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# Coyote Chronicle

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# Hesperia's Tapestry Project

25 Years of  
Documented  
Destruction



Photo taken by James Dailey

By **Angel Gutierrez**  
Staff Reporter

The Hesperia Tapestry project seeks to create a digital repository documenting the large 25 year long home development project that the city of Hesperia began in July of last year. James Dailey, a local Hesperia photo-journalist aims to begin this documentation by focusing on the environmental and economical concerns with the partnership of Unfiltered IE. Although the city of Hesperia only began the project last July, the home developmental plan had emerged since 1990. The Las Flores Limited Partnership has approached Hesperia with a proposal for 9,865 acres of land which would result in a new Hesperia community entirely. In February of 1990 the city approved the project but the area had remained untouched until a change in ownership after the 2008 financial crisis. With its revival, The Hesperia venture I, LLC, proposed more than what

the Las Flores had including over 19k residential units, 700,000 square feet of commercial and retail space, and more to aid in economic and employment growth. With the new "Tapestry" plan however the city had conducted an environmental impact report to address any environmental consequences. In 2015 the first environmental concerns arose when the city of Hesperia concluded that this large project would have a substantial effect on the environment resulting in a downsizing to conform to the cities environmental regulations. In January 2016 the project had become approved but the site would not see construction begin until July 2022. The tapestry project aims to document the current construction through various online journals to keep the public updated and call out the city of Hesperia on its actions. The first journal was written by James Dailey on July 14, 2022. I was able to assist James on this first journey to document the land and see the construction

myself. As James told me about the Tapestry project that had began we noticed a sign before the construction which read "Silverwood Phase I". The people of Hesperia had tried hard to have the tapestry project canceled and were successful up until the pandemic. This name change undoubtedly was a way to redirect the public's eyes. As we walked along the construction fence and leveled land beside us it was clear just how much destruction was necessary for just the beginning of this project. James had peered into the hidden construction site which was barricaded by large fence and barbed wire and uncovered the horrifying truth of construction debris which contained numerous Joshua Trees. The second journal was written on July 16 of 2022 and details the discovery of injustice destruction of plant life. While exploring the flattened land James found a mound of debris which included remains of Western Joshua Trees, Ironically the protected mascot

of Hesperia. Since 2001 the city of Hesperia has had Josh the Joshua Tree as its mascot, encouraging the community to be more environmentally friendly. Hesperia since then has tried to urge the protection and care for not only Western Joshua Trees but the rest of desert wildlife and plantlife. However lately Hesperia has seemed to trade their concerns for the development of this project. Recently Hesperia themselves have tried to have the Joshua tree removed from its protection by supporting legislation to have it removed with real estate and construction groups. The city of Hesperia should be protecting these Joshua trees, according to the city they should only be removing Joshua trees to replant or stockpile them. Instead what was found was the destruction of them by the city who simply uses them just as their logo. As of July 2023 the Fresno County Superior Court denied the removal of Western Joshua Trees as a protected species. The importance of documentation goes beyond

what normal news stories and activist strikes can do. With the 25 year long construction beginning to unfold and the knowledge of what James Dailey has uncovered within the Tapestry project it is clear just how important keeping a watchful eye is. The documentation of the Tapestry project gives power to the people of Hesperia once again. With a variety of media the project allows public officials to be held accountable for everything from the land transformation, the purposeful and deceitful change of name, and the destruction of the protected Joshua Tree that the city ironically celebrates. The project itself has a duty to inform the collective to call for action within these next 25 years of construction. You can find more at hesperiatapestry.com, where James Dailey and others will periodically update the archive with more journals, photos, videos, and city documents going in depth of this project.



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Department of Communication Studies

Nerd Talk: Building a Niche Community on Campus



Pictured (from top to bottom): Nick Cabrera, Sommer Sechang, Anthony Padilla-Barragan, Olivia Ramsey, Christina Vargas, Mariel Gonzales, David, and Alexis Rios

By Yadira Pinedo  
Editor in Chief

In the heart of California State University, San Bernardino, a vibrant and passionate community of nerdy enthusiasts has found its voice, quite literally, through a podcast that celebrates all things science fiction, fantasy, horror, and more. Nestled among the bustling academic atmosphere, Nerd Talk, a podcast initiated by Nick Cabrera, is creating ripples of excitement on campus and beyond.

Nick, a communications major with a media studies background, is set to graduate this December with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Known to some as “Maverick,” he embarked on this podcasting journey after transferring to CSUSB and discovering an abundance of fellow students who shared his fervor for all things nerdy.

In a recent interview, Nick opened up about the origins and aspirations of Nerd Talk. The podcast, he explained, was initially born on Instagram back in 2018 as a means to share his love for movies, TV shows,

literature, and more. However, it was the enthusiasm of his fellow students at CSUSB and the encouragement of Professor Kevin Lyons from Local Matters that truly ignited their passion and gave them the push they needed to transform Nerd Talk into a reality.

The core premise of the podcast is simple, as the name suggests - it’s all about Nerd Talk. The Nerd Talk team gets together to discuss a wide array of topics, ranging from science fiction, fantasy, and horror, to drama and comedy within various forms of media. They aim to create a welcoming and non-judgmental space where people can freely express their love for these genres while educating and uniting fans of the nerdy community.

Creating each podcast episode involves meticulous planning. The team selects a topic, creates a script with key discussion points, and ensures that the Coyote Radio studio is available for recording. Setting up and dismantling the studio takes about 15 minutes for a 30-minute episode. Post-recording, the editing

process can extend up to a week, ensuring the final product is a seamless and enjoyable listening experience.

Balancing the responsibilities of podcasting and managing social media can be time-consuming, but Nick emphasizes that he’s not alone in this endeavor. Season One of Nerd Talk featured an incredible team, including camera women and hosts Olivia Ramsey, Mariel Gonzales, and Christina Vargas, as well as editing partner Anthony Padilla-Barragan. In Season Two, the team grew to include a graphic designer and co-host, audio managers, and additional crew members, making it easier to manage their responsibilities.

Challenges, however, are an inevitable part of the podcasting journey. One major obstacle Nerd Talk has faced is editing timelines, as they strive for top-quality content. Filming longer episodes can lead to extended editing times to ensure the best viewer experience.

Story continues on  
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# ‘Animation is not nothing!':

## Animation's New Deal of the Past and the Strike on the Horizon

By Alyssa Alminiana  
Staff Writer

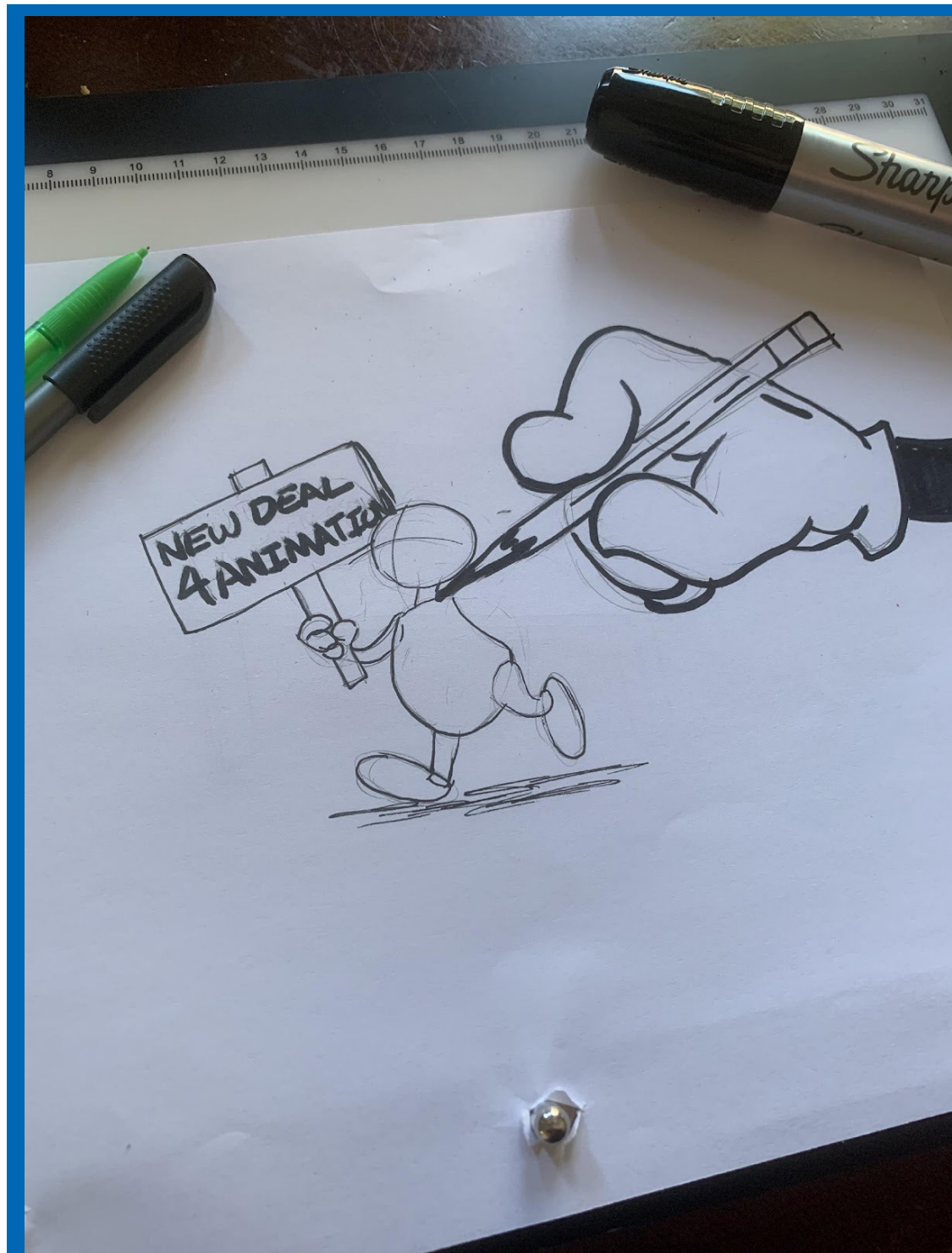
With the WGA strikes recently ended and the SAG-AFTRA strikes ongoing, many people have been exposed to just how bad things have gotten in artistic industries such as acting and writing. One such creative union voiced its support of the strikes while being unable to do so themselves: The Animation Guild.

The Animation Guild (TAG), IATSE Local 839, is a labor union for animators founded in 1952 with a building in Burbank, CA. On May 2nd, 2023, TAG voiced its support for the WGA and their demands, as well as informing their own members on how they could avoid crossing the picket line. Yet, some wondered why a union for an industry facing its own issues, especially regarding pay and compensation among other issues, did not join in with their fellow creatives. The short answer is that they could not strike, at least not at this time. For the long answer, we need to look back one year ago during the New Deal for Animation Strikes.

In July of 2021, the labor contract between Hollywood Studios and TAG had expired, yet work continued for eight months after its expiration as the talks over wages and working conditions continued without much progress. Frustrations had been mounting amongst animators as while the pandemic raged on, leaving live-action shows on indefinite hiatuses, animated shows continued as remote work was an effective option.

However differences in how artists within the industry were paid when compared to their counterparts were becoming more noticeable despite the studios' reliance on them. A particular focus was put on those who wrote for animated shows. While it's not uncommon for WGA contract writers to write for animation, more often than not those who write for animated shows are often union members of TAG.

Typically, it's the choice of the studios as well whether an animated production counts as covered by either TAG or the WGA, complicating things further. One of the biggest differences between writers in these unions is how much



*The contract ratified after the New Deal for Animation movement in 2022 has stopped The Animation Guild (TAG) from striking until 2024. There are a number of concerns from animators within the industry that may come up should TAG decide to strike upon the current contract's expiration.*

they get paid. In July of 2022, Animation Guild Writers shared a graph online using the weekly minimums of both unions, showing that TAG writers make 47 to 60 cents on the dollar compared to WGA writers.

There were other concerns as well regarding the working conditions of studios. In 2018, animators had some of the highest turnover rates within the entertainment industry at 25.6% according to LinkedIn data. This is likely due to the fact that the industry has moved away from a staff-based workforce to a largely freelance workforce. Most animators work on a show or film as a freelancer for a limited time, then move to find

work again once their contract ends.

“When you start working for a company like Disney or Nickelodeon or Cartoon Network, you feel like it's a dream come true,” storyboard artist and writer Nora Meek told More Perfect Union while attending a New Deal for Animation rally in March of 2022, “But as you keep working, you know, and sacrificing your lives for these companies you start realizing that you might be taken advantage of in certain circumstances.” These were weighing heavy on the minds of Guild members as negotiations continued.

Eventually, on May 26th,

2022, TAG came to a tentative agreement with the AMPTP, with notable gains being retroactive wage increases, wage minimums for works made for streaming, gains for animation writers with their own job classification and progression ladder, and the creation of a Labor-Management Cooperative Committee to address issues specific to certain studios to name a few.

The three-year contract was ratified in July of that year with an 87% vote. Notably, Steve Kaplan, a TAG business representative, implied more work was yet to be done in a statement saying, “While we have achieved significant gains, we were not able to reach all the

priorities we set out to achieve and that our members deserve.”

Only about a month later in August, a new issue raised its head as Warner Bros. Discovery removed much of its animated content from HBO Max to cut costs and save on residual pay. Of the 36 titles pulled, 24 of them were animated shows. Due to the lack of physical releases and broadcast airings, some shows pulled are now no longer available to watch legally, only preserved via pirating. Tig n' Seek was one such show, with art director Levon Jihanian, saying online, “It's gone. They're all gone. Like, yeah. I can go on a pirate streaming website to watch episodes, but my kids can't. I made this for them.”

It is pertinent to note, in case readers are not aware, that animation is a labor-intensive medium. To give an idea of how much work goes into the process, a 30-minute episode of an animated show, from script to completion, takes nine months on average to complete, while animated feature films take anywhere from four to seven years. This is assuming that the studio in question has a whole host of animators working on the project, as independent productions could take far longer due to smaller team sizes and budgets.

Julia Pott, creator of Summer Camp Island, puts it succinctly, “We worked for five years to make 100 episodes of animation. We worked late into the night, we let ourselves go, we were a family of hard-working artists who wanted to make something beautiful, and HBO MAX just pulled them all like we were nothing. Animation is not nothing!”

Later in the year, Warner Bros. Discovery would end up laying off 125 workers while restructuring Cartoon Network Studios, and Netflix would end up canceling 11 of its animated shows, some of which had yet to air. Gloria Shen, a writer who has worked on shows such as Amphibia and The Loud House, pointed to one of several reasons why these moves concern animators, especially in regard to their work.

“With the HBO Max things, and Netflix, and the fact they're axing a lot of shoes before they even air or stream, is that whoever worked on that show doesn't get an onscreen credit.

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CoyoteChronicle.net**



# DFYH

## The Band Story from Beginning to Present

By **Kiara Jerez-Navarrete**  
Social Media Manager

DFYH are the band that blew away their audiences as they performed during the recent lunchtime live event hosted by Coyote Radio. DFYH consists of band mates, David as the lead guitarist, Ryan playing bass, and last but not least, Phil playing the drums. What they all have in common is they are all singers as they perform with their instruments making them multi talented individuals who shine

they all really enjoyed each other's taste in music prior to meeting. Coming together as a band, Phil believed it was a good choice to finally make music together and they've been inseparable ever since.

"I think at this point now probably known Ryan for about fourteen, fifteen years now and David I knew around that same time but maybe one or two years is when we started hanging out and easily I've known these guys for over ten years now" Phil reminisces how long it's been since they started their

songs independently as well as codependently and they all get to share their different personalities through the lyrics of their songs. The process of collaborating together in music is first, writing songs independently and then coming together to share the musical findings they have come up with. From there, they have the opportunity to share their own individual music and perform together as one with support of the different genres that all audiences enjoy watching.

"All three of us write songs independently for the most part and then we bring that song to the group and then everyone else kind of jumps on to it and then adds their instrument and their spin on whatever it is. So, I think that is another reason why a lot of the times in our sets it seems like things really kind of go off the rails and start changing very dramatically because there is a very strong chance that you know.. David has a certain vibe that I think he writes, Ryan has a certain vibe and I have a certain vibe so" Phil explains the process of writing music for DFYH.

DFYH performs at various locations throughout the Inland Empire and Los Angeles area but when asked about their favorite memory shared while performing, all collectively agreed it was during an album release show at Phil's house. The entire backyard gathered in excitement to watch DFYH perform and cheered loudly in support for the group.

DFYH can be listened to on many streaming platforms such as Youtube Music, Spotify and Apple Music. Die hard fans would know they also have old gems on their Soundcloud profile and can listen to DFYH and their growth from the past to present making them an impactful and memorable band in the Inland Empire.

DFYH will release a six song album at the beginning of next year and are hoping to release a single by December of 2023. To keep up with updates, DFYH can be followed on Instagram @dfyhca!



Photo Courtesy of Kiara Jerez-Navarrete - Left to right, Ryan, David and Phil. Members of DFYH posing in front of their instruments getting ready to perform at the Coyote Experience 2023.

during every performance they participate in.

Phil and Ryan were performing in a metal band while David was in a punk band and they met each other one day at a different show and proposed the idea to perform together as a group. There was previous deliberation prior to initiating a potential fascinating group, but DFYH admitted they needed to adjust the waves of music and allow a drummer in the mix.

Phil, the current lead drummer, was then inspired to pick up the drums at the end of his time with his previous band. Phil was determined to create some change as a new member of DFYH. With Phil's hard work and determination, it ultimately led the amazing and talented DFYH to perform together and start to amaze their audiences with every performance. Since then, it is no doubt that DFYH starstruck their fans from all over the Inland Empire with their diverse genres of music.

Each member shared that

relationship with each other.

Tracing back to high school, where the mates met, they shared mutuals with each other and there was no doubt they would not cross paths with each other at some point in time. They all shared a fondness for music and even watched the same shows together at different places surrounding the Inland Empire.

"From shows too.. because like there used to be a lot of backyard shows that would like to happen around highschool. I know like they used to go to most of them and I started going to them towards the end and that's where we really started hanging out a lot, during that whole scene of backyard shows and all that" Ryan shares meeting for the first time.

The genre of music their inspiration comes from is a 'mixed bag' as Ryan shares. DFYH have a lot of different influences such as Joyce Manor who brings a lot of the indie and heavier rock music. All three members write their

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# From Darkness to Determination

## Sean Ceballos’ Journey

**By Alyssa Madrid**  
Staff Writer

In the sunny state of California, a compelling story of strength and self-discovery begins to unfold at UC Berkeley. Meet Sean Ceballos, a paraplegic student who has overcome and transcended his physical limitations to embark on an inspiring journey of self-love and empowerment.

Sean’s story demonstrates the impeccable human spirit, which illustrates the transformative power of education, determination, and most importantly, love for oneself.

Sean’s journey began with a life-altering accident that occurred in his late teens. A fatal accident that took place in Grand Terrace, CA while gathering with friends. An altercation with other members who attended the party led to an active shooting and Ceballos became paralyzed from the waist down.

Since then, Sean suffered from severe depression while attempting to navigate his way through life. For years, he attempted to treat his desire for more. He filled his endless hunger with books and obtaining research, yet he still felt the painful longing. The overwhelming feelings of helplessness crept in ever so slightly, as he was unable to join

the workforce without a proper education or to obtain a fully functional paying job that could attend to his disability. When all hope was almost lost, Sean began to dream of a brighter future. He knew he was capable of anything and was unwilling to surrender to his circumstances. He decided to turn his life around, and that’s where the transformative power of education played a pivotal role.

Sean enrolled in a community college located in Yucaipa named Crafton Hills, where he began to explore the world of academia. As he immersed himself in his studies, he found something more profound than academic knowledge. He discovered a new sense of purpose and direction. Education became the beacon of hope in his life. But it was more than just personal achievement; Sean felt a growing desire to help others. This realization led him to consider a path that would allow him to make a difference in the world.

The University of California, Berkeley granted a full-ride scholarship as Sean showed great aspiration in helping his community while joining the student senate at his community college. He began his compelled activism for disabled students while configuring awareness and new necessary equipment for the school’s campus. Sean believes that through his studies he can be the voice for the voiceless

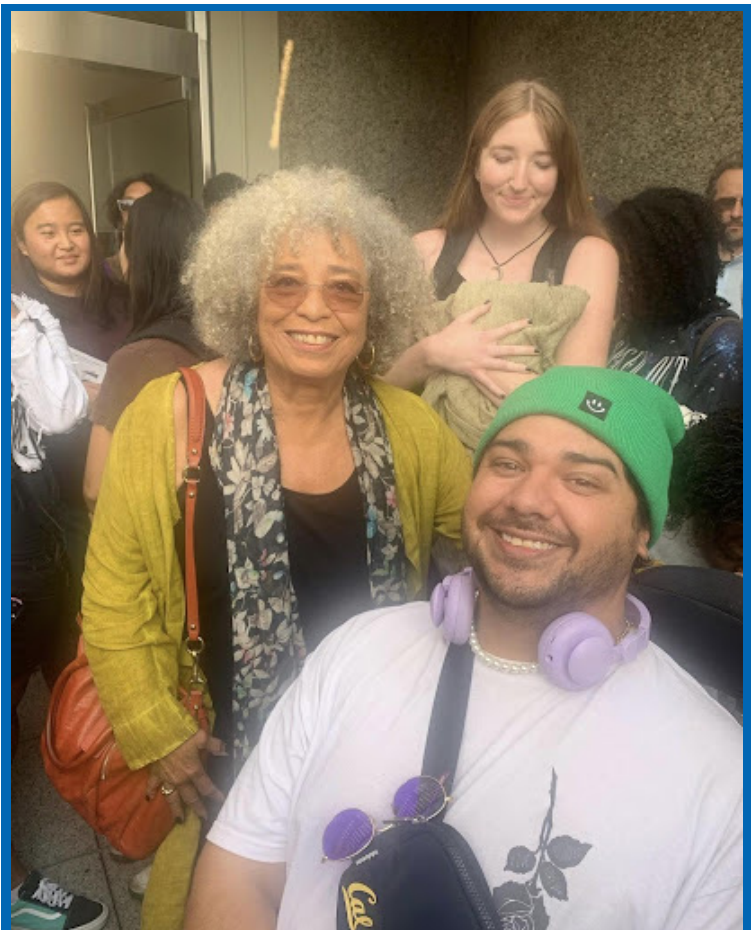
and an advocate for those who need support. His commitment to studying law provides him with a deep desire to harness the power to create a more just and equitable society.

He shared “I want to be an example of adversity, where people like me can feel safe and inspired. My idea is to create a better world for others and to help a life-alternating experience to be an easier transition. An advocate who understands the situation firsthand and is willing to help at life’s obstacles.”

The journey to law school was not without its challenges. Navigating a campus built on steep hills while being in a wheelchair and in a new area away from home has not been easy. But Sean’s determination shows no bounds. He is not just defying gravity; he is defying the stereotypes and misconceptions about people with disabilities.

With his newfound love in a community of like-minded people who are passionate about social justice, he finally feels awakened from his years of slumber. Through his volunteer work and interactions with fellow students, Sean has created a support system that goes beyond the boundaries of friendship. Together, they are reaching for meaning and it does not feel too far out of reach.

Sean Ceballos’ journey from despair to determination is a



(Pictured: Sean Ceballos and Angela Davis)

remarkable story of strength and resilience. All thanks to his love for knowledge and the important campus staff that guided him along the way. His pursuit of a law degree at UC Berkeley is a testament to the human spirit’s ability to rise above adversity. In Sean, we find a living example of how one can not only overcome physical limitations but also find love and purpose in the process.

As Sean Ceballos

passionately pursues his education, his mission is clear—to hone the powerful tool of law and to be a voice for those in need. He hopes to inspire others to overcome their own obstacles. And in his journey, Sean has shown us that love for oneself can create a betterment for society. Hope can be a powerful driving force that can lead to a transformative change.

# The Importance of Veterans Day

**By Terrence Mccullough**  
Staff Writer

For some people, November 11 is just an ordinary day. However, for those with military families this day, Veterans Day, is very important since

it celebrates their loved ones’ sacrifice for America. Not to be mistaken with another American holiday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day is a national holiday celebrated to pay tribute to all servicemen and women who fought in American wars and honor all military veterans.

Veterans Day was first sanctioned as a holiday by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919. President Wison announced that November 11 would become the first commemoration of Armistice Day to celebrate the ending of World War 1.

According to President Wilson, this holiday would include parades, public gatherings, and a brief pause from business and school activities at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month. In 1954 after urging efforts by veterans service organizations, the 83rd United States Congress changed the word armistice to veteran in favor of all military veterans. This change was agreed upon and signed by the 34th United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The change of name has remained today.

This federal holiday is honored as a historical and patriotic day in most American States. It honors those who fought in the service of our country. In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery” This ceremony has been the focal point for Americans and veterans.” There are many traditions that take place at Arlington. One tradition is the placing of a flag on every grave with more than 220,000 flags placed on that day. This is known as the “Flags In” and it has taken place since 1948.

Every year the sitting President or a designee visits Arlington Cemetery on Veterans Day to pay tribute to our fallen Soldiers. They lay a wreath and visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Some of the most prominent figures who have paid their respect to historical celebration include President

Harry S Truman who stated “Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid.

They have earned our undying gratitude.” Also, President Ronald Regan said “Let us reflect on the great achievements of those whose sacrifices preserved our freedom and our way of life. With pride and gratitude, let us recall their heroic accomplishments and thank them for their unselfish devotion to duty. President Barack Obama stated “In the face of impossible odds, people who love this country can change it.

Veterans Day is not only celebrated in the United States. There are a few other countries that partake in commemorating the day by having their own celebrations.

Story continues on page 7



Parade celebrating Veterans Day in New York City  
Photo by NewYork Marine Corps



# Exploring the Influence of Anime

## Conversations on its Impact

By Brianna Contreras  
Staff Writer

“More people are open about liking anime because a few years ago it was deemed weird. Suddenly, it exploded and now everyone talks about anime,” said Aaron Elias, a previous student at CSUSB.

The pandemic helped increase anime’s popularity, and create cultural changes: How has the rise of popularity fostered creativity and sparked new conversations on social media? How have these conversations impacted the stereotypes associated with the anime community?

An anime influencer, a professor, Japanese exchange students, and grassroots community members discuss the impact of anime.

**Professor’s view:**

Within this sunlit room, a shelf filled with books surrounded Susan J. Napier, 67, a professor at Tufts University Ph.D., she expresses in the Zoom conference her studying and being a part of the anime community for over 30 years. She believes the pandemic has improved the popularity of anime and inspired creativity in its audiences.

Napier believes that people grew more of a connection to anime post-pandemic because of the environment that was created. She explains that the pandemic created this space where you must stay home and need to find ways of entertaining yourself. During this time, people look for stories to watch that will intrigue them.

“Anime is created to draw you in and entice you with the characters. It’s perfect to watch during the pandemic because you want something that’s gonna keep you going for the next couple of weeks,” said Napier. “Anime like Fruit Baskets, Cowboy Bebop, and Samurai Champloo have a definite narrative arc.”

Napier describes how the anime community is different compared to other pop culture communities. She stresses the grassroots aspect affiliated with the organization of conventions and not belonging to a corporate machine.

“The anime community is very grassroots, and the strings aren’t being pulled by



*An anime enthusiast strikes an impressive Chainsaw Man cosplay pose at a small anime convention, showcasing the immense popularity of anime culture. Photo by: Brianna Contreras*

some big organization,” said Napier. “There is still a great deal of individual autonomy and effort coming in to create the community.”

**Content Creator’s View:**

A 29-year-old content creator, Janna Macatangay known as Janna Mae on social media, shares in a Zoom call her experience of getting sick with COVID-19, and her remedy was watching cozy comfort anime.

Macatangay released her first comfort anime recommendation video to watch when you’re sick and sad on TikTok which got over 300 thousand views and 1.8 million views on Instagram.

“At the time, I was sharing what was going on in my life because people may resonate with it. So, that was my intention for sharing my first comfort anime video which took off, and I did not expect it. That’s one of the ways that [anime had] an impact on my life,” said Macatangay.

All these comfort anime recommendation videos are under the umbrella term Janna Mae calls the “cozy anime genre”.

“I define cozy anime as making you feel comforted and

warm. Almost like drinking a nice warm cup of tea, if that’s what evokes comfort in you,” said Macatangay.

Macatangay believes the anime community on social media is reciprocal by giving back their recommendations in the comment section of her videos.

“It makes me very happy, and it shows that there’s a community out there that loves the same things. That in itself is very comforting,” said Macatangay.

Macatangay, along with other artists and creators exemplifies the influence of anime on social media, leaving a notable mark on online content.

**Anime Fans’ View:**

Anime Fans share their experiences with the anime community and the impact that rising popularity has had since the pandemic.

Small Pokémon figures were positioned behind Aaron Elias as he shared in a Zoom conference three words that describe the anime community. “Fun, because of the conversation you have with people about your favorite anime or a new episode you’ve seen. Crazy, because I feel like the community is always arguing

online over which anime is the best. Interesting, because they do things that people wouldn’t normally do like cosplay.”

Elias describes the rising popularity of anime as an explosive effect. “The pandemic got people, no one could leave their homes so they would watch anime on their laptops, phones, and [TVs]. I feel like anime reached out to a lot of people in that way, and people are open to liking anime” Elias continues” People are voicing their feelings and opinions for anime through social media.”

With rising popularity in the anime community, it leaves room for possible commercialization.

Gaming headphones around the neck of Tyler Romero, 19, graphic design student and discord moderator in a Zoom conference he shares that anime can be an escape from reality, but not from commercialization.

“I relate to [anime because] it’s not exactly reality, it’s something else, a getaway for me”, said Romero. “Even though it’s not reality, the characters have something that I am familiar with, in that I can see a part of myself in them. Anime is bouncing off that. You can’t escape [commercialization] it’s everywhere. Especially in anime. I’ve learned in one of my classes that once something gets popular or has a community, it breeds more merchandise, [ more profit] that you can’t escape it. Some creators are bouncing off of this, making hats, body pillows, and other things.”

Other fans suggest that not everything in the anime community is for profit.

The sounds of pans hitting the kitchen stove echoed through a Zoom conference as Rudy Velasquez, 26, Structural Engineer, cooked dinner. He explains that the community isn’t all for-profit and offers a place for grassroots.

“I would say it’s mixed. I think a huge part of it is for profit, but most animators want people to enjoy their work. As for the conventions, I feel it’s not always [commercialized] because some are free entry with the exception of parking but it’s all for [community] enjoyment,” said Velasquez.

As its popularity continues to surge, questions of commercialization arise, but it’s clear that for many the community lies in a shared passion for anime. Whether

through conventions or lively online discussions, it’s still a place that can offer entertainment and belonging.

**Exchange Student’s View:**

The pandemic’s impact on the anime community has shifted anime’s reputation from weird to popular is happening globally.

A navy New York Yankees cap covered a shy-ish smile from Kyoka Miyake, 22, a Japanese student previously at the CSUSB exchange program, who shared in a Zoom conference that in Japan the stereotypes associated with the anime community have shifted. Miyake believes that the younger generation allows for conversations regarding anime.

She explains that the older generation believes that people who read manga and watch anime become addicted to it. Yet, in Japan, the community still expresses their admiration for anime by gathering.

“Older generations believe that girls that read manga are bad for their image,” said Miyake, “[However,] people who love anime meet as a community for komike [anime convention] people dress in cosplay, can buy manga, and talk about anime.”

Miyake shares her experience with how anime has impacted her life since studying in America. Miyake explains that she has encountered many people in America who like anime.

“I think Americans love anime and manga more than Japanese people,” said Miyake, “It makes me happy to share and talk about anime and manga with other people. I’m able to make friends here because of anime.”

A kind smile invites warmth and enthusiasm as Chihiro Usami, 23, a Japanese student previously in the CSUSB exchange program, explains how the pandemic allowed for a change in Japan toward the social stereotypes given to the anime community. Usami explains that anime is more popular than it has ever been, and it’s had an impact on Japan socially and economically.

“Before COVID-19, people who watched anime were [described] as otaku [nerdy or weird] because anime is for children or teenagers.

**Story continues on page 7**



# TikTok Creator Jesús Morales Uses His Platform to Giveback

By Kyle Bennett  
Staff Writer

TikTok is a social media platform that allows users to create any type of short videos. Jesús Morales has used his TikTok account as a way to give back to the homeless, street vendors, and overall the Hispanic community.

Jesús Morales, Juixxe on Tiktok, went viral during the pandemic for using a watermelon carved out as a face mask which he later used in different videos. Through the followers he had gained he was able to participate in the Venmo challenge where his followers donated 25 cents and whatever money he raised he would use to help the homeless.

Several of his videos have gone viral, but earlier this year, 2023, he began to take a different approach to helping out the Hispanic community. With over 16 million views he was able to support a fruit vendor outside of Disneyland by buying out all the fruit and giving it away, but it did not just stop there. He then took those two fruit vendors inside Disney for what could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them.

Shortly after this viral video, he tried this approach, but it did not work. Instead of giving up he got another idea. He went outside of Home Depot to find workers who had no luck finding

work for the day. These workers had never once been to Disney and their entire day was filled with joy, and at the end of the day he paid the workers for the “job.” The workers each time expressed gratitude for Jesús and could not believe they were able to experience Disneyland. Many of the men expressed how as a child they had never even experienced a theme park. This was undoubtedly healing their inner child and giving them a break from the hard work they must put in every day in order to help support their families.

Each video Jesús has made helping street vendors, workers, or the homeless left them shocked each and every time that someone was willingly helping them out with no strings attached. Jesús has made it clear that this is all possible thanks to his amazing viewers who support his videos and donate. He may have started off by donating in small amounts like when he would buy a treat from vendors he would tip them the leftover money. More and more comments began to flood in which led to major donations. One street vendor he donated money to said they would use the thousand dollars to save towards the car she needed. The viewers in turn set up a go-fund-me to purchase the car and she was left in tears that this was happening to her. Jesús was able to buy out taco vendors on the street and give away the food to people who were passing by.



Jesús enjoying an Elote while wearing his own merch.  
Photo by: Leogonzall via Instagram

His kindness has not gone unnoticed; brands have sponsored his videos in order to continue donating to these vendors and give them unique experiences like attending major boxing events.

Jesús currently has over 5 million followers on TikTok and continues to support small vendors he comes across in different parts of the world. The support of his viewers keeps him able to continue making

videos like this on TikTok. Many viewers leave comments expressing how these types of opportunities are not as available to them and how missing a day of work can place financial stress on them.

They also mentioned how their parents were also in this same position of being hard workers and never having time for themselves to just have fun. They wish they could provide experiences like this for their own parents, but are grateful

that others are able to experience these opportunities.

The power of social media, like TikTok, has allowed content creators to use themselves as a vessel to help others in need and overall bring joy to not only themselves but the viewers. While most people tend to create content that is catered to solely bring funny or just visually appealing entertainment to the audience; Jesús has chosen to use his platform as an outlet to give back to others.

## Veteran’s Day

Cont. from page 5

Their holidays have assigned different names and celebrations. For example, in Canada Veterans Day is called Remembrance Day and begins with a special mass, playing a reading of “Ode of Remembrance”. The reading is followed by two minutes of silence.

In France, it is called Armistice Day going back to the original name for the holiday. In the United Kingdom, it is called Remembrance Day as well. Although the holiday has a different name in the various countries they all share the same origin and objective as the United States and that is honoring those who fought in service for their country. Similarly to the United States, both Canada and France also pay their respect to the tomb of the unknown soldier.

While paying respect to those who have fought in service for our country this holiday is also a day to celebrate with family. During this holiday many military families celebrate by eating together and watching the festivities on the television. For me, since several of my family members served in the military, during Veterans Day we honor them with a small token of our appreciation. There are many restaurants that have free meals or special deals for veterans and often we go out and eat and take advantage of the deals.

This Veterans Day, take the time to celebrate the many sacrifices of our military service men and women. Enjoy the day with a relaxing meal, go to a festival, or see a parade. However you spend it, please don’t forget to thank a Veteran.

## Influence of Anime

Cont. from page 6

Adults shouldn’t watch anime,” said Usami. “After COVID-19, many people started watching anime, especially Demon Slayer.”

This impact sparked so many conversations that it’s spreading outside of social media and into interpersonal relationships, like family. Usami stressed that before the pandemic conversations on anime would never happen. After the pandemic, the shift allowed her to talk about anime with her parents.

“ [When I was] in the U.S. I couldn’t watch certain anime. My mother recorded them for me and she started watching anime. Then, my father started to read the manga of Demon Slayer, and he bought the entire collection of Attack on Titan,” said Usami.

The days of anime being dismissed as “weird” are slowly fading, making strides toward a new era of acceptance and celebration.

The pandemic has impacted the rising popularity of anime, a global phenomenon that is transcending cultural boundaries, and challenging stereotypes. It has become a source of comfort, creativity, and connection for people of all backgrounds.

Moving forward, there’s a collective hope that the reputation will continue to shift because anime can bring people together and celebrate passions and experiences.

“My hope for the future is that it won’t be associated as something weird or pervy, as it often is by those who don’t

watch it,” said Velazquez, “I wish for it to be seen as an artwork that offers something for everyone, captures the imagination, and wonders.



Web3 Motion - stock.adobe.com



# California’s \$20 Wage Gamble

## A New Era of Prosperity or Challenge?

By Estevan Vega  
Staff Writer

In a bold move that has caught national attention, California’s Governor, Gavin Newsom, has announced a groundbreaking wage hike for fast-food workers, setting the stage for a significant economic shift. California, known for its audacious decisions, added another feather to its cap on September 28, 2023, when Governor Gavin Newsom solidified his legacy by signing a groundbreaking policy. This legislation, set to catapult the state’s minimum wage for fast-food employees to \$20 an hour, will become a reality on April 1, 2024.

With this move, California doesn’t just edge ahead, it leaps, becoming the highest-paying state for these workers by a vast margin. Amidst the clamor of busy kitchens and drive-thrus, the joyous cheers of fast-food employees resonate, their voices amplified by labor unions celebrating this monumental shift in the industry. However, while the bill marks a victorious occasion for many, it is bound to send ripples throughout California’s economy.

While the headlines capture the boldness of Newsom’s decision, the intricacies of the new law provide a deeper understanding of its intent and scope. This wage adjustment specifically targets the fast-food industry, which historically has seen some of the lowest wages in the service sector, despite the grueling hours and demanding nature of the work.

The bill not only mandates the \$20 hourly rate but also contains provisions to review and increase the wage

annually based on inflation and living costs, cementing its commitment to a fair wage in an ever-changing economic landscape. This bill will only apply to restaurants that have 60 or more locations in the United States. Surprisingly, this law will not apply to restaurants that make their own bread, such as Panera Bread. Gavin Newsom’s new law will have many effects throughout California.

The ripple effects of the minimum wage increase for fast-food workers in California go beyond just a boost in pay. For many, this hike signifies enhanced financial stability, transforming their monthly paycheck from a tightrope act of paying bills to potentially cultivating modest savings. In the workplace, this wage adjustment promises increased job satisfaction, potentially reducing the high turnover rates prevalent in the fast-food industry.

For those supporting families, the benefits are even more pronounced as they will have more money for nutritious food choices and educational resources for their children. It’s not just the individual worker or their family who stands to gain; local economies may witness a surge as these workers, with their bolstered wages, inject more into local goods and services. This new law, however, is not all sunshine and rainbows as consumers are likely to see the effects of the wage increase soon.

Amidst the jubilant cheers of employees excited for their bolstered paychecks, fast-food giants across California are delving deep into strategy sessions. The dilemma? How to strike a balance between surging operational costs and maintaining the golden standard of customer experience. The notion that these companies will simply accept

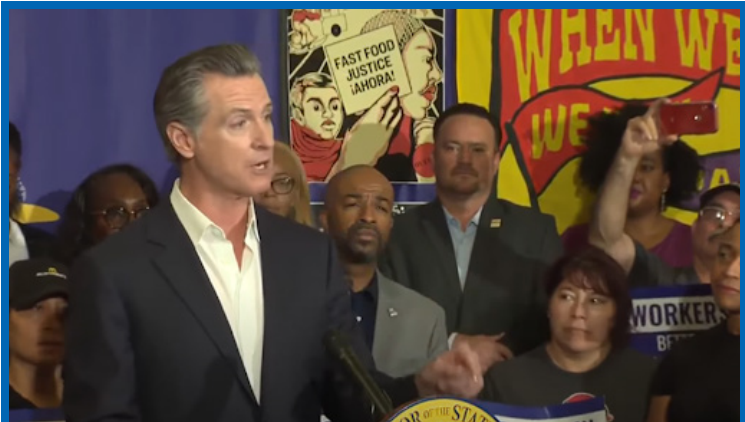


Photo credit: Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, CA.gov

slimmer profit margins in 2024 seems a tad naive. Chains like Chipotle aren’t waiting for the ink to dry on the new policy, they’re already implementing adjustments.

According to Laurie Schalow, the chief of corporate affairs at Chipotle, Chipotle will soon be increasing their prices by a modest amount for all items. On top of this, within two weeks of the minimum wage announcement, Chipotle locations in California have also begun to limit what employees are allowed to get in their free employee meals which previously had very few restrictions.

The core of the fast-food experience has always hinged on speed, cleanliness, and a warm smile. The first two are often direct functions of having enough hands on deck. Rumbblings suggest that McDonald’s, a titan in the industry, is toying with the idea of trimming its workforce in California locations, a strategy likely to set a trend.

It’s a precarious juggling act for these corporations: do they slice their labor force, adjust their pricing upwards, or subtly shrink their servings? As the industry ponders these

adjustments, the potential ripple effects could be profound. A reduced workforce might lead to longer wait times and diminished service quality. Conversely, elevated prices might deter cost-conscious customers, threatening overall sales. While shrinking servings might initially go unnoticed, consumers have proven astute at spotting such changes over time, which could lead to a backlash or brand erosion. As fast-food giants strategize, they’re not just balancing books; they’re weighing the intangible currency of customer trust and loyalty.

In the world of economics, ‘shrinkflation’ refers to the crafty practice of reducing product sizes while keeping prices unchanged. As 2024 looms, the Golden State’s fast-food aficionados should keep their eyes peeled for this phenomenon. It is not without precedent. Back in 2016, Carl’s Jr decided that their 40 oz drink was a tad too generous and subtly trimmed it down to a 32 oz cup. Such nuanced changes might soon be the order of the day, as businesses navigate the uncharted waters of Newsom’s ambitious wage policy.

Local independent restaurants in California,

although exempt from the mandated wage increase, find themselves at a crossroads. According to Lila Ramirez, an economist and market analyst, the allure of a \$20 minimum wage in the fast-food industry could further deplete an already dwindling workforce in these small establishments, given the historically high turnover rates in the service sector. To remain competitive in attracting and retaining talent, these local eateries might feel compelled to voluntarily raise their wages.

This move, while fostering goodwill and potentially reducing staff churn, will also strain their financials, given the tighter profit margins most local businesses operate on compared to larger chains. Retail stores and other minimum wage paying industries may also find themselves pressured to pay more as their employees begin to leave for the higher paying fast-food jobs in 2024.

Governor Newsom’s wage hike is undeniably bold and historic. But like all impactful decisions, it’s a complex tapestry of pros and cons, challenges and opportunities. While fast-food workers celebrate a more secure financial future, businesses grapple with balancing operational costs and customer experience. Sadly, consumers and other businesses not directly affected by this policy will still feel the ripple effects from its enactment.

As 2024 approaches, all eyes will be on the Golden State, watching this grand economic experiment unfold. The coming years will not only reveal the tangible effects of this policy but also determine California’s legacy as a trailblazer in championing workers’ rights in the modern era.

# Nerd Talk

Cont. from page 2

Despite the challenges, Nick fondly recalls how Nerd Talk brings people together. The camaraderie extends beyond the screen, with the cast and crew often gathering outside of filming to relax and enjoy each other’s company.

Nerd Talk’s impact on campus life and the university community is undeniable. By reaching out to passionate individuals across different nerdy interests, they have successfully

brought people together. The show not only educates but also introduces viewers to diverse perspectives within the nerd culture.

Social media plays a pivotal role in promoting Nerd Talk. Word of mouth, along with a strong social media presence, has allowed them to reach a global audience. Their dedicated fan base has contributed to expanding their reach beyond campus.

In a world where social

media is a driving force, Nerd Talk’s transition from Instagram to YouTube was pivotal for its success. It allowed them to engage with their audience on a more personal level, providing a visual platform for their content.

While Nick keeps some surprises up his sleeve regarding upcoming guests and collaborations, he is in discussions with various podcast groups and special guest stars. The anticipation is palpable, promising exciting episodes for viewers.

Staying updated with podcasting trends and innovations is crucial, but Nerd Talk prefers to tread its path. They draw inspiration from other podcast groups but ultimately

choose topics based on their shared interests and passions.

The podcast’s audience comprises individuals who share a deep love for imagination, be it through Star Wars, One Piece, anime conventions, or more.

For students aspiring to start their podcasts or manage social media for campus-related projects, Nick’s advice is simple: Just go for it. He credits Professor Lyons for igniting the spark in their team to pursue their passion, emphasizing that you never know who shares your interests in your classes.

Looking to the future, Nerd Talk is far from slowing down. With Season Two underway, they are determined to keep expanding their reach,

incorporating new voices and perspectives. Their goal is to foster a sense of community among the nerd culture, bringing together fans of video games, comic books, anime, and more. As they continue to grow, Nerd Talk is set to captivate the hearts and minds of nerds from all corners of the globe, offering them a welcoming space to share their passions.

In the ever-evolving landscape of podcasts and social media, Nerd Talk stands out as a vibrant and inclusive community for lovers of all things nerdy. With boundless enthusiasm and an unwavering commitment to their niche, they are well on their way to conquering the world of podcasts, one episode at a time.



# Mickey Mouse’s Liberation

## The End of Steamboat Willie or the Beginning?

By Damaris Preciado  
Staff Writer

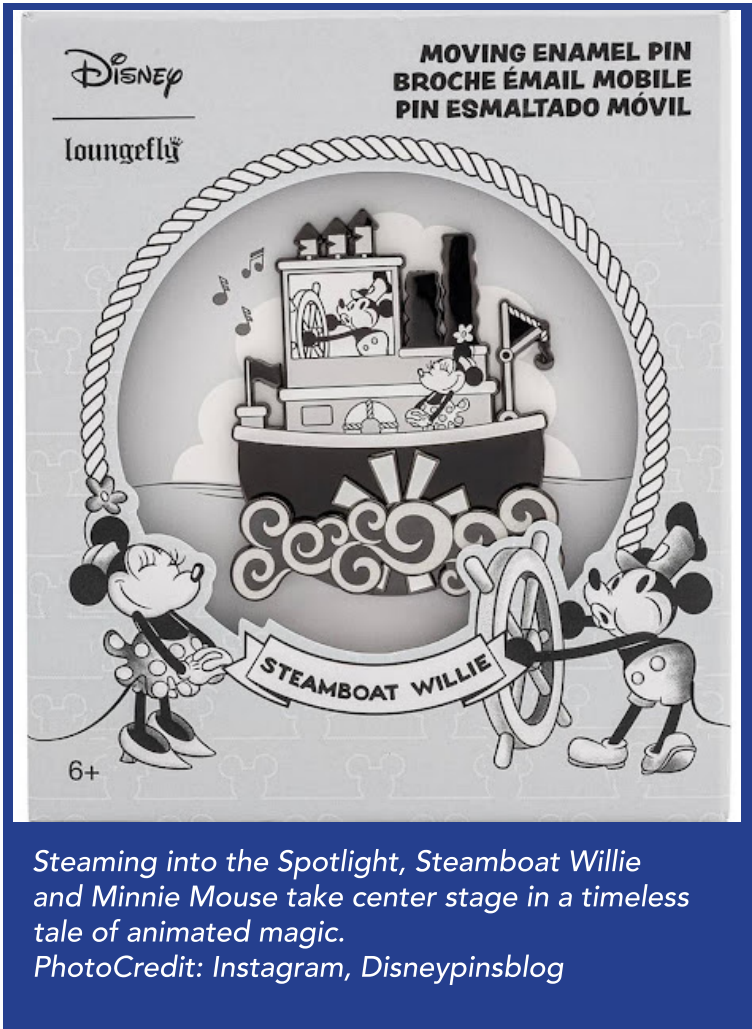
In a historic turn of events, the copyright curtain has finally fallen on one of the most cherished animated figures of all time: Mickey Mouse. The iconic character, brought to life in the groundbreaking 1928 short film “Steamboat Willie” by Walt Disney and Ub Iwerks, has stood under the protective umbrella of copyright law for over nine decades.

This momentous occasion not only marks a significant legal shift but also signals a pivotal juncture in the life of the world’s most beloved mouse. As we bid farewell to the copyright on this cultural milestone.

It’s time to embark on a journey through the remarkable history of Mickey Mouse and contemplate what the future has in store for this timeless emblem of joy and animation. Mickey Mouse’s odyssey traces back to his humble origins in “Steamboat Willie,” a revolutionary animation that introduced the world to the mischievous mouse with his iconic round ears and bright red shorts.

The film’s innovation extended beyond its lovable character; it was among the first to incorporate synchronized sound, a groundbreaking novelty at the time, allowing Mickey’s delightful antics to harmonize with the timeless tune of “Turkey in the Straw.”

For nearly a century, Mickey Mouse remained enveloped in the strictest of copyright protections, safeguarding his image and likeness from unauthorized usage or replication. This exclusivity allowed The Walt Disney Company to create



Steaming into the Spotlight, Steamboat Willie and Minnie Mouse take center stage in a timeless tale of animated magic.  
PhotoCredit: Instagram, Disneypinsblog

a global empire, complete with theme parks, merchandise, and an extensive catalog of films and television shows.

The release of “Steamboat Willie” into the public domain marks the conclusion of this era, as Mickey Mouse ventures into the public realm where creative minds are now free to engage with him.

Disney’s persistent efforts to extend copyright safeguards have ignited debates and controversies, as the company’s desire to preserve its intellectual property collided with the principles of copyright law intended to foster creativity and a thriving public domain.

While the expiration of

the copyright for “Steamboat Willie” may pave the way for reinterpretations and parodies of the cherished character, Disney retains trademark rights over Mickey Mouse’s specific design, ensuring that his essential identity remains unaltered.

Mickey Mouse’s narrative is not solely the story of a character but also a reflection of the changing world around him. His evolution mirrors societal transformations, celebrating diversity and inclusivity.

As a timeless symbol, Mickey has been a mirror of American culture, transitioning from his early adventurous spirit during the Great Depression to becoming a beacon of American optimism during World War II.

The journey of Mickey Mouse doesn’t conclude with the expiration of “Steamboat Willie’s” copyright. In the digital age, he continues to adapt and grow, exploring video games, mobile apps, and virtual reality experiences to remain a part of the digital lives of new generations.

With the resurgence of interest in classic animation and the rise of streaming platforms, Mickey finds new avenues to shine, as old classics are rediscovered, and the magic of timeless tales is shared with a fresh audience.

Mickey’s entry into the public domain opens the door for a resurgence of creative interpretations and adaptations. This moment offers a canvas for artists, animators, and storytellers to reimagine the character and venture into uncharted territories.

Mickey, a symbol of imagination and optimism, is poised to embark on new adventures while retaining his core essence. One exciting avenue is through fan art and community-driven content. With the freedom to create new Mickey-inspired works without legal constraints, fans can pay tribute to the character who has been a wellspring of inspiration for generations.

We may witness new Mickey Mouse comic books, animated web series, and digital art that celebrate his enduring appeal.

This moment also prompts a reevaluation of copyright laws and their role in nurturing creativity and safeguarding intellectual property. The tension between creators’ rights and the

public domain is a pivotal debate.

Mickey’s transition into this realm will continue to fuel discussions about copyright reform and the equilibrium between protection and access. Into the public domain marks the dawn of a new era, ripe with opportunities for aspiring creators.

For someone with a passion for animation, storytelling, or art, this momentous event can be the launchpad for an exciting journey. With the freedom to reinterpret and build upon this beloved character, a new generation of artists and storytellers has the chance to craft fresh, innovative content that resonates with audiences around the world.

Imagine an animator with a unique vision who seizes this chance to create a modern-day Mickey Mouse adventure, infusing the character with contemporary themes and perspectives. With access to the iconic mouse, they can breathe new life into Mickey’s timeless charm, introducing him to a whole new generation of fans.

This newfound creative latitude extends beyond animation; writers, illustrators, and multimedia artists can all find inspiration in Mickey’s enduring appeal. They might pen graphic novels, design striking artwork, or even craft interactive experiences that reinvent Mickey for the digital age.

As Walt Disney once said, “Disneyland will never be completed. It will continue to grow as long as there is imagination left in the world.” And so, Mickey’s adventure continues.



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# How to Make Vegan Pozole Rojo

By Ivan Marin  
Staff Writer

## Ingredients

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 3 pkg Daring Plant Chicken Pieces
- 1 can Juanita’s Mexican Style Hominy, rinsed and drained
- 3 large bay leaves
- 1 large yellow onion, peeled and halved
- 1 bulb garlic, peeled
- 4 Not- Chick’n Bouillon Cubes
- 8 whole guajillo chilies
- 3 whole ancho chilies
- 1 heaping tbsp of oregano
- 8 cups of water

## Toppings

- Green cabbage, shredded
- Cilantro, chopped
- Yellow onion, diced
- Red radish, sliced or diced
- Key limes
- Salsa macha or chile flakes
- Tostadas

Originally, pozole was considered a sacred dish in the ancient times of the Aztecs. The dish predates the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire. It was consumed during a religious ceremony for the god Xipe Tótec. At first, the dish consisted of corn, water, and human flesh. It is said that Xipe Tótec fed his first people with his own flesh. Because of this, the Aztecs practiced human self-sacrificing rituals in their ceremonial consumption of pozole. The dish

has evolved through regions in Mexico. There are three varieties of pozole— green, white, and red that are traditionally made with either chicken or pork.

This veganized pozole recipe is a great alternative to the traditional chicken or pork versions. The recipe calls for similar ingredients, so the authentic flavors are still there. You simply need to substitute the meat with a meat substitute. I recently tried this recipe in preparation for the holidays, and I was fully satisfied with the taste. Of course, since there is no meat in the dish, it is not going to taste completely like the meat versions.

In the past, I have tried substituting in mushrooms, jackfruit, and beans. All three make for great alternatives to meat. Mushrooms offer a great umami flavor and their texture resembles the texture of meat. Cremini mushrooms and portobello work well. Jackfruit is a popular meat alternative due to its ability to shred like meat. I recommend using canned jackfruit in brine. Avoid using fresh jackfruit, as it won’t work or taste like the brined jackfruit. There are a variety of beans and all work well. The dish becomes more of a bean soup, but the authentic flavors of pozole remain. The added benefit of subsisting in beans, is that it offers more fiber and protein than mushrooms or jackfruit.

For this recipe, I decided to try substituting in Daring Plant Chicken Pieces, a meat

alternative that tastes similar to chicken. The flavor of the meat substitute helps to add more flavor and a level of depth to the dish that tastes similar to a traditional pozole. It is also high in protein in comparison to mushrooms and jackfruit, so that is a plus.

In traditional pozole, chicken and pork are cooked at a very low heat, allowing for the meat to become tender but also for the broth to gain an intense amount of meaty flavor. The Daring Plant Chicken Pieces help to add a meaty flavor to the broth, but I also decided to use plant based “chicken” broth cubes for the pozole to have an intense and rich flavor.

The name pozole derives from the Náhuatl word “pozolli”, which means foam and refers to the foam produced when the corn is boiled. The corn used in the dish comes from a variety of dried corn (maize in Spanish) that have been soaked in an alkali solution of lye or slaked lime. You can buy it dried or in cans, in supermarkets with international isles or in Mexican grocery stores. I used canned hominy for this recipe, but you can substitute fresh hominy too.

Pasilla-acnho chiles are dried poblano peppers. The origin of the poblano can be traced back to the state of Puebla, Mexico. Ancho chiles offer a sweet and chocolatey flavor, slightly similar to raisins. Guajillo chilies are dried Mirasol peppers. Guajillo chilies are the most commonly used dried



Vegan pozole rojo served with cilantro, onion, and radishes.

chilies in Mexican gastronomy. Similar to ancho chiles, these chilies are sweet but are stronger in heat. They have a flavor reminiscent of tart berries with tangy notes and smoky undertones.

### Method

Bring to boil 8 cups of water in a large pot. Throw in the garlic, onion, bay leaves, bullion cubes, and Daring plant chicken pieces. Add salt to taste. Cook the plant chicken pieces for about 7-8 minutes, or until soft, and then remove them from the pot. Shred the pieces and set them aside.

In a separate pot, bring to boil water. Stem and deseed the dried chilies then blanch them until soft and transfer them to a blender. Return to the original pot, remove the garlic and onion,

and transfer them to the same blender. Add the oregano and salt and pepper to taste. Add some of the water from the pot to the blender and puree until smooth.

In another pot, drizzle in olive oil over medium heat. Add the chili paste and bring to a boil. Add salt and pepper to taste, if needed.

Return to the original pot, and mix in the chili paste and hominy. Cover the pot and lower the flame to a medium heat, for about 20 minutes or until the hominy is fully cooked. Mix in the shredded plant chicken pieces about 5 minutes before the hominy is ready.

When the pozole is fully ready, add in your toppings and serve with some tostadas. You’ll enjoy every last bite.

# Easy 5 Ingredient Pan-Fried Tofu

By Lylli Duong  
Staff Writer

Tofu is often thought to be plain and undesirable in a meal, probably because it can be. However, there are so many benefits to eating tofu and there

are so many ways to make it delicious and flavorful. Made from soy milk, it’s a great source of protein and can fit easily into any meal. In addition to protein, tofu provides iron, calcium, and vitamin A.

With all the benefits of eating tofu, the only reason

people might not enjoy it is because of the flavor. However, that can be solved with some simple pan frying and sauce. This recipe uses less than 5 ingredients to create the best savory tofu that can be enjoyed over and over again. It’s good by itself, but even better over rice.

The first step is to open your firm tofu and discard of the liquid inside. Then, simply cut it into strips. If you would like, you could also cut it into cubes

Next, simply fry the tofu. On a medium heat pan, add oil and when it gets hot, add in your tofu. When the tofu turns golden brown, simply take it out and place it in a separate bowl or plate.

For the sauce, prepare a bowl with 1 and ½ cups of water. Add in your oyster sauce and soy sauce. Optionally, you could add a little bit of fish sauce to add more flavor.

Continue on page 11.

### Ingredients:

- 1 package of firm tofu
- 1 cup of frozen vegetables
- 2 tablespoons of oyster sauce
- 2 teaspoons of soy sauce
- Cornstarch
- Optional:
- 1 teaspoon of fish sauce
- Black pepper

### Pan-frying the Tofu:

1. Open firm tofu and pour out the liquid
2. Cut the tofu into strips
3. Use a paper towel to remove excess liquid on the tofu with a paper towel
4. Add oil into a medium to large pan on medium-low heat
5. After the pan gets hot, add it tofu and pan fry until golden brown
6. Remove the tofu (this would be a good time to make rice)

### Making the Sauce:

1. Pour 1 and ½ cups of water into a bowl
2. Add 2 tablespoons of

- oyster sauce to the bowl of water
3. Add 2 teaspoons of soy sauce to the mixture
4. Optional: add 1 teaspoon of fish sauce
5. Stir the mixture until it is a uniform color
6. On a pan, add ½ teaspoon of oil on medium heat
7. After the pan gets hot, add in sauce mixture
8. While the sauce is heating up, create a cornstarch slurry with 2 tablespoons of cornstarch and 4 tablespoons of water
9. When the sauce starts to bubble, add in 1 cup of frozen vegetables (no need to defrost)
10. When the sauce and vegetables bubble again, add in the cornstarch slurry to thicken the sauce. The added amount can vary depending on the desired thickness of the sauce
11. Stir the sauce, vegetables, and cornstarch slurry and let simmer for a few minutes
12. When the sauce thickens, add in tofu and mix
13. Finally, serve over rice with a little bit of pepper.



Easy and delicious pan-fried tofu and vegetables  
Photo Credit: Lylli Duong



5 Ingredient  
Pan-Fried Tofu

Cont. from page 10

On a medium-high heat pan, add a little bit of oil and wait for it to heat up. Then, add your sauce to the pan. When it starts to boil, mix and stir in your frozen vegetables. In this recipe, I used a bag of mixed vegetables with peas, carrots, corn, and green beans. The vegetables do not need to be thawed before. When this boils again, add in your cornstarch slurry and mix it all together

After the sauce thickens a bit, add in your fried tofu. Mix the two together and serve over rice. Additionally, you could add some black pepper on top.

Where It Can Go Wrong

While the recipe can be simple, there are some steps where it can seem to go wrong. At the start, when you fry the tofu, it can seem that the tofu is not actually frying. Tofu tends to have a lot of water and it will boil out in the beginning and shrink. After a few minutes, the tofu should start to brown. You can add more oil to help with making a crispy texture and changing the heat levels.

When making the sauce, one area that can go wrong is adding the cornstarch. After adding the cornstarch, the sauce may not thicken right away. If this is the case, let the sauce boil for a bit until it thickens. The water in the sauce might not have boiled out yet, so this will help thicken the sauce. Another option you can do is add more of the cornstarch slurry to help thicken the sauce. On the other hand, if the sauce is too thick, you could add water to thin out the sauce.

Anticipation Builds:

What Lies Ahead for the Los Angeles Lakers This Season?

By Aidan C. Lopez  
Staff Writer

With the NBA season on the horizon, questions loom over the Los Angeles Lakers, the pride of Southern California’s NBA scene. Determining the extent of their capabilities has proven to be a challenging task.

Last season, the Lakers commenced with a dismal 2-10 record. However, they executed last-minute trades at the league’s transaction deadline, sending guard Russell Westbrook to the Utah Jazz in a three-team trade. In return, the Lakers acquired the youthful talents of guards D’Angelo Russell and Malik Beasley, along with the defensively skilled forward, Jarred Vanderbilt.

This trade kickstarted a remarkable resurgence, propelling the Lakers from a 13th-place Western Conference position to a playoff push. The “new-look Lakers” secured the 7th seed and achieved upsets against the 2nd-seeded Memphis Grizzlies and the reigning 2022 NBA champion Golden State Warriors during the playoffs. Yet, this fairy-tale playoff run



reached a bitter conclusion in the Western Conference Finals when the Denver Nuggets swept the purple and gold.

The extraordinary nature of their playoff run sparked debates regarding the authenticity of the Lakers’ success. While some deemed it a miracle, others questioned its lasting impact. How did the Lakers respond to



Photo Credit: @Lakers on X (Formerly Twitter)

these criticisms and strengthen their position as contenders in the league?

As the new season approaches, uncertainty surrounds the Los Angeles Lakers, leaving fans and analysts eager to see if they can reaffirm their status as NBA contenders.

As LeBron James embarks on his remarkable 21st NBA season at the age of 38, concerns have arisen about the health and consistency of the basketball legend. While he continues to redefine what it means to be the oldest player in the league, there is growing anticipation for the Los Angeles Lakers to provide younger and more reliable talent to alleviate the physical demands on James.

Last season, James maintained an impressive performance, averaging 28.9 points, 6.8 assists, and 8.3 rebounds per game, a statistical achievement unprecedented for a player of his age. Alongside James, center Anthony Davis contributed significantly with an average of 25.9 points and an imposing 12.5 rebounds per game. Notably, both James and Davis are the only players on the Lakers’ roster aged over 30.

In the early stages of the past offseason, the Lakers initiated roster changes by signing Miami Heat guard Gabe Vincent, who had recently competed in the NBA Finals, and Minnesota Timberwolves forward Taurean Prince, a 6’6 player known for his consistent three-point shooting abilities. Additionally, Los Angeles secured the services of Jaxson Hayes, an athletic 7’0 center.

However, the most surprising acquisition was the signing of center Christian Wood, a versatile scorer with proficiency from all three levels of the court.

As LeBron James continues his historic career, the Lakers’ quest for rejuvenated talent to support their aging star takes center stage, with fans and analysts closely monitoring their roster developments.

As the Los Angeles Lakers introduced several new additions to their roster, they also welcomed back two fan favorites in guard Austin Reaves and forward Rui Hachimura.

Reaves, who unexpectedly emerged as a valuable third-option guard during the playoffs, expressed his enthusiasm about rejoining the Lakers, stating, “I wanted to be back in L.A., they treated me like family, as good as they possibly could.” The undrafted rising star’s presence alongside LeBron James and Anthony Davis hints at the potential formation of a potent trio.

Following the signing of Austin Reaves, many fans anticipated similar moves for guard D’Angelo Russell and forward Rui Hachimura, both of whom showcased their scoring abilities during the playoffs as sharpshooters, often referred to as “microwave scorers.” This young core, led by James and Davis, is poised to attract attention in the upcoming season.

Nonetheless, the Lakers are just one of several Western Conference teams that have bolstered their rosters with significant talent, setting the stage for a highly competitive

season.

The NBA landscape saw significant changes with the offseason moves, as the Phoenix Suns welcomed guard Bradley Beal from the Washington Wizards, completing a scoring trio alongside Devin Booker and Kevin Durant.

Meanwhile, the Memphis Grizzlies, who narrowly missed defeating the lower-seeded Lakers in the playoffs, traded away self-proclaimed “Dillon ‘The Villain’ Brooks” and swiftly secured former Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart from the Boston Celtics.

As these transactions reshaped the Western Conference, it became clear that the Lakers are not the only team gearing up to face Nikola Jokic and the reigning champion Denver Nuggets. The Lakers will face the Nuggets in their season opener on October 24th at 4:30 PM PST, a game that will include a ring ceremony for the defending champions. This marks the second consecutive ring ceremony the Los Angeles Lakers will witness from the sidelines.

Expectations are running high for the Lakers, who have exhibited dominance from beyond the arc during the preseason, boasting a 39% three-point shooting rate. Many anticipate the Lakers to secure a top-three seed in the Western Conference, with the basketball world eagerly awaiting their playoff rematch against Denver, no matter how the journey unfolds.



# Mikey Williams:

## A Promising Star’s Trial Amidst Turmoil

By Brandon Lillard  
Staff Writer

In the world of basketball, talent often takes center stage, but the lives of the athletes beyond the court can be equally as compelling. Mikey Williams who once hailed as a rising star in the sport, finds himself in a predicament that transcends the boundaries of the game.

five-star prospect and at one point, ranked as the No. 2 player in his class, Williams had the basketball world at his feet. But the golden road he once walked on has taken a sharp detour.

The legal proceedings have cast a shadow on Williams’ burgeoning basketball career. He may not currently be with the Memphis Tigers, but he remains on the team’s roster and enrolled in classes as his legal

As the date for his arraignment approaches, Williams’ future hangs in the balance. A player once touted for his remarkable skills and boundless potential now faces a legal battle that threatens to overshadow his basketball career. The court will decide not only his fate but also the impact of his actions on the community that celebrated him.

The Memphis Tigers, a



Facing the Courts: Mikey Williams’ Journey from Hoops to Legal Battle

Accused of six felony gun charges, Williams’ journey from celebrated high school prospect to courtroom drama serves as a cautionary tale, illustrating the fine line between dreams and reality.

On a sunny Tuesday in California, a Superior Court judge made a pivotal decision: Memphis freshman Mikey Williams would stand trial for the six felony gun charges he faced. A far cry from the courts he had graced with his extraordinary talent, the legal system now commanded his attention. The incident in question transpired earlier in the summer when Williams allegedly fired a gun at a vehicle carrying five individuals.

Once celebrated as a

fate unfolds. The situation has been a constant backdrop to his academic and athletic life, a nagging uncertainty that has left many questioning his future in the sport.

Williams’ legal ordeal began on that fateful April day when he was arrested and booked on five counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of firing into an occupied vehicle. If convicted on all charges, the young athlete could face nearly 30 years in prison. The gravity of the situation is not lost on anyone, as the consequences loom large.

The San Diego Sheriff’s Department contends that Williams fired shots at a vehicle as it sped away, ultimately striking it, though thankfully, no one was harmed. The incident took place following the entry of “several uninvited individuals” into Williams’ residence, sparking a disturbance, as revealed by his attorney, Troy P. Owens. Williams, matching the description of the shooter, continues to maintain his innocence, vowing to address the allegations against him through the established procedures within the justice system.

team he may not currently be a part of, move forward with their fall training camp, training without a key player who once held immense promise. Williams’ absence leaves a void in the team, and they are slated to open their season on November 6, just 13 days after his arraignment. The prospect of his absence from the court continues to cast a shadow on the Tigers’ season, leaving fans and teammates alike in suspense.

Mikey Williams’ story is one of soaring ambition and unforeseen obstacles. It serves as a stark reminder that even the brightest stars can be entangled in life’s complexities. As we await the outcome of the trial, we are left with questions about the destiny of a young athlete, his talent, and the sport that was meant to be his springboard to success. Whether Williams will emerge from this tumultuous chapter and reclaim his place on the basketball stage remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: his journey has taken an unexpected and dramatic turn, one that has captivated the attention of not only the basketball world but the broader community as well.

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