



# El Rodeo



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## WASC Visitation Continues

BY MARTHA FRANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Ranch has had an action packed year: first with the welcoming of the new principal Mr. Sam Genis and then the start of the new gym. The month of March will be no exception because El Rancho will receive a visit from a WASC committee.

WASC or the Western Association of Schools and Colleges is a part of the six regional associations that certify universities, colleges, private and public schools in the country. All schools go through a process that helps the school gain understanding about what is going well and what must be improved. Moreover, each school must go through this process every three to six years.

Before the WASC committee can even set foot in El Rancho, a few steps must be taken. The first of these steps is a self-study report that permits the Ranch to thoroughly examine the most important academic needs for students, the expected school wide learning results, and how students are meeting academic standards in order to find out what is working and what isn't, based on the WASC criteria. The report includes any and every type of data that concerns the school's academic development. After the self-study is completed the report is finished with El Rancho's action plan that deals with its academic needs.

The second step that will start on Sunday, March 2nd until Wednesday, March 5th is the visit. Once El Rancho's school report has been studied, the visiting committee spends three and a half days evaluating the school. The committee is composed of about ten men and women who are fellow educators such as principals, teachers, and district leaders. These men and women are supposed to evaluate and provide El Rancho with outside perspective to help the school improve its weaknesses.

Furthermore, the WASC committee will be visiting various classrooms with the purpose of examining and observing students working. The committee will also interview individual students to receive feedback as to what is being taught and learned.

After the visit is complete El Rancho will go through an assessment that will help improve El Rancho's action plan. Additionally, the action plan will be implemented as soon as possible and will be reviewed every year so that goals may be met.

Assistant Principal of Curriculum, Mrs. Linares said that this is not only an opportunity for El Rancho to learn and provide students with the best learning experience but also to allow El Rancho to "show off what [it does] well and to show off all the amazing students, teachers and staff that make up El Rancho." She also said that El Rancho is "unique because it is not afraid to show its faults."

## School Board Discusses Possible Teacher Layoffs at Emergency Meeting

BY JAVIER GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Thursday members of the El Rancho Unified School Board of Education held an emergency meeting in the cafeteria. Most elementary school teachers from all over the district attended the meeting. Superintendent Norbert Genis along with Assistant Superintendent Kathryn Enloe announced that the budget cuts Governor Schwarzenegger proposed to schools in California are worse than expected. The \$20 billion budget deficit leaves the district with no choice but to prepare for what Genis termed, "the worse case scenario": the layoff of 40-60 teachers and administrators. Among those mentioned are two counselors and three deans.

The funds the state provides the district come in the form of "categorical programs." The 12 categorical programs have a specific purpose and are not to be used in the General Fund (funds used for regular business). Genis said, "the position that Schwarzenegger has put in, however, puts these programs in danger." The dismissal of teachers would only happen if the situation worsens still. Rita Jo Ramirez, District



*El Rancho faces the possibility of losing three deans and two counselors due to the state's budget cuts.*

Clerk, said that this "will provide a cushion for the school board only if it needs to react urgently." The board stressed that the layoff was not guaranteed, but only planned.

The board did discuss measures involving the removal of particular kinds of services, such as coaching, supervising, and resource instructors for the 2008-2009 school year. "Our share in the \$20 billion deficit is \$5 million and we must face the pos-

sibility of losing most of that."

Several elementary school teachers expressed their opinions soon after the measures were discussed. Teachers from Selby Grove, Rivera Elementary, and North Ranchito asked whether protests against the massive budget cuts have started. Mr. McMullen, Honors Junior Team teacher and member of the ERFT (El Rancho Federation of teachers), commented that the board would

continue the process of protest "in an open and transparent manner," and will not subject anyone to any kind "grandstanding."

More discussion of the possible layoff of El Rancho counselors and deans will take place on March 15, where members of the ERFT and the school board will further discuss the district's budget. If teachers are eventually dismissed, most will be notified on this day.

## El Rancho Celebrates Cultural Awareness Month



BY MARTHA FRANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last month has been dubbed Cultural Awareness Month which perfectly coincides with Black History Month. Instead of focusing on one specific culture or ethnicity, Cultural Awareness Month encompasses everything that spreads cultural interaction and tolerance.

Cultural Awareness is an

invitation to explore a person's own cultural identity and environment he or she lives. The goal for this month is to learn about others and gain tolerance towards different ideas.

Cultural tolerance plays an important role in all aspects of American society. In the work place cultural awareness is vital in order to find a common ground with those who share cultural

differences. Because America is such an ethnically rich country, understanding the positive and negative aspects of different cultures is vital for the well being of this country to continue.

Overall, February is not only the month of love but also the month of understanding and connecting with others with different traditions and background.

Black History Month

evolved from Dr. Carter G. Woodson's creation of Negro History Week in 1926. Just like Black History Month, Negro History week's purpose was to honor the achievements of African Americans in the past and present. In 1976 the Negro History Week was lengthened to a month.

Dr. Woodson dubbed the second week of February as Negro History week in order to honor the birthday of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two prominent early civil rights advocates.

Today, Black History Month commemorates the lives of men like Martin Luther King Jr., Langston Hughes and many others who have contributed to American culture. Black History Month also serves as reminder of the vast achievements as a result of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

The month of February symbolizes a historical movement larger than any before its time. Because of men and women like Malcolm X and Rosa Parks everyone in this country is acknowledged as equal.

Whether it is a dream, a bus seat, or a homerun for the Brooklyn Dodgers, Black History Month honors all of those who have impacted America in some form or another.



## January Athletes of the Month

BY CRISTINA BRACAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Outstanding skills, incredible teamwork, and good sportsmanship are only some of the qualities that the athletes of the month possess.

Each month four-varsity student athletes are chosen to take on the name and are acknowledged for their performance in his or her sport.

The athletes are: Humberto Curial for boys' soccer; Jeremiah Salcido for boys' basketball; Tanya Moreno for girls' soccer; and Tatiana Gomez for girls' basketball.

Each sports' head coach nominates ten students that stand out from the rest, and then the list of athletes narrows down to four athletes that should be recognized for their accomplishments in his or her respective sport.

Tatiana Gomez says, "I love playing basketball, I've been playing the game since I was four. I would have never thought that I would be recognized for



*Humberto Curial, boys' soccer captain, hopes to continue playing soccer as a professional career.*

doing something I love."

As for boys' soccer, Humberto Curial, gets recognition as another student athlete of the month.

Humberto has been playing in soccer teams since he was eight. He is captain of the soccer team and dreams of becoming a professional soccer player.

Tanya Moreno, from girls soccer is another athlete of the month. Tanya expects herself to keep playing soccer throughout high school and to keep improving as well.

She has been playing for El Rancho since her freshman year. Even though Tanya does not plan on making soccer a career she does plan on playing for fun in the future.

All the athletes were congratulated as well as recognized on Thursday's Valentine pep rally during lunch.

# Season Comes to an End at La Habra

BY RIQUELMY VALLE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After defeating the twelfth ranked team in the country, the boys' soccer team seemed eager and ready to play in the semi-final against the La Habra High School Highlanders at La Habra. The Dons began the game the same way they did against any other. But in the sixteenth minute of the game, the Dons let La Habra give off a long pass to forward Bryan Aanderud, putting the highlanders up by one goal. Eleven minutes after the Highlanders scored their first goal, they managed to run the ball from the penalty area to beat the Dons' goalie Cesar Roldan and put the Highlanders up by two goals. After the goals, the Dons hustled to find a weakness in the Highlanders' defense, but were unsuccessful. Minutes after the goal, Senior Rene Llanos got himself in an argument with the referee and received a red card which left the dons short-handed for the rest of the first half and all of the second half.

The Dons seemed to have stepped up their game in the second half, even though they had ten players on the field. In the seventy-sixth minute of the game, se-



*The Don's season ended with a 2-1 loss against La Habra High School last Tuesday.*

nior forward Rodrigo Zamora got passed the Highlanders defense and gave a pass to Senior forward Emilio Dominguez that resulted in a goal for the Dons. Minutes after, Senior Gerardo Cendejas sent a curving pass to Senior Frank Casillas, who headed the ball over the crossbar missing what looked to be the Dons' last opportunity to tie the game and

proceed to the CIF Championship. The Dons gave all they had, but in the end, it wasn't enough. "It was very disappointing to lose the way we did. We should have won that game, but it looks like we are going to have to wait until next year," said Efran Lara.

"I'm really mad that we lost because we let that game slip away. The red card to Rene really

affected us," said midfielder Ruben Olivares. As for coach Picon he said, "We should have played harder in the first half. There was no reason for us to have been left with only ten players. It was a tough loss, but all we can do is look forward to next year. I'm pretty sure we can repeat all of our victories next year and may even make it to CIF Championship."



**Boys' Tennis-** With a record of 1-1, the "whole [Tennis] team is important, not just a few guys," says Coach Cindy Lippstreu. All the boys are playing and they need to win as a team not just try to help their individual scores, adds Lippstreu. The team beat Montebello 10-8, but lost to Paramount 3-15. Against Montebello, the team won eight doubles. The wins were by Gerry Caureano and Alberto Pena.



**Boys' Volleyball-** In their first match of the season, the Dons defeated the Swordsmen three games to one.

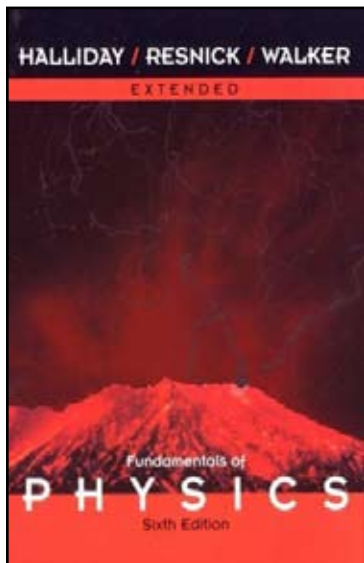
## Winter Sports Dessert



**Sports Dessert-** Coach Lawson congratulates athletes at Sports Dessert. The awards of the night were Coach's Award, Most Valuable Player (MVP), and Most Improved. Some of the MVP were: Emilio Dominguez, boys' soccer; Joe Salas, wrestling; Adriana Favela, girls' basketball; Sharon Pedregon, girls' waterpolo; Starr Gonzales, girls' soccer; and Jeremiah Salcido, for boys' basketball.



## Where Are the AP Physics Students?



BY JAVIER GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

AP classes and exams help high school students earn college credit before enrolling in higher education. Upon passing several exams, students can enter college as sophomores, saving time and thousands of dollars. At El Rancho, notable AP classes such as Mr. Francis's AP Calculus BC class and Mr. Diaz's AP United States History class are increasing in student size. But one AP class- AP Physics- once an option for El Rancho students, had to be cancelled because of lack of student interest.

The requirements for AP Physics are quite strenuous- a student must complete AP Calculus before enrolling in AP Physics or at least be enrolled in calculus concurrently. Although the number of AP Calculus students is increasing, most students agree that the course is extremely dif-

ficult, and stressful. The thought of taking another calculus-based course (AP Physics) discourages most of them. When AP Physics was first introduced in the 2003-2004 school year, only sixteen students lasted the entire year. The very next year, only eight wanted to take AP Physics. Since then, the administration has refused to implement the program.

Rumors of AP Physics returning surfaced last year when Mr. Zook (El Rancho's only physics teacher) talked to Mr. Francis, former AP Physics teacher. Bringing back the class, however, requires at least twenty students willing enough to take it the following year. Last year, no more than ten seemed eager, and those that wished to take the AP class had no choice but to take the college-prep physics course. Unfortunately, these same students who held high hopes of AP Physics pass the alternative with little to no effort. Over-achievers are not receiving their fair share from the school, and will continue to feel neglected unless programs like AP Physics are available. If AP Physics was available at El Rancho, students would actually have a wider choice of classes for their schedules and teachers would have a narrower range of student ability, making learning both exciting and worthwhile. AP teachers would move through their lectures faster, and students would adapt to the rigors of each AP class. But without this class, the students who desire a challenge soon become bored in the remedial alternatives.

## Did ANYBODY Watch?



BY KIANA JUAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Did you watch the Grammys? Chances are, you didn't. According to Nielsen Research Media, 20 million less people viewed the award show than last year; making the 50th Annual Grammy's the third least watched show in Grammy history. But although more than half of America didn't watch it, the show still had its highlights.

It was an emotional ceremony for both Kanye West and Amy Winehouse. West, just months after his mother's death, gave an emotional tribute to his mom. With the word "Mama" shaved into his fade, West brought the audience to their feet for a standing ovation. Kanye's voice cracked as the emotions and tears welled up inside. For Amy Winehouse, the waterworks were tears of joy.

Everyone knows Amy Winehouse's story. She's the British songstress with an alcohol and drug addiction. In fact, a video recently surfaced of Winehouse smoking crack

in her apartment. But, the ceremony was a time to forget all the negative aspects of her life. Performing live via satellite, Winehouse gave a resounding performance. The positive effects of rehab were evident as Winehouse's soulful voice boomed with redemption. A true success story, Winehouse won five of her six Grammy nominations. But with the highlights, came some serious low points.

The following are reasons why I have beef with the Grammy's:

- Seriously, Willie Nelson beating Kelly Clarkson and Reba McEntire for Best Country Collaboration is crazy. Sure he's a big part of country music, but Reba's the queen of Country and Kelly Clarkson is a Pop Icon. Together, it's pure magic.

- Kanye, dedicate your acceptance speech to your mom before you talk major smack about all the other nominees. You are way too cocky.

- Less than 20% of the awards were given out during the actual telecast. The other 100 were given out during the most boring pre-show in the history of mankind.

- The three-hour show does nothing more than drive the already failing music industry into an even deeper hole.

- Presenters, your jokes are seriously not funny.

- Beyonce, don't show off your legs when your next to Tina Turner.

- Aretha, you totally needed a different dress.

- To the Government, accept Amy Winehouse's Visa next time.



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## Allegations Not Likely to Hurt McCain



McCain's wife, Cindy, has stood by the candidate throughout the ordeal.

BY MARTHA FRANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The soon-to-be Republican presidential nominee, John McCain, has hit a bump in the road in his successful campaign. On Wednesday, February 20 the *New York Times* released information about an alleged affair in 2000 between McCain and Washington lobbyist Vicki Iseman.

The information was provided by some of the senator's 2000 advisers who feared that McCain and Iseman were becoming "too close." The *New York Times* said that concern arose when Iseman constantly appeared with McCain at fund-raisers and went along with him on a client's jet.

McCain has responded to the allegations by saying that "at no time have I ever done anything that would betray the public trust." His wife, Cindy McCain, also responded saying, "he's a man of great character."

When asked, Iseman denied any romantic relationship with the candidate.

These lunatic allegations come eight years too late and can be easily brushed off. McCain said that he is disappointed in the *New York Times* for spreading these nonsense rumors.

Although this might have meant good news for Republican hopeful, Mike Huckabee, nothing will really change politically for McCain.



## California's Budget: Worse than Expected for K12 Students

BY JAVIER GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed at the beginning of 2008 that the state is once again in the position of financial crisis. Being a republican (and like most republican governors before him), he initiated massive budget cuts that limited revenue to state-run projects like space exploration and

biotechnology. Not only will science-based groups suffer the financial blow, but also the institutions that most affect children in California will endure the worst fiscal impact: K-12 schools. These budget cuts will most definitely result in reduced salaries and a dismissal of teachers. But the problem is much, much worse than initially expected.

The El Rancho Unified

School District plans to close at least two schools in Pico Rivera. These schools will most likely be elementary schools (although specific school names are uncertain). The \$4 billion Schwarzenegger plans to cut from schools leaves the district with no choice but to shut some down. Those schools remaining will have more crowded classrooms once fewer schools are available. A combination of fewer elementary schools, reduced salaries, and fewer teachers available will undoubtedly equal a horrible time for students in this very district.

Some politicians in Sacramento have thought of other ideas other than budget cuts. Legislative Analyst Elizabeth G. Hill compiled a report that urges raising taxes by at least \$2.7 billion in order for the state to gather funds. The report "makes it clear that a slash-and-harm, cuts-only approach of dismantling state government won't fix our budget problems." The situation becomes crystal-clear: republicans hold for cutting the budget and saving money, while democrats vouch for raising taxes and spending money. Schools stand in the middle throughout this economic debacle, a victim that struggles to earn its own money.



# El Rancho's Own Little Princess

BY ASHLEY ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Blue Ribbon Committee revived the Miss Pico Rivera Pageant for Pico Rivera's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The pageant was held at Pico Park's gymnasium on February 16. Pico Rivera's City Council, Mayor Ron Beilke, Congresswoman Grace Neapolitan, and 400 Pico Rivera residents attended the pageant.

There were fifteen girls

**"I was shocked when I read the paper when Bob Spencer was announcing the names"**

**- Sharon Catala**

between the ages 17 and 19 that participated in the pageant. Nine of the fifteen contestants attend El Rancho; the nine contestants were Lourdes Anaya, Rebecca Barocio, Sharon Calata, Shantal Escobedo, Britnie Garcia, Stephany Robles, Kristy Rosas, Corina Rubalcaba, and Natalie Torres.



Sharon Calata, first runner up Pico Rivera princess getting crowned at the first Miss Pico Rivera pageant after twenty years.

The queen is Erica Valle, a 19-year-old freshman student at Mt. San Antonio College. The 1<sup>st</sup> runner up princess is Sharon Calata a 17-year-old senior at El Rancho High School.

Sharon Calata was shocked when Bob Spencer, host of Miss Pico Rivera Pageant, was announcing and reading the winners. Calata said "I was shocked when I glanced at the paper

while Bob Spencer was announcing the names. When he said my name I was excited and happy." Calata is the youngest and an El Rancho student to be part of the Queen's Royal Court.

The queen and the royal court will attend city hall meetings with their sashes and crowns. Calata will be a youth ambassador for Pico Rivera with the queen and the princesses. Every event for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, "I'll be there with my sash and my crown," said Calata.

Calata and the rest of the court are having a trip to San Luis Potosi, Mexico for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Pico Rivera's sister city. They are also going to Catalina Island in a special yacht with the rest of the girls. She cannot wait for the upcoming events.

She describes the event exciting, fun, interesting and a memorable experience. She would like to thank her family, friends, teachers and the Blue Ribbon Committee for their support for the pageant.

The pageant "gave me more confidence and self esteem than before," said Calata. "I learned more about my community." She also learned not to be intimidated by anyone and always have fun. The pageant helped her get a job at Recreational Center in Pico Rivera for the summer. "It's only the beginning," said Calata.



## Back to the Barnyard

BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho wants you to grab a partner and docie-doe for this year's Sadie Hawkins!

Traditionally Sadie Hawkins is the one dance out of the year where the girls gum-up the guts to ask the guys. The theme for Sadie's derives from the old

country story of how a super hideous girl couldn't find a husband. With some help from her dad, little miss Sadie Hawkins rallied up the boys and grabbed herself a man!

Don't know how to dress for the dance? No worries, just round up a pair of overalls, a checkered shirt, and your straw hat because this dance is a barnyard bash. If you feel like keeping it casual don't hesitate to wear that old pair

of tattered jeans and something to match your date. Please be sure that all attire is appropriate and follows the dress code.

Couples will be able to "get hitched" and don't forget to square dance the night away. Please remember to leave all pitchforks, tractors, and farm animals at the door!

Sadie Hawkins will be held on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> in the gym.

## MESA Club Goes to Preliminaries

BY TINA BRCAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

MESA is the club on campus that revolves around encouraging those students who want to go to college, but especially those students who want to go into college to study math or science. The MESA club meets on Wednesdays during lunch in B-201.

The MESA club practices and enters math and science competitions against other local schools. Biology teacher, Ms. Joy Tanigawa is the club's advisor. "We're really busy right now, no time to talk, but hard work pays off," said

Tanigawa. Right now the MESA club is working on their project for the semi finals, as well as practicing the needed materials.

A member, since his sophomore year, of the MESA club, senior Nelson Gaspar says, "MESA has opened my eyes to many things especially the different career opportunities available in science and in math."

The club's project for semi finals in March is to build a trebuchet, which is a cannon. Not much can be said about what or how the MESA club is going to present the trebuchet, but the deadline is approaching soon and the MESA club has many things to do.

## CSI Fans Can Now Get Started on Their Careers

BY MARITZA PADILLA

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Are you a CSI fan interested in pursuing a career in Criminal Justice? If so, a new course in Forensics will be available during the third trimester for all prospective students.

Ruth Cantu, in X-5, is going to teach the course. Cantu currently teaches ROP Administration of Justice. However, Foren-

sics will only be available fourth period, but there is a possibility the class can be after school as well, Principal Sam Genis said.

"Ms. Cantu had an open fourth period, and since she is an ROP teacher, I came up with the idea to incorporate an additional ROP class to give more variety to students, such as those who are seriously interested in pursuing a career in Criminal Justice," said Principal Sam Genis.

Cantu says the course

of Criminal Justice prepares students in a broad capacity within the Law Enforcement/Investigations/Forensic and Courtroom fields. Moreover, the course provides guidance for safe and efficient methods of collecting, preserving, packaging, and shipping evidence. Such procedures are performed by famous agencies like the Law Enforcement Agencies, FBI's Laboratory Division and the Investigative Technology Division.

These institutions

require the collection, preservation, and forensic analysis of evidence. Essentially, Cantu says that "forensics" and all its meanings will be defined and thoroughly explored.

The class is open to anyone, but the main prerequisite is an interest in the career. Some of the events planned include bringing guest speakers and experts in forensics.

If you are interested in taking forensics, talk to your counselor to sign up.



Forensic teacher, Ms. Cantu, looks forward to teaching new forensic science class during the third trimester.



## Choose or Lose!

BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Imagine being the passenger in a friend's car for a night out on the town, when suddenly a car racing across the intersection launches you and the entire car on the opposite side of the street. The collision causes serious damage to you, your friend, and the car. You're lucky to barely be alive.

MADD statistics show that every 30 minutes someone dies in an alcohol related vehicle accident. Whether you're the passenger, the driver, or the victim, young adults ages 15 to 24 have the highest rate of vehicle accidents while under the influence.

What causes teens to drive under the influence? The biggest factor related to teenage drunk driving is simply peer pressure. From arriving at a party and just "taking a sip or swig," teenagers somehow feel the need to fit in, but when is the cost of fitting in worth more than the cost of your life or safety? The answer is never. In a recent study made at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, studies showed that when it comes to "preferred drinking places, 73 percent like private parties, 52 percent drink at home, 46 percent like secret locations

and 40 percent drink in cars."

In a recent poll, seven out of ten, El Rancho students, who drive legally, admitted to drinking and driving at least once. It is apparent that many teens do not completely comprehend the risks of driving under the influence. Consequences of drunk driving are less apparent when young adults feel that they "didn't drink that much."

When asked if they would drive under the influence if there were a program that provided a sober ride home with no questions asked, five out of the seven said, they would take the sober ride home.

Organizations such as the Mothers Against Drunk Driving are helping to spread the word to young adults about the serious dangers of driving under the influence. From helping victims with financial assistance to message boards and programs exclusively for kids, teens and adults over the age of 21, MADD and other programs like it are changing the way young adults see and cope with the effects and realities of drunk driving.

People make mistakes, but driving under the influence is a choice.

## MADD about Ignorance

BY KIANA JUAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The next time you take a swig of beer and crank on the engine of your car, think about the possible consequences. Developed by Candy Lightner in the early 1980's, MADD has done its best to help relieve the gigantic workload police officers face everyday and help make the streets a safer place to stroll down.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving was organized after Lightner lost her own daughter to drinking and driving. Struck by a hit-and-run drunk driver, Cari Lightner's body was crushed in every place possible. "I promised myself on the day of Cari's death that I would fight to make this needless homicide count for something positive in the years ahead," said Candy Lightner.

But, these mothers aren't only cracking down on their kids; they're taking on Washington as well. The organization prompted the government to raise the legal drinking age to twenty-one years. Although some states complied, many did not alter their laws. That all changed in 1987.

In the groundbreaking Supreme Court case South Dakota v. Dole, Lightner and thousands of parents across the nation got what they wanted and what a countless number of drinking and driving victims deserved. All



*MADD is helping Highway Patrol officers crack down on DUI and DWI offenders.*

states were required to raise the legal purchasing and consumption age limit to twenty-one years. MADD has helped pass hundreds of anti-drunk driving laws since the landmark Supreme Court case and the organization continues to fight against a common occurrence that can be obliterated.

Although made up of only mothers, MADD has touched thousands of people across the nation. When lives are lost, the issue becomes bigger than just the drinking age. These mothers are fighting for something more; issues greater than the legal blood alcohol level and DUI's. They're fighting for life, the lives that have been lost and the ones that can still be saved.

## Simulation Beer Goggles

BY KIANA JUAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho, it's time to get your eyes checked. No, it's not to make what your teacher writes more visible. Get an appointment to make the roads safer.

Developed in 1995, Drunk Busters Impairment Goggles are helping society realize the effects of drinking and driving. Driving while under the influence of alcohol causes poor decision-making, confusion, and a slower reaction time. But, all of these symptoms don't have to be discovered when having a night out on the town. Just slip on a pair of goggles. And the horrible world of drunk driving comes to life.

From the moment the glasses come over your eyes, you realize why there are so many laws prohibiting driving under

the influence. Roads and stop signs become blurry. You realize the light turns red a second later than it actually does. One second too late. In that time frame, anything can happen. An oncoming SUV rams someone crossing the street or your car gets crushed crossing an intersection while another driver runs a red light. These everyday occurrences are why goggles have been implemented in anti-drunk driving programs across the nation.

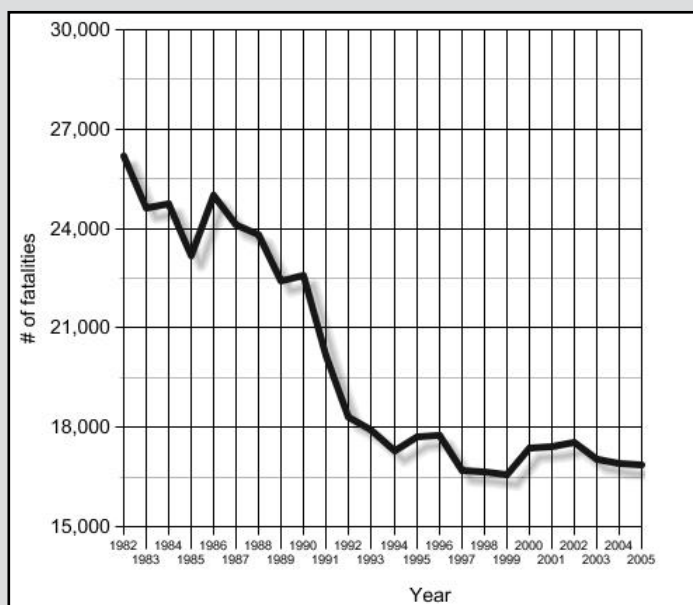
From driver education programs to the Pico Rivera Sheriffs Station, these goggles are everywhere. Instructors commonly set up an obstacle course and have sober drivers drive through them. The drivers first do a dry run-through where cones, stop signs, and cardboard pedestrians are filtered throughout the course. After seeing how easy

the course really is, the drivers then put on the goggles.

As the drivers progress through the course, the problems with drinking and driving are extremely visible. Cones are smashed beneath the tires and pedestrians are crushed. Even though there is no alcohol in the driver's blood system the results are still disastrous. Just imagine what it's really like when you have Tequila running through your veins and are exhausted from a night of dancing.

So if you don't believe it, try it. Make an appointment with a local driving school that offers Drunk Busters Impairment Goggles, and take a chance on an obstacle course. Don't take the chance on a street with hundreds of innocent drivers. It could be a prelude to your time in prison and the victims' time in a coffin.

### Alcohol Related Deaths in the US



States with the highest amount of deaths caused by drinking and driving in 2005:

1. California-1719
2. Texas-1569
3. Florida-1471
4. Pennsylvania-636
5. Illinois-580
6. North Carolina-549
7. Georgia-545
8. New York-524
9. Missouri-515
10. Ohio-505



*The consequences of drunk driving.*

### Scary Stats on Drinking and Driving

- 16,885 people died from alcohol-related deaths in 2005
- 24 percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2005 were under the influence of alcohol
- The 16,885 alcohol-related fatalities in 2005 represent 857 fewer deaths than in 1995
- Alcohol-related deaths occur every 30 minutes.
- 254,000 people were injured in car crashes involving alcohol
- 1.4 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol in 2004
- Alcohol-related crashes in the United States cost about \$51 billion each year
- On weekends, one out of every ten drivers is drunk
- Drunk drivers are responsible for 50% of highway fatalities.
- Drunken teenagers are responsible for 1 out of every 4 car accidents
- Driving under the influence is the number 1 killer of 15 to 20 year olds
- A teenager is killed every 60 minutes by drunk driving
- The number of teen fatalities increased 4% from 1995 to 2005





# January Students of the Month

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The January Students of the Month are freshman Eric Rivera, sophomore Angeli Vicente, junior Corrine Garcia, and senior Diego Rubalcava.

Freshman Eric Rivera was “surprised” when he found out he was chosen as student of the month.

“I was surprised because I don’t have good grades,” said Rivera.

Even though Rivera is not involved in many extra curricular activities, being in track takes up a lot of Rivera’s time because of all the practice.

Yet, Rivera finds time to hang out with his friends. During his spare time Rivera does his TEAM homework, sleeps, and plays other sports.

Sophomore Angeli Vicente was “surprised and happy” when she found out she was chosen as student of the month.

“I did not know I was going to get picked,” said Vicente, “I think I was chosen because I do my work and I want to do my best. I hate it when I turn in something knowing I did not try my best.”

Besides being a busy, hard-



Freshman Eric Rivera

working student during school, Vicente is also occupied with a Rio Hondo class she takes as well as her confirmation class.

Vicente’s most exciting moment in her life was when she visited the Philippines for the first time. “I was able to see my family; it was like finding another part of me because they are away. It was very interesting and cool.”

Junior Corrine Garcia said, “It was definitely a pleasant surprise and is a huge honor” to have been chosen as student of the month.

Garcia said she was probably



Sophomore Angeli Vicente

chosen “because of my grades and work ethic; I am a hard worker.”

Garcia is a very active and busy student. She is a song peeper, yet, Garcia finds time to be in clubs such as CSF/UC Partners and Social Justice.

For Garcia, her most memorable moment was when “I found out I made the song team. I thought I would not get in; it had been my dream since freshman year.”

Garcia is proud of her accomplishments and says, “I want to tell everyone to never give up on your dreams; everything is possible. Believe in yourself.”



Junior Corrine Garcia

Senior Diego Rubalcava said that being chosen as student of the month feels “Irony. It goes to show that you don’t have to be a perfect student to be student of the month, because I’m certainly not. I have many missing assignments. Often I’ll see my name on the screen for student of the month when I’m arriving late to school.” He said he was probably chosen because he has “been working hard.”

Rubalcava said “I enjoy protesting for human rights, running, and flying kites.” He was in cross country, Academic Decathlon,



Senior Diego Rubalcava

and is a member of the MEChA, Math, and Social Justice clubs.

“The climax of my life was May 2005 watching *Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith*,” said Rubalcava.

As a sidenote, Rubalcava said, “As Americans, our heritage is one of genocide and injustice, slavery and greed, hatred and fear. If you don’t understand that your education is paramount in changing this poisonous cycle, then we’re screwed. I also encourage everyone to have fun so that the terrorists don’t win.”

## Decathletes Awarded for Achievements

BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Academic Decathlon has stopped hitting the books and has started focusing on being a bit more laid back. After competing at USC in the LA County Super Quiz, Academic Decathlon came back to El Rancho with a ninth place win out of the entire county.

Seven decathletes came home medaling in one or more subjects. The majority of the decathletes medaled in the subject of speech. The top scorer on the overall team was senior Diego Rubalcava, with the second highest score go-

ing to senior Javier Garcia.

The LA County Super Quiz hosted sixty-three schools, which meant a lot of competition.

Junior Luis Aldana said, “Competing against other schools was intimidating because most of them were magnet schools.” As a first time competitor Aldana added, “Decathlon has showed me how much competition there is in the field of academics. It made me really want to try harder.”

The decathletes look forward to getting back to their regular school hours and schoolwork, Not to mention having a little more time to themselves.

Senior Martha Franco said, “The thing I’ve been looking forward to the most is sleeping in and not having to wake up so early on the weekends. It’s going to be really hard not having decathlon in my everyday routine, it’s like empty space.”

“I’m really going to miss hanging out in the Decathlon room and just talking to my friends,” said Aldana.

It just goes to show that when you work hard, stay focused and learn to wake up super early to study, academics can be both a bonding and learning experience.



Decathletes, at USC, feel relieved after taking the Super Quiz.

## Hip-Hop Shop Spins a Positive Message

BY KAYLA HERRERA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



DJ host finishes his performance at the hip-hop shop.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> the Dons-4-Christ threw it into gear and gave hip-hop a deeper meaning by hosting a show spreading the message about people and their relationship with God.

The hip-hop shop presented a diverse group of artists, from a female rapper to beat boxers and break-dancers. Most of the performers advocated the idea that even though you make mistakes, there is always a chance to turn your life around.

All of the performers were recruited from various ministries and donated their time free-of-charge.

“We hosted this event in order to reach out to the entire campus and community. We try to show that God is able to change lives,” said club president Gabriel Rivas.

After several positive performances, the Dons-4-Christ gave their own show in the form of a short skit. They depicted the idea that God creates man in his image, and that although man may go astray, God is never one to give up.

This event was the first of its kind to hit El Rancho and the Dons-4-Christ plan on hosting many more events here on campus.

“We’re not trying to get people to change their religious views, all we want to do is show people that it’s healthy to have a relationship with God,” said senior Ricardo Prieto.



# Couples Tested by Newlywed Game

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Congratulations to Joseph Lapierre and Adriana Winters for winning the El Ranchos newlywed game on Wednesday February 13 in the quad. Although they are not really a couple, they are best friends that enjoy spending time together. They say that they are very much like a couple except, "we don't do the kissy, and the holding hands thing," says Adriana. This friendship started around nine years ago in the second grade. Joseph says, "I can remember it like yesterday; we were on the playground at recess and I walked up to her and asked her if I could have a bite of her sandwich. And from that day on we have been best friends." As many couples call their boyfriend or girlfriends their "hubbys or wifeys" these two call each other their "life-y because we promised we'd be in each other's lives forever." Joseph also says, "she's

not only my best friend she is the perfect car pool dummy." So in return of being used to drive in the car pool lane Adriana says, "whenever we go out and I see a girl trying to get his attention I start to yell at him as if we were a real couple so the girl will leave and not talk to him." But like a couple these two do have some disagreements Joseph says, "When we argue she always has to be right and my wallet is never full," he laughs. Not only do they argue like a married couple they do have a lot in common, they have a thing for sweaters. "We both love to wear all kinds of different sweaters, and we also have tattoos," the best friends said. They are planning to get matching tattoos before they graduate. They don't consider themselves the perfect couple but they have the perfect friendship and they are more than a couple can ever be. So if you cannot find these two on campus you can find them at your local carmax dealership.



**Best Friends-** Seniors Joseph Lapierre and Adriana Winters smile as they receive first place in El Rancho's Newlywed game in the quad. They admit they are not the perfect couple, but they are glad to know their friendship is in good shape.

## Prom Update

**Just a few tips for all those anxious students: Prom will be held at Sycamore Plaza on Saturday May 10. Remember to have: a 2.0 GPA on second trimester; your school ID; completed clearance form; signed contract by your parent/guardian; signed contract by your guest and his/her guardian. Guests must be under 21 years of age and have enrolled or graduated**



**from a comprehensive high school. The last day to purchase tickets is May 7. The sooner you pay, the more money you save.**

## Advanced Vs. Beginning Drama Duked it Out!



Carlos Figueroa, Melisa Legaspi, and Damary Rodriguez improvise scenes coming from "fish bowl." Last week, Beginning and Advanced drama performed their regular acting contest by quickly making up scenes that all actors must coherently perform.

## Senior Wins Laker Student of the Month

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Who can El Rancho consider the luckiest guy on campus? No one other than senior Javier Garcia. "Why?" might you ask: only because he was nominated for and won the Los Angeles Lakers student of the month. Along with winning, he received a free Laker t-shirt, a plaque for student of the month, and of course four free tickets for February 19<sup>th</sup>'s game against the Atlanta Hawks. Javier would like to give a spe-



Javier Garcia (third from left) during the halftime of the Lakers vs. Atlanta Hawks game.

cial thanks to Mr. Romero who nominated him for February's student of the month. The reason for him nominating Javier was because he's truly dedicated to school. Mr. Romero says, "Javier always goes above and beyond, he's so involved in school, with ASB, Academic Decathlon, the school newspaper, math club and taking extra classes at ELAC. He deserved it." Romero was excited because he never had time to

nominate anyone, so when he had finally found the time to nominate someone, the student won. Javier said, "To be frank, I had no idea that the Lakers had their own student of the month award. When Mr. Romero told me that he nominated me, and I won I was so excited. I had never been to a Lakers game before. To go with my father and be presented during halftime on the half court was a really interesting experience."

## Rotary Youth Exposes Students to Leadership and Responsibility

BY JAVIER GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month, junior Rebecca Robles along with Mr. Ayala and Mr. Enrique Romero ate lunch at the Del Rae for the annual RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) ceremony. This organization gives young adults (ages 14-30) who have demonstrated exceptional leadership skills an opportunity to attend either a seminar, workshop, or camp. At these events, these young people debate issues of professional responsibility and human relations, while also learning leadership and communication skills. RYLA encourages the youth to discuss creative approaches for resolving family, so-

cial, and professional topics. Ultimately, RYLA exposes the youth to the practical skills (speaking and debating) companies need. For young adults like Robles, this organization provides the opportunity to refine skills and explore new career paths that encourage diversity and make new, ambitious friends. Robles said after having lunch, "I was very excited and interested in this group, and wanted to learn more. I know this is a great opportunity to learn greater leadership skills and meet new friends." She also says that she feels honored to have chosen for this intriguing leadership. On February 22-24 she attended a 3-day, 2-night RYLA program in Idlewild, California.



# Check Out Today's Hottest Releases

BY ASHLEY ORTIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Sheryl Crow, Michael Jackson, and The Raveonettes released very anticipated albums this past month, which claimed rave reviews.

Crow's new CD *Detours* was released early February. *Detours* is an album that describes Crow's life. The opening of her album, "God Bless this Mess," is about a family's life changed by war, terrorism and economic difficulties. The song "Make it go Away" was written from Crow describing her obstacle of overcoming breast cancer. Crow uses peaceful vocal tones with her painful cries to capture the emotional pain caused by the disease. She describes the optimistic view of her ended engagement with cyclist Lance Armstrong in her

song "Now that You're Gone." "Out of our Heads" is one of the catchiest tracks on the album. It contains warm emotion and a promise for unity and peace. "Gasoline" examines the oil crisis in 2017. Crow is labeling herself as premier pop folk artists of this generation with this release.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of Michael Jackson's *Thriller* was re-released this past month. When *Thriller* first debuted in 1982, the album sold 27 million copies. *Thriller's* top tracks were "Beat it" and "Billie Jean" hitting number one on the charts within its first month of sales. Jackson scores major points with some additions to many of his classic songs. Featuring many legendary artists, this rendition of Jackson's classic album gives an entire new sound to his pop culture sound. For ex-



*Thriller* has over 104 million records sold

ample, Van Halen shreds on the popular track "Billie Jean" and Paul McCartney lends his voice for the song "The Girl is Mine."

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition contains a DVD with music videos and Motown performances. There is also a bonus track on the CD named "For All Time." This song was taken off the original album when it was first released because the slow romantic, feel of the song didn't fit the tone of "Thriller." In this new



Sheryl Crow has released 10 CDs

edition of *Thriller*, avid listeners can find four new remixes featuring some of today's well-known artists. From Will.I.am remixing "The Girl is Mine" and "P.Y.T" (Pretty Young Thing), to Akon and Fergie reviving "Beat it" and "Wanna be starting Something."

The Raveonettes released their third album *Lust, Lust, Lust*. Sun Rose Wagner and Sharin Foo, the Raveonettes, owe it to Jesus and Mary Chain and the Velvet underground for their



This is The Raveonettes third CD type of simple raw rock sound.

Some listeners might be distracted with the "noise" in the tracks, but that "noise" actually elevates the music. There aren't many chords or melodies wouldn't be drowned out. The duo contains a craft of synergy that both harmonizes and disharmonizes, which contains in the tracks of "Hallucinations" and "the Best Dies." In "Aly, Walk with Me," contains a sultry, almost erotic sound; "Blush" and "Blitzed" is sort of a beach boardwalk pop.

## Once in a Life

MADLINE RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*Once* is the story of an Irish guy who dreams of becoming a famous musician, but hides his feelings behind his music. "The guy," wrestling with the loss of the woman he loves, spends his days working part time at his father's vacuum repair shop and singing on the street corner. With the help of "the girl" he meets while singing, he embarks on a journey to fulfill his dream.

This Modern Musical, set in 2007 Ireland, realistically portrays the characters, unlike other musicals, which often have over-the-top characters and vocal arrangements. The film itself took three weeks in total to film. Compared to many Hollywood films that take months and months of preparation and filming time. The equipment use to make it was three cameras in total and a cast and crew composed of an average total of twenty people. The thing that separates this musical from traditional ones is that the characters do not sing all their lines, although more than half of the movie really is the characters singing. With out been expected to be such



*A romantic movie that shares life experience along side music and the journey of discovering love and the reality of not being able to attain it.*

a success the movie was nominated for a Grammy and winner of an Oscar for best original song.

The characters and the things they do are so realistic that it is as if it was a documentary on he life of a guy and a girl who dream of recording an album with their music. "The girl's character has recently moved to Ireland from Czech Republic with her mom and her daughter seeking

for a better life stile. The complications are that "the guy" still been in love with his ex-girlfriend begins to develop a crush on "the girl." She has not yet told him she has a daughter and on top of that is separated from her husband who lives back in Czech Republic.

Ignoring the fact that the girl and the guy begin to develop interest in each other they come up this agreement that they will rent a

studio for the weekend and record an album. The problem is that they need a band and they do not have one. With only a few days of knowing each other they decide to go off make band. "The Guy" and girl get a trio of bohemian (men?) musicians from the streets and go off to record their album. As "the guy" and "girl" spend more and more time together their relationship gets closer and closer.

## Jumper Doesn't Live up to Hype; It's a Rental

BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The newest thing to hit the box office is teleporting. Based on the 1992 sci-fi novel by Stephen Gould, *Jumper* is the new twist on action packed adventure.

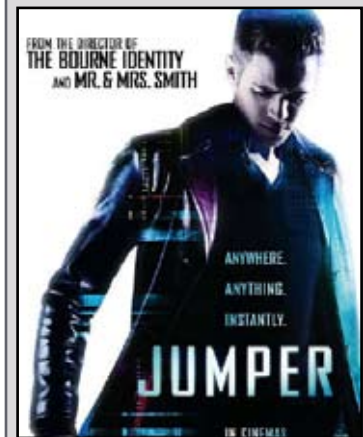
*Jumper* tells the story of David Ryce, played by Hayden Christensen, a nerdy and shy fifteen year old that discovers his ability to jump through time. With his mother and father practically out of the picture, David leaves home but not before he builds a love interest for his high school classmate Mille, played by Rachel Bilson.

After working out the kinks of teleporting, David starts living the high life in New York City. Not only does he sight see, but David also seduces the women of foreign countries.

One wrong jump leads David to discover that he isn't alone in the world of jumpers. Along with his new friend Griffin, played by Jamie Bell, David tries to save his one true love and himself from the Paladins aka the Jumper Exterminators.

Although this sci-fi thriller kills in special affects, it's basically one big game of cat and mouse. The action sequences rule, but the plot seriously could use a little more depth.

Compared to his other works such as *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, director Doug Liman could really use some help in the sci-fi department.



## Just Another Japanese Export

SAMANTHA DURON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*The Eye* is just another movie to add to the slue of Japanese horror films that just needed to be converted into English. The movie isn't as predictable as its predecessors and has an interesting story line, but the ending is a complete buzz kill to the rest of the movie.

The acting in this move isn't exactly Oscar-worthy, but manages to keep viewers interested for its hour and thirty-seven minutes. Jessica Alba and Alessandro Niv-

ola have this on-screen chemistry that's like "yeah, they're going to hook-up at the end." Plus, the tension the duo create over whether or not Nivola believes Alba can see the visions she's having, helps to off-balance the fact that you know the two will get that "happy ending." When it comes down to it, Alba and Nivola give a pretty good performance.

The story line in the movie puts a new spin on the whole "I see dead people" plot line that keeps being remade when it really shouldn't. This movie has a sense

of originality even if it's only by a small amount. It has just enough surprises to keep you wondering, "What's going to happen next?"

If hot blind chicks that see the dead and fall for their doctors in the end sounds like your kind of movie, go check out *The Eye*. Despite the awkward ending (which won't be given away), this film is filled with some really cool special effects and a few twists and turns. Ultimately, the Eye is a movie worth wasting a Friday or Saturday night on.

**Overall Grade: B**

