



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 60- Issue 1
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

Credit Recovery



BY DESTINEE ORTIZ
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year, a "Credit Recovery" program is now in affect at El Rancho to help students make up credits that they are missing.

"Our main focus is the seniors," said Assistant Principal of Curriculum Dr. Ventura.

Classes that were offered at Adult school last year, are no longer available to high school students which makes it even more difficult for seniors to catch up on credits they need in order to graduate.

At the moment classes such as English 11A and 11B are being offered here at the ranch. These classes were chosen due to the high demand of students that need to retake the course. Eleven A is held during zero period and Eleven B takes place after school.

As time progresses, other classes such as math, science, and history will be available.

"We hope to provide as many classes possible for seniors to take." Said Ms. Melgar.

While all of this takes place, APEX, which is a computer learning program will begin. Students in grades 11th and 12th are able to participate.

For the seniors that worry they will not be able to graduate due to the lack of credit, Ms. Melgar recommends seeing Ms. Madera, or your counselor and asking for your spot within the credit recovery program.

Power 106 All-Stars Takes on Staff in Fund-raiser



DJ Eman, from radio station Power 106, get the crowd fired up prior to the start of the boys basketball fund-raiser game between the El Rancho staff and the Power 106 All-Stars.

BY PEDRO HERRERA
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, September 22nd, El Rancho hosted the first game to the Power 106 season. The game was a fund-raiser for the boys' basketball program.

The fans at the game were treated to a very entertaining game, which concluded with a 69-64 win in overtime by the Power 106 All-Stars as the All-Stars continue their winning streak.

DJ Eman, Power 106 DJ and team captain, announced that he tries to bring

different talent to every game and just wants to have fun.

However, the game wasn't the only attraction of the fun-filled night. A special performance by Audio Push and Cali Swag District stole the show. The crowd was on their feet the whole time and a group of girls in the stands even quarreled over a sweater. "It was a great night," said El Rancho Senior, Joslyn Morales.

All this fun served its purpose; the game raised a lot of money for the boys' basketball program. Ray Elliot, head coach of the basketball team,

said, "It was phenomenal, the participation of Power 106 and the staff was great." Coach Elliot also said that he definitely plans to do it again, for sure.

But wait! Of course there has to be a catch, right? Luckily, Eman said that there is no catch, they have been doing this for four years, and are only trying to help schools raise money.

Yesi Ortiz, radio host for Power 106, added that she loves coming to the games. "El Rancho was amazing," she admitted. She has been to other schools that were too cool to cheer, but El Ran-

cho came through and surprised all with all of that blue pride!

This is a great way to get students to enjoy and support the ranch's basketball games and to build up excitement for the season.

The boys finished last season with a 4 and 6 league record, a fourth place finish, and a loss against San Clemente in the first round of the playoffs.

This year the coaches are expecting a productive season, having six returners and some very good underclassmen. Senior, Jason Cerrillo, says he expects the Dons will win league.

Welcome Back Assembly Kicks off Class Competitions

BY DES DELGADILLO, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER



El Rancho's class competitions resumed in full force at the annual welcome back assembly as the Dons demonstrated their blue pride through a series of races and cheers.

Each competition earned classes a number of points; those points will accumulate throughout the year, with the highest class taking the Class Cup in June. As if right now the seniors are in the lead with 308 points and the freshmen are following in second place with 243 points. The juniors have 215 points while the sophomores only have 154 points.

Dons were also re-introduced to the six pillars of character thanks to a performance by Mr. Wlasick's drama department. Remember the six pillars of character are : Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The welcome back assembly serves as a launching point for the rest of the year, where students can blend with their fellow Dons and ring in the new school year.

OPINION

No Tragedy Should be Forgotten

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"We shall never forget," Americans promised. However, Americans indeed have forgotten about many events that have marked, scarred, and shaped the world.

This past month the United States reflected upon the tenth anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 attacks. These memorials reminded me of the pre 9/11 days. An innocent time, well a more innocent time than today, when the largest terrorist attack on American soil was the Oklahoma City bombing that occurred on April 19th, 1995.

Two Americans, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, bombed an Oklahoma City office building. The explosion from the detonation of the bomb killed 168 people and injured another 600 people. A children's day care was located in the office building, and unfortunately 19 children died. A memorial was built in Oklahoma City to honor the people who died, but other than that I do not ever recall a memorial every year like the memorial for the 9/11 attacks.

An answer for that could be, that the 9/11 attacks were several, committed by foreigners, had a higher death toll, and were located in major east coast cities. Many younger people are not even aware of the Oklahoma City terrorist attack, but are well

informed of the 9/11 attacks, and that should be changed. Are deaths on the East Coast more important than deaths in Oklahoma? No death is death. It seems the Oklahoma City bombing has been forgotten, because only 168 people died compared to two thousand. This is not a competition, it should be mentioned, talked about in schools more, and equally remembered no matter the death toll.

This is not the first time tragedies have been forgotten in history. The Holocaust in the late 1930s and early 1940s resulted in the extermination of six million Jewish people! This atrocity is widely known, and has spawned books, films, songs, etc. There is barely a mention of the Armenian Genocide of the 1910s. This was the mass murder of approximately 1-2 million Armenians! The history textbooks also do not mention the death tolls of the Soviet Gulag (prison camps) in which tens of millions of people died. Again: are the deaths of certain people more important than others? Every individual's death is equal.

The days leading up to the Tenth Anniversary of September 11th were plagued with the slogan "We shall never forget", but it seems to me that America has a short memory. These atrocities that have been prevalent in the history of mankind should be reminders of how fortunate we are to be living. Life itself should be a daily reminder to "Never forget."



A firefighter attends to a child after the bombing of an Oklahoma City office building.



The absence of artist like Bob Dylan has led to a decline in the quality of music, art, and literature.

Where are the Faces of Our Faceless Generation?

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Who are we? That is a question I ask everyday. This generation we are all a part of has no recognizable face, no one to represent the times we are living in. Where are our Beatles, Bob Dylans, and Woody Guthries? I never hear music talking of the tough economic times, the conflict in the Middle East, or any issues of today.

Instead, I hear "music" talking about sucking this, smoking that, and poppin' bottles in the club. It is all mostly rubbish that has no meaning, and more importantly no heart and soul. Where is the real music? If you'd like to hear Wolfgang, try Amadeus Mozart. Who and where are our Picassos, Hemingways, and Ginsbergs? If they are out there, I have yet to hear of them. They are not out on the front in the public eye. I never see my peers discussing the elections, world issues, etc., and yes granted we are still young it does not mean we should be ignorant of the world.

I believe that the youth of today has no identity because it lacks drive and motivation. We were born with a "technological spoon" in our mouths. Instead of reading a book (because it is so

much work) a person will simply go online and find a summary. That deprives the person of receiving the gift and lessons from literature. Social networks also contribute to this faceless generation, and although they have been used for phenomenal ideas, such as the recent revolutions in the Middle East, the majority of this generation uses them for absolutely nothing, and just contributes to their unoriginality.

I am not too certain if many people today are aware or even know what the First Amendment is, and that may be the reason why I have seen a decrease in protest. Why are we not exercising our "right to peaceably assemble?" There are many reasons to protest, including the conflicts (wars) in the Middle East and the horrendous jobs our politicians have been doing. I guess walking and standing up is a bit too difficult.

When I look at society today I think of an assembly line, and all the people machines bred to think the same and not speak out. Well, I choose to speak out and be informed, and you can too. There is still time to change, read a book, listen to different music, watch the news, and care about laws because they will affect us all. Be weird, and be heard!

El Rodeo



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FEATURES

Paul Espitia: Returning Drum Major Shoots for Third World Championship



Paul Espitia; a Two-Time World Champion Drum Major.

BY CLIFFORD BILLINGTON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Paul Espitia, senior here at El Rancho, is a two-time world champion drum major, which is a great achievement for this young man. Espitia was first introduced to music when he saw a North Park band concert at his elementary school. "When the North Park

Band played a concert at their school, I fell in love with the music they played, and I could not wait to join," said Espitia.

Before he was a drum major he was a trombone player for the marching band. He has stayed with it ever since and now the main drum major for the marching band here at El Rancho.

Espitia had been in band for seven years but was only introduced to drum majoring three years ago. Shortly after becoming Drum Major, Espitia went to championships held in Scotland, Ireland, etc. He said he wanted to become drum major to help further the marching band on to bigger and better things.

Now, in his last year as drum major, all Espitia wants to see for the band is that they represent his Alma Mater well and that they have fun doing it.

Next time you see Espitia in the hall, congratulate him, cheer the band on when they perform for half time shows at the El Rancho football games.



Senior Alan Samaniego and El Rancho Alumni Jonathan Yescas sitting on the hoods of their drift cars.

Two Fast, Too Furious

BY MICHELLE CHAVEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

We all know that as soon as we hit high school we dream of having our own car. Alan Samaniego, being just 17 years old and a senior in high school, owns two cars! No, his parents did not buy him the cars; Samaniego bought them with his own money by working.

He owns a 1996 Toyota Camry and recently purchased his 1990 Nissan 240SX this past summer. "I bought it off a guy selling it on the street. It cost me

\$1,800," said Samaniego. "My favorite thing about it is the exhaust and that it's a drift car."

Samaniego isn't the only one with a 'drift' car. His close friend and El Rancho Alumni, Jonathan Yescas owns the exact same car. The only difference is that Yescas' car is black and Samaniego's is olive-green.

These unique looking cars weren't originally black or olive-green. "We spray painted our own cars, we'd sand them down and spray paint them evenly," said Yescas. "It took a long time but it only cost

me thirty-five bucks, so it was worth it" said Samaniego. It really did look like it was worth it; you wouldn't have guessed it was painted with spray cans.

These close friends seemed quite proud of their cars as they raced down their neighborhood street. "One of the best things about these cars is how fast and loud they are," said Samaniego. They certainly do get a lot of attention; Its not every day that you see cars drifting down the streets of Pico!

Health Tips from Chef Luna

BY BRIANA RIVERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Drink WATER. That's a big one. Eat more foods and vegetables. Exercise more. Eat 3 small meals and 3 small snacks per day. Cut back on the animal products. Know what your body can tolerate. Chew slower and chew more so you don't swallow big portions and they can be able to digest correctly. Eat before you go to bed, when you wake up eat breakfast to get your day started. Take baby steps to eating better, don't cut back completely on the junk food just take smaller portions instead and slowly start your cut back.



RECIPE FOR OCTOBER

A simple egg white with spinach on a piece of toast or bagel is a simple and good treat. It's a very small and cheap recipe. You just put those together and sprinkle your favorite cheese on your one piece of toast (one only so its not a sandwich) and there you are! A small meal that's equally small, has all your nutrients and vitamins, and wastes no time to make!

SAT Strategies to Raise Your Score

- * Discover the role of the SAT in college admissions
- * Learn how you can raise your scores
- * Get tips on how to excel on test day

**TUESDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2011
6pm - 7pm**

Approved for ERUSD distribution:
By: *S. Smith (Kma)*
Date: *9/14/11*

Space is limited for this free Kaplan Test Group workshop!
Register at the Customer Service Desk.

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"Thinking Lives"

CAMPUS

The Ranch Welcomes Seven New Teachers

BY GABBY GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

This year El Rancho High School welcomes seven new teachers. Students may recognize some of these new teachers, for they have been working in the district, but now, it's their first year here while others are returning from other schools. Give these new teachers a warm welcome to El Rancho High School and show them how proud of our school we are!



Ms. Gunningham

Ms. Gunningham takes over room B-107, teaching World History. She was a previous teacher here at El Rancho, and in 2004, transferred to adult school for 6 years, and now she's back. While she worked at El Rancho, she was assistant principle in activities and a Dean 15 years ago.

"The students are very respectful, and I already knew most of administration so I get along with them" says Ms. Gunningham, "but I have five classes so I get a little tired throughout the day".

Mrs. Gunningham has been teaching for 40 years in total. She aspired to be a teacher while she was studying in St. Mary's College to obtain her sociology major.

Although she was born and raised in Hawaii, the state of peace and relaxation, Mrs. Gunningham considers herself a strict teacher, "I am a strict teacher, but I'm strict with love," she claims, "In order to teach, there must be an atmosphere where learning can take place."



Ms. Torres

Ms. Torres is also one of the new teachers in campus in R-4 working on Life Skills with the students with disabilities. Although she has worked here before, she says that the school has been treating her very well. "I volunteered with special education students," she said, "I'm passionate with children with disabilities."

Ms. Torres attended Cal. Poly Pomona and to Cal State LA for her masters.

She has also worked at Magee Elementary with RSVP.

"I haven't had any bad experiences, more like challenging moments with physical oasis," said Ms. Torres

"I'm not a mean teacher, I push my students to be their best."



Mr. Yannarell

Sophomores from Rivera Middle School might of recognized Mr. Yannarell around campus. He replaces Hughey, and takes over Junior and Senior English in M-5. Mr. Yannarell previously taught at Rivera Middle School as a 7th grade English teacher.

Although he originally wanted to become president of a business company, he claims that "luck" made him come into teaching, "I

guess I just fell into it, I liked teaching so I made my decision," says Mr. Yannarell.

He attended Whittier College to obtain his Masters in Education and obtained his undergrad in the University of New Mexico.

"I don't consider myself as a mean teacher," says Mr. Yannarell, "but I guess it all depends in the grade, I like teaching juniors and seniors because they already know how to act in a class."



Ms. Morales

In classroom X-7 new teacher, Ms. Morales, teaching English 9, is new to the school.

"The school has been treating me well, I met new, helpful, teachers and I enjoy working with the students," she says.

Ms. Morales has been working in the district for nine years, at North park for seven years teaching English with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

"I was a sub before I became a teacher," says Ms. Morales, "so I have some experience with the students."

She has attended a number of collages to pursue her career, some of them including UC Santa Cruz, UC Hawaii, and Cal State Long Beach.

"I have had good experiences with my students," she says, "I'm not a strict teacher, I like to get to know my students and keep a nice environment that is welcoming and comfortable in my classroom."



Mrs. Narro

Some students from North Park Middle School might recognize Mrs. Narro, former 7th grade Life Science teacher, around campus. Mrs. Narro has been teaching for 23 years and has transferred this year to El Rancho High School to teach 9th grade Biology, replacing Holguin in N-2.

"The school has been treating me very well," says Mrs. Narro, "everyone is courteous and helpful, and administration is awesome."

Mrs. Narro had actually not aspired to be a teacher when she was in high school, but a Doctor.

"I was studying to obtain my bachelors in science and ended up working as a sub while I studied," said Mrs. Narro. "While I was subbing, I ended up falling in love with teaching and the kids, so that changed my mind about what I wanted to do."

Mrs. Narro considers herself a very strict teacher, while some of the student's debate that she is strict at first "then she grows into you and becomes the cool teacher that she is."

Ms. Tejada

No Photo Available

In Z-6, the new ROP Intro to Medicine teacher is Ms. Tejada. "The school has been treating me very well I love it, juniors and seniors are great," says Ms. Tejada.

She graduated here at El Rancho High School in 1981 and attended Rio Hondo College, University

of San Diego, and TriCities to obtain her ROP.

"Teachers inspired me to become a teacher," says Ms. Tejada, "they always told me I had a good teaching sense, my classmates would always come to me for help," she claims.

Ms. Tejada considers herself an extremely strict teacher. "No chewing gum, no cursing in class, no disrespect to anyone inside the classroom," are some of the many rules she has for her students. "I've been around strict teachers so I think it is necessary to set standards for a classroom," she says.



Mr. Muller

The new teacher that occupies classroom Y-4 is Mr. Muller, the new U.S history teacher. "The school is great, its easy to get along here," he said, "the students are cool, I get along with them very well".

He has taught at Burke Middle School before, so perhaps some students might have already noticed him.

Mr. Muller had been a teacher for five years until he finally became an official history teacher. He attended Whittier College to obtain his major in history.

As far as student behavior, "It's the best here," he said, "all the students are well behaved in class, its definitely one of the best well behaved schools I've been to."

"I think I'm not so much of a strict teacher, I'm in the middle," he said, "I'm not a push over, and not so strict."

CAMPUS

Students and Parents Pack Gym For Annual College Night

By DESTINEE ORTIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

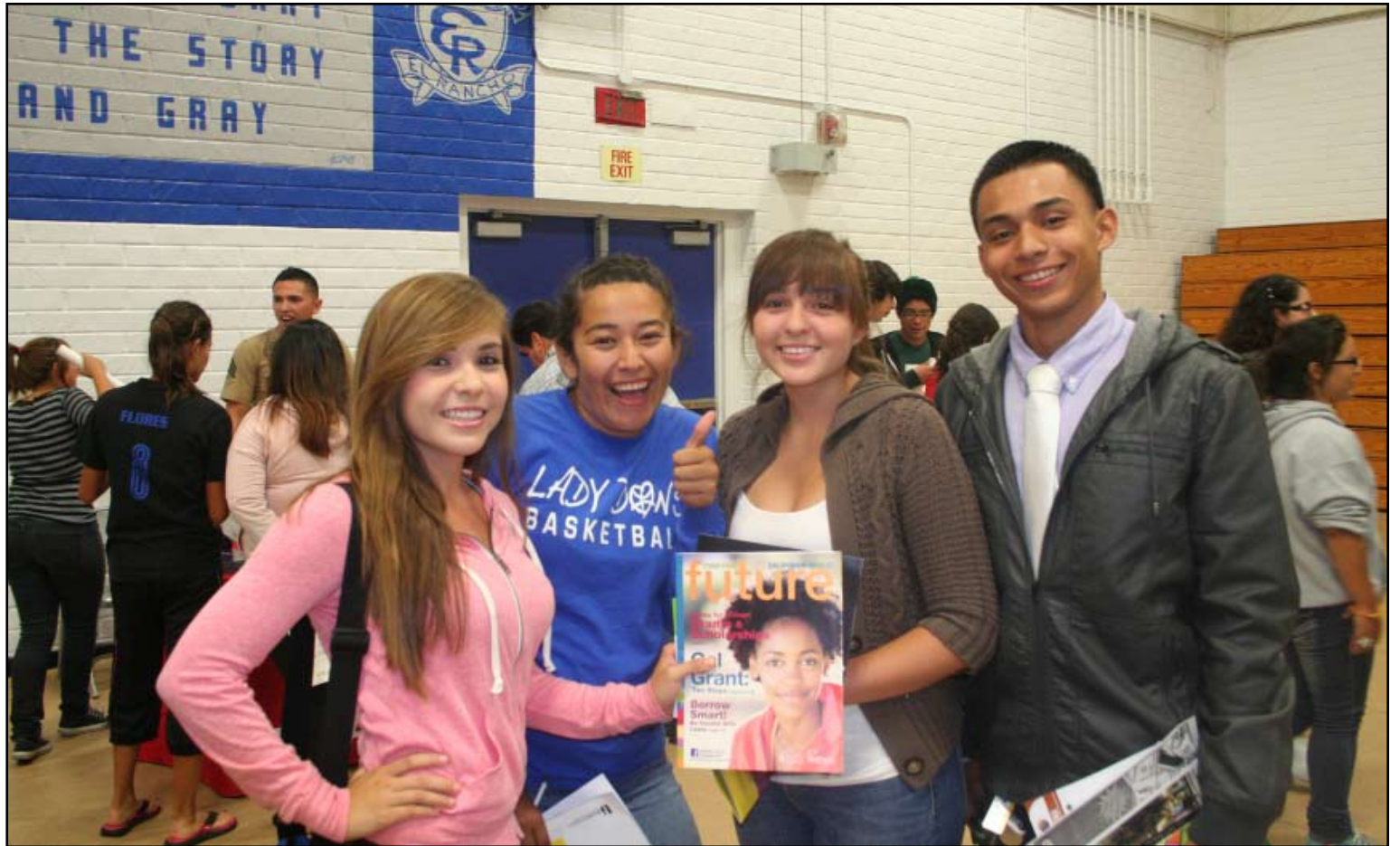
On the evening of September 15th, 2011 El Rancho hosted the annual College Night, where representatives from different colleges distributed information concerning their schools.

The El Rancho gym was tightly filled with students ranging from grades 9th through 12th who did not waste any time asking college representative in-depth questions concerning their schools.

Representatives from private universities, Cal States, Community Colleges, Marines, Air Force, and the Army participated in the annual event.

“Attending College Night gives me the opportunity to see different types of colleges and the different majors they offer. I like how many of the representatives are students and we get their point of view about the schools,” said Junior Daisy Santa Ana

Before the actual event took place, parents and students were encouraged to attend an informational meeting that covered issues such as financial aid, high



Seniors Kim Garcia, Rachel Flores, Cielo Gomez, and Pedro Herrera show off informational brochures they received while attending college night.

school graduation requirements, and upcoming senior deadlines.

“I hope students have the opportunity to discover all different types of colleges,” said College

and Career Counselor Mr. Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz also said that College Night as well helps students discover the variety of major programs that ev-

ery individual school provides. This annual event helps the parents of Dons prepare for their child’s academic future. Hopefully this night can

remain consistent for many years to come in order to aid parents through the preparation of their child’s future and as well help the students prepare.

Guten Tag! Say “Hello” to El Rancho’s Newest Don

By JORDAN MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Jovann Gutekunst, a fifteen-year-old sophomore, from Germany the land of schnitzel and lager, is here on a foreign exchange program. Which has landed him in El Rancho, where the people are extremely unique compared to what he is used to.

In order to come here as an exchange student he had to get a Visa and write an essay. Jovann had already been to America two years ago in Arizona and so he had an idea of what it was going to be like. The experience

many people from Germany have wanted he has been able to have.

Coming from a different country Jovann said: “The schools in America are much bigger than in Germany” especially since “in Germany there is no middle school and that there are three high schools. And each high school is based on performance: “one for those that do poorly in elementary, one for those who do average, and one that do extremely well” he said.

Of course one of the best things about California is its climate but that’s not the only

thing that is the most outstanding, “the classes are easier, everyone is nice and open minded, and everyone is nice to him and tries to be his friend,” he said.

One of his favorite things to do here is to skate with his new friends and his favorite subject is history. Before he came here he left off studying World War II already since schools move faster over there.

And who could forget American cuisine especially here in Pico Rivera where iconic fast foods are located. Out of all the food the ones he remembers most



Jovann enjoying himself on campus.

has been from In’N’Out, KFC, El Pollo Loco and he says his favorite has been the Chili Pepper, and McDonalds, Chili Pepper, and

WORD ON THE STREET

What Do You Think of the Tardy Sweeps?



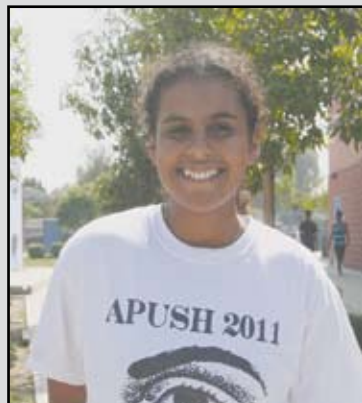
“It takes students’ education away because it takes a long time just to get the pink slip from the teacher and by the time you get it class is already almost over.” -Yvette Gaona 12th



“I think it’s not productive at all because more students have to come to Saturday school and it takes time away from students being with their parents.” -Vania Amezca 12th



“Honestly, I think that they work so they show students to come earlier so they don’t miss class time but at the same time it takes so long for the students to get pink slips which is dumb that they have to wait to get a paper.” -Emma Don Lucas 12th



“I think that the tardy sweep is a waste of time. The administrators should find a different way to punish the tardy students because it makes those students even more late.” -Lezley Barrientez 12th



“I feel like the tardy sweeps are very effective, but at the same time it’s a hassle for students. It as well takes them longer to get to class since they have to get a tardy slip.” -Mark Chacon 12th

SPORTS

Girls Volleyball Begins Action;
Sets Sights on La Serna

BY BRIANA RIVERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

It's the beginning season for ER's girls' varsity volleyball and the team is very thrilled to get started.

Coach Adelaida Picon, who has been working with both girls and boys in volleyball, stated, "It's a lot of fun and I love to see the girls grow into mature young women," when asked why she chose to become a volleyball coach.

Picon added "They're having a little rough time right now but have high expectations for the season. They're playing good right now, but can do better."

The Dons held a tournament this season but sadly lost. It was an eye-opener for the team, especially the freshmen on the team that made varsity.

Senior and second-

year captain, Amber Calvillo, is faced with new challenges daily and goes through obstacles everyday while aiming for improvement. Her goals for the team are as stated, "To win and smash on all the teams we compete against!"

The approaches they are to use to beat the team are to simply use everything we do at practice and supply it to the game.

Crystal Lopez, freshman and first-timer on a varsity team, aids her team by focusing and keeping on her feet. "I was really scared but I think I did well", she admitted about her feelings on the first game. She feels good about being on the team and did well on Saturday's tournament.

So far they've played at Mark Keppel, Warren, and at the Arcadia Tournament. They also played Don



Girls' Varsity Volleyball competing against Bell Garden High School.

Lugo, Montebello, Bell Gardens and Village Christian Schools here at El Rancho.

They were beaten by Bell Gardens on Wednesday September 21st by the score of 3-0. The over-

all record is now 2-6. Although the girls are down by a few games they are ready to make a comeback on their next opponents.

The goal this year is to beat La Serna, current and

back-to-back League Champions for the past four years, who beat them last year. This year they're going to strike back and try to take League and make the playoffs.

Varsity Tennis off to a Strong Start

BY MARISSA AYALA, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho's varsity girls' tennis team realizes that in order to succeed, they must first believe they can, which is why they have established a new team motto of belief. This motto will be debuted on the new tennis shirts in October. "It's the whole mental aspect of playing tennis," said Coach Lippstreu.

Although pre-season for them ended with 3 wins and 4 losses, senior co-captain Lezley Barrientez has faith that the team will do well during season. "[The score] was kind of disappointing but I thought our girls did their best they could."

They hope to return to the second place title they earned last year. "We played tough schools," Coach Lippstreu said of this pre-season's opposing teams.

Out of the six returning players on the team, four of them are starters from last year.

With junior co-captain Christina Garcia being number one singles and Barrientez close behind, "singles should prove pretty strong," coach Lippstreu said. "Doubles has shown improvement."

The team lost in their first season game against La Serna with a score of 15-3. "It was a learning experience for us because it was our first game. We know what to expect now so we can practice for next time," Barrientez said.

Junior Alejandra Aceves earned the title of September's Athlete of the Month. "We are like a family. We all support each other, and even though we are all different we all come together and help each other," she said.



City of Pico Rivera
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

PICO RIVERA FLASH MOB

The City of Pico Rivera is extremely excited to announce "Pico Rivera's First Ever Flash Mob"!!

Rehearsal Dates

October, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29. 2:30 - 3:30 PM at Pico Park

WHAT'S A FLASH MOB?

It's a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform a dance routine then disperse...

OKAY, BUT WHY?

To bring together youth and adults in a fun way while encouraging both to engage in physical activity.

WHEN IS THIS HAPPENING?

Flash Mob will take place at the Pico Rivera Halloween Spooktacular

Monday, October 31, 2011 between the hours of 5 - 6 PM

Practices held at Pico Park Gymnasium (9528 Beverly Blvd.)

Saturdays in October at 2:30 PM - you can also practice at home on your own time, the dance routine has been posted on our website: www.pico-rivera.org

WHO CAN DO THIS? EVERYBODY!

We need flash-mobbers young and old, experienced and inexperienced to help us create a large crowd and make the biggest impact possible! You can also practice at home on your own time, the dance routine will be posted on our website: www.pico-rivera.org. If interested sign up by emailing recreation@pico-rivera.org subject: Flash Mob and provide name, contact number, and address. Participants will be contacted via email with information and last minute changes.



Parks
Life
Better!

For more information contact
Pico Park at (562) 801-4470
Visit us at pico-rivera.org, Email us at recreation@pico-rivera.org
Follow us at twitter.com/PRrec



SPORTS

Dons Honor Legendary Coach Ernie Johnson

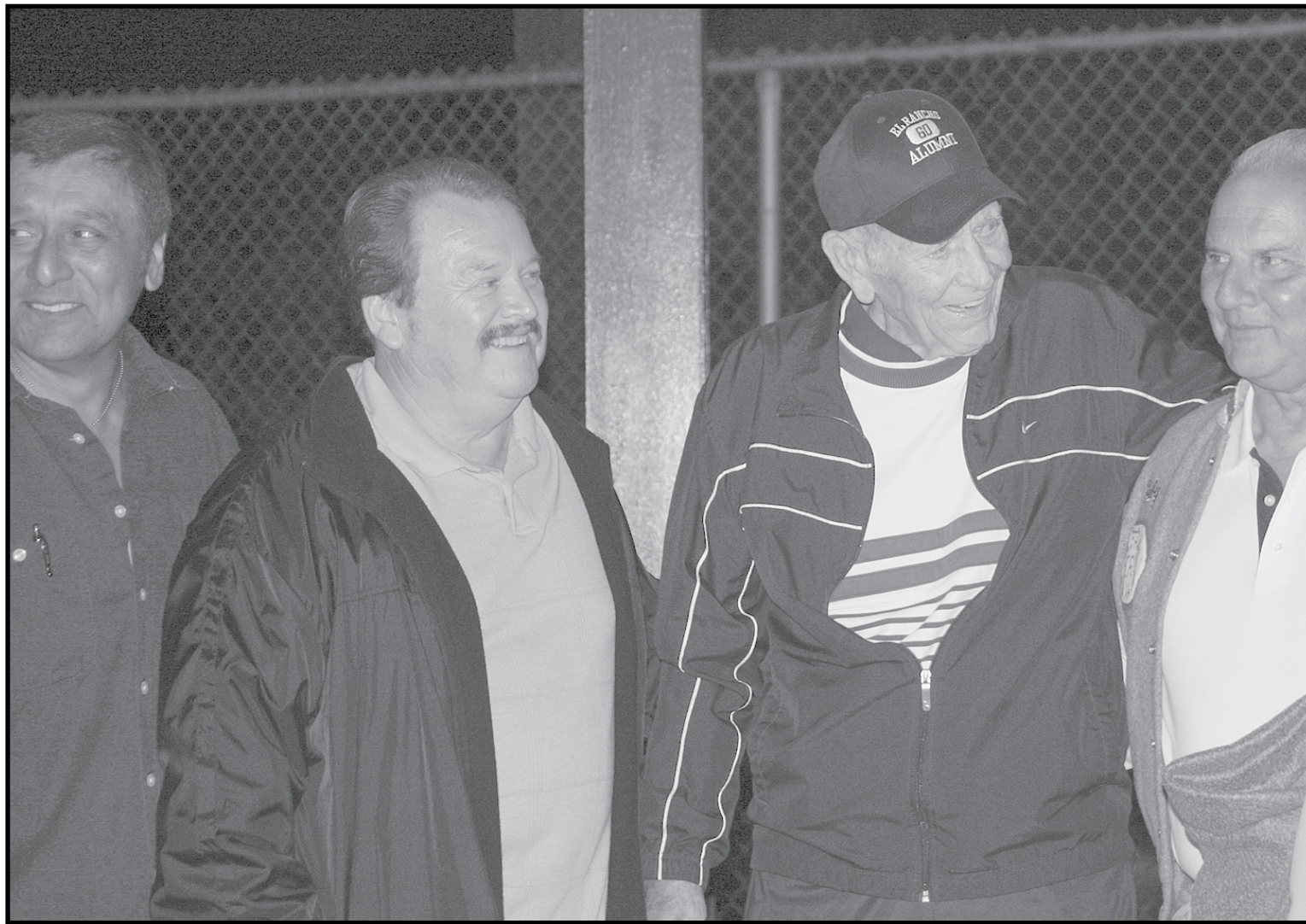
BY PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Friday September 23, during halftime of week three's game vs. Montebello, El Rancho honored the great coach Ernie Johnson by renaming the field after him.

During his time with El Rancho, Coach Johnson had a record of 108-31-5, won 9 league titles, three CIF-SS titles, as well as a National Title in 1966. Coach Johnson has won many awards, but admits to have never been so proud in his life.

Many of his former players accompanied him to honor him and celebrate this special moment. Reggie Fielder, former player, reminisced about how amazing growing up in Pico Rivera was with Coach Johnson by his side. "Playing for him was like completing a dream," said Fielder. Kind and moving words for a man many people believe did deserve this honor.

The night ended in celebration for the football team as well as defeating Montebello with a total score of 22-7. They continued their winning streak and



Ernie Johnson (cap), surrounded by former players and loved ones at the Ernie Johnson Field dedication ceremony.-Photo by Jacob Sanchez

are currently (3-1). A lot of praise coming from Coach Johnson admitting, "They are very well mannered and well groomed." Fielder says, that the boys will do well because not only are they are

being coached well, but they also have their hearts in it.

The Dons have a bye week next, but will be off to Fontana next week, where they plan to remain winners. Coach Zepeda, head foot-

ball coach says, "They hope to stay strong and healthy—mentally and physically."

Captain and star running back Josh Lopez says, "We plan to win league because we are a strong team."

Thanks to the support of the new Blue Crew, a student section in the stands whose duty is to demonstrate blue pride, the football team is surrounded by nothing but good vibes.

Cross Country Team off to Another Strong Start

BY ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho cross country team has kicked off their 2011 season with great success.

They have attended two meets. The first meet the El Rancho cross country team attended this school year was at Woodbridge and the second meet they attended was the Annual Don Bosco Tech Invitational.

The team has been working really hard since the summer and has kept up the hard work.

The cross country team as a whole is very committed to this season and to reaching ultimate success.

The entire team is strongly committed to their teammates and to victory in the 2011 season and each runner is pushing his and her teammates to do their individual best.



The Cross Country team trains hard for their next race.-Photo by Jacob Sanchez

Both the boys and girls' cross country teams started off their seasons well as individuals strived to

reach their fullest potential.

At Woodbridge the boys' and girls' cross country team had great success.

Many individuals shined. Bailee Henry, a junior, achieved a Personal Best and hit 17.45. The junior

Boys' were not left behind, Zachary Mejia placed third with a 15:26, and Enrique Angulo placed seventh with a 15:47 and overall the junior boys finished first.

At the Eleventh Annual Don Bosco Tech Invitational the boys' team came in fifth place out of fifty-eight schools and the girls' team came in eleventh place out of fifty-five schools.

When asked about the season and how well it's going Mr. Tirrell Wynn, head coach of both the boys' and girls' teams replied, "Good but we still have a lot of work, the division is really hard on the boys and the girls, this could go any way but hopefully it will be us."

The cross country team is fully committed to their team and continuing the proud winning traditions of El Rancho cross country.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Office: New Season and New Characters



The hit show the office started off its new season with new and returning characters.

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The *Office* has returned, and yes, “that’s what she said.” The hit series’ eighth season premiered last Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. on its usual station NBC. This season will be quite different, as Michael Scott, played by Steve Carell, will no longer be appearing on the show. His final season was the previous one.

That does not mean the show and its stellar cast will disappoint, as was proven with last season’s post Carell episodes. The episodes featured a carousel of characters in Michael Scott’s old management position, such as Dwight Schrute, played by Rainn

Wilson, and the temporary Dean-gelo Vickers, played by Will Ferrell. The writing was still superb and the episodes came out swinging, and although not as funny as earlier episodes, the show still maintains its unique comedy.

This season should prove to be an interesting one, as the search of the new managerial position will certainly be entertaining and hysterical. A new member will also be a regular on the show. Replacing Jo Bennet, played by Academy Award winning actress Kathy Bates, as the new CEO of the company is Robert California, played by James Spader. Spader is an eccentric addition to the cast. Two heads are better than one. With that said, it will be interesting to see how Spader’s character and Dwight

Schrute, the other oddball of *The Office*, get along with each other.

Another major announcement in the upcoming season is the second pregnancy of Jim and Pam, portrayed by the lovely Jenna Fischer and John Krasinski. This on-screen pregnancy will coincide with the actual real life pregnancy of Fischer. Six years after its premiere the show is still on the air. It is being heavily syndicated on multiple television stations, and all for good reason. This program is filled with subtle, intelligent, quirky, yet silly comedy. The writing, the characters, they all work, and that is why this show has such a loyal and large fan base. Do not be discouraged by the changes in the new season, the show consistently remains funny, and that will not change.

World War Z: An Oral History of the Zombie Wars

BY MARISSA AYALA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

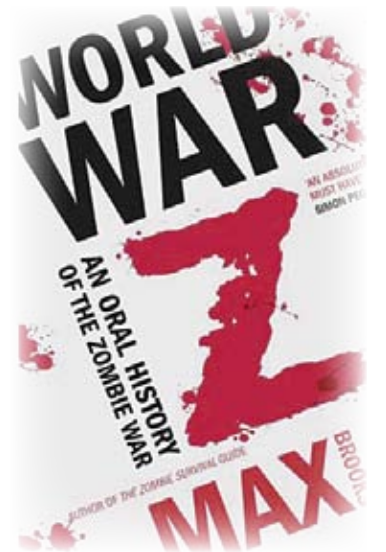
In *World War Z*, Max Brooks recounts the gory and controversial details of the so-called zombie war between the undead and an unprepared human population, which takes place ten years before. The majority of this book consists of personal accounts of individual experiences from infected areas in various parts of the world.

The multitudes of perspectives included in *World War Z* are great, ranging from a Hollywood director to a blind Japanese martial artist who lives as an outcast prior to and during the zombie wars.

The diverse characters, many of which would be minorities in our society, allow readers to connect to the story. As it is, according to the author, an oral history recorded on paper, much of the language is common and slang.

Brooks’ use of recent occurrences, such as 9/11, makes this story all the more realistic. It is clear that the incompetent governments who fail in stopping this war are supposed to reflect today’s leaders. His stereotypes of people around the world, shown by the way they react to the debacle, are more or less accurate.

Although the overall tone of this book is serious, as most books recalling wars are, the efficiency with which Brooks uses individuals to describe the events captures readers’ attention and



pulls them into the story. It is not difficult to read, albeit it may take the reader a few stories to realize what is going on in the story.

World War Z is a great read for those who wish to be prepared if any such apocalypse were to happen, and would especially work to one’s advantage if this apocalypse involved slow-moving, flesh-eating, yet nonetheless unrelenting zombies.

World War Z, published in 2006, is a continuation of *The Zombie Survival Guide*, an illustrated instruction book on how to survive in the case of a zombie attack, which was published in 2003. Both books have made it to the New York Times Best Selling List.

A screen adaptation of *World War Z* is anticipated to come out in December of 2012. Definite members of the cast include Brad Pitt, who will play the leading role of narrator.



Contagion: Solitude or Death

BY KARINA CERDAS, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A movie about a disease that spreads around the world in 136 days killing over 2 billion people can leave viewers with chills down their spine. The thriller *Contagion* has an all-star cast including Matt Damon, Jude Law, Kate Winslet and Gwyneth Paltrow. The movie begins in Hong Kong. The disease spread to Massachusetts first when Beth Emhoff (Gwyneth Paltrow) returned home from a business trip. The simplest things like shaking hands and touching doorknobs transmits the deadly sickness. The film is not strong and glory like some may assume; this storyline will leave viewers with a different set of opinions about the germs that live all around us. *Contagion* leaves viewers guessing with unexpected moments. The twisted mind of director Steven Soderbergh will give movie goers a creepy-good time.

Rise Againsts’ “Make it Stop” Forms Part of the “It Gets Better Project”

BY GABBY GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Rise Against is a punk rock, melodic hardcore band, formed in 1999 in Chicago, Illinois with Tim McIlrath (lead vocalist, rhythm guitar), Zack Braire (lead guitar, backing vocals), Joe Principe (bass guitar, backing vocals), and Brandon Barnes (drums, percussion).

On March 15, 2011, Rise Against released its 6th full-length album titled “Endgame”. “It’s about a dangerous time in civilization, the end of life,” said vocalist/guitarist Tim McIlrath.

Included in this album is the song “Make it Stop” (September’s Children) which was placed #7 on the U.S. Billboard Alternative Songs charts, and #13 on the U.S. Billboard Rock Songs chart.

In its music video the song reveals problems, many involving the hardships of being bullied for homosexuality. Although this issue may seem unimportant to some, in reality it’s a problem many students face.

“A number of events were the catalyst for the creation of Make it Stop, everything from the suicides in September 2010, to our own fans voicing

their fears and insecurities from time to time,” said McIlrath.

The 2010 suicides that McIlrath mentions is the wave of gay suicides that occurred in New Orleans. The music video “Make it Stop” shows how homophobic bullying can affect the lives of many gay teenagers. “It Gets Better” is a project where anyone can submit comments or videos on how it actually “gets better” for gay teenagers who get bullied and anyone in general that is bullied in school.

“Make it Stop” is part

of the “it Gets Better” project.

But how exactly does it get better? Accepting people for who they are is a great way to begin a change in the rate of teenage suicides.

Being a bully is morally wrong, and in “Make it Stop”, McIlrath clearly expresses that emotionally and physically hurting others negatively affects lives. This is a way to make it better, change the way you think, be an anti-bully and help people who are affected by it. Show those who are bullied, how it gets better!

