



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 59- Issue 5
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

Academic Decathlon Advances to State Competition

By BRIANNA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Academic Decathlon team will compete in the state competition in Sacramento during March.

The decathletes placed sixth out of sixty schools with a score of 40,509 out of a possible 60,000 after a rigorous, two day, Los Angeles county competition, which encompassed ten different academic areas.

This year's Academic Decathlon team is the third in a row to advance to the state competition, which bestows a reputable name and continuous tradition to El Rancho, according to captain, Patrick Rubalcava.

Similar to the Decathlon teams of the two previous years, this team's diligent study habits began during the summer and will continue until the state competition.

"We're studying at school before school, during lunch, during class periods, at home, and on the weekends. We study all the time. Decathlon is a part of our daily routine, but it's worth it," said decathlete, Andrew Uribe.

Apart from studying and wanting to do well, the decathletes enjoy spending time with one another.

"We want to do well. We're always trying to study hard and make something of ourselves, but at the same time, we like to have fun. We like to be one of those teams that can be relaxed and not always be so uptight, but at the same time, be successful."

However, studying proved to be successful for the decathletes, for those of this year's team are the first in school history to all medal in the same subject.

"It was great at the award banquet seeing everyone medal in speech because it was the one fields that we spent tons of time on, and it was a weak area for a lot



After placing sixth out of sixty in a rigorous, two-day competition, the Academic Decathlon team will compete in the state competition in Sacramento.

of the decathletes; it was the first time in school history where every single one [of the team members] got a medal in one subject," said assistant coach, Ms. Kristen Oase.

The fact that each of the competing decathletes medaled in the same subject relates to the visible sense of unity felt amongst the team.

"Compared to other schools, our decathletes support each other and celebrate each other," said Oase. The team also has "phenomenal relationships with each other," as noted by Rubalcava.

Moreover, the decathletes' intrinsic connection will continue as they keep "studying like madmen," as de-

athlete, Eric Rivera said. "Just like it did at county, the care that we have for each other will motivate us to work hard and do well at state," said Rubalcava.

As for state, the team believes that they are just as capable as last year's Academic Decathlon team that ultimately placed 13th at the state competition.

"Last year, we thought of state as something we could never really excel at, and we came in 13th place. So, we thought, if we really just poured ourselves into studying, we might be able to make top ten. This year, we're not going to shy away from that hard work," said Rubalcava.

The decathletes have

separate coaches for each of the ten subjects they are tested on, each of whom brings a key component to the team.

"We're a strong team because we have great students and great teachers and coaches. It's a partnership. If we didn't have that partnership, I don't think we'd be half as successful as we are." Oase continued, "Each coach brings something really valuable to the table; we all have our strengths."

The coaches not only bring their intellectual strengths to the Decathlon team, but also, they also bring a stable foundation and motivation to the team.

"All of the students on the team are the potential--the poten-

tial to do good, the potential to be great, but our coaches are the ones who make the paths for us; they're the ones who give us our motivation; they're the ones who lead us to be who we are--to do what we do. They're, in essence, our rock," said decathlete, Hazel Flores.

Ultimately, no matter how the team does at state, they all know that they will continuously have the support of their friends, peers, and teachers.

Rivera said, "No matter what we do, when we come home from Sacramento, everyone is going to be cheering us on, and at the end of the day, what more could we want?"

Bauer Takes Marine Biology to the Next Level

By ABEL MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Marine biology has changed into an A-G course. Formerly an elective, this class has been in the works to become an A-G course for over two years.

The course was introduced in the 2008-2009 school year as an elective. The class is formulated around learning about marine life, as well a myriad of different labs that involve dissections and experimentations.

It was a combined effort involving Mrs. Flores and Mr. Rivas to transition the class into an A-G course. The two teachers had pitched the course to the UC system on two separate occasions, but were denied both



Formerly an elective, marine biology is now an A-G course. Students learn to see "what life is like from another animal's perspective," says Ms. Bauer.

times. Finally, Mrs. Bauer (who is a marine biology instructor) was able to get the job done.

Mrs. Bauer had researched an abundance of online sources, discovered what other teachers were doing, and compiled

the course over the span of three years. When her work was completed, Mrs. Perea, in the college and career center, submitted it online to the UC system, where it was approved. "The course is very ben-

eficial to the students," said Mrs. Bauer. "I feel that it is a very important course to broaden people's interest in science and get them involved in the world around them."

As far as the curriculum and content, the class is still the same, except with the addition of more labs.

An interesting factor regarding the class is that, for those that have already taken the course, it can count as either an elective or a lab science.

"I'd like to encourage people to take marine biology," said Bauer. "It helps your transcript because it's a lab science. You are able to ask what life is like from another animal's perspective. Open up your mind for what's out there and what careers you can pursue."

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OPINION

Drugs, Kidnapping, and Murder-- The War Continues

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Thirty-five thousand dead in the last four years! You know that place down south where the tequila is as strong as the women? Yes, good old México, our neighbors below. México has always been thought of as a lawless Wild West town, but in recent years it has become a war zone.

Last year, the most violent year, 15,237 people died as a result of the drug wars. A recent poll indicated that Mexicans believe the nation is becoming more unsafe and dangerous.

An article in the February 1st issue of *The New York Times* said "A poll released January 11th by México's National Statistics Institute found that more than 70 percent of respondents believed the country's security had worsened since 2009."

The United States is spending over \$1.4 billion dollars to assist México in the fight against drug cartels, but is this taxpayers' money going to waste?

One positive aspect of the spending is that it has aided in capturing or killing over half of the "37 Most Wanted Crime Bosses" in México. Also, the

number of "Zones of Impunity" has decreased from 2,204, just a year ago, to 233 this year. "Zones of Impunity" are essentially areas where cartels are king and all bow down to them, including law enforcement and civilians. These "Zones of Impunity" make us scratch our heads and wonder just who is really in charge in México. Compared to some of these zones, Detroit looks like Beverly Hills.

Violence still continues to plague México, hitting especially hard in the Northern part of the country. One of the worst hit cities by the drug war is Ciudad Juárez. The town, with a population of 1.7 million, is notorious for just about everything. The past couple of years have seen heinous and gruesome crimes flood the city. Rival Cartels' bodies, heads, limbs, and torsos have been "put on display" for all to witness all over the city.

These criminals are even murdering journalists who report on them. They have lost all sense of morality down there. Even American citizens have been killed by the cartels. That same February 1st article also stated that, "On March 13, 2010, gunmen believed to be linked to drug traffickers shot an American consulate worker and her husband to death in the violence-racked bor-



"Last year, the most violent year, 15,237 people died as a result of the drug wars."

der town of Ciudad Juárez. The gunmen also killed the husband of another consular employee and wounded his two young children."

The most troubling aspect of this story is that these cowardly cartel members do not feel any remorse after committing these inhumane and savage crimes. When will this crisis cease? Only time will tell.

The current situation in México will eventually improve, as it did in Columbia two decades ago. It will improve when cartels begin to swarm this nation's streets, as they already have in the Southwestern states, and



begin kidnapping and murdering more and more Americans. Then the problem will capture the attention of the entire country.

Although these Cartels have more weapons and manpower than some small countries, they will tremble in the face of the world's top military, the United States of America.

A time will come when the Mexican citizens become fed up with all of the nonsense. The constant violence will start to rattle the cages of the people, until they unleash themselves on the criminals. The people, the Mexican military, and the American mili-

tary working in conjunction can prevent these cartels from being so powerful, but they will never kill the Cartels. Nixon began "The War on Drugs" on June 17, 1971, but the side against drugs appears to be the losing one, not only on the fiscal side, but also on preventing people from using drugs.

As long as humans, especially Americans that consume the most drugs, want to use drugs, a demand for narcotics will need to be met. People are greedy, and a quick and easy way to obtain money is by selling drugs. To end this drug war would mean to abolish addiction and greed.

Taco Bell Faces A False-Advertisement Lawsuit

ROSaura MONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the past couple of weeks there have been allegations against Taco Bell for serving "fake meat" to their costumers and for their misleading advertisements. Some people thought that if Taco Bell was serving fake meat, then could vegetarians eat it? Of course not, because it still has meat in it.

Although becoming vegetarian is not a bad idea, even becoming vegan for those who care about animal rights can be very meaningful to a person and can benefit from a healthy lifestyle.

Amanda Obney, claimed that this fast food restaurant is using false advertisement when they claim to serve 100% beef, filed a lawsuit against Taco Bell on January 21.

The fact that this is a fast food chain restaurant, there is bound to be something wrong with it. "I was not really shocked when I first heard about the fake meat because most fast food restaurants tend to cut corners," said senior Rebecca Espinoza.

A law firm claimed that Taco Bell was only using 35% of meat with the rest of the 65% being filled with water, wheat oats, soy lecithin, maltodextrin, anti-dusting agent and modified cornstarch.

Just think for a second if this non-meat were really inside the meat, would you still want to eat it? Well, some people don't care and would eat it anyway just because it's Taco Bell and it 'tastes' good.

As for myself being vegan (shocking, right?) Taco Bells



"A law firm claimed that Taco Bell was only using 35% of meat."

burritos did not taste good to me even when I was a meat eater. Costumers want fresh food into their stomachs, but sometimes the beans and rice in their burritos taste old and who wants that?

Most fast food restaurants use fillers in their meat because it is cheaper to make, this does not make it healthy for the consumers because these fillers may cause harm to some people due to their allergies.

"Many fast food restaurants serve processed food

which could have anything in it," said Chef Luna.

For meat eaters it is better off to eat meat that one cooks at home because they know what goes inside it. Experimenting with different seasonings may lead to a big family recipe that might pass on to the family for generations. Many people enjoy eating burgers that have a lot of grease in it, although they know it's unhealthy. Some choose to continue eating it and some stop eating meat entirely. Just imagine what some res-

taurants could be putting in their meat. Eating too much meat can be harmful to a person and can cause health problems with the risk of stroke and heart disease.

Immediately as the lawsuit was filed, the Taco Bell team took this attack very seriously and was ready to defend the company by stating that the lawyers were filled with inaccurate facts.

"Unfortunately, the lawyers in this case elected to sue first and ask questions later—and got their 'facts' absolutely wrong. We plan to take legal action for the false statements being made about our food," stated President of Taco Bell, Greg Creed, on Taco Bell's online website. A statement was posted on the website about Taco Bells beef being 100% USDA inspected. Their beef recipe contains 88% quality inspected beef and 12% seasoning, spices, water, and other ingredients for taste, texture and moisture.

Although Taco Bell has revealed their beef ingredients, people are still questioning what the meat contains. "I don't think its true because most fast food restaurants don't add all the meat in their food. They use other alternatives to make their food tastier and to make more quantities of it," said senior Ruby Moreno.

This does not mean that all restaurants put harmful ingredients into their meat, because there are still some traditional restaurants that put healthy ingredients into their meat that will satisfy their costumers.

I'm not going to be one of those vegans who verbally at-

tack people who chow down on meat. Just be careful with what you are eating, or instead, become a vegetarian.

Too much of something could be harmful to anyone. Research everything that you eat, it does not hurt to investigate and ask questions.

If you want to live a healthy life style you do not need to become a vegan, simply by becoming vegetarian, it can clean out your system and will benefit you to a healthy life style. If you are craving for some meat but you do not want to break your vegetarianism simply replace it by buying Morningstar low-fat veggie corn-dogs, burgers, chik'n burgers, or any of their veggie products. This can be a helpful start for an interesting lifestyle of vegetarianism.

Becoming vegan just like myself is an extreme decision that many people take because they really care for animals. If you want to become vegan just avoid consuming anything that comes from mother earth. Vegans cannot eat gummy bears, jello, pop-tarts, and anything chewy that contains gelatin because gelatin is made up of boiled skin, bones, and cartilage from animals, especially from horses' hooves. No more cake, chow mien, or ranch for vegans because it all contains eggs.

When one does not eat meat anymore, meat will not appear as tasty as it once did, because one will be exposed to better products. Consider leading an animal-cruelty life, it will do you so much good for yourself and you will live a life of inner-peace.

OPINION

A Coffee Drinker's Chronicle

Essex County: Stepping Out of the Comfort Zone

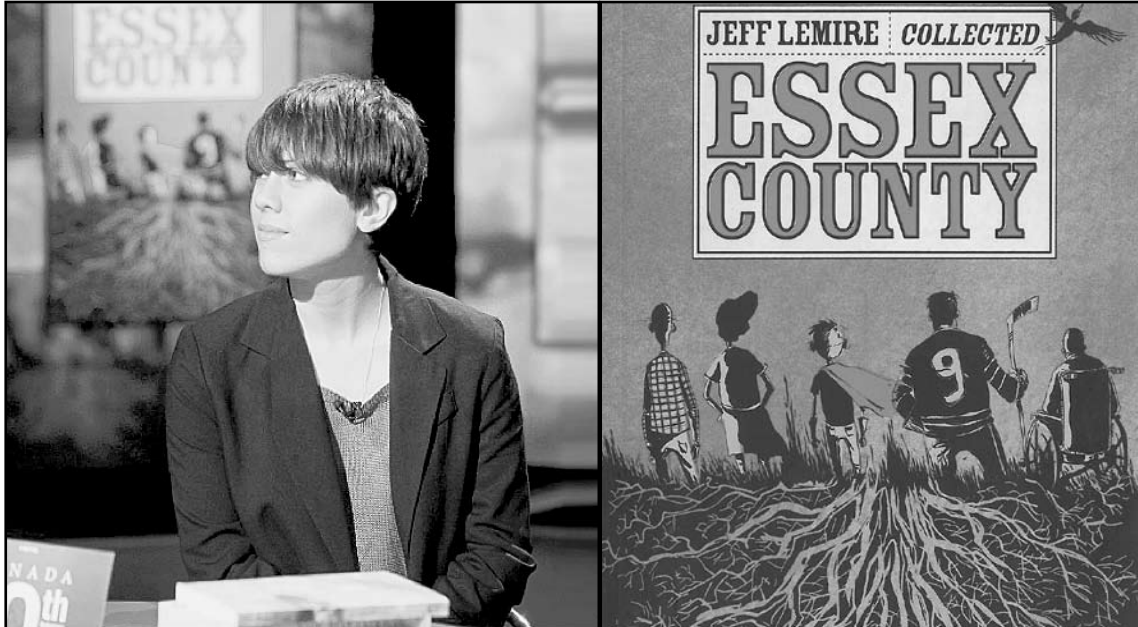
BY BRIANNA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Words are limited; sentences, in shortage. Constructing a sentence is now a daunting task for most. Interpreting a piece of art is becoming a more popular means of mental stimulation. Surely, some sort of facet exists that can shift communicative skills into the same spectrum as artistic ones.

Canada could be a catalyst for change. This month, Canada Reads, a televised, radio broadcast in which five panelists defend a book from a list that was initially composed of hundreds of titles in hopes of finding the "essential Canadian novel of the decade," took place.

Yes, it is odd for a high school student, let alone an American, to take interest in such debate, but my reason for watching was Sara Quin, who is one half of the Canadian Indie Rock duo, Tegan and Sara. As one of the panelists on Canada Reads, Sara defended Jeff Lemire's *Essex County*, a graphic novel, or an elongated comic book.

Without even considering or discussing the content and the plot line of *Essex County*, the panelists chose to vote it off of the Canada Reads shelf during the first day of the debate. "The novel lacks words; I read it in an hour and a half," remarked Debbie Travis, one of the panelists. Sara shot back with a relentless defense of *Essex County*. "Have you seen the pictures in the novel? They're beautiful," she insisted.



Sara Quin of the Indie Rock duo Tegan and Sara defended *Essex County*, a graphic novel, on Canada Reads, a book debate which searches for the "essential Canadian novel of the decade."

To argue the more artistic aspect of *Essex County*, is going to MoMA (The Museum of Modern Art) a waste of time? If one wishes to interpret a work of art, he or she can do so by going to a museum or by reading a graphic novel, which is a point that Sara tried to prove.

Moving past the fact that the panelists were not open to considering a non-conservative, untraditional novel to be deemed as the essential Canadian read, *Essex County* serves as a reminder that times are changing. Individuals are moving towards a digital age that consists of social networking websites, text messages, and blogs composed mostly of photos.

Debbie Travis was blatantly wrong. Sure, *Essex County* may not have as many words as any other type of novel, but it still could

have been deemed as the essential Canadian read. It suits those of the younger generation, for they will read something that will be of particular interest for them. As for the older generation, they will be given the opportunity to experience a new type of literature.

Of course, Canada is far from home; it is not common for a Canadian book debate to resonate so deeply with one in The States, but in this case, I break the commonality. I was upset how and why *Essex County* was voted off, but it served as a reminder of what not only the younger generation, but society itself is moving towards. Individuals are more than charming vignettes; they are intricate minds with differentiating interests.

The point of Canada Reads is to persuade Canadians to read,

but what is reading? It is thinking. Sara Quin's defense proved that meticulously drawn photos are an intrinsic component to words, for photos are capable of making one think just as much as words are.

The reasons why *Essex County* was robbed on Canada Reads perfectly transcend into modern day society. Transporting one who may be more affected by artistic and digital aspects of life to a wider scope of knowledge, which includes communicative and compositional virtues, is simple. All that needs to be done is a bit of adjustment. In the case of Canada Reads, the panelists simply had to give a novel of a different genre a chance.

In life, one simply needs to allow himself or herself to take note of realms outside of his or her comfort zone.

Nowhere Boy Finds His Place in Movie Theaters

BY ROSAURA MONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

To all The Beatles fans out there, *Nowhere Boy* is definitely a hot movie to watch.

In *Nowhere Boy*, British actor, Aaron Johnson, portrays legendary and daring, John Lennon, through his tragic and confusing teenage years that shaped his life (1955-1960). This was the time period when Lennon started his own skiffle and rock n' roll band The Quarrymen that progressed into The Beatles.

The movie starts off with John living with his aunt Mimi and uncle George, who took him under their aid due to Lennon's mother's, Julia, incapacity to care for him.

After listening to the new, fresh, and daring music of rock n' roll, John was hooked. Without the approval of his aunt Mimi, who is very protective of her nephew, Lennon visits his jumpy and lively mother for comfort. Listening to rock n' roll was something that they both did together.

Admiring Elvis Presley's song and his hairstyle, Lennon learned how to play the guitar with the help of Julia who first taught Lennon how to play the banjo.

Later, John Lennon groups his own skiffle band called The



Quarry Men and he also performed at many local shows with them. During these events, Paul McCartney and George Harrison noticed Lennon. This influenced the creation of The Beatles.

Nowhere Boy is not a biopic movie that is filled with false facts that leave the audience thinking whether or not the events in the movie actually occurred. This movie is filled with interesting facts about Lennon's background that exposes his influences and his pain during his teenage years. Rock n' roll music is played throughout the movie, exposing the audience the era that Lennon lived through.

Johnson did not hold back when he was faced with expressing sentimental moments. This slick and easygoing character seemed to come at ease for Johnson.

The costumes, cars, and scenery employed the fashion and the style that the people had. The directing was impressively well done because the director was able to capture the emotions and feelings of the character.

CITY OF PICO RIVERA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

COMMUNITY PRIDE DAY
HELP KEEP OUR CITY BEAUTIFUL!

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM at SMITH PARK
SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011

Volunteers Wanted! Roll up your sleeves help clean up local schools, parks and community centers. Volunteer applications are available at your school office, local park or they can be downloaded at www.pico-rivera.org

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Breakfast * T-shirt * Volunteer Recognition * Site Beautification * BBQ Lunch

Save the Date!

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2011 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Clean up sites include:
Smith Park
Senior Center
Mary E. Meller Field
Municipal Golf Course
Community Gardens
South Ranchito Elementary School
Riviera Middle School

Special Guest Appearance
Jeremy Bringham
Former NFL Football Player,
Oakland Raiders

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own rakes, brooms, shovels, and garden gloves. Schedule subject to change.

El Rodeo



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

I AM NUMBER FOUR

IN THEATRES
2.18.11

TEXT FOUR TO 70249 FOR A CHANCE TO WIN

FEATURES

Simply Irresistible: John Luke Barrios

BY PATRICK RUBALCAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sick of the conventional man? Looking for something fresh and new in your life? Well, ladies, you need not look any further than junior John Barrios. John enjoys drinking pina colodas, getting caught in the rain, taking long walks on the beach, and “using extensive analogies.” He also enjoys speaking in riddles and answering questions with other questions.

At school, John is involved in the Biology Club and is the Academic Decathlon captain-to-be. His favorite type of music is underground hip-hop, and his favorite group is Hieroglyphics. John’s favorite television show is *Scrubs*, and his favorite movie is *Full Metal Jacket*.

John is a self-described “full glass of water” that can be frequently found training his Pokemon. In the future, John hopes to attend an ivy league university, though he has no preference as to which he will go to. John, or Mr. Barrios as you may find yourself calling him in the future, hopes to



John Barrios strikes several poses with his “godly physique.”

some day be the head of a corporation and make ungodly amounts of money, while still staying true to

his philanthropic personality. After his career is established, John will join the Peace Corps, where



he will work to “save the planet.”

But what exactly makes John so irresistible to the ladies?

John would say it is his “freakishly large brain” and “godly physique.” But John’s appeal goes far beyond his immeasurable intelligence and Fabio-like body. John is a loving person that longs to share his life experiences with a woman worthy of such. “But what kind of woman is worthy of so great an honor?” you may be asking.

John loves a woman with “smarts.” He’d love a woman that he could coherently discuss contraversial topics like politics with. For John, a good sense of humor is essential. Perhaps most importantly, John Barrios’s woman must have that little extra in the upper torso.

John doesn’t discriminate. John doesn’t really mind a woman’s ethnicity. “Women are like ice cream,” John said. “You definitely have your favorite flavors, but they’re all good.”

If this sounds good to you, give John a try. If it doesn’t... well, are you even human? So if you long for great times, to live utterly joyous and free, do not hesitate, my friends, to give a call to Johnny B.

Cheap Dates for Cheapskates

BY PATRICK RUBALCAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Money is not everything. This truth even extends to the realm of dating. Too often one will hesitate to ask another out, lacking the funds necessary to “have a good time.” The truth is that one doesn’t need much to have a good time with the person on one’s mind. For evidence of this, one needs only to look at the case of Andrew Uribe and Marcela Espinoza, the subjects of this month’s *Cheap Date*.

I gave Andrew and Marcela a voucher for two to see a movie, *I am Number Four*, and five dollars in cold, hard cash. Apart from a sarcastic “don’t spend it all in one place” and a pat on the back, this was all I gave the pair.

The date began at Andrew’s house. He showered, got ready, sprayed on a bit of Axe, and winked at himself in the mirror before getting into his green 1996 Mercury Tracer. Quite the kickin’ ride.

The drive to Marcela’s home was not long, but Andrew thought about how the date would go. “I thought it would be a bit fun, but a friend said that the movie was bad,” Andrew later said. When

Andrew reached Marcela’s, he walked to her door to greet her in a truly gentlemanly manner. Upon entering, Andrew discovered Marcela’s parents waiting to send their daughter off. Though most men would panic at the sight of his date’s parents, Andrew played it cool. In a possibly awkward social move, Andrew shook the hand of his date’s father and mother.

Next was a quick stop to the liquor store to buy Reese’s minis, Marcela’s favorite. With the Minis now in hand, the couple was down \$1.70 from their original \$5.00, leaving them with a whopping \$3.30.

Then, Andrew got lost on his way to the Krikorian, despite the fact that the destination is only a matter of a minutes’ drive away.

The couple finally arrived, only to be welcomed by a line of people already waiting to get in. When the pair finally got in to the theater, it was nearly full. All that was left for the couple were two lone seats near the bottom of the theater. The seats were so much towards the bottom that the couple had to look up constantly just to adequately view the screen.

Before the movie started, though, a popular Spanish radio

station was playing music and giving away free merchandise.

As Andrew and Marcela first sat, the woman representing the radio station asked for someone with five keys on a single key ring.

Andrew frantically raced to the woman, and showed her his key ring. Sure enough, the ring contained five keys. When Andrew returned to his seat, it was with a free water bottle in hand, which he promptly gifted to Marcela.

Before the woman’s exit, she threw free t-shirts into the crowd, and Andrew managed to catch one. Oddly enough, the shirt was a small, the perfect size for Marcela.

“I felt surprised to get two things,” Andrew laughed.

After the movie was over, the couple headed to the Krikorian’s arcade. They were lucky enough to stumble on a game that someone had already put coins into, and hence, managed to only spend \$1.25 on a couple’s game of *Time Crisis II*. With that, the couple had only \$2.05 remaining.

After dying in *Time Crisis*, the pair went over to the *Need For Speed* motorcycle riding game. “Marcela couldn’t play that well, so I had to move the bike for her,” Andrew joked. They spent \$2.00 playing the game, leaving only a nickel, which Andrew threw into a wishing well.

“The movie turned out better than I thought,” Andrew said. “I’d rate it a 7.75 out of 10.” Marcela gives the movie a 9 out of 10, and rates her date an even higher 11 out of 10. I suppose that the laws of numerals don’t apply to those that are smitten.

Finally, the date was over, and Andrew drove Marcela back home in his luxurious Tracer. “Andrew pulled off a great date,” Marcela later said. “He’s a keeper.”



Senior, Jason Cisneros stands proudly by the lime green Mustang he has invested countless hours on.

Cisneros Cruises the City in His 1971 Ford Mustang

BY PHILLIP FARIAS, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If you’re ever walking around the streets of Pico Rivera and see a bright, lime green blur speeding down the street, you just might have caught a glimpse of senior Jason Cisneros in his vintage muscle car. The rare, lime-green 1971 Ford Mustang Mach 1, a classic, gets Jason to wherever he needs to go, even school. “I use the car to get around town, to run errands and what not,” says Cisneros. “It’s a lot faster than walking.”

“It’s been my car since I started driving at sixteen,” Cisneros said. Originally bought by his father when Cisneros was in eighth grade, it was given to him after he earned his permit, and eventually his provisional license.

When most people are confronted with this beast on wheels, they shower it with compliments. ‘Nice car man; it sounds hot! It just needs some paint’ or sometimes people ask me if I’m selling it, but pretty much everyone says ‘nice mustang dude,’” said Cisneros. Powered by a commanding 351 cubic-inch V-8 engine, Cisneros has no problem getting somewhere when he is pressed for time. “I smoke Hondas all day,” says Cisneros.

However, as with every older used car, it requires a lot of work along the way. “Last month I was having electrical problems. I replaced the alternator, voltage regulator, starter, and starter solenoid.” Also, as gas prices are on the rise, Cisneros certainly feels the bite of it. “I get eight miles per gallon on the street and twelve on the freeway, its sucks paying for my gas bill.”

Now, as for the car’s unique color, Cisneros is shift on whether or not he would rather leave it original. “I am undecided. This car looks sexy in red, but it also looks good in the original green color. Anyways, I would probably lean more towards keeping it green.”

Nevertheless, Cisneros says that the car is worth the trouble. “I step on the accelerator and the car flies. I really love horsepower. So yes it is worth it.” In comparison to the newer models of cars, Cisneros believes, “Hell no! Old cars are pieces of history, new cars are pieces of junk!”

FEATURES

El Rodeo's Guide to Free Money for College

BY ALEXIS RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It is understandable to be intimidated by the whole application process. There are so many deadlines, essays, recommendations, and scholarships to worry about. With a checklist this important, where should you start?

Once you have gotten accepted to a school, the first question that comes to mind is, "How am I going to pay for my education?" There are many resources for an undergraduate to look into but first he or she must figure out how much it will cost to attend the school of his or her choice. Finding this information is as simple as visiting the schools website to get a price, or talking to the school counselor for an estimate.

Second, fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which will most likely be your largest financial resource. Students should fill out this form regardless of his or her parents' income. Although some may think their parents make too much money, they are still eligible for \$1,000 or more.

Another important step would be to ask your counselor to notify you about any local



scholarships or any others you are eligible for. Also, the school you will be attending will have scholarships to offer, so browse their website to find the scholarships that fit your description.

Applying for scholarships requires a lot of patience. The more scholarships you apply for, the higher chance of receiving the free money. To make the searching process easier, make

an account on www.fastweb.com, a helpful tool to use when applying for scholarships. Based on your survey, Fast Web sends you scholarships that you qualify for. The amount of money avail-

able to you will vary but any contribution will make it easier on yourself and your parents' wallets. Apply to as many as possible!

Although the time has passed for current seniors, those who will be applying in the upcoming years may be required to write a personal statement. You will also have to mail teacher recommendation letters from a few of your favorite teachers or school administrators. Make sure you are asking a teacher who has something good to say about you and have them write a one page open-ended letter.

Once you have completed all of these steps, including applying to countless scholarships, it is time to submit your transcript. You can find the transcript request form in the front office where you will list all of the schools that have requested one.

The whole college application process is very lengthy, but as most of your teachers have always said, "Your education is an investment." Everything you go through in this time of your life will pay off in the future. Being successful cannot be easy but with this hard work and dedication, you will ensure yourself for a greater tomorrow.

Teen Read Week at El Rancho High School is April 11th-April 14th

This celebration of reading is brought to you by your ERHS Library.

Which events are part of Teen Read Week?

1. Quizzes and prizes and read-alouds in your classroom
2. ER graduation in the stadium.
3. Freshman Accelerated Reader Contest
4. The Oscars
5. The return of the Get Lit Players Poetry Performance
6. World Cup
7. Book Fair in the ER Library
8. read. t-shirts on sale NOW to staff AND students for \$10 in the library.

Answers: 1,3,5,7,8 are part of Teen Read Week

Order your read. t-shirt in the library to wear during Teen Read Week:



TRENDSSETTERS OF THE MONTH



Gabbie Penaranda
Dress: Thrift shop \$2



Dezy Delira
Glasses: Ray Bans \$98
Shirt: Zumies \$30
Flanel: Thrift Shop \$4
Necklace: souvenir from dad



Omar Lee
Pants: Macys Levi's \$35
Shirt: Best friend's closet

Want to get away?

Come travel with the Gadabouts to Spain!

Sign Up with the Zekos in B-105 or X-1 by March 2nd.

SPORTS

Hard Work Pays Off for Wrestlers in League Finals

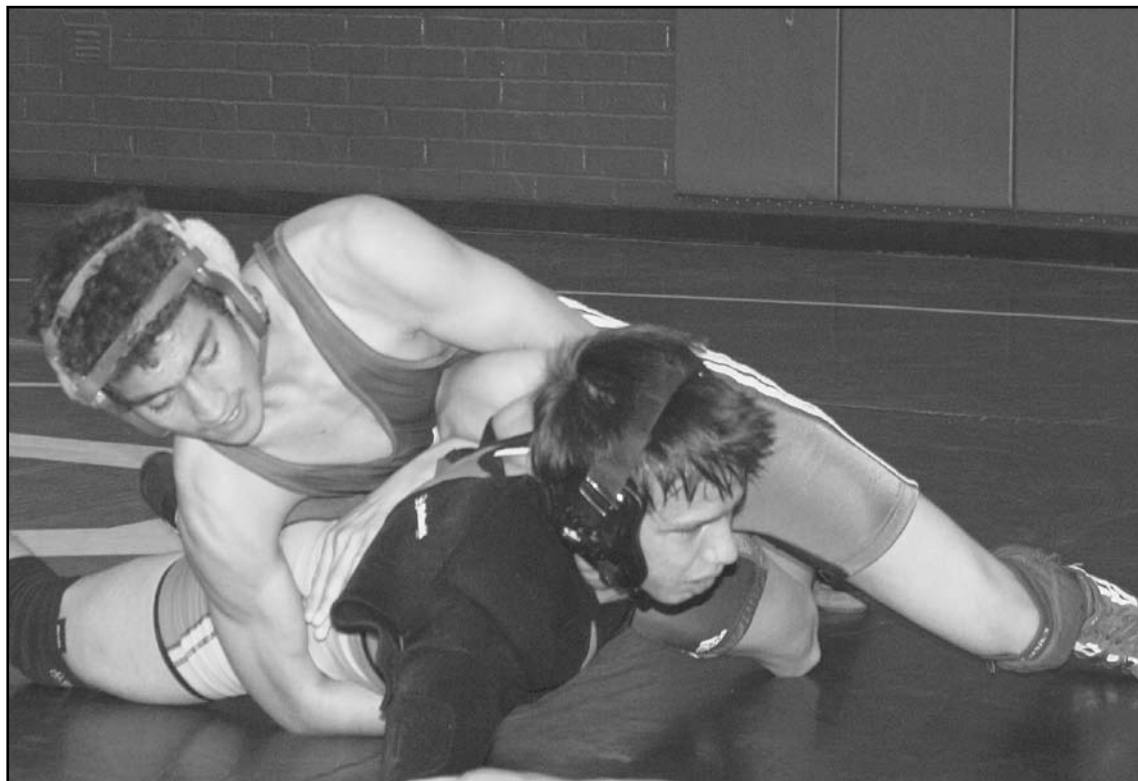
BY JOSHUA MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Boys' varsity wrestling woke up from their slumber and attacked with great desire during the Del Rio league finals at Cal High.

"I was pleased to have six CIF qualifiers out of eight of our guys and one league champion considering we had a lot of injuries," said coach Barrios.

The contestants who got third in league were sophomore Eduardo Gaspar, senior Johnny Millan, freshmen Adrian Chavez, and junior Gerardo Bermudez. The Ranch's second place winner was junior Jacob Sanchez. Last but not least first place winner, weighing about 103 pounds, is sophomore Joseph Ramirez.

Even though the wrestling team had a slow start as a team in the beginning of the year, they bit the bullet in order to achieve greatness during league finals. The team suffered from wres-



Sophomore, Gerardo Bermudez, wrestles an opponent from La Serna.

tlers quitting and becoming injured during the beginning of the year. "Fourteen out of thirty

participants made it through wrestling" said Coach Reuben. Moreover, El Rancho's

league finalists "wrestled the way they should have wrestled, because the results showed," explained

Coach Rivas. According to Mark, 130-pound varsity wrestler, "the wrestlers that are going to CIF are the hardest working guys on the campus. They just don't give up."

Hard work and dedication were clearly seen during league finals and CIF, but there could have been more room for improvement.

Coach Barrios saw the wrestlers wrestle well, but he wants his wrestlers to "improve in dedication, willingness, and trust to know what the coaches are talking about." The coaches know what the wrestlers need and lack because they were wrestlers, too, not long ago.

The wrestlers know they need to improve because of how they did during league finals. Jacob Sanchez said, "I could have done better, but I know I impressed my older brother and my brother is the only reason I joined wrestling." All the wrestlers were sweating and bleeding after League finals and CIF.

Girls' Waterpolo Takes League Championship; Reaches Second Round of CIF Playoffs



Co-captain and junior Jovita Zamora makes a pass in the first CIF game against the Chargers.

BY DANIELA AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' water polo team ended their season with a league record of 5-0.

The girls played their first CIF game against the Charter Oak Chargers. "In the beginning, we were kind of slow, but in the end we came on top," says Pedregon.

Though the team knocked out the Chargers with an 8-6 score, Coach Hernandez thought the girls could have blown out the opposing team.

"We went in taking Charter Oak seriously, but we struggled in that game with shooting," said Coach Hernandez. "It wasn't one of our best games, but we still pulled through," said Pedregon.

During the second round of CIF, the Murrieta Valley Night-hawks with a final score of 11-2

eliminated the Don's water polo team. "The difference between us and them was experience, the strength and understanding of the game," said Coach Hernandez. "Our girls had the potential but we had some mental intimidation."

The girls kept the La Serna Lancers under ten goals on their last league game with a close score of 8-7. "It was a huge accomplishment," said Coach Hernandez about the season. "It was on their mind to take league."

Co-captain, junior, Jovita Zamora said, "Even after the end of the game, we had hope that we would still win, even though some of us were doubtful about it. In the end, we came through as a team and won. We all wanted to be league champions after all the hard work and dedication put into the season." "It was intense and the

greatest way to end season going all out and everyone just blended well together," said senior goalie, Kimberly Pedregon, "you can tell we really wanted it. It was one of our best games." Coach Hernandez said, "They really put in the effort in their practice and in their games. They stayed focused and understood the game. I think that's what made the difference this year. They fought really hard and it was a very intense game."

Captain, senior, Samantha Perez said the biggest surprise in the game against La Serna was when Hernandez shot in the last four seconds of over-time. "There was a lot going into that game," said Perez.

"For them to adjust to new coach and win league was a huge accomplishment," said Coach Hernandez.

Girls' Soccer Team Makes it to First Round of CIF

BY JACKIE MONTEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After the 4-1 defeat from the La Serna Lancers, the Lady Dons soccer team still went in to play offs as third place, right after La Serna High School. La Serna placed first and were league champions with Pioneer falling in second place.

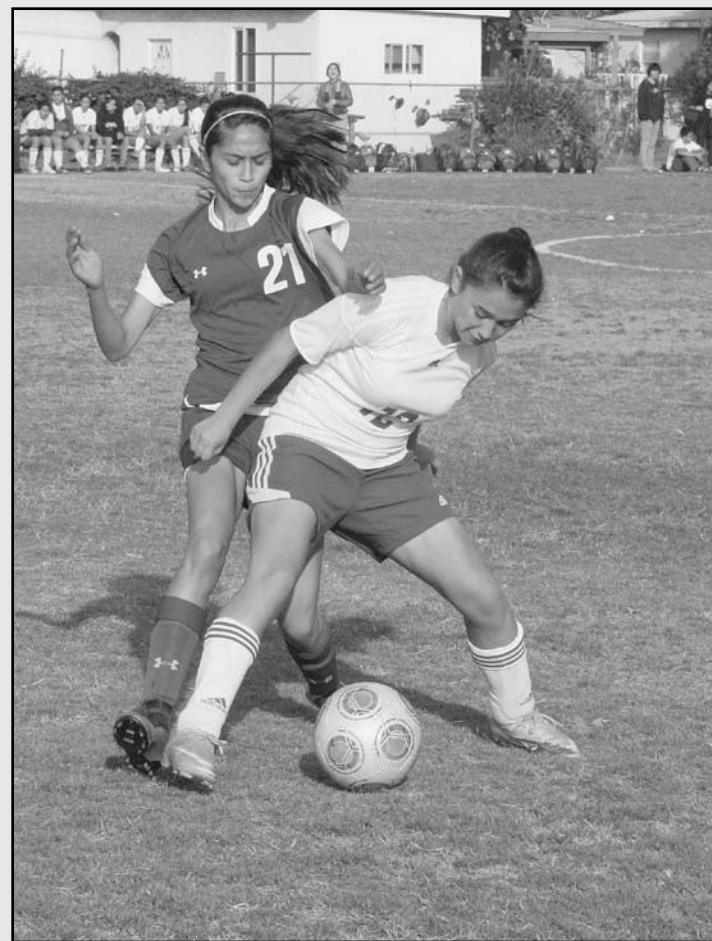
The Lady Dons played the Oxnard Yellow Jackets last week in a very intense game. No goals were scored and the final score was 0-0. Then, they went into over time. The Lady Jackets were the first to score in over time and won the game and moved on to the second round of play-offs, leaving the Lady Dons out.

"It was a shame that we

didn't make it as far as we thought we would, nevertheless, I am so proud of my girls. We really grew as a team and I'm so grateful that the girls helped me bring out my full potential. The team will still have a lot of talent coming back next season, and I know they will do great," said Senior, Bianca Gutierrez.

The Lady Dons are satisfied with their work because of the accomplishment of making play-offs. Yet, they are sad because they will be bidding farewell to some great seniors who were key players to the team such as Daisy Hernandez, Breanna Gastelum, Bianca Gutierrez, Ana Regalado, and Nereyda Garcia.

"I'm very sad that our seniors are going to leave. They will be missed, but I'm still proud of them because overall we did awesome this year," said sophomore, Carla Viramontes.



SPORTS

Boys Soccer Takes on Crescenta Valley Today in Third Round of CIF Playoffs

JACKIE MONTEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' soccer team played their second round of CIF game against Hawthorne High School in a tough match on Wednesday and defeated the cougars 1-0.

The game was intense as both teams went back and forth trying to score. There were no goals scored in the first half of the game although there were a lot of close shots.

After missing many shots the only goal scored for the Dons was by junior, Francisco Lara during the second half of the game. That goal gave the Dons the victory and they are now going to go

into the third round of CIF.

"I was getting very frustrated when I was missing the goals but I knew I wanted to win and move on to the next round so I tried and tried until I finally scored. I just knew that I couldn't let my team down after all the hard work we had accomplished all season," said junior, Francisco Lara.

The league champs had a very successful season and have won both of their play-off games.

The first was against the Serrano High School Diamondbacks and the dons conquered, beating them with a score of 4-1. The four goals were scored by junior Francisco Lara, sophomore Cristian

Roldan, senior Erick Argueta, and senior Alejandro Ortega. The second game was yesterday against Hawthorne High, which was another victory.

"We knew that beating Hawthorne was going to be very hard but our team was very confident that they we could beat them just like any other team. We all worked together and we are now very confident going into our next game against Crescenta Valley," said Senior and captain of the soccer team Tony Conde.

The Dons are now moving onto third round of play-offs and will be facing Crescenta Valley High School today at 3:15pm, away.



The boys varsity soccer team took on Hawthorne High for the second round of play-offs on Wednesday. The Dons defeated them with a total score of 1-0 moving them forward to the third round of play-offs.



Lady Dons Finish Season with Winning Record!

BY KAREN CARRILLO, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' varsity basketball team, with a record of 14-12, ended their season with a final game against Pioneer. The win also let the team finish with a winning record, a feat that has not been achieved since 2005.

They won their final game, against Pioneer, with an impressive score of 48-29. "It has been about five years since a winning record. It's a big accomplishment," says Coach Shigezane. "Everyone was really dedicated. They put the time in their team, and because of that, we had a successful season."

Although the team was faced with a couple of injuries and losses from the last three games, they continued to play hard all through the season. "We have gone from inexperienced to experienced because of all the games we have played. We went a long way, and teams will now have to worry about playing us," says Leahny Avena, senior.

"Our coach has pushed us to our limits and he always wanted us to succeed," says Rachel Flores, junior. Along with their coach continually motivating them throughout the season, the girls have learned to play well together. "We have more chemistry. Now we can really say we are basketball players," says Flores.

Though the game against Whittier may have been their biggest loss, with a score of 54-49, the girls' basketball team's most painful moment was against Santa Fe. The game was extremely competitive, and Santa Fe won with a shot made at the buzzer.



El Rancho High School

Fun Run In Pico Rivera

5K Run, Jog or Walk • 1K Youth Trot

Saturday, February 26, 2011

WINTER FORMAL

Contreras Crowned Winterbelle Queen

BY NAOMI ORTEGA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As an anxious crowd awaited, first came the announcement of the winterbelle princess, senior Jolisa Guerrero, then the moment came for senior, Elsie Contreras to be crowned winterbelle queen. While music was playing in the background and cameras were flashing her father added her new accessories to her outfit. Traditionally the winterbelle queen is given a crown and a royal blue robe.

"I was happy and surprised," said Contreras. "I thought they were going to call Jessica King's name because she's really popular," said Contreras. Her evening escort to the Winterbelle Ceremony during the boys varsity basketball team against Santa Fe was her father, Richard Contreras.

According to Contreras, "I'm happy about winning because I really wanted to win and my parents were expecting me to." Along with her father being there, she had a cheer squad of her own family members to support her. "It meant a lot to have my whole family there."

Whether her family sup-

port was there or not Contreras wasn't feeling the least bit nervous. "No I wasn't nervous. I'm used to being in front of large crowds of people." Our winterbelle queen is also the current president for the class of 2011.

After being announced the Winterbelle Queen, Elise had the rest of the game to enjoy with her friends. As for the rest of the game Contreras said, "I enjoyed it a lot and I normally don't find basketball to be interesting, but I am glad we won." Contreras also confessed the game was hard to focus on with her friends "screaming in her ear."

Sitting in the stands with a radiant red dress and modeling a new royal blue robe, Elise was not easy to miss. Her dress was purchased at a pin up style clothing store name Stop Staring. Her father went along to help her pick her dress and decided, "You're getting that one!" Contreras claims her father chose that dress because it was the least "revealing."

As for returning next year to present the next Winterbell queen Contreras says, "I will definitely come back. I don't plan on leaving California."



El Rancho's Winterbelle Queen being handed a bouquet of white roses from her father.



Michelle Barnes and Maria Colindres, along with their friends, bring the dance alive with their exquisite masquerade masks



Tatiana, Rose, and Lizette Melendrez had a blast at the Masquerade Ball.

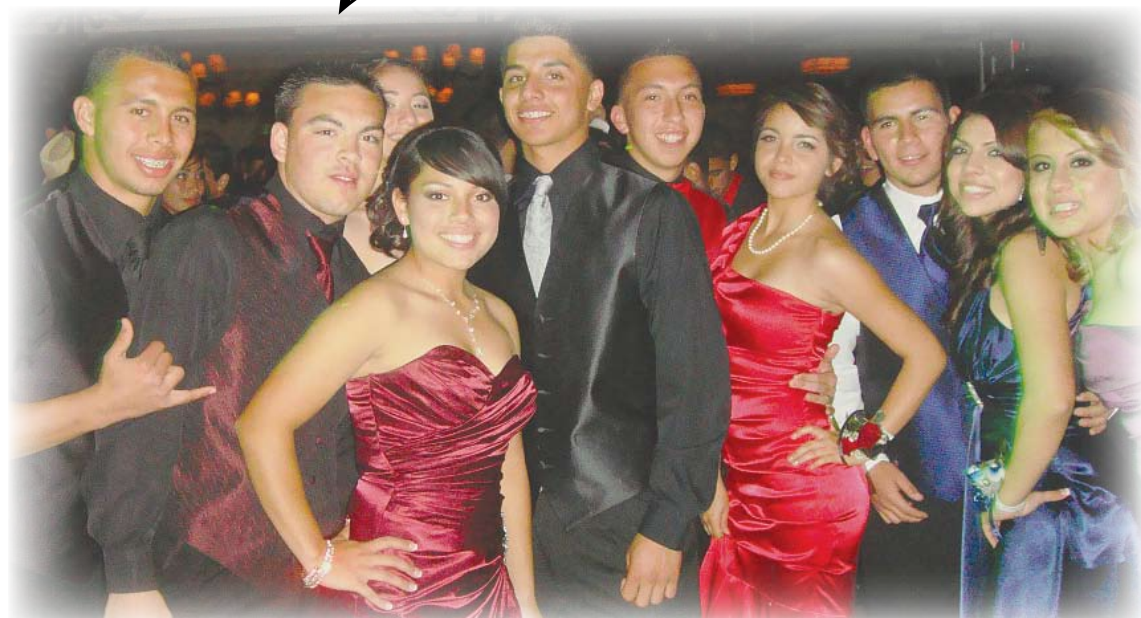


Blanca Barrios and her friends enjoying the masquerade themed dance.



Emma Leal and date Jason Cisneros looking adorable in purple.

Masquerade Ball



From left to right: Jake Garcia, Freddy Garcia, Katie Ortiz, Daniel Moriel, Raymond Herrera, Angelique Gutierrez, Leahny Avena.

