

### Winners:

Seniors Carina Padilla and David Talavera each win one thousand dollars for their college tuition.



### Entertainment:

*The Science of Sleep* is a film now available on DVD. Read more on page 8.



### Wrestler:

Junior Joe Salas places top twenty-five at individual Masters tournament in San Bernardino.



# EL RODEO



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**School Graffiti:** *El Rancho High School is not graffiti-free despite daily efforts to eradicate vandalism.*

## Graffiti Takes its Toll on Campus

BY ROBERT PRIETO, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Poorly kept restrooms, riddled with graffiti and littered with waste, have proven to be a long-standing problem on El Rancho campus.

According to the Assistant Principal of Business and Activities, Adrian Ayala, the El Rancho Unified School District allocates the school an "x amount of dollars to buy the cleaning materials, cleaning products, and the toiletries for the restrooms at El Rancho High School." The school spends "approximately eighteen dollars per day per restroom." The cost does not include labor, the abatement of graffiti, or any other acts of vandalism. If the school has to fix some form of vandalism, such as tagging, Ayala must request the paint from the painting department. Ayala said, "the graffiti [and the vandalism of the restrooms infringe] upon the painting department's budget, specifically supplies, as well as the department's labor."

In "a perfect world with no graffiti," Ayala could "set up more projects." For example, Ayala could ask the painting department to paint the doors and they could "allocate the labor, time, and the paint," using the department's funds, for the project. However, the use of funds to abate vandalism of the restrooms infringes on the school's ability to set up projects.

Principal Julie Ellis said, "approximately four years ago El Rancho got an expensive, state of the art restroom facility, which included new tile, stalls, and toilets and within two weeks one of the sink sensors was broken." Through modernization, the condition of the restrooms has gotten better, but the student abuse of the restrooms is "disappointing," said Ayala. "A small minority, or percentage of students, are the ones vandalizing the restrooms," said Ayala. Ellis mentioned a female student, who constantly tagged the restrooms and caused two of them to be closed.

Security personnel and preventative measures both are utilized in a proactive manner to prevent vandalism. "The safety school officers make their rounds and the custodial staff now tells [Ayala] when they're in the restrooms." The School Resource Officer uses a graffiti tracker, which is a county system that utilizes photos to match-up graffiti. The school uses cameras to record graffiti, which is then placed in the graffiti tracker system. "Everything that's abated has its picture taken before the custodial staff comes in to remove it." Personnel are being put on the rounds in areas that are being heavily vandalized.

A person caught contributing to the vandalism of the restrooms violates an educational code and can be suspended, fined, or given community service. The person also violates a penal code and is subject to a citation, which demands that he appear before a judge.

"Collectively we need people to do the right thing. People need to do what their mothers taught them and it would benefit everyone." "A small minority, or percentage of students, are the ones vandalizing the restrooms. There are a great number of students doing the right thing by taking care of business day in and day out."

Ayala feels that the graffiti is more disturbing because the cost and the labor time. "Students, who are disconnected from the school, will continue to manifest their discontent in destructive ways and the school will continue to apprehend them," said Ellis. Ellis believes that "students must take ownership of their school because El Rancho belongs to them."

## Debate Over Global Warming Heats up at Intergovernmental Conference

BY ROBERT PRIETO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The world's leading climate scientists officially released their 20-page global warming report, which states that humans are "very likely" to blame for the climate change, and Paris darkened the Eiffel Tower on February 2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of hundreds of scientists and representatives of 113 governments, hoped that the day's events would call attention to climate change.

The IPCC came to "the conclusion that it is extremely unlikely that global climate change of the past fifty years can be explained without external forcing, and very likely that the warming is not due to known natural causes alone." The report contains slightly reduced projections on the rising temperatures and sea levels by the year 2100. According to the report "even if greenhouse gas concentrations were to be stabilized," the human-caused warming and rises in sea levels "would continue for centuries," because the process has already started. Part of the report concentrates on specific measures that must be taken in order to combat the effects of warming, including increased use of bio-fuels and hybrid fuel cars and the construction



**Global Warming Convention:** *Scientists meet in hopes of validating the concept of Global Warming. They still have not come to a definite answer.*

of new nuclear power stations. The final part of the report by the IPCC insists that cutting carbon dioxide emissions alone is not enough. It urges industry and business leaders to invest \$16 billion in the renewable energy sector and calls on auto makers to start producing smaller, more energy-efficient cars.

Critics of the IPCC had speculated that the panel might try to exaggerate the report by saying that there is a "virtual certainty," which translates to a 99 percent chance, that humans cause global warming, but the IPCC used the phrase "very likely," which translates to

90 percent certainty. The scientists wrote the report, based on years of peer-reviewed research, and government officials edited it with an eye toward the required unanimous approval by world governments.

The report stated that by the end of the century the sea level rise could be ten to thirty inches. The projections differed from the IPCC's 2001 report, which projected a sea level rise of up to thirty-five inches by the end of the century. The report predicted temperature rises of 2 to 11.5 degrees Fahrenheit, which vary from the 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit predictions of the 2001 report.

# Diaz Drawn to the Digital World



BY NADIA DOMINGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“It’s strange to work here because the teachers I used to have are now my colleagues.” It’s definitely easy to mistake digital animation teacher and alumni, Mr. Justin Diaz, for an El Rancho student.

Diaz attended El Rancho from 1995 to 1999. He played various instruments in band, was in academic decathlon, and

was in team sophomore through senior year. He graduated number four in his class with a GPA of 4.2. Although he did very well academically, Diaz also excelled artistically.

Once he graduated, Diaz attended the University of Southern California and majored in engineering. “I thought I’d be okay doing that, but I was miserable, I needed to be more creative.” Half way

through the second semester he decided to change his major to fine arts with an emphasis on drawing. “The first time there was I got to do what were the best of my life because drawing with other people that alone was a experience.” Upon he got the opportunity to work with painter Justin Bua. “I was a graphic designer for him, made posters, and his website. I also helped design limited edition PF Flyers shoes that



feature.” Diaz later went on to work for a television company called “First Tele,” where he was a production assistant, assistant art director, and prop and logo designer for a pilot for Animal Planet. “It was interesting working there, but I didn’t really have further ambitions for television,” Diaz stated.

It wasn’t until 2005 that Diaz began to teach at El Rancho. “My brother was the band director and told me that there was an opening in the Art department. I would be working with Ms. Kiralla, my

former art teacher and I had always thought about teaching in the back of my mind. As an artist, teaching would be an ideal job because you are exposed to creativity daily. You see it in student’s assignments and sometimes I am blown away by the work they produce.” Most importantly, Diaz feels that his students are a source of inspiration and can go home every night and feel that he didn’t waste a day of work. “The vacation time is not bad either because I get to work on my own art,” he added.

Although Diaz teaches digital animation and imaging, his specialty is painting. He mostly paints representations of the human figure in various ways. “Lately, my work is an illustration of relevant and various social issues. My own personal state of emotions channels the direction of my art. I like there to be a balance of technical, conceptual, and emotional skill in everything that I do.”

Diaz’s most recent piece was done a year ago. “It is an interpretation of a photograph I found of an Iraqi father holding his dead daughter in his arms” he says. Currently, Diaz is constantly painting and hopes that “something good will come of it.” In the future Diaz hopes to have his artwork showing consistently. “I hope that my art comes to the point to where I am completely confident in everything that I exhibit,” he adds.

As of right now, Diaz does not plan on leaving El Rancho anytime soon. “



I want to continue teaching because it helps me think about my own art and I’m glad that I am able to help students realize their own artistic abilities. Teaching is good for me right now, and I’m enjoying it.” Like many other artists, Diaz hopes that his art can make the world a better place and hopes that one day he can live off of his artistic ability.

# Meet El Rancho’s New Activities Commissioner

BY: KARISSA GUILLEN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many students whom run for an ASB position do not have the qualities, creativity or characteristics in which are needed to fulfill the job. Fortunately, this was not an issue for junior, Joseph Lapierre.

Lapierre was always involved in school activities and clubs since middle school. In the eighth grade, Lapierre ran for the position of treasurer, and luckily won the election.

In Lapierre’s previous years, he has always had experience with ASB, so he decided to run for activities commissioner for his junior year. “I was interviewed for this position because I want to be involved in everything that this school has to offer. I also decided to run for this position because it can be a great opportunity for me before I graduate from high school,” says Lapierre.

In order to get chosen for this position, Lapierre had to speak before the student body government where they asked him questions about what great aspects or qualities he can bring for the school as well as for the students. “I have many great aspects for this job. I can come up with awesome ideas on the spot, and when there is a task given to me, I will not give up or quit until I have completed it.”

When Lapierre found out that he was the new activities commissioner, he was glad because he has many new ideas for school activities. Lapierre’s new job is to plan and come up with ideas for the Mother Daughter Desert and to get the flowers, crowns and sashes for Prom.

Lapierre states, “If I can say that one teacher has influenced me the most, it would be Ms. Castagna. She pushed me to do my best and has always encouraged me to strive for excellence.”



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Mar.1, 2007

# “Become One Less Who Will Battle Cervical Cancer”

BY MICHELLE GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Should Gardasil, a vaccine that can save the lives of thousands of women, be mandatory across the United States? Gardasil is the world's first vaccine that prevents certain types of Human Papillomavirus which is transmitted sexually. Most of the time the human immune system can get rid of the virus on its own; when it fails to do so the virus turns into cervical cancer. 10,000 women a year are diagnosed with cervical cancer and every year it kills 4,000 women in the United States.

Republican Governor Rick Perry recently signed an order making Gardasil mandatory in Texas. Texas is the first state to require that girls entering the sixth grade as of September 2008 must be vaccinated. Gardasil is approved for women between the ages of 9-26.

Gardasil is given as three injections over six months and it can cause pain, swelling, itching, fever, nausea, and dizziness. The vaccine cost at total of \$360 for all three injections. In most cases Gardasil is covered through ones health insurance. The cost for the vaccine seems



high but it is pennies compared to the cost of treating cancer.

Doctors prefer giving Gardasil to non-sexually active women to ensure that they have not been exposed to HPV. Gardasil does not work against existing infections. HPV is a common virus amongst women. One out of every four American women has been exposed to the virus upon reaching the age of fifty.

Gardasil can ensure the lives of thousands of young women across America which

is why this vaccine should be mandatory. Many fear that since this is a very new vaccine there might be severe risks not yet revealed to young women and it will encourage sexual promiscuity amongst teenage girls.

The vaccine has been tested on more than 27,000 young men and women but only 250 of these subjects were as young as nine years old. Vaccination would not encourage promiscuity amongst young women it will protect them if and when they decided to be

sexually active. Which parent would not want to protect his or her daughter from cervical cancer?

As infants Americans we are vaccinated by several vaccines such as TB, Hepatitis (A, B, and C), Polio, and MMR. Gardasil should be on the list of required vaccinations given at a young age. To date at least twenty states are deciding whether they should make the vaccine mandatory for preteen girls. States who do not follow suite and parents who oppose the

vaccine must set aside their conservative ideologies and do what they can to shelter their daughters from this deadly disease.

Let's face it, young women are becoming sexually active much sooner than expected and without the vaccine they are exposed to HPV. It is hard for parents to grasp this reality but they must. We should support Gardasil.

Best said by Gardasil's national advertising campaign, allow women to be "one less" who will battle cervical cancer.

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El Rodeo is published twice a month, except during vacations, by the journalism class of El Rancho High School, 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660.

## Teachers are Getting the Short End of the Stick

BY CHRIS GALLIZZI  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dear El Rancho School Board,

I recently grabbed a newsletter from the EL Rancho Federation of Teachers and at first it did not interest me much because it was mostly about money. However, several phrases did grab my interest, like "Financial Failure" or "The district loves to crow about test scores..." Hearing this got me thinking about how teachers rarely get any credit.

The majority of students would say that El Rancho teachers are pretty dedicated. Despite this, there seems to be a major lack of appreciation for the teacher. Did you know that EL Rancho teachers are among the lowest paid in the county? There is also speculation about how money is being misused.

Our school board is the heart of the school. They allocate funding to district schools based on how they see fit. Well, our school board isn't doing a good job at paying our teachers, since El Rancho Unified teacher's pay is not even up to speed with COLA (Cost of Living Allowance). Since the cost of living does go up every year, that means teachers need a raise



in order to keep up with cost of living. This is a big deal because a lot of teachers have to put up their own money to buy supplies to teach their students, and often these teachers do not get reimbursed for that money spent.

A lot of our teachers are dedicated to their job not just because of their pay check, but

because they know that their teaching will change a life. The leaders of the Drama Department, TEAM, AP, CP, and sports programs have worked extremely hard for their efforts-and deserve to be compensated accordingly.

Does the district want to lose these great teachers just because they are cheap?

Well, I am addressing you, board members, because you seem to think that our teachers are fine with being on the bottom rung of competing pay scales. Well, here is a wake up call "Money makes the world turn" and your cheap mentality is only going to chase away the great teachers that give our school its great image.

## Waterpolo Star Awarded MVP & Athlete of the Month



Castillo has been playing waterpolo since she was only 10 years old.

By: SELISA PONCE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Girl's Waterpolo MVP and February's Athlete of the Month, senior Xenia Castillo is a girl with some great skills.

Castillo devotes herself to her education and has been able to reach an admirable GPA of 3.4. Not only does she excel in rigorous classes such as AP Senior Team, but also in the pool as Team Captain.

"She's a great leader

and teammate," says junior Anahisa Aguirre, "she always tries her best for the team."

When asked how she felt for being recognized a February's best athlete and MVP she said, "I'm surprised and honored! I work hard, but didn't think that I'd ever get recognized."

When ready to play, Castillo puts all her focus into the game plan. Waterpolo coach Wright believes that Castillo "takes the game personally. You can count on her and she's always willing

to step up in difficult situations."

Other fellow teammate, junior Adriana Rodriguez, can only think of how much she is going to miss Castillo next year. "It's been great having her around, it's going to be hard without her." One of Rodriguez's fondest memories of Castillo was at the final CIF game against Ayala. "We lost the game, but she still kept a positive attitude. She told us we did our best and we believed her."

Sadly, next year's team will have to do without her. She will be off to attend a prestigious university such as Bucknell, Smith, Whittier or Pitzer. Coach Wright believes that she has a future and the capability to play at the college level. "In the middle of the season I told her exactly what she needed to improve and she did specifically that. Her willingness leads her to do so."

This "rare athlete" made the team as great as it was this year. Her position as Utility and second leading scorer definitely left a large impact on the team. The game that Castillo fell in love with at the young age of ten has definitely made a large difference for Castillo and the team. "She's a player with a lot of drive. She can always manage to make something positive out of nothing."



## Ramos Rips it Up in Three Sports

By ROBERT GARAY  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After learning about El Rancho's Basketball team from a former coach, senior Mayra Ramos began her first practice on the court nearly two years ago. As a sophomore, Ramos had absolutely no prior knowledge or experience with basketball. She has come a long way and is currently excelling at her spot on the team as guard.

"Our record in league right now is three and five, but after the next two games I know it'll change to five and five," says Ramos. The way El Rancho has stepped up their game in the past few weeks, the team looks ready to finish their season strong. They intend to win in the games to come. "What interests me about basketball is the strong family-like bond that I have with the others on the team," Ramos says, "there's nothing else like it."

Before basketball, Ramos was involved in volleyball and track and competed just as tough in both sports.

She is overall an exceptional, and multi-talented athlete. She can thrive in any sport. "Transitioning into basketball was easy because I knew most of the girls on the team from previous sports," Ramos says, "I felt comfortable on the court with my friends."

In addition to this, Ramos also performs very well inside the classroom. She has managed to compete in several different sports while maintaining above a 2.0 GPA and taking tough classes, including some Team classes.

"Ramos is one of my fastest and most hardest working players on the team. It is exactly this effort and ability which makes her such an excellent defensive player," says Coach Lawson.

"Much of my support has come from my teammate Cindy Cortez, who has been there for me in volleyball, track, and now basketball," says Ramos. "Playing basketball along side my teammates has made my last year here at El Rancho the most memorable."

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# Soccer Team Clinches Del Rio League Championship with 8-2 Record



Since many of the team members aren't seniors, the soccer team is looking at a good season next year.

DAVID TORRES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With a league record of 8-2 the El Rancho boy's soccer team took the Del Rio league Championship. The team ended up with an overall record of 13 wins, 8 losses and only 1 tied game. They also won yet another title to add to their collection.

Mr. Picon said, "The Championship made me happy but it made the team joyous." This is the third title Mr. Picon has won as a coach here at El Rancho out of his four years coaching. Coach Picon was also part of the coaching staff that won the C.I.F. Championship in 2003.

"The team got this far

through good playing, hard work, and the fact that the players matured both on and off the field. After winning this title, we can now focus on our first C.I.F. game which is going to be against Warren High," said Mr. Picon.

Mr. Picon said, "This team didn't stand out like the past teams because this team doesn't have a star player like the previous teams. This team was mostly composed of young players with hardly any experience in the Varsity level, but they were able to mature and adapt to this type of competition."

"In league, our toughest opponent was Santa Fe because we had the closest games with them, but during preseason we ourselves were our toughest op-

ponents. This is again because the team had to adapt to this new type of game play," said Picon. He added, "Our two most outstanding players would have to be junior Emilio Dominguez and junior Omar Corona."

Dominguez said, "Winning league is exciting because it proves that our hard work paid off and that the extra hours I put into becoming a better player helped the team in the end." Dominguez took the award of Co-MVP in the Del Rio league and he said, "Hell yeah, this award feels great because it distinguishes me as a player and because it is my first time winning this award."

Corona said, "Being this my first time winning this [Del

Rio League Championship] I feel great. I hope that next year is going to be as good as this year because this year was filled with success. Winning this championship means tremendously a lot to me because again, it was my first time and all I can say is that I feel great."

Corona also won an award for being the Defensive player MVP in the Del Rio league. Corona said, "This feels great because it is my first year playing and I got this award which is hard to receive."

Now that the season is over, Coach Correa said, "I feel a little sad the season is over but this time had to come." At the Award Ceremony Carlos Olivares got the MVP award, Alejandrino Valenzuela received the MIP Award, and the Coaches Award went to Humberto Uriel.

Junior Humberto Uriel said, "The coaches' award is just a piece of paper!" Uriel also said, "League [Del Rio] is our playground." Another Award winner junior Alejandrino Valenzuela said, "Winning this award was unexpected. Next year should be better than this year."

For next year, coach Correa has, "High expectations. We have a good group of young players and we have good returnees." For the seniors that are leaving this year coach Correa said, "Thanks for your hard work. You guys set up the foundation for next year." Lastly, coach Correa would like everybody to know, "Soccer is on the rise. We will have great players for the next two to three years."



## Winter Sports Dessert Awards

### Wrestling:

MVP- Billie Rivera

MIP- Joseph Salas

CA- Matthew

Valdepena

### Girls Waterpolo:

MVP- Xenia Castillo

MIP- Isela Aguirre

CA-Sharon Pedregon

### Girls Soccer:

MVP- Starr Gonzales

MIP- Vanessa Torres

CA- Melissa Avalos

### Boys Soccer:

MVP-Carlos Olivares

MIP- Alejandrino

Valenzuela

CA- Humberto Curiel

### Boys Basketball:

MVP- Nick Razo

MIP- Jefferson

Colindres

CA- Matt Loupe

### Girls Basketball:

MVP- Jessica Boling

MIP- Nicole Moran

CA- Aidee Marquez

## Congratulations!

These basketball players won All Del Rio League Honors:

### 1st Team:

Jessica Boling

### 2nd Team:

Aidee Marquez

### Honorable Men-

tions: Megan Barr, Jeanette Urena, and Cindy Cortez

# Salas Scores in Top Twenty-five at Masters

BY: JAZMIN DIAZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy's varsity wrestling team has had a tradition of sending wrestlers to CIF, and Masters every year in hopes of achieving state recognition. Juniors Joe Salas, Tony Fernandez and Senior Captain Billie Rivera traveled to San Bernardino this past weekend to compete in the Masters wrestling tournament seeking a chance to keep their individual seasons afloat. This two-day tournament featured the best wrestlers in four counties across Southern California hoping to get to State Championships. In order to attend the Masters Competition, wrestlers must first place well in CIF Individuals tournament. Then, if they do well in Masters they get to compete at the State level. Last year only one wrestler managed to make it all the way to State.

"I did expect to get this far; I knew I could make it," exclaimed Salas. Salas, along with Rivera, and Fernandez made it to the second day of the tournament. They all placed top twenty-five at the tournament. Salas trained hard through out the summer, first



Junior Joseph Salas hopes to do better next year and make it all the way to the State level of competition in Wrestling.

trimester, fourth period wrestling and stayed late after school to get in some extra practice with coaches Wynn, Hartman and Alvarado. "The hardest part of wrestling is the workout, there's nothing really easy about it," claimed Salas. Most wrestlers

work out for over five hours a day in order to get into great physical shape to compete. A single wrestling match consists of three two minute periods. "It's really a grueling ordeal," said junior Tony Fernandez. "You feel like you're on that mat forever. Afterwards,

you're exhausted, but you know that you gave it your very best."

"Joe deserves all the success he's gotten, he's the best student of wrestling on the team," said Coach Hartman. Salas was introduced to the sport through his friend Josh Bello. "Josh said it was tight and I should try it," remarked Salas. Ever since then he has wrestled, making incredible progress each year. Out of his three years wrestling, he has made it twice to CIF, however, this was his first trip to Masters.

"Once, I'm out of high school, that's it no more wrestling," stated Salas, "I really don't think I will still be wrestling in college. It's just not really a priority of mine." Salas hopes to attend San Diego State in two years, but still anxiously awaits a shot at redemption at next year's Masters Tournament. "After all the extra hours we've spent wrestling this year and all the extra hours we'll put in between next season, we'll have a good run at state," stated Coach Hartman. Two of the wrestlers who made it to Masters this year will be returning to compete next year. Hopefully they will be able to make it to State.

# Seniors, Padilla and Talavera Win Hispanic Outreach Scholarships



BY JACOB SANCHEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Each year the Hispanic Outreach awards Hispanic students with a \$1000 scholarship for writing a 200 to 300--word essay, and this year's recipients of the scholarship are El Rancho students Carina Padilla and David Talavera. These college-bound students answered

a prompt instructing them to write about an influential Hispanic person in their lives.

Carina Padilla wrote about Laura Aguilar, a woman from her church who she characterizes as being "helpful, involved, and friendly." Aguilar struggled throughout her teen years, dropping out of school and taking a job to support her family. The death of

her brother provided her with the motivation to go to college and turn her life around.

"I'm very thankful to Mr. Ortiz for giving me the application for this scholarship," said Padilla.

David Talavera chose to write about his younger brother, Abraham Talavera, who is also known by the nickname AB. David credits Abraham with teaching him how to be modest and humble, as Abraham helped David with his math homework and did not feel the need to brag about being better at math than his older brother is.

"Mr. Ortiz helped me a lot. Without him, I probably wouldn't have this scholarship," said Talavera.

Both students will attend a scholarship meeting on March 1st for recognition of their achievement.



Jessica Jennings is proud of her current job that will help her save money for her college life.

## A Toast to the Hostess-Senior, Jessica Jennings Makes the Most of Mimi's

BY BIANCA ORTIZ, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Jessica Jennings, has been working as a hostess at Mimi's Café in Downey, Ca since June of last year. Jennings received the job with the help of her mother, Diane, who works training waiters. Jennings took this job so she could make some extra money and pay for her car insurance, phone bill, and gas.

Jennings starting salary was at \$6.75, but due to the minimum wage raise, she now gets \$7.50. Jennings works during the weekend and also a couple of hours during the week. She works about 20 hours a week and still manages to keep a heavy work load. Jennings has managed to stay in AP classes, including Senior Team, and still have time to help her mom out by taking care of her two younger sisters.

Jennings says "Even though I do have a lot on my plate, I like to think that it keeps me from becoming lazy." Jennings also likes working because it has made her a disciplined person since she has to do many things on her own. This year Jennings has many goals that she wants to accomplish like graduating with honors and getting into USC.

According to Jennings the best part of working at Mimi's is getting great work experience and meeting nice new people. The worst part is dealing with rude customers. Even though every job has its flaws, Jennings really enjoys working at Mimi's because of the great environment and of its location. Jennings plans to keep working at Mimi's when she goes off to college because the people are really flexible with students.

### TEEN READ WEEK-2007



ERHS Library welcomes Borders Pico Rivera to our campus for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Borders Book Fair. Students and staff will receive a 20% discount on all books. (Students, cash only please; Staff, credit cards and checks accepted) The Book Fair will be held in the Library on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4pm, Thursday and Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am-4pm. Books you will see at the Book Fair: *Black Dahlia*, *I Spy*, *Where's Waldo*, *Go Ask Alice*, Cosmogirl Quiz Books, How to play guitar and drums books, Beatles, Tupac, 50 Cent, Pink

Floyd, heavy metal, lots of manga, sketchbooks and journals, and much, much more. The Library Wish List will be available so it will be very convenient to donate a book to the ER Library. A bookplate with your name will be placed in your donated book.

More events that celebrate books and reading during the week:

Tuesday, March 6 during lunch in the Quad: **FREE BOOK GIVEAWAY BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LIBRARY AND BY ASB.** All you need to do is come to the Quad during lunch on Tuesday, March 6 and answer a book and library quiz question correctly. You can choose a free book like: *Always Running*, *A Child Called It*, *Beauty Queen*, *The Doors for Guitar*, *Go Ask Alice*, *Cirque du Freak*, music, sports, romance and lots more.

**Thursday, March 8: Coffee and Treats for Staff in the Library, 7:30am-4pm**

**ALL WEEK:** Administrators and counselors will be going into classrooms to read aloud to students. Teachers will be asking book related quiz questions and giving prizes in classrooms, as well as rewards for Accelerated Readers.

And last but not least---book quotations to remember:

"I read four or five books at a time and scatter them around the house."

**Johnny Depp, actor**

"Books helped me understand other people, and they taught me a lot about myself."

**Judy Blume, author**

"Reading fuels your dreams."

**George Lopez, comedian**



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# French and a Touch of Life-Long Lessons

BY: JAZMIN DIAZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Every so often, students are lucky to come across a teacher who makes a difference in their lives, a teacher who is not only a teacher, but a friend, a listener, a mentor. French teacher, Mrs. Angela Moghimi-Danesh fits this criteria perfectly.

Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh has been teaching for thirty years and has influenced hundreds of students. "I still remember being in her class and that was about 15 years ago," recalls alumni Monica Diaz, "she was the reason why I decided to major in French Literature. She introduced me to my passion."

Prior to teaching at El Rancho, Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh taught at Gardena and Carson High. However, for the past twenty five years she has taught here at El Rancho. Moghimi-Danesh still recalls her interview here at the Ranch, "I had an interview with Mr. Sherman in the morning, and that same afternoon when I got home I got a call asking me if I wanted to take over the teaching assignment of a teacher who had resigned."

"The faculty and staff [at El Rancho] were very welcoming," said Moghimi-Danesh. Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh was originally



hired to teach Spanish here at the Ranch. Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh, held a double major in French and Spanish Literature from Cal State Dominguez Hills, and later earned her Masters from University of La Verne.

Now, Mrs. Moghimi-Danesh teaches all levels of French. "I like the challenge of creating interest in something challenging like learning French,"

stated Moghimi-Danesh when asked how she went from teaching Spanish to French. By teaching French, Moghimi-Danesh has opened new doors for many El Rancho students. Dons who take French get an insight into not only to the language and culture, but an insight into themselves as well. Moghimi-Danesh tries to design her class projects so that every one of her students can ex-

cel while learning something new about his or herself. For example, Moghimi-Danesh's Senior French Four Class just finished a project where they researched two universities and professions of their choice. Seniors get realistic insights into hard work, dedication, and success. Last year, Moghimi-Danesh paired up students based upon opposite stereotypes. They watched *The Breakfast*

*Club* and had to break through those stereotypic ideals that form in every classroom. "This class has not only taught me a new language but also a new lifestyle where I care more about the environment around me rather than just myself. Her teachings about life, college, and French will stay with me for the rest of my life" said Senior Yahaira Gonzalez

"We learn life values that we'll actually use later on such as morals," stated Senior Christian Ruiz who participated in Moghimi-Danesh French class for 3 years. Moghimi-Danesh curriculum consists of various projects through out the trimester. She incorporates both life's skills and life's values to every aspect of her teaching.

"She's not only a teacher, she's a confidant. I don't have her anymore, but I still go to her for advice," admitted senior Sara Navalta, a former student of Moghimi-Danesh. "She's really dependable." But what does Moghimi-Danesh get from her numerous years of teaching? "I get to meet a vast pool of unique individuals that end up staying connected through out the years, you learn from one another, and I get to see generations of families pass by my classroom. I was destined to be a teacher."

## Sean's Box with Wheels



BY: KARISSA GUILLEN, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Junior Sean Acuña, like many other teenage drivers, cannot live without his car. Acuña drives a 2007 Honda Element SC Limited Edition, or as he likes to call it, "the box." "I call it 'the box,' but my friends label it as "Sean's Car" because the first initials of [Sean's Car] are SC which is part of the model name," says Acuña.

Several people may not be aware that "the box" isn't Acuña's first car, but his second. He used to drive a 1987 Honda Accord, but gave it away to one of his friends in L.A. after it had completely fallen apart.

Ever since the Honda Element was released in 2003, he knew that it was the car for him. "When I first saw the Element, I told my mom that that was the car that I wanted. She told me that I had to raise money for it as well as keep my grades up," says Acuña.

"Cutting grass was worth it because now I have my new car and I can go cruising with my friends," states Acuña. Even though at times it gets tough to pay the \$400 car payment every month, he is proud to say that he works very hard so that he can make it happen. Luckily, "if I don't come up with the \$400 each month, my parents help me pay my car payment," says Acuña.

Acuña's most memorable moment driving [the box] was when, "Mario, Garrett, David and I (as well as other friends of mine) were driving around and at a red light, we all got out of our cars and started dancing to 'Jump On It' by Sir-Mix-A Lot, and when the light turned green, we jumped back into the cars and took off. Whenever my friends and I get together, we always do something crazy and [the box] is always apart of it."

Acuña's main focus this year is maintaining a G.P.A. above a 3.45 and making each day count because "high school is the four best years of your life," according to Acuña.

Acuña is proud to say that "the box" is his car, because he can't see himself without it. Acuña says, "if I didn't have 'the box,' I don't know how I'd get around town because I can't see myself with any other car. Drive fast or go home!"

## Hello Spring Fling!

BY MICHELLE GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Say goodbye to Sadie Hawkins and hello to El Rancho's very own Spring Fling. The Spring Fling dance "will take over Sadie's and Sadie's will be combined with the annual year book signing party." said ASB Advisor Mr. Romero.

The Spring Fling is being held at Knott's Berry Farm. Students will be able to get onto all the available rides and "there will be a section for El Rancho with our food and DJ," said Romero. Since the theme park is opened for several other schools, Dons will be given wristbands that will permit their access to and from El Rancho's area.

The dress code is very casual and Dons must abide by the school's dress code policies at the dance. This year's theme for Spring



Fling is "Twins. Couples should dress alike," says Romero. Unlike Sadie's, the girls do not have to ask out the guys. Since the dance is being held at Knott's Berry Farm, students need their parents' consent. Dons can pick up the form in the Activities Office. If an El Rancho student wishes to take someone who does not attend El rancho, he or she must get a guest pass approved by Mr. Ayala.

Tickets for the dance will go on sale March 13<sup>th</sup>. During the first week of sales (March 13<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup>) dons can purchase an individual ticket for \$35 without ASB and \$30 with ASB. The prices changes during the second week of sales. From March 19<sup>th</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup> it costs \$40 without ASB and \$35 with ASB. During the third and final week tickets will be sold for \$40 with or without ASB. All guest tickets cost \$40.

Dons be sure to buy a ticket because this is sure to be a dance that no one will ever forget!



## Close Your Eyes. Open Your Heart.

By ALEX MOTA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

...for film director, Michel Gondry's new creative film, *The Science of Sleep*. Trust me, if you are one of those people that believes dreams are a little more than just an experience of the mind, you will not be disappointed. Released February 6 on DVD, places like Borders Book-stores and Wal-Mart have already sold out of Gondry's latest.

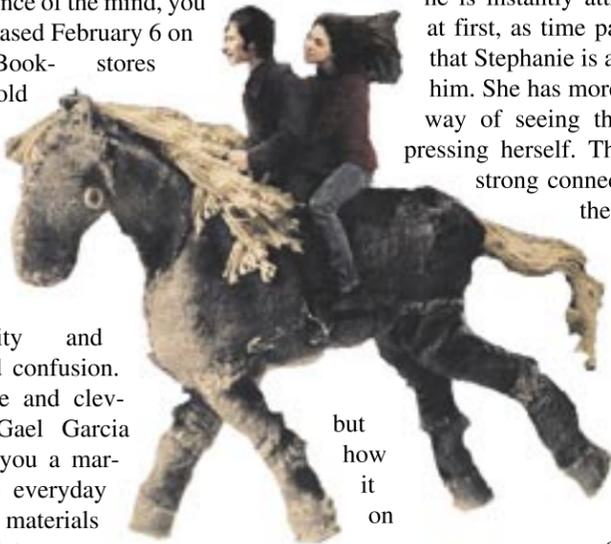
Aside from *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *Human Nature*, *Sleep* is yet another one of Gondry's best creations that has an edge of joyous abnormality and takes you on a spin of mind confusion.

With an imaginative and cleverly distinctive character, Gael Garcia Bernal, as Stephane, shows you a marvelous way of dealing with everyday life with easily dispensed materials like cardboard boxes, toilet paper rolls, some "random thoughts" and other non essential things. His character takes you from reality, into his world of dreams hidden in a crafty room of imagination. Stephane makes you believe that his life can be as true as the next person, except his has its twists and turns.

The death of Stephane's father in Mexico lures him to Paris where his mother gets him a job in Calendar Production. His position is not a satisfying one to him since his job is more of a cut and paste task. He is artistically gifted but his drawings

do not hold the talent that his boss and co-workers favor. His drawings are those that a second year old whom has highly destructive thoughts would draw, certainly not fulfilling to those who work with him.

Then he meets neighbor Stephanie (Charlotte Gainsbourg) and her friend Zoe. Although he is instantly attracted to Zoe at first, as time passes he finds that Stephanie is a bit more like him. She has more of a unusual way of seeing things and expressing herself. This leads to a strong connection between the two and their



but  
how  
it  
on

love becomes the heart of the movie. The desire of wanting to give love not knowing to show reflects Stephane's dreams and

causes him to bring events to real life.

There is a much to enjoy in *The Science of Sleep*. Light on laughs, yet heavy on a personal point, this eccentric trip through the fabric of Stephane's imagination is filled with charming characters and a phenomenal deal of imagery. Though it's hard to tell what is real and what is make-believe, the light and youthful feel of the film makes it very memorable and worth talking about. Gondry has succeeded in crafting an unusually beautiful film that is both innocent and thought-provoking.

## From a Comic to the Big Screen

By BIANCA ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

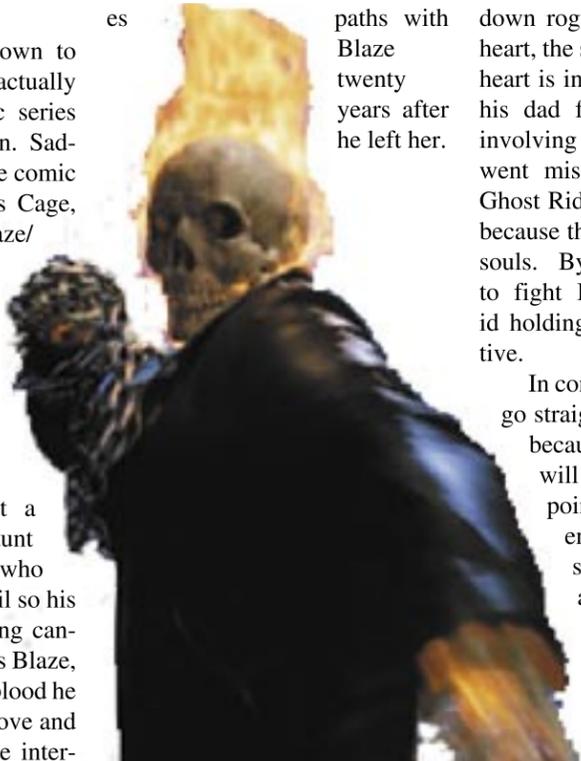
When I first sat down to watch *Ghost Rider*, I was actually excited to see the comic series adapted onto the big screen. Sadly the movie did not do the comic justice. First off Nicolas Cage, who plays Johnny Blaze/Ghost Rider, is horribly cast as this avenging hero. Cage looks too old and his acting does nothing to make me believe that he really is Ghost Rider.

The main plot is about a young man Blaze, a stunt carnival motorcyclist, who makes a deal with the devil so his father can be cured of lung cancer. The devil then betrays Blaze, but since Blaze signed in blood he is stricken to a life of no love and immortality. Blaze's love inter-

est is played by the lovely Eva Mendes, cross-paths with Blaze twenty years after he left her.

The devil comes back into Blaze's life to make him hunt down rogue demons like Blackheart, the son of the devil. Blackheart is in a fight for power with his dad for a missing contract involving souls. The contract went missing because the past Ghost Rider hid it from the devil because there were too many bad souls. By force Blaze is forced to fight Blackheart because he is holding his love interest captive.

In conclusion this movie will go straight to the rental section because all the comic fans will be horribly disappointed like I was. In the end I give this movie two stars out of five because although the acting was horribly portrayed by Cage, the only great thing about this movie was the impressive special effects.



## Now in Theatres!



### Reno 911!: Miami B+

The Officers of the Reno Police Department visit a national police convention in Miami Beach. When the convention center is bio-attacked, it's up to Reno's "finest" to save the day. The hit-or-miss TV show makes a surprisingly entertaining transition to the big screen. Like the series, it is very episodic and, some of it falls flat, however, when the material works, it is laugh-out-loud funny.



### The Number 23 C-

Spiraling into a dark obsession with the number 23, Walter Sparrow (played by Jim Carrey) twists his once idyllic life into an inferno of psychological torture that could possibly lead to his death as well as the deaths of his loved ones. *The Number 23* failed at showing the significance of the movie. Sure, Julius Caesar was stabbed 23 times; Al Capon's prison number was 23; Dr. Pepper has 23 ingredients, but what does it matter?



### The Astronaut Farmer B-

From the time he was a child, Charles Farmer had only one goal: to be an astronaut. Earning his degree in aerospace engineering and joining the Air Force as a pilot, Farmer was a natural for NASA's astronaut training program and was well on his way when a family situation forced him to drop out. But Farmer was not a man to let anything stand in the way of a dream. He spent the next decade and every cent he had building his own rocket in a barn on his ranch in Story, Texas, working toward the day when he could triumphantly launch it into space.



## And on DVD!

### Stranger Than Fiction B-

This is not your standard Will Farrell comedy- the promotions as such are doing it a huge disservice. Much of the audience kept trying to force laughs out of warm situations that were pleasantly humorous - but not meant to be silly laugh out loud funny. The comedy was mixed with just the right amount of sincerity on life and death. Farrell and Hoffman were good together. This is a good date movie that guys could take their women to. There were plenty of laughs, and it makes you appreciate your life and how you can change it if you want to.

