



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 58 - Issue 4
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Music Classes Shine in Winter Concert



BY JUAN OLIVARES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Marching Band performed at their annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 2nd in the cafeteria. The concert was composed of other songs performed by the Choraleers and the new Jazz Band. The Jazz Band began with their first ever performance, which included a combination of blues and jazz songs, and the Choraleers followed with their performance of different carols. The Marching Band then took the stage and performed different compositions of field show music.

"I thought it was very solid. I liked the way that everyone co-operated with us and we did a good job," said senior, Ivan Briseño.

Band director, Mr. Cordero said, "I believe the students did a good job with the performances and we were happy to have the Choraleers, who also did an outstanding job, come and also participate in our concert."

Cordero has much pride in his band and he knows that they will do well in other performances, as will the Choraleers. "I always enjoy hearing my bands and seeing them accomplish their goals," says Cordero.

Other band members agree that they are doing well in their performances. Sophomore, Jessie Piñon said, "I thought everyone did really well and I was proud because everyone sounded great with their tone quality and everyone had fun."

"What I thought was really neat was seeing so many people show up and support the music program," said Cordero.

Many people did attend the concert and they were very supportive of the bands and the Choraleers. The audience enjoyed all the songs that were performed at the concert.

Cordero said, "I am very proud of the students because they have come a long way this year; they have been given challenging work, they are still getting used to me and they have done a great job."

Ultimately, the band is looking forward to a great year and having fun while they are working hard to achieve their goals. The band will also be performing their field show music at the Disneyland Christmas Parade on Sunday.

Marching Band Places Fourth in Competition

BY CHRISTINA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After competing in Arcadia's 56th Annual Festival of Bands, El Rancho's Marching Band and Color Guard placed fourth in the parade band competition. This event can only be entered by invitation. Only schools that have received at least eighty-five points during parade season can enter.

"It was an honor to be selected and be amongst the best bands in Southern California," says band director Reggie Cordero. The band and color guard practiced long hours that ran from seven in the morning until seven at night going over field music and drills.

"It was fun and stressful since it is the biggest competition in our season. It was a lot of pressure knowing that there were bigger bands that have more experience," says drum major Ivan Briceño.

Since this is his last year being a part of the band, he said,



Destiny Ramirez, accompanied by fellow band members, plays in the Arcadia Festival of Bands.

COURTESY OF YEARBOOK'S
EDDIE RAMIERIZ

"I'm proud of what the band has accomplished this year and I'm really hoping we do even better throughout the rest of the year."

During the all-day parade event, Mr. Cordero organized a senior line up so that each senior

member who was a part of the band and color guard could be recognized. He is also encouraging new students to join the program for next year's band and color guard.

Their next event will be at Santa Barbara High School

where they will compete in a competition of the Battle of the Bands. To end their marching season, the band and color guard will be joining Disneyland's Christmas Parade this Sunday as they march down Main Street.

Chef Luna's Culinary Arts Class Serves the Needy



Chef Luna and Robert Mendoza worked to feed the needy on Thanksgiving.

BY MARI DUENAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For Thanksgiving, Chef Luna and all of his classes whipped up a variety of meals for the homeless on Los Angeles' Skid Row. For three days, the students cooked and baked their generous donations.

"There are a lot of people cooking so much food, and it's better to give it to those who re-

ally need it," said Chef Luna.

Luna explained how it hurts him to see people look in the trash for food as he said, "I get choked up seeing someone eating food that has already been sucked up by someone else."

The donations were not just the well-worn "soup" of the soup kitchen or "cans" from a canned food drive. They were full entrees, carefully prepared by culinary artists.

Some of the delicious side dishes that Luna had his classes make were mashed potatoes, macaroni & cheese, tortellini, potato salad, pasta salad, vegetable soup, rice, stuffing, bread, and along with those he added enough cup-of-noodles and bottled waters.

Robert Mendoza, a student who insisted on going with Luna to donate food, was very well recognized for his hard work and cooperation. "He worked his

butt off and really acted into it," said Luna "It took a lot of time and effort to prepare these meals and give them to all the people."

With the help of Mendoza, Chef Luna had a load off his back and together they organized themselves to take trips to Los Angeles for three continuous days during the break.

Speaking of the many celebrities he's cooked for, Luna commented, "I've noticed that they leave a big amount of leftovers that they care less about when there are millions of homeless people out there who are dying for the need of that food."

Luna's experience as a chef has made him the kind-hearted man he is today.

Four years of experience in sharing food with the needy has kept Luna motivated to continue his generosity for the next few years during vacation time.

INSIDE



UC Increases:	Page 2
Ginger Kids:	Page 2
Obama's War:	Page 3
Powder Puff:	Page 4
Rivera's Art:	Page 5
Food Column:	Page 6
DJ Hero:	Page 6
Cheap Gifts:	Page 8

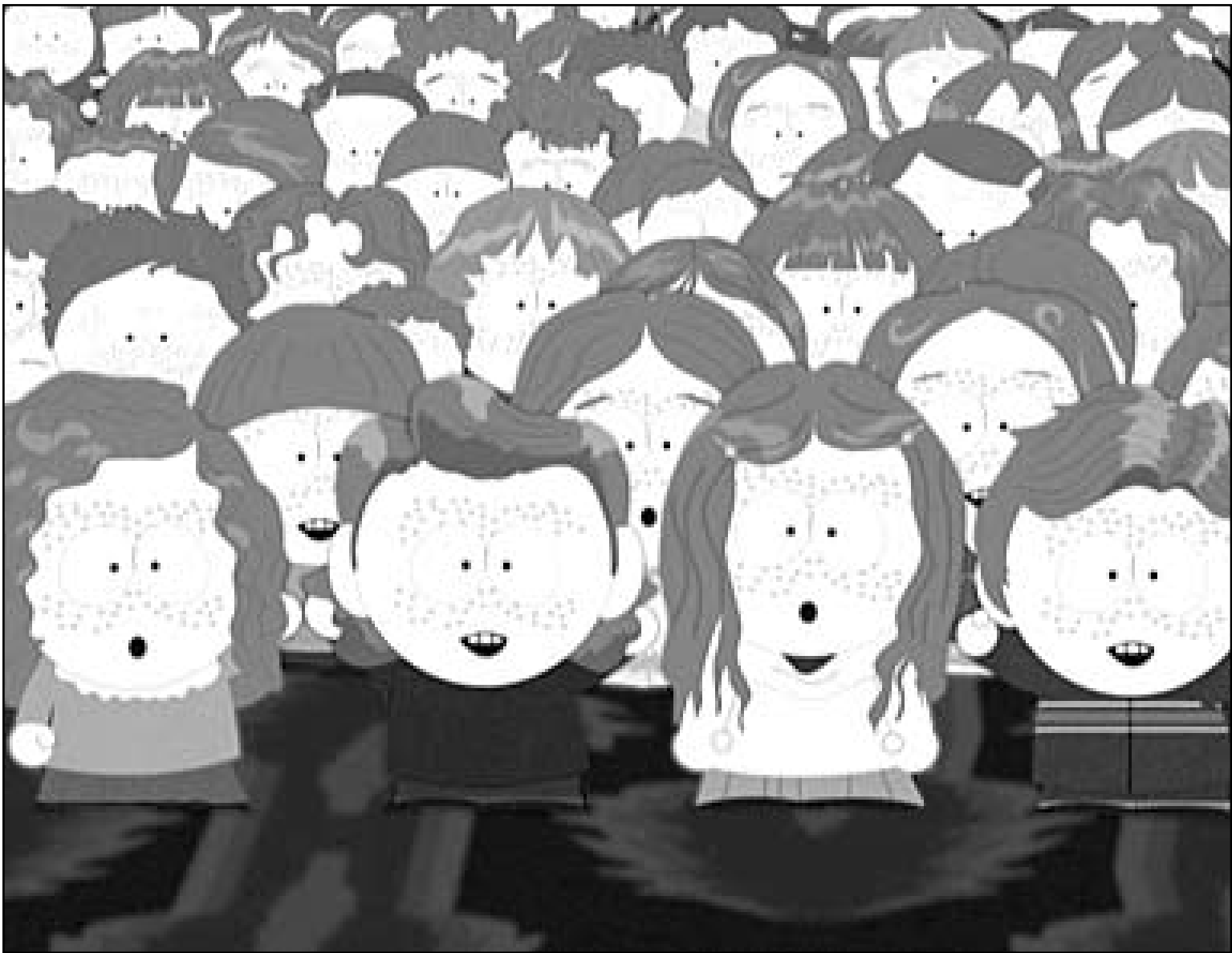
NEWS

Rises in UC Fees Rally Students



By BRIANNA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“Ain’t no power like the power of students, ‘cause the power of students don’t stop!” chanted UC students protesting against new UC policies which will surge tuition by 32%. Taking effect in January, the first tuition increase will cost students an additional \$585 a semester. The second increase, beginning next fall, will raise tuition another \$1,344. In addition, classes will be cut, staff will be fired, majors will be limited, and enrollments will be decreased. In turn, UC officials have stated that they are facing a 535 million dollar budget deficit, so the fee increases will help to “close the gap.” Students, as well as faculty members, are being affected by the budget cuts and tuition increases. In the upcoming fall semester, some UCs may not take freshman applicants due to the increases in class sizes and budget cuts. Despite the enormous increases, some students still have their sights set on UCs. “For me, specifically, if the school was well developed in technology and had notable reviews, I would still apply,” said junior, Arthur Juarez. On the contrary, some students are not as optimistic. “A 32% increase is a lot, one third, actually. [The tuition increases] discourage me from applying,” said junior, Steve Ramirez.



Kick a Ginger Day: A Joke Gone Too Far

By ARLETTE LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“Kick a Ginger Day,” a grotesque and horrid day, was inspired by a 2005 episode of South Park where it was celebrated by kicking a red head with freckles. A 14-year-old boy in Calabasas, California, inspired by the episode, believed it would be funny to post it on Facebook. Eventually, this event led many students to cooperate with the holiday and celebration. Police said that this event was planned

weeks before. A child was walking to his class and was beaten by another 14-year-old boy accompanied by his classmates. This was not the first time where a teenager has acted violently by an inspiration they watched. Video games have also affected teenagers in life where they buy the most violent, gory video games. Some teenagers do not think things through and have to face the consequences. On October 26, 2008 a similar incident had occurred. The day was known as “Hit a

Jew Day.” Many Jewish students came home with bruises and scars. The horrible, awful celebration started by having a spirit week among friends where one day was “hug a friend” to “high five” day. Suddenly things went to the extreme as “hit a tall person” and “hit a Jew” day occurred. This leads us to no other punishment than to have teenagers tried as adults. Some people may think it is too extreme to have a “child” be tried as an adult. The children do know the consequences and the ac-

tions they commit; they have to be responsible for their own actions. Sooner or later the parents will not be on their child’s side. Teenagers believe that they could get away with anything no matter what they do because they know they are children and would not be tried as an adult. Having these laws, teenagers from all over the world may realize that the actions they are committing are very harmful towards other people. It does not matter how big or small the crime is; teenagers should be tried as adults.

WORD ON THE STREET

How will the 32% increase of UC tuition affect you?



“The increase in prices at the college level made me consider many out of state schools. This increase might stop some schools from giving financial aid which is needed by many people.”

Ivan Briseno - 12th Grade



“This will affect me because I do not have a lot of money for college. I might have to use more student loans, so I will owe a lot of money after I graduate.”

Britney Martinez - 12th Grade



“The Increase in Prices made me not want to apply to UCs since they’re so expensive to start off with.”

Bo Guillen - 12th Grade



“It discouraged me from even applying to any UCs, and narrowed my choices. Now, I have to look for scholarships even more than before.”

Chelsi Serna - 12th Grade

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OPINION

Didn't Obama Promise Change?



By ALYSSA MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Last Tuesday President Barack Obama said he is sending 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan. Didn't he say he was going to create "change" and bring home the troops very soon? It doesn't sound that way since he's sending 30 thousand soldiers over. He did vow to "seize the initiative" to end the war we all pretty much hate and to begin bringing home soldiers as soon as July 2011, which isn't soon enough. There have been too many lives lost in this country--why risk more? Too many mothers are having to say goodbye to their sons and daughters not knowing if that will be the last time they will see them. President Obama

needs to rethink his strategies. Violence plus more violence just equals more violence. I know its cliché to say " make love not war," but come on we are talking about lives at stake. Innocent people are dying over there. If the conflict is mainly between our leaders, then why not let them settle these disagreements more like gentleman and less like cowards by sending our troops to Afghanistan to fight a war that never seems to end and for what? It has been years since the war first started and slowly we are losing the reason to even stay at war. Obama promised to have those troops back home when he first went into office and he should keep that promise. Many families cannot wait another year and a half for their sons or daughters to return home.

Swine Flu Scare

By JOSE REYES
EL RODEO WRITER

The news has been reporting the severity of the H1N1 virus, also known as "swine flu," that's been spreading worldwide, with 10,402 deaths as of December 4, 2009, as opposed to the 17,000 to 52,000 deaths caused by the seasonal flu. Although, it's mostly media hoopla that's getting everyone riled up and causing the mass hysteria and scare, as it did with the bird flu. Part of the blame is also due to the people who make it worse by getting hysterical themselves. Though the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has advised that only, and I emphasize only those who are at a high risk, are: those aged 65 or older, children under the ages of 5 and children with neurodevelopmental conditions, asthmatics, diabetics, those with obesity, heart disease, and pregnant women. Those people who are at risk are the ones who should be getting the H1N1 vaccine first, along with those who work with children, such as teachers, counselors, etc. What really makes me laugh and roll my eyes though is the comments some students make saying they're scared about getting the H1N1 virus. Even though the CDC recommends the vaccination, it's still just a flu in reality, it will mutate and a new

strain will always be around, which is why scientists to date haven't found a cure, not a vaccine, for the common cold or influenza (flu) because it is constantly mutating. Also, the vaccine is mainly for those at risk, so I don't see why students here are getting the vaccine when the vaccine should first be given to those who are most at risk. There are simple things one can do to prevent themselves from spreading this and other viruses, such as: washing your hands frequently and thoroughly (yes boys this means you too); after touching surfaces, and washing your hands or using hand sanitizer after sneezing/coughing into your hands. If you become sick and get a fever, stay home and do not come back to school until twenty-four hours after the fever has gone without the help of over-the-counter medications to make sure you don't spread

any sort of seasonal diseases. You can also eat healthier, as in getting more fruits and vegetables into your diet and more vitamins and minerals as well. Doing this won't only help with the prevention of swine flu, but it will help your overall health as well. Many of us don't eat healthy; I too am guilty of this. We're out there eating fast food, or we're going to the market or gas station and eating a bag of potato chips and soda for dinner or even lunch. These foods, along with other foods have no nutritional value. Last but not least, and most importantly, keeps your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth when having touched surfaces to ensure you don't catch any viruses this season. So all in all, this H1N1 virus is simply a more severe case of the influenza virus and we are the ones causing hysteria.

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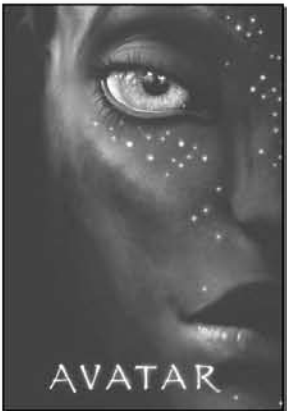
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FEATURES

Tennis Team Set to “Get Rough” in Powder Puff

By ARACELI CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The girls’ varsity tennis team will participate in the Powder Puff game on December 10 at the Don Memorial Stadium. “It wasn’t intentional,” says Junior, Monique Fitchett. “It just happened.”

The team began practicing on November 23 from 3:15pm to 5:00pm.

They are anxious for the big night and confident, knowing they will be playing with familiar faces from the tennis team. “We have some really good players,” says Junior, Kimberly Sanchez. “Playing with the team will definitely improve my game.”

“Having your teammates there makes you feel like you’re not alone,” says Junior, Abigail Bermudez. “Just like in tennis, everyone contributes a little to the game, and [Powder Puff] could really use some strong tennis arms.”

Even though the tennis team is stoked for the game, they hide a little fear on the inside.

“I fear about being at the bottom of the dog pile,” says tennis player, Linda Galindo. Sanchez says she is most “fearful of bruises.”

Powder Puff is fun and an effective experience towards the girls’ varsity tennis team. “It builds character and gives you



thigh muscle,” said Sanchez. Although many enjoy the original Powder Puff tradition, some would not mind the start of a new one.

Girls’ tennis coach, Cindy Lippstreu, suggests having two Powder Puff games; freshmen

vs. sophomores and juniors vs. seniors. After the two games, have the winners from each game play against each other.

The Powder Puff game is always full with a ton of junior and senior participants.

They look forward to creating memories and a huge victory against the opposing team. “If I break anything or get hurt, I will probably remember that the most,” shares Bermudez. “Hopefully the [opponents] don’t get too crazy.”

The best of their memories is “just being out on the field and playing with the rest of the girls,” says Sanchez. “I’ve been wanting to do Powder Puff since freshmen year, so it would be cool to scratch that off my list.”

Sanchez Overcomes Injury; Ready to Start Season



By JOSELYN GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior, Luis Sanchez, the El Rancho boys soccer team’s goal keeper has been playing soccer for most of his life. He started playing soccer at the age of five.

Around August, during summer practices, Luis unfortunately

hurt his ankle. “I stepped wrong when I was coming out from the goal during a drill,” Sanchez said.

About a month went by and Sanchez continued playing soccer, but little did he know something was about to happen.

“My right ankle started to hurt a lot and I went to my doctor who told me my ankle and

toe were dislocated, so I had to be off for about two months.”

Sanchez said, “I felt like I wasn’t going to be in shape and prepared for soccer season. I also felt frustrated because during practice; all I would do was watch my teammates practice.”

He had a cast boot for two months. To put up with frustration Sanchez would work out his upper body to maintain his fit physique and of course with help of his teammates, he was able to cheer up.

When Sanchez’s boot was finally removed on November 16th he said, “I felt out of condition, because as a soccer player we don’t take breaks. I sort of felt behind from the rest of my teammates, but I managed to catch up by practicing extra during the weekends.”

He felt relieved when he found out he was able to play on the first game of pre-season.

Sanchez said, “Even though, I’ve been playing I don’t feel fully recovered from my injury. I have been giving my all since my injury because it’s not just a soccer team to me, but a family.”

Unfortunately, if he gets a severe injury, he will not be able to fully recover.

“Looking back at our recent pre-season games I could predict that we will have a successful season and hopefully take Del Rio League,” Sanchez said.

November Athletes of the Month



November athletes of the month, Juan Rodriguez and Pricilla Melendrez.

By ALEJANDRA VALLIN, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Athletes of the month, juniors, Juan Rodriguez and Pricilla Melendrez, both felt very accomplished to reach to the top. Rodriguez and Melendrez are both in cross-country. They “worked hard and pushed themselves to the limit” they said. Never having doubts in themselves, they thought positive and never looked back as they reached to the top and became known as the November athletes of the month.

FEATURES

Rivera Sweeps Art Competitions

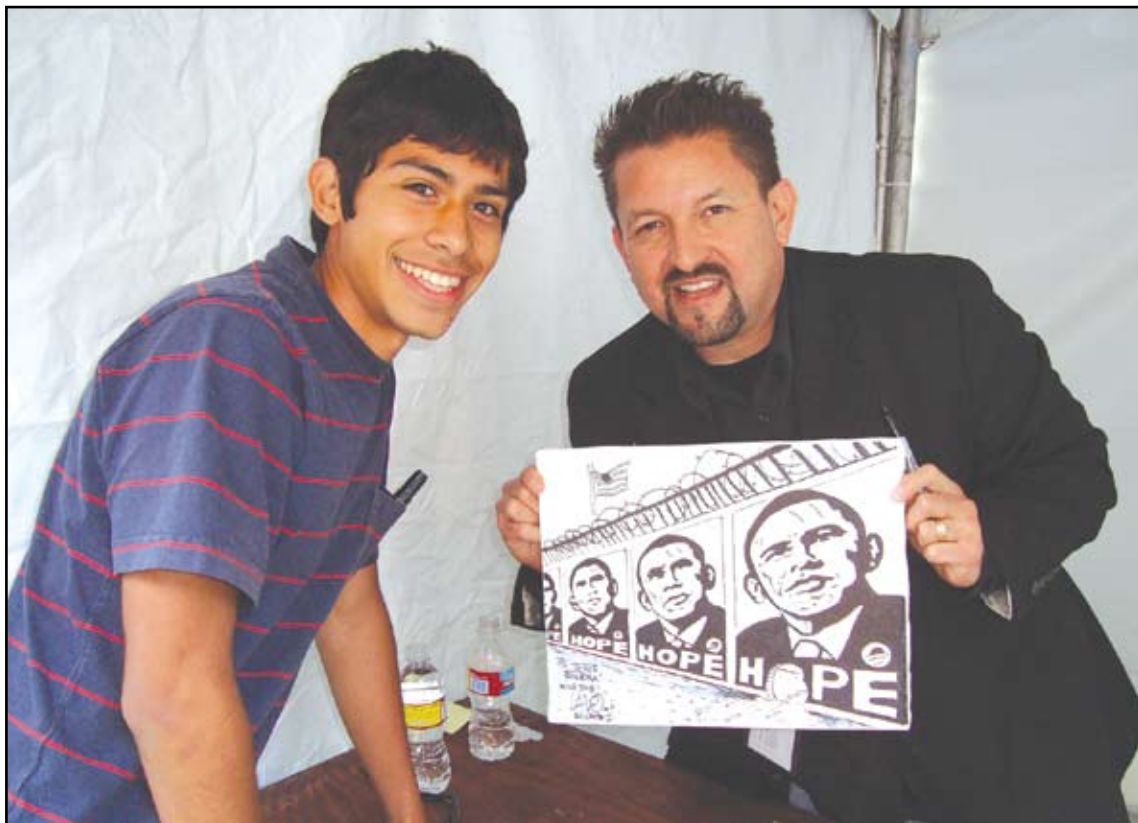
BY NAOMI ORTEGA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Jesus Rivera swept El Rancho's art competitions. He took first place in both the chalk drawing contest and the Drug Free poster contest.

"Art is a big part of my life," says Rivera. In his junior year, Rivera took advantage of an appearance by Mexican-American cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz at UCLA. "The day before I was working on the project where I replicated one of his works; I was able to take it, get it signed, and have a picture taken with him."

As a senior, Rivera has planned ahead. "I want to have art as a minor, but I'm looking into architecture as my major." Not only is Rivera artistically talented, but he also partakes in AP Spanish, AP Government, and AP Literature, and he has earned himself a spot on El Rancho's boys' varsity soccer team.

With regards to his busy schedule, Rivera con-



fesses, "It's really hard to find time to work on art."

Rivera explains how his art has been stored all this time and

he thinks it's time for it to be displayed. "I want to get a gallery here at school to show what I've done," Rivera continued to say, "I

would want to have something in the library, in the teachers' classrooms, or in the display cases."



Mr. Parra Keeps Rockin with Beat'N

BY EMMA LEAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Have you ever wondered who is a gifted, time devoting teacher here at El Rancho? Well, Mr. Parra, a digital photography teacher in Z-4, has some of the characteristics of what it means to have talent.

His major talents are playing the guitar and writing unique pop songs. "Since I was in high school I've been playing the guitar," Mr. Parra says. "While playing the guitar, I found it easier for me to write my own music."



Beat 'N: Paul Blavdio, Robert Parra, and Tony Singer.

Also, he is a member of a trio, punk rock band called *Beat'N*, which is a

group he and his friends formed a couple of years ago. "I've been in other

bands [...] the one I am in now is a mixture of friends. We practice once a week, [usually] Monday nights."

Furthermore, though he is a teacher, a band member, and an individual trying to live life to the fullest. He devotes some of his time in being the advisor of the Songwriters club on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. So, if you are someone that writes poems and who truly thinks you have a gift involving music stop by Z-4, Tuesdays and Thursdays; there, you will find the opportunity to show what you've got.

El Rodeo



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ENTERTAINMENT

A Hero For All Music Lovers



BY STEPHANIE CHAGOLLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

DJ Hero is a game that really needs to be played in order for it to be truly appreciated. It can get pretty intense at times, even on medium difficulty, because of the mixing between certain songs. But once you've wrapped your head around it all, it is a blast.

There are 102 songs in DJ Hero, and 93 original mixes created from those songs. It's an electric mix of artists, including everything from Queen to Foo Fighters to Justice to Noisia to Eminem. DJ Hero is fresh in every possible definition of the word. DJ Hero is phenomenal, it includes Grandmaster Flash, DJ Shadow, and the late DJ AM.

If you particularly enjoy hip-hop, you might want to give DJ Hero a try because there are plenty of hip-hop songs to choose from. The mixes, created by artists including Grandmaster Flash and DJ Shadow, are top notch as well. I highly recommend that you run out and pick up a copy of DJ Hero for yourself.

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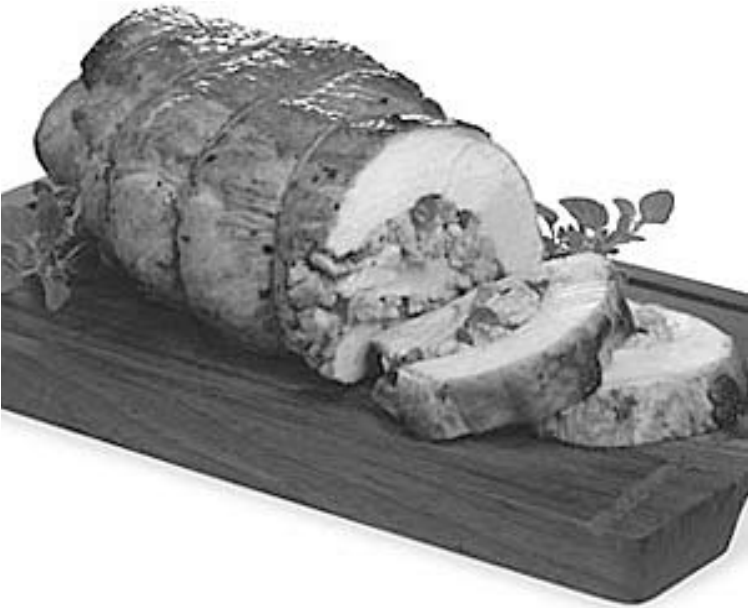
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Foods That Will Make You Say “HO, HO, HO”

BY JAMES GAITHER, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

During the festive winter holidays people tend to enjoy fine dinners and treats during this time of celebration. Three great holiday dishes to have on Christmas day are Pumpkin Gingerbread Cookies; Peppermint flavored Hot Chocolate and Turkey Breast Roulade with Apple and Raisin Stuffing. Gingerbread cookies have been a classic tradition for a long time and are still enjoyed thoroughly today. A favorite recipe of mine involves making Gingerbread cookies with pumpkin, which adds a refreshing flavor to the gingerbread's spiciness. The cookies are easy to make and quite affordable too. Three full sized loaves, lively with cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Wrap loaves in cellophane, tie with a colorful ribbon, and give as a gift. A great hot drink to warm you up with is Peppermint Hot Chocolate. This refreshing drink is a blend of rich hot chocolate and peppermint. A fun and unique way to create this drink is to buy a box of candy canes and to toss them into a blender and then grind them to tiny chunks or powder. Then add it to your hot chocolate and stir well and you will have an instant peppermint cocoa. Last of all a great family dinner is a Turkey Breast Roulade with Apple and Raisin Stuffing. This great dish is easy to make,



Football Plus Family Equals Heart-Felt Film

BY LYDIA RAYA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



Developed from Michael Lewis' book by director John Lee Hancock comes the heart-warming film based on a true story, *The Blind Side*, the story of a homeless young man whose life is transformed along with the kind family that gives him a remarkable second chance at life. The movie follows the story of a homeless African-American teenager, Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) from a broken home, taken in by the Tuohy family. The well-to-do white family helps Michael fulfill his potential during his stay with them. Living in this new environment with the Tuohys presents a completely new set of challenges for the teenager to overcome. In the meantime, Oher's presence in the Tuohy household leads the family to some insightful self-discoveries of their own. Recognizing Oher's potential to become an athlete, the family encourages him to pursue the road to star athleticism. As a football player and a student in Briarcrest Christian School, Oher works hard for success. As the NFL draft approaches, fans and sports radio stations speculate that Oher will be the best choice for the All-American left tackle. With the help of his new teachers, coaches, and adoptive family, Oher becomes that All-American left tackle for the Ole Miss football team. This film has been rated PG-13, and falls under the *drama sports film* genre.

CAMPUS

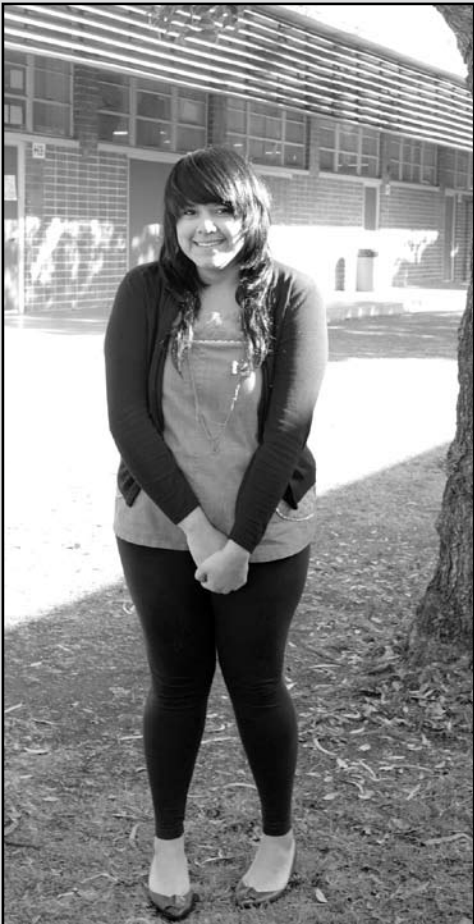
December Fashions



Lorraine Magana-Junior
Jacket-Forever 21-\$50
Jeans- Bonne A Mie- \$25
Shirts- Bonne A Mie- \$12
Shoes- Vans- \$45
Scarf- Bonne A Mie- \$12



Denice Montes- Freshmen
Shirt- Bonne A Mie- \$7
Shoes- Forever 21- \$20
Pants- Bonne A Mie- \$20



Wendy Reyes-Senior
Cardigan- Jetrag- \$1
Dress- Jetrag- \$18
Tights- Forever 21- \$5
Heels- Jetrag- \$24
Necklace-Julie's Accessories- \$10



Dianna Banuelos- Sophomore
Jacket- Bebe- \$30
Shirt- Forever 21- \$25
Shoes- Kmart- \$9
Pants- Bonne A Mie- \$25

Fiction: Family Finds Christmas Spirit

BY REBECCA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

“’Tis the season to be jolly.” The radio sang. “Yeah right,” I muttered to myself. All Christmas was about these days was narcissism, and getting gifts. My college campus was decorated in Christmas trees, Menorahs, and Kinaras so most world religions could be represented. I sat at my desk quietly listening to the quiet pitter-patter of the rain against the window. It was such a peaceful moment-that is until my cell phone rang obnoxiously. I looked to see who was calling. *Oh joy, it was my mother.* “Hellomother,” I said dully. “Hello Annie, don’t you sound enthused to speak to the woman who raised you.” My mother was always testy around the holidays. She did not believe in the commercial exploitation that was advertised. “So what’s up? I’m a little busy, if you don’t mind.” “I can’t believe they would just do that!” Ah, the source of her annoyance. “You can’t believe who did what?” “Your father’s side of the family decided to come into town and want to spend Christmas with us. Can you believe the nerve of those people! This isn’t proper notice and...” She went on like this for


a while. My mother did not get along with my father’s family. My grandmother always thought that my father would marry a lawyer or a fellow doctor. So imagine the surprise when he brought home an artist. The fact that we lived a few hours from them, helped balance out the animosity and keep the peace. Likewise, my mother’s family saw my father’s family as privileged and vain. “Are you even listening to me!?” One of the disadvantages of being an only child-I was the only person she could call and unload her problems. “Of course I am. Well what’s the big deal? It is Christmas after all.” “This is going to lead to a big conflict! I just wanted to have a nice peaceful Christmas without them.” “Well maybe it won’t be so bad,” I said in effort to get off the phone. “We haven’t seen Dad’s side in a while, maybe they are nice now.” “Those people will never be nice!” If I did not stop her now, I would be on the phone for ages. “Hey mom, I’d really love to chat some more, but I have a class.” “Oh all right, I guess we can just talk next week.” “Okay, bye mom.” “Bye.” I went to class and listened to the professor prattle on about history. I listened

anxious to get out of class. I went back to my dorm and packed up my stuff. I could not stop thinking about Christmas. I did not want this Christmas to be filled with conflict. I thought about Christmas, and the true meaning, which was giving. I called a local soup kitchen, and signed my family and myself up for Christmas day. I wanted to remind my family of what was important. On Christmas day I drove to my grandmother’s house to help with the last minute baking. Due to an unfortunate batch of cookies, we were running a little bit late. We were the last to arrive. Food was spread out along the tables and gifts were piled under the tree; giving the appearance of a normal family-oriented Christmas. The only thing that was a bit odd was my family. They were standing at opposite corners of the room, like an awkward middle school dance. When I saw how immature they were acting, I decided it was time to share my plan. “Excuse me everyone!” I called out. “I noticed that no one here is having any fun-let me finish.” I gestured to my mother who was about to interrupt me. She had a worried look on her face. “I signed us all up to volunteer at the soup kitchen. Now I do not want to hear any complaints. We are privileged and should give to those not as fortunate as we. We do

not need all the food on the table and the things under the tree. We need to help others in the true spirit of Christmas.” I expected resistance, but instead received cooperation. “All right everyone lets pack up the stuff and meet there.” When thirty people showed up with armfuls of food and gifts the needy looked curious. When they realized that all the things were for them, they were ecstatic and very grateful.

I watched in amazement as my mother and Father’s mother, together, set up a food table and handed out gifts. They smiled together and looked like they enjoyed themselves. This experience was eye opening to my family. They took the time to work together and help others. Christmas spirit really came through. By helping others in need, my family was brought together.

“An Affair to Remember”



Winter Formal

Purchase Dates	With K&KB	w/ out K&KB	Guest
Jan 4-8	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$45.00
Jan 11-18	\$40.00	\$45.00	\$50.00
Jan 19-22	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$55.00

Location: Miles Square Golf Course in Fountain Valley

Date: Saturday, February 6, 2009

Theme: Black and White Formal attire only

You must have a 2.0 GPA, no fines, good discipline record and good attendance.

Every E.R. student must fill out a Winter Formal contract and turn it in to the Cashier's Office

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

WORD ON THE STREET

How is the current economic downfall going to affect your holiday spending?



“I’m not going to ask for as many presents as I did last year.”
-Chris Rivera 9th grade



“I think my budget will be cut and I’m not going to have as many friends after Christmas [laughs]”
-Nicole Riesgo 12th grade



“I’m going to need to get more hours at work in order to buy what I want for my friends and family.”
-Kelly Sifuentes 12th grade



“It’s affecting my holiday spending cause I have no money to buy a new skateboard!”
-Tony Preciado 12th grade



“It’s going to affect my shopping because I’m not going to be able to get Geno, April, and Rodolfo the cars they wanted”
-Darlene Herrera 11th grade

Cheap Gifts Under \$20

BY ERIKA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF

For Mom:

“The Recipe Box” is \$18 at the Sephora section of JcPenney’s. This set comes with two full size cleansers in a red velvet



cake aroma, and the other with the smell of sweet creamy frosting. These top of the line products are just as multi-tasking as Mom herself, since they are body cleansers and shampoos. The gift comes wrapped with recipe cards for making red velvet

“Almond Oil Heavenly Hands” is \$17.50 from The Body Shop. This complete manicure set will leave Mom’s hands feeling soft and beautiful. It in-



cludes a hand and nail cream, hand wash, nail filers, and every other thing she’ll need to keep her hands in tip-top shape.

“This Is It” soundtrack by Michael Jackson is \$17.99 at Target. Dad will love to hear his favorite songs digitally remastered, and all together on

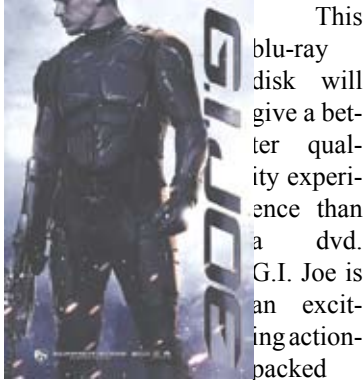


one disk. This disk also includes his new song “This Is It” which will be enjoyed just as much as Jackson’s other classics. A Chili’s gift card can carry different value. Chili’s Restaurant is known for having hearty and tasty meals on their menus. There is no doubt that Dad’s will love seeing this in their Christmas stocking. He can buy themselves a “big-mouth burger” or a fajita plate the next time their in the mood for a delectable meal.



For the best friend:

“Wish For The Stars Makeup Set” is \$20 at the Sephora section of JcPenney’s. This kit is a \$48 value at a holiday price. It includes warm natural toned gloss and powders that can be used as a bronzer or eye shadow. There is also a “Lash DNA” mas-



Also, the movie comes with a digital cop your friend can save to his ipod, and enjoy on the go.

Winter Wonderland Party!

Special Day Class



Ultimate Christmas Movies

BY JONATHON RAYA
EL RODEO STAFF

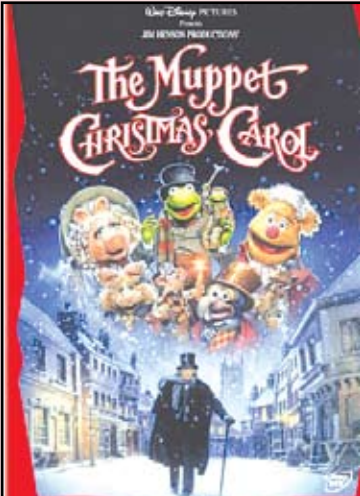
Oh he’ll steal your presents, your tree, and your Christmas



lights, but he won’t steal the great time you’ll have watching this movie. Yes, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* is a wonderful movie to watch this time of year. With its colorful lights and bright paint on the buildings Whoville is brought to life for all to see. The lights, sounds and colors of the town go well with the cheery tone this movie sets in Whoville as Christmas approaches. This movie is a classic movie filled laughs and

heartwarming moments. So unless you’re a Grinch who hates fun then don’t watch this movie. Other than that this movie is a must see for all holiday seasons to come.

“Bah Humbug” is something you won’t say when you see the Charles Dickens classic tale, *The Christmas Carol*, come to life. This tale has many different versions. The best one might be *The Muppet Christmas Carols*. It has all the Muppets from Kermit the Frog to Gonzo the Great. This movie also like the other versions keeps to the main story. This movie is loaded with laughs that are sure to put a smile on your face.



Ever struggled to find that one gift on someone’s wish list only to find out it’s sold-out everywhere? Then you know how Arnold Schwarzenegger felt in his comedy film *Jingle All the Way*. This movie is about a dad who works too much to spend time with his wife and kid. After missing one too many of his son’s karate classes, he promises to make it up to him buying him the Turbo-Man action figure. This movie has a heart touching ending that is not to miss.

