

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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Politics '09

Hope For Healthcare

By Angel Silva
Editor-in-Chief

Barack Obama continues to call for healthcare reform, urging members of Congress and the American public to support new legislation that will insure more people and reduce healthcare costs.

"I'm rushed, because I get letters every day from families that are being clobbered by healthcare costs," said Obama at a July 22 press conference.

The new bill would require insurers to provide coverage for all private insurance customers regardless of financial status, and would prevent them from raising customer's premiums due to pre-existing conditions. In addition, the bill would provide federal aid for low income families and individuals to purchase healthcare.

Obama plans to fund the bill in part with a new tax on couples who make more than \$1 million a year.

Obama plans to fund the bill in part with a new tax on couples who make more than \$1 million yearly, as part of a promise that "(the bill is) not being shouldered by families who are already having a tough time."

On July 28, a bipartisan group of senators agreed to trim \$35 billion from Medicare expenses in the next 10 years, cutting the cost of the new healthcare plan and bringing the bill closer to ratification.

The House of Representatives left for their recess on July 31, leaving unfinished a \$1 trillion healthcare plan draft, which was approved by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The plan is expected to cover about 95 percent of Americans.

A poll by the nonprofit group Kaiser Family Foundation showed that 56 percent of Americans supported healthcare reform, a five percent drop since last June. Twenty-one percent said that passage of legislation would make things worse.

Students Acting Charitably

Help Save a Life Club raises money for good causes.

By Noemi Tovar
Staff Writer

Poly seniors Beatriz Garay and Kelly Garcia wanted to join walks for breast cancer and autism since they first met in 9th grade. In September of last year, the two Parrots started the Help Save a Life club to do just that. By starting the club, they hoped to get other Parrots to join their cause.

"We want to encourage people to help others," said Garay.

They also hoped to increase student awareness of these issues.

"People are not so aware of them," said Garcia.

This past school year, the club participated in three mile walks around the Rose Bowl for the Su-



Photo provided by Kelly Garcia

FOUNDERS: Seniors Kelly Garcia and Beatriz Garay.

san G. Komen Race for the Cure and Autism Speaks.

Help Save a Life donated \$520 in entrance fees to the two charities by selling candy at Poly.

"It felt great," Garay said. "We've been able to do this on our own and get this much money to donate it to a good cause."

Parrot Dean Juan Campos is the club's sponsor. He took club members to the 2nd Annual Pet Fair in Balboa Lake and San Fernando Valley's

[See Save, pg 6]

Fleas Infest Physical Plant

Pest problem forces building closure.

By Magdalena Corona
Staff Writer

Poly has a pest problem.

The Physical Plant building, which includes the boiler room and adjacent loading dock, storage area and plant manager's office, is infested with fleas and has been closed since July 2.

"It's been a huge inconvenience for us," said Poly Principal Gerardo Loera.

Poly Plant Manager Derick Taylor agreed.

"I can't get keys, keep my trouble calls properly, process shipping and receiving, move equipment to keep classrooms, change filters on the air conditioners," Taylor said. "It's going to get hot and we need to clean them."

Taylor reported the flea prob-

lem on June 29 and said he and other staff members had been bitten repeatedly.

"I had to go to the doctor," Taylor said. "I had a bunch of flea bites. I'm allergic to them."

An LAUSD Pest Control Technician came to Poly the next day.

"The fleas came from stray cats," both Loera and Taylor said.

LAUSD Pest Management Supervisor Ron Holtz also blamed feral cats for the infestation problem.

"The problem is, people keep feeding the cats," Taylor said. "The animals wouldn't hang out if there wasn't any food."

Holtz says the initial treatment of Demize EC, whose active agent is linalool, killed all the fleas except those in the boiler room.

"The initial treatment took care of it," Holtz said. "The problem remains in the boiler room."

According to Holtz, the fleas remain around the 55-gallon drums of emergency water stored in the boiler room.

"We are going to remove the emergency water barrels," Holtz said. "The fleas are around the water barrels."

Plant Manager Taylor and his employees report otherwise.

"I was on the loading dock this morning," Taylor said, "and was bit twice in the time it took to accept a UPS package."

Taylor said fleas have bitten other maintenance personnel as recently as July 22, despite a total of eleven treatments by Pest Management technicians since Taylor's initial report.

At least two dead cats were removed from campus in recent days. One was found under room 331 on July 10. A second was found in a tunnel under the physical plant building on July 16. Both cats were removed by Pest Management technicians.

"It's important to not feed the cats," Holtz said. "The feral cats create problems."

Holtz said the fleas may have come from the dead cat found under the boiler room.

"A lot of times, fleas need to reproduce and they need blood

[See Feral, pg 6]

My Summer In Princeton

One Poly senior spent part of her summer at prestigious Princeton studying politics.

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

I attended Princeton for three weeks over the summer as part of the 69th Junior Statesmen Summer School Program.

The Junior Statesmen of America (JSA), a national, student-run organization, offers month-long summer programs for high school students at four prestigious universities: Georgetown, Yale and Princeton on the East Coast and Stanford on the West.

Students take two college-level courses and a Congressional Workshop. I chose Advanced Placement Comparative Politics and Political Communication.

Princeton is located in Princeton, New Jersey, a town of 30,000 an hour south by train from New York City. The 500 acre Ivy League campus offers a scholarly atmosphere. We did our assignments under one of the trees or by the steps of Blair Hall without interruption.

As for my fellow students, most of them I dubbed "Politically Insane (PI)."



Photo provided By Karinina Cruz

SUMMER SCHOOL: Parrot senior Karinina Cruz and two pals on the Princeton campus.

We were in class nine hours a day, six days a week. By the middle of the program, many of the PI's knew each U.S. presidential campaign like the backs of their hands.

We were ecstatic if we got to sleep by 12:30 am. When finals came, we were up until 2 am.

At first, I asked myself, "What am I doing spending my summer studying politics?"

But regardless of the sleep-deprived nights, I can't imagine a more productive and fun way to spend the summer.

[See Politics, pg 7]



This Man Does Disasters

See Page 4



Check Out Her Abs

See Page 6



She Made 'em Swing

See Page 7

EDITORIAL**“And That’s the Way It Is”**

Cronkite made his own history in history-making times.

Anybody who grew up listening to his rich, warm voice delivering the evening news on CBS knows why Walter Cronkite was “the most trusted man in America.”

“Cronkite came to be the sort of personification of his era,” said PBS Correspondent Robert McNeil. “He became kind of the media figure of his time. Very few people in history, except maybe political and military leaders, are the embodiment of their time, and Cronkite seemed to be.”

And the times helped to define Cronkite.

“The ‘60s changed a lot of us,” Cronkite said. “There was never a decade like that in American history. The Vietnam carnage and the problems there. The assassinations, the story with Medgar Evers, the President, Bobby Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and the civil rights struggle...all of that in the same decade. And then to have the decade capture one of the great accomplishments of this century: man landing on the moon. That will be the one event of the 20th century that will live in history 500 years from now.”

Cronkite was the role model for what an ideal journalist should be - professional, impartial and humble.

“I am a news presenter, a news broadcaster, an anchorman, a managing editor - not a commentator or analyst. I really don’t have that much to say about most things. Working with

hard news satisfies me completely,” he told The Christian Science Monitor in 1973.

Cronkite dropped out of high school in his junior year and took several jobs with newspapers, covering local news. In 1939 he joined news agency United Press and went overseas to report on the war in Europe and the Nuremberg trials.

In 1950, Cronkite went to work for CBS and it was there that his career took off.

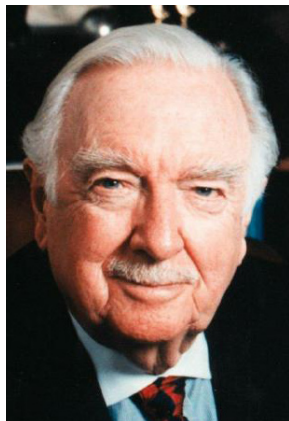
His report on John F. Kennedy’s assassination, his coverage of the Vietnam War and his enthusiastic take on NASA’s landing are just a few of the highlights in a broadcasting career that probably will never be duplicated.

Despite his long career in television news, Cronkite remained a print journalist at heart.

When CNN’s Wolf Blitzer asked Cronkite where he got his news, Cronkite’s response was immediate.

“Well, I go to my newspapers first,” Cronkite said. “They’re more complete than broadcast [news] today. The misfortune with broadcasting today is that all -- even including your network, which is dedicated to the news -- do not take enough time to give us all of the facts and the background.”

Cronkite died July 17. The journalism world and anyone who grew up listening to that comforting voice deliver the news will miss him greatly.

**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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The letters below are in response to the following OPTIMIST survey question.

“Recently, Harvard professor Henry Gates was arrested in his home by Cambridge, Massachusetts police after a neighbor reported seeing a break-in. Gates, an African-American, was charged with disorderly conduct after calling the white arresting officer a racist. The charge was later dropped. President Obama said that the police behaved “stupidly” and later said he should have chosen his words more carefully. Comment on the behavior of these three men.”

It’s all so terribly silly. It’s a simple misunderstanding, easily resolved by opening up the lines of communication. On a similar note alcohol is stupid.

- Freddy Palominos, 12

Wow, being arrested for breaking into your own house. Good job, Massachusetts-you FAIL! Good comment Obama, sure proves you have great vocabulary from that university you went to.

- Andy Tonoyan Andranik, 11

President Obama speaks the truth when stating that the police behaved “stupidly.” Racism is a huge issue that is still present in the U.S. today. A color shouldn’t determine if someone is guilty-otherwise we would all be guilty. The police officer should have investigated before arresting the man.

- Ivan Gonzalez, 11

The white arresting officer should have been less judgmental. Henry Gates does have his freedom of speech so he can say what he feels. I also get why Obama would say that the police behaved “stupidly,” considering he is half black. Although Obama was being defensive, he needs to remember that he’s a president and everything he says and does is being criticized by a great amount of people. He should’ve chosen his words wisely.

- Kimberly Luna, 12

Well, according to my calculations, I believe that everyone here is to blame for this. Obama should not waste his time for “stupid” little things and should be doing something else like helping the economy.

- Santos Morales, 12

I think the officer is racist because he shouldn’t have arrested Gates, he should have had a talk with him first. Obama should have had chosen his words carefully. He’s the president - he should know better than calling an officer “stupid.”

- Andres Beltran, 12

I believe that these three men acted differently than usual. The

professor should have not raised his voice or called the officer racist. Meanwhile, the President of the United States should have chosen his words more carefully because he’s a leader. People that look up to him might see him differently because of what he said.

- Vanesa Hernandez, 12

Unfortunately, racism does exist in America. It would be nice to believe that the cop was just doing his job without a prejudiced mentality.

- Josias Benitez, 12

From what I understood, the officer and the professor are at fault. The police officer was just doing his job. His fault however was that he didn’t leave immediately after the professor proved the house was his.

The professor’s fault was that he acted up. Being a Harvard professor, he should have known better than to have a go with the police. Obama’s only mistake was that he used the wrong words. However, he is human and this mistake is minimal, as well as the fact that he showed favoritism to another African-American.

Anyway, this was just a random event and I don’t think that it’s that controversial to be a scandal.

- Reynaldo Orozco-Lopez, 12

Well, I think that Gates didn’t do anything wrong. He called the officer racist, but we have the right of freedom of speech. I do think that it is racist because as far as I know they have no evidence that he broke in. I agree with Obama on his first comment. There are so many police that are just not made for that job.

- Joseph Torres, 11

I think that the cop should have been more reasonable considering it was Henry Gates’ house. I also think that the way Henry Gates acted wasn’t the proper way. Obama should watch what he says but I understand that he was upset because his friend went to jail for a stupid and unreasonable motive.

- Karen Meneces, 12



A Tale Of Three Colleges

Our intrepid reporter takes the whirlwind tour of three popular California campuses.

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

I never got around to visiting any colleges during my vacation months. I didn't have much of an idea of what I wanted in a university. But a letter I received from the CSUN Educational Talent Search (ETS) changed all that.

ETS is a federally funded TRiO program sponsored by California State University Northridge. Their goal is to assist students in grades 6-12 complete high school and attend the college or university of their choice.

ETS was inviting me to attend the High School Northern California College Tour. We would visit some of the most well-known universities in California. The two-day trip would include visits to California State University Polytechnic San Luis Obispo, University of California Berkeley and Stanford University.

Wait, Stanford?! I'm sold.

Fifty ETS Students from Poly, San Fernando and Monroe high schools went on the trip. First stop was Cal State Poly.

Cal Poly's isolated, rural setting gave it a peaceful small town community feel. The area was filled with hills and mountains with hiking trails, grassy plains and was 20 minutes from the beach. This campus is for nature lovers and isolationists who prefer a quiet community to a busy city. Just getting around campus would be a workout.

We had lunch at a restaurant on campus called The Avenue and then toured the campus. I learned that you need to declare a major right when applying to Cal Poly so you can immediately start taking courses in your major. I also learned that Cal Poly was ranked as the "Best Public-Master's University in the West" by U.S. News & World Report. Cal Poly's "learn by doing" philosophy is supported by its many undergrad research opportunities and another reason why declaring a major early on is



Photos by Marvin Martinez

TOUR: (From top left, clockwise) Students from Poly and other Valley schools visited the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, UC Berkeley, and Stanford campuses.

required.

After the tour of Cal Poly, we took the four-hour drive to the University of California at Berkeley, located just east of the San Francisco Bay.

Berkeley, unlike Cal Poly, was an urban area with a vibrant atmosphere and people buzzing around like bees in a beehive. San Francisco was a half hour away. The entire area was built on hills, like Cal Poly.

We ate dinner at a campus dining hall, then made our way to our dormitory.

This was my first overnight stay at a college campus and I didn't know what to expect. For those of you who haven't seen a college dorm either, I'll describe it to you. There's a main lounge on the first floor with big sofas, a flat screen TV, some pool tables, vending machines and a piano. Every other floor is a hallway with dorm rooms on both sides of the hall with two bathrooms and another common room. The bedrooms were small but enough to fit two people; some rooms could fit three.

Lights out was at 10:30 pm but the boys stayed up until around 11:00 pm playing poker, right before our supervisors would start checking rooms. Sleeping in the dorms was a new experience for me but I had expected it to feel odder than it really

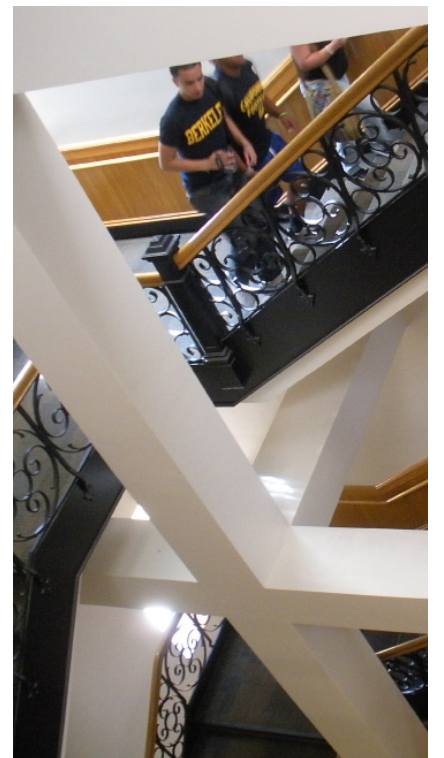
did. In the morning we gathered back at the lounge. Soon enough everyone was ready for breakfast.

We ate at the same dining hall and then left for the campus tour. All the things I had heard about Berkeley and its prestigious name echoed in the tour. Hearing about their research labs and libraries was one thing, seeing them was another. I disliked Berkeley's setting but would go to school there simply because of the reputation their research institutions and their professors have.

Our last stop was Stanford University. Stanford had the best of the two colleges we had just visited - the calm, small community setting of Cal Poly and the research opportunities and reputation of Berkeley. And Stanford too was located not too far south of the Bay area.

After a quick lunch, we met with Stanford Admission Counselor Hugo Reyes-Centeno. He told us about his position in high school. He came from a low-income family and didn't have the money to attend a good school, but was accepted into Stanford University and was given a free ride through college because his family made less than \$60,000 a year.

He told us what admission officers



look at when considering an applicant - standardized test scores, transcripts from 10th and 11th grade, a strong personal statement. Then he told us what Stanford had to offer.

Stanford is well known for its undergrad research opportunities and 10 other schools located across the globe in Australia, Beijing, Berlin, Florence, Kyoto, Madrid, Moscow, Oxford, Paris and Santiago.

It was Yale all over again for me. Now I had two schools I would be more than happy to attend. I knew exactly what I wanted in a college now and was determined to settle for nothing less.

Listening to the competitive requirements needed for admission into Stanford only boosted my morale and desire to make it up there out of sheer defiance to everyone who would tell me, 'you can't do it.'

The six and a half hour trip back home wasn't so tedious. While the most valuable part of the trip was getting a firsthand look at what college life would be like, the most memorable part was how simple it was to make a new good friend on a bus.

There's no substitute for visiting a college you plan on applying to. Take advantage of any opportunity to visit a college campus and make opportunities for yourself. You may get something lasting out of it. I know I did.

FIRST RESPONDER

From 9/11 to Katrina, Poly's Jeremy Sonenschein has been there and done that.

By Jackey Zaldivar
Staff Writer

Jeremy Sonenschein, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Captain/ Training Coordinator, Assistant Professor at Valley College and Poly faculty member, sat down with the OPTIMIST to recount some of his good deeds and close calls.

Q. How long have you been teaching the First Responder class at Poly?

Almost two years.

Q. Did you always know you wanted to teach?

Not really.

Q. What brought you to Poly?

I was offered the position by the R.O.P office because of my background and my experience in the medical field. They found me through the news about 9/11.

Alva Lee, director of R.O.P for L.A County, contacted me.

Q. How did you get into the medical field?

I started volunteering at a local hospital and with the fire department. Then I joined the military and accepted me a medical slot. I realized I enjoyed doing this so I continued to pursue it.

I started volunteering at the age of 16. I joined the military when I was about seventeen in 1994. I got out in 1997 and went back to finish my degrees.

I went to CSUN for my Bachelors Degree. I went to Southern Illinois University for my Masters degree. I got my degree in Sports Medicine.

Q. Have you ever been in serious danger while working?

Yes, many times. I've worked in gang incidents. I was rescuing a family while they were in a building that collapsed. I also went to help victims from a hostage incident.

Q. Tell us more.

I went to pull out people who were in a collapsing building and a structural beam fell on my head, knocking me unconscious briefly. I was wearing a

protective helmet so there was no serious damage. Then I dealt with a patient who had schizophrenia who had forgotten to take his medication. He was yelling he was James Bond from the top of a three story building. When the police tried to handcuff him, he ran off, so I went to chase after him. So I grabbed him and had my leg wrapped around him but he had both of us against the edge of the building already. Then he managed to push both of us off. We fell three stories but luckily the fire fighters had already set up mats to land on so no one got hurt.

Q. Talk about your Gold Congressional Award.

The Gold Congressional Award is the highest award a civilian can get. To me, it was a really big deal.

It is an award for outstanding service to the community and you have to serve a certain amount of hours, 2,000 minimum. It is the highest award anyone can get for service. You have to be nominated by someone in Congress or someone in politics. I was nominated by my congressman, Howard Berman.

I received my award in June 2000 in Washington D.C. I was one of the youngest ever to receive the Gold Congressional Award. I was there for four days and I got to sight-see and meet politicians. I met President Bill Clinton while I was there. I also got to visit the Air and Space Museum. It was pretty neat.

Q. Tell us about your experience during 9/11.

I was part of a rescue team. Basically my job was to pull everyone out and treat them. We would go through the debris and concrete to pull people out. I was working to pull people out of the rubble. It was a very difficult experience because you have the little moments of feeling good when you would pull someone out and save them and bad when you couldn't save them. It was constantly going back and forth with my emotions. I wouldn't trade that experience for anything else in the world!

I was there the day that it happened and a few days after it. We stayed at local stations but I was really at Ground Zero most of the time. When it happened I was at my office and I saw what was happening. They called me up to go and see if I wanted to help out. If they

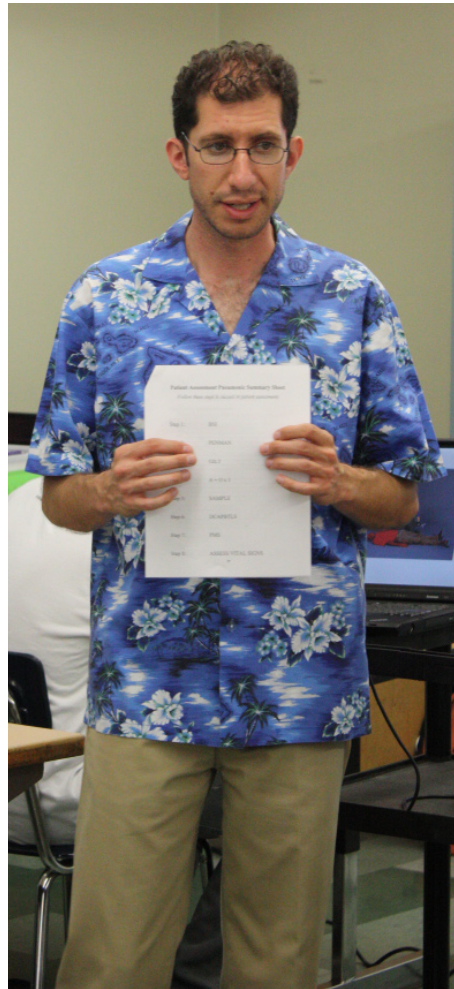


Photo by Karina Muñiz

GOLD: Poly teacher Jeremy Sonenschein won a Gold Congressional Award in 2000.

wouldn't have called I still would have gone.

We didn't sleep much. We would go into the towers or around the tower and take people out of the rubble. We would listen for people who were stuck in the debris and under the destroyed concrete. The air quality was terrible, congested, and polluted. We had to wear masks and scuba tanks because the air was that bad. The people there were very grateful. I can't think of anyone there who wasn't grateful. They couldn't wait to see us.

Q. You were involved in the Katrina rescue effort.

I was a salvage diver. I did a few things. I was working at the shelter and treating people who would come into the shelter. They would come in from the flood waters. We would treat them and give them the medication they needed. We would give them food and clothing. We would give them a hotel room to stay in.

Salvage divers dive under water to save people from the flood.

I was only there for four days. I got

"I went to pull out people who were in a collapsing building and a structural beam fell on my head, knocking me unconscious briefly."

there a few days after it happened. I was there with the fire department, Doctors without Borders, and the National College of Oceanering. I brought some students from a diving school from the National College of Oceanering. I stayed in the Astrodome and in tents near the flood.

The people there had mixed emotions. Some were glad to see us and very thankful. Some people didn't care as much. The air quality was very polluted.

Q. Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Panorama City. I was raised in New York City and came back when I was thirteen.

My mom got a better job in nursing in Los Angeles and my dad was able to transfer jobs to Los Angeles as well. So we moved to California.

I attended Valley Alternative Magnet School in Van Nuys, a school for the gifted. I graduated at 15.

Q. Was that good or bad?

Good and bad. Good because not that many people can do that. It was an honor for me to graduate early. Bad because I didn't have a normal childhood. It was hard to talk to people my age because I was on a different level than them.

Q. Do you feel you missed out on your high school experience?

Yes and no. I was still active with sports and with music. I wasn't doing what most kids were doing but I was still involved with school. I was involved in orchestra, track and field, band and leadership.

What's next? Do you plan to continue teaching or is this a job on the way to another job?

I'm going to continue teaching. I'm not sure were the road is going to take me. I still want to teach but I still want to continue on in my education and maybe become a chiropractor. I also want to study aviation medicine, since I'm already a private pilot. I do want to go back to school at some point though. Whatever I do in the future I'm still going to be teaching in some way.



Photo by Karina Muñiz

“I don’t like regular pops, it’s too basic. I prefer higher level cradles such as twist-cradles.”



Photo by Karina Muñiz

Rocking The Cradles

By Sophia Mendez
Staff Writer

The OPTIMIST talked with new cheerleader coach Tania Soto last week to find out what her plans are for this year’s squad.

Q. When did you start working at Poly?

I was a student aid during the summer in 2005. I became part of the staff but only as a summer job. Then in September 2005 I was working for Poly as a part time job. In July of 2009, I became a full-time faculty member.

Q. Do you have any experience as a cheerleader?

Yes, I cheered for Poly for three years. I tried out in my 9th grade year and made it my 10th grade year. I graduated in 2005.

Q. When did you find out cheer needed a new coach?

When the principal asked me if I wanted to apply for the position.

Q. What did you need to do in order to get the job?

I told Principal Loera my goals, and what I wanted the team to achieve.

Q. What made you want the job?

I have always wanted to become a cheer coach after I graduated high school.

Q. What were your thoughts on coaching the new squad?

I was excited, but anxious and nervous because I didn’t know anyone.

Q. How many members of the squad are there?

There are 26 girls and 3 boys, includ-

ing 12 returnees.

Q. What are your plans/goals for this year’s squad?

To do well in competition, (score a higher level in stunting) and to show school cheer is a difficult sport so that people can appreciate cheer.

Q. What will you do different this year to make people sit up and take notice?

Well, cheer is constantly practicing, they condition a lot and everything is planned. I make sure the team stays as a team; if one person gets in trouble the whole team gets in trouble.

Q. How do you practice the stunting and tumbling moves?

Well, I try to mix the returnees with new girls. We start off teaching the new girls basic stunting skills, “stunting 101.” Then I identify each person’s strength and weakness and put them into stunt groups accordingly. I don’t like regular pops, it’s too basic. I prefer higher level cradles such as twist-cradles.

Q. Compare your plans for the squad and your coaching style to what the squad did last year.

I feel that last year there wasn’t much supervision, making it difficult for the squad to stunt. My coaching style is much different. I am very strict, I have everything planned out, there are deadlines, and there are no surprises. Although I am strict I am not a dictator - I am open to opinions and I let the squad decide what they want to do. I’m just there to support and manage. And if I don’t think something looks as great as it can be, I tell the squad to change it.

Q. How many routines does a typical cheerleading squad know and practice everyday?

The cheerleaders must learn about 30

general cheers, including football and other sports. Every time there’s a new pep rally a new routine is created or added.

Q. How long does it take to learn a routine?

It takes about a month and a half to learn any routine. We then continue working on the routine to perfect it. For a cheer it takes about two weeks to add stunts and perfect it.

Q. Do you have any assistants? How often does cheer practice? How many hours? Where?

Yes I do, some of my old cheer mates come and help me with stunting. Cheer practices every day. On Mondays and Wednesdays, practice is from 3-5 pm. But the rest of the week we practice from 3-6 pm, a total of 13 hours a week. We practice in the mirror room and on the football field.

Q. Tell us about the routine you did at the pep rally - how long did it take to learn? And how dangerous is it?

The cheer was part of tryouts so the girls already knew the routine; it was just a matter of perfecting it. The back-tuck-lib-hitch took about a week to perfect. The back tuck is really dangerous; the stunt could fall at any given moment. The twist cradle is also pretty dangerous.

Q. Where were you born and raised? What college did you attend?

I was born and raised in LA. I attended Cal State Northridge and graduated in May 2009 with a Bachelors of Science in Health Education

Q. What was your job before becoming cheer coach?

Educational Aid 2, it’s almost like an office assistant.

Q. How long are you planning to stay as a cheer coach?

As long as I am able to. I want to become a health teacher so hopefully by next year I’ll be teaching. I have no kids and I’m not married so I’m sure I will be coaching for a while because I have the time.



Photo by Karina Muñiz

ED AID: Cheer Coach Soto also works as an Educational Aid at Poly.



Internet Photo

Gwen Reactivated

Lead singer Gwen Stefani and No Doubt play to enthusiastic fans in Irvine.

By Sophia Mendez
Staff Writer

Skipping, dancing, shaking her hips and even doing a few pushups, No Doubt lead singer and focal point Gwen Stefani turned in a fan-pleasing performance Friday at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheater.

A white drop curtain lit up, showing silhouettes of the band members, to open the show. The crowd went wild. Then all of a sudden, the silhouettes got bigger and closer, and the drop fell. Standing behind it was the band.

From the first notes of "Spiderwebs," the group sounded great – exactly what everyone wanted to hear and see because they stuck with their old-school looks, moves and enthusiasm.

The live show had a futuristic look, with a white stage and a white wardrobe. Gwen wore a short white shirt that showed her navel and white pants. Later she changed to a black shirt and skinny white jeans.

Guitarist Tom Dumont and bassist Tony Kanal also wore white, while drummer Adrian Young chose skivvies for the concert and a pink tutu for the encore. Keyboardist Stephen Bradley and Gabriel MacNair on horns were added for the current tour.

The band's set list, with its ska, new wave, pop punk, rock and somewhat pop vibe, highlighted their diversity as musicians and included all their hits, from "Just a Girl," "Spiderwebs" and "Don't Speak" to "Sunday Morning." The evening's success reminded fans of how well Stefani and the boys in the band go together.

Stefani was obviously having fun. When one fan asked if he could take a picture with her, she happily agreed.

When a second fan yelled, "I came all the way from Japan to see you!" Stefani asked to see his passport. When he handed it to her, she was touched and had him come up on stage for a few pictures too.

The band played 90 minutes and encored with Adam Ant's "Stand and Deliver."

The 52-day tour marks the first time Stefani and No Doubt have played together in five years.

Brother Erick Stefani and John Spence, neither of whom are still with the band, formed the ska band in 1986. Nine years later, they scored a hit when "Just A Girl" debuted on KROQ.

Since then, the band has won a number of awards, including Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group, their first Grammy, for "Hey Baby" in 2002 and for "Underneath It All" in 2004.

When Stefani decided to take a break from the band to do some solo work, fans were heartbroken. "ND" never actually broke-up, however, and Stefani always insisted that the band would get back together.

Paramore opened the concert, with vocalist Hayley Williams singing "Ignorance" from "Brand New Eyes," the band's new album due September 29.

"Feral cats create problems."

[Fleas, from pg 1]

meals," said Holtz. "When the cat is dead the fleas need to find somewhere to go. It could contribute to the problem."

An air vent cover had been removed from one side of room 331, a bungalow, allowing cats access under the structure.

"I think it's important that students and staff realize that taking out the vents isn't funny," Holtz said. "It's important to make sure that those vents are not damaged. It's more of an education process than anything."

Holtz said Pest Management technicians will spray the boiler room area for a ninth time on Saturday, July 25. They plan to use Gemtrol IGR, a stronger chemical whose active ingredient is hydroprene.

"What we have to do is remove some of the material in the boiler room," Holtz said, referring to the water barrels.

The water barrels were removed from the Physical Plant building and placed on the blacktop nearby on Saturday July 25.

A Pest Management technician came to Poly again on Tuesday, July 28, to spray an underground plumbing area of the Physical Plant.

The month-long infestation has frustrated plant manager Taylor.

"I'm really concerned, it's impacting everyone," said Taylor. "We are not able to complete our tasks because all our equipment is locked up in there."

Holtz said everyone on campus can help with issues like the flea infestation and the dead cats.

"We ask students and staff to make sure that all food is picked up so we don't encourage any other kind of animals to come on campus," Holtz said.

"It should be common sense to not feed the cats," said Taylor. "Teachers come here to teach not to feed cats."

Loera said Pest Management technicians will continue to spray the facility with fog until every flea is gone.

"Hopefully it'll get rectified soon," Loera said.

An infestation of German cockroaches in rooms 60, 61 and the ESL / Bilingual office has also forced closure of those as of mid July. Pest Management technicians are applying treatments to the area and warning signs have been posted.

GLORY TO EXCUSES



Save a Life

[Students, from pg 1]

Battle of the Bands.

At the events, the club's 15 members sold Skittles, Pepsi, Snickers, Gatorade and bottled water, raising over \$385. Councilman Tony Cardenas donated \$100 and presented Help Save a Life with a Certificate of Appreciation from the city of Los Angeles.

"It felt great that we accomplished something," Garcia said. "I was proud of everyone who helped."

Help Save a Life has four walks planned for the new school year.

The club currently has 27 members. Garay and Garcia hopes to persuade more Parrots to join.

"The more people, the more we help out, the more we donate."

“Make every song a story.” – Louis Prima

Louis and Keely Swing the Geffen

The joint is jumpin’ in this intimate staging of Prima’s 50s Vegas act.

By Hazel Kasusky
Staff Writer

In 1948, bandleader, vocalist and songwriter Louis Prima, 38, auditioned a poker-faced 16-year old singer named Dorothy Keely. Prima changed her name to Keely Smith and took his new sound on the road. The rest, as they say, is history.

The pairing proved to be sensational, both musically and romantically, as Prima and Keely played to sold-out nightclubs and recorded a string of hits that included “Just a Gigolo – I Ain’t Got Nobody” and “When You’re Smilin’.”

In late 2007, actress Vanessa Claire Smith and singer Jake Broder turned the Prima/Keely story into a musical bio called “Louis and Keely Live at the Sahara.” They cast themselves in the two lead roles.

“We tried to make both Louis Prima and Keely Smith sympathetic, obviously, but at the same time, we didn’t want the truth to get in the way of the story,” said Smith. “One of my goals was to bring their story back and their music back.”

The latest version of “Louis and Keely,” starring Broder and Smith, is in its second month at the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood. Taylor Hackford, known for films such as “Ray” and “La Bamba,” directs.

The story revolves around the success of Prima’s new sound, the growth of Keely’s role in the band and the pair’s offstage romance, fueled by their onstage success.

Friction begins when Frank Sinatra

(Michael Lanahan) helps Keely record a solo album while Prima’s wandering eye leads him astray.

“Our thesis was: If at the end of your life you look back, and you’ve chosen self-fulfillment over love, you

will be empty,” Smith said. “I think too many of us get so enmeshed in our own stupid careers or in the little, tiny, stupid details that we forget to just realize that we are living in our life.”

A seven-piece jazz band provides artful and authentic backing as Broder-

er and Smith work their way through 17 songs that swing and sizzle, making it hard to sit still and just watch.

The simple set, with one main stage in the middle for the songs and two small stages on either side for the rest of the story, evokes a Vegas look.

Some effective lighting, at Broder’s commanding finger snaps, switches the audience’s attention from the linear story to his personal-blue-spotlighted narration of it.

Smith and Broder’s engaging voices are not far off from the original Louis and Keely. Their performances take a refreshing new look at the tunes and style that made Prima and Smith the talk of Vegas during their 50s stay at the Sahara.

The actors themselves stepped down from the stage and interacted with the audience. The band too trotted down the steps with their brass instruments and practically blew them into the audience’s faces.

“We’ve always had this idea where we would send the audience out into the night snapping their fingers and crying at the same time. Because it’s a very upbeat tragedy,” said Broder.



Marina Turrueles (Illustration)

Politics At Princeton

[Princeton, from pg 1]

I met students from all over the U.S. and even from other countries, such as Greece and Latvia.

Our trips to New York City were unforgettable.

On Cultural Day, we walked the streets of Chinatown and Little Italy for almost eight hours

For Speaker’s Day, we went to New York University, where I met Katrina vanden Heuvel (editor of “The Nation”), among many others.

We also went to the United Nations to listen to distinguished diplomats such as Massimo Tommasoli, the Permanent Observer for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance to the UN.

Afterward, we managed some free time. Most of the girls were still in high heels, however, and by the end of the day, we all had blisters.

We developed friendships that we hoped would last for a long time. I told my friends

that if any of them ran for office, they would have my vote.

The JSA program at Princeton opened my eyes to a totally different world from what I knew. I was glad I had the opportunity to attend.

The application process includes writing three essays. The student must also have a relatively high GPA and be involved in a number of school activities.

The cost of the program is around \$4,500.

Numerous financial aid programs are available, depending on the student’s family income. JSA also provides fundraising support for accepted students.

I would not have been able to afford my summer in Princeton without the many generous people who contributed to my tuition, including Poly teachers and administrators and local politicians.



Photo provided by Karinina Cruz

POSERS: High school students at Princeton enjoy a break from their studies during the JSA Summer School program.

Sudoku

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

Using the numbers 1-9, fill in each of the boxes. Each number can be used only once per box. Good luck!

Solution to July’s puzzle

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

FOOTBALL



Poly's football team gets four new assistant coaches.

By Marvin Martinez
Staff Writer

All Photos by Karina Muñiz

WORKOUT: (Top) Defensive Line Coach Aron Henderson works with his linemen. (Left, from top) Defensive Coordinator Evan Nunez, Henderson, Linebacker Coaches Corey Johnson and Donald "DC" Carpenter. All four men bring high school, college or semi-pro playing experience to head coach Scott Faer's staff.



"Every inch counts, every second counts. Keep playing until the whistle blows."

- Coach Nunez



"In order to be physically tough you gotta have the mindset to do it."

- Coach Henderson



"Play the game with 110% effort. Always play like it's your last game, every game."

- Coach Johnson



"What Poly does is line up and say, 'We're coming right at you over this line. Stop us.'"

- Coach Carpenter

Defensive coordinator Evan Nunez is looking for the complete player.

"Everything that happens in the classroom transcends on to the field," Nunez said. "If you're late to class you're gonna be late for my practice. If my players are messing around, I'm gonna hear about it."

Strength is a must, Nunez says.

"The stronger, the better, so you can move your opponent."

Football is a game of inches and seconds, Nunez says, and he urges his players to keep playing until the whistle blows.

"Every inch counts, every second

counts."

Nunez draws on his experience playing football in inner city LA.

"All my coaches taught me to not give up and how to play with your back against the wall," said Nunez. "That's life too. Football is where you're gonna get beaten."

Nunez takes pride in his role as a football coach.

"Coaching is hard," says Nunez. "You gotta tell yourself it's not about you anymore. It's about them now. One thing I learned, the more you show them the more they respect you."

Aron Henderson is one of head coach Scott Faer's new assistants. Henderson, who also plays semi-pro football for the LA Generals, will help with the defensive and offensive line coaching.

"I look for positive attitudes in players," Henderson said. "You gotta look on the upside. You gotta lose with pride but know what you need to work on. Hanging your head won't do any good for next time."

But Henderson looks for intangibles too.

"Instinct is also important," he says. "You can't teach it. Same goes for awareness. You

just gotta have that in you."

Henderson got into football by chance during his freshman year.

"I passed by the football field," Henderson said. "The coach asked if I was on the team. I said no and he told me to join."

Henderson's mentor was his father.

"My dad taught me how to act, how to carry yourself," Henderson says. "He taught me just because you're big doesn't mean you're gonna win. There's a lot of people this tall (motions to about three feet) that could kick my ass."

Poly's new assistant defensive coordinator Corey Johnson is a man of few words.

"The less talking and instructing I have to do, the better," Johnson says. "They're giving me 110% a day when they're dying and still executing plays. They need to have a positive but aggressive attitude."

Johnson stresses the value of a strong defensive line.

"Defense is what wins championships. Without it you can't go anywhere in the game. Our defense is the backbone of the team and our offense the well oiled machine."

Johnson knows what he wants in a play-

er.

"I look at how well he listens and takes directions," Johnson said. You can have the skills and smarts but they can only take you so far without the love for the game."

Johnson quarterbacked at LA high, taking his team to the playoffs for the first time in five years. He is currently playing linebacker for the LA Generals semi-pro team.

Johnson has coached at Washington Prep, Granada High and Pasadena City as quarterback and linebacker coach.

New Poly assistant football coach Donald "DC" Carpenter is working with the running backs this year. He knows the position well.

Carpenter was All City running back for Sylmar in 96-97 and the #2 running back in the Western State Conference during 98-99 with Pierce College.

"Not everyone can be a running back," Carpenter said. "You need to have big legs, strong quads, great vision, and jumping ability. Running backs are explosive and maintain long bursts of speed."

But strong quads aren't enough.

"There's no point in having the body if you don't have the heart for the job," said Carpenter. "That's like being the Tin Man."

Carpenter started playing football at seven.

"I made my first touchdown and people cheered for me," Carpenter said. "I liked it."

Carpenter holds mentor Jeff Engilman in high esteem.

"He took care of me on and off the field," Carpenter said. "He's the reason I went down in football history in Sylmar."

Engilman is Arleta High's head coach.