



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School

Volume 65, Issue 8

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#ERIGotIn: Successful Seniors

The class of 2017 used #ERIGotIn to share their college acceptances across Twitter.

Rebecca Aleman: Accepted to Stanislaus State University, Channel Island, and Azusa Pacific University. **Committed to Grand Canyon University.**

Ariana Ramos: Accepted to University of Oregon, SFSU, Manhattanville College, Sacramento State University, HSU, Whittier College, University of the Pacific, and UCR.

Samantha Leggis: Accepted to CSUF, Cal Poly Pomona, UCSC, University of La Verne, University of the Pacific, and Whittier College.

Amy Navarro: Accepted to CSUEB, CSULA, SJSU, Whittier College, and UCR.

Johanna Caprietta: Accepted to CSULA, CSULB, CSUF, Cal Poly Pomona, UCI, and UCSC. **Committed to UCLA.**

Aaron Gallegos: Accepted to CSULA, SJSU, CSUMB, University of the Pacific, JP Catholic University, and Benedictine University at Mesa. **Committed to SFSU.**

Maricruz Gamero: Accepted to CSUDH, Cal Poly Pomona, CSUMB, Mt. Sac, and Cerritos College.

Nathalie Medrano: Accepted to HSU, CSUEB, Norte Dame De Namur University, and CSUC.

Ashley Meza: Accepted to University of La Verne, Woodbury University, and CSULA.

Fernando Vargas: University of Colorado- Colorado Springs, UCR, and CSULA. **Committed to CSUF.**

Armando Godoy: Accepted to Cal Poly Pomona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, NYU, Whittier College, CSUF, CSULB, University of the Pacific, and Butler University. **Committed to UCSD.**

Celeste Carillo-Muñoz: Accepted to Otis College of Art and Design.

Gabriela Gonzalez: Accepted to UCM, Biola University, CSULA, SFSU, and CSUDH.

Grace Garcia: Accepted to CSULA, CSULB, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and UCSB. **Committed to UCSD.**

Katherine Piña: Accepted to CSULA, SJSU, Whittier College, and UCM.

Jocelyn Ortega: Accepted to CSULB, CSULA, Whittier College, University of La Verne, and UCR.

Heaven Vasquez: Accepted to Oregon State University, CSUC, University of the Pacific, HSU, and Point Loma Nazarene University.

Danica Kantor: Accepted to CSULA, CSUCI, Regis University, University of La Verne. **Committed to UCR.**

Adrian Flores: Accepted to CSUF, CSULA, University of the Pacific, Carthage University, UCM, and UCSD.

Adrian Garcia: CSUN and UCR.

Robert Bañuelos: Accepted to ELAC.

Crystal Galvan: Accepted to CSULA, CSUDH, CSUEB, and Whittier College. **Committed to Mount Saint Mary's.**

Jason Bravo: Accepted to CSULA and HSU.

George Patino: Accepted to CSULA and CSUEB.

Pedro Salcido: Accepted to HSU and San Francisco Art Institute.

Jocelyn Estrada: Accepted to University of La Verne, CSUDH, Cal Poly Pomona, UCSC, UCR, and UCSB. **Committed to CSUF.**

Samantha Berrospe: Accepted to CSUEB, CSUN, CSUF, HSU, Chapman University, University of La Verne, Azusa Pacific, Holy Names, Woodbury University, and Willamette University. **Committed to UCR.**

Nayeli Hernandez: Accepted to UCSB, UCD, Chapman University, Seton Hall University, Emerson College, SDSU, HSU, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. **Committed to UCSD.**

Little Me makes it big in Little Theater

This weekend, El Rancho's drama department will be performing a production of Neil Simon's comedic musical, *Little Me*.

Little Me is based on the novel *Little Me: The Intimate Memoirs of the Great Star of Stage, Screen, and Television/Belle Poitrine* by Patrick Dennis. Some might recall Patrick Dennis from the drama department's fall production of *Auntie Mame*, which makes this drama's year of Patrick Dennis.

The musical tells the story of an older Belle as she recounts the story of her life through her memoirs. The different stages of Belle's life can be determined clearly through the seven different husbands she's had throughout the duration of her life.

Seniors, Ivy Castillo and Xcaret Estrada, play the character of Belle Poitrine at different stages of her life. Castillo plays an older Belle, as she recounts the story of her life. Estrada plays a younger Belle, which is a representation of the older Belle's memories on her journey to wealth, culture, and social position.

In the original Broadway production, Belle's seven husbands are played by the same actor. Drama teacher, Mr. Stan



El Rancho's drama department pays homage to the original Broadway production. Photo by Pedro Salcido

Wlasick, takes the same approach, in his casting of senior, Ethan Sepulveda, for the seven different husbands.

A significant part of the musical is Wlasick's hands on contribution: that's right, Wlasick takes the stage for the spring musical. Senior, Jose Alcala, takes the stage with Wlasick in their portrayal of the Buchsbaum Brothers.

Although the majority of Advanced Drama takes part in the production, try outs for the musical were open to anyone who wished to try out. Many members from choir also tried out and were casted for parts in the musical. Some cast mem-

bers such as seniors, Cristian Ramirez and Narelyn Felix, actually make their debut on stage during this spring production.

The musical also has the opportunity to be nominated in the Spirit of the MACY Awards, which was founded in 1969 and dedicated to encouraging, recognizing, and rewarding achievement and excellence in high school musical theatre. Last year's production of *Flower Drum Song* won a Classic Masterpiece Award. Individual Standard Awards were also awarded for last year's production. Senior, Olivia Ball, and junior, Sophia Flores, won the Bright Spot

Awards; senior, Shelsea Ascencio, won the Special Recognition Award; senior, Peter Saavedra, and junior, Ernesto Castro, won the Achievement Award; senior, Ivy Castillo, won the Outstanding Achievement Award; and seniors, Jocelyn and Xcaret Estrada, won the Highest Achievement Award.

Dress rehearsal for the musical was held at six P.M. on Wednesday and opening night was yesterday at 7 P.M. Buy your tickets for a Friday or Saturday viewing of the show at 7 P.M. for only ten dollars, don't let yourself miss out on a great opportunity to see your peers sing their hearts out and bring you some laughs.

Dons learn tragedies occur Every 15 Minutes



Every 15 Minutes was designed to warn students about the dangers of drinking and driving. Photo by Ethan Sepulveda

By ANTONIO CORTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The city of Pico Rivera and the Every 15 Minutes organization held a two day event at El Rancho high school warning El Rancho seniors and juniors on the dangers of drinking, texting, smoking and driving.

Day one of the event consisted of students viewing a life-like simulated car accident that involved Denise Medina and Andrew Minjares, victims, Joselyne Valadez and John Vargas, drivers. The simulated car accident involved real life police

officers, firefighters, and paramedics that arrived at the scene and rescued the students from the "car accident." The victims were then laid on the street left to be identified by the families.

On day two of the event, the seniors and juniors were escorted to the main gym during third period where they viewed the memorial service for the "deceased" students and to see a video of the crash. The memorial service had all the student participants of the program, organizers of the event, and law enforcement officers who also participated in the event.

The drunk driver, Joselyne

Valadez, was then supposed to read the letter she wrote to her family at the retreat. Her letter mentioned that she was sorry for not being the best daughter she could be but she's trying everyday to make herself a better person.

The retreat was held in a Montebello church. Students remained 24 hours at this location with various school administrators and the people who put on the Every 15 Minutes program.

While at the retreat center, students participated in team building activities and wrote letters to their parents. These letters were written as a re-

sponse from letters they previously received from their parents.

A total of twenty-four students participated in the event. Denise Medina and Andrew Minjares "died" at the scene and Joselyne Valadez and John Vargas, walked away with a variety of injuries. Twenty El Rancho students were pulled out of class and classified as victims of alcohol related car accidents. Those students were known as The Living Dead.

Students were then taken to a retreat center away from their friends and family for 24-hours. The students were not allowed to have their cell phones or any other electronic devices that could contact their friends or families, hence to signify that they couldn't call from the grave.

"I felt mad that I couldn't hang with my brother or with my friends anymore because I died," says Justin Tapia who was one of The Living Dead. "That's not how I want to go out. I want to go out on my own terms and I don't want my life to end at the hands of someone else's."

This event opened the eyes of many El Rancho students of the dangers that may come their way if they're not responsible when driving. El Rancho students witnessed their friends "die" in front of them and realize this may happen if they don't change their habits.

COMMUNITY

Wild animals; here with us, not for us



BY PEDRO SALCIDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When most El Rancho students think of circuses, they recall memories of food, clowns, and animals. We never really think of anything bad when we think of circuses—everything we come up with is happy.

When children think of circuses they admire how the wild animals do these amazing tricks and how the trainers are so brave to be in there with them.

Since 1782 humans have enjoyed these circuses with exotic animals and delectable cotton candy. The very first animals used in circuses were horses. Acrobats would mount these mighty

steeds and perform tricks such as handstands and dances. As the circus as a whole evolved, the ringleaders began to bring in wild and exotic animals such as lions, tigers, elephants, monkeys, etc.

As circus performances advanced, so did our knowledge and empathy towards animals.

Professionals have looked into and proved that exotic animals in captivity are beaten into submission and tend to retaliate against those who abuse them, proving danger on both ends of the spectrum.

Circuses are not only dangerous for the animals, but dangerous for the people who watch and work for them. The first citation recorded in the United States was

against Hawthorn Corporation in 1978, when an elephant picked up its trainer with its trunk and threw him into a pillar, killing him.

Many of these circuses have been cited for things such as animal abuse and neglect. Animals contracted diseases, didn't get proper treatment, and were malnourished.

Los Angeles' city council has banned all use of exotic animals in circuses.

Councilman David Ryu, who sponsored the measure, won the support of the other council members. Ryu was not alone in this endeavor to liberate our four-legged friends. He was accompanied by The Performing Animals Welfare Society

(PAWS) and The Humane Society of United States (HSUS).

PAWS and the national council member of HSUS, Cheri Shankar, led the effort for this reform to be passed.

This reform builds off of the policy banning bull hooks to be used when handling captive elephants from 2014.

Los Angeles is not the first to pass a ban like this. Other cities such as San Francisco, North Carolina, and New Jersey have placed similar bans in recent years, but Los Angeles is the second largest city in the nation to ever pass a ban like this.

The road has become clearer. We have won one battle for animals, but we have not won the war.

El Rodeo

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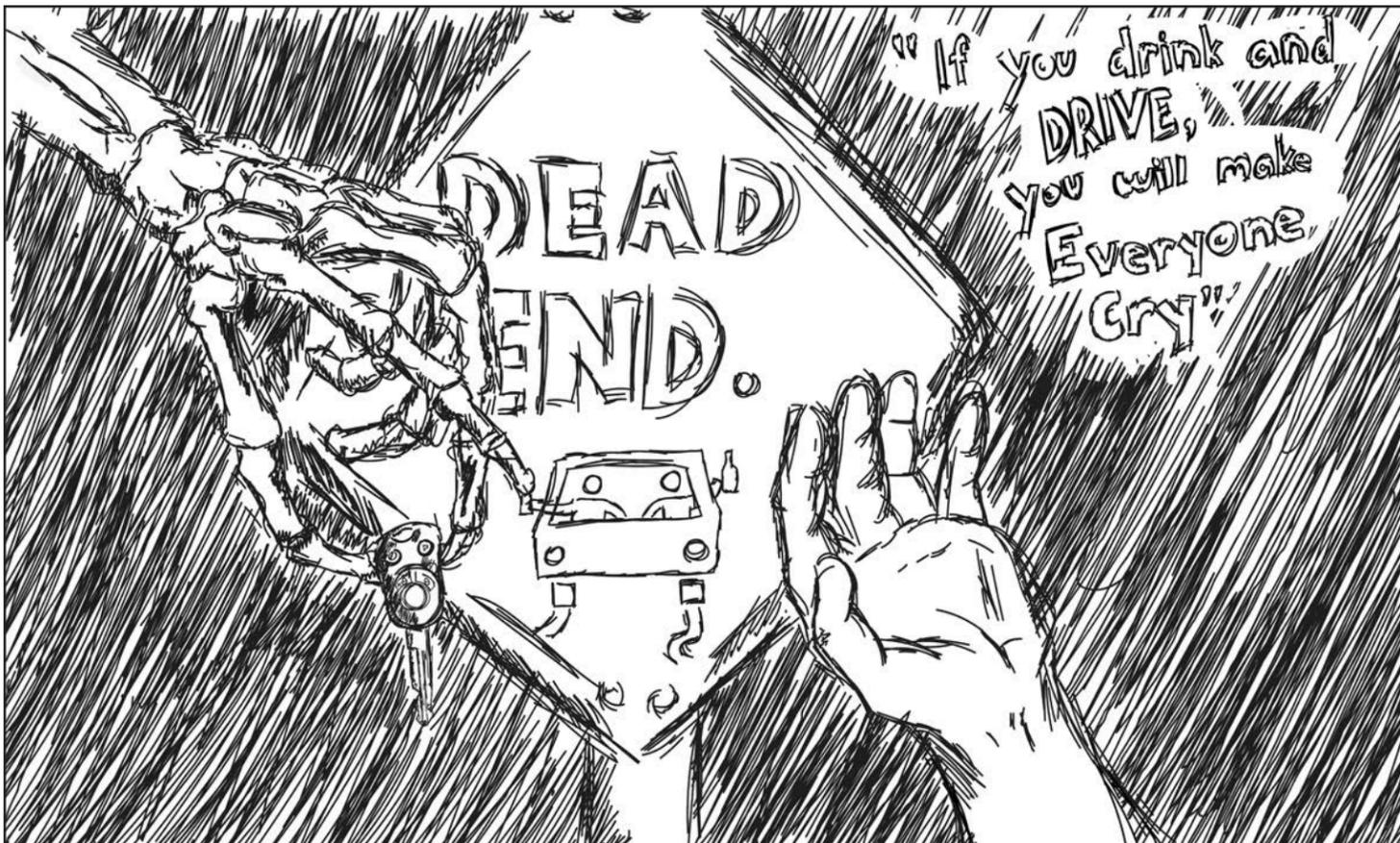
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El Rodeo, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position 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 school publications except insofar as it violates this section.



WORLD

Presidential Update: Trump's Missile Dump

By SKYLER CORNWELL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Considering what President Trump has already done to dismantle the social structure of America and ruin virtually everything, it's not the least bit surprising that he actually managed to make it even worse. On April 6, 2017, he believed it would be a great idea to launch fifty-nine Tomahawk missiles at an air base in Syria. What was the reason? Due to the fact of turmoil happening within...(wait for it) Syria, right after we demonized and banned them for fleeing to our country for a better life.

Here, we have a country that has been dealing with serious problems for years and suddenly America decides to add fuel to the fire, literally. The ridiculous trope that Americans are better than everyone else should henceforth be tossed in the garbage after this past month's events. It is no longer okay to think what we are doing as a country is at all in the name of justice. The rules and regulations of our nation's constitution have long been forgotten and replaced with chicken scratch

In fact, nobody perfectly summed it up quite like George Orwell in his book "1984"—**"WAR IS PEACE. FREEDOM IS SLAVERY. IGNORANCE**



IS STRENGTH." —The cold, raw irony in these statements could easily be described as the mantra of Trump, ignorance in its purest definition. Instead of taking care of our corrupt education system, offering healthcare to all Americans, and helping our immigrants and homeless, we spend millions of taxpayers' money, adding to this country's growing debt, to "send a message."

Doesn't Trump recall the Tweet he made on August 29, 2013, about the US being foolish

to attack Syria? "What will we get for bombing Syria besides more debt and a possible long term conflict?" Or the one he made on September 12, 2013. "We should stop talking, stay out of Syria and other countries that hate us, rebuild our own country and make it strong and great again-USA!" Does he remember any of it, or were those Tweets sent during late night trips to the toilet in which he unloads his huge piles of...

Now, Trump has landed himself in a stump with explain-

ing just exactly how he managed to legally order the missile attack without congressional authorization. Not surprisingly, he was unable to justify himself with proof that Congress was not at all involved in the idea. Almost like a child who had thrown a tantrum in a grocery store, Trump was scolded in a letter sent by Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia and Rep. Adam Schiff of California.

Kaine and Schiff wrote: "These assertions of authority do not...provide comfort to a public

that fears deeper involvement in a horrific civil war at a time when the U.S. troop presence in the region is already increasing," something that Trump should have already taken into consideration.

How many "warnings" should we give Trump before more lives are lost? How many "slaps on the hand" should he receive before we become the dystopian society that George Orwell accurately predicted we would come to? Fiction should remain that way.

Dozens of young girls reported missing in D.C.

By NAYELI HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Since the start of this year, over a dozen teenage girls have gone missing in Washington D.C. Recently, the issue was taken to social media, where this issue was quickly brought to light throughout all platforms because of the lack of media coverage in the news.

Since then, two 13 year old girls from D.C. have been found, but the issue had to be taken into the hands of those on outlets like *Twitter* due to the fact that the missing girls are black and Hispanic and it was almost as if news outlets could care less.

It's important to keep in mind that the attention brought to this issue would not have been so, had it not been for the work of black women across all social media platforms. Over 64,000 black girls/women have been missing across the nation and black women have been trying to bring attention to this issue for years.

Part of the reason that so many people are worried about these missing girls of color is that so many girls missing at once points toward the possibility of human trafficking or organ harvesting. It doesn't help that it seems as if law enforcement is doing nothing to solve the issue or find these girls.

Over a dozen girls of color have gone missing in Washington D.C., since January, and there is basically no media coverage. Had it been a group of wealthy, white

girls, it would take over every single news outlet available. Of course, had it been just one white girl, it would never have gotten this far. Yes, this is a perspective that is uncomfortable to even think about, but it is undeniable. If a six year old Caucasian girl in the rich part of town is reported missing, sure enough, there will be an Amber Alert within the hour. If a five year old black girl is reported missing from the projects, she is classified as a runaway until enough time has passed to actually classify her as missing.

Since 2010, there have been a reported 270,000 minorities missing and 64,000 of those minorities are black women. Yet, black women make up 13% of the population of women in the United States.

These points and ideas aren't "new" as black women have been pointing them out for years. How many more children will we lose until we come to the realization that we need to give missing children of color the same effort we give to white children? It's high time we listen to



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CAMPUS

Dons visit colleges in Northern California



BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

40 El Rancho juniors received an amazing opportunity to visit various colleges in the Northern California area from April 6th to April 8th. Generation 1st Degree Pico Rivera and the Be a Leader club sponsored the opportunity for the juniors to learn about colleges they might apply to because senior year and application season are both right around the corner.

College counselor, Ms. Nasouf, guided the group, who visited UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, Cal Poly State University-San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, and the University of San Francisco.

All UC eligible juniors were encouraged to apply. "I applied because, since I'm a first generation student, my parents don't know a lot of the things related to college and it's kind of hard to explain to them," says junior Ahtziri Sanchez, "and the trip was free so why not take the opportunity to go?"

"We selected students who would benefit from the trip, who really wanted to go, and who will be considering applying to those schools," said Be a Leader adviser, Michelle Sandoval. "We took their GPA into account, how much they've challenged themselves in their classes so far, and also what they've been involved in."

At the colleges, the students participated in student-led tours and panels, where they were able to ask questions about all things college. "My favorite day was when we visited UC Berkeley because we got a really cool tour from Justin Uribe, an El Rancho alumni," Sanchez said. "He showed us his favorite parts of the campus and described how it was coming from El Rancho and Pico Rivera all the way to UC Berkeley."

"At UC Santa Cruz we hiked a lot! To get to the campus it's all hills, so we were forced to hike, but it was fun," junior, Narai Soto said.

When they weren't busy touring campuses, the group spent some time at Pier 39.

"We got meal vouchers and were able to choose what we wanted to eat, and we had two hours of free time where we could visit shops and do whatever we wanted as long as we stayed on the pier," Soto said. "You could see the seals and there was a nice view of the Golden Gate Bridge."

The primary goal was for El Rancho students, "to picture themselves there and give them an idea of which campuses they would want to apply to," added Sandoval. "If they liked a campus they can aim and aspire to do better these upcoming semesters to make themselves as good of a candidate for applications."

"I really want to go to Berkeley because their math program is great," said Soto. "The trip made me realize that I have to try harder to get there."

For Sanchez, the trip was a bit of reality check. "It hit me like a ton of bricks!" she said. "We're literally applying next year in less than six months and that's kind of scary!"

Pride Alliance shows silence is more powerful than words

BY SKYLER CORNWELL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Day of Silence (April 21) is a nation-wide day in which schools come together in order to protest harassment, discrimination, and hate amongst LGBTQ+ youth. Many of these youth are subjected to verbal abuse and physical harassment on a daily basis. Repressing these behaviors in a school environment is characterized as discriminating, hateful, and will lead to dangerous consequences if it continues to be ignored.

It is important to bring these issues to light and stress the casualties of such a situation amongst teens who possess the charisma and voice that can make a difference for LGBTQ+ in today's society. If it's anyone who will cause change in the lives of



LGBTQ+, Dons, breaking the silence by popping the balloons.

Photo by Adam Allred

minorities across the globe, it is this generation. Now, almost everyone is determined and change-driven that there very well could be hope for generations after.

Students who participate in this day are, in an ironic way, speaking up for those who are forced into silence. When a person promises to give up their freedom of speech for an entire day they are also promising

to make a difference. They are establishing hope and support, signifying an unspoken bond between allies and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

At the end of the day, students gather together in a "breaking of the silence" ceremony. This action symbolizes the end of the silence and encourages LGBTQ+ to not be afraid of speaking up for their rights. Each year that

this event takes place is another step closer to spreading awareness and providing a safe future.

The Pride Alliance Club usually organizes and provides information for those seeking to either become a member or learn more about LGBTQ+. All are accepted and welcome. Meetings are every Thursday in room L-6.

Marching Dons make way to San Francisco Bay



The Marching Dons visiting the famous Golden Gate Bridge.

BY KATHERINE HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After a few months of long practices and learning copious amounts of musical pieces, during the weekend April 6th-9th. The Marching Dons traveled to San Francisco for the World Strides 2017 festival.

During a music festival, the bands are scored through the categories: average, bronze, silver, and gold. The dons scored an average of 86 points, which ranked them in the Silver category, and about three points away from Gold.

The Dons departed from El Rancho at 7 a.m., stopping in San

Luis Obispo. The first day of arriving at the hotel, in San Jose, the band ate dinner at Dave and Buster's in the Great Mall, then roamed the building after. "I was surprised at how long the drive was, but after the 10 hours, when we were in San Jose, we spent time hanging out at the mall, and I was excited for the coming weekend. I knew it would be fun," says junior Alex Alarcon.

The next morning, the band traveled to Foothill College for the festival. They performed the pieces *Chanteys* by Robert Sheldon, *Risk (Everything For A Dream)* by Richard L. Saucedo and, the closing piece, *March Independentia* by R.B. Hall.

The critique from the judge, after the performance, left the band anxious and euphoric for the awards ceremony at Six Flags Great America theme park. "It was nerve racking, but overall it was a great experience. I felt as a whole band, we did a great job," says freshman Steven Gutierrez.

Following the performance, they walked along the Golden Gate Bridge. Where the band admired the beautiful scenery of San Francisco. "It was a bit scary because I'm afraid of heights, but in the long run, I loved the view of San Francisco. It was beautiful", says senior Siann Rodriguez.

After visiting the Golden

Gate Bridge, they roamed around Union Square in Downtown San Francisco and visited the Saint Francis Hotel, then ate dinner at the Cathay House in Chinatown. "It was fun! I got to hangout with my friends and see new sights," says sophomore Dylan Joseph.

The following morning, the band visited Pier 39 in San Francisco.

After enjoying and roaming Pier 39, they arrived at Six Flags Great America for the awards ceremony, along with many other bands and choir groups. Closing the trip, the band scored Silver with an average score of 86 points. "I thought it was a great learning experience, to help us see how things would be in the professional field," says sophomore Kayla Perez.

On the band's way home, they stopped in Santa Barbara to visit the Santa Barbara Courthouse. The Santa Barbara Courthouse is famous for the hand-painted ceilings, wrought iron chandeliers, and giant murals. The long days played off, and they are hoping for next years festival to be just as great of a success.

Join band next coming school year to enjoy and participate in the fun!

Spirit week culminates in annual Don Games

ADAM ALLRED
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The week of April 3-7, El Rancho's Associated Student Body coordinated a spirit week in connection with Don Games. There were class competitions based on the teams of the games. The teams consisted of Freshmen and Seniors on Blue team, and Sophomores and Juniors on the Gray Team.

Monday, volunteers from each class played "Bubble Pop" and "Balloon Pop" in the quad.

Tuesday, team advisors and class captains battled it out in a lip-sync battle.

Wednesday was "Lunch

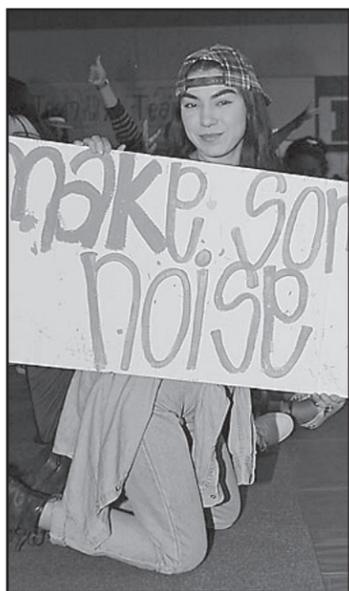
on the Lawn," where students were allowed to set out blankets and have a relaxing picnic in the quad. A Kona Ice food truck also visited the campus during lunch.

Thursday was the day of Don Games. Beginning at 7:30 pm, the Blue and Gray Teams competed in games in which points were awarded. At the end of the night, the Gray Team came out victorious over the Blue Team with a score of 300 to 250.

Friday was Pie-a-Teacher Day in the quad. For a small price of \$2, you were able to throw a plate of whipped cream in the face of a staff member of your choosing, out

of those who signed up to do so, of course. For \$5, however, you could pie Mr. Raygoza, letting him know of your feelings about the banned list!

Apart from the events at lunch, each day had a theme. Monday was Marvel-Blue vs DC-Gray. Tuesday was Blue-Stripes vs Gray-Plaid, Wednesday had Blue Team wearing Nike attire vs Gray team wearing Adidas attire. Thursday, each team was to wear the colors representing their team, while Friday was Freaky Friday where members of each team wore their clothes backwards.



Spirit week brings excitement to the Ranch.

Photo by Annual Staff

CAMPUS

Word on the Street: Banned List

"Is it fair for students to be banned from school events due to tardiness and absences? Will such punishments really affect them?"



No, I don't think the punishments will affect them unless they are really stuck on the "High school Experience." But other than that, if they don't care, students, will just do something else on their own time. **-Celeste Carrillo Grade, 12**

I understand the point of the banned list but the list isolates these students and make their senior year horrible... This list doesn't teach them anything and this punishment doesn't really affect them because all they do is go to Saturday school. So there is really no point in the existence of the banned list. **- Jennifer Rodriguez, 12**



I think it is fair to ban students from school events due to tardiness and absences. I believe this punishment will affect them because from personal experience, many students like going to school events. **- Eduardo Garcia, 12**

Prom Do's and Don'ts



BY ANDREYA YAXCAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

First time to prom? Follow these 10 tips of how to be a professional at the important night!

1. **Do** make sure your shoes are comfortable to dance in. Huge blisters are not needed to ruin your fun night.
2. **Do** plan ahead. Make a list of things that need to be done in advance to ensure all does well on your perfect night. This includes ride arrangements and locations for your pictures.
3. **Do** take tons of pictures! You'll want to remember all your great memories with your friends so don't forget those snaps.
4. **Do** relax. Before prom, make sure you take the day off from school, calm your nerves to relieve the stress before your prom night..
5. **Do** have fun! Enjoy the night with your friends and/or date and keep the conversations drama-free..
6. **Don't** forget to bring a pair of comfortable flats. You won't last the night with those six inch heels girl.
7. **Don't** try anything new the night before, including tanning and/or facials. Test it out three days before prom because you don't know how your skin will react to it.
8. **Don't** do drugs or drink alcohol. You don't need to be intoxicated to have a good time. Make memories that you'll remember!
9. **Don't** feel stressed about not having a date. Find a group of friends going solo and go as a group!
10. **Don't** avoid the dance floor. Dance the night away with your friends (bring deodorant) and

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EL RODEO STAFF WRITER
BY ANDREYA YAXCAL

Unhealthy relationships can ruin you and your high school experience. Take this quiz to ensure you are not in a toxic relationship! Be brave, and keep track of your score. *

Q1: Does this person threaten you to do anything you don't want to do, or keep you from doing something you want to do?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q2: Do you feel verbally abused by this person (name calling, cursing, constant criticism, etc.)?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q3: Does this person force or talk you into behaving sexually in ways you aren't comfortable with?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q4: Are you afraid to disagree with this person?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q5: Does this person ignore you, make fun of you, or dismiss your thoughts and/or feelings about something important to you?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q6: Does this person make decisions for you?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q7: Have you given up something important to you because this person pressured you to do so?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q8: Does this person lie to you?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q9: When you try to talk about something that is bothering you, does this person make you feel like it's your fault?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q10: When this person does something wrong, do they blame you for it?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q11: Does this person make excuses for their behavior (anger, jealousy, lies)?
+1 Rarely
+2 Sometimes
+3 Very often

Q12: Do you feel loved and cared for in this relationship?
+1 Very often
+2 Sometimes
+3 Rarely

Q13: Does this person show interest in you and your needs?
+1 Very often
+2 Sometimes
+3 Rarely

Q14: When this person does something wrong, do they take full responsibility for their actions?
+1 Very often
+2 Sometimes
+3 Rarely

Q15: Do you feel that this person is happy to have this relationship with you (be honest)?
+1 Definitely
+2 Maybe
+3 Not really

*Keep in mind that all relationships are subjective and no situation is exactly the same. If you feel that this relationship has passed serious measures, visit the *National Domestic Violence Hotline* or call 1-800-799-7233.

Results	Scores
Your relationship is healthy! Every relationship has areas that can improve and grow, but rest assured that yours is starting from a healthy place. Based on your answers, mutual caring, honesty and respect are regularly demonstrated in your relationship.	15-25
Not too bad! You may have some toxic elements, even if they do not occur frequently. If these problems are left unchanged and continue to hurt you, make progress towards a healthy change.	26-35
You are definitely in a destructive relationship and most likely in an abusive one as well. Try weighing out the pros and cons of keeping this relationship. You cannot make a relationship work all by yourself. You can make it better, but not alone.	36-45

TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Socially, high school is basically a man made torture device for young teens on their way to adulthood. Some people learn how to work the social hierarchy, but others aren't so lucky, so it's time to discuss toxic relationships.

It is almost too easy to end up in the middle of a toxic relationship in your youth, especially during high school, because we aren't taught how to maintain healthy and stimulating relationships.

Toxic relationships are more common than one would think. This could have to do with the fact that most people believe toxic relationships are the stereotypical kind portrayed in pop culture, where it is usually quite easy to see the signs and determine who the toxic person is.

Although any toxic relationship is difficult, there is a variety of instances in which a relationship is toxic. It can be between romantic partners, family, friends, coworkers, etc. It is important to remember that it is not your job to maintain any relationship that is draining you mentally and/or physically. If you find yourself in a toxic relationship that you are having difficulty leaving or letting go, consider

having a support group consisting of trusted people in your life that will help you let go or simply be with you until you are ready to leave the relationship.

If you are not sure whether you are in a toxic relationship consider the following: does the other person always put you down/criticize you? Do they dislike the idea of you having other friends besides themselves? Do they expect emotional labour from you without any reciprocation? Do they use gaslight you during arguments? Are you expected to fix your schedule around their lives but not vice versa?

If you answered yes to a majority of these questions, you might be in a toxic relationship. You can also take the quiz provided on these pages. Of course, every situation is different and nuances should be added, but it's important to be able to know the signs and red flags of being in a toxic relationship.

If you do not want to leave the relationship or aren't ready to let go, consider talking to the person and laying out your feelings. The conversation where everything is laid out on the table will let you know whether or not the relationship can positively evolve from the toxicness.

BTS breaks down barriers in the music scene

BY ALEKSEY SOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Meet BTS: a seven member boy group from South Korea that is making serious waves in the music industry, not just in the States, but worldwide. The group is made up of members Rap Monster (rapper), Jin (vocalist), Suga (rapper), J-Hope (rapper), Jimin (vocalist), V (vocalist), and Jungkook (vocalist).

In 2014, they passed out flyers for their first ever U.S. concert in Los Angeles. Three years later, they sold out five arenas across the United States and 27 other arenas, worldwide, in a matter of minutes.

"We hoped and we were like, 'Oh it'd be good if [the tour] sold out,' but when we heard it sold out in like minutes, we couldn't believe it," group leader, Rap Monster said in an interview with Billboard.

In 2016, BTS broke the record for the most viewed K-Pop music video in 24 hours with *Blood, Sweat, and Tears* from their second studio album, *Wings*. On February 12th, they broke

their own record after the release of *Spring Day* from the album's repackaged version, *You Never Walk Alone. Blood, Sweat, and Tears* is also the most streamed K-Pop group song on Spotify, with over 34 million plays. Their most viewed video is *Dope*, with over 151 million views.

Their sharp moves, aesthetically-pleasing videos, smooth vocals, and hard-hitting raps aren't the only elements that set them apart from the sea of manufactured idol groups; their lyrics put them on a different wavelength. They write and produce their own music and are one of the few Korean groups that do not shy away from heavier topics like societal problems, young-adult issues, and the pressures that come with success, including mental illness.

"We're always talking about crises [and] sorrows and feelings of getting lost," Rap Monster said. "It's very much an honor that we get power and attention from our fans when we use our voices more, and the bigger the voice that we get, the more powerful our words [will] become."

Their music earned them

their fame, and their fame recently earned them a nomination for the Billboard Top Social Artist award, where they're going head to head with some of the biggest names in Pop, such as Justin Bieber and Ariana Grande. They're only the second Korean act to ever be nominated for an award; the first was PSY.

They recently won a Shorty award for 'Best in Music', as well as the 'Artist of the Year' award at the Mnet Asian Music Awards in 2016, an award every Korean artist aspires to win at some point in his or her career.

BTS has even made fans out of American artists like Tinashe, Kehlani, The Chainsmokers, Charlie Puth. They also captured the attention of rapper, Wale. In March, both he and Rap Monster released *Change*, a politically charged rap single.

BTS proves that language barriers don't matter when it comes to enjoying good music. Check out their latest album or watch their latest music video on Youtube and find out for yourself why they deserve every bit of success coming their way.

TEEN SPIRIT

AP Stress Relief: Self-care methods for AP Week

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AP Week is closer than your 53% in math is to an A, so it's time for some AP Stress Relief tips! These exams can, obviously, create a lot of negative feelings for those taking the tests. Anxiety, unease, doubt, etc., are all feelings that many students will soon be familiar with in the upcoming week, but it's important to prioritize your mental and physical health.

Cramming is never a good idea, but if you just started paying attention to the material in the year long course you are taking, you may have no other choice! As AP Calculus AB/BC teacher,

Mr. Steven Francis, once advised, if you're going to cram, do it two days before the exam so that you only have a light review the day before, thus allowing you some time to relax before the test date.

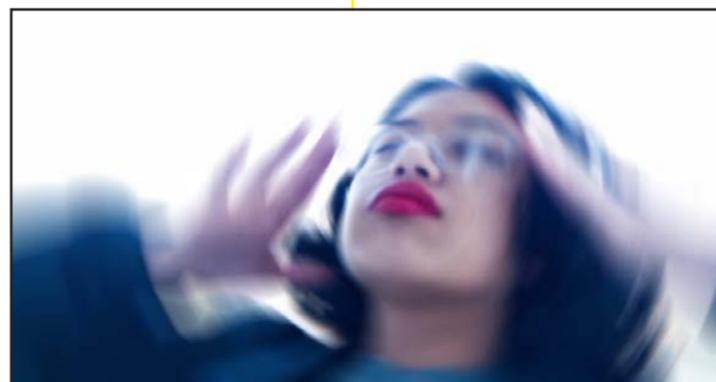
Although AP Week is often thought of as a week filled with sleepless nights and poor eating habits, that should not be the case. Cramming all night will not be beneficial to you, as a good night's rest is an important part of being alert for the exam. If it's 10:30 at night and you find yourself in and out of sleep over your APUSH notebook, close the book and slide into bed, your body will thank you later.

Sleeping early will give you the strength to wake up early and have time for break-

fast. It is so easy to skip meals in the morning, as they are usually hectic, but during such a busy week breakfast is vital. You can only run on an empty stomach for so long until you burn out.

Speaking of sleep, consider opting out your morning caffeine for water or a smoothie. Coffee may keep you alert for some time, but it is only a matter of time until you crash. Make sure to carry snacks around, if possible, so that you can stay alert and possibly calm your nerves. Almonds, trail mix, and peanut butter are some good options that will also benefit you health wise.

If you have trouble sleeping due to nerves, or anything else, consider some light exercise right before bed or even some relaxing



A very stressed Nayeli Hernandez by Ethan Sepulveda

time for yourself. Just because you have an exam does not mean you should toss all self care aside. Put on a face mask, make yourself some chamomile tea, read a book, take a bath, fall asleep to the sound of rain or white noise, but do not forget to take time for

yourself. The week will be frantic but do not let it get the best of you. When you begin to feel overwhelmed, stop and take a break. No exam is worth sacrificing your physical or mental health, so take a step back and prioritize yourself, you will be okay.

LGBTQ+ Acceptance

BY SKYLER CORNWELL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the most part, growing up in today's society is fairly easy. The majority of youth born in the 21st century acquire everything at the touch of a screen. This is also the reason why this generation is possibly the most informed and culturally aware of any others before.

However, what teens tend to forget, more often than not, is the reality around them. What they see and hear over the internet will never compare to real life situations. Behind the Tweets and Facebook posts

are emotions that can't be edited, deleted, or taken back.

Now, just imagine what it feels like to be an oppressed minority in today's society, forced into hiding and silence, simply for no other reason than wanting to live and love the way our very nature inspires us to. We are all human, after all, why wouldn't we deserve the same rights and respect? How would you feel if something as trivial as the blood in your veins be questioned or invalidated? The same goes for those who identify as LGBTQ+. When you think about it, attacking someone for something they can't help is downright ridiculous.

Why should anyone go out of their way to make oth-

er people feel bad if it is not personally affecting them? For a straight person who is comfortable with their sexuality, it would not make any sense to feel threatened by someone who is not straight.

People, not only in America, but around the world, define themselves by social status and let others make decisions for them. It has come to the point where many are afraid to speak out and show any semblance of uniqueness because it would rule them out from the rest. It has become normal to get rid of what should be normal.

Statistics show that suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among teens, and the rate of attempts is 4 times

greater for LGBTQ+ or questioning teens than straight people. The likelihood of self-harm due to physical or verbal abuse in a classroom setting increases 2.5 times on average each time it is played out. It should not be this way.

Unfortunately, these statistics grow each year as more and more teens are subjected to the cruel behavior of others, but that can change. It starts with one and grows with many until it becomes an entire school, an entire community. It should be considered a responsibility for both students at El Rancho and citizens of Pico Rivera to not let a fellow peer passing through the halls or shopping for groceries at Walmart

become another statistic.

If you, or someone you know, has felt unsafe or threatened in any way and see no other way out, please contact these numbers:

Suicide Prevention Hotline: (800) 273-8255
The Trevor Project: (866) 488-7386
National Youth Talkline: (800) 246-7743
LGBTQ+ National Hotline: (888) 843-5456

These are people who remain on the line day in and day out to save the lives of LGBTQ youth across the United States and are here to help. Don't think that there is nowhere else to turn. You are not alone.

Mental Health self-care tips

- Set realistic goals for yourself. Write them down and make a plan to reach them.
- Make time for yourself by doing some of your favorite things.
- Get clean! Take a nice bath or shower with your favorite scented soaps.
- Treat your skin to a relaxing face mask (Tonymoly's "I'm Real" masks are amazing).
- Start a journal and write whenever you're feeling troubled.
- Plan out your weeks. Know what you need to do and when you're going to do it.
- Clean your room and organize your things. Throw out useless junk and declutter!
- Change your diet and cut out junk foods. Eat more leafy greens, antioxidant-rich foods like blueberries, and omega-3 brain foods like salmon.
- Dark chocolate relieves stress and blocks feelings of pain and depression (and it tastes great).
- Try to go to sleep an hour earlier.
- Take a moment to reflect on yourself and figure yourself out.
- Reach out to one or more of your friends and make plans to hang out.
- Meditate. Apps like Calm are great to help guide sessions.
- Schedule an appointment with your counselor. They're here to help!

Lamar delivers a Pretty DAMN. Good Album

BY ETHAN SEPULVEDA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After nearly 2 years and a B-Sides EP, Kendrick Lamar released his follow-up to 2015's *To Pimp A Butterfly*, titled *DAMN*. Leaving behind the jazz tone of *TPAB*, Lamar takes on a trendier, more straight-forward hip-hop sound, and while not as conceptual (or having an overarching story) as *good kid, m.a.a.d. city* or *To Pimp A Butterfly*, Lamar tackles some heavy themes such as death and religion, with varying levels of success.

On the opening track, "BLOOD", Lamar tells the story of his interaction with an elderly blind woman. After attempting to help the woman find the thing she lost, the woman shoots and kills Kendrick. This metaphor may be a response to Fox News anchors claiming that Lamar is instigating violence against police with his pro-black song "Alright" (off his previous album), with the blind woman personifying justice and the woman killing Kendrick could be a metaphor for how Kendrick tries to bring justice back to his city, but is discounted because of his status as "just a rapper."

However powerful this statement may be, Lamar never brings this narrative back into the album and exposes one of this album's biggest missteps. While Lamar has spoiled his fans with large conceptual albums that tell the story of escaping the gang-riddled streets of Compton to dealing with racism and oppression even whilst being one of the most celebrated rappers in America, this album's inconsistency makes it one of Kendrick's spottiest studio albums.

Each song has a completely different tone and sound that makes each song seem like they were off different albums and while you could say, "Well, some are 'bangers' and others are

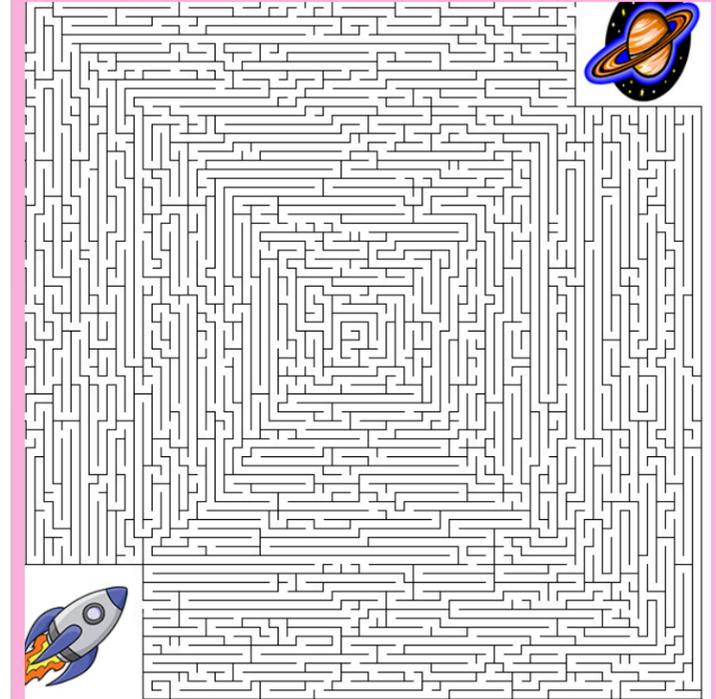
'slow' songs," that didn't stop "Backseat Freestyle" and "King Kunta" from feeling they were off the same album as "Poetic Justice" and "These Walls," respectively. Songs like "DNA" and "HUMBLE" don't have the same feel as songs like "LOYALTY" and "LOVE."

One thing that is definitely consistent is Lamar's superb lyricism, which is evident in songs like FEAR which delves into the different kinds of fear that Kendrick experiences at the ages of 7, 17, 27. Moments like this and the aggressive beat change at the tail end of "DNA" shine through some lyrically stale choruses.

After this album was released on Good Friday, rumors circulated that a second album titled *NATION* would be released the Easter Sunday, but unfortunately Kendrick denied the rumors, yet some people such as El Rodeo's Editor-In-Chief Nayeli Hernandez still hold on to the belief that one day, Kendrick will release *NATION*.

As for this album, even though this is probably his weakest studio album, this album surpasses many other rap albums that have come out this year so far, but hopefully, it isn't going to be the best this year has.

FIRST PERSON TO COMPLETE THE MAZE GETS A PRIZE! COME BY XI TO COLLECT THE PRIZE!



FEATURES

El Rancho's *Get Lit* poets slam the competition

The *Get Lit* team with host Edwin Bodney. Photo by Aleksey Soto

BY ANDREW SEPULVEDA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On April 20th, El Rancho poets expressed themselves on stage at the 6th annual *Get Lit* Classic Slam held at the Los Angeles Theatre Center. More than 300 poets from over 50 schools all over Southern California competed for the champion title.

This year's *Get Lit* team formed through tryouts held on March 22 in the Faculty Center. Judges Ms. Lamar, Ms. Gregg, Ms. Kim, Ms. Chodos, and Ms. Senteno scored El Rancho poets hoping to fit in one of the 6 spots on the team. The new team members were notified within the next few days. This year's

team included juniors Marina Love Chavez, Sol Rodriguez, Margarita Gutierrez, Esmeralda Barajas, and Kathryn Mota and senior Nayeli Hernandez.

These committed poets managed their school work and outside activities to practice nearly every day to better their craft. "Practices were super lit! We worked with Marcus and another *Get Lit* player, Hannah. Marcus let us practice at his house during spring break and Hannah had her own team yet she'd be there with us every practice. Plus, they bought us food," says Barajas, first year member and captain of the team. The team was also grateful for their coaches' efforts to band them all together and cre-

ate a dynamic relationship within the team. "I like how they made an effort for the group to bond," continues Barajas. "They took us out for ice cream after practice so we can get along with each other."

The quarter finals kicked off with sacrificial poet Paola Gonzalez performing her classic piece "September Elegies" by Randall Mann and her response poem "Actions." Chavez began the competition performing her classic piece "Downhearted" by Ada Limón followed by her response poem "The Hard Part." This was followed up by El Rancho's first ever group poem. Poets Chavez, Barajas, Gutierrez, and Mota accomplished a perfect score, another first for El Rancho, for their performance of "Bad Women" by Janice Mirikitani and their response piece, "Third Wave" The morning competition continued with Hernandez performing her classic "shortie" "Do Not Fall In Love With Me" by Caitlyn Siehl and her untitled response poem. Poet Rodriguez ended the quarter finals round with her performance of "Urban Renewal XVIII" by Major Jackson and her response poem "The

Smart Kids." The results for the quarter finals put El Rancho in first place with a score of 125.2, advancing them to the semi-finals.

The semi finals began with El Rancho poet Nayeli Hernandez performing her classic piece "Annie Says" by Michelle Serros then responding with her original "Ellos Dicen." Up next was an encore of "Bad Women" and "Third Wave" performed once again by Chavez, Barajas, Gutierrez, and Mota. Hernandez returned to the stage to perform her classic "shortie" "Do Not Fall In Love With Me" and her untitled response piece again. Closing off the El Rancho performers was Barajas with her classic piece "Nightclub" by Billy Collins and her response poem "Two Houses Down." The results for the Semi finals were very close, but El Rancho placed 2nd falling behind by only two points. This minor inconvenience, however, did not minimize the impact El Rancho's poets had on the audience. Edwin Bodney, host of the quarter finals, wisely said, "The point is not the points. The point is hearing your story and supporting everyone who's being courageous

today." This year's *Get Lit* team hopes to compete once again next year and make it to finals.

Get Lit provided a new and courageous experience for its performers. "[*Get Lit*] was emotionally draining," says Rodriguez. "It required us to spill out our emotions at times when we didn't want to, at times when it was uncomfortable. I think it made us find out a lot about ourselves that we didn't know before." For Junior Margarita Gutierrez, *Get Lit* gave her a voice she didn't know she had. "A lot of people don't listen to what I have to say. They assume a lot of stuff about me without even talking to me. I feel like with *Get Lit* I was able to share my story with people. It gave me motivation."

For anyone wanting to audition for the *Get Lit* team next year, Rodriguez says, "Go for it. It's nerve wracking at the beginning but it gives you a lot of experience with creative writing and presenting."

If you would like more information about *Get Lit* or maybe trying out for the team next year, please see Mr. Sorenson in Q2.

Ms. Susie shines at The Ranch



BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There are not enough words to thank Ms. Susanne Perea, clerk in the College and Career Center, for her dedication and hard work. From college field trip permission slips to SAT/ACT and college registration, Susie's got your back!

Many people step into the Career Center to use the microwave and heat up last night's leftovers, but don't know the magic that goes on once you pass Susie's desk.

Ms. Perea has been working for the El Rancho Unified School district for 32 years, and in the College and Career Center (CCC) for the past 17 years. It's safe to say that she knows El Rancho, and all things college, like the back of her hand.

The College and Career Center is always full of various students of different grade levels and aspirations and Susie is prepared to help every single one of them.

"I think for me, my favorite thing is that this office is so positive. Students don't come in here because they're in trouble, it's always that they want to get a job, they want to go to college, etc. so it's always positive and that has always made my job fun."

Ms. Perea is Mrs. Nasouf's (College Counselor) partner, but every year, the CCC gets a new batch of assistants for each period known as the "Peer Advisors."

"The peer advisors, for me, have saved my life. I mean, think about it. Without the peer advisors, it's just me doing all of the work when Mrs. Nasouf isn't here," says Ms. Perea.

"Counselors are always being called out to meetings and what not, so when she's not here, the peer advisors are here during lunch and after school, literally saving me with help. This year's group has done an incredible job and it allows me to get more done. I'm so thankful," adds Susie.

Besides her dedicated work in the Career Center, Susie is active in her union and attends every school board meeting. You can find her taking notes and asking questions often to fully understand the agendas for our schools and give her support.

Ms. Perea is well aware of the accomplishments and hard work the class of 2017 has put in and has high hopes for the Dons!

"Whether they have chosen to go to college or take the career path, I want them to find something that will sustain and build a life out there. In order to have stability, you need income, so chose something that will help you do so."

Ms. Perea admits that as much fun as it is to help students on campus, she enjoys being visited by returning students and seeing where they end up.

"It's always fun when kids come back and tell me about where they're at now It's nice to know that you were a part of it," says Perea.

The Career Center is a place of positive energy and support for students of all backgrounds. Ms. Perea is always the first bright face you see when you enter the CCC and is ready to answer any questions you may have. Stop by, say hi, and give her a thank you for her dedication to making El Rancho so bright!

@k_marq_ is Simply Irresistible!



There's smart, and there's @k_marq_ smart! Photo by Aleksey Soto

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Nicknamed "Child of God" by friends, Krystal Marquez is April's *Simply Irresistible!* Marquez is described by her friends as a humorous young lady, with an appreciation for the finer things in life, which includes music, food, and the people she surrounds herself with!

Her current favorite artists are "The Neighbourhood" and "HOMESHAKA," but Krystal's all time favorite song is "Heart's a Mess" by Go-tye. Krystal, who hurt you?

Marquez is a fine connoisseur of Latin delicacies and favors the one and only pozole as her all time favorite dish. Sorry boys, but a simple "ham and cheese" sandwich is not going to cut it for this pozole princess! Krystal has come across

many inspiring and influential people throughout her life, but "my role model would have to be... *drum roll* my mom! She has, and continues to go through so much hardship and I really admire how kind and loving she is to anyone she meets, even if they don't necessarily deserve it. I really wish I was more like her in that aspect." I guess one can say she has a *motherload* of love and appreciation!

Marquez is a party animal and loves to get crazy (in the name of the Lord.) April is the month of Easter, so best believe she was out and celebrating! Krystal spent the day at her tia's house catching up with family and chowing down on carne asada.

Speaking of family, Krystal intends to have one of her very own someday. But, not with just any guy that slides into her dm's.

"Someone with an amazing music taste is a must. Also, they have to be able to make me laugh and just be there for me all the time because I'm emotional as heck!" Emotional, yet loving and comedic? Oh yeah, she's definitely a Cancer on the Zodiac calendar!

Marquez enjoys the natural and quality moments in her life. She loves passing her time by going on hikes and thrift shopping! Boys, if you want her heart, you need to remember these three things: pozole, flowers and high-waisted jeans! Oh, and don't forget her nerd side: *Sherlock* and *Doctor Who* are her *all. Time. Favorites.*

Marquez has high hopes for the future and has planned out her career goals perfectly.

"I really hope to attend medical school and eventually become a dermatologist. It's been a dream of mine since I was 10." A dermatologist is a medical practitioner qualified to diagnose and treat skin disorders. She's way ahead of the game with skin that glows brighter than your future!

Krystal understands that her degree won't just be handed to her, and she works hard to keep her grades up now!

"My favorite subject is history. Learning about how people used to live, govern and just regulate things really intrigues me." Look out, world! She's about to make *herstory!*

Marquez hopes to successfully make her mark on the world, and wants to remind everyone that #ThickThighsSaveLives and to #SaveTheBees. Also, follow her on Twitter @k_marq_ and message her for that skin care routine!

FEATURES

El Rancho artists win big at 38th Congressional Art contest

BY PEDRO SALCIDO
@HIPUNCLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On the Thursday of spring break, Congresswoman, Linda Sanchez, held a high school level art contest at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts.

The evening was kicked off with displays of over 200 art pieces from over ten schools across Southern California. Creativity was in the air with over 100 student artists in attendance.

There were five overall categories, which were mix media, photography, painting, drawing, and digital animation. El Rancho Students did not disappoint with their overall sweep in the photography category and two spots taken in digital animation.

Amanda Cardenas was awarded second in the digital animation and Teddy Baruch won third. "I was pretty excited actually," says Baruch, "I was not expecting to win third, my parents were really happy for me, they were a big motivation for me and pushed me to enter."

Honorable Mention went

to Gabriela Nava. "I was really shocked," says Nava, "I did not think I was going to receive anything, but I wanted to enter anyway. This really does bump up my confidence in my work and I can not wait for the next competition!"

Third place went to Alexa Osegura. "I knew my picture was good but I did not even expect to be apart of the top three," Osegura says, "I am very thankful that Mr. Zeko pushed me to enter my picture. This win only makes me even more excited for future contests!"

Cesar Hernandez won second place in the photography category. "I was not expecting this at all," says Hernandez.

And first place in the photography aspect went to Daniel Reveles! "I did not think at all that I would have won first place in the photography portion," says Reveles, "I was just really, like, positively startled and excited!"

With this achievement behind him Reveles was also chosen in the final round in the whole competition.

In the final round Reveles was up against four other



Senior Daniel Reveles took second place overall with this urban landscape image.

candidates. The first prize was a \$500 scholarship, second place got a \$400, third \$300, fourth \$200, and honorable mention got a scholarship of \$100.

After El Rancho's true artistic talents shined through in

the photography category, Daniel Reveles represented well after winning a second place slot along with \$400 dollar scholarship.

"While I was walking up there I was happy for myself, because I've never won a prize for

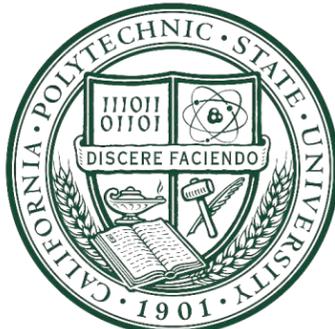
my work," says Reveles, "I accomplished something I wanted."

Be sure to watch these aspiring artists grow as they express their different views on the world through the lens.



#ERIGOTIN

Below are some of the following colleges that El Rancho Seniors got into. Way to go seniors!



SPORTS

Boy's Tennis set for playoff run



Miguel Adame III dives for the tennis ball.

SAMANTHA BERROSPE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy's varsity tennis team finished second in the Del Rio League competition with a record of 8-2. The team worked hard and beat through every obstacle that blocked their path, from the member's injuries and absences, to almost losses turning into wins. The boys "smashed" some of their competition and although they didn't place first, they did try their hardest.

The whole team is disappointed because they know that it was simple mistakes that caused them to lose a game.

"If all we worked just a little bit harder during our games and not messed around when we had practice, I think we may have had a better chance to win the league," said junior, Miguel Adame III.

As their season comes to a close, the boys can only look at their failure in a more positive outlook.

"I'm sad that we got second, but I'm proud of how we all

came together as a team. We all tried our best, and even though we couldn't win the league, I am still proud of what we've done," says senior, Omar Torres.

Even though their league is over, the team still isn't done with their season completely. Despite earning second place, the team still gets the opportunity to compete in CIF as a team. Since the boys are saddened by their performance this season, it only gives them more motivation and determination to not

only make it far into CIF, but possibly winning CIF as a whole.

Besides the team, some of the boys qualify for Prelims giving them another chance to win Del Rio League as individuals. If any of the boys win the Del Rio League as an individual, they move up to compete in CIF and have yet another chance to win a title.

This season was bittersweet for the boys, and sadly for the majority of the team, it is their last year playing tennis in high school. "Playing tennis for all of my high school career was an amazing experience, we were very successful in some cases, and even when we fell short, we still gave it our all. Hopefully us seniors leave this team with great potential to continue this success, and I wish them the best these next years," said senior captain Jason Bravo. Also, senior Karin Garcia wishes luck to next year's team in the hope that they will, "take practice seriously," and to "not mess around too much," so they have a shot at winning the league.

As for next years starting team, they hope for the best. "I hope to get first in league next year, and that we not only make it to league as a team, but also

individually," says junior, Greg Solis. As for junior captain, Anthony Aldridge, he also dreams of winning league and making it to CIF, but overall, he wants to have an enjoyable season next year and "see how far we can all go as a team during league and in CIF."

Coach and math teacher Eduardo Galindo is overall proud of how well his boys did during league because they all tried their hardest.

"I'm pleased we ended up in second place rather than last. [The team] had some tough competition this year and earning second is a huge accomplishment. Besides that, we also get a chance to compete in CIF, so that will give the boys another opportunity to redeem themselves as a team," said Galindo.

They boys tennis team "served" an incredible season overall, despite not earning that back-to-back title. Even though the league is over for them, they can still win big in CIF, as a team, and hopefully for some individual players and partners. As long as they aim big, try hard, and not give up, the team has a strong chance of "acing" any other competition to come.

Track sprints towards finals



The team practices five days a week in order to improve each meet.

BY NAYELI HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho varsity track & field team remains hungry for a title as league comes to a close. The team defeated Pioneer high school this past Thursday with an overall score of 85-20 for girls' varsity and 75-30 for boys' varsity.

The team currently stands at a 4-1 league record, as they have defeated Pioneer, La Serna, Whittier, and Montebello and lost to Cal High.

"I feel like we could have done better... it was a disappointment when [boys' varsity] lost against La Serna and now the only chance we have is for second place but we can settle for that," says junior, Tigran Jaure-

gui, who competes on the varsity level in the one and two mile.

For those who are unfamiliar with the sport, track and field consists of numerous events which include hurdles, distance, sprints, pole vault, jumps and throwing. Each of these events consists of an array of smaller events. For example, jumps includes the triple, long, and high jump.

"I do the two mile and I hope to get better than a 9:55. I also run the mile and I hope to run faster than a 4:35. Both of these times are the best all season and I really hope to end the season off on a good note," says senior distance runner, Jonathan Maciel.

Many team members like junior, Marcos Weeks, who runs

the 100 meter, 200 meter, 4 by 100 meter, and competes in long jump, also hope to PR (personal record).

"I hope to PR and try to get top three, so I can get recognition."

With the last league meet of the season (against Sante Fe) just behind them, the pressure and emotion is at an all time high.

"I feel sad [that this is my last season], but then I remember I'll be doing track in college, so I'm chillin'," says senior, Monica Giselle Bautista, who competes on the varsity level in the 100 and 300 meter hurdles, 400 meter, and 4 by 400 meter.

Those who qualify will move onto league prelims, which will be held this upcoming Monday, and move onto league finals on Friday.

Photo by Jonathan Maciel

Boy's Varsity Baseball can't catch a break

BY JOCELYN ESTRADA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The varsity boys' baseball team has been putting in work since the start of second semester. Thanks to the motivation and support from coaches Mr. Llanes, Mr. Meza and Mr. Ramirez, the boys have been able to push through the season in hopes to make playoffs.

The team is ranked fifth out of the six other teams this season.

"Technically, we are tied for fourth place, but take fifth place because we lost to the tied team once before," says Llanes.

There are five games left this season and the boys are committed to taking back-to-back wins in order to make it to playoffs.

"We haven't accomplished much, but one thing we have improved on as a team is the way we treat each other. We have come to respect each other as people and players, and that is a major key," says Senior Armando Sanchez.

The boys are realizing their weaknesses sooner rather than later, and plan to improve their performances for the rest of the season.

"I'd say that our greatest accomplishment was when we beat Western for the first game of the season with only eight guys on the field. My greatest hope is to make the playoffs," says senior Robert Banuelos.

The unanimous goal to make playoffs on the team is evident, and their persistence is powerful.

"We have too much room for improvement, we need to pick up the intensity and fight, we give up way too easily," adds Sanchez.

Buy your peanuts and cracker jacks and support varsity baseball at their next games. The road to playoffs is a clear El Rancho blue!

SPORTS

Swim team hopes to make a splash in finals



Swimmer, Ashley Meza, heads for first with a backstroke.

Photo by Adam Allred

ADAM ALLRED
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The clock is winding down to the end of the season for El Rancho's Swim team. With only league prelims and finals ahead of the Dons, the team is under pressure to do their very best. "Overall, the team has been

dropping time in events and has been improving immensely," says girls captain, Madelyn Menesses. Fellow captain Ashley Meza says, "We need to keep our heads in the meet, on right, we need to stay focused."

The team is really strong as the season comes to a close. However, both captains agree

that flip turns and dives need work if the team wants to improve and make it to CIF.

The seniors on the team are sad, as this is their last swim season in high school. They feel nostalgic when they remember the memories and friends they had made throughout their time on the team. Other seniors

feel slightly different, though they will miss the people they met more than the sport itself.

The Dons are in third place and still have some life left in them. The team is close to their goals and a few swimmers have met their goals, but there is some room to improve. Menesses has "accomplished

to drop time in my events but [she's] not fully done with [her] goals yet." Meza's goal, which was to make CIF, is in sight. She only has to drop a few more milliseconds to accomplish her goal.

Be sure to wish them luck as they compete in the coming week as their season comes to its conclusion.



Nicholas Arauz jumps high to get the ball

Photo by Pedro Salcido

Boy's Volleyball keeps CIF hopes alive

BY PEDRO SALCIDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

So far the boy's volleyball team has struggled to uphold the reputation they built for themselves in the previous season. In 2016, the boys went undefeated in league and made it to semi-finals in CIF, while this year they sit at a four to four record in season.

"Every year we try to accomplish more than the year before," says senior, Leo Elizarraraz, "our strength this year would be our talent, but our weakness would be our level of experience."

Senior, Jonnathan Quin-

tana, says, "Another weakness we have would be lack communication on the court, which is one of the key things we need to play a great game."

The team needs to stay focused this season if they want to accomplish their goals this year.

"I think what helps us stay focused for the rest of season is bettering ourselves," senior team captain, Nicholas Arauz says, "and trying to get better as a team on and off the court and reach our goals that we have set for ourselves."

The boys do not lack motivation this year. Sopho-

more, Steven Francis, says, "both our coaches and us, as a team, playing every game like it is our last fuels us with energy and hope for this season."

Even though their season has had a rough beginning, Arauz says, "I do see CIF as a possibility, but it is not going to be easy."

"I do believe that we are good enough to be competing with the better teams," Quintana says.

These boys have strong aspirations for the future that they will hopefully achieve. Good luck Dons!

Power 106 pushes past Dons

SAMANTHA BERROSPE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last night, the Power 106 all-stars squeaked by the El Rancho faculty, 58-53, in the latest installment of their annual battle.



Photo by Adam Allred

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