



EL RODEO



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Law Day now in session

By DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

All rise for El Rancho's first annual Law Day. El Rancho kicked off its first annual Law Day this past Wednesday. Law Day is, well, a day all about Law, but more specifically it is a day in which members of law enforcement are able to socialize and converse with students interested in pursuing a career in law. Mr. Picon, teacher by day and lawyer by night, said, "The kids have an opportunity to meet with members (of the law)... and have a one on one [talks] with established people from all aspects of law enforcement."

Law Day was set up by the Teen Court Club, PREP Program, and teachers Raul Elias, Ben Meza, and Dominic Picon. Side Coordinator and Prep program member Leticia Meza (no relation to Mr. Meza) spoke of the purpose of Law Day, "The mission is to introduce students to a career in Law." The event commenced with a complementary lunch provided by the PREP Program, and introductions by Government and Law teacher Mr. Meza and principal Sam Genis. They introduced a panel of high ranking law official that featured a probation officer, a judge, a district attorney, and detective Gill Carillo. Carillo, an El Rancho High School graduate, was the lead detective on the famous Richard Ramirez "Night Stalker" case.

The students sat in tables with the members of the panel, rotating after several minutes. This gave the students a rare opportunity to speak with officials they would normally not have a chance to speak with. "The students are getting a lot from various sources. This does not happen to all high school students," said Mr. Meza. He added, "Mr. Picon didn't even meet a judge until Law School." Mr. Picon is a Southwestern Law School graduate. Senior Andres Andrade, who is also the Teen Court Club President and a member of the California Association of Youth Courts, spoke of the occasion, "It gives the students an idea of law, law enforcement, and how it gets done. It gives law a different view in a positive way."

Several member of the panel were El Rancho High School graduates. It was also noted that another alumnus (and former student of Mr. Meza) presented a case in front of the highest court in the land: The Supreme Court. "Marco Martinez, graduated in 1982, argued on a case. The City of Los Angeles v. Alameda Books, Inc, and he won," said Mr. Meza. El Rancho is optimistic about future Law Days. "This is the first annual Law Day, and we want it to continue," said Mr. Meza.

Dons once again host Chinese exchange students



Chinese foreign exchange students got a glimpse at the American educational system and experienced Southern California lifestyle.

DESTINEE ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Students from China visited El Rancho in order to experience the American education system.

This program gave Chinese students the opportunity to travel and view some major American cities.

"We have to make [El Rancho] a diverse community because we don't have too many Asians that attend our high school," said principal Sam Genis.

While at the ranch, the foreign visitors accompanied members of Link Crew and ASB around campus. The shadowing program allowed the foreign exchange stu-

dents to observe the make-up of a typical, American school day.

Many American students do not realize how simple this country's educational system is compared to China's rigorous curriculum. Beginning in second grade, English is taught as a second language and is made a priority. Chinese students' school hours are from about six a.m. to five p.m. Aside from touring various fine educational institutions in the United States, Chinese students view this trip as a well-deserved vacation.

"I miss my home, but America is fun," said Chinese exchange student Yang Xuehao.

Apart from visiting Pico Ri-

vera, cities such as San Francisco, Boston, and New York are on the students' list of places to see and experience in the United States.

This trip is not only a great experience for these Chinese students, but an equally great experience for the students of America who will be able to interact and talk with them.

Just here at this school, many Dons learned much about China and its rich culture while holding conversations with the visitors. This opens the eyes of students at this school, and provides a greater understanding of the world that extends beyond Hispanic heritage.

The brave students who

were willing to take this trip deserve much admiration. They left their homes, families, and friends to come and experience the American way. They are living with strangers and staying in unfamiliar places.

Yang Xuehao hopes that "Americans and the Chinese can develop a deep friendship." And he also thanks the staff of ERHS for the warm welcomes and the wonderful visit.

"One day we can have them [exchange students] here all year long," said Genis. In the meantime we shall cherish the time we have spent with them, and hope that they inspire more students to step out of their comfort zones.

Blue Pride sweeps through the Ranch



David Ramirez, Arlene Rodriguez, Evelyn Ramos, and Krystal Perez distribute snacks to participants.

By GABBY GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Blue Pride Day, a day when volunteer students help teachers beautify their classrooms with new posters, stock new books for the upcoming semester, dispose of unwanted materi-

als, and enhance the appearance of the quad, took place this past Thursday January 19. Many students lent their teachers a helping hand, helping to clean classrooms and to beautify the campus.

"This day the students dedicate themselves to help out and make their classrooms look bet-

ter," said former member of ASB, Alexa Romero. "Since El Rancho is like a second home to us," she said, "It's helpful to make our environment look better."

Blue Pride Day has been a long standing tradition for about seven years now, and teachers as well as students plan to keep

it going for many more. "Blue Pride Day is a good thing. It's a change to the school," said Joseph Peneda, also member of ASB.

This day involves students coming together to contribute to their school. Many students help with this annual tradition because teachers offer incentives, while others simply volunteer to give back to the community.

Many of the teachers also benefit from this day because they can renovate their classroom with new materials. This renovation process gives them a chance to get together with their students and participate in a productive activity to better their classroom environment.

Multiple classrooms need new class books for the semester, or simply new posters for the classrooms. Blue Pride day is a great way to welcome the second semester with open arms.

Whether it was cleaning the halls, bringing books into classrooms, making posters, or picking up trash from the quad and halls, Blue Pride Day has been an outstanding way to contribute to the school.

OPINION

Federal Government backs off on SOPA

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For 24 hours on Wednesday January 18, several popular web sites shut down in protest of the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA). The concentrated effort in cyber space seems to have achieved its goal.

After gaining considerable momentum in November of last year, SOPA--a bill that aimed to bring the hammer down on sites that readily distribute copyrighted material--was dismissed this past Thursday.

It's interesting to note that the bill failed despite being backed by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and various other giants in the entertainment industry.

It's truly frightening when one looks at how close the bill came to passing. The bill put much more legal power in the hands of copyright owners by allowing them to have entire sites brought down for unlawfully disseminating even one piece of their material, without waiting for any kind of response from the accused site.

Unconstitutionality aside, this bill threatened to place too much power on the shoulders of



giants, permitting them to crush little web sites, force search providers to remove "unlawful" sites from results, and compel internet service providers to block sites for paying customers.

But the bill's disagreeableness didn't completely surface until we look at web sites whose main source of content is user-generated like Youtube or DailyMotion. By SOPA logic, if one video that so much as skirts on the fringes of piracy could potentially force the entire site offline. Imagine Youtube being taken down because of one disagreeable music video or sports play.

Users who share videos

with friends on social networks like Twitter and Facebook would have not only jeopardized their social media presence, but the web site's integrity as well.

Imagine Facebook being shut down because of one funny dancing cat video that was set to copyrighted music. If SOPA were to have gone into action, this could have very well been within the realm of possibility.

Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) of 1998, studios whose material is being unlawfully used on sites are required to write a letter requesting the removal of each illegal piece of content. Now

that SOPA has been put out to pasture, Congress should focus their efforts on reforming the DMCA bill already in place.

There needs to be a compromise of power in regard to what the entertainment industry can and cannot do to protect its intellectual property. Instead of the ability to kick entire sites offline, companies should instead have the power to only disable the accounts of users who violate copyright laws.

If more web sites implemented advanced monitoring of IP addresses, illegal users would have to undergo a much more complicated process to create accounts.

The issue that shutting down small web site after small web site is that with every one site that gets booted off the super information highway, another three appear to take its place.

These little illegal sites are like the cockroaches of the cyber world. On January 19, authorities seized and shut down file sharing site megaupload.com.

By the time you read this article a dozen alternatives have probably risen to prominence.

The sad truth is that no policy will ever completely reduce piracy. As technology evolves, so do the people who wish to use tech-

nology for malicious purposes.

The key to combatting cyber pirates is for the policymakers to evolve just as rapidly, but that's not happening now. A majority of our policymakers have little to no understanding of the true power of the internet.

It must be frustratingly difficult to regulate something you don't understand, especially to those who actually do understand. Unfortunately, until our policymakers get wise to the constantly changing technological landscape, piracy will still plague the internet; it will still run rampant on the internet; and it will keep its stranglehold on the entertainment industry.

Internet users should not rejoice just because SOPA failed to come to fruition. This bill--despite being an unconstitutional threat to technologically advanced Americans--had a very high likelihood of passing. The next bill might be the bill that cripples the internet forever.

Gay history to be added to school curriculum

BY DESTINEE ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A new year brings new laws including a bill that requires schools to incorporate the history and contributions of ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, and the most controversial part of the law, homosexual and transgender Americans.

"This is definitely a step forward, and I'm hopeful that other states will follow," said California senator Mark Leno, who sponsored the bill. "We are failing our students when we don't teach them about the broad diversity of human experience," continued Leno.

According to the California Department of Education, the lessons that the bill SB 48 requires are to take place in history and social science classes in grades that range from elementary through high school.

"There are no immediate changes in the classroom or curriculum," said Leno. "It will be a discussion at the district level on how we want to roll this out."

This bill will hopefully aid the decrease of homosexual discrimination. It will show that homosexuals are regular people that are capable of extraordinary accomplishments just as heterosexuals are.

Many who oppose the bill claim that the law will only bring new financial costs to the education system. However, the use of textbooks is not needed so teachers will not have to wait for them to begin lessons. Noth-



Children in a classroom. Image provided by Google.

ing stops schools from adopting new learning materials sooner.

The passing of the bill, as mentioned previously, is to aid students in the realization that there is nothing wrong with persons of the homosexual and transgender status.

With suicide of gay Americans increasing daily, a step was needed in order to help. The negativity towards gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals begins at the root of a person's upbringing.

Hopefully this new content will open the eyes of the students and they will have their own opinion on homosexuals that their parents will not be able to control.

Figures such as Harvey Milk will be discussed. Milk

was the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California during an era when homosexuality was widely regarded as a mental illness.

He sponsored antidiscrimination legislation and fought against the Briggs Initiative, an attempt to prohibit gays and lesbians from working as teachers in California schools.

Another historic homosexual figure was Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steubren. Steubren was an inspector general and major general of the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

He taught the essentials of military drills, tactics and disciplines. It is highly likely that America would not be what it is today without Steubren.

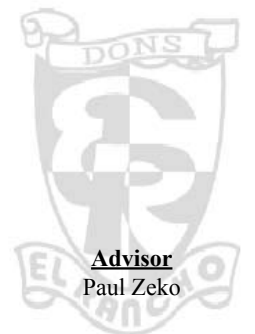
Milk and Steubren, both homosexual, had reached major achievements. Students should be allowed to learn of these individuals accomplishments along with their sexuality.

Parents complain that children will be exposed to "sex" at inappropriate age due to this bill. This is false since the issues of intercourse will not be discussed.

Individuals should see the variety of people there are in this world. One type of person should not be discriminated because of their looks and sexuality.

Racism is a factor that has not diminished. Discrimination against a persons sexuality with never fully fade. As time goes on, there will be a greater tolerance and the world could be a place with decreased amount of hate.

El Rodeo



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OPINION

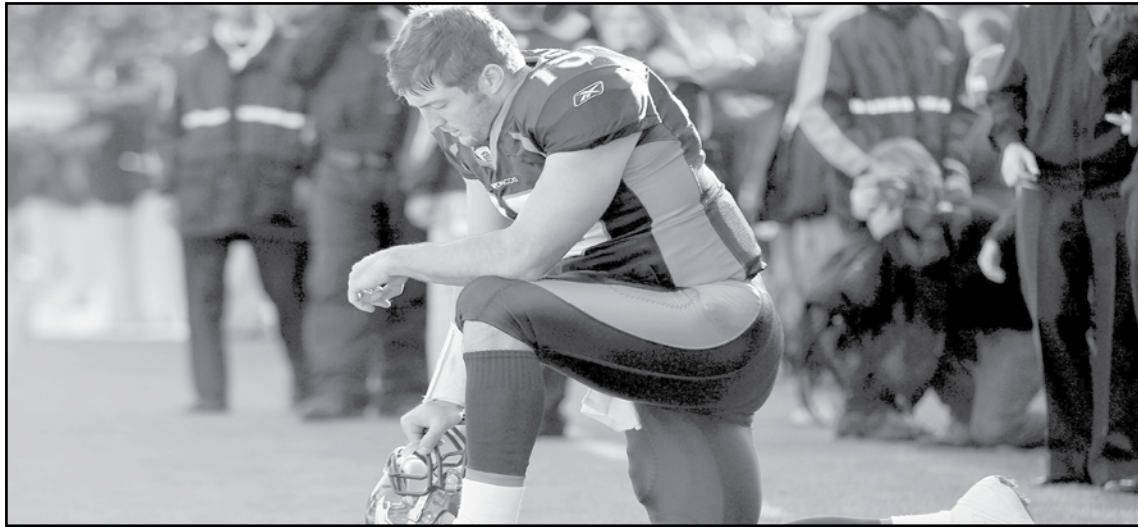
“Tebow-Mania” sweeps the nation!

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Tim Tebow strikes a dagger in the heart of America, as Tebow fever sweeps not only football fans, but also the entire nation. The magical quarterback surprisingly led the Denver Broncos into the playoffs, and gave the team an opportunity to play for the Lombardi Trophy this February. Denver defeated the former AFC Champion Pittsburgh Steelers, 29-23; in another “miracle” overtime conquest.

The Broncos’ toughest task proved to be against the three time champion New England Patriots led by “Terrific” Tom Brady, a team that snapped their six game winning streak earlier this season. The AFC Champion Patriots annihilated Denver in the divisional playoff game 45-10.

Tebow first started a game this season in Miami against the Dolphins, a team that was favored to win, and was winning 15-0 midway through the fourth quarter when Tebow turned on the magic switch and scored fifteen points in the final three minutes of the game! Tebow then guided Denver down the field and set up Matt Prater for the game winning



Tebow bows and prays in hope that all goes well during a game.

field goal in overtime. Tebow Time had officially clocked in.

After a loss to the Detroit Lions the following week, something amazing happened: the Broncos won six games in a row! Winning six games in a row has been done before in professional football, but it was the manner in which these games were won that is so miraculous. These games almost felt like a Hollywood film, because it was certainly did not feel like real life. Tebow would be absent for three quarters, then when the fourth quarter rolled around he would turn into something else. Tebow would make the big play

and the opponent would always make a crucial mistake. Then the game would be decided in the last two minutes or in overtime with the Broncos coming out on top.

I mean how does a guy win a game when he only completes two passes? It was ludicrous that he was not playing well at all, yet he was still winning. It was a bit frustrating watching Tebow win because I always thought in order to win a great quarterback was needed and Tebow, at first, did not possess any traits of a good quarterback.

These victories were well deserved, but it feels as if some other super power or be-

ing was assisting Tebow in his miraculous comebacks. It is as if Tebow had God on his side for these victories. Tebow is not shy when it comes to expressing his Christian faith, but this; this was too strange. Did Tebow really have God on his side? Tebow ended up losing the final three games of the season, and those losses gave Denver a record of 8-8, yet they still made the playoffs. How else could these victories and playoff both be explained?

The answer to that is Tebow is hard working, humble, and he is a good guy. Tebow does what ever it takes to win, no matter what. He may not throw for three

hundred yards and three touchdowns, but he does accomplish the most important thing: victory. He is not afraid to run down the field and collide with linebackers, and defensive linemen; he often runs them over. Tebow makes the clutch plays and does not get rattled or intimidated by opponents. He also gives credit to the entire team and does not brag about himself, and credit is due to the Bronco defense, which has been amazing and has put them in the position they are in now. The division was also weak and unable to keep up with Denver.

Tebow mania has certainly become a phenomenon and has given birth to people posing, for photographs, doing “The Tebow”. Tim Tebow is a good person and I enjoy sitting back and watching in awe as he pulls off miracles and shuts up his many doubters, but I am a Raider fan and detest the rival Denver Broncos, so the loss to the Patriots was bittersweet. I was glad the Broncos lost, but a bit melancholy to see Tebow lose to New England. Tebow did do one thing this season that the late Oakland Raider owner, Al Davis, used to exclaim: he “Just Win[s] Baby!”

Battle of Los Angeles erupts on the court



BY PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When you think about LA basketball, it’s all about the purple and gold. It’s not even a fair contest because the Clippers and Lakers have been on different levels for the last couple of years, with the latter team always coming out on top.

Well for the first time in six years there is competition in Los Angeles. This inner city rivalry was on shaky legs because of a long lock out. The point of the lock out was to keep small market teams in the mix by helping them keep their all-star players.

That’s why David Stern denied the trade offer between the Lakers and Hornets for Chris Paul. As a result the Clippers had the opportunity to capitalize and acquire Paul for themselves.

As for the Lakers, the biggest change they had was the trade of Lamar Odom to the Dallas Mavericks for nothing in return.

The Lakers still have Kobe who, though not as young as he used to be, is still having 40-point games. He can’t do it all by himself, however, especially in a shorter season.

The Clippers also got Chauncey Billups and Caron Butler to bring their talents to Tinsel Town and join the young all star Blake Griffin.

The Clippers already trumped the Lakers two times, first in a pre-season showdown, 114-95. Then on January 14 (102- 94) but Lakers came on top on January 25 (96-91).

The Lakers are a good team, but they can’t have the same impact as before. They are too old to be able to match up with the young and energetic Clippers. Even though they are young, they still have Billups to provide that important experience edge.

The Clippers also have Blake Griffin, who is bound to cause match up problems now that Odom is gone. But the Lakers’ experience will help them later

in the season and in playoffs; that could be the Clippers’ downfall when it’s time to close out a game.

The shorter season should favor the Clippers because Kobe is always hurt, doesn’t have time to rest, and simply can’t do it all by himself. The Clippers, on the other hand, have youth to play back to back to back games.

There is going to be great competition in LA, even though fans can’t accept the fact that the Clippers might be able to beat the Lakers this year. No matter who wins, it is going to be a great game to watch with all the All-Stars. Los Angeles is in for a great basketball year.

Clippers and Lakers tied the series this season but the Lakers will have the better season. Even though the Clippers have beaten team like the Heat and Mavericks their lack of experience is going to hurt them. Don’t get me wrong it wouldn’t be surprising if the Clippers manage to out do the Lakers this season.



Dream Act or nightmare?

BY CLIFFORD BILLINGTON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Dream Act is a California bill, recently passed by Governor Brown, which states that illegal immigrants can qualify for a college scholarship by meeting certain requirements set forth by the state, such as: claiming temporary residency in the United States and graduating from a comprehensive American high school.

Most teenagers who are born here in the United States have to constantly fight for college opportunities and scholarships. Illegal immigrants should go to college and get an education, but they should not be handed a college scholarship; they should fight for their scholarship just like the rest of us. They should present their high school transcripts to the scholarship board along with a personal essay explaining why they deserve the scholarship, just like the rest of us. The Dream Act makes it a lot harder for regular American teenagers to get into college and earn a higher education for themselves.

If illegal immigrants want to go to college, they should receive some sort of aid, but not the kind that takes away from the

teens that have worked tirelessly to earn their college opportunities. Like everybody else, illegal immigrants deserve a chance at a higher education, but what they don’t deserve is a handout. Nobody should be entitled to a handout.

From the first grade onward, students who are born here constantly compete for scholarships. Illegal immigrants should not be allowed to get a free education in college without earning that free education first.

Our governor shouldn’t have signed this act because it takes away from students who actually earn and compete for their college money. This act basically gives away a comprehensive education to illegal immigrants who did not have to work for their place in college. Again, everyone deserves a college education, but a college education should not be handed out to those who didn’t work for it. The Dream Act should be taken for the books and rewritten so that it gives everyone a chance, from the hard working American student to the equally deserving illegal immigrant student who wants a better and brighter future; it should be made into a competition instead of a hand out program.

FEATURES

Pico Park hosts boxing meet and greet

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The city of Pico Rivera hosted a boxing meet and greet this past Saturday January 20 at Pico Park. The event allowed boxing fans of all ages to rub elbows with some of their favorite heavy-handed icons.

"It's a pleasure to be here and enjoy and have a little fun with the public," said Enrique Ornelas, a middle-weight boxer with 10 knockout victories to his name.

Boxing fans run rampant throughout Pico Rivera, and Ornelas appreciates their enthusiasm. "They keep bringing up fights that I don't remember myself," he joked.

Another boxing superstar who thoroughly enjoyed his time with Pico's finest boxing fans was the Thai, undefeated featherweight sensation Walter Sarnoi. "I was a part of this event the first year," Sarnoi said. "It was



The fighters pose for a group picture at the Pico Park boxing meet and greet.

a humbling experience to meet all the fans, sign a lot of autographs, and take a lot of pictures."

Perhaps even more intriguing than the boxers themselves were the droves of fanatics who

came out to show their support. Bryan Washington, a personal trainer who works out of Big Bear, came equipped with a shirt with the intent of collecting as many signatures from his favor-

ites as possible. "I'm looking for as many as I can get," he said, determination clear in his voice.

But the fans on Saturday night proved that boxing isn't just an individual sport; it's something

the whole family can enjoy. One gentleman brought his two kids--one age five and the other age seven--to learn a bit more about the sport. "We've been in the sport for about three years," he said.

The bonds that bring a sports family together are undeniably strong, and with the rigorous training that boxing promotes, boxing families are much more likely to remain united and disciplined.

The second half of the night was devoted to honoring every boxer in attendance that night. Mayor Bob Archuleta was on hand to present each boxer with a certificate of appreciation for all of the sacrifices boxers make every time they go away to training camp or step in the ring. The entire ceremony was humbling to say the least.

There was no shortage of fans or enthusiasm on Saturday night, and with such a warm reception, Pico Rivera is bound to host another boxing meet and greet very soon.

El Rodeo takes a look at the positions of the Republican candidates

	Mitt Romney	Newt Gingrich	Rick Santorum	Ron Paul
Abortion	Believes only in severe cases should a women get an abortion. Says states should take care of abortion.	Signed anti-abortion pledge.	Favors constitutional abortion ban and opposes abortion even in cases of rape.	Says federal government should not have the authority to legalize or ban abortion.
Taxes	No one with income under \$200,000 should be taxed on interest. Cut corporate tax rate. Make Bush-era tax cuts, including for the wealthy, permanent.	Cut taxes for corporations. For personal taxes preserve mortgage interest and charitable deductions.	Proposes zero corporate tax. Opposes any national sales tax.	Eliminate the federal income tax and the IRS.
Economy	Lower taxes, less regulation, balanced budget, more trade deals to spur growth. Approved the 2008 bailout of banks but not those that aided specific companies.	Restrict the Fed's power to set interest rates artificially low.	Spur jobs by eliminating corporate taxes for manufacturers, drill for more oil and gas, and slash regulations.	Return to the gold standard, eliminate the Federal Reserve, let gold and silver be used as legal tender, eliminate most federal regulations.
Education	Supported No Child Left Behind. Doesn't want to shut down the Education Department.	Dramatically shrink the federal Department of Education, get rid of virtually all of its regulations.	Voted for No Child Left Behind law. Wants smaller Education Department but not its elimination.	Abolish the Education Department and end the federal role in education.
Health Care	Work to create a federal health care law modeled after his universal health care achievement in Massachusetts.	Repeal Obama's health care law if Republicans win congressional majorities. Limit medical lawsuits to restrain health care costs and let people in one state buy policies in another.	Would stop the money flowing for the Obama Health Care Bill.	Says doctors should then feel an obligation to treat the needy for free.



Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney



Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.



Former Congressmen (PA) Rick Santorum



Congressmen (TX) Ron Paul.

FEATURES

Art gives hope to less fortunate children

BY MICHELLE CHAVEZ,
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Everywhere around the world people are trying to make a difference for those in need. Anywhere from food to shelter, there are hundreds of organizations dedicated to making a difference in people's lives. There is a specific and unique organization called The Memory Project, which Mrs. Leal's advanced art class is contributing to.

The Memory Project is a nonprofit organization in which art students create portraits, such as drawings or paintings, for orphan children and teenagers all around the world who are underprivileged and have been neglected. Ben Shumaker, a college graduate of the University of Wisconsin, developed the project in 2004.

"This project is special because it forces students to think about others and other kid's environment and circumstances," said Leal. In a way, this project helps the students commit to a task without quitting because they now have some-



Orphans show off portraits of themselves as part of memory project.

one who is depending on them.

Shumaker mailed photographs of several orphans to Leal's art class and from then on her art students have been working on their orphan's portrait. When the students are finished, they attach a small photo of themselves on the

back so that the orphan can see the student who drew them; this makes the experience a whole lot more personal and meaningful. "I'm hoping this project makes them feel a connection to these orphans. I also like that my students are using their talents for such

a charitable cause," said Leal.

Usually these orphans have nothing to call their own. They do not own any personal things because they cannot afford anything. It is hard for them to have a stable belonging since they are constantly moving

from foster care to foster care.

When a child receives their portrait made from another student, they feel extremely excited because they have something to call their own. Having the portrait boosts their self-confidence. Another plus to this project is that it inspires global friendship and a sense of care within the community.

Mrs. Leal and her students warmly thank Principal Sam Genis, who is personally paying for the portraits to be shipped to Shumaker. "The principal was very generous to pay the processing charge for this project. My students were prepared to fund raise, but his generosity allowed my students to devote more time to their orphan's portrait," said Leal.

All together, there have been over 30,000 portraits delivered to Shumaker that were made for kids in 33 countries. This shows how one small act of kindness can lead to a huge movement! "I hope it makes a difference and I hope these orphans know that we thought of them often and wish the best for them," said Leal.

What you don't know about Mr. Hartman

BY GABBY GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Hartman says Senior English Honors is his "baby."

Theodore "Teddy" Hartman has been an English teacher here at El Rancho for the past seven years. Many claim to know how good of a teacher he is or how strong of an attitude he has, but how well do YOU know Hartman? Hartman was born and raised in New Jersey. In high school Hartman was an all-state wrestler and finished his senior year in the nation's top 15. He then attended Columbia University in New York to study English Literature. There he became a tutor in the Upward Bound Program helping high school students learn skills essential to attend college. But what really sparked his interest to become a career teacher was when he taught 7th and 8th grade English at a private school in Connecticut. "I realized that I loved teaching and this is what I wanted to do," said Hartman.

After teaching 7th and 8th grade, he moved to California. He obtained his Masters Degree in Clermont, California, where he received a scholarship for a two-year graduate school. He used this as a full ride to study his inspirational English poet writer Shakespeare and obtain his teaching credential.

After that, Hartman finally became an official teacher here at El Rancho. When he began here, he revived his love of wrestling from his high school years and college, and coached the Dons wrestling team for three years. He also began the Social Justice Club which has been active now for these past seven years. "I think this club works hard; we raise awareness over many issues," said Hartman. He brought recy-

cling to the school to help the environment and also raised money for a Women's Shelter in Whittier. Mr. Hartman has actually been interested in social justice since he was just in middle school. "I started an anti-war protest when I was in 8th grade," said Hartman. "I wanted it to be a big thing to get the news involved but I just got in trouble for that," so he brought his dream in action here to our school.

Another major thing that he initiated is the Senior Honors program last year. "This is my baby," he said, "I believe in honors for kids who push themselves." As part of the Senior Honors program, last year was the first year that students complete a senior project in the history of El Rancho.

If you thought Mr. Hartman was just a regular Senior English teacher, take a look again at the things he has made possible for our school. If more students actually took time to talk to Hartman, they would find out for themselves what a great teacher he is. Hartman is always looking for new ways to help us students prepare for college, and help the Ranch.

Lidongzhe lives El Rancho life for a week

BY BRANDON MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Lidongzhe, otherwise known as "Jerry," was given the chance of a lifetime: to come visit schools in the United States and experience American culture.

For Jerry, growing up in China is neither easy nor difficult. A typical day for Jerry is to attend school from seven a.m to about four or five p.m, and the most exciting part of his day is studying after he has arrived home.

In Chinese culture, it is common for a boy of Jerry's age to focus on his studies until the age of about twenty-eight. Being the only child, he must keep his family's name honorable by attending school and achieving high grades.

While many high school students in the United States have about six classes, Jerry has eight, if not more. He does not go to his teachers; the teachers go to him. "I have about eight teachers on one day, but in a week I have twelve teachers," he said. Most students attending El Rancho would be worn out if they had twelve teachers, but in China this is a normal workload for a student to have.

Normally in the United States there are houses, but in China there are apartments and lofts in the city. In the countryside, where most of the wealthy people live, there are houses.

Jerry, like many of the foreign exchange students, was not born in the city where he is attending school. "I was born in Wu Han, grew up in Shen Zhen, and now I live in Shanghai," he said.

In China a typical meal for a student would be a lot of vegetables with rice. On occasion, if there is not any rice, they eat the vegetables with noodles and dumplings.



Lidongzhe shares his experiences of life in China.

When Jerry was younger, he lived with his uncle on a wild-life reserve in the mountains. (the mountains were not named) While living there, he would usually wake up every morning with a snake beside him. If there was not a snake by him when he woke up there would be a tiger. "One time, my uncle laid me on a lion when I was asleep and when I woke up I said "this is a really soft pillow" and when I turned to see it I saw a lion and ran to my uncle. Thankfully, the animals were always kind."

"Living with my uncle was

probably the most amazing and scary thing in my life," Jerry said.

Now he lives on the twenty second floor in a thirty two floor building in Shanghai. His mom, uncle, cousin, and grandmother live with him. The main reason for that is in their culture, some families live together, like Jerry's. On Jerry's final day of visiting the Ranch, he simply said, "I like this school, and the Pepsi here tastes so much better than the Pepsi back home." Jerry was glad that he could leave an impression and some of his knowledge on students at El Rancho.

CAMPUS

Romantic Novels in the ERHS Library

- **Wuthering Heights*
by: Emily Bronte
- **Guyaholic*
by: Carolyn Mackler
- **Vampire Kisses series*
by: Ellen Schreiber
- **Flipped*
by: Wendelin Van Draanan
- **Stay With Me*
by: Paul Griffin
- **The Sky Is Everywhere*
by: Jandy Nelson
- **The Stories of Eva Luna*
by: Isabelle Allende
- **Rage: A Love Story*
by: Julie Anne Peters
- **Water For Elephants*
by: Sara Gruen
- **Virtuosity*
by: Jessica Martinez
- **Boy Meets Boy*
by: David Levithan
- **Beautiful Creatures series*
by: Garcia & Stohl
- **What Happened to Goodbye?*
by: Sarah Dessen
- **The God of Small Things*
by: Arundhati Roy
- **Heart To Heart*
by: Lurleen McDaniel
- **Real Live Boyfriends*
by: E. Lockhart
- **Will Grayson, Will Grayson*
by: John Green
- **Malinche*
by: Laura Esquivel
- **The Last Song*
by: Nicholas Sparks
- **Chain Reaction*
by: Simone Elkeles
- **Sweethearts*
by: Sara Zarr
- **L8r, g8r*
by: Lauren Myracle
- **Wolves of Mercy Falls series*
by: Maggie Stiefvater
- **Cleopatra's Moon*
by: Vicky Shecter
- **Girlfriend Material*
by: Melissa Kantor
- **Hard Love*
by: Ellen Wittlinger
- **Out of Time series*
by: Caroline Cooney
- **Cures For Heartbreak*
by: Margo Rabb
- **Entr@pment*
by: Michael Spooner
- **What My Mother Doesn't Know*
by: Sonya Sones
- **Getting The Girl*
by: Marcus Zusak
- **You Against Me*
by: Jenny Downham

Entrepreneurs looking to expand club



Brian Perez, senior, and club adviser Mr. Elias review club plans.

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Students interested in the ins and outs of the cut-throat business world need not wait until college to get involved, when all of the resources to get started are on the El Rancho campus.

The Entrepreneur club launched into action this past September with a few of Mr. Elias's most dedicated economics students. Current president of the club, senior Rudy Chinchilla, is proud of his current team and the progress they have made in only a few short months. "The members we have right now are

really devoted to working towards doing everything they can to succeed in this club, to reach the goals that this club has, and to reach their individual goals of starting their own businesses."

But the entrepreneurs are more than just a preparatory club. "We're actually creating a business," said the club's advisor Raul Elias, whose extensive business background in Washington more than speaks for itself. Everything from the way meetings are structured to the creation of various specialized subcommittees, the Entrepreneur club presents an organized, professional environment where prospective

business people can thrive.

The entrepreneurs have already engaged in a litany of activities to raise money in order to fund their growing business. Their main objective, however, is to conclusively prove-by way of social media networking and student receipts--that El Rancho students wield considerable economic influence in the city of Pico Rivera.

The collection of student receipts, Chinchilla says, "is a way to visually show how much the student population here in El Rancho contributes to the economics of Pico Rivera." For this reason, all students who are able should save receipts from their own purchases (not their parents'), and contribute them either to their teachers' collection envelopes, or directly to J 7.

The entrepreneurs are also building a following on Twitter--Erhs_Mad_Money--where they promote businesses specific to Pico Rivera.

On Tuesday January 31, the club held its first general meeting of the semester in J 7, all students that were interested in business attended the event.

Students who devote themselves to the club are "going to have an understanding of business and the qualities that are necessary to run a business," said Elias.

Prospective members should also expect to collaborate on important presentations and events for the city.

President Chinchilla reflected on his favorite moment of the entire entrepreneur experience so far. This past September Chinchilla--along with the Teen Court program coordinated a presentation at City Hall to promote the first of many entrepreneur initiatives. "It was really rewarding to go to the City Hall meeting and to see all the students that attended. It was really great seeing that the students cared about something that was so close to them," Chinchilla said.

The progress this upstart club has made in such a short time is astounding, and the students that were apart of the first meeting of the semester bring great hopes to the club. As Elias put it, the club looks to "increase the level of expectations a student has about life and about success."

El Rancho Robotics Club gears up for competitive mechanical warfare



Robotics Club adviser, Mr. Zook, demonstrates technological techniques that the members can use during a competition.

BY BRIANA RIVERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you ever been interested in building? Have you ever wondered how a robot functions in the first stages of construction? We are all curious at times about what goes on inside a robot. The Robotics club allows students to look into that complex area of building.

The club originally banded together in the 2010-2011 school year with Mr. Morales at the helm, and the club took off from there. Senior Miguel Morales has been in the club for two years now and has been inspired to take a course in the engineering field later in life. "It's funny. I got to meet new people and the club taught me more of how a robot works," Morales said as he and the team be-

gan putting together ideas on how to build the base of the new robot they are to create for their upcoming competition. Citlali Molina, also a senior, likes the club very much as well, and she expresses that it's a hands-on activity.

They both have their own advice for newcomers. "You have to be willing to participate," Molina said while observing how the team measures the base for the robot. "Expect to learn a lot of new and complicated things, and to learn what objects do from our three mentors and the other club members. It's really fun to join in the end," Morales said.

Advisors Mr. Zook and Mr. Halverson both decided to advise the club and have helped the kids in building their robot they will use for the upcoming competition. They have taught them how to program the robot and how to wire it correctly. While the club

works they learn about circuitry and construction. The basic robot takes about five hours to build when working together as a team. The arms and grabber, however, take a couple of weeks, but if you put in a whole day it can be done.

Using sports based rules and basic physics (projectile and torque), combatants launch items into a net for points.

"Building a competitive robot is difficult but is the hardest fun you'll ever have," Zook said. Their lunch meetings are every Monday and Friday, and meetings as well take place after school on Wednesdays and Fridays. Club members also spend Saturdays constructing their complex machine.

Their upcoming competitions begin on February 19th for a Scrimmage game at Harvey Mudd College in Pomona. Go support them!

GSA members participate in "It Gets Better" project

BY BRIANA RIVERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Is it really easier to be in the closet for the rest of your life, lying to everyone you know, or can you just be yourself and avoid the struggles of having society judge you? It becomes even harder for those who are still struggling to come to terms with themselves.

After the suicide rate among gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals increased, it became a serious problem that needed to be addressed. Celebrities, police officers, firefighters, military personnel, students, doctors, and many others all decided to come together and create the "It Gets Better Project." Web sites all over the country have contributed by allowing users to post videos of themselves on Google Chrome,

YouTube, Twitter, and Tumblr.

This month our own students have decided to take part in this project, but with something different from all the other videos that have already been done.

Most "It Gets Better" videos are done by older people, but here it's done by younger people," said Mrs. Segal, who is organizing El Rancho's participation in the project.

In the video the club is not talking about the "it gets better" part, but they touch on the struggles you go through being gay, lesbian, or transgender in a culture full of judgement.

The students are really involved in making this video to help whomever is having a hard time. "I believe it is telling the students to accept each other and not discourage others," GSA Vice-



President Joshua Brambila said.

"I haven't experienced gay bullying myself, but I have seen it happen and I did my best to stop it," Gutierrez said. "I think it does help because it gives kids who are struggling with their sexuality and they get a different perspective with how to deal with their struggle."

This project benefits the club and anyone outside of it. Anyone can make a differ-

ence by sharing their personal experiences with bullying because of sexual preference.

"I just hope that one day the LGBT movement really helps those of us who do not have a voice to "come out" and conquer society," Brambila said while organizing the video. The club does not discriminate against anyone, and if you need somewhere to go and talk, you can go on Thursdays during lunch in L6.

SPORTS

Boys' soccer ranked number one in California

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's soccer team has been ranked number one in the state and number eight in the nation. El Rancho now stands as the last of the major undefeated, or untied programs in California. They hold a record of 20-0 this season.

The Dons, during the beginning of the season, were not expecting or even thinking about going undefeated for so long. It was unexpected because of their tough match ups against teams like Mater Dai and Salesain.

Senior captain, Francisco Lara says, "Things are going great for us, we aren't surprise

that we are doing so well cause we but in a lot of hard work."

Lara leads the team with 26 goals. Lara and the junior captain Cristain Roldan, have been a big part of the team's success.

Head Coach Dominic Picon says, "The kids are doing a good job at staying focused, but they have always been so he is not worried about it."

That is what makes them better. They continue to work hard even though they know they are good. The team just wants to get better. That could be the key to their success; their focus and drive to win.

Picon doesn't pay too much attention to the ranking; he

believes that they could be wrong.

"We can be better than some teams nationally or we aren't as good as the other teams," says coach Picon.

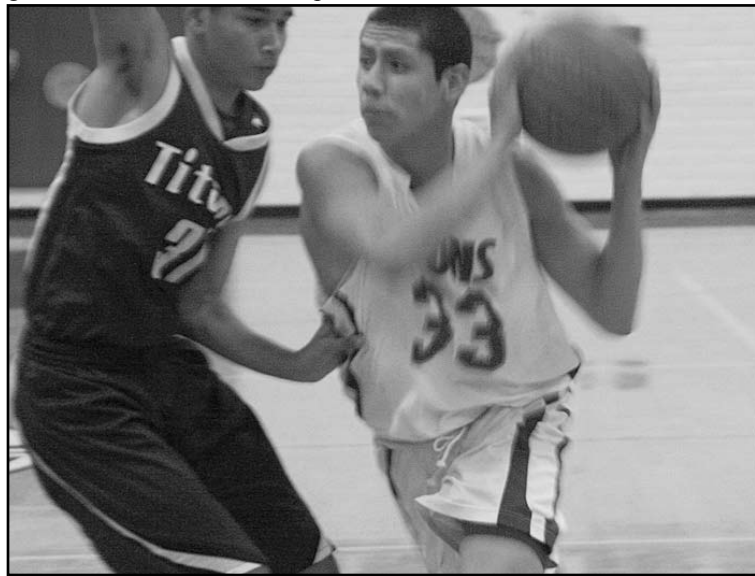
The ranking are decided by people that never see the teams, but just decide by the strength in schedule and their record.

Picon does appreciate the honor and is proud of his kids. It is also a great thing for the school and the community. The community is certainly proud of their local team.

Picon expects his team to win, but who who can blame him? Being the coach of the number one team in the Golden State will surely boost your confidence.



Francisco Lara strikes against Pioneer keeper during an intense game.



Daniel Becerra eludes a Pioneer Titan as he drives to the basket.

Boys' basketball turns attention to strong second half

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy's basketball team starts the first half of season with three wins and two losses. It is a good start, but the boys want to improve.

"We started the season with great intensity and pride," said senior, Cristian Hernandez. Which is a good thing if they want to reach their goal of becoming league champs.

Coach Ray Elliott believes that the boys did a great job following the game plan against

Santa Fe and they controlled the game and tempo against Pioneer. The two wins are a result of great team play and a great performance from Hernandez, who averaged 20 points in both games.

Hernandez says, "We're mentally and physically prepared for every game and as a team we are all on the same page." So it is not surprising that after two losses the team is still focused.

Just because they have a winning record does not mean they cannot improve. Hernandez says, "We have to have good practices and just keep playing hard."

Coach Elliott says, "We need to stop so many mental lapses and stay focused from the beginning of the game to the end of the game."

As for the rest of the season Coach Elliott believes that they should end strong, but that depends on the team's mentality coming towards the end. Hernandez and his teammates expect to win league and make it further in CIF-playoffs then last year.

It looks very good for the team to come out on top. It is just up to them to play to their potential.

Coach May takes over top spot



Casey May returns to former El Rancho Wrestling head coach position.

By JACOB SANCHEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's own Casey May has chosen to continue coaching for Don's wrestling with the intention of taking the program back to the top.

"Mr. Genis asked me if I wanted to take over the program and I felt I still had it in my blood to coach wrestling," May said. May is a very dedicated coach. He spends his free time teaching the young wrestlers different moves and styles.

As a Santa Fe Alumnus, May knows all about the El Rancho Wrestling program, because he has wrestled The Ranch before. May states,

"You know you're in a battle when you came to El Rancho."

Coach May realizes that the El Rancho wrestling program had a deep and rich tradition in the late 1980's and early 1990's. "El Rancho had a dynasty where they competed and beat Santa Fe. They were top dog in our league when they started," May said, and he wants to get this program back up to that level.

Coach May believes that we have the ability to be league champs, as long as the wrestlers put in hard work, come to practices, and get as much mat time as possible.

Getting enough wrestlers to fill the Varsity line-up is one of Coach May's biggest

problems, since we barely lost to La Serna and Cal High because the wrestling team does not have a deep enough line up.

Coach May sees the fire burning in our wrestlers' eyes, and he's not the only one noticing it. Other wrestling coaches have been noticing that El Rancho is coming back to the top.

We are no longer viewed as the "bottom of the league," Coach May said. El Rancho wrestling could easily be 3-0 right now and be tied with Santa Fe wrestling.

Coach May's goal is to get as many wrestlers as he can to C.I.F. Coach May likes where the team is going from a coach's point of view, but he is unable to do this all alone. May is fortunate to have the help of assistant coaches Tyrell Wynn and James Silva.

The wrestling team also has former El rancho attendees that help coach. They volunteer their time to help the program. These people include: Joseph Murillo, Joseph Alvarez, Jimmy Millan, and Johnny Millan.

Coach May is really proud of the alumni coaches who come in and help out, because they do not get paid. They come on their own free time to help the program out.

Coach May is currently working with two of the wrestlers' parents in hopes of developing a booster program for El Rancho wrestling.

Coach May firmly believe that "You aren't given the title of wrestler; you have to earn it!"



Girls' soccer team ponders their next move while awaiting a corner kick.

Girls' soccer looks to kick it into gear

By ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' soccer team has had a drastic change this year due to their new coaching staff, with head coach Richard Coria.

With all the changes that occurred this year the team has pushed through them and come together. "We worked really hard this pre-season, especially because we have a new coach this year and had to work a lot harder to show him what we can do and gain a position on the team," said sophomore, Angelica Gamez.

The team had a very successful pre-season with a record of 6-0-0. However, it wasn't all wins for the team they did have a rough time at the South Torrance Tournament. "We had a frustrating time at the tournament, we did well but

we just couldn't finish the plays," said junior Karla Viramontes.

With the start of season the girls have been very focused and dedicated to the team. They have been practicing a lot and very hard. "We spent almost all of our winter break at school practicing and preparing for season," said junior Elisa Martinez.

The girls' soccer team kicked off the season against Santa Fe at home and was able to hold their ground although they weren't able to get a goal in for the win. They hold a record of 1-3-2. Although the team had a rough beginning they have come together and are motivated to end the season well.

"We have gotten very close this year and enjoy being around each other, we have become like a big family," said senior Shirley Lopez.

ENTERTAINMENT

Now on DVD: *Paranormal Activity 3*

KARINA CERDAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This is it, the movie that explains how the activity all started. The movie begins with Kristi (Sprague Grayden) painting a room for her new baby boy and her husband Daniel (Brian Boland) is recording everything. Then Kristi's sister Katie (Katie Featherston) comes to the house, dropping off a box of old videotapes. As they play the video, we go back to 1988 and we see Katie (Chloe Cserngy) and Kristi (Jessica Tyler Brown) as young girls celebrating Katie's birthday. The rest of their childhood experience is a must witness for yourself.

Director and Producer Oren Peli once again did an amazing job. This movie will get you jumping out of your seat with all the hidden surprises there is. With Akiva Goldsman producing and a script written by Christopher B. Landon, this movie was complete. 84 minutes of pure suspense. Critics say "Last 15 minutes will mess you up for life."

I got lucky on October 18, when I went to the early screening for this movie at the Hollywood Arlight. In my opinion, out of all three *Paranormal Activity* movies, this one has to be the best one. At the beginning of the movie, I already had my hood on and I was curled into a little ball on the movie theater seat. Every surprise got me. This movie had me saying 'oh my God' six times in one sentence. This is the only *Paranormal Activity* movie that did not let me sleep at night. I would

Discover how the activity began.



PARANORMAL 3 ACTIVITY
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

PARANORMALMOVIE.COM
OCTOBER 21

Paranormal Activity 3 is the final installment in the thrilling and suspenseful tale of sisters Kisi and Katie.

lie on my bed, waiting for something to bang on my wall. I recommend everyone go see this movie. If you enjoyed the first two *Paranormal Activity* films, then you will love the third one. It is true like the critics stated, "Last 15 minutes will mess you up for life." It is great.



Rihanna's new album: *Talk that Talk*

MARIAH LEOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Six albums in six years. Say what you want about Rihanna, but that was quite a feat.

One year after releasing *Loud*, the album that gave us Grammy award-winning "Only Girl (In the World)" as well as "What's my Name?" and "S&M," the pop music artist is back with her new and already chart topping album, *Talk that Talk*, which was released in stores and online November 2011.

Rihanna, being only 23-years-old, has been the most consistent pop artist for a remarkable five years in the dog-eat-dog music industry, and has yet to fall behind.

As of December 2011, she became the fastest solo artist in history to have twenty Top 10 singles on the Billboard Hot 100.

Rihanna has sold more than twenty million albums and sixty million singles worldwide. She is also the youngest solo artist in Billboard charts

history to achieve eleven number-one singles on the Hot 100.

Needless to say Rihanna's new and vague album is nothing short of one of the best pop-diva statements.

Some of the more recent and popular songs on *Talk that Talk* are, "We Found Love," "You da One," and "Cockiness."

Some of the featured artists on the album include Jay-Z and Calvin Harris, both of which are co-producers and writers on Rihanna's album.

To all those who know of her track history, it is clear that she remains the most esteemed darling of the music world and beyond.

Talk that Talk is an anthem-heavy album, and is infused with many different types of music, switching from dubstep to techno, and not to mention the occasional slow and intimate tracks on the hit sixth studio album.

Unfailingly, *Talk that Talk* reinforces Rihanna's talent, giving a wider scope of her vocal abilities. You'll be *talking* about it for a long time to come.

Word on the Street

Who do you think will win the super bowl? Why?



"I honestly think the Giants are going to take it because the dopee and Cruz will dance his way into the end zone!" -Cameron Valencia 12th



"I think its going to be a very good game because there both east coast teams but I have a feeling the Giants are going to win. Gooo Giants!" -Lizzie Rodriguez 11th



"Giants, because this is their year and the Giants are going to take that Win!!!!" -Kimberly Garcia 12th



"The Giants because they're freaking BEASTS!!!" -Stephanie Cruz 12th



"The Patriots are going to win because Tom Brady is a better quarterback and has a better defense team." -Joseph Encinas 11th