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New SJSU president announced

By Rainier de Fort-Menares
STAFF WRITER

After a year of searching for San Jose State's next president, the California State University Board of Trustees announced in a Wednesday news release that it has selected Cynthia Teniente-Matson.

Interim President Steve Perez stated in a Wednesday campus wide email that Teniente-Matson, who is currently Texas A&M University-San Antonio's president, is expected to assume the position on Jan. 16.

When she officially begins her role, she will be the university's seventh president since 2010, the sixth being Perez, according to the CSU Past & Present Leadership webpage.

Perez, who was named interim president on Jan. 1, stated that he is committed to a seamless transition in leadership.

Teniente-Matson was chosen by the trustee and advisory committees, who were appointed by Wenda Fong, the CSU trustees chair.

Teniente-Matson told Kenneth Mashinchi, executive director of strategic content and college marketing, in his Wednesday interview that she hopes to maintain the school's momentum going into the second half of the school year.

"I'm excited but we have a lot of work to do and I have a lot to learn with you," Teniente-Matson said. "I want to co-learn, co-pilot, co-conspire on what we're doing going forward."

The trustee committee, which includes Fong, has four trustees and the interim CSU chancellor, handled the recruitment, selection and appointment of the next SJSU president.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SJSU MEDIA RELATIONS

LEADERSHIP | Page 2 Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Texas A&M University-San Antonio president, will assume the SJSU president position on Jan. 16.



PHOTO COLLAGE BY BRYANNA BARTLETT; SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Matt Mahan becomes San Jose's new mayor

By Bojana Cvijic
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez has conceded the mayoral race to San Jose Councilmember Matt Mahan, making him the next mayor of the city following exiting-Mayor Sam Liccardo.

The race between Mahan and Chavez has been the longest since 2014's mayoral race.

Results from the Santa Clara County registrar of voters as of Wednesday showed 51.32% or

123,436 votes for Mahan and 48% or 117,085 votes for Chavez, with 90% of the votes counted with Mahan having a lead of 6,351 votes over Chavez.

"I have called Matt Mahan to wish him the best of luck in his two-year term as mayor," Chavez said in a Wednesday statement. "San Jose faces numerous challenges in the months and years ahead, requiring that we all work collaboratively with the entire City Council to reach meaningful and equitable solutions."

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Student groups divided over MOSAIC events

By Nick Zamora
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State community members differed in their feelings surrounding some speaker events held at the MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center in the past two weeks.

Students for Justice in Palestine held a guest speaker event and exhibit in the center Wednesday night, discussing how Palestinians and Muslims are perceived in the West.

Students for Justice in Palestine is the SJSU chapter of the national campus-based organization that advocates for the human rights of Palestinians, according to its Instagram page.

More than 30 students attended the event, which was promoted and supported by several Arab student organizations including the Muslim Student Association, the Arab Student Union, the Pakistani student association, the Persian Student Association and the Afghan Student Association.

The guest speaker Amir Abdel Malik Ali spoke on the changing perception of Islam in America and what Zionism means to Muslims and Palestinians. Amir Abdel Malik Ali is the Amir of the Oakland Islamic Community Center.

Amir is an Islamic title of Arabic origin that can refer to a male monarch, aristocrat or a high-ranking political or military official. It is also used to refer to a leader of an Islamic or Arabic organization, according to FairObserver.com, an independent nonprofit media organization.

Zionism is a Jewish nationalist movement with the goal of creation of a Jewish national state in Palestine, citing it as the ancient homeland of the Jews, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica Zionism Definition and History webpage.

"They're saying that [Palestinians], who are impoverished, these people don't even have a standing army. [Palestinians], who live in a state of just complete degradation," Amir Ali said. "They're supposed to be Goliath and then the people with the M1 tanks, the helicopter gunships, the F16 fighter jets, the nuclear weapons, they're supposed to be David?"

A portion of the speaker event also covered the common conflation from between anti-Zionism and antisemitism.

"If I were to voice my support to the Palestinians and voice my outrage against how the Israelis are

MOSAIC | Page 4

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ALEXIA FREDERICKSON | SPARTAN DAILY

Protesters chant and hold signs as passersby walk near the Olympic Black Power Statue on Wednesday afternoon.

SJSU students protest, defend LGBTQ+ rights

By Alessio Cavalca
STAFF WRITER

San Jose State's chapter of Students for a Democratic Society held a protest in front of the Olympic Black Power Statue Wednesday, aiming to educate the community in what critics have labeled the "Don't Say Gay Bill."

Pending in the House of Representatives, the bill is called the "Stop the Sexualization of Children" act and was proposed by Mike Johnson, House Republican Conference vice chairman.

It prohibits the use of federal funds to develop, implement, facilitate or fund any sexually oriented program, event, or literature for children under the age of ten, according to Johnson's website.

The bill has also been signed by 32 other Republican Congress members.

Critics of the bill argue that the goal of the bill is to marginalize the LGBTQ+ community and their families, according to an Oct. 21 NPR article.

John Duroyan, Students for a Democratic Society member and history student, said the bill is homophobic by nature and its implicit assumption that all in the Queer community are sexual predators.

"It is a ruthless ploy to stop the LGBTQ+ youth from learning and understanding their identities and a nationwide plot to dismantle the progress that Queer people have fought so hard to earn," Duroyan said.

He said the act is the latest in a long series of attacks on Queer rights.

"There is always an angry and hateful force of bigots within the highest rungs of power, who want nothing more than to return to an

exclusionary and discriminatory status quo," Duroyan said. "These people are always on the lookout for another group to scapegoat another marginalized people."

Though the bill would not pass in the current Congress, the results of the midterm general elections could affect the likelihood of the bill passing through the House, as it is likely Republicans will gain the majority.

Even then, it is unknown whether the bill would pass as it is not clear how many Republicans actually support the bill, according to the NPR article.

David Almeida, Students for a Democratic Society president, said he thinks it is important to share that people need to fight and struggle against this bill to spotlight the issue to U.S. senators and representatives.

"If enough people around the country are able to protest this bill, and show that, 'Hey, we're not gonna just let this happen.' I feel like that puts a lot more pressure on the politicians to reject the bill," Almeida said.

Although the proposed legislation would limit description and depiction of sexual acts and "lewd or lascivious depiction or description" of human genitals, it also prohibits a wide range of gender-identity topics related to the LGBTQ+ community, according to the NPR article.

"This is an attack against LGBTQ community as they tried to strip away sex education, LGBTQ education, and prevent trans black trans athletes from participating in sports," Almeida said. "Today we stand in solidarity with all chapters across the nation, and all people affected by this bill."

The pending law may also add more concerns on top of the many worries that the

LGBTQ+ community members have about their rights in the country.

Mary Castro, Students for a Democratic Society member and political science student, said as a lesbian woman, she feels that she has to hide a part of her identity because of the regressive laws in the U.S.

"Even though the United States kind of does label itself as a very progressive country, it still really doesn't feel like it," Castro said. "There is just so much close mindedness. It just does not feel as safe to be expressive of my identity."

Samuel Bigelow, SJSU Young Democratic Socialist of America SJSU chapter president, said he thinks most people are more comfortable with the LGBTQ+ community than they were ten years ago.

Bigelow also said the law may isolate children and new generations from the LGBTQ+ community.

"Those kids will eventually move away from the kind of insulation that's been built up by these laws if they ever do get passed," he said. "But they know that they can keep their parents scared of it."

During the protest, Students for a Democratic Society members remarked on the importance of everybody standing against discrimination and isolation of the LGBTQ+ community.

"We must also remember that this repression will only prevail, if we choose to turn a blind eye," Duroyan said. "Never say, 'It is not my problem.'"

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LEADERSHIP

Continued from page 1

The advisory committee consisted of representatives from faculty, staff, students, alumni and representatives from other CSU campuses. They all provided consultation to the trustee committee.

The SJSU presidential search committee was made of 18 members in total, according to an April 22 SJSU news release.

Teniente-Matson developed several strategic initiatives during her presidency at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, according to a Wednesday CSU news release.

Under her presidency has been the creation of the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, the Henry G. Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders, Institute of Water Resource Science and Technology, Cyber Engineering Technology/Cyber Security Research Center and the university's first Facebook CyberSecurity University Program.

Jason Laker, professor of higher education, student affairs and community development and former vice president for student affairs, said he wishes Teniente-Matson success while demonstrating courage and integrity.

Laker said he hopes she won't let him down like how the previous seven presidents have since he's been at San Jose State.

"First of all, things like integrity, the courage to address things that need to be addressed, rooting out any sort of corruption, and there is some to root out, I had hoped that the interim president, given that he's interim, would have attended to some of those things, but he was pretty openly a candidate as well, which I think makes it harder to do what needs doing," Laker said.

He said the past scandals that happened should've been handled ethically and that he hopes Teniente-Matson can do that this time around.

"So when you have an institution that has been riddled by scandals over several presidents, I don't envy the challenge for her as the new president, but I have to say that if she manages to show up with that integrity, with that courage, with the commitments, multiculturalism and inclusion, directing resources in that way, holding people accountable to ethical behavior, then what a transformation that would be for our university," Laker said.

He said hiding things from the public does not protect the reputation of the university, but removing people, policies and circumstances that are corrupt does. Some qualities that he looks for in a new president include fostering a set of norms, expectations, transparency and accountability.

Laker said he cares about the people and not the brand and while he understands that a president has to think about both factors, he thinks SJSU has had several presidents who wrongfully only focused on the brand.

"I sincerely wish her the absolute best success and hope that she will demonstrate and model that kind of courage and integrity and like I said, I will be among the first to thank her and congratulate her if she does," he said.

Follow Rainier on Twitter | @demenaes

Ukraine updates: missile likely wasn't targeting Poland

By Carolyn Brown
OPINION EDITOR

The missile that hit Poland Tuesday is now suspected to be a misfired Ukrainian air-defense missile, according to a Wednesday Associated Press article.

Landing near the Poland-Ukraine border, the missile hit a grain silo in the Polish village Przewodow, killing two residents, according to a Wednesday New York Times article.

The Associated Press reported Tuesday that the missile had been Russian, but issued a correction Wednesday.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, during a Wednesday news conference, said there is no indication that the blast

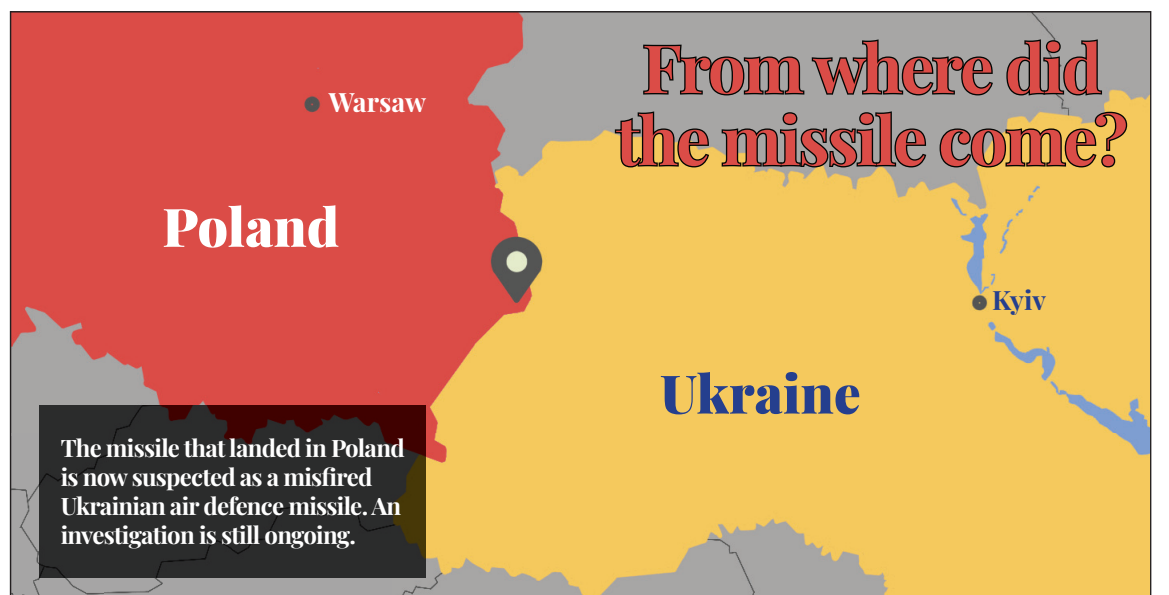
was a deliberate attack but the investigation remains ongoing.

The preliminary analysis by NATO suggests the missile was likely a Ukrainian defense missile that was launched to defend against Russian cruise missiles.

Russia has been bombarding Ukraine's power grid, leaving 1.4 million households without power, according to an Oct. 20 NPR article.

"Let me be clear, this is not Ukraine's fault. Russia bears ultimate responsibility as it continues its illegal war against Ukraine," Stoltenberg said during the news conference.

During a meeting broadcast on Ukrainian TV, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he does not believe the missile was



INFOGRAPHIC BY CAROLYN BROWN AND BRYANNA BARTLETT

Ukrainian, according to a Wednesday NPR article.

Russia's United Nation representative Vasily Nebenzya said during Wednesday's Security Council meeting that this is not the first time Ukraine's air-defense system has been linked to civilian deaths.

Nebenzya reminded the council of times Ukraine has shot down passenger planes.

Both Siberia Airlines flight 1812

in 2001 and Malaysian Air flight MH17 in 2014 were mistakenly shot down by Ukraine, according to a July 17, 2014 Vox article.

Nebenzya said the tragedy could have been avoided if the West had encouraged Ukraine to make peace, instead of supplying them with weapons.

He also said Russia would not have had to make precision strikes to weaken the Ukrainian military.

SJSU political science lecturer

Sabrina Pinnell said in an email that this incident is likely to cause pressure on both Russia and Ukraine to negotiate.

Pinnell said however, she doesn't think there will be a willingness to go about that seriously.

She said there may be more aid offered to Ukraine for a missile shield.

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Mozzarella cheese, marinated chicken, bacon, & onions
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Mozzarella cheese, marinated chicken, bacon, & onions
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Mozzarella cheese, marinated chicken, cherry tomatoes, & basil
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Advocate speaks on Indigenous rights

Tara Houska illuminates Indigenous issues, relating to climate

By Shruthi Lakshmanan
STAFF WRITER

The Spartan Speakers Series welcomed Tara Houska, a climate justice and Indigenous advocate and citizen of Couchiching First Nation, to share her experience in defending tribal land and promoting Indigenous activism.

The hybrid event rallied about 200 members on Zoom and another handful of in-person audience members who gathered in the Student Union Ballroom Wednesday.

Houska, who is also a tribal attorney, discussed her work from politics to her transition into the climate-activism space as it affects the country's Indigenous populations.

"Indigenous communities are impacted first and worse by the climate crisis, because we are in relationship to the land so closely," Houska said. "There [are] spaces where the oceans [are] eating the shoreline . . . homelands are going underwater."

Houska said she started her career as an attorney where her days consisted of practicing law and taking time to protest the Keystone XL pipeline during her lunch breaks.

She said she later became the Native American Affairs for Senator Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign adviser, while simultaneously working for Honor the Earth, a nonprofit raising awareness and economic support for Indigenous environmental causes.

Houska said she spent the same year fighting against the Dakota Access Pipeline, which claims it is the safest and most environmentally sensitive way to transport crude oil from domestic wells to U.S. consumers.

"[I] made the decision to kind of move in a different direction and not be confined to the D.C. law office anymore," Houska said. "Then [I saw] this Facebook Live ask[ing] people to help in North Dakota . . . I was like,



ALESSIO CAVALCA | SPARTAN DAILY

Tara Houska, a climate justice and Indigenous advocate and citizen, shares her experience in the Student Union Ballroom Wednesday.

"Okay, I'm gonna go to this place."

In 2018, Houska founded the Giniw Collective, which is an "Indigenous-women, two-spirit led frontline resistance to protect Mother Earth," according to the organization's Facebook webpage.

The collective rounded a group of people who fought against the Line 3 pipeline, which is a "proposed pipeline expansion to bring nearly a million barrels of tar sands per day from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin," according to the Stop Line 3 initiative website.

Carmina Bosmenier, liberal studies teacher-prep senior and descendant of the Yaqui peoples, an Indigenous group from Southern Sonora, Mexico, who migrated to modern day Southern Arizona, according to a May 14, National Park Service article, attended the event to connect with other Indigenous members.

"As an Indigenous and Mexican person, I wanted to come and be around other people that have similar passions," Bosmenier said. "I'm trying to connect [with] the neighborhoods so that's [the] reason why I came today."

Bosmenier, a Southern California native, said she wanted to learn about the pipeline and geopolitical border issues that Indigenous people face with Canada and Mexico.

"There's a different struggle for Indigenous people at [these] borders," Bosmenier said. "There's always people [protesting] . . . but it's hard because it's political."

At the end of the event, Bosmenier shared her story with Houska and discussed their shared interest in Indigenous-border disputes with other nations.

Lauren De Gruccio, music education junior, said she came to listen to Houska discuss

her leadership skills and participated in the Q&A event.

"[This] was a daily reminder of certain things like keeping yourself in check and acknowledging the land around you as well," De Gruccio said.

Houska is also the co-founder of Not Your Mascots, an organization dedicated to "informing individuals and mobilizing groups to combat the public misappropriation of Native American imagery," according to its Facebook webpage.

"The United States has a long way to go [in] even acknowledging some of [our] history and the present," Houska said.

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MOSAIC

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treating the Palestinians, I'm called an antisemitic," Amir Ali said. "But I'm supporting the Palestinians who are semetic people, right? So if I'm supporting the Palestinians, who are Semites, how can I be antisemitic? What the Israelis are saying is that they are the only Semitic people."

Merriam-Webster defines a Semitic individual as an obsolete term to describe any of a number of people of ancient Southwestern Asia including the Akkadians, Phoenicians, Hebrews and Arabs.

The Students for Justice in Palestine event comes a week after Egyptian-born Jew Albert Bivas was hosted by Hillel of Silicon Valley and the Jewish Student Union to celebrate North African and Middle Eastern Jewish Heritage Month on Nov. 9.

Hillel of Silicon Valley is the SJSU campus chapter of Hillel International, the largest Jewish campus organization in the world that aims to bring thousands of college students together, according to its website.

There were more than 25 people in attendance for the Nov. 9 speaker event including Matan Zamir, the deputy consul general of Israel to the Pacific Northwest.

Several students in the days leading up to and after the Hillel event alleged tense verbal exchanges occurred in the space, specifically regarding topics about Palestine and Israel.

Some students, who wished to remain anonymous for security concerns, but were present at the time of verbal exchanges in the week leading up to and after the Hillel event said the environment in the MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center was abnormal.

"MOSAIC is all about keeping



NICK ZAMORA | SPARTAN DAILY

Amir Abdel Malik Ali addresses attendees in the MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center on Wednesday evening.

an open space, you know, it's a friendly, welcoming space for students and all of last week, it was the exact opposite of that," said an anonymous student. "There was tension in the air. Students were uncomfortable, you know, little mini fights were going on, not physical, but ideological battles were fought."

Interactions of differing opinions reportedly started with one student erasing a written message saying "Free Palestine" and then replacing it with "Peace for all."

Mechanical engineering senior Sana Saleem and several people who left the MOSAIC just before the Nov. 9 speaker event said they felt the space, for the duration of the event, was no longer theirs, especially with UPD officers present at the door.

"I mean, you're having this exhibition, I think, for a Zionist," Saleem said. "I mean, I have nothing against them. You know, I do believe in 'Peace for all,' you know, but I just don't like the idea of them having cops there because we're Muslims."

MOSAIC director Christopher Yang said the center is a "content

neutral space" and has hosted and worked with Hillel and Jewish Student Union several times in previous years.

Yang said police were only there on request of Hillel and Jewish Student Union as a precautionary measure for Matan Zamir. Sarita Bronstein, the Hillel Silicon Valley executive director, said that UPD was also present because of "rumors" leading up to the event but declined to comment further on the matter.

Max Martin, materials engineer junior and MOSAIC employee said that Mosaic, at its best, is a place for discussion, inclusion and a difference of opinion.

"This space is super welcoming. You want to join these, you know, in depth conversations, we have the rooms if you want to study a little with a little bit more privacy, a little bit more focus," Martin said. "That's the beautiful thing about MOSAIC is I think it's not just one specific identity coming in to study it's or hangout. It's everybody. And I think that this is a positive space for that"

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SAN JOSE

Continued from page 1

Chavez, a former vice mayor of San Jose, was endorsed by the county's Democratic party and all city councilmembers apart from Liccardo, who supported Mahan along with other business groups and the San Jose Mercury News, according to a Wednesday KRON4 News article.

Liccardo released a statement Wednesday congratulating Mahan for his win: "Mayor Mahan will be a collaborative, dynamic, and thoughtful leader, who will ensure our government works just as hard as the families we serve."

Mahan said in a statement released Wednesday, that he is looking forward to getting to work as Mayor of San Jose.

"We all want our city to be safe, to prosper, and our mission is to work together for common-sense solutions to end street homelessness, fight crime more effectively, make our city affordable, clean up San Jose and ourselves as elected officials accountable for results," Mahan stated in a Twitter post.

Melissa Jackson, associate dean of undergraduate education, told the Spartan Daily in its Nov. 10 article about the mayoral election that the race was close and highly contested, with Mahan being seen as a fresher approach to politics.

"If Mahan does come out on top, this would suggest that a majority of San Jose voters are tired of the usual political approaches and are ready to take a chance on someone new," Jackson said in an email.

Jackson also said Chavez, who ran on her experience as a former councilmember and county supervisor, is considered to be the more experienced candidate of the two.

"Chavez ran on her experience

and track record as a former councilmember and current County Supervisor, while Mahan emphasized the need for greater accountability and fiscal discipline in addressing local issues," Jackson said.

Chavez stated in a Twitter post on Wednesday that even though she was not victorious, she is proud of the campaign she ran.

"We have seen worrying trends both nationally and locally, with candidates, their supporters and special interests showing a willingness to lie, distort, deceive and even dehumanize their opponents. Such behavior not only feeds voter skepticism, it threatens our democracy," Chavez stated.

Mahan expressed respect and gratitude toward Chavez after her concession in the race.

"I congratulate Supervisor Chavez on her strong campaign and I hope to work with her closely in the years ahead to address the challenges facing San Jose," he said.

Larry Gerston, local political analyst and San Jose State political science professor, told San Francisco Chronicle in its Wednesday article that Mahan will have his work cut out for him.

"He's not going to have very many friends on the council, that doesn't mean that it can't work, but he's going to have that obstacle to overcome for almost any policy," Gerston said.

Follow Bojana on Twitter | @bojanaacv

OPINION

Celebrity deaths are not for clicks

By Vanessa Tran
STAFF WRITER

Dead celebrities deserve to be mourned and honored respectfully, not used for clickbait on social media.

Although celebrities are already in the limelight, it doesn't make it right to sensationalize their deaths. People seem to forget that celebrities are still human and videos or photos of their deaths should not be given out like candy.

It has unfortunately become normal for people on social media to search for a video of a celebrity's death. I don't understand how people can yearn to watch something so sick and pass it around.

American rapper and singer PnB Rock was shot dead in South Los Angeles on Sept. 12, inside of Roscoe's House of Chicken 'N Waffles, according to a Sept. 13 article by CNN. The video of PnB Rock on the floor with paramedics around him circulated all over Twitter the night it happened.

It's disgusting to think about pulling out your phone and pressing record when someone is deceased in a puddle of blood. How is that your first thought when you see a lifeless body?

PnB Rock's girlfriend, Stephanie Sibounheuang, who was present at the shooting had several conspiracy theories against her. People on social media speculated she set him up to get robbed after posting an Instagram story with the location tagged.

After witnessing her boyfriend die, the last thing I would expect



PHOTO COLLAGE BY SAME DIETZ | SOURCE WIKIMEDIA COMMONS AND CANVA

name more for content rather than actually caring about the troubles she went through with the royal family.

Did media outlets really care about her life and passing, or was she simply used as content filler?

Unfortunately, not only does this happen online, but offline too. Los Angeles County was sued by Vanessa Bryant in August for negligence and invasion of privacy over pictures of her deceased husband and daughter, Kobe and Gigi Bryant, according to an Aug. 25 article by Washington Post.

First responders who were called on scene at the helicopter accident on Jan. 26, 2020, took pictures of the father and daughter and proceeded to show patrons at Baja California Bar & Grill in Norwalk.

Wearing a badge on your chest does not give you the right to use photos of deceased individuals as conversation starters.

There is no excuse to offer such graphic photos to strangers, insinuating that you have something so "exclusive." Someone else's pain is not your icebreaker to befriend new people.

In such a digital world, bystanders' first instinct when witnessing something tragic is to open up their camera and share everything on social media.

Everyone needs to put their phones down and realize that an image or video of someone dead is a significant person to someone else.

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was for people to target her so quickly.

There was no "conspiracy" of her intentionally wanting him to be shot dead, it was an innocent date night that she wanted to share with her followers. It was unbelievable how people wanted to twist this homicide and turn it into a conspiracy.

I can't even envision how the rapper's friends and family members felt seeing the video being reposted all over social media.

Can you imagine how you would feel if someone close to you passed away and their dead body was going viral?

Anyone closely associated with Rock should grieve in peace and not be bombarded with the recording whenever they open their phone.

American rapper Takeoff died on Nov. 1, at 810 Billiards & Bowling Houston, according to ABC13, a source for breaking news and weather from Houston. The video of him with a gunshot wound to his head made it to Twitter several hours after his death.

It was heartbreaking to hear his uncle, Quavo, screaming in agony over his body. The pain in his voice can easily be heard and felt through the screen.

Just because someone is famous, it doesn't mean their passing deserves to be put on display for the world to see.

These celebrities deserve more than this, they deserve to rest in peace just like any other person.

The media knows how to strategically evoke interest by bringing up deaths that happened years ago. Diana, Princess of Wales who died in 1997, was brought up on news outlets constantly when Queen Elizabeth died on Sept. 8.

Princess Diana is an iconic figure who we should let rest and stop exploiting for entertainment. People were bringing up her

SAUMYA'S SOUNDS

Tunes to help you reclaim yourself

By Saumya Monga
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

"Air Guitar" by Sobs (released on Oct. 26)

From the bright colors of the album cover to the heavy guitar sounds on the title track, "Air Guitar" by Singaporean band Sobs feels as though listeners have walked straight into a late '90s romantic-comedy.

The entire album tells the story of lead singer Celine Autumn's unstable relationships. The feeling of butterflies from falling in love for the first time

seems to dissipate as time passes and Autumn is left to hang on to whatever else the relationship offers.

Autumn's bright blue hair on the album cover and blurred background already tells listeners that the story will be told from a rosy lens, similar to most '90s rom-coms.

It's the kind of album young girls will cry and dance to while reminiscing about their first kiss from the "one who got away."

Behind clunky guitars and a strong backbone of drums, "Air Guitar" is pop music at its finest. It sounds cheery, but is rooted in sadness.

Pop music used to lean heavy on emotions, but over the past few years, it drew away from that teenage angst. Sobs reminds us that there is a subtle beauty in teenagers playing "air guitar" in their rooms while crying about their ex-lovers.

"My Mind & Me" by Selena Gomez (released on Nov. 3)

It can be easy to belittle the problems of pop stars. They're surrounded by wealth and people who are ready to serve their every need after all.

Singer Selena Gomez has opened up about their mental health struggles and has shown us that

no one should be placed on a pedestal, let alone celebrities.

Her latest single "My Mind & Me" was released a day before her documentary of the same name on Apple TV+.

Gomez has gone through a slew of physical struggles including revealing her lupus diagnosis, an immune system disorder that attacks tissues, which led to her receiving a kidney transplant from close friend and actress Francia Raisa in 2017.

In April 2020, Gomez revealed she has bipolar disorder, a struggle which is hard enough to endure without being in the limelight.

In "My Mind & Me," Gomez opens up the details of her struggles.

During the chorus, a gentle acoustic guitar merges with the simple piano melody of the verses as Gomez's breathy voice sings "My mind and me / We don't get along sometimes / And it gets hard to breathe."

With a stripped down production, Gomez peels back the layers of her mind and gives listeners an opportunity to see exactly what resides there.

Saumya's album of the week: "The Sale" by Julien Chang (released Nov. 4)

At the age of 17, Baltimore music student Julien Chang began writing songs for his debut album "Jules" which was released in 2019.

It was psychedelic and effervescent. It's the kind of album that can only come from a teenager recording music in his basement in secret, hidden in view until it is ready to erupt into the soundscape.

It came out of nowhere but garnered the attention of music fans and critics alike who were impressed by his masterful production.

At every turn, Chang sought to surprise listeners and his latest album "The Sale" is no different.

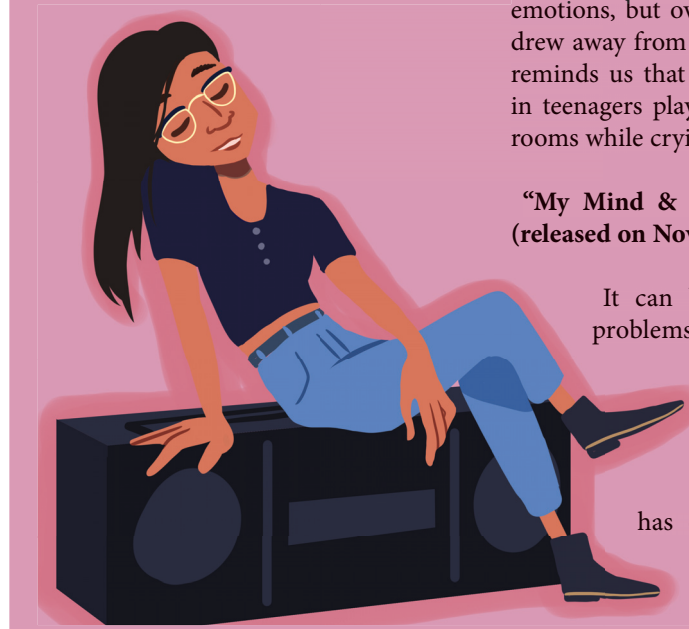
It's funkier, featuring more solidified guitar rhythms than his debut album. But it is still an exploration of everything music can offer.

Chang continues to place instrumentation at the forefront. His vocals aren't strong and are layered on top of each other. His voice fades into the background as his multi-instrumental sensibilities take the wheel.

We drift through deep bass, subtle guitars and addicting drum beats. It's never clear where we are going, but listeners can't wait to reach wherever Chang is taking us.

Chang is an exciting artist because he is unconventional, inspired by everything from classical piano to synths. He isn't here to be "popular" but rather to create enticing music atmospheres for his fans.

Follow Saumya on Twitter @MongaSaumya



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