



# EL RODEO



El Rancho High School - Volume 61- Issue 2  
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

## PREP Program keeps on the lights

BY SAMANTHA GURROLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The PREP Program and Generation 1<sup>st</sup> Degree came together with L.E.A.R.N. on October 18<sup>th</sup> to show the importance of after school programs by having the Lights On After School rally.

Lights On After School is celebrated all over the world. It brings people together to show the alliance and need for after school programs in students lives and the community. Generation First Degree director, Monica Chavez says, "this is a nationwide event to advocate after school programs, it highlights programs we offer here and shows who gives up their time to help out in these programs."

El rancho offers many after school programs. PREP provides after school tutoring, teen court, enrichment clubs, E.L.D., decathlon and many other programs. "There are so many services here at the Ranch. Sadly, not to many students know about them, many schools do not get these opportunities and after school programs so students here should take advantage of them," says Chavez.

Gear Up has allowed many programs to keep running at this school. Avid is one of many, and has done nothing but positive things for the students.

The E.L.D. program taught by El Rancho English teacher, Rosemary Figueroa has made an impact on several students. E.L.D allows them to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills that will benefit them. "By having after school programs it has allowed me to get better grades in my English class and get help when I need it," says Dorelia Villogazona, a student of Figueroa. Villogazona continues, "It is very important that afterschool programs keep going so that it can help others just like it has helped me."

The programs that are available to El Rancho students have opened new windows. "Overall, the greatest thing they give to us is the experience that allows us to be someone in life so that we don't end up just being a number sitting on the couch," says El Rancho history teacher and Decathlon coach, Kristin Oase.

The PREP Program has been around for about five years and has given so many opportunities to the students of El Rancho. "Prep shoots to provide a safe, positive, and encouraging environment for students. We do that by providing academic assistance, homework help, tutoring, and we try to fill in the gap for students that need more academic help," says PREP director, Nicole Leon.

After school programs are a big aspect to helping students out with their education and keep them out of trouble. By having the Lights On After School rally, it shows how much of an impact it makes on students here and what the Prep program offers. Principal Sam Genis says, "because not all kids are involved with athletics, it is important that we have after school programs. By having them, it helps kids stay off the streets and do something constructive with their lives."

PREP, Gear Up and Generation 1<sup>st</sup> Degree hope to continue after school programs that will allow students to get a better education that will lead them to be successful right now and in the future.

## Pico Rivera teachers rally for California education



El Rancho students, teachers, staff, and Pico Rivera council members made their voices heard as they gathered for the Walk for Education in support of Proposition 30 on October 25<sup>th</sup>. With picket signs and posters encouraging voters to pass Prop. 30, the group marched down Passons Blvd. in hopes to gain supporters for education funding. The volunteers also wish to prevent Proposition 32 from passing in November, which will endanger the rights of California educators and workers. The crowd met in El Rancho's quad for encouraging words and lectures before alerting Pico Rivera to the November election choices concerning education in California.

## Dons attend weekly workshops with college reps

BY PATSY VILLASANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For El Rancho seniors, college application deadlines are rapidly approaching.

One aspect many students are having particular trouble handling is the personal statement required by every university in California.

Mr. Correa has been hosting workshops in his classroom every Wednesday to guide seniors through their personal statements. College representatives who take part in reading submitted essays also attend these workshops. This week's workshop included Whittier College representatives Stacey Doran and Juliet Cagigas, who is a past graduate of El Rancho.

The students who attended received advice on the key points that are crucial to any personal statement as well as guidelines on how to avoid common mistakes.

"We really want to help students understand the importance of their personal statements and realize that their stories are valuable and worth-sharing," stated Mr. Correa. Representative Stacey Doran began the workshop by sharing what a personal essay communicates to most colleges.

"Your personal essay is what allows us to be comfortable letting you on our campus... It also proves that you're capable of writing at the college level and can succeed in your classes." Doran reviewed every student's essay and discussed improve-



Mr. Correa advises El Rancho students on how to impress colleges with their personal statements.

ments. A big mistake she brought to students' attention was including the school's name in the essay.

"Don't add the name of the college to your essay... You don't want to talk about how USC is the best school in the world and then accidentally submit the essay to Whittier without changing the name."

Doran could not stress enough the importance of rewriting a personal statement. "Write your essay at least five times [before submitting it]... You should, at the very least, have your third draft finished by November 13<sup>th</sup>." She also wants to remind students that they can be denied acceptance for a poorly written personal state-

ment, no matter how well they scored on the CST or SAT exams.

The workshop assured that every senior who attended received guidance as to what direction to take with their personal statements as well as the college application process in general. The representatives were also able to break apart a commonly misunderstood conception about the college application process.

"If you don't hear back from the school you applied to, that doesn't mean you weren't accepted... It's important that you are proactive and check in to make sure that your application process is complete," advised Doran.

College applications also provide an "additional informa-

tion" section, where students can clarify any irregular pattern in their transcript or academic record.

"If you had to continually transfer schools or your grades dropped due to personal problems, you can justify these occurrences so the college doesn't dismiss you as a problem student... As long as your record also shows good effort and improvement."

The representatives also strongly advise that all students contact college representatives and the financial aid staff and ask any questions about the application process.

"We're not scary people to talk to... We love helping students through the process of entering college life."

# COLLEGE LIFE

## APU alumni recalls collegiate years



Ms. Kerr hopes every Don will consider attending college.

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although Ms. Kerr, a current El Rancho teacher, had a comfortable life surrounded by supportive family members and friends, she decided to challenge herself by eliminating her safety net and going to college out of state.

Ms. Kerr grew up with her family in Oregon, where she went to high school. She, unlike numerous people, did not fear being on her own following her high school graduation. Subsequently, Ms. Kerr decided to attend college in another state.

Ms. Kerr ultimately chose to study at Azusa Pacific University in California because she “wanted to go to a Christian college where it was sunny.” Once at Azusa, Ms. Kerr studied Christian ministries because she wanted to work with high school students.

One of the most challenging aspects Ms. Kerr faced at Azusa was managing time be-

tween friends, boyfriends, and schoolwork. Initially, Ms. Kerr was not thrilled with her grades because the lack of time management affected her academic performance. “I got two C+’s, it’s bad, I know, and I got in trouble for it,” she states. However, Ms. Kerr soon adapted to the demands of college life and picked up her grades significantly.

Campus life, for Ms. Kerr, became an extremely enjoyable experience. She met her best friend at the campus on only the second day of college, while bowling. Ms. Kerr also became a resident advisor, which meant that she took care of organizing events for her assigned dorm floor. In addition, she participated in intramural sports and worked for the campus coffee shop, which explains why she is now a coffee addict. Due to her time living at the Azusa campus, Ms. Kerr urges future college students to live on-campus for at least one year. “...it’s a whole different experience and it’s so much more fun,” she says about living on-campus.

Ms. Kerr truly believes that college has had a major impact on her current lifestyle. She says her studies at Azusa allowed her to “get a job where I could support myself and have a lot of fun and money to do things with.” With the present economic situation, Ms. Kerr thinks it is crucial for students to earn a college degree. Without one, she says it would be “very difficult” for someone to attain a job that offers a wage that could support an entire family.

Ms. Kerr hopes all El Rancho students to consider going to college because it will not only better their futures, but also provide a thrilling four years of education. She even wishes that her time at Azusa “had been longer without having to pay...” Ms. Kerr would like everyone to go to college because “it will be the best four years of your life and you’ll always want to go back.”



CSULB’s campus includes landmarks such as the Walter Pyramid.

## Joining the ranks of the 49’ers

BY PATSY VILLASANA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Since it’s founding in 1949, the California State University of Long Beach has gained recognition in “America’s Best Colleges Guide” as one of the top five institutions to grant Master’s degrees in the West. This achievement, spanning seven years in a row, has continued to attract high school seniors and helped set a record of 79, 715 incoming applications in 2010.

Like every other college in California, the deadline for applications is November 30<sup>th</sup>. However, with an average of around fifty thousand freshman applications received each year, few schools have as much competition as Cal State Long Beach.

According to the CSU Analytic Study of 2010, CSU Long Beach has become the most applied to campus in the California State University system and the average freshman held a high school GPA of 3.73. However, due to the budget crisis, only an average of thirty-five percent of the freshman applicants enrolled with admission.

Entrance may be limited, but CSULB has placed fifth as having the most diverse student body in the West, by U.S. News & World Report. Fifty-eight percent of the student body consists of females, while forty-two percent of the students are male. While the school’s gender popu-

lation is close to being evenly divided, the majors are not.

Most students who enroll into CSULB seek majors in Art, English, Criminal Justice, Psychology, Nursing, or Liberal Arts. CSU Long Beach’s College of the Arts offers more majors for art and design than any university in the U.S..

While CSULB may be famous for its art programs, its College of Engineering has been ranked thirty-eight on a “Top 50” list of engineering programs and was named “a stellar example of academic programs that lead to student success.”

According to the National Science Foundation, CSULB is also the top campus in the nation for granting doctoral degrees in Science and produces the most students with Master’s degrees. CSULB has more students graduating with a Master of Science in Nursing than any other university.

More than three hundred organizations are offered to help students keep their social lives active between classes. The campus is located only three miles from the Pacific Ocean and with your student ID, Long Beach transit is available year-round for free.

With the Princeton Review critically acclaiming it as “one of America’s best college values”, California State Long Beach has been drawing students to its campus for the past sixty-three years and continues to keep up the competition.

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*El Rodeo* is published monthly except during vacations by the El Rancho High School journalism class. The *El Rodeo* offices are located at 6501 S. Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660 in room X-1. The paper is printed by *The Gardena Valley News*.

*El Rodeo*, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience’s issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers.

The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

Student journalists on the *El Rodeo* staff will make every effort to publish following the legal definitions of libel, obscenity and invasion of privacy. Consistent with California Education Code section 48907, the staff will refrain from printing material that may incite students, be a violation of school regulations or disrupt school operations. At the beginning of each semester, journalism students will be reminded of the legal, financial and ethical implications of each article they write.

**Ed Code 48907 affirms the right of high school newspapers to publish whatever they choose, so long as the content is not explicitly obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Also, there shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as it violates this section.**

# Word on the Street

## What colleges are you considering applying to and what will you major in?



“Cal Poly Pomona, UC Berkley, and USC and major in Architecture.” -Betsy Cerda, 12



“Cal State Fullerton and major in Early Childhood Education.” -Joselin Prodenccio, 12



“I want to major in Psychology and plan to apply to Cal State LA and Hope International University.” -Mazzy Hidalgo, 12



“Cal State Fullerton, UCI, Cal Arts, and Woodbury University and major in Animation.” -Amber Cardenas, 12

# BUSINESS

## Thirty-five year-old Latino runs multi-million dollar business

BY ANALYE ARENAS

Built in 1979, the Pico Rivera Sports Arena has been an iconic Mexican establishment for many years.

The first arena for charreadas in the nation, the arena hosts Latin rodeos and concerts. The arena is open seasonally from April through October.

The arena has successfully entertained guests with its charreadas. A charreada is a competitive event somewhat like a rodeo that dates back to old Mexico. The sport has been seen as a form of art and living history, as it expresses the demands of a working life in the past. This sport consists of nine events and involves horses and cattle.

Contrary to popular belief, charreadas are actually the original Mexican National sport. The Pico Rivera Sports Arena is also

known as the ultimate Mexican, "stage", with performances from well-known Hispanic artists such as Vicente Fernandez, Marco Antonio Solis, Juan Gabriel, Jenni Rivera, and Pepe Aguilar. The arena has also hosted more recent performers that include Dr. Dre, Fat Joe, Snoop Dogg, and many more. This place has been hosting concerts for as long as it has been open.

Who is behind such a successful establishment? The father-son operated Lopez family have entertained many guests who visit the arena.

"I hire the best people," said son and new owner Fernando Lopez who has kept such a grand place running. With a one hundred person staff, visitors are sure to get only the best services at the Arena. The Arena can be seen as a family spot.

"We are like a Disney-

land, a Mexican Disneyland; they have a mouse, we have horses," said Lopez jokingly. So how does the arena want to get involved with El Rancho? Fernando mentioned that he would like to have a benefit charreada or concert to raise money for our school.

"It's tough, and I understand that schools are finding new ways to raise money for books or other necessities," he admitted.

As a business that has been successful for so long, the Pico Rivera Sports Arena is a great example for any entrepreneurs starting a business.

Lopez mentioned that as a business, it must expand not only farther in space but in entertainment and performances.

"Things have changed a lot and for the good," he said.

When asked if he has any advice for any of those inspired to start a business of their own,

he replied "Be honest, smile, and love what you do; honesty is key." What is really impressive is that Fernando is only thirty-five years of age and already running a multi-million dollar business. What's the key to his success? "I like to take lead, take risk" he says. Father and previous owner Leonardo Lopez, who not only started at the age of seventeen but also had set the foundation to an incredible establishment, had his own input.

"I believe anything can happen as long as you work hard and be honest; it pays off." It seems that the Lopez family's motto is that honesty and hard work can pay off and they have an arena to prove that it does. What does the arena hold for the future? The Lopez family is definitely looking to expand and work with our fellow El Rancho Student Body.



President Andrew Gomez leads teens through court process.

## Congratulations to the Teen Court Club's new officers

BY TEEN COURT COORDINATOR

One of many reasons why the El Rancho High Teen Court has been so successful is its Teen Court Club. El Rancho High School has the only teen court with a student club dedicated to the court's continued development in the state of California. The idea was developed by the court's founder Mr. Raul Elias to ensure that the teen court program evolved from an after school program into a community institution.

The club allows seniors who have completed or are currently in Mr. Ben Meza and Mr. Dominic Picon's *Introduction to Law* classes to pass on the experience and knowledge to juniors and sophomores, in essence creating a tradition. The year's officers have pledged a much more ambitious effort in community outreach and information beginning with a video taped mock trial which will be televised over the City's cable station. The club is also proposing to the high school's administration a "suspension diversion" where community service is offered rather than "stay home" consequences. This effort is being organized by club Vice-President Paloma Martinez.

The New Executive Committee of the El Rancho Teen Court Club includes:

- President: Andrew Gomez
- Vice-President: Paloma Martinez
- Treasurer: Robert Aquila
- Secretary: Alma Acosta

## Dons top \$50,000 firm in performance



Susan Aparicio, left, and Rubi Macias help cut school transportation.

BY DON DINERO

Two sophomores from El Rancho's Entrepreneur Club recently perfected a city-wide transportation route that will more effectively address the needs of the student body while increasing consumerism throughout Pico Rivera.

Now juniors, Susan Aparicio and Rubi Macias, Club Analyst, devoted much of their free time last year to revising the city's current bus route. Macias and Aparicio, fondly referred to as "The Twins" by fellow club members because of their exemplary teamwork and dedication, sought to address a major transportation problem facing the city.

"The current route -- Route

60 -- was not adequately covering the entire area," Entrepreneur Club advisor Raul Elias said, explaining that the route covered a narrow corridor of students without extending to the city's Northern or Southernmost areas.

"One of the cost saving measures of the El Rancho Unified School District was to cut school transportation," said Elias, who hopes to drastically improve attendance with a more comprehensive route. "Second, it would provide an economic stimulus to the city," he said.

The current lack of coverage has left many students without a means of transportation, which affects school attendance and sales, thereby making this an important issue for both the school district and local business owners.

Bearing this problem in mind, Macias and Aparicio stepped up to the challenge of topping the work of a \$50,000 consulting firm and creating an all-inclusive city bus route.

The Twins described the tedious process that saw Macias cross-reference over 3,000 addresses from the El Rancho database with Google Maps while Aparicio plotted each address by hand on a bare-bones outline. "I think it took us like a month," Aparicio laughed.

"We would only work during lunchtime and an hour after school," Macias said.

But the Twins' lunchtime efforts proved a resounding success, producing a new, farther-reaching route. "They pinpointed 3,000 residences," Elias said. "That takes a lot of tenacity."

"I also saw they were fired up with the desire to help the student body," Elias said. "They realized they were making a major difference."

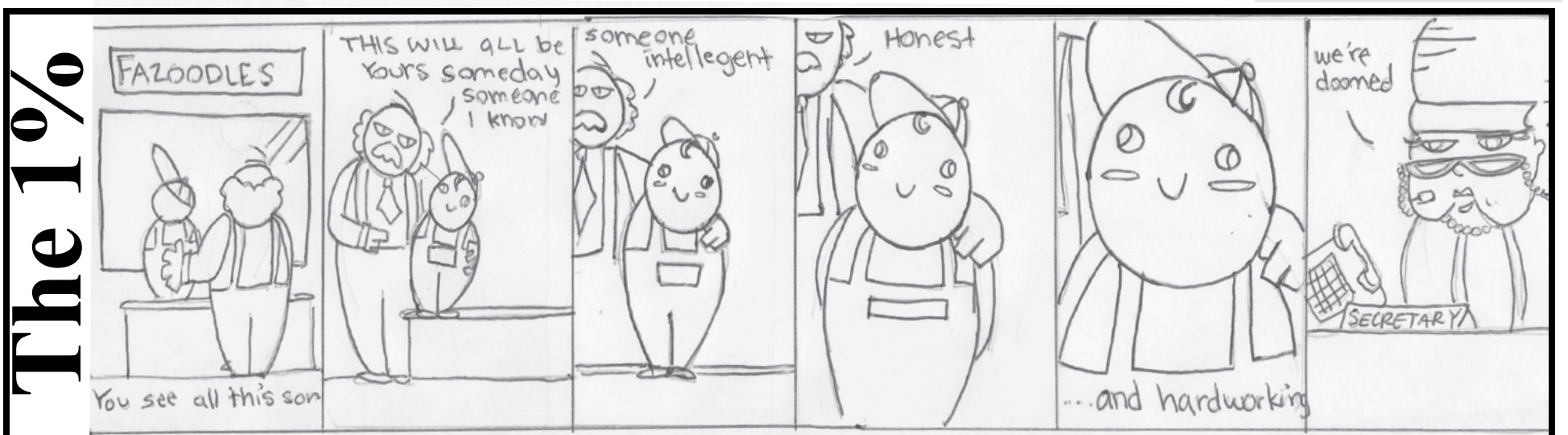
Ms. Aparicio and Macias' route went on to leave a remarkable impression on various city officials, particularly City Councilman and former El Rancho Don, David Armenta, who applauded the revised route's attention to detail. "I've seen the caliber of in-depth work that the students have done," he said. "We pay consultants \$80 to \$100,000 to do what

[the club does] at lunchtime." The route Aparicio and Macias put together opened another door of opportunity for El Rancho students. The Entrepreneur Club and the Transportation Committee entered discussions about the implementation of a shuttle that would operate along Rosemead Boulevard. In this way, residents, particularly students, would have a means of shopping more freely, Elias said. The city's transportation committee approved a different transportation route this past July, but the idea of a revised route can be revisited at any time, Councilman Armenta said. The implementation of Macias and Aparicio's route faces one major obstacle, Elias said: credibility.

"The idea that a couple of 15 year-olds were capable enough to develop something like this, or that a high school has the sophistication to perform such tasks may have adult professionals questioning the reliability of the proposed route," he said.

But the opposite happened and Aparicio and Macias set a strong precedent for El Rancho's Entrepreneur Club. And should the Transportation Committee consider restructuring the city route again, the Twins' plan will be very much in the running.

School is like business: 80% of success is just showing up.



OPINION

Vote Obama, improve lives of common people

BY LESLIE CHINCHILLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, November 6th, American citizens should choose Obama as president because his plan is to improve the economy through the middle class, while Romney will selfishly lend support solely to the upper class.

Romney's tax plan is not ideal because, on average, it will lead to a \$2,041 tax increase for middle class people with kids. Throughout his campaign, Romney repeatedly stated that his plan would cut taxes by twenty percent for every American.

However, a recent Tax Policy center showed that the tax plan would only cut taxes for citizens earning \$200,000 or more. This means that the ninety-five percent of Americans who do not earn that amount will actually have a tax increase. The plan is foolish because it attempts to hide the fact that Romney is actually aiming to only improve the lifestyles of wealthy individuals.

In contrast to the unrealistic tax plan of Romney, Obama's



Obama continues to gain supporters around the nation with his plan to help the middle class.

plan actually aims to help the middle class Americans. At an Ohio rally, Romney claimed that Obama would raise taxes for the middle class by \$4,000; this statement, however, was proven wrong by many online sources.

Over the last four years as president, Obama has

saved the average middle class family about \$3,600.

Furthermore, Obama's current tax plan aims to save the middle class \$2,200. The plan also gives a ten percent income tax credit for firms that are able to increase salaries or hire more employees. Over the next decade,

the plan will save the country 1.6 trillion dollars. Obama's plan is best for the country because it does not just help the middle class; rather, his approach is to provide support for all Americans in order to balance the economy.

Americans should also consider the fact that Romney

has continually advocated decreasing the economic burden on the middle class, yet he recently insulted them. A secret video at a fundraiser showed Romney talking about these "forty-seven percent" of Americans who do not pay federal income taxes (i.e. the working poor, senior citizens, college students, low income parents). Romney criticized the fact that they consider themselves "victims" and believe, "...that government has the responsibility to care for them." Basically, Romney is labeling the struggling Americans as "lazy" and degrading their presence in the country. Therefore, a man who is contradicting his own policies cannot be trusted to help improve America.

Obama has constantly demonstrated his sincere interest in the middle class with his reforms and tax cuts. The Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that the unemployment rate dropped to 7.8 percent under Obama's administration. If reelected, Obama will continue to work to lift the country out of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Save education, vote yes on Proposition 30

KARLA VIRAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The elections are coming up and Californians have the opportunity to vote on propositions. Proposition 30, proposes to raise all sales tax by 25% for seven years and raise any income tax to people who make more than \$250,000 a year for four years.

When people hear about this, they might strongly disagree because all Americans dread taxes much less increasing them. Even though this proposition sounds alarming, what makes this proposition so significant is the fact that the money that is collected will help fund public

schools in California. California has been in an economic crisis for a while now and schools are being affected negatively. Many schools are cutting school days, teachers are getting laid off and much worse, schools are being shut down. At the rate California is going, it looks like things won't be improving anytime soon.

I think this proposition is a great idea and should definitely be passed. Even though many people might argue that it is costly, this proposition will only be for those people who earn \$250,000 or more a year. Some might also claim that a 25% tax increase is a lot, but this will only be for seven years, and will be for a good cause. If this proposition is passed, it

will definitely help schools continue to flourish and will continue to help students get their education and pursue their goals.

If this proposition doesn't get passed, we are looking at less school days, causing students to lose more days of education, more teachers getting laid off, thus creating larger class sizes, and more schools will continue to shut down.

Not only this, but if prop 30 doesn't get passed, graduation dates may be sooner than expected. If graduation isn't when it's supposed to be, it will affect students drastically.

Students who need the whole school year to complete their A-G requirements may not

have enough time to finish their credits needed for college. If this happens, then students won't be able to graduate from high school and get their diploma. To make things worse, if they don't graduate, they won't be able to apply to any college and will lose their opportunity to continue on with their education.

On the other hand, if it is passed, all the extra money that will be collected from the tax increase will be beneficial to students and school districts.

Schools will be able to re-open, and teachers will get their jobs back. In general, schools will be able to continue to function normally even though the state is undergoing a crisis.



WORD ON THE STREET

Who do you believe will do a better job leading the United States? Why?



"Obama because he has the experience and he wants to still do a lot and the only reason he hasn't is because its time of elections and congress wont let him." -Desiree Barriga, 12



"Mitt Romney because he has a plan to build a stronger middle class with more jobs and more take home pay. That's the kind of leadership we need!" -Brandi Wood, 12



"Obama will do a better job because he plans on helping the middle class, prevent unemployment, and keep us out of unnecessary wars" -Steven Villa, 11



"Obama because Mitt Romney is only trying to help the upper class while Obama is trying to help all social classes and that's what we need!" -Maria Cuevas, 10



"Mitt Romney, he has a plan to bring more jobs and lower the unemployment rate and bring more money to the economy. He has the strong leadership that this country could use." -Crystal Hindson, 12

# OPINION

## Romney for a better America



Republican candidate Mitt Romney strives to raise America's trade.

KARLA VIRAMONTES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

When the time comes to vote for our next president on November 6th, Mitt Romney is our best option for the next four years to help create a better America.

If chosen as our next president, one thing that Romney will definitely focus on is decreasing taxes. Romney claims that Obama's "balanced approach", which means cutting spending and increasing taxes, is not working. He believes that it is threatening the size of government as well as the tax burden on the American people. Romney also says that Obama is asking for more tax revenues, although he has already received the tax increase and spent that money on a healthcare scheme that disrupted the economy.

Because of this, Romney plans to fix Obama's failures by focusing on jobs and the growth of the nation. To do so, tax rates must decrease to create entrepreneurship, job opportuni-

ties, and investments, which can be accomplished by preserving federal tax and spending policy. Another thing that Romney is concerned about are the corporate taxes. Corporate taxes are hurting the U.S. economy. 35% corporate tax rate is among the highest in the industrial world and the high tax rate of corporate tax hurts U.S. wages. Romney's plan is to cut corporate tax rate to 25%. By doing so, it will work toward higher U.S. wages and lowering the unemployment rate.

Another thing that Romney will work on as president is the regulatory burden on the economy. Obama has increased the scale of the regulatory burden on the American economy. Too many regulations drive up costs, hinder investment, and destroy jobs.

To fix this, Romney's approach will be to tear down regulations the Obama administration has imposed on the economy. It will also see to make changes to ensure economic growth.

A third thing that Romney wants to focus on is trade.

Trade has been one of the keys to our economic success since the country was founded. About 95% of the world's consumers living beyond our borders depend on our products and services. The fewer the barriers to cross-border commerce, the more economic growth there is to enjoy. Romney claims that Obama hasn't been focusing enough on trading.

Because of this, our major trading competitors have been moving forward dramatically. Since the last trade agreement signed by President Bush in 2007, the European Nations have signed agreements with nine countries and negotiated with 16 other countries. China, now a very powerful country, has signed agreements with four countries and negotiated with 15 other countries.

Romney believes that free trade is essential to restoring economic growth and creating jobs. He believes that American markets need to be opened up in other countries so that America's economy can boost up.

Romney is also best off as president because he has the ability to fix the economy. Romney is known for turning around failing business and enterprises. Romney was one of the most successful capitalists of the late 1980's and 1990's, proving that he is more than capable of administrating the economy.

Romney's rescue of the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics from the verge of collapse shows his ability to turn falling companies to success. Romney took control and managed to turn the Olympics from debt and disaster into a national success. If Romney can help succeed 5 out of 10 small businesses that were in the verge of collapsing in 5 years, he can surely help the U.S. economy get back to how it was, with no debt and the economy being as successful as it was after World War II.



### Some Key Stances

#### Position on Gay Rights:

Supports same sex marriage, pushed congress to repeal Don't ask, Don't tell, allowing gays to serve openly in the military.

Opposes same sex marriage.

#### Position on Abortion and Birth Control:

Supports Roe v. Wade; supports abortion rights. Health care law requires contraceptives to be available for free for women enrolled in workplace health plans.

Opposes Roe v. Wade; opposes abortion rights. Believes states should be allowed to ban abortions. End federal aid to Planned Parenthood.

#### Position on Immigration:

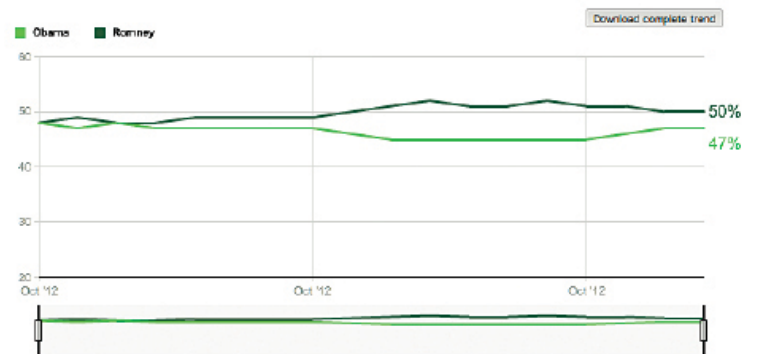
Supports path to legalization that includes learning English & paying fines. He wants to toughen penalties for hiring illegal immigrants; voted for fence along Mexican border. Issued executive order to not deport certain undocumented immigrants.

Favors U.S. - Mexico border fence, opposes education benefits to illegal immigrants. Opposes offering legal status to illegal immigrants who attend college, but would do so for those who serve in the armed forces.

### Latest Gallup Poll of likely voters (gallup.com-October 25, 2012)

#### Election 2012 Likely Voters Trial Heat: Obama vs. Romney

Among likely voters



All registered voters are asked: "Suppose the presidential election were held today, and it included Barack Obama and Joe Biden as the Democratic Party's candidates and Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan as the Republican Party's candidates. Who would you vote for [ROTATED: Barack Obama and Joe Biden, the Democrats (or) Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, the Republicans]?" Those who are undecided are further asked if they lean more toward Obama and Biden or Romney and Ryan and their leanings are incorporated into the results.

These results are for likely voters, who are the respondents Gallup deems most likely to vote based on their responses to a series of questions asking about current voting intentions, thought given to the election, and past voting behavior. Each seven-day rolling average is based on telephone interviews with approximately 2,700

## WORD ON THE STREET

### Who do you believe will do a better job leading the United States? Why?



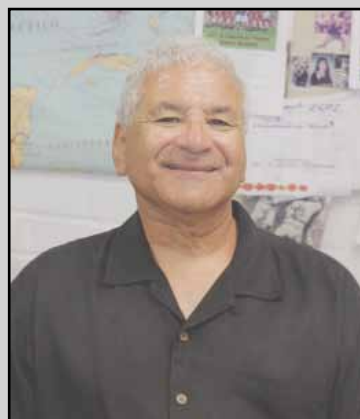
"Barack Obama will do better because he is kinder on social issues, women's rights, immigration, and gay marriage, and he is more level-headed on foreign policy. He will keep us out of [more] unnecessary wars." -Mr. White



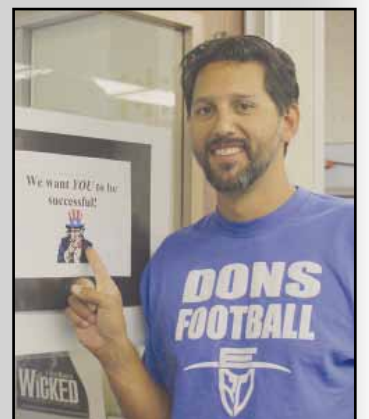
"I'm voting for Romney because I believe that the present administration is overtaking and overregulating the American people and businesses. Romney will free up the American people from the burden and allow businesses to operate with less government regulation." -Mr. Rojas



"Barack Obama because he keeps it real; he plays basketball every morning." -Ms. Lippstreu



"Obama because his economic strategy is already working and I think good economic times are ahead." -Mr. Meza



"Barack Obama because I believe in the economic and social policies set forth by the Democratic Party and Barack Obama. I think Mitt Romney wants to make you afraid of things and then promises he will fix them." -Mr. Rojo

## SPORTS

## Varsity tennis team hopes for playoff bid

BY ANGELICA GAMEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After losing a coin toss that dictated which team would get a guaranteed spot in the wildcard round of CIF, the El Rancho varsity tennis team ended league with a 4-6 record but hope to make it to the wildcard round in CIF as they apply for the at-large petition.

Varsity tennis didn't have a great start this season but "it's never an excuse to say it's because we're a new team, says coach Cynthia Lippstreu, "but we only had one returner," she adds. Even though tennis lost both matches against La Serna, Cal High, and Santa Fe, they made up for it by winning, both matches against Whittier, who had beaten Cal High. The Tennis team ended league tied for third place so they still have a chance of making it to the wildcard round of CIF if their at-large petition is approved on Monday.

In their first match against Santa Fe, the girls went into the match feeling good and confident. "I was excited," says junior co-captain Veronica Torres, "but the second time around we were fighting for third, so I was a bit



Senior Jennifer Barnes practices for her remaining league games as an El Rancho Don.

more nervous," she adds. They did see a small improvement in the score from 5-13 to 6-12.

As season approaches its end, the team is beginning to look back at their accomplishments. "My goal this year was really for

my partner and I to become first in doubles, and we did," says junior America Montejano, "we hope to do the same next year," she adds.

Although some girls accomplished their goals, others wish they would have tried hard-

er. Torres' goal in the beginning of season was to stay number one in doubles along with her partner, junior Natalia Sanchez, but they fell to second. "We could've done better, with more communication," says Torres, "I also

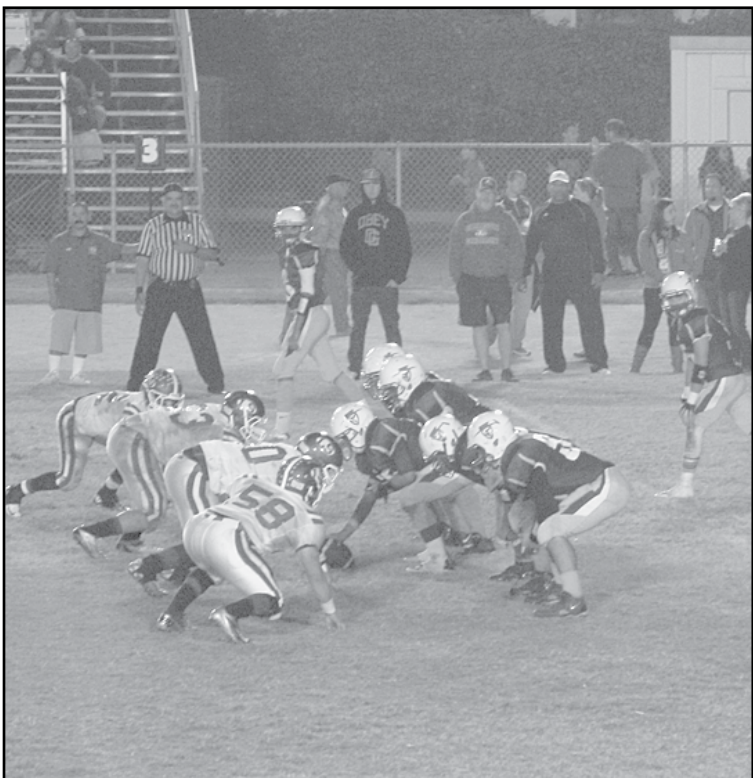
should've attended more practices," she adds. Torres looks to fix this for the next season and wants to make sure the girls feel comfortable with her as captain.

Lippstreu is beginning to prepare for the next season. "We still have to teach the junior varsity girls a few fundamentals," says Lippstreu, "also be more in control, and learn how to place the ball," she adds.

The tennis team will be losing their only returning varsity player Christina Garcia next season. Garcia has come a long way since her freshman year. She is now the number one in singles at El Rancho, number two in singles in the Del Rio League, with only two losses, and current varsity captain. "I felt that I could've helped the girls more with strategy instead of just hitting," says Garcia, but she wishes them luck next year and says that she'll miss them dearly. Garcia wishes to continue playing tennis in college and hopes to attend Syracuse University in New York, if she is accepted.

As varsity tennis waits to see if they make the wildcard round, they will try to redeem themselves individually in the prelims.

## Dons look to get back in win column



The Dons attempt to gain yards against the undefeated Lancers.

BY SAMANTHA GURROLA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although El Rancho's football team has had a bumpy start with a league record of 0-3, they hope to redeem themselves in their final two league games against Pioneer and Whittier.

The team has not had the best season so far but don't plan on giving up anytime soon. "I believe that in our next games we will have a better chance of winning because we have something to prove since we are 0-3 and we really want to win," says senior Andrew Prieto.

You can never predict how your season is going to turn out you just have to see game by game. "We have had our

ups and downs but I think we are moving in the right direction," says Coach Vinnie Lopez.

There is always a game where you are not fully satisfied, for the football team it would have to be Santa Fe and La Serna. Prieto says, "I know that our team could have done better if we worked together and not argued during practice."

Lopez says, "Our goals have not been achieved. We came into season wanting to become league champs and getting into the CIF playoffs but we haven't done either."

The majority of the seniors on the football team have now been playing with each other for four years now. "The difference between this year and

my first year is that we grew up more as a family. We started to protect each other and have each other's backs," says Prieto.

For the newcomers to varsity it is a new experience and adjustment. Sophomore Adrian Palacios says, "Varsity is pretty cool, but it is a lot of work and you have to be dedicated since it takes up a lot of your time." Palacios continues, "the difference between JV and varsity is that it is much faster."

Every team makes mistakes; if you grow and learn from them you will become a better team. "There has absolutely been improvement in the players. I have seen the players have more discipline then they have ever had, we do not get penalized for stupid things and mistakes. Also, we are united and play unified as one," says Lopez.

The football team welcomed the new head coach with open arms. "Lopez is cool, I like his work ethic and the way he disciplines us," says Palacios.

As a new head coach you do not know what to expect or what will come your way. "To this part I think it has gone well, I have no regrets and I have learned a lot. I think that the players had fun and I know I did," says Lopez.

Next season, the team will be able to start fresh and learn from this year's mistakes. "The big thing that is going to change next year is that we will have sixth period year around for football since I am on campus teacher. Now we will have the kids be in the weight room working out and getting better throughout the year," says Coach Lopez.



## Cross country team heads for finish line

BY SAVANNAH GUERRERO  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The cross country team is ready to see what finals will bring to them and see if they can take their next step toward their goals.

The team has been training and racing hard so they can make it to CIF. "Our girls and boys team have a great chance to make it to CIF this year," says Daniel Avila.

Even though they face obstacles, they always run through them. While at the La Mirada meet, not only did it rain but it also hailed. The team stayed motivated and kept going. Senior Zachary Mejia says, "cross country is not as easy as it looks, you have to have endurance to push yourself. Hard work does pay off though."

With all the work they had to put in, they pulled through and stayed on track. "Not as well as we planned, the girls fell back into third but we moved forward. The team made improvements as well as new personal records," says coach Tirrell Wynn.

The team hopes that they can make it to state this year and do not plan on giving up. "The team has been running well," says coach Wynn. Not only do they have strong runners but they have

strong leaders too. Captains for this year are Boys Varsity members: Zachary Mejia, Daniel Avila, and Enrique Angulo. Girls Varsity: Bailey Henry, and Mellissa Guterrez. "They are great leaders," says coach Stacey Salway

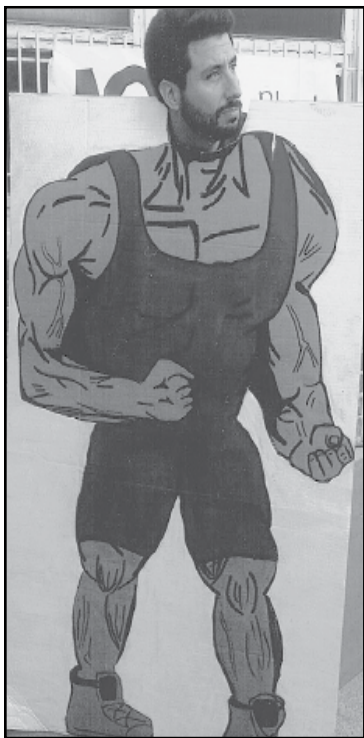
Cross Country is an individual sport, but you end up working with others and becoming close to one another. "What I love about cross country is that it's an individual sport, but we train as a family, and we motivate ourselves to get better," says junior Olympia Martinez.

When a team works hard and is dedicated to multiple practices a week, you turn out with a strong team and happy coach. "I am privileged to be a coach and I love working with these kids, it's a great feeling to have a team that works hard and makes you want to come out everyday and coach," says Coach Salway.

With finals coming around the corner, the team is ready to see what all their work has come out to. "This year we have strong runners and hard workers, but there is always room for improvement," says senior Andre Hernandez. The teams next meet will be the Apache Invite on Friday October 26th.

# FEATURES

## Pringle participates in triathlon



*Pringle's hard work pays off.*

BY ANDREA MUNOZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

English teacher, Mr. John Pringle, recently participated in the Herbalife Triathlon in Los Angeles.

Pringle had been physically active since high school. While in high school, Pringle was a part of the water polo team at Montebello High.

Pringle began participating in triathlons in 2009. "I began participating in triathlon for my health," said Pringle.

As for training, Pringle has his daily morning routine. In addition Pringle "uses [his] weekends for long bike rides and runs," said Pringle. Not only does Pringle work out,

he also tries to watch his diet.

A triathlon consist of three events: swimming, biking and running. Pringle had to swim .4 miles, bike 14.1 miles and run 3.1 miles. "Triathlons are definitely a struggle, I don't like it honestly," said Pringle.

Pringle did have to deal with some rashes on his neck, left from his wet suit. "I had to assure the students that the rashes were not hickies," joked Pringle.

The Herbalife Triathlon took place September 30th. The triathlon began at about eight o'clock in the morning and went up until late in the afternoon. There were different waves for all of the events because of the multitude of athletes. It was a couple of long and exhausting hours for Pringle to persevere through.

The different courses for each event seemed to serve as a challenge in Pringle's eyes, "the last event, running, was almost all uphill, it almost made me quit," said Pringle.

There were quite a few spectators at the different courses, "the course was difficult but fun, I swam at Venice Beach, biked to the Staple Center, and I ran to the Disney Concert Hall twice," said Pringle. The spectators were encouraging and rooted on the athletes.

"I know I would feel worse if I quit even though physically I don't feel good, I feel accomplished," said Pringle. At one point Pringle did feel like giving up but he persevered through, to the end. Pringle plans on participating in the Herbalife Triathlon again next year.



*Mr. Meza, Mr. Elias and teen court members, get ready to see where their next court cases takes them.*

## Teen court takes on new cases

BY JAVIER GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

All rise! Teen Court is back in session and is returning with a bang! Teen court gives the average adolescent a feel for criminal courts, allowing students to witness real life court cases of infractions committed by contemporary students.

It also enables students to take a part in court proceedings; taking on the roles of court clerk, bailiff, or juror. This program offers an alternative to youth charged with misdemeanor or offenses permitting them to have their case overlooked by a jury of their peers. Furthermore, judges Rosales and Horan, from the Whittier court system, help oversee the program and are present at the proceedings.

Due to overwhelming popularity, the Teen Court Club

now issues admission cards to guarantee entry for these proceedings. Last year, the court chambers were overcrowded with spectators, causing the mob to be loud and disruptive, taking away the focus essential for the court-hearing environment. This year the Teen Court Club's goal is to make the court proceeding more educational and authentic.

Last year's chamber sessions lacked diversity and became predictable due to an abundance of drug possession cases. The club is venturing to introduce a variety of relatively new cases ranging from vandalism to destruction of property.

"This year's teen court is more organized and has a limited amount of space," said senior Cecilia Ibanez, who recently took on the position of court clerk, kicking off this school

year's first session.

As a direct result of the closure of the Norwalk Juvenile Court, which handled a majority of local cases, this year's club aims to increase the number of cases to two a month due to the surplus of criminal proceedings. "We have enough cases to have a teen court everyday," said club advisor and economics teacher, Mr. Elias.

This year commemorates the clubs one-year anniversary at El Rancho, making it one of the few schools in Los Angeles County, besides Roosevelt High, to have such a program. As key advisor to the teen court, Elias is responsible for bringing this program to life, presenting the idea to the attention of the school board and the city council of Pico Rivera. "The Teen Court Club is one of the most important programs the school offers," says Elias.

## Band prepares to play for Vets



*El Rancho's band prepares for Band of Pride Veteran's Day parade.*

BY BRIDGETT MOTA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho band members recently received a shot of confidence as they progressed from 1A to 2A Division in the Cal Championships in Rollen Heights earlier this month.

"We are doing excellent. Our music sounds extremely superb compared to other bands", says freshmen Sixto Valle.

The marching band will make their way to San Diego

on November 9<sup>th</sup>, to partake in the annual "Band of Pride" Veteran's Day Parade. They plan to travel by Amtrak for the first time as a new exciting alternative.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1947 Chuck Yeager was the first pilot to fly the experimental Bell X-1 at an altitude of 45,000 ft., flying faster than the speed of sound, breaking the sound barrier.

The 2012 parade commemorates the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this glorious event. The annual celebration gives diverse marching

bands from around California the chance to pay their respects to all American Veterans by performing on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.

The Dons plan to arrive in San Diego Friday evening where they will settle into a hotel, and later in the night enjoy a performance by the San Diego Symphony. "I'm really excited to have the privilege to partake in this event. This should be a fun experience since this will be my first time visiting San Diego and riding an Amtrak, I can't wait", says clarinetist Junior Ilse Llamas-Medina.

For many this will be their first time participating in this event. It will be a great way for the students to get the experience of going further than the usual boundaries of El Rancho, and other high schools in our area, to show off their talent

The El Rancho Marching Band will proceed to showcase their talents amongst other bands on the flight deck of The U.S.S. Midway carrier on Sunday.

After their performances, all bands will be treated to lunch aboard the ship and attend a self-tour of The U.S.S Midway.

On Sunday night they plan to come back from San Diego to El Rancho's campus from a long successful Veteran's day weekend.



## Disappointing thriller

BY KARINA CERDAS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Everything has led to this" as creators of Paranormal Activity 4, say. On October 16 there was an early viewing for this film at the Arclight in Hollywood. If you liked the first three Paranormal Activity movies you will certainly enjoy this one, but don't get your hopes up too high. It is not as scary as the first three, but this one has its twists and turns that will make you to jump. The last 5-10 minutes has to be the scariest part.

The story of this movie shows you what happens five years after Katie disappears with Hunter. Now the movie is focused on a new family, the Nelson family, who have a new mysterious neighbor. Doug and Holly (Alexandra Lee & Stephen Dunham) who have a teenage daughter, Alex (Kathryn Newton) and an adopted son named Wyatt (Aiden Lovekamp). When Alex finds out that Katie was sent to the hospital and her son Robbie is now going to stay with them for a few days, suspicious things start to happen. Alex and her boyfriend Ben (Matt Shively) try to get to the bottom of it, leaving them to find out a surprising secret about their neighbor and her child.

The movie received negative reviews. It got a 27% on Rotten Tomatoes and a 47% from the audience. Critics also say the movie did not do as well as Paranormal Activity 2 and 3. As of October 21, the film made an estimated \$30,200,000 in North America and \$26,500,00 in other countries. Making a total of \$55,503,866. Drew McWeeny, former west coast editor of the Ain't It Cool News website, gave the film a C+, saying that the filmmakers "played it safe". It has already been announced that Paranormal Activity 5 will be released in October of 2013.

CAMPUS

# Fall/Winter Fashion Insider

BY ISABEL RAMIREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Ladies, fall is here and winter is drawing near. It is that time of year when we say goodbye to the 90 degree weather and say hello to the winter's cold air. I'm dishing out my top 5 must-haves for the season so you can get the latest trend updates for this fall and winter.

This definitely has to be one of my favorite seasons because of the weather and most importantly the fashion. Most teens use fashion as a way to express their individuality stylistically.

The first must-have on my list is definitely coats. Coats are the easiest to wear with anything from jeans to leggings. You can never go wrong with color, design or texture. Coats can always be dressed up with bold accessories from scarves to shawls. It'll not only keep you warm but also make you look stylish.

My second must-have is statement blazers. Blazers are a great alternative to coats. They have the ability to give a sophisticated touch to any look.



Blazers/coats, scarves, burgundy, and boots are must haves for this winter.

Earthy, monochromatic colors/tones are best for fall and winter. You can find inexpensive, quality blazers in any store from Charlotte Russe to Forever 21. Scarves would have to be

one of my favorite accessories to have for fall/winter. Scarves have an incredible selection, which includes different styles and colors. They can differ in patterns such as plaid, floral, and/or

color block and textures such as knitted, fringed, plaited, woven, etc. In addition, there are infinite ways to wear scarves. A creative way to wear a scarf would be to tie a scarf in the shape of a bow. Forever 21 has great deals on scarves as well as H&M.

Number four on my must have list is the color burgundy. Burgundy is the most loved color to wear in autumn. Its rich, velvety is both earthy and flattering to any skin tone. It is a perfect trend for the season and can be worn with anything from blouses, scarves, oversized sweaters to jeans/pants.

Lastly, a must-have for the fall season is boots. Boots are always on trend and are a chic addition to any look. Studded combat boots are on this fall's "it-list" and are a fabulous way to make any look "edgy." Boots vary in price; it all depends on what brand and what style you're aiming for.

The exceptional thing about these items is that they can be worn to your personal liking. These trends can range in any style from Preppy Chic, Edgy, Boho, and/or Vintage.

## Advice Column

**Dear Miss Glenn Coco,** I have a huge crush on this guy who is my best friend but his best friend likes me and we don't have a real shot at working out because he doesn't want to hurt his friend. But I still have feelings for the guy, what should I do?

-Anonymous

**Response:**

Sweetie, you should talk to your crush and see where you guys stand in the relationship and what you want to do. If his best friend is a "true best friend" he should understand and be happy for you guys. It might come as a shock to him at first, but he'll come around.

**Dear Miss Glenn Coco,** I have a HUGE fear of public speaking; it has gone too far to the point that I have accepted a zero for not presenting. I need to overcome this phobia before it begins to affect my grades. Please Help!

-Anonymous

**Response:**

Truth is most people can relate to this fear, which is definitely something you need to face to be able to overcome. So try joining a Speech 101 class, it might help you to become comfortable talking in front of people. Or you can try practicing in front of family and friends. The key importance of presenting is to be confident.

**Dear Miss Glenn Coco,** I want to join/try out for a sport but none of my friends want to try out with me, what can I do?

-Anonymous

**Response:**

Well if you really want to do it then go for it! Don't let the fear of being alone keep you from trying out. The thing about sports is that you become a family within the team you'll make new friends who enjoy the same things you do.

## Parent math workshop brings awareness to student struggles



Currently there are over 300 missing assignments in Mr. Collantes' wall.

BY ANDREA MUNOZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Jose R. Collantes, current geometry teacher, held the first motivational workshop for parents of students struggling in geometry.

"Many students were failing the class. I felt like there had to be something I could do with the parents," said Collantes.

Collantes's recognition of all the missing assignments that were affecting the students' grades drastically encouraged him to find a way of fixing the problem.

"The lack of motivation in the students" showed in the more than three hundred missing assignments.

Collantes's first approach to the workshop was to seek approval from Dr. Ventura.

"I thought it was a great idea," said Ventura. The workshop would provide extra communication with the parents especially now that parent conferences are not offered.

The workshop's objective was to raise awareness of the fact that many students are exhibiting lack of motivation to study and it also strove

to provide parents with concrete ideas on how they can help their child become successful in Collantes's geometry class.


"The students are very intelligent, they just need a little guidance at home," said Collantes. The students grades are suffering due to the lack of turning in homework assignments. "If students don't do their homework they don't get the practice they need to be successful in the class," said Collantes.

The workshop provided the parents with a comical approach to the problem. The drama department assisted Collantes by performing "Eight days to no more o.k. honey". This comic relief showed parents the importance of their involvement in their child's education.

The students' lack of understanding should not serve as an excuse not to do homework. "We provide the students with other resources like after school tutoring in the library," says Ventura.

Collantes's workshop serves as a reminder to all students of the importance of homework assignments and parents' involvement in students' education.


# BLOOD DRIVE



## got blood?

Donate Blood and get a FREE t-shirt or a coupon for a pint of Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream

All 16 year-old students must have signed parental consent




### El Rancho High School

**Date:** Wednesday, November 14, 2012  
**Time:** 8am to 2pm  
**Location:** School Gym  
**Contact:** Jim Sorenson, Key Club Advisor to Sign-up (Room Q2)

**BEFORE DONATING:**

- Be in good health
- Drink plenty of water
- Eat a nutritious meal
- Weigh at least 113 pounds
- Be at least 17 years old (or 16 with a signed parental consent)
- Bring valid photo I.D.
- You can donate blood every 56 days
- No tattoos or piercings within the last 12 months

*Share Life, Donate Blood*



## Library Corner: Mix & Match

1. "Yesterday I remember thinking that I was the happiest person in the whole earth...."
2. It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."
3. "Simon Glass was easy to hate."
4. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."
5. "When I wake up, the other side of the bed is cold."

- a. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- b. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- c. *Shattering Glass* by Gail Giles
- d. *Go Ask Alice*.
- e. *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

Answers: 1-D, 2-A, 3-C, 4-E, 5-B