

El Rodeo



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Pico Rivera Holds Community Pride Day

JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Saturday April 19th, Smith Park held Community Pride Day celebrating 10 years of volunteer work. Community Pride Day was a chance for the community to show the pride that they have and what they would do to make their community look good. Mayor Ron Beilke attended the event and thanked the community for taking time out of their busy schedule and being able to go to the event to do work for the community.

Mayor Ron Beilke said "We do it every year because we are proud of our city and the progress that we make day in and day out to continue improving the quality here in Pico Rivera." A lot of people volunteered this year, approximately 400 to 500 people cleaned Smith Park, Rivera Park, Pico Park, Salazar High School, Rio Hondo Park, and Streamland Park.

Some El Rancho students participated in the event. Sophomore Nubia Cardenas said, "Well I participated in Community Pride Day because it is a kind of tradition that I have been doing for 4 years, and it also looks good on your resume, and I like helping the community." Cardenas also said, "It was really fun because I got to paint, and the only chance I get to paint is on Community Pride Day."

Junior Silvia Alvarez also attended Community Pride Day because "I had nothing to do during the weekend and to help the community; I also liked the experience and would like to do it next year." This is a great event to participate because there are hundreds of people having a good time cleaning up their community. It is also very special to see neighbors working together talking and laughing while doing something from the goodness of their heart. They did it not for themselves, but for their city, their hometown.

Junior Rosalinda Quinonez also participated in the event and said, "I did it because I like helping out the community and getting involved, and I got to paint the little stadium. It was a lot of fun." The volunteers were treated to bagels with coffee for breakfast, and for lunch they received a subway sandwich, chips, and sodas. The volunteers also received a T-Shirt to wear during the event to show that they participated in Community Pride Day.

Junior Jennifer Magallanes said "I attended Community Pride Day to help the community, but I was mad because I did not win the raffle." Mayor Protem Gracie Gallegos Smith, Councilmember Bob Archuleta, Councilmember David Armenta and Councilmember Gregory Salcido attended the event to thank the community for coming together to clean. Councilmember Bob Archuleta held the raffle at the end of the event and gave away a plasma T.V. and a pair of Dodger tickets. Mayor Ron Beilke said, "There is so much pride in this community and it is shown everyday, not just on Community Pride Day. The parks that were cleaned looked great afterwards and the fresh paint shined bright. I can't wait for next years celebration."



Mayor Ron Beilke thanks the community for their support and generosity.

Board Committee Rules on School Closures



Selby Grove is just one of the four schools that are going to be closed in reaction to the budget cuts. Miller, Pio Pico, and Obergone are the other schools that will be closed in Pico Rivera.

BY AILEEN GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Members of the Board of Education along with many staff members and concerned parents held a meeting to discuss their concerns about school closures. The meeting was held on Tuesday 22 in the El Rancho Cafeteria.

"Many of you elected us to make decisions. Well, guess what? We are! Tonight we will take action," stated Joseph Rivera, a board member.

Because of the governors' proposal to reduce school budgets board members discussed the drastic measures that will be

taken. The board voted to close Pio Pico, Obregon, Selby Grove, and Meller Elementary School.

With the closing of the four elementary schools numerous struggles will follow. The board stated that many teachers have received pink slips because there are no open places to assign them to. Students from the four schools will be placed into the remaining open schools, causing overcrowding in classrooms.

Several parents have various concerns about their children's education. "Where will they be sending our children? Too many children and no transportation," said Guadalupe Magaña a concerned parent. The parents fear that overcrowding will impair their children's education.

In addition to the increase of more students going to one school, morning traffic will become very heavy. Passons Blvd will become gorged with traffic because all streets that branch off into the elementary schools are located on Passons.

"The elementary schools are a far distance for my daughters to walk," said Jose Sandoval.

The coast of school trans-

portation has become expensive; therefore the transportation to and from school will have to be removed. Cross guards will have to be employed to secure the safety of those children that will be forced to walk to school.

The budget will also have an impact on programs that the schools offer. After school programs like "Magee After Three" and "R.E.A.C.H" that parents the comfort of knowing that their children are safe at school, will be closed.

The budget cut will also effect after school sports that the schools may have. By taking these programs out next year, many children will have no after school activity.

The decision that the school board of education has voted on will cause various struggles for the staff, the parents and especially the student body.

As many as 1,423 students will be forced to leave their school and be sent to different schools. Parents are taking into consideration the boards' decision for next years elections. "Just as easy as we voted you in we can vote you out," exclaimed an angry mother.

El Rancho Investigates Changes to Schedule

BY MATT CROCITO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Over the years there has been a controversy about the scheduling that El Rancho uses. every year El Rancho has taken steps to reconsider the use of block scheduling. The staff has administered a committee whose goal is to find what works best for students and teachers alike.

El Rancho is the only high school in the United States that uses the trimester block system for scheduling. The two main issues concerning scheduling is whether to use the trimester or semester scheduling or the block/rotating schedule.

Mr. Genis, the principle, says, "A committee has been established to investigate the effectiveness of the current trimester and the alternative scheduling in order to promote student achievement."

"I have sent a memo to every teacher as well as those who are interested make up the committee. So far there are forty-five teachers and two parents who are interested in some change." On the other hand, Mr. Genis also said, "nothing has been decided yet."

The WASC committee has given the commission eight critical areas to cover and so far the El Rancho staff has only worked on the first. Mr. Genis says, "We are doing exactly what the WASC committee is asking us to do."

In order for any decision to be made, there has to be a seventy-five percent majority agreement. "I want the staff to figure out what is best," said principal Sam Genis.

There are many different sides of this issue that effect students and teachers alike. According to Gerardo Correa, TEAM and U.S. History teacher, "Teachers don't want to lose block time but the decision has to be based on what works best."

The committee has been looking into what other local school's schedule's are. Mr. Correa states that, "We have to look at what works and doesn't work for El Rancho." He also says that, "There is a fifty percent chance that a new system can come into affect next year but there needs to be a seventy-five percent majority vote."

"The trimester brings a lot of confusion and there is no student-teacher connection because students get a new teacher every new trimester. Only TEAM students have the ability to connect to their teacher because they have the same teachers for all three trimesters," says Mr. Correa.

"Since the block scheduling was implemented it has not proven successful," Sergeant Steve Mick states, "SAT scores are worse than other schools and the 'F' list in this school is heartbreaking. Our students and teachers are just as smart as other schools."

Sergeant Mick also goes on to explain that block schedule doesn't enable students to get convenient classes. For example, it is possible for a student not to get the second part of a class for two or three trimesters. Sergeant Mick claims, "students forget things when they don't have a class for two or tree trimesters. Even the school that we modeled our schedule on has gone back to the regular scheduling. I'd call this scheduling a 'Dead Horse.'"

Although strong opinions have been stated against the block scheduling, there are also strong feelings in favor. Mr. McMullen, Honors English, video production, and creative writing teacher, says, "I am not dissatisfied. I think that it has been a success."

He also goes on to say that he does not feel that it takes a long time for students and teachers to connect. He believes that it should only take a few days for the class to get to know the teacher and get to know the system that the teachers establishes on the first day. Mr. McMullen also feels that it is going to be a long process before any change, if any, occurs.

Ms. Melgar, Math Course 1 and Pre-Calculus honors teacher, states a similar opinion to Mr. McMullen. She said, "I like the current schedule. I love the fact that I get a long time with my students."

The committee has only met on the subject a few times and there



ER's principal, Mr. Genis, wishes to leave the block schedule issue to the teachers and students.

are already many mixed emotions.

Surveys will be distributed to the entire teaching staff to get a raw idea of what they think. These surveys consist of multiple questions that the teachers answer. After every teacher has filled out the survey an average is taken: who strongly agrees, agrees, is neutral, disagrees, or strongly disagrees.

Though many opinions about block-trimester scheduling exist, there are also many stipulations that have to be met in order for anything to happen. This debate is still at its early stages and will be a big part of El Rancho's future.

Social Justice Out to Save the Planet

MARITZA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In response to the April 22 national Earth Day, the Social Justice Club prepared to raise environmental awareness among ER students.

Earth Day was founded by John McConnell in 1970 and is celebrated in many countries each year on April 22. It's a day when people can get informed about earth and how to take care of it.

The club had a booth on April 22 during lunch with posters and music to attract the crowd. The purpose of the booth was to generate interest, raise awareness, and give people specific ways to help the environment. Among the many information provided by the club, they had a "Ten Simple Things to Do" poster that informed students of environmental issues and how they can help protect the planet.

Advisor Mr. Hartman said, "Our mission is to start dialogue among students: get them to think about how they can help the environment and the big im-



John Abarra taking a few moments time at the Social Justice's Earth day booth and informing himself about a few eco friendly choices.

pact their actions can cause."

At the beginning of lunch, many students wandered around the booth, indecisive of signing a petition that proposed a recycling plan for ERHS. However, as members of the club encouraged students to sign a petition, more and more stu-

dents stopped to read the posters.

Nearly 300 students and a handful of faculty signed the petition. The club members, along with those who signed the petition, are asking for an official recycling program to be put in place school-wide.

Vice-President Diego

Rubalcava said that the booth, as well as live music, "uplifted the students' spirits."

Mr. Hartman, along with the club, wants people who care about the earth and people's rights to join the club. The Social Justice Club meets every Wednesday during lunch in A-208.



English Only for Lunch?

JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year students had to score 350 or higher on the English section of the May STAR to receive a lunch I.D. allowing them to go off campus. Students believe this is unfair because the basis for leaving campus should not be determined by a test. It is especially unjust for the ELD students who will probably not score at the proficient level needed in order to go off campus.

ELD teacher Mrs. Hernandez said "I believe it is unfair for ELD students for the same reason it would be unfair for the students in French classes to be tested in French and then have their privileges withheld regardless of their grades." It is unfair for the ELD students to have to score that high. There should be another test designed for Spanish Speakers.

Mr. Martinez, an ELD teacher said "If you would give them a test in their own language then they would do great." It's true because Spanish speaker have trouble learning a new language when they have been speaking one language for 16 or 17 years of their life. "I think that the expectations are too high for the kids that are trying to master a new language because they have no idea of what the kids are going through to learn a new language" said Martinez.

ELD students have a few years in an English school and are adapting to the language and trying to learn it. Ms. Valle another ELD teacher said, "It is absolutely not fair. How do they expect them to be on the level of the students who have had the privilege of having English introduced to them at an early age, and received an English education."

ELD students should have the right to go off campus. Mrs. Linares the Vice-Principal said, "This year we were trying something new, and if I had to do it again, than I wouldn't." Mrs. Linares said she thinks that it would make sense for the Bilingual Language Department to make the decision.

Mrs. Linares also thinks that it's fair the Special Education students for the criteria to be decided. Junior counselor Mrs. Sell said, "I think I'd rather see the decision be based on G.P.A."

Mrs. Linares said, "I do not think we would based it on grades but n G.P.A. it would be good because students can do it. Using the 350 is a good way because proficient is a good level that we ask of the students" said. Mrs. Linares said new things were tried this year, next year we can expect the ELD students to go out if the Bilingual Department makes that decision.

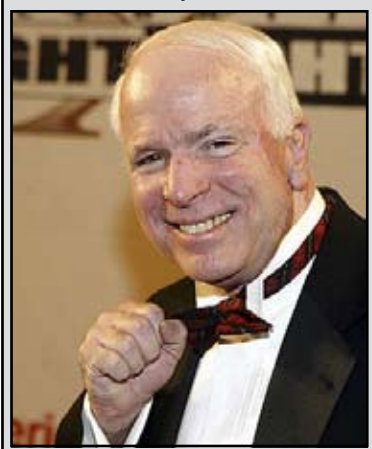
Campus Smarts?

BY ANABEL SANTILLAN
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For this issue's Campus Smarts students around campus were asked to identify a picture of political figure John McCain and his role in society. Here are some quick facts on John McCain:

- **Date of Birth:** August 29, 1936.
- **Currently lives in:** Phoenix, Arizona.
- **Family:** wife Cindy, 3 daughters Sidney, Meghan, and Bridget, and 4 sons Douglas, Andrew, John IV, and James.
- **Parents:** Admiral John Sydney McCain, Jr. (from Indiana) and Roberta (Wright) McCain (from Oklahoma) Religion: Episcopalian.
- **Education:** Attended and graduated from United States Naval Academy (1958) and National War College (1974)
- **Career:** U.S. Representative from 1983 to 1987 U.S. Senator from 1987-present.
- **Government Committees:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Chair, Committee on Indian Affairs, 1995-1997, 2005-2007 (Bio.com)

When students were asked to identify the man in the



picture to the bottom left very few of them knew either whom he was or what he did. Many of them did not know that McCain is currently the republican nominee for this upcoming '08 presidential election. Here are some of the answers given:



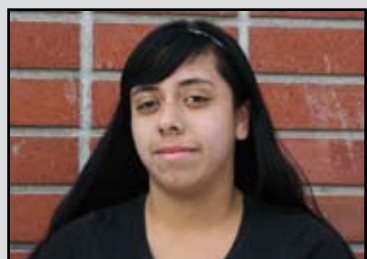
Andy Rizo, 12th "I know him, he's the guy from Cheaper by the Dozen 2"



Melissa Leal, 9th "I have no idea who he is... who is he?"



Sandra Kemper, 11th "Yeah I think he is running for president"



Elena Sosa, 10th "He looks like the wrestler Dave Finlay"



The potential girls who will be judged for the 08-09 pepster squad that will be made up of twelve yell leaders and eight song leaders

Pepsters: No Longer an Elected Student Group

BY GENESSE CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For years, the El Rancho Pepsters program has been considered a part of the elected student body of the school, not a varsity athletic program. The previous Pepster tryout process consisted of two parts.

In the first round, a Pepster candidate would perform a routine in front of professional judges and teachers and receive a score on a scale from the best performer (14 points) to the least (1 point). The candidates that made it past the judging round would then perform in front of the student body at the ASB assembly in May, and would be elected along with the ASB officers, making them official Pepsters.

Playing an equal part judging and votes would determine who made the team (50-50.) But does a popularity contest really determine who the best and most spirited performers of the school are? Or should their position on the squad be based on their sole

performance and potential. This issue plagued the Executive commission, and as of this month, some changes will be set into motion.

This year, the Pepster program will be split into two. There will be no more Drill Team at El Rancho. "Instead the 'Spirit Program' will be split into Varsity Pepsters (Song and Yell), and JV Pepsters (Song and Yell), and all grades will be allowed to try out," testifies Senior Songleader Captain and Pep Commissioner Lindsay Cairo. The teams will be determined solely by judges. The top candidates will make the Varsity squads, and the remainder of potential girls will make up El Rancho's JV squads.

By enacting this new process, El Rancho will ensure that they have the elite representing it. The El Rancho Pepsters will be a competitive team, and will finally be able to match up to the skill level of neighboring schools that do not have a voting process. Both Varsity and JV squads will be determined by mid-May.

First Cannabis Vending Machines Comes to L.A

BY RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

How many of you El Rancho Don students have parents or siblings who often find themselves waking up in the middle of the night due to their chronic pains, threatening cancers or simply just not living life to its fullest because of the inability to sleep, (also known as Insomnia) Are you frustrated by the lack of effort by our government to help those who need the immediate attention for their pains?

For those of you who have parents suffering with these symptoms, your parents (with their marijuana medical licenses) can now seek better relief or a better nights rest. Not to long ago, the very first cannabis vending machine was opened in Los Angeles, California.

Some controversies have sparked due to those who believe there is no exception to smoking

marijuana, or believe that it is not being handled responsibly.

Those of you who believe the medicinal use of marijuana should never be allowed, consider the fact that some people who have no other way to fight off their chronic diseases will not be able to enjoy life as they should. Also some of the treatments that are required for certain diseases can be very pricy. With this money being spent, there is not much left for treatments that relieve pain. Medical marijuana is an inexpensive and effective way of pain relief and is widely suggested by many doctors.

Despite what people may think about the responsibility of medical marijuana vending machines being handled, it is being taken very seriously. With two around the clock professional guards, multiple surveillance cameras, and its own building, there is very little chance of theft.

Not to mention all the marijuana is being held in a large bulletproof refrigerator, that can only be accessed with a marijuana medical license, a

thumbprint and a valid prescription. As if this was not enough Mehdizadeh (the owner of two out of three cannabis vending machines) makes sure that no customer can pick up more than an ounce a week to prevent resale.

Not only is the purchase of the cannabis very secure, but the privacy as well as the price are very convenient for the customers as well. Mehdizadeh has tinted windows all around as well as a sliding fence to ensure customer privacy.

We all know some prescription drugs can be very pricy and do more damage than good in some cases, but Mehdizadeh has kept the prices to a minimum showing that the customer's well being is kept in his best interest.

With the help of medical marijuana not only will the burdens of people's life soon disappear but their happiness will increase as well as of those around them.

Note: Keep in mind that I do not encourage any use of marijuana other than medical and only then it be used by a mature, responsible adult.

Is The U.S. Government Mixing Religion and State?

BY MARITZZA PADILLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The last time a pope came to the U.S was in 1999. However, April 16 marked the first time the new head of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI, came to the U.S.

He arrived in Washington where many faithful gathered to cheer. The reason for his six-day stay was to privately talk with President George W. Bush about current issues, such as the war in Iraq, and to address the recent abuses of the Catholic Church due to sex scandals.

That Wednesday, the pope was meet by some 300 American bishops at a basilica in Washington, D.C, where the scandal was discussed. Pope Benedict told reporters he felt deep shame over the scandals. The church has paid \$2 billion in compensation to the victims and removed hundreds of priests.

He also visited Ground Zero (site of the September 11 terrorist attacks) where he greeted dignitaries, and met with survivors and rescuers of the attack. Pope Benedict XVI ended last Sunday by thanking Americans for their hospitality.

F.D.A Says Cloned Meat is Safe for Consumption



Starting in 2009 the F.D.A will allow cloned meat to be sold in stores.

BY RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For the last six years, the F.D.A has been struggling to decide whether cloned meat is safe for human consumption.

Just recently the F.D.A actually approved cloned meat as being safe for consumer consumption.

The F.D.A stated that there are no indications in their research that shows cloned meat

Electronic Craze Causing Teens to Become Isolated

BY MARTHA FRANCO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Since its launch in 2001, the iPod became a national hit, especially among teens. Currently there are very few teens who don't own an iPod, a cell phone, and a handheld game system. The truth is the 21st century brought forth an array of better and more efficient electronic devices such as the iPod, dvd players, Nintendo DS, etc. In effect these new devices have come to control the lives of teens.

When wandering about the El Rancho campus during break and lunch one can't help and notice the number of teens using a cell phone and an iPod simultaneously. Furthermore this observation can be extended to encompass most middle schools and high schools campuses. Students seem to think of nothing more than using their cell phone, PSP, iPod or computer.

The obsession with electronic devices is causing a small but noticeable dent in the life of most teens. Instead of going home, relaxing a bit, and starting

their chores most teens run home to turn on their computers and log on to one of the many social mingling websites such as Myspace and Facebook. Additionally teens are isolating themselves from real social environments they'd rather communicate through the use of symbols and website/texting lingo instead of having a normal conversation.

This phenomenon is extremely apparent when one looks as the declining rate of student involvement in classes like drama and public speaking. Teens lack the confidence and motivation needed to participate in such classes because they lack good communication skills. Instead of relying on his/her own communication skills a teen can turn to a keyboard or a text message to do the talking for him/her.

likewise, electronics are also affecting the amount of time teens sleep. With the exploding popularity of text messaging, most teens don't even go to sleep because they'd rather stay up and eagerly wait for their next message to pop up on the screen. Who needs sleep when you can text message all night?

Though the pontiff's visit only resulted in apparent positive responses from the American public, one thing that concerns me is the deliberate diplomacy between the papacy and the United States.

As far as I am concerned, the founders of this country made a clear cut between state and religion. I do not believe that the U.S. needs advice from a religious leader about the current issues facing the nation. Virtually, it is like state and religion are shaking hands.

Moreover, the pontiff encouraged Americans to reject "a false dichotomy be-

tween faith and political life." In plain language, to adapt the concept that faith and a political life go hand in hand, a union of state and religion.

Likewise, many Americans are unconscious of these subliminal actions. As statistics show, there is a vast amount of religious diversity in the U.S., and while some Catholics appeal directly and emotionally to the Pope, others are offended. Buddhists, Jews, Muslims, Atheists and many others do not necessarily view this recent visitation as supportive or necessary from part of the Catholic Church.

Thank-you.



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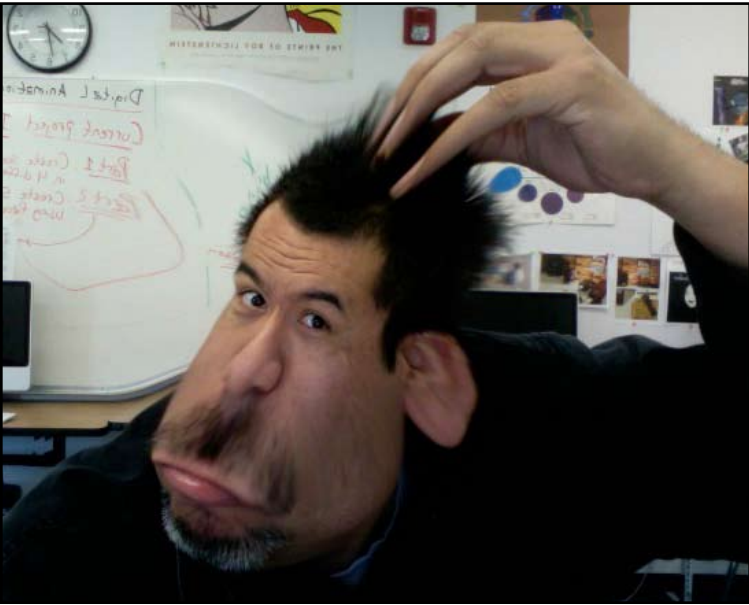
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El Rancho's Rockin' Art Teacher



Mr. Parra uses his Photoshop techniques on himself.

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Robert Parra, a Digital Animation and Digital Photography B teacher, has taught for two years here at El Rancho.

"I like teaching here at

El Rancho because I like what I do; I love Art," said Parra.

Parra studied at East Los Angeles College, Cal State Fullerton, and Cal State Los Angeles. He first majored in Art; he then decided to try something else, so he "majored in Commu-

nications, Music, and English."

After trying different majors, Parra decided to stick with his first major, which was Art, because "that was the only thing I was good at," said Parra.

During his free time, Parra likes to go out with his girlfriend and play in two bands. He plays in a Rock en Español and Punk band. The Rock en Español band is called *El Niño Perdido* (The Lost Child), and the Punk band is called *Beat'n*. "In both bands I play the guitar," said Parra.

Parra also likes traveling. His favorite place to travel is Mexico because "it's beautiful and much more relaxing. When I go there I feel much more calm. Here, it's just too tense," he said.

Parra's goals are to get his Masters and keep teaching. He would like to get his "Masters in Philosophy, Art, or Business." Parra would also like to keep teaching, but maybe "one day teach at the college level or out of the country."



The AP Biology class and science teachers visited Body World at the California Science Center.

AP Biology Class Visits Body World

BY MARISELA RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Friday April 11, AP Biology teachers Ms. Katsumaura and Mrs. Flores-Orihuela along with other chaperones including Mr. Zook, Mrs. Bauer, Mr. Orihuela and Ms. Merino took 120 students to the California science center to visit Gunther von Hagen's Body Worlds 3 exhibit-Story of the Heart.

The exhibit showcased over 200 authentic human specimens including whole bodies, organs, and body slices. "It was interesting but scary!" said April Perez.

This self-guided tour, which runs about one to two hours, was a very fun experience for all of the students and teachers. "It was interesting seeing all the blood vessels and muscles, it was cool to see the real thing" says Ms. Katsumaura "I wanted the stu-

dents to appreciate the human body and also wanted it to serve as a review before our AP test".

The students had a lot to say about their experiences on the trip. Most of them, although a little grossed out, loved the experience they had being able to see real human bodies up close. "I saw people that were beyond naked! But all in all, it was a lot of fun," said junior Chris Neeley.

Sophomore Gladys Zambrano said, "I thought it was fun and interesting, there was some nasty things, but nothing major."

Not only were the students allowed to visit the exhibit but they also had some free time to explore the science center and participate in many activities there. "I paid 2 bucks to go on the scariest experience in my life The High-Wire Bicycle which was suspended 3 stories high!!!"

said senior Catherine Garracoa.

Many students were also allowed to visit the University of Southern California campus where they got to interact with many of the USC students and have lunch on the campus.

The students were able to learn lots of interesting facts and got to experience many different exhibits, which many of them will never forget. "I thought everything was really interesting, but what I liked the most was the blood vessels of the chicken and the lamb," said junior Andrea Gutierrez.

Melissa Avila explains, "I really enjoyed seeing what we looked like inside. The way the muscles and blood vessels were shown was very enlightening." Many of the students hope this experience will help them on the A.P. Biology exam they will take May 12th.



A Taste of Military History

BY MARISOL RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February 1942, Executive Order 9066 was passed by Franklin D Roosevelt to relocate anyone of Japanese ancestry to interment camps. On Saturday April 12th twenty cadets from the MCJROTC program met at El Rancho to await a five hour bus ride to visit a camp, Manzanar.

During the ride the students enjoyed a wonderful view of the Owen Valley desert and mountains. "It is a beautiful pristine site which made everyday in the camp more hopeful for the Japanese Americans," said Freshmen Katrina Soriano.

The enjoyed the trip and got a glimpse of Mt. Whitney the tallest mountains in the United States. "It was a very long bus ride but in the end it was worth the wait," said senior Nancy Arredondo. The Japanese families were sent to military style camps where the cadets spent the

day learning about life at the relocation center. Arredondo also stated, "In my four years at El Rancho, this has been my most fun and memorable field trip yet".

The VFW veterans treated the cadets to breakfast and lunch as a reward for the cadet's great behavior and commitment to the program. Accompanying the cadets was senior marine instructor 1st Sgt Mick, VFW veterans, one of who lived in one of the ten camps as a teenager. Junior Steven Rosata said, "I learned so much, like how the Japanese would make the best out of a bad situation and how the only way out was through the military."

The cadets were shown a documentary and then allowed to explore the museum. They were able to see a replica of the 20 X 25 foot room where eight strangers or families were put to live for years. In the summer, temperatures rose up to 110°F and in the winter the temperature dropped below zero. The camp was a mini city with schools, hospitals and polices this made life little easier on the internees.

About 11,070 Japanese Americans were processed through Manzanar Interment camp and millions more through the other nine camps in the United States. Sophomore Steven Hernandez commented on the program as, "A great program; I have learned so much about history which has given me the opportunity to get to learn, so if you have a chance to learn and have fun, take it".

Busy Senior Balances Her Time

BY ALEJANDRA OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Maria Estrada stands out of the many seniors at El Rancho: she is able to balance her school and work time, and still have free time.

"I think the way I dress, I have a weird style, and the fact that I am hyper most of the time" also makes Estrada unique from everyone else.

Estrada said that being a senior about to graduate "is sad because of losing all the great people you've met and all the memories you had at El Rancho; but I know there will be many other new ones."

Two words that best describe Estrada are "weird because I am weird, and fun because I think I can make most people smile."

Estrada is also a hard-working student, taking AP Calculus, AP Spanish Language, AP Government, and AP English Literature, which have helped her be in the top thirty students of her senior class. She is also a member of CSF/UC Partners, Leos Club, M.E.Ch.A., dance, and is a former El Rancho's band member.

"I am most proud of how far I've gone in music and the awards we won when I was in band. Also of where I am right now in life," said Estrada.

This past fall, Estrada applied to "UC Los Angeles, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Fullerton, Hum-



Senior Maria Estrada looks forward to graduating soon.

boldt State, and San Diego State Universities." Out the seven universities she applied to, six of them accepted her. Estrada chose to attend UCLA "because it's a really good school; and it's far, yet still close to home."

When Estrada was younger, she used to see herself as an astronaut, but now "I would like to major in math, or study business or fashion," she said, "and after college I want to get a career in engineering or start my own company."

But as of now, Estrada has "been working at the Krikorian Theatre for half a year as a concessionist."

With such a busy life, Estrada finds it "hard to have enough time; time seems to go faster now," yet she still finds time to relax.

During her free time, Estrada likes "listening to music, driving, and playing my instrument." Estrada has used her free time to relax by visiting "interesting places like Washington D.C., places like the Wax Museum, and eating weird food like Thai food."

Perfect for Any and All Occassions

BY ALYSSA ZACARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Do you know what to get your mom for Mother's Day? Well here is a hint on what she would love to get. It's a piece of art with an incredible taste. This taste will be unforgettable. It will make her want more after the first bite. Every bite she takes will melt in her mouth.

Edible Arrangements is the perfect place to go get your Mother's Day gift. You can pick it, choose it to dip it in chocolate or white chocolate and personalize it. You can also choose any fruit, from pineapples to strawberries made to look like a bouquet. The arrangement comes in a keepsake container.



If your mom likes strawberries, go for a sweetheart bouquet that contains fresh strawberries dipped in chocolate. If your mom is into something that is juicy and loves fruit, go for the orange blossom, half dipped with bananas. This basket is put together with grapes, cantaloupe, honeydew, oranges, strawberries and bananas, with your choice of white chocolate or dark chocolate.



Get your loved ones an arrangement filled with love for any special occasion. The name of the shop says it all: the gift is edible and you arrange it how you want it. The nearest one is by the Kirkorian Theater on Whittier Blvd. It opens Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and Saturday 8:00AM to 3:00 PM. Call in your Mother's day order before it's too late.

Leos Club Lends a Helping Hand

BY GUADALUPE CORTEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Leos Club is currently collecting used glasses and work/interview clothes for the less fortunate. The used glasses will be donated to battered women and needy individuals around the world; the interview/work clothes will be given to the students who are in the special education program here at El Rancho.

The Leos Club, a group of dedicated students, is involved in the community and devote their time and energy to help those in need. The main advisors of the Leos Club are Mrs. Jensen and Ms. Metaxas. They are advisors who encourage students to become more involved within their community.



Club president Andrea Hernandez encourages students to help the Leos Club help the needy.

This year the club has participated in collecting clothes and used glasses. Simultaneously, they are helping the very students of El Rancho and various indigent individuals around the world. Mrs. Jensen tries to encourage students to contribute by saying, "We all want more of everything, but if we really look at what we have, we realize that we have more than enough."

The club president, Andrea Hernandez, encourages everyone to partake in this event. She says, "People take what they have for granted, but sharing makes everyone feel good; and feeling good makes you happy!"

Collection boxes are available in rooms B101, Ms. Metaxas; Q4, Mrs. Jensen; and L1 Ms. Palacios.

Art Teacher by Day, Pizza Manager by Night

BY MARISSA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many students think that teachers only sleep and eat El Rancho High School; students basically think they have no lives. Well, that isn't always true. One example is Ms. Leal who owns "Uptown Pizza Co." off of Greenleaf and Mar Vista in uptown Whittier.

She owns the pizzeria with her mother in law. They have owned it for about two years, but it has been around for forty years. They decided to take over by buying this company and giving it a new taste.

What made them invest into a pizzeria? you might ask. Ms. Leal's husband always wanted a pizzeria and that was

a major factor that contributed to buying the place. Though the pizza is delicious, that's not all they sell. This pizzeria also sells subs, pasta, wings, breadsticks, and for dessert, carrot cake.

But the most popular item would be "THE SPECIAL PIZZA," which has every ingredient on it. Even though Ms. Leal has a life outside El Rancho, she still keeps her students at heart.

She had four alumni that work for her, though two of them left to attend college. Yeah she might be happy with her decision on taking over the pizzeria, but she says, "Sometimes working with family can be difficult."

(Right) Mrs. Leal, Art teacher at ERHS and Pizzeria owner in Uptown Whittier.



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CALIFORNIA

Tennis Team Working Hard To Make it Far in CIF Finals

BY LUCY VARGAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Boys Varsity Tennis came up short against Santa Fe last Tuesday. With a score of eight to ten, the Dons were not left far behind.

Junior Chris Gonzales, Captain of the tennis team proudly said, "The team has great potential, and I think we can make it far in CIF." With a 5-4 record this year, the Tennis team has proven that they can indeed.

The tennis team works hard during practices to improve their game, not only for the rest of the season but for next year as well. The players are sure that the departure of seniors from their rival schools will give them the opportunity to get further next season.

"The team's strengths are their consistencies in the game," Junior Jerry Laureano said. "The team wants to play and it shows through their game." Laureano



Tennis season finished with a strong attitude, and awaits next year.

affirms that the team works hard, not only for their own personal record, but for the goals of the team.

Doubles player, Junior Daniel Martinez, is excited for next year and, "Although we're looking ahead,

we're ready to end strong with our final game coming up."

Captain Gonzales would like to thank the team for the effort and contributions. He would also like to mention to "keep it fresh" for next season.



Pitcher Chris Vargas, Dons has been playing baseball since he was five years old.

Chris Vargas: Veteran of the Sport

BY ARACELI AGUILA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's No. 2 starter, Chris Vargas is making great strides in Varsity baseball, and loving every minute of it. "My greatest accomplishment is just making the team," said Vargas.

Coach Llanes feels his character and pitching are greatly improving. "His character development is great, and he has turned out to be a hardworking, dependable person," said Llanes.

Vargas has been playing baseball since he was 5 and still enjoys watching his favorite baseball team, the Boston Red Sox play. Vargas is currently keeping busy, and even helps coach the team.

Although Vargas does not have plans of playing baseball in college, he wants to do the best while he plays now. "I want to keep doing what I'm do-

ing, and help my team out," said Vargas. His favorite thing about playing baseball is the thrill and adrenaline he gets being out in the field: "The pressure at the start of the game is always fun."

With a record of 1-1 and 2 saves Vargas hopes to help his team. "I hope the team wins in every game; I'm proud of them because we play as a team."

Coach Llanes agrees, "My team is very hardworking and motivates each other to perform to their best abilities." This appears to be working for the team.

The El Rancho baseball team is currently 17-4 this season and is 10-2 in the Del Rio League Competition. Thursday they played California High School and won with a score of 2-0.

Their next game is today at California High School. Their schedule is also located in the activities office.

Softball Player Natasha Sanchez Returns after Hip Injury

BY MELISA HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Natasha Sanchez began her softball career when she was four years old. Natasha began playing softball when she saw how much her sister enjoyed playing it.

Natasha played Softball for seven years at Mary Loehr starting from T-ball up until 12-under. She found out that she had to have hip surgery when she was eleven. After Natasha's year off to heal, she began playing on the East Whittier softball team for three years. Natasha made junior varsity her freshman year and later made varsity her junior year. When she was her off season she played on Havoc her junior year, and Pico Blues her senior year. "I think making varsity was one of

my biggest accomplishments," said Natasha. "I love those girls and would do anything for them."

Although softball is a big part of Natasha's life she also enjoys hanging out with her friends and spending time with family. "I love spending time with my sisters and watching funny movies." Natasha



Natasha hits big in her early years playing softball even after her hip surgery.

loves doing hair and makeup. She also encourages everyone to try sushi once in his/her life.

Natasha loves to make people laugh and, as many people may know, is quite the class clown. Natasha says, "I love to make people laugh and smile. Even though I may not be the one having fun, I love to see everyone enjoying themselves."

"Even though I love softball, I know that my education has to come first," says Natasha. Natasha is still undecided on where she plans to attend college, but where ever she goes she plans on trying out for their softball program. Natasha plans on being a physical education teacher or a math teacher. Natasha hopes to come back to El Rancho one day and be a teacher.

Currently the Lady Dons' record stands at 9-11 and hope to

ER Volleyball Digs Out a Win, Raising Their Confidence on the Court

BY MARISOL CABRAL
MARTHA FRANCO

The El Rancho Volleyball team played a match against Pioneer High School on Friday, April 18 in which they won the first three matches thereby completing the majority of games needed to beat Pioneer.

As of now the El Rancho tennis hold their record in League at three wins and four losses and overall record is five wins and eleven losses.

On Wednesday April 23 the Dons lost against Santa Fe, 0-3.

Coach Picon has pushed the team to much practice and she says that she has seen improvement. "The best players are Adrian Huerta, Gabriel Franco and Marc Suazo," said Picon.

According to Picon the toughest schools to beat are Santa Fe and La Serna. "I am very confident in my players but you have to ask them if they are confident in themselves," said Picon.

Senior, Sergio Reyes,

the team passer has great confidence in himself and in his teammates. "Volleyball is difficult because it is a sport that is intense, fun, competitive, and takes skill to play," said Reyes.

Reyes relies on his teammates and they rely on him. He feels that trust is important to play well. He is "confident that the other players support each other and play well together."

The Dons next game will be today against California High School.

ER Swim Team Dives into Preliminary Rounds



El Rancho's swim team has high hopes to come out on top in next weeks Preliminaries and Final games.

BY GENESSE CARILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With an outstanding league record of Girls 3-2 and Boys 4-1, the El Rancho Varsity Swim Team prepares for Preliminaries and Finals next week. Swimming finished in second place in league, although their current standing can be improved if the team works hard during League Finals.

Varsity Coach, Mr. Pringle, affirms his team's strengths and weaknesses as, "having a strong work ethic, being extremely committed, and having a good attitude, although most swimmers are very young (they only have four seniors on the team.)" From this team, two swimmers have already

qualified for CIF- Junior Michael Nevenhoven and Senior Sharon Pedregon. Nevenhoven has qualified for his Butterfly, while Pedregon has qualified for her Breaststroke. "We have two other swimmers who are very close to qualifying for CIF, Sophomore Isela Aguirre and Senior Miguel Quijada," said Coach Pringle.

Second year varsity swimmer and water polo player Isela Aguirre is only half way there, and already has high aspirations. "I feel good that my hard work pays off and I still have room for improvement, which is always good," states Isela. With high expectations for young swimmers such as Isela, the Swim Team looks forward to making their mark at League Finals.



Jazmin Ortiz, 12th
"Wearing dresses with bright colors, having crazy puffy hair, and natural nails. Girls should also wear extravagant make-up and every one should wear a mask."



Dilprit Singh, 11th
"Colors should be purple and red because it's the Midnight hour, so wearing a black tux with the red or purple tie should look good."



Elizabeth Torrentos, 12th
"Being glammed out, wearing bright colors. Wearing strapless dresses and nice soft make-up."



Anthony Cabanas
The girls are going to be the best thing at prom



Richard Madrid, 11th
"Black tux with a maroon vest and a black tie with black slip on shoes."

Upon the Midnight Hour

This year prom will be at the Sycamore Plaza, In Lake-wood California. The place was picked because "We wanted to accommodate to be able to fit more juniors and seniors in the place" said Ms. Oase. Last year prom was held at Laguna ills Community Center and this year it will be held at the Sycamore Plaza because the place has had many proms before and they have mad the place look great with any theme that the prom is going to be.

This year the prom committee picked the theme for prom and they decided to go with a masquerade theme because they thought that it was going to be a fun theme for these years prom. Junior Dara Berlarmino said " This year prom committee had a choice between a masquerade and a Hollywood theme ands the majority wanted masquerade. The thing was that we wanted to keep it far away as possible from Mardi Gras we wanted to keep it elegantly formal. We wanted to do something fun with it and masquerade was a fun idea, for favorites we looked at catalogs but we could not get what we wanted but we did find some good alternatives for prom favorites"

Prom will this year elegantly because this year because the prom committee did not assign any color for the prom this year prom will consist of many different colors and the main color for the main back drop will consist of purple, green, silver, gold, and yellow. Prom will have an assigned time for food to be served and a time for the desert to be put out in the center of the room. The last dance will be will be from the sound track of phantom of the opera and the back ground for the pictures is going to had a piano and a stair case fading in the background.



Janet Vilcjis, 11th
"I hope for this years prom to be unforgettable"



Angie Molina, 11th
"I hope it would be a grand night and i hope they play good music."



Ivan Gonzales, 12th
"To have good food at prom"



Melissa Legaspi, 12th
"I want to dance until my feet come of"



Reina Sanches, 12th
"To have fun with all my friends and for everybody to enjoy themselves."



Consuelo Rivera, 11th
"I hope to have a good time at prom"

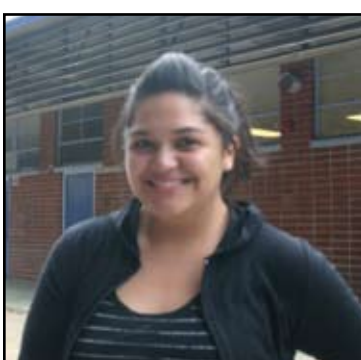


Salina Sells, 12th
"To have fun with all my friends."

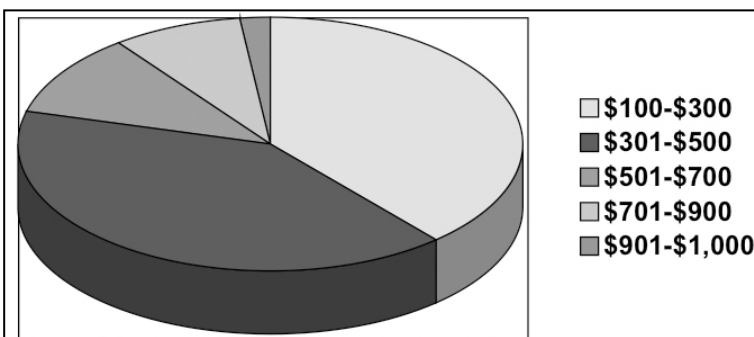
How much money will you spend for prom?



Ricardo Prieto, 12th
"I am going to spend about \$210 on prom"



Angelica Figueroa, 12th
"i am spending around \$290 on prom"



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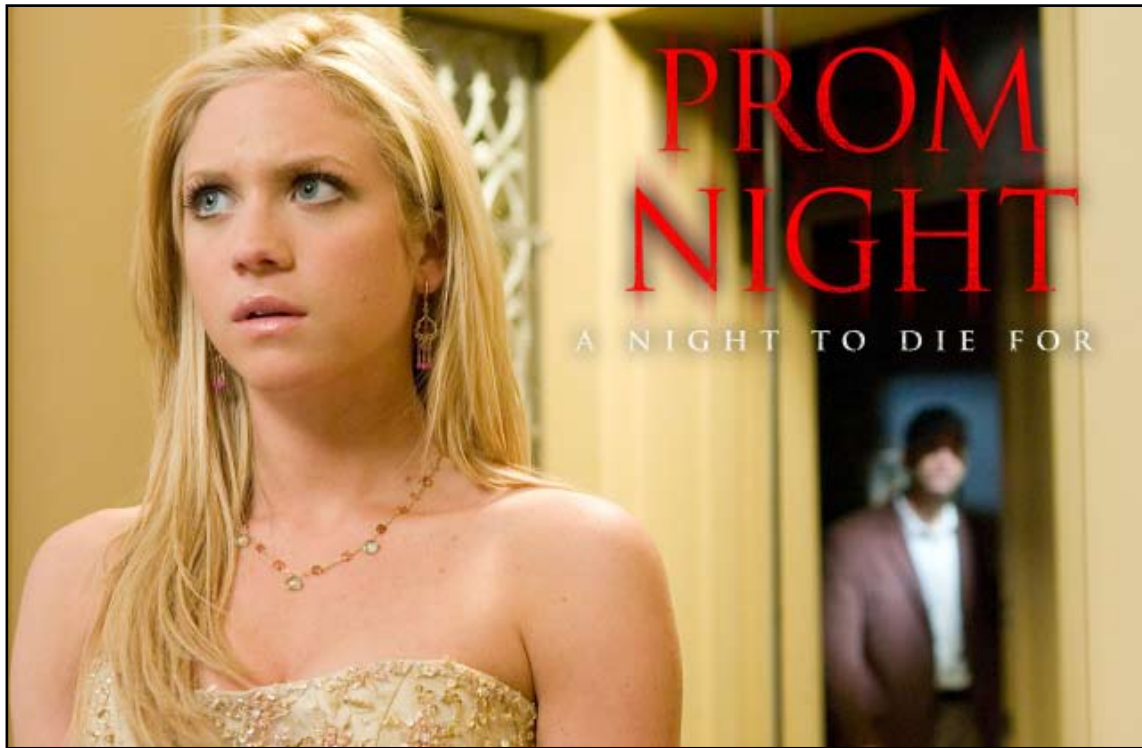
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A Night to Die For, Literally

BY GUADALUPE CORTEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The dark past of a student comes back to haunt her in the form of a revengeful killer oh her prom night. *Prom Night*, filled with horror and suspense, was released by Screen Gems and directed by Nelson McCormick. Upon its opening weekend, the film made approximately \$20 million in 2,700 theaters in the United States and Canada. The PG-13 movie stars actress Britney Snow, along with Johnathon Schaech, Brianne Davis, Kelly Blatz, and Jana Kramers.

In this remake of the 1980 horror flick, Donna (Britney Snow), like most teenagers, is awaiting her prom night to be the greatest night of her life after surviving the slaughter of her family three years back by her insane and highly obsessed teacher, Richard Fenton (Johnathon Schaech). Donna and her closest friends arrive at the hotel where prom is being held; unaware that Fenton (who has just escaped from prison) is there and plans to kill Donna. Donna and her friends are being pursued



Britney Snow has also starred in the 2007 remake of John Water's *Hairspray* and in the 2006 movie *John Tucker Must Die*.

by the serial killer in the suites they've rented for the night. Now, the greatest night of a teenager's life turns into a game of survival. The killer ended his killing spree with eleven dead victims, leaving five survivors: Ronnie, Don-

na's friend, Donna's aunt, Donna's uncle and Detective Winn.

The film illustrates a prom night gone wrong; a madman terrorizing a teen and her friends at their senior prom. The film also depicts a somewhat typi-

cal prom, however excluding the violence and the murders. *Prom Night* runs just about an hour and a half; a film both genders and the adolescent crowd can absolutely enjoy, especially when prom is coming up!

Smithson Out, But Not Down

BY VANESSA GALVAN,
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

American Idol Top 6 finalist, Carly Smithson is off the show, but she still on the "Idol" bus. Fans were crying "foul" and professional "Idol" watchers were just crying. But Smithson was as bouncy and upbeat as a Miley Cyrus tune. She may be out, but she is not down. "I'm looking forward to going out and making a record now," says Smithson, after she was voted off, smiling. One day after becoming the seventh of this season's 12 finalists to get the boot, the San Diego-based singer had a sparkle in her voice that anyone can hear through the phone.

On Tuesday night's show, which was dedicated to the demanding Broadway tunes of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Smithson wowed Webber and the crowd with a lung-busting rock number from "Jesus Christ Superstar." Hard-to-please judge, Simon Cowell, called Smithson's confident, joyful rendition of "Superstar" one of his "favorite performances of the night." When country folk contestant, Brooke White had to start her song over after she hesitates for forgetting the lyrics, and standoff Jason Castro was taken to task his

slumberous version "Memory", Smithson thought that she would live to belt for another week.

With all the baggage Smithson brought to the competition, she is lucky she got as far as she did. Smithson did take Cowell to task a few weeks ago for being hard on her, but she left the show in style. "I think my goodbye package summed up who I was," Smithson said of the video tribute that aired after she was eliminated. When she and fellow elimination contender Syesha Mercado were asked to perform one more time before their fates were sealed, Smithson took the advantage that gave it all she had, with smiles to spare. "I have always said that this is your moment to shine, and you've got to use every minute of it," said Smithson, who aced the "Idol" auditions in 2005, only to be disqualified because of visa issues. "Go out on a high note. What's the point in going out all upset? You just got the greatest moment of your life."

Next week, the Top 5 will take on the music of iconic singer Neil Diamond. Who will be the next contestant to leave? Find out next week.



May Concert Calendar

ARACELI AGUILA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

May 10th EUDORA CD

RELEASE PARTY:

Place: Chain Reaction 1652 W. Lincoln Ave. Anaheim, CA 92801

Line-Up:

Eudora, Scarlet Grey, Lunar Fiction

Cost: \$10 at the door

Sounds like: Indie Rock

Where to find them: www.myspace.com/eudoramusic, www.myspace.com/scarlergrey



May 24th SKACORE

INVASION:

Place: Self Help Graphics 3802 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90063

Line-Up:

La Resistencia, Viernes13, 8Kalcas, and many more...

Cost: \$15 presale

Sounds Like: Ska, Spanish Rock

Where to find them: www.myspace.com/laresistencia, www.myspace.com/viernes13



May 30th and May 31st Iron Maiden

Place: Irvine Meadows / Verizon Wireless Amphitheater

8808 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine, CA 92618

Line-Up: Iron Maiden

Cost: \$15 - \$19

Sounds like: Hard Rock/ Metal

Where to find them: www.myspace.com/ironmaiden



May 3rd, May 7th, May 9th, May 10th, May 11th Juanes

Place: Nokia Theatre L.A. Live 777 Chick Hearn Court, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Line-Up: Juanes

Cost: \$39 - \$125

Sounds like: Spanish Rock

Where to find them: www.myspace.com/juanesmyspaceoficial

Sixth Takes Second

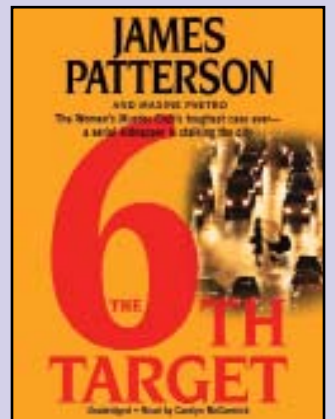
BY KIANA JUAREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Women's Murder Club is back and better than ever with the sixth installment of the New York Times Best Selling Series. The 6th Target is undoubtedly James Patterson's best work since *Along Came a Spider*.

Set in crime-ridden San Francisco, California, Police Sgt. Lindsay Boxer is in a fight to find a child abductor. With children being stolen left and right, it is Boxer's duty to make San Francisco's parks a safe place to play. But while Boxer focuses on bringing the innocent children home, she is also trying to solve a case that hits much closer to home.

One foggy morning while riding the ferry, a member of the Women's Murder Club is gunned down. Like never before, the other women in the club scurry together to avenge their best friend's injuries.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Boxer's love life is in some serious need of reconstruction. For the past year, he's been dating a hot member of the Department of Homeland Security. But with her beau Joe living in D.C., it means the couple hardly ever spends time together. And when they do find time for each other, it's only for one night, (if you know what I mean).



While Joe and Lindsay's relationship is being rocked, another man comes into the picture. He's a member of the Homicide Department meaning he already has a one up on Joe; Lindsay can see him everyday. His striking good looks also make it difficult for Lindsay to stay faithful to her longtime boyfriend.

The great thing about Patterson's novels is the depth he adds to each character. The characters aren't just stuck-up working women. Instead, each woman has a deeper story to tell, keeping the reader turning the pages. Boxer isn't just the Sgt. of the Homicide Department, she's also struggling to going control over her subordinates as well as a woman in her early thirties searching for a soul mate. Yuki Castellano, the lawyer of the group, is not only trying to conquer the toughest court case she's ever had, but also the death of her mother.

Overall, the book is a major win for avid readers of the Women's Murder Club series. Patterson continues to be the Godfather of suspense and rake in those number one best sellers.

Two thumbs up for *The Sixth Target*. Novel number seven can't come soon enough.