



# EAGLE EYES

Volume 3, Number 3

Fall, 1995

## ERS GRADUATES TOTAL NINE

~ by Lois Easton, Director of Professional Development ~

Four more graduates at the end of Eagle Rock's seventh trimester bring the total number of ERS graduates to nine. Two of the newest graduates are from Colorado--Davian Gagne and Billy Henninger from Boulder. The remaining two are from across the country: Elena Stevens from Texas and Ariel Varney from California.

Following a tradition established with the second group of graduates in August, flags representing the home state of each graduate as well as the United States and Eagle Rock flags were carried in the processional. Graduates made brief speeches.

Students are ready to graduate from Eagle Rock when they have completed both the academic and personal growth expectations on their Individualized Learning Plans and when they have developed a compelling portfolio of their work. In addition, they have made a graduation Presentation of Learning that meets or exceeds requirements. Graduation Presentations of Learning

consist of a half hour presentation before members of a panel selected from within and outside ERS and a half hour of questions from that panel. The entire ERS community gathers for graduation Presentations of Learning, and students are expected to defend their readiness to graduate through reference to their portfolios, their academic development and their personal development.

In addition, Colorado graduates make graduation Presentations of Learning to panel members convened in their sending districts in order to qualify for a diploma from those districts. All three of the previous Colorado graduates qualified for diplomas in their sending district, and, in doing so, suggested to panel members new ways--beyond Carnegie units--to look at graduation from high school. Eagle Rock's two Colorado December graduates will make graduation Presentations of Learning in Boulder in January.

## INTERNS: WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY DO

~ by Jenny Mayher, Intern ~

Interns are part of the Professional Development effort at Eagle Rock. Mostly recent college graduates, interns come from all over the country to immerse, learn and teach in the Eagle Rock community. It would be almost as hard to profile a typical intern as it would be to profile a typical Eagle Rock student. Interns wear many hats in their time here: They serve as teachers, friends, counselors, teammates, coaches, students, and chauffeurs for students going to town -- a job that sometimes seems to overshadow the others.

To most effectively showcase the many roles that interns play and the wide range of opinion on the utility of interns (Read: "Interns do it all.") I asked members of the community why they think Eagle Rock has interns. Here are some of the responses:

"Interns are here to get work experience, to grow and confront issues they're dealing with themselves and learn how to deal with other people, and to see if this is really what they want to do." *Deobray Ivory, student.*

"They're students just like us." *Mike Roark, student.*

"For the education of themselves through experimentation on the student

body of Eagle Rock. The student body of Eagle Rock is like a lab mouse and the interns are like the scientists. And rides to Estes Park." *Sky Black Elk Volkman, student.*

"To help students out and so they can learn." *Tara Trimmer-Jewell, student.*

"I am here as a living example for the students to see the consequences of never really growing up. And besides, the food's good...I love my job." *Chris Meehan, intern.*

"To teach, to support, to care, and to be a friend -- someone who isn't as old as a staff member, but not as young as a student." *Ariel Rose Varney, student.*

"To help the school run smoother. To get new input. To show students that there are opportunities out there. And most important, to take us to town." *Lourdes Flores, student.*

"To learn experiential education techniques, to learn from the students, to be in the mountains, to experience and contribute to a close, honest community, to work for social change. We're finding out as we go along." *Allison White, intern.*

"To keep us honest and to inoculate us with their spirit and enthusiasm. And to help us see Eagle Rock through new eyes."

*Philbert Smith, new Director of Students.*

"To make Rose's life a joyful living hell." Rose Peredia, student.

"We're hiding out from our student loan officers. You don't think these are our real names, do you?" *Dan Condon, intern.*

"It's a symbiotic thing. Interns help design curriculum and add young ideas, then they go out to other places and show the world what Eagle Rock does." *Michael Christner, Instructional Specialist.*

"We do everything, that's why. Plus, we build character and grow hair on our chests." *Shira Wohlberg, intern.*

"Interns are here to learn what Eagle Rock has to offer and take it out and make it work in the world." *Fermin Pacheco, student.*

"Interns can offer us an example of life after Eagle Rock and show us a level of maturity that we have not yet reached. I think they're here because they've been successful in their lives and they can offer us their glory stories and make our lives after Eagle Rock more successful." *Jason Darling, student.*

*continued on page 3*

**A publication of  
Eagle Rock  
School and  
Professional  
Development  
Center**

2750 Notaiiah Road  
Estes Park, CO  
80517-1770

Phone Numbers:  
(970) 586-0600

Denver Metro  
(303) 442-7655

FAX  
(970) 586-4805

An initiative of  
American Honda  
Education  
Corporation

**American Honda  
Education  
Corporation**

**Osamu Iida**  
Chairman

**Tom Dean**  
Executive  
Director

**Mikio Yoshimi**  
Secretary

**Bob Weil**  
Treasurer

**Eagle Rock  
School and  
Professional  
Development  
Center**

**Burt Bowles**  
Facilities &  
Maintenance

**Robert Burkhardt**  
Head of School

**Mike Christner**  
Wilderness

## A LETTER HOME

~ by Paul Ritzie, Student ~

*This letter was written by Eagle Rock student Paul Ritzie to friends who are still participating in the Harlem Ice Hockey Club, the organization that was responsible for referring him to Eagle Rock. Paul is one of several Eagle Rock students who have communicated with "folks back home" about how they've changed.*

To all youngsters. . .my name is Paul Ritzie. I played ice hockey for six years with Ice Hockey in Harlem. I wasn't the leader. I should have been when I was playing hockey.

I had a negative attitude and that was not getting me anywhere but trouble. I felt if I cursed at people and fought people I would get the respect I wanted.

Cursing at people and fighting people got me in danger. School comes before anything. Without school you can't be a pro hockey player.

Start reading books; it helps a lot. One day I said to myself, "Paul, find a book, any book. Pick it up and read it." I did, and I've read ten books so far. I am reading four more books.

Reading books helped me out a lot with my speech and grammar. Education is the key to a future opportunity. You can't be what you want to be without your education.

What makes a good hockey player is that he or she has respect for teammates and coaches. A good hockey player plays with the team all the time. A

good hockey player is a positive leader and very open minded.

I got away from all the trouble and I now go to school in Colorado. I'm very happy. I am doing something with my life. I will graduate from high school in April of 1996. I work to get what I want and then I have it.

It is hard to change the way you are, but you don't have to change overnight, and you don't even have to change at all. I'm just telling you for your own good. I did everything you've done, and I learned from experience. I've been there already. A word to the wise is always sufficient. A very educated man told me that so I want to pass it down to everybody.

If you want to be a professional hockey player, I think you need to possess and practice these things: 1) Integrity. 2) Expanding your knowledge base. 3) Cross-cultural understanding. 4) Making healthy life choices. 5) Devising an enduring moral and ethical code. 6) Leadership for justice. 7) Living in respectful harmony with others. 8) Intellectual discipline. 9) Communicating effectively. 10) Participating as an engaged global citizen.

Listen to what I said in this letter and think about it.

Sincerely yours, *Paul Ritzie*

P.S. I hope some of you will write me at Eagle Rock School, P.O. Box 1770, Estes Park, CO 80517.

## NEW ADMISSIONS PROCESS BRINGS WAVES OF PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS TO EAGLE ROCK

~ by Lois Easton, Director of Professional Development, and Yee-Ann Cho, Admissions Specialist ~

It's a shock, especially if you're from an eastern seaboard city: An altitude of 7,500 feet; vast pine forests, mountains, elk and coyotes, immediate KP (Kitchen Patrol), instant homework, high expectations, consequences for actions, living in a house with 15 other students, being away from home and facing a 21-day wilderness trip.

For some students the shock is too much, and they leave soon after arriving at Eagle Rock. In order to prepare new students for the ERS experience, John Oubre, Director of Students, and Yee-Ann Cho, Admissions Specialist, brought three waves of prospective students to Eagle Rock during November. Not yet admitted, these students spent three days and nights at Eagle Rock. During this time, they participated in life at Eagle Rock as if they were students, taking KP, attending classes, going to study hall, doing morning exercise, and participating in student activities in the evenings.

In addition, they participated in an orientation and completed and discussed a penetrating

questionnaire ("Why have I not succeeded where I am? What am I willing to do that is different that will help me succeed in the future? What are my addictions? Am I willing to give them up? What specific support would I need to help me succeed at Eagle Rock School?"). They also took a challenging hike and did some thought-provoking homework. Finally, they were tested so that, upon admission, Eagle Rock would be better able to respond to their special needs.

"This is a time for you to check us out," student Tara Trimmer-Jewell told prospective students during a Gathering at which they introduced themselves. "It's also a chance for us to check you out. Are you serious about coming here? Do you have a commitment to yourself, to making changes, to graduating and doing something worthwhile with your life? We'll be watching you as much as you'll be watching us."

*continued on page 4*

*Interns -- continued*

"To teach students what interns have learned so that students can also learn, and to be a positive role model." *Paul Ritzie, student.*

The ten interns, along with student teachers and some staff members, reside in Juniper, a student house currently not in use by students. Since part of the job expectation for interns is to empathize with students, interns live as students do: in two big bunkrooms (male and female) with a common area between. Learning to live in community is an important part of being at Eagle Rock, and life in Juniper certainly teaches that lesson through immersion. The intern house is always full of action; there is no typical evening at home. Some nights we have heated discussions about students, the state of education today, or social justice. Other nights we sit on piles of pillows, comforters, and other people and watch movies. Sometimes no one is home, but off at the library or the basketball court with students.

Life at Eagle Rock asks all staff-interns included—to revisit the separation between work and life outside work. While the job conditions here are ideal in many ways, living on campus in a residential school often requires a commitment above and beyond a 40-hour work week. In some ways the most important role served by interns is simply being around to share a meal, watch a movie, help with homework, go out for ice cream, play a game of pick-up basketball, or have a late-night chat during bed checks. "Find a need and fill it" is the comprehensive advice given to all Eagle Rock staff. Often that need is just being a friend or family member to a student who is far from home.

## STUDENTS PLAY AND WIN IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULL AND BEAR

~ by *Boo Martin, Intern* ~

Stocks are up!

For many Eagle Rock students this phrase took on a new meaning during the past trimester as they participated in the stock market game sponsored by the *Denver Post*. This statewide competition allowed students to learn more about the stock market by making hypothetical investments of up to \$200,000 in the New York, NASDAQ, and American stock exchanges. Students were responsible for choosing stocks, placing bids to buy and sell stocks, and tracking their investments. Weekly standings provided by the *Post* for all teams across the state allowed students to compare their progress relative to other schools' teams.

The student team of Jason Darling and Brian Hanson remained among the top ten in the state (out of over 500) through the first five weeks of the game. Asked about their success Jason said, "We spent over three hours in the library researching stocks using the Valueline. We could have easily stayed for six more hours."

ERS students met once a week for the first four weeks to learn about the market and to discuss potential investments. The majority of students chose to invest in technology stocks on the NASDAQ as their market research indicated that these were most likely to grow over the ten week period that the game was played. Many of the student teams discovered that such investments can be very risky. "In one day our stocks went up over 12 points, then a week later a stock that we had just invested in went down by 15 points," stated Brian.

Through their participation in the game, students learned a variety of skills. Ernesto Alvarado reported, "I learned how the market works and how I can follow stocks in the newspaper. I learned about the process of investing and how to make money, but I still have difficulty with the math."

"For me this creates a career opportunity. Before I didn't know that much about the market. I want to learn more now and possibly explore this as a future career. If I get some cash I'll invest," stated Brian.

"The best part of the game is when my stocks go up," stated Ariel Varney. The reactions of students surveying the business section of the newspaper each morning provides much insight into the status of their stocks. With three weeks left, it's anybody's game. Eagle Rock students plan to remain in the thick of things and vie for the \$200 cash prize that goes to the first place team in the state and a chance to compete against the top teams from across the country.

**Eagle Rock School**  
*(Continued)*

**Yee-Ann Cho**  
*Admissions Specialist*

**Sally Cummings**  
*Director of Operations*

**Lois Easton**  
*Director of Professional Development*

**Judy Gilbert**  
*Director of Curriculum*

**Robyn Hamasaki**  
*Environmental Science*

**Garth Lewis**  
*Career and Service Learning*

**Mary McGuire**  
*Arts, Music, Performance*

**John Oubre**  
*Director of Students*

**Tim Phelps**  
*Chef, Instructor*

**Norrie Rothberg**  
*Society and Social Studies*

**Philbert Smith**  
*Life Skills, Wellness and Counselling*

**Michael Soguero**  
*Science and Math*

**Audrey Stevens**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Bonnie Vavra**  
*Business Assistant*

**Bob Van Der Wege**  
*Learning Resources and Information*

### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS, DECEMBER 1995

MALE

3	Latino	1	Native American
10	Caucasian	1	Asian/Caucasian
7	African American	1	African/Caucasian
		1	Asian

FEMALE

2	Latina	2	Asian/Caucasian
7	Caucasian	1	Latina/African American
6	African American		American
1	Asian	3	Latina/Caucasian

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

2	Arizona	3	Massachusetts
5	California	1	Michigan
22	Colorado	1	New Mexico
1	Connecticut	4	New York
1	Dist. of Columbia	1	Pennsylvania
1	Georgia	1	Texas
2	Illinois	1	Virginia

## EAGLE ROCK STUDENTS WINNERS IN POETRY CONTEST

~by Lois Easton, Director of Professional Development~

Deobray Ivory and Maetrice Bryant, Eagle Rock students, tied for first place in the high school poetry contest sponsored by the Estes Park branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Deobray and Maetrice read their winning poems at a program entitled "Pastries, Poets and Painters" held at the Estes Park Conference Center on October 3.

Deobray's poem "I Don't Remember" begins with the lines "I don't remember/or should I say I don't want to remember/some of the hardest things in my life." Maetrice's poem "The Truth" begins with the lines "The child sat crying in a darkened room/Her teardrops praying for the evil that looms/In every corner of the world. What could she do?"

Both poems were featured in the "Trail Plus" section of the *Estes Park Trail Gazette*.

### *New Admissions -- continued*

Students and staff "checked out" prospective students through informal conversations during the visits, and Oubre, Cho, and Philbert Smith, who will be assuming the role of Director of Students in January, conducted formal interviews before they left the campus.

"We'll have to see if bringing them to campus really makes a difference in terms of whether or not they stay," Cho commented, "but it has already helped us decide who has a real chance of success. We told them we were going to see if they could 'walk their talk.' They might be able to avoid the tough issues when we're on their home turf or even for a couple of hours at Eagle Rock. But, during three days here, scrutinized by veteran students who have 'lived' Eagle Rock, prospective students got real about themselves. We could tell who was ready and who was not."

Oubre remarked, "It's expensive to bring students here before admitting them--no doubt about that. But the cost of losing students, both the financial cost and the psychological cost to the student and to us, is far greater. We're hopeful this process will make a difference."

## NEW FACES

~by Lois Easton, Director of Professional Development~

Staff changes at Eagle Rock have occurred for a variety of reasons. Instructional Specialist for Environmental Science, Deborah Eads, was recently married and moved to Alaska to be with her husband; in addition, she led an Outward Bound trek in Nepal this fall. Robyn Hamasaki, who previously taught in the Denver area, is the new Environmental Science Instructional Specialist.

Director of Students, John Oubre, and his family are moving back to California in December. Philbert Smith, until recently the Instructional Specialist in Health, Wellness and Counseling, is Eagle

Rock's new Director of Students. Eagle Rock is still in the process of filling the position Philbert vacated.

Sally Cummings, Director of Operations, has accepted a similar position with Kent School in Denver, beginning in February. Eagle Rock has just begun the process of filling this position.

Two new staff members represent Eagle Rock's progress towards full enrollment. Mike Christner, who most recently worked in Denver, has joined the Eagle Rock staff as Wilderness Instructional Specialist, and Allison Trattner who taught in Brooklyn will be joining Eagle Rock in January as Instructional Specialist in Language and Literature.

Biographical sketches of new staff members will be featured in future editions of "Eagle Eyes."

### AMERICAN HONDA EDUCATION CORPORATION

Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center  
2750 Notaiiah Road, P.O. Box 1770  
Estes Park, CO 80517

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #224  
ESTES PARK, CO