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El Cerrito High School Archiving Project Newsletter VIII

December 2006

Ground Breaking 2007

The sunny w eather matched the prevailing mood at El Cerrito High School on Friday, Oct. 26 as the school celebrated the beginning of construction on its new campus w ith a groundbreaking ceremony. The audience enjoyed performances by the ECHS marching and jazz bands and heard from a series of speakers that included Board of Ed President Charles Ramsey, Assoc. Superintendent of Operations Jeff Edmison, and ECHS Student Body President Josephine Ayankovya. Principal Vince Rhea served as the master of ceremonies.



Pictured: Roddy Lee, Lu Tipping, Joann Steck-Bayat, Glen Price

Bricks

Want to Buy a Brick?

Support Grad Night 2007 and be Part of ECHS Gauchó History!! You are invited to support our school and commemorate the rebuilding of El Cerrito High School by purchasing an inscribed brick that w ill adorn the new building. Surprise your child, honor a family member, memorialize a graduation, recognize a special teacher or just enjoy the sight of your name or your child's name on our new campus. Orders w ill be accepted on a first come, first served basis- do not let this opportunity pass you by! We are asking for a \$50.00 donation for each brick. Each brick can be inscribed w ith up to 3 lines of text. Each line is limited to 20 characters including spaces and punctuation. Families may buddy up and purchase a single brick



together. Text is subject to reasonable approval. For an order form or more information, contact us at echsbricks@yahoo.com or call Judy Sanders (510) 236-3989. Your donation may be tax deductible. The deadline for placing orders is January 31, 2007. Grad Night Committee 2007

[Bricks for sale](#)

Homecoming 2006

The sense of tradition was evident again this year on Homecoming Day this last October. Each class built floats to the theme of "Board Games". The Seniors did "Candyland", the Juniors did, "Monopoly Jr.", Sophomores did, "Clue" and the Freshmen did "Mousetrap". The festivities started with the traditional parade led by Grand Marshall, Mark Canepa, a 1977 graduate of El Cerrito High who has been instrumental in helping



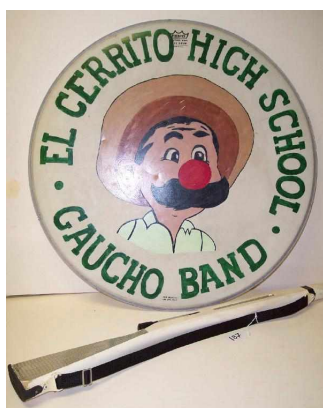
to beautify the temporary campus. The energy level kicked up a notch as the Marching Band punched out its first tune. The sidewalks were lined with many excited onlookers, among them, some of our biggest fans, the children from Harding Elementary School. A carnival-like atmosphere filled the air as the massive entourage of music and festive floats moved down the street and out of sight. At half-time that evening the floats were illuminated, adding a new dimension to the atmosphere of the event. Music pumped from each float as they slowly made their way around the track, surrounded by dancing class members. The excitement of the evening was topped off by a smashing victory for the El Cerrito High football team.

New School Construction

NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION Lathrop Construction Company was awarded the contract to build the new high school. The management team includes Seville Group Inc. and WLC Architects. The construction will involve two phases. Phase I is the building of the main school. Phase II involves the administration building and performing arts center. Drawings for Phase II are still in review by the State Department of Architecture. Excavating work continues in preparation for underground construction--utilities, drainage, etc. According to the site supervisor, construction remains on schedule. For updated information on the web, go to www.wccusd.k12.ca.us



[WCCUSD Bond Program](#)



Gaucho Marching Band

Alumni

A dozen former ECHS band members came out to enjoy the annual Gaucho Marching Band alumni event on the evening of November 3, 2006 at the final regular season home game against De Anza. The Gauchos dominated the football game, winning 53-18, and the band dominated the half time show, led by drum major, Keely Takimoto. As is tradition, alumni band members marched on to the field behind the band during their pre-game show. At the conclusion of the show, the senior band members' names were read and they fell out of the block to join the ranks of the alumni, who were lined up behind the band. The symbolism here is that even as alumni, GMB members continue to "back their band". It felt great to be back

under the lights in the cool, fall night air. At the conclusion the alumni joined ECHS music parents at a barbecue party hosted by Gregg Mayer (1976) and his wife Shoko. Alumni attendees included: Cathy (Brown) Travlos (1969), Marcia (Seim) Bossier (1974), Laurel (Davis) Bowden (1975), Karen (Sanders) Moss (1975), Gary Pieroni (1976), Robert Woodworth (1976), Pam (Davis) Bennett (1977), Kim Mayer (1977), as well as recent alums Daniel Lawson, (2006) and Ted Albro (2006). If you would like an e-mail invitation to next year's event, please send your e-mail address to Gregg Mayer at GREGG@GLMCO.COM.



Museum Help

Museum Excel Help Needed

Museum Excel Help Needed It is a time consuming and tedious job but needs to get done in preparation for the labeling of the times to be displayed in the new high school's museum. A curious, detailed person will love this job!

If you have any leads, please contact Jonan Steck-Bayat at 510 524-9464 or jsbayat@comcast.net.

Oral History Project

The Oral History Project has evolved and has a new face. It will consist of interviews with former students, teachers, administrators, parents and others associated with El Cerrito High School. These interviews will be documented by articles that will appear in future issues of the Archiving Newsletter. If you or anyone you know might be interested in being interviewed about his/her experiences at El Cerrito High School, please contact Janet Abelson at abeljanet@aol.com or 510-525-7709. We are interested in hearing about "how it was" all the way from 1941 to the present, so please let us know if you have an interesting story to share about Gaucho history. Janet Abelson

How to Donate to the ECHS Archive Project

The ECHS Archiving is in need of continuous monetary support! In addition to restoring, preserving and displaying the many artifacts that were saved from the wrecking ball, this year we were also able to give three ECHS seniors \$1000.00 scholarships for college expenses.

We would like to continue our work in the future and here is how you can help.

Just mail your check to; ECHS Archiving Project c/o Dianne Chambers 2234 Lupine Rd, Hercules, CA 94547 All donations are tax deductible.

In Memoriam

John Nules

John Nules, one of the East Bay's most respected figures in education and high school athletics over the past four-plus decades, died early Monday morning while in hospice care. He was 76. Nules began his career in 1961 as the football coach at El Cerrito High School. He succeeded Hale Roach as the Gauchos' track and field coach in 1974 and later became the school's athletic director. He also worked as a dean and vice principal at several west Contra Costa County schools during the 1980s.

He was most recently commissioner of the Bay Valley Athletic League, a position he held since 1991 before retiring this spring. He also served as an official starter for North Coast Section track and field meets for close to 30 years.

"He was one of the founding fathers of the modern North Coast Section," NCS commissioner Tom Ehrhorn said. "He was one of those pillars the section was built on. ... We've lost a dear friend. He had a profound impact on the lives of everyone he knew."

Born and raised in west Contra Costa County, Nules played football at Richmond High School and Contra Costa College. But his biggest impact came at El Cerrito, where Nules was honored at a

special ceremony before the school's buildings were torn down for renovations in May 2005. In 2000-01 he served as commissioner for both the Bay Valley and Alameda Contra Costa athletic leagues. Larry Quirico, who began coaching baseball at El Cerrito in 1970, said Nules had a major impact on his life.

"John was like an older brother to me," Quirico said. "He was my mentor, and he helped me throughout my coaching career. He helped me calm down a little when I began coaching. He was such a sweet man. He had a heart of gold." Nules' funeral was held Thursday, October 19, 2007 in Vallejo. He is survived by his wife, Kay, his two sons, Jimmy and George, and five grandchildren.

The Alumni Newsletter is starting a new column that will pass on news of alumni and staff who have passed away. Please submit any news of this nature to Editor Roddy Lee. lcp1967@aol.com.

Newsletter Subscribers

New sletter Subscribers Increasing! Hey, why not pass our new sletter on to other ECHS supporters and ask if they want to subscribe, too! Email ECarchives@aol.com to get on the distribution list!

Reunion Leaders

Contacts !!

1957, Gregovich-Brooks Eileen, eileenbrooks1@mac.com

1957, Richard Barker, gaucho1957rb@sbcglobal.net

1966, Sandy Faccini-Berry, sfbasf@pacbell.net

1967, Roddy Lee, ECHS1967@aol.com

1973, www.echs1973.com

1986, AMoorhead@ariba.com

1988, Nicole Jones, bignik69@comcast.net

1996, echsclassof1996reunion@yahoo.com

Reunion Leaders, place your contact information here, email ECarchives@aol.com

[ECHS Alumni Website](#)

Green and White Video

The Gaucho Story

The long awaited DVD edition of "GREEN & WHITE: The Gaucho Story" is planned to be released in December, 2006. This documentary video, which was first shown at the 2005 ECHS Farewell weekend, is being extended to more than twice as long, with added stories from former faculty and principals, a special message from Mr. Rhea, and footage of the Farewell Weekend and demolition of the school. For those who have not already purchased a DVD, copies will be available for \$25 each. Ordering information will be available when the video is released. Contact Joann Steck-Bayat email: jsbayat@comcast.net

El Cerrito High School Souvenirs

Commemorative T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Postcards and Mousepads. Get your official ECHS archiving gear printed with a 3-color rendering of El Cerrito High School's original campus. If you missed your opportunity to purchase a shirt during the Wrecking Ball weekend here is your second chance to collect more memories. Show up to your next reunion sporting this special t-shirt or sweatshirt. Might as well drop a postcard to your classmates saying you'll be there as well. Proudly click over your Alma Mater mousepad, or send some off to your alumni pals. Go Gauchos! All products are available at our online store. Just go to <http://www.cafepress.com/echarchiveproj> and follow the prompts! All proceeds go to the ECHS Archiving Project.

[Cafe Press](#)**Follow up
Links**

- [El Cerrito High School Online](#)
- [The New ECHS](#)
- [West Contra Costa Unified School District](#)

Executive Board

President Patricia Durham-Mitchell,'68; Vice President Renee (Havana) Stanley,'72 ; Secretary/ Alumni Coordinator, Jackie Fonken,'56; Treasurer Dianne Chambers,'69; Oral History/ Community Liaison, Janet Abelson; Consultant/ Cataloging/Museum, Joann Steck-Bayat; E-Tree and Database Manager, Roddy Lee,'67; Product Marketing , Donna Houser; Consultant/Museum/WCCUSD Strategic Planning Scholarship, Lu Tipping; Alumni Web Coordinator, Rebecca Boe; Event Site Coordinator/Alumni Coordinator, David Bilyeu,'65; PTSA Liaison Ester Hill, SAF Liaison/Music Coordinator, Gregg Mayer,'76;

El Cerrito High Archiving Project Mission Statement: Support the development of a strong El Cerrito High School alumni body - Collect, preserve and celebrate the history of El Cerrito High School - Develop connections to current students and the El Cerrito community.

email: ecarchives@aol.com

phone: 510-525-0234

w eb: <http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/elcerrito>

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