



El Rodeo



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Sue Hudson Educates Students about Jack London's Work

By MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday October 22, Sue Hodson, curator of Literary Manuscripts at the Huntington Library in San Marino, gave a seminar to approximately 200 students about Jack London's life as a photographer.

"He never became a professional photographer, he didn't sell his pictures, and they were never published except for when they were accompanying his writing," said Hodson.

"Once you know more about [London's life] I think you can read the book [*Call of the wild*] with a little more insight into what he is saying," said Hodson.

"[Jack London] dropped out of school because school didn't cut it for him and I think that's true for a lot of students. But if they could come away with this with the notion that even if they drop out of school or even if they don't go to college, they should never stop reading because reading has so much for us," said Hodson.

While displaying London's photography Hodson also gave el rancho students some insights into the man behind the camera.

"He was an individualist although he said people shouldn't be individualists and that people should be joined together. He was inconsistent in the way all of us are inconsistent, but he valued people who were what they were. Those people who were unapologetic and those who didn't try to pose as something else," said Hodson.

Librarian Jean Chodos was in charge of making Hodson's presentation possible. "Sue Hodson contacted me at the end of the last school year

and asked us if we wanted to be a partner in the Big Read," said Chodos. Everything was done and planned over the summer.

This was Hodson's first presentation at a school. "I've done this before in public libraries. I've given this speech of number of times and I've changed it every time, but it took me a few weeks to prepare for the presentation," said Hodson.

Chodos explained why Hodson brought this presentation to El Rancho. "The book *The Call of the Wild* was chosen by the Huntington because they have all of Jack London's papers," said Chodos.

Only the freshman, sophomore and Junior TEAM classes attended Hodson's Presentation. "It was a matter of the number of students we had, and we figured the AP students would probably be best prepared to have an academic sort of lecture," said AP English language teacher Mr. Sorenson.

"We filled The Little Theater for first period and that is about 120 students," said English TEAM teacher Maricela Lamar.

The teachers as well as the presenter hoped the students took something from the presentation.

"I hope [the students] can look at Jack London's work and see not just the dog story that they read *The call of the wild* and see who was this person and why did he write this story," added Lamar.

"I hope that [the students] would understand that Jack London was not just a writer but also a photojournalist and an adventurer," said Sorenson.

"I hope it gives [the students] a little extra dimension, a different view of Jack London, and how he approached his writing and everything else he did in his life," said Hodson.



During the presentation the students had a chance to ask Hodson questions. "They had some questions prepared but I know from listening to the questions they asked that many were thing that came to their mind as they were listening at Sue Hodson speech," said Lamar.

"Sue Hodson was a really good speaker and I think

she did a really good job of answering the questions of the students," said Chodos.

After the presentation, Chodos had a chance to speak to Hodson. "She complimented the students of El Rancho and said they were a fabulous audience, very attentive," said Chodos.

Hodson is currently working on book that will provide

a concise version of London's extensive collection of pictures. The release date for the book will be approximately 2011 according to Hodson. Chodos will contact Hodson to get a copy of the book for the library.

"There is basically no view [of Jack London] as a photographer and that's what we hope our book is going to do," said Hodson.

New Gym Still Under Construction

MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



The new gym will finally be finished by December 24, 2008 but will it be worth the 5.2 to 6.2 million dollars.

It only took ten construction companies, various blueprint plans, 5.8 to 6.2 million dollars, and fifty six years, but on December 24, 2008 it will not matter because on that day El Rancho High School will finally have a second gymnasium.

"The new gymnasium will be a wrestling room. It will include wrestling mats that will lift when needed to perform and lower when it is no longer needed," said principal Sam Genis. "The gym will not only be for wrestling but extracurricular activities as well as athletics. It will be there if the choraleers or band need it," he added.

There will only be room for 500 people in the second gym because there will be

no balcony, but after fifty six years of waiting students are just happy to have this gym.

Unfortunately plans for the renovation of the "original" gym are no longer in motion, since the gym restrooms were fixed only three years ago. However plans for repairing the schools other restrooms will take place this summer.

The new gym isn't the only thing that will be new around campus.

"We are planning on fixing up the tennis courts starting November after Girls Tennis season and before Boys Tennis season begins. It will include a new fencing area and it will be repainted," said Genis.

With the school's new look nearly complete El Rancho will have a state of the art gym and new tennis courts, it only took half a century and a lot of planning.

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A 'Why So Serious Night' Not to be Forgotten by the Class of '09

BY JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The 26th annual pep-rally was a real serious one. The why So Serious Seniors took the competition. With a grand total of one-hundred and sixteen points out of one-hundred and twenty points the seniors came in 1st place.

Senior Esperanza Ochoa said, "In the cheer competition the seniors dominated the gym, by being the loudest class of them all. Their skit with the joker and his assistance blew the crowd away. The other skits were



equally good but mostly a lot of people enjoyed the freshman skit.

Senior class president



Senior Dara Berlimino participates in the skit to be the Cal-High villain who dies.

Gennese Carrillo said, "I think the freshman had the most creative skit, they surprised me because they did well overall. They reminded me of our class when we were freshman because we were as competitive as they were."

Freshman class president Taylor Torres said, "I am very proud of my class, we did pretty good, because I know that as first freshman we are expected to come in last place and we came in in third place." Sophomore class president Steve Ramirez said, "I do not think our class deserves fourth place, because our class worked

longed hours and our attendance was the same as the juniors."

"I really liked the seniors skit because I really liked the theme they had. I think the joker theme is very creative, and I thought the juniors were equally there with the seniors," said Torres. "I think our skit was great too. We had a tough time putting it together, but at the end it all came together really good," said Torres.

"The freshman did great, they had a lot of help from their advisors, and I was really surprised that they came in third," said



Freshman mine girls look at a victory that nobody was expecting out of them.

Ramirez. "I think decoration wise the seniors were better, but skit wise the juniors were better overall they were both good. It was better than last years," said Ramirez.

Seniors Brenda Anzora said, "I think the seniors definitely deserved to win because



Senior, Jake Wood shows himself as a great joker that nobody was expecting to see him this good.

we've been the best at night pep rally since freshman year."

"I like the juniors skit be-

cause of the songs they played and the way they danced, but I did not like the wardrobe they picked. The freshman did pretty good, better than the sophomores and they are going to be like our class because freshman year we also got third place."

"I think the freshman got third place because they had a lot of props their music was contagious and their skit was cool," said Ochoa. "Compare to the seniors, juniors, and freshman skit the sophomore skit was not up the level of the other three classes," said Ochoa.

Judge Ms. Katsumura said, "I thought the seniors were good because Jake Wood how was he Joker was really creepy looking. Their skit had a whole plot line where they killed Cal High."

"We judge on sportsmanship and that's where the classes lose a lot of points because they should be respectful of other classes," said Katsumura.

"Class colors, decorations, cheers and skits are the other criteria that we judge on. When we came in and started judging the seniors were respectful of the other classes and their face paint really made them stand out from the other classes," said Katsumura.

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Red Ribbon Week is a national event honoring Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) special agent who was killed in 1985 by drug traffickers. Soon after, "Camarena Clubs" were launched in high schools by hundreds of students who pledge to lead drug free lives. In 1988, Congress proclaimed the first Red Ribbon Campaign.

THE WINNER OF THE RED RIBBON WEEK CONTEST WILL BE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

Do not forget to attend today's Halloween lunch Pep-Rally



The Truth Behind the Stalls at School

BY CHANTEL MORENO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The restrooms at this school are repulsive. Anyone who has had the misfortune of using one can tell you that. They are dirty and horribly under stocked. There's no soap, no toilet paper, no seat covers, no paper towels, and in some cases, the stall doors do not close or have no locks. They are nauseating and extremely unsanitary, and have been that way for the four years that I have been a student at El Rancho. How have these conditions become acceptable?

Obviously students have contributed largely to the current conditions of the restrooms, but what's really troubling is why the school has not done anything to change it. There are statewide standards for how any public school restrooms must be maintained, according to California law, and our school

seems to be breaking them.

The law also states that all restrooms be open at all times especially when students are not in class. Instead of having all restrooms accessible during lunch, while the entire school is out, we only have two to accommodate nearly 3,000 students out during lunch. I know there have been instances of inappropriate activities inside the restrooms, which is the supposed reason for why the restrooms are closed, but it's irrational to punish over 3,000 students for a few instances of misbehavior.

Documents verifying the laws and codes of public schools in California can be easily accessed by anyone with the Internet. It's as simple as searching it on Google, so I highly doubt that the administration is unaware of these standards, apparently they choose to ignore them.

According to the document there are consequences for violation of any of the following:

(1) Every restroom shall,

at all times, be maintained and cleaned regularly, fully operational and stocked at all times with toilet paper, soap, and paper towels or functional hand dryers.

(2) The school shall keep all restrooms open during school hours when pupils are not in classes, and shall keep a sufficient number of restrooms open during school hours when pupils are in classes

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a school may **temporarily** close any restroom as necessary for pupil safety or as necessary to repair the facility.

Penalty for the violation of the laws is "ineligibility to the district for state deferred maintenance fund matching"; in other words, the state will stop giving us money to keep up the bathrooms, which will make the situation worse. This school doesn't need another budget cut.

However the document states that, "Prior to determining that the school district is ineligible,

the board shall provide the school district with a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation." Therefore this problem can be solved without negative consequence on our already insufficient funding.

Apparently over this past week some changes have occurred, and administration has claimed that all restrooms will remain open. What caused this sudden change is unclear, but hopefully the change is permanent and the conditions of the restrooms will improve.

An essential solution to the maintenance problem, besides the school's cooperation, is that the students at this campus stop behaving like children and just clean up after themselves. It's as simple as that. Don't trash the only restrooms available to us, because our indifference is only exacerbating the situation. If we want the school to do its job and keep the restrooms open, clean, and well stocked, we need to meet them half way.

From "Go Dons" to "No Dons"

EL RODEO STAFF MEMBER
JOSEPH MARTINEZ

For decades, El Rancho High School has had slogans such as "Blue Pride!" or "Go Dons!" but over the last couple of years, it seems like they have shifted from "Go Dons!" to "No Dons!" For many alumni that have graduated in the past, high school was the best years of their lives. Unfortunately, for students currently enrolled, "Blue Pride" is the last thing on their minds. With many new rules and restrictions added to the collection of "No's," El Rancho is now literally "The Ranch," and the students are the cattle surrounded by these so called "safety gates."

One of these restrictions is the controversial no off-campus lunch ruling, which leaves the seniors with no more rights as a student in middle school. Lunchtime will continue to be another period of lockdown. Being a senior myself, I am disappointed, having awaited my entire high school life to be a senior and enjoy the privilege of eating lunch at various off campus vendors.

I think there should be certain requirements to leave for lunch. For example, a senior should maintain a minimum G.P.A of 2.0. I also believe there should be a minimized list of requirements. There can be ways of making this happen, but sadly, the chances are very dim.

Amongst the set of new rules is the lack of fund-raising, which makes it difficult to raise money for some groups. Others however, such as no team jerseys or hats, are somewhat understanding with being "gang-related" attire. Not all teams are associated with gang attire so it doesn't seem like a rational idea to ban all of them.

There are also new restrictions such as no balloons or flowers on campus to celebrate a birthday. Really? How much of a distraction can an inanimate object cause in a classroom? Other examples of the "no" list include no efficient lunch lines, no toilet seat covers, no certain logos on shirts, no skateboards, no time to eat during lunch, and no field trips.

With the entire list of "No's," Some of the most important ones are going into the restroom and finding NO paper towels, NO soap, and NO sanitation!

So why is the overall morale of blue pride in question? Seems to me like all you have to do is connect the "No's."



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Senator Barack Obama is running against Senator John McCain in the 2008 presidential election

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

JONRYAN

With the 2008 presidential elections approaching, many

people are still conflicted with themselves as to whom they are going to vote for, will it be

Obama brings hope to the ballot

Obama or will it be McCain?

Both presidential nominees' Obama and McCain have come up with several plans to help out this country, one shows change, the other shows the same pattern as the last eight years.

For the last eight years our economy has been digging its own grave due to President Bush's actions. He said we'd get tax-cuts and we found ourselves paying more every year in tax-dollars for a war that never had a purpose. A war that cost nearly six hundred billion dollars already, a country that does not even want us there to begin with and finally a country that robbed the lives of forty-two hundred Americans.

McCain agrees 90% of the time with Bush, including his economy plans, which got us where we are today to begin with. He talks about how his plans will get us out of our country's economy situation but it will only push us further into deficit.

McCain focuses on the middle class and helping them continue the same lifestyle they have now, but what about the lower class who can barely survive where they are at now? Would he

really rather have some people live in luxury while others begin to die slowly from starvation and sanitary problems? Whether he is aware of this or not, it will happen to our lower class if he is elected.

Being one of the most important presidential elections of our lifetime, there is no room for mistakes. We need change and if the economy is to restore itself to its former glory, what America has been known for than we need to act fast.

Obama will bring change, not only will he alleviate the economic pressure on the U.S but also it's citizens. Obama has already done a tremendous job fund raising money for his campaign, imagine what he can do for the country when he is elected president.

He will also introduce several new tax cuts for all Americans, even those in businesses. Another great plan Obama has come up with to help Americans is one that will further our education. This plan rewards those who have been involved with community service by paying two thirds of their tuitions.

One very important

skill for presidency is patience and Obama has shown a great deal of it. Patience has to be kept when under a great deal of stress so that the president's thoughts aren't influence by fear. Obama has kept his cool on numerous occasions throughout this presidential race. When McCain referred to Obama as "That one" Obama said nothing. Every time McCain interrupted Obama, he just smiled and waited patiently to speak again. Not only does this show how patient he is but also how dignified he is.

Obama will also bring America back to its former glory by helping corporate greed diminish, bring unity to all diverse peoples in America, and end an unnecessary war responsibly.

We all have our roles to play if we want change. Some of us can vote and others can encourage others to do so. We can't expect others to change the world by themselves because "Our fate is what we make" (Kyle Reese, The Terminator), so lets decide our fate and make the right decision by voting Obama for President.

Protect the Sanctity of Marriage- Vote Yes on 8

By DAKOTA RYANS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

I'm not saying homosexuality is wrong. Gay couples should have equal rights when it comes to housing, jobs, and protection under the law. But homosexual couples should not hold the title of marriage. The definition of marriage is the social institution under which a man and woman establish their decision to live as husband and wife through legal commitments and/or religious ceremonies.

Our society is very accepting of homosexual relationships-we see them in the media all the time. But there is a difference between a union and marriage.

Now, many people say that aside from religious reasons, there is no real reason for homosexuals not to get married.

However, religious input into the matter makes a lot

of sense considering that the number of people in the United States who believe in God is much greater than those who don't. In 2004 only 12% of adults nationwide were purported to be atheist and agnostics according to The Barna Research Group, a religious organization that provides information on the nation's beliefs and religions.

But, why do religious people oppose same-sex marriage? Let's see.

God made man. Then, God made woman from man. Then, God said that "a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:4-25). According to God, man and women are made to be with each other.

Putting religion aside, can't people understand that if one is with somebody from the same sex their body parts don't match? Come on! Anatomically, our bodies were

made to have a counterpart.

People may argue that this point has nothing to do with marriage. But marriage is like a puzzle, you cant really complete it together perfectly if you don't have the right parts; literally.

Besides although you find many homosexual people, the population of the U.S. is still predominantly heterosexual. Children need to grow up in an environment that will best help them grow and into well-balanced adults. In a healthy marriage, the father usually plays the stricter role, teaching the child discipline and obedience, whereas the mother plays the more flexible role, which teaches the child about compassion, love and other things. Obviously, A second female can't provide the male role, nor can a second male provide the female role.

Not allowing same-sex marriage is not discrimination. Come on, where do we draw the

line? If we allow gay marriage, what is next? Later on are "rights" going to be given to people who want multiple spouses? Are we going to allow people to marry goats if it so called makes them "happy"? There are obviously certain things that shouldn't be allowed.

Now those people who are opposed to gay marriage are told that they have to accept the fact that gays should marry. Since when in America have people been forced to accept thing they believed to be untrue? We can tolerate, but not accept.

For example, gay marriage is already beginning to be taught in schools. On Oct. 13, Fox news reported that "First-graders in San Francisco took a field trip to City Hall to celebrate the marriage of their lesbian teacher..." If it's taught in school, same-sex marriage will be made to seem normal and seem as something that

should be accepted everywhere.

The "No on Prop 8" campaign claims that children and teens will not be taught or exposed to same-sex marriage teaching in schools. Now, is that really true?

According to John Maxfield from the Orange County Register, the California Education Code Section 51933 states "If a school decides to teach a comprehensive sex education class to k-12 graders (and which school district doesn't?), 'Instruction and materials shall teach respect for marriage and committed relationships.'" This means that if Prop 8 is not passed, same-sex marriage WILL be taught in our schools.

Why does "No on 8" have to lie about this if they believe same-sex marriage is such a fundamental right? I wouldn't want to vote no on 8 if the people who support it can't even keep their facts straight.

So if you feel how I feel, vote "Yes on 8!" and protect what marriage really is.

You have the Choice to Choose Vote no on Prop 4

By CAROLYN LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Some people just don't give up. Proposition 4 is very similar to two previous propositions that did not pass, Propositions 73 and 85. Proposition 4 proposes that a doctor must notify the parent of a minor who has requested an abortion, and wait 48 hours before the performing the procedure.

Supporters argue that this will lower the rate of teenage abortions, protect girls from any

harm the abortion may cause, and prevent predators from taking advantage of minors. Parents also believe that their daughters will be more open with them if the proposition is passed.

However, abortion rates are falling according to the Guttmacher Institute's survey. Rarely does a story come out about an abortion complication leading to serious illness, or death. No matter what, sadly, there will be predators, and you cannot force a teenager to become open with a parent. So then what

would Proposition 4 guarantee?

What Proposition 4 will guarantee is more illegal abortions. A girl, who feels she cannot go to her parents, will try to terminate the pregnancy herself. She can do this by drinking bleach and repeatedly punching her abdomen. There are many other ways to self terminate a pregnancy, and none of them are safe, and can harm or kill her. Now both lives are taken.

It can also put a girl at risk for abuse from her parents. Now, Proposition 4 does mention if a girl's parents are abusive, she

can report the abortion to another relative. However, she must file an abusive complaint and authorities will take over. Though this does sound safe and legitimate, how many teenage girls will file an abusive complaint and send their parents to court or prison?

People should stop trying to pass Proposition 4, and teach sex education in schools, since most minors do consider abortion when pregnant, calling it their "birth control," and Proposition 4 is based on minors who want abortions. If more schools

taught sex education, then most likely fewer teenagers would become pregnant, thus avoiding abortions and Proposition 4.

So, if Proposition 4 will basically be doing nothing, why are people trying so hard to pass it? Maybe because of religious values, which wouldn't be fair because not everyone has the same religious beliefs. Perhaps people believe it is murder, well not everyone believes that either. Proposition 4 sounds like a great plan on the outside, but looking at the fine print, it is a totally different story.

Vote Yes on Senator John McCain to

Help the Ailing Economy

BY ANGEL SOTELO
JUNIOR

The United States is once again in an economic crisis. The failure of Wall Street and the economic disaster could have not come at a worse time. The crisis came just in time for the 2008 presidential election.

There are two very honorable candidates running to be President of the United States. Both John McCain and Barack Obama have differing plans to revitalize our nation, but John McCain is the one who will do the job more effectively. Why John McCain?

John McCain proposes plans that will help our ailing economy without raising taxes. Senator Obama has misled people when he says that he will not raise taxes on the middle class.

Senator Obama said he would "roll back" Presidents Bush's tax cuts. According to the senator he will not increase taxes for 95 percent of Americans and raise taxes on the wealthy five percent. President Bush's tax cut will come up for expiration and senator Obama said he will let them expire.

What does that mean for the average tax payer? It means that by allowing the tax cut to

expire there would be a tax increase on every American tax payer, then Senator Obama will again compound the problem by taxing the wealthy few.

Senator John McCain would not allow for this tax cut to expire which means there would not be a tax increase. He is for government "belt tightening."

Food and gas prices have been soaring on Main Street. Middle class Americans have been cutting back on expenses because everything is too expensive and prices continue to rise these days. Thousands of Americans are losing their jobs and their homes because of the economic crisis.

Under Senator McCain a House Plan would allow Americans to trade a burdensome mortgage for a manageable loan that reflects their home's market value.

Senator McCain proposes to invest in America, so that we become oil independent. By becoming independent of foreign oil, the outrages prices at the pump would drop. Senator McCain will roll back corn based ethanol mandates, which are contributing to the high food prices. Nearly 700 billion dollars are spent every year on foreign oil. The United States is capable of producing its own natural resources.

Regardless of how bleak the

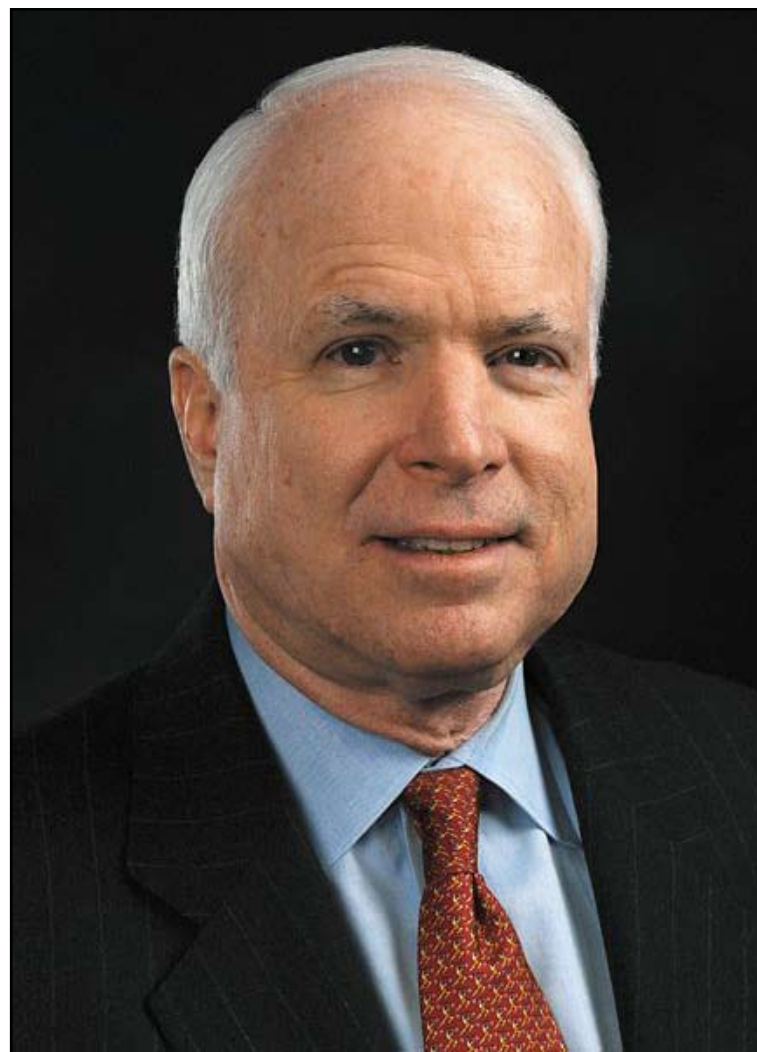
forecast of our economy seems, Senator McCain believes that the American market is fundamentally sound. He understands that our country and capitalism work and that the American people will do whatever is necessary to bring our country through these tough times.

Now let's talk about Governor of Alaska Sarah Palin, who has made history as the first woman nominated to be the vice presidential candidate for the Republican Party.

Sarah Palin has a record of taking on the special interest, the lobbyist, and the big oil companies and has reformed the corruption of the state of Alaska. Governor Sarah Palin has invested in a pipeline that will carry natural gas from Alaska to the lower 48.

When oil and food prices went up and the state's revenues rose, she refunded back those revenues to the people of Alaska. During her time in office her top priorities have been energy development, ethics reform, education and workforce development, public health and safety and transportation and infrastructure development.

With a fundamentally strong economy, new jobs will be available for Americans who have lost their jobs. Senator McCain and Governor Sarah Palin have



Senator John McCain is still in the race for becoming the next President of the United States even if he is behind senator Obama.

the record to truly change the way our government works. As the election draws closer it is important that we know the reasons why we support each candidate.

Regardless of the outcome, November 4th will be a historic

day in our nation's history. The Nation will either elect the first African American President or the first female Vice President. This is a sign that America has broken racial and gender barriers in the world of politics.

Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Marriage- Vote No on Prop 8

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On November 4th voters will decide the fate of Proposition 8-the "limit on marriage constitutional amendment. The proposal would allow the California constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

Recent ads claim that prop 8 will affect education. If it fails to pass, schools will be required to teach about gay marriage. This is simply not true. Superintendent Jack O'Connell said in a public announcement, "Our public schools are not required to teach about marriage and, in fact, curriculum involving health issues is chosen by local school

governing boards. There is nothing in California state law that would require the teaching of marriage in any of its forms."

And if schools were to teach about gay marriage what are the supporters of Prop 8 saying about youth? Are we suddenly incapable of making our own choices? Are we so easily deceived that the government has to make sure we aren't thought about gay marriage to prevent us all from turning gay?

This decision will not only hurt adult gays but young ones as well. What option are they being given? Are they going to have to keep hiding their true sexual preferences simply because certain people cannot handle the idea that they might

rather be with men and vice versa.

These teenagers are not going to be young forever. They are going to grow up and many are going to be tired of the oppression from the heterosexuals who refuse to let go of their ideas about the way people should live their lives. The fight is not going to end. On the contrary it is only going to be like adding gasoline to a fire.

The government has no right to say anything about who marries whom. Have prop 8 supporters suddenly forgotten that religion has to be separated from the law? This whole argument of whether or not to allow gay couples to marry is not a legal issue; it is a conspiracy between religious groups that are being cleverly

renamed marriage saviors.

In the first amendment freedom of religion clearly states that people can be a part of any religion they please. They can even publicly say their beliefs and have millions know about it, due to freedom of the press, but nowhere does it state they can control other people's decisions. Rich, poor, gay, straight we too are sheltered by the same laws and we too can say, write, and express our selves in whatever form we please, as long as it does not endanger the life of others, in the process.

In the past men and women had arranged marriages, for social reasons or even economic interest. That is even worse than getting married to someone of the

same sex. Times have changed most people use marriage as a means to let their partner know they love them and want to spend the rest of their lives together.

Furthermore, didn't the very foundation of this nation, the Declaration of Independence, say that all men are created equal and have the right to the pursuit of happiness? If the happiness of gays somehow involves getting married to his or her partner then no one has the right to say or do anything to keep them from accomplishing it.

If supporters for Prop 8 are so concerned with keeping marriage sacred then they should worry about divorce because that is what is destroying marriages not homosexuality.

Let the Parents Become Involve -Vote Yes on Prop 4

BY MARISOL RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Proposition 4 would amend the state constitution to require a physician to notify a minor's parent or guardian 48 hours before performing an abortion.

You should vote yes on Proposition 4 because it requires notifying a parent or guardian for the SAFETY of a minor.

This proposition, if passed, would let any parent know if his or her daughter has had or will be getting an abortion.

Those opposed to proposition 4 have spent a lot of money promoting the idea that a young girl might have to deal with abusive parents.

This is really just a fear tactic. That would be an unfortunate situation, but it's just as likely that an abusive boyfriend could force the girl into having a poten-

tially deadly abortion procedure.

Also the proposition allows for this situation. A female minor could get a court order allowing another family member to grant her permission to have the abortion.

This proposition simply tries to protect a minor who doesn't have adult rights until the age of 18.

Abortion is a serious surgical procedure-and someone in the family should be informed.

If something goes wrong in the abortion, the safety of the

minor would be in jeopardy and she would be forced in the end to tell a parent or family member.

On the other hand, if the minor tells the adult before hand and something goes wrong, then the problem could be corrected more quickly.

Many young females are opposed to Proposition 4 because they think it violates their privacy. The truth is-they don't have full rights until they are 18 years old.

Minors need parental con-

sent to take aspirin for God's sake! Why should a serious operation be easier to obtain than simple over the counter medications?

Parents should be able to have some say in a minor's life. If the minor decides not to have an abortion the parents will still be involved.

The proposition will be beneficial in the long run because the minor will be able to get support no matter what she decides.

Jeff's Football Season Ends Early

BY MATT CROCITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There is always that one incident or moment in every person's life that ultimately changes them forever. For Jefferson Collindres, three-year varsity football player and one of this year's team captains, that defining moment hit him without warning.

Last Tuesday, Collindres was going through his daily routine at school when he suddenly felt very ill. He brushed it off as just another cold but little did he know that this "cold" would be his life changing moment. "I first found out during third period on a Tuesday, my whole stomach was hurting. I was in horrible pain," says Collindres. Throughout the day he became progressively worse and by the next day he was feeling deathly ill.

When he arrived at the doctor's office to find out what was wrong with him, the doctors concluded that his appendix had burst. Collindres was then quickly rushed to the hospital to get his much needed surgery. "I was really scared and nervous before the surgery but at the same time happy that the pain would go away, said Collindres." He also explained that he was disappointed that he would have to miss all of homecoming week and that he would not be able to play in the homecoming game.

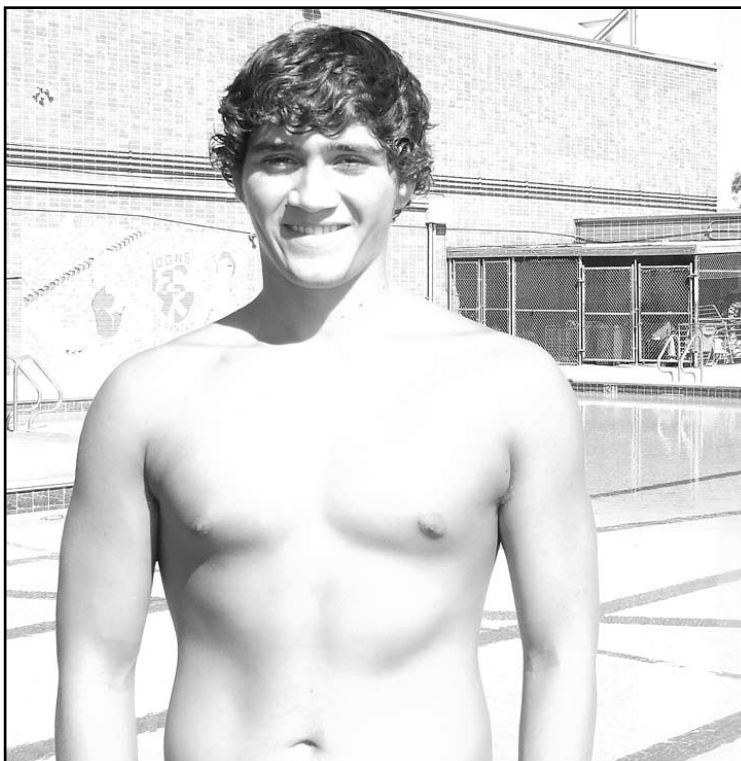
Just as Jefferson Collindres was now recovering and

feeling better, the doctor approached him with unsettling news; he will have to sit out the rest of his high school football career. "It greatly affected me because I knew that my season was over. Football is a passion of mine and it hurts for it to be taken away from me for a problem unrelated to football," said Collindres.

Nevertheless, everything was not as bad as it could have been. "The burst appendix could have been a lot more serious and now I have learned a great lesson: you should not take anything for granted. I thought that I would play the rest of the season and I didn't even get to play in one league game," explains Collindres.

He also talks about how this incident has given him motivation for the future. In addition to football, Collindres has also played three-years on varsity basketball. Collindres says, "When I have fully recovered I am going to give one-hundred percent every day because you never know when something can be taken away from you."

The Dons football team started out the season on track with two wins out of the first three games but then slowly fell behind with losses to Montebello High School, St. Francis High School, California High School, and Santa Fe High School. Now with a record of 2-5, the Dons look to pull off a Halloween night victory as they take on the La Serna Lancers at home today.



Adrian Prepares For Key Games

EL RODEO STAFF MEMBER
JOSEPH MARTINEZ

After being on the water polo team since his freshman year, senior Adrian Ramirez has learned a lot from when he started. After countless games

season after season, Ramirez has always been a strong competitor with the will to win.

"Even when I was growing up, I've always loved sports. I've always been active and I'm a very competitive person." Said Ramirez. "I played soccer for eight years and I have a

lot of fun playing basketball."

The El Rancho water polo team has had a tough schedule this season and a few key games coming up, so they will continue to keep a strict practice schedule. Sometimes even having two practices per day.

"This season I think we are doing pretty well, we have a good overall record so far and our team is playing with a lot of enthusiasm. Though we still need to improve on finishing those tough, close, games." Said Ramirez. "The game I thought was most competitive was when we played La Serna." "Although we lost, we learned that next time we have to come out and play stronger, and more heads-up." Said Ramirez

"After the games against Santa Fe, Downey and Pioneer, I felt the most accomplished and proud that we worked as a team. Especially against Pioneer because we whooped them!" said Ramirez.

When he's not playing water polo, Ramirez spends his pastime having fun with friends and enjoying life. "I love going to the beach, or hanging out with all the polo guys. I also like hanging out with my girlfriend, Mehgan." said Ramirez



Senior Jefferson Collindres had his appendix removed, which unfortunately left him out for the rest of the football season.

Varsity Football Results

Home	St. Francis	El Rancho
	45	7
Home	Cal High	El Rancho
	45	13
Away	Santa Fe	El Rancho
	31	21

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SOKA 60



Senior class advisor, Mrs. Melgar, and Senior class president, Genesse Carillo, danced on the blue carpet at the Fashion Show and were ready to beat the other classes at the Night Pep Rally.



Cadet Sergeant Major Marisol Riebeling is ready to sell chicharrones for MCJROTC with the help from cadet Corporal Jaqueline Martinez and cadet Private First Class Joseph Pineda.



Irene Cortez, Daniela Angelo, and Madeline Rodriguez were ready to sell Subway for their upcoming trip to Eastern Europe in winter break to pay off the tipping for the tour guides that will be assisting them at the trip.



El Rancho students were determined to pop each other's balloons in order for their class to win the Homecoming games.



Senior, Ariel Cortez, struggled to get into the lead to win the Homecoming games. The Why So Serious Seniors were determined to win the games, but at the end the Jungle Juniors came out on top.



Senior Tatiana Gomez watched as every class advisor and class president showed off their blue pride at the Fashion Show during Homecoming week.



CSF sold Root Beer floats at the Homecoming Carnival to El Rancho students to fundraise money for future events and for their own club that will benefit other students that join this club.



The Sophomore class president, Steve Ramirez, showed off his blue pride by shaking his booty at the audience.

True Blood, Deliciously Sexy & Scary

By JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

True Blood is the new HBO paranormal, mystery, and crime show that introduces us to vampires and their world. The new paranormal show is all about how vampires finally decide to come out of their coffins to live among the human race. We have a human who was born with telepathy, which allows her to read others' minds.

In the season premiere we meet Sookie Stackhouse (Anna Paquin), a waitress at Merlottes Restaurant which is where the viewers and Sookie meet the first vampire of the show, Bill Compton (Stephen Moyer). He is a 173-year-old vampire that was forced to become a vampire because he did not want to die or cheat on his wife.

Then there's Sam Merlotte (Sam Trammell) the owner of Merlottes restaurant, and Tara Thornton (Rutina Wesley) Sookie's best friend since childhood. We cannot forget about Jason Stackhouse (Ryan Kwanten), Sookie's brother. He is a construction worker by day, and by night he realizes his true calling, methodically working his way through every beautiful woman in town. For his addiction to sex Jason keeps getting in trouble with the law.

Eric Northman (Alexander Skarsgard), who is the oldest

vampire of them all, and the owner of the vampire bar Fangtasia, were people go to offer themselves to vampires. Then we have Detective Andy Bellefleur (Chris Bauer), which wants to put Jason away in jail because he finds it weird that he was the last person to see both women before they were found. Finally we have Lafayette Reynold (Nelson Ellis), a homosexual that thinks that nobody understands his fashion sense and satisfies people with their sexual needs and sells V (vampire blood).

In the first few episodes we see that Sookie is attracted to Bill but can't explain why. She seems to be happy with this feeling she has for him. The death of Maudette Pickens (Danielle Sapia) one of the waitresses at Merlottes, which was one of the reasons Jason was arrested. Later we begin to see an improvement in Sookie's sense because she drank blood from Bill, after being brutally attacked which left her deathbed.

Jason Stackhouse begins to deal with V, and he starts to get in more trouble. After being arrested for the second time Tara who has had a crush on him since they were kids gets him out of jail because she knows that they can not hold him there because they are not charging him with anything. She's an African American and was not allowed to study, she spends most of her time reading books about law and medicine.

Bill and Sookie begin to spend time together and Sam begins to get jealous of this relationship and tries to get Sookie away from Bill by telling her that he is a danger to her because he's a vampire that can turn on her on any time. Bill begins to show Sookie that a lot of the vampire's myths that society has about them are fake like them being able to go invisible, levitate, and shape shift themselves. He does show her that vampires can hypnotize people to make them do what ever they want, and he tries it on Sookie but for some weird reason it does not work on her.

Adele Hale Stackhouse (Lois Smith) Sookie's grandmother and second mother, invites Bill to speak to her church group to try to prove that not all vampires are evil as society pictures them. A lot of the people in town go because they want to see if a vampire can really be in a church and stand in front of a cross, but the big surprise for the viewers was that one of the myths was actually real, which is that vampires cry blood. After the gathering was over Sookie decided to go on a date with Sam, and returns home to find her grandmother lying on the floor dead, and the big question is who killed her grandmother? The sad part for Sookie was that her grandmother died because of her. She was the one that was supposed to die.

Nick and Nora Infinite Playlist The New 'ChickFlick' in Theatres



By ALYSSA ZACARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Are you tired of watching the same old movies at home? If you are and need something new to watch *Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist*. The movie was released in theaters October 3, 2008.

Nick and Nora are two high school teenagers that cross paths at a club in New York. Nora bumps into Nick ex-girlfriend Tris where Nora makes a little lie and ends up kissing Nick. That's where the movie catches more attention.

From there on, they spend their whole night together with a little help from Nick's friends

who hates his ex Tris and wishes for him to get over her. As the night begins they go looking for a band called Where's Fluffy. Their goal is to find out where the band is playing at by the time they play.

Nick gets a call from his friends saying that they lost Nora's friend. So they stop looking for the band and start looking for her friend name Caroline. While they were looking for her, Tris bumps into Nora and in the end wants Nick back.

As they are looking for Where's Fluffy and Caroline, Nick and Nora get closer. Nick learns that Nora heard of him before by his mix cd he made for Tris. In addition she is the daughter of a recording industry big shot. As the night ends, they were where the band was playing and they end up not watching them play.

Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist is a sweet romance about how it is to be young right now. The characters are what the youth today, for example sober, drunk, cautious, reckless, gay and straight. The movie is kept within PG-13 boundaries with language and any sexual activity. So if your looking for a new movie to watch at home then go to the nearest theaters and check out "Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist"

Overall Grade: B



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