

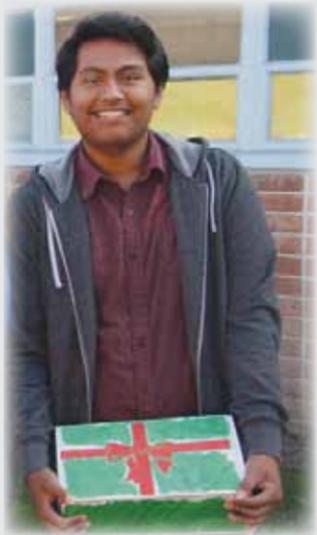


El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 63- Issue 3
www.elrodeonews.com

Dons participate in Boxes for Baja event



BY SAMANTHA MUNOZ
AND SALONI PATEL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Boxes for Baja is a charity event that Key Club participates in annually. According to their advisor Mr. Sorenson, the boxes “usually contain gloves and beanies. The children that are receiving the boxes need these items as well as the toys. These kids aren’t as well-off as many young people from Pico Rivera.” Boxes for Baja donates such items to children in need in Mexico.

Key Club spreads the word about the cause by tweeting through the club’s Twitter account.

President Adrianna Carchipulla says, “the boxes for Baja is a time when kids get certain items that would be necessary during Christmas time.” These items not only bring joy to the children, but also warmth during the cold weather.

Treasurer Allysa Cervantes says the club “brings a bit of our world to the children in need through books, toys and clothes.” Just buying simple little items that may seem not as important to ordinary people can make a difference in the life of a child.

The organization that hosts this event, more commonly known as “Navidad en Baja,” is run by Maria Elena Martinez.

This organization receives one-third of its support from Martinez’s personal income, and the rest from student-based fundraising. She started this organization in August 2010, after four years of successful outcomes of fundraising. Martinez’s organization has spread across the state due to the fact that so many people want to help children in need.

If you would like to donate an item, you can drop it off in Room Q-2 with Mr. Sorenson. While you are there, perhaps take the time to thank Key Club. They are taking initiative to help those in need. Such actions should be appreciated, and inspire students at the Ranch to not only get involved with their community, but also provide needy families with a chance to enjoy everyday necessities. Keep up the good work Key Club!

WASC Committee delivers findings to staff

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
AND JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), composed of teachers and administrators from all over southern California, visited El Rancho High School over the past several days and evaluated its performance in regards to academics, extracurriculars, and facilities. WASC Committee’s primary focus is to confirm that teachers, staff, students, and even parents are all involved in the self evaluation and growth of the school.

The WASC Committee attended various classrooms to observe students in a natural learning environment. They also sat and discussed school progress with teachers in five different focus committees: vision, instruction, culture, curriculum, and assessment.

After careful speculation, the WASC Committee delivered its verdict at a staff meeting, presenting the pros and cons of El Rancho. The meeting began with a light-hearted tone; the WASC members jokingly mentioned how “well-fed” they were by the Dons. Positive reactions ensued as Dr. Randy Delling, a visiting committee chair member, called the school “an unknown East Los Angeles gem.”

One attribute that was highlighted at the meeting was “the powerful teaching [methods] and collaboration” of El Rancho staff. One WASC member admired “the teachers’ transition from conveyors to facilitators.” A praise for the increase of graduates that have met the A-G re-



WASC committee member reporting school evaluation at yesterday’s staff meeting.

quirements as well as an increase in AP passing rates was disclosed in the committee’s deliberation. The use of AERIES Portal and Google Drive was commended as having improved the communication between teacher and student. In regards to the school environment, they observed that “everyone is treated with dignity and respect.” Since there is a wide variety of extracurricular activities provided at El Rancho, “students [appear] to be genuinely happy.”

Nevertheless, the WASC Committee presented possible areas of growth. The visitors mentioned outdated facilities. Small classrooms add a new level of difficulty to the learning environment. “Nobody likes being crammed in tight places,” says Delling. A recommendation the WASC Committee offers is for the school to “develop a technological plan.” They would like to see an increase in Chrome carts in order to make technology more

accessible to students. Moreover, it was advised that El Rancho eliminates honors courses when the AP program already provides the same subject. “[Such an issue] is a conversation that the school must have. If students don’t want that, they need to make their voices heard. They must exercise their voices,” says Delling. Although extensive, many of these propositions are already being implemented at the Ranch.

Despite all the critiques, Ms. Kwek is satisfied with the school’s overall performance. “I think the visit went really well. The staff was prepared. The students were prepared. The community was prepared,” says Kwek. The El Rancho staff has been preparing for this visit since the summer of 2013 and even crafted a 200 page report about the school. Kwek says, “what the WASC Committee saw at the school was 400 times better than the school’s report. We didn’t even

know of our own strengths. This was a process that brought us together. It’s not an easy process to reflect on what we’re doing well or what we’re not doing well.”

Echoing Kwek’s sentiments, Senior Bryant de la Torre says, “I think this visit was good for our school because by preparing for the WASC Committee, the administration has realized that our school could be neater.”

El Rancho will most likely not know the term of its accreditation until February. However, positive remarks made by the visitors permitted a sigh of relief for the school. Dr. Aurora Villon, president of the Board of Education, expressed her pride in El Rancho’s performance. “Look at our staff. Look at what we’re doing. Soon we will be second to none. They’ve told me that we are the Beverly Hills of the East Los Angeles area, but I’ve told them that Beverly Hills has got nothing on us!”

Mo Bros & Mo Sistas promote men’s health awareness



BY KIMBERLY GUIDO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Movember Foundation is the leading global organization for treating men’s health. November is well known for the month of the mustaches. For thirty days, the men referred to ‘Mo Bros,’ take action by changing their appearance and not shaving throughout November. The women, ‘Mo Sistas’, support the men in their lives by informing

them of this health issue. The organization is particularly coordinated to attacking prostate cancer.

The participating members for El Rancho include the photography teacher Mr. Justin Diaz, history teacher Mr. Rojo, and drama teacher Mr. Wlasick. All teachers encourage students to grow mustaches or join the Movember website. Anyone is welcomed to join the Movember organization to help the awareness of men’s prostate health. Mo Bros and Mo Sis-

tas will inform anyone interested about the importance to contribute to the Movember campaign.

Link Crew has been a great help to the organization at El Rancho in a way that they’ve created posters promoting the men’s health awareness. These posters are found in the participant’s door outside their classroom. They’ve also created custom-made boxes for each of the teachers participating in the Movember event.

Although the staff has not received many funds, its main point is to effectively spread awareness to students about prostate cancer. Wlasick even created his own box and “shakes the box to each of [his] periods for donations.” Wlasick says, “I am more than happy to promote and donate to the event in honor of an old relative.”

The Mustachios want to increase their team by getting more Mo Bros and Mo Sistas to promote the awareness. With the absence of Mr. Daniel Diaz, the El Rancho staff still managed

to reorganize the event of Movember. Find any teacher with a Mustache in the campus and they will have the box for donations.

“It is good to donate because the money will go to research for men’s cancer, and it is just as important as breast cancer,” says J. Diaz. “We are trying our best to promote the awareness to El Rancho’s students, so they could inform their parents and others that do not know about prostate cancer.”

“The emphasis for Movember is to tell people about the organization so it could expand into more Mo Bros and Mo Sistas,” says Mr. Rojo, “Prevention is the key before it is too late. That is why we try to inform so many others to prevent the cancer.” Mr. Rojo also enjoys his funny mustache and how it sparks up conversation about the cancer to his students.

The participants’ goal is to inform as many people as they can.

For donations, remember to visit the Movember page at <http://us.movember.com>

OPINION

Scandalous or silly behavior should not make a star

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many celebrities quickly rise to fame for absolutely no reason. These celebrities become one of stature not for their talent, but for doing something scandalous or simply being associated with a famous person. These celebrities seemingly have no talent, but nonetheless they are famous and will continue to be famous for simply looking good in front of a camera.

Among these celebrities lies Kim Kardashian, one of the most well known celebrities in the nation, who seems to have a death grip on fame and does not seem to be letting go any time soon. Kardashian, along with the rest of the Kardashian-Jenner clan, has millions upon millions of dollars for simply living an extravagant life and flaunting it to the world through her reality TV show, *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*.

Kardashian has well over 25 million followers on Twitter and is seen as an icon by many people, ultimately resulting in her spotlight fame. Although it is safe to say that Kardashian is not completely useless since she has gained quite a lot of success due to her clothing lines, perfumes, etc., it is ridiculous to think that Kardashian only got to where she is today because of a sex tape that she participated in with her then-boyfriend Reggie Bush.



Alex Lee enjoys the limelight after appearing on *The Ellen Show*.

On a more recent note, Kardashian's *Paper* magazine nude photographs have leaked on the Internet, and they are anything but glamorous. While Kardashian may be trying to show the world that her body has recovered from her past pregnancy, she definitely could have sent the message with a lot more class.

Similarly to Kim Kardashian, Paris Hilton also rose to fame through scandalous behavior. Hilton was first introduced to the world of A-list celebrities because she comes from a family of billionaires. The Hilton family owns the famous Hilton Hotels, which

furthered Paris Hilton's fame.

In addition to partaking in numerous sex tapes, Paris is best known for her slim appearance, blonde hair, and of course her signature phrase "Oh, that's hot." Hilton's reputation as an airhead heiress began with her excessive partying as well as her exposure to drugs and alcohol.

Hilton's exposure to fame and fortune led to a failed attempt at becoming a pop star. Although Hilton's pop star desires will never work out because of her lack of talent, she at least has one thing to look forward to: being the heir to the billion dollar Hilton Hotels.

A very recent addition to the list of talentless people exposed to fame is a sixteen-year-old boy that goes by the name of Alex Lee. Lee is an adolescent that works for a Target store in Texas who got famous on Twitter because of a picture that was taken of him by a teenage girl.

Apparently Lee was the girl's cashier and while he was bagging her groceries, she sneaked a picture of him on her cellphone. The picture was later uploaded on to Twitter where another girl gushed about how attractive she thought Lee was, which led to #AlexFromTarget to trend worldwide. Lee's quick rise to fame was seen as so impressive that he was even given an invitation to appear on *The Ellen Show*, and since then has been given invitations to many other talk shows like *Good Morning America*.

Since Lee's picture was posted on the Internet, he has gained millions of followers on Instagram, thousands of followers on Twitter, and has even been verified, a status given primarily to celebrities. Although it could be argued that Lee has indeed remained humble through his newly acquired fame, it is also arguable why a teenage boy who works at Target even got famous in the first place. In fact Lee's newfound fame proves that you do not need to do much in order to attain fame; you simply have to know how to bag groceries and have a pretty face.

ASK M.J.



How do you get rid of nasty habits?

We may hate to admit it, but most of us have bad habits. Some may acknowledge these habits and want to fix them, but how? We all have various habits, but three common bad habits include: cursing, over-eating and nail biting. Most of us, for example, have been biting our nails since we were young and hence it makes it hard to break these customs; however there is a way to fix these patterns.

The first step in fixing these bad tendencies is to be conscientious. You might want to figure out when and why you are doing this habit. For example, if you find yourself snacking nonstop when you have to present for a class the next day, then you know that it is because you are nervous.

The next step is to record when you are doing this. You might ask yourself, "Why write it down?" This will help you establish a baseline. When you are logging the time of your habits, make sure to put down the emotions surrounding the time when you are doing this habit. For example,



I have a friend that tends to curse when she is annoyed and upset.

The third step is finding a replacement for your habit. For instance, as I mentioned before, my friend tends to curse when she is angry. A way she copes with her anger could be to just simply walk it off. If a person gets you really upset, then literally go take a walk and to try to shake that issue off (or pop your earphones and blast the Taylor Swift song, "Shake it off").

My friend and I like the same boy, what should I do?

Two friends being attracted to the same boy can often put a huge damper on a friendship, which is probably why you are feeling conflicted. It is very common for two close friends to develop a crush on someone because friends often have the same taste in many things, which includes boys. When trying to fix the problem of two friends liking the same boy, there are many things that you can do.

The best thing to do in this

situation is definitely to talk about it with your friend. By talking to your friend, you girls will be able to decide if one of you will further pursue a relationship with this boy, or drop him all together. It is crucial that both of you are content with your decision so that no one gets the wrong end of the stick and end up resenting the other.

From personal experience, I can honestly say that talking this issue through with your friend is a lot better than trying to deal with this on your own. If you girls are truly good friends, you will be able to look at this conflict in a mature way and, as a result, come up with a solution that best suits both of your interests as well as your friendship.

It may seem scary to talk to your friend about this problem but you need to keep in mind that both of you will never be able to fix this problem if you do not talk this through. It is important that you do not let your fright get the best of you because at the end of the day, you are friends for a reason. If you do not feel comfortable talking to your friend about how you feel,

then maybe the friendship is not as true as you believed it to be.

There is a freshman that keeps following me around and my friend gave him my number, which resulted in numerous unwanted texts. How should I deal with this?

The reason why you are struggling so much with this issue is probably because you do not want to hurt the feelings of the boy who is bugging you. Making the boy aware of your aggravation might seem like the right thing to do to most people. If you are trying to spare his feelings, the best thing to do in this situation is to kindly let him know of the problem.

It would probably be best if you let the boy know face to face that he is coming on too strong. Let the boy know that maybe you can develop a friendship in the future but for now you need some space for yourself.

El Rodeo

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El Rodeo is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*.

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.

OPINION

The end of a long-standing tradition

BY ELIZABETH JACOME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Powder Puff has been a well-known tradition celebrated in many high schools for several years. Senior and junior girls face off on the football field while guys cheer on the sidelines and for one night, the roles are switched.

El Rancho High School has their own special twist on powder puff, where the guys dress up as girl cheerleaders and come up with creative names like “Sally Sunshine” and “Miss New Booty.” The guys purchase exotic pink wigs and get their makeup done by professionals while flouncing around in short skirts and exposing their hairy legs.

But this year everything is going to change because now the guys will not be able to show off their feminine side. New rules have been implemented recently preventing the guys from dressing up as a fabulous feminine cheerleader. Instead, they will have to wear workout clothes consisting of sweat pants. In other words, they are being forced to dress more conservatively.

This has outraged many of the cheerleaders, especially the seniors, who were looking forward to their last chance at dressing up. After the news was announced, a meeting was demanded the next day to negotiate a compromise. Ms. Kwek and Ms. Chapman stood strong on their stance, and nothing was changed.

Without the guys dressed up in female attire to cheer on the girl football players, it will not be an El Rancho Powder Puff



Seniors from last year’s powder puff game show off their impressive cheer leading skills.

game. Being one of the only schools that has guys dressed as girls shouldn’t be shamed. Instead, the El Rancho traditions should be embraced and appreciated for their uniqueness.

Many students were outraged because they enjoyed watching the guys go all out. The day of the Powder Puff game, guy cheerleaders would be seen walking around the hallways dressed in glitter and estrogen. It was a spectacle that wowed every student

who encountered a cheerleader. Such an experience should not be taken away from the next wave of students to come. Taking away this event will further remove pride in the school. With school spirit already lacking, fun events like Powder Puff reiterate the lost pride in the Dons.

Without the guys dressed up, the whole experience of Powder Puff won’t be the same. The humor in this event will be lost because instead of see-

ing guys in cheerleader outfits, they will blend in with the crowd as if it were any other day.

Powder Puff will be lost in the sea of days that drag on because there is nothing to look forward to. The once phenomenon will become another mundane event. School traditions that have been implemented from years before will be lost. The guys should be able to wear makeup and dress up because it’s something every student at El Rancho enjoys.

Meninist Twitter Mocks Feminism



BY GABRIELLE MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Twitter is an excruciatingly powerful social medium that enables the quick spread of... anything. From week-old Ebola jokes to Kim Kardashian’s nude magazine cover shots, Twitter is a social network that allows all types of information to be spread user to user within a matter of seconds. Simply put, Twitter can make anything seemingly interesting become “news.” It’s a very unique way to remain “up-to-date” with public affairs— but some Twitter users are beginning to abuse their social powers, whether they’re consciously aware of it or not.

Although the account was established in 2011, it’s popularity began to rise with it’s first post that was made a few days ago, revealing a side of Twitter that was undoubtedly sexist and oppressive towards the female gender. @TheMeninist along with other “meninist” accounts condition misogynistic (the hatred of females through discrimination, violence, and objectification of women) statements into becoming socially comedic phenomena. The issue with this is immense—men, and even women jokingly laugh at the concept of feminism (and feminism’s objective for the equality of all genders) through agreeing and retweeting sexist statements like “what’s the difference between a knife and a feminist arguing? A knife has a point.” Meninism originated as an organization that promoted the hatred of women, all while making a mockery out of feminism. The weak attempt to justify all of these crimes of sexual hatred and oppression is to simply assess “meninism” as a “joke.” Or even worse-- some of society is now considering meninism as an attempt to achieve equality between both the male and female sex. Feminists and generally moralistic human beings are aware of the fact that supporting Meninism is NOT an act of equality, but rather an action to backhandedly support women hating. It is also a mechanism for privileged males to make themselves the center of attention while oppressed women fight for THEIR rights as women. Jokingly mocking feminism and centuries worth of gender inequality is a seriously oppressive and digressive act.

Twitter users and anyone else can decide to perceive Meninism as a simple form of comedy, but it is a form of misogyny that needs to be taken seriously. Women around the entire world are persecuted and killed on a daily basis when attempting to receive equal rights. Misogyny is not a lighthearted joke.

WORD ON THE STREET

How do you feel about the dress code changes to Powder Puff?



“I feel the new rules for Powder Puff take away the whole purpose of doing it, the fun of it was dressing up and having a good time.”

-Alexander Escobar, 12th



“Powder Puff was a traditional event and the fact that it has been modified reduces the participation of the students. Powder Puff should remain the same.”

-Jennifer Guerra, 11th



“I’m all for Ms. Kwek’s decision because she’s only trying to make El Rancho look respectable.”

-Alejandro Frias, 10th



“I support Ms. Kwek in her decision because the boys were making fun of woman by dressing inappropriately.”

-Joe Mendez, 10th

CITY VIEW



Teen Court Report

BY DARWIN REYES

Both Teen Court cases of the November session pertained to petty thefts. The first case dealt with a troubled young female who struggles to please people and gave into peer pressure. While the second case had the same effect of peer pressure placed on the minor that was implemented by her own guilt to please her family, and more specifically her father.

For the first case, the crime took place at a mall where the minor had been pressured by an older female, around the age of 18, to go into JCPenney and steal about \$240 worth of makeup. The offender had been dared by the older female to take possession of the makeup in her favor.

Although the minor was being influenced to steal, she did have another friend present advising her not to steal. Upon activating the alarms, mall security had arrived and the older female who instigated the crime fled.

However, the friend who advised the minor not to steal attempted to help her and stood by her. For her crime, the jury members of her case assigned forty hours of community service and suggested that the minor pursue her passion in dance, rather than find a job as she intended.

The offender appeared to be a great kid but was caught in the peer pressures of high school, and the stress of not having a good relationship with her father.

In the second case, there was a similar situation where the offender was a young female who also happened to steal from JCPenney. Her motive rested upon either a cry for attention or a sense of approval from her father, for she had feared of always being shadowed by her other siblings.

The motive was questioned when the jury members had discovered the stolen items were not for her own personal gains. The items stolen were several articles of clothing for male toddlers to compose costumes.

The minor told the jury that she wanted to steal the costumes for her cousins, which would please her uncle, which in turn would please her father.

Both young females were under the pressure of bad relationships either between their fathers or poor friendships. This pushed the teenagers to take extreme measures as far enough to commit the crime of petty theft as a cry for help.

Overall both minors are good students and kids who's only fault was getting tangled into bad decisions that got them involved with the law.

Entrepreneurs aid organizations in need of funds

BY JENNIFER DELGADO

On the day of November 5th, 2014, The Entrepreneur Club presidents; Johanna Martinez, Jennifer Delgado, and Anthony Raymundo attended the Business Expo at Mi Hacienda. The Business expo is a chance for businesses within the city to interact and promote themselves. Some of many businesses that attended were Chuck E. Cheese, Wingstop, Jersey Mikes, Mad Haus, Greg's Auto Body, and even Tri-Cities Regional Occupational Program. There were also representatives from the Chamber of Commerce.

The Entrepreneur Club, had a table of their own and self promoted this year's goals and mission statements. The club's purpose for doing so was to create a connection with local businesses. This will benefit the club by being able to fundraise money and create sponsorships.

One thing that the club would like to do with the



Presidents Jennifer Delgado, Anthony Raymundo, and Johanna Martinez meet to discuss the economics of El Rancho.

money is distribute it and give back to other clubs in need of funds. Some of the goals consist of an internship program as well as a business academy.

One business, The Electronic Waste Company, is willing to donate money to the club to help distribute the funds among the other clubs at school. The

club members also had the opportunity to speak with a representative from the Girls and Boys Club, and informed them that student internships are offered. This provides students a great opportunity to gain work experience for future jobs.

One of the presidents of the club, Johanna Martinez, says,

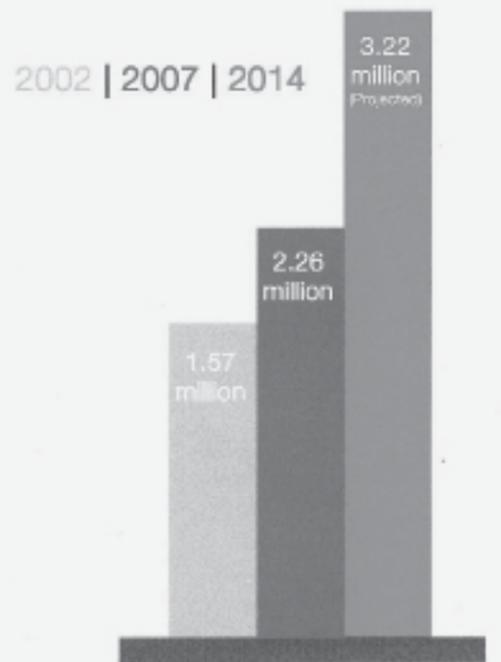
“Overall, it was a successful night for the Entrepreneur Club because we were able to get noticed and it was great to see that businesses were interested in us and our program. Many people liked the idea of a business academy here at the Ranch.” The club looks forward to the new and exciting things the business world has to offer.

Geoscape's data of Hispanic Entrepreneurs in 2014

The Changing Landscape of Entrepreneurs in the U.S.

New data from Geoscape indicates that the number of Hispanic-owned businesses is expected to grow to more than 3.22 million this year, representing a staggering growth rate of 43% since 2007. The figure is more than double the growth rate for all U.S. firms. According to the same report, the growth rate for all U.S. firms between 2007 and 2014 is estimated at 20.2%. Between 2002 and 2007, the growth rate for Hispanic-owned businesses was 44% compared to 17.8% for all U.S. firms. On the next page is a breakdown of the growth in Hispanic-owned businesses by U.S. Census Division, indicating where the growth is occurring.

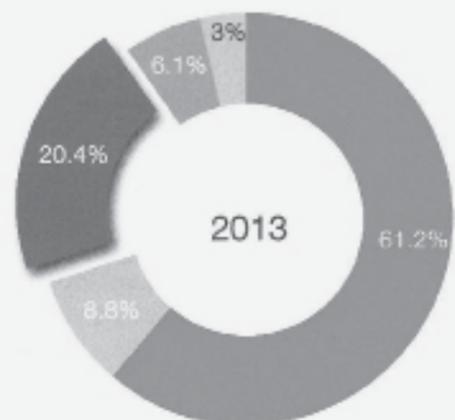
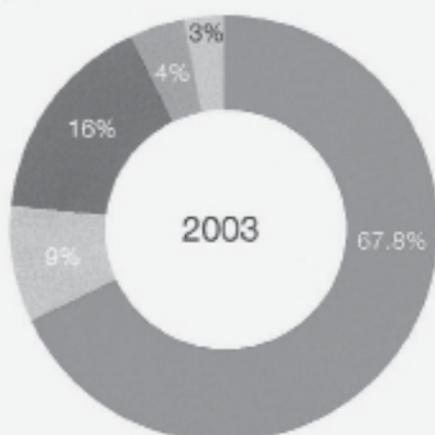
Number of Hispanic-Owned Businesses in the U.S.



Changes in Ethnic Composition of Business Owners

As we witness the shift in demographics of the U.S. population, spurred by post-recession optimism about entrepreneurship, new data suggests the entrepreneurial landscape is shifting also. The most recent data shows the Latino share of all new entrepreneurs is 20.4%, compared to 16% a decade ago.

● White ● Black ● Latino ● Asian ● Other



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Oblivion is much more than nothing



Chow, Cunha, Osorio, Vasquez, and Espitia perched on a wall after band practice.

BY NATALLY MAURICIO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Heavy guitar riffs, loud panging on the drums, and a smooth jazzy bassline to shake up the house. These are the sounds one hears when passing by Oblivion's band practice. Oblivion is a progressive metal band cofounded by Senior Michael Cunha.

The band first started as a music project six years ago between Cunha and his friend Michael Gallegos. The band was first named Gallcu. The name evolved to Fallen Past Darkness two years later when the boys recruited their friend, Manuel Vasquez, as vocalist. Since then, the band has also added their cameraman, James Chow, as keyboardist/ rhythm guitarist and has stuck with the band name Oblivion, inspired by the video game King of Hearts.

"We don't really have a musical inspiration. Since we started out so young, there was no band that we really looked up to; we

just started playing" says Cunha. The majority of the band's song writing revolves around video games, since the band's main goal at the moment is creating sound tracks for them.

Oblivion's last album, *The Long Run*, features Manuel Vasquez on vocals, James Chow on keyboard, Michael Cunha on lead guitar, Daniel Espitia on bass guitar, and Armando Osorio on drums. The album contains eleven tracks and can be found on their SoundCloud and Bandcamp websites. The band does not seem to have a lot of local fans, but has actually received a lot of support from listeners in Japan and Sweden.

"We don't have any major aspirations," says Cunha. "We just love playing music and whatever happens, happens." If anyone is interested in learning more about the band, do not hesitate to contact any of the current band members Cunha, Chow, and Espitia. The band is looking for a drum player!

Dons express themselves through their poetry



I First Saw
Paulina Jaime,
12th Grade

*I first saw you at
Borders,
you were purchasing
Twilight,
You swore it was for
your sister,
But I knew better,
You then walked out
But not before dropping
your keys
I ran out to give
them to you.
And God when you
turned
I felt my knees give
out
You were gorgeous.
You thanked me and
offered a sweaty
hand,
Clung to your eye-
lashes*

*as if they were being
separated from their
mom.
I then saw your
eyes, a deep brown
Which told bits and
pieces
Like how you love
magic.
Or how you have
your own theory on
dejà vu.
They also told how
you like Orange
Chicken,
And how you want
to Sky Drive at 60.
But it all stopped at
once,
Like a newly li-
censed teen at a Stop
Sign,
When a girl
Right out of the*

*catalog jumped in
your
arms.
You carried her into
the car,
and waved at me
But not before dropping
the book.
Three things oc-
curred to me as
you drove off, and I
picked up the book.
One, she was not
your sister.
Two, the book was
probably not for
your sister,
and
Three, call me Bella
Swan because I was
destined
for crappy relation-
ships.*

Raymond Lucero, 12th Grade

*Forceful winds blow through the barren
pews,
rustling the good book's gilded pages.
Another prayer transferred to a queue.*

*Wrathful men and their anxious souls are
strewn,
while the silver bell rings above on stages.
Forceful winds blow through the empty
pews.*

*Children, once of the father, now askew
demand forgiveness in their old ages.
Another prayer transferred to a queue.*

*Darkness cleansed in dew, mankind born
anew
while the silver bell sounds again and rages.
Forceful winds blow through the vacant
pews.*

*Storms from palms quake the pallid face of
truth
and the cries make all people courageous.
Another prayer transferred to a queue.*

*Questioned is this moment if ever knew
by man and woman beneath the stages.
Forceful winds blow through the crowded
pews.
Another prayer transferred to a queue*



CAMPUS

Dons hold annual canned food drive



Senior Jasmine Armas collects cans from El Rancho that will help the families in need in the community.

By MATTHEW AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Every year around the colder holiday, starting since the first couple of years this school was established, ERHS holds the canned food drive. This is done to give support to the struggling portion of the community. The drive started on the 3rd of this month and is due to end on Friday the 21st, which is the extended deadline. The drive is 19 days long this year and it's all in an effort to collect food.

The program allows our students to generously donate canned food to the public in exchange for a chance to win 100 class points for their grade level along with another chance to win a pizza party during 4th period. So if you want to win the pizza, you need to turn the cans in during your 4th period where the teachers will count the cans being donated through their students. The canned food drive leaves a positive impact on the overall community by allowing ERHS students to feed the public.

"I feel as if the canned food drive is important because some families can't afford food around the holidays, so we try to help them out," says ASB Chief Justice Balram Kandoria. The students are allowed to take their canned food to 4th period where the teacher will collect the cans, which will then be handed over to ASB. If a student is not able to turn their canned food in during their 4th period, the activities office will accept cans.

"The cans are left in the ASB room," Kandoria says. From the ASB room, the cans will be transported to city officials. Once given to the city, they'll be distributed to families in need. "All the cans go straight to the city, so that they can distribute them," Chief Justice Balram says.

Once the drive is finished, the cans will be counted. In the competitive aspect, the meat products are counted as double the points. The 4th period class that donates the most cans wins the pizza party. As for the overall grade level competition, the grade that donates the most food wins the 100 class points. So donate, and be sure to even include large portions.

Animal Advocates aid pets in need



Mrs. Lamar and the Animal Advocates are at it again. Until November 21st, they are asking for any unwanted towels and blankets along with extra cans of cat/dog food for low-income families with pets. These donations will help many animals stay out of shelters and help them stay in their loving homes.

Case of Hope

Begins: Tuesday,
November 4, 2014

Ends: Monday,
December 1, 2014



About the Event:

Many foster youth that are transitioning from homes often carry their belongings in nothing but a trash bag; in addition, youth that age out of care are often expected to leave their foster homes and aren't provided with this necessity. As you may know, this can cause a terrible impact on their self-esteem. We are trying to create awareness and hoping to retrieve as many donations as possible for these children/youth.

How you can HELP: ★

We will be asking for donations of lightly used or new backpacks and suitcases to distribute among students, children/ and youth who are or were in foster care. (See back side of flyer for details regarding drop off sites)

Sponsored by
Leading for Change
in collaboration with
The Foster Youth Case Coordination Program
The Human Resources Division
Student Life & Leadership
Adopted from Foster Family Agency



For more information please contact: Marisela Saenz: 562-908-3435 / msaenz@riohondo.edu or Erika Murillo: 562-879-1162 / murillo03@gmail.com

CAMPUS

Dons have much to be thankful for in November



Senior ASB members showing their school pride during spirit week for "Tourist Tuesday."



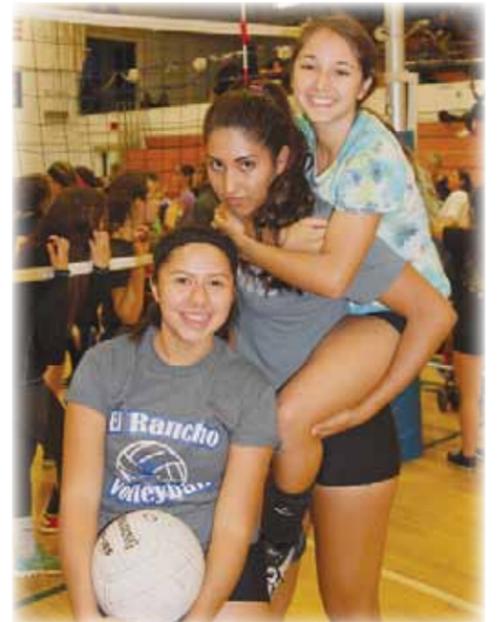
Pepsters cheer on the football boys during one of the last games of the season.



Senior Luis Soto collecting cans for the drive.



Juniors Luis Garcia and Samantha Quirarte at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.



Volleyball girls during their last league game.



Students supporting the football players at the first CIF game versus Burbank HS.



Advanced Drama surprises Mr. Wlasick's in the faculty center for his 60th birthday.



Beginning drama fourth and sixth period compete during lunch bag theatre.



Junior boys show their blue pride because "We are ER" during spirit week.

FEATURES

Mr. Retana goes against the academic grain

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At an early age, students are told that attending college right after high school is the path that will lead to success. However, students are seldom told that that path is not always found with a college degree.

Economics teacher, David Retana, is a strong believer in learning from experience rather than learning from the pages of a book.

"I hated school," says Retana, "Why did I need to learn about why East Egg and West Egg didn't like each other in the Great Gatsby? I loved volunteering for school activities, but I couldn't sit in a desk and listen to the teacher talk about Fitzgerald."

Two months after graduating high school, Retana joined the United States Army. "I was first sent to New Jersey for basic training, and that was like nine weeks; then I was sent to Maryland to learn mechanics, and I was there for about five months. Then after that I was sent to Hesse, Germany."



Mr. Retana encourages his students to face their obstacles head on and not be afraid to fail because with failure comes a lesson learned.

Retana was stationed in Germany for over a year, and while abroad, he was exposed to the German cultures and customs.

"The Germans are never late," says Retana. It's customary to never arrive late, and when asked to arrive at a certain time, most German people will arrive

prior to the time asked. "I liked that, it shows that that person is dependable. It just gives off a good impression." After serving two years in the army, Retana returned to the United States and worked a year for Sinclair Paint until he was hurt on the job.

"When I got my work-

ers' compensation, I saw it was less than what I already made. And it hit me how quickly I can stop working and lose my financial stability. I then decided I needed to go to school."

Retana later enrolled in Long Beach State, then transferred to Cal State Dominguez

Hills, and got his teaching credentials from Whittier College. "I like where I am now. I spend my free time with my family, and I love hearing from my previous students. Everything I know, I learned from experience and I highly recommend for students to do what makes them happy."

Gerardo Calderon is simply irresistible



Gerardo Calderon spends his free time admiring himself, pondering whether or not he possesses any flaws.

BY DAVID JOEL HUGHES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ladies, you have not lived until you have met senior Gerardo Calderon, who is just plain simply irresistible. If you don't know who this extra fine specimen of a man is, look for the 5'8, 17 year old manchild who enjoys math and has the power to manipulate women at his will.

Gerardo is a man of leadership and is the copresident of El Rancho's very own Math Club. Gerardo's evenings consist of riveting calculus problems and taking sultry naps on his revolving circle bed.

When Gerardo is not doing his math homework, he spends his free time lying in his water bed and watching *Scrubs*. "*Scrubs* is funny," says Gerardo. Clearly ladies, he is a man of few words, but who wants to sit around and listen about each other's days when you can just solve captivating math problems!

Another interesting thing about Gerardo is that he has eleven wild poodles inside his house. Most men cannot handle the ferocity that animals give off, but Gerardo just makes it look easy and gives Cesar Mulan a run for his money.

Gerardo wakes up early in the morning before school so he may look at himself in the mirror after he is done showering and shaving his lumberjack facial hair. Occasionally he will eat a spicy huevo rancheros breakfast before school so he can be energized and solve complicated math problems all throughout the day.

What Gerardo mainly seeks in a woman is one who is adventurous, spontaneous, and doesn't mind rolling up her sleeves to get down to business every once in a while. However when it comes to looks, Gerardo does not mind height, distracting warts, eye color, or murderous history because he will

be happy with any plain Jane.

Gerardo is also a man of a respectable taste in his wardrobe. His usual day to day outfits consist of math related t-shirts and a variety of v-necks that show the machismo chest hair that Gerardo was able to grow when he was just a small eight-year old boy.

Gerardo wants to be a 1% when he grows up. When asked of his career goals, Gerardo says "I would like to be an engineer, specifically a chemical engineer." You hear that ladies? MONEY!

Other future plans are having as many kids that he can afford and traveling to exotic locations in Europe without getting into too much trouble.

If by now you have not taken an interest in Gerardo, you should quickly get your head checked because Gerardo is a shy, quiet, and mysterious guy who is wrapped in a spicy flour tortilla burrito, and that makes him just plain simply irresistible.



Mark Zesati rides in style

Zesati enjoys the looks of admiration when driving his 1973 Camaro.

BY FRANCISCO RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If there is a slick, sporty car driving by, there's a high chance it's senior Mark Zesati racing by in his 1973 Camaro. Many people have always dreamed of owning a sports car throughout their lifetime, but hardly any of them receive the opportunity to sit inside of one.

Zesati attained this car while working with his father over the weekends during the summer. Zesati and his father worked hard, and right before the start of his senior year, Mark received the car keys from his father.

The 1973 Camaro was "originally all black," said Zesati. However, Zesati and his father saved up their summer earnings to paint the Camaro.

"We wanted it to stand out," said Zesati. With the money they both saved, the car was able to receive a paint job. The car is now a solid orange with two black stripes extending from the front to the back.

A man like Zesati is bound to get attention from his sports car and has received many com-

plements ranging from "Nice car dude!" to "Damn!" Zesati recalls a time where "this one kid was riding his skateboard, and pointed at the car [wide eyed] and fell over the curb."

Though the attention the car brings is well appreciated, there are also other small details. Those lucky enough to ride inside the Camaro experience the loudness of the engine and the strength of the car. Zesati likes the sound of the engine, and many people would agree when they hear the sound of the Camaro's engine taking off.

Zesati believes no car should be dirty, especially his prized Camaro. At least once a week Zesati washes his car and constantly takes it in for a tune up.

As well as keeping the car clean, Zesati wishes to purchase upgrades such as a new spoiler or fix the interiors which will cause his amazing car to stand out even more than it does.

"Vroom vroom!" Speed is the key to any sports car, and Zesati's Camaro does not disappoint. Being able to hit sixty miles per hour in a little over six seconds, the Camaro shows its worthiness of being called a muscle car.

FEATURES

Justice League gives back to community



A group of Justice League members help give back to the local community.

By TATIANA JURADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Justice League is a new club created for people wanting to go into law enforcement. The club does a sufficient amount of community service to help society.

"We have been trying to start the club since last year, but nobody wanted to join, and this year we are finally able to make something of it," says senior Jesse Corona. They are trying to spread the word to gain members; they fundraised at the food carnival, they made posters, and they created a Twitter account to spread the word.

The club currently stands at about twenty people but is growing week by week. They are really trying to gain underclassmen members because they want to keep the club going for next year. This club helps pave a pathway for community service and helps with real world issues.

The advisor of the club, Mr. Esquivel, says, "It is the students' club and they run it the way they want to." Seniors Mikaela Gonzalez, Precilla Sanchez, Jesse Corona, and Adrianna Gonzalez are representatives of the club, but every student has a say.

"We love to serve our community and it is a good way to start off your path for law enforcement," says Gonzalez.

The club is blossoming and starting to get involved with more events every week. The club volunteered at the Halloween event hosted by Smith Park, and they are also collecting cans to contribute to the canned food drive.

Mr. Esquivel tries to get speakers to talk to the club so they could find ways to get involved. They recently had the Customs and Border Patrol Explorers come to recruit students from the club. "It is a great opportunity to get out there and get ready to serve the public," says Precilla.

"We are like a family and we love to serve our community together," says secretary Adrianna Gonzalez. All students are welcome; the club meets in X-5 every Wednesday at lunch. Come quick and see what you can do to help your community!

Also follow the Justice League on twitter @ ERJusticeLeague to stay posted on information about the club!

Barajas set to enlist in the army

By JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many alumni who graduated this past June began embracing their futures and pursuing the dreams they created for themselves. Yet, few Dons ever think about them or where they are now.

Debbie Barajas, an 18-year-old alumna and former El Rancho journalist, graduated last June. Since then, Barajas has decided to enlist in the Army for 2015. She decided to take time and enjoy her summer.

As of right now, Barajas has modeled for Urban Outfitters in their Fall/Winter clothing. She was surprised when it happened and she says "The people from Urban [Outfitters] emailed me saying they had seen my pictures on Instagram and wanted to have a photo-shoot with me."

Urban Outfitters saw that Barajas had "street-wear style" and fit the store's ideal clothing style. Barajas also experienced a "real summer" by attending Kanye West's "Made in America" Concert. She loves West and proudly represents him in her clothing choices. Furthermore, she got employed at Zumiez. So if you ever need discounts, just call up Barajas and she can hook you up.

However, Barajas has decided to commence a new



Alumna Debbie Barajas comes back to ER to share life experiences.

journey through the Army. "At first I had gone down the Marine route, but I switched branches and swore in for the United States Army," she says.

Ever since Barajas was young, she dreamed of being a soldier and took pride in her country. She adds, "I never really enjoyed playing with barbies or dressing up as a princess. [Instead,]

"I enjoyed playing cops and robbers." Barajas just knew that the Army was something for her.

Barajas chose the Army Reserve because this allows her to pursue her civilian career or college education while she serves her community. She says, "I chose this because I still want to continue with college (Rio Hondo College) and finish

my career goals (Administration of Justice)." School is her main priority besides being a soldier for the United States Army.

Barajas is officially leaving on January 21 and will return on June 11. She will then be shipped to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on January 26th for boot camp. The training will last about nine to eleven weeks.

After completing the boot camp and beginning her AIT training (which is located in the same place as her boot camp) she will have the position of Military Police (MP). She decided on this route because she is planning on becoming an officer for LAPD.

For six years, Barajas will be in the Army Reserve and will then transfer to Active Duty for two years. Barajas said, "If that doesn't happen then I want to start working on becoming an officer for the LAPD."

Barajas' parents do not support her decision to join the Army. However, her friends support her in all she does. Barajas explains, "My friends have been there for me through every step of the way. I really couldn't have done this without my best friends."

Barajas is an ambitious person and expresses this through her style. She doesn't care what others think of her which emphasizes her individuality.

Cartier Jara: a true Lionheart

By JAMES CHOW
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

5'8 and weighing in at 120 pounds, Sophomore Cartier Jara is not someone to be messing with; her status as an international champion proves this. Striving to make a career out of mixed martial arts, Jara has consistently kept her dedication to the sport present.

Jara began her fighting career with learning karate at the age of five. This "Million Dollar Baby" has enhanced her taste by utilizing various fighting styles consisting of Muay Thai and Jiu Jitsu.

"I did it because it interested me and also it made me [able to] defend myself against people," says Jara. "In middle school, I started getting bullied...this girl started messing around with me and pushing me. Before I knew it, we were fighting... from then on, she didn't bother me anymore."

However, this competitor is not exclusively one to fight for pleasure. "I really did feel bad after the incident. Later on, the girl apologized to me, and I told her I'm sorry for what I did. Now we're friends."

Although she possesses such a unique talent that could be easily flaunted, Jara likes to be very humble about her hobby. "I hardly tell people about it. I like keeping things to myself because I don't like bragging. I don't usually post [my per-



Cartier Jara is in first place at the Jiu-Jitsu Gi & No Gi Tournament.

formances] on my Instagram." Fighting and staying in condition is not a simple task. Jara practices two hours every-

day except Sundays. Not only does practicing Jiu Jitsu and mixed martial arts take a toll on the body, but it also can affect so-

cial and academic performances.

"It was kind of hard for me to hang out with my friends due to practicing everyday, but it's all dedication. This is what I want to do and I constantly work at it. Coming first in competitions is the goal and training hard proves that."

In regards to academics, "I try to keep up with homework and school while at the same time my training. I usually have to finish my homework before practice because I usually come home late. It's pretty hard going back and forth, but I keep both steady and balanced."

Jara plans to establish a career in this field. "I really like doing this; this is what I want to do as a career. If it doesn't work out, I'll probably attempt to be a technician; however, I really do hope I can be successful in becoming a fighter."

With a clear mindset for the future as well as having great successes in her field, it is a no-contest coming against competing with this knockout's dreams. "A couple of months ago, I won international champion [despite] fighting against the women (a division higher than hers). I was really scared because these were full-grown women and I was only 14!"

A humble yet fierce fighter, Cartier Jara is the epitome of a perfect combo. Establishing her youth neck deep in the art of tackles, strikes and grapples, Jara is clearly a force to be reckoned with.

SPORTS

Burbank brings magical season to an end

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year's varsity football team overcame all expectations. They concluded this season as Del Rio league's undefeated champions with a record of 5-0. In addition, for the first time in 17 years the Dons advanced to the CIF playoffs.

The first round of CIF took place last Friday night, November 14 at 7:30 against the Burbank High School Bulldogs at the Don Memorial Stadium. The game that ensued was nothing less than an epic battle. Unfortunately, the Dons fell four points short as the Bulldogs downed the Dons, 38-34.

The game began with Burbank scoring back-to-back touchdowns, discouraging the crowd. As the game progressed, the score kept fluctuating back and forth until Richard Cuellar made a catch from the Don quarterback, Andrew Perea, making the score 38-34.

At this point of the game the tensions were high and shoving between players resulted in a couple of penalties against both teams. The Dons fought until the final seconds of the match, but unfortunately, they could not catch up. The game came



Center Sergio Gamiz number 69 and offensive line set up to defend a field goal attempt in order to tie up the CIF game.

sired. "We are still proud of everything we accomplished this season although we did not fulfill our ultimate goal," he adds.

Senior Richard Cuellar says that the team started off slowly so the Bulldogs took this to their advantage. He admits that many errors were made throughout the game, "mistakes make it hard to come out successful."

Senior Adrian Palacios believes that the Dons underestimated the Bulldogs, "We shouldn't have lost; we tried our hardest but it was an overall good season" He was not satisfied with the overall performance. "We should be playing this upcoming Friday but it is what it is" he says.

Senior Luis Perez also agrees with Palacios. The Dons should still be practicing to take on Salesian at the next round of CIF. "Our season just ended too quickly," he says. A possible reason why the Dons underestimated the Bulldogs could be because the latter had placed third in their league. "I played this season for no one else but my squad, my brothers, my family," says Perez.

Despite the journey in CIF being cut abruptly short, this has been the farthest El Rancho football has come since 1997 and is still a great accomplishment.

to a conclusion and tears were shed as many heartbroken players and spectators watched CIF

dreams slip through their fingers. "Friday's game was a tough one and a memorable

one," says Perea. The last game of his senior year did not conclude with the outcome he de-

 <p>martin ruelas @mstripes13</p> <p>Win or lose were all proud of the football team! #bluepride you all balled your hearts out, thats all that matters!</p>	 <p>Sam @youngxfire</p> <p>Our guys put up a really good fight and that's all that matters ❤️</p>	 <p>Katheryne. @Princess_Kakii</p> <p>Didn't think I would tear up but after seeing the boys faces, there was no way I couldn't #BleedBlue</p>
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WORD ON THE STREET

What do you think about the football team's performance this season?

 <p>"I thought the football team did really well throughout the season."</p> <p>-Mia Alvarez, 10th grade</p>	 <p>"I think the [playoff] opponent wasn't better than us at all and we should have won."</p> <p>-Nick Cruz, 10th grade</p>	 <p>"They worked really hard to become league champions. They had a strong supportive team. They always stayed positive!"</p> <p>-Adriana Carchipulla, 11</p>	 <p>"I believe our football team could have gone further but it happens. I am still proud of them."</p> <p>-Isaac Ruiz, 12th grade</p>	 <p>"I think you were able to tell that our boys played with a lot of heart out on the field and I think Sergey did great."</p> <p>-Jessica Mancera, 12th grade</p>
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SPORTS

Terriers down Dons in first round of CIF

BY BREANNA ELENA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' water polo season has officially come to an end after the team lost in their 1st round CIF match-up against Redlands High School. The Dons finished the season with an overall record of 14 wins and 11 losses, and a league record of 4 wins and 1 loss.

The result of the CIF match ended with a score of 19-5. However, Coach Pringle didn't feel disappointed, but rather proud of the team for accomplishing their goal of qualifying for CIF.

The game previous to CIF was a loss against Schurr High School by a score of 9-12. The team felt confident due to their prior match against Schurr when the Dons defeated the Spartans by 10 points. "I feel like the guys came in with the mentality that this was going to be an easy win when it wasn't," says Pringle.

Out of 6 teams the



Goalie Michael Morales blocks Spartan player as other Dons swim into defensive positions.

Dons placed 2nd in League, and solidified their place by beating the third place team, Whittier High, by 10 points.

Pringle believes the team earned their place in league because of the increased amount of Varsity team members, which resulted in the use of subs during a game.

The Dons developed as a team by "being able to run plays and run counters

during a competition," says co-captain Anthony Najar. These factors led the Dons to make "convincing wins against teams [they] either struggled against or lost to last year," says Pringle, "so considering the local teams, we've proven ourselves to be one of the stand-outs."

The senior Varsity players feel that being a part of a team has taught them how to manage their

time and prioritize their responsibilities. Goalie Michael Morales says, "I've learned to set goals for myself by setting the bar high, and wanting to exceed my own expectations." Furthermore, team member Isaac Valdez says, "from this experience I've learned how to work with others, and put an all-out effort into what I'm doing."

Pringle is "proud of

the senior bunch for doing such a good job of embracing the younger guys, and not kicking their [butts] too much." He feels they've made a good example and foundation for the future teams to build on.

Team member, Daniel Duenez, reciprocates his appreciation by saying, "thank you to the coach, and to everyone who came out to our games."

Girls cross-country looks back on prosperous season

BY JAMES CHOW
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

The girls' cross-country team has worked hard as a team and has been commended for their performance. They have placed in the top three at league finals and are sharing the league title with the Whittier Cardinals.

"We've accomplished big personal records and hope to end our season on a good note since [our success] faltered a little towards the end," says Senior Melissa Gutierrez. "As for the seniors, I was the only one left [to compete in CIF] and it hasn't hit me yet that it was my last week of training. [However,] I am very content with this season as a whole."

Involvement in such a sport does not come without consequences. Senior Daisy Perez says, "Being in cross is very time consuming. I've missed out on family events, and sacrificed spending time with my friends."

Junior Heaven Vasquez recapitulates the same feelings as Gutierrez in regards



Cross-country girls proudly posing after a hard-fought season.

to CIF. "Working to take League didn't come easy but it was worth it, and we pushed through at the end. It's been a long road to and from CIF, but we're ready to run hard and run together."

With regards to the team as a whole, Vasquez

believes the team has prospered. "The season took a lot of hard work and dedication to our training. League was challenging, but we worked together and pushed each other to do our best in every workout."

Some of the cross-

country seniors have shown emotional ties to the team. Senior Sabrina Moreno expresses her thankfulness to "[her] track coaches Miguel, Luis, and Dara. It was a bittersweet feeling running my last year of cross-country but I'm looking

forward to Track season."

Senior Allyzsa Cervantes says, "this season held the most importance to me because it showcased all the effort I have put in to running for the past four years. I am thankful that I completed my final year of cross-country with such an amazing team."

Perez expresses personal sentiments toward the season. "I'm actually pretty disappointed [personally]; I feel like I could've worked harder and put more effort into the workouts. [If I did so otherwise], maybe I would have received faster times."

This past week, the girls placed 9th at preliminaries, making the team ineligible for CIF finals. "We ran well, but I don't think it was our best performance. However, overall it was a great season. I like to believe we surprised ourselves with our performances throughout the season," says Gutierrez.

Overall, the girls' cross-country team is content with how far they have persevered.

FUN ZONE

November Horoscopes

By Sol Mendez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

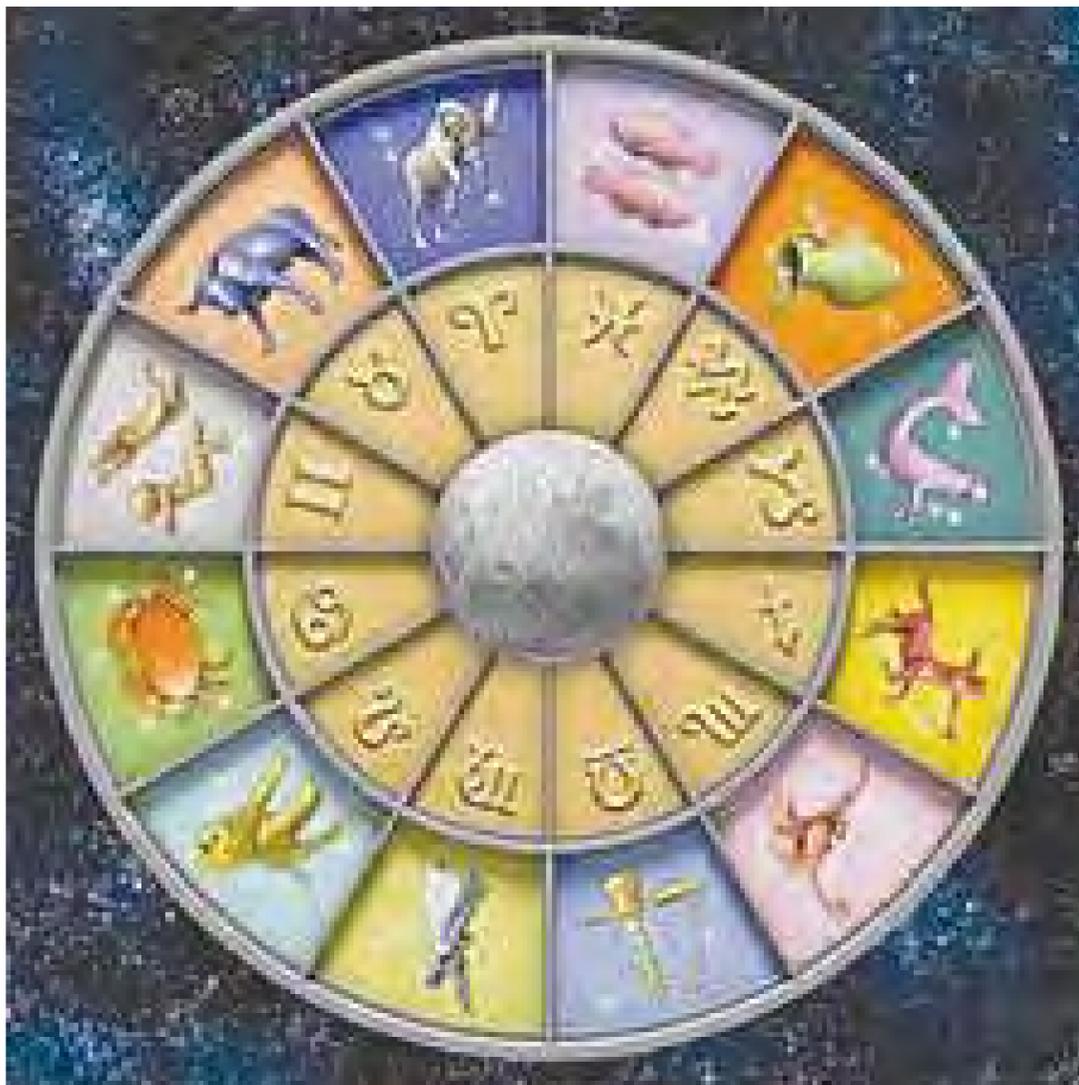
AQUARIUS: This is a week for letting go of some of the things that have lived inside of you for too long. Detoxify yourself and learn to be brave and confident. You can't depend on the world to come running to you. It is you that should be running to the world. Be social.

PISCES: This week is for the things you want the most, the things that scare you, the things most worth living for. This week is strictly for adventure. Go out and explore the world, seeing nature's beauty and breathing in the fresh air.

ARIES: You might have to look at what you usually ignore. Pay attention to the people you always see but never speak to. Pay attention to the trees and the buildings that you pass by without looking at, and you'll start getting the answers to the things you wonder about.

TAURUS: You might feel a little restless this week, a little stuck, a little strange. Try not to worry. This is a week for getting out of yourself, out of your head, out of the city you live in, if you can. It's a week to explore and get out. Don't close your world. You should open new doors.

GEMINI: Lately, you may have been off. Make sure you know how to treat others even if you think your actions are correct;



have consideration for others. Don't convince yourself that being self-centered is okay. It's a rough week. Learn from your mistakes.

CANCER: Your days might feel a little too full this

week, and the world might move a little too fast, and it's okay if you need time by yourself. It's a week for letting all your love grow and ripen inside of you. Keep your head up high because good things are coming your way.

LEO: Your week is a very energetic one and you're working hard but you're usually always doing that anyway! (Make sure to spend some time on your social life too though.) Spend your days with people who make you feel

good. It'll be a week full of joy.

VIRGO: Seems like a rough week for you and you're trying so hard to understand and maybe you're just thinking, "WHY ME?" Don't feel so bummed out about things. Just try to realize that the situations you endure are making you a stronger person.

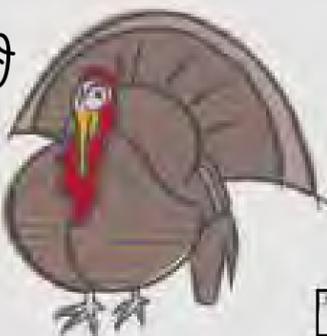
LIBRA: It appears like it's an odd week for you; however, do not let that get to you. Just take the time to clear your head. Be attentive to the ones you care about and you'll start to realize how much better it feels to be around them.

SCORPIO: This week, you will be courageous and confident about yourself. Don't let this mood make you ungenerous. Although you feel great, it isn't an excuse to block yourself from others. Be the caring person you know how to be.

SAGITTARIUS: This is a week for settling in to the life you've chosen for yourself. Even if you still want every single thing in the world, it's okay to just live the life you have right now. Keep in mind that it is okay to be nice. Don't be harsh, especially with yourself. Love yourself.

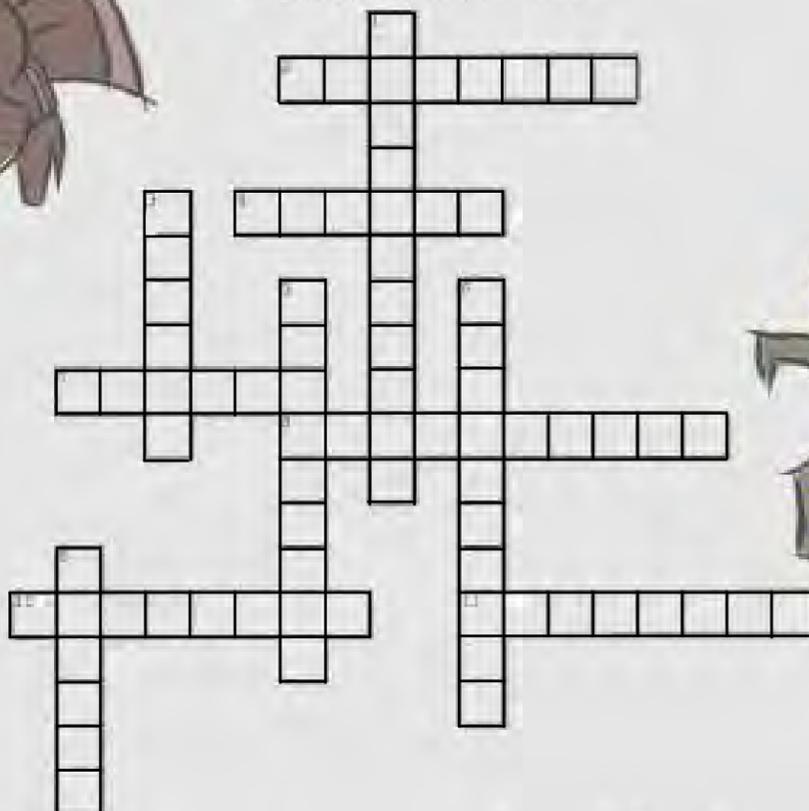
CAPRICORN: This week is a gentle week. Spend your days doing what you need in order to feel whole. Spend this week with the people you care about and continue being gentle. Your energy is just right for getting others to see that your vision is the way to go.

Solve The Crossword Puzzle



Thanksgiving

Complete the crossword below



The first 5 people to complete the crossword puzzle will win a prize! You may claim your prize in X-1.

Across

- 2. What you shove in your turkey
- 4. Thanksgiving mascot for non-vegetarians
- 7. The group of people you've been with since your birth
- 8. The coming together of people with common interests
- 10. Month this holiday is celebrated in
- 11. First people to celebrate thanksgiving

Down

- 1. The only acceptable type of pie during this season
- 3. When the leaves start falling
- 5. Pilgrims called on this
- 6. Thing all your teachers made you color in fifth grade that was filled with fruit
- 9. Chortling sound of an obese bird

