



Emerald Media

OCT. 1, 2021

*Week of Welcome*

# STAYING SAFE IN THE EUGENE SCENE

House shows are back, and local bands and venues tackle both COVID-19 safety and reports of harassment and assault.



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'I AM NOT MY STEREO TYPE' PG 5

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**THE DAILY EMERALD**

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**ON THE COVER**

*Candy Picnic is a Eugene band made up of Eugene natives Spencer Misfeldt (guitar), Chris Heer (guitar and vocals), Stella Parker (bass and vocals), and their newest addition, Tristan Day (drums). Eugene saw the return of house shows this summer after 14 months into the COVID-19 pandemic. (Ian Enger/Emerald)*

everything you need to know  
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**QUICK HITS**

# EUGENE OCTOBER CALENDAR

Suggestions from the Emerald

## Oct. 1-3 Eugene Beer Garden Oktoberfest

If you haven't been yet, catch the last three days of Beer Garden's Oktoberfest, a celebration full of beer and German-inspired food. Plus, live music on Saturdays!

## Oct. 7 Ducks After Dark

Watch "Raya And The Last Dragon" at 7:15 p.m. at Ducks After Dark, a recently resumed UO program that plays free movies for UO students.

## Oct. 16 Portugal. The Man

The Cuthbert Amphitheater is a Eugene essential and tickets to Portugal. The Man, who will be playing live for the first time in over a year, are still available.

## Oct. 20 Anxiety management workshop

Join fellow Ducks for a stress and anxiety management workshop. The workshop will be held in EMU room 041 at 2 p.m.

## Oct. 28 Ducks After Dark

Ducks After Dark continues with "The Rocky Horror Picture show." The movie will play from 7:15 p.m. in EMU's Redwood Auditorium, room 214.

## Oct. 31 Women's volleyball game

Happy Halloween! And go support UO's women's volleyball team as they take on the Colorado Buffaloes in the Matthew Knight Arena at 12 p.m.

## Emerald Recommends

**PEN15's newest episode encapsulates middle school melancholy**

Maya and Anna take a trip to Florida in PEN15's newest episode. The girls deal with self-esteem issues, underage drinking and Anna's parents' divorce. The show balances serious themes with moments of comic relief, creating a well-balanced episode. The entirety of PEN15's two season run is amazing and hilarious, but I think the Florida episode truly captures the ironic reality of being an eighth grade girl. - SAMMY PIEROTTI

**33 1/3 album deep dives**

Anyone else have heaps of half finished books in their bedroom? Enter the 33 1/3 series. Bloomsbury puts out these righteous little books that take a deep dive into rock's most iconic albums that seem to be a cure all for readers' fatigue. As of January 2021, there's 152 short books out by different authors, each with their take on some stellar LP's with something for every music lover - MALENA SAADEH



## AROUND CAMPUS

**SEN. WYDEN TO VISIT CAMPUS**

**OCT. 10:** U.S. Senator Ron Wyden will visit the University of Oregon campus on Oct. 10 and engage in a student town hall. Wyden represents Oregon's fourth congressional district, including Eugene, and serves as chair of the Senate Finance Committee. The UO College Democrats are hosting the event and will provide free food. The event will happen in room 113 in the EMU.

- DUNCAN BAUMGARTEN

**COMPLETE OREGON MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

**RELEASED:** The conference play section of the Oregon men's basketball schedule was announced Thursday afternoon. The Ducks will appear in 17 national broadcasts in 2021-22. The first of those is the Nov. 16 Phil Knight Invitational matchup with BYU at the Moda Center in Portland. On Dec. 18, Baylor, the defending-champion, will visit Matthew Knight Arena.

- SHANE HOFFMANN



Ducks forward Eric Williams Jr. (50) shoots a layup during pre-game practice. Oregon Ducks take on UCLA Bruins at the Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene, Ore., on March 3, 2021. (Maddie Knight/Emerald)

**ASUO TO HOST MEETING ON CLUB STIPEND CHANGE OCT. 1:**

The ASUO senate is hosting an informational meeting on a change in how stipends are calculated for student organizations at 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 1. The stipend change is intended to "create a more equitable and encouraging environment in student organizations," ASUO wrote on its Instagram. Interested students can access the meeting via Zoom.

- LEO BAUDHUIN

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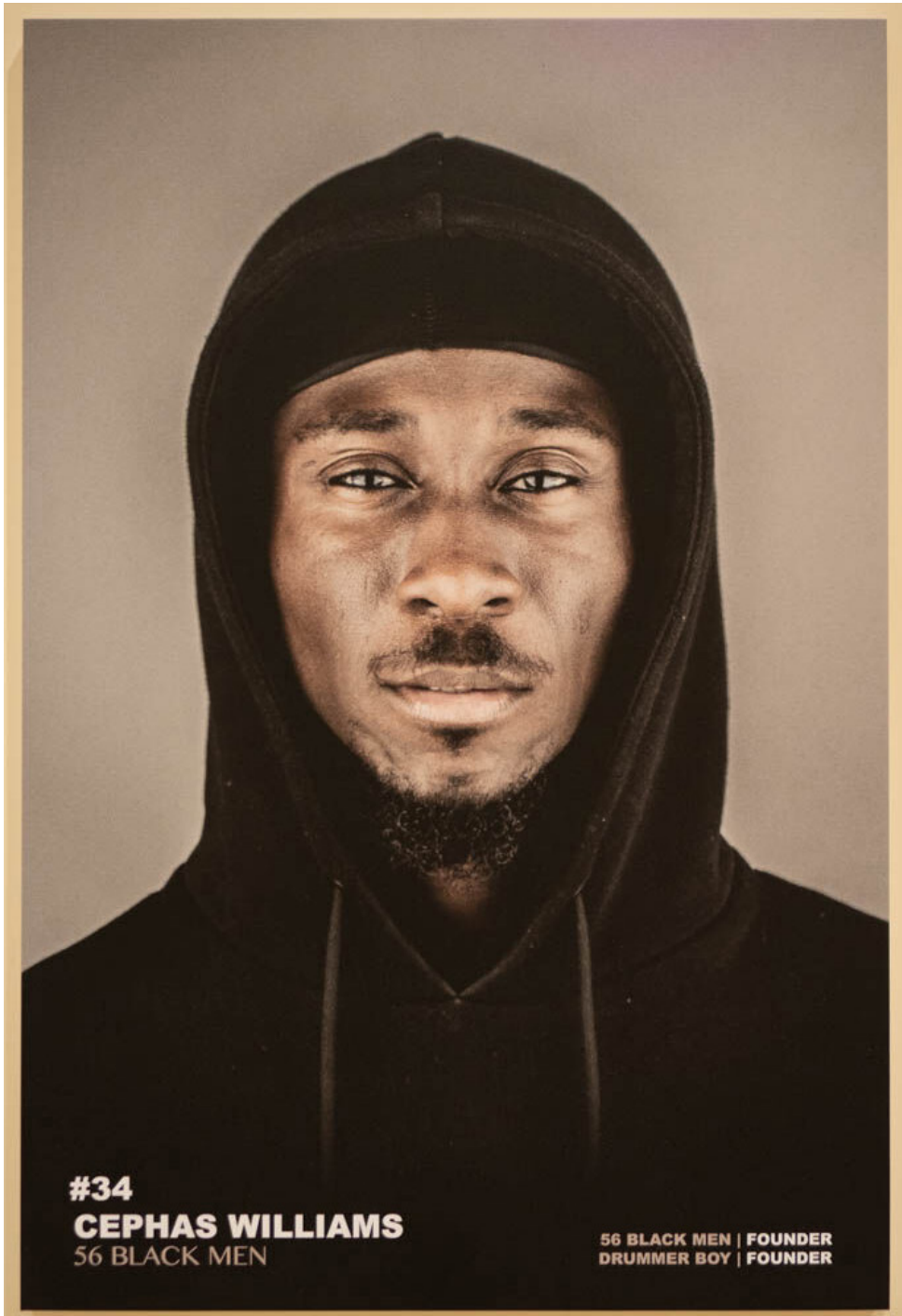
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One of the founders of "56 Black Men" is seen among the photos in the exhibit. (Ali Watson/Emerald)



The hallway echoes as viewers walk along the exhibit. (Ali Watson/ Emerald)

A museum visitor stops in front of each photo, reading the descriptions. (Ali Watson/Emerald)



# 'I am not my STEREOTYPE'

The "56 Black Men" exhibition challenges the stereotyping of Black men and seeks to challenge the viewers' own biases.

BY NIKA BARTOO-SMITH • TWITTER @BARTOONIKA

Fifty-six images of Black men in black hoodies. Fifty-six pairs of eyes showing intensity, pain, beauty and life. The portraits are simple yet striking, leaving the viewer struggling to break eye contact. At the bottom of the portrait is the subject's name, profession and college degree.

The "56 Black Men" campaign created by Cephias Williams was first launched in 2018 in the United Kingdom. According to their website, the mission of the campaign is to "put Black men at the forefront of our own conversation" and "dramatically reduce the negative portrayal of Black men throughout various forms of mainstream media."

In the lobby of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, two images of Black men wearing a hoodie gaze

at museum visitors that pass by. Further down the south hallway are 14 more of these photos. All Black men, wearing a black hoodie, on a grey background. At the end of the hallway, a video displays words on a black screen, with a melancholy instrumental tune as the soundtrack.

"Let's not forget, that Black people globally are hurting," the video reads. "Let's change the negative stereotypes that the media continue to portray about Black people."

According to Lisa Abia-Smith, director of education at the JSMA, the JSMA hosted the first exhibition of this series outside of the UK. She believes this was possible due to the museum's history of credibility and relationship building as many museums are just starting to confront their own racist histories. The JSMA was founded in the 1930s as a place to learn about other cultures through art.

"We are global citizens, and these issues around racism are not directed just to the U.S. or to Europe," Abia-Smith said. "This

is a worldwide problem."

On opening night of the exhibition, Abia-Smith watched as viewers were moved to tears – holding on to each other and confronting their own biases while staring at the four by two foot portraits of Black men in hoodies.

"My mission really was about the next generation," Williams said in an interview with BBC. "Black boys growing up rarely get to see themselves amplified in a positive light in the newspaper."

When picking his photography subjects, Williams literally pulled Black men off the street, according to Abia-Smith. He photographed real people and used the captions to show that these men are not their stereotypes – they are college graduates, organization founders and cofounders, creative directors – these men are diverse. They are not the stereotype portrayed by the mainstream media as a "thug in a hoodie," according to the panels accompanying the images in the JSMA.

"His work really is beyond art. It's a way to galvanize change, bring awareness," Abia-Smith said. "Change the narrative of how Black men are portrayed."

The "56 Black Men" exhibit is available at the JSMA until Oct. 10, but the campaign itself will be available for viewing on the website indefinitely. "56 Black Men" also has an Instagram as a community organization furthering the commitment to change the narrative by posting content to call out injustice and uplift Black voices.

"Create awareness of your own bias," Abia-Smith said. She hopes this exhibit helps people challenge their own assumptions and work through their biases.

The exhibit will be available to visit until October 10th, 2021. (Ali Watson/Emerald)

**56**  
BLACK  
MEN

June 30 - October 10, 2021

Every photo comes with a number, name, and description in the exhibit. (Ali Watson/Emerald)

**#1**

**ADE AHMADU**  
56 BLACK MEN

# SOME *FEAR* CAMPUS RETURN MORE THAN OTHERS

**Crueger:** Misinterpretations, interruptions, the struggle to find the right words... Awkwardness is coming – and socially anxious people are scared.

BY CALE CRUEGER



The University of Oregon records having over 19,000 undergraduate students in the 2018-2019 academic year. (Kimberly Harris/Emerald)

This week, in-person classes resumed. While COVID-19 rears its ugly cough at campuses across the country, many University of Oregon students already doubt the soundness of returning to campus. Nevertheless, the prospect of once again experiencing a real-life classroom environment is thrilling for students after a year's worth of online lectures – well, for most of them anyway.

Forgoing the precious ritual of camera-off, socially detached Zoom sessions will be no easy

feat for students who struggle with social anxiety. Many found strange comfort in Zoom classes, gladly letting a screen separate them from any genuine social interaction or stress; schoolwork was navigable without the compass of conversation, and presenting in class was significantly less frightening. Unfortunately for the students who found solace in this, the screen of comfort is being lifted.

Many also have anxiety about what returning to on-campus courses will look like during a pandemic.

UO has a vaccine mandate, masks are required and social-distancing guidelines have been enforced in both classes and other on-campus social hubs. Still, vaccine exemptions remain relatively easy to obtain, and COVID-19 has made heavy and traumatizing impacts on this country – leaving many individuals fearful to engage in “post-pandemic” life before we are truly out of the pandemic. Similarly, immersing oneself into regular activities, such as participating in sports, going to the movies or traveling creates

anxiety over COVID-19 health concerns and over interacting with people again.

As many begin to adjust to life outside of quarantine, social skills are still largely out of practice. Those who followed distancing guidelines or found themselves isolated this past year may fear they've forgotten how to interact with strangers. UO psychology professor Phil Fisher has specifically researched the effects of isolation on children's social and academic skills.

"Those skills don't just develop in a vacuum," Fisher said in an article for PBS' WHYY News. "They develop in the context of being in situations where you have to interact with your peers."

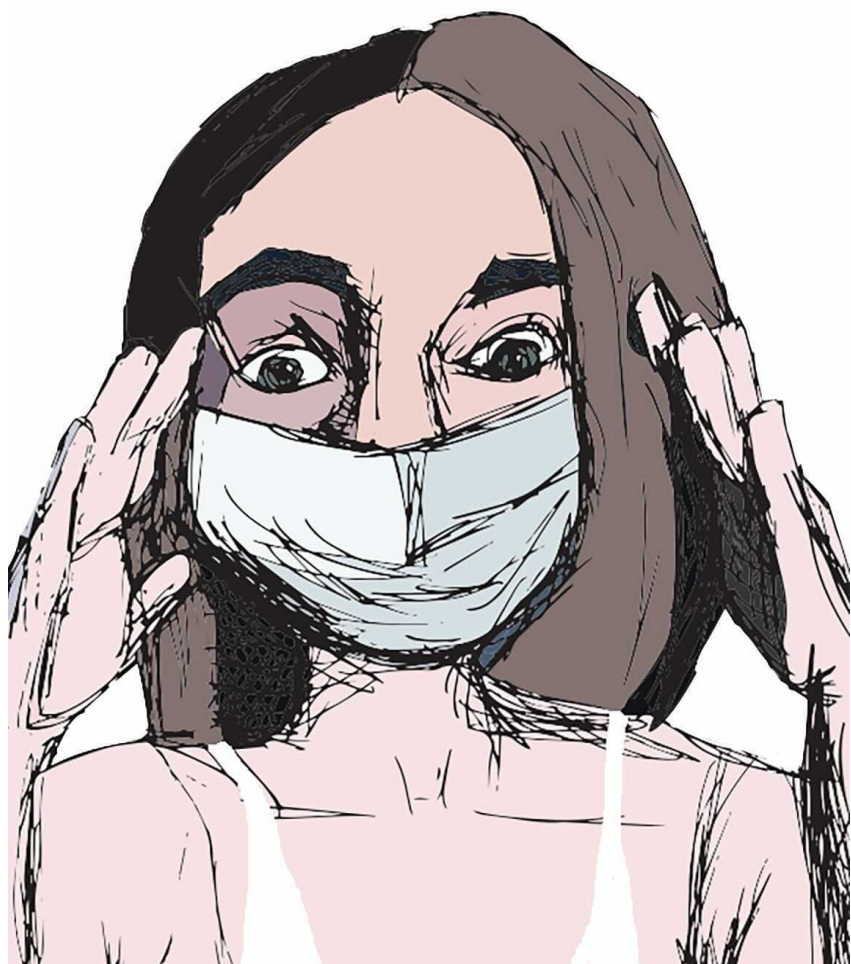
In a college-age context, the development of these social skills looks a bit different, but the fact that over half of UO's undergraduate student body have either attended zero in-person courses or less than a year's worth is noteworthy.

In college, connecting with peers and building lasting friendships is essential. It can also be difficult, and virtual classes have only amplified this issue. Social anxiety affects a large number of young people, and generalized anxiety disorders have skyrocketed throughout the pandemic. Making friends in classes can be hard enough, but for the post-quarantined, socially-unskilled students, the return to in-person learning can be particularly intimidating.

For students struggling with COVID-related anxiety, social anxiety or any other reservations as in-person learning kicks into gear, it's important that your fears are heard and met with care. It's the university's job to acknowledge these concerns, offer resources to students struggling with anxiety and implement the right protocols for student safety during a global pandemic. Both UO's Counseling Center and Accessible Education Center offer great resources for those who find adjusting to in-person learning difficult. And, for whatever comfort this gives those who are anxious about the return to in-person, we may not be doing it for too much longer anyway.



(Grace Turchetto/Emerald)



(Lynette Slape/Emerald)

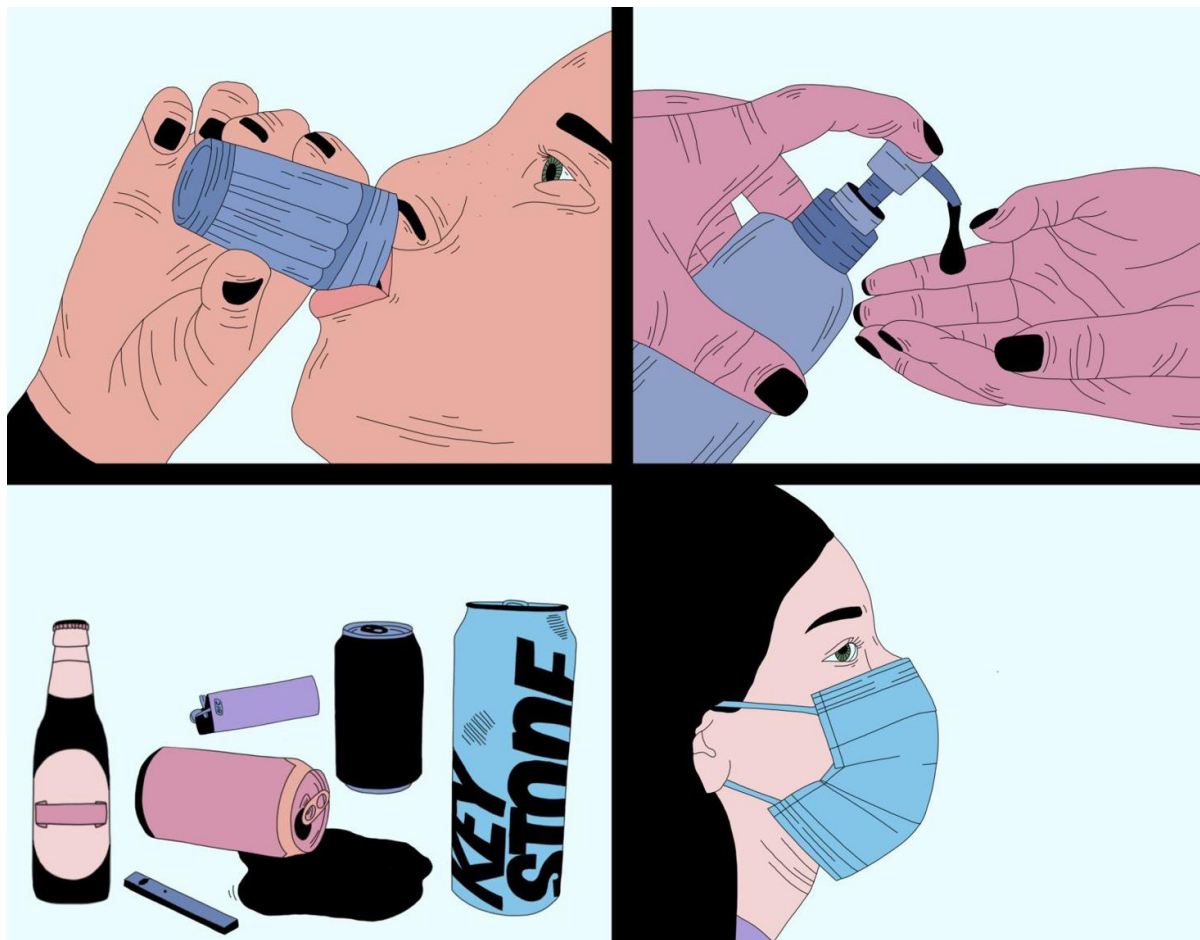


(Julia Stalnaker/Emerald)

# PARTYING IN COLLEGE SHOULDN'T BE THIS HARD

**Oronsky:** With COVID-19 taking away crucial years for freshmen, party rock may not be in the house tonight, and that could have some serious consequences.

BY ISAAC ORONSKY



(Makena Hervey/Emerald)

Growing up, I had a pretty set idea of what college parties would be like. All the wild nights I saw in TV shows and movies made me increasingly excited for this next chapter of my life. Watching kids packed into fraternity and sorority houses while they danced with their new best friends, not a care in the world. I knew I wanted to experience this when I finally got to college.

Now when I picture college parties – I should probably stop calling them “college parties” at this point – instead of people, COVID-19 particles are dancing around, and best friends are replaced by random students I have no strong attachment to. Despite my vaccination, this thought leaves me with little desire to risk infection by going to a big party like the ones I envisioned.

In Lane County there were 11 COVID-19-caused deaths and 394 cases of the virus from Sept. 5-7, according to The Register Guard. As of Sept. 7, there were seven available ICU beds and a 20% increase in hospitalized patients.

This information, coupled with the statewide outdoor mask mandate due to what Oregon Gov. Kate Brown called “a level of crisis we have not yet seen in the pandemic,” gives me, as well as other freshmen, little confidence in partying, social interaction and general UO involvement.

UO’s class of 2025 has become accustomed to staying in on a Friday night and missing out on the “normal” experiences others had before us. In fact, many incoming freshmen have only just begun experiencing what an independent night out with friends is like.

Pre-COVID-19, only some of us even had driver’s licenses. We were still largely under the control of our parents and spent most of our time studying for the SAT. Since then, we’ve only known a fraction of what the freedom high school senior year and beyond should have brought us.

Freshmen lost out on crucial, formative time to practice interpersonal skills – which is more important than many realize. Forming relationships with peers and mentors is what college is all about, and lays the foundation of connections for future projects and careers. Without much practice in high school, we could be left at a serious disadvantage. We also didn’t end high school in the traditional way – alongside our friends and ready to move on. Our lives were put on hold in an

awkward place, one that left little room for closure.

This left us in much more of a dramatic in-between stage, where partying and participating in co-curricular activities with people we either don’t know or have known for a mere few days is not super appealing. And, because we’re all so used to staying inside, the motivation to meet people – and subsequently join activities with them – is much lower than it probably was before.

Earlier this year, Ohio State University published a study that examined a possible direct connection between a student’s involvement in college, with activities such as Greek life, student employment and organizations and community service, and career opportunities for that student.

“Highly-involved students were three times more likely to be considered for the job by employers [surveyed in the study] than the uninvolved,” the report said. “Highly-involved students were 18% more career ready than the other students.”

The research also found that moderately-involved students’ have increased chances to be seen as career-ready – though highly-involved students were considered the most career-ready.

Beyond career advantages, involvement is also shown to benefit students’ enjoyment of their college experience. According to the 2018-2019 Ohio State Graduation Survey, students who were involved in at least one co-curricular activity were 2.1 times more likely to be satisfied with their overall experience at school.

While I don’t often find myself agreeing with the Buckeyes, the research makes sense. Involvement in college is crucial to meeting people and exploring new and existing passions. However, this year comes with some valid concerns and unusual obstacles. While mask mandates are in place, and the large majority of UO students have been fully vaccinated, the pandemic is still far from over. The lingering social and habitual effects of COVID-19 aren’t going away anytime soon.

So, as the 2021-2022 school year begins, students must adapt to make the most out of in-person experiences. If you’re not comfortable going to the first few big parties of the year, that’s perfectly fine. But don’t let that stop you from involving yourself in the UO community. Try out some small, outdoor events, club meetings or, yes, parties, and trust that everyone else has had one hell of a year-and-a-half, too.



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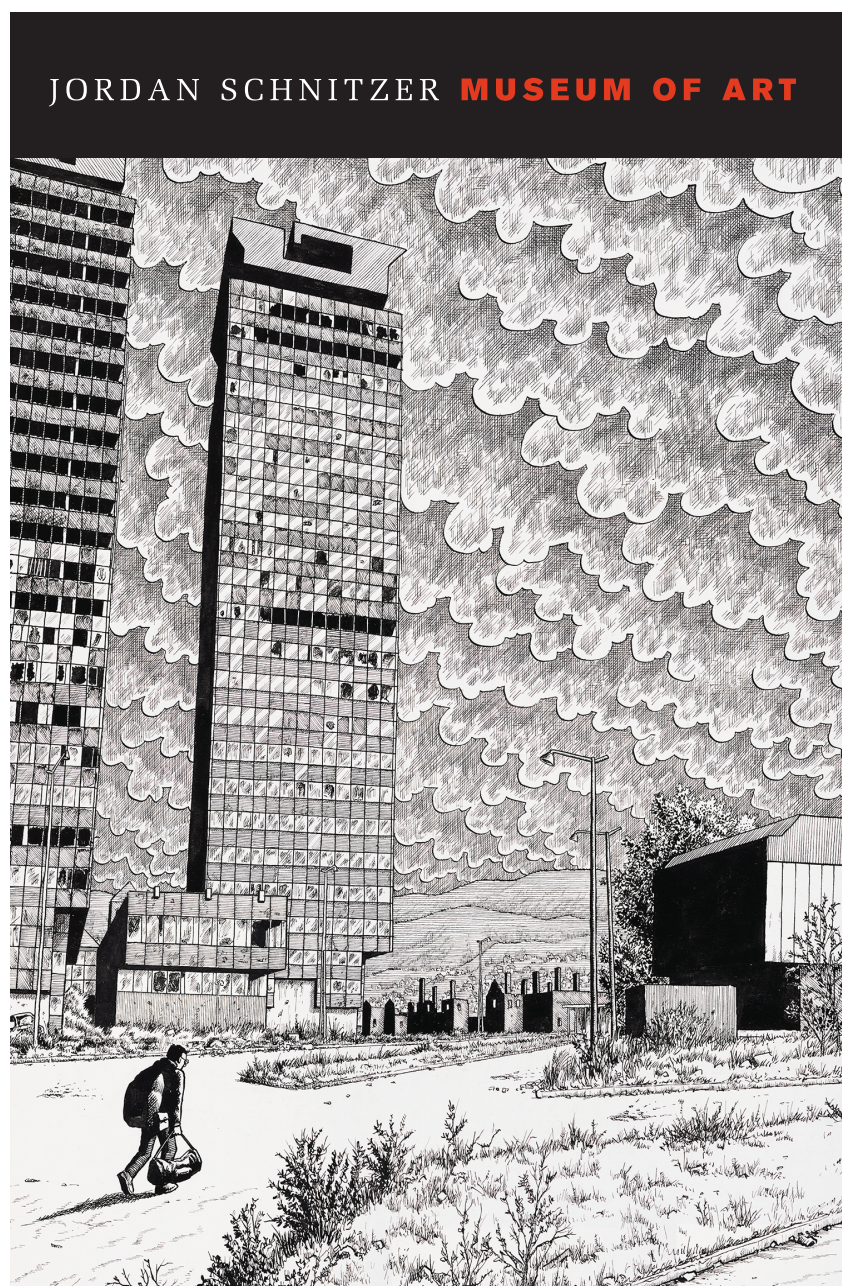
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Joe Sacco, Page 12 from "The Fixer" (detail) (2009 [2003])

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Laundry played the first house show Eugene saw after 14 months of live music being put on hold by the coronavirus. Eugene saw the return of house shows this summer after 14 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Ian Enger/Emerald)



We see it as a great time to begin addressing other problems of sexual assault and safety in tandem, so that we can make the entrance back into live music safer than ever."

TUCKER ST. CLAIR

# EUGENE HOUSE SHOWS RETURN— *BUT ARE THEY SAFE?*

*In addition to the pandemic, local music enthusiasts have another safety concern this year: sexual harassment and assault.* BY KRISTA KROISS

Loud, distorted guitar solos cause a restless ringing in your ears, you're being squished so close to other people you can practically taste their sweat, and you're experiencing carefree joy as you jump up and down and sway at the mercy of a mosh pit — these house show experiences are part of what Eugene musicians and concert goers have been itching to return to this year.

In June, COVID restrictions began to lessen, and the DIY house show scene in Eugene slowly started to recover after a year of silence. But July gave rise to the Delta variant, and, instead of returning to worry-free shows without masks on, the presence of masks, vaccine cards and COVID anxiety persisted in primarily outdoor venues.

COVID is not the only concern for the local music scene this year. Reports of sexual harassment and assault at house shows this summer shook the scene to its core and spurred scene-wide discussions over safety — especially for attendees who are women — among the live music community. Taking both

general safety and COVID safety in account, local bands and venues have tightened security and launched major conversations about keeping their audiences safe.

## 'Be very, very aware': general safety at house shows

Staying safe from sexual assault and harassment at concerts is a priority for many concert attendees. UO student and concert goer Maddie Crea noted that while most of her house show experiences have felt safe and comfortable, she also believes "it is something that, especially as a woman, you have to be very, very aware of."

While she wishes concert goers didn't need to be "on the defense," that is the current state of our world, she said.

"I wish it wasn't that way, but that's just our reality until things can change," Crea said, referring to the need for policy reform and educating children about consent.

The issue does not apply strictly to DIY house shows. In September, an album release show for beloved Eugene band Laundry at The Big Dirty, a professional venue, was accompanied by allegations of sexual harassment. Fans reported to the band that there were drugged drinks, assaults and harassments during the concert, according to one of the band's social media posts.

On Instagram, the band largely blamed the venue for negligence and said, "we want to let you all know that [the scene] is not currently a safe place."

"We are mortified and furious that this took place at one of our shows, and we will never be playing at this venue again," Laundry continued on its Instagram stories. "We understand that we have a responsibility to provide a safe space for all of you, and we're sorry we failed to do so on Saturday."

After Laundry's post, The Big Dirty said on social media that it is committed to patron safety and takes precautions like video cameras covering all areas except for restrooms, complementary drug testing



*Candy Picnic is a Eugene band made up of Eugene natives Spencer Misfeldt (guitar), Chris Heer (guitar and vocals), Stella Parker (bass and vocals), and their newest addition, Tristan Day (drums). Eugene saw the return of house shows this summer after 14 months into the COVID-19 pandemic. (Ian Enger/Emerald)*

*Stella Parker provides vocals and bass in Eugene band Candy Picnic. Eugene saw the return of house shows this summer after 14 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Ian Enger/Emerald)*



*Chris Heer provides guitar and vocals in Eugene band Candy Picnic. Eugene saw the return of house shows this summer after 14 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Ian Enger/Emerald)*

strips behind the bar and the presence of at least one woman on staff during shifts.

The Big Dirty held a meeting with community members to discuss safety concerns. Co-owner Casey Lynch said that after staff, community members and the police reviewed the footage, they determined that no drugged drinks or sexual assaults occurred on the premises that night.

"I feel like it was a culmination of people partying too hard, making assumptions about what we do and who we are based off of the rumor mill," Lynch said about Laundry's criticisms.

Lynch said that there are rumors of assaults at house shows as well.

"To blame the place where it happened instead of the individuals who are committing the atrocities is a little short minded to me," Lynch said. "It seems hasty and reactionary."

Throughout the summer local bands made Instagram posts taking a stand on safety. Many posts explicitly stated a commitment to making shows safer for everyone due to reports of sexual assault and harassment at early summer house shows.

Some bands, including the well known band Candy Picnic, decided to take a short break from the scene until significant changes were made.

Bassist and vocalist of Candy Picnic Stella Parker "always felt" as though the house show scene needed more security, due to the relaxed admittance and supervision of shows, she said.

"This summer we decided to only play shows if we know that security is people that we trust, and that there is enough [security] to be able to watch over the entire crowd," Parker said.

According to the members of Candy Picnic, there were several meetings among local bands to discuss safety measures for shows. Some of the ideas discussed included checking ID's to ensure a strictly 18+ or 21+ show and vaccination cards at the door, giving security t-shirts and hats for identification, having a booth or room available to report crimes at the show and even creating a hotline to text or call if issues arise.

Some of the measures that have since been implemented are the presence of trusted security in the venue and at the door, having places and

people to report issues to and having sober monitors to survey the crowd, the band said.

With these measures "put into action at shows recently, there have been little to no problems that we know of," guitarist Chris Heer said.

The band emphasized the importance of having trusted security to ensure that ID's and vaccine cards are checked for admittance. A common issue in the scene is that actions do not match words in terms of keeping people safe, the members said.

"We have no interest in playing at a show unless we know that it's going to be safe," Parker said.

One safety factor is that newer and inexperienced bands and venues may not be aware of the need for safety precautions. While a professional venue has paid, professional security monitoring the crowd and preventing attendees from bringing in personal drugs and alcohol, a house show simply consists of house owners or renters, often students, allowing a band lineup to come play in the house.

"I feel like people often don't understand that there is a massive difference between an actual venue and a house show," Heer said.

During the discussions of safety measures, another question arose: Do safety responsibilities fall more on the venues or the bands?

Carla Lamb, a trumpet and keys player for local band Broth, helped host a backyard show last summer and has now seen the perspective of both a venue host and a performer. While pointing out that there is "a symbiotic relationship" between bands and venues and "there should be a larger, broader conversation" between them, she also made an argument that the venue should bear more of the responsibility.

"I do think it's the responsibility of the venue because, as a musician on stage, I am powerless to do anything at the moment," Lamb said.

However, the members of newer band Street Sharks have a different perspective.

"We believe it's the responsibility of the artists to choose their venues wisely and figure out which venues are already taking measures of COVID and audience/staff behavior," band member Alex Wanaka said on behalf of the band. "Local artists should make

it clear when planning with venues that we won't play shows where the safety of everybody involved isn't going to be a priority."

Regardless of who individuals believe should bear the burden, nearly everyone agrees: Bands and venues need to discuss security in order to develop a safe environment for everyone.

#### **Masked and Vaxxed: COVID-19 safety at house shows**

In addition to these conversations about general safety, the COVID-19 pandemic still demands discussions for keeping the community safe from illness.

Tristan Day, drummer for Candy Picnic, said they believe that, even with the vaccine, shows will feel different than they did before COVID.

"I think they already have," Day said. "You're in the moment and you're having a good time, but there's anxiety there."

Like most bands in the scene, Candy Picnic is planning to require guests to show vaccine cards for show entrance at both indoor and outdoor venues. As a bigger band in the scene, a bigger crowd will come for their show, which leads to more concerns for COVID safety.

Concert-attendee Crea said, in the wake of the Delta variant, she feels "more inclined to wear a mask at house shows" even if it is not required; otherwise, she has a more optimistic perspective of what shows will be like this year.

"It just might take a few months for people to get comfortable enough around other people," Crea said. "Especially at house shows – you're very close with other people, and you're practically on top of each other."

Between concerns over general safety and COVID safety, the scene has already shown signs of change since the pandemic forced everything to shut down. In a statement on behalf of Street Sharks, band member Tucker St. Claire said the changes already taking place for COVID have created the perfect opportunity to create more change for general concert safety.

"We see it as a great time to begin addressing other problems of sexual assault and safety in tandem," Tucker said, "so that we can make the entrance back into live music safer than ever."

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# 'THE WHOLE SPECTRUM': UO'S SUICIDE PREVENTION TEAMS

BY ABBY SOURWINE

The University Health Services on the University of Oregon campus in Eugene, Ore. on Sept. 26, 2021 (Isaac Wasserman/ Emerald)

Despite September coming to a close, and with it Suicide Prevention Month, the University of Oregon still provides multiple options in terms of mental health services and crisis prevention, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and the beginning of a new school year.

UO is a Jed campus, meaning it follows the Jed Foundation's guidance for suicide prevention, including guidance for screenings, crisis management, mental health care, means restriction and education. Its Suicide Prevention Teams – there's one for faculty and staff and one for students – lead efforts on campus, focusing on mental health awareness and reducing stigma.

Jed has a broad understanding of what suicide prevention can look like from promoting life skills like sleep, nutrition, exercise and self-care to removing lethal means from campuses. UO's SPTs address this range of strategies and put a particular focus on promoting a community that prevents suicide, former SPT coordinator Suzie Stadelman said.

The team offers trainings to faculty and students about how to recognize signs of suicidality and how to approach conversations about it with peers.

Ireland Gill, the lead coordinator of the Student Suicide Prevention Team, said the primary signs to look out for are stark changes in behavior.

"If somebody is usually sleeping like eight hours a day, and all of a sudden they're only sleeping four," she said. "Or they usually eat three meals a day, and now they're dropping down to one meal a day. Things like that."

College students aged 18-24

"are actually at about half the risk of dying by suicide compared to people in that same age demographic who are not enrolled in colleges or universities," Stadelman said. "So being a college student is actually a protective factor for suicide." She said this is partly due to preventative measures that universities take and partly due to the community – in which a teacher or friend might reach out if they notice a behavior change – that many people find in college.

The University Counseling Center's website offers advice for recognizing and addressing signs of suicidality. It says, if you notice a big change in someone's behavior, tell them what you've noticed and ask if there's something going on; it's best to be direct. Asking questions about suicide will not put the idea in anyone's head, according to the site.

As you converse, try to be empathetic and avoid blame. Also offer resources like the Counseling Center or a crisis line. The UCC crisis line is 541-346-3227, and there are several other lines to offer. Locally, White Bird Clinic (541-687-4000) and Hourglass Community Crisis Center (541-505-8426) both have 24-hour crisis lines. There is also the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) and the Crisis Text Line (text "HOME" to 741-741).

The SPTs also offer workshops and trainings that aim to "increase skills in identifying and responding to students who may have thoughts of suicide, increase comfort to engage with a student in a conversation about your concern and ways to seek help and refresh knowledge of campus and community

resources and how to make an appropriate referral," according to the website. SPT recently implemented a program called Kognito, which gives students and staff an online interactive roleplay to practice talking with someone who is suicidal.

Gill said that while destigmatizing talking about suicide is important and having conversations with a friend or peer can help, "you can only go so far with your intervention."

"You can't make somebody do something," she said.

Mental health resources are an important wing of suicide prevention, Stadelman said. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention reported 90% of individuals who took their own lives in 2019 exhibited a diagnosable mental health condition at the time of death, but 43.8% of those diagnosed with a mental health condition did not receive mental health services in the past year.

Stadelman said the Counseling Center and the Duck Nest are both helpful tools that students should feel free to use.

"Sometimes I hear students say, 'Well, it's not that bad, and I don't want to take someone else's spot,' which is really thoughtful," she said. "But, if you're struggling at all, we want to see you."

The Counseling Center offers resources for any and every stage of mental wellness, and Stadelman recommends seeking help sooner rather than later.

"We see the whole spectrum: homesickness, relationships, anxiety, depression, thoughts of suicide, trauma, everything you can imagine," she said. "If students are struggling in any way, we're happy to see them."



(Isaac Wasserman/ Emerald)

UO's Suicide Prevention Teams prioritize interpersonal intervention. What can you learn this Suicide Prevention Month?

BY ABBY SOURWINE

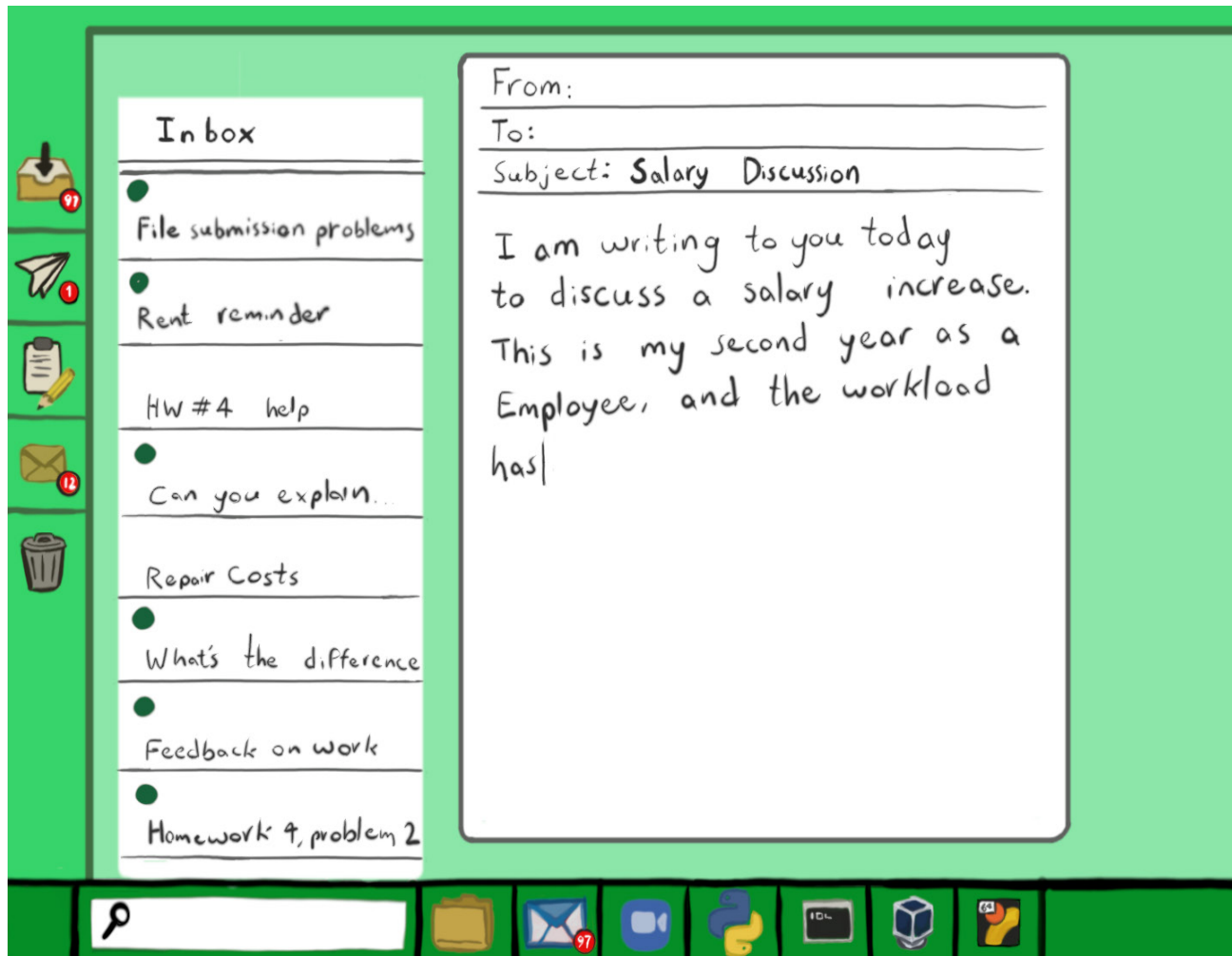


The Sexual Assault Support Services of Lane County office in Eugene, Ore. as seen on Sept. 26, 2021. (Isaac Wasserman/ Emerald)

# UO REJECTS PETITION FOR STIPEND RAISES OF COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE GEs

The GEs said the university "broke its promise" by doing so.

BY ALEXIS WEISEND



(Kevin Kincaid/Emerald)

The University of Oregon rejected a petition on Sept. 17 by graduate employees in the Department of Computer Science and Information to raise their stipends for the 2021-22 academic year. The petition, which the GEs submitted on Sept. 13, cites below average pay and lack of a livable wage as motivations for the initiative.

The petition had 167 signatures and demanded higher stipends for all GE levels. The CIS GEs asked for a 17% increase for level one GEs, a 28% increase for level two GEs and 35% increase for level three GEs, according to Sam Schwartz, one of the CIS GEs behind the initiative.

Computer science teaching assistants working for a public university in a large city like Eugene make approximately \$20,000 per year on average, according to a Computer Research Association study. A CIS GE at UO made an approximate median salary of \$17,700 during the 2020-21 academic year, according to the initiative's website.

CIS GEs also requested that the school does not cut the number of GEs to meet these salary increases. "We are already stretched too thin," the petition said.

Bruce Blonigen, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, spoke for CAS in an email and rejected the petition's requests. He said CAS evaluates all programs annually to understand where they are relative to external comparators and adjust whenever CAS has available funds. However, he said CAS has had no additional funds in recent years.

Blonigen also said the primary method for GE stipend adjustments is through collective bargaining between the administration and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation.

"Considering a unique raise in stipends for one subset of graduate students outside of these processes is not something we will consider for a number of reasons, including equity issues with respect to other graduate students in the college and at the university," Blonigen said.

An email from CIS GEs to those who signed the petition said they disagree with the university's decision.

"The University of Oregon has decided to break the promise it made to graduate employees in CIS when they moved to Eugene and enrolled at UO: a promise to pay a competitive stipend, which, in the field of

computing, is also a living wage," the email said.

GEs are deciding to leave the university due to a lack of a living wage, and potential graduate students are deciding not to apply, the email said.

"Continuing to offer laughably low pay for highly skilled tech workers will not make this decision easier and has already begun to impact the quality of research and teaching in the CIS department," the email said.

Joseph Goh, a recently graduated computer science major from UO, signed the petition. He said he is pursuing his PhD elsewhere. "The lack of a living stipend is the one and only factor that prevented me from applying to UO for graduate school," he said.

Goh said he cannot in good faith recommend UO to his friends and students for graduate school because of this. "I do not want them to be struggling with basic needs such as housing in return for contributing so much to the department and UO as a whole," he said. "I do not want their work to be undervalued even more so than it already is."

The initiative's website, which details seven reasons for the pay increase, said many of the CIS GEs cannot ethically recommend graduate study in UO's CIS department. "There is real human suffering in our department because of the lack of living wages," the website said. It also said some GEs are taking additional jobs as a result.

"We are not asking for a lot of money," the website said. "And there is plenty of money in the budget to pay us more." Although Blonigen said the CAS lacks additional funds, the CIS GEs estimate the payment increases will cost the university \$253,000 – approximately 0.15% of the College of Arts and Sciences' total expenditure budget of \$164,075,161 for the 2021 fiscal year.

High housing prices in Eugene are also listed as a reason on the petition. An average one bedroom apartment set at fair market rent in Eugene is \$917 per month, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. In order to afford such an apartment, renters need to make at least \$36,680 per year.

Other reasons listed on the initiative's website include cuts to research project funding, an influx of money towards public universities from the state legislature and a shortage of qualified computing professionals in Oregon.

Tyler Ward, a CIS major at UO, said he signed the petition because "anyone [who] has to worry about their income and having to stress about making rent and being able to eat during any given month will never do their best work no matter what." He said he would expect a significant improvement in his quality of learning if UO eventually raises the GEs' stipends.

Although the CIS GEs' contracts have already begun, the GEs said they will continue advocating for a stipend increase while continuing their work for the university and its students.

"We are so grateful for the many supporting signatures the petition received," the CIS GEs' email said. "We will not leave you behind, and we look forward to working alongside you in teaching and research as we forge ahead into this new academic year."

# LEAH FREEMAN

## CONTINUES TO MAKE HER MARK IN OREGON SOCCER HISTORY

BY JOHN RUSTIK

*Goalkeeper Leah Freeman has influenced the culture of her teams her entire life, and this hasn't changed in Eugene.*

Oregon goalkeeper Leah Freeman dives to her left to make a save against the No. 3 UCLA Bruins. The ball rebounds, and she corrals it with her feet. She then falls on it to preserve her clean sheet. Plays like these are why she's been so valuable to an Oregon team that's undefeated through its first nine games and why Oregon secured their first ever tie against UCLA – the first time Oregon has ever held UCLA scoreless.

Freeman didn't become the starting keeper for the Ducks overnight. The California native's journey to Eugene began when she was a little kid. Now, more than a dozen years later, Freeman's stamped an indelible mark on both her high school and collegiate programs, and she's on pace to finish off a career for the record books at Oregon.

Freeman started playing soccer when she was 5 years old and began playing goalkeeper at age 6. At first she would split halves: one at goalkeeper and one at forward.

But, at U-13, she fully converted to the goalkeeper position. It can be the loneliest position, but she had the skills and mentality to step up and commit to refining her craft.

"She's really mentally tough," her father Dale Freeman said.

When she was a freshman, she joined the Berkeley High School girls soccer team.

"I think she found a lot of her voice playing for Berkeley High School," her father said. "In terms of direction, but also in terms of support."

BHS coach Alejandro Mendoza was quick to see her potential. He watched

as she grew from a freshman into a team captain and a vocal leader.

"Once the games happened, she turned on this whole different level of beast mode," Mendoza said. "I was like, 'If she can turn up like that as a freshman and give everyone hope, imagine you get a little bit of leadership.' She just picked it up."

Freeman completely turned around the Berkeley program. Berkeley was 9-10-4 her first year and 5-8-9 her second. During her junior and senior year, the Yellow Jackets finished first in the West Alameda County league with records of 14-4-2 and 18-6-3. The team competed in the North Coast Section Playoffs where they made it all the way to the final. She impressed Mendoza so much that she earned a captain spot as a junior.

Even in the years after she left, Berkeley continues to be a top team in its league. Beyond her talent as a

“

Once the games happened, she turned on this whole different level of **beast mode**. I was like, 'If she can turn up like that as a freshman and give everyone hope, imagine you get a little bit of leadership.'"

-ALEJANDRO MENDOZA, BHS Coach.



Oregon goalkeeper Leah Freeman (1) makes a save. Oregon Women's Soccer takes on Arizona State University at Papé Field in Eugene, Ore., on March 12, 2021. (Summer Surgent-Gough/Emerald)

goalkeeper in high school, it was her leadership that was so inspiring to coaches.

“I credit her and a couple players a lot for helping change the culture of our program,” Mendoza said. “Now that she’s not there, those same values are carried to this day... It’s beautiful to see what it is now.”

The dedication to improve the direction of a team is part of what won the coaches over at the University of Oregon as well. She’s contributed to a new culture for the Ducks team – and, together, they’ve shattered expectations.

In her first year, Freeman established herself as one of the strongest at her position in the Pac-12. She earned a spot on the All-Pac-12 third-team and the All-Pac-12 Freshman team. This season, she has

already won Pac-12 goalkeeper of the week as well as the national goalkeeper of the week from top drawer soccer after her commanding performance against UCLA.

“There’s always more to improve on,” Freeman said. “There’s always more to build up.” She also stressed the importance of “making every year better.” She has a lot of experience doing that because it’s all she’s done in her career.

After her first season, she was already on pace to be one of the best keepers that the university has ever seen. In her second, she’s on her way to the record books. Freeman’s on pace to end her time at Oregon with the fifth-most saves, fifth-most wins and most clean sheets by an Oregon goalkeeper in program

history. With her drive to improve every season, she could find herself even higher up in the record books.

Freeman has earned the opportunity to represent the United States at a national level from 2017 to 2020. She has been called up to train with the U-16 and U-18 US Women’s National Team, including the U-18 Tricontinental Cup in 2020. As just a sophomore, she has achieved what almost every kid playing soccer in the world hopes to.

One thing is for sure: No matter what she decides to do, Freeman will flourish. Her coaches believe as much to be true.

“We’re all here to support her,” Mendoza said. “We’re all here to cheer her on. I know she’s gonna do great things.”



Ducks goalkeeper Leah Freeman (1) takes a goal kick. Oregon Soccer takes on the University of Arizona at Papé Field in Eugene, Ore., on March 14, 2021. (Summer Surgent-Gough/Emerald)

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