



# EL RODEO



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## Seniors “School” the Competition!

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

They came. They saw. They conquered. The Old School Seniors dominated the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors at the Night Pep Rally.

“It’s disappointing,” said Ariet Angeles, Junior Class President about the one point loss to the seniors. “I don’t think it was fair, but they won.”

“I think the juniors should have won this year because they had a really good skit and just the way they decorated... it was kind of ironic how they won by one point,” said Sophomore President Chelsi Serna.

“It was fair because the judges that were picked had no reason to be bias,” said Senior President Kayla Herrera.

“It’s not fair there should be a person from each class” said Michelle Luna Sophomore Vice-President.

The seniors exciting break-dancing skit made students jaws drop.

“It was the best night of my life,” said Juan Gonzales, who participated in the skit.

With the bleachers packed, the spirit and energy of the old school seniors was contagious. Hats and “bling” were not needed to show the enthusiasm of the Class of 2008.

“We worked so hard to have everything come together that by mid week it wasn’t



The “old school” seniors survive a scare from the junior class as they take night rally by one point.

even about winning, it was about pulling it off without any problems,” said Herrera.

“It’s their year,” said Angeles about the Seniors.

The juniors impressive 1920’s skit and decorations were favored by most students.

“I liked the juniors skit better,” said Luna, “The juniors now are really good.”

Herrera spoke highly of the juniors by saying, “I think they

did really really well. They put in a lot of effort into their performance and their decorations. I was really impressed at everything they did...they brought heir game face which made this rivalry an even better competition.”

The sophomore corner of the gym was transformed into a 1950’s *Grease* theme.

“It was a great experience for me,” said Sophomore President Chelsi Serna

about Homecoming week.

“They put a lot of effort into it, everything they did was freakin’ top secret,” said Herrera about the sophomore decorations.

It was the first time freshmen got a taste of what was to come during Homecoming week, but it did not prepare them for the loss at the Night Pep Rally.

Even with a relatively low turnout, the freshman still showed tremendous energy and enthusi-

asm for cheering their class on.

“They really pulled it together in the end. Steve Ramirez freshman Vice President) really helped them out,” said Herrera about the freshman performance.

Even with the rivalries and the upsets, everyone in attendance agreed that the night was all about having fun with friends, cheering for you class, and celebrating being a Don.



### Ms. Lugo’s Spanish Classes Show the Way

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

While the canned food drive is only one of the many class competitions held at El Rancho High School, it’s also a very special event because this competition helps more than just the winning class- it also helps Pico Rivera families in need of food.

Led by Mrs. Lugo and her Spanish classes, El Rancho students turned in cans by the cartful for the Canned Food Drive. Over 1,000 cans were turned in to H-1 and the Activities Office.

Mrs. Lugo told her classes that she would be collecting cans in her room; to make things more interesting she made it a competition.

Each class brought in over 100 cans, and in the end the winning class was Lugo’s period 3, with 516 cans.

The senior class alone brought in 1,035.30 pounds in cans, the freshman placed second with 346.45 pounds, the juniors were third with 275.87 pounds of cans, and the sophomores finished about ten times behind the seniors with only 114.42 pounds of cans.

### El Rancho Hosts Decathlon Scrimmage

BY SAMANTHA DURON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday the academic decathlon team met at El Rancho, along with eight other schools, and competed in a scrimmage. One hundred and seventy-eight students competed in math, super quiz, economics, science, language and literature, art and music. Students did not compete in speech, interview or essay.

“This year the team’s strong points are speech and

interview,” said coach Dawn Lam, “Also, they are a very personable group of students.”

Senior and decathlete Nelson Gaspar said he has been studying “really really really hard, a lot of studying.” “I’m pretty nervous, if I don’t do well my chances of competing in January are not good,” said Gaspar. “I think I’ll do well in economics,” said Gaspar with a smile on his face as economics teacher Mr. Retana walked by.

“I might not do that great at the scrimmage, I haven’t been

really studying,” said senior Joel Vegas, “but I’ll have my Iron Maiden shirt for good luck.” “Arcadia and Mark Keppel are going to be are biggest competition this Saturday,” added Vegas.

Saturday’s scores will determine who will compete in the academic decathlon January 26, 2008 and February 2, 2008. Scores will be posted soon after the scrimmage on the LA County website (www.LACOE.edu). The team will consist of eleven students, nine will compete and two will be alternates.



Decathletes Ricardo Prieto and Chelsey Morales practice for last Saturday’s scrimmage.



## Thirty-seven Years of Dedication



One of El Rancho's most dedicated teacher, Mr. Anderson.

By MARISSA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

One of El Rancho's most dedicated teachers is Mr. Anderson. He has devoted himself to "the ranch" for the past 37 years.

He started his career in 1971 by coaching water polo for 12 seasons.

Then he and fellow history teacher Mr. Dyson started the Decathlon program in 1982-a program they led for the next 24 years.

Anderson says that he has stayed so long at the Ranch because he enjoys coaching and teaching.

"There are so many good kids, and it's a challenge for me," he said.

Anderson is currently teaching U.S. History and for the last 27 years has taught junior honors with English teacher, Mr. McMullen.

He said, "I enjoyed coaching while it lasted, but now my work is in the classroom."

Anderson also enjoys his opportunities in life such as having the privilege to appear on the 80's show "Cheers."

"It was just a small part as a barber quartet for two episodes," he said. "It was really fun, I enjoyed being on set with the cast."

Although he's been here since the early 70's, he's still very active and enjoys playing basketball with other teachers during lunch.

"I might be a little slower, it's harder to still keep up," says Anderson.

But even though he might be slowing down a bit, students are still looking forward to learning from the dedication he has given to teaching at the ranch for all these years.

## Cram week at the Ranch

By MARISSA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Cram week is a study session for all ninth grade students, who need extra help with their schoolwork. It was held in the cafeteria from 3 to 4:30 on Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday last week.

In charge of cram week were the link leaders and a number of volunteer teachers. The purpose of cram week was to help

prepare freshmen for their finals.

Since it's the end of the trimester many freshmen are nervous about their final exams and can use the extra help with homework.

So link leaders decided that they would join together and help them out. During this three-day study session snacks were provided and raffles were held each day.

At least 300 students were

to attend and were split into different groups with the link leaders.

Ms. Chavez, one of the advisors for cram week, said that the link crew had tried the study session for themselves, and found it was successful, so they decided that they would share their idea and help out the freshmen prepare for their final exams.

## Are Dons Ready to Get Fit?

By VANESSA GALVAN, ALEJANDRA OCHOA, & ANABEL SANTILLAN,  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Students and staff members from El Rancho gave their opinions about the new 1.14-acre LA Fitness Center that will be open in the next couple of months on the corner of Washington Blvd. and Rosemead in Pico Rivera.

"The LA Fitness Center will bring job opportunities and kids can workout somewhere," says Ms. Ana Melgar, who works out twice a week to relieve her stress.

It is also part of the 8.10 acre shopping center across the street. Almost half the students we talked don't really work out while, the other half (mostly athletes), are interested in working out in the new gym.

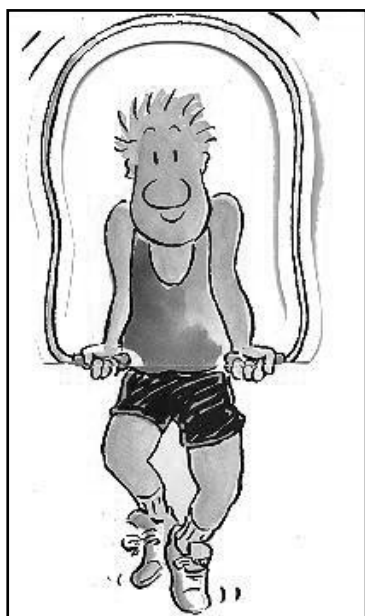
Some of our questions were: How often do you work out? Is it really important to you? Do you think it was a good thing LA Fitness chose Pico Rivera?

"Being fit is important, because it helps me stay healthy," says Senior Alice

Perez who works out every day during cross-country and track.

In California about 46% of people are overweight, while only 34% are at an appropriate weight. More than 15% of children ages 6-19 are overweight which can negatively effect their health.

"The LA Fitness is extremely important, it gives the community a place to workout and get fit," said Soccer Coach Gerardo Correa who works out three times a week to "stay in shape."



## Science File: Where will we "bee" without them?



By ALEJANDRA OCHOA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Honeybees are disappearing everywhere, and if they go extinct, "all humans can say goodbye to fruits and vegetables, a third of the food produced in the United States."

The extinction of bees is happening now and has been confirmed by beekeepers and scientists on a PBS documentary.

This crisis has been called a "bizarre epidemic" or a "looming crisis" because honeybees are the most impor-

## AP Bio Class Prepares for Fragile Planet Program

MARISELA RIEBELING  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho biology teachers, Mrs. Flores and Ms. Katsumura will be taking selected students from their AP Biology class on a 4-day 3-night trip to Blue Sky Meadow Science Institute.

Approximately 100 sophomores, juniors and seniors will be able to participate in an experience of a lifetime in the Fragile Planet program.

Blue Sky Meadow is 183 acres of wilderness and wildlife owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Education Foundation located right near Big Bear.

Surrounded by the San Bernardino Mountains and National Forest, Blue Sky Meadow is far away from the concrete, asphalt, and smoggy air of the urban areas of Los Angeles, where the kids can experience the excitement of being outdoors and learn new things at the same time.

The trip consists of science field study, environmen-

tal inquiry, and career exploration, which is fun for both students and teachers.

All students will be staying in divided dorms provided by the facility along with their classmates and teachers.

Joining the students will be ERHS teachers, trained Blue Sky Meadow naturalists, scientist and special guests.

It is a great opportunity for students who are interested in biology, earth science and love the outdoors. The students will leave Monday morning on December 17<sup>th</sup> and be back on Thursday afternoon on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



AP Biology teachers Ms. Katsumura and Mrs. Flores are looking forward to their overnight field trip with their AP biology students.

tant pollinators in the world.

"[The disappearance of the bees] is happening much more quickly than global warming or any other environmental threat that we want to believe exists somewhere in the distant future," as said by reporter Jean Prescott.

According to the article *Where did all the bees go?* David Hackenberg, a professional beekeeper, said that 70 percent of his bees were gone at the end of the season in 2006 and found many of his hives empty with no dead bees or anything around them.

The bee behavior has been peculiar and honey production is decreasing. The bees are put in the hives, but they do not stay nor they produce honey. Dale Beaugez, an Ocean Springs beekeeper, said that because the bees leave, the hives are dying as well.

Experts believe that toxic pesticides, parasites, and even an AIDS are to blame the extinction of the bees. But yet, the cause of the bees' extinction is not known for sure and while scientists are trying to figure it out, the bees continue to disappear.



# Who Will *You* Vote for this Election?



There is now a total of seventeen candidates in this presidential election. Some of the candidates are Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Chris Dodd, Duncan Hunter, John McCain and Ron Paul.

BY SAMANTHA DURON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's time again, the presidential race for the 2008 elections are here. This time next year a new set of presidential candidates, for both Republican and Democratic parties, will try their best to win your vote.

Currently leading the Democratic nomination race is Hi-

lary Rodham Clinton, but not far behind Illinois' senator Barack Obama is winning people over and giving Clinton a good amount of competition. His promises for a health care system that can provide for all Americans and his determination to pull troops out of Iraq have people saying "Obama for president." But I can't see how these promises are going to be executed if he is elected president.

One of my concerns with Obama is his health care program. If Obama is elected president where are the funds for his health care program going to come from, the public? Does this mean that taxes will increase? Who is entitled to health care, everyone or a chosen few? All these questions need to be answered in full detail to be believable. Another point that needs to be answered is how Obama would prevent the abuse of his health care program if it was to be enforced.

On the other side of this race are the Republicans, with Rudy Giuliani being the most promising candidate for president. Though Republicans are typically painted as a more conservative party, Giuliani has a conservative view with a moderate flare. His foreign policies is exactly what America needs, a firm standing that will show we won't back down; none of this Democratic "let's talk this out" nonsense. His standing on gay marriage maybe is nonexistent but he does believe in equal rights under law for all Americans.

Whoever the Democrats and the republicans choose to represent their party, it is eventually up to us to vote on who'll represent us as a nation. Learn about the candidates and their issues so when elections come in November 2008 you'll know who you want to represent your country. As a nation we should be standing by our president rather than complaining about him. Remember the position of the American President is an elected office, inform yourself and make sure you vote in November to make your voice be heard.

## FEMA Misfires Once Again

BY MARITZA PADILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last month Southern California suffered from some of the nation's worst wildfires, affecting the counties of Los Angeles, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Santa Barbara. The fires were declared a federal state emergency on Monday October 22. The question now is: how is help being provided to the victims of the wildfires? Will FEMA respond, or will it lack responsibility (once more), as displayed in the Hurricane Katrina?

FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) is an organization that responds to help in natural disasters all over the nation. One of its responsibilities was to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. However, FEMA did not respond in time to help the victims.

California's wildfires started on October 21 and have been calm since then. The cause of such fires is believed to be the ground power lines in extremely dry weather conditions. About 357,000 acres and 920 outbuildings have burned; in addition, at least 2,000 homes have been destroyed. Different



Fire evacuees set up camp at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

organizations have aided the families over the counties affected.

Several artists committed to help the victims, including Gwen Stefani, who donated all proceeds from her concert on October 30 to the San Diego Foundation. The Eagles pledged to give \$50,000 to fund for firefighters, and Linkin Park has also pledged to donate \$50,000 to fire victims. Furthermore, the state of Minnesota also helped the victims with their two CL-215 aircraft by watering over the fires.

Although FEMA did contribute with some aid to the victims, their fifteen-minute news conference was not overseen. The news conference held addressed

the aid provided to California. In general, the conference was labeled as "phony" because the reporters, FEMA agents themselves including John Philbin (head of news conference), asked elementary school questions, such as: "How do you feel about progress so far?" Many critics looked down on this conference and the Administrator of FEMA, David Paulison, apologized for such a "fake" conference.

Apparently, FEMA is still having problems handling organization for natural disasters. These actions should alarm us- is FEMA ready for the next natural disaster, considering that Global Warming is now increasing?



The fires raging across Southern California injured over 40 people; sixteen of them firefighters.

## Race Makes Me a Statistic



BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sometimes you're American, sometimes you're not, but when is it the right time to be more than just a statistic? In my eyes we're all just a bunch

of jumbled kids shuffling lazily down the crowded halls trying to get to the same classes we've been going to for weeks. But how do we define ourselves individually?

When asked the question 'how do you define yourself racially,' many students responded with a hearty "I don't know."

The issue of race has been splattered everywhere from immigration protests to racial slurs by famous stars. Students are categorized by race on standardized tests and even on college applications. But are the bubbles on a scantron enough to determine what race we feel we are?

Some say that if you're not the first or second generation than you should only define

yourself by the country in which you are raised. As a second generation American, a third generation Mexican, a fourth generation Chinese, I feel I should define myself by heritage and values rather than statistics.

"I define myself as Mexican-American, but it doesn't really bother me that I have to fill in a section on a test with my ethnicity," said senior, Jessica Carillo, "I just don't understand why they put it if tests are based on what we're supposed to know."

Everything from tests to the people you associate yourself with can be based on a racial bias. Being the minority isn't a hard-hitting issue anymore, but being the wrong minority tends to get attention.



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# Boys and Girls X-Country Sweeps Del Rio League

By KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the past three years El Rancho's Boys and Girls Cross Country team has been one of the few sports teams with a reputation for winning.

This season the Cross Country team competed for yet another league title leaving them with a combined eleven Del Rio League championships.

The boys team earned its seventh league title in a row, while the girls added a fourth title their victory belt.

The overall Del Rio League Champion for girls individuals was Tania Mendoza running a 18:32 in the girls three mile run.

Natalie Galvan came in second with a time of 19:09.

The girls finished 38th out of 126 teams which unfortunately councluded their season.

"We had the potential to do much better than we actually did," said Galvan, "As the season moved along, we were

getting better as a team, but unfortunately it wasn't fast enough to advance to CIF finals."

The cross country boys seventh title came as no surprise with Jason Zapien and Pedro DeAlba leading the boys at their preliminary meet at Mt. Sac.

De Alba ran a 15:18 in the boys three mile run while Zapien ran a steady 15:37.

The boys finished 11th out of 225 teams which guaranteed them a spot at CIF. Both Zapien and De Alba made top 100 in the preliminary meet.

"We've been going to CIF six out of the past seven years and state for the past two years. It's more than just CIF finals, it's a tradition and a goal," said Zapien, "It has been a pleasure winning. I'm glad I joined the team and I love every single one of my teammates, thank you for the memories."

This year's all-star freshmen, Juan Rodriguez added, "I feel ready for the next three years. I'm



going to miss all of the seniors, but I'm excited to keep racing."

This fantastic season was lead by none other than Coach Ray Elliot. Both the boys and girls teams were awarded at the 2007 Fall Sports Dessert.

"It was a good season, one of the best ways to close a chapter," added Zapien, "They improved a lot from last year to make this season better."

The cross country team hopes to keep their league records for the next fall season and are determined to keep the tradition of CIF finals alive.

## From 0-10 to CIF Playoffs

By KAYLA HERRERA AND  
LORRAINE CANDELAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho varsity football has come a long way since last year's 0-10 season. The Dons celebrated this season with a trip to CIF finals and took third place in league.

"It feels great after last years disappointing season; we knew we had the talent but now we have the coaching and our team understands the concept of loving the pain," said senior, Albert Toscano.

The Dons duked it out with the Cal High Condors on Friday, November 9th and graciously broke Cal's "undefeated" title giving them a spot in the Del Rio League and a ticket to CIF play-offs.

"It feels like a big accomplishment to go from 0-10, to staying with the same boys and helping each other make it this far," said senior, Raymond Madrid, "I gave them everything I had for the Cal game... even my collar bone."

Taking on the Westminster Lions for play-offs, the Dons swept almost all four quarters, with Marcus Aldecoa and Marcus Galan leading in touchdowns. In the last minute of the game the Lions took the Dons into over time.

Westminster was given the ball first and given their time to make a touchdown. They succeeded and the Dons were unable to keep up.

Devoted football fan Chelsey Morales said, "I don't think the boys understand what a tremendous breakthrough they made this season. They shouldn't focus on this one loss, but in-



*Anthony Ayala runs the ball in against Cal High. Photo courtesy of Whittier Daily News*

stead on all of their successes, like beating Santa Fe and Cal High. I am really proud of them."

Unfortunately this game marked the end of the season for the Dons with a final score of 21-14.

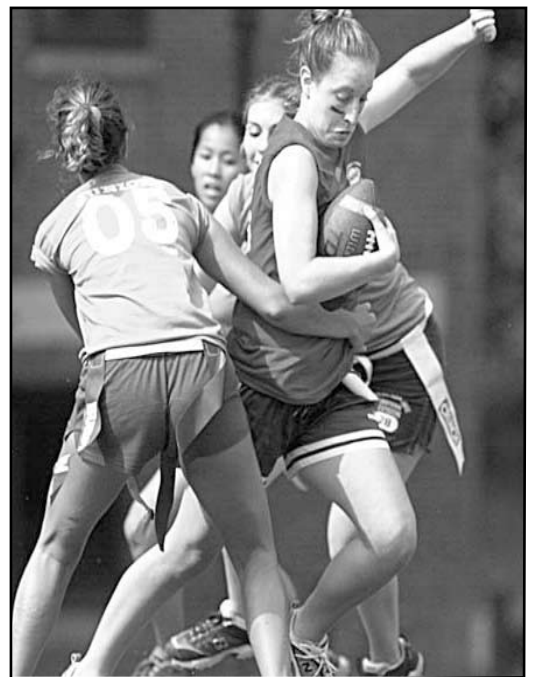
"The Dons worked hard and put much effort to make it to play offs, they did a great job," said Coach Parsons.

"We've proved to everyone that we can play like champions, all we have to do now is stay focused and play like

MARISELA RIEBELING  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The term powder puff refers to any sport played by women that would usually be a male dominant sport. The term originates from the powder puff used in cosmetics for powdering which was the typical female behavior at the time, to take out the powder puff and a small mirror so they can powder themselves in public. Powder puff football games are an annual tradition at many high schools including El Rancho, and at many universities in the United States and Canada. The teams are made up of girls from the junior and senior classes and are put to play against each

other. Boys from the classes, usually athletes, will dress up as girls and be the Cheerleaders. The term powder puff is only used for non-professional women leagues for instance women's high school football. All professional and amateur women's sports such as Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) or the International Female Boxers Association choose not to use the term "powder puff" because they are generally more serious than high school girl sports. This year El Rancho's powder puff football game will be held on December 13, 2007 at 7pm in the stadium, and there will be a powder puff pep rally at lunch in the gym that day.





## Girl's Tennis Team Finishes Fourth in Del Rio League

MARISELA RIEBELING  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's varsity tennis team took fourth in finals this year after their last tennis match of the season that took place on Thursday, November 1.

Ms. Lippstreu, varsity tennis coach said, "The season went great, we were 8-9 all through the season and pre season, we did our best and got 4th place!"

Junior varsity player Jenny Perez said "We did well and could have done better, but we learned, and now we know many new techniques to help us improve our team next year."

With new seasons come a lot of new changes. Lippstreu says, "Many of our best players are leaving this year such as our seniors Nef-tali Bermudez and Stephany Robles who are our best singles players, but we still have many left such as our returning juniors like Sarah



*Girls varsity tennis team satisfied with the season's wrap up.*

Medina and Jenny Perez who will be two of our best players for next season."

Junior single player Sarah Medina says, "We did well but with

some little improvements we could do better"

She also says "I am proud of myself for getting this far and very proud of my teammates for getting 4<sup>th</sup>

place, we hope to make it to CIF next year, there will be a lot more pressure involved but I'm ready for it", "Bring it on," added Medina.

## November's Star Athletes

BY MARISELA RIEBELING  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

November athletes of the month, Meghan Barr and Ray Madrid had many tough obstacles to go through for the season's finals. Both seniors did have fun though after finishing their last and final game here at El Rancho.

Volleyball player Meghan Barr was a little sad because she played her last game "I am very devastated that I am never going to play or be able to experience high school volleyball again" she says "but I did the best I



*Varsity volleyball captain Meghan Barr*

## Boys Water Polo Says Bon Voyage to Senior Stars

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boys water polo team lost in the first round of CIF playoffs and finished third in league with losses to La Serna and Whittier, but teammates have high hopes for next season.

"Everyone is coming back except for two seniors and we have a lot of promise for next year. I think our guys have learned from this experience and see us improving and see us going further in CIF and placing better in league," said coach Pringle.

The team loses its two best players of the year, Miguel Quijada and Sean Salcido who will be graduating this year. According to Pringle the most improved players this season were three juniors: goalie Justin Calgaran, JP Aguirre and Adrian Ramirez.

"It is frustrating to lose. I know these guys are frustrated, considering that these guys were really inexperienced. Seven of the nine players were first year on varsity. It was a satisfying taking such inexperienced guys to some success," said Pringle



*Volleyball captains and seniors Meghan Barr, Sharon Pedregon and Lauren Jones say good-bye to final volleyball season*

## Volleyball Season Comes to an End

BY VANESSA GALVAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This seasons varsity volleyball team hit hard to the end, although they failed to reach their goal of a CIF playoffs. They did their best despite losing a few games.

This year's team captains were Meghan Barr, Loren Jones, and Sharon Pedregon. Some girls who made the most improvement included Barr, and Tatiana Gomez.

"Meghan led them in kills, digs, and aces, and Tatiana led them in sets of numbers," says head coach Adelaide Picon. They had done their best to achieve their goals, even though they couldn't make it to the CIF Championship.

"Although we may be young, we were very capable of achieving our goals. We had worked very hard trying to make it to CIF, but I am so proud of the girls, they have done their best this season," said Picon.

Hopefully next season, the Girls Volleyball Team will do even better. If any girls who are interested in trying out, there is always next year so see Mrs. Picon.

could considering with what we had to work with." But even though it was a lot of hard work getting through the season she still is happy with being able to play for the lady dons volleyball team. Her advice for future players is "don't take the season for granted and do the best you can or you will regret it later on".

Varsity football player Ray Madrid says his Best part of the season was "defeating Cal High!" he also like Barr are hesitant about leaving el rancho "I am sad of course because I won't play for El Ranchos again but I am happy that I went out with a touch down and broken collarbone" which was broken during his last game against Cal High. Leaving the football team as Most Valuable Player (MVP) both he and Barr have left their legacy behind for years to come.



*Miguel Quijada, Coach Pringle and Sean Salcido on the pool deck together for one of the last times.*



*Varsity football player, Raymond Madrid*





Junior Daniela Angelo, Mrs. Zeko, and Mr. Alvarado smile while being busy at the Homecoming Carnival.



Seniors Michael Garza and Laura Coronado enjoy the Homecoming Carnival.



Seniors show off their banner at their last Night Pep Rally.



Senior Alyssa Martinez smiles after selling pizza.



Seniors Marisol Cabral and Maria Estrada show their Blue Pride.



Freshmen football just in time for the Night Pep Rally after their game.



Freshmen anxiously wait for their first Night Pep Rally to start..



Sophomore Sarah Vasquez shows her 50's moves at the Night Pep Rally.



Mr. Diaz and Mr. Correa show their "Old School" attitude.



Juniors, with their 20's spirit, pose before cheering for their class.



Senior counselor, Mrs. Jimenez, joins Senior skit and shows her old school moves.



Homecoming Court anxiously wait for the results.



Seniors Beatrice Guzman, Lorraine Candelas, Samantha Duron, and Thomas LaBreque smile and get ready to win.



# Outstanding October Students of the Month

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The nominated October Students of the Month are freshman Susana Escamilla, sophomore Clarissa Sanchez, junior Bethany Ortega, and senior Ashley Ortiz.

Freshman Susana Escamilla felt “happy, surprised, and proud of [herself]” when she found out she was chosen as student of the month because this was her first time as student of the month.

Escamilla believes she was chosen as student of the month because she “has good grades” and always does her work. After high school, she wants “to go to college or a university,” but is not sure of what profession she should be.

Sophomore Clarissa Sanchez says, “It feels good to know that my hard work has paid off” by being student of the month.

Sanchez was surprised when she found out she was student of the month because this is her first time. When asked why she thinks she was chosen as student of the month, Sanchez said,



*Susana Escamilla is proud to be freshmen Student of the Month for October*

“Because I have straight A’s.” One of her favorite hobbies is playing basketball. Her goal after high school is to go to USC.

Junior Bethany Ortega says she was very surprised when told about her nomination for student of the month; she says it feels “very good” to be student of the month.

Ortega says, “I have now been student of the month twice; I was chosen last year for the month of January.”



*Clarissa Sanchez is glad her hard work has paid off as Student of the Month*

Before actually being chosen as student of the month, Ortega had always wanted to be one. “I was chosen as student of the month for my grades, which are A’s, and for my hard work,” said Ortega.

Her hobbies are reading for fun, and reading ahead of what she will learn. Ortega is very proud of her accomplishments and says, “I want to thank all my bilingual teachers for all the support they have given me.”



*Two time Student of the Month, Junior Bethany Ortega feels glad to once more be Student of the Month*

Senior Ashley Ortiz says, “I was excited and felt flattered when I found out I was student of the month.”

Ortiz did not think much of being student of the month, so she was not expecting to be chosen.

“My study habits, work ethics, and grades are the reasons why I was chosen as student of the month,” said Ortiz.

Ortiz is involved in school activities such as journalism, CSF/



*Senior Ashley Ortiz smiles for her first time nomination as Student of the Month.*

UC partners, EAOP, and ETS.

Even though Ortiz has a job at school and is also a tutor at Rivera Elementary in Pico Rivera, she still finds time for her hobbies, which are going online, texting, watching TV, and listening to music.

Because she was nominated as student of the month, Ortiz said, “Thank you to all the teachers who nominated me and thanks for all your support.”



*Juniors Jose Jurado (right, level 2) and Estaban Magana (left, level 1) are part of the ELD program. Both have different opinions of the ELD program. Jurado likes and enjoys the program; however, Magana feels the class content is not enough.*

## ELD Program Helps Non-English Speaking Students Succeed

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The ELD program takes in students who do not speak English. This program was created to suit those students who have just arrived from a foreign country. The program is divided into five levels; level one being the beginners and level five being the students who are a step away from being advanced. According to the progress the student makes in English determines the levels that he or she might be placed on.

A total of four teachers teach the ELD program: Veronica Cardenas, Collene Valle, Elizabeth Hernandez and Martin Martinez. Cardenas teaches level

one, Valle level two, Hernandez level three and Martinez levels four and five. Students in the ELD program are not all-Spanish speaking. There are students from the Philippines, Central America and other places as well.

“I see improvement in my students; when they are in level one they know absolutely nothing and then in level five you see the big difference...it’s a big improvement by the time they are in level five. They are as capable as some of the regular kids that are out there. It’s just like anything you are going to have students that are at a higher level and some that are at lower level. You see the improvement from one level to another,” says Martinez.

The type of work students get is based on the same standards that a regular class would, with the exception that the material is taught at a much slower pace. The material is explained in more time and is modified for the students to understand it.

Junior Jose Jurado, who is a part of the ELD program and is in the second level, really likes his teachers and the class. “Estas clases son buenas para mejorar mi ingles. Estoy aprendiendo mucho con mi maestra Ms. Valle. Es muy buena. Yo ya siento la diferencia cuando hago mis trabajos (These classes are good to better my English. I am learning a lot with my teacher Ms. Valle; she is great).”

“Yo no siento que estoy aprendiendo nada. Mi maestra nada mas escribe el trabajo en el pizarrón y no nos explica nada. Yo siento que copiando palabras de un libro no me sirve de nada si no se lo que significan. Si supiera lo que significan las palabras seria mas fácil para que yo aprendiera. (I do not feel that I am learning anything. My teacher just writes the on the board and does not explain anything to us. I do not feel that copying words from a book is of a lot of help if I do not know what they mean, if I knew what they mean it would be easier for me to learn the words),” says Junior Esteban Magana from level one of ELD.

Junior Diana Hernandez just arrived to the Ranch from New Mexico and was placed in the ELD program. “Me gusta la escuela y mi clase de ELD. Estoy aprendiendo mucho; ya estoy en el nivel tres. Siento la diferencia cuando tengo que hacer mi tarea es mas fácil (I really like this school and my ELD class. I am learning a lot and I feel the difference when I do my homework it is easier).”

## Seniors Speak the “Voice of Democracy”

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Honor. Sacrifice. Freedom. These are just some of the words that begin to describe America’s Veterans. With the American flag being raised and the El Rancho High School band playing the Star Spangled Banner, all one could do was absorb this moment.

To honor America’s Veterans, winners from the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition were chosen to recite their winning essays. The theme this year was “My Role in Honoring America’s Veterans”. Among the winners were Izamar Herrera, and Kiana Juarez.

“I felt very excited because I knew the money would come in handy for my college education,” said senior Kiana Juarez, winner of the Vincent D. Solozano Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6515 when she was informed that she won.

Along with praise, winners of the Essay Competition were rewarded with certificates and a \$100.00 savings bond.

“I’m really proud of our veterans and I’m thankful to them for everything they’ve done,” said Izamar Herrera, winner of the Lt. Ray L. Muskgrove Veterans

of Foreign Wars Post 7734 in respect to how she feels toward honoring the veterans.

Senior Eric Menjivar (winner of the South Whittier Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3752) comments on advice about how to honor America’s Veterans: “It’s important to know that there are people out there that sacrificed their lives and their time to make this country what it is right now.”

The winning essays will now be judged at the next District level of the competition. District winners will be invited to Sacramento to compete at the state levels and hopefully the National levels. \$30,000 awaits one lucky winner at the National Competition.

Rachael Duran, Chairmen of the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition hopes to “encourage all grades to participate (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>), and to groom them so when they become seniors, they will truly be competitive in the program.”

So, instead of honoring veterans only on Veterans Day, why not honor them every single day, after all many brave soldiers gave and are still giving their lives just so you could live everyday with no worries.



# Thanksgiving holiday a time to check out some box office hits



## Buzz on Bee Movie

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Swarms of people lined up around movie theatres to watch the highly advertised film, *Bee Movie*, co-written, produced and starring Jerry Seinfeld. *Bee Movie* tells the story of a bee and his transition into the human world.

Barry B. Benson (Jerry Seinfeld) is a bee who recently graduated from college. Instead of having a graduation party Barry instead learns that he will be working at Honex, (a honey factory) making yes, you guessed it, honey everyday for the rest of his life.

Not wanting to work everyday doing the same thing Barry jumps at the chance to leave the hive when the Pollen Jocks (only honey workers allowed to leave the hive; they collect nectar and pollinate flowers) challenge him to join them on their travel to the world outside.

While out Barry meets Vanessa (Renée Zellweger) a florist who saves his life after her boyfriend Ken (Patrick Warburton) almost kills him (Ken is allergic). While at a supermarket with Vanessa, Barry uncovers that humans have been stealing honey from bees without their consent.

Shocked by his discoveries Barry flies back to the hive to tell everyone about what he just learned. Everyone acts as if nothing has happened until Barry finally convinces them that the only way to get justice is to sue the human race. So begins the case of The Bees vs. the Human Race.

With the help of Vanessa, Adam, Barry's best friend (Matthew Broderick), and a bear Barry gets his wish and all the honey is rightfully returned to the bees. With jobs at a stand still the flowers begin to wilt and eventually die because the Pollen Jocks would pollinate the other flowers allowing them to continue to grow.

The ending is unbelievable! I highly recommend watching *Bee Movie*. It not only tells of a journey through life, but it will also teach you a bit more about bees. Buzz!

## Saw IV kills

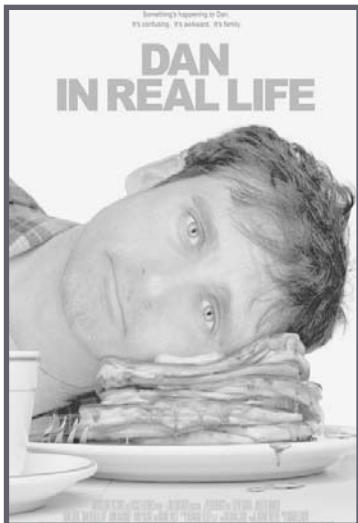
BY LORRAINE CANDELAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Just when the audience thought they'd seen the last of the wild killer Jigsaw (Tobin Bell), here comes *Saw IV*. Continuing his tragic filled legacy, Jigsaw, targets the last remaining officer who has touched the case, SWAT Commander Rigg (Lyriq Bent). To save his friends, Riggs needs fight his addiction of saving lives. Riggs must rely on his brains instead of his strength and play along with Jigsaw's game. The longer Rigg takes to solve the puzzle, the more the bodies pile up. Rigg follows his own personalized path, determined FBI profilers Straham (Scott Patterson) and Perez (Athena Karkanis) join forces with Detective Hoffman (Costas Mandylor) try and help by uncovering the clues which will ultimately lead to the creation of Jigsaw's hideous plan to connect his past, present and future.

The film is repeatedly interrupted with flashes to Kramer's past and how a mishap involving his wife Jill (Betsy Russell) turned him into the man whose amusement lies within deadly puzzles. *Saw IV* connects the pieces of the puzzle and leaves audiences at the edge of their seats. But will this be the last chronicle to *SAW*? The only clue to that answer is as Jigsaw so calmly states, "This is just the beginning."



the highly advertised film *Bee*



## Carell is Dan in Real Life

BY ANABEL SANTILLAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Love comes in the worst situations for widower, single father of three, and famous column writer of family problems Dan Burns (Steven Carell). When going out with his daughters Jane, Cara, and Lily to an annual family gathering he meets Marie (Juliette Binoche) at a local bookshop and they feel a mutual attraction. Later, at his parents' annual gathering he finds out that his love interest is actually his brother's (Dane Cook) new girlfriend. As the weekend unfolds Marie and Dan struggle to hide their feelings for each other, resulting in many awkward and funny situations.

Directed by Peter Hedges *Dan in Real Life* is one of this season's best romantic comedies. Steve Carrell gives one of his most convincing performances. He has an amazing way of making regular, unfunny dialogue seem oddly funny and sarcastic. Dane Cook ironically wasn't that funny, considering he is comedian. There were times were the movie seemed to drag. It made it a little hard to concentrate on the storyline but overall the movie had a good plot. The cast was well put together and each family member seemed to compliment each other. It's definitely a movie I would recommend to go see.

## Not even thirty minutes of fright

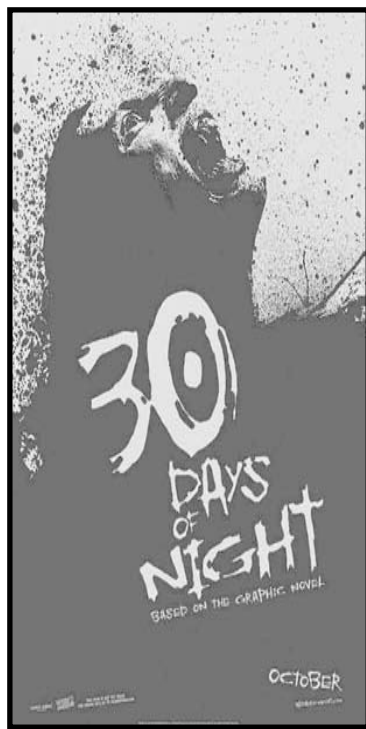
BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*30 Days of Night* is a flop not a fright! Josh Hartnett and Melissa George bring the classic comic, "30 Days of Night," to the big screen. To my surprise this vicious vampire flick was nothing more than a boring blood fest.

This flick has audiences at the edge of their seats until all the action takes a big blow in the middle of the movie. Some scenes were just too graphic to even enjoy. If it wasn't a minute full of blood sucking vampires it was a minute full of boring actors trying to escape in the middle of nowhere.

From beginning to end the small town survivors are waiting for the sun to rise, while viewers are anxiously waiting for the film to end. In his heroic attempt to save four people, Josh Hartnett takes one for the team and grows some fangs.

The only thing this film has to offer is possibly good previews and motion sickness due to crappy camera angles.



## CD reviews in the news!



BY ASHLEY ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Four years after her last release, *In the Zone*, Britney Spears unleashes her newest album, *Blackout*. Reviewer of Associated Press, Nekesa Mumbi Moody believes Spears' new album "Is not only a very good album, it's her best work ever."

*Blackout* is an antithesis of her tabloid persona- confident, sensual, and in control. The track "Pieces of Me" addresses her criticisms about her life in the media. This album is a reflection of Spears' new attitude and lifestyle.



Megadeth's album *Warchest* is out in DVD and CD. This pack is one of the greatest accomplishments for the band. Dave Mustaine, leader of the band, included 33 never before released songs; three CD's are the "Greatest Hits," full live concert from 1990 recorded at Wembley Stadium in England, a DVD that features a vintage performance from the Hammersmith Odeon in 1992. Inside the package are highly decorated pages and a massive collage of the bands greatest songs.



Carrie Underwood's sophomore album, *Carnival Ride* is a little more country than her first album, *Some Hearts*. *Carnival Ride* describes every dayliving.

The title of the album was thought of from one of her songs "Wheel of the World" because Underwood feels that that life is sometimes a crazy blessing in disguise.

This is an album with a sophisticated sound.

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