



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 61- Issue 3  
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

## Gadabouts set to embark on next adventure

By KARLA VIRAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In six days, the El Rancho Gadabouts Travel Club will embark on their sixth trip overseas. This time, they will be landing in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from there going on to Brussels, Belgium; Paris, France, and finally ending in London, United Kingdom.

With only 11 days, seventy-seven Gadabouts will take advantage of seeing and doing everything they can with no regrets. Some things the gadabouts will be able to experience in Amsterdam are the Dam Square, the Flower Market, the Jewish Quarter, and some Gadabouts will also have the opportunity to visit the Anne Frank House, the house where she lived during the Holocaust during World War II.

After arriving in Brussels, these travelers will take a tour to the European Union Buildings, and the Grand 'Place. With only seven days left, after landing in Paris, they will have the chance to visit the Notre Dame Cathedral and tour around the Place de la Concorde, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, and for some Gadabouts, they will have the luxury of visiting Versailles, where Louis XIV lived in the seventeenth century. Once leaving Paris, their last stop



After much deliberation, Gadabouts joined together to choose next year's destination for future travelers.

will be London, where they will visit the Tower of London. Then it will be time to fly back home.

With only a couple more days till departure, senior Humberto Aponte said, "I can't wait to go to Europe because I've never been there. Not only that, but to be honest, I've never really gone out of Pico except for Mexico so it's going to be an adventure for me."

"I'm very excited. I've never been to Europe so it's

going to be a new first experience for me, hopefully leaving me with many memories," said junior Monica Ochoa.

With only seven days left, the majority of the Gadabouts have something they really look forward to. Mrs. Zeko, sophomore English teacher as well as the group leader of the Gadabouts is also looking forward to the trip said, "I am really looking forward to visiting Anne Frank's house,

eating stroopwaffels, and buying a bracelet from a street vendor located near the Notre Dame."

Aponte said, "I really want to visit Paris. I can't wait to see the Eiffel Tower just because I've seen so much in movies and I would like to have that same experience." Similarly to Aponte, Ochoa agreed she was anxious to see Paris because she wants to see the Eiffel tower especially at night when all the lights

are showing and it's all bright.

Besides being excited to fly to Europe, there were some things that Aponte and Ochoa will not forget to pack. Ochoa, without hesitation said, "I will not forget to pack various coats, warm shoes, a lot of socks, scarves and mittens." Aponte said, "One thing I definitely won't forget to pack is my phone. I need to keep up with friends even though I'm going to be gone."

Even though this trip hasn't happened yet, Mrs. Zeko is already planning next year's trip. Mrs. Zeko excitedly said, "Next year's trip is in the works, and the front-runner is a winter trip to Berlin, Prague, Krakow, Budapest, and Vienna, with a drive through Slovenia. The travelers will get to experience the Berlin Wall, the Brandenburg Gate, Auschwitz, Dresden, many cathedrals and architectural marvels. It's going to be fantastic."

Mrs. Zeko is motivated to keep giving opportunities to travelers to go abroad year after year. She said, "I love taking students abroad. It allows them to experience new cultures, and in the process, discover a little something about themselves. St. Augustine said, 'The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.' I think everyone should get to know the novel."

## The 'MO's are back in town!



From left to right: J. Diaz, D. Diaz, Sorenson, Garcia, Rojo, Pena, Llanes.

By JAVIER GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Mostacheos are back, and once more the mustache infests El Rancho in the month of November as Movember; a 30-day pledge to grow a mustache for the sake of men's health awareness worldwide returns. The participants of Movember obtain donations by forming MO teams, helping out health and diseases

that are common among men, most notably prostate cancer.

El Rancho's MO team, The Mostacheos, is comprised of the following teachers: Mr. Daniel Diaz, Mr. Sorenson, Mr. Ramirez, Mr. Rojo, Mr. Llanes, Mr. Justin Diaz, and Mr. Pena, teaming up to make their mark once more.

Last year the team raised close to \$1,600 through school donations and Facebook support. This year the hairy fol-

licle fighter's have set their fundraising goal at \$3,000 and are advising students to come join the cause as well, by donating and/or joining the team.

"Our mustache's are our ribbons!" said head mustache and MO team leader Daniel Diaz, who introduced the idea to El Rancho, having heard of the cause through his close friend Adam Stubendorff, husband of biology teacher Claire Katsu-

mura. "I figured why not have El Rancho join in?" said Diaz, who sees facial hair as "a symbol to spark conversation and help change the face of men's health."

In conjunction with the MO team, link crew assisted the pledge by distributing donation bags to participants that were willing to join the Mostacheos; hence spreading the word among young students eager to fight cancer.

As the 'stache is typically limited to prominent men, women are able to join as MO sisters, through the collection of donations. "Anybody can join [Movember] boy or girl, and no you don't have to grow a mustache!" said English teacher and Mostacheo Jim Sorenson.

Last year Sorenson allowed his students to chose the style of "bigote" he grew if enough of his students donated. This year Sorenson went on to grow a handlebar mustache covering the majority of his face. "I'm doing this for my dad" said Sorenson, dedicating his mustache to his father who once struggled with prostate cancer.

In close correlation with mustache culture, The Mostacheos cite the influential upper lip hair of Burt Reynolds and Sam Elliot as their personal favorites. "I love the Raul Julia [pencil] mustache" said Diaz.

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# COLLEGE LIFE

## Important Dates for Senior Dons:

### December:

- Fill out FAFSA application but do *not* submit before January 1<sup>st</sup>
- Research and apply for outside funding or scholarships. Always check with your guidance counselor.
- Always check your e-mail
- Deadline for Generation 1<sup>st</sup> Degree scholarship is *December 15<sup>th</sup>*

### January:

- File student and parent federal tax returns *as soon as possible* and complete FAFSA application.
- Keep copies of *all* forms you submit
- Mid year transcripts are due

### February:

- Allow four to five weeks to process your FAFSA
- Check with your guidance counselor to be sure your mid year transcripts have been sent to the schools you applied to
- Check mail for college acceptance letters
- Send SAT/ACT scores to colleges or universities
- Complete FAFSA
- Send H.S. transcripts to colleges you've applied to

### March:

- Submit FAFSA and Cal Grant applications by *MARCH 2nd*
- Watch for Student Aid report
- Start looking for a summer job
- Make your *final* college decision and notify the other school that you will not be attending
- Register to take the *English Placement Test/Entry Level Mathematics*. Sign up through the school's website; \$18 per test

### April:

- Watch for your college financial aid award letter. Sign and return it by *mid-April*
- Watch for important deadlines at your college of choice (*housing, financial aid, etc.*)
- Pay any fees/deposits (*housing, meal plans, etc.*) Contact housing dept. for more info

## Diaz adds USC to his collegiate career

By SAVANNAH GUERRERO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

APUSH teacher Mr. Diaz graduated from Whittier College and now plans to graduate from USC for Educational Psychology.

"I went to Bishop and spent two years there and transferred to a private high school in Downey, then graduated in 1997," says Diaz. "My GPA wasn't too good... I got accepted to Chapman, but it was expensive, and I didn't like the campus too much, so I took a year at Rio Hondo, then transferred to Cerritos, stayed there for a year, and transferred to Whittier College for my Junior year."

Although Diaz's GPA in high school was not the best, it has not stopped him from advancing his education. "My GPA was bad because I was kind of lazy, and I just wasn't really motivated in high school, I didn't really have teachers that motivated me... I didn't know I would go this far." Once Diaz attended community college things started to fall into place. "Once I started getting good grades I got even more motivated," says Diaz.

While attending high school, Diaz had ideas of becoming a chef or a lawyer, but that changed while attending Cerritos.



Diaz remains motivated for his fourth college campus.

"I was taking a U.S History class, and I was doing very well in it and my professor who actually worked at UCLA pulled me aside and told me I should consider doing it for a living and I said 'okay I'll do it'

and that's all it took," says Diaz.

After his year at Cerritos, Diaz attended Whittier for two years and graduated with his B.A. in History. He began to teach AP U.S. History at El Rancho in 2004, and coach soccer on the side.

Nine years after his graduation at Whittier, Diaz missed learning and the school environment and chose to continue his education. Having not been in school since 2003, Diaz now attends USC. "My focus at USC is Educational Psychology," said Diaz. Educational Psychology is the study of learning, the process of instruction, and teaching, and how the brain learns.

"USC, although expensive, has a good network of people in California," Diaz says. "It was my best opportunity in getting another job in education."

Diaz loves to teach, but wanted to explore more options in the education field. After USC, Diaz plans to open a business making social studies curriculum focused on today's new California standards, or consulting students, as well as teaching at a university. "There's a lot of opportunities," says Diaz

Diaz continues to teach his AP class, and looks forward to what doors USC can open for him.

## UCLA earns "Dream School" rating

By PATSY VILLASANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

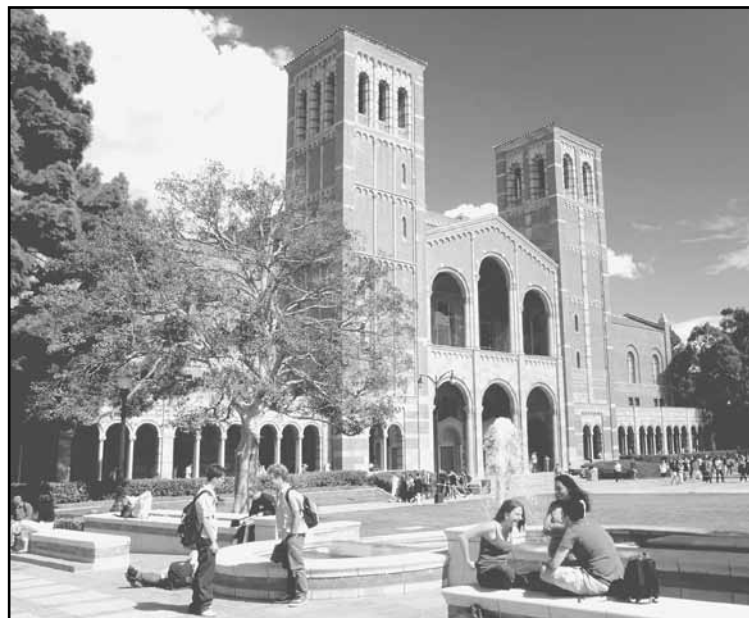
The Shanghai Jiao Tong University has declared UCLA to be the thirteenth ranking among the world's top 400 universities. With the number of applicants steadily rising each year, UCLA now offers 125 majors and more than eighty minors in 109 academic departments, as well as instruction taught in 40 different languages.

Since 1998, UCLA has held the title of the university with the most freshman applicants. More than 72,000 freshman applications were received for the fall of 2012, and the top degrees chosen included: psychology, history, business economics, biology, and healthcare, the latter being the most popular choice.

Among those freshmen, only 21.98 percent were admitted and held an average GPA of 4.25, with an SAT score between 1760 and 2140. UCLA has quickly become one of the most applied to universities in the nation.

UCLA also strives to "look beyond the horizon" and reach "an enriching, multicultural, educational experience." To encourage this, students who apply to UCLA can choose to study abroad in over forty-three countries, including: China, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Brazil, Switzerland, South Africa, and Israel.

While maintaining its popularity overseas, UCLA has also earned recognition on the home front. UCLA's professional schools of health science have been the driving force



UCLA's 419-acre campus houses more than 12,900 students.

behind some of the medicine world's biggest breakthroughs.

In 1981, the first diagnosis of AIDS was made by the UCLA Medical center, which has since been named the "Best in the West" and employs 275 of the "Best Doctors in America" according to U.S. News & World Report. Soon after, medical researchers discovered new methods of studying brain function and cardiopulmonary physiology.

UCLA was the only public university to be titled a "Dream School" by the Princeton Review and was also one of only two universities to have all of its facilities rank in the top 10 of the High Impact Universities ranking.

Earl Watson, a former UCLA basketball player, said, "I take offense to those who act like UCLA is just another school compared with Duke. Duke is a great school [for the eastern United

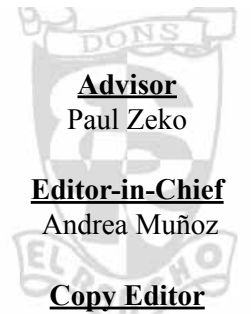
States], but UCLA is worldwide."

UCLA's ideal location in Los Angeles makes student trips to local museums, concert halls, and other venues readily available. When students are not attending classes, the UCLA campus houses over 800 student-led organizations including: volunteer groups, deejaying for UCLA Radio, writing and reporting for the Daily Bruin newspaper, and the largest group of sorority and fraternity houses on the West Coast.

After ninety-three years, UCLA has been the alma mater of one hundred and ten professional athletes, over twenty Academy Award winners, and two hundred and fifty Olympic Medalists.

It is a true testament to the UCLA professors' promise that they are "not teaching students about groundbreaking inventions and discoveries- we are making them, side by side."

## El Rodeo



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

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

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

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



# BUSINESS

## Chamber of Commerce: the key to business

BY DON DINERO

Since its inception in 1958, Pico Rivera's Chamber of Commerce has remained a fixture in the city, providing businesses with marketing opportunities, networking events, and legislative advocacy.

The chamber coordinates a host of events throughout the year intended to foster a strong working relationship between surrounding businesses and the city.

The chamber's membership consists of small local businesses, non-profit groups, and larger businesses and chain retailers like BakeMark and Target, said Chamber Executive Director MaryAnn Bakotich, noting that small business makes up most of the membership, which totals at about 250 members.

"Pico Rivera is a very mom-and-pop, small business community," said Bakotich.

The chamber makes a point of honoring its members as part of a "Business of the Month" ceremony. December's "Busi-



Bakotich hopes to introduce Dons to the Student Chamber program.

ness of the Month" honors went to Clearman's Steak 'n Stein restaurant, an active chamber member for over 66 years, according to the chamber's official website.

But the chamber constantly extends beyond the Pico Rivera community, collaborating with other local chambers to organize larger functions for an even wider range of networking opportuni-

ties for members. The Pico Rivera Chamber will join six other chambers for a holiday mixer and toy drive on Dec. 12, Bakotich said.

Bakotich, who graduated from Cal-State Fullerton with a degree in clinical child psychology, spent 15 years working with a drug prevention program for the state of California before making the transition to working with the chamber.

Aside from providing businesses with a platform for networking and marketing, the chamber aims to provide its membership with a legislative backing, keeping members abreast of new laws with seminars and literature. In this way, the chamber works hand in hand with the city.

Although chamber functions are currently open to members and city officials only, Bakotich sees an opportunity for interested El Rancho students to get involved.

"I would love to see [student participation] happening, because it's a great catalyst for these students to ... see

what's happening in the business world," Bakotich said.

Bakotich recounted her time working with Whittier's Chamber of Commerce and the Student Chamber program, a program that draws from Whittier's five high schools and lends students the opportunity to observe and participate in various Whittier Chamber activities.

With more student interest, that same program could become a core part of El Rancho's student introduction to the business community. The chamber's Executive Committee consists of:

**President/Treasurer:**

Maria Segovia

**Immediate Past**

**President:** Jose Medina

**President Elect/VP**

**Administration:** Charlene Dimas-Peinado

**VP Of Membership:**

Bonie Watje

**VP Of Legislative Affairs:**

Andres Hurwitz



Latino ballots turn presidency in Obama's favor.

## Latino voters tip the scales

BY DON DINERO

After casting their votes in record numbers on Nov. 6, researchers found Latino voters playing a key role in President Barack Obama's re-election.

Exit polls found 71 percent of self-identified Hispanic voters in favor of Obama, while a near record low 27 percent supported GOP nominee Mitt Romney.

Another poll conducted by Latino mass media outlet ,ImpreMedia, and research firm ,Latino Decisions, found the margin to be even wider, with 75 percent voting for Obama and 23 percent voting for Romney.

Perhaps most remarkable in this election is the rapidity with which Latino influence over the general election has increased, with Latino votes tripling their share of the national electorate over the past 25 years. Latino votes made up 6 percent of votes cast in the 2000 election, but by 2012 Latino votes made up 10 percent of ballots cast, deciding at least three crucial swing states.

While trying to diffuse the dilemma of why Latino voters are so disenchanted with the Republican party, immigration clocks in as the number one reason for most pundits. But 53 percent of Hispanic voters are more concerned with the economy and job creation, the ImpreMedia-Latino Decisions poll concluded. The poll found immigration reform came in second with 35 percent, then education with 20 percent, and healthcare with 14 percent.

Pundits speculated that Latino approval for Obama reached such heights because of his June announcement to grant two-year reprieves to hundreds of thousands of illegal youths. The ImpreMedia-Latino Decisions poll confirms those speculations, with 58 percent of voters claiming these reprieves have increased their enthusiasm. Romney's stance to end such a program should he assume the presidency coupled with his history of fighting the 2010 DREAM Act probably helped bolster said enthusiasm for Obama.

The bottom line shows an ever-increasing efficacy of young Latino voters, many of whom identify with the Democratic party. With the Latino population now being the fastest-rising demographic in the United States, tshe group's influence over the 2016 and 2020 elections is limitless.

## Gender lines prove weaker than ever

BY ANALYE ARENAS

Throughout history women have been portrayed as "inferior" to males and "incapable" of providing the structural work ethics that are now key elements to establishing a self-made business. But as time passed into the twenty-first century, women began rapidly climbing the social ladder into economic success.

Twenty years ago it might have been rare to find a women-owned business, but today they are thriving. More women-owned firms, corporations, and partnerships are emerging from the shadows of those who underestimated them.

As women gained more rights, they used them to their advantage and were able to provide themselves with their own income while establishing a large percentage of United States businesses. About 46 percent of women are in the U.S. labor force, 50.6 percent of women



Women in the business world are continuing to stay strong.

are in management, professional and related occupations, and 15.4 percent of women are corporate officers, according to statistics released by Catalyst, a nonprofit organization focused on female women-owned businesses.

Women-owned businesses contribute a significant amount of money to the United States' economy, adding \$1.2 trillion to the United States' GDP.

Although women-owned businesses are typically smaller

than men-owned businesses, they are just as successful. Differences found between man and woman-operated corporations can include the risk factors involved. Women tend to play it safer when it comes to taking risks and loans, which plays in their favor and works as an economic advantage.

Women-owned firms are continuing to grow and people are realizing it, almost like the reactions boys in a second grade class express when

they notice the class population is taken up by girls, who are also learning their times tables.

It is true that women still receive lower pay than men do for the same job; estimates show about 20 percent, according to Catalyst. It seems unfair but as the future draws nearer, women will catch up to the imaginary gender line that society has drawn across the landscape of education and economic achievement.





# CAMPUS

## Canned food drive helps less fortunate

By BRIDGETT MOTA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The annual Canned Food Drive was back at El Rancho in early November. The cans collected were for the Christmas baskets that will be made for less fortunate families in Pico Rivera for the holidays. The Christmas baskets will be handed out on December 15<sup>th</sup> in Pico Park.

Every year, families around the world do not have enough money to provide traditional Thanksgiving meals for their loved ones. Many usually end up staying at a close relative's house or even neighbors, for thanksgiving dinner, or choose not to celebrate Thanksgiving at all.

El Rancho Dons joined together and decided to give back by sponsoring this year's Canned Food Drive. The first class to get to 100lbs of cans earned a doughnut party, and the class that collected the most pounds earned a pizza party.



Dons collect 3,919 pounds of canned food for Christmas Baskets.

ASB members were put into groups of two or four, and were then assigned buildings. They went around and collected the cans from fourth period classes every Wednesday and Friday. Senior ASB member and Chief Justice, Krystal Perez said, "They are in charge of going to each class, collecting the

cans, counting them and then reporting their totals back to me."

Many teachers at El Rancho offered extra credit for each can a student brought in. This encouragement led to hundreds of cans being donated by the students and counted by ASB. Perez said, "The only hard part is keeping count of each can donated."

The Canned Food Drive lasted two weeks and was a lot of stress for those counting all the cans and making sure their records were correct. "I know that it's going to local families and even some students from our school so it's rewarding to know that we can help them celebrate the holiday", said Perez.

This year, Seniors claimed first place with 1,818 lbs., Juniors arrived in second with 756 lbs., Freshmen were third with 715 lbs., and Sophomores were last with 630 lbs. Ms. Kemp's fourth period class won first place for the pizza party, followed by Mr. Galindo's, and Mr. Alvarado's classes. The doughnut party went to Mr. Sorenson's fourth period for being the first to achieve the 100 lbs.

This year we should be thankful for everything we have, and should always think about giving back to those who are less fortunate than us. El Rancho raised 3,919 lbs. of canned food.



### Dons get fit in comfortable environment

By KAINA CERDAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Insanity is an after school program that PREP designed for students to workout and have fun with their friends at the same time.

The Insanity program began in August and will continue throughout the school year. "Insanity is here to provide an encouraging environment where students can work out. The outcome of our club is for students to feel healthier and better about themselves." said Nicole Leon, PREP coordinator

Insanity is a workout routine that is advertised to improve fitness in 60 days through strenuous training.

The key to the insanity workout is Max Interval Training, developed by Shaun T. who is also your personal trainer. This is a method of exercising in which one works out strenuously for 3- 4 minutes and then rests for 30 seconds before starting the process over.

This method is more intense than traditional interval training in which participants alternate mild and strenuous exercise for roughly equal lengths of time.

Many students feel intimidated in the weight room. Insanity offers a safer, more comfortable fitness option.

Students don't need to sign up for the club and are welcomed at any time. Weekly attendance is not required.

The students perform a variety of workouts that help improve their strength, power, and resistance. "The main goal of the club is [for people to] reach their weight goal and have fun doing it." said advisor Jazmine Navarro.

In the process, students work out their arms, legs, and abs.

Freshman Kaitlyn Cunningham says, "Yes, I feel different and I see change."

### Library Corner: Mix and Match

Match the title and author to the book's first line:

1. "I'd heard rumors about what happened to Lauren."
2. "The early summer sky was the color of cat vomit."
3. "The seller of lightning rods arrived just ahead of the storm."
4. "1801—I have just returned from a visit to my landlord..."
5. "I sit on a stage at the Los Angeles Convention Center, surrounded by an ocean of 5000 people staring at me."

- a. *Street Life—Poverty, Gangs, and a P.H.D* by Victor Rios
- b. *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- c. *Uglies* by Scott Westerfield
- d. *Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury
- e. *Tweak* by Nic Sheff

## Donations Wanted



- Aquariums any size, preferably 20- 30 gallons

\*small cracks/ chips are okay

- Pumps, filters, etc.

- Terrariums to house turtles, lizards, snakes etc.

To donate see Mrs. Bauer in B201

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Which class do you think will win Powder Puff?



"Seniors, because we have Saucedo and because we are boss!" -Natalie Acosta, 12



"Seniors, because we are going to dominate and because we won last year!" -Ian Trevino, 12



"Seniors, because we have a lot of athletic beasts on the team this year" -Celeste Reyes, 12



"Juniors, because we have more athletic girls." -Orlando Morfin, 11



"I think its going to be a tight game because the juniors beat the seniors last year and now they are seniors but I have more confidence in our girls!" -Angelica Felix, 11



# CAMPUS

## El Rancho alumni serve up LGBT charity event

BY ISABEL RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Chef Luna, Culinary Arts teacher, along with six El Rancho alumni who plan to pursue and/or are currently enrolled in a Culinary Arts school volunteered in this year's GLAAD 'Bravo Top Chef Invasion' charity event this past summer for the third consecutive time.

Two winners of Top Chef, Chef Chris Crary and Chef Jamie Lauren, went head to head and competed in the Bravo Top Chef Challenge. The event took place in the city of Los Angeles in a private residence pertaining to Hancock Park.

All profits made from the event went towards the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) to amplify the voices of the LGBT community. This is the best display of El Rancho's awareness on anti-bullying.

The guest list consisted of many celebrities such as directors, producers, and actors. Chef Luna and the El Rancho alumni were given the opportunity to



*Chef Luna, El Rancho students, and alumni met actor Lou Diamond Phillips at charity event.*

meet the hosts, actress Fran Drescher and actor Lou Diamond Phillips. As well as, Lisa Vanderpump and LGBT advocate/writer Perez Hilton who were the celebrity judges at this year's event.

The Art Institute, Le Cordon Bleu, and El Rancho High

School were invited to do prep for the Top Chef competitors. These individuals were facing a ten to twelve hour workday, which included setting up stations, stages, etc. Chef Luna says, "It was hard work, fun and exciting."

The Co-Chairman of the

event Chef McCullough, who is also Chef Luna's mentor, visits his classes and suggests whom he would like to see at the event. Ultimately it is Chef Luna's decision in who would accompany him to this event. So who gets picked? "Someone who is open minded

and who I trust. Somebody who takes good direction and has good skills... Someone who respects everyone and anyone no matter what," says Chef Luna.

Chef Luna has been El Rancho's Culinary Arts teacher for a little over four years now. In this period of time he has had over one hundred students who are currently working in the Food Industry and forty students who have received a degree. Of these students more than forty alumni work overseas, out of state, and even in a different country pursuing this career. Students who took this class and have received this particular certification are placed in an intermediate level or even at the top level of a kitchen.

This is an amazing opportunity for those who plan to pursue a career in this field because of the incredible once in a lifetime experience. If you have some interest in this career definitely consider taking this course. This is just one of the many charity events El Rancho takes part in. Other events include visiting children hospitals and the homeless in downtown Los Angeles.

## Dons bleed blue for others



*Junior Kimberly Lopez is proud to have donated blood for the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital.*

BY PATSY VILLANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

While most people list their fear of needles as to why they refrain from donating blood, El Rancho Dons gathered to participate in the annual blood drive sponsored by the Key Club on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

According to the American Red Cross organization, more than 1,032,000 pints of blood are needed every day to help save lives. Lisa Vizcarra, the blood donor recruiter who was in charge of overseeing the blood drive, reported that more than two hundred students and faculty members donated their blood.

"The blood we collect from this drive will go towards helping patients of different cancers and other diseases," stated Vizcarra.

The Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital also utilizes all blood donations at a local level.

"The donations we receive today will be shipped to hospitals throughout our community... On average, the blood will 'stay on the shelf' for about ten days before it is needed to save patients," says Vizcarra.

PIH surveys have shown that approximately fifty percent of people living in the Greater Los Angeles area qualify to be blood donors, yet only about five percent of those people donate regularly.

The two hundred pints of blood collected from the El Rancho students and staff are less than half of the average amount needed every month.

"PIH uses, on average, about eight hundred to nine hundred pints of blood every month," said Vizcarra.

"The Key Club is also going to be holding two more blood drives before the end of this school year. The dates have not been decided, so look out for those," said Vizcarra.

If students missed the opportunity to donate blood for this drive, donors can reach the Blood Donor Center at PIH, Monday through Friday, at (562) 698-0811.

## Off-Campus Passwords to Library Resources

ERHS Don Page <http://www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho>

Choose "Academics" and click on "Library"

**Encyclopedia Britannica**  
**Annals of American History**  
**Enciclopedia Universal en Español**

Login: elrancho  
Password: Ktwelve

**World Book Encyclopedia**  
User ID: erhss  
Password: donns

**Student Resources, Opposing Viewpoints,**  
**Global Issues, eBooks**  
User ID: pico55533  
Password: pico55533

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## FEATURES

# Students advocate for animal awareness

BY PATSY VILLASANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Animal Advocates club, led by Mrs. Bauer, will include many hands-on experiences this school year, including fundraising, field trips to zoos and aquariums, and volunteering at animal rescue shelters.

"As human beings, we have been granted intelligence [and] the responsibility to take care of those who can't take care of themselves... we need to be advocates for change," stated Bauer.

Bauer, who's been a marine biology teacher at El Rancho for the past six years, plans to lead the Animal Advocates club towards "raising awareness of animals and their plight", as well as educating people on the different responsibilities that accompany every pet, especially dogs.

The club spends time learning about a variety of species and the specific needs of individual breeds. Bauer wholeheartedly supports dog psychology, which puts the dog's needs as an animal first, instead



Sophomores Desiree Salmeron, Isabel Carrasco, senior Isabel Ochoa, and junior Erika Espinoza show their love for animals.

of treating them like children.

"Dogs need discipline, boundaries, and then affection; not the other way around," explained Bauer.

The Animal Advocates

club president, senior Isabel Ochoa, is also prepared to make her voice heard and get involved to make a difference.

"It's my last year at El Rancho before I go off to college and

join the Navy. I want to make a difference [at home] before I leave," stated Ochoa. "Animal Advocates helps me gain leadership skills and the understanding that other life forms are just as im-

portant as humans," says Bauer.

Bauer also wants students to volunteer, not only for the good of the community, but to add leadership and work exposure to their resumes and college applications.

"[With community service] we truly fulfill our social responsibility... We are contributing members of society," says Bauer.

Mrs. Bauer has high hopes for what the club and its members can accomplish throughout the school year.

"I hope to eventually have an animal trainer from San Diego's SeaWorld visit and educate us on training exotic pets... And to try to have Cesar Milan come down and do a dog training demonstration for us."

A short-term goal for Bauer is getting as many people to participate as she can. The Animal Advocates club meets every Tuesday during lunch in B-201 and is always willing to welcome new members.

Bauer says, "It's awesome looking at how many people show up every week, wanting to make a better world for animals."

## Marquez succeeds despite heavy workload



Prospective student Monserrat Marquez reveals her choice of schools.

BY SAMANTHA GURROLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Monserrat Marquez is an overachiever, taking any opportunity she can to succeed and further her education. While this can get chaotic she manages her time well, and manages to still have time for herself.

Senior year can be stressful with college rapidly approaching, but Marquez is not giving herself a break yet. "I have four AP classes this year, government, literature, statistics, and psychology; I also have chemistry and decathlon," says Marquez.

Aside from her school classes Marquez is also involved in extracurricular activities as

well. "I am involved in academic decathlon, which is a competition where you have to practice for ten different subjects such as, art, music and speech." Marquez continues, "also, I am part of the schools social justice club, where we try to advocate for equal rights," says Marquez.

With a heavy load on Marquez's senior year, schoolwork can easily become overwhelming. "I just try to do all my work as soon as I get home from school. Usually I do it in order of my classes just because it is an organic order to go in. When I need to relax I just listen to music and take time for myself," says Marquez.

School for most people here at the Ranch is from

8 to 3. Marquez says, "My school hours are usually from seven a.m. until six p.m..."

College is something that is going through many high school seniors' minds right now, and many of us have a certain school we want to get into. Marquez says, "I am applying to thirteen schools." She continues, "Out of all of the schools I do not really have a dream school, but M.I.T., Brown, and Hopkins are my top three."

Little kids always imagine their ideal career, but as a senior in high school minds begins to focus on what to pursue in life. Marquez says, "I want to be a Bio Medical Engineer. So I would not be in medicine but instead the technology for medicine."

Most students have had that one thing that they overcame and are proud of. "I remember in academic decathlon I got a silver medal in speech and it was a complete surprise to me because I am really shy and do not consider myself quite a skilled public speaker," says Marquez.

"I mostly had to overcome my shyness and fear of judgment. Everyone else is always nervous and jittery but with all of the practice we have had it has now gone away slightly," says Marquez.

With all of her AP classes and decathlon, Monserrat has less hours of sleep than an average student. Marquez says, "I go to sleep around eleven or twelve, I get six hours of sleep. On the weekend I try to go out with my friends or I will read an interesting novel since I enjoy reading." Marquez continues, "on the weekend I really not busy. I have practice for decathlon for about two or three hours in the mornings and I have the rest of the day for myself."



Junior, Veronica Aguilar practices for the bands next concert.

## Band takes first at review

BY KARINA CERDAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the El Ranch High School marching band earned the opportunity to play at the Ottay Ranch band review in San Diego and to honor the veterans in the Veterans Day parade.

The band placed first in the Ottay Ranch band review, while the Colorguard team placed fourth. Band director, Mr. Cordero says, "It was really fun to go down to compete against the bands from all over Southern California and see what you normally don't see here."

Over 1,000 veterans were at the parade. "It was an honor to take the band to perform for the Veterans," Cordero says. The band had continuous practices, and had to learn new pieces for the parade.

Senior Jacob Moghimi won the first place title as drum major. "It's an honor to have the title and its nice to see different styles of spinning that are taught in other places in Southern California."

"I thought it was amazing. I got to see a lot of beautiful sights, performing for the Veterans was truly an honor and just being with my band buddies was great, this trip really made my senior year," says senior flute player Jenine Casillas.

Not only did the band march at the parade, but they also got to tour the whole city. They visited Little Italy, watched the San Diego symphony, and had a dinner dance on a boat with two other bands.

They are very proud of their achievements. Since the parade and field season came to an end they are now working towards their concert season.



# SPORTS

## Boys' cross country takes the long run to success

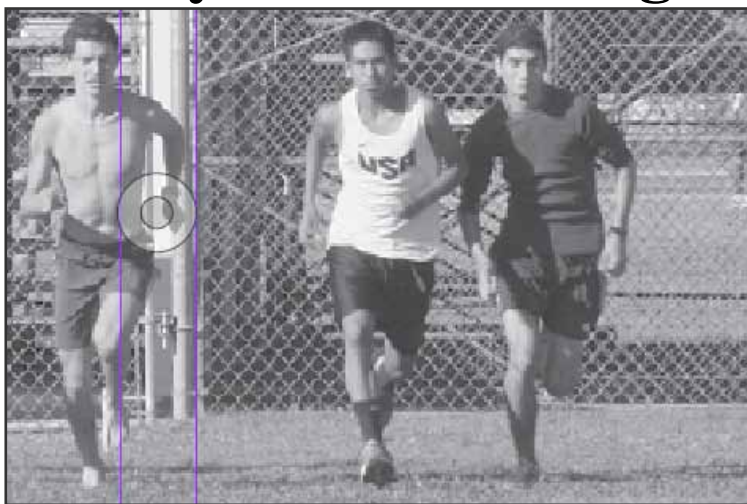
BY SAMANTHA GURROLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Even though this year's cross country boys and girl team took second in the Del Rio League, the boys managed to make it to C.I.F. finals and beat their personal records.

This year's team knew what they wanted and strived for their best. Coach Tirrell Wynn says, "This year's team is more focused and were working together. Every coach out there wants a team that works together," says Coach Wynn.

From the start of Cross's season till the runner's very last race, there was improvement and growth. "The runners on the team did improve. We didn't make it to state. Even though we didn't reach our goal we were still successful and many beat their personal records," says Coach Wynn.

The team had their up and down but their last races showed off their skill. "The race that showed the runner's full potential was the girls league



Cross Country boys end season with a loss at C.I.F. championship.

final race." Wynn continues, "The boys fought all year long on every situation. C.I.F. finals showed their skills, three of the guys broke 15-14 minutes in the race. We did what we had to do to make it and put it all out."

With personal records and obstacles being overcome, the runners should be proud of themselves. "I am more than satisfied. I for a fact am not a three-mile racer. Coming into cross from doing no more than half a mile races

was hard for me to get back in the rhythm to keep up with the guys who have been running mileage," says Senior Andre Hernandez.

"All of our training has prepared us for the finals, there was some disappointments but also some moments of happiness," says Angulo.

Perseverance and the right mindset can take you far. Hernandez says, "The whole season we were all really training just for league. We knew that Cal

high had a target for our head. So since the end of June till now has been nothing but workouts to win." He continues, "90 plus degree weather, mental breakdown days, a week up in Big Bear and pushing each other prepared us for what we accomplished."

This year cross country team shouldn't be disappointed since they broke the streak of not going to C.I.F. Finals. Hernandez says, "I wouldn't say disappointed. I am sad of the fact we did not manage to get that far." Hernandez continues, "We did break the steak of not going to C.I.F. finals that was a big accomplishment. Last year we missed it by one point. So we knew what we had to do."

As the runners took their last steps in crossing the finish line, many thoughts were running through the runners' minds. "Oh my God I am finally done. However, even though the competition was difficult the team was still able to give a great fight," says Angulo.



Girls volleyball gets set for next play.

## Dons come short against Vikings

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' varsity volleyball team finished their season with an overall record of 16-7 and finished league in second place with a 7-3 record. The team made it to the second round of CIF.

The girls' varsity team had a good season but didn't come out with a win in the second round of CIF. In their first round game against Norwalk, they won in three sets 25-23, 25-14, and 25-19. That win led them to the second round of CIF where they played against Santa Monica High School, ranked fifth in California. Coach Adelaide Picon knew it was going to be a tough road, but she also believed it wasn't impossible.

The El Rancho volleyball girls' knew that they had to work extra hard. "I had to motivate all of my teammates," said senior co-captain Elissa Sanchez, "we, as a team, should never be satisfied," she adds. Unfortunately, the team lost to Santa Monica 0-3.

They did not have a whole week to fix mistakes they may have made against Norwalk, they only had one day to recuperate and prepare for Santa Monica. With only a few days to prepare for CIF, "we had to make sure everyone was working hard," says senior co-captain Aileen Rodriguez.

Two girls that had to be working extra hard were sophomores Monique Castellanos and Jennifer Lopez. Castellanos and Lopez were moved up from junior varsity for playoffs and they said they were both proud to be a part of the varsity team. "They treat each other more like a family than the junior varsity team and freshman team does," says Castellanos, "it's more challenging gamewise," adds Lopez.

The team should feel proud about one thing, and that is that they made it further than last year. Last year they didn't make it to CIF, and many girls saw a difference from last year's team to this year's team. "We're closer as a team, we're a family," says senior Tabitha Bethran, "Our mentality is different, and we work together as one, and play our hearts out," adds junior Lauren Lopez.

Next year isn't going to be any easier with the team losing six seniors. The girls' volleyball team is going to have to try harder next season until they accomplish what they wish to accomplish, and that is their CIF ring.



### Girls basketball confident for upcoming season

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's girls' varsity basketball team starts off season with two wins and hopes to do well in the Covina tournament. They defeated Diamond Bar and St Paul.

The girls' basketball team is very confident this year. "This is one of the best teams we've had since I've been head coach, and this is my fifth year," says coach Randy Shigezane. The team also has high expectations set for them. "We're hoping to take the title of league champs this year," says junior Annabelle Martinez. Two preseason wins is a good start to achieving their goals.

A big game in pre-season was against St. Paul. "It was a good game and we executed what we had to execute," says

### Boys basketball team off to strong start

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's varsity boys basketball team started off their season defeating Artesia 52-25 and Montebello 39-37. They are currently hosting the El Rancho Tournamnet and hope to do well.

The boys basketball team has goals set for themselves this season. According to senior Andrew Banuelos, winning league is one goal. Senior Daniel Becerra has higher standards for the team, he hopes to make it past the first round of CIF.

With these goals in mind, they started off season with a win as they defeated Artesia High. "The game went well, I was happy to be out there and

senior Patricia Ayala, "we came together as a team and finished the game strong," she adds. They won the game 62-55.

The team can agree that they are doing well offensively. "We're shooting really well," says sophomore Sarah Gurrola. However, along with all the good things that they're doing, there are some things they need to fix. "We have to get better on defense," says Shigezane. They still have the rest of preseason to improve on defense.

They are competing in the Covina Tournament this week. "In the past couple of years we've done well, and we expect this year to be no different," says senior Khadija Diakite, "hopefully we take first," she adds. If they keep working as hard as they have been this preseason, they will have a successful season.

get a win," says Daniel Becerra. They hope to continue and have a successful season.

As league approaches, there are some things they hope to fix. "We could do way better on free throws," says Becerra, "we also need to know how to end the game," added senior Emilio Burgos. They still have the rest of preseason to improve in these areas.

The team does see a difference from this team compared to last year's team. "There's more commitment this year" says Burgos.

Team chemistry is an important factor for a team to be successful and according to Becerra, the team is sticking together this year, as they hope to come up top in league.

## Sports Briefs

### Girls soccer hopes to redeem themselves

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girls soccer team began their season with a win against Animo Leadership and hope to continue winning.

"Our main goal is to make playoffs and win league," says Coach Richard. Senior captain Elisa Martinez also hopes to, "...beat La Serna, be league champions, and make it to C.I.F." Freshman Paloma Corona adds, "I want to beat La Serna because I've heard they're really good and I want to help the team achieve this goal."

After their first game, Martinez thinks the team must, "work on finishing so we can prepare ourselves for our next game." Coach Richard Coria says, "The main thing is to work on not being pushed around and finishing." The team is optimistic about this season.

### Boys soccer looking for another successful season

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's boys soccer team started season with three wins against Downey, Salesian, and Ganesha, as they look to become league and C.I.F. champions.

Head coach Dominic Picon says, "They have a lot of potential; hopefully they make it as far as or further than last year's team."

In order to achieve their team goals for league and C.I.F., senior captain Roberto Hernandez says they must, "...work hard at practice, dedicate ourselves to our goals, and do everything right."

Despite their three wins, Picon feels the team has to work on "...communication, intensity, and positional play." "We didn't

"There is a lot of team chemistry, no drama, and is more competitive than JV, so I think we'll do well," states sophomore Danielle Nunez. Senior Briana Aguila, who previously played for Whittier High School, also believes, "There's a lot more dedication from the coaches and the girls in this program."

With all the goals in mind, the team hopes to prove themselves a great team. "We're going to keep practicing hard because we want to accomplish our goals and show everyone that we are a talented team," says Martinez. "I would like to gain more support from the rest of the school because it's always fun having other people out here," concludes Coach Richard.

The girls soccer team will have a chance to prove themselves at tonight's game against Lynwood.

play as well as we thought we could," adds senior captain Cristian Roldan. However, Roldan also thinks the Ganesha game, "...showed that the bench could be part of a successful team."

New varsity players also hope to add to the success of the team.

"It feels really great [to be on varsity] because this season I'm going to play with a lot of great players so hopefully I'll play some good minutes," says junior Jeffrey Valenzuela. "I want to have five goals by the end of the season and at least one assist per game; also, I want to build a greater chemistry within my teammates," says junior Carlos Castillo.





# ENTERTAINMENT

## Local band Lovecraft play from the heart

BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO  
EL RODEO STAFF

LoveKraft is a local band that has been playing together for two years and has been invited to play at The Key Club in Hollywood tomorrow night.

LoveKraft comes from the philosopher H.P LoveKraft. His philosophy on human significance called Cosmocism, is the idea that humans aren't as significant as they think, which is one of their favorite philosophies

Band members Chris Rivera, Noelle Gonzalez, Javier Garcia, Eric Calderon, and Denis Correa all have been playing music since they were just kids.

"Everyone can relate to us because we all have a beat, we have a heartbeat and that's why music can connect with us it's so universal" Gonzales says.

Lovekraft is pure music. The feeling you get when you hear it, is unexplainable. It's the feeling of tapping your feet without being aware of it, and having their catchy melodies play in



Band members Noelle Gonzalez, Javier Garcia, Chris Rivera, Denis Correa, and Eric Calderon jam out during a recent performance.

your head as you walk to class. You can clearly see how passionate the band is, and their music comes from the heart.

Rivera is the vocalist, writer and guitarist for LoveKraft "I've been playing for about 6-7 years. It began just me playing guitar in my room and writing lyrics and wanted to expand the music with my friends" says Rivera.

He was influenced by his uncle showing him independent music and one of his favorite bands Animal Collective "It absolutely

blew my mind" Rivera says.

Gonzalez is also a vocalist, writes lyrics, and ranges from instruments such as the harp and flute as well as bells. "Music is beautiful, and it speaks it's like your best friend" says Gonzalez. Mostly influenced by classic rock, Gonzalez enjoys all kinds of music.

Garcia, guitarist and bongos time to time, was influenced in Hip-Hop, and really enjoyed 50 Cent. "He was shot like nine times and lived to tell

his story. That's raw!" says Garcia. Garcia now enjoys jazz music like Miles Davis and classic rock like the Rolling Stones.

Calderon, senior president has been playing the drums and percussion in 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the Rivera Middle School band with Garcia. "I'll be in class and make beats out of nowhere and I get into it," says Calderon.

Correa has been playing the Bass since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade but began with the guitar "I stopped paying for guitar lessons and just picked up the bass" Correa says. The most important influences that the band has is each other. "We all inspire each other," added Gonzalez. Everyone has a different influence of music they grew up with and that's the beauty of LoveKraft.

As a member of Mr. Parra's songwriter's club, the band performs in H-4 every Thursday at lunch, as well as talent shows and shows around the Los Angeles area

If you'd like to catch Lovekraft live, check them out at the Key Club on Saturday night. The club is located at 9039 Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood.

## Christmas Playlist

BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO  
EL RODEO STAFF

Christmas is coming, (in case you haven't seen the lights on the houses and the Christmas tree appearing in front of city hall). If you're parents are like mine, and every time you get in the car the radio station is always on the Christmas station, playing song after song that seem to be on repeat on every drive, have no fear. This selection has been chosen for you all to listen to on your own free time, or family get togethers. Here is a mix of popular classic Christmas songs and some new songs you might enjoy. You can download this playlist on Spotify under Savannah Juarez. Spotify allows you to download this playlist onto your computer to listen to later and even download into your phone, iphone, ipod, ipad, or any mp3 device. Happy Holidays everyone!

- Nat King Cole- The Christmas Song
- Vince Guardaldi Trio- The Christmas Song,
- Christmas Is Coming
- The Killers- Don't Shoot Me Santa
- Brenda Lee- Jingle Bell Rock
- Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree
- The Drifters- White Christmas
- Elvis Presley- I'll be home for Christmas
- Santa Claus is Back in Town
- White Christmas (instrumental)
- Silent Night, Holy Night,
- The First Noel
- Judy Garland -Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
- The Ronettes- Sleigh Ride
- Louis Armstrong- Winter Wonderland
- Frank Sinatra- Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!
- Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Jordan- Baby It's Cold Outside
- Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer
- Weezer- We Wish You A Merry Christmas
- Mariah Carey- All I Want For Christmas Is You
- Wham!- Last Christmas
- Burl Ives- A Holly Jolly Christmas
- Thurl Ravenscroft - You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch
- The Crystals- Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
- Bing Crosby- It's Beginning To Look A lot Like Christmas
- The Kinks- Father Christmas
- Andy Williams - It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year
- Smokey Robinson & The Miracles- Deck The Halls
- Christmas Lullaby
- The Waitresses- Christmas Wrapping
- Elton John- Step Into Christmas
- Jimmy Boyd- I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
- Happy Xmas (War Is Over) - John & Yoko and The Plastic Ono Band
- The Beach Boys- Little Saint Nick

## Delgadillo continues to pursue career in arts

BY KARLA VIRAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many talented artists have their own story, just as senior Alyssa Delgadillo does. Delgadillo started to drawing at a very early age and has had a passion for it ever since. Delgadillo soon found her chance and began working with what she enjoys doing.

Currently working, Delgadillo says, "I work for Conrob's studio. It's an independent company and they kind of work under NBC studios." Though she now works for a specific studio, she didn't always. Delgadillo says, "Not that long ago, my alumni friend, who works for the studio, knew I did art and asked me if I wanted to work in the show. I gladly accepted. Then, I had an interview in Hollywood with them and they said they loved my portfolio, and hired

me as a concept design artist for their show that they're doing."

Delgadillo says, "I make up characters that they need. So for example if they say they need a character that looks strong and athletic, then I try to create a person with those characteristics. Since it's a kid show, I have to make up what they're going to wear, what they're going to look like, something friendly for kids. Basically, I design characters."

Working at what she enjoys doing, she says that it's a good feeling to get paid for something someone really enjoys doing. Delgadillo says with, "I get paid as I go along. The faster I get my work done, the faster I turn it in. You can't really assign things to an artist. The time they take to finish is the time they take. I'm in a contract so once a show takes off, since I'm in the design team, I get to go with them

on tours. If the show gets big in Japan, I go on tours to Japan, if the show gets big in the states, I go on tour across the states."

Even though she is already contracted doing something she is passionate about, she wants to continue to pursue her career further than what she has already accomplished. Delgadillo says, "Even though I have a job at the studio, I want to continue my education at Cal Arts, which is a private art school and was founded by Walt Disney. I really want to get more into art and want to work for Pixar and Disney studios. I love everything about animation and art. It's something I've wanted to do since I was young."

She advised people who want to pursue a career like hers by saying, "Don't listen to anybody who says, 'Don't do it because it's not a successful field'. Everyone has told me my



Delgadillo pursues artistic career.

whole life that I should just do it as hobby because it's hard to get into the art field. Everyone says that I should do something else and do art on the side. But if you want to do art, you have to put your heart in it. In other words, just follow your dreams!"

## WORD ON THE STREET

What are some of your favorite holiday traditions?



"Reindeer tipping!" -Hazel Estrada, 12



"Eating cookies and spending time with the family and having a big feast." -Robert Mercado, 12



"My favorite Christmas traditions are making tamales with my family and decorating the Christmas tree together." -Maria Barraza, 11



"I love spending time with my family and getting presents." -Marilyn Marquez, 10