



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

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Dons dance under the Grecian lights at prom

BY BREMO MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Prom, the event most high school seniors dream about finally arrived on May 12th. The Grecian Nights-themed prom was not only extravagant but a wonderful event for the senior's last dance.

Prom took place at Santa Anita Race Track on a rather cloudy day. Seniors arrived in stylish vehicles such as limousines, party buses, rental cars, their parent's cars, or even their own cars.

Upon entering the race track, there was a red carpet which divided students into alphabetical order by last name. After checking in, students were allowed to vote for prom king and prom queen.

This year's Prom King and Prom Queen were Andrew Sepulveda and Krystal Marquez. The two, being best friends, were very fortunate and happy to win.

Prom Queen, Krystal Marquez, said: "I was really nervous [about] running against beautiful candidates who looked amazing that night, so I wasn't expecting [to win] at all."

"I was hesitant in going to prom so it was definitely worth it! It was also such an amazing feeling to win with my best friend, Andrew," adds Marquez.

The area of the event was not at all crowded and provided enough tables and space for everyone and their guest. The upstairs area held food, desserts, drinks, and the dance floor.

However, on the main level, there was a photo booth with props, karaoke, and a lit up carriage. The carriage looked beautiful and guests took two to five laps around the track in a circle.

At the end of the night, people struggled to put their high heels on after dancing the night away. Prom was an overall success and left seniors and their guests happy, tired, and fulfilled.

ERHS honors seniors' accomplishments at awards night

BY LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's annual Awards Night, held on May 2nd, celebrated seniors' accomplishments in academics and athleticism. Students received scholarships, cords, certificates, and pins for their hard work and dedication to their education throughout high school.

The evening began with El Rancho Principal Hector Vasquez recognizing staff, counselors, administration, school board, special guests, and the friends and family attending. Additionally, Vasquez honored

seniors for their accomplishments throughout the four years.

Guest speakers such as Dr. Aurora R. Villon, President of El Rancho Unified School District's Board of Education, and Karling Aguilera-Fort, Superintendent of El Rancho Unified School District, acknowledged the students' accomplishments and provided insight and advice.

The ceremony quickly began by distributing the Honor Crest sash, which was awarded to 166 students out of 612, over 25%. Seniors chanted for one another and parents cheered for their sons and daughters.

"I felt proud and accomplished for honor crest," said Andrea Chavez. "It's something I've been working towards since middle school and it feels great to have it become a reality."

Additionally, the Bilingual Seal was awarded to students who were able to master both English and a second language. Students who spoke French and Spanish were also recognized and awarded.

Jacqueline Ascencio and Stephanie Moran were honored with the Triliteracy Seal due to their mastery in English, Spanish, and French. "Honestly winning the Tri-

literacy Seal, was one of the best moments of my life because it was one of my main goals since middle school," said Ascencio. "Every language I learn is an accomplishment for me because that means that there may be more opportunities in the future."

Afterward, students apart of the Early College Academy with Rio Hondo received black cords. Additional rewards were given for Academic Decathlon, California Scholarship Federation, Generation 1st Degree, College Blueprint, CEC Whittier College Mentor Program, AVID, MESA, Project Lead the Way, and Scholar Athletes.

Approximately \$124,000 in scholarships were awarded to over 50 students. Scholarships included Birney Dad's Club, Don Booster Club, Frank Terrazas, Pio Pico's Woman's Club, the Southern California Gas Company, and many more. Also, alumni from class of 1967, 1977, and 1997 returned to award students with scholarships.

"I wasn't expecting a scholarship," says Chavez, "but I sure am grateful to the donor and will definitely put it to good use!"

To conclude the evening, Vasquez again thanked the audience, guest speakers, El Rancho Unified School District, parents, and finally students. Students will wear their cords and pins for graduation on June 6th.

Sugar! hits the sweet spot

BY LESLIE PLAZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Tears, laughter, singing, and cheers poured from the Little Theater from May 9-12 for Mr. Stanley Wlasick's final musical *Sugar!*

In the play, musical bums Jerry, played by junior Tony Cortez, and Joe, played by senior David Marquez, seek to land a job in Chicago. Rumors of an all-female band spread and desperation grows. Jerry and Joe decide to dress as women in order to travel with the ban to Miami, Florida.

Complications occur when Jerry and Joe witness a murder scene by famous mob boss "Taps" Columbo, played by Xavier Marquez, and his gangsters, played by Geysa Govea and Jordan Strickling. Jerry and Joe are forced to deal with the complications of being Daphne and Josephine, their female identities, as well as hiding their true identity from the gangsters. They even deal with complications over a girl, Sugar Kane, played by junior Natalie Sepulveda.

Although the play presents serious, the actors and actresses maintain a humorous environment. Cortez's facial expression throughout the play delivered both the humorous and realistic



attitude his character possessed.

"In all honesty, I didn't choose drama," says Cortez. "It was given to me by my counselor, so I just went for it. I like to think for some weird reason drama chose me."

Sugar is an indecisive, yet ambitious character, who seeks to marry a rich man living in Miami. Sepulveda ironically uses wit to present her character in a rather innocent light, since *Sugar* is not so pure. Making *Sugar* act more innocent allows for her desire to marry a rich man seem less promiscuous.

Although he's no stranger to performing music, Marquez's acting also surprised the audience since he hasn't taken the class.

"My mom was in drama when she was in high school," says Marquez, "and she was the one who really pushed me to try it out."

Additionally, the play took a different turn than the drama production's previous musicals. *Sugar!* had many suggestive innuendos that parents couldn't help but laugh. However, the play wasn't inappropriate, so children were able to enjoy the play as well.

Wlasick had previously di-

rected *Sugar!* for the 1991 musical. A surprise in the musical amused the audience on Friday's production when 1991 actors Joe Sepulveda, playing Joe/Josephine, Joe Jimenez, playing Jerry/Daphne, and actress Erika Chavez-Blezinski, playing Sugar, performed on stage along with Wlasick.

Wlasick delivered his final drama production *Sugar!* with the passion and dedication for performing and directing.

"Thank you, El Rancho, for giving me the chance to sing!" says Mr. Wlasick.

FEATURES

ER students recognized for their writing

BY EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Sorenson, junior AP English teacher, assigned all of his classes to participate in the Library of Congress Letters About Literature National Writing Contest. Juniors, Maggie Grisco and Yazlin Juarez, finished in the Top 10 list for the national contest.

"At first, I just saw it as a class assignment, but then I really connected to the idea," says Maggie Grisco. Each student was asked to pick their favorite book and write about the impact of it to its author.

"I wrote to Vladimir Nabokov about his book, *Lolita*," says Grisco. "I related to the main character and her struggles." The letter allowed her to express how the book made her feel.

"I'm excited that someone enjoyed my suffering and I'm nervous that people will want the full story," says Grisco. "It's important to not be afraid to get personal and write from the heart."

Yazlin also wrote about something that was important to her. "I chose to write about a little-known book titled *Cantora* by Sylvia Lopez-Medina," says Juarez.

The letter was a great way for these writers to express how these books impacted their lives.

"This book has a special meaning to my family and I. My mother read it as a young, woke college student in Ethnic Studies/Literature class. It has been passed down to me and my other sisters on our route to self-discovery," says Juarez.



Juarez reads the book that got her into the top 10!

Both Juarez and Grisco's accomplishments show that El Rancho has great talent and that everyone can be a great writer.

Francis and Melgar take on Decathlon



The new decath advisors are all smiles!

Photo by Kayla Perez

BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A new school year brings new changes and the El Rancho High School Academic Decathlon team is making many.

For the 2018-2019 school year, AP Calculus teacher Steven Francis and Pre-Calculus teacher Carlos Melgar will work together as co-advisors for the new team, following the resignation of previous advisor David Retana.

The new team will be studying the Sixties and it's multiple aspects through topics including Art, Math, Science, Social Science, Economics, Literature, and Music. The Decathlon team will also prepare for performance tasks including Speech, Essay, Interview, and Impromptu.

Advising a new team is a big task but Francis and Melgar both have positive attitudes towards the new challenge. "We're both really excited for the new year and what's to come," Francis said, "we work really well together and hope we can both do our best job to advise the team and score high."

When asked if they had any new ideas for the Academic Decathlon team, Mr. Melgar replied, "Our main goal is to go to state. We want to use our time wisely and effectively while we study, but also keep the tradition of creating a family within the team alive."

"We understand that teamwork and the whole team supporting one another as a group and as individuals is crucial," Francis said, "dealing with personalities can be hard, but we hope that doing group activities and getting to know each other will help things run smoothly."

Good luck to Mr. Francis and Mr. Melgar in their new roles as the Academic Decathlon advisors! The road to state may be difficult, but this dynamic duo is confident that they will succeed. May the team score well and state be in their future!

Fatima Lopez is Simply Irresistible!

BY FATIMA LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hey El Rancho, how are you guys? For eight consecutive issues, the staff here at El Rodeo News has brought you boys, girls, and gender-nonconforming people who we have deemed to be quite irresistible, but what we haven't shown you is one of the faces behind the iconic feature. Well, all that is about to change. Junior Fatima Lopez, one of many behind the madness of the feature, is *simply irresistible!*

Those of you who know Fatima might be thinking, "This girl? She doesn't even do anything!" You're absolutely right! But that's what makes her so iconic. Fatima likes to consider herself a "jack-of-all-trades." A master of none, if you will. "I'm not great at anything," Lopez said, "but I'm not terrible at anything either, except for sports. I SUCK at sports!"

Okay, but let's be serious, she's not completely devoid of any talents! Fatima has a killer sense of humor. Whether you'll actually like her sense of humor, we don't know, but to say she isn't funny, well, then we'd be lying! "Am I funny? I like to think so," Fatima said, "But if you don't like self-deprecating humor then we can't be friends!" This queen also knows her memes! "Memes? I got those," Lopez said, "No,

like seriously, I have folders devoted to them!" If you need a meme supplier, she's your girl!

All jokes aside, Fatima has plenty of different sides to her that no one seems to know about! When we asked this cutie about her hobbies, she was very excited to talk about her love of cartoons. "I spend about ninety percent of my time watching my favorite shows," Lopez said, "Some of my go-to shows are Adventure Time, Steven Universe, and Voltron: Legendary Defender."

Did we mention she likes anime? "I love anime," Fatima said, "It's one of my favorite things to watch!" Rest assured though, she is definitely not a weeb! Her favorite animes include the ever-popular *Yuri On Ice*, *Sailor Moon*, *Naruto*, and *Boku No Hero Academia*. In the name of the moon, we will punish you if you don't think Lopez is one of the coolest girls around!

Apart from meme-collecting, cartoon-binging, and anime-watching, Fatima has other hobbies that she shared with us! "One of my new favorite things to do right now is embroidery," Lopez said, "Yeah, it makes me feel a bit old, but it's such a relaxing thing to do and I end up with pretty designs! Who doesn't like that?" She's really just an old soul living in a teen's body, isn't she?

Now, if we haven't sold you on the fact that Fatima is



Lopez in her element!

Photo by Sofia Dominguez

quite the catch, then this will get you for sure. She has a great taste in music! From indie rock to K-pop, Fatima's playlist is all over the place. "I would say I enjoy almost every genre," Lopez said. Even country music? "Does 'Life is a Highway' by Rascal Flatts count as country," Fatima asked, "because if that's the case then, yeehaw buddy!" Some of Lopez's favorite artists include Kali Uchis, BTS, Declan McKenna, and all subunits of NCT!

Whether she's making jokes about herself or jamming out to her favorite songs, there's no doubt that this girl likes to do these things while she's in good company. She's not shy about making friends! "I'm always looking to make new friends," Lopez said, "I'm an awkward person, but please don't let that stop you from hitting my line!" If you want to talk

to her, your best bet is through her twitter. She's never not on it!

As for love, Fatima said she's down for some summer love! "I'm not picky," Lopez said, "but if my Twitter background check pulls up some fishy stuff, then it's a no from me!" Her ideal partner is someone who has similar interests as herself and someone who has a good heart. "If you're going to talk to me, please don't play games," Fatima said, "that's what my Nintendo Switch is for!"

If it's friendship or maybe something a little more that you're looking for, Fatima is definitely your girl! She's sweet, funny, and there's never a dull moment with her. Don't take it from us, see for yourself! Hit her up on Twitter (@fatimalopez240), but don't say we didn't warn you! She's always tweeting about something, so be prepared to see her constantly in your feed.

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Kayla Perez

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Photo Editors

Franky Leon

Alonzo Murrieta

Aleksey Soto

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

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

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

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FEATURES

Dons sweep awards at 38th Congressional Art Contest



Art contest winners from left to right: Leilani Laurez, Yazlin Juarez, Mauro Medina and Karina Jimenez.

By EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday May 2nd, art students from El Rancho High School participated in the 16th annual 38th Congressional Art Contest. They submitted different types of artwork including sketches, photographs,

digital animations, and paintings. The event was held at the Norwalk Sports and Complex Center. There was a gallery that showcased each participant's work. In the patio area, there were snacks, drinks, and live performances. "It was pretty nice. I saw the little boys and girls dancing and the award ceremony was really

cool," said senior Karina Jimenez. Senior, Miranda Zorrilla said, "You could tell everyone was a little nervous all night, however, it was a lot of fun. With the mascots there, the photo booth, and the performances, the tension was eased." Yazlin Juarez said, "It was a great experience to meet other cool student art-

ists and see their work. I especially enjoyed the live performances and fancy sandwiches."

Several VAPA teachers encouraged their students to take part in the contest.

"I participated in the contest because my photography teacher, Mr. Diaz, recommended that I entered," said Zorrilla. "I had been contemplating whether or not I should submit any of my photos but ultimately decided that it would be a great opportunity."

El Rancho High School did extremely well in the Photography portion of the contest. Our students took first, second, third, and all honorable mentions in the section.

"I'm very proud of Yazlin, Karina, and all students that participated. It's a privilege to help guide them to reach their best potential," said photography teacher, Mr. Zeko.

Yazlin Juarez had the honor of winning the overall grand prize. "Since I rarely win things, I didn't believe it was real. To hear my name being called by Linda Sanchez and her board to come receive the prize felt,

in a word, surreal," said Juarez.

Juarez has both Mr. Paul Zeko and Mr. Justin Diaz as her art teachers. "They were both very supportive of me, before and after they knew I would place," said Juarez.

For winning the contest, Juarez won a trip to Washington D.C., a \$500 scholarship, and her artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol for a year. "I felt happy and confused at the same time, like I was on an episode on Pranked!" said Juarez.

The contest was able to bring people together to appreciate the youth and show them that their passion can help their futures.

"Through seeing different school and different students, you can tell it doesn't matter how you look or who you are. If you have the ability to make art, you can win something," said Jimenez.

"Overall, I would say that our school carried a lot of pride for our art," said Zorrilla. From this contest, our students were able to come together and demonstrate their talents and skills in the arts.

Velasco, Llanes, and Zeko awarded teachers of the year



From left to right: Velasco, Llanes, Zeko Photo by Annual Staff

By ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The 2018 Zucker Award recipients were announced on May 11th at a faculty breakfast. This year's winners were Mr. Paul Zeko, Mr. Frank Llanes, and Miss Amaryllis Velasco.

The Zucker Awards were established in 1989 by Natalie Zucker, a resident of Pico Rivera. The award was established to recognize outstanding El Rancho

educators who pursue excellence and contribute to both the staff and students. The award also includes a cash prize of 500 dollars.

One award is given to a teacher in the field of Math, English, Science, History, or Modern Language. The other award can be given to any other teacher, regardless of what they teach. A committee comprised of 2 administrators and 3-5 teachers chooses the recipients; this year, three teachers were selected to receive the honor.

ASB President Rene Gallegos	ASB Vice President Maarqui Calvo
ASB Secretary Alexis Gallegos	ASB Treasurer Emily Lopez
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Co Pep Commissioners Christina Cruz Marissa Chavez	Dance Commissioner Joshua Cabral
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CAMPUS

Choir holds inaugural Open Mic Cafe



BY SELINA TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Friday, May 3rd, the El Rancho High School Choir held its first Open Mic Cafe. Over 100 students, family, and friends gathered at ERHS to celebrate the voices of students in the choir program.

The El Rancho cafeteria was decorated in hand painted backdrops and tables were lined up across the room. Colored spotlights covered the stage illuminating the performers in a pink hue.

"The Open Mic Cafe was super awesome because I got to perform in front of all my friends" said Karina Jimenez, 12. Jimenez performed with her band, Beach Clinic. "I've always had passion for music it's just been in my veins for as long as I can remember" added Jimenez.

The Open Mic Cafe featured over 20 choir students and bands, including Beach Clinic and Yellow Fuzz, who performed covers of songs or even some of their own originals.

"The other performers did fantastic and I'm so proud that they stepped out to perform the way that they did. It takes lots of courage!" said Choir President, Isa Valenzuela. "I definitely think everyone did awesome" added Jimenez.

Ms. Cisneros wanted to put on the Open Mic to "give students another opportunity to solo." During the school year, "I only pick a handful of soloist for the Fall, Winter, and End of the Year Concerts and I wanted more kids to be heard" she continued. With the help of her Choir students, Ms. Cisneros was able to accentuate the voices of all of the students in the choir program.

Cisneros believes that all of her students should "feel what [she] felt as a kid." She continued, "I started singing in my grandpa's church when I was five years old and I sang all through school from fourth grade up to college. I love the experience of music and performing. Exploring melodies new rhythms singing them playing them, music to me is apart of who we are a human beings."

Like Cisneros, VAPA has been a major part of students' lives. "VAPA has always been a part of my life, I did recitals & choir when I was young & have always loved being on stage! I've always had passion for music it's just been in my veins for as long as I can remember" said Jimenez.

To all students with stage fright, Ms. Cisneros says "Do what you love!! Just know whatever whatever you chose your are going to have to work hard at it even music. Most students think music will be fun or easy and yes it is fun but learning music as a subject in college is far from easy and takes a lot of discipline. If you are looking to perform music as a career get use to going to a lot of auditions and you might not get the "gig", this is where your hard work and persistence has to kick in. You get over stage fright with two things being confident that you did the practice to get you on that stage and the more you get up there the easier it will become."

Senior activities mark end of 2017-18 school year



BY SEBASTIAN CARCANO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The school year is coming to an end, and the final stretch has begun. The year is so close to finishing, however the energy at El Rancho is in full swing as we are approaching our final days of the school year. Students are scrambling to get those grades up, staff and faculty are getting ready to finalize their agendas. The Class of 2018 is getting ready to say goodbye and leave behind their high school life and say hello to what is up next on the horizon like hot summer nights with friends at

the beach, or starting fresh with new looks and finally preparing for what waits them next like jobs or college as they embark on the new chapters of their lives.

Also, big thank you to all the students, teachers, staff and administration who are helping plan the final events and activities to finish off the 2017-2018 school year.

First on the agenda was Senior Awards night which took place at the Gym on May 25th. The night saw seniors become more and more decorated with the various awards, recognitions, and scholarships that were be-

ing announced from awards such as honor roll, recognitions like scholar athlete or even scholarships such as the inaugural Ray Chavez Memorial Scholarship. Students saw all their hard work from the last four years at El Rancho being paid off on one night and seniors got an early taste of hearing their names being called out as they walk on to the stage.

Next up is the farewell assembly that will take place May 28th. The assembly bids farewell to the school year and also to the Class of 2018. It is the final pep rally for the class of 2018, recognizing seniors of all shapes and

sizes, from those furthering their education, to athletes and those who performed well on Advanced Placement test. The rally says goodbye to seniors but it is sort of a new beginning for those who will still be at the Ranch next year.

Finally there is Senior Week. A week filled of last minute to do's for seniors up until the very last day. The week will have much in store for seniors, it will start off with the three remaining days being shorter days, and these are the days where it really hits seniors that those are their final days together and to make the most of what is left. Cap and gowns will be distributed the fourth, rehearsals will start the fifth and there will also a Luau Pool Party event for seniors and later in the evening Senior Sunset commenced where a slideshow made up of senior memories was shown. Then it is the sixth where rehearsals will continue, seniors get to go home and get ready for the big event, graduation and they will see it all come to an end. That however is not all, the following day on the seventh Grad Nite took place at six flags where now graduated seniors gave one last hoorah under the name of El Rancho.

The sand is running out in the 2017-2018 hourglass as the school year comes to a close. Memories of relationships and experiences will bring all seniors to a bitter-sweet halt as they begin to feel their last group of emotions under the title of graduating seniors, but at the end of the day we will always be Dons, who are respectful, responsible and ready to learn. Once a Don, always a Don.

Sophomores find their voice at Night of Spoken Word

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mrs. Zeko's sophomore Honors English classes had a chance to let their voices be heard at the annual Night of Spoken Word event on May 22nd. The Flourish Foundation, an organization that aims to support and provide opportunities for a complete education for middle school, high school and college-aged students in the Los Angeles area with a primary focus on the performing arts, sponsored the event which was held in Whittier College's Ruth B. Shannon Center.

Every student in Zeko's four honors classes was required to do a group piece. Due to the great number of students in her classes, not as many individual pieces were performed this year compared to previous years.

Eric Morago, a well-known poet in the Whittier area, aided Zeko's classes during the long creative process. Zeko and Morago exposed the sophomore students to different types of poems and had them participate in exercises on literary devices and narrative.

Kylie Moghimi and Citalli Delgado opened the per-



formance with performances of various barbershop style songs and a cover of Spring Day by popular Korean boy group, BTS. The duo sang as parents and audience members filled the seats.

The night was a chance for the sophomores to open up and express feelings they would normally keep inside. The students discussed relationships between parents and children, sexual as-

sault, self-image, and romantic relationships through their poems.

The night had many interesting poems, but some of the best pieces were solo performances by Natalie Pantoja and Kaelynn Kuang. Kuang closed the show with her solo piece, *Be The Gold*, which motivated everyone to be the best versions of themselves and not let any obstacles get in their way.

The night officially came to an end after Mrs. Zeko took the stage and thanked all of the people who participated in making the night a success, including Mr. Zeko and his photography classes who provided the photos used as the backgrounds, the Flourish Foundation, Ms. Chodos, Morago, and all four of her Honors English classes.

CAMPUS

ASB's Open Mic Night showcases talent at the Ranch



Carlos Mares shows off his singing skills at Open Mic Night.

Photo By Emily Lopez

By EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the Little Theater, ER students take part in Open Mic Night on Friday, May 18th. Students shared their love for music and performing.

"The environment was very comfortable and loving, with people playing guitars and singing their hearts out," says junior Rene Gallegos, who was in charge of Open Mic Night. "It was very heartwarming to watch people do what they love."

Open Mic Night showed how much the students at El Rancho support each other. Everyone was welcomed to the stage and were encouraged to perform.

"Everyone in the audience was really supportive and

friendly towards each other! Even when I messed up, people still cheered me on and clapped along to other performers' songs," says junior Yazlin Juarez.

The night was filled with clapping and the audience singing along.

"I was scared to sing on stage by myself because I have never physically sung in front of a crowd like that," says senior Stephanie Calderon. "My friends encouraged me to perform solo and I just took the leap." Open Mic night became a safe place for people to showcase their passion for music.

"Performing was both fun and nerve wracking because I have really bad stage fright; I was shaking the whole time I was on stage, but it felt good

to sing loud without my sisters telling me to shut up like when I sing at home," says Juarez.

"I thought it had a relax vibe to it and it was a very enjoyable Friday night," says senior Sophia Flores. "I liked Citlally because she had an amazing A-cappella voice."

The event was overall well-liked by all who attended.

"I loved the event because it brought a group of people together through art and talent, which is ultimately the goal of open mic night," says Gallegos.

There was a great sense of family and community throughout the night. There were amazing performances throughout the night. "My favorite performance was Yazlin singing 'Thank You for the Music.' *Mamma Mia*

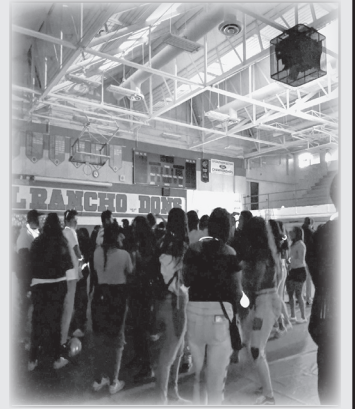
is everything," says Calderon.

The audience also had the opportunity of hearing original songs from bands in the area. "The band Yellow Fuzz performing their original songs was my favorite part," says Juarez. "I had the pleasure of photographing them a few weeks ago; if you want to see the photos, they are on both our *Instagram* pages at @yazlinj08 and @yellowfuzz."

There was no limit to the talent throughout the night. "My favorite part was when people would ask me if it was possible they could perform again," says Gallegos.

Open Mic Night demonstrated that talent is endless at the Ranch.

Link Club brings a taste of Coachella to ERHS at "Donchella"



Dons dance the night away.

Photo by Mr. Diaz

By DEVENIE ANCHONDO
AND BREMO MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Hey Dons, are you bummed you didn't attend Coachella Music Festival? Good thing El Rancho held its very own Donchella!

Junior Carolyn Contreras said, "I thought it was pretty cool. It was different than the other dances Link Crew hosts. I also thought the food and the music were good!"

El Rancho's Link Crew members organized the event which took place on Friday, May 25th. Senior Kimberly Medina said, "I think Donchella went really well! It was probably one of the best events Link Crew threw this year and I'm really proud of the new leaders for pulling it off!"

Medina continued, "It had a lot of attention beforehand, which was a plus, and it was really fun. I really liked the neon look and the fact that there was a lot of food to choose from, lots of games to play, and the photo booth, of course! It was nice seeing other people have fun as well."

The glow-in-the-dark themed dance had games such as Connect 4, Giant Jenga, Twister, and hula hoops. Inside the gym, students were able to purchase glow sticks to light up the dance floor.

Senior Mariana Najera said, "Donchella was a great turn out! I loved all the activities for people could've done like Twister, Jenga, and of course dancing. I enjoyed hanging out with my friends and taking photos with them in the photo booth! It was a great event overall."

Students were able to purchase food and snacks such as candy, chips, churros, fruit cups, nachos, pizza, snow cones, and tacos, all which were outside of the gym. Students were also able to get their face painted and receive temporary tattoos, neon bracelets and more.

Freshman Sebastian Galindo said, "It was very fun. Everyone who participated looked like they were having fun. I'd say the food was the best part!"

The event, which ended at 9:30 p.m., offered an opportunity to interact with your peers.

AVID helps students bond through Dodger Night Fund-raiser

By DEVENIE ANCHONDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As a way to fund-raise, Mr. Porter's AVID students bought a bundle of Dodger Game tickets, selling them for twenty dollars each to students who were interested in attending the game and spending a night with their friends.

AVID Advisor, Mr. Porter, said, "This is the first year we've had the AVID Dodger nights. We had one in the fall and one in May."

The ticket sales go into the AVID club account for activities like their games, college field trips, end of the year banquet, and their pool party!

Mr. Porter continued, "The best part of the event is the fun our AVID students have at Dodger Stadium. It's great to see the students, parents, and teachers enjoy the night together."

Senior John T. Rodriguez said, "I thought it was a really fun night and cool to get seats close to friends and teachers from the school with their families, and it's another way to bond outside of school."

Rodriguez continued, "I would recommend it to others because for me, being a big fan of the sport, I think regardless you would have fun at the game whether you're a Dodger fan or not. You could have fun with friends, family and even teachers from the school. It also helps benefit AVID by raising money from the tickets you buy."

The tickets sold were in the same general area, allowing students to go to the game and sit with their friends.

Senior David Dominguez said "It was cool, I had a really good time. I think AVID selling tickets next to each other is



A view of the L.A. Dodgers vs. Colorado Rockies game

Photo courtesy of @MrPorterERHS

really what made the event so great because it was a bonding experience and it truly goes to show that AVID is much more than a class. It truly is a family both on and off campus."

The game took place on May 23rd and began around 7 p.m. The Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Colorado Rockies by a final score of 3 - 0.

CAMPUS

El Rancho preps for renovations



By EMILY LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This summer will be the beginning of the remodeling process for El Rancho High School. The first building that will be torn down is the C building.

"We have to move all our stuff and it's going to be a hassle to move everything," says Sandye Espinoza, juniors. Color guard, band, and choir will have to move to other locations on campus during construction.

"I'm looking forward to the new room, but I'm not looking forward to the chaos it'll cause us," says Jenny Huevo, junior.

Band, color guard, and choir have an assortment of equipment that are going to need to be relocated. "It's going to be a struggle," says Huevo.

Students are worried about how the construction will affect their work. "Most of our equipment is going to be put into storage bins. This is making them hard to access and our classroom is going to be much smaller," says Maria Juarez, sophomore.

Not only will the move be difficult because of the physical move, but students will also have to say goodbye to the place that they have grown fond of.

"I'm kinda sad because they're making us move out of the band room and there are so many memories in that room," says Espinoza. Even though the move is going to be difficult, students are still excited to see what will come.

"Having a modern campus is exciting, but I'm sad that I'm gonna miss out on actually using it," says Juarez.

Students only have a few requests when it comes to what they want for their programs.

"I just hope that they actually take into mind what a band needs. The acoustics of the area, locker space, and installation," says Huevo.

It is exciting to see how the next school year will go when renovations and construction begins.

Seniors sign up for their futures



ASB seniors smile because they are ready for college.

Photo by Emily Lopez

By MARIELA MICHEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The reality of the seniors' upcoming transition to college set in at Generation 1st Degree's 3rd annual College Signing Day. Taking place on May 2nd, College Signing Day spiced up the last few weeks of school before graduation. Seniors got to wear their college gear to the assembly during fourth period to represent their college of choice.

The assembly featured motivational speeches from El Rancho's president of the board of education Dr. Aurora R. Villon, senior class president Julio Ornelas, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez and Superintendent Karling Aguilera-Fort.

"College Signing Day celebrates high school seniors choosing to pursue higher education at a community college, a 2-year college, a 4-year institution, and/or a college or university of your choice," said Principal Hector Vasquez.

"There are several months of planning that go into it," says Generation 1st Degree supervisor Michelle Sandoval. "For example, we had to book [Congresswoman Linda Sanchez] almost 3 months in advance and then we would go over last year's event and see what we would do to change it and how we can improve to make it better every year."

A significant aspect of College Signing Day is the student participation in the planning of it. "We think of getting stu-

dents involved and how we can recruit students to participate in it, taking pictures and submitting their college acceptances," said Sandoval. "We have peer advisers from the College and Career Center really help out and take the lead on getting their peers to sign up for the event themselves."

Senior peer advisors took the initiative to set up the slideshow with the names of seniors to recognize them on their acceptances to private colleges, Cal States, UC's, and community colleges. They also organized the college acceptances to make the raffle tickets and encouraged fellow seniors to take pictures with their acceptances.

College Signing Day is a part of the Better Make Room Campaign.

"In 2015, Michelle Obama, as part of the Reach Higher Initiative, launched Better Make Room in an attempt to reach students through social media and local events at their communities," said Vasquez. "We are pleased to announce that El Rancho High School joined since its launching in 2015 and is only one of the few high schools to continue to participate every year since."

The Better Make Room campaign was established to aid students in challenging circumstances to make a commitment to their future. Their focus is giving young people opportunities for post-secondary education.

"We're following in the footsteps of Michelle Obama's Better Make Room Campaign. When she was the first lady she led those initiatives with College Signing Day throughout the nation," said Sandoval. "We, here at El Rancho through Generation 1st Degree Pico Rivera, had Jackie Cisneros taking the lead on channeling what they did on a national level and bringing it to El Rancho High School so that we could promote a college-going environment and make it more exciting."

Parents and students came together in celebration of the college-bound seniors participating in the assembly.

"We make it something that we celebrate every year and starting that tradition so that students see that it's a huge step in accomplishment and that we want to celebrate it not only with them, but with their underclassmen so that they set the example and with the parents as well because it takes the entire community," said Sandoval.

The assembly ended with a raffle for the seniors, which including prizes such as gift cards to Starbucks and Target, an HP laptop, and a printer.

The Average Joes take the win!

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER
ALONZO MURRIETA

From May 21st to May 25th, the El Rancho ASB hosted its annual dodgeball tournament. Every year the tournament is held for one week during lunch in either the quad or the gym. This year however, the tournament was given variety as it was held in both locations: outside in the quad for regular dodgeball and inside the Main Gym for glow in the dark dodgeball.

Sign-ups for the tournament began in late April, from then all potential teams were given three weeks to sign up. To be able to compete all a team needed was ten members, a team name, and twenty dollars. The banned list was not used.

The tournament had 16 teams: Monstars, Warriors, Average Joes, Brotherhood, The Riggers, Purple Couches, Crack?, Su Woo, Ooga Boogas, Men of the Sea, Yumpz, Fifty Shades of Awesome, Slow Painiac\$, the No Skins, the Dream

Team, and the Dive & Dodgers.

With multiple referees set and Mr. Rojo and Mr. Retana commentating, the tournament began. Over the course of two days, the first placement matches of the tournament began. These matches were a best-of-one that were held in the Main Gym.

After two days of both normal and glow in the dark dodgeball, the quarterfinal positions were set. The new matches for Wednesday would be another best-of-one and held in the quad. The matches for the day were The Warriors vs. The Average Joes, The Riggers vs. Crack?, Men of the Sea vs. Fifty Shades of Awesome, and Slow Painiac\$ vs. The Dream Team.

With no losers bracket, loss meant tournament elimination. The semifinals came Thursday. Still held in the quad these matches were not a best-of-one, but a best-of-three.

The Average Joes, The Riggers, Fifty Shades of Awesome, and the Slow Painiac\$ were all one step closer to winning the championship. The semifinals placed the



Average Joes pose after their epic win against Staff team, The All-Stars. Photo by Emily Lopez

Average Joes versus The Riggers and Fifty Shades of Awesome versus the Slow Painiac\$. Both matches stretched to three games.

Still, only two teams could advance into the final match. The championship game was a best-of-five glow in the dark dodgeball match held in the main gym. The two final teams were the Average Joes versus Fifty Shades of Awesome.

The first round of the match was taken by Fifty Shades of Awesome, who showed that this final would be no challenge for them. Even after a decisive first round, the Average Joes

came back, sweeping the match and winning three games to one.

The Average Joes did not go home without a prize. As a prize, the team was given the honor of playing in the student versus teacher game. Eventually, the Average Joes ended up taking victory from the teachers in a grueling five game match.

Don't worry if you missed out! The tournament is held every year around the time of May. So, if you believe that you and your friends can take the next tournament, make sure to sign up next year!

SPORTS

Temple City tops Dons in CIF semifinals



Catcher Omar Sanchez, junior, prepares to catch a curve ball.

Photo by Sofia Dominguez

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys in blue had an amazing run through the CIF playoffs before eventually losing to Temple City 6-4 in the semifinals.

They turned some heads on the local baseball scene this postseason as the

team made the deepest playoff run since their quarterfinals appearance in 2016.

Following their impressive regular season, the Dons opened the playoffs with ace pitcher Damien Ureta pitching his second no-hitter of the season against Santa Paula High School

in their first round of CIF.

But as the playoffs progressed, the teams get harder and in their semifinal game against Temple City, the season came to an end when Temple City broke a 4-4 tie with a pair of late runs.

Although the ending was bittersweet, head

coach Larry Patino is very proud of how far his team went in CIF competition.

“It’s been so awesome. The kids have worked so hard and have come together as a team,” says Patino. “We tried our best and fought until the very end, but there is no changing what has happened.”

Softball sets sights on next season



Softball girls support each other during game against Santa Fe.

Photo by Sofia Dominguez

BY SOFIA DOMINGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the season now over, the Dons softball team is reflecting and looking forward to the next season. The girls finished league with a record of three wins and seven losses and an overall record of eleven wins and eleven losses.

The girls placed fifth out

of the six teams in the league and continued to push themselves to the limit in every round.

“My favorite memory was all of the team lunches we had before every home game and knowing that we had a great bond on and off the field,” says senior captain Dominique Jimenez.

Regardless of the outcome, the girls stayed humble and committed to

playing their hearts out for the game they love.

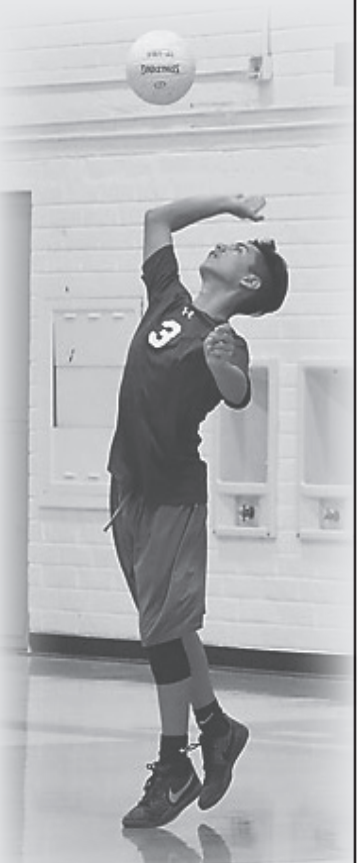
“I hope our team builds stronger, individually and together, as we will play every game our hardest to make it farther each season,” says Jimenez. The girls realize where they may have gone wrong and look forward to future years of improvement and higher titles.

Although their goal

of making it to league was not achieved, the girls aren’t disappointed.

“I had a lot of great times this season, and I don’t have any regrets,” says junior Alexis Zacharias, “we have a lot of talent, and I have high hopes for next season.” There is always room for improvement, and the girls are ready to warm up their bats and bring home the gold.

Boys’ volleyball season comes to an end



Yahir Moreno serves an ace.

Photo by Annual Staff

BY JENNIFER BECERRA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy’s volleyball season has come to a end with an overall record of 11 wins, 12 losses, and a league record of four wins and six losses. The team placed fourth in league.

“This season did not go well for us,” says senior Anthony Silva. “We were a solid team with unfortunate outcomes.”

Even though their season did not go as planned, their team chemistry was through the roof. “We’re like brothers now,” says Silva. “Both Varsity and JV are all connected as one.”

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end.

“I will truly miss the seniors, I feel proud to have been on a team with them,” says junior Steve Francis.

“We got close from practices and playing Fortnite. [The seniors] truly made this season a memorable one,” added junior Alex Bermudez.

“Since I’m a senior right now, I’d like to say that it’s been an honor being in this team for three years,” says Silva. “For the players staying, keep up the hard work and strive for the best. There’s only going up from this point.”

Although this season did not go as expected, returning players hope for a better outcome next season.

“I am very excited for next year,” says Bermudez. “I can’t wait to go back and get back to work so we can hopefully do better.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino Review



BY MARIELA MICHEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a long hiatus, Arctic Monkeys have returned to take back the music industry! *Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino*, the band's sixth album, was released on Saturday, May 11th, and boy are fans talking about its radical transition into a deeper exploration of psychedelic styles! The album debuted at number one on the UK Albums Charts and has sold 86,000 copies.

Alex Turner collaborated with English music composer,

record producer, and musician, James Ford, to co-produce the album and make it a reality.

The album consists of eleven tracks and breaks off from the band's usual rock sound into a more jazzy feel. Many fans lament the change in genre, but the change in style compliments the overall effect of the album better.

Lead vocalist, Alex Turner, began suffering from writer's block shortly after the international success of *AM*. Unable to figure out the direction of their next music project, Arctic Mon-

keys were forced to take a hiatus that lasted nearly four years.

For this album, Turner drew inspiration from Federico Fellini's 1963 film, *8 1/2*, and its portrayal of childhood memories, writer's block, and the science fiction genre. He also drew inspiration from the stylistic shape-shifting of David Bowie and John Lennon. Bowie's glam style is particularly prominent in *Four Out of Five*, which is described as a "Bowie-ish glam song," particularly prominent in *Four Out of Five*, which is described

as a "Bowie-ish glam song."

Turner diverges from the usual guitar-riff present in the previous albums to a more prominent piano presence to make the style a more lounge-pop style of music.

The album took an oddly alluring tone. It seems a mess of different emotions and ideas. The narrator of the story behind the album seems to ramble and talk in mockery about his own popularity and about politics. Fame and popularity in entertainment was a major theme throughout the album. *Four Out of Five*, the album's sixth

track and Turner's single, details the struggles of gaining positive reception from the audience.

The genre of science fiction pops up several times throughout the album, with the song, *Science Fiction*, being completely dedicated to it. Turner seems to get lost in entertainment and its role in different areas, such as politics and sending political messages in a clever way.

Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino was an extremely daring step. Arctic Monkeys brought this album to life knowing the change in style would either receive completely negative reviews or be praised with positivity.

The album also had an odd pace. It seems to be in a constant state of introduction and did not seem to resolve much of anything. The pacing was ever so slow, with little to no progress, a sharp contrast from past albums.

In conclusion, *Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino* is an album with great metaphors and lyrical techniques, but there was not much originality in the sentiments of the album and how it manages to express them. None of the conflicts seem to ever resolve, or even progress at all, either. Emotions about fame and reception have been seen in several other albums, many of whom deliver their message more efficiently. The change in style was not as much of an issue as was the progression of the lyrics and how the message is delivered.

BTS breaks records with release of *Love Yourself* album

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you still haven't heard of Korean pop sensation BTS, you might want to start listening now. The septuplet recently released their 4th full-length album, *Love Yourself: Tear*, the second album in the *Love Yourself* series, which destroyed music charts all over the world.

BTS kicked off album promotions on May 6th with the sudden music video release of *Singularity*, the album's intro, which combined R&B and jazz sounds with vocalist Kim Taehyung's deep vocals. The song was written in one sitting by group leader and rap line member, Kim Namjoon and was produced partly by Charlie J. Perry who produced Jorja Smith's album, *Project II*. *Singularity* is smooth, soulful and sultry, and it is one of the darker songs that the septuplet has released. It discusses hiding and confronting one's emotions, as well as facing our loneliness.

Fake Love begins with wistful vocals that transition into falsettos and, later, hard-hitting raps lamenting the realization that what seemed like fated love turned out to be false. It sounds both soft and powerful at the same time (with the choreography to match) and is influenced by hip-hop, R&B, rock, and trap beats.



134340 is groovy; it's the kind of song you listen to on the way to the beach with the windows down and the sun warming your skin. But, despite its ultra-chill vibe, the song actually discusses the feelings of rejection and abandonment; it compares Pluto being stripped of its planetary status to a lover leaving a relationship and completely forgetting what it meant to them.

Paradise is a message to everyone who feels that they have no dream or purpose in life to stop and just enjoy life. It is a mix between pop and R&B, combining upbeat music with smooth vocals and lyrics. The song was produced by lophiile and MNEK, who has worked on songs for Beyoncé, Dua Lipa, and Zara Larsson. *Airplane Pt.2* is prob-

ably their most ambitious song yet, marking their first dip into Latin style music. It details their successes as international artists and their love for making music. It also criticizes celebrities that obtain fame and wealth without hard work.

Anpanman is based on a Japanese superhero, whose head is made of bread filled with red bean paste and who helps hungry children by giving them bread but becomes weaker in the process. BTS uses this super hype song to send out the message that they will continue to do their best to help others and say that they, along with all of us, are the new generation of superheroes.

Outro: Tear concludes the album and features only the group's rappers. It enforces the

overall theme of finding out that love isn't real, and the three rap line members, Namjoon, Yoongi, and Hoseok, deliver probably their most emotional verses yet.

Hours after release, *Fake Love* was at number 2 on the U.S. iTunes charts, surpassing Childish Gambino's recent *This is America* release, and all 11 songs on the album sat within the top 20, surpassing Ariana Grande, Shawn Mendes, and Drake. BTS also recently performed *Fake Love* at the Billboard Music Awards, making history as the first Korean group to perform at the awards; soon after, *Love Yourself: Tear* became the first Korean album to get the top spot on the Billboard 200 chart.

In Korea, every song topped multiple charts and even

achieved what is known as an "All-Kill" on the Melon charts, one of Korea's most notable music charts only one hour after the album's release. Four days after release the album achieved 50 perfect all-kills, one for each hour it occupied top spots.

Let's be clear: this album isn't Kpop. Yes, it's in Korean, but the diversity of sounds and genres in these mere 11 tracks is what separates it from the entire genre. BTS have once again transcended both language and music barriers, making an album that the entire world can enjoy and an album that is worthy of being up on charts alongside big names in the music industry. In short, *Love Yourself: Tear* is a masterpiece.

ENTERTAINMENT

Word on the Street

What will you miss about High School?



What I'm going to miss the most is going to all the fun activities like the Night Pep Rally and making great high school memories with my friends.
-Andrea Gonzalez



What I will miss about high school is definitely seeing my friends every day. I'll miss them so much because they are great people. Also, the teachers and staff that have helped me through my four years, I truly appreciate them. Thank you ER for a good four years.
- Giselle Molina



I'm going to miss the number of friendships that I made in high school that will most likely stay in high school. I'm also going to miss that daily routine of waking up and going to a school that doesn't show me how to do my taxes or other adult stuff.
- Anthony Silva



Although I am excited to start college, what I'll miss about high school is meeting up with my friends during passing period to have a girl talk.
- Monique Aquila



What I'm going to miss the most from high school is the amazing friendships I've made. I've met so many great people here and made life-long friends! I'll miss my amazing teachers and all the great memories!
- Kimberly Medina



I will miss all the longtime friendships I had throughout my life and all the new friendships I made this year! I will also miss Mrs. Rojo, Mrs. Stubendorff, Mr. Francis and Mr. Crone for being amazing teachers of mine who showed they truly cared for me and supported me through high school. <3
- Daniel Castañeda

Word on the Street

What excites you about Senior year?



"I'm excited to be playing my last year of football."
- Alexander Velasquez



"I'm going to be taking a lot of art classes and it'll be a less stressful year."
- Karizma Reyes



"I'm looking forward to getting more involved with activities my senior year."
- Michael Meza



"I'm looking forward to having fun with my friends And making the most out of my senior year."
- Rosie Carrillo

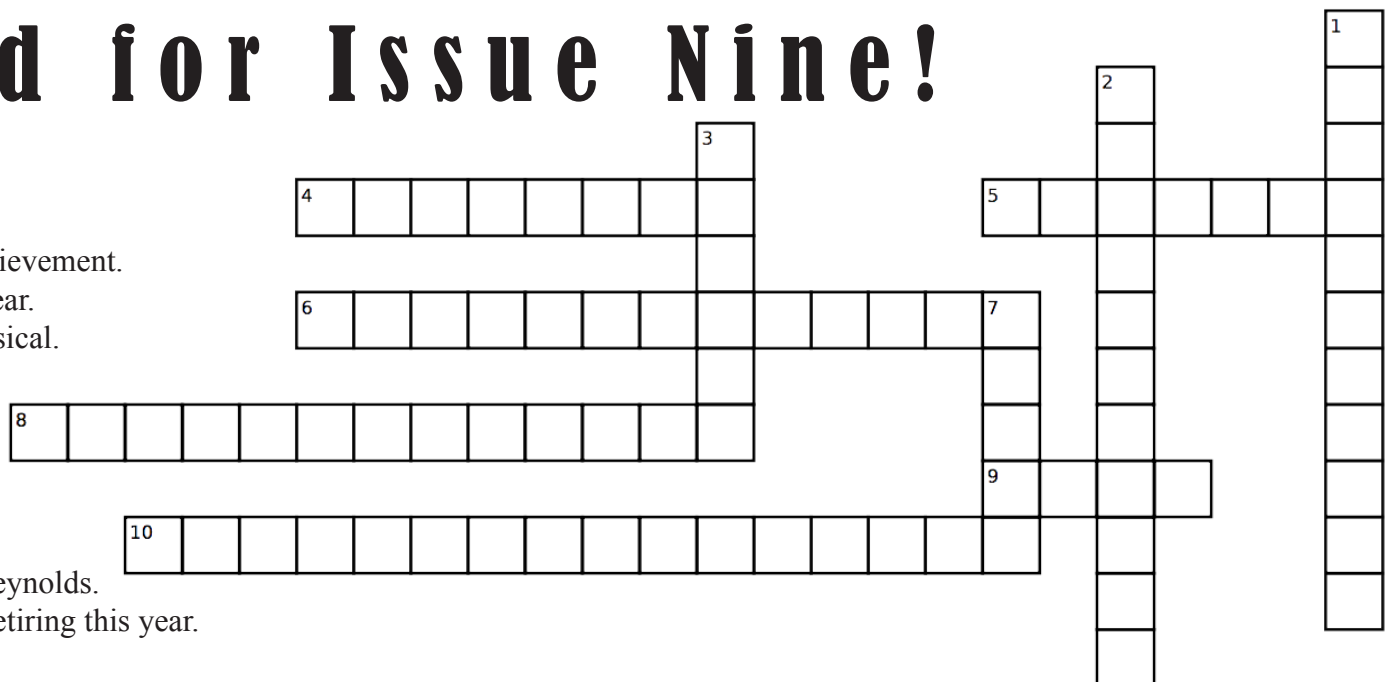
Crossword for Issue Nine!

Down:

- 1. Name of El Rodeo's Editor-in-Chief.
- 2. A Night Dedicated to the Seniors' achievement.
- 3. Spanish teacher who is retiring this year.
- 7. Name of the most recent Drama Musical.

Across:

- 4. New Marvel movie starring Ryan Reynolds.
- 5. English and Drama teacher who is retiring this year.
- 6. 2018 Prom theme.
- 8. Band name that just released 'Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino.'
- 9. Program on campus throwing a Pool Night and going to a Dodger Game.
- 10. Name of new BTS album



The first person to deliver the correct answers for the crossword to X-1 wins a prize!

SENIOR FA

Most Spirited

Layla Prieto and Jose Mancilla



Most likely to Succeed

Andrew Sepulveda and Melissa Ochoa



Best Bromance

Steve Acuna and Rodrigo Sa



Most likely to Sleep in Class

Bethany Cardona and Alejandro Cortez



Best Personality

Daniel Acosta and Amanda Robles



Best Dressed

Jeffrey Car and Sol Rodriguez



AVORITES

Social Media Stars



Adeline Servin and Alfredo Alcaraz

Best Smile

Sarah Navarro and Sebastian Carcano



Best Playlist



Gabriela Nava and Steve Acuna

Most Artistic

Skylah Saenz and Marcos Weeks



Cutest Couple

Andrew Sepulveda and Krystal Marquez



Most likely to be late to Graduation

Miranda Zorrilla and Justin Delira



#FROMELRANCHOTOANYWHERE



Melody Romero

“My plans after graduating are to go to community college and transfer over to a UC. I’m really going to try to travel after I’m done with school before I try finding work. I want to see the world before I settle down!”



Stephanie Calderon

“This summer, I plan to visit Six Flags many many times with my gradnite pass & work as much as I can to make money cause I’ll need it for Hawaii Pacific University starting next fall #AlohaDons”



Jasmine Santiago

“I plan on pursuing a degree in biology. Once I get my biology degree, I will branch off to work in a specific field of zoology and I will try and work at the a zoo or a wildlife park.”



Hannah Ramirez

“After I graduate from El Rancho, I will be attending Azusa Pacific University. I will be majoring in Criminal Justice and pursuing a career in law enforcement after college.”



Sophia Flores

“I’m looking forward to working and making money so I can travel.”



Matthew Sanchez

“I plan to attend the University of Oregon and pursue my dream of becoming a writer. Also, I’m going to the beach like every single day.”



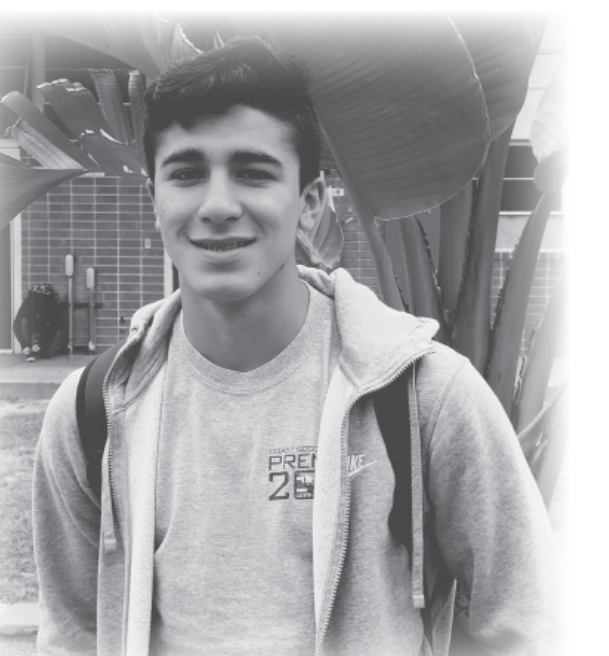
Julio Ornelas

“After high school, I will get out of the Don Memorial Stadium and be an Alumni. I’ll start school at UC Berkeley for the summer. For the fall, I qualified for a program to study in Europe, Paris, and London.”



Lauren Alcalá

“After high school I plan to attend CUI for 4 years and start my chapter of adulthood.”



Rodrigo Saldana

“After graduation, I will continue working and spend the most time I can with friends, family, and girlfriend before I leave to Nebraska.”

#FROMELRANCHOTOANYWHERE



Makayla Guerrero

"I'm moving to San Francisco to pursue my career in criminal justice."



Benjamyn Barrientez

"I am taking a gap year and probably getting a job. Then, I am going to go to community college for two years and hopefully transferring to UCI for electrical engineering."



Carlos Mendes

"I plan to go to Cal State Long Beach and pursue my dream of becoming a CEO."



Arturo Angeles

"I will go to college and play basketball."



Amberly Recendez

"After high school I will cheer at Cerritos college because #CheerIsLife."



Jose Mancilla

"After high school I will join the Marines for four years."



Aiyana Mendoza

"I'm leaning more towards going to Cerritos Community College to play softball, then eventually transferring to a university."



Samantha Rodriguez

"I'm moving to Oregon for school at the University of Oregon."



Jessica Lemus

"I will be working out and going to school because #GymIsLife."

SAYING GOODBYE

Coach Llanes ready to start new chapter in his life



Mr. Llanes appreciating his time as head baseball coach.

Photo on Google Images

BY BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just as El Rancho's graduating class of 2018 gets ready to say goodbye, Spanish teacher Mr. Frank Llanes gets ready to turn in his last lesson plan.

"These 37 years of teaching have gone like the blink of an eye," says Llanes.

Mr. Llanes began his

teaching career at El Rancho in 1989. He first taught Spanish I, then worked his way up to teach AP Spanish Literature.

Before working at El Rancho, Llanes was at Cal State Long Beach getting a bachelor's degree in Spanish with an emphasis in literature. Soon after, he received a master's in coaching and athletic administration at the University of Concordia, Irvine.

Aside from being a Spanish teacher, Llanes is best known for his time coaching. "I've coached girls basketball for years. I [started off as] an assistant baseball coach in 1993-1994."

In 2007, Llanes became El Rancho's head baseball coach and held that position until last year. "I'm really proud of it because we're the only team in the whole history of the

school to go to the finals and win the championship game."

"My absolute favorite part about being a teacher has been teaching Spanish Lit. [I like it because it] talks about themes that are very relevant to the lives of my students, and I think that those works of literature really help them understand who they are."

Llanes has motivated his students by sharing his previous experiences with them. "I try to let them see, that if a kid from East LA can get a college degree, it is a possibility for them. It's not something impossible."

One of Llanes' many accomplishments was being awarded teacher of the year this past May. Another was seeing his kids pass both the AP Spanish Literature and AP Spanish Language and Culture exam.

"Last year's AP group was awesome! All eleven kids passed the AP [Spanish Literature exam], and I'm very proud of [them]," he says

"When you start teaching, you begin to look at things from a different perspective. It makes you look at how you've learned. [You] can see where you've had trouble and [understand why

students might [be struggling]."

"He's an honorable man that truly cares about his profession. [He] has put in many years and he will always be our coach," says French teacher Ms. Moghimi-Danesh.

Over the years Llanes has had so many great memories but one of the was making it to the final CIF championship game with the baseball team.

Teaching and coaching have been great, but Llanes also shares a passion for playing the guitar. Recently, he's been learning how to dance Conga and focusing on being a grandpa.

As for the future, Llanes hopes to visit every baseball stadium in the U.S. with his wife. He also wants "to help [his] daughter and [her] husband raise their [children] and would also like to continue to coaching for 4-5 years."

Llanes encourages students "to believe in what they're doing and to believe in themselves."

"I owe everything I have to being a teacher here at El Rancho. I wouldn't have been the person I am today if I didn't have the chance to work with the best colleagues and the best students," he says.

After 30 years, Garcia says goodbye to her second home

BY BREMO MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This chapter of El Rancho's sweetest, kindest, and most "mom-like" teachers has concluded. Fortunately, Mrs. Anna Garcia's next chapter in her life is a new start: retirement!

Garcia went to Cal State Los Angeles and majored in Chicano Studies. Although, she almost majored in English, Spanish, and psychology.

Garcia has been teaching at El Rancho for 31 years but has taught overall for 36 years. When she first began teaching it was not at all intentional.

"I never wanted to become a teacher. I wanted to go into the medical field or dancing, but back then there was no money for dancing. I worked at a school as a tutor, and then a teacher's assistant and teaching just came naturally to me," said Garcia

When Garcia began teaching, she taught English and seventh-grade World History at Belvedere Middle School in East LA. But when Garcia started at El Rancho, she taught a handful of topics.

Her first year at El Rancho she taught English, U.S. History, and freshman classes like health. Other than that, she has also taught intro to geography in Spanish, bilingual basic math, bilingual history, bilingual U.S. History, bilingual government, bilingual economics, and Mexican American History.

However, U.S. History was assigned to her and it became a regular thing for her to teach each year. "There are so many juniors, so I've just stuck with U.S. History," said Mrs. Garcia.

"My twin sister has been re-



Mrs. Garcia thinks about all of the wonderful memories she's had at El Rancho.

Photo by Gabriela Nava

tired for two years, and I'm one of the last one in my family to retire. I felt I was ready to turn the page to the next chapter," she said.

After Mrs. Garcia retires, she will "stick to [her] hobbies, like sewing. I'll be sewing dance costumes for a dance contest, and I'll be taking classes about stuff I wanna learn about personal growth, but not academic growth," she said.

Saying goodbye won't be easy for her. "[I'll miss] the kids for sure. I love working with kids, and I love my lunch bunch

(Mrs. Kiralla, Mrs. Aguilar, Mrs. Mata, Mrs. Gregg and sometimes other teachers) but I'll come back and visit them," said Garcia.

"We have excellent kids here at El Rancho. People will tell me 'Aren't you afraid to teach high schoolers?' And I'll say 'No, they're good kids.' If we take them on a trip, they're so well behaved on the bus. We have good kids and parent support," she adds.

Mrs. Mata, one of her close friends at El Rancho said, "When one of your friend's graduates or goes to a university far away,

you are both happy for them but also sad at the same time. Well, that is exactly how I feel.

"After over 30 years of teaching, she deserves to travel, to relax, to spend time with her family and to embark on an exciting, new opportunity she desires," said Mata.

Mata adds, "Most people know that Mrs. Garcia is caring and kind, but not everyone knows that she is a huge jokester. I will miss hanging out with her at lunch every day [and] making fun of each other and laugh-

ing about mutual inside jokes."

"I will also very sincerely miss going to her when I am in need of advice. I have come to rely on Mrs. Garcia, as I know so many others probably have too," said Mrs. Mata.

Garcia said "I hope that the school continues to get better and better. We have good kids, good graduation rates, and we have respectful kids. I've learned if you respect the kids, they're going to respect you back, and I appreciate that. I'll miss a lot, but it's time for a new beginning."

SAYING GOODBYE

Wlasick says goodbye to El Rancho High School after 38 years

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After 38 years, Mr. Stanley Wlasick, one of El Rancho's most well known and loved teachers, is finally closing the curtain on his long and illustrious career.

Wlasick first took to the stage in the fourth grade, when he performed in a school play.

"We did a Spanish play, Ferdinand the Bull, and I was Ferdinand. I got a laugh from my first line, and I said that's what I want to do," he said.

From then on his acting career expanded to include commercials and a Summer Stock theatre production in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, "but when the producers decided to stop paying us, I decided I didn't want to be in show business anymore," he said. After working as a technical director for the Costa Mesa City Playhouse, Wlasick came to El Rancho in October of 1980 after being offered the Drama position.

"[Getting the job] was completely a fluke. Robb Rigg, the previous drama teacher, with whom I went to college, called me and told me that he and his wife were having a baby," he said. "I was a little tired of [my] job. Rigg couldn't get out of his contract

unless he found a replacement. He asked if I wanted a teaching job and I was so tired of what I was doing that I said 'Yeah, sure.'"

Aside from Drama, Wlasick also became an English teacher.

"When I first started teaching, I taught Senior Comp Review which was a basic course for seniors that just needed to learn how to write a business letter, how to put together a resume, and how to utilize other basic English grammar and composition lessons," he said. "Then, I was invited to move into [the T.E.A.M program] because I had a success rate with students in my Senior Comp Review class. I taught Senior T.E.A.M for a long time, and that was one of my greatest experiences."

"Later, the trend of Advanced Placement classes rolled in so Mrs. Ellis, the principal at the time, felt I was the logical person to teach AP" he continued. "For one year, I taught AP Lit, AP Language, and the T.E.A.M curriculum, but I discovered I couldn't handle all of that, so I narrowed it down to AP Lit."

Thirty-eight years is a long time to work a job, and while some teachers may seek a new environment or venture out to better-paying districts, Wlasick

remained dedicated to El Rancho.

"It was the perfect environment to work in. The kids have such whole hearts and the parents are so giving, understanding, and supportive. The El Rancho Drama Department has always been very successful and the district has always been very supportive of the program and of the arts. I was never questioned about the choices of plays I made so we did some things that were sort of edgy," Wlasick said. "It was just the right place to be for me."

One of his favorite parts of teaching was seeing students improve as actors.

"My favorite part was watching students when the light bulbs go over their heads and they finally get it. They put together all the acting lessons that I've given them [to] create full-fledged performances," Wlasick said. "You can see the change in them from when they were shy and embarrassed to begin with to when they become sure of themselves and speak well and give great performances."

Of course, with all of the time he's spent teaching here, he's made some unforgettable memories.

"I will always remember the first year we won as Represent-

tatives of the Southern California High School Theater excellence and we took our show, *A View From the Bridge*, to the festival," Wlasick said. "That happened again with *God's Country and Tracers*. We were the first non-professional production of the play about Vietnam and its effects on the young soldiers who fought in it. The playwright came and worked with the students as well."

"We also did the world premiere of a musical called *Teacher Teacher*. I wrote the authors of the original musical, which was written for Bette Davis and called *Miss Moffat*. It bombed on Broadway. I asked them, 'Do you want a second life with this? Let's try it at my high school,' so they rewrote it and changed it from African Americans in the cotton fields to Mexican American crop pickers in the San Joaquin Valley. It was very successful. The first production of *Sugar* will always be one of my favorites and I loved the 2016 [production of] *Flower Drum Song*," he continued.

As for his retirement plans, Wlasick hopes to travel across the country with his family.

"I promised my granddaughter I would take her to New York and she would stay at the Plaza hotel and see her first



Broadway show. I also promised my grandson he could ride ponies in the Grand Canyon," he said. "My little five-year-old, all I have to do is take her to Disneyland, which is probably the most expensive of all of the trips."

But, he also has some solo travel plans in mind.

"My grandfather came from Belgrade, Serbia so I want to go there and I would like to go Germany, the Greek Islands, and Spain," he said.

"I will miss laughing with my fellow teachers, and my good mornings with Pauline, Gina, Annette and Yolanda in the front office. I'll [also] miss working with the kids, working on plays and laughing and yelling and everything that it takes to put together art," he said.

Wlasick's lingering advice? "Remember that we find our lives when the pavement bends."

Jimenez looks to travel the world after retirement



BY KAYLA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Time flies by in a flash, especially for Roberta Jimenez. After 34 years of working within the El Rancho Unified District, vocational counselor Roberta Jimenez is bidding her farewell to El Rancho High School and paving a new way for retirement.

Even though she has an honorable resume with her edu-

cational career, becoming a teacher was not always her first plan, "I graduated from Cal State Dominguez Hills when it was a small new college," says Jimenez, "I got my Bachelor's in Social Work but I didn't know I wanted to start teaching until I took on a job as a substitute teacher and absolutely loved it."

"There's just something about working with kids I think is absolutely compelling," says Jimenez, "Not only do I teach kids the knowledge I know, but the kids in turn teach me about the world as well and that to me is special."

Throughout her career in education, Jimenez has had many titles to her name, "After substituting for a couple of years, I had my first very own classroom at another district in 1981," say Jimenez, "I then moved to the El Rancho School

District in 1983 where I had my first job teaching as a first grade teacher at Rio Vista Elementary."

"For the next 20 years, I taught multiple grades at Rio Vista Elementary," continues Jimenez, "I did one year of middle school at North Park while I was getting my degree to become a counselor and finally achieved my goal when I became a counselor here at El Rancho High School in 2004."

When asked what was her fondest memory of working for the El Rancho Unified School District was, Jimenez replied, "The most thrilling thing is when I see my students achieve something and I know that I did my best to help them in their process."

"Moving from teaching youngers kids to older kids has allowed me to work with students more than once and I've been able to watch them grow,"

continues Jimenez, "Being able to be apart of that process as they become young adults and help them reach their goals in life is something I will always remain proud of and cherish forever."

Retirement will be a whole new experience for Jimenez, but she wants to embrace the foreign environment all she can, "I've always been really outgoing" says Jimenez "People know me as a carefree girl who loves to party, so this new experience is a little scary but I want to embrace it all that I can and keep challenging myself."

Jimenez has always been known for her fierce drive with a tightly packed schedule, but she has even bigger ambitions for when she retires, "My main goal is to travel," says Jimenez, "I want to be able to explore the world and have a fun time,

I even thought about teaching English in other countries or moving there permanently"

When asked if she had any final words to say Jimenez said, "I am so thankful for the opportunity I had to work here, Pico Rivera and El Rancho have become my second home," says Jimenez, "I want to advise my students and young teachers to never give up when they love something and to always try their best."

"I was the first girl in my family to graduate and I've come so far from where I was," continues Jimenez, "If I could do it, anyone could do it as well, they just have to believe in themselves."

Thank you Ms. Jimenez for all that you have done for the El Rancho Unified School District, we wish you the best in your new adventures of retirement, don't party too hard!

Kiralla bids farewell to "The Ranch"

BY: BIANCA ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Lunch at the upstairs library will never be the same! After 37 years of dedication and hard work for the El Rancho Unified School district, Ms. Valerie Kiralla decided it was time for a change.

Kiralla began teaching at North Park Middle school in 1981, then arrived at El Rancho in 1990. She has taught art, commercial art, math, English, and [recently] digital animation and imaging.

She has served as VAPA department chair for over two decades.

"My favorite part about being a teacher has been working with students and seeing their

enthusiasm for the arts. I hope that they have found a love for the arts and [developed] skills they probably wouldn't of have gotten elsewhere," Kiralla says.

Not only has she been a good contributor to the staff, but she also started all of the digital and imaging classes.

Kiralla is also known for having her own lunch club at the upstairs library.

Some of Ms. Kiralla's greatest moments was being awarded teacher of the year and seeing her previous students become teachers.

"Some of the many things I'm going to miss about El Rancho is teaching, my students, and my friends," she says.

Kiralla encourages her students to "make the most of their education, be serious [about what they want], and work hard."

Other than teaching, Kiralla enjoys reading, playing golf, watching movies, going to plays, and traveling.

"My advice to incoming staff members is to [not be afraid] to make mistakes and to develop a good sense of humor with students," Kiralla says.

Her plans for the future are "to travel, take photography classes and rest!"

History teacher, Ms. Anna Garcia says "I have many memorable moments, but I will miss our lunches in the upstairs library and talking on the phone

with her on our commute to work. [Even though] I will see her after retirement, [the] atmosphere will be a different one. I'm sure we will adjust".

"I will miss her a lot. We used to work at North Park. She is really going to be missed by many teachers and students and administrators. I always [turned to her] when I needed help with my computer. I want to wish her good health and lots of fun during her retirement," says Counselor, Ms. Olga Espinoza.

Kiralla has certainly left her mark at El Rancho and has inspired many students to want to pursue careers in the arts.

"I've made lifelong friends and relationships



with my students," she says.

"I really have enjoyed myself here. I love El Rancho and the community. It's always going to be my home away from home. Once a Don always a Don."

SENIOR WILLS

I, Layla Prieto, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My love for 2pac to Brynn Romero, my right arm to Haley Tabullo, my terrible parking skills to Draven Mendoza, my patience on the field to Cristina Ramirez, the Morning Announcements to Marissa & Christina, my whole heart to Emalie Guerrero, my height to Daniel H. so he can be a little taller (I'm 5'3.....), my crocs to Alyssa Sotello, the aux cord to Jaylene Jaloma, my love for memes to Luis Perez, my hydro flask and simp playlist to Gavin Menchaca, my hoops (even though he doesn't have piercings) to Isafas Martinez, the ability to asking for homework answers to Kevin Valdez, my backseat playlist to Laura and Alex, my game day playlist to Josh Cabral And Gigi, my school spirit to all underclassmen currently in ASB and anyone joining for the next school year, my shade throwing attitude to Selina Torres, my twitter fingers to Bryan Herrarte, my phat love for vines, my ugly laugh, and the Mexican flag to Alexis Zacarias, and lastly my varsity spot on left bench to Eifren (aka, Pop).

I, Jacob Navarro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My #1 solo fortnite, my sweater to Briana, and finally my clean clothes to William.

I, Nick Rodriguez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My spikes/flats to Sean, my volleyball shoes to Conde, and my heart to Jessica.

I, Melody Romero, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My two inhalers to Joshua Baltazar (10th), my sick math skills to Daniella Llamas (11th), my crude and dark humor to Katherine Romero and Maricruz Parades (both 11th), my chemistry notebook to Erick Ramirez (10th), my nutrition bagels to Jesse Bruyneel (11th), my Twitter-roasting to Paul Galaviz (11th), my Spanish speaking skills to Madison Ulloa (11th), my fire dance moves to Anthony Naranjo (11th), my musical talents to Adan Olguin, and finally all my love to Mr. Orihuea and the future students in N-8.

I, Jeffrey Car Ambrocio, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My backpack to Xavier Marquez, my sunglasses to Alonzo Murieta, and my Chicago Bulls Hat to Jordan Uribe.

I, Amberly Recendez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My amazing sense of style, good looks & cheerleading life to Jocelyn Recendez, the bench to the "Sexy Six," my tumbling skills to Selina Torres, my sassiness & extraness to Clarissa Morales & Vanessa Villa, my flying skills to Marissa Chavez, my personality and good vibes to Savannah Padilla, my creativity to Maarqui Calvo, my varsity spot to Marissa Turner and finally my captain abilities to Nicole Llevanos, Maribel Alexander & Marissa Chavez. I love u babies!

I, Diego Macias, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My PS4 to Jorge Torres, my television to Michael Garza, and my friendship to all my friends!

I, Stephanie Calderon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

The trunk to my car to Gigi, my ASB dedication to Marlo, my parking spot to Josh, my daily moisturizing routine to Jesus, my college boundness to Maribel, and my getting ready playlist to Christina.

I, Taylor Banuelos, being of sound mind and body do, hereby bequeath the following:

My cup pong skills to Gigi, my ASB position to baby Rojo and Alyssa, my blonde/Taylor moments to Josh Cabral, my boo Eloy to Deanna, my daily PB&J's to Jesus Delgado, and finally my morning hype-ups and love to my hypeman, Erik Avalos.

I, Rosa Melendez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My office powers and connections to my sun Steven, my love and affection to my wife Naray of Skinny, my video games to Mr. Crone, my diploma to Jesse, the rest of my hair to Sarah, my drawing skills to the ASB sniper Amberly, and all my money and the rest of my belongings to my cat Mina.

I, Sureya Obregon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My dancing skills to Abraham Calderon, my facial expressions and UNO playing strategies to Roxana Antonio, my swag and being the team mom to Angela Trinitaddy, my art skills and love for baking to Justinian Cisneros, and lastly, my memes to Abigail Rincon.

I, Roland Stumon, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My bandana to Ryan Dominguez and my gold chain to Nate Espinoza.

I, Emily Vargas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My poster writing to Abraham Calderon, my background story to Dawne Cisneros, my patience towards Mr. Sanchez to Cecilia Lara, my backseat playlist to Samantha Anguiano, my School Spirit to LucyLu, and last, but not least my love and strength to Jayvian Avila. <3

I, Jacob Rodriguez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Speed Flex to Fernando, my cleats to Alex, my pads to Jakob

I, Brandon Rosales-Valenzuela, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My letterman sweater to Diego Macias, my roller skates to Jorge Torres, and finally my mad dancing skills to Carlos Nigo.

I, Mariela Michel, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My ability to wake up late and still make it on time, my annotated AP Lit books, my writing skills, my dark humor and sarcasm, and my many tears to the underclassmen.

I, Eric Estrada, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My endurance and speed to run a 4:33 mile, beat my high school records and maybe my good looks. My dodgeball skills to little Jorge. My awesome laugh to Reileen. My everyday sarcasm to Sam. My goofiness to Jamie, Ems my relatable feels, and last but not least everyone BRING IT IN (It's a XC and Track & Field thing). I love you all runners. BLUE PRIDE ON THREE, 1!, 2!....

I, Sophia Flores, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My sarcastic remarks and my rusty old locker to Crystal Burgos and Geysha Govea, my mom-like-habits to Geysha (Please take care of my crazy boys), my yelling voice to Alyssa Escalera, my senseless jokes to Destiny Rivera, and my undying love for the Little Theater to all the underclassmen of Troupe #2164. Act well your part there the honor lies.

I, Michael Garza, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My backpack to Alonzo Murieta, my pencil bag to Xavier Marquez, and my Spongebob hat to Jordan Uribe.

I, Aleksey Soto, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

All of my love for BTS and music as well as my expert BS and procrastination skills and my favorite kids at work to Kayla Perez, an honorary diploma to Alonzo Murieta, the ability to get through all difficult situations ever to Andrea Yaxcal, 1000 sheets of paper to Jessica Castellanos so that she can keep making those cranes and spreading happiness everywhere, and my writing skills (along with my intense desire to fight Zeko) to next year's El Rodeo Staff. I love you all.

I, Klarissa Olivarez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My flake-y tendencies to Alonzo M., my music taste to Jess C., my ability to not care what I say to Kayla P., and my self deprecating humor to Andrey Y. <3 <3 <3

SENIOR WILLS

I, Sebastian Ruiz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My knowledge of Calculus and mental stability to Selina Torres, my DJ skills to Kiwi, my Crocs to Mr. Francis, my volleyball diving skills to Yahir (you need it), my memories to my underclassmen friends, my leadership skills to Antonio, and my love for the school to everyone who needs it.

I, Armando Ortega, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My smarts and talent of being a goat to Selina Torres and Brianna's left booger to Emily Lopez.

I, Kaeliana Vasquez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My sarcasm to Natalia Reveles, my sass to Melanie Corona, my loud laughter to Stephanie Garcia, and my roasting skills to Abel Vasquez.

I, Brianna Herrera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My choir jackets to Kimberly, my petty nature to Jaime, my sense of humor to Emily, and my red bangs to Nat.

I, Julio Cesar Ornelas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My ASB chair and rigging tendencies to Rene Gallegos, my thickness to Josh Cabral, my quirky character to Mrs. Senteno-Tapia, my Blue Pride to Miguel "Gigi" Ornelas, my big head to Jessica Castellanos, my heavyweight to Monica Aguirre, my cuteness to Bianca Aispuro, my will to live to Andrea Yaxcal, my laughter to the cutie patootie, Laura Valle, and finally (and most importantly), my lazy eye will be shared between Selina Torres and Alonzo Murrieta.

I, Briana Aleala, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

The hate Francis has for me to Cassandra Saldana, my weird personality to Jesus Delgado, and my yellow discus to Emily Arenas.

I, Maria Castillo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My pink flute and memories in the band room to Berenice N, my not so funny jokes to Karla R, my marching shoes to Roger C, my "wows" to Priscila M, my hugs to Michael I, my love for band to the whole flute section, my obsession with my favorite number (19) to Oscar M, my spot in the band room during lunch to Jenny H, my AP Chem seat to Adan O, my gift cards to Mr. Francis, my Bruin gear to Mr. Cordero, and finally my love and support to every Don. Goodbye and good Luck to you all :)

I, Devenie Anchondo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My talented yearbook skills to Guadalupe and Carolyn, my amazing math skills to Julien, and finally, my outstanding academic skills to the incoming freshman, a.k.a. my sister, Delany.

I, Sarah Navarro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My Dance Commish position to Josh, my playlists to Bianca, my obsession with The Office to Richie, my motivation to Draven and Erik, my school spirit to Grecia and Sophia, my Hoco Queen crown to Yulissa, and finally my addiction to naps to Ronaldo.

I, Ahtziri Sanchez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My spot on table to Deanna Roldan, my Social Justice Presidency to Joshua Cabral, my ability to flake and peer advising skills to Alonzo Murrieta, my intelligence to Emily Arenas, and better common sense to Gigi Ornelas.

I, Danielle Rosales, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

All of my wigs to Jasmine Bernal, my hairbrush to Jorge Torres, my polygraph machine to Brandon Rosales, my outdated dictionary to Diego Macias for him to update, and my crayons to Poolce Carlos Nigo. The Few. The Proud.

I, Jenna Alvarado, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My brain to Jack, my lucky hat to Josh, my tennis shows to Jessica, and finally, my sweater to my best friend, Kristen.

I, Kaeliana Vasquez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My sarcasm to Natalia Reveles, my sass to Melanie Corona, my loud laughter to Stephanie Garcia, and my roasting skills to Abel Vasquez.

I, Matthew Garcia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My watch to Edward, my hat to Jocelyn, and my sweater to Nick.

I, Serena Marie Perez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My "loud voice" to continue the legacy of "YES *Insert name*" to Emily Arenas, my lifting skills to Cassandra Saldana, my position as Senior President to the one & only: Erik Avalos, my "vivid mind" to Jesus Delgado, my positivity & love to Emily Lopez, my sarcasm to Miguel (Gigi) Ornelas, my moments of spilling tea to Josh Cabral, my heart to Logan (Josh's dog), my motivation to my future Junior ASB bbys, and an AMAZING and stress free Senior Year to my future Senior ASB bbys.

I, Stephanie Alva, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My inner-mom skills to Janae Vasquez, my relatable personality to Michelle Mendoza, my immature sense of humor to Miguel Romero, and to all my underclassmen I leave you the water balloons in the shed, the run was fun <3.

I, Ernesto Castro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My locker and Panera Discounts to Alyssa Escaladder, my love for the theatre to Ruben and Tristan, my sense of humor to Angel, and finally the Improv team to Tony Cortez.

I, Kyra Chavez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My red hair to whoever has the time to maintain it, my love for the theater to the ones who will lead the class, and finally, my locker to Angel Marquez (be careful, it gets stuck a lot).

I, Andrew Gonzalez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My water polo captain position to Eric Parra, my swim captain position to Carlos Rojo, the ER Aquatics account to Draven Mendoza, my leadership to Samuel Munoz, and I give all my love to all my friends that I'm going to miss!

I, Jose Hernandez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following:

My deep voice and Blue Pride to Alonzooooo Murrieta, my love and some height to Emily Lopez, my conceitedness and independence to Rene Gallegos, my left shoe to Dylan Joseph, my decision making to Erik Avalos, my adoration for Marvel to Oscar Maldonado, the pencil I borrowed and radio to Kimberly Gonzalez, and my bad jokes and love for food to Gigi.

I, Margaret Gutierrez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath:

My poems and future Get Lit team to Jenn, my crazy good looks to my babies, Seli and Bryan, my Starbucks card to Abram, and finally my unconditional love to Michael.

STAFF FAREWELLS

*Aleksey
Soto*

It's been an amazing two years but now it's time to say goodbye.

I honestly thought it would be easier to write this but now that I'm actually doing it, I can't stop myself from tearing up. I couldn't wait for the school year to end so that I could finally leave high school behind because let's be real, high school sucks (or at least it did for me). But, this feels bittersweet. I thought that saying goodbye to the seniors last year was bad, but now that I'm the one going, it feels harder.

I remember coming into this school year terrified of what would happen this year. *Would we have enough staff? Would everyone learn quick enough? Would everything go smoothly?* I don't know how many times the pessimist in me feared that everything would go wrong. Now that it's time for me to leave everything behind, I'm glad to say that these fears were unfounded. You guys are some of the coolest people on campus and I loved coming into class, staying for layout, and even fighting Zeko alongside you. I will never forget these days. I hope you don't either.

Before I go in, I want to thank all of you (even those who are no longer with us) because without you El Rodeo literally would've ceased to function. You all put in so much of your time and effort that you didn't have to put in, and that means the world to me.

I guess I have to say goodbye individually now.

First, the seniors.

Leslie, I honestly don't know how the paper would've survived without you. Even though this was your first year here, you jumped in ready to go and always kept it together. You are truly El Rodeo's mom. I admire you so much for that. Merci beaucoup for putting in your all (and also for having a part in reigniting my love for One Direction). Good luck at Whittier!

Mari, you are so smart and witty and honestly, the world isn't ready for you. Thank you for all of the work you've done, even when it seemed too stressful or seemed like it would take so long to get it done. I love my successful Key Club president.

Bremo and Dev, since you guys are always together I HAVE to address you guys as a unit. You guys are fantastic. I'm really glad you both decided to be in the class. Bremo, I've known you for so long and it feels so weird to be officially saying goodbye. I missed you a lot and I'm going to miss you even more after graduation. Devenie, thank you for writing killer features, diving into layout, and being our #1 chip provider.

Sebastian, you are THE photogenic skinny legend. Although you didn't have to, you took a couple of articles and helped us out a LOT with copy editing, so thanks very much for that, AS WELL AS



for being super positive and cheerful. Tu vas me manquer!

Alyna, I know you aren't a big writer but you came through with those word on the streets! Thank you for helping us with those, and thank you for deciding to take the class and staying!

And now, the juniors.

To my best friend (and favorite BTS stan) Kayla, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH. You are such a bright and intelligent person and I don't know what I would've done without you this year. Never forget that you have so much ahead in your future and no matter how hard life gets, never stop working towards what your heart wants. I believe in you immensely and I will always be here for you just like you've been here for me.

Fatima, WIIIIIIIG! Before this year I had heard that you were an awesome writer and I wanted you as part of the staff so much. Thank god you joined because you are seriously one of the best writers I've ever met. You're always so positive and you're just so great in general. Good luck next year! Catch me still retweeting all of your retweets.

Sofia and Jenn, just like Bremo and Dev, I feel like I have to address you guys as a unit because I swear I never see you guys apart. Thank you for taking on the sports stories when no one else wanted to. You guys killed it every time. Sofia, keep dancing to NCT; let me know when you finish the 'Go' choreography! Jenn, keep going with your poetry; you've got a promising future in spoken word!

Karizma, my artistic goth/emo queen: you are so SO funny and you brightened up the room so much the brightness bounced off of Zeko's head and left me blind. Thank you for everything you did 1st semester and an even bigger thank you for still coming in even if it meant ditching your 6th period. Please don't ever block me on Twitter because I don't know how I'll live without seeing you wildin out (or posting your art doodles) on my timeline. Stay positive bb.

Alonzo, my favorite honorary senior, you and your wonderful copy-editing have saved us so many times and I'm really thankful that you came in even though you didn't have to. I'm going to miss you so much, but I know we'll see each other again soon; after all, we still have to go get poke.

Franky, one of my favorite girl group stans, thank you for taking on photo editing. You've saved our a**** many, many, MANY times. Thank you for doing that on top of writing really good pieces.

Selina and Emily, our third unit, you guys are really something else. You both came in second semester and jumped right in, no questions asked. Both of you are amazing writers who are definitely going to benefit the staff HEAVILY next year. Seli, try not to throw hands with the bald man.

Bianca, your writing has improved so much since you started and this issue has probably some of your best writing yet. Thank you for always being up for working and doing your best throughout this whole year.

My second-to-last farewell goes to Mr. Zeko. I remember the first time I ever gave you an article to read I was practically in tears because I was so afraid you were going to completely obliterate it (I couldn't take criticism well), but now because of you I've gained confidence in my news writing. In these past two years, you've become one of my favorite teachers at El Rancho and I am so glad I got to be a part of this class, despite how many times I've tried to shut you up or fight you. I'll miss you. I'll try to come visit to make sure you aren't growling at next year's staff.

Finally, I want to thank the people that actually took the time to read the paper throughout the year. All of the work we did was, ultimately, for you guys. I hope you've enjoyed the ride as much as we have.

I'm so honored to have been your editor-in-chief. Good luck to all of the staff members next year!

*Bremo
Martinez*

When Devenie first told me, "Join journalism with me" my obvious reaction was "No, that's boring." But honestly, being apart of El Rodeo was everything *but* boring. Everyone's creative and interactive process to write the school paper that kids underestimate and throw away has been fantastic. The entire class is full of wonderful girls (seriously this class is just girls, apart from Zeko and somewhat I, shout out to non-binaries) that are better writers than me, and will do great things in this messed up world. Writing has always come naturally to me, but not writing like I'm a news reporter, which is not at all how or what we write. So, the first thing I wrote for El Rodeo was the LANY article about their first official album (shout out to one of the greatest bands of all time), and I was nervous as heck to show Aleksey. I knew I was good at writing creatively, but not journalismly. But, her response was "It's good, you can really write," which could *have* or

have not been a lie, but it was the biggest compliment to have my fellow friend and editor in chief enjoy my writing. Since then, I've grown better at writing for El Rodeo, and it's sad to leave when I was beginning to enjoy myself and feel apart of this school for once. I honestly suck at goodbyes and dread them so I'm just going to cut to what I'll miss about El Rodeo. Zeko and his very, very, very hairless head and his enthusiasm to read a journalism book for twenty minutes on block periods (even though no one reads it). Sofia saying bless you twenty times every time I have an annoying sneezing attack. Leslie being super mom-like, energetic, and encouraging; she's seriously too good for this world. Aleksey standing in front of the list of sports articles no one volunteers to write. Kayla doing charming things for us and being the sweetheart she is. Lastly, Devenie and I procrastinating and playing slither.io instead of writing our articles (I'm sorry Aleksey). It has been one of the best times of my life to be being surrounded by great people, but it's time to graduate and say adios to everything I love and hate, so, goodbye El Rodeo and good luck with your issues.

*Alyna
Rodriguez*

Wow, farewells already? It seems as if my senior year just began... Well where does one start

with saying goodbye to people I've known for months or even years? Easy. I don't. I'll just take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in this chapter of my life, especially the Zekos for being the most incredible people ever. High School was great but it's time for adulthood.



STAFF FAREWELLS

Leslie Plaza

I'm Leslie Plaza, business manager, copy editor, and staff writer for the 2017-2018 El Rodeo Newspaper Staff. My experience in journalism has been memorable, from late nights with pizza to group quizzes, brainstorming to deadlines, and getting chased by a cat near the P building. I've absolutely loved this journey with incredible people. Although I've only been a part of journalism for my last year, I feel very close to every single person in the staff. I've loved helping with writing,

layout, and even giving people a laugh. I want to thank the staff for their constant support, you guys make me smile and I've had a blast this year. I'm expecting a mail copy of the first issue from next year! Also I want to thank Mr. Zeko, not only for the laughs, but also the constant analysis and critique. I've become a better writer and journalist because of you. I also want to thank Aleksey for giving me this opportunity and allowing me to have more responsibility. Most importantly, thank you to my mom, my dad, and my sister for not giving me the cold shoulder when I ask them to read my article. To the El Rodeo staff, thank you for the laughs, I'll miss you guys!



Mariela Michel

I came to the journalism class thinking that I wouldn't learn or do much in the class. I was wrong because I contributed late nights learning to lay out and edit pages as well as meet deadlines on multiple articles at once. I met many kind and talented students who would become like family, and I developed a newfound respect for journalism. I often felt drained and stressed, but after every issue, I felt a sense of accomplishment and pride for all

our hard work being displayed in 8 to 12 beautiful pages. I'm glad I joined and I thank everyone who's helped me improve throughout the year. Mr. Zeko, thank you for being brutally honest with me on my work because without that I never would have been able to improve on my writing. Sometimes I genuinely feel that I improved more on my writing in journalism than in any other English class I've ever taken. Thank you to the entire El Rodeo Staff for being so supportive and kind. You've all made a huge impact on my life and I will forever be grateful for the times we spent together. Thank you for the laughs, the tears, and the memories. :*)

Devenie Anchondo

Uhm, hewwo. I am not sure what to say in this but I will try my best :D. I first joined journalism because I've always wanted to learn what writing articles, interviewing people, and making the newspaper was all about. I've always wondered what the process is and what needs to be done to put out the school's newspaper.

came better friends with others.

I would like to say thank you to the wonderful El Rodeo staff. Thank you to everyone who stayed late. Thank you to everyone who did a layout page. Thank you to Fatima, writing those bomb simply irresistible articles. Thank you to Sofia for writing all them sports articles. Most importantly though, thank you to Aleksey. You've been amazing. Thank you for all of your hard work. Also Leslie, for being our mom basically.

Being on the El Rodeo Staff, I met many amazing people (a.k.a. Sofia, Jenn, Fatima, and Karizma) and be-

I would like to say farewell to Mr. Zeke, a once long haired, punk-rock, cool skater teacher who lived in Pico Rivers. Also, mom I know you're going to read this, so hello! love you <3.



STAFF APPRECIATION

Teacher Appreciation Week!

From May 7th to May 11th, El Rancho's Teachers were celebrated for their dedication to their students. Throughout the week ASB and other groups on campus, surprised teachers with gifts and games to show them how much they appreciate their hard work and dedication to their students.

All photos taken by Selina Torres

BY SELINA TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Monday: Mrs. Senteno-Tapia appreciated her gift from her ASB students!

Tuesday: Dr. Ross burst with appreciation for his sweet gift of Starburst candy!



Wednesday: Mrs. Rojo awarded with Honor Roll and a Kit Kat

Thursday: Wlasick grabs his morning coffee at the teacher breakfast.



Friday: Mr. Sierra gets his game face as he munches on some sweet treats.

Advice to the graduating class of 2018

All photos taken by Aleksey Soto



To the class of 2018, remember to take it one step at a time. Keep moving forward until you reach your goals. Always remember to take time out to enjoy the simple pleasures along the way. Let the past guide you to make you wiser. And always make time to call your mother!

- Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh



Stay hungry. Don't lose focus on your dreams. Have fun, but remember that you're going to school for a reason.

- Mr. Melgar



Follow your passion, work hard, and serve others.

- Mr. Francis



Enjoy the moment.

- Mrs. Qureshi



Mr. Coach Shigezane



Mr. Jim Sorenson



Mrs. Mary Helen Welch Ebert



Ms. Cecilia Tsakim

El Rodeo apologizes for all typos made in the previous issue.

Thank you teachers and administration for your outstanding work and for being apart of the 2017-2018 El Rancho staff!