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EL RODEO



El Rancho High School • Volume 56 • Issue 1 • Friday, September 28, 2007

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Annual College Night Brings out Huge Crowd

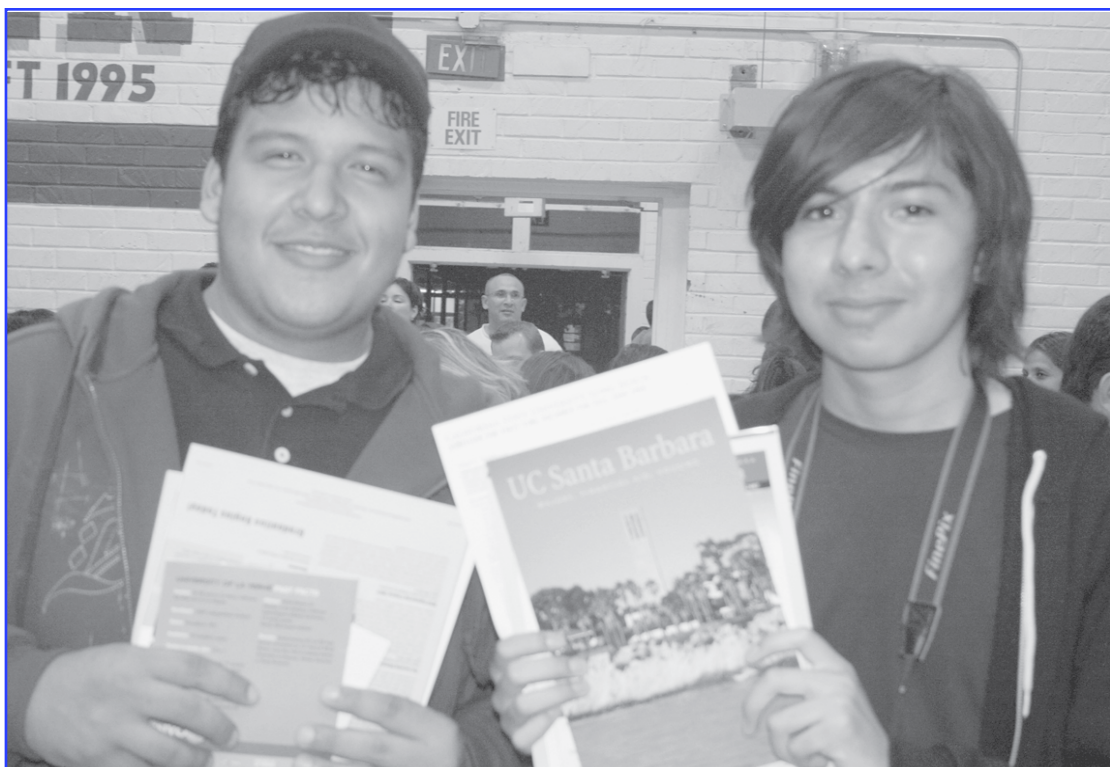
BY SAMANTHA DURON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Over fifty presenters, representing colleges and the military, showed up Wednesday night at El Rancho's Gymnasium for "College Night." Students and parents got the opportunity to talk to representatives of colleges and received helpful information on college acceptances and even financial aid.

"There is a lot of information on colleges, financial aid workshops, special need workshops here tonight," said Mrs. Olga Espinoza, freshmen

counselor, "There are things all over the place." Workshops were held in English and Spanish to create more opportunities for students and parents to be better educated about going to college.

"I'm hoping that my goals for college will be narrowed down," said Senior Kim Mac. "I want to know what qualifications I need to get into college," said Senior Rebecca Barocio, "I also want to find out which schools have a good child development program." Freshmen Teresa La Brecque said, "I want to have better information on how to get to college."



Seniors Aaron Villon and Carlos Garcia get informed about colleges

Senior Nelson Gaspar used college night to "find out about the UC colleges" and to find out where he wants to attend in the 2008 fall semester.

Wednesday night

was all about information, information and more information for students and parents. "We had one of the best turn outs we've had in years," said Mr. Herb Ortiz, College and

Career Counselor, "We had a good turn out with our college representatives as well. Our plan though is to accommodate more space for next year."

Super Size My Test Scores Please

BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's administration lays down the law on off campus lunch privileges. With new requirements to step foot off campus the administration hopes to help students improve both academically and personally. Mrs. Linares, assistant principal of academics said, "Going off campus is a privilege. We're asking for the bare minimum of students: decent test scores, good attendance, and a good GPA." The newest requirement of a 350 or better on the California Standardized Test has been the biggest controversy of the off campus criteria. Students who meet the new criteria also must have a 2.0 on their last report card and no tardies or unexcused absences. The new policy also includes open lunch to sophomores who meet the requirements as well. Students feel that the new policy is hypocritical and that it won't last. Chelsey Morales, a senior said, "The policy does raise the bar to do better, but it doesn't make lunch any easier in the quad. Students and administrators are look-

ing into resolving this problem.

As the new policy is implemented it seems that about 200 students met the off campus criteria. Lunch, however, has seen very little change. Linares and the administration are working to find alternatives to off campus lunch. Linares said, "Half of most kids don't leave because they don't have a car or any money. It isn't a real impact on lunch efficiency. Kids don't like lunch; what we need are better food choices." It is a possibility that outside vendors can supply lunch on El Rancho's campus. Linares said, "It's a decision that's bigger than just our administration. We all agree that outside vendors are a great solution. If other school's can do it why can't we?"

With no resolution at the moment, the administration feels that students need to look into helping improve lunch as well. Morales said, "It would be easier and faster to get food if everyone didn't cut or buy like fifty burritos for all their friends." The new off campus criteria will oblige students to improve. "It's an incentive. We want students to



Mrs. Linares, assistant principal

care about their grades. It's not about just learning the material, it's about being able to say 'I understand what I'm being taught,' " said Linares, "We want to re-emphasize academics. We're not afraid to try something new to get students to improve."

Administrators will uphold the new off campus rules. Any students who did not meet the guidelines of grades or attendance will be able to improve them and apply for off campus lunch next trimester, however, the CST requirement will still stand. Linares said, "Our goal is to raise the bar and push students to that next level."

New Policy at School, Taking Students by Surprise

BY ASHLEY ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A new school year always brings new policies. This year, El Rancho students face an altered electronic policy. The electronic policy states, "All electronic devices (cell phones, radios, CD players, MP3's, Ipods, beepers, and other electronic equipment) are not to be visible, heard or used on campus at anytime (including before school, during class, during lunch, passing period, and after school). Electronic devices will be confiscated." When students received the policy reminder, many were in shock. Students wonder why such a sudden change regarding cell phones, since last year it was not a problem.

During the summer, district personnel and administrators from other schools had a meeting to discuss about a new policy, which would deal with the use of electronics on school campus. Mr. Collings, assistant principal of guidance and discipline, said "that one of the reasons that the cell phones and Ipods are not to be used in school is because stu-



cell phones banned on El Rancho campus

dents tend to cheat with texting or saving it to the Ipod." He also said our school is not the only district that has this policy. Teachers are encouraged not to use their cell phones either, so they can set an example for the students. Mr. Collings says most of the students at El Rancho are following the policy.

A few students have different opinions about the new electronic policy. When junior, Erika Ortiz, found out the new policy, she was in shock. She said "if students obey the new policy maybe next year they would consider using it during school hours." Efrain Martinez, junior said "I thought it was a joke when I found out about the new policy, since almost everyone has a cell phone." However when he saw teachers and deans taking the policy in action, it was no joke. Martinez believes it will not work because there would be no proper place to store confiscated cell phones.

Off-Campus Lunch Standards Need to be Reasonable

BY LORRAINE CANDELAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

New requirements for leaving campus for lunch have been laid out. In order to be eligible sophomores, juniors and seniors must have a 350 or above on the English language portion of the CST, a 2.0 or above during the previous grading period, no ASB fines, less than four tardies and a clean disciplinary record. What if the students are stronger in other subjects but have trouble in English, why should they be deprived? Or what if they are good students with no tardies, who are working to the best of their abilities, why have the academic standards been raised? Why the sudden change of requirements?

Last years juniors were not able to leave campus for lunch because of the following reasons: they do not drive; therefore they will increase their tardies, which was a false accusation and thirty minutes was not long enough for

lunch, however the seniors were able to go out in that same amount of time. And now not only are the juniors being able to go out but the sophomores as well. If the juniors from last year could not go out for the above reasons, how can they not apply this to sophomores?

The administration should keep only the reasonable requirements for example the tardiness and disciplinary record but throw out the other rules. After all the administration created this privilege to lower the number of students on campus during lunch. But with theses higher standards about 185 students are able to leave. El Rancho is a land of forty-four acres made for an amount of 3,000 students. However we have 3,446 attending, which not only means we have more then we should but we have auxiliary amount of students during lunch because of the fact that we are all in one area..."the quad. Hopefully the staff will gain a change in heart and give the students a break and take their thoughts into consideration.

Is Banning Cell Phones Worth All the Controversy?

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Cell phones have been banned from all school hours this year, and everyone's question is why? Well according to administrators, it was an issue that was decided by the school district, and several other teachers from other schools. Many teachers are fed up with the interruptions during class, and are bothered by the fact that students can copy and cheat through text messages. But what does that have to do with, lunch and after school?

This new policy isn't only for students; teachers have also been following it just to show a good example for the students. Surprisingly most of El Rancho high has been cooperating with this new "RULE". The problem that bothers E.R. students is he fact that during lunch and after school we are still unable to use our cell phones until we are outside of the gates. How is this interrupting learning time? As an E.R. student I feel there should be at least one time during the school day when all students can use their cell phones, and lunch would be the best time!

There are many students that disagree about the cell phones pick up day. If a student gets his/her cell phone taken, they are permitted to get it back on any Monday between 3:30 and 4:30. What happens to the student if they are seen with a cell phone on campus on an early weekday? They have to wait until the following Monday to retrieve it with a parent.

Everyone has family emergency's one time or another. Most students don't understand why it

is okay for the faculty to answer theirs. There are some students at the Ranch that have children and need to be able to communicate with their babysitters; or family members in the hospitals. It's understanding that some students use that excuse, but why should that effect everyone else?

Spanish Language: National Role

MARITZA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

About 15% of the U.S. population is of Latino or Hispanic origin. Moreover, the Latino and Hispanic descendants are now the largest minority group in the United States. Monday September 10 was an important day for all of the Spanish-speaking community; it was the first presidential debate ever broadcast in Spanish. The famous debate was televised through Univision, one of the nation's largest Spanish-speaking networks.

Univision's broadcast, done in the University of New Mexico, attracted 2.2 million spectators. The Democratic candidates participating in the event were: Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama, Bill Richardson, Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, and Chris Dodd. Joe Biden, U.S. Senator from Delaware, however, did not

appear because he had recently returned from Iraq.

Throughout the debate, the candidates' main concern was to withdraw the nation's troops from Iraq once and for all. However, the audience's concern was immigration. The seven representatives answered all the questions with their proposals and ideas. The average question per candidate was eight.

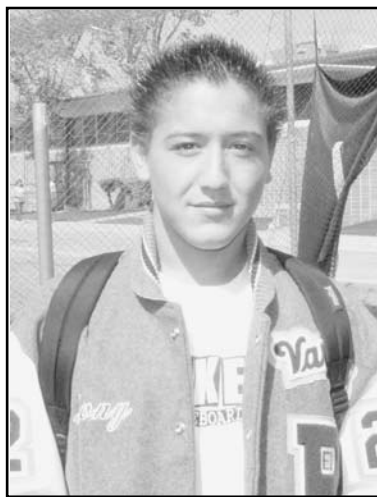
When asked about the Spanish language in America, Kucinich, for example, suggested

Roundup on the Ranch

DON REPORTS ASK: How do you feel about the new requirements for off campus lunch passes?



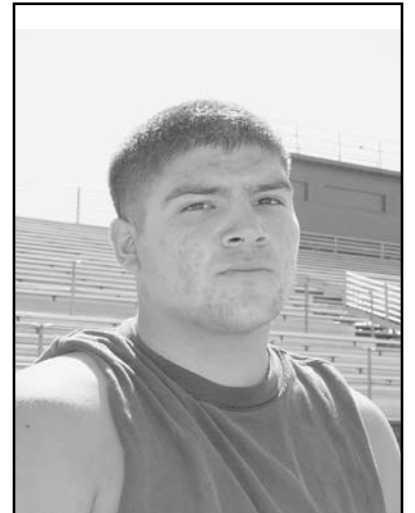
"In my eyes I feel we should be able to with a 200 on English, explained Junior Leo Palomera."



"I don't like the requirements why should only English matter, what if we are better at other subjects, questioned Ju-



"I think having a 350 sucks and it should only be SENIORS, said Senior Nadine Zepeda."



"It's whack how we waited four years to go out and now we don't get to, stated Senior Mario Berny."



that Spanish should become a second national language. Likewise, Dodd said that Americans should take the initiative to learn other languages instead of others learning English. Moreover, Richardson took pride in his Latino heritage because he is the first Latino Democratic candidate to run for president. His father, William Blaine Richardson Jr., is a naturalized American, and his mother Maria Luisa Lopez-Collada Marquez, is

Mexican, and from her derives Richardson's Latino heritage.

This event was crucial to all Latinos and Hispanics because it asserts that the Spanish-speaking population in the United States is becoming more important to the government, both politically and socially. If the American government starts to broadcast more political debates in Spanish, this will facilitate Spanish speakers all over the U.S. and keep them alert and ready for the next voting in 2008.

Sept. 28, 2007

Wlasick Sets Sights on Spanish

BY MARITZA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Drama director and AP English Literature teacher, Mr. Wlasick, is preparing for his yearly trip around the world; this year's stop will be the Spain.

Since 1980, Wlasick has traveled with students from El Rancho High School. From 1980 to 1990, Wlasick organized trips to New York during the Winter break, with the purpose of spending New Year's in Time Square.

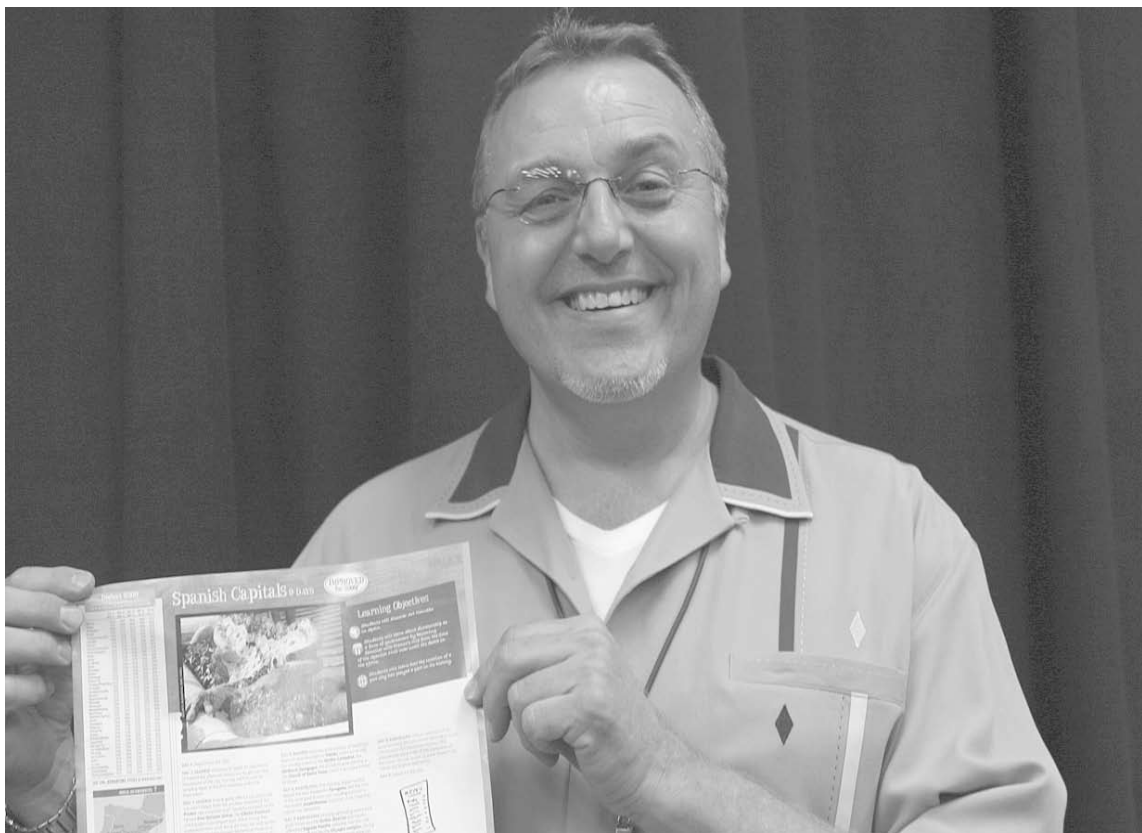
From 1990 to the present, he decided to change course and began to travel to Europe. Some of the tours to the Old World were Paris-London, London alone, Rome-Venice and Greece.

For 2008, Mr. Wlasick is going to Spain. He has never gone there and that is one of the reasons he is going to Spain this upcoming year. The excursion starts on March 22 and ends March 30. The name of the tour is "Spanish Capitals". There are nine days of travel, four in Barcelona, three in Madrid and two days of traveling. Madrid is a historical place,

full of Spain's history and rich with attractions. Because Barcelona is more modern and new, it is visited more often. Wlasick likes to incorporate students in his excursions because, he says, "Their world is Pico Rivera," and he likes to "watch their minds and eyes open to possibilities."

The company that Wlasick has traveled with for over 20 years is ACIS, who specializes in student, educational tours. This company outstands because of its 4 and 5 star hotels, and two meals a day (breakfast and dinner). The price of the tour includes airfare, hotel, two meals a day, buses, subways, museum entrances, and tour guide (who speaks same language as tour and is available 24/7).

Wlasick esteems this company and he adds, "I have traveled with ACIS for over twenty years and I wouldn't travel with anyone else!" Wlasick encourages students to travel in life, no matter with what company or teacher. He also extends an invitation to all students interested in traveling to Spain next year. If you are interested, please talk to Mr. Wlasick in the Little Theatre to make an initial deposit or simply discuss the trip. Don't miss this chance



Mr. Wlasick shows off his ACIS Pamphlet of beautiful Spain at a beautiful price!

New Club Gets "Anime-ted"

BY ANABEL SANTILLAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A club almost unknown last year to the student body is now blooming.

Originally started last year, the anime club had only three members, including the president. Now this year the Anime Club has over 20 active members and is optimistic about having new members join. The club meets every Monday and Wednesday during lunch in room N-2 to watch, read, and discuss anime.

"The Anime Club is more of a social club where students can share their views and their common interests," says club president Alberto Peña, "It's really great because the club is really friendly

and has a very positive attitude."

First time members enjoy lunch in N-2. "I love anime, like a lot! A lot! A lot! A lot!" said freshman Lidia Raya.

Member Nicole Senteno, a sophomore, loves to draw and make her own comics. When teachers recommended her to join the anime club she was really interested. "So far it's been really good, it's very social in here and it's fun because we all get to hang out and bring comics."

For these students, anime is not just cartoons. "There is a great difference between regular cartoons and anime," says Peña. He added that Japanese animation has better graphics and is intended more for teenagers and older audiences, whereas Ameri-

can animation is usually intended for children. Some anime comics represent moralistic values and others teach you things such as the harsh reality of war like in *Grave of the Fireflies*.

"If you don't understand the difference between the two, I'd be happy to give you a walk through," says Peña, "I encourage students to check it out, although of course anime isn't for everybody, but everyone is welcome to join if they want."



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Are You Down with ROP?

BY MARISELA RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you always wanted to learn how to dance, get better at computers, learn medical terminology or have you always wanted to know how to become a police officer?

If you answered yes, then ROP classes might be right for you. ROP (regional occupational program) are career-training programs that will prepare you for a job in the future.

"These classes can give you the necessary skills needed in order to succeed in your chosen profession and also give your the hands on experience," says Ms. Robledo El Rancho's ROP advisor, "The classes are available to all high school students' 14yrs and up." She explains that you may use the class as elec-

tives credits in high school or receive a certificate of completion to take with you to college.

The tuition for these classes is free so it appeals to most students looking for extra credits.

Classes are held every September, February and throughout the summer months. ROP suits almost any schedule.

"The ROP classes usually run from 9-19 weeks depending on the class but all of them provide a great learning experience," says Robledo.

There are many classes still to choose from such as professional dance, forensic science, computer repair, printing careers and many more.

College counselors suggest that any and all extra circular activities are beneficial to college applications. Schools are looking for students with work experience.



Above: Mrs. Robledo, El Rancho's ROP advisor.

If you're a student with decent grades and an have an interest in gaining experience in the work place try an ROP class that interests you.

Whether it's getting ahead of the game by adding a few credits to your transcript or learning a new profession ROP can benefit each and every individual.

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Mr. Genis, ready to take charge of El Rancho, smiles at the camera.

The Don of New Era

BY MARISELA RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"It's a pleasure and honor to be here at El Rancho," says Mr. Sam Genis, El Rancho's new principal. Having been a former El Rancho dean and most recently principal of Burke Middle School, Genis is now well prepared to take on the challenges of high school principal. With his new position comes many new changes for the school. It's obvious that improving El Rancho's academics is the first on his list. Developing new ROP classes and helping more students meet the A- G requirements are only some of the things he plans to improve at El Rancho. Genis "hopes to make a lot of positive changes" and look forward to making the ranch a better school overall.

By now everyone has already heard about the new school policies such as the "electronic rule," but Genis says all these changes are for the best interest of the students and the school. He does, however, plan to make possible many new things that appeal to the students such as longer lunches, but his main goal right now is to keep students focused on education.

Many of El Rancho's faculty, as well as the students, are adjusting to having a new boss running the school. Mrs. Linares, El Rancho's assistant principal, said, "Mr. Genis is a great fit for our school. He knows and loves kids." The buzz around school is that Mr. Genis is doing a great job so far. One particular student noticed that Genis is really interacting with the students. He is not all talk and no action. He is actively enforcing all the rules. Senior Kim Mac said, "Mr. Genis is very nice." Mac also points out that Genis is open to new opinions and that he is a great listener. It is still early in the school year but the general outlook is quite optimistic.

New Deans at Home on the Ranch

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of the school year, El Rancho welcomed two new deans: Ms. Melissa Garcia in charge of the 11th grade, and Mr. Steven Rodriguez of the 9th grade. Although Ms. Garcia and Mr. Rodriguez are both new to El Rancho High School, they are both very familiar with the school district.

Ms. Garcia previously worked as a teacher at Selby Grove Elementary. She taught 1st, 2nd, and 5th grade students for several years until she decided to work with older students. Garcia was then a P.E., English, and Child Development teacher as well as an ASB advisor at Salazar High School for three years. Knowing that being a dean would be a stepping-stone toward her goal of becoming principal encouraged her to take the position.

Garcia's favorite aspect about her job is the fact that she can talk to the students more and get to know them better than she could as a teacher. By being a dean, Garcia does not have to worry about running out of time when talking to the students due to a bell ringing. The students have treated Garcia very well, and she has not had to give out referrals to students, since her 11th grade students have behaved well.

Garcia loves her new job, especially because it is "never the same thing everyday" and "it's a fun job," which makes her want to stay here at El Rancho until she is prepared to become principal.

Like Ms. Garcia, El Rancho graduate Mr. Rodriguez has formerly worked in the school district as a teacher. Rodriguez taught social studies at Rivera Middle School for eight years - three years he taught 7th grade and five years 8th grade.

Rodriguez said, "I tried this new job because this gives another opportunity to serve students," clearly showing that he enjoys working with students. "Seeing [his] old students being successful" is what Rodriguez mostly likes about his job. The students have treated Rodriguez well which makes him say, "The students are awesome," even though he gets many students in his office daily.

Rodriguez likes his job because there are new things everyday, which keep it all interesting. Because there is "so much to learn here [and he is] so excited to be here," Rodriguez looks forward to working here at El Rancho for quite a long time.



Ms. Garcia, 11th grade dean, in her office, poses for the camera.



Mr. Rodriguez, 9th grade dean, smiles for the camera.

Frislie-Lam Faces a Host of New Challenges

BY ASHLEY ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ms. Frislie, also known as Mrs. Lam, was married in the middle of the last school year. Since she got married, her life changed as she took on many jobs; she is one of the head coaches of the Academic Decathlon team, a ninth grade team teacher, Literacy Coach, and a wife.

Lam believes getting married changed her life. She says, "Married life affected me the most during the week." She saw her husband only on the weekends during their nine year courtship. Mrs. Lam now

has to share TV time and finds herself watching more sports than ever before. She believes she now has more quality time with her husband because they are best friends and because they workout at the gym, take walks, and cook and clean together - which are all activities she was never able to share with him while they were dating.

As for being one of the coaches of Decathlon, she was honored when the school wanted her to be a coach. She is an alumni of the Ranch; when she attended El Rancho, the school was well known for the Decathlon team. Decathlon is successful due to the motivated students and a

prestigious activities at school. When she was asked to be one of the head coaches of Decathlon, she was honored and said yes right away. She likes working with students that are motivated to succeed and focused on the two day competition.

As Literacy Coach, Lam is in charge of the Accelerated Reader program. She applied for the job because she believed that AR helps the students improve their reading comprehension and succeed in all content areas. Lam believes AR is a great program that is successful due to the outstanding library staff as well as awesome teachers who implement the



Mrs. Lam, working in the new A.R. program, smiles to the camera.

program in their classrooms.

Despite Mrs. Lam's duties at El Rancho, she still finds great joy in teaching her ninth grade team class. She tries to have "valuable" time with her freshmen, connecting with them during

class, team homework club, and whenever possible during lunch. She loves her job.

Her goal for the year is to be the best at everything she does, the best teacher, coach for decathlon, wife, and excellent literacy coach.

New at School, and Already Cool

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In early September, Senior Daniela Piceno transferred to El Rancho High School from Maywood Academy High in Maywood. Piceno is currently volunteering at Pacific Boulevard School, a school for disabled children, and at a day care center in Bell. She is also a youth leader at her church and “love[s] every second of it.”

Piceno says she likes El Rancho High School better than Maywood Academy High because El Rancho is “more diverse, and people are more open minded and accepting.” Although Piceno prefers El Rancho instead of Maywood Academy High, she misses her previous school because “its campus is brand new, there is a poetry club, and her “best and friends” are there. Even though she misses the new campus, poetry club and her best friends from her previous school, Piceno likes El Rancho High School.

Piceno best describes herself as “dorky- [she is] not afraid to act silly because [she is] not worried about what everyone thinks of [her]” and “diamond-in-the-rough” because “people look at [her] and think they have [her] figured out but you can’t judge a book by its cover.” In fact, most teachers would be surprised to know that she is “not shy what so ever” and she is “up to any challenge thrown at [her].”

When Piceno was younger, she used to imagine herself as “the odd one out” because she grew up as “a huge tomboy and didn’t have many girl friends.” She thought she was “cursed this way forever until [her] adolescent years rolled around.” Now she knows she would never change anything in herself because she is happy the way she is, for she said, “It’s taken me a while to become comfortable in my own skin and now I am able to accept and love me for me.”

Out of all her accomplishments, Piceno is most proud of becoming “the first ever 10th grade ASB President, 11th grade President, varsity soccer captain,” and president of the Bible club. Just like any other teenager, Piceno spends her free time by “playing sports, hanging out with friends, reading, and just enjoying life as it comes,” and has a favorite excuse for not turning in homework on time: “My brother ate it.”

Piceno’s plans for after high school are to “hopefully acquire a full scholarship and attend a four year university,” such as her dream school, USC, and later on become a neurosurgeon.



Daniela Piceno, 12, smiles at camera in the middle of El Rancho’s quad, her new high school.

Not Your Average “Teen”

BY ANABEL SANTILLAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Senior Justine Medina is a multitask student, managing school, work, and community service at her local Baptist church.

In her final year at the Ranch, senior ASB Secretary Justine Medina, also known as “Teen” by her friends, successfully balances school, religion, and a job.

“It’s really difficult,” says Medina, “But I have to learn to manage my time.”

While other student’s days are ending Justine Medina’s is just beginning. A full day of classes and ROP, picking her sister up from school, working at Billabong for 4 hours, getting her chores done, getting dinner ready and doing her homework by 11:30 p.m. is all in a days work for Medina.

Once a week she attends a work experience class during fourth period. “She is a good student and a nice girl who always submits her work,” stated Mrs. Pantages, Medina’s teacher.

“It is a privilege to have this class,” said Mrs. Pantages. The class is for students that have a job and they must have a 2.0 grade point average, not have any behavior issues and have an excellent attitude toward learning.

When Medina is not in school or at her job she can be found volunteering at All Nations Baptist Church on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays for three hours. On the little spare time she has on Saturdays, she hangs around with her friends.

With college just around the corner the future has never looked so bright for Medina. She already manages her time by doing things like having a to-do list and keeping a planner.

“I’m super excited for college, because I’m going to be successful,” says Medina. And with that she encourages other students to manage their time wisely and always think about the future. “Live in the moment, but have fun doing it.”

The Only Legal Crew on Campus

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF MEMBER

Eighty students from the junior and senior classes were selected to mentor the incoming freshmen class of 2011. Each mentor received a total of ten freshmen whom the upper classmen will be guiding through the activities and traditions for the rest of the year.

A week before school started, the Link Crew began training with its mentors Gerardo Correa, Daniel Diaz, Jazmin Chavez, Ana Melgar, Justin Diaz, and Enrique Romero. During the training, the students participated in different activities to help them built a relationship with their freshman. The activities that Link Crew played were Banana dance, 64 squares, and bird perch. “My favorite activity was 64 squares because that was the activity that the freshmen appreciated the most and were the most motivated to do and liked,” Said Junior Jennifer Maguelanez. Sixty-four squares is a maze were the players have to find a way out within 12 minutes. The students who are the “Link leaders” were pre-selected by an application that was required to tell the advisors why they should be chosen to be come a mentor.

Some of the current members found out about Link crew from friends and teachers “I found out about it from Mr. Romero,” said Junior Alejandra Perez. “Like helping people so this looked like a good opportunity, I think the advisors are great teachers and hard working,” Says Perez.

Junior Rebecca Robles said, “I liked meeting the freshman. I think this is going to help the freshman have more school spirit and join more activities.” Robles encourages others to join Link crew “A student should join link crew to become more involved and help others be comfortable with themselves and to improve their abilities with helping others.” Robles talks about been chosen to be a part of Link Crew.

According to Junior Amanda Allred who participated during the summer drills, “It was lots of fun, it was very effective. I would like to continue next year. I think is going to be effective on the school, it will be a positive change.”

The latest event the leaders have worked on was the welcome back dance where they fundraised by selling nachos, cheesecake, sodas and water. This money is to



Friday Night Comeback!



BY SAMANTHA DURON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The crowd was up and roaring with excitement as El Rancho football players gained the touch down that secured their victory over the Montebello Oilers. For the first half of Friday's game the Oilers had the Dons at an almost shut out, but by third quarter the Dons dug in their cleats and won the game 21-20. "By the beginning of the third quarter we all thought we were going to lose," said Senior Chelsey Morales, "Then

we scored a touch down and we thought 'maybe we have a chance. But Montebello scored and we thought again that we were going to lose. Finally, with the last minutes left in the game and at the ten-yard line we scored again! Everyone was cheering and standing, we had won the game," said Morales. "I'm happy to get the win," said Senior Football player Mario Berny. "We won! It was a very nerve wrecking game,"

said Senior Football player Javier Hernandez. "I was proud of the guys, even when almost everyone was sure we were going to lose. They really pulled it together," said Morales. Tonight the Dons take on the Arroyo Knights in hopes to improve on their 2-1 record. "Come out and watch as we kill the Knights," said Hernandez. The game against Arroyo is also the last game before the big

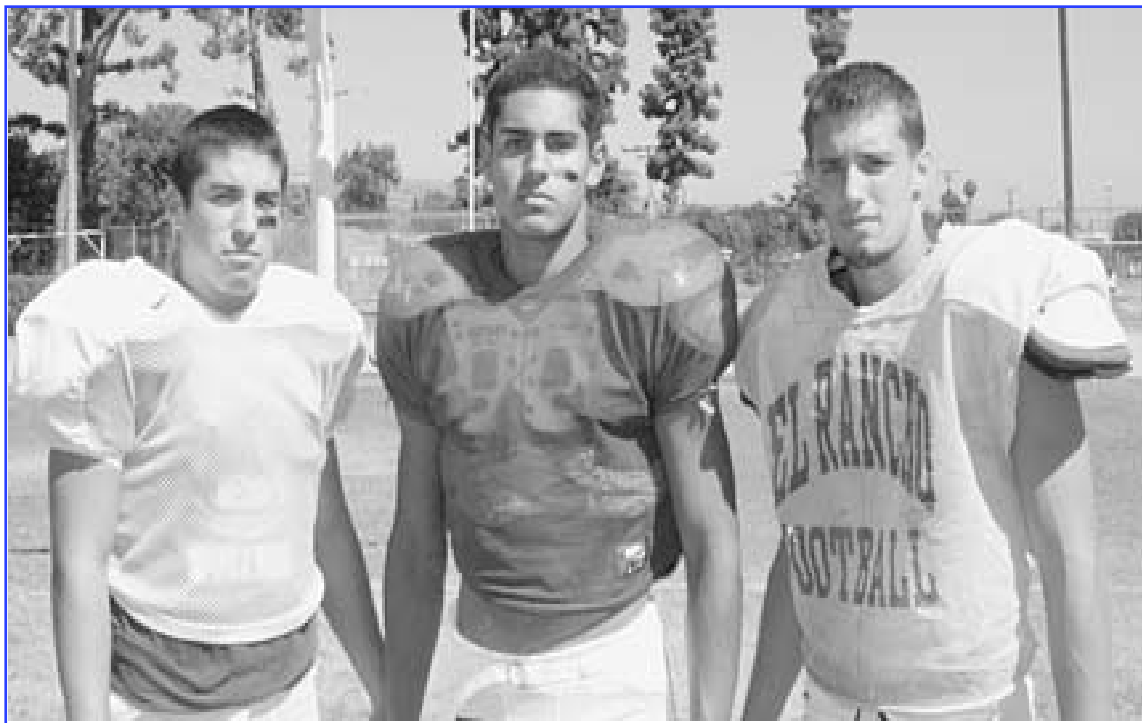
away game against St. Paul, who are long time rivals, next Friday.



Fresh Faces in Football

BY LORRAINE CANDELAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Dons are back and off to a fresh start with Coach Parsons, the football teams new head coach. Coach Parsons has been at El Rancho since 1986; it has been said by his staff that he is bringing back that special ingredient that has been missing... "Ranch Dressing, which everyone knows is tradition," said Defensive Line Coach Zamora. Already there is a visible improvement in the team's performance and players' attitudes have changed and more students have come out to play. The new coach has high expectations for this season, full of wins and glory. "If they work hard, use good work ethics they'll benefit," said Coach Parsons. Along with a new coach, the team has gained three new transfer students; Marcus Aldecoa, and Marcus Galan; junior run-



ning backs from St.Paul, and also sophomore Tate Harshburger from Chicago playing at defensive end. These boys have become part of the team, seeing the difference in how serious El Ranch plays football. "Out here it's more about family, back there its more about the game itself," said Harshburger. Besides football they enjoy the pep rallies and are fascinated with new girls here at the Ranch. The three feel at ease with the team and look forward to playing against St. Paul and La Serna. Alumni from El Rancho football have come back to help

Coach Parsons as well. His new assistants are always pushing the team at practices; the entire coaching staff is showing them the skills necessary to improve at football and life off the field as well. With five different decades of experience, El Rancho coaches demand that discipline be a key part of the program. "There's no toleration, you have to be on your toes, and already there has been much better performance than last year," explained Senior John Rivera. The Dons are in for a great season; the boys are ready for

more wins. Even though they had a rough season last year the Dons have grown and gained experience. With a coaching staff that has created one goal and one family, this team strongly believes in their confidence to succeed. "We're a band of brothers waiting to hit and make a big impact in the Del Rio League, taking it one game at a time," said quarterback Javier Hernandez. The team is excited having a good season, and encourages everyone to become a part of their extended family at both home and away games.

Tenacious Team Takes to New Season



BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO NEWS WRITER

Hearts are hopeful as Pringle takes to the pool deck for a new season. As he starts his second season water polo coach, John Pringle, looks to lead his boys to victory. Although there are only two returning varsity players, Pringle is optimistic about his new team. Along with a new group of players, Pringle is also taking on a new assistant coach Allen Flores, an El Rancho Alumni and former varsity player. "They worked hard in summer leagues, they're ready!" said Pringle.

Leading the team this season are Miguel Quijada and Sean Salcido. "Miguel is fast and athletic," says coach Pringle. "I want to win league and make it to quarter finals for CIF," says Quijada, a senior this year, " There is a lot of motivation to get better." Quijada takes on the title as captain for the season; he shares his seniority with Sean Salcido, the second returnee from last season. "Sean's a 'lefty' and that's a big thing in polo; he's really intelligent when it comes to the game," says Pringle. Salcido added, "This season will be tough, but they guys really do step up when they need to; I'm sure we'll do well." "Every single person has improved so much," says Quijada, "It's a really good thing."

The junior varsity boys are expecting a lot from this season as well. Assistant coach Flores says, " They're young. We haven't seen a lot, but we're working together to grow as a team. They have great potential." This year's most recognizable junior varsity stars are Jacob "Cubbie" Barrera and Albert Alvarez. The junior varsity is off to a great start this year having just hosted their first tournament this past month.

The boys currently have a record of 8-7. This past Tuesday the boys tied with La Habra in a miraculous comeback during the fourth quarter that carried them into sudden death over time. Winning the game by two goals, the boys are fired up for their next game tonight against Downey. The boys "They have drive and tenacity, they don't quit," says Pringle, " they're gaining experience because they love to play, play, play."

Sports

Lady Dons Hoping to Win Leauge This Year

BY MARISELA RIEBELING

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year El Ranchos JV tennis team has received a new coach, Ms. Mary Chatpman, to replace last years coach Mrs. Henderson. This is Chaptman’s first time coaching but she has a lot of confidence in her JV team to win league this year. Pepperdine alumni and first time teacher might be a little challenging for her but she has a lot of great expectations for the team as well as for herself. She knows the team will do well after the JV won second in league last year.

El Ranchos varsity tennis team, coached by Ms. Lipstreu, also has high hopes for the season this year. Junior varsity player Andrea Rodriguez “hopes the best for the upcoming season.” varsity doubles player Rebecca Robles says, “We have a great group of girls this season. We know we have a good chance to take first in league this year.”

Everyone is very optimistic after their three wins from the pre season a couple of weeks ago. “This is going to be a very challenging year but it’s going to be very fun,” Said varsity player Tina Bramontes. This year the season look like it’s going great for the girls with a good dedicated team and encouraging coaches El Rancho’s tennis players are going to be a hard team to beat. The girls had a strong start during the pre season games and for the most part this year’s El Rancho tennis team is determined to make this a great season.



Varsity players Rebbecca Robles and Sarah Medina listen attentively while their coach Mrs. Lipstreu explains the game during practice.



Varsity Player Andrea Rodriguez



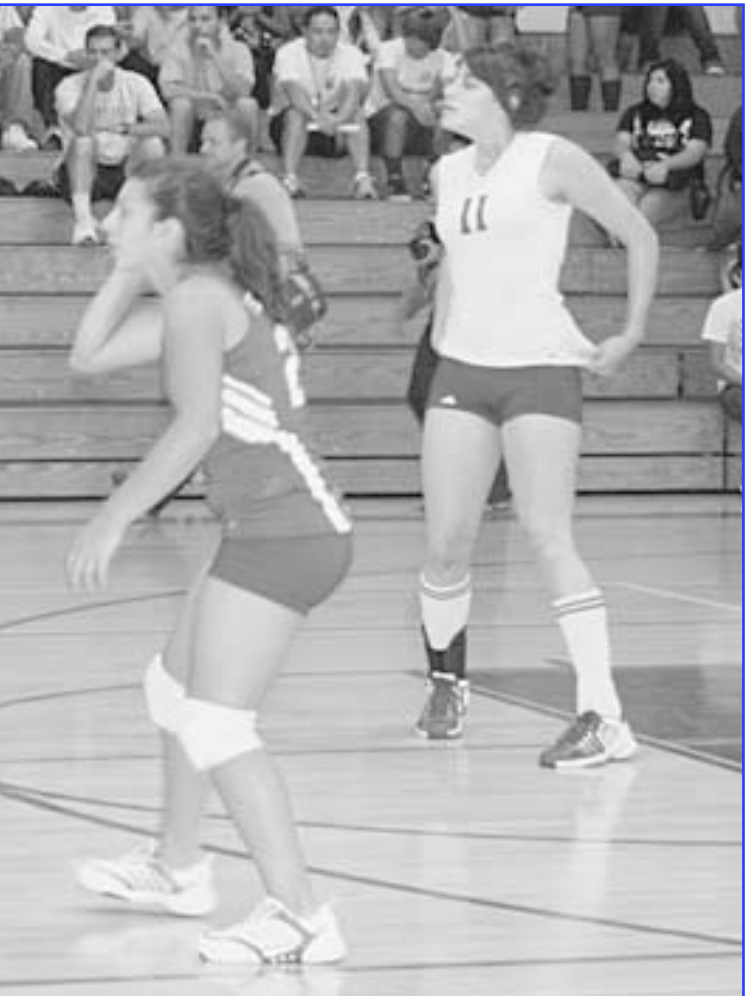
Ms. Chatpman ,new JV coach

Out with the Old and in with the New

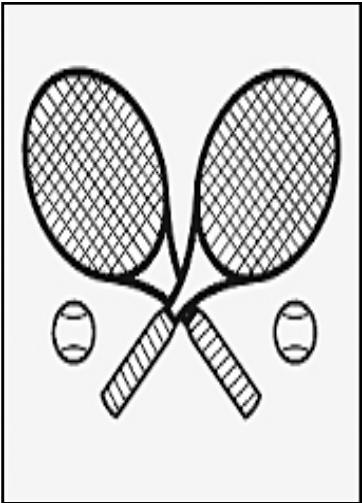
BY ASHLEY ORTIZ

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls’ varsity volleyball team has been back to back-to-back league champions. Through hard work, perseverance, and teamwork have dominated the Del Rio League, which includes Whittier, California, Pioneer La Serna and Santa Fe high schools. Leading the Lady Dons this year are captains Megan Barr, Loren Jones and Sharon Pedregon. Other key players include Tatiana Gomes, Starr Gonzales, Andrea Robes, Kazondra Ramos, her sister Alexandra Ramos, Nylene Herrera, Jazmin Barragon, and Martina Morales. Coach A. Picon is very optimistic of this year’s squad, “We may be young but we are very capable of achieving our goals.” The varsity team and coach have two main goals for this season: win league and make it to at least third round or better in CIF. Loren Jones, co-captain, says, “The team has a lot of potential but we have not lived up to it yet.” Megan Barr, captain, said, “We have a young team and we still have a lot to learn.” The team begins league on Tuesday October 2 at La Serna. to at least third round or better in CIF. Loren Jones, co-captain, says, “The team has a lot of potential but we have not lived up to it yet.” Megan Barr, captain, said, “We have a young team and we still have a lot to learn.” The team begins league on Tuesday October 2 at La Serna..



Senior Meghan Bahrr gets ready to play.





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Life After Harry Potter

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO - SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Daniel Radcliffe traded his wand for something a little more 1960s in his new movie, *December Boys* coming out on September 14. Radcliffe plays Maps, an orphaned boy whose chance of being adopted is growing slimmer with every passing year.

It felt it was a character that wasn't in anyway like Harry. It was a totally new experience, he told the Los Angeles Times.

Maps and his friends Misty (played by Lee Cormie), Spark (Christian Byers) and Spit (James Fraser) have grown to watch other children find a family to call their own. But never them, until one summer when the December Boys (all four boys were born in December) take a trip to a small village by the sea.

It's all fun and games until they hear rumors that Brandy and Skipper McAnsh, a couple from town are planning to adopt. The only problem is they are only adopting one child. Alliances are made, and their friendship is tested when Misty, Spark, and Spit try to get the attention of the couple. Maps doesn't mind whether or not he gets adopted, he thinks he is too old to be adopted and his place is at the orphanage with all the other kids.

Along the way the boys meet Lucy (played by Teresa Palmer) and Maps instantly falls for her. Lucy teaches Maps (Radcliffe) many valuable things that in a way make Maps more mature.

The boys share a special bond that even in the toughest times holds through to the end. Not only are the boys best friends they are in way brothers. The December boys know so much about one another that if one were to act up the rest would put him in his place.

I'm not going to spoil the ending, but I will say this, *December Boys* (directed by Rod Hardy) is a movie that I strongly recommend because it shows how life is like a roller coaster ride, it has its ups and downs, but if you have friends who care about you, it really doesn't matter as long as you know that they will be there. If you like *Stand by Me* then you will love *December Boys*.

Aiming for Gold, but Settling for Silver

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Aiming for the gold medal, Will Ferrell and Jon Heder have to settle for the silver in the comedy *Blades of Glory*.

Chazz Michael Michaels (Will Ferrell) and Jimmy Mac Elroy (Jon Heder) are at the top of their game when they enter the 2002 Winter Sports Games. They are both the favorite to win, but when both unexpectedly tie for the gold it ends in both Michaels and MacElroy banned from singles professional ice-skating after they set the Winter Sports

mascot on fire and destroy the Awards Ceremony.

Three years later, Michaels and MacElroy are working minimum wage jobs, until Jimmy learns of a loophole that would allow him back into the profession world of ice-skating. There's only one problem, in order for MacElroy to go back he will have to skate in the pairs division with his old rival.

After a rocky start Jimmy and Chazz eventually learn to trust each other. With the help of Jimmy's Coach (Craig T. Nelson) MacElroy and Michaels learn skating routines specific for men's ice skating pairs. There seems to be something missing in the routine so he decides to show Michaels and MacElroy The Iron Lotus, the toughest trick ever known in the skating world. Because it is so deadly, they practice it separately.

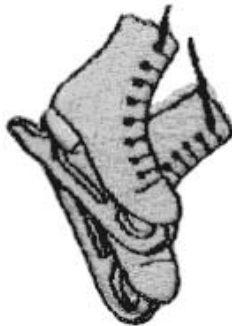
When the day finally comes to show the world what they have learned, it does not go as planned. The Van Waldenberg

team (a brother and sister duo) attempt but fail to kidnap both Jimmy and Chazz.

Blades of Glory stated off strong, but ran out of tricks toward the end. It was funny, but not hilarious. I would however recommend this movie, because of the awards ceremony fight scene.

This is not the best movie for Will Ferrell or Jon Heder, but every actor is allowed one not so great movie,

right? If you can go out and rent *Blades of Glory* that's good, if not don't worry it'll be at Target



Don't Call it a Come-back, She's Been Here for Years!

BY KAYLA HERRERA

The crowd was eager, the lights were set and cameras were rolling; Britney Spears, to say the least was a flabby flop. In her first attempt to "bring sexy back" Spears miserably failed. On September 9th, 2007, MTV was gracious enough to allow Spears at a second chance to regain her title as "pop princess" and not to mention the respect from former fans. Spears' performance to her new single "Gimme More" began strong, but dwindled down, in reality it gave

less than what was anticipated.

Spears' rocked her new "glam gut" and bad weave on MTV's Video Music Awards. However bad her look was, tabloid reviews were even worse. European MTV cut Spears out of the show completely. To add to the ego-blow, Spears also ended up in court the week after her crappy performance, continuing the next chapter in the lengthy custody battle with former husband, Kevin Federline. The "pop princess" of the 90's is at war with herself and doesn't seem to be winning. The music is on the other hand is gaining better review than Spears herself. Will Spears obtain the fame flame once again or will fans



50 Cent Vs. Kanye West!

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hip Hop's latest battle between two of the biggest rappers 50 Cent and Kanye West, has been the biggest talk in the music industry for the past couple of months. Both Kanye West and 50 Cent have dropped great albums in the past years. But why are so many fans making a big deal about these two rappers now? Amazingly both their albums are being released in the same month just days apart, and for most people it's a big deal!

Now fans question who will end up with the most kudos in the end?

Many fans were suggesting that due to Kanye's recent outburst that he would be the underdog when it came to the new album.

Since both albums have hit the stores around the same period it seems like Kanye may have taken the lead in this competition. He has been successful by selling over a million copies in the first week. The most up to date survey by SOHH an

internet website, has shown that Kanye would sell the most CD's in the first week with 51% and for 50 Cent his percent showed to be a little less then 37%. 11% of people said that it was to close a call to decide.

Unfortunately for 50 Cent, fans are looking down on his new album because of the "dissing" that he has toward other famous artist such as, Lil' Wayne, Jay-Z, and P. Diddy. While his opponent Kanye surprised all fans expectations with his new style of music.

Despite the album clash, both artist have made it clear to all that they don't have any "beef" with each other, and they wish each other's album much luck!

