



# El Rodeo



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## Community Rallies in Support of Education



More than 800 participants protested on the street corners of Washington and Rosemead.

BY KIANA JUAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, teachers from El Rancho High School as well as instructors from other schools across the district protested on the corners of Rosemead and Washington.

The demonstration was a display of opposition to the budget cuts recently proposed

by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. As California is in the midst of a major budget deficit, the governor has concluded that by minimizing the funding California K-14 schools receive, California will once again be in the black. As a result, some class sizes will nearly triple, in a school district that already has limited resources. This proposal comes on the brink of California

being ranked forty-sixth in the country in educational funding.

As a result of the budget cuts, over one hundred of El Rancho Unified School District's teachers will be laid off. In fact, most of those teachers have already received pink slip notifying them of their possible job loss.

But the number of layoffs do not merely represent the statistics of the situation, they depict

the emotional turmoil of the proposal. "I'm losing colleagues I've worked with for years," said Raul Lohora, a second grade teacher at North Ranchito Elementary. The hundreds of people that crowded onto the sidewalks were not merely fighting for their co-workers, but their friends as well.

As the beat of Aztec drums filled the environment, demonstrators shouted chants such as, "Save our schools," and "Hey hey, ho ho, Budget cuts have got to go." But teachers weren't the only demonstrators; students and members of the community joined the protest as well.

For El Rancho Senior Daisy Villafuerte, the situation has hit close to home. She recounted her ten-year-old brother coming home in tears just the day before. His teacher at Rivera Elementary told his third grade class that she'd received a pink slip and might not return the next year. The third grade class erupted in tears as the teacher tried to hold back the waterworks.

Although she'd heard tidbits about the budget cuts, Villafuerte hadn't realized the magnitude of it all. "Seeing the whole community come together and fight for Pico Rivera's schools was incredible. This proposal should be getting way more coverage than it's received."

The budget cut have been given so little coverage that even the Pico Rivera Sheriff's station isn't sure what's going on. When

asked how he feels about Proposition 98, Sgt. Craig responded with, "I'm not familiar with Proposition 98." When asked how he felt about the budget cuts in general, he replied, "No Comment." The teachers are trying to prevent this type of ignorance from continuing and inform the general public on the possible effects that loom in the near future.

James Ramirez, a bystander at the protest summed up the situation in three sentences, "The Governors proposal is a short term solution that's creating a long term problem. These kids are our future. If they aren't properly educated, we're setting ourselves up for failure,"



With up to four elementary schools closing, children's education will take a major hit.

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## Budget Disaster Looms for El Rancho Teachers?

BY JAVIER GARCIA

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The budget cuts Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed for the 2007-2008 year has taken a turn for the worst for El Rancho High School: what was a supposed two counselors and three deans as the possible layoff for the district has evolved into a possibility of more than 20 teachers.

El Rancho's principal, Mr. Sam Genis, says that this move by the district is "all contingent on the state budget." This means that the district is still unsure how badly the crisis will directly affect the schools. The district has already proposed the possibility of closing two elementary schools as a way to brace itself for the next year.

These letters are used to inform the teachers of the possibility of layoff for the next school year. Every year the district needs to dismiss teachers, the last day to notify them is March 15. Due to the budget crisis and the district's actions toward schools, teachers looked



Governor Schwarzenegger's budget cuts will affect El Rancho teachers worse than expected.

at the "March 15 Letters" with more fear than the previous years.

The 20 letters is the biggest increase in letters than the previous years.

On March 13, in midst of the protest that took place on the intersection of Rosemead and

Washington, the district had originally planned to hold its monthly board meeting inside city hall. Due to the massive amount of protestors, however, the district held its meeting in the school cafeteria. Inside the cafeteria were news reporters from ABC, CBS,

and Telemundo. When it was time for the citizens to take the podium and talk in front of the board. Students from elementary schools Selby Grove, South Ranchito, and Birney shared their personal experiences about the tragedy the teachers face today. The last citizen to talk was our very own senior Diego Rubalcava, vice president of the Social Justice Club. He explained how "recycling was an excellent way to raise funds for schools, instead of resorting to teacher layoffs." The ultimate end of the budget crisis for teachers will not occur until the May.

The district stated that this crisis would mostly affect their "categorical programs" that they use to fund schools with programs such as special education and tutoring for Math and English. But now that their measures have worsened with teachers facing layoff, the district hopes to create a cushion in case even more drastic measure need to be taken. Principal Genis comments that he feels "devastated about this recent action. These are some of my personal friends, so sending those letters hurts me."



# First Four-Letter Athlete in Eleven Years

BY SAMANTHA DURON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the past three years Senior Thomas La Brecque has been a part of a tremendous balancing act of academics, athletics, ASB and trying to keep a semi-normal social life. At first glance La Brecque's high school résumé seems quite average, but if you talk to him you will learn that he is not only a TEAM student and this year's boys' athletics commissioner he is also an athlete who has earned not only one varsity letter but four. A task that isn't so easy to achieve.

It was a decade ago that a student at El Rancho, Ozzie Preciado, achieved this same thing. Preciado received letters in football, wrestling, track and field and golf. Coincidentally, these are the exact same four sports La Brecque has also received letters in. "I've always wanted to play football," says La Brecque, who's been involved with the team since his freshman year and a part of the varsity team since sophomore. La Brecque joined track and field his sophomore year and was also captain of his team the same year. "I was always passionate about pole vaulting. I really want to continue the sport in college," adds La Brecque. "Golf was a way for me to relax from football, school, and just life," said La Brecque, "and wrestling was a way for me to keep in shape. I also wanted to discover individual success and loss



*LaBrecque standing proudly for his grade and athletic achievement*

for myself." La Brecque has been varsity track and field and golf for two years. This was La Brecque's first year not only on the wrestling team but also on varsity.

"The hardest part about everything was committing a hundred percent to sports while still maintaining good grades and dealing with ASB," says La Brecque. "Going into high school my intentions were never to letter in four sports, two sports at the most," said La Brecque, "I can't say things came easy for me though. I attribute my success to mostly hard work - a lot of hard work, and dedication." La Brecque has also dealt with sacrifices like time with friends, family and his girlfriend. "Unfortunately, my school work has also had to suffer," adds La Brecque. "Through

everything, my expectations for myself have risen because I know what I am capable of and I hope to carry my success into college."

"I've learned so many things because of sports and the things I've done throughout high school: mainly that nothing's impossible; hard work and dedication can get it done," said La Brecque. La Brecque's plans for the future are as big as his career at El Rancho. "I hope to attend California State University of Long Beach in the fall and study biology, then major pre-med at Boston College," said La Brecque. "I just want to thank my coaches Louis Zamora, Teddy Hartman they were my biggest inspirations. I also want to thank my other coaches Casey Mae, Tirrell Wynn and Dustin Valdivia," said La Brecque.

# Lights, Camera, Ricardo!

BY SAMANTHA DURON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Whether you know him as Richard or Ricardo, Ricardo Prieto is one of the biggest personalities at El Rancho. Prieto has tried about almost every elective El Rancho has to offer. Some of his accomplishments include being a part of this year academic decathlon, advanced drama and starring in several of plays.

"I tried every other elective on campus," said Prieto. "I played on the football team and tennis team my freshmen year; I just wasn't into it. I was lazy to say the least," added Prieto. "I auditioned for Coralleers because they never cut the guys but surprisingly I got cut," said Prieto. "Drama was all that was left to try, so I gave it a shot."

"I really didn't expect to do so well," said Prieto. "I mean that class was filled with a lot of talent. I just had to do my best and hope that it would make me stand out from the crowd," said Prieto. "I discovered that I had a witty humor about myself and that's what I became best at," added Prieto, "I also cam to learn my wit was all I had. My worst skills were everything else, especially



*Determined Ricardo Prieto proudly standing next to his drama teacher Mr. Wlasick*

when it came to keeping a straight face. I just couldn't manage it."

"After high school I want to go to college; any college just as long as I get accepted," said Prieto. "I plan to continue acting. I want to become the next American actor like Keanu Reeves, Tom Green, and Andy Dick. You know, the Greats," laughed Prieto. "Once I get to that status I would love to play the character Michael in the play 'Boys in the Band'," said Prieto, "he has such

a complexity that any one can relate to this character, and I can see myself playing this character center stage on Broadway, the 'you made it' stage," adds Prieto.

"I just want to take these final moments to thank 'W' (Mr. Walsick) because he took a chance on me," said Prieto. "He's like a cocoon to a caterpillar, he helped me to evolve," added Prieto, "Also, to anyone who finds themselves highly unmotivated join, drama it'll do wonders."

# Students Shine on and off Campus

BY MARISOL CABRAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the summer of 2007, Saul Cervantes, senior, received the opportunity to work at Target. Cervantes primarily applied for the job so he could stay at El Rancho for his senior year because his mother told him, "it was either get a job or move to Texas."

Cervantes alternates from working 21 hours a week to 8 hours working either as a cashier, cart attendant, or temporary janitor.

With his busy schedule, Cervantes learned to manage his time well between work, school, and hanging out with friends. Yet his job at Target made him more responsible and Cervantes now knows

"the true value of a dollar."

Although his job has no effect in his academic studies at El Rancho, Cervantes said that his job has taken away "fifty percent of his free time" and he has less time to go out with his family on Fridays and Saturdays.

Saul is saving part of his hard earned money to attend either Cal State Long Beach or Cal State LA. The rest of his earning are spent on his girlfriend because he said, "Girlfriends are not cheap." Cervantes said the best parts of working at Target are the discounts given to the employees and the new friends he made during his time working at Target.



MARISSA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

School, sports, and a job sounds like she has it all. A junior here at El Rancho, Nyssa Jimenez, does it all. She played tennis during 1st trimester, goes to school and now she works. Nyssa is currently working at the Calvin Klein store at the Citadel in the city of Commerce. She has been working for a little over six months and loves earning her own money. Though she was nervous when she first started, because her manager put her in the front of the store by herself on a busy day, she says, "I was so scared because customers were asking me questions and I couldn't even answer them." She works as sales asso-

ciate and sometimes cashier. She says, "I started working because I don't like to ask my mom for money," yet there are some good and bad things that happen during work, "I still enjoy going in. The worst thing that has happened while I was at work was when some ugly guy try to hit on me, it made me laugh. The most embarrassing thing that has happened," was when I was fixing the clothes on the rack and I hit my head on one of them I tried to play it off but all my co-workers saw," she also said, "I do enjoy working, but sometimes it gets really busy and there are some rude customers."





# Barack Obama: Is He the Next Dr. King?



*Does Barack have what it takes to become the net president? Is he prepared to solve Americas Problems.*

BY: KIANA JUAREZ

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

2008 is a special year for El Rancho's seniors. Not only are the Summer Olympics this year, but the presidential election is also coming near. So, as the race for the White House unfolds and the Ranch's seniors turn eighteen, it is essential to know about the candidates. One in particular has seemed to attract the attention of citizens across the nation, Barack Obama.

Obama is most known for his ability to give speeches. His poise and eloquence often remind people of Martin Luther King Jr. In fact, many of his campaign posters pose Obama in similar positions as Dr. King's pictures throughout the Civil Rights Movement. But through the positive persona and speeches, what is most important is interpreting what his words mean.

Campaign stop after campaign stop, Obama refers to change. "Change we can believe in." But what exactly is "change?" Is it reclaiming our position as an economic powerhouse? Is it minimizing the foreclosure rate across America; or is it simply a dime and a nickel? While all of these examples are definitions of change, Barack Obama repeatedly fails to state how he will make these progressions happen.

Although there is no doubt Obama is an intelligent man, his words are often viewed

as "open rhetoric." Unlike Senator Hillary Clinton, Obama states the problems he wants to solve for America and its citizens, but ultimately has no concrete solutions. How will Obama stop global warming? He doesn't know, but it's going to happen. How will America secure its borders to combat illegal immigration? Don't worry about it; the solutions are coming. This is change. "Change we can believe in." But that is not the only problem with Obama's speeches; the source of his words has also come into question.

Last month the Clinton campaign called out Obama on a portion of his speech. They claimed that the words he used were plagiarized. At a later debate, Obama combated that a member of his staff allowed him to use his words. He affirmed that there was no reason for this to be considered plagiarism. But with a campaign centered on the strength of his words, those words should most certainly be his own. If Obama is the future President of the United States, the position should be won honorably, with his own opinions and viewpoints harnessing his election.

So El Rancho upperclassmen, take a position on Barack Hussein Obama. Do you want a second term senator to be the ruler of the free world? Or, do you want someone with experience, substance, and the power to revitalize the United States of America.

## Proposition 98 in Danger

MARTHA FRANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

California is practically bankrupt and with that in mind the clueless Governor Schwarzenegger is pushing for severe budget cuts in education. The so-called "Education Governor" is threatening to amend or even suspend Proposition 98.

Proposition 98 was passed in 1988 and was created as an amendment to the California Constitution to set a minimum percentage of the state budget that will be spent on education, preferably K-14 education. Proposition 98 works with the implementation of three tests. The first step which is no longer relevant since it was only used for the years 1988-1989, mandated that about 39% of the state budget be preserved for education spending. Test two is used during years of strong economic growth and calls for education spending to equal the previous year's with student enrollment adjustments and per capita growth. Finally

test three which, unlike test two, is used during weak economic development years assures previous spending with student enrollment adjustments and provides for an increase for any change in fund revenue growth.

All of these tests have provided the state with a concrete method to calculate the right amount of funding for K-14 education. Moreover, Schwarzenegger's goal is to rid Proposition of Test Three therefore reducing the K-14 funding for the coming years.

If the California Legislature suspended Proposition 98 then there would be no specific plan that distributes funds to K-12 schools and community colleges. Essentially schools would be cheated out of the money that is necessary to pay for teachers, computers, after school programs, books, etc.

Proposition 98 has worked for almost twenty years without any serious problems. In addition, schools have been able to fund a diverse array of programs that are essential to a student's development. Amending or suspending Proposition 98 would pose a large threat to such programs.



## Clinton's Comeback?

MARTHA FRANCO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

New York senator Hillary Clinton's campaign for the Democratic nomination seemed to be coming to a slow end but on Tuesday, March 3 she won three key states that have kept her alive.

Eleven straight wins for Clinton's opponent, Barack Obama, were definitely discouraging to the Clinton campaign therefore she was deeply relying on winning the three key states of Ohio, Texas, and Rhode Island. Ohio was an easy win for Clinton but Texas was definite surprise since Obama had gained some momentum in the early polls.

Although she scored these key wins Obama is still ahead on the delegate count with 1,520 compared to Clinton's 1,424. Still, neither candidate is very close to the 2,025 needed to obtain the Democratic Presidential nomination and start campaigning



*Hillary Clinton gives speech to win the support of Pennsylvania.*

against the obvious Republican candidate, John McCain.

Of course there are other factors that must be put into play also one being the super delegates or 842 unpledged delegates who individually get to chose who they wish to support. With many of these super delegates still undecided, Clinton must act quickly so that she can receive some needed support.

Clinton's new found glory must continue on in order to win Pennsylvania on April 22 with 158 delegates and score a win that would normally fall upon her rival Obama.



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# Bernadette Leggis Hits it Out of Both Softball and Academic Fields

BY RIQUELMY VALLE  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

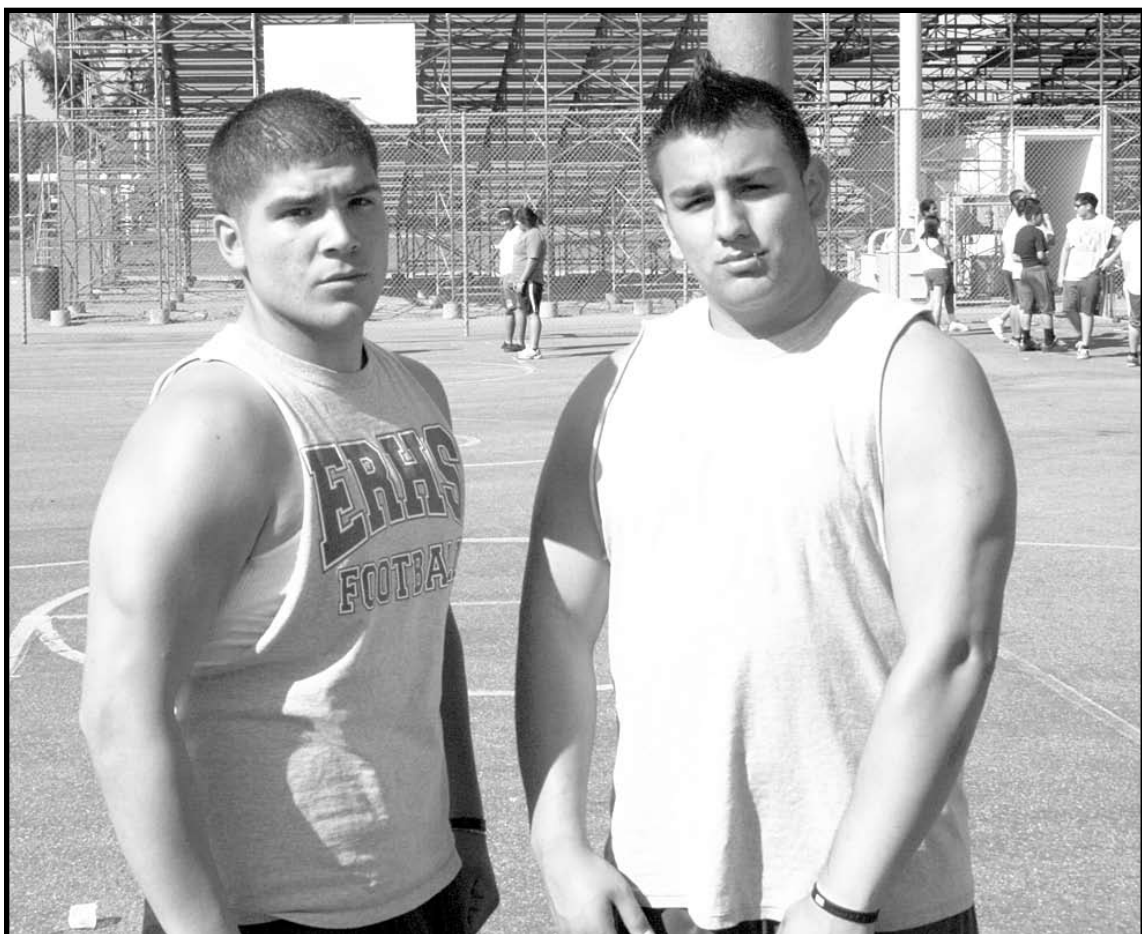
Many students in El Rancho play sports and are able to maintain a good G.P.A. But how many can say that they are really good at the sport they play and are number one in their class? One who can go by the name of Bernadette Leggis. Bernadette is currently number one in the Junior Class with a G.P.A. of 4.37 and plays for the softball team as well. She has won valedictorian in Rivera Middle School before, and since then she has been dreaming of becoming her graduating class valedictorian. She said it is pretty challenging to stay in the number one spot of her class but she is doing the best she can. "My parents have also been of great support, so that has helped me, too. I enjoy playing softball and getting good grades because it's what I do. I feel proud of myself for what I have accomplished and I hope to accomplish more in

the future," said Bernadette. Bernadette has been playing softball since she was a little girl. She said it is something she loves to do and plans on sticking with it throughout her remaining high school years. "Keeping good grades its quite challenging and now that I am playing softball it has gotten a little harder, but I am still managing. I go to school and during 4<sup>th</sup> period you'll see me in the softball diamond. After I finish softball practice I go home and work on whatever assignment was assigned to me for that day. It's a schedule that I have kept and plan to continue because it has really helped me and hasn't failed me yet. Its fun knowing I'm number one in my class and I hope to continue as number one until I graduate. I will continue playing softball until I graduate but I'm also hoping I get to play in college," said Bernadette. From staying number one in her class to maintaining a good batting average Bernadette is doing it all.



Bernadette Leggis gets ready to pitch and hit a home run in softball and academic fields.

## El Rancho Athletes "Stay on Track"



Senior throwers Mario Berny and Garrett Carrillo stand out in their events.

BY GENESSE CARRILLO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although, as of Thursday, El Rancho had only participated in one track meet and one invitational for the season, their outstanding performances in both events kept them confident.

Senior throwers Garrett Carrillo and Mario Berny are two particular athletes that stand out in their events. When asked about his thoughts and aspirations

**"As long as we work hard, anything is possible."**

**-Garrett Carrillo**

for the Track and Field team this season, Garrett said, "As long as we work hard, anything is possible." In response to a similar question, fellow teammate Mario Berny said, "Anything is possible as long as we work hard." These parallel responses can be seen as a reflection of this team's mindset for the season, to push aside all obstacles and win. The Dons had their following Track meet yesterday at home, although results were not available.



El Rancho's baseball team: Del Rio Champs again.

## Del Rio League Champs Again

BY DAVID ZAPATA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Confidence is the key to success. El Rancho's baseball team is at it again with the help of players such as senior **Mike Manriquez**. Manriquez has a batting average of .560, which is very impressive this early in the season. Head coach Mr. Llanes

stated, "We're in the moment of earning our victories." Then he added, "We do not worry about the score but play together as a team. Even though we are still early on building our team spirit we are all confident that the best is yet to come." Another rising player on the team is first year player and junior, **Marcus Aldacoa**. He played an important part of the teams two previous victories with his two homeruns, one of which put the team in the lead and the other won the game. Our dons came out victorious in their game against Whittier, which took place Wednesday at home. The final score was El rancho 3 and Whittier 2. We look forward to seeing what this hard working team has in store for us for the 2008 season.

**"We're in the moment of earning our victories."**

**-Mr. Llanes**



# It's Time for Dodger Baseball!

BY ARACELI AGUILA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dodger dogs, peanuts, and soda pop- the baseball season is back. The Los Angeles Dodgers take on The San Francisco Giants March 31<sup>st</sup> at Dodger stadium. The Dodgers vs. Giants rivalry goes back to when both teams were in New York. "I'm looking forward to a great season, new coach, and hope the Dodgers take out those ugly Giants opening day," says ASB Advisor, and math teacher Mr. Romero. The dodgers hope to bring in a big crowd; 2005's opener had over 50,000 attendants. This season is said to bring more spark and fans, as it's the Dodger's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Along with this, the Dodgers have a new manager, Joe Torre. "I can't wait to see how Joe Torre coaches the team, I'm hoping he does a good job," says long time fan, and junior Amanda Espinoza. Last season the Dodgers started off strong, but quickly began to fade. The Dodgers ended in fourth place. With young players such as Jason Repko, Andre Either and Martin Russell, the Dodgers should be back on track. El Rancho students will be heading down to Dodger stadium April 11. Tickets are \$20.00, and the Dodgers will be taking on the San Diego Padres; ASB is currently selling Dodger tickets. A mini helmet radio will also be given out at the game.



## Coach Picon Assures Boys' Volleyball Team

The Boys Varsity Volleyball team is three times defending champions in the Del Rio League. Three years in a row, the Del Rio champions should be thanked to Coach Picon.

Picon has been a coach for fourteen years, but six of those years she has coached volleyball. Volleyball has been in Picon's life since high school and college. She became a coach because of her parents; "they are my inspiration," she said.

Picon prepares the team everyday with practice and the fundamental skills for the game. She gives them a great emphasis on being a Del Rio League champions for the fourth time in a row.

Senior varsity player, Marc Anthony Suazo says Picon is a great coach. He said, "Picon is a great coach because she is tougher than any other guy coach from all the sports."

Suazo said that since Picon has been coach for the boys' varsity team, they have been Del Rio League Champions three years in a row. "When we go to CIF we go further from the year before. Last year we went to third round of CIF," he said.

Suazo also says Picon knows how to keep their spirits, whether the game was a win or a loss. "She has us work harder than we can ever believe," Suazo said.

Coach Picon would like to be coach as long as she stops liking the sport. She sees herself being the coach for many years to come.

Picon believes that the team became successful because of her assistant coaches Trini Lopez and Freddy Sanchez. She is "grateful for [my] assistant coaches."

Picon would like to be Del Rio League Champions for the fourth time. It's an expectation for her and the team

# Young Swimmers Make a Splash

BY LUCY VARGAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho swimming team is well into their season, and by winning their most recent match on Wednesday, they have proven to be a competitive team.

According to Coach Pringle, the large number of students on the swim team is proving to be a great advantage and strength for the team. However, the team might have more difficulty competing because most of the athletes are young. Be that as it may, Coach Pringle believes that the Dons can compete in CIF this year and hopes

that five to six students make it.

Dons are looking forward to a strong, victorious season especially with swimmers like Michael Nevenhoven, Miguel Quijada, Sharon Pedregon and Isela Aguirre leading the way. These stars have proven to be some of the strongest athletes of the swim team this year. Although Coach Pringle declares Whittier and La Serna to be schools that pose the biggest threat due to their club swimmers, the Dons continue to practice with intensity to come out victorious.

Don supporters will just have to wait and see until the swimmers compete with La Serna and Whittier on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.



With many young and self-assured athletes in the swim team, such as Michael Nevenhoven, the swim team hopes to do well in the upcoming season and compete in CIF.

# Boys' Varsity Tennis Team Serves it Up

BY MARISELA RIEBELING  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Tuesday March 20 started the new season for boy's varsity tennis. Winning against Whittier on Tuesday 11-7, and against Cabrillo Wednesday 10-8, the boys tennis team is off to a good start. All players are optimistic about this season, double player Guadalupe Diaz says, "We're going to do the best we can to win league this season, we just need to keep practicing so we can beat La Serna at finals". The varsity coach Ms. Lippstreu has high hopes for the team this season. She wants them to do the best they can but she wants them to have fun as well. "I always tell them to play like they're 10, they should dive for the ball and have a good time playing" says Lippstreu. Double players David Coronel And Chris Gonzalez are confident in winning league this season "We are well prepared to take league this year" says Coronel. "Our team is better than last year, individually and as a team we have im-



Junior Chris Gonzalez fiercely concentrates while trying to take out his opponent.

proved a lot" say junior Chris Gonzalez. Senior Alberto says "Hopefully we do win league this

year." Their coach Ms. Lippstreu also added, "The team is doing great, I would be surprised and

disappointed if we didn't take the top half at finals." The next game will be played at Pioneer, April 1<sup>st</sup>.



# Spring Break with Class of '08

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Spring is here! There are many different ways to enjoy this week of freedom. Some people leave town, and others stay here in Pico. Three seniors eagerly shared their plans for this long awaited spring break.

## Christian Aguiniga

Destination: "I am going to buy a car."

Accompaniment: "My dad"

Purpose: "Because I want a car and I want to get a good deal."



Christian Aguiniga

## Patricia Carmona

Destination: "I'm going to the beach and I'm going to teach my friend to drive."

Accompaniment: "I'm taking my friends."

Purpose: "To have fun before we graduate."



Patricia Carmona

## Cristina Ceballos

Destination: "I'm going to visit my sister in Hawaii."

Accompaniment: "My other sister is going to go with me."

Purpose: "I just tell my sister that I am going to visit her because I miss her, but in reality I just want to drink piña coladas and see hot guys hula dance."



Cristina Ceballos



Rome, one of the many places that will be visited by the M.E.Ch.A. tourists.

# M.E.Ch.A. Club Makes Plans for Trip to Europe

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Following their successful trip to Mexico this past holiday break, El Rancho's M.E.Ch.A. club will be traveling to Europe during spring break of 2009. Students traveling with M.E.Ch.A will be visiting such historical cities like Rome, Florence and Genoa in Italy and traveling across the Mediterranean Sea by boat to Barcelona, Spain.

The trip is open to all students, not just for members of the club. Those students who have already signed up

are looking forward to this trip.

Junior Estefany Franco, who plans to go on the trip, said, "I am excited because I have not been to Spain or Italy and I will get to experience a new culture and have a lot of fun."

"Europe is a nice place to visit, especially if it's for the first time," said Mr. Enrique Romero, teacher and chaperon for the trip.

"I expect to see a lot of architecture. I really want to see the art in Florence," said Franco, "I would really like to take my sister, Martha Franco, with me so that she can experience the trip with me."

Mr. Gerardo Correa, teacher and club advisor, said, "I'm looking forward to visiting the many historical places that I have read about as a student and get the opportunity, as a teacher, to teach it in the classroom."

Some of the places that want to be seen by the travelers are the coliseum and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The cost of the trip is \$1,980 and will be nine days long. For more information about the trip feel free to talk to any of the trip advisors: Ms. Jazmin Chavez, Mr. Daniel Diaz, or Mr. Correa.

# Upcoming Events for ER Seniors

BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Attention seniors, with only twelve weeks left of the school year, yes, twelve weeks, make sure you take care of business and save these dates!

## Sat. May 10<sup>th</sup>: Jr./Sr. Prom

-Be sure that all guest forms and permission contracts are in and approved before you buy your ticket. Have all your paperwork ready and your current ID to purchase your ticket at the cashier's office. All forms can be picked up n Activites.

**Mon./Tues. May 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>** : Cap and gown distribution in the ER Gym at 10 am.

-Please bring any necessary forms and your ID to pick up your cap and gown.

Mon. June 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Class Visits



Time is running out for Seniors.

**Wed. June 4<sup>th</sup>** : Scholarship Dessert 6:30pm ER Cafeteria  
- Please dress appropriately and be on time. All guests other than students must pay an admission fee at the door.

**Wed. June 11<sup>th</sup>** : Senior Picnic 8:30am - 2:30pm/ Yr. Book Signing Party  
The location is TBA and remember to leave your valuables

at home. Dress for fun and games.

Yr. Book party to be held in the Gym 4-7pm

**Wed. June 18<sup>th</sup>** : Graduation Tickets/ Minimum Day/ Graduation Rehearsal Tickets will be given out at Activities after school Rehearsal is for line leaders and Honor-Crest students only

**Thur. June 19<sup>th</sup>** : Graduation 8pm in the ER Stadium/ Grad Night at Disneyland Seniors are to be here at 6:45pm (PLEASE BE ON TIME!) Remember NO balloons, flowers, leis, noisemakers, signs etc. will be allowed in the stadium. NO admission into the stadium and visitor side after 8:30pm Busesloadimmediatelyafter theceremonyandreturnat6:30am. Tickets go on sale in May.

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# The Green Heart Comes to El Rancho’s Little Theatre

BY MARITITZA PADILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho is about to have its own *High School Musical*, directed by Mr. Stan Wlasick. For this year, Wlasick chose *The Green Heart*, a hilarious romantic murder mystery, because it is “a rarely produced musical that is new and different.” The audience, therefore, has no real expectations and, instead, purely enjoys it. *The Green Heart* is a musical based on a short story by Jack Ritchie. “It is very good and funny,” says Wlasick. It was made into a film in the 1970’s called “A New Leaf,” and Wlasick recommends for everyone to see it. Although the musical will not be until May, the preparations started early in March. Students showed off their voice and their dance skills as criteria for reserving a spot in the musical, hosted in the Little Theatre March 12-13<sup>th</sup>. Wlasick made the cast open to anyone because “some stu-

dents cannot fit drama into their schedule,” and thus, he made the experience available to anyone. Wlasick looks for-




A cover of the play The Green Heart based on Jack Ritchie’s novel.

ward to “having fun producing the musical.” He wants the whole cast to have a good time.



**Gymnasium Consturction Update-** “The construction of El Rancho’s second gymnasium began in November of last year. The gymnasium is now almost finished. When it is finally done, there will be a landscape with light all along Loch Alene Avenue,” said Mr. Ayala. Now, after fifty-five years, El Rancho High School is finally having another improved gymnasium.

## Word on the Street



### El Rodeo Asks... How Do You Feel about Gas prices?



“I almost cry every time I fill up my gas tank.”-Kayla Herrera, 12.



“I can’t wait to do research on alternative fuels, including converting diesel to methane, to hydrogen fuel cells.”- Diego Rubalcava, 12.



“There goes half my pay check.”-Ramon Velasquez, 12.



“My daddy pays for it.”- Maria Estrada, 12.

# Mousetrap Power!

BY STEPHANIE PENA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The students in the MESA club are going to conduct a race that they have been preparing for weeks against each other, to test how much power a mousetrap will give to a homemade car. They will be holding the race in room B201, Mrs. Tanigawa’s room, and as Eddy Madrano, a member of the club, and an eleventh grader at El Rancho High School said, “The reason for this is experiment was just for bragging rights.” The members of the club were each told that they were to build a car from scratch. They could ask their advisor for certain materials that were too difficult to find, but that besides that they were on their own. Their car is going to be powered by a mousetrap! The car is attached to the mousetrap by a string. The winner of the race will be the member whose car goes the farthest. If that does not seem difficult enough, imagine having to build the car so that it could go uphill at a thirty-degree angle! It turns out that this is a very dangerous test to do because if the students



Eddy Medrano, member of the MESA club, with his mouse trap.

flick the mousetrap the wrong way, their fingers could be badly injured. Mrs. Tanigawa, a general science and biology teacher at the high school and the advisor of the club, said, “It was a very dangerous test that tests the member’s creativity and intelligence.” The members worked tediously to finish their mousetrap-powered car. Once they were

done, they could not wait to test them out. The results of the race are not in yet because the race was going to be held this past Thursday, but a member of the race was not able to make it to the race. Although the results are not in yet, the creation of this interesting contraption is success enough for the members of the MESA club!

# Easter Relay Race!



Join your class today during lunch to earn class points. Each class will have four volunteers to participate in this Spring Race.



# Forget April Showers, It's about April Concerts

TINE BRACAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The month of March is coming to an end and April is rapidly approaching and excitement is building up for the simple fact that April is booked with concerts and shows that music lovers have been anxiously waiting for whether you like dance, electro, indie or R&B music, April has a concert for you.

Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the first concert of the month. Digitalism is performing at the El Rey Theatre in Los Angeles at 8:00 pm. This will be the bands first time coming to the U.S. With their dance pop sound and the fact that they are finally coming to our country, tickets are expected to go fast. Opening up for Digitalism will be Guns and Bombs as well as Thomas Von Party. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased through ticketmaster or at the door, but chances are they'll be sold out when you get there.

Bamboozles here!! The two-day rain or shine event with a variety of bands and musicians playing or you is here. Bamboozle will be held at the Verizon Amphitheater in Irvine, CA on April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Gates open at noon and



April has a lot to offer when it comes to concerts. There are shows to satisfy a wide range of musical preferences and are sure to bring a good time

the show will also begin at 12pm.

The earlier you get there the better chance you have when choosing which of the 6 stage areas you will like to visit, not to mention to watch front row. Some of the many bands playing on the first day are Paramore, Bay-side, Alesana and Valencia. The second day is more upbeat feel with performances by The Medic Droid, Breathe Carolina, Metro Station, Chiodos and Lydia. Cost

for one-day admission is \$39.50 or \$75.00 for a two-day pass. Visit ticketmaster to purchase tickets.

"Coachella," The three-day music and arts festival that comes around every year with new bands plus Coachella veterans in just a few weeks. This event will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at the Empire Polo field in Indio, CA at 11:00am. Different day's mean different bands. Whether you like mel-



low Death Cab or danced based New Young Pony Club, choose the day that excites you. Cost for Coachella is \$90.00 or the three-day pass for \$269.00. You can also see Ticketmaster or TRY to win them on KROQ. Good luck.

At the end of April the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, may be the biggest event yet to come. It's Kanye West's Glow In the Dark tour. This will be Kanye's first big show since the passing of his mother back

in late December. The tour will take place at the Nokia live theater in Los Angeles at 7:30pm. Along with Kanye West, Rihanna, N.E.R.D and Lupe Fiasco will be performing as well as a "special guest". Tickets start at \$59.50 and up to \$109.50. It's a one in a lifetime event, amazing artist plus great songs equals a perfect confection for a great way to spend your paycheck. Tickets will be on for presale early April.



## Don't Tapout to See This Movie

GUADALUPE CORTEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*Never Back Down* is the latest action/adventure teen movie that is sweeping the box offices. Does this movie sound familiar? If it does then it is because the film closely resembles the sequel *Step Up*. Rather than dancing, the movie focuses on fighting, which is more likely to attract the male demographic.

*Never Back Down* tells the journey of Jake Tyler (Sean Faris) through high school and struggle to fit in. Jake has recently moved to Orlando, Florida with his family to support his younger brother's shot at a professional tennis career. Jake was a star athlete on the football team in his hometown, but in this new city he is an outsider with a reputation for being a quick-tempered fighter. Jake's reputation precedes him when a video of a football fight appears online and his new classmates find out. On top of this unwanted popularity, Jake also manages to attract the eye of the popular girl, Baja Miller (Amber Heard), who invites him to a party. At the party we meet Ryan

(Cam Gigandet), the school's fight king and Baja's boyfriend. At the party, Jake is challenged by Ryan; Jake tries to walk away, but is held by the mention of his dead father. The fight not surprisingly ends with Ryan as the winner. While Jake is defeated and humiliated in the fight, Max (Evan Peters) introduces himself to Jake and tells Jake about the sport known as Mixed Marshall Arts. Max introduces Jake to his coach Jen Roqua (Djimon Hounsou), a famous MMA fighter. Jake enters into a rigorous training program with his new mentor, who hopes to teach Jake about life and how revenge is not worth fighting for.

If movies that have blood flying all over the place interests you or if you are interested in martial arts then *Never Back Down* is your kind of movie! Director Jeff Wadlow films the endless fight scenes with confidence. He shoots the fights with an eye for detail and has an understanding of the physics of tumbling bodies and comprehension of the arrangements of muscles in a male body. Definitely a movie both genders can enjoy!

## Is a Prehistoric Love Story Worth Your Money?

BY KAYLA HERRERA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*10,000 BC* is the newest native thriller at the box office. From the man who brought you *Independence Day*, Roland Emmerich's, *10,000 BC* is a definite must see if you want a good adventure and captivating love story.

Taking place in ancient times, this movie depicts the tale of a tribal warrior, D'Leh, played by Steven Strait, looking to redeem his father's name and the one woman he loves, Evolet, played by Camilla Belle. This epic love tale and romantic thriller kills in graphics and style.

After a premonition seen by

the wise mother of the tribe comes true, the men of the tribe must make their last mammoth hunt count. As their hunt comes to and end, invaders come and kidnap the love of D'Leh's life, the beautiful Evolet. As D'Leh adventures for his princess he discovers that there are more tribal civilizations beyond his mountains.

Although this film differs in style to Mel Gibson's earlier native thriller *Apocalypse*, *10,000 BC* gives audiences a different perspective on ancient history and folklore.

This movie is a definite matinee or date movie for anyone looking to get out for the weekend.

**Movie Grade: B**



## Not Your Average History Lesson

MARISOL RIEBELING  
EL RODE STAFF WRITER

*The Other Boleyn Girl* begins with two loving sisters Mary (Scarlet Johanson) and Anne (Natalie Portman) Boleyn who become the worst of enemies when they are in competition to win the attention and love of the king of England, Henry Tudor. Both sisters try to seduce the king with their charm and looks to become the next queen. The only way however, to do this is to be the first to gain his love and to produce a male heir to the throne. Catherine of Aragon cannot produce a male heir, so Henry divorces her and also the church. This does not only cause problems with the family but with the church as well. Tensions rise when the sisters find out that Henry had been secretly seeing both of them. Their brother George Boleyn played by Jim Sturgess is caught in the middle of the fight between the two sisters he loves. When the king starts to fall for Anne, Mary then become the other Boleyn girl and will stop at nothing to win him back. Both sisters fall in love with Henry but will they ignore their love for each other or let jealousy bring out the worst in them? This is a great movie for the history lovers. It's a classic story about true events with a twist. If you are looking for a great read over spring break you could also read *The Other Boleyn Girl* written by Philippa Gregory. Gregory's other novels include *The Queen's Fool*, *The Virgin Lover*, and *The Constant Princess*.