



El Rodeo



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El Rancho High School

Thursday, October 12, 2006

Volume 55, Issue 2

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Eleven Years with Ellis, the Essence of E.R.

BY ROBERT PRIETO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When Julie Ellis, 60, first stepped onto campus back in 1960 as a student, it never crossed her mind that she would one day become Principal of El Rancho High School. While attending El Rancho, Ellis was inspired by a physical education instructor, Barbara Hagler, to become a teacher. Ellis said it was Hagler's ability to remain calm, yet encouraging, which inspired her to teach.

In 1968, after earning her teaching degree from Whittier College, the 22-year-old Ellis returned to El Rancho to become a teacher. Since then Ellis has held many positions as an El Rancho faculty member. In her 38 years at the Ranch she has been a physical education instructor, economics teacher, Pepsters advisor, varsity softball coach, yearbook advisor, and Executive Commission advisor.

This school year marks Ellis' eleventh consecutive year as Principal of El Rancho High School. She feels "blessed to have support from the many staff members she respects and greatly appreciates."

Ellis said one of her "fondest memories as a student was becoming the first girl ASB president." As an adult, Ellis recalls Rock Challenge in the early 90's, which pitted about 120 El Rancho choral members against



"Home away from home"-Ms. Ellis has been a major part of the El Rancho family since 1960.

"pretty well-off schools from both Los Angeles and Orange County." She said Rock Challenge was held at locations such as UCLA and the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, and that "El Rancho won three years in a row which was huge."

Prior to becoming principal Ellis was the Assistant Principal of Curriculum for six years. "The transition [from Assistant Principal of Curriculum to principal]

was easier and less of shock," said Ellis. She said the toughest thing about becoming principal was the fact that the students were not used to seeing her face.

Ellis enjoys most the sense of pride El Rancho Dons have in their school. She recalls one of the first decathlon luncheons she went to; the majority of the students from other schools were Asian- or Anglo-American, yet El

Rancho's team consisted of Hispanics. "I loved that. It gave me chills," said Ellis. Ellis also said El Rancho's first Pride Day, which occurred two years ago, showed the Dons' spirit, because "300 students were expected, but 950 showed up" to clean the campus.

According to Ellis, being principal has become much tougher over the years, because El Rancho must always strive to

raise the bar. She is bothered most by the excessive littering, "over affection" and fights that take place on campus. Ellis believes students and teachers "should be able to peacefully coexist."

In the next five years, Ellis wants to see herself on her latest and last boat, which she purchased a year ago, playing the guitar. She learned to water ski in her mid 20's and also owns a 110 horsepower jet ski, which she enjoys riding in her spare time. Ellis also enjoys the guitar, which she has played since 13. She hopes to one day be in a poker tournament, because she "remain[s] a strong student of the game."

The biggest change Ellis wants to see happen to the Ranch is an increase in student participation in school. She wants "students to realize that these four years could be the best memories of their lives, but they have to become involved." She argues that the school has too many opportunities, such as clubs, sports, and extra curricular activities, for students not to be involved.

She said, "[El Rancho's] library is the best in California," because students can go into the library and find a book on just about anything they want, and no other high school has an online resource database like the one Ms. Chodos, El Rancho's Librarian, has compiled. She hopes that students "understand how amazing this school is and the opportunities it offers."

Lunch Lock Down Catches Juniors off Guard

BY MICHELLE GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A new ruling by the El Rancho administrators deprives the junior class of 2008 the privilege to leave campus during lunch. According to El Rancho administrators there were several reasons that led up to this controversial new policy.

Mr. Gruber, the junior class dean, said "[Asst. Principal of Guidance] Chuck Collings and [Principal] Julie Ellis did not like how the junior class acted at school rallies."

The class of 2008's disrespectful reputation has followed them since Junior high.

The policy is "unfair because the administration has solely based our junior class on the immature students" says, Jr.

TEAM student, Cori Macfarland.

Behavioral discrepancies, safety and fear of excessive tardiness played major roles in enacting the policy.

"No juniors drive which increases tardies to fourth period" because they walk to and from school, said Gruber.

Mr. Ayala, Asst. Principal of Business and Activities, adds that it is a "tough task" coming back to school on time because "40 minutes is not enough time" for lunch.

According to Collings El Rancho is the "only school with an open campus in the county."

Ultimately administrators want to rid the school of off campus lunch privileges and have "better lunch on campus," with possible "outside vendors" says Collings.

El Rancho administrators



feel the policy is neither controversial nor shocking. El Rancho has had many policies. At one time no students were allowed to leave for lunch. Over time seniors and juniors were allowed to leave. At one point seniors, juniors, and

even sophomores were permitted to leave campus for lunch.

"I do not doubt that in a couple of years no one will be allowed to go out," says Collings. The class of 2008's privilege to leave campus as seniors will

not be determined until spring.

The only way the juniors will be able to redeem themselves is by "showing positive actions and meeting requirements set by El Rancho guidance and administrators" said Gruber.

Carrying On: Ms. Carreon Completes Her Four Year Quest

BY SAMANTHA ESCALERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of El Rancho's own personal staff members, Ms. Lilia Carreon set out a quest four years ago to travel the world and visit all fifty states. This past summer, Ms. Carreon did just that, she had accomplished her goal. While students were coming back from their summer vacation, Carreon was coming back from Alaska.

Carreon currently teaches U.S. History and Government and enjoys telling her students about the places she has visited. Carreon first started traveling when she and her parents passed through Arizona to go to Mexico. The first time she started traveling as an adult was four years ago with Ms. Patty Lightfoot, a former El Rancho Staff Member. The two of them split up the states traveling to Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. That was when she realized that she wanted to set a quest and



Ms. Carreon, having set out on a quest to visit the U.S., stands in the most recent state she visited, Alaska.

travel the fifty states. Carreon says, "I figured, you know what, I want to visit all fifty states."

The next time Carreon traveled, she went with another former staff member, Ms. Caroline Martens. The two went to Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Utah,

and back to California. Carreon then traveled to Kentucky and Tennessee. When she came back from this trip, she decided to take a trip on her own. She went to Minnesota and drove to Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. "I started talking to myself be-

cause no one was around, I finally had to go back home," Carreon stated. Her favorite part of traveling was going to the South. Carreon said that the cities there were beautiful. "I love the fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and ribs," says Carreon. Carreon ex-

claimed that each state has something new, so it is hard to choose a favorite state, although she does talk about her least favorite state.

Carreon replied, "I visited Des Moines, Iowa and it was sad, and really dirty. The Great Plains is nice to visit but I wouldn't go again." Carreon explained that she loved Charleston, South Carolina. "It's a beautiful city," she replied. She also says that she loves the South for its history. "It's amazing to see what this country has to offer," Carreon exclaimed. Another one of her favorite states is New York. Carreon says that she loves New York for the shows and the restaurants. "There's nothing like seeing a show on Broadway because they're so amazing," she says. Although traveling through the United States might seem that it would take longer than four years, Carreon managed to do it. She didn't think it would only take four years but now that she has, future students can only await to see what she will do next.

Del Real, Working Hard to Keep "Silvia" by His Side

BY ESTHER ACOSTA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

What do most men look for in a perfect woman- beauty, companionship, reliability, sex appeal? For Senior, Ramon Del Real, his perfect mate would be his 2006 Chevy Silverado, or as he fondly refers to it, Silvia. "My friends and I call it Silvia because it's short for Silverado."

Many of you may not be aware that Silvia isn't his first car, but his second. Del Real traded in his previous car (2005 Nissan Centra) for his brand new, stylish black truck and makes the payments of \$550 a month.

Working in a warehouse at Montebello, six days a week

from 4-9 p.m. may be tough for most students, but for Del Real it's worth it once he drives his truck. "Working and going to school is really hard at times, but ever since I received my license, I wanted to have a big and expensive car. The only way I was going to accomplish my goal was by obtaining a job. My parents don't help me out and I'm proud to say I do everything on my own."

Getting a truck was always on Del Real's mind. He feels as



though driving a truck isn't just about driving but also about the power and satisfaction one feels

behind the wheel. "When I go out with my friends and 'cruise' in my truck, I get more attention from everyone and I also receive respect from others. I love to feel in power and feel as though I'm the king of the streets." Del Real's main focus this year is graduating and staying out of trouble. His plans for the future are to enroll into college and become a firefighter. Del Real has noticed

that his car also brings him fame. "I'm known for my truck and girls always seem to be aware when I come driving around." Del Real is currently in a car club named, Exclusive. "Exclusive, is just a group of guys (mostly my friends) that like to 'cruise' together. We like to let people know who we are when we get there. I like to 'roll deep' with my friends and the name Exclusive is perfect for us because no one can duplicate us." Del Real is proud of himself for making one of his dreams come true. He simply can't see himself without his trusty companion. "If I didn't have my truck...that's impossible I can't see myself without my Silvia."



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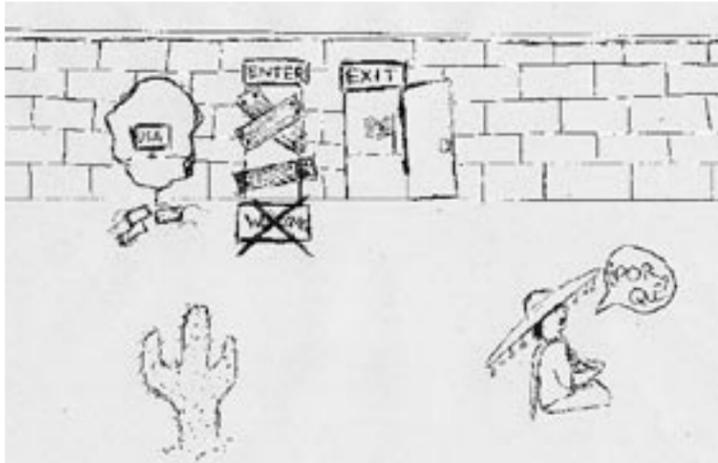
The U.S. government plans to spend 1.2 billion dollars on border barrier.

BY CHRIS GALLIZZI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On September 29, 2006 Congress passed a bill for the construction of a seven hundred mile long border fence. The barrier will be running along the U.S. and Mexican perimeter; the production has already gone underway. The first fourteen miles of the new fence is now standing in San Diego, California, which cost 126.5 million dollars to make. No one knows the exact amount of how much this 'enclosure' will cost; Congress is going to create a 1.2 billion dollar budget estimate for the total cost.

Already negative tension is being created within the U.S. public and Mexico in dealing with this sensitive matter. Many would call this needed 'security measure' as something necessary. But is it?

The United States is already in a self made deficit, which will take decades to be recovered



from, the War in Iraq is already costing the government over 335 billion dollars. In the end, the American people are going to be the sole workers to replenish the politician's greedy pockets.

The use of barriers isn't going to solve anything except how immature it is 'to fence off' the issues that forever will concern the world. People migrate to dif-

ferent lands for opportunity, not to bring the unemployment up.

Many accusations have been made on how the U.S. has been handling the whole immigration issue as 'racial, and prejudice'. In many ways, it is a racial issue brought up when not needed; even though our beloved president wants these borders to not allow 'terrorists' to creep over

our border, America has to think about how many terrorists attacks have occurred in U.S. within the last ten years that had 'foreign' terrorists. The Oklahoma City bombing was done by Timothy McVeigh, the Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, Columbine, The World Trade Center garage bombing, even 9/11. All terrorists were here in the U.S. legally.

How come the U.S. doesn't rebuild the border along Canada?

Believe it or not the President is just using immigration as another 'escape-goat' to help create a sense of fear and patriotism built on a huge gang mentality of 'which country do you belong to?'

All the rhetoric on the television, radio, and internet is strong to alienate the world from other countries. The only way anyone to fight the brainwashing techniques is to be a free thinker and don't be a victim racial propaganda and separatism.

Word on the Ranch

What do you think about the new 700 mile fence along the Mexican border?



"I am opposed to it since the jobs are here and the Mexican labor force is only 45 million. So, I am not worried about the long term effect of illegal immigrants. How many more can possibly come over?"- Mr. white



"It is a good thing because they should not be coming here in the first place. They are taking Americans jobs away." -Junior Josh Carrasco



"It is ridiculous, completely xenophobic. Anyone who is for it is xenophobic. Republicans are making immigration a bigger deal than it really is because there is an election in November."- Mr. Salcido



"I agree with the new fence at the border because they should not be passing the border illegally. If they want to come to America they can come the legal way." -Senior, Amber Schmidt

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One Nation Under Violence

BY CHRIS GALLIZZI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just by turning on a television to any news station, you will see headlines of war, murder, rape, school shootings, gang violence, kidnappings, and the occasional sporting fights. The question is why are Americans attracted to violence and why are we the first to hide behind the gun? Is there anyone to blame for our violent behavior? Is it the media? Is it the weather? Or is it the constant struggle of 'who to trust'?

On April 20, 1999 two students -Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold- entered Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado at 11:10 a.m. The two boys walked on campus through the cafeteria entrance, while placing bombs along the perimeter of the school. After the bombs were placed, Harris and Klebold went back to the parking lot to wait for the bombs to detonate, yet the bombs failed. At 11:19 a.m. Harris and Klebold rushed the school with shotguns, tech-9's, handguns, and pipe bombs. The two are responsible for the slaying and executions of twelve students and teachers; 24 others were injured. Harris and Klebold both committed suicide by 2:00 p.m.

The Columbine Incident sparked many debates about violence in America -gun control, media involvement, and parental guidance - Many Christian groups blamed the lyrics of musicians and video game violence for the behavior of Harris and Klebold. Yet Marilyn Manson and Michael Moore felt that the violence is not from a source or medium but an environment. In Moore's documentary *Bowling For Columbine*, he interviews Manson and asks the question "If Eric and Dylan were alive, what



EricHarris (black shirt) and Dylan Klebold (white shirt): the two gunmen responsible for the Columbine Massacre

would you tell them?" Manson replied, "I wouldn't say anything, I would let them talk because that is what no one else did."

At 8:46 a.m. the day that will live on in infamy in American history Flight 11 crashed into the North tower of the World Trade Centers. Exactly sixteen minutes later at 9:02 a.m. - Flight 175 crashed into the South tower of the World Trade Centers. Within a half-hour at 9:30 a.m. - Flight 77 smashed into the Pentagon. The last and final plane - ight 93 - crashes into an open lot in Shanksville, Pennsylvania around 10:03 a.m. All four plane crashes killed a total of 2,973 innocent civilians. If anyone can revise that day in your head then you can recall the retaliation and tension towards a certain group without even knowing who or what they are apart of. It is intriguing that, as a country there was no knowledge of the attacks yet five minutes after the attacks the media was able to blow up these freak accidents into a terrorist retaliation against the American freedom.

Does the media know of America's secret little fetish for

violence and is the media able to disguise our fetish behind corporate sponsored music, video games, and materialistic nonsense? Or are humans born with the natural instinct to kill? According to Gandhi all humans are naturally born good, but it is society that will corrupt the individual.

Parental guidance is the next arguable factor for violence in America. Majority of cases herd, seen, or read in today's media blames the childhood of the victimizer. The criminal was usually molested, abused, or had no guidance. Whether or not you concur with the individuals excuse; these factors at some point must have made a significance in the criminal's lives and that might have driven the criminal to a violent path.

So what are you afraid of? Are you afraid of what is looking over your shoulder? Are Americans genetically bred to have paranoia pumping through their blood? Or does the media have us at their fingertips, toying with our emotions and having its viewers believe every bit of propaganda posted on CNN?

A Friendly Cross Town Rivalry

BY RAYMOND ALFARO AND
JAZMIN DIAZ
ELRODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's varsity football team has not been doing well this season. They have a disappointing record of 0-5, which includes last Friday's loss to St. Paul. St. Paul has suffered great losses this year as well; there loss of their beloved head coach Marijo Anchich and the demotion of there division three ranking. Many Dons do not know the historic rivalry that exists between these great teams.

"There's always been that cross town rivalry," admits Senior Anthony Tamayo. For as long as both high schools have been around, football is the biggest issue. Why you may ask? Well, many St. Paul football players grew up here in Pico Rivera. Many of them still live here today. Not only that, but they played for the same Pico Dons that the El Rancho Dons played for during their childhood years. "We grew up together, played together, now we have to look at them as our rivals," said Tamayo.

The 1960's were the most memorable years for the Ranch's football program. C.I.F. players like: Randy Drake, Ken Matthews, and John Wells played a great roll in taking El Rancho to



C.I.F. for its tenth consecutive year. Ernie Johnson and his staff: Phil Oram, Jim Everett, Gene Farrel, Steve Hartman and Marty McQuinney, molded the young men into a tough varsity squad that would soon make history.

Nine years later, El Rancho and St. Paul clashed together in the final game during C.I.F. This game would decide who the better of the two legendary teams would be. Both Saint Paul and El Rancho had a great number of important victories during their seasons. However, these victories would soon mean nothing; the players would have to play their heart and souls out. Unfortunately,

these two teams were very much alike. Despite the attempts from both sides, the game resulted in a 20-20 tie. The Dons and Swordsmen would have to share the title of co-champions.

That same year, the Ranch's offense had been at its best. They ended the season with an impressive 166 points during league play; meanwhile their defense only allowed 47 points to their opponents. But this was not the only impressive records the Don's created in the 1960's. In 1966 the Ranch became the first team to ever go through an entire season undefeated. That same year, the Don's took league

(Pacific League) and even managed to gain a state title. This was not enough to feed the Don's growing fame, luckily with the help of their expert coaches; they were ranked the number one high school team across the nation.

The Don's have come a long way from the 1960's. This is because of the lack of team work and commitment while others blame St. Paul because so many Pico boys want the chance to play for the legendary Coach Anchich. But now that Anchich has retired, maybe the future generation of football stars will stay here in Pico and create a new legacy of their own.

Lady Dons Deliver at the Net



DAVID TORRES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho girl's tennis team had a spectacular league start winning both of their games last week. They now have a record of 9-1 overall and 2-1 in league play.

On Tuesday, they competed against Cal High where they had a score of 13-5; while on Thursday, they competed against Whittier where they conquered the cardinals with a score of 14-4. Coach Henderson had this to say about Cal High's game, "We dominated both in singles and doubles. We have many returnees and this leads to an entire team of talented women."

At Whittier's game, Coach Henderson said, "Beating Whittier was big because they took second last year and beating them was one of our goals for this year. The doubles team dominated because they won all of their sets." El Rancho's win against Whittier shows how this year's team is well rounded; even if they do not perform well on the single's team, they can always depend on their double's team to gain points on their score.

Senior Ali Altamirano has won seven out of her last nine sets. Senior Carina Bailes is the most improved player. Coach Henderson said, "She is very aggressive." Bailes said, "Coach Henderson helped me improve," and she thanks the team for motivating her at her games. "It feels great to know that I am the most improved," said Bailes.

The Tennis team has almost reached the half way mark in this year's season with games against Pioneer and Santa Fe High School. They will need to win against a strong La Serna who for the last 13 years has won the Del Rio league title. If the dons manage to defeat them, they will be able to take the title.

Swordsmen Pierce the Struggling Dons



The El Rancho Dons anxiously line up against all time rival high school, the Saint Paul Swordsmen

BY ANTHONY CHY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, in one of the most anticipated football games this past year, El Rancho faced off against longtime rival St. Paul. Up until the third quarter the game looked abysmal for the Dons. St. Paul trampled over El Rancho 28-0. However a sudden surge of offense from the Dons shifted the momentum towards El Rancho, but to no avail, El Rancho lost 28-14. St. Paul worked off El Rancho's six turnovers and sloppy plays to achieve the decisive advantage.

In the first quarter, St Paul jumped off to an 8-0 lead after quarterback Adrian Gallegos, threw a 30 yard touchdown pass to Eddie de Dios.

In the second quarter, St. Paul added 7 points to the lead with another touchdown, and Gallegos converted an El Rancho fumble into a 41-yard run towards the end zone, to increase the lead 21-0.

The third quarter was all St. Paul as well; Gallegos threw a 16 yard pass towards wide receiver Matthew Lopez to make the score 28-0.

The fourth quarter show-

cased El Rancho's offence. El Rancho was able to recover a fumble from the St. Paul 5-yard line and El Rancho quarterback, David Moriel succeeded in converting the fumble, putting El Rancho's first points up making the score 28-7. Also during the fourth quarter, Moriel again scored on a 5-yard line and added to the Don's deficit, making it 28-14. El Rancho's Jeremy Vazquez recovered an onside kick with 4:40 on the clock to give El Rancho hope, but El Rancho fumbled the ball on the next play and St. Paul recovered it and ran out the clock, ending the game at 28-14.

El Rancho also exhibited a strong defense throughout the game, which made the game much closer then the score suggested.

With this win, St. Paul's record is now 3-2, while El Rancho is still winless at 0-5. El Rancho's next game is this Friday at home, against the La Serna Lancers.

The Dons will hopefully continue the offence and vigor they exhibited during the fourth quarter into their next game to achieve their first win of the season. Hopefully, the Dons can accomplish their first win beating the La Serna Lancers this Friday night.

Athlete of the Month



Pringle congratulates Navarro on his accomplishments this season.

BY JAZMIN DIAZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Thirty goals, two assists, and twenty six steals is quite an impressive record to hold, especially since he is barely half way through his season. This is why Jose "Squeaks," Navarro was awarded the prestigious El Rancho's Boy's Athlete of the month award, for the month of September. Navarro has played water polo and has swum here at the Ranch for the past four years, three which he served on the varsity squads.

But do not think its all fun and games splashing around in the pool. Navarro, like many other athletes has endured physical tolls that leave your body completely numb. From long, summer day practices, to morning and afternoon practices, it's all for the betterment of the team and love of the game. "In polo, the leg sets are really hard, it's a feeling you can't explain, you want to stop but it's not an option," admits Navarro.

But Navarro never quits. He is an exemplary player.

Last Friday, Navarro showed his ambition and leadership abilities during their game versus Temple City. Unfortunately, the results favored Temple City.

"He's a great kid," said Coach Pringle, "he's helped made my transition to my first season enjoyable by cooperating." Pringle also says that Navarro is one of those "hard workers, whom always leads by example." Perhaps this is why Navarro, was the best candidate for the Boy's Athlete of the Month Award.

What does Navarro think of all this attention? Well, let's just say this varsity athlete is extremely humble. Navarro thanks his coaches (Pringle and Francisco) for pushing him beyond his capabilities, through their persistent actions they have brought out the best in him. Navarro would love to continue playing water polo in college, hopefully for Cal State Long Beach. As for now, he just wants to focus on his personal aspirations: receiving third team all C.I.F and just being someone the younger guys can look up to.

Dons Wade into Troubled Waters



Goalie, Matt Birkenbach, leaps to make an incredible save at last friday's home game vs Temple City.

BY KARISSA GUILLEN, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's varsity water polo team is off to a rocky start. On Friday October 6th, the team suffered a loss against Temple City with a final score of 11-10. Despite their loss, the Dons showed a tremendous amount of sportsmanship and hard work; goalie Matthew B made numerous saves, Seniors Christain Nunez and Jose Navarro made incredible shots that kept the Dons alive throughout the game.

Captain Juan Lopez said, "It was a tough match, we knew what we were getting ourselves into knowing that Temple City is a good team. Even though we lost by only one point, we all played a good game throughout all four quarters."

Lopez is very proud of the team this year. Everyday he sees many improvements in his teammates during practices and games. Lopez states "This team has poured their hearts out playing for El Rancho, they've had their heads lifted up high through every moment of it. El Rancho water polo has made a great name for the program. As of right now, we are keeping that high standard by competing with the best, despite the losses or the wins." The boys have played teams in higher divisions so they can gain the amount of experience necessary to win league this year.

Senior and Athlete of the Month, Jose Navarro, also known as "Squeaks" has many goals he would like to accomplish this year. This season, Navarro would like to win league and improve as a team overall. Navarro says "I think our team is improving drastically, even though we may lose focus from time to time, we still are a great team."

Junior Luis Escamilla, another member of the varsity water polo team states "There are many things we need to work on this year, but overall we have a great team who works hard everyday."

Captain Juan Lopez advises to the five seniors on the team to "Play hard as if it was our last game." Luckily, yesterday the boys were able to play hard and gain a lead in league by beating the Cal High Condors 10-9.

Cross Country Team Goes the Extra Mile

BY MICHAEL RENDON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho cross country team has reached the unofficial halfway point of the season; they have faced formidable foes, and have been up to the challenge. This season has been a promising year as the Dons look to win the Del Rio League Finals. The boys and girls team have been performing well and last Saturday at the 28th Annual Clovis Invitational in Fresno was no exception.

The Clovis Invitational drew over three thousand athletes from one hundred forty-nine schools, and forty of which arrived with top ten state rankings in five divisions. The meet was a preview of the CIF State Championships, which will return to Fresno for the 21st time on November 25.

The girls and boys team both had a strong performance. The girls team was impressive



Cross Country runner leads El Rancho Dons to yet another victory.

with one of their best performances this season, which earned them a first place finish in the Division one Large School Race. The boys were not able to match the girls' performance as they respectively finished seventh in the Championship Race. Luis Guevara, who had a time of 15:35, was not only the first Don to finish the 3.1 mile race, but was also

the third runner overall to finish the race. Lupe Ramirez, who had a time of 19:56, was the first Lady Don to cross the finish line.

"We're getting faster and we are better than last year," says Carlos Joya of his fellow teammates.

The Dons expect to finish in the top three in their second Del Rio Cluster Meet later today at Schabarum Regional Park.

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Ley's Life-Changing Experience

BY STEPHANIE CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Having a baby at sixteen is not what most teenage girls plan for their future. Unfortunately, teenage pregnancy does occur. Senior, Lindsay Ley, had her beautiful baby, Audrey Rogue Ley, at the age of sixteen. Audrey is now one year old and eight months.

Ley is a dedicated student and is involved in A.P. courses. Surprised? Don't be; after school, Ley goes home and still takes care of her baby, does homework, chores, and much more. "I want the best for me, so my baby can also have the best," said Ley. Ley's grandmother baby-sits Audrey while she's at school; for this Ley said, "I'm really lucky to have my grandma doing this for me, and all I can do is be grateful."

Ley explains that her life is much difficult now. "When Audrey was a newborn, she was sleeping all the time; now, she's up and running around. Even though it's a harder stage, seeing her this way is the most beautiful thing."

After graduating from El Rancho, Ley plans to attend an arts school to become a fashion designer. "I plan on staying near home; I'm still undecided what school I'll be attending, but college is something I want to do for sure."

Audrey's first word was *agua*, ("water" in Spanish). Ley



"Having a baby is a life changing experience," says Lindsey Ley.

explains that when she found out about her pregnancy, telling her parents was the hardest part. "First they were really disappointed, but

"I would never take back having Audrey; she's the best thing that's ever happened to me," says Ley.

then they supported me," says Ley. The option of aborting the baby never crossed Ley's mind. "I would never take back having

Audrey; she's the best thing that's ever happened to me," said Ley.

Ley says that after having a baby, "you have someone depending on you for the rest of your life. It's not easy," repeated Ley, "it's like taking a step forward, you grow up faster."

Ley, like every good mother, wishes to be an example to Audrey. "I want my kid to do well; that's one of the reasons why I joined Team," said Ley. She also says that "having a baby is a life changing experience. It makes you tolerant of being independent."

Gabrielle Martinez Chillin' at Chili's

BY CARLOS HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As the year rolls out, many seniors go out and apply at different locations in hope of being hired. That is not the case for senior Gabrielle Martinez. While other students are sleeping in on Saturday mornings, Martinez is up and out the door, heading towards her part-time job at Chili's.

Martinez, who is employed at Pico Rivera's Chili's on Washington Boulevard, has worked there for the past two months and is currently positioned as a hostess. Martinez has transitioned herself from being a former cashier at Redbrick Pizza to becoming a skilled hostess for the new restaurant. She left the pizza parlor because she was not feeling the environment and the so-called "girl drama" that came along with it. She now is happy at Chili's and finds it easier to get along with people.

Although she gets a limited amount of hours, Martinez is satisfied with her legit wage of \$ 7.25. "I'm the hostess with the mostess," she jokingly says, "it's alright, but my feet hurt after a long hard day of work!" Martinez says that dealing with the rude customers is the most difficult part of the job, but she has to be polite.



Martinez works as a hostess at Chili's, located in the Town Center.

Although Martinez works hard throughout the week, she still manages her time to go home and finish up her school work. Her grade point average is slightly above a 3.0 and she hopes to bring it up by the end of the year. After graduation, Martinez plans on enrolling at Rio Hondo College, and then transferring to Cal State Long Beach.

As far as her earnings are concerned, Martinez is saving up for a 2005 Ford Explorer that she is expecting to buy sometime in November.

For now, Martinez is focused on her future and what lies ahead. She is undecided on how long she will continue working at Chili's. Perhaps she will until she finds a higher paying job.

Love, All the Way From North Park to the "Ranch"

BY CARINA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seniors, Sandra Hernandez and Jeremy Vazquez first set eyes upon each other at North Park Middle School, where they developed a friendship that later evolved into love. They met "in a science class and have been together for three years and six months since then," says Hernandez.

But like most love stories, this one too, has a funny part; Hernandez (Sandra) has a twin sister, Jessica Hernandez, who liked Vasquez first. Even though they liked each other, "we never got together," he says; however, when he met the other identical twin, Sandra Hernandez, Vazquez said he "was nervous to talk to her." In fact, at times, Vazquez admits that he "would confuse the sisters." He then began to fall in love with Hernandez's (Sandra that is) friendly personality, and Hernandez says that she always liked the fact that "Jeremy is smart" and "is always there" for her.

Although this lovely couple disagrees many times on many different things, they still have a lot of things in common: "we both like sports,



Seniors, Jeremy Vazquez and Sandra Hernandez, enjoy their time together during lunch.

hanging out with friends, and going out to dinner and to the movies," says Hernandez.

Vazquez suggests that "we have to strive to make things better" in a relationship because "nothing will ever be perfect, since there are always problems, but you need to deal with them and learn from your mistakes." Vazquez also confesses that he now has "somebody to depend on," something that he "never had before, since she is there to make [him] feel better."

Even though Vasquez is involved in sports, like varsity football and baseball, and A.P. courses, he still dedicates time to the relationship. They hang out daily during lunch and go out every weekend.

After high school, Hernandez and Vasquez plan to attend different universities; "However," says Hernandez, "we still want to go out and keep in touch with each other's family." Like every fairy tale ending, Vazquez said: "I hope that we live happily ever after!"

Night Pep Rally Reminders

- Freshmen-** Pirates, wear yellow and black
- Sophomores-** Super Heroes, wear blue and red
- Juniors-** Super Mario Brothers, wear blue and green
- Seniors-** 007 Seniors wear black and silver

*Doors Close at 7:00 p.m. No one will be allowed into the gym after doors are closed!

*No one will be allowed with a GPA lower than 2.0!

*No one will be allowed in without an I.D.!

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Seniors Soap Up to Raise Revenue

By ROSARIO LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Saturday, a group of seniors and Mr. Correa, the senior class advisor, held the "Senior Saturday Car Wash" in hopes of collecting money to subsidize the Night Pep Rally.

Teachers and people from the community who cruised on Passons were able to have their car washed free. "We did not charge a set amount for each car washed, instead we were asking for donations. Anyone having their car washed determined how much they would like to contribute," said Correa.

"A car wash seemed suitable," said Correa, "It's something that one could attend since it's on a weekend. Plus, I wanted something where the student could work together, have fun and at the same time build up senior spirit."

Seniors worked hard scrapping off muck, soaping,

rinsing, and drying compact vehicles, SUVs and trucks. Senior Michelle Valera reminisces, "As a senior, I was proud to show up for the car wash. It was nice to see some of my fellow classmates working very hard to earn money for the pep rally. It was a great experience."

Senior Jackie Torrez also adds on, "The car wash was a great idea, I had fun and I know that I was helping my class."

After a hard day's work, the results were satisfactory. The seniors accumulated enough money to meet their expenses for the pep rally and to start saving up for the senior gift, which is hopefully a new Alma Mater to hang in the gym. With the amount of revenue acquired, the seniors are bound to have a memorable Night Pep Rally. In the near future, Mr. Correa plans to have more fundraisers "so that the can meet their goals of raising enough money for the senior gift and other activities that the school hopes to have for the class of 2007.



Senior Dominique Martinez invites drivers to the car wash.



Senior girls eagerly wash Mr. Diaz's car in hopes of receiving a generous donation for the Night Pep Rally.

Sweet School Spirit on Display at Candy Land Pep Rally

By STEPHANIE CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Friday October 5, El Rancho held its second pep rally of the year. The Candy Land theme re ected each of the class' games. The pep rally began with class competitions. Some of the games were: blindfolded jellybean-eating contest, M&M eating contest, a gummy bear eating contest, and plastic wrapping.

The athletes of the month were also announced; they were seniors Diana Gutierrez and Jose Navarro. Also, sophomore class was declared the winner.

The next pep rally will be the famous Night Pep Rally. Students, remember your themes, and dress accordingly. Remember that no one will be allowed with a G.P.A. lower than a 2.0 or without an I.D.



Students quickly wrapped their partners in plastic in order to win the race.



Attempting to earn class points, members of each class pigged out on cream pies.



Between competitions, Yell members performed, showing off their school spirit.

Homecoming Candidates

Freshman: Marlene De La Cruz, Jamie Morales, Samantha Orta, Janet Rodriguez, Alfred Galindo, Bo Guillen, Joshua Perea, Adrian Sanchez

Sophomores: Stephanie Enciso, Tatiana Gomez, Breanna Olguin, Natalie Torres, Mathew Crocitto, Jonathon Luna, Roger Reyes, Carmelo Serrano

Juniors: Adriana Favela, Ruby Manalansan, Lindsay Cairo-Oster, Johanna Rodriguez, Joseph Lapierre, Jasper Mills, Joseph Salas, Albert Toscano

Seniors: Mayra Gonzales, Jodie Kaur, Staphanie Mendez, Jahira Quinones, Brianne Rodriguez, Edwin Batrez, Luis Guevara, Marcos Lara, Luis Danny Montoya, Steven Vega

Homecoming Week October 16-20



Monday: Homecoming games during lunch

Tuesday: Homecoming Carnival during lunch

Wednesday: Blue Pride Day- wear blue and/or gray attire

Thursday: Night Pep Rally- 7:00 p.m. at the gym

Friday: *Homecoming Assembly- 11:20 a.m. in the gymnasium.

*Minimum Day- school will be over at noon

*Football Game at ER's stadium- ER vs. Whittier- 7:00 p.m.

*Homecoming Dance "A Whole New World" - 9:00 p.m.- midnight at ER gym

X-Men 3 is X-traordinary

BY ALFRED ARMENDARIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, October 3, "X-Men 3: The Last Stand" hit stores. From its excellent storyline, though at times confusing to those unfamiliar with the comic series, to its amazing computer effects, X-Men showed itself to be a memorable film.

Continuing from the first two movies the film starts off by showing two opening sequences: a synopsis of the first visit to the mysterious young girl Jean Grey by Professor Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart) and Magneto (Ian McKellen); and the introduction to a young Warren Worthington III, later known as Angel.

Straying from the continual action sequences, the film introduces the dramatic side story of the love triangle between teenagers Kitty Pride (Ellen Page), Rogue (Anna Paquin), and Iceman (Shawn Ashmore). Another romance plot takes place between Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) and resurrected Jean Grey, who suffers from an overwhelming mental symbiosis of the destructive Phoenix.

The film also keeps to the rivalry plot between Charles Xavier and Magneto, as well as the new rivalry between Iceman and right-hand man to Magneto, Pyro (John Allerdic). This ice-to-fire oppo-

sition leads to a climactic battle scene that completes the amazing digital effects of the movie.

With the creation of a controversial new mutant "cure", the various actions that are performed by both humans and mutants are



shown. There's the hostile reaction of the mutant Brotherhood led by antagonist Magneto, the view of politicians represented by the mutant Beast (Kelsey Grammar), and the defensive view of the X-Men. The controversy also introduces the mutant Angel and his father, Warren Worthington II, creator of the "cure".

With a well-balanced portion of both action sequences and small talk scenes, "X-Men" offers viewers a wonderful variety of entertainment.

Though there are many plots that stray from the original

comic series, the film provides an amazing plot-within-a-plot sequence by displaying conflicts the characters face, yet it still manages to remain the main idea of world conflict concerning the mutant controversy.

The movie also sports amazing computer graphics with gravity defying rocks, Kitty running through walls, the duel between Iceman and Pyro, the total eradication of humans and vehicles, and amazing geyser-like water works.

Unfortunately, the DVD version of the movie advertises a bounty of deleted and alternate scenes, which turn out to be pointless and disappointing. For those that saw this movie in theaters but missed the small scene at the end of the credits, here's a second opportunity, since the scene is vital to the continuous plot line of the saga.

For Simpson fans, a sneak peek to the upcoming film is included; due to be released in the summer of 2007. The preview may be dissatisfying since it's only a ten second animatic preview.

"X3" proves to be a great Marvel classic and raises the bar for future motion picture releases from the comic book franchise. The wide variety of mutant powers in this movie is sure to keep action movie fans glued to the screen and wanting more by the end.

Queensryche Concert Review



BY ANTHONY MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday night Queensryche hit the stage at Gibson Amphitheater, in Universal City, and performed an astonishing three hour live set on their *Operation: Livecrime 1 & 2 World Tour*.

The set consisted of the bands two hit albums *Operation: Mindcrime 1 & 2*. The *Mindcrime* series is a story of Love, sex, drugs, murder and of course...Revenge!

The show opened like any other high energy heavy metal show with the crowd on their feet and fists in the air as the curtains rose. The band opened with "I remember now", the first track off the original *Operation: Mindcrime* album which was released in 1988.

Bringing the story to life was an energetic cast of characters, acting, and hard hitting heavy metal by Queensryche.

The stage was decorated according to the albums story and the band. Three big visual screens hung above the set playing the original videos for the original *Livecrime* tour that displayed government corruption, betrayal and the love story between a junkie and a prostitute.

The band played great as lead singer Geoff Tate sang and acted at the same time. Tate was full of energy as he ran around, sang without a w, and performed his characters part to its full potential. All original members, except former lead guitarist Chris DeGarmo, were present and played on time, in tune and full of energy. Drummer Scott Rockenfield's performance easily stood out as he hammered away on his drum set for three hours of technical drumming and did so as if he were a machine.

The venue was full of die

hard Queensryche fans that sang along at the top of their lungs. The theater was full of energy as The Ryché jammed along with their story to tell. During the 1st half a very familiar *Mindcrime* album was performed and received an awesome crowd response. As the second album began being performed the crowd was still on their feet but was fixed on paying attention to the story being told. *Operation: Mindcrime 2* was released 18 years after the original in April 2006 and is the highly anticipated sequel to the legendary concept album. It was unfamiliar to most but not a disappointment. It was full of anticipation and excitement especially during the surprise most did not know about.

Halfway during the second half of the show legendary vocalist Ronnie James Dio showed up out of nowhere on stage and performed his part on the song "The Chase". Dio and Tate performed great as the two vocalists sang in concert. Dio only performed one night on the whole World Tour and gave fans a show to remember. During the 80's Dio fronted Black Sabbath and also Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow. He is known as the godfather of metal and credited for heavy metals trademark devil horns.

As the performance of the second half of the show came to an end the show was not over. Loose ends were finally tied as questions were answered after 18 years of waiting. Fans were both relieved and amazed. After both albums were played in their entirety the band came on stage for an encore. They performed their hit "Walk in the Shadows" among others. The crowd was instantly reenergized and once again on their feet singing along. The show ended on a high note leaving fans completely fulfilled as The Ryché ruled the night.

Modern Times for the Modern Generation



BY PHILIP JUAREZ, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dylan is back once again with his thirty first studio recording and his third straight masterpiece after five years since *Love and Theft*. His new album is titled *Modern Times* which was recorded and produced over the course of a little more than a month with Dylan's road band. With the launch of his new CD, he has already had more than 113 shows; the new release is a perfect addition to Bob Dylan's career. Dylan's shows have consisted of evenly divided songs between blues' old time two-steps and state marches.

Modern Times is something new and marvelous, which is no surprise coming from Bob Dylan. Bob Dylan has returned surprising listeners with a new armful of songs that will not let them down. Dylan has grabbed all of his best elements in music and has put them together for this masterpiece. The album has a more common and clear sound. The music is very relaxed, it was not made to be sophisticated or to impress any critics. *Modern Times* is made for the modern generation, hence the album title.

The new album also contains old rock and roll sounds. For example, "Thunder on a Mountain" will remind you of the 50s era; it opens up in front of your face; very forceful making the riffs sound similar to Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode". "Spirit on the Water," another song which is nice and easy going, is accompanied by a harmonica solo which is a rare thing to find in his songs nowadays.

The songs are full of joy and love. For example, "Spirit on the Water" and "When the Deal goes Down" which are nice melodic songs. At first, some songs might sound gloomy at first but they will grow on you after some repeated listens. Some may say this album is a bit pessimistic and bitter, while others say it is lovely and uplifting. Whatever the reason might be *Modern Times* is a good choice for anyone that enjoys Bob Dylan and his music. This is a great CD to just come home and forget the world for about an hour.

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