



El Rodeo



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El Rancho High School

Friday, October 27, 2006

Volume 55, Issue 3

Look Inside to Find...

Art Gallery Review:
"The Night after Halloween"



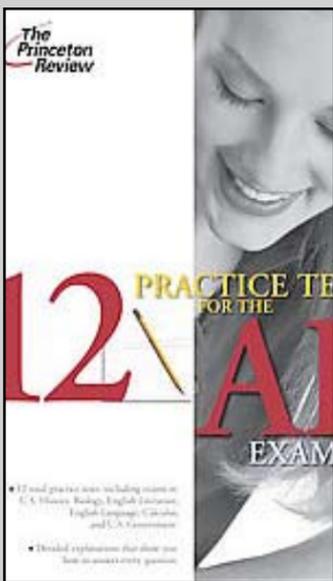
Get Personal with Teacher/Musician, Mr. McMullen



Check Out El Rancho's Homecoming King and Queen



ER's Top Scholars



Passed 3 or More Advanced Placement Exams

Noelle Andrade (06)
 Kristina Biado (06)
 Michelle Escobar (06)
 Evelyn Gonzalez (06)
 Rosio Gonzalez (06)
 Diana Gutierrez (07)
 Monique Hernandez (06)
 Carlos Manzano (07)
 Manuel Mejia (06)
 Jacqueline Morales (07)
 Darwin Moran (06)
 Yesenia Ornelas (06)
 Valentina Rozas (06)
 Edgar Sanchez (06)
 David Torres (07)
 Samantha Uribe (06)
 Adilene Vargas (06)
 Steven Vega (07)

Passed 4 or More exams: Scholars with Honor

Aide Macias (07)

Passed 5 or More exams: Scholars with Distinction

Sandy Arias (07)
 Passed 5
 Veronica Chavez (06)
 Passed 8
 Edgar Gonzalez (06)
 Passed 9
 Thomas Medina (07)
 Passed 7
 Gerardo Sifuentes (06)
 Passed 5
 Ricardo Padilla (06)
 Passed 7

VIP Entrance...if You Had a 2.0!

BY ROBERT PRIETO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday the ER Dons student body eagerly waited in line to participate in the annual Night Pep Rally. Unlike previous years, the El Rancho Administration enforced the 2.0 GPA requirement resulting in a decrease in attendance for some classes.

Economics teacher and Night Pep Rally judge, David Retana, "thought that the competition was up for grabs" as he entered the gym.

Other judges included 10th grade team teacher, Charissa Zeko, boy's water polo coach, John Pringle, and art teacher, April Leal. "Each judge received 'a list of criteria' in order to evaluate the individual classes," said Pringle. The criteria included attendance, creativity, color choices, sportsmanship, participation, class skits and unity of cheers.

Prior to entering the gym, freshman Alejandra Cordova believed "the freshmen [would] win because [they had] the largest class." Although the freshmen were new to the pep rally, many were "excited because [they had] a real chance to beat the seniors this year," said freshman Edwin Satillan.

On the other hand, senior Rudy Flores predicted that the freshmen's class size would not "overshadow the seniors' spirit."

Senior Jessica Jennings expected "everyone to give [his or her] best performance and to respect each class."

Some seniors, like Marlene Barragan, feared that they



At the 007 Casino Royale section of the Night Pep Rally Senior Steven Vega roars with enthusiasm.

might lose because "a lot of [the seniors] did not make grades."

Seniors Julie Ojeda, Annette Garcia, and Mary Contreas were in no way intimidated by the size of the freshmen class, because this was their fourth year at the Night Pep Rally.

During the pep rally Retana noted that "the sophomores were the most involved." Zeko exclaimed that she "loved the student [sophomore Jake Wood] who played Superman, because

he definitely created a lot of spirit for the sophomore class."

She also mentioned "the seniors had great decorations and props," and that she was most impressed with "how well the freshmen utilized their large boat props." "I thought the juniors' color choices really popped because they all had the matching hats," stated Zeko.

Pringle said, "The seniors had the biggest group and were intense the whole time."

In the end, the senior class beat the sophomores' score of 85 by six points to take home the victory. When El Rancho Principal, Julie Ellis, announced the senior class' score all two-thirds of the bleachers, filled with seniors, flooded the floor to celebrate their win.

After suffering a loss to the sophomore class the class of 2008 can only look forward to next year's Night Pep Rally, where they will have a shot at redemption.

Running Out of Time for Red Ribbons?

BY MICHELLE GARICA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This week El Rancho Dons, as well as the entire nation, celebrate Red Ribbon Week in commemoration of the death of Officer Enrique S. Camarena who was kidnapped and killed by drug dealers. Traditionally El Rancho pays their respects to Camarena by hosting an assembly in the school gym and encouraging the student body to wear red attire and red ribbons.

However El Rancho undecidably omitted the annual Red Ribbon Week Assembly, where a spokesperson shares

his or her personal experiences and struggles with drugs throughout life, in hopes of discouraging student's drug usage.

Former El Rancho Drug Counselor, Mr. Fernada, was in charge of organizing the assembly, but after accepting a job offer elsewhere his replacement, Ms. Frances Nguyen "simply did not have time [to organize the assembly]" she said.

Nguyen was hired within the last three weeks and was unaware of the annually held Red Ribbon Assembly. "The last advisor did not leave me with any information, I have no resources, so I basically have to start anew," said Nguyen.



Not only is Nguyen E.R.'s new Drug Counselor, she is also the Special Ed Advisor. With so much on her plate the "assembly is at the end of my [to do] list" says Nguyen.

Despite not having the assembly El Rancho's "ASB has made a few posters and have submitted daily facts [on drugs] in the daily bulletin," says Mr. Romero, ASB Director.

On the Wrong Side of the Law

“Music Man” McMullen, Talks About Devotion to Teaching

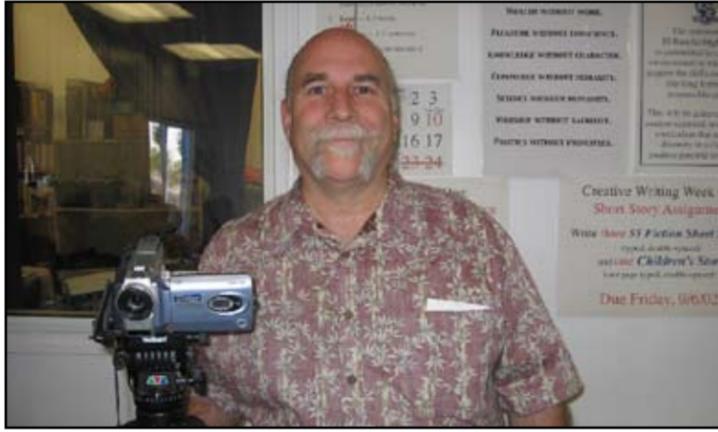
By JACQUELINE ESPINOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Teaching professionally since 1971, Mr. McMullen has found teaching to be highly gratifying.

McMullen has been teaching since his childhood. According to McMullen he “basically always taught...even when [he was] a kid.” He would always answer questions, aid people with their work, and explain how to do an assignment.

His father had wanted McMullen to be a lawyer; however, McMullen wanted to pursue teaching. Whenever he was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he would always reply “a lawyer or a teacher.” “You can see who won out,” McMullen stated referring to his father’s and his own goals.

As a teenager, McMullen began to write lyrics. In 1971, McMullen started teaching in the Whittier district. Deciding to focus on his music and lyrical writing, in 1974 McMullen retired from teaching. After a short period of not teaching, McMullen began subbing at El Rancho High School.



It wasn’t until 1978 that McMullen became a full time teacher at El Rancho. Located in room Z-7, McMullen teaches Creative Writing and Video Production. For the last twenty-five years, he has team taught the American Studies Junior Honors Team class with Mr. Anderson. McMullen feels that students tend to believe that “answers are more important” than learning how to think and create.

McMullen understands both the student and teacher views pertaining to the tardy policies. He feels that “kids just don’t think it matters” and that the eight minutes outside of class is more important

to many students than class time. He feels that tardies are a huge issue that forms from the students’ attitude as well as the parents’ attitude. The parents who bring their children after eight o’clock are teaching their children that it is alright to be tardy.

As far as the I-pod rules that were recently applied, McMullen agrees that the technology should not be used during class time. He feels, however, that the problem does not lie with the technology but rather in the fact that most students “don’t take school seriously.” He feels that there is no problem with having the technology, but students

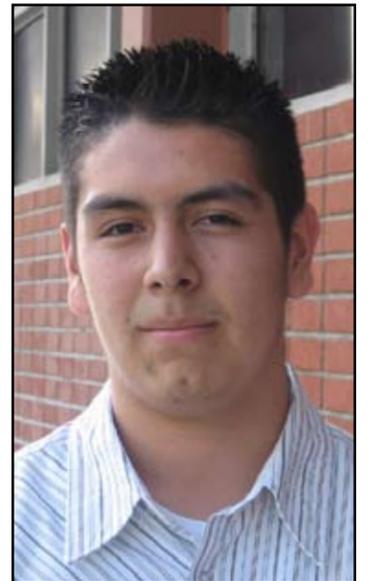
are “abusing” their privileges.

McMullen says that it not like the earlier days when all a person needed was a third grade education in order to get a job. He also implies that people “need an education and don’t necessarily have to go to college.” All they need is the seriousness to “learn what they need [in order] to be successful.”

Along with writing and singing McMullen’s hobbies include collecting. He has a collection of about six thousand records. He enjoys collecting cassettes, DVD’s, CD’s, radio plays, books, his own lyrics and stories, basically anything and everything audio and visual. “It’s a disease” that McMullen has yet to find a cure for. McMullen even has a collection of cartoon-based glasses that he gathered for about four years from McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell, etc.

“I’ve improved my writing skills and found new ways of writing interesting stories,” says sophomore, Maira Ramirez, who is currently taking the Creative Writing course. “I like how he plays the guitar and writes his own lyrics.” McMullen has played a song or two for his first period class as a way for the class to get to know him a little bit better.

Manzano Makes for Model Club President



By ALFRED ARMENDARIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of the clubs that seems to be growing in popularity is the Model UN, with advisor, Mrs. Brown leading this year’s delegation. By her side though is one of El Rancho’s hardest working students, Carlos Manzano.

“My friend, Jerry Sifuentes, told me about [the Model UN] when we were in class and the idea of it sounded like fun.” Manzano says.

That was last year and at the end of the year Manzano was nominated for president, the position in which he evidently won.

“[The Model UN] has forced me to organize myself. Being ‘el presidente’, as well as being in Math Club, Academic Decathlon, the Senior TEAM, and AP Calculus, really stretches my time.” Manzano says. “It pushes me to stay on top of things.”

As the president, Manzano is faced with the duties of leading a group of aspiring individuals like himself. “I like this year’s delegation. We got a lot of fresh faces. The only bad part was that all we pulled in were underclassmen girls, so the club looks unbalanced, but I’m not worried.”

Even though being president makes Manzano “want to take over the world”, he still acknowledges his responsibilities and respect for the advisor of the club. “Mrs. Brown does an awesome job for us. She was heavily involved in her Model UN program when she was in high school. The fact the Mrs. Brown and her team were Best Delegation at the New York Conference still keeps me in awe.”

Manzano encourages other students to participate in the Model UN but warns that hard work is required, even outside of class. “If you like public speaking or debating, this is the club for you.”

Manzano offers his advice to students who are seeking a career in the world of politics, “Forget your opinions and morals, they no longer matter. The only thing that matters is how well you can argue and support the ideas in which you represent.”

El Rancho Students of the Month

By ESTHER ACOSTA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Freshman, Jacob Barrera, has received his first student of the month recognition: “I felt excited to be one of the first students to represent my freshman class and thankful for the teachers that nominated me.” He would simply show up daily to class and get his work done. “I’m a very negative person I like to tell myself I can’t so I can prove to my inner self that I can,” Barrera explained. His biggest inspiration has been his family: “I love my family because they have been there for me and supported everything I do 100%.” Barrera’s main goals are to pass all his classes with A’s and improve at waterpolo. Being on the waterpolo team has helped him to deal with life and school in better ways. “People don’t understand how much I love waterpolo. I can release all my tension and stress by swimming. A day wouldn’t be complete without waterpolo,” he admits. Barrera hopes to lead his class into the right direction and set a good example for the classes to come. Barrera will continue his over academic grades and hopes that in the year 2010 he can become valedictorian.



Sophomore, Chartisia Paxton is excited about being student of the month. Being her first time she didn’t know what to expect. She excitedly stated, “I was very surprised when I found out that I was student of the month. I couldn’t believe that I was chosen out of all my 10th grade class. I’m very proud that I have accomplished my goal.” Paxton’s main goals this year are to concentrate in school and receive all her credits. In the future, Paxton hopes to become a Missionary as one of Jehovah’s witnesses and travel around the world to spread her beliefs. Her biggest inspiration has been her father: “I love my father and I appreciate everything he’s ever done for me. He’s taught me to never back down on what I believe.” On Paxton’s spare time she likes to hang out with her younger sister, watch T.V, volunteer at her church, and dance. She admits, “I’m not a good dancer but that doesn’t stop me from doing it.” Paxton’s hopes that the student at El Rancho get to know her better, saying “I want people to listen to what I have to say with an open mind.”



Javier Garcia, Junior, is proud to be receiving his third student of the month award. He is excited and a bit surprised that he has once again received recognition for all his hard work, exclaiming “I’m happy to be student of the month. It’s been great to be able to represent my junior class and to set a good example for others.” This year, Garcia has a very busy schedule. His classes include: A.P. Junior Team, A.P. Biology, and Calculus. Despite the hard work he has to put in those classes, he is currently a club member of M.E.C.H.A., CSF, Model United Nations, and the Math Club. He wants to attend Cal Tech or MIT. He also wants to become a math professor because he enjoys helping others understand it. Garcia’s older brother has been his biggest inspiration: “My older brother has taught me to lead by an example and accomplish my goals.” On his spare time he likes to listen to music (mostly rap). Garcia never sees himself giving up; quitting is not an option. According to Garcia, all he wants his peers to know is that there’s more to him than just be-



Sandy Arias, Senior, is thrilled to get noticed for her accomplishments and receive her second student of the month recognition. Arias never thought she’d be the first to represent the class of 2007, stating proudly “I’m happy that the teachers noticed my hard work and I will continue my effort.” This year, Arias classes include: English A.P., Government A.P., and Calculus. She is also a member of the Decathlon Team and will re-enroll as an El Rodeo Staff Writer. Arias has had many inspirations: “One teacher that has inspired me the most is Mr. Walstick. He is very enthusiastic and intelligent. Mr. Zeko has also been a great inspiration because he’s very honest, optimistic, and his head is extra chine.” In the future Arias would like to attend USC, NYU, or Columbia University. In Arias spare time she likes to listen to exclusive bands and hangs out with her friends at “The Tree”. One thing that Arias would like to say to former El Rancho students is, “Try to go as far as you can in life. Try new things and never set your standards low.”

The Last Six Years of Mankind...

BY CHRIS GALLIZZI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

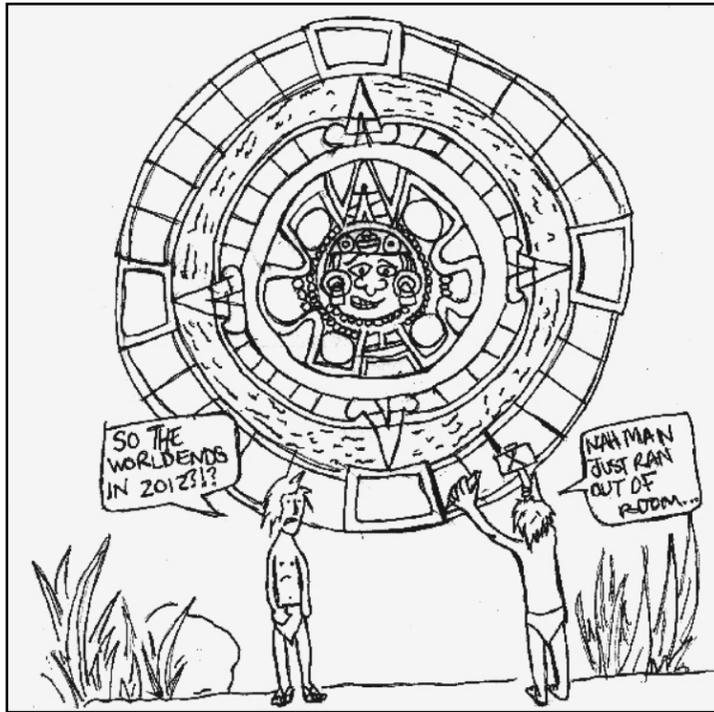
According to the Mayan calendar the year 2012 is suppose to mark "the new beginning" or "re-birth" of this planet. The time period that the earth is in right now is the 5th Sun (5th world). The past four suns were the resurrection of earth from four different catastrophes. The first sun ended by flooding, the second sun ended with jaguars eating the humans, the third sun is when the world rained fire, and the fourth sun ended the world with hurricanes. The actual evidence of whether these natural disasters did actually cause the death of the past four suns' is unknown, but the Mayan calendar is still the most accurate calendar in the world.

Sun years are measured every 5,125 years. The beginning of the 5th sun was in the year 3114 B.C. if you do the math correctly the year would be 2011. Since the Roman-Greek calendar that we follow today isn't actually correct or accurate, due to the fact we have

an addition of two extra months (May and August). The actual date of the 5th suns' end is December 21, 2012.

Now you're probably wondering why the Mesoamerican calendars are so accurate. The root number of the Mayans is 13 and the highest number of yearly cycles that can be reached is 104. The Mayan Orbital calendar lock is set at a 13:8 ratio (root number 13 times number of recurrence (8) gives you 104; the highest reached number). An Italian mathematician named Leonardo Fibonacci first recognized this ratio with his golden ratio rule. The rule is a basic algebra equation: $x^2 - x - 1 = 0$. The equation is supposed to prove recursive number sequences. The point of a recursive equation is to back up the evidence of how the number years in every sun cycle will occur again.

If you still don't believe the hard facts of the world ending in six years then did you know that in order for the Sun (world) to end, there is an eight year period leading up to the destruction of mankind. It's a process of reoccurring events that will kill everyone and as of 2004 there has been a lot of natural disasters along with human disas-



ters; little by little earth and 'us' are killing each other. Genocide is going on, we are on the brink of a nuclear holocaust, almost every country has a war mentality, hurricanes, earthquakes, and heat waves are becoming a normal headline on the six o' clock news.

The big question is the world's end going to be something done by Mother Nature or is going

to be the world leaders' fault for the fall of the last and final sun? No one knows. Till this day small communities in Guatemala (origin of the Mayans) still use the Mayan Calendar to farm, know the date, to know the different phases of the moon, and to tell the weather; surprising, it's never been wrong.

Thoughts on the Threatening Letter Sent to Potential Latino Voters



"I think its pathetic that a candidate has to stoop to such a tactic as that especially when everyone knows that illegal immigrants cannot vote. Therefore it was a scare tactic so that legal immigrants who are naturalized citizens would be afraid to vote and it is illegal to scare citizens who have every right to vote on order to prevent them from voting." -Senior TEAM teacher, Mr. Meza



"The whole situation in the O.C only reflects the ignorance of certain politicians towards different ethnic groups. Situations like this one should open our eyes on how we need to correctly inform the public." -Senior Yahaira Gonzalez



"The letter sent to thousands of Hispanics in the Orange County area is a complete Hate crime against Latinos of any generation!" -Senior Priscilla Maturino

Grand Ole' Party or Good Ole' Boys?

BY CHRIS GALLIZZI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last week from October 16 - 20, over fourteen thousand registered voters in Orange County that are of Latin descent received letters from the GOP (Grand Old Party; Republican Party) congressional candidate; Tan Nguyen. The letter said, "You are advised that if your residence in this country is illegal or you are an immigrant, voting in a federal election is a crime that could result in jail time."

It's ironic that Nguyen's xenophobic side is visible, because he himself is an immigrant from Vietnam. This new hot scandal has also sparked a criminal investigation, which will possibly terminate Nguyen's campaign. Even though Nguyen sees nothing wrong with his actions because he feels that "it's freedom of speech", the constant argument is being pushed towards whether freedom speech should protect hate and negative outbursts.

As of right now the only logical reason for the 'hate mail' is to push his opponent Loretta Sanchez out of the congressional race; since Sanchez is expected to rely on the Latin vote to help her win the election.

U.S. Attorney William Branniff, the lawyer for Nguyen is claiming that the media is completely blowing this scenario out of proportion. Is it? Do you honestly believe the media is responsible for this racist scandal? Or is Nguyen just looking for an 'escape-goat' to help cover up his crude and immature tactics of fear?

Another interesting branch of this dilemma is that the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) was also involved with the handling and mailing of these prejudice letters. Unknown who the officer was, but it's expected that the officer spent four thousand dollars to mail these letters. But those allegations shouldn't be surprising since we are talking about the LAPD; the most racial, bias, and corrupt police department in the world.

If anything we will probably see this story in the mainstream media for about another week and then it will disappear from everyone's thoughts and concerns since the media will treat this issue as just another 'flavor of the week'.

So do something about it! Are you going to allow racism to consume who or what you are? Or are you going to get your voice heard?

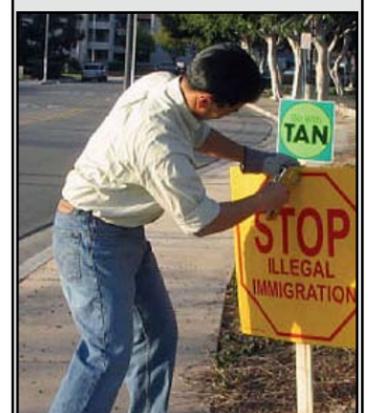


Photo from Tan Nguyen's website reveals his views on illegal immigration.

El Rodeo



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Whittier Drowns Dons in Del Rio League Play

By ANTHONY CHY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In water polo action last week, the Whittier Cardinals trounced the El Rancho Dons, 13-3.

The game was a blowout on both offense and defense. Whittier dominated in shots taken, shooting 25, while El Rancho shot 16. The Dons had 17 turnovers by the end of the exhibition, which certainly influenced the lopsided score. In an amazing showcase of offense, Whittier scored three goals within 90 seconds of the first period and proceeded to convert a penalty shot, whereas the Dons struggled even to attempt a shot. In the second quarter, the Dons received their first points of the game when Sean Salcido scored a goal; Salcido immediately stole the ball on the next play exemplifying El Rancho's tenacious defense. However, that would be El Rancho's only point of the quarter, while Whittier added five more points from five different players making it 1-9.

In the third quarter, Jose Navarro scored El Rancho's second goal, the Whittier managed to add three more to the total crushing any hope, sans a miracle, for an El Rancho comeback. In the fourth quarter, Christian Nunez was able to score and leave El Rancho with their final points, and adding insult to injury, Whittier scored as well, leaving the final score 13-3.

The leading scorer of the game was Whittier's own, Cory Baccus. Baccus scored four points, including two five-meter penalty shots, and Baccus had two assists.

The Dons tough schedule includes more than a half-dozen ranked opponents, Whittier ranking fifth in the CIF Southern Division III polls. The game against Whittier and the upcoming games will give some much-needed experience to an ever-improving El Rancho water polo team.

Winning Streak Comes to a Hault

By THOMAS MEDINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Among the many sports teams at El Rancho, the Girls Varsity Volleyball team is beginning to show itself as one of the more successful teams. With a 5-2 record in league and a 12-2 record overall, the volleyball team is well on its way to a successful season. They have been Del Rio League lead champions for the past three years and hope to continue that streak. The schools in the Del Rio League are Santa Fe, Cal High, La Serna, Whittier, and Pioneer.

Of the twelve girls on the team, seven are seniors. Because of this, some of the girls feel like this year is their best shot for success. "I don't think our team will do as well overall next year," said junior Loren Jones. The twelve members of the team are: Loren Jones, Megan Barr, Stephanie Gonzales, Vanessa Gonzales, Stefany Sanchez, Aidee Marquez, Sharon Redregon, Starr Gonzales, Cindy Cortes, Mayra Ramos, Tatiana Gomez, and Kathleen Orozco.

Last year, the team advanced to the second round of CIF before being knocked out by Upland High School. "I think we will do better this year," said junior Megan Barr, "hopefully we will pass the second round this time." Other teammates were more optimistic. "Our main goal is to win CIF this year," said Jones, "we're doing great and going



Even though El Rancho's girl volleyball team is pretty outstanding, they still have some minor flaws to fix to continue doing well."

The girls' first loss of the season came from Bell Gardens in a pre-league tournament. The most recent loss came from California High School. Despite these two losses, the team is having an amazing season and continues to rank in first place.

One of the causes might be the new head coach of the team,

Mrs. Picon. "She's an excellent coach and doing a superb job," said Barr, "she's very demanding and strict, but that's part of the reason this team is doing so well."

Another reason could be the chemistry between the girls on the team. A majority of the girls are also varsity athletes of other sports, including soccer, track, and softball among others. "We all move to-

gether as a unit," said Barr, "we all know each other really well so we get along well on the court."

The girls' team has quite a few fans. "I love them," said junior Mario Bernie, "I go to all their games and they inspire me to do great things in life."

ER Tennis Team Puts Up A Tough Fight

By ROBERT GARAY
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Girl's Varsity tennis team fought hard against their toughest opponent yet, La Serna High School.

Although it had appeared to be El Rancho's best game of tennis, it simply was not enough as they suffered an 11-7 loss to La Serna. El Rancho won three singles and four doubles matches leading them

to a final score of seven.

Senior Brenda Santana had done exceptionally well in defeating all of La Serna's singles players which had never been previously done before. El Rancho's current overall record is 12 wins and two losses and their record in league is five wins and two losses.

In this match up both teams were competing for first place in league and since La Serna won, El Rancho is now in competing in second place. "I'm proud to have put

ourselves in this kind of position for the title" says head coach Mr. Henderson. "What's sad is the fact that we came within three sets of actually taking the title but overall the girls did really well."

The girl's tennis team will now advance to CIF as a team and compete for a hopeful first place championship. The goal for the team was for first place but now the only goal in mind is to sweep Whittier High School for a second time.



Even though ER lost, they still played a great match.

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Unlucky Number Seven



The dons lost by a touchdown in their game against La Serna on 10/13 and lost to Whittier last week.

With a seven game losing streak and last weeks heartbreaking seven point loss, Don's struggles continue.

BY CHRIS GALLIZZI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With back-to-back losses against La Serna and Whittier respectively, El Rancho's varsity football team continues to struggle. On October 13, the El Rancho Dons football team found themselves one touchdown short of a tie, losing 17-10 against the undefeated (6-0) La Serna Lancers. La Serna scored all 17 points within the first half of the game, yet the Dons defense was able to

shut down their offense during the second half.

El Rancho on the other hand had zero points the first half and tried to fight back the second half with great plays by running back Martin Mokay and quarterback David Moriel. The defense played a great roll in the game by forcing two turnovers to keep them in the game. Though El Rancho played great and tried hard to make a comeback they were only able come up with seven points in the third quarter and three points in the fourth leaving El Rancho with its sixth loss.

In a tough homecoming loss to the Whittier Cardinals on Friday, October 20, the El Rancho varsity football team once again found themselves one touchdown short of a tie, bringing their cur-

rent to 0-7. Mokay and Moriel once again used their skills on the field with a combination of more than a hundred passing and rushing yards in the game. El Rancho managed to score two touchdowns in the first half making the score twelve to zero but Whittier came into the second half putting up 20 points to their side.

Since neither teams scored throughout the third period, anticipation was rising. By the fourth quarter both teams scored a touchdown making the score 27-20 Whittier. With little time on the clock El Rancho had its last chance at the one-yard line to win the game. Whittier's defense proved to be victorious in the end by stopping El Rancho from scoring giving them their seventh consecutive loss.

Toscano Takes on New Role

BY KARISSA GUILLEN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Junior, Albert Toscano is on El Rancho's varsity football team. On the team, Toscano is number eleven and plays fullback and linebacker. Aside from just being on the team, Toscano is one of the four varsity captains. Toscano says, "It is a big responsibility being captain, but it is an honor to know that I was voted captain by my teammates."

Toscano started playing football at age nine, and until this day, he still loves the sport. With all of his hard work freshman year and during summer practices, he had made varsity his sophomore year. Toscano states, "It was great knowing that all of my hard work had paid off."

As Toscano's second year on varsity, he has put in a tremendous amount of hard work as well as dedication for the sport. Even though Toscano does not plan on playing college football, he would like to continue playing for the Dons. "I don't plan on playing football in college; I think I'm too



Albert Toscano promises great thing for this year Dons football

small. They'll kill me!"

Toscano feels that our school has a great football team this year. The only thing Toscano feels that the team needs is to come together as one, and play as one. Toscano says, "Even though we have not won any games this season, we still have a chance to show people what the Dons are made of. If the team, as well as myself, can manage to learn how to play as a team, we are able to win the rest of our

games this season."

Toscano has many interests which include weightlifting, hanging out with friends, and basically, just having fun. He would love to attend USC and become an architect because "they make good money."

Toscano has many expectations this year, but the one expectation he would love to achieve would be to finish the football season with at least one win.



El Rancho's Cross Country Team Sweeps the Del Rio Cluster League

X-Country Team Stays on Course

BY CHRIS GALLIZZI
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On October 12, El Rancho's Cross Country team headed towards Shabarum Park in Rowland Heights, California for the Del Rio League 3.0 Mile Cluster Meet. The competition was broken down by grade level from Boys Frosh-Soph, Girls Frosh-Soph, Girls JV, Boys JV, Girls Varsity, to Boys Varsity.

Freshmen Eli Rodriguez won his race with a total time of 18:20 for the Boys Frosh-Soph team. Michelle Mendoza, sophomore, placed first in her race with

a total time of 22:33 for the Girls Frosh-Soph team. Roy Barrientos, Junior, of the Boys JV team placed first with a time of 17:31. Desiree Estrada, Senior, took first for the Girls JV team with a time of 22:33. Senior Luis Guevara also won his race for Boys Varsity with a time of 15:56. And Tania Mendoza, Junior, placed first for the Girls Varsity team with a time of 20:22.

Overall El Rancho's Cross Country team is doing exceptionally well with their outstanding times and determination to win.

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Annual Carnival a Real Feast

By ROSARIO LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The annual Homecoming week arrived at “the Ranch” last week and on Tuesday October 17th; day two commenced with a luchtime carnival. Clubs, classes and sports set up stands and sold eclectic foods in the quad.

From refreshing drinks to sugary desserts and everything in between, the students satisfied their taste buds. Students stormed through the halls to meet with friends. An energetic and happy ambient generated as a DJ blasted tunes and fellow dons danced behind the G building.

“It’s awesome, there are a lot of people and you can feel the energy,” said senior Brenda Santana.

Fresh fruit and aguas frescas were sold for the health conscious students, but other than that, the banquet was carbs all the way. People with greater appetites feasted on pizza, chicken bowls, carne asada tacos, tamales and more. The abundance of dessert was a sweet tooth’s paradise. They offered cheesecake, pie, brownies, churros, cool-a-coos, sundaes, root beer floats and caramel apples.



Mr. Ortiz and several students sold pizza to raise funds for CSF club.



Don shows off his sombrero at the annual homecoming carnival.



Senior, Alicia Gaxiola, enjoys her nachos with jalapeños.



Mr. Hartman cheers after finishing the pie eating contest.

Juniors Jump to First Place Finish



Teachers and students participated in the homecoming games in hopes of receiving points for their classes.

Students Strut Their Blue Pride at Runway Show

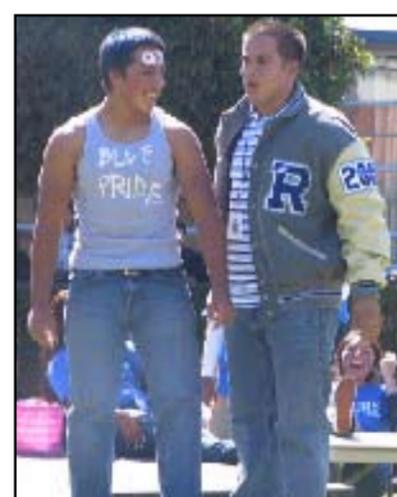
By CARLOS HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Tyra Banks look out! El Rancho students are spicing up the runway and giving models everywhere a run for their money. The quad was filled during lunch on Wednesday for the first annual Blue Pride Day Runway. Students of all different grades strutted their stuff for the grand prize: a ticket for Friday’s homecoming dance, which was held in the gym.

The grand prize winners were; Marissa Amador, Martin Mokay, Daniel Montoya, and Marlene Barragan, who proved that school spirit is best left to the senior class. Homecoming week was filled with various events including the most anticipated one of all, the Night Pep Rally. This event was yet another opportunity for El Rancho Dons to give it their all and prove their class spirit.



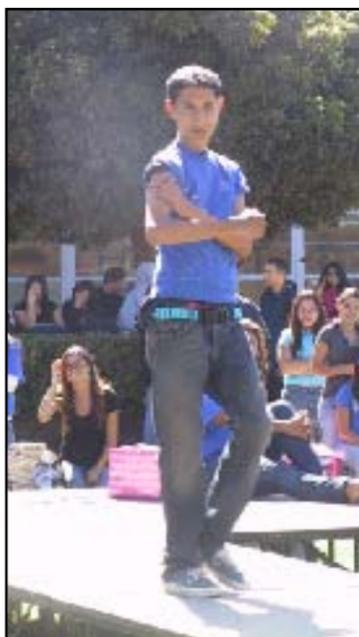
Student “seduces” the crowd as he takes off his shirt.



Martin Mokay and Danny Montoya walk the runway.



Senior Michelle Valera and ASB member Jody Kaur tally up the points to figure out the winners.



This student flexes his pint-sized muscles.



Marlene Barragan was one of the winners of the Homecoming tickets.



Senior Marissa Amador danced while strutting the catwalk.

Clash of the Classes at the Pep Rally!



Hoping to take first place, Senior class enthusiastically cheers as Nathan Ramirez and Marissa Amador motivate the 007 agents.



Freshmen wait in suspense to hear their final score.



Juniors exhibit their props to show their class spirit.



Senior girls gracefully perform their Casino Royale skit.



Priscilla Maturino, Claire Serrano, Melina Flores, and Yahaira Gonzalez happily pose after the Seniors took first place.

Vega Crowned King of the Royal Court



Seniors, Armando Montes, Abner Morales and David Talavera, congratulate Steven Vega for winning Homecoming King.

BY RONNIE MONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, El Rancho held its annual Homecoming Assembly. The gymnasium was decorated with balloons, lights, and the red carpet was rolled out for the royal court nominees. El Rancho's former king, A.J. Toscano, and queen, Jannette Aldana, attended the assembly to pass down their crowns to this year's lucky winners. During the assembly all 9th through 11th grade prince and princess winners were announced. The three Homecoming Queen finalists were announced: Stephanie Mendez, Jahira Quinones, and Brianne Rodriguez. The assembly ended with the crowning of Homecoming King, Steven Vega.



Senior Steven Vega happily smiles after being named king.

A Magical Dance



Seniors, Timothy Ruvalcava and Anthony Gallindo, take Jazmin's and Aladdin's place.



Students dance to the music at the Blue Pride Center.



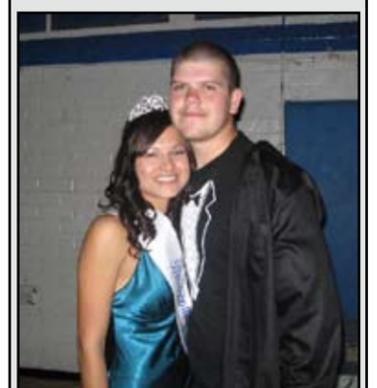
Heather Carillo, Annalicia Castillo and friends show up to the homecoming dance in style.



Kristina Luna and her boyfriend, Anthony Gallindo enjoy their time at the dance.



Matthew Montes and Vincent Flores rest after showing off their dance moves.



Stephanie Mendez celebrates her crowning of homecoming queen with friend Timothy Rubalcava at the dance.

Stewart's Photo Students Show ER's "Emo" Side

"Does a picture speak more than words? Ms. Stewart's Digital Photography class were given a major challenge: to photograph an emotion without using a person. They had to rely on their composition skills and ability to communicate through photography. The results were thought provoking and definitely emo."



"Confusion" by Angel De La Torre



"Depression" By Andrea Potenciano



"Love" By Abraham Sucuqui

The Night After Halloween

BY PHILLIP JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

October 21st was the last day of Neck Face's art show titled "The Night After Halloween". For now, the paintings will come down until next year's "spooky" month. Born in Stocklyn, California, Neck Face attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Neck Face has both

a frightening artistic sense and secret indenty. Neck Face is well-know for his famous art piece on the store front of "My Old Lady" in New York City's Chelsea Neighborhood. Neck Face's art has been displayed on public property throughout both California and Tokyo, Japan. Currently, he lives in New York where he exhibits other paintings. Neck Face has been said to be one of the best artists of his generation.

The exhibition took place from September 16 through October 21 at the new Image Art Gallery in West Hollywood. The event ran for five weeks, extending longer than any other exhibit held in the past. With only three rooms, the gallery made up for the shortage of space by displaying disturbing, yet interesting, three dimensional art. Neck Face's art work transformed the overall atmosphere into an old blood- bath country- like scene.

With Halloween just around the corner, Neck Face quickly started working on a series of paintings and three dimensional pieces. Neck Face's artwork depicts the terror and grotesque nature of America. The collection of paintings shows the various murder crimes which have occurred in the past. Even though the paintings do not quite fill their frames, leaving empty blank space, Neck Face emphasizes a considerable amount of art in his characters by giving them ghoulish features. Among the numerous paintings hung dead babies decorated on the ceiling, altering the room into true wickedness.

Among these pieces, the sculptures stood out the most, rounding out an abstract, bizarre, and realistic vision into a unified whole. Two hell-born demons and a diabolical bat-like creature exemplified this scene; sculptures resembling Lucifer stood evilly as they lured viewers to their remarkable and fascinating features.

The collection of artwork is then wrapped up into Neck Face's most pragmatic room where the art of murder shined. One of Neck Face's most abstract and eccentric pieces is displayed with a strong



message. The piece shows a hideous baby being delivered by a deformed, two-headed, malvolent alien with bloody handprints filling the walls around the image. All of Neck Face's messages are wrapped up in the last lunatic room with its shocking imagery and factual information decorating the walls.

All of Neck Face's work add up to a vision that is distinct to the reality of the violent and grotesque nature of the world, which defines the state that our world is in.

But of course the New Image Art Gallery often holds shows for many artists that submit their art. This exhibit is free to the public, and if you wish to know more information, you may contact the gallery at (323) 654-2192.

An American "Haunting" or a Major Bore?

BY ALFRED ARMENDARIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The coming wave of horror films this Halloween gives an arsenal to choose from. One movie stood out from these films though. "An American Haunting" showed itself as possibly the slowest and most confusing horror film this year.

Using a story within a story, the main part of the film takes place in nineteenth century America. After being cursed by a local "witch" for stealing property, John Bell (Donald Sutherland) and his daughter Betsy (Rachel Hurd-Wood) are afflicted by a spirit. The spirit begins to assault young Betsy in a repetitive manner. The spirit later begins to attack John who finds

the inability to escape its wrath.

The film leads to a surprise ending if the viewer manages to understand the storyline. The story itself is based around actual events but would be more entertaining as a supernatural novel rather than a horror film.

The use of eerie music and a first-person, color shifting, camera pan of the entity's perspective was interesting and unique ideas that kept the film from being a total disappointment.

The element of surprise is overused and the haunting scenes seem like scenes of demonic possession.

Watching the deleted/alternate scenes will have anybody checking their watches with a yawn. The alternate scenes repeat themselves over and over for an



entire scene time of approximately seven minutes and reveal only five seconds of alternate footage.

Overall "An American Haunting" shouldn't be viewed as a Halloween film unless you're an insomniac searching for a sleeping pill.

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