

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

FEBRUARY 2010

Politics '10

Obama's Nation

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

Improving the economy was the main topic of President Barack Obama's 70-minute State of the Union address, his first.

Economic proposals included using \$30 billion of Wall St.'s repaid loan money to assist community banks in providing small businesses loans, dropping tax cuts for companies that outsourced jobs overseas and the creation of jobs to build "the infrastructure of tomorrow."

"There's no reason Europe or China should have the fastest trains, or the new factories that manufacture clean energy products," said Obama.

Economic comparisons between the United States and other countries would return in later parts of the speech and were a tactic Obama had not used before.

"Washington has been telling us to wait for decades, even as the problems have grown worse," Obama said. "Meanwhile, China's not waiting to revamp its economy. Germany's not waiting, India's not waiting. These nations aren't standing still."

Obama also talked about strengthening U.S. trade relations in Asia and with key partners like South Korea, Panama, and Colombia to help reduce the national deficit.

Another of Obama's key points was on education, calling for a \$10,000 tax credit for four years of college for families of students and a reworked loan payment system.

"Let's tell another 1 million students that when they graduate, they will be required to pay only 10% of their income on student loans, and all of their debt will be forgiven after 20 years," said Obama, "and after 10 years if they choose a career in public service."

Obama mentioned healthcare to a lesser extent than before, but the tone of his message called for quick and decisive action.

"This is a complex issue, and the longer it was debated, the more skeptical people became," stated Obama. "But I also know this problem is not going away."

"Here's what I ask of Congress, though: Do not walk away from reform. Not now. Not when we are so close."



Photo By Karina Muñiz

BAKE SALE: Parrot Leadership members sell food to raise funds.

RAISING HAITI FUNDS

Leadership raises over \$2000 in two days for earthquake victims.

By Diane Alvarado
Staff Writer

Poly's Leadership raised \$2,085 for Haitian earthquake survivors in two days with an envelope drive and a bake sale.

"It all started on Twitter," said Leadership senior Brian Pocasangre. "People started tweeting about Haiti and we thought it would be cool to do something to

help."

Leadership organized the envelope drive and asked second period teachers to ask their students for contributions. Student and faculty contributed \$1084.00

A bake sale in the cafeteria on Friday, sponsored by Leadership, Softball, ROTC and Drill raised another \$840.

"We didn't expect to raise a lot of money because Poly is a low-income school," said leadership senior Bruno Huizar, "but that just goes to show that Poly has heart."

Leadership raised additional money by selling snack foods after school.

Color Guard Performs at Staples

By Regina Martinez
Staff Writer

One way to watch an NBA game at the Staples Center up close is to purchase front row tickets.

However, Poly's Color Guard team has found a much better and affordable way.

A group of Parrot ROTC students performed the opening ceremony Color Guard before two Clippers games, one against the Washington Wizards on December 14 last year and again on January 6 when the Clippers played the Lakers.

"The presentation was outstanding," said Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Archie Roundtree.

The Color Guard members arrived at Staples at 5:30 pm, were led through the VIP doors and prepared for an hour before the game started. When the lights went dim, they marched in with the flag.

Color Guard members received complimentary tickets to both games.

The Parrots said performing in front of a crowd, especially NBA fans, was fun and scary.

"At first it was nerve-racking," said junior Marlene Olivares, "but once you're out there, your adrenaline is pumping and you just feel proud and excited."

Aca Deca Members Meet the Media

Local media KLCS, "Daily News" feature the Parrot brainiacs.

By Stephy Menjivar
Staff Writer

Aca Deca coach Brian Block thought Poly's squad wasn't getting the recognition they deserved after last year's exceptional showing in the Academic Decathlon. So he took matters into his own hands.

First, Block convinced local public broadcasting station KLCS to focus on Poly at an upcoming portion of the competition. Then he convinced the "Daily News" that Poly's Aca Deca team was worthy of a front page story.

"Part of being a coach is being a good publicist," said Block.

Publicity, Block admitted, isn't always a good thing.

"I know what I did was aggressive," Block said. "I put my team in the spotlight so that when they perform, they are recognized. I just made sure they were in a position to succeed, and they surpassed expectations."

Block approached KLCS in December 2009, suggesting that Poly's exceptional showing in last year's competition made the



Photo By Monica Sagastume

MAKEUP: Reynaldo Orozco-Lopez about to go on-camera.

Parrots newsworthy.

KLCS agreed and sent a film crew to Poly to shoot a five to six minute segment of the Parrot Aca Deca squad practicing in the library. The segment was shown during the live broadcast of the super quiz portion of the Academic Decathlon competition held January 2 and aired February 6 from 4 to 6 P.M.

If Poly's Aca Deca team advances to the city or state competitions, KLCS has agreed to feature the Poly team in a live Academic Decathlon special.

Block then used the KLCS attention to convince the "Daily News" to interview the Aca Deca team members.

"Daily News" reporter Connie Llanos met with the Parrot team for three hours in early January in Block's classroom.

Block set up practice questions similar to the ones from the competitions to show Llanos what a typical day for Aca Deca captain and senior Tam Luu and his teammates looks like.

Llanos story on Poly's Aca Deca team appeared in the "Daily News" on Friday, January 18. The "Daily News" later sent the Parrot squad copies of the front page story featuring photos of the team.

"Being interviewed by the 'Daily News' was like a dream come true," said Luu. "I knew that if my team and I worked really hard we could achieve anything, so therefore, it was really surreal to have that experience."



a way with words
See Page 3



his lips were synced
See Page 4



eyes on the hoop
See Page 8

EDITORIALS

Breaking down the Health Care Bill

Many Americans are aware of the argument going on over the healthcare bill, but most don't know what the bill has to offer. What the government has to offer comes with both advantages and disadvantages, depending on the way one looks at things.

The healthcare bill will, proponents say, increase choice and competition. This means that the bill will protect and improve consumer choices. For example, people who want to keep their current plans can do so.

Another aspect of the plan is to make sure that Americans have portable, secure health care coverage. For example, an employee won't lose healthcare coverage if his employer drops the plan, or if the employee loses his job.

Quality of care is another issue the bill addresses. The bill intends to make sure that people of all ages have access to a greater quality of care. For example, the bill focuses on prevention, wellness and strengthening programs that work.

The federal government, individuals and employers will all share responsibility for an affordable health care system. For example, the government will provide affordability credits based on income in order to reduce cost sharing.

Individuals will be required to get coverage through the exchange or their employer or contribute 2.5 percent of income.

“The federal government, individuals and employers all share responsibility for an affordable health care.”

An employer can choose to offer coverage to workers or pay eight percent of payroll.

The bill attempts to put the interests of consumers first and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse. For example, the bill will simplify paperwork and other burdens for employers by providing a less-confusing and more consumer-friendly system.

Finally, the bill is designed to reduce the deficit and ensure the solvency of Medicare and Medicaid. This means that the bill will allow the legislation to be paid for entirely and will put Medicare and Medicaid on a more sound footing. For example, the bill's sponsors estimate that the legislation will reduce the deficit by at least \$100 billion in ten years. The bill should also decrease the rate of growth of the Medicare program from 6.6 to 5.3 percent annually.

Coming up with a solution to the health care bill won't be an easy task. However, knowing what's actually in the bill will help Americans figure out what's best for them and for the country.

go home, where the suffering continues.

Parents of students are losing their jobs, resulting in shortages of money and a house full of depression.

According to school principals, the number of students without a home attending public schools has increased. And programs that help the homeless have also been eliminated. Without a home, many students don't have a suitable place to study.

Not only don't students have a shelter to be safe in, but they also are victims of a shortage of food. Students living out in the

Tomorrow's Leaders Need Help Now

Doesn't anyone care about California's future leaders any more? Now more than ever California students are being affected. At school their education is being limited and at home the substantial requirements to have a good life are being taken away.

At this moment, there are too many students per classroom. Instead of trying to find a solution to give students a better education, more teacher layoffs are planned. What will it come to? Having a class in the school auditorium with only one instructor? That's more possible than crazy.

“According to school principals, the number of homeless public school students has increased. And programs that help the homeless have also been eliminated.”

Quite a few students need summer school to make up classes in order to qualify for a high school diploma. But many of those students will just have to wait to make up those classes and hold back on getting their diploma because summer school will be cut back or completely eliminated.

Tutoring helps many students boost up their grades and improve their skills in school. Without these tutoring programs, many students will struggle in school and some may end up failing classes. This is exactly what's going to happen if funding for tutoring programs is eliminated.

After the school day is done, students

streets or in their cars experience intense weather conditions and severe malnutrition. The students are suffering and don't do well in school.

If the state doesn't do anything, who will? Parents suffer when they see themselves without a job and their children not getting an adequate education.

Today's students are the future leaders of California. But if the state limits the opportunities for students, California will not have the proper leaders for the future and may even run out of them. The state needs to come up with solutions if it doesn't want to become a victim of its own actions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The OPTIMIST asked students if their parents have earthquake emergency plans. Here's what they said.

Yes, we do have an emergency plan. If an earthquake occurs, we would all meet up in front of my house, or if not then down the street from it. If our phones weren't working, we'd still have to meet up somewhere. Our emergency supplies at home are water and food.

- Cecilia Victoria / 12

We're always saying that we should buy supplies, but I don't think we've ever done it. I do have a list of phone numbers with me, and some I know by heart. We all have cell phones, but I don't know if they'd be reliable. We have no meeting place - I guess we're not the safest family. With all of the earthquakes occurring, I need to push my family to finally start taking precautions.

- Angelica Flores / 11

No, my parents don't have any earthquake emergency plans. It's gone through our heads that what happened in Haiti could happen to us but we haven't put so much attention to it. Yes, I have phone numbers with me on my cell phone. We really don't have any emergency supplies at home. We don't have an alternate meeting place because we live in a trailer park. The houses are very weak there, so there's not really a good place to hide or to stay safe.

- Alvaro Barragan / 11

I do not have an earthquake emergency plan. Even though we don't have the supplies, my parents know what to do during an earthquake. They really do know the materials we need to use as all the flashlights, batteries and other clothes and supplies are in areas that we can see and pick up fast. They have been in an earthquake before.

- Victor Solis / 11

In case of an emergency or disaster, my family does have an emergency meeting place. If an emergency does occur, we are to meet at the local park. If not, we can call each other with our cell phones. As an emergency is bound to happen in the future, it's very important to plan a meeting place with our loved ones.

- Ronald Garcia / 12

We don't have earthquake emergency plans. I do have phone numbers to reach in case of any emergency. In case of an earthquake, our family would meet at our house. We have water gallons in my front yard in case something happened. We also have clothes in bags to prepare for any emergency.

- Michelle Iniguez / 11

Corrections

In "Fishler Introduces PAES Training to Poly" on page 1 of the January edition, the PAES program was incorrectly identified as "Practical Assessment Exponential System." The correct title is "Practical Assessment Exploration System."

In the same story, Brenda Fishler was incorrectly identified as the Special-Ed Coordinator. Ron Mendoza is the Special-Ed Coordinator. Fishler should have been identified as "teacher."

The OPTIMIST regrets the errors.

THE OPTIMIST

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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 Rm.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.



Photo By Karina Muñiz

“As much as the sight broke my heart, the experience helped me make an important decision. It has propelled me towards my career path, to be a doctor.”

The following essay was presented by junior Jizel Rigos Emralino at the speech portion of the Academic Decathlon on Saturday, February 6, 2010.

Power Points

THE AUTHOR:

I am an aspiring oncologist. My goal in life is to provide medical help to impoverished children around the world.

I'm honored to be on the Academic Decathlon Team. Our group has grown to be a close-knit family fathered by our coach, Mr. Block.

I'm also on the tennis team, 11th Grade Council, CSF and the Multi-Cultural Club. I volunteer at the Villa Scabrinini Retirement Home.

I was born in 1992 and spent most of my childhood in both Tiaong and Candelaria Quezon, Philippines. I have been in this country for almost three years.

There was a five-year old naked boy digging through a pile of garbage.

His sister, wearing tattered clothes showing off her bony ribs, was holding a plastic bag full of leftover food from the trash they just excavated. Their families had resorted to scavenging dumpsites simply to fill their empty, rattling stomachs.

Their faces are the faces of poverty, faces that had given my life a purpose. I was 13 when we journeyed into a very remote place in the Philippines. Our mission was to give them the supplies they needed and educate them since they could not afford to go to school.

We walked through narrow alleys of dirt and mud. The stench was unbearable and sanitation was very poor. There were children out on the streets begging for alms. Others were on the ground, gathered in a circle while sharing a single bowl of noodles - their only meal of the day. Some were lying down on the floor of their tiny shacks, curled up while trying to sleep away their hunger.

We clothed them as best as we could, we gave them food, we taught them their ABCs, and we taught them how to count.

As much as the sight broke my heart, the experience helped me make an important decision. It has propelled me towards my career path, to be a doctor.

Because of them, and because of a promise I made with my grandfather before he passed away two years ago, I will do whatever it takes to help and save lives. Although all I can do for now is volunteer at a retirement home, where every day I spend with the elderly residents is a learning experience, I am determined to do more.

Statistics show that 640 million children do not have adequate shelter, and 90 million children are severely food deprived. Literally millions of children are dying from sickness brought on by these poor living conditions, and they have no one to help them. I wonder if we'd be helping the poor in Haiti if there had been no earthquake. This is why my ultimate dream is to one day return to the Philippines and help build clinics in that remote village, and in places like it around the world. Perhaps even help build schools. These are people just like you and me. The only difference is that they are born in a country that cannot provide, but I believe that given the chance, they can achieve greatness.

Unlike Emily Dickinson, I am no writer of beautiful words, and unlike Martin Luther King Jr., I am no speaker of powerful words. But, I am Jizel Emralino, an aspiring doctor. I may be small for my age, I may look frail and fragile, but I have big dreams and even bigger will power and resolve to see those dreams come true. Extinguishing poverty starts one village at a time. Therefore, for at least one small village, I am determined to make a difference that will not only save their lives, but change them.

Jizel Rigos Emralino



Everything But the Kitchen Sync

Mexican icon, Katz in drag highlight teacher song fest.



By Andrea Herrera and Anthony Mandujano
Staff Writers

Poly's faculty grabbed a microphone at the annual Teacher Lip Sync held Friday in the auditorium.

Parrot custodian Steve Mares, dressed like Chente, had the whole audience singing as he lip synced legendary Ranchera composer and singer Vicente Fernandez's "Volver Volver." Mares' performance and outfit brought out the audience's Mexican roots and got the crowd fired up. They begged for an encore, chanting "otra, otra, otra."

Athletic director Kim McEwen sang Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" while her dancers stomped all around the stage. Once Gaga stepped on the stage with her shiny red robe the audience went wild. Throughout the performance, Gaga showed off her moves, slinking all over the place, but ended in the middle of the stage lying on a bed.

Woodshop teacher Glen Lamos and history teacher Brad Katz sang the John Travolta/Olivia Newton-John duet "You're the One That I Want" from 1978's "Grease." Lamos was Travolta and Katz, in drag, played Newton-John.

"Math teacher Hardip Singh came from behind the curtains lip syncing Aventura's latest hit "Dile Al Amor" and dancing bachata."

Biology teacher Mario Rivera, accompanied by math teacher Sergio Lopez and science teacher Hardip Singh, lip synced Juanes' "Me Enamora." The ladies in the audience went wild as Rivera rocked his guitar.

Rivera invited the audience to join in the singing as he rocked out.

Singh later came from behind the curtains lip syncing Aventura's latest hit "Dile Al Amor" and dancing bachata.

Tenth grade counselor Angela Leidig and customer service teacher David Laster mc'd the show.

Poly's tenth grade center organized the Lip Sync to raise money for the annual CAHSEE breakfast.

POP PERFORMERS: clockwise from top: Custodian Steve Mares, woodshop teacher Glen Lamos and history teacher Brad Katz, math teacher Sergio Lopez and track coach Mario Rivera, athletic director Kim McEwen and agriculture teacher Hector Colon.



All photos by
Karina Muñiz

Finessing the Interview

The right attire can be the finishing touch for that big job interview.

By Michelle Nolasco and Diana Olmedo
Staff Writers

First impressions determine the kind of person people think you are. The following outfits for a job interview will show your seriousness for the job as well as your personal style. Wearing them will give a great first impression and will make you memorable.

Retail Interviews



Internet Photo

Hey fellas, so these outfits are great for an interview at a retail store or restaurant. These are all good combos that will make you look good and serious about the job without trying too hard. If you plan on dressing it up on top then dress it down with your favorite jeans

like in the first and third outfit. However, if you're not feeling the denim, then throw on some khakis in a dark tone or solid-colored trousers. Wear a button-down shirt to compliment the pants. And no matter what, be sure to wear dress shoes, preferably lace ups. It is an interview, after all.

Office Interviews



Internet Photo

Here are key pieces for an interview outfit for an office job or internship. You can play it safe with black trousers and a blazer that matches your pants. Be sure to wear a button-down shirt and tie. The tie is something you can

use to play with and show a bit of your personality. A skinny tie, for example, shows your youth and seriousness for the job. If this is a bit too much, then feel free to lose the blazer. And always make sure those dress shoes are polished.

Office Interviews



Internet Photo

Ladies, be sure to look like one for any interview. This does not mean borrowing your grandmother's business clothes. Just cover up and look polished. Pencil skirts are great because they are formal and feminine. Pair the skirt with nylons (black or nude is fine); bare legs are definitely inappropriate. Wear a button-down blouse in a neutral tone. Feel free to wear ruffles or stripes but nothing

too overwhelming. Do invest in a pair of basic black pumps. They are suitable for any interview and will be used time and time again. A solid color blazer, regardless of the cut or material, is always formal and sure to make an impression. Finally, accessorize! Go with one "statement" piece. If you wear a chunky necklace, for example, tone down the earrings by wearing small studs.

Retail Interviews



Internet Photo

Girls tend to debate whether to go professional or casual to a retail job interview. This outfit is a perfect combination to wear and show off your girly and conservative sides. Wear a pair of straight leg jeans with pointed flats. Pointed flats give the illusion of

heels and are a more professional take than the ballet flat. If you feel a graphic tee shirt is too casual, go with a solid colored tee shirt. Lastly, in order to highlight your hair and makeup, wear earrings that compliment your outfit.

My Lips Unsealed



Gabriela Melendez

whats
the
skinny

My brother and sister go to middle school. Whenever I tag along to pick them up, I see the most interesting fashion statements ever. I couldn't stop staring at this group of friends who all had green hair. That was it. No different style. Just the hair. It was lime green that looked like it was fading to blonde. Why the heck did they do that? It looked so unappealing. My sister told me there were a lot of people at her school with green hair.

The next time I picked my brother up from school, I saw a bunch of guys with skin tight jeans. What the -? I understand girls wearing them, but guys?! How do they walk in those, especially with their extra baggage? Even skinny jeans in general make common things like walking, sitting, running and moving difficult.

Finding the unusual became a game to me. I found guys with their beanies hanging from their heads, not even on. Is that cool? I found girls with raccoon eyes, thick layers of dark eye make up on the top and bottom. They look scary. I saw guys with long hair. As old as this style is, they still look like girls.

I saw striped glasses. Now you're looking through a shade of blinds! I saw boxers. Ech. They're wearing belts, why can't guys pull their pants up? I do NOT want to see that. I saw shiny tights. Ooh, sparkly. I saw piercings. On lips, noses, tongues, ears, necks, and wrists. Ouch? I saw skin-colored nail polish. You painted your nails...really?

Of course, what's weird to me can be cool to others. So I've learned to not get offended if someone's taste in fashion disagrees with mine. Embrace it, even. No one's normal. There's something in every person that makes him or her stand out from the crowd. So keep your eyes open for eye-catching fashions. They are everywhere.

"I found girls with raccoon eyes, thick layers of dark eye make up on the top and bottom."



Photo By Karina Muñiz

FLAG: Sgt. Ubaldo Barrios, class of '99, with Principal Gerardo Loera.

Parrots Get Flag

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

Air Force Sergeant and Poly alumnus Ubaldo "Ubi" Barrios presented Poly High with a flag of honor flown on a mission in Afghanistan.

"I appreciate what Poly did for me," said Barrios. "Giving the flag was more of a personal touch on my part."

Poly's flag was flown over Afghanistan on December 13, 2009, aboard a B-1 Bomber as part of an Operation Enduring Freedom bombing mission. Each flag is presented with a certificate stating the date that the flag was flown and the name of the bomb squadron and the pilots who flew on the mission.

The flag was presented folded in the tri-fold format, required for an American flag retired from use.

Barrios presented the flag to Poly Principal Gerardo Loera as a token of appreciation on January 14. Poly's ROTC currently has possession of the flag.

The flag specifically honored the Poly class of 1999, the year Barrios graduated.

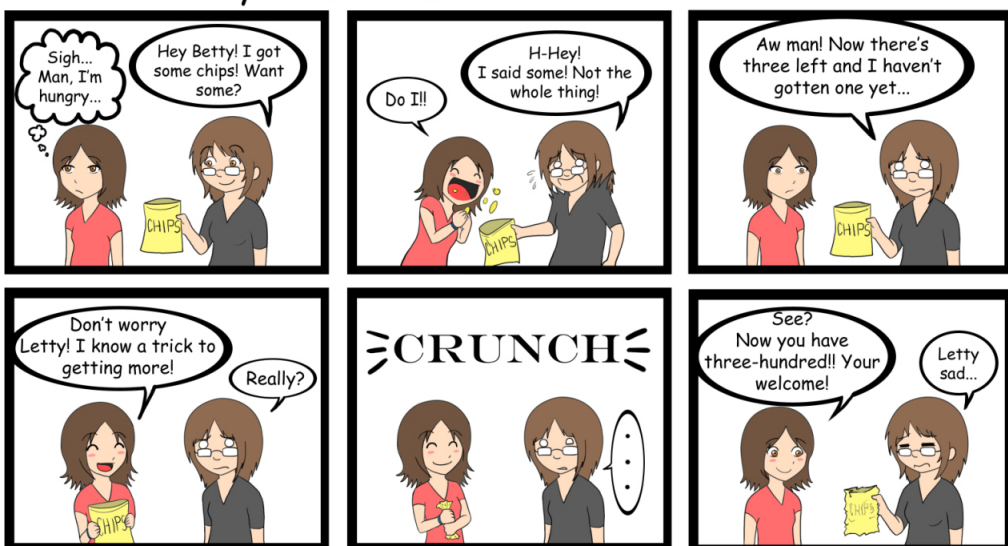
"Being an alumnus, it's hard to grow away from the school that saw you grow," said Barrios. "I love my class of '99."

Barrios attended Poly from 1996-99 and joined the military after graduation.

Poly computer teacher and Iraq vet Javier Rios noted the significance of Barrios' contribution.

"It's not common for someone to receive one of these flags," said Rios. "It's a great honor."

Life with Letty: Want Some?



Sudoku

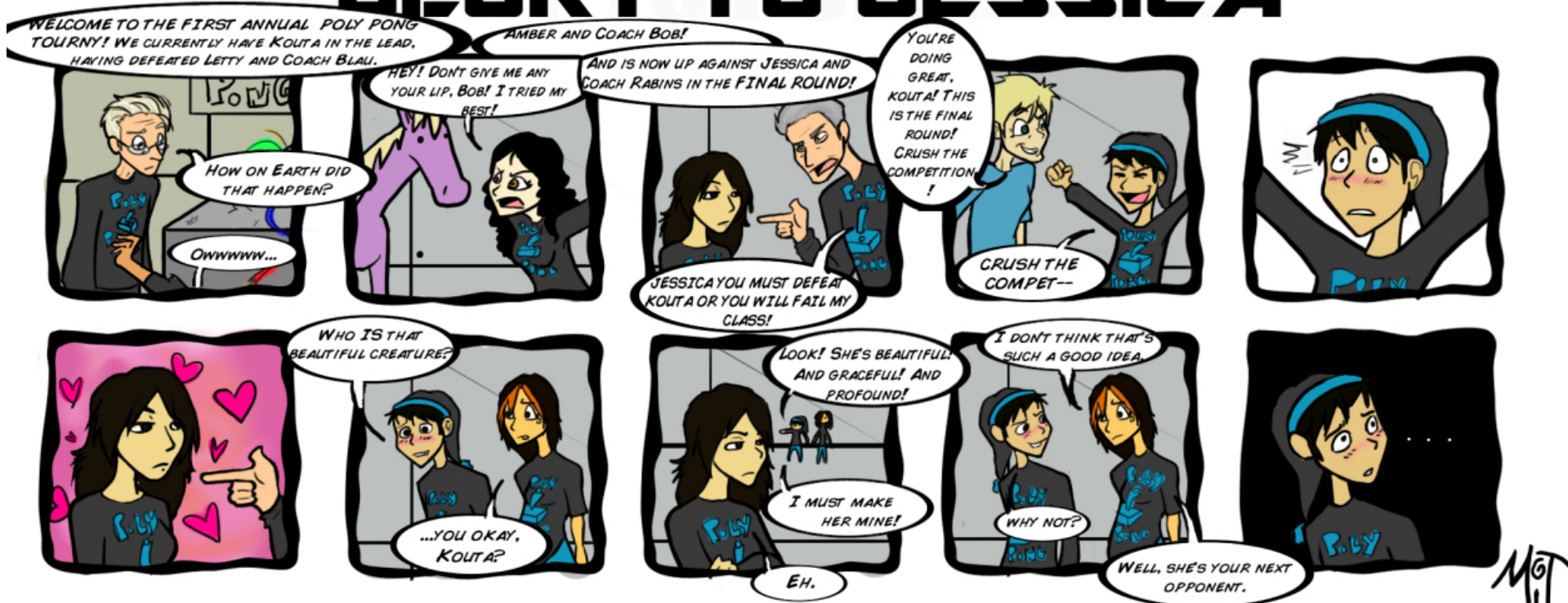
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Using the numbers 1-9, fill in each box. Use each number only once per box.

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

Solution To January's Puzzle

GLORY TO JESSICA



iPad



Apple Unveils Much Anticipated "Tablet"

CEO Jobs called the Silicon Valley company's latest tech toy "magical." Others aren't so sure.

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

Reviews were mixed as Apple's Steve Jobs introduced his new wonder toy, a Kindle look-alike and competitor called the iPad, at the Yerba Buena Center of the Arts in San Francisco late last month.

"I think it's a stepping stone for a new kind of computing that could truly be 'revolutionary' to a whole different class of people than ergonomically-challenged couch surfers," said "Engadget's" Paul Miller.

But the "New York Times" David Pogue had a different view.

"My main message to fanboys is this: it's too early to draw any conclusions," Pogue said. "Apple hasn't given the thing to any reviewers yet, there are no iPad-only apps yet, the e-bookstore hasn't gone online yet. Hyperventilating is not yet the appropriate reaction."

Jobs, ever the salesman, was enthusiastic.

"Way better than a laptop, way better than a smartphone," he said.

Jobs said a new store application named iBooks will allow iPad users to buy and read books on the new device. Unlike Kindle, Jobs said, the iPad exhibits sharp, rich and realistic interactive pages and has a digital wooden shelf for books users purchase.

"It could certainly serve as an able replacement for a netbook or an e-book reader," said "Engadget's" Nilay Patel.

iPad users can also browse the web, listen to music, watch movies, read books, check mail, look at maps, and YouTube videos, all on a 1024 x 768 resolution screen. and applications can be viewed in the landscape mode by



watch HD Programs motion tilting.

The iPad can run most iPhone and iPod touch apps and display them in a double sized resolution.

Like all Apple products, the iPad is small and sleek, weighing just a pound and a half and less than a foot long and half an inch thin. The device mixes an iPhone and iPod touch with a MacBook Air but runs on iPhone OS 3.2 instead of Mac OS X.

An iPad app named iWork will display presentations, word processing documents and spread sheets, useful for students and business people.

But the iPad lacks a camera, Adobe Flash and the ability to multitask.

The 16 gig iPad will retail for \$499.99.

"We want to put this in the hands of people," Jobs said, apparently referring to everyone with an extra \$500 to spend on tech toys.

GOOGLE ENTERS PHONE MARKET

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

Apple's iPhone was a game changer, shifting control of the mobile phone market from carriers like ATT and Verizon to manufacturer Apple.

Now Google has introduced its own smartphone, the Nexus One. Google hopes to compete with Apple for a share of the mobile phone market.

"The Nexus One is at its core just another smartphone," said Joshua Topolsky of 'Engadget.' "It's a particularly good one but it's not in any way the earth-shattering, paradigm-skewing device the media and community cheerleaders have built it up to be."

While the Nexus One has some unique features, like the ability to text by speaking, the phone is the same as any other smartphone and falls short against the iPhone.

"It looks like a really cool phone," said Charles Golvin from Forrester Research, "But it is not a game changer."

For starters, the iPhone has 16GB of memory, the Nexus only 4GB. The iPhone has a more fluid multitouch interface and faster internet speed than the Nexus.

Apple's app store also has more refined applications than the Nexus.

"The iPhone is still a better apps platform," said Walter S. Mossberg of 'The Wall Street Journal.' "Not only are there more apps, but, in my experience, iPhone apps are generally more polished and come in more varieties."

The iPhone is available through ATT for \$99-\$199. Nexus One is available unlocked through Google's site for \$529 or \$179 through a contract with T-Mobile. An unlocked Nexus allows consumers to input SIM cards from other companies like ATT, Verizon and Sprint, although, the phone doesn't operate with 3G networks.



Internet Photo
NEXUS ONE: Search giant Google's entry into the mobile phone market runs on the company's Android operating system.



Photo By Karina Muñiz

LOOKING TO PASS: *Sophomore guard Jocelyn Hernandez looks for a cutter in Poly's not-so-routine 53-35 win over the visiting Donettes of Verdugo Friday.*

Hunters Pummel Parrots in 53-43 win

Poly turnovers enable Canoga Park road win.

By Jose Torres
Staff Writer

Canoga Park used 19 points from playmaker Austin Williams to break a five-game losing streak and complete a season sweep of Poly with a 53-43 win Friday night. The last time the Hunters managed to defeat Poly twice in a season was 2002.

"We didn't do anything right tonight," said Parrot head coach Dave Bonino. "We couldn't execute."

The Hunters dominated the boards, with Thomas Simian getting 17 rebounds to go with 6 points, while teammate Forrest Wilson had 10 boards.

Parrot senior center Arthur Rivera worked well in the paint and led Poly with 12 points, but the Parrots didn't go to him early enough and often enough. Senior Oscar Aguilar added 9 and senior guard Victor Solano had 5.

Williams took over the game in the third quarter, getting plenty of coast-to-coast layups and steals on hustle plays. Poly, up 18-14 at the half, gave up 19 points in the third and was quickly down 33-24.

The Parrots finally played some D and closed to within four at 39-35 before Canoga scored again.



Photo By Karina Muñiz

OFF THE GLASS: *Junior post player Erick Martinez scores on Canoga Park.*

Poly made one final stand, turning three consecutive steals into scores and tied the game at 41 with 1:29 left. But Poly fouls put Canoga on the line again and again and the visitors left with a 10-point win.

The loss was Poly's fifth straight. The Parrots (3-19, 1-6) host Arleta (11-9, 2-5) next, while the Hunters (6-12, 2-5) host Grant.

Poly Offense Dominates Dons

Lady Parrots double their offensive output in the second half to rout visiting Verdugo.

By Jose Torres
Staff Writer

Verdugo scorched the Lady Parrots for 17 first-quarter points Friday night, but couldn't withstand Poly's withering offense and went quietly into the night, losing 53-35.

"I knew my girls were going to catch up" said Poly head coach Tremeka Batiste "I just found it hard to believe that we had to fight back. We should have led from the start."

The Lady Parrots, who scored more points in the second half than visiting Verdugo did all night, ran their first-place East Valley League record to 9-1.

Poly managed only 7 points in the first quarter and 10 in the second, entering the locker room down by three.

But the Lady Parrots came out firing after the break. Senior Lorraine Figueroa camped at the free throw line, while guard

Ruby Ramirez added five points, including a three from the corner.

Figueroa led all Poly scorers with 16 points. Playmaker junior Tiffany Mejia had 12 points on slashing cuts to the basket and strong ball-handling. Junior Ruby Ramirez also had 12 points.

Dons junior guard Andrea Quero had 16 points.

The win was the Lady Parrots' ninth in the last 10 games. Poly continues its three-game homestand with a Monday matchup against North Hollywood (8-9, 7-2) and a season closer with Grant (8-12, 7-1) on Friday. The Lady Parrots (13-11, 9-1) beat the Huskies 48-43 and lost to Grant 70-52 in January.

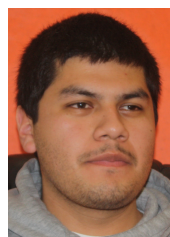
The Lady Parrots JV used a two-point buzzer beater from sophomore Evelin Cifuentes to even the score at 30 and send the game into overtime. But Poly never scored again and lost 34-30. Junior Maggie Arriaga had 13 points to lead the Parrots.

Sports Talk

NBA Shootout

Wizards star Gilbert Arenas' locker room gun play shot down by Stern.

Ivan Salazar



The pride of Grant High, Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas had a tough life before becoming a rising NBA star. Arenas, a second round draft pick, was so unknown in the NBA that he wore jersey number 0. Arenas signed with the Wizards as a free agent and became a three-time All-Star through dedication and hard work, gaining respect from teams and fans.

But now, NBA Commissioner David Stern has suspended Arenas and teammate Javaris Crittenton for the rest of the season. Crittenton had confronted Arenas about a

gambling debt during a flight to Washington. Arenas later brought four guns into the Verizon Center locker room and told Crittenton to pick one and shoot Arenas. Crittenton then took out his own gun and told Arenas he was not going to back down.

Later Arenas, in a pregame warm up, imitated guns with his hands, pretending to shoot teammates, prompting the Stern suspension.

The NBA has a strict policy forbidding firearms within team facilities. Arenas also violated local laws by possessing guns without a license.

Arenas was charged with felony gun possession, carrying a term of up to five years in prison. Arenas agreed to plead guilty in return for a deal that will prevent any jail time. Crittenton's charges are less severe because the investigation failed to recover any guns. Arenas awaits his fate on March 26 when the final verdict will be presented.

Arenas has a pending four-year contract worth about \$80 million. The Wizards have the option of voiding the deal because Arenas violated a moral turpitude clause stating that a player's contract can be voided if charged with a felony.

Does a locker room joke really deserve such harsh consequences? The punishment seems too severe compared to the 68-game suspension Latrell Sprewell received for choking and threatening to kill Golden State coach P.J. Carlesimo in 1998.

Arenas has lost the trust and respect of fans and teammates, along with a large sum of money, with his suspension. If Arenas does not return to NBA, his star status will soon fade from memory.

Soccer Diary

Loss as a learning experience

Yendi Lozano

Before the game. (Friday @ home against Arleta)

The bell rings to go to fourth period. I'm getting ready for the game. I'm so excited. We beat this team like two weeks ago and I'm hoping to win again. I know we will beat them again.

So far, everything looks good. All the girls seem to be confident with themselves and very enthusiastic.

1:30 p.m. All the team goes up to the field. We need to warm up and Arleta has arrived. We start doing some drills and Ms. Miller tells us not to step on the white line because it is bad luck.

The referees are here. The captains meet with Arleta's captains. Before we start, Ms. Miller gives us some wise words.

"C'mon you guys, do something on purpose, kick the ball on purpose, get it on purpose, score on purpose, and play with them on purpose."

The game

Everything looks good, the other team seems to not have ball

control and we do. Yes!!!! Violet scores a goal. BEAUTIFUL goal. So far we are winning.

Wait, no no no, Arleta scores. It's ok. I know we can do this. Yes - Violet scores another goal - no the ref says it was offside. That's not fair - it wasn't offside.

Damn. There's only five minutes left. We need to make a goal again.

NOOOOOOOOO. I can't believe it. The other team scored on us. The ref whistles. The game is over. We lost.

After the game.

All the team looks down. Ms. Miller, I don't even want to know how she's feeling right now. We disappointed her. I know we could have done better. Still don't like the feeling of losing. It just gets me so mad, but this will help us see our errors and fix them for the next game.