



# El Rancho



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 8  
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## Perez chooses Whittier College



By MICHAEL GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Most high school athletes will never be given the chance to continue playing their sport into college, but for senior Adrien Perez, he will be able to continue playing the sport he loves and begin the pursuit of his career, while attending Whittier College in the Fall.

Perez had never imagined Whittier College to be the school of his choice. Perez said, "It was between University of San Francisco and Sacramento State," but after he did some research on the schools, he realized that Whittier College was the best fit for him. He added, "I kind of wanted to go farther away but [Whittier's] a good opportunity and I just had to take it."

What really appealed to Perez was the small class sizes and the student to faculty ratio of 13:1. In college, small class sizes are always good because they allow for the students to interact with their professors, which can lead to opportunities to conduct research and even become an intern. The more experiences one has in college, the more likely he or she will be able to find a job upon graduating.

Perez will be majoring in Kinesiology, and he hopes to become a physical therapist. Perez said, "[Whittier's] a very prestigious school and I know I'll do good academically there... they're known for letting their students graduate in under four years."

The fact that Perez can possibly graduate in under four years is a great advantage; some colleges take their students up to seven years to graduate!

Perez will also play football for Whittier College. They are a Division 3 school, which isn't all that bad. Perez played football for El Rancho for all of his four years here and is excited to continue playing into college. Perez will begin football practice during the summer.

For prospective college students, Perez has this to say, "definitely visit the campus, find out as much information as you can [about the college], and make sure they have your major."

## Four Dons head to New Mexico Highlands

By ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you are lucky, you will attend the same university as your best friend. If you are really lucky, you will attend the same university with three of your best friends. Seniors David Ramos, Javier Carrillo, Jesus Verduzco, and Ryan Araujo were given the opportunity to not only attend the same school, but also continue playing competitive football on the same team for four more years. They took the opportunity and signed to New Mexico Highlands University.

There are many reasons the boys chose NMHU, including the smaller class sizes, the interest NMHU put into the boys, and the financial aid provided. "I saw it as a great opportunity for me to continue to do what I love, [playing football], and also get an education," says Verduzco.

NMHU was not the only school that was trying to recruit the boys, but NMHU put in the best effort. "It was an offer I couldn't pass up," says Carrillo.

The future NMHU football players have been playing football for a long time. Carrillo says that he has always had a passion for football since he was small, so he, like the rest of his teammates who will be attending NMHU, always dreamed of playing in college.

Ramos planned on joining the Navy before this opportunity was given to him and Carrillo's family tried to convince him to stay close to home. "It was too



The Dons signed their letters of intent to commit to New Mexico Highland University.

good of an offer to pass up," says Carrillo, "not many students get [to play at] a division 2 school."

While attending NMHU, Carrillo plans to major in either sports medicine, business, or sports business. Ramos plans to major in Kinesiology and eventually wants to do mechanical engineering. Verduzco is undecided, but plans to major in criminal justice.

Aside from all of the college stress and leaving family, friends, and Californian food behind, there are things to look forward to, such as the college life. "Playing at a different speed level in football will also be exciting," says Carrillo.

This opportunity became possible thanks to the help of the football coach-

ing staff. "Coach Vinny helped me improve in my skills and technique along with Coach Rudy Cambero," says Carrillo.

Cambero, an NMHU alumnus, had an important part in getting the boys to NMHU. "He was the one that urged us to go play somewhere, anywhere, and luckily NMHU came along," says Verduzco, "[being an alumnus,] he gave us an inside of his experience there."

Ramos would like to thank his coaches for preparing him to be a competitor at the collegiate level. "I want to thank coach Cambero for giving me information to NMHU and I want to thank Coach Lopez for pushing me to become a better athlete," says Ramos.

Verduzco would like to thank their families for their sup-

port and Mrs. Cruz for her encouragement. "Thank you to the staff at school and everyone else who has helped us and encouraged us to do what we are doing, I really appreciate the love and support!" says Verduzco.

Carrillo wants to thank Cambero for making his dream of playing football at the college level come true. "I would just like to thank the Del Rio for making this possible and I would also like to thank the whole ER staff...thank you very much ER," says Carrillo.

These four boys are set to begin a new chapter in their lives and will be representing El Rancho out at NMHU. They will not be playing any season games in California so start planning a road trip out to NMHU to support your fellow Dons.

## "Future Don Night" proves successful

By CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On April 3 El Rancho held its annual Future Don Night to show incoming freshmen what it takes to have "Blue Pride." Unlike most school events, the preparation for Future Don Night was a collaborative effort between the staff and students.

In preparation for this night, ASB began creating programs which included a description of every annual event, such as Homecoming, Powder Puff, and Night Pep Rally for Future Don Night months in advance. "The purpose of Future Don Night was to display to the students everything that El Rancho has to offer. There are numerous clubs that El Rancho has to offer," said senior class president Sydney Woo, "Overall, The Ranch offers something for everyone!"

Staff members such as Principal Kwek and senior counselor Mrs. Cruz spoke to the students and parents about the experiences that El Rancho has to offer, such as the new engineering classes. Cruz says, "I'm really excited to work with the incoming freshman



Future Dons and their parents gathered to learn more about the Ranch.

class. There was a lot of energy out there and I was really happy to see the enthusiasm on the part of the students and the willingness to collaborate with me."

To show a student perspective of El Rancho, valedictorian, Jeffrey Valenzuela, salutatorian Susan Aparicio, and senior Jesse Sanchez gave speeches describing their journey from freshman to senior year. "Looking up at the audience, I saw myself four years ago and I couldn't help but think about everything that has happened," says Aparicio, "I'd like to think that I said the speech I wish

I heard entering high school."

Incoming freshmen and their parents were also shown an El Rancho promotional video that was prepared months in advance by multiple students from Mr. Diaz's video production class. Woo says, "I was truly amazed with the production of ER's promotional video. Not only was it impressively composed but it really portrayed the message that El Rancho is one big family."

One big hit of the night was Mrs. Ames' calligraphy booth. El Rancho calligraphers personalized bookmarkers in different

calligraphic fonts for whoever wanted to take one home. Ames knew it was a big hit when she saw how many incoming freshmen signed up calligraphy.

The sole purpose of Future Don Night was to display everything that El Rancho has to offer and to expose incoming freshmen to different possibilities that they will benefit from. "As a freshman, entering high school can be a scary idea and an intimidating experience, which is why it's important to help freshmen feel as comfortable and familiar with our campus as possible," says Woo.

The staff and ASB proved to finalize their goal in Future Don Night as students and parents appeared to be pleased with what El Rancho offers.

For the class of 2014 students who attended, this event was very bittersweet as they got the opportunity to catch a glimpse at the incoming class of 2018. Woo says, "It was definitely a bittersweet moment for me because to this day, I can still remember what it felt like to be a freshman, but now it's really starting to hit me that my time at El Rancho is almost over."

# BUSINESS

## Is the Paycheck Fairness Act even fair?

BY RUBI MACIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A debate is currently raging between Democrats and Republicans over gender equality and good intentions. This debate focuses around President Obama's announcement on Equal Pay Day that he fully supports the Paycheck Fairness Act to equalize wages for women and men.

According to the Democratic Party, the average woman makes 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes. The average Hispanic woman makes 54 cents for every dollar that a man makes.

In order to make the pay discrepancies more obvious and fixable, Obama's Administration has devised a list of areas in need of improvement. Obama plans to do away with the privilege of companies being allowed to forbid their workers from discussing salaries. He also wants to require employers to report detailed salary data, including each employee's race and gender, to the government's Department of Labor.

The debate becomes more intricate over time, as people find more sides to argue on the issue. Several men and women, of the Republican Party especially, believe Obama's intentions are not honorable and his solution is not the correct one. Other critics express concern about Obama's words being misleading and



President Barack Obama signs the Paycheck Fairness Act.

his "solution" leading to more problems. Many people who are familiar with the issue of workplace discrimination are aware that it has already been addressed by prior legislation including the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The statistic we are bombarded with about women being paid 77 cents for every dollar a man makes is misleading because it is a manipulation of statistics that does not take into account the differences in the types of positions the genders hold. Passing the Paycheck Fairness Act may discourage companies from hiring women to avoid complications, and it may cause the companies

that do hire women to give all employees less flexibility so the companies will not seem unfair.

Republicans argue that Obama is desperately making the Paycheck Fairness Act an issue in order to gain support for the Democratic Party and to distract the public from the economic issues created while the party was in office. His approval rate among working women is at a dangerously low level which threatens to decrease the people's support of his party. The Republicans also point out that the White House is behaving hypocritically because it pays women 12% less than it pays men.

As well as affecting em-

ployees, the act will prevent companies from operating efficiently. The flow of business threatens to be heavily halted by implementing the Paycheck Fairness Act because companies are given more regulations to adhere to. Also, legal problems may arise due to companies being given less freedom to increase or decrease worker pay based on contribution.

The Paycheck Fairness Act, instead of shattering the glass ceiling, will simply be reinforcing it. The Paycheck Fairness Act seems ideal at first, but closer inspection leads one to the realization that it is an underdeveloped incarnation of a very appealing idea.

## Entrepreneur Club Photo Booth Fundraiser



Photos will be placed in the last issue of the El Rodeo Newspaper

Date: Friday May 9th

Time: During Lunch

Place: The Quad

Price: \$5 for 1-3 students.

\*Props will be provided along with a solid background.

Seniors it will be a great opportunity to cherish your senior memories with your high school friends.

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*El Rodeo*, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers.

The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

Student journalists on the *El Rodeo* staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school regulations or disrupt school operations. At the beginning of each semester, journalism students will be reminded of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write.

Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.

# OPINION

## WORD ON THE STREET

### What is your opinion of Adam Silver's actions to ban Donald Sterling from the NBA for life along with a \$2.5 million dollar fine?



"I respect the commissioner, Adam Silver. I respect his decision to set an example and make sure that culturally sensitive issues are dealt with, such as racism. However, I don't feel that Donald Sterling was properly tried throughout this process. I feel that its more of a mob mentality that took one sentence out of a conversation, and turned it into something bigger than what it was. I did listen to the conversation and I felt that I've heard people say way worse things, and really that his intention wasn't to be racist it was more of a conflict with him and his girlfriend. His girlfriend really set him up in my opinion, but his personal issues come up with him in the forefront and he is an important figure because he owns a basketball team and a lot of property in L.A. His history of racism should've been something that was addressed prior like just this incident, but ultimately it does come down to just one incident, and like I said I respect the fact that the commissioners taking a stance on something."

-Mr. Pringle



"They did the correct thing against Donald Sterling because not only is it racist but he doesn't have the right to do that against African-Americans because most of the NBA is made up of African-Americans so I think it was wrong for him to say that about them."

-Evan Zuniga , 12



"I don't think the commissioner did the right thing with banning [Sterling] for life because he does a lot of good things around the community with everybody. Me personally, my grandpa knew him and I knew that he was a good man. A lot of people make mistakes and this is one bad thing that he did but I don't think he should have been banned for life."

-Justin Gonzalez , 12



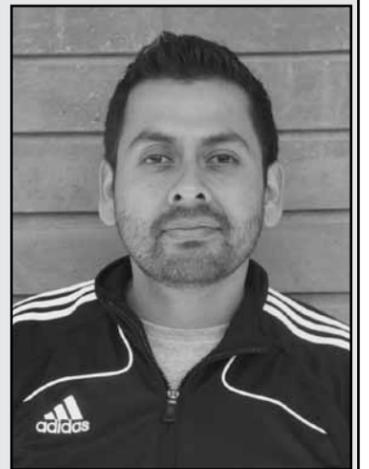
"Banned is the right thing, I don't think he has a place in any professional sport. I think he's incredibly stupid and I hope that they do force a sale."

-Mr. Meza



"I believe that what they did was right but I believe that they should have done way more to him like make him sell the team because most of the people that are in the NBA are mostly African American so he is pretty much a hypocrite towards everyone thinking they're just property not people."

-Matthew Casing, 12



"I feel like in any organization, or major sport team, there's never any room for discrimination, or racism. Although, at the same time I feel the NBA Commissioner was pressured into fining him the \$2.5 million, as well as banning him for life, because the NBA is a business. If that wouldn't have been done then there would have been a lot of boycotting and a lost of revenue for the NBA."

-Mr. Romero

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# COLLEGE

## Where are they now?: Bruin Rafael Medina

BY ELIZABETH JACOME  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Once Dons go off to college not much is heard about them afterwards. Where did they go? What are they doing now? How are they doing in college? All these questions come across the minds of the students at El Rancho.

Rafael Medina, a 19 year old alumnus, graduated in 2012. He loves sports, especially baseball and boxing. Medina is a sophomore currently attending UCLA. Since high school, Medina was certain of what he would be majoring in. His major at the moment is history with a minor in education studies and his ultimate goal is to become a lawyer.

UCLA was, surprisingly, not his first choice; it was his backup. Medina's primary goal was to attend UC Berkeley but chose UCLA instead because he realized he had a deeper connection with the campus and the students attending there.



Rafael Medina, third student from the right, roots for UCLA with other Bruins.

UCLA offers many diverse events and programs including the boxing club and the "undie run." This is when students unite to run daringly around the campus and city in their underwear. Medina says it happens during

finals week and it's a way for students to "relax and get away from studying for a while." As a bonus they don't get in trouble for their actions so what could be more fun than that?! A highlight of Medina's

college experience is when he only had to go to a class once a week, and when he did attend his class went to Malibu, Santa Monica Mountains, California Science Center, and other great places. Medina's years at El Ran-

cho were well spent, having been involved in many AP courses including AP Euro, AP English, and AP Spanish. He also participated in some of the sports that El Rancho had to offer.

In college, all the AP courses taken in high school could lead to graduating a semester or year early. Medina says that they helped "adequately prepare me for college and allowed me to stay on top of all my tasks."

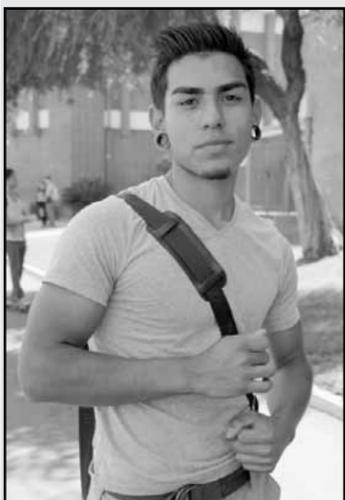
El Rancho not only prepared Medina academically, but also taught him important study skills like time management and efficient productivity despite a full schedule.

Some helpful advice Medina has for any students wondering about college is start early - don't procrastinate. Make sure you apply for scholarships now and meet important deadlines. He also says its a good idea to visit any future colleges to get a better feel of them.

**Congratulations Dons  
on your acceptances!**

### WORD ON THE STREET

#### How is the class of 2015 preparing for college?



"I'm not going to college - just kidding, I'm getting a job in so I can pay for it."  
- Robert Robledo



"I've signed up to receive emails from colleges in order to keep in touch with them; and I've even visited some of the campuses"  
- Brianna Olivares



"I've attended college night here at El Rancho and I'm also maintaining my good grades."  
- Norbert Rodriguez



"I'm getting a job and with the money that I collect I'm going to save for college."  
- John-John Hernandez



"I'm taking the SAT's early and I'm also taking AP courses."  
- Berlin Navarro

# FEATURES

## A new tradition at the Ranch: The Don Games

BY NICHELLE RENTERIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On April 10th, El Rancho hosted its first ever Don Games. Held in the old gym, students lined up outside the main doorways to enter to see who would take home the victory, the blue team or the grey team. The Blue team's side was seniors and freshmen; on the grey side were sophomores and juniors. While students were waiting outside, sign ups to participate in the games were held in-between both doorways. Raffle tickets were given to each student as they piled in through the doors.

With each team having to create a skit to perform during the don games, pressure is put on the team captains as they lead their teams to triumph. Megan Jimenez, the blue teams head captain, says, "it was an honor because not only am I spirited with events; they chose me because I am an outgoing person and am someone who can get the crowd going." Long practices after school and on weekends kept the blue team motivated and determined to win.



The Blue Team, comprised of seniors and freshmen, celebrate their victory.

The Grey team captain Natalie Woo says, "Being captain of the grey team was an honor making sure that we had decorations and our skit done as well as having school spirit." The blue team advisors were Mr. Retana, Mr. Rojo,

and Mrs. Lam. The Grey team's advisors were Mrs. Palomares, Mrs. Rosales and Mrs. Zeko. Judges for the Don Games were Mrs. Palacios, Mrs. Sedano, Ms. Kwek and Mrs. Valle. During the event students played games

like obstacle courses, Potato sack racing, the amoeba race, and many more. As the games were being played, raffle numbers were being called out to students in the audience to receive a free gift card. As raffle numbers were

being called out, students from either side would come up and spin the big wheel to see which game would be played next.

The Blue team took home the win and ASB is excited and ready for next year.

### Rubi Macias says "Ni Hao" to NYU Shanghai



Century Park in Shanghai, China.

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

They say one travels more usefully when alone because she reflects more. (Thomas Jefferson) Senior Rubi Macias has definitely had her hand with travel within the past year from traveling with the Gadabouts to Germany to traveling alone to Shanghai.

Back in the fall, Macias applied to NYU Shanghai along with many other universities. It came as a great surprise to her when she received an acceptance to NYU Shanghai toward the end of March along with a paid invitation to visit the campus.

Out of the thousands of applicants she was one of the 300-500 students outside of China that were accepted. "I was confused because I had actually heard very little about the school and applied on a whim," says Macias, "I got very excited afterward because when they notified me that I'd been accepted, they also offered to fly me out!"

During her stay in Shanghai, Macias and the other accepted applicants were allowed to tour the campus and the city of

Shanghai and even took a class on corruption. "I really liked bonding with all the beautiful people from all different cultures and all bonding because many of us were in an unfamiliar but welcoming environment," says Macias.

As any traveling experience is, it was very different and slightly revealing for Macias because "people there are not too social or creepily friendly like in America... they just go about their business being decent human beings." One thing that seemed odd for Macias was that there weren't many people on the streets but once she hit the subway she realized that it is where the "one billion people were hiding." She describes her favorite experience in Shanghai as the time her group was supposed to be on a scavenger hunt, but instead went on a small section of kid rides in Century Park.

Macias seems to have enjoyed her once in a lifetime experience in Shanghai as she describes the environment as calm but beautiful, mixed with energy, culture and history. "There's a beautiful blend of old and new and I love how the buildings had

really cool lighting that I usually describe as flattering but it was not too bright," says Macias. Not only was Macias exposed to China's lovely culture, she also gained her "best eating experience" one night when she had hot pot, which was a boiling pot of broth where they dipped meats and veggies with chopsticks that cooked instantaneously.

Although she was enamored with the campus, she will not be attending NYU Shanghai due to financial issues; instead Macias will be packing her blue pride and taking it with her to Yale's Undergraduate College in the fall. "I am astounded at the amount of people who are happy for me and I truly believe I belong in such a prestigious institute... Yale has become my Hogwarts, except my acceptance was delivered by a bulldog instead of an owl," says Macias. Besides NYUSH, Macias was also accepted to UCLA, UCSB, UC Irvine, UC Berkeley, NYU, USC, University of Notre Dame, University of Virginia, and Yale.

Traveling should be something that our young minds and heart seek to pursue. It is crucial for people of our age, or any age to travel in order to gain different perspectives and knowledge of the outside world. Take Macias for example, within a year she has seen various faces and distinct places that have all given her a new perspective of the world. She advises El Rancho students that traveling alone is not as frightening as it seems, in fact it's perhaps more thrilling. Macias also advises that if you ever find yourself traveling alone to not fret about airport navigation because it is pretty simple and to always schedule plenty of time to explore and she gives the big unofficial "ok" in breaking the rules a bit.

### Pico Rivera's Aztec Dancers encourages the community to join



Aztecs dancers gather as they prepare for their performance.

BY KIMBERLY LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Kids and members of the community should join Aztec Dancing because, they get a chance to learn and also have fun. It also gives them the chance to meet new people and dance. It helps you develop a great set of useful skills such as endurance and time management.

The head teacher Aide Novawhaler says, "Kids learn discipline. They also learn what creates a community. The community comes together because different people within Pico Rivera or even outside of Pico Rivera learn how to get along with one another and become friends."

Senior Vanessa Duran shares her experience on Aztec Dancing. She says, "Aztec Dancing helps you develop a great set of skills. Not only do you learn about the Aztec culture, but you also learn how to manage your time and endurance." You build strong friendships with the

people in the Aztec Circle who become like a second family. They are more willing enough to help you with any struggles.

"Aztec Dancing is a great stress reliever. It's a type of cultural dance that has inspired many people throughout the years," says senior Jessica Guerrero. The feathers and the instruments incorporate the culture within the dance. "It's an endurance kind of dance and is great after a bad day," says Jessica

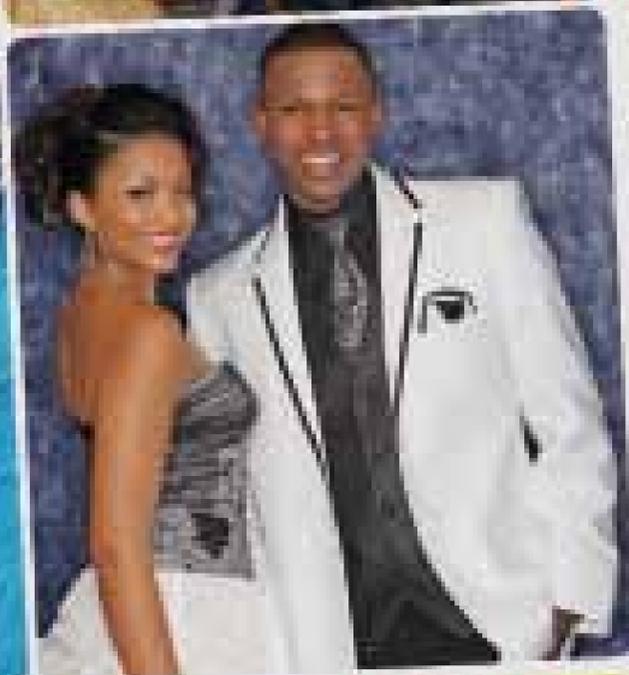
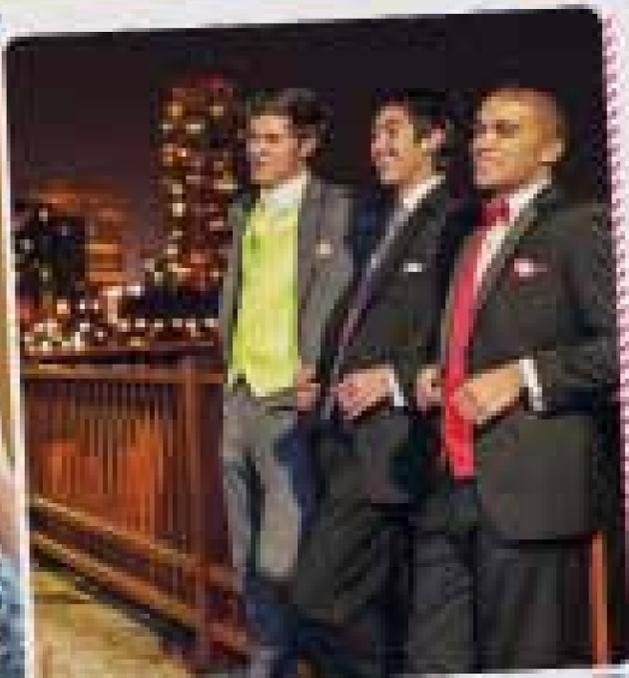
Aztec dancing is not just a regular type of dance. It is also a way to learn the traditions that come with it such as the dancing, the spirituality, and the singing. It is a way of living in harmony with nature. Kids may seem scared and intimidated at first because they don't know the steps, but with practice and determination they will get the steps and they will learn how to dance.

Aztec Dancing practices are on every Thursdays from 6:45 to 8:30 at Rivera Middle school and it is completely free. Anyone is welcomed to join!

# CAMPUS

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# CAMPUS

## April brings forth Blue Pride



Salas twins matching alongside Amador and Armando



Track pole vault team after competing during thWhitter meet



Thespian's hope to inspire at Future Don's Night



Senior Amber Hernandez spinning the wheel hoping to win a prom ticket



Freshmen showing off their school pride during spirit week



E.R.I.C selling root beer floats at the multicultural carnival



One true El Rodeo fan



Seniors showing their blue pride during the Don Games



Freshmen girls supporting the track team on the bleachers

## IN-DEPTH

## Television shows provide source of friendship

By RUBI MACIAS

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Television fandoms are perhaps the largest on online communities. Teenagers and adults worldwide bond over their shared appreciation for programs such as *Supernatural*, *Doctor Who*, *Sherlock*, *Hannibal*, and more. These television shows develop fandoms with their well-written scripts and appealing characters.

The *Supernatural* fandom is the most well-known due to its widespread presence on the internet. *Supernatural* focuses on two brothers, Sam and Dean, who follow in the footsteps of their father and devote their lives to fighting evil beings. Within the Tumblr community, the *Supernatural* fandom is known for having GIFS as a response to any topic mentioned or discussed.

*Doctor Who*, a British television show, has spread into the “colonies” and official merchandise can even be seen at local media shops. This program has lasted for more than fifty years and is quite complex, as it deals with the Doctor, a Time Lord with two hearts who travels through time and space in his TARDIS along with his companions. The *Doctor Who* fandom, or



Fan art featuring the characters: Sam and Dean Winchester, Castiel, the 11th Doctor, Sherlock and John Watson

“Whovians,” has constant mood swings because the show elicits strong emotions and the doctor is regenerated and played by a different actor every so often.

The *Sherlock* fandom, with its “Sherlockians,” is perhaps the most tortured by hiatus between seasons, which can last up to three years. The program is a modern adaptation of Sir

Arthur Conan Doyle’s original books featuring the famous detective. The show has reached worldwide fame and has sparked controversy over a faction of the fandom that believes John and Sherlock should be romantically involved. The fandom has many ships but this is the most well-known because there is a lot of saucy fanfiction based on them.

The *Hannibal* fandom’s presence on social media is enjoyable to all other bloggers, as they arrive every once in a while to make a clever joke or terrible pun. Despite the strangeness of a show revolving around a cannibalistic cook who constantly hints at his naughty ways, the “Fannibals” remain loyal to the show. The fandom jokes lightheartedly

and often makes ridiculous comments such as if *Hannibal*’s mother gave him a name that rhymes with cannibal, she should have named him “hegetarian” instead.

Television fandoms of all sizes exist on the internet. These fandoms are unique because their presence is periodic, experiencing sudden peaks when the program releases new content.

## Fandoms gain strength in the music industry

By NAZARELY NARVAEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A musician’s career depends not only on the quality of his or her music but also on the support they receive from their fans. Artists like Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber and One Direction are highly dependent on their fans not only because of ticket sales and where their music places on music charts but because of the power their fans actually have over their social life.

The power of a fandom in the music industry is underestimated. If Joan Rivers decides to make fun of one of Lady Gaga’s outfits on *Fashion Police*, Rivers will most likely be receiving some angry feedback from Gaga’s “Little Monsters.” Fandoms consist of people who are highly devoted to glorifying or idolizing celebrities, therefore when someone offends their “idol” the whole fandom is offended. Artists with fandoms as huge as Lady Gaga’s have a whole army on their side when it comes to criticism or arguments.

This idea also applies to how the artist actually behaves. The most recent example is that



1964: Fans show off posters as they wait outside of JFK airport for The Beatles’ arrival.

of Justin Bieber’s drunk driving incident. His “Beliebers” were still on his side despite the fact that he could have killed someone, or even himself, while driving under the influence. Maybe Beliebers find the “bad boy” look he’s trying to pull off attractive? No one can ever be sure as to why fan girls actually “fan girl” over such actions. The term “fan girl” refers to the extreme excitement

over a celebrity’s every action.

Fan girls have come a long way since the 1960’s when they were first exposed. When The Beatles first arrived in the U.S. in February of 1964, they still believed they had to conquer America, but “Beatlemaniacs” were way ahead of them. Thousands of fans stood waiting outside of the JFK airport, most of them being girls. These girls were devoted to

The Beatles and were determined to follow their every action; this is the sole purpose of a fan girl.

When One Direction made their American television debut on *The Today Show* in 2012, they had already captivated the attention of young girls all across the U.S. It was definitely easier for “Directioners” to spread the word about them due to the internet than it was for Beatlemaniacs to

spread the word about The Beatles. 1D’s popularity increased immensely now that they are touring Latin America. They’ve become so famous that Liam Payne, member of 1D, has had to tweet things such as, “Please don’t sit outside my house. It’s the one place I get to be myself and not have people taking pictures.”

Upcoming coming artists and bands like Ed Sheeran, 5 Seconds of Summer, and The 1975 have reached the ears of people in the U.S., despite the fact that they are from different continents, thanks to their fans. Fandoms allow people from different parts of the world to bond. It is to be expected that more artists attain more attention with the efforts of their fans.

It seems as if fandoms get bigger and stronger as the years go by. Fans have gone from waiting outside of airports to breaking into hotel rooms and leaking full albums. When does an artist decide the fans are going to far? That’s up to the individual musician, but for now it’s logical to say that fans are the foundation on which an artist’s career is created.

## Frequently used fandom lingo

**“Can you not” or “STAHP”:** a phrase and/or word used when a fan wants someone to stop what they are doing immediately

**“ERMAHGERD”:** also known as “Oh My God,” is An exclamation of excitement, surprise, amazement, or shock

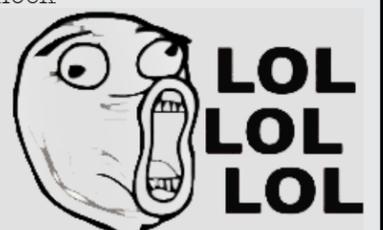
**Fandom:** a fanatic domain consisting of people with a common interest.

**Feels/ Fangirling:** the extreme excitement over a celebrity’s actions

**“I can’t even”:** a phrase used to express a fan’s inability to calm his/herself

**Meme:** a humorous image, video, piece of text, etc. that is copied and spread rapidly by Internet users.

**Ship/OTP (One true pairing) :** a term(s) used to describe when fans support a romantic relationship.



# IN-DEPTH

## Readers lose themselves in fictional worlds

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Is it the scent of weathered pages? Or the far away lands that draw us so close to Fandoms? Is it the fact that we can escape our own world and dive into another's life for hours on end? Books offer infinite possibilities from magical schools, utopian societies, vampire academies, training summer camps, and even deadly arenas.

All these worlds are quite different, yet they all share one universal element, a hero to root for. These heroes are never perfect; they are created with a sole purpose, to be relatable to the reader.

Harry Potter may have saved the wizarding world, yet he always sustained a very stubborn, hardheaded personality. Tris from Divergent was brave, selfless, and intelligent, yet she always remained insecure and did not possess the confidence the Dauntless sought. Percy Jackson saved Olympus from the wrath of the Titans, yet his fatal flaw was always putting everyone else before himself. And finally, Katniss from the Hunger Games sparked a rebellion, yet she possessed an indecisive personality and never knew what she really wanted. The reader can always find a connection to their hero, this is what draws fans together into close knit communities and into the world of Fandoms.

Fandoms are composed of fanatics who share a common interest in TV shows, video games, movies, music, comics, or books. These fans, however, are very loyal to their community.

Many of these fans connect through the Internet to give fan coverage and even create forums to discuss their fandoms. Fan fiction is also a very popular component that these zealous fanatics adopt.

Once a book ends, many fans are heartbroken because their heroes' adventures have come to an end, so they decide to take



The Hunger Games, Harry Potter, and Divergent heroes.

matters into their own hands. Fans create their own stories revolving around the same fictional universe. They take characters, settings, and ideas from the original authors' and add their own touch to the worlds they love so much.

Harry Potter is the most searched for fan fiction on the Internet. Many fans like to write about what Harry Potter's kids lives at Hogwarts might be like and how they would carry on their father's legacy. Fan fiction attracts fanatics, allows for writers to expand their creativity, and encourages young people to write.

Many fans even dress up as their favorite characters and attend midnight premiers when their favorite works of literature are turned into motion pictures. They get a chance to experience the story in a whole new way.

Fans eagerly sit at the cinemas, awaiting the moment to find out if the characters are really how they pictured them in their heads, or to learn once and for all how they pronounce that tongue twisting word.

If you wish to avoid spoil-

ers do not sit next to a person who dressed up for the movie or is wearing the film's t-shirt. They tend to get overly excited when a scene they remember is about to occur. Also, if you simply do not want to hear "THAT DID NOT HAPPEN IN THE BOOK!" all night, steer clear of these devoted fanatics. One thing is for sure, you will not get away from the cinema without hearing "The book was better," about 15 times before making it to the car.

Whether it is Potterheads for Harry Potter, Tributes for The Hunger Games, Demigods for Percy Jackson, Twihards for Twilight, or Tolkienites for Lord of the Rings, all these groups although very distinct have one major similarity, they have come up with nicknames to identify themselves and express their pride for their Fandoms.

The word Fandom with a capital "F" is not the liking of a novel, or even the loving. It is a devotion. These people don't read because they have no life, they read because they choose to have many.

## YouTube offers new opportunities

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Internet is considered the mothership for all fandoms; it's a place where fandoms meet, where they make memories, where they feel accepted and where they can 'fan girl' together. Over the years, the Y Generation has built different and unique communities on two of the most used websites for fandoms: YouTube and Tumblr.

One of the most popular fandoms that has branched out, all thanks to YouTube, is the Starkid fandom. The Starkid fandom comprises of fans of a Chicago-based musical theatre company founded at the University of Michigan by Darren Criss, Brian Holden, Matt Lang, and Nick Lang, known as Team Starkid. Their fame in YouTube began in 2009 when the students from the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre and Dance staged a musical parody of the Harry Potter Series titled *A Very Potter Musical* and put it up in their YouTube channel.

Once the video of the play went viral, Team Starkid found themselves as the head of a worldwide fandom and soon enough Starkid Productions was formed. Their fame in the YouTube community has yet to die out, given to their success

in putting on a wide variety of productions, such as *A Very Potter Sequel*, *A Very Potter Senior Year*, *Starship*, *Holy Musical B@man*, and *Twisted*, as well as the tremendous amount of support that the fandom has given them.

Team Starkid is not the only YouTube channel to have been successful due to the amount of support that their fans give, other channels, most commonly known as 'YouTubers' have had a great deal of success. Some of the well-known Youtuber's are Tyler Oakley, Troye Sivan, John Green, Hank Green, Dan Howell, Phil Lester and many more.

What attracts a large amount of people into their fanbase is the fact that Youtuber's have the ability to connect with a great amount of people because they do share all of their flaws and faults, which ultimately makes them relatable.

As if interacting through YouTube wasn't enough, fandoms also make up a large population of Tumblr blogs. Through Tumblr, fans share amazing fan art, enjoyable fan fiction, GIF sets, and edited art of the particular fandom hat they are in.

Not only do fans intermingle amongst each other through Tumblr, but most YouTubers have a Tumblr blog of their own and interact with their fans, giving fangirls and fanboys something to blog about.



Members of the YouTube community.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Who is your favorite OTP (One True Pairing)?



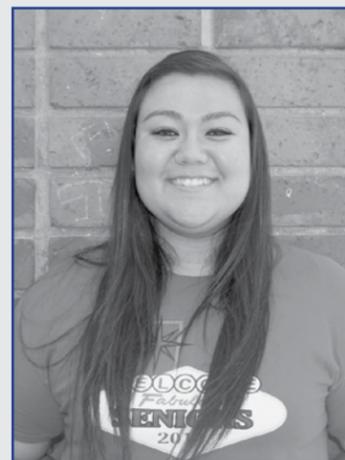
"Klaroline [Klaus and Caroline] from vampire diaries because everyone is against them being together and they deny feelings for each other but they have chemistry."  
-Olivia Ball 9th



"I have too many I can't decide!"  
- Jazmen Cabrera 9th



"Miam [Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth] even though they broke up, they were still cute together,"  
- Monica Miramontes 11th



"Matty and Jenna from Awkward because they are so cute."  
- Andrea Narvaez 12th



"Destiel [Dean and Castiel] from Supernatural because Castiel has risked everything for Dean."  
- Sam Ovaldia 12th

## SPORTS

## Track team prepares for prelims



Junior Christopher Lainez prepares to pass the baton to Senior Jeffrey Valenzuela during their track meet.

BY MICHAEL GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Boys JV, girls JV, and girls varsity of the El Rancho Track team suffered a very close loss against Whittier High School last Thursday. As for the boys' varsity team, they were able to bounce back from the loss against Santa Fe

and take the win against Whittier.

The boys' varsity team has only one loss, while each of the other teams have two. Due to Santa Fe High School's undefeated record and a tie with Cal High, it looks like El Rancho will be unable to win first place in the Del Rio League. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, since individual ath-

letes still have the chance to place at league finals, as well as at CIF.

Senior and Captain Evelyn Burgos, says, "I just hope we get a lot of people to go to CIF and PR [Personal Record] and medal at finals." Burgos runs the 300 and 100 meter hurdles alongside her sister, Gisselle Burgos.

Evelyn was disappoint-

ed with her own performance against Whittier, but is still proud of the team for their effort and support. She says, "I could have done way better... but I know I can always come back with a better attitude and beat my time."

Senior Nicholas Galvan knows the team must improve but congratulates them for working hard. Galvan was able to place first in both of his events against Whittier, and he would like to thank his teammate Wyatt Sandoval for pushing him to do his best. Sandoval and Galvan run the same races, so there is always a friendly competition between them. Galvan is always motivated to win and says, "I go to war with every single one of them out there."

The Dons faced California highschool's Condors yesterday for the last meet of the season. The whole team ran hard and gave it their best effort.

This Tuesday will be prelims for all levels of runners against the qualifying runners from each of the schools in the Del Rio League.

League Finals will follow on Thursday at La Mirada high school. If possible, go out and support the team, everyone is welcome to come.

## Curiel and the swim team prepare for League Finals



Sophomore Jason Curiel getting ready for prelims at practice.

BY BREANNA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Jason Curiel, sophomore and fellow member of the El Rancho swim team, not only manages to balance school and sports, but is also a part of the water polo Commerce Club.

Curiel began swimming when he was thirteen and has been involved with the Commerce Club for approximately four years. However, he was first introduced to water polo at the Commerce by accident. "I went to my cousin's house one day and she brought me along to one of her practice's, and since then I've been hooked [since] we began playing."

His devotion to swim includes being a part of the El Rancho water polo team for two years, and he plans to swim in college. Curiel wants to get accepted into USC in hopes that "swim can get me a scholarship into a good university."

As of now, academically, Curiel is keeping up with his schoolwork, while maintaining a GPA above a 3.0. "I'm just trying to balance it all out, it's sometimes a bit of trouble, but I'm trying to stay on top of things."

Curiel's motivation behind swim is the support he receives from his teammates and family. "Being a part of this team makes me feel happy, I just really love to be on the team."

For El Rancho, Curiel competes in the 100-meter butterfly stroke and the 200-meter Iron Man, which includes the backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle.

His contribution to the team has helped the Dons win back-to-back swim meets against California, Alhambra, Pioneer, and long time rival, La Serna High School. However, only the boys swim team won the meet against the La Serna Lancers, which hasn't been achieved since 2002.

To support the Dons at the next swim meet the team will be competing for prelims at Whittier High School. The girls will compete on Tuesday May 6th at 4pm, and the boys will compete on Wednesday May 7th at 4pm.

The top 6 swimmers from JV and Varsity will be chosen based on how well they do at prelims to further compete in the League Finals. The League Finals will also be held at Whittier High School where all six schools will compete on May 9th at 4pm.

## Undeclared tennis duo make way to prelims

BY VALERIA HURTADO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year the boys' tennis team wasn't as fortunate as they were last year in participating in CIF. Classes this year have not been easy and a lot of returners were not allowed back onto the team and that cost them the chance of returning to CIF. However, the boys' number one doubles team, is advancing to pre limbs.

Pre limbs consist of fourteen doubles teams and fourteen single players from schools in league, and the first and second place teams advance to play the winners of other divisions.

Coach Dorado believes that in order to be a good team, the players must tolerate their partner. Joshua Briseno and Adrian Tovar were partners the previous year, and due to their strong friendship they are able to play in sync. "We work very hard," says Tovar. Their last game of league was May 1st and Briseno and Tovar are the number one doubles team in the division.

Throughout preseason and league, Briseno and Tovar have not lost a single match and in league, they stand at 30-0. Even if only part of the team moves on to the next level, the boys play with the heart of the entire team. "Our team supports each other, we stick together, joke around and just have fun," says Briseno. The boys hope to achieve the same goal during pre limbs and come out victorious.

## Leal-Robles leads softball team on quest for playoffs



Senior Captain Aiyana Leal-Robles concentrates on catching the next pitch.

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the El Rancho softball season coming to an end, the varsity softball team hopes to do everything in their power to make it to playoffs.

Senior varsity captain, Aiyana Leal-Robles believes that as a team, the girls are doing very well. "We have prepared very well for this season, it's just a matter of applying everything we have practiced into our remaining games," says Leal-Robles.

Leal-Robles firmly believes that if anything happens, whether it is good or bad, the girls will stand together as a team, proudly because they know in their hearts that they did everything they could possibly do. "We'll stay united

as a team by staying positive and picking each other up when we need it," says Leal-Robles.

Leal-Robles believes that the reason behind the team's success, is the fact that the team is full of talented girls. "We're a strong team because there is talent up and down the lineup and at every position on the field," says Leal-Robles.

Leal-Robles believes that every team has both strengths and weaknesses. "Our biggest strengths are our defense and pitching staff and we have a good offense, we just need to get more hits," says Leal-Robles.

The team feels that their biggest competition is California High School and La Serna High School. Although these two schools are very competitive,

Leal-Robles is confident that her team can conquer anything they set their mind on. "They are both strong teams, but we can definitely beat them as long as we work as a team," says Leal-Robles.

The team has a strategy for maintaining themselves above Cal High and La Serna. "We will beat these team if we perform well throughout the entire game," says Leal-Robles.

Although Leal-Robles' original goal was to make it to playoffs, above all, Leal-Robles just wants her last season playing softball at El Rancho to be memorable. Make sure to come support the girls during their next game against Pioneer High School on May 6th at 3:15pm on the varsity softball field.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Dons showcase talent in Poetry Slam

Mrs. Brown and Mr. Sorenson's Creative Writing, Honors, and A.P English classes have dedicated approximately four months to writing and performing their own original poems. Both teachers have allowed their students to read poems by famous poets such as William Shakespeare, Charles Bukowski, Edgar Allan Poe, and Maya Angelo. Brown and Sorenson had hoped that their students would become comfortable seeing metaphors, imagery, and other literary techniques used in poems. The Juniors were required to perform their pieces for their fellow classmates, and those who received the highest scores would earn a place in El Rancho's Poetry Team.



Junior Samantha Castellanos recites her poem for Mr. Sorenson's A.P English class, and hopes to earn a spot on El Rancho's Poetry Team

## I Am More

BY KIMBERLY SERRONO

I  
am more than  
A pair of ocean blue eyes  
A head full of beautiful  
blonde hair  
A pocketful of money  
I am more

I am more than  
A history of slavery  
A plate of fried chicken  
A basket and a ball  
I am more

I am more than  
A horrible driver  
A one-dollar salesman  
A math genius  
I am more

I am more than  
A gardener  
A sombrero and frijoles  
An illegal immigrant  
I am more

I am more than  
A Holocaust survivor  
A bar mitzvah  
A greedy businessman  
I am more

I am more than  
A pair of arms with bulging  
muscles  
A sports channel  
An insensitive soul  
I am more

I am more than  
A compact mirror  
A pair of high heels  
An unfit worker  
I am more

I am more than  
A young rebel  
A party freak  
A social media fanatic  
I am more

I am more than  
A 4.0 GPA  
A walking thesaurus  
A science expert  
I am more

Let me show you

## Creation of Well-Formed Sentences

BY GABRIELLE MAGÑA

You find the reason to everything and anything because  
it makes you feel safe, but I  
--can't kiss you without you  
wanting to tell me that  
my eyelids flutter because my eyes  
get dry and they need to protect themselves from all the  
pathogenic shit that flutters around me but I'm  
really just trying to get a better look at you,

why don't you let me look at you.

Then I begin to cry and you say why tears are tears,  
and that you wanted a "simple life" with me but  
you're too busy identifying the complexity of things  
that you can't even feel because they lay within your heart, not your hands.

I'm right in front of you, but your  
voice begins to raise and you speak the science of presence  
and you tell me that I'm your soul mate because your subconscious doesn't always feel so alone when I'm  
standing right beside  
you and that you need me to survive, but you  
can't always kiss me because you're too busy saying that the reason why  
I think you taste good  
when you kiss me is because  
we are for each other.

While I'm in your arms you begin to analyze  
my paragraph of life and how  
it fits so perfectly beneath yours.  
But then you rearrange your words  
and place some in between mine  
and then I realize I'm the just the loosely placed parenthesis around your  
syntaxation of life.



# FUN ZONE

BY DEBBIE BARAJAS, JULIA ORTIZ,  
AND DEBBIE BARAJAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

## May Horoscopes

**Aries:** Something has been building up. Some kind of pressure has slowly been rising in your life, Aries. It may be a variety of things that are adding up. You could handle it before, but now the weight of it all is starting to get to you.

**Taurus:** You are a marvelous person inside and out. Who wouldn't want you? You may be on the lookout for love, but don't look for it, Taurus. It will come to you. Learn to be the patient one rather than the stubborn one.

**Gemini:** You may have thought that you worked through the thought process involved with an old mistake and that you had forgiven yourself. But recently, Gemini, that old mistake may have popped up again somehow. In a dream, a person may be trying to reach out to you and you may not notice it. Stop being caught up in your pride and talk to them, Gemini.

**Cancer:** Some important process in your life is moving very slowly and it is probably driving you crazy. You aren't the one to rush things, but you may feel that you have put in your time and paid your dues and



you believe that you should be much farther ahead than you are.

**Leo:** You may be feeling weak or vulnerable. You may think that you don't have the power of someone who might be your competition. You may be thinking that good things only happen to other people, but you are wrong.

**Virgo:** It is not what you say, but the way you say it. This

little bit of wisdom may apply to something you are experiencing right about now, Virgo. You may disagree with someone's reaction to something you said or did. Not everyone understands you. You just have to work on conveying your ideas properly.

**Libra:** So far, this month has been swell for you and it seems like the greatness will continue throughout. Keep in

touch with your positive energy and emotions. This will help you keep your thoughts in order and, therefore, support you in a successful future.

**Scorpio:** During this month, make sure to keep yourself open to others because expressing yourself and exposing your interests will attract the perfect fit of a crowd to you. You never know who

will benefit you in the long run.

**Sagittarius:** Don't try too hard to make yourself feel "happy" if in reality it is hurting you. Just hang in there because true happiness is coming your way and hard times or hardships will soon vanish with a simple drop of good feeling.

**Capricorn:** It is your turn to relax this month. Take it easy, but stay on track. Simply take a moment to sit back and enjoy your surroundings and what you have. Learn to appreciate the simple things and soak up the beauty that presents itself to you.

**Aquarius:** Something may be bothering you around this time. You may not be feeling your very best or you have a weird feeling about something. Take the time and build up the courage to dissect your feelings and find out what irks you and go ahead and take the initiative to fix it.

**Pisces:** This Month has been quite stressful for you, Pisces. Take a moment to yourself and try to have more alone time. Gather your thoughts together and rejoice. You may be in desperate need of peace and serenity in order to think to yourself about your new game plan to conquer any problem or obstacle.

Makeup By Veronica Macias  
Free Lance Makeup Artist  
Will come to you...

Veronica Macias  
Makeup Artist  
govero21@hotmail.com

FB/makeup by Veronica Macias  
Instagram/vmacias21  
Yelp/makeup by Veronica Macias

562-832-2280

Makeup artist located in Pico Rivera  
Prom Special for El Rancho High  
\$25.00 full face and lashes  
call or text: 562-832-2280  
#veronicadoesmakeup

### OUR FAVORITE DON'S GAMES TWEETS!

phatgurl @xkajazyjazz · Apr 10  
Don games was fun! #grayteam even though we lost 😂 lol  
pic.twitter.com/ftxK7jnKTd

Retweeted by Ms. Kwek ERHS and 1 other

MrRojo @MrRojoERHS · Apr 10  
All I gotta say is #DonGames2014 better end in a group hug!  
Expand

Favorited by Sofia and 4 others

Ms. Kwek ERHS @elranchoKWEK · Apr 8  
#BlueTeam rules! #dongames2014 pic.twitter.com/7R0w4WoGO  
from Pico Rivera, CA

Retweeted by El Rancho HS and 2 others  
奥斯瓦尔多 @jaime0153 · Apr 8  
Get excited for the Don games #dongames2014 #blueteam  
pic.twitter.com/pdlw16yTYB

## Library Corner

MATCH THE TITLE TO THE CHARACTER IN THESE POPULAR BOOKS IN THE ERHS LIBRARY!

1. If I Stay
2. Lord Loss
3. The Perks of Being a Wallflower
4. Speak
5. Looking For Alaska

- a. Grubbs Grady
- b. Charlie
- c. Melinda
- d. Mia
- e. Miles



\*The first three students who bring the correct written answers to Mrs. Chodos in the Library will receive a prize. ONE entry per student.\*