



District and Federation of Teachers Reach Tentative Agreement



BY REBECCA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A tentative agreement has been reached between the El Rancho Federation of Teachers and the district.

"It was a lengthy process that started a number of months ago with basic understanding of what the budget was. Then that budget changed because the governor of the state took more money away from schools and we went from having a two and a half million dollar deficit to having about a five and a half million dollar deficit," said Tim McMullen, Chief Negotiator for the Bargaining Team. "So we have to find a way to cut five and a half million dollars."

"The El Rancho Federation of Teachers president Rico Tamayo went from campus to campus and had conversations with the teachers at the schools and talked about the situation and what people wanted to do," added McMullen.

There will be no salary rollback, no cut to health benefits, eight elementary positions will be created along with one counselor position if union membership approves of this by a majority vote.

The El Rancho Federation of Teachers will vote on whether or not to approve the tentative agreement on Tuesday, June 15 at their school sites.

"I am happy in one sense that we have arrived at what I think a much better position than was originally available to us. I am disappointed on the impact that this will have on the teacher that will be losing their jobs."

"There are a couple big pluses, one is that we were able to create some extra jobs so some people will continue to have jobs, secondly part of our agreement is that the day the books close, August 15, to see if there is any more money, and if there is then we will bring some teachers back and reduce furlough days," added McMullen.

Wlasick Calls *Nine* His Best Production

BY BRIANNA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Thespian Troop #2164 and the choir department brought *Nine* to El Rancho's Little Theatre under the tremendous direction of Mr. Wlasick and meticulous vocal training of Ms. Dodd.

According to Mr. Wlasick, in his thirty years of directing, *Nine* is the best production to hit the Little Theatre's stage.

"I think *Nine* is probably the best production I have ever done at El Rancho High School in my thirty years of teaching because it is very rare that students are consistent in their performance level, and all three nights were at the same superb level. It was an outstanding production," said Mr. Wlasick.

Led by David Hernandez as Guido Contini, an Italian film director struggling to find an idea for his film while trying to decide which woman he will spend his life with, the cast was able to remain consistently strong in their performances not only on opening night, but during each subsequent performance.

"Everyone stood at the top of their game every single night. [The show] didn't go downhill," said Hernandez.

The supporting roles also contributed to the immense success of the show.

"I want to pay tribute to David Hernandez because his level of performance and singing was so outstanding that everyone rose to that level. I really adored



Faced by his nine year old self, Guido Contini decides he will spend his life with his wife.

Desiree Martinez, and I'm really proud of her because she grew as an actress and as a singer. I really want to thank Nicolette Renteria because I thought that she did an outstanding job; for someone who had not acted before to tackle on a role and take my direction and really pull through, I was very proud of her. I was really proud of Jennifer Ramirez because I know what a struggle it was for her as far as the singing was concerned. And of course, I'd like to recognize Carlos Figueroa, who is one of the best

actors that has ever gone through my program," said Mr. Wlasick.

However, *Nine* was not initially expected to be a huge success.

"I'm really shocked. During rehearsals, I never thought it would be this great," said Carlos Figueroa.

Despite the troubles that arose during the first stages of rehearsal, *Nine* turned out to be "exactly what Mr. Wlasick wanted," according to Hernandez.

Ultimately, the actors accurately conveyed the theme that Mr. Wlasick wished to

deliver to the stage and to the hearts of the audiences.

Mr. Wlasick said, "One theme that I particularly wanted to bring forward is that women are the greatest source of men's inspiration because they are such nurturing beings. And women, ultimately, no matter what their size, are beautiful, beautiful beings, and they are very important; they cause men conflict, they cause men to misbehave, they cause men to be in love, and they cause men to create."

Dons Donate Blood to Save Lives



Jesus Hinajosa, Johnathan Jimenez, and Mario Cruz work at the blood drive.

BY ERIKA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Wednesday's blood drive was a success. Over three hundred and fifty people arrived to get their blood drawn at the event, making it one of the largest blood donations from Southern California high schools.

"Pepsters and A.S.B. joined forces with the Red Cross to create an event. We thought it would be a great opportunity for students to get involved and participate," said Mario Cruz, member of the Executive Commission about how the event came to be.

Jonathan Jimenez, A.S.B. Chief Justice, said "I feel good because I know I was able to help peo-

ple in need. The amount of blood I gave isn't much when I know I'm going to be saving three lives."

This feeling seemed to be mutual to all the other students who were waiting for their turn to give blood, reading the information booklets, or wearing their shirt and bandage proudly around school.

Coordinator Rob Torrez said, "This was a very successful day. Three-hundred and twenty-five people donated before lunch started." He was glad that so many pints of blood were donated, and that there was such a big turn out.

"Recruitment was incredible. Both the students and coordinators did an amazing job! We have been busy all day, and have had great donors," said Angie Turner, Director of Nursing.

She described the "double red" station, which was for donors who were eligible to donate more blood.

The stations were full, therefore saving more lives than normal donations alone.

Although there were nurses, needles and bandages in the new gymnasium, there were also many smiles, laughs, and heroes.

INSIDE

Olvera Street
Page 2

Teacher Retirements
Page 3

Senior Wills
Page 4

Culinary Challenge
Page 7

Football Preview
Page 7

Staff Farewells
Page 8



NEWS

Olvera Street Vendors Face Crisis



By REBECCA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Pueblo Commission through the city of Los Angeles is trying to increase the rents of Olvera Street Merchants from 200-900%. In 1992 a charter known as Proposition H passed which was an agreement that negotiated long-term leases with the Merchants and the El Pueblo Commission. Now however, “the city with its mismanagement of funds and negative spending,” said Mr. Reed, “are trying to over charge these merchants to make

up the differences in the deficit. “With hard times and mismanagement of money, they are challenging [the vendors] to come up with a ridiculous amount of money.” Added Reed. A candle shop on Olvera Street is looking at a \$60,000 rent increase, which is quite impossible to meet in today’s economic struggles. “The Olvera Street Merchants have always been on top of their situation, but this extra charge is too much and could wipe out the whole culture.” Says Reed. Olvera Street is a landmark that is internationally

known. “There is a broad understanding in this community that they do not want Olvera Street to be demolished.” Reed added. “You don’t have to be Hispanic or even a Los Angeleno to appreciate Olvera Street. “And now the issue is to challenge the city counsel to stop the effort at forcing this kind of rent increase and deal with this economic issue in another fashion.” Added Reed. A petition is in the front office for faculty and students 18 years of age and older to sign and help save Olvera Street and preserve this culture.

Gender-Neutral Dorms Challenge Conventional Ideas

By ALYSSA MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When thinking about living on campus your first year of college, you imagine who your new roommate will be. Will they be nice? Will they be clean? Are they going to be the silent type or the loud annoying type? Many have these same questions in mind, however they assume that they will be paired up with someone of the same gender. Traditionally, college dorms are assigned to two or more people of the same gender, but not anymore because of a new option, gender neutral dorms. Gender-neutral dorms are a new option for college housing that many opt for because they can share a living space with someone whom they are more comfortable with, versus someone the school assigns as their roommate. Gender-neutral dorms have been a small craze at many schools. Having read an article about it, the whole idea started with one question, “Why should I be a roommate with someone of the same sex when I might feel uncomfortable with them?” Well, that is a great question because students would rather dorm with someone they know than dorm with someone of the same sex. That leaves many to wonder, can I room with someone of the opposite sex?

The whole idea of staying in a dorm with a person of the opposite sex started with the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender) community. LGBT students wanted to be able to room with someone they feel safe with because not many students feel comfortable with a homosexual roommate. Schools have been discussing gender-neutral dorms since 2007 and have made little progress. There are a few schools in California and a few Ivy League schools offering it with the exception of one Ivy League which only offers it to students who consider themselves transgender. When picking a college, many students do not take in the idea about this but I personally believe that this is another idea out of the genius book. I am all for gay rights, and if rooming with people of the opposite sex makes them feel better then let them be. I believe that students have the right to pick who they want to room with and this is one step closer to that goal.



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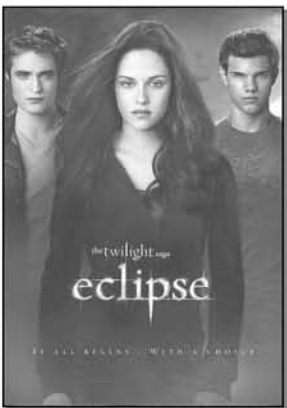
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FEATURES

Parsons' Ready to Tackle Bucket List

BY DANIELA AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After 34 years of teaching all over the El Rancho Unified School District, Mr. Gene Parsons says, "It's time for me to go." Teaching in schools such as Selby Grove, Durfee, Magee, Rivera Elementary and Middle, North Park, and lastly El Rancho, Parsons feels his years have caught up.

Starting off with second graders as a math teacher at Durfee around 1976, Parsons came to El Rancho and continued with the math curriculum in 1984. Besides teaching math throughout his career, Parsons coached freshmen, JV, and varsity football, boys' and girls' tennis, girls' basketball, and golf. "Every place I've been has been great, the people are great. That's what makes the school pretty great," says Parsons. He also adds his time here has been a positive experience.

Before he can check off anything from his bucket list, he will help his wife take care of her sick mother. After he com-



pletes his duty, he will use his leisure time to travel to sporting events and other activities.

"I'm going to be playing golf, go fishing and travel," says

Parsons. Since he is a tennis fanatic, Parsons wants to see the French Open, Australian Open, and the English Open. "One of the first trips that we are [his wife

and himself] going to take for sure is going to be to the French Open. I've never been to Europe and I don't want to travel all over Europe," says Parsons, "I just

want to see a little bit of Paris, France, and the French Open." He mentions too that his wife wants to see the tennis tournaments in Europe and Australia, since his wife met him when he was playing tennis. "We want to go the Australian Open too; I'm a beach guy, so I'll be going to the beach." Also he loves to surf, and will start again during his retirement.

"I'm going to be very sad to leave El Rancho; I'm going to miss a lot of people, but I've missed a lot of people who have already retired before me. Many of my friends have already left and I still have friends here too," says Parsons. "There are too many to name, and I'm going to miss those people because they make coming to work so much fun." Despite leaving his friends here, Parsons says he'll golf with his buddies or play tennis.

"That's what I'm going to do: golf, tennis, fish in the high Sierras, and go to the beach every now and then," says Parsons. "I'm looking forward to the golden years."

Dugas Looking Forward to New Adventures

BY REBECCA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After 20 years of working as an El Rancho Administrative Secretary, Maria Dugas is retiring. Working at El Rancho has been very rewarding to Dugas. "Being able to see the progress the students make from freshman to graduating seniors is a great pleasure." Said Dugas.

Dugas enjoyed working at a school because she loves to interact with kids. "I am constantly involved with anything that has to do with kids. Right now I volunteer for the Ronald McDonald House and I am able to help [kids of all ages] do a lot of things."

Dugas realized that she wanted to go into education while she was a student at El Rancho. "I am an El Rancho grad. When I was attending school here, I would pass by the office and see the secretary and think 'I want to do that job.'"

She started her career 20 years ago at North Ranchito. From there she went to North Park, Valencia, and then to El Rancho. "I got to see a little bit of everything, and it was a good experience because I got to see what happened from the elementary to the middle school to the high school. I get to see the transition and I really enjoy seeing the students grow."

Working at El Rancho has been great for Dugas. "Some of my best moments are when everyone works together to get things done. So when it is the end of the week, we all feel like we accomplished something great."

Leaving will be bittersweet for Dugas, but it is time for her to "find another adventure."

"I will miss the friendships I have built and the feeling of a



COURTESY OF RICHARD MUNOZ PHOTOGRAPHY

sense of home; this has been my home for 20 years. It will be difficult to change, but change is inevitable and usually it is for the best."

Dugas is very important to the office. "Maria has been my right hand person. She keeps me organized. She assists me with appointments, and information that I need to know. She is the person who will help direct parents where they need to go." Said Mr. Genis.

"She has really helped me in the three years that I have been here; especially my first two years when I needed some direction and assistance from Maria."

Mr. Llanes, a longtime friend of Dugas will be sad to see her go. "I've known Maria since before I was at El Rancho. She was at the elementary school that I worked at before. I taught at Valencia when Maria still worked there. So we made it to El Rancho at the same time. It has been a really good experience working with

Dugas. She is a really good person, and really good to work with."

Although Dugas will miss El Rancho, she is looking forward to the extra time that she will be able to devote to other projects. "I am looking forward to starting a new adventure. I intend to do a lot more for children's hospitals, the Ronald McDonald House, and homeless shelters for battered and abused children."

Along with helping children, Dugas would also like to travel. "I went to France with the Gadabouts and had a wonderful time. Next, I would like to go to China."

Maria Dugas has enjoyed her time at El Rancho and will miss all the people she was able to meet.

"They all bring a little something to my life every day and makes each day a different experience."

Llanes added, "She makes people feel at home. Hopefully she will be really happy in her retirement."

Cecilia Acevedo,
"The Enforcer" Says
Farewell to El Rancho

NATALIE RANGEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just as we say good-bye to the graduating senior class of 2010, El Rancho will also say good-bye to Cecilia Acevedo, better known as Ceci, the spanglish speaking secretary at the Guidance Office.

After twenty-one years at El Rancho, and thirty-three in total for the school district, Ceci is looking forward to her well-earned retirement, spending her days sleeping in and traveling to Nicaragua and Costa Rica instead of waking up at the crack of dawn to arrive at a drama filled high school.

Though visiting the scenes of Nicaragua and Costa Rica seem like a fantastic alternative to the daily grind at school, Ceci admits that she will definitely miss everyone she has befriended at El Rancho. And El Rancho can definitely say they will miss her as well.

"Everything." That is what Pauline Munoz, Registrar, will miss about Ceci. "Don't make me be specific or I'll start crying. Everything."

"I'm going to miss her, period," says Mrs. Cruz, 12th grade counselor. "I'm going to miss her being here, in the mornings. Just hearing her yell at the kids. She always had something funny to say to me. I'm going to miss her; I think she's going to be irreplaceable. Definitely going to be a hard act to follow."

"The office is more alive when she's here," says Ingrid Funes, Guidance Office Secretary. "When the students come in looking for her and she's not in here, they're sad, really, really, really sad."

As well as bringing laughter



COURTESY OF RICHARD MUNOZ PHOTOGRAPHY

and character to the Guidance Office, Ceci brings order, something Principal Genis will definitely miss. Ceci, as Mr. Genis explains, has one tough job working in the busiest office on campus.

"She has to deal with the counseling part of it, the discipline part of it, and sometimes the activities because everyone comes in through there," says Genis.

"Cecilia has been the sergeant of the guidance office," Mr. Genis continues. He admires the work Ceci provides in the office. From her PR, organization and decision making skills, Mr. Genis bestowed upon Ceci the title: "The Enforcer".

Even with so much work, and the negativity that comes with it, Ceci "doesn't display it, as far as her actions and attitude," Mr. Genis continued to explain. Ceci even extends her help to the student body, helping some of them with the daily troubles of school and life in general.

"I influence some of them. I talk to them and sometimes I see them on the streets [after they graduate] and they come and hug me. [They tell me] that because of me, they graduated."

Whether she is helping the students or faculty, Ceci is not just another 'faculty member', or even a friend. She is family. And even if she will no longer be among the El Rancho staff, she is still part of the El Rancho family and will not be easily forgotten.

SENIOR WILLS

I, Olivia Garcia, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: My crazy personality to Candice, my mad editorial skills to Aurora, all my yearbook quotes to Emily, and to the rest of the yearbook staffers good luck. And Mike, don't think I forgot about you,



continue to be a killer editor, and keep my memory alive, adios!

I, Bryan Turner, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: My bench to the Junior Class of Jake, Jeromey, and Mo, all my skill to the football team of 2011, and my greatness to Karissa, she is going to need it.

I, Sarrah Lopez, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: I leave all my fashion tips to my best friend in the whole world, Rene Pineda; I will miss everybody at El Rancho.



I, Ms. Figueroa, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: A bucket of hair gel to Germane Castillo, a translated copy of Hamlet to Joel Guzman and Raziel Ruelas, and The Best of Tupac and Bone Thugs to my beloved Music Club members of 2010 (es-



pecially the president, Paul Ochoa).

I, Robert Alba, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: Leave the "Tree" to Omar or

good intentions and rebellious spirit to my little sister who will be sitting on this field screaming for her class of 2018. And I would like to leave all the headaches I gave to every one on campus to Ingrid and Pauline because they always found out a way to deal with me. P.S. Rest In Peace "Big Red"

I, Gerry Goyenaga, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: The Decathlon Room to Patrick and my "confidence" to Danny Marquez



Loza, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my high tops to Ernie Padilla and my love to my ladies.

I, Alyssa Mendoza, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: My



personality, Blue Pride, positions on the El Rodeo News Staff and my everlasting memories here at El Rancho to my young friends whom I will miss dearly. I love you Peter, Best Friends Forever!

I, Edlyn Moreno, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following: My stress, sweat and tears that went into my work these past four years, my migraines, and my position in Choraleers. I shall now pass on my Blue Pride to my little ones in French 2 and Choraleers.

I, Ashley Najar, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my last Takis bag to Danielle Medrano, my trips to Forever 21 to Erica Ramirez, my extensions to Stephanie Esparza, my fond memories and apple of my eye to Alan Villon. And my sunglasses to Danielle Corrales!

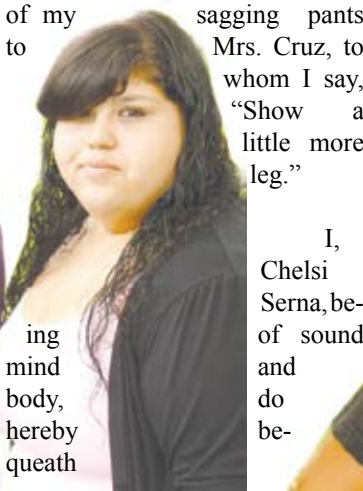
I, Joseph Davis, being of



sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My shoes to John Olivas, my candy to Rolando Ruiz, and my cool key chain to Miguel Felix.

I, Josh Perea, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My love and all the Blue Pride Spirit to my best friend in the whole wide world Gabriel "Micha" Rojas.

I, Ignacio Padilla, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My common sense to Mr. Salcido to whom I ask, "Who does that?" My sense of Blue Pride to Mrs. Garcia who has forgotten her El Rancho High history, and my style and indecency of my sagging pants to Mrs. Cruz, to whom I say, "Show a little more leg."



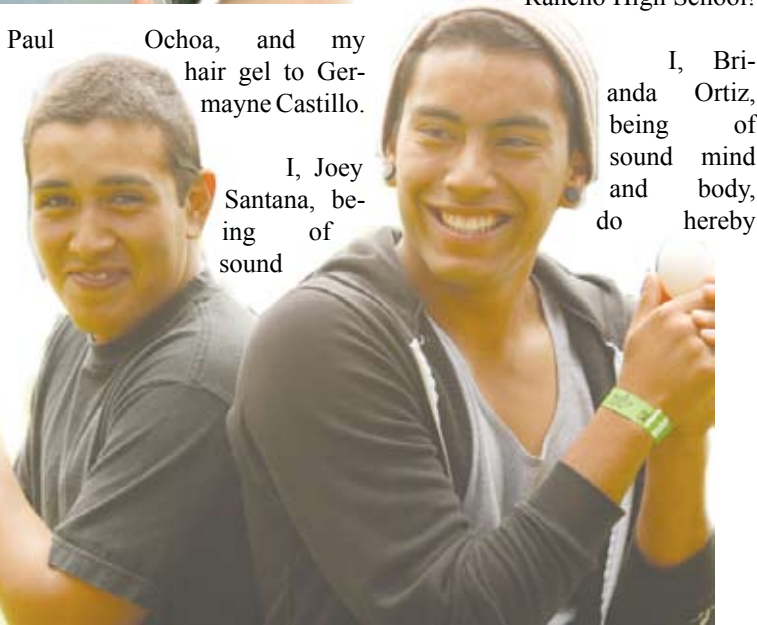
the following: the ASB room to Edith Vasquez and the morning announcements to Alyssa Nunez a.k.a. Pinky.



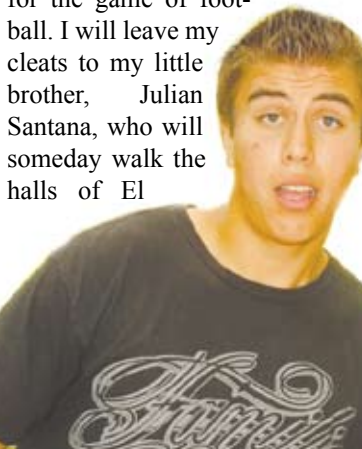
I, Erick Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My left kidney to Alberto Venegas, my apple crumble pie to Raziel Ruelas, my blue suede shoes to

Paul Ochoa, and my hair gel to Germane Castillo.

I, Joey Santana, being of sound



mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: For the incoming starting offense, defense left and right guards I leave to you my passion, skill, ability and love for the game of football. I will leave my cleats to my little brother, Julian Santana, who will someday walk the halls of El



Rancho High School as his big brother did.

I, Aisha Diakite, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: give my amazing basketball skills to the 2010-2011 girls basketball team and my

wonderful tree of four years to them as well.

I, Rosalba Castro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My seat in French class to D.H, my hyper-ness to Luis and my happy skills to Steph.

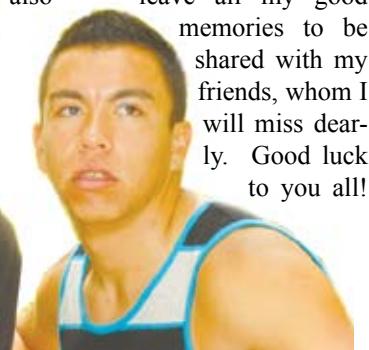
I, Dominique Portillo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my coolness.

I, Bianca Marentes, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Blue and Silver Pompoms to the Varsity 2010-2011 Songleaders to go to competition and fight for first. I also leave my Blue Pride and school spirit, in order to keep up spirit here at El Rancho High School!

I, Brianda Ortiz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby

bequeath the following: All my memories and good times to my sister and my cousin's.

I, Stacie Vargas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My love for reading to the incoming freshmen and my sunburn as well. I also leave all my good memories to be shared with my friends, whom I will miss dearly. Good luck to you all!



SENIOR WILLS

I, Brandon Arrieta, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My lucky swim goggles to Gabby, my famous black JanSport backpack to Eddie, and finally my famous free style rapping to Josh.

I, Sabina Rangel, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

All of my amazing memories at the Ranch to my little brother, Fernando, who will begin to enjoy what I enjoyed here and more next year. I hope you have a memorable freshman year, just as I did. Keep the Blue Pride alive, and enjoy your years here because they really fly by. To Patrick, my Decathabrother: enjoy your senior year! Live it up, and make us proud. I know you will do a great job next year in Decath. I'll miss all of our funny moments. And to the teachers who have helped make me into the student and individual I am today, I leave you my thanks and my gratitude. I will forever be

grateful for all the things you have taught me, thank you so much!

I, Joselyn Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My

PREP uniform and snack cart to whoever takes my job next year.

I, Oswaldo Lopez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My barbwired black heart to Angie, my black and gray heart to Ms.Q, my super sick dance moves and my tasty music to Mr.E, my timber wolf coat to Louis. I also leave all my poems to Miriam and all my vests to Gus, all my

sunglasses to B, and all my riches to all my friends. And along with that, everything else I own or will own, which will have to be set with a "fight-to-the-death" or until someone gives up, with all my love, Cheeseburger.

I, Tate Harshbarger, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The keys to success to Daniel Moriel, the football team, Patrick Rubalcava, the Decathlon team, Adrian Torres, and the Track team.

I, Daisy Ortiz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My joy and pride for this school to all of those who feel the same as I do.

And also, my funny times to all who laughed with me, and finally, I wish great years to everyone, I'll miss you guys.

I, Michelle Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The crazy adventures with my past, longest, and new friends, my high school sweet heart (J.B.), and the joyful memorable moments with my classmates. I wish a great life ahead to everyone. Here's to the best years of our lives.

I, Nubia Martinez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my patience to all future seniors, good luck!

I, Danielle Medrano, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My obese cat, Harold, to Marissa and Vanessa, my EDC tickets to

Nano, my Ovaltine to Carina, my laptop, cell phone, and iPod to no one, and nothing for Amanda!

I, Erika Morales, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My schedule of class, parties, friends, boyfriend, work, and family to whoever can take it on; and my willingness to try new things, for anyone who is in search of an adventure. Whoever decides to use these things will surely have as great of a time as I did these past four years here at El Rancho!!

I, Christina Perez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my El Rodeo layout skills to Naomi, Dani, Bri-



anna, and Amanda. I love each one of you guys and good luck on next year's paper! I also leave my poster-making skills to Gabbie, Elise, and Tina for next year's ASB. I wish you the best with every event and we always reunite

in H1, our home, and finally, my notes and skills to Marlee Rangel. Enjoy your next two years in high school and good luck in your AP

classes. I love you little sister! Each one of you will remain in my heart for making my senior year so special!

I, Mariaelena Duenas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: To my

little cousin Cesar Garcia; I leave you the strength and success that I have carried with me throughout these past years. You are a great person and I believe in you to fulfill your dreams and accomplish your goals. I love you little man, you mean the world to me!

I, Jessica Yescas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Swim goggles to Daisy Moreno, Swimsuit to Jovita, Sunblock to Sam and Mellie, Breaststroking to Jenn & my Lettermen to Jerry Michael Huff

I, Michael Hidalgo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I will miss thee El Rancho High, it's so sad this is goodbye, we shall raise our laurels to the sky, goodbye El Rancho High School.

Staff Farewells

Graduation. The simple thought about it gives me the goose bumps, but then I sit and think about how far I've made it and happiness begins to fulfill me. I remember my junior year when Mrs. Cruz pulled me out of class to set up my schedule for this year, and when I chose Journalism I was excited because I've always enjoyed writing. I can't say I've gone through a lot with the class, but those memories with them I will never forget; he's always helped. Journalism has been a fun experience for me, and senior year a very relaxing one. I might not have much with my staff each and every one a special gift that proud of. I wish all the best of luck in the rest of the members who have a couple of years ahead in this excellent Journalism class, keep doing what you're doing and stay recognized for your fine work!

-Mari Duenas

One year in the Newspaper Staff was more than enough to bond with every single member in the staff and Mr. Zeko. I wish I would have joined earlier in these four years of high school. Being in Journalism class made me realize that putting together a newspaper is not as easy as I thought it would be. I would like to thank to all the readers who appreciate what we create from scratch to make El Rodeo.

I will miss stressing out a day before deadline. Class would be relaxed until BAM! Deadline came and full of chaos and drama! Mr. Zeko is a great advisor who is hilarious with come up with the most niest comments. Let's Evan and his lisp as and his "specialness". walking into class and ing "Hey best friend!" ing the acoustic guitar. of the most interesting niors I have ever met and as well. I will miss her birthdays. Jose and his me missed! Mari, Erika, me entertained while to each other. Naomi won't mention you. don't know how you things at once. You the paper has hands next year. Everybody else in the staff you know I love you too! Pow Wow time!! & you will do great next year.

-Joselyn Gonzalez

Last year, I remember signing up for the El Rodeo staff of 2009-2010. In my mind, I was thinking "I don't have a problem writing one little essay every month. I want an easy and fun class for my senior year."

Then it came to my first month in class where Mr.Zeko was determining who "was" I thought here to write." I thought, and finally decided I was committed to doing my best on each issue, and improving my writing through-out the year. It was one of the best decisions I could have made.

From Mr.Zeko's never-ending push-ing for us to think of the others in this world, to losing an angel like Manuel; it has all influenced me in the best way. If it weren't for my time here in the staff, I wouldn't have been introduced to such new people, and important topics. Every day here was new and interesting, whether it was happy, somber, excited, full of work, or lazy. I consider every person who has worked on the paper this year as a friend. That goes for the ones I just met, and those who I've known for years.

I hope we all keep writing, meeting deadlines, and keeping an eye on the world more (or just as much) as we do on ourselves.

-Erika Morales

Continued on page 8.

SENIOR FEATURES

Jair Haro: Musician at Heart

BY NAOMI ORTEGA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Because I get to watch Maury at eleven and sleep in," jokes senior, Jair Haro about why he is happy to finally leave high school.

After twelve years of homework, projects, and early mornings Haro will not be attending college in the fall, but will continue to pursue other career interests.

Haro has been playing guitar for a little over a year now and has been a member of Suffer the Irony since they started back in early 2008. "[Suffer the Irony] came to be when the drummer and I realized our future in skating didn't seem too bright," said Haro.

The band has played venues such as Chain Reaction, Marina Concert Theatre, and the occasional backyard. Suffer the Irony also played at Jimmie's Restaurant in Montebello. Music has always been a part of his life and he is now stepping it up a notch.

Haro is currently in the process of releasing his own solo



Jair preparing to perform at The Little Theater with his Band Suffer The Irony.

album under the name Just Air. The album, Triangular Circles, is

considered to be a part of the psychedelic wave rock genre. "My

inspirations for the album were Julian Casablancas of the Strokes,

Brandon Flowers of The Killers, MGMT, The Cars, Devendra Banhart, and Wolfmother," said Haro.

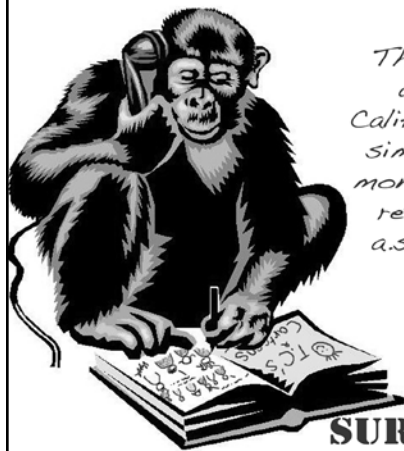
Although Haro feels like he is in "an empty pool alone," he has the support of his band members. Lead singer of Suffer the Irony, Bobby Torres says, "I was excited to hear how it would sound like because of his different influences" and the drummer of the band, Chris Zarate said, "It is cool that he is going solo because I got to record him so in a way he helped me with my studio dreams."

Haro doesn't see himself abandoning his career as a musician and neither do friends Bobby Torres and Bruce Loza.

"He is very creative and he has a wide range of inspirations," said Torres and Loza continued by saying, "He is a great musician. He can express himself as a musician by having his voice be what he makes the guitar sound like."

Lastly, El Rancho alumni, Allin De Leon said, "Jair is the man with the plan and with no doubt he will continue to jam out."

PREP NEWS!



Join the PREP and GEAR UP summer program! This summer, students will have the opportunity to attend an overnight field trip to the University of California, Santa Barbara free of COST! Whereas other similar trips may cost about \$1,000! That's a lot of money. The application MUST be completed, signed, and returned to room A-207 at El Rancho High School a.s.a.p. if you plan on joining trips like these sign-up quick.

SURVEY TIME!

Please visit the following site:
<http://www.moodle.learnla.org>
Under "Site News", click on the link that reads:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Prep_Student_Survey
This link will be located on the front of the site next to "Students:". but make sure the link reads Prep at the end, not ASDTRF

Senteno Speaks Her Mind Through Her Art

BY JONATHON RAYA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Practice makes perfect" is what they always say when you start something new; for Nicole Senteno, this is true. For eight years she has been drawing in her own unique style, which is a combination of "manga and fantasy."

"I started drawing in my style when I found a 'How to Draw in Manga' book at a book fair when I was in Elementary school," said Senteno "And I used that book to practice my art until I was able to create my own style."

When she creates a character, they tend to have unique fantasy characteristics. "Even though I'm not entirely sure how to describe my art, I feel it has a fantasy feel to it," Senteno said. "All of my characters are some type of creature or inhuman being. Also my art shows the emotions I have at the time I create it."

Her characters are also based off creatures from around the world, whether she finds



them in books or in a country's mythology, like the werewolf or a Tengu, "heavenly dogs" in Japanese folklore and are said to take the form of birds of prey.

"I do also believe that my skills have begun improving this year because I have been drawing more and practicing more." Senteno plans to attend Mt. Sierra College, where she will continue to practice her illustrations. "Hopefully as I get bet-

ter, my art skills could help me stand out in college and when applying for jobs." Said Senteno.

"I will continue to work on my art and with the characters I have created. I would like to make comics books with my own characters and hopefully get published or I would like to work in video game illustration, making up the characters and their back story and environments."

Math Fanatic Picks Engineering

BY JOSELYN GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After four agonizing years in TEAM and AP classes, it's time for senior Angel Sanchez to get rewarded by moving to New York and attending to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

Sanchez got accepted to Penn State, University of Pacific, Drexel, UC Riverside and Merced. Out of his options, he picked Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY.

"One of the main reasons I picked Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute was because it offered more financial aid than the other schools," Sanchez says.

Some students are scared of applying out of state because they are going to face the real world by themselves. Sanchez says, "I mainly applied out of state to get out of Pico Rivera and experience life on my own without having someone telling me what to do."

Sanchez, as of now, is planning on majoring in Engineering. "I am thinking of aerial or civil Engineering. I really like math and solving problems. I took calculus as a junior and after being in Mr. Francics' class it gave me the encouragement to take into engineering," Sanchez said.

Angel is ready to explore a new state and meeting new people as well as developing new friendships. "I am really looking forward into exploring NYC once I get to New York," he says.

"My parents can't accept the fact of me leaving to another state, but they understand it's for my education," Sanchez said.

Angel will be departing to Troy on August 18. Sanchez says, "I don't think I will miss High School because I am tired of having the same routine everyday, but I will miss my family and hanging out with my friends. I can't wait, New York here I come!"



Angel relaxing during lunch.

CAMPUS

The Ultimate Test Challenge Excites Students



By CHRISTINA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After preparing for two months, Chef Luna held his second annual ultimate test challenge on May 27th and 28th by having his students challenge themselves to prepare a menu for their judges.

"I wanted to create a final test that was going to be fun and exciting. My goal with the challenge

is take them through my journey of restaurant management, catering, being a chef, having hospitality, which is every part of the culinary industry," says Chef Luna.

Adding a fun, exciting twist to the contest, Chef Luna had his students create all their foods from scratch. They were given two to three weeks of planning and one final day of preparation. The students had to create

a menu that included an appetizer, an entrée, a dessert, and a beverage.

Not only did each group have to plan out a delicious menu for their judges, but they as well had to dress with the theme of their food.

"They had to dress alike in a formal and sophisticated way so they can add points to their final score," said Luna.

This challenge was a red carpet event that class was filled with international decorations in each kitchen. Chef Luna had a full audience as parents of the contestants took numerous photos and videos of the classroom.

On the first day, one of the main judges was Paul McCullough*, a chef who is apart of the Next Food Network Star.

"It was an honor to have him come in and judge the event. Chef McCullough was very impressed with the presentations of all the students since he had never seen anything like it. He noticed all the hard work these students put into it because they put their heart and soul into their food," said Luna.

One of the winning groups had theme which was Food is love. They had a Spanish appetizer, followed by an Italian entrée, and had a sweet finale of a Greek dessert. The purpose of their menu was to explain the people have for each other, thus sharing their food amongst one another.

"It has been great experience and opportunity to work with my girls in my kitchen. It was also an honor being taught by a great chef like Chef Luna," said Carlos Figueroa.



Another winner of the food challenge had a theme A Night in Tokyo. By modernizing their asian wraps and twisting their hair in chop sticks, this group of girls went to the extreme by making an entrée of fresh sushi hand rolls

"Sushi is very hard to prepare and they were only given one demo on how to make sushi, but these girls received a perfect score," Chef Luna

"The ultimate test challenge was the greatest we had ever had to do in class. With the great help and guidance of Chef Luna, it was easy to accomplish", said Lily Gama.

This challenge was a hectic and time consuming for Chef Luna, but he said, "it was all worth it." Every dollar that was spent for this challenge was used in a creative way by making food into art.

This test not only shows the students how to present a creation of art and make food they normally would not do on an ordinary day basis, but "the class teaches them life skills they will take with them for the rest of their lives," said Luna.

Dons Looks Forward to Next Season



By ABEL MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The coming of summer indicates the ending of the school year, but it also signals another event: the 2010 El Rancho Football Season.

Little do people know that the season began a long time ago for the players. At the start of the 2nd semester, returning players and those that wanted to join were required to register for the zero period body conditioning

class. Along with weightlifting, to strengthen their physique and build muscle, the players also worked on exercises that focused on expanding their flexibility.

"I think that we will have the best athletes in the league (skill wise)," says Head Coach Rick Zepeda. "Our overall team speed will be faster than in the past, best speed in a while. Our interior (offensive and defensive line) will be inexperienced, and that will be a big question coming into the fall. Our kicking team

should be outstanding. I think we should be good enough to compete for a playoff spot this year."

Spring practices for the players began on May 11. It is spring where the players get a taste of what is in store for the summer and the season. They work on technique, condition to develop endurance, and compete with contact.

"The practices have been very positive," says Coach Zepeda. "The guys have been working hard. Coaches have put in a lot of time. We're much more organized

coming into my 3rd year here, and we're getting a lot done. A lot of the guys are getting overwhelmed with the physical and mental toughness that is needed. We've already seen a big drop in numbers from when we first began."

A big change from the previous year's team is obviously the size, especially linemen wise. The linemen are primarily the toughest guys out there, and size always helps. Despite the size issue, the coach of the defensive line, Coach Vigil, is optimistic.

"As far as line wise, we're young, and we're scrappy," states Vigil. "We're going to keep on working and outmaneuver people. It's a battle of technique, and our linemen just have to have the mentality that 'I'm going to beat you,' no matter the size of the other guy."

As the team's spring practices wrap up this Friday with the annual Blue and Gray game, the summer will present the final obstacle before the season begins. "I think our home opener against Los Altos will be a big game," says Coach Zepeda. "The hard part right now is the academic issues. I'm hoping that by summer, everyone will be eligible and if that happens, we'll be a very exciting team to watch this year."

El Rodeo

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STAFF FAREWELLS

Alyssa Mendoza

Wow, I can't believe this year is over. I have so many memories here at the ranch but first I'd like to say that I will miss the El Rodeo Staff.

Thank you so much for making my senior year so memorable. I will never forget Brianna's meltdowns or Jonathon blasting Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" in class and trying to imitate the moves in the video.

I will also miss Jose's crassness and his styling corner (he is the class's official hairstylist) and who can forget Mr. Zeko or shall I say Evan. Mr. Zeko,



thank you so much for letting me be a part of journalism this year.

It has offered me new experiences that have helped me grow as a young adult and a person.

I have learned much responsibility this year. You letting me be in charge of advertisements and reviews for the Moxie Company has helped me understand responsibility and for that I thank you.

Emma, you have been there for me through thick and thin. I'm glad to say

that you are my best friend. Listening to your beautiful and out of nowhere

singing in class was the best. I can honestly say that being apart of the El Rodeo Staff has been the best thing to happen to me next to coming to El Rancho of course.

El Rancho has given me so much as an individual. I have met some of the weirdest, most unique, and greatest people here.

Although I have a few cousins here that helped me get situated to the school, my best friends are the ones that have made the experience even better.

Pedro Lopez, Wendy Mejia, and Emma Leal, I will miss you guys terribly when I leave to Holy Names University this August!

To all my other friends, I love you guys!

You were all great to be around. I will always carry a piece of El Rancho High School in my heart.

Although I was once a Roughrider freshman year, I will ALWAYS be an El Rancho Don.

Christina Perez

It's hard to explain my senior year in so many words. This year there were so many new adventures, new friends, new challenges, but most importantly new memories. As the final week approaches, I think of all the memories I created within X1. I walked into a classroom with individuals I never spent time with throughout these four years and now I'm resisting tearing up and saying goodbye. Journalism opened so many doors for me. I never knew the time it takes to make a paper!

This class not only taught me deadlines, dedication, and patience, but it taught so many life lessons I will take with me to college. I will truly miss walking into classroom and hearing chaos. For those that are coming back to El Rodeo next year, I'll tell you one thing. MAKE DEADLINES! I'm going to miss Naomi's fun personality, Dani's energetic hellos, and Amanda's sweet, awesome friendship.

Brianna you have been an incredible editor in chief because not only were you able to handle all the stress and chaos of

the paper, but you were a leader that committed herself to this newspaper. I wish all of you the best for next year's paper. If you ever need me, I'm just a couple of cities away.

I always thought our staff's energy was brought from an extraordinary individual. He was the one who kept us motivated for each issue. He was the one who made all of us laugh each day by his humorous personality. He was the one who brought us nachos every time we stayed pasted the sunset and laid out an issue. Mr. Zeko thanks for everything that you have taught me in the past ten months. The newspaper

would not be the same without your wacky sayings or cheesy quotes of the day. X1 is filled with memories only we, as El Rodeo's Staff, will understand. I'm going to miss all of you guys! Each one of you has left a memory for my senior year. It is not goodbye rather just a farewell for now. Thank you once again for the best laughs of my senior year.



Rebecca Gallegos

My last year of high school has been very memorable. One of my best memories was being a member of the *El Rodeo* staff.

Editing, proof reading, staying late, laying out were all stressful at times, but worth it when a good issue was published.

Mr. Zeko, thank you for pushing me to be a better writer, and genuinely caring about your students.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Being on news staff has been



something I will never forget, and has given me a great lesson about deadlines, diligent work, multi-tasking and teamwork.

I will miss everyone, especially my Spelling Snake, Jose.

Every good Grammar Guru needs one ;)

Natalie, our reluctant hero, you helped so much with editing, and I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't transferred in this semester.

Emma, your optimism and great personality kept our news staff united and motivated.

I will miss your sunny disposition.

Brianna, your determination to put out a good paper never failed, and in the end we all worked together to get it done.

Working on news staff has been a great experience. I will

miss the business of the "news room," last minute stories and lay out changes being thrown my way at last minute notice.

We all grew as Journalists this past year and became a family within X1.

I will never forget the great feeling of accomplishment when we, as the layout team, put a very good paper out.

I will truly miss El Rodeo and all of its staff members.



MR. ZEKO

Best wishes to my graduating seniors: Alyssa Mendoza, Christina Perez, Joselyn Gonzalez, Jose Reyes, Rebecca Gallegos, Alejandra Vallin, Maria Duenas, Jonathan Raya, Erika Morales and Natalie Rangel.

Thank you for your dedication and service to *El Rodeo*. You elevated

our monthly publication to a higher level with your commitment to accuracy and style.

I will miss your unique personalities and talents.

Best of luck to all of your in your future academic and career pursuits.

It's been a pleasure to serve as your advisor.

JOSE REYES

My final year here at El Rancho has gone by too fast.

I still remember my freshman year and from there the years merged and BAM! - Here's senior year.

Most of my fondest memories have been in X-1, Mr. Zeko's Digital Photography class and his Journalism class.

I am truly going to miss this class and yelling at everyone to shut up, our nacho runs, and staying late to make sure the paper was perfect.

I will definitely miss Brianna's yelling, her meltdowns, and especially her hugs.

I will miss Emma and signing moments, Brianna's effort in making sure the paper

was perfect, and Naomi's laugh.

I will also miss making copies for you, Zeko, and well, just the whole *El Rodeo* staff in general.

You guys were really fun to be with and work with too.

I'll always thank you though, Mr. Zeko, for inspiring me to want to major in journalism.

And also, I promise to come visit

at least one or twice

a week and to see how

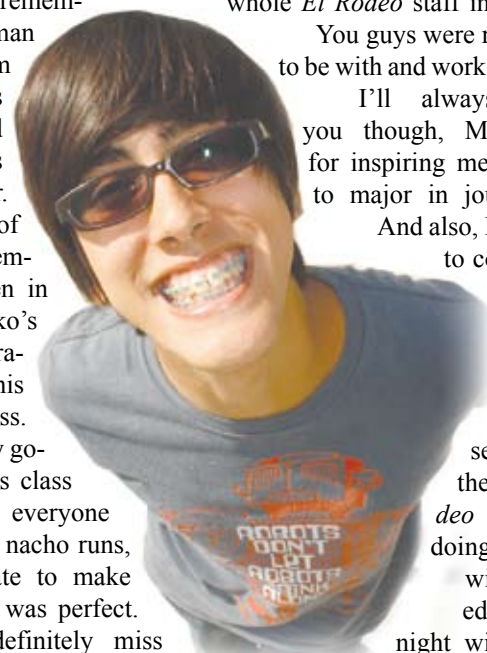
the *El Rodeo* staff is doing. Also, I will miss

editing all night with Nata-

lie and Rebecca,

the Grammar Guru, who dubbed me the Spelling Snake. I'm going to miss Mr. Zeko and every-

thing about this El Rodeo family.



Jonathon Raya

It has been four years at El Rancho and my journal here is coming to an end.

I am both excited and sadden to move onto college.

But over all, my high school experience has been great and I will miss the classes I have had this year, journalism being one of them.

I joined journalism this year not knowing what to expect and it is sad to admit that I wish I could have taken it sooner.

Journalism has been such a wonderful experience for me, it taught me how a newspaper is composed and published, also it taught me how much time and effort actu-



ally goes into it. I will miss this class a lot when I am at college.

To next year's staff I do wish them the best.

To the Editor-in-chief, Brianna, I wish you the best of luck at finding someone who is good with Photoshop so they can do cutouts of pictures and edit them.

I will miss the entire staff, even if at times they made me want to pull my hair out.

I will miss the editors: Jose, Rebecca, and Natalie, who helped me when times were difficult with my writing, editing my stories, and also with helping me speak correctly.

I will miss Emma

and her happy attitude on life. I will miss Mr. Zeko's jokes and his daily quotes.

Another person I'm going to miss is Dani even when she muted my music in class when I was listening to it.

Also, I will miss blasting my music in class, listening to my favorite songs like Single Ladies, Bad Romance, Telephone, and Alejandro. (P.S. Lady Gaga rules!!)

Even though this year is coming to an end, I am excited to move on, but I will try to come back to see how the future El Rodeo issues look and I hope they look even better than this year.

So with this, I say goodbye to El Rodeo staff and El Rancho.

This year has been the best out of my four years here and I wish the whole staff good luck on what they will advance to do in the next year.

Farewell El Rancho!