

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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MID-APRIL 2009

TEACHER, FATHER, HUSBAND, SOLDIER SERVES HIS COUNTRY

By Hazel Kasusky
Staff Writer

Computer teacher Javier Rios reported for duty in Iraq in November, 2008 where he will defend his country as an Army soldier in Baghdad, Iraq. This is his second time in Iraq.

“He left in November and his return date is unknown,” said Teresa Rios, Javier Rios’ wife. “His orders are for one year but it can be extended at any time if the Army wants to keep him in Iraq.”

Javier Rios is a Sergeant, and E-5 pay grade, working in communications as a Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (CLASS V NCOIC.)

“We coordinate the transportation of ammunition throughout the Area of Operation (A.O.) of Iraq,” said Javier. “On a day to day basis we move tons and tons of ammunition that equals in the millions of dollars. Everything from M-16 bullets to Hellfire missiles.”

Javier graduated from Poly as an AFJROTC cadet in 1995. Rios’ pursuit in defending his



Photo provided by Javier Rios

SOLDIER: Teacher Javier Rios on 2nd tour of duty in Iraq.

country in the military began in middle school when his counselor introduced the Army life to Rios.

“My first priority while on duty is to obey and uphold the Constitution of the United States,” said Rios. “Everyone here is a soldier first and then whatever your particular job is second and somewhere in between, it’s also your job to make sure you stay safe and stay alive.”

While students of Rios hope their teacher returns safe, Teresa Rios hopes her husband and children’s father return safe.

“Once he gets orders and he has to leave his family, my role is no longer the spouse of a soldier,” said Teresa. “I have to take care of the family that is left behind and anything else that needs attention, like the bills or any health issues. I become a single mother almost.”

Teresa and Rios have 2 children: Felipe, age 8, and Samantha, age 11 1/2. According to Teresa, Samantha

is “too young to know what’s going on.” Felipe on the other hand is proud of his father and would someday like to grow up to be a teacher.

Javier’s trip was interrupted when Felipe’s right kidney had to be surgically removed when doctors discovered a kidney cyst.

“Through the Red Cross Javier was able to have an emergency 4 day pass to return home,” said Teresa.

Having a soldier as father may sound like a lot of storytelling, but for security reasons Rios cannot say much.

“But he does talk about some of his daily life unrelated to work,” said Teresa Rios.

According to Rios, the civilians in Iraq are friendly, even though not all civilians want the United States soldiers to be in Iraq.

“This second time in Iraq is not really that much different. The one thing I can say is that I am on a better and safer

[See Rios, pg 4]

Politics ‘09

Iraq Now Costs More Than Vietnam

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

The cost of the Iraq war will surpass that of the Vietnam War if Congress approves a supplemental funding request proposed by the Obama administration on April 10.

The request calls for \$83.5 billion to pay for overseas activity, mainly in Iraq and Afghanistan through September 30th. If approved, the Iraq war would have cost taxpayers nearly \$700 billion dollars

since it began.

In today’s economy, the Vietnam War would have cost approximately \$686 billion. However, the U.S. had more forces in Vietnam than in Iraq today, and about 13 times the casualties.

The reasons for the increased expense center around two main changes: technology and soldier care.

The Iraq War has been mostly fought by a volunteer military, which requires higher salaries than a regular army.

Conditions in Iraq, such as roadside bombs and sand storms have often damaged expensive equipment and brought about the need to replace or upgrade the technology via post-September 11 funding from the Pentagon. For example, the spending request sent to Congress calls for the replacement of scrapped F-15 and F-16 fighters with newer F-22 models at the expense of \$600 million.

[See War, pg 4]

ROTC Cadet Kasusky Represents Poly At California Girls State

By Ivan Verdin
Staff Writer

Hazel Kasusky and Julia Salas were chosen to represent Polytechnic High School in a week-long annual California Girls State Conference sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary at Pitzer College in Claremont, CA.

“Hazel shows strong leadership, academic skills, and defining individual qualities. I am proud to have her represent Poly” said Sergeant Billie Smith of JRTOC.

California Girls State is a summer program sponsored



Photo by Karina Muniz

CADET: Junior Hazel Kasusky represents Poly.

by the American Legion Auxiliary and provides juniors the

[See Cadet, pg 4]



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The American Scholastic Press Association (ASPA) recently announced that the OPTIMIST was awarded first place in the ASPA's annual competition. This is the OPTIMIST's third win in a row. Over 2,200 entrants from high schools and colleges across the United States entered the 2008 competition. "Congratulations go to you and the students who are responsible for the award your school's newspaper has earned this year."

Join this award winning editorial staff. See your counselor, Mr. Blau or Ms. Matlen today.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor...

The article and pictures in the Optimist dated April 2009, of the "Multicultural Fair", left some people feeling that once again they had been denied.

As a staff member, I felt the pictures were great, but as the Sponsor of the Black Student's Association, I felt the display of pictures were typical of the failure to be inclusive of all of the Poly family. Especially since they were about the clubs at the "Multi-Culture Fair".

Think of how it might feel to attend a school for three to four years and never see anything about your culture or your club's activities written in the schools media. Seniors who graduate and have never had their friends or themselves included or acknowledge as being apart of the Poly Family.

History books of the past were guilty of leaving out the history and cultures of large groups of America. Don't repeat their mistakes. Diversity is the fabric of the American quilt. Many different ethic groups and culture combined to create the American Culture.

Let's try to include all of Poly's Family, the Armenians, Pacific Islanders, African-Americans and Latinos; all participants need to be represented in Poly's media (not just when they are Super Heroes or winners of the "prize"). All groups need to know that they to were part of Poly's history. Diversity and inclusiveness are apart of affirmative action. We include all so that all will feel they too have been affirmed as being apart of the group.

L. Terry
BSA Club Sponsor

College Journal

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

By Belle Tadena
Staff Writer

The anxiety, the restlessness and the impatience is mounting up.

Seniors left and right are already counting down the days until graduation.

With less than three months until high school is officially over, seniors are getting antsy.

A and B trackers still have

two months until their break. For C trackers, vacation is less than two weeks away. Three weeks until Senior Recognition Night. Two months until graduation. Five months until college officially starts.

"April seems to move ever so slowly," said senior Jane Cenon. "I can't help but wish that April would be done already so I can be done with school."

Many seniors have already developed a nasty case of senioritis, the decrease of motivation towards their studies as they near the end of their senior year.

Senioritis is more than just your common procrastination. It is the slow build-up of apathy in your high school academic endeavors.

I have already lost my usual motivation to get ahead of my work. I wait until the very last

minute to work on my homework. I'm typing this journal with my journalism adviser breathing down my neck and the energy of a slug.

It makes me feel guilty for not doing my best at everything I do. The only serious pressure left is my upcoming Advance Placement (AP) exams in May and my Political Science 001 class.

Hang in there Zodiacs, Pomp and Circumstance is just around the corner.

On the other hand, there's only one issue to really keep in mind.

Make sure to submit your Student Intent to Register (SIR) and your housing application by May 1st.

Visit your college portal frequently to check for updates. They still want official final transcripts and SAT/ACT scores.

Parrots Succeed at MIT

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly alumni Andrea Campos and Juan Fuentes, both former Magnet students, are currently students at one of the most prestigious universities in the nation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Campos and Fuentes hosted an information session last month for Poly students who are interested in applying to MIT for college.

Campos, a senior at MIT majoring in Management and Business, is a Poly graduate of 2005.

"I had straight A's since ninth grade," said Campos. "I also took advantage of college classes during the summer before ninth grade."

Campos participated in the annual MIT's Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science (MITES), which is a free six-week summer program for exceptional high school students who are interested in pursuing careers in science and engineering.

"I went during the summer of my junior year and I only had to pay for transportation," said Campos.

Fuentes, a Poly graduate of 2008, is finishing up his freshman year at MIT majoring in Chemical-Biological Engi-



Photo by Belle Tadena

ALUMNI: *Former parrots Juan Fuentes and Andrea Campos.*

neering.

Fuentes began taking college classes at the beginning of his sophomore year and completed enough units upon graduating high school to simultaneously earn an Associate Arts degree.

"While in high school, I

was involved in the volleyball team and as well as Latinos Unidos," said Fuentes. "Academically, I took a total of 13 Advanced Placement classes and passed all the exams."

In addition to the school pressure felt during high school Campos and Fuentes

have overcome numerous barriers in their personal life.

"My parents were conservative and they were not fond of the idea of me going to college out of state," said Campos. "It was either I attend a nearby college or just work after high school."

"I came to this country not knowing a single word of English," said Fuentes. "I still remember having such a hard time in school when I first started."

However, Campos and Fuentes did not lose sight of their dreams.

"But I was not going to stop there," said Campos. "Thankfully, my parents came around and let me attend MIT."

"I wanted to do something fulfilling with my life," said Fuentes.

"That is why when I found out I had been accepted to multiple colleges on the east coast, I was more excited than scared," said Fuentes. "Part of college aside from providing an education is to allow one to grow as an individual. I cannot stress this enough... going to a different setting allows you to get to meet amazing people and ultimately to grow as a person."

Now at MIT, Fuentes is a member of the MIT-Society

of Hispanic Professional Engineering, which is an organization that networks with top firms in the nation.

Campos assured Poly's students that schools like MIT offer generous financial aid to students who come from low income families.

"There is a lot of financial aid available out there," said Campos. "The tuition was more than what my parents made a year."

There are numerous scholarships available for college.

"I won a scholarship for twenty thousand dollars when I was still in high school" said Campos. "I never realized how much help that scholarship was until I entered college. I never asked my parents for college money."

Regardless of the financial costs and the challenging curriculum of a private university, prospective students will find it a very worthwhile experience.

"My freshman year at MIT has definitely pushed me to limits that I have never experienced before," said Fuentes. "Even though at time it may seem overwhelming, this is exactly what I wanted in a college education, a challenging but very fulfilling experience."

Grinnell Welcomes POSSE Winner

By Hazel Kasusky
Staff Writer

Senior Parrot Jose Alfaro was awarded a \$100,000 scholarship to Grinnell College by the POSSE foundation. The scholarship pays tuition, room and board at Grinnell, a liberal arts school.

This scholarship pays full tuition and housing and dining.

Traditionally, a scholarship may require an essay or a series of evaluations that sink deep into your personality.

Jose Alfaro along with other nominees were observed by the POSSE recruitment process known as the the Dynamic Assessment Process (DAP). Alfaro also participated in group activities where POSSE counselors asked the recruits to do something.

"I was surprised," said Alfaro about the nomination. "The people there tried really hard; they were aggressive."

Most of the participants were from prestigious high schools with four-point-something GPAs.



Photo by Karina Muniz

WINNER: *Senior Parrot Jose Alfaro.*

In the standard interview held in Los Angeles, nominees were asked to bring something that opened a door to their personality.

"I brought a LA Galaxies jersey I

had," said Alfaro. "I call it my lucky jersey. It kind of represented the passion in me. You could see it had the stains everywhere. It was symbolic."

However, the interview was not just show and tell. The counselors also asked Alfaro about his background, plans for the future and anything that would help identify his personality. Some of the questions asked were: "how do you see the community?" or "is there any thing you're trying to do to make it better?"

"For the most part, I'm a hard worker," said Alfaro. "I don't know if I'm that intelligent but I always do my work. I do the homework any way even though the teacher wasn't checking it."

According to Alfaro, the thing that contributed the most to his nomination was his ethnic background: Salvadorian and Mexican.

"Both just wanted to know my background," said Alfaro. "If I had any plans for the future and trying to iden-

tify the person I was."

The nominees were cut down to 20 people for a specific college, Grinnell College.

"At that point, we were going to have and interview with the administration of the college," said Alfaro.

The first time around, Alfaro missed his date for his POSSE evaluation. Supportive counselors helped Alfaro with his second chance. According to Alfaro, if it weren't for Bryan or Warman, he may not have received this scholarship.

"When I told my family they were pretty happy," said Alfaro. "They were really excited. They were proud in that I was taking this risk."

Like many students should know, there are many scholarships for students to attend college. Money should never be a problem when planning to go to college. And these scholarships may come in hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Smile! You're on Camera

By Jane Cenon &
Evelyn Cisneros
Staff Writers

Poly administration is tightening safety measures by installing new security cameras to monitor activities on campus.

The installation will be completed by the beginning of the next school year, July 2009.

"We have all our campus supervision. We have some cameras that are already installed internally," said Assistant Principal David Sanchez.

The project has been proposed for two years and this year it will finally happen. The estimated cost for this added security is approximately \$200,000. With the support of District 2's board member, Julie Korenstein, L.A.U.S.D. will be able to cover the cost.

"We had thirty cameras. We broke it up in three phases. Ten for the first phase, ten for the second phase and if we have more money then we can tie it into the third phase and then we could have full surveillance of the school," said Sanchez.



Photo by Karina Muniz

BIG BROTHER: One of many security cameras placed around campus.

The security cameras will be installed around the perimeter of the school and in the hallways. "The purpose of the cameras is to reduce crime, improve safety, and provide surveillance for illegal activities," said Security Administrator, Rick Fennel.

Students' safety is the main priority on campus. "Our job is to provide a safe learning environment because we want

them to succeed," said Security Administrator, Glenn Lamos.

A few security cameras have already been installed internally. Administration have already seen results in actual footage. "Within the first thirty minutes that we put up the first camera up we caught a major tagger" said Mr. Fennel. Previous security procedures such as wandering, drug searching police dogs, and random searches have been helpful to ensure school safety. The new security cameras are additional resources that will provide another set of eyes.

"We have a school of 4,600 students; it gets difficult to figure out who's doing what to whom. Having an electronic

aid that's going to help identify students without making them come forward is always good," said Lamos.

Monitoring the cameras is a tedious job but it will be beneficial for the school in the long run. This will reduce the cost of covering up vandalism and most importantly protecting the school's assets. "The main thing is deterrent. We want everybody to know that we can keep the campus safe, clean and productive for a good learning environment," said Poly's principal, Gerardo Loera.

Poly's administration will also be taking on two new projects. All classrooms will be re-keyed soon and the text book room will be relocated.

Cadet Represents Women

[Cadet, from pg 1]

opportunity to participate in a hands-on citizenship training program.

The girls receive practical training in the processes of promoting self government and good citizenship. Each of five hundred sponsored California high schools send one delegate selected on her dedication to community service, strong academic performance, and leadership potential.

"The girls will learn government leadership, civics, political parties, and have lunch with the governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger," said Smith.

The Delegates receive practical training in the processes of self government and good citizenship. Workshops include setting up their own city, county, and state governments, as well as join a political party that most closely aligns with their own beliefs.

Other activities include legislative sessions, campaigning, party rallies, mock trials, a moot court, and voting. In addition to their political focus, Girls State provides creative outlets through a talent show, choir, orchestra, and daily newspaper.

"I like throwing myself out to the world, so I'm up for it" said Kasusky.

Kasusky will leave on June 25th and return on July 3rd.

Cost of War

[War, from pg 1]

Other factors that drove the cost of war up was the failure under the Bush Administration to create an Iraqi army, which worsened the security conditions in Iraq, and attempts at reconstruction while in war-time.

However, the cost of war for 2009 will be lower than that of 2008, according to military analysts.

President Obama plans to withdraw most of the U.S. armed forces from Iraq by August 2010 approximately a year earlier than a security agreement deadline set with

Photos of Fallen Troops Published Again

By Belle Tadena
Staff Writer

News reporters are now allowed to photograph the flag-covered coffins of fallen troops entering Dover Air Force Base in Delaware with the consent of the soldiers' families.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced on February 26th that the 18-year-old ban on photographing the flag-covered coffins of fallen troops has been lifted.

This new policy will reverse the ban placed in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War by President George H. Bush.

"We should not presume to make the decision for the families," said Gates at the Pentagon news conference. "We should actually let them make it."

According to the Bush White House, the main concern for the ban was privacy,



Internet Photo

CENSORED NO MORE: Coffins returning to American soil.

which is also intended to control public anger over the conflicts. However, Elisabeth Bumiller of the New York Times reported that critics say the policy only serves to hide the "ultimate cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan."

"I would say the people who die make that sacrifice not solely for the families but also for the nation. So it's not a

matter of privacy for the families," said professor Ralph Begleiter of the University of Delaware. "It's a matter of national grieving."

The lifting of the ban gives the families the final decision. "It allows them to make that decision and protect their privacy if that's what they wish to do," said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs.

Rios In Iraq

[Rios, from pg 1]

base than last time," said Javier. "The quality of life is just better this time around but in general, this is just like a continuation of the last one."

Javier lives with a roommate in a Combat Housing Unit (CHU) where the nearest bathroom is about 20 feet away and the dining facility is about 300 feet away. Rios communicates with his family and friends often through the internet.

"There is plenty to do here on Joint Base Baghdad (JBB)," said Javier. "We have a gym, a recreation facility with in-

ternet access, books, PS3 and Xbox and they have organized games and events.

"Every month there's some type of fun 3 mile run around the base. You can even take college courses at the education center," said Javier. "We have a coffee shop and several fast food restaurants that include Taco Bell."

As Javier Rios battles in Iraq, Teresa awaits his return from service.

"We are very proud of Javier. Aside from us, he does have his own life that has to be placed on hold for a year," said Teresa Rios.

QUILTERS AMONG US

By Belle Tadena
& Karinina Cruz
Staff Writers

Poly Parrots were given an opportunity to win a handmade quilt raffled by the Poly student body. Poly band teacher Steve Isaacs won the quilt.

Poly Bilingual Coordinator Gigi Slezak, Poly Parent Liaison Sylvia Gonzales and Poly teacher Fransisca Reynoso made the quilt.

Slezak is an accomplished quilter and recently won second place at the Glendale Quilters' Association Competition for her art piece.

"I began quilting twenty years ago," said Slezak. "It's a beautiful kind of art and I didn't know I was an artist until I won the award."

The winning art piece which she submitted to the competition is a quilt that illustrates a bear's face.

Slezak entitled the quilt "Shush", which means bear in Navajo, a Native American language.

"Many people confuse quilts with any type of blankets," said Slezak. "Actually, the method used in patching the squares of fabrics that are used as blankets is called piecing while quilting is stitching together of three layers atop batting and a back to make the quilt warm."

"Shush" was exhibited at the Marriott Hotel in Burbank last month and will be displayed in the California State University Northridge (CSUN) at the San Fernando Quilting Association show on May 15 to 16, 2009.

Quilting became widespread during the Industrial Revolution when fabrics were easier to attain.

The different types of quilting are Broderie perse, Whole-cloth quilts and Medallion style quilts.

As a young student in Cuba, Slezak was required to learn hand sewing and embroidery arts.

"Every single school day, we would learn needlework," said Slezak. "During that time I did not like it."

However, as Slezak flipped through the pages of sewing magazines and saw numerous pieces of artwork, she became fascinated with a variety of needlework, including stitching, embroidery, tapestry and quilting.

"Even though I did not like sewing as a child, the fact that I learned it in school made it an easier transition when I decided that I wanted to sew again," I said Slezak.

According to Slezak, there are numerous kinds of needlework, but quilt-



Photo by Karina Muniz

AFRICAN ELEPHANT: One of Slezak's first handmade quilts.



Photo by Karina Muniz

"SHUSH": Navajo for "bear" won second place for quilt competition.

ing, piecing and appliqué are her favorites.

In 1993 Slezak joined the San Fernando Valley Quilters Association (SFVQA).

"There are currently 600 members in the SFVQA guild throughout San Fernando and three of those members are from Poly," said Slezak. "In the guild we teach each other and learn from each other too."



Photo by Karina Muniz

QUILT RAFFLE: (left to right) Francisca Reynoso, Gigi Slezak and Silvia Gonzalez present raffled quilt.

Become an Optimist

Glory to Poly

Glory to...uh...

SAT
Crossword

1

2

3

4

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10

- ACROSS
- 1 Asserting opinions in a doctrinaire or arrogant manner; opinionated.
 - 3 Overly concerned with minute details or formalisms, esp. in teaching
 - 4 Inclined to teach or lecture others too much
 - 5 A malicious, false, and defamatory statement or report
 - 6 A daydream
 - 7 To try to equal or excel; imitate with effort to equal or surpass
 - 10 To derive as a conclusion from something known or assumed; infer

Pencilhead

PENCILHEAD

...in **EARTH DAY**

BY RICKY DE GUZMAN

DOING ANYTHING SPECIAL?!

"ME"

WHAT'S THE OCCASION??

EARTH DAY!

SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE GATIA, BUT THAT'S NOT A HOLIDAY

YES IT IS!!

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. CALM DOWN MOTHER-NATURE. IT'S A HOLIDAY WHERE YOU CLEAN??

FUN NEH?

NEH...

FOR YOU, I WON'T LATER TODAY.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

I KNOW, I'M A SAINT OF SAINTS ...

AN ANGEL IF YOU WILL!

I WOULDN'T

Sudoku

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9. Good luck!

Mannheim Author Comes To Poly

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

California Impressionist painter Jean Mannheim did a portrait of Poly's second principal, Willis A Dunn, in 1929. Mannheim's great-grandson, Rich Reitzell, who is writing a book on Mannheim's life and career, recently came to Poly to photograph the Dunn portrait for inclusion in Mannheim's biography.

"Writing this book is a passion for me," Reitzell said.

Reitzell, a pharmaceutical products salesman, developed an interest in Mannheim after his father died three years ago and left him three boxes filled with documents of and about Mannheim. After looking at the documents, Reitzell realized he wanted to know more about his great-grandfather.

"I didn't know where he fit in with the California Impressionist group," Reitzell said.

He soon found that art collectors in their 60s and 70s knew Mannheim and his work, but younger collectors didn't.

"If you look at books today on California Impressionists," Reitzell said, "Mannheim may get mentioned a few times, but his legacy is fading."

Reitzell's original idea was to hold an exhibition of Mannheim's works to generate new interest in his great-grandfather's art. But he found that an exhibit might take up to three years to organize and coordinate. Reitzell felt that was too long to wait.

"I had started jotting down notes on Mannheim's chronology and before I knew it, I had over 60 pages," said Reitzell. "Those notes later became the framework for the book."

Reitzell says the book, "Jean Mannheim: Portrait of a Plein Air Painter," will devote approximately 100 pages to reproductions of Mannheim's art and 60 pages of text. The biography will be split into two sections: one discussing Mannheim's life and the other about his art.

A main portion of the book will revolve around stories of Mannheim and prominent figures that Reitzell gleaned from both collectors of Mannheim's works and (others), such as the portrait of Albert Einstein that Mannheim painted when Einstein was in Cal Tech Pasadena.



Photo by Karina Muniz

AUTHOR: Rich Reitzell.

"I would have loved to have met him because of the stories that I've heard about him," said Reitzell.

Reitzell learned of the Dunn portrait from LAUSD's Curatorial and Collections Management Consultant Leslie Fischer, who supervised the cataloging and appraisal of a large portion of LAUSD's art and artifacts collection last year.

Mannheim did nine works for Los Angeles Unified School District schools, including Gardena High School's "Road to San Gabriel" (1920) and "The Magic Moment (1923), both of which will be included in the book.

Reitzell hopes to finish the Mannheim biography this year.

"My goal is to finish this summer and publish this fall," Reitzell said, "but that could change. Every time you turn over a rock, you get three more leads."



Internet Photo

INSTANT PLAYLIST: Pandora's interface is simple to use.

Pandora's Jukebox

By Ivan Verdin
Staff Writer

The internet has given us new ways of being able to listen and discover music on free music web stations.

Pandora is an automated music recommendation and Internet Radio service that allows the user to enter a song or artist they enjoy, and the service will play songs that are musically similar to your selection.

Over 400 different musical attributes are considered when selecting the next song. Their interactive player lets you give feedback to the selections chosen for you by providing approval or disapproval, which

Pandora takes consideration for future selections. Thumbs up will play more songs like the one that is playing. Thumbs Down will play fewer that are similar to the song or artist playing.

Pandora allows an unlimited amount of stations by typing a different artist or song. If you decide to pause a song and switch to another station and come back to the original station you resume to the song from where you first paused it. In addition, a menu is provided with choices: Why was this song selected, Move along to another station, Bookmark, and Buy. You are allowed to skip a song but is only limited to 5 skips per hour. Other

restrictions include not being able to rewind or repeat a song, and the play of a single artist is limited.

Pandora introduced a mobile version of their music player to stream music from Pandora Radio right to their Apple iPhones and other web-enabled phones.

People can use the website for free for 30 minutes and then you can choose to subscribe for free and have unlimited use.

The service has two subscription plans: a free subscription supported by advertisements and a fee-based subscription without ads.

Street Fighter Hits Poly

By Teddy Suravech
Staff Writer

Remember when Street Fighter was one of the most awe inspiring arcade games world-wide? Well, it's hit the market once again with the new Street Fighter 4. To announce Capcom's launching their 20th anniversary party with this new game.

The Street Fighters launch party took place at the Museum of Contemporary Arts on February 12 2009.

Dedicated fans waited overnight outside for this event. 1,500 people were allowed inside the building while 3,000 people were turned down waiting outside.



Internet Photo

BATTLE: Ryu and Ken.

The launch party lasted from 7:00AM to 1:00AM. A tournament was held with a grand prize of a Street Fighter 4 Arcade Machine.

Invitations were worldwide and many celebrities showed up. Steven Spielberg and L.L Cool J were special guests.

Senior parrot Devin Santos was "amazed" when he first stepped into the launch party.

"There was a huge line," said Santos. "There were two types of carpets-red for VIP's and black for everyone else."

With more advanced game play and high 3-D graphics Street Fighter 4 has "wowed" their fans once again. "They actually spent some time doing the graphics" said Santos.

Differences from their previous games changed tremendously throughout the years. Staple characters like Ryu, Ken, and Chun Li continue to represent Capcom.

Capcom's new characters include the Russian MMA

fighter Abel, an American spy C. Viper, American kung fu fighter Rufus, and the Mexican luchador El Fuerte.

New game play and techniques have been added to the game such as Super combos, Ultra combos, Revenge combos, and Focus attacks.

Multi-languages can be chosen such as Japanese, English, and Spanish while playing on either the Playstation 3 or the Xbox 360

Rather than playing against other people, the game has bonus sessions like survival mode, time attack mode, and challenge mode with difficulties that build up each section.

Drill Team Wins Knott's Berry Farm Competition

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

After a string of six competitions, Poly's drill team finally took the first place trophy in the Knotts Berry Farm State Champions competition.

Poly's drill team competed against five other high school teams across the state.

Drill team sponsor Edna Sandoval said "This was actually a local competition, not a state wide event."

The competition required each team to do two routines, a small routine and a large one.

"I was freaked out when they were starting the small routine," said Sandoval. "They hadn't really nailed it during practice yet so I was nervous. But they did it perfectly. They all nailed it and moved in perfect unison."

As opposed to the eight person small routine, the large routine involved everyone.

"I wasn't as nervous with the large routine," said Sandoval. "I had a few girls with some minor injuries. Pulled hamstrings, knee and ankle problems, but it all went without flaw."

The next competition at Magic Mountain on the 26th is what Sandoval is looking ahead to. "I thought of Knotts as a warm up for the big competition coming up at Magic Mountain. That's where the team is really going to shine." The Magic Mountain competition will see over 20 drill teams competing as opposed to Knott's five.

"We are going to win at Magic Mountain," said Sandoval. "The girls are really good. They've taken first place in the last six competitions and now the big trophy from Knotts. I really wish more people would go see and support them."



Photo provided by Evelyn Cisneros

WINNERS: The victorious drill team at Knotts Berry Farm after their victory announcement.

Sara on FSN Primetime

Her accomplishments, on and off the court, are met with recognition.

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

Lady Parrot Sara Villanueva does it all: AP Calculus in the classroom, fast breaks on the basketball court and volunteer work in her community. For all this, Villanueva has been recognized with the Farmers Student-Athlete-Citizen Award of the Week on Fox News Sports Network.

Fox Sports and Farmers Insurance Group honor well rounded high school student-athletes who have made accomplishments on the athletic field, the classroom and community. Administrators and coaches are invited to nominate student-athletes who can carry a grade point average over 2.5. The nominees must also be involved in extracurricular activities and in community service.

Along with a 4.12 GPA, Villanueva has coached and refereed for youth basketball

and ranked first place in scoring and steals in the East Valley League.

Girl's basketball head coach Tremeka Batiste nominated Villanueva for the award. "Why? Because Sara is the student-athlete-citizen," commented Batiste. "She's a good student and a great baller. She's well rounded and a hard worker. She deserved it."

Farmers' representative Efrain Romo and Fox Sports West sportscaster Lindsay Soto presented Villanueva with the plaque award on an FSN Prime Ticket High School Spotlight segment featuring high school

athletes first broadcasted on April 1st.

The segment included a highlight of Villanueva's best moments on the court. "I haven't seen another girl who plays basketball as well as Sara in a long time," said Batiste during the highlight.

With senior year coming to a close Villanueva is college hunting and colleges are hunting her. So far she has been accepted into Lewis and Clark College, UC San Diego, UC Davis and UC Berkley. But she is still undecided on where to attend.



Photo by Marvin Martinez

FOX SPORTS INTERVIEW: (from left to right) Tremeka Batiste, Sara Villanueva, Efrain Romo and Lindsey Soto.



Photo by Karina Muniz

SAFE: Junior Sylvette Rodriguez narrowly makes it to third.

Lady Parrots Hammer down Wolves

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

The Lady Parrots earned a 19-0 shutout victory against visiting Van Nuys in Thursday's East Valley League match. This was the Lady Parrot's first shutout since their Lincoln Classic tournament match against Reseda back in March.

"Well we've played some very strong teams this year," said head coach Manuel Peralta. "We don't expect to shut-out everyone. My main goal is to win."

Winning pitcher Sandra Perez struck out four batters and was on the mound for all five innings.

"Sandra has done an excellent job pitching for us," said Peralta. "She provided us with the need for a strong pitcher to

win games."

Junior Sylvette Rodriguez hit an inside the park home run finished up with a dive towards home plate right as the catcher received the ball. Safe. Poly held a dominating 19-0 lead by the third's end.

Poly will face Grant Lancers (10-1-0) in a battle to tie for first place in the East Valley League standings on Thursday. "It's down to Thursday against Grant," said Peralta. "The winner will be in the driver's seat and be first in league."

But Peralta is already looking beyond league and into playoffs. "I'm pretty sure at this stage in league we stand in a position where we've cinched one of the 32 playoff seats. If we take league title then we're assured a good spot in playoffs."