

Thursday,  
March 10, 2022

# Spartan Daily

Volume 158  
No. 19

COVID-19

## Masks stay despite the county's lift

By Madilynne Medina &  
Gio Gaxiola  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

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 recommend" that individuals 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 or less, according to the same press release.

Despite the county's decision, the university's mask mandate will remain in effect "until further notice," SJSU Interim President Steve Perez stated in a March 1 campuswide email.

Accounting junior Andrew Alonzo said he believes the university made the right decision.

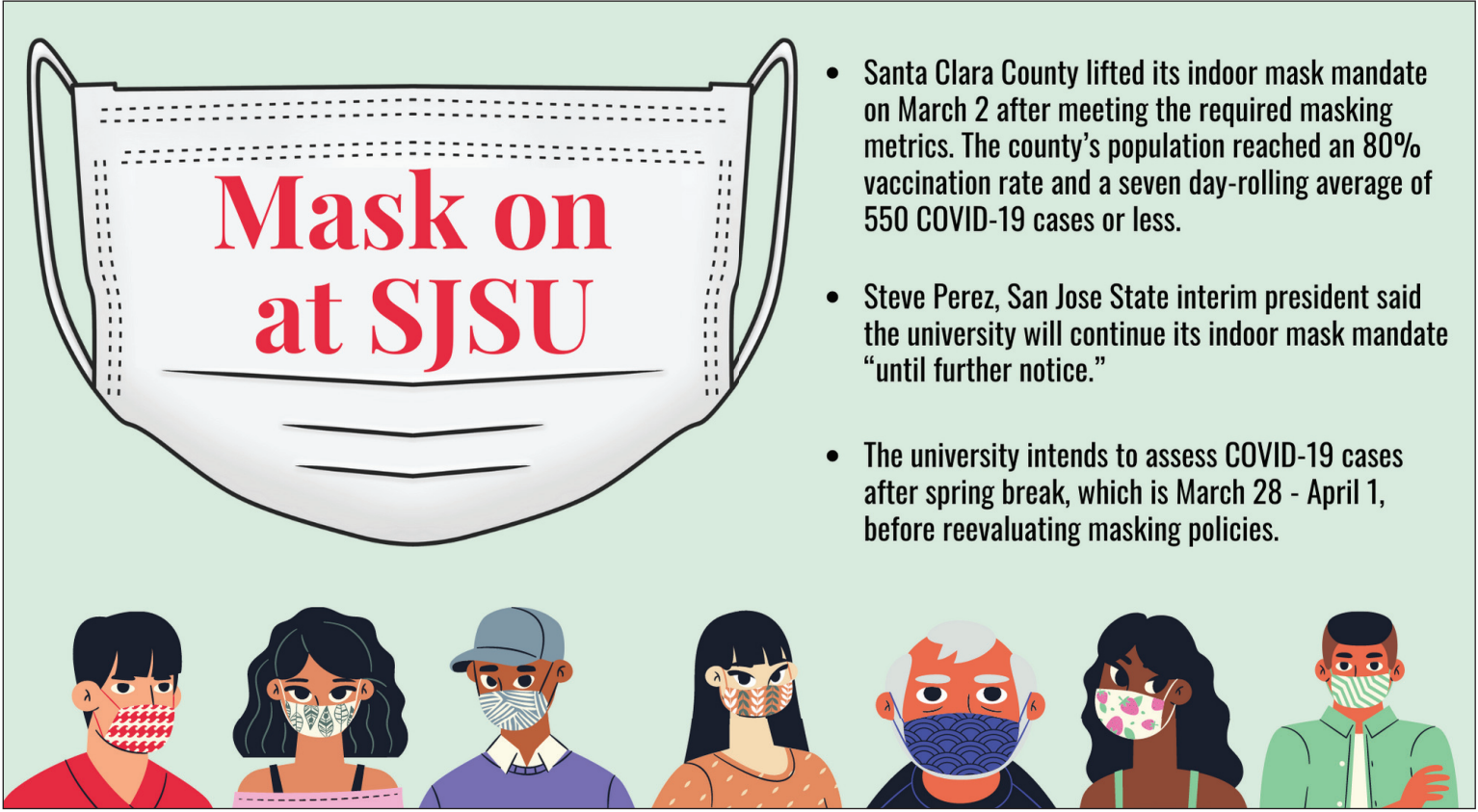
"COVID-19 is still prevalent, even if the mask mandate has been removed," he said.

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 jails , 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 though wearing a mask in public spaces is no longer required, "it still makes sense to do so."

"Wearing a mask is part of working together to protect others, especially the most vulnerable among us," Cody said.

Leonardo Plazola, aerospace engineering sophomore, said he believes SJSU should consider lessening its mask mandate because of the high vaccination rates among students and accessible



INFOGRAPHIC BY BRYANNA BARTLETT; SOURCE: MARCH 1 SANTA CLARA COUNTY PRESS RELEASE

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, restrooms, dining commons, etc.) should maintain strict mask rules.



If cases do begin to rise, we should go back to [a] stricter policy.

Leonardo Plazola  
aerospace engineering sophomore

Otherwise, if it's in open spaces like library study floors, student union, or outdoors, it shouldn't be as strict," he said in an Instagram message. "If cases do begin to rise, we should go back to [a] stricter policy."

Aminah Sheikh, communicative sciences and disorders senior, said she also agrees with the university's decision to continue enforcing masks, but hopes more students receive vaccines.

"I am ok with the fact that the school is still requiring masks because personally, I think masks are good for our safety," she said.

"I'm pro-vaccine, so I think we should encourage everyone to get vaccinated."

In accordance with the California State University 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 COVID-19 booster vaccination clinics at the Student Wellness Center, with the latest clinic occurring on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Santa Clara County lifted its indoor mask mandate on March 2 after meeting the required masking metrics. The county's population reached an 80% vaccination rate and a seven day-rolling average of 550 COVID-19 cases or less.
- Steve Perez, San Jose State interim president said the university will continue its indoor mask mandate "until further notice."
- The university intends to assess COVID-19 cases after spring break, which is March 28 - April 1, before reevaluating masking policies.

Perez stated in the campuswide email that the university was able to return to in-person instruction because of its continuous COVID-19 programs.

"We've kept our testing and booster programs active, and continued to be vigilant by wearing masks indoors and when outside in crowded environments," Perez said.

Sheikh said she believes the university should continue enforcing public health precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"Any safety measures regarding tests and unvaccinated students is a plus," she said.

Sociology senior Dinda Miquilla said she agrees with the mask mandate but is also concerned about the risk of unvaccinated students.

"Personally, I actually agree to keep our masks on just because [COVID-19] is still around, whether we like it or not. It is more of a safety thing," she said. "I think when it comes to unvaccinated students, unless they are medically exempt from it, they should not be allowed on campus."

Perez said although the SJSU

mask requirement may come as a "short term disappointment" to some, the university will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as they become available.

"[The mask requirement] will help keep our immunocompromised colleagues and friends safer and enable us to move forward as a united community," he said.

Kenneth Mashinchi, senior director of strategic communications and media relations, said in previous years, spring break produced a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and the university will reevaluate masking policies after the March 28 - April 1 break.

Christina Casillas contributed to this article.

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### MULTIMEDIA



Video & reporting by  
Evan Reinhardt  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR & ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Follow Evan on Twitter  
@ReinhardtEvan

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 land 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 more than a year ago, the undertaking included various artists on campus including ceramicists, pictorial artists, musicians and sound editors. Futurefarmers founder Amy Franceschini said the creative process includes many unknown outcomes that contribute to art's larger worth.



### CAMPAIGNING BEGINS MARCH 14

#### ELECTIONS KICK-OFF

3/14, Monday, 12-2PM  
Smith Carlos Lawn

#### MEET THE CANDIDATES

4/4, Monday, 4-6PM  
Smith Carlos Lawn

#### CANDIDATE DEBATES

4/11, Monday, 5-7pm  
Student Union Meeting Room 4  
Hosted by the Spartan Daily  
Voting on [sjsu.edu/as/vote](https://sjsu.edu/as/vote)  
begins immediately after debates.

#### VOTING BOOTHS

4/12-13, Tuesday and Wednesday  
10AM-3PM Outside Clark Hall  
10AM-3PM 7th Street Plaza  
(Between SWC and Event Center)  
3PM-6PM CV2 Courtyard Lawn

#### ELECTION RESULTS PARTY

4/14, Thursday, 12-2PM  
Student Union Meeting Room 3

FREE FOOD, SWAG,  
PRIZES, MUSIC & GAMES!





ANALYSIS



DAISHA SHERMAN | SPARTAN DAILY

Yes, we are talking about Bruno

By D’Netrus Chevis-Rose  
STAFF WRITER

“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 last Disney soundtrack song that reached such mass popularity was “Let It Go” from the animated film “Frozen.”

“Let It Go” 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

“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.

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 entertainment writer Justin Curto in a Sept. 14, 2020 Vulture article, an online entertainment magazine.

The “Encanto” soundtrack has topped the Spotify music charts with 142.6 million streams according to a March 1 Bloomberg article.

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 blaring trap style beat that intensifies around the hook of the song is eargasmic, with the soft salsa influenced guitar sounds smoothly echoing in the background.

“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.

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.

A “TikTok song” is a term popularized by Gen Z that identifies a song that has gone viral and become a meme or dance challenge by being reposted many times on the app, according

to an April 13, 2020 Insider News article by digital culture reporter, Palmer Haasch.

“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.

According to the TikTok platform, the minute-long song has approximately 937.6 thousand videos as of the first week of March.

“We Don’t Talk About Bruno” is about to reach 10 weeks on The Billboard Hot 100.

Follow D’Netrus on Twitter  
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# Spartans end season with OT loss

By Matt Weiner  
THE SPEAR

Anarchy was in attendance and refused to leave during the Mountain West Conference eleventh seed San Jose State Spartans’ 69-67 overtime loss to six 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 center 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 huge charge.

“[Robinson’s] going to try and get downhill, get all the way to the charge line and make his perimeter to post move ... so 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.

Anderson’s charge setup Moore to swerve through the lane like he was Dominic Torreto while finishing with a crafty layup at the rim over Robinson.

“

This year will be remembered as the beginning of something new.

Omari Moore  
junior men’s basketball guard

Fresno State drew first blood to begin overtime on a second-chance bucket



MAXWELL BECHTOLDT | THE SPEAR

SJSU forward Shon Robinson battles Fresno State guard Isaiah Hill for possession of the ball during Wednesday’s tournament game.

from the team’s guard, Isaiah Hill, who finished the game second on the team with 14 points.

The Spartans were unphased by Hill’s basket as Moore threw in another layup to knot the score up to 62.

The Spartans took a 68-67 lead with a minute left in overtime

Unfortunately for SJSU, it would be the last time the team held a lead.

With 22 seconds left in a 67-67 game, Moore was inbounding the ball while the Spartans battled a tenacious full-court Bulldog press.

SJSU freshman forward Tibet Gorener let the basketball slip right through his fingertips giving up

possession and the game.

Fresno recovered the loose ball, setting up the Bulldog’s guard Jordan Campbell to sink a teardrop that grazed the roof of the Thomas and Mack Center.

SJSU bent without breaking the entire game, holding the Bulldogs to shoot 4 of 23 from three, but the teardrop was the straw that broke the Spartans’ back.

While the loss was excruciatingly painful, it showed that the Spartans can compete with the better teams despite their record.

Follow Matt on Twitter |  
@Mattweiner20

BULLDOGS

69

SPARTANS

67

## CLASSIFIEDS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
16					17					18		
19				20					21		22	
			23					24		25		
	26	27				28		29				30
31				32			33		34			35
36			37		38			39		40		
41				42		43			44		45	
	46				47			48		49		
			50					51				
52	53			54		55	56	57			58	59
61			62		63					64		
65					66					67		
68						69				70		

- ACROSS**  
1. Bumpkin  
5. South southeast  
8. Not under  
12. Component of steel  
13. Winter accessory  
15. Sandwich shop  
16. Partiality  
17. Paved outdoor area  
18. Mild expletive  
19. Election overseers (British)  
22. East northeast  
23. Hurried on foot  
24. Caprine animal  
26. Branches of knowledge  
29. Unit of American currency  
31. Type of tree  
32. Intimate  
34. Implant  
36. Hits  
38. Gentry  
40. Turn on a pivot  
41. Drills  
43. White poplar  
45. East southeast  
46. Trader  
48. Rewrite  
50. Self-satisfied  
51. Adult males  
52. Past tense of To be
54. Splendiferous  
61. Ear-related  
63. Gloss  
64. Fertilizer component  
65. Amble  
66. Breakfast bread  
67. Condo alternative  
68. Type of sword  
69. S  
70. Anagram of “Seen”
- DOWN**  
1. Barbecue favorite  
2. Acid related to gout  
3. Wild hog  
4. Guarantee  
5. Glance over  
6. Fill to excess  
7. A Great Lake  
8. Flowery verse  
9. Carrots and peas for example  
10. Distinctive flair  
11. Fair attraction  
13. Rotating shaft  
14. Abstain from  
20. After-bath powder  
21. One and only  
25. Charity  
26. Inundation  
27. Awe-inspiring
28. Pertaining to the sun  
29. Discourage  
30. Employ again  
31. Abate  
33. Brother or sister  
35. D  
37. Crease  
39. Primary chemical  
42. Aspersion  
44. Not odd  
47. Cast out  
49. Cause to arise  
52. Had on  
53. At the peak of  
55. Footwear  
56. A leguminous plant  
57. Not more  
58. Cupid’s Greek counterpart  
59. Used in advertising signs  
60. Adhesive strip  
62. C

## SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

4	9		6					
	8					6		
	6	3		4			1	
		5	9		7			8
6			1		2	5		
	1			7		8	2	
		8					5	
					8		6	9

## SOLUTIONS

March 9

T	R	Y	S	T		S	C	R	E	E		
S	E	E	P	Y		P	L	U	N	D	E	R
R	U	N	N	E	R	B	R	A	S	S	I	C
O	N	E		D	O	L	L	I	S	H	F	L
Y	A	W	P			I	O	N	S	F	B	I
A	M	A	H		S	P	O	T		F	O	C
L	I	L	Y		A	I	D		R	U	L	E
			S	A	N	D	S	T	O	N	E	
	S	N	I	P	E	T	A	D		T	U	F
L	O	T	S		B	I	N	D		S	T	I
A	R	R		M	O	N	E	Y	E	D	E	R
M	E	A	S	U	R	E	S		D	E	A	R
E	S	T	A	T	E	S		E	M	C	E	E
			E	X	E	R	T		N	E	E	D

3	2	5	9	4	7	1	8	6
8	4	1	2	6	5	9	3	7
6	9	7	1	3	8	2	5	4
2	5	4	7	9	6	8	1	3
9	1	3	4	8	2	7	6	5
7	6	8	3	5	1	4	9	2
4	8	2	5	1	3	6	7	9
5	7	6	8	2	9	3	4	1
1	3	9	6	7	4	5	2	8

## JOKIN’ AROUND

“What’s  
a pirate’s  
favorite  
cheese?”

“IHHGGHH!”  
“Chedd-  
ARRGGH!”

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# US hypocrisy & exceptionalism

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



Bojana Cvijic  
NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 24, Russia invaded Ukraine in a major escalation of the two countries’ ongoing conflict. This is Russian President Vladimir Putin’s latest step in gaining control over the region, following the 2014 annexation of Crimea, while also backing separatist forces in the southeastern 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.’s track record of meddling in foreign affairs has created the perfect breeding ground for dictators, 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 comedy “The Simpsons.” Late-night comedy show “Saturday Night Live” also brought in a Ukrainian choir for its cold open 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 Palestine, magazines including Vogue decided to remove any references to Palestine in reporting of Ukraine, furthering the hypocrisy of the West. If someone like Hadid is being censored because of Palestinian support, imagine how Palestinians fighting for their home everyday feel.

How can we look to the U.S. to be the moral arbitrator 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 this one.

The country may not have had a direct hand in Vladimir Putin’s decision to invade Ukraine, but it sure helped set the groundwork for it.

Putin used the excuse of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an intergovernmental military alliance, to encroach on Russian territory through Ukraine and hide his own ambitions for the country.

Much of the surrealness stems from how reporters have decided to speak about Ukraine, expressing “shock” that such a “civilized” country could be attacked like this.

Ukrainian Deputy Minister, David Sakvarelidze said in a February 26th interview with BBC News that the invasion was emotional.

“It’s very emotional for me because I see European people with blue eyes and blonde hair being killed,” he said.

Other stories of Nigerian students and citizens fleeing Ukraine to Poland only to be denied at the border have been reported by The Guardian, a stark

reminder of how western countries have treated asylum seekers and refugees who are not white. While they are sent back into untold dangers, Ukrainians are met with open arms, as they should be.

The problems western imperialism has created in other countries means the offending 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 career, 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 regime changes in Asian and Latin America 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 with aims for a better and different country. It doesn’t feel fair constantly watching the U.S. hypocrisy.

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

In 1980, 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 Saudi Arabia backed the Mujahideen which led a vicious 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 Moscow-backed 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 times conflicts like this circle back. It’s complex and frustrating to watch everyone have an opinion on something so egregious, but turn a blind eye to what has really gotten us here. You almost feel hopeless in thinking, ‘will this ever stop?’

The Russian Government is horrible 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 imperialist 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 joining NATO and the European Union has created an excuse 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 change in the way this world works, because what we live under currently is not sustainable.

Follow Bojana on Twitter  
@Bojanacv



ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICK YBARRA



## ABOUT

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Reader feedback may be submitted as letters to the editor or online comments.

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