

# La Estrella

Volume 1, Issue 2

June/July 2002

## Greetings!

*Hope this newsletter edition finds you all well!*

Halfway thru another year  
Al Hinojos

Just a Quick Note: I would like to apologize for the long delays in getting back to some of the requests I have received since the first newsletter was sent out. No good excuse, just plenty of bad ones.

I hope with the starting of summer, everything is well with everyone. Any good stories to share and tell, please let me know so we can share it with others. I don't think you want to hear about my work, so I'll just mosey on to other stuff of more interest...

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## First Annual Picnic

It's official! The Sierra Vista Alumni Annual Picnic date and site has been determined.

Your reunion committee: Loree Gaskill, Anita (Romero) Roderick, Susan (Bennett) Lepokojus, Sandra (Kath) King, Linda (Tanner) Gorman, Al Hinojos, and myself have been organizing the event, which we hope you and your family will come be a part of and share in the memories.

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*Rudy Rodriguez – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade and as a Senior*

## Where are they now?

In the first newsletter I included some articles from copies of "La Estrella" I discovered in my garage a while back. I plan to share some more of the articles in the future and with some luck, and anyone who cares to help contribute, I would like to add an update on where and what the people in the articles are up to these days.

For this edition, I would like to include an article about one of the reunion committee and picnic committee members.

The first ~~victim~~ person I would like to write about is Rudy Rodriguez from the class of 1969.

Rudy is currently a science teacher at A.B. Miller High School in the Fontana Unified School District, in Fontana, CA. Fontana is located on the west side of the San Bernardino County. Previously he worked in the Bonita Unified School District (substitute teaching) and for the Covina Unified School District where he coached basketball and tennis, as well as, teaching and long term substitute teaching.

Rudy has been teaching for about 25 years. His student teaching was completed at Fullerton High

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**Picnic** *continued from page 1*

This will give you more of an opportunity to sit and visit with old friends, no formal attire, no waiting forever to be fed (you're the cook!), and no waiting in a long line to be photographed (but definitely bring your camera).

Please let us know before July 13th if you plan to attend, as we need a head count to see if we need to reserve more sheltered picnic areas. We know many of you are living too far away to make this trip, but we didn't want you to think that you were left out, as we value our friendships made at Sierra Vista and hope you can find a way (hitting the Lotto would be nice!) to make your way down and join us and your other classmates for a weekend of fun and relaxation!

You should be receiving a flier in the mail pretty soon explaining all the details. But, for right now mark your calendars, here is the information:

Cost: Free! Eat what you bring, Barbeque Grills available, (In-N-Out's nearby!).  
Date: Saturday, August 3, 2002  
Dress: Picnic Attire (August is pretty warm 90's but can get cool in the evenings after sundown)  
Time: We will be setting up at 11:00 a.m. Starts at 12 noon. Ends: ??? Lots of your friends live nearby!  
Place: Hermosa Park  
6787 Hermosa Avenue  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

For directions type in address at:  
<http://www.MapQuest.com> It is just southwest of Chaffey College. You can also check out the park on the Rancho Cucamonga park facility web site at:  
<http://www.rcpark.com/parkfacility.htm>

For more information contact me, or any of your reunion committee members listed below. Hope to see you there!

Rudy Rodriguez: [rudyrdstar@hotmail.com](mailto:rudyrdstar@hotmail.com)  
Linda Gorman: [lgorman@acslions.com](mailto:lgorman@acslions.com)  
Loree Gaskill: [loree71@yahoo.com](mailto:loree71@yahoo.com)  
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Sandra King: [Sandra.King@sce.com](mailto:Sandra.King@sce.com)  
Anita Roderick: [aroderick@janmar.com](mailto:aroderick@janmar.com)

**Rudy** *continued from page 1*

School in 1976-77 and has been teaching ever since in various capacities, sometimes under emergency credential to teach a field outside his major.

Rudy really enjoys working with students, teaching them about the basics of physics, chemistry, and astronomy. He looks forward to going to work everyday and has only missed one day of work since starting teaching and that was to attend a funeral for his grandmother. He enjoys seeing a students face light up when they understand a concept, or get to help explain a concept by participating in a demonstration. He has been called a modern day "Mr. Wizard" by a few of his vice-principals that have observed and evaluated him.



As far as what helped Rudy decide to choose his career, he says, "Once I got out of the service I had decided to go into teaching. Since I had participated in sports in high school, and had worked with young kids on the playground as a recreation leader, I decided I would try being a physical education teacher and coach.". Rudy coached for about 7 years at Northview High School in Covina, but has only taught one semester of physical education his entire teaching career, so far. He has always been asked by principals to teach in the classroom.

How long does he plan to keep teaching? "I see myself teaching until retirement. I don't see myself getting into the administration part of it. I went into teaching because I enjoy working with the students. I don't care for the politics of teaching."

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**Rudy** *Continued from page 2*

What does a science teacher do for a hobby? "My favorite hobby right now is astronomy. I am the president of the San Bernardino Valley Amateur Astronomers. We go out once a month to the desert or mountains for our star parties. I invite my students with their parents to join us whenever they can. I enjoy sharing things like galaxies, nebulae, planets, the Moon, the Sun, auroras, meteor showers, and solar eclipses, with my students and the general public." A few of Rudy's students were featured in a couple of newspaper articles, once for a lunar eclipse, another time for the 1719 meteors/hr. at the peak of the Leonid meteor shower last November, and just recently for setting up telescopes for the public on campus to view the June 10th partial annular eclipse.



If he could have known then, what he knows now, "Would I change or do anything different back then, knowing what I know now? Hard to say. Many of the things I teach are based on my experiences. I believe that makes me a better teacher. People say I have a knack for communicating with students. I believe it is because of how I would liked to have been taught. Of course I wished I would have been more studious back then, maybe I would have gone into teaching a few years earlier...who knows?"

Some thoughts from Rudy, "I believe I am doing a good job of teaching because I currently have about twenty former students that are currently teaching in the Fontana Unified School District. Four are currently teaching at A.B. Miller High School. One is teaching physics at our cross town rival school. Others are teaching at various schools throughout the district.

*Continued next column*

Three other students majored in Physics, and two of them went on to USF to become pre-med students. Two of my former students are doctors, and at least three others are working on their MD's. I was selected as Educator of the Year in only my second year at A.B. Miller. Three years ago I was named the California Region 10 Educator of the Year, and have won awards for being a top educator from various organization including: Saturn Automotive, Tandy and Radio Shack, San Bernardino County (nominee), FUSD, and an article in the Press Enterprise a couple of years ago about teachers "Doing it Right."



I still keep in contact with quite a few students from every school that I have ever taught at, some are married, and some are just getting started in their careers. A few from my first teaching experience at Fullerton High School send me email at least once every two weeks, or so. I think that it is great that many of them feel that I had an impact in their lives. I wish I could go back and thank *MY* teachers for what they did to prepare me for a teaching career."

From all us parents, thanks Rudy!!

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## Suggestions

If you have suggestions for articles and events or if there is something you would like to see as part of this newsletter and web site, please let me know. Pass this newsletter on to people you know and the address of the web site. Let's make this a good way to keep in touch!

Sierra Vista High School Alumni Web Site:  
[www.geocities.com/dbaos390/svshhomepage.html](http://www.geocities.com/dbaos390/svshhomepage.html)

## IN MEMORIAM

Please remember in passing, Dennis Frilot, Class of 69.



While attending Sierra Vista in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dennis was in C Football, C Basketball, JV Tennis and the Honor Roll. In 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, B Basketball. In 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, JV Basketball and named Most Valuable Player. In 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dennis was in Varsity Basketball, Varsity Club, and was a Homecoming Escort.

Dennis was buried at the Riverside National Cemetery.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

If anyone has an event they would like to post, there's plenty of space available.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SPECIAL EVENT

First annual Sierra Vista Alumni Bar-B-Que.

PLACE HERMOSA PARK, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA  
TIME 12 NOON TILL ?  
DATE AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2002

### SPECIAL EVENT

Any other suggestions? All are welcome!

PLACE ?  
TIME ?  
CONTACT ?

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## Message Board

If anyone has a message they would like to pass along, this space is available.

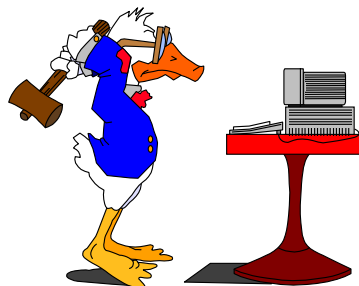
## Contact Information:



### E-Mail

[Bjsdaddi@aol.com](mailto:Bjsdaddi@aol.com)

[Dbaos390@yahoo.com](mailto:Dbaos390@yahoo.com)



### Snail Mail:

Al Hinojos  
15013 Daffodil Circle  
Fontana, CA 92336

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Help make this a form of communication we all use.

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## Links

Please be sure and visit these sites:

Classmates [www.classmates.com](http://www.classmates.com)  
Planet Alumni [www.planetalumni.com](http://www.planetalumni.com)  
High School Alumni [www.highschoolalumni.com](http://www.highschoolalumni.com)  
Alumni Net [www.alumni.net](http://www.alumni.net)  
Unforgettable Reunions  
[www.unforgettablereunions.com](http://www.unforgettablereunions.com)

Want to keep in touch with your friends instantly? Download AOL Instant Messenger software. It's free and easy to use. You don't need to be an AOL customer to download and use it. Once you install it you can enter the logon name of the person you want to send messages to and AIM will notify you when they log on. The only requirement is that the person you want to send messages to, needs to have this software installed on their personal computer.

Try it out: <http://www.aim.com>