



El Rodeo



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Students Weather the Rain to Clean Campus



STEPHANIE PENA

Rainy Day: *Despite of light rain approximately four-hundred students attended Blue Pride Day to help clean the school.*

STEPHANIE PENA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, January twenty-fourth, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., El Rancho High School held its annual Blue Pride Day.

Unfortunately it was raining in the morning but that did not stop the students from coming and showing their school pride.

Ms. Chapman said, "It was

really great to see so many students come and show their pride for their school by coming in on a Saturday. I thought it went really well, it was a really fun day."

Senior Belen Lopez was asked why she came to Blue Pride Day and she said, "It's not just all about the free pizza, it's nice to come in Monday morning and see that the school is clean."

There was a lot of plant-

ing done this day. Mr. Melgar, along with other students, did some of the planting on the two mud blocks, between the J and K buildings. According to Mr. Melgar when the plants grow they are supposed to sprout small flowers of various colors.

"It will be nice to see color around the school campus instead of just blue and green," said senior Berna-

dette Leggis about the flowers.

Part of the girl's junior varsity soccer team also helped with planting. They took a more creative approach to the planting though by planting their flowers in the shape of the letters E and R by the R building.

There were over 400 students scraping gum all over the school, cleaning windows, planting, and painting by the library.

There were no complaints made by the students even when they were being chaged from group to group because there were too many students in certain groups.

Overall, the rain did not stop students or teachers from showing up to school to help clean the campus. "When it started raining kids kept on working. I went home completely satisfied and surprised," said Mr. Genis, "It was the title of what the day is... Blue Pride Day."



STEPHANIE PENA

Working Hard: *Senior Belen Lopez was just one of many students planting vegetation at BPD.*



District Appoints Collings as Principal of Adult School

BY MAICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It was the district's decision to have Mr. Collings, Assistant Principal of Guidance, venture out of El Rancho High School. The decision was reached after former principal of Adult School Dwight Jones chose to be transferred to the Mary E. Meller's Community Day Care. As of January 9th, Mr. Collings' job as Assistant Principal of Guidance has come to an end. He has been reassigned as principal of Adult School.

"He was great. It will be a loss because of all the positive things he did." Principal Sam Genis said of Collings.

After thirteen years at El Rancho, the duty of one man will be divided between the deans and counselors. Some of Collings' former duties were to help guide and discipline students at El Rancho. He will now work with elementary and secondary schools in order to guide students for tomorrow's jobs.

His accomplishments at El Rancho include a reduction in suspensions, expulsions, drug offenses, and an immense reduction in weapons brought to school. With all this accomplished in the last year, who will replace Mr. Collings? No one. Well, at least for now. Because it happened during the school year, Mr. Genis has said that Collings' job will not be filled this year due to the fact that the school district is trying to save money. However, this might change next year.

The district's decision to keep Mr. Collings as principal of Adult School will remain permanent, but Mr. Collings reassures all El Rancho students that he will continue to visit El Rancho and its students for years to come.

One in More Than a Million

BY GENESSE CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As most students sat in a classroom watching the Inaugural Ceremonies on a 32' inch window to history, El Rancho Alumni Giselle Carrillo stood in the bitter Capitol cold along 1.5 million people in order to be a part of the moment which will perhaps be the defining point of our generation.

The foundation for Giselle's initial interest in politics began at El Rancho. While attending El Rancho High School, Giselle was a member of Academic Decathlon, Executive Commission as Dance Commissioner, and a Team student. "Mr. Meza introduced me to politics and ignited in me the spark of interest." Giselle says. After graduating in 2005, Giselle attended Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

At LMU, Giselle has been working toward a double major in political science and history. While studying at Oxford University in England during the summer of 2008, Giselle learned about the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for the inauguration. "I was really interested, but I didn't really have the funds to go." Fortunately, one student from the political science pro-

gram would receive a grant to go to Washington, and Giselle was chosen as the recipient.

On January 10th, Giselle left LAX to head for Washington D.C. The first five days after their arrival the students attended seminars for the "Politics and the Press" conference. The students were interviewed by journalists such as Ted Koppel and the founder of C-Span. At the end of the seminar, the students were asked to write a memo to the new president commenting on how Obama could make changes and opportunities.

After countless seminars and hours of sightseeing, the inaugural ceremonies began on Sunday morning. Half a million people, Giselle included, waited 8 hours in the 27-degree weather to watch the "We Are One" concert. It was at this concert that Giselle saw president-elect Obama for the first time. "Knowing that you were about to see Obama kind of gives you butterflies in your stomach." Other headliners and performers at the concert included Denzel Washington, Queen Latifah George Lopez, and Garth Brooks, who "really got the crowd going."

Finally, on Tuesday morning, Giselle boarded the metro at 4:30am to head for the United States Capitol and watch Presi-



UNKWOWN

Inauguration: *Giselle Carrillo stands in front of our nation's capitol with thousands of people in 27-degree weather.*

dent Obama take his oath of office. A crowd of 1.5 million watched the sunrise as it waited for Obama to arrive. "The

crowds extended from the steps of Capitol Hill throughout the

[See **Washington**, pg. 5]

CAMPUS

Students Succeed in Essay Competition

Students Awarded First Place in the Voice of Democracy Scholarship.

REBECCA ROBLES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In late November students from the Senior Team class wrote and recorded individual essays for the Voice of Democracy Scholarship hosted by the Veterans of Foreign War. The theme of this year's Veterans Voice of Democracy Theme was "Service and Sacrifice". Each submission was required to contain a written copy and a recorded copy of the essay.

Student Daniela Angelo said, "I practiced for two hours and lost my voice several times. I had to record paragraph by paragraph to prevent from losing my voice."

Three different VFW posts read the student's essays and after consideration of the written word and recorded tapes of the essays three lucky students received first place Post Level awards.

The three first place students were Daniela Angelo, Dilprit Singh, and Wendy Reyes. Each student received a medal and a hundred dollars.

Student Wendy Reyes

said, "When I found out that I won, I was shocked and really excited. I felt good winning because I knew that I had taken my time to write a good essay."

Also, Daniela Angelo received second place at the District Level and Dilprit Singh received third place at the District Level.

The three students were invited to the Veterans Day Celebration. Daniela Angelo represented the VFW Post 3752, Dilprit Singh represented the VFW Post 6315, and Wendy Reyes represented the VFW Post 7734. There the students gave their speeches in front of veterans, Pico Rivera city officials, and people from the community.

Student Dilprit Singh said, "During the speech I made sure to address the veterans as heroes. I knew the veterans had faced many hardships and I emphasized their struggles."

Many people were very proud of these three students, including teacher Mr. Wlasick who initially informed the students about the Veterans Voice of Democracy Scholarship.

Mr. Wlasick said, "I am



REBECCA ROBLES

Three of a kind: Wendy (left), Daniela (right), and Dilprit (top) celebrate their winnings and plan how they will spend their money.

proud of the students who participated and the students who won. I think it is wonderful when students win awards for their writing, since the written word is one of the most impor-

tant forms of communication."

On January 26th, 2009 the three Post Level first place winners and the two District Level winners were recognized by the City of Pico Rivera.



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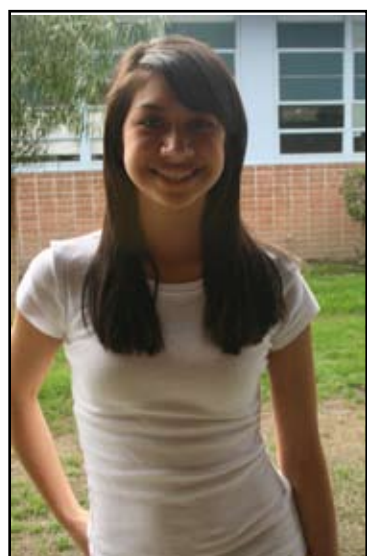
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Word on the Street



EL RODEO ASKS :

What are you looking forward to the most in Winter Formal?



Senior, Sarina Ramirez
"I'm looking forward to our last formal dance and I'm hoping that it will be fun."



Senior, Edwin Sanchez
"I can't wait for the after party get down. I also can't wait for the dancing and the girls, because the girls are going to look beautiful."



Senior, Leo Palomera
"The whole dressing up thing in fancy clothes."



Sophomore, Melissa Carrillo
"The dancing and having fun with my friends."



Senior, Brian Chavez
"The suit that I will be wearing."



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GADABOUTS

The Gadabouts Are back, and Hungary For More

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Gadabouts once again voyaged overseas, some seasoned travelers touring for their third time, others making their second journey, and some first time travelers feeling lucky to just be there.

“Our trip to Central Europe was incredible. I was fortunate to travel with a remarkable group of students and teachers, and together we experienced some of the culture and the history of Munich, Prague, Vienna, and Budapest,” said group leader and club advisor Mrs. Zeko.

While in Germany the students had a chance to visit Dachau a concentration camp and Neuschwanstein Castle in the Alps. “The concentration camp was really sad and somber. I kept thinking of how the people lived there and how they were treated. We went while there was snow so I thought how they lived through the winter and how hard it must have been,” said senior April Perez.

“At the castle there were lots of swans because the swan was the Prince’s Ludwig II, it was like it all had come out of a Disney movie. The view from the castle was really nice because there were lakes all around it and the Alps,” Added Perez. The original Disney castle was in fact modeled after the Neuschwanstein Castle.

“I really liked the boat ride in Prague. The food and the accordion player were good,” said Freshman Irene Landin.

Senior Brian Chavez said “I really liked the Mozart and Strauss concert in Vienna, and the fact that it is the center of all classical music. I really liked the St. Steven’s Church also in Vienna.”

“I really enjoyed the fact that we got to go to a club in Budapest and the fact that I turned fifteen years old that day as well,” said Landin.

The students returned with more than just souvenirs of glassware and magnets; they brought back a sea of knowledge. Senior Josh Fresquez had the opportunity to travel to Europe for the first time. “I got a better perspective of how big the world really is as opposed to what I am used to seeing here in Pico. The architecture over there and the vast amount of years—how old everything is over there



The Gadabouts, second day in the city of Prague in the Czech Republic

Paul Zeko

and how old everything is here—it’s really different over there.”

“Everyhouseoverthere looks like a museum; the architecture was so magnificent,” added Chavez.

The trip had a different effect on every student. “The experience has broadened my horizons because I know so much more and I know what’s out there and it makes me want to travel even more. I would have to say that the world is huge and there is just so much to see, and so little time,” said sophomore Brianna Morales.

The beauty took not only the students’ breath away, but it also affected the adults. “I think the most memorable thing was when we first walked into Prague’s city center; we got to see a lot of the old buildings and the castle and the churches over there. I was blown away by the beauty of it and how well it’s been preserved through all the centuries,” said digital photography teacher, Mr. Parra.

“Munich, the snow, the white Christmas, the Christmas markets—just people. I didn’t see any angry people. The religious freedom, the nativity sets, the churches, the openness, and the respect for the holidays, is not the commercial Christmas we have here. I would go back there in a second, but I am afraid that the second time I won’t get the same feeling and will be disappointed,” said English teacher, Ms. Gollette.

“Prague’s city square is the most beautiful place I have ever seen, but I also loved the vibe in Budapest,” said Zeko.

Behind the “ooh’s and ah’s” there was one person who guided

the Gadabouts through Central Europe, tour director, Franziska Deddner. From arrival day until departure, she took care of all 44 students and teachers. “She was great—very knowledgeable. I felt that her historical insight about areas that we visited was very helpful to the understanding of what we were seeing,” said Parra.

Students and teachers could not resist to the charm of their tour director. “I loved her; she was real nice and sweet and had a nice soul,” said Chavez.

“She is so adorable, so sweet. She would always go the extra mile to make sure we were happy. That was just really cool of her. She had these cute little sayings like “get on the bussy, bussy” “or pull out your mappy mappy.” She was so caring,” said Morales.

“She was cool; she’s little but she’s tough. The way she would yell at people it was pretty funny. She yelled at some cars because they were getting mad and impatient—that was pretty funny,” said Fresquez.

“She was awesome, very knowledgeable very delightful to be around she met all of our needs. I think she went beyond her responsibilities. I would love to go to another place with her and hope we can arrange to have her on the next trip,” said Gollette.

The tour director was a hit with the students, but what did she expect when she received the group? “I couldn’t have any expectations of the group, because every group is different. Sometimes I can like the teacher and the group is horrible or like the group

and hate the teacher, so really I had no expectations,” said Deddner.

“When I saw everyone, for the first time, everyone looked nice, not grumpy. I felt that I could I identify with everyone because they were just like me when I was their age. I just loved everyone,” said Deddner. “I hope they now got an overview of the European environment and encouragement for further travel or to study abroad, and to show [them] that there is another world over seas,” added Deddner.

The Gadabouts also had a chance to sample food from all four countries. “[The food] was good. I really enjoyed it. All over I taste a lot of food, I noticed that a lot of the food were just variations of what we have here. It gave me a lot of gas, it was very gassy food, so if [anyone goes there] be prepared for the gas. Overall, I liked it. It was very good,” said Parra.

“I was amazed at the amount of bread that was available all over the place; everything had starch and grease to it. Sausages were great. It was different but I tried to be exposed to the traditional things,” said Gollette.

“I liked the food it was interesting to try different things. The weird thing over there is the fact that you have to pay for all the ketchup, and the desserts all tasted like alcohol,” said Fresquez.

The students had to use three types of currencies for the four countries: Germany and Austria use the Euro, which is worth more than the dollar, Coronas for the Czech Republic and Forintz for Hungary. “The currency was

crazy it was 200 forint’s in Hungary for one dollar which means you have to do math in your head which I hate. It was twenty Coronas in the Czech Republic for a dollar so that meant even more math in your head,” said Morales.

There was a definite language barrier everywhere the students went, German in Munich and Vienna, Czech in Prague, and Hungarian in Budapest. “Ordering at McDonalds in Hungary was horrible, asking them for certain things that they would normally would not be asked. I started to get nervous and embarrassed because I thought maybe I wasn’t explaining my self right, it was weird but eventually I got my point across,” said Fresquez.

After the trip, life will never be the same for those students and teachers who went on the trip. “I think the biggest thing for me was being able to be trusted on our own—actually have the teachers leave us and let us go off and experience the place for our selves without adults telling us what to do but getting to discover the place on our own,” said Fresquez.

“I feel too amateur. I want to travel more. It opened me up,” said Chavez.

There will always be that one song or food that will bring back memories of the trip and a smile to their face. “Amadeus! Without a doubt that guy was crazy, Falco, that will definitely take me right back. The song by Falco the 80’s song our tour director loved it and had the CD and we were always listening to it on the bus everywhere we went, all the time,” said Fresquez.

The teacher’s were pleased with the behavior of the students. “I think the students behaved surprisingly well. I liked the way Mr. and Mrs. Zeko handled the group. I think the students were equally amazed, just as much at what they saw as how they were inspired to be good. I didn’t see anything that was real bad behavior,” said Parra.

“[The students worked so well they] weren’t trying to get away with stuff. It was amazing how they matured and handled themselves in a different country and weren’t afraid to do it,” said Gollette.

“El Rancho kids continue to amaze me. They are awesome travelers,” said Zeko.

Which country did you like the most?



“They were all really great, they all had something about them that made them really special to me; I don’t have a favorite one I liked all of them,” said freshman Doreen Garcia



“My favorite countries would have to be Hungary and The Czech Republic. I think the city of Prague is very beautiful and it was much more than I expected, the architecture and buildings were amazing,” said chaperone Mr. Sorenson.



“I liked Vienna for its antiquity and architecture and the people were really nice,” said sophomore Jeannette Vega.



“My favorite place was Vienna because I loved the art museum there. The fine arts museum had great and the best, in my opinion, art collection I have ever seen in my life. Also the natural art museum, which was next to it, was very beautiful,” said Spanish teacher Mrs. Welch.

FEATURES

Guitar Hero World Tour



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MATTHEW CROCITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The most obvious differences between Guitar Hero World Tour and previous Guitar Hero games is that you can now sing, play drums, play bass, or play guitar. You can play one instrument alone, perform as a band with a few friends, or play online and rock out with people around the world.

This game is much better than the previous Guitar Hero with its keen graphics, new instruments, and great new songs such as tracks from Nirvana, Michael Jackson, the Beastie Boys, Jimi Hendrix and the Sex Pistols.

Another positive about this game is the detailed character customization that Rock Band lacks. Guitar Hero triumphs over Rock Band in one respect—avatar customization. Going beyond just hairstyles and costume changes, you can alter everything from the size of your skull to the angle of your chin. You can make impressive images of almost anyone. You can even choose the dances your character does at the beginning and end of a song.

The big new feature in Guitar Hero World Tour is the music studio. You can create and share your own music and download songs from others. The bad news is that you have to put in a lot of time and effort because it's really difficult to make a good music creation.

Ultimately, World Tour looks and plays exactly as you would expect; it only has minor difficulties. Most things are the same as previous games, but just a little tweaked. If you are looking to have a great time with friends being wannabe rock stars then this is the game for you. I give it an 8 out of 10 rating.

Collings Looks Forward to Next Chapter in Life Story

REBECCA ROBLES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After thirteen years of loyal dedication to El Rancho High School, Mr. Chuck Collings has left the position of Assistant Principal of Discipline and Guidance to serve as Principal of El Rancho Adult School.

Mr. Collings grew up on Coral Lane in Pico Rivera. Showing leadership as a young lad, he served as Vice President at Magee Elementary. He went on to continue his schooling at Burke Middle School where he received the American Legion Award.

He then continued his education at El Rancho High School. He participated in sports; he was involved in track, wrestling, and football. He played football for three years and became captain of the Varsity Football Team his senior year. During his sophomore year he played as number 65; his junior year he played as number 61; and his senior year he played as number 55. Mr. Collings was part of the Associated Student Body during his junior year and served as Junior Class President.

During high school Mr. Collings' typical appearance was a short haircut, a clean white T-shirt, a nice pair of Levis, a pair of low top black Converse, and a hard earned—Varsity jacket. This was the look for athletes at the time.

After graduating from El Rancho in 1972, Mr. Collings attended Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington to play football. Before football season, Mr. Collings injured his knee, so he finished one year of college and returned to Pico Rivera.

At this point he was not sure what he wanted to do, so as a young man he rented his own apartment and started driving an El Rancho school bus— he was hired on the spot by the Superintendent

at that time, Dr. John Paul Jones.

A year-later, he transferred to UCSD and finished his B.A. in Sociology. He graduated from UCSD in 1978 and started working in the Securities Industry (financial management) in San Francisco and later in San Diego. After a few years, he became dismayed with “working around a bunch of smoking money mongers” and quit.

Taking random jobs he once worked as a short order cook at a small restaurant called The Ripe Tomato in downtown San Diego while living in a condemned church with other artists.

Mr. Collings had always loved art and had taken art classes back at UCSD. It was there he was hired as an artist apprentice with one of his professors, the internationally known sculptor, Italo Scanga— Mr. Collings would later find out that Mr. Scanga would influence the rest of his life. Mr. Scanga took Mr. Collings to Europe which opened his eyes to experiences. He was influenced by Mr. Scanga to obtain his master's in Fine Arts in Sculpture at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

He then returned to Europe and remained there for five years. He exhibited sculptures, paintings, and photography. Living mostly in Denmark, he also had the opportunity to teach art.

While in Denmark he frequented museums—luckily for him he did so because he met his wife at the Carlsberg Glyptotek Museum in Copenhagen.

Returning to the United States, he began teaching art (life drawing) at UCSD while he began working on obtaining his teaching credential.

Before he began working at El Rancho High School, he worked at Manuel Arts High School as a long-term substitute in Special Education. It was there he fell in love with helping students with special needs.

In 1996, Mr. Collings thought he would visit El Rancho High



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School, and to his surprise, the principal, Dr. David Verdugo, offered him a job. With no hesitation, Mr. Collings took the opportunity as a life calling. First he worked with students with special needs for eight years, then was promoted to Dean, and soon became Assistant Principal of Guidance and Discipline where he served five years.

Mr. Collings was offered the opportunity to become Principal of the Adult School, and he accepted. Mr. Collings feels that he is not “leaving” El Rancho High School because he wants to continue to attend El Rancho High School activities as often as possible.

While at El Rancho High School Mr. Collings has influenced many students and staff members alike.

Registrar, Pauline Munoz said, “I thank Mr. Collings for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this El Rancho

High School Family. He hired me.”

Many staff members will miss Mr. Collings even though he will only be across the street.

Alejandra Perez, a Senior, said, “I will miss Mr. Collings. He saw me when I entered the school, and now he will not be here when I graduate. Well, thank you, Mr. Collings, for always being welcoming.”

Mr. Collings hopes to take the El Rancho High School atmosphere to the El Rancho Adult School. Mr. Collings said, “I feel honored to fulfill this duty— I feel that it is my responsibility as an educator to do my best — to serve the students' needs of the El Rancho Unified School District.”

Feeling that he is home in the El Rancho Unified School District, he plans to finish his career here in whatever capacity he is given.

Number One Senior Heads for College

BY GENESSE CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As she presses the final submit button on her computer's window, Senior Tanya Moreno crosses off one more item on her busy to do list. Apply for college: Done. With a GPA of 4.45, Tanya's college application experience is not parallel to your average Senior.

In true “Team kid” fashion, Tanya claims that she “waited until the last possible minute to finish her applications.” She worked on the UC application for about a month and finished the Stanford and Brown Applications within the same week she began them. Even so, Tanya managed to submit applications to UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, Stanford University, Brown University, Pomona College, and USC. Of these schools, Tanya hopes to get accepted to UC Berkeley.

Tanya manages to keep high grades in her rigorous classes as well as participate in various extracurricular activities, making her a strong contender for college. Besides being a member of Team, Tanya is involved in Varsity Soccer, Link Crew, Track, and CSF. “I only do about 1½ hours of homework per night,” Tanya



Jennifer Magallanes

WinterBell Queen and Number One Senior strives for the future while making everlasting memories at El Rancho.

says, contradicting the idea that her life revolves around school.

Tanya hopes to pursue a major in Business or Pediatrics. “I want to help kids while making money,” Tanya says with a mischievous smile. Although Tanya believes that rigorous classes like Pre-Calculus and Team have helped her to prepare for college, she remains anxious about the amount of work that will be required at a university. She hopes that throughout the course of her college career she will “meet nice, new people.”

As she anxiously waits for her admission decisions to arrive, Tanya continues to remain strong both in and out of the classroom. With the arrival of Winter Formal came the arrival of the annual Winterbelle. Tanya was one of the five Senior girls nominated for Winterbelle Court. On the night of the Winterbelle game, “Senior Team had to write an inaugural-themed essay, read from Heart of Darkness, and analyze readings from The Prince,” says fellow Team student Janki Chandravadia. Although Machiavelli's Prince waited for her at home, Tanya became royalty incarnated, and was crowned this year's Winterbelle Queen. After the game, Tanya says she “took off (her) crown, and got back to work.”

FEATURES

Season Eight of American Idol Blog

BY STEPHANIE PENNA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

So there have been a couple of changes to this years Season 8 of *American Idol* with there now being thirty-six semi-finalists. Idol gives back moving to a more biennial schedule with no charity work in 2009, but some in 2010. It helps with the whole charity fatigue, but maybe not the best idea for Idol producers who get a lot of buzz because of their charity work.

The new thirty-six semi-finalists is a big change from before, when it was only twenty-four. There will be six person eliminations instead of just four, which is if you think about a lot of broken hearts and failed dreams!

There are now four judges instead of three: Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson, Simon Cowell, and the newbie, Kara DioGuardi.

If in the past seasons there's been "misunderstandings" between Simon and the other judges, his relationship with DioGuardi could be described as a full on war! It's already Season 8 of *American Idol*; they had to spice it up somehow, right?

As usual, there are also some very interesting characters on the show, many who were actually passed on to Hollywood like Tatiana from the San Francisco auditions. A drama queen with



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clear Puerto Rican background, Tatiana came into the auditions acting like if she had already won the title of this seasons *American Idol* and even though, "She sure didn't get through on her vocals," according to Simon, she still got a ticket to Hollywood.

He also didn't seem to approve of another Hollywood ticket holder, Adam, an actor from Hollywood, and told him that he was "theatrical," but it was very clear that that wasn't a compliment.

Simon seemed to have many opinions as usual of all the contes-

tants and he said Kai, a musician and his mother's caregiver, who seemed so genuine and down to earth that he had "very, very good vocals," but the judges thought that he had close to no personality and that he wouldn't be good TV.

It's confusing how someone with excitement is criticized; but then someone with not much excitement is too. Sometimes there is just no pleasing the judges on this show!

The auditions in Louisville, Kentucky were a little more productive and a lot of the idol favorites will probably be coming from there.

One of the favorites being Joanna Pacitti, a young music industry rookie who has already been signed by two major record labels and has done soundtracks for movies like, *Legally Blonde*, *First Daughter*, and *Nancy Drew*.

Although idol contestants like Pacitti, Brent Keith Smile, a Nashville Star 2 contestant, and Matt Giraud, who has two albums of his own out already, have already had their shots at fame, it still seems fair that they get an equal chance in this competition. It's not like if they're Alicia Keys or the world famous Jonas Brothers!

Overall, this season has already started out different and it's a very promising season.

Washington

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Washington Memorial and finally ended at the Lincoln Memorial. It was a global affair. I was surrounded by Hispanics, Asians, Anglos, African-Americans, Middle-Eastern people." At noon, Obama arrived to take his oath of office, but as Obama began to give his inaugural speech, the crowd went silent. "People were either quiet, smiling, or crying with joy. I admit that I was part of the latter group." Giselle says.

It took a total of two hours to get back to the hotel after the inauguration due to the density of the crowd, but Giselle does not regret her decision "I wish it would have been a little warmer, but it is an experience that will stay with me forever." As she returns to Los Angeles, Giselle says that "after visiting Washington D.C., I can confidently say that I will work in D.C politics soon after I graduate in May thanks to my initial experiences at El Rancho." Giselle's experiences give us hope that perhaps soon one of El Rancho's own can make a change in America's government.



KRIKORIAN THEATRES

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SPORTS

Boys Basketball Has Shot at Playoffs



STEPHANIE PENE

BY MATTHEW CROCITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Led by Jeremiah Salcedo and Brandon Rodriguez's combined 22 points, the Dons began their league journey on the right foot by taking down the Santa Fe Chiefs (3-15) by a score of 41-36.

Although shooting 30% from the field, the Dons limited their turnovers, with only twelve, and out rebounded the Chiefs to obtain their first league road win this year.

The boy's next test was against Cal High where they came up short at home with a 64-52 loss. It was close the whole game, until the Condors leading scorer Michael Arceo opened it up in the fourth quarter hitting two straight three pointers to extend their lead out of grasp of the Dons who dropped to 1-1 in league play.

Standouts for the Dons in this game were Carlos Estrada with a double-double, 17 points and 16 rebounds, and Jeremiah Salcedo with 22 points and 4 boards.

Up next to face the Dons were the Pioneer Titans (10-11). This hard fought game came down to the wire and with 4.5 seconds left on the clock; the Titans' Michael Saldana nailed a three pointer to give them a 43-40 lead. Carlos Estrada desperately got off a last second shot for the Dons, which rattled in and out to drop the Dons to a 1-2 record in league.

Last Wednesday the Dons had tough challenge with the La Serna Lancers coming into the Blue Pride center for the Winter Bell. The Lancers jumped out to an 18-0 lead in the first three minutes of the first quarter. The Dons reluctantly fought back outscoring La Serna in the second and fourth quarter but could not get back into the game after the Lancers quick start making this the Dons' third loss in a row (57-34).

Though things looked bleak after the breakdown against La Serna, the Dons came out strong against Whittier on Friday night. The Cardina's physical play did not phase the Dons who came on top 44-37. The team aggressive defence and Jeremiah Salcedo's 29 points helped lead the Dons to victory.

Although the Dons chances for a league title are slim, they are back in the mix of things now with a record of 2-3 with a shot at the playoffs.

Girl's Waterpolo Now Ranked in the Top Ten of Division Three

BY JOSEPH MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When teams of certain sports have a successful record and a great season behind them, it usually unfolds in response to the dedication and teamwork put forth by the athletes themselves.

This is the plan in progress for the girls' varsity water polo team. Starting off the season with a string of wins, the girls were motivated to make this a memorable season.

Dons water polo, are currently ranked in the top ten of Division three. Recent games included the wins against Murrieta Valley with the score of 5-3, Redlands High (12-5), and Santa Fe (17-4). Senior Mehgan Carbajal, Junior Isela Aguirre and Sophomore Kimberly Pedregon, were



JOSEPH MARTINEZ

key players and helped lead the DWP to these victories. Along with these wins they also came across the losses against Ceritos High (8-10), and La Serna

(9-12). Currently the DWP season record is 11 wins and 8 losses.

Coach Pringle consistently keeps the team with a positive outlook for the rest of the season and

is the leader and coach of this team.

"We are constantly improving. The girls have worked extremely hard. They have put themselves in position for a strong finish," said Coach Pringle

"My experience so far this season has been memorable. Leading this team has been fun and there is never a dull moment. We are a very strong team and we work great together. DWP as put so much time and dedication into making it to CIF. We are still working very hard to win league, and still plan to put up the 2008-2009 Del Rio Champs banner in the gym! My boys Adrian and Joan have been simply amazing!"

With a great season in the works, the DWP still have important games in the near future. One includes the Bonita Tournament from January 29th, to the 31st.

Boy's Varsity Soccer Team Continue Season Strong

BY JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As boys soccer season hits mid-season, the team has a strong advantage with the best goal keeper in the area, two leader models, strong and experienced players, and one of the best defenders in the league. The boys soccer team is beginning season strong.

The season record is 9-3, which motivates the team even more because they are determined to keep their record up. With a score of (7-10 at their game with Santa Fe, they truly show that there are experienced player's on the team.

Varsity coach Mr. Correa said, "It is a good team, we work hard, the players are very dedicated and hopefully their hard work will pay off by winning league."

The team has a lot of experienced players. Some are returning players and others srenew players that are joining varsity. Senior Ignacio Cervantes said, "I have been in varsity since sophomore year, and one of my

dreams is to lead my team to the championship. We have had our ups and downs its been an emotional roller coaster and we are at the best part of the season."

With the team at its best part of the season, it looks like they are becoming a hard team to beat. They showed their experience at La Sierna (1-0) and Cal high (3-0) and what they can do with united team. "As coaches we are very proud of them, but as students they have a lot of pride for the game," said Correa.

Senior Cesar Roldan said, "We started the season off pretty slowly, the team was young, but now we have started to come together as a team. A lot of the young players have stepped it up "Haro" stepped it up this year."

In their previous matches with Whittier, they came out victorious with a score of 3-1. Their game against Cal High they came out with a score of 3-1. Today the team will face of with Cal High away, and the result will be placed in Activities tomorrow.

Girl's Soccer Team Begin With a Rough Season and a New Head Coach

ANGELICA MOLINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girl's soccer team has had it rough this season with a record of 3-1 in league. Since then, with only one victory against Pioneer the girls have been training as hard as they can to regain their title and represent their school.

With Mr. Galvan leaving the position of head coach to peruse a different coaching position outside of school, Mr. Romero steps in from assistant take the position of head coach. "Even though our record doesn't show it. This is a strong team," said Coach Romero. Indeed a strong team, Romero has been pushing the girls to train as hard as they can to have a victory they can all be proud of.

With the score they have in league right now Senior Mariah Cardenas adds, "We're not the best right now but, were doing good. We just need to pick up the slack and our intensity more".

With everything that has been happening this season the girls still maintain a positive attitude and high spirits that their season will only look brighter. Junior Sandra Rodriguez said, "Theirs a lot of girls and everyone is equal. They're all in the team for a reason"

The team will keep training twice as hard to gain their title as champions. "The whole team plays with a lot of pride!" said Romero

Today the girls play against Cal High at ERHS, and result will be in activities tomorrow.

Girl's Basketball Keep Fighting Strong To Make it to League

BY VICTORIA SERRANO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Girls varsity basketball came up short against La Serna.

As the game started, the girls were playing well. They had good offense and defense. But as the game continued, they began to not execute their lay ups. By the time second half came along, however, they were up by nine points.

Coming back from half time, the girls began to lose a little bit of their game and stamina when they started to miss some of their shots. They struggled to keep their focus and slowed down with

a couple of turnovers and did not finish the game when they had it.

Ultimately, the game came to an end with a very close final score of 43-31.

Senior Captain Gabby Villalobos said, "I think everybody in this league is beatable to us, so there is no reason why we should be losing. We have the potential to win, we just need to finish and step up to our game. We need to play hard and with all of these key points we should win the next few games."

Girls basketball had a rough start, but are sure to keep fighting hard in league.

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STYLE

Trendsetters of the Month



Freshman: Hector Escobedo
 Jeans-S.C \$30
 Belt-Pac Sun \$15
 Sweatshirt-Tony Hawk \$50
 Shoes-Vans \$40
 Shirt-Anchor Blue \$15



Sophomore: Ashley Valencia
 Shirt-Forever 21 \$15
 Jeans-Forever 21 \$30
 Scarf-Wet Seal \$20
 Shoes-Keds \$15



Junior: Andrea Perez
 Shirt- Forever 21 \$20
 Shorts- Hollister \$35
 Boots- Macy's \$60
 Necklace- Charlotte Russe \$10



Senior: Shane Green
 Shirt- Hollister \$30
 Pants- Hollister \$45
 Shoes- Vans \$20
 Belt- Dockers \$15
 Sweatshirt- Hollister \$40

Simply Irresistible

BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Smart, sweet and almost sixteen, Brianna Morales is the girl next door with a twist. Don't be fooled by this self-declared "nerd". She has a passion for indie music and rock she said, "my all time favorite is Led Zeppelin," tossed in with her love for stand-up comedy, makes her "simply irresistible".

Morales keeps her personality squeaky clean by been a laid back girl. "I am an un-brushed hair, no make up wearing, Starbucks drinking kind of girl, with a passion for cosmetology, and enough hair spray to crack the ozone layer."

If you are interested in Morales, stand in line... unless you are a nerd. "I am a sucker for nerds. I love intellectuals," said Morales.

Not a nerd... or don't want to admit it, keep these tips about her ideal date in your back pocket. "My perfect date would be at the beach with some orange chicken for dinner, really sweet iced tea, and chocolate for dessert, I love chocolate," said Morales.

If you fulfill all the requirements and you think you are right for Morales guess again. "I look for a guy who I can talk to. I wouldn't like a shy guy because I am shy myself so I would need someone with an outgoing personality," said Morales.

Although she is a shy girl, she comes out of her cocoon once in a while as shown in her performance in The Catered Affair as the hotel caterer. "I usually have stage fright but when I am on stage I get to be someone else," said Morales.

Morales is a busy girl who balances Team, friends, and family. "I am always busy but I wouldn't want it any other way," said Morales.

Name: Brianna Morales
 Age: 15
 Status: Single
 Grade Level: Tenth

Spring and Summer Fashion Alert!

BY: STEPHANIE CASTELLANOS
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In spring and summer time fashion trends get more revealing. For the year 2009, fashion history has repeated itself. Now there isn't really anything new except a couple of trends:



COURTESY OF GOOGLE

Spring 08 trends Fashion Runway Show: See through and sheer fabric designs by Fendi and J. Mendel.

See through and sheer fabrics are back in style. They're perfect to keep you cool and still looking good during the hot weather.

Showing a little skin and being classy is also what's back in. The one shoulder look in tops and dresses have been inspired by ancient Greeks.

Also, jewel-encrusted clothing is finally back in again. But this year they return with brighter, bolder, and more elegant colors.

Jewelry has always been a big trend, but for this year ethnic beading, and exotic stones are the main jewelry hits.

Shredded jeans and denim shorts continue to get our attention. So that means that they're still in for this year's fashion.

Maybe, you too can be in style if you join in on some of these new spring and summer trends.



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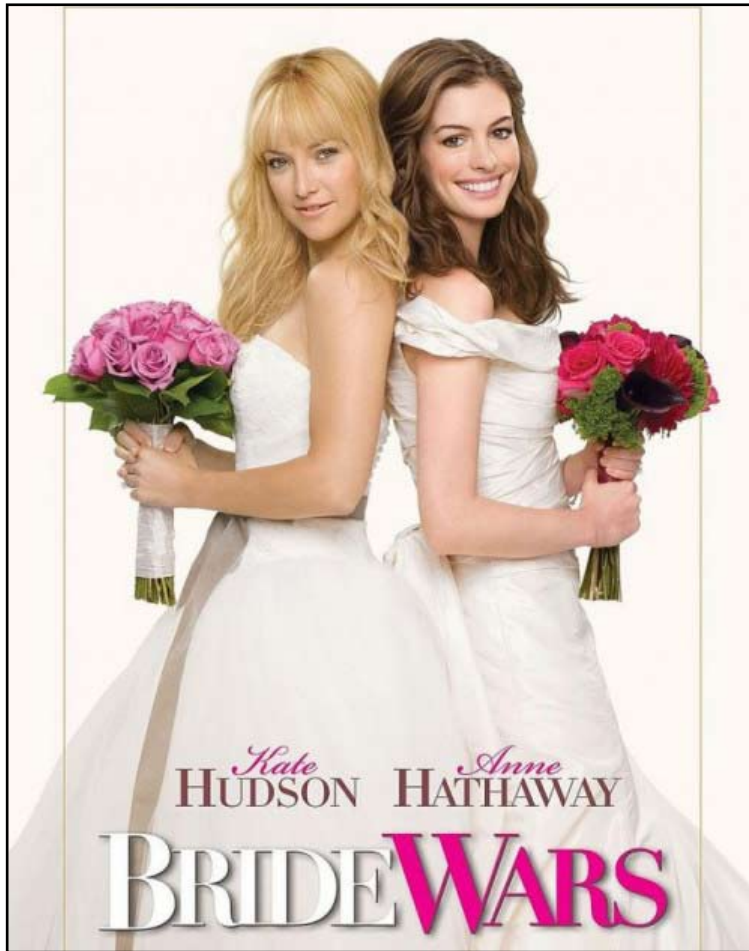
Best of Friends or Worst of Enemies *Bride Wars*

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The best of friends can become the worst of enemies. In the comedy *Bride Wars* two childhood friends put their twenty year friendship to the test when the happiest day of their lives is set to happen on the same day.

Olivia "Liv" Lerner (Kate Hudson) and Emma Allan (Anne Hathaway) have been planning their wedding days since before they even liked boys. One thing that has not changed throughout the years is the location and time of the weddings. No matter what, they would be married at the Plaza Hotel in June.

Both meet their prince charmings and soon plan their fairy tale weddings. They meet with wedding planner, Marion St. Claire (Candice Bergen) and all seems to be going perfectly, until a clerical error plans their weddings on the exact same day. With the next open date at the Plaza being three years from now, Ol-



ivia and Emma decided that one of them should choose a different venue or be flexible. When neither of them breaks the gloves come off and their freshly acrylic nails become lethal weapons.

Being best friends has its advantages when it comes to knowing each others weaknesses. Because Emma sends Liv mountains of "treats," Liv soon finds that she can no longer fit into her Vera Wang wedding dress. Liv returns the favor by giving Emma's pre-wedding glow a touch of orange. Blue hair, some hair loss, and a video of Emma wildly celebrating Spring Break makes for a memorable film.

Bride Wars is a guilty pleasure movie. Predictable, yet funny. It may or may not portray real brides (I choose not to question the matter further), but it does oddly teach you the meaning of friendship. I also learned that you don't design the Vera Wang to fit you; you design *yourself* to fit the Vera Wang (or something like that).

Overall: B

Metallica Tour Sells Out New Ontario Arena

EL RODEO STAFF MEMBER
JOSEPH MARTINEZ

With a new album that debuted at number one in well over twenty countries, Metallica once again showed that with age comes superiority. The first show here in Southern California was on December 12, 2008 and was held at the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario, California. Tickets were sold out within a first few hours.

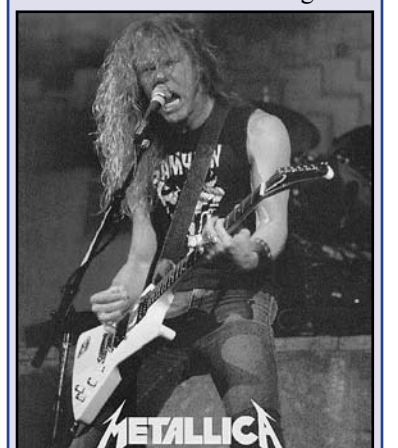
Eager heavy metal fans poured in the parking lot hours early for the traditional tailgating before the concert, only to be warned that tailgating has been outlawed at many arenas, including this one. Their verbal warning didn't affect us as we continued to tailgate and ignored the Segway riding rent-a-cops. The environment consisted of all the fans ranging from middle-aged parents, to kids who were in their pre-teens.

Opening bands included an up and coming band named The Sword, and of course the leaders of the New Wave of American Metal, Lamb of God. Lamb of God played songs from their more recent albums, as well as a few tunes from their epic album, *Ashes of the Wake*.

The stage was set in the middle of the arena with the general admission area surrounding it. Four giant coffins hung down horizontally facing the stage while the instruments were being tuned by their techs. As soon as the lights went down and Metallica's infamous "Ecstasy of Gold" intro started playing, the audience went into chaos.

Moments after Metallica hit the stage, the heartbeat-sounding intro led into their first song "The End of the Line." They continued to mix up their set list with songs from their "Eighties" albums up to 1991's self-titled "Metallica" album. Also including a bass solo from Rob Trujillo that started off the crowd pleaser "For Whom The Bell Tolls." After a long set of hits, the band gave the audience a break. When they reemerged from backstage, drummer Lars counted off as they played the cover of Queen's "Stone Cold Crazy."

The last two songs of the encore would definitely file under epic. Metallica ended the show with two 1983 classic thrash anthems "Whiplash" and "Seek and Destroy." This was a concert that will never be forgotten.

Resurrection Today; *The Unborn*

BY ALYSSA ZACARIAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The *Unborn* is a supernatural horror-thriller movie. It is about a dybbuk that is a demon. This is a malicious spirit that refuses to leave the real world and possesses other bodies. In order to get rid of the spirit the person that is possessed with the demon has to go through religious ceremonies.

The demon in the movie seeks a girl name Casey Beldon. This demon tries to use her body as a gateway into the physical existence. Throughout the night she has these evil dreams and visions of a child who has bright blue eyes and strange looking dogs that have their faces upside down.

One night as Casey baby-sits her neighbor's kids the little boy hits her with a mirror. Then, the next day her eyes start to change colors. As her eyes start to change she finds out from her father that she had a twin, but he died in the womb.

After Casey finds out, she starts to suspect that it is her dead brother who wasn't to be

born. But then Casey meets Sofi who ends up being her grandma. The grandma ends up explaining to her that she too had a twin brother and he was killed during the Holocaust while being experimented on by the Nazis.

Sofi murdered her twin brother knowing that it was not him that something took over him. Now the dybbuk haunts her family for revenge. Sofi recommends a rabbi so Sofi can get a Jewish exorcism to remove this evil spirit known as dybbuk. Towards the end Sofi gets rid of him.

Casey starts to realize that all those years of hating her mother for leaving her when she was young was because her mom was looking out for her best interest. Little by little she forgives her mother. Throughout the movie, people that meant something to her end up hurt or worse, dead.

The movie has an interesting story to it but that was it. This movie is not as scary as the previews make it out to be. The movie is rated PG-13 because of the unpleasant images and the abhorrent violence.

Blizzberry; The New Yogurt Sensation

BY IRENE CORTEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Want a place to "chill" with your friends after a movie or a long day of practice? Then make your way to Blizzberry.

Blizzberry is located near the Pico Rivera Towne Center. Blizzberry is a small, comfortable restaurant where you can relax and enjoy a frozen yogurt.

With a variety of flavors to choose from you can mix the flavors or just stick to one. Blizzberry offers 100% fat free, low calorie frozen yogurt, blended coffees, smoothies and fresh fruit and dry toppings to choose from.

You can have anything from an original bliss "tart" yogurt to a peanut butter "low-fat" yogurt. I had a strawberry and chocolate yogurt and it was the best thing I have ever tasted.

But if chocolate or strawberry is not your type of yogurt, you can have a cheesecake yogurt, a pina colada yogurt or a cookie cream yogurt. YUM!!!!

If you are not just a yogurt fan then you can have a smoothie or an ice coffee. You can have a

Tropical Rush which contains mangos, bananas, pineapple juice and frozen yogurt. But if you are not a yogurt fan at all then you can order an ice coffee.

You can have a Mocha Blast or a Hazelnut Ice and enjoy your time at Blizzberry. You can also have a waffle and no it is not a breakfast waffle that you can pour syrup on. Their kind of waffle is topped with three fruit toppings of your choice and/or frozen yogurt.

There are varieties of toppings you can choose: granola, Oreo cookie, mini m&m's, kiwi, strawberry and many more.

Blizzberry is my kind of restaurant to grab a yogurt and relax after a long day of work. Next time, I would have a waffle with a smoothie probably.

Time to Cut the Umbilical Cord and Grow Up *Mamma's Boys*

BY JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Who is the most important women in a man's life, his mom or his girlfriend? In the NBC show *Mamma's Boys* three eligible bachelors are looking for the girl of their dreams, however, it all depends on their mother's approval, will the mothers approve of the girl?

In the series, the bachelors get an opportunity to pick the girl that they like, from a group of thirty single women. However the opinion of mother and son may clash.

Many of the girls participating have deep dark secrets, that they do not want the guys to know. Most of the girls have been featured in *Playboy*, and other girl's have had plastic surgery. Frequent shopping sprees have accumulated a debt of over one hundred thousand dollars for many of the girls.

The moms live with the girls and based on the observations that they make they will decide which girl is suitable for her son. In elimination night mom has an influence on their sons decision of who they should eliminate.

The moms have all picked a girl that they would like for

their sons to be with. At least all but one Mrs. B is the meanest mom because she thinks that none of the girls are good enough for her son. All the guys have a crush on at least one girl that mom does not approve of. The moms do not approve of *Playboy* girls but one picked a girl that is the 2008 Playmate of the year, and does not know it.

In the elimination the guys got an opportunity to save two girls that they liked. Rob one of the eligible bachelors got rejected by one of the girls that he liked because she wanted to be saved by one of the other guys.

In the season finally all of the guys had two girls to pick from and go sailing with one for three days. Michael, Jojo, and Rob all the three bachelors where on a breakdown because their moms did not approve of the girl that they wanted. Trouble broke loose, and arguments between mothers and sons began.

At the end Jojo and Michael both pick a girl that mom did not approve of. Jojo had the hardest decision to make because he had to pick between his mom or the girl of his dreams. So it was pick a dream girl or pick his nightmare mom to go back home.