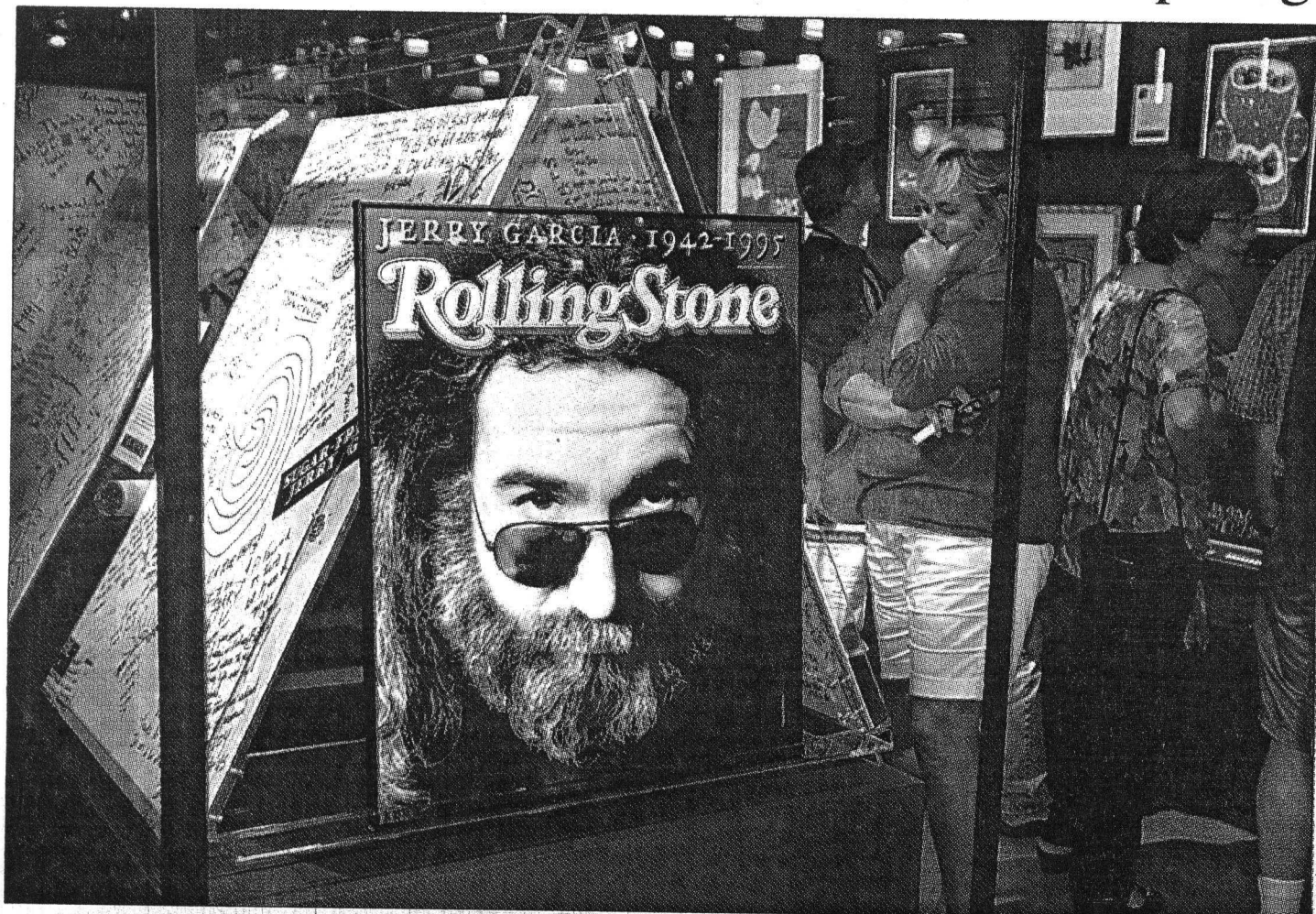


GRATEFUL DEAD ARCHIVE

# What a Long Strange Trip It's Been

Deadheads gather at UCSC to celebrate archive's opening



Grateful Dead followers soak up the memorabilia on display in the 'Dead Central' room of UC Santa Cruz's Grateful Dead Archive in the McHenry Library on Friday. DAN COYRO/SENTINEL



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

A dedicated Grateful Dead follower dances to the music of Moonalice on Friday outside UC Santa Cruz's McHenry Library where the Grateful Dead Archive opened to the public.

## *UCSC - Library* 'DEAD CENTRAL' FEATURES ICONIC BAND'S COLLECTION OF MEMORABILIA *6 30 12*

By J.M. BROWN

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**SANTA CRUZ** — Like many Grateful Dead fans, Laurie and Dan Hennig of Boulder Creek feel a spiritual connection with the iconic rock band.

But they also feel a geographical bond. Members of the band, active from the 1965-1995, were known to frequent the San Lorenzo Valley. Lead guitarist Jerry Garcia's family had a home in nearby Lompico, where the story goes that he lost part of his middle finger in a wood-chopping accident.

"Maybe not the first chord, maybe not the first measure, but quickly,

we all got transformed," Laurie Hennig said, explaining the legendary San Francisco band's hold on its legion of followers known as Deadheads.

The Hennigs were among hundreds who filed through the Grateful Dead Archive at UC Santa Cruz's McHenry Library when the first exhibit of the remarkable collection opened Friday. Fans wearing tie-dye shirts or other apparel carrying the band's skeleton logo meandered between "Dead Central" and a celebration on the library lawn, which featured the band Moonalice and longtime Dead roadie Steve Par-



# DEAD

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Inside the exhibit called "Box of Rain: Archiving the Grateful Dead Phenomenon," visitors took in treasures such as poet Robert M. Petersen's lyrics, written in Ben Lomond in 1972, to a piece called "Winter Blue." Petersen wrote several tunes for the Dead, a band known for its intimate relationship with fans and other artists.

The exhibit contains concert tickets — including one for a show with Jefferson Airplane that cost \$3.50 — backstage passes, news releases, business records, photographs, posters and a colorful collection of envelopes that once carried requests from Deadheads seeking show tickets.

"It's nice for the university to just pay some respect to this huge cultural movement," Laurie Hennig said.

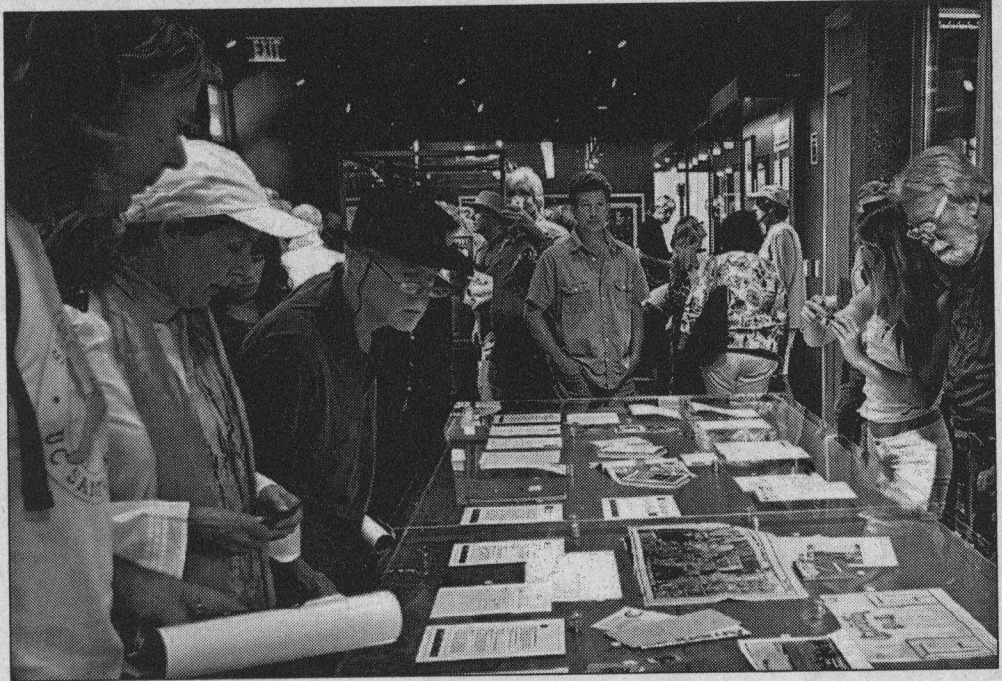
In April 2008, Bob Weir and Mickey Hart, two members of the band, announced from the Fillmore Theater in San Francisco that UC Santa Cruz had beaten out other institutions seeking to host the vast amount of Grateful Dead memorabilia. Since 2010, Deadhead expert Nicholas Meriwether has been processing materials and preparing the exhibit, which will change every year.

"We will keep on doing the work for years to come," said Meriwether, whose official title is Grateful Dead archivist.

"It just perfect for the campus," said Hilary Hamm, a UCSC integrated technology worker who has been eager to see the exhibit.

She became a fan in 1978 after attending a show at the Fillmore, and later followed the band around California and Oregon.

"It couldn't have ended up in a better place," Hamm said



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Grateful Dead fans and followers squeeze into the 'Dead Central' room of the Grateful Dead Archive in the McHenry Library on the UC Santa Cruz campus Friday.



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

Kathryn Lee of Brookdale dances the Grateful Dead spin to the music of Moonalice on the McHenry Library lawn for the grand opening celebration of the Grateful Dead Archive on the UC Santa Cruz campus Friday.

of the archive. "We have the energy."

Peter Costello of Santa Cruz said he first saw members of the Grateful Dead play a sock hop at a school in the Ladera area of Palo Alto in

## ON THE NET

UC Santa Cruz premiered its Grateful Dead Archive website Friday, a day that also marked the public opening of the archive's first exhibit in 'Dead Central' inside McHenry Library's Special Collections. The website is [www.gdao.org](http://www.gdao.org). For information about the collection or visiting the library, log on to [library.ucsc.edu](http://library.ucsc.edu).

the mid-1960s. Eventually, as the band's fame grew, he attended shows in San Francisco and Oakland, where he got to go-backstage, and became a fan of artist Rick Griffin's psychedelic posters and album covers for the band.

Costello said the band's music was memorable because, "They were songs you could sing around a campfire."

On Friday, visitors could buy a Grateful Slug T-shirt for \$19.99 — a novelty pairing

the band's logo with UCSC's banana slug mascot — or a hooded sweatshirt for \$44.99. Visitors could also take home free posters, including a large photo of the band performing at the Greek Theater in Berkeley in 1983.

Between sets by Moonalice, whose music brought dancing fans to their feet in the midday sun, Supervisor John Leopold read a proclamation from the county honoring the archives. A huge fan of the band, the UCSC alum said he used to stack books at the library as a student, listening to the Dead as he worked.

"I got my degree from UCSC," he told the crowd Friday, "but I got my education from the 250 Grateful Dead shows I went to."

The archive is located in McHenry Library's Special Collections on the second floor. On Friday, the library premiered the online archive, which contains nearly 25,000 items and more than 50,000 scans.

Follow Sentinel reporter J.M. Brown on Twitter @jmbrownreports.