



# El Rodeo



El Rancho High School - Volume 57 - Issue 8  
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## City of Pico Rivera Honors ER Soccer Team



**City Hall:** The Pico Rivera City Council recognized the boys soccer team for their outstanding season and third league title in a row. Senior forward Caesar Roldan received special recognition.

By REBECCA ROBLES  
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On Monday March 23, the city of Pico Rivera honored the boys soccer team for a successful season and Del Rio League Championship. The boys were recognized at a city hall meeting and received certificates.

The team finished this past season with an overall record of 16-3-4, making it to the second round of the CIF playoffs. It was the third year in a

row and seventh out of the last nine that the team won the Del Rio League title. Also, this year is the second year that they finished undefeated in league play.

The Whittier Daily News regarded the soccer team as one of the top ranked teams in the area and had numerous players that gained recognition for their outstanding play.

Councilmember and teacher Gregory Salcido addressed the team at the city hall meeting and said, "I am very

proud of the program, not only are they successful on the field but great young men off the field as well." Salcido credited the coaches for having worked so hard to try and teach the boys how to win, but more importantly on how to be respected.

Senior forward Caesar Roldan received a special plaque by the city council for his achievements on the field and being named the team's Most Valuable Player. Roldan has been a member on the var-

sity team for three years and has gained a lot of attention this year when he switched positions from goalie to forward. Roldan ended up as the team's second leading scorer.

Roldan said, "I hoped that the team would have gone farther, but I am happy with the success of the past season and the great times we had."

Coaches Dominic Picon, Gerardo Correa, and Daniel Diaz were also recognized at the event. Coach Picon said, "This was a successful season, led by a special senior class, they have been the most successful senior class during my time at El Rancho." Picon also said that the team was "a lot of fun to be around" and was proud of the fact that most of them "will go on and continue their education at four-year universities."

The returning players hope to continue their success next year. The team has the Del Rio League MVP and Defensive Player of the Year in Junior Midfielder Ruben Olivares and Junior Defender Dorian Puentes. Olivares said, "Playing for El Rancho feels good because we play as a team and expect to win every time we play."

They will be helped by many players from the Junior Varsity who also won a league title and are eager to do it at the varsity level.

Senior Jerry Laureano said, "I hope the team wins CIF next year. Also, I hope to return and support them."



## Obama Visits the Southland

By STEPHANIE PENA  
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many presidents of the United States have used California as their refuge from all the stress of Washington, D.C. but President Barack Obama's visit to California was anything but a refuge from the problems facing him in the White House.

President Obama arrived at the Long Beach Airport Wednesday afternoon and headed to the Orange County Fairgrounds where he held a town-hall meeting. The conference focused on the economic crisis that has greatly affected the state of California and its citizens.

Due to the recession's effects, such as the housing meltdown and double digit unemployment, California is currently undergoing strong setbacks. As a result, California has the highest growing population that is fleeing the state.

The biggest questions of the meeting were, "How are you going to fix our economic crisis?" and "How will the people responsible for the AIG situation be held accountable for their actions?"

President Obama was well-equipped to answer these questions and the attendees appeared to be satisfied with the presidents responses.

Then, he visited the Vehicle Electronics Manufacturing Plant in Pomona for a private tour.

The Presidents next stop was on Thursday at the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex near downtown Los Angeles where he held yet another town-hall style meeting. Regarding the meeting in Orange county tickets were only available to the public through an online lottery.

Later that night Barack Obama made a live appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, therefore being the first president to appear on a primetime talk show. Leno and President Obama joked about sports and other topics but when it came to the economic crisis, the Tonight Show because of Leno's witty banter, gave President Obama the opportunity to talk about a major crisis in a different platform.

With days consisting of meetings and conferences, Obama's three-day trip was far from an escape from the White House's problems.

## School Lunch Programs Need Bailout

STEPHANIE PENA  
 EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

In the El Rancho Unified School district there could be cuts in the school meal programs before the end of the year.

The national school meal programs are not funded by the general funds given to the schools but by a separate fund used only for the school meals. The federal funds pay \$2.15 to \$2.50 for every school meal and the state funding pays 21 cents for every meal while the total cost of each meal is three dollars.

"The state does not give enough money for the school meals," said a representative of Arlene Cantor, an assembly member, "Therefore a new bill is in the process of being passed."

AB 95, the new bill, will provide the funds for the meal programs to be continued in the schools.

Also, a new plan, Universal Feeding, Prohibition 2 will give schools the opportu-

nity to eliminate the reduced lunches so that all students (if they qualify for free or reduced) will receive free lunches.

"There was an increase of 12% in the number of students who requested free or reduced lunches in this school year," said Elizabeth Madrano, a representative for the bill and new universal feeding plan.

"With this new increase the state has been blaming students and families for the lack of funds in the meal program but really we cannot be blaming the people of the population for mistakes that the state of California has made," she added.

If the bill is passed then the school meals will continue to go on as they have been, with the same quality of food been served but if the bill is not passed then the quality of the food will decrease.

The representative for Arlene Cantor said, "We would have to make cuts in the program if the bill is not passed such as fewer entrées, no more



fresh fruit, things like that." The bill would not be a permanent fix though to the lack of funds problem because it would only provide money for this school year's meal pro-

gram but it would still be a fix. Elizabeth Madrano said, "We need more advocates for our students and hopefully in this way the meal programs problem will be fixed."



# CAMPUS

## Ace of cakes, Creating Art Out of Eggs and Flour

BY LIZBETH ALCALA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Some people love food, others love TV, so why not tune in the food network channel? If you haven't seen any of the shows you are missing out.

It's not just about how to prepare food and how to cook like a professional chef, it's more than that-its entertainment too. The food network has some really cool shows like *Ace of Cakes*, *Diners Drive-ins*, and *Food Detectives*.

The food network airs a show called *Ace of Cakes*. You're probably wondering, "what the heck is that?" "What's the big deal? They just make cakes.



Duff Goldman owner of *Ace of Cakes* and host of the show

Anyone can do that." Well, not exactly. *Ace of Cakes* is a reality show that of course they make cake but they are not your everyday cakes; some even look like they wouldn't be cakes.

Duff Goldman, owner of *Charm City Cakes*, is not your typical chef. He went to culinary school and after that he decided to make cakes his own way. He runs this crazy bakery some where in Baltimore with his amazing crew who happen to be his friends. This is a great show to watch on the food network it is funny and you might get amazed by his cakes.

Another great show to watch on the food network is *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*. This show is about Guy Fieri who goes on the road looking around for the best place to eat in the town he happens to be visiting. Fieri just doesn't just talk about the place, he works with the peo-

ple in the dinner which lets you see how the food is prepared.

Ever wonder how you get gum off your hair if it ever happened? Or what kills a brain freeze? Then *Food Detective* is a show to watch. This show can be interesting. It's a food science show so if you love science you might want to tune in.

Ted Allen, the host of *Food Detective*, also offers information that may be useful later on in life such as the perfect remedy for getting sticky gum out of hair.

These are some of the shows that are on the food network. So next time your flipping through the channels, tune in to the Food Network Channel.

## ASB Puts on 80's Sadies Spectacular

BY REBECCA ROBLES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

A blast from the past, Eighties Sadies was a "new wave" hit among all the party-goers on March 20 in the El Rancho Gym. Promptly at 8:00 p.m. students were in line and ready to dance the night away. Students were dressed in bright neon colors, spandex, and 80's style accessories.

Senior Desirae Gamboa said, "Dressing up like we were in the 1980's was really fun. I hope the school dances have more theme dances that give students the opportunity to dress up in clothes from others eras."

The upbeat 80's music such as "Brick House" by the Commodores, "I Ran" by the Flock of Seagulls, and "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper brought the crowd in jumping.

Senior Marvin Barajas and Senior Jennifer Pineros walked onto the dance floor; Barajas was wearing a leather jacket and tight spandex pants and Pineros was wearing a flattering blue dress with a black belt to accent the occasion. Barajas said, "Oh the music was pretty good...finally." The two students took a picture and then hit the dance floor.



Seniors Jaclyn Spencer and Letty Hernandez rocked the 80's look.

At the back of the gym "Pret-ty in Pink" played on a projector and free caricatures were offered to anyone who wanted to wait in line. Both the movie and caricatures were a great addition to the

school dances and many people hope the new tradition continues.

Senior Chris Neely attended Sadie Hawkins with friends and the dance was "far more" fun than he had expected. Neely said, "The theme was way better than that of the prior years."

The decor included balloons, streamers, posters, and records that hung about the gym giving the room a feeling taking students back to their parent's days.

The Drama Department had a marriage booth set up with a reverend and witnesses. All night couples were getting married and rings were being slipped on fingers. After each ceremony the Drama Department would wish the happy couples off with the phrase, "Winner, winner, chicken dinner."

About mid-way through the night there was a spectacular performance by the Choraleers. Senior Lucy Vargas received special applause when she took the mike.

Senior Genesse Carillo said, "I was surprised how many people got into it. I ran into about a dozen fellow Madonnas and another ten Reverend Runs."

All in all Sadies was a hit; the music fit the scene and the students dressed for the occasion.



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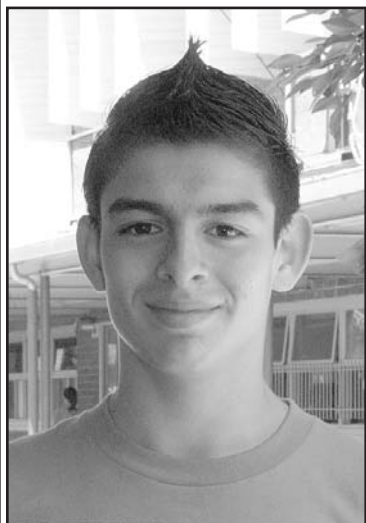
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## WORD ON THE STREET What Are You Doing for Spring Break?



"I'm just going to go the beach and skating"- Freshman Hishal Faiz.



"Running, going to the beach, Six Flags, track meets, and doing absolutely no homework (Junior Team)."- Junior Daniel Herrera



"I am going to play basketball"- Sophomore Anthony Pacheco



"Hoping to go to my uncle's ranch in Bakersfield to ride quads and get more scars."- Senior Jessica Garcia



## OPINION

## Yes, We're Still Talking About This

BY CORRINE GARCIA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Appearing on "The Tonight Show," President Barack Obama unintentionally ignited unnecessary and rather dramatic reactions toward a harmless comment.

To be exact, as talk-show host Jay Leno and President Obama jokingly conversed about the President's bowling skills (or lack thereof), Obama admitted that he recently "bowled a 129." Due to the fact that a score of 129 does not indicate superb bowling dexterity, Leno and the accompanying crowd immediately began cheering sarcastically.

Obama quickly recognized the mocking aspect of Leno's and the audience's applause and commented, "this is like the special olympics or something." His remark, though clearly a response to the show's humorous atmosphere, immediately prompted much controversy and excessive media attention.

While most television viewers and political figures

blindly believe that the President compared his poor bowling abilities to those of Special Olympic participants, Obama was actually comparing Leno's sarcastic "Good Job" congratulations to society's sympathetic attitude toward the disabled.

Though demonstrating compassion toward those with disabilities is completely understandable, Obama's "Special Olympic" comment pertained quite well to Leno's good-humored, yet patronizing applause.

Additionally, as many critics feel that Obama's remark was a "put down to people with special needs," the President's comment was certainly not intended to degrade the disabled.

Sure, Barack Obama might occupy one of the most revered titles in the nation, but he is also human! With that said, many Americans need to seriously relax and focus their concentration on real issues.

However, Obama quickly realized his comment's "inappropriate" qualities and later apologized before the show



The Tonight Show: President Obama joking with talk-show host Jay Leno about his bowling skills.

aired to the Special Olympic Board Chairman, Tim Shriver. Further expressing his concern, the President also told Shriver that he wants to invite "some Special Olympic competitors over to the White House for basketball or bowling."

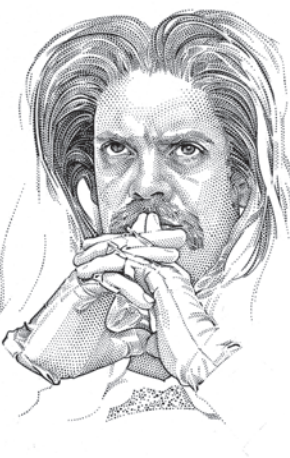
In all, Obama's attempt at humor was surely not the wis-

est remark, as it appeared on one of the nation's most widely viewed television shows, but the President avoided excuses and accepted responsibility for his blunder—actions that many people often fail to execute.

Frankly stated, critics need to stop focusing on Obama's political gaffe and

possibly take on a new hobby, as they have definitely devoted too much time and superfluous attention toward this comparatively minute predicament. With the country's current recession as well as various other paramount concerns, the President obviously has larger issues to address.

DEAR  
White Gold



MILKITASTICAL MUSINGS  
ON LIFE, LOVE, AND ROCKING  
THE WORLD'S FACE

**Dear White Gold,**  
**How do I get the attention**  
**of a girl who doesn't know**  
**I exist?**

Bryan Houlette  
St. Ignatius High School  
Culver City, CA

Dear Bryan,

First things first: you sure you're not a ghost? Seriously. I mean, it can happen to the best of us. Did you see that movie about the psychiatrist and the short dude who could see dead people? That is one scary piece of business I'll only watch when the sun is out. It's bonkers, bro.

The best advice I can give is something that's sewn on the underside of my sleep mask: focus on being the best you you can be. And that just means be yourself. Think good thoughts. If you feel stress coming on, get a good workout in and drink some chocoloco milk to rebuild those bodacious biceps. If this object of your affection is meant to dial your digits, it will happen in its own time. It's a rule that applies not only to the ladies but also the musics. You think I wrote "Is It Me, Or Do You Love My Hair?" by stressing over every single note and syllable? Check the lyrics. That was 100% inspiration, 0% perspiration. It came to me when I wasn't even ready for it (I was playing tennis).

So chill it, skillet. Be yourself, stay strong, and make an immediate investment in the institution with the highest rate of return: the Bank of Bryan.

Dairy-o,  
White Gold

**Dear White Gold,**  
**Is copying someone else's**  
**homework really cheating?**  
**I mean, it's not like it's a test.**

Paul Charney  
South San Francisco Polytech  
South San Francisco, CA

Newsflash, Paulio: copying someone's homework is a test. It's a moral test. An examination of your own character. And, my brother, I'm sorry to say that on this test you get a "D" for "Dude, you know better."

Here's the thing: once the cheating starts, where does it stop? It's a slippery slope from copying someone's homework to writing answers on your sneakers to taking credit for inventing hot yoga. I should know.

I once stole the melody from Switzerland's national anthem for a single I recorded before becoming White Gold ("Hail to the Cheese" from my *Shades of Brown* album). Stealing doesn't make you stronger, it just leaves you bankrupt, and in more ways than one (I still send most of my record royalties to the Swiss government). Is taking the easy way out really worth looking ridiculous, being wrong *and* losing a friend? It's better to put your own honest self forward, warts and all. (Although, warts are more a figure of speech here, considering I have flawless skin thanks to the homemade milk masks I apply every night before bedtime.)

The point is just to find your own notes and rip 'em at max volume, maestro. And always remember that in life the path that is most rocktastical is the path that's the easiest to follow: your own.

Respectfully,  
White Gold

**Dear White Gold,**  
**My boyfriend and I can never**  
**get any alone time together.**  
**No matter where we are or**  
**what we're doing, he's always**  
**getting calls or texts from his**  
**"boys," who are usually work-**  
**ing out or playing soccer or**  
**doing squats or getting hair-**  
**cuts. It's so annoying. I try to**  
**make him focus on me and**  
**not pick up his phone all the**  
**time, but it never works. He**  
**even took two calls during my**  
**cat Tugboat's funeral. I love**  
**him, but there's gotta be some**  
**limits. Am I nagging, or is he**  
**just plain wrong?**

Ashley Weber  
Golden Gate High School  
Mill Valley, CA

Both.

"Dear White Gold..." is America's most popular advice column syndicated for student newspapers, created by an adult rock-and-roll singer who plays a milk-filled guitar. E-mail your questions to help@whitegoldiswhitegold.com and learn more about White Gold at WhiteGoldisWhiteGold.com.

got milk?



# FEATURES



## White Finds Time to Bust a Rhyme

By JENNIFER FLORES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Talent is one characteristic that El Rancho is definitely not lacking. Along with proposing the Alaska/Three-peat schedule for next year, Mr. White can also bust a few rhymes. You're probably wondering how Trigonometry/Algebra 2 and rapping go together. Well it's part of Mr. White's outgoing

personality.

This whole rap interest derived from a couple of people that had an influence on his life. Mr. White's first source of inspiration was his father, Sheldon White. His father was a poet and wrote over 200 poems, many of which appeared in LA Times. White enjoys making up his own lyrics to songs, as well as raps; however, his raps aren't made up on the spot.

He likes to write beforehand and recite them to his students.

Another person that influenced White was Russell Tyrone Jones, also known as ODB, a former member of a well-known East Coast hip-hop band, Wu-Tang Clan.

In 1997, both ODB and Mr. White were staying at the same hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Visiting for a statistics seminar, White heard loud mu-

sic and partying from another guest staying on the same floor.

Hesteppedoutofhisroomto see who was causing all the noise.

To White's surprise, it was ODB and a few groupies that were partying.

White introduced himself to ODB and said, "I want to ask you about rap music." ODB replied, "Let's take a walk."

Although appearing to be intoxicated, ODB

left the hotel so that he and White could take a walk.

They walked down a street near a hotel. White asked ODB if rap is spontaneous and unrehearsed. According to Mr. White, ODB replied, "Any good rap artist ought to be able to give a 4 bar rap on any topic unrehearsed."

That is something that White said he will always remember. "Talking to ODB was a kick," he noted. According to Efrain Martinez, Senior and former student of White, "It was surprising to discover Mr. White's skills. He has potential."

White mentioned how slang words interest and fascinate him. Slang words help portray a certain expression that other words do not.

"What I enjoy most about rap is that it provides a way of connecting my generation to the generation of today," said White.

### White Rap

"I came to the Ranch cuz they don't do much walkin'  
But 5 years down the road it's bell change they're talkin'  
I had in my pocket an agenda that's rockin'  
They use it where the kids get to school by toboggan

The Three Peat Alaska is the popular selection  
And 3 days a week, you go a new direction  
But if you work hard and your brain, well, you flex it  
Other kids will watch you make the cool early exit."

-Mr. White

## Rojas Gets Back to Bass-ics

By JENNEA MORAN  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Many students see their teachers as just teachers. We forget that they're actual people who have their own lives and hidden talents.

Mr. Rojas is a well-known bass player. He started playing at the age sixteen. His very first instrument was the guitar but, it didn't attract his attention as much as the bass did.

Mr. Rojas attended Sierra High School which closed down in 1979. He also attended Cal State University L.A for history and social science while also attending Azusa Pacific for a master in Clinical Psychology.

He started getting noticed when his friend needed a bass player for a group.

Mr. Rojas loves playing the Sadowsky a 5-string bass because it makes a better sound and it is made very well. "It's better than any bass I have ever played," said Mr. Rojas.

He has played various venues, such as churches,

bands, clubs, dinner theaters and corporate events. Mr. Rojas said, "It's the cross-section between harmony and the rhythm of the band, so you're at the center of everything."

His inspirations were Larry Graham, Stanley Clarke, Jaco Pastorius and several other famous musicians. The one player that got his attention was a bass player from Chicago named Pete Cetera. His initial foray was the accordion, but soon made his way to the electric bass.

Mr. Rojas owns three electric basses and one stand-up bass. His most expensive bass cost him \$2900 and the least expensive one cost him \$2500.

He buys them from manufacturers and private builders because of the quality, and he prefers purchasing them there.

He believes that there are, "Not enough good bass players that know how to read music." Although he enjoys his teaching career, his passion remains playing his bass.



Longtime El Rancho psychology and sociology teacher, Mr. Rojas has a passion for playing the bass.



## FEATURES

# Mr. Anderson and The 139th Street Quartet

By JONATHAN RUIZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Since 1971, History/ Team teacher Mr. Anderson has finally reached that point of retirement. You might ask, "what is so interesting about him?" Well this man has had a thirty-eight year teaching career, has participated in Barbershop Quartets, and has provided the campus with both a sports and a decathlon club.

"I have been in quartets for the last forty something years. Most recently I was with a group called The 139<sup>th</sup> St. Quartet. We still do some shows once in a while," said Anderson.

Anderson grew up listening to classical music (which he still listens to today and teaches to his team class), but mainly he grew up listening to rock music like The Beatles.

"I started singing in a Barbershop Quartet when I was in high school, and part of a group called the Ensemble. Its basically like the Choraleers here on campus," said Anderson.

Once he went to college he still participated in the quartets. He joined a quartet of older members and of which he was the youngest member (at the age of nineteen).

With the 139<sup>th</sup> St. Quartet, he had great success. "We were fortunate enough to have been in most of the fifty states, done a couple of Cheers, and sung Nile Diamond Christmas songs."

After one has done his chapter, he can meet people and form a quartet. "Our quartet was actu-



**139th Street Quartet:** In the 1990's Mr. Anderson and the 139th Street Quartet pose after participating in the popular show of the nineteen-eighties and the beginning of the nineteen-nineties, Cheers.

ally started by our lead (the one who sings) and myself. When we started the quartet we were looking for two more guys, and we found two guys that had just gotten out of a quartet just like us."

While involved in quarters, this history teacher has played shows in New York's Carnegie

Hall and some shows in Europe.

Although he started off as a history teacher, he also coached the Water Polo team with Mr. Dyson. He coached the Water Polo team for eleven years and in 1979 began teaching honors team with Mr. McMullen for the next thirty years.

In 1981, Mr. Dyson and Mr. Anderson brought the Boy's Volleyball team to El Rancho. Also, in 1982 both he and Mr. Dyson established the first Academic Decathlon Team at the Ranch.

You can say that he is an amazingly hardworking man because of what he has done and

brought to El Rancho. Aside from all this, he also has other hobbies such as collecting baseball cards from the fifties.

Mr. Anderson has been happily married for thirty-five years, and their son, surprisingly, teaches U.S. History and coaches Water polo at a high school in Denver.

## Para Keeps the Beat with Several Bands

By ARACELI AGUILA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Digital Photography/Imaging may be his main forte, but Mr. Parra also has a strong passion for music. Playing music since he was 16 years old, Parra has been in about 10 bands. His latest two: Beat'n and Niño Perdido.

Mr. Parra has always liked the rock-n-roll music scene. Growing up, he listened to bands such as Led Zepelin, Peter Gabriel, and U2.

A few years after high school, he started his first band with a friend. For two years he and his friend met everyday to write music. They eventually wrote over 100 songs. "It was sort of a competition between us," said Parra, "We would share each others' songs and learn off of each other. This is what improved my song-writing skills."

Most songs he writes are about his own life. "I don't write about politics or anything like that; I write about more personal topics, such as my own experiences," he said.

Mr. Parra has been playing with both bands for about a year. Due to his affiliation with both of the bands' drummers, he landed a spot with each group. "I helped put together Beat'n



**Beat'n:** Digital Animation teacher Mr. Parra plays the guitar with one of his band's Beat'n in the Los Angeles area.

and joined as a guitar player for Niño Perdido," said Parra.

Parra plays guitar for both bands, but also has other music hobbies. "I see myself more as a

songwriter," he said. Even with his busy schedule Parra still rehearses with his bands twice a week.

His favorite part of being in a band is playing live, "Being

on stage always gets me nervous, but it's exciting," he said. Most shows he plays are local ones around the Los Angeles Area.

Some of Para's students find

this side of their teacher quite interesting. "It's something that you normally don't expect from teachers," said senior Josh Fresquez. "It's cool to know he's passionate about music-good music at that."

Music and art are Mr. Parra's main preferences. Because of this he has found a way to incorporate both and has shown how his digital skills are a plus in the music scene. "It helps out when you're in band," said Parra. "I've created the album cover for the band (Beat'n) and make occasional flyers for upcoming shows."

With all of this, Mr. Parra hopes to accomplish a lot with his bands: "I want people to really listen to our music, and enjoy us enough that one day we may be able to tour around the U.S.," said Parra.

He also gave advice for other upcoming bands. "Just start a band, practice and never give up," said Parra, "play for rich or poor, because it's not about the money; it's about having fun and making music."

Beat'n's music is mostly hard rock with a mixture of experimental aspects. Their music and upcoming shows can be found at [www.myspace.com/beat39n](http://www.myspace.com/beat39n).

Niño Perdido's plays mostly Spanish Rock with a unique sound compared to other bands. Their music and shows can be found at [www.myspace.com/perdido07](http://www.myspace.com/perdido07).



## SPORTS

## Track and Field Opens Season With a Victory



BY DONALD RAMOS

The Track and Field team started their season with a victory over Pioneer.

BY DONALD RAMOS  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The track and field team started off strong this season with a win over Pioneer. Their last meet was against Pioneer and it went well with the track team dominating. With a strong array of key players ranging from short and long distance running, hurdling, triple and high jumps, and throwing the team seem headed in the right direction.

They have a long way to go no doubt, but with their current hard work and determination, they will become a formidable force. The team is also very confident they will win league this year. Junior Daniel Herrera is a key player to his team and is confident about this season. "I am very confident that we will give La Serna a run for the title after a disappointing loss last year. We have really strong runners, jumpers, and field athletes. I know as a distance squad we are prepared to race any team in league," said Herrera.

Junior James Arredondo, in Var long distance said, "So far we are doing good but some more time wouldn't hurt. The team can still improve but we are good right now." Daniel Herrera acknowledged his teammates and said; "I feel that the team is in good shape right now. Also, I know that each section has some big goals and legit athletes, such as Tate Harshbarger in the Hurdles, Gerry and Daniel King in the sprints, a few jumpers, throwers, and the distance team. To further prepare, it's just a matter of training hard every day."

All the El Rancho track team has to do now is wait and see how well they will perform in future track meets.

## Varsity Softball Remains Optimistic

BY OSCAR BECERRA  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On March 28, 2009, the Varsity Softball Team came up short against Savanna and Loara High School at the Savanna Tournament. The games ended with scores of 6-2 and 4-2.

Despite their 1-8 record this season, the team has been working hard and has been preparing to make playoffs this year.

Senior Bernadett Leggis, captain and catcher of the Varsity Softball Team, is a key player who blocks every ball behind the plate and adds to the team's offense with clutch hits. "We have been preparing for games by working on stopping errors and trying to unite as a team," said Leggis.

Varsity Coach Senteno also had some words to say about this season, "Our team has been play-



BY OSCAR BECERRA

Catcher Senior Bernadett Leggis, prepares to strike out the competition. Even though the season has been rough, the team's hopes are still strong.

ing tough opponents this season in order to get ready for league play. Although our record so far does not reflect the capability of our team right now, I am confident that we will bring it together in order to make playoffs this year."

Senior Marilyn Toriz, captain and centerfielder of the team, covers a lot of area in the outfield and uses her speed on the bases. "My expectations of the team are to win league and go to CIF," said Toriz.

"Despite our eight losses, these girls work hard and are not ready to give up," said Coach Senteno.

Yesterday the Softball team played in the Savanna Tournament and result are posted in the activities office.

Today they will play in the Savanna Tournament again. and result will be available

## Tennis Gets Four Wins in Singles

BY JONATHAN JIMENEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

On March 24, 2009, the Varsity Tennis Team began their season with great serves that gave them win over their biggest competition in league, La Serna

Their win has given the team the confidence they need to motivate them onto a Del Rio League Championship.

"Throughout pre-season we played tough schools, and many players were absent from their pre-season games so they were not with their usual partners. The team finally got it together in our

first league game. Doubles swept La Serna and Gerardo Laureano, Mark Santana, and Efran Lara pulled out 4 sets in singles. We should be successful in league," said Varsity Coach Ms. Lippstreu.

Based on the team's first league win, the team seems to be confident in their future games as they continue to prepare for what lies ahead. Junior Leo Altamirano said, "We practice everyday and mentally prepare ourselves to get better."

"I expect and hope some people make it to CIF and we win most of our league games," said Altamirano. When asked

how confident he was in the team Altamirano said, "I feel confident enough that we will win most of our games and move forward to become one of the top teams in the league."

"There is always room for improvement," said Altamirano, "we can learn from our mistakes and help each other out so we can become better."

Although the tennis team has done well, it does not mean that they are the best and that other teams are not getting better. Because the tennis team wishes to succeed, they continue to strive for what they wish to achieve.

## Baseball Team Pulls Even in League

BY BRANDON DIAZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

The Baseball Team started off Del Rio League with two tough losses to La Serna and Cal High. Then, on Monday the Dons faced La Serna and lost 14-5. "We had a lot of mental and physical errors," said Junior Adrian Sanchez. Fellow Teammate Roland Hernandez says, "We weren't prepared and came out flat." They put forth a good effort but it wasn't enough to pull off a win.

The next opponent for the Dons was Cal High. The Dons fell short in a 12-0 loss. They had

various mistakes and it handed the Dons their second loss in league. "We didn't come out with our full 100% effort like we should have," said Hernandez. After two tough losses, the Dons came out with a victory of 4-2 over the Santa Fe. Santa Fe who is also 1-3 in league, are now tied for 5<sup>th</sup> place with the Dons. "As a team we felt happier about ourselves and this win brought us back together as a team," says Hernandez.

On Wednesday the Dons faced Whittier, who is looking to get their 3rd win. The Dons came out with an explosive victory of 11-2 and are now tied for

3rd place with Whittier. Hernandez says, "Our team chemistry is improving and it should help us out for the rest of the season" The Dons are preparing for their next game on Friday against Pioneer who is looking for their first league victory.

Leading the league with a perfect record of 4-0 is La Serna who is looking for their next win against Cal High on Friday who is currently 3-1 in league. Although the Dons are tied for 3rd, they are training hard to improve their weaknesses and take every game one at a time.

## Boys Volleyball Defeats Cal High 3-0

BY JOSUE SALAZAR  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

After the Boys Varsity defeated St. Paul 3-0, The Dons had three tough losses against South Pasadena, Gabrielino, and Downey.

The Dons crushed on Cal High for their first league game of the season; Gabriel Franco came out strong with 14 kills, follow by Adrian Huerta with 13 kills, which now leaves the Dons 4-4 in season.

"The team is a very good team, with a lot of talent. My goals for next year is to improve

all around, I want to motivate the team so we won't have no distractions in winning league, we need to work together and communicate more, because were a family", says Adrian Huerta.

"We are going to be undefeated in league, because we have the kind of team to produce a season like that, we had a couple of losses but were not going to mess up no more, were just going to win, win, and win until were league champions", says Anthony Ayala.

There next opponent in league will be vs. Pioneer at El Rancho.



BY JOSUE SALAZAR

Senior Carlos Estrada sharpens his volleyball skills before the game.

## Swim Team Sets High Standards

BY GUADALUPE MARTINEZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Opening the official league season for swimming, the Swim Team was victorious against Cal High. With a record of 1 to 0 (boys and girls varsity), the team feels confident and hopeful of becoming League Champions.

Amid the team's triumph was one memorable achievement. Senior Michael Neevenhoven broke the school record time of 55.20 seconds for the 100-meter fly. The new record that Neevenhoven set is 54.85 seconds.

Elated by his achievement, Neevenhoven said, "After 4 years on Varsity and working my [butt] off, I feel great!" The team is proud and jovial for Neevenhoven. "I knew that one day he would set a school record and we're all very proud of him," said Junior Isela Aguirre.

"The swim team works extremely hard to improve themselves, and hopefully we will make it to league finals...I hope we have as many people possible make it to CIF," said Junior Abigail Martinez.

The swim team practices six days a week for two hours in order to prepare for the challenges to come. "We are all trying our best to improve our technique and I know Coach Pringle expects us to do our best," said Aguirre.

"I feel as though we need to work harder and improve ourselves for our toughest competition, La Serna" said Aguirre. "La Serna has many club swimmers on their team and they're all very good, so I think we need to prepare ourselves as best as we can and just try our best," said Martinez.

After their first swim meet, the team holds strong aspirations of having swimmers qualify for CIF and winning the league title. Yesterday, the team played Pioneer High School and the results are posted in the activities office.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Slumdog Millionaire: The Slumdog Has Risen

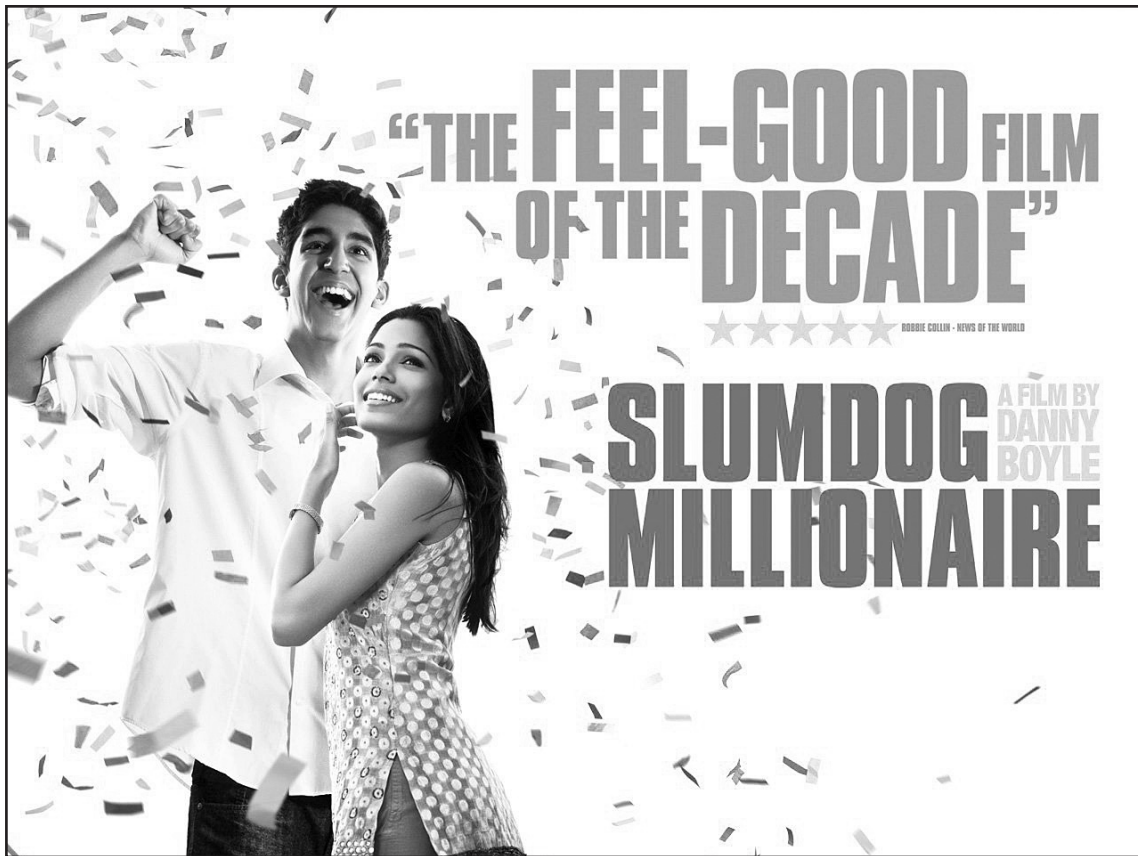
BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Movies have the power to make us laugh, cry, and think. We can travel to Neverland with Peter Pan or take a journey with a pregnant teenager as she tries to find out the meaning of love. Movies give us a glimpse into a world of friendship, love, and even anger.

In the film *Slumdog Millionaire*, the audience travels to Mumbai, India to further understand the meaning of love, destiny and determination. It is there that we meet eighteen-year-old Jamal Malik as he attempts to answer the final question on the Indian version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?"

Seeing as he comes from the slums of Mumbai, the host tips off the police and Jamal is further questioned concerning how a simple slumdog could possibly know the answers to questions no one else knew. Jamal explains that he has flashbacks from his childhood that help him with the questions asked on the show.

The answer to the first question he answered correctly had to do with Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan. Jamal explains that when he was young Amitabh came to his hometown and after an encounter with fecal matter he was able to get the autograph he was hoping for.



As he is questioned further, it becomes clear to the police that Jamal is not in it for the money, but to find his true love Latika, whom he has not seen in quite some time. Jamal explains that he only got on the show because he was hoping she would be watching.

After the death of his mother during the anti-Muslim attacks in Mumbai he escapes the slums with his brother Salim and soon finds himself meeting Latika.

Jamal refers to him and his brother Salim as Athos and Porthos, and Latika as the third musketeer.

They were soon introduced to Maman, a gangster who at the time seems nice to the children, but is only thinking about himself and money. In fact, Jamal's brother was going to be permanently blinded just to earn him a couple of bucks. Salim grabs Jamal and they escape. Jamal loses contact with Latika af-

ter Salim purposely lets go of her hand as they are boarding a train.

They finally reunite years later when Jamal finds Latika working for Maman as a dancer. In a rescue gone bad, Salim kills Maman and the three run off. Salim claims Latika as his and when Jamal objects he is threatened. Latika tells Jamal to leave, breaking his heart.

Jamal finds himself working as a "chai-wallah" (a

young man who serves tea). And after covering for a co-worker Jamal locates his brother and meets with him. Still not fully forgiven him for taking away Latika, Jamal follows Salim to Javed's house (a crime lord). It is there that he is reunited with Latika and tells her that he will wait for her every day at the train station until she comes. On the first day Latika comes, but is captured by Javed's men. She is cut in the cheek as the car drives away.

In another attempt to reunite with Latika Jamal goes on the Indian version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" Even after a friendly encounter with the police, Jamal makes it to the final question and decides to use his Phone-a-Friend. Salim feels guilty and decides to let Latika escape from Javed's home. He gives her his car keys and his phone. Jamal uses his Phone-a-Friend and is surprised to find Latika on the other line.

*Slumdog Millionaire* is an unforgettable movie full of hope and excitement. The scenes are real and depict the lives of real children living in Mumbai. The young actors that portray Jamal, Salim and Latika live in Mumbai and were chosen by director Danny Boyle to be in the movie. This movie is filled with raw emotions. It truly deserved the eight Academy Awards.



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## ENTERTAINMENT

Talk About Not Wanting to Go to *The Office*

BY MARICRUZ CASTRO-SPENCER  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Originally a hit TV show full of laughs, *The Office* was once known for its inappropriate jokes and awkward timing, but I have come to realize that as a fan, it is no longer as funny as in the previous seasons. Is it because I'm growing up or is the show simply losing its touch?

*The Office* is a documentary-type television show that gives viewers a glimpse into a world of a small paper company, Dunder Mifflin. As of the March 19<sup>th</sup> episode, Regional Manager Michael Scott gave his two weeks notice and was ultimately forced out of the building after he tried to take a list of the company's clients.

In a twist of events, Pam Beesly (Jenna Fischer), the office receptionist quits and decides to join Michael as he plans to start his own paper company, Michael Scott Paper Company.

The remainder of the cast includes Pam's fiancé, Jim Halpert (John Krasinski), who, thanks to a prank gone wrong (he purposely wore a tux to annoy Dwight, who sent out to everyone in the office memos stating to dress appropriately), is off to a bad start with the Regional Vice President, Charles Minor (Idris Elba), Angela Martin



(Angela Kinsey), who after had a secret long time relationship with Dwight and who almost marrying Andy Bernard (Ed Helms), is now flirting her way into Charles' life, Oscar Martinez (Oscar Núñez) is an accountant who is openly gay after being publicly outed by Michael.

The rest of the office co-workers includes Ryan Howard (B.J. Novak) writer and regular on the show, Kevin Malone (Brian Baumgartner) an accountant who has a dull personality and often laughs at "dirty" type jokes, Stanley Hudson (Leslie

David Parker) a serious hard worker who loves Pretzel Day, Phyllis Lapin (Phyllis Smith) who enjoys "girl talk", Meredith Palmer (Kate Flannery) an alcoholic, Kelly Kapoor (Mindy Kaling) who is in a battle with Angela over Charles' attention, and Creed Bratton (Creed Bratton) a creepy old guy who at times doesn't remember what he does, oh and Toby Flenderson (Paul Leberstein) who is disliked by Michael.

*The Office*, which is based on the British version, was once funny, but now it seems to lack,

well, comedy. After the British version was cancelled, it seemed that the American version ran out of material to copy. Don't get me wrong, it's still funny; it's just a bit of a let down to watch a show that was once laugh out loud funny and now can only pass for a slight chuckle.

As a fan, I'm hoping that *The Office* pulls it together and finds its funny bone, and I will continue to watch to see how Michael's new paper company goes, but I will know that it is no longer as funny as it was in previous seasons.

Owen and Roberts Electrify in *Duplicity*

BY BIANCA GUTIERREZ  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Tony Gilroy's entertains with his romantic thriller, *Duplicity*, about the deception that comes along with a long-lasting relationship. This tricky tale, starring Julia Roberts and Clive Owen, tells the story of two corporate spies whose romance must endure the lies that they were forced to keep from one another.

The story begins in Dubai, where CIA agent Claire Stenwick (Roberts) and English MI6 agent Ray Koval (Owen) spend a sizzling night between the sheets. The evening ends with Stenwick drugging Koval and stealing his valuable documents. Now, five years later, both work for competing multi-industry tycoons in Manhattan. It's still high-leveled spy work, but what they are now protecting is the formula for a skin lotion rather than the billion-dollar secret they're hoping to discover.

One might ask why the two have left the spy world behind to become corporate operatives. Continuous flashbacks throughout the movie display how Koval and Stenwick reunited in Rome three years after their night in Dubai and how they met every two months following their reunion. These meetings take place in Rome, Italy; then in London, England; followed by Miami, Florida; and lastly in Cleveland, Ohio, one



year before the 'present' time.

During their last meeting, Stenwick pieces their meetings together and reveals her master plan that involves her and Koval at the finish line. Both have planned to work for competing conglomerates, so that they can steal the formula for a billion dollar product from whichever company patents the product first. After doing this, the devious couple plans to sell the patent to the foreign markets for \$35 billion and ultimately

end up rich and together.

The only problem is that the formula they have stolen is worth nothing rather than an estimated 40 billion. The formula is a phony patent, and is solely bait that Stenwick's boss has used for his revenge on Stenwick and Koval for attempting to outsmart his entire corporation. In the end, the dynamic duo learns that anyone can get outplayed, and all you really have at the finish line is each other and the love you share.

Overall, the chemistry between Robert's and Owen's characters is electrifying, but it's not clear if the electricity comes out of love or wickedness. The plot and organization of the movie is too twisted in order to discover whether or not Stenwick and Koval truly trust one another. Also, the movie's focus on the couple's deception also makes it difficult to determine if the protagonists' relationship is based on love, lust, or simply the fact that they are exactly alike.

American Idol Blog:  
Singing Their Way into  
the Spotlight

BY BRIANNA MORALES  
EL RODEO STAFF WRITER

Motown week resulted in the expected goodbye to Texas' Michael Sarver. One week later the top nine, able to choose any song that is a popular download on iTunes, took the stage. Ryan Seacrest then went on to say that there would be "something for everyone."

After Anoop Desai and Megan Joy took the stage, it was certain that the rest of the night was going to be a disaster until Danny Gokey began his rendition of "What Hurts the Most" by Rascal Flatts. Gokey managed to deliver a performance that "gave so much of [his] heart and soul."

American Idol has officially become American Wardrobe with Simon's and Randy's (both of whom do not seem to have any sense of style) harsh criticism of Allison Iraheta's outfit. Apparently, she looked like someone out of the Addam's Family with her pink corset-like dress and her spiked up red hair. Although "[her] vocals rival singers who are twice her age," her ensemble, which resembled a Halloween costume of what a "rocker" would wear "distracted from her overall performance."

A newly proclaimed front-runner, Kris Allen displayed artistry with his contemporary rendition of "Ain't No Sunshine." Allen's song "took a thirty year old song and made it so that I [Randy Jackson] am hearing it for the first time." With his new found confidence, it is certain that Kris Allen will be sailing through to the finals.

For a night where the contestants could take any popular song off of iTunes, it is interesting that only half of the songs were current ones and the others were at least thirty years old. Although Simon deemed many of the night's performances as some of the contestants' "best performances so far," the lack of unique renditions of songs by the contestants was quite disappointing.

The night resulted in the elimination of Megan Joy after her boring rendition of Bob Marley's "Urn Your Lights Down Low." After flapping her way across the stage, Megan's exit performance only solidified the reason for her elimination: this gorgeous girl cannot sing.