

El Rodeo

Volume 67, Issue 4

ERHS helps Pico Rivera light up with holiday spirit

BY YAZLIN JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the “winter wonderland” of Pico Rivera Town Hall and Sheriff’s Department, Pico Rivera citizens celebrated the beginning of the holiday with the annual lighting of the Civic Center Holiday Tree in honor of the city’s 60th anniversary. El Rancho clubs and student volunteers were an integral part of the event, from the food, to clean up, to the music.

On Saturday, December 2nd, businesses, citizens, school organizations, and city officials contributed to multiple fun activities in order to bring the community closer together. The annual ceremony was organized by the Pico Rivera Parks and Recreation Department. The event was originally created to celebrate the city’s 50th anniversary and was moved from Pico Park to its current location to provide ample space. Thus, Parsons Boulevard, as well as the surrounding streets, were blocked off for the evening.

The event featured many attractions for children, such as a Winter Wonderland snow play-area, arts and crafts, North-Pole train rides, letter-writing, a performance from Tiny Tots children, and even a visit

from Santa in which children could pose with Ol’ Saint Nick himself for pictures. Pico Rivera Mayor Gustavo Camacho, attending the event with his family, says, “My favorite attraction is the snow area, seeing my kids and other kids playing, smiling and laughing is a great joy of mine.”

On stage were multiple performances by the city’s finest musicians. The popular music group, the Suffragettes, performed covers of popular rock, indie, and pop hits such as “Hit Me With Your Best Shot” by Pat Benatar and “Ain’t It Fun” by Paramore. However, it was the school talent that especially drew the crowd together in the holiday spirit.

The El Rancho Choraleers, directed by new choir teacher Mr. Paul Keilbach, took center stage to perform their holiday tunes. Their winter repertoire included “White Winter Hymnal” by the Fleet Foxes, Christmas carol arrangements including, “What Child is This,” “The First Noel,” “Let it Snow,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” and “Carol of the Bells.” “It was our pleasure to perform for the ceremony and we look forward to participating in future years as well,” says Keilbach. To support the Choraleers and their program, students and faculty can purchase caroling

music grams to receive a personal performance live at their houses.

The El Rancho Band and Colorguard also made a quick appearance, opening the night’s festivities with their signature and holiday songs, “Santa’s Parade,” “Feel It Still,” “Uptown Funk,” “Fight Song,” and The El Rancho Fight Song. Senior Drum Major Iseth Ramirez says despite the cold, “The tree lighting ceremony is a good tradition to keep because it is a nice way to give back to the city.”

The Tree Lighting Festival honored the bond between the high school’s performing arts programs and the people of Pico Rivera. “The City of Pico Rivera is grateful for the participation and the musical talents of the students from El Rancho High School,” says Mayor Camacho, “[we] look forward to the many more holiday performances at our Holiday Festival and Tree Lighting Ceremony.”

Another crowd pleaser was the free treats provided by city volunteers and El Rancho AVID students. Those attending the event enjoyed hot chocolate and chocolate chip cookies, which was a welcome reward for their patience standing in line. AVID students were also responsible for crowd control, reg-

istration and check-in, passing out prizes from the city, and monitoring children in the snow play area. AVID advisor and El Rancho teacher Mr. Philip Rojo was appreciative of this opportunity for their program to help others and says, “One of the pillars of AVID’s program is Community Service, and the more local the service... the better.” You can’t get more local than down the street from the high school!

El Rancho students had plenty of fun with plenty of other festivities to enjoy as well. Senior Kasandra Saldana attended the event with family and remarked the array of food trucks and craft booths with their prized goods on display for sale. “I saw multiple vendors selling handmade items like earrings and cute little jewelry. I found it very interesting and fascinating how they looked like they belonged a store,” said Saldana. She commended the many attractions she and her community could participate in and said “it was nice seeing so many different people getting along” to share a pleasant night together.

The music department students were also attracted to the event. Freshman flutist Iliana Sárvia says, “I didn’t get to stay that long to do the activities but I would’ve like to

go play in the snow and the train with my friends. If I did I would’ve thrown a snowball at [my friend].”

Although the music department’s tunes and AVID’s hot chocolate made many Pico Rivera residents night, the highlight of the evening was most certainly the official lighting of the Civic Center Tree, located right in front of city hall and adorned with hundreds of gleaming lights and festive ornaments. Mayor Camacho, who has participated in the annual event since 2009, stood on stage to lead the countdown of the lighting of the tree with hundreds of other citizens. “Bringing Pico Rivera families together to enjoy a Winter Wonderland at city hall to listen to live music while kids play in 22 tons of snow, drinking hot chocolate with an opportunity to take your family picture with Santa Clause is what the Holiday event is about family,” says Camacho.

Opening the event was a brief fireworks display to honor the 60th anniversary of Pico Rivera, enjoyed by students, citizens, and city board members alike, setting the stage for a season of kindness, community, and fun similar to what was seen that night.

Powderpuff game rescheduled due to rain

BY ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The 54th annual Powderpuff game has been rescheduled to Friday December 14th in the Don Memorial Stadium, due to weather conditions. Initially there was fear about the game being cancelled. “The decision was made after careful consideration and keeping student safety as the number one priority,” said Principal Mr. Vasquez, “In addition to the Powderpuff game, we canceled all soccer games and outside PE activities.”

Many students were upset and discouraged when they found out there was not going to be a game that day. Senior Destiny Rivera said, “I felt disappointed when I found out that the game was canceled because I was pumped and ready

to play. Especially with it being my senior year, I was excited to play after a stressful week of turning in college apps. All I can do now is stay positive and bring the same energy I had today to the rescheduled game.”

Dressed up and ready to go, Junior Jaime DeHaro said, “I don’t think it was fair to cancel the game and it’d be best to notify people in advance instead of hours before.”

Some even claimed that it was unfair that they were not able to play in the rain when the football team has played in the rain before. However, most of the games that were played in the rain had the rain occur during the game. Unless the rain had gotten too bad, similar to what happened during the homecoming game.

Senior Draven Mendoza said, “When football plays in

the rain, it starts raining during the game. They canceled because the field is soaked from it raining throughout the day and it could cause injuries.”

Although the game did not happen, the annual lunch pep rally did. The assembly started off with all the Powderpuff cheerleaders doing a routine. ASB then announced the Powderpuff captains and court, with Joseph Quinonez as the Powderpuff King and David Hernandez as Junior Powderpuff Prince.

Junior Andres Tafolla said, “I feel that my performance in the assembly was amazing [and] I think my cheermates and I did a really good job in everything. They are the best!”

“I think the game is going to be interesting because our plays have been coming together nicely, and I’ve heard the juniors



Senior pep squad wows the crowd!

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

have been doing decent,” says Senior Samantha Sosa. “I’m looking forward to being in the moment and all of us looking icy on the field because all of our practices will pay off at the end.”

While disappointed about the game, Rivera is also understanding of the situation. “I un-

derstand their decision in changing the date of the game,” Destiny said, “but they could’ve accommodated more schedules knowing winter break was coming.”

The Powderpuff game has been an annual tradition at El Rancho and who will win the game is left up to fate.

FEATURES

Future entrepreneur Fidel Sosa is *Simply Irresistible!*



The man, the myth, the legend posing for a shot.

Photo by Emiliano LaFarga

BY ALEJANDRO MELCHOR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He has his own YouTube channel, his own phone repair business, he's your Junior Homecoming Prince, Fidel Sosa is *simply irresistible!*

Apart from just attending El Rancho High school, Sosa is involved in helping the baseball team. With his assistance on and off the field, Sosa has befriended many of the baseball players, "I love the

baseball team, they're like my brothers, my family," says Sosa. Being such a friendly and unique character, it's almost impossible for Sosa not to be the center of attention, "It felt great when the crowd was chanting my name," says Sosa, "Or especially when the baseball team lifted me up in the air."

Upon being asked of his homecoming win, Sosa says, "It was such a great day especially because I got to see my brother-in-law. I hadn't seen him for a while since he was away in the

military." He then went on to mention the baseball team very much supported him in it by shouting him out on social media platforms. "I couldn't have done it without them," says Sosa.

One interesting thing about Sosa is that he practices mixed martial arts outside of school. He finds it as a way to express himself and have fun. "I'm a red belt right now, but I hope to advance to orange pretty soon!" says Sosa.

He also mentions that in no way has he used his abilities to harm others and instead

enjoys the art of the sport. Sosa is truly a kind-hearted king!

He is also a hard-working entrepreneur and is motivated to soon start his own phone repair business, "I like to fix phones, that's my thing," says Sosa, "if your phone isn't working, I can fix it."

Apart from having interesting talents, Sosa also has an interesting taste in music and takes a great liking to Mexican music, with his favorite artist being *Arsenal Efectivo*.

"I really like him because his music is very good and because he's rich," said Sosa. He is inspired to be just as great as his music idol one day.

Being a student of many good qualities, this only sparked up the question, what is Sosa's relationship status? Well, this ladies man is still on the market. "I'm pretty much single," says Sosa.

But that's not stopping this kid from making any new friends, "I'm always down to make new friends," says Sosa. He is always around the school and willing to converse with anybody who says hello to him. So be sure to say hi if you see him the halls!

Sosa has always been one to have integrity. A few wise words from Sosa are, "Focus on school, and most important stay out of trouble and don't say anything that would get you into trouble otherwise you can be expelled!"

Take one for the *dramatic* Olivares!

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He's punny, dramatic, attentive, sassy, and supercalifragilisticexpialidocious he's Mr. Juan Olivares! Joining El Rancho High School as a teacher for his very first year, drama teacher, Mr. Olivares, has brought ultimate sass to the Ranch.

Being the center of attention at El Rancho is nothing new to Mr. Olivares. Having graduated from El Rancho in 2011, Olivares is excited to have returned to the Ranch.

"I love the amount of pride this school has! Every school I've taught at had has a huge deficit in pride for their school," says Olivares. "I always told colleagues about how much pride El Rancho students have, and they would be so jealous because they wanted that same pride for their students."

"I'm an alumnus of El Rancho and I've always wanted to come back and teach at my alma mater," continues Olivares, "It's a great community, and I want to give back to the community that raised me."

His journey to back El Rancho was a long one, "This is my third year full-time teaching, I started my teaching journey when I was admitted into UCLA's Teacher Education Program to get my Masters in Education and a Social Science Credential," says Olivares. "My first year of

teaching I taught government and economics at a charter school in South Central, I also decided to also get my English credential because I knew I would need it if I ever wanted to teach drama."

"My second year teaching, I taught world history at Firebaugh High School in Lynwood," continues Olivares. "Now, I'm back here at The Ranch!"

After the retirement of the legendary long-time drama teacher Mr. Wlasick, Olivares is aware of the demand his new position requires, "I definitely have huge shoes to fill, but I feel that I will be able to fill them without any problems," says

Olivares. "With my background in theater, I feel that I can bring new techniques and new ideas into this drama department."

"My goal for the drama department is to push the envelope and do shows that we previously thought we could not do on stage," continues Olivares. "I want to keep the spirit Wlasick put into this department alive and well and I hope I make him proud!"

One thing you might not know about Mr. Olivares is that he is fluent in many languages, "I have an affinity for languages! I am multilingual in English, Spanish, German, and a little French," says Olivares. "I also

learned how to read and write ancient Egyptian in college."

"That skill sort of disappeared due to lack of practice, but my love for language is still there!," continues Olivares, "I guess this goes hand in hand with my love of traveling!"

When Mr. Olivares is not busy producing a play at the Ranch or learning a new language you can find him at the happiest place on earth! "I love to go to Disneyland! I'm a former Jungle Cruise Skipper, so Disney is engraved in me like none other," says Olivares. "I also like to take time to play video games and listen to Broadway soundtracks!"



This former Jungle Cruise skipper loves all things Disney.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

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FEATURES

Be proud and powerful in Pride Alliance



BY KARIZMA REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Are you a part of the LG-BTQ+ community and want to be a part of a safe place? Or are you just a person who wants to be an ally and learn more about this community? If so, there is a club just for you!

The Pride Alliance club creates a welcoming environment for those who are facing harassment, homophobia, or any sort of abuse. It is a safe place for everyone on campus.

Club president, Elliott Santiago, has been a part of the Pride Alliance club for three years now. The goal for the club is to, "make the campus more safe for LGBT students."

"I want to create a safe place on campus," says Santiago, "where everyone can feel included and not judged."

Santiago says the role of being the president of the club is, "being the voice of everyone" "Being able to voice everyone's ideas for this club," says Santiago.

As for future events occurring with the Pride Alliance club, Santiago says, "we are trying to plan another dance next semester." So be on the lookout for any news about the Pride Alliance club dance!

Vice president, Kassandra Pimentel, has been a member of the Pride Alliance club since her freshman year. In her own words, she describes the club as a place, "where people can safely converse about problems on and off campus." Pimentel says, "we are able to help each other out by trying to solve problems we are facing."

In this club, people are able to confide in the issues they are facing while simultaneously having a support group they can rely on. "You are also able to make friends here," says Pimentel.

"We also have free days," says Pimentel, "where we play games and get to know each other better."

The advisors of the Pride Alliance club are Ms. Berryhill and Mr. Jenkins. "[Being one of the advisors] is like one of the greatest honors of my life," Mr. Jenkins says, "I get to see so much adversity these students have faced."

"It has given me a whole different outlook on my own experience and what it means to be a teacher," says Jenkins. Berryhill says, "[being an advisor] helps me connect to my students, which means all my students and not just the cookie cutter students."

Don't forget the Pride Alliance Club meets every Thursday in Mr. Jenkins's classroom, I-4 during lunch. The doors are open to all!

Where are they now? Andrew Sepulveda

BY ALONZO MURRIETA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Class of 2018 Valedictorian Andrew Sepulveda has taken on a new role as an MIT Beaver! The former Academic Decathlon team captain, Marching Band Assistant Drum Major, and Be a Leader Club President is thriving in the heart of Boston.

All hard work from his recent four years has finally paid off, "From the moment I stepped foot in Boston this past August, I instantly felt a lot happier," says Sepulveda. "Everyone I've met here has been so friendly and caring I never even have any negative thoughts."

College provides Sepulveda with much more than just happiness. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is the world's #1 school for STEM. "No matter which major I end up choosing, I will be getting the best possible instruction and resources," says Sepulveda. He is currently deciding between majoring in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

The university is also known for its diverse student population. "MIT is an extremely diverse place not just in ethnicity but also in religion, economic background, and experience" says Sepulveda. "It's really created a place where you never have to fear about making friends."

"MIT's rigorous classes have also created an environment where you cannot succeed alone," continues Sepulveda. "To do well here, you must work with others when it comes to homework and studying, and everyone here is so willing to help each other out."

At school, Andrew is al-



Andrew Sepulveda (pictured left) behind his dorm in MIT along with his new roommates.

ways out and around on campus. He is a member of the Minority Business Association, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, MIT Wind Ensemble, and the Sigma Nu Fraternity.

"Time has been my biggest challenge," says Sepulveda. "Many times my classes will interlap with a club meeting or I'll have meetings that run very late and I won't have time to do homework."

Sepulveda's life, for the most part has changed completely. Making new friends, moving away from home, and being more independent has taught the recent graduate much about life.

"High school was very structured when it came to my

time" says Sepulveda. "Now have to create a schedule for myself so that I can go to classes, clubs, and have a social life."

The recent graduate's inspiration stems from his childhood, "My mom came from nothing, but she built herself up and became the provider for my family," says Sepulveda. "She sacrificed and persevered so much so that I wouldn't have to struggle like she did, her determination is what inspires me to do well."

Luckily, the MIT scholar has left a few tips for Dons about the college process. "When applying to college, you need to make those admissions officers remember you," says Sepulveda. "You should make the admis-

sions officers feel some sort of emotion... just write something that will keep you in the admissions officer's mind."

"When writing about extracurricular activities make sure you explain: what you did, how long you did it, and what goals you accomplished," continues Sepulveda. "They want to know what you accomplished and learned from it."

When asked if he had any final words, Sepulveda cited his fraternity's pledge: "Sigma Nu. To believe in the life of love, to walk in the way of honor, to serve in the light of truth, this is the light, the way, and the life of sigma nu. This is the creed of our fraternity."

What are your plans for winter break?



"I'm going to sleep the sleep I lost during the semester, relax, binge watch The Office, and maybe travel to Sacramento."

-Angelica Martinez, Senior



"My plans for winter break are to hang out with friends and family, sleep in, and have a party for my uncle who is coming back from the army."

-Damian Tahay, Freshman



"I'm going to Knotts with my friends, watch Netflix, and go to my family's house."

-Taylena Ruiz, Sophomore



"I'm going to be catching up on sleep, ice skating, going out, shopping, and having fun."

-Jaime De Haro, Junior



WORD ON THE STREET

What is the worst Christmas gift you've received?



Josh Cabral, 12: "I once got a toothbrush."



Priscilla Figueroa, 10: "When I was younger, I got a One Direction makeup kit for Christmas."



Laura Valle, 12: "I awkwardly got a pair of bedsheets from my aunt and they were gray... I think she pulled them out of her closet."

HAPPY H



CROSSWORD

Once finished, submit your answers online at www.elrodeo.com to win a prize!



Christmas Movie Marathon

Enjoy the holidays while binge-watching the following movies!



- 1-I'll Be Home for Christmas
- 2-Elf
- 3-Home Alone
- 4-How The Grinch Stole Christmas
- 5-Jingle All The Way
- 6-Santa Clause
- 7-Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
- 8-A Christmas Story
- 9-Die Hard
- 10-The Nightmare Before Christmas



Down:

1. What Santa eats
2. Santa comes down from here
6. One of Santa's reindeers
7. What Santa brings
9. Christmas drink

Across:

3. He do
4. He m
5. What
8. What
10. Bells

Winter Break Calendar

De-stress on your winter break with the following activities!



- 12/14- Study for finals it's not winter break yet
- 12/15- Thrift shopping for gifts and finish getting in those college apps
- 12/16- Make and decorate a gingerbread house with your friends or fam
- 12/17- Binge watch any shows you may have missed bc of finals
- 12/18- Treat your pet to the best day of 2018! Show them your love!
- 12/19- Go to the LA Zoo lights or drive around town looking at the best-decorated house
- 12/20- Visit the Queen Mary's Winter Wonderland
- 12/21- Watch the best holiday episodes from your favorite TV shows
- 12/22- Listen to holiday music while wrapping presents or shopping for the perfect gift
- 12/23- Have a 24-hr movie marathon with all your holiday favorites
- 12/24- Get together with friends/family and play minute-to-win-it games while you wait for midnight
- 12/25- Celebrate Christmas w/ the fam
- 12/26- Review all your favorite gifts and watch all snaps and tweets of the holiday season
- 12/27- Work on any private college apps you may have. Most deadlines are January 1st!
- 12/28- Travel up to the mountains to play in the snow or make a snowman
- 12/29- Stay home and keep yourself warm with a cuddle buddy, your favorite pet, or a gazillion blankets
- 12/30- Take a trip to your favorite amusement park
- 12/31- Look through your memories of this year and be happy with the great times and be happy you got through the bad times <3
- 01/01- It's 2019! Make a new year resolution and create a plan to stick to it!
- 01/02- Go "New Year, New Me" clothes shopping
- 01/03- Go ice skating
- 01/04- Spend time with your family before your stress-free break is over
- 01/05- Double check that any winter break hw is done and begin preparing for the week to come
- 01/06- Cry bc school starts tmr

C H



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Mercury ended its retrograde period, so you're now inspired to take on a new project. You've never got around to completing it, so proceed with caution and keep a close eye on the details. Now is the perfect time to spread your wings, so don't hesitate to show your wings!

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Your situation will all take a turn for the better. You need a little more trust than usual in your friends or in a relationship, love is in the air, and you're ing out between you and a partner. This year means new opportunities!

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): You're feeling your way, Aquarius! You're feeling strongly, but since its end ear, you're a little more normal. If you have any impulsive ideas, your productivity has never been better. The more drained you are, the more you're being urged to make a good time to make things official with your partner/partner.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20): You're feeling down this past month, but your determination and confidence will win you over. Relationships (both familial and romantic) are strong with you, Pisces! Have you been watching the hottest new video game? It just might help you in the new year. There is plenty of cloudiness in the air, so wait for the new year to come!

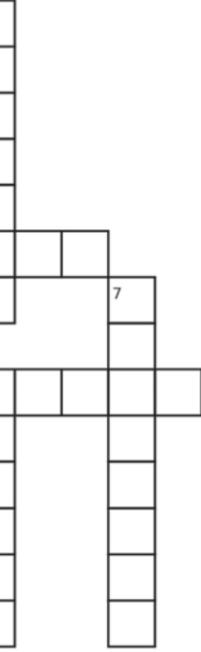


HOLIDAYS



Q: uhm yeah how do i get my crush to like me back, btw i am myself so don't gimme that cliché bologna
 A: JUST TALK TO THEM. I don't even have a girlfriend, I don't really know, I would say be yourself but you told me not to do that. Apparently being funny works.

Q: How do I approach a girl I like without feeling nervous?
 A: I don't know. I am not the dating advice column. I get nervous doing nothing.



Auntie Yaz's recipes



Blueberry Scones

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup brown or white sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 tablespoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup butter, chilled
- 1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 egg

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
 With a pastry cutter or fork, cut butter into mixture of flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl. Fold in blueberries and toss with fingers. Note: If desired, replace berries with an equal amount of cranberries or chocolate chips.
 In another bowl, beat together whipping cream and egg. Add dry mixture to egg mixture with a rubber spatula and incorporate until dough starts to form. Knead gently until fully formed; be careful to not overwork the dough.
 With a knife or pastry scraper, divide dough in half. On a lightly floured surface, gently roll out dough into two rounds 1 inch thick, and cut each round into 6 wedges. For a crispy finish, brush additional heavy cream on tops of wedges and sprinkle sugar on top.
 Bake on ungreased baking sheet for 17-20 minutes; for easy clean up, line sheet with parchment paper. Serve warm with jam, butter, whipped cream, or plain!

Doesn't like Christmas
 makes toys for Santa
 holiday is Dec 25
 month is Christmas

CHRISTMAS HOROSCOPES



Pisces (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): This month is going to be productive one, Sagittarius retrograde a couple of weeks ago and you may feel like you've made progress on projects or finish some that you may have started, but emotions are extra powerful this month, so go with a level head at all times. Are you single, Sagittarius? Take it from us, don't! Save your money because the new year brings you good things, so go out there and love with your entire heart!

Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19): This month, you're finally going to get recognized for all your hard work, Aries! You might have felt unappreciated in the workplace or maybe even a bit neglected over the course of this year, but that is going to change. Your hard work will finally pay off with a confidence boost and some formal recognition! However, don't take this as a sign to slack off. The stars are encouraging you to work just as hard or maybe even a bit harder. They want to see some dedication! Love is in the air, Aries! Whether it's romantic, platonic, or self love, this month is a perfect time for it. Be honest and true about things and you will be rewarded!

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22): This month, you're feeling like you can shop till you drop, Leo! Whether you're shopping for Secret Santa or you're just treating yourself to something small, it doesn't matter. You're feeling very generous and you're ready to spread some holiday cheer! Has your love life been a bit shaky, Leo? Well, that is about to change. The new year will bring you plenty of confidence and charm! It will be the perfect time to woo your crush. In the meantime, be patient and wait out the month!

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Capricorn, this month is looking like it will be in your favor this month and your productivity, health, and home life are all going for the better if you allow it. Go into this month with a level head, the universe has your back! Whether you're single or in a relationship, the stars are in the air! Be warned though, if things are not working out, don't be afraid of letting go. The new year brings you good things for love!

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20): Taurus, this month is going to be extremely productive. The effects of Mercury in retrograde hindered your productivity, but since its end earlier this month, you've caught the work bug! Projects, assignments, and any sort of responsibility are going to be a breeze for you, Taurus. Don't overwork yourself, though! Your love life is also looking extremely promising. Whether you're single or in a relationship, things are heating up! Be confident and don't look back. The universe will look out for you if things start to go South.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Virgo, this month is all about you! Focus on self-love this month. If self-love is a nice bubble bath or a trip to the mall, then you should do that! The main point of this month is that you should be making yourself happy, Virgo! You are your main priority, so worry about yourself first, then you can start thinking about other people. Just like Leos, your love life is not at its best, Virgo. Don't worry though, the new year brings a new boo to your life! Keep an eye out for this potential lover!

Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20): This month, nothing but good things are coming your way, Pisces. You may have felt the effects of Mercury's retrograde very early this month, your game has come back to you, and important projects to complete, do them now! Your productivity is going to be on point, but don't overwork yourself. Keep this in mind: the more emotional you will feel. This month, the stars are in your favor, and connection with your significant other. Now is the perfect time to keep making good memories with your potential partner.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): This month, you're feeling very inspired, Gemini. Creativity and passion are practically oozing out of you! Start a new project, take up a hobby, the choice is yours. Gemini, you get that bread this month! Be confident in your work and you will see that you will be rewarded for it. Unfortunately, your love life will be a bit tricky this time around. While you have an abundance of confidence in other aspects of your life, your love life is lacking it this month! Feel free to pursue new relationships this month, though. The stars only ask you to proceed with caution because they don't want you to end up hurt!

Libra (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): This month, balance is an important part of your life, Libra. You will notice that your work life and social life are almost perfectly balanced, but it's up to you to maintain that balance! Stay on top of your work, keep in touch with your friends, and treat yourself with kindness. You will achieve true balance if you can manage all of those things this month! Do you have a crush on anyone, Libra? Now is the perfect time to shoot your shot! The stars are in your favor this month, so be cool and confident!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Cancer, this month is the time to do some self-reflecting. How are you really doing? Be honest with yourself and see how you can improve. This month, you are going to feel a bit more ambitious than usual! Set some goals for yourself that you want to accomplish by the end of the month, Cancer. The possibilities are endless! Your love life is exceptionally strong this month. Whether you're strengthening a relationship you already have or you're trying to start a new one, now is the perfect time to do it. Don't hesitate to take risks!

Scorpio (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Scorpio, this month is all about love! Be prepared to see your relationships flourish. This doesn't just apply to your romantic relationships, though! Your relationships with friends and family are also part of this month of love. This month, open your heart a little more than usual and let yourself feel the warmth that your loved ones are giving you. Don't forget to put your part in as well, Scorpio. If you reciprocate the energy you are given, the universe will reward you with good things, so go out there and love with your entire heart!



ENTERTAINMENT

A week full of Marvel madness



Tom Holland, Jacob Batalon, and Jake Gyllenhaal speaking at Comic-Con Brazil. (listed from left to right)

BY ARACELI CORREA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past week, Marvel Entertainment released several teasers for their upcoming films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. On Monday, during the halftime show of the football game on ESPN, the newest Captain Marvel trailer premiered.

This newly-released trailer has similar elements to the first

trailer, which appeared back in September. It elaborates more on the conflict between the Kree, who are “a group of noble warrior heroes,” as described by Captain Marvel, and the Skrulls, who are the bad guys. The trailer also reflects on who Carol Danvers is and questions what she truly is.

Marvel also decided to drop the newest Avengers film trailer. The trailer was expected to drop on Wednesday, December 5th.

However, due to the funeral of former president George H.W. Bush, Marvel decided to delay the trailer. This left many fans upset because they were extremely excited to see the new trailer.

The trailer finally dropped on Friday morning, and the Marvel fandom was shaking. As soon as we thought that our *Infinity War* trauma had been cured, Marvel brought it back. Now, if you haven't seen *Infinity War*,

beware of the spoilers ahead.

The trailer starts off in the middle of space, where Tony Stark is on the verge of death. He is recording himself using his destroyed Iron Man helmet, explaining that there was no food and oxygen was running out.

As if that wasn't enough emotional stress, the trailer then presents Thanos proudly walking along in his newly created world. It then cuts to the Avengers headquarters where we see Captain America crying because of the loss they all faced.

We then see the remaining Avengers each with the look of distress written all over their faces. The final scene of the trailer ends with footage of Scott Lang at the front gate yelling at them to let him in, and Black Widow wonders if he is truly there or if it was simply an old recording.

This trailer blew up and became the number one trend on both YouTube and Twitter. Even NASA responded to the trailer after many fans asked NASA how to rescue Tony Stark. Many new theories arose when the trailer

was released. Fans studied small easter eggs that the trailer had and contemplated beserk theories about Loki still being alive.

On Saturday, December 8th the *Spider-man: Far From Home* teaser was expected to drop. Unfortunately, it was postponed since they just recently released the *Avengers: Endgame* trailer. Nonetheless, Comic-Con Brazil gave us more insight into the new Spiderman film, where Tom Holland, Jacob Batalon, and Jake Gyllenhaal were interviewed by fans. They explained a little more of the plot and we find out that Mysterio will not be the villain at all and will team up with Spider-man.

At the convention, there was a showing of the unreleased trailer. What we now know is that there is a relationship between Happy and Aunt May and that Nick Fury is recruiting Mysterio and Spider-man to fight elemental villains. The *Far From Home* trailer is expected to be released sometime during this week.

Overall, this week was full of many surprises from Marvel about their upcoming films.

Album Review: A Brief Inquiry into Online Relationships

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

English pop rock band *The 1975* have done it again! The four-some dropped their third studio album, *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships*, at the end of last month. With their traditional synth-pop sound and a newer, more refreshing smooth jazz element, it's no wonder that *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships* (which will now be abbreviated to *ABIOR*) was a success for the ever-popular band. In fact, *ABIOR* debuted at number two on the U.S. All Genres chart on iTunes.

The 1975 first started promoting *ABIOR* in late May when they released the first single “Give Yourself a Try,” and continued to release four other singles before the actual release of the album. Initially, *ABIOR* was set to be released in October, but the band decided that the release date should be pushed back in order to finalize certain things on the album.

This album sounds much more different than their first, self-titled album, *The 1975* or their sophomore album, *i like it when you sleep, for you are so beautiful yet so unaware of it* and a lot of it has to do with the big risk frontman Matty Healy took with experimenting with different sounds.

Healy's decision to explore new genres was not the only thing that made their newest album sound different. Late last year, Matty spent seven weeks in a rehab facility in Barbados in order to beat his addiction to heroin. Not long after his stint in rehab, he and his bandmates began working on *ABIOR* with what one might call a “new perspective.” Unlike their previous releases which mainly focused on drugs, party-

ing, and unrequited love, *ABIOR* focuses on all of that, but through the eyes of someone living their life through the internet.

ABIOR starts off with “The 1975,” a track that has appeared in every single one of their albums. The lyrics have remained the same throughout the years, but the song's sounds are manipulated with each release to fit the theme of the album. Compared to the previous two versions of the song, the track is heavy on auto-tune and sounds a bit more dramatic than usual. A perfect way to open up an album that discusses heavy topics such as politics, drug addiction, and our obsession with our online presence.

The next song on *ABIOR* is “Give Yourself a Try.” This track has an alternative rock feel to it. It has a heavy emphasis on the electric guitar and the drums, making it a perfect dance track! Throughout the song, Healy offers advice that he has accumulated over his twenty-nine years of life. Everything from admitting that most of your friends will come and go to encouraging the youth to go outside more.

Up next is “TOOTIMETOOTIME.” If you thought the previous track was danceable, this one is a hundred times more. “TOOTIMETOOTIME,” is an extremely upbeat song about being unfaithful in the age of social media. The subject of the song might be a bit on the sad side, but this song is so fun, you can't help but sing along!

Another notable track on *ABIOR* is “Love It If We Made It.” In my opinion, this song is one of the best songs on the album. This track is one giant social criticism. From the murders of innocent black men to the Syrian refugee crisis to Donald Trump, this

song covers it all. Matty's frustration with society and where it is headed is obvious in this track. The song is sung by Healy in such a manner that it makes you want to yell it at the top of your lungs.

The next song on *ABIOR* is “Be My Mistake,” a song about the guilt one feels when using another simply for the sake of having a good time. While the other songs are very upbeat and strong in their composition, “Be My Mistake,” is slower and much sadder. The use of the acoustic guitar as the main accompaniment to Matty's vocals makes it a softer song. Through this track, we see how vulnerable Healy is and how he regrets using this person because he understands how damaging it can be to them.

Up next on *ABIOR* is “Sincerity is Scary.” This song is about the fear of being ourselves in such a superficial society. Healy believes that we are growing more and more insecure about our true selves and in a sense, “Sincerity is Scary,” is a call-out to those who are living a lie that they've created in order to appear more appealing to the masses on social media. This song is very feel-good which makes it almost ironic in a sense.

Another notable track on *ABIOR* is “The Man Who Married a Robot / Love Theme.” This song is actually not a song, it is more of a story told by a robotic voice that describes the relationship between a man and the internet. There may not be any lyrics or any danceable music in this track, but it is a great social commentary on Healy's part. Through this song, Matty was able to personify the internet and give deeper insight into our obsession with it.

Next on the album is “It's Not Living (If It's Not With You),” a song about Matty Healy's addic-



The 1975 poses to promote *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships*.

tion to heroin. In typical *The 1975* fashion, the song's dark lyrics are masked in an incredibly upbeat song. If you didn't look up the lyrics to this song, you would never know it's a song about struggling with addiction. This track oozes elements of classic rock with a synth-pop twist that makes it almost impossible not to dance to!

Up next on *ABIOR* is “I Couldn't Be More in Love.” According to Healy, this song is about “what happens when no one cares anymore.” This track is the powerful ballad of the album. With an incredible guitar solo and Matty's pain-filled vocals, this song is sure to bring tears to the eyes. His vulnerability and insecurity make him all the more relatable.

The final song on *ABIOR* is “I Always Wanna Die (Sometimes).” This track is about the fascination society has with death. As Matty said in an interview with *Genius.com*, talking about dying has almost become a meme of sorts and that was what

he tried to show with this song. This track serves as the finale to the album and its composition definitely shows that. “I Always Wanna Die (Sometimes),” is dramatic in all aspects. From Healy's vocals to the ascending guitars to the orchestral ending, this song was the bang that *The 1975* needed to end their newest album.

With *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships*, *The 1975* have shown that they are a force to be reckoned with. The diverse range of genres in the album, the social commentary in the lyrics, and the deep analysis of the digital age in each song all made this album a masterpiece. While I loved this album with everything I have, I would have to say it is their second best. Nothing can top their first album, *The 1975*. If you're looking for an album that not only has plenty of bangers but also has a rich sound, then *A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships* is the album for you. It is now available on all streaming platforms!

SPORTS

Boys' soccer sets eyes on CIF Championship

By GRECIA HARO-FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boys' varsity soccer team have begun their pre-season strong, setting high standards for the upcoming season. With victories over Rancho Alamitos High School (6-1) and Schurr High School (2-1), the team has demonstrated they have what it takes to bring back the CIF Championship title to the home of the Dons.

The boys have shown that they are the complete package. "We have it all: the speed, the control, the skills and even the vision of the game," says junior Eric Diaz.

"For those who have low expectations for us, they aren't ready for what we're [going to] bring to them," continues Diaz. "Not only that but, the energy of the ER team is ready to bring down any team who comes our way."



Captain Anthony Vasquez prepares to kick the ball.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

The team has high expectations for themselves and is set on reaching their full potential. "We won't settle to be just good, but will strive to be the best that we can be,"

says junior Carlos Jurado. Though their hard work definitely does pay off on the field, the strong bond the players have with one another is what truly makes them suc-

cessful and what keeps them motivated. "Everyone pushes each other to play their hardest and never give up until the final whistle," says senior captain, Anthony Vasquez. "We

are brothers, we are a family." "Practicing together, going through the tough workouts of summer, the 5:45 morning practices and just having fun made us come together and create a unique bond with one another," continues Vasquez.

"We have come a long way, became so much closer and overall gained such a strong bond that we consider each other brothers on and off the field. No matter the circumstances, we always have each other's backs," adds senior, Jose Haro.

For the seniors, this will be the last season they play as an El Rancho don. They plan to leave their legacies behind by "making a name for themselves, adding another league title to the list, and making a deep run in CIF."

This team of brothers will play their first league game of the season on January 3rd of 2019. Let's get that title Dons!

Girls' water polo strives as they prepare for league play

By RENE GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Though the weather is getting colder, this water sport is about to get heated! The winter sports season is soon arriving and the girls' water polo team is ready to turn up the heat!

The girls are currently in the preseason. Despite their record of 0-4, they are confident about their upcoming season. Their goals consists of "building our communication and skills to bring home wins," says team captain Yulissa Chavez, "We want to ball out!"

With intentions to build their teamwork, the athletes push past their obstacles. "We have never really played together before," says junior Sakeenah Islam. "[I want to] win with my teammates as much as possible and to keep working hard every day."

"We moved up new girls to varsity & they are enthusiastic and quick learners," says

Chavez. "However, they don't have as much experience with water polo as our returners, and experience isn't something that can just be handed to one."

They aim to strengthen themselves through reflection, analysis, and correcting mistakes. "Our weakness can also be considered our strength," says Chavez. "[New members] are gaining experience with each game, playing at their highest potential, and are really helping the team."

"Although reflecting on mistakes we made after a loss can be frustrating, we discuss it as a team, learn from it and focus on improving those mistakes during the following practices and games to not repeat them & accumulate all the skills we can before the season," continues Chavez.

As league soon approaches, the team continues to grow and prepare for their upcoming games. "We run more drills during practice and have small ses-



Girls' water polo practicing their passes during a scrimmage.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

sions before games to discuss plays and how to handle certain situations during the game," says Sophomore Dana Lopez, "I'm looking forward to bonding more with my team, working really well together in the water, and playing some really great games!"

"Our team has played

a few games, but we've improved a lot," continues Lopez, "now we play better as a team and have a better outcome at our games."

Teamwork is the team's main focus. "We each recognize the importance of teamwork and work together to leave the pool

with the satisfaction that we played the best game we could," says Chavez. "I'm really proud of how our team is improving with each game," Chavez adds.

Catch the water polo team at their next game scheduled for Friday, December 14th!

Library Corner

Match the Christmas quote to the book title and author. The first 3 students who bring the correct written answers to the ER Library will receive an IN-N-Out coupon.

1. "...it's always winter in Narnia—always winter, but it never gets to Christmas."
2. "We saw Uncle Jack every Christmas, and every Christmas he yelled across the street for Miss Maudie to come marry him."
3. "Bah," said Scrooge. "Humbug."
4. "What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas—perhaps— means a little bit more!"
5. "Though I've grown old the bell still rings for me, as it does for everyone who truly believes."

- a. *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
- b. *The Lion, The Witch, And The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
- c. *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- d. *The Polar Express* by Chris van Allsburg
- e. *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss



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