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#### Things Not to Do on a Date JANET YU

#### **Opinions Editor**

In a frenzy to find a date for Valentine's Day and prom, I have gone through many hangouts to find the "perfect" date. Unfortunately, none of them ended too well. One of the worst ones happened around last week.

There are many things a person can do to ruin a date. One of the most important things people should know is that they should never, I repeat, never try to kiss their date within the first few minutes of meeting them. Not even on the cheek. You just met them, what the heck?

Also, being immature is not attractive. Someone who yells "penis" in a busy street is not someone I would ever want to be associated with. Racist jokes are also not appreciated. If you aren't Japanese, don't try to bow to the sushi chefs.

If you're trying to impress someone, it is suggested that you remember where you parked. It is ridiculous to lose your car and spend about an hour trying to remember where you parked. You could at least offer to pay for my Uber I had to take home after you lost your Honda that you said was a Mercedes. I'm still looking for a prom date!

# **OPINIONS**

## Los Laureados: An Honor or Favoritism?

#### CURTIS LEE Staff Writer

As senior year festivities begin, Alhambra High School recognizes certain seniors with the Los Laureados award. The direct translation of "Los Lauea-

do" is "the honored or of high glory." Each year, teachers are asked to nominate seniors that they know, are currently teaching or have taught. From that pool of nominations, teachers are then asked to vote from a list of nominated students. Semi-finalists are then chosen at a meeting and introduced at an assembly. The process beyond that is unclear to students.

There are two major issues with the award being considered the "highest honor" in Alhambra High School.

The first comes in the form of nominations. Teachers should continue to be able to nominate students, but nominations should be opened to students that would like to nominate themselves or their peers. Los Laureados is supposed to recognizes students with high academic achievements, excellent leadership skills or outstanding qualities. Other than academic achievements, students have a greater and more appropriate perspective of these distinguished students. Leadership skills in clubs and sports are demonstrated in leading peers and not teachers. Teachers are reliable in what they observe of individuals that may seem appropriate for the honor, but most of a student's interactions are with other students. This



would also open up nominations to students that may not have known teachers well enough to be nominated but are equally as deserving of the honor.

The second issue is simply the lack of information and structure involved. For nominees, non-nominees, semifinalists or finalists, an unclear description of what the honor is or how the process was executed may lead to confusion. The simple solution is to draft an official rubric that teachers, with the

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sudden silence.

deciding votes, can use to help decide on who gets eliminated or who receives the Los Laureados award. Favoritism and other forms of bias will be minimized therefore reducing complaints or rumors of other qualified nominees. As of now, a teacher who may know a student better may consider the nominee with an unfair advantage over another nominee because there is no clear rubric of what the qualifications are. In a sense, this could even be seen as a popularity contest between students that know the most number of teachers voting for the final recipients.

There are many things to celebrate about those who receive the Los Laureados award because many recipients, in the past, have been well qualified individuals with remarkable achievements. However, there are still many questions that remain over the individuals that were equally or more qualified and did not receive the award. It is time take a step back and reevaluate the nomination process to ensure a fair chance for all seniors that want an opportunity to be nominated. In addition to that change, the process should be clearly detailed and a rubric of how finalists are chosen. The Los Laureados award is a tradition that should continue, but it is time to make these changes.

### Hospital Hospitality RUBY LA Staff Writer

Hospitals, to many individuals, are places where people can receive medical help and feel safe. However, recent events at Hacienda Healthcare, a medical establishment located in Arizona, has undermined this sense of trust and care. A patient in a persistent vegetative state, under the care of two doctors, had been sexually assaulted and gave birth. This raises the question if hospitals are safe and can be trusted.

Although most practitioners are trustworthy, there are still a few who revoltingly take advantage of their patients. The sexual assault that had taken place at Hacienda Healthcare is one of the only cases known to the public about these incidents. According to U.S. News, it is standard practice for a female medical professional to be present when a male doctor is treating a female patient. This may be "standard practice" however, there are still many cases of sexual misconduct regarding male gynecologists, pediatricians, anesthesiologists and psychiatrists having sexually abused individuals of all ages. Medical professionals should constantly be monitored in order to stop the abuse of the current rule system. It is important to keep in mind that not all practitioners take advantage of patients and a majority are only there to do their job of helping treat people, but there are still instances where some individuals do, which is why new practices should be put in place so that cases like these never happen again. *Moor* GRAPHICS BY JENNIFER SU

## Eliminating the Needy: A Call For Reformation

#### ELIAS ALMAREZ-HERRERA Staff Writer

Sudden Silence

Homelessness is nowhere near a new issue. Homeless people flooding American territories dates as far back as the mid 1600s. These "low class" citizens were known as "sturdy beggars," and were people that occupied pre-colonial streets, asking for handouts. During the American Revolution and Civil Wars respectively, dozens of colonists were forced from their homes because of insufficient funds. Once slaves were emancipated, many found themselves without property of their own. This forced them into sharecropping, a form of neoslavery. In addition, the occurrence of World

nally, Hurricane Katrina devastated cities in states from Florida to Texas. The city of New Orleans became a community under water because of the sheer power of this hurricane. Over 1,800 people were found dead and millions found themselves homeless as well. However, the people affected by homelessness in this way have banded



velopment reported in its annual national homeless assessment that homelessness has decreased by 1% from 2017 to 2018. This is not enough. The government has boasted that millions of dollars have gone into combating the effects of homelessness, yet millions of people still live every night without a place to live.

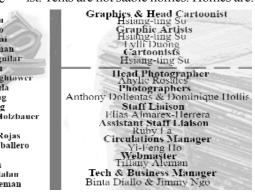
The first step to ending homelessness is getting rid of labels. Instead of filtering the "needy" or "hobos" into shelters or group homes, there must be centers for these individuals to be evaluated. Homeless people are more than just crazy, drug addicts that have no hope in recovering. This stereotype has overshadowed those that truly are struggling to make ends meet and need serious government assistance. An id-similar to federal food stamps must be implemented for those that just need help to get back on their feet. Yet, this stereotype of deranged and dangerous homeless people is in existence for a reason: it is valid. Many homeless people do suffer from mental health issues, and substance abuse is a mental health issue. By implementing a center for evaluation, these homeless people will be able to gain access to health facilities for appropriate treatment. Places like Skid Row will no longer need to exist. Tents are not stable homes. Homes are.

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War I and World War II sent the entire nation into The Great Depression. The stock market depleted and many fell victim to bankruptcy and poverty.

Yet homelessness is not only prevalent during times of war, but during times of natural disaster as well. In 1893, the Sea Islands hurricane on the coast of Georgia struck, causing towns full of debris and homes for little to no people. In 1936, a tornado visited Cordele and Gainsville in Florida and swept away cities, killing 210 people, leaving another 200 homeless. Fitogether to rebuild entire regions. This togetherness must be prevalent among all types of homeless people, because there is always room for a helping hand.

Today, with great technological advancements, we would like to think homelessness has been eradicated. However, in December of 2018 the federal Department of Housing and Urban De-



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