



ILLUMINATE THE EMPIRE. After adding finishing touches, senior John Horstman lights the "ED" at the homecoming parade. Horstman and his welding partner decided to add the Aztec lettering after feeling the piece lacked something. "I could just feel the heat while lighting it," he said. "But we did it for the welding department." *Photo by Jose Chavez.*



SPIRITED BLOOD. Anticipating the announcement, seniors Robert Valle, Alexander Powell, Christopher Mata and Adrian Johnson anxiously wait to see which class earned the spirit stick. The seniors ended up taking the coveted prize. "I was chanting the game yell, trying to get everyone hyped," Mata said. "My heart was pumping out of my chest, blood flowing. It was a great day." *Photo by Bryan Chavez.*



POWERFUL IN PINK. To show support for Breast Cancer Awareness, seniors Maleah Stephens, Karen Meza, Asia Phomparcky and Natthamol Srimala hold up a sign representing the senior class. The pink-and-gold sign was just one poster in a sea of color and student creativity. "I felt so much excitement and inspired to continue my next four years of education," Srimala said. *Photo by Jose Chavez.*



LAST-MINUTE PAINT. After decorating banners and posters, senior Miranda Anaya uses leftover paint and a truck's side mirror to paint her face for the parade. Anaya used the recycled red paint to decorate the choir float in two days. "We decided we were going to make a float last minute," she said. "It turned out good for the time that we had." *Photo by Bryan Chavez.*

SCHOOL SPIRIT GOES GLOBAL

// Scenes from around the world dominate the halls, but an unexpected policy forces the decorations down



SPIRIT GUARDIAN. Prized object in hand, senior Jordan Reyes, attempts to rally the crowd and create momentum during the pep rally with the new spirit stick. After all the deafening cheers from the classes, the spirit stick was awarded to the senior class. "I loved hearing the crowd and the energy I felt," he said. "It was a nice rush having the crowd at my command. I love attention." *Photo by Dominic Hernandez.*

As the new school year approaches, student council members' first concern is deciding on the theme for homecoming week. At their summer workshop, the student council officers had to decide on three possible homecoming concepts. After a long process of debating and defending, the three themes chosen for consideration were "Around the World," "Fairy Tale" and "A Night in Hollywood."

"We left it to the students to vote," senior Jordan Reyes said. "The voting was held during registration so that way nobody had an excuse not to vote. This (the vote) was new."

After adding up the ballots, the winning theme "Around the World" was chosen. Dress up days for the week included Mexican Fiesta Monday, Chinese New Year Tuesday, Wild West Wednesday, Walk Like an Egyptian Thursday and Spirit Day Friday.

"I love seeing everyone dress up and really show their appreciation," junior Nya Averette said. "I dressed up because I felt that as a cheerleader I should not only show my school spirit through cheering, but also participate in school events."

Students from all grade levels dressed up to show their school spirit and some competed for best dressed at competitions every day of the week.

"It was a fun experience to show my spirit," senior Jazmine Venegas said. "I loved to have the recognition of my individuality and being my own

person. It was nice to win, but I mainly did the contest just for fun."

Aside from student costume contests, clubs and organizations in B-hall started decorating early in the week and displayed their work in the hallway for everyone to see. The hallways were covered with so much butcher paper that it was deemed a potential fire hazard and had to be taken down Thursday.

"I put a lot of work into it and helped with all the ideas. We used a lot of our own time, staying after school and spending hours (here) to make it look nice," senior Gabriela Quezada said. "It was depressing because it's my senior year of high school and I put all my hard work into it, only for it to just get ruined at the last minute."

Usually, hall decorations are used to dress up the gym for the dance. With some artwork ending up in the trash, Riverside High School donated their old homecoming decorations to the Aztecs.

"They carefully took down their decorations and gave them to us for our homecoming," Student Activity Director Theresa Maya said. "We took advantage of that and actually were able to cover all the bleachers from every side of the gym."

Surrounded by world-wide continents made of butcher paper, students danced the night away to the senior song, "Best Day of My Life" by American Authors, bringing an end to an eventful week.

// Kimberly Gibson

THE BUILDING BLOCKS TO AN EMPIRE



The Spirit Stick is a tradition at El Dorado, and every year the senior class officers make the spirit stick dedicated to the senior class. Senior Rocio Orozco is the chairperson of special projects for Student Council and was in charge of making this year's spirit stick.

"I asked several people in student council," she said. "My co-chair Victoria helped me on the design and we came up with the ideas." The spirit contained black, red and gold ribbon, sequins, and red and black boa feathers. After two weeks the spirit stick was done.

"It felt that it was finally my time," Orozco said. "I felt proud of how much we had accomplished altogether since our freshman year. The pep rally went great! My favorite part was when the seniors won the spirit stick because we won it altogether and I felt close to my senior peers."