PHOTO COURTESY OF RUBEN ANGEL

XICANX, from page 10

said. "So this past Women's Day in March, me and some people put together a weeklong event to highlight the machismo here in this border town. Not just machismo, but racism, imperialism, etcetera. On Women's Day we actually got to march with the families of the disappearing women. All women experience sexism and misogyny, but being a brown woman in this culture (dominated by) Catholicism, you just hear it from everybody. You hear it from men you don't know, you hear it from your partner, you hear it from your father, and you hear it from your brother. It's this constant thing that's there."

The effects of machismo are also felt by Ruben and Cassandra in the digital world every day, which they say contributes to their frequent burnouts. Even if she posts about something unrelated to feminism or sexism, there are trolls ready to pounce.

"It's still exhausting even though I know it's coming," Cassandra said. "People get that all the time online. Sexism, misogyny, machismo comments, rape threats and stalking – that's sadly part of online platform. You read the comments and you're like, where do we even start from here? That's why we need pages like Queer Xicano Chisme and Xicanisma and more voices. There needs to be more representation."

Throughout our conversation, the pair of activists repeatedly emphasized that their platforms come from their own individual perspectives and aren't to be taken as representing the entire Xicanx experience. They're open about the ongoing, public processes that they traverse in expanding their understanding of the world around them and complexity of social structures that exist to uphold oppressive forces. While their shared disdain for nationalism now generates mixed feelings toward the identity that once empowered them, their commitment to reforming Xicanx politics and improving their communities pushes them forward.

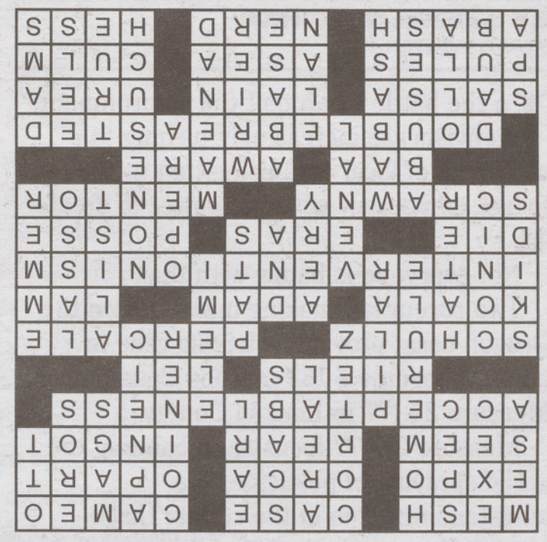
Ruben highlights how traditional frameworks can hinder collective growth. "Our culture is a culture of idolization and reverence. We don't question people who are elders. People have this stagnant view of Xicanismo and anything that critiques it is in the devil's work. There are people who also ignore the fact that Xicanismo wasn't created for queer and trans people. For me it's also not only to be critical of Xicanismo, but to continue the work of queer and trans Xicanxs who could and couldn't write."

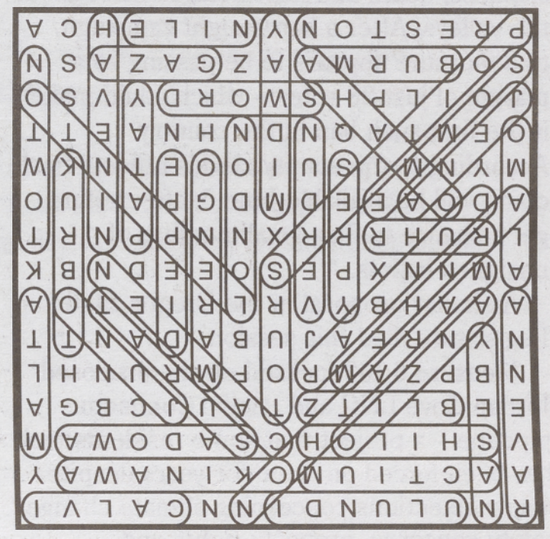
The event on May 26 is open to the public, but Cassandra noted that event goers should be aware that the focus is on the Xicano culture.

"What we're going to talk about is machismo specifically in Xicano communities, in Xicano politics, (and) in the Xicano movement, so I hope more than anything brown men are there. That's what I hope is the majority there. But if white people happen to go, I still think that they'll take something away. We're going to talk about machismo, but machismo in the Xicano community is also influenced by race and ethnicity." Ruben said.

You can follow Xicanisma on Instagram @ xicanisma and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/xicanisma. You can follow Queer Xicano Chisme on Instagram @ queerxicanochisme and Facecbook at www.facebook.com/queerxicanochisme
More information for the panel event is available on the PSU MEChA Facebook page.

Answers to Page 15 Puzzles





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8	6	1	3	2	4	9	7	5
7	9	3	8	5	1	4	2	6
2	4	5	6	9	7	1	8	3

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