



El Rodeo



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Rancho High School

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Volume 54, Issue 6

Look inside to find...



Winter Formal...

All the Do's and Don't's of the latest formal fashions, plus tips on how to make the night special.



Second Annual ER Pride Day...

See all the hard work that many ER students and teachers put into helping beautify our school.



Return of the Tardy Sweeps...

Tardy Sweeps returned with the New Year-with even harsher consequences than before. Find out why inside.



Trio Triumphs at East Coast Competition

BY: LILIAN ARCE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Julio Jimenez, Luis Guevara and Manny Mejia went to Rhode Island from December 9th - 11th, 2005, to compete in the Junior Olympics.

All three boys went to represent their club, The Equalizers. For the Junior Olympics, Julio, Luis and Manny qualified for the Cross-Country divisions. Julio and Manny were in the Young Men's Division, having to run a regular three mile race and in the end placing 2nd with Julio's time of 16:02 and Manny finishing in at 15:27. Luis's division, Intermediate Boys, placed 1st in the nation with his running time of 15:59.

They weren't the least bit nervous. "Other people looked nervous but we are used to running so it was like any other race," said Julio. Sure, they were used to running, but they weren't used to running in such cold weather. With twenty inches of snow falling the day before the race, most of the roadways were paved for the runners, but some areas were still covered in snow.

In the end, Luis and Manny were awarded All American Honors which the top twenty-five athletes receive while Julio was a runner-up. Going to the Junior Olympics was a great experience for them and they were glad to have had the opportunity to go compete. Next year, Luis hopes to be able to compete again while Julio and Manny plan to continue running at the collegiate level.

El Rancho Hosts Part One of Academic Decathlon Competition

BY THOMAS MEDINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the second straight year, El Rancho hosted the first half of the Annual Academic Decathlon competition for Los Angeles County. In this rigorous mental competition students from schools all around the world study and compete in ten separate events: Speech, Interview, Essay, Math, Economics, Language and Literature, Art, Music, Science and Super Quiz. The subjective tests, which are speech, interview and essay, were held at El Rancho this past Saturday.

El Rancho's team has been practicing and studying since summer in order to prepare for this competition. The team consists of nine people, eight of which are seniors. The competition is structured in such a way that people with various different grade point averages are selected to compete. Each school's team must contain three members at three different categories: Scholastic, Honors and Varsity. Varsity competitors must have a G.P.A. of less than 3.00, Honors competitors must have less than a 3.75 G.P.A. and Scholastic competitors can have any G.P.A. El Rancho's Varsity competitors are seniors Noele Andrade, Jesus Rosales, and Alex Delgado; the Honors competitors are seniors Christine Hernandez, Kristina Biado and Veronica Chavez; the Scholastic competitors are seniors Edgar Gonzales, Jerry Siffuentes, and junior Thomas Medina.

In recent years El Rancho's decathlon team has preformed very well through dedication and hard work. Unlike some schools, which begin practicing for this competition in September, ER's team began studying just one week after the end of last school year.

Two years ago, ER's team reached the highest it had ever achieved with a ranking of 4th in the entire Los

Angeles County. This year, Decathlon hopes to do even better than El Rancho has ever done before. "I can't wait to be able to compete, I know that I will do just as well, if not better than my brother did when he was in decathlon two years ago," said Thomas Medina. "I know it will be tough because he was one of the highest scorers in El Rancho's history, but I think I have a chance."

Only three of the total ten events were held last Saturday

and demeanor. The speech part consisted of a prepared speech and a one and a half to two minute impromptu speech. Students were graded on both the content and delivery of their speech.

There were many people who put a lot of effort into helping this event run smoothly. Many administrators, teachers and members of student organizations such as exec and pepsters were around to assist with the competi-

tion. The speech part consisted of a prepared speech and a one and a half to two minute impromptu speech. Students were graded on both the content and delivery of their speech. There were many people who put a lot of effort into helping this event run smoothly. Many administrators, teachers and members of student organizations such as exec and pepsters were around to assist with the competition. Each other test has some portion of it based on independent research that must be carried out by the students. Additionally, the Language and Literature section includes some written works that the students must become familiar with. This year's literature pieces were two of Shakespeare's plays *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Much Ado about Nothing*.

Sadly, this is the last year that the head Decathlon coaches intend to coach. Mr. Anderson, Mr. Meza and Mr. Dyson who have been teaching decathletes for over twenty years intend to retire from teaching Decathlon after this year. Hopefully, this year's performance at the last part of the Decathlon competition will prove a success.



Members of ER's Decathlon team relax and wait to be called on for their Interview or to go preform their Speech.

at El Rancho. The three subjective tests, the tests that require judges to be present and grade the students on various aspects of their presentations, were held at various time between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. At 11 o'clock the students had to gather in the cafeteria to participate in the essay part of the competition. Each student had to choose from one of three different topics regarding the either the Super Quiz topic or the literature that the students were required to read.

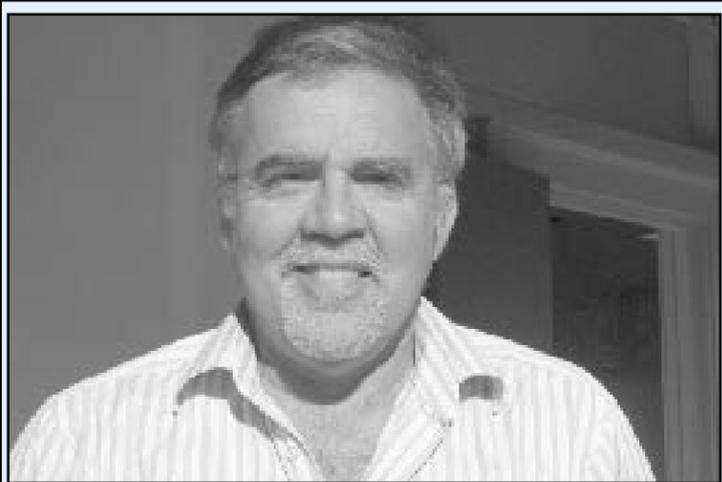
After the essay period each participant had a scheduled speech and interview time. For the interview, the student had to enter into a classroom and answer questions before a panel of three or four judges. They were graded on their answers, as well as on their physical appearance

tion. Overall, the event went extremely well due to the support of so many people.

The rest of the Aca-



From Left to Right: Alex Delgado, Veronica Chavez, Thomas Medina, Kristina Biado, Jesus Rosales, Noelle Andrade, Christine Hernandez, Edgar Gonzales, and Jerry Siffuentes.



The 411 on Mr. White

BY SUMER SANCHEZ, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"I shot an arrow into the air where it fell I know not where..." For Mr. White this quote is a philosophy for his teaching. "I can shoot the arrow into the air meaning I can teach my students but where my teaching ends I don't know." Mr. White is a Cal State Northridge and Azusa Pacific graduate he is currently attending Cal State Long Beach for his masters in statistics. Teaching for 25 years now, Mr. White has had many experiences from teaching. "One teaching experience I remember is years ago I was playing a man by the name of Bruce Monson a game of chess and after the game was over I taught him a move that worked for me successfully for some years." The move that Mr. White taught Mr. Monson was called The Belgrade Gambit. Years later Mr. Monson became the chess champion of Colorado and wrote a book that was titled The Belgrade Gambit. "It was nice to say that I had finally seen where my arrow had fallen meaning I actually saw how my teaching affected someone." With many good memories to recollect there were some hard times in teaching to. In past schools before El Rancho Mr. White had to deal with math department heads who had ancient ideas and did not appreciate calculators. "I had a choice to either teach by weak methods or contradict department rules." So that was the cause for the decision to change schools because it caused friction. At one point in his career Mr. White delivered liquor to liquor stores, bars and restaurants during his vacation. So, he has written the following epitaph (saying on his gravestone).

Reaching for Her Dreams at Forever 21

BY STEPHANIE CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Aileen Ruiz is a junior at El Rancho and has been currently working at the Forever 21 located at the Cerritos mall. She's been working there for about two months and thinks it's really great! "I would have never thought it would be so much fun; I mean working always seems like a hard thing to do." She says it was kind of hard in the beginning because she hardly knew what to do or where to go. "I needed to know were everything was."

Ruiz doesn't make much, just the minimum but hopes that by saving up she'll be able to buy herself a car and other cutest stuff. She wants to buy herself a Honda but not a very new one she's always been an antiquity type of person. Ruiz loves her job and when she's not working she's out having fun. She's a totally down to earth person. She loves going out with her friends. Close friend Yesenia Gaytan said "She's really cool to talk to and I love having her as one of my closest friends." She's currently single and she's not expecting anything at the time.

Ruiz goes into work right after school and doesn't get home until after 9:30 p.m., still this doesn't hold her back; she always keeps up with school and is never off task. Ruiz is also saving up for college, she is still undecided where she will go but still has one long but short year left here at the Ranch. Aileen Ruiz isn't just another smiling face here, but one that is reaching for her goals.



What do You Think About the New 11:00 P.M. Driving Curfew?



"I think it sucks because what happens when someone has an emergency?"

-Senior David Delgado



"It's stupid! Nobody is going to listen anyway!"

-Senior Fernando Hernandez



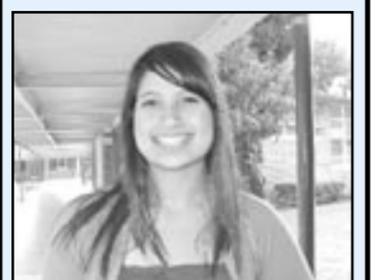
"Esta tonta porque no es justo que nos den un ticket por estar manejando despues de las 11:00 p.m."

-Junior Rosio Rosales



"It's not fair because we have rights. And driving is one of them our parents should be the ones telling us when to be home!"

-Senior Jose Figueroa



"I don't agree with it, people are still not obeying it and now I'm one of them."

-Junior Valerie Arrelano

What's With All the Weezing?

BY: MARIJKE TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Christmas Eve wasn't very jolly to junior Samantha Luevano; the only present she got for Christmas was wheezing, rashes, and back pains. "I was so close to having an asthma attack, the weird thing was that I never had an asthma attack before, it was the first time, so I didn't know what my limits were for breathing." Luevano was rushed to Downey Medical Center at 2 a.m. When she arrived at the hospital, they took her to a room in a wheelchair, and gave her 7 treatments. "It was a very dangerous situation for me; the doctors said that at any moment my lungs could have collapsed." Luevano was at the hospital until 5 a.m. "When I got home, I was so hyper from the treatments that I couldn't go to sleep."

Asthma is very common among children, teens and adults. It's a disease that causes the airways of the



lungs to tighten. Since Samantha came close to having an asthma attack, it means that her lungs weren't getting enough oxygen to breathe. Some symptoms of asthma attacks are: trouble breathing, wheezing, coughing, chest pain, and chest tightness.

The causes for asthma attacks are called triggers. Triggers are everywhere. Any home can be full of triggers like mold, dust mites, second hand smoke, cockroaches,

cats and dogs. Other asthma triggers may be air pollution, foods, respiratory infections and exercise. Asthma can be triggered by the smoke from a burning end of a cigarette, pipe, or cigar, or the smoke breathed out by a smoker.

Overall, survey about the number of people with asthma showed that 18.9% of high school students reported having asthma. Significantly fewer Hispanic (15.6%) than black (21.3%) or white

(19.3%) students reported having lifetime asthma. Approximately one in six students reported current asthma.

Nationwide, asthma ranks among the most common chronic conditions in the United States, affecting about 14.9 million persons as of 1995. Asthma is a chronic lung condition that increasingly is being recognized as a major international public health challenge.

Asthma disproportionately affects children. Childhood asthma is among the most serious and widespread health risks affecting children today. It is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15 in the United States and is the leading cause of chronic illness among children.

Asthma cannot be cured, but to prevent attacks, talk to a doctor. There are prescription drugs available that can help prevent and treat this problem.

Tardies Take Toll on Late Students



Even Collings' car encourages students at El Rancho High to "B PRSNT!"

BY AMANDA M. CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With El Rancho administrators reinstating a very strict tardy policy accompanied by even stricter tardy sweeps, most students find themselves

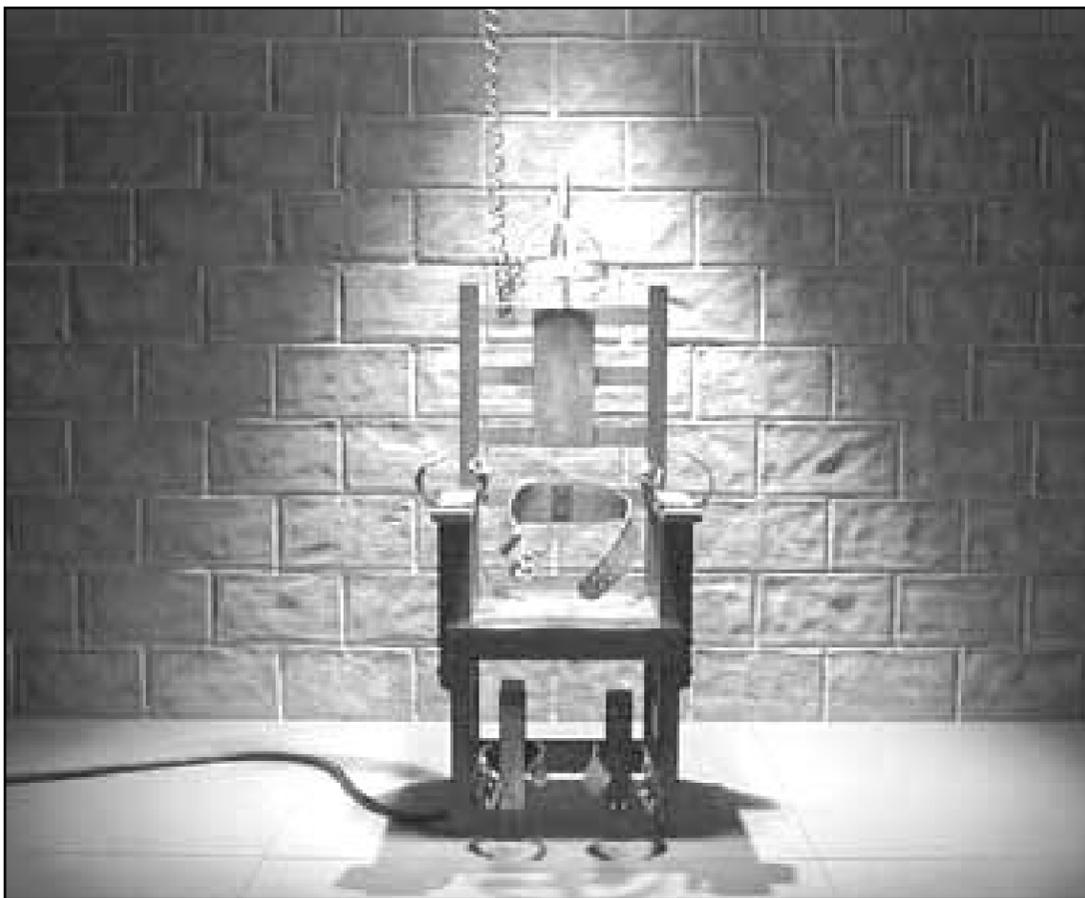
asking, "Why?" Well, thanks to an overwhelming number of daily tardies, the administration, along with the full support of most of the teachers, has decided to bring back tardy sweeps. An average of about 7% of ER's student population is tardy on a daily

basis. With two hundred forty-seven students tardy on day one, two hundred thirty-eight on day two, and an unbelievable two hundred eighty three on day three of the tardy sweep has become very clear that the students don't care about bells. So far, freshmen have

the most tardies, closely followed by sophomores, while juniors and seniors try to set a better example with the least amount of tardies. When asked about his feelings on the tardy sweep, Mr. Chuck Collings had this to say: "There is no perfect solution to fix our tardy problem, so far since we've started the tardy sweep we have also given students more time to get to class as well as prolonged the bells."

The policies for the tardy sweep are much harsher now than before. Now, after three tardies, the school notifies your parents and after four, you get Saturday school. If you manage to get to five, you are automatically suspended. Personally, I think the fifth-tardy suspension rule is way too harsh. The whole point of the tardy policy is to prevent students from missing school; suspension does not solve the issue of tardiness. In addition, suspending El Rancho students just creates more work they have to make up.

Can We Correct Capital Punishment?



The electric chair is one of the oldest forms of capital punishment California uses.

BY ALMA JAUREGUI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of the most controversial issues of today is capital punishment. Outside of San Quentin, where all of California's executions take place, it is not rare to see protestors outside its gates. Many Californians see capital punishment as a cruel and unusual punishment, which it is not.

Executing some one because they have killed another person is just what this

state must do. Yes, Capital Punishment is done in the state of California; I think we should proceed with the executions more often.

Having a human being executed is not cruel and unusual punishment if that individual is a murderer. The court judges whether it is cruel or not.

The latest execution that has occurred in our state was two weeks ago on Tuesday, January 17. The inmate that was executed was Clarence Ray Allen. Ray Allen was

legally blind and in a wheel chair. Before his execution, the 76 year-old's appeal, it was argued he was too old and feeble to be executed, but it was rejected. Personally, I think Ray Allen's execution should have occurred earlier in his life. Ray Allen was on a wheelchair and had diabetes. Although he was on death row; they should have spared his life. The problem with this execution was that it took too long. The prisoner waited in death row for 23 years, as do many



76 year-old Clarence Ray Allen was executed on January 17th for multiple murders.

other inmates. If a convict is to be put on death row, the execution should not be held 20 years after the judge's verdict. The prisoner should be put to death as soon as the verdict is made. Otherwise, the execution loses all purpose.

Every person that is put on death row should not have the chance to get an appeal. The government spends so much of our tax money keeping these criminals alive when they should be executed as soon as possible. We have no room in our rapidly growing world to have murderers, rapists, and thieves taking up space in our prisons and burning up our tax dollars. All the money our government spends keeping these people alive could go to better causes. Capital punishment is the best policy our state has taken up. We must rid ourselves of all these vermin.

Do Not Call List



BY SOPHIA DUNCAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just a reminder, starting on February 5th, all cell phone numbers from every mobile phone service provider are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls. Can you imagine picking up your cell phone to hear someone going on and on about the many advantages of buying their mattress? Not only are these calls annoying, they will eat up your minutes and end up costing you a lot of money in the long run. Yes, you will be charged for these calls. To prevent this, the Federal Trade Commission has created the National Do Not Call List, where you can call or go online to register your number(s). Not only can you register your phone on the Do Not Call Registry, you can also register your house phone numbers, too. It will only take a few minutes of your time and it blocks your number for five years. For those five years, you will be free of those annoying telemarketers that try to sell you things you really don't need. You'll save headaches, time, and money. Once your number is on the list for at least thirty days, telemarketers should not call you. If they do, the website has a link that lets you file a complaint. All you need is the date you got the call and the name or telephone number of the company that called you. The only calls that you will continue to receive will be from charities, political organizations, and telephone surveyors, the people that conduct surveys over the phone. This is a great benefit for us consumers. Because of the Federal Trade Commission, we have a choice of whether or not we want to receive calls from organizations and companies. You can register today online at <http://www.donotcall.gov> or call 1-(888) 382-1222

What's Your Pet Peeve?



BY: MARIJKE TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



1. "HATERS AND STUCK UP B*!@\$#s"
-OSCAR GARCIA 11TH



2. RACHEL PEREZ 10TH
-"WHEN PEOPLE CHEW LIKE COWS."



3. STEVE LUEVANO 9TH
"MY LITTLE SISTER"



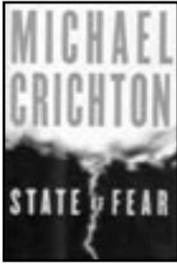
4. TONY HERNANDEZ 10TH
"HOMOPHOBIA"



5. BEATRICE ONTIVEROS 11TH
"DRY HANDS"

Library Wish List and Game!

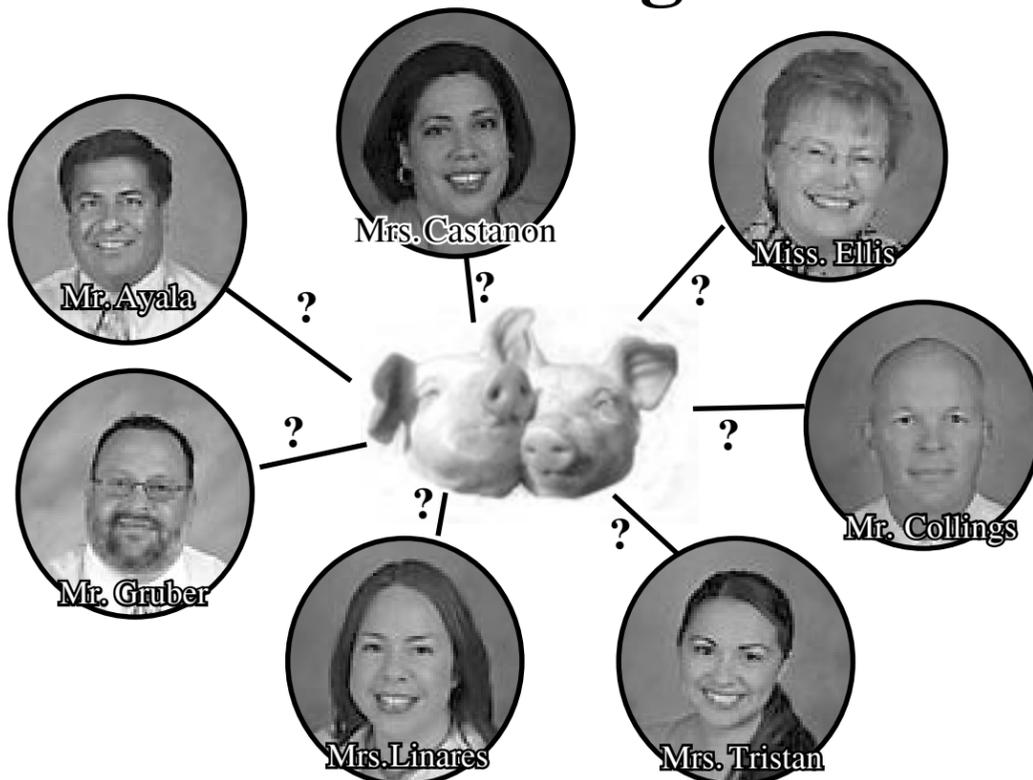
Match the Teacher to the Book that was Donated to the ERHS Library:

 <p>1. <i>Wild Steps of Heaven</i> by Victor Villasenor</p>	 <p>a. Ms. Guzman-Jurado</p>	 <p>2. <i>Why You Cryin'</i> by George Lopez</p>
 <p>b. Ms. Stack</p>	 <p>5. <i>The Transall Saga</i> by Gary Paulsen</p>	 <p>c. Ms. Tanigawa</p>
 <p>4. <i>State of Fear</i> by Michael Crichton</p>	 <p>d. Ms. Cardenas</p>	 <p>3. <i>The Penultimate Peril</i> by Lemony Snicket</p>
	 <p>e. Ms. Kiralla</p>	

Answers: 1-d, 2-e, 3-a, 4-c, 5-b

Donate a book to the ERHS Library by going to the Don Page, clicking on "Library" and opening the Wish List.

Which Administrator Will Kiss the Pig???



Mrs. Brown Holds Auditions for Model U.N.



Courtesy of the Don Web page.

By Samantha Garaicoa
El Rodeo Staff Writer

In an effort to enhance El Rancho's interest in international affairs, Ms. Brown, from room L-2, has introduced the Model United Nations program to our school. The program is fashioned after the United Nations and is intended to simulate the U.N. General Assembly and other multilateral bodies. Created in the 1920s, and first modeled after the League of Nations, the Model United Nations has grown significantly since then, now boasting more than 200,000 high school and college and university student participants.

Last Monday, Ms. Brown held auditions for this year's Model United Nations three-day conference, which is being held Irvine. Students had to battle for the precious eight spots to participate in the conference, and their consideration was based upon a speech about a current world issue. These selected students will become delegates for a nation they will represent at the conference, where they will discuss topics that affect their particular nation. "This is a very exciting program. Colleges look favorably on students involved," said Ms. Brown. "It's a very good thing to have on your college transcript."

At the last conference, which was held at Mission Viejo High School at the beginning of January, El Rancho's Model United Nations program represented Tunisia, a country located in Northern Africa. The four delegates discussed globalization, landmines, and overpopulation (among other things), and how they affected their adopted nation. They spent the night at a hotel near the school.

The Model United Nations program meets every Monday during lunch, and they are currently looking for more students to participate.

Blue Pride Day: Dons Do the Dirty Work



A few Dons help pick up trash.



Jasmin Ramirez sweeps up the school.



Even the Basketball team is at work.



Even kids are at work.

**BY MARIKE TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER**

Did you wonder why the school campus looked so clean when you came back from your three day weekend? No, it wasn't your imagination, because Saturday was the 2nd annual Pride Day. El Rancho students and faculty helped clean the campus together to get ready for the Academic Decathlon.

When students first arrived at the school, teachers were waiting to hand out tickets which had numbers on them so the students would know what part of the school to go clean up. Although most students went to Pride Day just for the extra credit and free food, some were actually there for other reasons. Junior, Jasmin Ramirez says, "I'm here because I need more hours for community service." Others were there to show their blue pride. Senior Anthony Galindo says, "I'm here to show my El Rancho pride."

Why is there an El Rancho Pride Day? "to keep the school clean." said junior Crystal Araguine. Since we are hosting the Academic Decathlon, it's the faculty and the student's job to keep this school showing its blue pride.

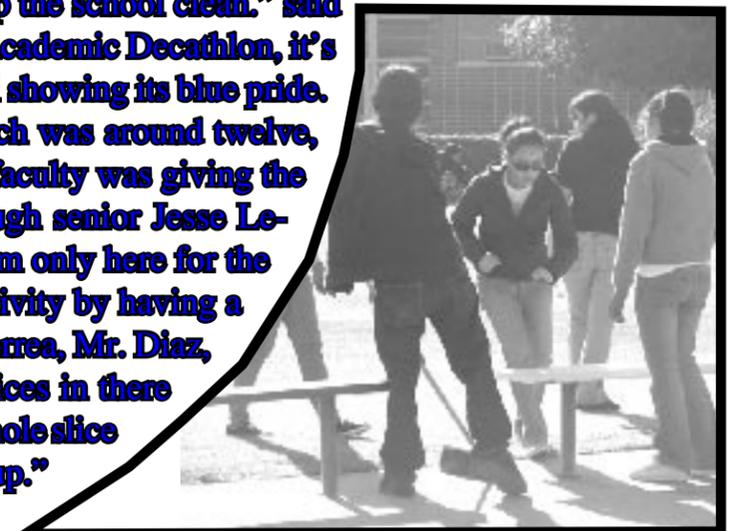
When Pride Day was coming to an end, which was around twelve, students hurried in line to get the free pizza the faculty was giving the students for all of there hard work. Sure enough senior Jesse Lerrma was first in line for the pizza, he says, "I'm only here for the free food." Some teachers took into the festivity by having a pizza eating contest. Teachers like Mr. Correa, Mr. Diaz, and Ms. Chavez stuffed whole pizza slices in there mouths. Mr. Diaz said, "I stuffed a whole slice in my mouth and almost threw up."



Stephanie does her part to clean up the campus.



Mr. Llanes and students help plant flowers to beautify our campus.



ER students have fun while working



A couple of students show their pride.



Julie Ortiz doesn't not mind getting her hands dirty



El Rancho students getting down and dirty for a good cause.

What's the one Thing You Cannot Forget to Take to Winter Formal?

BY MARIA RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



1. "Lip gloss"
Jill Lapierre-12TH Grade



2. "My girlfriend"
Sergio Oropeza-11TH grade



3. "Money"
Chris Chavez-12TH grade



4. "Change of clothes"
Josh Adams-12TH grade



5. "Sandals"
Alex Avila-10TH grade

What to Wear to Winter Formal

BY AMANDA M. CARILLO AND
SANDY ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Winter Formal takes place February 3 at Quiet Cannon in Montebello, but some girls still need to buy that special dress. Uncertain about what to buy? If you want to wear something simple but unique try wearing a skin toned dress that has a lot of details like bows or intricate sewing. If you want to wear something more glamorous, wear a frilly nightgown inspired cocktail dress. To keep the dress formal, balance how short the dress is with how low cut it is. If your dress is long you can get away with a lower plunge or halter. If the dress is short, the neck of the dress should be higher. The best-looking dress right now, which looks flattering on every body type, is the little black dress because it is simple and practical yet there are so many variations of it you are sure to find the perfect one for you. Try to wear something frilly and girly; feminine clothes and light colors like corals, pinks, tans, and whites are very popular right now. Metallic shoes look best with black and tan dresses and will look anything but ordinary. If your dress has a lot of unique details your shoes should reflect the same look. Look for shoes that at least have a few parts of the same color as your dress. If you wear a jade colored dress, wear black



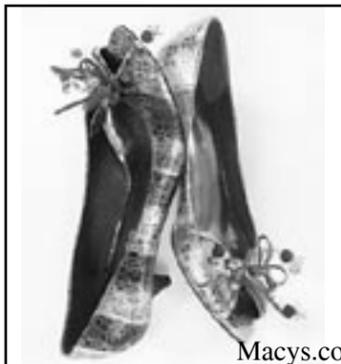
Macys.com

You are a girl so dress like one.



Macys.com

Any girl can wear this girly dress



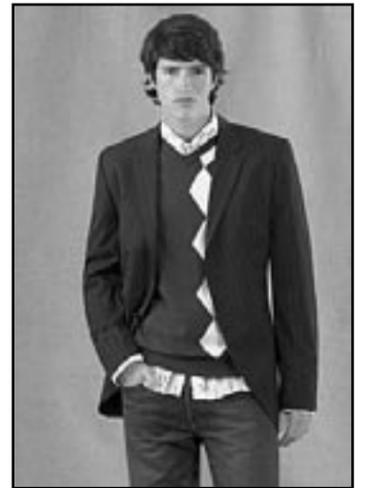
Macys.com

Shoes with attitude get dressed up too

heels with small jade colored stones in the straps. Don't wear heels that are too high because you will most likely take them off before the night ends; also, remember to break in your shoes by wearing them for a few hours a couple days in advance to make sure they fit comfortably. Try not to splurge on something you are only going to wear once by shopping at department stores that usually hold a lot of sales.

Going to formal and have no idea what to wear guys? Want to avoid wearing a stuffy tuxedo but still look formal enough? Try the hottest item this formal season, the at front wool trousers; not only do they look extremely flattering but they also eliminate the bulge affect that pleated pants usually cause. Wool trousers are the perfect rich, thick material that not only slim you down, but make your look very casual chic. The best thing about trousers is that they are available in most department stores. This also gives men more options because you can pair any type a shirt with these pants. For Winter Formal, try to keep up your casual chic look by dressing up the wool trousers with a deep colored button up dress shirt. Try out a rich, luxurious color like burgundy; it is a nice unexpected twist with wool trousers. If burgundy is not your color, try out a jewel toned blue, you might be pleasantly surprised how well the pants will match.

To keep this outfit formal, remember to wear a matching jacket. The jacket should be simple and dark toned. To avoid miss matching, buy a jacket that's in the same color family as the pants just a few shades darker. Now when it comes to the shoes, a simple business style lace up shoe is the best choice. To polish your look, add a textured black tie and a dressy leather belt. Most of these items can be found in your closet so there is no need to splurge to look good. Don't try to wear a ashy rhinestone covered powder blue tie, a canary yellow plaid jacket, or a 70s inspired suit to try to stand out because your date will most likely hate you for it. Just remember to wear something comfortable and dance the night away.



The blazer makes you look formal

Reminder: Students who are absent on February 3, will NOT be admitted to the Winter Formal.

Style as Easy as One-Two-Three

1. The Vest



Cropped Vest: Forever 21 - \$13
Billowy Top: Forever 21 - \$15
Leather Belt: From Mom
Jeans: Target - \$25
Ked's: Robinson's May - \$15

2. The Shoes



Gold Shoes: Salvation Army - \$2
Sweater: Salvation Army - \$6
Leopard Print Shirt:
Pink Skirt: Salvation Army - \$4
Socks: From Mom

3. The Neck-



Beaded Necklace: Forever 21 - \$10
Long-Sleeve: Banana Republic - \$45
Vest: Forever 21 - \$20
Brooch: Gap- \$8

Review: *Kung Fu High*

BY JORGE NUNEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you are the type of person who likes to read fiction books about fighting and drama, *Kung Fu High School* is a book you should consider reading. The author of *Kung Fu High School*, Ryan Gattis, does such a great job putting things into details which makes the reader understand what he or she is reading. Although some of the content is very brutal, bloody and at times disturbing, it is such a good book. The book basically takes place at a school by the name of Martin Luther King High School, also known as M.L.K. where "everyone" is in a group/gang and fight for their lives every single school



day. This is one of those books you would like to see in theaters, but can't. This book will make you read continuously just to find out what is next, (yes, it's that good). People

describe this book as "*Fight Club* meets *Breakfast club*" and this is somewhat true, except that it is more aggressive and it is dealing with younger people doing very adult-like stuff. This book is what High School will never be. *Kung Fu High School* will make you feel the pain the characters are going through and make you wonder how horrible it would be if your school was like that. This book is recommended to people over sixteen years old because of its brutality. I give *Kung Fu High School* two thumbs up for creativity and detailed writing. Ryan Gattis is such a fantastic writer and maybe one day *Kung Fu High School* will be on the big screen.

Book Review

Memoirs of a Geisha



BY ABBY JAIME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In Arthur Golden's first fiction novel "*Memoirs of a Geisha*" the strikingly pretty child of an impoverished fishing family Chiyo is taken to Kyoto to be sold into slavery to a renowned Geisha house. There she is renamed Sayuri. She survives the cruel hierarchy prominent among Geisha in the Gions district. Through her eyes, we are given a backstage view of the ancient and secretive geisha district, and the lives of women who endure the rigorous arts of a geisha. Behind its façade of haunting beauty the district turns out to be a viciously competitive place where women vie desperately for men's favor and money, where a young girl's virginity is auctioned off to the highest bidder. This book delivers a dazzling portrayal of a singular and most seductive woman who tells her story in a compelling first person voice. With its descriptive dialogue and detailed scenery and perception of people, you can picture these characters both vividly and intimately.

America's Most Wanted: The New Need for Speed

BY SOPHIA DUNCAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

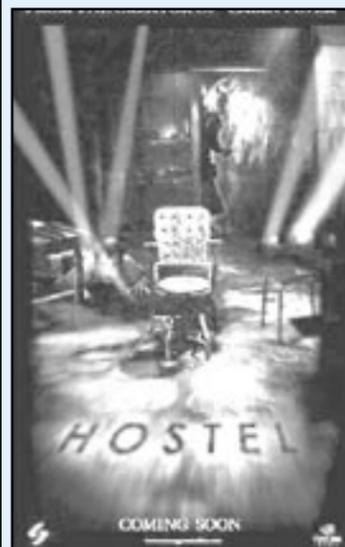
Last year, on November 22nd, EA Games released its newest, highly-anticipated racing game, *Need for Speed: Most Wanted*. The previous release, *Underground 2*, had few awes, and *Most Wanted* picks up where it left off and does it with more skill and entertainment. Even though *Underground 2* had an open world to cruise around in, there was no real reason to go from one side of the city to the other. There were the typical races in which you had to go across the city to take out your opponents, but that's about it. *Most Wanted* is a great improvement, adding an easy-



to-figure-out menu that takes you to any race you choose and a reckless police force willing to do anything to take you down. The police force does not just hunt you down though; as the pursuit goes on,

their tactics get more complex. Each chase starts simple with the regular police sedan crashing into you, but as the chase goes on, giant SUVs smash head-on into your car, helicopters hover over you, and roadblocks are everywhere. On top of all that, if you use your car in every pursuit, your car gets "hot" and the cops begin to notice your car, forcing you to switch cars. You can still customize your vehicle, but no matter how many accessories you put on it to make you faster, the cops still increase their energy on you. *Need For Speed: Most Wanted* is out on PlayStation 2, PC, Game boy Advance SP, Xbox, Xbox 360, and Sony PSP.

A Very Hostile *Hostel* Movie



Hostel, released on January 6th, was written and directed by Eli Roth.

BY CHRISTINA RUBALCAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you're looking for a film that'll give you goosebumps, and have you covering your eyes, then *Hostel* is the film for you. The film is rated R for violence, gore, nudity, sex, profanity, and drug use. The film follows a trio of

friends who are backpacking across Europe checking out the sights. Paxton, played by Jay Hernandez, is the cool motivational friend who wants to have a good time and is always confident. Josh, played by Derek Richardson, is the geeky friend who if he would just relax could get some ladies. Oli, played by Eythor Gudjonsson is their Icelandic friend whom they picked up in France and backpacked with.

The question everyone is dying to know, is it really disgusting brutal, and violent as were being led to believe? First off, I'm surprised this movie didn't get a NC-17 rating, and second, *Hostel* is truly special because it's not the gore that makes the movie good, it's the suspense. The suspense keeps you and others on the edge of your seat; wanting more. The film has great actors and a great setting that really sets the mood for the film. I give this film two thumbs up for its suspense.

King Kong Doesn't Live up to Hype



This PG-13 action/adventure movie is a three hour seven minute.

BY ABBY JAIME
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The movie *King Kong* doesn't open with the typical setting of your average major motion picture; it is primarily based in the early 1930's coming off the Great Depression. The comedy/suspense thriller compels the audience to look sideways with disdain, with the bad physical comedy by Ann Darrow (Naomi Watts). Naomi Watts and Adrian Brody don't have much romantic intensity in their dialogue; she seems more passionate with Kong himself.

They continue to avoid each other's company, with the occasional look of affection, but other than that Ann Darrow seems more annoyed by Jack Driscoll (Adrian Brody) than in love. *King Kong* has prehistoric creatures which are irrelevant characters; the irony is that they were the most electrifying part of this movie. *King Kong* is just an epic story sabotaged by cheesy lines and bad actors. The visual effects are more spectacular than "*Lord of the Rings*," but other than that you won't be satisfied with the overall product.

Wrestling Team Going for Second in Del Rio League

BY ADAM GONZALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

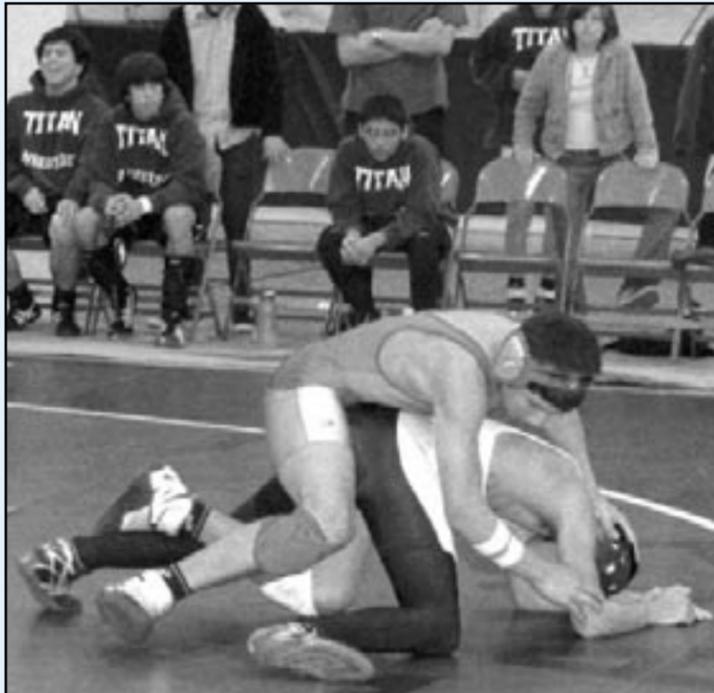
The El Rancho Dons Wrestling team was in a mode of high preparation for yesterday's home showdown against La Serna High School.

Both La Serna and El Rancho went into the season finale with identical 3 wins, and 1 loss league records. This match ultimately revealed who placed second in the Del Rio League, and grasped a spot in the CIF Southern Section Dual Meet Tournament. This tournament will be held in February.

El Rancho's only loss in league play this season was to rival Santa Fe High School. Santa Fe is expected to win the Del Rio League title by the end of the week.

The possibility of El Rancho taking second is a big thing because last year the Dons finished fifth and failed to make it to the CIF Southern Section Tournament.

El Rancho does not bring much senior experience into their matches. The breakdown of the team is two seniors, seven juniors, three sophomores, and one freshman. The two seniors on the team are Brandon Flores who wrestles



Junior David Moriel Against Pioneer Last Week

at 140 pounds, and Ruben Velasco who wrestles at 189 pounds.

Going into yesterday's tournament it was evident that this was a very important event. Junior wrestler David Moriel commented on his preparation for yesterday's match, "We need to win to go to CIF, so there's a lot of pressure on everyone this week."

After yesterday's showdown, the Dons will have

a short break then they continue their strive for winning this Saturday, February 4th at the Del Rio League Finals. The league finals will be held at La Serna High School. The top three finishers in the finals will clinch a spot in the CIF Individuals Tournament in February which will be held at La Quinta High School. La Quinta is located 130 miles east of El Rancho.

Lady Dons Hope For Strong Finish

BY ADAM GONZALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Lady Dons Basketball team has gone through a tough season. Their current record is 12-11 overall and 3-4 in Del Rio League play.

Despite the adversity of the season, the Lady Dons still strive to play out the season well and work hard in the playoffs. Coach Lawson commented on his goals for the rest of the season, "We want to finish strong in league, and play well in the playoffs."

The Lady Dons last game was a loss against their toughest opponent La Serna High School. The final score of that game was 57-29. On that game Coach Lawson commented, "We played well in the first quarter but that was it."

The Lady Dons next game is today at California High School. Coach Lawson goes into this game with confidence by saying, "We have beat Cal Hi twice this year and if we play anywhere near our capacity we will beat them again."

The Lady Dons go into this game with a very healthy team, and are led by the



Lady Dons have a 12-11 record

team's leading scorer tandem of Aidee Marquez and Jessica Boling. Also, the defense of Aidee Marquez will be a nuisance for Cal Hi's gameplan.

On the overall perspective of this year's regular season Coach Lawson stated, "This year has went well for me although I think our team did not play up to their potential."

After the Lady Dons play California High today, they finish off the regular season against Santa Fe High School, and then the finale against Pioneer High School.



Forward Byron Cerna (9) Goes Against a Cal Hi Defender

Dons Look to Take League Against Cal Hi

BY STEVEN CAUDILLO
& MICHAEL YANEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Thursday the El Rancho Dons Boys varsity soccer team painted a beautiful masterpiece of defeat against the Whittier Cardinals. The Dons completely dominated the game in every facet possible. Their defense was solid behind reigning mvp goalie Ismael Diaz. Diaz recorded his sixth shutout of the season in the Dons 5 to nothing win over the Cardinals. The Dons on offense had an impressively all around balanced attack. All five goals were scored from five different Don players. Goals were scored by Sophomores Emilio Dominguez, Hugo Torres, Junior Diego Pinto, and Senior captains Marco Riperto and Marcelo Hernandez.

The Dons impeccable combination of awless offense and defense this past game is what will be needed for a win in their showdown with their Del Rio League foes of Cal Hi. Today the Dons will play the Condors in what is basically the league title game. Senior captain Marco Riperto elaborated on the importance of the upcoming game by saying, "We've been waiting for this game all year long because its our chance to show who the Del Rio League title belongs to." The offense will look for the aid of Junior Jose Dominguez who leads the Dons with 9 goals on the season. On defense they will depend on their outstanding goalie Ismael Diaz. The Dons will take their undefeated record on the road, making it an even tougher game for the Dons. Currently the Dons have 5 wins and two ties in league play, and 12 wins, 2 losses, and 4 ties overall.

Dons Lose By Nine in Winterbelle Classic

BY STEVEN CAUDILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Friday at the Winterbelle basketball game the El Rancho Dons varsity basketball team hosted the La Serna Lancers. In the two teams first meeting the Dons were pummeled by the Lancers by 33 points. With that in mind the Dons went into this past Friday's game as huge underdogs. The Dons came out of the gate determined and ready against the Lancers. They led the game early mainly because they caught the Lancers off-guard with their inspired play. The lead changed hands consistently throughout the first half. Deep into the second half the Lancers went on a late run and led the Dons by three at the half.

The Dons kept the game within reach the whole second half but could never seem to get over the hump and take the lead. The Dons lost the game by a deceiving score of 63 to 54. Late intentional fouling contributed to the somewhat large margin of defeat. Although the Dons lost the game, they made a drastic improvement over the first meeting with the Lancers. Coach Llanes offered his assessment of the Dons play against La Serna by saying, "We showed a lot of improvement the second time around with La Serna and we



Dons Lost Friday's Winterbelle Game against La Serna 54-63

ended that game with a lot of respect from our opponents." That alone is very self gratifying accomplishment for a team that has been struggling all season long.

The Dons will try to use the momentum from last Friday in the game today against Cal Hi. In the Dons first meeting with the Condors they were defeated by 10 points, which is quite impressive for the last place team (Dons) against the second place team (Condors) in the Del Rio League. It will be a tough task for the Dons considering this game will be on the Condors home oor. The Dons currently have 5 wins and 19 losses overall, and have 1 win and 6 losses in league play. The Dons can still make the CIF playoffs because they are not mathematically eliminated from contention of third place in the Del Rio League.

Lady Dons Fall to 9-9-1

BY MICHAEL YANEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Friday the Lady Dons soccer team had a record of three wins, four losses, and no draws, conceded a 3-1 loss to the La Serna Lancers to make their overall record nine wins, nine losses, and two draws.

The Lancers dominated the Ladies Dons throughout the whole first half of the game with the score 2-0. In the twenty-sev-



Lady Dons Face Cal Hi Today

enth minute of the second half (#9) Susana Gomez, leading the team in goals, scored a goal to give the Dons an opportunity for a better outcome of the game. Towards the end of the second half the Lancers scored a third goal to confirm their lead to win the game

After the game Coach Jorge Galvan said, "I felt that the team improved since the last time we played La Serna. Other than that, they all played great."