



# El Rodeo



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## “Jack London” Tells His Story

### Huntington Big Read Program Provides El Rancho with Presentation by Actor Michael Oakes



Actor Michael Oakes reads from *The Call of the Wild* in yesterday's assembly.

BY MATT CROCITTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A combination of seventeen teachers and approximately 1,000 El Rancho Students, who are currently reading and studying *The Call of the Wild*, attended two assemblies in the gym yesterday to watch Michael Oakes perform as Jack London.

El Rancho High School was given the opportunity to partner with the Huntington library in San Marino as part of the Big Read Program, a federal agency program that was started by the National Endowment for the Arts. The goals of this program are to restore reading as the central part of American culture and encourage reading of classic literature.

The Huntington library chose the novel *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London. London was a California author and the Huntington Library possesses a large collection of his papers and original manuscripts.

Professional union actor Michael Oakes, who is part of an educational live theatre group, performs in character as various authors. As Jack London, Oakes acted out and mimicked everything that London would have done. Michael Oakes researches and

analyzes all of London's works to legitimately impersonate him.

Oakes has been acting since he was five years old. He says, "I couldn't help it. Everything else just didn't work out. I was a biologist and got my masters degree but I kept coming back to acting. I love it and I wouldn't give it up for anything."

When asked about *The Call of the Wild* Librarian Jean Chodos says, "It is one of the greatest stories of all time. Great stories always read because they speak to the human condition." Chodos also says that El Rancho is fortunate to be able to bring live theatre to campus. She says that it was very expensive but the Huntington Library graciously covered all costs.

At the conclusion of the play, English teacher Mrs. Zeko said, "the kids I talked to liked the performance, especially when Oakes took on the character as 'The Boss.'" She also said, "I liked that Michael Oakes included very specific details about London's life, such as the fact that he was an Oyster Pirate."

Although this educational program is going on through this year, there is no reassurance that it will continue for years to come because of funding or the existence of the program.



## Budget Crisis Freezes State Funds

BY MATT CROCITTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Recently, high schools throughout California have been experiencing difficulties with the budget cuts. El Rancho High School has been affected severely by the drastic cuts in budget and some funds have been frozen.

According to California Budget Project, there have been cuts to five of the largest funding allocations for public schools in the LA County which means that every student's budget has been cut by \$670 dollars. Ultimately, only instructional materials and necessities are to be purchased.

Although this problem is affecting El Rancho, it is not the district that is cutting funds; it is the state. Principal Genis explains that California is in a twenty billion dollar hole and there is not a lot of extra money to be spent.

The effect of this crisis is being felt everywhere. More and more people are getting laid off to save money and more activities have been taken away from schools.

A great deal of spending in the state of California is on hold right now and if any money is spent there is no guarantee that the state will be reimbursed.

State officials are collaborating to come up with a solution to the budget problem. According to Principal Sam Genis, Governor Schwarzenegger is not quick to accept the new bill because the budget problems will eventually carry over to next year and create even more unrest than before.

Governor Schwarzenegger is able to veto the bill but if the statesmen get a two-thirds majority vote against him then they can overrule the veto.

Mr. Genis says, "I agree with the governor because if it is held off to next year there might have to be even more teachers laid off to save money."

With different ideas for a solution being thrown around, there is no quick fix for the budget crisis. Nevertheless the schools and students throughout California will have to deal with the budget until a compromise is reached.

## ERHS to Adopt Semester Schedule for the Next School Year

BY MATT CROCITTO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After years of controversy and deliberation, the board of education has finally decided that the trimester scheduling needs to change.

Principal Sam Genis commented that last year the budget committee, comprised of administrators and parents, discussed the recent school closures. The committee found that the closings were because of the lack of enrollment and money.

They decided to tighten up the budget by cutting back on spending throughout the district.

One idea that was brought up to solve the money problem was to eliminate the trimester system. The board found that by doing this they will be able to have fewer teachers and save 400 to 600 thousand dollars a year.

Money was not the only aspect that was taken into consideration. The past years El Rancho High School has not been up to par with the required API scores. Amid all the confusion of the trimester system and the inability to have the core subjects all three trimesters, it is thought a change might be beneficial to students.

Mrs. Lam, English teacher, says, "I like that kids can have their teachers all year but, the disadvantage is that teachers would have to adapt to a new time limit and the kids would have to balance six classes instead of four."

Mrs. Lam also believes that the most important thing is what helps the students acquire the core subjects all year long.

Although some staff might think that semester scheduling is the answer to the problem, others disagree.

"I like block scheduling. With any system there



El Rancho principal, Sam Genis, works on paperwork while explaining next year's semester change.

will be problems but changing to semester is not going to cure everything," says TEAM teacher Mr. Meza.

Mr. Meza also hopes that once the new schedule is in place the students will improve in grades and test scores. He also hopes

that the new schedule will offer a tutorial classes in which students will be able to obtain extra help.

Even though there are different opinions about the sudden change of scheduling, the semester system will be implemented starting the 2009-2010 school year.

# ERHS is Officially a Closed Campus

CAROLYN LOPEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of the school year El Rancho's upperclassmen found themselves eating in the cafeteria instead of the nearest fast food joint due to administration's decision to make El Rancho a closed campus.

"Why would we have an open campus?" asks administrator, Mr. Collings, "Only 10 to 15 students out of 150 eligible, actually go off campus." The 10 to 15 students, who do go out for lunch, do not have much time or food choice.

The closest fast food services are a good drive anyway, it can be hard to drive to a place, order, eat, and drive back all in 40 minutes. "If a student gets into an accident while off campus, we are held liable and the parents can sue," says El Rancho's principal, Mr. Genis.

Safety is the main reason why students are no longer allowed off campus, but has that not always been an issue? "There have been accidents in the past

and you're really suppose to have a parent sign a wavier before being granted off campus lunch, even then, we are still held liable for any harm done," says Mr. Collings.

Senior, Genevieve Dominguez agrees with the new policy saying, "I feel that having an enclosed campus is a good thing because it gives us security."

Junior, Mario Cruz disagrees saying, "Going out to lunch was a privilege for juniors and seniors. Then it changed to having to have certain test score. Now no one, not even seniors, can go out. It is sad to hear that seniors who have been waiting for this, won't be able to go out."

To accommodate the new rule, the school is trying to get vendors from local fast food services to come to El Rancho. Mr. Genis says, "We want to be able to bring the students food they would have to go out to get." Mr. Collings suggests we have, "More tables to sit on and bands play during lunch." But are vendors and bands enough to win the student body over?

# ABC is Not as Easy as 123

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For three days out of the one hundred eighty school days, El Rancho High School is given a chance to show the world what they've learned by taking the STAR test. Last year the school's goal was six hundred seventy-seven points. El Rancho students exceeded six hundred seventy-seven and received six hundred seventy-nine points.

Ms. Linares, Assistant Principal of Curriculum believes that students from "The Ranch" can still do better.

"The STAR test for kids is always the hardest one to take seriously because nothing happens if you don't do well." She stated.

Linares also brought up the fact that a student's STAR scores are used as a reference to what classes they are going to be placed in. If a student scores in the proficient region they will most likely be placed in a higher class than if they didn't try and only scored in the below basic area. Her advice for getting better test scores, "show up and do the best you can".

"Take advantage of the help

that the teachers give you. I think it is crucial, when a teacher takes the time to teach you how to write a really good essay, I think you really got to own that because it's a lesson you will take with you."

You might be thinking, "So what if I don't try? I like taking the easy classes." That may be so, but think about this, students used to receive money for college if they did well on the STAR test. That is ten times better than getting a pass to get lunch early. I mean a hamburger, Powerade, and a cookie or five hundred dollars for college?

They might not still give away money, but it does not mean you still don't have to try. This year the bar will be raised, for the sophomores. The CAHSEE test will remain the same, but the school has to have 44.5% of 10th grade students score proficient in ELA (English) and 43.5% in Math in order to stay out of PI, Program Improvement.

If this does not happen El Rancho will be under PI and the school will slowly lose control of the school and the Federal Government will slowly gain control of the school.

*"Grand Ball"  
Homecoming  
2008  
October 13-17  
10/15 Night Pep  
Rally  
10/17  
Homecoming  
Assembly  
11:30am  
Varsity Football  
Game 7:00pm  
Homecoming  
Dance 9:30pm -  
Midnight*



# Link Crew Ups Its Game!

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last year Link Crew became an official club on campus, which takes incoming freshmen under its wing, but this year the club was taken to a whole new level. Advisors Ms. Chavez, Ms. Melgar, Mr. D. Diaz, Mr. J. Diaz, Mr. E. Romero, and Mr. Correa turned the club into a class. The class is comprised of new and veteran link leaders.

The responsibility of being a link leader entitles to communicate and help of his or her ten freshmen plus attending all the link crew events and or any school events such as: back to school night, parent conferences, etc; on the other hand

been a part of the class is organizing and keeping the club running. "[The class] gives us a period to organized everything and make it stronger," said Chavez.

The class allows the Link Leaders to devote more time to the club activities and the assigned freshmen. "Schools that have found the most success with the Link Crew Program are the ones that offer the class," said Chavez.

Last year's Link Crew began strong but as the year progressed the enthusiasm and dedication began to fade away. The advisors realized that in order to improve the club's efficiency they needed "to invest more time and resources." Thus the advisors concluded that the club needed to be a class.

The class is taught by Ms.

Chavez during third period first and third trimester; while Ms. Melgar takes over second trimester.

A student is not a required to take the class to be in the club, but the ones taking the class must be link leaders.

The class counts as elective credit, and summer training or after school tutoring can be used toward community service hours.

"We have six commissioners: we have our social commissioner Lilian Castellanos, school counter commission Stacy Diaz, commission behavior Mia Fernandez, two fundraising commissioners, and a commissioner of academics Araceli Hernandez," said Chavez. The commissioners are in charge of making sure things get done,



Ms. Melgar and Ms. Chavez join together to teach and inspire students in link crew.

like participation in after school tutoring, fundraisers for dances, and that link leaders communicate with the assigned freshmen.

"When you are in the class

you are a leader amongst leaders, the ones in the club I consider leaders, but the ones in the class get to step up even further," said english teacher Ms. Chavez.

# Rowdy Students Disrupt Welcome Back Dance



BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ & JONATHAN RUIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The annual "Welcome Back Dance" held on September 12th, began with a glowing start that soon faded into the night as everyone was sent home early. The highlight of this years dance was the fact that glow sticks

were sold, and as the students got their hands on the glow sticks the cafeteria turned into the Milky Way.

The dance was a great hit this year but the students took it too far when they broke the glow sticks and began to shake them and head to toe. The students began to dance as soon as the DJ turned on the

music. The dance is usually from 9pm-12pm, but this year it was stopped at 11:28pm, "the dance actually ended two minutes earlier than intended to, so when someone threw a glow stick onto the stage we just ended it. The glow sticks that were thrown weren't actually sold by us.

Those were glow sticks that the kids brought in on their own," said Chavez. "I think no matter what you do when you're dealing with high school students, there will always be a couple of kids that will get out of hand ... I think that happened because this time we had a stage that was smaller and intimate so they were closer. I don't think we regret doing it the second year and we don't have problems except this year we had the on incident," added Chavez.

When asked about the

incident at the dance the DJ replied "I've been in rowdier environments as a DJ. It didn't bother me much, but I understand why the teachers weren't happy." She also added "I would consider D.J.ing again if I was asked. We had a good time, despite what happened at the end. We probably won't play The Smiths or Morrissey though." "It was a group decision to send the students home because there was an event in the morning that the maintenance wanted to set up for, so we wanted to end the dance early any ways, but we actually ended it earlier than we intended to because there were glow sticks thrown, maybe multiple maybe it was just one, and I think that was caused by us trying to wind the music down... I guess that didn't go over well," said Mr. J. Diaz

"People were breaking open the glow sticks and throwing them at the DJ because they did not like the music that she was playing so there were two teacher, Ms. Melgar and I can't remember the other teacher's name warning people to stop breaking the glow sticks and throwing them and people kept on doing it so it finally stopped, but there was one group in particular a huge group! We couldn't because it was really dark and hot in there but they wouldn't stop breaking the glow sticks and throwing them at the DJ," said Junior Dean Ms. Garcia. "It was a group decision [to send everybody home early] made by the teachers who were in charged as well as the administration, it was basically a decision due to the students behavior to shut down early," added Garcia.

# We Want Change!

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER  
JONRYAN ROJAS

As a democratic society, we hold a lot of power in our hands and don't even realize it- The power to think individually rather than dependently, the power to fight against the unjust, and the power to vote for our future are all great examples.

However for the last eight years we have allowed ourselves to be governed by a corrupted, self-centered, arrogant president and its time for a change like Senator Obama said, "America we are better than these last 8 years."

Now if you watched both the Democratic National Convention and the Republican National Convention, you should have caught the major differences between the two nominees' speeches.

One example is the topics they chose to speak about. Obama chose to speak about change, where McCain chose

to glorify himself by talking about his P.O.W. (prisoner of war) experience.

When regarding the economic problems McCain calls us a "nation of whiners". Do you really want a President who agrees 90% of the time with our current president Gorge W. Bush? Al Gore certainly doesn't agree with President Bush saying things like "I believe in recycling but this is ridiculous" when addressing the fact.

Now there is no doubt McCain is an American hero but how do we know that through all the torture that he endured he hasn't developed Post Dramatic Stress Disorder? How do we know that he is even cognitively capable to run this country?

Now let's talk about Senator McCain's choice for Vice-President Sara Palin. Did you know that Senator McCain had only met her once the week before he chose her to be

his Vice-President nominee? How about her daughter being 17 and already pregnant? What kind of message is that sending to the youth of America?

If she can't keep her own household under control how will she be able to run our country if something happens to Senator John McCain. Cough stroke Cough.

So let's be honest with ourselves. Why do you think McCain chose Sara Palin as vice-president? Is it not obvious that McCain is only using her as a trump card to attract the female voters?

Obama cunningly scheduled his speech on the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martian Luther King Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. That day more than 80,000 people attended the Democratic National Convention.

Clearly Obama is the better choice for being Commander in Chief of our country. With such strong speeches, young looks, and great liberal plans people often refer

to him as our nations next J.F.K.

Unlike McCain, Obama plans to reward student their success in school rather than rewarding the teachers (sorry teaches but let's try not to think about ourselves). He also plans to have tuition scholarships for community service which will bring students closer to their community.

Obama plans to pay two thirds of college tuitions because he believes we shouldn't have to pay so much for seeking our education.

This is the type of person that we need as a leader. We want change and if Senator Obama is elected president we will get change.

Now let me leave you with one last thought. As a country we have to come together and fix our problems and economy. Forget race, forget gender and forget ethnicity. These are not racial problems, they are not gender related problems they are American problems and we Americans must fix these problems before it's too late.



## El Rancho Has Lunch Time Issues

BY JESSICA RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

High school students endure a huge amount of stress throughout their long day, and have no time to sit down and enjoy a "decent" meal during their lunchtime. Currently, El Rancho High School, students are facing difficulties with lunchtime. The lunch period is only forty minutes long, and students cannot leave the campus.

El Rancho has approximately 3,400 students enrolled and only forty minutes to feed all of them, it is rationally impossible. In fact, students rush to the lunch lines just to not be "the suckers that get no lunch", because all the food is sold out. Hunger is the only reason students rush to the lunch lines; it is not the food that makes them rush. On the contrary

many students dislike the food being provided by El Rancho because it is not appetizing and prices are high and not to mention the "mosh pit" like lunch lines.

Since the closed campus, students do not have any other convenient choice than to buy the food that El Rancho provides. Students deserve to have the opportunity to go out during lunch and to get something to eat. However, if that is not an option, the school should consider bringing in vendors to sell the "good stuff" - appetizing food.

During lunchtime the food lines are ridiculously terrible. Students understandably become impatient since the lines are too long; their impatience might cause an accident. The lines are a safety issue that should be taken note off; students could get hurt or injured

in those "mosh pit" like lines.

With only a limited amount of time, students are now being forced to make an unhealthy decision: between going to the restroom and getting lunch. The cause of this unhealthy decision that students now need to make is the lunch lines and the few rest rooms open during lunchtime. Since when do students need to make ridiculous decision like these?

One the most common used restroom during lunch, the restroom, is ridiculously giving the lunch line competition. In addition to the complications, the few rest rooms that are open are not only lacking in toilet paper, paper towels, and soap, but some of the toilets are also out of service; which is not helping the cause.

"The Ranch" has literally become a ranch during lunch-

time. It is overcrowded, and students are like animals fighting to get food and scavenging for shade. People that hang out in the halls to get shade, or people that are trying to go to classes or clubs during lunchtime are herded back across the yellow line and into the quad after 1:00pm.

Lunch is too short and students don't have enough time to run their errands. El Rancho students should get united and make another petition "A Change For Lunchtime". There are too many obstacles during lunch. There are more problems in lunchtime than time. Lunch should be the time where students can hang out, eat, socialize and run their errands and personal businesses with out conflict and more time. Forty minutes is not enough time to do anything constructive.



### Advisor

Paul Zeko

### Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jonathan Ruiz  
Madaline Rodriguez

### Editors

#### News

Anabel Santillan

### Campus

Marisol Riebeling

### Opinion

Marisela Riebeling

### New Teachers

Marisela Riebeling

### Club Previews

Madeline Rodriguez

### Sports

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Stephany Castellanos

Maricruz Spencer

Irene Corez

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Kajal Kandoria

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Jessica Ramirez

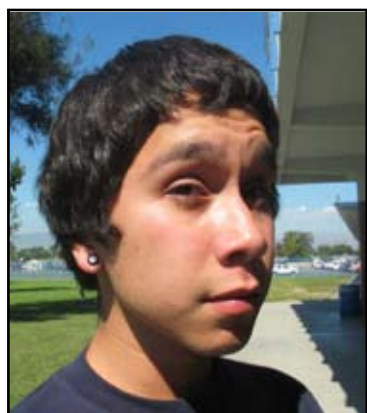
Jesse Rioz

Ryan Rojas

Alyssa Zacarias

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## Word on the Street



Christopher Neely 12<sup>th</sup>  
"Obama because he's been more focused on the media and always tries to be different. McCain spends his time trying to be recognized and more known since Obama seems to be taking up more time on television."

Who do you think is having a better campaign, Obama or McCain?



Eddie Alvarado 11<sup>th</sup>  
"McCain is doing better because Obama's campaign is suffering because of the "lipstick on the pig" comment"

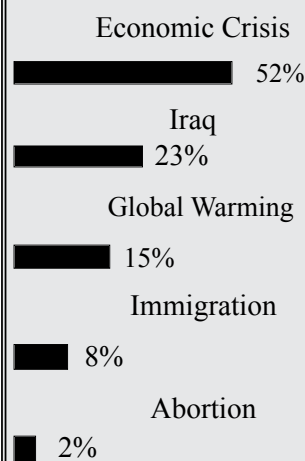


Gabby Barrios 12<sup>th</sup>  
"Obama because when he gives his speeches he addresses real issues that concerns most people in the U.S. like immigration the war and the instability of the economy."

## Student Poll

El Rodeo asked 100 seniors, "Which of these issues is the most important in this years election?"

- A. Iraq war
- B. Global Warming
- C. Abortion
- D. Economic Crisis
- E. Immigration



# Meet El Rancho's Newest Teachers

BY MARISOL RIEBELING & STEPHANIE CASTELLANOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



April Baxter is a graduate of Lowell High School in La Habra as well as a graduate from Cal State Long Beach. Prior to teaching at El Rancho she worked at Mayfair Middle School, Mayfair High School and as a curator of exhibits and education at the children's museum in La Habra. Today she is currently teaching 9th and 11th grade English, according to her she is enjoying it so far. The hardest part about teaching for her is grading all the students' papers. Ms. Baxter is not only a teacher but also a wife and mother of three children ages 21, 16, and 12. In addition she is the owner of 4 cats, 15 birds and a gold fish. She likes to take time to travel, read, and go to the movies. Mrs. Baxter said, "I enjoy getting to know my students and sharing my love of literature and language with them" is the best part of teaching

Elsa Garcia is a graduate of John Glenn High School as well as California State University of Long Beach; University of California Irvine, California State University Of Fullerton, University of Phoenix, and Ms. Garcia has received her teaching Credential and masters along with an art certificate and Bachelors for recreation. She was a Special Olympics Coach, museum curator and for 21 years a recreation supervisor for the city of Norwalk. She has previously taught kinder garden to 12th grades a substitute and said, "I was excited for the chance to become a real teacher". She is currently the 9th and 10th grade English teacher. She has been married for 16 years with 3 children and one cat. Garcia Said "he most difficult thing about teaching is grading papers, students misbehavior, and the lack of respect for education" said Garcia. She enjoys the interaction with students and the opportunity to "make a difference" everyday. She wants to let the students know to "please stay out of the way of my moving cart".



Reggie Cordero is a "Don" once again being a graduate from Santa Barbara High School and also a graduate from the University of Southern California. Cordero is a United States Marine, Boy Scout Leader, and soccer coach. As the band director he said the best part of teaching is "Everyday is different, the challenge, my love for music, and I get to share it". Having taught grades 5-12 in Montebello High School and Monrovia High School the worst part for him is zero periods. Cordero is married and has two boys; he decided to work at El Rancho because it was "the best school in the world!" said Cordero.



Carolyn Robledo graduate of Whittier College. Before coming to teach at El Rancho she taught at Rivera Middle for 30 years. She has taught from grades 4th - 8th. She has one daughter and her daughter that is following her footsteps. She graduated from Whittier High and she began her teaching career. The hardest thing for her about being a teacher is relearning all the paper work that needs to be done in the high school compared to Middle school.



Manuel Morales a graduate from San Diego State. He has had special training with first Robotics. Before coming and teaching at El Rancho he taught at Wallis Annenberg High in South LA. He had taught 9th, 12th and college. He decided to come to El Rancho because it was near home and has a fun math department. He went to high school in Norwalk. The hardest thing about being a teacher for Mr. Morales is motivating the students. He teaches Algebra 1&2 here at ERHS. The thing he loves about teaching is the role that he takes in his student's lives. What he would like his students to know is that he takes his job seriously and he enjoys his job.



Peter Halverson graduated from University of Arizona. Before coming at El Rancho he taught as a substitute in Pomona. He has taught only college students before coming to El Rancho. He is married and has one son. He grew up in Massachusetts and in France. What inspired him to teach was bad teachers that he had in College. The hardest thing about being a teacher for him is preparing and not getting enough sleep.



Eddie Haro graduate of Cal State Long Beach. And now he is bilingual. Before coming to El Rancho he taught at Rivera Middle and Cal High. He is married and has 4 kids. He came to EL Rancho because he wanted to teach in a new environment. He is also a graduate from St. Paul high. He thinks that hardest thing about his job is discipline and motivating his students. He teaches Algebra and Geometry here at ERHS. What he likes the most about teaching is that he inspires students to excel. What he wants students to know is that he's loud and crazy but he truly cares about his student's success.



Arnulfo Esquivel is a graduate of Santa Fe High School, Rio Hondo College, and East Los Angeles College. At this time he is the Administration of Justice and Forensics Teacher. He worked at Nogales High School and is a youth sports coach. He has ten years experience in Law enforcement. Esquivel is married with 5 children ages 16, 12, 10, 9, and 6. Esquivel decided to work at El Rancho because it was similar to his old high school. The best thing he likes about teaching he said is "the kids".



Karen Pidd graduate of Biola University. Has been teaching for 9 years with not including this year. She had taught in Anaheim, Bellflower, and El Monte. She has taught from ages 7 - 12. She is also married and has 2 kids. She is a graduate from Saugus High School. The hardest thing for her about being a teacher is grading the paperwork. She teaches General Science here at ERHS. What she loves the most about teaching is the fun labs and look of the faces of her students when they finally grasp a concept and also all the cool labs.

Judi Gollette is a native to southern California she attended Mater Dei High School. She did her undergraduate studies at Fullerton, Cypress, Coastline, Orange Coast, and Saddleback College. She did her Bachelors and Masters at Azusa Pacific University. Gollette has taught 1st through 12th grade in the Anaheim union High School District, Los Alamito Unified School District, St. Joseph and now El Rancho High School. Gollette teaches CAHSEE Preparation and RSP English 10. The hardest thing about teaching she said is "Getting students to trust you enough to really forget about the past difficulties". She is a mother of 3 children one of whom is a football coach at Roosevelt High School. "I enjoy being here at the ranch," she said, you can see her supporting her students on the sports field and in clubs. The best part for her about teaching is watching "students achieving success" She wants to let everyone know "I am available to all students that need help".



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**Club Overview**  
By Carolyn Lopez  
& Kajal Kandoria  
El Rodeo Staff Writers

Each year, El Rancho offers a variety of onsite clubs that meet before school, during lunch, or after school. Many, if not all, will find a club that they have interest in joining!



The Choraleers are a group of singers that performs at El Rancho, community groups, festivals, and competitions. Choraleers sing many different styles of music and will study music theory. Ms. Dodd is located in room C-2 and you can get signed up by talking to your counselor.

Women's Ensemble is a women's choir that performs at classical and jazz festivals. Join concert choir first or see Ms. Dodd in C-2.

The Concert Choir is a singing group of men and women, who read music, sing harmony and develop their solo voices. For information see Ms. Dodd or sign up with your counselor.

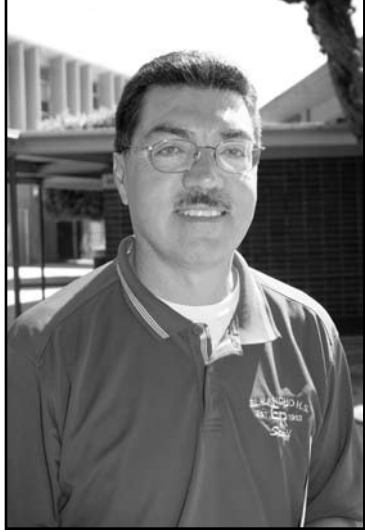


Academic Decathlon is a group for elite students who want to participate in academic competitions. Ms. Lam chooses the top nine students of each year.



Pepster Faculty cheers for school athletic events; pep rallies, and helps raise ER spirit and support. Required 2.0 GPA, no F's and no us; talk to Kenia Kemp for more information.

California Scholarship Federation (CSF) provides information on scholarships, colleges, and additional educational opportunities. Members raise funds for scholarships and field trips. Pick up an application at the Career Center from Mr. Ortiz or join a meeting in B-104



UC Partners helps provide students with the information on educational opportunities like scholarships, summer programs, and workshop. Must in sophomore year, then recruited EAOP, then encouraged to join and talk to Herb Ortiz.

The Band and Drum Line perform at varsity football games and basketball games. Throughout the year, the band and drum line compete in parades, field shows, and concerts. The Band also takes a yearly out of the state trip to compete. See Mr. Cordero, the band director, for details regarding joining.



Color Guard is a group of students that regularly compete in parades, field tournaments and indoor shows. They can also be seen at Friday night football games and pep rallies. Contact Mr. Cordero in room C-4 for information on joining.



Chess Masters play chess, conduct fundraisers, and compete in chess tournaments. Stop by C-1 and ask Mr. Saucedo about joining.

Yearbook staff is a class that meets during 4<sup>th</sup> period first and second trimester. The yearbook staff learns computer and journalism skills in the process of producing the school year book. To join turn in a written application, which will be available during spring break to Mr. Crone to join.



College Bound Athletes (CBA) is a club that promotes continuing education and your athletic career in college. They talk about topics such as nutrition, conditioning, recruitment and test-taking strategies. Anyone can attend meetings every Thursday in H-2 or talk to Mr. Llanes and Mr. Meza.



MECHA is lead by students, promotes cultural awareness and higher education for Latino students. Anyone, regardless of ethnicity, can join by going to Tuesday meetings during lunch or talking to Mr. Correa.



Animal Advocates fundraise, host educational seminars, and volunteer with animals-- primarily domestic. To join see Ms. Lamar.



Executive Commission is the ASB student government of El Rancho. In their meetings they approve all ASB fundraising requests and disbursements. They also plan events such as Homecoming Week, Winter Formal, Winter Belle, Prom, and many others. Elections are held in May, which is advised by Ms. Chapman.

Pep Commission decorates for school events. See Ms. Chapman to join.



Gadabouts is a club that plans and discusses their upcoming trips around the world. To join see Mrs. Zeko in B-105.



Key Club is a service organization whose members are dedicated to improving their communities. They participate in many programs such as beach clean ups, relay for life, walk for aids, and many other activities. Each member must pay a fee of \$11 per year to Mr. Sorenson.



Thespians is composed of high school actors/actresses who have completed 100-plus hours of extra curricular to a performing art. Complete 100plus hours of play productions and are invited to the Thespian Council. Held by Stan Wlasick.

Leos Club is dedicated to becoming involved in the community and helping those in need. Meetings are on Wednesday with Ms. Metaxas in B-104.



The Math Club, "El Rancho Advanced Math League" (ERML) is for students who have an interest in math. The math club gets discuss and solve problems not normally taught in the classroom, they also participate in competitions. See Mr. Francis in I-8 for information.



Math, Engineering, Science Association (MESA) prepares for Math and Science competitions against other schools in the area, well encouraging students to go to college by taking field trips and tutoring. Open to anyone who wants to go to college and interested in math or science. For more information on joining see Ms. Tangawa.



Social Justice Club is dedicated to advocating peace, raising awareness of human rights, and creating unity among diverse people. To join, go to a meeting or see Mr. Hartman.

In Bible Studies, students develop ways to make a difference in our community and in our students. They also take trips to retreats and to Mexico and Arizona to speak to people of God. Anyone is welcome to join, see Mr. Brandt.



Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a club that brings together their gay youth and welcomes their straight allies (as well as teachers), to fight homophobia on the campus and in the community. See Ms. Segal in L-6 to participate.

## Girls Volleyball Downs Cantwell

By TERRY MUNOZ &  
SANDRA QUINTERO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

In their most recent match the girls varsity volleyball team beat Cantwell High School.

It's not the first time they have won. A few days earlier they played at the Arcadia tournament and did very well. The score was 3-3. Three of the teams they played against were Arcadia high school, South Hill High School, and South Pasadena High School.

The varsity team has thirteen players including five returning players and eight newcomers. There are seven seniors, three juniors, and three sophomores on the varsity team.

Varsity Coach Mrs. Picon says that teamwork is one of the things that has helped them win their games. Picon said that the varsity has a very good passing and serving team. However, there are a few things that the players need to work on. "We need to have a better blocking team and a better hitting team," said Coach Picon.

The varsity captains are Tatiana Gomez, senior, Mariah Cardenas, senior, and Aleksandra Ramos, sophomore. When asked how they did at their last game Cardenas replied, "We did really well we worked as a team." All three captains agreed that this year's varsity team gets along better and communicates more as a team than last year's varsity team.

## Cross Country Team off to Fast Start

Irene Cortez  
EL RODEO STAFF MEMBER

On Saturday, August 13, cross country runners competed in their first invitational of the year. They ran at the Don Bosco Tech Invitational with nearly 60 schools and about 2,000 runners.

The boys cross country's biggest competition was Upland High School, who bumped them from first place in the overall team results.

The boys placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the CIF-SS and 7<sup>th</sup> in state in the pre-season. The El Rancho girls placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the overall results at the Don Bosco Tech Invitational.

Pedro De Alba had the best time coming in at 15 minutes and 11 seconds. He had recently won the MVP award and states, "My teammates were already telling me

that I was going to get the award, so it was not a big surprise."

Pedro declares that he is doing well individually for CIF but he believes that the boys varsity team could do better.

Along with Pedro, the top El Rancho girl runner was senior Sandra Flores, which finished the race in 19 minutes and 54 seconds ending up in 16<sup>th</sup> place.

"I was disappointed and blank when I finished the race," says Sandra. Sandra did not really care what place she ended up but was concerned with what time she ended up with.

Sandra states that the girls varsity team is getting better. Overall, the defending champion boys and girls team got off to a great start at the Don Bosco Tech Invitational.

## Football Team at 2-2; St. Francis Next at ER



By SANDRA QUINTERO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Friday's game between El Rancho and Montebello was close until Montebello stepped up the game and scored a touch down resulting in a 31-20 victory over the Dons.

The week before at Bell Gardens was a great game as El Rancho won by a point, 31-30.

In the first home game of the season, El Rancho demolished Cerritos 49-16 as the staff wearing the ER jerseys supported the team.

After the game students along with the team and staff celebrated the victory.

"Marcus Galan was the lead player with 200 yards," said head coach, Mr. Zepeda.

Zepeda believes that the team is talented and inexperienced but can work hard. The

team has great running backs and a great group of guys who can work together. He hasn't seen the entire league yet but is preparing the team to win.

Zepeda hopes the team can win a league title and enter the CIF playoffs in a strong position.

Zepeda says that he hopes to improve the discipline and school unity at El Rancho.

Previously, Zepeda had been coaching for 15 years. He coached at St. Paul High School for 10 years, Long beach, East Los Angeles College, and Claimont College.

Zepeda feels he has a strong core of leaders on the team. "Albert Arias, Erick Zuniga, Jonathan Montoya, Josh Perea, Marcus Aldecoa, Marcus Galan, and Victor Hernandez will lead the team into a victorious season," says Coach Zepeda.

## Waterpolo Team Prepares for League



The varsity Water Polo team had a tremendous match with a score of 9-6 over the Burbank Bulldogs

## Visit Soka University



## for LIONS ROAR OUR STUDENT CAMPUS DAY

Sat., Oct. 18, or Nov. 22, 2008, 9:00 am ~ 3:00 pm

RSVP: (888) 600-SOKA or [www.soka.edu/lionsroar](http://www.soka.edu/lionsroar)

Registration ~ 9:00 am, Program begins ~ 9:30 am

### Highlights include:

- Student-led campus tours around our spectacular Orange County campus ...see our spacious residence halls!
- Student Club Performances
- FREE catered lunch by Bon Appetit
- Workshop with Faculty Members, Admission and Financial Aid staff: get the information you need to know

All admitted students to the BA in Liberal Arts program whose annual earned family income is \$60,000 or less will receive FREE tuition (room and board fees still apply).



Directions: Exit 1-5 at Oso Parkway West which becomes Pacific Park. Turn left at Wood Canyon Drive and travel for one mile. You won't miss our campus on the hill on the right!



## Stuff Your Grill at Rubio's Mexican Restaurant

BY JESSICA RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For all those individuals that have the munchies, love "bomb" food and want it fast, your place to chill and eat is Rubio's. Not like all other fast food places Rubio's feeds you in such a fast way I consider it the number one fast food place. Ralph Rubio is the creator of Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill and now has expanded into over 180 locations

One of the nearest locations is here in our

very own city, Pico Rivera.

Rubio's was founded when Ralph Rubio and his buddies were hungry on a spring break vacation. In a Baja village of San Felipe they discovered a taco shop were Mr. Rubio fell in love with the fish tacos. Ever since his first visit to that taco shop, it became a tradition. The tacos must have been worth the drive. Eventually, Mr. Rubio became friends with the man behind the counter who gave him the recipe of the fish tacos. Ralph Rubio then perfected the original recipe of those tacos

into his own tasteful one.

Rubio's is located near the El Rancho High School, on Rosemead Blvd. and Washington Blvd. There is no need to go far to get a taste of Baja because Mr. Rubio brings Mexico to you. His restaurant is corporate and is influenced by Mexican culture that allows you to feel a Mexican vibe the moment you walk in.

This restaurant is the perfect place to "chill". It has a Mexican beach theme, is fun, and the air conditioner literally makes it the "chill spot". The employees

offer excellent customer service, and the place is clean including the rest room. Now lets talk about the good stuff "the food". Rubio's has a menu that continues to expand and evolve Ralph's culinary exploration of Mexico.

Rubio's menu has a variety of appetizing plates that will make you lick your fingers clean. The most popular plate at Rubio's is the "Fish Taco plate" preferred by many customers. From the moment I walked in and ordered to the very end of my visit, I enjoyed myself.

Something that I really enjoyed is the paging system incorporated at Rubio's. Now you don't have to be bothered by someone screaming a number. Better yet you do not have to worry about missing your number.

I ordered the nachos of Carne Asada that were served in a timely manner, and were large enough for two people. The first to the last were delicious, the nachos were made fresh from tortillas, with a seasoned meat complied with a twist of lime. Put over the top, fulfilling my taste buds was the last ingredient the Guacamole "m...m...m" it was the "bomb". Those nachos were worth the six dollars.

Rubio's is now one of my favorite restaurants to eat at, and sure to be yours once you try the food. I'm not a seafood eater, but I gave Rubio's famous fish tacos a chance and I loved them. If you are hungry or just love food, head out to Rubio's because it is the food for you.

## Welcome New Administrators

BY JESSE RIZO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mr. Lara came to el rancho from Rivera middle school where he's been teaching since 1998. He also taught at north park middle school. He was taught math and Spanish, but mainly ELD. Mr. Lara got his college degree in Spanish and ethnomusicology.

Mr. Lara's plan is going to help student's help themselves. "I want to make an impact as a dean, I'm going to emphasize both guidance and discipline." The best thing for him to see is that to see the teenagers to graduate from el rancho.

Being a dean was not



Mr. Lara has previously worked at two middle schools.

what he wanted to be when he was in college. He actually was not sure what he wanted to be until he graduated from college. At first was studying in the music business. Then Lara wanted to be a doctor.

Mr. Tarcio Lara feels great to be part of the el rancho administration. "I feel great helping a lot of people in general." This not like Rivera where I only helped in science and ELD.

Ms. Ventura came to el rancho from north park middle school. Where she has been teaching since 1997.

"Doctor Ventura is going to make sure all ninth graders are following procedure and are on track with their credits."



Dr. Ventura is optimistic in her first year as a dean.

Being a dean was not what she wanted to be when she was in college. Ms. Ventura actually wanted to be a pharmacist.

She grew up in Pico Rivera and went to el rancho unified school district schools from elementary all the way until high school. Which is El Rancho High School. Ms. Ventura graduated from el rancho high school. "I came to school here. I know so many people its funny to see some of my old teachers."

## Pep Rally Preview

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's that time again when students paint their faces and dress in their class colors. This year is no exception. The senior class has chosen a creeper theme as the Why so Serious Seniors, while the juniors chose a more wild approach, as they are the Jungle Juniors. The sophomores are feeling out there and are the Supernova Sophomores. finally, the freshman class has chosen a silent approach as the Mimes.

Seniors decided on the

colors red, purple, and green,

The juniors fought over black, dark green and yellow. The sophomores took the colors silver, royal blue and white, while the freshman boxed the colors red, white and black.

The Night Pep Rally will be on October 15 at six o' clock in the El Rancho gymnasium. You must have a 2.0 GPA from third trimester last year to get in. Students with unclear absences will be forced to wait until all students with cleared absences enter the gym. Make sure to bring your school ID card for entry.



Chantel Santos (left), Brianna Morales (center), and Ismael Garcia (right) play questions to prepare for their Lunch Bag performance.

## Lunch Bag Theatre Returns

BY CHANTEL MORENO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Lunch Bag is back this year with a new lineup of members. For those unfamiliar with Lunch Bag, it is an improv show put on by Advanced Drama during lunch in the little theatre. The show consists of various improv games with some contribution from the audience.

This year's lunch bag crew consisted of a few returning members, such as Carlos Figueroa and Chantel Santos, as well as a several new members who are recent additions

to the advanced drama family.

The show on Thursday September 11, 2008 went well for the crew. The theatre was packed and there were lots of laughs. A few moments were lacking comedic genius, but they were always quick to bounce back and make the audience laugh. Every member gave it their all and worked hard to entertain the crowd, as they always do, and it was an overall enjoyable experience.

I recommend anyone with a good sense of humor and a desire to be entertained by some of El Rancho's best to go see the show as well as bring a few friends.

# Juice Time

- Smoothies
- Power Smoothies
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- Squeezed Juices
- Boba Boba

Pico Rivera Towne Center  
Tel: 562) 222-2338  
8744 Washington Blvd.  
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

# The Metal Masters Still Reign Today

BY JOSEPH MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The highly anticipated union of the heavy metal titans Testament, Motorhead, Heaven and Hell (Black Sabbath-The Dio Years), and Judas Priest was a concert that will go down in the annals of metal. There were many rumors about the "Metal Masters" line-up and as soon as Livenation.com announced them, metal fans young and old alike, quickly bought tickets to this extravaganza! No line up has ever come close to this level of greatness in decades.

First on the bill was the kings of thrash metal Testament. While promoting their new album "The Formation of Damnation," Testament played a rather short set, but nothing short on old school thrash with classics such as "Over The Wall" and "The New Order". As soon as front-man/vocalists Chuck Billy said the magic words "Practice What You...?" and the crowd's response was unanimously "Preach!!" Testament never failed to send adrenaline through the veins of fellow metal heads and keep the head-bangers banging!

Walking around during intermission is a sight to see. Denim, leather, and long hair mainly consist of the wardrobe, but comically the poser population can be seen a mile away! As soon as the sound checks flared off and the sound of Lemmy Kilmister's (bassist/front man/God) innovative distorted bass filled the air, people ran back to their seats as the legendary "Rock



The heavy Metal concert held on August 31st brought both youth and old together to rock out to their heavy metal music.

and Roll" band Motorhead hit the stage. With the opening words from the icon Lemmy, "We are Motorhead, and we play rock and roll!" The audience immediately roared back with thunderous applause. After a genius set of sheer aggression and volume, they closed with an extended version of the classic tune "Overkill."

Soon to follow were the "Neon Knights" themselves Black Sabbath or now known as Heaven and Hell due to some nasty copyright legal battles provoked by original Sabbath front man Ozzy Osbourne's wife Sharon Osbourne. The scene was very dark with two giant, gargoyles on each side of the stage, followed

by "Leather Lungs" himself Ronnie James Dio greeting the massive crowd of Devore, California. They covered all the hits including my favorite "Sign of the Southern Cross." The encore was satisfying with the closer "Neon Knights."

After the previous acts, it was time for the headlining band to tear up the ecstatic crowd. The upcoming band was none other than the "Metal Gods" themselves, Judas Priest. They as well as Testament and Motorhead were promoting their new album entitled "Nostradamus." When the lights went out and the face of Nostradamus lit up as the backdrop, the entire crowd went into a frenzy! They kicked in right away by opening with the new hit "Prophecy." Right before the famous Judas Priest front man Rob Halford announced the next song, he left the stage for a short time, leaving the crowd curious. The sound of Halford starting his motorcycle shocked many, and it was getting louder and louder until the middle of the stage opened up and he rode out and announced one of their biggest hits "Hell Bent For Leather!" For some people, this was the icing on the cake!

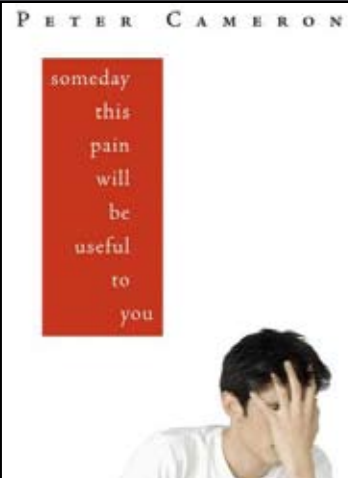
Its funny how people can be one style a certain year, then choose to "like" heavy metal another. That is the definition of false metal or what we call posers. This was definitely one of the greatest gatherings of metal giants and the only way to have enjoyed this festival was to be there!

"It was great to see the legends of heavy metal all on one stage!!"

## Some Day This Pain Will be Useful to You

BY TERRY MUNOZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*Someday This Pain will be Useful to you*, by Peter Cameron is about James Sveck, an eighteen-year-old from New York. Sveck is a very interesting character, who's been compared to Holden Caulfield, the main character in *The Catcher in the Rye*. Both characters feel like outsiders, which is something people of all ages can relate to. Sveck is very antisocial;



The story of an eighteen year old that hates people his own age and prefers to be around his old grandmother.

he dislikes people his age because he believes that they are all boring. He prefers to talk to his grandmother, his therapist, and his art gallery co-worker. He has many strange hobbies, including looking at old houses for sales.

*Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You* is overall a pretty good book. I recommend it to people of all ages, both guys and girls can enjoy the book.

## From House Dummy To How Smarty

BY IRENE CORTEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After being kicked out of the Playboy Mansion by her bunny rival, Shelley Darlington must find a place to live. *The House Bunny* rated PG-13 was released on August 22.

Directed by Fred Wolf and written by Karen McCullah Lutz and Kirsten Smith, *The House Bunny* made \$5.91 million on the first day it was released. The screenwriters are the same persons that wrote *Legally Blonde*. *The House Bunny* is also Wolf's second movie to direct.

*The House Bunny* is a film produced by Adam Sandler's production company Happy Madison Productions.

Shelley, played by Anna Faris, finds a home with seven sorority girls at their house called Zeta Alpha Zeta. Sadly those seven girls will have their house taken away if they do not get thirty pledges.

Nobody thinks that these seven girls are cool and the playboy bunny must come to their rescue. Shelley teaches them everything they must know about

a guy and how to be "sexy."

Anna Faris does an amazing job taking the role of a helpless Playboy bunny that needs a place to live. There is great chemistry among the cast, which makes the film enjoyable to watch with your friends.

Though this film received some harsh criticism, overall it is a film that will keep you laughing from the beginning to the end. This 98-minute film inspires young women to be less concern about their looks and just to be themselves.

Overall Grade: B



## Metallica Back from the Dead after Five Years with New Album



BY ALYSSA ZACARIAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Are you dying for Metallica to release a new cd? It's been since June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003 when they last released *St. Anger*. Well exciting news for all you Metallica fans; they are releasing a brand new CD called *Death Magnetic* on September 12, 2008.

Since May 12, 2008 the album has been promoted on an especially dedicated website

entitled *Mission: Metallica*. The website features daily updates of exclusive, behind-the-scenes, sneak previews with video clips and photos from the studio. On June 14, 2008 the album's official name was announced promptly followed by the CD titles name, and the cover art was revealed on July 17, 2008.

The cover depicts a coffin with a black and white design around the coffin. The logo name is an original slightly altered version used on the first five albums. The tracks name say nothing about a song called "Death Magnetic", but is mentioned in the last song called "My Apocalypse."

This album will be the first time all band members have contributed to each song. It is the bands first time to feature Robert Trujillo the current bassist and the first time produced by Rick Rubin.

Metallica has done an excellent job with the cd. You will enjoy listening to every song if you're a Metallica fan. So if you are a fan of Metallica and like all their old albums then go out of your way on September 12, 2008 to buy their new cd called *Death Magnetic*.

## A Long Way Gone

BY CHANTEL MORENO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Memories of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah is an incredibly relatable and straight-forward account of Beah's childhood growing up in war torn Sierra Leone, Africa. At the age of twelve Beah becomes a soldier in the civil war ravaging his country during the 1990's.

Beah recounts the events in a very relatable style; his use of casual language and American pop-culture references make it easy to read and to relate with as a teenager.

As the story progresses and Beah becomes even more involved with the horrors of war, the book gets harder and harder to put down. After a few years of conflict and tragedy Beah moves to America as a teenager in high school and must then come to terms with the things he has done and events he has witnessed.

This is an excellent memory of a young boy who losses his innocence and a clear look at the brutal consequences of war on the people involved, which is especially relevant today.