



El Rodeo



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Ken Waldman, Poet or Musician? It Depends



MADELINE RODRIGUEZ

The Fiddler: Ken Waldman began playing the fiddle, the violin, and the mandolin at age twenty-five. Now with many years of experience he claims to have been the worst musician when he first began.

BY MADALINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Fiddling poet, storyteller, composer and former college professor, Ken Waldman, gave the final presentation on the novel *Call of the Wild* in the Little Theater last Friday.

Waldman, a Pennsylvania native, is a resident of Alaska. Most of his poetry is about Alaska and his life there.

Waldman's presentation included playing the fiddle, reading poetry and telling stories about his life in Alaska. "I've written poems about Alaska it has inspired me a lot over the years," said Waldman.

Waldman didn't begin playing the fiddle until he was twenty-five years old. The fiddle is actually a violin that just changes it's sound depending on how high or low it's played. "I don't play much any more so when I have performances that is my practice and I

am enjoying it," said Waldman.

The presentation had similarities to the previous presentations on *Call of The Wild* but it did not revolve around it. Instead it allowed students to see a bit more into life in Alaska.

"I don't think that it changed their view, but it enhanced it because the kids already liked the novel. I think they liked hearing his poetry and creating a poem. Most of all he kept making connections between Buck's journey and his journey and that he has been through a lot of experiences in Alaska that Buck went through," said sophomore English Team teacher Mrs. Zeko.

Unlike previous presentations, Waldman's was not as scholarly. "This one seemed more intimate and was easier for him to interact with the audience. I think he was much more willing to open up the presentation to participation. He planned it around

people participating," said Junior AP English Language teacher Mr. Sorenson. "He didn't want to give a presentation were he spoke at people but wanted to talk with people and was willing to answer questions," added Sorenson.

"I try to make things fresh and be spontaneous because I never know what is going to happen. I have things that I know will work because I have all these poems I have written," said Waldman.

Librarian Mrs. Chodos organized Waldman's presentation. "About a month ago Mrs. Chodos at the library here at El Rancho High contacted me and said-I see you are going to be in Pasadena do you have any free time and can you come to El Rancho High, and I said yes" said Waldman.

No longer a college professor, Waldman makes a living out of presentations of his poetry and music. He also has published books on his poetry and CD's of

him playing the fiddle. "I have being to I have been to over 160 schools in thirty states. The biggest challenge is making a sustainable income," said Waldman.

The teachers as well as the presenter hoped the students took something from the presentation. "I hope the presentation helped [the students] see Alaska as a real place by someone who has been there and lived there. [But also] get a better picture of what Alaska is about rather than reading it from a book," said Sorenson.

"I hoped that everybody here would have gotten something they wouldn't normally through poetry. [For example] Oh I didn't know you could write poems like that about Cheech and Chong [or] about a plain crash," said Waldman

During the presentation Waldman did a couple of poetry and music workshops with the students. Some of his techniques involved getting the students to identify various sounds from the fiddle to real life objects.

"I think that is where he showed that music and poetry can kind of overlap. I actually tried that on my drums at home and tried to make different sounds like the ocean or somebody knocking on the door rather than just hitting it to make the rhythm but actually making noises that sounded like things. He inspired me," said Sorenson

Although the Big Read will continue its tradition of book sharing with young people, El Rancho has not yet decided if it will be a part of it next year. "I asked Mrs. Chodos if we were going to do it next year and she said that if the Huntington Library is involved we will do it again," said Zeko.

This presentation concludes the *Call of the Wild* at El Rancho. "I really thank all the teachers, school administration, and the Big Read for their tremendous support. I think the students did a terrific job," said Chodos.

Waldman left the audience with one last thought. The universal answer for everything is "It Depends".

Bottled Drink Sale to Resume on Monday

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday the sale of bottled drinks was temporarily suspended due to three separate incidents in which bottles were thrown into crowds. Fortunately, the students responsible turned themselves in yesterday.

During the incident that occurred on November 17th, 2008 a female freshman was hit with a bottled drink on the forehead requiring her a trip to the hospital for stitches.

"This type of behavior is unprecedented at ERHS and is not a reflection of the great students that attend this school," said the Guidance Office in the memo sent out Tuesday to the deans.

After the three incidents school administrators decided to jointly write up the notice. Leadership teams (includes all department chairpersons) unanimously decided Tuesday morning to ban all sales of bottled drinks until those individuals come forward or identified witnesses step forward.

This is a shocking, but not surprising turn of events as prior to this incident on October 30th, the sale of the drinks were suspended for a day while the problems were resolved. Students were not happy about the sale consumption of just juice and milk.

However, students can not say they were not warned. On October 23rd of this year, students began throwing the plastic bottled drinks into the crowds, which caused Principal Sam Genis to speak to the entire student body over the intercom about the situation. Students were warned that if this type of behavior continued consequences would soon be followed.

"If the person or persons do the right thing, students will know immediately about the resale of bottled drinks," said Chuck Collings Assistant Principal of Guidance.

The question on the administrator's minds is, "Why would students choose to act so irresponsible?" "Why is this nasty trend happening?" El Rancho isn't the only school that faces this dilemma; other middle schools in various school districts have reported bottles being thrown.

These events however have not overshadowed the new lunch system that has recently been added at El Rancho.

"We plan to add a new buffet next month to give the student body more variety," said Collings.

The variety now includes bottled drinks. Yesterday Collings announced that the sale of the bottled drinks will resume on Monday.

Wild Dogs Come to Campus

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER
CAROLYN LOPEZ

Director of Adventure Quest Institute, Robert Stradley, and his eight dogs came to El Rancho on November 6, to tell to 400 students what dog sledding is about. Students who read Jack London's novel, *The Call of the Wild*, now got to see and feel what they read.

Students gathered in the cafeteria, where Stradley introduced himself and explained the rules and basics of dog sledding. "The #1 rule of dog sledding is never to

let go of the sled," said Stradley.

Each student was then placed in a group that would visit three stations. In one of the stations, the students got to meet and pet the dogs that Stradley owns and races. Stradley's sons, Trent and Talon explained to the students the names of dogs and their daily diet.

"The most important thing about dog sledding is to build strong relationships with your dogs," said Stradley, "my dogs and I really enjoy spending time together." Junior, Irma Euan said,

"The dogs were so friendly and pretty, I would love to have one myself. However, I expected them to be a lot bigger."

Senior, Edgar Torres said, "It's great that we actually got to see and feel the things we read about. The dogs are a lot more calm than I thought they would be."

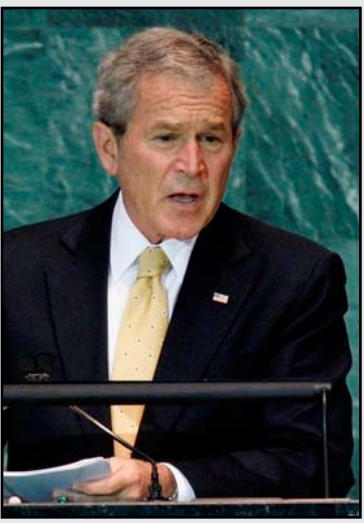
Students watched a short film in the second station about the dogs diet and the many types of dogs, ranging from Alaskan Malamute to Siberian

[See Stradely, Page 7]



RYAN ROJAS

Sled Dogs: Students interact with a few of the eight dogs Stradley brought for his presentation.



George W. Bush's Greatest Achievements

BY: RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When I was first assigned this article I thought it was going to be extremely difficult to find some accomplishments that George W. Bush had throughout his presidency, but then I realized I was being too irrational and negative, and got to thinking there has to be something he accomplished.

As I was researching for some possible accomplishments that President Bush might have achieved I found myself overwhelmed with more accomplishments that I could have anticipated.

Inspiration was a great accomplishment that very few presidents really ever achieve. Not only did he inspire many with his words but with the words of others.

One quote (that everyone believed to be his) that he used to inspire millions of Americans to get into an unjust war against Iraq was "An evil exists that threatens every man, woman, and child of this great nation. We must take steps to ensure our domestic security and protect our homeland."

It was not President George W. Bush that came up with this beautiful quote, nor was it his speechwriters but it was none other than the infamous Adolf Hitler.

Another accomplishment that president Bush achieved was one that was extremely touching. On the dreadful morning of 9/11, Bush was visiting an elementary school in N.Y when one of his bodyguards came in and whispered something he'd never forget.

"A plane has just struck the World Trade Center." After saying this, his bodyguard left the room and with a blank stare on his face Bush decided to do what? Keep the children calm and give no order to the bodyguard to pass on to the pentagon. What a great accomplishment, how many people can successfully keep children calm during a terrorist attack?

Another accomplishment was bringing unity to everyone that hates each other together and hate us, the United States. What an accomplishment.

There is one accomplishment that George W. Bush has not yet achieved, and I too much like President Bush hope that those OB/GYN's (gynecologists) "finally get to practice their love with all the women across this country."

Student Planned Protest Fails

BY: RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Thursday November 13, 2008, some students planned a Protest for "better lunch rights." Although it was planned about two weeks before the actual protest and had its own circulation of chain letter text messages telling students to wear black and not to purchase any food on the day of the protest, it still failed.

This protest was a failure before it even took place. A government class and their teacher spearheaded this planned protest. This protest was just another act of rebellion from kids that don't want to take responsibility for themselves and think they know what they want when they actually have no clue.

Also these kids that were protesting had no clue that the administration was already helping out with our lunch situation. Sorry kids but if you're going to protest at least know what's going on and no talk out of you know what.

Although I agree that we do need better lunch rights and a

better lunch environment we can't blame the administration for everything. After all they did finally open up all the restrooms when we complained, but the cleanliness is not their fault. Dons really, how hard is it to flush your toilet paper down the toilet and throw the paper towels in the trashcan? Not very hard, is it?

There was even one case where a student took a crap on the floor. Really you want to blame the administration because some kid can't make it in the toilet? Seriously grow up and take responsibility for yourselves.

As for the complaint for the food, yeah what we get served isn't too great, and the lines are usually really long but the school has already began fixing these problems by renovating two areas so they can use those as a food distribution areas as well as adding tents to alleviate the lines from overcrowding.

Also you can't really blame the school for how long the lines are if you are doing nothing constructive to help. We are not savages; there's no need to act like

one by pushing and fighting over who gets in first. We are civilized human beings, let's act like it.

Students really need to get the whole picture before they start putting together protests.

Too often do kids act out and make all kids look bad because when they're confronted they usually have a stupid motive or no idea why they're acting out to begin with. Sometimes it's even caught on television. Does anyone remember the walk out for illegal immigration? Thousands of kids walked out around the state, some even breaking other kids out from other schools for no reason.

More than half had no clue why they walked out they just wanted to leave school? Reporters knew this and that's why they interviewed a bunch of kids asking why they walked out just for stupid answers they knew they'd receive and they did. They received answers like "because my mom is" or "because it's not fair" and had no actual reason or anything to back it up with. Too often do a few kids do something stupid making

all kids look bad and I'm tired of it.

The worst part of the protest was that it never even took place. Everyone was telling everyone to wear black, not to eat and not to tell teacher. How is it supposed to impact the school if no one knows about it! Protest are called protest for a reason it's not supposed to be discreet.

Plus hardly anyone even participated. Yeah a lot of students wore black but the lines were just as long as any other day and half the kids in the lines were wearing black. Way to stick out your protest kids.

I know the government teacher who started this protest was offering extra credit if you wore black but you shouldn't sacrifice your dignity for ten extra credit points that's ridiculous. We are supposed to be maturing and transitioning into adults but we are only heading backwards. So lets try and learn from our mistakes and practice making our number 2 it in the toilet for starters and then maybe we can begin putting together a protest that will actually take place.

Real Life Drama Illustrates New Points for Passing Proposition Five

BY: RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

There's a woman who lives in Pico-Rivera who has been struggling her whole life to just to live comfortably without having to worry about rent, feeding her kids, feeding herself and having a safe place to live.

She started using drugs in the 8th grade and not just marijuana and liquor but more dangerous drugs which eventually was the reason she dropped out of school at the 8th grade.

She worked for a little while but later quite. At 18 she had her first child which was a beautiful baby girl. She wasn't working at the time and had no source of income besides welfare and was struggling with money. The father was abusive verbally and always seemed to put her down. Later she left him and took on a roll of a single mother.

Continuing down the road her drug problems only worsened, but still she had another child this time a boy and with another father. They moved to into some apartments that were just a little better than living in a park. The father was always abusive both verbally and physically but when they moved in to the apartments it only got more aggressive to the point where he'd hit her with objects instead of his fists alone.

Staying with him she later had two more kids; one was a girl and the other a boy. She was still heavily relying on drugs to get her through the day but it was never good enough.

Although she was caught numerous times by the cops high,

she never got her kids taken away and she always thanked god because of that. Her kids were her only reason for trying to better herself; they kept her going and always gave her hope but when she was coming down she turned into an abusive mother and often found herself beating her kids and was no different then her boyfriend.

Finally she got rid of the abusive father and moved in with her parents. It was a small three bedroom house with seven people living in it. She was now going to nursing school and trying to progress her life forward but the little house was too cramped.

After she finished nursing school she started working at Jack in the Box full time and began saving up money.

Little after that she found a small house for rent and they moved in. It was also three bedrooms and was just barely enough to house everyone because of how poorly held together the house was.

Still struggling with money, she found a friend named Eva to live with her and her family to help out with the rent. She too was using drugs and worked at Jack in the Box. She also has a daughter. But on the bright side everyone in the house no longer had to worry about food because they'd would bring home Jack in the Box for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

One day Eva extremely high and took off with the family cat and threw it out the window for no apparent reason. Because of that none of the kids liked her or her daughter very much. She still continued to live with them and later brought her boyfriend Art (another druggo) too. Finally the

women stood up and kicked out Art because he wasn't doing anything to help out. Eva being in love with also left and again the family only had one source of income.

After that the family brought another girl named Alice to live with them. Her occupation you guessed it cashier at Jack in the Box. So now the family had two sources of income and was beginning to live comfortably. The woman stopped using drugs and took classes to help her with her withdraws.

The women quite her job at Jack in the Box and soon began turning to God for answers. God gave her answers and gave her a job at St. Hilary church as a receptionist. It didn't pay much but it was better than jack in the box.

Several years later Alice ran away to Florida to be with a girl she met only on the computer leaving the family horribly financially. So the women began looking for other jobs and later found one. She became a drug counselor. She now wanted to help out those that were in need with their drug problems so they wouldn't have to go through what she did or worse.

She met her boyfriend Pete there and was doing a little less than ok still. Living from paycheck to paycheck she decided to go to college. She did getting her bachelors at the University of Phoenix and now working on her major.

This woman's name is Judy Rojas, my mother. My whole life I have been watching my mother try and atone for her mistakes as a child that still affects her now. Our money problems have only worsened because of the recent death of my grandma, but she works

very hard to be a good mother, a good employee and a good college student and I love her as well as I look up to her because of that, but now all of that is at risk because of the decline of proposition 5.

All of California's prisons are over-populated and has no room for the criminals that are brought in daily. Proposition 5 would have helped alleviate those prisons by making some drug crimes infractions instead of offences that can put people in jails as well as publicly fund rehabs (one of which both my step-dad and my mother work at) so they can remain open and help out those who are involved with drugs.

Opponents to proposition 5 said that it just puts criminals on the streets but who would you rather have on your streets, someone who smokes marijuana or someone who has killed, raped or beaten someone but got away because there is no room in the prisons.

We took one step forward in electing President Obama as our first black President but we only took two steps back with the decline of proposition 5 and the acceptance of proposition 8.

We need to continue to move forward and push for proposition 5 again next year because too many hardworking people like my mother are getting denied their right to better their lives and the lives of others because of bad propaganda and ill informed people.

Lets not continue to put people like her, as well as ourselves in these situations and give everyone a chance to better themselves and make up for their mistakes from their past by pushing and prepping to pass prop 5 next year or even sooner.

America the Brave, California the Coward

By ASHLEY AGUIRRE, FORMER EL RODEO EIC/ EL RANCHO ALUMNA

I was all geared up to write about my excitement for an Obama presidency, and trust me, I am very much excited. America has broken new ground, the message is clear throughout the states and around the world: The Age of Bush and Fear is over. After sobbing my way through Barack Obama's speech, I knew that I'd wake up today and feel a change. That somehow the pavement on which I would trudge upon would no longer be the same one I stepped on yesterday—that the world had made a turn for the better. Change was already beginning to make its way through America. Barriers that long divided our nation were broken. And me, I know I'm ready to face the days ahead with great hope

and realism—with an understanding that not all the promises made during the campaign trail will be granted at the rub of a magic lamp, but hopeful that we can finally get to work on so many of the issues pressing our country.

But as our country took a giant leap of progress, I had to give myself a moment to mourn California's cowardice. I flipped to the local news channel as my friends and family anxiously awaited the results of Proposition 8, which *Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry*. With 18% of the precincts reporting, the gap in favor of it was pretty steep. I gasped loud enough to scare my mom who was in the kitchen. Despite the numbers, I went to sleep hopeful that I'd wake up to see it defeated. My rest was cut short, however, as I woke up at 4 A.M. and looked

up at the TV that I forgot to turn off, to see that it had succeeded.

In the days leading up to the election, I was harassed with questions like, "what do you care if it passes, are you some kind of fag?"

No, and I don't believe that word should be thrown around so casually. I'm not gay, but have a handful of friends and cousins who are. When I was a lot younger, I saw someone I love beat up for being gay. I'll never forget the blood on his face or the tears in his eyes. It was the first time I witnessed the cruelty and hatred toward gays. I understood that the fight for gay rights was going to be a long struggle. That I was going to have to fight against hateful people like the ones that attacked my friend.

All Proposition 8 has done is given triumph to homophobia, making it okay to dehumanize a

group of people who only asked to be treated equally. I never believed that the issue was truly ever about marriage but more about homophobia. And for a country that proved last night that fear was no longer an option, California ran away scared.

It's disappointing, actually its beyond disappointing, it's devastating, that one group of people has been so discriminated against...and now *legally* discriminated. I've always felt so blessed to live in California, which I believed to be a true state of tolerance. But California, I am deeply crushed by what you have done. You have shown the rest of the country that you're scared—that someone as brave and bold and forward thinking as you has given into homophobia.

Yes, I believe in God and yes I support Gay marriage. No

matter what you practice, at the core of just about every religion you'll find the same golden rule: *to do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. It is the cornerstone of all human decency. It's the fundamental principle that my mom often repeated to me as a child. "How would you feel if someone did that to you?" Those reminders etched upon me a deep moral responsibility. A responsibility to treat everyone with respect and the dignity that they deserve regardless of race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation, the respect and dignity that I would have them give me to me. As heartbroken as I am over the passage of Proposition 8, I am hopeful that this defeat will only propel the movement forward and spread a message to the nation that we are no longer willing to tolerate intolerance in America.



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New Day, New Hope

MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



It's a brand new day. Today is a fresh start, a chance to start over, a chance to right a wrong, a chance to make a difference. For some of us, we have already conquered what we thought we couldn't. In the case of Barack Obama, he showed the world that it did not matter what the color of your skin is, but how passionate you feel about what you want.

It was twenty-one months ago when Obama decided to begin his long journey to the White House. He was not the favorite to win, not by a long shot, but something about him told me he wasn't going to give up so easily. He had something to say and he was going to say it, no matter how long he had to wait and fight for an opportunity.

When it was his turn he stood and spoke in a calm, but strong voice that told you he was in it for the long hall. You could not help but stare at him and just listen. I would hear what he said and just imagine the perfect world he could help create.

I'm not quite sure if I thought he was going to win, but I knew I wanted him to claim the presidency. He was the good guy in this world we call politics. When he spoke people listened.

So on November 4, 2008 the nation had only one question to answer, "Who do you think is qualified to run this country we call home?"

With people in line for hours and casting their ballots early, it was an election for the ages. I would see my peers talk about politics and discuss Obama's views against McCain's and I would just absorb it all. This affected us in ways I never even thought possible. We could make a difference.

The day came and anywhere there was a television I

would turn it on to see how the good guy was doing. The first states were tallied and Obama had won those states, but it was still anyone's game. By seven o'clock he had a comfortable lead and it looked as if I didn't have to stay up all night for the results.

You know the feeling you get when you realize that you will remember this moment for a long time, well I got it when Obama won the Presidential Election. I was in my driveway returning from Wal-Mart, where I had just bought a poster board for my government class. I walked into the kitchen to the voice of my mom announcing to my sisters that Obama had won. A simple smile was all it took to show that I was happy. Nothing else was needed.

The next day was a brand new day. There was a bounce in my step. I no longer dragged my feet across the ground. I looked up to see the sky, and not the ground on which lay gum. When I walked I walked as if I had won. I saw others walking and smiling too. They made me think of what they thought.

Everyday is a brand new day. It's a day of new beginnings and fresh starts. Barack Obama's day is just getting started. On January 20, 2009 he will address the nation and take office. He will have a chance to make change.

Celine Dion makes a Wish Come True

BY MATT CROCIOTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ever since she was nine years old, senior Debrah Zacarias was intrigued by the pop rock sensation Celine Dion. It was always her dream to one day see her on stage. Now as a senior at The Ranch, this dream came true; but all was not well.

Unfortunately, Debrah, who unexpectedly became ill at the age of nine, has been recently diagnosed with an unknown neurological disorder. She slowly started to lose her memory and her ability to walk and speak. Zacarias now needs the assistance to walk and often uses a wheelchair.

Since the disorder is unknown, Debrah has to endure multiple painful tests in order for the doctors to get an idea of what is affecting her brain. The setback to these tests is that she has to stop taking all of her medication until the tests are done. This, consequently, causes her to have seizures and when it is time to start the medication again it is like she is beginning all over.

According to Mona Vasquez, Zacarias's caretaker since freshman year, "Debrah has seen over twenty—one doctors. She is fortunate that her last seizure was in the summer but the doctors are still not close to a diagnosis."

Vasquez also talks about Zacarias's family and how they still try to keep her involved and active. "Her sisters are perfectly fine and they play softball on teams. Even the mom and dad play softball so Debrah likes to go to the games and watch," says Vasquez. Debrah Zacarias also has an interest



Debrah Zacarias eagerly waits to go to a Celine Dion concert on December 5th.

in chess and learning new things. "She is a very good chess player but unfortunately she is losing her skills due to short term memory loss. Also she taught herself sign language and then taught me."

Although the tribulations that Debrah Zacarias faces are great, Mona Vasquez reassures that she is very strong willed. "She likes to be independent but she knows that she needs help. We have the saying 'Si Se Puede' whenever things get hard for her," Vasquez said, "She has a very

helpful family and great parents. We are very optimistic and we will get through the hard times. It is a blessing to work with her."

Sandy Zacarias, Debrah's mother, put Debrah's name in for The Make a Wish Foundation to see if they would select her to make a trip to Arizona for a Celine Dion concert. When Sandy received the news that Debrah had been accepted, Sandy went home and reported it to the whole family at once. "I was really happy," said Zacarias

On December 5 the Make a Wish Foundation will fly the whole family to Glendale, Arizona and put them in a hotel next to the stadium where Celine Dion is performing. On Saturday, the day of the concert, they will pick the family up in a limousine and take them to the concert. Debrah Zacarias will be acknowledged on the Jumbo Tron of the stadium and then Celine Dion will dedicate Zacarias's favorite song to her before singing it.

"I am looking forward to meeting her in person and listening to her sing. My favorite song is My Heart Will Go On because the song is from my favorite movie Titanic," says Zacarias. She also explains that she is looking forward to riding in the Limo and taking a picture with Celine Dion.

Afterwards, they will be taken back to the hotel and then flown out the next morning. All expenses are paid and according to Debrah's mother, "It will truly be a night to remember. I am not even that into Celine Dion but I am getting really excited as the date nears."

Many people might take life for granted and not realize how delicate and fragile it really is. According to Murphy's Law, "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong." For this reason something can happen in a blink of an eye and a life can be changed forever. Nevertheless, with the love of Debrah's family and the help of The Make a Wish Foundation, her lifelong dream can finally become a reality and a touch of true happiness in a seemingly bleak world.

Pico Rivera Celebrates its 50th year Annerversasy

BY MARISOL REIBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the 1800's, the cities of Pico and Rivera lay between the Los Angeles Basin and the beautiful San Gabriel Valley. Running in between Pico and Rivera was the Atchison, and Santa Fe railroad that provided a perfect way for traveling families and workers to have a glimpse of the wonderful cities. Back then the two cities were known for agriculture especially, avocados, and walnuts.

After World War II, the populations of Pico and Rivera grew rapidly and families started to settle the area. New churches, schools, stores, and houses united the two cities. A couple of years later the two cities merged into one and on January 29, 1958, Pico Rivera became the 61st city of Los Angeles County.

This year we proudly celebrate Pico Rivera's 50th anniversary. The city has grown with each passing day in to a greater community. Local artifacts and sites are important as they teach the next generation about our city's past accomplishments and history.

Today Pico Rivera is filled with beautiful parks, great schools and now a wide variety of restaurants and stores. Each passing year, the city seems to grow more and more into a family community with the construction of movie theatres and popular restaurants.

Throughout Pico Rivera, we can find history from our past. For example the streets Bequette and Burk were named after the cities first owners; Joseph Hartley Burke and Louis L. Bequette. El Rancho came from the name El Ranchito, the country home of the last Mexican governor of California, Don Pio de Jesus Pico. The city is also home to many other historical sites like the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which was built in 1950.

It is amazing how so much history could be found in our hometown. Many people live their entire life in Pico Rivera and never learn the history behind our city. The youth of today though, have a chance to learn about the city they live in with access to the Internet and also through the Pico Rivera museum and Pio Pico Ranch.

Pico Rivera is a great community to raise a family or retire. Pico Rivera is only improving as time passes. We are lucky to not only have a local sheriff and fire station to protect us, but citizens who care about our city and who are proud to live in Pico Rivera.

Break a leg Chantal Santos

BY CHANTAL MORENO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Chantal Santos will be playing the lead role in drama's upcoming production of *The Catered Affair* by Paddy Chayefsky.

Santos joined beginning drama her junior year, and after only completing part A, was moved into Advanced Drama. During her first year in advanced drama Santos worked sound in last years production of *Dark At the Top of the Stairs*, but now in only her second year of Advanced Drama, and after being initiated as a Thespian, Santos has received the leading role in this years upcoming play, *The Catered Affair*.

Santos is a frequent performer in *Lunch Bag*, drama's lunchtime improv show, and is often a crowd favorite. This will be the first play she has performed in, and she has earned the very important role of Aggie in *The Catered Affair*.

During the process of auditioning, which typically takes a few weeks, Santos read for a few different roles, but she knew from the very beginning that she wanted to play Aggie. "I wanted the role because, it's senior year and I wanted to do something big,"



Chantal Santos gets the lead role on the play *The Cattered affair*

Santos also adds, "Also, I love the character. She's really determined to get what she wants and can be very emotional, which I sometimes am. I really identified with her."

When Santos finally found out that she had earned the role she wanted, Santos was ecstatic, "I was happy, for like two seconds, but then I realized how much I had to memorize," Santos joked.

Being the lead in the play comes with a lot of responsibility and pressure. "It takes a lot of patience and you really have to be willing to invest a lot of your time—a lot of your time.

It's stressful, but it will be worth it in the end because I can look back on it and say, 'I did that'"

Despite a small number of tribulations, Santos still enjoys the rehearsal process, "I love when we have an intense scene, and everyone is really on the ball, because of all the emotion—it's real. Like our families at home." One of the best parts about being a part of the production is getting to work with her fellow cast mates, "We're all really committed to what we do. We're like a family. Even though times can be rough, we all still enjoy working

and just being with each other."

Another essential contributing factor to Santos' growth as an actor has been the help of director, and drama teacher, Mr. Wlasick. "He pushes us really hard, but it's great that he does because he pushes to do things that we never knew we could. He's like a father figure." As a director, Mr. Wlasick is always ten steps ahead, "He's very analytical and puts thought into every detail of the play, which is what makes the plays so good," said Santos.

When asked why Santos was chosen from all the other girls who auditioned Mr. Wlasick said, "She displayed the most maturity for the part, playing an older woman. In auditions she had the right emotional subtext, which was what I was looking for; subsequently I felt she would be the easiest to direct in the role."

The play will be performed during the first week of December, and as the date approaches Santos is somewhat apprehensive, "I'm really nervous, but I'm also really excited. Hopefully, everything goes well. We've all been working hard, so I'm sure it will." Make sure to see Chantal Santos and the rest of Drama's exceptional cast this December in *The Catered Affair*.

The Birth of the Marine Corps

BY TERRY MUNOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

November 10th – it's the day El Rancho MCJROTC cadets look forward to all year. That's the day they celebrate the birth of the Marine Corps, at the annual Marine Corps Ball. Marines and cadets all over the world not only celebrate the birth, they also commemorate the Marines who have lost their lives.

The MCJROTC cadets at El Rancho worked very hard to raise the money for the Marine Corps Ball. They fundraised for almost two months and raised over \$4,000 dollars. They were able to do this because of all the dedicated cadets who helped out at car washes, collecting donations, etc.

On November 10, 2008 the cadets held their Marine

Corps Ball at Swiss Park Banquet in Whittier. The evening consisted of a ceremony, which was the sword detail and colorguard, along with a speech from Cadet 1st Lieutenant Stephen Joseph; Cadet 1st Lieutenant Marisela Riebling; and the guest of honor, Sergeant Flores, the dinner, and then finally, the dance.

Everyone was impressed when they walked into the banquet hall. "I was expecting it to be poorly decorated, because kids were in charge of organizing it, but it turned out really great," said Cadet Sergeant Katrina Soriano; a sophomore who went to the Marine Corps Ball for the first time. Cadet Staff Sergeant Juan Rodriguez, a junior who went the last two years, said, "



unknown

left to right, Irene Cortez, Terry Munos, Yessika Reyes, and Jacky Martines danced the night away.

This Marine Corps Ball was the best because the cadets worked

really hard." Sophomore Angelique Leos agrees, "It looked re-

ally professional. They did a really good job. I had so much fun!"

Coaching Special Olympics



Ms. Garcia Special olympic coach and especial ed teacher at ERHS.

BY KAJAL KANDORIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Mrs. Garcia-Chau, an English teacher, has done something that many people may not know of. She has coached the Special Olympics off and on for over twenty years, and still to this day.

The Special Olympics is an organization devoted to help people with disabilities. Not only to develop self-confidence and social skills, but also an inner sense of personal accomplishment. "The spirit of the organization is to have people with disabilities participate in sports," said Ms. Garcia.

Garcia majored in Therapeutic Recreation- providing a welcoming environment to people with special disabilities- this allowed working with people with special needs to come easy to her. "Special Olympics is a great organization," says Mrs. Garcia, "it really transformed the way I look at life."

"Special Olympics made me more appreciative of those around me," said Garcia, "it made me appreciate soo many more things."

The first time Garcia started as a coach was an assignment for work. "Once I picked up the equipment and met the athletes and their

families, I was hooked", she says.

Garcia coached track and field, cross-country, softball, skiing for the winter games, and she helped with a buddy soccer team. "Sometimes we were funded and it was easy," said Garcia, "other times we begged for equipment and volunteers."

"The job isn't easy, you are constantly adapting to the skills that many of us take for granted," said Garcia. Many people think that coaching in the Special Olympics is something that anyone can do, but in reality it is easier said than done. Garcia is proof that, with practice, people can teach the Special Olympics,

Working with the Special Olympics organization was life changing for Garcia. "I was able to accomplish what seemed impossible," she said, "I began creating new programs for people with special needs."

"Volunteering changes you," said Garcia "being able to give your time and skills is rewarding." There were times for Garcia where it was "challenging" but to her, it was all "worth it."

Garcia believes that all people should be treated equally. "People with disabilities deserve the same opportunities as everyone without special needs," said Mrs. Garcia.

Now, Garcia expanded the program and created many other groups. "I am still involved and volunteer for special programs," said Garcia, "I started creating programs geared for people with disabilities."

She has traveled to China as well as many other states in the U.S. and she has met many amazing families in the program. Coaching the Special Olympics is a great accomplishment for Garcia "achieving the impossible, or just a smile, made it all worth while."

Administration Answers Students Growling Stomachs



BY JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As a result of surveys and administration going around to see what other high schools have to offer the administration and Bille Saavedra Director of Food Services decided to offer new food choices on campus. They put out two stands out in the quad. One of them offers cold sandwiches and the other sells a whole pizza, four Gatorades, and four bottles of water.

The cafeteria is now set up as "buffet style" so students can go in and serve themselves whatever they want. "Several high schools have this options, and we are trying to get students more involved with serving their own, and we are trying to offer food that the students like and not force them to eat food that they do not like," said Saavedra.

The school started listening to the student body and now they finally have better options for students. "I think that the students benefit from this decision because we are finally giving them food that they like," said Saavedra.

Because the school has only had this system for

three days some students are still struggling to get food but "Once the students get used to the buffet style the lines are going to start to move faster and that is our goal for right now," said Saavedra.

Ms. Saavedra made it clear that the cafeteria is not responsible for the line "With food services we do not control the lines, that would be a security issue, and unfortunately we can't do anything about it. They are going to put a new stand that is also set it up as a "buffet style", but we are planning to set up all the food in a straight line so the line can move faster," said Saavedra.

The opportunity for the student body to have new food on campus is because of Mr. Genis, Mr. Collings, and the Director of Food Services who took the initiative to have new food choices. Later in the year the administration is planning to expand the buffet line as said before and they are going to try to bring new food into the school. "Regardless if the students or the lunch ladies serve the food we have to make sure we have the supplies to feed

Erika Ortiz, The Job of a Million Dreams

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many kids probably dream of spending every weekend at Disneyland. For senior Erika Ortiz that dream became a reality last year when she was hired at the happiest place on earth. Not many can say they are co-workers with Goofy, Mickey, Minnie, and Donald Duck.

Some people say they wish they could work at Disneyland but never really go and apply because they think it might take really long before they get called back.

"It took about four days for them to call me back. It was pretty fast I applied on Saturday and was called on Wednesday and it was exactly a year ago because November third is when I started to work," said Ortiz.

Ortiz applied at Disneyland because her sister Ashley wanted to get a job there. "I remember when my mom was driving us she said-you better get hired because I am not driving this far for you not to get it," said Ortiz.

Just like any job there are requirements. "In order to work there you don't only have to be 17, but they also run a background check on you to make sure you weren't in prison. [They also ask you to] bring your so-



cial security number and California ID," said Ortiz. "You have to be a citizen or a resident and you also have to be really cheerful and out going," said Ortiz.

There are various tests and interviews for the applicants. "I had two interviews that day, one on the computer and another one with a person," said Ortiz.

During the one-on-one interview the applicants are asked questions about different scenarios they might find themselves in and how they would deal with them. "When I applied they asked me, what would you do if a guest

were crying? I said that I would try to cheer them up by reminding them they were in the happiest place on earth," said Ortiz.

Once hired the fun begins with the employees training sessions. "When you first get hired you have to take an eight hour class to learn the history of Disney. You also have to watch a bunch of Disney movies like Pocahontas, The Little Mermaid. The class is called traditions. [There you learn] a lot of the secrets about the park and Disney history," said Ortiz.

After the training the employees get their badges and ID's

to the park. "What I liked the most was that we were sitting in this auditorium. And they were going to give us our name tags and ID's and they said-oh guys we are sorry we don't have them. I was so disappointed I was really looking forward to it. And then they started opening the curtains little by little and when they opened them it was Mickey Mouse with a basket with our name tags and I was like that is so cute," said Ortiz.

Only one thing is left getting scheduled in and suiting up for the show. "On scheduling they tell us where we are going to be working; they also tell us which hours we are going to be working. The time is told in military style," said Ortiz.

Leave it to Disney to turn uniforms in to elaborated costumes for their workers "We don't pay for uniforms they give them to us. We have this thing called costume shopping [there] I can go tell them where we are going to work [for example if I said] I am going to be working at Bingo BBQ in front of Indiana Jones and ask what's the outfit for it they'll just give it to me," said Ortiz.

When it gets to getting paid the pay isn't too bad. "I get paid \$9.32 an hour," said Ortiz. The employees also get lots of benefits even for just working part


time. "I can get discounts on my cell phone bill, laptops whatever I get pretty good discounts. I also have health coverage," said Ortiz.

Disney thinks of everything to accommodate its workers who don't live around the corner. "For car gas there is this thing called commuter's assistance. That is this little card that you swipe. Every time you go in they give you money for just swiping the card. I have like two hundred dollars saved in that card and it's because I swipe it every time I go in to work. All that money is to pay for gas. That money goes back to my paycheck as an extra on top of my original pay," added Ortiz.

Ortiz is currently assigned to work in Critter Country next to Splash Mountain and Winnie the Pooh. "I am a cashier and a hostess at a restaurant. [I am in charge of] taking peoples orders, hosting giving them their food, drinks, and whatever condiments they want even directing them to the restroom and answering their questions," said Ortiz.

Ortiz works weekends between 6:30 and 10:30. She welcomes people who know her to go up and say hi when she's working. "People can totally come up and say hi, I do it all the time with people that I've worked with there in the past."

Word on the Street



El Rodeo asks:

What do you think about Obama Becoming President?

BY JESSE RIZO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Junior Jesse Calderon said, "It's cool to have a half black be president for the first time in the United States."

Junior Juan Villanueva said, "Its cool because he said he wants to make change in America and that's what the U.S. needs especially for the economy."



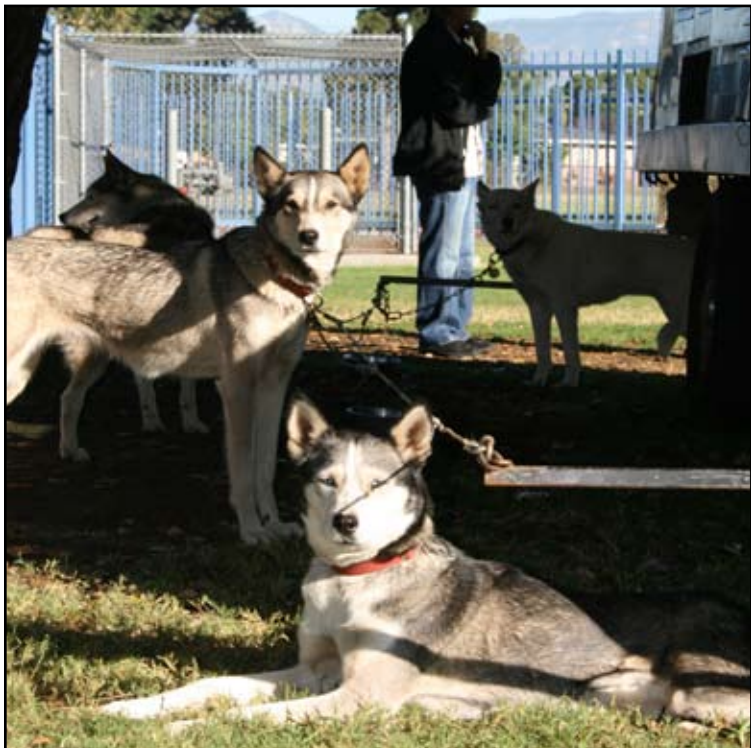
Senior Christian Guerrasaid, "Its cool because we needed to have a change in the country, and I think that's the right person to make a "change" that the U.S. needs." their decision.



Yerabook Director Mr. Crone thinks, "It is thrilling to have him as president. It is also history in the making for the United States for having our first black president."



Senior Elias Aguirre said, "Its nice to have Barack Obama, because its history and its nice to have a new leader running things."



Stradely

(Dogs From Page 1)

Husky. After, students were able to look at books and information sources about dog sledding.

In the third station Stradley presented student with equipment, clothing gear, and dog booties. Stradley had students

stand on a toboggan and dress in snow suits. He then showed students how it really feels to be a dog pulling a sled, and had twelve students pull him.

One of the students who pulled Stradley, sophomore, Rafael Buenrostro said, "It was crazy, even though he look liked he would be light, he was really heavy. I feel bad for the dogs."

Sophomore, Tina Castella-

nos said, "The whole session was very interesting and informative. I'm glad Stradley had the students interact a lot; he was very lively.

Librarian, Ms. Chodos made the event possible, bringing Stardley and his eight dogs to El Rancho as part of the Big Read. "I thought the event was really successful. Mr. Stradley had a lot of energy throughout all of the performances. I was really pleased."

Helping with the event was English teacher, Ms. Padilla. She said, "Mr. Stradley put on a great show, he held everyone's attention. I'm glad the students got to see that there are other sports and interest, not just football or soccer."

Stradley says he first started dog sledding when he was a kid living in Lakewood, California. "I had this little standard poodle mutt and a skateboard," said Stradley, "I would take the dog out and the dog would pull me around the couldasack. I had such a blast!"

Stradley would later travel to Alaska in 1997 to start his dog sledding career. "I got my first dog, my Alaskan Malamute, bought my first sled there, and been going ever since," said Stradley.

El Rancho was Stradley first high school demonstration. "El Rancho was great! This is such a great school and the students are so attentive, I was really impressed."

MECHA Club to tour Italy And Spain



The MECHA students will visit the Leaning Tower of Pisa during their visit in Italy.

By MARISOL RIEBELING
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The MECHA club will be spending their spring break overseas in Europe. The club will be visiting Italy and Spain, for one week.

Mr. Diaz U.S history teacher said "I am really excited about visiting Italy since it will be my first time there". The six teachers that

will be attending the trip are Mr. Justin Diaz, Mrs. Jasmine Chavez, Mr. Gerardo Correa, Mr. Daniel Diaz, Mrs. Anna Melgar, and Mr. Enrique Romero along with 40 other El Rancho Students. The group will be visiting the Leaning Tower of Pisa and The Sistine Chapel as well as various museums.

The students will also be taking an overnight ferry trip from Barcelona Spain to Rome. Freshmen English teacher Mrs. Chavez said, "I am most excited about visiting Barcelona Because of its Historical Background and Architecture".

On November 29th go help support the MECHA club by bringing in your cars for a carwash at El Rancho High School. Help make this trip memorable to the students and teachers by coming to the MECHA carwash.

Biology Club Planning Trip to Aquarium



Ms. Katsumura A.P Biology teacher Shows of her DNA model.

By JOSEPH MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Biology club is where students who have a passion for biology can continue to explore the world of biology outside of the class through research, experiments and various projects.

In the past years, the biology club was nothing more than a gathering of A.P Biology students, but last year it became an official club. The club members do their part in helping the environment by building paper recycling bins for classrooms here on campus.


They are also in the process of planting a garden in between the "Z" and "Y" building. Holiday plants such as poinsettias will flourish the garden, giving it a red and white glow. The club also plans on building an aquarium that will inhabit several types of marine life.

The Biology Club will be heading to the Long Beach Aquarium on January 16th, 2009. The club members are looking forward to this field trip. Founding teacher Ms. Katsumura is pleased with the progress the club has made.

"The biology club is a great opportunity to get hands on experience in the biological field, and also to prepare for college." Says Katsumura

President of the club Senior Chris Neely, says the biology club is an asset for your future if you wish to succeed in Biology.

"Being in the Biology Club will not only help you solve school related problems in biology class itself, But it is also geared toward ecology, which in return can teach you about our environment. This will also prepare anyone who wants a future career in biology." Said senior Chris Neely.




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A Season Full Of Endless Disappointments



Sandra Quintero

BY RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On November 14th El Rancho's football season came to a disappointing end when they lost to Pioneer High 29-26, resulting in last place in the Del Rio League.

The first quarter of the Pioneer game started great with a successful on side kick leading to a 14-yard touchdown by Anthony Ayala. After that El Rancho again succeeded in another on side kick off also leading to a second touchdown this time by Marcus Galan and the Dons were up 12-0.

When the second quarter came Pioneer answered back with their first touchdown for the Dons, now making 12-7. Soon after Pioneer scored again with a run by Del Villar making it 14-12.

When the 3rd period started Pioneer then scored with a 75-yard punt return. Soon after that Ayala scored another touchdown, now making it 22-19.

It's now the 4th quarter and this was the Don's last chance to come back but the time was too short and the don's turned over on downs, resulting in loss of game.

The Don's overall record was 2-8 with their only wins being against Cerritos and Bell Gardens.

Losing several players this year to injuries undoubtedly effected their season. Some of these players include Jefferson Collindres, 3-year varsity athlete and one of this year's captains, Francisco Fajardo 2-year Varsity athlete, Marcus Aldecoa also a two-year varsity athlete and Carlos Estrada varsity athlete.

"It was a huge disappointment because of all the hard work we had put in before and during season," said Francisco Farjardo. "We all had high expectations which just made it more disappointing."

Although this was a disappointing season, some still remain optimistic for next year.

Senior Anthony Palacios thinks that next year's returnees will be motivated to do a lot better than they did.

"Right away you can see that coach Zapeda is starting to improve the program by starting right away." Said Palacios. "If the team doesn't improve it'll be a big surprise."

Waterpolo Team Makes it to the Playoffs

BY JOSEPH MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF MEMBER

El Rancho Boys Varsity water polo had a long and competitive season with an overall seasonal record of 15-14. Headed by Coach Pringle, the team used their ambition and optimism to finish with a strong record.

The team felt proud after accomplishing several goals they set for themselves, such as completing the season with more wins than losses and beating rival schools. A key victory came against Norco High School, where the Dons made a come back and pulled out a nail-biting victory. Another important win for the Dons was against Fountain Valley High. However, the most satisfying win for the "DWP" (Dons Water Polo) was beating their rivals Whittier High.

"To me personally, I was proud that we beat our rivals Whittier High, and it made the season that much better." Said Senior Adrian Ramirez



JOSEPH MARTINEZ

Heading to the goal: Waterpolo finished season with a score of 16-15, scoring at the top of the Coach's list, setting a high standard for all returning athletes.

The DWP varsity team consists of many seniors, who are finally feeling the senior blues.

The seniors who are graduating this year are very supportive to the returning class for next year.

"My most memorable game was against Whittier because we haven't beat them in the last six years. The feeling of this win was filled with pride and happiness," said senior Justin Calderon.

"We did our jobs as seniors, to set an example for the teams to come," said senior J.P. Aguirre.

When the season ended, the Dons water polo team continued onto CIF playoffs where they won the first game but were stopped short in the second round. They finished with an overall record of 16-15.

"I was really happy that we made it to CIF this year, but not surprised. As a team, our strengths would be the size of our players and the chemistry they have with one another. On the other hand, more experience within the team would have benefited us."

"This is a team I considered to be my own, and I'm extremely proud of what they have accomplished. I feel the senior class has set a high standard for all returning athletes," said Coach Pringle

Girls Tennis Team Reaches 2nd Round of CIF



The tennis team finished league with a score of 7-3, and placed second in CIF finals where they lost to Kaiser High School with a score of 1-1, but had an overall victory as a team as Double Team Partners took home gold metals.

BY MATTHEW CROCCITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This season the Lady Dons Tennis team concluded with an overall record of 12-5. They finished league with record a record of 7-3 and continued into the second round of the CIF playoffs where they finished 1-1 with a win against Kaiser High School and a lost against Cajon High School.

Tennis coach Ms. Lipp-

streu said, "I don't feel bad about the loss in the playoffs because both Whittier and La Serna lost in the first round."

Lippstreu explains how the season compared to last season. "We stayed together as a team. Last year there were a lot of conflicts between teammates which created a bad atmosphere for the team. This year our team was more together and willing to help one another," said Lippstreu.

Doubles partners An-

drea Rodriguez and Jessica Zarate along with Desiree Gamboa and Rebecca Robles were standouts this season taking fourth place medals in doubles.

Ms. Lippstreu concludes, "Overall it was a good season. We finished third place but we knew that we could have beat La Serna who was above us in second."

Lippstreu said, "I am very excited about the upcoming JV players that are going to be playing varsity next season." In ad-

dition she also says that because the team is losing seven seniors players this year that the JV players are going to have to step up.

"I want girls that will play hard no matter what, and the ones on JV have shown me that they will be willing to train with the guys Tennis players in the off-season."

As the successful season for girl's tennis comes to an end, Ms. Lippstreu awaits the new season with optimism.

Cross Country Teams Finishes Strong in Del Rio League

BY RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho boy's cross-country placed first in league for the third year in a row. Senior Pedro De Alba won the league championship breaking the league record of 15:06 for 3 miles. According to De Alba he might even make it to State depending on how he does Saturday at the CIF finals.

De Alba felt extremely happy about taking this year's league championship saying, "Last year I was passed at the very last moment and this year when I won it was like 'Thank God finally.'"

Another successful athlete was Juan Rodriguez who took 3rd in league.

The guys weren't the only ones who did well this year in cross-country. The girls also

did exceptionally well taking 2nd place in the Del Rio League.

This year's cross-country team had a new coach, Tirrell Wynn. Even though this year was his first year, he still lead a successful team by placing first in the league for guys and second for girls. Both guys and the girls also qualified for CIF.

"Coach Wynn may be a new coach but he is still pretty good," said Pedro. He also said "I think next year will have a good team as well because both Juan's on the team are very fast."

Although the Cross Country team has already experienced success it's not over yet. This Saturday is CIF finals and De Alba and the rest of the team are very excited to see how far they can make it.



El Rancho Don Page

Mark running with cross country team boys in Del Rio League race winning second place in CIF

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Girls Volleyball Team Finishes 10-8 in League

BY CHANTEL MORENO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's girl's volleyball team ended this season 10-8 but is still hopeful for next year. "We didn't meet our expectations," said coach Mrs. Picon, "but the girls bonded well and they had fun. There's a bright future, these girls are going to work hard this summer. I have high expectations for next year," said Picon.

Some players that stood out this season were sophomores Alessandra Ramos and Jessica King, as well as seniors Tatiana Gomez, Ma-

riah Cardenas, and Ruby Lopez. "We could have done a lot better than we did, but its better for the underclassmen because they learned what they have to do to be better next year," said Ruby Lopez.

"She was hard on us, but most of the time it was just up to us," said Lopez about how Picon's coaching helped the team. The girl's team has worked hard this season, and although expectations were not met, this season served as a learning opportunity for some of the underclassmen that will return next year.



CHANTEL MORENO

Take A Moment to Give Thanks

By JESSICA RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Next Thursday people will gather with their loved ones to enjoy the splendid feast that Thanksgiving dinner brings. This holiday is the best holiday since it involves eating delicious homemade food and desserts. Besides the variety of food on Thanksgiving Day, it is also a day that unites families and gives us an opportunity to give thanks.

The best dinner most individuals eat, over the whole year, is Thanksgiving dinner. It's one of the very few days people dine at the table with the company of their family. Thanksgiving Day is a very special day since it proves to individuals that family is most important. It's a holiday that requires individuals to interact with one another and help each other prepare the Thanksgiving feast.

Many families make it a tradition to get together and cook "the feast" homemade style. The main part of the menu on Thanksgiving is the turkey, which can be baked after being marinated with a delicious variety of ingredients. Some families prefer to eat ham that is marinated with pineapple juice along with pineapple slices, cherries and raisins that are baked along with the ham. But one cannot get properly stuffed without eating the delicious sides of sweet stuffing, mash potatoes

topped with warm gravy, cheesy tasting macaroni, sweet yams, coleslaw, macaroni salad and garlic bread with butter. Just hearing what will be served on Thanksgiving makes one's mouth watery and one's stomach impatient.

Unfortunately, many people have the impression that Thanksgiving Day is just another reason to have a big dinner. The reality is that the first Thanksgiving dinner between the pilgrims and the Indians was not established just to eat. On the contrary it was established to give thanks for the blessing they had.

Incredibly, some people are becoming more selfish rather than learning to give; more and more individuals feel unfulfilled. They want, and want not knowing when to stop and be thankful for what they have. This day is one of the few days one has the opportunity to gather the family and give thanks as whole.

One should take note how many blessings they have. Many people take for granted the simplest things they can do in their daily lives, such as being able to see, speak, hear, walk even having life itself. So, when you are sitting at the table on Thanksgiving Day remember this day is for giving thanks, and if you feel you have nothing to be thankful for, be thankful for the delicious meal you are about to have and that many individuals wish they had.

Word on the Street

El Rodeo asks:
What does your family do for Thanksgiving?

By TERRY MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Laura Nunez – 10th grade



TERRY MUNOZ

Albert Cortez – 10th grade

"My family goes over to my aunts house. Then all of our cousins play football together. Later on, the adults play poker and the younger kids play with my aunts pets."



TERRY MUNOZ

"My family goes to Mexico for the weekend where we fry turkeys in the backyard. Then, when we finish our dinner, we gather in the living room and listen to my cousins, who have their own mariachi band."



TERRY MUNOZ

Nayeli Rendon – 11th grade

"I help my mom make dinner, set up the table, and then we pray and eat a traditional thanksgiving dinner. After dinner, my family plays lotteria."



TERRY MUNOZ

Noel Zarate – 10th grade

"My family gets together for a family reunion."



TERRY MUNOZ

Tim Benson – 10th grade

"We go to Santa Barbara and celebrate Thanksgiving with our family there."



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Trendsetters of the Month



Simply Irresistible

By IRENE CORTEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Name: Araceli Aguila
Age: 17
Status: Single and ready to meet someone new
Grade Level: Twelfth



Araceli Aguila, known as Celi to many El Rancho students is ready to meet her perfect match. She is a beautiful girl involved in school and still has time to look around for her perfect guy.

Aguila, besides being the Social Justice Club president and ready to make a change with her club, she is a scholarly student. She does a great job as the president of her club and still manages her four AP classes she is taking this year- AP Statistics, AP Government, AP English Literature and AP Environmental Science.

Besides being on top of her grades she still has time to go work at a vet office.

She has worked at Veterinary Healthcare Center for two years and volunteered for three years.

Besides caring for other people she really cares for animals and the world. "Yes, you can call me an environmentalist because I do care for the environment and the future of it," said Aguila.

Although the environment and school are important in her life she would like to share it with someone. Her perfect guy is someone who is decently smart and can impress her with his words. She would like for her perfect guy to care for others and said that if he is a music lover that equals a plus for her. Her perfect date would be anything simple like going to the movies, a concert or just getting coffee.

When she gets free time she loves going to concerts and helping promote bands, especially National Product. She is a Danny Casler lover, the lead singer of National Product. But if she is not attending a concert or helping promote bands she likes to spend her time with her friends. "Araceli gets her inspiration from the music she listens to," said senior friend Marisela Riebeling.

After graduating from El Rancho she plans to attend the university of her choice and probably major in animal science or environmental science. Later in life she would attend graduate school where she will pursue her dream to become a veterinarian. Is Araceli Aguila the girl of your dreams?

Senior Christine Cueva
Shirt: Anchor Blue- \$13
Pants: Pac Sun- \$40
Shoes: Mudd: \$30

Sophomore Jonathan Munoz
Shirt: Pac Sun- \$20
Pants: Pac Sun- \$40
Shoes: Fallen- \$42
Glasses: Pac Sun- \$13

Freshman Crystal Castellanos
Shirt: Hollister- \$45
Pants: Charlotte Russe- \$32
Shoes: Nikes- \$50
Boe: Hello Kitty- \$3

Junior Marcela Lopez
Shirt: Hollister- \$25
Pants: Bonamie- \$25
Shoes: Vans- \$45
Bow: Bon-amie- \$2.50

Fall Fashion Alert



By STEPHANIE CASTELLANOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Now the top ten fashion trends and styles for 2008 winter-fall are now out for your reach.

•Who would have thought feathers would be in this fall? It's found layered

on skirts, handbags and headbands on Burberry's runway.

•From leaves, flowers and to rich images printed on shirts. Floral prints are now in style it is based on the shades of winter and fall.

•Now for this holiday sea-



sons another style that may be used a lot for Thanksgiving and Christmas is called the Tuxedo. Feminine takes on the bow ties, ruffle front shirts and tuxedo jackets.

•Walk in Style with any shade of purple you will definitely be up to date with fashion since purple is the new green.

•The biggest trend and accessory one must have are Gloves, besides keeping your hands warm they make you look in style. If you feel uncomfortable using full gloves you can also wear the fingerless pair that is also in trend.

•Now who would have thought Ruffles would be ever in. This is a very simple style but it's a great thing to wear to a restaurant or just going to hang out with friends.

•Now when people hear plaid they think about lumber-

jacks but it has taken high fashion this fall. Plaid print is fun to work with you can match it up with similar colors or let it be the clothing that stands out.

•Want to look sexy but still decent when it comes to fashion Lace is your answer. Now nothing says feminine like lace so try a shirt or too or a pair of lacey leggings and a pair of heels or boots and you will be the one everyone is talking about.



•Now the next style is the belle curves it is reflected on the 1940's jackets, skirts, and dresses. Now is the time to wear those shorts or pants that are above your waist that weren't in style before plus they help woman get that hour-shape glass figure that is so desire.

•The biggest fashion winter trend for the past 2 to 3 years is called Fringe. Now this is a western look, like the moccasin

