



Lyons looks forward to the next chapter in his life

By NAYELI HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The school year is ending and it's time for us to say goodbye to things like the 2016-2017 school year and the class of 2017. As sad as these goodbyes may be, none will be as bittersweet as our farewell to Mr. Jonathan Lyons.

You might remember Lyons from our first issue of the year, as we introduced him as 'Music-Loving Mr. Lyons' and our 2016-2017 principal. Lyons comes from humble beginnings and has been around the high school system since he was fourteen years old.

Despite an impressive first year as principal, the El Rancho District and school board have decided to go in a different direction.

As hard as it will be to let go of El Rancho, Lyons reflects on his first year as principal at El Rancho High School.

"This has been a blast. I can't imagine a better experience than the opportunity to do this. I've wanted to be a principal, probably since my third year of teaching. To be in a position where I got to do that, where I got to be in that world, even if it was just for a short amount of time, has been great," says Lyons, "I could not have asked for bet-



Mr. Lyons has had an incredible time being El Rancho's principal.

Photo by Nayeli Hernandez

ter kids, better teachers; I would not complain at all about the experience I have had this year."

Even as he is departing, Lyons has high hopes for the future of El Rancho and all those a part of the school.

"I'm confident that the school will move and grow because it has a strong base. The kids are great and the teachers are great," says Lyons.

"As long as you have that, everything else is just gravy."

As principal, Lyons has enjoyed the opportunity he's had to interact with all of the students on campus, in one way or another.

"I don't know if I have a singular fondest memory. My fondest experiences have been the times that I've been able to interact with the kids and really just kind of get to know what their sto-

ry is and what's going on and how we can make this a better experience for you guys," says Lyons.

As music-loving Lyons, it comes as no surprise that his favorite parts of El Rancho have been the pep rallies.

"The pep rallies are great. I'm a pep rally guy, I love pep rallies, who doesn't love pep rallies? Who doesn't love screaming and jumping around?" asks Lyons.

Even though it was Lyons' first year on campus, he was still able to introduce a variety of new ideas and leave a lasting impression. His legacy will continue here in the form of the Principal's Award, which he awarded to Samantha Leggis and Humberto Sanchez during Senior Awards Night.

Drama bids goodbye at the MACY awards



Ethan Sepulveda had the opportunity to take the lead in the MACY performance.

Photo by MACY's

By JOSE ALCALA AND ETHAN SEPULVEDA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

On Sunday, May 28, the cast of the El Rancho Drama Department's spring musical *Little Me* had the privilege to perform before 44 other Southern California high schools. However, a total of 55 schools were in the running to get an in-

invitation to the awards ceremony.

Out of the 44 schools who attended, only 21 were asked to perform a part of their musicals on the stage of the Segerstrom Centre for the Arts in Costa Mesa. Along with the schools' performances, a main part of the Spirit of the MACY Awards is the actual awards.

The MACY Awards panel of judges is responsible for giving

awards to the students and shows of all the schools. The judges give small, individual awards like the Bright Spot, Achievement, and Special Recognition awards, to more prestigious individual awards such as the Outstanding and Highest Achievement Awards.

The judges also give awards for the best dancers, vocalists, and, of course, actors. The judges also acknowledge the

various types of work that go into a musical by giving awards like the Literature Brought to Life Award, the Best Student Set Design Award, and the Comedia Del Arte Award. The most prestigious and coveted of these awards is the Spirit of the MACY Award, which goes to the ten best musicals.

Take a guess as to which "little" show was able to snag this award? That's right! The ac-

tors and actresses of this year's ER musical cast impressed the MACY judges with their acting, singing, and dancing chops and received with the Spirit of the MACY Award. However, this was not the only award that the El Rancho Department was able to get. El Rancho's awards included: Brando Williams and Sophia Flores getting Bright Spot Awards, Jaime Lugo and Linette Valenzuela getting Special Recognition Awards, Erik Cortez, Ernesto Castro, Jose Alcala, and Rodrigo Aguilar getting Achievement Awards, Ivy Castillo getting an Outstanding Achievement Award, and Ethan Sepulveda, Olivia Ball, and Xcaret Estrada getting Highest Achievement Awards. Along with all of these awards, seniors Ethan Sepulveda and Olivia Ball were nominated for the Best Comedian and Best Supporting Actress Award respectively.

El Rancho has a long history of going to and winning awards at the MACY Awards. Mr. Wlasick has been taking actors to the MACY Awards since he first began teaching in 1980. Next year, Wlasick will be ending his long and illustrious career as a Drama teacher. To cap off his last year here at the Ranch, Mr. Wlasick looks forward to going to the MACYs again next year, and, hopefully, winning more trophies and medals for El Rancho's Drama Department.

OPINION

Trump fires FBI Director James B. Comey

By SKYLER CORNWELL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, May 19, President Donald Trump fired FBI Director, James B. Comey, the man responsible for the bureau's investigation into whether members of his campaign team were in cahoots with Russia during last year's election. This revelation came as quite a shock throughout Washington, abruptly halting the career of the man who was seen as a highly respected paragon of how law enforcement officers should present themselves.

Trump's administration held Comey responsible for the decision to dismiss Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's email server investigation, yet contradicted their accusations by pointing fingers at Comey with claims that he was getting too close to the White House with the Russian probe. As a result, his announcement that he was reopening the probe 11 days before the election is ultimately what cost Clinton, former secretary of state, the presidency.

In Trump's letter to Comey, which was released to reporters by the White House, he writes "While I greatly appreciate you informing me, on three separate occasions, that I am not under investigation, I nevertheless concur with the judgment of the Department of Justice that you are not able to effectively lead the bureau." White House officials refused to provide any further input on the matter, instead offering information that Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein were the ones who pushed for Comey's dismissal. Including all the minor inner influences leading up to it, many in Washington, including FBI veteran officers, no doubt bore witness to a carefully thought-

out plan coordinated to dismantle the "threat" in Trump's presidency.

"I cannot defend the director's handling of the conclusion of the investigation of Secretary Clinton's emails," Rosenstein wrote in another letter released by the White House, "and I do not understand his refusal to accept the nearly universal judgment that he was mistaken."

The dismissal brought an end to the long-deteriorating relationship between Trump and Comey who, in the past, repeatedly butted heads both publicly and privately. For Trump, a president who stresses the word *loyalty*, Comey confirmed his independence and unpredictability as a director, which would most likely than not disrupt his careful, protected administration.

Comey had learned from news reports that he had been fired while addressing bureau employees in Los Angeles. As he was speaking, the television blared in the background that there was breaking news that Trump had fired the FBI director. He laughed in response at first, believing it must have been a prank. Not long after, the letter from Trump arrived at FBI headquarters in Washington with the words that Comey was "hereby terminated and removed from office" and it was to be "effective immediately," he concluded.

Agents in the FBI expressed their outrage toward Trump's actions and worried that a White House ally would be appointed to lead them. Comey was widely liked amongst the FBI, even by those who had criticized his handling of Clinton's investigation. The agents regarded him as a good manager and highly responsible in his duties. "It is essential that we find new leadership for the FBI that restores public trust and confidence in its vital law en-

forcement mission," Trump remarks, a statement that particularly upset agents who saw it as an insult to them.

Trump referred to Democrats' reaction toward the incident on the morning of Wednesday, May 10, tweeting, "The Democrats have said some of the worst things about James Comey, including the fact that he should be fired, but now they play so sad!"

CNN's senior legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin did not buy the idea that Comey was fired solely over the Clinton investigation, saying it was "absurd." Toobin called the move a "grotesque abuse of power by the President of the United States." He went on, saying, "This is not something that is within the American political tradition," Toobin compared the treatment towards Comey to President Richard Nixon's firing of special prosecutor Archibald Cox during the Watergate scandal. "This is not normal. This is not politics as usual."

Rosenstein thought otherwise, firing back with this argument, "The way the director handled the conclusion of the email investigation was wrong. As a result, the FBI is unlikely to regain public and congressional trust until it has a director who understands the gravity of the mistakes and pledges never to repeat them." Rosenstein assessed the situation upon taking office and came to the conclusion that the FBI director had lost his confidence.

Ultimately, Comey's decision to place himself in the middle of the 2016 election left him at odds with the FBI's general decision to stay out of politics. During July of 2016 Comey went public with his recommendation for the Justice Department to stop pursuing charges against Clinton over the emails, merely dismissing it as being "extremely careless" with sensitive information.

Following Clinton's loss, former President Bill Clinton put the blame on Comey, as have many Clinton staffers, at least partially. Hillary Clinton personally informed CNN's Christiane Amanpour "I was on the way to winning until a combination of James Comey's letter on October 28 and Russian WikiLeaks raised doubts in the minds of people who were inclined to vote for me and got scared off."

In any sense, the firing places Democrats in a difficult position. Many hoped that Clinton would fire Comey soon after taking office, blaming him for costing her the election. But under Mr. Trump, Mr. Comey was previously seen as an important check on the new administration.

Just before announcing the firing, Trump called leaders on Capitol Hill to tell them of his decision. Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer, told Trump that he was making a "big mistake." In which he reacted with a simple "Ok, we'll see."

"Senator Schumer is a bad leader. I've known him for a long time. Senator Schumer is a bad leader, not a natural leader at all," Trump told his supporters at a rally on Saturday, May 13, in Harrisburg, PA.

Schumer was the one who criticized the White House's decision to fire Comey, which hinged on Comey's public announcement of his decision not to press charges against Hillary. "We know that the House is investigating Russian interference in our election that benefitted the Trump campaign," Schumer said. "We know the Senate is investigating. We know the FBI has been looking into whether the Trump campaign colluded with the Russians—a very serious offense. Were those investigations getting too close to home for the president?"

Teenage employment: the pros and cons



SAMANTHA BERROSPE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Does having a job in high school *really* benefit you?

Having a job takes time and effort and when in high school it can become stressful trying to balance both out, so when you're a 16, 17, or 18 year old in high school, getting a job can be the worst thing you can do for yourself because you have to balance school and work equally.

For starters, managing time becomes tough when you have a job. As a high school student, hanging out with your friends as much as possible on the weekends and completing all your assignment during the weekday is the main

priority. When you have a job, you have to prioritize it because it is not optional to go to work, it is mandatory. You can't hang out with your friends too much, and you have to use all of your extra time to complete homework and study. Limiting time away from school and learning won't do you good and will, overall, cause your grades to drop since your primary focus isn't school anymore, it's working more hours to earn more money.

Having a job in high school can make you miss out on some amazing memories. Unless you get the day off, you can miss out on school events such as the Night Pep Rally, Don Games, the drama department's productions, and sports games. These events create

positive memories since you had a fun time attending them with your friends. If you have a job, and end up working on one of these days, you can miss out on a good time.

Having a job in high school can be positive, because it looks good on resumes, college applications and you receive hard-earned money. The unfortunate thing, is that some jobs can overwork you. Being a student worker limits you from working certain hours per week and day, so you have time to complete any school assignments, but some jobs don't follow those rules. Employers can overwork a student by scheduling them at eight-hour shifts on a school night. That gives that students limited time to eat, do homework, study and head

to work. With jobs that don't follow regulations and students not speaking up, because they are earning money and fear getting fired, a student's grades can drop and cause an unhealthy sleeping pattern.

Getting a job is optional. It is all up to the individual to decide if they want another responsibility to handle. Always take into consideration the pros and cons of getting a job in high school. A job may or may not help you out, especially if you already have a lot on your plate because a job will only add more to the amount of stress you already have. Do what you want in life, as long as it's you making that decision on your own and make sure you don't harm yourself mentally and physically.

MICHAEL MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There are many benefits of having a job while attending High school.

Working while still attending high school allows students to help their parents financially. Getting a job while still in High school will teach students more

responsibility. If students start to work while attending school, they will be more prepared for the future. Working is something that can keep students preoccupied with the benefit of being paid. This will show college admission officers that you are motivated to succeed. Students will be able to learn the benefits of time management. Working will teach students about money management. Students will learn

the importance of life skills. Working while attending High school will give students a wider perspective on life. Work is usually a self-esteem booster for students.

There are many benefits of having a job while attending High school. Working while attending High School allows students to help their parents financially as well as learn the importance of money management. Getting a job

while in High school will teach students more about responsibility and will show college admission officers that you are motivated to succeed. Working will teach students the importance of life skills, giving them a wider perspective on life, as well as being a self-esteem booster.

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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.

SPORTS

Varsity softball looks to the future



Breanna Larez runs from base to base

Photo by Annual Staff

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The varsity girls' softball team put in many extra hours throughout the 2017 season. The girls had a strong bond that helped them through even the toughest times, and was topped off by the support of coaches AJ Reyes, Ralph Angel, and Adrian Palacios as well

as family, and Dons of all ages. "I felt that this season we had a bond like no other. We didn't get as far as we wanted but every game we did play as if it was our last. I feel we played our hearts out as individuals and as a team," says sophomore, Alexis Zacarias. "The best memory of this season was playing Santa Fe (away) and winning 4-3 in the 8th inning. It

was a very important game and I am glad we won it as a team." The girls placed fourth out of the six teams in the league and continued to push themselves to the limit in every round. "My favorite memory was all the team lunches we had before every home game and knowing that we had a great bond on and off the field," adds junior, Layla Prieto.

Regardless of the outcomes, the girls stayed humble and committed to playing their hearts out for the game they love. "I hope our team builds stronger, individually and together, as we will play every game our hardest to make it farther each season," says Zacarias. The girls are realizing where they may have gone wrong

and look forward to future years of improvement and higher titles. The unanimous goal to make playoffs on the team is evident, and their persistence is powerful. There is always room for improvement and the girls are ready to warm up their bats and bring home the gold. The path to the league championship title is a glowing, El Rancho blue!

Girls and Boy's swim make a splash at CIF



Katherine Pina extends from her flip turn

Photo by Adam Allred

ADAM ALLRED
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It may seem that a swimmer is always preparing for a meet, but all those meets come to one final competition. Competitors came from across the Del Rio

League on May 4 to compete at Rio Hondo College. Swimmers competed in multiple events to gain points toward the final score of their team. League standings are as follows: JV Girls came in 4th place, JV Boys came in 3rd, Varsity girls came in 2nd,

and Varsity Boys came in 4th. Three swimmers became Del Rio League champions in five different events. Ashley Meza, 12, in the 100 yard backstroke, Angelica Martinez, 10, in the 200 IM and the 500 Freestyle, and Carlos Rojo, 9, in the 50 freestyle

and 100 backstroke. Martinez also qualified for CIF in the 200 free and 500 free, along with two boys relay teams. At CIF, the Medley Relay team consisting of Benjamin Sanchez, Zishou "Andy" Ma, Jose Mancilla and Carlos Rojo came in 30th

place in CIF Southern Section. The 400 Freestyle Relay Team made up of Andrew Gonzalez, Benjamin Sanchez, Jose Mancilla, and Carlos Rojo pulled off a 32nd place finish. Angelica Martinez came out with a 13th place.

FEATURES

Momma Jocelyn “Joce” is Simply Irresistible!

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Oh. Hey, El Rancho, didn't see you there. For the past school year, the El Rodeo newspaper always featured a rather irresistible student on campus. But now, it is time to meet the chick behind the flick.

Pasta lover and vine enthusiast, Jocelyn Estrada, is simply irresistible! Jocelyn can be considered a very active person, but not in the exercise type of way, (gross!)

She is involved in numerous clubs and activities, such as Advanced Drama, Be A Leader, Thespian Troupe #2164, Social Justice, Journalism, Peer Advising, Girl Scouts and many more volunteer organizations! With all of these titles on her resume, she's got a future that's bigger and brighter than her forehead!

Jocelyn enjoys spending her free time on Twitter (@little-joce_) and watching food videos—mostly anything pasta related.

“I love pasta of all kinds, especially when it's al dente. But if it's not, I'll still eat it. Cold, hot, old, not, pasta is pasta,” says Estrada. Man, she really goes right pasta limit on food loving!

Jocelyn has a passion for the holidays and confirms her favorite Christmas time artist to be Mariah Carey.

“She is literally my queen. I owe it all to her. I'm naming my first born, Mariah. I don't even care.” I guess she'll literally “always be



Jocelyn Estrada and her adopted son, Kermit.

Photo by Adam Allred

[Joce's] baby,” word to Carey.

Aside from her love of food and the holidays, Jocelyn enjoys spending time with her two incredible pets. A little terrier named Dollar, named after the dog from the movie, “Richie Rich,” and a thirteen year old sister named after who-knows-what.

“Many people say my sister and I look alike, but I don't see it. I mean, she's the type of cute where she's kind of ugly that you just think it's cute. That's what makes us sisters, and I love her,” adds Estrada.

Jocelyn's greatest memories in high school would, of course, be credited to the drama department. From playing a hill in “Goodtime Charley” freshman year, to swooping lead roles throughout high school, Jocelyn has a strong love and appreciation

for all she has learned about the art and many other tips over time.

Joce has known exactly what she wants to pursue as a career since her Freshman year, and has her life all figured out... for the most part.

“I really want to be a teacher and create opportunities for students in other schools similar to those El Rancho was able to offer me. I believe in paying things forward, and I'm committed to changing/bettering the lives of young adults in the future,” says Jocelyn.

Our edgy educator plans to earn her degrees and credentials at the California State University, Fullerton and has happily committed as of late March! #GoTitans!

Speaking of a future of commitment, Jocelyn has been linked up with a lover and best friend since the end of her sophomore year.

Joce has been in a happy, adventurous and motivating relationship for over two years with her mans, Luis “Ratchet” Rodriguez.

“My only regret is not speaking to him sooner. I definitely see my future with [Luis] and I'm willing to go through anything to keep him on his feet.” How sweet! No wonder they were voted the Class of 2017's “cutest couple!”

As her high school years slowly come to an end, Jocelyn would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has made her experience so incredible.

“Shoutout to Advanced Drama! You were all a major part of my life and I love you all so dearly.

Mr. Wlasick and Mr. Zeko, thank you for allowing me the opportunities to channel my inner demons through my art and

creativity, both on the stage and in ink. Also, for motivating me to become a teacher. #GoTitans!

Susie and Mrs. Nasouf, you made senior year go by 100x's easier and always made me feel so welcomed, confident, and at home.

“Journalism family, there are not enough words to thank you for the strong and positive relationships we formed in just one year. I have no bad or problematic memories of anyone in that class, and that is why I love you all so much. I'll truly miss you all.”

Best of luck to the class of 2017, and for those who had any problems with Joce or don't like her, “don't be mad because I'm doing me, better than you're doing you.” That's all, folks.

The beautiful, bold, and bald Paul Zeko!



Mr. Zeko insisted on putting this selfie of him & his wife.

Photo by Paul Zeko

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Beautiful, bold, and bald. Mr. Zeko has been an incredible role model and teacher to many Dons, and it's time to recognize his hard work!

Zeko has been working at El Rancho High School for 20 years, more or less. That's longer than most of our students have been alive!

He has a very strong academic background and has attended a variety of universities to earn his degrees and credentials. Zeko is an alumni to California State University Fullerton, University of New Mexico, and received his masters degree and credentials at Whittier College

as well as being involved in a broadcast meteorology program at Mississippi State University “back in the day.”

In his double decade, Zeko has taught various courses such as Photography, Journalism, Freshman English, Junior English, Senior English and AVID.

“I think my favorite part about working here is that the students are, for the most part, respectful, kind and generous. Also, who couldn't love working with their wife? That's the other best part.”

Mr. and Mrs. Zeko are both beasts when it comes to writing. They also enjoy spending their time together both on and off campus.

The Zeko's are the advisors for the “Gad-

abouts” club where, they take a group of students to visit different parts of the world in the early summer. This year, they are visiting Spain, and next year, China!

This is where their love of traveling and the culture kicks in. “Outside of work, we enjoy hanging out at the beach, bike riding, traveling, and trying new foods,” says Mr. Zeko.

He is a fine connoisseur of foreign and meaty delicacies, but classifies carne asada nachos as his all time favorite. Don't come at him with your weak, 7/11 nachos, fools!

In addition to his late night “foody call” cravings, he enjoys kicking back and listening to smooth tunes of alternative and classic rock as well as jazz.

As well off and happy as Mr. Zeko is with his bubble, he has high hopes for the future and stays optimistic for his students and family. “When I grow up, I want to be a millionaire.” He's already bald anyways, so look out for the

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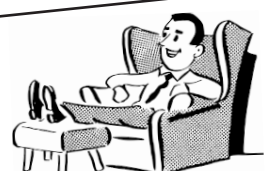
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FEATURES

Uno Tea House: so good you can't just have *uno*

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Boba lovers all over the city rejoiced at *finally* having a decent boba spot just a few minutes away from home when Uno Tea House opened its doors in Pico Rivera on April 13th. The cool and modern decor, as well as the delicious drinks, make it the perfect after school hang-out place or casual date spot.

Uno offers a wide selection of drinks, from traditional iced and milk teas to smoothies and boba sundaes. At only \$4.40 for a regular sized tea, plus 50 cents extra for boba, various jellies, or pudding, you get your money's worth. The regular size is more than enough to fill you up. However, be warned that asking them to blend ice into a tea (regular or milk) will cost you extra.

Uno also has treats to



eat alongside your drink and satisfy any sweet tooth. Their dessert menu consists of DIY shaved snow (as well as some predetermined combinations if you can't decide whether to pick strawberries or mangoes), macaroon and croissant ice cream, and Japanese cones

starting at only three dollars.

The staff is also quick and very helpful. On a busy day, you only have to wait about 5 minutes for your order, but times may vary depending on how complicated your order is. Any wrong orders are also fixed with no complaints.

Never tried boba before?

Dip your feet in with a matcha milk tea with boba, a taro milk tea with lychee jelly, a Thai tea with egg pudding, a strawberry mango smoothie with strawberry popping boba, or a strawberry banana smoothie.

Overall, Uno is a great

new addition to Pico, and it offers tasty drinks and desserts. Although it may not be on par with Honeyboba, it does an amazing job at satisfying boba cravings, and it's a closer drive. Stop by at 6001 Rosemead Blvd. with a few friends and enjoy.

Mata and Lugo awarded teachers of the year

SAMANTHA BERROSPE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AP Literature, CP English, and Diversity in Film and Literature teacher Christina Mata, and AP Spanish Language teacher Shirley Lugo received this year's Natalie Zucker "Teacher of the Year" Award. Both Mata and Lugo were nominated by their staff members to receive the \$500 award for their outstanding teaching accomplishments throughout the school year(s).

After working at the Ranch for seventeen years, Mata had the honor to receive this award.

"I am honored and proud. I love what I teach, and I love

working with my students, but as a teacher, you do not always know whether or not you are doing a good job or if you are making an actual difference. So to get the award helps me to feel like maybe I am doing something right after all. I feel appreciated, and that's always a nice thing."

As fun and bubbly as Mata is, her winning was a shock to herself and caught her at the wrong time.

"I was completely surprised. I did not expect to win at all. They called to present the award through Facetime right after I got out of the shower! So embarrassing!"

For Mata, this award

symbolizes her hard effort and triumphant success throughout her years of teaching at the Ranch. Even with the recognition of her work, the award won't influence her teaching or how she presents herself to her students and her staff members.

"With or without the award I would try to be the best that I can be. Every year, I take a look at what I've done, and I think about how I can make it better for next year. I think that it is human nature always to want to do better, and that is definitely in my nature. That's the great thing about being a teacher and a student, every year you get to start fresh, reach higher, learn new things, and

make new connections to others and some amazing literature!"

For Lugo, receiving this award is an honor, especially since she has been teaching at the Ranch for twenty-three years. All of Lugo's hard work throughout the years earned her this award, not once, but twice.

"I had won teacher of the year from the student body many years ago when they had surveyed students about it. I am so honored to receive this award once again."

For Lugo, receiving this award is just a way to appreciate the hard work that herself and many other teachers at the Ranch have done. Lugo knows that winning this award won't

change her teaching, but it will be a constant reminder to keep doing the best that she can do.

"Even though it is a great honor to have been singled out along with Mrs. Mata for doing what most every other teacher here at the Ranch does, I don't think that it will greatly impact my teaching. Every teacher I know does this job because they really want to make a positive influence on the lives of the students that come through their doors. We certainly don't do it for the money, the accolades or recognition, but it helps to encourage us to keep improving."

Avril Lavigne? Did you mean: "Melissa Vandella"



Avril Lavigne in 2004 and "Avril Lavigne" in 2017, this is a case for the FBI

Dear Avril Lavigne, or should I say Melissa Vandella, "Why do you have to go and make things so complicated?" On May 12, Twitter user @givenchyass left Twitter shook by revealing Lavigne's (alleged) secret when she posted "Avril Lavigne is dead & was replaced by a look alike: a conspiracy theory thread."

The thread begins with a video comparing a 2002 Avril Lavigne song with a 2014 Avril Lavigne song, clearly showing a vast shift in music style.

The story goes that after the 2002 release of her first album, *Let Go*, Lavigne had trouble transitioning from a regular person to a big celebrity. So, she hired a look-alike to go out and face the paparazzi pretending to be Ms. Lavigne. Her name was Melissa Vandella and one day while in the studio, the two twins thought it would be funny to teach Vandella how

to sing like Lavigne. Fast forward to 2003, Lavigne is beginning to write her next album when tragically, her grandfather and greatest supporter passed away. Lavigne became emotionally unstable and would lock herself in her apartment to write songs. She finally finished and began recording each song, sometimes having to take breaks and calm down. Some sources claim Lavigne threatened and even attempted to kill herself in late 2003. The theory continues with Lavigne actually succeeding a suicide attempt. At the time, Lavigne was at the peak of her career, and rather than let the news announce the Pop-Punk princess's death, her record company used Melissa Vandella to live out the rest of her life as the deceased celebrity. Soon after, Lavigne's second album (*Under My Skin*) was released featuring the real Avril Lavigne's voice. Skip to 2007,

when "Avril Lavigne" released her new album, *The Best Damn Thing*, and a completely new look. *Under My Skin* and *The Best Damn Thing* were polar opposites, differing in both lyrical content and song style. The transition from somber melodies to upbeat drums and guitars surprised many fans. Many have also noticed "Avril Lavigne" missing moles and birthmarks she used to have. This theory was once brought to her attention in an interview and she became very shaky and nervous, refuting the theory with, "Well I'm here so that's not true."

In the end, this conspiracy theory has more speculation than evidence. Maybe the real Avril Lavigne is still alive and this theory is just adding unknown and untrue information to the story. To read the full thread and find some more "evidence," visit twitter user @givenchyass and view her pinned tweet.

CAMPUS

Concert Band ends on a good note at banquet

[Lyons, from page 1]

"The principal at my old school had an award that she always kept on the side and it was kind of how I explained it at Senior Awards," says Lyons, "It's a selfish moment where I get to recognize kids that I have had an opportunity to work with beyond just as students on campus. It was just a way for me to say, 'these are kids that I appreciate.'"

Not only was Lyons incredibly appreciative of the two recipients when handing them their awards, he also had a lot to say about them in this interview.

"In my head, all the seniors are fantastic and I love all of them, but with Bert and Sam, that's kind of what we strive for... I think if you closed your eyes and you thought about this year from whatever perspective, there's a group of kids that have always, kind of, moved to the top. You see them all the time, they're at everything. They're the fabric of the campus," says Lyons.

As Lyons begins to step away from this chapter of his life, he is still unsure about where he will begin the next chapter of his life.

"I've been on a lot of interviews. I'm hopeful that I can stay a principal at the high school level," says Lyons. "That's kind of where my experience is, but it may be at a middle school, it may be an assistant principal position. I'm not really sure. I've been looking at different opportunities."

Thanks to his experience as principal at El Rancho, Lyons has learned an abundance of new life skills. Many of which he will take with him as he continues on his stroll through the jungle.

"[I've learned] trust your instincts, you don't know everything, and to be open and honest; to be transparent, to be 'this is where I'm at, this is where my head's at.' No matter how smart you are, it doesn't mean that you know everything. This last year has really taught me that more than I would have anticipated," says Lyons.

Lyons is positive that no matter where he goes, it would be a shock to have an experience that is even close to the one he's had here at the Ranch.

"I may do this job someplace else, but it's going to be different, because it just is," says Lyons, "To be able to walk in and say, 'this is what I can rely on, I can rely on good people.' Will I ever have a group of people like this? Probably not. There's no way to say, I'm really lucky. Mrs. Chavez is fantastic, Mrs. Leal is fantastic, Mr. Medrano, Mrs. Rosales, they're a great time, great support staff. The easiest part of this job is I get to work with really good kids, that makes it easy. I probably won't have that again, that unique experience."

All in all, El Rancho has had an incredible impact on Lyons in every way possible. The position he's had here has definitely changed him for the better.

"I think I'm much more comfortable making tough decisions. It's something that you never get good at. [Same for] having those hard conversations with people sometimes," says Lyons, "Having to make those tough decisions, I think that was a skill that has changed me."

When Lyons first started here at El Rancho, his goal was to create a positive atmosphere in which students could have a joyful experience.

"Yea, we want kids to do well, we want you to graduate from high school and go to college, but really, I want your experience on the campus to be one that is joyful. This should be fun," says Lyons, "This is a blast, why would I not want to do this every day? Even on my worst days, I am genuinely, like super excited to get to work."

How many principals can say that? Mr. Lyons, this might be the end of your journey here at El Rancho, but we are grateful for all that you've done here. Farewell, Mr. Lyons.



The El Rancho Concert band ends the year with an instrumental concert, including Orchestra and Jazz ensemble. Photo by Reggie Cordero

By ANDREYA YAXCAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Concert Band, Color Guard, Drumline, and Jazz Band ended off the school year with their annual banquet.

Mr. Cordero's performing arts programs- such as marching band, jazz band, and the color guard- all celebrate and honor the service of the seniors. Even though the seniors were a small class, Cordero showed his appreciation and gratitude of having them participate in his programs.

"When the seniors leave, it's always a tough loss, they contributed a lot to the program with leadership, musicianship and friendship," says Cordero.

During the banquet, awards were handed to students ranging from 'most improved' to 'outstanding musician'.

"This year the most memorable moment with jazz band was that day when they finally pulled it all together. We worked really hard all year and struggled but it finally all came together," says Mr. Cordero.

As for next year, tough decisions were made for the 2017-2018 leadership positions.

These important positions included Color Guard captains, Drumline captains and Assistant and Senior Drum Major.

Next year's Senior Drum Major was announced to be juniors, Angelica Ojeda and the Assistant Drum Major will be Andrew Sepulveda. Both would like to prepare the incoming freshmen early in the summer in hopes to make their last marching season unforgettable for all band members.

"Some differences I want to make

in the band is just having a better connection. I hope that incoming freshmen will push hard to learn what they have to learn so we can succeed as a band", says new Senior Drum Major, Angelica Ojeda.

"What I want most out of this upcoming season is for the newcomers and returners to 'band' together and create the greatest performance El Rancho has ever seen, both on the parade route and on the football field," says Assistant Drum major, Andrew Sepulveda.

The Drumline Captains were announced to be sophomores, Jesus Aguilar, Yazlin Juarez, and Xavier Marquez. These members would like to make a difference and continue to have a fun, yet hard working environment.

"I would want to bring everyone together as a family and work together as a group. I'm honestly terrified, but I'm

hoping that I'll make a difference", says new Drumline Captain, Jesus Aguilar.

The Color Guard continue to wow everyone while having a successful winter season. After placing 5th at championships, decisions were made at the annual banquet. Sophomore, Sandye Espinoza was announced to be next year's Color Guard Captain.

The upperclassmen who participate in the band's leadership program all hope that next marching season will be exciting. These leaders hope to teach the incoming freshmen early in the summer in order to have their field show and parade march ready before the next school year ends.

If you're interested in joining Orchestra, Marching Band/Concert Band, Jazz Band, Drumline, or Color Guard, contact Mr. Cordero through donsband@gmail.com or in room C-4.

2016-2017: a roller coaster of emotions

By PEDRO SALCIDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past school year has been... interesting. There have been many ups and, many, many, downs.

Within the school, a lot has changed. In August we got a new Principal, Mr. Jonathan Lyons. With his inspiring speech at the beginning of the year, El Rancho students had high hopes for the year. Slowly adapting to his new *jungle*, Lyons began to develop a love for the school and its students fairly quickly.

As the year progressed and the months passed, El Rancho hosted it's annual Night Pep Rally. With a close competition this year, all the classes brought all they had to the rally with amazing skits and school spirit. The Superhero Seniors prevailed with a #Back2Back win, Freakshow Juniors came in second, Undead Sophomores in third and Fifties Freshman in fourth. As the class competition came to an end all the students joined hands and sang the alma mater.

Fast forward to December and it was already time for Powder Puff. The senior and junior ladies trained neck and neck for several weeks to go against each other and the boys also rehearsed for many weeks to provide us with a *fabulous* performance. As game day came closer, tension between the two classes progressed (all in good fun). On game day the "pepsters" put on a fantastic performance, despite the minor audio problems, you could say they are on their way

to J.A.M.Z. this year. After a long battle, the seniors came out on top with a win against the juniors with a final score of 12-8.

After winter break, the most wonderful time of the year quickly came to an end when the United States was "awarded" a new president, Donald J. Trump. A week after President Trump was sworn in, he had signed over three executive orders and there were several protests against his rule. Many Americans were, and are, still living in a constant state of fear and anger against the new President and his cabinet.

One of the marches that was in opposition to Trump's office was the Women's March. I myself had the pleasure of attending this march with some other El Rancho students and staff members. The march started around 10am and ended around 4pm. The crowd was very energetic and determined to make their voices heard. This march advocated everything from women's rights to the Black Lives Matter movement. It was not focused on one single issue, all of the causes had a common goal, equality.

As college apps finished up and ER students began to determine where they wanted to attend, Marcela Cisneros, had received her acceptance letter to Stanford. Her financial aid and scholarship money exceeded beyond the four years she would attend, in other words, SHE GOT A FULL RIDE!

Water, aka one major key to life, has been causing some issues within these last few years. In the small town of Flint, Michigan, it has been three years since

they have had clean water. In 2014, the city switched water suppliers as they reconstructed pipes for their old water supply. With a population of 98,310 and 41.2% of the population living in poverty and more than half the town being black, it makes you wonder... nevermind, not today. Anyways the water running through the faucets in Flint have bacteria that could cause diseases such as cancer. If you wish to stay updated on the issue you can go to flintwaterclassaction.com.

Traveling to North Dakota, the Native Americans of the area have been having trouble with an oil company who want to place a pipeline right over their sacred grounds. This is not only insensitive to their beliefs but also very dangerous. These natives use this as a source of water and if the pipe leaks it can stream into their water supply. There have been many protests against the pipeline and a very strong social media presence all across the globe showing their support for the natives using the hashtag #NoDAPL. Unfortunately, the natives did not succeed. The pipeline was placed, and has leaked twice since then. If you wish to help this cause you can visit NoDAPL.life.

Coming back to school, towards the end of the year, we received a new dean, Chelio Medrano. His start was not as smooth as others. Coming in towards the end of the school year, it's taking him a little while longer to adjust to his new surroundings. He started off by dress coding many, many people. He then had the ladies in the attendance office

take away phones in the case of tardies. It's been interesting. Most students say that he is actually "pretty chill." Senior Izaiah Morales says, "He's the coolest dean we have had yet. I like him the most because he shows me respect, and that's not something adults usually do."

This year was the fourth annual Don Games. The class competition where two classes are joined together and go head to head in a variety of games. At the end of the rally the Gray Team (juniors and sophomores) came out on top with a win against the Blue Team (seniors and freshman). The class of 2017 is the first class to have it throughout all four years of their high school career. The class of 2018 is the undefeated class in this category. They are definitely the class to beat next year.

As the year comes to a close and everyone is finding out how they will spend the next four years of their life, the El Rancho school board decided to do some pretty suspicious things. In previous years, the graduation requirements had been that one needed three years of science, a semester of health, and a 2.0 overall GPA. Well, guess what? That's all gone. The removal of these graduation requirements is pretty dangerous to future classes. If you wish to read more on this issue turn back to page 1.

2016-2017 has been a rollercoaster full of lots of loops, but have high hopes for the future as our generation becomes more aware and as our collection of memes become stronger.

CAMPUS

Senior activities kick off as year comes to a close

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The end of the school year is always the most thrilling and active time for all students. However, the class of 2017 takes the lead when it comes to the summer countdown. Many students look forward to the warm summer nights and pulling out their bathing suits from the bottom of their drawers.

Thanks to the administration, teachers, and students, numerous activities are planned to help make that time fly.

First up, is senior sunset on May 2nd. During senior sunset, there will be karaoke, games, and a slideshow presented in El Rancho's quad. Seniors were allowed to submit photos for the slideshow through the "Twitter" app with the use of



#ERSENIORS. The event will be an opportunity for the class of 2017 to sit together on lawn chairs and blankets while soaking up the memories with each other on campus one last time.

By the last week of school,

senior grades will have already been submitted. The class of 2017 is left to soak up their final moments in public school and be together with their peers.

The annual "senior picnic" has taken a shift from being a field

trip event to a round of challenges on the football field on June 5th. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in games, such as a watermelon eating challenge and potato sack race.

Not only is it an excit-

ing event for seniors, but some teachers as well! Different staff members, such as Mr. Wlasick and Mrs. Senteno-Tapia, will take judging positions for the event and help time, oversee, and organize the competitions.

The event is full of laughs and messy fun as the seniors enjoy their final days together. And still, the thrills do not end there.

On the final day of school, seniors are able to pick up their cap and gown and begin rehearsal for the graduation procession. At this point, reality is hitting, and the few moments left as an enrolled Don will slowly run out.

The clock is ticking as the year comes to an end, and as bitter-sweet as the thought of it all is, the seniors will always be Dons and keep the spirit and memories alive as the years go by.

College signing day recognizes college-bound seniors



BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The second annual "College Signing Day," took place on May 15th, 2017. The event was prepared and hosted by Generation 1st Degree, Be A Leader

Club, and, senior, Bethania Perez as part of Michelle Obama's "Better Make Room" initiative.

Seniors submitted college acceptance/waitlist letters to the College and Career Center beginning late March and were therefore invited to sit among the 250+

seniors who sat out on the field to celebrate. For every college letter a student submitted, they received a raffle ticket to win prizes such as a laptop and gift cards!

"The planning was put on by Mrs. Leal, Mrs. Nasouf, Jacki Cisneros (Generation 1st Degree) and Michelle Sandoval (Be A Leader Advisor)," says Bethania, "it was definitely a lengthy process."

El Rancho hosted board members and teachers to speak at the event as well as honoring a guest speaker, Krista Marie Yu, from ABC Family's *Dr. Ken*. Krista spoke on her experience in the higher education process and offered some helpful advice to the class of 2017.

"The event was not set up and put together easily. I'd like

to thank everyone who helped throughout the process, including [the Associated Student Body] and the Peer Advisors who came to school at six A.M. to get chairs, posters, and the stage ready to go," adds Perez.

The ceremony was well organized and exciting for all students, however, there was one aspect that did not reach what was expected.

"It was a really proud moment for the seniors, and I just wish that it was far more interactive for them and focused on their achievements and the schools they were accepted to," says Perez.

The beginning of the assembly was full of excited peers and parents as the seniors entered the stadium, and from there, the spirit declined. The majority of

the event was spent listening to board members and administration speak of their own hardships and experiences in college, rather than focusing on the students and their respective colleges.

Also, the colleges that the class of 2017 had been accepted to were only briefly summarized in a speech and did not allow for individual recognition to any of the students. In addition, no students were given the opportunity to speak or share a point of view which would have been far more relatable to the seniors.

College signing day was an honorable and proud moment for the seniors, parents, teachers and many more El Rancho members. And now, the countdown begins for graduation.

Word on the Street: To which college did you commit?



University of California - Merced
Robert Herrera, 12

Long Beach City College
Alejandra Villalpando, 12



BIOLA
UNIVERSITY

Biola University
Melody Campos, 12

California State University: Los Angeles
Siann Rodriguez, 12



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SENIOR

I, Heavenlee Vasquez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The side room in big bear to Janae Vasquez and her people. The varsity 3200 to Destiny Rivera, my chocolate strawberry addiction to Brandon, my fan club to Robert, and my clumsiness to Jamie Benitez.

I, Samantha Berrospe, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

To the underclassmen, I hope you all make the right decisions and make choices based on what you want to do and accomplish. Also underclassmen, go to every school activity. You might think you're too cool for them or that it's lame, but going to these events are what will make your high school experience memorable. I leave to Katherine Herrera the strength that I never had, to a hopefully stress free senior year. To Aleksey Soto I leave my love for bands and discovering new music. Please play your kpop so many times and very loud so everyone converges into a kpop fan. To Kayla Perez, I leave to you my love for Harry Styles, and Teen Wolf and in hope that you will constantly play Harry's album and binge watch the greatest show in history. To Andreyax Yaxcal I leave to you my sarcastic wit because your little comments about everything are what make the brainstorming circle hilarious. To all of the people I mentioned, you will all succeed to the greatest and I leave you guys a piece of me in spirit. Love you all. XOXO Gossip Girl.

I, Albert Madueno, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My dark humor to Rudy Fernandez (CO '18), my sassy attitude to Janae Vasquez (CO '19), my MLG skills to Armando Tapia (CO '18), my sarcasm to Stephanie Alva (CO '18), and my immaturity to Kaeliana Vasquez (CO '18).

I, Amy Navarro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my basketball skills to Susana Regalado, my height to Dontaylor Maxwell, captain knowledge to Nicole Mercado, and lunch money and good looks to Melanie Navarro.

I, Jonathan Maciel, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my lit music, my stress (and the many tears that come with it), my confidence, my individuality, and my spiciness ;) to the underclassmen.

I, Christian Arteaga, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my sarcasm to Steve (bighead) Acuña, my big butt and great advice to Rodrigo (Rigolicious) Saldana, my "Overfriendliness" to Andrew Martinez, my reserved spot on the varsity soccer bench to Robert Ayala, and lastly, my ability to prove people wrong to Amberly Recendez. :*

I, Nayeli Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my "foul language" to the 2017-2018 El Rodeo Staff, my loud voice to the Get Lit Team, my coffee addiction and ability to sleep in class to Aleksey Soto, my senior year attitude to Kayla Perez, my ability to be extremely careless to Katherine Herrera, my sarcasm to Andreyax Yaxcal, my mood swings to Angel Molina, my astrology knowledge and mom lectures to Alexa Osegura, the food in my house to Nich Rodriguez (since he eats it anyways), and my lamp to Jessica Hernandez.

I, Aaron Gallegos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: To finish college, land a job at a place like Pixar, create my own animated film, and live my life to its fullest potential.

I, Gabby Castro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my poster writing to Serena Perez, my ASB cubby to Karissa Furlough, my soul and dedication to Briana Alcala, my love to Sarah Navarro, my heart to Ahtziri Sanchez, my chair to Matt Sanchez and my phone to Julio Omelas.

I, Omar Torres, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my tennis teammates my trait of being motivational and happy.

I, Adam Allred, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: to the underclassmen in El Rodeo, my somehow good picture taking skillz, to Sakeenah Islam the desk I always sit at in Xenia's.

I, Madison Ortiz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My 100m sprinting legs to Natalie Munoz, my 400m sprinting legs to Charlette Barrera, my Varsity relay team to Natalie Munoz, Chalette Barrera and Jocelyn Jauregui, and my photography skills to Gabby Nava.

I, Briana Santos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My annotated books for AP LIT to the up and coming seniors

I, Ivy Castillo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My crocs to Andrew Sepulveda, my love for emojis to Melissa Ochoa, and my mochi to Julio Omelas. My locker to Ernesto Castro, my onesie to Remy Torres, my blonde hair to Kyra Chavez, my fidget spinner to Tony Cortez, and a cold one to Rudy Ya Boi.

I, Jerry Chu, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Hello! Now that I am leaving, I want to say a few things! It has been a great pleasure to all of you whom I met! I leave my lucky hat to Jack, I leave my school spirit to Jake, and lastly, I leave my awesomeness to everyone! Teri maa ki chut bhen ke lode (good bye)! Good luck y'all!

I, Emily Gamboa, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I give my right arm to kassandra my "life" to Brianna and my "skills" to my daughter Serena

I, Stephanie Rico, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: chicken legs to Susana Regalado, My amazing math skills to Carlos P, yearbook editing skills to Anthony Alvarez

I, M
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Susan
sock

I, Jocelyn Estrada, be
do hereby bequeath
room locker to Gey
humorous writing
mom-like habits t
remarks to Katie
sarcastic personality
for Night Pep Rally
absolute shade-throv

WILLS

I, Pedro Salcido, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my tweef starting abilities to Kalysah Hudson and Mariah and Marissa Cruz, my dance moves to Gabriela Aguilar, my photography skills to Miranda Zorilla, my striped shirt to Emily Ponce (not 4 realz tho hehe), my creativeness to Evelin Salas, my layout abilities to next years journalism and yearbook staff, and my bitter attitude towards the school board to every student attending ER :).

Monica Guido, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My photoshop skills to Anthony Alvarez, My Aunt Olaf ankles to Ana Regalado, and My swag to Dontaylor Maxwell.

I, Ariana Ramos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The palm tree to the next group of Volleyball Seniors, My amazing photoshop skills to Eva Salas, My captain abilities to Jenna Alvarado, and My uncontrollable facial expressions to Emily Ponce.

I, Samantha Leggis, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My will to be #CollegeBound to Steve Acuna, my school spirit to Dillon Madrid, my diploma to Jacob Romero, my ASB President chair to Julio Ornelas, my #ShakeEm 's to Draven Mendoza, my ASB cubby to Anika Herrera.

I, Stephanie Marquez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: Take everything the staff has shown me and have that respect .

I, Jose Alcala, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My fake glasses to Louis Cortez, my knowledge of television and movies to Crystal Burgos, my swollness to Melissa Ochoa, all of my accents and impressions to the Drama department, and my old film reels and meditation practices to Mr. Retana.

being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My green straightsha "Straightsha" Govea, my love to Aleksey Soto, my proud to Sophia Flores, my witty to Anika Herrera, my laid back and love to Ernesto Castro, my love to Crystal Burgos and my swag attitude to Layla Prieto.

I, Donald Brown, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: to Eric Estrada, I leave flats that I ran 14:42 in, to George Castillo, I leave the endurance necessary to run a 9:35 3200m, to Nick Rodriguez, I leave the speed necessary to run a 2:02 800m, and to Tigran, I leave you your favorite leash.

I, Jeremy Martinez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave my swag to the upcoming senior football class.

I, Vanessa Espinoza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my responsibility of painting/drawing for set work to Ernesto Castro and Kyra Chavez. Also I bequeath my assertive attitude to Alyssa Gomez. Last but not least, the improv team to Ernesto Castro.

I, Jasmine Chan, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my position & love to Serena Perez, my bangs to Karissa Furlough, the embarrassing video of me from Elementary School to Hugo Vera, my memes to Julio Ornelas & Alexis Gallegos, my lack of skills in golf to Deanna Roldan, my love of superheroes to Emily Lopez and my love of Shrek to Rene Gallegos.

I, Ashley Cota, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I give Jennifer Rodriguez my memories so, she can look back to all our crazy jokes. I give Danica Kantor my freedom so, she can go anywhere she wants without permission. I give Arlene Luis my brain so, she can see that being intelligent isn't something that is given but worked for over time. I give Amanda Rodriguez my height so, she can see what it's like to be short again. I give Mathew Molina my courage so, he can show his true self to others. I give Jennifer Cervantes my eyes so, she can see all the anime I've watched. I give my Loving Parents my heart so they can see how much they mean to me. I also give them my awards because they are the ones who helped me earn them.

I, Ashley Meza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: to always do my best in anything I wish to pursue and never allow anyone to let me feel anything less than the fighter I am.

I, Xcaret Estrada, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My obsession with conspiracy theories and movie theatre adventures to Ernasty Castro, my emotional breakdowns and breakfast runs to K-eye-ra Belana, my crusty rusty locker and my black leotard to Sophizzle Flores, my arguments with Wlasick to Tony Jackson Picket Burnside, my love for Steven Universe and new friends to Karizma Reyes, my costume changes to Alyssa Gomez, my need to protect the Little Theatre at all costs to Natalie Sepulveda, my hide and go seek skills to Sirius Savedra, my small bladder to Crystal Burgos, and my entire heart and home in the Little Theatre to Mr. Wlasick and the Thespians in Troupe #2164.

I, Katherine Pina, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My reputation of wearing KT Tape at every swim meet to Marissa Lopez, my smiles on those cloudy days to Angie Martinez, my willingness to defend my best friend as well my before meet dances to Carlos (aka Barlos) Rojo.

the following: My areja, and my great

STAFF FAREWELLS



Most of you don't know who I am, and that's okay, because this is for the El Rodeo Staff. For the past year and a half, I have created a family and a home in El Rodeo. Most kids who peaked in high school have a variation of all of these great and amazing accomplishments. Luckily, I hate high school and have yet to peak, hence El Rodeo being all I have here at the Ranch. I only spent one semester of my junior year with the staff of 2015-2016 and I thought their departure was as hard as things would get for me. Saying goodbye to the 2016-2017 staff is, by far, a lot harder.

I cannot begin to describe what an honor it has been for me to not only be a part of the staff, but to lead it as editor-in-chief. The bond that we have created is unlike any

At first I thought the Journalism class would be another kick-back class where we take pictures and write a few essays about school, but it turned out to be far more than that. I actually joined a family of brilliant, creative, and witty thinkers that create a work of art which many dons look forward to every month.

Not only am I thankful for the improvement in my writing over the year, but for the lessons I was taught to better myself and my perspective on many things through my peers and Mr. Zeko.

To my baby of the class, Kayla. Your contagious laugh and strong perseverance always brightens my mood. You're going to bring bigger and better additions to the table in future years, you make me so proud. Andrey, thank you for laughing at my jokes when nobody else does. You rock!

Aleksey, you've never looked bad, and I mean it. I don't think the word "flaw" exists in your book. Keep doing what you're doing, brainiac! Katie, your laugh, hard work, and fried rice can cure any bad mood of mine, and please continue to get so involved in different clubs.

Antonio, you're so incredible, and I mean it. Show off your talent! Adam, you always have the best chisme and the best photos. Skyler, why didn't you move sooner? You bring a whole new kind of happy vibe to X-1. Michael, you are an incredible artist, and I know you will go far.

Sam, baby, I know you'll always keep in touch. Your fangirl

other I've made here on campus and yes, this is a cliché, but it doesn't matter because I actually mean it. When you spent countless hours with a group of people, especially when you're on campus together until 10 at night, they start to grow on you. I have created so many memories with this staff and I would never be able to finish telling them all.

Everyone who has been apart of this year's staff has left an unforgettable impression, not only on me, but on the paper. We've had people like Michael Martinez, who is an incredible artist that barely ever says a word; Antonio Cortes, who always has something slightly terrifying to say, but, nonetheless, has grown so much as a writer; Adam Allred, who started off as a sole reporter only to delve

ways keep me entertained. Stay thick, mami! Pedro, you can't have custody of Kermit until you are 21. But, I love you and I hope you stay in my life. Ethan, I've known you the longest out of everyone in Journalism. I hope you



always remember how much I appreciate you and how proud I am of you.

Nayeli, thank you for not being like the other moms, you're a cool mom. I love you so much and I know you're going to change the world... the count is 126+. Please send me photos of your Kermit and always eat your veggies! I can't wait to go to your Spiderman wedding.

Mr. Zeko, you beautiful, bald headed, Spiderus, you. Thank you for

into photography when we needed him most; Mia Alvarez, who only copy edited for us and still managed to spill cup of noodles on the desk; Samantha Chavez, who never said no to running an errand for us and was amazing with a camera; Sebastian Arzate, who was always there to help us with any articles we needed; Danae Rodriguez, who showed up to class 12% of the time but never missed a killer sports article; Gemini Chavez, who took literally anything we threw at her; Daniel Reveles, who did anything and everything to get amazing shots for El Rodeo; Noah Perez, who was always available for photos and a playlist in layout; Bernice Vega, who could lay out a paper like nobody else, while dancing along to literally any type of music; Katherine Herrera, who did everything in her power to make sure she gave nothing but the best to this paper; Aleksey Soto, who is an incredible writer that's never shy about speaking her mind; Andrew Sepulveda, who is a wizard of copy editing and provided the best memes; Kayla Perez, who gives so much to this paper and its staff and never failed to pick a fight with Mr. Zeko; Andrey Yaxcal, who had the wittiest of remarks to anything and everything; Skyler Cornwell, who literally came out of nowhere but proved to be a wonderful person with a knack for political and entertainment pieces; Samantha Berrospe, who would throw her shoe for no reason, but still do everything to be one of the best reporters on staff; Ethan Sepulveda, who could never turn a single thing in on time, but always delivered amazing articles in between Photoshopping his pictures; Jose Alcala, who always saved us from horrendous grammatical and spelling errors, but still roasted the majority of us; Petey Salcido, who did the best center spreads and could literally do anything we needed him to do while still throwing it back in class; and Jocelyn Estrada, who is a mom to the whole staff while still being a vital part to this paper with her humorous

everything from being honest about my writing, to writing letters of rec. that make it seem like I birthed the world's savior. I appreciate how flexible yet punctual you are with everything. You set an incredible example!



I wish I would have joined Journalism sooner, and I can't thank you all enough for the great memories we have created. I find you all... simply irresistible. Thank you to everyone who actually read my articles and gave me feedback, you all are the best! I hope to see the paper thrive throughout the years. I love you, El Rodeo!

- Jocelyn Estrada

writing and incredible personality.

Mr. Zeko, thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead such a talented group of people. Thank you for giving me a home on this campus in the form of X-1. Had it not been for you and this class, I wouldn't be going on to study communications at UCSD. Journalism has revealed the best parts of me, like my ability to sleep in class, the amount of times I can cuss in an hour, my knack for writing and editing, my ability to lead, and my ability to be apart of a little family. I'll never forget my time here in El Rodeo and I can only hope to have left you all with the best of me. You all made my senior year and I cannot ever thank you enough. I'm going to leave you all with this, as it is the only way I can end this without crying, but still hating myself: I see the finish line, gonna finish mine.

-Nayeli Hernandez



Although I became a Don four months before the end of the school year, I fully consider myself a part of El Rancho. Growing up as a kid who moved around a lot, I have been to my fair share of schools, El Rancho being the sixth high school I have attended in the span of four years. Believe it or not, with the amount of schools I've attended, I have not once participated in any school events or clubs until now! I chose my senior year to finally get involved! I don't regret it except for the fact that I waited so long to experience some of the best moments of my youth.

I wish I could have these past four months on replay. I will always cherish the people I've met and the opportunities that have been given to me. I will take with me what I have learned from the teachers who have welcomed me as if I had been here since the beginning, and I will certainly not forget my fellow peers on the El Rodeo staff who have showed me nothing but kindness. Thank you for having me, El Rancho.

-Skyler Cornwell



I'll miss this awesome staff. Everyone was always cracking me up. This was by far the most fun class I've ever had. Journalism is a class I will never forget. Mr Zeko wasn't just a teacher, he was also like a student. He would roast everyone over a stupid comment and the one getting roasted would laugh because it was true but it was all in playful fun. If you're a sophomore or junior you should definitely join this class. This class brought me a couple new friends and a lot of memories. This class made me a whole lot better at writing and it really showed in my essays in ERWC. I'm going to miss it. Good bye to the El Rodeo staff, good bye Zeko, and goodbye high school.

-Antonio Cortes



If I want to be completely honest, being in El Rodeo was one of the funnest things I've ever had the privilege of doing while at ER. I'll miss Mr. Zeko, every other staff member I'll leave behind, I won't miss staying for layout and being at school for over 12 hours, bye. Lowkey those were the best times though. These people I get to call my fellow news staff have become some of my favorite people. I bid thee farewell El Rodeo News, may we meet again.

-Adam Allred



Hi. Oh Wait... I'll miss y'all. K, bye.

- Michael Martinez

STAFF FAREWELLS

I joined journalism last year during second semester after being recommended by former staff member, Hugo Martinez, to join. Since then, I have fallen in love with the class and the people in it.

Being in journalism was the best opportunity that I was ever given in high school. I got to meet new friends who were just as quirky and ambitious as myself, I wrote better due to being in a class that is focused solely on writing, and it was a class that I always enjoyed going to. Walking into X-1 everyday, besides the dreadful Tuesdays, was a class that felt just like home. With people that I'm not afraid to be myself, and a place where I'm not afraid to speak out about my opinions and ideas, it is nice knowing I have a place that I feel comfortable in.

It's bitter-sweet knowing that all of us are going to go to different places and accomplish great things. It's especially sad knowing that many of the people that I've gotten to know these past four years have grown up and to become such intelligent, strong young adults.

The fellow staff members to continue next year are the people that I will miss immensely. They are the creators of a new vision of El Rodeo and they are the best people for this task. Aleksey, Katie, Kayla, and Andrey, you guys are wonderful, smart and strong ladies that will do so well in the future. You guys take initiative and aren't afraid to speak up about anything. You guys are people that have made my last year of journalism one that I will always remember.

Aleksey and Katie, you guys are seniors next year and it will be so stressful, but don't forget to focus on yourselves before your studies. I've known you two since middle school and I know that you guys are strong women that can get through anything. I can't wait to hear about your success.

Kayla and Andrey, I've had the pleasure to get to know you two this semester and I know that, whatever you decide to do in and after high school, you guys will succeed. Since you two are going to be juniors next year, you guys still have time to choose what you want to do and make sure this upcoming school is one that you strive for greatness.

I will miss my class of 2017 a lot because I have formed some great friendships with the people in this class. For the seniors in journalism, I want to let you know that you guys are such hilarious good-hearted people that I will always have a place in my heart for. Yeli, Joce, Petie, Ethan, Adam, Skyler, Michael, and Antonio, thank you for making my senior year

memorable with laughs, jokes, and mafia. I hope you all live up to your dreams and shine brighter and brighter with every dream that you concur.

To Mr. Zeko, joining your Digital Photography class last year was another one the best decisions I made in high school. You made me fall in love with photography and believed in me and my artwork when no one else did. So, thank you. You are a great teacher that cares about your students and always tries to make sure every student has an amazing experience in your class. I will miss you Mr. Zeko. I've had you for two years now, and I will surely miss your classroom with students art covering the walls, and that newspaper scent that lingers in the room. But most of all I will miss you being my teacher because your critics and helpful advice on my articles and my photos are what made my writing become stronger and my photography become better and more unique. Thank you for everything.

It is sad to be leaving this year and leaving behind the newspaper after such amazing times. I have gained so many memorable memories from being at El Rancho for these past four years. I know that I will do well and succeed in whatever is to come in the future. Goodbye Class of 2017, and goodbye the El Rodeo Staff. You will be missed, and to the staff, you will always be in my heart.

-Samantha Berrospe



Henlo staff, henlllo u stinky staff, go eat an paper u bootyful people.

This whole year has been fantastic! I would like to thank all of you on staff for making my senior year the most memorable. Words can not describe how happy I am that I got kicked off of volleyball and joined the staff.

All those late nights we spent together editing articles and making layouts will forever be a special part of my high school memories!

Thank you, Nayeli, for encouraging me to join. You are a strong leader and your future is bright. Please keep being yourself and fight the good fight. You are like a mother/older sister figure to me. I have learned so much from you. You are going to be such a powerful and bada** woman. I can not wait to see you succeed; you deserve every ounce of happiness coming your way. I am going to miss you so much. I love you.

Sam, you are one of the sweetest people I have ever met. You make the room so bright with your little jokes your and cute laugh. You make my day better whenever you show up and I honestly regret not talking to you sooner. I am glad I got to know you this year. I hope that you have a remarkable life. You are an AMAZING PERSON. I love you.

JOCELYN! Hehehehe. I am so glad I got to be in this class with you. Since freshman year you have been one of the funniest people I have ever met. There are NO words that can describe how much I appreciate you and Kermit. You are an amazing human being and the thought of not seeing you every day makes me upset. I hope you have fun in college; you are going to become an amazing teacher. I love you.

Hey, Picasso, I never called you this in real life but who cares. I have always admired your drawings, please don't ever stop. I see you going far with your art. I know we never really talked but you are an all around cool and chill person. I hope you have an amazing life after high school. You're going to do great, Michael. I love you.

Adam, you are so sweet. Thanks for the sweater from Christmas; it's really comfy and soft. I hope you have a great time in college. I'm happy to have had journalism, Elias, and Qureshi with you, you had my back with some assignments that saved my grade. You are gonna do great things. I love you.

Noble, noble, noblllllee. You are a lil baby with yo 13-year-old ash. Tehe. You are one of the funni-

Saying goodbye was never easy, so this calls for a moment to be cheesy.

Well, this has been a short time coming.

To Redbone, Bino kept us humming.

The stress we endured just to make this newspaper made us all at one point, want to jump off a skyscraper.

Lead by the all powerful Yeli I reviewed songs from the speaker

To shows on the tele.

We fought, we bought nuggs, and with Zeko to oversee

Through the fights, we expanded our family tree.

To the ones we lost over the year,

it was never the same without you here.

To Yeli, Kermit, and the web chart,

I say thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

"Ditzy Goonfits" will never

est people to walk this campus. Even though Joce tells you to take my seat whenever I'm late, I'm glad to have gotten to know you. You're an amazing actor and I hope you continue with it, but if you don't, it's all good. I know you're going to be a great person after high school and you're going to do beautiful things. Ethan, I love you... as much as I am able.

Antonio! I hope you continue with making music. Death Cancer has an amazing ring to it. If you don't keep rockin out throughout life, I will come for you lol. I hope you have an amazing life; you deserve it. #BuyDeathCanceriTunes. (in metal) I love you.

SKYLAR!! You came in halfway through the year and I'm glad you did! You are an amazing writer and I think you have a future with it. You are such an intelligent person that I have learned so much from. I hope you have fun back in Oregon! I love you.

And now for my babies. The fantastic four, the fabulous fems, you are K.A.K.A. I love you all so much. I hope you guys succeed in every sense of the word. You four deserve so much. Aleksey, the future mother. You are such a beautiful and intelligent being. You are such a strong individual. You are going to make a great Editor-in-chief.

Katie, you are such a cutie. I am going to miss you so much. I'm probably going to miss your laugh the most. It's one of my favorite things in journalism. I hope you have fun senior year. It's tough but don't let it get to you. YOU GOT THIS!

Hey Andrey! I hope I didn't slaughter your name but you are such a cool girl. I hope you have a good junior year. You're almost there! I didn't talk to you much and I regret not doing so. I hope you have a good high school experience you deserve it. Hang in there! #2MoreYears.

K A Y L A! Probably one of the most adorable staff members! You're doing amazing sweetie. Don't let anyone get you down, you are too precious to be sad! I can't wait to watch you grow into a better person. I hope you have fun in high school. You deserve every ounce of recognition you get (bc Zeko didn't give you any.) You are great. I love you.

ZEKOOOO! The king of baldness. Thank you for giving me the chance to join journalism. You and everyone on staff have made me a better writer. Keep putting out some bomb papers and don't stop teaching. You may be getting old, but you aren't that old yet. I love you Zeko. You're great.

- Pedro "Petey" Salcido

die, even at 2 am when Amber is the only one to reply.

To Joce, whom I've known for over a decade, your friendship has left me in a debt that can never be repaid.

It saddens me that we must say goodbye, even just this once, but soon will we will say Hi. Sincerely, Ima Dunce.

To Sam, the madam that uses sunglasses as a form of eye protection,

I could make a diagram explaining why you're the biggest fan of One Direction.

To all the weird stuff that Zeko decided to turn the blind eye,

Makes his easily the hardest goodbye.

- Ethan Sepulveda

CAMPUS LIFE

Sophomore poets present *A Night of Spoken Word*



Poets of sophomore class Joshua Esqueda, Alonzo Murrieta, Alejandro Sainz, and Brandon Villalobos. Photo by Mr. Zeko

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ten weeks of studying stanzas and preparing poems culminated in Mrs. Zeko's sophomore Honors English students performing at the annual Night of Spoken Word on May 23rd. The event was hosted at Whittier College's Ruth B. Shannon Center and sponsored by the Flourish Foundation.

Every student was required to do a group piece, and a few were selected to do an individual. Eric Morago, a well-known poet in the Whittier area, aided Zeko's classes during the long creative process.

"I came about once a week, unless we felt that we needed to try and squeeze another meeting in, and basically it just depended on where we were in the process," Morago said. "In the very beginning it's all about exposing them to different poems and examples and trying to work out an exercise for them like exercises on metaphors and similes or on narrative and storytelling. Then they would do like a writing exercise, and then it would go to then turning in either an individual poem or a group poem. Then it would be the revision process."

The night opened with musical entertainment from sophomores Nelson Portillo and Brandon Villalobos, followed by juniors, Gabriela Nava and Sol Rodriguez, A.K.A the Meloncolly Mondays. Their line up included covers of alternative rock songs such as *Zombie* by the Cranberries and *Whiskey and Wine* by 311.

In order to prepare and motivate the sophomore poets, Rodriguez, along with junior Esmeralda Barajas, recited the classic poem *The Quiet World* by Jeffrey McDaniel and their response entitled *Dead Line*.

"[Sol] came up to me telling me she was interested in this classic piece and Mrs. Zeko said we should perform," Barajas said.

"We were sitting on the idea and the opportunity came up for us to perform it, so we were, like, 'Okay we'll just perform it,'" Rodriguez added.

After all of the opening performers, the night finally kicked off with *Training Wheels*, a poem by Diana Munoz, Erika Escamilla, Crystal Burgos, and Matthew Avelar, and the rest of the night fell into place afterwards. The night was a chance for

the sophomores to open up and express feelings they would normally keep inside. Dylan Joseph was among the few who performed his solo piece, *Heart of Gold*, which earned loud applause both before and after the performance.

"I tried to think of what I truly wanted to tell to everyone, and what experience I wanted them to know, so I chose what I thought was bothering me the most at the time," Joseph said. "For a while I've been feeling guilty about watching all my friends struggling, with me not struggling as hard, and I just wanted to encapsulate that in my poem the best I could."

Of course, many of the performers were also nervous. "I was nervous because I wrote [*Love is Different*] about how much I love my boyfriend and how great he is and then about us breaking up," Natalie Perez said. "We were going to be talking about love and memories and stuff and both of our moms were going to be there!"

Crystal Burgos closed the night with her solo piece, *The Art of English*.

The night was a memorable one for all of the sophomores, and Morago hopes it left an impression on them.

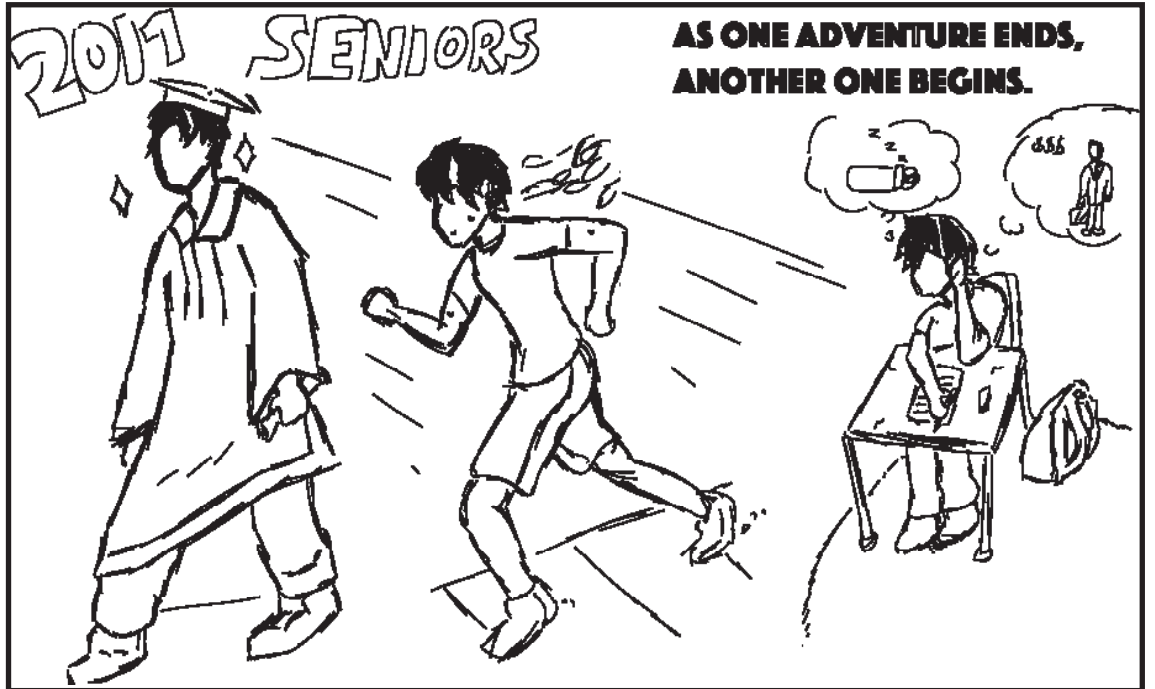
"I hope you either decided that you discovered something in poetry and want to pursue it and continue it in your following years in high school, in college and beyond, or that you just don't stop trying to communicate your thinking and feeling through your writing," he says.

Rodriguez also hopes the students learn from the experience.

"When I started doing poetry, it helped me grow as an individual," she said. "I was unsure of myself and who I was, and it helped me find myself, so I hope they do the same thing."

Mrs. Zeko closed the night with a speech thanking all of the people who participated in making the night a success, including Mr. Zeko and his photography classes, the Flourish Foundation, Ms. Chodos, Morago, and all three of her Honors English classes.

"When we started we always gave ourselves numbers," she said about her students. "We were at a one, not meaning one was bad it was the beginning, and then we were at a two, at a three, at a four, at a two. [Now] I say to my sophomores, you are at a ten."



Rio Hondo's Early College Academy

BY KATHERINE HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Rio Hondo's Early College Academy provides students to be exempt from UC and/or Cal State College courses.

Most high school students who take these courses through Rio Hondo are benefitted in the long run because of money saved and courses taken/passed. From the end of Junior year is the start of Rio Hondo's Early College Academy.

How to join: Towards the end of junior year, Juniors who are interested, must visit



the College and Career Center to pick up an application, fill out the application including the list of classes, offered, that you would like to take going into Senior year and be accepted to the program.

The program is focused primarily to help you become exempt from taking these courses in college, but to also prepare you for

what college classes would be like. Not only can you get exempt from college courses, but it will also increase your accumulative GPA.

When coming to the end of Senior year, stoles and cords will be awarded for your hard work. Completing at least two or more courses, will earn you a cord. On average, Rio Hondo offers more than 20 majors that are transferable to any UC's.

Thinking of attending a 2 year college after high school? Attend Rio Hondo! High School graduates now have free tuition for the first year!

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HIGH SCHOOL REGRETS

What is your high school regret?

“I regret nothing.”-
Pedro Salcido

Voluntarily listening to Taylor Swift and Twenty One Pilots.
- **Nayeli Hernandez**

“I regret getting into all those fights freshmen year and not doing my best.”-
Stephanie Marquez

“I regret coming to this school.”-**Esmeralda Garcia**



“My biggest regret is not joining drama freshman year, and not continuing swim.”-
Samantha Berrospe

“The past is the past and I can’t change it. I did what I did in the past under the knowledge I had at that time (whatever time it may be) to the best of my ability. I have no regrets.”-**Jonathan Maciel**

“I regret taking so many AP Classes. I should have had more fun and it’s okay to ditch school. I always ditched and I’m still graduating with honors. Work smarter not harder.”-**Janetzi Galean**

No Ragrets.
-**Samantha Leggis**

“I regret never going to the quad during lunch.”-
Ashley Cota

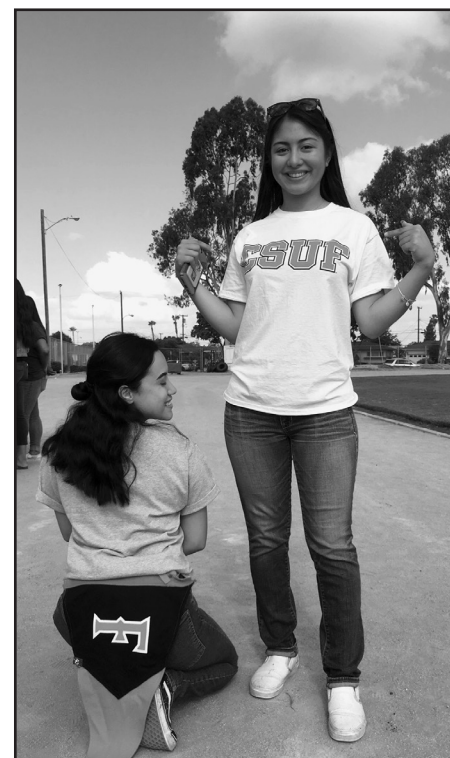
“My biggest highschool regret has to be not taking advantage of all of what El Rancho has to offer. There are so many clubs/ opportunities I didn’t take up and that has an effect on me now. Challenge is good, don’t be afraid to face it.”- **Christian Arteaga**

“I regret Focusing to much time on social media and girls.”-
Daniel Plancarte

“I regret nothing it was great <3333”-**Amy Navarro**

“I regret not having enough swag.”-
Jeremy Martinez

“I regret hat I didn’t follow my heart completely.”-**Rebecca Aleman**



“My high school regret is developing senioritis 2nd semester of sophomore” year. -**Vanessa Espinoza**

“I regret not joining many clubs sooner and I regret taking AP Statistics senior year.” -**Jocelyn Estrada**

“I regret not taking French all four years, and not taking drama during junior year.”-
Jose Alcala

“I regret not going to as many school events as I could have.”-
Omar Torres

“I regret not doing a Musical.ly.”-**Adrian Flores**

“I regret waiting until the last minute to do my assignments.”-
Heavenlee Vasquez

“My high school regret is going to that one morning practice my sophmore year.”-
Donald Brown



“I regret ;eaving the Little Theatre for other classes, I should’ve stayed in there for as long as possible.”-
-Xcaret Estrada

“I regret not doing what I said I would do by my senior year as a freshman, and ever leaving basketball.”-
Aaron Gallegos

“I regret coming to school.”
-**Ivy Castillo**

“I regret not joining more clubs, and not attending more basketball and football games.”-**Katherine Piña-**

ENTERTAINMENT

Gorillaz shows Humanz side in new album



By SKYLER CORNWELL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Gorillaz recently came back with a new album after several years hiatus, and many fans have expressed mixed feelings about it. The group has never shied away from covering as many different styles of music as possible, combining beats and sounds to form something entirely unique and all their own, which is something only Gorillaz can pull off. With each album they put out, nobody can deny that the familiarity of the beloved characters that we all know as Gorillaz are always refreshing, it's almost as if you are introduced to something new each time. This fact is why it surprises people who do not know what Gorillaz are all about.

Unlike many artists, a set theme or trademark sound is not in their vocabulary. There is guaranteed to be a song for any music taste, making it impossible for one to say they hate Gorillaz, unless you are tone-deaf. Not only are they genre-altering legends, their lyrics give meaningful and deep messages about life, love, and other personal topics.

The Humanz album includes a melting pot of synth, R&B, soul, and alternative beats. It also features a collaboration of several voices that complement the music well. The overall flow is perfectly coordinated and easy on the ears. It is not hard to recognize the hard work and dedication that was put into this album. Even though Gorillaz have been ever-changing, the entire album gives off the feel of an entirely different era, not only for them as a group, but for fans.

Many predict that it will only get better from here, which sounds impossible until you realize it's Gorillaz we're talking about. Anything is possible with them, and it's exciting to think about. All good things come with time, as we have all learned from this masterpiece. If the Bible had an audio version this would be it. The second coming of Christ arrived, was recorded, and produced in the form of Humanz.

If you haven't heard the album yet, the entirety of it is available on Spotify. The songs 'Saturn Barz' and 'Andromeda' are highly recommended, as they sum up the entire vibe of the album. Give it a listen. It will be one of the best decisions you could ever make. You might even be washed of all your sins in the process.



One Direction heads in different directions



SAMANTHA BERROSPE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Since the hit single *What Makes You Beautiful*, English-Irish boy band, One Direction, has been the most popular boy band of this generation. 1D was formed in 2010 and consisted of five members: Harry Styles, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne, Niall Horan, and former member Zayn Malik.

One Direction finished in third place on the hit singing competition, X-Factor, but due to their popularity, massive fan base, and harmonious voices, Simon Cowell's label, SYCO Records, signed the band despite not winning the competition.

Since X-Factor, the boys have continuously released hit albums and sold out massive tours every year. After losing Malik and the band and never getting a rest due to constant

touring and music producing, One Direction decided to take a hiatus and focus on other projects and themselves. The hiatus has done all the boys well and has allowed them to explore different music genres and produce albums and songs on their own.

One of the first boys to release new music was Irish member, Niall Horan. Horan released his hit single *This Town*, on September of 2016. His song topped the charts immediately and proved to many that he could sing with and without his bandmates. *This Town* was an instant radio and iTunes hit, and remained #1 on the worldwide iTunes chart for three days after its release. Horan is currently working on an album, but the date of its release has yet to be announced.

After the death of his mother, English member Louis Tomlinson wrote a song in her honor, titled *Just Hold On*, which released in

December of 2016. Steve Aoki and Tomlinson both produced the song, turning it into a pop dance song. The release of Tomlinson's single was unexpected and unannounced, but it still did well in charts, earning the #2 spot on the U.K. charts. While in One Direction, Tomlinson was constantly told by many that he had the worst voice of all the members. For Tomlinson, *Just Hold On* proved that he has an amazing voice.

After being m.i.a for quite some time, English member Harry Styles, comes back with tons of new announcements. Styles released his single, *Sign of the Times*, in April of 2017. After the release, Styles announced that his new album *Harry Styles*, was to be released on May 12, 2017. Style's alternative album was a hit and went straight to #1 in in multiple countries. Styles is currently touring in small venues all across the

world, sharing his new music to the select few that were lucky to get their hands on some tickets. Throughout the break, besides writing and producing music, Styles acted in the upcoming blockbuster movie, *Dunkirk*. For Styles, this isn't his first acting experience. He appeared on the hit Nickelodeon show, *iCarly*, with the 1D boys, back in 2012. However, this is his first major film. Styles is a talented artist and will prove what he can do in his singing, writing, and acting.

The most recent release of the 1D boys was English member, Liam Payne. Payne released his new single *Strip That Down* on May 19, 2017. His single has a cool beat and is the perfect song for the summer season. Payne has been working on perfecting his upcoming album and has been teasing his audience with pictures of him at the studio with other music creators, yet there have been no announcements of any album date. From Payne, we can expect his album to be like his single with strong vocals, rap and R&B. Payne has always been a strong singer songwriter and will produce a very good album for his audience and others to enjoy.

The hiatus that One Direction has taken has done all the members very well. They all got to spend time with their families and loved ones after being on the road for five constant years, and they all got to experience different styles of music. Whether Horan, Tomlinson, Styles, and Payne decide to get back together in the later future or not, all members will succeed in whatever they do.

Monsta X stacks up album sales



By SKYLER CORNWELL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The six member South Korean hip-hop boy group, MONSTA X, have recently announced their first US tour since coming to America several times before for the widely known Hallyu (Korean culture wave) event known as KCON. Tour dates have been set for the month of July and tickets have long been sold out. Their popularity amongst foreign fans has become so great that for their show in Los Angeles, they had to decide on a second show to make sure those who missed the chance to attend had an opportunity.

MONSTA X come from a small yet wealthy company called Starship Ent. In Korea, most groups run under companies that manage several other groups. The more idols they distribute to the public, the more successful they are likely to become. Starship may be well off, but they are not one of the most popular companies out there, so it

is difficult for their artists to obtain widespread fame and popularity as quickly and easily as it would be for a group from a much bigger company. Thus, MONSTA X have had to work extra hard to get to this important part in their career.

It's been three years since they debuted as a group, previously displaying their individual and unique talents on the reality show 'No Mercy', where they underwent a series of obstacles in order to become an idol. So far they have not won any major awards from music shows, but that does not deter them from trying their best no matter what. MONSTA X are a group full of kind hearted, humble boys who put their fans before themselves.

There is no doubt that MONSTA X are becoming increasingly popular in the United States as they continue to grow with their music. Each comeback showcases their individual talents and defines the group as a whole. If you are looking for something new and refreshing, MONSTA X is the group for you.

The resurrection of Possessed

By ANTONIO CORTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After 30 years, Possessed is gearing up for its third full length album release since 1987. The album is currently scheduled for a mid 2018 release and will feature all new original material.

Possessed formed in 1983 when the members were 15 years-old. The original singer, Barry Fisk, committed suicide later that same year. Bassist, Jeff Andrews, quit the band shortly afterwards.

Jeff Beccera would replace Andrews on bass and also take over vocal duties and later on, Brian Montana was recruited on guitar. From 1983 to 1984, the group spent the year perfecting its sound and writing material. Possessed would release a three song demo entitled, *Death Metal* in 1984.

In 1984, Montana was kicked out of the group due to his playing being labeled "subpar." Larry Lalonde was recruited in his place.

In 1985, the band was signed to Combat Records and then went to release its debut album *Seven Churches* while still in high school. *Seven Churches* would go

on to create a new genre of metal which largely focused on satanism and death called "death metal."

On Halloween in 1986, the group released its sophomore effort entitled, *Beyond the Gates*. This album would be a big turnaround from their previous sound. The band members would go back into the studio to record their third release, a five song E.P. named *The Eyes of Horror*, which would continue their change of direction into a thrash metal band.

Shortly after *The Eyes of Horror*, the group disbanded with members wanting to start college or perform other styles of music.

It would be twenty years until the group performed in front of an audience again. Speculations of a new album arose after Beccera performed a rendition of one of Possessed's most popular songs, *The Exorcist*, for one of Sadistic Intent's releases.

It wasn't until May 11, 2017 that Possessed officially announced that they signed a recording contract to Nuclear Blast Records. Its third full-length album, which remains untitled, is set to be released mid 2018, a whole thirty two years since its last full length album.



ENTERTAINMENT

Werewolves, banshees, and hunters, oh my!



Make sure to tune in to the series finale this summer.

SAMANTHA BERROSPE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Werewolves, Banshees, Kitsunes, and a clueless, psychotic, man slaughtering reptile that transforms into the snake that he actually is. No, it isn't Pico, it is the small forest side town in Northern California- Beacon Hills.

Beacon Hills is a fictional town from the popular MTV show, *Teen Wolf*. *Teen Wolf* aired in 2011 and became one of MTV's most popular and successful fictional tv series to this day. The series dives deep into mythology and puts a supernatural twist on classic story time creatures. It trans-

forms a variety of average high school students into supernatural ones who learn to fight for each other and save countless lives.

The show is centered around a group of teenagers who constantly find themselves in the wrong situation at the wrong time. They become part of the supernatural world and battle villains left-and-right. Scott, Stiles, Lydia, Allison, Kira, and Malia are just a few of the many characters that embody the famous teen show.

Despite the word 'teen' in the title of the show, *Teen Wolf* has appealed to many people of all ages. With romance, betrayal, death, and other supernatural villains, *Teen Wolf* is a show that has

developed into, not only a show for pre-teens, but also, for young adults. As long as you have an interest for the myths and unknowns of the world, *Teen Wolf* is definitely a show to watch and obsess over.

Teen Wolf is not a show of cliches and bad acting, as many would assume. It started off as a light-hearted, rom-com television show and quickly transformed into one with more dark and serious subject matters. Battling possessions of dark Oni Demons, ripping through time and space with the power of love, and killing off major character's, (whoops, spoiler!!), *Teen Wolf* has truly become a show that deserves more recognition and appreciation.

The actors on the show are talented young adults who are sure to do many great things in their lives. One of the incredible and talented actors is Tyler Posey, who plays the alpha werewolf, Scott McCall. He has been in some iconic movies alongside Jennifer Lopez and Arnold Schwarzenegger, and is planning to further his acting and music career. Dylan O'Brien, who plays the sarcastic and funny, yet brave, Stiles Stilinski, has become one of the best up and coming actors in Hollywood. He has managed to land huge roles in the multi million dollar franchise, *The Maze Runner* trilogy, and *American Assassin*. Holland Roden, who plays the genius banshee, Lydia Martin, has appeared in many tv series and films such as, *Bring It On*, *CSI*, and *Lost*.

This summer, MTV is saying goodbye to Beacon Hills, as the last season of *Teen Wolf* will be airing, and all of the unique characters we've come to love and cherish will be no more. If you have not yet watched this great show, binge watch the entire series before the final season airs. Don't be the only one left not knowing what all the crying tweets and emojis are all about. Give the show a chance and you surely won't regret it!

Open Mic Night

ADAM ALLRED
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho held their second annual Open Mic Night on Friday, May 12th in the Little Theater. Students of all grade levels could come and show their talent, be it spoken word, musical abilities, or singing. For a small fee of \$2, both students and parents could watch Dons perform.

Junior, Gabby Nava, reflects on the night, "I loved seeing all the talent that our school has, and I know that's not all!" The hardest part of planning an event is getting people to participate. Senior Olivia Ball, who planned the event, acknowledged this. "It was hard organizing it because up until the day before I was scrambling to find performers," she notes.

Standing in front of a group of your peers and people you see every day can be hard. Preparing beforehand can help, although nerves can get the best of people sometimes. "I ran through the songs once an hour before the show because I was super busy," continues Nava.

Ball recalls her favorite part of the night was when "each of my acts got off stage after being applauded for. They were all so nervous to go up but they all left with huge smiles."

When someone felt as if they couldn't go on, the audience showed their support with cheering, claps, or snaps. Some of the performers made small mistakes, but they continued on with their performance. At the end of the night, all the student performers came out for one final round of applause. Nava looks forward and would love to do it again.

Fargo stumbles over the escalating bar



JOSE ALCALA & ETHAN SEPULVEDA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

In the spring of 2014, the FX show *Fargo* graced the world with the acting talents of Billy Bob Thornton, Martin Freeman, Colin Hanks, and Allison Tolman telling the story of a mild-mannered man turned arrogant after meeting a deceptive hit-man who roams through the quiet town, Bemidji, MN. The show was met with some skepticism from fans of the original 1996 Coen Brothers film of the same name, on which the show is based, but any reservations melted away once the pilot episode sent viewers on a roller coaster of murder, mayhem, and Minnesota accents. The show was universally praised and was nominated for 5 Golden Globes, even winning Billy Bob Thornton a Golden Globe for his performance.

In the winter of 2015, *Fargo* blessed the universe with one of the greatest seasons of television in history. With a cast with Kirsten Dunst, Patrick Wilson, Jesse Plemons, Jean Smart and Ted Danson, and Bokeem Woodbine, the perfectly polished story of a cop and married couple in the middle of a gang war between a crime syndicate. A precise, yet subtle metaphor for the 1970s and the fight between "mom and pop" shop and large corporations that don't seem shoved down the viewer's throat, which can't be said about the third season's central themes.

The third season is about the sibling rivalry that turns bloody between two brothers (both played by Ewan McGregor) named Emmit Stussy, a wealthy entrepreneur, and Ray Stussy, a pot-bellied parole officer. The double-casting of Ewan McGregor pays off as McGregor's raw acting skill is showcased to the fullest. David Thewlis, best known for his role as Remus Lupin in the *Harry Potter* series, is perfectly cast as the disgusting, vile, yet mesmerizing, villain. The cinematography is nothing short of spectacular with nearly the entire color blue being completely vacant for a bland, drab look that is still exciting to see. Unfortunately, the rest of the season has yet to amaze, with episodes that seem to set up the next with the promise that some climax would arrive, but only mild disappointment awaits; and trust me I know quite a bit about that. After more than half the season over, the "surprise twist" seems rushed and didn't feel satisfying compared to the twists in previous seasons.

Fargo's biggest flaw is that it has been so good these past two seasons, making anything short of perfection is disappointing. Hopefully, the season does impress by the end, and some of the more promising characters such as Sy, Yuri, and Meemo get some more screen time. As of now, the season is still a very worthwhile watch, but it will not go down as one of the greats.



2017 Meme Timeline



By Pedro Salcido
El Rodeo Staff Writer

 August	 September	 October	 November	 December
 January	 February	 March	 April	 May

CLASS OF 2017

Teacher advice to the class of 2017



“You must be prepared. The world is going to be a lot tougher, the economy is going to be tougher, and our students have to be prepared to compete in a very tough market.” —Mr. Elias



“The best advice I could give to anybody— for the rest of your life don't fake yourself out on any aspects— romance, education, or careers. In any situation, small or large, be true to yourself. Understand what is real and deal with that reality appropriately, honestly, and vindictively. Do that you'll be happy.” —Mr. Salcido

“I think that seniors who are graduating this year are accomplishing a great milestone, hopefully the first of their milestones. I recommend that they pursue their dreams, pursue anything that they are passionate about, whether it's college, the workforce, or travel. Just to pursue their dreams; I think that will be an amazing feat for the human beings that they are.” —Ms. Valle



“You can take it one day or day one, you decide. Make the most out of every moment and don't wait around for anyone to tell you what to do. Dream big and go after it.” —Mrs. Moghimi



Senior Favs



Samantha Leggis: Best to bring home to your parents



Alondra Barrios: Will do anything for a retweet



Madison Ortiz: High maintenance



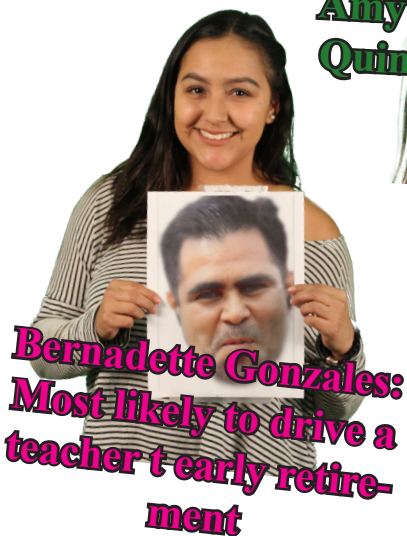
Jose Gonzales: Most likely to get rich or die trying



Christian Arteaga: Most sarcastic



Amy Navarro and Jonnathan Quintana: Cutest couple that never was

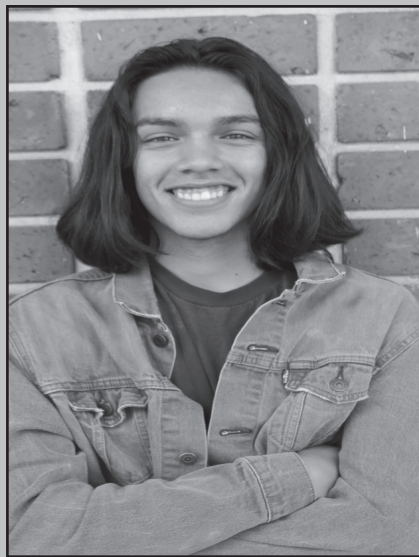


Bernadette Gonzales: Most likely to drive a teacher t early retirement



Nayeli Hernandez: Most likely to be caught sleeping in class

Word on the Street: What will you miss about high school?



“I will miss being a minor. You can't get arrested as badly, and you're not as responsible” -Arthur Perez, 12th



“Seeing familiar faces, my thrower team, and friends that are going out of state. I may never see them again!” - Marcy Chavez, 12th