

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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Politics '09

## Millions Expected For Obama

By Angel Silva  
Staff Writer

The inauguration of Barack Obama will not only mark a national passage of power, but also an event of historic significance.

Obama's inauguration on Tuesday, January 20, is expected to draw from 1.5 to 4 million people. This would break the record of 1.2 million who came to see Lyndon Johnson sworn in. Both of George W. Bush's inaugurations drew around 300,000 attendees.

Invited guests to Obama's inauguration include Chinese cellist Yo-Yo Ma, who played for John F. Kennedy at age seven, the Tuskegee Airmen, the first group of African-American pilots who flew in World War II, and Itzhak Perlman, an Israeli-American violinist.

Composer John Williams, who wrote and scored soundtracks for the Star Wars and Harry Potter movies and four Olympic competitions, has been commissioned by Congress to write a new work for the event.

Vice President Joe Biden will take his oath from Associate Justice of the Supreme Court John Paul Stevens. Obama will take his oath of office from Chief Justice John G. Roberts and then receive a 21-gun salute, a first for a president. Obama will place his hand on Abraham Lincoln's bible for the swearing in.

The two-hour inaugural parade will then begin, proceeding down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House. The parade will include a marching band from Punahou School, Obama's high school alma mater.

A Sunday Lincoln Memorial concert featuring U2, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder and others will be broadcast live on HBO and repeated that night.

## Loera Named Principal



Photo by Michael Obando

**YOUTHFUL:** At 35, new Poly principal Gerardo Loera is LAUSD's youngest high school principal. Loera replaces Dr. Jan Fries-Martinez, who retired in 2007.

Twelve-year Poly veteran and technology expert takes over after Fries-Martinez retires.

By Karinina Cruz  
Staff Writer

Gerardo Loera, interim principal at Poly since late 2007, was named principal following approval by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) School Board and the local district director on December 9, 2008. Loera replaces Dr. Jan Fries-Martinez, who was principal at Poly from 2002 until her retirement in 2007.

At 35, Loera is the youngest principal in LAUSD.

"Deciding to pursue the principal position was not a quick decision," Loera said. "What pushed me to do so were the great staff and excellent student body here at Poly. They're a diamond in the rough."

Loera, in his twelfth year at Poly, joined the faculty as a C-track math teacher in 1997.

He was tech coordinator and managed Poly's Digital High School program from 2001 to 2004.

"At first Poly had very limited tech access, available only in the library and some labs," Loera said. "Now, with the \$5 M fund, there is more access, but there is still some high demand."

In 2005, Loera became the Title I coordinator and the following year was named an assistant principal, a position he held from 2006 to 2008. When Dr. Fries-Martinez had a stroke in 2007, Loera became interim principal, a position he held for 14 months.

"While Dr. Martinez was in therapy, I hardly spoke to her," Loera said. "I was familiar with the overall dynamics of the school. She came back for three months in May through August of 2008 to finish of her tasks and we started working together."

"I learned a lot from Dr. Fries-Martinez," Loera said. "She was one of the most recognized people in the district, and not just at Poly. We have similar views, but it will be my task to continue the momentum of Poly and the gains we have made. That is my challenge."

Loera, who said Dr. Fries-Martinez's contributions would be too long to list, cited her creation of an environment on campus where everyone is willing to try new things, take risks and step out of the box as a major accomplishment.

For example, Poly became the first LAUSD high school to have the 4 by 4 schedule. Poly has also made significant improvements in API scores for seven years straight."

Loera was born in Los Angeles and went to John

[ See Loera, page 4 ]

Campus

## Poly Gets New Technology

By Karinina Cruz  
Staff Writer

Security cameras and a solar-powered softball scoreboard will add much-needed new technology to Poly's campus

"We will get a total of 15 security cameras," said assistant principal David Sanchez. "There will be ten cameras outside and five indoors. The superintendent has already signed the necessary paperwork and the system will be installed within six months."

The \$180,000 security camera system will

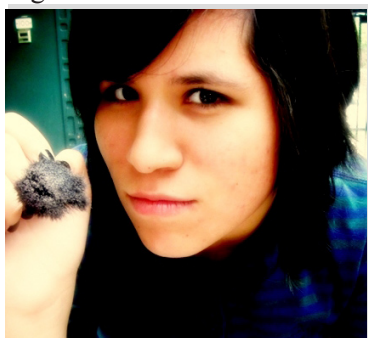
include the capability for monitoring campus activity from remote sites around the clock.

Leadership bought the scoreboard two years ago for \$3,729.

"Poly will be the first school in LAUSD to have a solar-powered scoreboard," said Sanchez. "A firm will be hired for about \$6,000 to put up the sign and it will be fenced in for security."

Ongoing construction projects include the SLC Contiguous Space Plan, which began three years ago, renovated classrooms and new school signage.

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## A Passion For People

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## Sci-Fi Gets An Upgrade

See Remaking | Page 7



## Sara Sizzles

See Lady | Page 8

## EDITORIAL

## Sending Out an S.O.S

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is \$400 million short midway through their annual \$12 billion budget, thanks to politicians in Sacramento who spent \$41 billion they didn't have.

New LAUSD Superintendent Ray Cortines' solution out of this economic jungle is to hack and slash at anything that moves. He plans to cut teaching positions, art classes and 45 meals for poor students, not to mention classroom space. Imagine kindergarten classes packed with 40 kids.

Not a pretty sight, yet Cortines is all right with that.

Even the "Daily News" thinks Cortines' plan is a bad one. And they're usually against teachers.

"There's a lot of cutting to be done in administration before anyone should even think of slashing classroom resources" said a "Daily News" editorial on Saturday.

The planned budget cuts needs a major reworking. There are plenty of places in the district with excess fat to trim before Cortines has to cut classroom resources.

"This is a school district that has an entire layer of mini districts that have never delivered on their promise of decentralization and only add

to the bureaucratic fat," the editorial said.

Classrooms are losing teachers while inefficient administrators still get paid for doing nothing that helps schools or students. These lazy fat cats should be the ones run out of

LAUSD, not teachers.

"Cuts to classrooms should be a last resort," the Daily News wrote.

"It's unthinkable that even one needless bureaucrat hangs on."

one needed teacher should be let go while even one needless bureaucrat hangs on."

You probably agree, and so do your parents. But we can't rely on the press to do our work, our duty to do the right thing. We have to help ourselves.

So when you go home after school tonight, tell your parents what Cortines is going to do to Poly, or to other schools that your family attends.

Tell your parents to write a letter to their Congressman, or to the LAUSD school board, or to Cortines himself.

Tell your parents to take action now, and fight for our schools.

Poly has been academically successful lately. But that could all stop if the Governor and Superintendent Cortines get their way. Act now, before it's too late.

## THE OPTIMIST

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## 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.14 or Mr. Blau's box.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The OPTIMIST asked Poly students to reflect on 2008 and tell us the best and the worst that happened to them and to the world over the past year. Here are some responses:

The best thing that happened to me in 2008 was that my friends and family threw a surprise party for my birthday. The worst that happened was that one of my friends was killed.

Daisy Gomez  
Senior

The best thing that happened was I got my permit to drive. The worst thing that happened was I got pulled over like 3 times and got 2 tickets.

OBAMA OBAMA OBAMA!

Martin Rodriguez  
Senior

The best thing that happened was working with my aunt at a radio station; Power 106. It was a good experience. The worst thing was not being able to go to NYC for my summer vacation.

Shelby Rivera  
Senior

I'd say the best thing was when I was given a puppy. The worst was when I had to give it away because the manager was charging us an extra \$200 on our rent.

Bryan Lara  
Senior

I got to spend time with my parents and my sis and my bro, in other words, the family. I'm looking forward to a great year.

The best thing that maybe happened was that we got a new president. The worst was the economy.

Jose Diaz  
Senior

The best thing that happened to the world was when they threw a shoe at George W. Bush and Obama won

presidency.

Manuel Diaz  
Junior

One of the best things that happened to me was that I got a job.

Ernesto Arteaga  
Senior

The best thing that happened to me was my parents got me my first car.

The worst thing that happened to the year 2008 was that Obama got elected president.

Gonzalo Tejada  
Junior

Me and my family went to Mexico to visit the family. I met a cousin that I didn't know. Also that was my first time ever going to Mexico.

Peter Sanchez

The worst thing that happened was the Lakers losing in the finals to Boston.

Gonzalo Perez  
Junior

The best thing that happened to me is that I collected a lot of records. The worst the Dallas Cowboys not making the playoffs.

Marco Ramirez  
Junior

The best thing that happened to me was when I passed Geometry B. The worst thing that happened to me was when I got jumped by some foo.

Juan Serrano  
Junior

The best thing that happened to me was that I got vacations for the first time. Another was that I started working and I

like my job.

Mario Sicaja  
Junior

The best thing that happened to me the last year my daughter was born. Her name is Desteny Sophia. She is the light of my eyes and the air I breathe.

Donald Giovanni  
Senior

The best thing was the day when I came to the United States.

Ashot Haypapetyan  
Junior

The best thing that happened to me was the day me and my girlfriend started going out. The worst thing that happened to me was that I got charged for burglary because I was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Miguel Zapien  
Junior

The best thing was the Olympics because players from all over the world got to know each other. The worst was some fires and other natural disasters that led people to lose their homes.

Summer Malalla  
Junior

The best thing in 2008 was that more people started carpooling and pollution went down.

Karina Muniz  
Junior

The best thing was that gas prices went down.

Jocelyn Alfaro  
Junior

## Sophomore All Over Again

By Jennifer Rivera  
OPTIMIST CORRESPONDENT

Now halfway into my second year of college, as a Journalism and American Sign Language (ASL) major, I have come to understand why college is so important. I have always been goal oriented and a high achiever, but college goes beyond that. It doesn't matter if you were a cheerleader in school, a class president, or a student who didn't graduate with honors, college is a new beginning to be someone in life, to be successful, no matter what went wrong or what went perfect in high school.

Just because I attend College of the Canyons in Valencia, and not a four year university, doesn't mean college is easy. Any college student in any school faces hurdles to achieve their goals.

A typical morning commuting to school means leaving my home 40 minutes before class starts. The commute on the 5 freeway is not the most fun and there are always problems. With more and more students enrolling at COC each semester, parking becomes the most grueling part of your day, having to drive circles and circles around the numerous parking lots to find parking. Unless you have an early morning class, students face this every day.

Once you have registered at school, picked out a schedule and organized how school will work around life, you attend classes. If you are not in class, and hold 12 units or more each semester, you will be found in the library. Studying for finals is the worst time of

"Everyone worries about having to take out loans and being in debt before they complete their first year."

the semester for college students. Everyone is on edge, especially those who are getting ready to graduate or are on their last chance to pass a certain class. There are 15-page papers, countless exams, cumulative math finals, etc.

At the community college level, schools are not equipped to take hundreds of students in a lecture hall, but at COC the school is currently expanding to accommodate the growing student enrollment. Lecture halls typically hold up to 80 students. The first few days of the semester your classes will be overflowing with students trying to enroll, but as weeks go by, nearing the withdraw period, your classes drop in numbers.

New college students feel a difference in college because you don't have the professors coddling you. You simply have to make it on your own. You walk into your class, listen to the lecture, take notes, study and take exams. The time that I have been in college, I've learned that 95% of professors are not lenient about late work and exam make-ups. Students have to focus and learn to prepare and be responsible. Professors are constantly criticized about this, but they are the professors you want, not the ones who are so lenient that you pass a class even if you

have missed half the semester.

As far as homework goes, particularly if you have a math class, you will have homework that goes on for hours each night. It's up to the students to be dedicated and try their best to complete it. Typically, you will have a schedule like this: a math class every day, a history class Mondays and Wednesdays and English Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students have to prioritize and make sure they put in enough study hours a week for each class.

Paying for college is always the eternal problem for students. Everyone worries about having to take out loans and being in debt before they complete their first year. Most students are first generation college students, so they don't have the support they need from parents. That is where your school counselors come in. Financial advisors are there, all you need to do is ask. Grants and scholarships are everywhere, and they can help a great deal. It is just about finding some time to fill out applications. Smaller colleges have internal school grants, such as the BOGW application, which waives a big portion of your registration fees. To pay for school, I received school grants and FAFSA aid. To have extra money, most students take on part time jobs.



Photo by Jennifer Rivera  
**POLY GRAD:** Former OPTIMIST reporter Jenny Rivera is a sophomore at College of the Canyons.

While COC may not be a big-time college, paying for tuition is still an issue for some students.

No matter what school you decide to attend, you will have those nerves on the first day, but you will be overcome more with excitement. If you get the feeling that this school isn't the right one for you, apply somewhere else, it doesn't mean the end.

College is above all about exploring options, seeking new talents and passions. You get to begin all over again. If high school didn't suit you, try college. It's a completely different and unique experience for everyone.

Jennifer Rivera graduated from Poly in 2007.

## College Corner With Leona Warman

By Marvin Martinez  
Staff Writer

**Q. What are the most urgent things that students need to do in preparation for college?**

The most urgent things for seniors would be applying for financial aid: the Cal Grant, which is free money from the California government and the FAFSA, which is free money from the federal government. All you need is your social security number. We will have a workshop in the library on applying for financial aid on Monday January 26. I strongly urge students to come. Also, any student who has been accepted into any university should come to the College Office.

Juniors should begin their college plans. All four-year universities require high school students to take the SAT and

ACT, so sign up early. They should also visit campuses and attend college fairs.

Freshmen and sophomores should be focusing on their A-G requirements, look into honors, college credit and AP classes and start investigating financial aid.

**Q. What advice would you give to students overwhelmed by schoolwork, college applications and their personal lives?**

Take a deep breath and relax. The most important thing is to be organized. You cannot procrastinate. Do it, get over it and move on to the next thing. You have to make time for the important things. Sacrifice is necessary when setting your priorities. There is time; you just need to organize it.

**Q: What is the most impor-**



Photo by Karina Muniz

**HELPFUL:** Leona Warman, Poly's college counselor.

**tant thing for a student to consider when choosing a college?**

First of all, make certain the school offers your major. Then ask yourself, do you want to be close to home, close to California, or anywhere in the whole U.S.? Do you want an urban or rural setting? Do you prefer small, medium or large classes? Does the size of the campus matter to you? That is why

visiting a campus is important, to check all these things.

**Q: Are any major colleges coming to Poly in January?**

Pierce, Valley, Mission, CSUN, UCLA visit us once a week. September and October are the months when Ivy League schools tend to visit. A student representative from Harvard plans on visiting Poly on January 22 to speak with juniors.

**Q. How many students actually come to the college office and ask questions?**

On average, 50 students walk in minimum everyday.

**Q. What is the most common question students ask you?**

"What do I need to do to get to college?" I tell them to sign up for the SAT and do college

searches on the internet.

**Q. What is the most difficult trial students face when dealing with applications?**

Actually filling out the application and meeting the deadlines. If you're going to a college far from home, do not forget to sign up for a dorm room. Be ready to make a decision of what school to attend if more than one you applied to accept you. Putting things off does not help.

**Q. How can students avoid "senioritis"?**

Students cannot afford to slow down after they are accepted into a university. A provisional acceptance means you are accepted provided that you maintain a C average, all the information in your application was correct and live up to your contract.

## College Journal

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

By Belle Tadena  
Staff Writer

The budget for California's education system is down and many students may find it hard to find financial aid for college.

There is a high possibility that neither the government nor the state of California will be able to offer grants to thousands of students.

Seniors, don't fear. Apply for financial aid anyway.

Grants and scholarships are the best way to go.

All California students enrolled in college for 2009-2010 shall apply for the Free Application Federal Student Aid

(FAFSA) and the Cal Grant.

Just like the University of California (UC) application, seniors only have two months to complete the FAFSA and Cal Grant forms.

"Do it now," said senior Vaagn Mesropian. "Don't wait it out like you did with your UC applications."

Seniors must complete both applications by March 2 2009.

For the Cal Grant, applicants need a Social Security number (SSN) to be eligible.

Students must provide the following for the FAFSA: SSN, alien registration

number, your parent's W-2 forms, 2007 Federal Income Tax Return of both you and your parent.

There are tons of scholarships available for students offered by millions of institutions.

Don't hesitate to apply for as many scholarships as you'd like. The sky's the limit.

There are tons of scholarships out there just waiting to be found.

Don't forget to start filling out your applications as soon as possible. Stop procrastinating.



Photo by Michael Obando

**LITTLE ELVES:** Leadership's Krystal Cristales, Yuritza Mendoza and Adriana Andrade at KB Toys in Sun Valley.

## Poly Toy Drive Raises \$27,000

By Angel Silva  
Staff Writer

Despite the turbulent economy, Leadership raised \$27,875 for Poly's annual Toy Drive last December.

Principal Gerardo Loera joined Leadership students, football players and firemen from Station 89 at the Sun Valley KB Toy Store to buy 4,000 toys at 40% off.

KTLA Channel 5's Wendy Burch and Sun Valley Area Council (SVANC) president Mike O'Gara also attended the event.

Leadership started fundraising in July, asking local businesses and Poly faculty for contributions.

The Toy Drive has been a part of Poly for the past 50 years. In 2005, Leadership raised a record \$34,000.



Photo by Michael Obando

**RHYMER:** KTLA reporter Wendy Burch rewrote a Christmas jingle to cover the story.



Photo by Michael Obando

**POLY'S SANTA:** Principal Gerardo Loera helps load toys at the KB Toy Store Friday.

## Loera Praises Poly

[ Loera, from page 1 ]

Burroughs HS in Burbank. He graduated in 1991 with a 4.2 GPA. At UCLA, Loera majored in math and computer science and graduated in 1997.

From 1999 to 2000, he worked as a systems analyst for the Navy during his off-track time. He was assigned to create a website for selling target augmented systems (remote control airplanes used for target practice) to foreign countries.

As new principal, Loera says his vision for Poly is simple.

"In the immediate future, my vision is to transition Poly from a year-round to a single-track, traditional calendar," Loera said.

"We also need to continue our action plan, created last year, as outlined in the WASC report. We need to refine the school so Poly can continue to be a model school," he added.

"We had more than 75 schools visit us last year," Loera said. "I think that shows that Poly is a model school. Though we have some areas to improve on, we are definitely on the right track."

"We also need to translate our high A-G completion rate to a higher college completion rate."

Loera listed a number of accomplishments Poly has made in 2008.

Poly is one of only three public schools in California to be removed from the P15 (Program Improvement) list. Banning HS and Sweetwater HS are the other two. Poly currently has the highest A-G completion rate in the district at 66.4%.

"More of our students can now go to a four-year

"I have little time to relax because of the demanding job and with two kids, but I enjoy them both"

- Principal Gerardo Loera

university," Loera said.

CAHSEE pass rates also improved in 2008.

"Regarding implementation of the district instructional curriculum part, for 11th grade English, we are planning a \$200,000 fund," Loera said. "We also need to refine the 11th and 12th grade SLCs to better meet attributes Poly has set to improve SLCs."

"This year we are working on school-wide common assessment, consistent from teacher to teacher, so that we can provide a challenging course regardless of who is teaching it."

"Poly is an institution that is not set in its ways," Loera said. "It is a very flexible school that can adjust based on challenges it has. A big change will be

changing from year-round to traditional, and we're working with the district to have one more year of year-round so we can have a smooth transition."

Loera met his wife Gladys in UCLA and they have been married for seven years.

They have two children, Alina, who is three and a half years old and Diego, who is nine months.

"I have little time to relax because of the demanding job and with two kids, but I enjoy them both," Loera said.

Loera did share some personal info such as cutting his own hair, listening to rap music and has managed to go skydiving once.

"When my kids get older, I'd like to travel and go hiking again, enjoy the outdoors."

## Bonino Interview

[ Interview, from page 8 ]

**Q. Pat Riley's mantra is "No rebounds, no rings." Do you agree. Can you teach rebounding, or is it more just instinct, knowing where to be and when to be there?**

I agree with Riley's mantra, and we teach rebounding fundamentals, but once again EFFORT is the key. We do hit and go drills for rebounding, 1 on 1, 2on 2 ...., and we chart where missed shots land, for positional rebounding in a zone.

**Q. Talk about your coaching**

staff. Who coaches if you're stuck in traffic at game time?

Greg Mack has been head JV coach for four years and is now varsity assistant as well. Coach Mack graduated from Poly in 2002. He is going to school and coaching.

Poly is his first job. I believe that the more opportunities one has to coach at any level will improve your coaching skills. Most schools have more than two coaches, but LAUSD pays for only two positions, so there's no money to attract more coaches.

## A Passion for People

All photographs by Karina Muniz



Poly junior Karina Muniz shares her photos with the OPTIMIST and talks about her passion for picture-taking.

**Q: What did you use to shoot these?**

Fujifilm EX-Z75BK. It's a 7.2 mega pixels, 2.6 LCD.

**Q: When did you take these shots?**

Most of the time, as early as possible, 6 am or before. I took many of these around my neighborhood.

**Q: How long have you been doing photography?**

About a year and a half.

**Q: Any formal photography training?**

Besides Mr. Dennison's class, I had my sister helping me. She took classes here and in college (CSUN).

**Q: What do you look for when you frame a shot?**

Lighting and then I look for any emotion that is worth capturing.

**Q: You wouldn't take a photo of a tree?**

Yeah, but not constantly, because you can't get emotional about a tree.

**Q: Is feeling more important than content?**

I have to feel something for me to shoot it.

**Q: Do you just go out and hope to get a shot?**

Sometimes I plan it, and sometimes it's just random. When I plan a shoot, I use props and stuff.

**Q: What first drew you to photography?**

A: My sister's passion for photography seemed to rub off on me. When I first saw her pictures, I thought, 'wow, what if I could make pictures that cool too?'

**Q: What's your favorite photo subject?**

A: People. It's about catching the moment.

**Q: Why people?**

A: People give off emotion and bring life to the picture. Landscape for example shows a picture of trees just standing. Trees don't give off the same emotion people do.



**Q: Which photos are you most proud of and why?**

A: My little sister holding a rose. Normally she always has a smile on her face. Seeing her with a serious expression is rare. Catching the moment when she seems unlike any other time is amazing. I see that she's growing up.

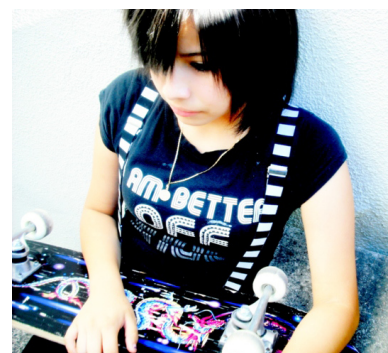
**Q: What's fun about photography?**

A: Seeing what happens after the photo is what interests me. Looking back and seeing the changes that have taken place.

**Q: Will you make photography a career?**

A: It's more of a dream - but I would like to. Thinking about all the people who try to make it as photographers, it's a one in a million shot.

Interview by Marvin Martinez  
Staff Writer



# Parrots in Togas

By Hazel Kasusky  
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Drama Dept.  
**MESSENGER:** Jessica Larado (9th) plays Hermes.

Can Greek mythology be fun?

Sure. If the format is Jay Hopkins and John Hunter's "The Iliad, The Odyssey, and All of Greek Mythology...in 99 Minutes or Less," a comedic play that updates the Greek classics into a modern drama.

The story, stretching from the creation of mankind to the end of "The Odyssey," depicts the Greek gods and heroes as real, everyday people.

Much of the play parodies real world shows. "American Idol" became "Greek Heroes Idol." Pandora and Prometheus, the first man and woman placed on earth by the gods, were played as a Lucy and Ricky Ricardo takeoff.



Photo courtesy of Drama Dept.

**POLY PLAYERS:** (from left) Marina Turruelles (10th), Gabby Melendez (9th), Jackie Joya (11th), Joe Martinez (11th) Jesus Lara (11th), Nora Guerrero (10th).

And a dating game show was the format for treating well known love stories in Greek

mythology. Actors used different methods to tell their stories. Puppets



magnified the Cyclops' height and silhouettes of mountains changed the setting instantly.

Each actor played as many as five roles.

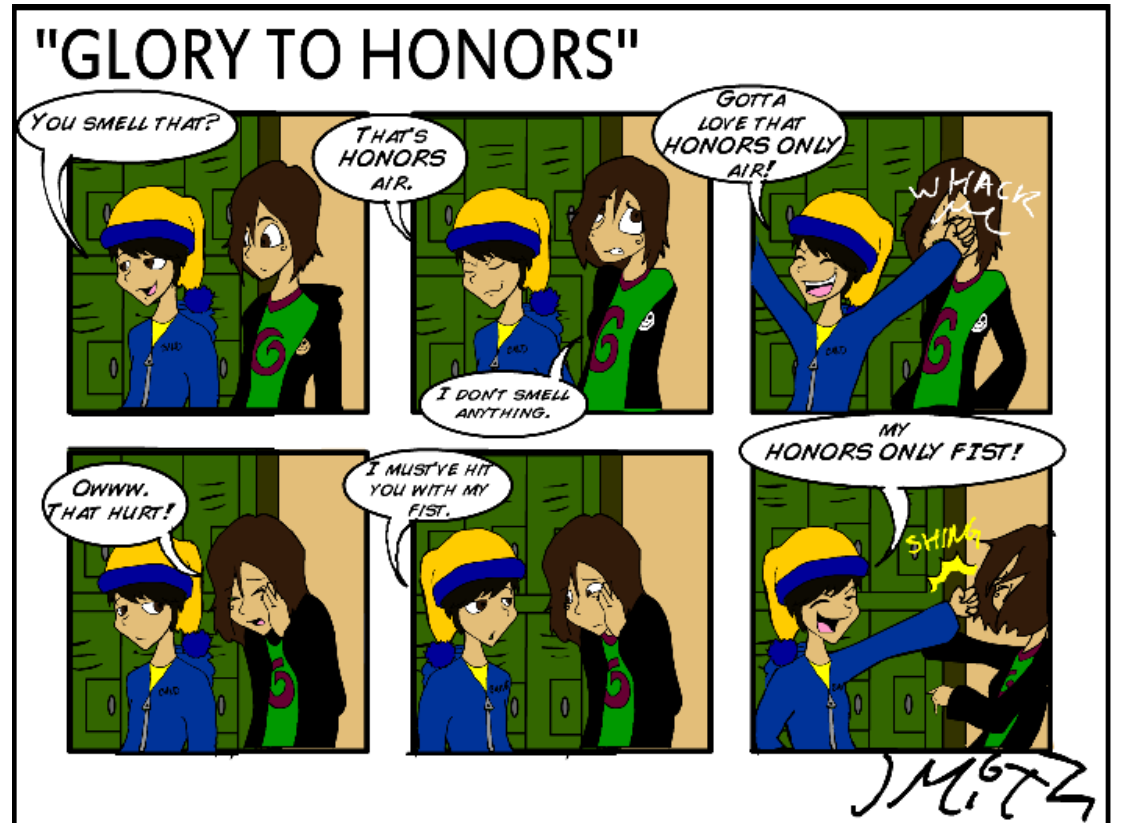
The tech crew handled spotlight and sound cues and made Apollo's lyre sound like Guns and Roses' "Sweet Child of Mine."

The play production was the first in four years for Poly and the first for new drama teacher Katrina Hetrick. Performances ran December 18 and 19 of last year.

## Pencilhead



## Glory to Poly



# HOROSCOPIA

By Lizette Lopez  
Staff Writer

### Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

You always want to try everything at least once and your courageous spirit will definitely be on your side. Take on something new and exciting in your life this new year.

### Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

You thrive on competition. So this Friday, take a chance and do something unexpected, but remember, failing is not option.

### Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

You are quick tempered and argue for the sake of arguing. Leave that behavior in the past. It's time for a change.

### Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Embark on something out of your comfort zone. Don't worry a lot about the little things in life. Just ignore them and move on.

### Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

You can be a bit too controlling, so this is the year to stop. You are charming and some even find you fascinating, but being in control all the time only pushes away those you love.

### Virgo (Aug 23 - Sept 22)

You have to stop worrying about the imperfections in people and in your life. Your New Year's resolution: don't look for flaws.

### Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

You are usually social, but balancing school, friends, and family leaves you feeling drained by the end of the day. So in 2009, stop trying to make everybody happy.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Nothing defeats you, even when things look bad. You are a natural born leader and this year is your time to shine.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

It's good to think on the bright side and you are blindly optimistic even when you encounter obstacles. Keep doing what you do best - stay positive.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Stop being so negative. You won't get very far with that attitude. Start seeing things differently before your negativity gets out of hand.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Does a new year mean a new adventure? Yes, try something new. You're independent and outspoken, so don't hold back, just do it.

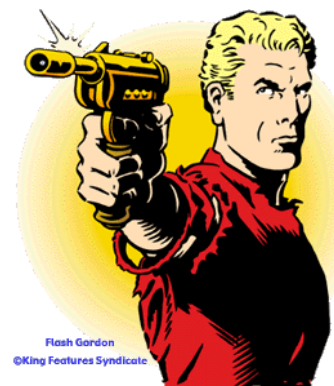
### Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

You're idealistic. When things get tough, you tend to escape into your own little imaginary world. This year, deal with the real.

# Remaking The Future

It's back to the future for science fiction flicks in 2009. Hollywood plans a couple dozen remakes of originals, many from the 1950s, that thrilled and amazed audiences far less jaded than today's CGI-saturated ticket holders. Here's a look at a few that will get the extreme makeover.

By Jason Castro  
Editor In-Chief



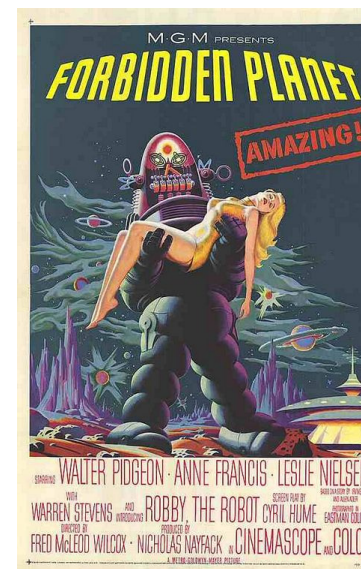
## "Flash Gordon"

Alex Raymond 1933 classic originally created as a comic strip rival to Buck Rogers will get the remake treatment from Eisner.



## "Fahrenheit 451"

"Shawshank" director Frank Darabont will remake François Truffaut's 1966 original, based on Ray Bradbury's 1953 dystopian novel about book burner Guy Montag.



## "Forbidden Planet"

Introduced the world to Robbie the Robot in 1956 and starred Leslie Nielsen. "Matrix" producer Joel Silver will do the revival.



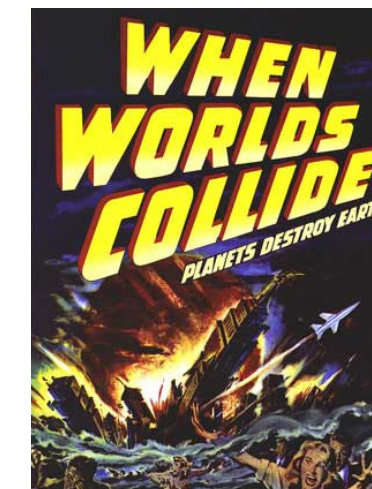
## "Frankenstein"

Boris Karloff's scary 1930s original treatment of Mary Shelley's 19th century gothic tale, remade in 1994 by Kenneth Branagh, will get another go, this one with Guillermo del Toro, after he finishes the two-film version of "The Hobbit" in 2011.



## "Creature From The Black Lagoon"

Breck Eisner, son of Michael Eisner, will direct a screenplay written by filmmaker Gary Ross ("Seabiscuit"), whose father wrote the original 1954 Universal classic.



## "When Worlds Collide"

The original 1951 film about building a spaceship to save humanity before Earth is destroyed by a rogue planet gets the remake from director Stephen Sommers ("The Mummy,"), a man who loves his CGI effects.

# Window on the Universe

Italian Technicians and NASA Build 'Cupola' for the Space Station

By Jason Castro  
Editor In-Chief

Being an astronaut aboard the International Space Station (ISS) isn't

all that great.

Astronauts have to live and work in zero gravity. Getting used to it isn't easy.

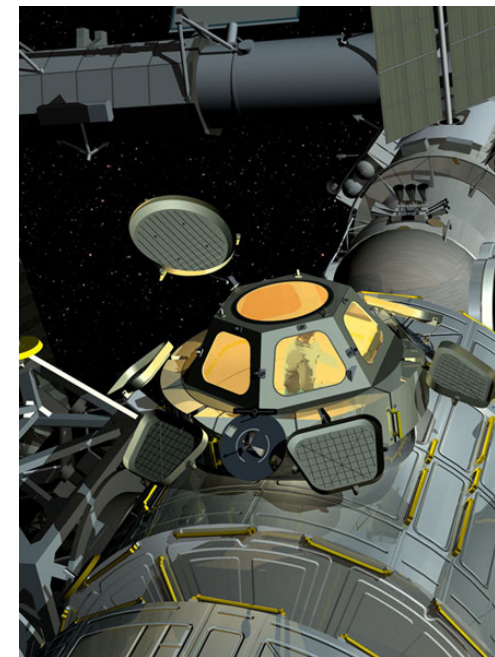
Even so, astronauts have a great view of the stars, right?

Wrong.

The only windows currently on the ISS are tiny and thick and don't provide much of a view.

The windows have to be designed to withstand the vacuum of space and huge temperature swings that can bend and shatter glass. The glass also has to resist micrometeors as well as repel cosmic radiation to protect astronauts from bad sunburns.

But now, thanks to Italian engineers collaborating with NASA, astronauts will soon get "an out-of-this-world view," thanks to a beveled, seven-face dome the size of a Volkswagen Beetle named Cupo-



Internet Photo

## CUPOLA

The planned seven-faced dome, known as "Cupola," will offer astronauts on the International Space Station a limitless view of the universe.

la that will be added to the space station.

Astronauts will be surrounded by glass down to their waists and have an almost limitless view.

Boeing Co. had sketched Cupola's first design for NASA in the early 1990s, but funding was an issue, and the window's metal frame proved troublesome to make. Ultimately, the European Space Agency offered to make it in a barter deal, under which NASA carried European equipment and experiments to the station on the Space Shuttle.

Cupola proved to be a huge engineering challenge because it would be three-dimensional.

The angular frame had to be lightweight, airtight and resist enormous stresses created by its shape. Cupola's metal window frames have to be equally stiff or the panes could crack.

NASA plans to install Cupola next year. A panoramic view of the cosmos for astronauts isn't so far away.

## New Tech At Poly

[ Poly, from page 1 ]

"The grant for school beautification programs will enhance the morale of the entire Poly community," said Sanchez.

Room 94 is being retiled and transformed into a new computer lab for the Bilingual department

Room 95 will be the new SLC HABIT office.

The current textbook room will become an SLC office and the new textbook room will be in room 96.

"The new textbook room will have a 19 feet shelving instead of the old 10 feet to better accommodate books," said Sanchez.

Four bungalows in the Peoria faculty parking lot were removed. Parking spaces will be reconfigured and re-striped.

# Lady Parrots Finish Fourth at Fairfax

## Villanueva Named All-Tournament

By Marvin Martinez  
Staff Writer

Poly's scrappy senior guard Sara Villanueva was named all-tournament and the Lady Parrots finished fourth in the L.A. City Showcase tournament Saturday afternoon, losing to Carson 67-49. Washington won the tournament by beating second-place Fairfax 55-42 Saturday evening. Both games were played at Fairfax High in Hollywood.

Last year Poly placed third on the consolation side after losing their first game.

"I'm really proud of our players and their performance in this tournament," said head coach Tremeka Batiste. "They played high caliber basketball against some of the top teams in the city."

The Lady Parrots were out of sync at both ends of the floor for most of the Carson game, hampered by the Colts pressing full-court defense and the post play of 6'1" sophomore center Janita Iamaleava.

Poly never led.

"We played seven games in 10 days," said Batiste. "I think physically we were fine, but mentally there may have been a little fatigue there."

Villanueva had 24 points,



Photos by Michael Obando

**LADY PARROTS:** (from left) Head coach Tramika Batiste, senior Crystal Cristales and senior Sara Villanueva (with trophy) helped Poly to a fourth-place finish at the L.A. City Showcase.

20 in the second half, and senior Crystal Cristales had 14. Senior Christine Hernandez had a quiet five points, however, and was not a factor on the boards. Poly finished with only six offensive rebounds.

Colts senior Alisha Belt led Carson scorers with 24 points, Iamaleava added 14, most on put backs after rebounds, and sophomore Chante Miles had 11.

Head coach W. Marcel Sanders started two sopho-

mores on a team with only three seniors.

"We're missing our fundamentals," Sanders said. "We're a young team. Poly's fundamentals are very good. But we just beat View Park, and they're supposed to be #2 in the city. So we expect to compete at a high level."

In a game against Fairfax on Thursday, the Lady Parrots were up two at the half before losing 58-45 to the Lions, setting up the Carson match.



Poly was outscored 19-5 in the third when Villanueva left to stop the bleeding on a cut to her arm.

The Lady Parrots played the Lions even in the fourth, but couldn't make up the deficit. Villanueva finished with

10 points and no free throws, while Cristales led Poly with 15.

Poly (8-5) travels to Grant on Monday while Carson (9-3) visits Banning for its first Marine League game of the season.

### Interview

## Bonino On the Season

The OPTIMIST sat down with head coach Dave Bonino before the season started to ask him some questions about what lies ahead. Here are his responses.

**Q. You played 18 preseason games, so you probably have a pretty good idea of where the team is at. What do you see that you like?**

I see the team coming together and the new players with no varsity experience finding their roles. As a group, however, we have trouble scoring and are turnover-prone. We shoot a paltry 31% from the field, 40% from the free throw line and average 26 turnovers a game.

**Q. With only three wins, you probably have some areas for improvement. What do you HAVE to fix to have better than a .500 season?**

Defense, rebounding, and turnovers - concrete; effort, intensity and confidence - abstract. Our hit and go drills reinforce rebounding.

We chart steals, charges, deflections

and defensive rebounding. Our focus is on keeping the ball in front of you and out of the middle of the court. Once the shot is taken, we teach our players not to look and follow the ball. Instead, find a man, make contact, then go after the ball.

**Q. Walk us through your starting five, player by player, and what you need from each (points, defense, rebounds, etc.)**

Senior point guard Antonio Gutierrez runs the show and #4 man Chris Zamudio takes the ball out of bounds every time. I need good decisions, defense and rebounding from both of these guys. The other three starting spots have been changing every game due to player inconsistency.

Guillermo Henriquez is our #3 man and most athletic player. The #2 man is Oscar Garcia, our quickest and fastest player and the #5 man Arthur Rivera Jr. is our biggest body on the team

**Q. Rate the preseason teams versus the East Valley League teams. Will things get any easier, or are there**

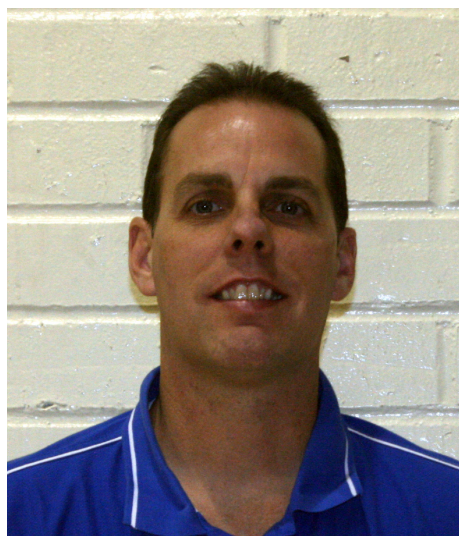


Photo by Stephanie Tejada

**COACH:** Boy's varsity head coach Dave Bonino in his sophomore season. **major challenges ahead?**

Verdugo Hills is very good this year and Cameron Broomi of Van Nuys is probably the best returning player. North Hollywood won the league last year, while Poly finished fourth with four wins and six losses. We were 10-18 on the season.

**Q. How good are the team's fundamentals, what needs work and is it**

**too late now to expect any major improvement?**

Fundamentals are taught on a daily basis with numerous drills. Repetition is the key to any mastery of fundamentals

Each practice includes work on fundamentals, shooting, defense and rebounding through drills and scrimmages. Each practice will last around 2 and 1/2 hours. We do prepare for the up-coming opponent, but focus most of our attention on how we need to play in order to be successful.

**Q. Talk about defense. Will you use zone, man to man, or some of both? What does it take to be a good defensive player - quick hands, good court sense, natural ability?**

We use both man and zone defenses. We make adjustments depending on the actions of the opposing team. You teach the defense fundamentals like keeping the ball out of the key area, but all defense must be accompanied by EFFORT

[ Interview, continued, page 4 ]