



EL RODEO



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Entrepreneur Update

BY DES DEGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Entrepreneur Club hosted its first meet and greet event on Thursday, February 2. The event served to kickstart a long, healthy relationship between the Entrepreneur Club and various businesses within the city of Pico Rivera.

"I think (the Entrepreneur club) will develop into a strong program," said Principal Sam Genis, who attended the event to show the club his full support. Genis understood the necessity of forming "good partnerships between El Rancho and other businesses."

Various figures who wield a great deal of influence in the city also attended the event, including Mayor Bob Archuleta and Councilmen David Armenta. Armenta, who first began working with the club as a favor to Mr. Raul Elias, was so impressed by the students' capabilities and knowledge of the business world, he now lends his expertise in as many areas as he possibly can. "I contribute any way they want me to," he said.

The Entrepreneurs used the event to deliver a series of presentations to those in attendance. The presentations focused on El Rancho students and their contributions to the Pico Rivera economy, as well as on social media and its impact on the business world.

"I think it went well," said club advisor Mr. Elias. "We had a nice turnout by key individuals within the city. The program is going to increase over time, but we have great members that are creating the tradition."

"I was happy to see the students, parents, and teachers working together to make this club one of the most important clubs on campus," said Mayor Bob Archuleta.

City officials were so impressed by the club's presentations and business sense, Mayor Archuleta has begun putting together a working relationship between the Entrepreneur Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Though nothing has been permanently etched in stone, the club's next big event will hopefully provide more information on the potential relationship.

Behind every successful event there resides a core group of hard working individuals. "Bryan Perez and Osiris Artega helped organize most of the event," said the club's chief executive officer Rudy Chinchilla. "They did a great job not just setting up the event but also in contacting businesses."

"All of the hard work that went into planning it paid off," said Vice President of Operations Osiris Artega. "I appreciate everyone's hard work."

With a dedicated student body, an equally hard working advisor, and a handful of great opportunities, the sky is the limit for El Rancho's entrepreneurs.

Dons Take on Crescenta Valley in Title Game Tonight!

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After yet another successful season under head coach Dominic Picon and assistant coach Jerry Correa, the El Rancho boys' soccer team is on its way to capturing its second consecutive CIF Southern Section Division Four championship.

Tuesday afternoon's semi-final battle against Cathedral High School was intense to say the least, but when the smoke cleared the Dons reigned supreme.

After a shaky start to the first half that saw Cathedral up 1-0 thanks to a strong initial offensive attack, the Dons mounted a tremendous comeback which saw Miguel Vilchis tie up the score, Alex Roldan put the Dons ahead, and Federico Bobadilla secure the game with the final goal of the match. Roldan's goal was especially impressive as he fired a cracker of a shot from outside the eighteen-yard box, rendering the Cathedral keeper's dive ineffective.

The Dons showed a much more aggressive edge throughout the second half while also working to maintain their two-goal lead.

"The first goal got the emotion back on their side," said Coach Picon.

"We knew they were coming hard the first ten minutes," said goalkeeper, David Lopez, who worked a solid defense throughout the entire second half. "We just held it



Boys' soccer celebrate victory over Cathedral High School in CIF semi-final. Photo by Rudy Chinchilla.

back, and we played it tough."

The Dons have dominated their competition this entire season, and their hard work both on and off the field is evident in their number one ranking in the state of California.

"They're an amazing group of kids," Picon said. "They're representing the community very well."

The team's success has also attracted some high profile press. El Rancho was featured in ESPN's Soccer Magazine, and Univision covered this semi-final. But, ac-

cording to Coach Correa, the team hasn't let the attention go to its head. "It feels good just to get the recognition because our boys have played hard and they've earned it, but it hasn't changed anything about them whatsoever. Their goal is still the same: to win."

The team isn't one to dote on past success for very long. The team is now completely focused on tonight's CIF Southern Section Division Four championship final against Crescenta Valley. The match will begin at 5 p.m. at Warren High School in Downey.

Correa believes in the team's ability to adapt and perform in high-pressure situations.

"This team has played in big games, so they know how to win. Whenever a team plays really hard against them they never lose their composure."

El Rancho is fully behind the team right now—a huge crowd is expected at tonight's final.

The Dons have the opportunity of a lifetime tonight, and they plan on capitalizing and making history.

Israeli Consul General addresses government classes



Seniors Robert Lemus (left) and Ed Padilla flank Artzyeli at event.

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

El Rancho played host to yet another distinguished guest yesterday morning. The Deputy Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles, Gil Artzyeli, addressed El Rancho's government classes regarding several social and political aspects of Israel.

Flanked by a twelve-person entourage composed mainly of district and security personnel, Artzyeli opened his discourse with the student body by condensing three thousand years of Israeli history into five short minutes, spanning from the sto-

ried reign of King Solomon, to the revitalization of Zionism in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, to the implementation of the Partition Resolution in 1947.

After providing students with a general overview of Israeli geography and politics, Artzyeli elaborated on similarities and differences between Israeli and American culture. The education system in Israel, for instance, takes military service into account, compelling every man and woman to devote four years of service before making the transition to university. Before attending a university, however, Israeli soldiers are required

to take a year off following their obligatory military service in order to "clear their head" before moving on to the next set of obstacles life has to offer.

Artzyeli commented on the differences in the legal processes between the United States and Israel. In the United States, one is expected to go through several layers of red tape before finally hearing a court's decision, but in Israel one can appeal directly to the High Court of Justice and receive a verdict.

Artzyeli touched on Israel's surprisingly lenient views on gays and the LGBT community. "In Israel, being gay is simply not an issue," he said. Gays, like everyone else, are expected to serve in the Israeli army, which completely contradicts the United States' stance on homosexuals in the military.

Artzyeli also touched on Israel's growing reputation as a hub for innovative technology. Companies like Microsoft, Google, and Motorola have research and development centers set up in the country. Apple has recently announced that they too plan on establishing an Israel center.

Students who attended this lecture spoke about Israel's

emphasis on conservation and preserving the environment.

Finally, when commenting on Iran and the threat it currently poses to the rest of the Middle East, Artzyeli said, "The entire Western community should be concerned" about a regime that oppresses its people. "The worst scenario is a nuclear Iran," he continued.

The entire presentation went very well, but perhaps even more impressive was the high intellect demonstrated by the students who participated. "I was really blown by the depth and variety of the questions," Artzyeli said. "I've been to many universities, and I don't recall a university that got as in depth based on knowledge and questions as I encountered here... It was a wonderful experience for me."

"I think the students' questions were very well thought out and covered a variety of areas," said AP government teacher, Benjamin Meza. "A lot of students said that they were really impressed because he spoke with passion and he spoke from the heart, and students like that."

Artzyeli's visit to El Rancho was a complete success, and he left the campus with a lasting impression.

OPINION

Obama and Church just can't agree

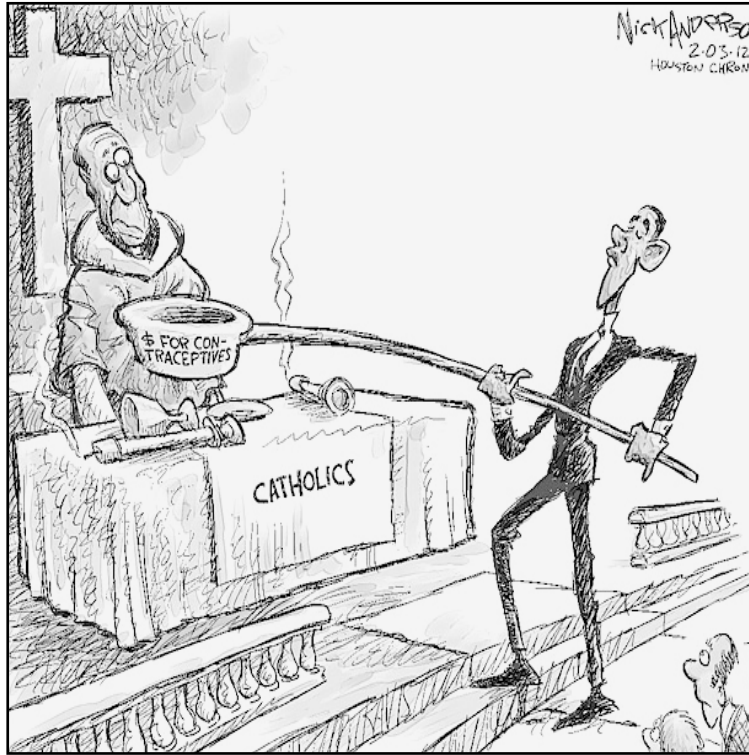
BY JORDAN MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Health Care Bill of 2010 has once again hit a big issue: Can the federal government force a religion to do what it doesn't want to do?

The Catholic Church, with over one billion members, has been given an ultimatum: give employers and students in all of their hospitals and universities contraceptives or pay heavy fines.

Even though Obama has compromised, the bill still has insurance companies giving contraceptives to employees which still tramples on the rights of the Church. The Catholic Church opposes the move by the Obama administration and throughout the many Arch Diocese in the US, each have given many speeches about the forcing of this bill on its institutions.

Many Church leaders see this as trampling on their rights with even the Supreme Court backing the Church with a 9-0 vote if the lawsuit reaches it. The Catholic Church holds steadfastly against contraceptives since they believe the pills make "pregnancy look like a disease and it must be stopped at all costs," said Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan in New York, president of the .



Cartoon by Nick Anderson of The Houston Chronicle.

What is not understood is the Catholic Church's beliefs that contraceptives would break up the institution of marriage and show that sex is only for pleasure, not something more beautiful that creates another living being.

This is what the Church believes about contraceptives:
1. Irresponsibility is Rewarded
2. There is Loss of Respect for Women
3. There is Abuse of Power
4. There is Misuse of the Body.

All of these beliefs were stated by Pope Paul VI, in his Humanae Vitae, which he wrote on July 25, 1968 in response to the growing number of people using contraceptives. This issue extends beyond just the Catholic Church. Many people can see the problems that will ultimately come to fruition, and that Obama and his administration truly desire to speed the process up.

Even though people claim

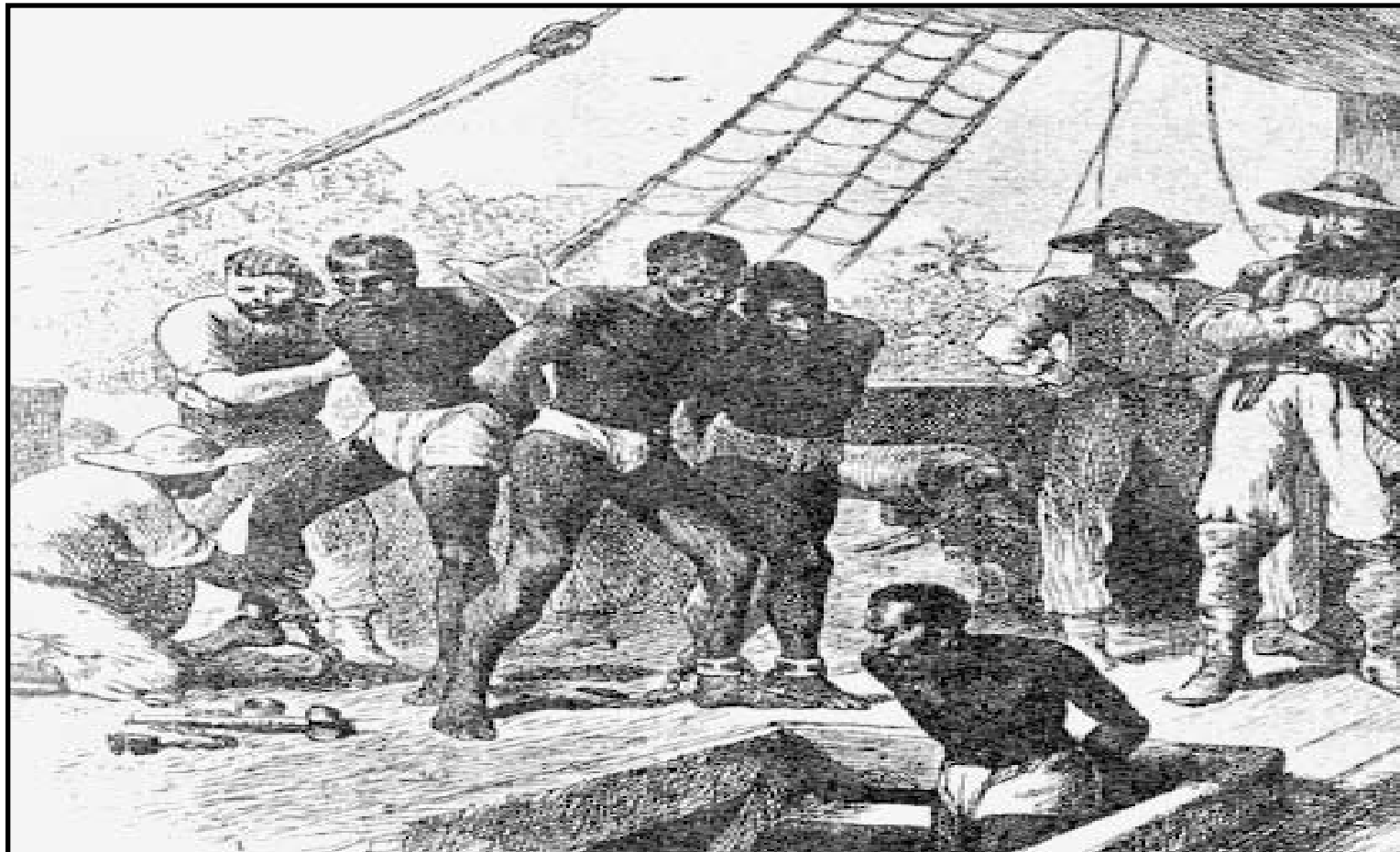
that many women, including Catholics, use contraceptives, they fail to understand that it's not about personal use, but the Church having to pay the consequences. The Catholic Church has the right to not listen to this abomination of a bill and fight it, for it treads on both its morals and rights.

The first amendment (freedom of religion) gives the Church the ability to do what it wants concerning internal matters such as these. The Obama administration believes that it's doing good for the United States, but it's going against the most basic principle of America, trampling not only the Catholic Church, but the First Amendment.

Let's say freedom of speech was trampled. Do you think the American public would allow it? Obama says that he would like to compromise, but each suggestion does not give the Catholic Church or any other pro-life non-profit organization any room to maneuver.

Whatever it is, the bill still makes them go against their morals. The government cannot get involved in matters such as these. It's like the government telling your own institution that your morals don't matter! This is the new set of morals we are going to give you. That is just not right!

Tea Party attempts to remove slavery from history books



Cartoon taken from Google images.

BY CLIFFORD BILLINGTON
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

"Slavery" when we speak of this word we envision the beginning or the birth of our great country and the foundation it was set on. But now a political group called the Tea party is trying to have American history rewritten.

The reason is, according to the Tea Party, that teaching slavery in the classroom sets a bad reputation for the founding fathers, which is a total crackpot theory.

The party also says that they want "real" U.S history to be taught in classrooms, which includes omitting that slavery took place within the United States.

Slavery is a part of the real, hard-hitting history of how the United States was founded and created. By taking this unfortunate dark part of the United States out of textbooks, this political party is depriving students of a history segment that needs to be taught.

The reason behind this is that if future generations don't

learn about how their country started, they are more likely to revert back to that mentality. Another reason why slavery needs to be discussed in history class is because it's one of the most important parts of our country's history.

That is not all that the Tea Party will be doing if they remove slavery from the history curriculum, and what I mean by that is that slavery is how our nation was founded, and that to me is very important to know.

This political "Tea" party

would also be taking away from our future generations' knowledge of their country. They will also be taking from the patriotic foundations of our country, no matter how dark it may be.

Finally, just to sum up the facts here, teaching slavery as a part of our United States history will not put a bad reputation on the founding fathers' cause. Slavery is how they formed our nation in the beginning, and teaching it in the classroom will not corrupt our young generations' minds.

El Rodeo



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OPINION

“Linsanity” lights up New York City



The NBA nation waits for Lin's next great move.

By DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Not since the likes of... well Tim Tebow, has a professional athlete garnered as much publicity/attention and captivated the nation as Jeremy Lin. For the readers who are not apprised of who Jeremy Lin is, he is a point guard for the New York Knicks.

Lin caught the eye of the sports world when he scored over twenty points in nine of his first twelve starts this past month. Lin, the second year player out of Harvard, set the record for the most points scored in his first five NBA starts with 136 points breaking the previous record of 129 points. Not only was Lin's scoring impressive, but the amazing part was that the Knicks were winning. New York went on a seven game win streak, and won nine out of

twelve games, even defeating the defending World Champion Dallas Mavericks and the Los Angeles Lakers. Lin's best scoring game, and most shocking, came against the Lakers. He dropped 38 on Kobe and company!

It seems as if Jeremy Lin has come out of nowhere, but he has been around and known in the basketball circle. Lin was a top player in High School winning the CIF Division II Title. He prospered in the Ivy League, playing for the Harvard Crimson, setting records for both Harvard and the entire Ivy League.

He left Harvard with the most points in Ivy League history. He went un-drafted and had a short stint with his home team, Golden State Warriors. His next stop was Broadway where he has flourished.

His victories have been im-

pressive, but in reality Lin and the Knicks have not really faced stiff competition. Only five of the Knicks' last twelve opponents have a .500 record or better.

The rest are substantially under .500. The victory against the Lakers was not totally unexpected as Los Angeles has yet to address the need for a good point guard, who could have prevented Lin from unloading on the aging, but still dangerous, Lakers. Carmelo Anthony and Amar'e Stoudemire were also injured for a portion of the winning streak.

That meant someone (Lin) had to pick up the slack in the scoring department because of the absence of the Knicks' two highest scorers. During these last twelve games Lin has been turning over the ball like a mad man. Lin has committed sixty eight turnovers these last dozen contests!

With all that said, "Linsanity" has been a blessing for the NBA! Lin has certainly interested more people in watching basketball. Lin even sold out the Air Canada Centre (home of The Toronto Raptors). He most definitely gave given the Canadian Crowd a treat on Valentines Day, winning the game, and adding to his legend, with a three point shot in the closing seconds of the game.

Lin is a great point guard: he can score and feed the rock for the assist. Whenever a player can do that he or she will be among the elites. Lin has great vision on the court. He is a good passer, good shooter, and fits well in Coach Mike D' Antoni's system.

Lin's explosion also came in part due to the lack of expectations.

No one could have predicted that Lin would be doing what he has been,, taking advantage of a golden and often rare opportunity. He knew he had been overlooked his whole basketball career, for reasons such as ethnicity or his alma mater's absence of producing great basketball stars, but he showed the league what he is capable of.

Lin has revitalized professional basketball in the city of New York, and has made basketball relevant again in Madison Square Garden for the first time since the Knicks' 1999 championship appearance. No longer is Spike Lee the biggest attraction in the Garden.

Lin has won without Anthony and Stoudemire, and it is the opinion of this writer that Lin and the Knicks would not have won seven games in a row if Anthony were playing, and is now trying to win with his all-star teammates. With the recent acquisition of guard J.R. Smith the Knickerbockers will only continue to improve.

Although they are not yet up to par and on the level of the Miami Heat or Chicago Bulls, the Knicks will be a force to be reckoned with in the Eastern Conference in the near future. This is most satisfying for Lin. The kind, modest, respectful, and intelligent star is living out his dream. If he continues to play like he has been Lin is a possible perennial all-star and Mayor of the Greatest City in the World.

Student agitated by condition of campus restrooms



By JORDAN MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

As you walk down the corridor you really need to go, as you sigh relief you pull the door, and it is locked. Now you walk faster and once again you sigh relief yet once again it is locked. Then as you start running to the next bathroom you finally find it open, but there's no toilet paper, once again you run to the nearest bathroom .

You check if it has toilet paper and finally...relief. As you begin to wash your hands and squeeze the pump nothing comes out. Once again comes a long journey of grand proportions to find another bathroom and once you finally find one, the journey is finally over!

These journeys everyone has gone through at least once in their time at El Rancho. The campus seems to never have an open bathroom when and where you need it. Even during the times it is open it is always lacking toilet paper and soap.

Something that should be quick and easy becomes more difficult than it should be while also taking longer than it should. El Rancho should take care of its bathrooms; although students are partly to blame it shouldn't take long for a bathroom to be cleaned. The graffiti should be easily concealed with paint and also by the end of the day there should still be bathrooms with paper towels to dry someone's own hands.

I commend the janitors for working tirelessly to help clean the school and their efforts to also keep the bathrooms clean but more must be done especially keeping those bathrooms open. There are plenty of good bathrooms that could be open such as the one in the I-building. The restrooms are always considerably dirty with urine and toilet paper everywhere. Many students find the bathrooms hideous and unbearably smelly just to walk into.

There should be at least some sort of cleaning and refill of soap and toilet paper and rules pertaining to this and enforcement of those rules. Many students won't like it but it is necessary in order to be able to say: I don't mind using the bathrooms at El Rancho.

Many bathrooms are also closed by 3:30 and 4:00, which although understandable, but is very inconvenient especially if there is a football game or another school event. Many students want the bathrooms to be open afterschool especially those in clubs, etc. This certainly must be dealt with by the school so students will be able to just use these bathrooms at an otherwise great school.

ELD students' dedication pays off



ELD students pose with their certificates of achievement.

By ROSEMARY FIGUEROA
EL RANCHO STAFF EDUCATOR

Fourteen English Language Learners were recognized by El Rancho district resource teachers, administrators, and their English Language Development (ELD) teachers with a pizza party, certificates, and congratulatory remarks by ERUSD officials in mid

February. Many of these students are "newcomers", or recent arrivals to the United States with limited English proficiency. Although newcomers have limited English proficiency, many have been educated in their primary language and excel through the English Language Development program at a rapid rate. In conjunction with their ELD class, students

must also take core grade level classes. They usually excel in both, because of their knowledge in their primary language. These fourteen students earned honor roll for first semester, but what is most impressive is that many of them earned very high g.p.a.'s. The student who earned the highest g.p.a. was sophomore Mizrael Nevarez, with sophomore Delfina

Navarro closely behind with a 3.9. Additionally, seniors Joseline Bautista, Victor Orozco, Cesar Sanchez, Jose Angel Molina, and Melissa Rodriguez earned 3.8.

When asked about his experience in the U.S. and the reason for his motivation, senior Cesar Sanchez replied, "I arrived in the U.S. 2 years ago, and it was very difficult for me because I did not know English...it was the most difficult obstacle in my life". He also shared that he came to the U.S. to be educated and take advantage of the many opportunities here. Cesar is also part of ERHS' Varsity Soccer team. He feels good to be part of the team because it teaches him the importance of teamwork, practice, and dedication.

Although these "newcomers" find themselves in a new and unfamiliar environment when they arrive in the U.S. (often, with no immediate family or childhood friends to offer them support), they work extremely hard and persevere to be successful students with the guidance and support of their families and teachers. Thanks to the many resources available to them, these students have experienced success and are grateful for the opportunities that have been given to them.

CAMPUS

Key Club organizes blood drive to save lives

BY BRIANA RIVERA AND DAVID
OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITERS

Are you serious about the community? Do you think that it should be on everybody's mind to give a little back to the community? The Key Club thinks that's a good idea, as does English teacher, Jim Sorenson.

The club has been around for more than twenty years, and Sorenson has been the advisor since he started working here at El Rancho. He watches over this club as if it is a family and teaches the individuals of the group what it's really about.

"We are a volunteer organization that helps the school as well as the community," said Sorenson as he walked around preparing for the next meeting.

The club really takes the city's community seriously, with all the charity and local service they have coordinated. Here the students learn to give back and help out with organizations to better our environment. They've really taken on a big responsibility. Currently the club is working on this year's blood drive for the local Presbyterian hospital, and they are currently being trained how to take on the procedures that come with a blood drive.

"It depends on the months really. It can be really busy or really calm. It usually differs by the month," said club member, Ana Duran. By the looks of the blood drive, they'll all be busy this month preparing for the event.

Despite the work, the members still have fun with each other



Yesterday, to save three lives, Berlin Diaz braced herself to give one pint of blood.

and form friendships inside the club.

"It's a place to have fun, make friends, build a community and help out," said member, Cenite Guerra.

"I love working with key club and working in the community," said President Paul Espitia. "Also I like that people volunteer and care to come and help out in the community service." The Key Club, President Paul Espitia, and the many needy patients will be really appreciative of your donation to the blood drive.

"We've done the blood drive at El Rancho High school for many years. This year we partnered up with Presbyterian hospital," said Sorenson. Before

the drive began Key Club members were already preparing. "We gathered a long list of people we needed to pull out of class for the blood drive," said Lizette Ramirez.

The blood drive was set up with two trucks, one for the Presbyterian hospital and the other for City of Hope hospital.

The students were first directed to take a questionnaire, they were then examined to see if they were healthy enough to donate blood. If students completed the first two tests they were then able to donate.

After donating, students were told to rest. They were then given snacks and drinks to replenish the loss of blood.

The woman behind the scenes organizing the event and representing Presbyterian hospital was Lisa Vizcarra. Her position at the hospital is Blood Drive coordinator. She approaches local schools and sees if they are interested in donating blood.

Vizcarra elaborated on the fact that these donations are and stay local, "The blood that is donated stays with in and around the community," said Vizcarra.

Vizcarra, the Presbyterian hospital, and City of Hope hospital were hopeful on the turnout of the blood drive. "This is the first blood drive with El Rancho High School and we're very excited for the support

and partnership," said Vizcarra.

She has been organizing blood drives for almost a decade. "I have been doing this for nine years. I love doing it, blood saved my life and blood will other lives today."

Vizcarra was referring to a donation that aided her a few years ago, "I had a blood transfusion four years ago." Students donated from around nine the morning to around three thirty in the afternoon. That is a good sign because the blood drive was expecting to meet a certain quota.

Coordinators of the blood drive were optimistic about reaching, "200 units of blood...100 for each truck," said Vizcarra.

Attention El Rancho students! Study tips for the forgetful teenager

BY CINDY MARTINEZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Trying to do better this new semester and actually keep those new years resolutions to get better grades? Well these helpful tips should help make you a better student. It's not too late to begin studying better.

Study smarter, be prepared, and don't cram. Students often underestimate the time it will take to prepare for a test, and this is a big mistake. Students will wait until the last minute to learn an entire chapter in one or two days.

Do not procrastinate!! We all do it; even the teachers. It's one thing almost 70% of students suffer from. It's very easy and common to put off your study session because of lack of interest in the subject. Maybe you have other things you need to get done first, or maybe the assignment is just too hard. Either way procrastinating will become much less effective, and you may not get everything accomplished that you need to.

Know your schedule and plan for assignments. Actually use your agendas and record the due dates for exams and projects! Don't just throw them away or



Junior, Gabriel Hernandez (pictured) takes part in group work for Mrs. Jurado's U.S. History Honors class.

use them for drawings. They can serve as way more than just a sketch pad. That way all assignments will be done in advance. Learning to follow assignment sheets and be responsible for completing work on time is important for success in college.

Find a place to study where you can study the best. Everyone

needs an environment that is free of distractions but where they feel comfortable. Some people prefer to study in a brightly lit room and sitting at a table or desk. If you use headphones be sure to keep the music low because, really, how will you be able to hear yourself think otherwise?

Get a good night's sleep.

Your brain needs rest to perform at its peak. Come on, people. Do you really need to stay up until four in the morning on Facebook? It'll still be there in the morning. Lack of sleep makes the day seem longer and your tasks seem more difficult.

Join a study group! Gather up your friends and

make up a study group. This sounds geeky of course, but it's possible to make it fun.

Having study breaks is a good idea, but make sure you make them short and always go back on topic. As studying with a group, you can learn various forms of studying such as hands on, visualizing, or listening.

CAMPUS

Decathlon optimistic heading into state competition in Sacramento

BY LIZETTE RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After placing 7th in the county competition with 38,690.5 points total, El Rancho's Decathlon team prepares to head to state competition in Sacramento on March 15th. The team is excited to head to the next round of competition.

This year, Decathlon captain, John Barrios explained how the team has become "more student led" compared to last year's team, which makes him feel confident that the team will do really well in Sacramento. Judging by the members' grade point averages, they are placed into either A, B, or C slot; although some are placed as C Slots, that does not necessarily mean that is a bad position.

The team agrees that their slots do not determine how intelligent he or she is; the Decathletes gain more knowledge through the student led study sessions.

Isaac Rodriguez, C Slot Competitor, describes how in Decathlon "you are able to study however you want to study." After asking Barrios if he felt that the team was capable of scoring high in competition, without delay he replied, "Yeah, definitely!"

Everyone seems motivated to get points." Tammy Nguyen, B Slot Competitor, sets the team goal



Left to Right: Christopher Rivera 11th, Roberto Torres 12th, Brian Marquez 11th, Gustavo Marquez 12th, John Barrios 12th, Stacey Yakimowich 12th, Isaac Rodriguez 11th, Hazel Flores 12th, Nina Marquez 11th, Monserrat Marquez 11th, and Tammy Nguyen 12th

"to place at least in the top twenty out of sixty in state," and the whole entire Decathlon team agrees.

Rodriguez establishes his self-goal, which is to "get more than four gold medals."

After agreeing to his goal he stated, "I think I am going to

do much better," with a smile.

The Decathlon team has high expectations that will motivate the members to stay focus on the main goal of placing "in the top twenty."

After the team members discussed the upcoming com-

petition, they elaborated on how the team is so family-like. When Nguyen expressed "Decathlon became my second family," Barrios naturally concurred.

Since the Decathlon team has become student led, Barrios feels that the members of the

team became closer because they had to work together and communicate well enough to be a successful team. Overall, El Rancho's Decathlon team is positive that the score will match the goal.

Scenes from Campus Life



Modern Language department representatives; Left to Right: Altagracia Contreras, Lily Gonzalez, Gloria Alvarado, Angelica Alondra Torres, and Mrs. Mighimi-Danesh presented their photo albums to the eighth graders that Open House.



Mr. Rodriguez reading a funny but creative children's book to Mrs.Zeko's Sophomore English Honors class.



Pepsters Adam Luis, Valerie Morales, Jasmine Fuentes, Emily Espitia, Valerie Perez, and Samantha Gutierrez welcomed the 8th graders from Rivera, North Park, and Burke at the Open House event held on campus on February 16th. Open House consisted of a lot of things from the Choir department performing in the cafeteria along with the Drama department, and the school Marching band playing in the quad for all the eighth graders to see.



Sergio Castañeda, Nina Marquez, and Jessica Palombi getting ready to perform on stage in the Don Dining Hall at Open House

FEATURES

Mr. Meza shares his passion for teaching at the ranch

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

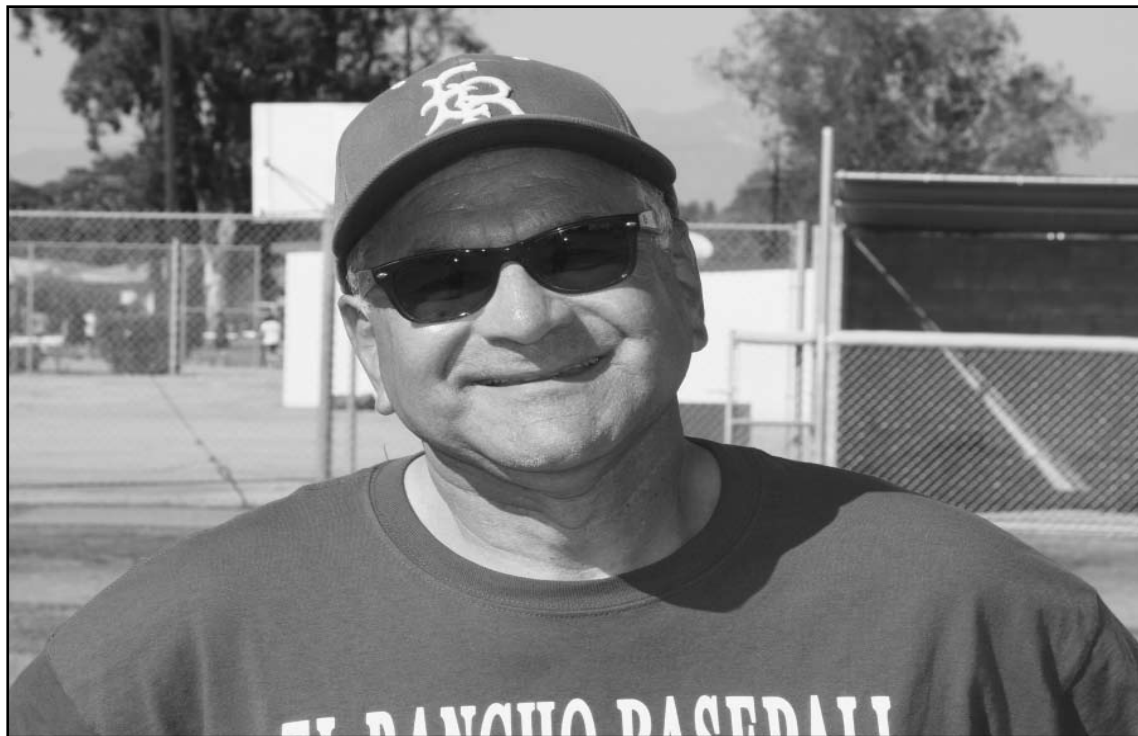
The year 1979 signaled the end of a decade and farewell to the Disco Days, but during that same year El Rancho welcomed Benjamin Meza, known around campus simply as Mr. Meza.

Meza is known to students as an A.P. Government teacher, their Intro to Law teacher, and to a select few he is known as the assistant varsity baseball coach. Meza grew up in Whittier and attended Whittier High School with former U.S. History Honors teacher Mr. Anderson, where he played three sports: football, basketball, and baseball.

After graduating in 1967 Meza attended California State University, Hayward (now known as California State University, East Bay). At first Meza was interested in the business field. "I really wanted to go into business." He was planning on majoring in "Business Administration."

Like countless college students he decided to change his major. "Sophomore year I really got tired of business," said Meza. "If I was going to make it out of college [I would need to switch majors]" said Meza.

Meza made the switch and double majored in History and Political Science. "I just loved it. I had great professors, and enjoyed my undergraduate study," said Meza. After Meza completed college, he contemplated



A dedicated Coach Meza out on the field helping prepare team for their next game.

pursuing a career in business.

He even received four well paying job offers as a cost accountant. He declined the offers, "It was great money, but I would have been very bored." He also considered two other options, "Law school and teaching."

He chose teaching, "I could coach [baseball]" while he taught. Meza is an avid fan of America's PasTime. It was his "lifelong passion to play and coach baseball." During the early 1970s Meza was "Coaching park teams in and around Los Angeles," and he was playing semi-pro ball as a "Center fielder and second basemen, but mostly second."

Following his stint in the baseball circuit, and after his graduation from Hayward in 1972, Meza enrolled in school once again. "I made my decision to enroll in the Whittier College teaching program."

That is where he received his secondary teaching credentials. Meza's first teaching gig was in 1974 when he taught World and U.S. History at Pioneer High School as a student teacher. This job was not permanent and was the final test before he became a teacher.

After he left Pioneer, Meza began his job search. "Very few teacher jobs were available at

that time . . . so I had to apply everywhere, from Sacramento, San Francisco, to San Diego, and I didn't get a call from any of them," said Meza with a laugh.

Then an open position appeared. "There was an opening on the East Side [of Los Angeles] at Salazar High School." Meza's tenure at Salazar lasted five years. Meza's next stop was really close. "I came across the street [to El Rancho] in 1979."

When he arrived, he began "teaching 10th grade World History. Did that for about a year, then immediately moved to Senior Team."

The 1980-1981 school year was a pivotal year for Meza. He

began teaching Intro to Law, which he has been doing for the past 32 years, and he also received his masters in "Urban Studies . . . from Loyola Marymount."

That same year Meza began coaching the El Rancho varsity baseball team. He was the skipper of the team for several years. "I was the head varsity coach for twenty seasons, from 1980-1999." He retired to spend time with his family.

Meza coached many future minor and major league players, including World Series winners, and brothers, Randy and Ron Flores. In the 1981-1982 school year Meza teamed up with Mr. Wlasick, "The Dream Team," and they taught English and Government/ Humanities for 25 years.

Meza is happily married. "It will be 35 years in December," and has four successful children. "Jazz, reading, and movies," are favorites of Meza. He holds El Rancho in the highest regard. "I think number one [El Rancho] has always had great students . . .

I don't think students can be any more polite or friendly, and number two it has always had a great faculty." Meza advises students, "Your four years here at El Rancho will in fact have an impact on your entire life, if you take advantage of all El Rancho has to offer." Meza has no particular favorite moment or memory here at El Rancho, but he particularly enjoys "When students get into the college of their choice and when they pass their AP. Exams."

What's Next? A quick look at post graduation options

BY SAMANTHA RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

By the time students are sophomores in high school, most parents try to enforce the idea that their children must attend college.

Many of these students automatically set their sights on the more well-known schools. However, these college-bound students aren't to blame for thinking that the big name schools will give them the best out of college life.

According to myth number five from Personal Inventory of College Styles (PICS), a website designed to help students figure out their best picks for college based on personality, students often mistakenly believe that little known colleges are not good colleges.

The website reports, "Athletics on television is how most colleges get to be known . . . Some of the nation's finest colleges don't play big-time athletics." Therefore, it is essential for students to actually research colleges and pick out the ones that best suit them.

There will always be that one person who will have a tough time choosing what colleges to look for, but that is why the College Career Center is open to all El Rancho students.

First off, four-year colleges and universities are what most people think of when they



speak about college. This path is designated for students who want to graduate with a bachelor's degree, in either the sciences (B.S.) or the arts (B.A.).

Two-year colleges and community colleges are for students who want to earn their Associate Degree, in either the arts (A.A.) or sciences (A.S.). How-

ever, it must be stated that the Associate Degree is less valuable than the Bachelor's Degree.

Finally, there are the trade and technical schools which only focus on specific skills students wish to obtain.

Also students need to be aware that there are both public and private colleges and universities.

The private colleges are typically liberal arts schools, where students are more engaged with their environments and have close relationships with their teachers. The public schools tend to have the larger classrooms and bigger classes of undergraduates.

Choosing what college is right is one of the most important

decisions a high school student makes. Therefore, when that time comes for deciding what colleges to actually attend, you must know that you "should go to the college that "fits you best" and "if the college and you are not a good match, you will be unhappy regardless of the prestige (PICS)."

SPORTS

Boys' basketball season comes to an end

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The boy's basketball team season came to an end in the first round of CIF playoffs.

Head coach Ray Elliott said, "I thought we would win league and our first playoff game." Even though the season did not go as expected there were some positive things about it.

Elliott says that the team played hard in every game. They lost three games by a total of ten points. Junior, Daniel Becerra and senior, Cristian Hernandez were recognized for their performance during league by being named to first-team, all-league.

Hernandez said, "We all contributed and got closer as a team." This is good for any program. He also gave credit to Coach Elliott for teaching them that they need to always focus



Senior Christian Hernandez drives to the basket.

at practice and that they needed to take playing basketball seriously. Hernandez also said that Elliott and the other coaches prepared them well for every game.

Hernandez said, "We definitely could have done better during season." Hernandez believes that they lost four games due to missed free throws,

rebounding or little things that could have been fixed.

With nine seniors leaving the team most coaches would be worried but Elliott says that he knows his underclassmen can step up and fill the void his seniors are leaving behind.

He does admit that what might not be able to be replaced is the leadership and hard work of the nine departing seniors. Production is not what he is worried about; it's the little things that don't show up on the stat sheets.

Hernandez believes that next season the team should be fine because of the size they are going to have and the leadership of Becerra. Elliott still doesn't know what is in store for next season—he is waiting to see what players he has to work with. But with hard working underclassmen and a good coach it looks like it is going to be a positive season.



Freshman Sarah Gurrola looks to create a play.

Girls' basketball has high hopes for next season

By PEDRO HERRERA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although the girl's basketball team season ended in the first round of CIF playoffs, head coach Randy Shigezane already has high hopes for next season.

Shigezane said, "I always thought we were going to make it to the playoffs."

The girls represented themselves well against a Highland team that played well and also shot the ball very well.

Junior captain, Khadija Diakite said, "I think we could have done better, it didn't turn out how we wanted but I can say we worked hard."

With most of the starters returning she believes they are going to have a great season next year.

Even though they have most of the team returning, she thinks they can get even closer as a team and that is one of their goals.

One thing Shigezane believes they should focus on is staying healthy because injuries held the team back a lot.

Throughout the season someone would be out because of an injury of some sort, but the biggest impact was the summer knee injury to junior starter, Cielo Gomez that kept her off the court for the whole season.

Gomez is a big part of the team and both Shigezane and Diakite believe getting her back healthy helps the team for next season.

Diakite said, "We are very confident for next season. We think we can win a league title and beat Whittier, which hasn't been done in four to five years."

The girls' basketball team hope to have a better season next year, and to accomplish more.

Shigezane expects his team to win league, have a 20-win season and win the first two games of playoffs. He admits that they are lofty goals but he believes his team can come together and meet all those expectations and even more.

The one that got away

By DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Monday, senior Marcos Martinez threw a one hitter during El Rancho's 10-0 victory against the Norwalk Lancers. Entering the 9th inning Martinez was pitching a no-hitter. Unfortunately, his bid for a no hit game ended, with two outs and two strikes.

"I was thinking in my head I'm one strike away," said Martinez. Then Rudy Garay laid down a bunt/swing down the third baseline. Martinez chased down the grounder and threw it to first over the head of first basemen J.J Aguilar. "I threw the ball and he was safe at first," said Martinez. The play was ruled an error, but an error still meant Martinez had a no-hitter. He then recorded the next out. Marcos Martinez had thrown a no hitter-or so he thought.

"I was happy that I got the win," head coach Frank Llanes said, "He pitched a great game." This was the first no hitter in four years. "The last no hitter was in 2008, it was thrown by Chris Vargas," said Llanes.

Then came the bad news. The following day a correction was made on the play. "The next day it was changed to a one hitter," said Martinez. That day Martinez's teammates jokingly teased him about not getting the no-hitter.

However, getting a one hitter is certainly still impressive. Going into the game Martinez, did not expect to accomplish this impressive feat. Martinez did not realize he was pitching a no-no until the fifth inning. "I came into the dugout and my team mates were giving me a look," His teammates then questioned him, "You know what is going on right now?" Martinez responded and said, "I do now."

Llanes was contemplating taking him out in the fifth inning, but then he had a change of heart, "I was going to take him out in the fifth inning, but then I realized he had a no hitter" said Llanes.

Martinez' career in baseball began when he was young. "When I was four or five years old my dad put me in it and I have loved it ever since."

He played in little league and travel ball during his youth, playing first base. "A lot of travel teams. I traveled to Cooperstown, Arizona, and [Las] Vegas."

He began his career at the Ranch playing for the freshmen team, followed by a season on the junior varsity squad, and then during his junior year he landed a spot on the varsity team. It is during high school that Martinez switched to pitcher.

Martinez and the boys in blue are enthusiastic about the upcoming season. "I feel like no one can stop us," said Martinez. Martinez's goals for this season is to, "Just play my hardest and go to the top."



Marcos Martinez warms up for next start.



Senior, Alex Barcenas fields a ground ball.

Softball stars receive scholarships

By ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Senior Alex Barcenas as well as sophomore Aiyana Leal have each received full softball scholarships.

Alex Barcenas received a full softball scholarship to North Carolina and Aiyana Leal received a full softball scholarship to George Washington University.

Barcenas admits, "I was really excited when I first found out." And Leal also admitted, "I was really shocked when I found out about the scholarship to George Washington University, it was actually one of the best moments of my life."

Alex Barcenas says, "it was nice to know that all the hard work and dedication had paid off."

"I had played baseball since I was seven years old and didn't start playing softball until my freshman year at El Rancho," says Barcenas.

Alex Barcenas began playing softball thanks to Ms. Centeno. "I had English class with Ms. Centeno and she asked me to play softball and so I

tried it and I have played softball ever since," says Barcenas.

A top goal for the softball team is to win league. Leal plans on leaving it all on the field along with the rest of her teammates on the El Rancho softball team.

"Our goals for this season would be to not only win league but to have a better team than we did last year, and see improvement in all the girls," says assistant Coach Aj Reyes.

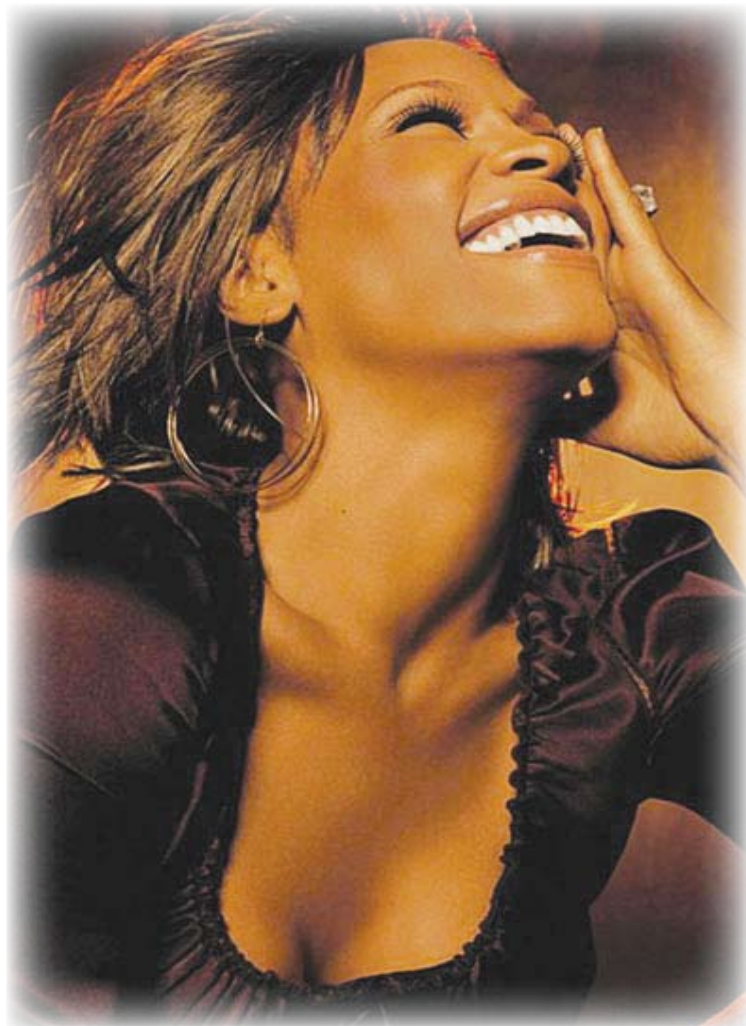
Alex Barcenas is one of the many seniors on the El Rancho softball team this year. The Seniors along with the underclassmen plan giving it their best this year as for many of this may very well be their last high school softball season.

"I think we are coming together really well, and what is good is that we are all really close to each other" says Leal.

El Rancho's biggest competition this year will be La Serna. However, "Some advantages that we have this year is that we have the best 3 pitchers in the league this year so that helps out a lot," says Reyes.

ENTERTAINMENT

Music legend dies at 48 from overdose



Whitney Houston was one of the world's best selling artists sold more than 200 million albums in her career.

BY MARIAH LEOS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Americansoul singer and actress Whitney Houston, one of the most pristine female artists of all time, has tragically died at age 48.

Coroners confirmed Houston's death in the early hours of Saturday, February 11th in Los Angeles at a Beverly Hills hotel room. Houston died hours before

she was expected to perform at record producer Clive Davis's pre-Grammy party on Saturday.

Houston was one of the world's best-selling artists and hit her ultimate peak in the 1980's and 90's, selling more than 200 million albums throughout her career.

Among many awards she has received for her powerhouse vocals and sincere lyricism sat two Emmys

and a total of six Grammy's.

Houston was known for her hits, 'I Wanna Dance With Somebody', 'I Have Nothing' and 'So Emotional' as well as being the only artist to chart seven consecutive singles on the Billboard Hot 100 hits.

Amongst those were 'I Will Always Love You', which became the best-selling single by a female artist in music history.

Houston's striking voice and image, along with her impressive record sales, became ravaged in recent years by her unfortunate drink and drug abuse. Her public appearances and performances became more erratic as she confessed to using cocaine, marijuana, and pills throughout her career leaving her unable to hit her usual high notes she had done in her prime.

Houston married soul singer Bobby Brown, and after 17 years of marriage she filed for divorce in 2007. During their marriage she had her only daughter, soul heir of her fortune, Bobbi Kristina Brown.

Despite her personal troubles she dealt with in the public eye Houston was known and will always be known as the 'Queen of Soul'.

She has broken numerous records many only dream of, and has changed the industry for good.

A number of artists have acknowledged Houston as an influence, including Lady Gaga, Mariah Carey, Toni Braxton, and Jennifer Hudson.

Houston is survived by her friends, family, and the music career that expands for a lifetime.



'Women in Black' stars Radcliffe in a 17th-century based thriller.

Women in Black Movie Review

BY BRIANA RIVERA,
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Woman in Black is a suspenseful thriller starring young British actors, Daniel Radcliffe, as lead and Roger Allam and Liz Hite as supporting roles.

Set in a 17th century Victorian era, a young widowed lawyer, Arthur Kibbs (Radcliffe), tries to make money for he and his son. Kibbs must also fight through depression he experiences after the loss of his wife. The death of his wife begins the course of the story.

Kibbs is sent to a small town to work. The town's residents are plagued by a curse that persuades children into committing suicide. He moves into an abandoned house that is located in a marsh surrounded by a water. The creaky old house sends an eerie chill through the viewer as they can see through the homes dark atmosphere. Arthur rummages through boxes of papers learning of past tragedies that have occurred within the house. During his search, the woman in black is

seen multiple moments throughout the film. As she sparks an interest inside Kibbs, he begins to conduct a search on who the woman was. As his investigation progresses, the viewer discovers the secrets of her and her home.

Seeing this movie had me momentarily glad that I didn't buy any food or drinks, as I would have knocked something over from jumping so much.

The movements were fantastically shot and I praise Mr. Radcliffe's acting skills as lead.

But I have to say that the film was too short and you could only see the woman for a few seconds here and there, she would disappear again before you got a clear shot of her. The music in the film fit its scenes perfectly but they're seemed to be more clues unanswered within the film when it ended just a rather sad and confusing ending. Other than that I give this movie a four out of five stars.

I conclude that it's a must-see movie but it has its twists that you have to pay close attention to.

ABC's scary new show, *The River*

BY KARINA CERDAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Scary and suspenseful, two words that easily explain ABC's new creepy television series 'The River.' From the creators of the film trilogy Paranormal Activity, *The River* delivers a heart pounding one hour program that will leave you on the edge of your seat.

The show introduces the Cole family, a family that films a television amazon series in which they travel around the world. The show's host is the father, Dr. Emmet Cole (portrayed by Bruce Greenwood), who one day sets off alone to search for possible magic that hides deep into the amazon and ends up never returning back. Emmet's wife Tess (Leslie Hope), and son Lincoln (Joe Anderson) are off to search for Emmet. With the help from friends and Emmet's camera crew from his TV show, they head out to parts of an amazon in search.

The TV crew is filming every move that is made to capture the search. While filming, strange noises and creepy things continue to occur around them that seem to either disturb them, or even attack them. Footage that was captured in the search, it's something that can leave any



ABC's 'The River' premiered on February 7, 2012.

viewer including you breathless.

With the help of the creators of *Paranormal Activity*, the creepy sounds effects and scenes in this series are related to the movies series that left us scared. Production of this show delivers

greatness in every aspect it promises. Scary pop outs, and unexplained sounds are put together very well to leave you in chills. Characters follow up into their scripts like if the situation was actually happening to them, which brings the show more alive. Along with a creepy, dark jungle environment, and live action camera work, this series brings itself right in front of you to feel like you are a part of it as well.

At first when I saw the commercials to this show I was really excited to watch it, especially when they announced it was from the creators of *Paranormal Activity*. When they premiered the two hour special on February 7 I couldn't wait to watch it. But then after the episode was over I was not sure about how I felt about it.

It did have its creepy moments but the show got boring a lot of the times. I decided to give it another try and watch the next episode, which was a success. The show got creepier by bringing in some monster that freaks you out.

Now it wasn't all amazing but it was good enough for me to each the third episode. I recommend everyone watch this show, if you don't like it at first, just give it some time, it gets better. I promise.



'The Vow' starring Rachel McAdams and Channing Tatum.

The Vow fails to Live up to Promise

BY KARINA CERDAS
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Paige (Rachel McAdams) and Leo (Channing Tatum) are a newlywed couple. After only a year or dating, the happy couple got married. But their lives changed when Paige and Leo were in a severe car accident, leaving Paige in a coma.

When she wakes up she has no memory of who her husband is. All she has is a confusing relationship with her parents and an ex-fiancé she may have feelings

for. Now Leo is doing everything in his power to make her fall in love with him all over again so they can rebuild their marriage.

This movie is not just another Hollywood love story. This is based on true events-the real life couple this all happen is Kim and Krickitt Carpenter, who got married in 1993.

When Krickitt woke up in the hospital, she couldn't remember the last 18 months of her life, which all included her husband Kim. In 1996, the Carpenters wrote a book called, *The Vow: The Kim and Krickitt Carpenter Story*. The happy couple ended up getting re-married and is now living in New Mexico with two children.

I went into the movie theater with high expectations. The previews for the movie get you thinking this movie is going to be a great love story just like *The Notebook*.

But there were a few things that did not click. The director should have casted a different leading man. There was no connection between Tatum and McAdams. Channing seemed too awkward but Rachel did an amazing job, as always.

Also, the ending was not great. They could have made it better. If you go watch this movie, do not go with high expectations or you will be disappointed.