

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. XVII

12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, 91352

NOVEMBER 2008

## Vote '08 A New Morning in America

By Angel Silva  
Staff Writer

For the first time in the history of America, there is an African-American president.

Senator Barack Obama was elected as the 44th president of the United States of America on November 4<sup>th</sup>, breaking racial barriers and poll records as people celebrated in Los Angeles, New York, Illinois, and across the nation and the world.

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," said Obama in his acceptance speech held in Chicago.

The final tally was 349 electoral votes for Obama. Senator John McCain received 173 votes.

Obama's winning margins in Ohio, Pennsylvania, California and Florida were essential to his victory over McCain. Obama received 20, 21, 55, and 20 electoral votes respectively for Ohio, Pennsylvania, California and Florida.

Obama's win was due in part to the many new voters who chose Obama. About one in 10 of those voting were doing so for the first time. Most new voters were under 30. One fifth African-American and another fifth were Latino.

Despite losing among white voters, Obama won large portions of African-American, Latino and women voters.

McCain congratulated Obama on his victory and called for unity of the people.

"I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just congratulating [Obama], but offering our next president

[ See Election, pg 6 ]

## What Happened in Vegas Didn't Stay in Vegas

Poly teacher attends an Obama rally and leaves inspired.



Photo provided by Michelle Mitchell

**WINNER TAKES ALL:** President Elect Barack Obama rocks the vote in Henderson, Nevada.

## Homecoming Parrots Party Mardi Gras Style

By Hazel Kasusky  
Staff Writer

Poly's Leadership lit up the football field for this year's Homecoming against Arleta's Mustangs.

The theme for Poly's Homecoming '08' was Mardi Gras, or *fat Tuesday* in Latin. Mardi Gras celebrations are mainly in New Orleans, Indiana and Brazil.

Lavishly decorated floats and crazy costumes paraded on Poly's track. Parade participants represented Poly clubs and

organizations, including all student councils, Folklorico, and Black Students Association (BSA).

This year's Grand Marshall was Brian Le Clair.

Brad Katz and Leadership pretended the elected Grand Marshall was Katz.

Le Clair has served as Leadership's sponsor for 16 years but has never been named Grand Marshall. Leadership recognized Le Clair's service to the Parrots by honoring him as Grand Marshall Homecoming

'08'.

This year, the Byrd Middle School Penguin and students debut their participation in the Homecoming with Poly Parrots.

The Los Angeles Fire Department provided the fire truck Leadership rode. Poly is reminded to support the yearly toy drive.

Glittering cardboard masks were created by Poly's ASB decorated the fences. Cut out Joe's and Josie's were also painted by Poly's ASB.



Photo by Belle Tadena  
**ROYALTY:** Homecoming King Christian Zamudio with Queen Kelly Duarte.



Photo provided by Efrain Rodriguez  
**GRAND MARSHALL:** Long-time Leadership sponsor Brian Le Clair was given the honor of being the Grand Marshall for Homecoming '08.

By Angel Silva  
Staff Writer

Poly English teacher Michelle Mitchell went to Vegas the last week of elections, but not to gamble or to party. She went to be a part of history.

Mitchell was in Vegas to attend a political rally held by Illinois Senator Barack Obama, then campaigning for the presidency and now President-elect. The rally was held on the football field at Coronado High School in Henderson, Nevada under clear blue skies.

"I have never felt energized or enthused like I have been by this campaign," Mitchell said. "I feel I became more aware because his message

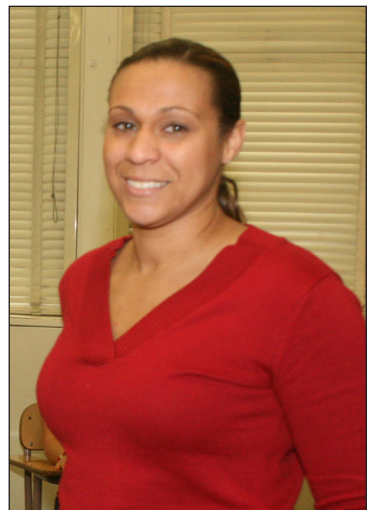


Photo by Lorena Acosta

**ATTENDEE:** English teacher Michelle Mitchell.

resonated in me."

Fifteen thousand Obama supporters, from different backgrounds and all over the country, attended the 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. rally.

"There was a mix of people," said Mitchell. "The crowd was very multiracial, with young and old."

Obama flew into Las Vegas the night before. He arrived at the rally in a black Suburban SUV surrounded by four other Suburbans and motorcycles.

The rally started with a few words from Nevada Senator Harry Reid (D), who

[ See Obama, pg 6 ]



## Yamagata Loves her Board

See Former | Page 7



## Hidden Beaks

See Dress | Page 4-5



## Bittersweet Victory

See Playoffs | Page 8



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



FEEDBACK Comments on presidential election.

The white won this land. I think that the leader of this country should be white and only white. I'm not a racist, I am Hispanic. If a Hispanic and white person ran for president, I would rather the white man win.

JONATHAN LOPEZ [12TH]

I like that Obama's honest about saying how he may not change much during his term but will do whatever he can. I like that he's straight up not a liar.

RUBEN TORRES [12TH]

This election will stand as a symbol that race does not matter that anyone no matter what color can win the presidency for future generations.

EDGAR TAMAYO [12TH]

He is the first black president and won't be the last.

ANDREA CAZARES [12TH]

If Obama helps minorities that would be great, because my family needs some help.

ANTONIO ESTRADA [12TH]

I think there'll be a lot of hatred towards Obama for becoming the first African-American president. It might become pretty dangerous for him.

LUPE MARTINEZ [12TH]

This is history being relived only with higher cause Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream and now with Obama they are coming true.

ANDRES LIZAMA [12TH]

Hopefully the people that voted for Obama didn't vote for him just because he is African American but because he is Barrack Obama!

MARISOL ANSALDO [12TH]

I feel that he will be able to help rise the U.S. from going into the

second Great Depression. There will not be racial violence and segregation to other race of people.

JENIFFER DIAZ [12TH]

I think more people went out and voted for him not because of his beliefs but because of his race. Throughout his campaign it wasn't talked about but you were able to see it in commercials and by people that were supporting him.

HUGO VELASQUEZ [12TH]

I personally don't want Obama to be president. I think that his beliefs contradict my own. I believe he is a socialist because of his ideas of health care. If he pulls out troops from Iraq it will send a bad message to the world that Americans are weak. Lastly I don't agree with his ideas on gay marriage. Obama doesn't stand for what I believe.

EDGAR RIVAS [12TH]

I personally don't really think much will change.

GERARDO LUPERCIO [12TH]

I feel that Obama is way over-rated I feel that no one voted for Obama I feel that every one voted for a black president. I hope he does good but if and when he does something wrong I'll be like I told you.

GILBERTO RODRIQUEZ [12TH]

It doesn't only give black people hope. As a Latina, it gives me hope that one day I will see someone from my ethnicity as my president.

JAHAIRA GUTIERREZ [12TH]

This year's election was very important because I voted for the first time and the U.S. made history.

JESUS GONZALEZ [12TH]

Obama becoming president is like something new to all of us. We are breaking barriers that are out of the normal.

LIZBETH BRISENO [12TH]

Editorials

Proposition 8 Goes Back to Court

A controversial state law has been the subject of much debate in California-Proposition 8.

Unofficially passed on November 6, Prop. 8 amended California's State Constitution to bar same-sex marriage.

Prop. 8 restricts the definition of marriage between a man and a woman and outlawing marriage between same-sex couples.

Contrary to popular belief, Prop. 8 has nothing to do with education, and same-sex marriage will not be taught in schools.

This proposition is identical to Prop. 22 which was passed on March 7, 2000.

A law against same-sex

marriage in California, Prop. 22 was overruled on May 15, 2008 by California Supreme Court.

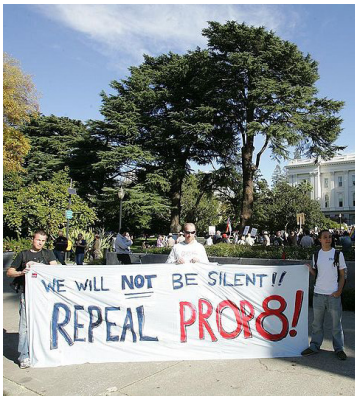
After the passing of Prop. 8, protest rang all across the state, including marches in Sacramento and San Francisco

with over 1,000 people in turnout.

As of November 13, 52% of voters have voted for Prop. 8, and 48% of voters have voted against Prop. 8.

Currently, California, Arizona and Florida have banned same-sex marriages, while Connecticut and Massachusetts allow it.

Final election results will be made public on December 9, 2008.



New Hope for America

Obama has promised change, and now the American people will have to see if he will bring change to this country.

He's got a lot on his plate, such as the financial meltdown, the Iraq War and the war in Afghanistan, immigration, education, among other things.

The way that he deals with these issues will be the topic of much debate and discussion during the next four years he's in office.

One of the first challenges that the Obama Administration must tackle is to restore the economy.

The United States is still in a recession, with the national debt standing at \$10.5 trillion in a country that had a surplus of \$230 billion some eight years before.

The wars in the Middle East continue to take lives from everyone involved in them.

The Iraq war has a death toll of about 4,200 U.S. troops since the war began.

The Bush administration has spent a record amount of \$700 billion in these two wars, and it's up to the Obama Administration to end these wars in a timely manner to avoid further drain on the shattered U.S. economy and further bloodshed by American and Middle Eastern forces.

Energy is another issue that America faces.

Currently, the United States U.S. oil consumes approximately 21 million barrels per day, but produces only 6 million barrels per day.

Oil prices have risen and fallen like an economic roller coaster, leaving the U.S. to look for other sources of energy besides burning combustible like cavemen.

The Obama Administration will need to invest in alternative sources of energy, such as solar, wind, and nuclear energy.

A lesser discussed, but just as important topic, is the one of immigration.

Currently, there are 12 million people who live in the United States without legal documentation from different backgrounds.

For some immigrants, legalization is a problem, and the Obama Administration will have to secure the borders to allow safe passage to the U.S. as well as create a program that can allow for the legalization of these people.

How Obama will deal these problems will be scrutinized for the time he's in office. Not everyone will agree with all of his policies, of course.

Only time will tell whether or not an Obama Administration will make a difference in the United States of America.

THE OPTIMIST

JOHN H. FRANCIS POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL  
12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CA, 91352  
URL: HTTP://WWW.POLYHIGH.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Belle Tadena

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Hazel Kasusky

POLITICAL EDITOR  
Angel Silva

SPORTS EDITOR  
Isabella Cabezas,  
Brianda Lopez

PHOTO EDITORS  
Lorena Acosta  
Belle Tadena

CARTOONIST  
Ricky De Guzman  
Marina Turruelles

WRITERS:  
Cindy Alegria,  
Isabella Cabezas,  
Karinina Cruz,  
Hazel Kasusky,  
Brianda Lopez,  
Chai'se Lowe,  
Cassandra Phillips  
Angel Silva,  
Belle Tadena.

OPTIMIST ADVISOR  
Ethel Matlen

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 Mrs. Matlen's box.



# Dartmouth's First Visit to Poly

Dartmouth College is the third Ivy League school to visit Poly this year.

By Angel Silva  
Staff Writer

What comes to mind when you think of Ivy League? Mostly Harvard, Princeton or Yale, right? But there are other, lesser-known Ivy League universities that are equally worthy of consideration by Poly seniors.

Take Dartmouth College, for example. Located in Hanover, New Hampshire, Dartmouth is one of the Ivy League schools.

Dartmouth has nine residential communities on campus. For freshmen, roommates are assigned at random. Thereafter, students are free to choose their own roommates.

The University operates under a unique academic schedule, dubbed the Dartmouth Plan, or simply the "D-Plan". Classes are held year-round on four 10-week terms. The D-Plan, first introduced in the 70's, allows students to customize their own schedules.

As for courses, Dartmouth offers 39 academic depart-



Photo by Michael Obando  
**VISIT:** Dartmouth rep Maria Laskaris.

Admission to Dartmouth is highly selective. SAT I or the ACT with writing as well as two SAT Subject Tests are required.

ments offering 56 major programs. The student-teacher ratio for most classes is 8-1.

Undergraduates must complete 35 courses, with 1/3 of those part of the student's major. Dartmouth also offers 57

different abroad programs.

Admission to Dartmouth is highly selective. SAT I or the ACT with writing as well as two SAT Subject Tests are required.

There are no minimum scores on the SAT or minimum GPA's for applicants, but for the class of 2012, the mean SAT scores were 726 for the verbal section, 731 for math, and 726 for writing.

Financial aid is available to students in need. Starting with the class of '09, students from families with annual incomes of \$75,000 or less are not expected to pay tuition.

Dartmouth's aid policy is more inclusive than that of Harvard or Yale, who offer the same financial aid plan to those making \$60,000 or less a year.

With just as much to offer as its higher-profiled cousins, Dartmouth is an excellent choice for Parrots looking for an East Coast experience.


For more information, go to <http://www.dartmouth.edu/>.



Internet Photo  
**ROOFTOP VIEW:** Sherman Fairchild Sciences Complex on the Dartmouth campus.

## COLLEGE REMINDERS

SAT			
REGISTRATION DEADLINE		TEST DATES	
Dec 26, 08		Jan 24, 09	
Feb 10, 09		Mar 14, 09	
Mar 31, 09		May 2, 09	
May 5, 09		Jun 6, 09	
ACT			
REGISTRATION DEADLINE		TEST DATES	
Jan 6, 09		Feb 7, 09	
Feb 27, 09		Apr 4, 09	
May 8, 09		Jun 13, 09	
INFO ZONE			
VISITOR	LOCATION	DATE	VARSIITY
Princeton Review Night	Cafetorium	Dec 2, 09	6: 30 p
FAFSA Info Night (SP)	Cafetorium	Dec 9, 09	6: 30 p
FAFSA Info Night (EN)	Library	Dec 9, 09	6: 30 p



\* Scholarships are still available for seniors.  
Visit College Office ASAP.

\* Juniors scholarships available. Must apply during your junior year.

## Getting In Just Got Tougher

By Angel Silva  
Staff Writer

In addition to deadlines, financial aid and other stresses of California's college-bound students, those applying at California State Universities (CSUs) now have an additional worry – qualifying and not getting in.

CSUs are increasing admission requirements, which could decrease the number of students admitted to these universities.

The CalState system faces up to \$66 million in midyear budget cuts and a possible fee increase next year.

To combat such economic stresses, CSUs are planning to decrease their 450,000 enrollment on the system's 23 campuses by 10,000 students for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The CSU's will also tighten application deadlines and beef up admissions requirements for freshmen at the more popular CSU campuses.

Some CSU schools will continue to take students from their own communities,

such as Sonoma, Channel Islands, Northridge, Chico, San Jose, San Marcos and San Francisco.

Students from other parts of California may have to show higher GPAs and test scores to be accepted at these colleges.

CSU's are not the only colleges in California affected by the current state budget crisis.

The University of California system might have to limit admission to its most popular campuses and send more students to those with extra space.

For example, Riverside and Merced will receive more students, while UCLA might see fewer freshmen next academic year.

Community colleges enrollment probably won't be restricted but certain popular classes may be.

Seniors may want to get a head start on their college classes and enroll in a community college in spring or summer and move their registration date up a little if they need them in the fall.

## College Journal

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

By Belle Tadena  
Layout Editor

It's crunch time guys. You really need to stop procrastinating 'cause I know you are! You can no longer afford putting off your college applications.

This is the last month to send in your applications. Deadlines are very important, seniors. Colleges and universities are very strict this year.

CSU's announced that they will be restricting the number of students accepted, because of budget cuts.

University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) admission offices will accept freshman applications only until November 30th.

"Pay really close attention to deadlines, guys. A number of students from the class of '08 learned that the hard way," said UC Santa Barbara (UCSB)

representative Cuca Acosta. "They were admitted to UCSB but they were a day late when they called to declare their intention to attend UC Santa Barbara, so we cancelled their admission."

"Make sure you visit these colleges too," said college counselor Leona Warman. "Some students realize that certain colleges are not for them, sometimes it's social reasons, academic reasons, etc."

Don't forget to research the UC's, CSU's and/or private colleges you have in mind to make sure that it's the college for you.

"I've barely started my college applications and I've been procrastinating," said Poly senior Chelsee Foster. "They're very time consuming."

Don't wait until the last week of November. By then, the application system is jammed with thousands of seniors with really bad senioritis.

If you get caught in this jam, there's a high possibility that your application will be lost.

"Get it done, get it over with, go to the college office if you have any questions," said CSU Northridge representative Cynthia Martinez. "If you have friends who already finished the applications, ask them for help."

Visit the College Office or the Counseling Office for your transcripts.

If you receive free or reduced lunch tickets, you are eligible for the four year private college fee waiver.





***Parrots Ruffle  
Feathers for  
Spirit Week  
and  
Dress for  
All Hallows Day***



Photos provided by:  
Leadership and OPTIMIST staff.









Photo provided by Associated Press

## Playing a Part in Politics

[ Obama, from pg. 1 ]

then introduced Obama to the crowd. Obama wore dark slacks and a light blue shirt with the sleeves rolled up. He spoke about his policies on different issues and his plans for the economy.

Obama encouraged people to get out and vote and to bring others to polls as well.

Mitchell said Obama's speech, far from being cut-and-dried, was inspirational and positive, and the audience was enthusiastic and responsive.

"One young woman shouted that she needed money for college," said Mitchell. "Obama asked for her name and then outlined his plan that would include her."

At the end of his speech, Obama shook hands with the people in the front of the crowd all the way to the exit, as cameras filmed the event for about 20-25 minutes.

Mitchell's experience at the rally left her with a feeling of creating history.

"This was one of the most exciting experiences in my lifetime," she said. "I will never forget the feeling that something great in history was happening and I was a part of it."

# Change is in the Air

[ Election, from pg. 1 ]

our good will and earnest effort to find ways to come together, to find the necessary compromises, to bridge our differences, and help restore our prosperity, defend our security in a dangerous world, and leave our children and grandchildren a stronger, better country than we inherited," said the defeated Republican candidate.

"Whatever our differences,

we are fellow Americans. And please believe me when I say no association has ever meant more to me than that."

The effects of Obama's victory were felt worldwide. In Kenya, President Mwai Kibaki declared Thursday a public holiday in honor of Obama's victory. Countries that expressed disdain for the U.S. while President George W. Bush was in office stated that they would be willing to

reestablish diplomatic relations with Obama in office.

Obama's election as president marks the end of the longest, most expensive and momentous presidential campaign in U.S. history.

New York Sen. Hillary Clinton was the first woman to run successfully for a party nomination. Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin became the first woman to run for Vice President for the Republican Party. And Obama

was the first African-American to successfully contend for the presidency.

As the new president of the world's most powerful nation, Obama will have to take on issues left by the Bush Administration, including a depressed economy and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Barack Obama's inauguration for the United States Presidency will take place on January 20, 2009.

## Poly Parrot says "Wilkommen"

Poly Parrots extend a hearty welcome to Philip Underwood, student from Germany.

By Hazel Kasusky  
Staff Writer

Sixteen year-old Philip Underwood lives in Stuttgart, Germany where the streets are clean day and night of garbage and crime.

During the holidays, Underwood flies to Arleta to visits his family. And this time he's attending Poly High during the summer.

"This is my first time that I came to America during the summer," said Underwood. "Normally I come during the winter. Summer here is hot."

Underwood attends Poly High as a regular LAUSD student and not through an exchange student program.

Underwood's traditional school in Germany, St Josef, is a Gymnasium school taught by nuns. A Gymnasium school is not a gym but one of three types of schools that students are placed in determined by a 4<sup>th</sup> grade exam.

"When you go into 5th grade you take a test to see how smart

you are," said Philip.

A Gymnasium school focuses on preparing students for college. The lowest scoring students attend Hauptschule schools, which focus more on



Photo by Lorena Acosta  
**VISITING:** New Poly Parrot Phillip Underwood.

vocational education.

Clearly, schools in Germany, like St. Josef, are different than Poly.

Poly carries a diversity of clubs. St. Josef and other German schools do not allow clubs on campus during school hours.

"At the school you have no

clubs. You have no football club or soccer club. It's in your free time you have the clubs," said Underwood. "You have a campus where you can hang out, but not a soccer field."

During lunch, students are allowed to eat their lunch outside the school and use iPods and cellphones.

The town offers a variety of lunch foods such as linsen (lentil soup), blutwurst (blood sausage) or McDonald's.

"Ah. Germany has a lot more freedom," said Philip. "Every time you walk outside you don't have to be scared because there is no crime."

Philip's block schedule changes every day. School's out at 1 o'clock p.m. on Monday, 4 o'clock on Tuesday, or 12:55 p.m. on Wednesday. Underwood's subjects do not follow a routine. Instead of having four periods that change every two months, Philip has four periods that change every day.

"I've known my classmates for years," said Philip,

"because we were together all the time."

Hanging out with friends and his girlfriend, Tabea Scheuerman is one of the things Philip misses the most.

"Sometimes I call and mail," said Philip. "I call my parents sometimes. Mostly to my friends."

A good night out with Philip's friends in Germany would be chatting and listening to Metallica or Nickelback. During Philip's stay here,

his nights include trips to Disneyland, Six Flags, and Hollywood.

"I would like go see the Grand Canyon and New York.," said Philip. "I think it looks really awesome in the movies."

"I was surprised when I went to Taco Bell, you can refill your drink," exclaimed Philip. "In Germany you can't. You have to pay for another one."



Internet Photo

**HISTORIC CENTER:** Stuttgart Old Castle goes back to the 10th century, part of the water castles.



# Former Parrot Joins Poly Faculty

Freshman math teacher Angela Yamagata is a Parrot alumna, class of '04.

By Karinina Cruz  
& Cassondra Lynn Phillips  
Staff Writers

Former Poly Parrot Angela Yamagata is the newest freshman algebra teacher in Poly.

Yamagata graduated from Poly four years ago.

"I remember that the campus was really big the first day I walked into Poly," said Yamagata. "I was intimidated by the number of students."

Yamagata graduated from University of California Santa Barbra (UCSB) last summer. She majored in Mathematical Science and minored in Health Science.

There has been noticeable changes in Poly after the four years that she was not around, according to Yamagata.

"The two story building near the senior glade is new," said Yamagata.

The block schedule is also new along with the Small Learning Communities (SLC).

"I'm sure there are more changes in Poly that I haven't noticed yet," said Yamagata.

Despite the changes, Yamagata still remembers her Poly teachers.

"I had Ms. Grimaldo for Geometry, Ms. Casillas for Algebra II, Math Analysis and Calculus A," said Yamagata.

"I had Mr. Berkeley for Calc B & C."

Yamagata wasn't just a Math lover, she was involved in sports and clubs as well.

"I was on varsity soccer for four years and varsity tennis in my senior year," said Yamagata. "Freshman year, we won the invitational city soccer championship and I scored a goal in the game. As far as clubs, I was in CSF and the Magnet council."



Photo by Lorena Acosta  
**SKATER:** Algebra teacher Angela Yamagata.

"Poly has always been a second home to me," said Yamagata. "I couldn't pass up the opportunity of teaching here."

Math coach Norma Ramirez and former teacher Monica Casillas inspired her to be a teacher.

"I considered being a teacher," said Yamagata, "but I didn't decide I wanted to teach until the summer of my sophomore year in college."

"The most rewarding part of teaching is that every day is new with new experiences," said Yamagata.

Yamagata's parents are originally from Japan and immigrated to the U.S. in the late 70's.

"Both my parents are immigrants from Japan. My grandfather was in LA pursuing the American dream, so my dad came too," said Yamagata. "My mom was staying in Westwood and that's where she met my dad."

Born in Montebello, California, Yamagata is the youngest of three children and the only female.

"My oldest brother is an engineer in Boston and my other brother is a mechanical engineer for SANYO in Japan," said Yamagata.

Yamagata's advice to Poly students is "find something you love regardless of the pay and you can find happiness."

# So You Wanna Be a Rock Star?

By Cindy Alegria  
Staff Writer

You're thinking of asking Santa for the newest version of "Guitar Hero" or "Rock Band." Which one's better?

Although they may seem very similar, they have some serious differences. "Guitar Hero: World Tour" is the fourth release of "Guitar Hero" and it brings in the same instruments as "Rock Band".

"Guitar Hero's" latest music packed videogame also includes a new list of songs. It comes with all new modes: you may choose to play solo and go on a world tour with the instrument you prefer, or you could play along with 4 people as your band.

The renewed "Rock Band 2"

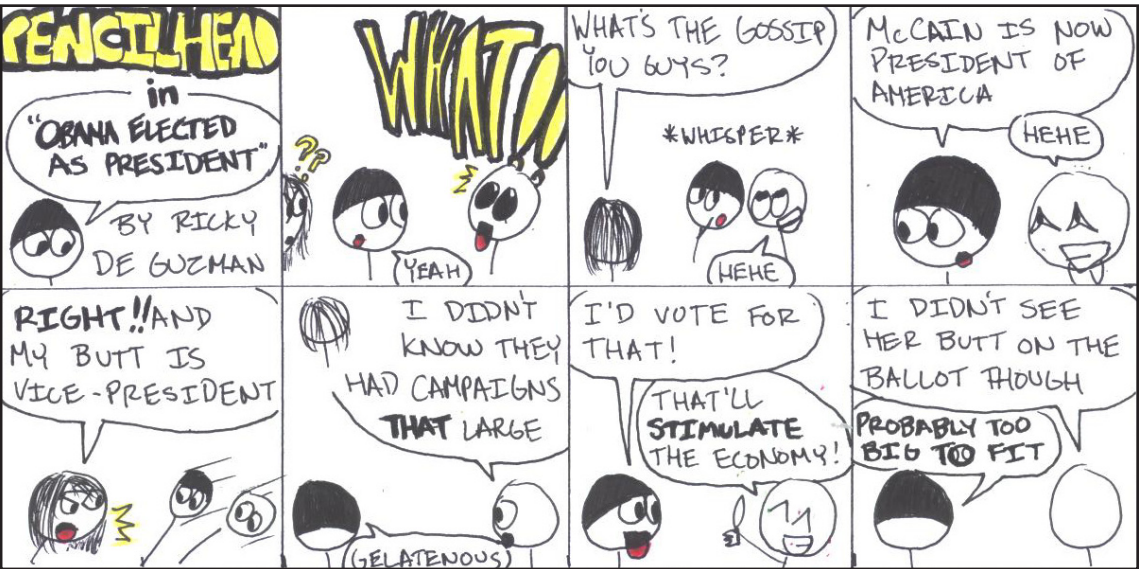
comes with most of the same features as "Guitar Hero: World Tour". However, the main differences would be the set list and the drum set.

These two games come with a microphone, a guitar with colored frets, and of course a drum set. The price of "Guitar Hero: World Tour" and "Rock Band 2" alone stand at \$49.99-\$59.99.

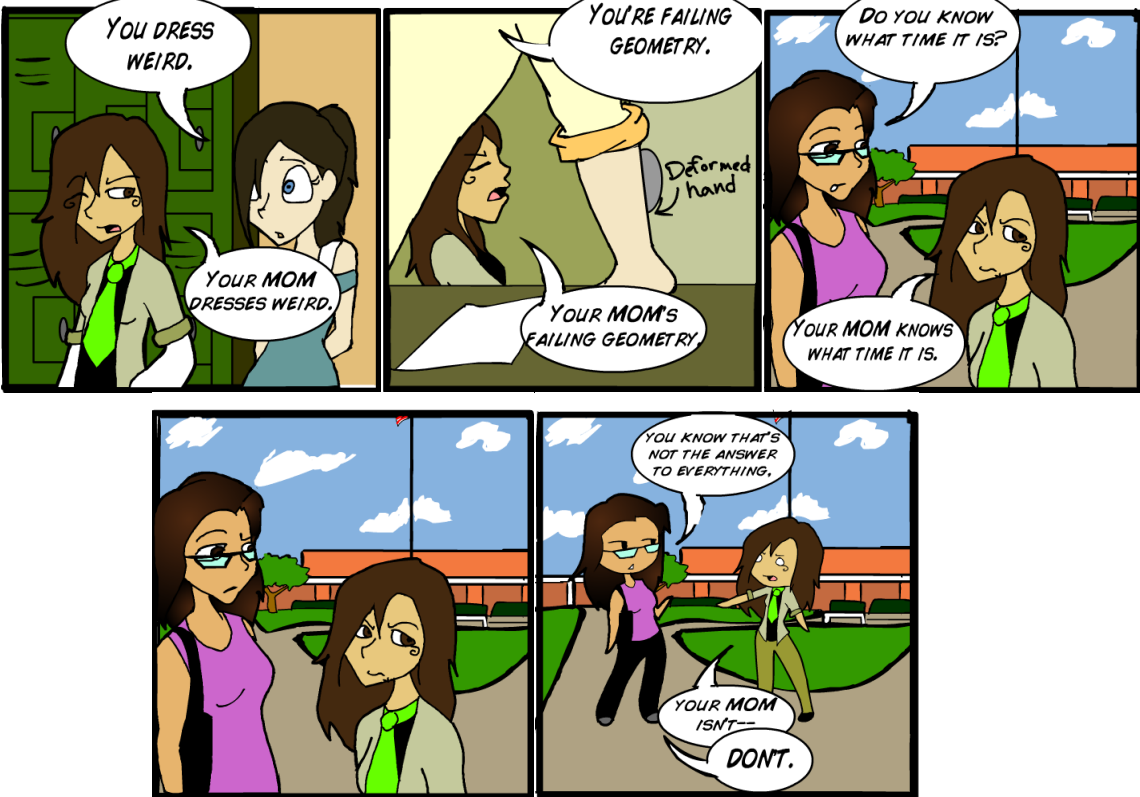
However, for both games the whole band kit, which includes the microphone, guitar and drums, would end up being \$189.99. The choice is now all up to you.



## Pencilhead



## Glory to... Your Mom



## Sudoku Time!

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

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

## Crazy Laws in California Still on the Books

- In Baldwin Park: Nobody is allowed to ride a bicycle in a swimming pool.
- In California, community leaders passed an ordinance that makes it illegal for anyone to try and stop a child from playfully jumping over puddles of water.
- In Los Angeles, you cannot bathe two babies in the same bathtub at the same time.
- In Los Angeles, years ago it was illegal to cook in your bedroom, but not to sleep in your kitchen.
- In California, It is illegal to eat an orange in your bathtub.



# Parrots End Season Much Improved

A win over Grant caps a season of successes.

By Sport Staff

Poly’s resounding 36-19 road win over Grant last Friday ended the Parrots’ best season in five years and Poly’s first win over the Lancers in as many years.

The Parrots’ 5-5 season record was their first in five years at .500 or better and the team’s 3-2 league record was Poly’s first winning record in as many seasons. The Parrots’ rushing offense was the number two offense in the entire city section (56 teams).

Poly held Grant below their per/game average of 21 points, limiting Lancer quarterback Tommy Edwards to three scoring passes. Edwards led the East Valley League in

passing yards with 2,221.

Parrot senior running back Marlon Patterson scored a touchdown in every quarter but the second, including a 55-yard run early in the game. Poly never trailed in its final outing of the season and led at halftime, 17-13.

Senior Allen Astorga kicked a 35-yard field goal and sophomore running back Kevin Ervin scored on an 8 yard rush in the second quarter for the Parrots. Junior tight end Jorge Cervantes grabbed a 45-yard pass from quarterback Marco Manriquez in the third quarter for his touchdown. The Parrot win avenged a 40-22 defeat last year to the Lancers. Grant finished their year at 4-6, 3-3.



Photos provided by Maria Ziehler

**CELEBRATION:** Poly football head coach Scot Faer is lifted aloft by his players after season-ending 36-19 win over Grant Friday night, giving the Parrots a shot at making the playoffs.

# No Playoffs For Poly

By Sport Staff

City Invitational playoff teams were announced Monday at Poly. The Parrots finished third in the East Valley League and wasn’t one of them.

“Unless you finish first in your league, there’s no guarantee you’ll get chosen,” said Parrot head football coach Scott Faer.

Thirty-three teams from nine leagues, six in Los Angeles and three in the San Fernando Valley, compete for 16 slots. Votes are cast by representatives from each league’s top two teams.

Poly was 3-2 in league play, ending behind 6-0 Arleta and 4-2 Canoga Park. Arleta was undefeated on the season at 10-0. Canoga Park and Poly both had 5-5 records of the year.

Injuries played in hand in Poly’s fate this year, Faer said.

“We lost one of our top playmakers on the second play of the second game,” said Faer, referring to running back Antonio Manriquez, “I’m pretty sure we would be in the playoffs now.”

Ironically, Manriquez is now healthy and was cleared for post-season play.

But playoff committee voting was also a factor in this year’s playoff picks.

Canoga Park got the 14<sup>th</sup> slot, meaning Poly had at best two chances of being chosen. The committee chose Jefferson High as the 15<sup>th</sup> seed and Southeast as the 16<sup>th</sup>. That left Poly as the 17<sup>th</sup> pick, or the alternate.

Playoff berths are determined using season and league records as the criterion. In the case of a tie, the team that won a head-to-head battle would be picked.

Poly had a better season record than either Jefferson (4-5) or Southeast (3-7) and finished third in league, while both Jefferson and Southeast were 5<sup>th</sup> in theirs.

Faer said Jefferson and Southeast were chosen over Poly because the committee reasoned that they were in tougher leagues and played tougher teams than the Parrots.

Southeast is in the Eastern League with powerhouse Roosevelt (8-2) and Jordan (6-4), who tied for first in their league with 5-1 records. But Southeast beat North Hollywood 43-0, while Poly lost to the Huskies, 28-14.

Jefferson is in the Coliseum league and will

play Roosevelt in the first round of the playoffs, while Southeast plays #1 seeded Arleta.

Despite missing the playoffs, Faer said he was proud of the Parrots and their play this season.

“I’m extremely happy with the way we started and finished,” Faer said. “There were some bumps in the middle of the season, but we won our last two games and put ourselves in a strong position to make the playoffs.”

“The bottom line is, Poly’s football program is improving.”

Not everyone was as open-minded as Faer about Poly getting passed over for a playoff berth by two teams with losing records, however.

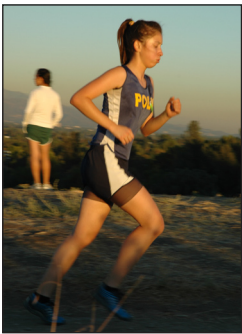
Los Angeles Times sports writer and Parrot alumnus Eric Sondheimer spoke directly to the issue in his blog on Tuesday.

“Forgive me, but my alma mater, Poly, deserved to get the No. 15 seed. Roosevelt is going to rout Jefferson, and Roosevelt is my pick to win it all.”

Poly players finished in the top five in all offensive categories for the East Valley League and one defensive ranking. Parrot senior quarterback Marco Manriquez was fifth in passing with 777 yards, third in scoring with 68 points and second in tackles with 66. Sophomore Kevin Ervin was third in rushing with 876 yards and fifth in scoring with 56 points, while Palu Tongamoa was first in the league in tackles with 88. Junior Jorge Cervantes was fifth in receiving with 437 yards.



# Cross-Country Takes League



Photos provided by Tyler Steffensen

**X-COUNTRY MEET:** Parrot Fernando Guzman (top), Natalie Vargas (left), Hector Vega (middle) and Adriana Avina (right).

## CIF Los Angeles City Section Invitational Division First Round Opponents (seeded)

- South East (16) at Arleta (1)
- Huntington Park (9) at Lincoln (8)
- Santee (12) at Wilson (5)
- Reseda (13) at Fairfax (4)
- Canoga Park (14) at Franklin (3)
- Cleveland (11) at West Adams (6)
- Marshall (7) at El Camino Real (10)
- Jefferson (15) at Roosevelt (2)

\*Sun Valley Poly (17) alternate