Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian & Soviet leader, dies at 91

By Bojana Cxiffe EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Mikhail Gorbachev, a Russian and Soviet politician known for being the last leader of the Soviet Union, died at age 91 on Monday, May 21, 2022, according to a Thursday BBC news article.

Gorbachev came into power in 1985, his policies of "glasnost" (openness) and "perestroika" (rebuilding) which leaves him sensitive to heat. Nate went to be referred only his first name because of privacy concerns.

After being placed in Joe West Hall his freshman year in 2020, Nate said he was "functionally invalid" for the entirety of his time that he spent there because of the heat. Subsequently, Nate said he took the 2021-22 academic year off of school.

"The one accommodation I had requested was somewhere with air conditioning and they didn't give it. Even though I had all my paperwork, Nate said.

The Resident Life Coordinators and Student Housing services were unable to comment. Any statement given after first publication will be updated online.

SJSU meteorological professor Craig Clements said excessive heat is not uncommon during the summer months.

Clements said in an email that high pressure systems with low subsidence or a sinking effect allows the air to keep warming instead of dissipating.

Michelle Smith McDonald, senior director for strategic communication, said the Student Health and Wellness Center will send a campus wide email regarding the heat advisory.

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Endangered corpse flower blooms, dies at SJSU greenhouse

By Saumya Monja ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The odor of rotting human flesh could be smelt in San Jose State’s Botany Garden, where a rare corpse flower, or "Terry Titan," reached full bloom in mid-July.

Terry is the first corpse flower to bloom in Silicon Valley, meanwhile there are less than 1000 corpse flowers left in their natural habitat, which is subtropical areas, according to the U.S. Botanic Garden Corpse Flowers webpage.

The International Union for Conservation listed the corpse flower, or Titan Arum, as an endangered plant species in 2018, according to its Red List of Threatened Species webpage.

The corpses that we have saved and preserved might be the only future specimens that we have someday that are stored in an herbarium because earth no longer possesses the climate for such organisms to grow. It’s kind of a testament to the will of life.

Erika Snyder senior biology, assistant greenhouse hercule

The International Union for Conservation is a membership union composed of both government and civil society organizations that work in the field of nature conservation and natural resources’ sustainability, according to its website.

Erika Snyder, senior biology and assistant greenhouse tender, said corpse flowers are rare because they take an unpredictably long time to bloom, the climate conditions need to be "absolutely perfect" and their ideal habitat is shrinking.

"[The corpse flower] grows specifically in subtropical places like Thailand and Sumatra, where it’s very specific conditions for them to live, for been deforested since..."
FLOWER

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for ever, you know, because of things like palm oil, and whatnot,” Sabrina Pinnell said.

The forests where corpse flower bulbs have been unearthed because of logging where trees are cut down and then transported, according to the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) webpage. The corpse flower blooms up to 20 hours. Since then, the flower has completely deflated back into the soil and it may bloom again in a few years. Terry resides among a wide variety of plants including a mini-pineapple plant.

“We keep about 1,000 species of plants up here and about 150 different families and we use these plants mostly in courses to support science education,” said Snyder. “You can think of it a little bit like a library where a course can kind of borrow books, except our books are plants.”

Rosengreen said he spent eight years maintaining the perfect conditions required to get the corpse flower to finally bloom with the help of various students from UCSC. He was in the biology department.

“Snyder is always in a battle to make sure the exotic cacti working, the thermostat is right, the humidity is controlled—well, [Rosengreen] is freaking out at plants alive,” Snyder said. “He’s the craziest part of the whole thing, that he’s really if it is perfectly right for it until it starts to bloom.”

Snyder said before a corpse flower blooms, it will be in a vegetative state where a singular leaf will grow and then it will collapse into the ground. He said during that time, the flower is gathering energy until it has enough energy to fully bloom. This vegetative form here in growing larger and larger and it grows larger, the more time it makes a new leaf, too soon where that leaf dies, then we do it again and actually weigh it and for five years as a two person job... and then clean up all the soil on it,” Snyder said. “We put it back in here with fresh soil and a larger pot and see where it goes from there.”

Currently, the university botany department’s greenhouse has 17 corpse flowers, all in various stages of its life cycle.

In late July, community members from the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) also saw the bloom of the corpse flower in their arboretum, according to a July 21 UCSC news release.

The bloomed corpse flower flourishes in its pot at the San Jose State Botany Garden, which is one of a handful of green spaces in the city dedicated to California’s native plants.

GORBACHEV

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parish in what many see as the implosion of the Soviet Union and diminution as a superpower.

Political liberalization implemented by the former leader in the mid-1980s allowed for the formation of political parties which were never tolerated in the country according to “Ruslan Unflinched Revolution” by Michael McFaul, a book detailing the history of political change from Gorbachev to current President Vladimir Putin.

That led to various Eastern Bloc countries abandoning Marxist-Leninist governance in 1989-90 and internally growing nationalist sentiments that threatened to break up the Union according to the United Nations. Those events, along with the unsuccessful August coup to try to remove Gorbachev as leader, led to its formal dissolution on Dec. 26, 1991.

“The West had no idea that what he was doing was underlining the conclusion of the U.S.-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Mutual Assistance, which was signed in August 1991, and final dissolution started in 1992,” said Miranda in December 1991.” Pinnell said.

The coup attempt Pinnell is referring to is the August Coup, where Soviet leaders attempted to remove Gorbachev from power, but failed, according to the same book “Ruslan Unflinched Revolution.”

Gorbachev won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1990, prior to the dissolution of the Soviet Union for his work in ending Cold War tensions with the U.S., a proxy war between the two countries from 1947-90, according to the Nobel Prize 1990 webpage.

Pinnell said after the dissolution of his country, Gorbachev continued to vocalize his opinions on the future of the Russian Federation, but was widely seen as irrelevant in his home country. Gorbachev was lusted by many at the end of his leadership, and still by Russian nationalists today,” Pinnell said. “His later attempts to influence politics were seen as more problems than solutions.

He was a staunch critic of the first Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, and current Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to a Tuesday New York Times article.

“Gorbachev gave an impulse for ending the Cold War and he was so unselfishly wanted to believe that it would be over and an eternal romance would start between the renewed Soviet Union and the collective West,” Pinnell said.

Gorbachev assisted with the destruction of the USSR by trying to do economic reforms too late, political reforms too soon and allowing criticism of the state when things did not work out. He was President rather late in his term as leader — being General Secretary of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) was what enabled him to do these things. Sabrina Pinnell

SUJS senior lecturer and professor of history

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PHOTO COURTESY OF URS ROSENGREEN

The corps flower was kind of a unique opportunity to showcase that we have a lot of interesting research plants up here... and I think the corpse flower is a good way to demonstrate that you can really bring a community together around an organism, especially at SJSU. So it was exciting to share a little piece of what we get to do up here with everyone.

Charlotte Miranda, graduate student

Snyder said because of its endangered status, these corpse flowers might be the only ones to exist in the future, making its growth even more valuable.

“The corpse flower we have saved and preserved might be the only future specimens that we have that are stored in an herbarium because earth no longer possesses the climate for organisms to grow,” Snyder said. “To kind of a testament to the will of life.”

The plants’ rarity can explain the fascination many students have for the plants. The SJU biology department set up a webcam and people were able to watch the entire process of the bloom.

Graduate student Charlotte Miranda noted how the fascination will translate to more students caring about the biodivers of the world.

“Gorbachev was kind of a unique opportunity to showcase that we have a lot of interesting research plants up here... and I think the corpse flower is a good way to demonstrate that you can really bring a community together around an organism, especially at SJSU. So it was exciting to share a little piece of what we get to do up here with everyone.”

Snyder expressed a similar sentiment and said she hopes everyone can find some interest in science.

“The corpse flower was just a beautiful little slice of the universe everyone can find some interest in science.”

“Gorbachev was kind of an ideological aspect of the world, what humanity live on... I would just hope that people will look at some plants” Snyder said.

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According to a Tuesday New York Times article.

“Gorbachev knew behind a complicated legacy, praised and reviled for changing the dynamics of world history, according to the Associated Press news article.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Gorbachev was an “extraordinary” statesman, “who will always remain in the country’s history,” he said. He also noted Gorbachev’s idealism towards the West. “Gorbachev gave an impulse for ending the Cold War and he was so unselfishly wanted to believe that it would be over and an eternal romance would start between the renewed Soviet Union and the collective West.”

Pinnell spoke about how Gorbachev’s excesses in implementing reforms led to more problems than solutions.

“Gorbachev assisted with the destruction of the USSR by trying to do economic reforms too late, political reforms too soon and allowing criticism of the state when things did not work out,” Pinnell said. “He was President rather late in his term as leader — being General Secretary of the CPSU (Communist Party of the Soviet Union) was what enabled him to do these things.”
In the digital age, both content creators and companies misinform consumers on how to care for their skin. With the increase of content creators on YouTube and other wannabe skin care experts online, finding reliable skin care information is as difficult as finding a needle in a haystack.

清洁 beauty is often not clean. "The messaging behind clean beauty products isn’t regulated either; a brand can claim anything it wants about its supposedly clean/green/sustainable products," said Lauren Balsamo, Cosmopolitan Magazine’s deputy beauty director in a May 24, 2021 article. Despite the fact that clean beauty is expected to be free of harmful chemicals within a certain formula, there is no definition of "clean" when it comes to cosmetics and it has primarily become a term used in marketing, according to an Aug. 26 Buzzfeed article. For the public, it's especially important to pay attention to who is qualified. According to the Skin Cancer Foundation website, regular use of sunscreens block UV rays.

In her March 2021 YouTube video, she explains common myths perpetuated by sunscreen brands and their own marketing plays. Different SPF levels in sunscreens can be deceiving, Idriss said during the video. "More than SPF 50. Once you reach around SPF 100, it’s a false sense of security," Idriss said. SPF is a measure of how long it takes for protected skin to become burned compared to unprotected skin, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) SPF webpage. But, the FDA said SPF does not relate to the amount of time spent in the sun. Rather, SPF relates to how much ultraviolet light is exposed to the skin. On top of misconstruing the truth of SPF, some sunscreen companies use misleading terminology. "Reef-friendly doesn’t mean anything, in the sense that it is not a regulatory term by the FDA," Idriss said.

Infl uencers tend to dictate which products consumers use. We can all be susceptible to a 26-year-old influencer with perfect skin telling us what products they use. Some creators are qualified dermatologists, while others are not only living a lie as wannabe skin product influencers, but are also doing a disservice to every single one of their followers. The average person would be none the wiser, as content creator credentials can be masked simply by your computer screen. Unless someone proves on camera that they are qualified, why are you listening? That is the question skin care fanatics must ask themselves before blindly purchasing.

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The series is capable of making the audience interested in watching both episodes. However, the slow narration and the lack of active scenes make the documentary monotonous and the dynamic of the show plays out poorly.

**The Girlfriend Who Didn’t Exist**  
**Rating:**  
**Genre:** Documentary

**Director:** Tuiasosopo Naya  
**Release Date:** Aug. 16, 2022  
**Synopsis:**

The documentary is capable of making the audience interested in watching both episodes. However, the slow narration and the lack of active scenes make the documentary monotonous and the dynamic of the show plays out poorly. When Tuiasosopo finds out about the catfish, he passes from being one of the most promising young players of 2012 to “the player who got catfished.”

The pressure of the media and the consequences of Te’o’s personal crusade are experienced by the elements that highlights the second part of the documentary. It is when the story starts to really showcase its main theme: the consequences of catfishing for everyone involved. Reality works as the engine of the show.

The real people involved in the events take part in the documentary to tell the story and share their personal feelings and memories.

A secondary element that the documentary contains is the presence of “archive videos” showing Te’o’s interviews and games.

Although realism is a positive element of the documentary and permits the audience to fully empathize with the main character, it is the lack of artistic expressions that influences the documentary. The documentary does not show other sequences other than the interview sequences. There are different locations and different people talking at front of the camera, but there are no active scenes of the characters.

The only exception, without considering the already-mentioned video albums, is a sequence where Tuiasosopo is in Hawaii standing at the ocean while his voice in the background speaks about his past.

Although the majority of the story focuses the attention on Te’o and the consequences of the catfish relationship, Tuiasosopo’s personal struggles are also shown. She wants to be accepted by the online personas she created, and she struggles when she has to get back to her real life.

It is evident that the documentary wants to highlight the struggles faced by the young football player and his family, but when Tuiasosopo is under the lights, the narration slows down.

Not only did she catfish Tii, but she also catfished the audience and the documentary did a great job documenting the importance of her narrative.

The series is capable of making the audience interested in watching both episodes. However, the slow narration and the lack of active scenes make the documentary monotonous and the dynamic of the show plays out poorly.

“Untiled: The Girlfriend Who Got Catfished” is a documentary that is capable of making the audience interested in watching both episodes. However, the slow narration and the lack of active scenes make the documentary monotonous and the dynamic of the show plays out poorly.

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It’s rare and extraordinary when we experience moments of feeling seen. Those moments are time-stopping, weightless connections, in which we realize: “Holy shit, I am not alone.”

McCurdy’s memoir will ring true to you after turning over those moments. For others, the same conclusion will hold with them after finishing the book. For McCurdy, it was realizing that part was going completely unseen. “There was this half of my life that was so short and so published and so done and so fake,” McCurdy told The Washington Post in its interview about the memoir. “And then there was this other part of my life that was so painful and real and raw and hurting, and that part was going completely unseen.”

The latter third of the memoir details the long, winding, exhausting back-and-forth journey of healing. The first concrete step? Calling the abuse what it is. Kirk Honda, a licensed therapist and a professor, reviewed McCurdy’s memoir in a two-part video on his YouTube Channel “Psychologist in Seattle.”

Honda said when dealing with survivors of childhood abuse, it’s crucial to validate their feelings and help them see the truth of this abuse so that they can learn how to have self-compassion.

“In order to recover and to heal and to know themselves and to stop blaming themselves for everything, you identify the abuse as abuse and identify the abusive person as an abusive person,” Honda said in his Aug. 15 YouTube video. “If they can do that, if they can see, ‘Hey, it’s not my fault, it’s their fault and they made it my fault.’ This is an incredibly important developmental process.”

When I finished McCurdy’s memoir, I sat on my bed with a soft smile and a fixed stare into empty space as tears fell down my cheeks. I was both uplifted and dumfounded over the fact that she was able to write her truth in such a raw and liberating way, and I write this book review with that hope that I can do the same as McCurdy some day.

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