

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

Vol. XII

12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, 91352

AUGUST 2008

Vote '08 Political Parties Confer

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

The longest presidential election season in American history is down to its last three months.

On November 4, voters will cast ballots for President, Senators in thirty-three states, House members in all states and governors in eleven states. But first, both parties will hold nominating conventions to determine their presidential candidates.

In the past, many of the conventions have been places of great drama where multiple votes were needed to elect a party's Presidential candidate.

Following the 1968 Democratic convention, however, both parties began awarding delegates based on primaries. As a result, the drama of the conventions has been lost as outcomes have become predetermined.

Today's conventions, by contrast, are for both parties to show off their candidates and define their stands on issues.

Little is left to chance, with all details programmed

[continued on pg. 3]



Photo by Belle Tadena

NEW: Three separate two-story classroom buildings like the one above serve the Byrd campus.

Byrd House

By Belle Tadena & Angel Silva
Staff Writers

ORIGINALLY INTENDED AS a senior high, the new \$144M Richard E. Byrd Middle School will open September 2 with an enrollment of 1730 and a faculty of 115. The old Byrd is being reconfigured as a high school.

"We are changing almost everything, vision, mission, school colors, the works," said Byrd Principal Sohn Reynolds. "Richard E. Byrd is very much on the move."

The nine-building complex houses a number of technological innovations.

Heating and cooling is provided by a system of radiant panels suspended from the ceiling in each room. The panels contain pipes filled with

[continued on pg. 4]

YARD WORK

Poly's Small Learning Communities are getting more than just a fresh coat of paint.

By Belle Tadena &
Karinina Cruz
Staff Writers

A \$3 million LAUSD construction project currently underway on Poly's campus will add shaded courtyards and administrative offices for five of Poly's seven Small Learning Communities (SLCs). Completion of the SLC campus transformation is scheduled for the end of the year.

"The SLCs will be separated and their courtyard will be beautified with new trees and pavements," said Interim Principal Gerardo Loera. "It [construction] will make each SLC distinct."

The Measure R Bond funded the SLC Campus Transformation Project.

Each SLC courtyard will feature a four-inch thick colored walkway and concrete seating under a shade structure.

"I am excited to see LAUSD giving Poly a budget so the school can be physically improved," said Loera.

Individual courtyards were uniquely designed to represent a corresponding SLC. The gathering areas provide students with a place to eat and/or do homework.

All SLC courtyards are open to the whole Poly community.

"We're still one school, just different parts," said SLC Coordinator Cheryl Cohen-Thompson. "Everyone is still connected to Poly."

In addition to the courtyards, a number of offices were relocated in order to accommodate future SLC offices.

The Fine Arts, Media/En-

[continued on pg. 3]

Poly's Lopez Recognized

Latino educators' award goes to Poly Math teacher.

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

Poly Math teacher Sergio Lopez received a national award from the Association of Mexican-American Educators last week.

"I was nominated by the administration," said Lopez. "I guess I was recognized and it's just for Mexican-American teachers."

The annual award has been given since 1982 to exemplary

Mexican-American teachers who have made a difference in students' lives, who are role models and who have been working with students to improve their academics.

"I'm very glad that he received this award because he's very deserving of it," said assistant principal Vicky Damonte. "He's been a positive influence for our students."

Lopez was chosen by the staff because of his contributions to Poly. He has been a Department Chair, taught all levels of math from algebra to calculus, and been part of the

School Instructional Cabinet.

"He's just someone who the rest of the math department goes to," Damonte said. "He's very influential on campus."

Lopez's teaching style takes a different approach.

"I relate with the kids a lot," said Lopez. "I like to listen to them and I think that by doing that kids are able to ask more questions. They tend to not be afraid of asking questions and if they ask questions they learn more."

Lopez was born in Jalisco, Mexico, and came to the United States when he was nine.

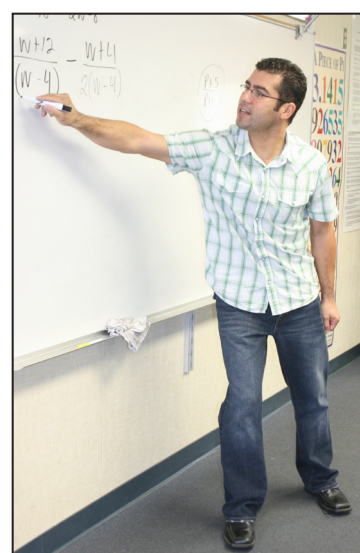


Photo by Michael Obando

WINNER: Math teacher Lopez with his Algebra class.

He graduated from Belmont High School and is a CSUN alumnus. Lopez joined Poly in 1995.



More Byrd

See Open | Page 4



Rocker

See Sing | Page 6

EDITORIALLETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOTE TO READERS -

The August Opinion page is devoted to comments on recent off-campus events involving current and former Poly students. Included on this page are letters to the *Los Angeles Times* from Poly students and an OPTIMIST editorial.

End the Violence

Parrots got a strong reality check this week when they learned that one of their classmates had died. And what really shocked them is the sad fact that this death was caused by a shooting.

May the dead rest in peace.

We find ourselves in a world that disrespects everything: tradition, people, ideas

and life. Heck...death is inevitable and sometimes random. And not even prayer can stop that.

What happened to our classmate on August 2nd has happened before and — without a doubt — will happen again. As poverty rises, crime increases. Some of us even find ourselves committing crimes. As a human, it's

almost unavoidable and happens without thinking. Almost.

If we can learn to direct ourselves away from thoughtless acts like shooting innocents, perhaps they will cease. Obtaining the things we want doesn't require violence. It requires making an effort, not randomly inflicting pain on the people we know or love.

We make the world through our actions. We can go green, begin recycling, conserve water, or stop global warming. And if we can change our actions for the better, we can avoid losing members of our community to senseless violence.

— Hazel Kasusky

THE OPTIMIST

JOHN H. FRANCIS POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL
12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CA, 91352
URL: [HTTP://WWW.POLYHIGH.ORG](http://www.polyhigh.org)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jason Castro**PAGE EDITORS**
Karinina Cruz
Belle Tadena**SPORTS EDITORS**
Isabella Cabezas
Jessica Soto**PHOTO EDITORS**
Michael Obando
Belle Tadena**CARTOONIST**
Ricky De Guzman

WRITERS:
Jocelyn Alas, Adriana Amaya, Juan Aragon, Esther Avelar, Karinina Cruz, Hazel Kasusky, Brianda Lopez, Sergio Partida, Angel Silva, Belle Tadena, Cristian Vergara

OPTIMIST ADVISOR
John Blau

**EDITORIAL
POLICY**

The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community and accepts the responsibilities of a free press. The OPTIMIST follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff writers.

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be typed or neatly printed in ink and include the writer's signature. The OPTIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.11 or Mr. Blau's box.



Dear *LA Times*,

I attend John H. Francis Polytechnic High School. Within the past two months we have lost two students. The entire school is dealing and coping with this. We all are helping whenever we can, but this letter isn't about Poly's loss. This letter is about the fact that your paper rarely tells people about the good of our school.

Our student's personal lives should not reflect on Poly. Would you want your paper to be classified as a drug filled office if one of your employees was caught doing drugs? Or would you want your paper to be known as one who reports false stories because one reporter lied? Or perhaps you would want your paper affiliated with gangs or guns because one of your reporters was in the wrong place at the wrong time?

Poly has many wonderful programs such as the Math and Science Magnet and Advantage Plus. Poly also donates a good amount of money to the toy Drive every year. Six students from our magnet were accepted to M.I.T. Most of the rest of our students are going to college. In fact, our high school has a higher graduation rate than most schools in the valley. Why don't you write about that?

Why is it that every time a student is killed, not just from Poly but any school for that matter, their death is automatically tied to the school? By doing this, you're giving Poly and every other school a bad name. A person's death should not be reported as another lost student of a school, it should be reported as a death of a member of society.

MELINDA REYES

Dear *LA Times*,

I have been reading articles about problems in our city and our school, Francis Polytechnic High School. It has been a concern to me that our school is being portrayed in an adverse way. My concern is that kids will lose hope and stop trying to be successful in life.

Our community is not only involved in gang violence and death. We as a community try to help each other out and fix things with many programs. Our high school kids are achieving things that others can't. Poly, among the LAUSD system, has the biggest graduating class, some of the best AP classes and more than 75% of our students attending a college after high school.

We have a winning track and field team, a winning school news paper, successful caring teachers, and helpful counselors. Even though we have violence and problems, we as a school use it as a way to achieve our goals and accomplish them

KEVIN PEREZ

Dear *LA Times*,

It is a shame that the media, including the *LA Times*, have been diminishing Poly's reputation and have made us look like criminals. The media shouldn't be putting us down, and I am really angry about this because we are actually one of the best schools in LAUSD academically. Our school has more students than any other school that got accepted to a UC school.

At our school we have excellent students and I think that we shouldn't be known as criminals because of a murder that occurred outside of school.

JESUS CEJA

Dear *LA Times*,

I would really appreciate it if you can talk about the good stuff about Polytechnic High School. Just because two students died in the past few months, it doesn't mean you can relate them to Poly. The only reason why the school is involved is because the students went to our school.

If you're going to talk about the school, then why not talk about the good things. We have more high school graduates and more students going to great colleges like Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and Yale. Yet you talk about how Poly's crime is escalating and putting people in fear. You have no right to talk down to us because we are a great school. Just thought I might tell you what Poly's all about and thanks for listening.

IGNACIO ORTIZ

Dear *LA Times*,

I am responding to the recent articles the *LA Times* has published about Polytechnic High School. As you know, Polytechnic High School has had some of our students shot in the past two months. Both deaths were a terrible tragedy and a horrible loss for our school. Although they weren't shot on school grounds, the fact that they were Poly students makes the situation worse because they were both young and a part of our school.

It pains me to know that Poly is only in the *LA Times* because of the shooting and not because of the great students and improved test scores that we have been getting for the past few years. A lot of the students that graduate from Poly get into some of the top schools in the country like USC, UCLA, M.I.T, Harvard, and Yale. Those students are now setting the bar for academics, and yet topics like this are not in the *LA Times* or other newspapers. All that I have seen in the *LA Times* about Poly is shooting or test scores that are mixed in with the rest of the state.

I hope that you will consider writing articles that show Poly for the great school it is and not the tragic death that occurred near our school.

CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

College Journal

By Belle Tadena
Layout Editor

As a service to our readers, the OPTIMIST asked one Poly senior to tell us about her senior year. Below is the first installment of her story.

It's the second month into my senior year. I decided to visit the College Office to research colleges and universities. I'm not entirely sure what college would fit me best. I quickly brainstormed my interests and academic needs.

I don't have a particular college I want to attend. However, what I do want is a fairly large campus. I want a school with a well-rounded social environment as well as one with academic prestige.

A few of my college prospects are University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of California, Los Angeles and Boston University. These schools ranked among the top colleges in the nation.

Getting into a good college takes

more than just good grades. This is because college administrators pay close attention to a student's participation in extra curricular activities and volunteer work.

I'm currently a writer and the page editor for the OPTIMIST. I've been with the school newspaper since May of 2007 and plan to stay until I graduate. I was also a member of the Poly Choir since July '06 and competed at the national competition in Orlando, Florida. And I play piano for my church band.

As of now, I'm babysitting for my aunt every day after school. Since I am not getting paid, this counts as volunteer work. I've volunteered at the public library for several months and earned approximately 120 hours. In September, I plan to volunteer at the new Byrd Middle

School after school.

For now, I need to focus on the standardized exams that I must take to get into these schools. I'll need to talk to college counselor Leona Warman to know how to register for these tests.

"All universities require students to take the SAT Reasoning or ACT and two SAT Subject Tests," Warman said.

On the other hand, I should start writing those dreadful personal essays colleges require. This way I won't stress over my application process. Besides, essays may be modified as needed on October after application to UCs opens.

Personal essays are not necessarily difficult to write, but they are time consuming. They are meant to show college administrators what makes the student unique.

A Yard of Their Own

[continued from pg. 1]

ertainment (FAME) office will be in the old Dean's office.

The Dean's office has been moved to room 90A.

Classroom 118 will now be the SPORT/EHS office.

The Ninth Grade Center office will be divided into two wings, east and west.

The west wing remains on the old location, which is at room 311. The east wing will be in the 320's.

The 10th Grade Center and the Magnet office will remain at the same locations.

"These new offices won't be any different from regu-

"I am excited to see LAUSD giving Poly a budget so the school can be physically improved."

— Gerardo Loera
Interim Principal

lar offices, which will have counselors and deans," said Cohen-Thompson. "New furniture will be placed in each office."

Ghataode Bannon Architects designed the project.



Artist Renderings by Ghataode Bannon Architects

FRESHMAN CENTER EAST WING: This courtyard will replace the blacktop now in the area and will supplement the Freshman Center West, located at the north end of the campus.

Vote '08

[continued from pg. 1]

to make the candidates appealing. Speeches today are shorter, with normal people and celebrities giving them instead of politicians. Stages are designed to look good on television. All this work is intended to make the public look at a candidate and say, "Hey, I can relate to that guy."

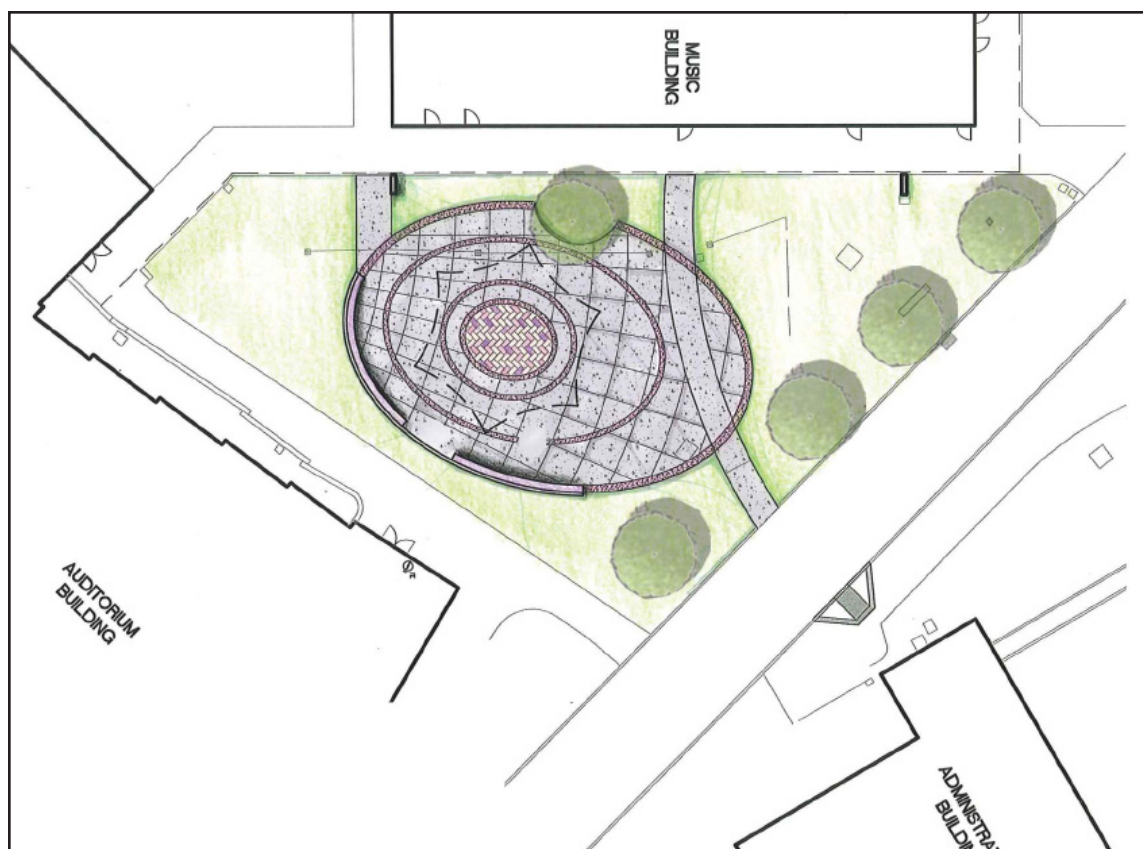
For the first time since John F. Kennedy in 1960, a candidate will deliver his acceptance speech off-site. Barack Obama will accept the Democratic nomination not in the convention hall, but in a nearby football stadium.

The Democratic National Convention will run from August 25 to August 27 and take place in Denver, Colorado at the Pepsi Center. Fifty thousand guests and approximately 4,500 delegates are attending the Democratic party.

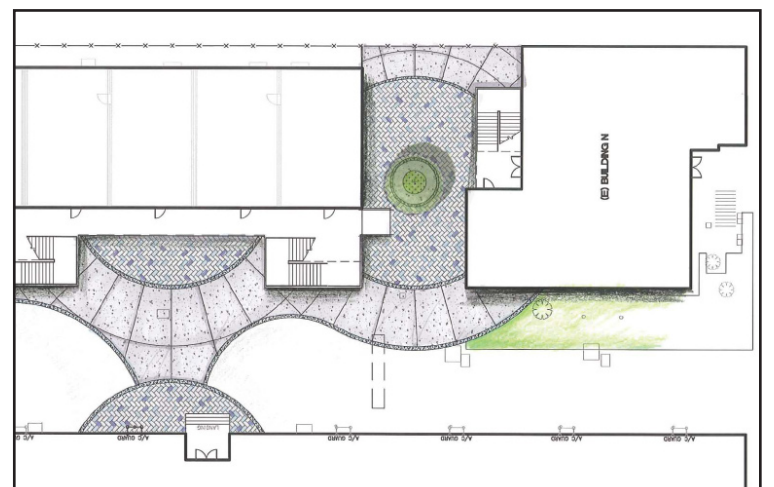
The Republicans will hold their event in the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota from September 1-4. They will have ten thousand volunteers helping at their gathering.

LEFT: The FAME courtyard will be located on the grassy area between the Auditorium and the music rooms.

BOTTOM: The Tenth Grade courtyard is designed to connect the old two-story building, the new two-story and the Science / Math Building.



Artist Renderings by Ghataode Bannon Architects



Artist Renderings by Ghataode Bannon Architects



Photo by Belle Tadena

ADMIN: The Main Office, shown above, will house the principal and key administrative staff. Surveillance camera around the campus will discourage vandalism.

To accommodate the large student body, Byrd administrators voted to divide lunch into two periods, each lasting 36 minutes.



Photo by Belle Tadena

OPENING SOON: Students will buy their lunches in the school cafeteria and dine in an outdoor lunch area.



Byrd Set to Open in Septe

[continued from pg. 1]

water which will be heated or cooled as necessary to maintain the proper room temperature.

“It’s more expensive to install but cheaper to run,” said LAUSD representative Rimas Tumas. “And unlike forced air systems, there’s no noise.”

As part of the building management system, only the school’s plant manager will regulate the temperature of the rooms.

“Teachers will have little control over class temperature, only a couple of degrees higher or lower,” Tumas said.

The Multipurpose Building houses a stage, two separate dressing rooms, a prop storage room and a dance studio with a ceiling that opens to the outside.

A state-of-the-art library will include a computer lab where students will have access to forty desktop computers and sixteen laptops.

“After the summer deliveries, we will have more than 18,700 books,” said Reynolds.

Byrd was designed so that each of its three classroom buildings would serve as a Personalized Learning Community (PLC), the middle school version of a Small Learning Communities (SLC).

“The two-story classroom buildings will be grade-based,” said Reynolds, “with sixth graders in one building (A1), seventh graders in the second (A2) and eighth graders in the third (A3).”

Each building has a theme color, seen especially in the chairs and other furniture, with mango for A1, blueberry for A2 and papaya for A3.

Attendance, counseling and dean services are located in each building’s PLC office.

“We have a senior clerk and a technician in each office with experience in counseling and attendance duties,” Reynolds said. “Office clerks in each classroom building take care of their own set of students.”

In each building, four classrooms surround a

rectangular ce

“In each te classrooms,” same kids bas students close

“The class four different lish class, his class.”

Byrd archit lot of glass, c second-floor c

“Some of th said Reynolds The new so combat vanda for all student

“We’ve just Reynolds.

To accom administrators riods, each las

“Sixth grad the first lunch be for seventh

While half t er half will b faculty memb skills in Math

“These enr in what we c Reynolds.

Reynolds b the new Byrd school contrib

“We are lo Poly High Sel tionship betw

“There is mu ship. Mutual a greater articul will help both



NEIGHBOR - A STATE-OF-THE-ART MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Photo by Belle Tadena

mber

entral hallway called a “pod.”
am is one pod surrounded by four
said Reynolds. “They’ll have the
ically all day long, which brings the
r together.”

rooms around the pod will be for
subjects,” said Reynolds, “an Eng-
tory class, math class and science

ects designed the premises with a
creating panoramic views in many
classrooms.

rooms just have incredible views,”

chool also has security cameras to
lism and theft and personal lockers
s.

got so much new stuff going,” said

odade the large student body, Byrd
s voted to divide lunch into two pe-
ting 36 minutes.

ers and magnet students will take
,” said Reynolds. “The second will
and eighth grade.”

the student body is at lunch, the oth-
e taking enrichment classes, where
ers focus on improving students’
and English.

richment classes will be offered
all an ‘intervention’ period,” said

believes Poly’s relationship with
will be a positive one, where each
utes to the betterment of the other.
oking forward to being across from
ool and to developing a great rela-
een the two schools,” said Reynolds.
ch to be gained from this relation-
ctivities like leadership projects and
ation opportunities for both schools
student bodies.”



Photo by Michael Obando

COURTYARD: A spacious central courtyard directs traffic at the Byrd campus. Poly’s Gym can be seen across the street.

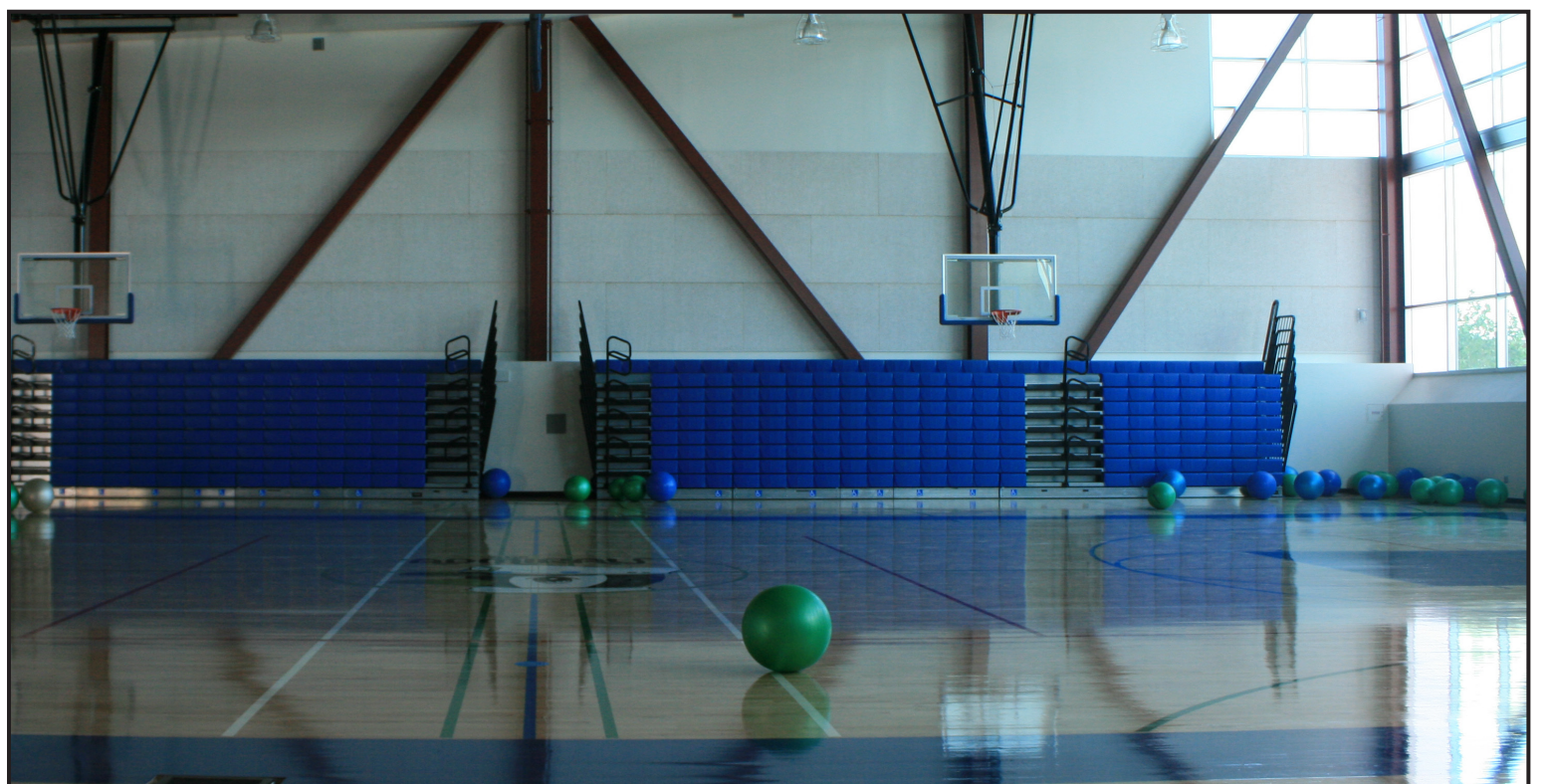


Photo by Belle Tadena

AUTOMATIC: The 800-seat competitive basketball gymnasium includes such state-of-the-art features as bleachers that open and close automatically. In the center of the floor is the student-designed school mascot, known as Petey.

Sing Along with Showalter

Parrots have their own 'School of Rock' star.

By Adriana Amaya
Staff Writer

Resident rocker and vocalist Amy Showalter has a music credential, an English credential and a theater credential. She played in her high school band and two college bands. But that's not all.

"I was born in the Mississippi Delta," Showalter said. "They call it the 'dirty dirty.' I was raised with country and gospel music. Those genres have really helped me sing well."

She has experience too.

"I've been playing the piano since I was three and singing since I could talk," she said. "I was 19 when I started playing professionally."

Now Showalter is putting her skills and experience to work teaching Parrots how to sing in a class she calls Rock 101.

"The class was all my idea," Showalter said. "I always thought of a class similar to this but when 'School of Rock' came out, I was like,



Courtesy of Amy Showalter

LET'S ROCK: Showalter on stage with Bandshee.

yes. My friend called me up and said 'dude, you are the female version of Jack Black.'"

Showalter says students will learn breathing exercises and warm-up scales in the class as well as vocal phrasing, intonation and timing. The class will mainly focus on rock singing but other vocals styles, such as blues, pop, country, jazz, r & b and hip-hop will be studied.

Singing talent is not re-

quired, Showalter says.

"There is no audition. If you suck, I'll give you something to do. I'd be like: 'Baby girl, you can't handle a tune in a bucket, but I got something for you to do.'"

Grading is done by students.

"I give them a rubric," Showalter said, "and tell them 'you and all of us know what you did. What grade do you give yourself?' Most of the time the students grade themselves harder than I would."

When she's not teaching at Poly, Showalter plays percussion and sings with Bandshee, an all-girl group

"We've played Vegas, Chicago, Phoenix, Seattle and pretty much wherever there was a casino," Showalter said. "We also played a concert for the troops in Iraq."

The Bandshees are a cover band, Showalter said, but the money is good.

"I'm making like \$1000 for a gig I'm doing tonight," Showalter said. "You can



Photo by Michael Obando

ALTER EGO: Voice coach Showalter coaxing a better performance from her singing Parrots.

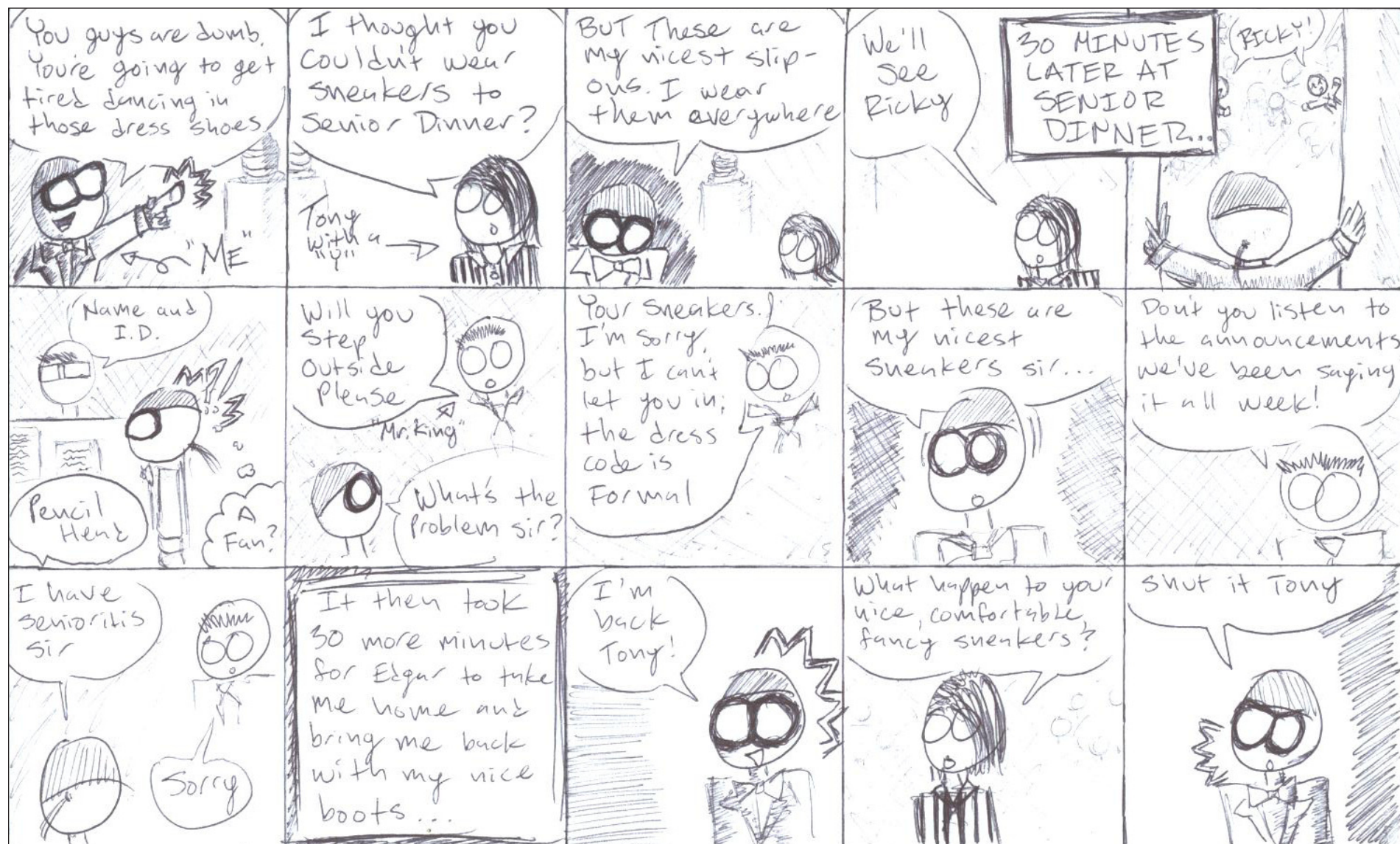
make good money doing other people's songs. You don't need to be famous to make money doing this."

When she's not singing or teaching it, Showalter listens to other singers.

"Ozzy, I love him," Show-

alter said. "His artistry just comes all the way through. He doesn't even need to try. Also Rage Against The Machine and 311. An artist that exemplifies technique is Celine Dion. Such great technique, as well as jazz vocalist Gil Scott-Heron."

Senior Dinner by Ricky John De Guzman III



Film Review

Ledger's Performance No Joking Matter

By Jason Castro
Editor-In-Chief

"The Dark Knight" stands apart from all the other Batman series films. The Tim Burton and Joel Schumacher era films are more cartoonish and more "comic-book-like" than the recent films from Christopher Nolan. When "Batman Begins" was released in 2005, audiences were introduced to a more "real life" Batman instead of a cinematic comic book treatment. "The Dark Knight" follows the more "real" theme and proves to be a true gem among the "Batman series."

Casting Heath Ledger as The Joker at first might have given Batman fans second thoughts about "Dark Knight." In fact, Ledger's performance has thrilled audiences with the type of evil that will shock those who had doubts about his ability to handle the role.

Ledger's performance differs from the Jack Nicholson portrayal in the 1989 Batman. Nicholson's Joker is a less dramatic, more humorous type of guy. The Joker in "Dark Knight" is an insane, cold-hearted man who doesn't care about the lives of others. Ledger's performance was humorous as well,



with some examples like his "magic" pencil disappearing trick.

One thing for sure, the Joker just can't live without Batman. "You complete me" mocks an incarcerated Joker while Batman Christian Bale interrogates him.

The "Dark Knight" deserves awards for Heath's and Bale's performances. What comes next for the "Batman" series shall also come with higher expectations. Can Ledger's chilling performance as the Joker can ever be matched? Stay tuned to your favorite Bat channel, fans.

Nolan
Knows

Dark Knight director's script is faithful to "Batman" theme.

By Jocelyn Alas
Staff Writer

All Batman fans know the story. As a child, Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) witnessed the murder of his parents, driving him to fight crime in Gotham. But the traumatic event motivated Wayne to seek vengeance, not justice. This is clearly evident throughout "The Dark Knight."

Just as in past Batman movies, "The Dark Knight" contains an ominous Gotham that perfectly reflects its hero. Bruce Wayne is a respected, successful businessman; Batman is the mysterious, sullen persona that Gotham looks to for protection. As Batman, Wayne falls victim to the annoyingly high demands that come with being a hero.

Batman is an abnormal character. His entire existence stems from distress, which parallels that of his adversaries. This is particularly true of Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart), Gotham's most prized good guy. When Batman chooses to save Dent instead of Rachel Dawes, Dent's girlfriend, things take a turn for the worse. The trauma of being a factor in the death of Dawes causes Dent to become completely demented. He begins to struggle between the old respectable Dent and the new vengeance-obsessed Dent. Thus the rise of Two-Face.

Joker fans always hope to find their favorite villain

perfectly portrayed and in Heath Ledger, they seem to have found their man. His performance explored every brilliantly maniacal element of the Joker's character.

"I don't want to kill you," Joker tells Batman. "You complete me."

In so many ways this statement embodies their relationship. Neither one fits the typical role of villain nor hero.

The movie not only brought the Joker's incredible lunacy into full effect, but also the tale of another dynamic Batman villain. Two-Face's journey from sane and respectful to completely demented captivated fans new and old.

The film has received some criticism from fans. Some have wondered, "What's up with Batman's voice?" As Bruce Wayne, Christian Bale was charming, but as Batman, his voice dropped down to this oddly coarse drone. And some have noted that in its nearly three hours, there is no clear story line.

But true fans understand. Director Christopher Nolan has presented a dramatically fitting image of Batman and Gotham City. Both are dark, both are troubled. If there had been a stock ending or some cookie-cutter resolution, the essence of Batman would have been lost.

JAMES DEAN REDUX

By Adriana Amaya
Staff Writer

Heath Ledger's glowing reviews for his "Joker" role in "Dark Knight" came six months too late for the Australian actor, who was found dead in a Manhattan apartment in January. Police believed the cause of death was an accidental overdose or a suicide, although no note was found. Ledger was 28, the *New York Times* reported.

"I think we've lost one of the best young actors Australia's produced - if not the best," said fellow Australian actor Samuel Johnson.

But a *Daily Mail* article said Ledger had been battling a heroin addiction in recent times and that his break-up with former girlfriend Michelle Williams had thrown him into a "deep, dark depression."

"He had a stint in rehab late last year when he was



treated for heroin," the *Daily Mail* said.

Close friend Jake Gyllenhaal wanted Heath to get help, the British tabloid said, but Ledger refused.

"And now it looks as though he may have died of a drug overdose," the unnamed source said.

Ledger was best known for his role in 2005's "Brokeback Mountain." The film, about two cowboys who fall in love, was based on a short

story by Annie Proulx.

"It is a great screen performance, as good as the best of Marlon Brando and Sean Penn," said the *New York Times* Stephen Holden.

Ledger received an Oscar nomination for "Brokeback."

"I work from inside out - thoughts and emotions first, and then the face follows," he said of his work in the film.

Ledger began dating fellow actress Williams while filming "Brokeback."

Daughter Matilda Rose was born in October, 2005. Ledger and Williams were engaged for a time but broke up last year.

"Having a child changes every aspect of your life," Ledger said. "The sacrifices are large but what you get in return is even bigger."

"Holy Sequel, Batman"

BATMAN (1989)

Visionary director Tim Burton gives the caped crusader a thorough overhaul. Michael Keaton is the brooding "Dark Knight" and Jack Nicholson, is the over-the-top Joker.



BATMAN RETURNS (1992)

Penguin (Danny DeVito) is bent on draining Gotham of its energy supply. Keaton has to deal with the vengeful Catwoman (Michelle Pfeiffer).



BATMAN FOREVER (1995)

Joel Schumacher directs Val Kilmer. The Riddler (funnyman Jim Carrey) and the diabolical Two-Face (Tommy Lee Jones) join forces. Nicole Kidman is the seductive shrink.



BATMAN AND ROBIN (1997)

George Clooney battles Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger) and vampy Uma Thurman as Poison Ivy. Elle McPherson cameos as Bruce Wayne's fiancée. An overdose of eye candy.



BATMAN BEGINS (2005)

Christian Bale in a grim and gritty version influenced by the graphic novels that preceded it. Michael Caine is funny and love interest Katie Holmes (Dawson's Creek) is, umm, the girl.



Summer League Slump

By Natalie Barrera
Staff Writer

Mission Viejo batters hammered three Poly pitchers for 10 runs last Thursday and coasted to a 10-1 win in summer league play.

“I’m not looking at the scores right now,” said head coach Manny Peralta. “We have a lot of players in new positions, girls that probably will not make the varsity, so they’re facing better competition than they probably will in JV.”

The Panthers jumped out to an early two-run lead in the top of the first, but Parrot center fielder Valerie Garcia answered with a solo shot in the bottom of the second inning.

The Parrots never scored again.

Mission played an efficient game, getting their 10 runs off

10 hits and three walks.

Poly used junior Sylvette Rodriguez, senior Sandra Perez and freshman Arlene Arroyo to pitch the loss.

“We’re 1-3 in the summer ball series,” Peralta said “but losses and wins are not the issue. It’s about how much we improve. It helps me see where we’re at right now.”

Access to equipment is always an issue in the summer, Peralta said.

“One of the problems with the summer program is that we can’t use our school’s facilities,” Peralta said. “We have a batting cage and batting machine, but we can’t use them during the off season, so most of these girls have to go to local batting cages just to get some swing time in.”

Poly lost to the San Fernando Tigers Thursday. 3-1



All Photos by Michael Obando



Photo by Michael Obando

TIGER HUNTING: Lady Parrot freshman pitcher Arlene Arroyo tries to put one by a San Fernando batter.

Sudoku Time!

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

Sudoku Instructions

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

Comic-Con International



Photo courtesy of Bryce Pemble

UNDERCOVER: Poly science teacher Hannah Gabriel, disguised as intergalactic Chun-Li.



Photo courtesy of Bryce Pemble

CON MAN: Comic-Con International aficionado Bryce Pemble and daughter Giovanna at the super-sized, super sleek expo of comics, toys, video games, DVDs and movies.