

The Holy Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. VI

12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, 91352

JUNE 2007

Wonder Woman, meet your Equal

Farewell and good luck to Poly's own Patricia Flenner, who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

By Vilma Diego
Staff Writer

"Amazing, brilliant, unparalleled; these are the words that describe Poly's own Wonder Woman, Pat Flenner," says Neva Bryan, A-Track Magenet Counselor. Mrs. Pat Flenner has worked at Poly for 18 years. She has been a counselor, teacher, a dean, assistant principal for Beyond the Bell, coordinator of Poly's Math, Science, and Technology Magnet, and currently assistant principal for the ninth grade academy. Flenner attended Alemany High School and went on to the University of Portland. There she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Math and a Master's Degree in Computer Science. She attended CSU Northridge for her Administrative Credential.

Flenner was born in Los Angeles and grew up in Woodland hills. Her mother was from Czechoslovakia and her father from the U.S., with Irish ancestors. Her father worked for racetracks, in the money room, and the family followed the racetrack circuit. Flenner's interests include horses, which she kept when she was young and is hoping to become more involved with now that she is retiring.

Flenner states that Poly's
[Pat Flenner continued on Page 13]



Provided by polyhigh.org

WONDER WOMAN: Assistant Principal Patricia Flenner says goodbye to Poly.

Optimist meets Pulitzer Prize Writer at UCLA

Journalism students meet Sandra Nazario, author of Enrique's Journey.

By Jennifer Rivera
Staff Writer

Journalism students had a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet Sonia Nazario, Pulitzer Prize winner for her feature piece, "Enrique's Journey," first published in the Los Angeles Times.

The feature article, turned book, focuses on a Honduran boy on a journey to find his mother. Everyday an increasing number of women and children are immigrating to the U.S. in hopes of a better life and to find broken families. In search of his mother, Enrique has to travel on foot and by train from Tecuigalpa, Honduras to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. His mother left for



Photo by Erick Robles

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER: (Left to Right) Jennifer Miranda, Jennifer Rivera, Efrain Rodriguez, Sonia Nazario, Belle Tadena, Christian Faundez at UCLA for Nazario's presentation about her book, "Enrique's Journey."

the U.S. years earlier to earn money for her family.

In her presentation at the Fowler Museum at UCLA, [Pulitzer Prize cont. Page 4]



Photo by Leah Arjona

JURY DUTY: Kevin Kowalski and David Bonino with class in court.

Students Have Day In Court

By Belle Tadena & Frankie Perez
Staff Writer

A group of A-Track seniors attended a field trip to the United States District Court in Los Angeles to celebrate Law Week.

Law Week is the time when the public celebrates their appreciation for liberty and reaffirmation of loyalty to the country. National organizations, businesses, schools and the American Bar Association organize lectures to discuss justice and liberty. District courts yearly invite Los Angeles area high school students to participate in mock trials to demonstrate how the legal system works.

Students were taught how to identify the differences

between local and state courts. A land dispute for example, would be held inside a local courtroom such as Los Angeles Superior Court. Immigration rights may be debated inside the Federal district court.

A vacant room was left available for the students to explore and learn from district court staff. Students were chosen to act in a mock trial to demonstrate the usual activity inside a courtroom. The favored issue was Internet piracy.

"Students were chosen based on their reading ability and interest for the part," said Government teacher Kevin Kowalski.

In the trial proceedings [Law Week cont. on Page 14]

SIXTEEN THOUSAND FOR SOPHOMORE

It's never too early to win a scholarship and 10th Grader Eduardo Contreras proves just that.

By Eric Bejarano
Staff Writer

When's the last time you've heard of a sophomore winning a scholarship? Its true a sophomore really can win scholarships. Poly's Eduardo Contreras, a 10th grade student was recently awarded the Christopher Warren scholarship for \$16,000.00.

The law firm of O'Melveny and Myers administer the Christopher Warren Scholarship awards program. The firm is responsible for administrating this fund in honor of Warren, the former Secretary of State, under President Bill Clinton's first term.

In order to be eligible the student must be in the 10th grade, have a grade point average of 3.25 or above from 9th to 1st semester of 10th grade. The student must also be enrolled in college prep courses and be economically disadvantaged. Students

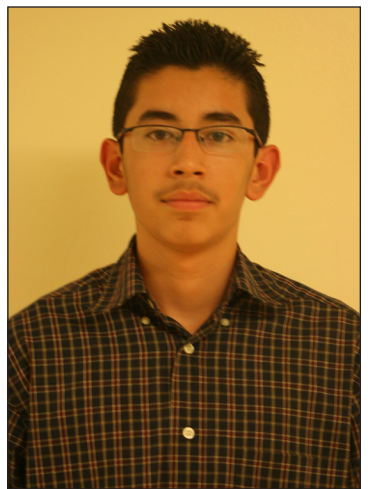


Photo by Tatiana Tejada

DRIVEN: Eduardo Contreras, a sophomore, one of the winners of the Christopher Warren Scholarship.

must also be involved in the community, and must graduate from an LAUSD high school to receive the fund "My parents are immigrants from Mexico, My mother got her Graduation Equivalency Degree here and my father only went to the third grade," said Eduardo.

"I don't have any financial aid right now and I didn't want my parents having a hard time paying for school so, I'm trying to get as many scholarships as I can" said Contreras

Contrera's winning essay discussed how he came to [Scholarship cont. on Page 13]

THE POLY OPTIMIST

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POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL
12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN
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LETTERS

Letters to the Editor are accepted and encouraged for topics relevant to our readers. Submitted letters must be typed or neatly printed in ink and must have the signature of the writer. Editors reserve the right to determine which issue the letter will be published in, and the right to edit the letter for grammar, length, and structure.

Corrections published in the following issue of the newspaper.

Send all letters to Rm.11 or leave in Ms.Matlen's box.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Poly Optimist adheres to the responsibility of a Free Student Press. It serves as a voice for the student body and the community. This newspaper accepts all the responsibilities inherent in being a free press. The Optimist staff strives to follow the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinion of individual staff writers, and not presented as news facts.

No Prom? No Problem

By Jennifer Miranda
Staff Writer

The end of senior year is approaching and you can't seem to get that "special" night off your mind. But there are many other things that you should be thinking about rather than what gown to buy, or what hairstyle to wear? For example, what comes after prom such as graduation, college, and life after high school?

"Prom was created to teach teens the poise and composure they would need as adults. But it has evolved into a night that's often devoid of poise and composure," said April Daley.

Things have definitely changed since the 1900's. Prom is no longer about learning manners. It has become a night of celebration, drinking and having sex. Instead of celebrating a teens readiness to take on adult responsibilities, teens now seem to celebrate the freedom to not be responsible for their actions. According to American Prom online, "Asking someone to prom is the most important step in the prom process because who you go with

determines the outcome of prom night." Does this make prom just "A Night to Hook Up?"

Lets face it, sometimes the piggy bank can't afford prom, since prom is very expensive. From limousines renting, dresses to buy, nails to be painted, time to be spent under the hair dryer, prom tickets, corsages and boutonnieres to color-coordinate and accessories to pull it all together. How much is an average "prom experience?" These expenses can easily run from \$400 to \$3,000 and up, according to a 2004 article in USA Today.

Whether you attended prom with a group of friends, or a lucky person, prom is just another school dance. It shouldn't be quoted as "your best high school memory," said 11th grader Alejandra Ceja. Because the memories of your high school years are so much greater through a period of four years, not just one night.

So, don't make the most out of one night; make the most out of four years.

Take the Challenge

By Belle Tadena
Staff Writer

Who is accepted in the nation's leading universities? Of all of Poly's seniors, only a handful is listed on the "College Acceptance" column found on the school's bulletin board.

Acceptance into college is not that easy. All colleges have requirements that must be met in order to be accepted. Universities, for instance, choose students who have the capability and show the motivation to challenge themselves.

Despite the fact that college preparatory classes are offered at Poly, such as Advance Placements (AP), not all students are motivated to enroll in them. Other students simply don't take advantage of these academically challenging classes.

Taking challenging classes not only provides a deeper understanding and knowledge about a subject; it also helps

when applying for college or university. They exercise your intellectual capabilities and build character along the way.

When students lose interest, what happens to those who want to learn, to move forward, and to be challenged? We get sucked into the vicious vacuum of complacency.

For those of us who are highly motivated, we strive to climb higher. We crave for more.

We visit our counselors frequently, to make sure our schedule for the next semester or mester is in place, checking if there's a new college preparatory class that's available, and/or making sure we've passed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

With every "C," fight for a "B," and with every "B," strive for an "A." Soon after, challenge yourself with the responsibility and the complexity of AP's.

Homework, tests and grades mean nothing to some students but if you're going to do something in your life, at least make it an investment for your future.

Learning as much as you can in high school is crucial to our future success.

Be Prepared for 2008 Presidential Elections

By Evelyn Lemus
Staff Writer

Presidential elections are just around the corner. Are you aware of the significant changes the country can take?

Presidential candidates have been preparing strategies for the 2008 elections that can influence the votes of American citizens. Among the most controversial democratic candidates are Hillary Clinton, and Barak Obama.

Nevertheless, the upcoming election is decidedly different. There is the possibility for the first female or the first African American commander in chief amongst other candidates. The issue however is how that influences the citizen votes. Are voters really informed or are they voting because of prejudicial standpoints?

The war, immigration issues and foreign policies as well as social issues concern U.S citizens.

However, most high school students do not seem concerned or aware of the

importance that an election might have. Students will be affected, positively or negatively as well as their families. Being informed about the candidates and their political stand point is fundamental.

It is baffling to acknowledge that students who are eligible to vote do not, and later demand for a "better" democracy. To acknowledge the importance of voting, and the responsibility to have a choice is admirable. However, what should matter most is not the choice it is but the opportunity to have a choice.

To other high school students that are not eligible to vote yet, there are other ways to express your perspective. Teenagers that inform themselves are able to make a choice and decide what candidate they would vote for.

Students, visit websites, inform yourself, and assume the power to vote. Make educated decisions.

Join the Club

By Fernando Marquez
Editor in Chief

The end of the year marks the beginning of another. As juniors turn to sophomores, joining a club or organization might be a good idea. There are many different clubs here at Poly. Some are an extension of formal classes such as the Cooking Club, the French Club, and Journalism.

The French club emerged out of those who love studying the French language. The Cooking Club rose out of Mr. Higgins cooking class and those who share the love of learning the art of cuisine.

Consider working on the staff of The Poly Optimist. Journalism begins as a class. However, over the past two years many students have contributed to our paper in different ways. These include photography, technical support with Design and layout and those students contributing as writers for feature stories and editorials. All become part of the Editorial staff and the "club" of journalism. We are now recognized as one of the top high school newspapers in the country, and were awarded a First Place Certificate by the American Scholastic Press Association, with over 2000 entries across the nation, including colleges, and four year university publications. These "clubs" extend beyond

the regular classroom setting.

The key is to find one that interests you and incorporates things you enjoy. Why join a club? For one, colleges love seeing extracurricular activities such as these are your applications. Colleges prefer students who are part of an organization where they show dedication, commitment, and are interested in working with others who share similar interests.

Taking part in a club allows you to try new activities, explore different interests and meet new people.

Maybe you haven't found a club you like from the current clubs at Poly. Why not start one of your own? Or consider what classes you like best and ask those teachers.

Also, joining a club makes school more fun. Involving yourself in a club makes you part of the school community that constitutes Poly. It will also help you to stay interested in school and attending.

The most important aspects of joining a club is that you get the opportunity to find something you like to do and at the same time acquire interpersonal experiences. Finally, to top it all off, you can put it on your resume and/or college application which will definitely pay great dividends when colleges are considering candidates for admission.

Sudoku Time!

	6			8				3
		9				4		7
	1		6		7			
	3		9			6		
6		4				9		1
		8			1		4	
			1		2		5	
9		5				8		
3				4			9	

May Edition’s Sudoku Answers

Complete the grid so each row, column, and 3x3 box contains every digit 1 to 9, Good luck solving this month’s puzzle!

By Joseph Garcia

2	3	8	9	6	5	4	7	1
1	7	9	2	8	4	3	5	6
4	5	6	1	7	3	9	2	8
5	9	2	7	4	8	1	6	3
3	1	7	6	9	2	5	8	4
8	6	4	5	3	1	2	9	7
7	8	1	4	5	9	6	3	2
6	4	5	3	2	7	8	1	9
9	2	3	8	1	6	7	4	5

California Crazy Laws

Blythe: You are not permitted to wear cowboy boots unless you already own at least two cows.

Car wash attendants in San Francisco, California may not use old pairs of underwear to wash or dry vehicles.

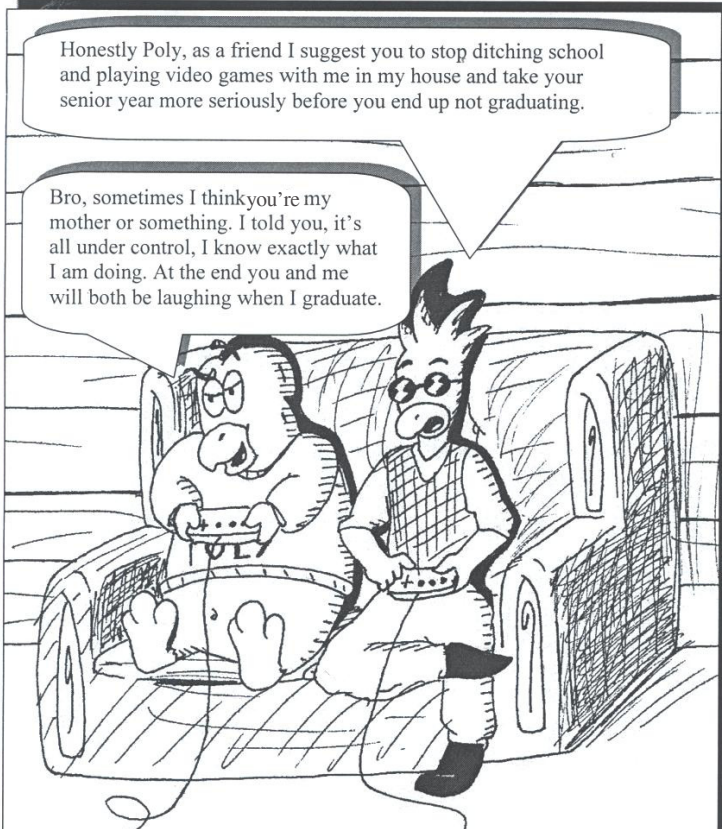
In Berkeley, Calif., you can’t whistle for an escaped bird before 7 a.m.

Not found in Webster’s:

Polygraph: Device used to see if parrots are telling the truth.

Provided by Mr. Hopkins

SENIORITIS By Raymond Carrillo



Bucaneer Trilogy Complete

By Eric Bejarano
Staff Writer

Captain Jack Sparrow is back with a stupendous conclusion to Disney’s blockbuster trilogy.

The film is a synthesis of Walt Disney Pictures and director Gore Verbinski at their best. “Pirates of the Caribbean: *At World’s End*” is a 2007 adventure film.

The cast includes Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow, Orlando Bloom as William Turner, Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Swan, Bill Nighy as Davy Jones, and Geoffrey Rush as Captain Hector Barbossa. Throughout the film the characters make compromises and then break them to gain what they need. The plot is a bit confusing ,but the battle scenes and love scenes make



Disney Pictures

SPARROW SCHEMES:*Johnny Depp, Lauren Maher, Vanessa Branch from Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End.*

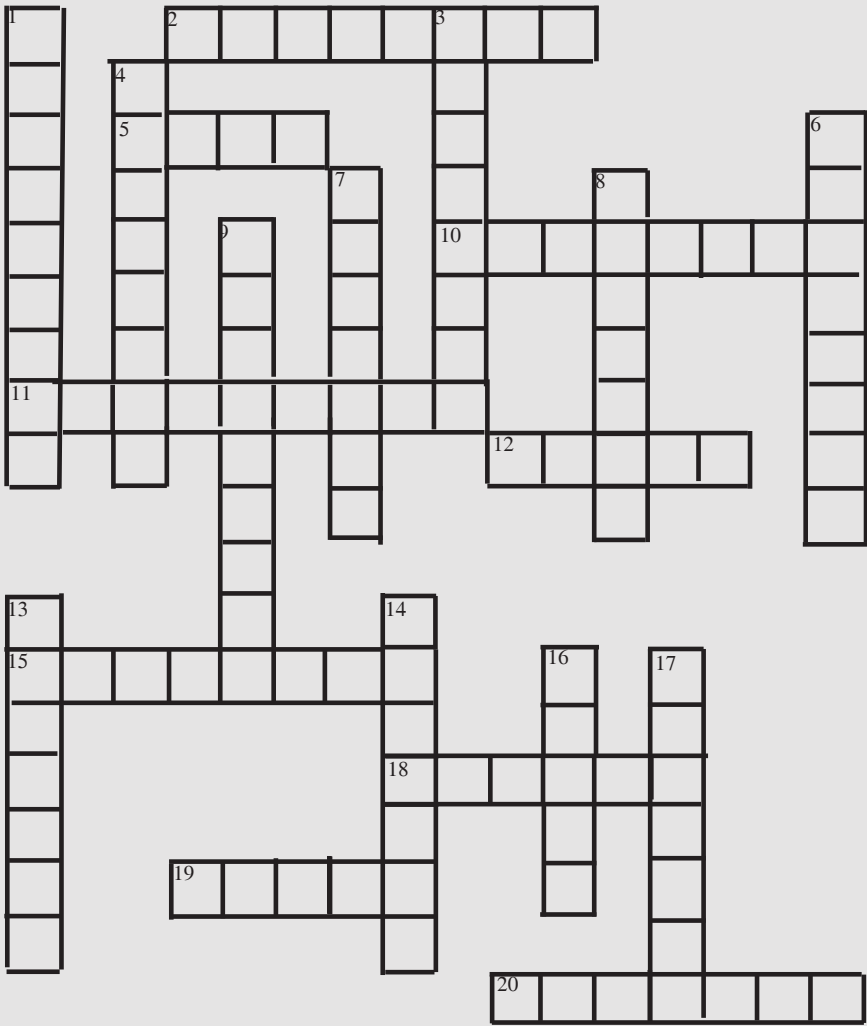
up for it.

At World’s End sees the return of Captain Hector Barbossa who aids William Turner and Elizabeth Swan in bringing Jack Sparrow back from the dead. The antagonist Lord Cutler Beckett (Tom Hollander) head of the East India Company is executing any person that is associated with piracy. For that reason the

pirates must join forces or die one by one.

Pirates of the Caribbean: *At World’s End* has drama, comedy, romance, and action. Director Verbinski did a fine job in combining these subjects. The pirates go to war thus there are various battle scenes to look forward to. The movie runs three hours.

Amass Your Ivy League Vocab



Across

- 2 .TO TAKE APART
- 5 .NAKED
- 10. A GAMBLER
- 11.TO TEASE
- 12.SUCCULENT
- 15.TO KISS
- 18.APATHY
- 19.SORROW
- 20.A SOUVENIR

Down

- 1. ANY REALITY
- 2. TO ABOLISH, REPEAL
- 4. POOR
- 5. CHANGE
- 7. ICY, OR ICILY COLD
- 8. CREATION
- 9. ARTIFICIAL
- 13. AMIABLE

- 14 .TO CORRECT
- 16 .TO SIGNIFY
- 17. TO TELL A STORY

Look for this month’s answers online next week on polyhigh.org. Have fun solving the puzzle!

Making The Deans List

Toby Bachenheimer



Photo By Jennifer Miranda

By Evelyn Escobar
Staff Writer

Toby Bachenheimer's first assignment at Poly was in the P.E. department 11 years ago. She is currently Dean for the 10th grade center.

"The best part of being a Dean is being able to see the students improve from 9th to 12th grade. They realize what they want to do with their lives," said Bachenheimer.

Bachenheimer grew up in Downey, near a dairy farm, that she would pass by everyday to get to school. She graduated from CSUN with a teaching credential and a Bachelors Degree in physical education.

"Coming from a family of veterans from World War II, I consider myself a baby boomer," said Bachenheimer.

In her spare time, Bachenheimer can be found in the Dodger stadium watching a sport she loves, baseball. Also, Bachenheimer enjoys visiting the Santa Monica Beach and sightseeing the city of Los Angeles on Mulholland Drive.

When Bachenheimer was asked what she would do with a million dollars, she responded, "I would buy my sister a house, finish paying for my niece and nephew's education, put half of the money into savings for retirement and the rest for my traveling."

Yesenia Pleitez



Photo By Tatiana Tejada

By Marcie Ulloa
Staff Writer

C-track dean Yesenia Pleitez always makes sure students are where they should be; just as she made sure the Jurassic Park dinosaurs didn't escape at her previous job as supervisor at Universal Studios.

Pleitez arrived in California from Guatemala at fourteen years old with only a third grade level education. She struggled with extra classes to catch up, learning English at the same time. She attended Polytechnic High School at 14.

Pleitez earned her bachelors in Political Science from CSUN. She started at Poly in 1999, teaching Social Studies, World History in Spanish, and ESL classes. She taught for seven years before becoming dean.

She has a passion for poetry, friends, and loves visiting her favorite place in Los Angeles; Placita Olvera. She always tries to plan family events.

"As a dean I have the opportunity to work with teenagers who have taken the wrong path. Sometimes people give up on them. I want to be able to bring them back," said Pleitez.

Pleitez listens to every students' side of the story. This has gained her respect from students and has a positive influence on them.

Isaac Alatorre



Photo By Tatiana Tejada

By Natalie Castaneda & Francisco Perez
Staff Writers

If he could, Freshmen Dean Isaac A La Torre would answer conference calls at the beach and ride around in a '68 Camaro with his son in the backseat.

"I miss teaching- I miss teaching a lot," A La Torre said. A La Torre began teaching at Poly in July 2002, as a math teacher.

"I've always wanted to help my community, and why not do it through teaching?," said A La Torre. A La Torre taught Algebra 1 to AP Calculus for four years. "Unfortunately, the dean's side is only dealing with discipline issues," A La Torre said. "I try to make it as positive as I can."

A La Torre, a Marine for almost four years, has been deployed to Iraq in 2004, and served there for seven months. "I have always wanted to serve my country and my community," said A La Torre.

A La Torre's junior drill boot camp instructor, Sgt. Zamora told him, "There's nothing you can't do physically or mentally." Words A La Torre never forgets.

Laura Terry



Photo By Tatiana Tejada

By Vilma Diego
Staff Writer

Laura Terry, the A-track Dean, began working at Poly in 1985. She has worked as an Impact coordinator, in the counseling office, social sciences department chair, UTLA ITT program, CSUN Master Teachers program, and working with at risk students. She said, "I was offered the opportunity to come out of the classroom to become a dean. I decided I would try to see how I could serve students better in the dean's office."

Terry earned her B.A. in Social Sciences at Cal State University Long Beach. At CSULB she established the Educational Opportunities Program, an Upward Bound program and a Black Student Union, along with a Black History Department. Terry worked as an instructor of EOP classes at CSULB.

She said, "When I got to college I doubled my fun by being a founder, working with faculty, the college president, committees, and teachers."

As for Poly, Terry said, "Too much conformity is a problem. Everybody has to take Spanish, French, and its not necessary, it's good, but it shouldn't prevent kids from going on. There should be more diversity for different path ways."

Terry said, "I hope within 5 years I am retired."

*[Pulizer Prize
cont. from
page 1]*

recounts her experience with the book.

Nazario spoke about the message she was trying to get to people.

"By writing about these women and children I hope to humanize these immigrants because it seems to me, in periods of rapid change, such as we're seeing today; it's easier to demonize people then to try and care," said Nazario.

Children roam these countries to find their mothers and scrounge around for food and money.

Nazario embedded herself in this amazing expedition, so she could see eye to eye, what Enrique went through. She rode the trains, spoke with migrants and endured many of the hardships migrants suffer day by day to reach "the North."

To see what Enrique had endured she crossed 13 of the 31 states in Mexico, over 1,600 miles, half of that on top of trains. All this took over six months.

"It was the first time as a journalist that I could not breath while I was trying to report something," said Nazario, on watching women and children roaming the dumpsters and ditches to find a piece of bread or anything to put in their stomachs.

As a journalist, Nazario faced many perils investigating the truths and dangers migrants face daily trying to cross the border. Her reporting forced many people to see immigrants in a different perspective. With permission of the President of Mexico, she set out to document the truth. She would return from grimy train rides, once nearly attacked, just to report the truth; she slept in hotels unlike Enrique.

Loose Change Matters in 2007

Pennies are not as expendable when going out with friends.

By Jane Cenon
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO) will change the fare starting July 1, 2007.

Metro Media Relations reported that the reason for



Photo by Tatiana Tejada

WAITING IN LINE: Students wait to board public transportation. although prices are increasing, some students have no other options.

their changes in their daily ticket was due to a projected

\$1.8 billion operating deficit over the next 10 years.

The regular fare of \$1.25 will remain the same, but will rise to \$1.50 after two years.

Current \$3.00 Metro Day Pass will go up to \$5.00 on July 1, 2007 and \$6.00 on July 1, 2009.

The weekly pass of \$7.00 will be at \$14.00, on July 1, 2007, and will be at \$20.00 in two years.

The monthly pass for K-12 students will be at \$24.00, starting July 1, 2007, from the previous \$20.00.

Some of our parrots think

that buying the daily fare will no longer be profitable for students who don't have any other form of transportation.

"First car gas, now the bus. It's insane, especially for the kids that ride the bus to school and have the bus as their only option," said Poly sophomore Juan Cardenas.

The allowance given to students, a good amount of which is spent on food or school supplies will now be spent on the bus.

"It's not fair," sophomore Joel Lopez said, "The bus fare will be coming out of my pocket."

The Poly Optimist

Senior Edition 2007

Principal's Message to Seniors



Photo By Efrain Rodriguez

Principal Dr. Jan Fries-Martinez

Congratulations! Class of 2007 on all of your personal and academic accomplishments. I salute all of you and thank all of you for the many contributions you've made to John. H. Francis Polytechnic High to make it a great school – the school with a heart and the school with high academic expectations for all!

I was proud of you four years ago. Four years later, I am still proud of you and now awed by all of your superb accomplishments.

Life offers great things to those who set out in earnest

to discover its gifts. Step into your future with confidence.

I would like to conclude by saying:

"May you have the courage to follow your dreams and the wisdom to make good choices for your future."

"Never forget the lessons you've learned at Poly H.S. about being a good person."

"And lastly, come back to visit Poly. Don't ever forget the joy and the pride you felt for being the best that you could be – a Proud, Accomplished Poly Parrot – Ready to Take Flight."

Editor's Notes: Unique Experience

By Jennifer Rivera
Staff Writer

My four years here at Poly have been ones filled with accomplishments, failures, happiness and sadness. Despite all the ups and downs, I have learned many things here.

I came into high school unsure of what my future goals would be, but without a doubt knowing I wanted to make a difference. I discovered what my calling was: Journalism.

High school has prepared me for college and life. My teachers, counselors and friends taught me so much and constantly encouraged me. With senioritis and so many tasks to do, I wanted to give up and take a break, but they never let me. They saw my potential and drive and knew that wasn't me. I didn't give up.

Math and science were definitely the subjects I struggled with, but English and writing just came naturally to me. It took me to a different place where I could express myself. I had been the Teaching Academy president for the last three years, a part of Peer

Mentors and Student Council. But somehow, something was missing. My first and foremost priority was to excel in my studies.

At the end of my junior year, with all my AP classes out of the way for a few months I said to Ms. Larsen, "I can finally take the class I want, journalism," and I was looking forward to it.

When I first joined the newspaper I was surprised at how many other students on campus shared the same passion I did, because I hadn't found anyone else that wanted to pursue this career.

As I came into my senior year I had other activities and more classes to take, but I stayed on the newspaper staff.

I met many people who influenced and had fun, while doing what I did best, writing. The editor in chief took me as his "apprentice" and taught me everything he knew. As I worked with students and my advisors I became a stronger writer. Seeing my name on the front page gave me a unique feeling of accomplishment and pride.

[Lesson cont. Page 6]

Poly Honors Perseverance

By Ana Loera
Staff Writer

The President's Award for Educational Achievement, the Perseverance Award, the Distinguished Award, and recognition for a 3.5 GPA, all went to Luis Villa on Senior Awards Night for his achievements. What is amazing is that he also struggles with Cerebral Palsy, making it difficult for him to speak, walk, and use full function of his hands. This does not impede Villa, however, from going to school and showing people what he can do.

Cerebral Palsy is described as "an umbrella term encompassing a group of non-progressive, non-contagious neurological disorders that cause physical disability in human development, specifically the human movement and posture" (Wikipedia.com). Cerebral Palsy occurs at birth, and is caused by abnormalities in parts of the brain that control muscle movements and exists since birth. This is why Villa has coped with the disorder his entire life. "He has had three surgeries about his drooling but has not remedied," said Villa's adult interpreter Jess de Leon. Villa has difficulty communicating but has Mr. de Leon and a conversation machine to help him.

"Luis is very insistent in doing his work. If he misses his homework, he cannot be



Photo By Efrain Rodriguez

PROUD PARROT: Senior Luis Villa holds President Award and certificate of Perseverance.

content until he sits down and does it," said Mr. de Leon. Villa comes to Poly every morning and then heads to Mission College where he takes more classes. He passed the CAHSEE and is proud to say that he will graduate this year.

Villa's favorite subject in school is math and his favorite teacher is Mr. William Gallegos. He has many friends which is what he will miss most about Poly, besides Mr.

de Leon, his adult interpreter.

Villa who now lives with his parents and sister plans on attending Mission College in the fall. He hopes to one day become a teacher assistant. "I want to help students," said Villa. For now Villa enjoys being a teenage boy. He likes using his laptop, which he learned to use by himself, playing XBOX, watching TV and watching movies, especially, "The Lord of the Rings."

Faculty Shoutouts:

To Poly's Seniors,

*"Beauty is truth, truth beauty," – that is all
Ye know on earth,
and all ye need to know."*
John Keats
– (Ode to Grecian Urn)

To all the Poly Optimist editorial staff – thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to the written word, and being part of recording your histories.
-Mrs. Matlen

Dear Senior class,

I wish you luck, happiness, and peace. READ! READ! Stay in touch with the world.
Sincerely,
Mrs. Beilinson

My Dear Seniors,

Thank you for making my job fun and enlightening. I have known many of you for years, and will hold you very dear in my memory. I fondly hope you live lives full of inquiry, affection, and laughter.

All the best now and always
-Mrs. Marzolo

Good luck all you crazy, wonderful seniors. Thank you for making my 1st period class much fun. Go full steam ahead, and do something you'll be proud of. Lift your head, gaze at the moon, enrich yourselves through literature, travel to another universe, and don't forget to laugh.

*Much love,
Ms. Combs*

To my unforgettable seniors,

You'll always have a special place in my heart. Congratulations and best of luck with all you do.
-Ms. Pia Damonte

To the Senior Class of '07,

The memories have been great. To the Boys' varsity basketball team, I will never forget this year. I hope many of your goals were met. Always remember to never give up, perseverance will pay off. This year was a dream come true for me. I hope it was for you too.

*Best wishes,
Coach Katz*

Ability to Learn is Life's Best Gift

By Cynthia Velasquez
Contributing Writer

I wake up every morning, hoping for the same thing, that my family and I get out residency papers in the mail. The routine seems monotonous but the hope is what keeps me going. Being undocumented is probably the toughest obstacle I am working my way through right now. Since I was a kid, I've set goals for myself, which seemed unlikely for me to accomplish until now. I am realizing what my capabilities are, and that if I want something enough, I can have it.

When I first came with my family to the United States, I felt like the ugly duckling at school because I felt I didn't belong. It was confusing trying to understand everyone's English conversations, when

I only spoke Spanish. I didn't think I could ever break my language barrier, but with all of my efforts and help from my first and second grade teachers, I eventually did it.

Coming out to my parents is the most painful thing I have gone through. It doesn't make it easier that I was born into an old fashioned Mexican family. To this day, I am still trying to find myself as a person with a purpose in life. I've learned that acknowledging my sexuality has helped me to better understand myself, even though my parents finding out, is one of my most bitter memories. It hurt me to know I was no longer accepted by them. The two people, who brought me into this world, had rejected me as their daughter. The trust was broken, and so

was my heart. The words they spoke were crude and hurtful. I felt ashamed and out of place for so long. Then I understood that they didn't want to understand that aspect of my lifestyle. I was left with horrid wounds after this experience, but it taught me that I have to fend for myself. If I believe in myself and trust myself, I can love myself. And if I love myself, I can love others, and let others love me.

Art has always appealed to me, for as long as I can remember. In second grade, I was even awarded Best Artist in Class. From all the types of art I have engaged in over the years, fashion design is one that most interests me because I can incorporate all the other styles of art into fashion. I believe that freedom of ex-

pression is the most important right we have, and what better way to do so than through one's own creations? I've been through thick and thin here at Poly and the places that most bring me peace are the art rooms on campus. Every encounter I've had in art has had a great impact in my life. I've been inspired by all the different multicultural ideas and perspectives that this school has. I'm proud to be a Poly graduate because I feel I have contributed in the multicultural aspect of the school.

The ability to learn is life's best gift. If one goes through life without bothering to learn anything, it's like regurgitating the same day over and over again. All life's experiences should be treasured because the sum is what makes a person.

Life's Lesson

[Editor's Lesson from Page 5]

The newspaper took pressure off; it let me have fun. Although there are deadlines and much work to get done every month, I have never been more proud of the students I worked with and the teachers because we did something incredible. We helped keep the newspaper alive on campus and produced an award winning newspaper, taking a first place by the American Scholastic Press Association.

Getting in trouble with administration over certain pieces and accidentally deleting pages, working late afternoons and reading copy constantly, made it worthwhile once we had the paper in our hands every month for distribution.

"Jennifying" is the term as the Editor-in-Chief would teach me and we would work together to finish the newspaper. No issue would leave the room until I had "Jennified" it. I am a perfectionist; this paper taught me so much and helped me discover what I wanted out of life, to be a writer, a journalist, Editor-in-Chief of the *Los Angeles Times* one day. The paper would be edited before sent to press, but I needed to make sure copy was right, pictures had proper credit, layout was down to a T and no other errors were made.

Being given the chance to join the school newspaper was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. Leaving high school and moving on to bigger things doesn't mean I will forget my roots. This school, the staff and the newspaper molded me into a better and stronger person. I have discovered my passion with the help of my two advisors. I found a great friend in the Editor-in-Chief and he never gave up on me either. Journalism at Poly was my first step toward my future goal. To any future student considering joining the paper, a few words of advice:

-Don't come in here thinking you can get an easy grade and not get work done.

-Be committed.

-If you're not great at it at first, keep trying.

-And most important, make me proud and all the past and future editors.

The editors I met while on the newspaper taught me a lot and I will never forget them. We made this newspaper what it is and I'm sure they hope, just as I do, that future journalists keep up the good work and don't let the freedom of the press die out.

CHOICES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

By Mildred Fuentes
Contributing Writer

When you're 11 years old all you want is to be older. You want to grow up and receive all the privileges in the world, to do whatever it is you want. Now time has flown and it is time to actually grow up, not because we want to, but because we have to.

I believe from my experience during high school that these four years here haven't just been used to receive an education, but also to find oneself, to explore who you are and who you want to be.

Everything that happens during the four years of high school, shape you. These years are very critical for a teenager because you can easily lose yourself and get stuck some where you never imagined you would be.

You find friends and you test them out until you find your click. You build friendships that last a life time, but then you also build friendships that last only months.

I found out a lot about myself and I grew up to be the person I am because of those experiences.

Life has unexpected turns; the world sends tumultuous waves. But the one thing that makes all those waves feel like nothing is the fact that you have people at your side to help you swim through them.

I see a lot of students get lost. I see young people with bright futures lose it all in a blink of an eye because of wrong decision that carried heavy consequences.



Photo By Mildred Fuentes

KICKING IT: *Hangout spot for Fuentes and all the people that have come and gone.*

I've also seen a lot of students find themselves and use high school as a stepping stone on which to push themselves off so they can reach bigger things, with great rewards.

Poly is not just a place in which we all come to read and write, it is a building that holds within its walls the stories of our experiences. Everyone has a place that holds their memories, a place where they "kicked it." I know I do. It is a tree that has seen people come and go just like they have in my life throughout high school. It holds secrets no one knows about and has stories of crazy moments with smiles and laughter.

Poly is another life, one that shapes and prepares us for the outside world.

Some of us are going to UC's, others are going out of state and some are staying here at home, but all of us are taking roads and our road starts here at Poly, because here we built our foundation with the help of the teachers and counselors, and all of the staff members.

Poly's Passion for Fashion

By Juan Martinez
Contributing Writer

This 2007 school year at Poly, there was a variety of styles in clothing. Name brands such as Famous Stars and Straps, LRG, Volcom, Hollister, American Eagle and Abercrombie and Fitch were seen worn around campus.

Styles known as indie and urban made the look.

For Winter the plain sweater became more extravagant and colorful, with bright prints such as amebas, dollar signs, stars and many other prints. Ugg boots were worn throughout Winter.

Girls choose flats as the main shoe this school year, which came in a variety of styles and colors.

Animal prints were also a hit amongst girls, being wore as bags, flats and other accessories.

Unique Looks and Styles

Photos By Mildred Fuentes



Art and Clothing



Flats all around....

Popular footwear worn by men were the Nike Dunks, in a varieties of color. Vans were seen worn by both men and women on the school campus.

The religious bracelet was seen worn by almost all individuals.

Tote bags became a hit also this school year coming in all styles and varieties.

Amongst the dull masses at Poly campus there were students who stood out in the crowd. These students made their own clothes or knew how to make an outfit work that made them stand out. The students were not scared of criticism. Many were recognized by their peers and faculty for their original creations.



Even backpacks looked fashionable.

FASHION TRENDS: *The Senior Class of 2007 showed off many different styles and looks, making themselves truly unique.*



PLACES TO GO

CSUs

CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

David Albarran
Adriana Alfaro
Jaime Alfaro
Cynthia Alvarez
Natalie Amaya
Maria Andrade
Andrea Anzuelo
Oliva Arriola
Yaretsi Arroyo
Ilcia Arteaga
Aurora Avila
Ingrid Ayala
Luz Badillo
Fernando Barillas
Kristen Bautista
Karia Benegas
Natalie Bocanegra
Ana Bonilla
Bianca Bravo
Ashley Burch
Fabiola Caballero
Grace Cadalzo
Angelica Calderon
Erica Calderon
Desiree Carbajal
Aileen Carrera
Michelle Carrillo
Vanessa Cartagena
Erica Castaneda
Jenny Castellanos
Megan Ceja
Cirila Chaidez
Josephine Chavez
Louise Chavez
Yennyfer Chavez
Cindy Contreras
Claudia Corral
Jenny de Guzman
Vanessa Deras
Javier Donez
Valerie Escobar
Yesenia Escobar
Jorge Espinoza
Robert Espinoza
Diego Flores
Hugo Flores
Michael Fonseca
Mildred Fuentes
Alexis Fuglsang
Roger Gadea
Anahi Galadjian
Kenne Galcia
Jacqueline Garcia
Jessica Garcia
Maricela Garcia
Martha Garcia
Miriam Garcia
Patricia Garcia
Priscilla Garcia
Ana Giron
Leslie Gomez
Juan Gonzalez
Susy Gonzalez
Tracy Gonzalez
Andrew Guerra
Laura Guerrero
Debbie Guevara

Mizrain Guzman
Michael Helo
Jessica Hernandez
Jorge Hernandez
Lizbeth Hernandez
Lucia Herrera
Luis Huazano
Marlene Huitink
Hansel Jaramillo
Ramandeep Kaur
Kraiwit Krairisophon
Mari Libaryan
Jessica Lifonzo
Isaid Longoria
Allison Lopez
Erika Lopez
Ruben Lopez
Gerilyn Lubrica
Jorge Luque Armenta
Maria Joanalen Macam
Lizeth Magana
Georgina Marquez
Juan Martinez
Maria Mascorro
Alfredo Mateo
Eden Membrere
Fernando Mendez
Cindy Menjivar
Azucena Mercado
Cesar Meza
Oscar Molina
Julie Montes
Ivonne Moreno
Maria Muniz
Maribel Navarrete
Maria Ochoa
Gloria Ortiz
Vanesa Ortiz
Jeovany Osorio
Marcela Ovando
Andrew Padilla
Katherine Pangilinan
Antonio Partida
Marline Pelayo
Jose Peralta
Cristian Perez
Esmeralda Perez
Leonel Perez
Nayeli Perez
Lesley Pimienta
Carol Pocasangre
Madelyn Portales
Maricruz Portillo-Moreno
Falguni Frajapati
Alma Quintana
Carina Reyes
Roxana Reyes
Katiana Rivas
Jennifer Rivera
Gerson Rizo
Alex Rodriguez
Angel Rodriguez
Edgar Rodriguez
Elena Rodriguez
Cynthia Rosas
Marjoanne Rubi
Bryant Salvatierra
Delmy Sanchez
Samantha Scott
Adrian Sigala
Maria Solano
Edna Soria
Evelin Sosa
Anthony Tashjian
Alexandra Tejeda
Alisa Timsuren
Giselle Toledo

Carlos Torres
Gamaliel Torres
Marco Torres
Jessica Trinidad
Carla Valle
Maira Vega
Eden Velasco
Ariana Velez
Stephanie Vidales
Cristian Vides
Federico Villalobos
Susan Vitale
Edgar Zamora

CAL STATE LOS ANGELES

Adriana Alfaro
Maria Andrade
Angeline Artiga
Aurora Avila
Luz Babdillo
Fernando Barillas
Kristen Bautista
Jovanny Blanco
Natalie Bocanegra
Fabiola Caballero
Grace Cadalzo
Angelica Calderon
Erica Calderon
Aileen Carrera
Vanessa Cartagena
Josephine Chavez
Yennyfer Chavez
Melissa Davila
Jenny De Guzman
Valerie Escobar
Yesenia Escobar
Anahit Galadjian
Abigail Garcia
Jacqueline Garcia
Jessica Garcia
Martha Garcia
Miriam Garcia
Patricia Garcia
Leslie Gomez
Juan Gonzalez
Tracy Gonzalez
Michelle Gudiel
Jessica Hernandez
Hansel Jaramillo
Veronica Jimenez
Ramandeep Kaur
Jessica Lifonzo
Erica Lopez
Gerilyn Lubrica
Maria Joanalen Macam
Julia Maldonado
Maria Mascorro
Eden Membrere
Oscar Molina
Julie Montes
Ivonne Moreno
Maria Muniz
Maribel Navarrete
Maria Ochoa
Alejandro Ortega
Gloria Ortiz
Marcela Ovando
Katherine Joyce Pangilinan
Jose Peralta
Cristian Perez
Leonel Perez
Lesley Pimienta
Madeline Portales
Falguni Prajapati

Demetria Ramos
Katiana Rivas
Carlos Rivera
Jennifer Rivera
Gerson Rizo
Alex Rodriguez
Angelica Rodriguez
Janette Rodriguez
Margarita Rojas
Cynthia Rosas
Judith Sahagun
Elicia Salcedo
Christinne Sanchez
Samantha Scott
Crystal Serrano
Maria Solano
David Solano
Seunghan Son
Evelin Sosa
Lindsay Soto
Giselle Toledo
Marco Torres
Carla Valle
Ariana Velez
Federico Villalobos
Susan Vitale

CAL STATE DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Maria Andrade
Alexis Fuglsang
Jeannette Magaña
Jennifer Rivera

CAL STATE FULLERTON

Angelica Calderon
Alex Ortega

CAL STATE FRESNO

Jesus Aceves
Michelle Gudiel
Michael Helo

CAL STATE UNIV. HUMBOLT

Erika Flores
Anthony Tashjian
Federico Villalobos

CAL STATE CHICO

Mericia Alcaraz
Antonio Partida

CAL STATE LONG BEACH

Berenice Rodriguez-Moran

CAL STATE CHANNEL ISLANDS

Angelica Calderon
Michelle Carrillo
Patricia Garcia

CAL STATE MONTEREY BAY

Jesus Aceves
Wendy Montellano

CAL STATE POMONA

Patricia Garcia
Michelle Gudiel
Mizrain Guzman
Jeannette Magaña
Anthony Tashjian

CAL POLY-TECHNIC STATE, SAN LUIS OBISPO

Angelica Calderon
Anthony Tashjian

CAL STATE STANISLAUS

Wendy Montellano

SAN FRANCISCO STATE

Angelica Calderon
Michelle Gudiel
Lizeth Lombera
Wendy Montellano
Antonio Partida
Jose Peralta
Jennifer Rivera
Federico Villalobos

SAN JOSE STATE

Jesus Aceves
Lizeth Lombera
Wendy Montellano
Antonio Partida
Anthony Tashjian

SACRAMENTO STATE

Lizeth Lombera

PEOPLE TO MEET

SAN DIEGO STATE

Michael Helo
Darnley Gay
Mizrain Guzman
Lizeth Lombera
Berenice Rodriguez-Moran

UCs

UC SAN DIEGO

Anthony Bahena
Fernando Barillas
Aileen Carrera
Javier Donez
Robert Espinoza
Debbie Guevara
Christine Ilagan
Marvin Leiva
Jessica Lifonzo
Ana Loera
David Lopez
Julie Montes
Aldo Mendez
Griselda Ocampo
Manuel Rico-Flores
Abhishake Rohilla
Juan Carlos Sanchez
Crystal Sicairos
Samuel Su
Betty A. Suravech
Anthony Tashjian
Marqus Theodore
Stacy Williams
Kevin Yacharn

UC SANTA BARBARA

Oliva Arriola
Megan Ceja
Javier Donez
Hansel Jaramillo
Mari Libaryan
Ana Loera
Lizeth Lombera
Jonathan Lopez
Julie Montes
Katiana Rivas
Betty A. Suravech

UC MERCED

Jesus Aceves
Jovanny Blanco
Christian Faundez
Jonathan Lopez
Anthony Tashjian

UC IRVINE

Oliva Arriola
Megan Ceja
Maricela Garcia
Michelle Lazo
Aldo Mendez

UC DAVIS

Javier Donez
Christian Faundez
Ana Loera
Aldo Mendez
Andrew Padilla
Bryant Salvatierra
Anthony Tashjian
Gamaliel J. Torres

UC LOS ANGELES

Aileen J. Carrera
Mario A. De Leon
Javier A. Donez
Maricela Garcia
Susy Gonzalez
Bryan D. Hernandez
Lucia J. Herrera
Christine I. Ilagan
Heriberto Jauregui R.
Ramadeep Kaur
Marvin G. Leiva
Jessica R. Lifonso
David A. Lopez
Jonathan Lopez
Griselda Ocampo.
Andrew Padilla
Manuel E. Rico-Flores
Angel E. Rodriguez
Abhishake K. Rohilla
Manuel J. Su
Betty A. Suravech
Marqus Theodore
Carlos Torres
Gamaliel J. Torres
Kevin Yacharn

UC SANTA CRUZ

Jesus Aceves
Adriana Alfaro
Angelica Calderon
Erica Calderon
Megan Ceja
Javier Donez
Patricia Garcia
Hansel Jaramillo
Michelle Lazo
Mari Libaryan
Maria Muniz
Antonio Partida
Anthony Tashjian

UC RIVERSIDE

Jesus Aceves
Adriana Alfaro
Oliva Arriola
Jenny Castellanos
Megan Ceja
Mildred Fuentes
Michelle Lazo
Vanessa Linares
Jazmine Marron
Maria Muniz
Kristal Pacheco
Jose Peralta
Katiana Rivas
Jennifer Rivera

UC BERKELEY

Cindy Contreras
Ramandeep Kaur
Suzy Gonzalez
Marvin Leiva
Ana Loera
Mari Libaryan
Lizeth Lombera
David Lopez
Abhishake Rohilla
Carlos Soriano
Carlos Torres
Christine Ilagan

Private Universities

MOUNT ST. MARY’S

Olivia Arreola
Cirila Chaidez
Mildred Fuentes
Maricela Garcia

TEXAS A & M

Benjamin Hernandez
Israel Lupercico
Adriana Soto

WOODBURY UNIVERSITY

Catherine Wheeler

VIRGINIA TECH

Fernando Mendez

UNIV. OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE

Samuel Su
Kevin Yacharn

UNIV. OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

Anthony Tashjian

UNIV. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Esmeralda Perez

Community Colleges

MISSION COLLEGE

Daniel Aceves
Karen Aguilar
Dennis Alcantara
Angeline Artiga
Daniel Castillo
Otha Chapple
Favian Cortina
Rebecca Delgado
Carmen Estrada
Karen Gomez
Genesis Gonzalez
Erick Hernandez
Cindy Jimenez
Maria Lara
Michelle Lazo
Osvaldo Manriquez
Kristine Marquez
Mariah McCall
Edith Melendez
Zoila Montes
Diana Moreno
Gonzalo Moreno
Maricruz Moreno
Wendy Rendon
Robert Rios
Shirley Rivera
Francisco Rodriguez
Veronica Rubio
Graciela Soto
Ketih Sripom
Elizabeth Torres
Yuliana Trejo
Elizabeth Urena

PIERCE COLLEGE

Ana Bonilla
Pablo Caraveo-Gamboa
Oscar Cardenas
Christian Carrasco
Jenny Castellanos
Hansel Castillo
Ashley De la Cruz
Edwin Diaz
Etzahel Duron
Cindy Farias
Carlos Flores
Dianna Flores
Ansley Gerona
Miriam Gomez
Crystal Guerra
Desi Guijarro
Cristal Johnson
Tiffany Lam
Jeanette Leon
Liliana Medrano
Eden Membrene
Karina Mendez
Veronica Nunez
Edith Olmedo
Rhina Paniagua
Roxana Pineda
Steve Pintor
Adrian Ramirez
Rene Ramirez
Vanessa Ramirez
Evelyn Ramos
Cinthya Rodriguez

Jessica Rodriguez
Margarita Rojas
Stacy Ruiz
Louie Sandajan

VALLEY COLLEGE

Dennis Alcantara
Guillermo Alvizar
Francisco Arias
Juan Bustos
Christian Carrasco
Ericka Castillo
Mayra Cazares
Eva Chacon
Mishell De Leon
Mercedes Espinoza
Dianna Flores
Karen Garcia
Melisa Gonzalez
Ernie Hernandez
Michael Hernandez
Gabriela Herrera
Felicia Jefferson
Jessy Maturano
Angel Mejicanos
Edith Melendez
Daniel Mendiola
Eva Morales
Gonzalo Moreno
Sergio Orozco
Rhina Paniagua
Olga Perez
Roxana Pineda
Cynthia Ramirez
Marisol Ramos
Claudia Reyes
Guadalupe Rodriguez
Cynthia Rosas
Daniel Saldivar
Ricardo Sanchez
Alif Silpachai
Natalie Solis Rosas
Michael Sotto
Elizabeth Torres
Elizabeth Urena
Noemi Vaca
Ricardo Valenzuela
Laura Velasquez

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Ayamel Arce
Edwin Ayala
Natalie Carraso
Jacqueline Diaz
Adilene Fernandez
Ramon Flores
Christian Galvez
Karen Garcia
Lizbeth Gonzalez
Mizrain Guzman
Ernie Hernandez
Luis Huazano
Cristal Johnson
Da Sol Joo
Miguel Marcos
Susana Mariscal
Juan Martinez
Giovani Mendez
Diana Moreno
Viviana Pacheco
Kimberly Rojas
Elizabeth Torres



SENIOR ATHLETES PUT POLY ON THE MAP

By D.J. Gay & Osvin Gonzales
Contributing Writer

Photos by Efrain Rodriguez

Vanessa Linares



Vanessa Linares led this year's ladies tennis team, she will be attending the University of California, Riverside. Vanessa has not decided if she wants to continue playing. She expressed the season as "A season where a lot of girls learned how to play a new sport, it was fun and exciting and wouldn't change it for anything." Vanessa's most memorable moment was taking a hard fall in a game against Verdugo but still managed to come out with the victory. The game of tennis was something new to Vanessa but through the hard work, she turned out to be one of the best players in the city. For everyone planning to play tennis Vanessa's advice is, "Continue playing tennis even though winning won't always be an option."

Claudia Corral



Claudia Corral led the girls volleyball team to an overall record of 4-10. She will be attending the California State University of Northridge, and has not decided on whether she wants to keep playing or not. Claudia describes their season as fun and enjoying. "The game of volleyball has helped me learn to overcome challenges and how to work with different people." Claudia's most memorable moment was when she found out she had made first team all league. The highlight of her season was the game against North Hollywood because everyone played to their full potential. Claudia's advice to future lady volleyball players is, "Never give up, and make sure to have fun."

Jessica Trinidad



Poly's starting pitcher Jessica Trinidad helped lead the Lady Parrots to a winning record of 21-7, with a batting average of .353. The girl's softball team had a very long season with 28 games played. She will be attending the University of California, Irvine, but has not made up her mind on wanting to play for their softball team. Jessica describes her senior season as fun and enjoyable. "The game of softball has taught me determination and how to work with others to accomplish goals." Jessica's most memorable moment was coach Peralta's final speech, "You have your whole life ahead of you this is just a stepping stone." Jessica's advice to the future Lady Parrot's softball team is, "Always play with your heart."

Jazmine Marron



Jazmine Marron and the Ladies Soccer team had a rough season with an overall record four wins ten losses and one tie. Jazmine will be attending the University of California, Irvine. She describes her senior season as fun and unforgettable. "Soccer has taught me determination, dedication, and important how to be a good leader towards the sport and in life itself. There was great team chemistry among the players."

Jazmine concludes, "Never give up on any of your goals. Although it can get tough, take the challenge and never look back." This statement reflects Jazmine's belief and has helped her to become an excellent athlete and stellar student.

Ashley Burch



Ashley Burch led the girl's basketball team to a great season. They had an overall record of 16-11, and made it to the quarterfinals in the invitational play-offs. Ashley averaged 14.1 points and scored 20 or more points seven times this year. She will continue her basketball career at College of the Canyons and plans on transferring to a University afterwards. Ashley's highlight of the season is scoring 29 points against San Fernando. "The game of basketball has taught me teamwork and how to work with others." The hardest situation Ashley placed in, was living up to other peoples' expectations. Ashley's last words were, "Stick to it and never give up, prove people wrong."

Silvia Alboniga



Track sensation Silvia Alboniga opened many eyes this season on the track field. She plans on attending a community college and transferring to university. She set goals to someday run for powerhouse UCLA. She first broke the record of 47.9 in the hurdles then later broke her own record by running a 46.3. Silvia competed in the city finals, but took a fall after hitting the hurdles, "That's ok, it's only going to make me work harder and harder," Silvia expressed. "Track and field has helped me stay focused and motivated." She is now running for a track club by the name of East Valley Eagles. Silvia has earned the chance to compete for the youth national championship. Her advice is, "Stay motivated, its all mental. Whatever you think you can do, you can."

DJ Gay



D.J. led the Sunset Six League in points, threes, steals, and assists. He steered the team to a winning victory. D.J. described his senior season as, "Perfect, even though we didn't win the championship. This was a record setting season that will be remembered." He said, "Basketball has shaped me into the man I am today." When asked what was the biggest source of inspiration and motivation, D.J. said, "I was my own motivation and inspiration because last season I felt like I let my team down." D.J. will be attending San Diego State University where he plans to continue his basketball career. "Mr. Laster once said to me, excuses are tools of the incompetent that build monuments of nothingness, create results not excuses." This is what I want to pass on to the next team.

David Solorio



David Solorio led the boy's soccer team to an overall record of five wins nine losses and one tie.

He will be attending the California State University of Northridge and has not decided whether he wants to continue his soccer career.

David describes his season as "A great stumble. My hardest challenge was coming back from a three month break due to a heart murmur." After the three month period David did not hesitate to get back on the field and instantly take a starting spot.

David's highlight this season was scoring a goal against Canoga, the third best team in the nation. David's last words to the future soccer team are "Always work together, don't take anyone for granted." Even with David's success in soccer he has not neglected his studies.

Gualberto Sanchez



This year's starting quarterback Gualberto "Wally" Sanchez led the football team. "This season was sometimes frustrating but everything turned out fine because we began to work as a team," said Sanchez. The highlight of the season was against Van Nuys. The game dedicated to former coach Red, "We worked hard, played hard, and played as one. Team chemistry is key to a successful season," said Sanchez. He slimmed down and stayed healthy playing football throughout the seasons. Losing those pounds allowed Gualberto to move up from an imposing lineman to a full-fledged quarterback. Gualberto's words of advice to future football players are, "Work hard and never give up, play as a team."

Gualberto plans on working full time next year and going to a local college.

Juan Carlos Sanchez



Lead off man Juan Carlos led Poly High's baseball team to a season closer with a league record of 13-2 and an overall record of 16-11. Juan will be attending the University of California, San Diego and hopes to continue his baseball career there as a potential walk on. Juan describes his senior season as a roller coaster, "The season was filled with ups and downs." Through the rough times on the team, the Parrots and Juan were still able to earn another league title. When asked how baseball affected his life he expressed that it was hard being a student athlete and learning how to manage his time, but learned how to become a better person. To the future Parrot baseball team Juan concludes, "Have no regrets the year goes by too fast." During his senior year, Sanchez contributed to the Optimist's Sports Page.

The Poly Optimist Senior Staff



OPTIMIST SENIOR STAFF: Adriana Alfaro, Cynthia Velazquez, Juan Martinez, Leah Arjona, Randy Whyte, Mildred Fuentes, Aldo Mendez, Jennifer Rivera, Ana Loera, Christian Faundez, Erika Flores, Erick Robles, Elmer Cartagena. Not present: Jose Peralta, Eric Mendoza, Heriberto Jauregui, Juan Carlos Sanchez, Katiana Rivas, Diana Argueta, Karen Martinez, Gabriela Herrera.

Senior Council of 2007



SENIOR COUNCIL: “They accomplished a lot as a group and I am very proud of it. They organized prom, senior dinner, snow trip and senior breakfast. Being the sponsor was a learning experience with the help of a very hard working senior council.” - Mr. Patterson

Poly’s ‘07 Valedictorians

- Martin Leiva
- Christine Ilagan
- Abhishake Rohilla
- David Lopez
- Manuel Rico-Flores
- Mario De leon
- Aileen Carrera
- Samuel Su
- Susy Gonzales
- Anahit Galadjian
- Marta Rivera
- Michelle Lazo
- Griselda Ocampo
- Brenda Mayorga

Teacher Shoutouts continued...

Congratulations to the class of 2007 (too many to name!) Have fun (but not too much fun!), work hard and become successful. With the money that you’re all going to make, send me on a cruise to somewhere tropical. We’ll call it even then. Lol you’re awesome and you will be missed. Thanks for the great memories.

Love, Ms. Batiste

The world is counting on you! Contribute of yourselves and make your dreams come true! Congratulations Class of 2007! Love you – Mean it!

-Ms. H

Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising everytime we fall

-Mr. Block (Thank You Confucius!)

You have contributed to Poly- now it’s your time to contribute to the world. Good luck & I’ll miss you

-Silvia Brown

Hamlet Act I, iii
Polonius:
This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

-Mrs. Carnovsky

Congratulations and best wishes to our proud Poly Parrots as you leave the nest to pursue your dreams and do wonderful things. May you find your rainbow and make every moment count.

-Mrs. Kronstadt

Congratulations to the senior class of 2007! Be proud of your accomplishment, but don’t stop!! Keep on moving forward with your education. We’ll miss you.

-Ms. Kenion

Go, Poly Parrots! Make us proud! You have done a great job here. Show the world what you can do!

-Ms. Padua

Class of 2007
You are the Best. Good look to all of you.

-Mrs. Richter

Class of 2007 Rocks! I had so many good memories and I thank you for making me part of you.

-Mr. Lopez

BUENA SUERTE!
THE FUTURE IS YOURS

-Mrs. Kazaryan

Bringing Back First Place Title



Photo By Efrain Rodriguez

EDITORS: Jose Peralta, Fernando Marquez, Jennifer Rivera have contributed greatly to the Optimist for the years 06-07.

AWARD WINNING PAPER: The Poly Optimist under the tutelage of Mrs. Matlen and Mr. Blau, C-track advisor, is returned to its award winning status. On February 27, 1932, the Optimist was awarded First Place at USC with most recent First Place award, Spring 2007 American Scholastic Press Association.

Leadership Class of 2007



Photo provided by Bryant Salvatierra

LEADERS OF 2007: Leadership led Poly’s Blue and Gold to top North Hollywood’s blood drive with 704 total pints of blood over NoHo’s 632 and raised a record \$34,041 in the “Spark of Love” Toy drive.

Senior Shoutouts

High School has been a unique and unforgettable experience. I give great thanks to all the teachers and staff that supported me, especially Mr. Colon, Ms. Larsen, Ms. Matlen and Mr. Blau. I will miss all these inspirational people. To my friends, the best of luck in all your endeavors.

Class of 2007, congratulations! Never give up!

-Jennifer Rivera

Life has unexpected turn and some are not ones you would like to deal with. Think before you aact and choose, remember that everything has consequences. All of us are about to embark on a journey that will shape our lives, make sure you have fun and you choose the things you love.

-Mildred Fuentes

Congratulations on culminating 13 years of school! I wish you all the best in your futures. Whatever paths you decide to take, always stay true to your roots and remember those that genuinely care about you. Take chances, make mistakes, and learn from them so that you could be the best people you could possibly be. Just remember to aim high and follow your hearts. Make your dreams come true because you only live once.

-Ana Loera

Let all your dreams come true. W e have made it thus far with the help of everyone. Knowledge can only be found in those who are fill with wisdom and appreciate the love that has penetrated the souls of our lives.

-Christian Faundez

Students Go to State Capital

By Evelyn Lemus
Staff Writer

Poly students German Polanco and Perry Nga will participate directly in state politics in Sacramento this summer, hosted by The University of Sacramento. Ron Lehavi nominated Polanco and Nga for The American Legion California Boys State program this year. “ I am excited to meet new people of contrasting socioeconomic backgrounds and examine their political perspective,” says Polanco. They will be gone from June 16,2007 until June 23, 2007. The American Legion California Boys State Foundation offers numerable opportunities to students that wish to pursue a career in politics. This program is offered to male high school students only, during their junior year. A student is nominated by a teacher, then interviewed by

members of the foundation and if accepted, attends the program for one week. The student can attend the program only once. Financial status is not a concern for the participants. The Boys State foundation is a non-profit organization as well is exempt from California taxes. The program is open to all students that meet the requirements. The program’s purpose is to develop community leadership, interest in the government, and an understanding of American history and its tradition. The students will participate in a parliamentary environment. Law, and civil services are just some of the topics they will address. The participants will have the opportunity to talk to government officials, and experience their responsibilities on a daily basis, which will allow the students to view politics in a different perspective.

FIRST TEACHER SCIENCE BOWL COMPETITION

By Eric Bejarano & Fernando Marquez
Staff Writers

This year the Science Bowl students raised money by having teachers compete. The competition was held on June 7, 2007 in the auditorium during lunch. There were two teams with four teachers on each team; each teacher specialized in a field of science. Team A included Ms.Casillas in Math, Mr. Lee in Biology, Mr. Gomez in Chemistry, and Mr. Pemble in Earth Science and Astronomy. Team A won the first science teacher competition with a 44-point lead. Team B included Ms. Bobrow in Biology, Mr. Keutelian in Physics and Chemistry, Mr. Berkley in Math and Physics, and Mr. Hines in Chemistry The event was set up to reflect a real student science bowl competition. The moderator who read the questions to the competitors was Social Studies teacher Ron Lehavi. The competition started off with Ms. Bobrow sounding the buzzer mid-question with the correct answer. The victory was short lived because Ms. Bobrow answered the next question incorrect. Mr. Lehavi asked a question in physics, which immediately hushed the crowd, but before he could finish asking the question Mr. Keteulian buzzed in with a correct answer, which



Photos by Efrain Rodriguez
HEAD TO HEAD: Competitors size each other up during the event. (top photo: Team A; bottom photo: Team B)

resulted in a loud cheer from the audience. As the topics of the question changed to math, the teacher began to stall, most of them resulting in no point gains for both teams. As the the teachers battled it out, the crowd cheered and applauded for the competitors. Mr. Lee said, “ It was a great experience for a great cause.” It was new experience that many students can look forward to. The Science Bowl Sponsor Ms Bobrow told us that there is a high chance there will be another teacher competition next year. Science Bowl member Julio Aquino said, “It was intimidating to see the teachers answer the same questions with remarkable speed and accuracy”.

Aguila’s Dreams Take Off Starting with NYU Program

Junior Michelle Aguila accepted to NYU summer program.
By Camille Ocampo
Staff Writer

It’s summer time and everyone is looking forward to relaxing. For Michelle Aguila, however, a junior in the Magnet program, more classes are waiting. Aguila has been accepted to New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts (TSOA), New York University’s summer program that offers artistic classes including music, media, and theater. “I want to have my sphere of influence expanded and gain a broader view of the world,” said Aguila. Aguila had to compete with hundreds of other applicants to obtain a seat in TSOA. Her application included an essay and two letters of recommendation. Aguila’s GPA and test scores were a significant factor in her selection. NYU’s program, appealed

to Aguila’s interests in filmmaking. “The NYU program offered everything I wanted. I plan to go out of state for school and I am aiming for NYU because it is one of the top five film schools in the nation,” said Aguila. NYU’s TSOA is one of the most technologically equipped film schools and it will give Aguila the opportunity to learn more about film in the best surrounding possible. Filmmaking has been Aguila’s childhood dream. Aguila said, “I am hoping to learn about all aspects of filmmaking, not just one. I am really looking forward to broadening my knowledge by using this environment as my sphere of influence.” Aguila will be staying in the dorms at Tisch School’s of Arts’ in Manhattan. She will be taking part in groups that will be producing commercials, music videos and other personal works during the week. On the weekends, she will be experiencing the life in New



Photo by Tatiana Tejada
NYU BOUND: Michelle Agulia, to take part in summer program at filmmaking school in New York.

York City, “since New York is one of the most diverse cities in the world,” said Aguila. Aguila said, “I have always had a love for film and viewed this program as an opportunity to nurture that love. I am laying this great opportunity as a form of groundwork for when I go to college, I am hoping to gain admission into NYU, and pursue a degree in filmmaking.”

the rainbow trout swimming across the current through the clear water, and I knew what I would love to do, I began to research on environmental and conservational issues linked to trout and wildlife” Contreras said, “ I want to go to a UC college for sure and I would like to be

an Environmental Biologist, and work for a Department of Fisheries in any state”. All High Schools in LAUSD submit only one student application along with an essay. Only 10 students would receive the \$16,000.00 scholarship.

[Scholarship continued from Page 1]

realize what career path he wanted to take. He writes, “I had always enjoyed nature and admired its beauty, but until that day, I had not thought of protecting it... I spotted

[Pat Flenner continued from Page 1]

former principal, Virginia Holt, was the reason she was drawn towards Poly. When she first came to Poly, there was no magnet or JROTC. Because of Flenner’s efforts, Poly now has a Magnet. Poly was one of the first to establish a Magnet and ROTC. Ron Lehavi, History teacher, said, “She created the magnet and turned it into a very powerful and successful institution that produces academic giants, and successful people in this country.” Flenner says that when she taught, part of her accomplishments included helping most students pass Computer Science. She was happy to be a part of the team who helped more students get accepted to MIT. “She has influenced the school and the community in a profound way and we admire her for that,” said Lehavi. Flenner’s duties have included being a Math teacher, tutoring students, working in the science department for El Camino, working in computer foundations program and writing math, computer science, and the AP Computer Science

curriculum. She said she was able to help El Camino gain 22 Computer Science classes along with 3 computer labs instead of 1. “I think students need to learn how to play the game of getting into college,” says Flenner, in response to how students should be helped. “I think stability is one of the biggest problems,” says Flenner. “When all the new high schools are open and we are off this year round schedule, things will become more stable,” Flenner said about students moving to the other newly built high schools. In response to additional needs of Poly students, Flenner said, “We also need to look at providing our students with many more hands on opportunities. In her own high school experience she went to school on Saturdays because she was somewhat precocious. She had a good school with marvelous teachers who “filled in her foundations” for her career. Many teachers and staff agree that Flenner has given so much to Poly. Mr. Lehavi said, “She was my greatest mentor in my life and I learned

a lot from her. I’m getting my PhD. because of her and I do adore her,” and “She’s a very inspiring leader.” Ms. Martin like Mr. Lehavi has worked with Flenner for many years. Ms. Martin said, “She is a great friend, whom I love very much, and she’s had a huge influence on me”. Ms. Bryan says, “Pat always embraces each job with unequaled passion and commitment. Tirelessly and selflessly, she works that magic of hers.” She also says, “When describing Pat Flenner, there is one word one cannot omit. Inspirational...” From Ms. Bryan’s experiences with Flenner she says, “From working closely with Pat for seven years in the Magnet, I would say that this is her most important contribution to Poly” “A day doesn’t go by when Pat Flenner doesn’t reach out to students to guide and inspire them. Sometimes gentle, sometimes tough, her message is the same,” says Ms. Bryan. After retiring she plans to remain in the field of education, stay involved with computers and math., and go back to working with horses.

Cardenas Foundation Gives Back to Local Community

By Christian Faundez & Belle Tadena
Staff Writers

This year’s graduating class received many scholarships from the *Andres Y Maria Family Foundation* with the help of Kim Benjamin, former Poly alumni who donated \$12,500 to the foundation. Parrots received a total of \$37,500 shared by 20 students.

The scholarship funds were distributed according to the college or university the students were registered with. Those who registered at a community college received \$500, those with UCs and Cal States received \$1,500 and those at private colleges received \$2,000.

The criteria students had to meet were: a letter of recommendation, GPA of 2.0 or higher, proof of financial need, and two essays describing struggles and future dreams.

Before the parrots received their award, the Cardenas

Foundation requested they attend an academic orientation at CSUN.

Parents whose sons and daughters are currently in college shared their experiences at the CSUN orientation. They talked about what they felt was one of the biggest step in a parent’s life. Current college students also contributed in this presentation promoting a positive approach towards college.

Senior Parrots receiving these scholarship funds were honored at Poly’s Senior Awards Night.

Scholars were chosen among 260 students that applied for the scholarships in the San Fernando Valley, of which only 80 were awarded. Cardenas said, “The acceptances were based strongly on the letters of recommendation.”

The ceremony was held at Granada Hills Odyssey Restaurant, scholars from all over the San Fernando Valley gathered to receive their award letters.

Abuelitos: A Gift of Life Hoping for the Best

Grandparents often don’t get enough love.

By Sergio Fajardo
Staff Writer

Grandparenting may be the world’s most fulfilling job, but todays busy pace doesn’t make it easy to do on the little darlings.

Most grandparents don’t see their grandchildren very often, according to an AARP, American Association of Retired People report. Distance, overscheduled children, divorced parents, health, or lack of money are the most common reasons. On the other hand, some grandparents communicate weekly with their children.

Elliette Altamirano, a grandmother from Sun Valley, calls her five *nietos* [grandchildren] twice a week.

“If one week goes by and I haven’t talked to them, then I worry why haven’t they call me,” Altamirano said.

Many grandparents worry when their grandchildren don’t call them within a long period of time. One call is enough to bring them happiness.

“*Mis abuelos* [my grandparents] are a link to my family history,” said Moe

Altamirano, a Poly alumni class of 1974.

“When my son and daughter don’t call my mom, I tell my children to call her because I like my mom to stay in touch with my children,” Altamirano said.

“We as grandparents can provide unconditional love, without hoping for our grandchildren’s love back, but when I recieve a phone call from my grandchildren, that’s my greatest medicine,” said Elliette Altamirano.

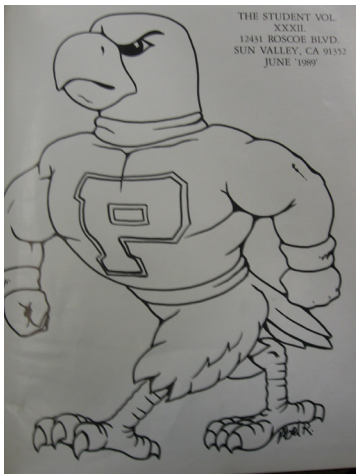
Graduation is the time of the year when families come together to celebrate a child’s achievement—which instills grandparents to feel incredible pride in their grandchildren. Especially, when it is the first time.

“For me, it is a great pride that my *nieto* [grandson] is graduating from Poly High School because Sergio is my first *nieto* to graduate,” said Estefan Marroquin, a grandmother of five children.

“The best gift that a *nieto* can give a grandma, is that we as grandparents get to watch our generation overcoming goals and become important people that we can feel proud of,” Marroquin said.

Joe Parrot Gets a Make-Over

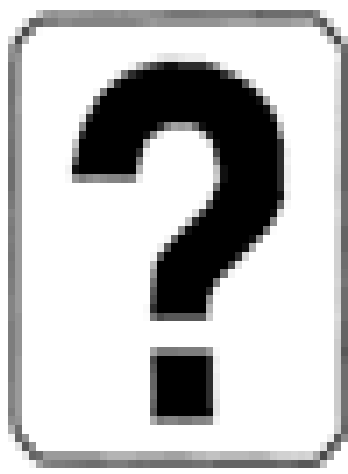
1989



2006



2007



NEW AND IMPROVED MASCOT... Soon to be unveiled at Poly... the make over of Joe Parrot. (Think Tradition plus Power.) Later in the year, a new female mascot will be unveiled. Joe is being created as you read this... Stay tuned.

For more information contact Mr. Stockhammer

DEANS DECLARE WAR ON MARIJUANA ABUSE

By Natalie Castaneda & Francisco Perez
Staff Writers

Sitting quietly in class you hear a firm knock at the door. School police ask for your cooperation for backpack checks. Metal detectors are used to scan you from head to toe. Thoughts run through your head such as. “Who’s getting busted now? Or this is just a waste of time”. Random checks for contraband are routine, although they are being done more frequently due to the rise of marijuana use on campus.

Students are getting caught under the influence of marijuana in P.E areas, hallways and in the corners of classrooms. The 10th grade center reported last mester there were six marijuana related incidents on campus.” Marijuana is very

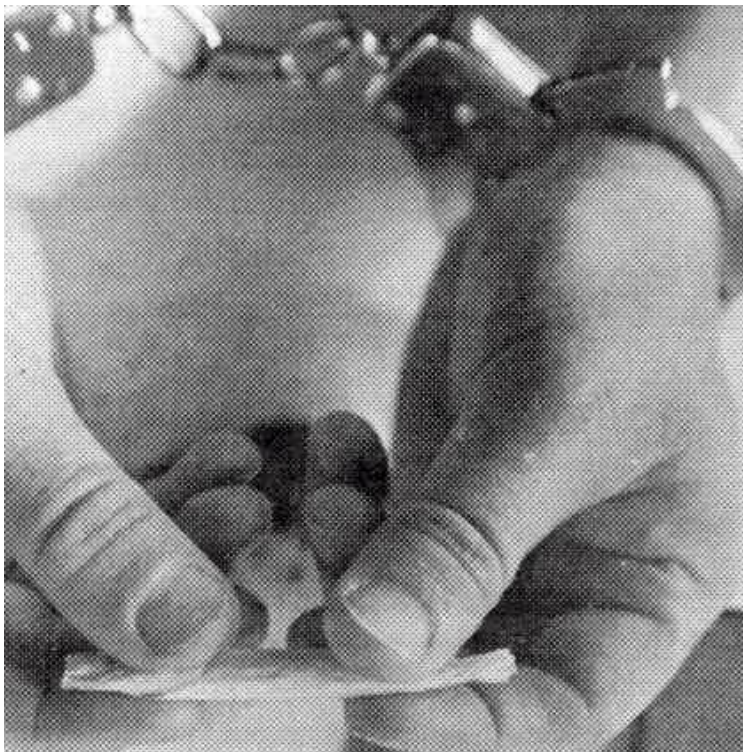


Photo by DrugLibrary.org

CAUGHT WITH CANNABIS: A person convicted two or more times for simple marijuana possession could face up to two years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

accessible by anyone.” said 10th grade dean Toby Bachenheimer.

Bachenhiemer explains how the students getting caught aren’t necessarily your typical troublemakers, “Unfortunately, students who are found with marijuana are not necessarily only students who we know are going to drop out. Even the most innocent of kids with good grades are getting

caught.

Security is tight with the recent increase of marijuana related incidences on campus.

Marijuana is not allowed on campus under any circumstances “Students found with marijuana are suspended and there is a mandatory parent conference. In order to stay in school, students must attend an Impact group on campus,” said Bachenheimer.

[Law Week cont. from page 1]

students acted as judge, prosecutor, defender, court security officer, court’s clerk, witness and jury.

Kimberly Rojas, chosen to be the Clerk of the Court, held the Bible before the witness approached the witness stand to testify. “I wasn’t able to feel my fingertips as I held the book,” Rojas said.

Mock trial Prosecutor Maria Arroyo accused the defendant of illegally downloading music, movies and other data

from the Internet causing the students to enter an intense debate similar to a genuine trial.

“We were told to be calm and composed but I got excited and slammed the bench,” Arroyo said. “The acting part was fun, but I didn’t like wearing the suit I had to wear when we dressed up for the trial.”

Arroyo confessed she slammed her fist on the bench as she objected to a defense statement.

“It was weird in the beginning but as it continued

[the trial] started getting interesting,” said Cynthia Velasquez, who was appointed judge for the mock trial. “I even got to sit on the judge’s chair, wear the robe a judge normally wears in a trial and actually go inside the judge’s chamber.”

The students felt reluctant because of their unfamiliarity with the legal system processes.

“It inspired me to study law,” said Edlyn Vargas who played the role of Defense Counsel in the students’ mock trial.

So Close, and Yet so Far Away

By Sergio Fajardo
Staff Writer

Polytechnic high school freshman Joseph M. was cited by a policeman on May 25th, 2007, for breaking a Los Angeles county curfew law.

Joseph was steps away from his house and said he did not understand why he was stopped by the officer.

“I wanted to talk to my friends who were across the street and the only thing that passed through my mind was ‘why was I stopped?’” Joseph said.

Los Angeles ordinance provides that any minor under the age of eighteen is not to be outdoors without a legal guardian after 10 p.m.

“I learned that I should know the laws that exist here in California and I must be aware of those laws because I don’t want to be involved in another similar case like I did,” said Joseph.

Most curfew ordinances in California prohibit minors from being out past 10:00 p.m. on streets without an adult.

Violators can be temporarily detained by the police, taken back home or receive a ticket.

LAWS GOVERNING MINORS

Curfew laws restrict the right of youngsters to be outdoors or in public places during certain hours of the day. Such laws aim to establish a safer community and better protect children from the negative influences that they might encounter while wandering around late at night. Courts in California have generally upheld such laws as long as the local ordinance seeks to discourage “loitering” or “remaining” in certain places after certain hours.

The ordinance, based on statewide curfew laws, forbids children younger than 14 to be on the streets between 9:15 p.m. and 6 a.m. Those 14 to 18 can be out for another hour Sunday through Thursday and until midnight on Friday and Saturday and during the summer. It allows an exemption for youths who are attending night school, have late-night jobs or are, “engaged in any entertainment.”

Under state law, parents can be charged for the administration and transportation costs of returning a minor to his or her home and a second curfew violation. [W&IC 625.5(d)] Also,

a child who is a frequent or habitual curfew violator may be declared a ward of the court and treated as a status offender. [W&IC 601(a)] Most curfew ordinances prohibit minors from being out past 10p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends. Exceptions to such laws do exist, however, allowing kids to legally stay out late if they are:

- *Participating in a religious, educational or political activity.
- *Running an errand for a parent or guardian.
- *Accompanied by a parent, guardian or adult.
- *Working or going to and from their place of employment.
- *Responding to some type of emergency.
- *Returning home from school, cultural or recreational activity.

If a child breaks curfew, he or she can be temporarily detained by a police and returned home. State law also gives local police some latitude in their enforcement of such curfew ordinances if the officer believes a youth has a “legitimate reason based on extenuating circumstances” for the violation.



Photo by Vianey Vargas

BODY ART: Tattoos are seen as an expression of an individual’s identity in some cultures.

Teenagers and Tattoos Identify Belonging

By Alejandra Grimaldo & Vianey Vargas
Staff Writers

Most teens view tattoos as body art, symbolizing an immortal memory in life. Body art means different things to different people. To some it symbolizes a lasting relationship of love with family and friends. To others it represents an identity or group the individual is attached to such as the Marine Corps, the Army, or the Navy. It can also represent identification and belonging, such as a gang affiliation. Regardless of your reasons for wanting a tattoo for most people it will be with them forever.

There are a few precautions that should be taken, if you are thinking about getting a tattoo. Make

sure you’re going to a clean tattoo shop. If they are unsanitary and they don’t sterilize their needles, you risk getting diseases. According to Teens Health Online, some of these diseases are: HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B&C, Tetanus, chronic skin disorders, Leprosy, skin irritations, or Tuberculosis.

“Tattoos don’t bother me, but my only concern is if teens are aware that the tattoos might not be accepted in the real world like they are in the teenage world,” said Toby Bachenheimer, 10th grade dean.

When talking to Bachenheimer, her other concern was that teens should be thinking about their future and how the tattoos might affect them in their personal and business life.

“About 50% of Poly students and 15% to 20% of Poly faculty have tattoos,” said Bachenheimer.

“There is nothing wrong with tattoos. There is a special regulation that we have to follow in the Army. We are not allowed to have tattoos anywhere that is not covered by the uniform,” said Computer teacher, Javier Rios, who has served in the Army for 10 years and has had to deal with Army regulations concerning tattoos.

An article on Teens Health Online, states that tattoo removal is not impossible but it is expensive and painful. It goes on to describe the side effects of the removal of a tattoo. The skin will never be the same. Laser surgery is the only way to remove a tattoo, but it is extremely expensive.

Removing a tattoo can be difficult depending on how old the tattoo is, the size, and the types and colors that were used.

Tattoos don’t always represent a fun memory in life. Holocaust victims are faced with a lifetime reminder of their suffering. They were stripped of their names and identity as part of a dehumanizing process. Their identity was replaced by a number.

Before getting a tattoo, think about the environment and precautions your chosen tattoo artist takes.

Beware of the diseases you are putting yourself at risk for. Finally, think of how a tattoo might affect your future. A tattoo is a lasting image you will have for the rest of your life.

One for the Books, Eight Awards and Counting

Poly’s very own Jose Aguilar recognized for artistic achievements.

By Tatiana Tejada
Staff Writer

High schools all over the San Fernando Valley were asked to send in the work of their 20 most talented artists to Glencoe McGraw Publishing Company, in Woodland Hills, which is an illustration gallery. Only one of the schools was elected to display their paintings for four months (January 07- April 07). Glencoe bought 2 of the students paintings for \$200 each, which will be permanently displayed at the gallery.

Polys B track senior, Jose Aguilar, was one out of two fortunate pupils whose painting was purchased by Glencoe. With only two years of AP Art with B track teacher,

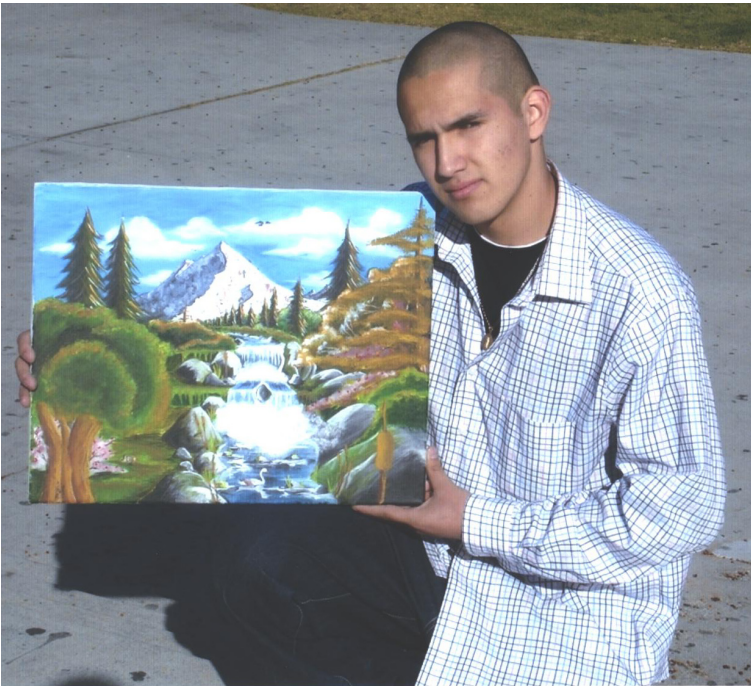


Photo By Tatiana Tejada

RECOGNIZING ART: Jose Aguilar is recognized for his outstanding art work at the Glencoe Publishing Company.

Mrs. Worle, Aguilar has already received eight awards this year. It has taken almost all of Aguilar’s life to develop his artistic talent, which he exercises daily. The merit he received for his painting will be utilized for extra art supplies.

“I got my ideas for my painting from my favorite painter, Bob Ross,” said Aguilar. Aguilar plans on majoring in art. In the meantime, one of his pieces can be seen in the Glencoe McGraw Publishing Company art gallery.



2006 - 2007 Sports Wrap Up

By Osvin Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Track and Field

Head coach, Mario Rivera and his runners ended their regular season with five victories for the boys and three victories for the girls out of seven meets. They achieved seven league titles and 19 athletes advanced to city semi-finals. Poly moved up to preliminaries, where they competed against the top schools for the league title. They tried hard but lost in the finals.

Boys Baseball

The Varsity baseball team had a remarkable season. They won the league championship with a record of 13-2. They also finished the season with an overall record of 16-11.

Basketball

Parrots on the varsity basketball team made their way to the playoffs. They tried their hardest but lost to Pasadena in the semi-finals. The Parrots ended their season with an astonishing league record of 9-1 and overall record of 24-6.

Football

Head Coach Manny Peralta Jr. led his Varsity Football team

through the season with a league record of 2-4 and an overall record 4-6.

Soccer

Head coach, Keller and his soccer team grew and played as a team. They ended their season with a league record of 2-7-1 and an overall record of 5-9-1.

Girls Softball

Manny Peralta the head coach of the lady Parrots closed their season with a league record of 8-2 and overall record of 18-10.

Basketball

Head coach, Tremeka Batiste pushed her lady Parrots to end their 06-07 league with a record of 6-4 and an overall record of 16-11.

Soccer

Head coach, Hardip Singh and his lady Parrots brought their season to a close with a league record of 1-6-1 and an overall record of 4-10-1.

Volleyball

Head coach, Juan Herrera pushed his team to a season closer with a record of 2-5 and an overall record of 4-10.

POLY ATHLETES REWARDED

By Osvin Gonzalez
Staff Writer

At the second annual sports assembly, Poly athletes were recognized for their athletic abilities, determination, and hard work in their academics.

Each coach presented their athletes with awards for highest GPA on the team and biggest inspiration.

The sports assembly took place Friday, June 8, 2007 in the cafetorium.

Ms. Damonte presented a special surprise award to Principle Martinez.

“This award is for someone really special who has not just helped our school but has done a remarkable job for our athletic department. I don’t know any other person that would bring her own

parrot to important games,” said Ms. Damonte. Principal Martinez was recognized for her support, hard work, and commitment.

Senior Alfredo Mendez was given an award for most inspirational player. Mendez had broken his arm in a football game against Fairfax High School. Ms. Damonte rushed him to the hospital. She said, “Once Alfredo got

the ok to play he was on the sideline wanting.”

“This award goes to a great supporter and someone who always helps behind the scene. He helps from setting up to making sure everyone gets home.” Steve Mares, school custodian, was given a special award for his time and hard work he put in the athletic department.