



EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 57 Issue 6
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Academic Decathlon Advances to State



GENESSE CARRILLO

Yesterday: Four of the eleven El Rancho decathletes pose for the camera after receiving medals at the award ceremony that was held at Quiet Canyon.

BY GENESSE CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Twelve hours a day, seven days a week. Eat, study, and sleep- that is, if there's time. This is the routine of eleven El Rancho students. For the past two weeks, the Academic Decathlon has been rigorously preparing

for the Los Angeles Academic Decathlon competition. Their efforts were acknowledged on Thursday, when they received a team trophy, individual medals, and, most importantly, the chance to advance to the state competition, which will take place from March 13 to the 15th. The team placed 5th over-

all out of 66 schools in L.A. county with a score of 41,605.7. The team also received 3rd place in the SuperQuiz category with a score of 4,585.0, only 140 points behind the first place team. The annual competition consists of two days of academic exhibition. The first day of competition, which consisted

of speeches and interviews, began here at El Rancho on January 31st. Although the essay topic this year revolved around the novel *Bless Me Ultima* by Rodolfo Anaya, the speech topics were selected by the decathletes. "The topic of my speech was how circles relate to life," says Decathlon veteran Chris Neely. Fellow decathlete Angeli Vicente delivered a speech based on pharmaceutical trade and the access that certain countries have to it. The interviews and speeches were critiqued by a panel of three to four judges. "I really enjoyed the interview, I like to talk," says Hernan Reza, who delivered a speech based on music, particularly Pink Floyd, and how this legendary band revolutionized the sound of music.

This past Saturday, the second part of the competition was held at USC. The decathletes took seven objective tests and then competed in the SuperQuiz which contained questions based on evolutionary biology. "You are given seven seconds to find a correct answer, a through e. It's pretty intense," says Reza.

"We set our goals from the beginning. We wanted top three in SuperQuiz and top five overall," says coach Mrs. Lam. "I'm in shock; I am riding cloud nine right now. Every student received a medal, which was a great relief." I guess it's not over yet after all. We are going to work Saturday, Sunday, and weekdays for a month to do the best we can given this opportunity."

Next Year's Schedule to Be Decided Wednesday

BY CHANTEL MORENO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, one hundred and twenty eight members of El Rancho's faculty voted on next year's semester schedule. The voting took place in the office before school, during lunch, and after school.

However, to win, a schedule option had to get seventy-five percent of the votes. The results were the Downey/West Covina model with fifty-four votes, the Three-peat/Alaska model with forty-three, and Pioneer/Whittier/Santa Fe model with thirty-one votes. A run-off vote will be held this Wednesday between the two options with the most votes. Here is what the schedules would look like:

Downey/W. Covina Model

Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Period 0	7:00-7:50
Period 1	8:00- 8:55
Period 2	9:01- 9:56
Nutrition	9:56-10:06
Period 3	10:12-11:07
Period 4	11:13- 12:08
Lunch	12:08- 12:48
Period 5	12:54- 1:49
Period 6	1:55- 2:50

Wednesday and Thursday

Period 0	7:00-7:50
Tchr Collab	8:00-9:00
Period 1/2	9:00-10:20
Tutorial	10:20-10:40
Nutrition	10:40- 10:50
Period 3/4	10:56- 12:16
Tutorial	12:16- 12:36
Lunch	12:36- 1:16
Period 5/6	1:22- 2:42
Tutorial	2:42- 3:02

The Three-Peat/Alaska Model

Monday and Friday

Period 0	7:00-7:50
Tchr Collab	7:50- 8:50
Period 1	8:50- 9:40
Period 2	9: 46- 10: 36
Nutrition	10:36- 10:46
Period 3	10:52- 11:42
Period 4	11:48- 12:38
Lunch	12:38- 1:18
Period 5	1:24 -2:14
Period 6	2:20 -3:10

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Period 0	7:00- 7:50
Period 1/2	7:55- 9:05
Tutorial	9:05-9:25
Nutrition	9:25-9:35
Period 2/3	9:41- 10:51
Tutorial	10:51- 11:11
Period 4 /5	11:17- 12:27
Tutorial	12:27- 12:47
Lunch	12:47- 1:27
Period 6	1:33-2:43
Tutorial	2:43-3:03

El Rancho Holds Annual Career Day

STEPHANIE PENA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On February fourth, Career Day took place at El Rancho High School. There were representatives from everywhere, including different United States Military services, which had soldiers and other representatives present, court positions, ROP classes, and cosmetology opportunities.

Cat Morales, a U.S. Marine, told students that her favorite parts of being in the service are, "the friends that [she's] made, definitely, all the new people that [she's] gotten to meet, and traveling to all these different places of the world without having to pay for it. They pay you to get a great education and travel around the world!"

All of the other military service men and women also had a lot to say about how much

they enjoy their lives in the service. They all told the students that the military provides great opportunities for everybody.

There was a court reporter representative at career day as well who said, " My job is to listen to people and write what they say. Sounds fairly simple right? Well it is. It doesn't take a lot of years of school and it pays great money!"

Many students like senior Anthony Palacios went up to her asking her if she could write something for him in shorthand and she would comply. "I love what I do," she said. "It's actually a lot of fun.

All of the presenters said they loved what they do and what they were presenting. They were all very enthusiastic about their careers and about their lives in general. One of the cosmetology



MADÉLINE RODRIGUEZ

presenters told every student that wanted to listen that she was completely obsessed with the color purple! As odd as that sounds it was because of this that a lot of students actually decided to sign up at the school.

All the enthusiasm from the presenters helped out a lot of students.

"Last year I really didn't take this day seriously because I didn't think it mattered but I realize now that it really helps," said senior Alan Mota.

"I know what I want to do now with my life and career day has just really inspired me to make something out of my future."

Senior Jennifer Magallanes said, "This day has really helped me, I knew what I wanted to do already but today it just made me want to do it more."

In the end, El Rancho Students were greatly appreciative for the time people took to help them learn about different career choices and opportunities.

CAMPUS

Dons Dance "Under the Same Moon"



Assistant Principal Mrs. Linares

Administration Addresses D and F Problem

BY JESSE RIZO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The guided study program is the administration's, step towards minimizing the high F and D rates. The program is intended for freshmen only. The administrators decided to start small by focusing on one class and building from there. Eventually this program should be useful to any student, no matter the grade level.

"If students do not attend it's their loss. We want to help the students. The team of administrators, counselors and teachers don't want to bust them if they don't go," said Assistant Principal Ms. Linares. If they don't go for the first time it's a call home. Then parents are involved.

Tutoring is not enforced on students unless they have a "D" or an "F" in either Math or English. Although the emphasis is on Math and English, students can get help for other subject as well.

Parents who are concerned that their child is in need of tutoring can make an appointment to talk to Mrs. Linares who will help them and their child find the help he or she might need. "I like the parents who call or set an appointment with me and talk about their child needing help. I like those parents who care," said Linares.

Students have options available for all kinds of tutoring. Math tutoring takes place in J-1 during lunch with Mr. Melgar Monday through Friday. After school the gear-up scholar's inn takes place in the cafeteria Tuesday through Friday. Ninth grade Honor's tutoring is available in rooms A-201, A-204 and A-209 Tuesday's and Friday's.

BY GENESSE CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

while a mix of modern, Latin, and rock music filled the Quiet Cannon banquet hall, over 250 students and their guests danced under the same balloon-composed moon.

"For the past couple of weeks leading up to Saturday, all I could think about was formal," says Senior Cassandra Mendoza. I could sympathize. While the girls scavenged at the Cerritos Windsor store or the downtown L.A. alleys for the perfect dresses, the boys hesitantly rented tuxes, and in the case of Marcus Galan and Anthony Morones, bought some new Vans. Two or three friends of mine even got their dresses the day before formal.

Upon arriving at the Quiet Cannon, the festive vibe was immediately eminent. Dozens of students stepped out of limousines, oversized Hummers, and party buses, ascending the stairs to Winter Formal.

After being checked and approved by a SWAT-like team of security, I entered bliss. Although I had just been at Quiet Cannon two hours earlier to prepare for the dance, the hall and decorations were accented by the dim lights and populace of students. As I had my identification admitted, arches of lights and artificial snow hovered over me and drew my attention to the formal itself. The star-and-moon theme was brought to life by the centerpieces and dance floor arrangements.



GENESSE CARRILLO

Winter formal's theme "under the same moon" dazzle's the students with the over the top decorations.

After admiring the decorations, my gaze moved to a beautiful, inviting, and hypnotic: table of o'dourves in the back of the room. The table held an array of potatoes, chicken, shrimp, mozzarella sticks and roast beef. The only negative comment I heard throughout the night concerning the appetizers was "The plates should be bigger!" A 105- pound friend of mine was seen carrying a total of three plates back to her table (her name will be undisclosed to protect her identity).

Unfortunately, I was unable to get so much as a taste of my food, seeing as the students present were in a hurry to get on the dance floor. DJ "Replay" lived up to his name, replaying the strang-

est parts of good songs until the beat was hammered into our heads. The music was a high-speed rollercoaster, alternating quickly from top-of-the-chart songs to un-danceable music. As the last song, which was a slow-tempo Kids by MGMT, played, I heard many whispers around me, "How are we supposed to dance to this?"

With little voice involvement or MC enthusiasm from the DJ, students were unaware that the last song was playing. Instead, the notice of the end of a magical night under the same moon came from a harsh glare of lights, reminding little Cinderella that they had to go home because the clock had struck midnight.

Gay Straight Alliance Holds Film Festival

BY CHANTEL MORENO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Gay Straight Alliance is holding a mini film festival. The films will be shown during lunch on Wednesday's, and possibly Monday's, in Ms. Segal's room. Due to the fact that the films are long, they may be shown after school as well.

Segal Self selected some films and chose others from a list of movies. She feels that they all portray characters that have some



Ms. Segal GSA advisor

adversity to overcome, not only with their sexual preference, but with many other issues young people deal with. Most of the films

deal with things many teenagers are going through, like identity issues. Also, the movies deal with general teenage rebellion like Ferris Bueller's Day Off.

Generally the films promote tolerance for people's different beliefs and lifestyles overall promoting tolerance of people who are different. This will be the first time the club will be showing so many movies and Segal hopes to have a good turn out. The club is not large, but they have a several faithful members. The mini film festival is open to anyone who is interested.



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WORD ON THE STREET

How do you feel about the new restrictions against public displays of affection?



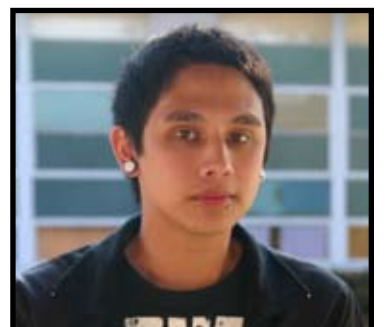
"I think the school is too strict about things that shouldn't matter."
-Senior Leslie Salazar



"I think we should express ourselves in anyway as long as it is appropriate."
-Junior David Cruz



"I think it's dumb because we're in high school and people are going to be together, but they shouldn't be doing things that are inappropriate for school."
-Junior Jasmine Carrasco



"I think it's absurd. They're pretty much taking our rights to love and show affection. I think school should concentrate more on improving education instead of taking unnecessary rights from the students"
- Senior Adrian Cuenco

OPINION

Eight is Much More Than Enough

By JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The new mother of octuplets, a set of twins and four other children is happy for the birth of her eight babies and she considers it a blessing.

Angela Suleman had the sperm and eggs implanted by In Vitro Fertilization. It is a fact that she had the same process done for the other six children. It is a fact that she used the same sperm donor for all her children. When she found out that she was expecting multiple babies, the doctors gave her the opinion of selectively reducing the number of embryos, but she declined.

Does this mean that she likes to be pregnant and have children, because she has been pregnant so many time's? Why, what's the point of having more children when she already has six kid's, ages of six, five, three, and two year old twins? Was six not enough that she needed to have eight more to have fourteen kid's to be happy?

Having twins or triples is wonderful but eight? That is just too much. I mean how are you supposed to tell them all a part or even feed them! How is she going to take care of all her children when she



has no income to depend on?

It is not only this but being pregnant with eight children endangers the woman and the embryos. It is also frequently lead to long term and developmental problems for the children.

Does this mean she was inseminated with eight embryos? No because under the guidelines of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, U.S. doctors would normally not implant more than two embryos

at a time in a women under the age of thirty-five. But Suleman was inseminated with six embryos. There is going to be an investigation of this doctor.

This means that two embryos multiplied naturally which led her to have the octuplets. But, this was news because Suleman was only expected to have seven babies and it was a miracle when the eighth one was born.

Yes, it may be wonderful and everything but with no

income it is going to be hard.

Currently she lives with her mother in a two bedroom house. But is it even healthy to have so many people live in such a small environment? There are health risks that have to be taken into consideration when you have newborns in the picture.

Apparently, doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel had planned for the births for months.

The doctors had to practice the delivering procedure to make sure that they could do it under a certain time in order to make sure that the woman was fine and at the same time to make sure that nothing happened to the thirty week old babies.

The births marked the second time that octuplets had been successfully delivered in the United States. In a way it is a wonderful thing because it is not every day that octuplets are born because usually women loss them because embryos have no room to grow.

But Suleman should have thought about bringing these babies into this world because she has no real way of supporting them. With her first six she used her disability money and student loans to get by so what is she going to get by with now?



Valentine's Day on a Tight Budget

By JOSEPH MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day is a time of the year where women all around the world expect a gift from their significant other that would sweep them off their feet. Unfortunately, some of these gift ideas such as jewelry and expensive restaurant reservations can also deplete your bank account. There are many solutions that would solve this financial burden.

A great way to enjoy your Valentine's date without having to empty your pockets would be to catch a romantic movie at the local cinemas. Followed by a trip to an ice cream parlor or Starbucks where you can enjoy a coffee as well as an intimate conversation with your partner. For guys who drive, there is an excellent alternative like driving to the Whittier Hills, where you can park your car and mutually experience the picturesque view of the distant cities below.

For a daytime date, you can find tree-covered areas where all you need is a blanket and some sandwiches to set up a small picnic. After that you both can take a stroll through the park.

Another way to save cash would be a day at the beach where parking is the only fee necessary and you can have fun in the sun. Some beaches like Santa Monica even have a pier that is open to the public where you can take Valentine's Day pictures or even get on the roller coasters.

Valentine's Day could either be a memorable day with someone, or a financial inconvenience. It all depends on how you want to approach it.

Keep Your Hands to Yourself!

By MATT CROCITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

PDA's or Public Displays of Affection have been degrading our schools for many years. The administrations decision to crack down on this is absolutely the correct and moral thing to do.

Have you ever been in the lunch line minding your own business and suddenly you see two individuals engaged in shoving their tongues down each other's throats? It has even stooped as low as practically having sexual intercourse between passing periods or after school.

This is not acceptable. Plain and simple; school is not the place to spend time with your significant other in that manner and other people should not have to tolerate a public "love fest."

What happened to the mind-set that expression of love should be something special and private? Or in the old days when revealing the slightest of skin was considered "improper"?

Things have changed over the years for the worse and if nothing is done now then it could end up still worse.

The school was looking out for the good of all students by enforcing the PDA rule that states: **"inappropriate physical conduct, sexual activity, or public display of affection will not be tolerated on campus or at any school activity."**

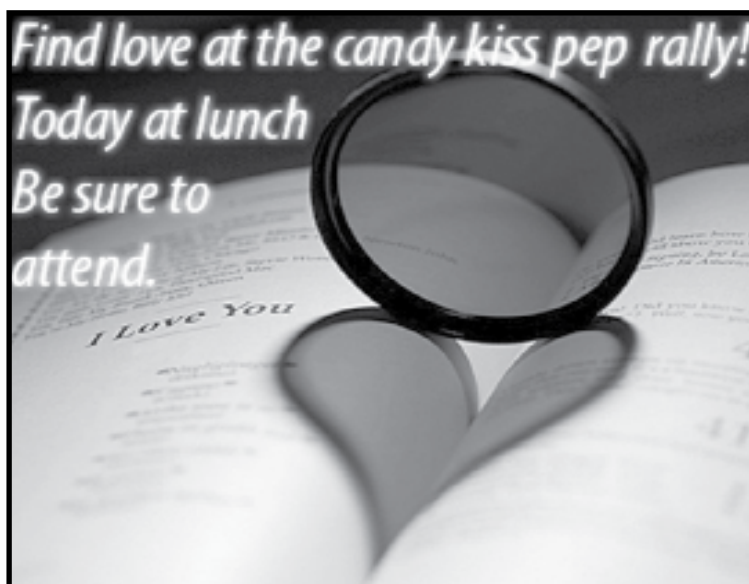
Also the consequences for these actions are appropriate: first offense – students will be given a verbal warning, second offense- the parents of the students involved will be notified, and third offense the students involved may be suspended and a parent conference will be required.

PDA's should not be tolerated and the school has made positive advancements about controlling this problem.

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"What 'public display of affection'?
— I don't even like the guy!"



FEATURES

Mr. Lara Looking for Major Changes



BY JOSEPH MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After teaching one year at North Park Middle School, two years at Meller Elementary, seven years at Rivera Middle School, and four years of summer school at El Rancho, Mr. Lara is an experienced teacher and is now the Dean of Guidance and Discipline here at El Rancho High.

Since his departure from Rivera Middle School, Mr. Lara hopes to see some positive changes made to this school.

"I'd like to see more students less tardy, with less truancies, and more time in the classroom. I want to see students graduate, succeed, and not drop out," said Lara.

Along with being fair but firm, Mr. Lara wants to provide a safe environment for students, as well as continue to see El Rancho's test scores rise yearly. In recent years, El Rancho's test scores have been going staying steady. Some of his long-term goals would be to stay in the field of education, with hopes to become a principal.

Outside of school, Mr. Lara has a passion for music. One wish that Mr. Lara envisions is, to see the music department here at El Rancho to grow and excel in the near future. Not only does he listen to music, but he also plays it himself. Because Mr. Lara is a musician himself, his position has fueled his ambition to support the music program.

"Mr. Cordero is doing an

excellent job with the marching band and Ms. Dodd is also doing a great job with her kids in the choir. With time, I'd like to see the music department flourish," said Lara.

Every year there is an annual Mexican music/dance concert named, "Grandeza Mexicana," that is held at the Ford Amphitheater. In October 2007, Mr. Lara played keyboards along side a group of mariachis at the event. He was unable to play the following year due to his god daughter's birthday. Other than playing and listening to music he enjoys participating in various sports such as soccer, baseball and volleyball, as well as spending time with his loving wife and going to church with his family

BY JOSEPH MARTINEZ
Dean of Guidance and Discipline, Mr. Lara

Bringing Teachers Together

BY ANGELICA MOLINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Who said teachers can't have their own club? History teacher, Ms. Carreon is the leader of the book club here at El Rancho High School. Sadly, the club is not for students, but for teachers only.

The club was started by former El Rancho teacher Mr. Greg Smith. Later, Carreon decided to keep the tradition of the club going. "Greg Smith started the book club to have teacher's interact with books, so after he left I just decided to continue it," said Carreon.

The first couple of years the

club was more male influenced and after a while the women started taking over. "During the years, women took over, but I would like to see more male interaction with the books," said Carreon.

The club meets once a month in B-104 for at least an hour and a half after school and with a minimum of twenty teachers. As of now there are only two more meetings left. "First we read parts in the book then we discuss what we do and don't like," said Carreon.

Sophomore Team teacher and member of the book club, Ms. Oase said, "I enjoy going to

the club, and I get to read books that I don't normally read."

Mrs. Carreon loves to read and wishes to share her passion of books with all the teachers and staff. "What I love most about the club is the comradery amongst the staff and it's the only time where the teachers can be themselves."

She was asked if she would ever allow students to join the club, "Yes I'm looking into that more next year, but I'm not sure if all the students will understand because our topics are more for mature audiences. Probably seniors would be a better choice because they will



BY MADELINE RODRIGUEZ

History Teacher Ms. Carreon, head of the Book Club

WORD ON THE STREET What are your plans for Valentine's?

BY VICTORIA SERRANO, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



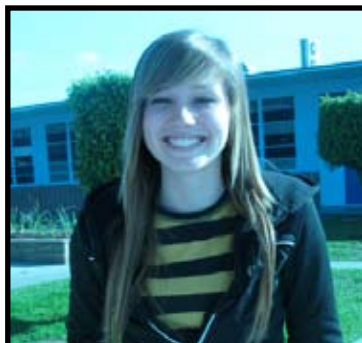
"Imgoing to have some fun."
-Mr. Orihuela



"Go to the movies with some 'special' friends."
-Freshman Matthew Oviedo



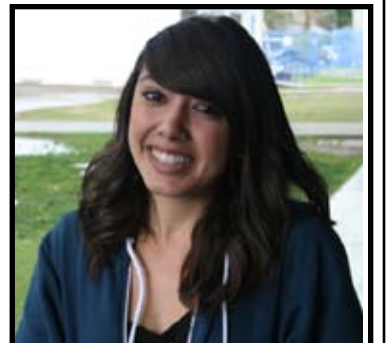
"I'm going to go with my boyfriend to dinner at Bj's."
-Senior Bianka Corona



"I'm going to get my hair done, have lunch with my mom, and then have a few friends over to kickback."
-Senior Nealani Oster



"I'm planning to take my girlfriend out to dinner then hang out and watch some movies"
-Senior Jose Tapia



"I plan on going to romantic dinner with my valentine."
-Junior Jessica Martinez

FEATURES

Simply Irresistible



BY REBECCA ROBLES

BY REBECCA ROBLES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A man with a plan, Albert Santiago Alvarez is swinging and single. This athletic, green eyed, witty fellow is “simply irresistible.” Ladies, this young man is a licensed driver and loves a night on the town, but he has to be done with his homework first.

Do not judge him for his shyness. Alvarez warms up to new people fairly quickly and hopes to meet someone that could be more than just a friend.

Do not let his rigorous class schedule make you shy away; he is one balanced young

man. Even though he is currently taking three advanced placement classes, Alvarez said, “If I find that special someone I would make time. I would find a way.” With a grade point average of 4.41, he ranks at the top of the junior class.

Alvarez may seem easy-going and calm; however, he has a wild and dangerous side.

For many years he has enjoyed rock climbing on the second highest mountain in California, Mt. Whitney. This athletic rock climber also plays Varsity Water Polo and Swimming at El Rancho. Ladies, Alvarez plays

as number eleven if you want to cheer him on during his seasons.

His favorite place to go is Six Flags because he loves the variety of thrilling rides. Alvarez has never turned his back on an amusement ride and would never turn his back on a special someone.

In his spare time he loves watching movies; some of his favorite movies are action-packed that star Denzel Washington.

Alvarez said, “My perfect date would be at my house where my special someone and I would cook dinner together. Then we would sit together and watch a good movie.”

If you are looking to win this young man’s heart you must know the basics—his favorite food is ravioli; his favorite candy is Hershey’s Kisses; and his favorite color is green. If you want to catch his eye you “have to be passionate about your goals.”

This young man can jam—he grooves to *Love Lockdown* by Kanye West. When he is cruising in his car to the Stonewood Mall he turns this song up nice and loud.

With Valentine’s Day tomorrow he hopes to be able to spend it with someone special.

Name: Albert Santiago Alvarez
Age: 16
Status: Single
Grade Level: Junior

Do you believe in the Friday the 13th superstitions?



“A black cat passed by me; later I ended up losing my money.” Sophomore Jake Shirey

“No I do not believe in superstitions it is only conventional thinking.” Junior Gabriel Medina



“No I think it is a whole bunch of jibber jabber, in other words it is the way someone thinks.” Senior Riquelmy Valle



“Yeah I do because a few years back I stepped on a crack; later that day when I got home I found my mom lying on the floor. When we took her to the hospital I found out that she broke her back.” Senior Henry Lopez



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SPORTS

Girls Basketball Prepares for Final Game

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The swish of the net. The squeak of their shoes on the freshly waxed floor. The thud of the basketball all combines together to form an incredible sound. It's the sound of hard work and dedication.

The lady Dons know what it feels like to work hard and have it all pay off in the end. With the season coming to an end, the lady Dons are hoping to maintain positive and go out and have fun.

With a league record of 1-8 the lady Dons have had a bumpy road, but when the going gets tough, the devoted dons get to work. With long practices and 100 percent commitment this group of players has what it takes, according to Coach Shigezane.



By Eduardo Ramirez
Aisha Diakite posts up against a double team from California High.

"They are a group of talented young women who work hard on a daily basis," said Shigezane. Hard work and leadership

is what Aisha Diakite, Miriam Espinoza, Gabriela Favela, and Tatiana Gomez are known for. They are great because of their top scoring, along with ball handling and rebounds. Their skill and focus to win and help their teammates is something that is not overseen.

"Their potential and commitment is great. They help others on the court and in the classroom," said Shigezane.

Senior Tatiana Gomez said, "I love being on the court and making plays happen. The environment is so positive with the cheer of the crowd and my teammates."

The lady Dons have what it takes and with determination in their eyes there is no doubt in Coach Shigezane's mind that they will continue to play and win as a team.

Boys Basketball Fights for Playoff Spot Tonight



BY STEPHANIE PENA

BY MATTEW CROCITTO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy's varsity basketball team extended their winning streak to two games with a second victory over the Santa Fe Chiefs on January 29th.

With balanced scoring from the starting five and a combined twenty-five rebounds between Carlos Estrada and Ishmael Santa Cruz the Dons were able to take down the Chiefs for the second time in league play by a score of 64-58.

Looking for a third straight victory and a chance to clinch second place in league, the Dons went on the road to challenge the California Condors.

The Dons came out flat against the aggressive Condors and gave up forty-four points in the first half. In the third quarter the boys came out stronger and held their opponent to only six points.

Unfortunately the dons could not contain California's two leading scorers Michael Arceo and Chris Ortiz that finished with a combined forty-two points and fourteen boards. The Dons fell to the Condors by a final score of 68-47.

With the chances of taking second place gone, the Dons came home for parent night looking to secure the third and final playoff spot in league against the Pioneer Titans.

The game went down to the wire with the Dons down two points in the fourth quarter. Brandon Rodriguez stepped to the line with one free-throw left and one second remaining in the game. Rodriguez purposely missed the second shot of a one and one, but the Dons were unable to tip in the rebound. This caused the team a difficult situation.

The team was now faced with a must win situation against the perfect 8-0 La Serna Lancers to keep hopes alive for CIF playoffs. The Dons played an intense first half against the Lancers and were only down by six points going into half time. Then La Serna stepped it up by starting the third quarter with an 8-2 run. The Dons were unable to make up the deficit and were defeated by a score of 50-35.

The fate of the Dons now relies on the rest of the league to set them in place. The only thing that the boy's team can do now is take care of the Whittier Cardinals tonight at 6:30pm and hope for things to fall into place.

Girls Water Polo Qualifies for CIF



By Rebecca Robles
Jennifer Pesciada warms up by completing a couple of laps before a game.

BY REBECCA ROBLES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Led by Captain Isela Aguirre, the girls Varsity Water Polo team came to victory, on Wednesday February 4th, by taking down Pioneer High School with a score of 2 - 1.

Prior to the game several team members said, "We are confident that we will win because of our hard work and long hours we put into practice."

Senior Veronica Hernandez and Junior Isela Aguirre were key players and helped lead them to this victory over Pioneer.

Aguirre said, "I am very confident because we play like a team should. Throughout the season we have given time and effort to get where we are."

Although Captain Mehgan Carbajal was unable to assist her team because of a recent injury, she stayed and supported them.

Coach Pringle has these girls swim a few warm up laps, on a timer, before the games begin he also gives them pep talks in between.

The team had their last league game against California High School where they won the game 18 - 3.

The current season record is 16 - 13 which places them third in league. This means that the team qualified for CIF. The date and location will be announced shortly in the Activities Office.

Girls Soccer Faces Whittier in Final Game



By Angelica Molina
Daisy Hernandez chases opponent down in attempt to get the ball.

BY ANGELICA MOLINA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The season for the girls soccer team is almost at an end, with today being the last game of the season against Whittier High

School. As of right now, the girls league record is 3-6, but today's game is being predicted as an, easy win. "We know we have to get the job done. It's a matter of doing it," said Senior Naylene Herrera.

It has been difficult this past

Boys Soccer Takes League for 3rd Straight Year

BY GENESSE CARRILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Third time's a charm! For the third consecutive year, the Boys Soccer team has earned a Del Rio League title. Captains Caesar Roldan and "Topito" have

led their team to the Southern Section Playoffs. Coach Correa says, "I'm really proud of the success that the boys have achieved this year on the field. This is our second undefeated season in a row. But I am most proud of who they are as young men and espe-

cially who they are as students."

The first playoff game will take place on Saturday, February 21st and the location will be announced. Senior Caesar Roldan has high aspirations for his team, saying "I know we are going to take CIF this year.

Five El Rancho Wrestlers Make Their Way to CIF

BY RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With five wrestlers making their way to CIF, El Rancho's Wrestling team is finally getting back in the game.

El Rancho was 3-0 after losing to Santa Fe, California High and La Serna, but they won their fourth and fifth match against Pioneer and Whittier.

The five wrestlers that are going to CIF are; junior Alexander Luna who wrestles at 130's, junior Jesus Baraza wrestling at 135's, sophomore Francisco Corona wrestling at

160's, senior Johnny Montalongo wrestling at 152's and Ulysses Sanchez wrestling at 215's.

"I am kind of nervous about going to CIF," said Alexander Luna. "But I am mostly excited."

Luna has a record of 13-4 and he also placed second in league. The team expects him to do well in CIF as well as their other wrestlers.

Luna's friend and wrestling partner, Jaime Mendez said, "Since last year [Luna] has improved a lot on his technique. Unfortunately I can still beat him, but I have to watch for that fireman. I wish him the best of luck."

"I was glad to help Jesus get better by pushing him to his limits and going live with him because he has so much potential after all he did place second in league." Said Senior Cesar Moreno. "I am really proud of him and I expect a lot from him at CIF."

"One of the most dedicated wrestlers on the team is Ulysses Sanchez and it goes to show that what you put in, is what you get," said Robert Mendoza.

All five wrestlers will head to CIF at Whittier High School on the 21st of this month. The exact time of the match has not been set yet

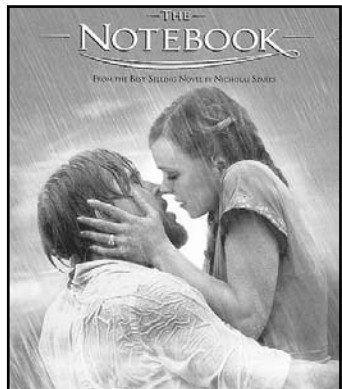
ENTERTAINMENT

Top Five Romantic Movies for Valentine's

By Irene Cortez
El Rodeo Staff Writer

Ah, L'amour, ic'et fabuleux! have a romantic evening with our date with one of the top five oman-tic movies for Valentine's day.

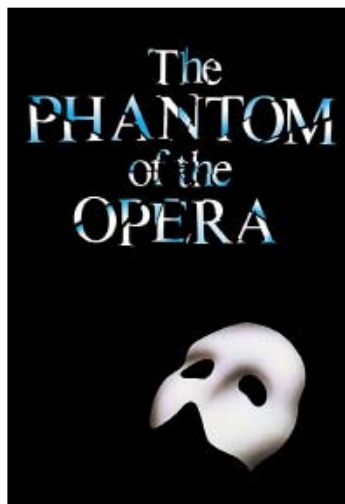
The Notebook is my number one top romantic movie because the love between Noah Calhoun and Allie Hamilton does not die regardless of the numerous obsta-cles placed in the way. Noah and



Allie met on summer night, and immediately Noah knows that this is the girl he wants to spend the rest of his life with. Allie, a city girl, and Noah, a country boy, fall deeply in love. But, Allie's mother (Anne Hamilton) does not approve of their relationship. Allie returns home at the end of the summer. As a tribute to their love, Noah writes her 365 letters (one a day for an entire year), but Allie never receives any of them because Anne keeps them from her. Several years pass, and Allie becomes engaged to Rower. When she returns to visit Noah, however, that flame of love between them ignites once again, and burns hotly through one pas-sionate night. At the end Allie's mother returns the confiscated letters to her daughter because of a sense of both guilt and em-pathy-she too had once been in love with the "wrong" boy, and she does not want her daughter to suffer the same heartache that she had. Time leaps forward, and Allie is now old. She suffers from memory loss, but she is able to retain the love she and Noah shared because of *The Notebook*.

Phantom of the Opera is my following top romantic movie because although the phantom is

not able to stay with his true love (Christine), he would do anything to have her by his side. I like to call it "dual love" (also known as a love triangle) because Christine has the love of two different men. The phantom and Raoul both vie for her affections, but she must choose only one man. The phantom has showed his love for her by teaching her how to sing. However, his love for her grows into an obsession. Despite the impossibility of a relationship between the phantom and Christine, he continues to suffer for her, and eventually begins killing innocent people in order to keep her near. Finally, Christine chooses Raoul, her love since childhood. But, she gives the phantom the engage-ment ring given to her by Raoul so that the phantom will always have something to remember her by. In the end, the phantom reveals the depth of his love for Christine by leaving a red rose with the engagement ring at her headstone.



Titanic places third in my list of most romantic movies. This movie has a magical quality as it reveals the story of Rose DeWitt Bukater. She is a rich girl who falls in love with a lower class boy named Jack Dawson. The setting is the new and beautiful ship the *Ti-tanic*. Rose is engaged to another man (also wealthy) when she first meets Jack on their voyage to the United States. The romance between these two young lovers has the ability to make every girl wish she could find true love in this manner. As in *The Notebook*, the theme is forbidden love. Rose's

mother Ruth believes her daugh-ter should marry a man of wealth and position in society. Rose has different ideas, and she is willing



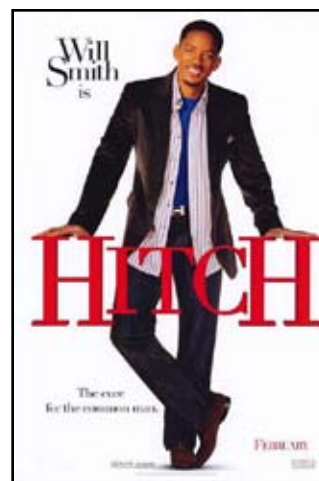
to sacrifice for true love, particu-larly when the ship hits an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean. As a member of the upper class, Rose is entitled to a place on one of the safety boats. She takes her place on the boat, but when she discov-ers that the lower classes will go down with the ship, she returns to the Titanic to find Jack and ride out the emergency with him. Rose is easily have saved herself, but instead, she chose to follow her heart to be with the man she loves. This passionate love turns into a race for survival. The ship soon sinks, and those on board are plunged into the freezing sea. Unfortunately, Jack dies. Many years pass, but Rose always holds the memory of that passionate love affair. She eventually dies in bed as an old lady-just as Jack had predicted that night when she "unsinkable" Titanic sank.

Ghost follows *Titanic*, as



a top romantic movie because it is a wonderful love story with a unique twist-one of the lovers is dead. Sam Wheat was mur-dered, but his love for his fiancée Molly Jensen lives on. He chose to remain on Earth instead of taking the light into Heaven be-cause she wants to protect her. Sam proves that love can last forever, and that it does not end with the death of the loved one.

Hitch is the final movie on the list of top romantic movies because it involves love and it is funny. Alex "Hitch" Hitchens is the "Date Doctor". He helps men who want love in permanent relationships to woo their ideal mates. While helping one such client (Albert Brennaman) get the woman of his dreams (Alegra Cole), Alex meets and falls in love with gossip columnist Sara Melas. A beautiful love story en-sues. Sara is not looking for love. Furthermore, she discovers that Alex is the "Date Doctor". She



has been trying to reveal the iden-tity of this "Date Doctor" because he had been reported as having helped a man who had deeply hurt Sara's friend and colleague. She is hurt and angry, so she "outs" Alex in her column, which causes a great deal of mayhem to follow. Because of the hurt and distrust from both Sara and Alex, the relationship falters. Finally, Alex repairs the relationships of Albert and Alegra, which lead to the reparation of his own relation-ship with Sara. In the end, they both fall back in love and Alex refused to give up on their love.

Love in the Library

(Some romantic read-ing suggestions from head librarian, Mrs. Chodos.)

- Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson
- Princess in Love* by Meg Cabot
- Guyaholic* by Carolyn Mackler
- Romiette and Julio* by Sharon Draper
- If We Kiss* by Rachel Vail
- Dating Game* series by Natalie Standiford
- Eva Luna* by Isabelle Allende
- Contents Under Pressure* by Lara M. Zeises
- How NOT to Spend Your Senior Year* by Cameron Dokey
- The Black Book* series by Jonah Black
- Hard Love* by Ellen Wittlinger
- Till Death Do Us Part* by Lurleen McDaniel
- Keeping You a Secret* by Julie Anne Peters
- Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* by Rachel Cohn
- Boy Meets Boy* by David Levithan
- This Lullaby* by Sarah Dessen
- Honey, Baby, Sweetheart* by Deb Caletti
- Love, Ghosts, and Facial Hair* by Steven Herrick
- Beastly* by Alex Flinn
- The Boy Book* by E. Lockhart
- Tyl* series by Lauren Myracle
- All-In* by Pete Hauptman
- Love Stories* series by various authors
- Aphrodite's Blessings* by Clemence McLaren
- Upstate* by Kalisha Buckhanon
- Paper Towns* by John Green
- Twilight* series by Stephanie Meyer
- Blood and Chocolate* by Annette Curtis Klause
- Boys That Bite* by Mari Mancusi
- Confessions of Georgia Nicholson* series by Louise Rennison
- Playing in Traffic* by Gail Giles
- Bloodsucking Fiends: a love story* by Christopher Moore
- Sunshine* by Robin McKinley
- Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel
- Seventeenth Summer* by Maureen Daly
- Who Am I Without Him?* by Sharon Flake
- Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks
- The Sterkarm Handshake* by Susan Price



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ENTERTAINMENT

And the Oscar Goes to...

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Five little words, an envelope, and a man named Oscar is all that stands between an Academy Award nominee and an Academy Award winner. On February 22nd, first time nominees and veterans will walk the red carpet and take a seat in the famous Kodak Theatre. They will smile, and talk about what they are wearing, but they will all be thinking about whether or not they will get a chance to go up on stage in front of America and hold the man they call Oscar.

Standing at thirteen and a half inches and weighing eight and a half pounds, the Oscar statuette is the most highly recognized award in Hollywood. The award, which is actually a knight, stands atop a reel of film. The film reel features five spokes representing the five original branches in the academy: actors, directors, producers, technicians and writers. The first recipient of this timeless award was Emil Jannings for his performance in *The Last Command*. As of last year's ceremony, the academy has presented 2,701 awards.

The first Academy Awards

was held at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York on May 16, 1929. Since then the media and people around the world wait in excitement for that time of year when the nominees are announced. The pressure builds until the final night where a person's dreams have a chance to become a reality.

This year a range of actors, producers, people with dreams will hold their breath and wait for their names to be announced recognizing their effort and hard work.

There are many first time nominees and veterans in the running for the ultimate gold star.

Actors like Meryl Streep, who is nominated for her role as Sister Aloysius Beauvier in the film *Doubt* is likely used to the high tensions and emotions, after all this is her fifteenth nomination. She has won two Academy Awards; one for *Sophie's Choice* (1982) and another for *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979).

Streep is up against fellow actress and first time nominee Anne Hathaway. Hathaway is nominated for *Rachel Getting Married*. Finishing off the list of actress in a leading role are Melissa Leo (*Frozen River*), her first nomination, Angelina Jolie



(*Changeling*), her second nomination, and Kate Winslet (*The Reader*), her fifth nomination.

While there are some front-runners, there are also underdogs. Last year, it was the movie *Juno*, where writer Diablo Cody took home an award for best screenplay. This year, the surprise front-runner is *Slumdog Millionaire*. Although it did not make as much money as *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (\$139,340,000 worldwide), it did win two Golden Globes for best director and best picture. It is also nominated for ten Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director.

Along with *Slumdog Millionaire* the remainder of the nominees for both best director and best picture are *Frost/Nixon*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Milk*, and *The Reader*.

This is the year of change

for the film industry. The media is helping films receive the credit they deserve and sometimes need to push them over the top and reach the golden statuette.

A film like *Milk*, starring Oscar winner and fifth time nominated actor Sean Penn would not have been considered being nominated, if it wasn't for the help of *Brokeback Mountain* (2005). Although *Brokeback Mountain* did not win best picture, it opened the door for a variety of different films.

For the second time in the history of the Academy Awards, an actor who passed away has been nominated for an Oscar. Heath Ledger's performance as the Joker in Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* gained a lot of buzz after Ledger's unexpected death on January 22nd of last year. His performance earned him a win, and a standing ovation at the Golden Globes.

There are many people who watch the Oscars every year. Some enjoy the excitement and thrill when their favorite actor or actress wins. Others simply watch because there is nothing else on. Whatever the reason, there is no denying the fact that it is always a night of surprises.

Thirteenth Fear Provides a Good Scare



BY JONATHAN RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

How real is fear? Pretty real. In the new CW horror-reality t.v. series *13: Real is Fear*, thirteen contestants will conquer their fears. Not in the hope of becoming fearless, but to win a grand prize of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

(At the beginning) the contestants are dropped at an abandoned cabin where they all have a chance to meet each other. After the first challenge, the "death box" is introduced into the game. Death is the point of the box; the holder of the box is allowed to kill three people.

In every challenge there are two losers who get sent to elimination. In elimination, the loser of the two will get killed off. In the first elimination one of the girls was burned alive: in the second elimination rats killed of another girl.

The contestants were then moved to an old army fort, that is believed to be haunted by the spirits of the soldiers who died there. The players decided to single out Erika and Rodney as being the killer. On the night after the challenge, the killer tried to kill Adam; but his plan to kill was ruined

During execution night another player was killed by a tree, and another contestant got burned at the stake. Then players were moved from the fort to an aban-

doned high school where six students were killed by a serial killer. Players had to search for the dead student's graduation rings. Rodney and Lead failed to find one of the rings and they were sentenced to execution night.

Rodney was killed and the host revealed that he was the killer who everyone feared. After being moved to a slaughter house, the players were sent out to look for the death box once again.

Erika found the death box and in her first attempt to kill someone she failed. Tedd figured out that she was the new killer, and made an alliance with her to kill off certain people he did not like.

So it was all set. She could kill off anybody, except Tedd. In her second attempt she killed off Cody, and nobody could blame her because the girls said that she was with them all the time.

In the challenge, the players had to rescue their partners from a rat cage and return to their rooms, Leah and Adam were the last ones to return, therefore they were sentenced, and for their execution challenge they had to unhand cuff themselves from a restroom pipe.

Adam escaped the restroom that was also filled with snakes, and Leah was killed off. As of last week episode five players remain, and the question is, who will be kill off next?

American Idol Hollywood Week

BY STEPHANIE PENA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The final thirty-six have been chosen now on American Idol and everybody was surprised to find out that one of the finalists was booted out rite after she made it.

Joanna Pacitti was disqualified right after being put into the final thirty-six. It has been said that Pacitti only made it that far because of some relationships she had with Idol producers. In all reality it only makes sense that is why she made it that far. How could somebody who forgot her lyrics every single time during Hollywood week actually make it to the top thirty-six?

Then there was Tatiana Del Toro and Nick Mitchell who do not seem to have the best musical ability but who still made it to the

top thirty-six by what seems like their somewhat odd personalities.

Another change to this year's idol is the way that they chose the top thirty-six. If there were two contestants who the judges were not to sure about the contestants went head to head against each other in a song off. It was definitely different and it made for great television.

A lot of this years idol seems to be just for the ratings but idol fans still have faith that once it has gotten to the top twelve idol will once again be all about the music. In the past the show has produced many successful recording artists who have gone through to sing in countless different music genres so fingers crossed that this year will be the same.

Hideki Kamiya New Bayonetta

BY RYAN ROJAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For those who fell in love with Dante, from Devil May Cry, bite your fist because there is a new demonic slayer in town, and this time she's a beaut. Many of us were disappointed to see Devil May Cry end, but now Hideki Kamiya, creator of Devil May Cry, is nearly ready to release his next game Bayonetta.

Bayonetta is a witch that slays demons who disguise themselves as angels (just can't get away from those demons can ya Mr. Kamiya?). Bayonetta uses magic that we mortals can't dream of possessing.

Not only does Bayonetta have her own guns, but she also uses magic which lets her use her hair as a weapon. Her body is cov-

ered with just her hair which appears to look like a black suit. Every time she attacks, or is injured, a piece of her skin is revealed (for shame who ever abuses that!).

Besides from Bayonetta, this game looks pretty promising as far as graphics and game play go. The lighting matches up perfectly with the theme. The voice acting is terrific as well as Bayonetta's personality.

There isn't much information about this game out yet so we don't have a set release date but this game is certainly worth following. That is especially if you liked Devil May Cry. Lets just hope that Hideki Kamiya doesn't make us wait too long before we get to see some more of Bayonetta in action.

Superstitions
About Friday the
Thirteenth

BY JESSICA FLORES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Paraskevidekatriaphobia.

Yes, it's a real word, and one you'll probably have a hard time pronouncing correctly. I know I do. According to Therapist Dr. Donald Dossey, it is the phobia representing the irrational fear of Friday the 13th. Approximately 17 million to 21 million people in the United States suffer from this, as do 5 to 7 million in the UK.

The *Paraskevidekatriaphobics*, or people who suffer from the morbid, irrational fear of Friday the 13th, will avoid walking under ladders, opening an umbrella indoors, or spilling salt as these are all considered "bad luck". Even the US Navy will not launch a ship on Friday the 13th, as in the tale of *H.M.S. Friday*, a British ship that set sail on a Friday to disprove the superstition that setting sail on Fridays was unlucky. The ship was never seen or heard from again.

We hear and repeat all these superstitions to one another, but what gave Friday the 13th the title of "the unluckiest day of all"?

While we consider the number 13 as bad luck now, many ancient civilizations didn't see it as so. The Chinese thought the number to be lucky. To the ancient Egyptians, the number 13 symbolized death, not death as in rotting and decaying, but as an honorable and desirable transformation. However, as time went on, this belief became altered to how we see the number 13 today, as something horribly spooky.

Many consider Friday as being unlucky as well. Most of these superstitions originated because of religion. In Christianity, Friday was the day that Jesus was crucified, Adam and Eve ate the apple from the Garden of Eden, and its the day of the Great flood began. In the Middle Ages, Friday was known as the "Witches' Sabbath." And it doesn't help that the rounding up of the Knights Templar for torture and execution by King Philip IV of France happened to land on a Friday, the 13th to be exact.

So we've got the unlucky number 13 and the unlucky day of Friday add it up, and it makes Friday the 13th doubly unpleasant.

Thus, attention to all *Paraskevidekatriaphobics*, go lock up your neighborhood cats and take down your mirrors by this Friday and maybe--possibly stay indoors, for a day like this is even better spent in the safety of one's own home with doors locked, windows closed, and fingers crossed.

