



El Rodeo



Visit the Little Theater for Wlasick's latest production



Isaac Carlos, Vanessa Espinoza, and Daniel Lopez connect with their characters on the stage.

BY SAMANTHA BERROSPE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This weekend, the drama department presents *The Visit*, a play about a vengeful, stubborn, old woman who returns to her hometown and offers the townspeople, an unexpected gift.

Not only will this gift fill the town with hope for a prosperous future, but it will also force them to tap into the deepest part of their soul and force them to make a life altering decision; humanity or greed.

The two leads in this year's play are junior, Vanessa Espinoza and senior, Daniel Lopez. Both drama students have been in past productions, yet both said that *The Visit* has been one of the most risky and challenging plays they've undertaken.

Devoted actress, Espinoza, took a personal risk to become more associated with her character. "I had to dye my hair! I didn't have to, but I wanted too, just so that I could feel a little more like the character I play," says Espinoza. Her dedication to play-

ing this role was apparent, when in full costume her demeanor changed and truly became her character.

Initially, Lopez had difficulties getting into his character as well. Lopez says, "Actually learning how my character reacts, how my character stands, how my character thinks, was the hardest part. I've never played an "aged man" before so, learning how he stands, how he thinks, was very hard to get into that mind-set."

Lopez had to dig deep to bring his character to life. "The most difficult thing was connecting my life with Anton Schill, because there are a couple of times in the scenes where he breaks down, mentally, so I needed to learn how I could tap into that... so I could know what he feels."

The actors spent hours upon hours rehearsing and perfecting this year's play. Becoming these characters took dedication, long hours and much of their free time. Junior Scottie Estrada said, "Most of the cast is used to being comedic, so it was definitely a challenge for all of us to have dramatic parts and to be seen as a serious cast."

Daniel Lopez shared a sincere message about working with his fellow cast mates and friends, "... the cast, the ensemble, and how we come together as a community is amazing! We learned how much being a group is important and how well we work together."

Estrada says, "People should come and see *The Visit* because it's cool to see your friends as someone they're not. It's weird to see the person that sit next to in math class be a rich, old woman who's super vicious, you know? I think everyone should see a show, a live performance once because it's a very hard thing to do and you should definitely put your hands up for everybody who does it because it is really difficult." Also, as Lopez says, "the liveliness of this play, and how well we [The cast] show our emotions, is what people will see if they watch the play."

So head on down with your friends and family and visit the Little Theater to see... (pause for dramatic effect) *The Visit*.

Dons welcome Beijing students to campus for 5th consecutive year

BY ALEXIS REYNA PARRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For its fifth year in a row, El Rancho High School is welcoming Chinese foreign exchange students to our campus. These Beijing students are participating in a foreign exchange student program where the courses they take here count toward their education in China.

On the day of their arrival, numerous ASB members, Link Crew Leaders, and faculty greeted all twenty-four foreign exchange students. At the greeting, they were introduced to the El Rancho student they will be shadowing for their entire visit. The person they shadow is not the person who is hosting them.

The exchange students shadow ASB members and Link Leaders who are comfortable enough to share their daily routine with them. Senior, Francisco Garcia said, "Since my freshman year I always thought it would be cool to have a student from China following me around to get to know them and their culture."

Although most high school students would be opposed to the idea of sharing their eight hour school day with a complete stranger, El Rancho High School senior Vanessa Torres-Celaya said "It's interesting. I like how I get to ask questions about them and get to know them while they get to know me too."

El Rancho students have been learning from the visiting foreign exchange students the basis of a typical school day in China. Classes begin around seven-thirty in the morning and end around five o'clock. Students have at least seven classes and the interesting part is that instead of the students moving from class to class the teachers do.



The visiting Beijing students pose for a photo in the El Rancho quad.

A handful of these foreign exchange students have actually been to the United States before, one of these students goes by the English name "Wayne." Wayne is not only a fan of his "cool" Link Leader Jonathan Contreras, but also of the "more freedom you have choosing your classes along with some open time to spend with friends." A friend of Wayne, also a foreign exchange student, Alexia, agrees with him about the freedom, but also enjoys just attending a productive science class.

Foreign exchange students don't live in hotels, but with families that have the room to host one or two

of them. El Rancho High School counselor Mrs. Arriola and her husband have been hosting foreign exchange students in their home for the past three years. Arriola, "enjoys hosting these students although it is a lot of work." One of the things Arriola has to do when housing visiting students is incorporate meat into some of her dishes because her and her husband are vegetarians.

When asked if she learns anything from her foreign exchange students Arriola said, "If there are any misconceptions about their culture or their country they can clear it up for you."

Focus on
Teen Employment
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Sports Zone
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Good luck to the following Decathletes who will be competing this weekend in the LA County Southeast Regional competition!

Christopher Ramos, Marcela Cisneros, Olivia Ball, Sidney Carroll, Manny Cruz, Marissa Armstrong, Alexis O'Neal, Elizabeth Martinez, & Mia Alvarez

Freedom of speech on social media taken too far?

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

ch-blop “That chick in fifth period is such a ***** #NoLife #WhatALoser”

In recent years, social media has become the most popular outlet for expressing opinions, thoughts, feelings, etc., in which there are almost no boundaries to what can or cannot be posted. As the popularity of this platform grows, so do the number of users that exercise their ‘freedom of speech’ on a regular basis.

More and more teenagers are given free range on social media. According to the Pew Research Center’s Teens, Social Media & Technology Report, 92% of teenagers in the US go online daily and 33% of teens have access to a Twitter account.

Social media gives the youth of the Internet a platform on which to stand in the world. Teenagers can say whatever they want, for good or for worse, and they will be heard.

However, one can only ask: is this copious amount of power becoming a problem?

Many students in high school are familiar with accounts, more than often anonymous, made to “expose” the secrets of their peers. A well-known local account would be SoCal Confessions. This site was made for the sole purpose of sending in confessions or pictures about people in their school, regardless of credibility, to be posted on Twitter, along with a caption of their school name/.

Students may not see this as a problem, but this isn’t something that only happens within high schools. Social media users are beginning to see celebrities and politicians hop onto this “trend” of posting outlandish remarks without proof. Just check out Donald Trump’s Twitter account for an example.

Claiming the right to freedom of speech is becoming the most popular way to back up controversial or, “problematic”, posts on the Internet. However, not everyone is accepting that answer anymore.

“Just because you have freedom of speech doesn’t give you an excuse to be rude and hurtful,” says 16 year old junior, Isabel Gonzalez, “like, that’s on you.”

Their first amendment rights may back social media users, but is it becoming an abuse of power? “Oh, I think it is because just comments,

teacher and Twitter user, Carlos Melgar, “once it’s out there, it’s up there forever and people, whether it’s true or not, some people get hurt.”

There are many better alternatives to express one’s self when it comes to social media. Often times, people tend to choose the route that gives them the power to say anything without consequence.

“If you can’t say something to somebody’s face then you shouldn’t put it online,” says teacher and co-manager of the ERHS Twitter account, Phillip Rojo, “You know, that’s a good rule of thumb.”

Even after coming to terms with this information, what can be done about it? Is there a solution, and if so, what?

Rojo and El Rancho teacher, Claire Stubendorff, both seem to believe there’s a chance at fixing the problem at hand.

“I think the first thing is, you have to call people out when they do it,” says Rojo, “Step two begins with educating students and parents and teachers and the community about, you know, what is appropriate. Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should and when you do say something, you know, you’re accountable for your actions.”

Rojo also believes that retweeting posts without pointing out what is wrong, is another issue that needs to be addressed. “I’ve seen a lot of people put in their bios: ‘a retweet is not a[n] endorsement’ but,” he laughs, “it kind of is.”

“I think the solution is kind of the evolution of the teenager,” says Stubendorff, taking a different approach, “I see now, even more in your generation the intellectual awareness comments like ‘I defriended that person because all they post is stupid stuff about stupid people so I need to block that out of my life.’ So you guys are doing censorship already on your own where previous generations didn’t have that skill because they didn’t have to do it.”

Social media is always going to be here. No matter how many accounts are suspended, no matter how many Tweets are deleted, nothing will ever truly change. That is, unless, people start assessing these issues head on, on their own. If you see a “problematic” post, don’t be afraid to speak out.



people tend to make up phony names and they log on and they can just bash anybody and people will believe it,” says El Rancho

El Rodeo

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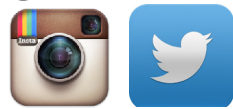
El Rodeo, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience’s issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors,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

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Obama's down-to-earth State of the Union

By MICHAEL NEELY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Raise minimum wage, reform criminal justice, abolish big money in politics, end gerrymandering, remake voting, hunt down and kill any terrorists who threaten the U.S., find a cure for cancer, supply African families with food, cure Malaria, personalize medical treatments, strengthen social security and medicare, fix the broken immigration system, make community college free, develop more clean energy sources, and shut down the Guantánamo Bay prison facility. President Barack Obama tackled all of these issues and more in his 8th and final State of the Union address. His honest and blunt hour-long speech listed all these priorities not just for 2016, but also for the future.

Obama's plan for America's future is definitely dense. He's displayed tremendous leadership and sophistication while undergoing countless much-needed changes. But there is still work that needs to be done.

The President endorses the increase of our minimum wage to compensate for today's expenses and to give, "equal pay for equal work."

He desires a reform to our courts, corrections, and rehabilitation centers. Currently, many sentences imposed by the courts do not correlate to the crime; instead of arresting our drug users and sending them to rot in prison, they should be sent to rehabilitation centers to overcome their addiction and improve their lives, a system adopted by many other countries. Drug dealers and users can serve years upon years in prison for only harming themselves, yet corrupt political influences financially destroy families and lives, only to repay a few weeks or months in prison, or merely to pay their way to freedom. This isn't justice; this is a plutocracy, and thankfully, Obama is fed up with this injustice.

Moreover, Obama addressed problematic gerrymandering (manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency so as to favor one party or class) and how it results in politicians choosing their constituents, instead of constituents choosing their politicians. He demands the

top 1% to end their reign on the U.S. by making voting easier, more 21st century, and more applicable. "We should make it easier for our citizens to vote, not harder," he said as he glanced disappointingly at the Republican Party.

He remarked on how the United States has led the fight in ceasing terrorist connections, disrupting their financing, and preventing further damages. In addition, he asks Congress to approve a bill that would allow the United States' military force to fight ISIL and put an end to their, "vicious ideology." His plan to rebuild the Middle East has been going successfully and he plans to continue it in order to assure a more peaceful world.

Due to Vice President Biden's recent loss of his son to cancer, Obama has placed Biden in charge of leading a group of scientists to expedite a cure and save millions of lives. America has always been full of innovative ideas and individuals, and he believes we can help the world with this issue. America is a great leader when it comes to preventing and curing diseases, such as when it stopped the outbreak of Ebola and cured Polio.

Similarly, African families are in dire need of food, shelter, and other necessities, so much so, that the president calls for the U.S. to supply all these items as well as to find the cure for Malaria.

President Obama requests the help of the American people; he needs their power to make politics a more amiable, welcoming, and benevolent system of public affairs. Our political ideologies should seek to have a sophisticated and solicitous debate, not direct insults to each other, and inciting countless fallacious arguments to support illogical and preposterous claims. American citizens need to be thoughtful, leave personal matters out of politics, and overall just respect one another's opinions; politics should be a fantastic social activity, it just needs some effort and morality from its leaders and citizens

Obama directed the issue of Social Security and Medicare budget cuts directly to the Republican Party, since its members are responsible for the decimation of their respective budgets. He demands the opposite and wants their support to increase; our elderly and disabled

need to be taken care of, not abandoned because the Republicans privatize the funds for their benefit. This is about taking care of our grandfathers, grandmothers, and handicapped friends and family, just as our children and grandchildren will do for us. The Social Security and Medicare budgets should increase to provide for all those who have worked all their life and all those who cannot work.

The president's latest immigration plan granted amnesty to many illegal immigrants who have resided in the U.S. for years; unsurprisingly, Congress rejected the plan, but has yet to offer a viable alternative solution. As the president states, if the Congress doesn't like his plan, come up with a new one, improve upon his, do something but don't just sit there complaining about how wrong it is instead of offering alternatives. If Congress refuses to do anything about our broken immigration system, then it doesn't have the right to throw a fit at another Executive Order since its members refuse to do their jobs.

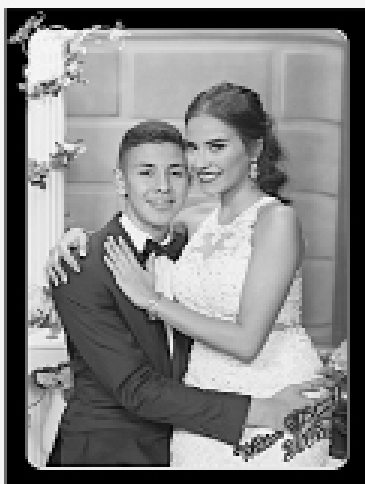
Obama's yearning for a tuition-free community college will come into effect in the upcoming months and years. Eventually, he wishes to have all colleges and universities to be free, but as Hadrian said, "brick by brick."

The threat of Climate Change arose as the president requested more clean energy sources to reduce the amount of carbon pollution on the planet. To any climate change deniers he said very bluntly, "If anyone still wants to dispute the science around climate change, you'll be debating our military, most of America's business leaders, the majority of the American people, almost the entire scientific community, and two hundred nations around the world who agree it's a problem and intend to solve it."

His last and arguably greatest endorsement was the shutting down of the Guantánamo Bay prison because the treatments there are immoral, unethical, and completely unnecessary.

With his two terms almost concluding, he must do everything in his power to keep the promises he's made to the American citizens. He has grown tired of the criticisms that have accompanied and knows that nothing will stand in his way of securing a bright and prosperous future for America.

Winter Formal 2016



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Qureshi helping to bring IB Program to the Ranch

BY HUGO MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Various schools have methods to prepare their students for college and El Rancho High School is preparing its students by beginning the International Baccalaureate Program.

The IB Diploma Program is recognized in universities all over the world. A two-year educational program that caters to students aged sixteen through nineteen, it was created in the 1960's in Switzerland and is taught in over one hundred and forty countries.

El Rancho Unified School District is currently in the "consideration stage," and some teachers like Kristin Palomares and Charissa Zeko have already been recruited and given the training needed for the program. If approved, IB will begin in the 2018-2019 school year.

The IB Program ultimately lets the teacher decide his/her own curriculum and what would be taught. This is beneficial because a lot of students grow bored of the "old fashioned" ways of learning, and this paves the way for a creative way of interaction.

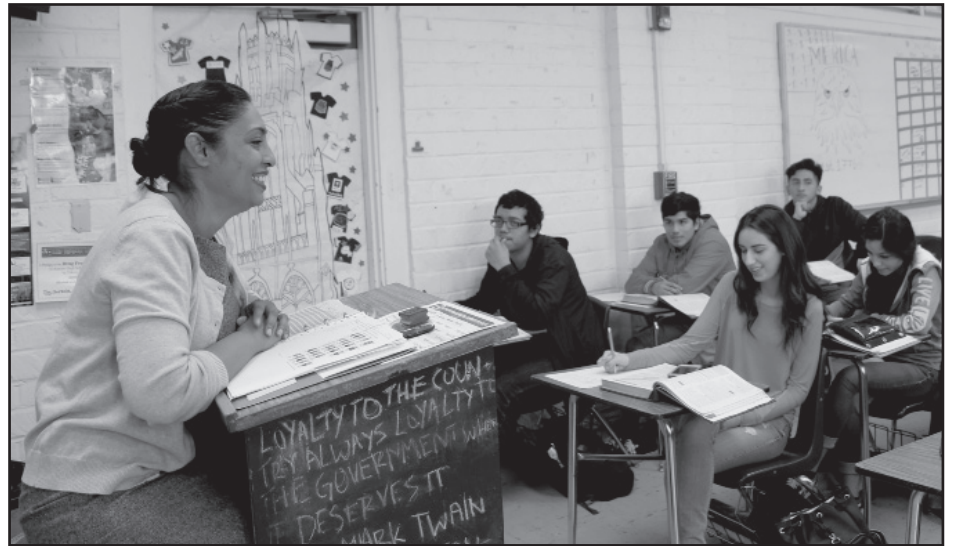
"The mission of this program is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable, and

cares young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect," says Jazmin Chavez-Diaz, assistant principal of curriculum at El Rancho High School. In a case study conducted by the International Baccalaureate Global Research Department, the Diploma Program was introduced to twelve Chicago schools and results showed that 77.2% of IB Diploma students went to a four-year college while only 53.3% of the comparison non-IB students attended four-year colleges.

This program will be a benefit to everyone because it requires every student to participate in some form of community service. This will prep the students to be more giving and more aware of their surroundings and how they can help their world become a better and more peaceful place.

"Many students want to get involved in the community and this program gives them that, it helps students challenge traditional thinking by making them create the questions," says Parvin Qureshi, AP and CP government teacher and Social Justice Club advisor.

The IB system offers six courses with three core courses to evolve students. Areas of study include; Studies in Lan-



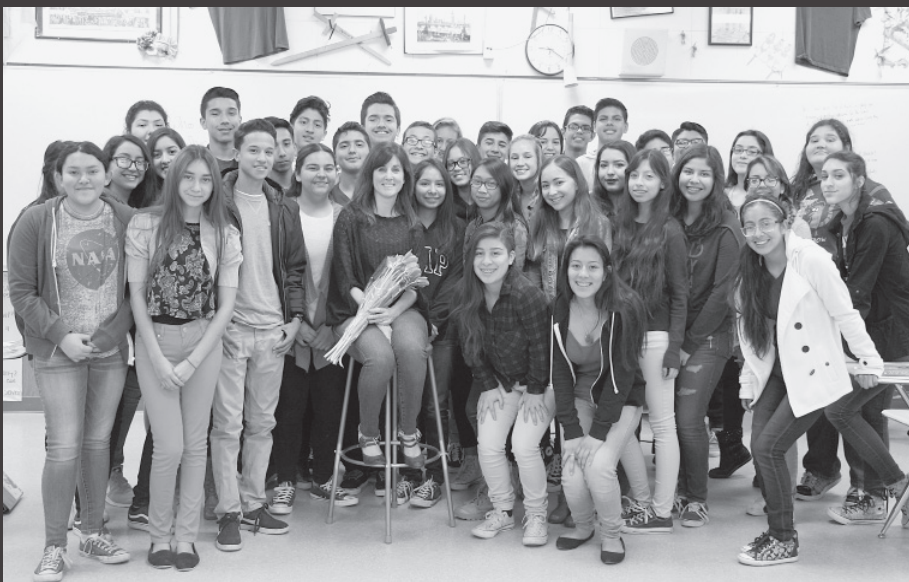
Qureshi teaching her 6th period class about United States government and politics.

guage and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, and the Arts. These areas will bring in new classes such as Business Management, Global Politics, Information Technology in a Global Society, Philosophy, Social and Cultural Anthropology, World Religions, Computer Science, and Design Technology. The core classes include Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Extended Essay (EE) and Creativi-

ty, Action, Service (CAS) which is the community service aspect of the programme.

"The full IB program will not take place until a student's junior year," says Chavez. To be selected for this a student should maintain at least a G.P.A of a 2.5 during 9th and 10th grade, also by their sophomore year they need to have taken at least one AP class. This program will further prepare the students for college and how to be more caring and open-minded.

Aspiring authors meet Carrie Arcos



Carrie Arcos poses with Zeko's 10th grade English class.

BY JENYFER LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Young Adult author and former El Rancho teacher, Carrie Arcos, returned to the Ranch to discuss her best selling novel, *Out of Reach*.

Charissa Zeko's honors English class had the chance to hear Arcos speak about her latest novel. Arcos advised students to, "read whatever you want, study your favorite writers."

Arcos mentioned being a professor at Cal State LA, but didn't forget to mention her experience coming back to El Rancho. "It was awesome, and I miss teaching here, I miss teaching high school," says Arcos.

Zeko was excited when Arcos agreed to visit the Ranch once again. "The kids loved her," said Zeko, "It was a memorable experience for the students."

Out of Reach was a story inspired by the author's younger brother who struggled with an addiction. Fortunately, he has been clean for the past five years. "Out of Reach

was my way of working out my feelings," said Arcos, "the emotional truth of this book is what allowed me to write better." According to Arcos, everything is now better between her and her younger brother.

The students in Zeko's honors English class really enjoyed the novel, although they were not too happy with the way it ended. Arcos mentioned that she wanted to make the ending "as realistic as possible" while "[adding] some lightness to it."

Students asked questions on whether she would consider writing a sequel to the novel; unfortunately, Arcos does not think a sequel would be such a great idea.

On the upside, Arcos did tell the students a little secret about an upcoming book she just finished writing, which will be released in February 2017.

Overall, the experience of Arcos's arrival was an unforgettable event to many of the students, especially to the students who she inspired.

Palomares bids farewell to Decathlon

BY MARISA ARMSTRONG
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From traveling the globe with El Rancho's Gadabouts to sampling the most exotic dishes she can find, our beloved Kristin Palomares is the very definition of a modern Renaissance woman.

Her personal motto, is, "say yes to everything," and she certainly lives up to the acclamation. She is an avid traveler and has visited such beautiful places as Greece, Italy, Germany, France, Turkey, Amsterdam, London, and more. Obviously, she is not one to hesitate at a new experience. In fact, when asked how she would describe herself in one word, her response was immediately "adventurous."

I'll bet you didn't know that Palo (as the Decathletes affectionately call her) was born and raised in New Mexico. She attended a "very strict" private Catholic high school, where her adolescent escapades eventually led her to attend Whittier College. Palomares was hired as an intern at El Rancho High School where she has remained ever since. Though she primarily teaches World History, Palomares has un-

ties would no doubt overwhelm the average person, Palo describes her career as nothing but fun. When asked what she loves most about teaching, she said it is "always entertaining" and she is "never bored." "I look forward to going to work," she says, enthusiastically.

Palo has advised Academic Decathlon for the past seven to eight years, which is certainly no small feat. Palo's excellent leadership skills and enthusiasm have led El Rancho's Decathlon team to state almost every year she has coached, but even with all these achievements, Palo is still extremely humble.

"They teach me, and I teach them" she says fondly of her Decathletes. When asked to choose a favorite memory of her years as a Decathlon advisor, she simply couldn't choose from the countless "crazy, silly memories." Her favorite kind of moments, she said, are "when we're all sitting in a circle...reading the material... trying to make sense of it, and making really lame jokes." Lastly, she says that Decathlon has "without a doubt" changed her teaching style for the better. And though we are sad to say that this will be her last



Palomares studying the arts in Corinth, Greece.

surprisingly explored other subjects, such as comparative studies, child development, anthropology, and art history. She jokingly stated that she "must have changed [her] major like five times." Now, she teaches World History, AP Art History, and serves as El Rancho's Academic Decathlon advisor.

Though all of these responsibili-

ties would no doubt overwhelm the average person, Palo describes her career as nothing but fun. When asked what she loves most about teaching, she said it is "always entertaining" and she is "never bored." "I look forward to going to work," she says, enthusiastically.

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Simply Irresistible: “Baby Boy Ben”

BY MARTIN ZAMARRIPA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Going from being the pudgy little boy he once was to the most well-known guy in school, Ben Cutillo is now “simply irresistible.” Although labeled by his peers as the “class clown,” he still manages to keep his studies on the right track.

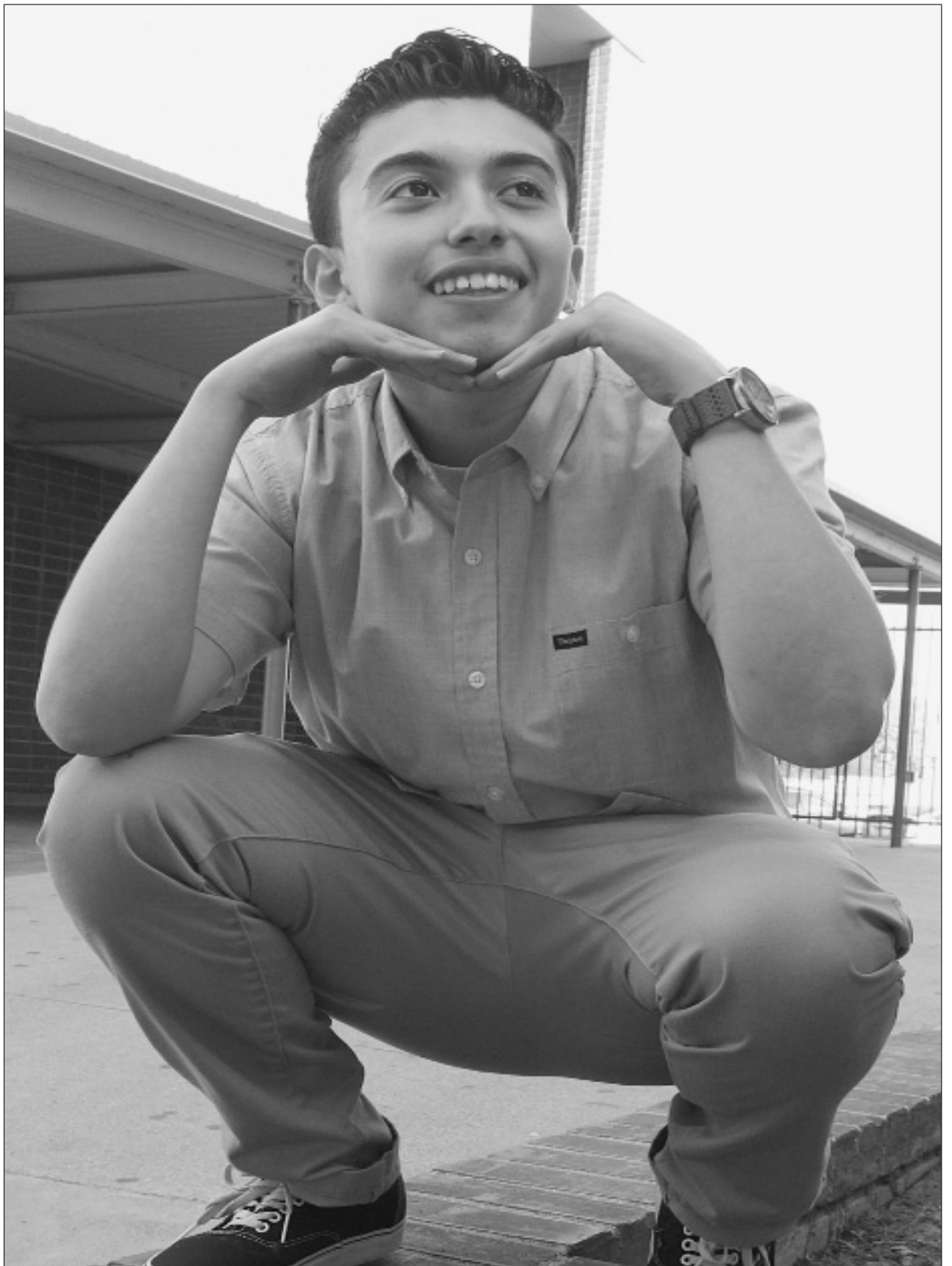
Like most students at school, Ben is involved in clubs at school. He is a devoted member of the Multicultural Awareness Club. Attracted by different cheeses, Ben is a connoisseur of fine Italian food. Sadly, the only thing most girls at school know how to cook is *beans de la olla*. Speaking of cooking, Ben loves a girl who knows her way around the kitchen. His ideal woman cannot be timid; he desires a woman with high ambition and knows what she wants to do with her life. “My dream girl has to be ten times more good looking than me. I know I’m good looking, but she needs to be ten times more beautiful,” says Ben. Tough luck ladies, Ben won’t slide into your direct messages tonight because he is probably out making money. If you are not speaking about making money, do not talk to him.

Ben makes the best of his abilities and time. Call him Eddy of Cartoon Network’s *Ed, Edd, n Eddy*, but Ben masters in the art of financing, such as being a good business associate, just as well as an entrepreneur. That is not his only talent. Ben also enjoys playing the drums, socializing with friends and peers inside and outside of school, and making strategic wagers on sports teams. “I’m the type of person to be placed in a room with strangers and to come out with more friends and phone numbers than what I had before. I’m that type of person that people say, ‘Damn, I like that guy.’ Image is everything to me, and in my opinion, you always have to give a good first impression,” says Ben.

Ben makes the best out of every situation; he likes to live in the moment. Call him a risk taker, but he’s the type of guy who gets as much done as he can. If Ben had one wish, he would wish to be young forever. “I would like to stay young forever because you only grow wiser, and your looks stay the same. If that wish came true, I would make millions.”

What many people do not know about him is that he used to be on the heavy side a couple of years back. Ben was known as the fat funny party boy. There is no doubt that Drake’s song lyrics “Yeah, you ain’t really mess with me way back then, girl, but how bout now?” was meant for Ben.

Ben idolizes great figures in history such as John D. Rockefeller, someone who came from nothing and made a powerful impact with his ideas. He has a lot of love for his “A1 homie,” Joey Lozano. From going through the same struggles at home to being involved in the same hobbies, Ben and Joey are the dynamic duo of the Ranch. Nonetheless, Ben will always be known as the once-pudgy excited boy whom we all love and adore.



Where Are They Now? Alumnus Jeffrey Valenzuela

BY SAMANTHA QUIRARTE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Attending his dream school, Jeffrey Valenzuela, a sophomore at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), is now enjoying life as an adult in college.

El Rancho Alumnus and valedictorian for the class of 2014 strives to help others while studying biology at UCLA. “I grew up a die hard UCLA fan [so] when I got accepted it was practically hard to say no,” says Valenzuela. “UCLA is also not that far from home (Pico Rivera) which is really beneficial in helping me stay in contact with my family since I usually spend most of time here in Westwood studying.”

While attending El Rancho, Valenzuela was an active member of many clubs and activities and in his community. Maintaining a 4.5 GPA and being in clubs, such as Teen Court, and sports, such as Varsity Soccer, was “not the easiest;” however Valenzuela continued to maintain his high GPA and was honored as valedictorian of the Class of 2014. “Being able to give the valedictorian speech at my graduation served as a relief for all the hard work I put into my classes in high school and it made my mom happy; I wanted to show my appreciation by obtaining the valedictorian title for her.”

Being in college has been an entirely new experience for Valenzuela, and his new freedom is being put to great



Valenzuela reflects on his high school experience while looking to his future.

use. Valenzuela says that the freedom of living on his own has “forced [him] to become more mature and responsible.” The UCLA sophomore is also getting more involved in clubs and activities that “give [him] exposure in the medical field,” since he has plans to go to medical school someday.

One day, Valenzuela hopes to become a pediatrician and help young children whom are ill. “There’s no greater joy than helping a chronically ill child live a better life by giving him or her a diagnosis or treatment that would increasingly help with his or her medical condition,” says Valenzuela, “That way he or she could live outside of the hospital.” Valenzuela hopes that he can be a part of helping lives and conducting research for the chronically ill.

After college, Valenzuela has big plans for himself as he hopes to attend either medical school or pharmacy school. Valenzuela’s plans after college involves taking a year off to study for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), and from there apply to medical school. Valenzuela says, “If I don’t pursue medical school or pharmacy school I plan on getting my Ph.D. in MIMG (Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics).”

Although Valenzuela’s plans are not definitive, he continues to strive for a career in the medical field. Valenzuela continues to set an example for his younger brother and family to prove that hard work pays off, and says there is still more work to be done.

As prices increase, so must our wages

BY MICHAEL NEELY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Fair Labor Standards Act (1938) established a minimum wage for the United States at \$0.25 an hour. Senator Hugo Black proposed the law, which President Roosevelt later supported and enacted to abolish child labor, guarantee overtime pay for overtime work, and establish the standard forty-hour workweek. Roosevelt said that the FLSA created a livable wage for working-class citizen. Now, in 2016, our country has failed to follow the spirit of Roosevelt's standard and raise the wage to be livable.

Since 1938, the minimum wage has increased to meet the time's standards and expenses due to inflation. As the years pass and our economy goes through its cycle, our earnings need to be in agreement with how much our daily lives and bills cost.

An apartment in Pico Rivera costs anywhere from \$1000-\$1200 per month, and with pay at \$10 an hour, forty hours a week, a person grosses only \$1600 per month, from which an individual must pay rent as well as income taxes, car insurance, food, water, electricity, gas, clothing, phone bills, health insurance, and many numerous other expenses. Plainly, the minimum wage is not enough to support a single person.

Those who argue that raising the minimum wage for one person would cause a pay raise for everyone above him/her, resulting in a negative ripple effect, fail to realize the positive ripple effect it would have on our economy. Not to mention that while that ripple change of pay would affect lower-class income earners, because of the U.S. wealth gap, it wouldn't end up affecting those on each step of the economic ladder since the higher workers are already making much more than \$15 an hour, many wouldn't receive a pay raise from the businesses and corporations for which they work and thus would not outweigh the benefit of the income boost to the economy itself.

Also, the Republican philosophy of, "No one wants to pay a teenager \$15 an hour for a job with minimum skills," is exactly what's wrong with our country: it is becoming too corporate based. It doesn't matter if an employer doesn't want to pay his/her employee; in fact, the employer wouldn't pay him/her anything if it was in his/

her power. Businesses have to obey its laws of paying employees a livable wage and not the other way around. That is why the Fair Labor Standards Act was created, to assure a hard day's pay for a hard day's work; without it, we would return to the days where an employer could pay his employee anything he/she desired- hardly anything. Businesses- whether big or small- need to start listening to what the law states and by forcing them to do so we are not, "punishing success" for the top wealthy, we are guaranteeing success for the entire economic ladder.

Many individuals support the argument of, "minimum wage for a job with minimum skills." This is a case of theory vs. reality. In theory, that's acceptable, these jobs are meant as a way for teens to start working, obtain some experience to prepare them for the working world, make some currency, and are not meant to be livable wages since they're "part-time" or "not 'real' jobs." However, the reality of the situation is radically different; instead of teens occupying these jobs, many elderly people, immigrants, and people lacking a good education in their mid-lives are the ones in these occupations, and they cannot support a family on this income, let alone themselves.

For anyone who says the minimum wage shouldn't be a livable wage, if this proposition would occur, the government would be required to fill in the gap, meaning taxpayers end up paying for people working for companies that pay only the minimum wage (e.s. Walmart).

To this, opposers say that we should give all these people the incentive to go back to school and get a better education, so they get receive a job that pays more. That sounds ideal, but school costs money, and these people are working to obtain money, see the problem? They are not entitled to the same scholarships and programs and any advantages students have because they are much older and may not be legal. As a result, they are forced to have low-paying jobs with families to support and should not have to live in poverty.

Raising our minimum wage to \$15 an hour is not overdoing it; it's compensation. Prices are far too high and according to *economicrt.org*, this amount would be sufficient for living. Also, raising the wage would benefit businesses since they will end up spending more money in the local economy, reducing employee turnover, and resulting in a higher-paid labor force that is more stably housed.

By not giving the citizens of the US a livable wage, our federal government is breaking the law. The law clearly says that the minimum wage must be a livable wage and by refusing to grant Americans a livable wage, then our government needs to either enact this as soon as possible or those who govern should not govern the people anymore. Economists and working-class individuals are well aware of how much life costs and are fed up with having to live in such poor conditions.

To prevent a negative backlash on the economy, the increase in wage will not occur suddenly. Within a provided time span, an increase of a dollar a year, the wage will steadily raise to \$15, and prices will not be heavily affected since they are affected by the economic cycles of our capitalist society than by the minimum wage.

As Barack Obama stated in his last State of the Union address, one of our top priorities is to raise the minimum wage. We live in one of the wealthiest nations in the world, yet countless families live in poverty; this is what a rigged economic system looks like. A humongous wealth gap exists in our country; the top 3% of the wealthy and corporations occupy half of the nation's wealth; the middle class has ceased to exist. It's high time we righted this wrong and assure a sustainable amount of income for every worker, a hard day's work deserves a hard day's pay.



Why minimum wage should not be raised

BY TIM RIESGO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Starting in 2016, the nationwide minimum wage increased from \$9 to \$10. While most people might get a sense of excitement with this news, they do not realize all the problems that come with it. By continually increasing the minimum wage, the government is not only punishing success, but they are also punishing everyone else looking for a job. Not to mention, this is only the beginning, the government plans to increase the minimum wage to \$15.

When you increase the minimum wage, it causes a ripple effect. Which means, if the lowest skilled job requires \$15 an hour, and let's say the manager gets paid \$15, they shall be entitled to a raise. Soon the manager makes just as much as someone like a district manager. Now that district manager needs a raise too and so on. Doing this only punishes success. Why are we trying to limit the budget of these businesses? While this may only give major companies a minor hit, what about the small businesses? Our government expects them to be able to afford all of their employees? I would hope not.

When that point in time comes to when businesses can no longer afford everyone of their payroll, they will start cutting corners to get around the obstacles the government has placed in front of them. How are corners cut to save money? Anywhere from cutting store hours to laying people off and even raising the prices of products. When the cost of labor rises too high, it forces employers to take these types of actions. It is the biggest reason teens can not find jobs currently.

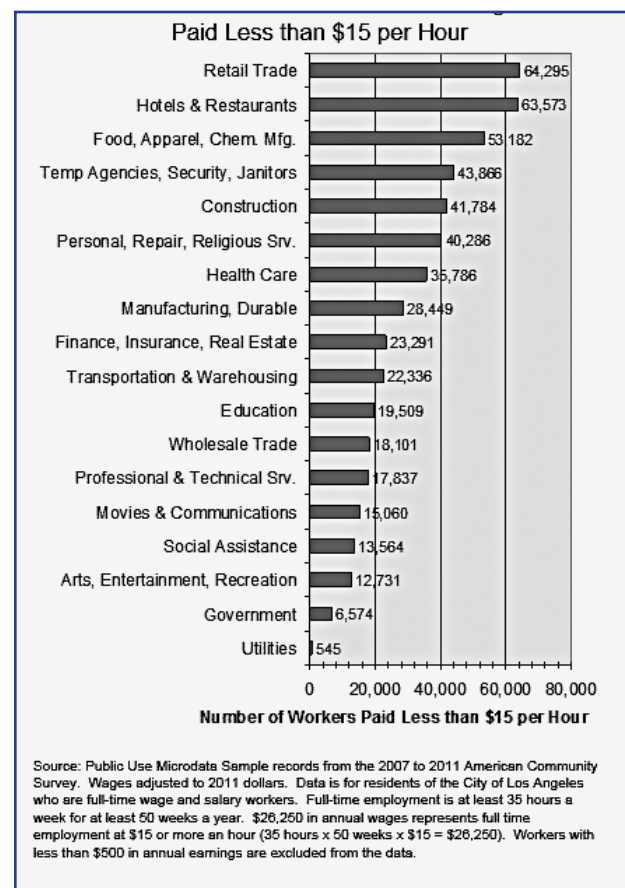
If our government plans to raise the minimum wage, it only makes the task of teens finding a job a lot more difficult. Think of it this way, you are an employer,

and you are given two applications. One has over ten years in the fast food industry, and one is 17 with no experience in any job, who do you plan to pay \$15 an hour? Most Employers would choose someone with experience because it will take less time train them and in business, time is money.

By labor costs continuing to rise, you hurt these teens who want to get their foot in the door by entering the workforce. Soon it could be almost impossible to get a job as a teen, and companies will not stop there. Has anyone ever noticed that in some fast food restaurants and even banks, there are more machines taking the spot of someone who could be working? In some places, you can walk into a bank, and see only one bank teller. How does society not see the flaws in raising the minimum wage? You think you deserve \$15 an hour? Meet your replacement. This is only the beginning, as technology and minimum wage rise, we will see fewer jobs and more machines because it is affordable to these companies.

Why pay someone \$15 an hour when they could invest a couple thousand in these machines and not have to pay a dime afterwards. And this has nothing to do with companies being greedy with their money. Why are we going take a company's hard earned money and call them selfish when they make an issue of it? The people that say these things are probably the same people who want free college, but do not want to contribute to society at all. They simply just want everything to be given to them.

Believe me, making \$15 an hour sounds nice at first, but when you see all the issues it comes with, the cons definitely outweigh the pros. Society will simply only go downhill by continuing to raise the minimum wage and making it tough for the teens of tomorrow to enter the workforce.



Dons, concentrate on your studies

BY ADRIANNA CARCHIPULLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Did you just turn sixteen? Is the pressure of finding a job stressing you out? Well you shouldn't have to, because essentially, one's academic success determines his or her future successes.

There are many students, and possibly some adults, who believe that it should be mandatory for a high school student to have a job to gain responsibility skills and time-management, but I disagree. There are many other ways that a student can acquire these skills without actually having to have a job. Perhaps being involved in sports and clubs is a great way to develop these skills.

Having to plan out a schedule for when and how you will do homework, practice a sport, and even attend a meeting is an excellent way to learn how to manage your time. Being able to accomplish these things can also make a student develop a great responsibility skill. Not only is achieving these things helpful to a student in learning to cope with multiple things at once but it is in a student's scheduled school time; leaving available homework and leisure time.

Having a job as a high school student can be very time-consuming. Eight hours in school and additional six hours of work a student with enough and academics. After

an ad- does not leave time for leisure



working, a person tends to be too tired to work on anything else. The fatigue that a student feels after a long day at school and then work can lead to a student becoming driven away from the academics and being pulled in toward the job. The reason for a student's lean more toward their job is because they're being paid for the job and may feel

as if they're getting more out of the job than academics. In fact, many people realize that they would just rather work than study because they get paid.

Once in a job setting, there is a particular time frame when you are working, so one feels obliged to follow them. Many students have jobs for pleasure rather than necessity. By this, I mean that most students want a job to earn money to go out, shop, and spend it quickly rather than wanting money to help out one's family, pay bills, or save up for college tuition.

This method of earning money for a student could lead to his or her decision in continuing to work in a part-time job and abandoning his or her academic responsibilities. Maybe even a student might decide to put on halt his or her academic studies to save up money while working and then continue to study after, but this usually ends up failing.

Once a student starts making money that's all they want to do. So what most students tend to do is continue working and never going back to school because they feel like they are just fine with the amount of money they are earning.

Having a job as a high school student should not be mandatory, and if possible, should be avoided. Working in a job facility will just put more stress on a student and drive them away from continuing and getting an education.

Teens can balance academics and a job

BY SOL MENDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Having a job in high school is one of many things a high school student can benefit from because it allows for character building, better management skills, and a better overview of how working in a "real world" works. Some may argue that teenagers having jobs only serves as a distraction and more stress, however, having a job does not always have to be stressful if the student is smart enough to employ new studying methods and better time management skills. A job does not ask for much from a student because it is merely a part-time job and students have the greater advantage to choosing a work schedule that best suits them.

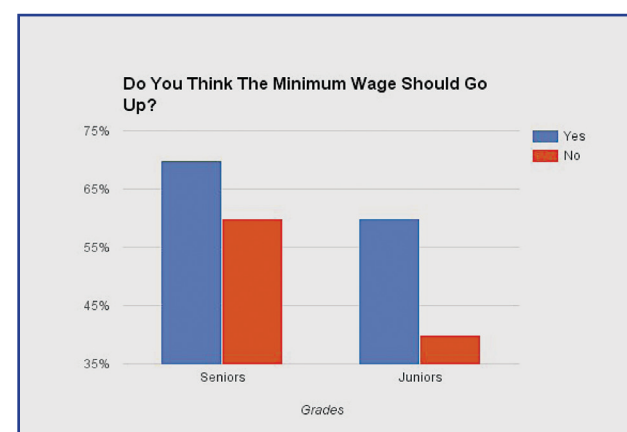
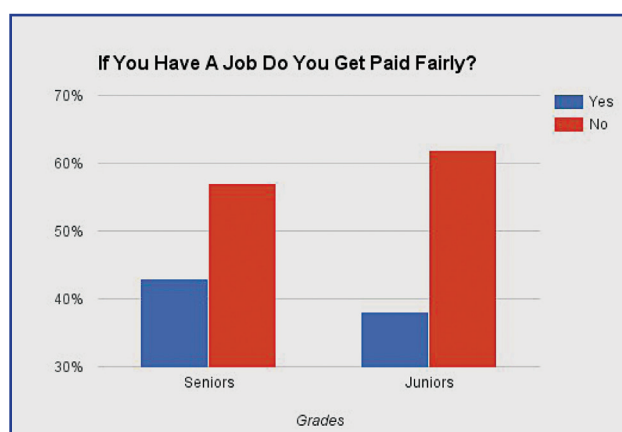
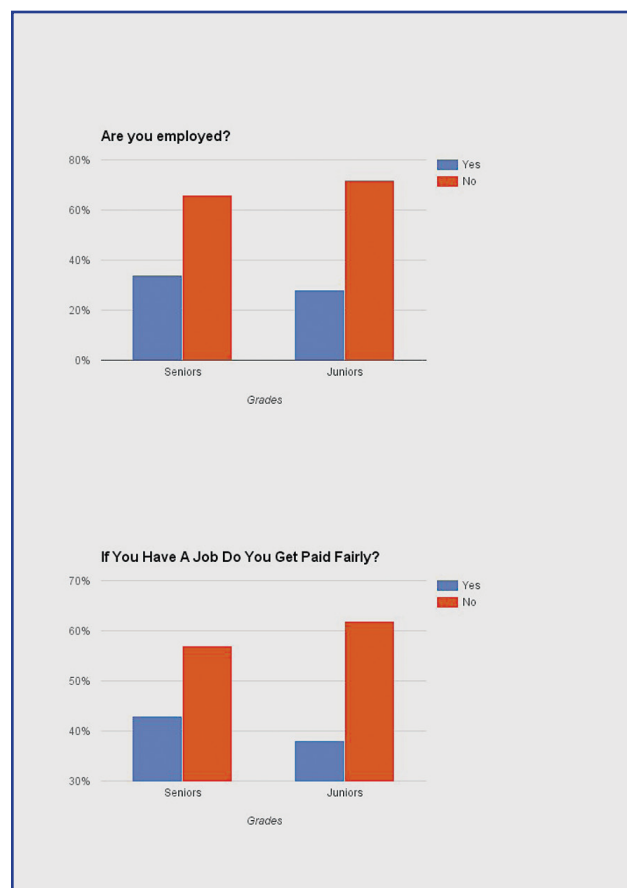
Students nowadays are often used to being spoon-fed and often desire a lot of things that parents are not willing to buy. What happened to mowing the neighbor's lawn to earn ten dollars? Teenagers are getting too used to being glued to their beds and their

technology that they often forget skills are will be needed when they are kicked out to the "real world."

Any job is good enough because it consists of connections, communication, and the best thing, money. Being dependent of others is a problem and the trend will never get young folks motivated for their futures. I mean, shouldn't you be offended when you're mother still refers to you as "my baby"? In reality, shouldn't you be offended when someone thinks that you're not capable of being a student and a dedicated worker?

Students need to learn how to have control of their lives and work for the things they want instead of texting their parents for money because they want to catch a film with friends. Nothing feels better than earning your dollars and spending it the way YOU want.

Having a job is something students need to be ready for the future. Without a job, at a young age, they begin to hit the hard reality at twenty-three when there are trying to figure out how to run away from debt.



Courtesy Twitter Polls

DISCOVERING DON'S

BY ISAAC CARLOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho Dons who are a part of clubs at the Pico Rivera High School can be some of the most hardworking and diverse students you'll see walking down the school's hallways.



"I would like to say something, but I'm afraid it would cause too much drama," states Honor Thespian **Daniel Lopez**. He has been a part of Advanced Drama for three years and took Beginning Drama his freshman year of High School, like most advanced actors. The moment he knew he wanted to join Advanced Drama was when he was working lights for a production and saw what the actors went through during rehearsals and performances and he really liked it. He became President of Advanced Drama his junior year and, to this day, still upholds that title and responsibility. Daniel loves to "recreate reality" and put on performances because he can challenge himself into "becoming a different person and character" and he loves making people laugh.



Take senior **Gema Montano**, for example. She has been a part of El Rancho's Band for four years and loved every minute of it. She first joined Band, most specifically Drumline, because of her love and talent for playing music. "Music is love, music is life," says Montano. She does not regret joining because she was able to put on performances, one of her favorite parts of band, with her friends. Band is a very excellent way of preparing your teamwork skills.

Pepster **Briana Baesa** (below) has always wanted to try cheerleading, especially her freshman and sophomore year. She finally decided to try out her junior year and loved it. She is now a part of the Pepster group Yell and is looking forward to spending next year, her senior year, in cheer. She finds performing to be a wonderful experience because her adrenaline gets pumping, all of the experience she's gaining, and is proud to see the girls' many hours of work and practice put to good use. "People say Cheer is life, but I think life is Cheer."



El Rancho senior **Brittany Rios** (below) has been a part of Color Guard for four years. Her sister was a part of the school's Color Guard team. So, Brittany's sister took her to a game to show her what the dancers do and Brittany fell in love. As soon as she got the chance, she tried out and does not regret her decision. She loves Color Guard because "[she] can show [her] emotions through dance."



Teens Serving Justice



CONTRIBUTING WRITER
HEAVEN VASQUEZ

The Teen Court club filmed a mock case this past December that will air on the Pico Rivera city channel. Members and leaders of the club participated in this event to show the capabilities of the club to handle important cases.

Members of teen court also filmed the process of the jury's final decision to show the thought process and thorough examination of the case.

The case itself involved a student's bomb threat to her school on social media as well as a threat to one of her teachers. The defendant was thoroughly questioned about the choices she made to post this threat and the thought process she had while posting something so serious on the Internet.

The defendant claimed that she was only kidding and didn't mean to actually hurt anyone. However because of the severity of the threat and the threat to her math teacher, she was found guilty.

The members of the jury then proceeded to decide what her punishment would be. After a deliberating, the jury decided it would be appropriate for the defendant to drop most of the many jobs she had, as well as be prohibited from using any social media. The defendant also received other punishments, including community service.

Ultimately, the club showed it could handle very tough cases. The case will air for the community to see the benefits of the club, as well as the capabilities of its members.

Adult 101 at the Pico Rivera Library



BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Pico Rivera Library recently held its first of 12, (free) Adult 101: Life Skills For Teens sessions on Saturday, January 23. In organizing these events, the Library is giving teens the opportunity to learn different sets of skills before they graduate.

Alex Zepeda, an employee from the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer and Business Affairs- a consumer protection agency, gave the lesson in Adult 101: Money Smarts. Zepeda was an identity fraud investigator before he went on to work for the county.

The Adult 101 session consisted of a detailed presentation that broke down different ways to manage money and information surrounding things like credit vs. debit cards.

As teenagers in high school, many students do not know how to do tasks such as creating income and expense worksheets (reports that juxtapose the money you take in with the money you spend per month), opening bank accounts, becoming

familiar with credit scores, etc. This lack of knowledge is a result of schools that are often more focused on students being academically prepared for life than mentally, financially, socially, etc.

Zepeda touched upon topics ranging from the importance of credit cards to what drives a person's credit scores. He also discussed the high-risk teenagers have of becoming victims of identity theft due to their lack of knowledge and high levels of trust.

Resources such as website names for different financial tasks were also given out. For example, *annualcreditreport.com* gives you your free credit report and is a better idea than a website such as *Credit Karma*, which takes your spending habits and reports them to consumer agencies without your knowledge.

Overall, events like these are important tools that should be utilized by young adults and high school students everywhere. Be sure to check out the second Adult 101 session, Easy Etiquette I, on Wednesday, February 10, from 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM at the Pico Rivera Library. The event will provide snacks, and all teen ages 13-18 are welcome!

Word on the Street: What were the worst trends of 2015?



"The worst trend of 2015 was the Kylie Jenner lip challenge because it was gross that people would suction their lips in order to make them look bigger like Kylie's, but it just made them look like they got stung by a bee."

-ADILENE SERVIN, 10TH GRADE



"I think the worst trend of 2015 would be the Comb Over because almost every dude at school ended up having the same haircut and it looked basic."

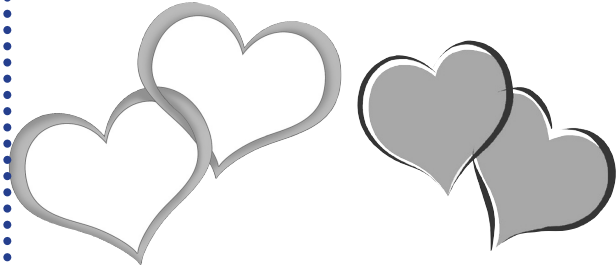
- BERT SANCHEZ, 11TH GRADE



"Goals. It doesn't even make sense and the "goals" people are referring to are simple everyday things and it's making people lower their expectations and their standards in general."

- STEPHANIE GODINEZ, 12TH GRADE

Valentines Day Book List



- AMY & ROGER'S EPIC DETOUR BY MORGAN MATSON
- ANNA AND THE FRENCH KISS SERIES BY STEPHANIE PERKINS
- BLOODLINES SERIES BY RICHELLE MEAD
- THE DAY BEFORE BY LISA SCHROEDER
- THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME BY MADELEINE GEORGE
- ELEANOR & PARK BY RAINBOW ROWELL
- FOREVER BY JUDY BLUME
- THE GEOGRAPHY OF YOU AND ME BY JENNIFER E. SMITH
- WHY WE BROKE UP BY DANIEL HANDLER
- THE HEARTBREAKERS BY ALI NOVAK
- KISS CRUSH COLLIDE BY CHRISTINA MEREDITH
- IF HE HAD BEEN WITH ME BY LAURA NOWLIN
- INFERNAL DEVICES SERIES BY CASSANDRA CLARE
- IT'S OUR PROM (SO DEAL WITH IT) BY JULIE ANNE PETERS
- THE LAST BEST KISS BY CLAIRE LEZEBNIK
- LIKE NO OTHER BY UNA LAMARCHE
- THE LONGEST RIDE BY NICHOLAS SPARKS
- MY LIFE NEXT DOOR BY HUNTLEY FITZPATRICK
- THE NIGHT CIRCUS BY ERIN MORGENSTERN
- NOT EXACTLY A LOVE STORY BY AUDREY COULOUMBIS
- OCD LOVE STORY BY CORRIE ANN HAYDU
- ON THE EDGE BY ALLISON VAN DIEPEN
- OVER YOU BY EMMA MCLAUGHLIN
- P.S. I STILL LOVE YOU BY JENNY HAN
- PAPER TOWNS BY JOHN GREEN
- PRIDE AND PREJUDICE BY JANE AUSTEN
- REBECCA BY DAPHNE DU MAURIER
- REVENGE OF THE GIRL WITH THE GREAT PERSONALITY BY ELIZABETH EULBERG
- SAINT ANYTHING BY SARAH DESSEN
- SHUT OUT BY KODI KEPLINGER
- SIMON VS. THE HOMO SAPIENS AGENDA BY BECKY ALBERTALLI
- STILL STAR-CROSSED BY MELINDA TAUB
- THE SOUL SEEKERS SERIES BY ALYSON NOEL
- THE SPECTACULAR NOW BY TIM THARP
- TEARDROP SERIES BY LAUREN KATE
- THINGS I KNOW ABOUT LOVE BY KATE LE VANN
- SAY WHAT YOU WILL BY CAMMIE MCGOVERN
- WHERE SHE WENT BY GAYLE FORMAN

JAN. 29TH, 2016



El Rancho High School

Thursday, February 11, 2016
8 am to 2 pm
New Gym

To sign-up, please see Mr. Sorenson, Key Club Advisor in Room Q2



For questions regarding donor eligibility, please contact the PIH Health Blood Donor Center at 562.789.5433 or Blood.Donor@PIHHealth.org

Before Donating

- Be in good health
- Eat a nutritious meal
- Drink plenty of water
- Bring valid photo I.D.
- You can donate blood every 56 days
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed parental consent)
- NEW! Tattoos and piercing are permitted if they are healed and were done in a California-licensed facility



REMINDER: Senior Honor Cord Program is BACK!

Community Basketball Night showcases varsity teams



Boys varsity took on Whittier during Community Basketball Night.

BY KATHELEEN MADERA,
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On January 20, the basketball team held its annual community basketball night. It was a night filled with a supportive audience from elementary students to parents.

Elementary and middle school students received free entrance as long as they wore their school t-shirt.

Anthony, a fifth grader from Valencia Elementary says, "It is my

first time coming, but I really liked it because it is an exciting sport. It is cool to be seeing an event at a school where you might want to go to."

Second grader Ashley from Valencia Elementary says, "It was fun and I want to come back next year. I like seeing them run and score points."

The girl's varsity basketball team started the night with an amazing score of 52-34 against the Whittier Cardinals. The boy's

varsity basketball team ended the night with a tough loss of 72-28.

The boys always look forward to community basketball night because they enjoy the support from the fans and hope to impress future dons.

"The best part of community basketball night is seeing little kids come and watch how basketball is played. Our role is basically trying to motivate them to come to El Rancho and have fun here their four years," says Rodrigo Sermeno.

Sophomore Art Angel says, "I like the environment and the encouragement we get from the audience."

The boy's varsity team has a 10-10 overall record and a league record of 2-3. The JV team is leading with a 3-2 league record and the freshman team has a 3-0 record, but is still fighting for a better record.

Come support the team tonight at Pioneer where the Dons hope to get the Titans in the rematch.

Rams returning to Los Angeles

BY TIM RIESGO, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sports fans across Southern California are excited to hear that after twenty one years, as of the 2016-2017 NFL season, the Rams will be joining Los Angeles once again. Not only is this fantastic news because we have gone far too long without an NFL team, but the new stadium will also be very beneficial to local businesses.

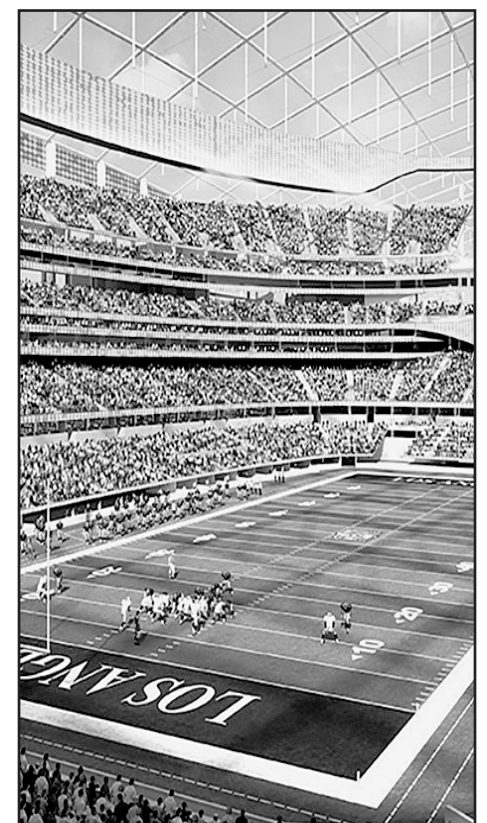
By creating this stadium, local businesses all around Los Angeles County will see significant boosts in sales due to the attraction of fans to the stadium. A boost in sales will be a year round effect, as this stadium will not only be used for the Rams; it will also be used for college basketball, concerts, Summer Olympics, and even the Super Bowl.

The relocation process has been in effect for the past eight to ten years, as many teams had proposed a location change, but no serious plans were in the works until the proposal of "Farmers Field" in 2010. The proposal would be a brand new NFL stadium that would be in the heart of Los Angeles, but in early 2015 the project was dropped due to multiple teams having other relocation plans.

Going into 2016, the Rams, Raiders, and Chargers all had relocation plans. In the vote between the NFL team owners, only two teams would be allowed to join Los Angeles. The Raiders and Chargers both agreed to team up and try to relocate in Carson. The Carson Proposal would come at an expense of \$1.7 billion, which was cheaper than the Rams Proposal in Inglewood at \$2 billion.

However, on the day of the vote, the Raiders backed out to gain \$100 million from the NFL to relocate at a later time. This situation left the Chargers in a tough decision that ultimately did not work out. In the final vote, the NFL team owners voted 30-2 for the Rams to join Los Angeles at the beginning of the 2016-2017 NFL season. The Chargers were then given the option to share the stadium with the Rams in Inglewood. Currently, they have yet to make a decision to join them.

With the proposal of the new stadium to be completed in 2019, the Los Angeles Rams were given many options in a temporary stadium to play at for the next few seasons. These options ranged from the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, home of the USC football team, and Angel Stadium home of the Anaheim Angels baseball team. The Rams chose its original home in Los Angeles, the Coliseum in which they played from 1946-1979. After many proposals from multiple teams over the years, Los Angeles will finally have an NFL team to join the many professional sports teams in LA starting in 2016.



Future Los Angeles Rams' stadium.

Girls water polo looking to win league with new coach

By KATHELEEN MADERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With a current league record of 2-1 and overall record of 13-11, the girl's varsity water polo team has started the league season with a great start.

The team has a new coach, Xenia Castillo, this year and seeks to make this season a great one. Senior Cristina Espinosa says, "This year we are focusing more on dryland exercising to prepare us physically." Senior Zurisadai Pulido says, "I like how [Castillo] is responsible and dedicates all her time to help us be better."

The team hopes for a strong record this season, for there are many returners on the varsity team and prominent new players.

Espinosa says, "I am excited for this year. We are definitely shooting for first place. We are a good team and

I believe we could go really far." Junior Brittney Vital says, "It is my first year playing the sport, and I did not know anything about it, but I quickly caught on with the help of the coach."

Sophomore Catherine Estrada says, "It is also my first year, but I love the sport. It is an aggressive sport and I am an aggressive player."

The team member's share a strong bond and are always looking to bond more to prepare themselves for the games.

Pulido says, "We have team lunches and get pumped up before games."

Vital says, "We always pray before games," and Estrada adds, "We are a family."

With the team's immense energy and dedication, they are looking to continue and finish the season with a strong record. Support them at their next game on Tuesday against Santa Fe.



ER water polo girl scores against Pioneer.

Girls soccer works on team bonding

By KATHELEEN MADERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From having several seniors last year, to having only two this year, the girl's varsity soccer team is made up of many underclassmen. Although they are struggling with a 0-5 league record, Coach Adrian Villasenor and the girls are working hard to better the team.

The girls recognize that they need to work on certain things, but hope to finish the season on a good note.

Sophomore Patty Herrera says, "We get along. We just need to work on playing as a team out on the field. We need to bring that bond we have outside of the field on to the field." Senior Mar-

garita Salas says, "We do try a lot of team bonding to strengthen our bond as a team.

According to Salas who has undergone three different soccer coaches over the last three years, coach Villasenor "goes into depth and seems to have more experience. He teaches us things we didn't know, even if we have been playing for many years, for example I have learned new stuff and I have been playing for ten years."

This season has been tough, but the girls are working to make the team better for the upcoming year.

"This year is a learning process. I hope that this season prepares the team for next year so that they can have a better season," says Salas. "I am sad that this is my last year, but excited for what is to come."



Girls basketball starts the new year strong



Susy Regalado looks to block Santa Fe pass.

By MATTHEW MARROQUIN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When it comes to girls' basketball, double-digit leads and a fierce tenacity are more than enough to make our school proud. "We've started this league off on the right foot," says head varsity girls basketball coach Randy Shigezane. After defeating Cantwell and St. Paul, the two top-ranked schools in the area, Shigezane is sure of his team's ability to perform

their best on the court. He assures that the team's success is a "sum of their parts" and that the girls' individual skill and teamwork are sure to carry them far. The Lady Dons currently rank first in the Del Rio League with a 4-0 record, and has upcoming home games against La Serna on February 3rd and Cal High on February 10th in the main gym. The team also has two away games: against Whittier on February 5th and against Santa Fe on February 12th.

Boys soccer dominates Del Rio League

By MATTHEW MARROQUIN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho may be looking at another Del Rio League Championship this year. Following its 3-1 victory against Pioneer, varsity boys soccer took down first-place Whittier in an impressive match. The boys began and ended strong with an unrelenting aggressive stance against Whittier, not allowing their opponents to score a single goal. El Rancho finished the game

flawlessly, 3-0. An assertive and daring team, its members serve as an excellent example of just how far hard work and determination can take you. The Dons are currently tied for first in the Del Rio League with La Serna with a 4-1-0 record. The team has upcoming home games against La Serna on February 2nd, Cal High on February 9th, and Santa Fe on February 11th. There is one away game scheduled against Whittier on February 4th.



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