has created in other countries means the offended nations have an obligation to help people fleeing their respective regions, it's the least they can do. I wish I could say I can't believe reporters are saying this, but I can. We would always like to think of journalism being an objective cause, but where is the objectivity in statements like this?

Over these past ten days we have seen blatant biases coming out in reference to this conflict and I can't help but feel frustration. The Russian government deserves widespread criticism for what it has done to Ukraine and it’s not wrong for the U.S. to condemn its actions, but it's ironic considering the U.S. history of involvement with regimes in Iran and Latin American countries. The U.S. also affected domestic social justice movements with projects including the counter intelligence program to disrupt organizations including the Black Panther Party, anti-war campaigns and civil rights movements for a better and different country. It doesn't feel fair constantly watching the U.S. hypocrisy.

The U.S. has a massive role in creating the destabilization in Eastern Europe and has brought this problem on itself.

In 1990, the Soviet-Afghan War was a conflict in the larger Cold War, which was fought as a proxy war involving the U.S. and the Soviet Union. While the Soviet Union backed the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the U.S. and other countries including Somali Arabis backed the Mujahideen who led a victorious and costly war against the government of Afghanistan, causing the Soviet Union to back out in 1989.

With the proxy war's end and the Soviet Union on the brink of collapse, the Mujahideen fought a civil war leading to the collapse of the Afghan government which eventually led to the Taliban’s emergence, a consequence of the U.S. involvement. Within these ten days of watching this conflict unfold, it almost makes my head spin thinking about the amount of time conflicts like this take, it's complex and frustrating to watch everyone have an opinion on something so egregious, but have a blind eye to what has really gone on before. You almost feel hopeless in thinking, will this ever stop?

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