



El Rodeo



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El Rancho Shines in Academic Contest

BY JAVIER GARCIA &
ALEJANDRA OCHOA

EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

On Saturday, February 2, El Rancho High School scored among the top ten high schools throughout Los Angeles County at this year's Academic Decathlon Super Quiz, held at the University of Southern California.

Students chosen to study for El Rancho's Academic Decathlon must arrive to school every morning during the previous summer at 6:30 A.M. and meet regularly during the school year and during winter break. The decathletes spend most of their time reading study material for the ten subjects, giving speeches and practicing interviews.

The decathlon tests students on their analytical skills, performance abilities, and writing aptitude in ten categories. The subjects include: arts, economics, an essay, a personal interview, language and literature, mathematics, music, science, speech, and Super Quiz all revolving around this year's theme: the American Civil War.

The eleven-member team is composed of three categories. The Varsity, or C-slot, decathletes include seniors Ricardo Prieto, Jeffrey Sosa, and junior



Preparing for their speeches and essays, the decathletes smile for the camera at Montebello High School.

Luis Aldana. The Scholastic, or B-slot, members are seniors Nelson Gaspar, Chelsey Morales, Eric Menjivar, Joel Villegas, and junior Christopher Neely. Last but certainly not least are the Honors, or A-slot, decathletes, including senior Martha Franco and returning decathletes Javier Garcia and Diego Rubalcava.

"I felt pressured because last year's team did well and we all had high hopes of doing well this year," said Gaspar.

When asked on what subject he performed the best, he responded, "I think I scored the highest in science because it was the easiest of all the tests and the one I studied the most."

"The students did really well and I'm glad they're in the top ten," added head coach Mrs. Dawn Lam. She barely began her role as head coach last year after coaches Mr. Anderson and Mr. Dyson retired from coaching the team for 25 years. Now,

after finishing up her second year of coaching, Mrs. Lam will take this year's team to the awards ceremony held today at Quiet Cannon, Montebello. Last year, decathlete Damian Gamboa left the team with advice that served this year's decathlon team extremely well: "Procrastination *does* work, but only if you use it correctly."

Eight months of constant studying, from morning to evening and even during winter break, the team hopes to finish in the top ten.

Career Day Attracts Upperclassmen

RIQUELMY VALLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Career Day returned to El Rancho and this year resulted in full of excitement. Both the Army and Marines talked a soldier's benefits and the Edison Company Workers convinced students to start a career in Electricity. Many girls also received free manicures and had their hair beautified. Career Day consisted of beauty technicians and makeup artists, auto shop, and colleges informing students on a particular vocation. Students really seemed to be enjoying themselves throughout the whole period, dropping by as many booths as possible, discovering what each table had to offer.

After being asked what she was hoping to pass on to students, Jana from Fashion Institute said, "I am here to give students the knowledge of subjects in the field of their careers in fashion." As for Jane Templen from Electrical Training Institute she said, "I would like students to get the opportunity to understand apprenticeship and that construction is a great career not only for men but for women as well."



Seniors Charlene Parra and Tara Herrera are eager to learn about career options.

Travis Johnson from Musicians Institute said, "This is my 3rd time participating at this school. It's great because it helps students become aware of career options."

As for the students, they had much to say about Career Day as well. Brianna Rodriguez said, "Career Day was very interesting and a great experience." "It's really great that our school gives us a chance to explore different careers, but it would be better if they had more options," said Cynthia Garcia. As for Consuelo Rivera she said, "It's a great opportunity to learn about different careers and interact with people that have already gone through college and have actually started careers because they can give students an outlook on what the future holds in the next two years." From learning about different free careers to receiving free manicures, this year's Career Day gave juniors and seniors a real taste of reality.

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Ground Breaking Takes Place for New Gymnasium



Members of the Salcido family stand in front of the gym with Superintendent Norbert Genis and members of the city council.

BY JAVIER GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The EL Rancho Unified School Board of Education met on Saturday, January 19 to witness the groundbreaking of the new Raul P. Salcido Gymnasium at the back of campus. Along with the school board were members of the school city council, including the mayor and members of Salci-

do's family. Mr. Genis began the ceremony by welcoming guests and explaining how necessary and important the groundbreaking meant to El Rancho. "El Rancho's sports teams have increased since the school's beginnings in 1952." He also said that this groundbreaking was rather new to everyone, since no other buildings had been commenced in over fifty years.

Louis Salcido, Raul's brother, continued the groundbreaking by describing the Salcido family and their influence in Pico Rivera schools. "We come from humble roots," he said, "and we've always grew up with a saying my father told me: Get up if you fall down, and don't stay down unless you make into your dreams." He also said that their family began as very ambitious and positive roots in East L.A. when both Raul and he enrolled in school. Now that Raul is having a gym dedicated to all his efforts in Pico Rivera, Louis ended with, "I look around at all of Pico's people, and I realize that very single one of us is one of sixty thousand different people, each with his or her own story." Mr. Ayala assisted the Salcido family with the commencement part of the ceremony, where he and the family stood next to hard hats and shovels. Mr. Genis announced that the gym will be completed by September of this year, where the school will hold another ceremony, celebrating the start of the 2008-2009 school year.

Graffiti: Art or Crime?

By KIANA JUAREZ & MARTHA FRANCO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Graffiti can be dated back to ancient Roman and Greek times where citizens would express themselves by carving their opinion and such on the walls of important buildings. The graffiti people know today didn't fully sprout until about the 1960's when young men in New York and other major cities started advertising themselves by "tagging" their nicknames anywhere and everywhere.

A revolution began that called for public self-expression and in the 1970's graffiti took its full form. Gangs, local artists and activists began to use graffiti to portray themselves, soon after entire neighborhoods were overflowing with colorful and different styles of graffiti. Additionally, graffiti was linked with the Hip-Hop movement of the 1980s and still is. Since its early roots in Classical times to modern times, graffiti's purpose has not changed as much as its style.

Art

Expression: a mode of artistic expression in which direct communication of feeling or emotion is the main intention.

Art, whether its displayed on a wall or canvas, is expression at its finest. This is the message graffiti artists are trying to get across.

Throughout the world, graffiti is seen as a result of poverty, a lack of self-discipline, and a failure to adhere to society's morals. But in the end, it is a true representation of society's flaws and the positive results of a working democracy.

Banksy, a famous English graffiti artist, is doing his best to make the community realize the government's problems. He's published books (*Banging Your Head Against a Brick Wall*) that are filled with art depicting the numerous government shortcomings. Banksy, an advocate of anti-capitalism, uses his talent to display intelligence and not scribbling of mere ignorance.

But while others may object to this form of expression, Democracy clearly protects it. The first amendment of the Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." Graffiti artists are merely exercising their first amendment right, all the while enlightening a dumfounded America.

Vandalism

The association of graffiti with gangs created a negative environment for citizens living in the cities being vandalized. Moreover, neighborhoods filled with obscene and inappropriate graffiti become undermined and unwelcoming places.

Subway stations, trucks and any blank walls have become the perfect canvases for these vandals who consider nothing but their selfish desire to leave their mark, whether it involves profanity or illegible scribbles.

Graffiti is definitely an art form when it is done in a proper and orderly manner with the consent of the city or owner. In contrast, when public bathrooms, school campuses, build-

ing walls, etc. become plagued with random scribbles and carvings then this art form becomes vandalism and a crime.

Solutions

There is no simple formula for stopping graffiti.

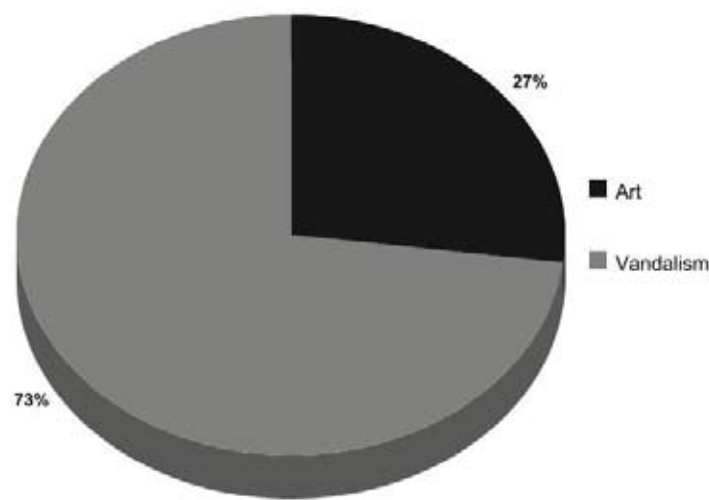
But in an attempt to end vandalism, the city of Pico Rivera and the sheriff's station have turned to technology, known as Graffiti Tracker.

Graffiti Tracker puts pictures into a database, creating a collection of vandalism. The system finds patterns or similarities between different pieces of work. Like child offenders and rapists, taggers are tracked. There is an actual chart that depicts where each person lives. But that's not the only way these guys are going down, taggers are also being caught through their own computers.

Myspace is crazy; everyone and their mom is on it. Sheriffs realize this and are honing in on these vandals. People who post the places they've "hit-up" are being caught more and more often. Rewards are even being offered for those who turn in taggers.

But overall, graffiti is a much greater force than technology. Changes and interventions must be made in the community. Organizations should be formed that allow artists to display their work. "Graffiti is beautiful when it's displayed in the right context; but it's ghetto when it's on the side of Ralphs," said senior Daisy Villafuerte. With a place to turn to, people will no longer raid city walls; and as a result, crime rate will go down.

Art v. Vandalism



ER students expresses their opinion on graffiti.

Quick facts about Graffiti

- Los Angeles County spends about \$55 million per year on Graffiti removal 13 million square feet of walls and other surfaces were cleaned, 4 million more square feet than the previous year.
- Graffiti has invaded cities like Malibu and Glendora
- The City of Orange spent 40% more money covering graffiti than the previous year.
- Graffiti Tracker has contracts with 13 cities in southern California.
- The MTA spends \$20 million annually cleaning up buses.
- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, graffiti makes up 35% of property vandalism (the most).
- The majority of taggers are 12-21 years old.
- The City of San Clarita arrested over 150 people for graffiti vandalism
- The Graffiti Tracking System was awarded the 2007 Helen Putnam Award for excellence.

Word on the Street

El Rodeo Staff ask:

What's your opinion about graffiti?



"Graffiti is beautiful when it's used in the right context; but its really ghetto when it's on the side of Ralphs." -Daisy Villafuerte, Senior



"If someone takes their time, its art; but when it's done sloppily, it's gross!" - Lydia Rodriguez, Senior



"Graffiti is a different form of expression." -Marisol Cabral, Senior



"Art should stick to canvas." -Dilprit Singh, Junior



"Graffiti's vandalism, people tag all over the walls." -Samuel Barajas, Junior



"If you're asked to use the spot and tag on it, then it's art." - Joseph Lapierre, Senior

Confessions of Taggers""

By KIANA JUAREZ
&
ANABEL SANTILLAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Tagging is everywhere from storefronts and street corners, to schools and playgrounds. This plague has also taken over the streets of Pico Rivera.

El Rancho High School has produced its fair share of taggers. But why exactly do these students tag? One former student, who will remain anonymous, and a current student- who will be referred to as John Doe, were willing to talk to the paper about their motives, experiences and fears.

For the anonymous tagger, the urge to tag started in middle school. There was a comradeship between the young men. From the break dancing battles to the drugs, Mr. Anonymous became close to a core group of friends. They were like brothers, running through the streets, and away from cops. For John Doe, the tagging crew was a safe haven from a broken home.

Both Doe and Anonymous accounted many of the same experiences. Running from the cops was an "adrenaline rush" for Doe. Anonymous remembered buying



Regular night out in the town for Anonymous.

boxes of latex gloves at a time. The gloves prevented the paint from getting under his nails. If the cops were to stop him, he wouldn't have any traces of spray paint on him. The gloves also helped closer to home, "My dad couldn't tell if I'd been out tagging or just hanging with a group of friends," said anonymous.

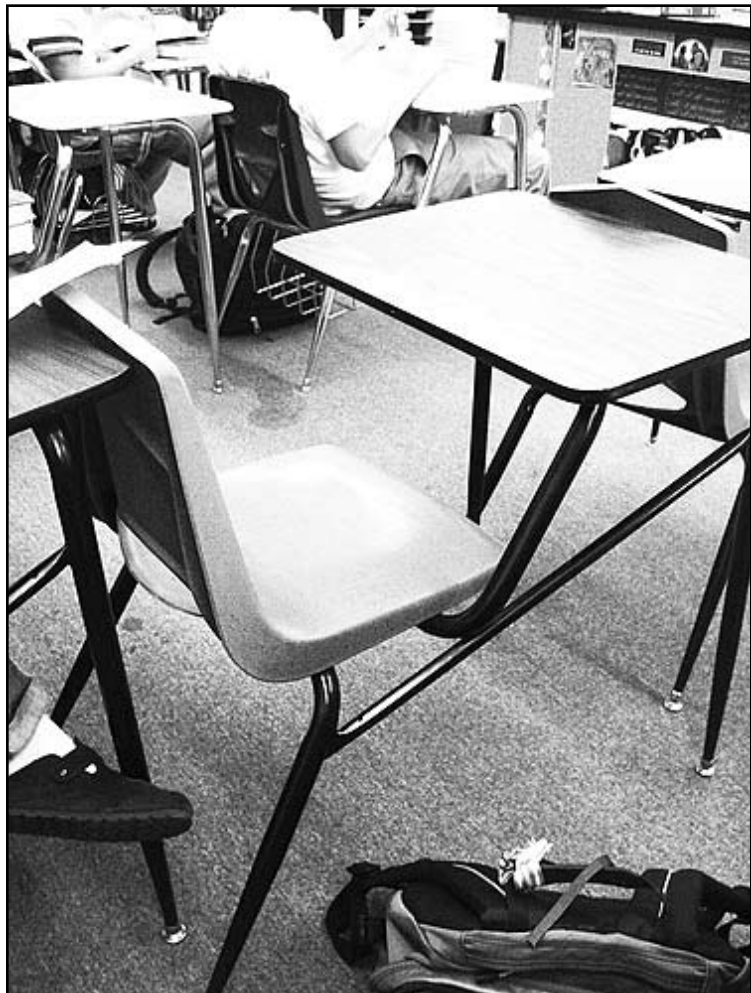
Fooling everyone became a sense of pride. Just knowing that he got away, that the cops couldn't catch him caused Doe to get a bit egoistical.

But in the end, both

knew the tagging crew wasn't right. The issues became bigger than the paint. The crew turned into a gang; a gang that would "get you murdered" if you marked the wrong spot.

The consequences of jail time and death became too large. Today, both former taggers encourage teens to get involved in something more productive, whether it be sports, school or music; get on the right path, and away from the streets.

Academic Boost for Kids in Between



BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The word TEAM can be applied to sports and academics, but should it be applied to students? The honors, or TEAM, program here at El Rancho serves

as a learning curve for those who are ahead of the game, while CP or college prep courses help those who aren't as ahead, but are these courses getting the job done, and what about those

students who fall between the cracks of this academic system?

If you ask any student taking an AP or honors course you can definitely tell how they feel about it through facial expressions and questioning how much sleep they got the night before. TEAM is a class that heaps on the homework to prepare high school students for college level courses. All year long, Team Students prepare for AP tests and major projects.

TEAM for many of students is not just another class- it's an academic lifestyle. For most TEAM is the class that can "make you or break you." All of the blood, sweat, and often times, tears that go into assignments don't always show up on the grading sheet.

The regular student taking CP courses usually completes the class with a 'B' average.

CP students often refer to their classes as "kick back." Although they complete the course, CP students want to be stimulated and motivated when they come to class and not just "go through the motions."

Most AP students take on these rigorous courses because they feel that a normal CP class isn't quite the challenge. Even students that are above average in CP classes feel that the work is manageable, but not interesting. With that said, it's time for the

district and administration to take our classes a little more serious.

The work load in CP classes averages to about an hour each night while in an AP class the average amount of homework is about two to two and a half hours a night. So why doesn't the school implement a course that applies for the students who meet the academic level in between?

Instead of a new GYM, how about better supplies for both AP and CP teachers, better books, more labs for classes, more motivation and bigger rewards other than off campus lunch and a pat on the back. Why spend the money on newer materialistic office supplies when coaches and teachers could use better sporting equipment and classroom projectors? Maybe instead of worrying about the look of the place, they should "amp up" the quality of students they're letting graduate.

As students we should all take responsibility for our own progress and our own failures.

Helping teachers fundraise field trips, or even helping to minimize pocket spending, can make all the difference. If teachers want to be here, students want to be here. Wouldn't you want to come to school if campus and classroom life could hold your attention and be a priority for more than one period?



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Campus Kleptos Out of Hand



BY ASHLEY ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Stealing is wrong and an idiotic thing to do.

Why do people steal? No one really knows. Perhaps they believe stealing is cool and follow what their friends say to be popular. Either way, stealing is wrong and should be punished.

Stealing from your peers is horrible. Some students from El Rancho have iPods /mp3 players, cell phones, etc. stolen at school. Yes, students should not bring items like an iPod or a camera, but they brought it in confidence; they believed no one would steal it from them.

Students should not feel unsafe and as though they can't trust their peers. School should be a place where stu-

dents feel comfortable. The students who steal at school are rude and inconsiderate.

Most students at El Rancho have had something stolen from them at least once in their lifetime.

An anonymous student from El Rancho received a new camera for her birthday over Christmas break. A few days after returning from vacation, her camera was stolen. Someone actually went through her bag and took her camera. Would you like someone going through your backpack and taking your most prized possessions? You'd more than likely never see them again.

Of course you wouldn't. No human being wants someone going through their stuff. At least I don't.

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Boys Basketball Team Makes a Comeback

BY RIQUELMY VALLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The varsity boys basketball team has really stepped up their game after losing to St. Paul during the Christmas break. They visited the Cal high condors on Wednesday the 9th and hosted the Pioneer titans on Friday the 11th. The dons lost at cal high by a score of 50 – 37. On the 11th the dons were ready for the titans and showed how much they want to win League this year. The dons trailed all of the first quarter and most of the second quarter. With 43 seconds remaining in the first half, Jeremiah Salcido shot a three point shot that gave the dons their first lead of the game. At the end of the first half the Dons were up by two points.

Dons against Pioneer was Jeremiah Salcido, who scored 17 points in the game and come up with a huge block late in the third quarter. After the game the three captains Carlos, Jeremiah Salcido, and Brandon Rodriguez gave their reaction about the game and their season so far. All three said that they played a great game and the reason they came out on top was because they played like a team and the support of the fans. "If we keep playing the way we did today there is no reason why we shouldn't walk away with a league title," said Brandon Rodriguez.

The last two weeks of January and early February were very important to the Dons. The



El Rancho boys, during a home game, give their record yet another win. The boys are optimistic about their progress this season and hope to win CIF.

Varisty Boys Soccer Team Continues to Dominate

BY RIQUELMY VALLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Dons soccer team is really kicking through this season. Out scoring the Santa Fe Chiefs 5-0 was a great achievement for the Dons. The Chiefs aren't the only team that the Dons have to go through to advance to CIF. The Whittier Cardinals and the Cal high Condors looked forward to giving the Dons a hard time during their matchups. Most of the past games for the Dons have been quite competitive but not as difficult as the dons were expecting.

Last year the dons qualified to CIF but lost in the first round by penalties. It was a hard loss for the Dons but they have seemed to recover quite easily be-

cause they're really proving themselves this year. This year's team is really turning out to look like the 2003 Soccer team that went to CIF and fought through many teams to bring back a CIF title. The only thing that differs both teams is that the 2003 team had two superstars and this year they don't see themselves having any superstars; they simply see themselves as a really good team. So far this year, the team has lead the Del Rio league all season: they won the consolation championship, and dominated the Milkian tournament.

"We're a really good team; we have improved speed skills this year; we're scoring more goals; we're actually playing as a team, and we have a great atti-

tude towards winning," said Coach Picon. The team has grown stronger than last years and has a better record as well. As for Mr. Correa he said that they have really made a big improvement and there is more success in the field. "We have a great team this year, we are listening to what our coaches are telling us and listening to their advice, and thanks to them we're winning," said captains Emilio Dominguez and Humberto Curiel. Last Monday, however, the boys played Whittier High School and lost by 4-0. But with this loss also came a win: Wednesday was a win for the boys against Cal High, 2-1. The only thing to do is wait and see how the Dons prove themselves in CIF.



Brandon Rodriguez, one of the team's capitan, hopes to win league title.

The Dons came out very explosive after halftime and by the end of the third quarter they had extended their lead to six points. In the fourth quarter the Dons really stepped it out and led the titans by thirteen points. At the end of the fourth quarter, it was Pioneer Titans 42, El Rancho Dons 56. A key player for the

boys faced the La Serna Lancers with a one-point heartbreaking loss of 41-40; the Santa Fe Chiefs; and a win against the Whittier Cardinals, 61-39. After those three match-ups, they once again faced the Cal High Condors. They will finish the season with the Santa Fe Chiefs, today.

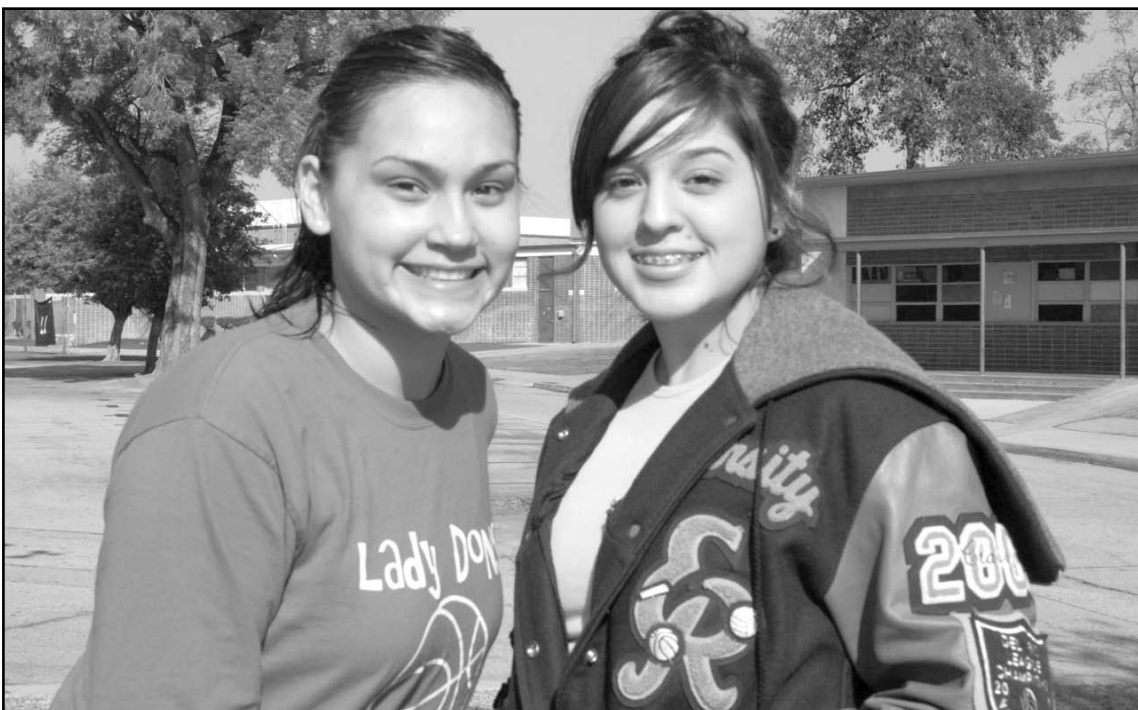
Girls Basketball Team Misses Playoffs

BY RIQUELMY VALLE
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Coming out of the holidays, things aren't looking very well for the Lady Dons Varsity basketball team. The dons visited the Cal high condors and came out with a loss that could have been a win. Two days after the Cal high loss, the Lady Dons hosted the Pioneer Titans and let the game slip away after being down by two points in the half. After their loss against Pioneer, coach Lynn Lawson said that at this time the team has a few injuries and is lacking teamwork. "They need to play better as a team to win a game," said Lawson. The player that stood out in their loss against Pioneer was number 44, Megan Barr, who scored 14 points in the night and came out with 11 rebounds; most points, however, came out

of second chance opportunities.

After Pioneer, the girls faced the La Serna Lancers and the Whittier Cardinals. Both games were a loss for the team, the Whittier game with a 56-29, and last week's game against La Serna with a 51-28. Coach Lawson said that if the team really wants to see a League Championship, it's going to take a lot of dedication and hard work in the next three games. "We could win league this year; the only thing we need to do is get rid of the injuries, work hard as a team, put in some effort, and play with our hearts," said Lawson. Although Coach Lawson had hopes for the girls basketball team, the team failed to make it to the playoffs for the first time in eight years. The girls will finish the season against the Santa Fe Chiefs at Santa Fe today at an away game.



Team Captains Adriana Favela and Tatiana Gomez (12th and 11th) had high expectations for the team this season. However their consistent losses enabled them to make it to the playoffs for the first time.

Lady Dons Score a Goal with Nine Wins



Lady dons steal the soccer ball from opponents at a home game.

BY TINA BRACAMONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girl's varsity soccer team has completed pre-season and has entered week four in league. Head coach, history teacher Jorge Galvan hopes to "Not only to take league, but also to go farther in playoffs than the previous year." Pre-season went well for the Lady Dons. With a record of nine wins, three losses and three ties, the girls are looking strong. Johanna Interiano and newly appointed captain Star Gonzales with their experience,

great ball work, and ability to dominate in games contribute to the team's talent. Star said "Being captain was surprising I didn't expect it, but I feel honored to have the chance to experience this title and hopefully make an impact on the girls." So far the team has came out with a 5-0 win against Pioneer, a 1-3 loss to La Serna followed by a 1-2 loss against Santa Fe a win against Whittier, and finally a 0-3 loss against Cal High. Galvan said, "Improvement is needed the girls need to stay focused not only for the first half, but for the entire seventy minutes

of the game, also the team needs to be mentally tougher." This season's new assistant coach is math teacher Eduardo Romero who was last years J.V coach. "Coaching next to Galvan is inspiring, I learn a lot from him, but someday down the road I will like to take over," coach Romero said. Even though the girls are dealing with the loss of one of there star players quitting the team, they still manage to push it aside and give it there all, and it shows. At thursdays game against the La Serna lancers the girls lost but managed to score a goal toward the final score 1-2.



Girsl waterpolo splash their way heading for CIF.

Making A Splash Toward CIF

BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Lady Dons are back in action and are looking better than ever. El Rancho Girls Water Polo is confident and ready to take some titles.

"I feel we're in a very good spot, all the girls are on the same page; It's just a matter of accomplishing what we want and perfecting it," said coach John Pringle.

The varsity team currently holds a record of 21-4. The team lost against Whittier 8-10 and won against Cal High 10-2. The girls are getting ready to head toward CIF. For the past few years they've been the team with a lot of potential and heart, but not enough conviction.

Some key players this season are Anahisa Aguirre, senior goalie, and Sharon Pedregon, senior utility player. These girls are bringing fuel to add to the fire with their non-stop chemistry, charisma, and their abilities to block and hurl the ball.

"Everyone has the 'can do' mentality," says Pedregon, "We're ready for a league title and we want to put that banner up in the gym."

"The team has changed a lot," says senior Victoria Garcia, "We've learned to depend on our strengths and on each other. We're still getting to know how each person is different and we work really well together, getting along with everyone makes working out fun."

From pretty faces to extreme potential, these girls have really turned it around and are ready to earn the titles they've been working really hard to obtain.

"The chemistry is great and we're getting closer as a team, and I love team dinners," said senior, Nicole Cenicerros.

These girls are keen on getting to that next level. With great coaching and even better chemistry, it looks like El Ranchos' girls are on their way to the top.

Wrestling Team Fights its Way into CIF

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although the wrestling team has struggled a bit as a team throughout the season, two outstanding seniors lead them:

Joe Salas and Tony Fernandez. Both Fernandez and Salas placed in CIF last year and among the area's top wrestlers. As for the rest of the team, with such young wrestlers, the program has a lot of potential to improve over the next

few years. The team wrestled in league finals on Saturday Feb 2. The wrestlers who placed top 3 in league continue to CIF. Coach Hartman's goal is to send at least 5 wrestlers to CIF. The team is

supporting Salas and Fernandez as they make their push to CIF and state. In addition, the wrestling team has a few notable sophomores to watch. Ben Sanchez and Juan Sanchez are two return-

ing varsity wrestlers. Also Joseph Murillo, Ulysses Sanchez, and Jesus Barraza are improving quickly. These wrestlers will be the foundation as the program grows up during the next few years.



Viscious don wrestles his way out of a cardinal's peak.



Tony Fernandez -

"I had a really good season, extreme workout which was worth it in the end."



Juan Sanchez -

"This season was tough; I had a good and hard workout and it paid off."



Ulyses Sanchez -

"Rocky start but in the end made varsity and won 3rd in league."

College Bound Athletes

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Following the footsteps of the Varsity Club at El Rancho High School, advisor Mr. Frank Llanes had the idea of starting a club for all athletes, as opposed to just varsity athletes. Since 1996, Llanes and Mr. Ben Mesa have been co advisors of College Bound Athletes (CBA).

CBA encourages students to continue their education and, if possible, their athletic career in college.

The purpose of this club is to "encourage and help prepare students to become successful college athletes," said Mesa.

Generally, athletes take advantage of this club to help them with their college career while still being an athlete.

"We have a poster that students have signed after going to college as student athletes," said Mesa.

"We offer a minimum of two scholarships that can be



College Bound Athletes poster, established in 1996, with signatures of previous ER athletes

earned by the members of CBA," added Mesa, "and all athletes, males and females are welcomed."

During CBA meetings, the advisors and members discuss topics such as nutrition, conditioning, recruitment, test-taking strategies, and field trips.

CBA is looking forward to go on field trips to Loyola Marymount University and The Claremont Colleges around February and March.

College Bound Athletes meet every second and fourth Thursday of each month in H-2. Any athlete can join CBA by attending a meeting and becoming informed.

Zoey 101 to Mommy 101

BY TINA BRACAMONTES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Jaime Lynn Spears, 16-year-old Nickelodeon star of Zoey 101 and younger sister of Britney Spears is indeed pregnant. As a junior in high school, with a dream career and the fame to go along with it, pregnancy wasn't on this mom to be's mind. The father is Jaime's 18-year-old boyfriend of a year, Casey Aldridge, and will be keeping the baby. As for her role in Zoey101, Nickelodeon backs up Jaime Lynn's decision to speak out about her pregnancy but have not decided whether to discontinue the show because of this young stars pregnancy.

The United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate. Mostly it's girls beginning their high school career's ranging from the ages of 14 through 18. The majority of teens in the U.S have sex by the time they reach 12th grade. The teen pregnancy rate has been increasing rapidly. With all the sexual influence by



Jaime Lynn Spears

society around like in movies, magazines, commercials and celebrity role models, teens seem to get an idea that having sex is cool. When it comes to sexual intercourse, teens feel that they are too cool to insist on using protection when they can be risking their childhood and health.

Many teenagers do not understand how big the responsibility of raising another human

being is as well as still having the responsibility on their own lives themselves. Becoming a parent involves emotion, dedication as well as being able to financially support the child's needs. Teen pregnancy is a task that is difficult to take on alone. Only two out of six couples actually stay together during the pregnancy.

Getting pregnant is not the only result of having unprotective sex, health risks such as diseases is another life changing possibility. STDs affect Nineteen million teens each year. Many teens don't think about the possibilities of having unprotective sex. There are other ways that are safer, and offer better protection rather than being promiscuous and careless. Using condoms is a top choice to choose when having intercourse that can decrease the chances of getting pregnant. Mistakes do happen, condoms can break, or a girl unknowingly forgets to take her birth control pills, but it's always better to be safe then careless.

Breanna Olguin Behind the Scene

BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Not many students, let alone people, can juggle a schedule like Breanna Olguin's. Aside from being in AP Junior TEAM, Breanna is a full time dancer, pepster and not to mention this year's ASB Dance Commissioner.

With so many activities to juggle, it's no wonder that in her spare time Breanna likes to just sleep and hang out with her family, friends, and boyfriend; but what does it really take to

manage a schedule like hers?

"To host a dance like Winter Formal it takes a lot of concentration, organization, and lots of time," says Olguin.

Even though she admits to not really liking the extra help, Breanna knows that asking for help is key if the dance is going to be a success. "It takes anywhere from \$700 to \$900 dollars to have a successful dance," says Olguin, "You have to talk to people and see what ideas they have and what they want and

you have to have a really awesome mom to help you out too."

Breanna admits that she hates stressing out before each event, but says, "I love seeing the result and watching people have fun, not wearing the center pieces!"

Apart from being the backbone to every dance, Breanna is a busy junior in general. She has been dancing since she was three years old. Simply put, "I love performing," said Olguin.

For Olguin, dance prac-

tice alone is two hours a day, four days out of the week, and pepsters is everyday third period and an hour after school everyday. "I love practicing."

"Honestly, the hardest part about having a schedule like mine I finding time for homework, and time for myself, I'm tired *all* the time."

Breanna looks forward to competing at nationals with the pepsters, her ASB trip to San Francisco and the summer.



Breanna Olguin, busy as a bee.

Presidential Candidates for 2008 Elections: Super Tuesday Results

Super Tuesday Results

Democrats:

Clinton - 976
Obama - 867

Republicans:

McCain - 714
Huckabee - 181

BY SAMANTHA DURON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A brief synopsis of political standings for each of the top three candidates from both the Democratic and Republican candidates for the 2008 presidential elections:

The Democrats:



Hilary Rodham Clinton

Hilary Rodham Clinton – Clinton Opposes troop increases and says US should be out of Iraq by 2009, supports efforts for a stricter border control and also efforts to help most illegal gain citizenship. Clinton is pro-choice, and feels that the profits made by oil companies should be put forth to fund research for alternative energy.



Barack Obama

Barack Obama – Obama who has opposed the Iraq War from the beginning, proposes that all troops be withdrawn by March 2008. Obama proposes that a fence be built along the Mexican border and stricter laws be enforced to make it tougher for illegal to find jobs, he also supports citizenship for illegals here on the condition that they pay fines and back taxes; Obama supports civil unions but not same-sex marriages and is also pro-choice.

The Republicans:



John McCain

John McCain – McCain is in favor of the current Administration's plan in Iraq. He supports a way for current illegals to gain citizenship while also increasing border patrol. McCain supports alternative energies, and is also looking into the possibilities of nuclear energy. McCain opposes same-sex marriage and is anti-abortion; he feels both issues are state issues and not federal.



Mike Huckabee

Mike Huckabee – Huckabee opposes immediate withdrawal from Iraq, opposes the idea of deportation of current illegals, and feels the economy should recognize its dependence on illegals. He Encourages incentives for companies which develop renewable energies; Huckabee opposes same-sex marriages and is anti-abortion.

Mexican Landmarks Bring History to Life

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho Students and teachers returned from their Mexico trip taken in December and are sharing their experiences.

"I enjoyed the trip, it was awesome and I had the best room-mates!" said senior Izamar Herrera.

The trip was filled with fun, and was educational. "The whole trip was organized well," said Mrs. Alejandra Rosales, teacher. "We saw a lot of things the kids had not seen. Every day the kids were into what we were doing; they remembered a lot of facts from class and had the opportunity to learn more specific facts about the Mexican culture."

Not everything the students learned was educational, as Herrera said, "I learned a lot of interesting historical information on my trip, but I believe the most important thing I learned was that there are a lot of cute guys in Campeche, Mexico."

One of the most memorable parts of the trip for the travelers was arriving in Mexico City and visiting pyramids.

"My favorite part was when my roommates and I decided to all sleep on the floor in front of our massive window so we could enjoy the view of Mexico City together," said Herrera.

Junior Pedro Moncayo said his favorite part of the trip was "climbing pyramids because there are none in Los Angeles."

Rosales said her favorite part was when they went to "Palenque and visited their first Mayan



Teachers and students pose for a picture taken by one of the local vendors from the main plaza at Mexico City. Mexico City was the first stop of the nine-day long trip. Here, students and teachers visited Aztec ruins, the Diego Rivera Museum, and got a glimpse of the Teotihuacan pyramids.

temple; it was breathtaking."

"My friends and I were taking pictures with random people," said Herrera, "and we saw this cute guy, so my friend, Maritza, got close to him so I could take the picture, and

when I took it the guy looked straight at me with my camera, but the picture came out great!"

Moncayo's favorite part of the trip was when Mr. Diaz "tried to make my friend, Dominic, go down a hole in a pyramid."

While most of the travelers will remember their experiences, Rosales' memory is not so memorable. She said that when they were at Cancun, she stepped in sea anemones and algae, which caused her to get an

infection. "I had tingling feet for two days," Rosales said.

The trip created many different unforgettable experiences for both, the students and teachers.

Gary Soto Peels His Layers with *Buried Onions*

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Gary Soto, author of *Jesse, Baseball in April, Too Many Tamales*, and numerous other novels and poems, is scheduled to speak to the sophomore class during teen read week; slated for the first week of June, "The teen read week was originally intended to be some time in March. Due to WASC and my tight schedule, the teen read week had to be moved to the end of the school year. It ended up working out perfectly because that is when Gary Soto will be coming," said Librarian Jean Chodos. In honor of his visit, the class of 2010 will be reading one of Soto's most popular young adult novels *Buried Onions*, which Soto himself suggested.

The library owns twelve novels by Soto some of those include *Jesse, Buried Onions, Accidental love, Baseball in April* and others. "From all of Gary Soto's novels my personal favorite is *Baseball in April*," said Chodos.

Vice principal Priscilla Linares was the person who provided the money to bring Soto. "When Charissa (Zeko) came to me with the idea of having Gary Soto come to our school and speak to the sophomore class, I could not say no. I loved the idea of having an author who the students



are reading a novel from to come speak to them," said Linares.

In response to the choice of authors, sophomore level chair, Marcella Lamar, said, "Gary Soto is not only alive, but he is a local author and a Hispanic. Hopefully his visit to our school will encourage students to become a writer or an English major."

Gary Soto is very open about his high school education. Normally when people ask him if he was a "good" student, he responds with, "Claro, que no (of course not)." He graduated from Roosevelt high school (Fresno California) with a 1.6 G.P.A.

Team teacher Charissa Zeko was able to get Gary Soto to come to El Rancho. Last year, Zeko took her AP Team Students to an event at Whittier College where her students were able to discuss the novel *Jesse* with Gary Soto. The night before the event at Whittier College, Zeko and others had dinner with Soto, where she got to meet him. With that, this year Zeko e-mailed Soto and he agreed to come on the condition that the school would buy 500 books by him. It has not yet been decided if the books will be sold to the students or given as a present.

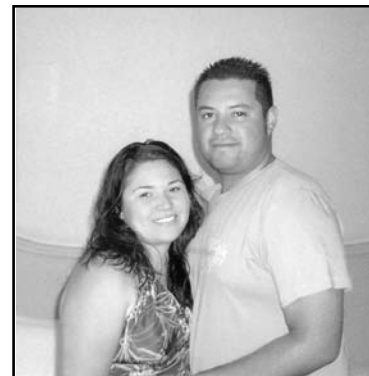
Welcome Back Ms. Palacios

BY: MARISSA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As many students may have noticed, there is a limping teacher walking through the halls here on campus; they probably are wondering what happened to her too. According to Ms. Palacios, she had a small accident while at home.

She says, "I wish I had some fantastic story to share, such as skydiving, but the reality is I just had a little accident at home and the result was a lot of damage." Palacios broke both ankles and broken fibula, which required surgery the next day. She says, "As I was being carried by the firefighters my first thought was 'I need to call for a substitute teacher tomorrow!'"

While on this little vacation, Ms. Palacios spent most of her time making a swift and full recovery, which meant she had to sit and elevate her feet all day. She also had to find many things to occupy herself with, such as watching lots of television, scrap booking and course, reading. She says she missed being a tutor in homework club, and being an advisor; she did, indeed, miss all of her students. However, she says, "I missed having my indepen-



Ms. Palacios, half recovered, is glad to back at the Ranch to be around her students, and most of all, to teach again.

dence most of all. Since I couldn't walk at all for two months, I depended on others for everything."

Now that she's semi-recovered from this accident, she doesn't have to depend on others as much. She's ecstatic to be back, and is taking it easy right now because she is not really ready to walk as much as before. Since she's been back, she hopes to see some familiar faces stopping by her classroom. She also says, "It's wonderful to be back here at El Rancho high school; the students faculty and staff are like an extended family. It's a great place to work because our students are the best."

Listen to Whats Hot Today

BY ASHLEY ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the top ten on *Chart Watch* on Yahoo! Entertainment contains three well-known artists Alicia Keys, Chris Brown, and Radiohead.

In *Rainbows*, Radiohead, number one on *Chart Watch*, sold 122,000 copies in a week. In *Rainbows* is the fourth album of Radiohead that has reached the top three.

This album is the bands seventh album. *USA Today* writer, Edna Gundersen said the album "rattled the industry and energized debate over pop's future viability as a commodity." Their sound is recognizable as Radiohead, a sound that is anywhere else. Radiohead's music contains "experimental leaps, ambient dreamscapes, ecstatic rock, folkish beauty, psychotic guitars and captivating forays through neuroses, alienation, apocalyptic visions and anguished yearning." Thom Yorke's voice shifts in a



few songs and is very talented. In "House of Cards", Yorke gives a hint of Prince, "All I Need" gives shades of lust, and "Nude" gives a honey mowl showcase.

"In *Rainbows* may be remembered for its novel marketing," said Gundersen. "It will be loved for its lush elegance, hypnotic rhythms and barbed intensity, synthesized into neoteric micro-symphonies that restore Radiohead's place at the forefront of modern rock."

Alicia Keys' *As I Am*, is number two on *Chart Watch* on Yahoo! Entertainment which sold 2,656,000 copies. Keys surpassed Eagles album with

total sales of 2,644,000 copies.

As I Am is Keys' strongest album that contains songs with a superficial expression. Donald Gibson, *Blogcritics Magazine* writer, said Keys' music seems as if it was "spiritually channeled rather than skillfully composed." Keys' voice is used as an instrument in her album like in "Sure Looks Good to me;" she sings in an "achingly raw and soulful" voice. In "Teenage Love Affair," Keys is a coy schoolgirl who fools around with her crush before she sneaks back home, and draws on a retro vibe and playful lyrics. "Lesson Learned" features John Mayer on back up vocals

and guitar, "Keys guides a subtle rhythm with her piano while relating the heartache of a woman scorned yet strengthened by a broken relationship," Gibson said.

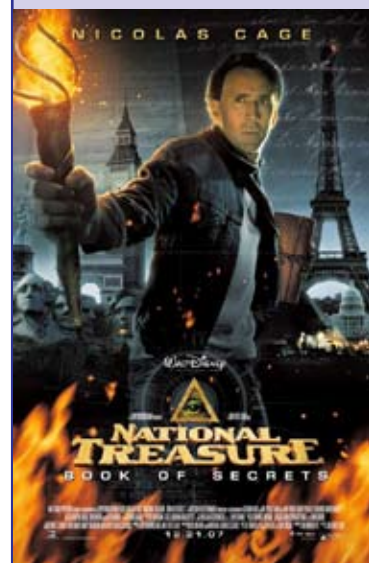
Chris Brown's *Exclusive*, is number six on *Chart Watch* on Yahoo! Entertainment. Chris Brown's *Exclusive* is an upbeat, mature R&B album. "With you" and "I'll call ya" are similar to Beyonce's songs like "Irreplaceable" and "Get me Bodied," however, Brown input his own personal style that makes those songs his. "Down," produced by Kanye West, contains West's humor and his advise of staying away of the gold diggers.

National Treasure Does it Again

BY ANABEL SANTILLAN
EL RANCHO STAFF WRITER

National Treasure: Book of Secrets, the sequel to the 2004 film *National Treasure*, is based around the idea that Benjamin Gate's (Nicolas Cage) great grandfather was a co-conspirator in one of the greatest assassinations in United States history; the assassination of president Abraham Lincoln. However the truth lies in the 18 missing pages from John Wilkes Booth's diary in where they describe the detailed plan of the assassination.

To try to protect his family's name, Gates meets up once again



Disney's follow up film to its 2004 *National Treasure*

with his team of treasure hunters, Riley Poole (Justin Bartha), Abigail Chase (Diane Kruger), and his father Patrick Gates (Jon Voight) and they embark on an action packed journey that leads them from breaking into Buckingham Palace to stealing a page from the president's book, all of which leads them to finding one of the greatest treasures of all time.

Unfortunately, *Book of Secrets* did not meet the expectations that were set by the first movie. Unlike the first film, it was much easier to follow, but only considering the movie did not present as many clues as the first and was nowhere near as complicated.

However, the movie had a well-balanced cast and was adequately humorous. Nicolas Cage and Justin Bartha made an excellent team, but Bartha definitely offered most of the comedy.

Overall, *National Treasure: Book Of Secrets* was enjoyable, good to be seen with friends or with family, but I would not see it multiple times.

Overall Grade: B

Captivating Box Office

BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The intense thriller *Cloverfield* hit box after offices, with a sure adrenaline rush for all audiences.

With a small starring cast of only six, director, Matt Reeves, gives this movie major magnitude. Filmed in first person perspective, *Cloverfield*, gives audiences a personal angle on a dramatic, life-threatening, situation.

This outrageous must see is full of back-to-back shockers that test the human survival instincts. When trapped in the Big Apple, *Cloverfield* stars, Lizzy Caplin, Jessica Miller, T.J. Lucas and Michael Stahl-David fight their way to save themselves from a massive creature that has taken over Manhattan.

Although camera angles may cause motion sickness for some viewers, this flick



Cloverfield grossed 40 mill in its first weekend

leaves audiences at the edge of their seats and their imaginations wanting more. *Cloverfield* has the right amount of thrill and action to keep attention and has even better twists and turns.

Overall Grade: A+

Lupe Fiasco's The Cool

BY KAYLA HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

From his debut CD *Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor* to his newest follow up album *The Cool*, Lupe Fiasco is proving to fans that his fresh style of hip-hop is here to stay.

Fiasco's concept for his second album is that of "the gangster life," though not entirely appealing, due to some derogatory references, only a few songs follow that storyline. Fiasco leaves most of the album for creativity and a personal look on the real luxuries of life and superstardom such as what is really important to the rich and famous other than their cars and cash.

His album hit the charts at the end of 2007 and is at a steady 14 on the Billboard top 200.

Fiasco's first single "Superstar" gives a literal perspective on how some famous rappers live in the lap of luxury, from what they eat to other



meaningless material items.

This diverse album is unpredictable, creative and full of Fiasco's down to earth eloquence. The fresh pop/hip-hop style keeps the tracks in sync. Fiasco incorporates lazy beats with a fast delivery of lyrics on his track "Paris, Tokyo," giving him a smooth jazz angle and a new sound.

This CD is certainly one with a twist of hip-hop, pop and glamour. Lupe Fiasco's *The Cool* is definitely a CD I recommend to listeners who are looking for a fresh hip-hop angle and brand new sound.

Overall Grade: A

Juno is "Boss"

BY: KIANA JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Britney Spears' sister isn't the only teenager knocked up. "Juno," a movie directed by Jason Reitman, showcases the rise in adolescent sexual activity, and the consequences that come with it.

After drinking a ton of Sunny D and taking five pregnancy tests, Juno (Ellen Page) finally comes to the realization that she has a load in the oven. In an attempt to give her child a somewhat normal life, she begins look-

ing for possible adoptive parents. She looks in the first place anyone would look to for a responsible and loving couple, the Penny Saver.

Armed with sarcasm and laughter, the cast of "Juno" successfully brings a lighthearted side to this very controversial issue. Ellen Page gives an amazing performance, as her use of slang keeps both the younger and older audience entertained.

Overall, the movie sheds light on the dark side of teenage intercourse and on the problems that arise in almost every normal family. This is a great choice for a night out on the town or an informational night with your parents. Two thumbs up for the cast of "Juno" and its witty directors.

Overall Grade: A

