



# El Rodeo



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## Padilla and Melgar Take Zucker Award

By ABEL MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Zucker "Teacher of the Year" Award recipients were given their awards this past Friday morning during the faculty meeting in the Little Theater.

The two teachers who received this prestigious prize were English teacher Ms. Padilla and math teacher Mr. Melgar.

"It's an honor," says Padilla. "At the same time, any teacher is deserving of recognition. Everyone works hard and does their best for the students."

The revealing of the winners was a surprise to the entire faculty, and adding to the surprise were members of the winning teacher's families in attendance.

Ms. Padilla's husband joined her, and Mr. Melgar's sister, brother and parents joined him.

"I was speechless," says Melgar.

"Shocked, surprised. It felt nice to be recognized for your hard work by your peers."

Each teacher received a check for \$500, with money, which is donated by the Zucker



Ms. Padilla and Mr. Melgar were each awarded \$500 by the Zucker family for their continuous dedication to students.

family. The whole process of deciding who receives the awards begins with the teachers. The entire staff nominates who he or she believes is worthy, and then all

of the nominations are gathered.

Together with administrators, the winners from the last two years get together and decide who the two winning teachers will be.

As Ms. Padilla stated before, every teacher at El Rancho is deserving of recognition.

Hard work and extensive effort is shown in different ways

for every teacher, but, ultimately, the result of all their endeavors is reflected in their students.

## Mr. McMullen Bids Farewell to El Rancho



Mr. McMullen bids farewell to El Rancho after over thirty years of dedication.

By DAVID OCHOA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

All good things must come to an end, and for Mr. Timothy McMullen and his forty-year teaching career, the end of the road has arrived.

Mr. McMullen began teaching in 1971 as a substitute teacher in the Whittier, El Rancho, and Rowland school district. He taught at Sierra, Santa Fe, and La Serna, and then retired to be a professional folk singer. In 1976 he arrived at El Rancho High school, and in 1978 he ob-

tained a permanent position at the Ranch. Six presidents and 33 years later El Rancho bids farewell to one of its finest teachers.

Although he will no longer be here his influence will remain, as his contributions to El Rancho are astonishing.

One of Mr. McMullen's fondest memories is "having the opportunity to create new classes." Mystery Murder/Science Fiction, Video Production, Speech, Vista, and Creative Writing are classes that were formed as a result of Mr. McMullen.

Mr. McMullen was also

in charge of running the interclass debates and he was also the head of *El Rodeo*.

He is also the last active, and one of the original members of the ABA (Anderson Basketball Association), which for the last 20 years has had teachers playing during lunch.

English is perhaps what McMullen is most known for; he has been teaching English and English Honors for over two decades.

Spending some of his tenure here teaching Honors with Mr. Anderson and the retired Mrs. Clemons. Mr. McMullen truly has

a passion for sharing literature as he stated, "It was a privilege to share things you've discovered."

He certainly has affected the lives of many of his students, since former students return to thank him.

Some students, as he said, "return to become great teachers." Some of those include Ms. Kemp, Mrs. Padilla, and Mrs. Lam. "What I remember about junior team and Mr. McMullen is the fact that it was the best preparation for college," says Mrs. Padilla. Former students and current teachers said, "What I remember most about Mr. McMullen is how passionate he was about what he teaches and how he was very creative. He was the best poetry teacher I've ever had"

Mr. McMullen's influence also reached out to his colleagues, as he was known as a great mentor.

"He has given so much to not only the students, but the teachers of El Rancho as well. He has served as a mentor, Instructional Manager, and Union Representative," said Mrs. Padilla. Fellow English teacher, Mr. Sorenson said that McMullen is a, "great Inspiration and the person I would most like to be."

Former student Mrs. Lam also said, "He was my mentor my first year teaching here, and I never felt threatened by him, he wanted me to be successful."

"The interaction and the opportunity to challenge students to think" are two things

he enjoyed, and he will be missed greatly when he retires.

Retirement does not mean Mr. McMullen will not be keeping busy, as he still has many "miles to go before he sleeps."

His plans for the future are "Video editing, playing my own original music, traveling, and lots of reading."

McMullen has left his mark on El Rancho High School and hopes that students will continue to strive to succeed.

"Seek truth, speak truth," said McMullen. "The trouble with normal is it's always getting worse, so don't be normal."

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# NEWS

## Annual Project Fair Showcases Student Work

BRANDON MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last week's project fair, which was held in the quad, was a place where students had the opportunity to present their hard work. It was a chance for the students to present to the teachers what they could do.

"We do the project fair to expose our students work to the school and to the students that come, it gives them the opportunity to showcase what they have been working hard on," said Principal Sam Genis, who was happy to see that the seniors were able to present their projects to their parents, friends, and teachers. "It's the first year for our twelfth graders to do a senior project, and it was a culmination of their hard work from the whole year," said Genis

The point of the fair for the students was to be able to show what they had been working on for the past month since they were assigned. Most students chose interesting topics (hate crimes, glowing flowers, etc.) "Most of the students did their projects on issues that had to do with the environment, social



Marbella Cardenas presenting her project to the students at the project fair.

justice information in regards to the violations of human rights, political struggles and it gave students an opportunity to think outside the box," said Genis.

Some students had more than one project in the fair that

could not be put out on display. "I felt excited because I never had one in the fair before and I was happy to get a message through, but I did get a bit sad because I had another project and the teacher

was very obnoxious and did not allow us to display it," said sophomore Joshua Brambila

The students were happy to have a project in the fair, especially because it was a first for most of the students. "It was very

interesting to see the projects that were done and I was very glad that I was able to participate in it. I'm not the type that would normally do a project, so it was fun and I plan to do it again," said junior Natalie Janbakhsh.

## Final Salute to MJCROTC Program at El Rancho High School

BY JACQUELINE MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

These are not only the final days for the class of 2011, but also the final days for the El Rancho Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. After 44 years of tradition, it all unfortunately comes to an end this year.

The cadets of ROTC are not only sad that the seniors are graduating but also next year none of them will have a home to come back to. "This is my home," says cadet Gunnery Sergeant Aaron Acosta, "and this is my family that they're splitting up." All they can think about is that their family is splitting up. Some will go to band, while others are joining sports, clubs and some are even transferring schools.

This program does so much for these students. It not only keeps them off the streets but also sets them up for life as well as a great career path. "The school and community is losing a program that the WASC program called a 'bridging program connecting students with a career path,'" says 1st Sgt. Steve Mick. It has also helped students who have joined the military up their rank. This year alone the program is watching another one of their own, Albert Cortez, leave for the Marine Corps and there are many more to come after this year. "This program has benefited me in maintaining a good GPA because without a good GPA I wouldn't be able to graduate and I wouldn't be able to leave on July 11th."

Others have their minds set on what they plan to do in the years to come. "Well, I plan on joining the Marine Corps," says cadet 1st Sgt. Kendrick Nunez, "and this program has helped get me prepared for what I will see



Culmination of MCJROTC'S final year at El Rancho High. Marine Corps Ball, Memorial Day Firing Detail, and Chinese New Year's Parade.

when I finally get there. It's given me like a stepping stone and a better opportunity within the Marine Corps."

"We do a lot for the school and our community," says Cadet Master Sergeant Yazmine Sanchez, "we do color guards for the high school ceremonies and the city events, and we help the janitors on occasion pick up trash and the office with paper work." The cadets of this program have dropped what they were doing to go and help others without complaint. They love knowing that they did something good for someone else and that's another thing that this program teaches. It teaches reliability, you know that

if you ask for something to get done by these cadets.

With things coming to an end quickly, the lower class cadets have sentimental good-byes in mind. "To the seniors that are leaving I wish you luck in your futures. Thank you for all that you have taught me and showed me to do in the time that you have been here," says junior Yazmin Sanchez. "To my fellow senior cadets I wish you the best. It was an awesome adventure with you guys within the MCJROTC program OO-RAH Semper Fi," says sophomore Kendrick Nunez. "Good luck with your future and I hope you have lots of success," says sophomore Yessica Sanchez.

These younger classmen wish senior Cadet Captain Katrina Soriano, Cadet 1st Lieutenant Erik Cortez, Cadet 1st Lieutenant Laura Nunez, Cadet Sergeant Major Leonardo Martinez, Cadet Sergeant Albert Cortez, Cadet Sergeant Anthony Hernandez, and Cadet Private First Class Dorian Bravo the very best in their future endeavors.

1st Sgt. Mick had this to say to his seniors, "You've been a great part of the program. I'm very proud of all the community service that you have done. You all have grown up to be great young men and women and any father would be proud. It's going to be hard to let go of something

that they looked forward to in the year's prior. The program may be ending but the family that stands will always stand for years to come. No one can take away 44 years of family hood and they can never separate or take away what the program has become. The program has come a long way in the 44 years it has been here. It has gone through so much and has endured it all. It is an unfortunate loss to not only the school but to the community as well. However, the spirit of the MCJROTC will always be here in the hearts of those who have come, gone, and stayed. Thank You Bravo Company Semper Fi OO-RAH."

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Creative Musicians, Savvy Businesswomen

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From humble beginnings in Calgary, Alberta in the late 1990s, the Canadian twin sister duo Tegan Quin and Sara Quin have developed one of the most devoted fan bases in all of Indie-Pop with their comedic on-stage banter, confessional lyrics, and catchy songs, such as "Walking with a Ghost," "Back in Your Head," and "Living Room."

The Quin twins are not only creative musicians, but also savvy businesswomen, for they have managed to maintain a career in the music industry without the help of a largely known label. Tegan and Sara have repeatedly said that they enjoy the business side of the industry as much as the creative side, an attribute that some musicians lack.

Early on in their career that begun in 1999, the Quin twins

released their first record, *Under Feet Like Ours*. The duo made clear that their goal as musicians was to seek and obsessively discuss love until the end of time. A year later, Neil Young took note and signed the duo to his indie record label, allowing the two to maintain creative control over every piece they release.

Subsequent to *Under Feet Like Ours*, Tegan and Sara have released five other albums, the most recent, *Sainthood*, which was released in 2009. The sixth album from the duo focuses on true and tested themes of love and the sentiments it conjures: devotion, delusion, courtship, all of which are endured with the hope to be noticed by the individual with whom one's affection lies.

*Sainthood* carries a more upbeat tune, but still has the heart-wrenching lyrics that arguably draw so many fans to the duo. Pulling inspiration from their own



In the early 1990s, Tegan and Sara got their start in Calgary, Alberta. Since then, they have released six studio albums and toured internationally, all without the help of a major label.

experiences with love as well as the experiences of those around them, Tegan and Sara's songs easily resonate with the listener. For the Quins, despite making their lyrics so undoubtedly per-

sonal, still manage to keep their lyrics relatively universal, adding to the immense effect that their music has on anyone who listens.

Now, as they have just completed multiple international tours

for *Sainthood*, Tegan and Sara are writing their new album in their individual homes in Vancouver/Los Angeles and Montreal/New York, as well as playing a few festivals and headliner shows in Canada.

## Pink Floyd Makes a Surprise Appearance



BY ROSAURA MONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

An exciting unexpected reunion by the three remaining Pink Floyd mem-

bers was made on May 12.

This surprise stunned audiences at London's O2 arena that held the sort reunion where the members performed.

Pink Floyd drummer, Nick

Mason, had no idea when he arrived at the arena that he would walk into Pink Floyd members, David Gilmour and Roger Waters, performing "Comfortably Numb" in a sound check

for Waters' epic *The Wall* tour.

"I hadn't ever been quite finalized- there'd been talk about maybe playing in Paris or something else," Mason told Rolling Stone about the reunion. "So it was nice to get there and see that David was there."

The three then went to a back stage room to have a light pre-show dinner.

Mason then took his seat on the arena to witness the full stage and light show of *The Wall*.

"It was mind blowing good," Mason said. "It's a shame in a way... if you could turn the clock back and have access to that short of technology, 40, 30, years ago, it would've been fantastic. I mean, it's interesting because I think he *The Wall* has been brought up to date. When you look at the stage sets and the lighting that goes on now, it so eclipses what used to do."

Gilmour used his own black Fender Stratocaster to play lead guitar on "Comfortably Numb." He also performed for "Outside the Wall" with his mandolin

along with Mason playing his tambourine (Mason was asked half an hour before the show to perform "Outside the Wall").

It was surprising to Mason as the news blasted online. "Incredibly, it's just three old blokes getting together for a moment, really odd. But if that's what people like then that's great," said Mason.

This of course set hope for a full Pink Floyd reunion tour, but there have been rumors of Waters having no desire to reunite the band ever again.

"I'm really glad that I was in the and for the twenty years that I was in it and I really enjoyed it," said Waters "I think we did some great work together but I have no wish to do it ever again."

This was the second time Pink Floyd performed on stage together in the last thirty years, the first time since 2005's Live 8 concert.

Videos of the reunion are posted on various website made by fans using their cellphones to record.

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Which Artist(s) Are You Going to See This Summer?



"I'm going to go see my favorite band Killgarry."  
-Andres Olguin  
12th grade



"My friend and I are going to watch Taking Back Sunday."  
-Henry Ramos  
12th Grade



"I'm going to go to Warped Tour and watch A Day to Remember."  
-Paul Quevedo  
12th Grade



"I'm going to go watch Emmure and Chelsea Grin."  
-Anthony Robles  
11th Grade



"I'm going to go the Staples Center to see Nicki Minaj with Brittney Spears."  
-Kassandra Nunez  
12th grade

# CAMPUS

## Senior Honors English Service Learning Program

BY ABEL MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It was two days filled with passion, information, and a lot of hard work. Two days that came together through an accumulation of efforts from every student involved, and two days that the spirited Mr. Hartman made possible. It was the first ever Senior Honors English Service Learning Project here at El Rancho, hosted by the first ever senior honors program.

"I was incredibly impressed with all of the effort, the outcome, and the passion," says Hartman. "Each group became passionate about what they worked on and gradually became more and more empowered. Transforming the faculty center was really fun and cool too."

In essence, the concept of service learning is to connect academic skills with social justice and advocacy. The various topics covered were human trafficking, cloning, gay rights, child soldiers, street children, family planning, bullying, female circumcision, honor killings, forced marriages, women's justice, immigration, child labor and rape.

Day one took place on the evening of Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at the annual Project Fair. Mr Hartman's senior honors classes

banded together to transform the faculty center into a decorated but informative display of various violations of human rights. The room was divided into sections, with each section displaying hand-crafted banners, posters, and a table full of advocating seniors ready to overwhelm one with information regarding their topic.

"The projects showed an amazing depth and demonstrated a true global awareness," says Ms Chodos.

Day two were the teach-ins, which took place in the faculty center throughout the school day on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Armed with Power Point presentations, display boards, and videos, the seniors educated groups of students on their topics. Each period held two teach-ins, with each session consisting of 45 minutes and ending with an interactive activity for the audience.

"It was a beautiful experience interacting with our fellow classmates doing something that could possibly change the world," says senior Nathalie Cepeda. "The teach-ins helped me realize that one person can have an impact on a group of students and possibly make a change."

Over the past few months, the students learned about various human rights violations. From



Seniors involved in the first ever Senior Honors English Learning Service Learning project pose after a long day of hard work. The students devoted two days to spreading awareness of human rights.

there, they delved into research to become more informed on their topic(s) of choice, and with the help of Ms Chodos they were able to effectively utilize online databases to further their research. Weeks prior to the project, each of the students completed a research paper pertaining to a particular violation of human rights.

"At first I was worried about the research paper and

grades," says senior Gabbie Penaranda. "But then we started working together and putting it all together. That's when I realized how real it was and it made me care about it even more."

Aside from the overall success of the project, it is important to remember what the students will take from this experience, from leading the teach-ins to the amount of com-

mitment, and ultimately uniting together to make it all happen.

"I really wanted to create a bond among all three honors classes," says Hartman. "We put a lot of time with furlough days, morning meetings, lunch meetings and time outside of class. My goal was to help students feel empowered; for them to learn how important and powerful their voices are and can be.

## Ultimate Test Challenge Winners

BY AMANDA HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With two months of preparation, Chef Luna held his yearly "Ultimate Test Challenge" on May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The title alone shows how much difficulty and pressure one might have during this challenge, especially with guest judges.

Each Kitchen had to create a menu, come up with a theme, dress alike, decorate their kitchen, get nutrition facts, make food from scratch, and come up with a presentation for their judges.

On the first day of the Ultimate Test Challenge (U.T.C.), the students had two guest judges, Carolyn Hennesy (from ABC's General Hospital) and Jensen Atwood (actor and dancer). The maximum points students could receive was five in each category. They were being judged based on creativity, theme, teamwork and other things.

Day one's winners were, "De La Soul" with an upscale, sophisticated theme. The kitchen members included: Saleena Campos, Chris Castro, Gabriel Lopez, Maria Martinez, Justin Navarette, and Karla Ruiz.

Day two's competitors had a different guest judge, Eloisa Lomeli (Celebrity Chef to the stars). Students were still judged based on the same categories with five points maximum.

The winners of day two were "Villa Italian", an Italian themed kitchen. Members of Villa Italian include: Ernesto Gonzales, Carolina Herrera, Reyes Perez, Joe Rodriguez, Greg Sorzano, and Miwa



Winners from day one of the UTC (pictured above) had an upscale sophisticated theme. The winners from day two of the UTC (pictured below) chose to go with an Italian themed cuisine.



Tanakawa Hawabawa.

All in all, the U.T.C. was a success and the guest judges left with kind words to say. "All I've been saying since I left Pico River is that it was a jaw-dropping day... I will tell you now, you and your staff d'cuisine have giv-

en me something I'd lost in my dealings with crazed fans, tweeter insanity, and the like: hope for the future of this city and country. If you can turn out young men and women of such stellar character, the rest of us just might stand a chance," says Carolyn Hennesy.

## Summer Reading List

\*Match the author and title to the book's first line and you will have your summer reading list. Most of the authors have written more than one book---if you like one, you may like the others!

1. *Tweak* by Nic Sheff
2. *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
3. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
4. *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher
5. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* by Carolyn Mackler
6. *Uglies* trilogy by Scott Westerfield
7. *Dead Girls Don't Write Letters* by Gail Giles
8. *Be More Chill* by Ned Vizzini
9. *Macho!* By Victor Villasenor
10. *Hairstyles of the Damned* by Joe Meno
11. *You Don't Know Me* by David Klass
12. *Fallen* by Lauren Kate

- a. "When I wake up, the other side of the bed is cold."
- b. "The room is bright and alive at 8:45am—I can almost ignore Middle Borough High School's zombie fluorescent lighting."
- c. "I'd heard rumors about what happened to Lauren."
- d. "They, the family, lived in a house with the walls made of sticks."
- e. "Froggy Welsh the Fourth is trying to get up my shirt."
- f. "There was no possibility of taking a walk that day."
- g. "Around midnight, her eyes at last took shape."
- h. "Sir?" she repeats. "How soon do you want it to get there?"
- i. "The other problem I had was that I was falling in love with my best friend Gretchen, who I thought the rest of the world considered fat."
- j. "You don't know me."
- k. "The early summer sky was the color of cat vomit."
- l. "Things had been getting a little better until I got a letter from my dead sister."

Answers: a=3, b=8, c=1, d=9, e=5, f=2, g=12, h=4, i=10, j=11, k=6, l=7

# CAMPUS

## El Rancho Continues to Participate in Teen Court

BY ROSAURA MONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The first Teen Court in Los Angeles County was served with a full house, with additional number of people standing up because of no more seats, at the Pico Rivera City of Chambers City Hall.

Two cases were heard with eighteen El Rancho students who served as jurors in each separate case.

"I felt that I had power in the court because I was part of choosing the sentence," said senior Patty Bermudez.

The first case was addressed to junior high school student Louise F. who was caught tagging on a Downey City pole with a marker that he bought for two dollars from a friend.

Louise admitted that his tagging was a bad hobby. It was not his prime intention to tag but wanted to approach art in a different way.

"I tagged up Theory SUFK to show that tagging gang that I want to be part of them,"



said Louise. "Even though I don't know what it means, I still tagged that on the pole."

The verdict was guilty of a misdemeanor. Parts of Louise's sentence are sixty hours of community service and to have no possession of markers, sketching tools or spray paint.

A marijuana smoker, Francine T., was caught with the possession of the drug by search dog at California High School.

"I didn't know that there

were pieces of marijuana all the way in the bottom of my bag," Francine told the court.

The amount of marijuana that was in her possession was just enough to suspend her for three days then expelled from Cal High.

The attendance of Teen Court was quite remarkable to board members as well as teachers. Two of Teen Courts judges, judge Wesley and judge Horan, were also ex-

cited with the amount of El Rancho students that attended.

"I was quite impressed with the quality of students who served as jurors, they asked very good questions," said judge Wesley.

There will be no criminal record for the verdicts if they complete their sentences with satisfactory; that is why it is important for teenagers to go through this progress.

"If one can get kids

to get out of trouble before they go to juvenile court then that's great. It's really difficult for one to get out of the system once they're in it," said judge Horan. "I'm really looking forward to be part of this Teen Court. News about this is going all over the county."

It is going to be a difficult road for this first ever Teen Court in San Gabriel Valley.

"It felt like the end of a long road, it's now the beginning," said economics teacher Mr. Elias, the one who conceived the idea of Teen Court. "I more than appreciate our students, I'm very grateful about them. We always have to remember, a Don helps a Don."

"One being that schools are having difficulty adapting that this is a real court and for El Rancho students having to hear court cases for students that they may know."

"We are definitely going to have problems with schools in partnering with us in this court system because they do not think that this is an official court," continued Elias.

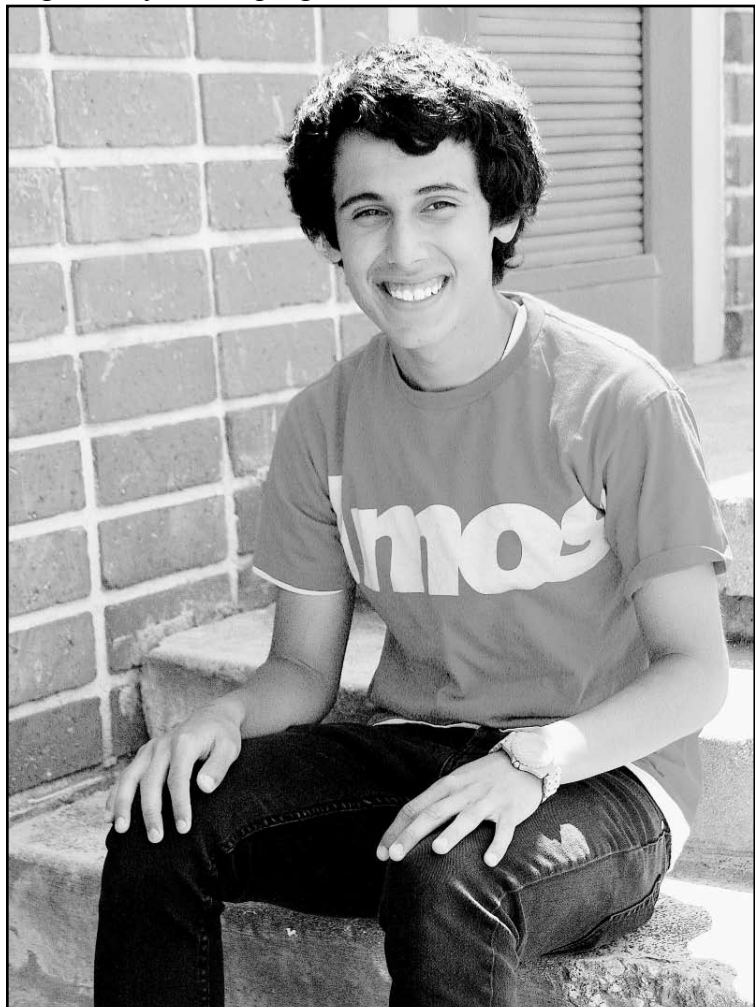
## Robert Garcia Honored by American Legion Program

BY KAREN CARRILLO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Robert Garcia, a soon-to-be senior, will be the first student from El Rancho High School to be sponsored by the American Legion Post 341 in Durfee, and to participate in the American Legion Boys State program

on June 18 through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

A well-respected and prestigious program, the American Legion Boys State offers programs in which U.S. high school students become involved in their "local, county, and state government." The program was founded by Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card.



Robert Garcia is the first student from El Rancho to be sponsored by the American Legion Post 341 in Durfee.

They had organized the first Boys State in Illinois.

The American Legion Boys State program will include guest speakers, senate sessions, tour of the National Mall, and other events that will further educate the students to become involved with the government.

"My cousin went to the program," said Robert. He filled out an application near his local American Legion. Later, he met with Commander Dave in which he was interviewed for the program. "I was nervous at first, but I felt confident after my interview," said Robert, "I was kind of in disbelief. I didn't think I'd get accepted." Robert later met with Richard Benninger to fill out the rest of the paperwork.

"He has good grades and he's very involved in school and sports," said Mr. Sorenson. Robert is currently involved in Key Club, track, and cross-country. He also volunteers in St. Francis and he also coaches little league. His goals are to graduate with Honors, and to go on to join the Naval Academy. "It's a family tradition for the past two generations."

## Seniors Recognized for Achievements



During the Honor Crest Recognition Ceremony seniors received scholarships. Maritza Velazquez received \$75,000 in scholarship money.

BY PATRICK RUBALCAVA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

June 2<sup>nd</sup> brought much-deserved honor to the ninety-six seniors who will be graduating with the gold stole, as the Honor Crest Recognition Ceremony was held.

The gold stole is, of course, awarded to students who have maintained a 3.33 GPA. These students receive the prestigious "Honor Crest."

Students, both Honor Crest and not, were given nearly \$90,000 in scholarship money at the ceremony.

Students, parents, donors, and city leaders alike were present to witness the honoring of this great bunch of students. Receiving particular honors were Eric Rivera and Daniella Lopez, who were given the extremely prestigious titles of Most Outstanding Boy and

Girl. "Being honored as the most outstanding boy made my night," Rivera later reflected.

Senior and soon-to-be valedictorian, Bianca Gutierrez, certainly enjoyed the ceremony. "I'm proud of everyone," says Gutierrez. "I was glad to see that their hard work had paid off."

Gutierrez herself did not leave empty-handed, walking away with \$2900 in scholarship money. She plans to use the money to buy "one semester of books."

Eric Rivera thought the ceremony was "very well executed."

"It was nice to see people who weren't Honor Crest [recipients] receive scholarships," he later said.

As for the \$1000 Eric received, he hopes he can use it to buy a new laptop.

# SENIOR WILLS

I, David Angelo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby



ing skills to Jessica Mejia, my tattoos to Ariel Herrera, my Jet Rag jacket to Ana Sanabria, my bible to Josh (D4C!) and my good memories to people I've met .

I, Gabrielle Penaranda, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Filipino swag to Gabriella De la Rosa, my book, How to Chill: A Guide to Being a Calmer Person, to Alyssa "Pinky" Nunez, my awesome poster-making and Chief

Justice skills to Arlene Rodriguez, my dancin' shoes and wild (but classy) dance moves

bequeath the following: To any and all future El Rancho Dons, I give you my knowledge of this school and my personality. Try your hardest every year! I hope that you can be happy during your time, because you may be writing one of these wills in the near future. I leave you with this quote from the Muse song, Knights Of Cydonia: "Don't waste your time, or time will waste you!" Thank You. Go Big Blue!

I, Lizette Melendrez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My high school diploma to my mom, my cap and gown to my dad, my heart and love to my two sisters, my Chica Vive pageant to Julie Acosta, my poop days to Giselle Margaros, my college future to Ivette Torres, my crazy danc-

ing skills to Jessica Mejia, my tattoos to Ariel Herrera, my Jet Rag jacket to Ana Sanabria, my bible to Josh (D4C!) and my good memories to people I've met .

I, Gabrielle Penaranda, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Filipino swag to Gabriella De la Rosa, my book, How to Chill: A Guide to Being a Calmer Person, to Alyssa "Pinky" Nunez, my awesome poster-making and Chief Justice skills to Arlene Rodriguez, my dancin' shoes and wild (but classy) dance moves

to Miranda Monugian, and half my heart to Tenaya Armijo.

Band Papi to Paul, my collection of beanies to Jacob, my trombone



to whichever brave soul picks it up next, and my love and appreciation of music to Sarge. To John Barrios, I leave my eternal hatred of all things Mac. Finally, to Hazel Flores, I leave the offer of a ride home after Decathlon practice if I am in town and she needs it.

I, Nash Rivas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My first awarded MCJROTC Medal and El Rancho scarf to my girlfriend, Martha Ceja, my puffy painted drama shirt to Joey Salinas, my dodgeball shirt to Enrique Angulo, my first cell phone to the ER Science and Robotics Club, an El Rancho Pin to Emily Peyton, my guitar pick I used in the first ER's Got Talent to Mr. Parra, an assortment of "Dons" stickers to "A Few Good Dons," and an unpublished Senior Ad to teachers who have given me true knowledge on my road to success.

I, Karissa Aguiar, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I leave all my happiness, all my school spirit, and all my great memories to my dear track friends. I leave Adrian Torres and Dre my "swag," and give my track girls some of my "beastness." Go out there and win another undefeated league title.

I, Johnny Pantoja, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sense of humor to all my teachers, my attitude to all future students, and "The

Spot" to anyone who wants it.

I, Xochitl Medrano, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My leadership skills to all the Link Leaders of 2011-2012, my awesome speeches to Jessie Pinon, and my word about "Dedication, Commitment, & Loyalty" to the incoming freshmen of El Rancho High School.

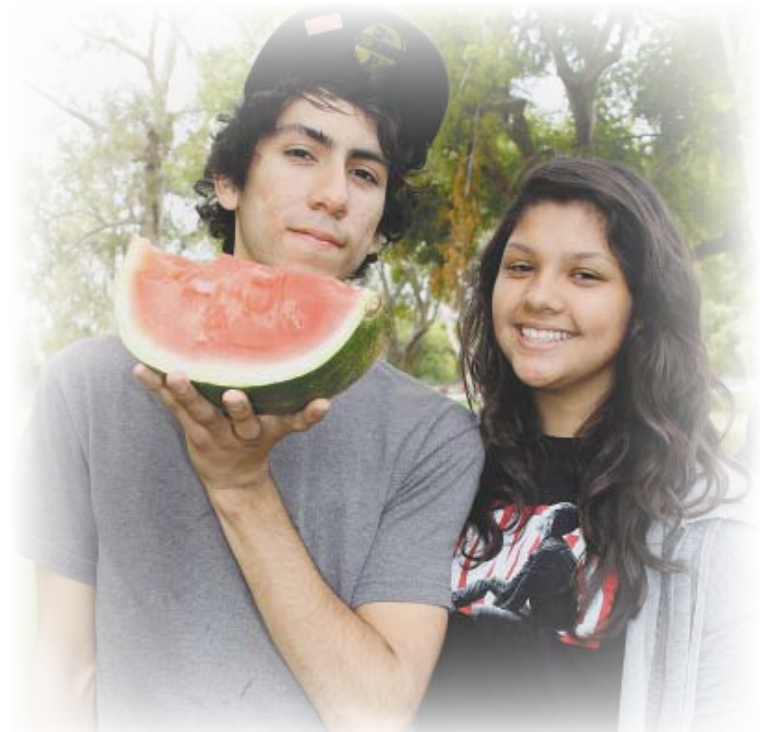
I, Xochitl Medrano, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My leadership skills to all the Link Leaders of 2011-2012, my awesome speeches to Jessie Pinon, and my word about "Dedication, Commitment, & Loyalty" to the incoming freshmen of El Rancho High School.

I, Cassandra Nunez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My dirty sweaty gym shoes to Patty, awesome workout music on my iPod to Rosa, embarrassing moments in the weight room to Liz, and finally, all the hard work, dedication, determination and prepara-



tion to the three of you. I love you!

I, Marcel Aguilar, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My 10 speed bike to John Olivas, my awards, ribbons, and Medals to Zachary Mejia, and my good talent to Carlos Cas-



tillo. Love you guys like bros.

I, Bianca Gutierrez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my brightly colored soccer cleats and ridiculously high pony tail to Monica Ochoa, and my rank to next year's number one.

I, Brianna Diane Morales, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my computer in journalism to Brandon Mendoza, my locker in drama to Angelica Torres or Vanessa Caballero (my prom date), a spot on the Thespian counsel to Nina Marquez and Hazel Flores, and my unhealthy Tegan and Sara obsession to any other Quin twin lover. And to everyone else, I leave perhaps the best words of advice I've ever heard: It gets better.

I, Alisia Proo, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my beach cruiser bike to Tanaya Armijo, as I move on to a car and bigger and better things.

I, Naomi Victoria Ortega, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: The art of answering "hmm?"

# SENIOR WILLS

“huh?” to a question you do not want to answer to Tammy Nguyen and Braylan De la Torre.

I, Jeromey Montoya, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My torch of Lineman captain to Rio and David “Phatman” Matu, and our bench to the football team, plus, the key to wisdom to Rio, and key to greatness to Matu. Stay

I, Angelina Esqueda, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My iPod to Alina, and everything else I have to Pearl and Steve.

I, Nereyda Garcia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My volleyball shoes to my sister, Nataly Retamoza, my soccer cleats to Maribel Gastelum, my track spikes and shoes to Jessica Moreno, my ASB Cardigan to “Marichuy”, my love of pink, ASB folder, Vice President position, and great leadership knowledge to Alyssa “Pinky”, all my volleyball/soccer/track shirts and sweaters to both Nat and Maribel, all my love, appreciation and laughs to Mrs. Mo, Lill, Gina, Coach Kerr and Mrs. Garcia, and my Hello Kitty love and ring to Emily Peyton “Cutie.” I’m going to miss all of you so very much!

I, Arthur Juarez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: To Juan Aquino, I leave my yes. I leave my pin, floaty, inner-tubey thingy that I used in King of the Ranch to Hazel Flores. Why? Because Wlasick commented on how it may embrace my femi-

nine side and I would like to think that I could leave Hazel in charge of that department.

I, Gabriel Rodriguez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My College Handbook to my brothers Isaac R and Jacob R for motivation, my poker face to Lezley B, my Swim goggles to Robert L, my terms of endearment to Hazel F, my solar charger to Robert B, my positive outlook on life to Kim O, my sunscreen to Abel R, my awkward sense of humor to

Zoe B, my dream catcher to Nina M, my varsity letter to Daniel G, and a box of Ritz crackers for Ana F and Mando G. To the rest of the underclassmen, I wish you all the best of luck in high school (:

I, Erica Perez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My cheer skirt to Ashley, my crop to Debbie, my liner to Alyssa, my bloomers to Emily, my shoes to Lola, my bow to Amber, my mega phone to Felicia, and my cheer soul to Mama Kemp.

I, Sylvia Medina, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My swim cap to Lulu. To Natalia, JV captain, take care of them girl, to Dana, I am leaving the “swim mama” name, and my goggles to Ana.

I, Eric Rivera, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my track and field wisdom to Erick Luis, Josh and Mark Lopez, Berlin

Diaz, and Michael Garcia, as well as anything in the Decathlon room that is mine to John Barrios and Hazel Flores, and finally, my blessing to the Class of 2012. May your senior year be as amazing as our’s.

I, Yadira Ramos, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: that I will some what actually miss El Rancho, and I have some pretty good memories I’d like to leave for other under classmen to experience as well.

I, Sabreena Diaz, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: that El Rancho was fun

times and I’d like to leave my jokes and comedy to Mr. Celiz.

I, Albert Keil, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My basketball skills to Andrew Banuelos. Make me proud!

I, Phil Navarro, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: I would like my under classmen to stay true and stay real, and good luck in life.

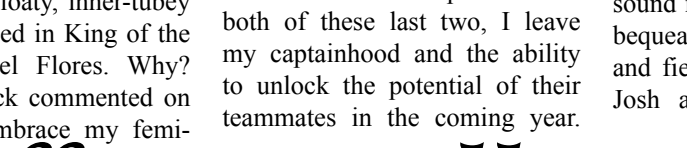
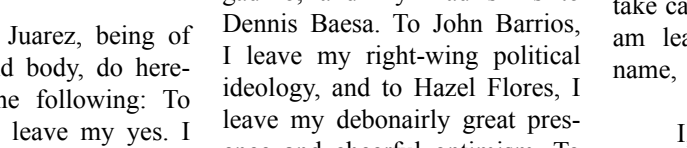
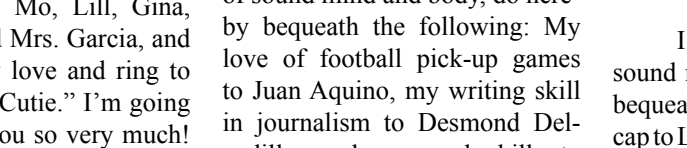
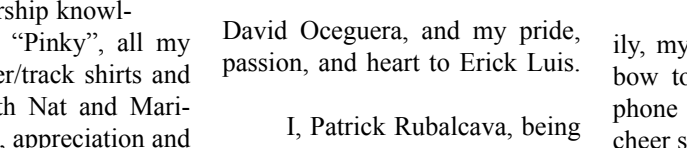
I, Vince Tapia, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My voice to Estiny Mungia.

I, Alexis Ruelas, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My fortune of cheese and a sack of prunes to Evelyn. Utilize them well, child.

I, Amanda Roblero, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: All my paints, notebook, and all the stuff in the ASB room to Ashley Torres, next year’s pep commissioner.

I, Blanca Gutierrez, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: All my love

and support to Nicole Jaime, my friendship for all eternity to Sara Gonzales, my lane on the track to Erika Ticas, my faithful commitment to always supporting the track and field program to Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, and the promise to always remain strong to my baby, Tenaya Armijo (Joshua 1:9, Isaiah 26:3). I also leave all my crazy story telling before each practice to Mr. Elliott, to whom I greatly advise to not forget to mention the cows.



David Ocegueda, and my pride, passion, and heart to Erick Luis.

I, Patrick Rubalcava, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My love of football pick-up games to Juan Aquino, my writing skill in journalism to Desmond Delgado, and my mad skills to Dennis Baesa. To John Barrios, I leave my right-wing political ideology, and to Hazel Flores, I leave my debonairly great presence and cheerful optimism. To both of these last two, I leave my captainhood and the ability to unlock the potential of their teammates in the coming year.

## Staff Farewells

I bid goodbye to this most excellent class that taught me so much. It’s very moving for me to start my senior year as a writer for El Rodeo and leaving as one. To know that there are students and faculty members that read my stories, it is a total honor and absolute pleasure for me to have written for a newspaper that is part of our school. I didn’t intend to be in class, but ever since I watched *Almost Famous*

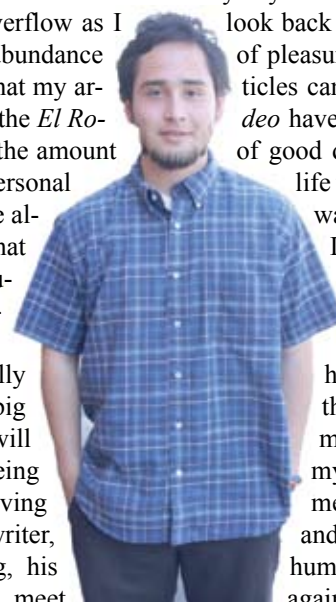


**Rosaura Montes**

with my best friend I just had to be part of the press. I’ll catch everyone on the flipside; you won’t see the last of me and I won’t see the last of you. Our adventures are now starting and one way or another, we are all part of each other’s fate. “I don’t know why you say goodbye I say hello.”

## ABEL MARTINEZ

Sorrow streams into my heart as I realize that my days as an *El Rodeo* staff Writer have come to an end, but joy quickly begins to overflow as I look back and reflect on my experience as a writer of pleasure to know that my name is a part of the ticles can and hopefully will be read for years to *deo* have been amazing to say the least. It wasn’t of good days definitely knock out the amount of life was in shambles or I just wasn’t feeling it, ways replaced my misery with a smile, and I will miss most. Every time an article of perstar. My ultimate goal was to get the nally did, there were no words that could was. After a while it felt as if it would happen was truly like a dream come true thanks to Brianna for making that happen!). miss seeing and talking to the staff, and my name in the paper) I will miss Mr.Zeko. me the opportunity to write for the paper, and the opportunity to call him my friend. humor always pleasant, and his presence again in the future, but if not, he will always been a pleasure to work alongside you guys. Thank you all so much for being nice to me, and from the bottom of my heart, great job on all of your hard work throughout the year. I wish each and every one of you the very best in your futures, be well!



# SENIOR FAVORITES

## What's your favorite...?

**Books:** Harry Potter Series



**Album:** My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy

**Artist:** Lady Gaga



**Cartoon:** Spongebob Squarepants

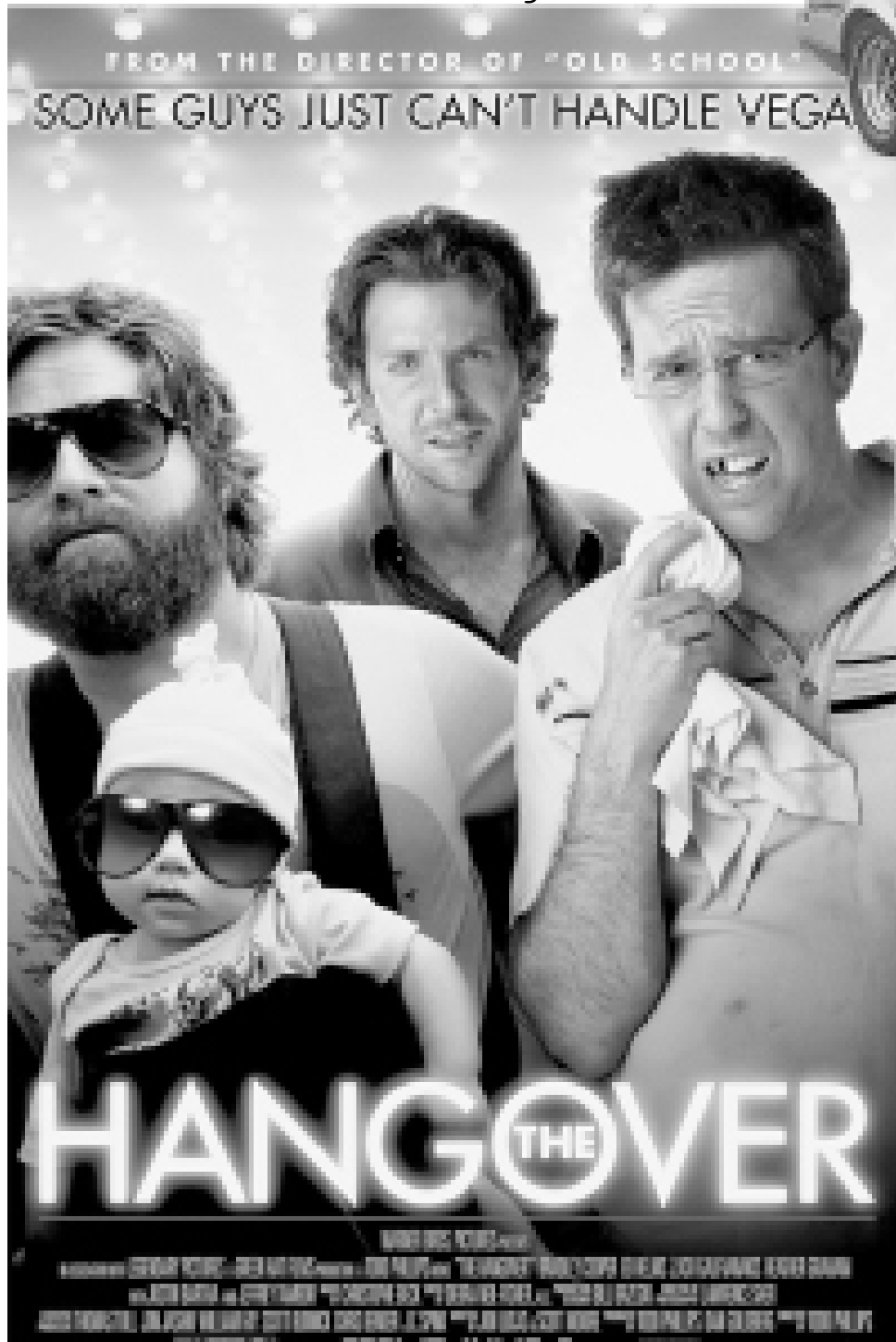
**Song:** "Judas" by Lady Gaga



**Car:** 1971 Ford Mustang Mach 1



**Movie:** The Hangover



**Actor and Actress:** Zac Galifianakis and Natalie Portman

**T.V. Shows:** That's 70's Show





# SENIOR FAVORITES

## THIS OR THAT?

Mac



PC



**WINNER**

Xbox 360



**WINNER**

PS3



Pop



**WINNER**

Rock

**WINNER**



## FEATURES

## Valedictorian, Gutierrez, Heads to UCLA

BY JACKIE MONTEON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Funny, smart and talented: three words that describe Bianca Gutierrez, senior and valedictorian of her class. Bianca Gutierrez has been a student at El Rancho High School for four years and has maintained outstanding grades throughout those years. She will be graduating this year as valedictorian of her class.

Gutierrez not only is a smart girl she has also participated in many clubs and was part of the El Rancho girl's varsity soccer team for three years. "Maintaining my number one spot was difficult especially balancing all aspects of my life such as sports but at the end of every day I knew it would definitely be worth it, and it definitely is," said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez has maintained her number one spot of the 2011 class for all four years even though she had different activities going on; for example, she was part of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) club at her school and was once part of link crew and MECha at her school. She also played soccer outside of school in a club team for the city Downey and balanced her social life very well.

"I am sad to leave high school but I am excited to begin the next journey in my life. I am even more ecstatic that I can ob-



With a GPA of 4.3, Bianca Gutierrez is the class of 2011's valedictorian. She will be moving on to UCLA.

tain a quality education and still be close to home," said Gutierrez. Bianca will be attending UCLA for the next four years, however it was not an easy decision for her, and she had to turn down many great schools such as, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Riverside and other prestigious schools such as NYU and Pepperdine. Bianca is still undecided when it comes to what she will major but hopes to be successful and do great in college as well as

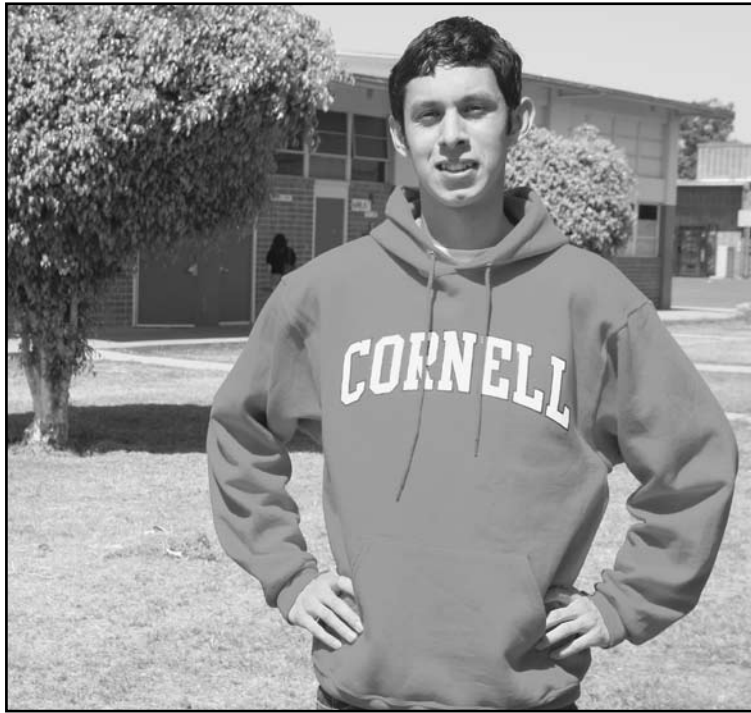
her family, friends and relatives.

"I've known my best friend Bianca since we were four years old and at first, I didn't like her because we were always competing academically and because she was smarter than I was. Bianca has always been focused and a hard worker. I have no doubt that she will continue to be a hard worker for the rest of her life. I hope she is happy with whatever she chooses to do and I will always love her," said senior, Alys-

sa Salazar. Not only do her peers wish her the best, but teachers do as well. "Bianca was an excellent student and demonstrated a high capacity of achieving anything she wanted to. It was a pleasure to have her as a student and I wish her nothing but success and happiness," said history teacher and soccer coach, Mr. Diaz.

Gutierrez will now move on to better things and will be one of the lucky six students heading to UCLA.

## Steve Ramirez: From the Golden State to the Empire State



Steve Ramirez will be moving to Cornell University. He is the only student from the class of 2011 to attend an Ivy League School.

BY ERIC RIVERA  
EL RODEO STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It seems like every year El Rancho High School sends one of its students to an extremely prestigious university. From renowned local universities like UCLA and Berkeley to even Ivy League schools like Yale, El Rancho seniors have been admitted to the highest of educational institutions, and the Class of 2011 continues the tradition with Steven Vincent Ramirez. Steve, who was admitted to and will be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, New

York, is excited to enter the New York atmosphere "rich and full of new experiences." As arguably the best-rounded student of El Rancho High School, Ramirez has been a member of Executive Commission for four years, as well as a member of the cross country, track and field, and volleyball teams, while also maintaining a 4.0 Grade Point Average and being honored as an AP Scholar with Distinction by the College Board. His leadership and balance was undoubtedly one of the most appealing aspects of Ramirez's college application, and Steve's dedication to his stud-

ies proved to be worth it when his acceptance letter came in this past March. "It feels like a great honor" Ramirez said of his acceptance into an Ivy League institution, "I have extensively worked throughout all four years of high school to reach such a competitive level."

Ithaca, New York, which lies approximately 2,673 miles from Los Angeles, is quite the distance away from home. "It's going to be hard at first because I will be across the country alone" he says, "but I know once I move there I'll find new friends." The campus' beauty, however, is a comforting compensation. Cornell lies along the northern area of New York, in the quieter but more peaceful countryside of The Empire State near the Finger Lakes region, where Steve can experience the four seasons (as opposed to the constant summer weather of Southern California). The beauty of the New York countryside will no doubt inspire Steve, who will be majoring in Environmental Science. When deciding on which college to pick, Ramirez had quite the list of names to choose from: UC Santa Barbara, UCLA, Berkeley, and Cornell. "Cornell offers one of the top programs available in the world" Ramirez said, "but Cornell [also] offered me a full ride to their school."

Ramirez's high school success is not surprising: "Steve is a smart guy and has characteristics of a leader. His best characteristic is his ability to stay down to

earth and remain humble about his great accomplishments," says Steve's friend and volleyball teammate, senior Michael Gonzalez. Senior Jessica King also adds, "Behind all the drool, bad eating habits, inappropriate remarks, and goofy persona, Steve's incredibly smart. I'm proud to know that he's attending an Ivy League school. Who cares about the title of being a Top 10 School when you got a full ride [to Cornell]?" But Steve isn't just highly regarded by his friends and classmates. El Rancho staff and faculty can see his great potential as well. "Steve is a Renaissance student," says senior Counselor, Ms. Espinoza. "He was involved in everything and did everything well. He will be successful in the East Coast; [Steve] has a lot of ambition." In addition, Ramirez is held in high regard by one of El Rancho's most respected teachers, AP Calculus teacher Mr. Francis. "I'm not surprised he got into Cornell," proclaims Steve's former teacher, "he has tremendous intellect and work ethic. I know he will do well there."

The general consensus around Ramirez is full of great admiration and respect. His dedication and ambition have already landed him among one of the finest educational institutes in the world. How high can Steve continue to go? The answer has yet to be written. He has already established his foundation for success. The only way Steve can go is up.

## El Rodeo

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## FEATURES

**Simply Irresistible: "Beach Bum" Evelyn Menchaca**

BY PATRICK RUBALCAVA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"I'm a big ball of fun," says senior, Evelyn Manchaca. Whether one has doubts about Evelyn's large scale or spherical shape, it's hard to deny that she has a tendency to bring fun wherever she goes.

Recently you may have seen Evelyn as the titular character in the latest Little Theater creation, *Goodbye Charlie*, and in the comedy show, *Happy Hour*. Perhaps more prestigious than even this, she is the subject of this month's *Simply Irresistible*.

At school, Evelyn is heavily invested in the Drama department. She has been involved in the program since her sophomore year, and has since been involved in a total of five plays.

"Drama takes a lot of work," she says. "It's kind of like a job, except I don't get paid."

Beyond the stage, music is one of Evelyn's great passions. Her favorite bands are Kings of Leon, The Smiths, The Doors, The Beatles, MGMT, and Beach House. She prefers music that isn't constantly played, and for this reason, she spites the radio.

Evelyn has a distaste for dubstep, which she claims sounds like "angry robots or the adults from *Peanuts*." She even boasts her own musical talent, with her soulful harmonica playing.

Evelyn describes herself as "weird" and "random." (To see her "rambling" antics, pay a visit to her Youtube page, Beach-BumEv.) Because she grew up always visiting the beach, Evelyn loves to surf and skate.

Though Evelyn is not *always* nice (she's not a morning person), she says she "puts others before [herself] 99.9% of the time."

She enjoys pulling a good prank from time



Senior, Evelyn Menchaca takes pride in being "a big ball of fun."

to time, and says "making people laugh is always fun."

Though she is certainly a lady of the finest form, Evelyn still considers herself "one of the guys," comparable to Donna from *That '70s Show*.

But what features, exactly, leave the boys fawning over

this self-proclaimed "oddball"?

"I know the first thing guys notice about me is my boobs," said Evelyn, as I averted my eyes.

Surely it cannot simply be the gifts given to her by the grace of God that keep the men pining for the actress.

"My personality ain't

too bad, I guess," Evelyn chuckled. "People say I'm ditzzy, but I'm not stupid."

Evelyn also acknowledges that many people consider her to be very funny. "Yeah, yeah, I'm pretty funny," she says.

Despite the praise she constantly receives, Evelyn

claims, somewhat paradoxically, that she is "too humble."

For a guy looking to, attracting Evelyn begins with a smile. She finds a nice smile to be one of the most attractive characteristics for a man to possess. His hair should also be "long enough to do stuff with."

But he doesn't need to be totally perfect. Evelyn likes her men to look "disheveled or scruffy." To expand on this Bruce Willis look, he must also be taller than or as tall as Evelyn.

"Glasses can be cute," says Evelyn, who occasionally sports spectacles of her own.

He must also be a "weirdo," witty, and confident (but not "cockypuff.")

Ultimately, Evelyn says she will always have a soft spot for "cute white guys."

When asked about their ideal date, many reveal intricate, complex plans. Evelyn just wants to "keep it simple."

Her date starts at Venice Beach, where she and her Casanova will dine on fresh sushi. Afterward, they will walk along the boardwalk and buy various knick-knacks from the merchants. Though she admits some may find it corny, Evelyn would then like to take a walk on the beach. After a relaxing walk, the couple would sit in the sand, share a Dr. Pepper, and watch the sun fall.

Upon the sun's disappearance, they will go to a movie theater to watch a comedy, like *Due Date*, which features two of Evelyn's favorite actors, Robert Downey Jr. and Zack Galifianakis.

But don't worry if you're no Tony Stark, gentlemen. Evelyn firmly embraces Charlie Chaplin's quote that "we think too much and feel too little." Don't psych yourselves out, fellas, and talk to this "beach bum."

**Barraza: AP Junkie to Airman Basic**

BY JOSHUA MAGANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A widely used saying is a person learns best from their mistakes than from their victories. Most certainly Roger Barraza, astute senior with a GPA of 3.46, acknowledges that he made a mistake his senior year, however, the mistake led Roger to a new frontier.

Karissa Aguiar, senior, who has known Barraza since sixth grade says, "I think Roger is a very intelligent boy that can be hectic sometimes." A remnant of the population of students in El Rancho attempt to face the challenge of going through the Advance Placement (AP) route in education and Roger went through this process throughout his whole presence in El Rancho.

During Barraza's senior year he says, "I thought that I could handle five AP classes and a zero period, but unfortunately it hurt my grades." Ultimately,

Roger's grades plummeted and he obtained a D in Calculus. Roger says, "My dream was to go to NYU and study aerospace engineering, but I had a reality check in Calculus." This reality check made Barraza realize that math was not a major that he was not going to enjoy to pursue. Since Roger got a D in Calculus, most of the schools that accepted Roger revoked his acceptance and the only school that did not revoke Barraza's acceptance was Cal Poly. "Freshmen year I thought the world was easy, but as I got older I came to realize the world is harder; you got to keep on going and make new goals," says Barraza.

A new door and a new opportunity to participate in the Air Force was open for Barraza to go into. "I am proud about having the privilege to further my education and to be able to serve my country in the Air Force," says Barraza. Barraza's motivation to join the Air Force, including his mis-



After taking many Advanced Placement classes, Roger Barraza will join the Air Force rather than attend a prestigious university.

hap, was that Roger always had a small urge to join the military because he wants to serve his coun-

try and to save lives. Mr. Francis says, "I think Roger would mature in the military because

structure would be good for him."

Even though Barraza always says, "my teachers hate me" they still have compassion for him. Just like Mr. Francis, Barraza's Calculus teacher, who says, "I like Roger and my favorite trade about Roger is that he is not afraid to be wrong which keeps the class going." All of Barraza's teachers would agree with Mr. Francis that "Roger needs to have a better verbal sensor, also some volume control would not hurt either."

Barraza has learned from his big mistake in high school as he goes off to the military and he plans to learn much more. "People should practice moderation and explore the unknown while still considering and taking the consequence of one's actions", says Barraza. Even though Barraza has had a bad mishap in high school, he is going to remember the "good times" he had in high school and he is going to explore the next step in life.

# STAFF FAREWELLS

## Brianna Diame

From sitting shyly in X-1 during my sophomore year, to standing awkwardly in front of a classroom full of seniors my junior year, to saying farewell this year, my three years in the news staff are packed with memories of Casa Garcia nachos and late nights filled with stress, laughs, and last minute problems that added at least an hour to the time that we had to spend in a room lit with listless lights while attempting to meticulously piece together a newspaper. But through everything, I'm going to miss this class.

*El Rodeo*, you inspired my love for the written word to grow into something more than an occasional hobby, and for that, I am tremendously grateful. First off, I have to thank Naomi. Flower, I dragged you into journalism with me without even telling you what the class was really about, and I forced you to stay when you wanted to quit. I know you might still hate me for that, but I'm glad you stayed. Without you, my sanity would have been gone a long time ago. My name is at the top of the credit box, but it should be yours.

Daniela, you've become an intrinsic part of the news staff in

the two years that you've been here. You are someone who can certainly make anything happen, granted that your whole mind is in what you're doing, and I'm glad that you brought that quality of yours to journalism.

Amanda, you've really changed into someone who I can depend on. You're a wonderful person, and if you keep up the change, you can do many great things. Thanks for taking on so many responsibilities this year.

Abel, you've been a consistently strong writer during the two years that you have been a part of the news staff. You're one of the few who will actually take on a story with a smile, and I must thank you for that.

Karen, I'm so glad that you joined the staff. Your copyediting is nearly perfect. The

amount of patience that you have to make an article bleed with ink is still unfathomable to me.

Lex, I'll never forget the look of shock on your face when we discovered that our lives are slightly similar. Thanks for always getting your layout done and making my job much easier.

Berenice, you're hard working, kind, and quiet, a combination rare in journalism, but very much appreciated.

Rosa, thank you for always taking on so much.

Patrick, you joined late, but you've definitely made a name for yourself here in journalism.

And lastly, Zeko. Bald man, you are one great advisor. You know exactly

how much to lead a staff and how much to let it work on its own. You've always encouraged us to be mature and to run the paper as what it should be, a student

run newspaper. I'll never forget your daily quotes, banter, and encouragement. You will be missed as I move on to UCSC to pursue some sort of career in journalism...something I would not have done had it not been for *El Rodeo*.

## Naomi Ortega

I was tricked into coming into this class. I joined Journalism under false pretenses. I was told you don't have to do anything, you get to chill all period, and it's an easy A. Brianna lied. Not only was there actual work involved but there was also days where we'd be here way too late, as in past three. As much as we had to work I love this class. I have been a member of the *El Rodeo* Staff for two years and each year I get to meet a new batch of great people.

I came into journalism only knowing Brianna but she is probably the one that made this class worthwhile. Her meltdowns horrified everyone but I found them hilarious. I'll always remember the fun times we had while putting together the board. That was specifically our thing, no one could write on my board.

Next is Dani, that punkass. We have had so much fun in here. I'm going to miss all of her jokes and her running around the class singing.

As for the guys in this class, they are my best friend and my boyfriend. Pat, my best friend, joined the class and is rarely

here but, when he is here, he writes the best stories and makes me laugh so, so much. When he pokes fun at Brianna when she's already mad it's great. Phil, el novio, sits right next to me and also constantly makes me laugh.

Amanda Bear, Lex, Brandon, and Mariah will also be missed. Amanda giving everyone a bear

name, Lex's humor, Brandon being

Brandon, and Mariah being sweet and saying, "Hi!"

whenever we saw each other in the halls.

Last-

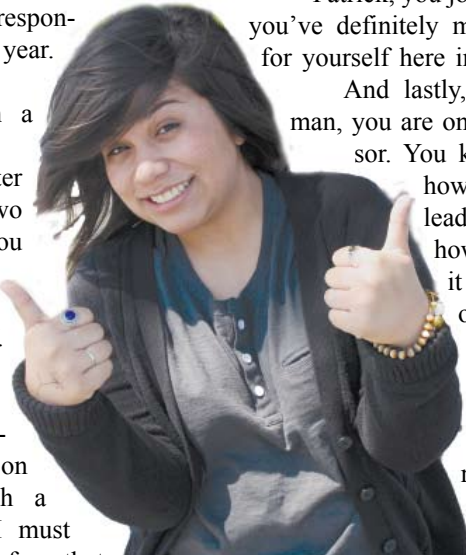
ly is Zeko. I will definitely miss him. He can take a joke as much as he likes making them.

Thanks to his class I plan on pursuing

career in journalism using all that I have learned in here.

Thank you for all the fun Zeko, I don't think I'll ever be able to silly string a teacher ever again.

on pursuing



Au revoir! Arrivederci! Adeus! Good-bye to El Rodeo!

High School has been an incredible journey, and I am

## LEX

glad to have been on the newspaper staff for my last year.

The long hours aligning articles, going on nacho runs, and writing the occasional opinion or advice pieces were all worth the experience. I found that working under pressure is quite exhilarating, and has sparked an interest in communications.

I have learned so much from being apart of *El Rodeo*, and having Zeko as a mentor was a huge part of that. Although I am thrilled to say goodbye to The Ranch, a part of me will miss the staff.

Good luck to those remaining and farewell to you all.



## Daniela

I don't know where to start with this farewell, but all I know is that I'm going to miss this class. Journalism definitely holds a bunch of great memories from my time in high school. Most of the good memories come from the times the layout staff with Brianna, Naomi, Lex, Amanda, Berenice, and Karen. Brianna, like, I'm going to miss, like, your Californian accent. You're, like, a good editor-in-chief and a great, like, best friend. Naomi, your laugh cracks me up and it's something I'm going to miss.

Lex's rants about school always made my day. Amanda and Berenice, you two always attacked people with hugs and that'd be something I'd look forward to in class. Last but not least, Karen, you're a great friend. You, Brianna, and I always bugged the Bald Man and those times are some of the greatest times. Our food runs and tiffs with the Bald Man is something I won't forget either. Picking on Brandon is what I'm going to miss the most. Zeko, you're a great teacher. I'm going to miss your talks. It was a great experience being part of the staff.

## Karen Carillo

It was a pleasure to work with the *El Rodeo* Staff both as an editor and as a reporter. Brianna's Reign will forever be remembered as well as Mr. Zeko's efforts to encourage us to continue to write to our full potential.

It was great working along with the staff and I hope next year's staff enjoys it as much as we did. To my fellow *El Rodeo* staff, I feel very fortunate to have edited your stories. Either way, thank you for cooperating with me and I'm so proud of the great progress you guys made. Rosaura and Mariah, I was really impressed how your writing improved significantly.

Brianna, you have been a great Editor-in-chief and friend. Although we may have had some disagreements in the past, I'm glad we have been able to work together to overcome them. Good luck in UCSC and really, it was a pleasure to work with you.

Layout staff, you are by far the most dedicated gals and Brandon that I have met. I am absolutely proud of the fact that you guys can finish all those pages in a short time. Regardless of that, your efforts will always be praised.

Working for the newspaper helped me be more interactive with others. For future reporters, good luck to your future years of being involved in the newspaper staff.



With the school year ending, I can't help but look at the memories from Journalism. Being in this class for two years has taught me a lot. It's given me confidence to talk to random strangers and I easily made friends with all of the kind people in here.

Brianna Morales (my cuddle bear) was the only one I knew at one point and she

is the kindest buddy I could have. I'm especially going to miss Daniela Aguilar's (mama bear) jokes and smiles. She managed to keep everyone happy even when it was a little tense. And who could forget Miss Naomi Ortega (Naomi Bear), the kindest girl you can meet. If it wasn't for her I'm sure our paper wouldn't be too organized.

But the two people that kept me going this whole year were Berenice Carrillo (gummy bear) and Jackie Martinez (Sgt. Jack). These two girls are the ones who helped me with my struggles in and out of journalism. They both gave me enough energy to work on layout and get all



## Amanda Bear

of my stories done. I'm grateful to both of them in so many ways.

Last but not least, Mr. Zeko (Baldy Bear), my favorite teacher ever. He's always been a little tough on us but in a joking way. I'm going to miss all of his little comments that he made to each student and his jokes in general. Mr. Zeko has taught me a lot and I'm glad to have been a part of his class.

X-1 was like a second home to me. I have so many friends and some of my fondest memories are in here—from our Nacho runs to writing on the board with Berenice. No one is ever going to forget the Dynamic Duo "Bermanda," a title Zeko had given Berenice and me. Thank you everyone for being a part of this class and for being a part of the jokes everyone has shared.