



El Rodeo



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State Budget Woes Continue, Even Students Feeling the Crunch

BY KIANA JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dons, have you recently been laid off from your job? Chances are, you are not alone.

According to the Labor Department, over 80,000 Americans lost their jobs in the month of March alone. Combining statistics from January to March, over 232,000 jobs have been lost.

With the unemployment rate jumping from 4.8% to 5.1% in the month of March, jobs are becoming extremely hard to come by. "I applied to five places in the mall a couple weeks ago, and haven't been called back by any of them," said senior Daisy Villafuerte.

But students and young adults are not the only people affected by the record number of layoffs. Teachers are sure to be the next victims of an economy that's going down the drain.

In light of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's recent education budget cuts, numerous teachers will be unemployed. In fact, over 107,000 California teachers will no longer call classrooms their homes.

In the El Rancho Unified School District alone, over 100 teachers received pink slips notifying them of their potential lay off.

With the possibility of two elementary schools being shut down, teachers will be in a near possible position of finding a new job. In response to the proposal, many of El Rancho's youngest teachers and those with the least amount of tenure will be let go.

But the situation is not just effecting current teachers, it's effecting future teachers as well. Students earning their teaching credentials and individuals that have had lifelong goals of teaching and giving back to their community, find themselves in the dark. Many of them know that come graduation time, there will be no jobs to fulfill.

Less citizens with jobs means less money to spend in the already dismal economy. These two occurrences spell bad news for America.

With an average of 77,000 jobs lost in the first three months of the year, prospective workers can only hope the economy receives a much-needed jumpstart. The enormous amount of job losses, comes on the brink of a positive ending to 2007. In the last three months of the year, an average of 76,000 jobs were gained.

As Chris Rupkey, a financial strategist for Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi stated, "It is more certain than ever that the economy has entered a recession."

Holocaust Survivor Shares Painful Memories

BY AILEEN GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Friday, sophomore Team students were treated to a special guest with an extraordinary story. His name was Mel Mermestein and he is a Holocaust survivor. The Holocaust took place in 1941 when Hitler and Nazi party sought to exterminate the Jewish people.

Mermestein lived on a farm with his father, mother, two sisters, and his brother. In the month of April 1944 a couple of Hungarian soldiers arrived at the farm. The family was taken from the farm to a near of camp he called the "brick field."

He was only seventeen when he went to his first concentration camp. From there the family was shipped to a concentration camp in Poland, Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Upon arriving at the camp, the Nazi army ordered a separation between the men and women. This was the last time Mermestein saw his mother, aged forty-four, and his two sisters', ages twenty and fifteen.

The Nazi army ordered the women into the gas chambers where they met their death. His father, aged forty-five, his brother, nineteen, and he were sent to a labor camp where they had to work.

Three weeks later Mermestein, along with two thousand other prisoners, was separated from his father and brother. He was sent to camp Dachau in Germany; only two hundred prisoners survived the journey.

Mermestein was liberated at Dachau by the Allied forces.

In 1961 Mermestein re-



Mel Mermestein, one of the last Holocaust survivors still alive today, spent time in several camps.

turned to Germany for the first time since his tragic experience.

As he looked for information about the camp where he had last seen his father and brother he learned of their tragic ending.

His father and brother worked at a coal mine. His father was killed for being too weak. A month later his brother was shot on the back of the head during a death march.

As Mermestein stood at the podium he remembered all

the tragic incidents he saw and all the awful noises he heard.

He remembered how the soldiers treated all the prisoners as 'animals' and branded their arms as if they were 'cattle.'

Mermestein still bares his bar code number 130508 on his forearm. He especially remembered one event that has never left his mind; the time he saw many mothers having to undress their children only to enter a gas chamber disguised as a shower.

It's been sixty-three years since Mermestein was liberated at Dachau. Every day Mermestein asks himself the same question "why did the almighty leave me here."

His answer: to tell his side of the Holocaust story. He wants to educate people and let the world know of what his eyes have seen and what his ears have heard. "No one can ever fully understand the Holocaust unless you have lived it."

Senior Izamar Herrera Follows Her Passions



Izamar has been playing the violin for four years.

BY MELISA HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Izamar Herrera may seem like the typical Team student, but there is much more to her. In fact, many people do not know that her parents got her name from a novella. Along with

being a four-year Team student, Izamar has also played in the Los Angeles Music and Art School orchestra since her freshman year.

Every day, after Izamar's long hours of Team homework, she still finds the time to practice for her recitals. Izamar's longing

for playing the violin began when she found out that the violin was one of the hardest instruments to learn. However she knew she was up to the challenge. "Even though the violin is a complicated instrument," Izamar admitted, "I'm glad that I was able to accomplish it."

When Izamar first began playing the violin, she struggled day after day to learn her music. Izamar enjoys meeting new people throughout different orchestras and playing with people she hopes one day to be like.

"Music is extremely powerful. I'm glad that my music can evoke emotions in people." Once Izamar begins playing her music, all the chaos of her life fades into background. The feelings that Izamar gets as a musician overwhelms her and her surroundings get lost in her music. When Izamar plays in the orchestra, she feels like she is involved in something great and is giving back to her community.

She hopes to make a career out of playing the violin, but she

will never forget that her education will always come first. Currently, Izamar is ranked tenth in her class. She feels that her love for the violin motivates her to do well in school because she never wants to lose the privilege to do what she loves. Seeing the success that she has had, has made her feel that all her hard work has been worth it.

When she is not making grown men crying with her beautiful music, Izamar enjoys long walks into the sunset on the sandy shores of Huntington Beach. She also enjoys watching Bollywood movies and has a really weird infatuation with Japan.

But guys, the key to her heart is going green. She encourages everyone to recycle and take shorter showers. "There's so much we can be doing to reverse the effects of global warming," says Herrera.

When she's not saving the earth and acing her classes, Izamar plays all over Southern California, from the USC Church to the Japan American Theater in Little Tokyo.

El Rancho Elections



Kayla Herrera and Breanna Ogin wait patiently for all the votes of El Ranchos School Eleaction.

SAMANTHA DURON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday a special election was held to vote on three proposed amendments to the El Rancho High School Constitution. The first amendment is to change the selection process

for vasrsity pepters; the second amendment is to make the class vice-president and official ASB officer. The third amendment holds ASB officers accountable for their responsibilities and gives the Executive Commis-sion the choice of replacing an officer not committing to their position. All amendments passed.

“These amendments will have an immeadiate affect starting with this year’s try-outs for pepsters and ASB elections,” said senior class president Kayla Herrera. “With the passing of the second proposed amend-ment the class vice-presidents are now officers and will be held at higher standards,” added Herrera.

Ask Angie?

Dear Angie,
So there’s this girl, and I gave her my heart, and she did nothing with it. Now I feel like all is hopeless for me. Please help me! Love,
Basket case.

Dear Basket case,
You surely don’t feel you’ve already met the girl that’s right for you. Get real! Get over her and move on! There are lots of fish in the ocean. You really don’t need a girl who does not care for you. There are many girls out there that are looking for a guy like you. All you have to do is look for her. Forget about that oth-er girl and think to your self that in all reality she is not worth you time nor is she worth your love.

Always Angie.

Dear Angie,
I really like this girl in activities, but I think she has a boyfriend. What do I do?

Always, always wait-ing to the last minute.

Dear Always wait-ing to the last minute,
There are two things you have to do. One, you should really stop waiting to do every-thing at the last moment. And two, it’s obvious you can’t ask her straight out if she has a boy-friend because that would be dumb. What I advise you to do is talk to her. Be cool about your words and please don’t act like a stalker because then you would just freak her out. If she does have a boyfriend know that she is not the only girl in the world.

Always, Angie.

Dear Angie,
I miss the girl I used to talk to, but she doesn’t care about me. I’m not even sure if I want her back or any-thing. She makes me feel so little as a person. What do I do?

Always, No Homo.

Dear No Homo,
A girl that makes you feel small is not worth your time. I can understand that you feel like you have lost her forever, but maybe

it’s for the best you let that friendship go. You may feel like you’re on the floor right now, but when you have given yourself time the pain goes away little by little.

Always, Angie.

Dear Angie,
So I am failing class, just lost league, and just lost the love of my life. I feel very lonely and lost. Please help me find guidance in my life.

Love, Hopeless Romantic.

Dear Hopeless Romantic,
The fact that you are failing classes, you lost league, and you lost the love of your life is a tough break. You should not feel lonely nor should you feel lost. Seek you’re your friends who have always been there for you. Take these experiences as a time to reflect upon yourself; make the best of these situa-tions. And as far as failing class-es, well work your hardest and do all the extra credit possible.

Always, Angie.

East Meets the West

By: Jonathan Ruiz
El Rodeo Staff

This December, El Rancho’s Gadabout’s are traveling to Central Europe: The Czech Republic, Budapest, Hungary, and Germany. Club advisor Charissa Zeko is looking forward to travel with one of her former traveling student junior Madeline Rodriguez who will be traveling for the second time with the Gadabouts. Mrs. Zeko and her Gadabout’s club have traveled to many other countries in Europe in the past years. “Our group has traveled to England, France, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. We picked a place were the kids would not get on there own” said Zeko.

Gadabout members that are going to the trip this December are looking forward to going to Central Europe like first time flyer junior Brianna Rodriguez. Junior club president Madeline Rodriguez is also looking forward to go to the trip and is doing everything possible to pay for the trip. “I just think that is going to be an amazing experience, because mostly everybody travels to the most popular cities like Paris, London, Rome. It is a place were you can feel the history and it is so authentic and it is so different than any other place in the world, and it will be fun to see Europe in the winter” said Rodriguez.

Being able to see Central Europe will be a once in a lifetime experience for the travelers, because they will experience the snow and be ale to see some of the beautiful cities covered with snow. The trip, scheduled for December 2008, will be covering the cities of Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and Munich. The excided traveler’s are waiting the day to leave to Europe for a winter break that they will probably never forget. We wanted to see some of the most beautiful cities in the world, like Prague” said Zeko.

Ms. Oase first time traveler with the Gadabouts said, “It is an amazing place full of history.” The travelers will be visiting a concentration camp, which is part of recent history in Central Europe. The Jewish Cemetery is also located in Germany but there is no information if the travelers will be visiting the cemetery. He trip was mainly planned because “We wanted to travel to Europe to tie it to our class, but anybody is welcome to travel with us” said Zeko. The trip will be out of this world because “It is a perfect blend of East meeting West” said Zeko.



See Mrs. Zeko in B-105 to sign up to see the Charles River in Prague (above) and many other amazing sights. Travelers depart this December

National War Threatens the U.S



BY RYAN ROJAS

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Over the last 5 years that we've been involved with Iraq, nearly 4,000 soldiers have died. Several thousand more have been severely wounded.

With the best-case scenario being America at least a trillion dollars in debt, what keeps us from pulling out of this war?

Bush believes that we need to stay in this war until we secure Iraq in establishing a democratic government. Now ask yourself, what exactly should we as a country be focusing on? Should we be improving another country's government, economy, and well being of its people? Or

should we be focusing on the well being of our people and relieving our debt instead of creating more and more deficit?

Today, two thirds of Americans believe the war is worsening our economy. With America facing more and more internal conflicts each day, it would be in our best interest to cease those first before we decide to invade a country that has despised us for many years now.

Since the beginning of this war, it has cost American taxpayers 314 billion dollars. If we continue this war the congressional budget office predicts that it will increase to 450 billion dollars within the next ten years. Altogether, this war can cost up to 700 billion dollars; 100 billion more than the Vietnam War cost us, which we are still struggling with today.

So whose war is this, the Iraqi's or ours? Since we began this war not much help has been given from the Iraqi government. Yet American soldiers continue to lend aid to the retribution of Iraq and its people, giving their very lives to protect those who need it.

How much longer are we going to let Iraq take advantage of our hospitality? Until the Iraqi's show more effort in establishing their government, we should show no more generosity to those who do nothing with it.



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It's Not the Wright Time

BY MARTHA FRANCO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Presidential campaigns are loaded with ridiculous scandals and slips; the 2008 presidential campaign is no exception.

Recently, Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama has fallen into the political pit of controversy because of some vicious and alarming words spoken by his long time pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Most television news channels have bombarded Americans with a constant replay of the same video in which Wright exclaims

"God damn America for treating our citizens as less than human!"

Of course for the scandal hungry media this was probably the most news worthy political issue in this whole campaign that has been rather dull. No matter how squeaky-clean a candidate is there is always something that can be over emphasized no matter how insignificant the matter is and Obama is no exclusion.

As for Wright's so called anti-American comments, those who have taken offence see him as a racist and say that he does not deserve to be called an American. All of these suggestions are extremely hypocritical due to the fact

that every American is granted the right to freedom of speech under the First Amendment and for a man to be called un-American because he publicly expressed his detrimental opinion thereby exercising his protected right is a bit of a paradox.

Obviously Obama was not going to take a hit so willingly and some time later delivered his unforgettable "A More Perfect Union" speech, which was beautifully written and overflowing with outstanding diction on the topic of race. Although the speech is a great literary accomplishment, it did little to answer any questions on Obama's position on his pastor's comments. This of course is not surprising because essentially politics is about dodging those unseen curve balls, which is exactly what Obama was doing.

Furthermore Obama has publicly denounced Wright's comments and has made it clear that he disagrees full heartedly with Wright. All this is great but prior to this scandal, Obama had shown his complete support for Wright; he even claimed to be inspired by Wright in his book *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream*.

Whether or not Obama was actually present and clapping while Wright was damning American will never be known. The truth is that if Wright had nothing whatsoever to do with Obama he would most likely be happily retired in his house having a delightful sip of coffee watching some other fool being scrutinized by the monstrous media.



Obama and His Pasture Jeremiah Wright who created his political scandal with the media.

New York Governor is Caught in an International Prostitute Ring

BY RYAN ROJAS

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the student English dictionary the word "hypocrite" means one who is insincere or someone who pretends to be good.

One fine example of this word is none other than the New York governor himself Eliot Spitzer. In 2006 Spitzer said, "Nothing under New York State law prohibits a fourteen-year old from walking into a video store and buying... a game like 'Grand Theft Auto,' which rewards a player for stealing cars and beating people up. Children can even simulate having sex with a prostitute..." If you are unaware Spitzer was recently discovered having sexual relations with a prostitute, and not just any prostitute, but one from the International Prostitution ring.

Spitzer accused Rockstar, the creators of grand theft auto, for inserting the code "hot choco-

late" where a prostitute gives Cj, the games main character, oral sex. Spitzer failed to investigate that this cheat was indeed a mod to the game and was never known till the release of the game.

In the beginning of his campaign Spitzer stated today's teenage violence is rising due to the lack of laws stopping a child from purchasing an explicit video game like Grand Theft Auto, Hitman and Manhunt. Little does he know that since the invention of Playstation two, Grand Theft Auto and Manhunt teenage violence has in fact decreased.

Not only is Spitzer married, but he also has a family. Is this the type of man who you want in your government, inspiring laws that he himself will break?

Eliot Spitzer is simply looking for a scapegoat that puts his mind at ease about being a good parent, relieving himself of more responsibility. Like all par-



New York Senator Eliot Spitzer apologizes about his past mistakes.

ents Spitzer should learn how to take more responsibility for their actions as well as their children.

Borders Book Fair June 4th, 5th and 6th, 2008

ERHS Library welcomes Borders Book Store, Pico Rivera, to our campus during Teen Read Week, June 4th through 6th, 2008.

Which books would you like to see at the Book Fair?
Requests accepted until **Friday, April 25th**

Please sign your name and list titles below.

ERHS students and staff will receive a 20% discount, and our school receives a percentage of the proceeds.

_____ recommends:

Teen Read Week and Borders Book Fair will take place from June 4th through June 6th. Borders Book Store will create a “mini-Borders” in the ERHS Library and students and staff will get a 20% discount and our school receives a percentage of the sales. What would you like to see at the Book Fair? Bring the form to the Library no later than April 25th. More Teen Read Week events include classroom prizes and a 10th grade day with author Gary Soto.



Advocates Help Animals in Need

BY MARISELA RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Originally started in 2004, Animal Advocates has come a long way in helping animals in need. Led by instructor Ms.Lamar, this group of animal-loving kids do what they can to help fight for the rights of our furry four legged friends. “I wanted to try and educate people and the community about animal concerns,” says Lamar, who owns three dogs herself.

Club president Claudia Rodriguez wants the community to “learn more about the

treatment of animals” and her goal is to “get people more involved in helping animals and learning how to care for them.”

Aside from helping many domestic pets, Animal Advocate members are able to experience many fun activities such as trips to the beach, visiting shelters, and even attending the Eukanuba Tournament of Champions dog show last year.

With their usual 15-20 members, Animal Advocates do their best to come up with new and exciting projects that will help animals; they have recently collected blankets for dogs in shelters.

Many outdoor trips are being scheduled such as spring hikes, nature walks, whale watching and other animal volunteer opportunities. With current and former members working at local animal shelters such as SEAACA (Southeast Area Animal Control Authority) Animal Advocates members are always busy with something to do.

“We need members who care about animals,” says Claudia. “Dogs are on the streets, and are being euthanized daily at shelters.”

If you want to help fight for the protection of animals, Animal Advocates meet every Tuesday during lunch in A-204.

El Rancho’s Very Own Spider Man



Mr. Sorenson, an 11th grade English teacher, owns over 50 tarantulas.

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Sorenson, an 11th grade English teacher, has taught for nineteen years and eighteen of those at El Rancho. Sorenson also teaches about drama, creative writing, and short stories to adults at National University in San Diego.

His hobbies are traveling and collecting spiders. He has more than 50 tarantulas; they come from countries throughout the world such as Mexico, Costa Rica and Chile.

Sorenson started collecting spiders ten years ago when he purchased his first tarantula. “The spider was as small as a dime but is now five inches across.”

He enjoys riding his bike with friends and some other teachers from El Rancho. He has even

competed in bike competitions.

He says he isn’t good enough to be a “pro rider” but once he won a bag of coffee at a race. He also traveled to France and rode part of Tour de France. He was in Paris when Lance Armstrong won his fourth tour. Sorenson has traveled to many places such as France, Italy, Turkey, Greece, England, Canada, Mexico, and all around the U.S.

Sorenson married his long time girlfriend about eight months ago; he says his wife doesn’t really like the spiders, but she accepts them.

Sorenson’s goal is to make a tube amp, which is audio equipment that functions with vacuum tubes. Audio was made this way before transistors. He is also interested in making his own audio equipment as a hobby.

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A New Addition to the El Rancho Family



Senior Hillary Lux hopes to adapt to El Rancho and prepares to start college after graduation.

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of third trimester, Senior Hillary Lux transferred to El Rancho High School from Norwalk High School.

Lux's first thought of El Rancho was "this school was too big because it was hard to find my first class on the first day, but it's ok now that I know where it is at." Besides missing a smaller campus, Lux misses her "friends most of all, and my third

period AP Government class."

What she would like to change about El Rancho is "the fact that you can only have one open period because at my old school you could have two." Even though she misses her friends, classes, and a certain rule from her previous school, Lux likes El Rancho High School.

Lux best describes herself as "driven, or ambitious," yet most of her teachers would be surprised to know "that I pierced my own tongue," said Lux. Another word that describes her is

"friendly" because she likes "to help animals and people." In fact, when Lux was younger, she used to imagine herself as "a veterinarian because I loved animals. I would always bring home animals that I found so I could save them."

Now, Lux's plans for after

**"I will go to Cal State Los Angeles and major in nursing."
-Hillary Lux**

high school are to "most likely go to Cal State Los Angeles and major in nursing," she said, "then once I'm done with that, I want to go to USC to become a nurse of anesthesia because I love helping people, but this job also makes a lot of money."

Out of all her accomplishments, Lux is most proud of "graduating high school with highest honors, and getting accepted to all the colleges that I applied."

Just like any other teenager, Lux spends her free time "with my boyfriend, going dirt bike riding, going to the movies, and hanging out with my friends." She also has some favorite excuses for not turning in homework on time: "My baby nephew, who my family is adopting, tore it up, or I didn't have time to do it."



Tasty, warm, pepperoni pizza from Rio's pizza parlor.

Pico Rivera's Own Slice of Heaven

BY ALYSSA ZACARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you ever had rubbery, cheesy pizza that was cold and nasty? If you would like a better pizza experience then go to "Rio's Pizza" located in Pico Rivera on the corner of Slauson and Passons. It is open Monday through Thursday from 2 pm to 10 pm, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 11 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 10 pm.

At this family restaurant they use their own special ingredients. This is where you will get the succulent, mouth-watering pizza. A slice from Rio's is like a slice in heaven. If you don't feel like pizza then stop by for a de-

licious, freshly made sandwich or spaghetti. The pizza parlor will leave your stomach pleased. You can get all this yummy food for a reasonable price.

Their specials are on Tuesdays and Sundays for the price of \$12.98. If you are going for a bigger portion then go for a family feast. The family feast comes with a large pizza, spaghetti, salad, and a liter of your choice of a drink.

Besides having delicious food, this pizza place also has job opportunities for boys and girls. So drop by to get an application for an opportunity at a pizza parlor. Other pizza locations are in Montebello and Monterey Park.

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CALIFORNIA

El Rancho Begins Search for New Football Coach



"Well its not like I want to resign, I been experiencing some medical problems with my family, and my family comes first." said coach Parson

MATTHEW CORCITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As the Dons get ready for a new football season, a new coach awaits them. Gene Parsons, head football coach for the Dons, has decided to step down as coach after just one year. Parsons, who led the Dons to a 5-6 record and to the first round playoffs, says, "Well, it's not like I wanted to

resign. Its that I have been experiencing some medical problems with family, and family comes first and I need to help take care of what is going on with my family. Also because of the recent budget cuts it has been hard to maintain my family and Football and teaching with the limited salary. It's hurting me to see this program go down the drain. These kids are very dedicated

and work very hard even though there is no coach right now."

Some of the Dons Football players had things to say about their coach leaving as well. Jefferson Collindres, a junior and two-year varsity football player, says, "It is sad to see him go especially because we had a very successful run last year. I know that the team will play hard with any coach even though we are going to be without Mr. Parsons. Although it is the second coaching change in as many years, I know that the team will prosper in spite of this unfortunate event. I wish him the best of luck and I hope that everything with his family goes well."

Anthony Ayala, a sophomore, says, "I want him back. He took us far last year and has improved this team tremendously."

Luis Baca, a junior, expresses, "He did great bringing us from an 0-10 team to a team that made it to the first round playoffs. I wish him success wherever he goes and I hope the best for him and his family."

The candidate information for the new coach has not yet been released but no matter who it is, these Dons show that they will work hard and take on any challenge that awaits them.



Chris Villalobos has pitched fifty-six strikeouts making him a standout on his team and a big help towards winnig the Del Rio League

Natalie Speeds Up with No Thoughts of Slowing Down



Natalie Galvan plans on running track this year and next year, then plans to continue at UCLA.

ALYSSA ZACARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Can you catch up to the speedy Track runner Natalie Galvan? Natalie Galvan is a Junior on the Track and Field team. As a runner for El Rancho, she plays an important part in the team. Galvan has been running since the summer of Freshman year. Since the beging of her Freshman year she been ahead of the game. She keeps up with

her grades and knows what she wants in her future and works hard to acomplish her goals.

Every year Galvan starts off as a Cross-Country runner as the Fall sports season begin and then continues running in Track and Field in the Spring. Her Freshman year, she started getting involved in many of the Track actives such as hurdles, long distance, and sprints. In every performance Natalie Galvan is confident in herself and her fellow track runners.

Galvan hopes that they con-

tinue being Del Rio League Champions for Track and Field. They will all know if they won league Friday May 2, 2008. The team has proven to themselves and other schools in the league that they are very competitive and will not stop at anything to be able to stay in the leagues. Natalie says "that running is something I plan on doing after high school." Her goal is to continue being a Track and Field runner at UCLA. The teams next Track meet will be on Friday April 11 at Arcadia High School.

Chris Villalobos, El Rancho's Own Strikeout King

DAVID ZAPATA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

While most sports teams focus on teamwork and motivation, it is not unusual for individual players to stand out. Senior player and varsity pitcher, Chris Villalobos, is one of El Rancho's baseball teams "rising stars."

With a team record of eleven victories and two losses, Chris has pitched an outstanding fifty-six strikeouts. He is currently in second place in the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) for most strikeouts. Chris believes that his strong team will easily take league again and hopefully make it to the final game of the playoffs, which takes place at Dodger Stadium.

Chris stated, "I want to thank my coaches and teammates for my per-

sonal success and team advancement". Additionally Chris admits that the support of his family and friends has significantly influenced his success. He stated, "Thanks to the motivation from my family and friends I have become a better person and player."

El Rancho's Baseball team had a game against Santa Fe High School, which took place on April 10 at El Rancho High School. The Dons came out victorious with a three to two score. This win moves them forward in the Del Rio League competition.

Don baseball fans and supporters are highly encouraged to attend the rest of the season's games-they will not be disappointed. (Schedules are located in the Activities Office).

Trendsetters of the Month



Andrea Perez

Shirt: Urban Outfitters \$30
Pants: Charlotte Russe \$40
Shoes: Forever 21 \$20

Favorite stores:
Urban Outfitters and thrift



Jonathan Coffman

Sweater: Hollister \$50
Shirt: Hollister \$40
Pants: Hollister \$75
Shoes: Vans \$40
Lip Piercing: Hot Topic \$18

Favorite Stores:
Hollister and Express



Alex Rojas

Shirt: "The Hundreds" \$35
Pants: Levis \$50
Shoes: Nikes \$110
Earrings: \$10

Favorite Stores:
SOB and Infinity



Amy Lopez

Vest: Forever 21 \$18
Shirt: Forever 21 \$18
Pants: Bon Ami \$26
Shoes: Vans \$40
Lip piercing: Treasure Island \$10

Favorite Stores:
Soho in Uptown Whittier



Simply Irresistible

BY: STEPHANIE PENA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Name: Juan Pablo Aguirre
Age: 17
Status: Single and ready to meet someone new
Grade level: eleventh

Juan Pablo Aguirre, known to many as J.P., an El Rancho junior, is just simply irresistible with his charming nature and charismatic personality! He is a very handsome water polo player who plays with both the water polo team at school and a club team. Hawaii is his summer plan and Hungary in the next year to play with his club team. Aguirre strives in academics and that is clearly seen through the four AP classes that he is taking this year; AP English Language and Composition, AP U.S. History, AP Biology, and AP Spanish Language. "Loving music from A to Z" is one of his mottos and swimming and water polo are currently his life.

Although the water is definitely a huge part of his life, he would also like to find someone to share all the fun times with. He is looking for a smart, cute, funny, outgoing, unique girl, with a very stylish yet unique sense of style. It may seem to be a very simple request but not just any girl could fill those shoes. What he offers a girl is calling for absolutely no reason, singing to her even if he is not very good at it, making her laugh when she is down, and never running out of love. On a date he would be a true gentleman by opening the door, pulling out her chair, and paying for dinner at her favorite restaurant. He is just the absolute total package. "If I could use one word to describe my attitude towards life," says Aguirre, "it would be devoted." Aguirre is devoted to everything that he does and to all the people that surround him. Junior Bernadett Leggis, a close friend to J.P. says, "J.P. is very passionate about everything that he does and he strives to be the best. He has a very big heart and he will do anything for the girl that he wants and cares for." Juan Pablo Aguirre, prince charming to your Cinderella?

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Cute, Casual, Corrine

BY GENESSE CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Walking amongst El Rancho's students, all different in terms of personality, you may notice similarities. Not in smiles, not in conversations, but in clothing. It's not a rare or unusual occasion when you spot a friend or stranger wearing the same outfit. Trends are everywhere, and it seems that when a new stylish garment is introduced, everybody has to have it. Do we wear what we like, what we see, or simply what we can get? For Junior Corrine Garcia, the answer lies in the comfort of the situation. Although she stands out as a "cute and casual" dresser, Corrine says that her first priority while shopping is comfort. Exemplifying the phrase, "you are what you wear," Corrine, one of the school's varsity Song leaders, is the epitome of being comfortable and confident in one's own skin.

Corrine's favorite store to shop for clothes is Target, a distinctive answer among students' usual "Hollister, Abercrombie, and AE" responses. "My favorite things about Target are the prices, the cute clothes, and the sales." Corrine tells us that her style began to change her sophomore year. "I



Songleader, Corrine Garcia wears her uniform with confidence while emphasizing comfort.

realized that name-brands are insignificant in making a person who they are, and that comfort should come first. I usually dress casual, and don't worry so much about what matches and what doesn't. I've been trying to create a budget for myself lately, so I'm not too picky."

Corrine's style portrays her laid-back, down-to-earth personality. Those students who have met Corrine would agree; her sweet disposition and girl-next door vibe are definitely mirrored by her style.

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P!ATD is Anything but *Pretty Odd*

ARACELI AGUILA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After toping the charts again, Panic! at the Disco released their second album, *Pretty Odd*. On March 25. Their debut album, *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out* caused great buzz and landed them in millions of iPods around the world. The Las Vegas quartet hopes to do the same with their first single, "Nine in the Afternoon." A video for their second single, "That Green Gentleman" is also set to be released soon.

Pretty Odd has many strong elements. Their lyrics are imaginative and the sound is more complex. Compared to their last album, *Pretty Odd* is more artistic and definitely more mature. Lyrics such as, "If all our life is but a dream, fantastic posing greed," shows their way of moving from their past lyrics of love and relationships. The vast use of figurative language helps paint a picture of a visionary world around the listener.

"Panic" uses a variety of instruments creating a classical, dance, rock mix-yet the sound



Pretty Odd is Panic! At the Disco's sophomore album to their 2005 *A Fever You Can't Sweat Out* which sold over 2.2 million records and had the hit "I Write Sins Not Tragedies"

still seems to fit together. They create a vintage or "roaring twenties" style in "I Have Friends in Holy Spaces." The only down side to the album is the their attempt to create a folksy-rock song, "Folkin'

Around." Although short, one still can't help to notice the misplacement of the song in the album.

Overall, *Pretty Odd* is a solid album. For people who like the mix of swing, jazz, and pop-

rock, this album will be in your interest. Panic! at the Disco is headlining the Honda Civic Tour. You can catch them June 14 at the Honda Center in Anaheim; tickets are currently on sale.

Under the Same Moon Really Shines

BY MARISOL CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ready, set, cry! Bring the travel-size Kleenex with you because Fox Searchlight's recent motion picture *Under the Same Moon* is a sentimental movie that focuses on the political issue of illegal immigration.

The heart-warming movie, released on March 19, is based on a strong mother-son bond between Rosario (Kate del Castillo) and Carlitos (Adrian Alonso). Carlitos, a nine-year-old boy in Mexico, has not seen his mother for four years. His only communication with his mother is the Sunday morning calls she makes at a local market.

When Carlitos' beloved grandmother passes away and cannot take care of him, he crosses the border with the help of a desperate "coyote" (America Fer-

rera) in need of college money.

Once Carlitos reaches the United States, he meets a lone migrant worker named Enrique (Eugenio Derbez). Then Carlitos begins his quest equipped with only a visual description of an East LA Street corner his mother described to him every Sunday call.

Determined to reunite with his mother, Carlitos and Rosario face difficult obstacles in hope that one day they will be together once again.

This film makes the audience realize the hardships of illegal immigrants and their struggles. The fear and frustration the undocumented face every day risking their lives to help their families they left behind.

Under the Same Moon is rated PG-13 and is about one and a half hours long that contains English subtitles.



Don't Miss Out on *Stop Loss*

MARISOL RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF

Paramount picture's *Stop Loss* made \$ 4.5 million opening weekend in the United States and is currently one of the top five movies to see. The movie is great for both genders; the action sequences for the gentleman and the actors for the ladies. This R rated movie, which runs approximately 2 hours, stars actors Ryan Phillippe, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Rob Brown, Channing Tatum, and Victor Rasuk.

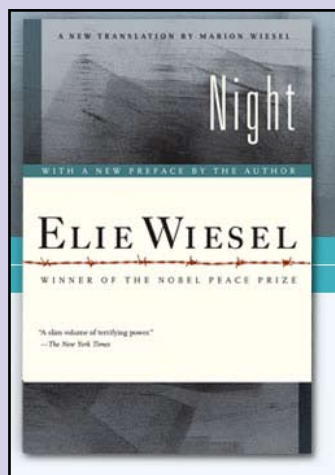
The story is about two best friends Brandon King (Ryan Phillippe) and Steve Shriver (Channing Tatum) who are overseas serving in the United States Army. King and his men are expected to live normal lives and leave the traumatizing past of the war behind them. When King and his men go back to the Army base to resign, they find out they have been stopped loss (when any military personnel is sent back to fight during a time of war after serving their time in the military).

This film shows the truth realities of the military and the government power over people. The president's one action in sending

the troops back to Iraq not only affects the men but their friends and family as well. For those trying to find something to do this weekend *Stop Loss* is the movie to see.

The film had a great storyline because it dealt with real life and the truth about the military. Not many people know about being stop lost and other military issues, so the film was a great way to promote awareness. Lately movies are being used to promote issues like the war and the film executed it well. Bad acting was a problem, which hurt the films standing with critics.

We should address more issues that are being dealt with in the military and promote them. Many men and women in the film are not provided with proper therapy and cannot live normal lives. This was the problem with Shriver and King's character that cannot live one day without out having a flashback about the war. In the film, this causes a lot of trouble when they think they are back in war but in reality they are at home. The men have become zombies of war. Other movies like *Stop Loss* should address these unspoken issues about our government to educate the public.



Night Sheds New Light On Holocaust

BY VANESSA GALVAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This is a fascinating work based on a tragedy. *Night* is the true story of Elie Wiesel's life as a sixteen year old Orthodox Jew, who alone with his family were sent to the German's Concentration Camp during World War II. Wiesel deploys a sparse and fragmented historical style, with frequent shifts of point-of-view, and his expressions at the camp.

Elie is a 12 year old Jewish boy, one of the four children, whose father works as a shop-keeper, growing up in the small village of Sighet, Transylvania. World War II was an abrupt event, as Elie becomes mature and more aware of his families religious matters. Rumblings of trouble began with the news that all foreign Jews were to be deported by 1944, which is just a matter of time before Germany's defeat, but there are rumors that the war will end soon. There was news that the Jews in Budapest were being rounded up in ghettos. The German soldiers are now on Hungarian soil, but instead of departing from home, Elie's father had chose to stay. The situation rapidly declines as Elie's family, along with all other Jewish residents in the village, are shipped off to concentration camps. Elie, and his family arrives in Birkenau, and then were sent to Auschwitz. Before their arrival in Auschwitz, a woman inside the train was screaming out "fire" and then later died of craziness. When the train arrives in Auschwitz, Elie was separated from his mother and his sisters without even being aware of the last moment when he sees them. He and his father had survived at an initial selection conducted by Dr. Mengele, and their existence in the camp begins.

Night is an experience in itself, and an honorable book for the decades. The emotional impact that this book creates can be overwhelming at times since we realize that Wiesel lived through one of the worst events ever to honor the World. Somewhere deep inside us, there is a reservoir of determination, and hope that will never let us quit, no matter how horrible the things are around us. *Night* was the first book in a trilogy, which includes *Dawn*, and *Day*, reflecting Wiesel's state of mind during and after the Holocaust. If his words can help anyone to survive trauma and darkness, then we can never thank him enough.

