



El Rodeo



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El Rancho High School

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Volume 54, Issue 7

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Students Search for a Future...
El Rancho Hosts its Annual Career Fair.



Got a Pint to Spare?

El Rancho Students Give Some of Their Blood to Help Ease Shortages



Kissing the Pig...

Vice Principal, Chuck Collings Gets the Privilege of Kissing the Pig!



CAHSEE: Special Ed. Students Gain Exemption from Exit Exam

By THOMAS MEDINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Once again the California High School Exit Exam, or CAHSEE, has been thrust into the forefront of California's education concerns. Recently passed legislation has created a special exemption loophole for students who are currently in Special Education programs in California schools.

If the student is on track for graduation in every other respect and is enrolled in special remedial education classes they will still be allowed to graduate from high school. California schools have one year to modify their curriculum and teaching methods in order to prepare the special education students with the skills necessary to pass the exam.

Currently, all seniors not exempted by this new law must have passed both the math and language portions of the exam in order to graduate from high school. All seniors who failed to pass on portion of the exam are currently enrolled, not only in normal intervention classes, but also an after school class. These students will have their last attempt to pass the exam and graduate on March 21 and 22.

This will be the senior's 6th attempt to pass the exam. Sophomores will also take the exam for the first time at the same time as the seniors. Students take the exam once as a sophomore and if they don't pass the first time they continue to take the exam until they do pass. Students are provided with two chances as juniors and three as seniors for a total of six attempts to pass the exam.

"The easiest way to not have to deal with all the special classes and extra intervention opportunities is to just pass the exam the first time. Many sophomores don't take the exam seriously; it has not dawned on them that they must pass this exam in order to graduate," said Mrs. Linares.

Cochran Hopes to Make Statement at State Meet

By THOMAS MEDINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2002 an El Rancho wrestler has made it to the State level of competition. Senior Bryan Cochran will wrestle at the California state competition this Friday and Saturday in Bakersfield. This past Saturday he placed 3rd in the Masters competition which is after the CIF and the precursor to the state level of competition. Two weeks ago, at the CIF competition, Cochran placed 1st in the CIF southern section for the weight class of 215 lbs.

He has been wrestling for the past four years at El Rancho and he wrestled for two years prior to that. "I got into wrestling because my older brother was in it. I saw how great he was doing and I wanted to do even better than him," said Cochran.

This last state competition will cap a very accomplished wrestling career at El Rancho. A four year letter man, Bryan Cochran wrestled at several different weight classes. Ranging from 160lbs up to 215lbs, Cochran has



Senior Bryan Cochran has prepared all year for his chance at State.

apparently found the weight he can do the best at. Last year, at the 170lbs class, he went to Masters but was unable to progress to the state competition. This season Cochran has only lost a total of three times; all of them minor decisions.

"He has worked very

hard for his senior year. He has taken all the necessary steps to go as far as he has," said fellow wrestler Senior Carlos Chavez.

At the Masters competition Cochran wrestled the 215 wrestler from Canyon Springs who Cochran had lost to in the pre-

season. The wrestler did not stand a chance as Cochran won by a technical fall with a score of 16-1.

The last wrestler to go to State was George Coutts in 2002.

"The team has progressed by leaps and bounds over last year's performance," said head wrestling coach Joe Alvarado. "This year we had nine wrestlers progress to CIF and the team ranked in the top 8 in the CIF team competition. We've come a long way, but we still have much further to go. We want to make a statement at State."

Aside from Wrestling, Bryan played football his freshman year. However, he decided to focus all his energy into wrestling because he "could do much better, I wanted to beat my brother and I knew I would have to put a lot of time and energy into the sport."

"Wrestling is the best sport. When you are out there on the mat there's only you and the other guy, the isn't anywhere that you can hide and there's no one else to blame if you lose. Wrestling is the only sport where every thing depends on you alone, its all about your own ability."

Decathlon Team Finishes First in Region

By THOMAS MEDINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Thursday El Rancho's Academic Decathlon team was recognized by the El Rancho Unified School District. The Academic Decathlon team performed admirably well at the recent competition taking 1st in the East region and 5th overall in the Los Angeles County competition. The L.A. County consisted of approximately fifty schools.

The team consisted of three categories based on grade point averages and contained nine members, eight seniors and one junior. The varsity category, which consists of members with a 3.0 G.P.A or less, was team captain Senior Alex Delgado, Senior Jesus Rosales, and Senior Noelle Andrade. The scholastic category, whose members needed a 3.75 G.P.A. or lower, consisted of Senior Veronica Chavez, Senior Christine Hernandez and Senior Kristina Biado. The honors category, whose members could have any G.P.A consisted of Senior Edgar Gonzales, Senior Jerry Sifuentes and Junior Thomas Medina.

Each student who competed received a plaque from

the school board that listed the accomplishments of each competitor, in addition to the team's standings and individual ranking.

Medals for the competition were given to the top three scorers in each region in each of the 10 subjects: mathematics, Super Quiz, Language and Literature, Music, Science, Art, Economics, Speech, Interview and Essay. Every member of the team received at least 3 medals from the competition. There was not a single member who did not receive a medal in at least one of the areas of competition and every member received a blue medal for the team placing first in the region and a green medal for the team placing fifth in the county.

The total team score was 40,682, which was not high enough to qualify El Rancho to participate in the State level of competition. However, El Rancho's score is very high; they are just faced with an incredibly tough division. For example, a team that scores a mere 10,000 total in other states is more than eligible to participate at the state competition. If any two members of El Rancho's decathlon team combined their scores, the total



ER's Decathlon team triumphant after the award banquet

would be over 10,000 points.

Additionally, the two head coaches received recognition at the board meeting. Coaches Doug Anderson and Jim Dyson have been training decathletes for the past twenty-four years and decided that this team would be their last. Leaving behind a very impressive legacy, having been coaching since the first decathlon competition in 1982, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Dyson had 18 first place teams, 5 second place teams and only one third place team. Although the divisions that divide up the teams have

undergone considerable change over the years, beginning first as socio-economic regions and progressing to the current divisions based on geography, these coaches have consistently turned out winning teams who never received below third in the region.

Other coaches who were present at the meeting received recognition, including David Retana who is the econ. coach, Tim McMullen who is the Lang. and Lit. coach and Mark Matthews, who has consistently volunteered to help the competition for over the past ten years.

Deputy Zaldivar on Duty

BY LILIAN ARCE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior, Isaac Zaldivar, like many, can't wait to graduate. He is eager to finally say he's done with high school and to get a chance to say, "Can I see your license and registration?" Zaldivar wants to become a deputy for the county of Los Angeles. He first realized that he was interested in this profession during his freshman year but really started to pursue it during his sophomore year. From Sept. 2005, to his recent graduation from the Explorer Academy in January, Zaldivar was involved with the Explorer program which is dedicated to helping young people train and be able to receive an inside look at what it's like to be in law enforcement. While attending the academy, he endured eighteen weeks of intense training as well as having the opportunity to be able to assist professional officers on patrol.

Unlike many his age, Zaldivar has already experienced situations that one may be afraid to encounter, such as dead bodies, stabbings, and gruesome accidents that would give a person goose bumps. Although it does take up most of his social time with family and friends, he enjoys patrolling the streets and trying to make an impact on people's lives,



Zaldivar started reaching for his dreams when he was a sophomore.

whether it is a minor or major thing. At first, his family was hesitant about him wanting to become a deputy but it didn't take long for them to realize that it was what he wanted to do.

Zaldivar says that when he tells people that he is going to become a deputy they tell him that it's a dangerous job, as if he didn't know that already. What he doesn't like people telling him is that he can die in the line of duty. From his point of view, "You can die walking down the

street...doing anything or any profession. You don't necessarily have to be involved with law enforcement." Zaldivar can't wait until he turns nineteen so that he can finally apply for the position of a deputy. If accepted he would most likely be an official deputy at the age of nineteen and a half. With all of his hard work and dedication as well as support from his family and close friends, it won't be long before Zaldivar is known in Los Angeles County as Deputy Zaldivar.

America's Next Top Model

BY SARAH SAITO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you thought that your dreams couldn't come true, well think again. Junior Mayra Gonzalez is here to prove otherwise. Her dream since a very young age has been to become a prestigious model. Gonzalez says, "It's been my dream since I heard about it, since I could remember." Not only does she love taking pictures and posing in front of the camera but she is also an excellent student, who is able to maintain a 3.0 GPA. But this is not all; she is also a first chair ute and a drum major.

She has been able to maintain a B average for three consecutive years. She is an organized person that knows how to manage her time wisely. Even though she is in band, she always makes time for her homework; especially her history homework, given the fact that it's her favorite subject.

Gonzalez has many plans for the future; finishing high school and college, becoming a model, traveling, and starting a family with her "high



Gonzalez, "America's Next Top Model" is eager for the upcoming events she will be attending in April.

school sweet heart" or current boyfriend who she is very much in love with. "I plan to marry my boyfriend, I love him so much!" said Gonzalez.

So how did Gonzalez enter one of the biggest modeling conventions of the world? She was listening to the radio when she heard an advertisement about needing girls to audition to be part of a modeling convention, so she decided to make the call. She followed through and went to audition and got accepted. In April she will be spending a week in the OC at the convention site.

Many agencies will be there to sign contracts with the chosen models. "I will be meeting with all the agencies including MTV, WB, Cosmo Girl Magazine, Elite Magazine, Women's Fitness, Gucci, LA Models and many others," explains Gonzalez. Not only is this an opportunity of a life time, but it could make Gonzalez's dream come true.

This girl isn't just looks so next time you spot Mayra Gonzalez, don't be afraid to say "Hi," because you never know, you might be looking at a future MTV or Gucci model.

Oops... Newspaper Blooper.

The feature on Mr. White that ran in the past issue should have included this conclusion.

At one point in Mr. White's career, he delivered liquor to bars and restaurants during his summer vacations. Thus, he plans to have his epitaph read: "Here lies Wes White, math teacher and liquor delivery driver. When he wasn't enlightening the suburbs he was sedating the ghetto."

We forgot this...



Rolling in a 3000

BY CINDY MENDOZA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Jesse Ortiz, a senior at El Rancho High School, drives a 1991 Mitsubishi 3000 GT. He had been working at Guaranty Chevrolet for the past five months in order to earn the cash for his dream car. Ortiz had to save up \$1400 to buy his GT. Before owning the 1991 Mitsubishi, Ortiz owned a Honda Accord which was handed to him from his parents-however, for this guy, that just wasn't good enough.

After owning his Honda for four years, Ortiz sold it for \$2100. This meant he only needed a little more for the 1991 Mitsubishi. To buy this new car he needed to have \$3500 and he was more than half-way there. Ortiz is a hard working guy and it comes to no surprise how fast he reached his goal. He worked hard over the summer of his junior year so he would be able to have it in September; just in time for his senior year. Starting in style Ortiz made this a memorable year.

This senior enjoys his new car: cruising in it, "chillin" in it and sometimes even racing it. Ortiz said "This car is way faster it reaches 160 m.p.h.; I've only reached 140m.p.h. but and I am determined to do the best."

Ortiz actually hopes to eventually buy something better and faster. But for now Ortiz is happy with his Mitsubishi especially because he is the only one at El Rancho with this unique and beautiful car.



Senior Jesse Ortiz enjoys driving around after working a long five months for his Mitsubishi 3000 GT.

Mrs. Martinez, Unplugged

BY CHRISTINA RUBALCAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For those of you who have had the pleasure of being in Mrs. Saucedo's class, now known as Mrs. Martinez, you would likely say that she's fun and understanding, honest, down to earth, successful, and most importantly, a great teacher.

Mrs. Martinez began her career here at El Rancho only three short years ago. She attended Cal State Long Beach and majored in Mathematics.

Prior to working here at El Rancho, Mrs. Martinez was working at Boeing as an airplane engineer. Even at a young age she knew she wanted to work with airplanes. Working at Boeing as an airplane engineer was a great job. So, why did she choose to become a math teacher? Her reply was, "I wanted to teach the subject that makes sense to me; it's challenging, and I like challenges."

Mrs. Martinez loves teaching here at El Rancho because she enjoys the company of a great faculty and overall good students. When asked about what is her favorite class to teach, she responded by saying Algebra 2. She said that she enjoys teaching Algebra 2 the most because she can relate to the students who



Mrs. Martinez always pushes her students to do their best.

come in the class and they're usually prepared to work hard. Surprisingly, there are times where she finds it difficult to teach math; that's when "the students don't believe in themselves."

The hardest part of Mrs. Martinez's job is changing her students' attitudes. She strongly believes that your attitude is the key to your success.

In her free time, Mrs. Martinez loves to ride motorcycles. (But can't anymore because she's expecting.) She also likes going to the movies and working out at the gym.

When asked how long she's thinking of staying here teaching math, she replied, "Infinitely many years; when pi ends."



Whatever Happened to Good Ole' Blue Pride?



"That is just dumb because they are only making the school really bad."
-Ivan Arce, 12th grade



"It is sad to know that someone would do this to destroy their own environment."
-Roger Palomino, Security



"In my humble opinion, graffiti needs severe punishment, such as an ol' spanking."
-Mr. White, Teacher



El Rancho's Boys' restroom on the west side of campus wins the award for "Dirtiest Facility on Campus." Male alumni who wish to remain anonymous claim that the toilets often go "for weeks without being flushed." In addition, there is tons of graffiti sprawled across all four walls as well as graffiti etched into the walls, the stalls and anything else that can possibly be destroyed.



"That is such a lack of respect for the school and a lack of pride as well."
-Mr. Galvan, Teacher



"That is not the right form of expressing yourself; that's just wrong."
-Thomas Pasos, 12th grade



"The restrooms are appalling; this makes us look worse than we really are."
-Jessica Perez, 12th grade

El Rodeo

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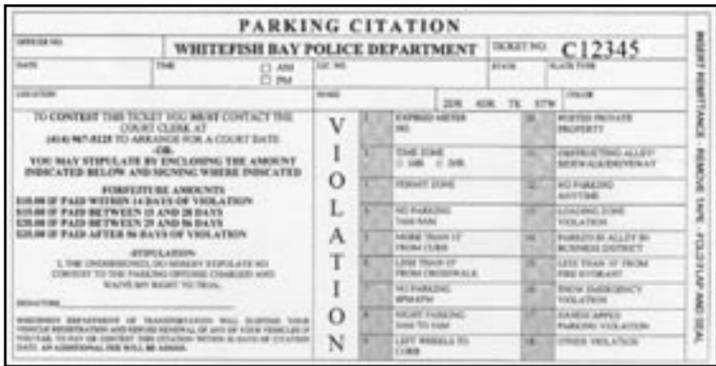
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Tardies Taking a Toll on.. Parents?



Parking tickets are common now around the El Rancho campus. With students jaywalking and parents dropping off their kids in a hurry to beat the tardy sweep, everyone is a suspect.

By SUMER SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February 6th, officers in Pico Rivera began to give out tickets to drivers who unloaded their children onto the no-parking zone in the front of the school. As a student who is dropped off in the morning, I think this decision to enforce this law is ridiculous and unnecessary. Although there are signs that read "No Parking at Any Time," the fact of the matter is El Rancho High School lacks an appropriate place where parents can drop off their kids.

The real drop-off area right in the front of the school is small and hard to get in and out of for drivers, because of this, for years people have been dropping off their kids on the sidewalk in front of the school. Why the sudden sneak approach to catch them in the act? Why start now? Nonetheless the parents aren't the only ones being bothered with the ticket distributing; the

students who walk to school are now facing increasing chances of getting a ticket from jaywalking.

Most jaywalking offenders are inexcusable, but with the return of the tardy sweep policy, the only way to make it in on time is to take the shortest routes possible in order to get to class on time, especially since there are only three open gates. Parents drive through the back to avoid traffic, yet their children have to walk all the way to the side gate instead of the back one. Then, if they try to drop off their kids near the sidewalk so they can get to class faster, they get ticketed. You can't help but ask yourself, *are they trying to make us tardy?* All students who live just across the street will have to walk all the way down to the crosswalk and wait for the light, where they surely will be late. Instead of suggesting the city create more crosswalks, the sheriffs punish those who try to get to school on time, both the students and their parents.

Time to Crack Down on Crime!

By SANDY ARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A recent article in the Whittier Daily News reported that homicides in Pico Rivera doubled since last year while in surrounding areas like Whittier and Montebello crime rates stayed the same or decreased. The article points out that both Whittier and Montebello have their own police department, but in areas like Pico Rivera that do not have their own and instead borrow from Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, homicides rose. The police are only half to blame. If the people in Pico Rivera abided by the law more often, fewer people would be dead right now, and the city wouldn't need so much vigilance on the police's part.

I agree Pico Rivera should have its own police department, but people need to take further action. The people living in Pico Rivera should share half the blame and realize everyone needs to take matters into their own hands. We can start by organizing neighborhood watches, participating in town meetings, pushing for harsher punishments for minor crimes such as vandalism and theft, fighting for tighter restrictions on arms, and cracking down on crack. Pay attention to your community. Residents should not wait until these problems come home; they should not wait until their sons or daughters die from gang wars and drive-bys.

Pico Rivera is scarily close to becoming a war zone, the kind where few dare to enter and everyone else avoids. Crime affects everyone and everything, from property values to the quality of education to the quality of life. I do not want to live in a place other people look down on or any place that is unsafe. The problem is many people glorify acts of violence and illegal activities, especially among teenagers. People earn recognition for binge drinking, using all sorts of drugs, stealing. Some just do it for the adrenaline rush. If you are so bored you steal, find something else to do. If you do it to impress others, you are unoriginal and weak. If you do it because you are cheap, realize you just stole some ten-year-old boy's wages, one who probably slaved away in an Indonesian sweatshop for your new, shiny shoes.

I know there is a big jump from petty theft to homicide but many of those murders were gang related, so any gang activity that promotes this kind of psychotic behavior needs to stop.



Survey: What is Your Favorite Book and Why?



By Abby Jaime
El Rodeo Staff Writer



Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, "Because it is easy to read."
-Isaiah Gouveia 10th grade



"I like *Pinochio* because it is a good story and I lie too"
-Alex Sanchez 10th grade



"I like *Party Girl* by Lynne Ewing because i can relate to her"
-Cecelia Lerma 12th grade



Go Ask Alice, "Because it's a good book and it has a good story line"
-Andrew Rosas 11th grade



Angels and Demons, by Dan Brown "This is my favorit book because it's really good."
-Coby Ling 11th grade

Dons Check Out Possible Careers

By Sandy Arias
El Rodeo Staff Writer

On Wednesday, February 8, El Rancho held the annual Career Day in the gym during second period, which offered seniors and juniors a glimpse of possible careers worth looking into. Individuals representing diverse professions as well as schools like UC Irvine and Rio Hondo community college set up tables filled with information pamphlets and sign-up sheets. Institutes like Beyond 21st Century Beauty Academy, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandise, and ITT Technical Institute also set up tables in the gym. Students could choose from a variety of careers in graphic design, cosmetology, acting and modeling, accounting, law enforcement, public services, musical, dentistry, military, fashion, or in the medical profession.

Accountant Steve Naftali provided information booklets but he also brought a jar filled with jellybeans and asked students to guess how many were in it, promising the closest guess would win the jellybeans. He thought the jar was a good idea since accountants are known as



Students get great information on careers in the cafeteria.

"bean counters," but admitted, "It was my secretary's idea." Students of the Beauty Academy demonstrated the type of skills they had learned by cutting and styling volunteers' hair. Barbizon Modeling and Acting of Southern California had a mosaic of pictures featuring their success stories and a video in the background outlining the education they provide. The point of Career Day was to provide students with information about professions they

would not normally consider and embed the idea that many of these careers are well within grasp.

Nicole Gonzales attended El Rancho, started at Cerritos College and then transferred to South Coast College of Court Reporting. Now courts hire her to record the conversations that occur during proceedings. She only works four days a week, a total of six to seven hours every day, and half of that time she works, "at home in my pajamas while I watch TV,"

she says. Although she admits it is challenging because, "People talk at different speeds and volumes. You also have to learn to type in a special code and then revise the transcripts on your own time," but her paycheck makes up for it. Also, paramedics arrived in an ambulance ready to show students first hand what paramedics deal with. They let students work with the equipment and displayed pictures of themselves helping clean up New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. One of them, Abel Gavin, graduated from El Rancho in 2002 and started training right after high school. He was happy to come back to El Rancho and give students an opportunity to see hands on what they work with as paramedics. He says, "There were quite a few people that were seriously thinking about going into this line of work. We just motivated them more."

Students responded positively; many of them signed up for more information and some left knowing which field they are going into once they graduate. Junior Marlene Barragon said, "Now that I signed up for acting classes I'm much closer to becoming famous."

Borders Book Fair Bonanza

By Alma Jauregui
El Rodeo Staff Writer

The time has come for all the El Rancho bookworms to come out of hiding. El Rancho is going to hold its annual Book Fair from March 8th to the 10th, which also coincides with E.R.'s Teen Read Week. Whether it be for an assignment, a donation or for your own enjoyment, you must head out to the library and check out this years assortment of books.

Borders Bookstore will be bringing an ample variety of books ranging from horror, mystery, music, sports, anime, bargain books and much more. Any student or staff member who purchases a book at the book fair will receive a 20% discount of the original book price and E.R. will receive 10% of the proceeds from the book fair. Book fair hours will be from 7:30 am. to 4:00 p.m. on March 8, 9, 10. If you don't find the particular book that you want to buy, just ask one of the Borders employees for assistance. They will bring that particular book you asked for the very next day; if they have it in stock.

During the week of the book fair, the library will also have many activities planned for that week. The Library will have games in the quad during lunch where students can play and win books. High school and district administrators will read aloud to students in their class rooms, and teachers will be going into



Courtesy of the don web page

random classrooms and giving prizes for answering book-related quiz questions.

If you do not want to buy a book for yourself, you can always buy a book as a gift for a loved one or someone special. You can also purchase a book that is on the Library wish list (which can be found online at the E.R. web site), and donate it to the library.

So come join the library on Teen Read Week and at the book fair. If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Chodos in the library. Don't forget to for the READ. t-shirts; there will be a limited amount of available sold to students (\$9.00 each) the week before the fair. In addition don't forget to look for staff wearing the READ. t-shirts.



Crystal Torres waits patiently as she has her blood drawn out from her for a good cause.

Students Strive To Save Lives

By Lilian Arce
El Rodeo Staff Writer

On Wednesday February 22, El Rancho held its first ever blood drive from 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM. It was held in a Mini Mobile Unit right off campus. The Beverly Hospital hosted this Blood Drive.

Lorena Reza, a representative from Beverly hospital came to El Rancho a couple of weeks ago to talk to the Executives Commission about having the blood drive.

Mrs. Reza talked about how the students' donated blood would be going to a great cause. She also explained how the Beverly hospital was trying to get other local high schools to participate in the donation.

Since the executive commission decided to have the blood drive, they needed to

go get the idea approved by Mr. Ayala, who was glad to have this event on campus.

One pint of blood was drawn from everyone who decided to participate in the drive. After the student donated blood, they were given a choice of a t-shirt or a coupon for a free pint of Baskin Robbins ice cream. The ice cream serves a very special purpose other than a nice treat. The sugar in the ice cream causes the heart to pump faster which in turn causes the heart to produce more blood.

Over 200 people signed up to donate blood; far exceeding the 100 person goal. 150 bags of blood were collected for the students. "The Execs and I are glad that the drive turned out to be a great success. I'm glad with the turn out because it was for a great cause." said Paul Galardo the ASB class president.

On the Job: Working at the Grill

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER
BY: SAMANTHA ESCALERA

There are many students who work during high school. One of them is junior, Alex Martinez who attends El Rancho High School and is currently working at the Salsa Grill and Taqueria located between Rosemead and Washington Boulevard. Martinez has been employed there for the past two and a half months. He loves his job! He gets paid minimum wage, but receives tips on top of that. "I have chump change in my pocket," said Martinez. He usually eats there and suggests if you haven't eaten there, than you should try it. "It is very good food," said Martinez. This is Martinez's first job and he usually works on the weekends. In his spare times, Martinez likes to hang out with his friend, but usually he spends most of his time with his uncle. He also likes to spend time with his twin brother Victor. When he and



Alex Martinez smiles one last time before he goes to work.

his brother go out and have fun they enjoy talking with the ladies. Martinez is a big "ladies man". "He has a great smile, and is a very sweet guy," said Aileen Ruiz. "Alex is funny, caring, and very respectful, which is hard to find nowadays," said Nicole Mercado.

During the week, Martinez attends school and works when he is scheduled to and usually works from Friday to Sunday. "Now that I have money, I usually buy my own things unless my mom offers," says Martinez. He loves to go to the mall. "That's where I

buy most of my things" Martinez says. His parents are very happy that he has a job and just wish that his twin brother, Victor, would get one too. Some personal things about Martinez are some of his interests. His favorite subject in school is History. "I like to learn about Ancient History," said Martinez. Although he likes History, he doesn't really like to read about it. He'd rather have it told to him orally. His favorite colors are blue and black and he usually listens to anything. His favorite band is Metallica. Martinez has hopes to attend the University of California after high school. He not exactly sure what line of work he wants to be involved in, but he knows that he wants to start his own business, so if you want to know more about Alex Martinez, you can see him around campus talking to his friends or just visit him at the Salsa Grill and Taqueria. Not only will you meet a great friend, but also eat some great food!

Survey: What Did You Do on Valentines Day?

BY SAMANTHA ESCALERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



"Well I gave roses to my special friend & I went out with my mom and her friend to eat dinner, then I went out with my best cousin."

-Cristal Aguila
12th grade



went to eat with my mommy."

-Jessica Cabrera
10th grade



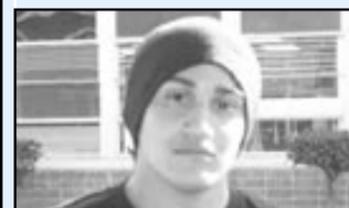
-Feria Arriola
11th grade



-Edso Chavez
12th grade



11th grade



Mr. Collings goes in for the kiss while the pig strains to get away

Kiss the Pig Pep-Rally

BY STEPHANIE CHAVEZ
EL RODEO WRITER

On Friday the 17th El Rancho held its annual Kiss the Pig Pep Rally in the gym. The pep rally had been postponed due to the fact that the pig had been ill. "He was foaming at the mouth a lot," said Mrs. Ellis. The pep rally began with seniors taking the lead in the games. Next, all the administrators were escorted to the middle of the gym and began wondering whether they were going to be the lucky one who gets a chance to kiss the pig. Due to the pig's illness the kissing would have to be done on the butt.

The crowd went wild at the announcement of Chuck Collin's name. Giving a disgusted look at the crowd, Collins leaned over, smelled the pig, sprayed some type of air freshener and went in for the kiss. The pig was let down on the ground and it ran around being held by a rope; it was frightened to death.

The crowd was riled up, yelling and cheering; Collins had barely even touched the pig's butt, but they wanted to see it again. Unfortunately, it didn't happen, the pep rally ended with the traditional Alma Matter and everyone exited from the gym.

Restaurant Review Chili's



BY: MONICA ALDERETE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The newly opened Chili's restaurant brings a new western spice to the Pico Rivera Town Center as well as unique dishes to the table. While entering the restaurant you are assisted and waited upon while being surrounded by the western decorations. This restaurant also provides a full bar where you may wait for your table or dine with your party. Chili's not only offers well-cooked meals and a friendly environment with attentive waiters but extremely delicious appetizers too. The different smells of sizzling fajitas or big mouth burgers coming towards the table can get your mouth watering as well as get your stomach growling. To ease the anticipation of a

mouth watering grill you can order some amazing appetizers such as nachos or a combination plate. Chili's various off-the-grill western dishes include the delicious, famous double-basted baby back ribs, sizzling hot off the stove fajitas, massive burgers, grilled steaks, well-cooked boneless Buffalo wings, southwestern egg-rolls and a colossal hand-battered awesome blossom onion. This well decorative restaurant is suited for family as well as any one that enjoys the taste of western sizzling food. Dining here will leave you without an appetite and a new craving for western food. Chili's is a great restaurant for people who would be interested in adding some spice into their daily diets. I would recommend going to Chili's for a great meal.

Cd Review: *Meds* by Placebo

The Band Returns Two Years Later With its Newest Album

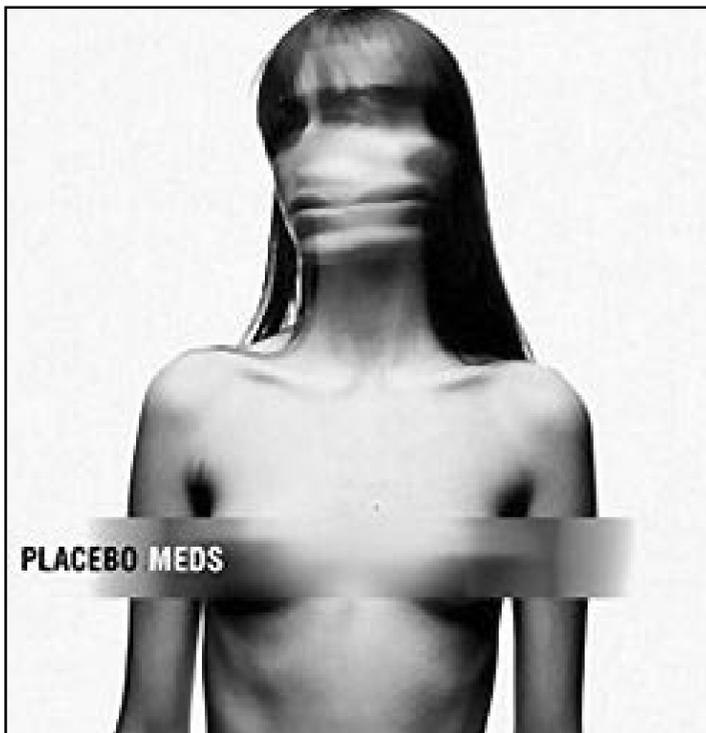
JORGE NUNEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you ever thought about what Placebo has been doing since they made *Once More with Feeling* two years ago? Well they've been on tour and they've managed to make a new CD called *Meds*. *Meds* is set to release in March, March 13 to be exact.

Meds has thirteen tracks and every one of them is unique in their own way. Each track has a very catchy beat to it and the lyrics are just phenomenal. The lyrics in this album are things many people can relate to, (very emotional). As for the pace of the tracks, some are slow with a melodic beat and a great voice from Placebo's lead singer Brian Molko, and some are fast like the song because I want you, one of Placebo's single.

The beat produced by Steve Hewitt on drums is just so good; it has a crisp sound to it that just runs through your veins and makes you want to jump up and down. Placebo has done such an excellent job making this CD and you'll enjoy listening to every beat and lyric.

So go support Placebo by buying their latest album *Meds* in stores March 13, trust me this CD is worth your money and your time.



Band Review

The Black Rose Phantoms Continue to Get the Crowds Wrecking in Long Beach.



BY ALISSA CAREY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Black Rose Phantoms are a psychobilly band hailing from Long Beach, California. Their music is an aggressive mix of psychobilly and horror punk. Their lyrics scream of Goth-like poetry. Their sound is a bit reminiscent of Tiger Army (though in this writer's opinion Tiger Army sucks). Their performances are energetic and can get a crowd wrecking. Though the members have a Goth reminiscent style, they show in every performance that they are not just about make up and piercings. The lead singer, Ozzy Scumrat, is an enthusiastic performer who occasionally performs feats like hopping onto the bass while the bassist keeps on playing. They played with bands such as Tiger Army, the Formaldehydes, the Howlers, Midnight Scars, Evil Devil, the Meteors, the Henchmen, and many others. The Black Rose Phantoms have an attitude about them that screams of punk apathy and angst, gothic sorrow, and psychobilly psychosis. Though they play furiously on stage, offstage they are calm and docile. The duality suggests that on stage they are possessed with the enraged beats and energized by the crowd's anticipation and violence, as wrecking is practically a drunken brawl without the anger and the weapons... most of the time.

MGM's Mystery Solver Returns

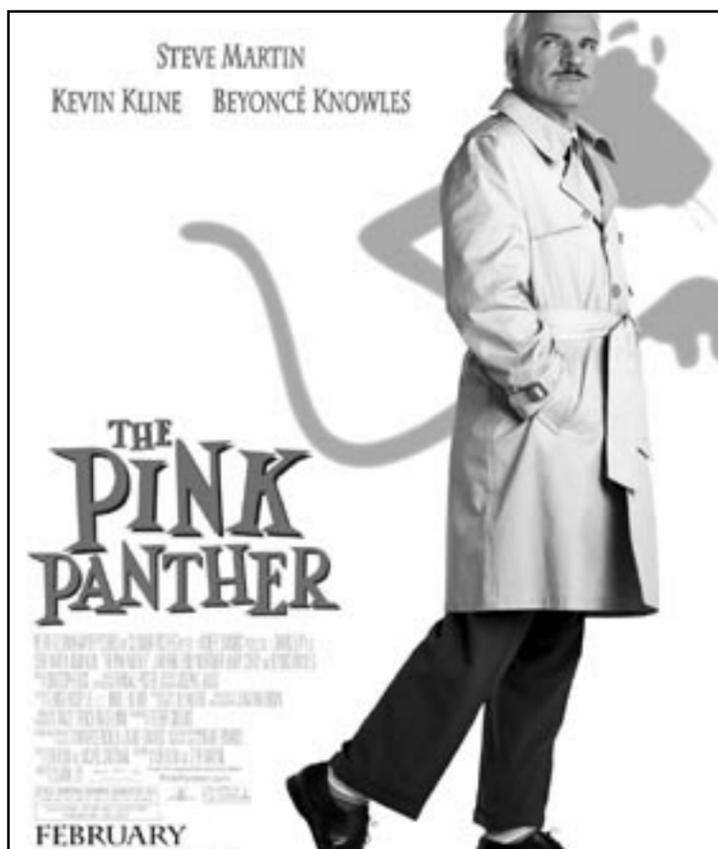
BY MARIKE TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In 1964, the Pink Panther was released, this old television series had the same bumbling inspector Clouseau and the mysterious phantom. Just about 40 years later, MGM studios decided to remake the television classic, but this time with just with a little more flavor.

Inspector Clouseau is played by Steve Martin, who is the same bumbling, clumsy detective that tries to catch the thief of the Pink Panther. This Pink Panther isn't some kind of giant pink cat which some people seem to think. The Pink Panther is in fact a beautiful huge pink diamond ring that thieves are going left and right to steal.

In the movie, Inspector Clouseau (Steve Martin) must solve a mysterious murder of a famous soccer coach and find out who stole his infamous Pink Panther diamond ring. Beyonce Knowles adds some sort of sex appeal to the movie, but the plot is not very appealing and although the actors do their jobs decently well, overall the movie just was not good enough to keep viewers interested.

The movie is rated PG, and only contains minor swear words. The lord's name is not taken in vain, and there is no nudity or sexuality in the film, so this movie would be quite family-friendly. If you really want to see a good Pink Panther, rent one of the originals, or check out the cartoon on TV land. So save your greens and don't think pink.



The Pink Panther was released on February 10th. This Comedy/Action/Adventure/Drama packed movie is rated PG. It's suitable for all audiences.

Fiction: Two Girls Kept the Event Upstairs

BY SOPHIA DUNCAN

By three-thirty in the afternoon, they, three boys and two girls are waiting in the downstairs living room of a townhouse on the border of Montebello and Pico Rivera. Jen sits cross-legged on her boyfriend's lap listening to four separate stories told at once. They are in a competition to tell about their day, rudely changing topics before each story's climaxing end. In this manner, not even one was told in its actual entirety. Each monologue is spoken over another until it is a noisy layer that she can't comprehend. Best Friend moves her crouch on top of the brick fireplace to a dining table chair and begins to lower her head on the table. But instead of plopping neatly beside the phone, her head

bangs heavily on the redwood.

"WHEN IS HE GOING TO CALL!?" she yells in attempt to smother the head pain. Jen's gaze is on Best Friend's upper body that is splayed atop the table; the boys are shut up now. Right on cue, the phone rings.

On the other end of the line, on the other side of town, past Smith Park and under the overpass occupied by trains, is the eighteen-year old yuppie whose fortune is an unclean green. He saves the temporal madness with the smallest gesture of calling back.

Boyfriend leaves for the yuppie's house, leaving Jen alone with Best Friend and the two other boys with whom she shares honest, platonic relationships with. One boy is sheltered by odd parents obsessed with

conformity; all the while holding a pale, skinny, blue-eyed face. The other boy is uncontrolled by his parents because of constant rebellions, but holds fast to plumper, normal-brown features. Though messily colored opposite shades of the rainbow spectrum, they fit to each other like unborn Siamese twins.

"No, he's not shady like that," says Boyfriend upon his return. In his hands are two Dance Revolution pads.

"DDR is for fatties and chinks, fool," Blue boy says, yet he is first to play. His blue-eyed sight watches the arrows dancing across the television and six minutes later, philosophically-speaking Best Friend joins him. Brown boy is claims in slow pig Latin that when he steps onto the dance pad, he is being swept

up by an invisible bomber plane. Jen nods, inciting more aircraft sounds and giggles. Boyfriend is getting frustrated as he fails to complete the right-down combo and fails the seventh song.

"Come with me," Best Friend says to her.

The two girls lay on the unmade bottom bunk in the room upstairs. In a most curious tone, Best Friend continues to ask philosophy questions that even Aristotle would falter under, so Jen replies to every question: "Yes, and we'll paint the trees purple with green grape juice." Never once did she doubt it.

The boys are still downstairs, either a) watching arrows as their red eyes shift the scene or b) playing the part of plane pilot heroes that win democracy into Vietnam. The girls can hear

them making noises, stomping on the carpet, laughing.

Morals are taken and ripped when she and Best Friend touch lips. *Too curious, too curious*, she thought. They giggle like elementary age girls chasing little boys around the play yard. It makes no sense. Best Friend plunges toward her to hit her playfully. In what she thinks will be a slick dodge, Jen moves out of her way only to thump on the floor. They laugh and the lesbian mentality is over.

At two fifty-six a.m. she awakes in boyfriend's arms, in the townhouse living room. Blue boy and Brown boy are in satisfied snores while Best Friend rests on the floor. The smell of hangs sweetly and Jen closes her eyes again.

Telling: Story of a Young Girl



Would you tell on a friend?

BY KARINA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Maryilyn Reynolds' novel, *Telling*, is about a twelve year old girl named Cassie that is harassed by the father of the kids for whom she baby-sits. She is inexperienced but curious about the different things she is going through and depends on her older cousin, Lisa, for "straight talk" and information. In the story, new neighbors move in next door and Cassie's life suddenly becomes much more interesting. Fred and Angie Sloane are young, attractive, and fun. They also treat Cassie like a grown-up. She spends all of her free time helping them fix up their home and babysitting for their two children. Life with the Sloanes seems nearly perfect until one night Fred touches Cassie in a way she never would have expected. Cassie feels confused and scared; she tells Lisa, who promises to keep the secret. But when it happens again, and again, Lisa tells. Confronted with the truth, Cassie needs to face her parents, the Sloanes, and eventually, herself. In this book, Marilyn Reynolds does a great job of writing about the very real tragedies of child molestation and the complexities of the difficult issues it brings into an innocent child's life. This is a very good book that teaches teens the importance of telling the truth when something like this happens even if it is difficult. This and many other books by Marilyn Reynolds are stories of what teenagers experience and are written for those that don't know what to do when faced with a situation like Cassie's. Other books by Marilyn Reynolds can be found in your school's library. This is a must read for any girl.

First Impressions of Strokes New CD

BY AMANDA CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Strokes came out with a third album?! Wait, that wasn't supposed to happen. I think we all expected them to go out in a drugged up, drunken blaze of glory like so many of their 1970's New York rock heros. This time around The Strokes are going for a heavier, beefier, louder sound. *First Impressions of Earth* is very different from their first two albums *Is This It* and *Room on Fire*. This album is ambitious, messy, and almost as long as the first two combined.

"Heart in a Cage" jumps like Iggy Pop's "The Passenger". "Razorblade" has twin-guitar leads straight from Thin Lizzy. In the single, "Juicebox," Nakolai Fraiture proves his skills as an awesome bassist. Julian Casa-



The Strokes start touring on March 1st at Hammerstein Ballroom, NY

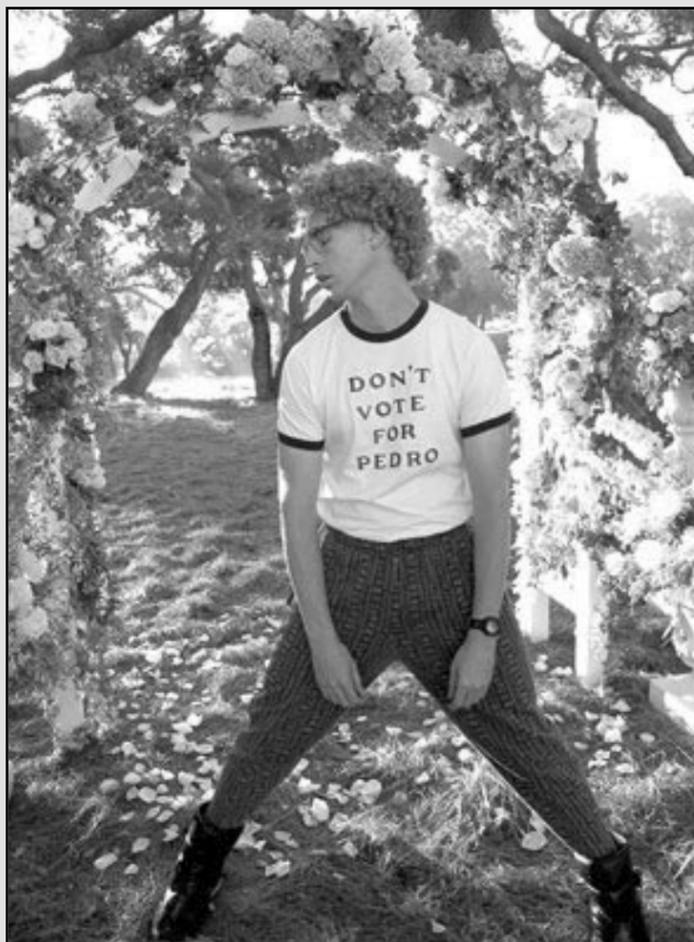
blancas' voice still gives a girl the goosebumps in songs like "Razorblade," in which he pouts

did-he-just-say-that? With lines like "I love you more than being seventeen," Casablancas manages to take a dumb bar-stool monologue and turn it into a brilliant little haiku. It's as if he is challenging Interpol to a poetry slam.

This really could be the excessive, erratic second album that *Room on Fire* wasn't. Nonetheless, *First Impressions of Earth* proves what the Strokes set out to prove: they're a serious band of dedicated musicians, a band that is here to stay. It also proves what we've known all along; they can steal your girlfriend with out even trying.

Tickets for their US Tour are selling fast and are already sold out in places like New York. If you want to learn more about the band you can check out their music videos on their website, www.thestrokes.com.

Try Date Movie for Next Movie Date



Date Movie makes fun of Napoleon Dynamite's ridiculous poses.

BY ALISSA CAREY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Julia Jones, played by Alyson Hannigan, is a physically repulsive and hygiene challenged woman, who is on a desperate

search for Mr. Right. "Mr. Right" will save her from working as a waitress at her family owned restaurant for the rest of her life and will free her from the fate of becoming like her spinster neighbor; who has a slightly romantic

thing for cats. After an extreme make-over (to say the least), she meets the British version of "Mr. Right." The only thing left is to survive the meeting of both parents, maneuver past her father's high expectations, which includes she marry a man who is Jewish, Greek, Hindu, and Japanese, and evade the scheming, voluptuous ex fiancée/ best man, named Andy. This movie parodies almost every block buster screened in the last two years and several others, as well as several TV shows and celebrities. The movie pokes fun at *Pimp My Ride* and Brittany Spears' marriage to the trashy Kevin Federline, and also includes a fight scene between Julia and Andy reminiscent of *Kill Bill*. Alyson Hannigan is a highly talented actress whose likability shines through even in the crudest moment or raunchiest joke. *Date Movie* is the brain child of Aaron Seltzer and Jason Friedberg, who are two of the six highly advertised writers of *Scary Movie*. The humor in this movie is based on revulsion and pop culture while dabbling in ethnic humor that appears in movies such as *Meet the Fockers*, *Meet the Parents*, and the hit chick flick *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. *Date movie* is rated PG-13 for continuous crude and sexual humor, including language and is in theaters nation wide.

Lil Rob Robs the Spotlight



Lil Rob rhymes with attitude.

BY ALEX AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF EDITOR

Lil Rob's *Twelve Eighteen, Pt. 1* is one of his best albums yet. This album includes the songs "Back in the Street," "Super Bad," and "Playground," along with a lot more great hits. Lil Rob began his career in the late 90's as a hardcore rapper. He is a Chicano thug that really fit in with the low profile crowd and their "gangsta" style. Unlike his other albums, *Twelve Eighteen, Pt. 1* mixes songs like "How Far I've Come," "Barrio Pride," and "Good Times." This type of rap is really easy to overlook. More people should appreciate his lyrics. He drops lines like, "The world is an ugly place but shes such a site to see." Anyone could appreciate songs like "Summer Nights" because it is not just about having a good time with your "homies" but about having your "rucca all dolled up" by your side. If you are a longtime fan of Lil Rob or if you're really into Chicano rap, you should buy *Twelve Eighteen, Pt. 1*.

What Music is Shaking Things Up on Campus?



"System of a Down."
-Jennifer Vasquez
12th grade



"Daddy Yankee's 'Rompe.'"
-Cindy Zambrano
11th grade



"My Chemical Romance."
-Fernando Hernandez
12th grade



"Mariah Carey."
-Fernando Herrera



"Korn's 'Twisted Transistor.'"
Krystal Moondeanda
10th grade

Lady Dons Fall to Esperanza 51-15



Celina Torres brings the ball up court during league play.

By ADAM GONZALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Lady Dons basketball team was knocked out of the CIF playoffs by a disappointing 51 to 15 loss against Esperanza high school.

This season was not an all out failure for the Lady Dons. The Lady Dons' final overall record was 14 wins and two losses. In

the Del Rio League they finished with a 5 win and 5 loss record.

The Lady Dons ended the regular season on a high note by beating Pioneer by a score of 48 to 39. This victory gave the Lady Dons some needed confidence going into the CIF playoff game against Esperanza.

The final score of last week's playoff game was El Rancho 15, Esperanza 51. Coach Lawson commented on the game, "there were too many turnovers and we didn't shoot well."

What might not be known is that the Lady Dons basketball team has reserved a spot in the CIF playoffs seven times in the past seven years. This is a remarkable feat in itself.

Next year Coach Lawson looks for improvements from this year's playoff team. His goal of next season is to win the Del Rio League title, and go deep into the CIF playoffs. Returning players Aidee Marquez and Jessica Boliling are the players to look out for.

This year the Lady Dons finished in third place in the Del Rio League standings.

The most valuable player according to Coach Lawson was Aidee Marquez. The most improved player this year was Adriana Favela.

Dons Salvage Season with Win Over Pioneer High



Co-captain Chris Morris and Dons failed to advance to CIF playoffs.

By STEVEN CAUDILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Friday the El Rancho Dons boys varsity basketball team hosted the Pioneer Titans in the Blue Pride gym. The Dons started off the game lackadaisically just scoring 18 points in the first half. The defense of the Titans wasn't the cause of the Dons low scoring showcase, it was their inability to make open shots. Luckily for the Dons the play of Senior forward Bobby Avina kept them in the game when they were ice cold. They trailed at the half 29 to 18 putting them in a deep hole to start the second half.

Coach Llanes and the team made defensive adjustments to translate in to a better result in play for the second half. The Dons change in defensive tactics at halftime payed immense dividends. The aggressive defense caused turnovers and led to easy baskets. With the easy baskets, the Dons built confidence and began to knock down the open shots they had missed in the first half. The comeback started with the hot shooting of co-captains Robert Garcia and Augie Palomera. Even though Garcia had been playing hurt with an injury in their past game against Santa Fe, he still managed

to lead the team with 19 points. Palomera was the second leading scorer with 14 points, with almost all his points coming from behind the arc. Third co-captain Chris Morris was also major contributor to the Dons comeback win with 10 points and numerous critical late game rebounds that kept Pioneer from getting second chance points.

The final score was 61 to 49 in the Dons best game this season. They outscored Pioneer 43 to 20 in the second half. This win was extremely vital for the confidence of the returning players for next years team. Coach Llanes offered his definition on the season that has past by saying, "On the surface people would think we had an unsuccessful season, but we were in the majority of the games we lost and with a break here and there our season would have been totally different. The reason this was a successful season was because the boys never quit and played every minute of every game and that's what admired the most." The Dons finished the season with 6 wins and 21 losses overall, and with 2 wins and 8 losses in league play. They finished last in league leading to a year without a CIF playoff berth.

Wrestling Team Improves to Second



Brandon "Bird" Flores pins down the opponent

By ADAM GONZALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A couple weeks ago the El Rancho Dons Wrestling team defeated the La Serna Lancers in a very important season finale, and grasped a second place finish in the Del Rio League.

El Rancho proved their skill and ability and ended with a 51-24 home victory over the Lancers. With the win the Dons finished 4-1 in the Del Rio League and only second to the Champions of Santa Fe who finished with a 5-0 league record. Santa Fe clinched first place with a 62-6 home victory against Pioneer High School. A worthy

note is that the Dons only league loss this year was to Santa Fe.

This is a big improvement since last year for the Dons. Last year El Rancho finished fifth in league play and failed to qualify for the CIF Team Tournament.

In the CIF team tournament El Rancho came out with a first round victory of 47 to 31 over West Torrance high school.

In the second round the Dons weren't as lucky as they lost to Warren high school 43 to 23. The eventual winner of the tournament was West Covina High School. A worthy note is West Covina defeated the Del Rio League champion Santa Fe Chiefs 30-21 in the final round.

Soccer Team Kicked Out of Playoffs



By STEVEN CAUDILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday the El Rancho Dons traveled to Bell over high school for a first round game in CIF play. Going in to the game the Dons were ranked 5th in division three while their opponents (Buccaneers) were unranked in CIF. The Dons and Buccaneers played with every ounce of effort and passion they had in them for the entire game. Both defenses were stagnating each others offenses but were still allowing gratuitous chances to score.

At the half the Dons and Buccaneers were all knotted at zero. The second half wasn't much different in play from the first half in both determination and desire. The game was still

tied at zero when in the last two minutes the fate of the Dons season was decided. An El Rancho defender had corralled the ball in their zone but then subconsciously committed a critical turnover to a Buccaneer player and led to the only goal of the game. The Dons courageous and amazing effort was wiped away with a devastating 1 to 0 loss and a first round ticket out of the 1st round of CIF. Senior Ixtlan Chiuque commented on the Dons shocking loss by saying, "It was a hard fought game that was tough to lose because unfortunately luck wasn't on our side that day." Although the Dons were knocked out of the first round they still had a tremendous season. They finished with 6 wins, 2 losses, and 2 ties in league play, and with 20 wins, 6 losses, and 2 ties overall.

Final Results:

Wrestling:

Finished second in league.

Bryan Cochran placed first in CIF Individuals Tournament

Team advanced to second round of CIF Team Tournament. Lost to Warren High School 43-23

Girls Basketball:

(14-12 overall record)
(5-5 league record)

Finished Third place in League

Lost in first round of CIF Playoffs to Esperanza 51-15

Boys Basketball:

(6-21 overall record)
(2-8 league record)

Boys Soccer:

(6-2-2 league record)
(20-6-2 overall record)

Lost to Bell over High School 1-0 in CIF Round 1