



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 63- Issue 7
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New schedule for the new school year?



BY ODALYS CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The upperclassmen may sigh and remember a time when they had something called tutorial. Tutorials were twenty minute slots at the end of every block period when students who were passing the class with a C or better were allowed to exit the classroom and enjoy some time to themselves. Students with lower grades would stay behind and receive more one-on-one instruction from their teachers. It was a situation that benefited all. Tutorials, however, were discontinued at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year due to penalty minutes. Our current schedule includes penalty minutes that The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) imposed because El Rancho had not met the minimum number of minutes required by the county.

Many teachers gathered to find alternatives, and a committee was then created. The committee researched and presented three schedules to the staff. The first was similar to what we have currently, minus penalty minutes. The second had three days of 6 periods with 2 days of block scheduling. The 2 days would be periods 1, 3, and 5 on the first block day and periods 2, 4, and 6 on the second. The third choice was a return to the 6 periods per day schedule.

In order for a certain schedule to prevail it had to earn 70% of the votes. "The first vote had no clear winner of 70%. A second vote was cast without the 2 day block schedule. It was eliminated from the vote because it had the poorest showing in the first ballot," says Economics teachers David Retana. In the second vote, the current bell schedule won the majority and was declared the winner.

Some teachers and students may feel like the classes The Ranch has now are longer than necessary. The arts, foreign languages, and electives may not need as much time as classes such as math and science who could really use the extra minutes. "Science especially needs time for labs, so if you have an every day fifty minute period, it doesn't workout," says Algebra two teacher Irene Martinez. Many years ago the schedule consisted of solely block days. "With the schedule we have now, it meets the requirement for all teachers. It's definitely a compromise," Martinez says.

School welcomes next generation of Dons



Club officials Sabrina Moreno, Anthony Raymundo, and Bryant de la Torre, along with Advisor Parvin Qureshi at Social Justice Club table.

BY ELIZABETH JACOME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Our school, our community, our future" is splashed across the gymnasium. Future Don Night, the one night where every club, sport, and elective comes together to inform incoming freshmen what El Rancho High School has to offer, was held on March 12th.

Assistant Principal of Activities Mary Chapman said, "Future Don Night is an opportunity for our community and future students to come and get a sneak peak at what [El Rancho] has to offer, both in academic and in extracurricular activities." The night start-

ed off with the parents and eighth graders receiving an exciting welcome filled with Blue Pride from El Rancho's ASB, Band, Color guard, Link Crew, and Pepsters.

El Rancho Principal Jessica Kwek greeted everyone with a promotional video about what the El Rancho curriculum encompasses. Kwek says, "We have an amazing staff that is really dedicated to the education of our students. There is something here for everyone." Chapman adds, "We have a lot of college and career pathways including project 'Lead the Way,' business internships, and visual and performing arts. There are lots of different directions that stu-

dents can take to be successful in college or in the work force."

Moreover, senior counselor Olga Espinoza spoke to the audience about high school life and how every counselor is there for them. In addition, freshmen spoke about their experiences at El Rancho. During her speech, Miranda Zorrilla said, "My experience has been good so far because being in ASB and Pepsters helped make the transition easier." Chapman added, "When students have that positive aspect of their school, they are going to try to convey that message to students that want to come here."

Afterwards incoming freshmen and their parents were able

to visit all the informational tables set up in the quad. Cookie ice cream sandwiches, corn snakes, and bearded dragons were just some of the things students experienced. Senior Bryant De la Torre, the Social Justice president, said "Future Don Night was pretty good because you could tell [the incoming freshmen] were serious about joining because they kept asking us a lot of questions and seemed genuinely intrigued by what Social Justice had to offer."

Furthermore, Chapman said, "The culture here is so positive and students are involved in many different things." Kwek added, "The Ranch is a family and that makes it hard to replace."

Students are encouraged to tackle rigorous courses



AP Students get rewarded for going above and beyond in their Advanced Placement course.

BY JAZMIN HERNANDEZ AND
SAMANTHA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

As the underclassmen filed into the school gym two weeks ago, they were greeted by Advanced Placement teachers, Dean Mr. Leddon, and Mrs.

Palomares for an assembly that informed them of the benefits of taking an AP class. The Advanced Placement Assembly also served as a recognition for students excelling in their AP courses.

AP Euro teacher Mrs. Rosales says, "It was a nice experience because they were being recognized in

front of their own peers."

The second purpose of having the AP Assembly was to introduce students to the new courses that El Rancho will be offering next school year. Some of the new courses include: AP Art History, AP Chemistry, AP French, and AP Studio Art.

Rosales expresses the sig-

nificance of taking Advanced Placement courses because they can enrich a student's profile. She says, "I think it is important because the courses are more challenging and more rigorous. Therefore, the students get to experience how difficult the courses are going to be in college."

Being that it is Rosales' first year of teaching an Advanced Placement course, she believes it has been a good experience so far. She says, "I know that most of the students in the class want to be there and they want to be challenged and they enjoy the material, so it encourages me to prepare these courses."

Ms. Lamar, says that AP courses give students "the opportunity to gain skills and valuable experience, like working with others to accomplish something they will be proud of."

The courses prepare a student for the rigors of college and, if the student is successful, provide college credit. It is a challenging undertaking and will require self-discipline and organization."

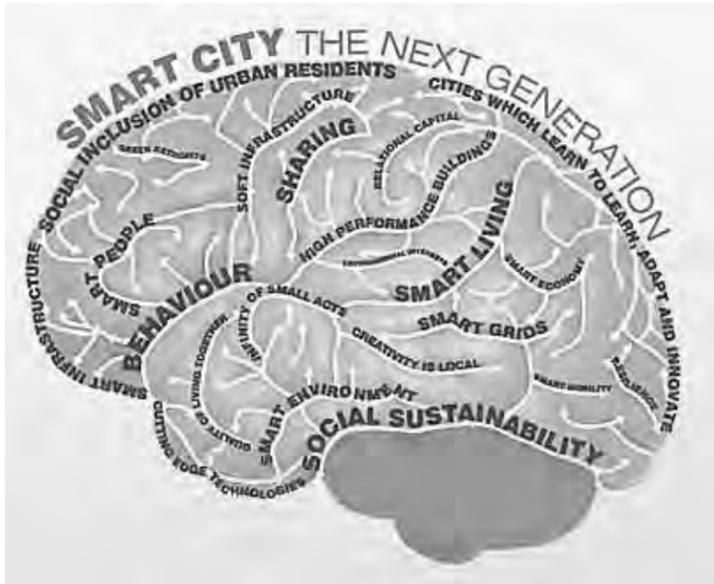
CITY VIEW

Pico Rivera... Are We a Smart City?

BY DARWIN REYES

By the year 2050, the population of the world is said to be doubled. This statement raises questions as to how will we be able to manage our resources, and how we will be able to maintain them. Some cities that have a growing population have already advanced and taken the steps to make sure these things won't happen by introducing and propelling the concept of a "Smart City."

A smart city uses technology to further advance key factors of a society, such as irrigation, transportation, energy, and health care. One of the most innovative cities today is Barcelona. It is said to be the top smart city in Spain and the fourth in all of Europe. But this didn't happen overnight. Barcelona had to prepare to meet the specific qualifications and requirements needed to be considered a smart city. Today, Barcelona's streets are filled with smart cars, smart buses, and even smart taxis. Also, its daily government functions are available for all citizens to view through what is called an Open Government,



which is accessible via internet.

Bringing this idea of Pico Rivera becoming a smart city means producing a great change in our city. The actual concept of building a smart city is not an issue, and the funding to move this project forward is a mere factor. The real question is whether or not the heads of our fair city will band together and bring Pico Rivera into the limelight of being the smartest city in all of California.

All we need is the time and dedication to make this dream a reality for all of those who conduct business within the city limit or for those who live here with their families. For example, if we were to better manage our waste, we would be able to create hundreds of jobs in the waste management business with the creation of a recycling center and the building of electric garbage trucks. Due to an effect of the small wa-

ter reserve we have left in Pico due to rain shortage, we would be able to have tele-controlled watering systems that would allow us to see how much water is used, where the water goes, and what would be the best alternative for managing the water.

There was a meeting that was held between city representatives and Time Warner Cable representatives about bringing Wi-Fi to local sites in Pico Rivera. This can be seen as the very first step to bringing this idea of a smart city to life. Olivia Ortiz, present at the meeting on behalf of Time Warner, said, "Building a Smart City is like peeling an onion. There are many layers to it that need to be handled carefully, and with precision." These "layers" consist of connectivity, data management, and interoperability; basic functions needed to meet the requirements of Technology Enablers which hold our community together through a series of networks. If we can do this, and excel in the area of technology, then this idea of a smart city is a very possible, and beneficial plan to make Pico Rivera the next big city.



Teen Court Report

BY DARWIN REYES

The first Teen Court case of the March session consisted of a student charged with penal codes 602 Q, the failure to leave a public building upon request, and PC 594, which is the intentional defacing of property with graffiti. The minor entered Whittier High School at two in the morning with his cousin to ride on his skateboard. Whittier was closed at this time, but the student gained access to the school by using the janitor's keys he had stumbled upon earlier in the year. The minor did admit he had been on campus several times before while the school was closed.

While the student roamed the school in search of paranormal activity, he and his cousin came across cans of paint. They began to swing the paint around when a can spilled and splattered everywhere. The jury disregarded the vandalism charges since the student did not intentionally deface public property but rather accidentally. For a minor to be charged with 602 Q, they must be asked to leave the premises, and then refuse. In these circum-

stances, there was no one to ask him to leave the premises; therefore, he was not guilty. This has become the first verdict in El Rancho history where the student was found to be innocent.

The second case pertained to Penal Code section 459.5, which is entering a commercial establishment with intent to commit larceny. The minor had consecutively shoplifted from multiple stores until finally she was apprehended by the loss prevention officers at Macy's. The officers found and returned several items that were stolen from Victoria's Secret, Wet Seal, Aeropostale, and Macy's. The minor claims that she never shoplifted before, but the strategic placement to commit larceny from several stores seemed to prove otherwise.

She justified stealing from several stores by mentioning that she received an adrenaline rush after shoplifting her first time. The minor admitted feeling content for her larceny, as opposed to having to guilt, as defendants typically do. The minor did not seem truthful in stating that it had been her first time stealing, thus the jury granted her seventy hours of community service upon other recommendations for her actions.

Where's our water?

BY ALEXIS HERNANDEZ

Council Members of Pico Rivera gave a presentation on the water supply during the first Student Town Hall. The community of Pico Rivera was astonished to learn we only have six months to two years of water left in our reserves. The situation became even more frightening when we learned that the council members have already attempted negotiations with surrounding cities for water, and they all rejected offers of money because the other districts have also been in peril of low water supplies.

There is a proposition of a solution to the low water reserves of Pico Rivera modeled by the Marin Municipal Water District. In January 2014, the MMWD board of directors passed a resolution reducing water supply by 25% on account of the all-time low water shortages.

To ensure water would not be wasted, the MMWD also imposed a simple economic principle to water: above their monthly water supply, the MMWD would charge fees for every gallon that an individual would use. Through charging fees on monthly water usage, people would have no choice but to conserve water, or pay for their waste.

MMWD also established a type of "Water Police" which would fine citizens for what the MMWD constitutes as water wasting.

The following types of water wasting are: Irrigating between 9 a.m.-7 p.m., except for system testing and repair; using a hose without a shutoff nozzle; hosing down sidewalks, walk-

ways, driveways, parking lots, and other hard-surfaced areas; water leaks within the customer's plumbing or private distribution systems that are not repaired within 48 hours of discovery; irrigation systems that allow water to pond on the site; over-water to the point where water is collecting and/or creating runoff; the use of non-recirculating decorative water fountains; or water runoff flowing onto the public right of way at a rate of one gallon per minute or greater, with the exception of storm water and naturally occurring groundwater.

The MMWD also has an online resource page with a page specifically fitted for citizens to report water wastes throughout their city as a way for citizens to do their own bidding and to aid the city in repairing water wastes. As water becomes more scarce, we must accept and adopt the methods of the Marin Municipal Water District, since they have shown these methods have been effective in conserving water. When these actions were placed in January 2014, the MMWD received immediate feedback and had cut the monthly water usage from 9,000 gallons to about 4,500 gallons.

MMWD was 34% below average water capacity when it began; the MMWD imposed its regulations and resolutions, and now in February, they reported being above average at a total capacity of 81% even though it received little rainfall in January. The Marin Municipal Water District member has proven that their methods are effective and Pico Rivera should adopt these methods before we run out of water within the next two years.

El Rodeo

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

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

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

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

COLLEGE

An admittance story...

BY JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A well-deserved rest from a hard week of academics and sports is the only thing she's willing to pursue presently. No amount of stress, no student drama, no workload of homework could ruin this peaceful moment. As she gets out of her comfortable bed, she checks her email on her dim-screened phone and sees the blurred logo of the California Institute of Technology with the word 'Congratulations' gleaming right back at her. "I got really excited and I jumped all the way to my mom and my sister's room to show them I made it. Everyone started crying, and we were all just happy." No amount of excitement has ever filled this house with much energy in recent times.

El Rancho's top ranking senior, Melissa Gutierrez, has decided to unofficially lock in her choice of attending the California Institute of Technology. "I received acceptance into University of California Irvine, University of California San Diego, University of California Los Angeles, University of California Berkeley, and the California Institute of Technology. However, I am leaning toward Caltech."

Entering Caltech is not an easy feat. Algebra 2 and AP Calculus teacher Mr. Francis says, "I don't recall anyone [from El Rancho] getting admitted into Caltech



Melissa Gutierrez plans to attend the California Institute of Technology to become a biomedical engineer.

since Manuel Ochoa, and that was in 2005." As of last year's statistics, Cal Tech's admittance rate was 8% out of 6,500 applicants. On top of that, Caltech usually only accepts students that are in the top 10% of their class. Gutierrez exceeds these odds. "My GPA is 4.589 and my SAT score was a 2060." Above that, Gutierrez is also number one in El Rancho's senior class, making her an excellent candidate for Caltech.

The other schools Gutierrez has applied to, however, should not be excluded in difficulty level. She has been accepted to the four

top-ranking UCs in their order of difficulty with UC Berkeley being first with an 17% acceptance rate and UC Irvine being fourth with a 35.4% acceptance rate.

As for career goals, Gutierrez is "planning to go into environmental engineering. As an environmental engineer, I can be a consultant. I know I can actually try to get a job at Southern California Edison."

However, Gutierrez has a backup plan if she finds herself trotting on a different career path. "If that doesn't work out, and I end up pursuing a biomed-

ical engineering career, I would like to work with leg prosthetics. One day, I was looking through a magazine, and I saw leg prosthetics. Since I'm a runner, I couldn't imagine how life would be like without having my legs. So I would want to be able to give to those people without legs an opportunity to be able to run and walk without any complication."

The workplace is becoming increasingly filled with math and science-related jobs. The schools Gutierrez has been accepted to all present great opportunities in Gutierrez's field of interest.

Claremont offers true variety in education

BY MATTHEW AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Establishing colleges for its consortium since 1885, the Claremont colleges offer seven different schools to attend, along with more than 2000 courses to take. The Claremont consortium has two graduate universities and five undergraduate colleges. The Claremont colleges are dubbed the "7Cs" (or rather the "5Cs" when referring to their undergraduate institutions).

The 7Cs are walking distance away from each other, making the campus area one square mile. The 5Cs are Pomona, Scripps, Claremont McKenna, Harvey Mudd, and Pitzer Colleges. Their graduate schools are Claremont Graduate University and the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences.

Together, the 7Cs faculty consists of almost 1600 staff with 700 of them being professors. The schools have more than 6300 students attending. The students are allowed to take courses at places other than their home campus as long as it's held within the consortium. This cross-registration the campus utilizes is considered its most remarkable quality.

All seven college campuses are connected in a sense that all use the large, expensive systems and buildings within the consortium. Despite the colleges being tied together, each student graduates from the college they attend.

Claremont McKenna College, Harvey Mudd College, and Scripps College share athletic teams. The teams compete in the NCAA's Division III and the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SCIAC). The Pomona & Pitzer Colleges also share their athletic teams, but only for the SCIAC.

Scripps College is the only women-exclusive institute within the 7Cs. Various plants decorate the school, such as their plethora of fruit trees.

A student-run café, called "The Motley Coffeehouse," stands in the center of Scripps. The café takes pride in being the only all-women, undergraduate, student-run coffeehouse "West of the Mississippi."

The 7Cs dream is to provide their students with the specialization and personal attention that is usually found in smaller colleges, but with the resources of a large university.

So, whether a student is a graduate, or an undergraduate, the Claremont Colleges supply all the essentials for a serious scholars needs.

Opinion: College affords a greater opportunity



BY JAMES CHOW
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's the time of the month where college-bound kids bite their lips and prepare their tears for college decisions. While acceptances may prompt joy-filled waterworks, a relevant characteristic of the spring season, is the money and time worth risking a pocket less four years? With the economic recession still continuing and the number of creative work positions closely dissolving, one may ask himself 'is college worth it?'

MIT economist David Autor emphasizes the financial importance of attending college, revealing that "[The United States] has too few college graduates." According to *New York Times* writer David Leonhardt's calcula-

tions on Autor's insight, it is economically sane to attend college; "college is cheaper than free. Not going to college will cost you about half a million dollars." However, this does not ensure college is the best decision for everyone.

If everyone in the United States attended an university and received at least a Bachelor's degree, one would expect the nation's intellectual background to rise substantially. Nevertheless, this would cause a decrease in available jobs in the workforce, and the remaining jobs that no one salvaged would be filled by college graduates who were not able to retrieve a position in the major they studied, thus deeming the college degree a waste of time and money.

Since the United States is already suffering from a reces-

sion, a college graduate may not be able to attain much right away. In April 2014, the unemployment rates "for people between the ages 25 and 34 was a mere three percent," says Leonhardt. "Among four-year college graduates who took out loans, average debt is about \$25,000, a sum that is a tiny fraction of the economic benefits of college."

In spite of this trend, college still presents one significant hope among the ambitious youth: increased opportunity. Not always will a college graduate receive a job out of college, but that doesn't deem such impossible.

According to the Federal Reserve's most recent in-depth survey, a typical college graduate may experience double the annual income than if he did not attend college. Therefore, the cost of

paying tuition may hinder one's financial outset in the first few years of work; however, one may expect to pay off such a debt early.

Moreover, counterbalancing the trend of higher tuition and finances is the trend of more generous grants and scholarships that colleges offer. 2013-2014 El Rancho alumnus Jesse Sanchez pays next to nothing in college finances.

"As an out of state student at Cornell University, my tuition was around \$61,000 not including textbooks, traveling expenses, and moving expenses. However, Cornell footed virtually all of my tuition, and I only paid \$500 of actual tuition from my own pocket and had to get books on my own."

Nevertheless, with opportunity being the most contributing factor to success and Americans being on the heels of the recession, collegiate access would be the best outlet to make it in the United States.

"College is a gamble," says Sanchez, but it is that very leap of faith that can accommodate for most of middle class American success.

Not everyone can live the life of luxury. Not everyone can get a well-paying job straight out of high school. With the slow rise of the economy and job positions being taken up, a college degree is a necessary outlet for success in America.

FEATURES

More than a hashtag calls for community action



Local artist sings a song at *More Than a Hashtag* on March 1st, 2015.

BY EMILY JAMES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The names Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice all bring the stigma of unlawful action conducted by men of the law. On March 1st, *Glee* star Amber Riley and actress Danielle Truitt hosted *More Than A Hashtag*, a “night of open discussion and performance,” to reflect and create awareness regarding police brutality. *More Than a Hashtag* was held at the Living Room, a small club in Van Nuys and gathered an estimated 100 people.

The night consisted of a mixture of poets, singers, and actors, along with community and religious leaders who

voiced their own opinions about the matter of police brutality.

Los Angeles’ slam poetry team GetLit started the night off with their piece “Earthquakes,” which provided a message that “silence is the reason the planet is dying.” Their second performance, “Somewhere in America,” received approval from audience members with a standing ovation. Following the GetLit team, Truitt, and other female performers, created the “Black Woman’s State of the Union” in which each actress had the ability to discuss a different young African-American man who endured some form of police brutality. Raw emotion was truly evident with the women chanting, “Their

[young African-American men] lives matter...our lives matter!”

After these performances, Riley and Truitt introduced an open panel discussion, which consisted of community leaders such as Wayne Brown, a deputy on the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, and Pastors Wayne Cheney and AK Thrower.

“What’s the artist’s role in activism?” proved a noteworthy question throughout the night. This question not only garnered answers from the community leaders but also sparked members of the audience to voice their thoughts. While Pastor Cheney believes that artists are “cultural architects” who have a responsibility to take a stand, some

members of the audience came to a general consensus that artists “should not be ashamed for taking or not taking a stance.”

Moreover, performance art was again integrated into the night through the presentation of director Nikkolas’ animated short film “What If?” The film recreated Michael Brown’s death by police officer Darren Wilson; however, it created an idealized alternate ending involving Brown surrendering and Wilson apprehending him without excess force. Nikkolas says, “I wanted to show that with a little bit of love and compassion, things can turn around.”

Throughout the night, Truitt and Riley shared anecdotal stories, which ultimately helped the audience understand why they both felt the strong necessity to bring the community together. Truitt says, “I saw a man holding a sign at the Mike Brown protest that said, ‘We are all just one bullet, away from becoming a hashtag’ and I knew something had to be done.” She continued to elaborate that becoming a new mother has also sparked her necessity to become an activist for the sake of her child in the future. Riley who warns to “be careful who you support” feels that it is her obligation as an artist to bring an opinion about these current events to those who follow her and her work.

Furthermore, Truitt says that *More Than a Hashtag* provided an area for “people to have the opportunity to express their feelings” regarding injustice. Although participants and audience members of *More Than a Hashtag* recognize that Mike Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice can only exist through memory now, they hope this event is a step forward toward finding justice for these unjust tragedies.



New poet collaborates with Mrs. Zeko

BY VALERIA HURTADO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Every year, Mrs. Zeko’s sophomore honor classes take on the challenge of writing and performing poetry pieces at Whittier College. This year, instead of inviting Tony Barnstone, Elena Byrnes, and Sholeh Wolpe, Mrs. Zeko came across Eric Morago who was highly recommended by Emily James and Mr. Sorenson. “Mrs. Zeko actually reached out to me by email asking if I would be interested to participate in this project her class participates in, and I said absolutely,” says Morago.

Many students and teachers hear the word ‘poetry’ and shudder, but the students who have had Mrs. Zeko as their sophomore English teacher have come to appreciate it rather than despise it. “Poetry doesn’t have to be seen. It can be fun, emotional, raw, and powerful. It can basically be anything that they want it to be,” says Morago.

“I personally love poetry, and I feel like it’s a good way to express how you feel,” says sophomore Samantha Berrospe. “Poetry is a great way to express oneself and see the world with a different perspective,” says sophomore Isabel Gonzalez.

Morago’s goal is to have the students enjoy listening to poetry and enjoy writing it. “Any opportunity I have to expose young adults to poetry in a new way that they may have not been exposed to in their actual textbooks would be getting them to see what poetry is,” says Morago. A lot of great poets that Morago is exposing the students to are those in their thirties and forties who work and write today as opposed to those from the past. “The most important thing that I want them to walk away with is to enjoy poetry more than they would have before I came in,” says Morago.

“I think Eric will help the class and myself greatly improve our poetry skills because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet a person who made poetry his career and have him be your teacher once a week,” says Gonzalez. After weeks of preparation, the students from Mrs. Zeko’s honor classes will perform group and individual poetry pieces at Whittier College in June. “I’m excited for the poetry performances because I love writing, so being able to finally express my talents and what I have to show makes me really excited,” says Berrospe.

Eric Morago hopes to return the following year to expose the minds of more young adults to poetry.

WORD ON THE STREET

What are you looking forward to in college?



“I look forward to meeting people from different cities, states, countries, and meeting people who are as passionate as I am about the things I do.”

–Bryant De La Torre 12th



“One thing I’m looking forward to in college is making new friends.”

–Christine Almeda 12th



“I look forward to having control over my schedule and being able to start school at 10 a.m. instead of 7:50 a.m.”

–Taylor Gonzales 12th



“I look forward to being on my own for once and experiencing new things. I also hope to meet new people and have fun.”

–Krystal Sanchez 12th

FEATURES

Silva fights fracking one march at a time

By EMILY JAMES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

History was broken with the help of freshman Anthony Silva. Silva along with eight thousand other Californians, held the largest Anti-Fracking march the United States had ever seen on February 7th. The march was a mile and a half walk in Oakland, California.

Silva led the event with his grandmother, Annabelle Marquez, along with the activist group known as the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment. The intention of the march was to promote an ending to fracking within the state of California due to the mass amount of air and water pollution that arises during the process.

Fracking is the slang term for Hydraulic Fracturing, which consists of injecting chemicals into the earth at a high pressure with the intention of cracking rocks and releasing natural gas and oil. These resources are then encapsulated and sold throughout the nation primarily as a different type of fuel source.

Silva says, "The march was good because it allowed [Californians] to prepare and take steps further about pollution [control]." The demonstration involved speakers who lived in cities, which are heavily influenced every day by the nega-

tive effects of fracking. Marquez spoke on behalf of the city of Shafter. Shafter not only has to deal with the pollution of fracking but must also feel the negative impact of factory farms and toxic waste dumps near the area.

As the march continued, Silva says, "My favorite part was seeing the news reporters and stopping near the Governor's house and hearing the crowd sing louder in front of his house."

This is not the first time California governor, Jerry Brown, heard songs against fracking. In March 2014, Silva and Marquez were involved in another anti-fracking rally in Sacramento. "We [Silva] and other members of the protest] got to talk to the governor's assistant about why fracking is bad and how it hurts the environment," says Silva.

This rally along with Silva's discussion led to a bill being passed by California's first committee in the following month of April. The bill states that fracking would temporarily be banned within California until more research was conducted about the potential environmental problems which could arise from fracking.

Most people who would lead a history-breaking march would have some type of fear within them. However, Silva says, "[He] was not scared at all." The influence of the Center on



Anthony Silva stands strongly against fracking.

Race, Poverty and the Environment along with Marquez prepared Silva exceptionally well, especially for such a large task.

Most of Silva's interests within the anti-fracking campaign stem from his love of biology. "Biology is my favorite class because it teaches me how to prepare for the future," says Silva.

This love of biology is a large force to his commitment toward bringing fracking to an end; however, his grandmother is the final piece to developing his mature stance against the fracking process. Silva says, "My grandmother teaches me how to take life seriously. I have been able to use that in school and in the marches."

Silva plans to take what he has learned about the environment through the rallies in Sacramento and Oakland and apply them in his future career choice. "I want to be an environmental engineer and help stop fracking," says Silva.

Silva's participation in these peaceful demonstrations has also created an idea of the type of legacy he would like people to remember him by, "I want to be remembered as a leader," he says. Leading a march consisting of eight thousand people and breaking history seems like a pretty good start for Silva.

Dons for Christ welcomes all to express their faith

By JAZMIN HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dons for Christ has provided a positive and accepting environment for its members. Paul Brandt, club advisor, said, "It's a great place 'to be known' by people who care. At Dons For Christ, we are very positive, and we love to celebrate people."

The club focuses on the relationships with God and friends. Brandt said, "Students make quality friendships in Dons for Christ. Friendships that go beneath the 'news, sports, weather' level."

The club has helped Marisol Almazan, president of Dons for Christ, create great relationships with her peers. She says, "It has been a lot easier to talk to new people and to interact with new club members because I know that these people are not here to judge me." She also says, "I also enjoy the idea of going into an atmosphere where I know that I am going to be accepted for who I am."

Freshman Sureya Obregon, a member of the club, also agrees that Dons for Christ is an inviting environment. She says, "Dons for Christ is a place where you can come and laugh, meet new people, and learn new things."

Every Tuesday, students prepare their own Bible lessons and share their stories. Brandt says, "Students have been sharing how these teachings have been changing their lives. They love hearing from people their



Members of Dons for Christ worship alongside Samantha Munoz and Luke Barbosa who led worship.

age who have something to say." He also says, "Students have shared how God's Word and the Bible practically guide them to live better lives. I love it when the students 'find their voice'."

Furthermore, the first time Almazan spoke her teaching, it was the most memorable yet terrifying moment for her. She says, "I was scared and nervous because we had the biggest member turnout. I was scared of messing up, but in the end my lesson turned out fine, and I hope that my teaching

impacted at least one member."

Besides this event being Almazan's most memorable moment, it was also club member Joshua Araujo's favorite moment. He says, "This past Tuesday's meeting, when I saw people walking in and we needed to make more room for people, I was so glad. We had to keep grabbing more and more desks throughout all of lunch."

Obregon enjoys the Bible teachings because she feels she is being told the Word of God.

She says, "All the students have great messages that have encouraged me in my walk with Christ." Araujo, also believes the teachings have helped with his beliefs. He says, "I think this has helped us grow as a group in our relationship with God."

Every Thursday, Dons for Christ has a worship service. Brandt said, "We sing songs of praise to Him." This past meeting Dons for Christ had two guest singers: Samantha Munoz and Luke Barbosa. This pair

sang, "This is Amazing Grace," "Our God" and "The Anthem."

Dons for Christ has also participated in many events. For example, this weekend they will be attending Night of Champions at Azusa Pacific University. They also look for opportunities to serve others. For example, next month "We will be guiding kids through a bicycle obstacle course at Pico Rivera's "Spring Into Health Fair" on Saturday, April 25th," says Brandt.

Dons for Christ happily welcomes anyone and prevents judgement of anyone. Araujo says, "I would encourage more students to join Dons for Christ because of the bonds and friends they will be making here in this family."

Almazan also encourages students to check out Dons for Christ. She says, "Students should join Dons for Christ because the club provides a very positive atmosphere for all its members. It does not even matter what religion you are; everyone is happily accepted into our family."

Brandt says, "I would love to meet more amazing El Rancho students. I love that! I would also love for the Don for Christ meetings to impact people's lives for many years to come, as they realize how cool Jesus is!"

If anybody is interested in checking out Dons for Christ, the club meets every Tuesday and Thursday in room B-104 during lunch.

FOCUS ON

The Clery Act brings safety to the American education system

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the United States, approximately 20 million out of 112 million women have been victims of sexual assault at one point in their life. Out of these 20 million women, an estimated 5.2 percent were college students. Unfortunately, only 16 percent of these 20 million cases of sexual assault were reported to law enforcement. When sending off their child to college, parents often make the mistake of assuming that their child will be completely safe living on campus. This was the case for the parents of Jeanne Clery. On April 5, 1986, nineteen-year-old Jeanne Clery was raped and murdered by a fellow student in her dorm at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

After the death of their child, Howard and Connie Clery found out about the multiple crimes that existed in and outside of Lehigh University. The parents and students that attended the university were not informed of the crimes that had been committed there. Howard and Connie were outraged that

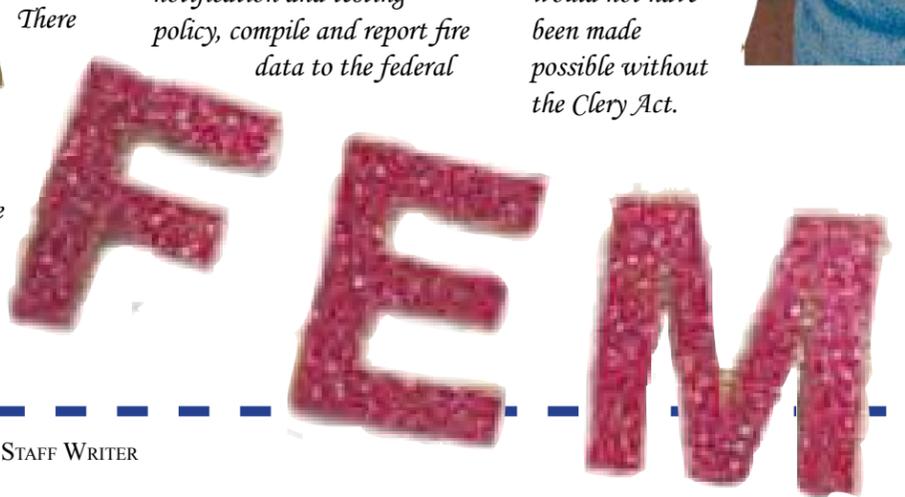
universities would keep such crucial information hidden from parents and students. After much perseverance and determination, The Clery Act, formally known as the Campus Security Act, was passed in honor of college



student Jeanne Clery in 1990. This act has been enforced by the United States Department of Education for the past two decades in attempts to secure the safety of students seeking a higher level of education. According to the Clery Act website, "The federal Jeanne

Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) requires colleges and universities, both public and private, participating in federal student aid programs to disclose campus safety information, and imposes certain basic requirements for handling incidents of sexual violence and emergency situations."

The Clery Act was set in motion in 1990; however it was amended shortly after. "The law was amended in 1992 to add a requirement that schools afford the victims of campus sexual assault certain basic rights, and was amended again in 1998 to expand the reporting requirements." It was the amendment in 1998 that renamed the act the Clery Act, in honor of Jeanne Clery.



additions to the act in the early 2000s. "Subsequent amendments in 2000 and 2008 added provisions dealing with registered sex offender notification and campus emergency response. The 2008 amendments also added a provision to protect crime victims and others from retaliation."

Through the Clery Act, "universities and colleges are required to publish an Annual Security Report (ASR), to have a public crime log, disclose crime statistics for incidents that occur on campus, in unobstructed public areas immediately adjacent to or running through the campus, and at certain non-campus facilities, issue timely warnings about Clery Act crimes which pose a serious or ongoing threat to students and employees, devise an emergency response, notification and testing policy, compile and report fire data to the federal

government and publish an annual fire safety report, and enact policies and procedures to handle reports of missing students."

Although there are still significant numbers of sexual assaults committed against women today, The Clery Act ensures that students are aware of the safeness of their university. Sexual assault rates amongst college students have decreased over the past two decades, and it would not have been made possible without the Clery Act.



#LikeAGirl

BY VALERIA HURTADO EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year's Super Bowl commercial line up took a different route from its usual funny slogans, and took a turn to heartwarming millions of people. Originally released in June, 2014, the #LikeAGirl brought up a lot of controversy on social media networks between many females and males. The commercial was intended to give confidence to girls all over the world; instead, the male population made it a joke once again.

Girls were asked what it meant to run like a girl, and it meant run as fast as you can, and hit as hard as you can. As men and women get older, women start to lose their confidence. The saying drops their self-confidence when they are trying to improve been thought to be weak and inferior compared to males, but surpassed males in working, parenting, and supporting their There are rarely any males who are single parents and get left by their partner and are usually left to women are doing a fabulous job at that men disregard. Women should not because some males take the time to not strong or fast enough.



On Twitter, the night of the commercial led to tweeting their opinions on the people believe women are just like a girl, while many parody meninist #LikeABoy after their egos were hurt by the commercial that told women to be like a girl.



#LikeAGirl humiliates them and their self-esteem. Females have in reality many women have families. are struggling, but many women are raising a child on their own. Many women are taking charge of responsibilities and should not be ashamed of who they are just put down their peers if they're

Superbowl, many people took to tweeting their opinions on the #LikeAGirl campaign. Some people were PMSing and should get over it. Many accounts took to tweeting that they shouldn't be ashamed of

Men underestimate women and the #LikeAGirl campaign shows the world that women are strong and ready to show everyone what they are made of without feeling weak when compared to men. It's 2015! Wake up America!

FEMINISM

Feminism is not for everyone

BY ODALYS CHAVEZ AND
ALEXIS SERRANO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS



Being an antifeminist does not mean that one is misogynistic or that one doesn't believe women should have rights. It simply means that one doesn't necessarily agree with some aspects of feminism. As women ourselves, we would like to highlight such aspects.

Our first question: Why are so many American women concerned with feminism when there are greater worldwide issues? Women in America are not subjected to the same oppression as women in many other countries. For example, virtually every aspect of a woman's life in Saudi Arabia is controlled by men. They cannot drive or participate in sports. They cannot leave their home, travel, work, study, marry, file court cases, or seek medical care without the consent of a male guardian. So, while many American women feel indignant by the notion of not being able to "free the nipple," there are women in other parts of the world who can't leave the house without a permission slip.

Many feminists in America don't want to be viewed as sex objects, but they play into that image by showing off their

bodies excessively. Women want to be viewed as equal beings, yet if any male is to look at their body in a manner deemed unacceptable, they feel "objectified." It is understandable that women want to exhibit pride in their bodies, but sometimes this pride can be taken to an unnecessary extreme.

This group often forgets that men can also face challenges and can also be objectified. Any male can be subjected to the physical and emotional abuse that a woman can. Men are victims of nearly three million physical assaults in the U.S. If a male is a victim of such abuse, he is seen as weak and maybe even pathetic, whereas women are viewed as victims by default. Men, on the other hand, are expected to silently cope with such damage instead of being able to openly express their emotions. This kind of abuse is not gender specific and can happen to anyone.

It has come to the point where women claim that "men want to make it all about them," but we believe that many feminists have certainly adopted a selfish, "all about me" mindset. For example, a woman at an airport halted an entire flight because a gate agent made a sexist remark toward her. She demanded to see a supervisor, and while

many view this act as admirable since she was exercising power and control, one must also consider the fact that she held up an entire flight for her purposes. Many people could have been late to appointments or meetings, but this woman just had to have her way. It is evident that many feminists have an agenda of their own. They are too focused on their wants, their needs, their goals, and their ambitions. Feminists often criticize stay-at-home wives because they sacrifice the opportunity to have a career of their own. These married women are willing to focus on raising a family, and some feminists view it as a lack of ambition. Marriage is a voluntary action. Isn't that the essence of feminism? Women having the freedom to make their own choices?

This leads to the topic of abortion. Such a decision can be understandable in certain cases such as rape or if the pregnancy puts the woman's life at risk, but some women utilize abortion as a tool to accommodate their lifestyles. If one is having sex, there's always the possibility of becoming pregnant, and that is a fact. If one is not prepared

for that, one must make proper arrangements to ensure that it does not occur. Having sex is the choice, becoming pregnant is the consequence or the outcome, and some women need

to learn how to take responsibility for their actions.

It appears as if women want special rights rather than equal rights. Everything "bad" that happens to a woman is because she is a woman, and it should be fixed to work in her favor. Some women coddle and play in to being the weaker sex voluntarily, yet they still want to be viewed as strong, independent women when it suits their needs.

It doesn't make a woman weak to want a man to treat her with amiability and with chivalry. This certainly doesn't mean that a man thinks any lower of a woman if he wants to take care of her. Does your boyfriend hate you if he wants to treat you like a queen? Does your male friend truly believe you are incapable of opening your own door?

As American women, we have it quite easy. The U.S. is ranked in the top ten best countries for women to live in. We enjoy the right to vote, to hold government office, to own property, and to utilize birth control along with other privileged luxuries. We even take for granted our natural rights which are denied to many women found in other countries around the world, such as India where wife-beating is still socially acceptable.

So while the motives behind feminism are still necessary in other parts of the world, they have certainly been misguided here in America. American feminists can either forget about themselves and attempt to create real change in different regions of the world or continue to be selfish and at least redirect their energy to focus on more prominent issues found in their motherland.



Rape culture: More than just a theory

BY LAURA CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

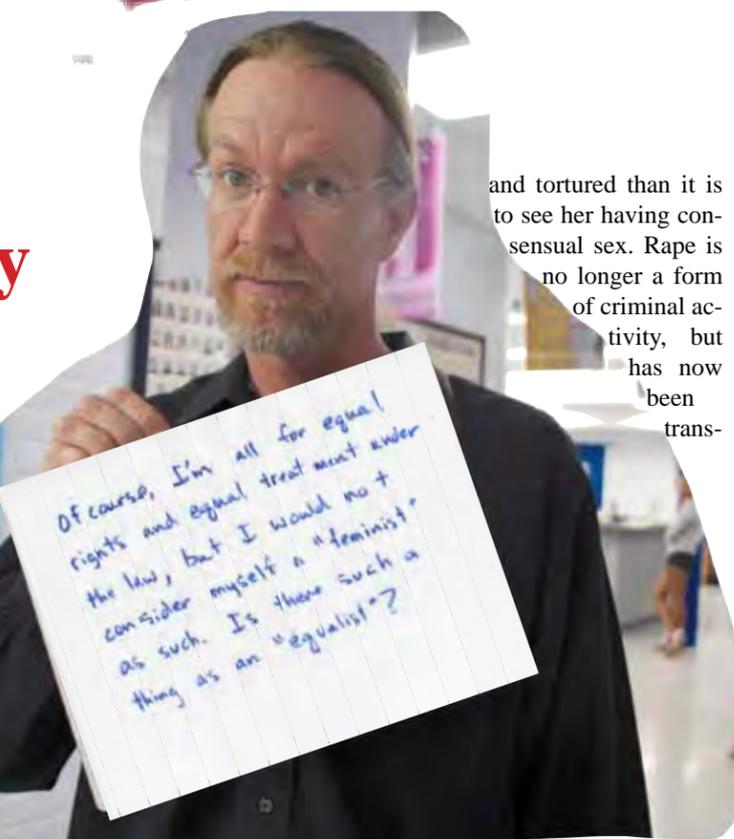
Defining "rape culture" is equivalent to asking a person to define a color. Colors are those things that are just there, and are often never questioned. Marshall University defines rape culture as, "an environment, similar to the one we live in today, in which sexual violence against women is normalized and excused in the media and popular culture."

This definition is slightly off because what Marshall University fails to mention is that men can also be victims of rape. 1 in every 33 men will be victims of sexual assault, and 1 in every 6 women will be victims of an attempted or completed sexual assault.

How did society get to this point? The point where more peo-

ple will react to someone shouting, "Fire!" than it is for them to take action when someone yells, "Rape!" Many sociologists will argue that it's the media that has led the way down this dark path. Last month, *Fifty Shades of Grey* was released into theaters and the movie is centered on aggressive sex and dominance over a sexual partner. The main character Christian Grey is portrayed as this strong powerful man; whereas his sexual partner, Ana Steele, is seen as this fragile and innocent character.

This is where the problem is. Women are constantly being objectified. They are viewed as the damsel in distress, the prize to be won, and the



wom- an whom Christian Grey dominates. Women are seen as potential rape victims.

There are numerous television series that are based on rape, such as *Law and Order: SVU*. It's more common to see a woman on television being brutally raped

and tortured than it is to see her having consensual sex. Rape is no longer a form of criminal activity, but has now been trans-

formed into a form of entertainment.

"What do you do if someone sexually assaults you?" According to the United States Justice Department, each year, there are around 293,000 victims of sexual assault. 68% of sexual

assaults are not reported to the police; therefore 98% of rapists are roaming free. The main reason for the extensive number of disincarnated rapists is because people don't know what to do after they've been raped. Who do you go to? Who do you tell? Will they believe you?

Safehelponline.org advises rape victims to not bathe, smoke, wash their hands, brush their teeth, or eat if they have been sexually assaulted. Next, call 911 and report the crime. There are also 24-hour hotlines available for rape victims who need someone to talk to. The hotlines are completely confidential, and hold no record of who called. Basically, counselors will know who you are only if you chose to tell them.

It is highly likely for a rapist to rape again, unless they are reported. It's scary and uncomfortable to think, let alone talk about what happened to a victim of sexual assault, but by reporting it, one is likely to prevent another rape. Don't be a victim anymore, be the voice. Be the hero.

SPORTS

Boys' volleyball looks to repeat as league champs

BY ERNESTO GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's boys' volleyball team is hoping to make this year successful. After being knocked out of the first round at CIF last season, coach Adelaida Picon's boys are hoping to bounce back and complete this season as Del Rio League and CIF champions.

With the hard work ahead of them and a tough season, the boys still manage to have fun playing the sport they love. From JV vs. Varsity games to practicing outside on the field, El Rancho's volleyball team proves to be more than teammates.

By playing and practicing on the court, or preparing for a game in the locker room, JV captain, Efrain Chavez, says that one becomes really close to the other players on the team and they have a lot of fun on and off the court. Giving them a challenge when playing against them at practice, Chavez says, "not only does it give us the feeling of what it is like playing at the varsity level, it's always fun talking smack to each other and giving each other mean looks across the net." The JV team is seven and one so far. One game off from having a perfect preseason, the boys have high hopes in achieving their goal and becoming the number one team in their league.

With a varsity team that is senior based, the older play-



Coach Picon and the El Rancho boy's volleyball team getting hyped up to take the league championship and CIF.

ers on this team are helping out the younger players to make sure they leave the volleyball program in good hands.

Senior captain, Bryan Rojas, seeks to end his last year on the team as a league champion. "I think the team is doing really well this year. We haven't started off the way we wanted to but

everything's going to come together at the end," said the senior captain. Although varsity is attempting to mirror JV's success, they are having trouble doing so. Having won three out of their eight games in preseason so far, the boys are still striving for a perfect league record. In a team with room for improve-

ment, Rojas hopes to "be a leader on the court" and "help out" the players who are struggling.

"We're more than a team, we're like a family. Nobody really has problems with each other and we all get along pretty well," said senior Isaiah Colon. Colon along with Rojas hopes to be an older brother figure on the team help-

ing out those who need assistance and making sure they improve.

More than just teammates, the boys' volleyball team hopes to achieve their goal as a family.

El Rancho's volleyball team begins their quest for a league title on April 8 at El Rancho's main gym at 3:15 against Whittier High School.

Girls sprint through pre-league meets



BY MATTHEW AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Spring is rolling in and the preseason is firing up. The girl's varsity track team kept up the heat with a win against Montebello (97-21).

The win foreshadows great things for the upcoming season. Some speculators anticipate definite success for the JV and varsity teams. "For the girls, we're expecting to win the league championship," head coach Gabriel Garcia says.

The girl's track teams have high expectations for the season. The teams are emphasizing

positive morale. Coach Garcia emphasizes, "We're looking really strong on the girl teams."

The teams, especially varsity, have reacted positively at practice. Their current successes have proved that statement. "Everyone is working hard during practice and we have a very large team," Garcia explains.

Though a lot of the speculation seems only based on expectation, the teams approach every meet intelligently. The teams are both strong physically and mentally. The coach assures, "We go into every meet trying our best."

Recent improvements on the team have complemented their successes. One area of im-

provement is with the distance runners. Distance runner Melissa Gutiérrez says, "Last year for distance, we only had one athlete. Now we have a solid three."

The track teams never underestimate their competitors. This is true when it comes time for the Santa Fe meet. The coach elaborates, "Historically, our rival has been Santa Fe."

The teams are working hard, and with ever-present morale. Practice seems to be working well, and the teams seem to love the anticipation for this season. The team can only hope these athletes carry this energy to the league meets.

Boys' tennis ready to break through

BY FRANCISCO RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

You only live once, but you get to serve twice. The El Rancho Dons boys' varsity tennis team is looking to ace the competition in league this year. Coach Galindo says, "[the Dons] faced a team that is in our league and got a taste of what season will be like." With an overall record of 4 wins and 5 losses, the Dons need to get into the mind set of reaching and winning CIF.

This year, the Dons singles team is all juniors. Galindo says, "this will be a great opportunity for the juniors to prepare themselves for next year." However, "the singles have been struggling more than the doubles." This means the Dons might have a hard time throughout league.

With spring break coming, many of the Dons are excited to take a break, yet Galindo is not so fond because of the league's schedule. This year the Dons have games throughout spring break and some of the players are not going to be able to attend. Without a full team, the team cannot perform at its best.

As Dons enter the season, an important player moves out. Varsity tennis player, Joshua Briseno will not be allowed to play due to his grades. Varsity captain Ricky Ibarra says, "As new captain, I will be put into a great re-

sponsibility because players look up to the captain." Ibarra adds, "This year will be a great learning experience for next year."

As well as a new year, the Dons also have a new JV coach, Mrs. Elliot. Elliot is hoping to connect more with the players, because unlike track, "[she] will have more one on one time with each player." Elliott says, "[she] will miss how [she] was with the track team but is ready to try something new."



Ricardo Ibarra practices his serve.

SPORTS

Dons compete in elite Florida tournament

BY MARISOL ALMAZAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With a current record of 6-5, the boy's varsity baseball team concludes its trip to Florida for the Florida League High School Invitational. Having lost all four of the tournament games, the team strives to use these losses to their advantage in hopes that they will learn from their mistakes and apply new techniques to future games.

Coach Frank Llanes says, "We are 0-4, losing 6-0 to Pembroke Pine, who is the 47th best team in Florida, 6-1 to Deltona, 11-6 to Winward, and 2-1, to Trinity Christian Academy. The teams out here were tough, but it only made us stronger."

Third baseman Manuel Mercado believes that the players the team faced in Florida were extremely tough competitors. "The tournament was not so great. We played and lost four games, but it serves as consolation that these losses were to great teams," says Mercado.

Outfielder Nelson Guirado agrees with Mercado about the tournament not going as the Dons had planned. "The tournament did not go as well as we would've liked because we made some mental errors that led to four losses, but we're hoping to bounce back up during league," says Guirado.

Mercado is a firm believer that despite losing all four games, the whole team will benefit from simply having played these games. "I think that this tournament will help us prepare for league because the teams here were tougher than anything we have ever come across back home," says Mercado.

Guirado believes that if the team stops making simple mistakes out on the field, the team will benefit greatly. "In



Senior Luis Perez pitches a perfect strike while playing Big Bear.

order to win our league games, we must try to limit our mental mistakes and errors, and instead just focus on our roles as ballplayers," says Guirado.

Playing against such tough competitors has helped the El Rancho Dons gain some new strategies for league. "A technique that I've noticed while being out here in Florida is that if we mix spin into our balls, we will be able to produce more outs," says Mercado. "We have seen some great teams and through seeing how they play, we have picked up some knowledge that will benefit us for league," Guirado added.

Throughout the span of the baseball team's tournament experiences, Mercado and Guirado have noticed some weaknesses within the team. "For the most part, we've been able to play well despite there being a couple of mistakes we need to clear up before league. We've had mental

lapses where signs are missed, but we can easily clear these mistakes by having all the players be on the same page throughout the game," says Mercado. "Our team is fumbling through in the hitting department, but we are confident that we will improve in this aspect," Guirado added.

Llanes, Mercado, and Guirado agree on the team's biggest quality. "One of our biggest strengths has been our pitching. Our pitching has been great because we have been able to keep our pitches consistent," says Mercado. "We have a strong pitching staff that I believe has the potential to take us very far in league," Guirado added.

Mercado and Guirado have gained many memorable experiences through the Florida tournament. "The weather that we've experienced out in Florida will forever be etched into our memories. This humidity feels like be-

ing in a sauna and that's something we've never experienced in California," says Mercado. "I've quite enjoyed the moments we have spent together as a team. It has also been exhilarating knowing that we are playing the sport that we love on the field where our idol Jackie Robinson once played," Guirado added.

Upon arriving in Florida, the team enjoyed a meal at a restaurant near the hotel. The Dons enjoyed the time they spent together; however, they found great humor in the event that took place afterwards. Since it was the team's first day in Florida, none of them really knew their way around the state. "Coach Llanes got lost on the way back to the hotel from the restaurant we had just eaten at. It was quite a sight," says Mercado. The players were also given the opportunity to enjoy their days off accordingly. "Since we had a day off, we were able to attend a spring training game between the Detroit Tigers and the Florida Marlins," says Llanes.

Both Mercado and Guirado agree that the biggest reward that came out of participating in the tournament has been growing more united as a team. "I think the fact that we have been seeing each other constantly day in and day out will unite us for future games," says Mercado. "We have come closer as a team while facing extremely tough competition, which will help us be better prepared for league," Guirado added.

Overall, Llanes believes that playing ball against more experienced teams from other states will help contribute to the team's success. Llanes says, "This trip is going to help us do well in Del Rio League play. We have 14 league games left and we will be very hard to beat if we pitch, hit, and field the way we're capable of."

The Golf team keeps record intact

BY RANDY LAZARO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As El Rancho's golf team progresses through its preseason games, golf players believe this is the year their team will get the recognition it deserves. With a current record of 3-0, not many golf teams dare to go against them.

Coach May has high hopes saying, "I am very excited about the team this year. We're scoring fairly low on our matches." Unlike most sports, scoring low in a game of golf is swell. Although the CIF cap is at 210 strokes per game, El Rancho manages to stay below the radar. The team scored 205 against St. Paul High School and 199 against another rival team.

This year's team consists of eight golfers, three more than last year's five. Coach May explains that there are not many seniors on the team. "The team is still pretty young; despite that, [they] should do well if everyone golfs how they're supposed to golf."

Senior Jesse Valdez agrees with May. "This season's players are strong," says Valdez, "I know we will make it to CIF, we just need to look out for the tough schools like La Serna, Cal High, Santa Fe, and Pioneer." Valdez says the team's confidence was built up by the wins against Montebello and Saint Paul.

Both Valdez and Coach May believe that competing for the league championship is something doable. May says the top players are Erick Cortes, Nathan Sanchez, and Miguel Sanchez. Hopefully these team members' work ethics will rub off on the other team members.

Make sure to show support of the Golf team as the team faces the La Serna Lancers today at the Whittier Narrows.

Swim team welcomes new coach

BY BREANNA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There are only a handful of staff members here at El Rancho who voluntarily double their workload as being full-time teachers and coaches. Amongst this list includes Spanish teacher Ms. Castillo, who now coaches the girls swim team.

Although this is Castillo's first year teaching, she has three-years of experience prior to being a swim coach. "I'm already a coach for Whittier College. I help them out in swim and water polo, but I did swimming here when I went to El Rancho," says Castillo. During her high school years at El Rancho, Ms. Castillo was trained by Coach Pringle who now coaches the boys' water polo and swim team.

Even though Castillo's schedule may be rigorous, she manages the responsibility of being a coach and instructor. "I'm responsible for 40 people at a time every semester when I coach at

college. Now I have my 40 girls, but I also have 100-something students," adding, "it doesn't make it hard for me; it's just I do have to be more organized," says Castillo.

Throughout her years of coaching, she's learned that helping students improve and learn techniques isn't always easy, but it's worth it. "Coaching is definitely hard work and a lot of patience, but it really is fulfilling. I have a really good group of girls that all have something to offer," adding, "all of them are really hard-working, so that makes me really happy and motivated to be here," says Castillo.

Her goals for the Dons are to improve their individual times and have a positive mentality throughout swim season. "I would definitely want them to all do better than they did last year, and I want them to stay motivated and excited about swimming for the years to come," says Castillo. She also wants the team to work together as a unit, so the Dons could strive towards their



Coach Castillo hopes to bring new victories to the Dons.

goals together. "I think swimming is a very individual sport, but at the end of the day, we just want to do better than the next team and the next school, so as a team we could all contribute to that goal," says Castillo.

To aid Coach Castillo in guiding the team, she chose team members Melody Carbajal, Sierra Edwards, Christina Espinoza, and Nancy Vasquez. "I really look to these girls for guidance," adding, "all of them

pretty much lead the team," says Castillo. Castillo's appreciation is valued from team members, such as Leonila Sargento. "As a new coach, I think she brings out a lot of confidence from us. I've learned just in the short amount of time that I've been able to know her, she is the biggest sweet-heart, and she just wants the best for us," says Sargento. Carbajal agrees by saying, "She's taught a lot of new workouts that we were unfamiliar with, and that has helped train us harder."

As of now, the girls swim team has an overall record of one win and four losses, while the boys' team holds a record of two wins and three losses. So far, the girls and boys team have both won against Bell Gardens High. However, the boys did come close to claiming a victory against Montebello High when losing by only three points.

Make sure to show support of the swim team as the Dons face the Whittier Cardinals on April 2nd at Whittier High School.

CAMPUS

Flour sack babies introduce students to hardships of parenthood



Andrea Hernandez and Emily Estrada, Med Core students, cradling a baby girl on gender reveal day.

BY NATALLY MAURICIO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Babies everywhere! In almost every class or hallway, students at El Rancho High School were seen carrying small babies with them everywhere. It was all part of the flour sack baby project done by

Ms. Tejada's Med Core classes. "My objective for this project was to educate my students on the enormity of taking on parenthood at such a young age," says Tejada, "I had my students work on paperwork before actually doing the project to discuss the types of hazards that a baby can encounter. They assem-

bled their babies together, and that was an impactful technology component for the students." The project will run for about a month, but the students were only required to take care of their babies for a week. They had the choice to do so with another student or as a single parent. Throughout that week,

the students wrote journal entries documenting how their day with their baby went. "At the very end of the project, we're going to have a share out where the students will create a baby book and talk about their experience," Tejada explained. In addition, the students were asked to go out and look

for two jobs. They were not expected to actually get the jobs, but they were to inquire how much they pay per hour.

The students then needed to create a list of items necessary to take care of a newborn child and to calculate the expenses needed to raise a baby.

Some students had babies with deformities and others even had twins. These special situations made students aware of the difficulties that come with parenthood.

"With this project, students will be able to learn through their own research that it is so expensive to raise a baby. At the end, students will realize how important it is to have a career, not just a minimum wage paying job, in order to support the family that they want and in the matter that they want," adds Tejada.

This was the first year that the El Rancho Unified School District has had students complete this project.

"I really don't know why the project has never been done before, but I feel like there is a great need for it. Every school district should have something of this nature to help students understand with their own eyes how important it is to set their career goals first, and then family will fall in place later."

Ms. Tejada is very satisfied with the way students engaged with the project and is grateful toward Ms. Kwek and Mrs. Chavez-Diaz for helping this project come to life.

Library Corner

The first 3 students who bring the correct **written** answers to the Library will receive a prize.

Each of these sentences is the first line to a book. Which book?

- "A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas River drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green."
 - The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway
 - Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
 - The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie.
 - The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold
 - Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn
 - Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- "Double history on a Wednesday afternoon—total nightmare!"
 - Vampire Kisses* by Ellen Schreiber
 - Lord Loss* by Darren Shan
 - Cheerleaders: The First Evil* by R.L. Stine
- "You don't know about me without you having read a book by the name of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, but that ain't no matter."
 - The Prince and the Pauper* by Mark Twain
 - The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
 - The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* by Mark Twain
- "If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book."
 - Holes* by Louis Sachar
 - Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy
 - The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket



Blood Drive

El Rancho High School

Thursday, April 23, 2015
8 am - 2 pm
New Gym

To sign up, please see Mr. Sorenson, Key Club Advisor in Room Q2

For questions regarding donor eligibility, please contact the PIH Health Blood Donor Center at 562.789.5433 or Blood.Donor@PIHHealth.org

Free Thank You Gift to all Donors

Attention Seniors: Remember to Bring Your Honor Cord Card

Follow us on Twitter @mobileblood

Before Donating

- Be in good health
- Eat a nutritious meal
- Drink plenty of water
- Bring valid photo I.D.
- Weigh at least 113 pounds
- You can donate blood every 56 days
- Be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed parental consent)
- No tattoos or piercings within the last 12 months

CAMPUS

Author and former Don, Carrie Arcos, discusses style

By Sol Mendez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

1. What inspired you to write your first book?

"I wanted to write a book that gave voice to the experience of family members of drug addicts. In my reading experience, I had come across many stories from the point of view of the addict, but not so many from the sibling's point of view."

2. Is there a message within your works that you want your readers to grasp?

"I don't really have a message per say. I'm wary of message-kind of books. I guess overall is that no matter what experience one is going through, there is always hope. And there is also love. Love conquers everything."

3. If you had to choose, which writer would you consider a mentor?

"Wow, that is such a hard question. I don't think I can choose just one. I have been influenced by so many writers. The ones that come to mind right now are Louise Erdrich, Tim O'Brien, Ernest Hemingway, and Toni Morrison."

4. Did you learn anything from writing *There Will Come a Time*?

"I learned that each story has a different process. I learned that I can write under a deadline. I also learned that I can write from a male per-



Carrie Arcos talks to Mrs. Zeko's English Honors classes about her new novel.

spective and that more important than gender is character."

5. Was there ever a time an individual told you something negative towards your writing? If so, what was your response and how did you overcome it?

"Oh sure. There are always going to be people that don't like what you write, or that don't get it. You have to have grace for them and for yourself. I don't like everything I watch or read, so sometimes it's a question of taste. But what I really try is to be respectful and to not take things personally."

"I often hear people talk about their art like it's their baby, and when they release it in the world, it's like their baby

is out there. I don't think this is helpful. It shows too much attachment to something that really once it's made public, it is no longer your own."

"The meaning generated from readers is something that happens apart from you, so you have to be able to let it go."

6. What is the hardest part of writing a book?

"The middle. For sure the middle. The beginning is so fun because you're discovering. The end is fun too because it's all been heading for that. But the middle. Sometimes you get stuck. Other times you start to doubt if you even have something. It's a difficult stretch for me, probably around 25,000 words or so."

7. Do you have a specific writing style?

"I'm not sure. Maybe. I think it's been called "poetic," which means I use metaphor I guess. I don't write in verse. I'm pretty bare bones, trying to get to the essence and make it as clean as possible."

8. Did your time working with teenagers inspire your writing?

"Yes. I read so much Young Adult (YA) as a high school teacher. I was always looking for books for students. And when I write now, I do often think of former students and how they might respond to my work."

9. What draws to the Young Adult genre? What do you consider your genre to be?

"It's so great. There's lots of wonderful work happening in the field. But I will say YA isn't really a genre in the truest sense. It's a marketing category. It's an umbrella that contains all the genres: contemporary realist, fantasy, crime, horror, SF, etc... I'm marketed as a contemporary realistic writer, and I'm probably more drawn to that genre as a reader. But I would love to write an SF one day. Something with aliens preferably."

10. How can readers discover more about you and your work?

Website: carriearcos.com
Blog: carriearcos.tumblr.com
Twitter: @carriearcos

Woods brings Sports Medicine to El Rancho



Mr. Woods hopes to accomplish great things at El Rancho High.

BY JESSIE HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Learning how to "wrap up ankles and knees, stretch, warm up, and cool down the body" are just some of the hands-on activities that come with the new sports medicine class. Who better to teach this class than new addition to the El Rancho staff, DeAndre Woods?

Woods is a Cal State Fullerton alumnus who majored in "kinesiology and sports medicine." Since an early age, Woods "knew that [he] wanted to teach" and "by the 5th grade, [he] knew that" he wanted to gear his teachings towards sports. "Being able to bring [his] passion for sports and athletics" is what Woods enjoys most about teaching sports medicine.

Woods came to "El Rancho for the atmosphere and family-oriented students." Woods is excited to teach. DeAndre advises students that are "interested in athletics, anything involved with injuries, nursing, emergency medical technician, and physical therapy" to take the course because he thinks it will be very helpful.

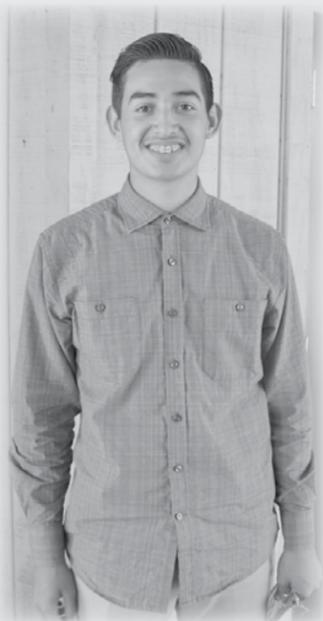
Sports medicine, currently a semester course, "will be a year-long course in the upcoming fall," says Woods. Students will have the opportunity to learn "basic anatomy of the body, physiology, and body movement" as well as having the ability to experience "different careers in sports medicine that students can get out of college or straight out high school." Woods will also teach other hands-on activities focused on what to do before treatment or before athletics.

Woods believes that the sports medicine course is really important when it comes to learning "coaching and athletic training." According to Woods, sports medicine will give students different ideas to "things in life such as nutrition." Also, "students will be able to reflect these teachings at home, allowing them to live a healthy lifestyle and to promote a healthy lifestyle," says Woods.

Woods would also like to be a bigger part "in the athletics side of things coming up." Mr. Woods is happy to be here, hopes that all students are happy to have [him] here, and is looking forward to teaching another year of sports medicine.

WORD ON THE STREET

What is Your Weird Obsession?



"My weird obsession is the song Uptown Funk because it makes me want to dance all of the time."
-Ray Garcia (10th grade)



"My weird obsession is that I only like to work out and exercise when it is hot outside."
-Michelle Salinas (11th grade)



"My weird obsession is my mom's enchilladas because they're so good."
-Carlos Millan (12th grade)



"My weird obsession is Michael Clifford because he is very majestic."
-Esmeralda Quiroz (12th grade)

PICTURE THIS

The start of spring brings sensational smiles



Academic Decathlon demonstrates enthusiasm for Future Dons.



Norbert and friends during lunch bag theatre being silly for the camera.



Seniors Amanda Gonzales and Alexa Ramirez dressed up for the Sadie Hawkins pep rally.



The Science department lets students hold a corn snake during Future Don Night.



Kathleen Madera, along with water sewage, at the A.P. Environmental science field trip.



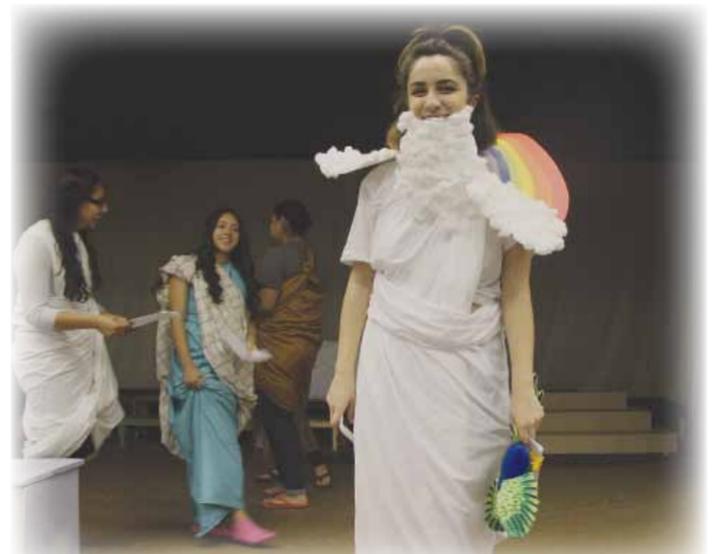
Dons during the A.P. Assembly where they learned about their future A.P. classes.



Band members performing and dancing in order to welcome parents and students.



AP Environmental science students pose during the Whittier Narrows field trip.



Senior Samantha Castellanos plays God for her A.P. Literature class.