

The Holy Optimist

John A. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. I

12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, 91352

JULY 2007

Confetti, Congrats Cap Commencement

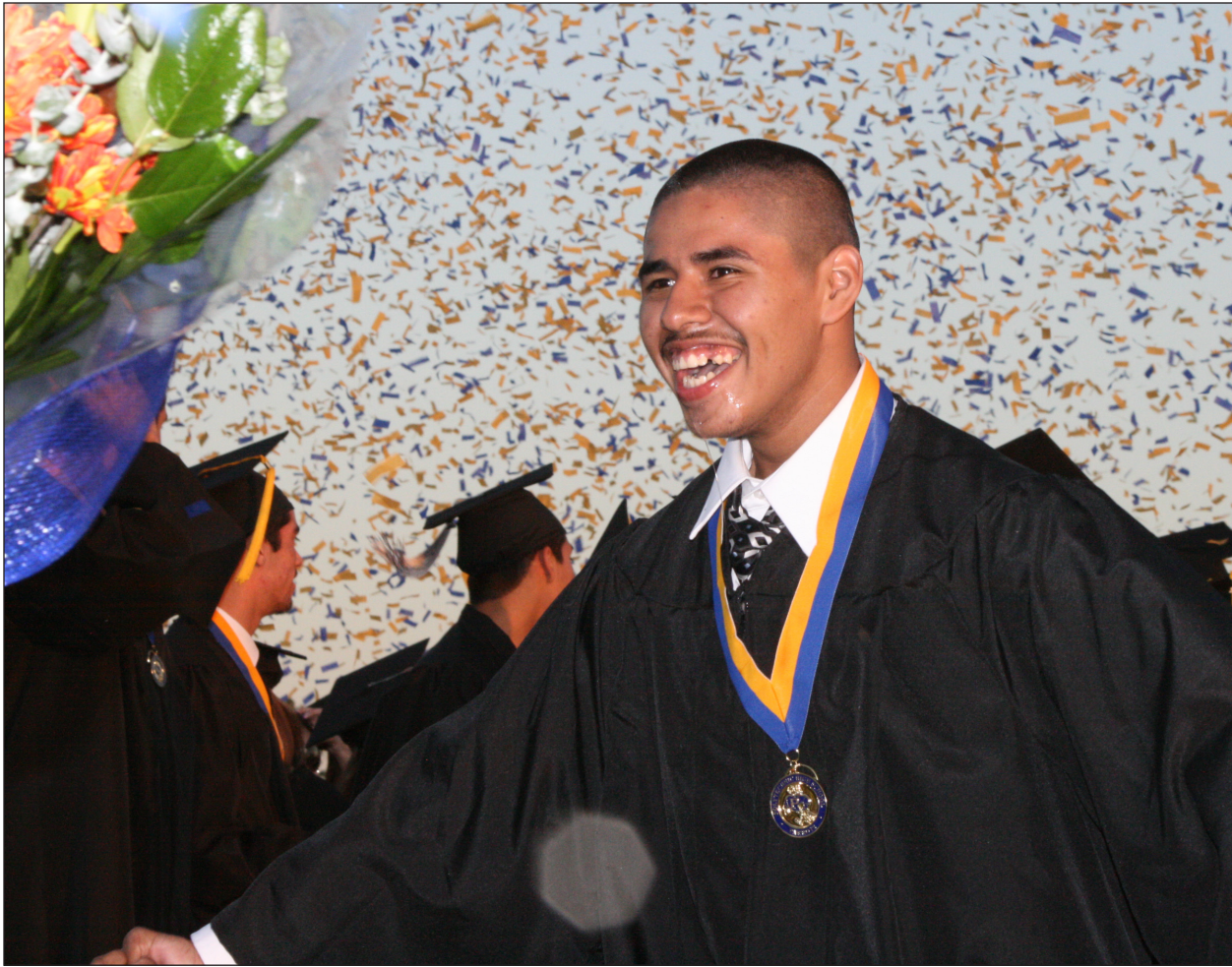


Photo by Efrain Rodriguez

GLAD GRAD: Senior Luis Villa celebrates as confetti falls on the class of 2007. Poly graduated 725, the largest in the school's history. The senior class, at 944, was also Poly's largest ever.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

"We have to embrace challenges and try our hardest

Without the help of teachers and administrators, some of us would still be stuck on our Algebra homework, or English project

Being a Poly Parrot was the best thing that has happened to me."

- Catherine Wheeler
Class of 2007

Largest Graduating Class In Poly History

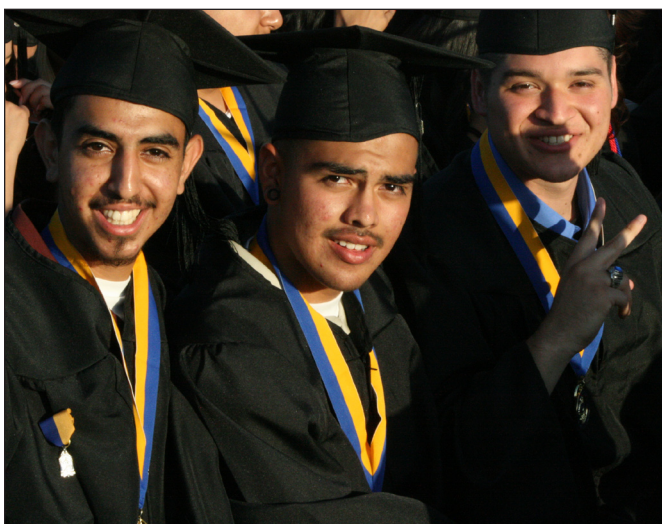


Photo by Efrain Rodriguez

PARA LOS PADRES

"Una buena actitud puede hacer de un fracaso una victoria...

Con esto haremos de los Estados Unidos un pais cada dia mejor."

- Christian Faundez
Class of 2007



Photo by Efrain Rodriguez



Boosters' Carnival Promises Fun For All

See Campus | Page 2



Science Inspired Pemble Mural

See Features | Page 3



Find Out Why They Call Her "Icebox"

See Sports | Page 4

EDITORIALS

Finding the Sea of Tranquility

Poly students can hardly find a quiet room to study in. "Quiet" and "undisturbed" at Poly are characteristics that hardly exist anymore.

Students need a room where they are able to focus on studying, working on projects, doing their homework without being disrupted.

Some students seek out classrooms because they need a desk to sit on to finish their schoolwork.

Unfortunately, other students like to use the rooms to "hang out" with their friends, disrupting the quiet and tranquility that studying students want.

The library is often closed during lunch and almost always after school. The library also lacks textbooks for the core classes. Fiction and poetry far outnumber textbooks.

Then again, the library isn't always quiet anyway.

A student may need to use a computer, a

photocopy machine, a textbook or even a few colored pencils.

While some students may abuse these benefits, staff enforcement of rules can eliminate most problems without harming serious and responsible students.

With a room expressly designated for studying, more students might come to class with their homework done.

A student can't necessarily have a calm area at home. Resources like computers and dictionaries are unavailable.

A study hall to do homework will be very helpful for students who have a "home" period during the day.

Also, a study hall can be very useful for students who need a quiet area do make up a test while the teacher is going through his normal schedule.

Poly should have a room with a tranquil atmosphere for students.

- Belle Tadena

The Future Is Now

The question is simple: Do we really need all the stuff we learn in high school?

Most people will say that we don't. And they have a point; some of the classes we're required to take are very subject-specific, and chances are, once you've passed them you won't have to deal with them again in your career.

The people that answered "no" also have another point to support their argument. Years from now, jobs will very likely be easier- technology moves quickly - and by the time ours and future generations start working and supporting families, our work will be made easier by robots and computers.

The only problem with that idea is: who's going to work those robots and computers? Who's going to design them, and program them, and make them make our jobs easier?

As technology advances, the demand for intelligent and educated people rises. And just

like that we're back to square one. Maybe we do need all the stuff we learn in school.

All the school system is trying to do is shape more leaders. After all, it's not just numbers and information that we learn in school. We also learn social skills that will definitely help us in the future.

If everyone is educated, cultured, and knows how to work well with others, there will be better competition for jobs, and really, the most qualified will get the job.

Now, forget about the future. Forget about jobs and careers. Forget about being smart just to keep up. People should want to learn, and they should want to be educated and they should want to succeed.

So, do we really need all this stuff? The answer is yes. And the only reason is that we should take pride in being and wanting to be educated.

- Daniel Jimenez

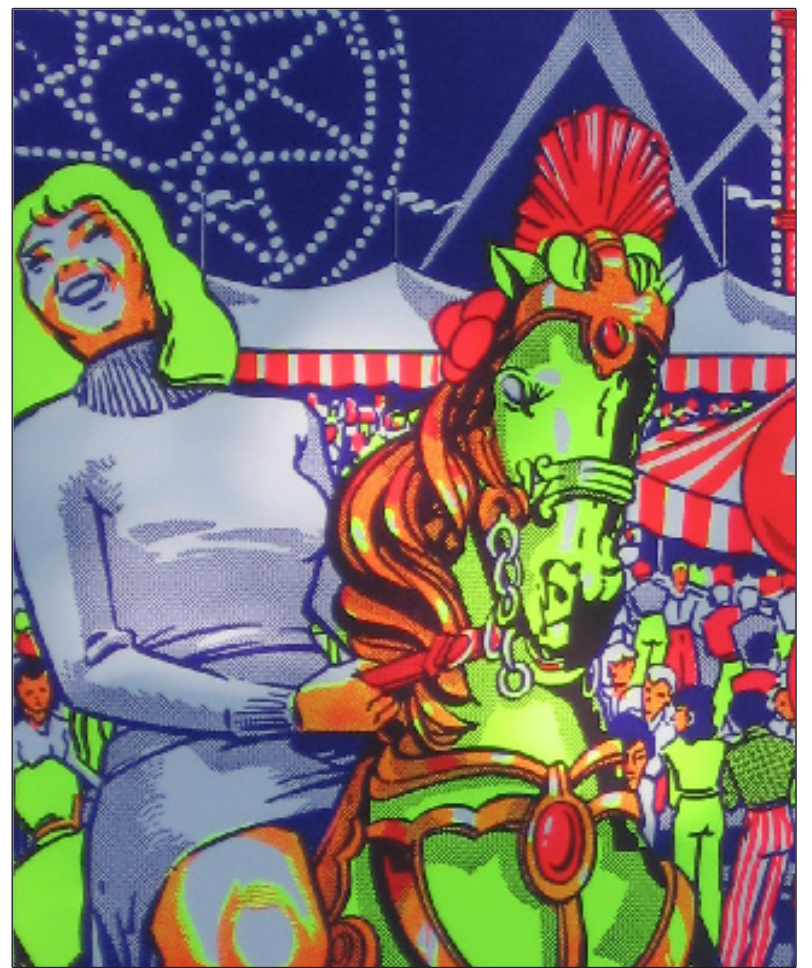


Photo by Marlene Mendoza

FUN FOR ALL: *Booster Club members Maria Barnoya and Doug Orenca designed this poster for the club's August fundraiser.*

Carnival for Fun, Funds

By Michelle Gonzalez & Meri Sarkisyan
Optimist Staff Writers

A school-wide fundraising carnival, sponsored by the Booster Club, is scheduled for the weekend of August 24-26 and will take place in Fernangelles Park.

Kemsley Shows will provide the mechanical rides and D&D Concession will provide the booths.

Tickets, which can be used for any of the mechanical rides, are \$18 for 20 tickets prior to the carnival and \$20 at the gate.

Presentation of the carnival was a collective effort from the SLC (small learning communities) coordinators, coaches, teachers and parents.

Various Poly clubs and organizations will have booths at the carnival.

Profits from booth sales will be evenly divided among participants.

Maria Barnoya, president, and Doug Orenca, vice-president, created the Booster Club four months ago to raise funds for Poly's clubs, sports, music, and academics. Recent budget cuts at Poly left the school unable to help any of Poly's clubs

or organizations.

"Our main reason for starting this club was to financially help Poly sports and clubs in case they need anything," said Orenca, parent of former students at Poly. "That was the main goal for this club, to help this school."

"The district, with all their preventing this and preventing that and cutting the budgets, made the club necessary," said Barnoya. "There was obviously a need for money for different reasons."

The club will try to deal with these budget cuts by having school-wide fundraisers. The club also hopes to unite the school's fundraising efforts.

"Everybody does their own fundraising. Everybody keeps to themselves rather than lending each other a hand. Everybody fundraises in all directions. There's no organization," said Barnoya.

Parents control the Booster Club, but everyone in the club makes the decisions.

Beyond the Bell Coordinator Pat Flenner helped the Booster Club work with Poly.

"Without an administrator's support, this was going to be tougher," said Barnoya.

THE OPTIMIST

JOHN H. FRANCIS POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL
12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CA, 91352

Editor-In-Chief
Fernando Marquez

Assistant Editor
Griselda Lopez

Photo Editor
Tatiana Tejada

Writers:
Jason Castro
Jasmin Garcia
Benito Gonzalez
Michelle Gonzalez
Perla Gonzalez
Joey Lemus
Vincent Lopez
Liset Manzo
Meri Sarkisyan
Belle Tadena
Karen Vazquez

Optimist Adviser
John Blau

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Optimist is the voice of the Poly community and accepts all the responsibilities inherent in being a free press. The Optimist follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinion of individual staff writers.

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be typed or neatly printed in ink and have the writer's signature. The Optimist reserves the right to edit the letter for grammar and length. Send all letters to Rm.11 or leave in Mr. Blau's box.

LETTERS

The Optimist has certainly grown...not only in size, but in content and sophistication. The articles are interesting, varied, timely, and well written. Congratulations writers and editors! The photographers are commended for their clarity and well focused action shots.

I truly enjoyed the June issue which accentuated the positive. It exemplified our well educated, dedicated, diversified, and creative teachers, our students who received awards, honors, and scholarships (many of whom will be continuing their education), our athletes, and the spirit of our student body.

Optimist staff, keep up the good work!

- Arlene Dole

Write To Us
Send letters to the editor
to Mr. Blau Room 11

Tech Talk

APPLE
iPHONE
MULTI-
TASKS

But messaging, games, video and iTunes missing.

By Karen Vazquez
Optimist Staff Writer

Apple has a new gadget that Poly students might want to have. It is called the iPhone.

The iPhone has and does things no cellphone has ever done before. It's an iPod, a camera, and a phone all in one and comes with Internet access.

Users could be calling a friend while listening to music and watching videos on YouTube.



Photo provided by google.com

Instead of a physical keyboard, the iPhone has a virtual keyboard on the screen with touch control. The screen will appear vertically or horizontally, depending on how it is held. With room for 1,825 songs, intelligent voice calling, an impressive battery life and a scratch-resistant case, Apple's latest electronic wizardry has much to offer.

The iPhone does lack some features common on competitors' devices, however, such as instant messaging, video recording, games, and direct access to the iTunes music store. But Apple plans to add more features to the phone over time.

Apple has sold more than half a million iPhones since it's June 29 release date. The 4-gigabyte model sells for \$499 and the 8-gig is \$599.

iPhone designer Jonathan Ive also did the iMac and the iPod.

Pemble's Planetary Panorama

Space-themed mural fits the neighborhood.

By Jasmine Garcia
Optimist Staff Writer

There's a new mural on the south wall of Room 328 called "Cosmos." That would usually mean art teacher Carlos Loya and his mural crew had struck again. This time, however, the mural's origins can be traced to Geology teacher, Bryce Pemble.

"This section of the school didn't really have a new mural," Pemble explained.

Pemble's idea was to create an astronomy-based mural because most of the teachers in his area are science teachers. Pemble put together a montage with a space theme featuring the sun and the galaxies.

"I thought it would give it that cool energy to outer space," Pemble said.

Then Pemble submitted his montage idea to art teacher Carlos Loya. Loya's students added their own touch to the mural with a comic book look. Pemble had originally pictured the mural in the style of Jack Kirby, a comic book artist who created Spiderman, Superman and others for Marvel Comics.

"I was hoping they could add that style to the painting and they did," Pemble said.

Pemble's wife Heather donated the paint and supplies through her company, Company Imber Court Reporter. She'll get her name on the corner of the mural in appreciation for her gift.



Photo by Jasmine Garcia

MURALISTS: Parrots David Hernandez and Mario Perez put the finishing touches on "Cosmos," the outer-space themed south wall of room 328's science teacher Bryce Pemble.

After Loya's class finished laying out the mural on the wall, Pemble noticed the utility box in front of Jupiter. Pemble was reminded of the monolith from "2001" and thought it might be possible to make the utility box the monolith. He found that the ratio of the monolith and the utility box were about the same: 1 x 4 x 9. Loya's muralists did the rest.

Around the corner, hulking-dinosaurs from the Mesozoic era are taking shape as the next step in the project.

With "Cosmos" complete and another mural scheduled for completion by month's end, Pemble's vision is nearing reality.



Photo by Jasmine Garcia

SPACE MAN: Mural designer and science teacher Bryce Pemble felt the "neighborhood's" science teachers would appreciate this astronomy lesson.

Headed to College East Coast Girl, West Coast Dreams



Photo provided by Leona Warman

SCHOLARSHIP GIRLS: Poly grads Miriam Garcia and Jasmine Marron with Councilman Tony Cardenas (left), counselor Leona Warman (center) and Richard Cardenas.

By Perla Gonzalez
Optimist Staff Writer

Julie Keiper was a little blue eyed girl from Lancaster, Pennsylvania who spent every day with her friends playing baseball, riding bikes and roller skating. She grew up in a neighborhood with lots of kids who stayed together from kindergarten through high school.

"We were just like a big family," said Keiper.

But the desire to live in a warm place with beaches where she could swim brought Keiper to California twenty years ago.

Now this east coast trans-



Photo by Karen Vazquez

NEW TO POLY: New math teacher Julie Keiper.

plant is a B-track Math teacher in the Tenth Grade Center.

She thinks Poly is a wonderful place to work and a wonderful place to learn. She is impressed with how hard the students are willing to

[See Keiper Page 4]



Photo by Jessica Lara

BETWEEN CLASSES: Lineman Jennifer Castellanos with Michael Jones and Yesenia Diaz.

“Icebox” gives cold shoulder to rivals

Let others shop.
This co-ed likes to score touchdowns.

By Daniel Jimenez
Optimist Staff Writer

Ever since 6th grade, Jennifer Castellanos has played football. She ran for touchdowns, she intercepted passes, she knocked boys to the ground. It was two-hand-touch but boys hit the ground regardless. It's been five years and Jennifer is still knocking boys to the ground. Except now she's allowed to. Better yet, she's encouraged to do so.

As a third-year veteran, Castellanos has earned her spot in Poly's boys varsity football team. How? “I always give it 100%,” She says. “I give it my all and it pays off.”

Her first two years, she was part of a successful backfield and linebacking core. Now as a senior she has moved her game over to lineman. Or is that lineperson?

“I think my favorite position to play is still running back,” said Castellanos, “Because you can score touchdowns; I like scoring touchdowns.”

She scored her first as a sophomore versus Hollywood.

“The game before Hollywood, we had about a 40-yard drive, and our quarterback scored on a QB sneak,” Castellanos remembered. “So they owed me a touchdown. The next game I scored that touchdown on a one-yard run. It was really cool.”

Castellanos couldn't celebrate like she wanted to because league rules prohibit all but high-fives and pats on the helmet, but every member of the team knew how happy “Icebox” Castellanos felt that day.

Most people would think the only female member of a high school football team would have difficulties. If Castellanos has had any, she hasn't shown it.

“It's always been ok,” Castellanos said. “Nothing's really difficult other than the normal things, like practices and running. But I've always been treated fairly and that's something I really like.”



Photo by Fernando Marquez

SUMMER CAMP: Castellanos at practice.

For a team to be successful, all members have to have a good relationship with each other, regardless of gender.

“That's something that's always been there for me: my good relationship with the other players and with the coaches,” Castellanos said. “I like the way I'm treated. I have to work just as hard as everyone to earn my respect.”

It's about respect and about having fun.

“That's why I do it. Maybe I'll play college football. But for now, I'm just having fun,” Castellanos said.

Castellanos would like to be a nurse and study sports medicine. Who knows, someday she might even end up taking care of some high school quarterback who ran into a female player and had to eat a little dirt.

Colonel to Co-Coach Volleyball

JROTC's own Robilotta lends Johannsen a helping hand.

By Beni Gonzalez & Joey Lemus
Optimist Staff Writers

Poly's Colonel Jim Robilotta will join head coach Peter Johannsen to co-coach this year's Frosh/Soph, JV and Varsity girls' volleyball teams, according to athletic director Kim McEwen.

Robilotta recently coached the boys JV volleyball team to a 5-5 record in Sunset Six League play.

“Height is going to be hard to defend against,” Robilotta said about the vertically-challenged varsity girls' team, “but our back row is one of the best and they are up to facing any team in the League.”

Asked what impresses him most so far this season, Robilotta said “the unbelievable response of the girls to the team.”

Robilotta already has experience coaching girls' volleyball. He helped coach his daughter Danielle's Westside club volleyball team for the last three years. Club volleyball is highly competitive and attracts good players because the play is hard.

Robilotta joined the Poly staff two years ago following a tour of duty in Iraq. He heads the junior Air Force ROTC program and teaches Aerospace Science.

He served in the Air Force for nearly three decades and was stationed all over the

world, including Greenland, Iraq, and Korea. Robilotta coached or played for 23 of those years and was a part of many volleyball championship teams while on base.

As an Air Force brat, Robilotta and his family never stayed in one place long. By the time he started middle school, Robilotta had been to New York, Ohio, Florida, and California.

He learned how to play volleyball on the beach because his school did not have a men's team. Robilotta graduated from James Madison Senior High in 1972.



Photo by Joey Lemus

BELIEVER: Robilotta says he likes the girls' chances for this year's volleyball season.

“I was done growing up,” he said.

After graduation, Robilotta attended San Diego State University, majoring in Radio, TV, and Film.

Johannsen and Robilotta each spend an extra 25 hours a week coaching, apart from their regular teaching duties. With hard work from the players, they hope to have a good season.

Kutztown Coed

[Keiper from Page 3]

work and how eager they are to learn.

And she loves her subject.

“There are few things as exciting as solving a difficult math problem,” Keiper said.

During her high school years at Pequea Valley High, she played the clarinet in the marching band and the concert band. She was also the editor of her school newspaper.

After graduating from high school, Keiper attended Kutztown State University (Pennsylvania) and Millersville State University, where she earned a degree in education and mathematics.

Before coming to Poly, she was the Math Coach for Chatsworth High School, where she helped new teachers organize their classrooms and students get prepared for the CAHSEE.