

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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Politics '09



Housing Crisis Gets Help

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

A new economic plan may offer relief to some homeowners in over their heads.

The "Making Home Affordable" program will assist 9 million indebted borrowers keep their homes by means of reworked mortgages or modified loans and will run through 2012.

The plan will have two parts. Lenders can rework the terms for loans for approximately 4 million borrowers, and to refinance 5 million others into affordable fixed - rate loans. The program could reduce a borrower's interest up to two percent and after five years, the interest will rise up to 5 percent until the loan is repaid.

Those applying for the plan will have until June 2010 to apply, and will have to prove their financial instability by checking with their loan company to find out if their loan is held by Freddie or Fannie. Those eligible will have to provide their most recent tax return and two pay stubs, along with an "affidavit of financial hardship".

However, this plan will only affect those whose mortgages were controlled by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac and only work on loans made by January 1, 2009.

Loans may only be modified once and mortgages for single-family homes worth over \$730,000 will be excluded. The program comes at a time when Wall St. is at a 12-year low and the U.S. unemployment is at 8.1%, the highest rate in 25 years.

Poly Parrots Fly To D.C.

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

20 Poly students had the chance to experience democracy firsthand for a week at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania and Washington, DC.

The trip, dubbed the "American Leadership Youth Summit," was sponsored by the Freedoms' Foundation, which teaches students democratic values and places an emphasis on the ideas of equality and freedom.

The trip lasted from February 26 until March 1st.

Guest speakers included St. Joseph's University Political Science professor Graham Lee and Lafayette College Civil Rights professor Fred Morgan Kirby.

Students participated in activities designed to develop leadership skills and discover their special talents, such as creating a tower from craft materials and putting on a talent show for other students at Valley Forge.

Students also took part in democratic activities like a mock Congress in which participants debated controversial issues ranging from immigration to invasion of privacy.

For other schools, the trip ended with a VESPERS ceremony. Everyone pledged to



Photo by Michelle Mitchell
PATRIOTS: Poly Parrots in Pennsylvania.



Photo by Michelle Mitchell

HISTORICAL DEBATE: Alexander Hamilton (left) and Thomas Jefferson (right) argue over establishment of the First National Bank.

be a good leader and signed a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

"They spoke to us about the history of the Declaration of Independence and we all

signed it," said junior Alex Gonzales. "We felt that we were important."

For Poly students, the trip continued via train ride from Philadelphia across Virginia

and Maryland to Washington, DC - thanks to arrangements made by Carole Silva, the education director of the Freedoms' Foundation, and Los Angeles Chapter member Eric Thornburgh.

"They offered Poly the opportunity to go to DC in 2002, but it was canceled due to the terrorist attacks," said Thornburgh.

The group arrived amidst a record-setting snowstorm to DC - where they enjoyed an all - expenses paid stay at the Washington Court Hotel paid by Silva.

At DC, the group got a taste of US government by means of a Capitol tour, a visit to the Supreme Court Building and a trip to the offices of US Sena- [See DC, pg 6]

Fighting the Pink Slips

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

On March 10th 2009, more than 40 United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) members engaged in civil disobedience at the Beaudry Building in downtown LA.

"The purpose of the Civil Disobedience was to ask the School Board members to vote 'No' on lay-offs," said UTLA Chapter Chair Jin Lee, "and to use the Federal stimulus money to save jobs."

A mandatory training conducted by UTLA staff and executive members was required in order to participate in the civil disobedience rally.

"Based upon my own account, approximately 50-60 members were in attendance," said Lee. "Two of whom - Linda Gordon and I - were from Poly."

The protest was planned to begin after the scheduled school board meeting.



Internet Photo

RALLY: Teachers protest district lay-offs.

Superintendent Ray Cortines was present at the meeting among other school board members to vote on the sending of 8,000 Reduction in Force notices (RIF).

"It was a regular meeting except for the voting on the lay off notices. These notices allow the district to lay-off more teachers," said Gordon.

During the meeting, several UTLA members began to ad-

dress their grievances, including the effects of the lay-offs, such as increased class sizes.

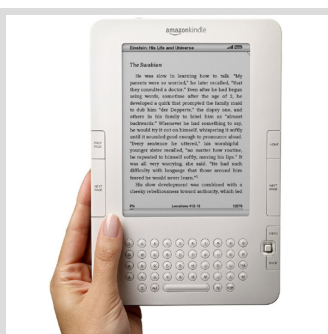
"After we started speaking during the meeting and we spoke over the board members, the board members left the room. School police asked us to disperse but we refused to do so," said Gordon.

No UTLA protestor was taken into custody by the po- [See UTLA , page 3]



Culture Fair at Poly

See Culture | Pages 4 & 5



A New Way To Read

See Kindle | Page 7



Parrots Outplay Hunters

See Baseball | Page 8

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The OPTIMIST asked students how they felt about President Barack Obama appearing on "The Tonight Show" while our country is in a state of financial chaos and at war.

Yes, I do think it was a good thing that the president showed up on Jay Leno. He can't really come out to talk to people. Jay Leno asked him reasonable questions and our president made people laugh.

JAIME GONZALEZ JR. [12TH]

Obama put on a really bad example of how he is handling the economic situation. Not only does it make the American people look at him wrong, now, anyone around the world is not going to feel comfortable with the United States' new president, who was supposedly going to take care of the economic catastrophe.

MIGUEL LUEVANOS. [12TH]

I think it does not matter because he's human and all humans have the right to have fun. He can't just stay in the White House and not have fun. It's like saying he can't spend time with his family because he is the president.

JOSE CARDON [12TH]

It is appropriate for him to appear on a night show. What's wrong with that? I'm glad he went on the show, that way we can get to know him more. The other presidents didn't do this. We never knew who they really were. With Obama, it's like we experience things with him.

EVELYN RIVERA [12TH]

I really don't think it was appropriate. Instead of dealing with these issues, he wasted his time talking about the perks of the White House. What made it worse is that he referred to his bowling game as not even good enough for the Special Olympics. It might have been a slip of the tongue but I am sure it hurt a lot of families with disabled family members. Obama is the first black president and he is very popular. Instead of wasting his time trying to gain people's votes, he should gain more respect.

SARA RODRIGUEZ [12TH]

He can't talk about our economic crisis all the time. He's human. He shouldn't have stress himself out all day, everyday to prove he was the right choice for president. Besides Obama is not the cause of our economic crisis. He's trying to create a solution.

WHITNEY AREVALO [12TH]

I don't think it would be appropriate for a president to be on a comedy show when the country is in a financial problem. President Obama said he would solve the financial problem. Wasting time on a comedy will not solve our problem. It takes hard work and dedication for our country and the rest of the world to resolve our financial situation. Right now, Obama has to focus on this or else it will escalate.

KEVIN PERAZA [12TH]

EDITORIAL

Farewell To Fundraising

Recently, schools hit hard by the economic downturns created during the Bush administration have been creative in getting money for the classrooms.

For example, an AP calculus teacher in San Diego had ads placed at the bottom of his tests from local companies to raise money for the tests themselves last year.

Now other schools are following his example.

A Virginia high school implemented a bus radio program that broadcast commercials on the way to school and another one offered naming buildings and facilities after sponsors who provided money for those structures.

With the economy as it is today, such processes may soon become commonplace around the U.S. Someday you could walk in and your teacher might give you a test with the words "Prepare yourself for the AP test! - From Some Construction Company."

But is this a bad thing? Not really.

Having local businesses

sponsor students is more beneficial than malignant. It brings in outside interest in education and provides benefits for both the school and the sponsors. Schools get money for supplies for students, and sponsors get more business. It's a win - win on both sides.

This method of obtaining funds is more effective than say, selling chocolates door-to-door or having a bake sale. It's more efficient, requires less work, and creates more revenue than simple sales by students.

Having local businesses contribute to the education of students is not only a good idea, it's being done around the U.S. - and it works. Battlefield High School's Web site has ads on it form which the school has received more than \$50,000 since October of last year. That's a lot of money going to students for things like AP tests, the SAT and more.

If it's ever necessary, Poly should consider this method for raising revenue. It's fast, effective and works.

TEENS AT WORK

By Jane Cenon
Staff Writer

The economic recession is affecting everybody including schools and students. Parents along with their kids are struggling to make ends meet. People, however, are still hopeful the government will provide jobs soon.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a rise in the unemployment rate for February, of 12.5 million unemployed American workers. "The unemployment rate reached 8.1 percent, jumping half a percentage point to reach the highest level in 25 years," reported by the Labor Department.

This financial crisis has hit home with Poly seniors.

Many Poly students work to help pay bills at home or other expenses. Jobs are critical to parents and their teens alike.

"My dad got laid off after

working at the same job for 25 years," said Liliana Aguilar, 17. "We have to be on a budget and my mom has had to get a second job," she added.

The current status of the economy also has had an effect on family owned businesses.

"The company isn't getting as much work as before, and since there's no work then there's no money," said Marco Alegria. Alegria works at their family business, Alegria Marble, but is also having difficulty dealing with the economy. "We have a hard time paying the bills," Alegria said.

Decisions to pursue careers through a higher education are also affected by the economic crisis. Poly seniors are depending on financial aid to help them pay for college. Some students are still trying to find a way to pay their senior dues.

"I am hoping that the grants and the scholarships that I applied to would be able to help

me pay for college," said senior Evelyn Escobar. "I haven't paid off my dues yet because I want to raise more money to pay it all," she added.

It's getting harder for people to find new jobs that will pay well.

Some schools offer job opportunities for students to help them gain some work experience and earn money at the same time.

"My mom only works part-time, my grandma got laid off and my dad has been losing hours," said senior Priscilla Gomez - Arellano. Gomez - Arellano works as a photography assistant for the KYDS program at Poly. "I want to help out my mom and save for my future."

Pia Damonte of Poly ROP (Regional Occupational Program) has job listings and employment opportunities for Poly students. Stop by the Career Center for info.

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 Ms. Matlen's box.

POLY PARROTS WORK THE POLLS

By Evelyn Cisneros
Staff Writer

Poly Parrots served the community as poll workers for the Student Pollworker Program (STAR) in the City of Los Angeles election on March 3rd.

The STAR program sent representatives to gather up LAUSD high schools students to volunteer in the city election.

35 Poly students were selected to be pollworkers.

The students were paid \$105 a day.

"I wanted to experience something new while earning money," said Poly junior Luis Garcia.

Students were required to attend a one day training workshop, which took place in Poly's cafetorium. At the workshop, student pollworkers were instructed with skills that were needed on Election Day.

"I learned how to commu-



Internet Photo

ELECTION: Standard California ballots.

nicate properly with the voters and how to setup all of the equipment," said Poly junior Stephanie Barba.

Parrots were disbursed to polling places throughout the San Fernando Valley from 6a.m-8p.m. on Election Day.

Tasks assigned to the students were checking in voters, provisional ballot distributor, ink-a-vote assistant street index assistant, and directing

voters to their proper voting location. Students were given a one hour lunch break.

"I was in charge of the street index and making sure voters were at the right place" said senior Luigy Maldonado.

Garcia was in charge of the Ink-A-Voter and distributed provisional ballots.

According to Maldonado, the other volunteers that worked with the students were



POLLWORKERS: (from left) Stephanie Barba, Armando Figueroa, Luigy Maldonado and Luis Garcia.

friendly and courteous, but not all the voters were as kind.

"There were a few voters complaining about insignificant signs and that they couldn't find the place," said Maldonado.

"It was difficult for voters to see and find their location because fewer signs were posted due to recent budget cuts" said Poly junior Armando Figueroa.

Not many people exercised their right to vote. Citizens 40 years old and above participated the most.

"More people should have been aware of the election,"

said Garcia.

Despite the diminishing voter participation the student workers affirmed that it was a great learning experience.

"This experience made me a better citizen," said Maldonado. "I would definitely do it again."

In addition to the previous election, the STAR Program is offering another volunteer opportunity for students on May 19th. Anyone interested must have at least a 2.5 GPA and be a U.S. citizen. Applications are available at the Work Experience Office during lunch.

College Journal

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

By Belle Tadena
Staff Writer

Seniors, listen up. Just because you're done with college applications does not mean that you can slack off.

You've already informed colleges what courses you're taking and what plan to complete before year's end.

Don't be fooled. Just because colleges have already "seen" your grades, does not mean that your final transcript is any less important.

Your final semester grades still count for retaining college admission.

That includes all classes taken before the beginning of college full semester.

If for any reason your grades slip, make sure you notify every college you applied for.

They will want to know why your final transcript did not look as expected. The admission office wants to know every little change that affects your academic performance and schedule.

It happens every year. There is at least one senior whose admission was revoked because

they failed to notify the college.

Letters and emails from colleges should be arriving at your doorstep by the end of this month. You may have ten colleges flailing their arms at you.

That's nice, but here comes the tough part. Which one do you choose?

Finding a college that fits is no easy feat. There are many factors to consider in choosing colleges.

Not every college is the same. You can attend a high-end private institution and find yourself wondering why you went there. You may find that you prefer to start off in a community college instead and get your Associate Degree first.

Let's say you're interested in engineering. Unless you are specifically interested in biomedical engineering, maybe a school that specializes on the medical field is not for you.

If you are naturally talented in Chemistry or Physics, you may want to check out a comprehensive research university like one of the University of California (UC) institutes.

Another factor to think about is class size. Some are lecture halls with hundreds of students, while others are limited to 15-20. Are you going to get one-on-one interaction with your professors?

If you have questions about class material, you'll want contact with your professor. If he or she is always busy or unavailable, you might have trouble passing the class.

Make sure to check out the financial burden a particular college will put on you.

The list of college fees can seem endless. With the tuition, books and supplies, room and board, personal expenses and transportation, you may end up in debt for a long time.

Don't feel alone. All undergrads face the same dilemma. Most importantly, don't think you

can't go to college because you don't have the money to pay for it.

Many sources of financial aid are available. You can apply for as many scholarships as your heart desires. There are grants out there, waiting to be found and colleges are more than happy to help you with student-work jobs.

You have until the end of April to research your schools.

May 1 is the deadline for admitted freshmen to submit their Statement of Intent to Register online for most colleges. If done by mail, the statement must be postmarked by that date.

UTLA vs. Board of Education

[UTLA, from pg 1]

lice.

"The media was present, such as the Associated Press," said Lee. "The police decided not to arrest anyone as long as the media was there."

However, the meeting continued in a different room and the school board voted on sending RIF's to 3,500 non-permanent teachers, 2,000 permanent teachers, 489 counselors and 2,800 administrators.

"I think we did as much as we could, but we were hoping that it would have more disrupting effects on their vote," said Lee. "However, it did bring about much national notice regarding the lay offs."

After three hours of rallying, protestors began to disperse.

Poly Principal Gerardo Loera stated that twelve teachers and three counselors from Poly have received RIF's.

"We have a great staff and the budget shortfall is beginning to impact our teachers and may ultimately impact our students," said Loera. "I know, however, that Poly teachers, students and parents are members of a resilient community and we will find ways to

[See UTLA, pg 6]



A Slice of Cult

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

Poly went international with its annual Multicultural Fair.

For the fair, clubs at Poly usually decorate their stands according to their culture and serve ethnic dishes, which they did with one difference.

“This was different this time because it was the first time we had judgment by faculty with a \$50 prize,” said Leadership sponsor Kitt Heilbron.

“Visual proof of culture, attire, and if in fact the food was part of the culture were the criteria for judging,” stated Heilbron.

Tenth Grade Council’s Korean stand took first place and won a \$50 prize from Leadership. Second and third went to Softball and Drill Team with their Hawaiian and Brazilian themes, respectively.

Food featured at the fair included Masubi (spam with rice and seaweed) from Hawaii, chicken Bulgogi from Korea, and croissants from France.

Both students and faculty got into the international spirit.

“We always have a lot of fun doing this,” said senior Aileen Mendez from the Hawaiian stand. “This is our third year and we always have fun.”

“I thought it was a complete success,” said Heilbron. “Mostly because the clubs really tried to depict their culture, the student body and faculty interest in it and the terrific comments from students and faculty.”



All Photos by Michael Obando



ture





Photo by Karina Muniz

Grease is The World



Photo by Karina Muniz

By Hazel Kasusky
Staff Writer

Poly's Play Production performed the musical "Grease" written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey and directed by Katrina Hetrick.

"Grease" the musical is based on the 1978 hit-movie "Grease." The musical keeps the main elements from the movie like the "Pink Ladies" and the "T-Birds" not to mention Sandy Dumbrowski's (Tina Flores) and Danny Zuko's (Hugo Ramirez) famous romance.

"Grease" takes place in a 1950's high

school setting where Sandy and Danny revive their summer romance. Meanwhile, their friends have their own problems to deal with. Betty Rizzo (Marina Turruelles) figures she's pregnant, Frenchy (Gabby Melendez) drops out of high school and Kenickie (Kenny Baldelomar) steals a car.

The rest of the cast not only danced on stage, but sang some of the original "Grease" hits, such as "Grease Lightning" and "We Go Together."

Actors not only sang the songs but busted their moves. Their moves were an organized gamut of 50's steps like the Cha Cha, the Bop, and the Hand Jive.

Musical directors Lisa Blackwell and Darcey Whitmore helped students with vocals and solos. Chorographer Erin Hunt not only helped the actors with their dancing, but also helped sew costumes.

Set pieces included a Christmas lights Grease sign, park and high school backdrops and a fake gray car. Some pieces were made by Jim Hetrick. Woodshop teacher Glen Lamos helped craft Sandy's chair and mirror desk.

Poly's Play Production purchased costumes at Ross or borrowed clothing. Hetrick sewed together the cheerleading and "Beauty School Drop Out" costumes with the help of her drama classes.

Teachers Protest After Board Meeting

[0, from pg 1]

move ahead through these challenging times."

"Those who received the RIF's have no guarantee that they will still work for the district next school year," said Poly Tenth Grade Counselor Cristina Cuevas, "but there are lots of people who are trying to prevent the lay offs from actually happening."

"Why are billions of taxpayers' money going to corporations who have flaunted their greed shamelessly while public schools and other programs suffer?" said Poly Tenth Grade Counselor Maria Padua. "This is very heartbreaking and I expect more from leaders. We deserve more."

Ron Goins, one of the Poly teachers who received a RIF notice, is hoping that LAUSD will be able to get federal aid in order to prevent the lay offs.

"It's unfortunate that the district feels that they have to cut jobs, but it's understandable because of the state budget cuts," said Goins. "I really enjoy my job and I

have been teaching for only two years. The lay offs will not only affect teachers, but also the students next school year."

On March 17th 2009, Superintendent Cortines, Board President Monica Garcia, Mayor Villagrosa and UTLA president A.J. Duffy were invited to Washington to discuss with US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan about receiving federal aid from President Obama's stimulus plan.

"We believe that we will receive aid from the president's stimulus plan. Superintendent Cortines understands the plight we are in and he is working hard to get the money," said Duffy. "Unfortunately, Washington is not working as quickly as we hope. So we are still waiting.

According to Duffy, the new figures of teachers and other school personnel that were given RIFs were not based on the possible stimulus money that the district can get.

"We hope that with none or minimum teachers would be let go," said Duffy.



Photo by Karina Muniz

Students at Valley Forge

[DC, from pg 1]

tors.

Poly students got to observe some of DC's historic sites, like the Lincoln Memorial, the Library of Congress, and the Washington Monument-where a few months before President

Barack Obama was sworn in. The trip ended with a visit to the Vietnam Memorial.

"I thought it was the best experience I ever had," said junior Oscar Rodarte. "I learned that we all are a part of democracy."

Masters in Video Games

By Ivan Verdin
Staff Writer

Ever thought of going to college to major in video games? The University Of Southern California was the first of top universities to offer academic minor programs in video game programming to video game design. At USC, a minor in Video Game Programming will allow you the opportunity to bring your ideal video game world to life using academic concepts and practical skills.

The USC Course Catalogue describes their video game programs as: "Integrating the disciplines of Computer Science and Information Technology. You'll be exposed to dynamic tools such as 3-D graphics, artificial intelligence, particle systems and collision detection."

Through the interdisciplinary academic program between the Information Technology Program (ITP) and the School of Cinema/TV, students will be taught the basics of successful video game development. This

is the underlying principles behind game design and the framework for producing or project managing games. Students will be able to build your own game design preview and showcase it to an industry audience.

Tim Widmann (EA Mobile) a former USC student writes, "The Video Game Programming minor was the most useful to me mainly because the professors come from professional game development environments. This makes them a great source of practical knowledge and advice about how to get into the gaming industry. They prepare us really well to hit the ground running when we start working because they know from experience what skills a new college grad should possess"

The USC website will allow you to access the Video Game Programming and Design program description and course core requirements. The requirements listed are from the current USC catalogue.



Internet Photo

PORTABLE LIBRARY: Amazon's sleek Kindle 2, able to hold a giant collection of literature.

Kindle Kills Books

By Jason Castro
Editor In-Chief

Imagine great works of literature in the palm of your hand without going to the library.

Introducing the Amazon Kindle 2, an e-reader that can hold an entire collection of stories in your pocket.

At half the thickness of Amazon's first e-reader, the Ama-

zon Kindle 2 is a sleek curved tablet that you can hold in your hands.

Kindle isn't the first e-reader in the market today, but it has a significant edge.

Kindle comes with built-in Sprint 3G wireless service at no extra cost to users and tight integration with Amazon's shopping engine to buy E-books. Amazon's extensive library of Kindle e-books can be delivered immediately and gives a new meaning to the concept of instant gratification.

The Kindle 2's screen is the same size as the first Kindle's, 6 inches with 600-by-800 resolution. However, its refreshed E-Ink technology provides 16 shades of gray, unlike the original Kindle's four shades of gray. The screen on Kindle isn't like an LCD screen at all. It provides the same appearance and readability of printed

paper. The screen works using ink, just like books and newspapers, but displays the ink particles electronically.

Unlike a book, Kindle increases the text size of your favorite book or newspaper with the push of a button. Kindle also features a text-to-speech feature and can read almost every newspaper, magazine, blog or book out loud.

The Kindle 2 is definitely a reader's perfect companion, but will reading regular print literature become obsolete as E-readers become more popular?

"Our vision is to have every book ever printed, in any language, all available in less than 60 seconds on Kindle and we won't stop until we get there" is posted on the Kindle 2's information page on Amazon.com.

Whether or not Kindle becomes the successor to books is anyone's guess.

DSi am better

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

What do you get when you mix the sleek design of the DS Lite gaming system and the features of a Playstation Portable (PSP)? The DSi.

Nintendo's answer to the PSP and the successor of the previous DS model (the DS Lite), the DSi, will be 12% thinner and will have larger, brighter screens and improved speakers. Enhanced performance and added features will mean a shorter battery life.

Sorry old-school gamers - the DSi will not have a Game Boy Advance slot at the bottom, like the original DS and the DS Lite. This is due to the addition of 256 MB of internal flash memory.

A new addition to the DS model is the addition of two cameras - one in between the two screens and one on the outer cover. The camera option has not been incorporated in a Nintendo game system since the 1998 release of the Game Boy Camera. Pictures taken will be stored in the DSi's in-



Internet Photo

SHINEY: Nintendo's latest successor to its portable systems.

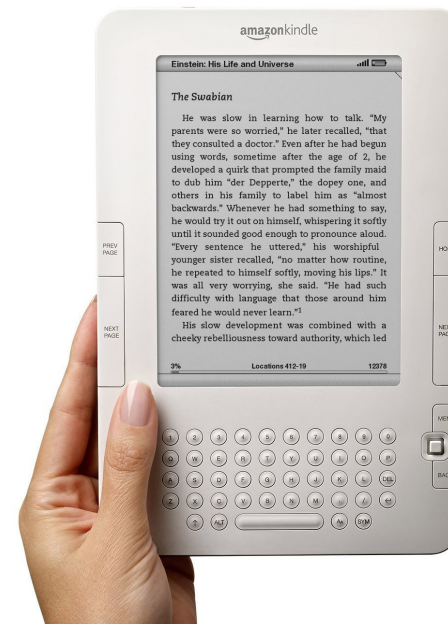
ternal memory and can be sent to the Wii console.

The DSi will also feature a built-in Opera Internet Browser that will use Wi-Fi. Internet services will be individually designed for each region, since certain areas will use different software made specifically for the DSi.

Gamers have the option of playing DS games or downloading games from an online

store, the DSWare Shop using Nintendo Points (bought separately), for either 800, 500, 200 points or for free.

The system will be released in Japan on November 1, 2008 for ¥18,900, or approximately \$180. Anyone that wants it here in the U.S. will have to go to Japan and get one there, bid on one on eBay, or wait until April 2009, when the DSi is released on the U.S.



Internet Photo

SLEEK: Kindle 2 displaying a typical E-book that can be bought on Amazon.com.

Baseball

Parrots Pummel Helpless Hunters

Winless Canoga Park falls to Poly's hard-hitting offense.

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

Poly's Felix Juarez pitched a five-inning, nine-strikeout no-hitter Wednesday as the Parrots trounced visiting Canoga Park 24-0.

"It was the best I've ever seen him throw," said Parrot head coach Andy Montes about Juarez. "Even against a team like this, strikeouts are strikeouts."

Senior Frank Yanez hit a triple in the first, batting in three runners, as Poly jumped to a 5-0 lead.

Every Parrot made at least two plate appearances in the 15-0 first inning and some even three.

"After the first inning, I couldn't let my guys play," said Montes. "Winning isn't so important that we would



Photo by Karina Muniz

FOCUS: Junior Orlando Gutierrez makes a base hit and brings in a run.

go and badly humiliate a team that way."

Neither team scored in the second, but Poly had an 8-0 third inning. The Parrots got another run in the bottom of the fourth to end the scoring.

For the game, Yanez batted in four runs and was one of eight Parrots to score two runs. Juarez helped his own effort, getting three of Poly's 12 hits and scoring a run.

The Hunters had eight errors and little else in the one-sided contest.

"These kids are trying," said Montes regarding Canoga. "The quality of their talent wasn't great. They try hard, but they just don't have the talent."

Poly (8-4, 3-0), tied with Verdugo Hills (7-1, 4-0) for first place in the East Valley League, will play the Dons on Thursday. Canoga Park (0-4, 0-4) will face Verdugo next Monday.

Track

Parrots, Jaguars and Tigers Battle On The Track

Poly's track and field team starts the league season with a three-way track meet.

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

The Parrots hosted not one but two opponents, Van Nuys and Fulton Prep, during Friday's track meet. Poly's girls bested Van Nuys 62-61. The boys lost to Fulton by the same margin.

"It was good competition," said head coach Mario Rivera. "We gave away events that we didn't even have. Not everyone is cleared to participate yet. But events that we did have, we just killed them out there."

Indeed the Parrots did kill in their key events. Junior parrot Jose Rodriguez took first place in the 1600 meter run, completing the mile in 5:05. Segundo De Leon trailed closely behind Rodriguez by four seconds and took second place for Poly.

Michael Park won first place in the 400 meter run, making his one lap sprint in 52.8 seconds.

Poly also won the 4x4 relay race with runners Sergio



Photo by Karina Muniz

LEAP OF FAITH: Tyler Stefensen makes the hurdle

Reyes, Rodriguez, Hector Vega and Park. They finished the four lap relay race with a combined time of 3:45:04.

Gracia Arechiga took first place for Poly's girls in the 400 meter dash. She finished her lap in 1:15.

Rocio Rodriguez, Arechiga, Karina Duran and Natalie Granando won the girls' 4x4 relay race for Poly. Their total time was 4:52:60.

Rivera said he's not concerned about Friday's uneven results.

"These meets are important, but our main goal is getting to city finals and state," Rivera said. "Our athletes are capable and motivated. I know we are going to make it."

Softball

Barristers Punish Poly 10-1

Lady Parrot ace pitcher Sylvette Rodriguez twists her ankle as Poly registers their first defeat of the season.

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

Marshall used a four-run third to open up a close contest against the Lady Parrots varsity and then added five more in the sixth to defeat Poly 10-1 Thursday.

Worse yet, junior pitcher Sylvette Rodriguez twisted her ankle in the fifth and is expected to be out for some games.

"It affected us mentally," said Parrot head coach Manny Peralta Jr. "Losing our star pitcher had a shock effect on the team."

Marshall's Jessika Sandoval had three runs, including two homers, three hits and three RBIs to lead the Barristers' 11-hit offense. Sophomore right-hander Megan Reiner picked up the win for the Barristers, striking out six and walking two while holding Poly to four hits.

"We lost to a great team," Peralta said. "I can live with that."

Rodriguez got the loss, giving up five runs and nine hits in five innings, while her double



Photo by Karina Muniz

SWING: Senior Jahaira Gutierrez gives her best shot.

in the first knocked in Poly's only run. Senior Sandra Perez allowed the other five Marshall runs on four hits.

For the game, Poly had seven hits, including a triple from

junior Monique Guzman.

"We've got nearly 30 games to play this season. There's still a long way to go. By the time Sylvette comes back, we'll be a stronger team as a whole."