



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

Volume 67. Issue 3

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What's your favorite Thanksgiving side dish?

Find out what your classmates' favorite Thanksgiving side dishes are!



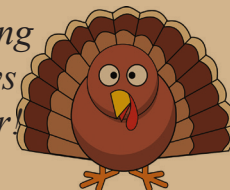
Learn about the biggest drama queen on Campus!

Find out why Crystal Burgos is simply irresistible!



Hidden Turkeys!

Win a prize by circling all the hidden turkeys throughout the paper! Deliver to X-1 once completed!



Avila talks tacos and taking care of business



Avila encourages students to take their passion and make a career out of it.

BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Wes Avila, former El Rancho student and owner of renowned "Guerilla Tacos," spoke to El Rancho High School's ethnic studies & culinary arts classes on November 8th. He spoke about his life, growing up in Pico Rivera, attending El Rancho, and starting his business.

Mrs. Waldron, Ethnic Studies and AP U.S. History teacher, was one of the staff members who brought Avila to El Rancho. Mrs. Chodos, the school librarian,

ian, was the other staff member that helped bring the idea to life.

Both staff members' love of Avila's food prompted the idea to bring him to campus. "We [Mrs. Chodos and Mrs. Waldron] are both fans of Wes Avila's food. We both knew of him and knew he was an alum of El Rancho" says Waldron. "I was inspired to get involved because my son took me to eat tacos [at Guerilla Tacos]" says Chodos.

Avila spoke to Mrs. Waldron's Ethnic Studies classes, Mr. Sorenson's Creative Writing class, Ms. Aguilar's Multicul-

tural Literature, and Chef Luna's culinary arts class. "It was a very packed house" says Waldron.

Avila began by talking about his adolescence. "He told a little bit about his high school experience, what he was like in high school, and what it was like to lose his mom and recover from that... his mom passed away when he was a junior" says Waldron.

Being a Pico Rivera native, Wes Avila was able to capture students' attention with a story that is relatable to many. "He was very dynamic he was really awesome, the kids really liked it, he has a

relatable story," says Waldron.

"Students that got to see him [saw] that having this background is a valuable thing that can shape their experience" says Mr. Diaz, AP Studio art, digital animation, and digital photography teacher who also helped organize the event.

Most of Avila's early life was faced with hardship and poverty, which again serves as a testament and relatable story to many students on campus. It took Avila's dropping out of school to find his passion, cooking.

There began Avila's career. However, it began with only small cooking jobs around Los Angeles. Such jobs barely sufficed for the increasing demands of Los Angeles residency. "He was tired of the cooking gig he had, he didn't have a lot of money, he basically made it sound like it was no other choice but figure something out," says Waldron.

So Avila did, and his solution was the start of his taco industry. "[He] got a cart from a family event they had and posted up outside of a friends coffee shop and just started selling tacos," says Waldron, "That just grew and grew and grew."

As time progressed, Avila moved from a street cart to a food truck, and now his res-

taurant "Guerilla Tacos." "Wes Avila has had a taco truck in Los Angeles for a long time, quite a few years, and now he just opened his own restaurant" says Waldron, "If you follow food in Los Angeles you pretty much know about Guerilla Tacos."

The visit from Avila stemmed from the idea to incorporate a final project. Mrs. Waldron, along with her Ethnic Studies classes, has been researching Mexican American themes and the blending of cultures.

Avila was invited to speak because he was a great example. "I think his food is really good for that, there's all this very modern American gourmet stuff but he's also true to who he is" says Waldron.

The class prepared questions from online interviews and his autobiography/cookbook all in hopes to obtain as much information as possible.

"Just having that experience and background and then sort of seeing how that shaped him and his craft and then taking that into the food world and obviously experiencing the success he's had [is motivating]" says Diaz.

A copy of Avila's Cookbook, *Guerrilla Tacos: Recipes from the Streets of L.A.*, can be found in the school library now!

Can collection continues until November 30th

BY RENE GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Besides Night Pep Rally and Don Games, El Rancho's Annual canned food drive may just be one of the school's biggest competitions held on campus. Almost as quickly as students brought in canned goods, the canned food drive is quickly coming to a close for the 2018-2019 school year!

The Canned Food Drive is a well-known tradition that takes place prior to Thanksgiving and celebrates thanks. The Associated Student Body hosts the canned food drive each year and makes sure to promote it as a school-wide competition. The rules of this competition are, quite simply, to bring as many cans as you can! The points for each classroom is counted with the weight of all cans brought in pounds.

This event is remembered as one of the largest of

the school year mainly because of the heavy amounts of participation. Students continue participating in this event because of the spirit and heated rivalries that arise with it. Both staff and the student body team up and work together to bring in the most cans and win the final prize.

This year's canned food drive was setup by El Rancho's Chief Justice, Bianca Aispuro. Continuing the tradition of collecting cans, Aispuro says that the purpose of the drive "is to encourage students to donate cans to those in need."

Though this year's drive has not met previous year's equivalent, ASB Advisor Mr. Magdaleno says, "This was a good learning experience and for next year, it's important for the ASB Advisor to work closely with the Chief Justice to ensure that we continue to meet our goals and help our city."

Aispuro says that her plan for the cans is that they should "be donated the City of Pico Ri-



Make sure to donate cans for a chance at a donut party and a plaque for winning teacher.

vera and distributed to thousands who are in need." El Rancho students, by contributing to the canned food drive, will be sending food to the homeless and hungry. "The city depends on our donations to fulfill the distribution of the Christmas baskets," says Magdaleno, "it is important for our students and staff to contribute since ERHS is the largest contributor." Therefore,

bringing canned foods is a generous action that will bring thanks to all during this fall season.

The teacher that tallies in the heaviest weight in cans will win the title of first place. "The winners will receive a donut party," says Aispuro, "and the winning teacher will be awarded a plaque."

The canned food drive has been extended through the week of November 26 into Novem-

ber 30. There is still more time to bring in as many cans as you can and participate in this year's canned food drive. Magdaleno adds, "As an El Rancho family, let's work together to ensure that these families receive their Christmas Baskets full of canned foods." Aispuro finished by saying, "A big thank you to all teachers who encourage students to participate and help others."

OPINION

Trump plans to eliminate birthright citizenship



President Donald Trump

By ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In a recent interview with news company Axios, President Donald Trump said that he wanted to repeal birthright citizenship of children of unauthorized immigrants through an executive order. Birthright citizenship is the concept that if you are born in America you are automatically a citizen as stated in the constitution.

Trump said, “Now they’re saying that we can do it with an executive order.” Who “they” is remains unclear, but if Trump proceeds with his plan he would have to take the case to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will then determine the constitutionality of the proposal.

This executive order, however, is clearly unconstitutional and goes against the 14th amendment which says, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

Government Benefits: Good intentions, Bad effects

By ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although the unemployment rate is at the lowest it’s been in decades in America, at just 4%, many still rely on government assistance, such as welfare.

Government assistance has been offered by the U.S. Government for many years including programs such as; SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid (Free or low cost health benefits), CHIP (Children’s Health insurance program), public housing, LIHEAP (Low income Home Energy Assistance Program, Welfare, and SSI (Supplemental Security Income), helping those in lower income households all over the nation. Sounds good right?

Although welfare is thought to be beneficial to many low-income citizens, there are some doubts about whether

Trump said, “How ridiculous is it that we’re the only country in the world where a person comes in and has a baby, and the baby is essentially a citizen of the United States for 85 years with all those benefits.” However, there are 30 countries in the world today who offer birthright citizenship, including Mexico, Barbados, Argentina, France, and Greece.

Obviously, there are people who abuse this right. For example, many pregnant Russian women take a round-trip flight to Miami, Florida and give birth to their child in hope of obtaining citizenship for them. Although it is completely legal, it has commercialized American citizenship. Many Russian mothers are willing to pay thousands of dollars just for a flight, hotel, and even medical bills. Ironically enough, many of these Russian women and their families stay in some of the Trump hotels and resorts.

The Customs and Border Protection agency said, “If a pregnant woman or anyone else uses fraud or deception to obtain a visa or gain admission to the United

or not it is good. Many people believe it brings more negatives than positives to the economy as it takes from tax dollars.

Providing welfare to those in lower income homes takes money from the sum that is gathered from taxpayers. This negatively affects our society since it takes a portion of people’s money and is given to other people instead of being spent on public work or construction.

Another problem that is stirred up as the result of government assistance is, the people who receive Welfare often become dependent of the benefits they are given.

This shows government assistance does not tackle the root of poverty, since people who receive the benefits tend to become dependent of them. They see that every need is being met, This negatively impacts them since it may lead to them never

States, that would constitute a criminal act.” This means that although it is legal for foreigners to do this, if they only intend to receive citizenship through scamming, they can be prosecuted.

Throughout his campaign and election, Donald Trump has promoted several racist and discriminatory propaganda, especially toward Hispanic people. When he proposed this “executive order,” his main target was undocumented Hispanic families.

If Trump, for someone reason, was able to pass this it would increase the number of unauthorized people to 24 million by 2050 (via. Slate). There would be thousands of people left without any association to a state. This means that they wouldn’t be able to travel outside the country, vote in elections, be able to receive social security, and it would be difficult for them to apply to college.

There happen to be several countries who have removed birthright citizenship and it has only brought more harm than good. The Dominican Republic repealed its birthright citizen-

Photo by Oliver Contreras-Pool/Getty Images

ship in 2013. They ruled that any child of an undocumented foreigner born after 1929 in the Dominican Republic was no longer a citizen. This left an estimated 200,000 people, who were mostly of Haitian descent, to be stripped of their nationality. The Dominican Republic has a long history of racism and xenophobia toward the Haitian people, and the repeal of birthright citizenship was mainly targeted towards Haitian immigrants.

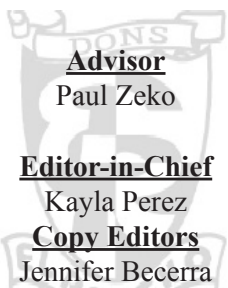
Donald Trump is willing to risk the citizenship of thousands of Americans because he believes it isn’t their right, however he is also the child of people who were at one point unauthorized immigrants. This shows that his discriminatory rhetoric is just plain hypocritical.

Many of these undocumented people’s children would be left without representation and are unfamiliar with their ethnic origins. So, why should the citizenship status of one’s parents determine yours, even though you were born in the United States?

poverty level, my take on this is, if the government can not afford to give full assistance to those in need then why even keep the programs? Instead we as a society should find a way to create more employment opportunities for the unemployed. This should also be done because this will help the unemployed establish themselves, and therefore not have to rely on government assistance.

With government assistance of some form being given to 25% of the population in America, it is a program that is significant because it is a helping hand to many. Although many US citizens see it this way, the program should still be re-evaluated because there are many detrimental flaws within it that brings more negatives than positives. If there was a way that this could be done to satisfy both sides of the matter, it would be less of a controversial system and maybe a system looked at positively by all.

El Rodeo



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El Rodeo, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience’s issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers.

The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

Student journalists on the *El Rodeo* staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school regulations or disrupt school operations. At the beginning of each semester, journalism students will be reminded of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write.

Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.

SPORTS

Dons fall to Eisenhower in CIF semi-final

By Hannah Blanco
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The El Rancho Dons will not be going on to round four of CIF. The Dons suffered a defeat by Eisenhower High School, with a final score of 34-21. While it was a heart-wrenching loss for the players and coaches, the Dons have made history by making it to round three of CIF after 27 years!

Only a week before, the El Rancho Dons conquered the Knights with a score of 56-52, successfully passing to round 3 of CIF.

Coach Medrano felt satisfied with round two's victory. "I [think] our kids played really hard," he said. "It was easy for them to quit and they didn't. We played a team that had a lot of physical advantages over us, but we played with a lot of determination, a lot of grit, a lot of heart, and I'm proud of them for that."

The Dons' goal for round three was, "to play as hard as [they] did [the] last [game], to come out and stop Eisenhower's run game." Preparations were made to the team's defense for round three. According to senior captain Andrew Tarango, they worked on their run games, stop-



The Dons charging their way towards a touchdown.

Photo by Emiliano LaFarga

ping the bait plays, and blitzing. Reflecting back on the season, Coach Medrano is very proud of what the team has accomplished, but he had hoped that their work wasn't done just yet. "When you get to this point and you're playing week 13," he said, "Might as well finish it off, right?"

Seniors Andrew Tarango and Daniel Rodriguez, captains

of the football team, are equally as proud of their team as their coach. "Being a captain for this team never breaks my heart... I can't express how happy I am about how far we [got into the] season, and I can't wait to see what comes for this team in the future," says Rodriguez in a heartfelt statement about his last high school football team.

In terms of how the game was played, many players picked on the team's as well as their own mistakes that could have been easily avoided or fixed. Brandon Carmona thinks the team should have been more understanding of their opponent. "We shouldn't have gotten too cocky," he says. "We should have understood who we're going up

against, and [that] they were a good opponent too. We should've executed better." Andrew Tarango agrees with Carmona, stating, "We could've played harder, we kept fighting but there were certain times we just went down and we needed to keep going."

Contrary to what his teammates say, Richie Amaya doesn't think any changes were necessary. He says, "Honestly, I feel like nothing could have been done differently because we played with heart, all of us."

Tarango agrees that there were many doubts the team had faced throughout the season, saying, "We came from a 2 and 8 last year and we switched [it up] on everybody, they never expected what we were going to do." Over the season, the team's bond has become unbreakable. "We're all brothers on the field," shares senior Eddie Landeros, "we're not just teammates, we're a family."

Nevertheless, after 27 long years, the Dons have made history this past season by getting this far into CIF. "We were doubted upon all season," says Amaya, "going into this game, we were doubted again, but no matter how big they were, we just kept playing with our heart and did it for ourselves."

Controversial face off: Cowboys vs. Redskins



Cowboys and Redskins getting ready to face off this Thanksgiving.

By Fatima Lopez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

This Thanksgiving, just like every other year, the NFL will have a set of football games that will be played on the upcoming holiday. There are three games and six teams that are ready to play on Thanksgiving. However, no match brings as

much controversy as that of the two teams playing the second game. The Washington Redskins will be playing against the Dallas Cowboys on *Thanksgiving Day*.

It's a typical Cowboys versus Indians match that many seem to be excited about. Many except Native Americans, that is. Members of the Native American community as well allies of the com-

munity have spoken out against this game and with good reason, too. The choice of teams looks deliberate and not at all random. It's true that the Cowboys are one of the teams that play *every* year on Thanksgiving Day, but to pair them up with the Redskins seems almost too good to be true. The NFL does not seem to care about anybody's feelings, (as we've seen with Colin Kaepernick and his fans) so this is most definitely a deliberate decision and not an accident or a case of poor timing.

Native Americans are especially upset over this game. Many members of the Native American community have voiced their opinions on the game through social media such as Instagram, Twitter, etc., but have not seen any changes made of any statements issued by the teams or the NFL itself. Native American activist Allen Salway (@lilnativeboy) has continuously expressed

his opinion on Twitter to no avail.

The problem with this game are not the teams or even the players, it's the fact that Native Americans are still being used as mascots. This game would not have been so controversial if there wasn't a team named the *Redskins* going against the *Cowboys*. The word "redskins" has been used as a slur and has degraded Native Americans for years, so why does the Washington team continue to use it? The simple answer is that they don't care enough to change it.

The Washington Redskins' name is not only insensitive, but it also opens the floodgates for racist slurs to be thrown around at Native Americans. While some may think it's okay to use those types of words because it's "only a football game," that logic is completely flawed. If it's a "just a game," then things shouldn't be so deep and we, as Ameri-

cans, should refrain from using those words for just a game.

This Thanksgiving Day, we can probably expect the Dallas Cowboys to take the win not because they're good or because they've practiced hard, but because the American narrative of Cowboys versus Indians is still very present in today's society. Even if it's just through football games and other sporting events, the need to glorify the "cowboys" and demonize the "Indians" is still there and will continue to be there unless we do something about it.

This Thanksgiving Day when you're watching the Dallas Cowboys play the Washington Redskins, think about how an organization as influential as the NFL is allowing things like racism, discrimination, and cultural appropriation to occur to this day. It seems as if the most American sport has forgotten about its American values.

Varsity Boys Basketball

Jan. 2, 2019 @06:30PM vs. Whittier @Main Gym	Jan. 18, 2019 @07:00PM vs. Whittier @Whittier
Jan. 4, 2019 @07:00PM vs. California @California	Jan. 23, 2019 @06:30PM vs. California @Main Gym
Jan. 9, 2019 @06:30PM vs. Santa Fe @Main Gym	Jan. 25, 2019 @07:00PM vs. Santa Fe @Santa Fe High School
Jan. 16, 2019 06:30PM vs. La Serna @La Serna	Feb. 01, 2019 @07:00PM vs. La Serna @Main Gym

Varsity Boys Soccer

Nov. 29, 2018 @05:15PM vs. Schurr @Smith Park	Nov. 29, 2018 @03:15PM vs. Pioneer @Pioneer High School
Dec. 04, 2018 @3:15PM vs. El Dorado @El Dorado High School	Dec. 10, 2018 3:15PM vs. El Dorado @El Dorado High School

Varsity Girls Soccer

Nov. 29, 2018 @03:15PM vs. Alhambra @Alhambra	Jan. 08, 2019 @03:15PM vs. Santa Fe Home
Dec. 06, 2018 @03:15PM vs. Corona @Corona Del Mar	Jan. 17, 2019 @03:15PM vs. Whittier Home
Dec. 11, 2018 @03:00PM vs. La Habra @La Habra	Jan. 24, 2019 03:15PM vs. Sante Fe @Sante Fe
Jan. 03, 2019 @03:15PM vs. Whittier @Whittier	

Fall Dates

It's finally fall! If you don't know what to do with your free time and want to go on a cute date, here are some options:

Coffee date
Head down to your nearby Starbucks or to Tierra Mia and just sit together and talk about your dreams and desires.

Pumpkin patch
Spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon taking pictures and indulging in the fall spirit.

Movie marathon at home
Gather up your coziest blankets and wear your warmest pj's and watch your favorite movies together!

Have a night in baking pies or cookies
Whether you make it from scratch or make them out of the box, it will still be a cozy night by the oven. If you make sugar cookies, you guys can decorate them using frosting and sprinkles.

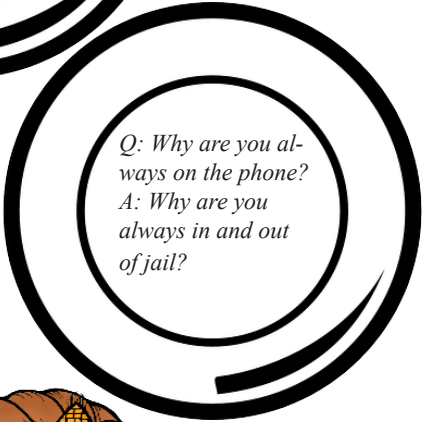
Have a coloring book date
Gather up markers, crayons, and color pencils to channel your inner child. Whether you color in the lines or make a Pollock inspired piece of artwork, you will have a great time enjoying each others' company.

Go on a bike ride around the city
If you are an athletic couple or want to start losing those Thanksgiving dessert pounds, then going on a bike ride around the city would be a great date.

Volunteer at a nearby food bank
If the holiday season is making you feel like giving back, then volunteering at a food bank for gathering cans for a food drive would be a fantastic way.



Q: Where's your boyfriend/girlfriend?
A: I don't know, where's your husband/wife?



Q: Why are you always on the phone?
A: Why are you always in and out of jail?



advice from alonzo



How would you confess to someone that obviously shows they potentially like you but you're not too sure cus they won't confess either and you don't wanna ruin anything.

A: You got to roll the dice and just do it.

Why won't Alonzo date me?

A: UMMMMMMMMMMMMMM



Too much turkey!

BY YAZLIN JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, turkey, stuffing, pudding, and pie. You can't wait to eat these this Thanksgiving right? Well so does your trashcan.

Christmas isn't the only holiday that has been oversaturated and commercialized in America. Thanksgiving, unique to our country, is the holiday-to-end-all-holidays when it comes to food choices and serving sizes. Families travel far and wide, even more often than Christmas, to gather at grandma's house and stuff their faces.

Some families even celebrate Thanksgiving twice or thrice in a weekend. Skinny jeans who? Never heard of her. Assuming your aunt seasoned the food, most of these big meals end up eaten quickly, but with all the "mistake turkeys," burnt bundts, and crusty cranberry sauce left uneaten, Thanksgiving quickly turns into Trash-giving.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans throw away about \$160 billion worth of food a year, \$290 million of which comes from the Thanksgiving holiday leftovers. That's a lot of turkey!

Supermarkets are just as guilty, tossing nearly 10% of groceries at retail level, while Americans discard another 20% at home, resulting in the majority of landfills being taken up by uneaten food. Much to the dismay of environmental protection acts, nine out of the top ten supermarket chains were able to meet waste reduction guidelines as set by The Center for Biological Diversity and the Environmental Protection Agency.

As non-decomposable waste accumulates in landfills and oceans, natural resources are being consumed faster than we can replenish them. We must find ways to reduce our ecological footprint before the crisis unfolds further.

Part of the mass waste phenomenon is the misconception of

the meanings of food labels like "best by," "sell by," and "use by." Many assume that as soon as once a non-perishable snack surpasses the date on the sticker, it must be discarded, when in reality food companies use these labels as suggestions indicating when the food would be most enjoyable. There is nothing wrong with those Ritz crackers from September; they're just a bit soft now, is all.

"Ugly food" is also a major problem in retail grocery markets and homes, as much of shelved produce becomes trashed simply because of its appearance. Fortunately, organizations like the Ugly Fruit and Veg Campaign encourage kids and families to purchase this produce for its equal nutritional value and worth. You can always repurpose your sad-looking fruits and vegetables into new dishes like smoothies, sandwiches, and stir-fries, which is something that Whole Foods does to reduce their waste. And don't throw away that spotted banana just



yet, just because you find it *unappealing*, turn it into ice cream!

Portion sizing seems to be a major issue in America, as Americans continue to bite off more than they can chew, and dump the rest of their plate when they realize their mistake. Even restaurants feed into this consumerist trend by stack plates miles high with pancakes, steaks, and bread, --most of which will end up in the garbage, or in a doggy bag. Of course, Thanksgiving is also a day to give back to the community and make sure everyone is fed and appreciated. Food banks, soup kitchens, and other organizations have provided the opportunity to help

reduce waste by giving it to the less fortunate. To avoid leftovers and the eventual fridge-purging, you should only cook the foods you *know* you will eat, be moderate with your servings, and if you are still hungry, go back for more!

The hardest step is getting started, but it's easier than it seems. By following these new waste management guidelines, we can all do our part in improving our lifestyles and preserving the environment. Take it easy on your wallet, your stomach, and your trash cans this fall, and be conscious of your kitchen waste. As American music icon Weird Al Yankovic once said, "Just Eat It."

Happy Thanksgiving

CLAPBACK

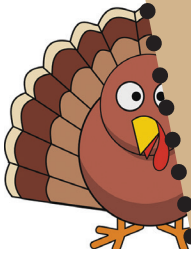
When the relatives we see twice a year about our love lives and passive aggression choices, #ThanksgivingClapBacks



Library Cornucopia

Which kinds of animals are these famous literary characters? Fill in the blanks and come to the ER Library. The correct written answers will receive a free In-N-Out!

1. Snowball is a _____
2. Hedwig is an _____
3. Richard Parker is a _____
4. Winnie-the-Pooh is a _____
5. Cujo is a _____



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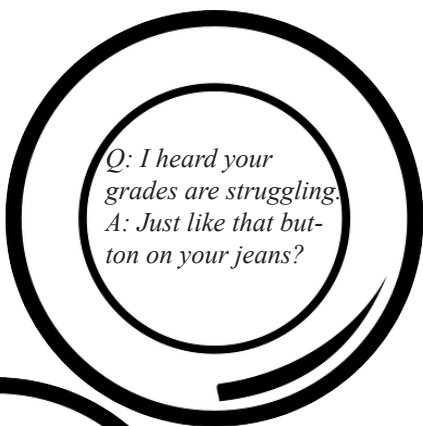
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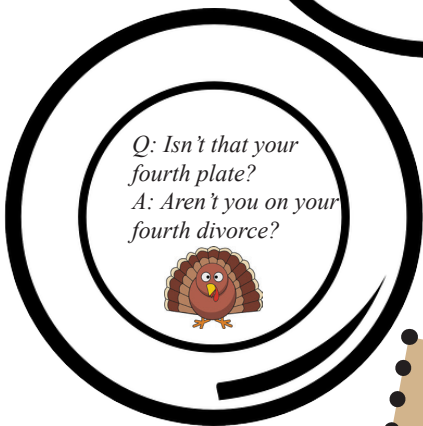
Thanksgiving!

CKS!

Don't annoy us with nosy questions
or excessive comments about our fash-
ion. Thanksgiving gives us the escape we long for.



Q: I heard your grades are struggling.
A: Just like that button on your jeans?



Q: Isn't that your fourth plate?
A: Aren't you on your fourth divorce?



Character!
The first 3 students who bring the
best burger coupon.

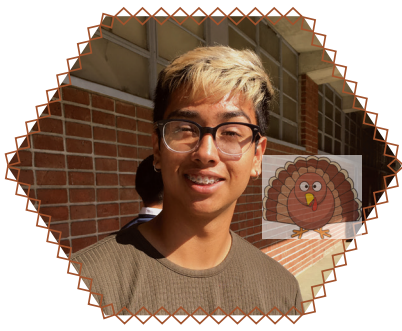
Word on the street: What's your favorite thanksgiving dish?



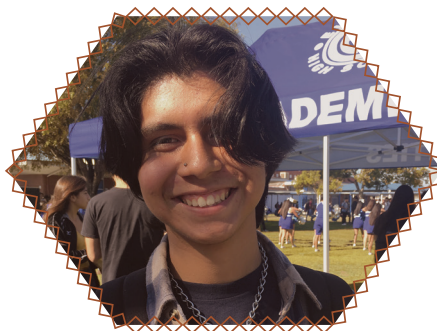
Ashley Estrada (11)
"Mac N Cheese I guess."



Jamie Baeza (12)
"Potato Salad is the bomb."



Abraham Calderon (12)
"Mashed Potatoes are my favorite"



Anthony Solis (11)
"My favorite side dish is mashed potatoes."

Pies Before Guys

By Yazlin Juarez
El Rodeo Staff Writer



- Pecan Pie**
3 eggs
1/4 cup corn syrup
1 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup white sugar
1/4 butter, cut into cubes
1 tablespoon water
2 teaspoons cornstarch
1 cup chopped pecans
2/3 cup halved pecans
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a medium bowl, beat eggs with electric mixer or whisk until frothy. Set aside.
 2. In a small saucepan, combine sugar, syrup, butter, water, and cornstarch on low-medium heat. Bring to a slow boil, stirring constantly, then take off heat immediately.
 3. Pour hot syrup mixture into eggs and whisk immediately. Stir in vanilla and salt. Fold in chopped pecans and pour 3/4 of mix into a chilled prepared pie shell. With remaining syrup mix, fold in halved pecans and pour new mix over chopped pecans. Arrange pecans as desired. Note: Do not overfill if you have extra syrup; in a glass bowl or tin, make another mini pie out of it and bake for 20 minutes!
 4. On a lined baking sheet, to avoid spillage, bake for 45-50 minutes, or until center is set. Allow to set for at least 20 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

NOVEMBER HOROSCOPES



Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb.18): You may feel like life has been very hard for you, but that's about to change! This month is the perfect opportunity to get back on your feet! Focus on your health, then worry about other issues that you might have. This month is also going to be filled with tons of communication, Aquarius! This winter, expect plenty of outings with friends and family. Enjoy the holiday season with your loved ones!

Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20): Have you been feeling extra confident this month? That's because the stars are working in your favor, Pisces! Big successes and accomplishments are coming your way, all you have to do is put in a little extra work. Go for it! Job interview, apply to that college, the stars will be there to help you! Looking to get cuffed this season? Go for it! Your confidence isn't just limited to the responsibilities you have this month.

Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19): Aries, this month is all about knowledge. Go out and do some learning! Whether it's taking a trip to an observatory to learn about the stars or spending a day alone to learn more about yourself, it doesn't matter. Love is in the air too, Aries! If you've been single for a while, now is your chance to shoot your shot. If you're in a relationship, expect to get closer to your significant other!

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20): Be wise with your funds, Taurus! This month, there may be plenty of opportunities to splurge on unnecessary things, so be careful. Think about where you want to go before you buy that cute new fit at the mall! Love may be in your future, Taurus! The winter season is a perfect time for relationships, so why not give it a try? Taurus' committed relationships will see their relationships grow to be more stable ones too!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Gemini, you've been feeling overwhelmed with all of the responsibilities you have, but that may change. Give yourself some "me-time" to relax and enjoy! A bubble bath or lighting a candle and listening to your favorite tunes might be the perfect way to get back into the zone. Love might be a touchy subject right now, Gemini. You've left some loose ends in lots of different places, so tie them up and be done with them before you move on with your life!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): There are lots of changes coming your way, Cancer! If you thought November was going to be a relaxed month, you thought wrong! There is plenty of fast-paced energy in the air that will keep you on your feet and in a new experience every day. Embrace that energy and all the changes it brings with it! Have you been thinking about a special someone recently? Now is the time to confess to them! This month is perfect for communicating these types of messages, so don't be afraid to shoot your shot!

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22): Leo, this month is going to be a very emotionally-charged month for you. You've been thinking, brooding, and pondering over different things and now is the time to look for the answers to all the questions you've been asking yourself! November is also a perfect time for healing. Emotional issues as well as spiritual issues can be solved if you allow the healing process to occur! Looking for love, Leo? I wouldn't recommend it. This month is a bit more emotional than usual and a significant other would only make things more intense.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): You can expect a very busy month, Virgo! Communication is going to be a big part of this month, so be prepared to collaborate with others. If you put your mind to it, you're going to accomplish whatever goals you have this month! Has your love life been a bit difficult lately? You can say goodbye to being in that boat because things are looking up. This month is the perfect time to go out and meet new people!

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): Libra, have you been feeling like yourself recently? This month will be a bit of a confusing month for you. All your favorite things to do seem like they just aren't cutting it for you! Don't be afraid to switch up your routine, it might be helpful for you. Relationships are going to be a bit difficult this month, so stay away from trying to make new ones and focus on maintaining your old ones!

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): This month should be completely dedicated to yourself, Scorpio. Take some time to enjoy yourself and to do all the little things you love to do! Do you have a self-care routine? If you don't, now is the time to create one. If you do, is it working for you? Update your routine where you see fit. Have you got love on the brain, Scorpio? This month is perfect for putting yourself out there. Be confident, be charming, but most importantly, be you!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Sagittarius, have you been feeling extra sensitive lately? This month, catch up on rest and spend some time alone, but don't isolate yourself! Sleep, meditate, or do something that will bring back the good energy you had last month. Some big changes are on the way, so prepare for them! Relationships might hit a rocky road, but with communication and plenty of patience, you'll get past this!

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): This month is a great time for self-reflection, Capricorn. Think about your life and what you want out of it. Maybe you need to make some changes to your plan or come up with a completely different one! Whatever the case may be, keep in mind that you're going to need to communicate with others as well as with yourself. As far as relationships and love lives go, this month is not the best time for any of that. You have to be at your best to give your best, so work on yourself first, Capricorn!

FEATURES

Crystal Burgos is *Simply Irresistible!*



Crystal Burgos radiates cuteness in the halls and everywhere she goes!

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

By Fatima Lopez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

You might know her as El Rancho’s own JoJo Siwa, Dr. Tracey Lake from *Night Watch*, or most recently as Daniella from *In the Heights*, Crystal Burgos is not only a woman of many talents, but she’s also *simply irresistible!*

Burgos is your typical girl-next-door. She’s got a sweet personality and an even sweeter set of hobbies. She’s a thespian here at El Rancho! “Drama has my heart,” Burgos said, “having been a part of this amazing group for

four years now has been nothing but a blessing and I can’t wait to see where I go with this little hobby of mine.” Her outgoing personality and million-dollar smile *definitely* say “Drama Kid!”

When Crystal isn’t locked up in the Little Theatre and working on Drama’s newest production, you can probably find her at the happiest place on earth, Disneyland! “I do go to Disneyland often! I have the Deluxe pass so if you were planning on going with me on Christmas, tough luck,” Burgos said. “My favorite park is Disneyland and my favorite ride has to be Roger Rabbit but Space

Mountain is a very close second,” Crystal said. A Disney date with this heartthrob? Sign *us* up!

Don’t think that this cutie is *just* dedicated to drama and Disney, though. Crystal is actually very involved here at El Rancho. “I’ve done every NPR class skit since my freshman year,” Burgos said. We love an involved queen!

Did we mention that Burgos has a great taste in music? From show tunes to Twenty One Pilots, this cutie listens to all genres! Her favorite genre, however, has to be 80’s rock. “I love most music genres, but I have a soft spot for 80’s rock,” Crystal said,

“I grew up with this music and it just puts a smile on my face.” We *knew* she had good taste!

Speaking of show tunes, Crystal is *obsessed* with them! Her favorite musicals are *Rodger and Hammerstein’s Cinderella*, *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, and *A Bronx Tale: The Musical*. When asked why she enjoys them so much, Burgos said, “These shows just remind me to always ‘be the best that you could be,’ and ‘to work for what you want even if all odds are against you.’” We love a Broadway musical stan!

Crystal is the whole package! She sings, she acts, she has a great taste in music, *and* she has a great sense of fashion! Burgos describes her style as comfortable. From overalls to floral prints, Crystal’s wardrobe screams variety! “I love that grungy, 90’s alternative look,” Burgos said, “I look to people like Kurt Cobain or Winona Ryder for inspiration.” Wanna steal her style? It’s really quite simple! “I love thrift stores,” Crystal said, “but I am guilty of spending too much coin at any Vans store!” Talented and fashionable? We’re obsessed!

If you think you don’t know this charismatic cutie, you’re probably mistaken. Crystal’s platinum blonde hair can be seen from a mile away! “I love my

hair,” Burgos said, “It’s probably the first thing people notice about me and it’s a great conversation starter.” Thinking of switching up your hairstyle to something like Crystal’s? It’s a very rigorous routine! “I bleach my hair every two weeks but only the roots! And I also use that purple shampoo once a week and leave it in my hair for about 10 minutes before I wash it out,” Burgos said, “Conditioner has become my best friend and I try not to use too much heat on it because I’d like to continue to have hair!” She is quite literally the queen of blonde hair. Elle Woods could never!

Has Burgos stolen your heart yet? She’s definitely got ours! “I’m single,” Crystal said, “I’m down to get to know people, but I have to admit I’m pretty shy when it comes to dating.” Even if you aren’t looking for anything special with this cutie, she’s a perfect addition to your circle. “I love making friends, but I do have a pretty busy schedule due to rehearsal, homework, and my best friend, Alexa,” Burgos said.

Do you think you have what it takes to be Crystal’s friend? Hit her up! She’s always on her social media accounts. Follow her on Instagram (@Bur.gos) or on Twitter (@CrystalKrust) for a timeline *full* of her crazy antics!

Mr. Jimenez is a man of many talents!



By Kayla Perez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

He’s thoughtful, instinctive, passionate, exuberant, and patient-he’s Thomas Charles Jimenez! Joining El Rancho High School as a teacher for his very first year, U.S. History and AVID teacher, Mr. Jimenez, has brought much more than his charismatic smile to the Ranch.

Mr. Jimenez’s knowledge of the Ranch is extensive, having graduated from El Rancho in 2011, Mr. Jimenez has bled Blue Pride ever since he left. “I always wanted to return and work at El Rancho High School in order to give back to the community that gave me so much,” says Jimenez.

“As a Don, I felt that it would be a great opportunity to work in the community I grew up in, and be able to relate to the students of today’s Pico,” continues Jimenez. “Being fortunate enough to travel and live in a different state while I was in college gave me a lot of eye-opening experiences, which I can bring into the classroom.”

In fact, it was his experience at El Rancho that inspired him to follow his career pathway.

“I had great teachers at El Rancho, and I knew that me being successful in college, or even thinking of college as a real possibility was due to their guidance,” says Jimenez. “I always hoped to try and provide that same spark of motivation and confidence for a student one day.”

And to that he has been! Ever since Mr. Jimenez graduated high school he has been working

to improve education communities, specifically El Rancho. “I worked at the City of Pico Rivera every summer mentoring a new group of graduating El Rancho seniors each summer while I was in college,” says Jimenez.

“After graduating I returned to California and began working at the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier, that turned into becoming the Site Coordinator for The Club at El Rancho,” continues Jimenez. “Many of the seniors now are students I worked with and mentored as freshmen three years ago.”

Even though his heart always stayed with El Rancho, his journey to return as a teacher was a long process. “Last year I was at Pioneer High School teaching U.S. History and World History,” says Jimenez. “Pioneer was a really great school, and I got the chance to work with some really great teacher, now I am fortunate enough to now be back at The Ranch using all my experiences in the classroom”

His experiences are one of the many factors that give him his charm! “Growing up I was a middle child, One of four boys, so very noisy and energetic as a kid,” says Jimenez. “I was in karate and really couldn’t sit still, I had a large imagination, which probably explains my obsession with cinema.”

“I come from a small family with hard working parents, as a kid I remember my dad always working, and my mom always making time to bring us together,” continues Jimenez. “I had very supportive parents who taught us the value of hard work, respect, and following our dreams,

I think each of my brothers and I got our relentless work ethic from having the parents we did, my parents cultivated a household where we could be ourselves.”

His film knowledge and family bond is just one of the many things you may not know about him! “Many people are not aware that I am obsessed with music and movies, I weirdly know way too much trivia about cinema and film,” says Jimenez. “I can talk about movies all day for the rest of my life, and have no shame in re-watching movies or TV shows I’ve seen multiple times, I know that I have watched the entire Office series at least seven-eight times.”

“Additionally, I have always played music and still love to play with family and friends whenever I get the chance, I can play four different instruments: guitar, drums, bass, and ukulele,” continues Jimenez. “I think music is a gift we have as humans, and the ability to share our experiences and evoke connection is so valuable.”

When he is not busy jamming with his family or binge-watching Netflix he can be found exploring LA! “I enjoy going to beach exploring new restaurants all around Los Angeles, I love the city of LA, and enjoy every bit of the city’s culture,” says Jimenez. “I try to go to music and art shows or eat at a new place as much as possible, I play plenty of golf and play pickup basketball or soccer games when I have a chance.”

When asked if he had any advice for his fellow staff, his response was nothing but heartfelt. “Make the most of the time we have together,” says Jimenez. “As



There is more than meets the eye to this history guy!

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

a staff, I think it is important to build a relationship with students, that requires creating a sense of trust and allowing your students to get to know you, while maintaining a productive classroom where students want to learn.”

“I think learning is fun, especially when students are willing to take risks,” says Jimenez, “Taking risks is big with me, I think it is important to understand the value of failure in order to truly grow as a person and as a student.

Mr. Jimenez is always trying his best to make sure that he supports his staff, but his students as well. “I always tell students to make the most of the time in the classroom, because what I learned is that the old cliché ‘time goes by faster the older you get,’ is actually quite true,” says Jimenez. “Life goes by very quick once you are all done with school, so it is important to push yourself and enjoy every moment

of high school considering you only get to do high school once.

In terms of his own future, Mr. Jimenez always makes sure to remain as carefree as possible. “I used to think far ahead, but I try not to think too far in the future or else I feel that it’s easy to lose sight of what’s happening now,” says Jimenez. “I like to live in the moment and ‘stop to smell the roses.’”

“In five years I will be reaching a significant age, and there are some major life milestones in the near future,” continues Jimenez. “In the meantime, I will continue to enjoy every moment in the classroom back at The Ranch working with former teachers, and fellow classmates I once had.”

When asked if he had any final pointers for his staff and students, Mr. Jimenez replied: “Always try something (especially food) before you say you don’t like it!”

FEATURES

Where are they now? From ER to anywhere: Sarah Navarro



Sarah Navarro in front of the Kellogg House building on campus.

BY GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

She was a dance commissioner, she was a homecoming queen, and now she’s a Bronco, she’s Sarah Navarro! This recently graduated Don isn’t waiting for opportunity to knock on her door, she’s taking matters into her hands and thriving at college.

At first, she was nervous to embark on her college journey, “I kinda just took the plunge,” says Navarro, “I had to go to orientation, I picked my classes there [orientation] and met my advisor.”

“Orientation was also

where I got to meet new people and learn more about CPP [Cal Poly Pomona],” continues Navarro, “After orientation, I felt a little less nervous about starting.”

Despite her many college acceptance letters, she knew Cal Poly Pomona was the right choice for her, “I picked Cal Poly Pomo-

na because it has one of the best programs for my major [Hospitality Management],” says Navarro.

Her inspiration to study the hospitality industry developed when she was the Dance Commissioner for ASB for two consecutive years.

“Being dance commissioner inspired me because I knew I was the key person to creating an event that students would enjoy and never forget,” says Navarro, “I want to continue a career in creating events that make people happy.”

Aside from ASB, Navarro also participated in Social Justice club and Be a Leader club. She continues to be an involved student at Cal Poly Pomona, where she participates in two clubs: Pineapple club and the Association of Student Event Professionals club.

Now don’t let the title be deceiving, Pineapple club isn’t a club focusing on the juicy, yellow fruit, “it’s a club for the first years majoring in Hospitality,” explains Navarro.

The loads of work can sometimes be overwhelming for Navarro but that isn’t going to stop her from achieving her goals.

“I have to get this bread in order to graduate and get a job after I graduate,” says Navarro, “I want to repay my par-

ents and my brother for all the sacrifices they make for me.”

When Navarro isn’t busy being a scholar or munching at The Mongolian Grill, she enjoys spending time with her friends. “It’s always great when I have the chance to see my friends because I don’t see them as often as I used to since they went away to college,” says Navarro.

From the few months she’s spent at Cal Poly Pomona, she’s learned a few things. “One thing I’ve learned is that you need to get out there and make connections!” exclaims Navarro, “Connections are important and will get you far! Also, don’t skip class unless you absolutely need to! Mental health is also really important.”

Navarro, being a student who experienced the ups and downs of her own senior year, left her with words of wisdom to share with the class of 2019. “Enjoy your last couple of months, but also prepare yourself for college,” says Navarro, “Rejection letters suck, but you’ll end up where you need to be.”

In four years, she plans to be done with school and become an event planner for concerts and award shows. If you ever find yourself in need of an event planner, Sarah Navarro is your gal!

Culinary Arts Club contributes to positive change in community

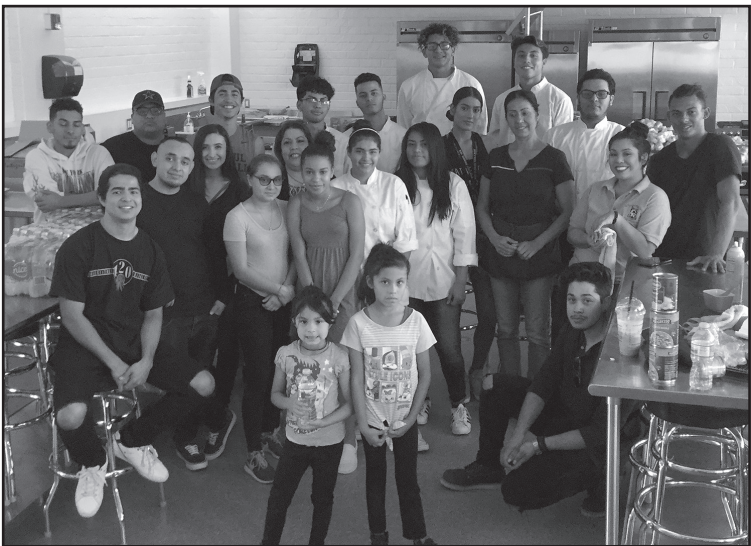


Photo Courtesy of the Culinary Arts Club.

BY BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Culinary Arts Club is getting into the holiday spirit this Thanksgiving by distributing lunch bags to less fortunate families in downtown Los Angeles.

Food prepping will take place on November 21st and will be handed out on Thanksgiving Day. This is the tenth year anniversary the Culinary Arts Club and Chef Luna have hosted this event.

Volunteers get the opportunity to assemble bags that include non-perishable foods and hygiene products. Transportation isn’t included but volunteers can distrib-

ute items separately with a parent or guardian present at DTLA.

Chef Luna says “culinary arts club, students, alumni, and parents all get together to make this possible. My favorite part about this event is seeing everybody come together.”

Junior Gavin Menchaca says “I am really excited to see how everything goes and feel different emotions [when seeing people’s reaction]. I’ve never done anything like this before and [want to help] those who are the same age as me.”

“I feel pretty good about [participating in this] because I’m giving back to others. I [look forward] to seeing the smiles on people’s faces when they see us,” says junior Gabriel Mancera.

“The reason I started doing this was because my mom always taught me to help others. [Continuing] this means a lot to me, especially since she passed away,” said Luna.

Do you still want to make an impact? You can drop off donations such as: water bottles, granola bars, toiletries, fruit, cereal, and blankets in room Q4.

For more information see Chef Luna in Q4 or follow @chefdluna on Twitter to stay updated about the event.

Word on the Street

How are college applications going?



“College Apps are due soon and I keep debating if my application is good enough so here I am acting like they don’t exist until last minute.”
- Jade Castellanos



“Pretty good, I already got accepted to the college I wanted to go to.”
- Deon Carroll



“I feel like I’m dying but it’s gonna be fine.”
- Jessica Castellanos



“Good but they make me want to drop out already.”
- Salomon Rodas



“I’m honestly very stressed. Mom if you’re reading this I’m sorry for not starting earlier.”
- Leilani Larez

ENTERTAINMENT

Bohemian Rhapsody breaks the box office

By Sofia Dominguez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Mixed and negative reviews (mostly) didn't matter. Controversies over historical accuracy and whether or not the film had nice things to say (or enough things to say) about Freddie Mercury's life as a bisexual man who died of AIDS didn't matter. What did matter was the audience's reception of *Bohemian Rhapsody* and it was received extremely well.

The \$52 million budgeted movie *Bohemian Rhapsody* opened with \$50 million domestically and \$141 million worldwide, showing that the movie struck well with the general audience.

Bohemian Rhapsody is a biopic based on the true story of the rock band Queen's entire journey, from the start of the group to their legendary performance at the Live Aid concert at the Wembley Stadium.

The movie starts off in 1970 with Farrokh Bulsara, an Indian-British Parsi college student and baggage handler at Heathrow Airport, watching a local band who he had been following for months, named Smile, perform at a nightclub.

After the show, he meets

Smile guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor and offers to replace their singer Tim Staffell, who has quit the band to join Humpty Bong. With the addition of bassist John Deacon, the band – now known as Queen – plays gigs across Britain until they sell their van to produce their debut album.

Their musical style lands them a contract with EMI Records. At the same time, Farrokh legally changes his name to Freddie Mercury and becomes engaged to Biba store clerk Mary Austin. The album hits the charts in America, and during the band's U.S. tour, Freddie begins to question his sexuality.

Despite the mixed reviews, "Bohemian Rhapsody" becomes a smash hit. Shortly after the band's world tour, Freddie begins to have an affair with Paul Prenter, his personal manager. Mary breaks up with Freddie when he comes out to her as bisexual, although she assures him that he is gay.

The band's success continues through to the early 1980's, but tensions arise over the direction of their music and a change in Freddie's attitude. In 1981, after a lavish party at his home, Freddie falls in love with Jim Hutton, one of the waiters at the party.

They part ways shortly after, with Jim telling Freddie to look for him when he learns to like himself. The band's press conference to promote their 1982 album *Hot Space* is hijacked by the press, who bombard Freddie with questions on his personal life and sexuality.

Freddie's relationship with his band mates sours when he announces that he has signed a \$4 million deal with CBS Records to go solo. He moves to Munich in 1984 to work on his first solo album, *Mr. Bad Guy*. Mary, now married and pregnant, visits and urges him to return to the band, as they have been offered a spot in Bob Geldof's benefit concert Live Aid at Wembley Stadium.

Discovering that Paul withheld this news from him, Freddie, enraged, severs ties with him. In retaliation, Paul goes public about Freddie's sexual escapades. With the outbreak of AIDS spreading worldwide, Freddie has himself tested and discovers he is infected.

Freddie returns to London to ask for forgiveness from his bandmates and their manager, Jim Beach. They reconcile and are given a last-minute slot in Live Aid. During a rehearsal, Freddie reveals to his bandmates that he



The movie is centered around the group's lead singer, Freddie Mercury played by Rami Malek.

has AIDS, and they embrace him.

On the day of Live Aid, he reunites with Hutton and Mary, and reconnects with his family with his father's Zoroastrian maxim, "Good thoughts, good words, good deeds." Queen's Live Aid performance is a massive success, helping increase the rate of donations during the event.

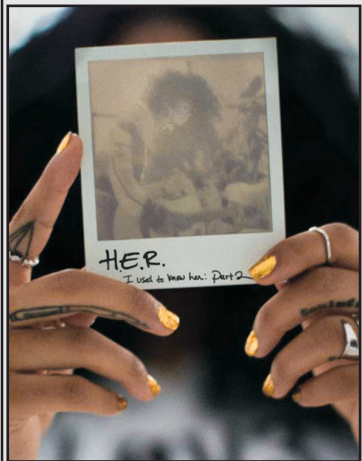
In many cases, a film like this would attempt to add to a legacy, but instead, *Bohemian Rhapsody* tries to protect it and pack it in bubble wrap to prevent it from causing or being caught in any friction. As a result, the film too often treats Freddie Mercury as a precious figure, when he was,

in fact, a man with many flaws.

Even though *Bohemian Rhapsody* was a highly censored version of Queen and Freddie Mercury's true selves, it was still a fantastic film. Rami Malek's performance was fabulous and if anyone who watched the film didn't know who the frontman of Queen was, they wouldn't be able to differentiate between the real Freddie Mercury and the film version.

If a film that is both heart-breaking and a celebration of the LGBTQ+ is what you are looking for, then *Bohemian Rhapsody* is the film for you! The movie is still available at local theaters!

Album Review: Who is she? It's H.E.R. Part 2



By Karizma Reyes
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Contemporary R&B artist, Gabriella Wilson, better known by her stage name H.E.R., has made a sequel to *I Used to Know Her: The Prelude* called *I Used to*

Know Her: Part 2. The EP contains eight tracks and has a different sound compared to the previous EP.

H.E.R.'s overall sound for "I Used to Know Her: Part 2" is a soul-infused R&B. It's mostly composed with either acoustic guitar or piano as the instrumental. Unlike her prior EP, Part 2 contains no features.

The EP starts off with strong acoustic guitar picking, setting up the rhythm in "Carried Away." H.E.R. discusses her romantic feelings that she didn't see coming, but is still playing it safe and is holding her emotions back to avoid falling in too deep. "Don't wanna take my chances if this ain't it, oh no, if you're not sure, then let me go" was truly relatable to the fact that many people hide their hearts behind unbreakable walls.

The next track, "Can't Help Me," enters with an uplifting gui-

tar picking and goes into how she deals with her broken heart and putting herself back together again. H.E.R. ends with the repetition of the lines "you can't help me" as if she is reminding herself that she has to do this alone as every heartbroken person does.

In "I'm Not OK," H.E.R. continues to talk about how she is dealing with her heartache. With a solemn piano base to the song, it changes the mood from the previous track.

"Take You There" has a beautiful piano build up to back up her angelic vocals on this track, which is personally my favorite song off the EP. The line, "With you, Heaven is a place on Earth and I will take you there," sounds elegant with her vocal range and shows how she is stuck on reminiscing while trying to get over her sadness.

The track "Going (Interlude)," is short and sweet with the message to her significant lover that she needs them more than ever with the less time they spend together because of her career. "Baby that's all I can give right now, maybe that's just what it is right now," talks about how touring is interrupting her relationship, but the line can also be interpreted as someone just being busy with life and not having time for their significant other. These lyrics can hit home for some people in relationships.

"Hard Place" shows an insight into H.E.R.'s experience of being in a rocky relationship, but being too afraid of being by herself. The lyrics, "And if I have to choose my heart or you, I'm gonna lose," shows how hard H.E.R. loves and how it leaves herself vulnerable. I personally have been in

her shoes before so, "Hard Place" hits harder than I wished it would.

The track "Fate" takes a turn to a religious aspect pleading for mercy because she strayed from her faith. The song itself is very therapeutic with the calming orchestral sound.

The EP ends with the song "Lord is Coming" with the beginning two minutes of the song just H.E.R. speaking on world problems. She connects it to her religious values referencing stories from the Bible which shows in the title of the song. Her faith is strong and it truly influences her music.

Personally, this recent EP by H.E.R. wasn't my cup of tea, but I can say that it was beautifully written and composed. If you prefer adding a little bit of soul music to your taste or playlist, then "I Used to Know Her: Part 2" "is a must listen!"

Game Review: Red Dead Redemption 2

By Antonio Escobar
El Rodeo Staff Writer

It's here. *Red Dead Redemption 2* was released on October 26, 2018.

The first *Red Dead Redemption* was released eight years ago, and fans of the game have been patiently waiting.

Rockstar, the gaming studio behind other famous video games such as the Grand Theft Auto series and of course the first *Red Dead Redemption*, released the game.

Red Dead Redemption 2 definitely did not disappoint. It was hugely successful upon its release and had the most successful opening weekend in video game history by generating \$725 million dollars in revenue and selling over 17 million copies. The game was so successful it sold more copies in two weeks than its predecessor sold in its entire lifetime.

Even though it saw so much

success, *Red Dead Redemption 2* should not be defined by the money it made, but rather how much of an amazing game it is. Every aspect of the game and gameplay feels polished and is a testament to the creators and the near decade of work that was put into it.

The game begins by following Arthur Morgan, an outlaw who is part of a notorious gang known as the Van Der Linde gang. The gang recently was chased into the mountains and further east due to a botched robbery that ended with dead and arrested members.

The rest of the gang, now camped out and trying to figure out how to get money together, move forward from the losses of the robbery. Arthur Morgan receives many tasks from his gang as everyone does their part in getting the gang back on its feet.

One of the best parts of the game is the sense of freedom that comes along with it. There is a huge open world that one could spend hours and hours exploring.

Across this huge map there are all sorts of random events and people that the players can interact with.

There are places to fish, animals to hunt, and opportunities to commit crimes for large amounts of money. These crimes range from simple robberies at gunpoint, to home invasions, and even to train robberies.

However, these crimes come with a price. If you get caught and are identified, the law will come after you and a bounty will quickly be placed on your head. But, even if you manage to get away, you will lower your honor.

Honor is a attribute of your character that shifts depending on how you play the game. Crimes and unnecessary violence will lower your honor, while helping strangers and being selfless will raise your honor.

This mechanic coupled with bounties make for a very interesting aspect of gameplay, which is that of choice. If someone wants to be a villain and ruthlessly commit

crimes they can, but they will suffer from high bounties on their head.

A player can also be highly honorable, thought they would have to refrain from many lucrative activities that are illegal. These choices truly make the player feel as if they are in control.

Another great aspect of the game is its campaign. There are so many missions available in game and as you continue playing, even more missions become available. The storyline of the game is very well crafted, and there are many connections to the original *Red Dead Redemption* that will excite any players of the first game. The story of the game quickly pulls the player in and is well paced so that missions flow smoothly, while giving time for the player to do whatever he wants.

All of these traits make the story mode of the game extremely fun; and of course all the extra side content just goes to make the game even more enjoyable. Furthermore, there is even more content coming



to the game. An online multiplayer game mode is set to be added soon. It is no doubt that this new game mode will be just as high quality as the story mode, and so players everywhere are very excited.

All in all, *Red Dead Redemption 2* is quite an amazing game. It is worth the \$60 investment for anyone who is on the fence about buying it. There are hours upon hours of content and no shortage of things to do in the beautiful huge open world. Whether you have played the first *Red Dead Redemption* or not, this new game is an excellent release and everyone who can should give it a try.