



El Rancho High School

Friday, 10.31.18

V. 67.2

# El Rodeo

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Band performs at the UCLA vs. Washington Huskies football game.

Photo by Yazlin Juarez

## El Rancho band performs at the Rose Bowl

BY YAZLIN JUAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The ERHS Marching Dons teamed up with the UCLA Marching Band once again on October 6th to view the game against the Washington Huskies at Rose Bowl Stadium and play classic Bruin tunes and some new toe-tappers.

In the parking lot of the Rose Bowl Stadium, El Rancho students mixed with student from 20 different high schools from Southern California, including Pacifica, South Pasadena and Santa Monica high

school. Schools were separated into sections based on instrument and regrouped to mingle with their instrumental sections from different schools.

These groups were led by representatives from the UCLA Solid Gold Sound to rehearse the music and review their entrance and exit. Similar to the home games at the Ranch, the band took free front-row seats with instruments in hand.

At half-time, the young musicians headed down through the stands, VIP passageways, backstage, then lined up on the Rose Bowl football field. Led by band director Gordon Henderson, all

20 bands raised their instruments in unison to play classic UCLA fight songs: "We are the Mighty Bruins," "Bruin Warriors," and popular song "Feel It Still By" by the band Portugal, The Man.

Although they are no strangers to the performance world, the Dons felt a different energy of the crowd that day. Berenice Negrete, sophomore second chair flutist, said "getting onto the field with all the bands and the crowd watching," was her favorite part of the night.

Many Dons were able to enhance their musicianship through sectionals, and were inspired to pursue performing arts in future

education. Junior synth and cymbal player Joshua Baltazar remarked the good impressions he made on UCLA percussionists. The experience motivated him to "improve his [my] music in general as he [I] saw all the different expectations from the director of the UCLA band," said Baltazar.

Breanna Amaro, colorguard leader and senior, said "it has always been a dream of mine to be a part of a team that competes internationally. Seeing a larger scale of our band helped me see what it would be like out of high school."

This performance also provided players with leadership experience on the field. "It helped

me see that there are many people with similar interests. Meeting new people, I got to see different styles of leadership and gain some insight," said Amaro.

This isn't the first time El Rancho has visited the Rose Bowl before. In 2015, the Marching Dons were invited by UCLA to play their halftime, but have played consistently since. The band has also played for the Cal Berkeley football games, and last fall, performed half time for the Los Angeles Chargers.

For seniors like Daniela Llamas, clarinet player and Band Council President, this was their second time performing. "Although I had bigger expectations, doing it for a second time exceeded my experience from the first time," Llamas says.

"I set aside my sports hat for the day" says ERHS band director and USC alumni, Reggie Cordero, "[The purpose of the event] was to gain a unique college experience that student's don't get from visiting a campus."

"Not many people get to say they performed in front of 50,000 people and at a halftime show for a major world class university like UCLA," says Cordero.

After their performance with the Bruins, the band is eager to return, bigger, "bluer," and better than ever. To see the Marching Dons perform their parade march and other fun tunes, attend the Loara Tournament of Bands on October 27 and the Chino Band Invitational on November 3rd.

## Decathletes looking forward to upcoming competitions

BY HANNAH BLANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's 2018/2019 Academic Decathlon team, led by Mr. Francis and Mr. Melgar, is made up of juniors and seniors who excel in their academic classes and tests. The students are striving for success in the upcoming Decathlon competition season.

This year, the team will explore and investigate the decade of the 1960's by learning about the art, science, history, math, economics, music, language and literature of the era. Along with this they practice essay, speech, interview.

"Our goals for this year are like all other years, to make it to state. We came pretty close to it last year and we were short one person," says returning member, Alonzo Murrieta.

The El Rancho Academic Decathlon team will be competing against 50 schools for the title at nationals. The competi-

tions will take place on January 26, 2019, and February 2, 2019 at El Rancho High School.

Big changes have already drastically set apart this year's team from last year's team. The team lost the decathlon room and changed coaches. "It's an entirely new feel, but it's still fun. There are some hiccups, but that comes with every new plan," continues Murrieta.

New techniques have been implemented to make learning the material easier. "The techniques aren't the main way to win, as long as we continue to work hard, I am confident we can make it to state," says Murrieta "I'm really happy with the team, everyone's pulling their own weight and we're slowly getting closer."

New to the El Rancho Decathlon team is senior Emily Vasquez. She describes joining the team as, "joining a family. It's a great experience."

Vasquez's main goals are to improve her contribution to the team, medal in math,



The team is excited to work together and compete in upcoming competitions.

Photo by Emily Lopez

and improve in speech. Along with decathlon, she plays on the varsity girls soccer team.

When it comes to juggling decathlon, soccer, school, and a social life Vasquez says, "It's a little time consuming, but the balance between them is rewarding."

Junior Sophia Lugo, weighs in on the topic of time management saying, "It's difficult, but I learned to balance my time and

prioritize what is most important."

"It's hilarious meeting all the people that have joined and have brought me out of my shell," says junior Maria Juarez. She's very excited to compete for a spot at nationals and she says, "I hope they trust me enough to get them to nationals and to be the national nuggets that we are."

The 2018/2019 Academic Decathlon team is mo-

tivated and determined to win this year's regionals to be held at El Rancho High School. The team members have created a family-like bond amongst themselves, hopefully enhancing their chances at accomplishing this goal. Through individual sacrifices made by each member, they come closer and closer to bringing glory to El Rancho High School.



OPINION

Kavanaugh’s appointment: A new low for the U.S.



Justice Brett Kavanaugh at the hearing for the allegations made against him.

BY FATIMA LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Earlier this year, Brett Kavanaugh was nominated by President Trump to become an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Kavanaugh was considered even though allegations of sexual misconduct were made against him by three different women. Even after a lengthy hearing that put both he and his accusers in the spotlight, Brett Kavanaugh was sworn in as a Supreme Court Justice on October 6. With Kavanaugh’s election, plenty of questions are being raised regarding the morals of Americans as a whole. I, for one, think that Kavanaugh’s appointment makes a complete mockery of the justice system and sets us back as a society.

The timeline of these allegations spans across decades and might even be considered ridiculous by some, but over a whopping thirty-five years, Brett Kavanaugh has managed to garner a long list of sexual misconduct allegations at the high school and college parties that he attended.

From his high school days until now, Kavanaugh has been under fire for these allegations that he has tried so hard to disprove and, for the most part, he has. None of the allegations have ruined his career, but what they have done is that they’ve brought the United States justice system and everything it stands for under fire. With the outcome of the trial and his appointment into the Supreme Court, many Americans are upset with those who had the say in letting him go through with his nomination and they have every right to be.

Brett Kavanaugh was appointed as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. This means that for the remainder of his life, Kavanaugh will be a part of the United States Supreme Court. He will oversee and participate in the most important court cases that the country is currently dealing with. Heavy topics like abortion, marriage equality, and pay discrimination will all be under his and the other eight justice’s jurisdiction.

For some, Brett Kavanaugh’s appointment as Supreme

Court Justice might be a good thing. As a member of the Republican Party, Justice Kavanaugh will most likely make his decisions to fit the conservative and traditional views of his group. This could mean that certain laws and court decisions that are considered more liberal might be modified thanks to the newest right-wing addition to the Supreme Court.

To others, Kavanaugh’s appointment is far from good news. As a Republican, Justice Brett Kavanaugh has further skewed the political divide within the Supreme Court. What some Americans might consider good progress with women’s rights, the LGBTQ+ community, and the environment may all have been for nothing if Justice Kavanaugh decides to vote in favor of a more conservative take on these important topics.

Political differences aside, Americans all over the country have been caught in a moral dilemma. With Kavanaugh’s appointment as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, many are raising the question: How did the country allow an alleged sex offender to become such a high ranking official?

While it is true that Justice Kavanaugh was not found guilty of any of the claims made against him, it still comes as a surprise that he was still even considered as a nominee. However, what was even more surprising was that he was elected as a Supreme Court justice. In these times where the line between politics and ethics is becoming blurred, should Justice Kavanaugh have been elected?

That question is one that is up for debate, but many have already voiced their opinions on social media, television, and even at rallies held in response to his nomination and appointment. Generally speaking, the appoint-

ment of Brett Kavanaugh as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court was, perhaps, not the best idea. With movements like #MeToo and Time’s Up, sexual harassment and assault have never been more at the forefront than they are now.

Justice Kavanaugh’s swearing-in as Supreme Court Justice was a complete disregard for the on-going movements that serve as a platform for women and victims of sexual assault everywhere. As a country that boasts liberty and justice for all, not much justice was being served at the time of Kavanaugh’s hearing. Regardless of whether or not the allegations were true, there were some things should have been done, but, obviously, were not as Brett Kavanaugh is now a Supreme Court Justice.

If such a high ranking official was accused of charges as serious as sexual assault, the best thing that could have been done was to revoke Kavanaugh’s nomination and not even continue to consider him for the Supreme Court, but because the United States justice system favors men when it comes to crimes committed against women, that was not the case. Whether his three accusers were telling the truth or not, we’ll never know, but it is traditional to believe the victim when something like sexual assault and attempted rape are on the line.

Justice Kavanaugh’s hearing was never about disproving the stories of three women or giving him his “squeaky clean” record back, it was about getting answers and getting the true story out of both parties. The U.S. government failed to do either with this hearing. Instead, the government chose to elect an alleged sex offender and further diminish the importance of speaking up when it comes to sexual harassment and assault.

What’s wrong with being politically correct?

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There is nothing wrong with being politically correct. The old saying “actions speak louder than words” has always been misinterpreted: it infers that a person’s words or actions are fundamental modes of communication. This assumption, I shall argue, is irrational.

The outcome of a sharp distinction between speech and action creates a conflict of harmony between being “politically correct” and our First Amendment rights.

The “free speech” concept has always been an emblem of American exceptionalism. From pride against fighting foreign threats of Communist and totalitarian reign; it recognizes that speech is a part of who we are as humans and in addition to that: our thoughts and inner ideas give character to our unique speech. This is why we, as Americans, view the right of stripping away

our free speech as an impoverishment of individuality or enforces of tyrannical rule; we are fearful of becoming a dystopia.

On the other hand, we are also quick to understand that even though once has the right to free speech, that is not the same for their actions; There are certain actions that could easily be viewed as “intolerant” or simply “aloof” that violate rule of law and could harm the freedom of another, which is strictly evasive and cruel.

We see this debate in media constantly today. Free speech has been classified as “hate speech” on both left and right sides; with America being the “melting pot” that it is and has diverse religions, ethnicities, economic placings etc...some word choices may underestimate our ideal of an accepting society.

How, then, can we reconcile this fundamental right as granted by our Founding Fathers with the need to caution our word choices? How can we simultaneously recognize the harmful effects of

speech onto a certain group of people while maintaining the value that we have a right to speak our ideas and beliefs regardless of its unintended consequences?.

To see this, we might compare the use of the words such as gay or racial slurs in terms of the actions that they contain. Both of these words are used to reference a group of similar individuals and would commonly be featured in a statement of one’s opinion. These slurs may not do anything besides denote a group of people; however, the latter of the word has a much more distinct and conventional use by contributing to the act of demonizing or stigmatizing a particular identity. Which is why, term to describe gays today is to perform an act of condemnation than it is to communicate meaning. We attack and cringe at such politically incorrect language because of its unintentional act not because of its intended meaning.

Political correctness is not, a ignorant censorship of

free speech, but a suppression of harmful speech acts. It is insincere to suggest otherwise; doing so would put derogatory words equal with words predominantly used to communicate regularly

Today, we live in a society in which shoplifting or cheating is a punishable crime, but characterizing Mexicans as “rapists” can be rubbed off as free speech. In this case, we seem to have severely misunderstand the true meaning and nature of speech acts. It possible to exercise our freedom of expression protected under the First Amendment while simultaneously censoring the cruel habitat of hate speech, which should be evaluated as harmful actions instead of communication. But only by recognizing this separation can we see through the false polarity between decreasing harmful speech acts (political correctness) and our right to free speech. It is time we leave the belief that actions speak louder than words because most of the time, words overpower all.

El Rodeo

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

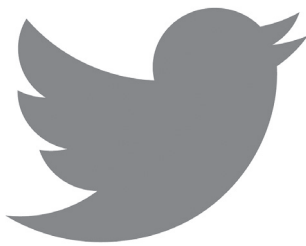
Student journalists on the El Rodeo staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school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

Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.



OPINION

Twitter is annoying: It's time to move on



By ALONZO MURRIETA  
AND ANTONIO ESCOBAR  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

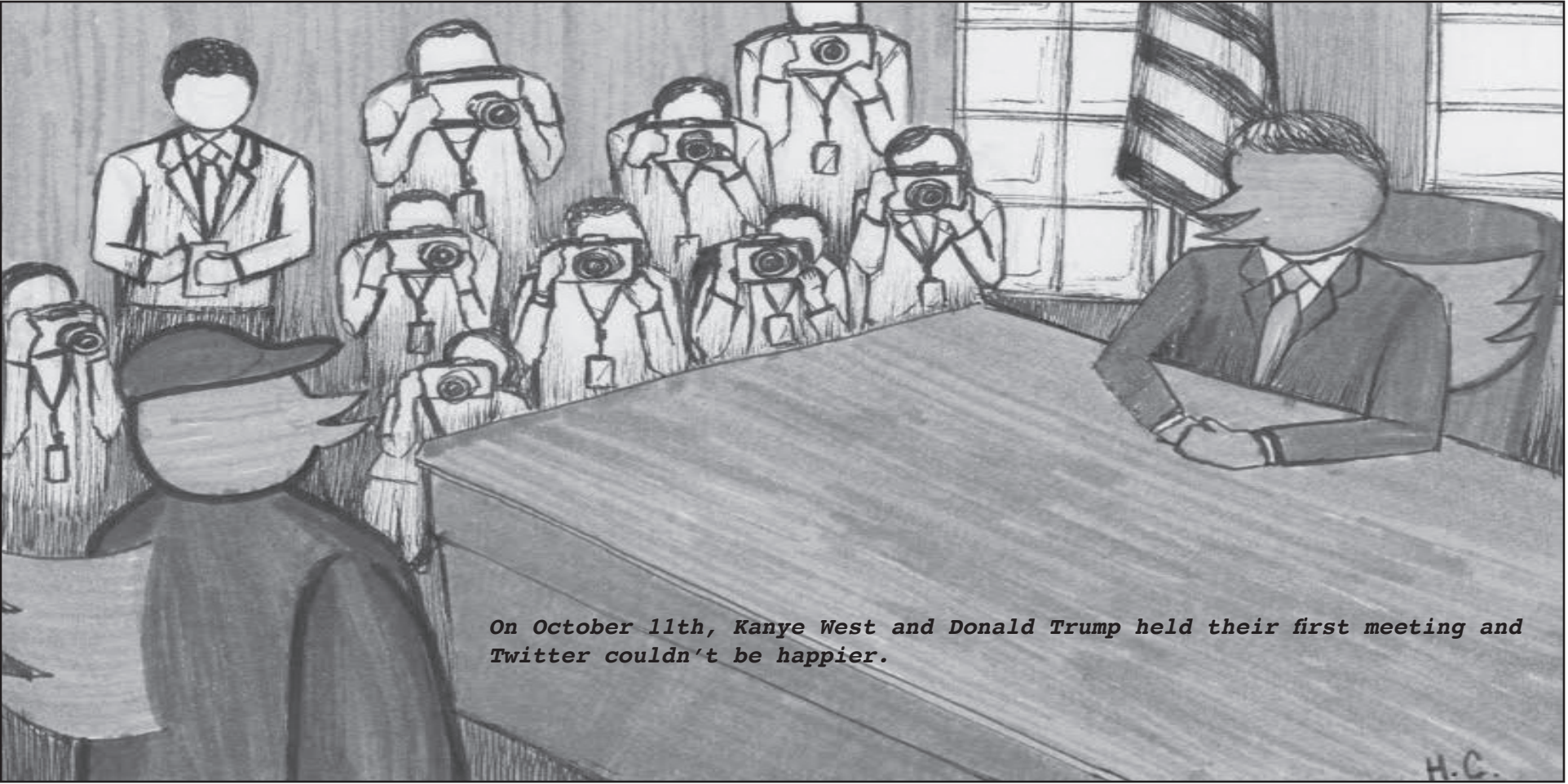
With so many social media platforms, it's hard to pick a favorite. There are so many pros and cons to each application, but if there's something we can all agree on, it's that *Twitter* is the best and worst site to be a part of. Yes, *Twitter* definitely has some benefits to it, but what do we truly gain from it? All *Twitter* really has to offer are the funny things we see on our timelines, but for

the most part, *Twitter* is annoying. There are more than a few reasons as to why *Twitter* is as irritating as it is, but we're only going for a slight drag, not an entire roast. Don't get us wrong, the app is well-made, but the community has made it the mess that it is. If anything, this is a criticism on those who use *Twitter* rather than the application itself! Reason 1: Clout-chasers. Almost every hour, we see a "rt or bad luck for 10 years" post on the timeline. The majority of these tweets are posted solely for the attention and they just ruin a person's day! What's even worse is that, every once in a while, these posts are accompanied by gruesome images. We don't blame people for retweeting such posts, though. Some people are superstitious and some just don't believe in such things. However, there is no real benefit to posting these things. Unless, of course, your goal is to receive as much at-

tention as you possibly can. Reason 2: Lies. A lot of posts (mainly controversial ones) are fake. Sure, the site has credible sources, but sometimes, we find ourselves believing the most absurd things from random people on this website. We believe that the majority of the *Twitter* community, ourselves included, is willing to believe anything with thousands of likes and retweets. This atmosphere creates a very toxic community where whatever is popular is considered fact. Forget fact-checking and accuracy checks, *Twitter* doesn't care for those! For example, *Twitter* star, Brother Nature, recently had tweets resurface from several years ago that caused a great divide among users. At first glance, Brother Nature's tweets appear to be supporting Nazi propaganda. However, these tweets were put out when he was twelve-years-old, and one of them was quoting lyrics from

a song. Without the facts, it is, without a doubt, reasonable to "cancel" Brother Nature. Nonetheless, we believe it is unreasonable to hold an adult accountable for a few poorly-chosen words he said during his childhood. Here, the problem lies more with the fact that users' lack of fact-checking and accuracy checks allows them to believe whatever it is on *Twitter*. There are little to no attempts to follow up with any research or to go more in-depth into a story. Because of this, people are quick to believe things and can, quite literally, ruin someone's image even if they have a notable background. Reason 3: Repetition and locals. The same tweets are recycled every few months, and most of the time, they are stolen from other accounts. It's boring, unoriginal, and leaves much to be desired. Do you know who's great at tweeting and retweeting repetitive posts? Locals! Locals are great at using recycled tweets,

ESPECIALLY right now during the "spooky szn." Trust us, there's nothing fun about having no personality except for the occasional vine reference or when you're begging for someone to get you a spooky basket! The solution: Is *Twitter* as annoying to you as it is to us? Mute everything or don't follow anyone! Admittedly, the second solution is a bit dramatic, but the first one is quite plausible. Surprisingly enough, muting people and blocking them actually stops you from seeing their tweets! Although it is a bit anticlimactic to offer such solutions, hopefully, someone will be enlightened. Or, if you don't want to do that, at least stop giving attention to things you hate, blocking and moving on will save you a lot of trouble. If you've made it this far, please message us @alonzooooo and @AntonioDEscobar for \$100. If you don't, you'll have bad luck for 5 years.



On October 11th, Kanye West and Donald Trump held their first meeting and Twitter couldn't be happier.

Political Cartoon by Jessica Castellanos

Word on the Street:  
Do you think its important to vote in the November elections?

“Yes, I think its important to vote to have order and peace within the world.”  
-Freshman Anthony Cardona

“Yes because they could get more votes from people that want to vote.”  
-Sophomore Ethan Aparacio

“I think its a good idea that way we have someone to look up to and make our community better.”  
- Sophomore Destiny Romero

“I think its important to vote for what you think will help society.”  
-Sophomore Brianna Campos

“I think its important because voting is what decides the best fir the people.”  
-Junior Adan Olguin



FEATURES

Magnificent Magdaleno takes on role as ASB Advisor!



Mr. Magdaleno and Mr. Jacobo during the Pink-Out/Senior Night football game. Photo by Emily Lopez

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

He’s respectful, caring, funny, dedicated and supportive. He’s Mr. Magdaleno! For the past 3 years, Magdaleno has brought his artistic perspective and blue pride to El Rancho High School as an art teacher and now an ASB advisor. His path to become a teach-

er was destined since the beginning, “Growing up in Pico Rivera and attending ERUSD schools, was when I realized I wanted to teach” says Magdaleno, “I knew I wanted to come back and teach for my home district and give back to my community” “I enjoy coming to work and love working with everybody on campus,” continues Magdaleno, “I’m very fortunate

to continue to be a part of this community both in and outside of El Rancho High School” His Pico Rivera roots have shaped him extremely and taught him to proud of who he is. “Growing up was very simple, my family was very hard working and my parents taught me the value of hard work and education at an early age,” says Magdaleno, “All of my child-

hood friends shared the same experience, we all came from similar backgrounds and we were taught to be proud of who you were and where you came from.” Magdaleno has become more involved this school year due to his new position as ASB advisor. “Being the new ASB advisor comes with many challenges and rewards,” says Magdaleno, “I feel very fortunate to have such an important role on our campus but it’s not easy because El Rancho holds a long history and tradition of doing things the El Rancho way.” “While that’s great and important to maintain, it also creates new challenges on how to move our school forward and evolve with our student body and staff,” continues Magdaleno. One thing he wants people to know about ASB is the struggle and hard-work that comes with being in the program. “I hope people can see how hard our ASB students work, they are here all the time and are very busy, on top of all their academics and other activities,” says Magdaleno, “People tend to focus on the negative aspects of our student government and are quick to assume that something is ‘rigged’ or ‘ASB doesn’t do anything’ but I hope

people can see the long hours and dedication that our students put into making our campus great.” As for personal goals, Magdaleno is always trying his best to expand his passions. “I want to work in our district and continue to serve our students and community,” says Magdaleno, “I want to continue to be a part of the visual and performing arts, as both a folklorico dancer and artist,” When Magdaleno is not staying late for an ASB event or is invested in art at El Rancho, he can be found exploring the hidden treasures of Los Angeles! “For fun I like to visit museums, art galleries, and go to different cultural events and shows,” says Magdaleno, “I also enjoy drawing in my sketchbook, going to Dodger games, hanging out with my cats, and walking my dog Ace at Pico Park.” When asked if he had any lasting advice for his co-workers and students Mr. Magdaleno exclaimed: “Surround yourself with the people you care about and want to create positive change with, those people will support you and encourage you to take risk and continue to grow, and do what makes you happy!”

Meet the Creative Writing Club!



The Creative Writing Club poses with Get Lit Poetry Books! Photo by Rene Gallegos

BY RENE GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you ever written a poem, story, or essay that you feel expresses yourself well? Have you ever wanted to do so, but didn’t know where to begin? If so, El Rancho now has a club solely for you! The Creative Writing Club aims to reach all students and inspire them to write. Club Founder and President Yazlin Juarez says that the club’s goal is to, “to unite writers of all kinds on the El Rancho campus, and provide resources to advance their skills and learn more about the field.” Senior Maggie Grisco, the club’s Vice President, describes the club as, “a safe space for writers to share their

creations and receive feedback from other passionate writers!” In this club, students are encouraged to build and learn writing techniques while also putting them into practice. “We create short stories, poems, and personal essays to peer review, share insider tips and tricks on what makes ‘good writing,’” says Juarez. The club also reviews and improves upon the writing. “I enjoy receiving feedback on my personal statements and giving others feedback,” says Grisco. Only a few months in action, the Creative Writing Club has already inspired students to follow their newfound passions. The club has looked into poetry readings, open mic nights, and writing competitions for their members to compete in. Taking advantage of

the chance to get exposed to the writing community, members have already participated in literary events. “A group of the Creative Writing Club went to the Get Lit Poetic Convergence to attend poetry workshops and lectures by professional writers, professors, and Get Lit players,” says Juarez, “Everyone learned something new, met fellow high school poets, and felt inspired to further pursue the literary arts.” With a plan to continue this involvement, Juarez states, “we will be training a team of junior and senior AP curriculum kids (in and outside of the club) to perform in the annual Get Lit Classic Slam Competition in April 2019.” The club will also perform at Purge Poetry Open Mic Nights at the public library on November 28th and December 12th. They will also present their literary art at El Rancho’s annual Open Mic Night, which dates are yet to be announced. With many resources and opportunities to become an articulate writer, the Creative Writing Club can assist anyone in expanding their writing skills while also becoming inspired in the literary arts. As a final note, Juarez adds, “New members are welcome to join at anytime! It doesn’t matter if you are a “good” or “bad” writer, you just have to have the passion to learn, and we will help you get to where you want to be.” Don’t forget the Creative Writing Club meets every other Wednesday in Mr. Sorenson’s classroom, Q2!

ER staff rocks the house at NPR

ER Staff shows their moves at NPR. Photo by Selina Torres

BY KAYLA PEREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

forward to watching us and the energy from it all is just amazing” Not only is the staff dance a great way to make memories, but it is also nostalgic for some as well, “I was in the Night Pep Rally every year I was a student her at El Rancho,” says Serrano, “so to come back here and perform with the same excitement and energy as I did years ago means the world to me.” “This year we wanted to do something real special for the seniors,” continues Serrano, “We’ve been doing this tradition since this year’s graduating class has been part of it so we wanted to make our dance a gift for going on this journey with them.” As for the years to come, the staff does plan on making the routines bigger and better than ever before, “Eventually I’d like for us to be one whole group with as many staff and administrators participating,” says Sevillano, “with more staff involved our routines will be timeless!” Be sure to catch the staff dance team next year at the Night Pep Rally with a brand new routine!



FEATURES

Delilah Fierro is *Simply Irresistible!*

BY KARIZMA REYES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just like the well-known song “Hey There Delilah,” by The Plain White T’s says, this cutie is definitely “oh so pretty!” Her kind heart and warm personality make her El Rancho’s very own ray of sunshine. Junior Delilah Fierro is not only the most adorable being on the planet, she’s also *simply irresistible!*

Her name may not be Picaso, but her artwork says otherwise! Delilah is super talented in the art department. The unique portraits she creates are a reflection of this budding artist’s raw talent! When describing her own art style, Fierro is nothing but humble! “There’s an emphasis on [the] unrealistic faces,” Delilah said, “[They’re] sort of like cartoons.” Cute and creative? We stan!

Fierro’s talent didn’t come out of the blue, though! She actually comes from a family full of artists! “A lot of my family members are tattoo artists,” Delilah said, “so I grew up around art.” With her family’s help and guidance, she’s been an artist ever since she was a young, little thing and has only been sharpening her craft since. We can’t wait until we see her artwork in museums all around the world!

When Delilah said she was an artist, she wasn’t kidding! Not only can this artist draw, but she can also play music! Call her modern-day Beethoven because Fierro loves to play the piano. One of Delilah’s favorite things to play on the piano are covers of her favorite Disney songs! “They just sound so pretty and angelic,” Fierro said. She picked up this talent in eighth grade and hasn’t looked back since! “I’ve



Delilah striking a “model” pose showing off her adorable self.

Photo by Karizma Reyes

always loved the sound of [the] piano,” Delilah said. While she may not be selling out concert halls anytime soon, you could definitely get her for a jam sesh!

If you thought drawing and music were her only talents, then boy, were you wrong! Fierro also enjoys doing makeup! She loves to bring an artistic spin to her makeup looks whenever she can. “I love experimenting with colors,” Delilah said, “it’s literally so much fun!” With Winter Formal around the corner, this is your opportunity to get your face beat by the legend herself! “You can hit me up if you want a cute makeup look,” Fierro said. *YouTube* beauty bloggers please make way for Ms. Fierro!

Makeup and music aside, Delilah also makes sure she’s dressed to kill! She may be humble about her sense of fashion, but

Fierro can always be seen stunting in the El Rancho halls wearing the cutest fits. “I wear what’s comfortable,” Delilah said, “it’s usually a lot of oversized tees I find [while] thrifting.” She even adds her own special touch to the plain tees she finds! “I like to put patches that my bestie April finds,” Fierro said. Is she HGTV’s next DIY legend? We sure think so! Want to steal her style? Delilah told us it’s fairly simple to get her look. “I get my style inspo from [anything that] looks aesthetically pleasing to the eye,” Fierro said. We love a considerate queen!

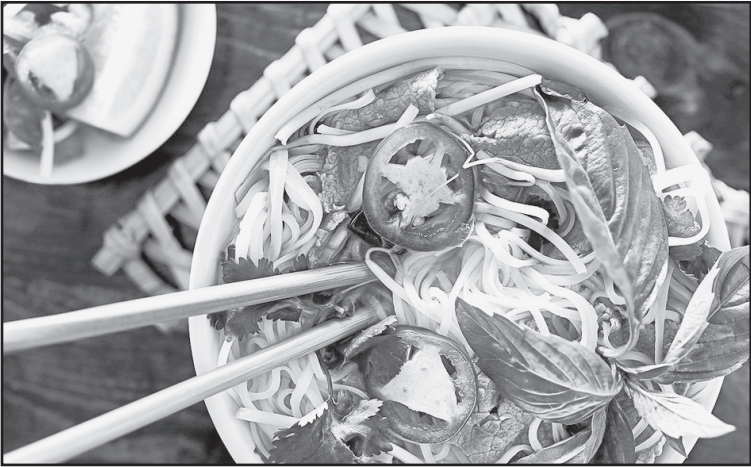
Fierro’s unique personality isn’t just limited to her hobbies and talents, it also includes her killer music taste! Delilah enjoys listening to alternative music with a dash of pop tunes. Her music taste might be all over the place, but her all-time favorite band

has to be The Shacks! “I love them so much,” Fierro said, “my heart overflows with joy [when I’m] listening to them.” Do you need some new music for your playlist? Hit this cutie up, she’s got some bangers up her sleeve!

Not convinced that Fierro is *the* girl to be friends with? Her Twitter will change your mind! This cutie is always online flooding the timeline with her quality content. Delilah won’t disappoint! Don’t believe us? See for yourself! All of her unfiltered jokes can be found on her twitter (@\_delilah33), so smash that follow button!.

Sorry fellas, Fierro is not single and no longer ready to mingle! Worry not, friends, Delilah is *always* looking for new friends. Don’t be afraid to chat her up in the halls or in her DMs, you won’t regret it!

Restaurant Review: BMC Pho is A-OK



One of the delicious meals from BMC Pho. Photo from bmcpho.com

BY ALONZO MURRIETA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just last month, Pico Rivera welcomed a new member to its ever-growing restaurant community. Pho lovers all over the city now have a place to satisfy all of their cravings! BMC Pho, located near Smith Park and across Rosemead Boulevard, is the perfect place to hang out and get a quick bite of some tasty Vietnamese cuisine. BMC Pho opened its

doors in Pico Rivera toward the end of September and is still going strong, garnering a large clientele every day. Aside from its new Pico Rivera location, the restaurant chain has established locations in West Covina, Covina, El Monte, Hacienda Heights, and Monterey Park.

The environment at BMC Pho is actually quite lively. The restaurant is pretty nice and the interior looks very modern. There’s also a semi-open kitchen where you can see your

food being made if you sit in the right spot. It is hard to imagine that this pho place took the spot of the old KFC that went out of business only a couple of years ago. The building has had a complete glow up since then!

Like most pho restaurants, the menu at BMC Pho consists mainly of soups, rice bowls, sandwiches, tea, and other Vietnamese items. All the meals are served in large portions and because many of the dishes have a noodle or rice base, they are all very filling.

The presentation of the food at BMC Pho is pretty standard. All of the meals are served in ceramic plates and bowls, which is a nice change compared to other restaurants in the area. The good thing about this Vietnamese dish is that, with pho, the visuals of the food come after the content in the bowl!

The prices at BMC Pho are pretty much on par with any pho restaurant. Each plate, by itself, is around \$8 to \$9. If you’re thinking of adding a drink to your meal, it would be an extra \$3,

but their wide variety of options teas, sodas, and lemonades make it worth spending the extra cash.

The staff at BMC Pho is quick and helpful. During their opening week, the wait time for the food was decent, taking about 15 minutes to get an entire meal. For a restaurant that isn’t serving typical fast food, that’s a pretty impressive time. However, wait times are most likely very different from opening week compared to now.

As for the actual food, BMC Pho is okay. Other restaurants might be your first choice, but if you’re craving something a little more different than the usual Wingstop or Wendy’s, then this little pho place has you covered!

Overall, BMC Pho is a very well-rounded restaurant. If we’re rating it, we would have to give it a 7 out of 10! The price to portion ratio is great, the food is good, and it’s a 15-minute walk from El Rancho. Don’t believe us? Stop by 6003 Rosemead Blvd with a couple of friends and see “pho” yourself!

College Column



BY ALONZO MURRIETA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

ACT

Test Date: December 8th  
Deadline: November 2nd

SAT & SAT II

Test Date: December 1st  
Deadline: November 2nd

UC Applications

Deadline: November 30th

Cal-State Applications

Deadline: November 30th

Common Applications

Deadlines vary, early admission deadline is typically November 30th

Financial Aid

Opens: October 1st  
Deadline: March 2nd  
Applying earlier will possibly get you more money.

Important dates:

UCI Field Trip - November 15th

Scholarships

University’s Tutor Scholarship Essay Contest

Deadline: End of every month

Edison Scholars Award

Deadline: December 14, 2018

RMHC - HACER Scholarship

Deadline: February 4, 2019

“Snaps for College Cash” Sweepstakes

Deadline: December 30, 2018





LIBRARY CORNER

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Match the end of the book to its title. Bring your written answers to the Library and receive a prize.

1. "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which."
2. "When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: Paul Newman and a ride home..."
3. Slim said, "You hadda, George. I swear you hadda..."
4. "It's like a game. But there are much worse games to play."
5. "I like my choices. I hope she likes hers."



Mockingjay	by	Suzanne	Collins
The Outsiders	by	S.E.	Hinton
Animal Farm	by	George	Orwell
The Fault in Our Stars	by	John	Green
Of Mice and Men	by	John	Steinbeck

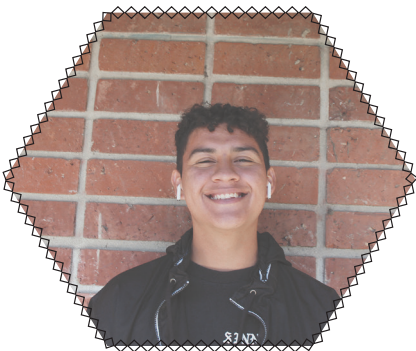
WORD ON THE STREET

What are your plans for Halloween?



"I am going to stay home and watch a scary movie with my family".

-Freshman Litzy Guerrero



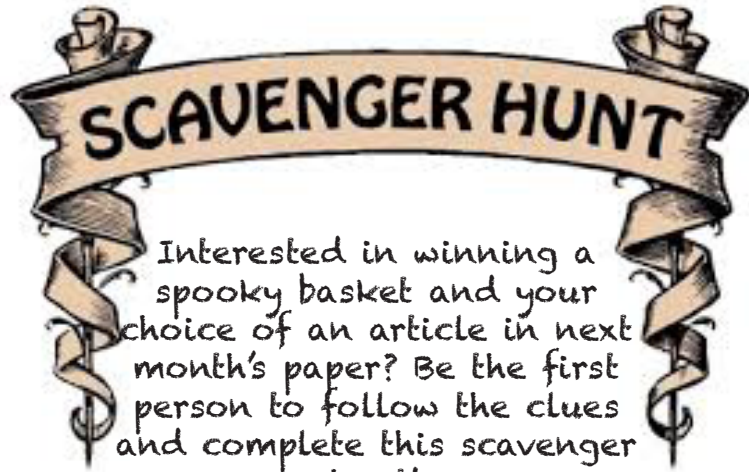
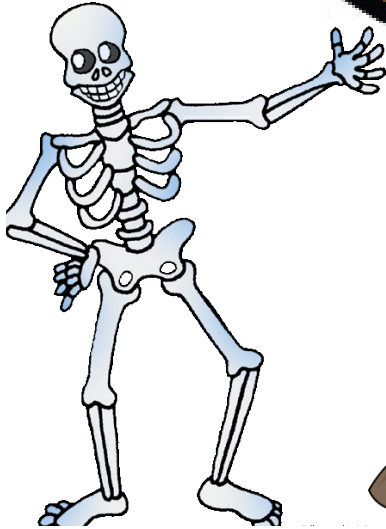
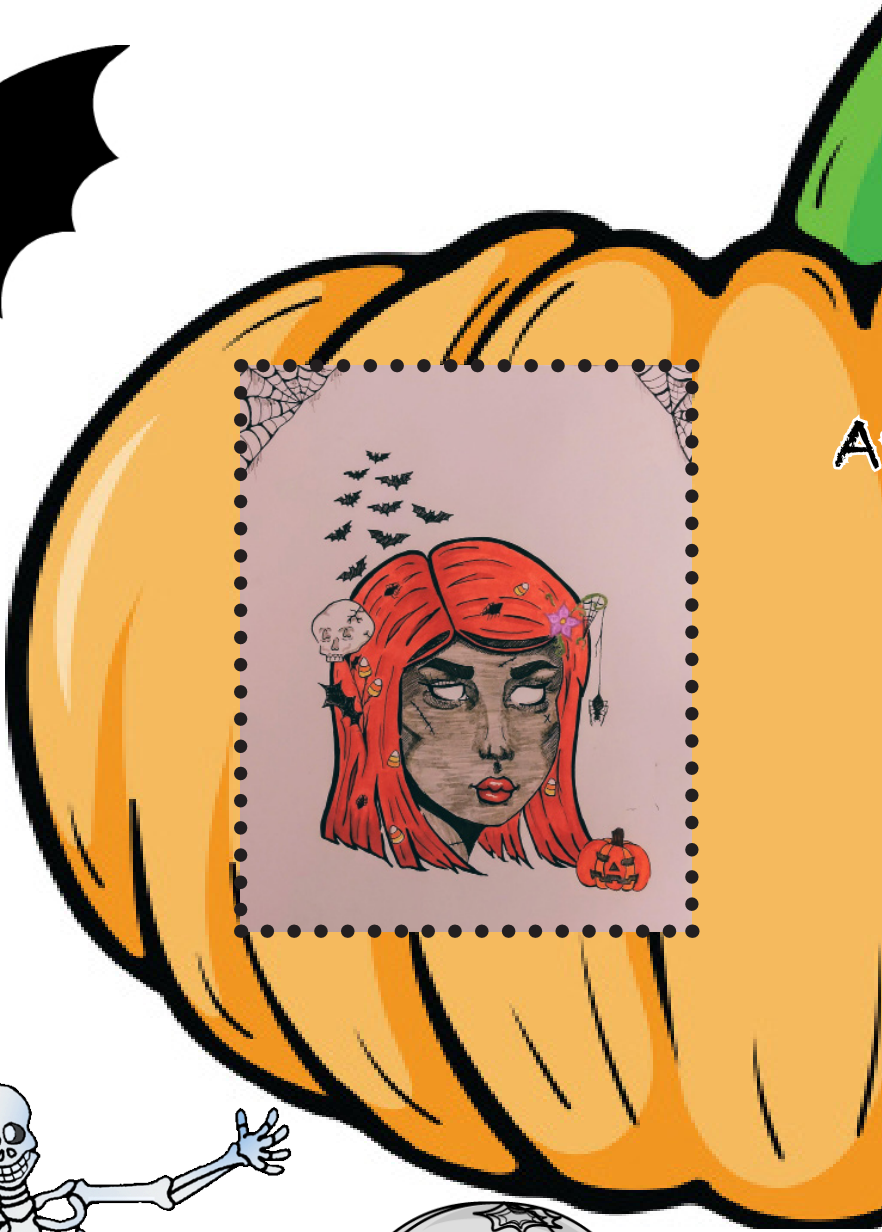
"This is my last year as a kid, so I'm going to go trick-or-treating and dress up as the Men in Black."

-Senior Bryan Garcia



"I'm going to dress up as Lilo from Lilo and Stitch and go trick or treating".

-Freshman Ariadne Aquino



Interested in winning a spooky basket and your choice of an article in next month's paper? Be the first person to follow the clues and complete this scavenger hunt!

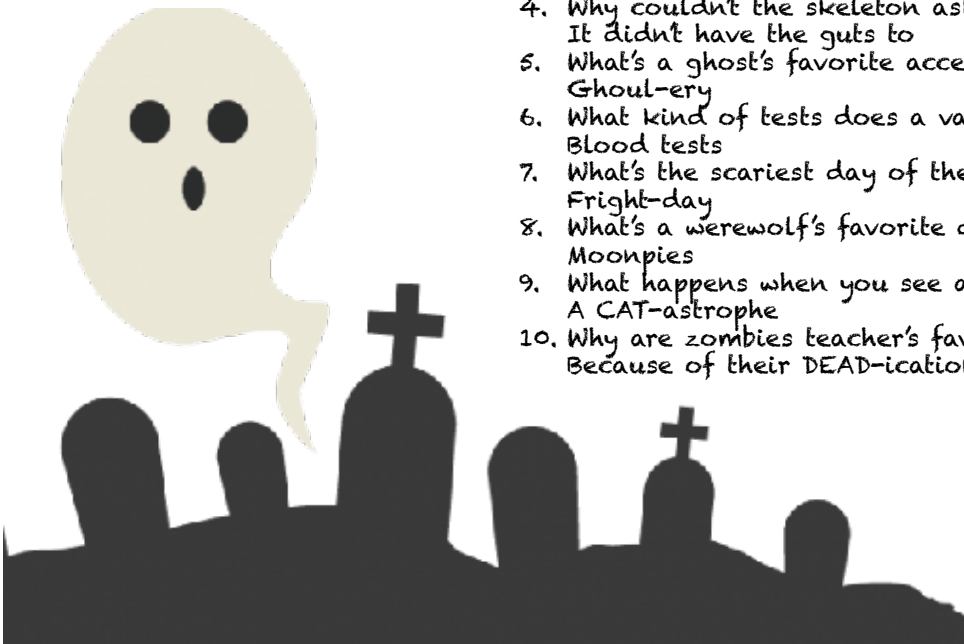
Here is your first clue: You learned about this studious team in this month's paper. They have two math gods as coaches and are awaiting January 28th and February 2nd. Go to the place where you can learn even more about them. You will find your next clue in the upper left hand corner.

\*If you need help with any of the clues, there is will be hints scattered throughout the articles.

SPOOKY JOKES

By KARIZMA REYES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

1. What's a witch's favorite thing to learn in school?  
Spelling
2. Why are skeletons so lonely?  
Because they have NObody
3. What do you call it when a ghost gets hurt?  
A boo boo
4. Why couldn't the skeleton ask the ghost out?  
It didn't have the guts to
5. What's a ghost's favorite accessory to wear?  
Ghoul-ery
6. What kind of tests does a vampire like to take?  
Blood tests
7. What's the scariest day of the week?  
Fright-day
8. What's a werewolf's favorite dessert?  
Moonpies
9. What happens when you see a black cat?  
A CAT-astrophe
10. Why are zombies teacher's favorite students?  
Because of their DEAD-ication





# HALLOWEEN!



## Halloween Recipes to DIE for!

Or You'll get my recipes over my dead body!  
Recipes from Allrecipes.com, adapted by the Juarez family kitchen  
By YAZLIN JUAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

### Spooky Pumpkin Cupcakes (yield: 24 servings)

- Ingredients
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
  - ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
  - ½ teaspoon ground ginger
  - ½ teaspoon ground cloves
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - 1 tablespoon baking powder
  - ½ teaspoon baking soda
  - ½ cup oil or butter, softened
  - 1 cup white sugar
  - ⅓ cup brown sugar
  - ½ tsp vanilla extract
  - 2 eggs, room temperature
  - ¾ cup milk
  - 2 cups pumpkin puree
  - ½ cup walnuts, chopped (optional)



### Directions

1. Preheat an oven to 350 °F. Line a cupcake tin with cupcake liners of choice. In a separate bowl, sift together flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, clove, salt, baking powder, and baking soda; set aside.
2. Beat butter, sugars, and vanilla on medium speed with an electric mixer in a large bowl until creamed together. Add eggs one at a time, allowing each egg to blend into the butter mixture before adding the next. Stir in the milk and pumpkin puree after the last egg. Stir in the flour mixture, but be sure to not overmix. Fold in chopped walnuts with a spatula carefully, if desired. For best results, use an ice cream scooper to pour the batter into the prepared cups ¾ of the way.
3. Bake in the preheated oven until golden or when an inserted toothpick comes out clean (about 20 minutes). Cool in the pans for 5 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire rack. When completely cooled, frost and decorate to bring your creation to life!

## ADVICE FROM ALONZO

*Q: How does one get the bread?*  
*A: Get a job. You can find out about places hiring on the College Career section of the Don Page. SoCal's minimum wage is pretty high so go make that cheese!*

*Q: How do you watch one piece?*  
*A: It's hard to explain how, it just happens. I lose a lot of my own time because of it.*

*Q: Can I eat ice cream sandwich?*  
*A: Of course! Be your own self! If you're lactose prepare yourself for the consequences.*



## Halloween Horror Nights delivers a great scare

By HANNAH BLANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Looking for a night full of terror and fright? It's time for Halloween Horror Nights! Universal Studios Hollywood is hosting their annual October scare event from now until November 3. With six new mazes and six famous attractions, this year's Halloween Horror Nights is sure to be a scream. Escape the jaws of the Demogorgon in Stranger Things, run through Sam's eerie suburban town in Trick 'r Treat, tread through hellish city ruins in The First Purge, cower at demonic presences behind every corner in Poltergeist, survive Michael's final attack in Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers, and experience the helpless terror created when demons and technology merge together in The Hor-

rors of Blumhouse: Chapter Two. Along with these terrifying mazes, HHN presents us to The Walking Dead attraction, dance performances by the world famous Jabbawockeez, rides on the Terror Tram, the legendary Universal Monsters, the Holidayz in Hell mini maze, and the terrifying Toxic Tunnel. Need a break from the scares? Universal Studios keeps Transformers: The Ride, Revenge of The Mummy, and The Simpsons Ride open during this ominous occasion. Like every theme park, wait time in line can get crazy. Because Stranger Things is this year's biggest attraction, this maze has the longest wait, reaching up to two and a half hours. The best way to avoid these insane lines is by avoiding peak days, which are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visit HHN on a Thursday or Sun-



Stranger Things was the the top attraction this year

day night for smaller crowds, shorter lines, and greater scares. Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Smashburger, and Tony Roma's are available in Universal City Walk for a bite before entry. However, restaurants will also be open within the theme park, such as Mel's Diner, Krusty Burger, and Jurassic Cafe. Don't miss out

on limited time Stranger Things themed delights like the Bananas Foster Waffles, Christmas Tree Light Cupcakes, and Eleven's Triple Decker Extravaganza, made with three waffles and layers of whipped cream, chocolate, peanut butter bites, and jelly beans. Universal Studios Hollywood is famous for their life-like

special effects makeup and props, especially those in horror films. Halloween Horror Nights is that special time of the year where they showcase these talents and bring your worst nightmares to life. Don't miss out on this year's monstrous mazes and ghoulish attractions found only in Universal Studios'



PICTURE THIS



Freshman Homecoming nominee Alyssa Silva and sophomore Jocelyn Recendez waiting for ASB to announce the Homecoming Court.



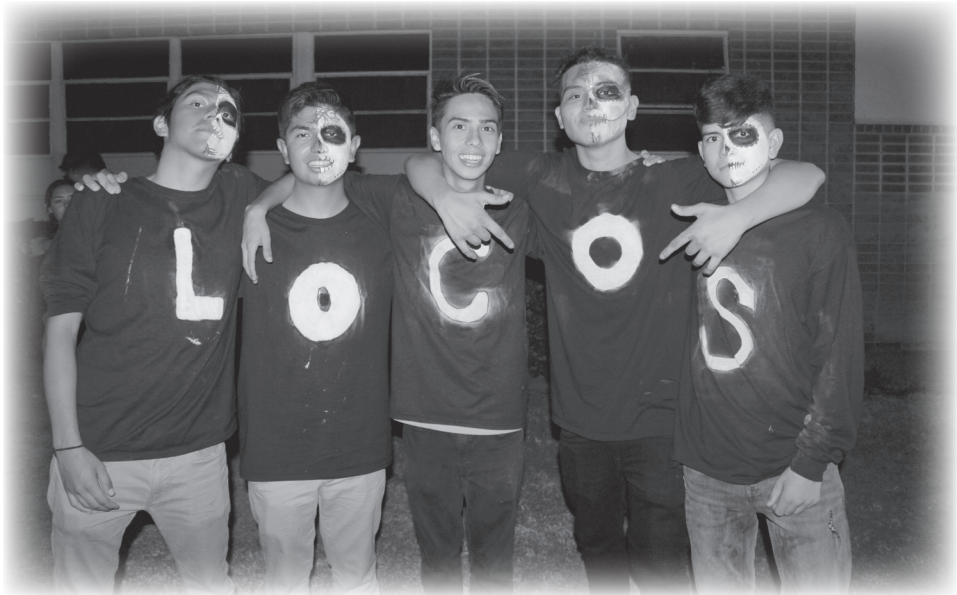
Sophomore Homecoming nominees Samantha Cervantes and Ruben Barajas walk down the carpet during the Homecoming Assembly.



Flintstones Juniors get their school spirit on for Night Pep Rally.



Senior Tony Cortez and his little brother Ryan Cortez walk the Homecoming assembly carpet.



Poco Loco Seniors huddled together after winning their last Night Pep Rally



Homecoming nominees Mariah Cruz, Emily Castañon, and Jaime DeHaro waiting for the Homecoming Court winners to be announced.



PICTURE THIS



Poco Loco Seniors cheering their class on during Night Pep Rally.



Homecoming Queen and King Christina Cruz and Gonzalo Lievanos walking down the carpet during the Homecoming Assembly.



Sophomore Homecoming Nominee Jordan Uribe, and Freshmen Nominees Daniel Hernandez and Andrew Varela sitting during the Homecoming Assembly.



Senior Geysa Govea is recognized during the Homecoming Assembly.



Wreck-it Ralph Sophomores cheering on their class during Night Pep Rally.



Kristabelle Sandoval walking with her escort.



CAMPUS

El Rancho  
HOSA takes  
on RLC

By ARACELI CORREA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho’s Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) chapter attended its first Regional Leadership Conference at Rio Hondo College. The Regional Leadership Conference (RLC) is an event where HOSA members gather to learn more about health-care, careers, and opportunities available to students. The RLC also helps prepare students for the State Leadership Conference (SLC).

Members also had a chance to meet other HOSA chapters from Region 4. As El Rancho’s HOSA chapter president, Alexandra Santiago, said, “It was a first time experience and we met most of Region 4 and interacted with other schools.”

Each student was given their schedule with the workshops they would attend. The workshops consisted of nursing workshops where students engaged in life as a medical professional, and leadership workshops where students were able to learn the many qualities of a leader. HOSA member, Roberto Huezo, said, “I had a very good time at RLC and learned a lot about the human body,”

After the students attended their workshops, they were able to visit the College Fair in the quad. The college fair had several booths of various colleges and the health-career programs they offer. HOSA communications officer, Martin Rojas, said, “It was really interesting to see the different college representatives and to listen to what they had to offer.” Students were able to obtain a lot of information, talk with health students about their experience, and even look at some hands-on tools that the schools use with their students.

Not only did students enjoy RLC, but so did many of the advisors. El Rancho’s chapter advisor, Mrs. McCaw, said “It was exciting to be [a] part of the atmosphere and working with other chapters like Cal High!”

The conference ended with the State Officers motivating the crowd and screaming the Region 4 chant, “Roar! Roar! Region 4!” which will be screamed during SLC on March 29-31. The State Officers then went on to speak about HOSA’s new service project.

Every four years, Health Occupation Students of America take on a new medical-related service project. After working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), HOSA decided on this year’s national service project, *Tear Down Cancer*.

In partnership with the National Pediatric Cancer Foundation, all HOSA chapters were asked to film a video with members holding a paper with “Pediatric Cancer” written on it, and to state one fact about pediatric cancer. Students then tear the paper in half to symbolize the tearing down of cancer and to bring awareness to the subject.

Gadabouts seek treasures of Eastern Europe



*This is where you could be in the summer of 2019!*

By ALONZO MURRIETA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sophomore English teacher Mrs. Zeko founded the Gadabouts Travel Club in 1996. Over the past 12 years, the club has traveled to more than 20 countries throughout Europe and Asia.

At the time of its creation, the Gadabouts never intended to travel internationally. “I wanted to take my students to Salinas to read *Of Mice and Men* on the river, [but] we weren’t allowed to go or fund raise unless we were a club,” Zeko said, “so we created a club to travel up to Salinas and we went camping and we read the novel.”

It wasn’t until Mrs. Zeko began teaching with Greg Smith, the AP European History teacher at the time, that the club became what El Rancho knows as the Gadabouts. “He was teaching

the kids about things that seemed so far away from their experience,” Zeko said, “so I thought, ‘if you’re going to be studying this we should go see it,’ and that was our first Gadabouts trip.”

Since 2006, the Gadabouts have aimed to travel to new locations every year. In the past 12 years, the club has visited many countries including: Italy, Spain, Morocco, Germany, and China.

Near the end of September, the Gadabouts chose their newest destination. This summer, the club will be traveling across the world to Eastern Europe! The Gadabouts will spend a week visiting Hungary, Croatia, and Slovenia. Throughout the trip, student and teacher travelers will venture to many destinations such as Budapest, Bled Castle, and Split.

This trip is definitely not something to miss! Eastern Europe holds plenty of treasures

within its countries and Mrs. Zeko wants everyone to know that. “When everyone thinks of Europe, they think of Paris, and they think London, and they think of Rome, which are great places to visit and [are] truly worth visiting, but at some point in your life, you’ll probably get there,” Mrs. Zeko said, “so the hope is to expose people to different parts of the world that they wouldn’t normally go [to].”

The trip itself has more benefits than just seeing new places. “You come back a better version of yourself,” Zeko said, “we find that we learn so much about other cultures, but really, we learn so much about ourselves.”

If sightseeing and finding yourself haven’t already caught your attention, then all of the memories the travelers make on their adventures surely will! “There are a lot of [unforgettable]

moments,” Mrs. Zeko said, “Being on a boat in Greece, hiking a volcano, [and] walking on the Great Wall of China were all super memorable.” The Gadabouts’ trip to China this past June was also one filled with incredible memories! “From the most recent one,” Zeko said, “it has to be Antonio [and Omar] eating a scorpion that was alive only moments ago.”

Not only are the trips memorable for the club’s advisor, but they’re also extremely special to the student travelers as well! “I gained so much insight on how Chinese culture [really is],” senior Omar Sanchez says. “I also made great memories and I got to meet new faces along the way!”

If you are interested in being a part of this once in a lifetime adventure, please see Mrs. Zeko in A205 or Mr. Zeko in X1 for any questions you may have about the next Gadabouts’ trip!

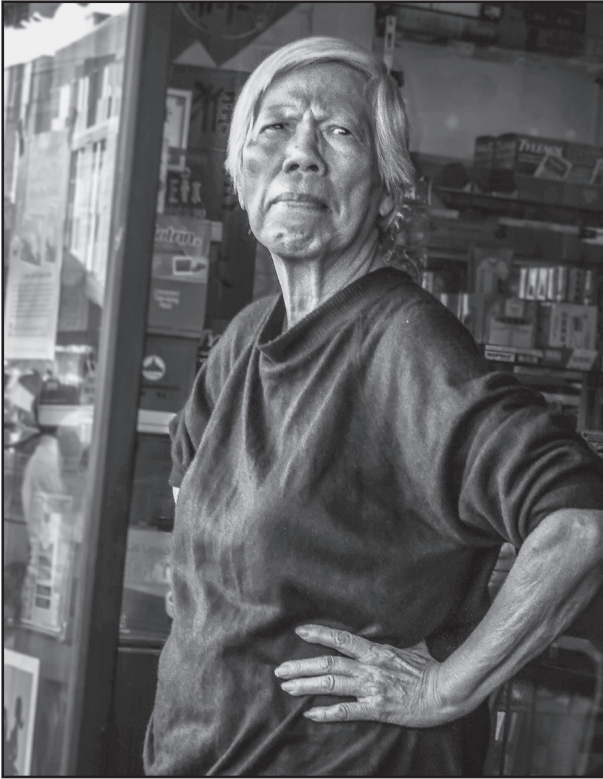
Harmony Art Contest Winners



*1st place - Senior, Giovanni Guerrero*



*Honorable mention - Senior, Sarah Simon*



*3rd place - Senior, Yazlin Juarez*



# SPORTS

## Dons to take on Moreno Valley in first round of CIF

By Bianca Arias  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The El Rancho boys varsity football team wrapped up their last Del Rio League game on October 26th. The boys lost against La Serna High School by a final score of 49-20.

This football season has made its mark as El Rancho's third best record in the last twenty years.

Despite their loss, the boys were undefeated throughout the rest of the season. They had previously won against Santa Fe, California, Whittier, Baldwin Park, Montebello, and Bell Gardens High School.

On November 2nd, the team will travel to Moreno Valley to compete in their first round of playoffs in CIF Southern Section football. They will be playing in Division 10.

"The season [was] great. I mean, we had problems on the field and stuff but we pulled through," says senior Brandon Carmona, "The best games [the team has] are the home games. We all have our family there and it's cool to hear the school cheer us on."

"I'm gonna miss playing with my teammates. I've played for all four years so they're like brothers to me," continues Carmona.



The football team rejoices as they reach a victory, knowing they will soon compete in CIF.

Before playing his last league game, senior Eduardo Landeros said, "all the seniors are pretty hopeful for this season. It's our last season here so we're trying to end on a good note."

Landeros' favorite part

about the season is "the bus rides to the game and back. [They] are always fun. Not so much if we lose, but we always get hyped up on the bus."

"I'm probably gonna miss the team lunches [we

have] together before home games," adds Landeros.

Senior Gonzalo Lievanos says that the energy the team has this year "is a lot better on the field. But [this] might just be because we're seniors now [and] we

want to win every game we can."

With the team's hard work, dedication, and commitment, they are confident that they will go far in the CIF playoff games beginning November 2nd against Moreno Valley.

## Girls Tennis suffers loss in CIF wildcard match

By Bianca Arias  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The El Rancho varsity girls tennis team wrapped up their final league game, winning 11-7 against Whittier High School on October 19th.

They received 3rd place in the Del Rio League with a record of 2-6 and kicked off the prelims on October 24th.

"This season has shown us a lot things we can improve on, but that's what is gonna make us better team. We are trying our hardest to give our hardest to give everything we have every time we play,"

says Senior Natalie Munoz.

"What I liked about the season is that all the girls treated each other like [family], like sisters," says Junior Christina Duenez, "The bond we have is just so great. I love them!"

"I'm going to miss the seniors. I [got really] close to them, they make me happy and never fail to make me laugh and make my day," continues Duenez, "I'm looking forward to the prelims and to win this bread with my girls."

Every season the girls make sure that they do their best to stay strong through thick and thin. "This season has been a real

roller coaster. There has been a lot of ups and downs but overall I think we did really good," says Senior Melissa Mayorga, "We played as a team and believed in one another, [which] helped a lot with our confidence."

"Even if we did lose a set we'd always encourage each other to try [our] best and that's the best thing ever," continues Mayorga, "I very proud of the team and everyone in it."

Yesterday the girls traveled to Encino to play against Oakwood High School in their CIF Wildcard game where they fell short by a final score of 9-9(69-74).



Photo by Yazlin Juarez

## Boys Water Polo season ends after first round loss



With a record of 6-12, the boys water polo team headed off into Game One of the CIF playoffs. The El Rancho Dons played against La Sierra High School on their turf. Throughout the game, the Head Coach, Katia Montoya, pushed the team not to give up and to simply breathe. However, after a tough game, the Dons fell short with a score of 15-10.



ENTERTAINMENT

Venom leaves a bad taste in critics' mouths



Venom watchers have mixed emotions.

By Sofia Dominguez  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The new edition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Venom* had its anticipated box office release on October 5th. Opening with a first solo movie, *Venom* has topped the charts with a total of 35 million dollars in the box office and mixed reviews from critics.

In *Venom*, journalist Eddie Brock is possessed by Venom, a powerful alien entity who can control his body, transforming him into a powerful killing machine. Even though Brock/Venom kills and eats people in the movie, a lot of the film takes on the tone of an action comedy. *Venom* has a cynical sense of humor.

Eddie Brock is a journalist with a habit of taking chances and getting himself into trouble. One day he gets into

trouble by breaking into his lawyer girlfriend's computer in order to find sensitive material which he uses to ambush tech billionaire Carlton Drake (Riz Ahmed of *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*) during an interview. Brock had been told to go easy on Drake by his boss. He not only loses his job, but his girlfriend (Anne Weying, played by Michelle Williams of *The Greatest Showman*) loses her job too. She leaves him.

Drake is another man who likes to take chances. He orders human experiments with alien organisms brought back from a space expedition. The organisms can't exist in an oxygen-rich environment unless they merge with a host animal. Brock manages to sneak into the facility where the aliens are kept, and there the creature known as Venom enters his body.

Drake has no idea what is happening to him. He starts hearing voices in his head and can't eat normal food anymore. He calls the creature inside him a parasite, but Venom doesn't like that. He prefers the term "symbiote." Venom describes himself as a loser, an outcast from his own kind, with much in common with his host, Brock, who is also a loser. Biologically, there is really no explanation for how Venom can simply disappear into the body of a very small animal, then puff himself up to be this giant creature. It is more like magic than science. The whole idea of Venom turning against his own kind is a bit hard to swallow, but this is an outrageous science fiction story anyway, so what's the point of quibbling?

Venom and Brock, two losers, combine to form a su-

perhero ready to save the world from Drake, who by now has been taken over by Riot, the leader of the alien scouts. Riot's plan is to use Drake's body and his company's spaceship, to go fetch millions of more aliens in order to take over the world.

Brock looks fairly normal most of the time until he suddenly turns into a giant, black, shiny, deadly alien with big teeth. *Venom* seems to have few vulnerabilities, except for fire and certain high-frequency sounds. The rest of the time, he's bullet-proof, has incredible strength and can turn into a variety of useful shapes, with long, stretchy arms.

The question of who is in charge of this body with two minds, one alien and one human, seems to be an open one. Most of the time, Brock is in control, but *Venom* can also take over. It is a committee of two. It is odd that *Venom* can access Brock's memories, but Brock doesn't seem to know anything about *Venom's* past.

As the movie goes along, Brock and *Venom* form an alliance and come to agreements about how to get along, like only eating people who are bad. The movie is aided by having top notch acting talent like Hardy and Williams. There is also plenty of action and humor in this film. It is hard to get past the cannibalism and the human butchery factor in the plot. Although the pace of the movie is awkward and the plot doesn't develop, the humor and unique relationship between Brock and *Venom* make it watching.

Carter V definitely worth the wait

By Antonio Escobar  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Lil Wayne is a man who needs no introduction. This New Orleans rapper has released a steady stream of gold and platinum records and he does not disappoint with his newest release, *Tha Carter V*.

The album was originally set to release in 2014, but due to personal disputes and a lengthy legal battle, Wayne had to delay the release of the album.

The album released on the 28th of September and debuted at number 1 on the Billboard 200; it also had the second-largest streaming week for an album and is also Lil Wayne's fourth US number-1 album.

The *Carter V* is a mix of different musical tones and emotions, but overall the album has something for every listener.

The album opens with "I Love You Dwayne," which is not a song, but a touching message from Wayne's mother.

Many big names in music are featured in *The Carter V* and the first one of these artists appears on the second track of the album "Don't Cry." The song features late rapper XXXTENTACION, or X for short. "I Love You Dwayne" transitions smoothly into "Don't Cry" as

Wayne's mother starts to weep and X begins to sing for her to not cry. The song has a dark, gloomy tone as Wayne describes many difficult situations in his life. The track no doubt touched the hearts of many XXXTENTACION fans, and is a great listen whether you are a fan of his or not.

"Dedicate" is the third track of the album, and is a complete departure from the sadness of "Don't Cry." The song is much more upbeat and in it Wayne acknowledges his influence on the rap game over the course of his career. Wayne goes even further by sampling a speech by Obama. The former president states that not all kids can aspire to be like LeBron James or Lil Wayne.

Perhaps the most noteworthy song of the album is "Mona Lisa," which features Kendrick Lamar. Kendrick and Wayne weave the story of a deceptive woman who tricks her boyfriends into inviting her over and revealing intimate details about themselves, which she uses in order to set them up for robberies. Wayne raps for the first part of the song as he details the robbery of the woman's boyfriend. Kendrick raps for the latter part of the song and he describes a man who has a relationship with another woman who has no regard for the feelings of her partner.



Carter V debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200.

She cheats on him despite all that he has done for her and her daughter, and upon discovering that he has been cheated on the man breaks down and kills himself. The tragic ending is very surprising and executed perfectly because of the great lyricism on both Kendrick's and Wayne's part. This combined with the aggressive flow both rappers display and the track make this song undoubtedly one of the best in the album.

"Let It Fly", which fea-

tures Travis Scott, is another very popular song from the album. The song is very unique and is a good combination of both Travis Scott's and Lil Wayne's distinct styles. "Let It Fly" marks the second collaboration between the two rappers and is easily enjoyable by fans of either of the two artists.

Whether you are an old fan of Lil Wayne or a new listener, *Tha Carter V* has appeal to anyone that might be interested in listening to the album.



NCT 127 makes their U.S debut

By Fatima Lopez  
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The ten-member South Korean pop boy group, NCT 127, released their first full album, *Regular-Irregular*, earlier this month. This album release also marks their first time promoting in the United States, a huge step for the up-and-coming boy group.

NCT 127 is a fairly new group, but that does not make them any less interesting or talented! The group debuted in 2016 as the second sub-unit of NCT and have only seen success since then. With previous releases, they did not enter U.S. music charts, but thanks to their U.S.-focused promotions, the group was able to land a spot on the Billboard charts with their first single off the album, "Regular." The song charted at #86 on the Billboard 200 chart, an impressive feat for a group that has never seen a heavy fan base in the Western world until very recently.

The group hinted at a comeback when their label, SM Entertainment, announced that NCT as a whole had many projects they were looking forward to sharing.

While *Regular-Irregular* is a very short album, that did not stop it from gaining the attention of notable people in the music industry. People like the musician, DJ Khaled, and radio host, Zane Lowe both expressed interest in the group's most recent release and further exposed the group to the audiences of the Western world.

Following in the footsteps of their seniors, BTS, NCT 127 also attended the American Music Awards (AMAs) in hopes that they could show the world that they are serious about being global superstars.

*Regular-Irregular* has a sound for everyone. R&B, hip-hop, EDM, and Latin pop are some of the many sounds the group played with this time around. The album had no features, but the group was not opposed to working with others in the future. There is no doubt *Regular-Irregular* was NCT 127's biggest release to date. Since NCT as a whole is composed of more than 21 members from 6 different countries, being known all around the world is one of their main goals.

Their newest release illustrates the amount of hard work and the level of skill that these young men possess. If you're looking for new music with an exciting, new sound, NCT 127 has you covered!