



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 58 - Issue 5
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Execution of Justice Triumphs on Stage

By JUAN OLIVARES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Murder and controversy has struck the Little Theatre with the *Execution of Justice*. Directed by Stan Wlasick, *Execution of Justice* tells the story of the trial of Dan White, who was the San Franciscan supervisor who murdered both Mayor George Mascone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in 1978.

This play is a docudrama, which means that the lines in the play were personal accounts of the people that were involved with the trial and the people that were interviewed about the trial. The play was also an ensemble because all the actors were on stage at the same time and no one was off stage.

The play begins with Dan White, played by Carlos Figueroa, stating that he had just shot both Mascone and Milk. The play, then, goes on to the trial and Douglas Schmidt, Defense Attorney, played by Jeremy Zazueta-Ruiz, and Thomas F. Norman, Prosecution Attorney, played by Osmin Riperto, begin their opening statements.

As the trial goes on, both attorneys are trying to figure out why Dan White decided to murder both Mascone and Milk. Throughout the play, many accounts are shown of people that supported Milk and of people that supported White.

At one point in the play, a psychiatrist claims that White



Dan White, played by Carlos Figueroa, murders George Moscone during the casts' portrayal of the notorious "Twinkie Defense."

did what he did because of mass consumption of Twinkies, which is why they called it the "Twinkie Defense." Supposedly, the Twinkies made White act differently because of all the sugar that was in his body.

In the end, the Jury finds him guilty on May 21, 1979 and he is sent away to Soledad

Prison, where he is later paroled from in 1984. Dan White, then, is found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning on October 21, 1985.

Evelyn Menchaca, who played Gwen Craig and Joanna Lu, said, "It was difficult for all of us to stand still on stage because we're a really active group."

Even though they might

be an active group, that did not stop them from performing well on stage. The actors' performance on stage created a very serious environment, which made viewers wanting more.

Junior, Gabriel Rodriguez said, "I thought it was kind of creepy with the candles and the ominous music, but it was

very well done nonetheless."

The most important part of this play, though, is the message that it sends out to people of all ages. The message that tolerance, acceptance and non-violence is something that all generations need to understand in order to make this world a better place for all kinds of people.

Dons Go Green to Clean Campus

By CHRISTINA PEREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Early last Saturday morning, more than two hundred Dons came together to help clean the campus for El Rancho's annual Pride Day. While the wrestlers moved boxes of books into the new storage room, other students helped picking up trash from all around campus.

This year's blue pride day racked up more than twenty teachers who were ready and willing to work throughout the day.

The week's stormy weather left the campus overrun with leaves and broken tree bits. The girl's soccer team teamed up and took the task of cleaning the quad.

The baseball team was responsible for cleaning their own baseball diamond and removing the water left by the rain.

The tennis team went about cleaning their courts, while other students circled the campus, with trash bags in their hands, and picked up loose trash that was left behind by the wind.

At the end of a hard working day, ASB took it upon them-



Accompanied by Mr. Vargas, the wrestling team works to beautify the campus during El Rancho's Pride Day.

selves to provide the dire hungry students two slices of pepperoni pizza and a choice of drink. Overall, El Rancho's annual Blue Pride Day turned out to be a success, despite the limited

participation of the student body.

The campus looked remarkably better than it had earlier that week, this coming together of the student body allowed the school to prepare the campus for

the following weekend's festivity: the Academic Decathlon.

One of El Rancho's wrestlers, James Millan said, "El Rancho Pride Day is the only day I think of green instead of blue."

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NEWS

World Comes to Haiti's Aid Following Quake

By ALYSSA MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A devastating 7.0 earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Tuesday, January 12. It is estimated that there are over 200,000 deaths and counting. A week after the first earthquake hit, another earthquake shook Haiti with a magnitude of 6.0. People are still missing in the area. There was a even young, Canadian

woman who apparently used a cell phone to text for help from underneath the rubble. She was later rescued on the day the aftershock hit. The sudden earthquake has left many worried and wanting to help the cause. Haitin natives, Garcelle Beauvais and Wyclef Jean have started to raise money through Yéle Haiti to help the earthquake survivors get food, shelter and much more.

Students can help out as well by texting "HAITI" to "90999" and \$10 will be given automatically to the Red Cross, charged to ones cell phone bill. Donating money to Yéle Haiti, Doctors Without Borders, and Mercy Corps can help many Haitians in their struggle to survive after the two tremors. The money one donates can help get more doctors, food, shelter,



Destroyed buildings after the earthquake in Haiti.

WORD ON THE STREET

Have you contributed to Haiti, and how?



"I brought some of my old clothes and my sister's clothes to school for the GSA collection for Haiti."

Stacey Fonseca, 12th



"I'm supporting by giving clothes and canned food."

Eric Campos, 12th



"I donated 10 dollars with my sister to VH1."

Daniel Herrera, 12th



"I have brought some clothes to the collection there doing at school."

Joey Moreno, 12th



"I contributed to Haiti by sending 20 bucks via text."

Karissa Aguiar, 11th



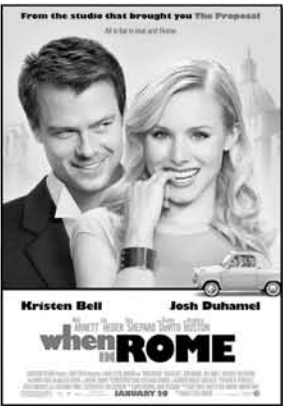
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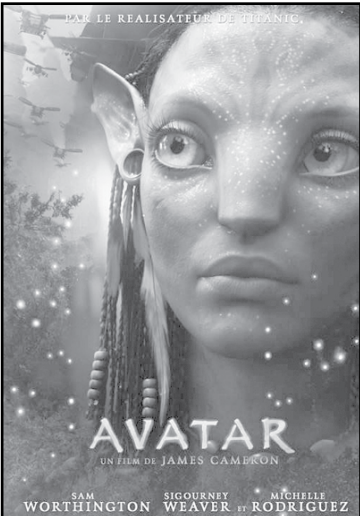
OPINION

Gay Community Outraged

BY LYDIA RAYA
EL RODEO STAFF

James Cameron’s newest production has been a major success in the business of entertainment. While many people and critics would agree that *Avatar* is a “must-see” movie, the morals of the story have become controversial. Activist communities such as the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Transgender) Rights Community have made numerous complaints that the movie fails to give viewers a broad view of the way life works and that discrimination is demonstrated in the movie by the lack of LGBTQ main characters. The International Day of Protest was established the eighteenth of December in order to protest against the intolerance of LGBTQ rights expressed in movies. *Avatar* has been made a particular target for protestors, being the most talked-about movie of the year. The activist community participating in this protest is after the goal to educate people of “Evolution and humanity’s transition to transgenderism.” While inter-species romance was portrayed in the movie, Cameron did not even allow possibility of any Na’vi being born homosexual. In his storybook, he explains that

the Na’vis are born heterosexual and remain so, to link their entire planet and every living being as one; homosexuals cannot biologically link together, which could potentially kill the planet. Websites have been

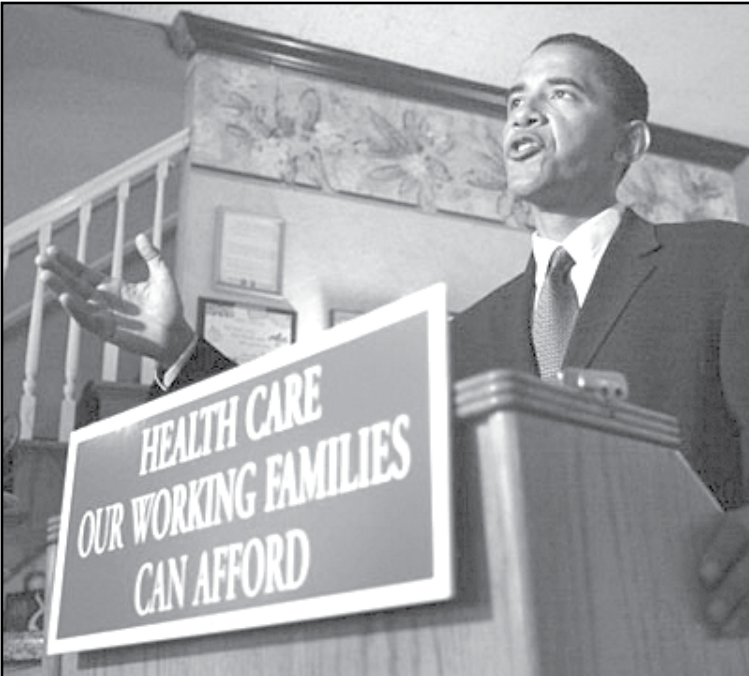


COURTESY OF GOOGLE

made to gather protestors around the world and to show a network display of concern and protest in a method other than the public displays suggested on the website. The suggested protesting methods made on the website include standing in the middle of the theater during the show, displaying homosexual affection in the theater, buying tickets to see the movie but not actually going to see the film, and several other methods that involve disruption of the show. The community plans to

use “peaceful and non-confrontational” protests, as they claim, to stop the showing of *Avatar* and future showings of similar films. I am definitely in for equal rights in this world, and am even involved with Gay-Straight Associations, but this protest is ridiculous. Honestly, I don’t think this protest group should have been formed in the first place. There are many other films, especially the new and popular ones, that do not express romance between homosexual and transgender couples. I’m surprised no one has said anything about *The Princess and the Frog*. While this new Disney movie is the first movie in which African-American characters star, there were no signs of homosexual romance. This is being shown to children, yet the activists do not care enough to “educate our children.” There are still yet many movies that do not express homosexual romance, yet this one movie is being singled out and targeted for protest. I am embarrassed by this protest and this new hate war that seems to be starting between LGBTQ activists and oppositions. Honestly, I do believe it’s this sort of people that give homosexuals a hard time obtaining their rights and respect.

Obama and the Health Care Bill



BY ALYSSA MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

COURTESY OF GOOGLE

On Thursday morning, December 24th the U.S. senate approved the long awaited Healthcare reform bill. The bill was passed with a 60-39 party line votes after months of debating whether or not to pass it. The bill is supposed to extend health coverage to over 30 million Americans if it were to become a law. Knowing this, it has caused joy for many families. However, many people like myself were hoping that the healthcare reform bill would be passed, because it is sad to hear that people who seriously need medi-

cal insurance, are being ignores by certain health care coverages. Many have longed for this moment in which healthcare is available to all and not just those who can afford it. In the documentary *Sicko* by Michael Moore. In this film people got an inside look on what not having the healthcare bill can do to a person. Many are left scared to go to the doctor if they injure themselves at home because they have no money to pay for the medical bill so they resort to self-medication etc.

A few Love Novels From the Library....

- 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
- TtYl 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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teen
read
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FEATURES

Violence Out of Control

By JOSE REYES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the north-central state of Durango, Mexico, six bodies were found on December 31, 2009 Among the six bodies found, was the body of El Monte High School assistant principal, Augustin Roberto “Bobby” Saucedo.

Saucedo traveled with his wife to visit family in Gomez Palacio. Saucedo and his wife were eating at a restaurant on December 30, 2009 when armed men suddenly barged in, ordered everyone to the floor, and kidnapped the six men there.

The bodies were later found, all ridden with bullet holes to the head, Saucedo was found with bullet holes to the chest as well.

Saucedo was simply at the wrong place, at the wrong time when this tragedy happened.

The students and faculty of El Monte High will never forget “Bobby” Saucedo. Along with his death, countless others have become victims to the dangerous drug cartels plaguing Mexico.

Along with the drug trafficking that has cost many their lives, many more acts of violence and terror have plagued Mexico.

Those who have received the majority of violence due to the corruption in Mexico are the citizens of Juarez, located in the state of Chihuahua. There, the people have come up with a



Augustin Roberto “Bobby” Saucedo Courtesy of Google

new term, “feminicidio” or femecide, due to the increasing numbers of young women who have been abducted and murdered. As of now, more than 420 girls have been killed in Juarez.

The bodies of the women show signs of rape and sometimes torture prior to their deaths. Most of the women abducted are maquiladora, factory, work-

ers kidnapped late at night, when going home from work.

Mexican officials have conducted investigations, but end up missing or dead. In the book, *The Daughters of Juarez*, by Teresa Rodriguez and Diana Montane, both authors have suggested that the Mexican officials are the culprits behind these murders due to the corruption.

Roldan Awaits CIF



Cristian Roldan

By JACKIE MONTEON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Starting from an AYSO club, to advertising in an Addidas commercial, Cristian Roldan takes position as a midfielder in the El Rancho varsity soccer team.

Cristian Roldan was the only freshmen to make the ER Varsity team. Roldan started playing at age four. He advertised in an Addidas commercial at the age of nine when he was in the third grade. The plot in the commercial was that he would steal plastic bags from the homeless and make them into a soccer ball. He would then show off his skills as well as the Addidas shoes.

The tryouts for the Addidas commercial were in Norwalk and one hundred and ten boys tried out, but Roldan got the part. Roldan had the support of his dad, brother and personal trainer. He worked for twelve hours to make a one-minute Addidas commercial.

“It was a great experience though I have to admit it was a bit intimidating because I did not want to mess, not in front of everyone,” Roldan said. The commercial has been played in the Home Depot Center and during the half time of the Super Bowl XXXIX.

Around November of 2009, Roldan broke his collarbone and kept playing. “ I wasn’t even thinking about my injury all I wanted was to play more soccer,” said Roldan.

In January of 2010, Roldan broke his elbow and has no other choice but to stop playing because he now has two injuries. He needs to wear a cast for 3 weeks and then wait Until February 15 to start playing once again.

Roldan only got to one game in pre-season against Garden Grove and hopes to get the chance and play during CIF.

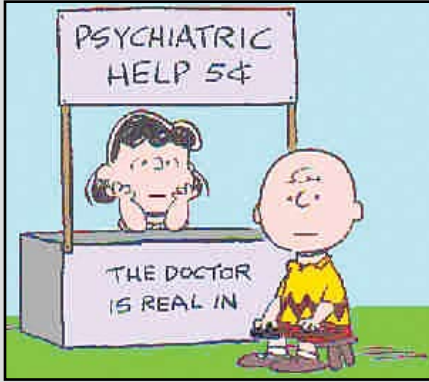
“He is a very talented young man but sadly we didn’t get to see him play much, hopefully he comes gets to play for CIF,” said head coach of the soccer team Mr. Picon.



Song Writers’ Club Extravaganza



Words Of Wisdom



By PRISCILLA AMAVIZCA &
AMANDA HERNANDEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

I’m secretly in love with my friend Tina. I’m really shy, so I don’t know how to approach her; I need advice.
-Anonymous

First of all, be careful what you see in Tina. Make sure you look at her character-- her inner beauty. If you realize that she is what you want, then tell her you like her. Tell her how you feel, but do not ask her to become your girlfriend, just yet. You may know her, but get to know *her* before you ask Tina to be your girlfriend. Ask her out on a date, or to hang out. However, if she does not feel the same, let it be and do not stress over it. You will eventually find the one for you.

I have a problem socializing with people around me in class. I’ve been told that I look like a mean person who is always in a bad mood. What can I do so that I may give a nicer vibe for people?
-Anonymous

Try approaching some of your classmates instead of them approaching you. It shows

that you are more outgoing and friendly; and they will see you differently. If you are shy, do not be afraid to speak out and make yourself known. Show people that you are not mean and make more of an effort to socialize with your classmates. Putting a smile on your face will make you more approachable.

I have two friends who are into drugs. They sometimes ask me if I want to join them, but I always say no. They keep bugging me about it, so what can I do for them and myself?
-Anonymous

You should leave those friends behind because if they were really your friends, then they would respect you and leave you alone. You do not want to have these kinds of influences around you. Try to find better friends, ones who will respect you for who you are. Tell your “friends” that they need to see the drug counselor on campus or one elsewhere. Drugs are a serious problem and can ruin your life and personla relationships.

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

FEATURES

Flashback: 2009's Most Memorable Moments

BY PALOMA BUENROSTRO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



January 20th -President Barack Obama is inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States.



Lady GaGa stepped onto the scene and had 4 number one singles in a year. Each of those singles got stuck in your head all day.



On January 15th pilot Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger saved 155 people by gliding a plane onto the Hudson River in New York.



TV reality stars Jon and Kate Gosselin probably had a divorce heard around the world. Non-stop public battle that at the end of the day, you didn't even really care about.



In June the world becomes scared of pigs due to a swine virus that breaks out in México. Now people are having swine flu parties. Literally.



June 25th -Michael Jackson "King of Pop" died.



May 26th -The California Supreme Court affirms the California Marriage Protection Act which banned same-sex marriages in the state.



During the MTV Music Video Awards, Kanye West rushed up on stage and said these words in the middle of Taylor Swift's acceptance speech, "Yo Taylor, I'm really happy for you, I'll let you finish, but Beyoncé has one of the best videos of all time. One of the best videos of all time!" Wow.



On October 15th the world stopped for about ten minutes when a 6-year-old boy was thought to be trapped in a hot air balloon in Colorado. He was in a box in the attic the whole time. I'm not sure which is worse.

November 25th Allegations against Pro Golfer Tiger Woods that he was having an affair with who knows how many different women.



December 1 Obama announces plan to send additional forces to Afghanistan. Talk about a "big change."



Inventions That Made You Think Twice



BY ARACELI CABRAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Snugglies

From animal wool, to blankets, to Snugglies. How did that happen? Although it may seem unbelievable, over four million Snugglies have been sold in less than three months. People have become extremely familiar with this item, and have their pets wearing it, in three different colors. The creation of Snugglies could have not been anymore obvi-

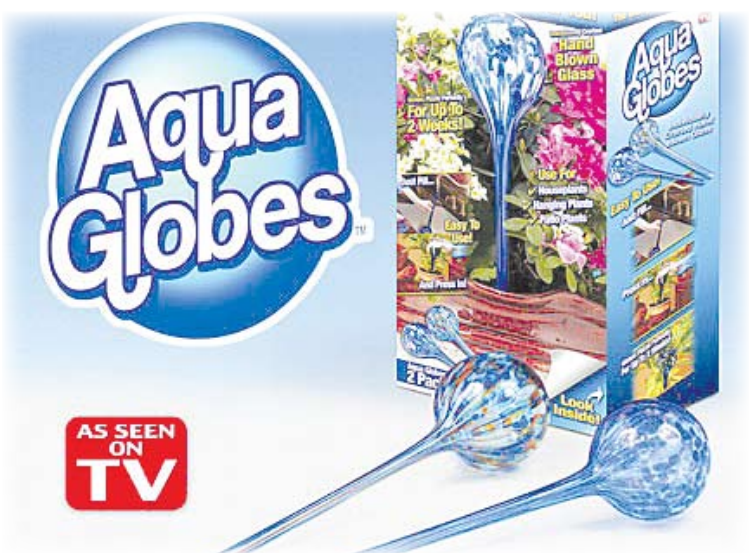
Shake Weight

Sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, and weight lifting; don't these sound like ordinary exercises? These days, society would rather use machines that lose the weight for you. The Shake Weight is the newest weight lifting products that comes with only one benefit. The product's vibration only reduces some of your arm fat. In order to build muscle, people need to stick with regular weight lifts. Nothing makes losing weight easy, but you might as well



Aqua Globes

Whatever happened to planting as a hobby? Society has become so lazy they're using glass globes to water their plants. It seems unusual how people find it difficult to complete a simple task. Aqua Globes are becoming well known as the product that does all the work. This item has no point; just use



Touch N' Brush

Does society really have trouble taking toothpaste out of the tube? The Touch N' Brush makes it seem that way. People have become extremely lazy and want the "push of a button" to get the toothpaste on a toothbrush. The creation couldn't sound anymore pathetic.



HD Ultra Vision Sunglasses

It's understandable that television goes high definition, but sunglasses. Really? The idea of HD sunglasses, alone, sounds absurd. The commercial advertisement says they're "like no other glasses you've ever worn," but it seems to ridiculous to believe. The purpose of sunglasses is

ENTERTAINMENT

Deadly Little Lies

BY REBECCA GALLEGOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Laurie Stolarz is a young adult author, with roots in Salem, Massachusetts. Her latest book is *Deadly Little Lies*. It is the second installment in *The Touch Series*.

The books follow sixteen-year-old Camelia and her love interest Ben. Ben is the new kid at school, with a bad reputation. He had been tried for killing his ex-girlfriend, but was rightfully proven innocent.

All the students at their high school keep their distance from Ben, who has an enigmatic appeal to Camelia. Ben has psychometry, the ability to sense the future through touch.

When Ben and Camelia meet for the first time in *Deadly Little Secrets*, he saves her from being hit by a car. When he makes contact with Camelia, he senses that she is in grave danger.

The story is very suspenseful and has many twists and turns. As the story comes to a close, Ben painfully tells Camelia that he has to leave town. Heartbroken, Camelia struggles to move on with her life. In *Deadly Little Lies* Ben returns to town, but keeps his distance from Camelia.

The events of this young adult novel make for a very good read. This page-turner will have readers everywhere anxiously waiting the sequel *Deadly Little Games* due out December 2010.

American Idol Blog:
A New Season, a New Beginning

BY BRIANNA MORALES
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It is that time of year again; we leave the safe confines of our day to day lives to enter a five month long elongation of obsessive dialing, cheering, and gossiping with friends about the previous night's performances and wardrobe choices, American Idol is up and running again for its ninth season.

I will have to admit that my love for American Idol is greater than that of your average reality TV viewer, so this season, be prepared for honest, in depth blogs coherently contained within each upcoming issue of *El Rodeo*.

With Paula sent packing, I was dismayed, distraught, and even a little disappointed, but hearing that Ellen will soon be the new judge on Idol made all of the negative feelings disperse.

While some may question the validity of Ellen DeGeneres as an American Idol judge, I like to think of her as the average citizen judge,



for the average citizen/album buyer does not have training in music, like Ellen.

With that being said, I honestly have to admit that even after only six audition shows, I'm excited for what the upcoming season has to offer. I saw a lot of singers that I would spend hours upon hours voting for.

Another contestant I would keep an eye on is the "fearless" Mallorie Haley. Her rendition of Janis Joplin's "Piece of My Heart" was certainly an audition that stood out from the crowd.

Lastly, what would an Idol audition show be with-

out the old guy with a catchy song that he wrote himself?

Sixty-eight year old Lanny Platt managed captivate all of the judges and even start a duet with Randy with his song "Pants on the Ground."

With her cat's hear's sweater, Avril Lavign was, in my opinion, a better judge than Katy Perry was during the Los Angeles Auditions

Some contestants I am planning to keep an eye on are Mary Powers and AJ Mendoza. Their standing-out-from-the-crowd auditions are embedded in my mind as some of the best, so I am hoping they will do well during Hollywood Week.

DeviantART Dominants Web



BY JONATHIN RAYA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Deviantart.com is a website where artists can post their art for the world to see. An photographer or a traditional artist can post up their art and even sell prints of them on the website.

Deviantart or DA for short has many categories so you can find where to put your art. These categories include photography, digital art, traditional art, literature and fifteen other categories.

Not only are there nineteen categories in total, but there are also sub-categories in each category. Some of the sub-categories that are presented for ditigal art are three dimensional art, drawings, mixed media, painting and air brushes.

So an artist can know where their art belongs.

play small sections of Twitter.

Deviations are what members on Deviantart call their art summision. You can sumbit as many art peices as you want but you can not post anything picture that was copy righted by another artist.

Both, premium members and regular members have some features in common like being able to post journals and information about themselves.

Besides having people looking at your art, they can comment on pieces of ait and rate their favorites.

If he or she likes your art, he or she can watch your status, which means he or she will know when you post new art or a journal. Deviantart.com is a place for the artist who wants the world to see what they can do.

The artist on this website can help an artist improve on their creations by giving feedback.

Kristen García, regular member of Devianart said "The feedback that I was given on my art was descent and gave me suggestions in places I can improve."

Overall the website is a great place for artists to interact with other artists and it is also a great for individuals to show their capabilites on the internet that can be seen through the whole world.

Manga Fanatics Get Gold on Gaia Online



BY JAMES GAITHER
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Gaia Online (Guy-AH) is an Anime-themed, social networking and forum based website. It was founded in 2003 as Go-Gaia.com, but the name was changed to GaiaOnline.

Gaia originally started as an anime link site and eventually formed a small community.

Though over the years the website expanded towards social gaming, it eventually became a forum-based website.

Currently over a million posts are made daily and visited by seven million users a month. Gaia won the 2007 Web ware 100 award in the Community category.

Users of the site, known as Gaian's, create a virtual avatar

El Rodeo

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that is fully customizable and a customizable virtual home for which they can purchase items using the virtual money called gold, sometimes called Gaia gold.

Gaia gold is given to users after playing games, posting inside the forums, and certain other events or contests. The site also rewards users every day with random gold or items with the Daily Chance.

In July 2007, Gaia released another virtual currency purchased with money called Gaia Cash that can be bought at Rite Aid, Wal-Mart, Target and 7-11, or from Gaia itself.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Lovely Bones-Stick with the Book

BY JOSELYN GONZALEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Oscar winner Peter Jackson directs, *The Lovely Bones* an anticipated screen adaptation of Alice Sebold's bestselling novel.

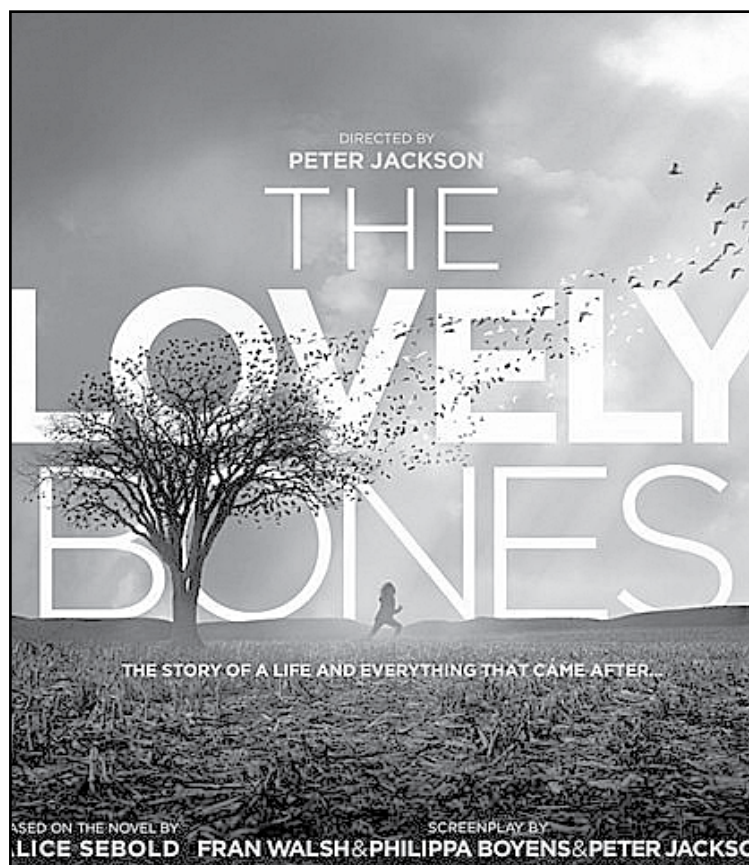
On December 1973, Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan) a 14 year old girl is murdered by her despicable neighbor George Harvey (Stanley Tucci), while on her way home from school.

Susie watches over her grieving family from "the in-Between" which is a magical place between earth and heaven. She watches her family as they try to find her murderer and move on with their lives.

The movie's time setting is in the super groovy 1970's, along with some fashionable attire you will probably enjoy.

This film has an unexpected love story between Susie and Ray Singh (Reece Ritchie) that develops before her murder and continues her journey in "the in-Between."

There is a bit of disappointment for the readers when Susie is viciously raped and murdered as detailed in the book but in the movie the murder occurs off screen. Jackson skips many of the aspects of the novel that made it charming, so those who read the book may



be disappointed with the movie.

Peter Jackson includes many scenes of a magical place (the in-Between) with visionary special effects just like in his previous films *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *King Kong*.

However, the film focuses far too much on the fantastic "in-Between" and not enough on earth.

The book is about the vic-

tory of good over evil, the fantastic idea of life after death, and the transformations caused by losing a loved one. The movie, on the other hand, seems to be about how cool special effects can be.

Those who haven't read the novel will enjoy the film, and those who have read the book, don't be surprised if it was not what you expected.

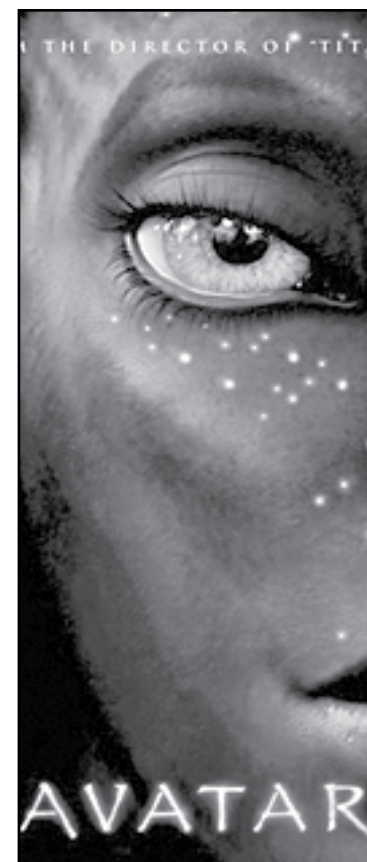
Avatar The Must-See Movie of 2010

BY EMMA LEAL
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Developed by writer and director James Cameron comes the 2009 American science fiction film, *Avatar*; which stars Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver, Michelle Rodriguez, and Stephen Lang. The film is set in the year 2154 on Pandora, a moon in the Alpha Centauri star system where humans are engaging in mining Pandora's reserves of a precious mineral. As the Na'vi, a race of indigenous humanoids, resist the humans invasion this seems to threaten the continued existence of the Na'vi and the Pandoran community. However, the film's title refers to the genetically engineered bodies used by the film's characters to interact with the Na'vi which are evidently known as Avatars.

This thrilling film was released as a typical 2-D movie, as well as 3-D and IMAX 3D formats. The film, itself, is being considered as a breakthrough in terms of filmmaking technology, for its enhancement of 3D viewing and specific filmmaking with cameras that were specially designed for the film's production.

In addition, as a successful movie it has made \$1 billion worldwide making it the second highest-money making film of all time. So, whenever you want to watch a movie you should think about *Avatar*.



Not Quite the New Kid on the Block

BY ALYSSA MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Her name and family legacy may seem oblique to you now but it won't soon. This talented 19-year old was a star from the moment of conception. Kristinia was always exposed to music from birth mainly because she is the daughter of James DeBarge, a singer from the 80's group *The DeBarges*. You may think growing up with a famous dad would be cool but not for Kristinia. Kristinia said that it was diffi-

cult growing up with her father because "he was always traveling on tour." The traveling didn't affect their relationship. Kristinia also said "When my dad traveled he always brought me back a gift whether he was in the Philippines or wherever." This musical exposure inspired her to go out and become an artist. Though her father disapproved a bit and hoped she would become a doctor or a lawyer etc. but being the good father that he is he supported her in her decision. With her father's support she began making her music and working with L.A. Reid and

Baby Face. With an album under her belt you may have heard of her two hit singles, "Sabotage" and "Goodbye" from her debut album *Exposed*. She is climbing up the music industry ladder pretty quick. In October 2009 she did an MTV commercial promoting her music but also Halloween. Many of you may have seen it. She is performing with many artists like Pitbull, Akon and many more. Kristinia finished by saying "follow your heart and do what you want to do and also you can follow me on Twitter at www.twitter.com/kristinia!"

Evolution at it's Weirdest!

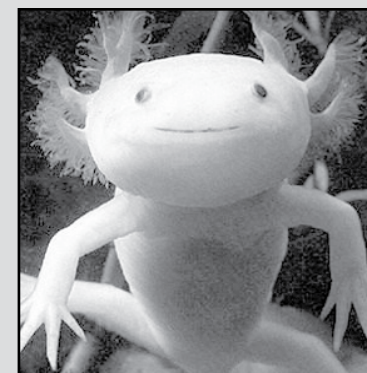
BY ARLETTE LOPEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

An Aye aye is an unusual animal found in Madagascar. It's a mix of a rotten and a lemur. It has a long thin middle finger to get the goods from trees. The aye aye-animal taps on the wood digs a hole and inserts his long middle finger to get the food. It weighs from 2.5 - 4.5 pounds and they all grow from 30-37 cm from head to body, with a 44-53 cm tail. This unique animal is the world's largest nocturnal primate.



Hagfish are marine creatures that are known by the scientist as the "disgusting fish". Hagfish average about half a meter (18 inches) in length. Hagfish are long, and can expose quantities of a sticky slime or mucus. The "sliming" also seems to act as a distraction to predators. As this animal distracts the predators it ties into a knot and takes his jaws out.

The Axolotl was found in Mexico, its scientific name is *Ambystoma mexicanum*. The Axolotl has amazing regenerative abilities - If injured, even to the point of losing a body part, the Axolotl will heal readily and even regenerate lost bits. This creature is expected to live up to 10-15 years with attention to proper care, particularly



SPORTS

Perez Brings Success to Basketball Court

BY NAOMI ORTEGA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho’s junior varsity girls’ basketball team is halfway through this year’s season and has already shown a significant improvement. “Our biggest improvement has been in our confidence which has proven to be the key in winning,” said junior guard for the junior varsity team, Aurora Perez.

She thinks that her team is vastly underestimated. “I feel really strongly about my team; we have much more potential than we are given credit for. There’s a lot more to us than what the score board shows.”

Perez continued to say, “Despite the fact that we have lost some games, the teams we’ve come across have had to work hard and earn their victory. The JV teams has a lot of heart and is not one to give up easily.”

Aurora Perez has been in the basketball program since her freshman year and has the hopes of being on the varsity team for her senior year. Junior Varsity coach, Ms. Mejia, describes her as a “shining star” who “is a hard worker, respectful, smart, has a huge heart, a nice shot, and is a young lady that is one of the reasons why [she] love[s] coaching.”



Point guard, Aurora Perez, blocks the basket during a practice game with a fellow teammate.

Coach Mejia is very appreciative to have had the opportunity to coach Aurora for the past two years. The team is currently in

third place trailing behind Whittier, in second, and Cal High in first in the Del Rio League. With five games left the girls stand at a 2-3 record and an overall record of 7-7.

Since they have won their last two games consecutively they are hungry for first place in the Del Rio League, which at this point can only be a tie with Cal High.

Today the girls are set to play against Whittier High at 3 pm with the hopes of continuing their winning streak.

Motivated Wrestler Works for the Win

BY MARI DUEÑAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ulysses Sanchez, a senior at El Rancho High School, has been on the wrestling team for three years.

Since his sophomore year, Sanchez has been motivated to join this sport because he says, “In wrestling, you don’t depend on anyone but yourself.”

Keeping up with school and being a wrestler is a little challenging for Sanchez, but fortunately he has learned how to balance both. “I know that having bad grades in school means no wrestling for me, so I do what has to be done when it comes to school and wrestling,” he said.

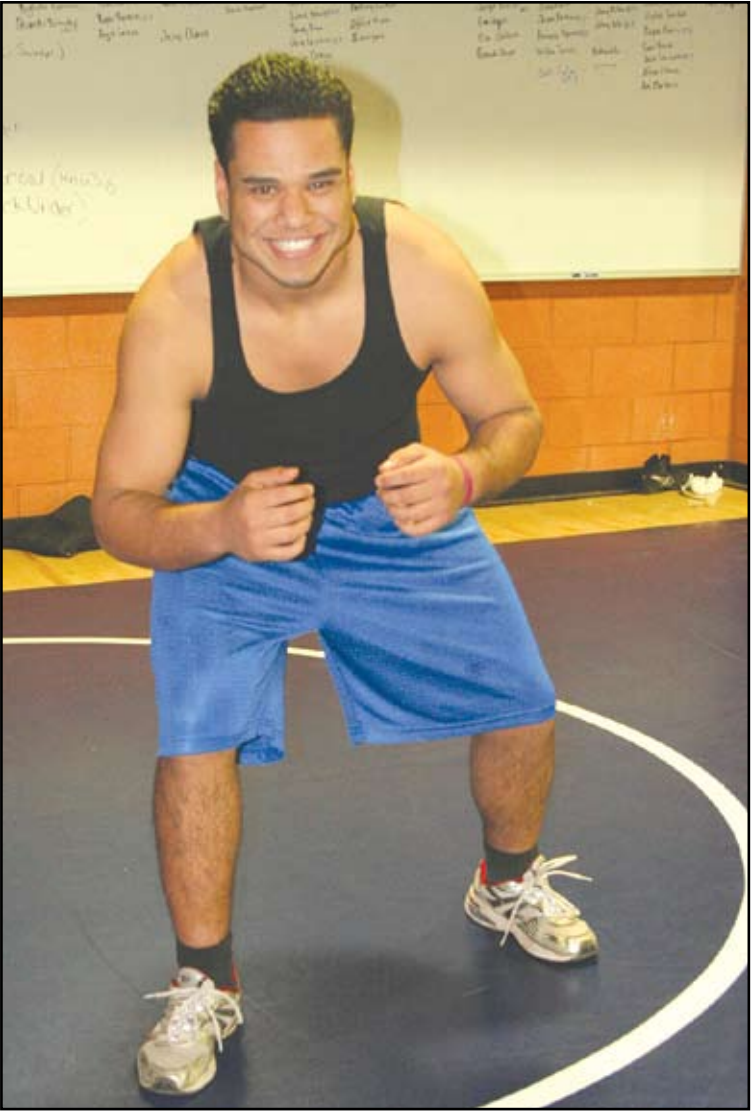
Sanchez dedicates about an hour of working out to prepare himself for his matches when he is outside of school.

The most challenging thing about being a wrestler for Sanchez is losing his matches. “When I lose, it feels like I didn’t work hard enough,” he says.

The most difficult match that Sanchez faced this year was on Monday January 8th, because he lost 6 to 8 at an All Star match wrestling the number one boy in LA county.

Although he has faced some tough matches, one of his most important was a month ago, when he beat a state qualifier and took first place. “I felt great winning,” he said.

“Facing problems at school and home a couple of years ago helped me take wrestling more



serious this year,” said Sanchez. This has made him grow stronger and aggravated about wrestling.

Making it to CIF during the previous years has made him proud of himself for achieving this far. “I am really looking forward to making it to state this year,” he said.

All the hard work and lis-

tening to those who helped him the most has paid off in Sanchez’s high school years. “I am thankful for my brothers, friends and coaches for pushing me to keep doing well,” Sanchez said.

Sanchez hopes to keep wrestling while he is studying in college.

Scores and Current Standings
El Rancho Winter Sports



Wrestling

ER Wrestling Vs. Pioneer- 52-18

Waterpolo

ER Girls Varsity Water polo vs. Cal High- 18-2

Basketball

ER Boys Varsity Basketball Vs. La Serna- 39-68

ER Boys JV Basketball Vs. La Serna- 43-65

Current Standings

1st in league

Girls Varsity water polo Wrestling

2nd in league

Boys JV soccer

Soccer

ER Boys Varsity Soccer Vs. La Serna- 0-1

ER Boys JV Soccer Vs. La Serna- 4-1

ER Girls Varsity Soccer Vs. La Serna- 1-2

ER Girls JV Soccer Vs. L Serna- 0-7

ER Boys Varsity Soccer Vs. La Serna- 0-1

ER Boys JV Soccer Vs. La Serna- 4-1

ER Girls Varsity Soccer Vs. La Serna- 1-2

ER Girls JV Soccer Vs. L Serna- 0-7

