

the Lutrinae

CSUMB Student-Run Newspaper

September 12, 2022

Mask Mandate Update!

after two years, CSUMB loosens mask requirements



Story by Arianna Nalbach
Illustration by Malia Savella

After a year and a half of online school, followed by a year of mandated mask-wearing, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) has updated its mask policy.

On Sept. 7, CSUMB President Vanya Quiñones sent out an email to students, faculty, and staff announcing the campus would move to be mask-friendly starting on Monday, Sept. 12. This means anyone who wishes to wear a mask is encouraged to do so, but it will no longer be required in most indoor spaces.

Masking will still be required when someone is COVID-19 positive, has COVID-19 symptoms and is living in student housing, or if someone is exposed to COVID-19, awaiting test results, or is fulfilling an isolation period.

Additionally, in any place where official signs state you must wear a mask, or while visiting campus health care settings, you will be required to wear a mask.

The mask policy update has received mixed reactions across the CSUMB community. Some are excited, but others are anxious about the policy change.

Fourth-year Barrett Reinhard welcomed the change eagerly.

“I am happy about it,” Reinhard said. “I know many people are worried about it, but it’s been three years. COVID is now endemic and with three booster shots, I think people shouldn’t be that worried about it anymore. I think it’s still smart to wear a mask and stay home when sick, but wearing it permanently is unnecessary at this point.”

Fellow fourth-year Matthew Lencioni shared a similar sentiment with Reinhard and was excited about the change.

“The change is a breath of fresh air,” Lencioni exclaimed. “Switching to a mask-friendly campus was long overdue; I’m glad they finally lifted the requirement. I’ll finally be able to walk into a building and not have my glasses fog up instantly!”

Others were having mixed reactions to the news and were nervous about COVID-19 spreading or spreading it themselves.

“I’m not sure what to think yet,” said third-year Katarina Cerda. “I will still be wearing a mask indoors on campus and in large crowds. I don’t want to get sick, and I also have roommates I live with who I don’t want to get sick.”

Fourth-year Anthony Lopez-Zamora shared an opinion similar to Cerda and was a bit nervous about the change in policy, but understood the change.

“I personally like having masks inside. Outside it’s whatever, we’re all far apart. But then again, I don’t really mind that they want to uplift it,” he said. “It’s gonna be different. I mean, I’m pretty sure we’ve all gotten used to it when it comes to things like going grocery shopping and nobody wearing masks, going outside, being with friends and nobody has a mask. Since we’re already well adjusted, we might as well just take it off. Why not? Go back to normal.”

Humanities and Communication Chair Sam Robinson expressed concern for immunocompromised individuals and those who came back to in-person classes assuming the requirements would continue.

“I believe most faculty members and students support this move. I don’t know where most of the staff stand on it,” said Robinson.

“I believe the key issues now are about the campus following policy and processes related to CFA, and its own committees such as the Public Health Committee,” she continued. “We also need to make sure all students and faculty feel safe in the classroom. I hope that those who need an accommodation to keep a mask requirement due to health issues will be able to do so.”

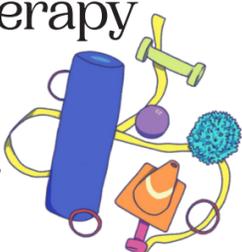
Communication Design Professor Amir Attia also shared his thoughts on the updated policy.

“I think giving the flexibility above masks is good, but I think it’s a big decision for everyone. It’s your decision whether to wear a mask or not and this decision might impact others, if you are sick,” said Attia. “Even though I feel comfortable with this decision, I still think that it’s the responsibility of each person to make the decision and to make sure they are safe and others are safe.”

While the on-campus infection rate has remained extremely low, President Quiñones reminds the campus community to still be prepared to return to wearing masks indoors if campus conditions worsen or the Monterey County updates health and safety recommendations.

Career Readiness: Physical Therapy

Kinesiology students learn about physical therapy in the first of a four-part career readiness series.



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House of the Dragon

A longtime “Game of Thrones” fan and a newcomer take a look at “House of the Dragon.”



Pages 5 & 6

8-Bit

“Splatoon 3” splashes onto Nintendo Switch consoles.



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Kinesiology event unlocks career readiness knowledge

Story by Estrella McDaniel
Illustration by Malia Savella

California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) kinesiology students learned what it takes to be a physical therapist in the first of a four-part series.

On Tuesday, Sept. 6, Career Services hosted a Zoom meeting called the Career Readiness Series for Physical Therapy.

This event provided students with information on how they can get a jump start on their careers and answered questions to help them find the best resources they can use for their future.

The presenters, Career Specialist Teresa Martinez and Academic Advisor Teresa Salters started by explaining the differences between physical therapy professions and their salaries.

“Any job or when you’re applying to a graduate program, they are looking for these types of skills and so you want to explain to them ‘I show flexibility, patience, time management in one of my group projects or classes,’” said Martinez.

They then proceeded to ask the students what they could improve on in those areas and many answered time management and patience.

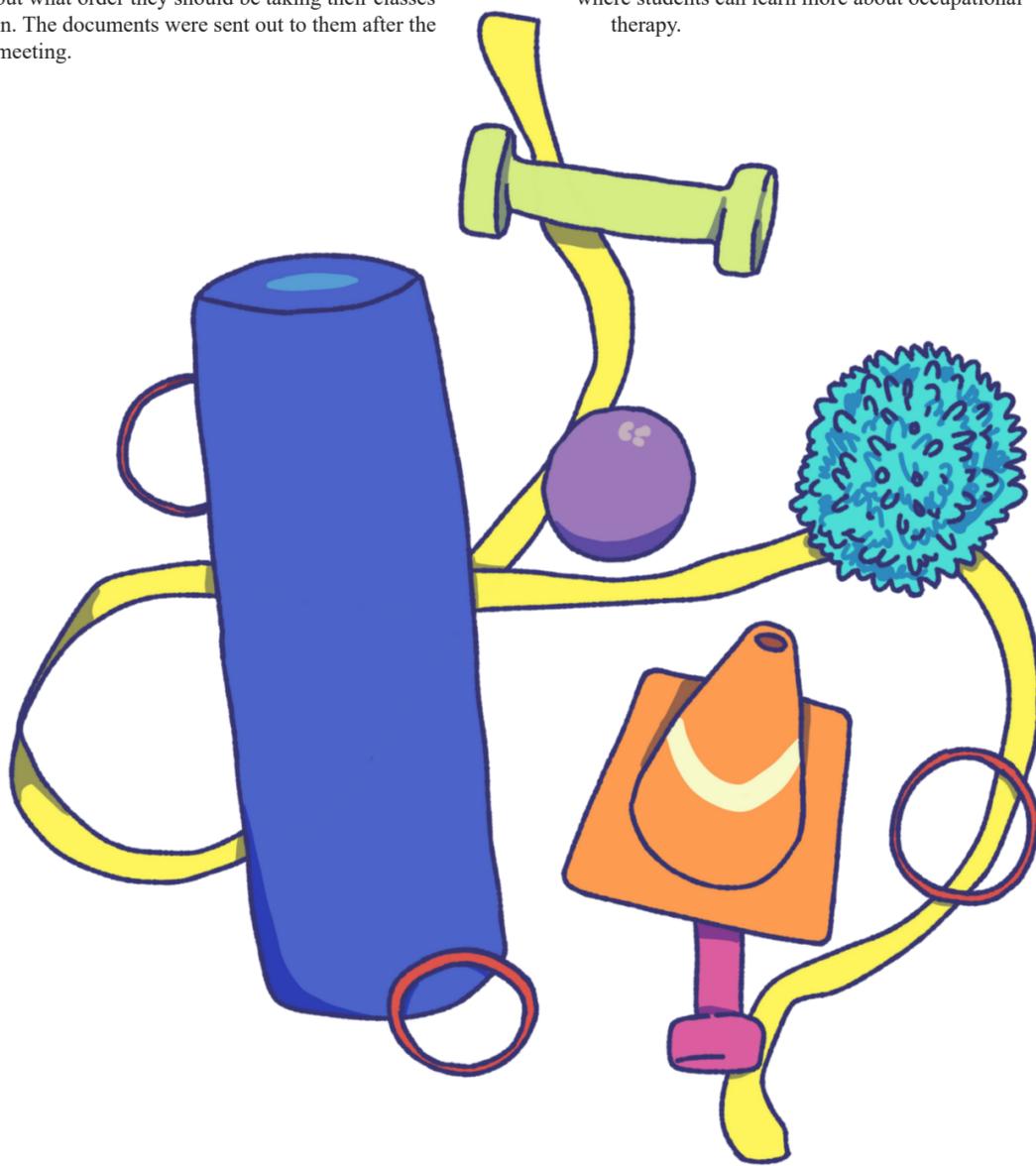
Not only did this provide opportunities for students to grow and learn more about what they want to do, it also gave students a chance to voice their thoughts and concerns.

“When trying to figure out if classes you have taken fulfill certain prerequisites, do we reach out to someone at CSUMB, the program we are applying to, or both?” asked Lauryn Ordinola, a student at CSUMB.

Martinez explained all kinesiology students will have access to a roadmap and checklist to help them figure out what order they should be taking their classes in. The documents were sent out to them after the meeting.

The campus is trying to create as many outlets for students to have as possible to ensure they succeed. With the help of staff and faculty, students hopefully feel they have many opportunities and individuals to confide in for help.

The next installment of the series will be on Oct 4, where students can learn more about occupational therapy.



the
Lutrinae

The Lutrinae is a weekly campus newspaper covering CSUMB and its neighboring areas. Here at *The Lutrinae*, our goal is not only to educate and inform the public, but to entertain, to spark creativity, to encourage diversity of opinion, and to build a sense of community on campus and with the neighboring cities.

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The Lutrinae serves two purposes: It is a training ground for students who wish to develop journalism skills and build their resume, and it is a forum for free expression of campus issues and news. *The Lutrinae* Editorial team will determine what to print and reserves the right to edit for libel, space, or clarity.

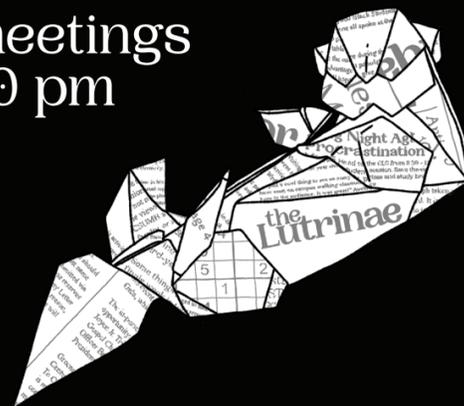
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Interested in joining our team?

The Lutrinae holds meetings every Monday at 6:10 pm via Zoom!

Email analbach@csumb.edu for more information!

We love to see your: illustrations • short stories • poems



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Students prep for Credential Applications

Story by Maxwelle Tartaglia

Recognizing students will choose different credential pathways, California State University, Monterey Bay's (CSUMB) MAESTROs Project hosted an event to let students know their options.

This session, held Sept. 7, was one of many weekly informational sessions aimed at helping students through the credential application process. MAESTRO is an acronym for "Making Accessible and Effective Systems for Teacher Readiness Outcomes."

The event was held via Zoom and hosted by Project Outreach Coordinator Betsi Solis, Student Services Professional Shawna Gannon and Project Manager Margaret Dominguez.

The session presented the step-by-step application process, program requirements, documentation requirements, deadlines, and general recommendations for students.

Solis explained the details of credential pathways students traditionally follow and offered differing paths to students more suited for an untraditional route.

Throughout the session, students were encouraged to ask questions about the application process because MAESTRO recognizes students will choose different credential pathways.

Choosing a credential program is the most essential part of the process.

Students must choose from elementary education, secondary education or special education. A lot of this decision hinges on what a particular student's major is. For example, a math major would most likely be interested in teaching secondary education.

Each program has various pathways a student can take depending on their circumstances.

Gannon highly encourages the co-teaching pathway to students as it is less intensive than the internship pathway and will provide a student with an excess of hours of experience to use in their application.

The application opens on Oct. 1 and the priority deadline is Feb. 1. The final deadline for the application is March 1, but students are strongly encouraged to finish before the February deadline.

Students who complete their application before the priority deadline will have their application reviewed and cultivated by Shawna Gannon.

Those applying must be able to present a bachelor's degree, basic skills demonstrated through exam testing, subject matter competency, 40-50 hours of experience

working with youth, fingerprint/CTC clearance, a 1-2 page essay, U.S. Constitution competency, field placement requirements and must attend an interview and informational meeting.

Solis emphasized that multiple California Educator Exams are typically required for the credential application, such as the CBEST and CSET, and are free of charge until June 30, something students should take advantage of this opportunity.

Students were encouraged to consider joining MAESTRO's Canvas course page by reaching out to Solis. The course page acts as a to-do list for students to help them stay organized throughout the application process.

There will be recurring application workshops hosted in October by Gannon, where students can drop by to learn more about the CSUMB teaching credential or receive direct help from Gannon with each step of the application process.

Students can RSVP here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0nJEKkcTvJEaQXtsPaA6SwzptdLWasiSck8zezgCW2X_uA/viewform

Email Betsi Solis: besolis@csumb.edu
For more information:
The MAESTRO Project: <https://csumb.edu/education/maestros/>

Food trucks make first return to campus after COVID

Story and photos by Estrella McDaniel

California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Otter Kitchens executed a trial run on food trucks Thursday, Sep. 8 and left it up to the students to determine what they prefer to eat in an easy, on-the-go way.

There were two food trucks, one serving chicken burgers and fries while the other had more pinto beans, chicken, and rice bowls.

"So this is kind of a trial run of our food trucks. We were looking into bringing some more on in the future, so we just want to see how successful it is and get a judgment on what kind of food trucks (students) want to see," said Alexandra Perez, the marketing manager and sustainability coordinator for Otter Kitchens.

The university is trying to ensure the students have food they prefer, while trying to keep it unbiased by conducting surveys for the students to fill out after ordering at the food trucks.

Otter Kitchens hopes with the students' feedback, there will be more food trucks in the future and an opportunity for the campus to grow even more.

"I was excited because I often eat pizza at the Dining Commons and I thought this was better. I would want this to continue and would like there to be Chinese food for other food trucks," said international student Shion Kinoshita.

"Yeah, I enjoyed that we had options," said transfer student Angie Davis. "I would like to see more of this just because I've never really gotten to do food trucks from where I am, so this was a new experience for me. I would like to see Mexican cuisine for other food trucks."

Many students appear to be thrilled to see what other possibilities there are for the campus to have with these food trucks. Keep an eye out for more food truck events on Otter Kitchens' social media and MyRaft.



Students wait in line in front of the Otter Student Union to try out new food trucks on Sept. 8.



House of the Dragon from two perspectives

From a new fan: Who will sit upon the Iron Throne next?

Story and HBO preview screenshots by Haley Graham



“172 years before the death of the Mad King, Aerys, and the birth of his daughter, Princess Daenerys Targaryen.”

The prequel to the hit show “Game of Thrones,” “House of the Dragon” premiered on Aug. 21 and currently has four episodes available to watch on HBO. The first episode lets the audience know where “House of the Dragon” falls into the “Game of Thrones” timeline.

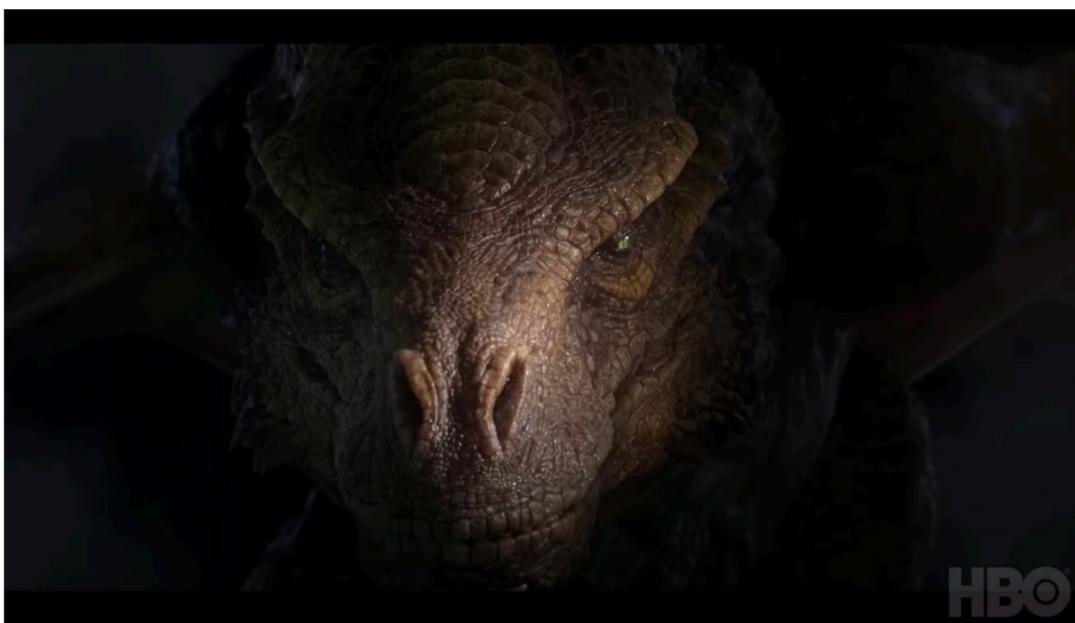
House Targaryen, a noble family of dragonlords, and current rulers of the Seven Kingdoms is experiencing some inner turmoil. After 100 years of rule and 10 full-grown dragons in their keep, will they be able to hold the reins of power?

King Viserys I Targaryen is unlike any king introduced in “Game of Thrones,” he seems too nice, or maybe he has yet to go mad. The delicate bloodline of House Targaryen is causing some challenges for King Viserys and his council’s decision on who is going to succeed him and ascend the Iron Throne. Will it be his younger brother Daemon Targaryen, first born daughter Rhaenyra Targaryen or an unborn son?

The conflicts in “Game of Thrones” reached across the Seven Kingdoms, with numerous different houses and kingdoms involved. It seems as though “House of the Dragon” is going to concentrate primarily on House Targaryen and a few familiar locations. It looks as though the creators decided to budget more money toward CGI and VFX, particularly of the dragons, rather than having a more extensive and complicated cast.

In regards to the cast, there will be some changes as time goes on. In “Game of Thrones,” the audience watched characters grow up along with their actors, but as the preview depicts this is not the case for “House of the Dragon.” Milly Alcock, who currently plays young Rhaenyra, will inevitably be substituted by Emma D’arcy, along with the actress for character Alicent Hightower. This suggests that there is going to be a significant jump in time, hopefully this will not burn the audience’s connection to the characters to the ground.

“House of the Dragon” is undoubtedly going to be a riveting story. After all, the previous king warned “the only thing that could tear down the House of the Dragon, was itself.”





From a longtime fan: Less talking, more dragons

Story by Maxwelle Tartaglia

The final episode of “Game Of Thrones” aired on May 19, 2019 and left many fans either never wanting to pick up the show again or demanding a redo of the entire final season. HBO’s announcement of the new spinoff series, “House of the Dragon,” presents a compromise between the two.

“House of the Dragon” is a prequel to “Game of Thrones” and will cover the events leading up to the civil war that ended the Targaryen dynasty.

“House of the Dragon” is set in the same universe created by author George R.R. Martin.

Martin once again does a great job emulating the same medieval fantasy aesthetic that he brings into all of his projects, such as “Game of Thrones” and “Elden Ring.”

“House of the Dragon” also features a smaller cast than “Game of Thrones” as it will be focusing mainly on House Targaryen. However, this has not at all limited the show’s ability to create intricate conflicts and tension between characters.

“House of the Dragon” has finely embodied the same melodramatic themes as the early seasons of “Game of Thrones,” with heavy discussions of politics, appalling moral choices, succession and primogeniture.

Being set hundreds of years in the past, fans are excited to see the Targaryans in their prime and are even more excited to see more dragons!

However, so far “House of the Dragon” is underwhelming.

While only the first three episodes have aired at the time of this review, each episode just seems to be a compilation of very long conversations between people in blonde wigs about duty and responsibility.

For a series that is supposed to focus on the infamously most mentally-unstable and violent house in the “Game of Thrones” universe, there have been very few moments that really grab your attention.

It is still too early to tell if House of the Dragon is just a bad brand extension or not, but after three hours of listening to kings and consorts talk about who should

marry who, instead of showing off cooler aspects of the Targaryen dynasty, like their massive dragons or dragon riders suited in Valyrian steel, it leaves you wanting more.

In “Game of Thrones,” there are only ever three dragons. The characters in “Game of Thrones” constantly talk about how powerful and majestic dragons once were before the fall of the Targaryans.

“House of the Dragon” presents the opportunity to really showcase how powerful and influential dragons truly were to the “Game of Thrones” universe, however the show is constantly stuck in the soap opera that is the King’s responsibilities while it could be showing cooler stuff like dragon fights.

Fans got their first taste of action in just the latest episode, and even then, it was nowhere near as exciting as the battles that took place in the original TV series. However, this could just be a slow start as the show is simply

doing world-building and scene setting and it is not at all indicative of what could be set to come.

More positive aspects of “House of the Dragon” include the decision to cut out all of the sexual violence that plagued the original show. While the show still has sexual themes, they are no longer extremely graphic and unnecessary to the plot of the show.

The actors are all also very convincing in their roles and make viewers feel strongly about all of the characters and the decisions they are faced with making.

While the show is off to a slow start, it is definitely too early to tell if the series will be a disappointment.

Any fans familiar with the history of “Game of Thrones” know there is much more action to come from the Targaryan family and it is only a matter of time before fans start seeing some real dragon action.



Upcoming Events

HSI Pachanga

Monday Sept. 12 Join the Otter Student Union from 1 to 3 p.m. as they kick off Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week with a pachanga (celebration) filled with music, games and resources geared towards Lantinx student community success.

Grad School 101

Tuesday Sept. 13 Career Services will be hosting a 101 workshop for students interested in applying for graduate school from noon to 1 p.m. Register for the workshop on MyRaft.

Demystifying Research

Tuesday Sept. 13 The UROC Scholars will be discussing imposter syndrome, challenges and successes undergraduates face at a Hispanic-Serving Institution. Head to Suite 2150 of the library from 2 to 3 p.m. to join.

Startup Monterey Bay Connect

Tuesday Sep. 13 Head to the MBEST center in Marina or join online from 6 - 7:30 p.m. to find out about the latest innovations, trends in business and technology, or the latest ideas. The event will feature six guest speakers and will be centered around drone, automation & robotics technologies.

“Shakespeare” Auditions

Sept. 14 - 16 The Performing Otters will be hosting auditions for their Shakespeare scene study focusing on the themes of queer love in his works from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

OC3 Curanderismo

Thursday Sept. 15 The OC3 will take a look at Curanderismo, a traditional Mexican American healing practice and learning about the history and rituals to stay well and remove bad energies. Join them in room 310 of the Otter Student Union from noon to 1:30 and register ahead on MyRaft.

AS Farmer’s Market

Thursday Sept. 15 Associated Student’s farmer’s market is making a return to CSUMB. Find the farmer’s market in the Lot 71 parking lot from 2 - 6 p.m.

Selena Movie Screening

Friday Sept. 16 Head to the Inter-Garrison Plaza at 7:30 p.m. for a screening of “Selena” to end off HSI Week. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided.

What do you think about the heat waves in California?

Otter Chatter by Arianna Nalbach



Barrett Reinhard

Communication Design
Fourth-Year

“I think that they are very uncomfortable and a risk to California as a whole. We’ve been getting notifications to turn off the power during certain hours because of them. I also think that they are a pretty clear sign of climate change.”



Anthony Lopez-Zamora

Communication Design
Fourth-Year

“Here’s the thing – I live in Hollister. It’s always hot, right? I hate it so much. Every day I wake up sweating, ugly, crying, all of the above. But there are moments where I’m like, ‘alright, well, it isn’t that bad.’ In the afternoon though, it gets crazy. Overall, I hate it. It really messes with me. I can’t get work done; I can’t get any assignments done. It’s the worst.”



Katarina Cerda

Psychology
Third-Year

“Being from Fresno, CA, the heat is not anything new for me, but I do feel like each year, there is a longer period of heatwaves. I think climate change is real and it scares me. I always carry around peppermint oil and water to combat the heat though, so I’m coping.”

Splashing into Splatoon 3

8-Bit

Story and screenshots by Arianna Nalbach
Illustration by Malia Savella

Fans of “Splatoon” have been eagerly awaiting the release of the third installment of the series since its initial announcement in February.

After over a year of excitement, “Splatoon 3” finally released worldwide Sept. 9 to Nintendo Switch systems. Was the wait worth the hype?

“Splatoon 3” shares many similar mechanics to the older “Splatoon” titles, with the same game modes players have come to know and love, like Turf War and Salmon Run.

It runs smoothly and is, without a doubt, the best title to come from the series, technically speaking. “Splatoon 3” made necessary quality-of-life changes the previous titles were lacking.

Instead of obnoxiously long loading screens while queuing for matches, players can roam around in the lobby and get some last-minute practice before jumping into battle.

While the core game mechanics are the same as the older titles, “Splatoon 3” updated and polished them. Older players can jump into “Splatoon 3” and use the same skills and techniques from previous titles to hopefully come out of their games victorious.

Even for older players who might not have picked up the first two games recently, it doesn’t take too long to fall back into a groove in “Splatoon 3.”

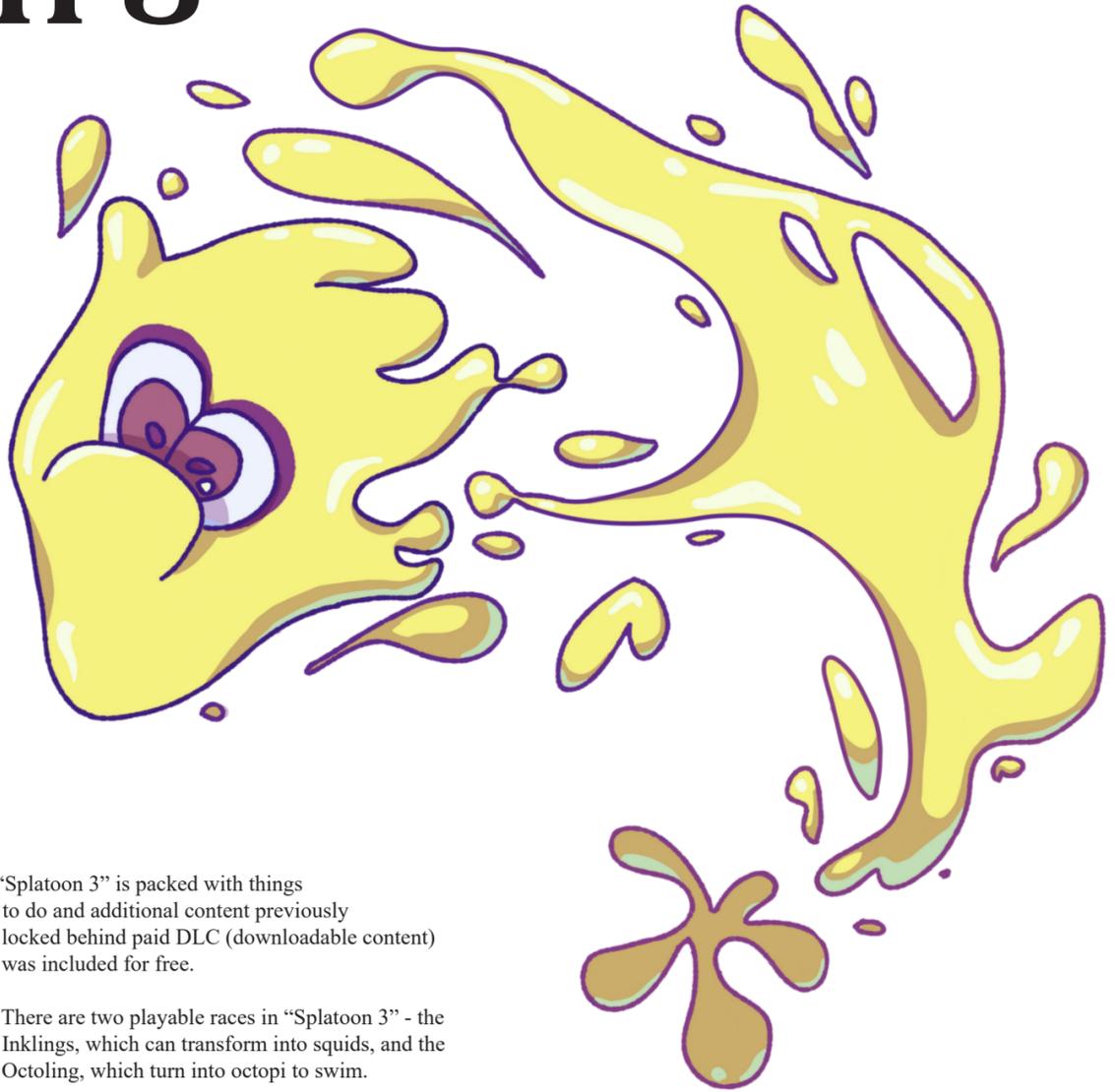
That being said, it would have been nice to see an additional multiplayer game mode added. While it is great to see Turf War, Salmon Run and the ranked game modes return, a new game mode would be nice to see when the game has a \$59.99 price tag.

Salmon Run first made an appearance in “Splatoon 2,” bringing in a unique experience to the title players couldn’t get from the original “Splatoon.”

“Splatoon 3” doesn’t have something like that. There are new weapons, slightly updated mechanics and updated visuals, but the online experience plays very similarly to its predecessor.

While a new online game mode would have been nice to see, “Splatoon 3” still feels like a complete game on launch.

Unfortunately, this hasn’t always been the case with some Nintendo titles, with players feeling games lack core mechanics on release and having to wait for updates before the game feels more full.



“Splatoon 3” is packed with things to do and additional content previously locked behind paid DLC (downloadable content) was included for free.

There are two playable races in “Splatoon 3” - the Inklings, which can transform into squids, and the Octoling, which turn into octopi to swim.

In “Splatoon 2,” playing as an Octoling was exclusive to those with the “Octo Expansion,” retailing for \$19.99. However, the DLC came with single-player story quests, and in “Splatoon 3,” playing as an Octoling is purely cosmetic.

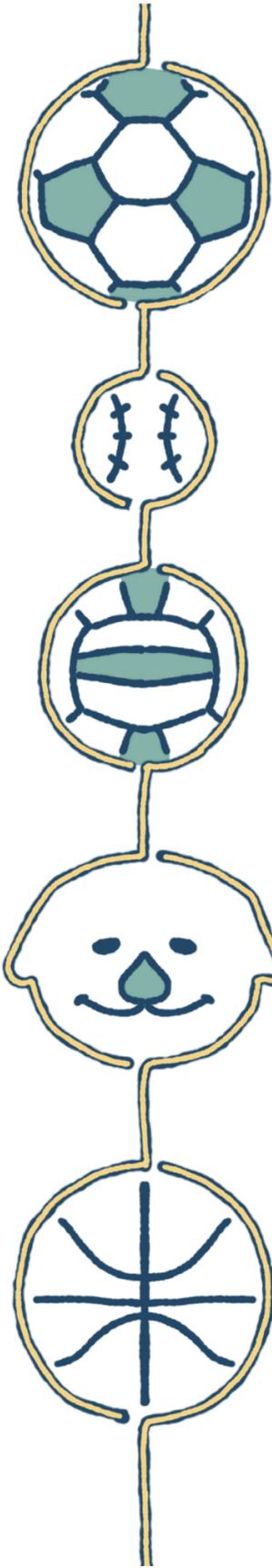
While there are no new multiplayer game modes, “Splatoon 3” did add a single-player minigame, where you go up against AI in a card game called Tableturf Battles. It plays a bit like a 2D version of Turf Wars; to win, you take turns competing to have the most ink on the board by the end of the game.

Tableturf Battles will be available for online multiplayer later in a free update.

Overall, “Splatoon 3” is the fresh coat of paint the series deserved. While there isn’t anything totally new or super innovative about it, “Splatoon 3” stuck to the tried-and-true “Splatoon” formula while cleaning up mechanics and bringing small changes to the game.



Game Results



Men's Soccer

Sept. 4 vs Dominican University

L1-2

Women's Soccer

Sept. 9 @ Saint Martin's University

L1-2

Women's Volleyball

Sept. 9 vs Cal Poly Pomona

L1-3

Sept. 10 vs Cal State San Bernardino

W 3-2

Men's Cross Country

Sept. 10 @ CSUSB Invitational

2nd of 5 teams

Women's Cross Country

Sept. 10 @ CSUSB Invitational

2nd of 5 teams

Can you unscramble these ocean-related words to reveal their true meaning?

idusq

shfirats

deeeasw

neidars

ltsa taerw

aels

rkhsa

ilas tabo

eas ttreo

shifdrwos

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

Answers:

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

Squid, Seaweed, Salt Water, Shark, Sea Otter, Starfish, Sardinia, Seal, Sail Boat, Swordfish