



El Rodeo



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Seniors Rally for Another NPR Win



Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, Visits E.R.

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Teachers, parents, and countless other advocates for education packed the El Rancho gym to address United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on Tuesday, October 11. Out of all California high schools, Duncan chose to speak at El Rancho at the suggestion of alumnus, Robert Gomez.

The entire assembly, billed as a town hall meeting, revolved around Secretary Duncan and President Obama's new goal for the United States to once again lead the world in college graduates by the year 2020.

There are so many talented, smart young people, many of whom have been here since they have been infants, who are community leaders, gotten great grades, and done all the right things. For them not to have path to go to college makes no sense whatsoever," Duncan said.

Educators and parents came from all over Southern California, from both public and charter schools, to address their questions or concerns to Secretary Duncan. But, to the dismay of most of those in attendance, Duncan only answered about twenty minutes' worth of questions before turning the duration of the meeting over to Secretary of Civil Rights, Russlynn Ali.

Though Ali's credibility and involvement in the Department of Education is on par with Duncan, the audience gathered that night to hear Duncan speak, and so they were less than receptive to Ali. "Secretary Duncan has no respect for the public," called a particularly upset member of the audience in the middle of Ali's discourse.

Students, parents, and teachers posed pertinent questions to both Ali and Duncan throughout the assembly, including the role of school nurses, the need for more extracurricular activities, the effectiveness of teaching to a test, among others.

Perhaps the most important statement Secretary Duncan made during his short stint on stage, however, served to explain the passion with which students and teachers stand for improved quality of education. "Quality of education," he said, "is the civil rights of our generation"



"90's Seniors" show "Beaucoup Blue Pride" in dominating fellow Dons at annual Homecoming Week tradition, the Night Pep Rally. Seniors took the title by cheering the loudest and making great use of humungous television prop showing popular "90's" kids shows.

Gear Up and PREP Turn the "Lights On" after School

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Gear Up held its Lights On After School rally on Thursday October 20, in the El Rancho quad. Lights On was just one of many rallies being held all over the United States to promote the effectiveness and necessity of after school programs.

At the rally, Principal Sam Genis directly addressed every student, parent, and educator in attendance, highlighting the importance of funding for extracurricular activities. These programs, he said, work to keep students involved in school instead of on the streets. Extracurricular activities also help decrease truancy rates, which are already considerably low at El Rancho. Aside from keeping students safe after school, the programs provide students with free tutoring.

Representatives of the city of Pico Rivera were on hand to show their support for both Gear Up and the El Rancho students. "This program is outstanding," said Mayor Pro Tem Bob Archuleta. "These students are part of a very special group that will help them gain success in the future."



State Assemblyman Charles Calderone says that programs like GEAR UP and PREP are preparing today's youth to solve tomorrow's problems.

Other proponents of the Gear Up program firmly believe that it is not only a way of keeping students safe today, but a way to save the economy tomorrow. "The answer to our problems today is the youth of tomorrow," said Assemblyman for the 58th District Charles Calderon. "If we had young adults that are proactive in trying to solve our

country's economic problems, we would have less problems." "I think it's a great opportunity for LEARN to showcase what it does during school and after-school," said Leticia Meza, who worked to coordinate the entire event. But what Meza believes to be "most inspirational is that it's a nationwide event through low income communities."

With Gear Up and LEARN sponsoring rallies like Lights On After School and other successful academic programs, their appeals for continued funding are certainly justified. If the turnout for Lights On is any indication of Gear Up's continued success, the program will be a part of El Rancho high school for a very long time.

OPINION

DREAM Becomes Reality for California

DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dreams can come true... well if you live in California. On October 8, 2011 governor Jerry Brown signed into law the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors). This law gives illegal immigrants ages 18-35 money to attend college starting in 2013. This law will help 2,500 immigrants who have met and exceeded academic requirements. It is essentially financial aid for those who cannot apply for it. This law will help immigrants fulfill their dreams of attending college and improving their lives. This law will not add more debt to the budget as it will use money that we already have.

This great law is "The American Dream". It does not promote breaking the law as many opponents of this bill will say, but in fact it encourages hard work and determination, which is the driving force behind the "American Spirit". It is amazing to believe that many of the students who will receive this financial aid are not even native English speakers, and could not speak a lick of English a few years back.

Those who oppose the bill state that this will hurt the economy because of mass migration and take money from legal residents, but this is false.

This bill will not hurt the economy; it will in fact help it. The bill is at first going to aid 2,500 students beginning in 2013. The bill will use 14.5 million dollars from the Cal Grant budget, a meager one percent of the budget. This law will give people a college education, which is an ever important and essential tool in today's world. It is estimated by 2025 41% of all jobs in California will require a college degree. A high school diploma simply does not cut it anymore. This education will significantly advance the lives of these illegal immigrants, their families, and the people around them. A college education will also encourage and enlighten them to gain legal citizenship. With a great job they will progress and help the economy and not be part of the millions of unemployed and others who do not contribute or pay taxes.

Legal residents were born here, grew up here, and were educated here. If these legal resi-



A little girl holds up a sign in support of the DREAM Act.

dents were "smart" they would have been as determined as the illegals that will benefit from this bill. Legal resident already know how to speak English, they are well aware of the culture, and yet they chose not to take advantage of the great hand they had been dealt. I myself did not realize how fortunate I am, until recently.

I could not imagine myself even finishing high school if I was a non English-speaking immigrant. The students who will be aided by this program not only will graduate, but they will graduate at the top of their class, and hasn't this great country always rewarded those who do well?

"Faceless Generation"

BY RUBEN GONZALIVES, EL RANCHO STUDENT

Who are we? Who are we as a generation?

Were no beatnik, baby boomers, or 1920 Swinger's.

What are we? What do we speak for? What do we stand for?

Who is our cultural icon?

Nowadays, we don't have our JFK's, MLK's and Mohandas Gandhi's to lead us to a better place.

All I see now is.... A "Faceless Generation".

Lead by no one. With cause and awareness throughout the whole world.

Did people forget how to take stand like Rosa Parks?

Did people forget how to fight back like Malcolm X?

What happened to these figures in history?

Did they just become shadows in our society?

I got the answer for y'all.

They aren't gone!

They are embedded in each and every one of us!

These historic figures helped us realize what Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness truly means.

They helped us open our eyes.

We are no longer blind, we now understand.

We are the "Faceless Generation".

We don't need guidance; we are our own leaders.

We are MLK, we are Malcolm X, we are Mohandas Gandhi.

We are everything we dream to be,

We are the "Faceless Generation".



photo from Google

Steve Jobs Meets Untimely Death

BY DAVID OCHOA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Not since Thomas Edison had the world seen such a creative genius like Steve Jobs. His passing earlier this month, at the age of fifty-six, shocked not only the technological community, but the entire globe. Always looking cool, with his trademark black turtle neck and blue jeans, the former Apple CEO not only revolutionized the way we communicate and listen to music, but also the way we live. He impacted us all in a way.

If you own an iPod, iPhone, iPad, Mac, or have used one then Steve Jobs was a part of your life. An idea that seems simple to us had to come from somewhere. It came from this man's creative mind. Without Jobs we would not have any of these inventions. That is difficult to contemplate; life with out an iPod? Jobs not only had a hand in creating these things, but he essentially resurrected Apple. Jobs brought the company out of a slump in the mid 1990s and turned it into the premier brand it is today. I do not own a Mac, iPhone, or iPad, but I do own an iPod and it certainly is one of my most beloved and cherished items

But an iPod is not the most memorable way Jobs affected my life. Many are unaware that Jobs had a stake in the Pixar Company that has produced many classics for Disney. Pixar's first classic was *Toy Story*, which is a movie that is an unforgettable part of my childhood. I hold that film dear in my heart, and I personally thank Jobs for that.

Jobs took LSD, shaved his head and became Buddhist; he was a genuine Baby Boomer. Always encouraging and enlightening Jobs was different from all other big business CEO's. Jobs did not seem arrogant or pompous like other rich people. Jobs appeared approachable and pretty cool. All his billions could not help him in the end. Pancreatic cancer took him too soon.

He is dead, but his inventions, legacy, and ideas will live on in all who strive to be creative and change the world. "Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me. Going to bed at night and saying we've done something wonderful, that's what matters to me."
-Steve Jobs

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FEATURES

Mrs. Leal's Advanced Art Class Takes the Show

BY MICHELLE CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On September 29, 2011, Mrs. Leal's Advanced Art class was invited to the annual Los Angeles Latino Heritage Month Poster Competition Awards Ceremony. The contest theme was 'Celebrating a Culture of Hope and Progress': it was open to all Students k-12 in the L.A. County. Fox Sports and Wells Fargo sponsored the contest. Los Angeles mayor, Antonio R. Villarraigosa, hosted the ceremony, which was held at Plaza De La Raza in Los Angeles. Out of over 1,200 poster entries, three students from Mrs. Leal's class placed First, Best in Show, Third Place and Honorable Mention.

"Three students is a huge accomplishment, especially winning 'Best in Show'. I was excited and proud of my students' work; I was especially proud because they produced such great pieces in such a short amount of time," said Leal.

"The ceremony was long, but worth it for the winners. The mayor was entertaining and it was nice to see my students get recognized in such a big way," said Leal.

This was Mayor Villarraigosa's fifth time hosting the cer-



emony. "Although he was over an hour late, I thought he was charming. He definitely appealed to the audience, especially to the little kids there," Leal said.

It was the entire class's first time at Plaza De La Raza in Los Angeles. This recreation center celebrates Latino Culture through artwork, mostly. "I loved that Plaza De La Raza is very Culture-oriented. The center embraces the arts as well as the Hispanic community," said Lynette Haro.

Lynette Haro, 12th grader, won first place as well as 'Best in Show'. "Winning both first place and 'Best in Show' was overwhelming. I was already excited for the recognition I had, so winning both awards was a great feeling," said Haro, "I entered the contest without any expectations. I felt really confident about my piece, but I was truly surprised when I found out I had won. I was honored by Mayor Villarraigosa and I got recognition from

the media. What I enjoyed the most is that I shared the special moment with my family as well as the El Rancho Advanced Art class." Haro's painting showed "beauty, strength, and the unity of our culture." "My ultimate goal was to portray the value of Latin unity as well as the power of education," explained Haro.

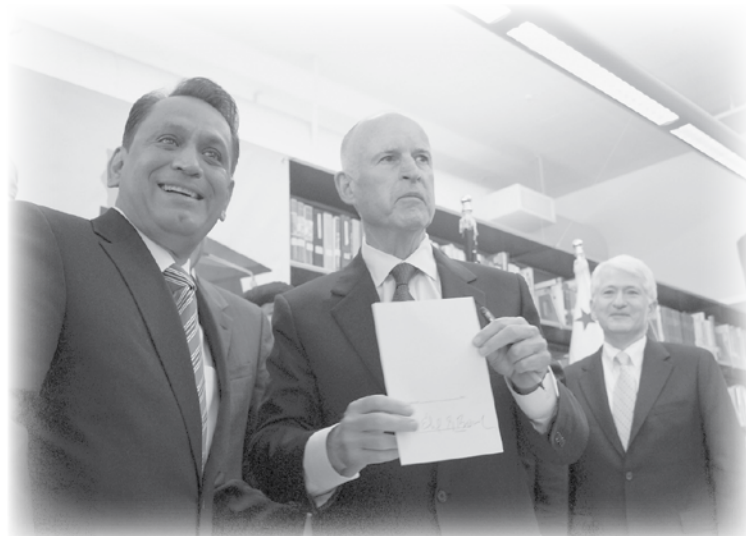
The third place winner was, 12th grader, Diana Carrillo. "I was actually surprised when I won. It was my first time at Plaza

De La Raza; what I liked the most was the different activities they had before the ceremony began."

Let's not forget the 'Honorable Mention' who was, 12th grader, Anthony Rodriguez. "The ceremony was fun. I enjoyed seeing all the different artwork of the other winners," said Rodriguez, "The prize was a trophy and a big bag filled with art supplies."

"Students like gratification. This will definitely boost their confidence," said Leal.

Governor Brown Signs DREAM Act



BY JORDAN MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The California DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act is a package that allows children who were brought to the United States under the age of sixteen, without proper visas/immigration documentation, and who have attended school on a regular basis to obtain financial aid. Those students also must meet in-state tuition and grade point average requirements to apply for these benefits. The Dream Act was proposed in 2006. Five years later, after constant debates and a newly elected governor, Jerry Brown, the bill was finally signed on October 8, 2011. Both houses passed this bill in 2006, 2007, and 2008, but governor Schwarzenegger vetoed it all three times. "2,500 students are qualified to obtain grants," Brown said. Because of this, supporters say it will benefit the economy with a more educated workforce. Furthermore, those

who have been in the country illegally for reasons out of peoples control now have the chance to be the first to go to college. Although people that support it savor this victory, those who oppose it are not going to stop going against it. The opposition says that it should not have been passed without an overhaul of the American immigration rules. They also say that it overlooks entry into the United States without proper documentation, the financial aid offered will attract more illegal immigrants and drain financial aid from legal citizens. They also add that with the tuition hikes and financial troubles colleges suffer will be further strained by the influx of illegal immigrants. Opponents say it would cost the state between twenty-three and forty million dollars. Even with the access to higher education, undocumented graduates would still not be able to work legally in the U.S. The United States will look at California as it wonders if this new bill will work for or against California.

Recipe For November: SnickerDoodles

BY BRIANA RIVERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup of butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 Large eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tap baking soda
- 1 tap salt
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 3 tsp cinnamon

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350
2. Mix butter, 1 cup of sugar and eggs thoroughly in a large bowl.
3. Combine Flour, cream of Tartar, baking soda & salt in a separate bowl.
4. Blend dry ingredients into butter mixture.
5. Chill dough and chill an ungreased cookie sheet for about 10-15 minutes in fridge.
6. Meanwhile mix 3tbl sugar & 3 tsp cinnamon in a small bowl.
7. Scoop 1inch globs of dough into the sugary cinnamon mixture.
8. Coat by gently rolling balls of dough in the sugar mix.
9. Place on chilled ungreased cookie sheet & bake for 10 minutes.

Special Tip From Chef Luna:

If you are tired, instead of drinking so much caffeine try a handful of blueberries. They're full of energy, and they keep you energized and help you get through the day. True fact guys! The berries are like some type of miniature ball of nuclear energy.

Also did you know that apples help you more than you think? Well they really help with your thinking cap guys and prevent dementia from happening. Your brain is not the only one who gets help, but as well as your cardiovascular system. If your wondering how, the nutrients in the apple helps decrease the cholesterol in your blood, strengthening your insides. Even by just eating an apple a day you also prevent lung, colon, and prostate cancer and that's a serious plus right there for the boys.

The last fact that Chef mentioned about this 50-calorie vitamin C savior is that it prevents overweight issues or if anyone is trying to lose weight.

So by all means take the tips. Losing weight, eating better, or a pick u for you early morning risers, the tips work for all.

And apologies to viewers for the last issue on the health tips. Instead do not eat anything before you go to sleep wait till the morning! -Briana Rivera

HOMECOMING WEEK -2011



Sydney Woo takes one for her class.

Krystal Perz and Edith Vazquez prepare for the Runway Show.

Krystal Perez shows her blue pride.

Ms. Oase shows off here blue pride.

Eric Calderon helps in the ASB booth.

Mr. Rojo smiles through the runway show.



Nathaniel Zaragoza and Mr. Ramirez work at the carnival.

Dons enjoy themselves at the carnival.

CAMPUS

El Rancho Students Experience Chivas Soccer, Behind the Scenes

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, October 22, Chivas USA offered an opportunity to three El Rancho students to go on the field and behind the scenes to see what reporters do before games. They were also given free tickets to the game.

Seniors, Pedro Herrera, Jose Arrioja, and sophomore Jorge Arrioja were lucky enough to get the opportunity presented by Chivas USA. Jose Arrioja said, "I thought the game was very interesting and I would do it again."

The game started at 7:30 but the three students got in at 5:30 to begin their tour of the stadium. They first met Julieta Castro, account executive for Chivas USA, who gave them all access passes. Castro said, "I am glad to have students come and see the game from a different perspective."

At the game, the stu-

dents were given a tour by the team blogger, Gabe Dahl, who said it was his first time doing this, but he enjoyed it.

They went in the press box, which is a very serious environment with all the other news reporters and news stations. In the press box you can't cheer for your team because as a reporter you have to stay neutral.

After the press box, Dahl took them to the field, where they saw all the players come out of the locker rooms and warm up. They were close enough to high five the players.

Once the tour ended, they got free tickets thanks to Phil Rojo. They sat next to the "Black Army", Rojo's group. Jorge Arrioja said, "It was different being with the Black Army and actually cheering for the team."

Rojo thinks that El Rancho students can make great reports or work in field, so he offered this



George Arrioja, Jose Arrioja, and Pedro Herrera enjoying themselves at the Chivas USA Game

opportunity to the students. Going to events like these could help you with your future help you

make connections or just give you insight to the world of reporting. Thanks to Rojo El Ran-

cho students have a chance to be ahead of other students.

Teen Court Back in Session



Club advisor Raul Elias and Club President Pedro Herrera talk during teen court meeting

By BRIANA RIVERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On October 3rd City Hall's only teen court was filled with more than one hundred and thirty students and were all prepared for the first case to begin. The first eighteen jurors are chosen and filed into the room for the session to begin. They first case was about a boy who was

arrested for theft along with his girlfriend whom occupied him when they were at the Stone wood mall. His girlfriend was the next case and she was also caught stealing with him. The jury struggled on the decision on how to punish the two defendants for both cases and came out with the verdict that they will have a curfew, community service, and counseling as well as a visitation

to a few high schools about their misdemeanor. Although slow, it was a start for the club and as the months progress the jurors will start becoming more excited for their next cases to come. After much stress over the months El Rancho now has their very own teen court in the school.

Teen Court is now here at our very own school with Mr. Elias as their head advisor and

Pedro Herrera as the club's president. It wasn't so easy in the beginning with the school trying to hold them back when they wanted to bring teen court here at El Rancho. The students had to prove that they had the right to participate within the teen court system but with help from Mr. Elias they were able to convince the school and city council that they can do be jury members. Mr. Elias, who is proud of his students, works hard to prepare Teen Court members for the next hearing.

"It was unfair to Pico that we didn't have [one] so it can lower the crime rate. It's really helped a lot of the students experience about law and jury duty and help them out when they fill out their resumes for college." says Teen Court head adviser Mr. Elias and it has the crime rate has dropped a bit and its slowly making its way down. "You see a totally different face to them; a maturity in them. "Our students prosecute the other individual and it's a fair jury since they are the same age group.", senior student advisor Andy An-

drede says when he recalls about the defendants and jury. Teen court deals a lot with misdemeanors they help the students see how the court works and what you can learn if you pursue a career in law or criminal justice.

Senior Arianna Montez says that she enjoys participating and being a part of the jury and is exploring the field to see if she wants to take a chance in the career. El Rancho's representative of CAYUC (California Association Youth Union Court) Andy Andrede is planning on studying in criminal justice and wants to become a detective after he graduates. Advisers Mr. Meza and Mr. Picon are really enjoying teaching the students about law and helping them chooses their careers within the field.

There is a lot of excitement this year for the club and if anyone is interested in joining, their meetings are on every other Thursday after school 3:15 to 4:30. If you need any more questions you can speak to Mr. Elias in J7.

Wearing a Costume Today? You Can Thank Vania Amezcua!

By ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Student activist senior Vania Amezcua has made it possible for El Rancho students to wear their Halloween costumes to school.

Vania Amezcua decided to take a stand and act for the El Rancho students. She felt a change needed to be made so she took it upon herself to see it through.

With Halloween coming up and El Rancho's no costumes policy, Vania Amezcua was upset, "it's my favorite holiday and I was upset that I wasn't able to dress up last year."

Vania Amezcua felt that this year, being her final year at El Rancho, should be memorable and should be enjoyed not only by her but also by all the students.

To be granted the change Vania Amezcua spoke to Mr. Genis and asked if students could be allowed to wear costumes on Halloween. "Mr. Genis thanked me for coming," said Vania Amezcua. His immediate question was, "what day is Halloween?" He wanted to make sure Halloween landed on a school day. Once confirmed Halloween was on a Monday he proceeded and said yes.

With the question, Mr.



Student Activist, Senior Vania Amezcua

Genis said, "we can't just keep saying no, we have to bend a little bit as long as the whole school is doing good."

Mr. Genis said, "I agreed to allow Halloween costumes

to be worn because students have done a great job with good behavior and cooperation, such as tardy sweeps, cleaning up the trash after lunch, class participation, character

counts, test scores improving and various other reasons."

After receiving Mr. Genis's approval "[Vania] had to work with Mr. Vargas to make sure the dress code was not a problem."

With Mr. Genis's and Mr. Vargas's approval Vania Amezcua was able to successfully bring back Halloween costumes for the El Rancho students. Being allowed to wear costumes this school year should be seen as a reward to the Dons for all the hard work.

"I feel like it's going to be a positive change because it gives the dons an opportunity to show the administration that we can be responsible and trusted with more fun opportunities like this," said Vania Amezcua.

SPORTS

Varsity Tennis Lands Wild Card Spot in CIF Playoffs

By DESTINEE ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Girl's varsity tennis strives to end the season on a high note while the end rapidly approaches on November 1. With a 5-8 overall record, the team is still optimistic about ending the season well.

"In my opinion the team is trying their best to win every match," said varsity captain Lezley Barrientez.

Opponents from La Serna pose the greatest challenge to these girls.

"La Serna has a lot of great players and they have a really good coach," continued Barrientez.

Coach Lippstreu has high hopes for the team this year even though there are only four members of varsity that are returning.

Players such as Joana Ramirez and Erica Ortiz have proven their worthiness of their spots on the varsity team. This is their first year playing with varsity and together they make up the number one doubles team.

Two individuals that have somewhat 'shocked' Coach Lippstreu are Berlin Diaz, senior, and Jasmine Castillo, senior, due to their ability to perform well in two sports.

Both Diaz and Castillo are former volleyball players and despite being quite well at volleyball, they know exactly what to do on the tennis courts.

"They are great utility players and both are on their way to third for singles spots," said coach Lippstreu.

As for singles players, Christina Garcia and Lezley Barrientez are two of the best

but all together the girls of varsity tennis does extremely well.

October 20th, was a day of victory. The team played against Cal High and defeated their top players. This win earned them a spot in CIF as a wild card. They are looking forward to this event.

On November 3, multiple schools will come to El Rancho to compete for individual player medals.

Coach Lippstreu believes that these individual games are much simpler for players to win and succeed. Practice and optimism are two keys for success for this team.

Determination is running high and if the team stays together, it is possible that El Rancho can have more CIF champions to add to the list.



Senior, Diana Carillo battles for a point.

Boy's Water Polo Team Shows Significant Improvement

By JACOB SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Don Water Polo team has a league record of 3-1 under the guidance of Coach Samuel Wright, and Senior Captains Jovan Hernandez and Rodrigo Guzman.

Senior Captains Hernandez and Guzman said that they have improved from last year especially in team chemistry. "The players know what to do and what they are responsible for without us telling them what to do" said the captains.

Coach Wright added, "The major difference this year is that the players have more confidence in their game plans." Wright commented on this season saying, "This is a good season, we



Coach Wright gives Boy's Varsity Water Polo advice during home game.

have more wins than losses." Senior Captain Guzman said Coach Wright is a good

coach for us. He did what he needed to do to get us back on track. Guzman said that he

aims for second place in the Del Rio League this year. He also mentioned that it was Coach

Wright who inspired them to be a better team than last year.

Guzman stated, "I think that the season is going well this year." Guzman stated, "The main difference that I see between this year and last year is that our focus wasn't completely there before."

Senior captain & goalie Hernandez said that this season is one of their better seasons, because of the combination of the coaching staff and captains and because the players know what their role is on the team.

Hernandez said, "This season is going very well, we made quite an improvement" "We placed higher in tournaments than last year," is the major difference that Hernandez noticed this year.

Girl's Varsity Volleyball Team Looks to Finish Strong



Captain Amber Callvivo and team fight for victory.

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The volleyball girls are off to a rocky start. They have a (3-4) record but are coming together and improving.

"We were in a funk," says senior captain, Amber Calvillo "but now we are doing better."

Last year the girls fin-

ished league with a (6-4) record. With most of the season almost over, the team is hoping to finish with the same record and make it to the playoffs.

They are having trouble keeping their heads up during games when things go bad, but they are a close team who motivate each other to keep playing hard. Calvillo says "that is one of the reasons we are a better team than last year." They learn new things about each other everyday. They also have their young talent that has gotten better.

With three games left in the season, their biggest challenge is to finish strong, a challenge the girls believe they can meet. The rest of the season should have exciting results.

Herrera Tackles Role of "The Sports Guy"

By DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After only a little over a month, El Rodeo staff writer Pedro Herrera has already earned the distinction of "The Sports Guy," a title he regards with relish. In fact, Herrera, senior, decided to join the El Rodeo news staff because of his love of all things sports.

In a show of pointed honesty, Herrera explained that, prior to his joining the paper in August, he found the sports section to be lacking in quality. But instead of sitting on the sidelines and chanting for change, Herrera decided to make some changes of his own. "It was so outdated and the stuff they reported about had no importance to the sport," he explained, "I just thought maybe I could do it better. So I just came in to write the sports section."

Like most true athletes, a fiery competitive spirit fuels Herrera's drive for success. "I have a competitive nature. I hate losing," he said. "THAT's why I've been playing sports since I was a little kid."

Herrera singlehandedly tackled the sports section in El Rodeo's first



El Rodeo's lead sports writer, covers it all.

issue of the year, and the experience taught him that he truly feels a passion, not just for playing sports, but for reporting on sports as well. "I like going out, interviewing people, and just finding out what's going on," he said.

When Herrera is not busy covering sports, he is busy participating. Herrera's love of sports goes back to his early childhood. "My dad coached me when I was little in basketball, and he himself was an athlete in high school. He told me to do sports as much as I can as something to enjoy in life."

Herrera took that piece of

parental wisdom to heart, and today he involves himself in as much sport as he can handle. "I run track, I used to play basketball but I stopped to focus on track and get a scholarship."

Already Herrera has received two scholarship offers—one from Soka University and another from UC San Diego. "If the coach tells me to do something, I don't ask why, I just do it."

It is that level of dedication that will lead Pedro Herrera to success, whether it be in athletics, journalism, or beyond.

SPORTS

Spotlight on Bailee Henry, Cross-Country Star



By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

the school and two course records as well, one at Legg Lake and the other at La Mirada. Her goal for cross this year is to make it past CIF prelims.

“If she wants to improve, she needs to start running with the boys,” said track coach, Ray Elliott. Both Wynn and Elliott agree that Bailee can run at the college level. Elliott says, “She will have a phenomenal career at the college level and post-college if she decides to keep running.”

Her family always supports her. They always go to her races and make sure she is doing well in school.

Henry doesn’t believe she is fast; she improved a lot. She works hard on the track but also has a life off of it. She also enjoys singing and playing soccer.

She has received letters from colleges like Pepperdine and MIT. Her dream school would be the University of Chicago, and she wants to major in Bio Chemistry. She believes that school comes first. That is why she is called a “student athlete.” She maintains above a 3.0 GPA. Receiving the athletic scholarship she wants shouldn’t be a problem.

So take a look around the track and you might see Bailee Henry working hard and striving forward to break even more records.

cause of the lack of popularity of track and cross country.

Bailee has been running since she was a freshman. Coach Ty Wynn said, “Bailee always works hard,” and I noticed improvement when Bailee went from running a 22 minute three mile to a 17:55.

Bailee holds the one, two, and three mile time for

Bailee Henry, El Rancho’s cross county and young track star has three school records and has been voted the Whittier Daily News and El Rancho’s athlete last year as a sophomore. Her success isn’t well known be-



Cross-Country Teams Aims for League Title

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Robert Garcia thinks they can run under 15 minutes at league finals.

The record holder, Junior Bailee Henry, who holds the course record at League Finals, leads the girl’s team. Senior team captain Sara Gonzales said, “I know we can make it to CIF, we just hope we can make it to State.” There are a lot of good teams out there we just have to work hard, said Gonzales.

The team is a very close group while they are racing and while they are not running. They enjoy team dinners before race days and just have fun after a big race.

League finals this year is going to be an interesting race. Wynn is confident that his team will have the upper hand after the win at Mt. Sac.

So show your blue pride and go support the team at Legg Lake on Friday November Fourth.

The El Rancho Boys and Girls Cross country team, guys in second place and girls tied for first, are expecting to take first in their next cluster meet and become Del Rio League champs.

Saturday, October 22 showed that they could beat the first place Condors. They took first in the Mt. Sac relays, where Cal Hi took six overall.

Coach Ty Wynn is very confident in his team saying, “They work very hard and they’re experienced which will help meet our goals.” Wynn thinks they can make it all the way to CIF Finals this year, when last year they fell short and got second in league.

On the boys’ side they have a strong duo in Henry Rodriguez and Zachery Mejia, whose teammate

Dons Hope to Get Back on Track at Homecoming Game

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This evening, the Dons will face the Pioneer Titans, expecting to end their two game losing streak.

“Playing during Homecoming is no different from any other game,” says running back, Josh Lopez, “a lot more people show up and it feels great seeing all the support, but I play hard every game.”

There has been a lot of build up to the game starting Monday of Homecoming Week. There has also been a lot of school pride shown during the week with carnivals and games during lunch. The biggest event during Homecoming next to the game is the Night Pep Rally. It is held only once a year and it is always a great time.

The Dons ended the pre-season with a three game win streak, but came to a skid at the start of league by losing to Santa Fe (39-21). Senior starting corner back, Mark Lopez,



#33 (Cameron Valencia), #5 (Ronell Lone), #53 (Rio Valdez) all playing at the La Serna game ending in 31-28.

said, “We made little mistakes, that we shouldn’t have made.”

The following week, El Rancho lost a nail biter to La Serna (31-28). The Dons have

now lost two straight and are tied for fifth with a (0-2) record.

There are still three games left in the season and the Dons hope to “learn

from our two losses and improve enough to make it to playoffs” said Mark Lopez.

After this game, the Dons head to Cal High to

battle the Condors. They finish the season away against Whittier, hoping to have enough victories to advance to the C.I.F. playoffs.

ENTERTAINMENT

Artist of The Month: Mindless Behavior Releases *Mrs. Right*

BY GABBY GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mindless Behavior is a new American pop band formed by four 14-year-old boys who go by Prodigy, Roc Royal, Ray Ray, and Princeton. Their genre is different, combining pop, hip-hop, and R&B to create their own type of music. Their music is redefined to create a "mindless behavior," to which they define as, "an effortless way of thinking that promotes individuality." "If you're confident, you're mindless. If you get good grades in school, you're mindless. If you express yourself, you're mindless," commented the group. "Anybody can be mindless," says Ray Ray, "Be yourself, love who you are and love what you do, no matter what it is. That makes you mindless."

Mindless Behavior is known for their single "My Girl," produced by Walter Millsap. Walter Millsap and Vincent Herbert, who had previously worked with Lady Gaga, Tony Braxton, Beyoncé and Timbaland, put the band together in Los Angeles in 2008. All members are California native, with the exception of Prodigy who is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "We clicked from the first day we met because we all love music and performing. On stage, we all go out," says Princeton. After two years of practicing vocals, dance moves, and their new music, IGA Chairman Jimmy Lovine immediately confirmed a deal with the group.

The band performed an opening act for the tour with the Backstreet Boys and Justin Bieber in 2010, and have previously performed "My Girl" on the Today Show in November 2010. The fans, mostly teenage girls, went



wild when Mindless Behavior hit the stage while touring with The Backstreet Boys and Justin Bieber. Their movement in music is redefining the word 'mindless', and sending a powerful, much needed message to the youth.

The band all together perform very well in dance moves, delivering high levels of energy during their sets, singing, rapping, and dancing with stage presence that could be compared to the bigger pop band artists. Although they are young and just beginning their career, they already assure their music and sound can appeal to the masses, "I think anyone can relate to our songs," said Princeton.

Mindless Behavior has already been touring high schools and opening for sold-out tours. Their effort to move up quickly has been noticed by audiences that already support them. Their first single have been viewed by 14 million on YouTube and has

been nominated for a 2011 "Viewers Choice" BET Award. "Mrs. Right also brings the band to more fans. It landed at number one on BET's 106 Park & Avenue three weeks in a row, has been number one most added song at Urban Radio, and number one most demanded video on music choice. The band has been trying its best to go as far as they can and putting themselves at number two UMG artists behind Lady Gaga.

They have recently been on the Scream Tour along with Diggy, Jacob Latimore, Hamilton Park, and the OMG Girls. Their next show is in Los Angeles, California on November 13th at The Club Nokia. "We give our fans what they want. We can relate to them because we are all kids and we are all having fun," says Ray Ray, "We want them to know we are just like them. We're all mindless 24/7, and they can be too."



21 Remains on Top

MARIAH LEOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At 23, with a platinum-selling debut album and two Grammy's to her name, British singer-song writer Adele is hitting the top of the charts with her fully intimidating talent and highly anticipated second studio album, *21*, which landed in stores and online January 19th, 2011.

There's been an outpour of overwhelming positive critical praise surrounding *21* from various media outlets over the past year and a half.

With her intense lyrical attitude, unrequited love, and heartache, *21* describes the up's and down's of a young and passionate relationship, as well as offering the listener a soulful, and 'jazzy' feel to the equation.

Like a modern day reincarnation of Dusty Springfield, the young UK songstress is a throwback to the legendary voices of yesteryear.

Her voice's quality, technique, depth and sheer power is nothing short of awe-inspiring.

With Adele's album topping the charts in 17 countries in-

cluding the United States and the UK, it automatically earned her a spot in 2012's Guinness Book of World Records as the first album in the U.K to sell three million copies in one calendar year.

The first single, "Rolling in the Deep" reached number one in eight countries including the *Billboard* Hot 100. The song has sold 4.825 million digital copies in the United States alone by August 2011.

That same year, "Rolling in the Deep" also made the most digital download copies of a song ever sold.

Following "Rolling in the Deep," many of Adele's other songs off the album are "Someone like You," "I'll be Waiting," and "Set Fire to the Rain" which were shortly topping the charts in the U.S and U.K.

21 is a gorgeous collection of honest lyricism and winning song craft.

It's an incredibly personal experience, complete with a genuine depth and sincerity that triumphs its predecessor and proves Adele to be even more of a force to be reckoned with than most had probably imagined.

Album of The Month: Lowkey's *Soundtrack to the Struggle*

DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Finally, October 16th brought with it a refreshing departure from the overexposed, artificial hip hop which presently pollutes our precious airwaves. With his second solo album, "Soundtrack to the Struggle," Islamic conscious rapper, Lowkey, utilizes every tool at his disposal--a microphone, as well as a comprehensive knowledge of both the English and Arabic lexicons--to challenge the very foundations upon which Western civilization currently rests.

Lowkey's need to convey a message to the masses immediately sets him apart from countless other artists in the hip hop circuit. Every song on "Soundtrack to the Struggle" contributes to the album's larger thematic picture: one of unity and freedom. Lyrics like "The average person is allergic to the words of wisdom, This is for everyone of Saddam's Kurdish murder victims" force one to take a long, hard look in the mirror and contemplate the truth of Lowkey's pointed accu-

sations. An album that forces its listeners to think? That is, sadly, a most novel concept.

With songs like "Voices of the Voiceless," Lowkey expounds upon his vision of peace with lyrics like, "You might never see me in the charts, but inshallah (God willing) my seed can see peace in Iraq." Anyone who seeks intellectual stimulation from their music library should consider adding Lowkey to their "must listen" list immediately.

But aside from helping build up hip hop's damaged credibility, Lowkey pleases purists of the genre in another respect: he keeps to a creative, yet sophisticated rhyme scheme. Far too often one is liable to hear some untalented "artist" who inexplicably landed himself a record deal compromise what hip hop is in its truest essence, poetry set to a melody.

The aforementioned lucky artist uses no poetry, but instead a loose set of rhythmic lines that hopefully rhyme, sometimes. Lowkey chooses a rhyme scheme and adheres to it, even going so far as to rhyme



Upcoming UK Artist 'Lowkey' is a musician and political activist.

an English word or phrase with an Arabic one, and vice versa. Lowkey positively perpetuates the uniqueness which makes hip hop a true art form, not just glitzy mainstream background noise.

Finally, "Soundtrack to the Struggle" simply offers a fresh perspective. To us, the less cultured Southern California high school students, Islamic traditions, beliefs, and customs appear

strange, almost alien. The album allows us, the more Westernized section of society, to view world events such as the war on terrorism and the September eleventh attacks through an entirely different, unfamiliar lens. With songs like "Terrorist" and "We Will Rise," Lowkey brings together every misconception of the Islamic system of beliefs and, in turn, calls each one into ques-

tion. Powerful lyrics such as "I'm not Anti-America, America is anti-me" sum up the sentiments of an entire cultural force.

But my words cannot do Lowkey's work justice; only Lowkey's words can do Lowkey's work justice. Find this album and others like it. Good, thought-provoking music is out there, we just need to look for it.