

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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Politics '09

CASH FOR CLUNKERS CLICKS

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced Thursday the end of the Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS), also known as "Cash for Clunkers," declaring it a success despite several financial issues.

The program, which started in June, created a rebate program for buyers interested in trading in older vehicles for newer, fuel-efficient cars. Dealers would rebate up to \$4500 and be later reimbursed the same amount by the government.

The program began July 1, with processing of claims starting on July 24. Hopes that the program would last until November 1 were dashed July 30 – high demand had depleted the original \$1 billion. Congress approved another \$2 billion in funding on July 31.

"It's not clear at all if there's enough of the \$3 billion to last through the weekend," said National Automobile Dealers Association chairman John McElaney.

High demand by both consumers and dealers and the hasty nature of the plan were financial issues for the CARS program. The Department of Transportation had only 30 days to begin the program.

Despite these glitches, the U.S. government achieved some of its goals.

"This program had been successful beyond anybody's imagination," said President Barack Obama in his radio address August 20. "And we're now slightly victims of our own success because the thing happened so quick, there was so much more demand than anybody expected, that dealers were overwhelmed with applications."

The program has benefited the American economy in the short run. Automakers are rehiring workers previously laid off by the economic downturn. General Motors alone plans to rehire more than 1300 laid-off workers.

CARS will end on August 24. Dealers must have their claims filled by then to receive reimbursements.

Cleaning the Universe, One Beach At a Time

Senior Parrots hit the beach Saturday, but they were cleaning instead of surfing.

By Noemi Tovar
Staff Writer

What was just another day at the beach for some Angelenos was a learning experience for a group of Parrots. Poly teacher Brad Katz and his government class joined the Heal the Bay organization to clean up a portion of Venice beach Saturday, providing a service to the community and fulfilling a graduation requirement.

"Before we went, students went on the computer to find out different pollutants that go into the ocean, problems and how the system works," Katz said.

Students arrived at Venice Beach before 10 a.m. to start the two-hour beach clean-up and



Photo provided by Noemi Tovar

VOLUNTEERS: Seniors spent Saturday morning cleaning up a portion of Venice beach as part of their service learning.

checked in with Katz. A representative from Heal the Bay talked to the students about the importance of maintaining LA's beaches. He told students what to pick up - plastic, styrofoam and wrappers, and what not to pick up - bandages, or anything medical.

Students got into groups, each group with a bag, and each per-

son with two latex gloves. They also had a checklist to mark everything they picked up. Some students found the two hours tiring and said there wasn't much to pick up. One group found mostly tar.

When the two hours were over, students went back to the

[See Beach, pg 6]

Media and Politics at UCLA

Poly sends a Parrot to the Gene Burd Symposium for a look at LA media.

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

The Junior Statesmen Association (JSA) sponsored the week-long Gene A. Burd Symposium on Media and Politics at UCLA in early August and I was fortunate enough to attend.

The topic was the media's effect on political interpretation and the symposium's focus was Los Angeles-area media and issues, such as political and ethnic bias.

I moved in to a dorm at De Neve Plaza on Sunday, got my key card and met my two roommates. After unpacking and eating dinner, we were briefed on our mission for the week - create a broadcast on one of three topics - the Los Angeles Unified School District, Iran or immigration re-

form.

Each day we boarded a bus and visited locations central to local government and media, including the Los Angeles Police Department building, LAUSD's Beaudry building and City Hall. Each day's agenda included presentations from influential political figures, such as Alliance of Iranian-Americans president Babook Sotodeh, and Minutemen Project founder Jim Gilchrist. We were required to wear business

attire each day until we returned to our dormitories.

"There's a lot of stuff you can learn," said Maxwell Baldi, Los Angeles Chief of JSA Staff. "You're exposed to new issues and angles. It's an opportunity to voice opinions in a forum like no other."

At day's end, we returned to De Neve Plaza to rest and eat dinner before working on our proj-

[See Media, pg 6]



Photo by Angel Silva

DORM: Students attending the Gene Burd Symposium on Media and Politics stayed at UCLA.

Leadership Sponsors Blood Drive

Poly students donate 180 pints during year's first blood drive.

By Armando Orozco
Staff Writer

Parrots donated over 180 pints of blood August 10 for Poly's first blood drive of the new school year.

"This blood is going to patients that are very ill and are in need of it," said UCLA nurse Khatcho Shahnazaria, who was in charge of this session.

Shahnazaria has 17 years of experience working with UCLA's Blood and Platelet center.

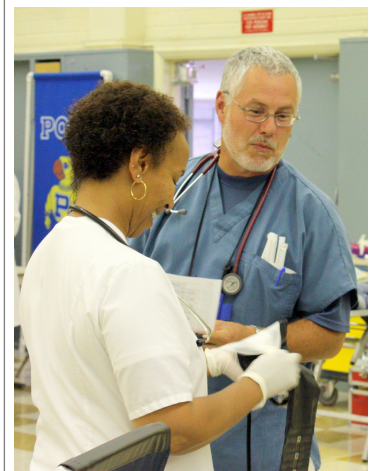


Photo by Karina Muñiz

BLOOD: UCLA medical personnel supervise donations.

Blood is sent to the blood bank centrifuge to be tested and separated into plasma and blood cells, said UCLA nurse Brian Kim. The blood is then sent to UCLA and Santa Monica Hospital and is used for cancer, transplant, and car accident patients.

Donors must be 17 or older, weigh more than 102 pounds and be in good health. Each donor is asked to give one pint of blood after taking a quick test that checks iron levels, pulse, and blood pressure.

Students are encouraged to eat before giving blood to avoid dizziness, nausea or headaches. After donating, the patient should rest for 15 minutes, have something to eat and rehydrate.

Leadership sponsors four blood drives at Poly each year.

"It is a learning experience to see professionals at work," said Leadership's Grace Wheeler.



Dancing With the Parrots

See Page 5



A Love Story - Not

See Page 7



Days of Mud And Music

See Page 8

EDITORIAL

To The Moon

"We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept ..."

-John F. Kennedy

On July 20, 1969, the human race made its single greatest technological achievement of all time when a human first set foot on another celestial body.

Six hours after landing at 4:17 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Neil A. Armstrong took a "small step" into the future when he stepped off the Lunar Module "Eagle" onto the Sea of Tranquility on the surface of the moon. From there, Armstrong could look up at Earth in the heavens as no one had before.

The Apollo 11's mission will no doubt be remembered for centuries to come, but for what?

Apollo 11 was a significant feat in the Cold War space race. President John F. Kennedy chose to "shift our efforts in space from low into high gear" in order to maintain a positive image of world leadership. Science Advisor Jerome Wiesner warned Kennedy of the potential military dangers to the west if the Soviet Union's lead in the space race continued unchallenged.

To Kennedy, being second was inconsistent with national security and the United States' role as a world leader. So in a dramatic second State of the Union message in May, 1961, Kennedy pledged the U.S. would land a man on the moon before the end of the decade.

The space race was ultimately just another front of rivalry between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. The race to the moon happened in the same era as the division of Berlin, the U2 spy plane incident, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. Like all the other Cold War fronts, the space race was a contest to display military and technological superiority -- while keeping a suspicious and watchful eye on the opponent.

That's not what Apollo 11 should be remembered for, however. The Apollo 11 mission was an accom-

plishment not of the U.S. but of the human race as a whole.

The Apollo 11 astronauts left behind on the moon a plaque that reads: "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon July 1969, A.D. We came in peace for all mankind."

Although humans have long been divided over meaningless pursuits and nationalistic pride, they have always shared the same ambitions and dreams. From these dreams, competition and rivalry is formed between nations and progress is made.

From the beginning, mankind has looked up at the sky and wished to fly through it, but only had feet to cross the land. Several millennia later, he could fly with airplanes. But humans were quick to dream anew and set their sights higher still, on the heavens and its celestial bodies. The moon landing made the first solid step into the next frontier for the human race.

Little by little, progress is made. From Africa to Europe, Europe to Asia, Asia to the Americas, from Earth to the moon, and from the moon to Mars, and then what? By setting foot on the moon, Armstrong had broken the limits that kept man earthbound.

Humans defy nature and are always seeking to advance more and more. Apollo 11 will be immortalized as the crowning moment of mankind's long struggle to overcome his natural limitations. But Apollo 11's legacy isn't to represent the final moment. Man landing on the moon was just another new beginning, encouraging humans to dream anew.



EARTHRISE: *The Apollo 11 spacecraft shows the Earth rising above the Moon's horizon.*

THE OPTIMIST

JOHN H. FRANCIS POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL
12431 ROSCOE BLVD. SUN VALLEY, CA, 91352

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Angel Silva

NEWS EDITOR

Magdalena Corona

SPORTS EDITOR

Marvin Martinez

PHOTO EDITOR

Karina Muñiz

POLITICAL EDITOR

Angel Silva

CARTOONIST

Marina Turrulles

WRITERS

Magdalena Corona, Jocelyn Henriquez, Marvin Martinez, Sophia Mendez, Armando Orozco, Noemi Tovar, Jackey Zaldivar

OPTIMIST ADVISOR

John Blau

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

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 Room 14 or Mr. Blau's box.

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 TO
THE EDITOR

The OPTIMIST asked students: "What's the best movie you've seen this summer?" Here's what they said.

The best movie this summer was "Fast and Furious." The great thing about this movie is that it has all kinds of racing cars and they are all fixed up. The best part of the movie was when they were getting chased inside the tunnel, because it shows how they were putting in a lot of work and how fast they were going. That movie was really nice.

- Miguel Ruiz, 10

Best movie this summer? "The Taking of Phelam 123." First and foremost, I love the action films, it just beats horror and sitting next to a girlfriend crying over a movie of some chick with cancer. Besides any movie that stars Denzel Washington is a must for me! The fact that the great John Travolta is the bad guy once again just sizzles the movies performance. I just love it!

- Jessica Soto, 12

The best movie I saw this summer was "Up." This movie had me laughing from the beginning to end. All the characters were incredible and nothing can up this.

- Andrea Roman, 10

The best movie I've seen is "Land of the Lost." It was a funny video mostly comedy. There was never a part that was boring! It was just too hilarious!

- Juan Soto, 9

The best movie I've seen this summer was, "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen." I really enjoyed all the action in it. In my opinion it was better than the first one. I also liked the way how some parts of it had me think-

- Harris Enriquez, 9

ing and wondering what's going to happen next. I think that the cherry on top for that movie was Megan Fox. I'm jealous of Shia Lebeouf.

- Kevin Soto, 9

The best movie I've seen this summer would be "Hangover." It kept me and my friends laughing and laughing throughout the whole movie. This movie besides being really funny had a really happy ending.

- Reyna Rodriguez, 9

The best movie that I've seen is "Hangover." It was funny! It kept me laughing non-stop through the whole movie. I also liked "Hangover" because it had a happy ending. Going with friends made it even better.

- Angelica Cortez, 9

The best movie this summer is "Knowing," directed by Alex Proyas. It's a sci-fi/horror/drama. The best scene was when the aliens took the children to the spaceship because it gave me hope that it isn't the end. The main characters in this movie are John Koestler, Caleb, Abby, Diana, and Lucinda. "Knowing" talks about the end of the world. If you liked "Signs," then you'll enjoy "Knowing."

- Maria Espiritu, 12

The best movie I've seen this summer is "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen," because robots are cool. I think the best part in the movie was when Optimus Prime is reborn. I like the action when they're fighting.

ATTENTION PARROTS,

Poly is now offering online Advanced Placement (AP) classes in AP English Literature and AP Government. See your counselor or me in Rm. 43 during first or second period. Sign up now - classes start soon.

- Irene Maliwan, AP Coordinator

Marina Turruelles
(Illustration)

Parrots With Personality

Plenty of longhorns and gumbo where these two come from.

Dallas Blair, Assistant Principal

By Magdalena Corona
Staff Writer

Despite her 28 years of educational experience, new Assistant Principal Dallas Blair is facing a steep learning curve in her latest assignments overseeing athletics, attendance, and the physical plant.

"These are new areas for me," said Blair. "I've worked more on instruction and this is more operations. It's a good learning experience for me."

Blair is replacing John Ortega, who retired in June.

"He left me a couple of notes and emails," Blair said. "The District personnel have come in to help introduce me to all the new contractors."

Blair attended Angelo State University, the University of Texas, Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Northridge and Point Loma Nazarene and majored in counseling, education and administration.

"Money was probably one of the biggest challenges I faced," Blair said. "I usually had to work one to three part time jobs. I had to juggle school, work and my family."

Born and raised in Santo, Texas, population 200, Blair has had a number of jobs in a number of places before moving to California, including five years at the Texas School for The Blind in Austin.

"I had to learn Braille for that job," Blair said. "It was a really interesting experience to see how people with major handicaps don't think they're any different from everyone else."

"On my next job, I traveled to 16 schools working with blind kids," Blair said. "Then I went into independent private business – radio, modeling for different companies, sales and training."

Blair worked at KTAC AM and KBRD FM in Seattle for about a year.

"I wanted to be an entertainer and a model," Blair said.

After moving to California for a four-year stint at Adams Middle School, Blair returned to Texas for a year and adopted her daughter.

Back in California, Blair worked at Hollywood High and at the Los Angeles Unified School District downtown headquarters as an organizations facilitator building community partnerships with the schools.

"That's why I'm so much of a collaboration person. I've worked with so many people," said Blair.

Before coming to Poly, Blair was assistant principal at Walter Reed and Pacoima Middle Schools.

One of Blair's priorities at Poly is the trash left behind after lunch. She is also involved in the relocation of the textbook room to room 95 from its current location to relieve overcrowding.

"We want to inventory the books and know where they're at," said Blair, "because if we hurry we won't know what's where."

Blair expects the move to take two to three weeks.



Wood Grigsby, Art Teacher

By Jocelyn Henriquez
Staff Writer

An artist, a master chef and a veteran teacher, Art Teacher Wood Grigsby brings southern roots and a fine arts sensibility to Poly.

Born in Grand Terre, Louisiana, Grigsby lived in New Orleans until he was twenty-five.

"We had two houses," Grigsby said, "one in the country and one in the city."

Childhood was a daily adventure.

"It was full of music, art, dance and opera and food," said Grigsby. "Two of my uncles were master chefs in New Orleans restaurants, one in Brennan's and the other at Galatoire's."

Grigsby's father was a biochemist and his mother was a music teacher. She taught Grigsby how to play the piano and the French accordion.

A white 1960 El Dorado convertible with red leather interior was Grigsby's high school ride.

"It was a gift. My high school counselor gave it to me. I used to drive her kids to ballet and that was her and her husband's gift for graduation," Grigsby said.

High school in New Orleans was a little different than Poly.

"My high school had about a thousand kids," Grigsby said. "My graduating class was ESL, but instead of Spanish it was French."

Grigsby went to Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, receiving degrees in Studio Art and Art History.

"College was the best time of my life," Grigsby said, "better than high school. I was with some really smart people who were from different cultures and I really enjoyed the interaction."

"I took a literature class on William Faulkner. Of the 16 people in that class, 6 went on to be published."

Grigsby intended to major in Pre-Med.

"I have dyslexia," Grigsby said. "My greatest fear of becoming a doctor was getting the prescriptions wrong and killing someone. Well art was always my love. I grew up around it. Once I got into art history, I decided I wanted to become a university professor."

After graduation, Grigsby worked as the chief biological photographer for the Arkansas Children's Hospital where he worked with children who were challenged.

Grigsby has been teaching for twenty-three years, six at Poly. Having taught everything from government to algebra, Grigsby has finally settled on the design class.

In his Design class, students learn the elements of design using wet and dry media. At the end of the course, students design a three dimensional city block with at least five buildings in various architectural styles.

When it comes to drawing, Grigsby practices what he preaches.

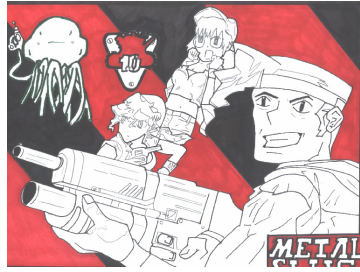
"I draw every day," Grigsby said.

Photos by Karina Muñiz



“Pastels and ink. Symbolized rebirth to me.”

“I liked the colors and her hair, how it flows.”



“This is from an arcade game. Like in the old style.”



The Colors Of Creation

Variations on a theme
by AP Studio Art senior Jose Chavez



“She’s staring at you, wondering what’s going on. This was a color experiment.”



“I put a Buddhist symbol in most of my work. I like their values.”



Marina Turrueles (Illustration)

By Jackey Zaldivar
Staff Writer

THE CLASS

What: ASAP workshop - hip-hop dance club
Who: Five boys, 22 girls.
Why: Have fun, be challenged, be the best.
When: Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 pm.
Where: Major Roundtree's Birthday (Sept. 4), Homecoming Pep Rally.



THE TEACHER - Gene Montoya
Tell us about working for DC, Mya, and Britney Spears?

I was a back up dancer for Destiny's Child's "Lose My Breath" music video. We shot it in Greenland Studio in Burbank. I was also a back up dancer for their Destiny Fulfilled promotional tour in 2004.

I was an extra in Britney's "I'm a Slave for You" music video in 2001. I don't remember the name of the studio but it was on Sunset Blvd.

I danced at Club AD for the release of Mya's 2003 "My Love Is Like . . . Wo."

First experience in dancing?

For a third grade talent show. I performed to "I Got the Power."

How long have you been dancing?

Since the time I could move my feet.

Formal training?

I started taking dance classes at 18. I took dance, hip hop, jazz, gymnastics, and jazz funk. I'm still taking

hip hop but the other dance classes I only took for two years.

Where?

I took classes at Debbie Reynolds Studio and at Millennium Dance Complex. Some of my instructors were Nate Adams, Super Dave and Jason Wright. They all taught me different forms of Hip Hop.

What is it about dance that you like?

I love the fact that I get to express myself spiritually and also express myself physically (saying this while twirling). What I like is that I can share it with the world.

Inspiration?

I saw Michael Jackson and Janet Jackson on TV and I told myself I could do this too. I took a class and it all took off from there.

Dancing influences?

Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake, Usher, and Missy Elliott.



All photos by Karina Muñiz



Internet Photo

Teen Sex: the Whole Story

Too often, entertainment for teens stresses the sex and not the consequences. But "Secret Life" is different.

By Magdalena Corona
Staff Writer

Unplanned pregnancy is a common topic among teens. And Hollywood knows it.

Popular films like "Juno" and "Knocked Up," for example, celebrate mostly the lighter side of unplanned pregnancies. Critics charge that these films show the sex but not the consequences.

And the consequences aren't good in many cases. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and more likely to live in poverty than other teens, according to a "Los Angeles Times" article. About one-third of girls in the United States get pregnant before the age of 20.

"The Secret Life of the American Teenager," a series from ABC Family, promises to offer a more realistic and balanced view, say the series' producers.

"The show deals honestly and directly with the consequences of an unplanned pregnancy in a non-exploitative manner," ABC Family says. "We hope the show

encourages teenagers and parents to open up a dialogue about issues important to them."

"Secret Life" is about a pregnant 15-year old freshman at Grant High. Amy Juergens (Shailene Woodley), a timid French-horn player, gets pregnant after a rendezvous with the school's bad boy Ricky Underwood (Daren Kagasoff) at band camp.

Viewers get an inside look at Amy's world before and after her unplanned pregnancy, seeing how a teen's life can turn upside down after such a mistake. Amy has to manage school, work, and take care of her son, John.

"The Secret Life of the American Teenager," created by Brenda Hampton ("7th Heaven"), was ABC Family's best-ever season-premiere and top telecast, capturing 4.4 million total viewers. CW's "Gossip Girl," averaged 3.0 million viewers, 47% less than "Secret Life."

If those numbers mean anything, then teens may be ready for a dose of reality with their entertainment.

iFaster

Apple's new 3GS offers a host of new features but not enough to outdistance the competition.

By Magdalena Corona
Staff Writer

Apple's new 3GS has some key features that were missing from the 3G. But the new model still lacks apps competitors offer as standard features. Die-hard Apple fans may upgrade, but less loyal 3G owners will certainly consider other models.

The "S" in iPhone 3GS stands for speed. The device promises to load apps faster and browse the Web faster via an upgraded AT&T 3G network.

More than just a phone, the iPhone combines a mobile phone, a widescreen iPod and an Internet device. Apple says it's the best phone you'll ever use.

But Apple doesn't mention the cons.

Apple promised the 3GS would have longer battery life. But buyers are finding that the device has trouble making it through a workday without a rest stop at the electrical outlet, according to a "Los Angeles Times" article.

The 3GS's call quality shows no improvement and the camera still doesn't have flash, USB transfer and storage, or multitasking capabilities.

Transferring photos, videos, and other media files must be done through iTunes. But iTunes restricts what kinds of files can be moved, and where to store them on the phone.

iPhone's camera has been good with decent photo quality. The iPhone 3GS's photo quality looks slightly better than the second generation 3G.

Apple boosted the camera's resolution to 3 mega-

pixels and added a new "Tap to Focus" feature.

The 3GS runs faster and adds cell phone features like multimedia messaging, video recording and voice dialing. It's also the first iPhone to offer video recording and an easy-to-use video-editing option right on the phone. The phone's video-editing tool is easy and fun to use.

Voice Control allows users to make calls by speaking the contact's name or phone number into the receiver. Audio confirmation and the name or number will show on the display.

An attractive interface that shows a large compass with the latitude and longitude is another new iPhone feature.

The iPhone 3GS is the first iPhone to offer a full set of accessibility features. The phone will read text dialog boxes, time of day, status and orientation of the display and detail information.

The 3GS pronounces each character after it is typed and suggests corrections. The new model also offers Wi-Fi and a



Internet Photo

UPGRADE: Apple's new 3GS has Wi-Fi and a wider keyboard.

battery level readout.

The iPhone 3GS supports the new iPhone OS 3.0 update that includes cut / copy / paste, multimedia messaging, stereo Bluetooth and a voice recorder.

The landscape keyboard now works in e-mail, text messaging, and notes and is much wider, with larger buttons.

A lost handset can be located online, with a message that instructs anyone who finds the phone to call the owner. But Apple will not replace a lost handset.

The iPhone 3GS comes in two memory sizes, 16 GB for \$199 or 32 GB for \$299, in white or black.

Media and Politics

[Media, from pg 1]

ects. Each of the nine groups was assigned a left-wing, nonpartisan, and a right-wing slant for their issue. Our group was nonpartisan and our issue was Iran. My job as a copy editor was to assist in making sure that our report had no bias in favor or against any political party.

Curfew was 11pm.

On Wednesday, the groups went to National Mobile Television Studios in Torrance to tour the facility and to film their broadcast. Filming was done in a newsroom in a format similar to an actual broadcast you'd see on the air.

The last day of the symposium included a visit to the "Los Angeles Times" and a brief tour of their facilities before returning to De Neve Plaza for packing and an awards ceremony. After swapping emails and Facebook profiles, students headed home with increased political awareness and memories of the times they had during the week.

For me, the Symposium was a great opportunity to meet people that I might have avoided at Poly or on the street because their political views were so different from mine. The symposium broadened my political perspective and showed me that even Republicans can be right sometimes.

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

Sudoku

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

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	1		9	7			2	

Solution to August's puzzle

Beach Clean Up

[Clean Up, from pg 1]

blue tent to check in and leave the trash bags. The people from Heal the Bay raffled off some bags and shirts.

"I felt really good about myself at the end of the day," said Parrot Stephanie Ochoa.

Katz's government classes did the beach clean-up for service-learning, a graduation requirement. Katz used to make his students write a report, but he decided that doing something was

more meaningful than writing about it.

"It's important for our seniors to see what's out there," Katz said.

Students created posters and distributed them around school to help educate other Parrots about keeping the beaches clean.

Over 108 Poly students participated in the beach cleanup effort.

"We only have one universe," Katz said. "It's important that we keep it clean."

“This is not a love story, it’s a story about love.”



The Summer of His Discontent

“(500) Days of Summer” is no ordinary romance.

By Sophia Mendez
Staff Writer

“(500) Days of Summer” is a movie about obsession - pure romantic obsession. We all know how that works. Boys hate commitment, girls love romance.

Or maybe not.

“(500) Days” is that rare romantic comedy that doesn’t play by the “Hollywood rules” of falling in love.

Architecture grad Tom (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) has a day job writing greeting cards. He’s convinced he can never truly be happy until the day he finds “the one.” Summer (Zoey Deschanel), his boss’s new assistant, doesn’t share his philosophy

The movie gives us the end of the relationship early on, while spending the rest of the movie remembering the past.

Through an unusual shuffling of the story’s chronology, 500 days of uncertainty, passion, fury, intimacy, and most importantly, Summer, are portrayed through the lover’s eyes, Tom.

“You should know up front, this is not a love story, it’s a story about love,” a narrator explains at the beginning of the movie. Yet while the movie itself is not a love story, the core of the film is the romantic connection between Tom and Summer.

Both characters are interested in the overlooked, neither likes new anything – music, fashion, movies or even buildings.

What makes the film so great is its realistic perspective. Tom and Summer are a perfect match, so it’s hard not to feel bad for Tom when things don’t work out with Summer.

Tom’s passion for Summer is unusual in a romantic movie because in this film the boy falls in love while the girl does not.

Devastated, Tom has only his much younger sister to comfort him and get him past his obsession with Summer, because his friends can’t seem to.

Director Mark Webb, known mostly for his work in music video, has fashioned himself the indie hit of the summer with the appropriately titled “(500) Days of Summer.”

“Once again, I must ask too much of you.” - Albus Dumbledore

Who Will Stop Voldemort Now?

By Armando Orozco
Staff Writer

The Harry Potter series returns with a darker movie that makes earlier episodes seem like a walk in the park.

The first three books were concerned with children’s matters and introduced author J. K. Rowling’s magical world. Books four and five slowly tested the teenage wizards, putting them in adult situations. This time the wizards face life or death when the dark forces threaten those they love most.

Director David Yates, who was in charge of the last film and is leading the project on the next two movies, recreated the magical world of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry with considerable skill.

Loyal fans of the books will probably be disappointed with the new movie, however, since several scenes, including Dumbledore’s funeral, were cut.

Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliff), Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson) are dealing with teen love problems and the destructive forces of Lord Voldemort. Once again, Harry comes face to face with the cold-blooded villain who murdered his parents. Torn between a rage to kill and teachings of Professor Dumbledore (Michael Gambon), Harry is in a world of pain.

“Once again I must ask too much of you,” Dumbledore tells Harry. But Harry is also dealing with conflicting feelings for Ginny Weasley (Bonnie Wright). Ron is

too busy with his new girlfriend Lavender Brown (Jessie Cave), driving Hermione crazy with jealousy.

Lord Voldemort has returned with his army of Death Eaters to rain chaos on Hogwarts with powerful wizards Bellatrix Lestrange (Helena Bonham Carter) and Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton). Wizards aim their wands, casting Avada Kedavra (death spells) over the landscape as blasts of magic collide and sparks fill the air.

Book seven and the last in the series, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” will be released in two parts, the first in 2010 and the second in 2011. Potter fans around the world must wait a little longer for the epic conclusion to Rowlings’ fascinating creation.



Bella must save her beloved Edward before it’s too late.



Thirsty Vampires in “New Moon”

By Noemi Tovar
Staff Writer

Edward and Bella, the star-crossed lovers in Stephanie Meyer’s “Twilight” vampire saga, face new challenges in “New Moon,” the second installment in the series. The big question: can the passionate romance between mortal Isabella (Bella) Swan and vampire Edward Cullen continue?

In “Twilight,” 17-year old Bella moved from her home in Arizona to the rainy skies of Forks, Washington to live with her dad Charlie. In Forks, Bella meets Edward and his family, a vampire coven that only feeds on animal blood.

Bella discovers the Cullen family isn’t the only coven around when she meets vampire James. He becomes fixated with Bella, knowing he can’t have her.

Edward’s family protects Bella and kills James, but the scar from his deadly bite that led her to the hospital remains on Bella’s arm.

In “New Moon,” Bella recovers. After

an accident during her 18th birthday party at the Cullen’s house, Edward leaves Bella to keep her safe from the vampire life.

After months without Edward, Bella becomes restless and reckless, constantly putting her life in danger.

While Bella tries to get over Edward, she develops a close relationship with friend Jacob Black, who also holds a family secret. He tries to keep Bella safe and hopes she can forget about the “bloodsucker” Edward.

But one of Bella’s adventures leaves Edward believing she’s dead and contemplating ending his own life. She must hurry to save her beloved before it’s too late.

Edward’s smaller role in the second novel disappointed some fans who also disliked the book’s slower pace, but most Meyer devotees just kept reading.

“Moon” was published in August of 2006, nearly a year after “Twilight.” Last year, Summit Entertainment turned “Twilight” into a movie with Catherine Hardwicke (“Thirteen”) directing.

Kristen Stewart, who starred in “The Messengers” and “Zathura,” played Bella. Robert Pattinson, who portrayed Cedric Diggory in “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,” played Edward.

The “Twilight” film was a huge success with teenagers and mothers, but not necessarily the critics.

“Much of what made the relationship between Edward and the smitten Bella Swan work in Meyer’s breezy book has been stripped away on screen,” said the Associated Press’s Christy Lemire.

But “New Moon” director Chris Weitz (“The Golden Compass,” “American Pie”) promised that his film will remain true to Meyer’s intentions.

“Summit understands that it’s Stephanie Meyer’s world,” Weitz told “Time” magazine, “and really it’s about recreating the experience the reader has, in some kind of faithful manner.”

“New Moon” went before the cameras in 2009 and is slated for a November 20 release.

“It’s about recreating the experience the reader has.”

- Chris Weitz, director



Woodstock-40 Years On

By Sophia Mendez
Staff Writer

© Elliot Landy



“What might have been a muddy mess was more like a miracle in mud.”



Forty years ago almost half a million people gathered for a music and arts festival at Bethel, New York on Max Yasgur’s 600-acre farm. The event, the brainchild of promoter Michael Lang, has become known as Woodstock.

The attraction of the festival was the top rock acts of the time - Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, The Who and Jimi Hendrix. But the mass of folks that showed up outshined the artists.

Woodstock proved to the world that more than half a million people can come together for a cause - peace and music - and be successful and peaceful. They hadn’t forgotten about issues like societal mores and the Vietnam war. Music was just the best way to communicate about these issues.

A few reporters wanted to portray Woodstock as a hostile event. And to many adults, Woodstock was just a bunch

of “freaks” gathered together to drop acid and groove to hours of music. But the young people who attended proved to the adults that they could come together and have nothing but peace.

Sound equipment failed, amplifiers buzzed, mics cut out and some of artists were too drugged to even remember their own lyrics. And it rained. But what might have been a muddy mess was more like a miracle in mud. People were cold and wet, but everyone realized they were brothers and sisters and they were all in it together.

Woodstock was a moment in time that created a movement where everything con-

verged - the music, the spirit, and all kids who attended. The psychedelic drugs, the music and the art were all part of the culture, the Woodstock generation of baby boomers and hippies that defined the 60’s.

Despite issues such as lack of food, unsanitary conditions and young people overdosing on drugs, Woodstock displayed the strengths of the 60’s.

Nobody knew how big an impact Woodstock would have or how historic it would be. Many people tried to duplicate the experience, but none succeeded. Today, the myth of Woodstock means more to everyone who attended and many who didn’t.



WOODSTOCK

Joni Mitchell

By the time we got to Woodstock
We were half a million strong
And everywhere there was song and celebration
And I dreamed I saw the bombers
Riding shotgun in the sky
And they were turning into butterflies
Above our nation
We are stardust
Billion year old carbon
We are golden
Caught in the devil’s bargain
And we’ve got to get ourselves
back to the garden