

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. XCV1, No. 13

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MAY 2010

Politics '10

Arizona Passes Controversial Immigration Law

By Karinina Cruz and Hazel Kasusky
Staff Writers

On April 23, 2010, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed the SB1070, which requires officials and agencies in the state to determine the immigration status of any person that is suspected to be an illegal alien.

In the case of permanent residents, they may be obligated to carry evidence of their legal immigration status.

The SB1070 poses the problem of racial profiling and although Brewer assured citizens that will not be the case, it seems inevitable.

Arizona lawmakers modified provisions of the SB1070 limiting the scope of officials and agencies to question individuals that have been already stopped, detained or arrested.

According to Arizona State Rep. John Kavanagh, SB1070 was passed as a response to the federal government's insufficient border security. Due to the rising crime and violence in Mexico, Arizona fears that it will diffuse into their state.

Various unions such as The American Civil Liberties Union, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and The National Immigration Law Center and other political figures are challenging Arizona's illegal immigration legislation.

Los Angeles attorney Peter Schey stated in an LA Times article that "the Arizona law is doomed to the dustbin of other unconstitutional efforts by local government to regulate immigration, which is a uniquely federal function."

Schey successfully challenged a number of unjust immigration laws, such as the 1975 Texas law.

A number of protestors joined in marches and rallies in over seventy cities such as Chicago, Milwaukee, Washington, San Francisco and D.C. on May 1, 2010.

In a Gallup poll, 51% of Americans who have heard of the Arizona law supported it, while 39% of those who had not heard of the law supported it.

Holocaust Survivor Visits Poly

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

On March 21, 2010 Holocaust survivor Renee Firestone talked to Poly students about her experiences during World War II.

"I'm sitting here 65 years after World War II and I keep wondering why we still talk about the Holocaust," said Firestone. "But humanity seems to have learned nothing from our past and that's why we talk about this."

Firestone, who is now 86 years old, lived in Czechoslovakia with her parents, an older brother named Frank and a younger sister named Clara when World War II erupted.

"My family had a beautiful home east of Czechoslovakia," said Firestone. "Hitler wiped Czechoslovakia out of the map and that was the end of our freedom."

The eastern part of Czechoslovakia was given to Hitler's ally, Hungary.

"All of a sudden we became Hungarians. I was only 14 years old and I thought it was a tragedy," said Firestone. "I was worried that I would not learn Hungarian fast enough, but Hungary passed laws that Jewish children could no longer go to public school."

The anti-Jewish laws passed in Hungary were equivalent to the infamous Nuremberg Laws in Germany that stripped the Jews of their possessions and rights.



Photo by Karina Muñiz

SURVIVOR: Holocaust survivor Renee Firestone explains her story to audience.

"Once they walked into my father's business and said that he could no longer own it," said Firestone. "It was the first time I saw my strong father cry. After that I lived in constant fear. If he could not help himself, how could he protect me?"

Firestone along with her younger sister Clara was sent to Auschwitz concentration

camp during World War II.

"I was put in a cattle car with 120 people and no room to sit. The cattle cars were locked from outside. There was no food and also nothing to drink," said Firestone. "We traveled in the middle of the night and the Nazis yelled at

[See Holocaust, pg 5]

CAPP Leadership Visits Poly

Poly's academic partners assess student achievement and leadership.

By Karinina Cruz and Angel Silva
Staff Writers

The California Academic Partnership Program (CAPP) visited Poly to discuss two grants that Poly receives from the program.

Present at Poly were the CAPP director and former Deputy Superintendent of the California Department of Education's Government Affairs and Charter Development Branch Andrea Ball, former Long Beach and San Diego Superintendent Carl Cohn, CAPP High School Leadership Initiative (HSLI) Director Nina Moore, and CAPP Academic Partner Diane Siri. The visit took place on May 5.

The visit started with an overview of the campus, followed with a visit to Poly's Leadership class. The visit preceded a meeting over lunch with Poly's English department

to discuss the Expository Literacy Grant (ELG), one of the grants Poly receives from CAPP.

The ELG supports the Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC) at improving college readiness and the academic rigor of high school English courses. The ELG was developed by the CSU Chancellor's Office Writing Taskforce.

"When you look at high schools and how they're supposed to use curriculum for college and the work world, CAPP was designed to do that and the schools improve with goals that students are ready for college," said Cohn.

The CAPP representatives left the meeting to discuss the High School Leadership Initiative (HSLI), a grant designed to evaluate the impact leadership has on student success, with the Math Department and the Poly Leadership Team.



Photo by Jennifer Martinez

CAPP: From left to right, Andrea Ball, Diane Siri, Gerardo Loera, Brian LeClair, Nina Moore, and Carl Cohn.

After the meetings ended, the CAPP representatives visited classrooms across Poly. The visit ended at 2:00 PM with a debriefing held by Poly Principal Gerardo Loera.

The CAPP representatives en-

joyed the visit.

"It was a pleasure to meet Poly students and the visit was great," said Moore. "Poly is a great example of committed students, teachers and administrators."



poly goes cultural

See Page 6



clashes of metal

See Page 7



volleyball wins

See Page 8



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The OPTIMIST received many letters to the editor regarding the recent immigration debate over Arizona's law. Here's what they said:

The Arizona law implements a series of deterrents towards the immigration issue – racism, nativism, police corruption and increased ignorance and arrogance. This Arizona law encourages racial profiling, particularly the Latino community regardless of the fact that undocumented immigrants originate from multiple national groups, and wastes necessary money on a useless attempt to “enforce” immigration laws. The Arizona law is one of the greatest examples of injustice, the disgraceful nativist agenda, and attacks on the most fundamental factor that makes America – immigration.

Regemralph Corpuz / 12A

Immigrants are not animals that you see on the street and just decide to pick them up and impound them. They are people - like us - living in America. They came to work hard for their children and prefer their children to get a better education.

Nancy D. / 12B

To those who are extremely patriotic, they should find this law wrong. It isn't the America they know and love. I just feel that they should find an alternative way other than racial profiling to enforce immigration.

Jessica Soto / 12B

My fear is that certain people will take advantage of the law and simply capture people to be cruel. I wouldn't say I am for the law but I do see how it came to be because Arizona has many immigrants.

Michelle Nolasco / 12B

One of my friends' cousins was barely three years old when his parents were deported back to Mexico. He grew up with strangers and he ended up as a gang banger. He messed up his life. I am really disappointed with the Arizona law because many innocent people are not given a chance to show that they are worthy to become American citizens.

Elizabeth D. / 11A

I think that the Arizona law will only make the immigration issue worse. Arizona is a state that is at the border, which brings a lot of people into the state. Thanks to this law immigrants and those who support them could face charges.

Daisy Martin / 12B

As an immigrant myself, I find the Arizona law offensive. Despite the claim of Arizona lawmakers that the law will not serve as a pretext for racial profiling, it seems that such problem is unavoidable. However, I understand the concern about the rising rate of undocumented aliens in the United States. I support just provisions that will alleviate the problem, but not the recently passed law.

Karinina Cruz / 12B

EDITORIALS

Virtual Violence vs. Supreme Court

Some of the biggest and well known videogame companies worldwide reside in California, such as Epic, Bungie and EA. Now the Supreme Court will decide whether to outlaw the sale of violent videogames to minors in California.

Violence has driven the videogame franchise to a rapid success in the videogame entertainment industry and is becoming the leading form of entertainment next to movies.

Very much like the movie industry, videogames have always had a self enforced rating system.

Games are rated based on the level of violence estimating what the suitable audience might be for instance an E rating means suitable for everyone but an M rating is for a mature audience of 17 or older. It is known that rated M games are the most widely played games via online multiplayer but do require an adult or someone of proper age to even purchase the game from a store.

What the Supreme Court will decide is

whether or not videogames should have the same amount of freedom as books and movies, or whether the government would regulate violent games, applying a system similar to that of ratings for pornography.

Amongst the pantheon of games, Grand Theft Auto 4 is one of the most controversial of them all. Players take the role of an immigrant that gets involved in the criminal underground of New York where he is associated with drugs, illegal car races and bank robberies

The game is seen to be a bad influence for the younger audience and is constantly being used against the videogame industry.

This isn't the first time the video game industry has been placed in the center of a court case. Plenty of local and state cases have chained virtual violence to the real life violence. Most of the cases revolve around the basic idea of banning the sale of mature games to minors because it influences kids to commit crimes or other misdemeanors.

This is just the first time the issue is being reviewed by the Supreme Court, which will have the final say in videogame marketing.



For what is obvious, the law is ridiculous. There is already a law that restricts immigrants from crossing the border.

Luis Sanchez / 12B

I believe the Arizona Law is going to bring up the issue of racial profiling.

Glendy Lopez / 12B

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's Renaissance Man

The OPTIMIST interviewed senior A-Track Tam Luu, who will be attending UC Berkeley this fall. Here's what he said:

By Christina Balien and Vivian Araujo
Staff Writers

Q. What are you going to major in?

I am going to major in political science and economics.

Q. What career path do you want to pursue?

Not too certain, but I want to attend a Masters in Business Administration school and become an entrepreneur. I also want to help and represent my community.

Q. What did you do during your high school years to make yourself that successful? Who do you credit at Poly to be the most positive influence, if anyone?

In ninth grade I came to this school not knowing anyone. I got to meet incredible teachers and took many fun academic classes. I soon got into tennis and wanted to do all that I could to help my school advance. In tenth grade I joined Academic Decathlon. I experimented with the program. The group determined me to help and learn more. I wanted to prove that Poly could compete with the best of the best. In eleventh grade I balanced Aca Deca with school and tennis. We didn't achieve our goal of reaching state, but got closer to our dream. I took nine AP tests and ten college classes. In the same summer, with Levahi's help, I went to Boy's State. Boy's State is a program that one male student is picked to go to represent their school. I got to go to Sacramento for one week. We did a mock government and go to run our own government. I got elected Supreme Court Justice. In twelfth grade I devoted all my time to Aca Deca. At this time course were not as hard. I found a good group that would help me strive in my goal to make state. All year long, everyone worked very hard.

I've played tennis all four years of high school. My first two years, I was co-captain and then my last two years I became head captain. The school was not able to get money to hire people to train the team. In senior year two really great ninth graders joined the tennis team. After training everyday for four hours, the tennis team was able to make to playoff. Poly hasn't made it to playoff for the last ten years. I am also going to the CIF city tennis tournaments. I represent Poly and hope to represent the school better by winning.

The staff and teachers are both a positive influence to me. I also believe the magnet program was a positive influence as well. However, Mr. Lehavi was there for me throughout ninth grade and was a great mentor to me. Also Mr. Block who made my senior year memorable.

Q. How many AP classes did you take?

Throughout ninth through twelfth grade, I have taken eleven AP classes and fifteen AP tests.

Q. What is your GPA?

My GPA is a 4.2.

Q. What extra curricular activities are you in?

I am the tennis team president, co-founder of the Chess Club, captain of Aca Deca, and I volunteer at Branford tennis center to give free lessons to low income children.



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

Q. What did you contribute as a captain in Aca Deca that helped the team to go state?

I gave a sense of passion and determination to my teammates and encouraged everyone on the team to work harder.

Q. How do you feel about your accomplishments in Aca Deca?

I feel really proud of my team because our team efforts got us to state. The whole team agreed that all they wanted was to get state this year.

Q. What is your role on Poly's tennis team?

I am the tennis team captain and I teach and mentor new

players. After working for four years, our team became stronger and made it to playoffs.

What have been your biggest obstacles? What age were you in when you came from Vietnam?

My family's financial position was a big obstacle for me. I came here when I was four years old and my family was not financially stable. In ninth and tenth grade I got a job to help support my family. I worked at a printing company as a clerk in Northridge.

How hard was it to adjust to American culture?

It was easy for me to adjust to American culture. Media was a big influence. Watching TV taught me a lot about American culture.

Parrot Connection to the Past

By Karinina Cruz
Staff Writer

Poly history teacher Denise Beilinson shares a piece of history regarding her mother, Arline Syrkus, who is a Holocaust survivor.

"My mother lived in Danzig, which is now Gdansk, Poland," said Beilinson. "Many Germans also lived there and during World War II, the Germans wanted that city back. In fact, the war begins in 1939 when Hitler invades Danzig."

According to Beilinson, Syrkus lived a good life in Danzig with her family.

"Her father was in the import-export business," said Beilinson. "During summers they would go to sleep away camp and other places."

By the time Nazis occupied Danzig, Syrkus' father felt that it was important to send his children to a safer place outside Europe.

"My mother was sponsored by her father's sister in Brooklyn, New York," said Beilinson. "My mother, who was 12 years old, traveled by themselves to London and then to Brooklyn, along with her six-year old brother."

Prior to Syrkus' departure, her parents had promised to follow immediately after getting their passports.

"My mother received letters from her parents saying that they were not allowed to leave Poland," said Beilinson. "Then, the letters stop arriving and word got out that her parents were taken to the Warsaw ghetto. She never heard from them ever again."

Syrkus and her brother led a difficult life in New York with their uncle and aunt.



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

RELATIVE: Poly teacher Denise Beilinson's mother was a survivor of the Holocaust.

"They were not treated very kindly," said Beilinson. "It's a terrible thing that at a very young age, they lost their parents to genocide. It's also sad saying goodbye to a world they knew and going to a strange land. Even their uncle and aunt were strangers to them."

According to Beilinson, Syrkus was taught how to speak English by a teacher that tutored her after school. In addition, Syrkus learned hairdressing in high school and became a hairdresser.

"My mother is a remarkable person, she never went to college but was self-taught," said Beilinson. "I became a history teacher due to stories such as this and because history changes our lives."

However, Beilinson regrets not asking Syrkus more questions about the Holocaust.

"She would have answered my questions but I was afraid to ask," said Beilinson. "It was just so horrible that I did not want her to relive it. I urge students to ask about their parents' past because their past becomes your past."



Photo by Karina Muñoz

A Long Hard Road

By Vivian Araujo
and Christina Balian
Staff Writers

Social science teacher Ron Lehari has walked a difficult road throughout his life to reach the teaching career he has today.

Lehari was born in the central area of Israel and has excelled in

his studies since childhood.

At the age of sixteen he decided that it was time to move on to a new life that would involve a better education.

Lehari was convinced that it was time to start his new life in America and after planning for two years, with his parents' consent, he came to Los Angeles.

From Cuba To Poly

By Jizel Emralino
Staff Writer

Gigi Slezak, Poly's English as Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual coordinator, is also the director of the Newcomers' Program. She provides invaluable support to Poly students who are new to this country - for she, too, was one of them.

"I came here in 1961, with my younger sister," said Slezak. "I was one of the newcomer students, but there was no ESL back then."

When communist leader, Fidel Castro, rose to power in Cuba, Slezak's parents sent their children to the United States in order to have a better and safer future.

"We were sent by our parents here to get away from Castro," said Slezak.

Slezak and her sister arrived in Detroit, Michigan in October of 1961.

"I was clueless," said Slezak. "It was so cold and I was just wearing a spaghetti strap and sandals. The snow was up to my knees!"

For two years, Slezak and her sister lived in an orphanage until their parents arrived to the United States.

"I was the oldest one in the orphanage," said Slezak. "The nuns who ran the orphanage were very old. They would chase us down the stairs and I would feel bad for them."

Slezak faced several obstacles coming here in America where everything is new and different.

"I didn't know what Cornflakes was," said Slezak. "When they told me that I had to pour cold milk into it, I was like 'Yuck!'"

The culture shock was overwhelming for Slezak.

"I didn't know what bologna was, or apple cider, popcorn, hotdogs and Hamburgers," said Slezak. "I've never even had sandwich in my life that time!"

The language barrier made it extremely hard for Slezak to communicate with her classmates.

"I couldn't talk, because I didn't know English," said Slezak. "It took me about 6 or 8 months to be able to defend myself in an argument."

Not only did Slezak had to adjust with her peers, but also with her surroundings.

"Back in Cuba, there were only two seasons: wet or dry," said Slezak. "But in Michigan, the snow was everywhere, and it was so cold that my breath would freeze right before my eyes."

"It was like a postcard!"

Slezak and her sister reunited with their parents two years after their arrival in the United States.

"They were absolutely shocked, because I was so 'American,'" said Slezak. "They wanted me to be the little Cuban girl they sent in the US two years ago."

Slezak's parents couldn't accept the reality that their "little Cuban girl" had grown to be an indepen-



Photo by Joel Hinojosa

MULTICULTURAL: Poly's ESL coordinator and Newcomers Program director Gigi Slezak came to the U.S. in 1961 from Cuba.

dent young woman in just a short period of time.

"They wanted me to adjust to them, instead of them adjusting to me," said Slezak.

Slezak focused her efforts academically. She attended Monsignor Gabriel High School, a Catholic institution, and graduated there with honors.

Slezak also won a full scholarship at Michigan State University where she majored in Psychology and graduated with honors as well.

Eager to practice in the field, Slezak took a semester off from college and worked as a teacher's aid.

"I just fell in love with teaching," said Slezak with such passion in her eyes.

Slezak decided to obtain a Master's degree in Reading after her experience in teaching.

Slezak's desire to pursue a career in teaching drove her to travel to Europe and work for the European Department of Defense in Germany.

"I taught the American personnel's children in American schools," said Slezak.

When she came back to the United States, she taught at the Navajo Reservation in Arizona for two years.

Upon Slezak's arrival in Los Angeles, she first taught at Roscoe Elementary School as a first and second grade teacher.

"I started working here at Poly in 1988 as an ESL teacher," said Slezak.

Since then, Slezak has taken many Poly newcomers under her wings --- providing them with support and guidance she didn't have back in 1961.

"I came to America at the age of sixteen for new opportunities and to expand my horizon," Lehari said.

In order to survive in America, Lehari was supported by his parents who worked as real estate agents in Israel.

After two years Lehari was joined by his parents in America.

Once Lehari reached the age of twenty he found a job in Los Angeles working at a medical facility answering phone calls for

doctors. He worked twelve hours a day, fitting work with college.

As soon as he got the chance, Lehari decided to go to college to expand his knowledge in political science, math, physics and philosophy. He was convinced that social science was the area he excelled in and enjoyed the most.

"I enjoyed doing work that involved using statistics and equations. I liked that the Social Sciences involved the use of math," said Lehari.

After four years of attending college at UCLA, Lehari has received three master's degrees, one PhD degree in Political Science and a National Board certificate.

Once he received his first degree Lehari started his new job as a social science teacher in Jefferson High School in 1992. He started working at Poly in 1998. Lehari encourages all students to, "work hard and accomplish your goals, and be sure to have a plan."

Daneshvari Held Piggy and Pot Contest

By Vivian Araujo and Christina Balian
Staff Writers

Poly's annual Teapot and Piggy Bank Contest was held on April 20th. The first place winner of the Teapot Contest asked to remain anonymous and won a prize of one hundred dollars. Karen Daneshvari gave the cash prize directly to the winners.

Students were allowed to submit multiple works of ceramics into the contest. A total of ten teapots and fifteen piggy banks were made this year.

The first and second place winners of the Piggy Bank Contest were twelfth grade B-track seniors Stefaine Fajardo and Marco Tolentino, respectively. Fajardo won seventy five dollars, while Tolentino won twenty five dollars.

"It shows creativity and allows students to show their talents," said Daneshvari. "This contest tests the skills of the students, but still allows them to have fun."

Daneshvari has held this contest in Poly for seven or eight years.

Many people in Poly participated in judging the pieces made by the students. Some participants were



Photo by Karina Muñiz

ART: Pottery lined up on a table for the competition.

teachers, administrators, parents and the principal. Daneshvari and students did not judge the pieces so there would be no bias opinions.

Newcomer's Program Aids Immigrant Students

By Jizel R. Emralino
Staff Writer

Poly's Newcomers' Program is a small learning community for students who are new to this country.

Margie Hidalgo, the Department Chair person of the English as Second Language (ESL) said "The program provides a warm and welcoming environment while providing rigorous learning program."

Majority of the students in the program come from Spanish speaking countries, such as Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. There are also a number of students from the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and many more.

"The Newcomers' program is designed to ease the transition of these students," said Hidalgo. "We strive to help English Language learners accelerate their growth in language and literacy."

These new students are placed in "sheltered classes," where teachers perform special strategies in teaching. Teachers who are allowed to teach the newcomers are required to have a Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development (CLAD) certificate.

"Some Spanish speakers take classes, such as Biology, World History, Life Science, in Spanish in their first two years," said Hidalgo. "This way, they won't fall behind."

The Newcomers' program helps the students face the apparent difficulties in adjusting to their new country.

"They grew up in their own countries and suddenly they come here in the United States where everything is new," said Hidalgo. "They left behind a part of their identity, coming here where everything is different."



Photo by Karina Muñiz

SARI: Daisy Pedraza, a student in the Newcomer's Program, walks the stage.

Gigi Slezak, Poly's English as Second Language (ESL) and Bilingual coordinator believes that the biggest struggle of most newcomers' is the difficult circumstances they have been through.

"Some were left abandoned by their mothers," said Hidalgo. "They come here to find out that their mothers have a new family --- a new life, where they are not a part of for so long."

Melvin Lobo, a student of the Newcomers' program, was raised by his aunt in El Salvador. He reunited with his mother in the United States just 3 years ago.

"It's complicated," said Lobo. "My mom has new family, sisters, brothers. They don't like me."

Lobo feels strange living with his moth-

er who he just met three years ago.

"It is very very hard to live with her," said Lobo. "My mom and I don't get along."

There were some kids who came from Mexico have witnessed the traumatizing drug wars at El Paso.

"They've seen their parents and relatives get shot right in front of them," said Hidalgo.

While a number of students have dreadful encounters with violence, some newcomers have experienced the terrible effects of hunger.

"We had refugees from Darfur, Africa," said Slezak. "The hardest thing for them was to survive."

Other disturbing circumstances contribute to the students' difficult adjustment.

"We had kids from Iraq, who personally experienced the war," said Slezak. "They experienced the bombing right in their living room."

These incidents are forever tattooed in every student's life.

"The scars are in their souls and in their hearts," said Slezak. "The wounds you don't see are the hardest to heal."

Despite the obstacles, many students of the Newcomers' Program graduate and go onto college.

"Many of them go to Valley and Mission," said Slezak. "One student made it to UC Berkeley."

Estevan Barragan, a student of the Newcomers' program, graduated from Poly in 2009 and he is now a first year student at UC Berkeley.

"He didn't even know English when he came here!" Slezak teasingly commented.

"They are all smart kids --- really smart," said Slezak. "They just do not know English."

Holocaust Survivor

[Holocaust, from pg 1]

us that if we hid any valuables, we would suffer the consequences. We heard screaming and shootings outside and it was pitch black. Children were crying and begging to come home."

According to Firestone, before her family left home, they were told that they would work together and not be separated.

"I jumped off the cart with my sister and there were thousands of people out of the train," said Firestone. "Children asking for their parents and parents looking for their children. My sister was crying and begging me to find our parents and I realized that we might never find them, but I still reassured her."

Prior to their arrival in Auschwitz, the Hungarian Jews were lied to by the government, which made them believe that they would work for factories in Germany.

"They said we were going to Germany, but we were not in Germany. We were in the largest extermination camp, Auschwitz," said Firestone. "No one would leave this place, but through the chimneys."



Internet Photo

Firestone and her sister Clara encountered the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, the Nazi physician that performed inhumane experiments.

"I approached a Nazi officer and he decided where we would go. He points to me to go to the right, but not my sister, so I just stay put," said Firestone. "I had long blonde hair and blue eyes. Clara was skinny and tall with dark hair and eyes. I yell 'run' to her in Hungarian and the two of us start running where I was supposed to go."

Firestone was liberated by the Soviet Army, but she was separated from her family, including her sister.

"I roamed around Europe for three months and I ran into my brother Frank, who escaped into Slovakia and became a partisan," said Firestone. "A few days later, someone tells us that he found our father in a Czech hospital and we found out that he had tuberculosis. He died four months later, but it was important that he knew that two of his kids survived."

It was not until 53 years after the Holocaust that Firestone discovered her sister's fate.

"My sister was taken to a clinic and used as a guinea pig. The doctor who did the experiments was alive in Munich and I confronted him while filming Steven Spielberg's movie," said Firestone. "He had the audacity to tell me that we got to get rid of her. I only knew 53 years later that my beautiful and innocent sister was shot to death."

Firestone imparted some lasting words to the Poly students.

"Most people think that the only survivors were from concentration camps, but any Jew in the world today is a survivor," said Firestone. "To the survivors there is no closure. We do not know where our families are, there are no graves, no tombstones. That is why I speak about the Holocaust because it is our revenge to Hitler."

Multi-Cultural Club Wins Fair

By Vivian Araujo and Christina Balian
Staff Writers

This year's Multi Cultural Fair involved the Junior Council, Senior Council, Yearbook, Leadership, ELBO (Early Bird Organization), and the Drill Team. These clubs were required to make unique booths, to make their own food of the country they chose and understand and have knowledge of that country.

"The Multi-Cultural Fair is held every year to educate students about different cultures," said Leadership C-track president Dalia Galvan.

Judges are randomly picked and are not involved in the fair. The three judges were English teachers Jeff Harrold, Kirk Jeppson, and Math teacher Sergio Lopez. The judges looked for food taste, attire, the booth and flag, and the knowledge the clubs had on the country they chose.

The Multi-Cultural Fair has been going on for sixteen years in Poly. Leadership is allowed to hold this event twice a year.

The winner of The Multi-Cultural Fair was The Multi-Cultural Club. The first place prize is a show case and a trophy that is going to be passed down to each first place winner in the future.



All Photos By
Karina Muñiz and
Vanessa Gomez





Internet Photo

BLAST: Iron Man, played by Robert Downey Jr., is charging up to blast Whiplash away.

THE MAN IN METAL

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

The sequel to the popular comic movie "Iron Man" is mainly based upon the man behind the suit, the hero who unfortunately is a coincided rich man and player.

Robert Downey Jr., as Tony Stark, has a lot of personal problems including sickness, mixed superego and alcohol

abuse.

"Stark has the identity issues and daddy problems that come with the superhero territory, but self-pity is as alien to him as false modesty," said A.O. Scott of *The New York Times*.

The technology that keeps Stark alive is actually poisoning him and his depression is making him prone to drinking his heart out. He also gives up his position as CEO to his

assistant Pepper Potts, Gwyneth Paltrow.

Potts hires a new assistant for herself named Natalie Rushman, by Scarlett Johnson, who is in disguise and working for Nick Fury, Samuel L. Jackson, in order to get information about Stark.

Stark's competitor Hammer, Sam Rockwell, has detestation for Stark and longs to reduce Stark's company to rubble.

Nevertheless, Stark believes no one is capable of creating anything like the Iron Man suit but soon finds out he is entirely mistaken.

Ivan Vanko, played by Mickey Rourke, is a poor Russian man but a genius at technology. He creates

through when creating an Arc reactor with Howard Stark, played by John Slattery.

Don Cheadle, as James Rhodes, also known as War Machine, helps out his best friend Stark through confrontations and by using one of Stark's suits to fight



Internet Photo

BUDS: War Machine and Iron Man fight in Stark's beach house.

a miniature body suit resembling Iron Man's with an electrical whip that lashes anything in half.

Ivan Vanko, whom is known as Whiplash, seeks revenge against Stark because of the torment Vanko's father had been

Whiplash.

The movie consists of a lot of complex out of time technology, weaponry and action scenes that are well constructed. The movie, yet, has more comedy than expected.

Sisters 'Till the End

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

My Sister's Keeper," by Jodi Picoult, is a riveting story that presents the moral struggles of genetic engineered babies.

The story revolves around a family of five, whom have trouble living with a cancer child.

The parents, Brian and Sara Fitzgerald, originally had two children, Jesse and Kate Fitzgerald.

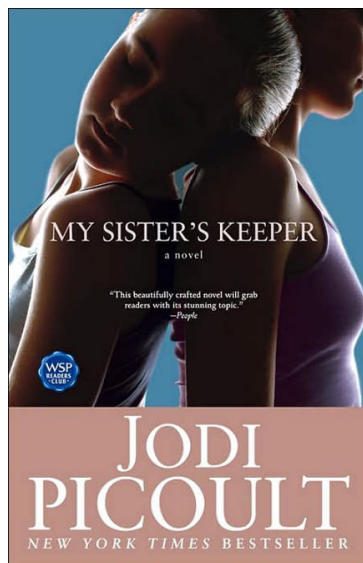
However, the family wakes into a nightmare. Kate Fitzgerald is diagnosed with APL, myeloid leukemia and the rate of survival of APL is twenty to thirty percent.

The doctors tell Brian and Sara that their child Jesse doesn't contain the right type of blood to make any transplants for Kate. The doctors let the parents know, however, that any future children that are born might be able donors.

Brian and Sara get the idea to genetically create a perfect donor for Kate.

They name their newborn child Anna. According to Sara she loves all her children and treats them equally, but Anna sees a different story.

Anna attains a lawyer and sues her parents in order to gain



Internet Photo

freedom from all medical procedures.

As Jodi Picoult writes, "Sometimes to get what you want the most, you have to do what you want the least."

Readers are left to sympathize with Anna who hates her parents for allowing actions like donating bone marrow, which is a painful process.

Jesse who gains less attention is seemingly pitiful in the eyes of readers and Sara, the mother, is looked upon as cruel and biased since she is often more caring to Kate than Anna.

Picoult realistically presents the emotions and connections between sisters and a family struggling with death.



Internet Photo

IPHONE: The iPhone 4G, which was disclosed on Gizmodo's website.

Apple's New iPhone Leaked

By Joel Hinojosa
Staff Writer

Journalist Jason Chen from Gizmodo, a tech website, bought Apple's unreleased 4th generation iPhone for \$5000. Chen bought the phone from a man who found the device in a bar.

An Apple engineer originally lost the phone in a bar in Redwood City.

"A fourth generation iPhone walks into a bar ... and the joke's on Apple," said Jake Brooks of the New York Daily News.

The journalist exposed the iPhone on video, showing viewers the new device's appearance.

The iPhone is flat instead of the known round silver back and the phone is more squared like an HTC phone. A camera is visible in the front and back of the phone.

The phone was also originally concealed in a case that resembled an iPhone 3GS.

Apple spoke to Santa Clara County Sheriff to undergo an investigation. Jason Chen's electronics

including his credit card were confiscated but later returned.

Gizmodo eventually returned the iPhone back to Apple when they were asked in a letter by Apple's vice president.

John Stewart, a comedian on the Daily Show, commented on Apple's sudden outrage by using cops to literally break down the journalist's door while he ate his repast.

"The cops had to bash in the guy's door? Don't they know there's an app for that?" said John Stewart

He also mentions to Apple their main problems are not the iPhone itself.

"In fact if you want to break down someone's door why don't you start with AT&T? For God's sakes they make your amazing phone unusable as a phone."

It's a surprise the engineer still has his job since Steve Jobs, the CEO of Apple, usually cherishes the element of surprise.

Was it Apple's intention to solicit consumer interest or the simple mistake of an employee?

Boy's Volleyball Skewers Lancers

By Ruben Carmona
Staff Writer

The Boys varsity volleyball team beat the Grant Lancers at all three games, winning the match three to zero.

"It takes hard work to win," said coach Gaby Gallardo.

The Parrots began taking down the Lancers by the start of the first game. The Parrots dominated the whole match and by the end of the first game they had won 25-8.

Junior Albert Tercero had two aces and seven kills and sophomore Eddie Moncivais had 11 kills through out the whole match.

"I am never going to underestimate a team, but after the first game we knew we were going to win the match," said Gal-

lardo.

Senior setter Oscar Aguilar had 24 assists.

"As a captain there is a lot of pressure and you have to be a leader on the court at all times and keep the team pumped up," said Aguilar.

This team set their goal on making it to the play-offs and earned it.

"This win is another step towards success and it gives us confidence for the play-offs," said coach Gallardo.

The Boys learned many important skills on the team this season.

"I've learned that as a team we're unstoppable" said Gallardo. "We've accomplished unity, trust, and, most importantly, to be a team."

"Our goal is to win the city championship; hopefully everyone comes and shows support at the playoffs," said Aguilar.



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

VICTORY: Poly boy's volleyball gather together to celebrate.



Photo by Vanessa Gomez

COACH: Gaby Gallardo of the Volleyball team

Gallardo's Game

Former Poly volleyball star leads the boys to city play-offs.

By Ruben Carmona
and Armando Figueroa
Staff Writers

Poly boys volleyball coach Gaby Gallardo has earned her stripes. Besides advancing the parrots to City Playoffs; she is the only female coach in the league.

"I feel honored to be given the opportunity to coach the boys," said Coach Gal-

lardo "It's been a great first year."

Coach Gallardo started to play volleyball as a ninth grader here at Poly High. As a freshman she played JV and moved up to Varsity after a few weeks.

"I played Varsity all four years here and I went on to play all four years in college and ever since then I've had a passion and love this sport," said coach Gallardo.

The passion coach Gallardo has for this sport has influenced her players in many

ways. She has taught her players many things both on and off the field.

"Playing for Coach Gallardo is great," said senior Oscar Aguilar. "I feel I've become a better all around player, as well as a better person."

Coach Gallardo has pressed the team to playoffs and she has set their goal.

"Our goal is city championship and regaining the legacy of Poly volleyball," said Gallardo.

Cheerleaders Win State Championship

By Vanessa Gomez
Staff Writer

On Saturday May 1st Poly's cheerleading team won the state championship at Knott berry farm with a total score of 91.25 points.

Poly's cheerleading team competed against twelve other schools.

The team won the most spirited award and got 1st place on the co-ed tumbling division.

"I'm really proud of them. I'm happy they brought trophies home," said Ms. Soto. "It's a good feeling."

Cheer's flyer Sully Penate felt that it was important to win the state championship.

"Cheerleading is not just about looking good, it's about doing the best and we have worked to the extreme to reach the highest level in cheerleading," said Penate. "We ended with a great season."

Elena Ochoa is one of the flyers and was very happy to have



Photo provided by Tania Soto

KICK: Poly Cheerleaders takes state.

won.

"It was important to get recognized and prove that we are good enough to compete with other schools," said Ochoa. "It is a lot of hard work but it pays off in the end. Overall it was a great year. We had a great squad and a great coach."

Bryan Escobar, Poly's cheerleading choreographer, said he feels very proud of the squad. "We needed to represent Poly, said Escobar. "We wanted to prove that we could do our best."

Poly's cheerleading team received a spirit stick for winning the state competition.

Lady Parrots Reach Softball Playoffs

Nine consecutive wins place Parrots in playoffs.

By Kelsey Cruz
Staff Writer

The Lady Parrots Softball get ready for the playoffs winning 9 consecutive games for a league record of 7-1-2 and an overall record of 14-6-2. Poly shared the title of League Champs with Grant.

"This team tested my patience at times, but midway through we came together," said head coach Manny Peralta. "There was some growing we had to do together."

A close win against Verdugo Hills 11-7 showed the weakness of the team's defense. "Some easy plays turned into errors. We didn't play our best defensively, but scoring 11, I can't be mad about that," said Coach Manny.

The game against Arleta brought out the Lady Parrot's hitters in the 4th inning, winning 9-1. And their last league game



Photo by Karina Muñiz

BALL: Ace Sylvette Rodriguez pitching against Verdugo Dons.

against Van Nuys prepared these ladies for playoffs winning 21-2.

"It's a great feeling knowing I was a part of a successful softball program the two years I was here," said 1st baseman Tina Palacios. "Experiencing playoffs last year, I need to take it serious and try to lead our team to victory, but at the end of the day win or lose, I need to be proud of our success and fun."