



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 58 - Issue 3  
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## Decathlon Takes First Place at Scrimmage



Decathletes, with 38 awards, take first place at a scrimmage hosted at El Rancho.

COURTESY OF MS. OASE

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Host school, El Rancho, recently took first place along with 38 awards in an Academic Decathlon scrimmage, which was held on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. Other schools in attendance

included: Los Altos, Jordan, Burbank, Bell Gardens, and Wilson.

The decathletes managed to attain the majority of awards in categories such as Economics and Super Quiz. In order to so, the decathletes have studying profusely.

"In addition to the class, they meet three days a week for

zero period and study after school. They even come in on Saturday and Sunday to prepare for the event," said coach, Ms. Oase.

Despite their victorious performance at the scrimmage, the decathletes still feel as if they need to improve their scores in order to prevail against top ranked schools.

"I think we did well, but I think we could do so much better. Our team is filled with so much talent, so I know it can be molded into something way better," said captain, Amy Micheo.

The decathletes have seen the competition as a way of knowing what they need to focus on.

"From our scores, I think we did well, but it just shows where we're at. So, from now until competition, it [is] cram time; we're just going to put in as much as we can to memorize thousands of pages of material," said decathlete, Walter Quintanilla.

Additionally, the decathletes have their sights set on improvement in order to beat their top competitors.

"We know what we need to improve on. Even though we did well in comparison to the schools that actually came to the scrimmage, in comparison to the top schools, we need to do better," said captain, Angeli Vicente.

Ultimately, the decathletes want to advance to state by ranking amongst the top schools in LA County.

## Dons Collect Cans for Charity

BY JOSELYN GONZALEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year's canned food drive was extended for an extra week.

This year's first period winner is Mrs. Quershi's class with a total of 564.53 lbs.

"It was not about winning it was just about helping the community and getting enough cans for the needy," Quershi said.

Winning was not her goal; instead, it was setting an example of generosity.

Despite her good intentions, Quershi found it difficult to motivate students to get involved in the canned food drive.

"It was hard to motivate students [this year] from last year, because of the economic crisis we are in, some students might be in need of cans too," Quershi said.



Vania Amezcua, sophomore, brought a total of 45 cans in Mrs. Quershi class.

"I got all of these cans from my kitchen cabinet. I really wanted to help the needy, and I had extra cans that would benefit other people," Amezcua said.

"It feels good helping others because in the long run it will pay off," Amezcua said. She also said, "Mrs. Quershi inspired us by telling us to put ourselves in the same situation as the needy."

Cheyenne Madrid, sophomore, also contributed by bringing in cans for Mrs. Quershi's class.

"I brought cans with the help of my grandmother and I feel great knowing I helped," Madrid said.

"What inspired me to contribute was knowing some children are in need of food," Madrid said.

Quershi said, "I hope next year we will get more cans than this year, hopefully doubling the amount."

The class competition results are 1<sup>st</sup> place: Sophomores with 2154.23 lbs, 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Seniors with 1661.55 lbs, 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Juniors with 883.48 and 4<sup>th</sup> place: Freshmen with 654.35 lbs.

## Reenacting the Election of 1800:

### The Federalists and Democratic Republicans of Mr. Diaz' AP US History Fight for Classroom Votes

BY JUAN OLIVARES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last week, Mr. Diaz' AP U.S. History classes involved themselves in a competitive reenactment of the Election of 1800. Each class had two students representing either John Adams or Thomas Jefferson.

The candidates from second period were: Juan Lopez, representing Thomas Jefferson, and Juan Olivares, representing John Adams. From forth period, the candidates were: Ricardo Lopez, representing Thomas Jefferson, and Patrick Rubacalva, representing John Adams.

Both classes had to meet the challenge of coming up with different slogans, posters, and flyers for their campaigns. The two groups from each class also had to visit different classrooms and present their president's ideas for the country and attempt to persuade the teacher to vote for them.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, both parties had to present their campaigns and they had to try and win the votes of their classmates. Each party had their own rally, and they were filled with excitement and enthusiasm.

Junior, Melissa Rodriguez said, "I liked the simulation because it was a different and fun way to learn about history."

Other students believe preparing for this election



Thomas Jefferson and John Adams fight for the vote of a classmate.

NAOMI ORTEGA

was a creative and interesting way to learn about history.

Junior, Alexis Ramirez says, "I believe it was a good experience because it got the class involved into what we were learning about and some of the people got really into their character." Other juniors, such as Gabriel Rodriguez, agree that the "people were so into the election that it felt as if they were the actual person."

The results for the elections were different for each class and many students were shocked at the results. In second period, the campaign for Thomas Jefferson won by a landslide and in forth period, the campaign for John Adams won by a landslide as well.

Junior, Brandon Gonzalez said, "The fun part of the election was most definitely when I had to try and convince students to support

the Democratic-Republicans."

Much competition was in the air when each side was presenting their campaigns to the teachers and to their classmates to try and get their vote.

It is fascinating to see that teenagers in our modern era are capable of doing these sorts of things and actually have a discussion about how campaigns worked back then.



NEWS

Social Justice Helps Needy Children in Baja

By ARACELI CABRAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Social Justice Club will be participating in the annual *Navidad en Baja*, from November to December 1. *Navidad En Baja* began 14 years ago to help children in need and children living in poverty.

The Social Justice Club will be distributing boxes to students and teachers to help with the event.

The donations will be available for children ages twelve and under. Students should participate because they “have the opportunity to help others in need,” says Social Justice Club vice president, Zyanya Cazares.

The boxes are to be filled with toys or any necessary supplies that would come to good use for the children. “Many kids don’t have the supplies that we take for granted everyday,” says Social Justice Club president, Nery Alcivar.

“I feel like sometimes we are very ungrateful for the stuff we have,” said Alcivar. “That’s why [Social Justice wants] to participate in this event.”

Although the program is titled “*Navidad En Baja*,” the organization changed due to problems in delivering the donations. Originally the donations went across the border, but complication of



Nary and Zyanya, members of the Social Justice club prepare to send various gifts to Baja.

inspection issues led the program to change its regular routine.

Now, the boxes are donated to any child in need. The donations are sent to California farm-working children, children with hearing impaired, and selected foster children. Part of the donations also goes to children in hospitals with infirmity or severe injuries.

In past years, volun-

teers have delivered 15,000 boxes to children and infants. This year the goal is to gather 2,000 boxes within the area.

Other volunteers for *Navidad En Baja*, apart from El Rancho High School, are: East Los Angeles College, Rio Hondo College, and Pico Rivera senior citizens.

El Rancho is mainly distributing boxes to Honors and

AP classes, Social Justice Club, Key Club, ASB, and any other student willing to participate.

Since *Navidad En Baja* is similar to the Toy Drive, Social Justice Club is combining the two events because they are both meant to help children in need.

“I think this event is very organized and [a] giving cause,” says Alcivar. “Many El Rancho

students show that they are actually concerned about poverty. That is definitely something we should be proud of about our school.”

“You can help spread the joy by donating a toy to room A-208,” says Cazares, Social Justice vice president.

Any student who wants to participate in the event is welcome to receive a box in the front office.

Alcoholic Beverages:  
Dangerous Drinks in Disguise

MANUEL ALVAREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Arizona Iced Tea, Monster Energy Drinks, Rockstar Energy Drinks, and Redbull Energy Drinks—they sound great right? At worst, they will only put a hole in your pocket book and maybe in your teeth.

But consider their alternates, Jungle Joose, Dragon Joose, and Four Loko. Along with putting a hole in your wallet and possibly in your teeth, these are alcoholic beverages disguised as popular, well-known tea and energy drinks and they can get you in a lot of trouble.

“Four Loko” contains 10% alcohol and “Joose” contains 9.9% alcohol; they are alcoholic drinks that should not be sold to anyone under the age of twenty-one.

Some students happen to be attracted to these drinks because

they don’t taste much like alcohol, and they have various flavors.

Since these drinks have a higher percentage of alcohol, it is easier to get drunk faster.

If students are caught with these drinks they will be automatically suspended, put on a behavior contract, required to attend drug classes, and obliged to complete community service.

If the problem persists, said students would be sent to court. Getting caught more than once leads to an automatic expulsion for the student.

I believe it is right to punish students who are breaking the rules. Since students are on school grounds, they should follow school’s rules.

Mr. Genis, along with all teachers and staff, would like to remind students that if they are to be caught with a Four Loco drink they will suffer the consequences.



Ms. Oase and Students Send Care Packages to Iraq

By ERIKA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ms.Oase is sending care packages to soldiers in Iraq after being inspired by a friend who is currently stationed there. She has asked her class to take part in this opportunity so they can “live a part of history,” says Oase.

She says that one day her friend called her, asking to look over his wife. “He sounded a little down,” she said.

This was the spark that encouraged her to put together care packages for the troops. The boxes will get to the

soldiers by Thanksgiving. They will each have small luxuries such as board games, granola bars, tissues, chap sticks, and other small gifts from Ms.Oase’s students.

Along with the package, each soldier will receive a letter from his or her student.

Later, the soldiers and students will be able to connect through Skype, which will let them visually meet whom they have written their letter to.

This will let the soldiers express their gratitude to the students, and also allow the student to express their feelings about the project.

“All of the kids were excited about the project,” says Oase. “I asked them to send things that make them happy,” that is how the students chose what they wanted to include in their box.

Sophomore, Ernesto Padilla, was thrilled about sending out his care package for this holiday season. He “thought it was amazing to give back.” He, personally sent Mad Magazines to keep the recipient of his package entertained. “I would feel touched.”

Oase said this is a very valuable lesson for students, and she hopes to do it again next year.





OPINION

Segal Questions Merit Pay, Obama Responds

Dear Mr. President,

Re: teacher rewards for student achievement

One of your promises when running for office was that teachers would no longer be compelled to ‘teach to the test’; as a high school English teacher teaching at an at-risk school in Pico Rivera, California, this was one of the reasons I voted for you.

As educators, we are receiving conflicting imperatives: on the one hand we learn that our students have several different learning ‘types’ - not only that, but it is widely celebrated that teachers have numerous different learning ‘styles’- on the other hand, we are encouraged, nay told to teach adhering strictly to the standards and to ensure that our students’ results exhibit significant statistical improvement from year to year.

There are so many problems attached to rewarding teachers according to the results of their students:

1. Teachers will be even more prone to teach to the test, as it will now involve not only student results, but teach-

ers’ remuneration and even guarantee of employment.

2. Putting this kind of strain on teachers will affect their momentum in giving meaningful instruction within an environment which offers a low effective filter (relaxed learning environment for optimal learning conditions).

3. How on earth can one measure the impact of previous teachers on a child, in his or her present performance?

4. Why should teachers be blamed for low-achieving students? In other words, why should one teacher not be recognized for his/her efforts, when another teacher, who is teaching the cream of the student academic population is being lauded and receiving extra remuneration.

5. Teachers are meant to work as teams for the good of the learners. It is already happening that there is competition among teachers, with professional jealousy and horrible back-stabbing behavior. Where will this take the learning process? This will guarantee a deviation from the true goals of education.

In my opinion, the problem might lie more with teach-

er training: if the colleges are graduating teachers of substance, the schools, their administrators, and the country as a whole should value these people and trust that they are able to perform their professional obligations with confidence, innovation, and peer respect, rather than dangling carrots which will place the focus on the carrots and not the learning PROCESS. The learner is a whole person and a test, (moreover, a multiple choice test), is not a true evaluation of what that learner is about.

It is vital to raise every child to his/her optimum potential – however, students are not all bound to become college professors, and realistically becoming a welder or theater assistant at a hospital rather than a drop-out cannot really be measured in terms of academic statistics.

Competition is a good thing up to a point: in education it has a very definite down side.

Sincerely and with warm regards,

Nadine Segal  
El Rancho High School  
Pico Rivera, CA

Dear Friend:

Thank you for writing. I have heard from many teachers struggling with limited school resources, parents showing concern about their children’s educational opportunities, and students seeking a quality education for a brighter future. I appreciate your perspective.

My Administration is addressing the serious challenges our Nation faces. Some say we are moving forward on too many issues too quickly. Given our unprecedented circumstances, swift, deliberate action is needed. I am committed to taking immediate steps that generate job creation and economic recovery, and I am determined to make investments that lay a new foundation for real and lasting progress.

To build this new foundation, I have called for health care reform-this year-that reduces costs, protects health care choices, and assures quality, affordable care for all Americans. I am committed to building a clean energy economy that creates millions of jobs, helps to achieve energy independence, and reduces pollution as we tackle the effects of global warming. To prepare our children to thrive in the global economy, we must guarantee every child a complete and competitive education. We need to secure our homeland against threats by preventing terrorist attacks while planning for and responding soundly to emergencies. We also have an obligation to rein in our budget deficit by cutting wasteful spending and ineffective programs. We can do all this, and change the way business is done in Washington, by building the most open, transparent, and accountable government in our history.

Ultimately, the only way to solve the problems of our time is to involve all Americans in shaping the policies that affect our lives. Thank you again for writing. I encourage you to explore [www.WhiteHouse.gov](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov), which is regularly updated and more interactive than ever before.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama



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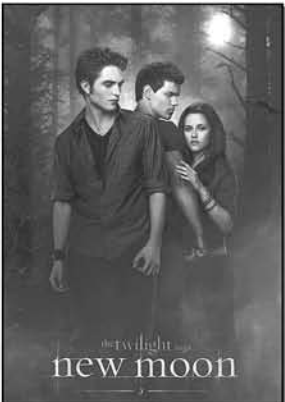
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FEATURES

# Students Serve Up a Tasty Treat at Jimmies

BY NAOMI ORTEGA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Recently, some of El Rancho’s student bands were given the opportunity to show off their talent at Jimmie’s Restaurant. Mr. Parra, who is also the advisor of the song writing club for the LEARN program, organized this event, which took place on November 7.

“I wanted to find a venue where the students who are in the club could perform,” said Parra.

When Parra posed the question whether or not they would be interested in playing, the song writing club members eagerly expressed their interest leading to a night filled with great entertainment.

The fun filled night at Jimmies included performances by Iron Haze, Suffer the Irony, Arsnik, Sweet Nothing, and Failure by Design. Solo artists who took the stage are Daniela Aguilar, Brandy Ortiz, Kevin Rivera, and a collaboration of Emma Leal and Mr. Parra.

The performers lit up the stage from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and kept a loud and vivacious audience entertained all through the night.



Junior Emma Leal , accompanied by Mr. Parra, sings in the spotlight at Jimmie’s family restaurant.

“I thought that the bands were great; they went on stage and played their heart out,” Bruce Loza, senior and member of Arsnik, continued to say, “I think it’s a good idea because it’s a great

opportunity for the bands to get noticed and do what they do best” Some of the members of Suffer the Irony, however, believed that the other bands were not as “brutal” as them, perhaps

these boys are looking for a challenge, if interested Mr. Parra is looking toward organizing another event at Jimmies in February giving new bands an opportunity to get some exposure.



NAOMI ORTEGA

## Simply Irresistible: King Taco Loving Brian Reyes!

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Hey, ladies! Are you looking for smart, single guy with great style and a love for King Taco? If so, junior, Brian Reyes, may just be the guy for you! This smart guy knows how to balance AP United States History and AP Spanish Language with ease. Along with his rigorous classes, he also manages to stay involved in school as seen through his participation in the MEChA club as well as the Leo’s club. Along with being a smart guy, Reyes is definitely a guy with a future. “I plan to go to Cal Poly Pomona and major in computer engineering,” said Reyes. Reyes is not all about school, so do not worry; he still knows how to have a good time. “During the weekends, I like to

play X-Box,” said Reyes. Are you a video game fanatic too? Well, don’t get too excited. “I wouldn’t let a girl play because she’ll just interrupt,” added Reyes. Do not let his video game seriousness fool you. Reyes knows how to treat a girl nicely. “If I were to take a girl out on a date, I would wear some tight pants, some boots, and a cowboy hat. Then, I’d take her to King Taco. I would buy her two tacos and get myself four,” said Reyes. “She and I would then go for a long, romantic walk on the beach as we finish our horchata and talk about X-Box games.” So, ladies, do long walks on the beach accompanied with serious conversations about video games with some delicious horchata sound like your ideal date? Then, Brian Reyes is certainly the guy for you!

## Richmond High School Events Remind Students of the Dangers of Rape and Assault

BY ALYSSA MENDOZA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It’s a bright beautiful day and it’s the day of your Homecoming dance. You decide to go and have fun. What could go wrong, especially on school grounds? Rape. The one thing you would least expect at school dance. After the Richmond High incident, more and more parents are left to wonder; Is the school really safe? Can I trust that my daughter will be OK if I allow her to attend this dance? It is completely understandable why they would feel this way. To know that a 15 year-old girl was raped by 15 assailants, witnessed by 20 bystanders, within school grounds, where there were ten chaperones and four police officers is pretty daunting. According to police, this was a two-hour long gang rape by the 15 assailants that had beaten and robbed the semi-conscious girl. No one did anything, until 18 year-old Margarita Vargas’s brother-in-law said he overheard a few guys bragging about the attack, and Vargas immediately called the police. Just imagine this, what if Vargas didn’t call the police? Do you think anyone else would have called? Honestly, there probably wouldn’t be a soul who would have, not even those who had witnessed this atrocious event. And that’s the thing today, teenagers have this “Code of Silence.” All of us teenagers know

that if we see something bad and we go off and tell a school official or someone of authority, we would be considered a “rat.” That needs to end. Students need to be able to come forward and speak the truth when it is truly needed, as it was in this case. This case is eerily similar to the rape that occurred in Smith Park about five years ago. Not one single person came forward and said they knew something that could have been vital to the case. We should be able to differentiate times when we need to be a “rat” and times when it’s okay to just let it slide and pretend nothing happened. In the Richmond High School rape case, only seven out of the fifteen assailants have been arrested, and they all vary from the ages of fifteen and twenty-one. If someone would have gone to the police station and said, “Hey I saw who did it,” it would pretty much take the guess work out of finding the assailants for the police officials and they could just have been done with the disgusting incident.



Richmond High School, the site of the scary events.

# El Rodeo

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SPORTS

# Schurr Knocks Dons Out of Playoffs

By SARAH VASQUEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Friday The El Rancho Varsity Football Team lost against Schurr High School Spartans in the first round CIF Play-Off Game 14-7. During the first half, our defense stopped Schurr in a tough defensive stand at the goal line to keep the score at 0-0. With no time left on the clock right before half time, Anthony Ayala number 25, scored the first and only touchdown for the Dons. At some point in the second half the Spartans caught up putting pressure on the Dons to score before they lost the game. The Spartans succeeded in breaking our defensive tactics and broke the tie during the fourth quarter. The Dons fought to catch up, but time ran out, ending in defeat.



STEPHANIE CHAGOLLA

# Waterpolo Team Loses in First Round of Playoffs



PHOTO PROVIDED BY YEARBOOK

By JACKIE MONTEON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's Boys' Varsity Waterpolo team has had a long and rough season with an overall record of 10-15. The team placed third in the league, behind Whittier and La Serna, and reached the first round of CIF.

The DWP (Dons waterpolo) team and Palm Dessert High School played on Tuesday, November 10, 2009; the Aztecs with a score of 12-6 crushed the Dons. "The season went good; it started weak but ended strong. A lot of young guys were stepping it up to varsity. The team felt like it accomplished a lot," said Alex Benitez, junior and varsity player. The Varsity team has had a lot of underclassmen move up to varsity; this year there was only one junior on the team and not a lot of seniors. "We have to work harder, never give up, and just be ready for league and CIF," said Benitez. Mr. Pringle, head coach of the varsity team, will hope for the best next year.

# Cross Country Team Competes in CIF

By LYDIA RAYA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, the El Rancho Cross Country team competed in the CIF Southern Section Preliminaries at Mount Sac. The varsity boys, led by senior runner Daniel Herrera and Del Rio League MVP Juan Rodriguez, a junior, ran in the first race of the morning. Running in heat one of race one of division one, they faced very stiff competition against some of the top ranked teams in the state including Marina, El Toro, and the number one ranked team in the state, Royal High School from Simi Valley.

It was a fast and furious race-one of the most competitive of the day. Only three seconds separated fourth through ninth place. Juan Rodriguez, improving upon his Mt. Sac Invitational time just three weeks earlier by 22 seconds, ran a time of 15:23 and a second place finish, ahead of all runners from Royal, El Toro, and Marina-a testament to his hard work and the dedication of Coach Wynn. Behind Rodriguez, The next 10 runners, fighting in a tight finish were all from Royal, El Toro, Marina, and our own Daniel Herrera. In the end Herrera finished in 8th place at 15:34 with a mere one second separating

him from a 5th place finish. In the end it wasn't enough, with Royal finishing in first place with four runners finishing in the Top Nine. Followed by Marina second, El Toro third, and Long Beach Poly taking fourth place. Unfortunately only the top four teams advance to the CIF Championships the following Saturday, also at Mt. Sac. On the individual side, Juan Rodriguez advanced to the CIF Southern Section Championships by virtue of finishing in the top six for a non-qualifying team. Unfortunately, Daniel Herrera will not be joining Rodriguez having finished in 8th place

a mere second away from a 5th place finish and advancing- heart-breaking finish for a great runner who had an outstanding season.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY YEARBOOK



DANIELA AGUILAR

# Girls' Volleyball Comes Up Short in C.I.F. Playoffs

By DANIELA AGUILAR  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' volleyball team won the first round of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) games, but failed to advance into the third round. Despite the loss in the second round, "our efforts paid off and we're glad to be here," said coach Adelaida Picon. In their first round of CIF, El Rancho smashed Rio Mesa High. Captain ,Alexandra Ramos, junior, said, "The team did a great job." Playing to their potential,

El Rancho defeated Rio Mesa in all three games. Both Picon and Ramos were proud of the girls. Moving on to the second round, the team was crushed by their opponent, Cypress High. The girls only won one of the fours games. Captain Kazondra Ramos, senior, said, "The team did start strong, but in the end, it just wasn't enough." Ramos was disappointed. Though the team lost, Picon said the game was exciting and was proud of the girls. She said, "The loss hurts, but overall, it was a great season."

# Tania Lopez and Patty Espinosa Reach League Finals

By JACKIE MONTEON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls' tennis team season was not the best. They obtained an overall record of 4-6. The tennis team made it to preliminaries, but only the doubles team of seniors Tania Lopez and Patty Espinosa made it to the league finals. Preliminaries were hosted by El Rancho High School because they have the most courts out of all of the schools and the courts are new and improved. At league finals Lopez and Espinosa placed fourth, right behind Cal High in third, Whittier in second, and La Serna in first. For singles, El Rancho did not do to well and did not have any players play in the preliminaries. It was the other school around the area to come out successful; Whittier placed third and second and La Serna placed first. "We're disappointed we didn't get third in doubles, but okay on how the season went," said Lippstreu, head coach of the tennis team. For next season, the team will train harder to try to get more players into league and place into the top three. Next season the team hopes to have Abigail

Bermudez back for singles as one of their key players, and as for doubles they are not sure if Alexis Delgado and Michelle Hernandez will still be a pair. "I think that we could've

practiced more strategies and we have to be more patient," said Monique Fitchett. The team will prepare themselves to place in the top three positions for the doubles and singles team next year.



JACKIE MONTEON



ENTERTAINMENT

WORD ON THE STREET

What was the last movie you paid to see?



*"Horton Hears a Who!"*  
Jason Encinas 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Mrs. Cruz 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor



*"New Moon"*  
Mathew Flores 12<sup>th</sup> Grade



*"The Fourth Kind"*  
Ashley Wong 11<sup>th</sup> Grade



*"Shrek the Third"*  
Andrew Perez-10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Advice: "Ask and You Shall Receive..."

BY PRISCILLA AMAVIZCA  
& AMANDA HERNANDEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

**"A good friend and I are having problems, what do I do?"**  
-Anonymous

You should meet the problems head-on. Talk to one other and compromise, but do it in a peaceful manner. Forgive each other, even if you think you are not at fault. If the problems continue and they cannot be resolved, then it is better to pull out the

thorn than keep it from hurting you. Real and good friends tell each other when they are wrong or when they need self-improvement.

**"I have two boyfriends. They both come to the same school. Do you have any advice on how to keep them from finding out about each other?"**  
-The Two Timin' Cheeta

Having two boyfriends at the same time causes tons of problems, as you can see, because you do not have two hearts to give

away. I recommend you break up with one of your boyfriends, even though it may not seem like a good idea, because they will eventually find out what is going on and there will be trouble. But if you want to continue, make sure nobody else knows, because word *will* get out and your reputation may not be the same as was before.

**"There's a guy that continues to flirt with me and I occasionally flirt back, but he happens to have a girlfriend. What should I do?"**

You should stop flirting with him because he does have a girlfriend and problems may arise amongst all three of you. The right thing to do would be to tell him to stop flirting with other girls and focus on his girlfriend. I he continues, then just ignore him completely. How-

ever, if you happen to like this guy, you need to realize that he already has somebody and it may not work out between you two.

**\*If you have any questions, please send them to the Activities office and place them in the advice box.**

Fiction: The Truly Thankful

BY REBECCA GALLEGOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Every day I passed him on my way to school. He was always sitting in the same spot, reading the newspaper. He looked so lonely, and I guessed that no one ever took the time out of his or her day to speak with him. This man was intriguing. I wanted to know his story, understand his life. I wanted to know how this man ended up homeless.

Thanksgiving was in a few days and I kept thinking about that poor homeless man. He would spend the holiday alone, no doubt, and probably eat whatever he could scrounge up.

I wanted to help out in any way I could, so I decided to start a collection. People were apprehensive to help out a man who they had unfairly judged "lazy" and "a drug addict." I did not judge him this way. To me I saw a man in need. A human nonetheless who needed assistance. I did not know his story; I could not automatically assume that this man was a bad person.

This was the last day of school before the Thanksgiving Holiday and I hoped that I could collect enough money to help the homeless man out.

"Allison," someone called.

I turned and saw my good friend Alex.

"Hey Allison, a couple of my friends and I asked around and we collected two-hundred dollars!"

"That's great! Thank everyone for me will you?"

"Of course, well I've got to get to class so I'll see you later."

"Bye," I said, "and thanks again."

I was ecstatic that other people were taking an interest in this project. I was confident that we would be able to raise enough money for a nice meal, new clothes and maybe even a few days in a motel.

Through out the day people kept handing me money and told me to wish the homeless man a Happy Thanksgiving.

I went home that day to find that we had fund-raised four hundred dollars.

I decided to go shopping for clothes for this man. He was fairly thin, and looked like he was in need of a new jacket. I bought him a few shirts, a nice warm jacket, and a pair of shoes. I also included the latest issue of the newspaper.

The next morning I helped my family make Thanksgiving dinner and set aside a plate for the homeless man.

Once dinner was ready, I packed all the clothes and the food in a bag and went to find the homeless man. He was in his usual spot under a ratty, old blanket.

"Excuse me," I called out.

He peaked out from under his blanket curiously and looked at the bag I held.

"Some students at my school, myself included, raised money to buy you new clothes

and a few days at the local motel. I also made Thanksgiving dinner and wanted to share it with you."

The look on his face was priceless. He had the hugest smile that lit up his entire face.

"T-thank you so much. No one has ever done anything like this for me."

I handed him the basket.

"Enjoy," I said and turned to walk away.

"Wait," he called out, "aren't you going to share this with me?"



"Sure," I said and sat down next to him.

We had an amazing conversation. I learned all about his life and the misfortunate events leading up to his current situation. He was never involved with drugs or breaking the law. He was just an ordinary man caught in a string of bad luck.

The time passed quickly, but I did not notice. When the sun started to set, I knew that I would have to head home soon.

I said good-bye to the homeless man and he kept thanking me over and over. I walked toward my house and he made his way up to the local motel. As I walked in the chilly evening air, I could not help but smile to myself.

*This was one of the best Thanksgivings ever.* Helping someone else in need was much more rewarding than staying home and indulging myself. I was glad I helped this man, for if I had not, no one else would have.



**Twitter-the Best Thing Ever, Really?**

BY JUAN OLIVARES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Man I'm soooooo busy," "I'm having an awesome time at this club," "It's hump day. Only two more days until the weekend!!!" "I have sooooo many emails to answer", Hey everyone, I have 90 followers!", "Re-Tweet ME! Dig my link!" "With my boyfriend", "Getting ready for the dance and stressed out", "I have so much work to do that I do not know when I am going to finish."

Many people in our society use websites such as MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter to talk about themselves and what they are doing or how they are feeling.

Early one evening I was reading a "tweet" online and it said,

"So bored at my aunt's house."

I do not like that fact that some people make unnecessary updates online because I think, "Why do I care what you are doing?"


It's true, why do I have to care about what someone else is doing? It does not affect me at all, and, honestly, I find it quite annoying that many people have updates that only have to do with themselves.

I also think these updates are annoying because some say, "Sitting on my couch." How does that have any relevance to anything? It does not, which is why I am annoyed when I see these on different websites.

Another example of a useless update is: "I am so happy that I'm with my boyfriend!"

I believe this is a complete waste of time because people are looking at themselves too much and they do not even know what is wrong in the world; let alone their own city.

Some people do not care about child soldiers in Africa or Asia and I bet if you were to ask them what was happening in Myanmar, then they would most likely not have a clue because they are too caught up in themselves to care about anything in the world.





## ENTERTAINMENT

# New Moon's New Vampires

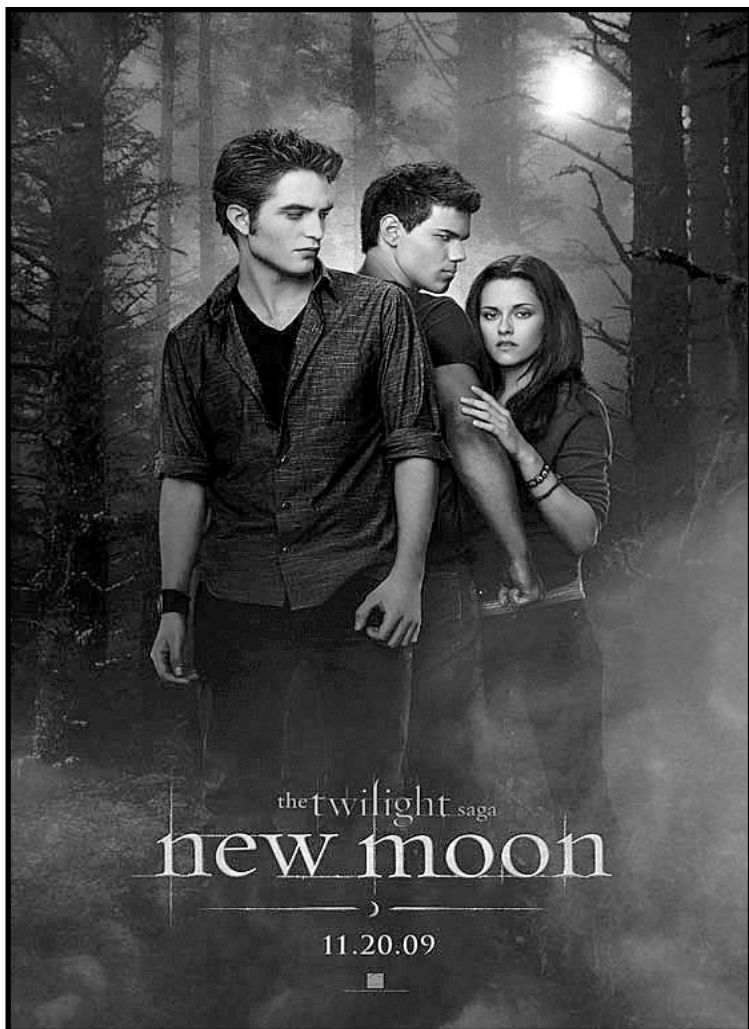
JACKIE MONTEON  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The *Twilight* Saga's *New Moon*, which came out last Friday has all spectators and fans curious of as to what to expect from the sequel. The movie has new actors and a great new soundtrack.

The Quileutes, which are the new pack of wolves, are: Alex Meraz (Paul), Kiowa Gordon (Embry Call), and Chaske Spencer (Sam Uley) who defend their tribe against the vampires.

There are also new Volutri which are the new kind of vampires. The Volutri leaders are Michael Sheen who plays Aro, Jamie Campbell-Bower who plays Caius, Christopher Heyerdahl who plays Marcus. Cameron Bright plays Alec, alongside Dakota Fanning who plays Alec's twin sister, Jane, while Noot Seear will play a Volutri temptress, Heidi. There will be more characters in this film that will have a great effect to the story. The love triangle between Jacob, Bella, and Edward will begin in this film.

Edward (Robert Pattinson) will leave Bella due to all that occurred in the first movie, *Twilight* and due to certain incidents. Edward wants her to be safe because he loves her, but



the movie has a twist and this just makes things worse. During Edwards's absence, Jacob (Taylor Lautner) helps Bella (Kristen

Stewart) get back on her feet and this sparks the love triangle between Jacob, Bella, and Edward.



EMMA LEAL

## Latina Fashionista

BY EMMA LEAL  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On behalf of the Gear Up/Prep programs, El Rancho students took a field trip to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Latina Fashionista conference in the California Market Center in Downtown L.A. on November 7, 2009.

"It was fun and I got to know how the fashion industry really works...and I got free make-up samples!" junior, Vanessa Mota said. "The conference helped me realize that fashion can be anything, well, depending on the style."

In addition, Roseanna Garcia, the founder of Latina Fashionista, has been organizing conferences where young female and male students can come and educate themselves with the different opportunities the fashion industry

has to offer. The conference supplied information from specific colleges, educators, and people who are on the verge of succeeding in the industry. Also, there were workshops held by educators that informed students how they can receive a later education in fashion. This conference also introduced people who have been trying to make it in the big fashion industry, and gave students a chance to ask personal questions regarding a designer's life.

"The conference was very educational," junior, Ariel Herrera said. "Since I'm kind of on the girly side I feel this conference taught me things I would have had learned eventually...and I'm glad I learned them earlier."

If you want to know about similar organizations or upcoming field trips, stop by the Gear Up/Prep office to find information.

## 2012 Leaves Viewers Unsatisfied

BY MARI DUENAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Directed by Roland Emmerich, and starring John Cusack and Amanda Peet, *2012* was released in all movie theatres on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>.

The movie shows the natural disasters foretold by the ancient Mayan calendar. The story begins in the year of 2009 where a massive solar flare erupts on the sun and jumps to 2012 when catastrophe begins to strike the nation.

The movie, being 2 hours and 48 minutes long, leaves the viewers exhausted after sitting for so long until the end of it



where things begin to "spice up." The director throws in long

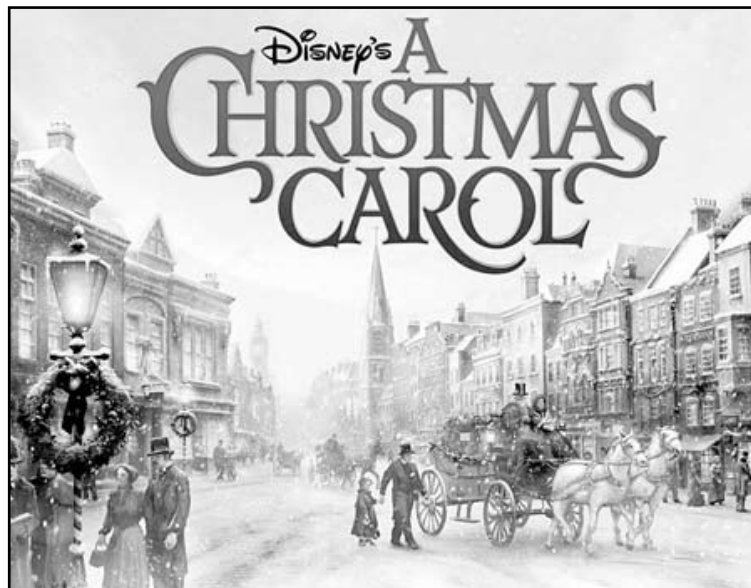
stories of different individuals in the film making the movie quite boring at some points.

However, disastrous earthquakes, tsunamis, and solar flares attacking the world made the movie keep its foot on the accelerator, leaving the viewers with little time to breathe.

Although the cast members deserve recognition for adding humanistic touch to this disastrous movie, it seems like the tragic adventures Jackson Curtis (John Cusack) and his family go through happen repeatedly, just in different parts of the world.

This film is high on amazing special effects, however the creators went "over-the-top" at times.

## Disney's A Christmas Carol, Great Effects, Nothing New



BY JAMES GAITHER, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Disney's *A Christmas Carol* was re-envisioned by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Robert Zemeckis. The classic Dickens tale was adapted into a breath-taking 3D motion picture event. Upon opening weekend the movie brought in just a little over \$30,000,000 million. The movie can be seen in 3D or in IMAX, which is quite amazing.

The film begins as Ebenezer Scrooge (Jim Carrey) spends the Christmas holiday penny-pinching, and barking at his over-worked clerk (Gary Oldman) and his cheery nephew (Colin Firth). When the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future come to take him on an eye-opening journey revealing truths, which Old Scrooge is hesitant to face. He must open his heart to undo years of damage before it's too late for him, and he suffers the same fate as his old business partner.

The movie has stunning special affects and truly captivates the audience, allowing them to think they are part of the movie. Compared to Zemeckis's *Beowulf* and *Polar Express* the characters in the movie seem to actually be alive and not expressionless. However, even with all of the special effects the movie follows the same plot as the original film so closely, you may think why Zemeckis would even have bothered to make a new one. The movie's ghosts are quite scary, and can quite frightening to some children, so its not recommended to take your little brother or sister.



BY PALOMA BUENROSTRO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

*Raditude*, Weezer's seventh album dropped this month and it is brilliant.

## Weezer Lets it All Hang Out

The first track, "If You're Wondering If I Want You To (I Want You To)," sets the tone for the rest of the record, fun. Weezer does what they do best; make upbeat pop rock music.

The band even gets a little experimental with the track "Can't Stop Partying" which not only features rapper Lil Wayne, but was also co-written by Hip-Hop producer Jermaine Dupri. It has a different sound but Weezer makes it work-definitely one of the best songs on the record. Although, the band gets a little too experimental with the song "Love is the Answer." It has some Indian sitar and chanting and it just doesn't cut it. Pop Rock and Indian music are not a good mix. I'm all

about diversity but there's a limit.

The album picks up again with songs "Let it All Hang Out" and "In the Mall" where Weezer reminds us they can still shred on the guitar and provide that fun nerd rock we fell in love with when they first stepped onto the scene. Weezer didn't only start the album off right but they ended it just perfectly with one of the only slow songs on *Raditude* "I Don't Want to Let You Go."

Get ready to have this album on repeat blasting in your car because its one of the best albums released in '09. It's an album worth buying and it will be the best \$9.99-15.99 you would have spent this month.



# THANKSGIVING

## Dons are Thankful for....

EL RODEO STAFF WRITER  
CHRISTINA PEREZ



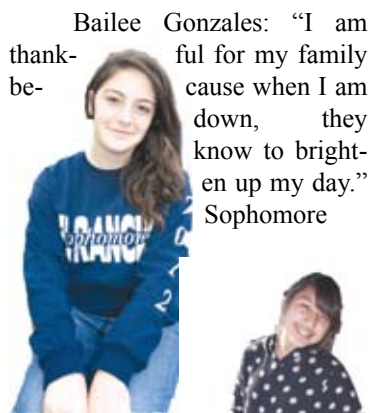
Elise Contreras: "I am thankful for my family for always supporting me." Junior



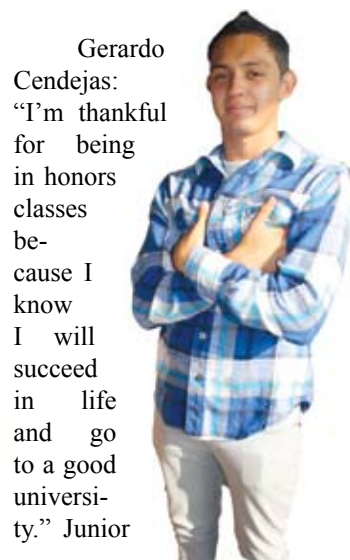
Kajal Kandora: "I am thankful for my family and friends that stand by me through all the choices I make, no matter how good or bad they have been." Junior



Jim-Millan: "I am thankful for my father, brother, grandparents, and my great friends because they have always been there for me. I'm also thankful for my sports, wrestling and water polo." Junior



Bailee Gonzales: "I am thankful for my family cause when I am down, they know to brighten up my day." Sophomore



Gerardo Cendejas: "I'm thankful for being in honors classes because I know I will succeed in life and go to a good university." Junior

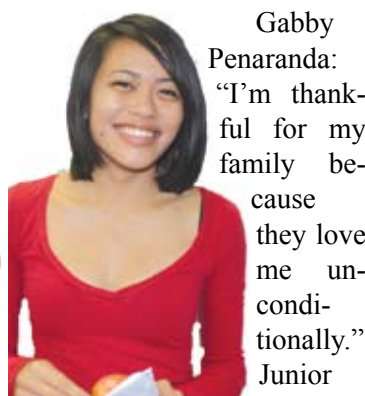


Naomi: "I am thankful for my family and friends because they are always there to support me for through I do." Freshmen

ing friends and family that stand by me through all the choices I make, no matter how good or bad they have been." Junior



Taylor Torres: "I am absolutely thankful for my family, especially my mom because she is awesome." Junior



Gabby Penaranda: "I am thankful for my family because they love me unconditionally." Junior



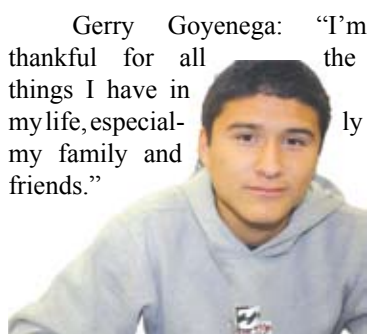
Jaime Mendez: "I am thankful for my mom because she pushed me to get good grades in school. I am also thankful for the great teachers that are at El Rancho. Finally for Chef Luna's food because it's so delicious." Senior



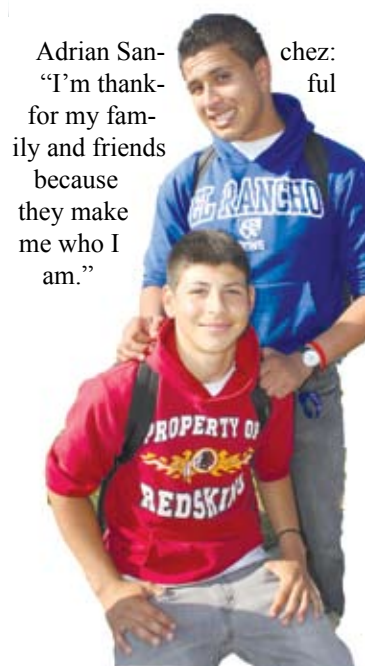
Marlee Rangel: "I am thankful for my sisters because even though we argue, we still love each other and I wouldn't replace them for the world." Sophomore



Josh Paralta: "I am thankful for having friends that I can depend on. Also I am thankful for being healthy and having the ability to wrestle." Senior



Gerry Goyenega: "I'm thankful for all the things I have in my life, especially my family and friends." Junior



Adrian Sanchez: "I am thankful for my family and friends because they make me who I am." Freshman



Edith Vasquez: "I am thankful for my family because without them I would be nothing." Freshmen



Nick Rodriguez: "I am thankful for my best friend James Millan and for my closest friend John." Sophomore



Daniel Flores: "I am thankful for my family, friends, and Jessica." Sophomore



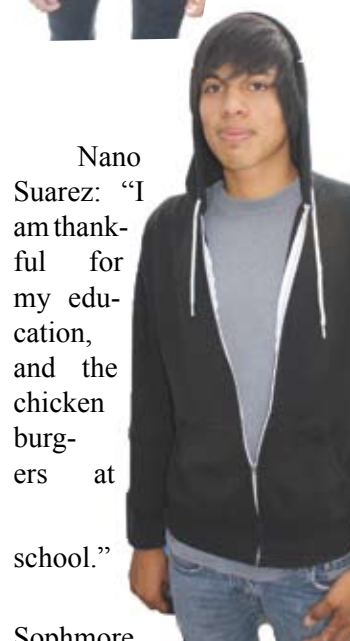
Tina Castellan: "I am thankful for my ASB family. Also for my awesome brother and sister." Junior



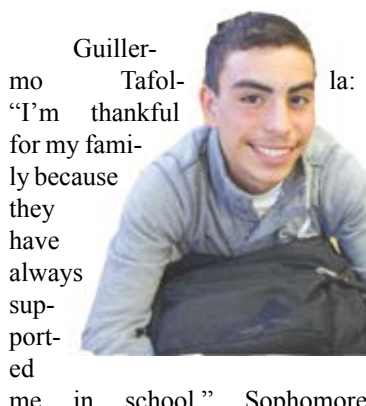
Angeli Vicente: "I am thankful for my mother and the rest of my family. Without them I wouldn't be the person I am today." Senior



Rosemary Gonzalez: "I am thankful for my family because we're in a financial position during this recession and for my friends because they have always supported me in school." Sophomore



Nano Suarez: "I am thankful for my education, and the chicken burgers at school." Sophomore



Guillermo Tafolla: "I am thankful for my family because they have always supported me in school." Sophomore



Lily Gama: "I am thankful for my family and friends, especially Allie and Christina who have been there for me. I am also thankful for having food each and every day." Senior

## Thank you Ms. Eargle-Heist

The *El Rodeo* staff wishes to extend its deepest thank yous to Ms. Eargle-Heist who kindly donated copies of *El Rodeo* from 1961-1964.