

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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APRIL 2010

Politics '10

Health Care Reform Passes Into Law

By Angel Silva
Staff Writer

President Obama signed the first health care reform in over 10 years on March 24, after struggling with opposition from the right-wing for most of the past year.

"Today, after almost a century of trying; today, after over a year of debate; today, after all the votes have been tallied -- health insurance reform becomes law in the United States of America," said Obama. "We also mark a new season in America."

Absent at the signing in the White House's East Room were the Senate's Republicans, who did not vote in favor of the bill.

Obama stated that the passage of the bill was a "testament to the historic leadership and uncommon courage of the men and women of the United States Congress, who've taken their lumps during this difficult debate."

"With all the punditry, all of the lobbying, all of the game-playing that passes for governing in Washington, it's been easy at times to doubt our ability to do such a big thing, such a complicated thing; to wonder if there are limits to what we, as a people, can still achieve. It's easy to succumb to the sense of cynicism about what's possible in this country," said Obama.

"But today, we are affirming that essential truth -- a truth every generation is called to rediscover for itself -- that we are not a nation that scales back its aspirations."

The passage of reform didn't come without cost. The months of debate and partisan skirmishes lowered President Obama's approval rating by 20 points, and Congress's rating is in the tens.

Despite the decreased ratings, Americans seemed to show approval on the passage of the bill. A Gallup poll released March 23 showed 49% of the nation called the bill's passage "a good thing," compared to 40% that called it "a bad thing."

Some Republicans have called for repealing of the legislation, but others called for less radical measures, such as an overhaul including popular points of Obama's current plan.

Same School, New Schedule

By Anthony Mandujano
and Stephy Menjivar
Staff Writers

Principal Gerardo Loera will ring the school bell to start the new school year on August 9th, 2010, a little earlier than other schools in the LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District).

Starting next school year Loera plans to run Poly by a "balanced traditional calendar" that will focus on the major needs of the students.

In a recent interview with the Daily News Loera said, "Our school calendar is set up from September to June because it's founded in the ideals of an agrarian society ... Well, there is no longer a need to set it up that way. Now we can look at what the realities of today are, what the needs are and what the research shows."

On April 13, 2010 LAUSD board members approved the calendar proposed by Poly and include Arleta and Sun Valley High School.

For the 2010-2011 school year the first day of instruction will be August 9th and the last day of instruction will be June 27th, 2011. There will be a total of 180 instructional days, minus seven furlough days.

Under this new calendar plan students will be able to attend school during the short breaks to make up classes or for enrichment. The summer break will be from June 28th to August 8th with an intersession period from July 6th to August 2nd. The winter break will be from December 20th to February 4th



Photo By Jizel Emralino

CAMPUS: The new school year begins August 9.

with intersession period from January 3rd to January 31st.

These intersession periods will help students recover lost credits and complete their A-G requirements in a shorter period of time. As a result, the school's graduation rate will increase.

Poly will keep its 4 X 4 instructional calendar with the mester system. This means that students will be able to take a total of 8 classes throughout the school year.

Poly is determined to fully prepare all students for college. For this reason, they have arranged the new calendar to align with the Community colleges. Classes will continue to be offered at Poly, so that students will be able to take these classes during the winter break.

Teachers, such as 10th grade Mathematics teacher Gloria Gapac, said that this new calendar will be [See Schedule, pg 7]

Students Lose School Time

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

The United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) came to an agreement with the Los Angeles Unified District (LAUSD) that would minimize the lay-offs and maintain class-sizes. A key component of the agreement is the furlough days, which means the school year will be cut by a certain number of days.

"Poly A, B and C tracks will be given four furlough days off," said Principal Gerardo Loera. "In addition, we need to reduce two school days by 1.8 hours. Instead of the usual three o'clock dismissal, the school day ends at 1:12pm."

UTLA voting regarding the furlough days took place on April 7, 8 and was officially passed.

"Seventy nine percent of UTLA teachers agreed to the furlough days," said UTLA Valley East Area Chair Linda Gordon.

LAUSD administrators and teachers in traditional scheduled



Photo by Joel Hinojosa

EMPTY: Empty Poly room represents the effect of furlough days.

schools will take five furlough days off while Poly's current year-round schedule will only allow four furlough days and two minimum days.

A and C track will have the same two minimum days, while B track will have different minimum days.

Each track will have its own furlough days because of their differences in schedule.

"C track will have May 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th off," said Gordon. "While A and B track will have their furlough days on May 28th, June 28th, 29th and

30th."

May 28th will be the district wide day off, as part of the four day Memorial weekend.

Through the implementation of the furlough days, about \$140 million will be generated in savings that will be used to alleviate the current budget crisis.

"First, it saves money by not having to pay teachers during those days," said Loera. "Second, the school continues to gain money through the Average Daily Attendance for students who still

[See Furlough, pg 7]

Living History

By Jizel Emralino and
Armando Orozco
Staff Writers

Back-track social science teacher Jennifer Murray's junior advanced placement US History class proved that learning history is not just by reading tomes but from actual portrayal of historical characters.

On March 17, 2010, the whole class came dressed in their improvised costumes representing historical figures such as Teddy Roosevelt, J.D Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie and many others.

The objective of the task was to educate the students about significant people in the industrial era through verbal interactions. The in class conference pitted students in an active debate regarding economic, political, and social issues that troubled the late 1800's.

"Historical characters have variety and sometimes vying opinions," Murray said.

Students were able to express their creativity by crafting their own arguments of what they think is the major problems of the society through the eyes of their assigned character.

"Students became the teachers," said Murray. "Hands on activities are more fun for the students."

Senior Ralph Regem Corpuz was so engrossed with his character, William Dubois, that he even imitated the activist's southern accent. The way Corpuz presented his speech about racial injustices and segregation of races brought a sense of life to his character as did most of the students.

Junior Ivann Urbina reenacted Teddy Roosevelt by wearing a suit along with a yellow-colored paper mustache and paper glasses. Urbina emphasized his accomplishments on her speech. She humorously argued that her character, Roosevelt, is the best President ever elected in History.

This project has been going on for almost six years.

"I got the idea from a history book," said Murray. "The kids loved it and they understood the material more."

As the conference progressed, [See History, pg 7]



MIT
eddie

See Page 3



get
ready
to
brawl

See Page 7



where
it all
began

See Page 8

EDITORIAL

Hey, Listen Up!

Every morning when the bell rings, you are either running to class to avoid the Tardy Sweep or you are in class listening to the morning announcements - or should I say trying to listen to the announcements.

There are numerous events happening in Poly every week and the only way to keep track of all of those are the morning announcements. However, certain circumstances keep students from paying attention to them.

Some students complain that the announcements are "too repetitive." With the assumption that the announcements are the same as yesterday's, students tend to just ignore them.

And what happens when they give up listening to these "redundant" announcements? They talk.

The noise level in a classroom is arguably the main reason why other students are forced to disregard the announcements. Why? Well, because we can't hear them. If everyone in your class is talking about the latest movie that came out or about last night's episode of Heroes, then why bother listening to the announcements which do not apply to you anyway?

Consequently, students like me, who are eager to know what's happening in school, are deprived of this right. We want to hear the announcements, but

we just can't hear them. The cacophony of all the chatter in class overwhelms the sound of the small speaker in the room.

The morning announcements divulge information for the whole student body as well as free helpful information.

For instance, seniors are always reminded about certain deadlines, including financial aid, scholarships and more.

Poly's achievements in sports competitions and other extracurricular activities are also recognized in the morning announcements. This enhances Poly's Pride, knowing that we excel not only in academics, but in various fields as well.

Other students are informed about club meetings through the announcements. Unfortunately, sometimes some members are left uninformed. Again, because they did not hear the announcements. Is it their fault for not listening? Or is it the rest of the class' fault for selfishly talking while the announcements are going on?

Many students hear the announcements, but only a few listen to it.

As students, it is our responsibility to behave well in class and respect our fellow classmate's right to hear the morning announcements.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I just wanted to let you know that the OPTIMIST looks awesome! I was looking at it because the newspaper at the school I'm at now looks skimpy, and I remembered how much work you put in to the OPTIMIST. You're doing a fabulous job, and I just needed to give you my compliments! It looks amazing.

-Luisa Pak, former Poly English teacher

Thou Shall Not Cuss

March 2 through March 6 has been declared "No Cuss week" by California legislature.

In 2007, South Pasadena Middle School student MacKay Hatch founded the "No Cussing Club" at his school.

Hatch's efforts to end profanity led to his creation of the "No Cussing" website. The website currently has 35,000 members from all over the world.

The "No Cussing" website caught the attention of California assembly member Anthony J. Portantino.

Portantino introduced the "No cussing" idea to the Los Angeles County Supervisors and it was decided to make the first week of March a "No Cussing week".

"We're having fun with it," stated Portantino.

California is the first state to consider the profanity-free week. The Hatch family and Portantino hope that the bill becomes state-wide.

"I expect to receive equal support in both houses," stated Portantino.

Poly OPTIMIST asked Poly Parrots what they think about profanity.

"Limiting profanity is different from banning it," said Chamber.

Some Poly Parrots consider banning profanity as a violation of freedom of speech.

"Yes it is a violation, because when some people have bad days, get into fights, get fired, etc. cursing can relieve some pressure and anger," said Poly Parrot Viviana Hernandez.

California legislature has passed a bill, which promotes limits on saying profanity.

On February 18, 2010 assembly member, Anthony J. Portantino declared March 2 through March 6 as "No Cussing" week.

Accepting the challenge will help Californians improve their language and help them feel more accomplishing of their goals.

The "No Cussing" bill poses a challenge for all Californians to change their vocabulary.

"Every human has a right to feel better, even if it means venting through cursing," said Poly Sophomore Evelin Cifuentes.

Part of the "No Cussing" program is the payment of a "fine" by students who say profanity, which will be collected in "swear jars".

The money allocated from the "swear jars" will be donated to charity or to non-profit organizations.

Hatch implies that the "No Cuss" week is not only about cursing but it is more about bringing awareness to how language affects lives.

"I think it's bringing a lot of awareness to people's language and hopefully people would see the goodness in using positive language and uplifting people," stated Hatch. "That's what this whole club is uplifting people."

Poly Parrots were asked what they think about profanity.

"Honestly, a law banning profanity would not help because cursing is part of human nature," said Sophomore Priya Chamber. "Limiting profanity is different

from banning it."

During a press conference Hatch stated, "Your words become your actions, your actions become your behavior, your behavior becomes your character, and your character becomes destiny, you are what you speak."

THE OPTIMIST

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor must be typed or neatly printed in ink and must include the writer's signature. The OPTIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.14 or Ms. Matlen's box in the Main Office.

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.

Poly Student Earns His Way to MIT

By Jizel Emralino
Staff Writer

Poly senior Eduardo Carrillo was recently accepted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the top ranked schools in the world for science and technology.

"I still can't believe it," said Carrillo. "I've always wanted to go to MIT."

At MIT, Carrillo is going to major in Physics and immerse himself into the realms of astrophysics and quantum physics under the instruction of the best minds in the country.

Carrillo is already planning what he is going to do at MIT, although he does not graduate from high school for another two months.

"The moment I get there, I can start doing research, which I really want to do in life," said Carrillo.

Getting accepted into a prestigious university like MIT is no easy task. Carrillo took all the Advanced Placement classes related to Science, including Biology, Chemistry, Calculus and is currently taking AP Statistics and AP Physics.

He is also involved in several extracurricular activities, such as the Poetry Club, Latinos Unidos, Senior Council and the Science Bowl.

"Another important factor in applying for colleges are the SAT scores," said Carrillo who scored an 1840 out of 2400 on the SAT Reasoning. He also took several SAT Subject tests, turning in a score of 710 in Biology, 720 on Chemistry, and a perfect score of 800 on Math II.

For Carrillo, the biggest obstacle in ap-

plying for colleges is "how to sell yourself, or to make the colleges know who you are and how truly passionate you are about what you do."

Carrillo has a strong support system, including his teachers and counselors who constantly encouraged him to do well in his studies, as well as his very supportive friends.

"People who had helped me the most are my sister, my teachers, like Mr. Gomez and Ms. Bobrow, my counselors and my friends," said Carrillo.

When he is not busy studying for his APs, Carrillo likes to spend his leisure time browsing magazines or the Internet for new discoveries in science and technology.

"I like to research things that I'm curious about," said Carrillo.

Carrillo's pursuit to satisfy his curiosity in life has led him into the field of Physics.

"One time, in my AP Physics class, we were talking about atoms and electrons and I kept asking question after question to the point that we completely digressed from the topic, so Mr. Schwagle offered to meet me after school to answer all my remaining questions."

Carrillo is a natural born savant one who can describe a Physics experiment involving the drop of a ball in oil and observe how it speeds up and slows down at the same time, with much enthusiasm.

"Then we started using Calculus... it was beautiful."

Carrillo's career goal is to get a PhD in Physics and to work for a top research company like NASA.

Carrillo firmly believes that "if you have the determination to achieve something you always want to do in life, then the sky is the limit."



Internet Photo

"If you have the determination to achieve anything you want in life, then the sky's the limit."



Photo by Karina Muñiz

PENSIVE: Senior Eduardo Carrillo plans to major in physics while at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

Freshmen Find 'Four for Life' Fulfilling

Freshman Center program's goal is to develop students with the right stuff.

By Andrea Herrera
Staff Writer

The Poly Freshman center has recognized several students for exhibiting good behavior, as outlined in the "The Four for Life" standards.

Student of the Week winners received an award and are candidates for being named "Student of the Month".

"It's important because it looks good on college applications" said

Brenda Moreno, a recent "Student of the Week".

The Four for Life are characteristics that students are encouraged to take on, such as: being on time, safe, responsible, and respectful.

"I was actually surprised that I was named," said Student of the Week Blumineaux Bies on being recognized for being responsible.

According to freshman center coordinator, Gilbert Ovanessian, the purpose of the recognition was to acknowledge students for

behaving and practicing the Four for Life traits.

Recognizing students in such a positive way has achieved positive outcomes.

"There has been an increase in attendance, roughly about 1% and that was one of our main goals - to have higher attendance," said Ovanessian.

The winners' pictures are included in the "Hall of Fame" placed outside the freshman center.

Higher Education Means More Money

By Vanessa Gomez
Staff Writer

Poly seniors have applied and been accepted to different colleges in the nation must face the next challenging step. They must figure out how to pay for all their classes without enough scholarship money.

The problem for most seniors is tuition.

A track senior Evelyn Cisneros will attend the Art Institute of California in San Diego to become an interior designer.

To pay for her tuition Cisneros will be supported by her parents, financial aid, loans and grants. She also plans to get a part-time job to pay for the cost of her education.

"I am worried," said Cisneros. "I don't want to be a college student with a lot of debt so soon."

Cisneros will be moving to San Diego two weeks after graduation and even though she will miss home, she feels excited.

"I have wanted to go somewhere new and not study in the Valley. I love the Valley but I want to visit new cities," said Cisneros. "I look forward to meeting new people and studying in a new environment."

Cisneros knows that money will be a huge challenge in completing her educational goal.

Track senior Sergio Coyt will attend California State University Northridge (CSUN) where he will major in mathematics to become a math teacher.

Since Coyt is the only one who is working in his family he decided to attend college that is closer to home.

"I help out with the bills," said Coyt. "I will pay for my education on my own. I have been working and been saving up some money."

Without any financial aid, grants or scholarships Coyt is left to pay his education on his own.

The cost for college education is prohibitive without scholarships. Classes in a community college cost \$30 per unit, California State University (CSU) \$380 per unit and University of California (UC) \$650 per unit with most classes being 3 units. Math classes and some science

classes include 5 units or more with accompanying lab fees.

In addition to the increasing tuition, students have to worry about extra fees such as room and board, transportation, books and supplies and other expenses.

For a community college and CSU, most students commute to school.

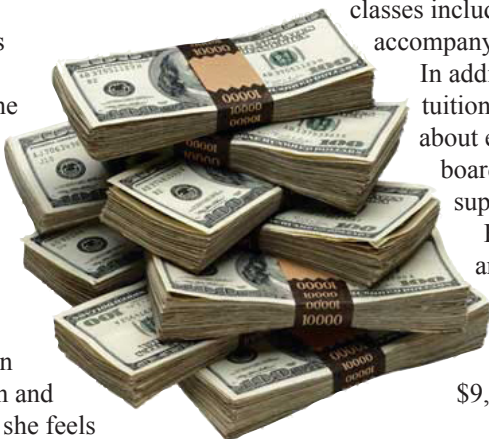
However, those who will attend a UC will pay \$9,748-\$10,095 for on campus housing.

The health insurance fee for UCs estimates at \$1,396.

Cost of books estimate around \$1,734 for all three colleges.

Even though some seniors have applied to receive help from Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), loans, grants and work study, they should learn to manage their money wisely.

Seniors have different methods of paying for college. Seniors will have to use money wisely to achieve their goals of a higher education without swimming in a sea of debt.



Internet Photo



Internet Photo

BLEAK: Depressed teen girl sits as another peer tries to comfort.

How to Deal with Teen Depression

By Vivian Araujo
and Christina Balien
Staff Writers

Everyone may have a time in their life when they feel unusually down. Sometimes this feeling of sadness can escalate to depression. If not yourself, perhaps someone you know or love may exhibit signs of serious depression.

"Before my depression started, I was always talking to my family or always going to my friends and being silly with them," said one teen who has requested to remain anonymous. "I bottle up everything inside and refuse to express what I'm feeling."

For the last seven months, this Poly student has been in a state depression and is continuing to struggle from its effects.

Depression can impact every aspect of a teen's life, and it is an emotional state that can either occur for a short time or last for a lifetime.

Depression can be characterized by sadness or hopelessness, irritability, anger or hostility, loss of interest in activities, changes in eating and sleeping habits, lack of enthusiasm and motivation and difficulty concentrating.

This illness can occur in anyone's daily life because of excessive stress or teenage hormones.

If depression goes untreated, it can lead to problems at school and at home, substance abuse, low self-esteem, eating disorders, internet addiction, self-injury, reckless behavior, violence and possibly suicide.

In fact, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds.

There are two kinds of depression. One is biological depression and the other is clinical depression.

Biological depression is a short lasting stage of depression that a teenager can experience if under too much stress, by either school or family life. If biological depression lasts for too long, it can lead to clinical depression.

Clinical depression is a medical term for long lasting depression. This type of depression can last a person's lifetime if not treated. Clinical depression is a chemical imbalance in the brain.

When clinically depressed, a person is more likely to think of suicide and even commit it. Clinical depression is much more serious and can be life threatening.

Though depressed adolescents look to their friends for comfort and support, families are still an invaluable source of advice and aid.

Teachers and counselors can provide help if a student chooses to rely on an adult figure that is not family related.

However, depression can be prevented through a number of ways, such as positive self-reassurance.

"Some advice would be that your brain is like a computer. It will only answer the questions you ask it. Ask it positive questions like, 'How can I make this work?' not negative questions like, 'Why am I failing?'" said Mischa Martin, AP Psychology teacher at Poly.

If a teacher or counselor sees obvious signs of extreme depression, such as suicide then they must take immediate action to protect that student from themselves.

"If someone is thinking of suicide, seek help," said school Psychologist Frank Mendez.

Allowing depression to consume you can leave a negative effect on your daily life.



Fashion Show 2010

All Photos
By Jennifer Martinez





Internet Photo

THE DECISIVE BATTLE: *Lightning, the main protagonist, prepares to strike down an enemy creature.*

A Story Like No Other

Final Fantasy XIII is Square Enix's first installment of the franchise on the PS3 and Xbox 360.

By Armando Orozco
Staff Writer

Square Enix's Final Fantasy XIII for the Xbox 360 and PS3, offers some of the most lavish production values the series has ever seen.

The story, with 40-plus hours of game time, involves the dynamic between people who reside in two very different worlds and their relationship with the mysterious god figures that oversee humanity.

Told through the trials of Lightning and her companions, the story's mythology is fascinating but melodramatic. Players more accustomed to the conventional western brand of role playing games (RPG's) might find the plot a bit over-the-top and some of the characters overly whiny, frequently the case with Japanese

RPGs.

FF XIII's presentation is phenomenal. From the vivid cut scenes to the lush landscapes, clearly the production team at Square Enix put an incredible amount of energy into the game's development. This level of detail is rarely seen in a video game, especially since all the lip-synching was redone to match the English voice over.

Graphics are equally excellent, character models are very detailed and some of the environments are breath-taking. Game textures are not as good as expected but understandable considering the magnitude of the game.

Paradigm shifts are new to the series. For example, a player can switch his or her class (healer, raver, guardian, etc.) in mid combat to even out the odds in a fight. The only major flaws are camera

movements feel unresponsive if played on the PS3 and limited amount of markets places to purchase items/weapons; equipment must be acquired via save points.

The extreme linearity of FF XIII might prove bothersome to fans used to the random side missions that are typical of earlier series. Only at the conclusion are players allowed to explore a bit more.

For fans of Japanese RPG's, the Final Fantasy franchise is one of the best the genre has to offer. Each Final Fantasy has its own standalone experience. Though they deal with similar themes, each game has a unique story and improved game mechanics.

FFXIII tosses some of the old games' traditions, but players willing to adapt will find the game is an overall entertaining experience.



Internet Photo

EYE: *Multiple cameras surveying streets.*

Big Brother Holds the Advantage

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

The question arises, is anybody safe from identity theft or even the notorious "Big Brother", the government, with the evolution of technology today?

Prominent features of technology including video, wireless and social networking render identities and personal info exposed to the public domain.

Neuroscientists are in fact studying a way to see people's visual thoughts. The study is prepared by an fMRI machine which recreates pictures with software that compares a subject's brain activities while the subject stares at an image.

The technology is intended to advance computers that operate mentally and to interrogate criminals.

"If successful, it could influence the way we do just about everything. Mind reading machines could help doctors understand the inner worlds of people with hallucinations, cognitive disabilities, post-traumatic stress disorder and other impairment," said Lisa Katayama of Popular Science.

If this technology ends up in the wrong hands, people's lives could be destroyed by cyber-criminals.

Money would be taken by the millions and corruption would occur in probably anything.

People already have onerous problems in keeping personal information safe with online social sites like Facebook. Facebook was criticized for privacy policies, including switching people's profiles to public instead of private (friends only).

Words are one way to pass information but cameras are now more valuable than taking some-

body's word for something. Video is everywhere and always watching, that is if a handy camera is around.

Cameras are in most surroundings including marketplaces, by traffic intersections, and even homes.

Police have also acquired new ways to record footage besides on their patrol cars. Officers now have cameras equipped on their heads which records everything, which resembles a video game in a 1st point of view.

Video can provide hackers with access about a person's life, sexual acts, or police arrests and criminal information that is usually not disclosed to the public.

Parents can even track their teenager's car by using a GPS system. The system records speed limit and location. The parents can receive the information through web site, email and cell phone.

Rutgers University conducted a study involving malware software in cell phones. Rutgers's scientists developed a rootkit, malicious software that is harder to detect, which affects a phone's microphone, GPS and battery. The rootkit was only meant to show what possible threats it provides.

Rutgers's scientists found they can eavesdrop, track using GPS and drain a cell phone's battery by opening applications like Bluetooth and GPS.

"Big Brother" can access anything in our lives including what television shows we watch, websites we visit and have access to anything we purchase.

Technology is an endless amount of opportunities or disadvantages. Ironically, society will have trouble hiding behind technology, which people use to escape direct communication.

Smartphone Competition Heats Up

Microsoft's new Windows Mobile Phone 7 Series intends to compete with Apple and Google phones.

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

Microsoft's new Windows Mobile Phone 7 Series is the latest player in the smartphone market, hoping to compete with Apple's iPhone and Google's Nexus One.

"The look of the new software is very different than past Windows phones," says "Wall Street Journal" columnist Nick Wingfield, "yet manages to avoid the trap of becoming a clone of the iPhone and Google Android interfaces."

The phone has a black multitouch interface with "hubs," which are like folders rather than applications.

The "hubs" include games, people (contacts), pictures, music and video, marketplace (application store), Microsoft Office, email, calendar, Internet Explorer, Bing search and Bing maps.

The game "hub" will connect with Xbox Live and hold a miniature avatar of the user.

The music "hub" interface mostly resembles a Zune mp3 player device.

The Microsoft Office "hub" holds OneNote, a replacement for sticky notes, and SharePoint, which is a program that allows management of websites or shared workspaces.

Microsoft, however, isn't the only computer company looking to enter the smartphone marketplace.

Intel, the world's famous chip firm, has joined with mobile device manufacturer Nokia to produce smartphone software called "MeeGo."

"Microsoft, Intel and Nokia are willing to abandon tradition if it means getting another shot at the fast-growing mobile device market and blunting the advance of companies like Apple and Google," said the New York Times Ashlee Vance.

Some critics contend, however, that while Microsoft has cleaned up its act recently in the PC and Internet search businesses with Windows 7 and Bing, its mobile phone operating system is no match for the innovations of rivals Apple and Google.



Internet Photo

NEW MINISERIES, "THE PACIFIC," INVOLVES THE JUNGLES OF WWII

By Armando Orozco
Staff Writer

Ever since the end of the popular World War II miniseries "Band of Brothers" in 2001 audiences have wondered why the Pacific war against Japan wasn't presented but briefly mentioned.

Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg return to finish the job unraveling a whole new miniseries "The Pacific."

Steven Spielberg demonstrates his talents once again in the "The Pacific," which is a truly remarkable display of cinematography.

The vociferous performances and brilliant battle scenes are so chaotic, so unpredictable; it is almost a flawless recreation of war.

The production is stunning; soldiers are not wax figurines that most movies use to swindle some

money.

The making of the series was clearly put together by the finest screenwriters, directors, lighting technicians, makeup artists in the film industry.

The new miniseries revives the brutal conditions of tropical warfare that marine's had to undergo in order to bring an end, to the Japanese empire. Like its counterpart "Band of Brothers" it follows a single company of soldiers from beginning to end.

The series only gives a portion of the real war, following the 1st Marine Division as they are deployed into combat on the islands of Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Okinawa, Cape Gloucester and, finally, Iwo Jima. The series is 10 episodes total, each stretching to an hour long.

The show dishes out some old war-movies clichés. The ironic



Internet Photo

WARFARE: U.S. soldiers running from Japanese military in the miniseries "The Pacific."

death, the typical slow motion death scene, and of course the rookie who doesn't last the first day.

In addition there is a sliver romance between two star-crossed lovers separated by a vast ocean - the soldier overseas fighting a

war, determined to return home to the love of his life, and will go through hell to do so.

The Pacific is war at its darkest moments, captured through the eyes of Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks, who starred in the hit movie "Saving Private Ryan"

and Spielberg directed the tragic Schindler's List both have significant experience with war cinema so great expectations befall The Pacific.

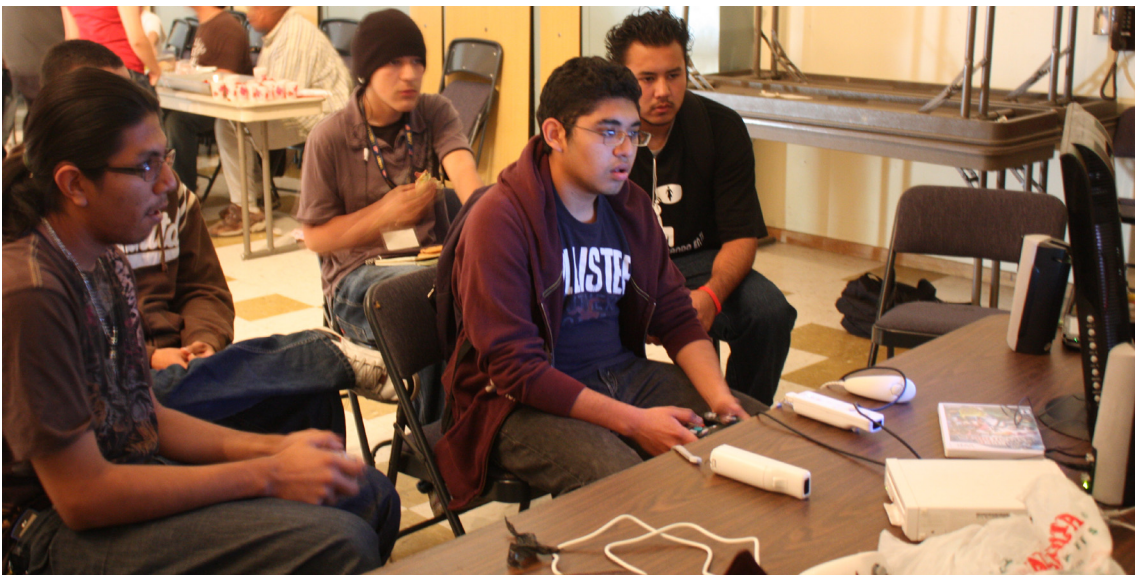


Photo by Vanessa Gomez

BRAWL: Gamers surround a Super Smash Bros Brawl setup in ASAP's game tournament on March 30.

Poly Gamers Play To Win

By Armando Orozco
Staff Writer

Poly's Video Game Club hosted a Super Smash Brothers Brawl tournament for the Nintendo Wii on March 30, 2010 and a Call of Duty Modern Warfare 2 for PS3 or Xbox 360 on April 6, 2010. Each event lasted two hours and was held in the cafeteria.

Club member sophomore Richard Martinez was in charge of the project and an active participant.

"I organized it," said Martinez, "but if it wasn't for the support of

Mr. Felix, the ASAP program and fellow club members, the event wouldn't have happened."

Math teacher Cesar Felix is the Video Game Club sponsor.

The Brawl tournament had around 20 contestants in one-on-one confrontations. Each player had three lives and had to win two out of three games to advance to the next round.

Senior Scott Castro won the Brawl competition and a backpack full of school supplies.

"I had a lot of fun," said Castro. "There were some pretty good players, like Marvin, Angel, and

Victor, but over all I had a good time."

Modern Warfare 2 had similar rules, but with a single round elimination.

Four finalists will finish the Modern Warfare 2 tournament on April 20 to decide the winner and a prize yet to be revealed.

Felix hopes to host more tournaments in the near future, including a variety of game franchises.

"I think this tournament was successful," Felix said. "Our goal was to have more people participate in ASAP programs and we achieved that goal."

Furlough Days

[Furlough, from pg 1]

go to school.

According to UTLA president AJ Duffy, school side personnel and teachers will have two paid days of professional training in addition to the four furlough days.

"The downtown personnel have the same amount of days off, possibly even more days than teachers," said Duffy.

On a more specific level, 1,825 teaching jobs would be saved and current class sizes would be maintained as enough teachers will be employed.

"If it was not passed then probably more lay-offs will have to be made," said Loera.

However, despite the amount of jobs that will be saved through the furlough days, a number of Poly teachers pointed out the negative effects of limited instruction days.

"Something has to be done to address the financial issue at state and this is one of the methods to address it," said Poly C track social studies teacher Kitt Heil-

bron. "Do I believe that LAUSD employees should have a pay cut, I do. I am willing to work those furlough days without pay because first and foremost are the students' instruction. There is no way to cover the curriculum in a shorter period of time."

Poly students showed concern about the furlough days, as less instruction time translates to more work in a shorter period of time.

"It's horrible because we lose five days of the school year, which means we have more assignments and less time for them," said Poly C track sophomore Andrea Menjivar.

Senior Karina Muniz is quite happy with the thousands of jobs that will be saved through the furlough days, but expresses the same concern of the limited teaching days.

"I'm okay with it. The only thing is that our teachers give more work and expect us to cram in three weeks," said Muniz. "For me, it's okay as long as it saves jobs, but we're basically given the same amount of work with less time."

History Acted Out

[History, from pg 1]

student reporters stepped in to

ask the actors witty or concise questions. Reporters were required to know everything about their actors as well as their friends and foes. In case the actors did not know the answer to a tricky question, the reporters provided them with aid.

Poly Senior Karinina Cruz who had the AP US History class last year shared with us the benefits of the conference.

"It wasn't dull," Cruz said. "It was active learning and not passive."

Murray believes that immersing the students into various perspectives of historical figures is crucial in learning American History.

Poly's School Schedule

[Schedule, from pg 1]

beneficial to students.

"This new calendar will help students have a more organized and structured school year," Gapac says. "Students will also be able to take great advantage of all the classes offered here."

The new vacation periods will impact both students and teachers differently. For some, their summer plans will be ruined, but for others these new break periods will put a smile on their face, like Poly sophomore Magaly Jimenez.

nez.

"What I like about this new calendar is that I won't have to be at school for my birthday,"

Jimenez says. "I won't have to return to school right after the holidays."

LAUSD Superintendent Ramon Cortines said, "I fully support high school educators taking the initiative to get creative with their calendars, one size doesn't fit all," Cortines said. "I am, more and more, trying to do what schools want."

School Calendar 2010-2011

Summer Intersession - July 7 - August 3

1st Day of School - August 9

Thanksgiving Break - November 22 - November 26

Winter Break - December 20 - February 7 2011

Winter Intersession - January 4 2011 - February 4

Start of Spring Mester - February 7

Spring Break - April 18 - April 22

Former Hoopster Pays a Visit

By Ruben Carmona
and Anthony Mandujano
Staff Writers

Former Poly basketball star DJ Gay, fresh off an NCAA appearance with San Diego State, made a stop at Poly recently to visit his former coach, Brad Katz, and see some old friends.

"I'm feeling great and happy to be back at Poly," said Gay. "This is where it all started; this is where it all began."

Gay, who just finished his junior year at San Diego State, led the Aztecs in their first-round NCAA tournament matchup against the Tennessee Volunteers on March 18. San Diego came up short in the first round of the 2010 NCAA Tournament, losing to the Volunteers 62-59.

"We had a great season," said Gay. "We made the NCAA tournament and we made history."

San Diego State also defeated nationally-ranked UNLV for the 2010 Mountain West Conference Championship.

"It was the highlight of my college career," Gay said.

Gay attributes his success to hard work during the off-season.

"It's hours at the gym, hours in the weight room, hours off the court that you have to put in to be able to do something like that,"



Photo by Karina Muñoz

BACK HOME: San Diego State student and Poly alumni DJ Gay.

said Gay. "Nothing comes easy."

After graduation, Gay has aspirations to play in the NBA.

"Playing at the next level is my dream," said Gay.

Gay's love for basketball started when he was a boy.

"I used to watch my father

play when I was about four or five years old," said Gay. "I wanted to be like my dad, so I picked it up from him and I've been playing ball ever since."

In his senior year at Poly, Gay averaged 29.4 points, 4.6 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 2.5 steals per game, and set a Parrot single-game scoring record with 56 points against Van Nuys. The Parrots had a 24-6 season.

Gay's future plans include starting a non-profit organization for kids with obesity. His goal is to give back to the community he came from.



Photo provided by Luz Cruz

CHEERS: Drill team smiles and shines in their sparkling uniforms.

Sparkling Parrots Obtain Victory

By Jizel Emralino
Staff Writer

A "double-victory" was attained by the vivacious Poly Drill Team.

The team won 1st place at a competition in March 6 at Arcadia High School. They also finished first at a competition at Whittier High School in April 3.

"It feels good," said Luz Cruz, Poly Drill team's captain. "We're excited and pumped up for the next competition."

Aside from the trophy, the Drill team members also succeeded in getting individual medals.

"There were sub competitions based on a particular dance element," said Cruz.

These sub categories include "Toe Touch," "High Kicks" and "Drill Down," where Cruz won 2nd place.

Their triumph would not have been possible without the help of the team's coaches Angela Leidig and Maribel Mungia, who led the practices.

"We practiced three hours a day every day before the competitions," said Co-captain Nancy Rodriguez.

At the venue of the competition, nervous breakdowns were inevitable. But as a team, Cruz said that they "calm each other down."

The Poly Drill team also performs their version of a pre-game "ritual."

"We pray before our performances," said Cruz. "We hold hands and ask the Lord to help us in the competition."

"It was hard, but it feels like all the hard work paid off," said Co-captain Michelle Argueta.



Photo provided by Tania Soto

ALL TOGETHER NOW: Poly Cheer gather around a new trophy.

Top of the Pyramid

By Jizel Emralino
Staff Writer

Poly's Cheerleading team came home victorious from a Cheerleading competition held at Whittier High School on Saturday April 3, 2010.

"We were so thrilled," said the Poly Cheerleading coach Tania Soto. "I can't believe it, it was a shocker."

The team won 1st place with an overall score of 90.75%. The team also won 1st place in the Co-ed division, where teams were comprised of both boys and girls. They also won the Most Spirited Award, which is awarded to the squad most supportive of their opponents.

The competition had sub competitions where cheerleaders had the opportunity to compete for individual awards.

"Senior Bryan Escobar was placed 2nd in the 'toe touches' division. Katherine Aguirre won 1st place in the 'Stunt off' division," said Soto.

It was Poly Cheer's first competition in four years.

"For a lot of girls, it was their first time, but they're happy to be there," Soto said.

Preparing for this competition was not easy. The cheerleading squad practiced indefatigably for a month.

"Practices were very stressful and exhausting," said Escobar.

Soto wanted to give the team the "liberty to do what they want to do."

Escobar comes up with the choreography for the routine, while the rest of the squad decides whether to do it or not.

"I want the routine to be theirs," said Soto.

The cheerleading team is currently preparing for their next competition at Burbank High School in April 25. The most awaited state competition will be in May 1 at Knott's Berry Farm.

"We've been working really hard to make the routines sharper," said Escobar. "So we can get bigger and bigger trophies."

Parrots Tame the Mustangs

By Kelsey Cruz
Staff Writer

Lady Parrot Varsity pitcher Sylvette Rodriguez pitched a shutout game to an easy Poly win 15-0 against Arleta.

"This was the best performance by our team this year," said head coach Manny Peralta, "I was pleased with our performance."

Third baseman Stephanie Acevedo started off the game with a long hit to middle field scoring in 3 RBI's in the bottom of the 1st inning. After that, the lady parrots were coming home like nothing.

Poly's offense was on fire with shortstop Monique Guzman scoring 5 RBI's. As for Arleta, sparks flew at the top of the 3rd with a single by 1st baseman Alejandra Razo due to an error by Poly, but that was the only hit Rodriguez let the Mustangs take. Rodriguez pitched a 1-hitter the entire game.

As for Arleta, sparks flew at



Photo by Monica Sagastume

SLIDE: Poly Parrot avoids an out by sliding to third base

the top of the 3rd with a single by 1st basement Alejandra Razo, but that was the only hit Rodriguez let the Mustangs take. Rodriguez pitched a one- hitter the entire game.

Rodriguez twisted her right ankle in the beginning of the game,

but persevered through the pain. "I'm a tough cookie," said Rodriguez. "I just need to keep the ball low when I pitch because every time I keep it up that's when they get the big hit, but I always rely on my team to back me up."