



El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 60- Issue 8
www.erusd.k12.ca.us/elrancho

El Rancho's Get Lit Poets Head to Slam

BY LIZETTE RAMIREZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Five selected finalists prepare to head to finals for the Get Lit Classic Slam competition at the Wiltern Theater in Los Angeles on May 27th and May 28th. Mr. Sorenson stated, "it's sort of like a poetry competition." He organized his Advance Placement and Creative Writing classes to enter the Get Lit Classic Slam Workshop to compete with other schools from around southern California. He explained the competition as "twelve weeks of experiencing poetry."

On March 30th, the five best students were chosen by five judges to head to Finals. Ms. Oase, Ms. Melgar, Dr. Ventura, Ms. Padilla, and Ms. Gonzalez were the five women to judge all of Mr. Sorenson's students' poetry presentation. The judges decided that Robert Brown, Jacqueline Escobar, Samantha Herrera, Citlali Molina, and Naomi Zaldate would move forward to the finals at The Wiltern.

El Rancho students will compete with the best players from other schools to try and win the five hundred dollar prizes. There



Mr. Sorenson's junior AP English students compete for top five places in Get Lit Classic Slam.

are many opportunities to win cash prizes. A five hundred dollar prize is given to "best coach," "best team," and "best individual." Besides the money that the players can win, Mr. Sorenson mentions "that they get bragging rights."

The process of the Classic Slam Workshop consists of learning poetic terms, reading classic poetry, memorizing a classic poem, writing a response poem, and memorizing the personal response poem. After memorizing both the poems, each student is required to present the poems,

and also present information about the author to an audience. When the students complete the long process of the Get Lit Workshop, they have a "graduation ceremony" in honor of their dedication to the Classic Poetry Slam. There are three graduations, in every graduation some students are eliminated from the competition.

Now as Mr. Sorenson's students wait for Finals, they continue to practice their poems. The Get Lit Classic Slam Workshop is an opportunity for students to fully understand, master, and most of

all, appreciate poetry. After talking to one of the finalists, Jaqueline Escobar, she stated, "I'm excited to present my response poem, 'Love's Alzheimer,' to Edna St. Vincent's 'I Shall Forget You Presently, My Dear' because I put my time into that poem. I really think that my team and I will do really well this weekend!" She shows her optimism for her team as she anticipates for the days to come. She and the rest of the team have high hopes for the final competition this weekend.

Compositions Showcases Student Work

BY KARINA CERDA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The second annual El Rancho High School art exhibit, *Compositions*, debuted on Saturday, April 14. More than 150 people showed up on the first day. All the work came from students taking design, digital imaging, photography, calligraphy, fine arts, and sculpting. Two highlights of the exhibit were a mixed media piece, *'Tis a Collective'* by Noelle Gonzales and *'Awake'*, a sculpture done by Lynette Haro.

"I am very proud of all my art students' work that is displayed in this year's art show. I have numerous students that are talented in my class, but unfortunately I could only put a few pieces in the art show," says Art 1 teacher Carolyn Robledo.

It was the collaboration of the art teachers; the visual arts department teachers, the "SWAT" group, and the Pico Rivera Centre for the Arts that helped create this show. The SWAT group consists of several teachers who have a variety of groups that are focused on the art programs.

Since the beginning of the school year in September, the groups have been talking and planning a second art show. The idea came to life at the beginning of second semester, when the groups had collected enough masterpieces from the students.

"The whole point of putting the show on, is to showcase the talents our students possess; the students possess all these different talents like music and cooking. I just hope we continue to value that in our students," says Justin Diaz, Digital Imaging 1 and Video Production teacher.

The more people go and see the show, the more likely it will continue to be an annual event. It is open Monday through Thursday from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Fridays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The last day to visit the art exhibit is Tuesday, May 22nd, 2012.

Lamar Blazes a trail through Beantown

BY ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

English teacher, Mrs. Marcella Lamar, recently participated in the Boston Athletic Association's 116th Marathon.

Lamar has been running since college, just not competitively. "I did it for the same reason other folks do. I couldn't give up the ice cream and chocolate," said Lamar.

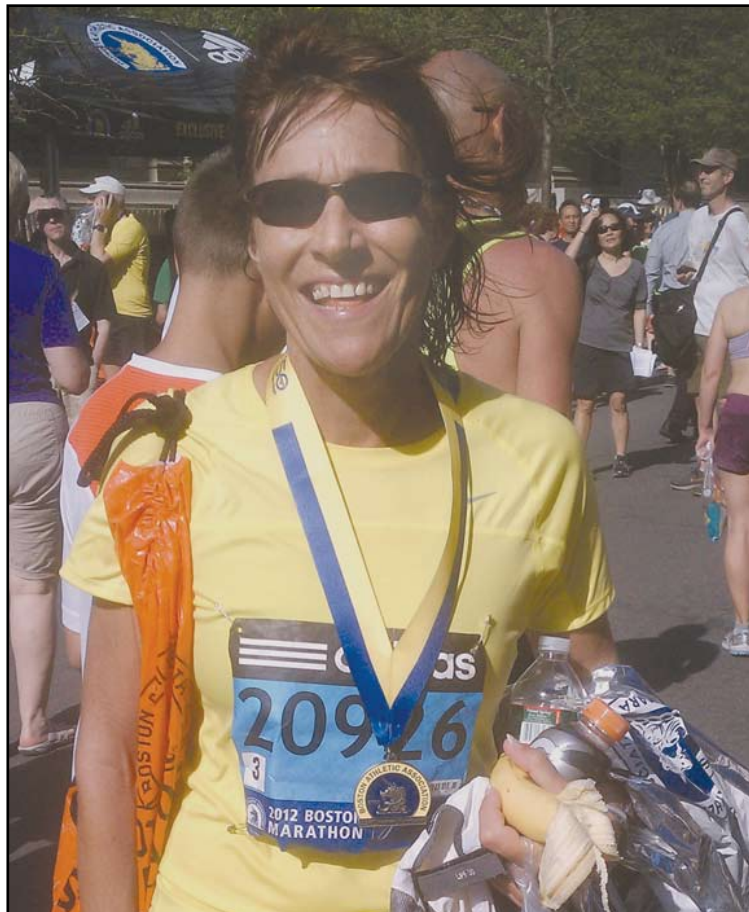
Lamar began running marathons about eight years ago. "My husband and son both ran, but mostly my husband was my inspiration. He was the first person I knew who ran marathons," Lamar said.

As for training, Lamar has a normal fitness routine, which she increases as the race comes closer. "Part of my schedule is on my class calendar," said Lamar. Lamar's routine consists of a two to three mile run on Sunday, four to five mile runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and alternating Saturdays of 14 miles and 22 miles.

Lamar is not new to running marathons; she has participated in eight marathons already. Lamar says, "I think I've got it down."

"It's kind of fun. I look at my life, and its out there. That is why it's fun," said Lamar. It isn't pain free either. "You have to fight through all the blisters and rashes," said Lamar.

On race day, April 16th, Lamar was faced with a challenge: the heat. It was the fourth



Lamar ran through a blazing heat in Boston Marathon.

hottest race day in race history. "It was the top story in all the newspapers," said Lamar.

Lamar was able to overcome the heat and fight her way through to the end of the marathon. "I wasn't sure if it was hotter with my hat on or off," said Lamar. The marathon began at 10:40 a.m. and continued through the hottest time of the day. "I felt like my brain was going to cook or fry," said Lamar.

The course served as an inspiration for Lamar, "it was beautiful, very scenic, but it was not easy," said Lamar. Lamar ran past Boston College and Wellesley College. "The colleges were very beautiful," said Lamar.

The spectators that came out to watch the marathon were very encouraging. "The college students were all cheering, it seemed like it was a championship," said Lamar. There were

also spectators with their water hoses, freshening up the runners.

Lamar said, "Really nice first few miles, but the last few miles I was thinking, please don't let my head explode." Lamar has a strategy she has picked up through her experience in marathons. "I play mind tricks with myself, oh look I'm half way there, oh only eight more miles, 2 more miles, wow I'm done," says Lamar.

A majority of the race was downhill, "but it was still hot, there was no breeze. It felt like a hair dryer," said Lamar.

Lamar was able to fight through to the end. "Marathoners are not wimps," said Lamar. The usual finish rate for a marathon is 98 percent; for the Boston marathon the rate was 96 percent. "It wasn't that bad," said Lamar. There were people who fainted, and they got up, refreshed themselves, and finished the marathon.

Lamar plans on going back and participating in the Boston Athletic Association's Marathon in about five years. "I was thinking about going back next year but there is too much to think about," said Lamar. One might think that marathons are free but they are not, marathons range anywhere from \$95-\$200. "In five years my sons will be out of college, and I'll have more money," said Lamar.

Lamar plans on pushing her boundaries, "one of these days I am going to see how far I can go, if you don't do it you will never know."

OPINION

American dream far from being a nightmare

BY JORDAN MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Is the United States a nation in decline? Many say yes due to our faltering economy and dwindling reputation among all nations, but what if another power took the role as superpower?

We as a country cannot let that happen. The citizens of the United States are a free people, and although we want only to focus on our own problems rather than those abroad that is an isolationist view that the US has had once before.

That view led to WWII because we didn't take our role as a superpower seriously and didn't act quickly enough. We as a people cannot let other nations down as the world's sole superpower.

If we isolate ourselves once again who could take our place? What are the implications?

If China became a leading power we would see an exponential increase in the number of despotic governments that are openly hostile to all democratic governments and make a world unsafe for every free nation and person.

The United States has a job that is not yet done. The United Nations is basically run by the United States. When a situation like that with Syria appears the first nation people think about that can resolve the crisis is the US.

The world needs a strong nation that prefers liberty and Democracy. Yes, we have established monarchies and supported them, but only in the name of evolution.

The United States was at one time a monarchy but then became a republic; France was



Cartoon by Jason Stouts, Austin Chronicle.

at one time a Monarchy but is now a republic. Many nations undergo this trend and soon those monarchies or autocracies can become republics or democracies.

The people of the United States do not see the greatness our country has achieved in the past and continues to achieve. We as a nation may not have fought two world wars and come out on top in this century, but this century is not over with.

We as a nation are not weak, and we cannot show others we are weak. Our economic situation has been greatly exaggerated; they say it's the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression, yet there are neither breadlines nor massive calls to change to a communist society.

This recession will soon make the country stronger and lead to another age of economic revival.

Our military is still the greatest on earth, with the US responsible for 40 percent of the world's military expenditures; many nations continue to stand in awe of it as well as ask for its protection.

Our alliances still exist; others still support what the country has done in the past and will continue to support decisions made by our country in the future.

The only countries that don't like us that are a threat are China and Russia. Russia is sore because we won the Cold War, and China is equally perturbed by our call for freedom and democracy, which they try to put down.

With rogue states such as

Iran and North Korea, the United States must exert greater influence since no other country is willing to sanction them without a leader, that leader being us!

We also have to finish the mess in Iraq and Afghanistan so we don't look weak, and we must do it without the atrocities some soldiers commit. Those are not Americans but misguided men that many countries can attest to.

The United States is still a great country; we all still live here; we like the laws; and the Roman Empire may have been like us at one time, a wasteful society. But we can prevail over all the forces thrown against us.

We are Americans, and this country is the greatest Superpower the world has seen yet!

Ozzie Guillen strikes out with Cuban community

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Miami Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen is no stranger to controversy, but apparently he went too far this previous month when he complimented Cuban dictator Fidel Castro on his ability to survive in an interview with *TIME* magazine.

He later apologized, but his remarks earned him a five-game suspension by Major League Baseball. Cuban-Americans were outraged by the comments, and I guess rightfully so.

Castro took land, murdered, and oppressed many Cubans. The Marlins moved to Miami (a city heavily populated and influenced by Cubans) and built a new half a billion-dollar (\$634 million) stadium in Little Havana, the heart of the Cuban community in Miami.

Guillen's comments obviously did not sit well with the Cuban Community. A group even threatened to boycott Marlins games until Guillen was fired.

The funny thing is I do not remember the Cuban community ever coming out to support the



Cartoon by Brendan Mruk.

Florida Marlins. As a matter of fact I do not recall anybody ever supporting the Marlins. Other than their two World Series wins, 1997 and 2003, the franchise has seen hardly any support.

Although Guillen does not entirely have the right to "Freedom of Speech," as he is an employee of a private organization, he should not have seen such a back-

lash from the Cuban community.

I understand that Cubans did not particularly enjoy what he had to say, but they should not have attacked him and demand that he be suspended.

They obviously hate Castro, but they escaped a country where Freedom of Speech did not and still does not exist. They came to a country that offered them the right

to say and criticize whomever.

I find it a bit hypocritical that they are offended and are complaining about someone exercising his freedom of speech.

Guillen also really did not praise Castro; he merely said that he respected Castro for surviving all of the assassination attempts on his life.

I personally agree. I find it a bit admirable to be able to ward off assassination attempts from major powers like the United States, especially when I see how much more technology, military, intelligence, and man power the United States has compared to third world Cuba.

What else did the people of Miami expect when they learned Guillen was to be their new manager?

He has been in trouble for running his mouth before; they should have known that the topic of Cuba and Castro was bound to come up.

The fans will return, and if the Marlins win the World Series all will be well in Miami...until Guillen's next inevitable slip up.

El Rodeo



Advisor
Paul Zeko

Editor-in-Chief
David Ochoa

Copy Editor
Des Delgadillo

Section Editors**News**

Andrea Muñoz

Opinion

David Ochoa

Features

Raven Barela

Sports

Andrea Muñoz

Entertainment

Brandon Mendoza

Reporters

Karina Cerdas

Mark Chacon

Michelle Chavez

Des Delgadillo

Gabby García

Samantha Gurrola

Pedro Herrera

Jordan Magaña

Cindy Martinez

Brandon Mendoz

Andrea Muñoz

David Ochoa

Destinee Ortiz

Mariah Leos

Lizette Ramirez

Samantha Ruiz

Photo Editors

Clifford Billington

Nathaniel Gonzalez

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

El Rodeo, the student newspaper of El Rancho High School is an open, public forum for student expression and an opportunity to discuss its audience's issues of concern. Opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the school board, administration, sponsors, parents, student body or advertisers. The Editorial Board, which consists of the editor-in-chief, section editors, and assistant editors, will determine the content of *El Rodeo*.

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

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

BUSINESS

Councilman Camacho looks at big business solutions

By DES DELGADILLO
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF
STRATEGIC PLANNING

Eager to invent new ways for students to interact with the Pico Rivera economy, the entrepreneur club conducted a survey last week in order to form a consensus on what the student body felt to be the biggest economic problem currently facing the city. Not surprisingly, respondents cited high gas prices, severe budget cuts, and a lack of jobs for youth as some of the city's biggest economic shortcomings. But a whopping 67 percent of those who responded to the club's survey felt that the city's sales tax, currently sitting at an abnormally high 10.25 percent, has a lot to do with the city's current economic woes.

With the sole aim of representing the student body in the community, the entrepreneurs took their data to Pico Rivera City Councilman Gustavo Camacho, whose job is to attract and coordinate any and all merchants that set up shop in the city.

Though many currently regard the sales tax a lofty investment, Councilman Camacho explained that the numbers are actually in the tax's favor. Most taxes levied on a city are distributed throughout a county or a state, Camacho explained, with a city like Pico Rivera rarely receiving any substantial benefits. The sales tax is different. "For every hundred dollars that you spend," Camacho explained, "You're only spending one dollar more than you normally would have spent." But [the city] receives 100 percent of that extra dollar." The tax might appear steep at face value, but when investigated further it proves to be a wholly sound investment in the community.

Another prevalent speculation rampant in the student community is



that the 10.25 percent sales tax has become a major deterrent to businesses looking to make their mark on Pico Rivera's strong value community. Camacho cited discussions he has had with several businesses, including the Chipotle Mexican Grill that recently opened in the city, during which "sales tax was not being discussed." Camacho has dealt with countless businesses during his time on the city council, and not once was the issue of sales tax a deciding factor on whether a business found a home in Pico Rivera or moved on

to the next city. "Lease agreements are what break the deals, because [some businesses] are not willing to pay high rents," Camacho said.

"The businesses that I've known that have left the city," he continued, "did so because there were not enough sales going on to pay their rents."

Instead of the sales tax, Camacho feels that the real barrier between Pico Rivera and steady business is merely a problem of "location, location, location." For a long time now Camacho has found it difficult to fill vacancies on the north side of Pico

Rivera. He attributes this problem to two variables: the topography of the land and an aging infrastructure.

The cumbersome lay of the land on the north side leaves businesses without a steady stream of consumers, Camacho explained. "It almost eliminates an entire trade area on the north side," Camacho said. "Statistics show that folks psychologically are not willing to go over a freeway to purchase, even though it's probably the same distance from the south side."

The problem of an aging infrastructure is a vexing one, especially because buildings have deteriorated far beneath modern expectations, thus becoming a sort of big business repellent. Because of the affordability of rent, small businesses currently dominate the north side.

So what does Camacho propose the city do to make the north side an even hub of big and small business? Nothing can be done overnight. "If we do capital development projects correctly, we can create an economic development hub, and use that as a catalyst for economic development in that particular area," Camacho said.

At the moment, allocating city resources for the development of one area doesn't seem like something that can occur right away, but with time the entire north side could undergo serious renovations that could even the playing field a bit.

One thing the student body should take away from Councilman Camacho is that development is a process, one that may or may not occur seamlessly. Economic development projects should be taken on as a community, and only then can renovations come to fruition, thus bringing business back to the forefront of Pico Rivera.

El Rancho's Entrepreneur Club strives to prepare students for the business world, one step at a time. But the club has another, perhaps greater purpose: to expand our student body's economic horizons.

Our research concludes that El Rancho students contribute \$4.7 million each year to the Pico Rivera economy. Our club is constantly gathering data in order to create ways for you, the El Rancho students, to maximize the value of your dollar.

As our advisor Mr. Elias explains, "We are neighbors but strangers." This recurring business page aims to narrow the gap between El Rancho students and Pico Rivera businesses.

This page aims to allow students to explore the services available to them outside school. From burgers, to coffee, to clothing, to transportation, this recurring page is the place to go to see your options available to you.

Remember your dollar matters. Let the Entrepreneur club show you how to maximize your spending potential even more. Students should feel free to attend any of our club meetings, a schedule of which you can find on this page.

We hope to see you at our next meeting.

-Des Delgadillo, Vice President of Strategic Planning

Upcoming Events in J-7

Tuesday, May 1
Entrepreneur Club Meeting
(3:15 pm-4:30)

Tuesday, May 8
Entrepreneur Club Meeting
(3:15 pm-4:30)

Tuesday, May 15
Entrepreneur Club Meeting
(3:15 pm-4:30)

Tuesday, May 22
Entrepreneur Club Meeting
(3:15 pm-4:30)

Thursday, May 24
Teen Court First Anniversary
Fundraiser (6 pm-9 pm)

Jim's Burgers a definite "Go to" place



By BRYAN PEREZ

I recently went to Jim's Burgers in Pico Rivera and ordered a DUI. I had heard a lot about the DUI from a few of my friends, most notably that the meal consists of fries, chili cheese, carne asada, and pastrami. I thought the meal sounded interesting, so I decided it would be good to go and try for myself.

As I waited for my order to be called I noticed that the place had improved facilities for better customer satisfaction. The new seats and paint job give the place an inviting atmosphere, something that never fails to impress me.

Their menu comprises a wide array of meal options, varying from salads, to cheeseburgers, to Mexican food. The prices were very affordable. One could probably enjoy a highly satisfying meal for no more than five dollars.

For my meal at Jim's, the staff was very accommodating, and the manager was very friendly to me. When the kind staff informed me that my order was up I found myself in front of a plate loaded with a surprisingly generous amount of food. I was a bit hesitant to try this bizarre concoction, but after my first bite I was completely convinced that my DUI was delicious! The mixture of the different flavors was amazing, a real explosion in my mouth! The food was great, and the portions were very satisfying.

Overall the food was delicious, but like everything else it was not perfect. One thing the dish lacked, I thought, was a little touch of spice. Still, I wholeheartedly recommend this place as an option for a date, a family dinner, or just a casual hang-out spot to go with friends. So on a scale from one to five, I would rank the dish and the restaurant as a 4.5.

DON DINERO



By MR. ELIAS

"Show me the money"

It's right here on the El Rancho campus. Where else can you gather approximately five percent of the city population with a combined purchasing power of over \$3 million per year all in one place for over five hours a day, five days a week? The El Rancho High School campus is a businessperson's dream!

Collectively our students have the ability to make any local business a great success, but we have a problem: We are neighbors but strangers. First of all, businesses fail to see the big picture when it comes to the youth market; these businesses sell to individuals who only provide the occasional \$10 purchase and won't return to the store unless with their parents.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, students have a difficult time realizing their collective buying power.

When local businesses began hearing about our estimated \$280,000.00 per month purchasing power, their first reaction was an understandable "give us proof."

The memorable response saw an El Rancho student empty a box filled with thousands of receipts from our students in front of our city mayor and president of the local chamber of commerce, thus proving your consumer power.

How can both businesses and students recognize the commercial potential of this matchup?

Businesses can support greater student social mobility through affordable public transportation.

Follow the Entrepreneur Club @ERHS_MAD_MONEY



Entrepreneur Mission Statement

By RUDY CHINCHILLA
ENTREPRENEUR CLUB PRESIDENT

The Entrepreneur Club was masterminded by El Rancho economics teacher and former businessman, Mr. Raul Elias.

The club began as a group of three students meeting in the summer of 2011, and it has quickly snowballed into a group recognized by officials from the Pico Rivera city hall.

The aim of the Entrepreneur Club is to provide future businessmen and women an opportunity to kick-start their careers in the ever-changing world of business, as well as to provide a crucial link between the El Rancho High School student body and the city of Pico Rivera.

With these goals in mind, the Entrepreneur Club has worked alongside the city to provide the students of El Rancho an affordable form of public transportation.

With the public transportation issue still a work in progress, members of the Entrepreneur Club have recently taken on other ventures by partnering with the city to create a fundraising and marketing plan for the Friends

of the Pico Rivera Libraries Book Center in order to bolster sales for the faltering book store.

Such links between club and city are crucial to the "Trap the Dollar" in Pico Rivera campaign, whereby the Entrepreneur Club is attempting to redirect students to local business through efforts such as social media.

At an annual disposable income of 2.7 million dollars, students at El Rancho are in a position where they can make or break their city's economy; the Entrepreneur Club seeks to harness the purchasing power of students to improve the state of the local economy.

Prospective members need not be afraid of joining. The club is open to any students who are willing to put in the time and effort to improve themselves, their school, and their community.

By offering such things as public speaking workshops and business plan training, the Entrepreneur Club seeks to get the best out of El Rancho students.

Members are not treated as children but as young adults who will someday make their mark both on El Rancho High School and on the world at large.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Scenes from Multicultural Carnival



NBA Playoff Set to Begin

By KARINA CERDAS, EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

For many people, it's the most exciting time of the year next to Christmas. Beginning April 28th, the National Basketball Association will present the 2011-12 NBA Playoffs. The top eight teams from the West and East will compete in a best out of four-game series in the hopes of eliminating each other in their respective divisions. When each side goes down to the final two teams, they compete in either the Western or Eastern Conference finals. The winning teams from each side will compete against each other, in an exciting West vs East match up, with the first team to pick up four victories earning the right to call themselves the 2011-12 NBA Champions!

All the teams have put on an exciting season so far, but it was the team with the most overall wins to advance to the Playoffs. Over in the Eastern conference, we have favorites like the Miami Heat, Chicago Bulls, Boston Celtics, and the New York Knicks. All over ESPN, the Miami Heat has been the overall favorites to win it all this season. With the loss at the NBA Finals last season to the Dallas Mavericks, fan favorites LeBron James and Dwyane Wade are set on avenging their loss and capturing their first championship together. At the same time, the highly favored Chicago Bulls are set on advancing after being eliminated by the Miami Heat last season. Can LeBron James and the Heat pass through a hungry Eastern Conference back to the NBA finals, or will another team advance themselves past the Heat to the Finals first?

Over in the Western conference, favorites like the San Antonio Spurs, Oklahoma City Thunder, and of course both the Los Angeles Lakers and Clippers have all advance. The Dallas Mavericks, last year's NBA champions, are set on repeating the victory in the finals once more, but with the departure of a few key players, they are unlikely favorites. The Oklahoma City Thunder, formally know as the Seattle Sonics, have a young and very talented roster. They have their minds set on advancing to the finals and bringing the city a championship for the first time since 1979. One big story in the Western conference is the participation of both Los Angeles teams in the playoffs this year. They both have so much to prove, with each team vying to become the dominant force in Los Angeles. Is the Clippers' addition of Point Guard Chris Paul going to help the team advance, or is it Kobe Bryant's destiny to win his sixth championship, or can another Western team come out on top? Tune in to what is sure to be a great NBA Playoff run! Like this year's slogan says, "Win Big, or go Home."

NBA Playoffs will be featured on local channel ABC 7, and Cable channels ESPN and TNT. Check your local listings for times and dates.

Word on the Street

What do you think about the day of silence?



Salina Chavez 12th- "I think it was good for people to represent the people that do get bullied."



Alexis Rodriguez 9th- "I liked seeing students stand up for people that can't stand up for themselves."



Priscilla Martinez 10th- "I thought it was a great idea to put themselves in other peoples' positions."



Debbie Ascencion 10th- "I thought it was something different because not that many people can pull it off."



Francisco Anguino 12th- "I think it was non sense, but at the same time it meant something for them."

CAMPUS

Mrs. Zeko collaborates with Whittier College professor to help put poetry in motion

BY SAMANTHA GURROLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On June 4th, sophomore honors English teacher Charissa Zeko with Whittier College Professor Tony Barnstone, will be taking the sophomore and honors English classes to Whittier College to perform original poems.

Hoping to get poetry program started here at El Rancho, Zeko looked to bring in a teacher artist, "originally, Mrs. Chodos and I wrote a grant to bring Get Lit players to work with the students, but they were not eligible under the grant, so Mrs. Oase recommended Mr. Barnstone, an English teacher at Whittier College in."

Barnstone currently works at Whittier College right now, but he has always worked with creative writing because his family was into literature and art as he was growing up. "I was already so busy, but on the other hand it was going to be nice to intertwine college with high school creative writing," says Barnstone.

Overwhelmed with how he was going to organize and deal with the teaching of the students Barnstone says, "This was going to be a big step for myself since I am use to teaching only fifteen students and now it will be over one hundred."

The students have worked hard this semester to make their poems as perfect possible. "They have definitely made progress



Mrs. Zeko looks forward to seeing her students gain confidence from upcoming performances at Whittier College.

and an improvement in their writing styles as well as their structure, but we still have time for improvement," says Zeko.

Excited for the upcoming performance Angelica Gamez says, "This is an opportunity for the sophomore English classes to become open about expressing ourselves in a different way. It gives us a chance to relate with each other when listening to our classmates' poems but most im-

portantly it allows us to gain confidence in ourselves in becoming better speakers and performers."

The sophomore English classes will be performing at the Ruth B. Shannon center at Whittier College on June 4th at 6 p.m. "My hope for this years performance is that the kids leave the stage having gained confidence in themselves an a insight into the world of poetry writing," says Zeko.



Rising stars in El Rancho's Got Talent showcase

BY ANDREA MUNOZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

At the second annual el rancho talent show Sarah Gonzalez received first place for music, Elysse Mendoza received first place for dance, and Valerie Morales, Dana Gallegos, Adrienne Munoz, and Ashley Esparza received the judges choice award.

The talent show was held on Aprilthirteenthinthemaingymnasium. This year the talent show was organized by ASB Vice President, Alyssa Nunez. "It was overwhelming at times," confides Nunez. She had some troubles contacting people last minute because of mix-ups with music but everything worked out well. "I do think I could have been more prepared," says Nunez. Despite the troubles the talent show went on with great success.

The talent show was divided into two main categories, music and dance. There were many participants from all the classes. The music and dance genres varied from rock to scream-o to pop as well as country.

There were soloists, duets, as well as bands. Nunez didn't only organize the event, she participated in it as well. Nunez sang *It Hap-*

pens by Sugarland as a solo act.

For music, Sarah Gonzalez, performed *Black Horse on the Cherry Tree*, and received first place, Orlando performed an original *Eclipse* and received second place, and the band Get Down received third place.

Senior Gonzalez admits, "I was surprised and couldn't believe I got first, I thought Sarah Dickinson would win because she sounded very good." Although Gonzalez is a part of the drama department she admits she was nervous about performing but at the same time she was also excited. "I decided to perform in the talent show because it is my senior year and I had never done it before and I wanted to go out with a bang," says Gonzalez.

In the dance category Elysse Mendoza performed *Nothing but Water*, and received first place, Valerie Morales, Dana Gallegos, Adrienne Munoz, and Ashley Esparza performed *Burlesque* and received second place, and Breanna Lopez performed *Ocupala* and received third place.

Valerie Morales, Dana Gallegos, Adrienne Munoz, and Ashley Esparza received the judges choice award, on of the biggest honors of the night. "The girls did great as a group," says Wlasick.



TUXEDO PLACE



VISIT OUR STORE
8730 IMPERIAL HWY
DONWEY, CA 90242
(562) 261-8339



TUXEDO RETAL
STARTING AT
\$69



LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK



FEATURES

Halverson and El Rancho have chemistry

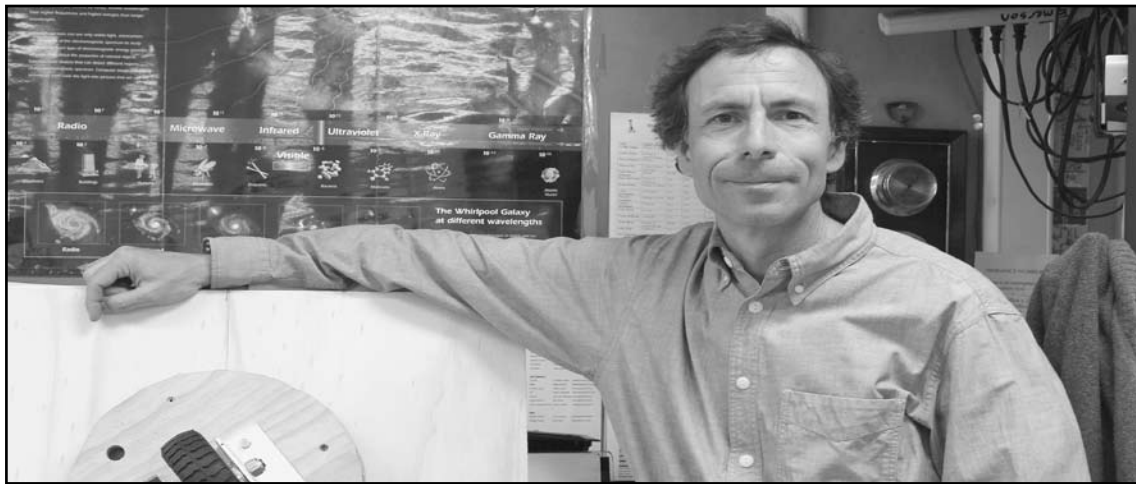
BY JORDAN MAGANA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Dr. Peter Halverson, the fiery Physics teacher in M-1, has been at this school for four years. He is best known for his contributions to the Robotics Club as well as his own clubs, the MESA Club and Electronics Club, where he and his students create such project as the solar powered car and many other gizmos.

Dr. Halverson was born in Indiana in 1958. After his birth he went back and forth between France and the United States. After coming back from Paris, his family moved to Boston "where my dad worked at MIT in a research job," he said.

He then went to Cambridge High and Latin school, where he joined the Science Club. Once there he said "One year we decided to build a giant saltwater aquarium and since the fish liked cold water I took a part of my refrigerator and put it in the aquarium.

Soon the refrigerator had a leak and gas filled the high school, and it had to be evacuated," he chuckled. After his crazy science experiments in high school,



Dr. Halverson stands with the beginning stage of a solar powered car.

Dr. Halverson went to New York University in 1976. Aside from studying Halverson was also interested in sailing and joined the university's sailing team.

We would go out in New York Harbor and go sailing in the winter time," said Halverson. He also added that one time "a gust of wind flipped my boat and I was swimming in New York harbor," he laughed.

Not only would he just sail for fun, but he also acknowledged that "Our team would compete against West Point and we rarely won. When we won one race I felt pretty good," he laughed.

Dr. Halverson got his PhD at the University of Arizona before working at U.C Irvine where he collaborated with the University of Tokyo on a project called Super Kamiokande, which is a machine that would look for neutrinos.

"We dug a tunnel into the middle of a mountain and filled it with 20,000 tons of super clean water, and once in a while [the neutrinos would] hit the water particles, and the light sensors would see the light emitted," "I worked on a few projects. This one was successful," he said.

He soon felt the trouble of having to work at U.C Irvine, "It

was a great job but the problem was traveling from here to Japan," he said. He also stated "there was no future for me. I felt stuck in a way. I had to jump ship to change, and I wanted a change," he said. He then headed for Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, where he worked for ten years.

"When they hired me I just said to them, put me in a lab and whatever's broken I'll make it work, and that's what I did for the first few years," he said. After the first few years he was told by JPL to work on a new project called the Space Interferometry Mission that would detect planets.

"What you would do was look at the stars and measure where the star is. It had ten systems and they didn't have enough people to invent them, so they had me do it," he said. He soon would back off from the project because "The first week I knew it was doomed," he said.

Sure enough, the project was cancelled after fifteen years. Then he decided to go into teaching because "I always wanted to teach. When working on Kamiokande I taught graduate students, and at JPL I also had students and taught them physics." When he started looking for a job he was interviewed by El Rancho and one other high school. "The other school never called me, but then assistant principal Mrs. Linares hired me straight away," he said.

He also said "I didn't choose El Rancho; it just happened." Looking back on his four years he said: "The people treat me really well. I like working with the science teachers and I like the students because they are very good-natured, it's really incredible. The only downside is it's hard to get them to do their homework!"

Teacher Profile: Mrs. Parvin Qureshi

BY BRANDON MENDOZA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

History teacher Parvin Qureshi was born and raised in the city of Sylet, Bangladesh. At the age of three, the Qureshi family decided to emigrate to the United States through London.

Qureshi's father hoped to get a better education for her and her older brother. He made sure that they would have a better, safer life by moving to Whittier, California where her uncle lived in the early 1970's. At that time, there were only a handful of Bengalis in the greater Los Angeles area.

When Qureshi and her family moved to Los Angeles, she did not understand one bit of English, nor did she know what the "Civil War" in Bangladesh meant.

Luckily for Qureshi, her neighbors tutored her after school in English, history, and many other subjects. "They taught me the typical American childhood pastimes like how to skateboard, roller skate, and ride a bike," she said.

"Being that most of my neighbors were all World War II veterans, they didn't see my family and I as 'foreigners,' just people trying to live the American dream."

Fortunately for the Qureshi family, there were educational opportunities for Qureshi and her brother. With these opportunities she was able to attend Nelson Elementary, Los Nietos Middle School, and Pioneer High School.

Growing up the oldest daughter of the first generation immigrants of the Qureshi family was difficult for her, but she survived the hardships. "I helped raise my younger sisters, and although I got accepted to many out-of-state schools, I chose to attend Cal State Long Beach so that I could help out at home during my college years," said Qureshi, "I put myself through college by working two jobs while living at home."

After graduating from CSULB and earning her teaching credential, Qureshi worked as the Inter-



erations Manager for Kaplan Test Prep in Orange County. "The job at Kaplan put me in contact with doctors, nurses, and professionals from all over the world, which was an enlightening experience."

Qureshi decided to pursue teaching when she led SAT test prep and college advisement workshops for Kaplan because she enjoyed interacting with the students. This was one of the moments that made her want to be a teacher.

In her teaching career, Qureshi has taught everything from freshman English to Advanced Placement U.S History. "At El Rancho, I've had the pleasure of teaching sociology, government, U.S history, world history, and A.P.U.S History. I've also taught for the after school program, SAT prep as well as the economics portion of Academic Decathlon and was the advisor of the Debate Club," said Qureshi.

The benefits of having moved from Sylet, Bangladesh to Whittier, California were speaking English in and out of her home while maintaining her native language, Syleti, a common Bengali dialect. "Looking back, I wouldn't change a thing. I've travelled all over the world and have had many job opportunities, but I feel that my biggest accomplishment is the success of my students."

EL RANCHO TEEN COURT
FOUNDATION

TIN# 45-287084

PO Box 1051
Pico Rivera, CA 90660Loyal Supporters
Save the Date

On May 24th at 6:00p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the banquet facilities of the City of Pico Rivera Municipal Golf Course we will be celebrating the El Rancho High School Teen Court one year anniversary by honoring its founding members and students. Honorees include:

- The Honorable Olivia Rosales, The Superior Court
- The Honorable James Horan, The Superior Court
- The Honorable David W. Armenta, former Mayor of Pico Rivera
- Detective Sergeant Rachel Canchola, ERUSD Board Member
- Officer Vanessa Alvarado, Deputy Probation Officer II
- Michael Cervantes, Area Supervisor (PREP Program)
- The Executive Committee of the Student Teen Court Club

Events include dinner, presentations and a silent auction.

Ticket Price: \$60.00 Table of Eight: \$400.00

Corporate/Organization/Individual Sponsorship Available @ \$500.00 which includes:

- ❖ Table of Eight
- ❖ Listing in Event Program
- ❖ Listing of Corporate/Organization/Individual name listed in El Rancho Teen Court website as "Friends of Court" for 12 months

Formal invitations to follow

for event information call Raul Elias @ 562-322-3349 or email teencourtfoundation@gmail.com

Please make your tax deductible contributions to El Rancho Teen Court Foundation a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization TIN#45-287084

Pico Rivera Municipal Golf Course
Pico Rivera, CA 90660
562.692.9933

SPORTS

Track determined to keep Del Rio League title



Senior Andres Mata, junior David Sarco, and junior Anthony Perez prepare for the upcoming Track meet.

BY SAMANTHA RUIZ
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With the biggest team so far, the Track and Field team is shooting to make it through this season with a good record. Head coach Mrs. Elliott and assistant coaches have managed their time to focus on their athletes and improve on the areas where

help was needed most. Nevertheless, Elliott explained, "A lot of new kids have done a great job in adapting to the program."

This week, the team will compete against Santa Fe. With La Serna in the lead to win the Del Rio League, Elliott is currently focused on leading the team to defeat Santa Fe to place in second. Currently, the boys' varsity

team is tied in first place with Santa Fe's boys' varsity team. Also, the girls' varsity team from El Rancho and Santa Fe are tied.

However, the athletes of the Track and Field team are not worried about the competition between El Rancho and Santa Fe. The team has had vigorous workouts for the season and although there are times

where practices were difficult to complete, improvement was the goal for many athletes.

"Hard practices are worth the pain," Berlin Diaz stated. Diaz, a senior participating in 100 and 300-meter hurdles, Pole vault and the 100-meter sprint, agreed with most athletes on the team, that they have grown to become a family.

"Losing to La Serna was a reality check," Jessica Moreno, a senior, said. "We wanted to push each other more after that defeat so that brought us closer together." Moreno credits Elliott and the assistant coaches for not giving up on the new team when the thought of becoming Undefeated Champions disappeared after the La Serna meet.

Moreno went on to state that the team lost "a lot of good people last year," but that the team has compensated for the loss with the attendance of the "freshman athletes." With the next event in sight, the Track and Field team is ready to defeat Santa Fe and assume second place in the Del Rio League.

"Really, what our goal is this season is to get as many athletes to qualify for CIF Finals," Elliott said. She has hope for her athletes to P.R. this season and to help their team reserve their title as the best track team in the Del Rio League.



Freshman Angelina Carrasco currently only girl in golf.

New hope for ER Golf

BY SAMANTHA GURROLA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

With only a couple of matches left for the golf team, they hoped that they could get a win and make it to finals. "Thankfully our hard work is now showing and getting us some where," says Zack.

Their six main players are, Albert Romero, Bobby Villarreal, Zackary Gurrola, Gregory Serano, Jason Cerillo, and Andrew Banuelos, and they hoped that they could get a win this season. "We are honestly a work in progress, but in the end I know we will not have any regrets," says Romero.

The team has been taking practice very serious and really working on improvement on their weakest points. "I was sure that we were going to get a win. We just needed to stay positive and take advantage of the time we got when practicing," says Romero.

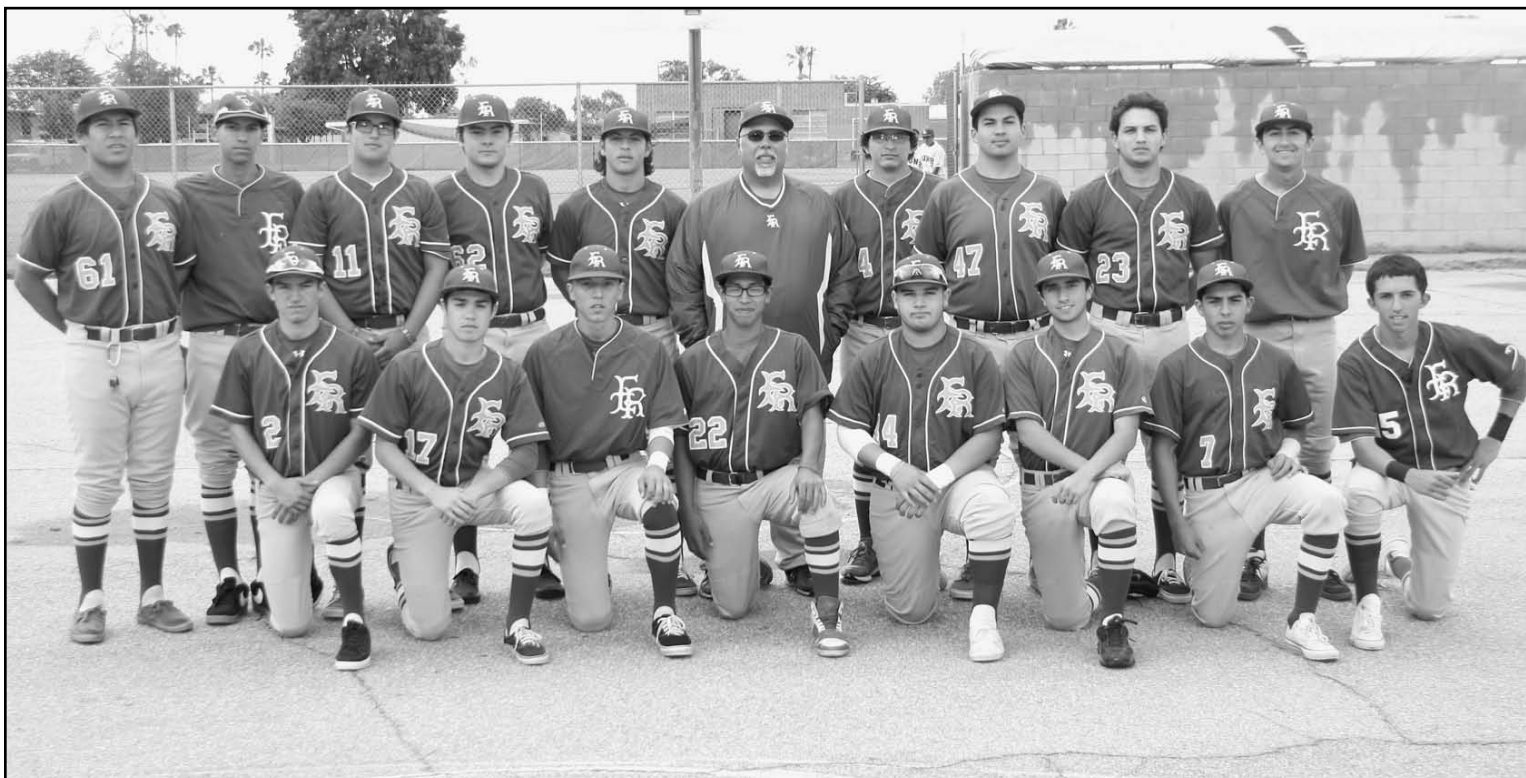
They finally got the win they had been hoping for against Whittier on Wednesday, "by gaining this win, we hope that this will give us the push we need to finish the last two matches of our season strong," says Zack.

Since there are no golf courses on school campuses; El Rancho along with the rest of the teams in their league have to play at local golf courses, "majority of the time we play our matches at Whittier Narrows Golf Course, and once in a while we get to play at Friendly Hills, but practice is at the Pico Rivera Golf Course," says Gurrola.

Not ready to finish up his last season of golf Romero says, "our biggest competition would probably have to be La Serna, they are a strong team and get a lot of practice at Friendly Hills Golf Course."

Hoping that next year's golf team will be more successful Gurrola says, "the team will be full of freshmen and new players, there are only going to be two seniors but next years sophomores are pretty good."

Boys in blue remain optimistic and realistic



The boys' baseball varsity team strives to repeat last year and become Del Rio League Champions for another consecutive year.

BY DAVID OCHOA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The El Rancho Dons Varsity baseball squad is currently in a four-way dead heat with Cal High, La Serna, and Whittier for the Del Rio League title.

The boys in blue currently posses a 6-3 record in the Del Rio League and an overall record of ten wins and eight losses. With only a handful of games left in the regular season the Dons are optimistic and realistic about their future.

"It's good, we can be better, but we could be worse," said Coach Frank Llanes. Many

teams would feel dismal after a four game losing streak, but the Dons were not discouraged by their recent four game skid at the St. Paul Tournament.

"It made us stronger," said Llanes. The Dons have played in a strange set of games recently. In a two game series with the Whittier Cardinals this past month they were clobbered 14-2 in game one, but retaliated strongly in the next game, with a 3-2 victory in extra innings behind a stellar pitching performance by junior Julian Vizcarra who pitched 7 1/3 innings.

The Dons upcoming schedule will feature league opponents

such as Pioneer and La Serna. "It's going to be tough...but only one thing can beat us and that's lack of focus," said Llanes.

Llanes also praised the recent play by first basemen and senior J.J. Aguilar. "[He's] been coming around really big," said Llanes. Aguilar was named player of the week for the week of the fifteenth. Aguilar has been playing ball at the Ranch all four years of his El Rancho career including the last two on the varsity squad. His hitting has improved dramatically this year. "I've been listening to what he [Coach Llanes] has been telling me to do," said Aguilar.

The Dons are attempting to repeat as Del Rio League Champions, it will be difficult, Aguilar said, "We work hard overall, so I don't see why we can't go really far."

The Dons are certainly prepared to go deep as evidenced by their intense workout regiment that is also known as "grinders." They are a series of continuous push-ups, sits ups, and everything in between. To the common eye it looks like a drill sergeant training his soldiers, but as Llanes said, "This is normal."

Catch the Dons in action later today vs. the Pioneer Titans at Pioneer High School.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment icon Dick Clark passes away

BY DES DELGADILLO
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Richard Wagstaff Clark, better known in the entertainment industry as Dick Clark, passed away on Wednesday afternoon from a heart attack after undergoing a medical procedure. He was 82.

Clark, most recently known for his historic New Years Rockin' Eve broadcasts alongside Ryan Seacrest, has already gone down in the history books as one of the most influential figures in the entertainment industry.

Perhaps influenced by the interview and communications styling's popularized by local New York disc jockey Hal Jackson, Clark pegged radio as his career of choice by the time he was ten years old.

He spun that fervent passion into a degree in radio and advertising from Syracuse University in 1951.

Even during his college days Clark possessed a propensity for quality radio broadcasts. His first job in radio saw him impress management enough to land a fill-in spot for a vacationing weatherman after only a few months of working for the station.

At the height of Clark's youth, television was still a very new and expensive concept, but with time it became clear that this new medium would very quickly surpass radio in popularity.

It was on this new medium where Clark would begin his most popular and influential venture.

In 1952, a Philadelphia television affiliate of radio station WFIL launched a show called Bob Horn's Bandstand.

Clark regularly served as a fill-in host for Horn, until 1956, when Horn was arrested for drunk driving and subsequently fired from his high-profile television position. Dick Clark took the job, and one of the most celebrated television programs in the history of music and entertainment was born.

In 1957, ABC picked up

the show, rebranded it American Bandstand, and put it on a national platform. The first nationally syndicated episode aired on August 5, 1957, featuring an interview with Elvis Presley.

Dick Clark's American Bandstand is regarded as one of the key forces in pushing rock 'n' roll to the forefront of American culture. At the time, rock 'n' roll was still regarded as a sub-genre of music reserved for delinquents and other sub-cultures that were frowned upon at the time.

With his charming personality and exceptional communication skills, Clark was able to "present rock 'n' roll in a way that was palatable to parents," said renowned Hollywood producer Michael Uslan.

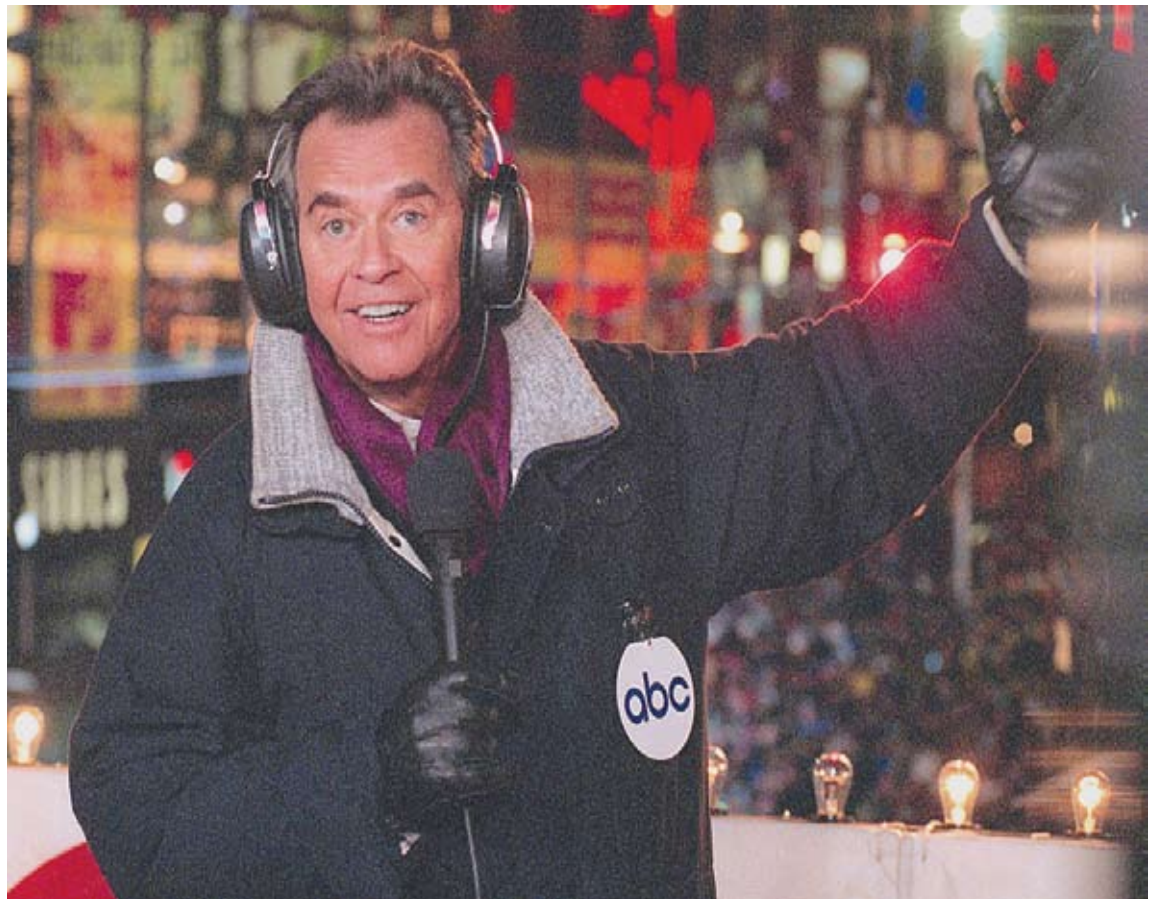
Clark's nationally syndicated television show, which consisted of Clark talking and playing records, played a large part in making rock 'n' roll identifiable for everybody," whereas it had previously been vilified by a much more conservative sector of the ABC audience.

Dick Clark's American Bandstand eventually placed less emphasis on playing records, instead choosing to focus on live performances from up-and-coming artists. The program became a place for artists to showcase themselves in front of a viewership of 20 million, which was a significant chunk of the viewing audience for the time.

Artists like the Talking Heads, Stevie Wonder, Buddy Holly, and Johnny Cash made their television debuts on American Bandstand.

Perhaps even more important than putting an entire genre of music on the map, Dick Clark's American Bandstand pushed the racial envelope. The program was one of the first to offer desegregated seating, as well as feature both black and white artists on the same stage at the same time. Clark was always one to point out that he never saw different skin colors; he only saw musicians.

Despite all his contri-



Dick Clark hosting Rockin' New Years Eve. Image provided by google.

butions to American culture, however, Clark was always one to humbly minimize his involvement, simply stating, "I played records, the kids danced, and America watched."

With American Bandstand receiving such high critical acclaim, ABC decided in 1972 to give Clark the most important night of the year: New Years Eve. Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin'

Eve consisted of Clark counting down to midnight, at which point the ball would drop in Times Square, and Clark would yell "Happy New Year" and celebrate with those in attendance.

After midnight the show featured performances taped earlier that night in Hollywood, California. Little did Clark know, that signature count down of his would become synonymous with New Year's Eve for countless American families.

For the next 40 years Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve went on unimpeded, with only two exceptions. The first was in 1999, when the show was preempted

by ABC 2000 Today, in observance of the new millennium.

Even then, Peter Jennings, who hosted the telecast, threw to Clark in Times Square at midnight for Clark's signature count down.

In 2004, Clark, 75, suffered a stroke, which was at the time expected to be mild at best.

As New Year's Eve approached, however, it was announced that Clark would not be in any fit condition to host the special that year. Regis Philbin hosted the show in Clark's place.

Clark returned to the show in 2006 alongside Ryan Seacrest, and Seacrest has assisted Clark in hosting the show ever since.

Since his stroke, speech has been a struggle for Clark, but it had been improving since his return to television in 2006. His difficulties speaking never stopped him from continuing to perform his memorable New Year's Eve count down, however.

Dick Clark's legacy will stand the test of time among the greats in the world of entertainment. Clark's efforts shaped a

movement in the 60's, created a Holiday mainstay in the 70's, and provided a wealth of entertainment for gameshow fanatics in the 80's. His accomplishments include his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, four Emmy Awards, a daytime Emmy Lifetime Achievement award, and his own place in the National Radio Hall of Fame and Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame.

At the peak of Clark's popularity, rock 'n' roll pioneer Hank Ballard wrote, Clark was "the biggest thing in America at that time. He was bigger than the President."

Shortly after news of Clark's passing broke, President Barack Obama issued a statement praising Clark's accomplishments. "But more important than his ground breaking achievements was the way he made us feel - as young and vibrant and optimistic as he was," the President wrote.

His accomplishments are innumerable, and though health issues hampered the final few years of his life, America will always remember its "Oldest Teenager."

Pablo Albaron brings flavor to "Spanish" music scene

GABBY GARCIA
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Although many do not have that interest in Spanish music, Pablo Albaron brings to us a new Spanish spice in the music scene. Albaron, born in Malaga, Spain, devoted himself to music since he was just a teenager, and now at 22, he impressively brought the attention to many Latin Americans all over the world.

Albaron's first album was released February 1st, 2011 in Spain. With this album, Albaron was nominated for three Latin Grammy Awards and stayed for 15 weeks at #1 for best selling records and achieved platinum status.

Currently, Pablo Albaron



remains Spanish Artist of the Year. Although he has created fans slowly through every gig or show in small cities, he has created a large amount of admirers with his first single "Solamente Tu". Before he had released this single, he traveled around Spain with a guitar playing at venues for the support he needed to continue with his en-

thusiasm and passion for music.

Many of his supporters came through the Internet, using YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Tuenti to follow him and lead him to success.

"The internet has had everything to do with my success," Albaron says, "but more than the internet, it's the peo-

ple behind each computer."

With this great amount of encouragement by his fans, and of course his unique songs, he has been nominated to Latin America's Best New Artist, Best Male Pop Vocal Album, and Song of the Year. His music has been heard internationally releasing albums all over the world including the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, and Colombia amongst other countries.

Pablo Albaron's music genre mixes the Latin pop sound with "kind of odd sounds; to experiment", said Albaron. What he mainly focuses of his music is based on, "love and heart-breaking," explained Albaron.

"I like to write in a straightforward manner aiming to convey what I think," Albaron says.

With this, he tries to show people and involve them to make those songs their own, in a way that they can relate to them.

In this album, that he actually wrote a few years before, he hints a bit of classical singing, piano, and guitar. By integrating many sounds to his songs, he hopes to bring more people into interest to his music.

With the popular song from his first single album "Solamente Tu", he produced over 9 million views. Yet he still hopes to reach out to people into listening to his music and come into more support.

Pablo Albaron has revealed that hard work pays off, and with his rapid fan base population through Internet, he demonstrates that he is a dedicated music artist.