

# TALON

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# The legend of Mr. Hazelwood

By: Marilis Peraza

It has been 4 months since our beloved teacher, Mr. Hazelwood, has passed. In these past 4 months every student, teacher, friend, and everyone who did know him has not forgotten the big impact he had on all of us at Mission Oak.

Mr. Hazelwood, who started the Journalism program at Mission Oak, had an amazing impact on his students. It has been difficult having to get used to not seeing his bright smile around campus, or his presence in the hallways, but we all are pushing through. Mr. Hazelwood, who had nicknames for many of his students, was an educator that only came around once in a lifetime.

Students on campus have not forgotten the impact that Mr. Hazelwood made on campus.

"I miss the feeling he gave the class, he filled the room with excitement," senior student Robert Rodriguez said.



Mr. Hazelwood not only made an impact on the students, but he made a huge impact on faculty and staff.

"What I truly miss about him is greeting students in the hallway with him," English Teacher Mrs. Reis said. "Hearing his voice and funny comments as he greeted every student and teacher. He would clap his hands and loudly shout, 'Woooo!!! Let's do this!' as he turned and walked into his classroom to start class. Little did he know, he motivated all of us and lifted all of our spirits to help us get through the day. I hope everyone gets an opportunity in their lifetime to work with a 'Mike Hazelwood.'"

We will continue to miss him and continue all of his hard work such as the Mission Oak Talon.





# FALL SPORTS



# MISSION OAK FOOTBALL

**The Hawks are currently in 5th place in the West Yosemite standings.**

Quarterback Daniel Gonzalez has had an extraordinary season so far, racking up 1933 passing yards and 24 touchdown passes.

**The Mission Oak Hawks are half way through the season and have accumulated a strong record of 4-5.**

The Hawks have gathered 282-237 point differential against all their opponents so far

**On the other side of the ball, Nathen Abrahams has accumulated 3.5 sacks and 40 total tackles.**

Gonzalez has an outstanding duo to help him out including WR Cameron Azevedo and WR/HB Kenny Jackson racking up a combined total of 834 yards through the air and 11 touchdowns.





# HAUNTED HOMECOMING

Homecoming at Mission Oak was a fun and exciting adventure in the month of October.

Congrats to all of our candidates; Rebecka Beasley, Marilis Peraza, London Jones, Hannah Viera, Dennise Beltran, Maria Sanchez, Alexis Ramirez, Juliana Huizar, Jaelyn Flores, Eliana Farjado, Kenny Jackson, Jacob Ramirez, Zuriel Cruz, Isaiah Martinez, Alejandro Gomez, Rocky Sandoval, Lazaro Ortiz, Freddie Martinez, Michael Mendoza, and Joe Giron.

The winners were crowned on Friday in their game against Tulare Union; our Queen London Jones and our King Milo Mendoza.





# THE GREAT GABOOR

GABOR HANKE HAS BEEN IN THE US FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS NOW AND IS STILL SETTLING IN. GABOR IS CURRENTLY AN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM GERMANY; HE WAS BORN IN THE POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATION WE ALL KNOW, BERLIN. HIM AND HIS FAMILY HOWEVER LIVE IN A SMALL TOWN THAT IS CLOSE TO BERLIN.

IN GERMANY, GABOR FOUND DELIGHT IN MANY THINGS. HE'S TRAVELED MUCH OF GERMANY, WHICH TO MANY AMERICANS SEEMS ASTONISHING. HOWEVER, GABOR REPORTS THAT GERMANY IS VERY SMALL, ESPECIALLY COMPARED TO THE US OR EVEN JUST THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. ANOTHER PASSION OF GABOR'S IS MUSIC..

"I LOVE MUSIC, I AM A BIG MUSIC FAN, I AM AN ARTIST BASICALLY," GABOR EXPRESSES WHEN SPEAKING OF HIS FONDNESS FOR MUSIC.

CONSIDERING THIS DIRE PASSION OF HIS AND HIS EXTRAORDINARY TALENT LEADS TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHY GABOR DECIDED TO LEAVE GERMANY TO STUDY IN THE STATES. GABOR MENTIONS HOW MANY OF HIS IDOLS ARE MAINLY CENTRALIZED WITHIN THE US. ALL THE GREATS AND THOSE WHO'VE IMPACTED AND INSPIRED GABOR THROUGH HIS MUSICAL CAREER HAVE MADE IT TO THE BIG CITIES ALL ACROSS THE US. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE HOW EXTRAORDINARY IT WOULD BE TO EXPERIENCE THE ENVIRONMENT THAT INSPIRED EACH LYRIC.

COMING TO THE US GABOR WAS HIGHLY SUPPORTED IN HIS DECISION ESPECIALLY BY HIS FAMILY. GABOR SPEAKS ABOUT HOW HAPPY THEY WERE FOR HIM TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY AND THEY HELPED HIM EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. THE TRANSITION WAS A BIT HARD AND AT TIMES GABOR WAS A BIT HOMESICK, BUT OVER TIME HE'S BEGUN TO SETTLE IN AND HAS GROWN MORE COMFORTABLE.

WHEN SPEAKING OF HIS TIME HERE IN THE US IT IS CLEAR THAT GABOR TRULY ENJOYS IT, BUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE US AND GERMANY IS PROMINENT. IN THE US THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IS VERY DIFFERENT THAN IN GERMANY. THE WAY GABOR DESCRIBES THE DIFFERENCES HIGHLIGHTS THE ADVANCEMENT WITHIN THE GERMANY SCHOOLING SYSTEM IN COMPARISON TO THE ONE GABOR HAS BEGUN TO PRACTICE HERE WITH THE REST OF US. GABOR MENTIONS HOW HE WAS SURPRISED THAT HERE WE ARE ABLE TO CHOOSE OUR SCHEDULE AND THE CLASSES WE TAKE, WHICH IS NOTABLY VERY FOREIGN TO HIM. IT'S NOT JUST THE SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT EXAGGERATES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE IN THEM. GABOR HAS EXPERIENCED AND MET MANY NEW PEOPLE AND HAS NOTICED A FEW THINGS ABOUT THE OVERALL AMERICAN PERSONALITY.

"YOU'RE A BIT MORE JUDGY," GABOR MENTIONS "BUT DEFINITELY MORE FRIENDLY" HE GOES ON TO SPEAK ABOUT HOW HE'S SEEN FIRST HAND THAT NOT EVERYONE ACCEPTS OTHERS AS THEY ARE, ESPECIALLY IN HIGH SCHOOL. HE MENTIONS THAT IN GERMANY THIS IS NOT THE CASE SINCE EVERYONE IS MUCH MORE HONEST AND ACCEPTING. HOWEVER, AS AN EXCHANGE STUDENT GABOR HAS RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME FROM MOST OF HIS ACQUAINTANCES AND FOR THAT HE IS THANKFUL.

THE SMALL TOWN WE ALL LIVE IN IS DEFINITELY NOT WHAT GABOR WAS EXPECTING WHEN COMING TO STUDY ABROAD. DESPITE EVERYTHING GABOR TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE THOUGHT OF MOVING HERE TO THE STATES IN HIS FUTURE, EXCEPT MAYBE JUST A BIGGER CITY, AND A BEACH CLOSE BY.



By: Allie Sandoval



# The Audacious Rosa

Rosa Sondergaard is a foreign exchange student here at Mission Oak. She's embarked on a fascinating journey in order to experience American high school life. For Rosa her adventure began in early August, just a week before the school year kicked off. Arriving in Tulare, California was truly an eye-opening experience.

Originally "from Sealand, Denmark. Where the capitol is," Rosa encountered many new and exciting things she had never seen or heard of before.

First and foremost, the weather in California was a stark contrast to Denmark's more rainy climate. Rosa was amazed by the prolonged periods of warm weather in the Golden State. Additionally, the variety of cars, especially Jeeps and larger vehicles, was a novel sight for her, as such cars are relatively rare back home.

Rosa loves to travel. She has traveled to many places around Europe. Rosa has traveled to Germany, London, The Netherlands, Sweden, Malta, and many more; these are just a few. Rosa has mentioned how she'd go with her family to France, rent out a house, and stay there for a couple of weeks during the summer. Rosa noted how during her stay in the U.S. she has had the opportunity to visit Disneyland and was able to go on the rides, she found these entertaining as she lost herself in the moment.

Rosa expresses this saying "this life is amazing."

One of the most significant differences Rosa noticed was the American school system. In Denmark, she was used to having a fixed classroom while teachers moved between classes,

"I only had one class that I went to school in for 10 years." Here in the United States, it's the students who move from one classroom to another. Rosa also highlighted the accessibility of help in American schools.

Unlike Denmark, where students are often left to work independently, American schools offer ample resources and support for students who need assistance.

There aren't any football games in Denmark, so Rosa has been making sure to go to as many games as she can in order to get the best football game experience. In Denmark, Rosa played basketball, once basketball season starts up here at Mission Oak she does plan on trying out for the team. Currently, Rosa is playing tennis. She has never played tennis until now, but she does seem to enjoy it. Rosa's first couple weeks were very fun as she described. She has had many fun experiences during her time in California, and still has more to go.

However, living in a new country comes with its share of challenges, especially when it's over 5,000 miles away from home. For Rosa, the biggest adjustment has been dealing with the time difference. California is 9 hours behind Denmark, making it a bit tricky for her to communicate with her family and friends back home.

"I just miss it really bad," Rosa comments on the topic. When Rosa wants to chat with her loved ones, it's often late in Denmark, making the distance feel even greater.

Rosa plans to make the most of her American high school experience, as her stay is only temporary. She intends to return to Denmark by July next year. She looks forward to the rest of her journey as she continues to explore and adapt to life in the United States.



Written by: Criselia Oliveros, Mireya Lopez



# The Ultimate Guide to Freshman Year: Because You Clearly Have No Idea What You're Doing

**HIGH SCHOOL**

BY: MIREYA LOPEZ, CRISLIA OLIVEROS



- In this guide, we will uncover the deep, dark secrets of surviving freshman year of high school. Brace yourselves, because this is groundbreaking stuff.
- Make Friends: Wow, what a novel concept! To survive high school, you'll need to find people who tolerate your existence. Approach anyone who looks remotely interesting and say, "Hi, I exist. Will you be my friend?" Works every time.
- Study Hard: Yep, you guessed it. You should probably attend class, take notes, and occasionally crack open a textbook. Mind-blowing, I know. It's not like you're in school to learn or anything.
- Get Involved: Join every club, sports team, and extracurricular activity possible. Sleep is overrated, and your future self will thank you for being a part of 27 different clubs that you barely have time for.
- Teachers: Never, and we mean NEVER, ask questions. Teachers love when you pretend to understand everything. It's like a game - see how long you can keep up the act!
- Eat Balanced Meals: Forget about the cafeteria's questionable food. Survive on a diet of energy drinks and vending machine snacks. Your health can wait until college!
- Plan Your Future: Because it's never too early to stress about what you'll be doing after high school. Remember, your entire life's success depends on what you choose right now.
- Congratulations, you've survived the groundbreaking wisdom of our (sarcastic) freshman-year guide. Remember, high school is a piece of cake, and you've got this! Just kidding! It's going to be a rollercoaster of emotions and challenges, but you'll come out of it stronger and wiser. Good luck!
- Don't Procrastinate: Why wait until the last minute when you can do everything the night before it's due? Time management is overrated, and stress is excellent for appearance!
- Dress to Impress: High school is a fashion show, and you're the star. Spend hours picking out the perfect outfit every day. Who cares about comfort or functionality? It's all about the aesthetics!





**HIGH SCHOOL**

**SOPHOMORE**

# Sophomore Slump

JEANETTE GARCIA & AZUCENA LEON

9.6.23

**2023**  
*Class of*

- THIS YEAR WE STARTED OFF MOTIVATED AND COMMITTED TO KEEPING UP WITH OUR ASSIGNMENTS. NOW THAT WE ARE ALMOST A MONTH INTO OUR SOPHOMORE YEAR, WE DON'T FEEL AS MOTIVATED AS WE WANTED TO BE.
- FRESHMAN YEAR, WE WERE NERVOUS AND EXCITED ABOUT THE YEAR. THE TEACHERS WERE EASY ON US, WELL BECAUSE WE WERE FRESHMEN. FRESHMAN YEAR PREPARED US FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS.
- LAST YEAR, WE CAME INTO HIGH SCHOOL SCARED, HOPING TO BE COMMITTED TOWARDS KEEPING AN ORGANIZED SCHEDULE. IT DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED, BUT WE KEPT UP WITH OUR ASSIGNMENTS AND STUDIED FOR OUR EXAMS. HOWEVER, AS TIME GOES BY, AND ASSIGNMENTS BECOME MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT, IT IS HARD FOR US TO COMPLETE THEM BECAUSE WE ARE UNMOTIVATED AND TIRED.
- LACK OF TIME CREATES LESS MOTIVATION AND MORE STRESS BEGINS TO PILE UP, JUST LIKE OUR ASSIGNMENTS. THIS YEAR WE ARE MORE OVERWHELMED BECAUSE OF OUR CLASSES. AS TIME PASSES CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS GET MORE DIFFICULT.
- SOPHOMORE SLUMP IS LIKE A SPEED BUMP, YOU ARE UNMOTIVATED, STUCK, AND STARTING TO SLOW DOWN. IT CAN BRING YOU TO CONTEMPLATE WHO YOU ARE AS A PERSON, YOUR FUTURE, AND GOALS. SOPHOMORE SLUMP CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE.
- OVERALL, SOPHOMORE YEAR HAS BEEN MORE DIFFICULT ON US AND OUR PEERS. BRINGING US MORE STRESS AND DIFFICULTIES THROUGH OUR CLASSES. EVEN THOUGH THIS CHANGE CAN BE VERY HARD ON US AND OUR PEERS, IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD JUST GIVE UP ON SCHOOL. YOU MUST CONTINUE TO PUSH YOURSELF.