

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

SEPTEMBER 2010

## College for Cops

POPP program offers alternative to high school.

By Vanessa Marroquin  
Staff Writer

Many Poly seniors are currently focused on searching for the right college or writing personal essays for their college apps. Other are looking for ways and means to finance their college education.

For Parrots interested in a criminal justice career, the Police Orientation Preparation Program (POPP) may be the perfect solution.

POPP is part of the Police Academy Magnet Schools (PAMS) and offers LAUSD seniors and college students the opportunity to experience the Academy, take college-level courses and earn an Associate of Arts Degree.

The Los Angeles Community College District, West LA College and Pierce College offer on-site classes to POPP cadets. The cadets experience tough physical and educational challenges. The classes run four days a week at the Ahmanson Recruitment Training Center (ARTC).

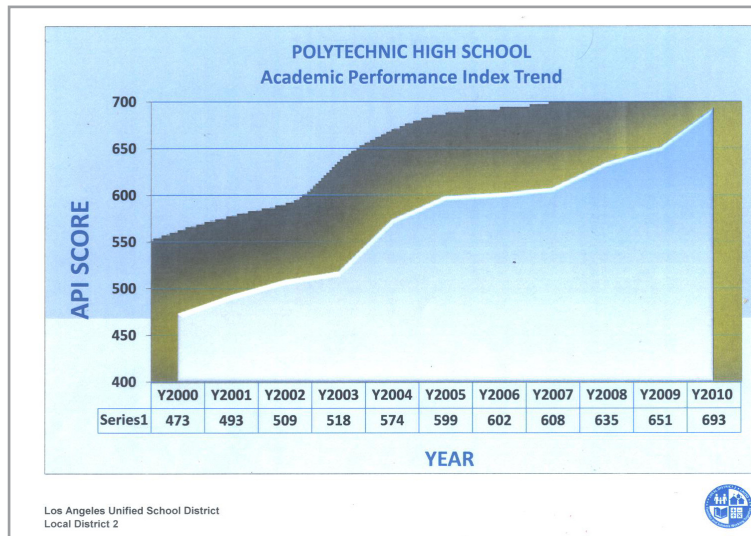
Students can earn up to 38 college credits from West L.A. College. The program pays for tuition, books, uniforms and the use of laptops. Students provide their own transportation.

POPP was founded by education entrepreneur and former Los Angeles Board of Education member (1979-1993) Roberta Weintraub.

"I was concerned about the fact that many LAUSD students were aimless, goalless & clueless about their places in the community," Weintraub said.

"We had the kids. We had the community. Why not put them together for the benefit of both?"

The Police Academy Magnet School, started in 1996, has grown to include five high schools and one middle school with over 1,000 students participating. Over 98% of the



Graph provided by Gerardo Loera

UP: Graph shows 10-year positive API growth for Poly.

students opt for post high school education. The dropout rate is nil.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD) are partners with POPP. The program is an extension of the ARTC programs at West L.A. College and Pierce College.

Students receive their AA degree and state security guard card certification. The AA degree allows students to transfer to a four-year university. The guard card qualifies POPP students to work as a security guard at USC and take classes there at the same time.

Classes are held at West Manchester Police Academy and run Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m - 2:30 p.m for college and high school students.

High school students attend class from 7:00 to 12:30 on Fridays because they are completing high school and their first year of college at the same time.

Students are taught by Law Enforcement officers, teachers from West L.A. College and sometimes teachers from different universities such as UCLA.

[ See POPP, pg 6 ]

## Student Drowns While Camping

By Valerie Tepetlanco  
Staff Writer

Tenth Grade Center student Oscar Blas drowned September 6 while on a camping trip during the Sept 2-12 mini-vacation.

Administrators learned of the accident Monday morning, September 13.

"He had a great sense of humor," said Impact coordinator Leslie Wolfson

Poly Principal Gerardo Loera, 10th Grade Center Coordinator Adriana Maldonado-Gomez and Wolfson presented Oscar's family with a contribution on behalf of the student body and a card that teachers and friends had signed.

Two Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) crisis counselors began seeing students in the cafeteria during third



Photo provided by Yearbook

**PARROT:** 10th Grade Center student Oscar Blas.

period on Monday.

About a dozen students showed up, according to crisis counselor Maribel Munguia.

Students still in need of counseling can speak to Munguia in the Health Office.

Intern Jennifer Mendoza assisted Munguia Monday.

## API Up 42

Poly in top 13% of most-improved high schools in LAUSD.

By Daniel Martinez  
Staff Writer

The latest California Department of Education numbers show Poly's 2010 API score leaped 42 points, to 693 from last year's 651. The gain puts Poly in the top 13% of most-improved high schools in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

And at a time when more schools are labeled as failing by No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Poly also appears to have made all Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets, according to Poly Principal Gerardo Loera.

"We rank in the top 20% of schools with similar demographics," said Loera. "Among all high schools in the state, we are in the 40th percentile. Ten years ago we were in the bottom 10% in similar demographics."

Poly's California Standards Test results showed growth in every content area. CAHSEE scores are also significantly improved. This year, Poly students had the highest initial (first time test takers) pass rate - 80% - of all Comprehensive Title I schools in LAUSD.

California and many other states use the Academic Performance Index (API) to measure how students are performing in school. The state has set an API goal of 800 (with 1000 maximum) for each school. The API is part of a school's accountability and is used when determining federal funding.

A school's API score also affects the community. Homeowners near a school with a high API score see their property values goes up, unlike homes near a school with a low API score. Real estate agents use high API scores as a selling point for homes in a neighborhood.

Many people use API scores to compare schools and Poly continues to improve faster than other schools.

"The Los Angeles County Office of Education has asked Poly to do a presentation for 25 different high schools about our Ninth and Tenth grade centers and how they impact our school's

growth," said Loera.

"The pressure is on our students now," Loera said. "It falls on them to continue to improve and understand that they can do it."

## Dancing Returns

By Mariana Santos  
Staff Writer

Over 400 Parrots attended a dance held on Poly's campus Wednesday evening following a football scrimmage. The dance, the first on campus since 2007, was sponsored by the varsity basketball team.

Two Poly students were killed during off-campus incidents in 2007. As a result, Poly instituted a new policy to improve security for those attending dances.

"Students had to fill out a form similar to the form for prom, senior dinner or grad night," said senior council coordinator Sean King. "The form had to be checked by Ms. Vasquez. Students didn't want to go through the process."

For this year's dance, students only needed their Poly ID to get in.

The basketball team raised approximately \$1750-\$2000. Players also distributed 50 free tickets.

"It is a good way to raise money," said King. "If Poly has a good dance we can make thousands of dollars with the ticket sales and concession stands."



Apple Image

## Ping is the thing

Apple releases new technology in time for the holidays.

**TECH - page 7**



Photo by Sophie Mendez

## Parrots tame felines

Poly licks Panthers on Saturday and Tigers on Thursday for 2-0 start.

**SPORTS - page 8**

## OPINION

## EDITORIAL

## Déjà vu Economics

America in the 1920's was the epitome of prosperity. Middle-class families lived like never before, making use of conveniences such as washing machines, automobiles, and radios. Industrial employees worked fewer hours and received higher wages. Leisure industries such as film and music found new customers.

But the Roaring Twenties economy was grounded on an unequal distribution of wealth. The rich got richer and the poor got poorer. The effects were masked by the innovation of credit. People believed that repaying borrowed money would be easy, and in that way "lived in the moment."

The next decade was the Great Depression era, a time when America was in economic distress. The previously booming automobile, housing and bank industries plummeted to the deepest depths of despair. Speculation, buying on margin, and "buy now, pay later" credit had created an unhealthy balance of wealth. People who had become millionaires were left penniless, begging for food at local breadlines.

If all this sounds familiar, it should.

The Great Depression is comparable to the economic crisis that faces the United States today. The debates over health care and tax hikes seem irrelevant when the problem is an unequal distribution of wealth. According to a recent article in the

LA Times, "The richest 1% of Americans now account for 24% of the nation's income." Is Obama missing the point?

Even before his inauguration, President Obama promised to fix the sick economy. However, his promises have sparked false hope and little results. The national unemployment rate is currently at 9.6%, a 1.9% increase since Obama's inauguration in January 2009.

Perhaps President Obama should resort to history for a solution. Franklin Delano Roosevelt would prove a viable model, since his federal job programs slowly but surely brought America out of its economic nightmare.

Roosevelt initiated work programs that boosted the morale of the American people and provided them with a steady paycheck. He created millions of jobs through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In addition to creating jobs, FDR reformed banking with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and insured retirement with dignity through Social Security, programs that still exist today.

Investing time in the job sector will pay off now, as it did in FDR's time. Instead of attempting to mildly correct many different problematic sectors, President Obama should model his plan after that of New Deal genius Franklin Roosevelt.

## Excerpts from President Obama's Education Speech

Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1:05 P.M. EDT Tuesday, September 14, 2010.

"You've got to show up to school on time. You've got to pay attention in your class. You've got to do your homework. You've got to study for exams. You've got to stay out of trouble. You've got to instill a sense of excellence in everything that you do. That kind of discipline, that kind of drive, that kind of hard work, is absolutely essential for success."

"Because one of the things I've discovered is excelling -- whether it's in school or in life -- isn't mainly about being smarter than everybody else. It's about working harder than everybody else. Your teachers and family are there to guide you. They want to know if you're not catching on to something because they know that if you keep on working at it, you're going to catch on."

**The Optimist**

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School  
12431 Roscoe Blvd, Sun Valley, CA, 91352  
<http://polyhigh.org>

<p><b>NEWS EDITOR</b> Vanessa Marroquin</p>	<p><b>EDITOR-IN-CHIEF</b> Joel Hinojosa</p>	<p><b>PHOTO EDITORS</b> Alejandro Cadena Jennifer Martinez</p>
<p><b>SPORTS EDITOR</b> Kelsey Cruz</p>	<p><b>POLITICAL EDITOR</b> Denise Acosta</p>	<p><b>CARTOONIST</b> Lety Juarez</p>

**WRITERS**

Briahna Angulo, Joel Hinojosa, Daniel Martinez, Vanessa Marroquin, Sophia Mendez, Stephanie Rodriguez, Mariana Santos, Valerie Tepetlanco

**OPTIMIST ADVISOR**  
John Blau

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## LETTERS

Pastor Terry Jones' plan to burn the Koran on 9/11 aroused much media attention and controversy. The OPTIMIST asked seniors in U.S Government classes to discuss the constitutional issues surrounding Jones' action.

## BURNING ISSUES

Under the first amendment, every citizen is guaranteed freedom of expression. The burnings of the Koran can be argued as freedom of expression and also a violation of freedom of religion. Jones' rights were in my opinion, violated only because he was cheating "clear and present danger" against the Muslim community. Although his expression was violated, he alone was making a clear statement that Muslims (Koran) should not exist by symbolically burning the Koran. For that reason, Jones rights were only speaking his opinion. Whether it was morally correct it's still unanswered.

- Lolis Marquez

I believe they should be allowed to build a Muslim Church near Ground Zero, just because of what happened on 9/11 it's not right to punish a whole religion. It's not right to target a religion for what a few careless people did that just happen to be a part of that Muslim religion.

Pastor Terry Jones did have the right to protest because we have freedom of symbolic speech which allows him/gives him the right to burn copies of the Koran. The media should have reported the story because it helped convince the pastor not to burn the Koran and possibly helped avoid other future problems.

- Linda Esquinel

Every person deserves to have their own rights. Pastor Terry Jones is an American citizen that wanted to show what he felt to the Muslims for the 9/11 crash. The Constitution promises people the freedom of expression or speech. Jones was therefore, showing what he thought was right. I do not think that there should be a Muslim church built there. They should leave Ground Zero the way it is. The media should show what happened to the U.S. citizens and to show if the law can do anything about that.

- Danillo DeLeon

According to the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, the government cannot interfere with a person's freedom to practice or exercise their religion. There is no reason for the government, let alone society, to not allow the Muslim church to be built near Ground Zero. Not only would it be unconstitutional but it would also seem discriminating towards not only the Muslims religion, but also the Muslim race. Just because a few men of the same race caused the tragedy of 9/11 doesn't give the right to anyone to discriminate against any other Muslims. Although our American society has been convinced that racism and discrimination was a problem of the past, it is still and sadly will always be a problem.

- Grace Wheeler

I think that building a Muslim church near Ground Zero is unnecessary because it lacks respect for the people who lost their lives on 9/11. Along with disrespect, even though Jones's action burning the Koran was inappropriate, he has his constitutional right of freedom of expression. Burning the Koran is using symbolic speech expressing how he feels about the topic.

- Melissa Perez

I believe there should not be a Muslim Church near Ground Zero because it's disrespectful to all the families who lost a family member on 9/11. While many families are suffering over there loss of their loved ones, someone trying to build a church where lots of people died seems disrespectful. However, since it's a private property no one can stop them from building it. It's good that the media reported this story because at least people will know what is going on and won't be taken by surprise.

- Magdalena Corona

## INTERVIEW

By Vanessa Marroquin  
Staff Writer

**Q. When and how did you first figure out you were smart?**

In 8th grade I started trying in school because I wanted to be successful in life.

**Q. Some people are artistic, some musical, some like math and some play sports. Where do you fit in there?**

I like everything. I am not an artistic person, but I love music such as rock, punk and rap.

**Q. What are you curious about? And what do you do about it?**

I am curious about music. I play in my band and listen to music (rock)

**Q. How involved are your parents in your academic life?**

My parents are not very involved. I am self motivated. As long as I go to school my parents are okay.

**Q. Tell us about your parents. Any of your brothers smarter than you?**

Both of my parents have no college education. My mom doesn't work, and my dad is the manager of an apartment building. I have three older brothers. The oldest is 32, then the next is 29, the last one is 25. My brother that is 25 years old goes to UCLA and is majoring in political science. The 29 year old is in the Marines, and the 32 year old works at Home Depot. I doubt they are smarter than me because I put more effort into my education.

**Q. How did you end up at MIT over the summer?**

A lot of the magnet students had got into it and then I tried it. I got the information from the teachers in the magnet. The teachers would talk about it. There were

**Q. We were told you worked on the Genome project.**

I didn't work on the Genome project. We were studying Geneomics. I studied geneomics in the Broad Institute where the Genome project was taken place. We looked for the sequence in cancer genes and in the DNA. We compared that with normal DNA to see if there were any mutations.

**Q. Was your summer at MIT exactly what you expected or much more complicated and challenging than you thought it would be?**

I expected the challenge but it was much more than the intellectual stuff I thought. I was able to meet many people and interact with them everyday.

**Q. Did you sight see while you were there, do some tourist things, take photos with your cell phone?**

I was forced to do tourism out in the city. I didn't take many pictures. I would go out with the other students and we would go to stores.

**Q. Tell us about you and technology. Do you have a smart-phone? a laptop? lots of video games, an iPod? an iPad? Do you consider your self tech savvy?**

I have a computer, an H.P. I don't have many video games. I have an iPod with about 1,000 songs that are mostly rock and rap.

**Q Describe your perfect date. Does she have to be smart? Slender? Shy or outgoing? Talkative or quiet? Or would a lot of girls be good dates for you?**

Physical appearance is not important because it depends on how the girl sees herself and her personality. She has to be nice, a good friend, a listener and has to appreciate me.

**Q. Are you good with money? Do you**

**have a savings account? Or do you spend it as fast as you get it?**

No I am not good with money. I spend my money on things I don't even remember buying. I have a savings account with only sixteen dollars.

**Q. Are you athletic? What sports do you play? Have you been on any teams in school?**

I am not athletic but I play tennis for Poly's tennis team.

**Q. What kind of music do you listen to? Give us some examples of songs you like. Would you rather go to Coachella for three days or attend a concert by the LA Philharmonic?**

I like Rap and Punk. My favorite



Photo by Alejandro Cadena

“I studied geneomics in the Broad Institute where the Genome project was taking place. We looked for the sequence in cancer genes and in the DNA. We compared that with normal DNA to see if there were any mutations.”

# Thinking Man's Rocker

things that were required. I had to write four essays. The first essay was about why I wanted to go to the engineering school. The next was about my race, the third about why I chose MIT and the last one was about the hardships I have gone through.

**Q. How did you get there, where did you stay, what did you do for fun while you were there, what kinds of students did you meet there?**

I flew out of LAX. My plane ticket cost around \$400. I stayed in the dorms and MIT paid for my dorm and food. The fun things I did were explore the city and hang out with high school juniors from all over the country. I thought the students were geniuses. Most of the students were Hispanic and African American. The program was a minority introduction program to engineering.

band is the Red Hot Chili Peppers. My favorite songs are “Around the World” by Red Hot Chili Peppers, “Badfish” by Sublime and “Mathematics” by Mos Def. I would go to Coachella.

**Q. What don't we know about you because we haven't asked?**

That I have my own band. I have had it for the past year but we still don't have a name for it.

**Q. Where will you attend college and what will you major in?**

Harvard. I will major in Biology or Chemistry. I want to go to Harvard because it is my dream school.

**Q. Was George Bush 43 a good president? How about Barack Obama? Or are you not political?**

I don't think Bush was a good president because he started a war. I dislike Obama because his actions are bad for America's economy.

**Q. What do YOU do for fun that you figure most smart people would NOT do?**

I guess be in a rock band. Many people expect really smart people to wear certain clothes. I am in a rock band while taking AP classes and being on the guys' tennis team.

**Q. Would you say you are mostly predictable or that you surprise people a lot of the time?**

I surprise people. I am talkative and friendly.

## FASHION



# MODEL STUDENT

Junior Parrot Daysi Mendez mixes homework and runway shows.

By Stephanie Rodriguez  
*Staff Writer*

The OPTIMIST recently asked Parrot junior and part-time model Daysi Mendez about her work under the lights. Here are some of her comments.

I started off modeling my aunt's jewelry. The photographer asked me if I was interested in modeling. I said yes. He gave me a list of opportunities to go model and my mom supported me and took me to all of the auditions.

I modeled for a store called Cinderella. After that, I went to model for Morilee's in Burbank.

I modeled about five dresses for a magazine named "Quinceaneras."

Morilee's did a TV commercial for Univision. I was contacted by the store and asked to do the shoot. I modeled two wedding dresses. Two other models also did wedding dresses.

I felt super awkward because I was the youngest one there.

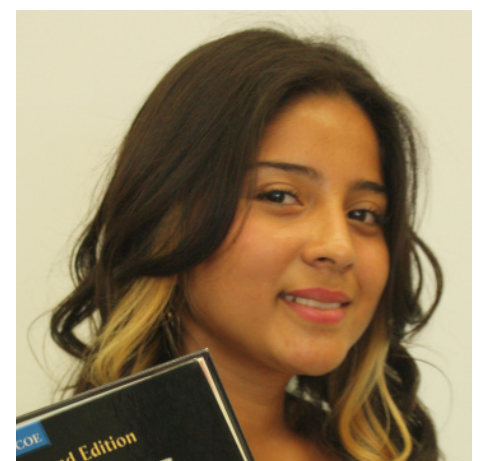
My most recent modeling assignment was a runway show held at a hotel in Burbank in April for a TV commercial. I only modeled one dress from Morilee.

I had been to other runways but that one I really liked because there were nice dresses from different designers. I modeled my own dress that I wore for my own quince.

I had an opportunity to model in Florida, all expenses paid, but my mom wasn't sure about me going, so I had to turn down the job.

As a model, I get to meet new people and get free stuff like heels, make-up, and jewelry.

Mendez was born in Sylmar and grew up in North Hollywood.



Photos by  
Alejandro  
Cadena

## ON CAMPUS

“College is not high school. There is no slacking off, no excuses for late material, and no mercy for plagiarism and cheating.”



## What a Long Strange Trip It's Been

By Jason Castro  
Former "Editor in Chief"

I had everything set to head up to Humboldt State University, a tranquil campus nestled in a redwood forest in Northern California. With my transcript already sent, a dorm by a creek ready and waiting, and all my financial aid information sorted out, the next four years seemed assured.

The students I met during spring preview called HSU “Hills and Stairs University.” They weren’t kidding. By the end of the first day of exploring the campus, I was exhausted. I enjoyed the daily trek to the preview lectures. And the weather. I’m not into this “perfect” Southern Californian weather. I prefer a colder climate. But what really won me over was the redwood forest. For most of my life, I’ve been confined to the urban jungle that is Los Angeles. To be able to escape the sound of cars rushing by on the freeway, police sirens and helicopters was pure bliss.

Unfortunately, things did not go as expected. I had family and medical issues to deal with at home, so I had to settle for the next best thing: Pierce College. Amazing how life can be so unpredictable. Never in a million years did I think that I’d have to go to a community college.

Instead of a woodsy hike to classes, I would be doing the daily commute on the world’s largest parking lot, the 101 freeway. But I’ve pulled through.

Because of my short notice change of plans, I quickly changed my FAFSA information, applied to Pierce and completed the online orientation as well as looking ahead on the requirements to transfer out of Pierce. However, registering for Fall semester classes was difficult. Because of my lateness, I was wait listed for Math and English. Eek.

Week one of the 2009 Fall semester was certainly the most crucial week to devising a new higher educational goal. I met up with a counselor who give me the run down on how to transfer out of Pierce in two years. I got lucky getting into Math and English too.

That first week of any semester always makes me melancholy. Because of educational budget cuts, you see hopeful and sometimes desperate students roaming the campus trying to add classes. You can truly see how hard California’s financial crisis affects those who want nothing more than to get a good education.

The biggest drag to me about going to a community college are the unmotivated students. While I praise Pierce for having some fine professors and faculty, most of the students here don’t take advantage or show much

interest in their studies. On average, most of the people in my classes fail, or at best get C’s.

Let’s get one thing straight. College is not high school. There’s no slacking off, no excuses for late material, and no mercy for plagiarism and cheating. Some students don’t even bother to read their textbooks, while others don’t even buy them. Reading the material and apply it in class during a midterm or a final isn’t hard. In college, those textbooks will be the reason you get an A, or an F. Reading them and knowing them like the back of your hand will pay off in the end.

This summer, had I gone to HSU, I would have attended the Arcata Main Street’s 20th Annual Oyster Festival. How I would have loved to witness the festival chefs competing for “Best Oyster of the Festival.”

Instead, I had to take three summer courses to qualify for my admission guarantee to UC campuses known as a TAG. Friends at Pierce warned me that taking one summer course is bad enough, let alone three. After all, summer school students do four months of work in five weeks.

Either way, I did it. Won’t say it was easy, but I’m pleased with my two A’s and one B, giving me the 30 transferable units with a 3.6 GPA to apply for a TAG.

At first, I had no idea which UC campus to attend. Although UCLA, UC Irvine and UC San Diego seem like places for me, I chose one that had Pierce’s farm feel. UC Davis will be my home for the next two years once I finish my 60 units at Pierce. I have a mere 12 units to complete after my current and busy 18 unit fall semester before moving on to UC Davis, and I’m ecstatic.

While I was not exactly sure of the quality of a community college at first, I found Pierce to be an amazing experience.

Play your cards right and aim for nothing short of success and college is a breeze.

MEDIA

# Carrying a Torch for Blackberry

By Daniel Martinez  
Staff Writer

The Blackberry Torch is Research in Motion's (RIM) latest attempt to stay competitive in a market where Google's Android and Apple's iPhone are gaining ground.

RIM had 18.2% of the global smartphone market in the second quarter, but Android's market share zoomed from 1.8% to 17.2% and Apple grew from 13% to 14.2%.

The BlackBerry Torch is a mobile e-mail and smartphone device. Other features include a personal digital assistant with address book, calendar and to-do list capabilities, a portable media player with support for music and video playback and camera picture and video capabilities.

BlackBerry is primarily known for its ability to send and receive Internet e-mail via mobile network service coverage or Wi-Fi connectivity.

The Torch is Blackberry's first traditional touch screen with a full QWERTY slide out

keyboard and the first phone running Blackberry 6 OS. User complaints about the Blackberry 5's outdated look and unfriendly operation prompted the upgrade.

The Blackberry 6 OS takes cues from other operating systems like Android. The menu, for example, rises exactly the same way as the Android, though Blackberry's menu is more consumer-friendly.



Google Image

The competition uses 3.5 - 4.3 inch screens with almost double the resolution of the Torch's 3.2 inch screen, but text and images were sharp and easy to read. Icons were big and colorful.

Like other Blackberry devices, the Torch is noteworthy for its keyboard, email and messaging, and privacy features.

The Torch keyboard has been consistently praised by critics for being among the best QWERTY keyboards found on a smart phone. The buttons are raised above the surface and are big enough to satisfy most users.

Typing emails or text on the Torch is easy. The email feature can forward emails from Hotmail, Gmail, and Yahoo.

The Torch also has MySpace, Facebook and Twitter apps.

Privacy has always been a major selling point for Blackberry devices. In fact, Saudi Arabia, U.A.E., India, Lebanon and Indonesia are threatening to ban Blackberry Services for being "too private" and not allowing them to spy on their own people.

The Torch is fun but no different from any other Blackberry and uses the same processor, screen and hardware.



Google Image

3D: "Afterlife" adds 3D to the visual topography of the Resident Evil series but the rest of the film is mostly more of the same. Here Wentworth Miller and Ali Larter show up in Shawn Roberts's glasses.

# EVIL HAS A NEW DIMENSION

Fanboys spend \$26 million to see Resident Evil's franchise face Jovovich in 3D.

By Joel Hinojosa  
Staff Writer

Rating Guide: 3/5

Director Paul W.S. Anderson's "Resident Evil Afterlife 3D" relies on 3D and CGI to deliver.

Shot with the same camera technology James Cameron used with "Avatar," "Afterlife's" numerous slow-motion action scenes show off the film's 3D photography to good effect. Weapons fly off the screen and zombies make sudden appearances, making audiences shriek and jump.

The movie's story is mostly borrowed from the Capcom video game with its new characters.

No CGI needed, however, for stunning model Milla Jovovich, who continues her Alice role,

again determined to destroy Umbrella, the pharmaceutical company whose virus turns humans into zombies.

Alice's search for survivors turns up Claire Redfield (Ali Larter) in Alaska and special cop Chris Redfield (Wentworth Miller) in L.A. Together they battle zombie hordes and monsters like the Executioner, who takes a few blasts from Alice's quarter-filled shotgun before finally expiring.

Power-hungry Umbrella Chairman Albert Wesker (Shawn Roberts) carries the T-Virus in his body, making him superhuman. Unlike other zombies, however, Wesker still has his "normal" human traits and mind.

Though a major character in the Resident Evil video games, "Afterlife" doesn't really explain who Wesker is, or other newer characters like Redfield.

Jill Valentine (Sienna Guillory) appears after the screen credits to explain there will be a fight, meaning another movie. That story would have been better implemented here rather than left for another sequel.

Aside from its dynamic 3D visuals, "Afterlife" is just another loud, gory CDI destruction fest, its only saving grace the shapely Jovovich.

# Parrots, Parents Donate

By Mariana Santos  
Staff Writer

Parrots and their parents donated 217 pints of blood during Poly's August 30 blood drive.

"We normally have fewer people donating than we had today and we still give double what most schools do," said leadership coordinator Brian Le Clair. "We donated about 200 pints today. Poly will be donating about 1000 pints of blood this year."

More donors signed up for the Monday blood drive than ever before and many were turned away because the UCLA staff ran out of blood containers.

Poly has conducted blood drives for years.

"I been here 20 years and we have been doing them since then," said Le Clair, "working with the Red Cross, USC and UCLA."

Donors must be in good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, be at least 16, have parental consent and have no recent tattoos or piercings.

# POPP

[ From POPP, pg 1 ]

Former Parrot Ricardo Rayas, who left Poly during his senior year to attend POPP, likes the program because he had the opportunity to finish high school and start on his free AA degree at the same time.

"I take classes that relate to my academic interest," Rayas said.



# SUDOKU

## September 2010

Using the numbers 1-9, fill in the boxes. Don't repeat numbers in 3X3 boxes and rows. Good luck!

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

### August 2010 Answers

See how you did for last edition's Sudoku.

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

## TECHNOLOGY

## Ping! Touch! Nano! Shuffle!

Apple CEO Steve Jobs introduced three new iPods, a new Apple TV and a new social networking program on iTunes.

TECH TALK WITH  
JOEL HINOJOSA



## nano

### iPod Nano 6th Generation:

The iPod nano 6 trades the click wheel for a multi-touch display.

"The previous form factor -- slim and light with a decently sized display and clickwheel -- has been all but abandoned," said Joshua Topolsky of Engadget.

The nano includes FM radio and a pedometer like its predecessor. But

the nano 6 is missing a video camera like the 5th generation because of the gadget's small stature. The nano may even be used as a watch.

"The new nano is a smart, fast, capable player that should please a lot of people looking for something new this holiday season," said Topolsky.

The nano is priced at \$149 for 8GB or \$179 for 16GB.

## iPod touch



### iPod Touch 4th Generation:

The iPod touch, the most successful iPod Apple has made in recent years, was upgraded like an iPhone 4.

"The touch has become the most popular iPod and a lot of people call it the iPhone without the phone," said Jobs. "It's also an iPhone without a contact."

Features the devices share includes Facetime, two way cameras, HD recording, Retina Display and multitasking.

The touch, known for gaming, also shares a built-in A4 chip, used for

gaming speed and graphic capabilities and a three-axis gyroscope, which allows for 3D attitude and rotation rate for better motion gestures.

"It's become the #1 portable game player in the world," said Jobs about the touch.

The iPod touch and iPhone 4 will also include a new application named Game Center, which allows game tracking like game achievements and friends.

The touch is priced at \$229 for 8GB, \$299 for 32GB and \$399 for 64GB of storage.



### iPod Shuffle 4th Generation:

The new iPod shuffle 4 combines concepts from two different generations of the shuffle.

"People loved the buttons from the second generation but they loved VoiceOver and having playlists on their iPod from the third," said Jobs "So we made the best of both."

Users now have access to buttons as well as verbal exchange to surf through playlists.

The shuffle is a simple gadget meant for those

who just want a music-playing device without the screen. The shuffle, however, is a bare iPod and not on par with the new touch screen nano, which is small as a shuffle but more efficient.

"Shuffling is a wonderful way to listen to your music and we can make a really affordable player without a display that just shuffled your songs and was super easy to use," said Jobs.

The shuffle is priced at \$49 with 2GB worth of storage.

## Ping

### iTunes 10:

"Au revoir, Paris. Heading to London for rehearsals," posts Katy Perry.

Perry used Ping, a new music social network featured in the latest iTunes.

"It's a social network for music. It sort of like Facebook and Twitter meet iTunes," said Jobs.

Users can follow favorite artists and friends and discover music that people are talking about, listening to and downloading.

Artists may post pictures and updates on what music or concerts are in the works.

Ping, established in iTunes, is also found in the iPod touch and iPhone.



## SPORTS

# Martinez, Tongamoa Play Big For Poly

## Parrots dispatch San Fernando 43-20.

By Kelsey Cruz  
Staff Writer

Poly laid to rest some bad memories Thursday with a convincing 43-20 win over visiting San Fernando. Last year's triple-OT loss and a 2008 defeat early in varsity coach Scott Faer's rookie season did not go down easy at the home of the Parrots.

"The last two years, we had it won and then let them back in the game," Faer said. "This year, we didn't. And we're tackling better."

Junior running back Tony Ephriam put Poly up 7-0 early with a 68 yard score in the first quarter following an interception by Parrot senior center Corey Aguilar.

But two seniors, tight end Erick Martinez and linebacker Sione Tongamoa, did most of the heavy lifting for Faer's varsity. "Erick Martinez and Sione Tongamoa are a huge part why we won this week," said Faer. "They had their own highlight reel against San Fernando, playing both sides of the ball."

Martinez accounted for three touchdowns, two on fumble recoveries and one on a 23-yard reception from senior



Photo by Sophia Mendez

**LEFT BEHIND:** Parrot senior running back Kevin Ervin eludes Panthers defender as Poly rolled over visiting Franklin 41-14.

quarterback Eddie Moncivais. On the defensive side, Tongamoa had ten tackles and three assists and Martinez nine and two.

Poly's offense had an efficient 319 yards on 30 carries.

"The offensive line has been dominating," Faer said.

Poly senior running back Kevin Ervin led the ground attack with 138 yards and junior running back Tony Ephriam added 105 yards. Junior fullback Paul Mata had 55 yards.

Ervin's 60-yard carry put the Parrots up 35-12 after three and Mata scored in the fourth to cap Poly's scoring.

With 45 seconds left on the clock, San Fernando senior quarterback David Garcia threw a 19 yard pass to senior Terrell Lewis for a touchdown.

But it didn't matter. The Tigers had been tamed, and the scoreboard looked just right this time.

### INTERVIEW

## A Band of Brothers

By Kelsey Cruz  
Staff Writer

It's early in the season, but junior running back Tony Ephriam already has some big numbers.

The new running back is averaging 115 yards per game and leading the team with 231 yards after two games.

"I just try to run the ball hard and make something happen," said Ephriam. "Coach DC helps me on my running back techniques."

Big brother and senior running back Kevin Ervin helps out as well.

"He tells me what to do and what not to do," Ephriam said. "Let's say it's a 36 pitch and I run out to the outside, but I have to run inside. He's teaching me which ways to get the ball. He wants me to be the new 'Kevin Ervin' for next year."

The San Fernando beatdown was a real treat for the Parrot rookie.

"It's my first year playing for Poly, and we beat a big time school," Ephriam said.

Ephriam says his 68-yard touchdown in the San Fernando game was actually called for Ervin.

"It was a reverse-right to my brother," Ephriam said. "Everybody on San Fernando was focusing on Kevin. They thought he had the ball but he handed the ball off to me. They were over-pursuing."

The big plays and the early success surprised Ephriam.

"I didn't expect any of this, like my 90-yard run against Franklin. I didn't know I was going to do that."

Arleta, Ephriam says, remains this year's team to beat.

"I think we'll have a good game with Arleta," said Ephriam. "That's the only team that's in my head right now. They aren't going to be number one any more."

Ephriam hopes to keep his rushing average up in the upcoming match with Granada Hills.

"The maximum I would really want to go is 130 yards, but I hope I could go for more like my brother did last year. One hundred twenty-six is the most I've ever run."

"We need to just play as a team and hopefully we will make something happen," said Ephriam.

Coach Faer's instruction to Ephriam before the season was simple, the junior said.

"Make no mistakes."

Ephriam has been playing football since he was a little kid and says his parents come to watch all his games.

"I want to get a lot of big plays this year and do what makes my coach and my team happy," said Ephriam.



Photo by Jennifer Martinez

**TENNIS:** Senior Brenda Gonzales is varsity coach Evan Rabins' #1 singles player. Below, #2 doubles Angela Lomboy.

## Girls' Tennis Off To Fast Start

By Kelsey Cruz  
Staff Writer

The Lady Parrots varsity tennis team's 3-0 start is their best in the modern era, thanks to two preseason wins and a league forfeit from Sherman Oaks.

"The doubles teams have been doing very well in terms of teamwork and communicating, which is the key to doubles," said Rabins. "The singles girls just have a lot of experience, and it showed."

Poly edged Fairfax 4-3 on Wednesday, with wins from the doubles and #2. singles' senior Cindy Keo. In the 6-1 San Fernando win, #1 doubles teammates Danielle de Jesus and Christina Solimon won six straight games after losing the

first six before dropping the final two.

Rabins said the team's success is the focus on fundamentals.

"The main thing is getting your serve in," Rabins said, "and moving your feet to get in proper position to hit the ball."

"The singles girls just have a lot of experience, and it showed."

Can the Lady Parrots continue their winning ways?

"We have a lot of seniors, and I'm hoping that success from the last season carries on to this one."



Photo by Jennifer Martinez



# ON CAMPUS



# CLUB RUSH

Photos by  
Alejandro Cadena

