



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 59- Issue 4  
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## Dons Host Chinese Foreign Exchange Students

BY AMANDA HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With Chinese Foreign Exchange Students attending El Rancho for a week, heads have turned and many are curious as to why these students are here.

"The goal is to show the foreign exchange students our American culture and how it compares to the way they live," says Principal Sam Genis.

ESL4 ASIA Educational Services came to El Rancho with the help of Principal Sam Genis.

"I have a friend/associate who deals with international students at East L.A. College, so I asked him to arrange the foreign exchange program to happen," says Principal Sam Genis.

Some members of LinkCrew were chosen to have a student follow them around for the time they will spend here at El Rancho before moving on to another school.

"I feel lucky to have been one of the students to show our campus and to have the opportunity to share this experience with my exchange student Yifan Deng," says junior Isabella Hernandez.

Positive reactions shine



Each foreign exchange student is accompanied by a student escort. Here, Chinese and American students show their newly formed friendships.



Chinese Foreign Exchange student, Yifan "Tony" Deng, dissects a shrimp in Ms. Bauer's marine biology class.

from both the exchange students and El Rancho students.

"I like being here because it's beautiful and it's a new experience for me," says exchange student Yifan Deng. "Also it isn't as crowded out here like it is in China."

In China, students go to school for at least five days a week and instead of changing classes, students stay in the same class and the teachers change.

Also, their average school

day is about nine hours and students only get a two hour break through the whole day except for lunch.

"In junior high we aren't allowed to leave our classes for lunch, but in high school you are allowed to leave," says Yifan Deng.

Each of the foreign exchange students had to learn English and they all have different reasons for coming to America.

"I definitely want to go to a university in America," says exchange student Chen Meng

Yu, "I have to complete my studies in China before I can come over and study here though."

Though the exchange students will be missed after leaving, the experience has been a pleasant one.

Along with being a positive experience for El Rancho's students, the Chinese students feel that America is definitely a land of freedom. "I feel like I can do more things in America than I can in China," says Yifan Deng

## Marlon Brando Sat Right Here - in the Little Theatre!

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Under the direction of Mr. Wlasick, Thespian Troupe #2164 skillfully presented, *Marlon Brando Sat Right Here*, a play that chronicles the endeavors of a cluster of characters living in Hoboken, New Jersey in the 1950s.

"*Marlon Brando Sat Right Here* is about a group of people living in Hoboken, New Jersey and how their lives have been affected after the shooting of the film, *On the Waterfront*," said Juan Olivarres, who played the role of Fat the Miser. "The main part of the story, however, is the lost love between Gracie and Beep-ity-Beep."

Selling the play to the advanced drama class was simple, for the class immediately grew fond of the plot and the characters, but the initial discovery of the play is credited in large part to Mr. Wlasick's movie poster collecting hobby.

"I go on e-Bay, and I buy lots of promotional posters for Broadway plays, and I saw *Mar-*

*lon Brando Sat Right Here*. I got the play when it was first published, and I had read it and put it at the back of my mind. Then I bought the poster on e-Bay, and so I said, 'I need to take that play out again.'"

Along with its charm and appeal, *Marlon Brando Sat Right Here* presents mature subject matter and themes that the actors played sufficiently well after continual character study.

"I had to see the themes of the play through the eyes of the character, not through my own eyes," said Evelyn Menchaca, who played the lead role of Gracie.

The deep understanding of themes in *Marlon Brando Sat Right Here* resulted in the cast keeping their characters fresh and exciting.

"Sometimes, it's very difficult for high school students to maintain a consistent level of performance. You have to make it fresh and exciting, what we call the first time experience. Your character has to appear every night as if it's happening for the first time, and this cast was par-



Gracie and Beep-ity-Beep, played by seniors Evelyn Menchaca and David Hernandez, try to rekindle a lost love.

ticularly consistent in maintaining that level of performance, that polish and that first time experience, throughout the run of the show," said Mr. Wlasick.

With strong, consistent performances, the foundational vision Mr. Wlasick had for *Marlon Brando Sat Right Here* came through.

"I did accomplish [my vision] because Jean Chodos, the librarian, who saw the play came and told the class that she wanted to spend more time with those people in the cafe, which means

that we were successful and creating an atmosphere and characters that the audience became involved with," said Mr. Wlasick.

Ultimately, what most strongly drew Mr. Wlasick to direct *Marlon Brando Sat Right Here* was the theme it presents.

Mr. Wlasick said, "I liked what [the play] said about how our desires and our dreams, what it is that we want out of life, make us go forward, and no matter what odds, we seem to keep those burning alive; they keep us going."

### INSIDE

El Rancho Pride Day

-Page 2

Mayor Armenta's visit to El Rancho

-Page 3

Trendsetters of the Month

-Page 4

Featured Band: Killgarry

-Page 5

Girls' Water polo

-Page 7



## NEWS

# “California’s” Winter Adventure in Europe

BY ALEXIS RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

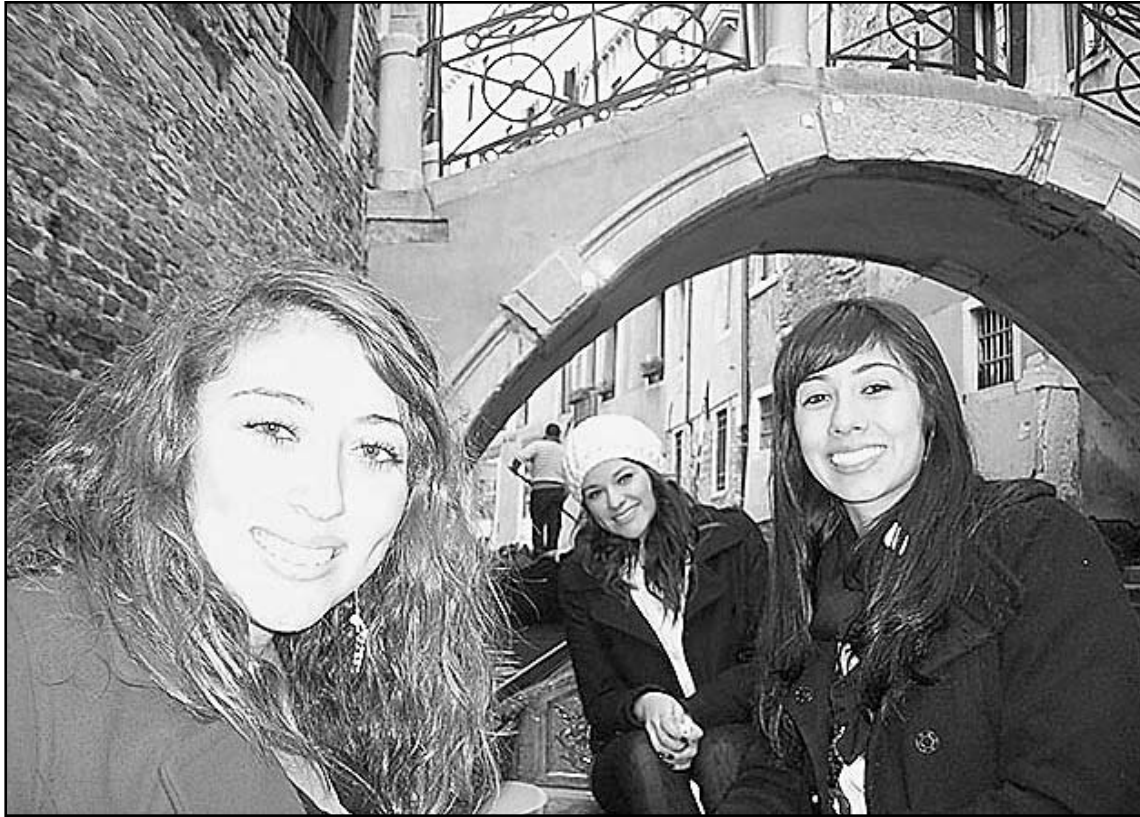
During winter break a group of 41 El Rancho students, teachers, and chaperons departed from LAX to begin a journey that none will forget. With a quick layover in London, the group set off to the beautiful city of Vienna, which is on the far, east side of Austria. Being in a foreign country was a first to many or as tour guide German says, “Europe Virgins.” He often referred to the group as “California.”

Arriving in Vienna was not as smooth as the group had hoped, nine of the bags were reported lost unfortunately, but that was only a small bump in the road for these travelers. As a welcome to Austria, the group visited Schönbrunn Palace, the former summer residence of Maria Theresa, Archduchess of Austria.

Traveling toward the east, the group stopped in Salzburg for a short tour then headed south to Innsbruck. Traveling through the Austrian and German Alps was a beautiful sight, and arriving in Innsbruck was nothing less of that. For some, surprisingly it was their first time to see or touch snow, but sadly they had to say good-bye to the snow-covered Alps and make way to Italy.

Italy is an enchanting country to say the least, and the historic city of Verona proved it.

“I felt that Verona was the most gorgeous city with the most welcoming people,”



Alexis Ramirez, Lauren Riesgo, and Ruby Garcia enjoying gelato while riding a gondola in Venice, Italy.

says senior, Lauren Riesgo.

As if being the city of Romeo and Juliet was not romantic enough, the group was able to see the balcony of Juliet, write on Juliet’s wall, and rub her lucky breast. After all of the “Ciao Bella” and “Ciao Bello” encounters, the group traveled to Venice.

Starting fresh in the morning, “California” boarded a boat that would drop everyone off nearby Saint Marks Square. There, the group received a private tour of Venice learning the histories and seeing a

glassblowing demonstration.

Between the sweet gelato and lovely gondola rides, these El Rancho travelers were able to explore the many islands of Venezia, taste authentic foods, and experience all of what Italy has to offer.

Senior, Ruby Garcia says, “Venice was the most beautiful city to me, the food was delicious, and the architecture was incredible.” Although the group was not able to go out for New Years Eve, the hotel prepared a delicious meal of tortellini and roasted chicken, along with cake for dessert.

An early departure on New Years Day was not ideal, but fortunately it was worth it for them as Lake Como was their next destination. Stepping off the bus, the group immediately boarded another boat to take a water tour of the gorgeous lake. Lake Como is known for its beautiful villas and the famous Bellagio. After the group had their last Italian dinner, they took an overnight bus drive through Switzerland and into France.

By morning, all had arrived in the stunning city of Paris, the

capitol of love. Wasting no time, “California” had a small breakfast in the city followed by a bus tour of famous structures and most importantly Avenue des Champs-Élysées for all of those shoppers.

“I loved Paris because of the history, the architecture, just the whole thing, and walking around was just great,” says Digital Imaging teacher, Mr. Diaz. The long anticipated sighting of the Eiffel Tower excited everyone.

Between the bargaining with street vendors and tasting of Nutella crepes, everyone eagerly snapped pictures of the Eiffel Tower and of “Le Arc de Triomphe”. And what is Paris without the Metropolitan? The metro was nerve-racking when thinking of pickpockets, but overall and interesting experience.

A visit to Notre Dame was exciting, and coincidentally the beautiful cathedral was at mass at this time. So students despite their religious preference had the opportunity to participate in a mas.

The final “Au revoir” to France was bittersweet, most were sad to leave but still happy to head home.

Taking an afternoon flight, the group traveled backward in time stopping once more in London and saying a final good-bye to Europe.

A nine day trip is definitely not enough to see what Europe has to offer, but it is a memorable experience that all will treasure throughout life.



David Hernandez makes it to the semi-finals of the Los Angeles Dorothy Chandler Scholarship competition.

## David Hernandez Sings His Way to Scholarships

BY ROSAURA MONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Talented singer David Hernandez is aiming high for the Los Angeles Dorothy Chandler scholarship competition with his powerful vocals.

This Sunday, Hernandez will sing in front of a panel of prestigious judges, along with 15 other finalists, for a spot in the final two.

Singing “Feeling Good” and “The More I See You,” by his idol, Michael Bublé has earned Hernandez his spot as a top fifteen semi-finalist.

“I heard about this scholarship from Gloria Molina, who

asked me to pick three students from El Rancho to compete for this singing scholarship,” said Mr. Wlasick. “I want David to have this chance so that he can get his voice heard and to have this opportunity to go further with his schooling.”

Even though there were over two hundred people auditioning for the chance for the scholarship, that didn’t hold back Hernandez one bit.

“I wasn’t nervous at all, I was just in pure excitement,” said Hernandez, “This is a very great opportunity to get my voice out there and I hope I can win, so I can give El Rancho a good name.”

Hernandez has been getting much support from his family, friends and Mr. Wlasick. “I am really excited and rooting [for David] so that he can enhance his performance and aim high. It’s a hard row into the business but I know that he can make it,” said Mr. Wlasick.

“I am really proud of him. I know he’ll make it even though he says he won’t,” said Hernandez’s girlfriend, Yessica Reyes.

After winning first prize at El Rancho’s two talent shows and participating in the school musical *Nine*, Hernandez has surely made his voice heard here on stage at the Ranch.

## El Rancho Students Lend a Helping Hand

ABEL MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho’s annual Blue Pride Day took place on January 22nd. Students from all classes along with faculty met bright and early with one goal in mind: To beautify the campus.

Starting at 8am, students gathered in front of the activities office to sign in and await their designated destination. And from there, a myriad of supplies were distributed. Among them were ladders, gumscrapers, trash bags and gloves.

“I was overwhelmed with the number of students that showed

up to help me,” said Mrs. Metaxas. “I was pleased with all the help I received. The kids weren’t afraid to put in a little bit of elbow grease to really get in there and clean.”

Blue Pride Day happens but once every year, and it is a tradition that began years ago. The campus receives a well deserved clean up before the Academic Decathlon kicks off.

“Blue Pride Day is where we take time out of the year to clean up our campus,” said ASB President Nash Rivas. “The turnout was good. Three hundred and seventy-five students came out and worked together to give the ranch a ‘homey touch.’”

The quad was decorated with various students re-painting the blue poles and windows of the G-building. Throughout the school, various classrooms were being cleaned, as well as the school vans, which were being washed in the front.

“[Blue Pride Day] was great,” said senior Maritza Velazquez. “It brings everyone together to help out the school.” Working alongside Maritza was Leos Club secretary Natalie Rivera. “Blue Pride Day was fun because I got to make a Leos wall and its pretty cool (the wall can be seen in room A-101).”

After three hours of vigor-



ous sweeping and scraping, everyone was treated to some pizza, along with some pretty exclusive (but limited in amount) El Rancho t-shirts. “Blue Pride Day was

a day that definitely brought up the morale of the campus,” says Dean Melgar. “It was great to see students helping each other out to help make the campus look better.”

# CAMPUS

## Students Pose Economic Questions to Mayor Armenta

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mayor Armenta visited Mr. Elias' economics class in order to inform students of current economic issues in Pico Rivera and to listen to students' suggestions and questions, which were based on a project the students undertook.

"Mr. Elias presented this project as an analysis of the economy of Pico Rivera, and our objective was to find key factors that affect our economy both positively and negatively and to give our opinions on those factors," said Phil Farias.

Bringing the mayor into his classroom was a simple task for Mr. Elias due in large part El Rancho's close proximity to city hall.

We're neighbors [El Rancho and city hall], so it was very easy to get in contact with the mayor because he is a graduate from El Rancho," said Mr. Elias.

With a month to prepare their presentations, the students looked at and analyzed census data in order to determine in which city a Kohl's department store would fit best.



Mayor Armenta visited Mr. Elias' economics class to listen to student presentations and answer questions.

"The students had close to a month, and it began with an analysis of the cities. The scenario was that the students were broken into teams. These teams were actually Kohl's department store managers, and they were given the assignment of opening a new store. We provided the paperwork that gave them six proposals from six different cities: Beverly Hills, Fullerton, Downey,

Montebello, La Puente, and Pico Rivera. From a business standpoint, they had to identify the city that Kohl's would have the most success in. In the ranking, Pico Rivera was either ranked last or second to the last. It was all purely economics," said Mr. Elias.

Moreover, with students that Mr. Elias feels that he could make ready for Wall Street if he simply had more time with,

Mayor Armenta was sincerely impressed with not only the level of work the students did, but also their level of analysis.

"The mayor mentioned that he was impressed with the sophistication of the study because what the students provided him with some real pertinent recommendations about the sales tax. Most of the students found that the sales tax was driving businesses

and retailers out of the area; the sales tax was not doing what it was supposed to," said Mr. Elias.

Subsequent to the student's presentations, Mayor Armenta was thoroughly questioned by the students.

"[Mayor Armenta] in fact did answer the questions truthfully. The mayor is unique, because he is a trustworthy man. For example, when questions of the Measure P "Penny" tax arose, he said he was against this proposed tax from the beginning, which after my own personal investigation, I found to be true. It was mainly backed by the city council," said Farias.

Impressed and intrigued, Mayor Armenta wishes to pay closer attention to El Rancho, for he and Mr. Elias foresee it becoming as significant in the city as it once was.

"[The mayor] wants to begin emphasizing El Rancho. When I came here, El Rancho was the center of the city. It was the intellectual center, the cultural center—everything; all roads lead to El Rancho. Maybe we can do it again," said Mr. Elias.

## Link Leaders Tutor Middle School Students

BY LYDIA RAYA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Due to the insufficiency on the THINK Together tutors' end, the RMS staff was very eager to invite and allow the Link Leaders to act as tutors after middle school hours if they were available.

Sixth-grade teacher Ms. Mercado was so impressed by the interaction the high school students initiated with the middle school students that she asked them about their tutoring schedules, requesting that they take the place of the THINK Together tutors for after school hours.

"The tutors we have for after school hours take the tutoring sessions more like an after school daycare," said Mercado.

"The high school students are so much more efficient and committed to helping these kids learn their material."

According to Mercado, her sixth-grade students are at a disadvantage due to their previous years in elementary school and at home—most of the students have only been in America for less than three years with parents who speak strictly Spanish.

"It's frustrating," said



Link Leaders voluntarily tutor middle school students for long hours, making an academic difference in the lives of many adolescents.

Mercado. "It makes me wonder what they learned in elementary school—if they even went. And with the THINK Together tutors not spending a lot of time to help the kids, it becomes more difficult to help them understand what they're learning."

"Our tutoring is exactly what these kids need," said Link Leader David Davila. "Because patience is key, and that seems to be what a lot of tutors and teachers at the school are lacking."

To the Link Leaders already attending tutoring sessions in the morning and scheduled to attend after school, the oppor-

tunity to make a difference in the younger students' lives and learning development is great.

They all believe that despite the insufficiency the children's previous teachers and tutors demonstrated for teaching, tutors who are willing to put in long hours for the child's learning benefit can work for the better of the students.

"Without help now, those kids will never be able to really develop or get help when they need it in the future," said Davila.

"Those kids really need it," said Mercado. "I'm really looking forward to it."



For a week, El Rancho students served as counselors to make fifth grade students "excited about science."

## Hand Picked Students Serve as Camp Counselors in Malibu

BY BRANDON MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, El Rancho students were hand picked to volunteer at the Malibu Outdoor Science School for an entire week. These students were cabin leaders for the fifth grade children who were participants in the program.

"I thought the trip was fun, and I now know how it feels to be parents. Somewhat," said junior Ricardo Chavez.

From the first day being dull to the trip becoming exciting made all worthwhile for these volun-

teers. "It was fun because you got to see an outdoor science school from a child's point of view," said junior Jovan Hernandez.

Memories were made that week, and new friendships were formed. "I would go back and help another group of kids and help get them excited about science," said Jovan.

Of the many things done, taking care of the children was an obstacle for these students. "We don't want kids for a while," said junior Isabella Hernandez and senior Mitzi Kim.

*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte  
*Tangled* by Carolyn Mackler  
*Almost Perfect* by Brian Katcher  
*You, Maybe* by Rachel Vail  
*Vampire Kisses series* by Ellen Schreiber  
*The Stories of Eva Luna* by Isabelle Allend  
*Girls, Girls, Girls* by Jonah Black  
*Dawn Rochelle series* by Lurleen McDaniel  
*Keeping You a Secret* by Julie Anne Peters

## A Random List of Romantic Novels in the ERHS Library

*Naomi and Ely's No-Kiss List* by Rachel Cohn  
*Boy Meets Boy* by David Levithan  
*The Truth About Forever* by Sarah Dessen  
*The Nature of Jade* by Deb Caletti  
*Kissing Annabel* by Steven Herrick  
*The Treasure Map of Boys* by E. Lockhart  
*Looking For Alaska* by John Green  
*Twilight series* by Stephanie Meyer  
*The Silver Kiss* by Annette Curtis Klause

*Are These My Basoomas I See Before Me?* by Louise Rennison  
*Beauty* by Robin McKinley  
*Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Dear John* by Nicholas Sparks  
*Gone With The Wind* by Margaret Mitchell  
*What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know* by Sonya Sones  
*For Keeps* by Natasha Friend

*Perfect Chemistry* by Simone Elkeles  
*The Princess Bride* by William Goldman  
*Story of A Girl* by Sara Zarr  
*The Opposite of Invisible* by Liz Gallagher  
*Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater  
*Food, Girls, and Other Things I Can't Have* by Allen Zadoff  
*It's Not You, It's Me* by Kerry Cohen Hoffmann

*Please Ignore Vera Dietz* by A.S. King  
*The Geography of Girlhood* by Kirsten Smith  
*The Breakup Bible* by Melissa Kantor  
*Hard Love* by Ellen Wittlinger  
*Ankiza* by Gloria Velasquez  
*Getting the Girl* by Marcus Zusak  
*Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

# FEATURES

## Gadabouts Getting Set for Next European Excursion

BY ABEL MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Headed by the coolest teacher couple on the campus, the El Rancho Gadabouts club has been around for over a decade. From London to Greece to Paris, they are all about turning one's traveling aspirations into a reality.

Originally, the club would only travel to Salinas, California. There they would read John Steinbeck's famous novella *Of Mice and Men*. The novel's location is based in Salinas, and the students would camp out at the location and read the novel at the river.

This trip was taken for three years until the school said that they wouldn't allow the club to take off

any more school days for the trip (the club would leave on a Thursday, thus missing Friday as well).

Around 2005, the Gadabouts fully transitioned into a "traveling club." The first trip was in the spring of 2006, and it was to London and Paris.

"I love traveling with the kids," says club advisor Mrs. Zeko. "It's great to experience new things with them, and to see them outside of the classroom. It gives you a richness that you can't get in the classroom."

The following year, the club traveled to Italy, Greece and Turkey. In 2010, the club visited Florence, Venice, Nice, and Paris. And this year the club is heading to Portugal, Spain and Mo-

rocco. Chaperones and frequent travelers over the years have included the Sorensons, the Welch-Eberts, Mr. Parra and Ms. Oase.

Now, the costs of these trips can be a burden on the shoulders of the students. However, fundraisers help with the expenses, relatives of the students pitch in, and some students even get jobs. One year, a student even opted out from a quincinera to go on a trip.

"I like how [Mr. and Mrs. Zeko] encourage you to wanna go on the trip," says sophomore Melissa Camacho. "They make it fun, show you everything you're gonna do there. They really excite you."

Together, the Zekos seek to find those students that yearn to explore places beyond those of the



The Zekos say Guten Morgen (good morning) to Munich, Germany.

United States. They have done so year after year, and will continue to do so for many years to come. There are still spots open for this

year's trip to Portugal, Spain and Morocco, so if interested, be sure to give either Mr. or Mrs. Zeko a visit to get more information.

## Electronics Club Prepares for Robotics Competition

BY EMMA LEAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you ever wondered how robots or certain gadgets work? If you have, wonder no more because the Electronics Club at El Rancho will definitely help you understand the logic behind the creation of electronics. The club meets Wednesdays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays in M-1.

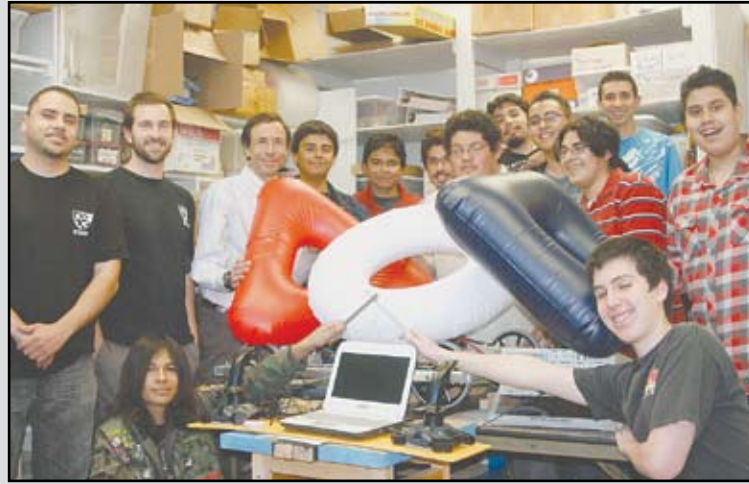
"The club is pretty cool because you get hands on in building robots from scratch," says senior Raul Rios. "Another thing that's great about the club is that it also gives you a sneak peek on what it means to be an electric engineer."

"I truly enjoy being part of the electronics club. It is a unique

place where students can go to show their talent," says sophomore Francisco Sanchez. "Doing hands on electronic activities is my passion. It's awesome!"

"A great thing about the club is that it helps inform the students what careers they can pursue with electronics. Not only does the club help inform students, but it also enhances their leadership skills," says club advisor Mr. Halverson.

Currently, the club is working on a robotics project, which involves the help from both Mr. Morales, a math teacher at El Rancho and Mr. Zook, a physics teacher. The project involves the construction of a robot, which will later in the school year be placed in a robotics competition.



Morales and Zook posing with the electronics club as they hide the robot being built for their upcoming robotics competition.

Ultimately, if you ever find yourself wondering what makes a computer a computer or an iPod an iPod, take a visit to the electronics club and there you will find answers to your technical questions.

## Trendsetters of the Month



Mr. Diaz

Tie: Europe \$10  
Glasses: Lenscrafters \$54  
Sweater: H&M \$20  
Shoes: Zappos \$60  
Watch: \$60



Tiffany Rodriguez 12th

Jeans: Express \$80  
Shoes: Boarders \$60  
Shirt: Forever21 \$15



Andrew Camacho 12th

Shirt: American Apparel \$16  
Blazer: Thrift \$2.50  
Pants: American Apparel \$52  
Shoes: Wasteland \$17



Lizzette Melendrez 12th

Shirt: Yard Sale \$0.25  
Beanie: Vintage Jet Rag \$10  
Pants: Forever 21 \$22  
Shoes: Swap Meet \$1  
Bracelet: Free

## El Rodeo



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## FEATURES

## Killgarry: No Longer Just a Street Name

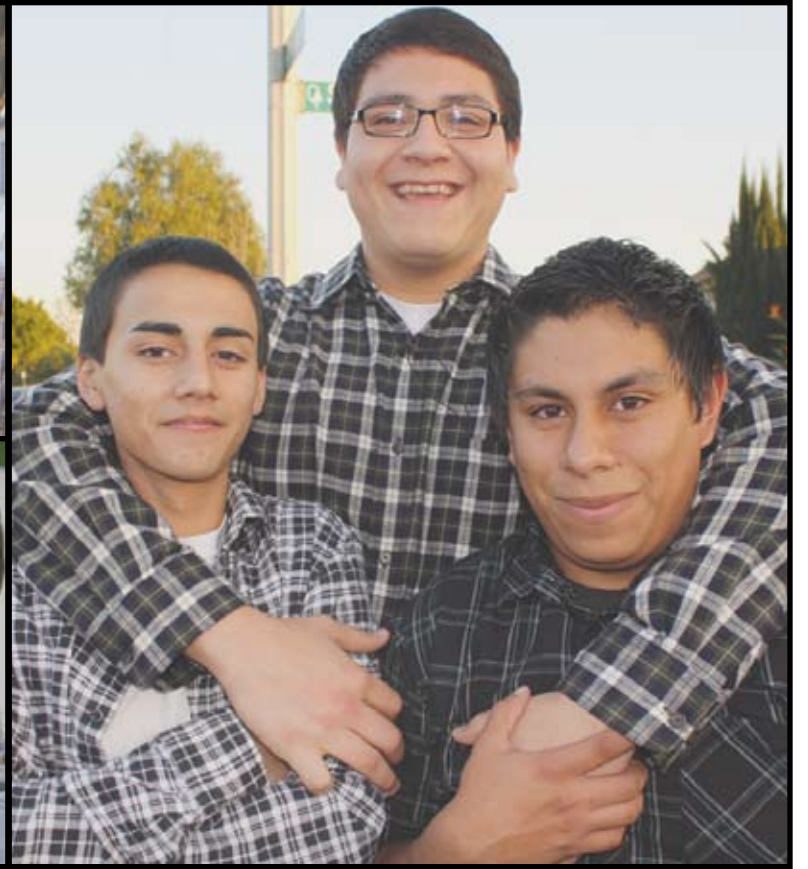
BY NAOMI ORTEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With song titles such as "What if I told you I taste like chocolate?" and "So... Do you take the bus often?" Killgarry is the latest band on the rising. Killgarry includes junior lead vocalist and lead guitarist Anthony Robles, senior vocalist Jon Garcia, senior drummer Daniel Vera, senior rhythm guitarist Jonathan "Jonny Boii" Ozeta, and El Rancho alumnus bassist Jose Martinez.

Killgarry was established when Robles approached Vera with the idea to start a band six months prior in July 2010. The band gets together to practice once a week, and although Killgarry is a fairly young band. It has already played the El Rancho talent show, Chain Reaction on September 17, 2010, and various backyard gigs.

This band officially falls into a hardcore screamo genre, but it is also capable to creates its own style. "Our band has that hardcore along with that punk kick that a lot of bands don't have," said Vera. He continued to say, "A lot of bands just stick to one style but we like to mix things together, and it sounds pretty good."

Robles added, "Someone once told me that my voice didn't go with the music because I sound like a pop singer," this didn't discourage Killgarry's lead singer, if anything it just made things that much more interesting. He went on to say, "The way everything is put together, it all comes from completely different types of music and when you put them all together it fits into a genre but it really doesn't." Killgarry has managed to



set itself apart from the rest by creating its own unique genre that is definitely going to draw the attention of a large audience. "We love the music we make and it is intended to be for everyone out there not just one genre, so don't be surprised when we mix it up."

Perhaps the exclusive genre Killgarry has made for themselves come from the variety of influences in each band member has. Over all the band can relate to bands such as The Devil Wears Prada, Chelsea Grin, Attack Attack, and Avenged Sevenfold. The band mates, however, do not all share their preferred taste in music. Jonny Boii for instance says, "I like more classical rock, like The Beatles and Aerosmith."

Among his favorites are also Michael Jackson and Metallica.

While Jonny Boii is into classical rock, vocalist John Garcia digs old school hip hop with a side of techno and dubstep and plenty of Mr. Robert Nesta Marley.

The one of a kind style does not end in their type of genre, it can also be seen the their lyrics and song titles. Killgarry's demo includes "What if I told you I taste like chocolate?" "This Pen is Blue" and "So... Do you take the bus often?" Killgarry's songs are mostly written by Vera, Robles, and Garcia. "We have moments where we go out funny stuff happens then we write a song and the name just sticks to it," said Vera.

When it comes to writ-

ing songs Killgarry writes what they have been through with the intentions of helping their listeners. Robles says, "So that way that people who don't know how to express themselves or how to feel about a certain situation, when they hear our music it is a way to escape, a way to feel like someone understands them." He continued to say, "That's all we want to do, we want to be there for someone when there is no one else to listen to."

Killgarry does not only deliver in lyrics but also in their performances. "I love it!" was the unanimous answer when asked how it feels to play on stage. A trick that works for Garcia is too "block it all out" and enjoy his time up on

stage. "It's so cool when you see people liking something you created. You feel good," said Vera.

Upon speaking to the band it was very obvious that they got along well. "This band is more like family to me because I grew up with most of these guys and it is so much playing with these guys, they're like my brothers," said Vera. Bassist Jose Martinez continued by saying, "I love playing music it is great especially when I get to hangout with these guys."

"We're going to keep growing and get better," said Robles.

You can check out Killgarry on Facebook, myspace.com/kgarry and follow them on Twitter @Killgarry.

## Segal Shares Experiences from South Africa

BY ROSAURA MONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With her curly hair and her accent, Ms. Segal has made herself standout from other teachers here at El Rancho.

Ms. Segal lived in the large city of Johannesburg, South Africa all of her life until her children decided to move to the States; Segal decided to move here along with them but in her own home.

"I came to The States at the end of 2000. I knew my kids were going to live here, so I decided to come. It's worked out since. I live out of Pico Rivera, and my kids live in Los Angeles," said Ms. Segal.

"I had visited the U.S. before; it became the smell of coffee to me and I realize the difference between being a tourist and really living here is totally different. Before that thought of the states Mickey Mouse was always in mind," added Segal.

Segal teaches English in Y-3, but has been teaching before she was ten years old.

"I have been a teacher since I was four, I used to teach my



poor little sister and then I started teaching my friends in school at South Africa," said Ms. Segal. Teaching many years

in Johannesburg, Segal noticed that there was much segregation in schools. "The South African educa-

tion was based on the Scottish system which was the English education from England. There were African schools here but there was a tragic past because many people were neglected and were segregated. There were white schools and black schools; I taught a classroom where there were a majority of white people than blacks."

This education system of segregation soon changed in 1994 when Nelson Mandela was freed out of prison of 27 years and became the president of South Africa.

"Mandela ended segregation that made schools into a high mix of people. Today there are more black schools. When I left South Africa there were half whites and half blacks in the schools; that is the way it should be," said Segal.

Teaching here in the U.S. is no different for Segal as for teaching in South Africa.

"I like the kids I teach here. They are the same as my South African students but at the same time they are not. Kids are kids, rather people are people," said Segal.

Along with teaching, Segal enjoys watching films and study-

ing them as well. With that, Segal started Film Club here at El Rancho so students can analyze a film and understand the camera work.

"My expectations for film club are for students to read a film and study it as if it were a novel. Right now in film club we are exploring different film genres," said Segal.

Segal also advises the school's Gay Straight Alliance Club since 1995 and also gives dance classes to our schools Color Guard team to loosen them up from their stiffness in dancing.

Living here in the U.S. makes Segal a little homesick and often visits her family and friends in South Africa.

"I have very close friendships in South Africa. When I go and visit it seems as if we were never apart. Every friendship is precious. I can't replace any friends, and each friendship is unique," said Segal.

"The amazing thing is that you take yourself everywhere you go, and that's why I came to make a life here. I made this my new home," adds Segal.

## SPORTS

## Argueta, Haro, and Molina Lead by Example

BY NAOMI ORTEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's boy varsity soccer team has three exceptionally talented players, seniors Erik Argueta, Alejandro Haro, and Jonathon Molina, who are prepared to lead the team into victory and hopefully win their CIF ring.

Molina and Haro began playing soccer at the age of three while Argueta began his soccer career at the age of six. "My whole family played soccer, so I had to keep the tradition going," said Haro. Molina and Argueta both agreed in saying that their fathers were responsible for introducing them in to world of soccer.

While in middle school these three teammates were, in fact, rivals. Haro played soccer for Burke Middle School while Molina and Argueta teamed up together on Rivera Middle School's team. In the seventh grade year tournament Argueta and Molina earned their bragging rights, but come eighth grade year they had to hand them over to Haro.

Before beginning their high school soccer careers freshman year on the junior varsity team under Coaches Diaz and Correa, the guys played for different leagues. Molina and Argueta both participated in the Coast Soccer League.



From left to right, Alex Haro, Erik Argueta, and Jonathon Molina.

As for their team now, "Since we've been playing together since freshman year we know each other and we communicate well," said Haro. Molina continued to say, "We're a good team. We understand each other."

As much as the guys understand each other a couple arguments make their way on to the field. "It's not that we get mad at each other; it's just that we get upset when we're told we're doing something wrong,"

said Argueta. The boys unanimously agreed that when bickering occurs on the field it stays there. Grudges are never held.

They also collectively agreed on their opinions about their coaches. "We have good

coaches that are motivating us to win CIF," said Molina.

Currently the El Rancho's boys varsity soccer team is holding a 16-1 record with the hopes of making it to CIF.

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## Girl's Basketball Shoots for 5-0 Record

BY BRANDON MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ending their first round with a 3-2 record, the girls basketball team has high hopes of achieving 5-0 in the second round.

"I'm very excited for the second round of this season. I'm confident that we can go undefeated," said senior Leahanny Avena.

With the girls being pumped up for the second round, they believe they're tougher than the football players!

"We would say that we are tougher than football players because we don't wear shoulder pads for protection," said senior Doreen Lopez. "Overall it's hard because it's almost exactly like football, and it's there's a lot of physical contact."

Some girls may be more experienced than others. "We have been playing in the girls varsity basketball teams since our freshman year," said Doreen and Leahanny.

Though the stereotypical image of basketball is that there's always one superstar better than the rest, but the girls say otherwise.

"Everyone is good in their own way. We all have our weaknesses and strengths," said Leahanny.

As girls varsity basketball reaches for the top, they only do it one way. "We are all about teamwork and we are all close. And we have to watch ourselves because it does get aggressive," said Doreen.

# SPORTS

## Girls' Waterpolo Team Downs Santa Fe 16-4

By DANIELA AGUILAR, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Starting off the season with an overall record of 15-7 and league record of 4-0, the girls' varsity waterpolo team is ready to face their biggest competition, the La Serna Lancers, next Tuesday away.

"I felt good and very proud of the girls. It was one of the first games I got to sit back and let them play because they were doing such a good job," says Coach Hernandez about the game against the Whittier Cardinals.

"My goalie [Kimberly Pedregon] did a really great job," says Hernandez. "She made a lot of great saves and blocked penalty shots." The final score against Whittier was 11-4.

The team defeated the Santa Fe Chiefs yesterday with a score of 16-4. "I thought they [the team] did well and everyone got to play today," says Hernandez. "We went in confident and we were ready to play."

"We did well but in the beginning, we were slow," says senior Samantha Perez. "Toward the end we improved. We were the better team."

The team is taking everything one step at a time and preparing for CIF. "We have the potential," says Perez. "With no losses this season, it feels great."

With only league game left, the team is ready to take league championship. "It's been since 2004 since we've won a league championship. We're definitely pumped and looking forward to that game [against La Serna]." Senior Jennifer Preciado says, "I'm glad we came out with a win [against Santa Fe], but it's sad to say bye to the team with only one league game left."



Goalie Kimberly Pedregon blocks an attempted goal from the Whittier Cardinals.

## Girls' Soccer Team Starts Season Strong

By ASHLIE VALENCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Senior, Ana Regalado advances ball toward goal during practice.

The girls' soccer team strives for a victorious season with an 11-2-1 overall record.

Coach Kerr says, "The team is doing a phenomenal job this season; we are united and determined to win league for the first time in school history."

The girls have improved all around. "The girls have grown in their skills and attitude. I believe we are doing very well this season. In league we are 3-0-1 and tied for first with La Serna."

A highlight from this season is Brianna Gastelum's fifteen goals this season alone.

Brianna Gastelum says, "The girls are more united than ever and are going to fight until the end; we are not selfish and instead of talking back to the other teams we leave it on the field. This year we have the potential to begin our own winning streak, by keeping our heads in the game and staying focused."

"I believe our team is capable of going far this season. We have a dedicated group of girls that are strong and talented and driven. I am confident that each and every one of us will give it 110%," says Joanna Ortiz

Goalie, Evelyn Fieros says, "It looks like were go-

ing to go far because we have learned to connect passes now and we play as a team. I'm proud of my team and I hope we take league." Although she is injured, that does not stop her from supporting the team.

Even with an injured girl, the team still gives their all. They are confident about the season and hope for the best.

Coach Karr says, "No matter the outcome of this season I am very proud of my teammates."

Today, the girls will travel to Whittier, and this Friday, they will take on the California Condors





**El Rancho High School**

# Fun Run In Pico Rivera

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## Shy American Girl Sings Her Way Into the Hearts of Many

BY JACQUELINE MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With a small background in music, Alyssa Bernal, a shy American girl who cheers and plays acoustic and lives a completely normal life, had no idea what her future held.

Bernal was born in San Antonio, Texas. She picked up her musical background from her father because he was a drummer in a groundbreaking Tejano band. When Bernal was six years old, she would attend her father's concerts and stand back stage watching her dad perform, but that's not what sparked her passion for music and performing.

"I was so shy," said Bernal. She remembers her parents would dress her up and make her sing but it wasn't very fun for her.

Her love for music helped her overcome the fear of performing. Overcoming her fear lead Bernal to uploading videos of herself singing cover songs such as, Rihanna's "Take a Bow" in her teen years. Also, she taught herself how to play the guitar.

These videos lead to doz-



ens more with tons of responses. Bernal did her best to read all of her responses, but it became a bit overwhelming. People would tell her how her music helped to change their mood and help with their problems. She even got messages from soldiers. "I always

tried to open the ones from soldiers in the service," said Bernal.

All the responses lead to a very shocking reaction from platinum-selling artist Pharrell Williams, but Bernal neglected the response. Williams even tried to contact her through Alyssa's

school, "They didn't know who Pharrell was," said Bernal. "They just thought it was some shady guy trying to get a hold of me."

Bernal's mom read a message on Myspace from Star Trek, which caused them to fly out to LA within 24 hours. When

there she caught their attention with "Hey Love," the first song she had ever written. Soon after, the rest fell into place.

"Finding a new talent like Bernal is so exciting to me," says Pharrell.

Bernal then teamed up with producer Martin Terefe, who has helped stars such as Jason Mraz and Train. After an hour of meeting, Terefe gave Bernal an offer she couldn't refuse. Shortly after, Bernal agreed to move to London and began recording immediately.

Over a period of seven weeks, Alyssa Bernal developed more as a singer with a natural sunny sound and a bit of punk with soul in her notes. He encouraged Alyssa to write from her own experience.

Bernal looks forward to what her future has in store. She can't wait until she can step onto the stage and perform her music.

"I have a shy personality but when I'm performing, I calm down," said Bernal. Bernal's first album EP is available digitally everywhere. Her current single "Cali Cali" and can be found on [www.alyssabernal.com](http://www.alyssabernal.com)

## Is This It? Not for The Strokes

BY YADIRA RAMOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Indie Rock band, The Strokes, who originated in New York in 1999 is now back! Band members Julian Casablancas, Nick Valensi, Albert Hammond Jr., Nikolai Fraiture, and Fabrizio Moretti are reuniting after the band's "break-up" in 2006.

The band has released their first EP, *The Modern Age* which was very successful. They later released three full-length albums, *Is This It*, *Room on Fire*, and *First Impressions of the Earth*.

Since the break-up the band members have been working on solo projects. Front man Julian Casablancas produced his first solo album *Phrases for the Young*, and sold out Los Angeles shows for the whole month of November in 2009.

After an immense amount of concert ticket and album sales, The Strokes decided to take a break. The band got back together in 2010 to play major festivals including the Isle of Wight Festival, Lollapalooza, Hurricane Festival, Splendour in the Grass, Rockness, Outside Lands, and

Austin City Limits.

Last year the band started recording their highly anticipated fourth album. Finally the band confirmed its release date as well as concert dates, and a spring tour. Their comeback album titled, *Angles* will be released March 22nd of this year, and a new single this February titled "Under Cover of Darkness."

*Angles* is going to be the band's first new release since 2006's *First Impressions of the Earth*. Compared to their other albums, *Angles* will be the first in which every member has taken full input.



The Strokes: Julian Casablancas, Nick Valensi, Fabrizio Moretti, Nikolai Fraiture and Albert Hammond.



## Masked Crime Fighting Team Hits the Theaters

BY CHRISTY ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Britt Reid is a playboy who inherits a media empire from his father James Reid, a wealthy newspaper publisher, after he dies from an allergic reaction. With nothing to strive for in life and no ambition to inherit his father's legacy, Reid meets one of the mansion's employees named Kato. Kato is more than a mere coffee boy; he's also the mechanic. Amazed at what else Kato can do, Reid realizes that there are not using their abilities to the fullest, and decides that the two should become crime fighters, himself taking on the identity of the Green Hornet.

With the unknowing help of his new secretary, Lenore Case, Reid uses her knowledge on criminology to become heroes disguised as villains. Discovering that Russian criminal Benjamin Chudnofsky controls the city's criminal underworld; Reid and Kato foil his plans.

The movie had many unexpected twists that kept me guessing what the actors would do. Also, the action always kept you out of your seat, anticipating what would occur.

Mike McCahill of Scotsman quoted, "It remains a rare franchise reboot where the sense of playfulness outweighs that of strained psychological depth or grim commercial obligation."