



EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 63- Issue 1
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

Will the Night Pep Rally compensate for loss of the Homecoming Dance?

By JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Homecoming has been a tradition at The Ranch since school began. It is an event where El Rancho welcomes back alumni and honors the previous year's Homecoming Queen. There are many events included in Homecoming like the dance and the Homecoming court. However, this year The Ranch will break the chains with the decision to cancel the dance.

The real question is why has the Homecoming Dance been cancelled? According to Senior, Anissa Ramirez, "It got cancelled due to the lack of attendance at the dance and the school's loss of money." The dance was simply not producing a sufficient profit.

However, deciding upon cancelling the Homecoming Dance was not an easy decision. According to Mary Chapman, Assistant Principle of Activities, "The decision to cancel the dance was not taken lightly, but we feel that it is the best move for this year." The homecoming dance is obviously important, but when weighing the pros and cons it was revealed that ASB was losing a significant amount of money and the dance has not had a high attendance for several years.

Over the years, the ASB staff has attempted various ways to get more people interested in the dance. Some examples include, "Hiring, a DJ that would bring in lights and better sound, starting an ASB twitter to advertise, getting students input on themes, passing out pep cards etc," says Chapman.

Since this has failed to raise the appearance of students, ASB is taking a different turn. This year, Chapman says, "Instead of focusing on what is not working, ASB has been really focused on making other events during homecoming week really amazing- e.g. the night pep rally."

Unlike the Homecoming Dance, Night Pep Rally is well attended and has school spirit. Ana Lezama, Dance Commissioner, says, "A reason [for having an event after Night Pep Rally] is because the attendance percentage is high." Also "Students, staff, parents and community members come to the gym with so much energy and excitement, and we are able to see people truly bleed blue," says Ms. Chapman.

The 34th year of the Night Prep Rally will be one to remember. This year's Night Pep Rally will be extended from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and feature food trucks such as Dog Town Dogs, Boba n' Tacos and A Rockin' Ice. Hopefully this new event will become a long-standing tradition for all the Night Pep Rallies to come.

Board to vote on El Rancho's future

By LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School was established in 1953, and since then, the most recent renovation done to the school was the creation of the auxiliary gym, commonly known as the "New Gym." However, come November, El Rancho Unified board members will vote on whether or not to endorse a 370 million dollar project to construct a more modern El Rancho for future Dons.

For the past nine months, the district has been collaborating with a school construction company called High Performance Learning Environment (HPLE) for the renovation of certain schools in the district. Last March, HPLE scrutinized the physical condition of El Rancho by going into classrooms and noting the forms of the desks, doors, windows, and layout of the room. The school board's overall goal is to create a learning environment that will allow student to focus more on their academics and increase their chances of being accepted into a college. Jaime Ortiz, a HPLE employee, said, "We want El Rancho to have a college look and feel."

The renovations planned for EL Rancho would be similar to those of a university. The new school is planned to have more open space because all academic buildings



A sample image of what the El Rancho campus could look like by the year 2025.

will be two-story. Students no longer have to travel across campus to get to their classes.

"The renovations involve state of the art science labs, a culinary facility, an updated swimming pool, and a thousand-seat theater," said Ortiz. "Teachers are extensively consulted during the redevelopment of the school, along with students." A survey was given out to students asking them what they wish to improve at EL Rancho. A majority of students voted on improving the basics, such as restoring the rest rooms, fixing the leaky ceilings in the L building, or acquiring more comfortable desks.

Special Education teacher

Judi Gollette believes "a financial base needs to be established before anything is modernized in the design world." The school district has 50 million dollars saved in bonds that are meant to help the school; however, the other 320 million dollars will be funded through other sources. The costly renovation is to be completed in four to ten years if the district votes to pass the proposal this November.

On Tuesday September 22nd, El Rancho teachers met in the Little Theater to discuss the planned renovations. A majority of teachers were hesitant towards the revamping of the high school because they felt

their students would find it difficult to learn in a school environment that filled with construction and temporary classrooms.

Assistant Principal of Activities, Mary Chapman, said, "I think everyone is entitled to their opinion, and I want to make sure that all opinions are heard because past projects haven't always been completed, but we're just making sure all concerns are recognized and everyone has a full picture."

This future vision of ERHS has brought forth various opinions from both faculty and students. Though nothing is set in stone, the school board wishes to mold El Rancho into a high school that can be functional for the future.

Gadabouts set to embark on new journeys

By MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many El Rancho students enjoy traveling around the world, and through the Gadabouts Club, these students get the opportunity to fulfill their traveling desires through EF and Explorica Tours.

On June 14, 2015, the Gadabouts club will begin their 14-day journey to Turkey, Greece, and Italy. The students who will partake in this trip hope to see first-hand everything what they learned in class.

Junior Ernesto Garcia's goal for this trip is to understand all the things in person that he learns in class. "I've always wanted to go to Italy and Rome and see the historical sights that we see in text books," says Garcia. "I plan on learning new cultures and ideas from these different people," he adds.

Junior Adriana Carchipulla also hopes to learn new things through this trip. "My dream has always been to travel around the world and the Gadabouts is helping me with this, as well as gaining new knowledge about different cultures and history," says Carchipulla.

There are currently two spots available for the 2015 trip.



President, Adriana Carchipulla, and fellow club members make plans for next summer's trip to Turkey, Greece, & Italy.

"If people are still interested, they should sign up as soon as possible because the price increases each month. Right now the cost is \$4495," says Zeko.

During the summer of 2016, the Gadabouts Club will embark on an Explorica tour to Ireland, Scotland, England, and Paris. The participating students hope to learn about different cultures as well as undergo life-changing experiences throughout this 14-day trip.

Mrs. Charissa Zeko believes that she, as well as the rest of the Gadabout travelers, will gain life experiences. "Travel is life changing. When students return from the trips, they see the world, and their place in it, through new eyes," says Zeko.

During this trip, the travelers will be in Ireland when the country celebrates their most famous author. "We are going to be in Dublin on the day that Ireland celebrates James Joyce, their most celebrated writer," says Zeko.

While the Gadabout travelers are in England, they will be able to visit the royal house as well as learn a classic English sport. "We are going to William and Kate's house for high tea and then we are going to learn how to play cricket," says Zeko.

Junior Vanessa Gomez believes that through this trip she will further her opportunity to extend her knowledge. "I look forward to gaining new knowledge of other cultures and experience new things while traveling

to other countries," says Gomez.

Since this will be the second trip that Gomez attends, she feels very confident that she will enjoy this trip. "This will be my second time going on a trip with Mr. and Mrs. Zeko and since they made my last trip very memorable, I have no doubt that 2016 will be any different," says Gomez.

Gomez is very excited about going on this trip. "This trip will be the greatest way to end my senior year. I will get to travel the UK and see amazing places as well as bring back many pictures to show my family and friends," says Gomez.

Zeko is firm believer that above all, the experience that the travelers undergo during these trips is the most important thing of all. "I'm looking forward to watching the wonder of the world unfold before all the Gadabout travelers," says Zeko.

To pay for the 2016 trip, travelers can sign up for autopay to make monthly payments, or they can sign up for the manual payment plan so they do not have to pay on a regular basis. The lowest price is guaranteed until October 1st. The \$200 discount will be in effect until October 31st. All sign-ups are due by November 30th.

OPINION

No safe haven for the Islamic State

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“We do not negotiate with terrorists.” This is the slogan that helped President Barack Obama win his presidency and reelection in 2008 and 2012. Let that sink in, the United States does not negotiate with terrorists. We are a nation of action, that’s why the U.S. government spends more money on defense than education, science research, and retirees combined. So when a religious group named ISIS (Islamic State) begins to take control over the broken countries of Syria and Iraq, and decapitates two of our own people, we are going fight back.

ISIS is a religious group whose goal is to convert people to the Islamic religion. They’ve accomplished this by kidnapping, raping, and torturing anyone who is against their rule. As a result, hundreds of Syrian people have been captured and brutally tortured because they simply resisted the control of this group.

In 2012, the Islamic State captured American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff. They were held prisoner for two years, until ISIS used the American journalists as a warning to the United States to back off. A member of ISIS then decapitated the journalists and posted the gruesome video on *YouTube*.



President Barack Obama shows his support on the attacks given to destroy ISIS.

Eleven days later, ISIS militants posted a video online showing the execution of British aid worker David Haines. This time, ISIS directs a statement to the British Prime Minister David Cameron, threatening more British death unless Great Britain demolishes its “evil alliance with America.”

In a prime-time televised speech, President Obama declared air strikes on the Islamic State to “ultimately destroy” ISIS. Since then, American troops have gone into Syria and Iraq to train soldiers to defeat ISIS, and avenge the deaths of the American journalists alongside the British.

What I don’t understand is

why did the United States government wait for events to get so bad before they took action? I fully support the government and tactics being used to destroy ISIS, but should it really have taken three decapitated heads to have the American and British government get off their political butt and defend their people?

Now I’m not a violent person. I’m all for the kumbaya, “let’s talk it out first” type of mediation, but this “religious” group murdered innocent people to show the world that they’re a radical bunch. I admire their dedication and hard work, it’s not easy to cut off three heads in the mid-

dle of the desert, but in all seriousness, it’s absolutely terrifying.

The White House is trying it’s hardest to say that the United States is not going to “war” with Syria and Iraq. War has such a negative connotation to it, but what else would you call air strikes, invasions, and the mass murder of soldiers? The answer: a war. President Obama said, “If you threaten America, there is no safe haven.” Well, President Obama, please make sure that ISIS is shaking in their boots when they fully comprehend the saying, “the United States does not negotiate with terrorists.”

SoCal Confessions site promotes cyberbullying

BY BELEN HEREDIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Of all the twitter accounts in all the world, *SoCal HS Confessions* had come up on my twitter feed. *SoCal HS Confessions* is a *Twitter* account meant to criticize high school students from Southern California by posting pictures of them with brief descriptions as to why they should be “hated on”. Obviously, this account was created with the intention of bullying the high school students whose names were given to the account.

Those students who are criticized on the *Twitter* account are known to lose focus on school priorities because their attention is moved to the twitter account. Everyone reacts differently to public humiliation, and this kind of negative publicity can lead to serious mental problems such as low self esteem, and paranoia. Some students resorted to skipping school, while others went to the extent of self harm.

SoCal HS Confessions has even uploaded photos of El Rancho students to their twitter. Sophomore Alyssa Vela has seen what the posts are about and said, “It’s wrong and it creates a bad influence.”

Sophomore Cartier Jara also disagrees with this online account and said, “It can affect the students at our school be-

cause people can start believing what they see on the account page and spread rumors throughout the school.” This account encourages cyber bullying by asking its followers to retweet or quote their posts so that the account can receive more attention.

Bystanders fail to see the effect *SoCal HS Confessions* has on its victims because many unable to see the aftermath of the bullying. Who knows if they get teased at school because of what the page posted about them. It seems almost harmless to say wicked things to people via internet because we can’t physically see a chain reaction happening. The only person who sees all that is going on is the victims themselves, their friends, and hopefully their family.

SoCal HS Class Confessions has inspired other accounts such as *SoCal Baddies*, *SoCal Hottest Boys*, *SoCal HS Cuties* etc. This type of entertainment is toxic for young minds because they’re still being shaped and can lead to long term effects. The best thing to do is to report *SoCal HS Confessions*, ignore accounts that relate to the same subject and advise friends and relatives to do the same. If enough people report *SoCal HS Confessions* it makes sense that *Twitter* will take it off the gruesome site.



iPhone and Samsung battle continues

BY DAVID HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It is that time of year where Apple and Samsung unveil their new devices. Of all phone companies, Apple and Samsung are the most popular, and overpriced.

On September 9, Apple revealed the iPhone 6 and the new iWatch. The iPhone 6 can come in two choices: the regular 6 or the 6 plus. The plus measures in at 5.5 inches long, which pales in comparison to Samsung’s giant phones. Apple announced a new companion watch cleverly called iWatch. The watch is used as a pedometer, and a timer. It can only be accessed if the user owns an iPhone 6.

If Apple really wanted it’s customers to engage in physical fitness they would have not released devices that distract people from exercising. Since its release, people began to no-

tice the iWatch and the Samsung’s Smart watch similarities. This is classic iPhone, behind the curve and trying to catch up to other phone competitors.

Samsung also released a new larger-than-life phone. The new Galaxy Note Edge features a curved screen! The phone was designed to have easier app access, but it the designed seems like a failed attempt at being “innovative.”

Humanity is moving too fast with their phones. People aren’t stopping to smell the flowers; instead they are stopping to like a *Facebook* post. These new phones make the little moments of life disappear. Family dinners that were once filled with conversations are now filled with charger cables. Today everyone is connected more than ever before, but ironically we are finding ourselves more distant from each other as well.

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

City manager answers questions about Pico Rivera

BY ANTHONY RAYMUNDO

Pico Rivera's new City Manager, Mr. Rene Bobadilla, took the time to answer questions created by the class of 2015.

Reporter: For our readers what is the role of City Manager in Pico Rivera?

Mr. Bobadilla: "The City Manager is like the CEO of a business corporation. He runs day-to-day operations of the city from public safety, parks and recreation, community development, finance, and public works. He is responsible for the budget and other expenditures that the city has. Ultimately, the city manager's goal is to implement the city council's vision and policies, so that he can incorporate them into the city."

Reporter: What made you want to come and serve our community?

Mr. Bobadilla: "The opportunity arose when the city of Pico Rivera was looking for a person with a civil engineering background that could pull most of the projects from the 100 million dollars' worth of investment that would be going into infrastructure"

Reporter: What do you and the City Council plan on bringing to the community that would invigorate the city of Pico Rivera?

Mr. Bobadilla: "The goal is to continue and improve the quality of life the residents of Pico Rivera have. Such includes improving infrastructure, generating new revenue, or creating new resources of water."

Reporter: With your past experiences as a city manager of Huntington Park and El Monte, what can you do differently in Pico Rivera that didn't work in your previous cities? How will your knowledge, as a former city manager of Huntington Park and El Monte, benefit the city of Pico Rivera?

Mr. Bobadilla: "As a former city manager of Huntington Park and El Monte, I learned lessons of management and organization. Also, from managing cities like Huntington Park and El Monte I learned that cities must be transparent and open to sharing information, so that they could improve the quality of their city."

Reporter: Although we have witnessed a great deal of improvements, Pico Rivera, in previous years and still today, has a reputation for being "ghetto" in all aspects of the city. This stigma that is placed upon Pico Rivera turns home buyers away. What will you and the City Council do to improve Pico Rivera's reputation, so that home buyers would want to invest in our city?

Mr. Bobadilla: "They will continue to look for opportunities to build housing that is sustainable, affordable, of high quality, and attractive for



Mr. Rene Bobadilla answers all of the questions that students from Pico Rivera have about their city.

young families. Also, the city of Pico Rivera must be cognizant of the market, and be aware of what home buyers are looking for in this millennium."

Reporter: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the unemployment rate for Pico Rivera for this year is 7.6 % approximately 2.7% greater than the California average which is 7.4 %. Does the City Council have a plan for alleviating the 2.7% of people that are unemployed as well as the unemployment among our youth?

Mr. Bobadilla: "They will continue to look at opportunities, whether its job fairs, sales tax corporation agreements, approving projects, being proactive with bringing employers that employ our folks, or attracting businesses with incentives, because if people work here, people may want to live here, and their kids will eventually want to come here, which in turn, will generate revenue in the city."

Reporter: The youth in Pico Rivera, who are 18 years and under, for the most part make up about 26 % of the population which is far greater than the 12 % who are 65 years and older. Since the youth makes up the majority of the population in the city, what new resources will you and the City Council provide to Pico Rivera that will benefit us? If so what are they? (Programs/ Academies)

Mr. Bobadilla: "The city council and the city manager can only learn so much from other cities, but without hearing from their own youth, they don't know what kind of resources to provide. They challenge the youth to come together to invite the city manager and the council to create an environment where they have a form to bring people together so that the youth can present to them a list of ideas. Also, a government day through El Rancho High School, in March of next year, would be a program where kids that are interested in municipal government or government can shadow

people who work in those various fields so they can experience how their jobs function."

Reporter: The per capita income in Pico Rivera is approximately \$18,745.00 and the citizens of the city only spend about \$14,835.00. This means there is a deficit of about \$3,910.00. What do you intend to do about the dramatic increase of citizens purchasing goods in cities other than our own? How do you plan on improving our sales rate?

Mr. Bobadilla: "The dramatic increase of sales tax has not affected where the residents of Pico Rivera shop. There has not been a big change in revenue. Only to some, the dramatic increase of sales tax has affected where they shop."

Reporter: Since the majority of the population in Pico Rivera is predominantly Hispanic or of Latino origin 87.9 %, the percentage of high school graduates in our community is 66.8% compared with the California average of 81.0%. Only 11% of our city's population has a Bachelor's degree or higher when the average California city reports 30.5% of their population with a Bachelor's degree or higher. How can we make Pico Rivera become a more affluent community and a more diversified group of people?

Mr. Bobadilla: "A culture issue plays a huge role in the demographics of a city, a city cannot directly control whether a community becomes a more affluent community, but they can control the quality of life and services that can facilitate progress."

Reporter: We hear you're a huge baseball fanatic, and even played some in college! Tell us a little about that? What set of knowledge can you bring from playing baseball to apply to the city to successfully lead Pico Rivera in the right direction?

Mr. Bobadilla: "I started playing baseball at the age of 4, and continued playing until college."

Mr. Bobadilla was good enough in high school to receive a scholarship to play baseball at Cal Poly Pomona, where he majored in civil engineering. Through baseball Mr. Bobadilla got a full ride to college and learned a lot about life. It taught him how to be mentally tough and how to succeed even when failure is around.

Reporter: What can you say to all those Pico Rivera residents 18 years old and under about the future of their city?

Mr. Bobadilla: "The future of the city definitely relies on the future of our children, so children and students should get involved in their city and ask the question, how can I serve my city?"

Blood Drive

El Rancho High School

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2014
Time: 8 am to 3 pm
Location: New Gym
Contact: To sign up, please see Mr. Sorenson, Key Club Advisor in Room Q2

Free Thank you gift to all donors

For questions regarding donor eligibility, please contact the PIH Health Blood Donor Center at (562) 789-5433

Before Donating

- Be in good health
- Eat a nutritious meal
- Drink plenty of water
- Weigh at least 113 pounds
- You can donate blood every 56 days
- Bring valid photo I.D.
- Be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed parental consent)
- No tattoos or piercings within the last 12 months
- You can donate blood every 56 days

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BUSINESS

Teen Court Members

1. Juan Flores
2. Erika Hernandez
3. Ivan Cruz
4. Gilbert Barrios
5. Janelle Mercado
6. Kimberly Serrano
7. David Hughes
8. Diego Cervantes
9. Gabriella Magana
10. Karla de la Torre
11. Emily Pena
12. Crystal Chavez
13. Sabrina Moreno
14. Jessica Mancera
15. Biane Arias
16. Elizabeth Jacome
17. Jonathan Contreras
18. Adrian Loera
19. Sonya Ochoa
20. Rocio Camacho
21. Derick Villatuerte
22. Adrian Flores
23. Albert Moreno
24. Randy Valenzuela
25. Adam Martinez
26. Jose Lara
27. Narai Soto
28. Briana Alcalá
29. Leslie Plaza
30. Clarissa Rodriguez
31. Rebecca Guzman
32. Areanna Figueroa
33. Kimberly Jacinto
34. Jasmine Armas
35. Darwin Reyes

El Rancho Teen Court continues a tradition of excellence



Teen Court members gather in Mr. Elias's room to discuss upcoming cases involving troubled teens in the community.

BY DARWIN REYES

The El Rancho Teen Court is beginning its fourth year with the task of outperforming itself from its previous years. This includes the participation of over 800 students in its court sessions.

While most teen courts in California have an average attendance of 35 students per court session, El Rancho averages over 100 students per session, making it one of the largest teen courts in California. An important contribution to the court's attendance is its innovative year-round teen court club, which

keeps the student interest to a fevered pitch and allows for a strict program of self-improvement.

The club concept in building teen courts has now become a "Best Practice" in the state of California. El Rancho has established a positive reputation among other teen courts with the inclusion of a court psychologist. Dr. Rebecca Marin is an El Rancho High School graduate who is assisting the court in developing procedures. Her presence will enable student defendants and families to successfully carry out their court sentences.

Throughout the summer,

the Teen Court officers also attended the California Association of Youth Court Summit, which allowed them to take an inventory of other Teen Courts. The summit also allowed the students to compare themselves to other youth courts and weigh the amount of progress they share and exchange tips on different methodology. As always, El Rancho did not disappoint as the "model Teen Court" stated from the honorable presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Mr. Wesley. Other courts are impressed to know the club has had a court psychologist working by their

side and have begun to branch out to suspension cases, which links them to the District powers.

The Annual Summit also brought forth a series of workshops held in the campus of Sonoma State University. The workshops pertained to modern criminology. They offer training in the delicate questioning of criminal situations, such as human trafficking. The members of Teen Court have kept momentum and continue to seek the perfectly suited group of individuals.

Congratulations to the new and returning members of Teen Court.

The Entrepreneur Club's new beginning

BY JENNIFER DELGADO

What is an entrepreneur? An entrepreneur is a person who organizes and conducts a business, taking risks by investing money to make more money.

The entrepreneur club here at El Rancho aims to provide opportunities in which students can access entrepreneurial resources, network with other entrepreneurs in our community, and share ideas concerning the club.

The club is dedicated to furthering the understanding about new and small businesses in the community.

Our contract with Pico Rivera's Chamber of Commerce offers El Rancho students the opportunity to work as interns for the city, which provides students with first hand experience.

Our current contract with Wendy's restaurant has been renewed and will be used to sell their merchandise at El Rancho's lunch carnivals in order to increase our profit and help other sports and organizations in our campus financially.

Our plan: In hopes of providing new and exciting ways for significant information to roam and educate the residents of Pico Rivera, we plan to create a new television broadcast program for



Entrepreneur Presidents Johanna Martinez, Anthony Raymundo, and Jennifer Delgado.

all ages with the help of El Rancho's new Broadcasting Club.

We plan to create a business academy designed to educate students about today's economy, thus furthering the student's understanding of financial terms (such as how to pay taxes, how to balance income, etc.) Such

terms are expected to be utilized on a daily basis in adulthood.

We plan on sending emails to Pico Rivera inhabitants and create an alternative source of news feed, which will include news from the El Rancho Unified School District middle schools, elemen-

tary schools, and the city itself.

By doing so this will inform the Pico Rivera residents about current events and any activities done through the school systems and parks.

Want to be part of the club? Join us every first Thursday of the month in room P2!

WELCOME

Dons welcome fifteen new staff members



Mr. Donahue, Geometry teacher in room A-203, loves the ocean and being a new don.



Ms. Aguilar, English 9 CP and Language! teacher in room L-2, spends her summers working as a book publisher.



Mr. Newton, English 9 and 10 CP teacher in room Y-2, is an Indiana Hoosier and a chili cook off champion.



Ms. Castillo, Spanish 1 & 2 teacher in room 0-5, loves to travel and coaches water polo in Whittier and El Rancho.



Ms. Maldonado, Biology 9 and Biology Concepts teacher in room A-206, owns her own band.



Ms. Martinez, in the Special Education department in room G-2, is an alumni from El Rancho who loves pit bull dogs.



Mrs. Gregg, English 9 & 11 CP teacher in room H-4, has been a comic book lover since age six. She is also a big fan of the band, The Remotes.



Ms. Salcedo, U.S. History teacher in room P-5, was raised in El Monte and is a huge Green Bay Packers fan.



Mr. Sanchez, in the Math department in room J-8, is a Mexican and Italian food enthusiast.



Mr. Weir, General Science and Chemistry teacher in room N-4, has a black belt in karate.



Mr. Zhu, Physics teacher in room M-1, was born in China. He is a Canadian citizen and enjoys Kung Fu.



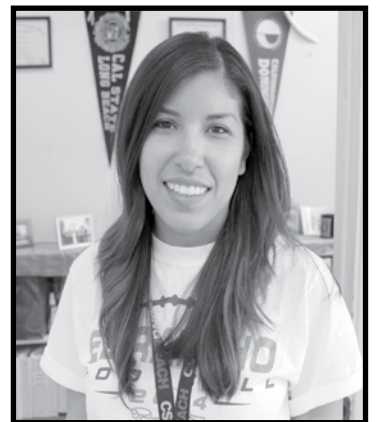
Ms. Gollette, in the Special Education department in room A-209, enjoys kayaking and traveling with the gadabouts.



Mr. Yost, a new football coach and World History teacher in room P-3, has a dog named Dodger.



Ms. Trujillo, Spanish 1 & 2 teacher in room P-6, loves to travel. Her favorite food is chicken wings.



Ms. Nasouf, new College and Career Counselor in room G-2, is a CSULB alumni and huge dog lover.

WORD ON THE STREET

What is your favorite thing about high school so far?



I like the teachers and students in high school. They're all nice.

-Desiree Lopez 9th



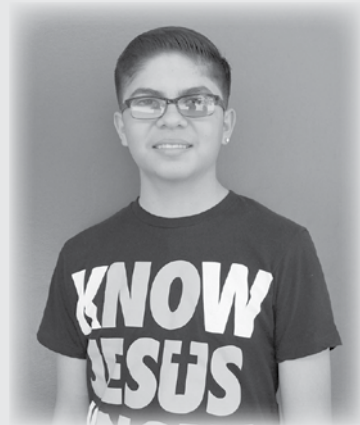
I like the academics and sports that high school has to offer.

-Nicholas Barrientos 9th



I like all the sports and the teachers. The students here are nice and helpful.

-Brianna Bernier 9th



It's cool to be in the band and watch the varsity football team play.

-Joseph Molina 9th



My favorite thing so far has been joining volleyball. It has helped me make a lot of new friends.

-Emily Reyes 9th

CAMPUS

Dons usher in the new school year



The senior class shows off their school spirit and dominates the Welcome Back Assembly.



Jorge Arreguin and Katie at the Welcome Back Dance.



Bianca Becerra cheering at a home game.



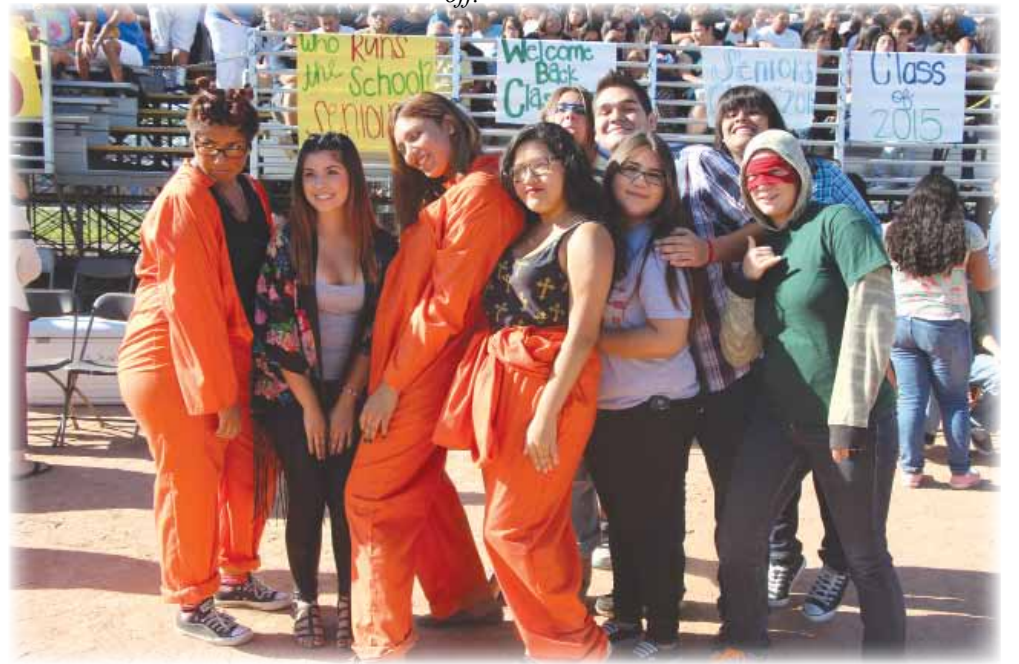
Colorguard showing off their blue pride at the football game.



Senior Daniel Garcia showing hard work pays off.



El Rancho students take part in College Night in the gym.



Drama team comes together after fierce family feud to demonstrate the true pillar of caring.



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FREE FAMILY FRIGHT NIGHT!

SAT, OCT 25

5:00 - 8:00PM

SMITH PARK • 6016 ROSEMEAD BLVD.

#SmithParkInvasion

FEATURES

ALS awareness reaches the Ranch

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) ice bucket challenge is a trending sensation that has swept across the nation in the attempt to raise awareness. ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a rare neurodegenerative disorder with various causes.

The disease is characterized by muscle spasticity and weakness due to muscle wasting. The effects include difficulty while speaking, swallowing, and breathing.

The disease commonly begins at around the age of sixty, but in inherited cases, it can begin up to ten years earlier. The average survival rate from diagnoses to death is about three to four years. Only four percent of those affected survive longer than ten years. In the United States, more than 5,600 people are diagnosed every year.

The Ice Bucket Challenge was then utilized as a method to spread awareness of the disease and raise money via the Internet. Social media sites are exploding with videos containing the hash tag, #IceBucketChallenge.

The challenge involves people soaking themselves with buckets of ice water and capturing it on video. They then post that video to social media sites, and nominate others to do the same. The people can either accept the challenge or



The boys' varsity basketball team is a proud supporter of the ALS Association.

donate to the ALS Association.

The El Rancho Boys Varsity Basketball team decided to rise to the challenge as they found themselves nominated by Whittier High School. The team took the challenge and performed it on August 30th after basketball practice. Senior Mark Zesati said it was quite easy to get the team to agree to perform the chilling task since it was for a noble cause.

The team was able to raise approximately one hundred dollars, which was immediately donated to the ALS Association. Senior Daniel Garcia says, "It's a good cause; it raises money for people in need."

Many people have wondered whether the Ice Bucket Challenge has simply become a water wasting trend, or an actual act of selflessness. Are teens actually aware of what ALS is, or are they simply doing it to get Instagram likes? Garcia says. "It helps if you do it for the actual cause but if your reason is only for the trend, then it is pointless." Zesati agrees that the Ice Bucket Challenge has had a positive effect on the Internet community. He admits to not have been familiar with ALS until the challenge, and is now thankful for the knowledge he has acquired.

The challenge has raised

over 100 million dollars and has had donations ranging from one dollar to \$200,000. ALS has caught the attention of many people; celebrities such as Justin Bieber, Chris Pratt, Kim Kardashian, Lady Gaga, and Iggy Azalea have embraced the challenge and have encouraged their fans to take part in the action.

The boy's basketball team nominated the football team, softball team, girl's volleyball team, and pepsters. We are now eager to see more Dons exercise the fifth pillar of character (caring) and accept the challenge to continue raising money for the charitable cause.

Broadcasting Club brings new style



President, Jacob Fanshaw, directing an official meeting.

BY RANDY LAZARO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you've been to any of the football games this year, then you have heard the voice of the Broadcasting Club president Jacob Fanshaw and camerawoman Emily James. This year they will be covering numerous events on campus ranging from sports events to Night Pep Rally, so be prepared to hear their sweet voices.

Fanshaw says it all began with a couple of students doing everything through an iPhone. After a while, they began gaining momentum, eventually expanding their interests to a club with endless possibilities. Fanshaw adds, "The goal is for other schools to aspire to have a program such as this."

The students are stepping up with a new way of reporting. The club serves not only as a means to report the scores of the games but also to show the students how it feels to be in the broadcasting field. Those interested in a career in broadcasting should definitely check out the meetings.

Meetings are held every Thursday in Mrs. Senteno's room, 1-6. During meetings, each person is assigned a role in the upcoming events.

Students then take part in the gathering of information by searching for stats on the players and the team rosters.

The videos recorded by James are currently in the process of being turned into podcasts. This will greatly increase the audience of the sports teams by allowing those who did not attend the sports games to still keep up with scores and plays.

Even with the advances, James says, "The technology and funds still aren't the greatest, but the staff is growing and we have ways of fundraising."

The club will be selling Shirley Temples at the Homecoming Carnival, so go show your support at their booth.

The next game Fanshaw and James will be covering will be tonight's football game. The game will be at home against Diamond Ranch at 7 p.m. If you watch closely, you might catch a glimpse of the spirit of the Broadcasting Club.

Armando Osorio is simply irresistible



Osorio, a modern cavalier, keeping an eye out for Ms. Potential in a world of foxy ladies.

BY JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Smart. Sexy. Fun. These are the words that come to mind when one thinks of El Rancho senior Armando Osorio. Hailing from the beautiful streets of Brooklyn, Osorio has been known to shake things up at campus with his trend-

setting fashion sense coupled with his undying spice for life.

Osorio can be heard in various classrooms telling a joke or three, or tapping his feet in tasteful patterns. His natural humor and mannerisms will have kids gasping for air faster than the school's spicy chicken sandwiches.

Talking to this kid is cer-

tainly a plus, especially if you are the one who loves to put El Scorcho sauce on your Del Taco.

As a matter of fact, this lovely chili is a great swing with the ladies. This sweet, caring, and did I mention single, man will have you in his arms with a single twinkle of his eye.

Although Mr. Don Juan

loves all women, this fit 5'5'er usually sticks to women his height. He looks for someone that can match his sense of humor and is "undramatic, spontaneous, and loves bacon."

Ladies, do you have long nails? Well, if you do, cut them down to the nub because Osorio's #wcv features short-nailed stallions.

"Long nails can be clingy," he says.

Not only is Osorio a natural "fella" with the ladies, but he is also known to be quite the Dave Grohl.

His idea of a fun time would include banging on the drums to songs with "double bass patterns because it makes you feel like you're floating."

"Percussion is a big part of my life," Osorio says. "I can always make a beat out of anything." Whether or not he's wailing beats on the drums faster than Eminem can rap lines or playing slow smooth bops to serenade the ladies, Osorio can definitely alter the moods of many, making him another plus to add to your group of cronies.

A musical prodigy and a smooth gentleman, Armando Osorio is "Simply Irresistible." Ladies and germs, you better add this hot chili pepper to your contacts quickly before it's too late!

EVENTS

 PICO RIVERA SHERIFF'S STATION
HAUNTED JAIL & OPEN HOUSE



SATURDAY · OCTOBER 18TH
 FREE · 11AM - 4PM

Beware of the ghouls and goblins lurking through the Pico Rivera Jail! Join us for a scary afternoon with free treats for kids. The open house features information and exhibits on local law enforcement.

Please support the holiday food drive by bringing can goods and non-perishable items. Collected food to be distributed to Pico Rivera residents in need.


PICO RIVERA SHERIFF'S STATION
 6631 Passons Blvd. (562) 949-2421

TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR HUNGER
 SMITH PARK POOL DECK • 6016 ROSEMEAD BLVD

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18
 8:30AM - 12:30PM

Volunteer for a good cause! Volunteers will go door-to-door collecting canned food and non-perishable items. All collected items are distributed to needy residents by the Pico Rivera Christmas Baskets Committee at the annual Christmas Baskets Distribution on December 13. Light breakfast provided.

For more information, call (562) 801-4430 or fill out a volunteer application at pico.rivera.org.



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Please come out and support the Pico Rivera Christmas Basket Committee at our Trick-or-Treat for Hunger Event. Volunteers will go door to door collecting canned food and non perishable items. All items collected will be distributed to needy residents in Pico Rivera.

Date: Saturday October 18

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m

Where: Smith Park Pool Deck 6016 Rosemead Blvd. Pico Rivera, CA 90660

Don't forget to bring comfortable shoes! Bags and wagons are encouraged if available!!!!

WORD ON THE STREET

What are your academic goals this year and why?



I'm aiming for a 4.3 G.P.A.

-Jennifer Guerra 11th



My goals are to pass both of my AP tests and classes.

-Samantha Leggis 10th



I want to have high grades in my classes to get a good G.P.A.


-Kaitlyn Berrospe 11th



I'm trying to keep my G.P.A. over a 3.0 because I want to succeed to be able to have a career.

-Alexis Quintanilla 9th

SENIOR CALENDAR

- Oct 1:** Cal State open to applications. 
- Oct 3:** Late deadline for the ACT on October 25th; Fee waiver is no longer applicable.
- Oct 4:** Last day to take Senior Portraits.
- Oct 7:** Whittier College reps visit.
- Oct 9:** Deadline to sign up for SAT in November.
- Oct 11:** SAT exam.
- Oct 13:** SoKa University reps visit.
- Oct 24:** "15" class picture.
- Oct 25:** ACT exam.
- Oct 28:** Late deadline for the SAT on November 8th; Fee waiver is no longer applicable.
- Oct 30:** Mt. St. Mary's college reps visit
- Oct 31:** Last day to get athletically cleared for powderpuff.

SPORTS

Buenrostro and Delgado ready to lead girls' tennis



Team captains Erica Buenrostro and Jennifer Delgado will go up against Pioneer.

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the pre-season ending and season beginning, the varsity tennis team welcomes its new captains. Through elections, the girls voted on seniors Jennifer Delgado and Erica Buenrostro to become 2014-2015 varsity tennis captains.

Both Delgado and Buenrostro earned their spots as captains on the varsity team after reciting speeches to the rest of

the girls. "Each girl that would have liked to become a captain for the 2014 season gave a speech about why they should be captain," says Delgado. "The speech had to be about why that person felt like they had the qualities to be a captain," Buenrostro added.

After the speeches, each girl on the tennis team was allowed two votes, which were later counted by Mr. Eduardo Galindo, their tennis coach. After the count, Delgado and Buenrostro had the

most votes and as a result became captains of the varsity team.

As captains, both of these girls have many responsibilities. "As a captain, one of my responsibilities is to present at all tennis events. I am also responsible for coming up with ideas to help raise money for the team," says Buenrostro. "I offer any fundraising ideas I have that will raise money for tennis along with helping the coach with any tennis related activities," Delgado added.

In addition to coming up with new ideas for fund-raisers and attending all tennis events, captains are required to help every individual on the team. "I make myself available to help my teammates and I try to make sure that all the girls on the tennis team know I am available for any help they need on and off the courts," says Delgado.

Although both Delgado and Buenrostro enjoy being on the tennis team, they both agree that sometimes balancing tennis and school gets difficult. "It gets pretty difficult to balance school with tennis, especially since Mr. Galindo is always on top of us when it comes to grades," says Buenrostro. "I try to finish my homework during lunch and I try to finish all my work during class, that way I do not have as much homework to work on after practice," she added.

Delgado agrees with Buenrostro about balancing school and tennis. "Balancing school and tennis is not easy but it is possible. I know if my grades begin to drop, then I am jeopardizing my eligibility to play. Therefore I make sure to maintain my grades," says Delgado. "If I am going to miss class due to a tennis event I know I am responsible for staying on track. I know my main priorities as both a student

and an athlete is to be organized with my activities," she added.

The captains have very ambitious goals for this season that just started. "My goal for my team and myself for this season is for all of us to do our very best," says Delgado. "As a team I would like to see us rank in the top three for the Del Rio League. I have no doubt that this year will be a successful," she says.

Buenrostro has similar goals to Delgado. "For this season, one of the main goals I wish to reach as team is to qualify for CIF," says Buenrostro. "Our team this year, is pretty strong, so I hope to accomplish that goal," she adds.

Delgado believes that practice is very important in order to improve their skills. "We practice daily in order to improve our skills and tackle any weaknesses. Along with strengthening our game, it is important for us to be motivated," says Delgado. "We must stay positive throughout the entire season and pick each other up when someone is feeling discouraged," she added.

With a pre-season record of 3-4, and a victorious first game of the season, the girl's tennis team hopes to achieve their goals in making it to CIF. Their next game will be against Pioneer on September 30th at 3:15 pm at Whittier Narrows.

Cross country team off to another strong start



Members of Cross Country take a break after running.

BY SALONI PATEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Cross Country team competed in their first race on September 6, 2014 at Running Brave Invitational. The team took three 1st place medals: junior boys, sophomore boys, and frosh boys.

Top female runner, Melissa Gutierrez, believes the team is "Starting off new this year..." The team has to adjust to new changes with a new coach and new members of the team. Melissa hopes "to strive for CIF this year, if not next year!"

Juan Carlos Sanchez, a senior runner, is more optimistic about the upcoming season. He believes the race "started the year off in a cool way." He

is "positive that [the team] can win league this year." Sanchez is sure that the team is capable of making the best of this season.

Juan Flores, who did not race due to injuries, is equally as hopeful that the team will reach new heights this season.

He claims the team is very motivated and is comfortable in the new environment created by the new coaches' this year.

Senior runner, Sabrina Moreno views their upcoming season with a different angle of improvement. She feels that as a team they "... did good but there is always room for improvement." Moreno and the rest of the team have started off the season strong and will hopefully continue strong.

ER football has high hopes for the season

BY FRANCISCO RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho football team is striving for a successful season this year. The squad wants to do their best to reach the top for the team and for themselves.

This year's varsity team, according to captains and coaches, mostly consists of senior classmen. Although many of these seniors were not starters last year, they are ready to show the Dons that they belong on the field and are up for the challenge.

The players continue to improve and are hoping to win league and reach playoffs this year. Varsity captains Andrew Perea, Richard Cuellar, Andrew Palacios, and Isaiah Copado are prepared to lead the team this season.

The football team began with a victorious scrimmage game against Schurr High school. Then the Dons football team kicked off the season with three non-conference games.

The Dons faced Claremont for their first pre-season game. This match could have gone either way but, in the end, the Dons fought their way to a 47-24 victory. As a result, the team's morale improved and motivated them for the next game.

Troy proved to be the next obstacle for the Dons in the second game. El Rancho played hard, but was defeated in a close 21-28 game. However, the Dons weren't ready to give up just yet.

In the third game they showcased



El Rancho celebrates after scoring a touchdown against Clairmont

their true abilities against Montebello and dominated them 42-7.

According to Coach Lopez, "the team looks young and inexperienced, [but] the guys just need some varsity experience for when league gets here." Furthermore, Coach Lopez reminds the Dons that their "biggest competition will again be La Serna."

The team is training hard and is pushing themselves to reach the playoffs.

Varsity captain and quarterback, Andrew Perea says, "We have a really young team, but we have grown a lot."

Like his teammates, Perea believes the Don's football team "will do pretty well this year."

Cuellar agrees with Perea saying, "We have a pretty good squad," and this year's, the Dons football team is, "very confident."

The Dons have had a strong start to their pre-season. They are ready to show everyone that they can be number one. Anything can go this season, but the Dons are rooting for the best outcome possible. Today at 7 p.m. come support the Dons as they take on Diamond Ranch at Don Memorial Stadium.

SPORTS

New coaches, new teams, new beginnings



Girls' varsity, junior varsity, and freshman volleyball teams are united as a big happy family working hard towards a common goal: winning league.

BY VANESSA GOMEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Record-wise, last year did not turn out to be the best for the girls' volleyball team. However, the team has taken this experience and interpreted it as motivation for the upcoming season. Vanessa Sanchez says, "[Mrs. Picon] taught me a lot on and off the court and helped me grow not only as a player, but also as a person and that is something I will carry on for the rest of my life."

Lynn Lawson, the new girls' varsity volleyball coach,

has observed the "close knit team, dedicated players, and talent" which will make this season one to remember. "At first, it was hard to adjust because he is a new coach, but [the environment] was very positive and it was easy to tell that he cared about [the team]," says junior Destiny Johnson. After all the long practices, Crystal Lopez believes that this year's volleyball team "is different from last year because [they] have now grown as a family little by little." Lopez expressed her love for the sport and said, "Volleyball is more of a sport that re-

quires everyone to get together as a team and learn how to be friends on and off the court." Lopez feels all their hard work will allow this season to produce great results.

For sophomore Amy Rodriguez the new season was "hard, but seeing how [Sylvia Elliot, the new Junior Varsity coach] works, the entire team seems to be working hard giving more dedication" for the upcoming volleyball season. Rodriguez also believes the strong bond the team is building with other activities will soon showcase their talent.

El Rancho Alumni, Ana

Blas has returned to the campus to coach the freshman volleyball team and feels proud seeing the girls give it their best. Blas will make sure this year's freshman team shines by "pushing them when they feel down and working them out." Blas assures a "really good future varsity volleyball team" with the techniques she has been using with her freshman team. For freshmen Amy Reyes and Jennifer Hermosa, the El Rancho volleyball team has really made them feel at home and made the transition to a new school much easier. They both feel the

support of their higher leveled teammates. Hermosa thanks "the varsity girls who really support [the freshman team] as if [they] were their younger sisters."

The entire volleyball team, including the coaches, expects a great outcome in the girls' fall season with the talent and dedication they have all shown in their summer practices. They are all ready for what this season brings confidently knowing it will be a great year. The girl's volleyball team encourages El Rancho students to attend their games and show support for the 2014 team.

Najar and Murrillo demonstrate their dedication to the team



Senior captains, Anthony Najar and Nick Murrillo's optimism is contagious and is sure to spread to the rest of the water polo team.

BY BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year's boys' water polo team began pre-season with a positive attitude after defeating La Mirada High School with a score of 16-9.

Winning the first game of pre-season proved to the team's coach, Mr. Pringle, that the hours put into the 6 a.m. and afternoon practices have been worth it.

This has greatly improved the team's chances of potentially competing in CIF.

"I feel that we have a very great work ethic, lots of team work, and a positive attitude. I think that we're starting off the season in a better spot than last year," says Pringle.

Pringle appointed seniors Nick Murrillo and Anthony "Bieber" Najar as this year's water polo captains. Both boys have been a part of the water polo team since their freshman year and have proven their dedication to the team.

Pringle says that he likes the example Murrillo and Najar have set for the rest of the boys by showing how impor-

tant water polo is to them.

"I think [their attitude] rubbed off on everybody, so it was an easy choice," says Pringle.

Murrillo hopes that he can lead this year's team by "making sure everyone puts in 100% of their effort at practice and during games."

While Najar plans to help the team run plays and "improve what [they've] been working on since day one."

Pringle believes that the team has the ability to compete for a league title, win a game in CIF, and make top 10 in CIF Division 5. "All those goals are realistic," says Pringle.

The team demonstrated their teamwork by winning various competitions against schools such as Mark Keppel, Garden Grove, and in their most recent game against Warren High.

Murrillo says, "We're not letting anything get in our way. I feel we're going to make it far into season if we keep playing the way that we are," adding, "we're going for that league title."

The Dons first home league game will be against Whittier on Tuesday, October 7 at 3:15 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Library Corner

Match the amazing female character to the title of the book. The first three students who bring the correct written answers to the Library will receive a prize. ONE entry per student.



1. Tris
2. Scout
3. Meg Murry
4. Celie
5. Mirabal Sisters



- a. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
- b. The Color Purple by Alice Walker
- c. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- d. Divergent by Veronica Roth
- e. In the Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez



If I Stay: Disappointment to many



BY JANELLE MERCADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A theatrical version of Gayle Forman's bestselling 2009 novel, *If I Stay*, depicts a tear-jerking, yet, ardent love story between young cellist, Mia Hall, and IndiePunk rocker, Adam Wilde.

Having to decide between life and death whilst in a coma, Mia, played by seventeen-year-old Chloe Grace Moretz, recounts the heartening and devastating events leading up to her traumatic car accident.

From stirring moments of romance to bitter arguments, the couple, for an instance, loses touch altogether creating a perplex silence amongst the audience.

Mia, haunted with the painstaking task of deciding whether or not to attend Juilliard School of the Arts, and Adam, about to embark on a tour, slowly separate.

Recounting the event of her breakup, Mia discovers the recent death of her brother and doubts the benefit of living.

As she nearly steps into the light, Adam expresses his love for

her, bringing the audience to tears. The audience is left to decide whether Mia chooses life or death.

An illustration of Forman's novel, *If I Stay* accumulated a total of \$1.1M several weeks after its release. The film, however, lacks the ability to smoothly transition from and to current events of Mia's life, which confused the audience.

The fact that a narration of Chloe Grace Moretz's character appeared necessary for the movie's success proves the director's inability

to construct an elaborate film.

If I Stay is a success to those who do not concern themselves with a movie's complexity and somewhat of a failure to those that do. If this film did not fulfill your expectations based on the novel, then it is highly suggested to read the sequel, *Where She Went*.

The second novel is told through the perspective of Adam Wilde. It also includes the answer to the end of the first novel, which is "did Mia live" and if so, "what or who did she choose?"

U2 invading the world one device at a time



BY SARA ARUJO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Irish rock band U2, once known for their rooted post-punk sound, has rocked the world once again, but this time people are responding in a less than positive way.

This is due to a recent incident where Apple allowed U2 to have their new album, *Songs of Innocence*, automatically downloaded into millions of iTunes libraries. U2's generous "gift" caused a public outburst, which was largely fueled by social media at the time of release.

Many iTunes users were dismayed by the fact that U2's album was automatically synced into their libraries. Some claim that it almost felt like an invasion of privacy. Others took it to another level and were distraught at the fact that U2's album had disrupted their carefully cultivated music library.

All these people believed that no permission whatsoever was asked of them, when in fact there was. Somewhere in Apple's long and seemingly pointless terms and agreements, that we all mindlessly click "agree" to, there is indeed a portion stating that Apple will automatically download content for you.

The public cannot truly complain about Apple syncing the album when they, themselves, agreed to those "terms and conditions." On a positive note, however, U2 garnered tons of publicity as a result of their little stunt. Even though it was met with negative feedback, U2 made the world notice them once again.

