

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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Vote '08

Voters Negative on Negativity

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

He who throws dirt is losing ground.

The McCain campaign's mud throwing has backfired. A New York Times/CBS News poll taken on October 14 showed that six in ten people polled said that John McCain spent more time attacking Barack Obama than explaining what he would do as president.

The poll also showed that 51 percent of those surveyed said that they supported Obama and 39 percent supported McCain.

If the election were held this week, 53 percent of voters said they would vote for Obama and 39 percent said they would vote for McCain, according to the poll.

Attempts by the McCain campaign to portray Obama as a friend of 1960's radical William Ayers negatively influenced voters' opinions on McCain's campaign.

In last Wednesday's debate, the Republican candidate was on the attack again, despite being more focused than during his previous sparrings with Obama.

On the subject of free trade with Columbia, for example, McCain alluded to Obama's inexperience in foreign affairs by suggesting that Obama should "travel down there and visit them."

Obama, on the other hand, refused to take the bait on whether or not Sarah Palin is qualified to be president, replying that he would let the voters decide.

McCain's continued attacks on Obama's character stood in strong contrast to Obama's persistence in returning to his talking points on the issues. Based on the poll, McCain's strategy may cost him more votes than he gains.

POLY'S \$4,000 MAN



Photo by Michael Obando

CASH: Former Parrot George Bran (left) shakes hands with interim principal Gerardo Loera after donating \$4,600.

Varsity Lockers Rifled During Marshall Game

Parrots respond with a benefit lunch to compensate the football players.

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

Over \$1,000 worth of personal items was stolen from 14 Poly football players sometime during the Marshall game on Friday, September 26.

"An incident like this has never happened to Poly before," said Poly interim principal Gerardo Loera.

While this wasn't the first time athletes have had personal items stolen from their lockers, it was the first time a theft occurred during a game, with many players affected.

"Theft has been a constant problem in the locker rooms," said varsity assistant coach Larry Ziehler, "but before it was just one person who had items stolen."

Ziehler's son, JV assistant coach Simon Ziehler was the first to discover the robbery.

There was no sign of forced entry.

"Only the lockers were broken," said assistant principal David Sanchez.

[See Money, Page 7]

Former Parrot brings a bag full of money for Poly students.

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

A Poly alumnus presented \$4,600 in cash to interim principal Gerardo Loera at 9 a.m. last Thursday.

"I will donate one dollar each to 4,600 students," said George Bran, 83, a 1949 graduate of Poly's former downtown location.

Bran dropped by unannounced about two weeks ago and asked to see the principal, according to Assistant Principal Ari Bennett.

"The original plan was for him to give a dollar to every student on campus," said Bennett. "But we recommended that he just donate the money to students'

funds."

Bennett said the logistics of Bran literally handing a dollar to each student made the idea impractical.

"Stakeholders at Poly are happy that he tried to reconnect with the new Poly generation," said Bennett. "It's unusual for us to have an alumnus of the original Poly High downtown help a new generation of Poly students. It really says something good about Poly Pride."

Bran, born in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) in 1925, has been married for 60 years and lives in North Hollywood.

"I came to the United States in 1939 to better my life," said Bran, who joined the Army in 1943 and served overseas in 1944.

"This is the best part of my life," Bran said, "to make everyone happy."

Holocaust Survivor

When All You Have Is Hope

By Angel Silva
& Hazel Kasusky
Staff Writers

Six million Jews were systematically murdered during World War II as part of a state-sponsored genocide known as "the Holocaust." Only a few who survived the concentration camps are still living. One of those, Betty Daniels, came to Poly to tell her story.

When the war started, I was with my family. I was the youngest. A short time afterwards I was taken to a labor camp."

[See Holocaust, Page 6]



Photo by Michael Obando

SURVIVOR: The Nazis ransacked Betty Daniels' town of Chrzanow, Poland in 1939.



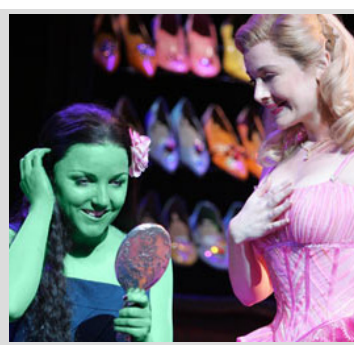
Eastern Schools Top Notch

See Worth | Page 3



Two Of a Kind

See Vision | Page 5



Season of the Witches

See Witch | Page 7



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



FEEDBACK Comments on presidential choices.

Sarah Palin seems like she doesn't have much experience and that she sometimes does not make the best decisions.

YECENIA CID [9TH]

Barack Obama is going to help fix our tax problems. Also, even though gays and lesbian marriages are against some religions, Obama is going to allow them their rights. They should be allowed because they are not different than us.

ASUCENA VISCARRA [11TH]

Barack Obama has a positive view for change. He wants to lower taxes and have better health insurances for diligent Americans.

RODOLFO VALDEZ [11TH]

Obama proves himself that he can help us with the economic crisis that we are in. Like he says, "we need a steady hand

in the White House. We need a president you can trust in times of crisis."

MICHELLE ARGUETA [11TH]

Obama knows where he stands and wants a change. However, it's controversial because they say that we're not ready for a colored president. Racism won't end and it would become another dilemma. But I know that Obama is ready to rise from his color and make history.

ELIZABETH SARAVIA [11TH]

I feel that Obama is aware of the problems in society and the economic downfall. I believe he will lead the people of America towards change and success. I am not for Barack Obama, Barack Obama is for me.

JOSE DAVID HERNANDEZ [11TH]

I wouldn't vote for any of them because I might make a bad decision or have people mat at me for my choice.

SILVIA ARIKIAN [9TH]

Barack Obama is more concerned about the economy, environment, healthcare and middle class people that need help. On the other hand, I heard that John McCain keeps saying how inexperienced Obama is and he's going to get more oil from Iraq, risking more lives. I would vote for Obama because he has good ideas for useful renewable energy that's good for the environment.

SAMUEL DOMINGUEZ [11TH]

Barack Obama has proven to the country that color is not what matters, it's the work and dedication you give. I believe that McCain will be the clone of Bush.

RODRIGO AMARILLAS [11TH]

I personally think that our country needs something new. Why are we going to elect John McCain who is going to be just like the past president George W. Bush. At the same time, I feel it might be complicated at first because having an African-American as our new president is something that we've never witnessed having at all.

SOPHIA ROBLES [11TH]

I agree with Obama's political views on same-sex marriage, the war in Iraq and abortions. He is more open to changing old traditions for today's generation.

MARILYN POCASANGRE [11TH]

I would not choose any candidate. I don't have enough knowledge about politics and our government to be able to "make a difference." It's better to educate ourselves first before making any decisions that will affect our future.

RISU ORAP [11TH]

Editorials

Get Out And Vote

How many of you vote? No, seriously. Not just teachers - anyone who is 18 and over and a legal resident can vote. So, why don't you?

Voting is a right that gives the people a voice in government. It's what has allowed our country to pass on power from one president to another, despite the fact that some presidents have done better than others.

More and more people are getting involved in politics and making a difference in this country. But you can't have your two cents if you don't vote. And to vote, you need to register.

Politics goes beyond two candidates on T.V. bashing each other's policies and standpoints. Without voters, the entire system of democ-

racy would fail like so many AP Calculus students.

I'm not saying democracy is doomed to fail if you don't vote. But you can't have a voice in the U.S. community without registering to vote.

If you don't vote, you really can't say anything about the results of this election or any future elections. Why? Because you didn't vote. You let others

around the country decide the fate of the United States for you. Some citizen you are.

To register, go to http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vr.htm and register. It's fast and free. Time is ticking, and it's your turn to make a difference.



Get Educated On Conservation

Many Los Angeles residents don't realize how serious the need for water conservation is in Southern California. And the drier the weather gets, the more serious we need to conserve.

Our water comes from places outside our control and it is slowly depleting. The last thing we need is Southern Californians dying of thirst.

People flush the toilet and suppose that water comes from the toilet handle. People turn on the sink and think it comes from the faucet knob.

Arid Los Angeles' water supply comes from places such as the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta and the Ivanhoe Reservoir.

According to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) website, "The 'Securing LA's Water Future' plan calls for an aggressive, multi-pronged approach to meet this increase in demand, combining short-term steps to conserve water with long-term investment in

water-efficient technology, water recycling, and improvements in the groundwater supply."

An example of a long-term step to conserve water is using "Smart Sprinklers", which are to be released [launched] in 2009. Smart Sprinklers will adjust to weather conditions and, according to the LADWP website, save "more than 14 billion gallons per year - enough to fill the Rose Bowl 56 times."

The short-term steps depend more on the community's co-operation.

People that use water can do a couple of things to conserve water.

An important tip in conserving water is to not let the water run while washing your teeth, car or dishes.

Conserving water does not mean Angelinos are forced to use drops of water a day. But we have to be more responsible today about our water use to insure a plentiful supply for tomorrow's Angelinos.

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

POLITICAL EDITOR

Angel Silva

SPORTS EDITOR

Diana Jaurequi

PHOTO EDITORS

Michael Obando
Belle Tadena

CARTOONIST

Ricky De Guzman
Marina Turrueles

WRITERS:

Jocelyn Alas,
Adriana Amaya,
Karinina Cruz,
Hazel Kasusky,
Lizette Lopez,
Angel Silva,
Belle Tadena.

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.

Expensive and Worth It

Prestigious Ivy League favorites Harvard and Yale offer the complete collegiate experience.

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

Harvard and Yale. Who isn't familiar with these university giants? The best-known members of the Ivy League, these universities are seen as the peak of erudition.

For academics, both offer a wide diversity of classes.

Harvard undergraduates have a choice of 3,500 courses spanning over 40 areas of studies. Yale offers more than 2,000 courses in over 70 departments. Student-to-faculty ratios are usually low, with a ratio of 5.10 for Harvard and a 4.9 ratio for Yale.

What else makes these schools desirable? Both are surrounded by places with much to do and much to offer.

Yale is located outside New Haven, Connecticut, a city of 123,000 inhabitants. Surrounding the Yale campus are multi-ethnic eateries from every corner of the world, the New Haven Green, where artists perform on a regular basis, and several museums.

Harvard is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The area is rich in history, with sites like the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House, home to poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the O'Reilly Spite House, built by Francis O'Reilly to spite his neighbors and the renowned Glass Flowers, a famous collection of highly-realistic glass botanical models.

As for campus life, Yale undergraduates are assigned randomly to one of 12 residential communities, designed to expose the student to a more diverse community. Each section has unique facilities such as a rock climbing wall, computer rooms and more. The classmates freshmen encounter in their first year are the ones that they graduate with.

For freshmen, Harvard offers dor-



Internet Photo

HISTORICAL: Massachusetts Hall (right), built in 1720, is the oldest standing building on campus. During the Revolutionary War, soldiers of the Continental Army slept there. Today the upper floors serve as living space for freshmen.

mitories adjacent to Harvard Yard, the central part of campus. Everything necessary for living - academic buildings, athletic facilities, and the dining halls - is close to the dorms. After their first year, students live in one of 12 residential Houses similar to the system in the Harry Potter series.

Of course, getting into one of these



Internet Photo

prestigious universities isn't easy. The standards are high for both schools.

Harvard and Yale both require the Common Application and the applicant's high school transcript for grades nine through twelve. Also required are results from the SAT I and two SAT IIs, or the CEEB, or the ACT.

In addition to the Common appli-

cation, Yale requires the Yale Supplement, along with two essays, one included with the Yale Supplement, and two teacher recommendations.

The cost of attending these prestigious universities is approximately \$47,000 annually. Both universities offer financial aid packages that allow prospective students from low-income families to attend.

Harvard offers a free college education to applicants whose families make \$60,000 or less a year. Families with incomes between \$60,000 and \$180,000 pay only 10 percent of their income for tuition.

Yale's financial aid is similar to Harvard's.

Both universities are unique. Not everything that one university offers will appeal to everyone, and that's to be expected.

For more information on Harvard and Yale, visit their websites at www.harvard.edu and www.yale.edu, or visit the College Board at <http://www.collegeboard.com>.



Internet Photo

CAMPUS: Yale's 320-acre campus is home to about 5,300 undergrads. Founded in 1701, the University's classroom buildings represent some of the finest colonial architecture on the East Coast. Yale is located in New Haven, Connecticut.

College Journal

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

By Belle Tadena
Layout Editor

In April of my junior year, representatives from the POSSE Foundation visited Poly.

A nontraditional scholarship foundation, POSSE recruits and trains student leaders in public high schools to form teams called "Posses."

The POSSE staff uses an intensive Pre-Collegiate Training Program to prep members for enrollment at one of America's top-tier universities.

Students are then sent off to school with full-tuition scholarships.

By the end of May, I was nominated for a POSSE scholarship.

The POSSE Foundation has a recruitment strategy called the Dynamic Assessment Pro-

cess (DAP), which identifies exceptional students in ways unlike that of traditional college admission processes.

The DAP has three stages.

In early October, I attended the first stage of POSSE interview at Los Angeles, called the first large group interview.

Here the POSSE staff gathers nominees from various high schools for their first meeting.

In the large group interview, POSSE trainers designed group activities for the nominees. POSSE volunteers then observe how each student interacts within a group. They want to see students contributing to the group activities and discussions.

The activities ranged from individual flights of fancy to group discussions and teamwork.

The second stage is a one-on-one interview attended by students who passed the first interview.

Students who are chosen to continue on to the third stage are required to officially withdraw applications for other colleges.

Finalists then go on to a workshop that involves POSSE staff, representatives from the partner colleges and 20 scholarship candidates.

Candidates will participate in group activities for further evaluation.

The POSSE staff and the

university administration will then agree on ten Posse scholars for the following school semester.

Current seniors might have missed this opportunity. However, seniors should know that there are numerous other scholarships available for them to receive.

Money should never be an issue for not attending college after high school.

Teachers have copies of scholarship information. Students can also visit the College Office for more information or browse through the Internet for additional access to scholarships.



DOUBLE V



A striking similarity is not all th

Like all South Korean students, twins Christine and Eunice had to take an art class once a week every year.

"However, I was never really good at it," Christine said.

And they didn't get much encouragement from their peers.

"People used to make fun of our art work," Eunice said. "They said it looked childish and funny."

So when the girls came to the U.S. and enrolled at Poly in 2007, they were reluctant to produce any art.

"Before we took AP Studio Art," Eunice added, "we didn't even want to paint or draw."

"We just wanted to take an AP class and AP Studio



"Drunken Man" by Eunice Choi
Linocut, 7" x 10"



"Desert" by Christine Choi
Tempera, 8" x 10"

Art was a convenience."

But then the girls began to enjoy what they were doing.

"We really liked being in the class," Eunice said. "It was fun. You have the freedom to do what you want."



"Waiting" by Eunice Choi
Tempera, 7" x 7 1/2"



"Restaurant" by Christine Choi
Digital Work, 8" x 10"



"Sorrow" by Eunice Choi
Linocut & 10"

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VISION



By Karinina Cruz
& Belle Tadena
Staff Writers

ne Choi twins have in common.



by Eunice Choi
Water, 7" x 10"

Some months later, both girls have produced substantial art portfolios in preparation for the AP final, including all of the artwork on these pages.

How did these two reluctant artists get so good? It wasn't from parental encouragement.

No, our mom always criticizes my work," both girls said.

But art does run in the Choi fam-



"Mask" by Christine Choi
Digital Work, 7" x 10"

"Three of my cousins majored in some type of art. One is majoring in traditional Korean art, another is studying illustrations," said Eunice. "The last one is a professor at an art college and she teaches fashion design."

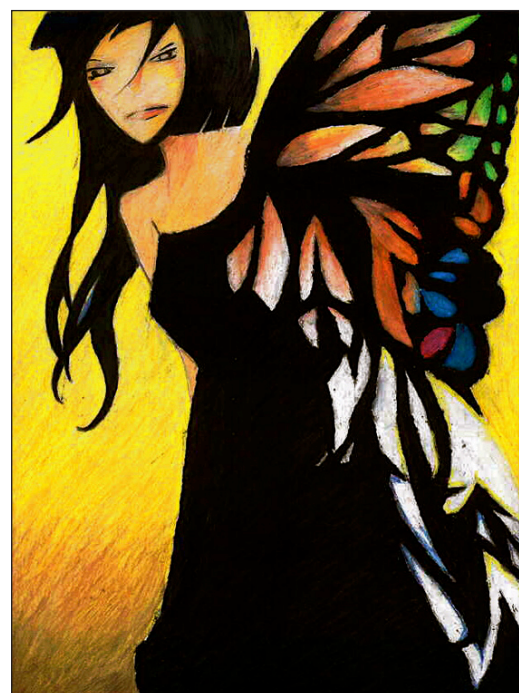
"They are all from my mother's side," said Christine.

Despite their success in Loya's class, the twins continue to be reluctant artists.

"We might take a class in college, but I don't think it'll be a major for us," Eunice said.

"I don't have a motivation to paint," Christine said.

The girls plan to major in computer science, though not at the same school.



"The Fairy of Flowers" by Christine Choi
Linocut & Water, 8" x 8"

"No," said Christine, "we are not going to the same school."

"No. We don't want to be together," Eunice agreed. "But I think we will go to the same college, even though we say that we don't want to be together."

If they do go to college together, sounds like it will be reluctantly.



"Youngster" by Eunice Choi
Acrylic, 9" x 11"



Daniels’ Holocaust Story

[Holocaust, from Page 1]

“My parents were taken to the crematorium. For no reason at all. Just because they were Jews.”

“My father told me something I will never forget. ‘Those that survive will have to talk,’ he said.”

“I survived with my sister. It was very painful.”

“As the war escalated, we had to evacuate. The Nazis put us in the trains.”

“We had no water for ten days. I drank from the gutters.

“The Nazis made us march in the snow. The ones that fell they took to the crematory.”

“Then we wound up in the concentration camp.”

The camp was Bergen-Belsen. Between 1943 and 1945, an estimated 50,000 people died there. When the camp was liberated, sixty thousand prisoners were found inside, most of them seriously ill, and another 13,000 corpses lay unburied nearby.

“They gave me clothes that were filled with lice, especially at the seams.”

“The first thing that happened was we were counted. We stood up and were counted and we were sent to work.”

Food was scarce, but a sympathetic local German woman hid soup for Daniels. Every day, Daniels took her working cart past the hiding place to collect the soup she shared with

her sister.

A woman in Bergen-Belsen had access to a calendar and told her fellow prisoners the Jewish holidays.

“Sometimes hope carries you and you survive. Never lose hope. Lose hope and you lose everything.”

When the camp was finally liberated by American and British troops, Daniels was at the gate.

“One day I was at the gate. And I heard from the loudspeaker ‘You are free.’”

“It was the American and English allies that liberated us.”

“There were lots of dead people. I thought, ‘how do you walk over a dead person?’ But you do it anyway.”

“My sister got typhus and she was in the hospital when we were rescued.”

“I was sent to a convalescent home in Ochtrup and there I met my future husband.”

Jacob Daniels was one of the soldiers helping her group of liberated prisoners find clothing to replace there worn camp garb.

“So we got new clothes from a German department store.”

Another ex-prisoner admired Daniels’ newly acquired coat.

“Well, if you like the coat you can



Photo by Michael Obando

There is a smell of death in the crematoriums. I can’t describe it.

have it,’ I said. I took it off and I gave it to her.”

“There was a young man holding a bible and he said, ‘Ay-ay-ay! She doesn’t have a coat and she gives away her coat. She’s gonna give me her heart.’”

That man was Daniels’ future husband, Jacob Daniels.

“So I gave away a coat and got a husband.”

“He asked me to translate a piece of paper. And I look at it and it’s a love poem.”

“We went through woods and rivers to get away from Germany.”

“I married my husband in Paris, France and got pregnant in France. Our children were born in Cuba.”

“I had happy years. We were married for about 27 years.”

“Now I am here to pinpoint hate. Don’t hate. Compromise but don’t hate because you’re hurting yourself more than the one you hate.”

Daniels returned to Europe in 1988 to revisit some of the places that had caused her so much pain during the war.

“I took my daughter with me and I went to Auschwitz, but I didn’t go to the crematorium. Then we went to Warsaw.”

“There is a smell of death in the crematoriums. I can’t describe it.”

“I was pleased that I was able to do it. It was painful but it was a great thing that I was able to do it.”

“I went there, back to my old home, but it wasn’t the same.”

“I would like to go to Germany, to Ochtrup.”

“Right now I try to take care of myself and not be a burden to anyone. I try to be busy, occupied.”

“Nourish yourself with goodness as much as you can.”

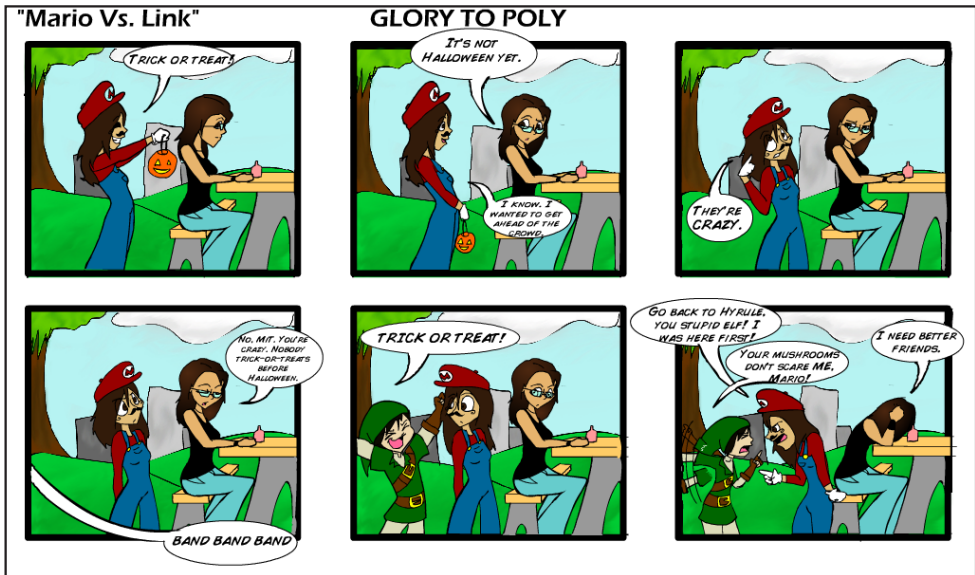
“I’m counting my blessings that I can come here now and I appreciate my friendship and I have no words of appreciation. I appreciate Ethel Matlen’s friendship.”

“I’m glad I have her. I don’t take her for granted.”

Pencilhead



Glory to Poly



HOROSCOPIA

By Lizette Lopez
Staff Writer

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You’ve been seeking an adventure for weeks. Well, get ready, because all-hallows eve will be an unexpected and spooky rollercoaster ride.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Many envy your honesty, but more are frightened by your jealousy. Don’t be led into a dark world of unhappiness. Free yourself by kissing your jealous bones goodbye.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

As the Joker says: Why so serious? Be spontaneous on the scariest night of the year. C’mon you know you want to.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Just make up your mind. It doesn’t matter what Halloween costume you choose, you’ll be scary. Put away all doubt and become your favorite nightmare.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Your creativity can take you anywhere. Think outside that box everyone is always talking about. On the 31st your creativity will definitely be noticed. Don’t wait, create.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

Time to break out of your shell. This is the one day of the year that you can be anybody you want to be. Don’t let your shyness stop you now. Get spooky.

Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

Follow your gut feeling, do what your heart tells you. If you don’t, this Halloween might haunt you all year long.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You know sometimes you go over the top. Your friends tolerate you, but they’d like you better if you dialed it down a notch. Just not on that Halloween costume.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Whoa, don’t be too honest. Remember, the masks are just for Halloween. People admire your frankness, but you must still take their feelings into consideration.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You’re always second-guessing yourself. Stop being so cautious this once. Halloween is only one day a year - be someone you’re not.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Oooooohh, you rebel you. You like to be different. Don’t let anyone stop you from wearing that outrageous, deep-red dress on the 31st.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You keep trying to escape the “real world.” So on Halloween, let your imagination run wild. You won’t believe how far you can go.

The Witch Is Back

By Jocelyn Alas
Staff Writer

Since 2003, Broadway's wildly successful musical "Wicked" has continued to captivate audiences worldwide. For those in the Los Angeles area, the production has resided at The Pantages theatre since February 2007. Unfortunately, "Wicked" has announced that the last show will be held sometime in January of 2009. So, now is the perfect time to finally get spellbound.

Based on Gregory Maguire's spin-off of L. Frank Baum's classic "Wizard of Oz," "Wicked" traces the life of the ever so hated Wicked Witch of the West.

Maguire saw Dorothy's triumph over the villainess as merely one side of the story. "Wicked's" intent is to undo what everyone believed to be true.

As an homage to the time-honored writer, Maguire used Baum's initials to name his leading lady, Elphaba. In Maguire's novel, Elphaba leads a tumultuous life in search of justice from the corrupt, tyrannical politics of the Wizard of Oz. But unlike Maguire's novel, "Wicked" ends on a positive note. Fans of the novel will find the musical production a completely separate entity.

Adapted for the stage by composer Stephen Schwartz and writer Winnie



Internet Photo

LA-LA LAND: Two witches from the Land of Oz have found a home in Los Angeles at the Pantages, where "Wicked" continues to play to sold-out audiences.

Holzman, "Wicked" comes off more as a prequel to "The Wizard of Oz" then a deep look into Elphaba's journey. That said, the musical is a marvelous production that leads audiences through an Oz more real than ever.

The opening scene introduces Glinda, the Good Witch, as she floats above the stage in her sparkly bubble, announcing the death of the Wicked Witch of the West. The musical then unfolds as a flashback, its focus on the unknown relationship between Glinda and her complete opposite, Elphaba.

Glinda is a bubbly opportunist, while Elphaba is an introverted, political activist. With all their powers, Elphaba (Caissie Levy) and Glinda (Megan Hilty) are the play's most adored and personable characters, thanks in great part to Hilty's hilarious one-liners. The acting by both ladies was believable and organic.

The musical numbers were amazing, the choreography, flawless. Both leading female roles were a feast for the eyes and the ears. The sounds and movements simply amped up the en-

chanting nature of Oz. The eye-popping sets and intriguing wardrobe accurately recreate the whimsical Oz we all grew to love.

Along the way, "Wicked" traces the evolution of the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion and how Dorothy's companions came to lack a brain, a heart, and courage. Also explained are their perceptions of the Wicked Witch.

The special effects were ingenious, with a smoke-breathing dragon and flying monkeys creating a fantasy land of wizardry. Everything looked real and not fairytale-like at all, especially Glinda traveling in a bubble-blowing pendulum and that green witch flying her broomstick through billows of smoke. Lighting and sound set the mood perfectly and seamlessly, making it difficult not to get completely caught up in the moment.

While the story unfolded coherently, some areas were not delved into deeply enough. For instance, the issue of Animals vs. animals is a vital topic in Maguire's book. Yet in the musical, the severity of the incident with the Lion cub in Dr. Dillamond's classroom is not fully explained.

But its faults are minor. "Wicked" offers an Oz full of child-like whimsy and an honest tale of beloved characters for Oz fans. Jam-packed with mesmerizing moments, the musical charms its audience until the last curtain call.

First touch is life. Second touch is dead again, forever.

By Adriana Amaya
Staff Writer

ABC's "Pushing Daisies" has been poorly received by critics and that's a shame, because this new series has much to recommend it.

The show blends mystery, comedy and candy-colored visuals with whimsical storytelling and a pie-loving passion, all baked into a fairy tale for our time.

The show questions life and death, love and hate, and passion and restraint.

"Pushing Daisies" bursts with talent in front of and behind the camera. It's the most original and rewarding new television series this year.

To fall under the spell of "Pushing Daisies," you need to see it and hear it for yourself. The music, the images, the performances, and the bedtime-story narration by Jim Dale (the voice of the Harry Potter audio books) is simply just magic that can't be explained.

Despite puppy-filled, pie-loving and blue sky ways,



Internet Photo

SECRET: Lee Pace, shown here with co-star Anna Friel, plays Ned, a guy with a pie shop and a secret that is the storyline for the Emmy-nominated "Pushing Daisies."

"Pushing Daisies" is a deceptively mature and unabashedly romantic flower-filled fable.

What makes the series unique are its unassuming characters. After all, this TV season is all about the underdog and ultimately about decent people struggling to do the right thing.

A man named Ned brings the dead back to life with his first touch and returns them to death with his second.

Ned has only a few seconds to make that second touch or someone else in close proximity to him will die.



Internet Photo

The heart of the series is the lovable, loving relationship between the low-key Ned and the perky Chuck, Ned's love interest from the past who died whom he brought back to life.

Their first kiss as adults comes early in the first season and sweetly involves a lip barrier of plastic wrap.

With skill and chemistry, they convey the sadness and hope of two people who have been cut off from the world and are now rediscovering it through each other.

Sadly, TV has no interest in functioning relationships.

Men and women stay on opposite sides. If they do come together, they turn into those screeching, arguing sitcom duos.

It's as if the majority of TV shows were written by people who have never had a functioning relationship in their lives. Are couples who actually like each other not dynamic enough to hold interest?

But you have to smile at a smitten couple who find ways to touch through gloves and cellophane. How can you dislike a show that makes being in love an act of heroism?

Parrots Raise \$1400

[Money, from Page 1]

Poly administrators are working with the school police and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) on the incident.

"The LAPD will work with the phone companies to track down where the phones are," said Loera.

Poly officials are planning to heighten security measures, according to Ziehler.

Leadership held a benefit lunch a week after the incident and raised \$1400 that they will donate to the football players to compensate for the stolen items

"Leadership has done a wonderful job in contributing and the teachers also, especially Ms. McEwen and Ms. Damonte," said Ziehler.





Photos By Michael Obando

PASSER: Senior QB Marco Manriquez (above) scores a lot of points for coach Scott Faer (far right), but he can also throw the ball. A favorite target is junior Jorge Cervantes (upper left).

Poly Scores Early and Often

Parrots Slice and Dice the Dons for 47 points.

By Diana Jauregui
Staff Writer

Win or lose, this year's Parrots like to score early and often. Friday's contest with the Dons' of Verdugo Hills was no exception.

Versatile senior quarterback Marco Manriquez put Poly on the scoreboard early in the first with a one-yard plunge into the end zone and a pass to Jorge Servantes on the two-point conversion for an 8-0 lead.

Parrot sophomore running back Kevin Ervin answered a Verdugo Hills score with a five-yard run to put Poly ahead to stay at 16-6. Manriquez squeezed the final yard for another TD in the second quarter and Poly led 26-6 at the half.

The rest of the night wasn't much different. Poly played with focus and determination and looked sharp against visiting Verdugo, controlling the ball and scoring at will.

The Parrots' defense effectively shut down the Dons' vaunted passing game, keeping their offense out of sync virtually all night. Verdugo senior quarterback Matthew Torres was a lackluster 6-21 passing for 120 yards.

Some costly penalties further hampered the

Dons' effort.

"Poly's a very good team and they played well tonight," said Verdugo head coach Victor Castro IV. "They wanted it a little bit more than we did."

Torres accounted for both Dons' scores with runs of 23 yards in the first and 3 in the fourth.

Second half scoring for Poly included junior fullback William Zelaya's one-yard run in the third, senior tight end Palu Tongamoa's 35-yard reception in the fourth and a third Manriquez carry to end the night's scoring.

Manriquez leads the league in points scored with 62 and Ervin is the league leader in rushing with 493 yards.

Castro said Torres couldn't get the passing game going and the defense wasn't doing any better.

"We'd hold them on 1st and 2nd downs, and then they'd get a big play on third down," Castro said.

The Dons coach added that he felt his team could still have a good season and make the playoffs.

Poly (3-2, 2-0) goes back on the road this week to play winless North Hollywood (0-6), while Verdugo (2-4, 0-1) plays Arleta (6-0) at home in what looks to be another tough night for the Dons.



Arleta Hires a Winner

By Diana Jauregui
Staff Writer

Unlike most head coaches at new high schools building football programs from scratch, Jeff Engilman started with over 200 wins under his belt.

Included in that total were two City Section 3-A championships coaching at Manual Arts in the 1980s and two City 4-A championships coaching at Sylmar in the 1990s.

When Engilman left the Spartans in 2003 after 16 seasons, he was not sure he would ever coach again. But Arleta came calling in 2005, and Engilman said yes.

"I missed the camaraderie between coaches, and I missed the relationship with the players," Engilman told the LATimes. "Being a teacher is all fine and dandy, but that relationship between a player and a coach is a special bond. Yeah, there's a lot of disappointment, but there's a lot of happiness. Now, we're seeing the happiness."

The Mustangs were 3-6 in their first varsity season. Engilman said it was some of the worst football he's seen.

This year looks better.

Arleta opened with a 24-7 win over Engilman's former team, avenging a 31-7 loss in 2007 and since then has added victories over Panorama, Monroe, Cleveland and Grant.

Engilman, who now lets his assistant coaches do much of the teaching during practice, says he has a new outlook on football and coaching.

"It's still important to win, but I think it's more important to see these kids through and see them actually accomplish a lot of stuff."

Singles Strike Out

Poly's Lady Parrots look good with a racquet but remain winless after seven matches.



Photos By Michael Obando

SINGLES: (clockwise from upper left) Lady Parrots Alejandra Ortega, Gracia Arechiga, Kailey Myron.