



El Rodeo



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Diaz and Arroyo Take Zucker Honors



Natalie Zucker, founder of The Zucker Award, stands between this year's recipients. This award has been given to El Rancho High School teachers for the past twenty years.

By MARISOL CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

May 15th was a very special day for Mr. Daniel Diaz and Mr. Alfredo Arroyo. Yes, these

two remarkable teachers were honored with the Zucker Teacher of the Year Award, each receiving this special recognition as well as a check for six hundred dollars.

Natalie Zucker, who makes

the trip every year from her Laguna Beach home, started the Zucker Award to honor two El Rancho teachers each year.

Zucker lived in Pico Rivera for 48 years and sent

her daughter to El Rancho.

Zucker thought of the program 20 years ago to recognize the tremendous impact teachers have on their students.

"Personally, I think that teachers do not get enough recognition and are underpaid," said Zucker, "and these teachers are definitely worthy of the Zucker Teacher of the Year Award."

Teachers arrived at the Cafeteria around 3:30 and sat down with colleagues anticipating the announcement. "I felt honored, proud, and shocked, but it was surreal to have heard [my] name and have my family approach the stage," said Diaz who was the first to receive the award.

"Mr. Diaz was a winner from day one!" said Mr. Correa, supporting his colleague in his shining moment. "I am very happy for him because he deserved it."

Said fellow teacher (and fiancée) Ms. Chavez, "he works hard, he is committed, and he loves what he does." Chavez is especially excited for Diaz because "[I] get half of his award."

Diaz will spend his award money toward his upcoming wedding to Ms. Chavez.

Diaz is thankful for "[my] family for their support and for

the inspiration my colleagues have given me." Diaz is a devoted Star Wars fan who graduated from Whittier College and pursued his major in history.

The second Zucker award winner was Mr. Arroyo who was shocked as well. "I was clueless!" said Arroyo. Arroyo is thankful to have been recognized for his efforts in El Rancho.

With the higher academic standards for special education students, Arroyo has been working hard to take his students to the top.

"I am honored to receive this award because the last time a special education teacher won this award was fifteen years ago," said Arroyo.

Arroyo began teaching Social Studies in 1996 and transferred to teaching psychology.

A committee of previous winners chose nominees submitted by the faculty. Mr. Sam Genis was involved in the committee to select the teachers. "I tried to be as neutral as possible," said Genis.

"These two teachers deserve the recognition, Mr. Diaz's dedication to Link Crew and Decathlon and Mr. Arroyo's dedication to his special education students, for their efforts every day at El Rancho," added Genis.

Teammates to the End

By KIANA JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As Memorial Day nears, El Rancho would like to honor two very special men, Sam Favata and Jesus Chavez. Teammates on the 1964 Dons football team, Favata and Chavez's paths always seemed to cross. Their world's even intertwined on the last day of their lives, July 21, 1968.

Chavez and Favata, just a year apart in age, were great friends. Both played under then head football coach, Ernie Johnson. Favata, number 85, played defensive back. Chavez, number 65, played wingback/halfback.

Football in the 1960's was much different than the NFL superstars of today. The 1964 Dons were very disciplined. Ernie Johnson had laid down a strict set of rules. If a player didn't obey those rules, he was kicked off the team. "Nobody smoked, nobody drank. We were extremely self-disciplined. We took pride in it," recalled Joshua Gallegos (a former teammate of the two men and fellow Vietnam Veteran.)

After having a successful athletic and academic career at the Ranch, Chavez and Favata became teammates once again. Both men joined Rio Hondo's

inaugural football team. In fact, many of El Rancho's former players made up Rio Hondo's starting line-up. But as the boys scored touchdowns on the field, the United States was involved in one of the deadliest battles of all time, the Vietnam War.

In the late 1960's, the war reached its deadliest height. And as Gallegos recalled, "We knew our time was coming."

At the 1964-65 graduation commencement ceremony, El Rancho's men tried to lighten up the situation. At the end of the ceremony, as each row stood to be ushered out, each guy gave each other a high five. As each row left, they told each other "See you in Vietnam. See you in Vietnam. See you in Vietnam." The whole scene was similar to telling an opponent "good game" after a sporting event.

When the government implemented the draft, all the boys knew they would be spending time in Vietnam. Jesus, at the tender age of 19, volunteered for the Army. Sam, at the age of 20, was drafted. "Their lives," as Gallegos said, "were just starting out."

Although stationed in different areas of Vietnam, the 1964 Dons often ran into each other. It

was like a reunion on the other side of the world, as former teammates shared wartime stories. "They were typical El Rancho guys, kicking ass," said Gallegos.

But through it all, the men knew their lives could be over at any moment. For Sam and Jesus, their lives would end on the same day.

On July 21, 1968, Sam Joseph Favata of the 25th Infantry Division died of health complications. Favata had been wounded in South Vietnam. With the unsanitary conditions during wartime and with Hepatitis running rapid; it is now thought that Favata contracted Hepatitis through a blood transfusion.

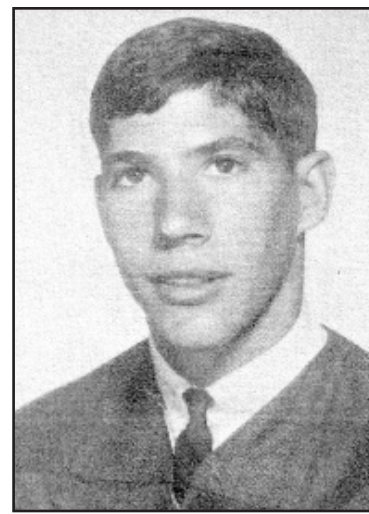
On July 21, 1968, Jesus Ernest Chavez Jr. of the 101st Airborne Division, was killed in Hoa Nghia, South Vietnam. Chavez had stepped on a land mine. The explosive device ended his young life.

Teammates from the beginning, Favata and Chavez also went out as teammates, on the same exact day.

When the men that did make it came back in 1972, they often met at the "Cat Patch," (a bar on Washington; near present day Cris and Pitts.) Often times, the men came back miss-



Jesus Chavez



Sam Favata

ing arms or legs. "Some of us came back in one piece, and some of us didn't," said Gallegos.

The former teammates recalled wartime stories. But through all the accounts, there was one common denominator, Ernie Johnson.

All the men agreed that "the vigorous training we went through with Ernie Johnson helped with basic training."

The discipline implemented by Johnson and the sense of responsibility he brought to the team, made all the men better soldiers.

But the coincidents that occurred with Sam and Jesus didn't stop with being teammates under Ernie Johnson.

Both Chavez and Favata played football for Rio Hondo.

Both Chavez and Fa-

vata died on the same day.

Both Chavez and Favata were buried at Resurrection Cemetery.

And, both Chavez and Favata are on panel 51W of the Vietnam wall. The men's names come one right after the other. Chavez's name is on line 24. Favata's name is on line 25.

This July will be the 40th Anniversary of their deaths.

Josh Gallegos, who since 1972 had placed a flag and single white carnation on their graves, says this year will be no different. "This week there will be another flag and carnation."

As Gallegos said, "They were two Pico Rivera boys and teammates till the end. Forever immortalized on the Vietnam Wall. Side by side. Together.

Governor Responds to Student's Letter

By MARTHA FRANCO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

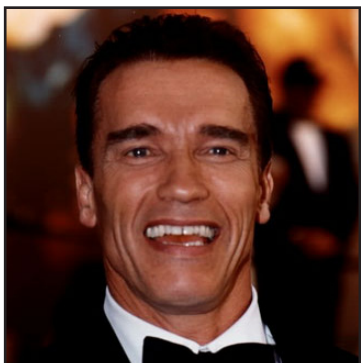
Most students are aware of the California budget crisis and its effect on El Rancho High and other schools in the district; yet very few students have taken the initiative to take action by communicating their concern to the state government.

El Rancho Seniors Mario Garcia and Christina Arrieta, motivated by Mr. Reed (U.S. Government teacher) took the initiative and wrote a letter to the *Whittier Daily News* and Governor Schwarzenegger.

Mr. Reed offered his U.S. Government students the opportunity to earn extra credit if they e-mailed or wrote a letter to a local newspaper, Senator Calderon, or any relevant California government official. He said that apart from an opportunity for extra-credit he wanted the students to realize how the budget crisis impacts their community.

He said that this was a "significant opportunity and a perfect teaching moment" to teach his students about local and state government. Moreover Reed said he was very pleased and surprised when he saw that both Garcia and Arrieta had received responses.

Garcia's letter was published in the Opinion section of the *Whittier Daily News*. Garcia said



Senior Mario Garcia

that he "was proud when it was published but shocked when [the published letter] was responded to by the governor." Like Garcia, Arrieta was shocked when her letter received a direct response from Governor Schwarzenegger.

Both students did not expect to receive a response but were satisfied with the fact that they were able to show their support to the teachers. Additionally Garcia said that he

Mario Garcia's Letter

"Terminating approximately forty of our best instructors will not only ruin some lives but it will also crowd classrooms...Our schools are heavily populated as it is, so by closing down our schools it will boost the student per teacher ratio to 50-to-1."

"It is proven that the smaller the class sizes, the better the test scores."

"All the cutbacks will be equivalent to every school in California being shutdown for a month."

Governor Schwarzenegger's Response

"We live in a great state, but we don't have a budget system to match. Believe me- I don't want to make cuts, and I think our schools deserve better...So I wish I could promise you that we'll raise spending again, but the problem is that the state can't spend money we don't have."

"Whenever I see students getting involved in government and participating in the process like you are, I get excited about our future."

"thought there were so many letters written that [his] would be put aside." Of course this was not the case for either students.

After receiving her response Arrieta felt that her "support actually meant something and stood for something." Likewise Garcia said he felt "like [he] accomplished something, like [his] voice was heard."

Apart from feeling like they accomplished something both stu-

dents want to encourage others to do the same and speak out. Garcia said that it is important for students to get involved "because although it will not affect us, it will affect our future. The kids of today are our future and its not looking bright if there are cutbacks on education." Arrieta wants students to "show their support and show Schwarzenegger how he is affecting the teachers and students."



Meet the President!

By MARISOL CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 ASB President Ariet Angeles, Junior. Election results were posted on May 2 announcing the new ASB officers for the upcoming year. "I was shocked an happy when I found out I was the new ASB President," said Angeles.

The candidates running for office gave their speeches during second period over the loud speaker, which was a new experience for the El Rancho campus. Angeles said "[he] was a bit nervous when [he] did the speech but excited at the same time."

Angeles gave a speech on how he will, "make it a fun year for all grade levels," excited to start his new position in ASB next year. Angeles was Junior President and feels that his experience will help him gain success as ASB President. He understands that juggling his academic work, sport involvement and ASB responsibility will be a challenge of its own but he is willing to take on this challenge.

Although Angeles has bigger responsibility he will continue with academic studies, track, football and possibly soccer.

Angeles wants to "thank all those who supported and voted for [him] as the new ASB President." Heads "You made a wise choice!"



Drama Puts Their Own Spin on *The Green Heart*

By AILEEN GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For this years play, Mr. Stan Wlasick has decided to direct *The Green Heart*, a wonderful musical that contains romance, a mystery murder, and a lot of singing. This musical will be something for every El Rancho student to look forward to.

This musical is based on a short story by Jack Ritchie; the story was made into a film called "A New Leaf" in the 1970's.

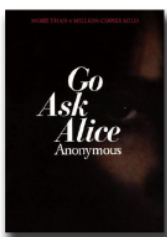
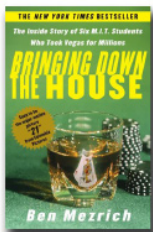
The Green Heart will be performed by some of El Rancho's biggest stars like Me-

lissa Legaspi, who plays Uta and Angelica Figueroa who plays Tragger, and many other great singers and actors.

The Green Heart had its first viewing on Wednesday May 22nd. The next two showings of this musical will be tonight at 7:30 PM and tomorrow Saturday 24th at 7:30 PM.

"If you enjoy seeing girls in short skirts and fish nets or evil and conniving people, and let's not forget Andrew Medina in leopard boxers and only leopard boxers, come watch *the Green Hear*," says Melissa Legaspi.

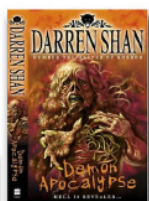
borders book Fair in the ERHS Library



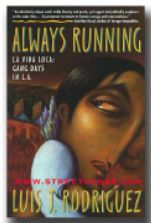
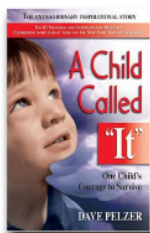
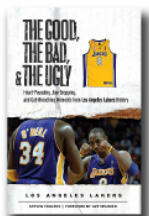
Wednesday, June 4th 10 am - 4 pm

Thursday, June 5th
7:30 am - 4 pm

Friday, June 6th
7:30 am - 4 pm



OPEN DURING LUNCH



Students and staff get a 20% discount and the school gets a percent of the sales.

Students, cash only please
Staff, cash and credit cards accepted

Sports, skating, manga, graphic novels, martial arts, guitar, drums, musicians, horror, mystery, Where's Waldo, teen novels, true stories, bargain books, sketchbooks, journals and much, much more!!!

Teen Read Week Events June 2nd-June 6th

In Classrooms: Read-Alouds, Book Quizzes, Prizes and Awards

In the Quad during lunch: Author Gary Soto (Jesse, Buried Onions, Baseball in April, The Afterlife) will visit the sophomore class and sign books on Tuesday, June 3rd. Stop by and get your free READ. tattoo.

In the Library: Borders Book Fair: 20% discount to students and staff. (students cash only please) Hours: Wednesday 10-4 Thursday and Friday 7:30-4 Open during lunch all days. Something for everyone: sports, music, skating, manga, graphic novels, chick lit, young adult novels, journals, sketchbooks and lots of BARGAINS.

Poetry Corner

To: Her
From: Him

You tell me you're not perfect
But I strongly disagree
Those things you see as flaws
Only make you more unique
I'll fight for you
I'll fight for me
I'd rather fight
Than never try
Because I know
You're the one for me
I never thought I'd fall so deep
My heart will always be
Yours to keep
I can't tell you what to think
I can't tell you what you need
But the one thing I can tell you
Is that you make my soul
complete
I want you to believe
You're the one and only girl for me

Not Such a Great Role Model After All?

BY GUADALUPE CORTEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Disney's *Hannah Montana*, Miley Cyrus, was involved in a controversy after appearing semi-nude in a photo series that appeared in *Vanity Fair's* June issue. Taken by world renown photographer for *Vanity Fair* and *Rolling Stone* magazines, Annie Leibovitz; the shots show Cyrus apparently nude with only a satin bed sheet clasped to her chest. Miley Cyrus is currently Disney Channel's money making machine with her hit show *Hanna Montana* therefore Disney cannot afford scandals pertaining to the young starlet.

Not only was the 15-year-old criticized for the revealing photos in *Vanity Fair*, but for

photos that were released on the Internet featuring her in a particularly teenager moment: Looking up playfully at a camera while pulling down her white tank top to reveal a green neon bra.

Cyrus is seen as a role model for many 5-to-12 year-old girls and has positioned herself as parent-friendly as well. The idea that Cyrus might be nude, perhaps even in bed, bothered some parents who discharged their feelings onto blogs. Many upset and concerned parents turned to Disney for answers. In its own statement about the *Vanity Fair* story, Disney Channel said: "Unfortunately, as the article suggests, a situation was created to deliberately manipulate a 15-year-old in order to sell magazines."

Cyrus did not think the photos looked "skanky," she

rather saw them as "artsy," however she needs to take into consideration what her fans would say since she embodies the role of a heroine to many young girls.

Cyrus later issued a statement exclusively to PEOPLE, where she stated that she was embarrassed and apologized for a series of playfully scandalous photos that appeared on the Internet as well as for the unreleased *Vanity Fair* photo in which she appears to be nude.

Miley Cyrus needs to set a good example for her young fans and avoid the immoral footsteps that Lindsay Lohan and Britney Spears followed in their early teen years and which now Jaime Lynn Spears, 16, follows due to her pregnancy. She still has a lot of success ahead of her and she shouldn't ruin her future with scandals like these.



Miley Cyrus in her contravertial picture for the *Vanity Fair* photo shoot with world renown photographer Annie Leibovitz.



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Night Pep Rally Next Year on the Endangered List?

JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Rumors have been going around that the night pep-rally may come to an end. For the past ten years, it has been a tradition. The administration has said they want to cancel the night pep-rally because they think that it causes too much trouble between the classes. This year, the night pep-rally was held earlier than last year, but Mr. Genis, ERHS principal said, "We made it earlier in case the students had to walk home and for them to be able to go home, and finish any homework that they had to do."

Mr. Genis added, "I never

had the intention to cancel it or let it be canceled." If he did not have the intention to cancel night pep-rally, then what does administration plan to do with the night pep-rally. Mr. Romero, honors math teacher was asked, "Is the night pep-rally going to be cancel next year?" He replied, "As of right now, no." This may mean that the administration is still deciding.

Canceling the night pep-rally would be an unpredictable move for school administration because the night pep-rally is the event of the year that the school looks forward to. At the night pep-rally everybody shows their pride for their class and competes to win

first place. It's true that we do get competitive around night pep-rally time, but it is because each class wants to win and show their pride for the school, and themselves.

This year the juniors came really close to winning the night pep-rally against the class of 08; the junior class earned a total of 103 points while the seniors scored a total of 104 points making them the winners. The only reason that the seniors won this year was because the school administration did not want them to lose because this was their last pep-rally.

Since we started participating in night pep-rally, the senior class wins, but it is still

a fun event because the other classes get so competitive.

As of right now, Mr. Genis has no plans of canceling the night pep-rally. He actually wants to keep it because it was a success this year. The question is, "Is the night pep-rally going to be there next year, and is it going to continue being a tradition every year? Is Mr. Genis going to stay a tradition? Is there a plan of canceling the night-pep rally, and if so is Mr. Genis going to do something about it? Let's all hope that this ER tradition does not disappear and that it stays a tradition for many years to come.

Nintendo Helps make Staying Fit Fun

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER
BY RYAN ROJAS

Today one in three Americans are obese. Between 16 and 30 percent of those are children. For those who are afraid to participate in a healthy exercise publicly or simply just bored of lifting weights, there is now a much more fun and private way of getting a healthy day's exercise.

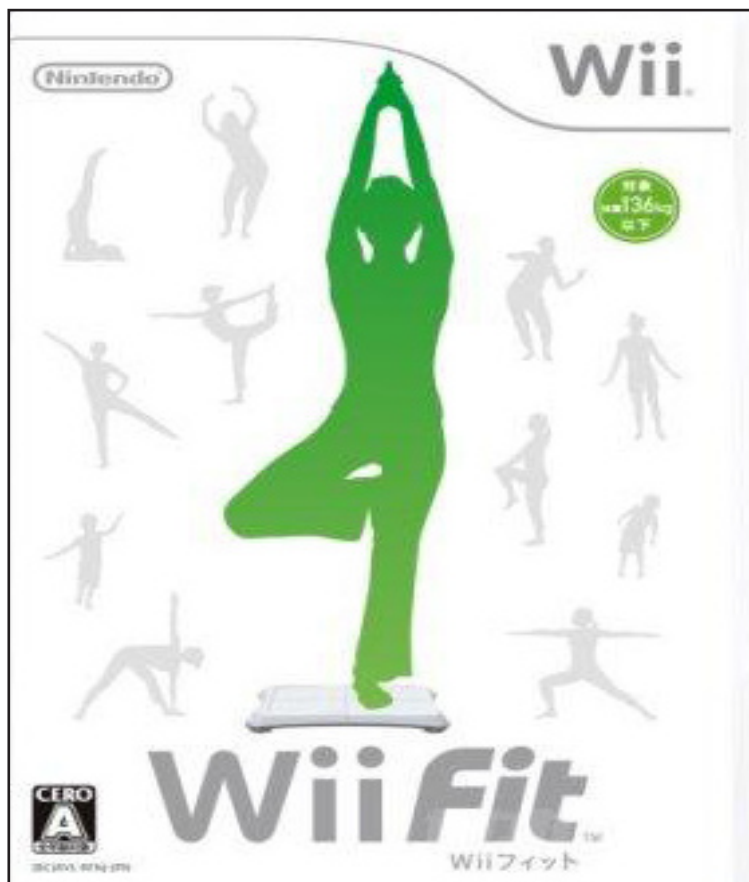
Shigeru Miyamoto (founder of Nintendo) has now made it so that all Americans who own a Nintendo Wii can exercise at their own convenience. "Wii Fit" will have a variety of healthy and fun ways of exercise, from something as fun as snowboarding to as relaxing as yoga. Wii Fit will be a video game suitable for all ages.

You may find yourself asking how will it know whether or not I'm doing the stretches

correctly, well the answer is a simple. The brilliant mind of Shigeru Miyamoto created a balance board that knows how much pressure is being applied to each portion of the board.

The game mostly focuses on your core system, which is your abdomens, back, and upper thighs. Many people who have played the game in Japan, which was released December 1st last year, said they felt soar the next day and you might too!

Many people believe video games have actually fattened America within the last few years and Shigeru Miyamoto answered, the criticism with the Wii, which got American kids up, and active. Wii Fit is just one more way to make America healthy again. Nintendo's Wii fit is supposed to hit stores this Saturday May 19, at the price of ninety dollars.



The Wii Fit will combine fun and fitness all in one great product.

Three Years Stuck Behind Bars



Senior Cristina Ceballos, El Rancho's Activities Office's cashier.

By MARISOL CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you seen her somewhere? That is because Senior Cristina Ceballos handles your fines. On May 2006, Mr. Romero offered Ceballos the job position that was available in the Activities Office.

Ceballos works as a cashier and from time to time she files papers, answers the phone, and helps on school events such as home games and El Rancho dances. The main reason why Ceballos took the job was because it did not affect her academically or interrupted her "homework time."

She works every morning from seven to eight, during lunch,

and after school from three to four in the afternoon. Although Ceballos earns her hard, cold cash, her social life has been cut back and, "now I have no time to socialize with my friends anymore."

Despite her lack of socialization, Ceballos does not regret getting hired because the job allowed her, "a lot of work experience," a cool boss, a chance to meet "cool new people" and "it's fun!" she added. Working in the Activities Office taught Ceballos to be more responsible by being "in charge of handling money and my boss trusts me not to steal from the office."

Being employed in the Activities Office allows Ceballos the advantage to attend any

home games for free. However, to earn that privilege Ceballos must work the first half of the game selling El Rancho items.

Ceballos is saving for a, "Wii so I can take it to my dorm in college and have fun." She has been accepted to Berkeley University, Loyola Marymount University, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC Santa Cruz and Boston University. Cooped up in her office,

**"The best part of working in the Activities Office is meeting different people at El Rancho."
- Cristina Ceballos**

Ceballos feels as if she talks to prisoners because she "deals with students' fines and sometimes it seems as if they are attacking me through the bars." When deadlines approach, the lines get longer every time and places stress on Ceballos. "Everyone waits until the last minute and I try to help everyone but at the same time count the correct amount of money."

The best part working in the Activities Office for Ceballos is meeting different people at El Rancho. The worst part of the job is the late starts on Mondays and the insane lines during lunch. Ceballos has to wake up early, get ready and arrive at the Activities Office to help students pay fines, pay tickets, or pay AP tests.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ For Kiana

By SAMANTHA DURON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Kiana Juarez, a hard working AP team student, has one the CCNMA: Latino Journalists of California Scholarship. The scholarship is worth a thousand dollars.

Juarez first learned about the scholarship from the College Board website. The scholarship is for students who want to pursue a career in journalism or news media.

"It felt great to win," said

"When I went to the interview I was the only high school senior there."

- Kiana Juarez

Juarez, "When I went to the interview I was the only high school senior there; everyone else was already in college." Juarez adds, "To beat all of those college students who were ready to graduate and get their degrees it felt awesome."

Along with attending the interview, Juarez also had to write and essay explaining how she began writing and what role Latinos should play in journalism, "Now that I've won, there is going to be a big banquet at the Millennium Biltmore in LA," said Juarez.

Juarez hopes to write for a magazine of a newspaper after finishing college. In the meantime, Juarez plans to be spending the money on a new wardrobe.



Senior Kiana Juarez is happy to have won a scholarship.



Jason Jacko gets ready for his upcoming fight in June.

Jacko Punches Out His Problems

By MELISA HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Jason Jacko may seem like an ordinary high school student, but he's so much more. During his free time, Jacko releases his stress by boxing.

Jason was first introduced to boxing when he was ten years when his grandfather started training him. Jason started boxing for the love of the sport, but later realized that he was able to let all his stress out while boxing. Jason always tries to remember the most important thing he was taught, "Always let out what you feel in the ring."

"I feel free in the ring. No worries, no pain," says Jason. "And besides, it always feels good to win."

Despite the injuries that Jason experienced, his love for the sport has never faded. Jason has had a broken finger, broken wrist, and broken ribs.

Jason feels privileged to have been trained by Oscar de la Hoya in the "De la Hoya Gym". Jason was also lucky enough to have been taught some jump

moves from Muhammad Ali. "I can never forget the talk that I was given to by Muhammad Ali at a Boxing Convention in New York."

Jason was first trained in Maryland, Baltimore where he lived part of his life. Jason has trained at AZ Boxing and Johnny's Backhouse during the off-season. Once Jason moved to California, he stopped boxing for two years, due to an injury on his knee, but now started playing once again. Jason is now training in a gym in Ontario.

Jason has competed everywhere from Maryland, Ontario, Whittier, Azusa, and a local match coming up this June in Huntington Park.

Jason feels very lucky to have a friend, Johnny Espinoza, that has motivated him to once again start boxing. Johnny Espinoza, security guard here at El Rancho, is also a Mix Martial Arts fighter.

Other than boxing, Jason enjoys playing football and basketball here at the Ranch. Jason also enjoys drawing when bored.

Jason plans to attend Pomona University to study to be a veterinarian.

borders book Fair in the ERHS Library

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4TH
10 AM - 4 PM

THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH
7:30 AM - 4 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH
7:30 AM - 4 PM

OPEN DURING LUNCH

Students and staff get a 20% discount. The school will get a percent of all sales.

Sports, skating, manga, graphic novels, martial arts, guitar, drums, musicians, horror, mystery, Where's Waldo, teen novels, true stories, bargain books, sketchbooks, journals and much, much more!!!!

April Students of the Month

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Students of the Month for April are freshman Rafael Aguayo, sophomore Tate Harshbarges, Junior Tatiana Gomez, and senior Martha Franco.

After receiving this award, freshman Rafael Aguayo felt "happy and excited at the same time because it's a good thing."

Since he is a hardworking student, Aguayo said he was chosen as student of the month because "I was doing well."

In the future, Aguayo would like to attend UC Los Angeles and major in engineering.

"I like math and I like how stuff are built," said Aguayo.

Aguayo is a busy student, especially because he is involved in activities such as cross country and track, but yet, finds free time. He spends most of his free time "talking on the phone and going out with friends."

Sophomore Tate Harshbarges was "surprised" when he received this award. "It made my day," said Harshbarges.

He received this award because, "I always keep my grades up and balance it with sports," he said.

Harshbarges is an active student who "live[s] to play football and run track."

During his free time, Harshbarges said he likes to "chill with my family and friends. I'm always active so I like to be outside. I love to BBQ."

Harshbarges said, "Right now, I'm just rolling with what's good. I try to do my best right now so I can keep my options open for the future."

Junior Tatiana Gomez was "surprised" when she found out she was chosen as the junior student of the month. "It was unexpected," said Gomez.

"I work hard and do all my work," said Gomez, which is why she received this award.

Gomez spends most of her

time "at school or in the gym" because she is involved in school sports such as volleyball and basketball, and was the basketball captain. With so many responsibilities, Gomez has learned "to manage [her] time well."

Gomez's future goals are "to maintain good grades to attend a four-year university and become a math teacher."

When she received her certificate of student of the month, senior Martha Franco said, "I felt amazed because I didn't think I would receive it. It was unexpected."

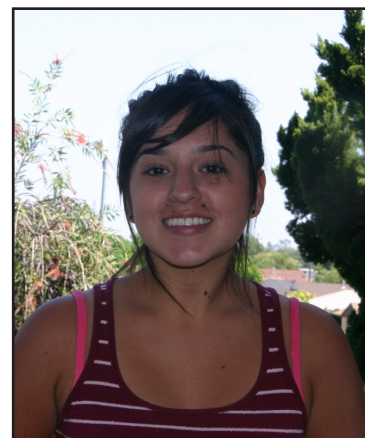
Franco said she most likely received this award because "I guess I finally did something right."

Throughout her high school years, Franco has always been a hardworking student involved in many school activities such as ASB, school's Newspaper, M.E.Ch.A., CSF/UC Partners, and Academic Decathlon.

During her small amount of spare time she has, Franco

said, "I usually just sleep, listen to invigorating music and just hang out with my lovely friends."

Like almost every student about to graduate, Franco has goals for her future. "As of right now my goals are to go to college, major in Political Science and later go on to law school and become a lawyer!" said Franco.



Junior Tatiana Gomez



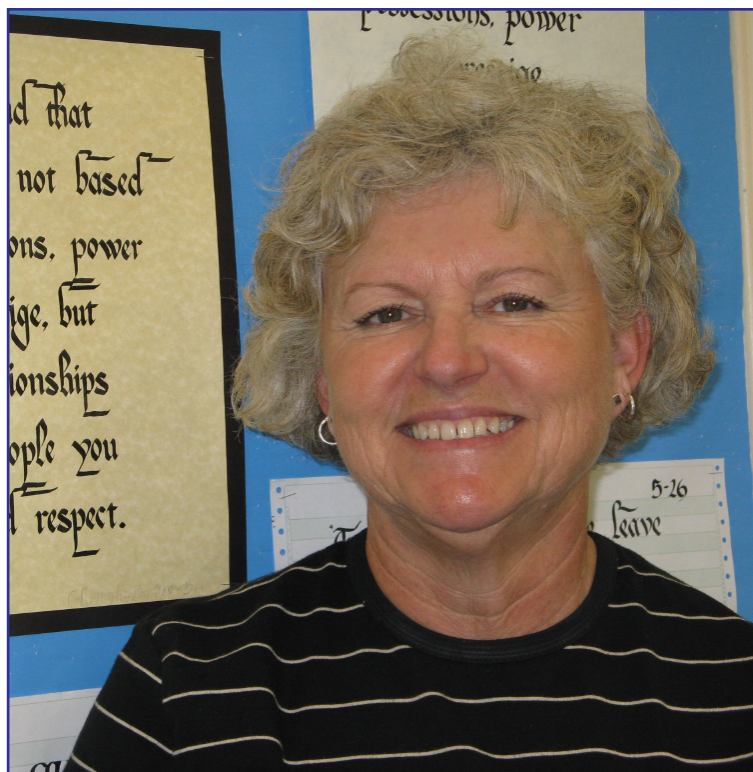
Sophomore Tate Harsh



Freshman Rafael Aguayo

Missing Picture: Martha Franco

Farewell to Ms. Milas



BY AILEEN GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The visual and performing arts department will be saying farewell to their beloved Ms. Cheryl Milas. Ms. Milas has been teaching calligraphy and art at El Rancho High for the past twenty-eight years.

Ms. Milas attended Long Beach State, where she chose to pursue her career as an art teacher. Ms. Milas took ceramics, sculpture, painting, weaving, and three dimensional design classes. Ms. Milas also worked for a newspaper where she designed layouts and advertisements.

She also holds an English minor which explains why she is so "fussy on spelling and punctuation."

The interest in becoming an art teacher came because "it's creative and never really the same," says Ms. Milas. "Besides, the students keep your outlook young."

She has been head of the visual and performing arts department for six years. Ms. Milas is in charge of the digital art classes, the drama department, choraleers, and basically all visual and performing arts.

Mr. Wlasick says, "Ms. Milas is the best instructional manager the visual and performing arts department has had in the twenty-eight years I have been teaching at this school. She is the most genuine, honest, sincere, nicest, good natured person I have met on this campus. I will miss her terribly."

When Ms. Milas leaves the El Rancho campus she plans to golf, play some tennis, do yoga, and travel. She also wishes to learn how to tango so she may travel to Argentina. She will really miss her student's creativity because "they are always surprising me in a good way." And she leaves the El Rancho students with some helpful advice: "never say never."

NOTHING COMPARES TO THE NATIONAL GUARD

When I got back from drill, my friend said I missed a good party. I thought back to fast-rope out of a helicopter. Zip - 100 feet, just like that. Whoa! I just shook my head and smiled. If you ask me, I didn't miss a thing

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Zepeda Named New Don Football Coach



Rick Zepeda will be lead El Rancho football next upcoming season.

BY MATT CROKITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Rick Zepeda has been named head coach of El

Rancho's football team following the resignation of Gene Parsons. As a former coach at East Los Angeles College, Long Beach Jordan and St. Paul High School, Coach Zepeda has the experience to guide his new team.

For his entire life, Mr. Zepeda has been mainly interested in one sport: Football. As a graduate and state champion from Louisiana State University and as a coach of St. Paul High School for ten years, Coach Zepeda has much football knowledge and a knack for winning.

"I want to win league, all games this year and get into the playoffs," says coach Zepeda. He speaks about how happy he is being at El Rancho and how everyone has been very nice and respectful to him.

Coach Zepeda also says, "It's a great place to be...the team has great enthusiasm and a lot

of people are starting to join and spread the word about football." Additionally, Zepeda talks very highly of El Rancho, "I applied because I believe in this school." He also feels that the football program is great here and has many traditions which he likes.

In addition to Mr. Zepeda's thoughts, the players also have expectations of the new coach. Albert Arias, returning starter and three-year letterman, says, "I think our new coach is very promising. He brings a new style and a higher level of commitment. If he can win over the team, as well as the school, then there is no limit to the success that we could have."

Albert also explains how the practices are more intense and how there is a lot more organization; he concludes, "Once everyone adapts to it we will be unstoppable."

Jefferson Colindres, also a returning starter and three

year letterman, expresses similar opinions saying, "Although the coach is completely different from our previous one, I have become more pleased with what he offers which is a sense of urgency, a new commitment in the weight room, and his preaching of organization - a quality needed for any dominant team."

Colindres goes on to talk about how the practicing and weightlifting are more intense and how he is already seeing results from what Coach Zepeda has done with the team. "The new staff helps our team become disciplined, something that the team has lacked the last couple of years. With discipline and organization I think that the team will go far."

Although one good chapter in El Rancho's football history has ended, Coach Rick Zepeda is about to lead the Dons to the beginning of a new era.



The One, the Only, Ray Madrid

BY: DAVID ZAPATA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Big 42," also known as Ray Madrid is a triple threat in El Rancho sports. He is a hard guy to keep up with in track and field doing long jump and the hundred-meter run. He has currently taken first place in the long jump.

Ray Madrid has been a big inspiration to his peers and teammates in everything he does. He helped lead the El Rancho football team to the playoffs this year with his skills and efforts. He unfortunately broke his collarbone during a touchdown making play, but that touchdown is what got them in the playoffs.

Madrid said, "I thank my team for the support while I was in the hospital." He was awarded First Team all league and all area for offense and defense. He was also chosen as the most valuable player for this year on the football team and continued to succeed by being selected to play in the 605 all star football game.

After his contribution to football and track and field at El Rancho, he is still doing an outstanding job and uses his experience from being a football captain to being captain on the baseball team. Coach Llanes praised Madrid by saying, "Ray is a very mature leader and improves on a daily basis; he strives to make his team work well together and become better at what they do. He also takes great pride in improving himself so that's he can strive as a role model for his teammates." He has a .380 batting average, which is impressive. Ray is also leading the team with most stolen bases.

Madrid is a very loving guy. He said, "I really love my mom and dad and I thank them for putting me in sports as a child and for being great motivators." He also said, "I also thank my girlfriend (Stephany Perez), my sisters (Renee and Brittney Madrid), as well as my uncle (Richard Madrid) for supporting me at every game and encouraging me to do my best."

Ray is very excited to graduate high school and can't wait to play sports in college. He wants to continue football and baseball as well as achieve a degree in business management. His concluding advice at the end of the interview was, "When it comes to things you're good at, never give up- no matter how hard it gets" said Madrid. As he has demonstrated over and over again, Ray is a role model, sportsman, and a team leader. His family, friends, and teammates also commend him on his integrity and motivational skills or they simply refer to him as, "All Day Ray."

Co-Captains to Kick off Next Season

BY: MARISSA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Congratulations to Nylene Herrea and Vanessa Torres, the new varsity soccer captains, though the season hasn't started just yet, girls soccer is already conditioning for next year.

Both girls are ready for the new season and can't wait to get onto the field. They aren't really nervous because both girls have many years of experience, Nylene has been playing soccer since the sixth grade. And has also been captain for lower levels in other sports such as volleyball. Vanessa has also been playing soccer for about ten years. Both girls have a lot of experience and are ready for anything this coming season.

Although Vanessa and Nylene are excited to be captains, there is one thing that worries them. Will we be treated different? Both girls hope not. They said, "we hope the girls



Nylene Herrera (left) and Vanessa Torres (right) are looking forward to lead varsity girls next season.

look at us the same. Just because we were captains doesn't mean we are any better than them, we were still players on the team."

They are happy that they were chosen but if they weren't

it wouldn't have mattered

Because they love to play the sport. When asked what do they thought they could bring to

The team, they said, "we hope we can bring the girls to-

gether, and to just enjoy the sport."

Neither one of the girls thinks that they are better than each other. They believe they can work hard together and balance each other out.

Baseball Season Come to an End



Dons shake Downey's hands after their loss.

ARACELI AGUILA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho baseball team set an all time standard for next year. This season they had 20 wins and 4 losses, beating the previous record of 19 wins. In the Del Rio League they had a record of 13-2.

"Our greatest accomplishment this season is that the team really came together," says Coach Llanes. "There was a family atmosphere, which helped us win our games." The Dons baseball team showed this side in their attempt to win last Thursday's game.

The ER baseball team played Downey in the CIF finals. After 6 innings the baseball game was winning 3-0; yet, the game was not over. During the 7th inning Downey hit two home runs, and ultimately won 4-3.

"We played a heck of a 6 innings," says Coach Llanes. "The last inning we just ran into a bit of bad luck. But that's the

game. That's baseball." The ER baseball team played as they should have, and really set a standard for next year's team.

Although the team did well as a whole, the players did too. Chris Villalobos broke the strikeout record, with 107 strikeouts. Other players such as Ray Madrid, and Aaron Flores also excelled this season.

Many of the seniors set a great example for future players. "The seniors will be greatly missed," says Coach Llanes. "They left behind a great tradition and presence which will always be with us."

ER pitcher, Chris Villalobos is grateful for this season. "I want to give a special thanks to everyone who supported us- the fans, the parents, and the teachers. This was a very good season, and there has been no other like this."

As for next season Coach Llanes hopes to "build on what we did this year, and continue to participate in the 3rd season playoffs."

World in Brief

By ANABEL SANTILLAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

U.S. in Iraq

As of this last Tuesday there is 4,080 members of the U.S. military dead from the Iraq War (30,112 wounded) since its start in March 2003.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia, three; Estonia, Georgia, Netherlands, Thailand, Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, South Korea, one death each.

News.yahoo.com

England

The eldest grandson of Queen Elizabeth II, Peter Phillip, married Autumn Kelley in a private ceremony on Saturday in Windsor Castle.

Attendees include the queen, Prince Phillip, Prince Charles, Phillips mother (Princess Anne), and Prince Harry and his girlfriend Chelsy Davy.

On Thursday, two vandals attacked the Heel Stone (the main megalith of the Stonehenge) with a hammer and chipped off a piece the size of a large coin.

The damage was minimal because they were spotted by security guards almost instantly, and escaped by jumping over a fence and driving off.

English Heritage spokeswoman Debbie Holden says this type of thing has never happened before.

News.yahoo.com

Johannesburg, South Africa

South African police and military units raided three hostels in the Johannesburg area where 150 kilograms (330.6 pounds) of marijuana was seized along with firearms, ammunition and suspected stolen property.

Police say that 42 people have been killed and violence and around 28000 people arrest for murder or public disturbances.

The country is also seen disturbing lynchings known as "necklacing" that date back from the 1980's Apartheid-era (racial separation in South Africa). The "necklace" is a car tire that is placed on a person's head, soaked with petrol and lit on fire.

CNN.com



World Disasters Top the News

By MARITZA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Saturday May 3, the country of Myanmar, formerly Burma, suffered one of the worst natural catastrophes. A cyclone hit the country, leaving thousands of people without shelter. With the death toll increasing to more than 130,000, the victims face still another challenge: the military junta has been barring foreign aid (such as clothes, food, and water) by keeping it in Yangon's airports or other warehouses.

In addition to the lack of supplies, many victims are homeless and the local drinking water is contaminated by fecal matter, while dead bodies (of both humans and animals) are floating around.

During the cyclone, some

of the victims, as reported by the Red Cross, were holding on to trees in the attempt of not being blown away. Consequently, "they were 'sand blasted' by dirt and saltwater; (many) lost the top layer of their skin."

Many, like Elisabeth Byrs of the U.N. Office for Humanities Affairs, fear that if no immediate action is taken, a "second catastrophe" in Myanmar may happen unless "a maximum of aid and a major logistical effort comparable with the response to the tsunami" begins. The "second catastrophe" would be to let those who survived starve to death and/or suffer illnesses from the lack of medicine and doctors.

The military regime, in control since 1962, is distrustful of foreign aid and has thus kept control of supplies from

other countries. The storm survivors, instead of receiving the international aid, are receiving spoiled or low-quality foods.

Furthermore, the first supplies from the World Food Program were said to be delivered at a military warehouse where the supplies, high-energy biscuits, were exchanged for "tasteless and low-quality" biscuits.

Although some foreign aid has been available for the victims, there still is a considerable restriction in terms of supply distribution.

The U.S., said Condoleezza Rice (Secretary of State) was "pressing the junta and its foreign allies to allow in not only food and supplies but disaster relief experts." Moreover, she said, "We are doing everything we can, because this is a humanitarian issue, not a political issue."

Earthquake in China

China's worst earthquake in three decades hit the streets of Chengdu on Monday morning May 12. Chengdu was the epicenter for the earthquake, although many other cities were affected, like Sichuan, Mianyang, and Xinhua. Registering with a 7.9 on the Richter scale, the earthquake killed approximately 50,000.

However, it is certain that the death toll has and will increase as more rescue workers dig through the debris to find survivors. Few buildings stood standing, and some cities, like Biechuan, were flattened by the quake. Moreover, in many cities, 80 per cent of the buildings had collapsed as well.

The Xinhua News Agency reported that 18, 645 people were still buried in debris.

Rescue workers evacuated the survivors to a sports stadium where they were provided with food and shelter.

Help from the U.S., Japan and European countries are in the way to help the victims and, unlike Myanmar's catastrophe, the aid is welcomed. China's Ministry of Finance reported that \$123 million was collected in aid for the quake-hit areas.

The recent disaster, however, will not impede the Beijing Olympics from taking place.



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CALIFORNIA

June Concerts that are Sure to Sizzle

ARACELI AGUILA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

June 6th

Place: House of Blues 8430 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90069
Line Up: Dead Kennedy's / JFA / Union 13 / More Than Ever
Cost: \$20.00

Sounds like: Punk
Where to find them: www.deadkennedys.com
Bio: The Dead Kennedys was a major punk band in the 1980's. Their songs were mostly commentaries about political and social issues. Their first album, *Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables* was released in 1980. Throughout their career they released five studio albums. Their last one, *Bestie for Democracy* was released in 1986. Dead Kennedys have had a lineup of various new members. Their latest is vocalist, Skip Greer. Dead Kennedys have a few dates lined up in the UK, and 3 in California.

June 20th

Place: The Key Club 9039 Sunset Blvd.
West Hollywood, Ca 90069
Line up: After Midnight Project
Cost: \$10.00
Sounds like: Indie Rock



Where to find them: www.myspace.com/aftermidnightproject
Bio: After Midnight Project is an indie band from Hollywood California. Originally started in 2004, AMP is making it big for being unsigned. Alternative Press magazine has even called them, "one of the best unsigned bands in 2007." Their first self-titled EP was released independently and is currently available on itunes. In 2007 they also released another EP, *The Becoming*. At the moment AMP is writing new songs, playing shows, and promoting

their music. They have just started a new street team. For more information on the street team visit www.fancorps.com/aftermidnightproject

June 20th

Place: Pomona Fairplex 1101 W. McKinley Avenue
Pomona, CA. 91768
Line Up: VANS WARPED TOUR: over 50 bands, including The Academy is... Horrorpops, Reel Big Fish, and Say Anything
Cost: \$30.00
Sounds like: Indie rock, Ska, Metal etc.
Where to find them: www.warpedtour.com



Juanes at Nokia Theatre

BY STEPHANIE PENA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Colombian rock artist, Juanes, performed live on Friday, May 9th, at the Nokia Theatre in L.A. The concert was amazing! Juanes is a music legend and now, with his new haircut, a fashion icon. Not only is his talent amazing but his lyrics about war, famine, injustice, and poverty are too. The organization of the concert was well put together, with a mixture of new and old songs that kept the crowd in an upbeat mood. He even sang a rendition of a very famous salsa song that made everybody jump to their feet and dance! His jumpy but sexually insinuating dance moves made all the women and even some men scream for joy and even though the predominant age group at the concert was from twenty to thirty five but all ages were present. Because of this even the Colombian president has called him "Colombia's greatest ambassador." Overall, the concert was a hit but it was just too bad that it was held at the Nokia Theatre. The Nokia Theatre is located right next to the Staples Center



David Cook Wins *American Idol* by 12 Million Votes

BY VANESSA GALVAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

David Cook has made his journey to become the winner of Season 7's *American Idol* by 12 million votes. The grown-up rocker succeeded over the smooth-voiced teen David Archuleta who claimed the "American Idol" title on Wednesday, and it wasn't as much of a surprise as it seemed. "This is amazing," says Cook. "This is all your fault," he added, addressing his brother, Andrew Cook. Cook was overcome with emotion, bending toward the stage after his name was announced. When he stood up, his eyes were filled with tears, the second time in as many nights that the scruffy, rough-voiced rocker had broken down. Judge Simon Cowell declared at the time that the song choices had sunk him, and told Archuleta that he'd scored a "knockout" in the boxing-

themed performance finale. But just before the winner was announced, Cowell indistinctly fell back. He offered Cook an apology and said that the competition "wasn't quite so clear cut as we called it"- even letting on that, but for the first time, he felt that either finalist would have been a worthy winner. To close out the show's seventh season, Cook immediately took the microphone and began to sing "Time of My Life" by Nashville's singer/songwriter Regie Hamm, winner of the annual "Idol" songwriting competition. "If I had to choose between playing a song that not a whole lot of people know that I could get behind, or the opposite, I'll choose the lesser-known every time," said Cook. On Wednesday, all of the fans predicted that Archuleta will win this season's *American Idol*. But it was the real guitarist who struck the biggest power chord.

Speed Racer Breaks Through at the Box Office



MARISELA RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Released May 9th Speed Racer brought in \$20 million during opening weekend. Writer and directors Larry and Andy Wachowski, creators of the matrix trilogy, bring an all-star cast to the English adaptation of the Japanese anime Mach Go Go Go. Starring Emile Hirsch (Into the Wild) who plays Speed Racer, Christina Ricci as his girlfriend Trixi and also costarring John Goodman and Susan Sarandon who play his parents to name a few. The movie is about Speed Racer a racecar driver whose ambition is to win a cross-country rally, The Crucible, for the memory of his dead brother Rex Racer. With the help of a mysterious Racer X both fight to win the race that took his brothers life.

Running about 2hrs this PG rated movie is great kid movie because it promotes family loyalty. The movie would appeal to kids more than adults but will be interesting to anyone who loves cars and futuristic movies. Kids or kids at heart who love ninjas cars and monkeys will enjoy it but to me it was a really lame storyline. The movie was a confusing as well as boring with many flashbacks and so much movement; you also have to pay close attention in order to understand what's going on in the movie. Speed Racer did have a lot of cool visual affects but other than that if you must see it its up to you but I would just wait for it to come out on video. Even with all these great actors the movie the movie was not as good as it looks.



and compared to it, seems like a broken down shed. The new lighting and special effects that can be done in the place seem to have infinite possibilities but everything else is less than impressive. The rows are arranged in a normal theatre format but everything else is in the direction of a diagonal hell. If there were any reason why a concert could not be enjoyed at the Nokia, it would be because of all the beer that pours down the isle floors as if there were a big long waterfall going down throughout the theatre. Although the theatre lowered the overall impact of the concert, the concert was still a big hit! If you're into anything from salsa to rock, if you would like to see a great performer or you simply like to dance, this is definitely the concert for you. But, only buy tickets for an event there if you have no other choice or if you can not wait until the concert comes out on DVD, although you will be more comfortable watching it while sitting in your couch.