

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MARCH 2011

## Getting the Advantage Plus Advantage

By Michelle Lopez  
Staff Writer

For years, Poly was losing students to other magnet and charter schools because of a lack of accelerated programs for highly motivated ninth graders.

That all changed in 2007, when former Freshmen Center Assistant Principal Pat Flenner started the Advantage Plus program. Current Advantage Plus advisor Isaac Alatorre worked closely with Flenner to coordinate the program.

Flenner also sought out teachers, staff, community members and middle schools for ideas and suggestions.

Advantage Plus candidates were drawn from middle school students with high academic marks who were motivated and able to perform in a higher-level learning environment.

"I joined because I knew it would help me throughout high school," said senior Denise Acosta. "I seized the opportunity."

The Advantage Plus Program helps students by providing them with college classes.

Pia Damonte, Small Learning Community (SLC) Assistant Principal, chooses the on-campus classes.

Ninth grade students take English and Speech. Tenth graders take Sociology, Chicano Studies, Anthropology and Geography. Juniors get Anthropology, English, Philosophy and Chicano Studies.

"The college courses opened my eyes," said senior Sandra Machuca. "I learned about people in different parts of the world, how they live, their traditions, their family values, their cultures. The courses give you a different perspective on life."

Seniors take Art, English, Political Science and History.

These courses satisfy the lower-division general education requirements at both UC and the California State University.

The Intersegment General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) has the same concept as the A-G requirements for all high schools.

"Students take rigorous classes and complete the first two years of college at no cost," said Damonte. "The program helps students work at a higher level."

Sixteen percent of seniors in the Advantage Plus program have completed one full year or more of college classes while in high school. The number is higher when AP exams, college courses taken off-campus and current classes are included.



Photo by Alex Cadena

**AWARDED:** Long-time Parrot Kim McEwen was honored by the California Interscholarship Federation (CIF) as Athletic Director of the Year.

## MCEWEN NAMED A/D OF THE YEAR

By Valeria Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

Poly's Kim McEwen was named Athletic Director of the Year by the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).

"I am proud of Kim for being recognized by such a distinguished organization," said Poly Principal Gerardo Loera. "She is always striving to provide the best athletic program possible."

The CIF runs high school sports for California and makes all rules for athletes.

"Kim has been doing this for a long time," said assistant athletic director Toby Bachenheimer, "and she is very good at it."

McEwen was appointed Poly's athletic director

[ See McEwen, pg 6 ]

## Senior Killed in Freeway Accident Arlette Cruz fatally injured, Adriana Avina hospitalized.

By Jizel Emralino  
Staff Writer

Two Poly seniors were injured, one fatally, when their 1991 Honda Accord spun out of control and overturned several times while traveling southbound on the Golden State (5) Freeway in Sun Valley Friday, February 25 around 1:50 pm.

Poly senior Arlette Cruz was thrown through the windshield and pronounced dead at the scene.

Poly senior Adriana Avina, the driver, was hospitalized over the weekend at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills.

Cruz was a three-year member of the Poly Fall Color Guard and the track team.

"She was involved in many extracurricular activities,"



School Photo  
**VICTIM:** Parrot senior, color guard member Arlette Cruz.

said track and field Coach Mario Rivera. "She was a very dedicated student."

Although Cruz was not part of the Winter Color Guard that competes separate from the band, her fellow teammates were saddened by the news.

"We had a competition the day after the accident," said Color Guard senior Monica Martinez. "We won first place, then our coach told us about Arlette's death. It was a bittersweet moment."

Cruz left very fond memories among her fellow Color guard members.

"She told silly jokes whenever any of us felt down," said Martinez. "She always brightened everyone's faces."

Poly's marching band and Color Guard joined Cruz's family and friends in front of the Poly band room to pay tribute to her during lunch on Monday.

The band played several of Cruz's favorite songs while friends and family comforted each other.

"It's never going to be the same without Arlette," said Rivera.

## Cuts May Total \$1.5M

Partisan politics in Sacramento will decide Poly funding for 2012.

By Ivan Escobedo  
Staff Writer

Poly may lose 13 staff members and more than \$1.5 million as part of a \$408M LAUSD shortfall for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

"I'm dressed in black to reflect how I felt when I looked at the numbers," said Poly Principal Gerardo Loera.

The amount of LAUSD's cuts hinges on Gov. Jerry Brown's call for a special election to consider extending current taxes. The taxes would help close the state's \$26.6 billion deficit.

If the election occurs and voters agree, LAUSD might avoid thousands of layoffs and protect class sizes. LAUSD is looking at a \$225 million deficit at best and a \$408 million gap at worst, part of a potential \$2 billion or more cut to public schools.

The Legislature must agree to extend the temporary taxes or to place a measure on the June ballot to allow voters to extend them. Either option takes a 2/3 vote of the Legislature and will require that at least three Republicans in the state Senate and two in the state Assembly vote to extend the taxes or put the measure

on a June special election ballot.

Negotiations between Brown and the group of five Republicans stopped this week. No further talks are scheduled.

Colleges and K-12 schools have already been cut \$20 billion over the last three years, or \$1,900 per K-12 student.

More than 30,000 California educators and 10,000 other public school employees have been laid off over the past three years. Another 19,000 received layoff notices this March 15th.

Without an extension of current revenues, public schools and colleges will lose more than \$2.3 billion.

On top of the struggling state economy, LAUSD is experiencing a

[ See \$1.5M, pg 6 ]

## Breakfast Served

10th graders eat hearty before CAHSEE testing .

By Marcela Limones  
Staff Writer

Can Parrots think better on a full stomach? Tenth Grade Center coordinator Adriana Maldonado-Gomez thinks so.

"The breakfast helps students be healthy and ready," Maldonado-Gomez said. "Students feel like we care for them."

Seven hundred Parrots took the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

But first, they had breakfast at the cafeteria.

"We had five people on Tuesday morning," said cafeteria manager Evelin Galvez, "and we served 1100 breakfasts."

Most students used their Title I tickets to pay for the meal. Maldonado-Gomez brought food for the approximately 100 students without tickets.

Funds from the recent Teacher

[ See Breakfast, pg 6 ]



Photo by Alex Cadena

## Six Continents What's Left?

Where hasn't science teacher Pemble been?

VIEW - page 3



Photo by Mariana Santos

## Bringing the Heat

Soph Moreno holds Grant to three hits.

SPORTS - page 8



OPINION

EDITORIAL

Less is Not More

When Sacramento politicians spend recklessly and pay with public education funds, student lose.

Many Poly students recently got accepted into prestigious schools, yet more budget cuts means Poly has to continue educating students with even less money.

Poly’s API standardized test scores (like the CASHEE and CST’s) have been increasing yearly, reflecting the fact that Poly has intelligent students.

Poly’s graduation rate has also increased over the last decade as well as the percentage of students who go off to college.

Still, over the last several years Poly has taken severe slashes in funds and will be doing so again.

Even with Poly’s academic success, political officials have been trimming away the money that goes into quality education.

Struggling students cannot get the help they need for class work because of increasing class sizes.

Politicians are robbing Poly students of their education every time they take away

teachers. Poly students need more instructors to produce more excellent students.

Getting rid of Poly’s counselors makes it hard for students to get the classes they need for graduation, let alone the electives they want to take.

By gradually eliminating more of Poly’s security every year, politicians expose students to more fights, drugs and general harm.

Politicians like Gov. Schwarzenegger spent billions on unnecessary projects like new prison housing for inmates on death row instead of education.

Government officials are now making up for spending money they didn’t have by taking more cuts from the schools.

Poly students are getting accepted into top-notch universities, even with the budget cuts.

Students’ hard work should be rewarded with the funds to support them. Public school funds must be separated from other Sacramen-to spending if schools are expected to continue producing successful students.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Putting the Book in Face-book.

In the editorial “Putting the Book in Facebook,” written in the OPTIMIST, the idea of online teaching and learning is discussed. The editorial af-firms that Facebook is in fact helping, not interfering, with the development of students’ learning.

Greenwood High School disclosed that it has an AP Facebook page that allows students to “[stay] in class even when [they’re] not in school.” This page helps students reach their potential without allowing them to cheat. The teacher and the stu-dents are able to interact with and help one another when they receive their assignments on the Facebook page.

Teachers have noticed that having that connection on Facebook was effective in preparing their students for Advanced Placement tests. As an AP student, I find this form of learning and teaching essential and fun.

An important point made in the article was how utilizing Facebook can help the entire school, not just the actual students receiving the help. It stated that classes might be shorter, since some of the

material would be covered online. Not only that, but students could get tutoring via Facebook if necessary. The editorial also mentioned that “the site might even help lessen the impact of budget cuts by providing learning opportunities without actual classrooms.”

Facebook and other online sites are surely becoming the future of our society’s educational system. Students will have more opportunities for learning and teachers will have the potential to reach their students on an edu-cational basis to help prepare them for the much dreaded AP and other state exams. Brace yourself for the new technol-ogy teaching era.

-Janeth Hernandez

Teachers who believe Facebook is a beneficial educational tool for students are wrong! Facebook is for socializing with friends and keeping in touch with distant family members. It should not be used for teaching.

Teachers are being paid to teach students IN CLASS, not through a screen! Most teenagers go to Facebook to take school stress off by IMing with friends and see what is going on in their friends lives; they do not go there to get “educated.” Yes, some students sometimes have questions on a home-work assignment and choose Facebook as a way to get help BUT from classmates. Not teachers!

-Angelica Campa

I think that using Facebook to get work to students is a good idea. It’s interesting how teachers are still giving students work in the two high

schools in Warren County, Kentucky. Even though they were required to still do the work. I think some kids might have not liked it because may-be they would have wanted it to be like a mini vacation. But since it was a class that was for advanced kids, I’m sure they didn’t mind. I think it’s a pretty good idea because you can get help with the work.

-Anna Cruz

Facebook is not only for teenagers to chat with their friends, but is for teachers to give their lectures through this network too. Facebook can be extremely effective if people want to use it in a smart way, like teachers are doing in Greenwood High. Students are helping each other when they have a difficult topic, since they use Facebook. Looking for connections to do their work is very important for people, so people don’t have to go out of their ways to obtain the help they need.

-Evelyn Sanchez

The February OPTIMIST article states that Facebook is a great way to influence and continue education in our personal life. I agree with the article and it is a great way to interact. I found it interest-ing how the teacher made a Facebook page and posted assignments, test and projects. It’s a brilliant way of using social networking and its qualities. Social networking today has had a big impact on our lives. In our world, we are becoming more dependent on social networking. At first, Fa-cebook was a place where you could interact with friends and family. Now we have made Facebook more advanced and used it in a beneficial way.

-Gabriel Ramirez

It Could Happen Here

“The vice principal tried to get on the p.a. system to call for everyone to evacuate but by then the power had already gone out,” wrote a Sendai high school student on his internet page after the initial earthquake struck the city.

“We were in the baseball field trying to get order established,” wrote a teacher at a middle school. “We had to remain there for hours in the cold.”

The disaster that struck Japan on March 10th could be a preview of things to come in Southern California. Is Poly ready for the Big One?

Most of Poly’s campus was built in 1956, when earthquake reinforcement was far less advanced than today’s Japan. The collapse of brick structures such as the gyms, the audito-rium, the math and science building and the cafetorium is likely.

If a quake happens during a class period, hundreds could be trapped under the rubble.

“We could help, but to a limited extent,” said Poly First Responder teacher and paramedic Jeremy Sonenschein. “Certified First Responders aren’t trained in advanced care and lack the resources for life threatening injuries.”

Pipes were ruptured in Japanese cities caus-

ing gas and electrical fires. Poly could suffer the same fate.

Combustible methane gas lies under Poly soil and across the street, where a facility burns off the excess 24 hours a day. A fire on campus may catch the methane on fire, compounding the danger.

Bungalows on struts could easily snap, twist and collapse or overturn, trapping those inside.

In classrooms, ceiling tiles and light fixtures could fall, making movement difficult, particu-larly if combined with power failure and loss of lighting.

With 3000 students on track, a prolonged recovery could exhaust water and food sup-plies.

With many buildings collapsed, Parrots may have to sit outside for several hours, or even days. Cell phones and land lines might be down and electricity too, meaning no overnight heat or light.

Poly’s earthquake drills have been less than orderly and have been managed with the expectation of standing for a few minutes then going back to class. Lots of “what if” questions remain.

It may be time to get serious about earth-quake preparedness.

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the  
**OPTIMIST**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor must be typed or printed in ink and include the writer’s signature. The OP-TIMIST reserves the right to edit submissions. Send letters to Rm.14 or Mr. Blau’s box.



INTERVIEW



Photo by Alex Cadena

SCIENCE GUY: Poly chem teacher Bryce Pemble uses the big screen to visualize his topic.

# The Pemble Chronicles

World traveler, cliff diver, mountain climber, father – who has time to teach?

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

For a teacher, Poly science guy Bryce Pemble has spent a lot of time out of the classroom. “I’ve always wanted to know about the world,” Pemble said. So he went looking – across six continents.

Pemble spent six months hiking and bicycling across New Zealand. While there, he saw penguins in a petrified forest on a reef. “One of the most memorable and fascinating moments in my life,” Pemble said. He spent 60 days bicycling across the United States. South America, Europe, Asia and Australia also saw a lot of Pemble and his bike. Then there’s the cliff jumping - several dives, including a 50-footer into the blue Pacific in San Diego.

Did we mention hiking, like the 12 days he took to climb the 17,500 foot Thongla Pass in Nepal? To support his travel jones, Pemble worked as an assistant to world-famous pediatrician Dr. Spock (1903-1998) and dabbled in construction and property management.

Pemble was born in Washington D.C. but couldn’t seem to stay in one place for too long, spending six years in Massachusetts, seven in New Jersey, four in Virginia and a year in Rhode Island.

Pemble got interested in science in junior high and attended Westfield High in New Jersey. Not surprisingly, he spent the last semester of his senior year in Brazil as an exchange student. Then came a trip west, where Pemble graduated from UC Santa Barbara with an earth sciences degree.

Pemble combines his love of science with a fondness for sci-fi movies and comic books. In fact, he proposed to wife Heather Cannon after a midnight showing of “Star Wars: Episode III.” “I got down on one knee and said ‘You’re going to marry me,’” Pemble explained. “Tears of shock and happiness ran down her eyes.”

The line worked and the pair got married in September 2004. They have two daughters, Giovanna, 5, and Luciana, 2.

This year, Pemble will take the whole family to Comic Con at the San Diego Convention Center. They plan to stay all four days.

Pemble doesn’t dress up because he has no time to make an outfit and even if he did, he feels like he wouldn’t be able to get around because of everyone wanting pictures. “I don’t want to end up in a lame costume and wind up looking silly,” Pemble said.

Pemble, a 10-year Comic Con veteran, says his favorite exhibit is Battle Star Galactica. In the classroom, Pemble has his favorite subjects too - quantum mechanics, gas loss and dark matter.

If those sound spooky, they are. “Dark matter determines the fate of the universe,” Pemble explained, “too much of it and the universe will explode.”

Quantum mechanics, the understanding of the smallest scale/unit of life, isn’t exactly a walk in the park, of course. And then there’s dark matter. “Dark matter is basically just the matter in the universe,” said Pemble. “Even though you can’t see it, scientists know it’s there.”

Gas loss, Pemble says, is just the study of how and why gasses act the way they do on different molecular levels.

Sure.

His one wish, Pemble says, would be to see if someone could explain all forces with one explanation, the Grand Unified Theory.

In short, science is Pemble’s life. He doesn’t even take lunch off. “In 2006, during lunch one day, I saw Mercury passing the sun,” Pemble said, “a phenomenon called transitive Mercury.”

Wait, there’s more.

One night in 1989, Pemble was looking at galaxies in the Sperry Observatory of Union County College when he came across a supernova in another galaxy, M65.

“I’d never even heard of the constellation,” Pemble said.

In his spare time, Pemble studies Linguistics, the study of languages and Hematology, the study of the origins of words and how they change over time.

He speaks several languages, including Italian, Portuguese, and French.

But he’s never far from a telescope. At Poly’s Parent Conference the other night, Pemble was out on the Polygon with his telescope, giving interested students and parents a look at the stars.

Just in case you were wondering, during the day, Pemble teaches chemistry and geology. Really.

# Bi-Coastal Romance

By Vanessa Muñoz  
Staff Writer

How do you know when your love of computers has gone too far? When the only way you can fall in love is online.

That’s exactly what happened to David Rodriguez, Poly’s new Information Systems Tech. The former New Yorker met Claudia, the girl of his digital dreams, on E-Harmony.

Which was the only way he could meet her, since she lived in Los Angeles.

Their online chatter quickly shifted to another format, however.

“We started talking on the phone,” said Rodriguez.

And talking and talking.

“She couldn’t sleep if we didn’t talk,” said Rodriguez “She would call me in the middle of the night.”

Rodriguez was intrigued enough to start pricing flights to LA.

His new crush didn’t believe him when Rodriguez told her he wanted to fly 3000 miles to meet her in person.

“I was only able to stay a week, but I was sure I wanted to come back,” said Rodriguez. “The second time, she came to New York to meet my family.”

Rodriguez’s third visit was to apply for a job with the school district. On the fourth flight, he packed light, but came to stay.

“I mostly left everything back at home in New York with my family,” said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez and Claudia, a secretary from a local church, got married in 2009.

On weekends, the young marrieds like to explore LA.

“I actually show my wife new places,” said Rodriguez, “although she has been here her whole life and I only got here in 2007.”

Rodriguez other love, computers, is still in full bloom.

“I have been working with computers for 16 years,” said Rodriguez. “I have a home-built see-through computer I made myself.”



Photo by Alex Cadena

**TECH TAKEOVER:** Ex-New Yorker and new Poly IT guy David Rodriguez is a recent transfer.

Before coming to Poly, Rodriguez was at Horace Mann Middle School.

“I was the school computer tech support,” said Rodriguez.

One thing the former New Yorker didn’t leave behind was his love for the Yankees, although Rodriguez is a fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers too.

He’s just a bi-coastal guy.



MEDIA



Google Image

DRAMA QUEEN: Kim Joo Won (Hyun Bin) and Gil Ra Im (Ha Ji Won) gets serious in “Secret Garden.”

# Sikeurit Gadeun

## K-dramas have viewers addicted

By Jizel Emralino  
Staff Writer

If you haven’t yet heard of “Dream High,” “My Princess,” “Secret Garden” and “Boys Over Flowers,” that may soon change.

These popular Korean dramas, and the K-pop (Korean pop culture) that goes with them, are spreading outside Korea. Currently the rage in Asian countries like the Philippines, Japan, Thailand and Taiwan, the K-dramas have even invaded America.

“Korean dramas usually come in two genres: the soap opera, but without the gratuitous sex and violence, and historical dramas.”

Asian shows air on cable channel 18 (KBS), but online portals like Hulu, YouTube, and Mysoju stream Korean TV shows and movies for free.

“The internet makes watching Korean dramas so much more convenient,” said Poly senior Cindy Keo. “I can watch a whole series in 12 hours.”

Korean dramas usually come in two genres: the soap opera, but without the gratuitous sex and violence, and historical dramas

The typical Korean soap involves marital relationship conflicts and complicated love triangles. The heroine falls in love with the protagonist, usually an arrogant and wealthy man who treats her harshly, and disregards her sincere suitor, the man who truly cares for her.

Another common theme is boy meets girl. They are young, beautiful and successful. They fall in love. Then a family secret tears them apart. Eventually, the power of their love reunites them. But wait. SOMEONE MUST DIE. The girl contracts a mysterious infection. The END.

Historical Korean dramas have complex plot lines - a forbidden romance between a soldier and a palace servant, for example - and elaborate costumes.

But it’s not originality that tempts K-drama fans.

“Even when I’ve seen the plot lines over and over, I can’t help watching it,” said Poly junior Kelly Duong. “I’m so addicted that I

would watch dramas right after school until midnight.”

Unlike American teen programming, K-drama plots tend to unfold slowly and often include an important moral lesson or social critique.

So how to explain the love for K-Pop?

“K-dramas can appear simplistic and downright campy to an American viewer, but they’re also fascinating and weirdly comfortable in a ‘movie-of-the-week’ kind of way,” says Entertainment Weekly’s Pop Watch.

But then if you’re addicted, who needs an explanation.

### TECH TALK - JOEL HINOJOSA

# Apple Tablet Leads Market

## iPad 2 is faster, thinner and lighter than competition.

Apple’s iPad 2 has major updates, giving the device a more competitive backbone. Apple hopes to stay ahead of the competition, many of whom are hitting the tablet market this year.

CEO of Apple Steve Jobs, which left medical care for the announcement, pounded on other companies calling them “copycats” and unable to match Apple’s prices.

The iPad receives most of the focus since other tablets are releasing later in the year and tablets like Motorola Xoom (\$800) and Samsung Galaxy Tab (\$500) can’t compare.

The iPad 2 has built-in cameras, a front facing camera and rear camera like the iPhone 4, which were disappointingly left out in the first generation. The cameras allow the new iPad to use FaceTime, live video calls, and to record HD video.

The iPad 2 is 33% thinner and 15% lighter but still runs 10 hours and a month on standby.

# The Schwal Method

Poly PE instructor Chuck Schwal borrows NFL conditioning techniques to get Parrots worked up.

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

Poly faculty member and former veteran Parrot baseball coach Chuck Schwal is now devoting his energies to getting Parrots in shape - the Schwal way. That includes a series of simple but intense exercises developed over years of experimenting.

Schwal uses an exercise regimen he learned from mentor and former NFL conditioning coach Dan Halbert.

Schwal and Halbert met at the World Sports center in North Hollywood some years ago. Halbert saw Schwal limping around the gym and said ‘I can fix that.’

Schwal asked Halbert for an evaluation and the pair started talking. Halbert was then a football coach at Oakland HS.

Halbert, who is currently working at the Burbank Athletic Club, became Schwal’s mentor and personal trainer.

“I don’t believe in the old style PE,” said Schwal.

He has been promoting his new fitness training for about two years and has over 100 new exercises.

The exercises are separated into different groups and are personalized for each student. He has workouts that focus on the legs, arms, abs, and various other muscle groups.

The workouts are difficult at first because students have to adjust, and that can be challenging.

Schwal includes suicides to help with the

mile tests and says jumping jacks are useless.

Not all Schwal’s exercises are intense. Some are fun, like crawling on the floor from side to side to work out front and side abs.

No students have ever had any major injuries performing the exercises, Schwal said, only a few minor mishaps caused by “bad shoes.”

Schwal practices what he teaches and works out six times a week.

Schwal describes himself as a self-motivated person who commits himself to his job and to every human being that comes his way.

He enjoys his job because he likes the outdoors and helping kids get and stay fit.

“Poly students are fun,” Schwal said.

**The Baseball Years**

Schwal, with a career 328-145 record, took his 1996 Parrot squad to Dodger Stadium to play Kennedy High for the City Invitational and again in 1999 against Chatsworth.

**Getting Personal**

Schwal has been married to Amy Showalter for eight years.

Showalter is from Louisville, Mississippi; Schwal is from Inglewood.

The two met while they were MC-ing a Poly pep rally. He was Poly’s varsity baseball coach and she was a drama teacher, but they didn’t start dating until two years later.

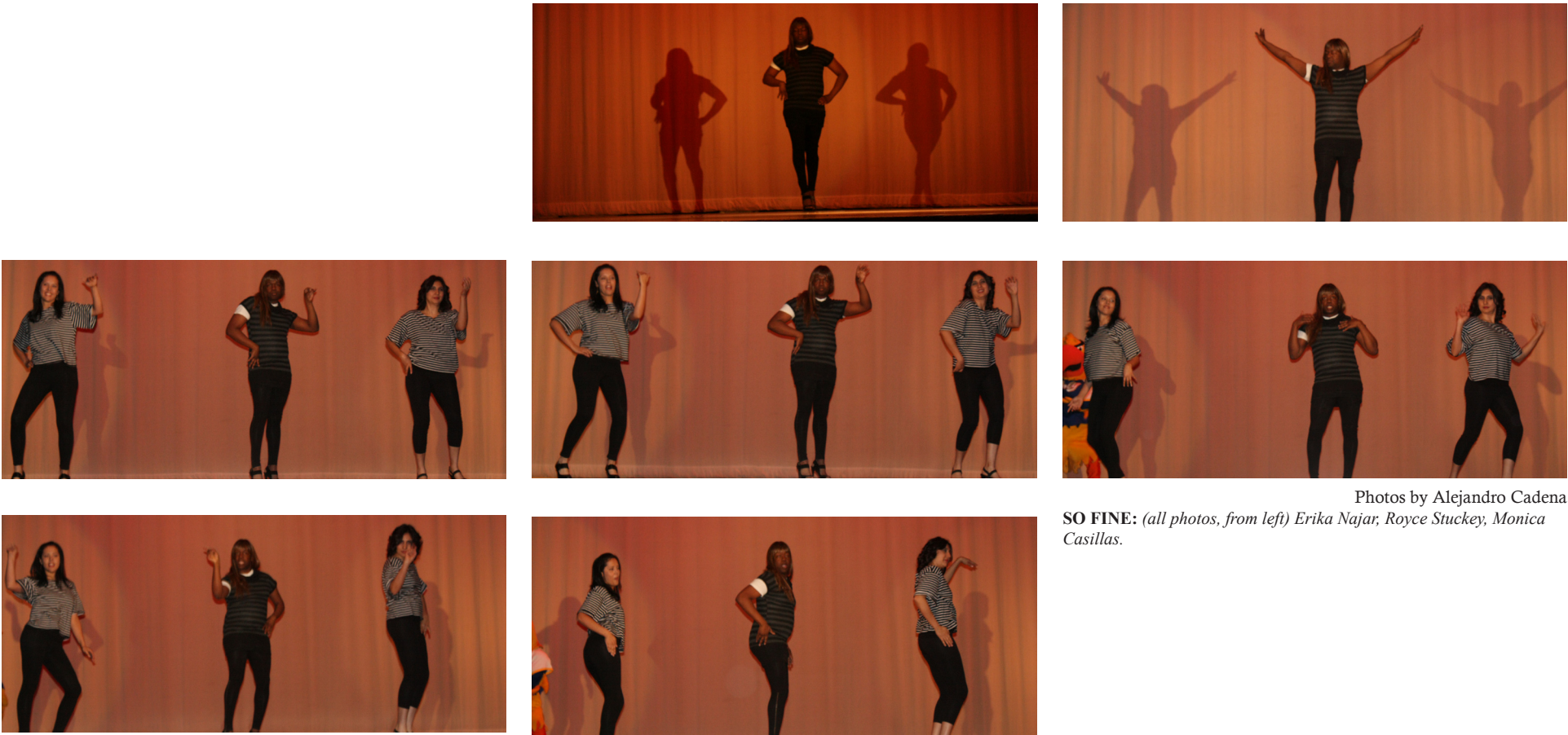
They sometimes work out together or go to the beach at Carlsbad.

Showalter, who played keyboards and sang for Bandshe for five years, is now a substitute teacher at Poly.





PERFORMANCE



Photos by Alejandro Cadena  
SO FINE: (all photos, from left) Erika Najar, Royce Stuckey, Monica Casillas.

# Teacher Lip Sync - Kind of a Drag

Stuckey steals the show amid a host of reruns and Latin favorites.

By Ivan Escobedo  
Staff Writer

Mild-mannered math teacher Royce Stuckey, in 4-inch heels, black tights and a blond wig, was sultry and smoldering as he worked his way through Beyonce’s “All the Single Ladies,” stealing the show at the annual Teachers’ Lip Sync Friday at the auditorium.

Stuckey nailed the dance moves for the few seconds he was on, leaving the Parrots wanting more.

Custodian Steve Mares reprised his Vicente Fernandez classic “Volver Volver” from last year, strolling down the center aisle, mic in hand, while the Parrot faithful sang along.

Math teacher Sergio Lopez, Poly’s resident heartthrob, sent the girls swooning with “Cuando Me Enamoro” by Enrique Iglesias and Camila’s “Mientes.”

A group of girls near the front of the stage waved their arms in unison, singing along while hoping for a glance from Lopez.

Poly security guard Jermon Beasley, in black tux and sunglasses, entered stage left to sing Will Smith’s 1997 “Men in Black” theme song. Another chorus of screams from the Parrots.

Dancing behind Beasley were Tenth-Grade Center Coordinator Adriana Maldonado-Gomez, in a tight black suit, white shirt, black tie and dark glasses, and five male “agents” similarly dressed.

For teachers, they were pretty good dancers, easily the best-rehearsed of the program.

Wife and husband Amy Showalter and Charles Schwal MC’d the program, she in skin tight black everything, and he in an orange jail shirt, cuffs, and ample afro.

Showalter opened the show with Lady Gaga’s “Money Honey,” at one point stripping off her jacket and tossing it aside. The Parrots loved it.

But overall this year’s program lacked the pacing and surprises of last year’s show. Some of the skits were slightly awkward, others made little sense and some just dragged.

Too bad they didn’t save Beyonce for last.



Heilbron, Beasley, Showalter(below), Rabins (right above) get their groove on at the teacher lip sync.





CAMPUS

McEwen A/D of the Year

[ From McEwen, pg 1 ]

in 1996 and has worked with Bachenheimer for ten years. McEwen has coached varsity softball, basketball, and volleyball at Poly. Her years of experience were probably a factor in her receiving the award, McEwen said. But other factors are involved. An athletic director needs a, “high degree of integrity, and honesty,” McEwen believes. School and athletic rules need to be put above winning. Bachenheimer agrees. “Kim knows the rules, follows them, and expects everyone else to know them,” Bachenheimer said. “She is as hard on this school as she is on all others.” The principals she has worked with have had good moral values about right and wrong, McEwen said, and credited everyone at Poly for contributing to the school’s integrity. “I am proud that Poly has a reputation for good sportsmanship and playing by the rules,” McEwen said. McEwen cited a situation ten years ago as an example. The boy’s soccer team that year was rated number one in the district, when McEwen discovered a student had forged some paperwork. She turned the school in for breaking the rules, and the team was not allowed to

participate in the playoffs. Doing the right thing was more important, McEwen said, even though people were angry with her. McEwen is in charge of all Poly sports programs and is responsible for confirming student eligibility to participate in a sport and verification of all the necessary paperwork. McEwen arranges team schedules based on travel time and the level of competition. “Poly should compete against schools that are similarly matched,” McEwen said. The hardest duties come with football, McEwen said, and include the hiring process and the budget for coaches along with supervision and student attendance at games. McEwen pays the individuals officiating each sports event and makes sure they show up. At games, McEwen ensures that Poly personnel know all emergency procedures and have the necessary materials. McEwen tries to attend some games from each sport, particularly those where Poly and the opponent have had issues in the past. Team budgets for equipment and uniforms are also McEwen’s responsibility. Daily duties include P.A. announcements of scores and upcoming games and the preparation of the facilities needed. Coaches are not required to report game scores or keep stats, nor is the athletic director, McEwen said. Parent attendance at the games in support of athletes and coaches is important, McEwen said. She wants more to attend but understands that many parents have other responsibilities. McEwen was born in Los Angeles and attended Verdugo Hills High in Tujunga, where she played against Poly in 1970. McEwen got involved in athletics as a freshman, when the nationwide movement to get female students involved in sports was just beginning. She made the decision to become a physical education teacher when she was in junior high school. McEwen came to Poly in 1988, where she taught PE and coached JV Softball for eight years. Over the years, many Parrot athletes have impressed McEwen, D.J. Gay in particular. “Gay is a hard worker, modest, good in class, and a great athlete,” McEwen said. Gay is currently a senior and starting guard at San Diego State.



Photo by Alex Cadena  
CAREERS: EHS’s Jeremy Sonenschein demonstrates first aid to 10th Grade Center students.

SLC Fair for 10th Sophomores get a look at career pathways.

By Valeria Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

Poly’s upper level Small Learning Communities held their fourth annual SLC Fair on Wednesday. The purpose of the fair was to expose tenth graders to the three upper level SLCs and the different career pathways available. Before the Fair, all tenth grade English students took interest surveys to help them choose a career that suited their abilities and preferences. The students were given their survey results before the Fair so they would have a better idea of which career paths may suit them best. HABIT (Hospitality, Agriculture, Business/Industrial, Tech), Sports/ EHS (Sports Programs and Recreation/ Education and Human Services) and FAME (Fine Arts, Media/ Entertainment) each had their own room and presenters for the Fair. HABIT presenters were Javier Rios, Robert Higgins, Michelle Elias, Hector Colon, Donna Lewis and Glen Lamos. The presenters all included props. Students also were on hand to explain aspects of the various career pathways to the tenth graders. Sports/EHS presenters were Jeremy Sonenschein, Toby Bachenheimer, Barry Stockhamer and Susan Maynard. Students walked around the classroom and looked at the posters, handouts and props for the careers offered. They also asked the teachers questions about

the classes. FAME presenters were Karen Daneshvari, Jeff Herrold, John Blau and Katrina Hetrick. After the fair, students choose the career pathway that best satisfies their needs. Students pick their top three choices in case their first pick is full. Students can take classes from another SLC, but they cannot switch SLCs “We encourage students to make informative decisions,” said instructional specialist Pia Damonte. Students interviewed after the fair said they liked the props, the better understanding they had of the career pathways and the student presentations. “They were excited about taking classes, and the choices they were making,” said Damonte. The Tenth Grade Center English teachers who brought their students said they felt students were able to concentrate. The SLC presenters felt they were able to show how classes in each SLC were related. “It was better than in the cafeteria because you could actually hear,” said Herrold. Previous SLC Fairs were held in the cafeteria. The SLC Fair was started by former instructional specialist Cheryl Cohen as a means to expose tenth graders to the upper level SLCs. The entry level SLCs - Freshmen Center, Tenth Grade Center, and Newcomer - focus on getting students math and English classes, while the upper level SLCs provide students with different fields of study and careers.

\$1.5M Cut

[ From \$1.5M, pg 1 ]

decline in school-aged children, which means a drop in funding to all schools including Poly. The LAUSD’s student population decreased from 737,739 in 2003 to today’s 601,713. If the June election fails, Loera estimates losing \$330 per student, or \$1.5 million. Categorical funds - money from the state and federal governments targeted to particular programs like Title I (extra support for students who live in poverty) and child nutrition (school breakfast and lunch) - will be hardest hit. Federal stimulus money provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has dried up Title I stands to lose \$1.1 million. Superintendent John Deasy’s letter to the Board of Education proposed eliminating librarians, magnet coordinators and 56 nurses as well as other critical positions. Student-teacher ratios in English Language Skills (ELS) courses will increase from the current average of 25-1 to 28-1. Other programs and classes are slated to be cut or discontinued. Teacher academic differentials (performance-based payment that teachers use to help student achievement in special classes) will be halved. Loera wants students to get their parents actively involved by going to www.educate-ourstate.org. Educate Our State is a parent-led, statewide campaign to gather the voices of parents and guardians to support public school education. Loera and other administrators are actively looking for grants from organizations to help Poly make up for budget cuts. “It’s going to be more stressful,” said Loera, “but it’s still it’s our job to continue giving students the best education we can provide.”

Breakfast

[ From Breakfast, pg 1 ]

Lip Sync ticket sales paid for the food. Tuesday’s fare included coffee cakes, cereal and burritos. On Wednesday, students got cereal, pizza, bagels and juice or milk Breakfast lines opened at 8 am. and closed at 8:30. Teachers supplied food for the first CAH-SEE breakfast in the spring of 2008. A year later, the cafeteria began serving breakfast. This year saw additional help from the Special Ed Dept. Students from the District Office of Transition Services (DOTS) program prepared muffins and a variety of breakfast meals. Elin Urciola, Jean Cadavana and the education assistants supervised the food preparation.

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March 2011

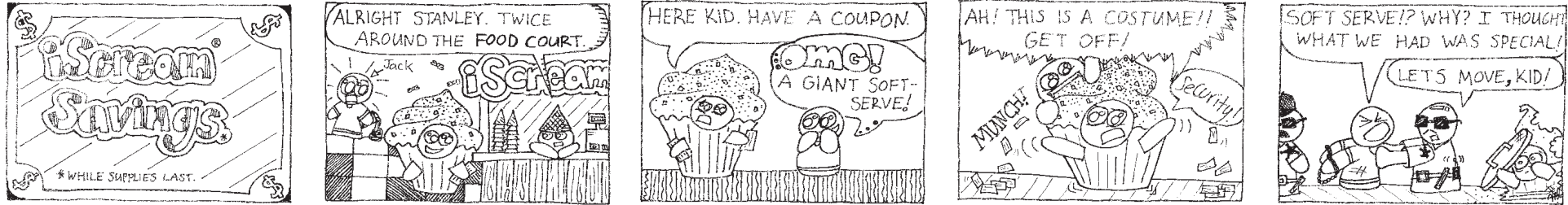
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February Solution

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The Adventures of Jack and Jacky

by Mellisa Cuevas





CINEMA

ON THE SCENE- Ivan Escobedo

# Hosts with the most

Sparkling Anne Hathaway and dead pan James Franco bring youth and irreverence to the grand daddy of award shows.



Google Image



83RD ACADEMY AWARDS

# OSCARS

Fresh faced co-hosts Anne Hathaway, 28, and James Franco, 32, were a new twist, but the Academy stayed true to form in giving the top awards to an historical drama from Great Britain at the 83rd annual Oscars held Sunday night at Hollywood’s Kodak Theater.

“The King’s Speech” captured the Best Picture Oscar and the film’s Tom Hooper won for Best Direction.

Colin Firth, the stutterer King George VI in the film, won the Best Actor nod.

“I believe my career has just peaked,” Firth told an amused audience in accepting his award.

Best Original Screenplay winner David Seidler easily gave the best acceptance speech.

“My father always said to me I’d be a late bloomer,” Seidler said. “I believe I am the oldest person to win this particular award. I hope this record is broken quickly and often.”

This year’s show had more jokes than awkward speeches for a change but still saw its ratings drop 7% from last year’s.

The broadcast opened with co-hosts Hathaway and Franco doing a letter-perfect spoof on the best picture nominees, with Hathaway getting the laughs and Franco playing it straight. The premise was a trip through 2010 host Alec Baldwin’s dreams in an “Inception” satire, all to find the secret to hosting the Oscars.

The well-matched pair stuck to their lines throughout the evening and kept the show rolling. Hathaway’s nervous laugh and corny jokes were just right, a playful contrast to the deadly-serious business of handing out Oscars.

Polar-opposite Franco, a Best Actor nominee for his role in last year’s critically acclaimed independent film “127 Hours,” came off as brash and self-assured, and that worked too.

Cameos by ageless icon Kirk Douglas, 94, and former host Billy Crystal added the only real elements of surprise to the night. Douglas handed out the Best Supporting Actress Oscar and Crystal presented a holographic tribute to 18-time Oscar host Bob Hope.

Natalie Portman, pregnant and beaming, accepted her much-anticipated Oscar for “Black Swan.”

“The Social Network,” the early contender for Best Picture, Director, and Actor awards, lost to “The King’s Speech” in all three categories.

The film didn’t go home empty-handed, however, winning for Adapted Screenplay (Aaron Sorkin’s adaption of Ben Mezrich’s “The Accidental Billionaires”), Film Editing and Score.

“It’s impossible to describe what it feels like to be handed the same award that was given to Paddy Chayefsky 35 years ago for another movie with “network” in the title,” Sorkin said. “His was an original screenplay, this is an adaptation of a book by Ben Mezrich, so I’m accepting this on his behalf as well.”

Much-hyped crowd favorite “Inception” took home four technical awards: Sound Editing, Cinematography, Visual Effects, and Sound Mixing. But director Christopher Nolan (“The Dark Knight”) wasn’t even nominated.

Mark Wahlberg’s “The Fighter” captured both Best Supporting statues for performances by Melissa Leo (“Frozen River”) and Christian Bale (“The Dark Knight”).

Bale, slammed by critics for his hot temper and abusive narcissism, showed a kinder, gentler side in accepting his award.

“Bloody hell,” said Bale. “What a room full of talented and inspirational people, and what the hell am I doing here, in the midst of you? Such an honor.”

The “Toy Story” franchise picked up yet another Best Animated Feature award, this one for “3,” and added Best Original Song - Randy Newman’s “We Belong Together.” Newman has written songs and themes for Pixar films for years, including the two previous “Toy Story” features.

The Oscar was Newman’s second, the previous one for 2001’s “Monsters Inc” song “If I Didn’t Have.”

In the end, it was the Academy being the Academy, appropriately cinematic visually, well-paced and of course youthful, with Hathaway and Franco beaming those kilowatt smiles at the billion movie-loving viewers one last time.



SPORTS



Photo by Mariana Santos

**DOUBLE THREAT:** Parrot sophomore pitcher Josue Moreno threw a nifty three-hit, five-strikeout win against Grant and drove in two runs in the first with a double to aid his victory.

# Parrots Pound Grant Early 8-2

## Second-year man Josue Moreno pitches three-hitter in league opener.

By Kelsey Cruz  
Staff Writer

Poly pounded Grant losing pitcher Cedric Godoy for seven runs and his replacement for an eighth, all in the first inning, to post an 8-2 win over the visiting Lancers on Wednesday.

“We put the pressure on them

early,” said Parrot head coach Gabriel Cerna. “I challenged them to win, and they answered the call.”

The Parrot victory was the league opener for both teams.

Poly sophomore Josue Moreno picked up the three-hit win.

“Moreno did a great job today,” Cerna said, “and Lopez came in and shut the door on Grant’s last threat.”

Parrots bats went to work straight out of the dugout and gave Moreno a

nice cushion.

Moreno doubled home senior center fielder Johnny Espinoza and second baseman Philip Marquez and then scored when senior Luis Vargas hit a single past the Lancer short stop to put Poly up 5-0 with two out in the first.

Doubles from junior catcher David Galdamez and senior shortstop Omar Rodriguez drove home two more runs.

Lancer head coach Eduardo Alcantar had seen enough and sent junior Brandon Martinez in for Godoy.

But Espinoza greeted Martinez with a shot up the middle, bringing home Rodriguez for Poly’s eighth run.

“There were no rah-rah speeches,” said Cerna, “I told them we had to win and we did.”

Grant second baseman Joshua

Rawlings scored both Lancer runs, one on a sacrifice with two outs on a grounder to third by senior Angel Gutierrez. The second run came in the top of the fifth off a bunt by senior Jacob Duran.

Poly (4-6, 1-0) and Grant (2-4, 0-1) face off again on Friday at the Lancers’ home.



Photo by Mariana Santos

**YOUNG HURLER:** Lady Parrot sophomore Monica Mendoza went the distance in Poly’s 12-2 road win over Grant on Wednesday. Mendoza had four strikeouts.

# Lady Parrots Rout Lancers

By Stephen Castaneda  
Staff Writer

Grant pitcher Lily Martinez couldn’t find the plate Wednesday against Poly but the Lady Parrots could and walked all over it, beating the Lancers 12-2.

Poly put nine runners on first thanks to Martinez’s shaky arm and six of those scored, accounting for half of the Lady Parrot output.

“We had our first complete game of the year,” said Parrot head coach Manny Peralta. “For the first time we did a great job on the plate, mound and on defense.”

The win was Poly’s first in East Valley League play and the second of the year, coming after three straight losses.

Lady Parrot sophomore pitcher Monica Mendoza had another strong outing, allowing only two runs on nine hits. Mendoza had four strikeouts.

“Monica pitched like a veteran,” said Peralta. “It was her best performance of the year.

She’s been stressed for the past six games and has improved.”

Martinez, who took the loss, was chased in the second after Poly scored five runs. Lancer freshman Myra Valenzuela finished, giving up seven runs and getting seven strikeouts.

Parrot senior center fielder Yesenia Reyes had a productive day for Poly, scoring four runs.

Reyes scored in the second on a line drive triple by freshman Vanessa Carlin, doubled in the fourth and stole third and home, doubled and scored on senior Stephanie Hernandez’s double in the fifth and scored in the seventh on a Alejandra Ramos’ single.

Lancer senior catcher Melissa Reynosa doubled and scored on junior Kelly Gonzalez’s single to short.

Gonzales stole second and scored on a single from third baseman Erica Fileto in the sixth.

Poly (2-4, 1-0) gets a second shot at Grant (2-4, 0-1) on Friday, the first in a series of back-to-back, home-away games against league opponents.