



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 62- Issue 9
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Burke Transitions to STEAM Academy

By JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On May 13, 2014, the El Rancho Unified School District Board approved the first middle school STEAM Academy in the district. The academy will begin in the 2014-2015 school year.

STEAM Academy is a magnet school, a public school with specific curriculums in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEAM).

Magnet schools are schools of choice. Children are enrolled according to their interest in the school instead of where they live and are known to employ hands-on learning. Common Core standards are used in all subject areas but are taught in conjunction with the overall theme of the school.

Galindo mentioned the necessity of the STEAM program by saying, "The 21st century demands that our workforce have understanding, experiences, and key learning in these areas that provide a critical foundation as they prepare to go to college or enter the workforce." The STEAM Academy will be essential in implementing these necessities for modern students.

The STEAM Academy is projected to benefit our community. Galindo says, "Our community is asking and demanding for our schools to more effectively prepare their children for the future."

The STEAM Academy at Burke Middle School will be available for students in grades 6-8. In this academy, students will learn middle school concepts also the 21st century concepts and the 4 Cs. These 4 Cs include critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. For example, some classes that will be offered include Engineering and Robotics, Computer Programming, Digital Imaging, Music Production, Choir, Jazz Band, and Environmental Studies.

The students currently attending Burke Middle School are guaranteed a spot in this academy. However, there will be an additional 50 spaces open to all Pico Rivera families and nearby neighborhoods. However, if there are more than 50 applicants that qualify then a lottery will occur.

In order to enroll, the student will need to fill an application form, teacher recommendation form, and attach 2013 CST scores and a final 2014 report card. Applications are available at the Burke Middle School website. The application has to be mailed to The STEAM Academy at Burke Middle School at 8101 Orange Ave., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 or emailed to the principal, Elias Vargas at evargas@erusd.org. The whole application must be sent no later than Tuesday July 8, 2014.

Brown and Moghimi take Zucker award

By NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

English teacher Charlene Brown and French teacher Angela Moghimi-Danesh received this year's Natalie Zucker "Teacher of the Year" Honors Award. Brown and Moghimi were awarded \$500 each for their outstanding accomplishments in teaching. It is given to teachers who are nominated by their fellow peers rather than by students, making the award even more meaningful. After 32 years at the ranch, this is the first time Moghimi has been recognized by her peers and she believes "It is an honor because I received this not for myself but for all of the teachers that I admired as a child," Moghimi says. Moghimi has been the subject of inspiration to students throughout the years because "Mrs. Mo is always there for her students and anyone can go to her for help, and she'll always be there with a smile," says junior Carmen Toscano. Kristin Palomares was one of the teachers who nominated Moghimi for the award. In her nomination sheet, Palomares wrote about Moghimi's influence during Palomares' first weeks at The Ranch



Brown and Moghimi were each awarded with 500 dollars for being teachers of the year.

saying, "She radiated such a positive rapport with her students and I knew then that she was the type of teacher I wanted to become."

Brown won this award after ten years of teaching and says, "There are many amazing teachers at El Rancho who connect with students, help each

other and work hard in the classroom. I am so honored to receive this award." Brown does her best to encourage students to believe in their abilities and to do their best in everything they do. Junior Johana Martinez says, "She's always giving us tips for college applications and encouraging us

to want to follow through with our education." Both Brown's and Moghimi's students were proud of them and showed their enthusiasm by congratulating them. Although only two teachers earned the Zucker award, there are many wonderful teachers who will claim this honor.

Danny Trejo urges Dons to "shoot for the moon"

By CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Having a few hardships in life does not mean one is destined for failure. Danny Trejo, a Mexican-American actor most famous for his role as *Machete*, has successfully transformed from a drug-addicted delinquent into a sober Hollywood actor.

On May 8, Danny Trejo made an appearance at El Rancho thanks to Rachel Price of the SCAPE program from the educational center. Dr. Yvette Ventura-Rincon, assistant principle of business and activities, says, "Since [Price] works here mostly with our students, she gave us the opportunity to host him here and we were fortunate enough to have him this school year."

One teacher in particular, Mrs. Figueroa, was "over the moon" by Trejo's visit. Figueroa says, "Mr. Trejo's visit to El Rancho was inspiring... aside from his celebrity status, many students appreciated that he took the time from his busy schedule to come and talk to them."

Trejo's attendance had to do with the common drug and alcohol issue seen amongst the youth, specifically young Hispanics. "Some of these kids are targeted to go to jail, and I am here to tell them that you do not have to," Trejo says, "I want to show them that it is better to shoot for the moon and miss than aim for the gutter and make it."

Trejo was determined to



Danny Trejo hopes to encourage young Hispanics to attend school.

leave a long lasting impression on all of the students and to teach them that education is the key to succeeding in life. Unfortunately, Trejo had to learn what he preaches the hard way. After being in and out of jail from an early age, he had to take a good look at what his life had become for the sake of his future; he decided that it was time to eliminate drugs

and alcohol from his life, and that it was time to straighten up and become a productive member of society. Figueroa says, "Mr. Trejo's visit showed many students that he made a choice to change his life for the better, and part of his success is a result of helping others and doing good things."

Although Trejo was able to reflect on his life and drastically

change it, he does not want others to do the same. He encourages teenagers who are stuck in a drug related rut to seek help and invest their time in something that will not only benefit them but their loved ones as well.

One thing that Trejo wanted to leave El Rancho students with was being aware that the worst four words in the world regarding ethnicity are, "Where are you from?" Trejo claims that even a four-worded phrase such as this limits anyone from doing what he or she is capable of. Trejo also encouraged students not to blame teachers for failing them, but rather to reflect on their own actions that led to their failure.

Many El Rancho students seemed to be pleased by his strengthening presence and thought that he did an excellent job at sharing his message. Dr. Ventura says, "I think he is a great motivational speaker. I like the message he gave saying that although you may think something you are learning right now might not be important later, and that is so true."

Trejo's experiences go to show that it is never too late to turn your life around. Drugs and alcohol got a hold of his life, but he had enough strength to turn his back on them and move forward. Trejo says, "You have to stop tripping over yesterday to deal with today and the best I can do is make today the best I can for a better tomorrow."

BUSINESS

Notable women attend conference

By RUBI MACIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Women own 59.8% of businesses. In order to honor this triumphant majority, the Chambers of Commerce of Pico Rivera, Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, Montebello, Norwalk, and Lakewood held a "Women in Business" conference on May 16th in Pico Park. The conference focused on informing women on starting and maintaining small businesses.

The conference began with speeches by notable women associated with the business world. Congresswoman Linda Sánchez said that small businesses are important because they "play a crucial role" and are the "lifeblood of our communities."

Sánchez is optimistic about the role of women in business, saying that they contribute greatly to the economy and are opening businesses at twice the rate of men. She ended her speech saying that she wishes women may "change the dismal statistics" of the low amount of female CEOs in large companies.

Cristina Garcia, California assembly member, gave the fundamental advice to women opening businesses that they should always ask for help because "there are so many people willing to help."

Yolanda Garcia, Latina business entrepreneur and owner of Casita del Pueblo, emphasized the stellar success of small businesses at the moment and attributed this to the creativity of the people who start these businesses. To her, creativity is not the only thing necessary for success. Thriving in business occurs



Notable business woman gives a speech at the "Women in Business" conference.

"when you work from your heart."

Susie Cruz, owner of Simply Susie's Boutique, entertained the audience with a humorous anecdote about how she began her business. She credits her idea of opening a clothing shop to her husband, who one day told her that selling her great amount of clothing would greatly improve their economic situation. She says that those people who are passionate about success will have it because "when you love something, you just put so much time and effort into it."

Donna Davis, regional administrator of the U.S. Small Business Association, spoke of her admiration of the optimism and courage she sees in small business entrepreneurs. Her mantra is "blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape." In small businesses, she stresses

the importance of capitalizing, contracting, and counseling.

In addition to inspirational speeches, the conference had five workshop sessions to inform women on starting and maintaining a business. Each person was allowed to attend two of the five workshops.

The Business Plan/Business Development workshop targeted women who are considering opening or have already opened a small business. Lupe, an attendee and owner of Aztlan Building Services, chose this workshop because she is hoping to expand, and she has seen how similar conferences have "helped other business owners grow rapidly." Attendees were informed that people start businesses to improve a field they work in or to pursue a hobby.

The workshop leader ad-

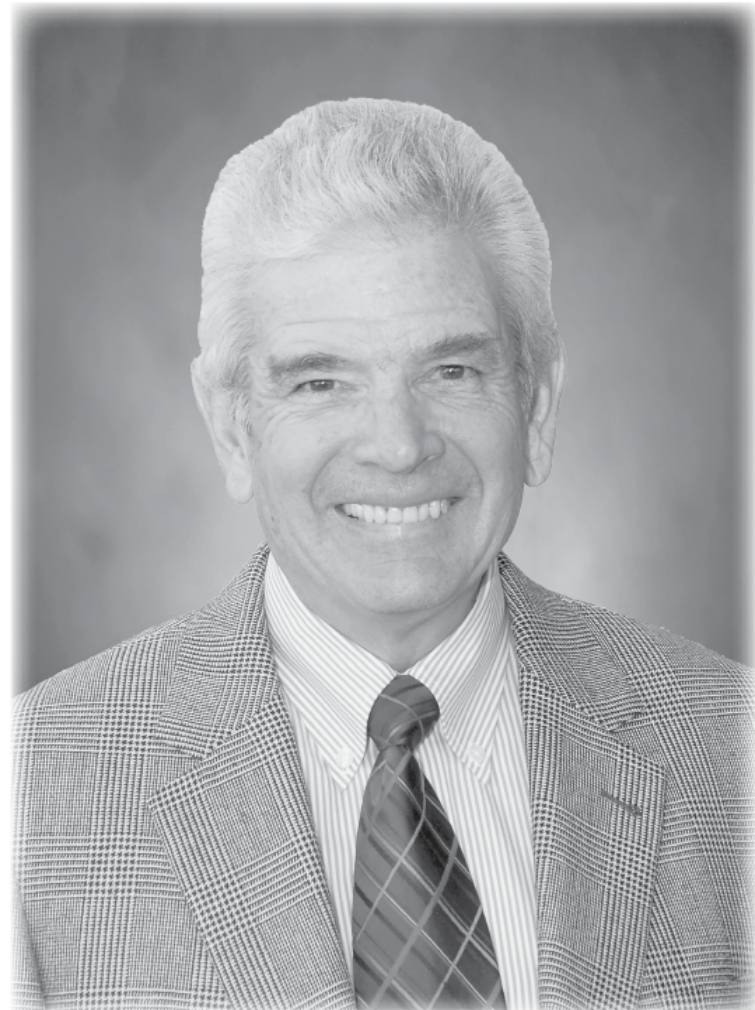
vised the women in the room to shape their businesses to a target audience and begin saving money and analyzing the competition because business is very difficult.

An informative workshop was held by the Goldman Sachs program, which gathers and educates competitive people who want to improve their small businesses. The program helps business owners connect and envision the business world realistically. Those involved in the program stress the importance of helping others, asking for help, and developing effective presentation skills.

The conference ended with a networking lunch where the women were able to discuss their businesses with one another. There was also a raffle for prizes donated by the women who wished to promote their businesses.

Pico Rivera city manager to retire

By EMILY PEYTON



Dr. Bates reflects on his career as a city manager.

The City of Pico Rivera's city manager, Dr. Bates, is retiring after working as a government official for various cities since 1969. He decided to retire because he believed it was time for him to move on. He has brought a lot of success recently, to Pico Rivera, and he loves making a difference.

It brings Bates joy when he sees the end result of something he was in charge of.

Dr. Bates believes the current state of Pico Rivera has been very professional and business orientated. The city has over 100 million in capital projects which include the renovations of the city parks, the county library, and the underpasses.

Recently, the community development of the business Harbor Freight Tools will bring more middle income jobs to the city.

The biggest challenge Dr. Bates had was creating an efficient management system for Pico Rivera.

Dr. Bates believes that tax

raises were a big accomplishment for Pico Rivera and its residents. It did what it intended to do and the residents of the city have access to what was created and can see the improvements that needed to be made.

Education in Pico Rivera's future is critical for the jobs of future students. Students will need to have acquired more knowledge than ever to support themselves. Nowadays a college degree and technological experience is needed to face modern challenges.

Education is crucial for everyone because its used for everything. You can't be a doctor, a lawyer, or even a construction worker without an education.

Words of Wisdom that Dr. Bates has left with the City of Pico Rivera are that the community needs to keep up what it is doing and make it better along the way. If we have good consistent leadership the city and school will become the "Beverly Hills of South LA."

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.

CITY VIEW

El Rancho's Teen Court is an inspiration to all

BY ANDREW GOMEZ

Teen Court witnesses a variety of different cases throughout the year. Most cases around the state include citation and truancy cases. El Rancho cases have opened many eyes around California. Significant cases for the past two years include:

- Battery- against defendant's own brother and mother
- Drug possession- Included previous meth and opium use
- Grand theft- \$1,000+ Apple products stolen and sold
- Petty Theft- Defendant's background included failed suicide attempts because of bullying due to his sexual orientation

The cases Teen Court has been fortunate to receive are far more advanced than the cases other teen courts hear. Due to this our recidivism dropped to 3%; however, our recidivism rate remains lowest in the state. Their success this year can be attributed to the volunteer jurors being more diverse. This year has seen more underclassmen volunteers than any other year.

2014 is the first year a blog has been incorporated to the El Rancho Teen Court. Blog posts are added after every teen court session. The topics chosen are

linked to that cases that were heard that month. There are currently 102 total blog comments.

The 3rd Annual Law Day took place this past December. Volunteers who have a career in the law field spoke to El Rancho students regarding the many aspects of their respective careers. Two Judges, a prosecuting attorney, a probation officer, two police officers, a court psychologist, three law school admission counselors, and more helped shape the aspirations of our students regarding the possibilities of obtaining a career in law. Students enrolled in AP Government, Economics, or Government were allowed the opportunity to attend. The El Rancho Teen Court Club also had access if members did not have any of the 3 courses listed above.

After three years, El Rancho remains the only school with a teen court club. This year, the 14 Seniors, 11 Juniors, 3 Sophomores, and 1 Freshman make 2014 the most diverse teen court club yet. Because of the doubled amount of teen court members, two more officers were added. The newly added Tech Commissioners take control of the Twitter account and website. Responsibilities include weekly tweets



on Twitter and blog posts online.

2012 and 2013 saw the El Rancho Teen Court President as a CAYC Student Advisory Board Member. 2014 included a CAYC Student Chairman, Andrew Gomez, and a Student Board member, Alexis Hernandez. The CAYC Student Chairman facilitates the entire student board and reports to the CAYC Adult Board of Directors. The CAYC Student Board plans all events regarding the upcoming California Summit Conference, which includes the majority of the teen courts in California.

Numerous Teen Courts from California are aware of the El Rancho Teen Court and where we reside in. Examples of this recognition have been on display during state conferences such as Beyond the Bench Conference and the Summit Conference. The next closest teen court is Roosevelt High School. Pico Rivera is the only successful city to maintain a teen court in the area. Because Roosevelt is a good distance away, the El Rancho Teen Court covers cases from Pico Rivera, Whittier, Downey, Montebello, and even Walnut. Los An-

geles Superior Court Judge David Wesley has made it a requirement for any new teen court in southern California to attend several El Rancho Teen Courts sessions before running their own. Students from Downey, Bell Gardens, and Whittier have come to Pico Rivera to observe El Rancho's Teen Court. From Judge Wesley's strict regulations, one can see that he has tremendous confidence in teen court to fulfill certain obligations. Therefore, he makes it mandatory for all future teen courts to use our teen court as a reference before branching out.

Entrepreneur Club celebrates its second annual banquet



The Entrepreneur Club poses in the faculty center at the banquet.

BY ANALYE ARENAS

On the 21st of May, El Rancho's Entrepreneur Club held its second annual Entrepreneur Club Banquet in the Faculty Center. Some of the guests that attended included the Mayor of Pico Rivera, the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce, Super Intendant Galindo, and several business owners. Each honored guest was awarded with a certificate of recognition for their contributions to the Entrepreneur Club.

The banquet was catered by the one and only Chef Luna and his culinary arts students. They provided the guests with delicious appetizers and mouth-watering deserts.

Some of the honored guests were representatives of the City of Pico Rivera, the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce, the Credit Union of Southern Califor-

nia, NASA Services, the Pico Rivera Sports Arena, and Wendy's.

Members of the Entrepreneur Club were also awarded with their very own medals, presented to them by Superintendent Galindo. The superintendent had gone up and thanked the Entrepreneur Club for their contributing data to the city as well as to the school district. Galindo even contributed a few ideas to improve the school and clubs, including turning the well-known El Rodeo newspaper into the cities newspaper. The banquet was filled with great speeches and even a farewell from the Entrepreneur Club seniors, which was presented by Club President Emily Peyton and Vice President Analye Arenas.

The event was filled with good laughs, entrepreneurial advice, and great food.

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FEATURES

El Rancho Dons march on the mall

By JULIUS ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Dons Marching Band and Color Guard returned from their five-day trip to Washington D.C. with smiles on their faces and experiences to share. Mr. Cordero gave a huge amount of gratitude to his booster club, who helped organize the trip and informed all the attendees of what behavior was expected of them. "My assistant, Andy Cowdery, did a really great job at planning out the trip and making sure everything was in order," said band instructor Cordero.

While in D.C., the group was able to visit, and perform at some of the districts most attractive locations. The group's first performance was set at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where they performed in front of veterans and the current wounded soldiers being housed there.

From the performance at the Walter Reed Medical Center the Band/Color Guard alliance was ushered to Mount Vernon, Virginia to perform in front of the home of our nation's first president, George Washington. "After our performance in front of George Washington's home, a fifer came up to the band and showed us a bunch of instruments that he made which resembled flutes... I was fascinated and determined to make



El Rancho Marching Dons preparing to perform in their concert at Washington D.C.

my own instruments some day."

When they weren't busy performing, they were able to see several events themselves, such as the changing of the guard at the Arlington National Cemetery. "[This] was one of the cooler things we did on our trip, just walking through there is really humbling to see all the rows upon rows of graves and all the people who sacrificed so much or their country," said Cordero.

The group had also scheduled a tour of the White House, but, due to a high security threat during the week, all the tours

were cancelled. They were able to take a look at the President's own private band and meet the conductor himself.

When the group visited the Smithsonian Museum, they had to make a reservation for the whole day, given the enormous size of the group. Kacey Ponce said, "There were charts on the walls that showed what traits you had, and you could group up and see how many of them matched up."

Andrea Moran said, "seeing the statue of 'The Little Dancer Girl' was on display in an

area near an exhibit of Van Gogh. Seeing the actual statue and not just a picture was much more memorable," said Andrea Moran.

The group also took a tour of the Capitol Building, and Robert Herrera remembered being blown away by, "seeing the reflecting pool, the Washington Monument." "The Capitol Building from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial made me feel like I was in a dream," added Herrera. The morning of the departure was filled with packing and loading the buses, but there was enough time left afterward to take a quick

tour of the National Art Museum and visit a local souvenir shop that caters to the tourists, natural need of discounts in an unfamiliar area.

After a relaxing four-hour flight back to California, the band members could only reminisce on the good memories they created while in the nation's capital. Band member Brandon Rodriguez recalled being disappointed to be returning home so soon, "In D.C. I felt like I was in another world and traveling back through time," said Rodriguez, "After I stepped off the plane from the return flight, I knew I was back in reality."

Dr. Leonardi recognized for his coaching



Photo Credit: Trevor Stamp / Daily Sundial

By DAVID HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Dr. Leonardi was featured on the LA Times for his tremendous water polo coaching skills. The article mainly emphasized his focus towards education with his water polo players.

The issue in late April discussed Dr. Leonardi's high emphasis of graduating rather than water polo. "Education will provide my student-athletes an opportunity to succeed in society once their water polo career is over. There are very few opportunities to play professionally and earn a salary that is equivalent to the core of other sports such as the NBA or NFL. Therefore it's imperative that we prepare our athletes for life after water polo," says Leonardi.

Leonardi aims to have his kids reach the accumulative GPA of at least a 3.2. "I focus on obtaining a cumulative grade point

average above a 3.2. Each person on the team contributes to an overall mark. I also encourage them to obtain a high GPA in order to allow them opportunities to gain acceptance into graduate school," said Leonardi.

In the end, Leonardi's strategy benefits the team and their grades, "To be a student-athlete at the Division 1 level is very difficult. They must be organized, disciplined, and self motivated. Putting a premium on success in the classroom as well as in the pool will prepare them for the real world. All the traits and characteristics that are embedded in my program prepares student-athletes to be successful after they graduate," says Leonardi.

When students move to a graduate school they will be prepared for the rigorous courses of graduate schools. Leonardi is determined to have his water polo students prepared for the road ahead.

Calligraphy Award Winners



"Congratulations to this years calligraphy students for being awarded the 2014 ERHS Calligraphy Award. Due to their outstanding achievements in the art of calligraphy and for their ability to master the many fonts of calligraphy, they were awarded the gift of light tables and/or cash amounts to further their educational endeavors.

These award winners are:

(Top row, left to right) Vanessa Resendez, Yessenia Garcia (not shown), Ashley Torres, Jennie Mata. (Bottom row, left to right) Maria Flores, Connie Paredes, Maria Hernandez"

BEST WISHES

El Rancho bids farewell to Ortiz

BY VALERIA HURTADO
EL RODEO NEWS WRITER

Herb Ortiz was the College and Career center counselor who helped many students get accepted to great schools. He helped students apply for scholarships and a variety of universities. After 37 years of service at the Ranch, Mr. Ortiz has decided to retire. Many students were upset to hear he will be retiring, but some seniors are grateful that he stuck around for their final year of high school. "Thanks to Mr. Ortiz for helping not just me but my fellow Americans with college. I'm grateful that he was still around for my senior year," says senior Adrian Orozco.

Ortiz has been at the Ranch for over 30 years and sadly the district lost a lot of great teachers and staff members this year resulting from early retirement plans. The superintendent of the district, Mr. Galindo, brought up the PARS incentive program when the district faced deficit spending. "I had not planned on retiring this year, but when the district offered the PARS incentive I discussed it with my family and agreed it was a good op-



Ortiz proudly talks about how happy he feels when students succeed in college.

portunity to retire early and also help out the district," says Ortiz.

Thanks to Mr. Ortiz, students have been accepted to prestigious schools such as Stanford, Harvard, Cornell, and Yale. Many other high schools in the area do not have the assistance that Mr. Ortiz provided; therefore, they require his help. "Mr. Ortiz was very helpful when it came to preparing for college. It's such a tragedy how he won't

be around for my senior year," says junior Esmeralda Quiroz.

El Rancho has many over-achieving students, but there was a certain class that stuck out the most. "We have had some great students and classes at El Rancho, but probably one of the highlights was when the Class of 1994 had four students get accepted at Stanford University," says Ortiz.

As the years passed, many El Rancho Alumni would visit

Mr. Ortiz and talk about their experiences. "It's always great to have them come back and share their college and career experiences with other students and staff. It is very gratifying to see them do well in college and in their careers," says Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz was such a great addition to the El Rancho staff that it is heartbreaking to see him go. Everyone here at the Ranch will miss him, and we wish him the best.

White leaves the Ranch but assures all his retirement will be useful

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Statistics and Algebra teacher Wesley White has hit a new chapter in his life: retirement. After teaching for eleven years at El Rancho, he has decided it is time to kick back and relax and maybe even read a novel.

White arrived at El Rancho High school due to three major reasons. He was previously a teacher at Alhambra High School, but he was not very fond of their bell schedules. He wanted to go to a school that had block periods, and El Rancho was that school. White believes block periods allow more time for students to engage in the classroom. Alhambra also dropped an applied math program that he had written and worked very hard on, and that bothered him. His third and final reason for the transfer was commuting to work.



His wife and family had decided they wanted to move to Whittier. El Rancho was a closer option.

Before becoming a teacher, White worked driving a liquor truck to liquor stores, bars, and restaurants. He also spent some time traveling to various places around

the world specifically in Europe.

White certainly will make the most of his newly acquired time. Retirement doesn't mean he has to go dormant. He plans to do more swimming and cycling to stay active.

He will also continue ex-

ercising his mind with chess and reading. White loves to travel with his wife and wishes to venture the southern hemisphere. Australia is a possible destination.

"I will really miss the friendships and relationships I have with students here," says White. He believes that El Rancho is filled with friendly people. "There are no classic nerds, classic bad boys or bad girls, there are just a lot of good kids here," he says.

White will truly miss the beautiful El Rancho campus. The loud sounds of the lawn mowers never bother him in the mornings, because he appreciates the natural scenery that is not found in other high school campuses.

White would like to leave his students and peers with a thought, "Here lays West White, math teacher and liquor delivery driver. When he wasn't enlightening the suburbs, he was sedating the ghetto."

Strinden makes retirement decision



BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After 34 years of teaching at El Rancho, math teacher Lynne Strinden has decided to say a final farewell to the Ranch. After taking a job as a substitute teacher at El Rancho due to her mother's encouragement, Strinden would not anticipate that her "temporary" job would eventually evolve into a lifetime career of teaching.

Strinden attended Cal State Long Beach and majored in Philosophy but did not begin to study math until graduate school at CSUF. Strinden loved math, and it even took part in how she met her husband, "we actually met at an international math conference," says Strinden.

Strinden played the trombone in the all-girl jazz band "Maiden Voyage" from 1978 to 1983 and became committed to teaching full time at El Rancho in 1980, initially as a substitute teacher. Strinden subbed the Pre-Calculus class for the Math Department chair, Gordon Klein, and he liked the job she did. This compelled Strinden to continue teaching math when one of the math teachers was promoted to Dean, she took advantage of the opportunity and took the job as a full time math teacher.

Despite the fact that she had a demanding job, Strinden continued playing at clubs with her jazz band. "Maiden Voyage" got to perform on "The Johnny Carson Show" in 1982. Strinden, at the time, was playing the role of teacher, musician, actress, and even model. She appeared in various movies such as "The Sting 2," were released. Strinden even did some modeling. Strinden never really pictured herself as a math teacher but was still enthusiastic about teaching, "I thought if someone could remember their phone number, I could teach them anything in math," says Strinden.

El Rancho has become her second home because she has been around it since she was eight years old, "We attended all those great football games in the 60's. We attended plays and band concerts. I had the wonderful experience of working at ERHS..." says Strinden. After so many adventures and great moments in her life, Strinden is ready to say goodbye to El Rancho and says she doesn't "think there are better teachers anywhere else and I've been a lot of places."

Arias leaves an empty classroom yet still fills the hearts of her students



Mrs. Arias grades student work in her Spanish class.

BY DAVID HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After eight years of teaching at the Ranch, Span-

ish teacher Mrs. Arias will finally be saying goodbye to her students and staff. Mrs. Arias is one of the many teach-

ers who are retiring this year.

Mrs. Arias has been teaching Spanish at El Rancho High School for eight years but her history with the district stretches back even further. Arias started as a bilingual resource teacher for Burke Middle School.

She then became a sixth grade teacher at Rivera Middle School for two years. After that she went back to Burke Middle School and taught sixth grade again. In 2006, Arias finally came to the Ranch to teach Spanish. Arias may have worked with ERUSD for a long time but time has flown by while making memories. "I will miss the wonderful stu-

dents at El Rancho," says Arias.

Students are starting to notice Arias' leave when they walk into her empty classroom and see the lack of pictures and postcards that she kept on her walls. The classroom once vibrant with colors and exotic pictures, are now void of Mrs. Arias' presence.

"It's really sad to see one of my favorite teachers retiring," says junior Cesar Covarrubias who had Arias his freshman year. "Mrs. Arias is like a grandma to me."

After eight years, Arias will finally say goodbye to the Ranch and leave many students missing Mrs. Arias say her famous words, "Esuchen Classe."

CLUBS

Students explore careers through ROP

BY ELIZABETH JACOME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Regional Occupational Programs, ROP, are greatly valuable to the education of students at El Rancho. ROP allows students to explore many fields of study such as law and medicine.

ROP gives students the opportunity to learn about a specific career and decide if it's worth pursuing. One of the ROP teachers, Mr. Esquivel, says, "you're never too young to start realizing what you want to be when you grow up."

Mr. Esquivel teaches Administration of Justice and Introduction to Forensics. Administration of Justice is a comprehensive course on crime and its causes, and includes a history of the criminal justice system, theories of crime, punishment, and rehabilitation.

Students are taught that crime can be judged based on local, state, and federal laws. Real life experience is brought into an everyday classroom setting and teaches students valuable skills that can only be learned in the real world.

Mr. Esquivel's class is more than just book work; hands on projects are implemented. A major project in this class is the



Mrs. Tejada and her students show off their knowledge of human anatomy.

drug curriculum which is extensively covered by students and presented to the class. Place of origin, the effects, street cost, and if it is legal, all grouped together on a poster board.

As for Intro to Forensics, the class teaches students about crime scene photography, evidence collection, and fingerprinting techniques. Serial killers are one of the main topics covered in the class. Students pick a killer,

research about them, and tell the class what they learned about the particular person. A lab that is done in the class is the fingerprint card where students analyze their own fingerprints.

For Medicine, Mrs. Tejada has Tri-Cities ROP classes, which means they service Pico Rivera, Whittier, and Santa Fe Springs. The two classes she teaches are Introduction to Medical Careers and Intro-

duction to First Responders.

A project that is done in Intro to Medical Careers is the skeleton project where the anatomy of the human body is created on a human sized paper. Also a poster project is done on a medical career.

In order to get into First Responders, a student must pass Intro to Medical Careers with a B or higher. If the choice is made to transition into First Responders, then they get to

wear scrubs every Thursday (in case you were wondering why there were random people wearing scrubs once in a while).

Intro to Medical Careers is the foundation to first responders and allows students to get the background information before the real experience. Intro to First Responders is where hands-on action takes place. Students make a fake arm out of a paint roller and some plastic and were learning how to set up an IV. In class they also learn how to draw blood, give injections, and check a person's pressure and pulse. Mrs. Tejada says that ROP classes are "great career preparation classes that help students focus on the mentality that is needed to work in the environment out there."

ROP classes are a great way to learn if a certain career is for you, instead of waiting until college and spending 5 years in school until you learn that you hate what you chose to study.

Real life experience is learned from people who have valuable experience in the field and are great courses overall. Everyone who has the chance and the room in their schedule should try to take an ROP class throughout their high school career.

Success shows in cook-off



Hawaii Fusion members gather around their kitchen.

BY SOL MENDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On May 14 and 15th Chef Luna's Culinary Arts Class kicked off the week preparing for their Ultimate Cook-off.

The Cook-off is an event where students make their own groups based a theme and within their group they use their culinary arts skill and teamwork. Invited guests judged the groups. The students had the chance to create a meal based on the theme they chose.

Ultimately, the groups were judged based on an appetizer, dessert and a drink also based on cleanliness, safety, presentation, taste, cooking, and teamwork. The results are not in yet regarding who won the Cook-off.

This experience for one group, whose restaurant was called *A Night in the Wild West*, was "a once in a lifetime experience." This group consisted of Brenda Romero, Salvador Salas,

Briana Calderon, Vanessa Vargas, Johanna Cuevas, and Denise.

For their appetizer they cooked artichoke dip with tortilla chips. For their entree they cooked Filet Mignon with a french potato. Finally, for dessert they served Oreo Cheesecake and strawberry lemonade.

In another kitchen was Emily Peyton, Vanessa Duran, Jessica Guerrero, Andrea Narvaez. For their appetizer they cooked broiled chicken kabob with bell peppers and zucchini. For their entree they made a bow tie pasta with fettuccine sauce and shrimp. Lastly, for their dessert they made a strawberry napoleon with chocolate sauce and strawberries. They also served a lemon cucumber drink.

Before the cook-off even began Narvaez was looking forward to the judging. "I wanted to see how they liked our food and I wanted to hear the criticism that they had to give," says Narvaez. Many good memories came out

from the Cook-off. "The best part was getting good judge comments, especially for the cheesecake and artichoke dip," says Calderon.

For Vargas, the best part included cooking by her best friend, Calderon. "The best part was eating the food," says Vargas.

There were also some stressful parts throughout the process. "It was stressful staying with the time schedule and making sure that we didn't present the food cold," says Calderon.

Students that participated this year have advice for next year's group. "I recommend that [next year's students] group up with people that will actually help you cook," says Vargas.

People all throughout the district support the program of culinary arts. "[Chef Luna] works miracles with food and his students." Said, Carolyn Hennesy (a special guest).

Narvaez recalls her favorite part of the culinary arts program. "My favorite part of the school year was probably getting to learn all these different kinds of food that a person wouldn't make on a daily basis," says Narvaez, "It was one of the best classes I've ever had."

From all the dishes cooked throughout the school year, Vargas's favorite was the pizza. "It was my favorite because you made everything from scratch," says Vargas, "spinning the dough to expand it was challenging but fun at the same time."

The students had a blast making their food and WOW'd the judges.

ER Hosts Chess Finals



Students engage in intense chess strategy.



El Rancho, Whittier, Santa Fe and La Habra participated in the Del Rio League Chess Championship.



Whittier win this year's Del Rio League Chess Championship.

SPORTS

Meza leaves his legacy at the Ranch

BY CLAUDIA GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's hard to say goodbye to teachers who have been an integral part of El Rancho history. As this school year comes to an end, we must remember to thank and say goodbye to Mr. Benjamin Meza, AP Government teacher, as he ends his 40 year career at El Rancho and enters his well-deserved retirement years.

Meza has been a big part of El Rancho, and over the years he has contributed tremendously to the school and community. He began working in the El Rancho Unified School District in 1974, and in 1979 he began working at the school, where he first started teaching World History and Intro to Law.

Over the years that he has been at this district, he has been involved in the building of many programs such as Teen Court and TEAM. Aside from that he has also had a big influence on the thousands of students whom he has taught. Mr. Llanes, Spanish teacher and baseball coach, says, "Throughout the 40 years he's been here he's affected the lives of thousands of kids and it's all been for the good." His students might have been influenced by his won-



Mr. Meza enjoys one of his last lectures at El Rancho.

derful teaching, but Meza admits that "every class that I have taught has brought me joy and I have also learned from my students."

As an intelligent and warm-hearted teacher, he's made a great impact on the students whom he has taught. "Mr. Ben Meza is without a doubt one of the best and most interesting teachers I have had here at El Rancho," senior Martin Alcala says, "His methods of teaching and his enthusiasm will live on here at the Ranch."

Back when the TEAM program was running, Meza and Mr. Stanley Wlasick, AP English Lit and Drama teacher, were the best

of all duos. Wlasick describes those 27 years of co-teaching with him as the most memorable years and remembers their class outings as "really wonderful to take students and have them experience things that we had studied in class or extensions of things we had studied in class." Not only did Wlasick enjoy teaching alongside him, Meza also enjoyed those years and describes them to be the "highlight of [his] teaching career," and says he will miss seeing him every day.

Aside from shaping his students' minds, he, alongside Llanes, has also shaped the boys

baseball team into a CIF team. This year he led his team to a record of 8-7 and also led them to the second round of CIF. He has played a big part in the baseball team, and luckily he will return to coach the team. Llanes says, "He's my *compadre* in arms... I'm glad he's still going to be with us in baseball, but it's going to be strange going to school next year and not being able to go to H2 and talk in the morning because he won't be there anymore."

As he enters his retirement years, Meza hopes to enjoy his life and fill it with many more wonderful memories. He says, "I will read more, travel to see my kids who live in NYC, Portland Or., Nevada and New Hampshire, and perhaps write." There are many things that Meza will miss after leaving El Rancho, one of them being the students. Meza says, "I will miss El Rancho terribly... I will miss my fantastic colleagues and all the great students we have here."

It's no doubt that El Rancho will miss his generous spirit and wonderful sense of humor. There isn't anyone that can dare to replace all of the history he's had here at El Rancho because, with a teacher like him, you can only hope to rise to his level.

Boys Volleyball enjoys strong season



Pedro Moreno, Rey Mendez, and Alexander Roldan get ready for a serve.

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It was a good season for the varsity boys' volleyball team, but it has reached its end. The Dons ended league 8-2 with their only losses to the Santa Fe Chiefs. They were knocked out of CIF in the first round.

Although they had a tough end to their season, the Dons' coach, Mrs. Picon, was still proud of them. "We had high expectations, they came short but they gave me 100% all of the time," says Picon.

Senior Rudy Martinez was not satisfied with their season's end. "We didn't play together, we didn't play as a team," says Martinez, "we had the right coaching, we just couldn't bring it together."

The Dons had a decent pre-season, but everything changed for the better once league began. "We all started working harder as a team and everybody just started to want to play together," says junior captain Bryan Rojas. The Dons improved their record but could not find a win against Santa Fe, keeping them at second place.

A big factor in the Dons' success this season was that they were able to practice with their full team since the beginning of pre-season. Last year the team was missing many players until a couple games before league due to the boys' soccer team's extended season. "It's always a plus when you have kids come in early and be able to practice because it's about team bonding, not just going out there and playing," says Picon, "[this season] they were able to get along and get used to each other."

Because they finished league in second place, the Dons automatically went on to the first round of CIF where they faced Chadwick high school. It was an intense game as it went on for five sets, but Chadwick was victorious in the last set. "It hurt like it should've," says senior Carlos Almaguer, "but I did have a good time playing all four years."

Now all that is left for the seniors to do is to wish next year's team good luck and provide them with tips. "Just play together [and] have fun," says Martinez, "leave it all in the court [and] don't leave with regrets."

Picon also wishes the best to all of her seniors. "Good-luck to all of my seniors, I know that they will be very successful. I hope that they never forget where they come from and us little people will always be here for them," says Picon.

Golfers on the rise

BY JULIUS ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As the year winds down so do sports, and golf is no exception to that system. The El Rancho Dons' Golf Team has ended its season in fourth place right behind Cal High, "We ended the year at a six to seven record overall and would have taken third had we beaten Cal High, but we lost to them in the second match," said Coach May.

The competing Del Rio League teams placed in the order of Santa Fe in first, La Serna in second, Cal High in third, and El Rancho in fourth place.

Coach May was particularly happy with his team's win against La Serna, a school the golf team hadn't beaten since he became the golf coach for El Rancho. The final scores for that match were 205 to 253, a definite improvement from earlier in the season.

In League Finals two golfers, Nathan Sanchez and Miguel Sanchez, made it to the second day in the competition. Coach May said, "Nathan was one stroke away from taking sixth place and he also had a hole in one which is pretty rare."

The team made up of Erick Cortes, Bryan Gomez, Phillip Ortiz, Miguel Sanchez, Nathan Sanchez, and Leanne Caldejon, relied heavily on Caldejon's golf prowess at the California Country Club where her scores earned her team the win and herself the title of Athlete of the Month for March. "She golfed the best score out of our whole team at Califor-

nia Country Club which is tough golf course and she did very well, at times when we didn't think her scores were counting for us they were counting for the entire team, and towards the end of the season most of the guys were missing her and wished she was still around to help out with the scores," said Coach May.

Caldejon later mentioned how the California courses were some of the most difficult she had ever played on, "Each hole was at least 400 to 500 yards or more but at the end of the day looking at the score board cards and knowing that I beat all the boys," said Caldejon before continuing, "It was pretty awesome to see that my score over all was the best on that match." Caldejon is the sixth member of the team and the only girl but despite the odds Caldejon went from being a noncompeting, minority member of the team just the year before to being the team's honorary MVP.

"It was a good year we started peaking at the end and began golfing real well so hopefully that carries over to the next year," said May, who as well as the rest of his team are already expecting a great follow up season, with the team currently made up entirely of returners. As a group they see only improvement in their future.

"I'm proud of my kids, they're a good group, I am very happy to have them all back next year, and I'm looking forward to a really good season," said May proudly continuing to speak of his hopeful expectations for next year's golf season.

Swim team shows progress



The swim team is proud of everything they accomplished this year.

BY BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho swim team finished strong with the boys placing second and the girls placing third in league finals. The overall record for the boys' team was four wins with only 1 loss, while the girls' overall record was three wins and two losses. The boys' coach, Mr. Pringle, said there were "huge improvements all around, and better energy top to bottom," adding "[this is] my best team at the high school so far."

One of the many accomplishments the girls and boys' teams had this season and post-season was dropping time. The boys were most proud of beating the La Serna Lancers in a dual meet that helped improve their chances of winning league.

The girls' coach, Meghan Carbajal, said their achievement was making it to finals this year, after they had placed fourth in league last year. This year she had triple the amount of returning swimmers compared to last year, which helped the girls earn their third place win at league finals.

The team qualified for the 200-free stroke relay in CIF. Although the team didn't advance onto the next level of CIF, Coach Pringle says, "it was a sign of success we hope to build upon for the future. I'm extremely proud of the team and grateful for the experience"

Last year Coach Pringle was only able to take one qualified team member, fellow Don Thomas Duenez, to CIF, and this year as many as eight swimmers qualified.

As for next years swim team, Coach Pringle says, "the boys have some big shoes to fill, but it's a good bunch that we're bringing back." Coach Meghan expressed her enthusiasm by saying, "I'm very excited for next year because we get stronger and stronger and know what we need to work on in the future."

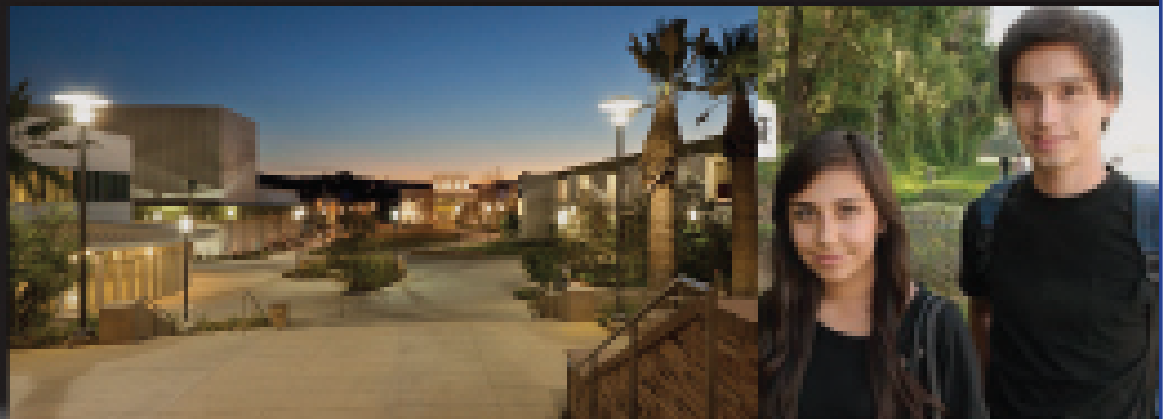
Coach Pringle's advice to seniors is "to cherish this experience and realize your hard work did pay off," adding "they're a talented bunch and awesome kids [who] set a good example for the years to come. I know they're capable of great things."

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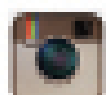
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Thank you for everything, Mr. Francis! You have taught us things our parents were not fortunate enough to learn. The time and effort that you put into our math education is really appreciated. Thank you for giving us something useful to do in our English classes (kidding!). Thank you for giving up your time at lunch and after school to expand our knowledge of calculus. We dedicate all of our passed AP Calculus tests to you. You are a life changing teacher and bring out the best of us in your class, especially during the torture sessions. We will all miss your class so much. Believe it or not, even though we moaned and groaned everytime you said "Let's clear our desks," we will miss hearing the words "calculate well."

-Your 2013-2014 Calculus BC class

May concludes an eventful school year



Brianna Osorio and Lauren Calvaruzo enjoy their time at the senior picnic.



Purple Cobras celebrate their win after the week long dodgeball tournament.



Seniors Bryan Guevara and Jessica Guerrero dancing after being crowned Prom King and Queen.



Senior Ruben Ruiz hops his way to victory.



Couple Sara Dickinson and Jaime Aloi display their affection.

SENIOR FEATURES

Woo and Salazar Decide on Davis



Two besties prepared to conquer Northern California with their playful spirits.

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Being accepted to college is a tremendous joy, but who doesn't get scared of leaving everything behind. Who doesn't wish they could squeeze their best friend into their luggage, and sneak them in with them? That crime will not be necessary for seniors Sydney Woo and Jasmin Salazar, who will be attending college together in the fall and they will be able to continue their adventures at the beautiful campus of UC Davis.

Sydney Woo is a seventeen-year-old senior and current ASB president. She has been in ASB for a total of three years and was on the girls' volleyball team her freshman and sophomore years. Her best friend, Jasmin Salazar, is also a senior who is eighteen-year-olds and serves ASB as the Vice President alongside her best friend. She was also part of the girls' volleyball team her freshman year and has been a part of ASB for two years now. They've also taken part in helping incoming freshmen assimilate themselves into high school through Link Crew.

Woo and Salazar have known each other since elementary school at Durfee Elementary. Salazar used to think Woo did not like her very much at first. "I always thought Sydney

hated me until we shared the same core class in sixth grade at North Park," says Salazar. They received a chance to actually get to know each other and became instant best friends. The rest of middle school was a bump on the road for this friendship, since they didn't talk much after sixth grade.

As high school came around, however, their friendship was rekindled when they both decided to join the girl's volleyball team and have since been inseparable.

Like many BFFs, they do a lot together. It was only natural to apply to some of the same schools together with the hopes for a miracle. "When Jasmin shared the news that she had been accepted to the prestigious UC Davis, I couldn't have been happier for her!" says Woo. She believes her bestie has worked extremely hard and definitely deserve the acceptance. At the time, however, Woo was still waiting on her acceptances. Not too long after Salazar's great news came the little miracle.

Woo vividly remembers the exact moment when she discovered she had been accepted to UC Davis as well. She was sitting in Mr. Meza's class when she saw a UC Davis e-mail notification pop up on her phone. She was elated to discover that she had been accepted to the UC Davis College of Sciences. Woo says, "With my best friend literally sitting right

next to me in class, I just had to share the big news! I showed Jas the e-mail and I guarantee she had one of the biggest smiles on her face. We both had a momentary, (yet silent) dance party while sitting in our desks to celebrate."

Salazar clarifies that they had never really planned on going to college together but they just had casual discussions about it. Salazar had already set her mind on Davis, since she had visited the campus over the summer and had completely fallen in love with it. Committing to Davis was a simple choice for her.

Woo, on the other hand, was torn between UC Davis and UC Irvine. She was about 98 percent sure that she was going to end up choosing Irvine, but there was a trip that changed it all.

During Spring Break, these friends were offered the opportunity to visit the Davis campus with all expenses paid. This would be the deciding factor for Woo. Woo was captivated by the campus, staff, dorms, and atmosphere. "I told Jas that I couldn't just SEE myself at UC Davis, I could FEEL myself at UC Davis," says Woo.

Salazar would feel sad at times when Woo was still undecided. She was afraid of the thought of missing her best friend and not being able to see her, since UC Davis is approximately 6 to 7 hours from home. The thought of

being so far from her, best friend was unbearable because they do everything together. Their senior year schedule is almost identical, so they spend nearly everyday together. "You might think that we get tired of each other after spending so much time together, but we make each other laugh and we always have a good time with whatever were doing," says Salazar.

Now certain that UC Davis will be their new home, choosing a roommate was a "no brainer" for the two of them. "Knowing that I will be rooming with my best friend next year is definitely the one thing I look forward to the most!" says Woo.

They both will be attending Davis in the fall and entering the college of science. Salazar will be pursuing a major in biological sciences while Woo will take on biochemistry.

"I honestly believe that going to college with your best friend, well at least with a best friend like mine, is truly a rare experience," says Salazar. She considers herself very lucky to be able to share the next four years with Woo and be able to go through all of the fun and stressful things college has to offer. Like many relationships, they do get on each other's nerves (rarely) and do argue (mostly on school-related issues), but they get over it in a heartbeat.

"It comforts me to know I won't be alone during this big stepping stone in life. I'll have Syd with me. I'll have my little piece of home. I just hope we don't end up killing each other," jokes Salazar. They really look forward to decorating their dorm, meeting new people together, and experiencing a new and different environment in Northern California.

They will definitely miss all the people they were able to meet and exchange laughs with in high school. They have met amazing people who have had profound impacts in their lives. El Rancho will be a place filled with wonderful memories that they will treasure forever. As graduation draws nearer with every ticking second, these besties wish epic summers to all of their fellow classmates and hope that they have an amazing college experience. "WE DID IT!" Salazar would like to remind them all.

Joseph Jimenez Chooses Champlain College



BY MICHAEL GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As the school year is coming to an end, most seniors are contemplating over where they will go next. Many will go off to college not too far from home, but some will venture off across the state and even across the country. Senior Joseph Jimenez will be attending the small private school, Champlain College, located in Burlington, Vermont.

Jimenez had never heard of Champlain College when he first began to look into the school. After constantly receiving information via mail and e-mail regarding the college and offer, to waive his application fee, Jimenez decided to apply. He only applied to a total of four schools, all outside of California. He was accepted into two. Jimenez only applied to schools in other states to "ensure a change in social scenery."

One of the major factors in Jimenez's decision was the location of Champlain College. Jimenez said, "I am a very big fan of nature, and Vermont is certainly filled with nature." There isn't much of a city-scene in Vermont, but its nature-filled environment offers a great place for relaxing and studying.

Jimenez plans to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film-making. A unique aspect of the school is its "upside-down-curriculum." This allows for first-year students to begin taking classes pertaining to their major without having met any pre-requisites. This takes away from the boring general education classes that most freshman in college have to deal with it. The school has yet to produce any notable alumni, but Jimenez hopes he can change that once he attends and graduates from the school. Jimenez said, "I could have ended up going just about anywhere and been satisfied. I believe people need to make the best of every situation they are given in life."

Jimenez's main advice to incoming seniors is to "keep track of important dates." Jimenez missed a few deadlines to apply to several colleges, and he greatly regretted it. Jimenez said, "Nothing is worse than one not having the closure of knowing whether or not one could have been eligible for enrollment at a school." Jimenez adds, "people may seem like they are nagging with reminders, but it is for reason."

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SENIOR FEATURES

Calderon prepares for a new life as a Toro

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Briana Calderon is the perfect example of how hard work through senior year pays off. After playing competitive soccer for seven years, Calderon has been given the opportunity to continue her soccer career at California State University of Dominguez Hills where she will be majoring in social work or criminal justice.

Calderon began her career playing AYSO in Pico Rivera, but, a year later, she began playing at the club level for Strikers FC. "Club soccer has helped me learn about my position," says Calderon, "club has prepared me for the college competition."

According to Calderon, the goalkeeping position is "probably the hardest position" to play in the game of soccer. "Goalkeeper is not all about standing there and catching a ball...It's a mental and emotional position too," explains Calderon.

A big factor in Calderon's goal keeping ability is her goalkeeper trainer, Vicente



Briana Calderon excitedly awaits the fall to join her fellow Toros at Dominguez Hills.

Alvarez. "Vicente [has helped] me become the player that I am now and he always believes in me," says Calderon.

Calderon will be playing at the division-two level, and she knows that there are going to be

some challenges she will have to face. "My biggest challenge will be time management, because as a student-athlete, I will be traveling and still have to make time to study," says Calderon.

While attending CSUDH,

Calderon is not going to dorm. Instead, Calderon will be working and making money to help pay for college.

Calderon will be attending a different school than her best friend, senior Vanessa Vargas.

They have been attending the same schools since elementary school and have even played on the same soccer teams. Vargas will be attending California State University of Los Angeles.

Although Calderon is attending a different school than her best friend, Calderon is looking forward to making new friends and succeeding while attending CSUDH.

Calderon would like to offer advice to the underclassmen looking to playing at the collegiate level. "Even when you're at your lowest point, don't ever let someone stop you from accomplishing your dream," says Calderon.

Calderon looks forward to becoming a "Toro" but would like to thank some people who helped her along the way.

"I want to thank my parents for taking me to my club games, even when it was the crack of dawn," says Calderon, "and most importantly I want to thank my goalkeeper trainer, Vicente. Without him, I wouldn't be who I am now."

Seniors aid underclassmen



Jacob Moghimi, David Juarez, Jacob Rodriguez, and Jesse Sanchez are perfect examples of senior support.

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the 2014-2015 school year coming to an end, senior Dons are preparing to head off to college by cashing in the scholarships they received during the Honor Crest Ceremony this past Thursday. Since the Dons realize that attaining these scholarships was hard, they are more than happy to give advice to underclassmen.

Senior Jeffrey Valenzuela believes that all seniors should apply for multiple scholarships. "It is really important to apply for scholarships because even if you only get one, it goes a long way in helping one pay for his/her college tuition and it also helps one's parents in helping his/her kid pay for college," says Valenzuela. "Also, it is never a guarantee that you'll get a certain scholarship so applying for as many as you

can only increase your chances of getting a scholarship," he adds.

Valenzuela believes that obtaining scholarships also helps you pay for other necessary college materials. "If you get a lot of scholarships, it goes a long way in helping pay for certain supplies or fees that many colleges demand you to pay," says Valenzuela.

In addition to applying to as many scholarships as possible, Valenzuela also believes that it is necessary to make deadlines. "It's extremely important to keep up with deadlines because, if you don't, you lose the chance of getting free money. Typically, you have a lot of time to finish a scholarship application before a deadline, but that time should be used wisely to compose the best work you can before submitting your scholarship application in order to make sure it's good enough so that people award or choose to give you the scholarship," says Valenzuela.

Valenzuela encourages students to start college and scholarship applications early in order to avoid stress. "The process of college and scholarship applications can be stressful if you wait until the last minute to do them, but it's not so bad if you seek help and start early on them," says Valenzuela.

Valenzuela believes that the best advice he can give to upcoming seniors is to stay on top of everything. Valenzuela says, "Senior year happens really fast. Deadlines for scholarships and college applications pass by pretty quickly. I recommend for upcoming seniors to stay on top of things, talk to their counselor for advice, and to use the College and Career Center to their advantage."

Rocky Road ahead for Jacob Rodriguez



Rodriguez's determination cannot ground him to California.

BY JESSE SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many seniors are unable to fathom going off to college so far away from home. Unknown challenges and foreign lands are enough to frighten any incoming freshman college student; any student but Vanderbilt-bound senior Jacob Rodriguez. A dedicated Teen Court member, talented Band musician, ambitious track star, and intellectual Academic Decathlon co-captain, Jacob Rodriguez is off in Tennessee for the Fall of 2014.

Of the Class of 2014, Rodriguez is one of few students currently planning on attending college beyond the California borders. As if this future endeavor didn't seem difficult enough, Rodriguez is planning on pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Neuroscience. Afterwards, this competitive

Commodore will apply for medical school with the hope of one day becoming a neurosurgeon.

With college just around the corner (actually a bit farther than the corner in Jacob's case), Rodriguez will be saying goodbye to a huge part of his life. He says, "I am dreading having to leave behind my friends and family as well as the awesome California weather." This life-long Californian will soon be faced with a life of epic winters and brutal all-nighters in Nashville, Tennessee.

However, Rodriguez is hopeful for the future. "I most look forward to having a completely new experience on my own as I have never been to Nashville," says Rodriguez. El Rancho expects great things from Jacob Rodriguez and is fully confident in his ability to achieve success despite the challenges he will face. Good luck Jacob!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

El Rancho Poets perform at Poetry Slam

BY NAZARELY NARVAEZ
EL RODEO STAFF REPORTER

This Spring Mrs. Brown and Mr. Sorenson successfully rounded up a team to compete in Get Lit's 3rd annual Classic Slam. The team were Candace Carlos, Jennifer Delgado, Samantha Castellanos, Emily James was compounded of juniors and seniors, Susana Plaza, and Malin Talavera-Vasquez.

Only one of the 40 schools participating won the title championship title but each school received the chance to perform in the two-night competition. The first night of quarter and semi-finals was held at the Los Angeles Theatre Center on Friday, May 23rd. The finals were held at the Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles on Saturday, May 24th.

Students had to choose a classic poem to learn and while also composing their own original response poem. Unfortunately, El Rancho was not able to advance to semi-finals but Brown says she "was very proud of our team and what they had to offer, and of how close we came to advancing to the semi-finals."

Since only four poems can



Malin Talavera, Emily James, and Susana Plaza wait outside the L.A Theatre as they prepare to perform.

be performed during the first round, Brown and Sorenson had to choose which four poets were to perform, "it comes down to coaching strategy," said Sorenson. Samantha Castellanos became El Rancho's highest scoring poet of the night with her classic piece "The Pact" by Sharon Olds and her original response poem "Prism." Malin Talavera-Vasquez earned the second highest score amongst the El Rancho team by performing the classic

poem "Mi Problema" by Michele Serros along with her response poem "Plastic Fruit." Emily James earned El Rancho's first ever perfect score of 10 by three of the five judges with her classic poem "The Lies Started" by Jimmy Santiago Baca and her self-written "Untitled" piece.

Susana Plaza performed the classic piece "Frida Kahlo to Marty McConnell" by Marty McConnell and her corresponding response piece "Frida Kahlo

to Susana Plaza," which was received warmly by El Rancho students during rehearsals. "Going up on stage is unlike anything that I've ever done. For a moment I looked at the microphone and it was literally only me and the microphone, but then I looked up, and I saw all of the people staring blankly at me. So then I took a deep breath and performed," says Plaza. Candace Carlos and Jennifer Delgado were ready to perform the classic piece "There

is a Wonderful Game" by Hafiz along with the response poem they wrote together entitled "Check mate" in case El Rancho made it past the first round.

El Rancho was up against competent schools, "They were the most prepared and best performing team we've had," said Sorenson on the team's preparation, "The team had an excellent performance and I could not have asked for more." The team had the opportunity to practice at Purge Poetry Open Mic at the Pico Rivera Library and the open mic reading at Half Off Books in Uptown Whittier. The team received continuous support from both Brown's English classes and from Sorenson's AP English and Creative Writing classes. El Rancho's librarian, Jean Chodos, also helped the team with their preparation. "They have to be able to perform under pressure. That may be the most important skill they possess," Sorenson said. Those who participated in the competition were able to "Experience the power of poetry and the power of words and to practice the important life skill of getting in front of a group of people with confidence," says Brown.

The curtain closes for Valenzuela and Alexander



Joan of Ark and the Dauphin of France pose after their performance.

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The lights are dim. Music begins to play. A single light shines down on the Dauphin of France, Charles the VII, sitting in centre stage while his mom, uncle, sister, father, and ensemble sing about what a nightmare it would be if Charles were to become king one day.

The musical was in the making for over two months. The cast had to undergo six-hour weekday rehearsals and twelve-hour Saturday rehearsals every week for two months. It's safe to say all the sweat, blood, and tears paid off in Mr. Wlasick's production of Good Time Charley.

The musical stars senior Joey Salinas playing Charles the VII, an incompetent king who cannot do anything for himself,

and senior Rebecca Valenzuela as the heroic Joan of Ark who in the 1400's, recovers France from England's dominance.

Charley was raised by a coarse mother who ordered Pope Eugene, played by Daniel Lopez, and General George de la Tremouille, played by Jacob Amavizca, to stay by Charley's side and never allow him to make a decision by himself. This arrangement worked, until Saint Joan of Ark demanded to speak to Charley because the voices of Saint Michael, Saint Margaret, and Saint Catherine told her that if she believed in Charley, he would one day be the man she knew him to be.

"This play itself is about someone who is willing to do something, but they never really had anyone to believe in them, and my character Joan believes in Charley," said Valenzuela.

"He finds that he can believe in himself so I find that the lesson in this play is to believe."

A majority of the cast had to portray characters much older than them which was one of the difficulties Salinas had to overcome in order to perform his last musical at El Rancho High School. "I've been in drama for four years, and each year I grow and surprise myself." "It really takes a lot of investment in yourself, and each year is just a journey," said Salinas.

The journey of putting on this year's musical production began with a Broadway poster that Mr. Stan Wlasick had purchased last summer. "When the Broadway show opened in 1972, there was no Broadway window card for it and this guy made the card and I said, 'hey why don't I have a look at that musical?'" said Wlasick. "I had Joey and Rebecca and I thought 'they can do a good job with it.'"

Good Time Charley is participating in the Music and Art Commendation for Youth, also known as the M.A.C.Y.'s Awards, where the cast has the opportunity to be rewarded for its outstanding performance. However, Salinas, Valenzuela, and Isaac Carlos act to see the reaction their performance in city audience. "The most rewarding thing is seeing people's faces when you see people with tears in their eyes, I know I've touched them and I've left them with a lesson," said Alexander. "Acting is meant to put some emotion in people and make them feel and believe," said Valenzuela. To Carlos, "it's the relief after the rehearsals" that is most enjoyable.

A Night of Spoken Word



Mrs. Zeko's English students performs their poems for their artists.

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

While most El Rancho students begin to unwind toward the end of the year, Mrs. Zeko and Mrs. Chavez's sophomore English classes have a sense of excitement and nervousness as June comes near. For the past four years, Mrs. Zeko's sophomore English honors classes have had the opportunity to perform original poems at the Ruth B. Shannon Center, in Whittier College.

"It starts off with an idea, then we build off of that," said sophomore Isaac Carlos. The students have read poems by Shakespeare and Charles Bukowski to inspire them and get them comfortable using metaphors and imagery in their writing.

For the first time ever, Mrs. Chavez's period two sophomore English class is partaking in this year's "Night of Spoken Word." All students are given "the chance to tell their own stories,

and [gain] the confidence to share their voices," said Mrs. Zeko.

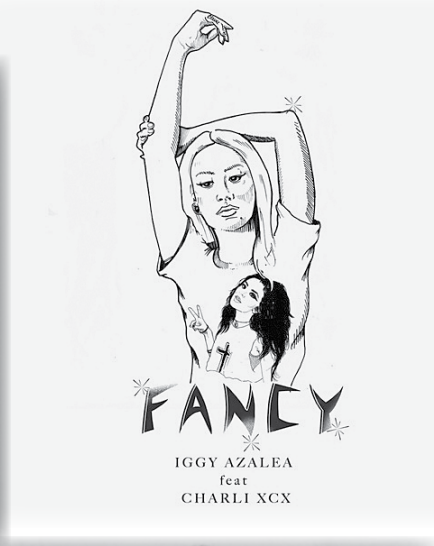
Writing their poems isn't only obstacle sophomores must conquer. The students have to master gestures, enunciation, and memorization as well. Gesture is non-verbal communication, so when there are no words to express emotion. Enunciation and memorization are key to performing. Without them, the poems will lack emphasis and emotion.

"I'm nervous, [and] excited to be working alongside my peers," said Sophomore Derek Peyton. "I've never performed in front of an audience that big before."

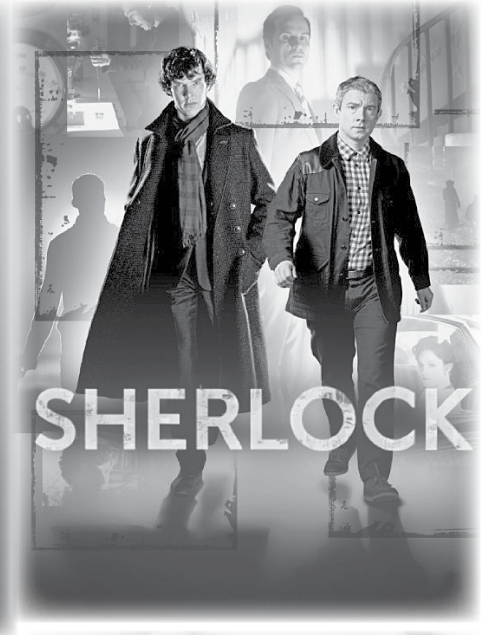
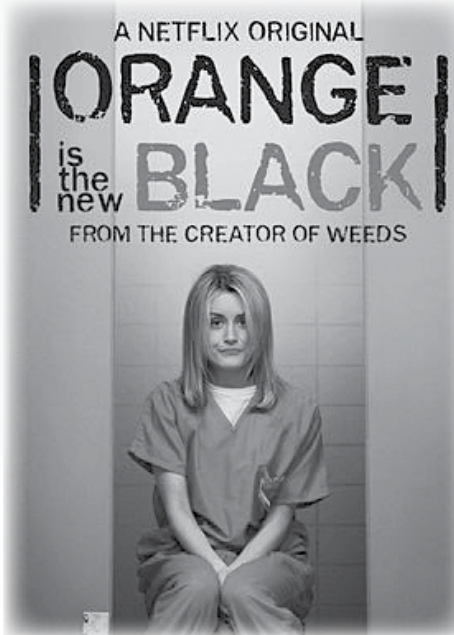
Junior Marisol Alvarez participated in the "Night of Spoken Word" last year and describes the experience as scary and rewarding. "I used to get really nervous talking in front of people, but after performing I'm not scared anymore. It was a really fun experience and I loved every minute of it."

SENIOR FAVORITES

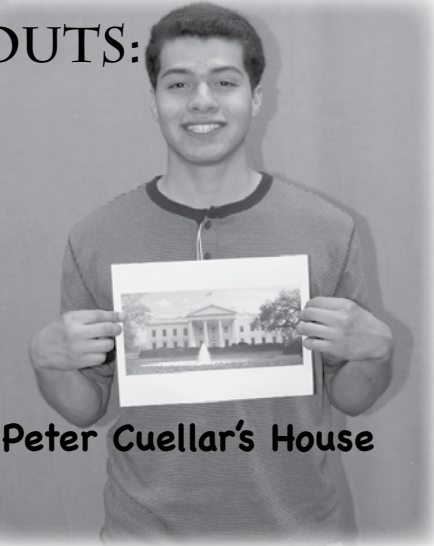
Favorite Songs:



Favorite Television Shows:



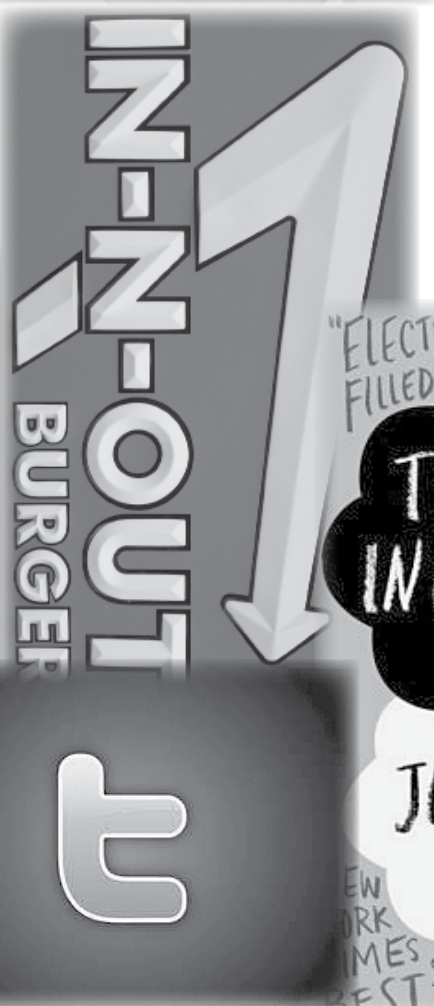
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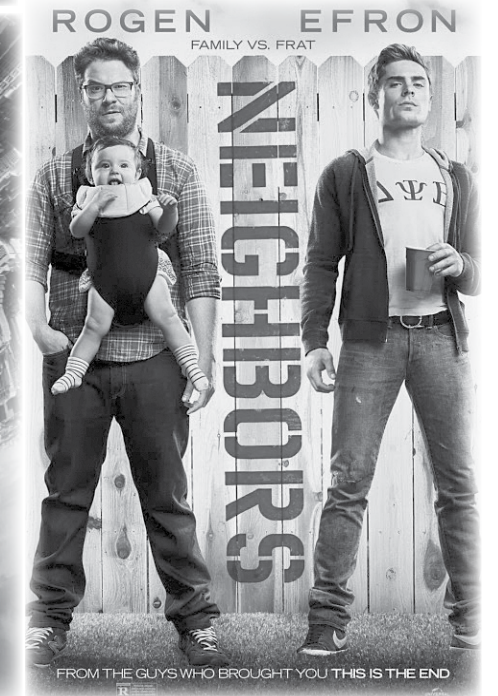
Peter Cuellar's House

TOWN CENTER

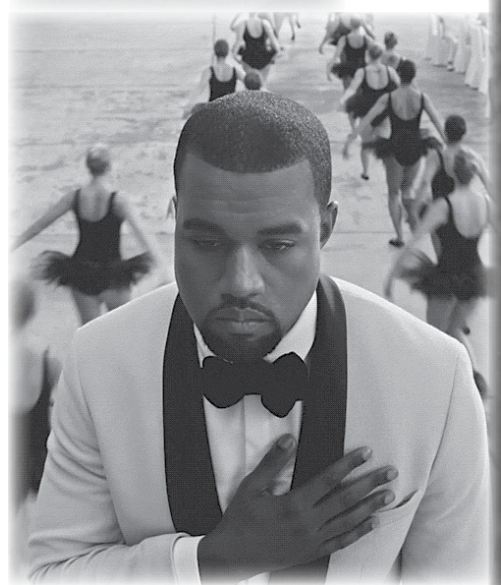
*Favorite
Burger
Restaurants:*



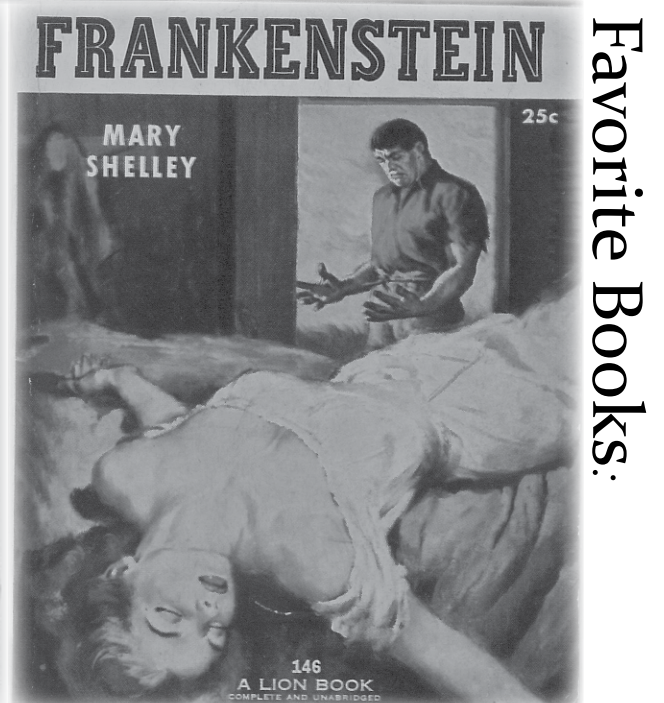
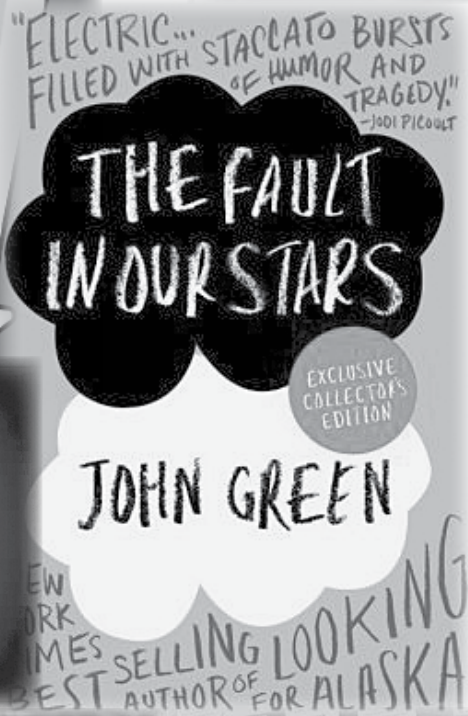
Favorite Movies:



Favorite Apps:



Favorite Artists:



Favorite Books:



Favorite Teachers:

SENIOR WILLS

I, Emily Peyton, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My punctual timing to ASB events along with my position as ASB Treasurer to Jasmine Armas. I leave Lillian Gonzalez to make people laugh to Mr. Collantes, my chest hair to Mrs. Palomares, my non monotone voice to Mrs. Melendrez, my student teacher friendship to anyone one lucky enough to know Mr. Benjamin Meza and finally my dodging of seagull poop skills to any person who can call themselves a Don.

I, Alex Roldan, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My soccer shoes to Brian Torres, my soccer skills to Julio "Turrtle" Basulto, and finally my good looks to Bryan Rojas.

I, Mireya Cruz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My best friend Karla De La Torre my seat in French class I will miss you very much and to my underclassmen yearbook staff family all the wonderful memories of our funny picture wall and my track babies my spikes that I won't need anymore.

I, Joseph C. Jimenez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My case of fourth sibling syndrome to Jose Alcala and my left knee to Mr. Meza.

I, Ruben Ruiz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My position as a political crime boss to Jessica Mancera (class of 2015), my swag to anyone desperate enough to want it, my likeable people skills to Mrs. Bauer, my crush on Mrs. Lam to Albert M. (class of 2018), my desire to make people laugh to Mr. Collantes, my chest hair to Mrs. Palomares, my non monotone voice to Mrs. Melendrez, my student teacher friendship to anyone one lucky enough to know Mr. Benjamin Meza and finally my dodging of seagull poop skills to any person who can call themselves a Don.

I, Jorge Bravo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My attractive features to Raymen, my epic haiku poems to Alex, a photo of my ever engrossing features to the entire staff of El Rancho for them to never forget the gift of my presence.

I, Andrew Gomez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My access to the Teen Court room to Darwin Reyes, Areanna Figueroa, Jasmine Armas, Juan Flores, and Kim Jacinto, which is to be used for teen court matters [only]. I also leave them numerous tasks left in order to make our Teen Court better...lol good luck! Have fun in your last year in Teen Court and don't screw things up.

I, Anthony Cadenas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My beast water polo skills to all the homies. Haha.

I, Leslie Castillo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My leadership work to the new Link Leaders and all my Blue Pride to the incoming freshmen.

I, Jeffrey Valenzuela, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The role of curve setter and class nerd to Melissa Gutierrez and my sarcastic/funny/witty remarks in class to Giovanni Rubio.

I, Alanni Sanchez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My chef coat to Matthew. My Powder Puff cleats to Elizabeth and my fitness spirit to Vivian.

I, Noel Limon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: To be a stronger athlete. To become another one of God's leading champion's just as I have seen some of my throwers do, while growing with them. "Though we may be as far apart as the moon and the Earth, the connection between us will always stay strong."-Homer Yushima.

I, Martin Alcala, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My beard, and the broken prophecy, to the swim guys, my profanity and DEE, to Mrs. Moghimi and my Subway eating habits to Mr. Pringle.

I, Ricardo Robles, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My procrastination skills to my fellow classmates, my Hamlet poster to Mr. Pringle, and my obsession with Subway to the water polo and swim team.

I, Amber Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My artistic skills to Danielle Nunez. My ASB cubby and wisdom to Michelle Carmona. My NPR backdrop stick to Christina Jimenez. My nice writing to Anissa Ramirez, and my pineapple swag to Nicholas Castillon.

I, Adrian Orozco, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My yearbook skills to Javier Orozco.

I, Ana Rodriguez, being sound in mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Leaving all my leadership work to the new Link Leaders and all my Blue Pride to the incoming freshmen.

I, Jocelyn Mendez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My terrible procrastination habit to my younger brother and

I, Raquel Saldana, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My good Netflix shows to Julissa Orta, my 90's-00's music to Crystal Chavez, the little things I know about Anime to Melissa Gutierrez, and everything I know about gui-

I, Dimitric Lozano, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sexy looks to Rodrigo. My volleyball skills to Ted. My selfie game to Pedro and whoever tries to scrap!!... Gratata - King Dom

I, Jennifer Navarro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My lunch money to Amy Navarro. My mad French 4 skills to Katherine Barajas and finally all my undone HW to Stephanie Navarro.

I, Brenda Romero, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My lunch money to Esmeralda Romero. My homework to Jocelyn Ibarra and all the dishes to wash to anyone who takes Culinary Arts.

I, Denise Rodriguez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My lunch money to Jocelyn Ibarra. My homework to Jennifer Navarro and the dirty dishes to anyone who takes Culinary Arts.

I, Richard Ayala, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My chalk addiction to Erik and my shot put to the top thrower next year.

I, Rudy Martinez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My volleyball shoes to Domitrik. My abs to Corona and my cuteness to Ayala.

I, Raquel Saldana, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My math skills to Raquel Saldana, my vast knowledge of good Netflix shows to Julissa Orta, my 90's-00's music to Crystal Chavez, the little things I know about Anime to Melissa Gutierrez, and everything I know about gui-

I, Ibarra, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My One Direction, or Harry Styles, obsession to Jennifer Delgado! Use this obsession wisely and carefully. You've been warned...

I, Angel Regalado, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My overly flowing hair to Mark, my pink Hyperfuse to Martin, that really smelly thing to Jesse, posting up skills to Andrew, ball skills to Chris, and the rest of my ball skills to Turis. Ultimately, I leave my knowledge, legacy and inability to do things myself to my beautiful Leslie.

I, Elias Powell, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My osteochondroma to Donald Brown, my left racing flatt to Albert, my right racing flatt to Derick, and I give 1600 meter racing speed to Mr. Meza.

I, Christian Ruiz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My comedic legacy to Stephanie Ruiz, my

I, Raquel Saldana, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My math skills to Raquel Saldana, my vast knowledge of good Netflix shows to Julissa Orta, my 90's-00's music to Crystal Chavez, the little things I know about Anime to Melissa Gutierrez, and everything I know about gui-

I, Kimberly Govea, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My One Direction, or Harry Styles, obsession to Jennifer Delgado! Use this obsession wisely and carefully. You've been warned...

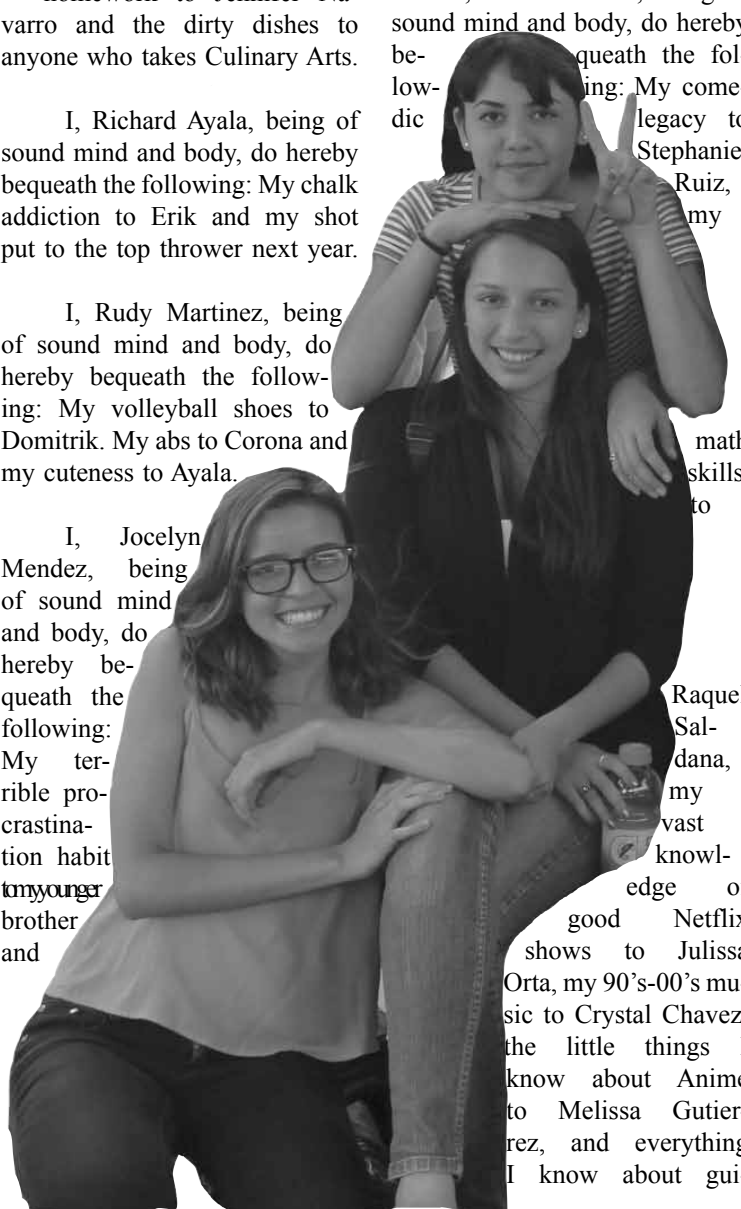
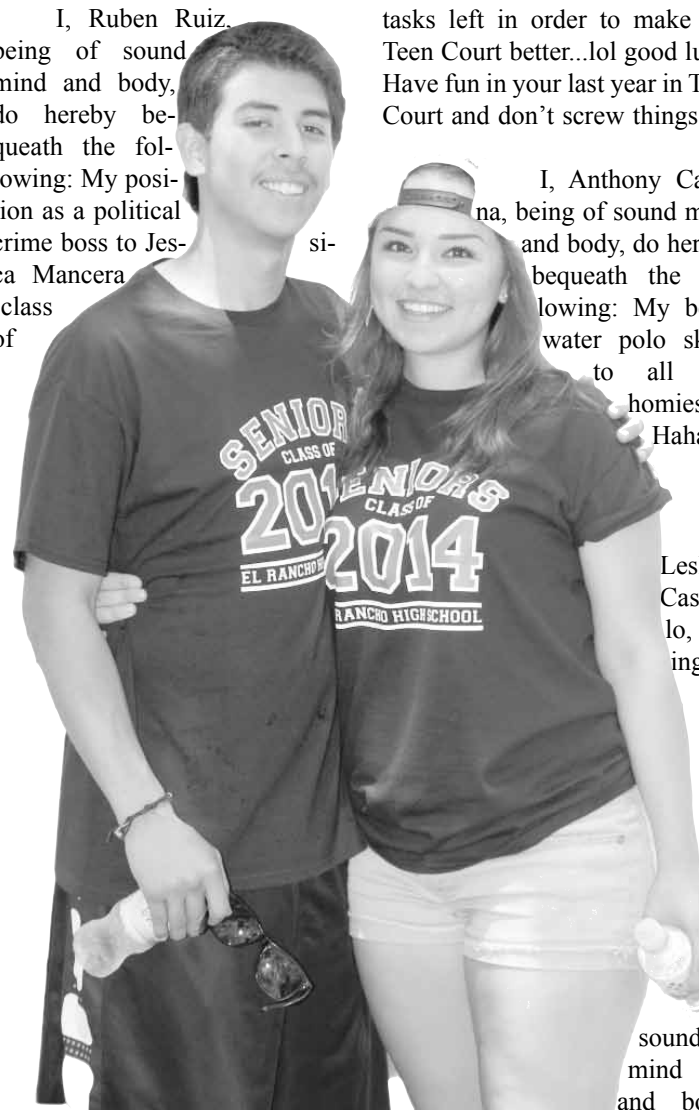
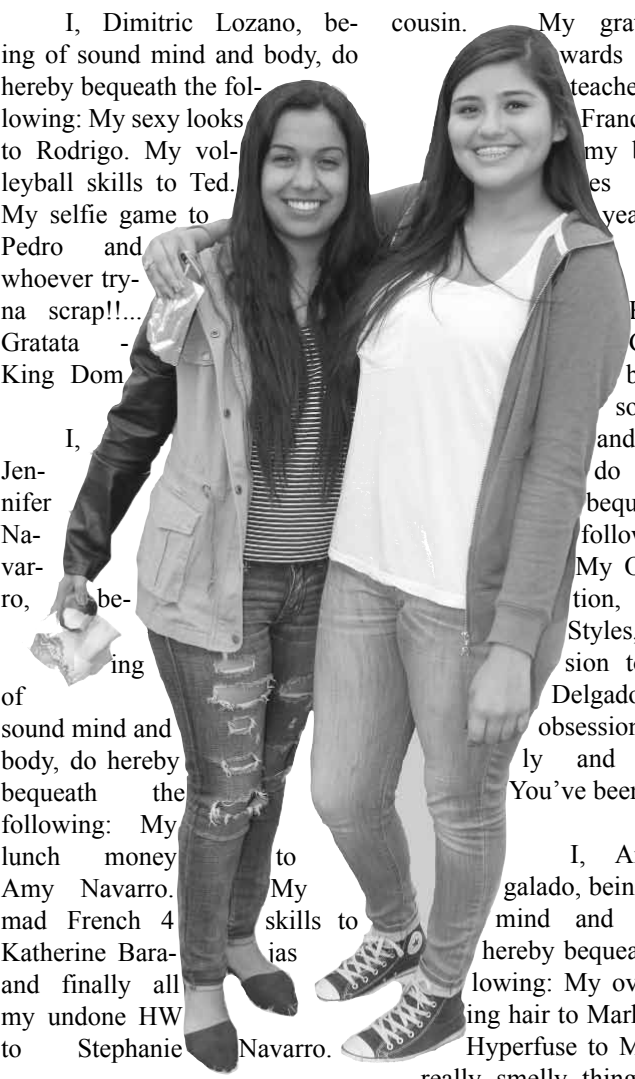
I, Angel Regalado, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My overly flowing hair to Mark, my pink Hyperfuse to Martin, that really smelly thing to Jesse, posting up skills to Andrew, ball skills to Chris, and the rest of my ball skills to Turis. Ultimately, I leave my knowledge, legacy and inability to do things myself to my beautiful Leslie.

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I, Christian Ruiz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My comedic legacy to Stephanie Ruiz, my

I, Raquel Saldana, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My math skills to Raquel Saldana, my vast knowledge of good Netflix shows to Julissa Orta, my 90's-00's music to Crystal Chavez, the little things I know about Anime to Melissa Gutierrez, and everything I know about gui-

I, Raquel Saldana, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My math skills to Raquel Saldana, my vast knowledge of good Netflix shows to Julissa Orta, my 90's-00's music to Crystal Chavez, the little things I know about Anime to Melissa Gutierrez, and everything I know about gui-



SENIOR WILLS

tar to Francisco Uriarte.

I, Evelyn Burgos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My hard work, dedication, scars and bruises to my track team, and my horrible penmanship to ASB.

I, Andrew Briseno, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The Basketball tree to Marky Mark, Chris, and DG. Last but not least all the wonderful memories I had with my friend SAMMY.

I, Angelica Gamez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My math skills to Danielle Nunez and Natalie Meneses, my room to my little sister Diana Gamez, and my patience to the girls' soccer team.

I, Susan Aparicio, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Isaac the Alpaca to Darwin, my lame jokes to Emily, and everything else to my Decathletes.

I, Andy Alaniz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my Baseball Glove "Charlene" to Vincent Fuentes, and my football locker located in the varsity room to Richard Cuellar.

I, Raymond Zaldivar, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My amazing personality to Vincent Sunny Torres Lopez the third, my loudness with Angie Saavedra and my president position of the Medical Careers Club to Jennifer Guerra.

I, Joey Alexander, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My whole 4 year theatrical life: breathing, eating, and sleeping, acting and improvisation, to my fellow Thespians. «Act Well Your Part, Therein The Honor Lies.»

I, America Montejano, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: To Jesus Montejano...Work Hard, Play Hard and NEVER GIVE UP!

I, Milton Mier, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My wrestling shoes to Joey and my

fulffiness to Alex.

I, Christian Garcia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My spot at lunch to Little

I, Lokkster (;) and finally my music library to Kimberly so she doesn't have to listen to Chino & Nacho xD.

I, Leanna Perez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My procrastination skills to Elisha Lugo (may the odds of your essay grades be ever in your favor), my repetitive tardiness to Jocelyn Hernandez (may you always be late to school to continue my legacy), my amazing tennis skills to Shaniah (do well in tennis next year) and finally any bad grade I have ever received to Jose Renteria.

I, Monique Castellanos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My volleyball spirit to Elyssa. My school spirit to Jocelyn and my good awesome relationship experience to Katherine. For their next year experience.

I, Vanessa Vargas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I will leave behind my food for Kristen Calderon and Amanda Salazar.

I, Diana Garcia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My hair-clip to Alexis, my sweat-

I, Amber Garcia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My phone case to Sarah.

I, Ciso Espinoza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave behind an alarm clock to Mr Elias.

I, Yazmine Contreras, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My lazy skills and sarcasm to Mrs.Elliott.

er to Jessica, and my phone case to Sarah.

I, Johanna Cano, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My blessings in academics to Luz Yanet Gutierrez and Guadalupe Rodriguez.

I, Christian Posada, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My spoons and forks to Chef Luna, my modeling skills to Giselle, my motivational skills in Calculus to Saloni «Let's Gooo!», some new Nike soccer cleats to Danielle, my GPA to Rio Hondo bound students, and my completion of the different base rule notebook to Mr. Francis.

I, Milton Mier, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My wrestling shoes to Joey and my fluffiness to Alex.

I, Stephanie Galvan, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My captain badge to Danielle Nunez, country music to Mia Castillo, and my blessing to my favorite freshie Kristen Calderon.

I, Brianna Osorio, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My school spirit to incoming freshies, my Camero to John to be able to come to school on time, my energetic ability, annoying characteristics and my friendliness to the new link crew leaders.

I, Priscilla Martinez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My academic calendar to Balram, eating skills to Mitchy, and finally my book smart skills to Amanda.

I, Analie Arenas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my throwing strength to Daisy Perez and Alejandra Garcia. My style to Jesse Arenas (He really needs it). My Courage to Natalie Valdivia and finally my love for Chanel to Jennifer Delgado.

I, Amber Garcia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My El Rancho beanie and my attitude to my sister. My kindness to my cousin. My El Rancho mug to my mother.

I, Angel Carlos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My ASB cubby to Balram Kandori and my various sticks from the tree outside the H building to bring you wisdom and courage to go through next year's ASB as chief justice.

I, Sydney Woo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My ASB cubby to Mia Castillo, my presidential responsibilities to Mia Castillo, my crazy and outgoing skills to my sister Natalie Woo, and finally my creative skills to Andrea Huizar.

by bequeath the following: My cheer stool to Crystal & my cheer clothes to Karina and my amazing athletic abilities to my little brother, Rolando Garcia.

I, Teresa Baldivia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my torta, candy, chip selling business to my cousin Mersadez Berrelleza.

I, Steve Figueroa, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My locker to the next upcoming varsity football player, and my sick cuts and speed to whoever wants them.

I, Deborah As-

I, Elvia Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: All my smartness and my awesome Timberlands to Miriam. To incoming freshman, Crystal Guzman, I leave all my patience and strive, and to Mrs. Sedano I leave all my appreciation, hard work and accomplishments. LET'S DO THIS CLASS OF 2014!!!!

I, Debbie Barajas being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Give my best friend Ashley Cardenas my sense of style and my sense of humor. I also leave Soledad Mendez my bible because she is in much need of Jesus and because JESUS IS THE ANSWER!! LOL. I also leave my amazing and wonderful human being soul at El Rancho for them to never forget me.

I, Kimberly Alvarez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My tolerance for Sabrina, Rebecca, and Jessica to Coach Miguel. I leave appreciation and great memories to Melissa G. and Mia Q. I leave my gratitude and love to Sabrina, Rebecca, and Jessica. Lastly, I leave good luck and love to my cousin Daniel Martinez.

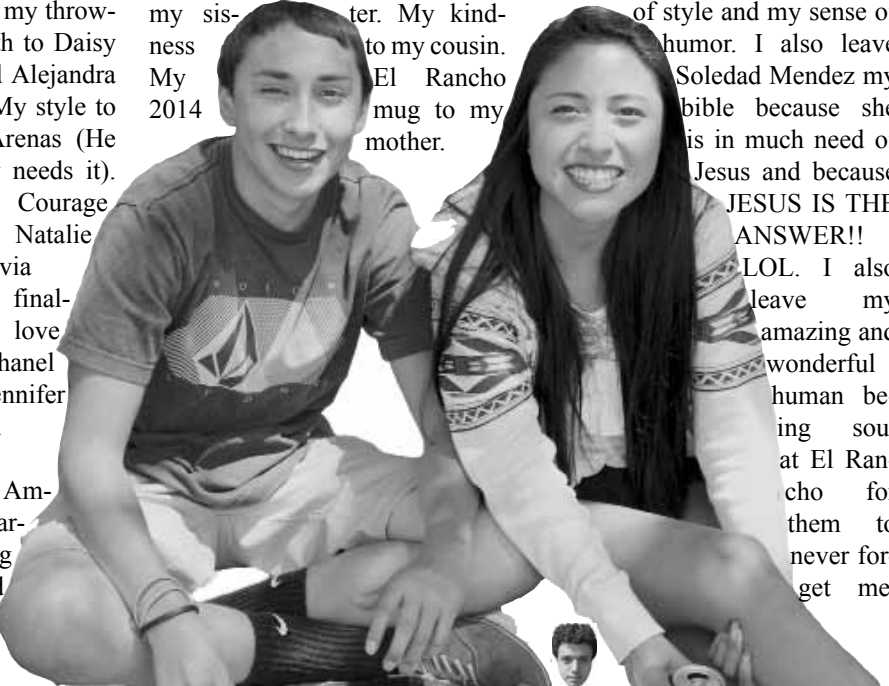
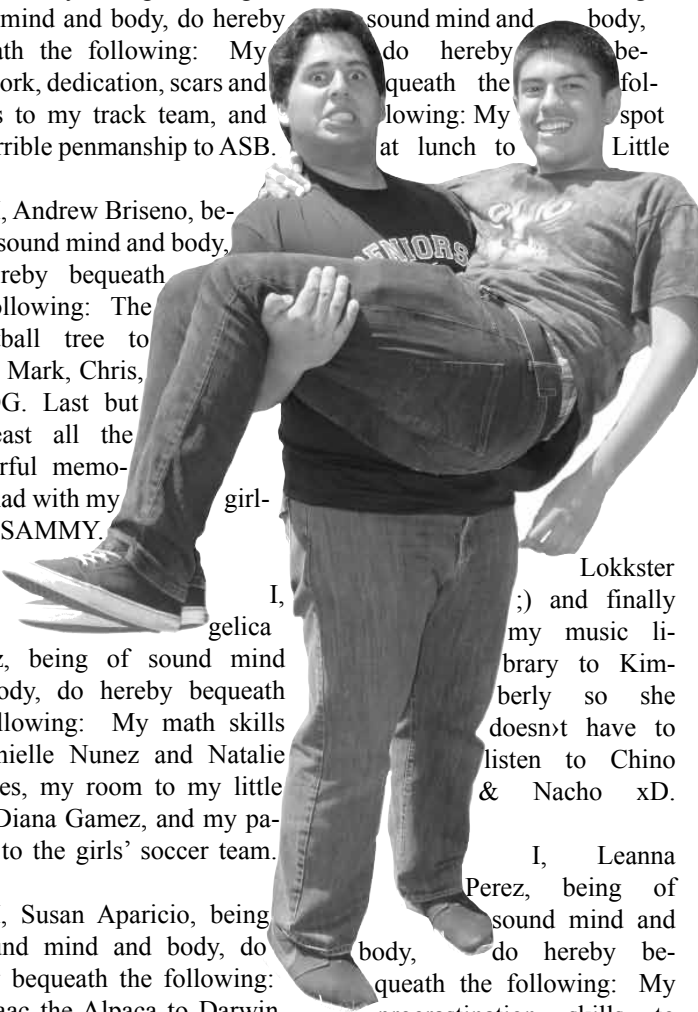
I, Jonathan Herrera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave our awesome handshake to the homie Emilio Gonzalez. There are many things I wish I could leave you, Mayra Nunez, but since I can't, I leave you with our friendship and my chess skills. Finally, I leave my incoming freshman sister my hangout tree.

I, Osvaldo Jaime, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My ASB cubby to Balram Kandori and my various sticks from the tree outside the H building to bring you wisdom and courage to go through next year's ASB as chief justice.

I, Sydney Woo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My ASB cubby to Mia Castillo, my presidential responsibilities to Mia Castillo, my crazy and outgoing skills to my sister Natalie Woo, and finally my creative skills to Andrea Huizar.

I, Elvia Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: All my smartness and my awesome Timberlands to Miriam. To incoming freshman, Crystal Guzman, I leave all my patience and strive, and to Mrs. Sedano I leave all my appreciation, hard work and accomplishments. LET'S DO THIS CLASS OF 2014!!!!

I, Debbie Barajas being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Give my best friend Ashley Cardenas my sense of style and my sense of humor. I also leave Soledad Mendez my bible because she is in much need of Jesus and because JESUS IS THE ANSWER!! LOL. I also leave my amazing and wonderful human being soul at El Rancho for them to never forget me.



STAFF FAREWELLS

Being a part of the El Rodeo Staff has been an amazing experience! Ever since freshman year I had a desire to join this staff but my packed schedule never allowed me to. Once senior year came around the corner I knew that I had to join and it has honestly been the best decision I have ever made. We have all shared many laughs and stories that I am never going to forget. Over the course of this school year I've grown attached to every single member and I don't know how I'm going to be able to let all of them go. Everyone in this staff deserves praise for what they do but the one who deserves it the most is the heart of this class, Mr. Zeko. He does a lot for the staff and the newspaper and without him we wouldn't have the



everybody in the newspaper staff they are all awesome and Mr. Zeko is a real cool teacher.

-Kimberly Lopez

My time at El Rodeo would not have been the same without this year's staff. Laughing and joking with the amazing Rudy Macias and Claudio Gonzalez definitely contributed to the greatness of my senior year. Even with the challenges we faced, Nazmataz, Gelli, and Michelle were able to work miracles with the paper. I bid farewell not only to El Rodeo but also to my Academic Decathlon family. The moments we had were

unforgettable and I will treasure them all my heart. Thank you to all the wonderful teachers and faculty members that have made my El Rancho experience spectacular (cough*Mr. Francis*). I will miss you all.

-Jesse Enrique Sanchez

When I first joined the Newspaper staff, I was only doing it to make my college application look better. I ended up really liking it because the class was chill and staying afterschool wasn't that bad either. Everyone on the staff is pretty funny and

awesome newspaper that we have. Thank you Zeko for being yourself and always encouraging us. I am so thankful and I wish nothing but the best for next year's staff!

-Claudia Gonzalez

Even tough I came in late into the newspaper staff, it was one heck of a job and it was a great experience. I am truly going to miss el rancho. I made so much friends an so many memories this last year. Coming in late into the newspaper staff I was sacred because I thought I wasn't going to know anybody but everybody was really nice and made me feel

welcomed. I am going to miss

outgoing so it was an unforgettable

experience.-Michael Garcia

Being a part of the newspaper staff was such a great experience as a senior. I'm really going to miss all the amazing people in it, and as well with the memories that came with it. All the laughs we shared was by far the best. But as well with having such a cool teacher Mr. Zeko. But now it is time to say goodbye to El Rancho, looking back at the last four years is such a bittersweet feeling. I'm going to miss it but I guess it's time to grow up and head on, on our own. Goodbye El Rancho!!!!

-Debbie Barajas

Wow I can't believe I'm actually typing this out, saying goodbye to so much familiarity, it's so extremely weird. Well for one, I'd like to say that I'm going to continue being me in all my oddness no matter how old I get. Being on the

Journalism staff has probably helped me better my writing if not allot then hopefully enough to one day progress far enough to have many novels be well read globally. Thank you Journalism staff for helping me in my writing no matter how bad it was or got. Farewell El Rancho, the people I've met while here have influenced many possible ideas yet to be written.

-Julius Arias

I enjoyed letting journalism sop up (like a biscuit in a sea of honey) a great deal of my time and efforts. I think our ability to think creatively increased the

quality of the newspaper. Despite seeming to have constantly been on Tumblr, I do take pride on writing my good share of what I hope were seen as interesting articles. My favorite moments in the class were obviously those where we drew caricatures of each other and made pictures comparing us to outrageous television and film characters. I'm glad I had this class to congratulate me when I got into my college

acceptances. I will never forget how everyone in layout clapped for me when I yelled out that I got into Yale.

I'd like to include a special shoutout to Claudia, Naz, and Angie for tolerating my slight insanity almost daily and not yelling at me for being so easily distracted. You three had the nicest ways of telling me to get to work. I enjoyed sharing food with the back row of the class. We were the cool crew.

I'd also like to say that Mr. and Mrs. Zeko are very cool. Mrs. Zeko is probably the biggest fan of the newspaper staff and she was nice enough to let us interview her countless times. Hey Sol, I'm glad

you found a niche here, little friend. David, you're weird. Odalys, you go girl. Laura, thanks for doing the worm on me.

-Rubi Macias

Joining the El Rodeo staff was the best decision I made this year. I am grateful for being able to share the Editor-In Chief position with Angelica and Michael because working as a team made things easier on everyone. There were moments in which stress has gotten the best of us but we've pulled through effectively and I'd like to say that I am proud of every single issue we have published. Every single person on the staff deserves a varsity jacket for all of the hard work they put in. I am going to miss

sitting in the infamous back row consisting of Cely, Angelica, Claudia, and Rubi. We've become a family who laughs at inappropriate jokes and eats cheap pizza on late work nights but a family, nonetheless

-Nazarely Narvaez

I never thought that I would join a newspaper staff and I really never thought that I would hold the responsibility of an Editor-In-Chief. My experience in the newspaper staff has been nothing but good and I would not change it for anything. Those late night layout hours and even those missed soccer practices are all worth it at the end. Seeing our hard work printed on paper makes me really proud. I have also had the opportunity to interview and write articles on amazing people. Thank you Mr. Zeko for advising us and helping us have a successful year. I am so thankful and I will miss my role and everything that comes with being a part of the new staff.

-Angelica Gamez

