



# El Rodeo



## Elliott and Figueroa receive Zucker awards



Elliott and Figueroa were nominated teachers of the year by their co-workers and awarded a five hundred dollar check.

BY KATHELEEN MADERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The 2016 Teachers of the Year were Sylvia Elliott and Rosemary Figueroa. They were awarded at a staff breakfast meeting on Friday, May 6th.

"I felt very shocked, to be honest, I did not expect it," said Elliott. Elliott is a Statistics and Integrated Math 1A/1B teacher and is also the Link

Crew coordinator. "I am very appreciative of it, it means a lot," said Elliott.

"When I received my award I was happy that my mom, kids, and husband were present. This award is a thank you to them because they are a huge support system. They helped me become the person and the educator that I am today. I am happy that they were there to celebrate that moment with me," said Elliott.

Figueroa knew she wanted to be

a teacher since kindergarten. "I always played school when I was younger, and I could not wait to become a teacher. Of course, there are days when it is tiring, but the students make me happy as soon as I step foot on campus."

Elliott discovered her interest in teaching while she was a student at El Rancho. "My freshman year in Mr. Lawson's class Geometry honors class my friend and I were partners for a project and we decid-

ed to be math teachers and gather students from my block and teach them algebra."

Elliott said, "The best reward of teaching is knowing that you helped make a difference in a student's life. Sometimes students just need the extra push or a cheerleader standing in their corner to help make them believe in themselves. I recently got invited to two of my old students' college graduations, and that was rewarding to witness. I was so proud."

Figueroa is an ERWC, Expository Reading and Writing Course, and ELD, English Language Development teacher who has taught at El Rancho for eighteen years. "I feel appreciative toward my peers who voted for me as teacher of the year," said Figueroa. "Most importantly, I am thankful to my father and grandfather for teaching me my work ethic and leading me by example."

"My favorite memories of El Rancho include being on the field with my seniors at graduation each year, having students call me 'Mom' (by accident), and having former students visit me to tell me that they appreciate that I pushed them to excel because it is helping them in college. The best reward of teaching is the thanks and appreciation that students express when it is over," said Figueroa.

Both teachers were awarded a check for five hundred dollars. Figueroa is planning to spend the money on something that will help her relax during the summer. Elliott is planning to spend it on a date night with her husband. "We are always with our son and daughter whom we love and adore, but I think it is time for some 'us' time," said Elliott.

## Dr. Kwek accepts position with Norwalk-La Mirada Unified

BY MARISSA ARMSTRONG  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After only three short years, Dr. Jessica Kwek will say her final goodbye to The Ranch.

Kwek has chosen to take a position as the Director of Secondary Education in Norwalk, La Mirada. She will be in charge of overseeing middle schools and high schools in the area. "I'll be working with their principals and their administrators and their teachers to help them...and make sure they have the support that they need. What I'm really looking forward to is providing them with support," says Kwek.

Though Kwek is looking forward to this future position, she is sad to leave El Rancho. "I would have loved to have been the principal here for ten years, easily," says Kwek.

Since her very first day, she says her "experience here has been amazing and she appreciates "the welcome feeling that [she] got from everyone."

Kwek has not left El Rancho empty-handed; she has learned much from the



Dr. Kwek leaves ER with great memories and is looking forward to her new job.

past three years, "something new everyday," she says. "There are never two situations that are the same, and just learning from them and working with everyone together is really important. And listening, that's a big part of being a leader."

Kwek also leaves El Rancho with many fond memories. "There was a lot

of what I like to think of as 'El Rancho' moments. One of the most fun memories...was when I had the opportunity to participate in Night Pep Rally." Kwek especially enjoyed our most recent Future Don Night. She really liked "being able to walk around and see our students and our staff so proud of the work we're doing."

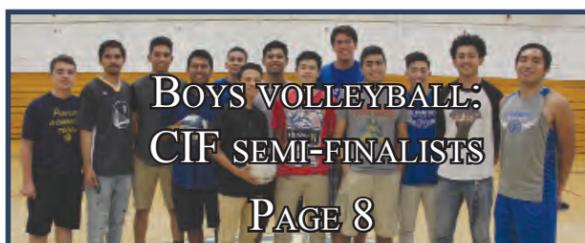
Though Kwek is looking forward to her new position, she says she will miss being a principal. Kwek says the thing she will miss most is interacting with parents. "I've learned a lot from the parent community," says Kwek, "being able to make different connections with people in a variety of ways has been very positive." She has enjoyed being able to influence students and teachers in a positive way. "My goal as a leader is to inspire," says Kwek.

"Being a principal is the best job I'll ever have and this was the best school to be at," says Kwek of El Rancho. She has truly enjoyed having had the opportunity to "make a difference on a large scale with students, parents, the community, and teachers." She will never regret the time she spent at The Ranch. She says "I will always look back on this and say I wish I could've done that longer."

Though she is moving on to the next step in her career, Kwek will not be far away. She reassures, "I will still be around. This is a special, special place and I'm excited to see where the school will go and I will be back to visit for sure."



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SPOKEN WORDS  
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## Decision 2016: "Pick your Poison"



BY MICHAEL NEELY  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

My first choice for president of the U.S. is undoubtedly Bernie Sanders, but if this election comes down to a Hillary Clinton vs. Donald Trump showdown, America is definitely not in the greatest of hands with either candidate. Still, the hand of fate will pick a candidate and Clinton exhibits key Democratic attributes including equal pay for equal work, a pro-choice stance on abortion, increasing background checks and closing loopholes on gun purchases, enforcing the Iran Nuclear agreement and defeating ISIS, increasing tax rates on the wealthiest while providing tax relief to middle class, and helping more eligible illegal immigrants become naturalized without any belligerent or violent actions.

Her platform receives countless criticisms due to her Dixiecrat nature in gaining much Southern support and failing to empathize with middle-class citizens in the same way as her husband. Her image with shady/corrupt individuals and corporations further contributes to peoples' dislike and opposition. Also, many critics of Bill Clinton see her as an exact replica and wish to not repeat his presidency. She flip-flops positions as the times change, illustrated when she opposed the Civil Rights movement during the 1960's but now

endorses equal treatment and opportunities for minorities. The same can be said with her once anti-gay marriage position for a decade and then retreating to a supportive stance in 2013. At heart, she is a Republican with leftist views, and this paradox is not enough to voters who are too divisive in their ideological preferences.

In the occurrence of a Clinton presidency, we can expect a continuation of an "Obamaian" presidency and not much change. Her solutions to key issues are that of a typical Democrat, to the point where she's interchangeable with many left-wing individuals. She is neither visionary nor innovative; she's just semi-good, semi-bad.

In contrast, Trump is the embodiment of extreme prejudice, racism, and hate that is an ideology more fitting for a typical Southern redneck. His platform speaks for itself: build a wall to prevent the further immigration of illegal aliens, combat ISIS by "bombing the hell out of them," increase taxes on the wealthy and lower tax rates for those lacking sufficient currency, a pro-life position on abortion, and protecting our second amendment by issuing gun permits valid in all 50 states. However, this demagogue's immature attitude, fascist mentality, and whiny gestures when discussing "The America We Deserve" leaves 40-45% of Americans "frightened," according to <http://www.politicususa.com>.

In the event of a Trump presidency, I see the nation getting involved in more wars and violent affairs than ever before due to his enraged mindset. America will be viewed as shameful by other countries for electing such an ignorant man-child. "President Trump" is truly the downfall of the United States of America.

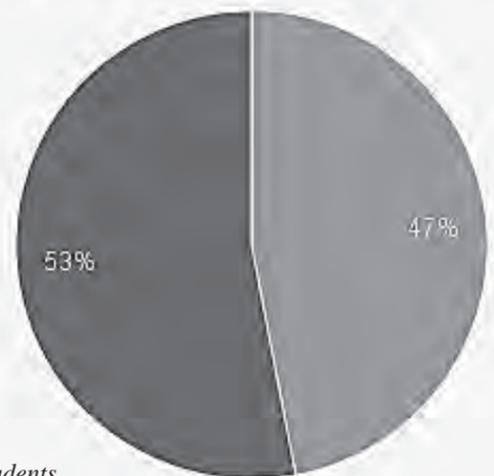
Choosing between these two candidates is not a simple task. Yet, it is one every American citizen should tackle. To me, Clinton is the smarter choice. In the wise words of Alexander Hamilton, Clin-

ton is the "lesser evil" of the two parties. She doesn't prejudice an entire race on the actions of some individuals like Donald Trump does, nor does she endorse unnecessary warfare. Clinton will maintain a steady America with no advances nor setbacks.

No candidate is perfect, which is why we try to choose the one who comes closest. When this isn't an option, it is our duty as American citizens to select the least worst who will do the least damage to America. Clinton is this choice; she's no saint, but definitely not a demon.

### Who do you genuinely think will win the presidential election?

- Donald Trump
- Hillary Clinton



\*Twitter poll of El Rancho students

## El Rodeo

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

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

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

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

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# Transgender bathrooms: It's time to get with the program

BY MICHAEL NEELY  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), the Supreme Court case tackling segregation, addressed the unconstitutional basis of the “separate but equal doctrine” previously claimed by the Supreme Court case, *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896). The Brown case required the immediate desegregation of public schools as a result of African-American facilities’ lesser conditions as opposed to their white counterparts. The revolution in Civil Rights was accomplished by unifying schools and providing equal opportunity for all. The transgender restroom case is no different. Allowing a man who identifies as a woman into a women’s restroom, or vice versa, is non-problematic and should be approved so society determines gender from a psychoanalytic perspective, not a literal and myopic one.

This debate was not an issue until the Republican Party’s desperate attempts to demonize transgender people as confused people who can be cured with some treatment and religion. Nobody cares who goes in and out of a bathroom; it’s not the greatest and most appealing place to be comfortable in nor to socialize with others; it’s a location where we conduct our business and leave. It isn’t meant to be attractive and inviting; it’s a bathroom for God’s sake, and it’s smelly, disgusting, and wreaks of bowels. Yet, the Republican Party has given the public a rather pathos-centered “justification” for why a transgender individual entering a restroom of his/her birth sex is so devastating.

Those whom are against transgenders entering any bathroom explain how allowing them into their choice restrooms will permit perverts to enter a women’s bathroom because they’ll pretend to identify as a woman. That is not the case at all. I cannot imagine a straight male going through the trouble to dress and act



like a woman in an attempt to peep at or rape a female. If this were the case, rapes would occur in restrooms daily, with or without the presence of transgenders. Even so, restrooms are certainly not the most regulated facilities in America, and the opportunity for any deviant to have his way with a lady is open regardless of the sex labeled signs placed on each door.

I understand why people feel it is necessary to label the sexes from a biological lens; a restroom is meant to accommodate the certain body parts of males and females. However, it is entirely possible for both men and women to perform their necessary duties as long as there is a toilet present. When we speak of the implausibility of transgender bathrooms, opposers talk about how the genders are already separated to provide comfort to both, which brings me to my point.

The bathroom situation is governed by society’s misunderstanding of the difference between sex and gender. “Sex” refers to the biological and physiological differences between men and women; while “gender” is a societal creation and addresses the social and cultural differences between men and women. The only reason modern restrooms fall victim to segregation is that people want them to be; the power rests in our hands to right this wrong and placing responsibility on to another is both illogical and immature.

The only barriers that exist are the ones we carelessly place in front of our capabilities. Transgenders are human beings like you and I and have been trying to express themselves in different ways, yet they are constantly oppressed by society and it is immoral for someone to deny freedom to others when this same person complains about not having enough. As Abraham Lincoln once appropriately said, “Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.”

## A sensible solution for the transgender restroom issue

BY TIM RIESGO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The transgender bathroom issue is one that society can settle very easily. Some feel people should be allowed to enter bathrooms with the gender that they identify with. However, this is a problem that will cause many issues such as arguments and fights. The best way to settle the transgender bathroom controversy is to give a third bathroom that only transgenders may enter. If this option is accepted by our government, it will protect children, provide a safe environment for transgenders, and bring a compromise to the conflict.

Upon hearing about the open restroom policy, I immediately thought of the children who will be affected by this. We live in a terrifying world where sex offenders are of 9.3% of individuals in society according to the National Sex Offender Public Website. Allowing anyone to enter bathrooms freely will make cases of child abduction and molestation very easy. This policy is just another excuse for people to pose as the opposite sex to help them achieve their disgusting satisfaction, and I do not want our laws to have any part in aiding that.

With the open restroom policy, the safety and peace of transgenders are immediately at risk. This controversy can lead to many unnecessary arguments and altercations, as society will be split up into three groups: The people who do not want

the opposite sex in their restroom, the ones who do not want those of the same sex to be posing as another one, and those who are accepting of the idea of the open restroom policy. While present times have seen the acceptance of transgenders rise, it does not mean everyone is accepting of it. Inputting a system like this creates unnecessary

by saying that is a case of segregation. However, there is already segregation among genders with men’s and women’s restrooms, so to add a third restroom will settle most issues, and make everyone feel included. Those transgenders can go into restrooms with others who share the similarities of being transgender. At the same

The idea of a third restroom should not be identified as segregation. But if others continue to feel this way, should we just end all divisions among all restrooms? Should we discontinue the idea of separate genders all together? At what point is it enough? I feel this entire controversy has gotten out of hand and could



controversy and is not a step in the right direction toward acceptance of transgenders.

Giving the option of a third restroom, does not necessarily end the conflict; however, it provides a good compromise between both sides. Others oppose

time, they will be able to enter a place where others do not judge each other, and use the restroom comfortably. Those who identify themselves as the gender they were born with can continue to use their own restrooms and not cause conflict.

end a lot of dispute with a simple compromise. The open bathroom policy puts others at risk and has created nothing but negative energy. Give the third restroom to society and create equality for all genders.

# WOTS: What has been your favorite moment of the school year and why?

BY SAMANTHA BERROPSE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



**Katherine Romero, 9th:**

“Making the soccer team meeting and making new friends.”



**Gregory Solis, 10th:**

“Winning league and being on the varsity tennis team even though I’m only a sophomore.”



**Jamie Lugo, 11th:**

“My favorite moment in the school year has to be when the junior class won the Night Pep Rally.”



**Anthony Payan, 12th:**

“When I joined the swim team and belly-flopped into the water since I didn’t know how to dive. I still did well though...I think?”



## Mrs. Zeko’s student poets shine at Whittier College

SOL MENDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The month of May ended on a good stanza as Mrs. Zeko’s 10<sup>th</sup> grade English Honors participated in A Night of Spoken Word. For those who don’t know, A Night of Spoken Word is an event, which is hosted at the Ruth B. Shannon Center, and it’s a night where students from Zeko’s class recite poetry, share art, and also perform music. But who is responsible for this night? For starters, there are many contributors. Mrs. Zeko starts off the students with lessons on poetry and then has the opportunity to bring a professional poet.

This year, the sophomore English class had the opportunity to learn from local poet, Eric Morago. Morago is a well-known poet to the Whittier community and devotes his time teaching people his poetry skills. The Flourish Foundation is initially what makes the night happen, but overall, teachers and staff such as: Jean Chodos, Kristen Palomares, Paul Zeko, and many more. Every year, students have the opportunity to transition from young sophomores to responsible students who have a feel of what it is like to perform. With the help of all contributors, students are able to “flourish.”



## Annual Teen Read Week promotes importance of reading

BY MARISSA ARMSTRONG  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For aspiring authors and lovers of the written word, Teen Read Week is just around the corner!

Teen Read Week is a “celebration of reading, brought to you by the El Rancho High School library and staff,” says Jean Chodos, El Rancho’s librarian and benefactor for multiple extracurricular programs on campus. There are “many activities and performances” to look forward to throughout the week of May 23rd through the 27th. Chodos continues, “All week, administrators and counselors will be reading aloud in classes...teachers will be going into classrooms, giving reading related quizzes, and giving out prizes.”

Chodos felt it was important to bring Teen Read Week to El Rancho because she was always “that kid who used the public library...and would come home with about ten books every time.” Chodos is an advocate of the written word because “it had a huge impact on [her].”

When asked why she feels it is important to instill a love of reading in young people, Chodos explains, “reading and writing teach you the discipline in orga-

nizing and communicating our thoughts. Regardless of the media you are using... you need to be able to effectively communicate. That will not change,” says Chodos.

Dog lovers of El Rancho will be pleased to know that the puppies are back! On Monday, May 23rd, Mrs. Chodos has arranged to bring in several therapy dogs to the library for the students to visit. The library will be open all day for students who would like to read to our furry guests.

The award-winning Get Lit Players are also scheduled to perform on Tuesday, May 24th; along with El Rancho’s very own Get Lit team and other top poets. Performances will be held during 3rd and 4th period in the main gym; all English classes are invited. On Wednesday, May 25th, the drama department will hold a literary-themed Lunchbag performance in the Little Theater during lunch. On Thursday, the library will be hosting card and tabletop games during lunch and before school.

On Friday, May 27th, the library will be hosting a teacher appreciation breakfast for all staff to enjoy. Sorry students, staff only.

Young readers and staff, grab your favorite book and get READ-y for Teen Read Week!



# El Rancho more diverse than you think

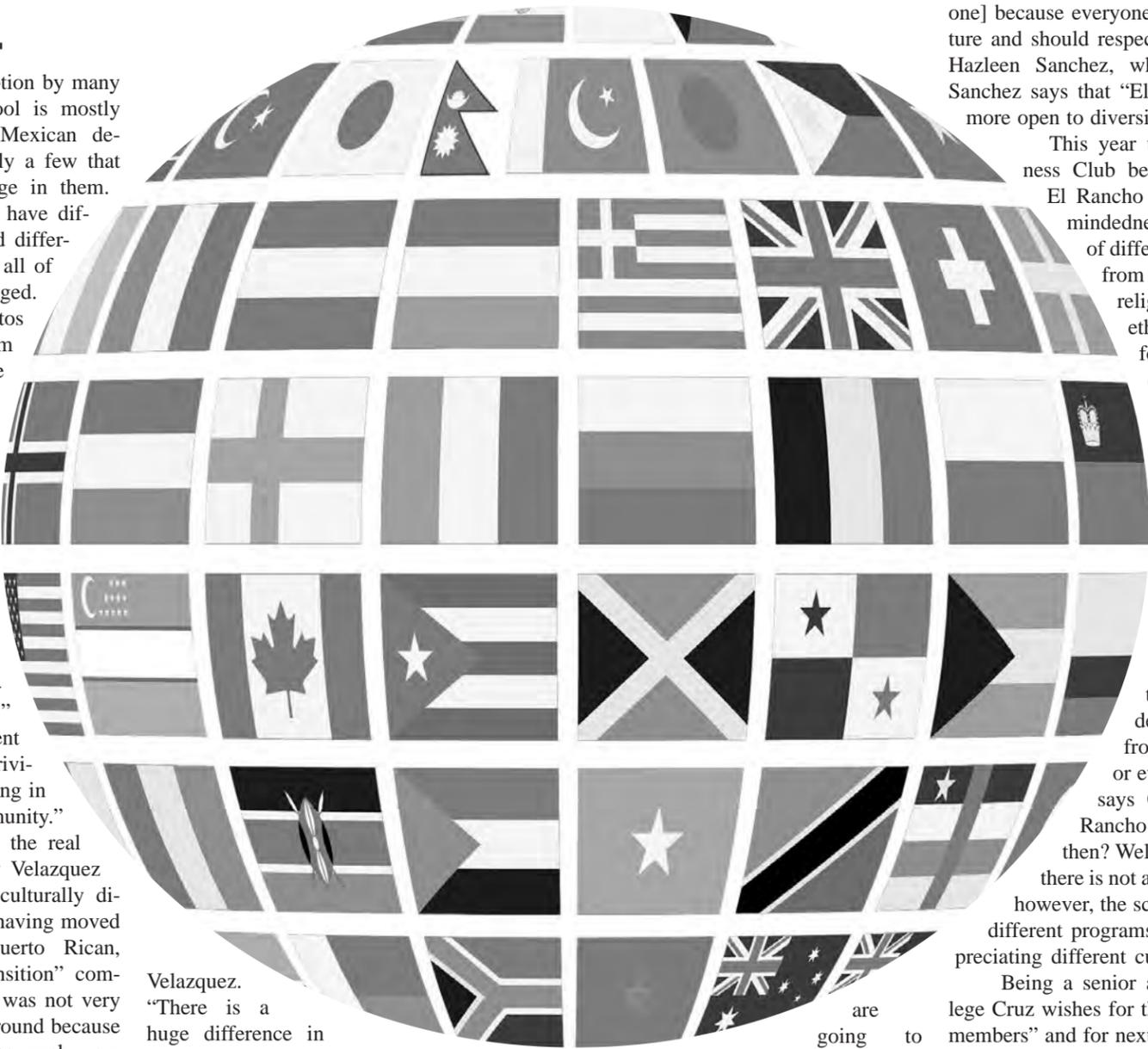
BY ADRIANA CARCHIPULLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It is a common perception by many that El Rancho High School is mostly made up of students of Mexican descent and that there are only a few that don't have Mexican heritage in them. Many people at El Rancho have different types of cultures, and different kinds of ethnicities and all of them should be acknowledged.

Senior Shaniah Santos says that many people seem to think "there are only like five people that are not Mexican in this school," but this statement is not true. Being Filipino, a different ethnicity than most of the students at El Rancho, Santos feels that "at first it was hard because you feel kind of alone, but then it gets better because you grow with the cultures that surround you and ultimately make new friends." Although Santos is of different ethnicity she feels very "privileged to be Asian and growing in a culturally diverse community."

"That is how it is in the real world," says junior Destiny Velazquez when referring to a more culturally diverse community. Recently having moved from Ohio and being Puerto Rican, Velazquez "had a hard transition" coming to El Rancho since she was not very used to "the different background because back in Ohio [her] school was much more culturally diverse than El Rancho is."

"Just like there are different types of religions, foods, and ethnicities, there are also different types of cultures," says



Velazquez. "There is a huge difference in the way people speak, live, talk, and eat," says Velazquez. It is important to start assimilating yourself with various types of cultures because "eventually that is how it is going to be in college. There

are going to be many people from around the world, and you won't be able to adjust to it because you are so used to just one race," says Velazquez. Perhaps the worst thing someone

could do is "force their culture on [someone] because everyone has their own culture and should respect that," says junior Hazleen Sanchez, who is Salvadorian. Sanchez says that "El Rancho should be more open to diversity" and advocating.

This year the Culture Awareness Club became integrated at El Rancho to "promote open-mindedness and acceptance of different types of people from various kinds of religions, countries, or ethnicities" says co-founder and President senior Manny Cruz. There are Hispanics at El Rancho, who aren't Mexican, but many don't consider a group of Hispanics to be considered diverse; however "there still is diversity; for example, there are many students that have roots from Central America or even the Caribbean," says Cruz. How can El Rancho be more diverse then? Well "demographically, there is not a lot a school can do, however, the school can encourage different programs that deal with appreciating different cultures," says Cruz.

Being a senior and leaving to college Cruz wishes for the club "to grow in members" and for next year's president to "continue to expand the organization and keep it alive at El Rancho." As long as the school and its students pursue awareness and appreciation for different cultures, the diversity will only continue to expand.

## Drama performs to the beat of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song*



Ivy Castillo, Daniel Lopez, and Anthony Cervantes dramatize characters for the audience.

BY ISSAC CARLOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Advanced Drama performed Roger's and Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song* earlier this spring, from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 7<sup>th</sup>.

"*Flower Drum Song* is about a family's transition from the traditional Chinese culture to the new Chinese culture found in America," says drama president and senior Daniel Lopez. Lead actress and junior Xcaret Estrada said, "We're going to M.A.C.Y.'s!"

The M.A.C.Y.'s is an award ceremony honoring high school's musicals each

year. Mr. Stan Wlasick, who has been the teacher and director of the Advanced Drama class for 36 years, and his department have been a part of this competition for about thirty years. "We have the honor of being one of the twelve schools to perform on the Segerstrom stage in front of thousands of people for three whole minutes," says senior Thespian, Anthony Cervantes.

Advanced Drama actress and junior, Ivy Castillo says, "It was very difficult for us to portray a proper Chinese-American without any Chinese culture in our origins. We attempted to hint at Chi-

nese with our makeup, our costumes, and a slight cadence when we spoke." Junior Thespian Jocelyn Estrada added, "It was really hard for us to produce a musical based and focused on the Chinese culture without coming off as racist, but I think we pulled it off perfectly fine. There were no remarks as to our performance being hurtful, which is a great sign." "This production isn't meant to ridicule the Chinese culture, but to glorify it," said Lopez.

"We attempted to have every aspect, every little detail, incorporated only to help tell the story of an old culture transitioning

to fit modern times," states the choreographer of the production, Nichole Sepulveda. Sepulveda is actually the granddaughter of Wlasick and she has been choreographing the musicals he produces for about six years. Her daughter, Natalie Sepulveda, starred in the musical as Ms. Helen Chao. "The musical numbers created in *Flower Drum Song* either depict the traditional Chinese culture or the new Chinese-American style found today. Therefore, I incorporated two different styles of dancing into the musical, as well: Traditional and Modern."

"It was hard to dance in this musical because all sorts of fast paced dance styles were found in it," says junior cast member, Peter Saavedra. "And the transitions in music styles are very important because it helps depict the idea of transitioning cultures." Junior Esther Rios says, "The dances are so hard because we have to move really fast and the movements have to be swift." "We aren't dancers, but I think we did great in the dances," added co-stage manager and sophomore Sophia Flores.

"I am so proud of my students because they brought a show that is difficult for professionals and they turned it into something marvelous," said Wlasick.

It is common for the musical to be the last production advanced drama performs in the school year; however, this year the drama department's last production was Happy Hour, performed June 2nd and 3rd in the Little Theater. "This is a night of improvisation and more!" Lopez says, "It all begins at 7 p.m. for only \$5!"

## The Future for Gamers: **SONY**

Nintendo

BY ERNESTO HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hey gamers, for anyone wondering if there is a new generation of consoles, there is a new wave of video game consoles coming soon.

The first new console that is indeed confirmed to release next year is Nintendo's new console codenamed the "NX."

Nintendo has had the NX in the works for the past two years. The NX puts Nintendo back up in competition with Sony and Microsoft because the Wii U is not selling well, and the Nintendo 3DS family systems are on the brink of struggling.

Nintendo has been in talks of improving their consoles' graphics, rendering, and power. Nintendo's profit has been significant given their underpowered consoles.

The "NX" is rumored to be more powerful than the PS4 and Xbox One and is gaining momentum with being a home and a mobile console. So, there would be playing at home and playing on the go without losing progress in a game.

It is also rumored to have a new kind of controller with accessories that associate everyday life. The games for this console may be flash cartridges or disc-based.

Now that Nintendo has announced tremendous news that make a transformation that has never happened before, its competitors have announcements of their own to make it great.

Sony has announced an upgraded version of the PlayStation 4 dubbed the PlayStation 4 Neo. The processing power the PS4 Neo is just a little jump to 4K quality for 4K TVs.

Also, there is an assurance for the PS4 Neo to play games rendering 1080p at 60 frames per second as the PS4 cannot reach that capacity.

Another upgrade to the PS4 Neo is the ability to play using virtual reality. Virtual reality has been in the works within several companies to propose its use for everyday activities for the public.

Sony has its own virtual reality device named PlayStation VR allowing it to play along with the PlayStation family of consoles.

Since the console will be able to display 4K gameplay, it will also receive an ultra Blu-ray player for ultra Blu-ray movies. They are planning to release either next year or one month or two months before next year.

Meanwhile, Microsoft has no plans of announcing a new console or upgraded version of the Xbox One. However, Microsoft has tests of a new console in the works.

Microsoft is also getting an HD upgrade along with Sony and Nintendo. The upgrade involves faster memory, better processing power, more memory, and 4K gameplay.

The Xbox One also has a problem with PlayStation 4 on rendering 60 frames per second, so the display needs to be higher with it.

Microsoft has kept quiet about any updates on the Xbox One; however, the news sources and blogs refer to the upgrade as "Xbox One.5," "Xbox 1.5," and "Xbox 2."

Many video game players want the best to come out of these consoles and are expecting the best.

## Alvarado bids farewell to El Rancho

BY MARTIN ZAMARRIPA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"The moment I realized I was retiring I just thought to myself where did all the years go? It was a true blessing to be a teacher. I love coming to school every day and not once did I not want to come and start my day here at this school," shared Mr. Alvarado, or as many might know him as "Alvi".

An alumnus of the class of 1968 and an educator at El Rancho for the past 42 years, Mr. Alvarado finally wishes nothing but the best to his "grandchildren" and his friends here at the Ranch. He has been the head coach for tennis, wrestling, and an athletic trainer since he started teaching at El Rancho.

"This building is just a building. The students, the faculty, the teachers, and the community are what makes this school special. Without the administration, this school would not be the school it is today," said Alvi.

"I'm not perfect, nor do I try to be a perfect teacher. I try to inspire, educate, and touch the lives of the students of today, the parents of yesterday, and their parents," he shared.

With all his contributions to the community and the students and staff, Alvi will never be forgotten throughout El Rancho history. "On May 27th, [the students will receive] free snow cones for El Rancho students. I used to sell snow cones back in the day, you see, and it'd be nice



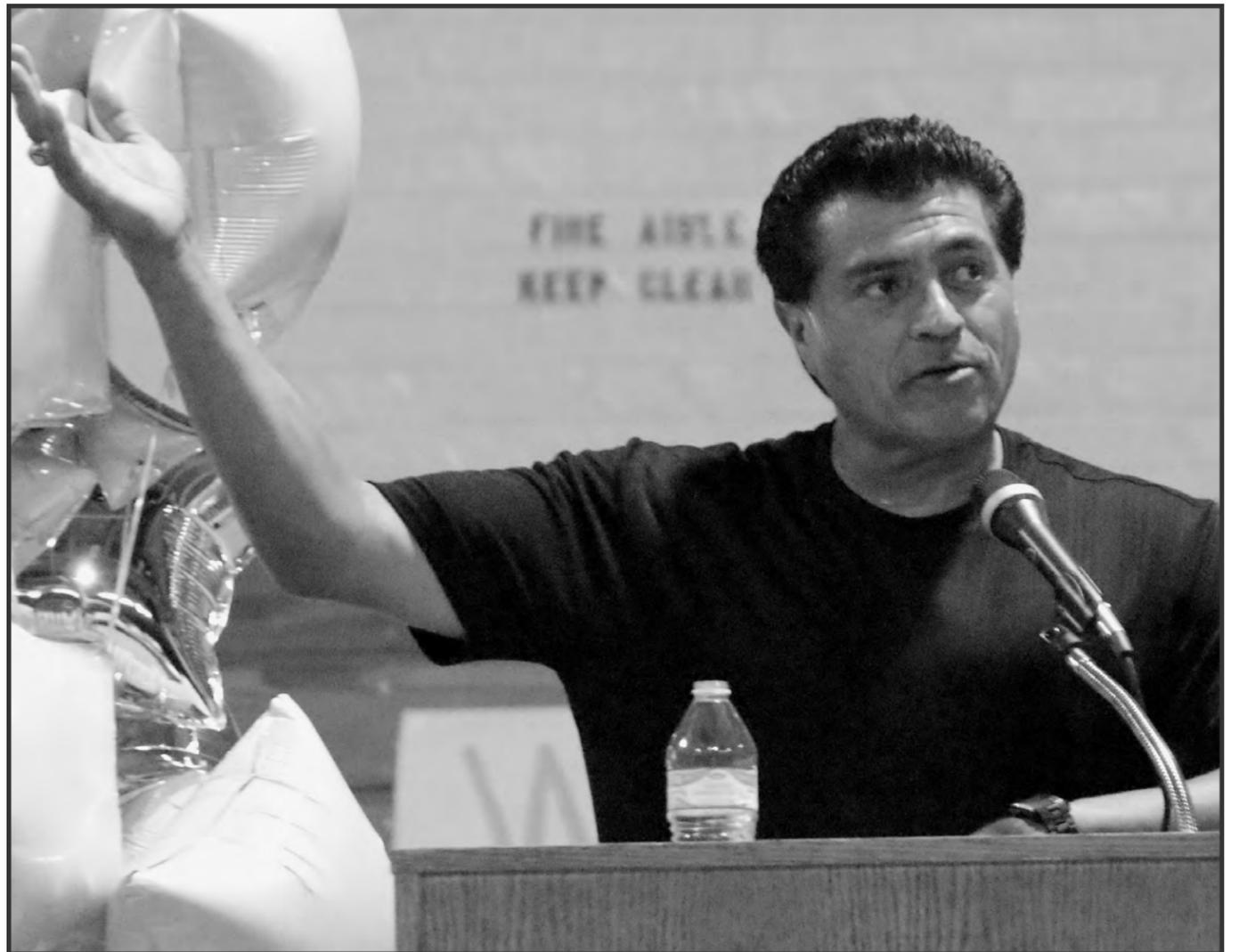
to give back to the students," said Alvi.

His retirement plans may be the last thing on his mind, but that won't stop him from living up to his well-earned retirement. "I've never had a vacation. In about a year from now, I will be in Rome with my wife to see the Pope attend mass, see the sights, and the city that Jesus walked on. I would like a year if He lets me, go to Hawaii, where my father was before December 7th. He was stationed at Pearl Harbor. Lastly, I would like to visit Washington D.C. to walk the grounds of Gettysburg and see the monuments," said Alvi.

"I didn't want to mention anything about my retirement until I had to," he mentioned, "I visualize myself as John Wayne on a hill riding a horse saying goodbye," he added. As his last days as a teacher come to an end, he bids farewell to the entire community he helped build.

"If you think you know it all, you're not a great teacher. I'm still learning as a teacher. In conclusion, there is no high school better than El Rancho High School. We pride ourselves on success and if we ever hit the canvas as a boxer, we get up like a boxer, we don't give up," says Alvi.

## Golden Don continues to shine



BY JULIAN LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Former New England Patriot and five-time Pro-Bowler Richard Camarillo has bestowed his alma mater with an NFL Golden Football.

"Anyone who played in a Super Bowl was going to get one of those golden footballs," said Camarillo, "and the high school that we went to also receives one."

Camarillo was part of the graduating class of 1977. He attended Cerritos College where he played under Pico Rivera legend Ernie Johnson, and in 1979 received an offer to play football at the University of Washington.

"It's cool to come back and see the school; nothing has changed that much. It feels good to come back home," said Camarillo.

After graduating from the University of Washington, Camarillo went undrafted in 1981 NFL draft; however, the NFL dream was not completely over for Camarillo as he received a call from the New England Patriots asking him to come to training camp.

"I thought I was doing really well... but when it came down to it, I was one of the last guys to get cut," said Camarillo.

Once again, Camarillo was a free agent with no team to play for. The Patriots explained to Camarillo to stay ready just in case they needed a punter.

"I eventually did get the call and came back to New England," said Camarillo.

During his tenure with New England, Camarillo led the league in punting yards, was voted to the Pro Bowl, and appeared in Super Bowl XX.

"Even though we lost the super bowl it was a great experience. It was amazing to see fans from Southern California all the way out in New Orleans," said Camarillo.

With his appearance in Super Bowl XX, Camarillo is the only El Rancho Alumni ever to appear in a Super Bowl. Even though he went pro, Camarillo will never forget his roots of Pico Rivera, California.

## Mr. Peña enjoys giving back to community



Mr. Peña busy at work keeping kids on track with their grades.

BY ALEXIS REYNA PARRA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Before this school year, Mr. Peña was the only male counselor that could be found in Student Services.

Peña has only been working at “The Ranch” for nine years, but has been working for the El Rancho Unified School District for a total of fifteen years. Peña taught fourth grade at Valencia and Magee for four years and loved it. “There was an

opening here at the high school for a vocational counselor, so I applied and luckily I got it,” said Peña. Although he misses teaching and didn’t think he would be jumping into counseling so quickly, the job opportunity at the high school was “an opportunity I couldn’t pass,” he said.

All counselors for the most part received new group of students to watch over this year. If you recall, before this year, the counselors rotated with the incoming class and whoever’s class just graduated

received the incoming freshmen. Starting this year the students were divided by their last names and given to the counselors in alphabetical groupings. Peña has letters Ot-R and is pleased with the change. “For me personally it’s been positive because I’ve gotten to meet new students that I’m sure I’ll be able to keep in contact with beyond high school..which wouldn’t have happened without the change,” he said.

Besides making sure that El Rancho students are college bound, outside of school Peña enjoys riding his bike; not just regular bikes, but dirt bikes as well. He also coaches his daughters’ softball team and tries to take his family camping as often as he can. In fact, if he wasn’t at school, at the very moment he would be “riding his bike somewhere in the hills,” he said.

If Peña wasn’t a counselor, or even a teacher, he would be in law enforcement or even a sports trainer. “It’s all related to helping people and helping the community,” Peña said.

“I’ve been a part of this district for fifteen years now. It’s my tenth year at the high school and I’ve met a lot of great people and here at the high school. Our kids are great...I think we have a great staff here on our campus and I really enjoy coming to work everyday,” says Peña.

## Mike Zevallos: Back at The Ranch



Mike Zevallos excited to be back home.

BY JENYFER LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho class of 2014 alumni, Mike Zevallos, born on June eleventh, decided to return to The Ranch as our new SSO. Zevallos was born in New Jersey and came to Pico Rivera with his family at the age of two where he was raised.

He is currently going to Rio Hondo College and would have not been able to receive the job as an SSO here unless he was going to school. “Knowledge is power,” he sees school as something very important in life. Zevallos enjoys connecting with the students here and enjoys his job here as well. Since he attended school here, he already knows some of the students and grew up with a few of them. At times he talks to the students to ask them what their plans are after high school.

“I’m a boring person,” says Zevallos as he talks about his life. However, during his free time, Zevallos enjoys working out and playing baseball, which he has been playing almost all his life. It seems to be that Zevallos might have exaggerated a bit since he seems to do more than he made himself to be.

During his early childhood years, Zevallos attended Birney Elementary School and in his early teen years, attended Burke Middle School, now called Steam Academy, where many of our El Rancho students have attended.

After graduating high school, he really looked forward to reality and going his own way. Zevallos wants to pursue sports nutrition and plans on helping people to accomplish their goals through physical activity, which as he said before is something he loves to do.

“Just come to school and go to class,” says Zevallos as he advises students to stay on the right track to make sure they graduate.

El Rancho High School welcomes back our alumni Mike Zevallos. Both administration and students are thrilled to be working with him once again.

## El Rancho boasts five Congretional Art Competition winners



Daniel Reveles, Lorenzo Gutierrez, Ariel Torres, and Caroline Hernandez pose with their awards.

BY KATHELEEN MADERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

High school students had the opportunity to submit two-dimensional artwork of different mediums in early April to the annual Congressional Art Competition and the contestants were invited to an awards reception hosted Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, where their art was displayed and winners were individually recognized.

We have some professional photographers amongst our classmates. Junior Lorenzo Gutierrez won first place, senior Daniel Reveles won second, and senior Marla Casillas won third in the photography medium for the art competition.

Two dons placed in the computer generated art medium. Senior Caroline Hernandez won first place and senior Ariel Torres won third.

“I have seen a lot of pictures on Instagram that have stories behind them and I wanted to build my own photo to tell my own story explaining what I’m going through in my life. I named the picture the ‘Train of Life’ because it is a train

passing by a person and it represents the idea that if you don’t take your opportunity you might miss it,” said Gutierrez.

“I have never won anything for my photos so winning gave me so much confidence to keep following what I want to do with my life which is photography. [Winning] was an amazing feeling, I never thought I would get this far especially since I have only been doing photography for about a year and I feel I have accomplished so much and can do way more. It boosted my confidence a lot,” said Gutierrez.

Gutierrez added, “It is not just about the photos it is about the adventures and experiences, the people you meet. I go out whenever I can to explore new places, and to catch memories in photos. It is the adventure that keeps me going.”

Honorable mention recipient, Daniel Reveles said, “I like designing new stuff and creating things on my own. I felt that entering in the competition would get me more publicity to put my name out there more. I didn’t think I was going to win, but seeing my photograph with the ribbon felt great. It also felt good being with the people who

I usually go out and shoot pictures with.”

Reveles’ interest in art began about a year and a half ago and since then he has published his work out to the world. “I put my work up on social media to make my name more known and I hope to enter more competitions.”

Casillas said, “I just decided to enter, I didn’t think I was going to win, but I did, and I felt very proud of myself.”

Torres said, “Since this was my first competition I honestly didn’t believe that I would win anything, so when I got the call that I was a finalist in one of the categories I was thrilled. I felt very accomplished and proud of myself.”

Her inspiration for her art piece came from her zodiac sign. “I wanted to do something that I had not done before and when my teacher, Mr. Diaz, said to combine yourself with an animal, I chose the lion since I am a Leo.”

Congratulations to all Dons who entered the competition and hopefully this encourages other Dons to follow their passions and goals.

## Varsity baseball makes goes deep in historic playoff run

BY TIM RIESGO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From sneaking into the playoffs to going on a miracle playoff run, the Don's varsity baseball team's CIF Championship hopes have just fell short. Making the top eight of the playoff bracket definitely turned some heads this postseason, but the Don's certainly never gave up.

Friday's game against Montebello High School was a nail biter as the game featured two dominating pitching teams, and was tied at 2-2 until the 6th inning. Michael Vierra on the mound gave an overall solid performance through the entire game. Through 6 innings, Vierra gave up 4 earned runs, 9 hits, 1 walk, and 2 strikeouts. Vierra remained strong through the first 5 innings only giving up 2 runs, however began to decline with another 2 run inning in the 6th.

The Don's offense simply could not ignite late into the game. Bobby Banuelos (1 for 4 with 1 run scored) and Vincent Fuentes (2 for 3) were the only members of the offense to drive in a run, giving the Dons a pair of RBI's. Honorable mentions that contributed towards the Dons



Robert Banuelos pitches to the opposing team's batter.

offense were Jose Guerrero (2 for 2 with 1 run scored) and Jose Avila (1 for 2).

Facing a very dominate Montebello high school team, The Dons could not contain their offense. However, this season's varsity baseball team has made the

deepest playoff run since their first CIF Championship Finals appearance in 2013. Along with the playoff run, Don's Ace pitcher, Vincent Fuentes, broke a school record during the Top 16 playoff game against Apple Valley. With Fuentes pick-

ing up his 21st win, he was able to move above Chris Villalobos' record of 20 wins from the 2008 El Rancho baseball season. The 2016 baseball season is one for the history books, as the team rose to many successful moments during the season.

## Boys volleyball reaches state tournament



Varsity volleyball team celebrates an incredible run through C.I.F. playoffs.

BY ERNESTO GARCIA  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

High expectations were set from the beginning of the season and the boys' hard work led them to make El Rancho history. With the year coming to an end, the boys' volleyball team ends its season with one game short of reaching CIF finals.

The boys set their goal to win everything and become the best team in their division. Unfortunately, their dreams were shattered by Laguna Blanca who defeated El Rancho three sets to zero. "I think this was one of the worst feelings I have ever felt," said senior and varsity captain Javier Torres, "If we started better as a team, at the beginning of the season, I think that would have helped us and the results would have ended differently."

Torres, awarded the most valuable player in the league, believes that the end of the season is just the beginning of a new era for El Rancho's volleyball team. "Records have been broken and the league title is back at El Rancho. We made history by becoming the first to reach semifinals in school history and that will always be an honor," added Torres.

"I'm happy that we made it so far because out of all the volleyball teams El

Rancho has had, we were the first to make it to semi-finals in CIF and go to state," said senior Anthony Martinez. "I believe the success we had this year came from the good chemistry we have with each other," said Martinez, "Losing in semi's the way we did, I think, could have been prevented but you can not always win every game.

Martinez would like the team to continue the reputation El Rancho, has and hopefully move on further than this year's team.

With the team mainly consisting of seniors, the underclassmen have big shoes to fill. "This season was the most fun by far," said junior Leonardo Elizarraraz. "There were a lot of seniors and we're going to miss them all. Hoping to improve next year, the boys are already hard at work. "I look forward to reaching where we got this year and hopefully surpassing what we achieved this year and also for the JV players to step up and help El Rancho's reputation grow," added Elizarraraz.

One of the youngest players, Anthony Guerrero hopes to do better next year than this year's team. "We did not end off 10-0 but overall it was a great season," said Guerrero, "Next year we just have to fix the mistakes we made and I believe that will help us a lot." Having gained the experience by playing with the varsity team, Guerrero hopes his confidence,

along with others returning, will help the team continue to make El Rancho history.

The team ended league with a 9-1 record losing only to Santa Fe. They reached the Semis in CIF and made it to Quarter Finals in state. With the year coming to an end, the seniors on the volleyball team are reflecting upon their successful season. "We would have hoped for a perfect season but its over and overall we were successful," said senior Rodrigo Sermen. "One thing I won't forget is when Nick set me a shoot and I hit straight down in front of Santa Fe," remembers Sermen as he reflects on their away game at Santa Fe.

Randy Ibarra, senior varsity captain, has high hopes for the future of the team and hopes the program keeps growing and receiving the recognition it deserves. "One thing that I will always remember is breaking the single season record for aces," said Ibarra.

The whole team can come to an agreement that part of their success came from the chemistry and bond that everyone has with each other and the hard work each and every one of them put in. El Rancho's volleyball team has made El Rancho known in the volleyball community and high expectations are set for future teams.

## Varsity tennis team leaves legacy behind



Ricardo Ibarra lunging and swinging his tennis racket.

BY MATTHEW MARROQUIN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After their title run through the Del Rio League and their last playoff match, the seven seniors on the varsity boys tennis team leave behind quite a legacy for next year's team.

As league champions, captains Blaisure Alan Guerrero and Ricardo Ibarra, as well as Luis Huerta, Eduardo Montalvo, Marcos Orelliana, Javier Sanpedro, and Andre Vasquez say goodbye to their teammates as they graduate from El Rancho. Guerrero and Ibarra cite the opportunity to play in CIF as well as their victory against the number one ranked team in league as their favorite memories of the season, and thank Galindo for his work as coach. "Thank you for believing in us as a team. Putting us through hell and making us run those miles when we didn't want to, it all came through," concludes the co-captains.

Although the team was beat in the first round in playoffs by La Quinta, coach Eduardo Galindo affirms that the team accomplished their goals, to qualify for both individuals and team CIF playoffs. As for next season's team, Galindo is not sure who will be team captains, as the decision is usually left to a vote. Current captains Alan Guerrero and Ricardo Ibarra hope the team chooses sophomore Anthony Aldridge and junior Karin Garcia to be next season's leaders.

"Try hard, train hard, play hard, and don't cut corners," advises co-captain Ricardo Ibarra. The captains give thanks to all who have supported them throughout the last four years and wish the best for their teammates.

# Seniors pledge to college of their choice at El Rancho's first annual College Signing Day



*Briana Gonzalez and her fellow seniors swear to always pursue education.*

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As underclassmen count down the days until summer, seniors look forward to the next step in their lives. What is the best way to recognize this? A celebration in honor of the hard working students attending college in the fall.

On April 29, El Rancho High School held its first annual College Signing Day, an assembly to recognize all students attending college in the fall, put on by both Generation 1st Degree and the El Rancho College and Career Center.

Up until now, the only students acknowledged at this time of the year were those that are going on to participate in sports in college. Students that

aren't in such a field, are finally getting recognition for their hard work.

The idea for a signing day stemmed from the First Lady's Reach Higher Initiative, which is the First Lady's effort to inspire every student in America to take charge of his or her future by completing their education past high school.

"[The First Lady] had [the initiative] for a couple of years, but we heard about it a few months ago," said Principal, Jessica Kwek, "we got together and wanted to make it happen. Generation First Degree wanted to support us in it, so we were able to honor our students, and we plan to do it for years to come."

Aside from Generation First Degree speakers, Gilbert, and Jackie Cisneros, El Rancho also brought in Su-

perintendent Dr. Fuentes, and Alum and a director with the U.S. Department of Education, Robert Gomez.

Gomez gave a touching speech about life in college, the importance of higher education, and tips every incoming college student should know.

"Find out what drives you... what gives you hope," said Gomez.

Seniors such as Anthony Payan, who will be studying Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in the fall, believe this new tradition is a great one.

"I'm gonna cry," said Payan, "I think it's cool. It's a good way to recognize us."

Be sure to check out #CollegeSigningDay to sneak a peek at the Ranch's newest tradition.

## Word on the street:

WHICH COLLEGE DID YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?



*"I chose Cal State LA because I want to be a forensic scientist and they have the biggest crime lab so I think that'd be a great opportunity for me!" –Jonathan Contreras*



*"I chose UC Santa Barbra because I want to stay a little close to home but still be far enough and I was offered great financial aid." – Karen Lopez*



*"I am going to UC Merced and I am going there because I love the school campus and I am going with my friends! YEAH!" – Adrian Loera*

## Scholars honored at Senior Awards Night

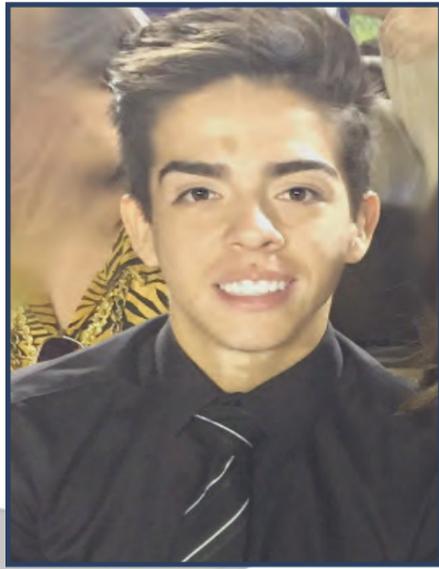
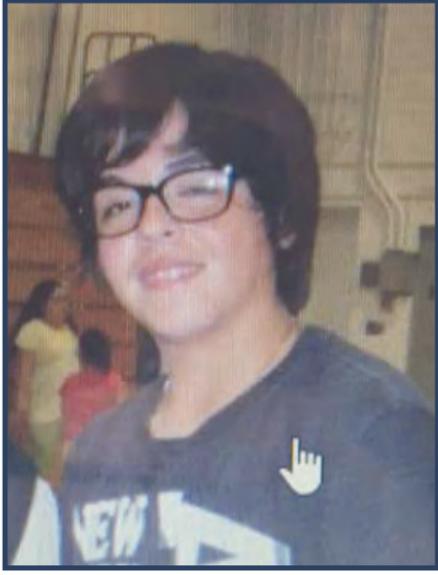


Senior awards night was a night filled with recognition. Over \$60,000 of scholarships were awarded to the class of 2016. This is the first year the event was modified to incorporate all awards from the biliteracy award to scholar athlete award. Representatives from the city attended the event and personally recognized the students. Over 125 students received some type of award.

## Senior Transformations

Senior year is the YEAR

### Ruben Barragan



Ruben Barragan ditched the glasses 2007, Justin Bieber hairstyle, fleeked out his eyebrows, and SLAYED Senior year!

### Anthony Payan



Anthony Payan left Burke with the most adorable round face and now he's an athletic stud who leaves people with an open jaw!

# Nikesh Kumar: the boy behind the rank

BY MATTHEW MARROQUIN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The time has come for the class of 2016 to bid a final farewell to the campus they have come to call home for the past four years. Four years of AP classes, final exams, and standardized testing that have left their mark on each student. Of the 600+ seniors who have undergone the heartache and stress of The Ranch, only one holds the current mantle of class rank one.

Nikesh Kumar, the driven, benevolent individual many students aspire to become, closes the final chapter of his high school career on a high note, and begins the rest of his life at the University of California, San Diego.

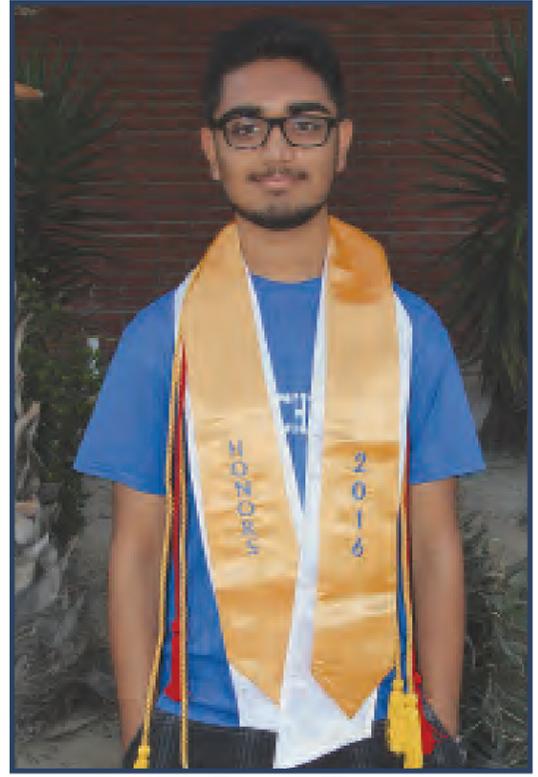
Born in Roswell, North Carolina, Nikesh moved to Pico Rivera in 2007 with his mother and father. Though his parents are usually busy and he tends to keep to himself, Nikesh affirms that the two have always supported him throughout his academic career. "Whatever I need to do well in school, my parents have always provided for me, and I'm extremely thankful for that," says Nikesh.

With an aesthetic appreciation for the architecture of UC San Diego, Nikesh has chosen the university due to its critically acclaimed Bioscience department. After he earns his degree in Biochemistry, Kumar aspires to one day cure a major world disease. If he does not, he wishes to impact future generations of doctors through his future extensive medical research. Kumar's interest in medicine sparked during his time in AP Biology, where he de-

veloped a curiosity for the human body and its functions. Kumar's interest in the medical field is not strictly academic, however, as he was once a fan of the long-running TV show, *Grey's Anatomy*. "I used to like *Grey's Anatomy* until season eight. It went kinda downhill from there," jests Nikesh. He mentions *The Flash* as one of his current preferred TV shows.

A fan of all things comic book, Ku-

mar finds the current Marvel Cinematic Universe films to be his favorite movies. When it comes to music, however, Nikesh's taste varies vastly. "I listen to all kinds of music...whatever's in." He lists Kendrick Lamar, Fall Out Boy, and The Eden Project as his favorite artists. When outside of school, Kumar enjoys playing tennis and going to the movies with his



friends, as well as visiting family and learning to drive stick.

Nikesh urges underclassmen not to treat their education facetiously, and that academic success during sophomore and junior year are paramount to collegiate appeal. Kumar also declares that intrinsic motivation played a significant role in his achievements, and was what impelled him to challenge himself year after year.

"The teachers and the counselors have taught me that life isn't simple, but there are things you have to do in order to be successful," says Nikesh. He concludes that he is thankful for his time here at the Ranch and that he is grateful for the interactions he has had with faculty and students alike.

## WOTS: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?



Brian Arciga

Senior Brian Arciga will be attending community college and hopes to transfer to Cal State Northridge and graduate from there. Arciga sees himself getting married to Milinda Vyntrub. For those of you who do not know who she is, she is the comedic actress from the AT&T commercials. He hopes to have a child by then, preferably a girl.

In ten years, Arciga expects to be working as an architectural designer and paying off the mortgage to his home. "Would you see yourself as a better person?" "By then I'd be a better son and overall a better person."

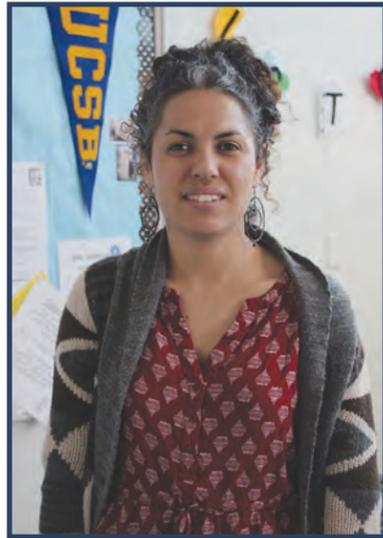


Ashley

## Advice from the Wise

**Alejandra Rosales:** *What advice would you give to seniors that you wished you would have received during your senior year?*

*“Pursue something that you love. Something that you are passionate about because this is something that you are going to do for a very long time. There are going to be opportunities to change what you will do forever, but if you pursue what you enjoy from the very beginning, then you’re more likely to end up in a better place both economically, and in life. If you are doing what makes you happy you’re going to always be satisfied with your life, whereas if you listen to other people tell you what they think you should do, and you pursue other*



*people’s dream you’re not fulfilling yourself. So overall pursue your interest, pursue your talents and pursue what makes you happy.”*

**Jennifer Berry:** *“If you get the opportunity to go to college, take it.”*

**Jessica Salcedo:** *“Time management. It is huge. Especially if you go out to work, or college or whatever it may be, that is so crucial. Any time that you have to take advantage of it and also get and buy a planner ASAP. You will have so much going on that you need to organize your time. Time is so limited that..., it flies. That’s one thing I wished I had gotten as advice.”*



**Janice Sell:** *“Live it.”*

**Philipp Rojo:** *“To not be afraid. I think some of the decisions I made were out of fear. Like going to another place, going to travel, or taking part in a program that would possibly be studying abroad. I remember being too afraid to try out for the swim team, which, later on, I found out I would have made the team, but I was too afraid to even try. I’m not advocating to be reckless and to take reckless chances of things, but what I’m saying is; don’t let fear stop you from taking opportunities that might be right for you. Don’t be afraid to take a chance and do something. Don’t limit yourself. Don’t let your fear limit you from trying something new. Don’t let fear stop you from*

Take my advice....



**Raul Elias:** *“Develop a life plan. A plan where you state what your goals are and what your strengths and weaknesses are. That way you have an idea of what you want to achieve and you have something you could follow along the way.”*



*doing something that can help you out.”*

**Gregory Salcido:** *“Don’t lie to yourself. Be honest with yourself about what’s going on. Also, be willing to change. As evidence and experience compel you to see the world yourself the people around you differently, have the courage to follow that. Don’t change just because someone tells you to be a certain way, change if it seems right to you and it makes sense to you, and it makes you feel better about yourself. Don’t be afraid to change regardless of what society or anyone else says about it.”*



**Reyes**

Reyes is sure she will still be in school in ten years because her career choice will take about eleven to twelve years of college. Reyes says she would love to go to USC, but as long as she graduates from a four year college and earns her degree, then she wouldn’t really mind where she would graduate from. Reyes explains that she is unsure about marriage in ten years, but hopes to find someone and have a stable relationship with her partner because she would like to have a stable job before she is married. “Will you have kids?” “After I graduate college I would like to have kids, but not while I’m in school.” Reyes would prefer to focus on school and her career before she thinks of marriage and kids. She says that she wants to be a pediatrician so she will be working at a doctor’s office. Reyes says she would see herself as a better person along with growing as a mature adult and responsible person.



**Christopher Reyna**

The athletic Christopher Reyna will be attending and graduating from Whittier College after high school while playing football there as well. “Will you be married?” “I see myself married after college with a house on the beach.” It seems to be that he’s going to be living the life, so props to him. Reyna does not expect to have kids until he turns thirty. Reyna is unsure on weather or not he wants to become a police officer or a lawyer. He also says he sees himself as a more responsible person, and overall a better person.

# 12 APPRECIATION



"I would like to thank my Social Studies Department Head David Retana for his professionalism and willingness to express his opinions even though it may go against the status quo. He is a terrific leader, easy to work with; he lightens the stresses of the day with his gut-wrenching humor." - **Joel Francisco**

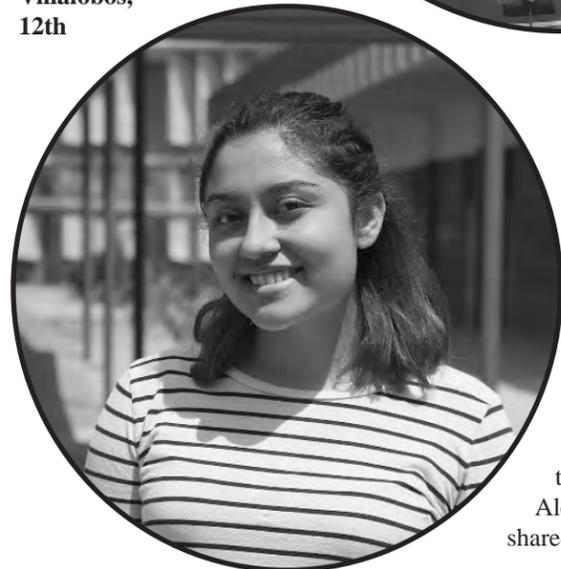
"I would like to thank Ivy Guerra. She's been my best friend since 2007, and our friendship is stronger than ever. She's an amazing person who is always there for me no matter the situation. She's always up for anything and can make the best out of every situation. She's the funniest person I know and definitely the best dance partner! She's made my high school experience the best ever and I don't know where I would be without her. No matter where college or the rest of our lives takes us, I know I can always count on her to be there for me. I love you best friend!" - **Stephanie Godinez, 12th grade**



"I appreciate Vanessa Espinoza, because she is so nice and so hot! Love you Vanessa!" - **Marcus Alcaraz 10th grade**

"Ms. Tejada. She taught me what a real nurse has to be. She inspired me to keep on working hard to get where I want to be and I will never forget her class." - **Destiny Velazquez 11th grade**

"I appreciate Miss Figueroa for all her help and time she gave me. In English class she push me to do my best in my essay. And for that I said thank you miss Fig you are a true home girl!" - **Josue Villalobos, 12th**



"I, Vanessa Espinoza appreciate my lovely girlfriend Ivy Castillo." - **Vanessa Espinoza, 11th grade**

I, **Vanessa Gomez**, want to thank everyone who has helped me all these four years of high school, especially my senior year. I especially want to thank Alma Renteria, Mrs. Nasouf, and Mr. Zeko for helping me with all my scholarship and college applications. I also want to thank my family for always helping me in all that I need, and I hope I have made them proud.

"I am very thankful for my lovely ladies, Amber, Diana, Hazleen, Missa, Destiny, Edith, Jessica, and of course, Alec for all the laughs we ever shared." - **Faith Chavez, 11th grade**

"I'd like to thank my family for teaching me love and respect; I'd like to thank my heavy metal and punk rock loving friends for teaching me honesty and loyalty. Thank you, to all of those who helped my heart of gold shine." - **Jessica Infante, 11th grade**

"I appreciate my mom because she gets me whatever I want most of the time. But then she is always there for me when I have a bad day." - **Amber Hernandez, 11th grade**

"I want to thank my older brother Joshua for supporting and being there for me because he's the only family I got and the only person I look up too." - **Joselyn Briseno, 10th grade**



"I really appreciate my parents because they started from nothing coming to the U.S. as immigrants and worked hard for my siblings and I to have a better life and go to college and fulfill not only our personal dreams, but their dreams of us succeeding in life." - **Hazleen Sanchez, 11th grade**

"I like to thank all my friends for their constant support throughout the year." - **Jay Reyez, 10th grade**

"I am thankful for my best friends, Hazleen Sanchez, Edith Duran, Faith Chavez, Alec Hernandez, and Marissa Mestas because no matter what, they will always be there when I need them. (Even though I do not necessarily want them to be). They have seen me at my worst and helped me through it. I know this will sound cheesy but not everyone can pick his or her family but we did. I'm upset my family will be separated one day but we will have each other wherever we go." - **Diana Castaneda, 11th grade**

"I'd like to thank my older sister Miranda Lauren Loza because my whole life she was basically a older protective brother that I never had and she's helped me multiple times when I needed someone in time of need or getting defensive if I were to get bullied at school when I was little. She's been my role model to me no matter what mistakes she made in the past because she's the type of person to stand by her mistakes and admit wrong; though of course most like us get in fights but our fights never last long before one of us start laughing at how stupid our fight was. I hope one day I can make her proud of my life choices but I know it still wouldn't matter cause she'll always be proud of me in her own way, I'll always stick up for my sister and protect her even if I can't protect myself because she's the sun that shows me the golden path to a happy future in this dark world. Words cannot describe how amazing my sister is in my eyes and I hope her children feel the same." - **Quintin Loza, 11th grade**



"I, Amber Aldridge, would like to thank Jacqueline Santos for being a great friend and telling me hilarious jokes." - **Amber Aldridge 11th grade**

"I would like to thank Mr. Diaz for being my mentor, support system, and all around best teacher ever. Without him who knows where I'd be." - **Alexis Reyna Parra, 12th grade**

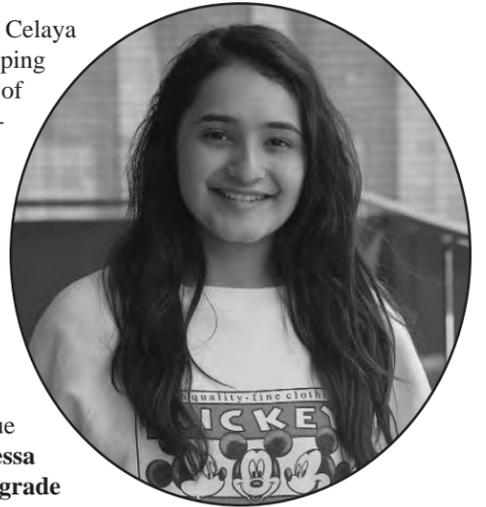


"I want to give a huge recognition to Joe Alvarado for his dedication and professionalism here at El Rancho High School. If you can pick any person that has committed their life to the Ranch as a student, teacher, coach, or trainer. [It would be him.] He is a true institution at this school and he will be missed. Thank you Joe for your dedication and service not only to El Rancho High but the community of Pico Rivera." - **Casey May**

"I appreciate all my family and friends, Hazleen, Diana, Faith, Missa for all the support they give me." - **Edith Duran, 11th grade**

"I appreciate Janina Celaya for being so silly and keeping me sane throughout all of high school and never turning her back on me. No matter what problems I had she was there, and I hope I have left an imprint on her and she keeps doing well in school. She must know that I will always be here for her. I love my little sister and appreciate and value her so very much." - **Vanessa Torres-Celaya, 12th grade**

"I appreciate my favorite Scorpio for always being there for me and making me laugh even though she isn't funny. I wuv you Vanessa, stay thick." - **Ivy Castillo, 11th grade**



"I would like to thank Anthony Martinez for being a great friend to me, also a great pepper in volleyball. I would like to thank Ernie Garcia for always sitting next to me." (On the bench). - **Leo Elizarraz, 11th grade**

# What is your high school regret?

"I regret not opening up sooner and staying quiet my freshman and sophomore year." - **Kelly Lugo**

"Not being in any sports." - **Ruben Barragan**

"I regret not being more involved in clubs or school events. It would have been great to organize a senior prank. I also regret not taking advantage of my opportunities as a senior." - **Benjamin Cubillo**

"Being super awkward would have to be my biggest regret." - **Samantha Chavarria**

"I regret not being more social and not joining a sport." - **Fernando Aceves**

"I really regret not joining any sports." - **Daniel Lopez**

"It's so bad, but I regret taking AP Calculus!" - **Brianna Gonzalez**

"I regret taking AP Chemistry." - **Anthony Cervantes**

"My biggest regret was not talking to the girl I love." - **Diego Del Real**

"I solemnly regret saying this sentence... oh, wait!" - **Jacob Amavizca**

"I solemnly regret not going out more and not joining a sport my senior year." - **Patricia Soto**

"I regret not being able to experience more parties. I wish I wouldn't have slacked off after football season, and I also regret not experiencing new things to make my senior year more memorable." - **Kevin Renteria**

"I regret overwhelming myself with APs, school-work, and, well, work in general." - **Natalie Torres**

"I regret not joining any clubs, organizations, or sports." - **Monique Flores**

"I regret not taking school as seriously as I should've (\*cough cough\* procrastination)." - **Cristian Riesgo**



"I solemnly regret not joining drama my freshman year and not auditioning for 70, Girls, 70 that same year." - **Isaac Carlos**

"I regret wearing Tiffany & Co. when it was definitely a Cartier type of day..." - **Sol Mendez**

"I wish I could have taken more advantage of the vending machine in the Faculty Center." - **Danielle Espinoza**

"I, personally, regret not challenging myself and taking more APs." - **Kaitlyn Berrospe**

"I regret getting with my ex boyfriend." - **Jaime Freakson**

"One of my regrets was never completing an AP class, but when I did enroll in

"One of my biggest regrets throughout my four years at El Rancho was joining Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) because not one person passed the A.P. Exam and it was a complete waste of my schedule. So many students dropped out and I regret not being one of those students." - **Derek Peyton**

"I regret not trying out for a musical." - **Marissa Armstrong**

"I regret not joining drama and slacking off sophomore year." - **Demi Garcia**

"I dropped out because it was too hard." - **Suzette Aparicio**

"I have no regrets." - **Vanessa Gomez**

"I regret not asking Vanessa Gomez out sooner." - **Ernesto Garcia**

"I regret staying for layout." - **Kathleen Madera**



"My senior regret is not having a life outside of school." - **Melanie Mayorga**

"I regret not valuing my true friends and wanting to be with people who I thought were cooler." - **Michael Neely**



# 14 SENIOR WILLS



I, **Kaylyn Roberson**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my awesome color guard skills to Sandye, my weirdness to Jasmine, my random moments to Ashley and finally, my senior awesomeness to my brother Kevin.

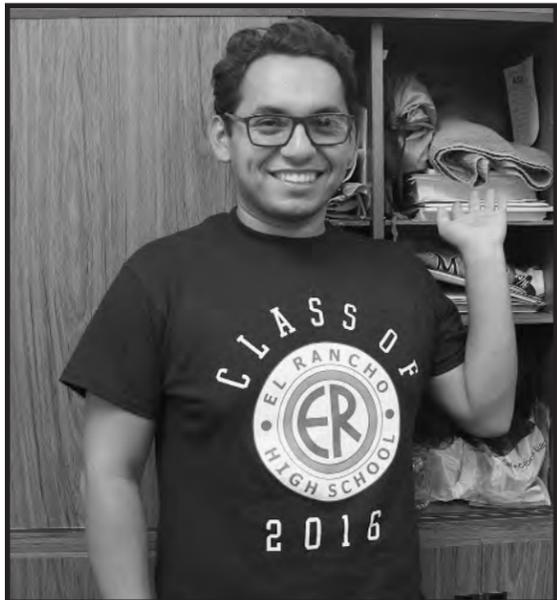
I, **Erick Garcia**, being of sound body and mind, do hereby bequeath the following: my PS4 to Armando Tapia, my girlfriend to Alex Garcia, and my money from last year to Mauricio Alcatraz.

I, **Alexis O'Neal**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my mad roast skills and judgement by zodiac signs to Nayeli Hernandez, my meme collection and swag to Diego Guerrero and Grace Garcia, my good hair and make-up days to Daniel Soto (even though he's always on fleek anyway), and my endless snacks to Briana Baesa and Ivy Castillo (have fun in stats).

I, **Christopher Glock**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the spread of free love.

I, **Anthony Payan**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my black van to Andrew Gonzalez, the \$5 in my bank account to Leanne Payan, and my saggy speedos to Alberto Navarro.

I, **Joshua Pedroza**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my swank to Scout, my Flows to Matt, and my Soul to Ramiro.



I, **Luis Garcia**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my cubby to Ashley Herrera, my ASB tape to Renne Gallegos, my sassy ways to Samantha Leggis, my complicated attitude to Yasmin Ramos, my poster making skills to Emily Lopez, my lane one spot to Andrew Gonzales and finally my swim league cap and goggles to Leanne Payan.

I, **Brandon Stuck**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My MMA gloves to Andrew Perez and my football to Richard Lopez.

I, **Jerry Cabral**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My notebook to my friend, Casper, my legacy of my hard work in baseball to the school, and my cap to Pop.

I, **Jackie Rivera**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my stress to the class of 2017.

I, **Briana Anguiano**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my AI twerking skills to Jasmine Bernal, my stinky rainbows to Doreen Vallejos, my lunch number to Rochelle Beal, my flecky eyeliner skills to Franchesca Castagna, my good grades to Briana Baesa and Nayleen Ortiz, the \$70 bill for previously breaking my phone to Valeria Perez, and a bottle of Pepto Bismol to Kristine Guterrez.

I, **Valeria Gomez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My jerking skills to the soul of El Rancho, my hype to Scottie Estrada, my scooter to Christian Arteaga, my way with words ;) to Olivia Ball, my burnt hair to Luis "Ratchet" Rodriguez, my broken teeth to Ashley Herrera, my motherhood to Samantha Leggis, my Twitter fingers to Layla Prieto, my sk8 hi's to Yasmin Ramos, and my chair to Jackie Santos. <3



I, **Kevin Morales**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My love for League of Legends to my fallen doggo Ricky, my hot math account to future students, and finally, my passion for Gatorade to others.

I, **Jacob "Bacon" Amavizca**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my great looks (and the improv team) to Vanessa, my stubbornness to Ivy, my corn nut (I can stop whenever I want) addiction to Rodrigo, my funosity to Scottie, my love for Bacon (it's a proper noun) to Peter, my clumsiness/lexia to Natalie and finally, the responsibility of taking care of the Little Theatre (especially Wlasick) to all the future Adv. Drama students. #Troupe2164!!

I, **Matthew Munoz**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my cereal boxes to Mario Cervantes.

I, **Manny Cruz**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My senioritis to Sebastian, my cerebral cortex to Olivia, and my dank vape tricks to Ivy.

I, **Francisco Garcia**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my poster-making skills and cubby to Samantha Leggis, my chair to Ashley Herrera, my social ways to Layla Prieto, my Disney shirt to Gabriela Castro, my ditching skills to Jaime Baeza, and my letter and patches to Yasmine Ramos.

I, **Jonathan Contreras**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my running speed to Geo Navarro, the pain/joy of doing a 400-meter run to Armando Godoy, my social awkwardness to Santiago Vasquez, a spot in the 4x4 varsity to whoever can run the 400, my cool track stuff to my cousin Charlotte Barrera, and my awesomeness to Anthony Rodriguez and Marcus Silva

I, **Alexis Parra**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my passion for Link Crew to Danae Rodriguez and Zuleyka Razo, my stress relievers and ability to constantly smile to my "daughter," Samantha Berrospe, my positive attitude to Nayeli Hernandez, my love for school and campus involvement to Mr. Rojo's first period.

I, **Biane Arias**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love for roller coasters to Hugo Vera, my cubby to Sarah Navarro, and my preschool class to Emily Lopez.

I, **Monet Barron**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my intelligence and knowledge of everything to Klarissa Olivarez, my mad photography skills to Evelin Salas Melgoza (because she needs it), my AI skills in MW3 to Jaime Lugo, even though he beat me every time, all of my Twenty One Pilots merchandise to Jazmen Cabrera and, I guess my killer looks, great personality, and "Taylor Swift" dance moves will be distributed amongst the underclassmen.



I, **Precious Marquez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my ballet shoes and class ring to Vincent Fuentes, and my homework to Patricia Soto.

I, **Cecily Hughes**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my throwing shoes to Alexis, my favorite discus to Carolina, and all my senioritis problems to Emily.

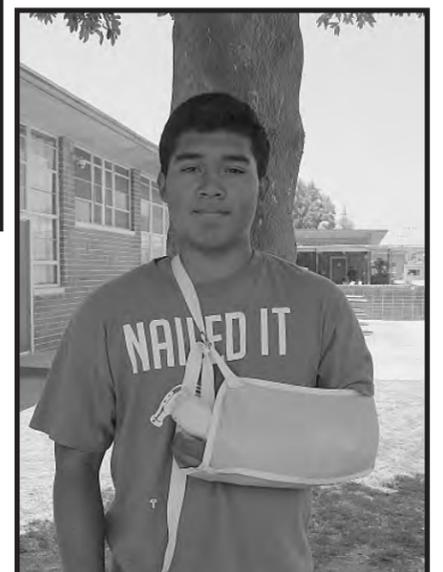
I, **Gina Leon**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my rifle to Jasmine.

I, **Elizabeth Martinez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my title "Pun Girl" to Grace Garcia, my decision-making skills to Diego Guerrero, my spot in the Decath room to Marcela Cisneros, and my hilarious puns to Melanie Gallegos.

I, **Anissa Soto**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my final yearbook photo to the Yearbook Staff, my support to the class of 2017, and lastly my massive stress to all ERHS underclassmen.

I, **Isaiah Araujo**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my dodgeball championship to Ricky Rizo and Bobby Banuelos, my number to Nick Powers, my locker to Adam Chandler, my wheelchair to Andrew Buddha, and my hands to James Garcia, Bert Sanchez, and Jason Vela.

I, **Vincent Fuentes**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Letterman Jacket to Precious Marquez, and my baseballs to my team.



I, **Anthony Miralrio**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my football skills to Danny, my dancing skills to Jessie, and finally my love to the Throwers.



I, **Daniel Lopez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My locker, and catch phrases- "Later!" "What?" "Not with that attitude"- to Ivy Castillo, my ability to make cheesy puns to Junior Manning, and finally, my quick reflexes to Rodrigo Aguilar.

I, **Crystal Sanchez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my awesomeness to my lil brother Bert, my sassiness to Kristine, my GPA to Valeria, my dancing moves to Baesa, my "ratchet" music to Grace Garcia, my cheer shoes to Doreen and Nayleen, my boba to Ivy, my dramatic attitude to Olivia, my senioritis to Mia, and finally my loud obnoxiousness to Diego.

I, **Ernesto Garcia**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my volleyball shoes to Leo, my backpack to Sebastian, and my cross country jersey to McLovin.

I, **Kaleena Hudson**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Hot Cheeto bags, wokeness, dragging skills, and love for movies to Nayeli Hernandez.

I, **Destiny Garcia**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: chicken, donuts, and glitter skills to Jackie and Sinai; chalk and pre-meet rituals to Sam, Bri, and Laura; and my procrastination to the class of 2017 and following classes.

I, **Brian Rodriguez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the responsibility of finding another Brian to be in drumline before I graduate, to Brian Cobian.

I, **Wynonah Herrera**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sleep deprivation and good headphones to my sister Katie.

I, **Daisy Preza**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My sassy attitude to Nicole, my weird personality to Monica, and love and support to Amy.

I, **Ana Silva**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My red NXY lipstick and savageness to Sofia Rodriguez, my blue high top vans to Marissa Sendejas, my senioritis to Jasmine Chan, my mad test taking skills to Anthony Silva, and my sassiness to Martin Perez.

I, **Bobby Ramirez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my baseball glove to Bob, my football cleats to Adam, and my wholeness to Buddha.

I, **Madeleine Murrieta**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My belongings to Alonzo Murrieta.

I, **Vanessa Torres-Celaya**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my cap and gown to Janina Celaya Negrette, along with all of my bad habits.

I, **Apryl Moeller**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My best 4 years in cross country and 3 1/2 years in track and field to my fellow teammates.

I, **Kaleena Hudson**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my Hot Cheeto bags, wokeness, dragging skills, and love for movies to Nayeli Hernandez.

I, **Kelly Lugo**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my ASB cubby, chair, and mic to both Bert Sanchez and Mia Alvarez, my amazing poster making skills and position of Pep Commissioner to Miranda Zorrilla (2018), my school spirit and love for school events to my baby brother Jaime Lugo, and last but not least my wackiness to my best friend Esther Rios.

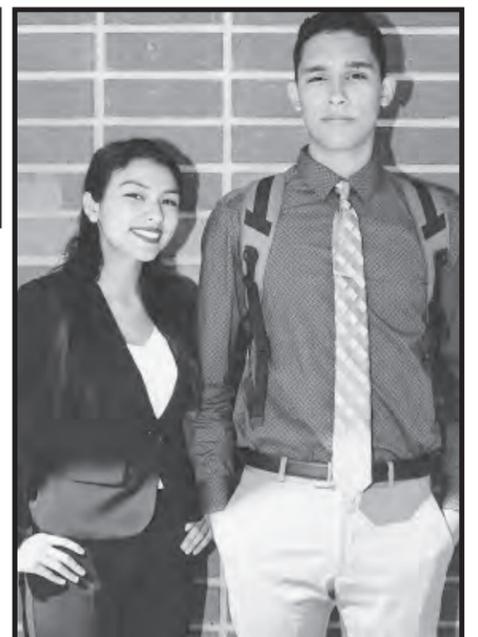
I, **Joe Gonzalez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my #honesty #church with good passion to Sebastian Arzate, Camaro to Blass Perez, and my Active socks to Mr. No Back!

I, **Martin Zamarripa**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My best wishes for the upcoming El Rodeo Staff of 2016-2017 and the new age of young goons that will be a part of this incredible class. I would like to pass over my award winning coffee making skills and espresso addiction to Izaiah Morales, my procrastinating habits to Nayeli Hernandez, and my American Spirits to Jacob Quesada. I hope that the rest of upcoming El Rancho students that I did not mention in this will become successful with their hopes and dreams. "Stay hungry, stay foolish." Always remember the OG (locked out) homies."

I, **Melanie Mayorga**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My lunch bench in front of the faculty center to my sister Melissa, my sassy remark making ability to Sofia, my amazing leaps to Jasmine, all Uber/Lyft codes to Kristine and Fran, my sleep deprived senior year to Valeria, and some of my brain cells to Baesa and Doreen.



I, **Danielle Espinosa**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my tumbling skills to Jessica Lemus, my funny dancing skills to Valeria Perez and Doreen Vallejos, my flying skills to Amberly Recendez and Nayleen Ortiz, all of my hoodies to Bree Islas, my respect to Lisette Zuniga (Moe), my boy advice to Tania Martinez, my personality to Grecia Verduzco and Briana Baesa, my humor to Rochelle Vela, and finally, the early rides to school with my mom, along with all of my love, to my brother Michael Espinosa.



I, **Isaac Carlos**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my annoying-ness and locker to Sophia Flores (Vanessa TC seconds), my great looks to Rodrigo, and my life to the Drama Department and its cast.

I, **Shaniah Santos**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: the mic, stage, and my poetry skills to Nayeli (knock 'em dead next year), my calculator and math skills to Elaine and Connor, my racket and spikes to Jesielle, Jen, Vivi, Steph, and Emilie, the entire library and all of its books to Jewel, my biology book and cookies to Kat, and lastly, my good behavior to my brother Michael (please stop throwing fart bombs in class. Jk...maybe). I love, and will undeniably miss, all of you (except Michael). Good luck! MAKE MAMA PROUD.

I, **Ivy Guerra**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My Link Crew knowledge to Darlene Garcia. My seniorities to Miguel Juarez. my procrastination to Jackie Garcia.

I, **Marissa Armstrong**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: My amazing article-writing/editing skills to Marissa Mestas; my varsity B-slot genius to Diego Guerrero; all the memes and minions, and my spot in the decath room to Grace Garcia; my table in the library to Britney Diamond Bernal; and my awe-inspiring poetry and performance skills to Sam Berrospe, Nayeli Hernandez, and Kathy Zavala. To the decathlon team, I leave all my love, fondest memories, and chronic sleep deprivation. Take it all the way to state next year (I know you will), and take care of the decath room (I know you won't). And finally, to Angel Jauregui, I give full custody of my hypothetical daughter, Persephone. Raise her well.



I, **Sofia Roman-Lopez**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my love of all things Disney to Jasmine, my ASB cubby to Gabby, my art skills and gray cardigan to my sister, my love of Star Wars to Hugo, my soul to Grace, my ASB position to Layla, Jocelyn can take what she likes, and laughter & new memories to next year's ASB class.

I, **Sabrina Uribe**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my lipsticks to Valeria, my lips to Kristine, my brain cells to Doreen and Baesa, my dancing skills to my Song children, my GPA to Nay, my savageness to Roch and my motivation to Sarah.

I, **Cristian Riesgo**, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following: my wokeness to Nayeli, my dance moves to Petey, and my dank meme collection to Olive.



# 16 PICTURE THIS



*Jose Ramos gets a taste of Dracula at the Blood Drive.*



*Daniel Dueñez saves a life with his selfless actions.*



*Liliana Martinez and Efrain Gonzalez enjoy a romantic night at prom.*



*Alex Barajas, Kaylyn Roberson, and Luis Hurtado having a great time.*



*Cheyenne Figueroa and Katrina Kaevalin smile with much joy at prom.*



*Wesley Frazier's simple irresistibly catches on with the ladies.*



*Justin Uribe, Sixto Valle, Edwin Estrada, and Berenize Vazquez sing karaoke at prom.*



*Rafael Garcia, Emilio Mendoza, and Jose Ramos suited up at prom.*



*Angel Ramirez gears up for an epic throw.*



*Samantha Quirate, Julian Lopez, Saul Aguilar, and Ashley Elizondo prepare for Senior Sunset.*



*Ricardo "Super Saiyan" Toriz inspires the crowd.*



*Marissa Armstrong is very joyous with her fellow seniors.*



*Wlasick commands a large crowd of watermelon eating seniors.*



*Ivan Garcia reaching for the ball during the Senior Picnic softball game.*



*Carmen Razo wins the pie-eating contest at Senior Picnic.*



*Teachers, Whittier, Porter, and Sanchez, get ready for the big dodgeball showdown.*



*Daniel Larios strikes back at dogeball oponent.*

# 18 STAFF FAREWELLS

“I would like to thank the entire El Rancho staff for making this school what it has become today. I would personally like to point out the teachers and friends that have helped me through difficulties throughout my high school years. I would like to thank Mr. Elias for teaching me the importance in financing, Mrs. Gregg for being one of the greatest teachers I’ve ever had, Mr. Zeko for being our actual father, not really, Mrs. Sedano for always coming through with a classroom during lunch, and Mrs. Nasouf for baring with my clumsiness. I would also like to mention the passionate love I have for the *El Rodeo* staff, whether it was a slow or hectic day, we always made the best out of them. I will never forget the time I burned part of Nayeli’s hair. Much love for Vanessa Gomez, Katherleen Madera, Adriana Carchipulla, Marissa Armstrong, and Michael Neely. I know something great will come out of all of your hard work. I will never forget the wonderful and terrible times I shared with my other half, Soledad Mendez, tell your mom to

If there is one thing I could say about *El Rodeo*, it’s that I wish I had joined sooner. Being a part of the staff over the past nine months has been an honor. From being head of sports, to writing point and counterpoint articles against my great friend Michael Neely, this year of writing has been a blast. I want to thank leaders of the newspaper staff, Vanessa Gomez and Sol Mendez, for all the hardwork they put into the paper, and how they led the class everyday. I would like to thank Mr. Zeko for being a wonderful instructor. He taught us how to do so much and has ultimately helped me improve my writing. To the rest of the staff, we had the best times in this class. I’ll never forget all the laughs we had in layout, and the great moments of creating a newspaper together. I hope to see some of you pursue a career in journalism just like myself. *El Rodeo* is something I am really going to miss. Coming to class every day to write, edit, layout etc. was something I always looked forward to doing. I honestly couldn’t ask for a better class. Finally, to all the readers, through all the 15 plus articles I have written, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my opinions and sports articles. It’s going to be really hard to say goodbye as it was an honor being on the newspaper staff. Farewell *El Rodeo*.  
**Tim Riesgo**



wait for me. Last but not least, I would also like to recognize Mr. Zeko for always giving the most useful advise an El Rancho Senior could ever need.”  
**Martin Zamarripa**



“Your intellect may be confused, but your emotions will never lie to you”- Roger Ebert.  
I can honestly say that writing and participating in journalism has been the highlight of my high school experience. Writing for *El Rodeo* must involve passion. Otherwise, articles come across as very flat and lacking substance. The school newspaper definitely has its strengths, from the colorful student and staff features to the informative, globally relevant articles. Not to be confused, however, the soul

I will miss this school and this wonderful staff of *El Rodeo* Newspaper. Mr. Zeko is such a great teacher, I will especially miss him with how fun he is and the way he makes fun of me for being wacky, silly, funny, and unique. It may seem like I said he would be describing the same thing about me, but the descriptions came from different situations. Since I bring up so many different ideas and stories, I feel proud of making my mark every time an article makes it to the newspaper. I find the way the staff functions is unique for getting many ideas popped up, working tremendously hard on every article, having fun when there is free time, and celebrating an awesome newspaper every month. Every time I come into the classroom, I find something different ranging from announcements to random, goofy actions. Ultimately, I love the staff and I will miss them every minute.

**Ernesto Hernandez**



issue and all the goals we met this school year. Yet, I find myself needing to bring attention to the creativity and appeal of the team’s ideas, rather than merely its writing and photo quality. The one aspect of human life that drives every reporter to put out his/her best article is the emotions that lead us to realize our full vision onto a black document. *El Rodeo* is not just a newspaper, but also a conglomeration of art, the human spirit, and the desire to initiate a change in the world.

I’m going to miss the comfort of locating, writing, and translating the news to anyone curious enough to read it. I’ll miss arguing with Tim Riesgo as we discuss how apparently ignorant we both are because of our political views. I’ll miss the warm feeling of accomplishment when Mr. Zeko distributed his pins to the two “panthers” of every issue, the way we congregated to the board to make sure the next issue would be the best one yet, and most of all, the fulfillment of walking into X-1 after putting out a damn good paper and hearing students praise its worth. *El Rodeo* changes lives like no other group activity can, every student has an opinion that needs to be heard, and this paper will not be issued until that voice is heard. Thank you to everyone who made this year absolutely perfect. See you in the newspapers.  
**-Michael Neely**

of the paper belongs to its leaders, Vanessa Gomez, Sol Mendez, and of course, the infamous Mr. Paul Zeko. I can assure any student that without the presence and constant reassurance from these idols, the journalism team wouldn’t have had the passion for carrying through with its responsibilities. I would like to thank and congratulate these individuals, along with the excellent collection of students who worked their hardest to make everyone feel special. As copyeditor of the newspaper staff, it’s fitting to glorify every

It has been a crazy year with this staff and there’s really no words to describe all the emotions I’ve felt throughout this journey. It was fun taking pictures of these halls for two years, but taking them for the school newspaper was amazing. I really enjoyed the experience of trying to get a front cover photo at the beginning of the year. Once I did, Homecoming, it felt really rewarding and continued to be. Journalism has really put all my skills to the test and made me improve on them. Thank you all.  
**John ‘Raxzal’ Hidalgo**

Throughout my four years of high school, journalism has by far been my favorite class. I have always been interested in being a writer for a newspaper and contributing to something that many people will be able to read. However, I was always too afraid to join because I felt as if my skills were not up to par with others. My only regret is not joining sooner than I did and only being able to experience one year of the making of *El Rodeo*. This year was great and I wish all of my journalism family the best!  
**Julian Lopez**



I want to thank the journalism staff for a great year; although at times it was stressful it was all worth it in the end when we were able to see our final product, all nine issues. I also want to thank you all for pulling through in El Rodeo's first page issue ever! and a special thank to Mr. Zeko for allowing us to do so. We did a great job! A special thank to Ernesto in the class for the full year and always there to help during layout. I would also like to thank Mr. Zeto for making the entire year and for all the laughs with the senior year great. I thank everyone for best in their endeavors!  
-Vanessa Gomez

I would like to thank Mr. Zeko for giving me the opportunity of being part of the staff. X-1 has been a second home for me and it has been a fun year. Yes, journalism is a lot of work but it is worth all the time spent in making the paper because a lot of memories were made throughout the year. One memory that stands out is when Sol tried to ride a skateboard in class and then she fell and broke her phone. Although it was sad that her phone broke, it was still a funny memory. I would like to thank all the people in the staff for making this a great year especially, Vanessa Gomez who kept us all on track and made sure every issue was better than the previous one. For the seniors in the staff, I just want to say good luck out there in the real world and hopefully we see each other in the future.

**Ernesto Garcia**

Bye.

**Matthew Marroquin**

Congratulations to all my seniors! I cannot thank this year's news staff enough for their professionalism, commitment to learning the art of journalism, and dedication to meeting deadlines.

The 2015-2016 staff really took the initiative to transform our publication into a 21st century media outlet. From Vanessa creating elrodeonline.com to Sol and Alexis' constant Twitter barrage, *El Rodeo* finally became a true combined source of traditional and digital information.

I wish the seniors continued success as they pursue their higher education and career goals. Hopefully the lessons learned creating this publication will in some small way help inspire future creative pursuits.

A special thanks to Mr. Neely for so diligently copy editing each issue, to Marissa Armstrong for joining us the second semester (you are a terrific writer), to John and Julian for your "sick" photo skills, to Vanessa Gomez for being one of the strongest leaders who has ever filled the role of Editor-in-Chief, and finally to Sol Mendez for three years of dedication to *El Rodeo*-you will always be the "Sol" of our newspaper.

**Mr. Zeko**

Darlings!  
Journalism has been one crazy trip. There is a reason why I stayed for 3 years. Mr Zeko thank you for showing me a lot of all the teachers Thank you for being my biggest support I will forever cherish my time writing for the newspaper If I have a bright future Thank you all for being my light! Much Love!  
Sol Mendez



Vanessa Gomez, Katheleen Madera, and Adriana Carchipulla

I joined journalism early this school year because I didn't want to have an open sixth, rather a class that would count as an A-G course. I joined believing it was an easy class with minimal responsibility, but I was wrong. Nevertheless, I do not regret taking the class because I learned how to write like a reporter. There are definitely a lot of things I can take from my experience in journalism. There was never a dull moment, especially with Mr. Zeko's sense of humor. Journalism helped me become a more open and social person and I am honestly going to miss everyone. Although staying after school for layout was stressful, in the end it was an overall great experience made better by the presence of my closest friends, Adriana and Vanessa.

**Katheleen Madera**



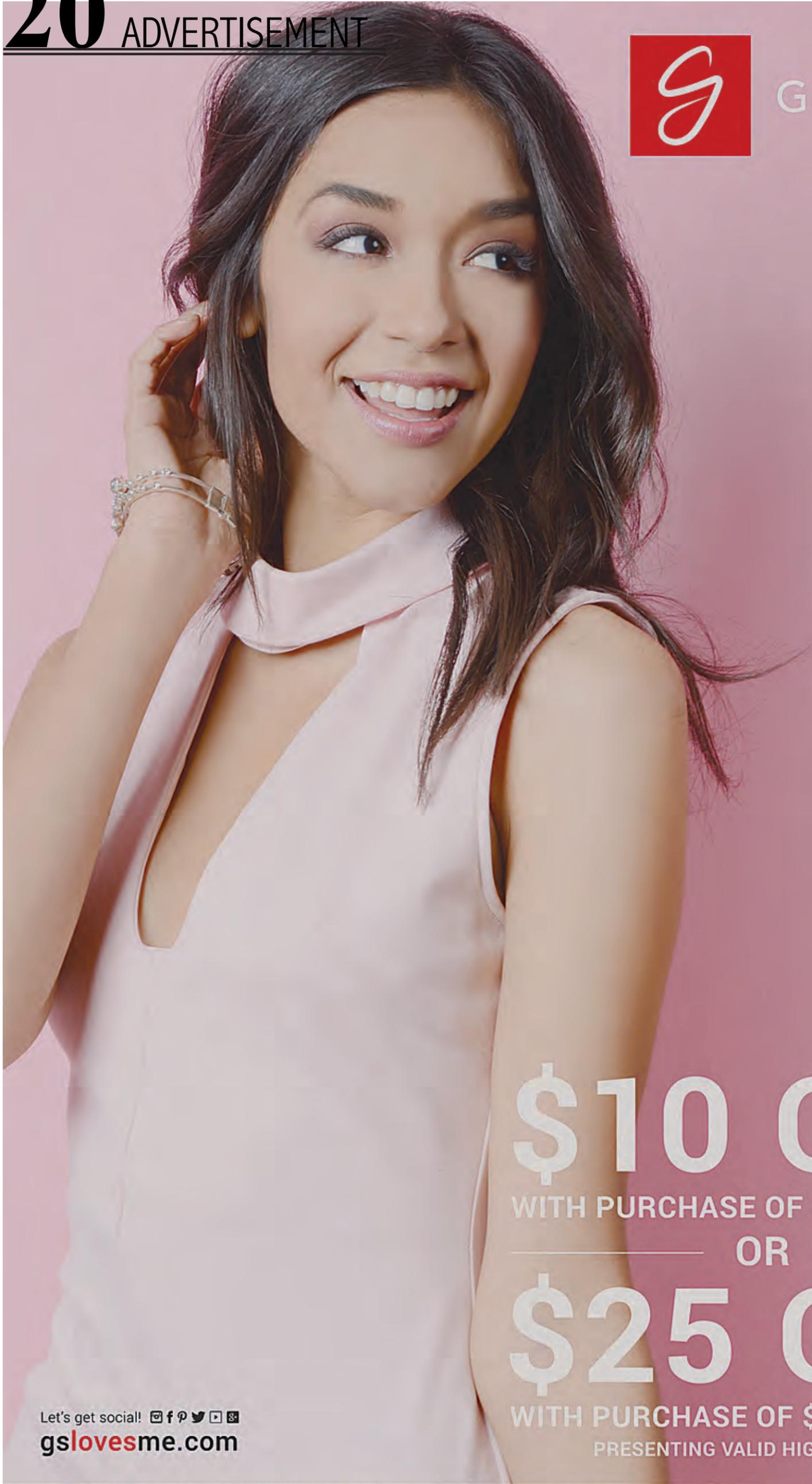
I am so grateful that I was able to be a part of News Staff, even if only for a semester. I'm so glad Mr. and Mrs. Zeko convinced me to join. Thank you so much Mrs. Zeko for not taking no for an answer! I have had so much fun getting to know everyone, and I will always have fond memories of my time here. My only regret is that I didn't join sooner. I have loved learning to write and edit articles and expand my skills as a writer. I know it will be extremely useful in my future career. I am so grateful for the friends I made here and the experiences I had. Mr. Zeko and all the staff have created a family that I will miss so much. Thank you all once again for giving me this experience. I will definitely look back on this as a highlight of my high school years. I will never forget this family. I love them all.

**Marissa Armstrong**





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