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EL RODEO



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Fifty-Five Years in the Making

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It was announced during Monday's faculty meeting that after fifty-five years of waiting, construction for El Rancho's second gymnasium will begin November 1. Ask anyone on campus, plans for building a second gym were always a priority; it was just never able to get past the blueprints.

El Rancho High School was originally supposed to have two gyms, one built in 1952 and the second built in 1954, but because of an overrun, plans for a second gym were pushed back. The second gym would have been built where the R-building stands now. The new gym will be built at the South West part of the campus, in the open lot around the Y and Z buildings.

It wasn't until six years ago that new blueprints were created for the second gymnasium. This new gym will be larger than the

first gym, because of but it will not have a balcony, meaning there will be less seating, maximum of 500 people. Games such as volleyball, wrestling and basketball will be taken place in the second gym.

Don't worry; the administration hasn't forgotten the first and "original" gym.

"The old gym will remain, it will be renovated slightly. It will be painted, there will be a couple of more restrooms, but it will still be the main gym." Stated Mr. Ayala Assistant Principal of Business and Activities.

The old gym will remain for athletic competitions, and practices, while volleyball and wrestling tournaments will hopefully be played in the new gym.

Construction for the second gym will begin November 1 and will be completed in thirteen months.

"When construction starts teachers and students will not be able to park there, so they will have to park elsewhere." said Ms. Cruz, 10th grade counselor about



Coming soon! A sketch of what El Rancho's new gymnasium is anticipated to look like.

the parking spaces that will be taken over for the school's new gym.

"When the new gymnasium is done there will be landscaping with lighting all along Loch Alene Ave." said Mr. Ayala.

El Rancho High School's second gym will be costing the school district anywhere between 5.8 to 6.2 million dollars. Now,

your jaws might be hitting the floor and you might be thinking some pretty colorful words, but when thought out fully you will hopefully realize that it's a bargain, considering the cost of materials and labor this is a good price for a gym this size.

Mr. Ayala summed it all up by saying, "For the first time

with a student body of 3000 students we will have the luxury of two gyms, and that's the way a school this size should have had, just like the original diagram"

So, it looks as if El Rancho High School is finally receiving a second gymnasium, it only took fifty-five years.

Teachers and District End Mediation- Now Set to Take Seat at Bargaining Table

BY SAMANTHA DURON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After negotiations, the district and the teacher's union have come to a settlement on the teacher's work agreement and a pay raise. Through the mediation process a tentative agreement has been reached, but it has not been officially voted on by the teacher's union.

Over the past four years the El Rancho Unified School District teachers have fallen from being in the middle of the county salary pay scale to the bottom. Teachers and other personal have been bargaining with the district to improve on the matter since last year. Both parties have finally come to a settlement that satisfies. Teachers will be receiving a 5.03% pay raise per each salary cell and will also be receiving a guaranteed COLA (cost of living allowance) for the next two years.

El Rancho teacher and a member of the teacher's bargain-

ing team, Tim McMullen says, "This satisfies concerns of the district to be fiscally responsible and I would add fiscally conservative, while fulfilling teacher's needs for a multi-year guarantee. Put simply we need to be at the front of budget planning." McMullen also adds, "The job of the teachers and the district is to meet the needs of the students, under paid, dissatisfied teachers can't meet those needs."

Assistant superintendent, human resources, Kathryn Enloe says, "It was very difficult to come forward with the funds before the governor's budget is approved by the state legislature," on over coming one of the main obstacles hindering an agreement with the teacher's union. Enloe also says, "I feel very positive on reaching this agreement, it is a move forward."

The bargaining team will meet Monday, October 22 and Friday, October 26 to go over and try to finalize the agreement.

"We are now again in the process of sitting at the table and bargaining with the district. Technically the mediator has not 'signed off' but the major problem here has been solve, hopefully the other issues still standing will be resolved quickly but a prediction as to when this will all be finalized can not be made. The union won't vote until all points and issues are agreed on," says McMullen.

"I don't think it is enough, once other districts get their raise we'll be at the bottom again," said Jasmine Chavez, an English teacher at El Rancho, "But it is a positive turning point in the matter." "I don't feel teachers should have had to expend this much energy, the agreement could have been arrived at sooner," said McMullen.

Today teachers will be meeting with the district to bargain and discuss all the final points of the contract.

New Doors and Restroom Restoration Mark Latest Phase of Modernization

BY VANESSA GALVAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho High School will be opening currently closed restrooms and the classrooms will also be getting new doors. The doors were originally built back in 1952, when the school was founded; the doors are 55 years old. Hardware will include door locks, in order to make better protection. They will also be repainted blue. "Hopefully we will start, I believe, in prior to Christmas break to February" says Mr. Ayala, assistant Principle of Activities. The Board of Education are looking at the cost of the Exterior Board constructor in place, starting around November or December 30. Hopefully after the completion of the doors, El Rancho High School will have better security at all times.

There are 46 restrooms, about half of them are unavailable and polluted. Only 23 restrooms are available on campus as of today, including the office restrooms. Although many students leave trash around and graffiti the walls there will be no restrooms



Coming soon-new classroom doors and more restrooms!

unavailable to students. Those who are responsible for the littering and graffiti will have to pick-up after themselves and wipe off the ink on the walls. The remodel for the restrooms will start in March or the beginning of April; it will be finished within three months or during summer school. When the work of the modernization is complete, there will be more restrooms available for the faculty/staff and students to use.

September Students that Shine



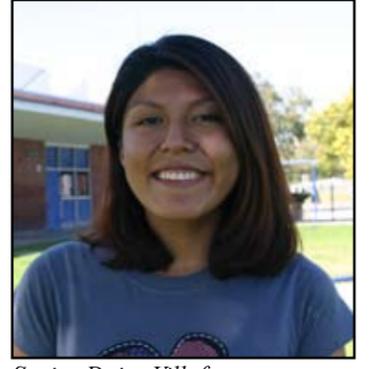
Freshman Kimson Cantos



Sophomore Jessica Saldana



Junior, Robert Sanchez



Senior Daisy Villafuerte

BY ASHLEY ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Student of the Month has begun. Teachers nominate four students, one from each grade level to become the student of the month. The September Student of the Month is freshmen Kimson Cantos, sophomore Jessica Saldana, junior Robert Sanchez, and senior Daisy Villafuerte.

Freshmen Kimson Cantos had a mix of emotions when he found out that he was the freshmen student of the month. He has not yet participated in the school, but he will soon. Cantos' inspiration

is his family; he said, "I want them to be proud of me." In his spare time, he likes reading books and play games on the internet. The goal that he has for school is to get good grades and graduate high school. Cantos would like to thank his teachers for nominating him and his friends for supporting him.

Sophomore Jessica Saldana came from Mexico a few months ago. When she found out that she was student of the month she was shock and felt good that she was being recognized by her

teachers. She didn't even she was nominated. Saldana is like Cantos that likes to read in their spare time. Her goal for school is to graduate from high school.

Junior Robert Sanchez was surprised when he found out he was student of the month. His motto is "to do anything that needs to get done." He hangs out with his friends or he draws or he would be working out. He would like to finish school and go to college. He would like to make the best out of life.

Two time student of the month, senior Daisy Villafuerte

was glad that teachers recognized her. Villafuerte is in clubs like M.E.Ch.A., CSF/UC partners, EAOP, and yearbook. Her inspiration is her parents because they brought her up to have standards and moral. They gave her the strong work ethic. When she has any spare time, she likes going out and meet new people and explore the world. Her goal in life is to get accepted in a good college, have a career that suits her and makes her glad; she would like to help other countries in need with the knowledge she has to help them.

Scholarship Support Available for Seniors

BY MARITZA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For high school seniors, the month of October is very important because students start applying to different universities, including the UC's. The UC's, or University of California system, include UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Davis, UCLA, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC San Diego, UC San Francisco, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Santa Cruz. To attend universities, students must have plenty of money to pay for their education; what many students do not know is that there are many scholarships on the web that can provide free money for their college education.

In the past weeks Mr. Ortiz, College and Career Counselor, gave seniors a blue sheet that lists many websites that offer money to students in form of cash or scholarships. Ortiz recommends many of the websites because they are useful and offer free money. Although the rest of scholarship websites on the list are helpful, to Ortiz, one of the best websites is www.collegeanswer.com.

Other scholarship websites include: www.fastweb.com, www.findtuition.com, www.scholarshipexperts.com/hobsons, www.wiredscholar.com, www.gocollege.com, and www.collegeanswer.com.

Although these websites offer free money, many students, according to Ortiz, do not apply because they are lazy and don't want to take the time to write a personal statement or essay. He says, "Students should look at the Don page and find the College and Career section to get further help with scholarships; take advantage of the local scholarships on the list."

Ortiz emphasizes the importance of applying on time for these scholarships. It is also important to open up an account with College Board (for free) to help all those students who need some type of orientation for their success in college. Other senior reminders include applying to universities as soon as possible, taking the SATs and ACTs, and applying for financial aid on time. As Ortiz says, "Don't be afraid to come to G-1."

A Flash of Fashion

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Brandy Ortiz has a passion for fashion. Ortiz combines different styles into one; among her favorites are Cyber gothic from the UK and low leader, Japanese.

"I like to discover new things mixing stuff around. I do not like using labels like others describe themselves as preppy, jocks, rockers, and punk... I am just unique! When I have time I make outfits but when I am in a hurry I just destroy my clothes and wear them like that," said Ortiz

In her free time she not only makes clothes and accessories for herself but for other people too. She likes mixing things up and coming up with something completely new.

"I always like making new things as matter of fact I carry some of the stuff to make accessories with me in my backpack, some of them are beads, ribbon and other stuff," said Ortiz.

Amongst Ortiz's favorite designers are Valentino, Chanel, Viktor and Ralf.

"I get ideas from designers that come out in magazines like Vogue and get a little bit from each one and make own creations," said Ortiz

Ortiz plans to study fashion design in the future. Although she is not sure of what college she would like to attend to study, she is decided to find the one to be a fashion designer. Ortiz's desire to express her fashion came to her since a very early age. "Since I was around third grade I realized I was interested in fashion; I would make some little crafts here and there; I remember making a little tutu once I would wear it, I still have the it but I just don't bring it to school because I don't want to mess it up, since



Sophomore, Brandy Ortiz shows off her unique fashions.

it was one of the first things I made on my own," said Ortiz.

Now that Ortiz is in high school she feels free to dress whatever way she feels like. "I always dreamed of dressing the way I do now but my mother would never let me because of all the school dress policies, but now that I am older I can dress how I want," said Ortiz.

Although some people might consider her odd, Ortiz thinks her best quality is her personality due to her interest and care for others besides herself. "I consider myself a humanitarian because I like helping people, before I was so busy at school during the summer I would go to homeless shelters," said Ortiz. She does not only care about helping the needy, but she also wanted them to look good so she would donate her clothing to the good will.

Other than being a fashion designer, Ortiz also dreams of becoming a singer one day. One of the people that encourage her the most is her choral teacher Jacqueline Dodd who gives her word of advice to pursue her dreams of becoming what ever she wishes. "I have a lot of teachers that encourage me, but right now Ms. Dodd is the teacher that I look up to for advice and is the one who motivates me," said Ortiz.

New Krikorian Theater Makes it Debut



You can almost smell the popcorn! The new Krikorian theatre officially opens today.

BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seven years in the making and finally Pico Rivera is the first of many cities to have a new Krikorian Movie Theater. Established by George Krikorian some twenty-four years ago, Krikorian Theaters are all about quality and customer service. The soon to be fifteen screen theater is the first of its' kind with all digital picture and sound.

With spotless bathrooms and a fully loaded concession counter, this theater is up and running for its premiere weekend. The entirely handicap accessible building includes custom stadium seating and speakers that will host approximately 200 to 250 people per auditorium. The entire chain of Krikorian Theaters will be digitally re-mastered within the next few months.

Marketing Coordinator Nikki Kealalio said, "Krikorian want-

ed to bring entertainment to communities that thrive; we saw that this city needed something new."

Along with concessions and a customer service counter, the Krikorian Theater is also the home to some already famous movie stars. Visitors will be pleased to see two memorably authentic Movieland Wax Museum displays located in the main auditorium hallway in the theater.

About a seventy-five percent of the staff employed are El Rancho students. The Krikorian does hire all year long. Applications can be found on-site and online at Www.KPT.Movies.com. This weekend only the Krikorian will be selling beverages and popcorn for \$1.00. All proceeds will be going to the I'm Going to College Foundation. It seems as though the Krikorian will be the newest hot spot in Pico Rivera, that is already giving back to its' community.

El Rancho Senior Expresses His Concerns with Lunch Regulations

BY MIGUEL RODRIGUEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

El Rancho High School has been setting up new rules each year. New sets of requirements for the lunch pass were established this year. The requirements are: 350 on the Language Arts section of the California Standardized Test (CST) from the previous year, a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) or higher, and less than four absences and tardies. These requirements greatly decrease the amount of students at El Rancho who will have the opportunity to go off campus during lunch. This is a privilege that each student looks forward to while they're in high school. Slowly, this is being taken away from them, with these new requirements. This situation particularly affects the Class of 2008 because they were not given the chance to get a lunch pass as juniors.

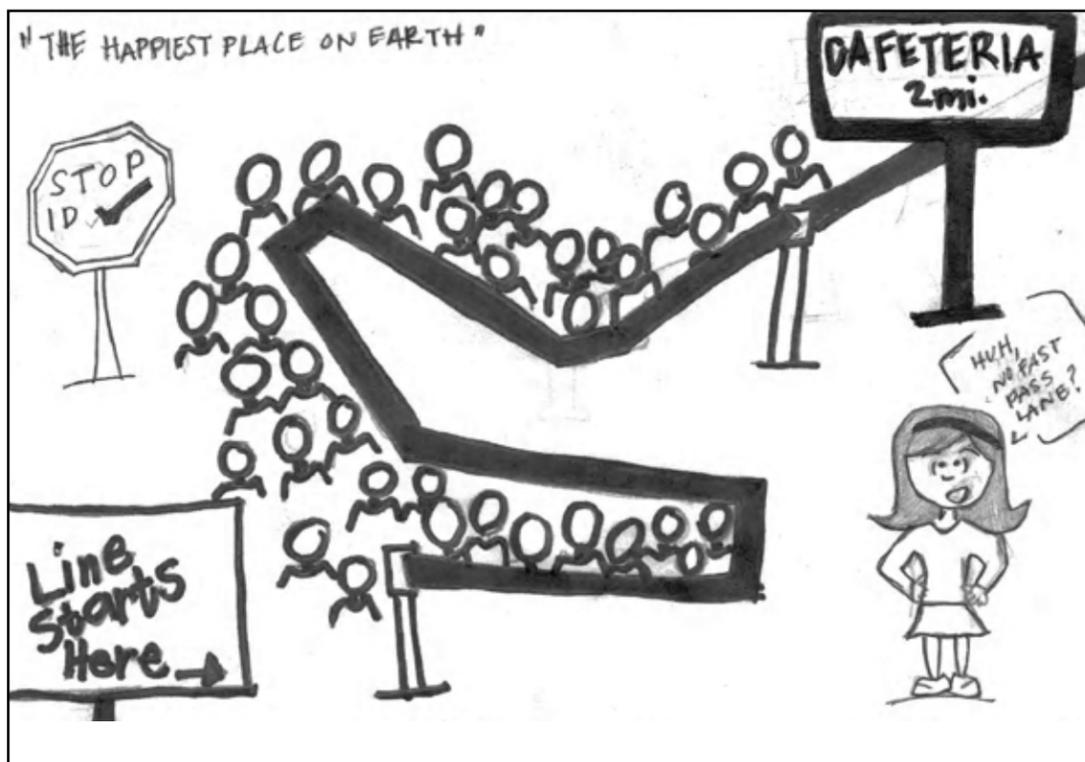
We are required to take a standardized test in May each year. If a student does not earn a 350 or higher on the Language Arts portion of this test, they are

not allowed to go off campus for the whole year. There are other subjects besides Language Arts that were not included as an option for this. Certain people have a better understanding of different subjects. This is also a disadvantage to the English Learners. There is no second chance with this. We know it affects the school, but restricting people only makes them want to violate regulations even more. There should be a different form of motivation for the CST. Not all students comprehend the subject enough to get the expected score on the CST, nor are all students good at taking multiple-choice exams.

The situation at home is different for each person. There might be some personal issues involved in a student's life that doesn't always allow them to make it to school or be on time. If the amount of absences and tardies is going to affect the opportunity, it should be a more excessive amount than just four. No one is perfect, not even the school staff.

A prerequisite of a 2.0 GPA or higher is a more reasonable rule. A GPA can be increased during the year, thus giving the El Rancho student body a greater chance to get a lunch pass sometime within the same year, as opposed to having to wait for next year. In addition to the GPA requirement, students should also be allowed out for lunch based on having a satisfactory behavior record.

There is a large demand for food by students and staff at lunchtime. There's only a certain amount of staff working the lines where food is distributed. There's also a limit on the rate that we can get food. Between 8:00 a.m. and



Kayla Herrera

2:56 p.m., students have only one chance to eat. There is no nutrition in our school, and students are not allowed to purchase food during class. Some classrooms are further away from the lunch lines than others. This might discourage a student from waiting for food, because they might assume that what they want to eat that day is gone. Food is a source of energy, which we require to stay on task during class. The more students are allowed off campus during lunch, the less competition will be required to get food.

When new rules are applied to a population, a notification

should be required a reasonable period of time before it will take effect. The Administration did not notify the student body of these requirements until the end of the previous year. At the end of a school year, the CST has already been taken, most of the work graded to determine your GPA has been turned in, and the students can't try to make an extra effort to decrease their amount of tardies and absences.

The increased regulation would not be as much of a problem if lunch were a better experience for students. There is only 40 minutes for a population of

over 3000 people to get food. Not only is it not enough time for such a big demand for food, but also the quality of the food is nowhere near the best. That almost makes it not worth waiting to get to it.

With the students only want to be treated with more respect. This is not elementary or middle school. It is hard for a young adult to prepare for the "real world" if the place, in which we spend a great portion of our day in, does not resemble it. The length of lunchtime must increase and the quality of the food, or the requirement for a lunch pass should be set to a more reasonable standard.



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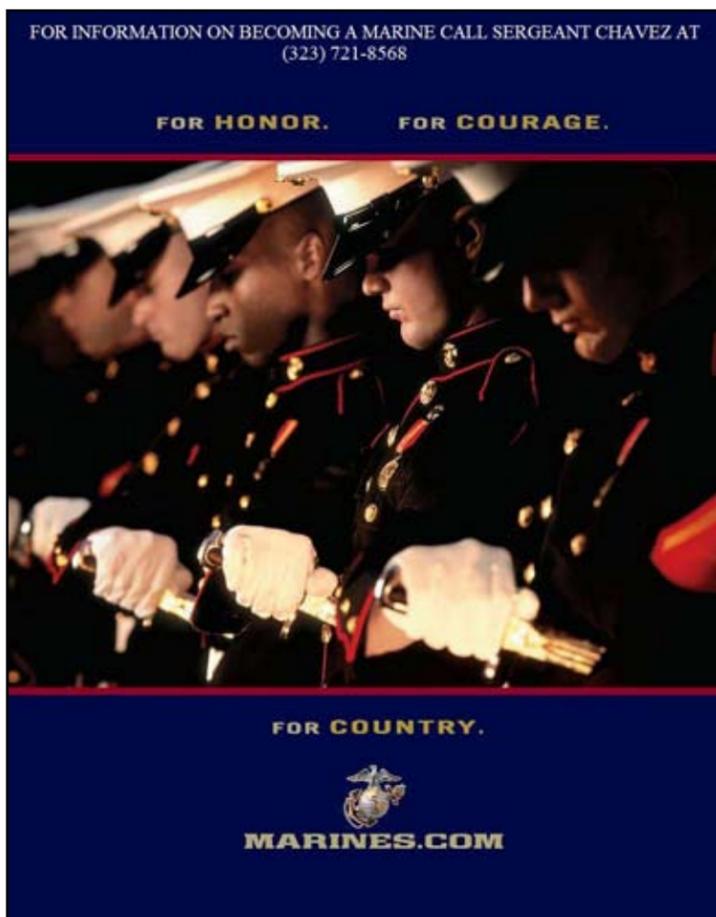
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Fun Facts !!!

A Witches broomstick

The witch is a central symbol of Halloween. The name comes from the Saxon wica, meaning wise one. When setting out for a Sabbath, witches rubbed a sacred ointment onto their skin. This gave them a feeling of flying, and if they had been fasting they felt even giddier. Some witches rode on horseback, but poor witches went on foot and carried a broom or a pole to aid in vaulting over streams. In England when new witches were initiated they were often blindfolded, smeared with flying ointment and placed on a broomstick. The ointment would confuse the mind, speed up the pulse and numb the feet. When they were told, "You are flying over land and sea," the witch took their word for it.

Jack-O-Lanterns

Irish children used to carve out potatoes or turnips and light them for their Halloween gatherings. They commemorated Jack, a shifty Irish villain so wicked that neither God nor the Devil wanted him. Rejected by both the sacred and profane, he wandered the world endlessly looking for a place to rest, his only warmth a glittering candle in a rotten turnip.



Meet M.E.Ch.A.

BY MARITZA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Originally started in 2005 by Mr. Correa, MEChA is a club where students come together every Tuesday to discuss their culture. Mr. Correa, Mr. Diaz, and Ms. Chavez are the club's advisors. Mr. Correa says he "wanted to start a club that teaches students their history and culture." According to Correa, MEChA, or Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán, focuses on empowering students by teaching them about culture and history. MEChA also gives students the tools they will need to move on to college.

Although Correa attended a high school full of Latinos, he did not have an actual club that focused on the students' cultural needs. He says that the lack of such club in his student years was a motivator to start MEChA here at the Ranch. Correa has a positive outlook for this year because many of the officers are good students and they are really close to each other. Correa's goal for this year is to expand the membership, change people's perception about the club, and continue with the last year's events. These events include an altar for Día de los Muertos (displayed next week), participating in the Homecoming Festival, inviting speakers, and possibly visiting universities and cultural plays.

Daisy Villafuerte, this year's president and member since 2005, believes she is the odd one of the club, since she



is Peruvian. She says, "It's kind of weird being the President of MEChA since the club is mainly focused on Chicano heritage here at El Rancho." Villafuerte adds that MEChA is special because very few clubs on campus focus on culture and, to her, culture is a very important aspect of society; moreover, the club does not specifically focus on only one culture, but the Latino culture as a whole.

Likewise, Martha Franco, Vice-president of 2007-2008 and a member since 2005 as well, is also optimistic about MEChA. Franco says, "Being a member of MEChA is being able to take an active role in learning about culture." Although her hopes are high this year, she says, "It's sad how 90% of the school students are Latino and a lot don't show up or participate in the club."

If you are interested in MEChA, stop by every Tuesday during lunch in H-3; get involved in upcoming events such as the Homecoming week where MEChA will sell Pico de Gallo and Orchata. As Villafuerte says, "Check it out! Support MEChA, support our culture."

Laughing at the Lunch Bag

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Instead of buying a cookie during lunch, take that \$0.50 and buy some laughs. Lunch Bag Theatre has been tickling student's funny bones Wednesdays and Thursdays since 1980 when Mr. Wlasick decided to show the El Rancho student body what the drama department was capable of. Years later, Lunch Bag Theatre is still going strong, and with tickets costing only 50 cents who wouldn't spend their lunch watching a group of talented students make you laugh at any cost.

"It's a fun and good experience," says Sophomore Carlos Figueroa. If a student chooses to become a member of the International Thespian Society (an organization of high school students world wide) they can earn points by taking part in the Lunch Bag Theatre. Otherwise, they get no credit, except "the enjoyment that you give the student body".

With improvisation games like Slideshow (a group of actors get into zany poses and then two actors pretend as if they are showing slideshows from their vacations), Taxi (zany characters that students portray in a taxi cab), and Things go Better with Coke (Mr. Wlasick picks out a line from a cup and the student has to incorporate that line in the improvisation skit) who wouldn't donate \$0.50 to watch these actors at the top of their game.



Seniors Ricardo Prieto, Damary Rodriguez, and Melissa Legaspi and Mr. Wlasick was doing a scene from a can of Red Vines.

Improvisation teaches students how to react in a natural way without reacting in a robotic manner. "Improvisation helps me think on the spot. It also helps others students with their self confidence," says Senior Ricardo Prieto. Improvisation keeps the actors mind fresh and in the moment.

The outcome of Lunch Bag Theatre is "being able to go crazy at other people's enjoyment" says Senior Melissa Legaspi. "It's being able to put a smile on their face, if not a smirk," said Prieto with a smile on his face. Mr. Wlasick said "I would just like to expose theatre to as many people as possible, because theatre is an important art form."

So why spend \$0.50 on a show when you can buy that cookie? Mr. Wlasick put it best by saying "It's a fun place to go."

Halloween Jokes



Q: Why did the witch stand up in front of the audience?
A: She had to give a screech.

Q: What is a witch with poison ivy called?
A: An itchy witchy.

Q: Why did the witch's mail rattle?
A: It was a chain letter.

Q: What is a witch's favourite subject?
A: Spelling.

Gadabouts Getting out to Central Europe



Prague, Czech Republic is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

BY MADELINB RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

An estimated group of thirty students from the Gadabout Club will venture to historical Vienna, Prague, Budapest and Munich during winter break of 2008. Club advisor Charissa Zeko said, "A gadabout is a person who travels often or to many places, especially for pleasure.

The past two years Gadabouts has been traveling to places like London and Paris and this last summer to Italy and Greece. Zeko has been putting together trips with a company named EF tours that allows students to travel to the places they have always dreamed about at a reasonable

price. Students who are interested in traveling in the upcoming trip can sign up online by paying an entry fee of 95 dollars. Gadabouts meet every Tuesday during lunch in B-105 and discuss fundraising ideas or any updates about the trip. Some of the students in



Budapest, Hungary is a beautiful city at night.

the club have traveled with gadabouts previously. One of the students who join gadabouts for the third time in a row is Junior Daniela Angelo who has gone to England, France, Italy and Greece with the club. "The experience from the last two trips has motivated me to participate in the upcoming one. I am looking forward to learning about new cultures and meeting new people. I



The Vienna City Hall in Vienna, Austria.

can not wait this is the first time that lots of people that I know will be going and it will be fun".

Amongst the travelers is Advanced Placement European teacher Kirstin Oase who will be traveling with gadabouts for the very first time. "The distance



Munich, Germany has beautiful buildings.

from Los Angeles to Budapest? No idea; I am horrible at math; I am a history teacher, not a math teacher. It sure is on the other side of the world. Traveling with my students will be very exiting I am looking forward to it."

Junior Brianna Rodriguez will be traveling as a senior with Gadabouts. "The plane ride from Los Angeles to Budapest Oh my gosh I picture it to be like fifteen thousand miles. I am really looking forward to the trip next year but I am a bit concerned about food since I am such a picky eater," said Rodriguez.

Junior Leslie Sanchez will be joining the gadabouts for the first time on this up coming trip. "Twenty hours on a plane! Is ex-

tremely far" said Sanchez. This will be the first time Sanchez travels without her parents or a family member. "I am a little scared about traveling alone but my friends Melanie, Brianna, and Daniela will be there," said Sanchez.



Decades Clash at Night Pep Rally

BY MARISELA RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



The Freshman class will dress with the disco fashion of the '70s

On November 1, El Rancho High School will once again host its annual Night Pep Rally. The seniors theme is the 80's wearing neon pink and green; juniors the 20's wearing silver and purple; sophomores the 50's wearing pink and black



The Sophomore class will dress like the casual Grease theme of the '50s.

and freshman are undecided. The seniors are working hard this year for a big comeback after their three-year losing streak. "Their very serious about this years pep rally" says Mr. Correa one of the three senior advisers apart from Mr. Diaz and Ms. Sanchez. "They are a motivated and determined class and want to win back the respect they have lost over the last couple of years, either way we have a lot of support and enthusiasm to win." Senior class president Kayla Herrera says "class participation is better this year, it was at an all time low our junior year but now that it is our senior year everyone is making the best of it" she explains

"the important thing is that we are all enjoying ourselves."

The biggest competition for the seniors this year is the class of 2009, the juniors. Ms. Oase, the junior adviser says, "I'm excited for the outcome, they are an amazing, motivated class, and have set the bar high these past years and we will continue to do so." Junior, Daniela Angelo says, "We're progressing as we go, Ms. Oase and Ms. Brown are doing their best to assist us and it's all going very well."

The sophomores, directed by Mrs. Rosales are still in the process of making many changes and decisions. "They have changed their theme completely from 1840 cowboys to the 1950's grease theme. We haven't got our class

The Junior's theme is the 1920's



"Old school seniors" for '08

colors yet but were still doing good with our skit and decorations all planned out says Rosales, "everything is going fine".

The freshmen on the other hand were off to a rocky start for the pep rally this year with no adviser. Luckily Ms. Mejia was able to commit to the freshman class. They have no permanent plans yet but it looks like everything will turn out fine for them. In order attend the night pep rally you must have a 2.0 or above in



Homecoming arrives on October 29 and continues through November 2. Some events include class games, Blue Pride Day, the Carnival during lunch, Pajama Day, and the Dance in the Magic Den. Don't miss out!

Homecoming's Midnight Magic

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS,
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Attention E.R. students: are you ready for homecoming week? With all up coming events starting October 29th through November 2nd come help cheer on your class on Monday during lunch in the quad for class games. Show your school spirit on Tuesday by wearing blue and gray for blue pride day. And you can't forget the home coming carnival on Wednesday in the quad during lunch. But that's not all: come dressed in your pajamas on Thursday November 1st for pajama day. That night will also be the night pep rally starting at 5:30, come dressed in your class' theme. On Friday November 2nd, the last day of homecoming week, there will be an assembly at 11:30 a.m. in the gym. The Faculty-staff luncheon will be at 12:30p.m in the cafeteria. Later that night come cheer on the varsity football team at the homecoming game versus Pioneer at 7:00pm And last but not least will be the homecoming dance in the E.R Magic Den (GYM) from 9:30 to 12:00a.m. So don't miss out

Trick or Treat for the Greater Good

BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Halloween isn't just a time for free candy and a night out on the town; Halloween marks the beginning of the holiday season and that means there are lots of hungry mouths to feed. Unfortunately not everyone is able to afford a good meal. However, community members turned out this outcome all around with some volunteer work last Saturday, October 20, 2007 at Pico Rivera's annual Trick or Treat for hunger.

Leo's Club Vice President, Cori MacFarland said, "We go around the neighborhood to collect food for needy families. After which we package the collected items and distribute them in baskets. We're helping to feed families at Christmas."

Trick or Treat for Hunger is a way for people of the community to lend a helping hand and it is also a way for students in need of volunteer time to boost up their service hours. The Leo's Club encourages students to get in-



Trick or Treat was held last Saturday, October 21 at Smith Park. It was an opportunity to get the community involved in helping the needy families all over Pico Rivera. This year, there was a positive contribution from the community.

involved. MacFarland added, "Trick or treat for hunger not only contributes a positive community attitude, but it really brings the community together because we are helping on another."

Trick or treat for Hunger is one of the many opportunities for the community to get involved. "We urge community members to participate in other seasonal volunteer work such as Buena Park's 'Giving Children Hope' where we plan to package medical supplies and ship them to third world countries," said MacFarland.

The Trick or Treat for Hunger committee meet first at Smith Park at 8am and the collection began shortly after. MacFarland stated, "Not only are we helping the community and families in need, but it's a fun experience to hang out with friends and hey, it's free food."

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AP Scholars Share Secrets of Success

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Cristina Ceballos has been named as an Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar for passing at least three AP exams taken in May.

When Ceballos was asked how it feels to be an AP Scholar, she said, "I feel very proud."

Ceballos has taken four AP exams in total and passed three. From the three exams she took in the past May, she "passed two: Biology, and English Language and Composition." Her average score was a three.

She passed those exams because she "studied very hard all year and remained calm during the test." Ceballos said she was confident in passing "just the Biology exam because Ms. K is the bomb and cool with a K!"

Ceballos recommends her favorite brain food, "rice crispies and granola bars," to anyone all the time.

Senior Martha Franco was also named an AP Scholar for passing at least three AP exams taken in May.

"It feels supercallifragilisticexpialidocious to be an AP Scholar," said Franco.

Franco has passed a total of three exams from the four she has taken. From the three she took in the past May, she "passed two: United States History, and English Language and Composition." Her average score is a 3.3.

Franco said she was able to pass those exams because she "had awesome teachers."

When asked if she was confident in passing any of the exams, Franco answered, "No I wasn't because I get really nervous."

Hispanic Scholars Recognized for Their Achievements

BY ANABEL SANTILLAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Seniors, Kiana Juarez and Diego Rubalcava have been recognized by the College Board and the NHRP (National Hispanic Recognition Program) as National Hispanic Scholars based on their PSAT scores.

"I'm glad I succeeded," says Rubalcava. "And I encourage other people and students, to take the PSAT because I know they can receive similar honors and prizes." Juarez also feels and agrees that getting recognized is "pretty super" and that "everybody should take the PSAT."

Juarez and Rubalcava have taken the PSAT a total of three times during freshmen, sophomore, and junior year. However, qualification to be recognized as a Hispanic Scholar can only be met by combining their verbal, math, and writing skill scores on the PSAT taken in their junior year.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program was initiated in 1983 to identify outstanding Hispanic students and share the information of these successful



Javier Garcia, Martha Franco, Cristina Ceballos, and Diego Rubalcava, express their coolness, and relief after passing AP exams.

Franco's favorite brain foods are "Lego my eggos, and green eggs and ham" and she suggests everyone to try the dish.

Senior Diego Rubalcava has been named an AP Scholar with Distinction for passing at least five AP exams.

Rubalcava said, "I attribute my success in large part to fellow AP Scholar Joel Villegas" and being an AP Scholar with Distinction feels "tiring."

Rubalcava has taken a total of five AP exams and has passed them all. In the past May, he took and passed the Calculus BC, Biology, United States History, and English Language and Composition exams. He has passed his exams with an average score of a four on each.

"Having self-confidence in class I realized that AP classes are just classes," said Rubalcava when he was asked what had made it possible for him to pass the exams.

Rubalcava was confident in passing the AP exams; he said, "I just went in there and hoped for the best. Every-

one thought I would pass them."

Carrots and carne asada are his favorite classroom snack.

Senior Javier Garcia has also been named an AP Scholar with Distinction for passing at least five AP exams.

Garcia has taken a total of seven exams and has passed six. From the six he took in the past May, he passed five: United States History, English Language and Composition, Biology, Calculus BC, and Micro Economics. His average score is a 3.6.

"I studied for most of them," said Garcia when he was asked what had made it possible for him to pass the exams.

Garcia was confident in passing the Calculus exam "because Francis is an excellent teacher, so Calculus was cake."

"Big Texas in the Faculty Center" is Garcia's favorite brain food and recommends students and staff to try it if they have not already.



Diego Rubalcava and Kiana Juarez, looking cool for the camera.

students with subscribing colleges and universities. To qualify for this program the students must be at least one-quarter Hispanic from Mexican-American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish cultures or origins. (CollegeBoard.com)

The NHRP has recognized about 3,000 Hispanic students from about a total of 124,000 students that take it. "I don't really consider myself lucky," says Juarez, "Because I know I had to work hard to learn all this stuff but it feels good to be recognized."

Rubalcava also feels that "it's a pretty good honor" although he would rather be

called a National "Human" Scholar instead of Hispanic because "[he] does not believe in labels that separate people."

Both of them though, want to encourage kids to keep trying and remind people to "not wait until their senior year to take the real SAT" and that they should "start at least [their] sophomore or junior year."

On a personal note, Rubalcava said, "I like to encourage students who want success, to question everything their teachers tell them and to think critically. It will help you learn that not everything in life is black and white, but there are a lot of gray areas."

Dancing With the Dons

BY ASHLEY ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho senior Crystal Medina is already involved in the entertainment business. She is a co-founder of *J&C Dancers*.

Dance was in Medina's life at a young age. Her parents signed her up for a dance class to get rid of her "shyness." Her dance class was at Ritmo y Sabor Dance Company, in Pico Rivera, where she spent most of her time. She thanks her parents for her love to dance.

Medina met her friend and co-founder, Jessica Morelion, at her dance class. It all began when Medina and Morelion left the dance academy, for personal reasons, and practice for their own shows that they conduct together with their male partners, Jesse and Carlos for family occasions. Their family realized that they were good and made them think about going into the business. Medina and Morelion thought about it and agreed to do it, what is now called *J&C Dancers*. It has been two years since their company started and love doing what they are doing. They are so dedicated that they practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from five to nine p.m.

The two inspiring danc-



Crystal Medina and her dancing partner excitedly pose before their performance.

ers dance samba, merengue, punta, festejo, cumbia, and belly dancing. They dance at quinceañeras, weddings, baptism, and at company parties. They don't have a studio yet but they can teach at all ages like for quinceañeras and other occasions. Morelion and Medina have "fun and are doing what [they] love the most and receive money."

Medina's future is to major in dance and open a dance academy to be well-known around the world. She is very organized and she also works at the swap meet in Santa Fe Springs.

Wannabe dancers, if you want to learn to dance, look for Crystal and she will make you the best dancer.

Fall Fashions

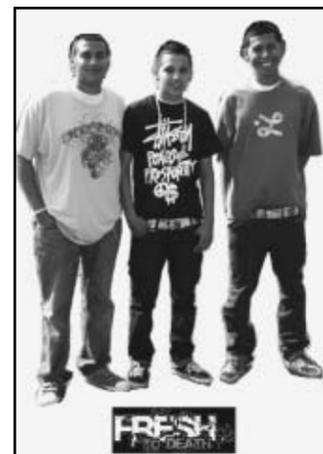
BY LORRAINE CANDELAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Elaine Sparza
Shirt= 10 (Forever 21)
Sweater= 45\$ (Hollister)
Shoes= 40\$ (vans)
Pants= 54 (Hollister)



Ranee Michel
10th Grade
Shirt=20\$ Forever 21
Pants=70\$ Urban Outfitters
Flats= Coach 90\$



Evan Navarro
11th Grade
Chain=40\$
Shirt=65\$ (Five Fours)
Pants= 130\$ (Five Fours)
Shoes= 40\$ (Vans)
Belt = 30\$ (Sean John)

Andrew Ramirez
10th Grade
Chain=40\$
Plugs=8\$
Shirt=30\$(Stussy)
Pants=100\$ (True Religion)
Shoes= 40\$ (vans)
Belt = 20\$ (Stussy)

Alex Rojas
11th Grade
Shirt= 25\$ (LRG)
Pants= 100\$ (True Religion)
Shoes= 40\$ (Vans)
Belt= 20\$ (Stussy)

Juan in a Million

BY LORAINNE CANDELAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In his first year of high school, Juan Rodriguez contributes to El Rancho's already sterling cross-country team. Running at a 15:37 in a three-mile race, Rodriguez is ranked the 7th fastest runner in state. The returning teammates along with Coach Elliott and assistant coach, welcome the freshman, making him feel part of the team, along with being one of his motivations through out the season. "He's fast like Superman, that's why we call him "Superman," said teammate Manuel Moreno." Juan Rodriguez has been involved with the sport since he was in sixth grade, and during middle school he took third at the Hawaii Invite. "It is a great sport and I plan on running cross country for the rest of high school and hope to get a scholarship from it, said Juan Rodriguez.

The boys' varsity team appears to be competing running at a fine level, as they took second (out of 115 team teams) at the Clovis Invitational, going against

#1 ranked schools like Arcadia and Ventura. As far as league the team looks forward to running against Whittier High the most because of their top runner Luis Dorantes. They have been working hard with practice everyday of the week, which began at the beginning of summer. "It takes a lot of dedication, time, guys and you need to be mentally strong, said Senior Jason Zapien." They strive for victory with their team quote in mind, "No one can defeat us, unless we defeat ourselves."

Along with the boys team the girls seem to be running well, beating Cal high 16-50, and the lowest score winning. "We're going good but we should be doing better, with all the potential we have, said Natalie Galvan." The team prepares during fourth period and after school for the league finals, taking place on

Till then they are looking forward to going against La Serna and Cal high, "They have a good team with one or two girls that will give us some competition, said Senior Alice Perez."

Due to the fires all lower level games have been cancelled this week and will not be made up. All Del Rio league varsity games will be made up on Saturday.

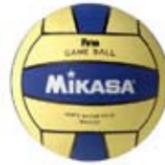


Cross Country Runner Juan Rodriguez Poses for the camera.



Varsity Tennis Player and Athlete of the month, Sarah Medina

Water Polo Team Pushes for Perfection



BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although this team has had some minor setbacks, the El Rancho Boys Water Polo team is still pushing for perfection.

With their loss to La Serna the boys hold a record of 2-1 in league. The team has had to reschedule three games due to the ash and air caused by the recent Southern California fires.

"We seem to be improving at the right time," said Coach

John Pringle, "Despite the setbacks, we are still in a good spot to accomplish our goals." With CIF only two weeks away the varsity is optimistic and waiting for their game against their biggest rival Whittier High School.

"It's a must see game and we're pushing for it to be here at home. Everyone needs to be here for this one," said Pringle.

The JV team is also improving its stats and according to Pringle the younger boys are a "reflection of the varsity." "They learn from what they see and the varsity sets a really good example," Pringle added.

The boys hope to have everyone's support for the rest of the season and urge all the Dons to come and watch the games once the schedule is up and running.

Volleyball Team Fights for Postseason Playoff Spot

By Kayla Herrera
El Rodeo Staff Writer

El Rancho girl's volleyball is looking to fight for a spot in the playoffs. "We've all gotten better, but we haven't peaked yet," said senior Loren Jones. The girl's varsity team currently stands with a record of 4-3 in the Del Rio League.

"I have seen much improvement in the girls. The girls that stand out the most right now are Megan Bar and Tatiana Gomez. Megan leads us in kills, digs and

aces. Tatiana leads the team in sets," said Coach Aida Picon.

The girls have been working hard since day one and feel although there have been some minor setbacks they're ready to turn it all around.

"We work really, really hard and we've improved so much because we want to get further in CIF," said Gomez.

The Lady Dons next game is scheduled for October 30, 2007 versus the Pioneer Titans at Pioneer.

Athletes of the Month

BY KAYLA HERRERA EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This month's athletes deserve the "All-Star" treatment with good grades and a great game. Miguel Quijada, a senior, and Sarah Medina, a junior, not only go the extra mile at their sport, but they go the extra mile in the classroom too. So what keeps these athletes motivated? Medina says, "My family and teammates keep me motivated; I'm striving for greatness in everything I do." Quijada said, "My family and friends definitely keep me motivated and by doing well I have a better chance at college." These two star athletes both maintain a B average and are still capable of balancing a 30-hour practice week. "School comes first," said Quijada, "It's eat, sleep, and polo."

But with all of this hustle and bustle do these athletes have time to socialize? "I make time for my friends," said

Quijada. Medina added, "I live out of my schedule book and I have learned from experience that managing my time is the best thing to do." Currently, Medina is taking two AP courses and she also practices dance after school.

Both of these athletes keep up their sport on and off of the court too. Quijada, in the off-season, plays for the Ceritos 605 water polo club team. "It's really good to know that I have the option to keep up my game even when I can't play at school. I just want to be the best," said Quijada. Medina shares the same positive attitude and added, "Why wouldn't you put your best effort toward your goal?"

Quijada is currently a key component to this year's varsity boy's water polo team as a driver. Medina is slicing her way to the top at the girl's varsity tennis in the singles division. "My goal this year is to go to CIF," said Medina, "It's too early in the season to tell,

but I'm keeping my hopes high."

These two athletes have improved despite their busy schedules. Medina said, "My serves aren't dinkers anymore, they're like WHOOPSHHH." Quijada added, "I've improved a lot in my shooting and I'm working on getting better at my game strategy."

Quijada and Medina look forward to the rest of their season with league games continuing in the following weeks. Quijada said, "No pain, no gain" is true. If you want to be the best you have to balance work and play. "Both athletes strive to be the best and are also striving for excellence in the classroom.

"Like I said before," Medina stated, "I want to be the best." These positive attitudes will take these athletes very far. Let's hope that these athletes have what it takes to make it all the way both on and off the court and in and out of the water,

Football Team Set to Take on Whittier

BY LORRAINE CANDELAS

The El Rancho Don football team continues to show improvement, snapping Santa Fe High's 30-game Del Rio league winning streak from. "The team is improving every week but still making some timely mistakes (fumbles, interceptions, and penalties) but an overall outstanding improvement," said Head Coach Parsons.

Outstanding offensive player Ray Madrid had a 55-yard interception return for a touchdown in the game against Santa Fe. "I try to play my best I can for the team, so we can make it to playoffs, by giving a 110% at every game," said Senior Ray Madrid. Along

with Madrid's performance, senior Thomas Le Brecque shows the underclassmen great leadership on the defense and leads the team in tackles. "It takes a lot of hard work, hitting, injuries, and determination to make the team a winning team," says Le Brecque.

Last week the team took a loss against La Serna but did not hand it over easily. They continued to fight in the second half but were unable to overcome the first half deficit.

In a bit of good news, Carlos Garcia came back to play after being injured for three weeks. "I was nervous to see how my knee would hold out but it felt good, and I was glad to be out there, I didn't even feel the pain," said Garcia.

The Dons were supposed to return to the field last night against Whittier High, but due to the fires the games was postponed until tomorrow night at 7 p.m. at El Rancho. The Dons also look forward to playing Pioneer in the Homecoming game.

"We've come a long way from last year, but this team has potential to have a better record, and I hope they rise to the occasion and get into the style," says Coach Zamora."



EL Rancho v.s. La Serna



Lady Dons Tennis Team Prepares for Prelims

By Madeline Rodriguez, El Rodeo Staff Writer

Girl's tennis took on a strong start with four zero in the beginning of the season defeating Cabrillo high school, Bellflower, and Montebello amongst other schools. Ms. Lippstreu the varsity tennis coach said "over all right now we are seven and seven and we have three more games coming up until the season is over."

Amongst the hardest working players is junior Sarah Medina who plays singles and so far is fourteen and seven with a sixty seven percent winning average. According to Lippstreu Medina's average is the best one so far

In the doubles team the best one is by seniors Daisy Alvares and Alejandra Presiado. So far this team is 12 and 9.

"Our biggest loss has been against La Serna where we got five and thirteen, they beat us in singles. Cal high beat us in doubles and Whittier beat us in singles. These three schools have been the toughest ones to play against," said Lippstreu. When it came for a latter confrontation against the same schools they were still defeated but the scores were very tight.

"This coming up Tuesday we will be getting together and see who will be going to the prelims which will very likely be my best players who will be going," said Lippstreu.

Now that the season is almost over Lippstreu has to really think about who she will be accepting for next years Varsity team. "I want the hardest working players but most of all the ones who have the heart to play tennis," said Lippstreu

Movies that Are Sure to Scare You

BY MARISELA RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Shinning

The Shinning, based off one of Stephen King novels, could be considered one of the best horror movies of all time. This film includes a lot of shocks, scares and memorably creepy images that keep you wanting more. The film starts off with Jack Torrance (Jack Nicholson) a Vermont schoolteacher who goes to work at the Overlook Hotel, as a winter caretaker along with his wife Wendy and his young son Danny. Things then start to get really strange when Jack starts to lose his mind and I know you guys have heard the quote "Heeeeere's Johnny!" I highly recommend this film for any one looking for a classic Halloween horror film consider the Shinning for its creepy characters and scary moments.

Creepiest scene: The ghosts of the twin girls in the hallway.

Poltergeist

Being one of the best ghost stories ever this film takes place in the ordinary American suburbs, which one-day turns very wrong. The story begins with strange poltergeist activity in the home of an ordinary family, the Freelings. Things then get really eerie when the creepy five-year-old girl Carol Ann goes missing. A team of paranormal investigators is called in, but it's a task none of them are quite prepared for. And how can we forget Carol Anne's famous quote "they're here". So if you're in for a good ghost story this movie is the one for you.

Creepiest scene: A psychic, describing the circumstances of the missing little girl, informs her parents that there are many arms about her, including those of an evil presence... "To her it is just another child, but to us it is... the beast."

The Omen

Son of the devil, and the Antichrist trying to take over the world, what more can you ask for in a horror movie. After a switch at birth Damien, the son of the devil, is taken home to the house of an American Ambassador and is therefore in a position to assume future world power. After the family lives five years together freaky stuff start to happen to the family such as suicide, attacking dogs and many other strange events lead the family into believing that he actually might be the antichrist.

Creepiest scene: It's Damien's birthday party, and his nanny decides to prove her loyalty to him by hanging herself from the roof.



Halloween 1978

One of the most memorable scary movies, Halloween, had become known as a horror classic. This film takes us into the mind of killer mind, Michael Myers, who starts to kill at a young age, including his own sister. He is locked up for many years in a mental hospital but one night escapes to come back to his hometown to continue his killing spree, which includes his own sister played by Jamie Lee Curtis. This film has been turned into a billion sequels but trust me the original one is always the best.

Other Scary Movies:

- Rosemary's Baby
- Psycho
- The Exorcist
- Jaws
- It
- Alien



Fun Facts

2006 New World Record! In what has become an annual event, the world record has fallen once more. The largest pumpkin ever grown stands at 1,502 pounds. It was grown by Ron Wallace of Greene, Rhode Island. It was weighed in on October 7, 2006 at the Rhode Island Weigh-off. Will the record fall again in 2007? I will let you know!

Jokes

Q. What's a monster's favorite bean?
A. A human bean.

Q. What do you call a little monster's parents?
A. mummy and deady

Beatle Mania Reaches "Across the Universe"

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Beatle mania finds a home in "Across the Universe". Based on the Beatles greatest hits "Across the Universe" tells the story of two star-crossed lovers, Jude (Jim Sturgess) and Lucy (Evan Rachael Wood) and the obstacles they have to face in order to be together. Set in the 1960's, during the Vietnam War this musical shows us a glimpse of what it was like to live in America at that time.

In search of his real father, Jude Feeny, a young ship builder travels

to America (he lives in Liverpool, England) where he finds his true love Lucy Carrigan (even though he has a girlfriend back in England, hmm). Jude ties up loose ends with his father (who ends up working as a janitor at Princeton), and when things look as if Jude will be headed back home he meets Max (Joe Anderson).

Max who has angered many professors at Princeton invites Jude to Thanksgiving dinner with his family. It is there that he meets Lucy, Max's younger sister and things start to sizzle (Lucy herself has a boyfriend, hmm). While finishing up their

turkey and mashed potatoes Max shocks his family by informing them that he is dropping out of school to do "stuff".

Filled with anger and confusion he and Jude drive to New York and eventually settle in an East Village apartment with Sadie (their landlord [Dana Fuchs]), Jojo (an amazing guitar player [Martin Luther McCoy]), and later Prudence (a girl that ran away from home [T.V. Carpio]).

After Lucy's

boyfriend dies in the Vietnam War she decides to go to New York to clear her head. It is when Jude and Lucy meet up again that their love continues to rekindle. Things could not be going any better until Max unexpectedly gets drafted.

Trying to make sense of the events that have recently unfolded in front of her, Lucy turns to a militant antiwar organization for support. When it looks as if things were starting to come back

together Jude and Lucy have a heated argument over war and Jude's career (he doesn't have one).

After one massive riot that almost kills both Jude and Lucy, Jude finds himself back in Liverpool working once again as a ship builder. While drinking at the local pub after work Jude finds himself looking at the mirror and seeing Max's reflection telling him to go back to America to fight for Lucy.

The ending is just as unforgettable as the entire movie. With all those Beatles songs you almost forget that it's a musical. "Across the Universe" is a movie that comes once in a lifetime and if you have the chance to watch it don't let the opportunity pass you by, watch "Across the Universe".

