



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 59- Issue 8
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

Lottery Winners Donate Funds for Scholarships

By Karen B. Carrillo
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Gone are the days when a student, deprived of the funds necessary, is unable to go to the college of his or her choice. Lottery winners, Jacki and Gilbert Cisneros, donated \$1.25 million that will serve as scholarships for El Rancho High School's students.

The conference about the altruistic contribution was held in the Little Theater on May 17. Staff members, students, and board members were present during the conference. Frank Alvarez, involved in the Hispanic Scholarship Fund for twenty years, introduced the generous couple, who donated \$1.25 million to create 2,500 available scholarships to students from El Rancho High School. "Our goal is to increase the number of Latinos with a Bachelor's Degree," said Alvarez, "El Rancho has done a great job graduating students, but now it's time to raise the bar."

"It was exciting to give back because a year ago I wouldn't have been able to do that," said Jacki Cisneros. A year ago, their trip to the Hawaiian BBQ Restaurant paid off big time. The Cisneros couple won \$266 million last year in a multi-state lottery and they decided to give back to Pico Rivera. "My whole family is from Pico Rivera. It seemed like the most obvious choice."

"I was very happy with the donation especially since we are in times of budget cuts," said Principal Sam Genis, "this will challenge us as a high school." Mr. Genis hopes to work with the teachers and the counselors to help encourage students to seek further education. "We hope the word gets out, that will become our incentive," he added.



The Cisneros couple discuss the importance of higher education. The couple won \$266 million in the lottery and has generously donated \$1.25 million to be used for scholarships for El Rancho students.

"By 2050, thirty percent of the entire U.S. workforce will be Hispanic," said Alvarez. He continued to say that by 2018, two-thirds of all jobs will require a college degree.

As part of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the organization has donated \$330 million in scholarships and the have given away over 53,000 scholarships. The Hispanic Scholarship has been around for thirty-six years thanks to the generous contribu-

tion from people like Jacki and Gilbert Cisneros. Without donations, the organization would not be able to award scholarships to students who want to go to college. "The number one reason Latinos can't go to school is because they can't afford it," says Alvarez.

The city of Pico Rivera hopes to hold town hall meetings and outreach opportunities to encourage more students to pursue a college education. They also hope parents will encourage and

support their children to go to college. "Pico Rivera, in the future, will be a thriving center for education," said Superintendent Dr. Myrna Rivera Coté, "The goal of Generation First Degree has the potential to become a reality."

The Generation First Degree is a nationwide program that has made Pico Rivera their model community to accomplish their goal. Their goal is to get at least one member of each household to acquire a college degree. The speak-

ers in the conference encouraged more parents to become involved in order to achieve this goal.

Not only have Jackie and Gilbert Cisneros donated \$1.25 million for scholarships, they also plan to contribute to an endowment that will be dedicated to El Rancho's Scholars. The donation is said to last four to five years and the scholarships will be available to the incoming seniors.

Goodbye Charlie Runs This Week in Little Theatre



George Tracy (played by senior; David Hernandez) shows Charlie Sorel (played by senior; Evelyn Menchaca) what women find attractive about him. Also starring seniors Erika Jaime and Juan Olivas, junior, Hazel Flores, and sophomores, Nina Marquez and Andrea Torres, Goodbye Charlie revolves around Charlie, who is mysteriously trapped inside of a woman's body. The play will continue to run tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30pm for ten dollars in the Little Theatre.

INSIDE

Actions Speak Louder Than Words: SJC Rebuttal
Page 2

Osama Bin Laden
Page 2

Simply Irresistible: Osmin Riperto
Page 4

Trendsetters
Page 4

Baseball
Page 7

Entertainment
Page 8



OPINION

When it Comes to Politics, Actions Speak Louder than Words

BY THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CLUB

In the last edition of El Rodeo, a piece appeared in the Opinion section titled: "When it Comes to Politics, Less is More." The author's main point is that students need "to do more" than just raise awareness of social justice issues, and the author cites the Tom's Shoes barefoot day and the Social Justice Club's women's safety campaign as examples of students not doing enough to help the issues of poverty and women's rights. While the author succeeded in being cynical, he failed in getting his facts right.

The article states that "putting up posters to show how disadvantaged women are in our current society is much easier than attempting to have legislation passed that actually helps." Although the author is correct that passing legislation is difficult, he is completely false in his understanding of the Social Justice Club's campaign. Not only did the Club put up posters to raise awareness of women's safety issues, but the Club also hosted a guest speaker from the women's shelter in Whittier who spoke to a room full of students about domestic violence, abusive relationships, and date rape. The club then hosted a Baskin Robbins night to raise money for the shelter.

Much more than just putting up posters, the Club directly helped keep women safe from abuse. Even if only one girl who heard the guest speaker learns how to protect herself from abuse, we believe we've done some good in our society. As a Club, we believe in political action, from raising awareness to raising funds. In fact, raising awareness is often the first step toward creating justice. The author is right that some actions are easier than others, but he missed the biggest point of all—any action (no matter how small) speaks much louder than an article in a school paper. In the words of Mother Teresa: "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."



Sometimes Losing is Winning

BY ALEXIS RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year on American Idol, the talent is on overload. It seems like most of the greater singers have fallen through the cracks, though. Some of the contestants may have been getting the sympathy vote, and others had tone-deaf fans. But that is not my point.

It may seem silly to think this, but the contestants are better off losing the competition. Usually, the winner of Idol releases some cheesy album with the cliché "dimmed light, profile view, holding a guitar, or some sort of 'artsy-fartsy' object" album cover, and then they are never heard from again. With

the exceptions of Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, and—oh what's his name—the rest become one-hit wonders, if that.

Is it because they are forced by contract to put out whatever song the Idol producers tell them to? Or do they really enjoy singing songs that say, "Just like a tattoo, I'll always have you"?

As for me, I would use Idol to stick my foot in the door. I would get my name out there, and go as far as America would let me, just not to far, because I would get stuck in a rut like the rest of the "winners."

Does this strategy seem bogus? Maybe. But rather than being forced to clichés, the singers could be picked up by someone who can

launch their careers, and actually give them a chance at real fame.

There are two paths for the finalists: one being, winning Idol, making a cheesy album, and going back to being a nobody; or making it to the finals and losing, but still being signed by some producer and releasing an album (that one can actually relate to) with the slimmer chance of failure.

Call me bitter, but I hope Haley Reinhart loses since she is my favorite. Not because I want her to fail, but so she won't be forced to release a disappointing album. Her edgy, bluesy voice deserves its own creative and artistic freedom to reveal her true vocal ability to America without the cookie-cutter Idol persona.

Bin Laden's Death Should Be the Beginning of the End

BY DAVID OCHOA
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Osama Bin Laden is dead! There are moments that are memorable, and for the Baby Boomers, it was the Kennedy Assassination. Although Bin Laden's death may not be as remembered, only time will tell. I will remember the first time I heard of his death. I was watching a baseball game with my cousin, Mets vs. Phillies, and I was surprised to hear the news because Osama Bin Laden had not even been on my mind this year, or even this decade.

Switching through all the channels, the news was all the same: Bin Laden had been killed. I then logged on to Facebook as these kids always have something intelligent... Well something interesting to say. The posts were quite ridiculous, and I admit some were funny, but I saw one that went a little like this, "Osama Bin Laden is dead, the end of terrorism?" I could not help but "laugh out loud" as this post came from a college graduate.

For the most part, the post celebrated the death of Bin Laden, and I must say I have never



Osama Bin Laden's death brings justice to America and the rest of the world.

seen the death of a person bring so much happiness. I understand his death brought a lot of closure to many who suffered by this man's actions, but I can not help but feel as if America lost this battle against Bin Laden.

For one, he went out like

a hero. His message was to fight to the death and he did that. I also feel that he wanted to die, as it finally gave him peace, because for the past ten years this "man" has been on the run, being chased every second of the day, by the most powerful govern-

ment in the world. Never staying in the same location two days in a row can take its toll on a man.

For the death of this one man we traded the lives of all the victims of September 11, and the dead and scarred, both physically and mentally, soldiers of the cur-

rent conflict in the Middle East. He destroyed two of the tallest buildings in the world, crashed into the Pentagon, and basically knocked the big bad United States off its rocker. We destroyed a couple of tents out in the desert and in the process spending about a million dollars on each bomb dropped.

We first entered the Middle East in search of Bin Laden, but then, along the way it turned into a mission to liberate Iraq, and a search for their "Weapons of Mass Destruction." Now that we have killed the man, and the mission is complete. We should begin to evacuate troops, but I doubt that this is the case.

The U.S. always needs to have a base in every part of the world, and this is why Bin Laden and many Muslims, despise this country, and other western countries as well. The people of the Middle East do not want any foreign people in their country!

There is much to say about the conflict, the region of the world, the war on terrorism, the death of Bin Laden, and the question of a retaliation, but for now, we can be satisfied in knowing that this "man" is no longer alive to harm innocent people.

OPINION

Work Those Abs-Then Pump up the Brain

By ABEL MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

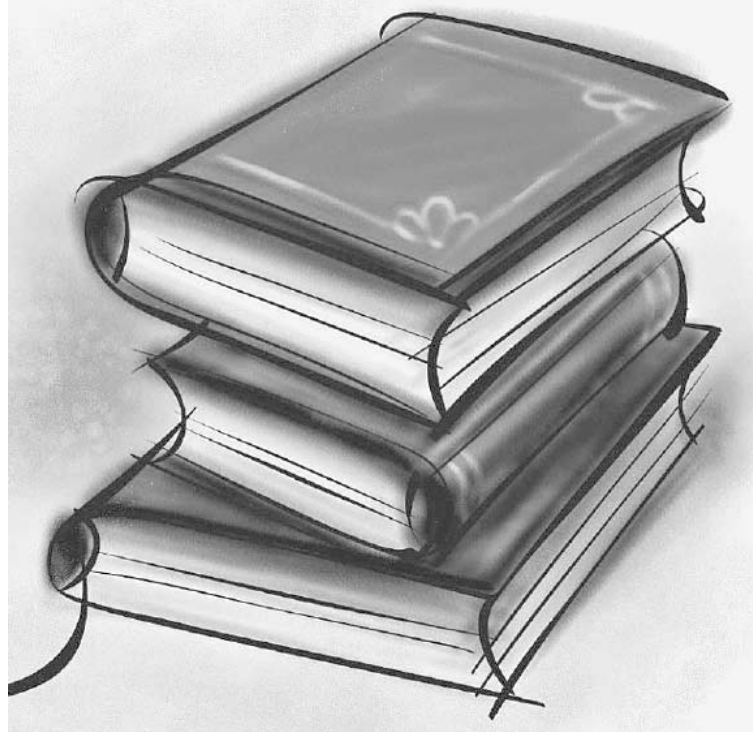
Hitting the gym, pumping iron. Building up or maintaining a well-chiseled physique as a means of appeal is common, as well just wanting to build one's muscles for a sport or even just to be muscular. However, that is just physical exercise. Ever wondered what other kind(s) of exercising is out there? One of them (and brace yourself) is reading. Whether it's a book, nutrition label, magazine article, comic, or newspaper, reading words is the best exercise for your brain, which (in case you didn't know) is quite powerful. Actually, powerful may very well be an understatement when it comes to labeling a brain's prowess, but I'm no brain major, so I'll leave that information to the neuroscientists. Or, you know who else might know just exactly how powerful a brain is? *Someone who reads a lot.* If he were a real person, Edward Nigma (aka The Riddler, one of Batman's most sinister enemies) would be quick to persuade one that "knowledge is power." And just how is knowledge a form of power? Put simply, it is the key to everything.

If you know something, you can do something. If you know how to perform a heart transplant, you can perform a heart transplant (of course you would have to have some practice in dealing with or-

prepared to do so). But reading is such an amazing blessing. For just a second, take your eyes off this article and think about all of the great things that reading allows you to do, and then think about

you realize just how amazing reading is, and then think about how much it can do for you. Any profession you want to get into, reading books on the subject launches you onto the path.

The amount of different things that you can learn is near limitless. However, a sad truth is that you can never know everything in the world (but then again, who am I to say that? *You* could be the first one). Another sad truth may also be that a lot of people nowadays are just off reading books. Like the Internet counts, but nothing is wrong with sitting back and substituting that cold beer or cell phone or television remote with a good old-fashion book. And what's not to get turned on about when it comes to books? The selection is almost innumerable, the different physical forms and appearances are as well, and it's really not that hard. I mean if anything, someone could be classified as lazy if they are just sitting around... *reading a book.* So keep that in mind next time you open up that text message with a flyer for a party or are just bored. Books are cool, and they don't bite.



gans and all that good stuff, but by *reading* the books that provide you the necessary information to learn about the organs, you are better

all of the things that you wouldn't be able to do if you could not read. Take your time, dear reader. Welcome back. I hope

El Rodeo



Advisor
Paul Zeko

Editor-in-Chief
Brianna Morales

Editors

News
Brianna Morales

Opinion
Alexis Ramirez

Features
Naomi Ortega

Sports
Berenice Carrillo

Entertainment
Daniela Aguilar

Reporters
Karen B. Carrillo
Karen L. Carrillo
Sabreena Diaz
Phillip Farias
Mariah Leos
Joshua Magana
Abel Martinez
Jacqueline Martinez
Lizette Melendrez
Jacqueline Monteon
David Ochoa
Rosaura Montes
Yadira Ramos
Patrick Rubalcava

Copy Editor
Karen B. Carrillo
Patrick Rubalcava

Photo Editors
Phillip Farias
Raquel Hernandez

An Open Apology

Dear El Rancho Students,

We want to apologize to those who read the poem, "I Won't Murder You," in the last issue of El Rodeo because it was not our original work. The poem was based off of an actual online profile.

Again, we would like to apologize because we promoted the poem more than once. We are sincerely sorry to: Mrs. Zeko's first period class, Mr. Barnstone, Whittier College, Ms. Chodos, Ms. Oase, PBS, the "Get Lit" poets, El Rancho High School and especially Mrs. Zeko for what we did, and know that we'll never do it again. We hereby own up to what we did and accept the consequences.

Sincerely,
Carolina Gomez
Rebecca Amavizca
Yaritz G. Villarreal
Zane Fray



STAND OUT

On Your College Application
with **SAT Subject Tests™**

- The **only** national college admission tests where **you choose** the subject
- One-hour tests in a variety of subject areas: math, science, literature, history and foreign languages
- Required or recommended by many colleges

This spring, take an SAT Subject Test; next fall, make your college application shine.

Upcoming Test Date: June 4

Learn More, Register and Get Free Practice Tools:
www.SATSubjectTests.org



FEATURES

Simply Irresistible: Thespian, Osmin Riperto

BY PATRICK RUBALCAVA EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

If all the world truly is a stage, as the great poet William Shakespeare wrote, Osmin Riperto is the ideal actor. The vibrant characters he portrays in El Rancho's Little Theater seem to follow him into real life, as he is able to capture audiences beyond the stage.

Osmin's primary activity is Drama. He has been involved in the program for four years. It was as a freshman that Osmin took his first step towards becoming the Mexican George Clooney we all aspire to be, and became a thespian. During his time sporting his gray thespian sweater, Osmin has taken part in a total of four plays. "He has distinguished himself in the Drama department," says the Drama advisor, Mr. Wlasick.

The most striking physical aspects of Osmin are his green eyes and blonde hair. Beyond this, Osmin describes himself as "charming, responsible, funny, and wise." The guy is a modern day Don Juan.

Osmin loves to cook and eat. Osmin's ability to cook partly stems from his participation in the Culinary Arts class. "I can cook," Osmin says, "and not just cup o' noodles and pop tarts." What woman wouldn't be enthralled at the concept of having a nice, home dinner with Osmin? See that young gentleman eating across the table? See that delicious food meticulously prepared in front of you? All 100% Riperto.

Osmin also has a love of music. When he's not stroking his guitar, he listens to The Doors, and calls Jim Morrison his favorite poet. "She's got to love music," says Osmin. "If not, no relationship." When Osmin plucks the strings of his guitar, his woman needs to simultaneously be feeling the plucking of the strings of her heart.

Osmin's ideal woman has long, straight black hair. It's important to Osmin that she not be boring or dull, and can hold a conversation even when he's "being stupid." Though Osmin seeks a woman who will enthrall him, it is vital that she also be intelligent. She must be "well-versed in etiquette" and use "good grammar."

Because of this blend of an interesting personality and elegance, it seems as if Osmin may only be attracted to the average Bond girl. This couldn't be further from the truth, however, as Osmin finds the true beauty in all women.

He recognizes that no one is the same, so rather than having an exact set of criteria, Osmin seeks to discover the greatness in a person.

So if you feel as if you can offer yourself as worthwhile companionship to Osmin, do not hesitate to have a conversation with him. For, I assure you, the witty and interesting man portrayed here is no need of an actor.



CSF Helps Students Attain Their College Dreams



Students in the California Scholarship Federation on the hunt for potential scholarships.

BY JACQUELINE MONTEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The California Scholarship Federation is a club that promotes scholarships and ser-

vice. The club's advisor is Herb Ortiz who can be located in the College and Career Center. The meetings for CSF always take place in room H-2 and they occur every other Thursday.

The club takes part in many fun activities, and the members of the club receive great information on colleges, scholarships, and additional educational opportunities. Some of the fun activi-

ties CSF members participate in are the trick or treat for hunger and Blue Pride Day. They also fund raise for scholarships and field trips. The club goes to visit different colleges. Some of the

colleges that this club has visited are UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton and many more. The club also goes on fun football games. This year they went to the Rose Bowl to watch an exciting UCLA game.

"The field trips are a lot of fun and I really appreciate all the help Mr. Ortiz is with scholarships and organizing field trips to great universities so we can visit them and get the opportunity to get to know more about the school," said senior, Alyssa Salazar, president of the club.

The club focuses on having members that are juniors and seniors to help them get ready for college but everyone is welcome to join. "I joined the club as a sophomore because I wanted to get informed about college and it really helped me stay on track and focused," said senior, Cynthia Gomez, vice president of the club.

Members who meet demanding academic criteria may graduate with the gold cord that is offered only to CSF members. The gold cord is earned by filling out paper at the meetings with your grades. A's and B's count as points in your favor and honors or advanced placement classes really help too. By the time graduation comes along you need a total of twenty points to graduate with the gold cord.

If interested the CSF Club meets every other Thursday in room H-2 during lunch.

FEATURES

Prom Proves to be a Night to Remember!



Prom King, Greg Molina, and Prom Queen, Daniella Lopez, enjoying the moment shortly after winning their crowns.

BY PATRICK RUBALCAVA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

May 7th brought, in the eyes of many, the most important day on the senior calendar. Prom is widely regarded as one of the

greatest rites of passage for the growing adult, and 2011's Prom was definitely a memorable one.

The theme of this year was "A Red Carpet Affair," and the night was lit by the Hollywood-esque enthusiasm from the

dance's attendees. A red carpet greeted them as they entered the dance, and cardboard cut-outs of James Dean and Marilyn Monroe seemed to beckon towards the inevitably enjoyable night to come. Shortly after the beginning

of the event, the nominees for the title of Prom Queen and Prom King were summoned to the center of the dance floor. To even be nominated was an honor, and, as future Prom Queen Daniella Lopez says, she was "inaudible" upon hear-

ing the news of her nomination.

When the winners were announced, Gregg Molina and Daniella Lopez were crowned King and Queen. For Lopez, the title was "an honor" that made her "feel noticed."

The moment was especially potent for Molina, as the title of Prom King may not be handed out next year, making him possibly the last for a very long time. This is largely due to the fact that many male nominees seem to lack interest in winning such titles.

Whether he will be the last King or not, Molina seemed to enjoy his brief time in front of his kingdom.

The festivities continued after the awarding, as students were treated to a dance floor that had large screens at the front to mirror the students' jovial mood. Alongside the dance floor, snacks such as chocolate strawberries stood ready for the hungry dancer.

Outside of the dancing room, card dealers treated students to mock games of blackjack, poker, and even dice.

When the Prom ended at 12, it was sad to see such festivities end, but for many that was just the beginning of a night that will last in memory for a long, long time.

Trendsetters of the Month



Dennis Baesa 11th
Jacket: A hand-me-down from dad
Shirt: Christmas gift
Jeans: Paige Premium
Denim (mom's work)
Shoes: Converse \$20
Glasses: Ray Bans \$180



Daniella Lopez 12th
Shirt: Forever 21 \$15
Cardigan: Macy's \$30
Jeans: Gift
Boots: JC Penny \$25
Necklace: Gift



Krista Hill 10th
Shirt: Gift
Jacket: Forever 21 \$34
Jeans: Cidecca \$20
Shoes: Converse \$20
Necklace: thrift store .50



Lizeth Ascencio 12th
Scarf: Forever 21 \$10
Coat: Forever 21 \$40
Hoodie: Forever 21 \$20
Pants: Anchor Blue \$40



Abel Renteria 10th
Shirt: Dad's gift
Cardigan: H&M \$10
Pants: Levi's \$40
Shoes: Vans \$40
Glasses: Ray Bans \$110

By Yadira Ramos

SPORTS

Boys' Volleyball Reaches C.I.F Playoffs

By DANIELA AGUILAR
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys' volleyball team ends the season with an overall record of 12-6. Their league record was 6-4, placing third in the Del Rio League, and qualifying for CIF. "Qualifying for CIF is one of our goals," says Coach Picon. "It's one of our expectations."

The boys played their first round of CIF last week on Tuesday against Brentwood High, but unfortunately, they lost. One of the setbacks in the game was a lack of focus according to Picon. "It was a disappointing loss," says captain and senior, Michael Gonzalez. "We should have had the game, but I guess we couldn't bring it together toward the end of the game."

Gonzalez says, "We were just too worried about winning and left the fundamentals out of the game." Thomas Jimenez, senior, also says the team could not close the game. "It was just a matter of not being able to finish the game. I mean, we had it right in our hands," says Jimenez. "We didn't capitalize our mistakes and we were giving them too many free points."

Though the team's and Picon's expectations were not



The boys' volleyball team played strong all season, unfortunately they lost in the first round of C.I.F. against Brentwood High.

met, Picon points out the players to be very talented. "I give it to these kids, these kids have been playing volleyball since last year, especially these seniors," says Picon. "They have come in during the sum-

mer and they have worked really hard." Picon expected the boys to play in the finals, or the "show" as she called them. "You could see that they have a lot of potential and then all of a sudden they break down,"

says Picon. "We definitely would have been a good contender for the championship this year," says Jimenez. "It was just tough luck that we couldn't follow through."

With the season over,

Picon is very proud to have coached the team. "I'm very appreciative for this group of seniors," says Picon. "I wish them well. They were great role models and they represented our program very well."

April Athletes of the Month



"I feel honored for being athlete of the month. I've been working hard from sunrise to sunset, and I'm glad it finally paid off"

Sophomore,

Dana Gallegos



"I give it my all to show the younger guys on the team to show what they're capable of. The team is my motivation, they push me to the limit, and I try my best because of them."

Junior,

-Rodrigo Guzman

Lady Dons Softball Team Takes Third in Whittier Christian Tournament



Girls' varsity softball finished their season in league with an overall record of 5-5.

By BRANDON MENDOZA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With a league record of 5-5 and an overall record of 11-15 while standing in 4th place, the softball varsity girls have done well this season.

The team received third place at the Whittier Christian Tournament. They beat Cal High 2-1 last Thursday, even though they only had nine players-making these the two best highlights for this softball season.

"The girls that have done their best this season are: junior Alex Barcenas a short stop has been one of my most consistent players all year long both on offensive and defensive," said Coach Senteno.

"Senior, Katie Ortiz a catcher has been on fire in league with her batting and has thrown every runner in league who has tried to steal on her, freshman Anissa Sanchez a pitcher has been great on the pitching mound as she gained a key win against Cal High and leads with the lowest earned run average, and sophomore Brianna Ramos most improved has been solid with both defense and offense and has one of the highest batting averages in league," added Senteno.

SPORTS

Varsity Baseball Opens C.I.F. Playoffs Today

BY JACQUELINE MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho baseball Team has worked hard all season and it has shown in their league championship. This is the 11th league championship for El Rancho since 2008. The El Rancho boys started off a little rocky with 6 losses in a row but quickly stepped it up and brought it all the way home. "I feel we accomplished one of our goals from the beginning of the season," says senior captain Daniel Moriel, "and now we are one step closer to where we want to be."

The guys also have a different mind set from the beginning of the season. "They're more focused," says coach Llanes. "They have learned how to deal with defeat, and by learning that they can play with more ease." The captains see a difference in their team. "We came together as a family," says senior Richard Rios, "and we stopped worrying about winning and losing." Even with a league



Boys' varsity baseball team gave it their all this season and stayed together as team. This is El Rancho's 11th league championship since 2008.

win, their mindset has stayed consistent. "They're working hard and trying to stay focused," says coach Llanes

But every team has things to work on, and the El Rancho guys know what they need to do. "There's a lot of things that can still be improved," says senior Leonardo De La Rosa, "but what we concentrate on is becoming better teammates

for each other." Coach Llanes feels like the little details to work on, such as their ability to play catch, to hit defensively with two strikes on the board, and bunting are of the utmost importance. "But overall, we're doing pretty good so far," says De La Rosa.

With all the achievements, the team has done together, there are players that

have been very consistent and who have even won games for the team. Such players are center fielder Sammy Medina, with over .400 batting average, as well as Nick Vasquez, right fielder and 3rd baseman, and Kevin Rodriguez who has helped win some games defensively.

With a C.I.F. game in their future the El Rancho boys

are keeping their heads held high and their minds focused on one thing. "We're taking things one game at a time," says coach Llanes. "Nothing else exists except Friday." The Dons have so much to look forward to and so much on the line. "I'm expecting a different atmosphere," says Moriel. "It's not a regular game, its win or go home." And the boys are definitely looking to win. "I'm just expecting the whole team to play hard and at their full potential," says De La Rosa. "We have come this far and we can go a lot further."

If there's one thing this team has, it's motivation. There's a lot of high spirits throughout the whole team, from the coaches to the captain. "I'm very confident," says Daniel Moriel "and were going to state." Other team members would agree. These boys have confidence, and as long as they keep up that confidence, they will do very well at Friday's game against Paloma Valley here at El Rancho.

Track Team Dominates League on All Levels

BY JOSHUA MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho track team has an undefeated league record of 5-0, and seventeen athletes went to C.I.F.

The track has been working hard, because the results show their dedication. Not only has the varsity team gone undefeated, but also all levels of track went undefeated.

For C.I.F., El Rancho track went against the best of the best schools because they were placed in the first division. Bailee Henry and Juan Rodriguez almost qualified to go to State. Bailee Henry, a sophomore, competed in the one-mile and two-mile run. She placed sixteenth out forty-five runners in the one-mile run, and she placed twelfth out of thirty-two runners in the two-mile run. Juan Rodriguez is a senior who obtained time of 1:55 in the 800 meter run and overall placed twelfth out of forty-three contestants.

Everyone from the track team acknowledges that they would not have gotten far without leadership. Coach Elliot said, "We have a lot of positive leaders to help support the kids." Blanca Gutierrez, captain, who is a senior competing in the 800-meter run for C.I.F. says, "We could not have done it without the coaches." Some of the ways that the



The track team worked hard and remained undefeated throughout League with an amazing record of 5-0. Seventeen students (pictured above) on the track team qualified to go against the best of schools in C.I.F. and proved they deserved to be there by giving their performance their all.

leaders were great were their vocal, interactive, vigorous, and positive behavior. Coach Elliot confirms these traits by saying, "We have a lot of positive leaders to help support the athletes. Also the leaders lead by good work ethic and by example." Kelvin Conner, who is a sophomore, competing in the 4 x 400 for C.I.F. says, "We have great coaches who are very motivating, who push

us, and who motivate us."

Overall the team has worked long hours, weekends, and grueling mornings in order to get in shape for their C.I.F. match. Coach Elliot said, "They did a fantastic job and the team's hard work paid off with a back to back title."

Hard work is needed in all sports, and track has shown their hard work by example. Juan Rodriguez says,

"To work hard means to dedicate myself to the sport, to never think negatively, to keep myself faithful to the sport, and to never doubt myself."

The competitive nature of the athletes in track that went to C.I.F. drove them to the next level. Pedro Herrera, captain, who is a junior that is competing in the 400 meter run says, "My competitive nature is going to push me to

win." The competitive nature of the athletes go hand in hand with the desire to do the best they can in their event. Kelvin Connor says, "I want to be the best at my event."

To be in track means to have all the characteristics that the C.I.F. runners have. These characteristics challenge the body, but in order to win, one must challenge themselves, to reach the next level.

ENTERTAINMENT

Fleet Foxes Flourish through Struggles

BY ROSAURA MONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Talented Seattle-based folk band, Fleet Foxes, lashed out a new mystifying twelve record album, titled *Helplessness Blues*, on May 3rd.

Helplessness Blues leaned to a darker approach that has captured a new mental state toward the spirits of nature. *Helplessness Blues* clutches a new sense of creation that has taken folk music up to a new level.

The freshly new album title explains the poetic vibe that looms throughout the lyrics, which is about personal struggles. The opening song, "Montezuma," speaks about the importance of life and the acceptance of death.

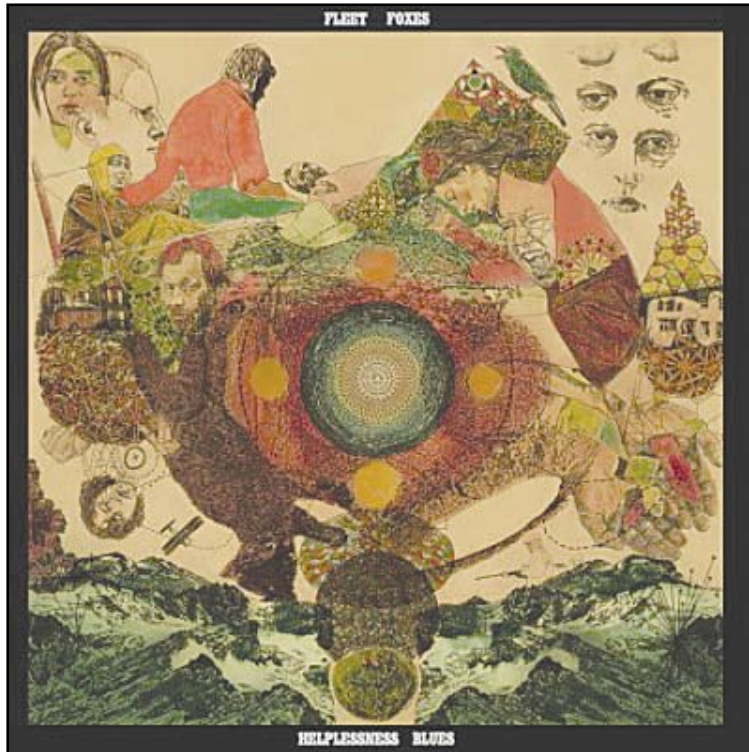
Frontman Robin Pecknold continues to use his echoing male harmonies that send out a chilly sensation.

Triumphant new waves of numbered instruments were introduced including the twelve stringed guitar, wood flute, clarinet, marxophone, Tibetan singing bowls, and the hammered dulcimer.

The marxophone, the Tibetan singing bowls, and the hammered dulcimer were featured in an adventurous three part song, "The Shrine/An Argument," that ended with distorted clarinet playing that sounds like sneezing geese.

The second track, "Bedouin Dress," has a fiddle playing that has a bit of a jazz groove morphed into it. This is a song that will leave one dancing on their toes.

Recording *Helplessness*



Fleet Foxes employ news vibes in their new album "Helplessness Blues."

Blues started on 2009 in upstate New York but most of the work was done in a Seattle studio. Support the Foxes by buying this new album. Don't just listen to their music on YouTube, but buy the album.

The Voice: New Twist on Old Tune

BY MARIAH LEOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Voice, is NBC's newest hit reality show that premiered on April 26.

The series debut garnered 11.775 million viewers making it one of NBC's most popular shows on their network.

The series is part of *The Voice Franchise*, and is based on similar singing competition shows previously aired such as *The Netherlands*, *China*, etc.

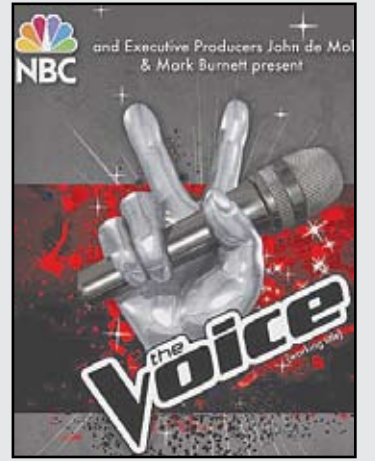
The Voice is hosted by Carson Daly, in which he brings in the contestants for interviews before they perform.

"Young people seem to be so enamored with just becoming famous, *The Voice* takes all of that out. Here, you need skill. You need to be an artist that 'established artists' want to help mold," says Daly commenting on the show.

Grammy Award winner Christina Aguilera, record producer Cee Lo Green, Maroon 5's lead vocalist Adam Levine and country singer Blake Shelton are the judges and vocal coaches.

"I think it's less about being judgmental and more about helping the singers out," says Levine.

The format of the show consists of three phases: blind auditions, battle phase and live performances. While the contestants perform, the judges are not allowed to look at the contestants. They hear the quality of the voice, then



they must choose eight individuals to be on "their team" in which they will help them grow as a performer, and mentor them while going through the competition.

Each week contestants are eliminated until the season finale in which the judges choose the winner. The winner will receive \$100,000 and a recording contract with Universal Republic.

Frenchie Davis, Javier Colon, and Nakia are some of the many hopefuls in the running to win *The Voice*.

The vibe of the show is immediately distinct from *American Idol*. According to all involved, producers of *The Voice* were uninterested in becoming a "second" *Idol*.

"Finding really bad people to make comedy, that's been done over and over. This wasn't an aggressive move against *Idol*," producer says. "I look at it as the football season overlapping with another sports season. We'll take our chances."

You can watch *The Voice* every Tuesday night at 8:00pm on NBC.

Calligraphy "A" with Mrs. Ames

REAL FRIENDSHIP
IS SHOWN
IN TIMES OF TROUBLE,
PROSPERITY
IS FULL OF FRIENDS.

R.W. EMERSON