

# Community Together Bringing the Community



Guest contributor Luis Sainz Gil is a junior that has taken numerous Honors and AP courses. He participated in

Cross Country and Track and Field this school year. Next year, he plans on being involved in ASB and potentially Yearbook. He is looking for a means to make his senior year memorable.

By Luis Sainz Gil and Anthony Lopez

Before we were all sent home that fateful day in March 2020, A.B. Miller students left the campus with the view of the classic Rebel mural on the eastside of campus, which depicted the now infamous “Rebel Guy.” And as the students walked away, we left as Rebels.

After a year of online school, students finally returned to campus for the current 21-22 school year, but we did not return as Rebels, as the now defunct mascot was overturned, and the east-side mural was now changed to what it is now a huge letter “M.”

As many already know, the school made the decision to remove the “Rebel Guy” and any mention of Rebel Nation from the school in response to backlash and a change.org petition criticizing it for its historical context and symbolic nature.

Although many can agree the change was necessary, it has effectively left A.B. Miller without a mascot, which has taken a hit on the already hindering school spirit of the student body; therefore, the only logical next step forward is to choose a new mascot, as a way for the community to come together and hopefully revive the much-needed spirit our campus needs.

But doing that is easier said, than done.

The community in our school all seem to propose their own ideas for this new project, not just the students, but the teachers too. Mr. Lawrence Wilke, a visual arts teacher, pitches his idea, who is in the camp of getting rid of the “Rebel” name totally. “I just thought of this a week ago, maybe we should be called *The Pride*, since we have all of the Miller Pride posters around, so like maybe lions,” he stated in his usual enthusiastic tone. The idea of using the recently implemented *Miller Pride* acronym for the mascot is interesting, although questionable due to the many better replacements for the so-called Pride posters.

Another of Miller’s finest art teachers, also chimed in while proposing a completely different idea: “I want to have the mascot fit the Rebel name but kind of a strong and powerful logo that can really represent us well,” provided Mrs. Delana Martin. Ms. Martin continued explaining how it should not be a person per se, but a creature that locally inhabits the area and represents the history of California, “like a bear,” she suggested.

The students on the other hand, seemed much more eager to express their *wild* ideas.

Senior Oscar Salas, who at first proposed our mascot be an apple, later changed his opinion to that of a panther. Wade Ziegler (11) pitched in by vivaciously contributing that “...in [his] opinion, the school mascot should be a beast of a horse wearing the Rebel’s hat.” Bennett Rodriguez and Jesus Pineda, both Juniors, supported the idea of an animal wearing the cavalry hat, but not necessarily that of horse, so that we may still be called the *Rebels*.

But the upperclassmen were not the only ones who wanted to give their thoughts on this topic, as these underclassmen (underclasswomen in this case) enthusiastically responded to my question. Claudia X. Garcia (10) said that a horse oddly fits the school’s vibe, and that a mustang could work since the word starts with the letter M—“other than that I have no idea what else it could be,” shoe pondered.

Linda Moreno (9) is barely finishing her first year at Miller, and initially sided with the concept of a lion or tiger to show the strength of the school; ironically, she ended up choosing a koala, since everyone knows it is an animal known for their great strength, just like a lion.

As anyone can see, the search for the *right* mascot for A.B. Miller comes with many challenges, especially if no one seems to agree with one idea; yet, it is still better for the many students of our community to share their ideas and opinions, since it is better for the community to choose as a whole, than just a small minority of us.

With many ideas floating around, ranging from animals like horses and lions, to hats and apples; one thing is clear, choosing a new mascot is a decision that should be made by the very students who go to this school, as it can bring the community closer with school spirit and make A.B. Miller High School stand out as a beacon of creativity.

