

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

JUNE 2011

The Logistics of Graduation

Sending seniors off with a sheepskin is no walk in the park.

By Valeria Gonzalez
Staff Writer

The graduating class of 2011 call themselves the Prodigies. Prodigious might also be used to describe the logistics of getting these seniors through graduation.

This year's ceremony takes place on Friday, June 24. But a variety of people are needed and a number of tasks must be completed before the last car drives away Friday evening.

Leadership sponsor Kit Heilbron monitors seniors for senior dues and required attendance and coordinates the distribution of caps and gowns. Only students who are graduating can pick up their caps and gowns.

Five hundred seniors have purchased caps and gowns so far, although not everyone who buys will be walking. Students who bought a cap and gown and will not be walking will be allowed to get their cap and gown after the graduation ceremony.

Seniors wanting refunds deal directly with the cap and gown firm. Heilbron also orders caps and gowns for staff.

Clerical assistant Nereyda Canales helps Heilbron.

Leadership sponsor Brian Le Clair coordinates the choice of student speakers at the ceremony.

Diana Lopez will be the guest speaker.

"She was chosen to give the speech because she is a Poly grad, a Dartmouth grad and about to enter Harvard med school," said Le Clair. "She is a good example of moving on towards the future."

Seniors who wish to speak at graduation try out in front of a five-person committee.

"They were allowed to write on what they want," said Le Clair. "We look for content, poise and confidence. The most important thing to judge is the message."

Accident victim Arlette Cruz and deceased faculty member Carlos Loya will be honored at the ceremony, according to Le Clair.

Le Clair is also in charge of grad rehearsal.

Seniors meet in the auditorium at 5am, where they practice lining up and their entrance into the field. Tickets are given at rehearsal, so if a student does not show up, he or she

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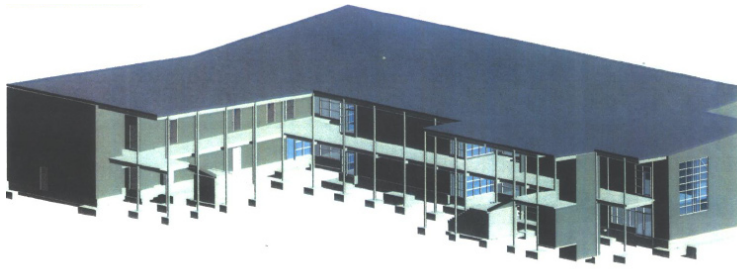


Photo provided by IBI

BUILDING A: CAD rendering of Freshman Center classroom building.

Long Distance Learning

A new facility north of Byrd Middle School will house Poly's new Ninth Grade Center.

By Valeria Gonzalez
and Michelle Lopez
Staff Writer

Poly will move its Ninth Grade Center to a new \$50M facility just north of Byrd Middle School in the fall of the 2012-2013 school year.

The new annex will have classroom buildings A, B and C, an amphitheater and kitchen facilities to serve box lunches. Lunches will be prepared off campus and heated before they are served.

Poly will use Building A and part of Building C while Building B will house an adult school.

The new campus will have 19 classrooms of approximately 350 square feet each and serve approximately 600 students.

Proposals for P.E. lockers and a fitness room are currently under discussion.

The new buildings' architecture will match the existing Byrd structures, which were designed to serve a Small Learning Community (SLC) environment.

The amphitheater will serve as a community performance building serving area residents, the city, and the District. The facility will be named after school board member Nury Martinez.

"I do not really know much about what will be done with that building," said Ninth Grade Center AP Ari Bennett.

Martinez will have an office in building C, as will District 2. Martinez will use the conference

[See Ninth Grade, pg 6]

RIF's Rescinded

New labor contract saves hundreds of teaching positions, including 10 of 12 at Poly.

By Ivan Escobedo
Staff Writer

Ten of 12 RIF'd Poly faculty and staff will be back at their desks August 5 instead of looking for work, thanks in part to a one-year labor contract between teachers and the District that includes four furlough days.

An RIF (Reduction In Force) is a total elimination of jobs or positions by LAUSD.

"While this agreement does not restore all the job cuts -- because our schools are still drastically underfunded -- it goes a long way toward providing the resources and personnel for our students to succeed," LAUSD Superintendent John Deasy said in a statement.

Staying are librarian Diann Blackman, teachers Juan Campos, Jeff Herrold, Erin Hunt, Greg Jaurequi, Glen Lamos, Dennis Madrigal, Elva Madrigal, Susan Maynard and Elizabeth Oliveros.

RIFs for teacher Ana Gutierrez and 11th and 12th grade counselor Julie Grair were not rescinded.

"I was very pleased to see that most of our teachers will

be returning to Poly," said Poly Principal Gerardo Loera. "However, I continue to be stressed about our two fabulous educators that are not coming back yet. The reality is that we need many more resources and staff to get the job done."

The contract would have the effect of initially saving 3,400 jobs and ultimately more than 5,000 in the 2011-12 school year, according to a Daily News story. Most of the more than 5,000 layoff notices previously sent by the district are now expected to be rescinded and class sizes maintained.

A Little Something For Everyone

Nearly half of all seniors honored at annual ceremony.

By Michelle Lopez
Staff Writer

Denise Acosta and Dianna Barba were the big winners at Thursday's Senior Awards ceremony in the auditorium, each receiving a Bill and Melinda Gates Scholarship worth as much as \$500,000.

But plenty of seniors got a pat on the back or better, some 350 in all, out of approximately 750 graduates. Most of those were acknowledgements of grade point averages higher than 3.0

Senior Awards Night honors academic achievement, leadership, and service to school and community.

Other big winners included Melissa Cuevas, who received a four-year full ride Posse scholarship and Fabiola Esquivel, who was awarded the \$25,000 William Frye Scholarship. Krystal Schipper received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Valley University Women.

Ten Parrots received Poly scholarships simply for applying. Valedictorian Saulo Platero Mendoza and Salutatorian Fabiola Esquivel were honored for their exemplary academic achievements, as were 19 Parrots with GPAs of 4.0 who will graduate Summa Cum Laude. Eighty-nine Parrots received gold tassels for GPAs of 3.6 or

[See Awards, pg 6]

Bombs Away

Maxfield Parrish Heilbron saw World War II from the air as a B-17 bombardier.

By Jizel Emralino
Staff Writer

World War II vet Maxfield Parrish Heilbron, 86, flew 52 missions in the European theatre between 1942-1945 as a bombardier aboard a B-17 Flying Fortress. Wednesday, he was on campus to tell Parrots of his exploits in the air.

War Stories

The funniest moments are the memorable ones. During our last mission over Germany, we were on a "milk run," which means no activity, no enemy fire. Then this enemy plane came out of nowhere. My co-pilot had bent over to get a cigarette and he was hit in the fanny with a stray bullet.

I was sent to Europe when I turned 19. I went with a group of West Pointers, so I slept on clean sheets every night I was in England. It was a good experience because I was with people who had more education and more responsibility than me. We became an elite bombardier group. We had as many as 1,100 planes in the air at one time over Germany.

I was privileged to work with the British for a little bit with the Norton bomb site, which were a little more accurate than theirs. We also did some research. One of the British engineers developed a rocket bomb to penetrate the deep concrete bunkers the Germans had.



Photo provided by Kit Heilbron

VET: Maxfield Parrish Heilbron, 86, flew 52 missions between 1942-1945 aboard a B-17 Flying Fortress.

Our eighth mission was a town deep in Germany that produced most of the synthetic gas for the German army. We were hit on our way in, so we had to drop out of the formation. The plane was too heavy because of the bombs, so the pilot said to me to get rid of them. I looked down and saw this beautiful little German village, like a picture postcard, with little houses and bridges. I adjusted the bombs so they would go off in a distance of a couple hundred feet and scatter. We missed the town by about five miles. The bombs went over a big wooded area and started to explode like mad. We realized that we had hit some kind of ammunition dump. When we landed, we had a little conference. We decided that we

[See War Stoires, pg 6]

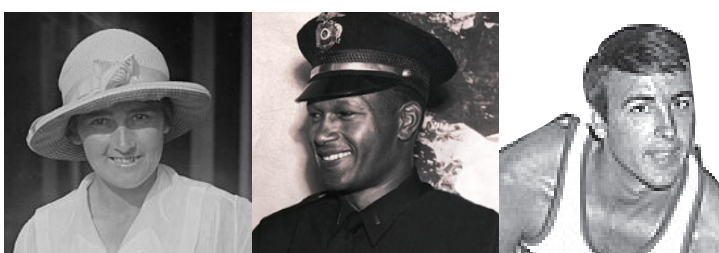


Google Image

Seniors Seek Bigger Books

It's the University life for these kids.

CAMPUS - page 3



Google Images

Parrots In Hall of Fame

Goodrich, three more make the first cut.

SPORTS - page 8

OPINION

EDITORIAL

A Departing Editor's Thoughts

The OPTIMIST is more than a school newspaper. The paper is a journalistic window on the Poly community.

Those who join us and engage the paper can learn about a whole new world of knowledge and information.

My personal experience with the OPTIMIST has improved my skills in many ways. I've learned a writing style that'll stick with me through my college years and beyond. I've learned the essence of responsibility a leader has to

have.

The work needed to keep the OPTIMIST a professional-looking, top-notch paper was exhausting, but commitment is what drove me to create publications I can be proud of.

Along with the skills, I've learned the importance of being a part of a paper that has been around since Poly High's beginnings. Life keeps going and that's what news is all about – life's stories recorded as part of a never-ending journey.

The OPTIMIST is and will always be part of my life. Though this is the only beginning for me and the other OPTIMIST staff members who are graduating this year, I know we'll look back on our days at the OPTIMIST with happiness.

Keep reading.

– Joel Hinojosa, Editor-in-Chief, the OPTIMIST



A "Twainian" Perspective

In reflecting back over a year at the Kennedy School, it has become clear that at times I acted a fool. That is, in the context of Mark Twain's famous quote, "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." In classes this year, I removed all doubt more often than not. Yet, at the risk of digging deeper, I have three closing thoughts to share.

Beside his first name, I also love Twain's wit. To paraphrase him again 'habits are made to be coaxed and not thrown out.' A few of my habits were reinforced at Harvard this year. They are good habits to coax along and not litter on Littauer's steps. Each idea is embodied by a common object; things I carry along. One prop never leaves me, one I keep nearby, and the other is packed in my rucksack on every military deployment.

Let me begin with the third – what I pack on every assignment: books. "Really, books?" you say? Yes, books. Like many of you, I am a burned out student ready to escape the academic arena; I am done battling the gladiators and kings of this Forum. The last thing I want now is a further reminder to read.

Nevertheless, I loved being a student again but not necessarily in school again. Schooling is about deadlines and performance – society's necessary hurdle for proper entry into certain occupations or positions. But, education is a continuous enlightening and enriching process. To borrow from Twain again, "Don't let schooling interfere with your education."

Books open worlds and broaden perspectives. Although I was born and bred a military engineer and fighter aviator, I have learned to appreciate history and the humanities. These enable cross-cultural conversations – both mil-to-mil and mil-to-civilian – which are vital to our ongoing wars. The future is uncertain but as books attest, the future's past was equally uncertain and our forbearers survived, even thrived.

Thus, history more than recycles, it educates. In response, I intend to read on. However, as Twain warns, "Just be careful about reading health books as you may die of a misprint."

So, what is my prop that I pack in my rucksack to remind me about reading? The US Constitution. Like many of you, I swore to defend the Constitution before I ever read the Constitution. Sure, in elementary school, I could recite the "We the People" preamble and I appreciated my patriotic duty to "provide for the common defense". Yet, I never read the Constitution until I was pinning on Captain. Afterwards, I treasured even more what I had already sworn to uphold. The Constitution is a nuanced

document and I admire our forefathers for sweating over each word. But, that is what men with pens can do together.

And that brings me to my second idea, the pen.

One thing my engineering, aviation and education experiences have taught me is to keep a pen ready. I am a visual man. A schematic, a figure or a picture is worth thousands of words. More importantly, a model scratched on the back of an envelope or on a napkin over tea can break barriers both intellectually and culturally. If you can simplify the complex to a drawing you can move the conversation toward solutions. Be ready to jot a note or steal wise words. Be ready to pen your own sharp thought. Be ready to exchange an idea with a chance stranger or an old acquaintance.

So, keep a pen handy because something to write on is always nearby. At the least, the universal palm pilot – which never needs batteries and can be erased with soap and warm water – is always connected to your fingers.

And, finally I arrive at my hands or, the first prop, and most important habit: a firm and friendly handshake. People are a lot like books and pens. What you see is not what you get; rather, what you comprehend are the critical components. Once the cover is cracked, anybody's story comes to life. Each of us possesses a biography with pages added and edited daily. Experience and education are the material and our perceptions and interactions form the indelible ink.

Make the most of the people you meet. In whatever world your career takes you, a kind culturally correct greeting opens doors. The communities we are entering will be resource-challenged and reliant on "the whole of government," if not the "whole of a coalition" approach. An extended hand is the best beginning.

So, this brings me back to my last Twain quote, "Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: is the ideal life." No one can promise you an ideal life (nor promise a good night's sleep), but perhaps books, pens, and handshakes will serve you best as you embark on your journey in public or private service. Books, pens, and hands...now that's not foolish.

Godspeed your careers and, bless our nation.

Lt Col Mark Ciero was an Air Force National Security Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government during the 2010-2011 academic year. The preceding article was originally published in the Kennedy School's "The Citizen" newspaper.

SENIOR Shout Outs

Best of luck and thank you to all my wonderful TA's this year!

I wish you the best, and wonderful success! To all my 12th gr. Students.

– Denise Belinison, Government/Economics teacher

Dear senior athletes,

This school year has been the best ever for Poly sports. Your leadership, hard work, and great sportsmanship were a very big reason for all our success.

You're all awesome, and I wish you all the best of luck always!

Remember, NEVER STOP PLAYING!

– Kim McEwen, Athletics Director

Godspeed to the class of 2011. I wish you all the best.

– Katherine Marzolo, English Teacher

Thanks to the senior athletes on the football team, girls volleyball team, girls volleyball, boys volleyball, and girls softball teams for some exciting moments! The games were fun and we are proud of you!

– Chuck Schwal, Teacher

May God bless your efforts and best of luck in conquering your new challenges!

– Alonso Blanco, Special Ed. Teacher

Who'd a thunk? Congratulations on a great job. This is only the beginning.

– Toby Bachenheimer, former dean/PE teacher

Congratulations class of 2011, especially to those students in CBI/CAPA programs. Thank you for being my motivation and the reason why I get up every day hoping to inspire you as much as you do to me!

Congratulations 2011 Grads!

Remember: "One ship sails east, and another west, by the self-same winds that blow, 'Tis the set of the sails and not the gales, that tells the way we go." (By Ella Wheeler Wilcox 1916)

– Brenda Fishler, CBI teacher

Henry Mejia: You will go far. Keep on impressing the people around you with your hard work, dedication, and positive attitude!

– Vanamali Tay, Chemistry teacher

Caminante no hay camino, se hace camino al andar

– Lilian Bonar, Spanish teacher

Way to go, Seniors! You conquered Poly, now go conquer the world!

– Evan Rabins, English teacher

Congratulations Class of 2011. To my Certified First Responders and Healthcare Providers remember, you have the power to not only save a life, but to positively impact peoples lives as well. You are on the road to unprecedented success, but never forget your CFR/HCP oath and code of ethics; keep on pushing forward and always nourish the hearts of others, including the most important heart to nourish...your own. Best of luck.

– Capt. Jeremy Sionenschien, EMT-P, EMS/First Responder Instructor

To the class of 2011- The Prodigies:

To all of you who have turned a page or two with me these past years, I say thank you for sharing a brief piece of this journey we call life lessons together. In the words of Winston Churchill, "it's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required." And so you will carry on.

To Joel Hinojosa, Armando Orozco, Jizel Emralino, Ivan Escobedo, Monica Sagestorm and Jennifer Martinez, a special thank you, thank you, thank you, for your hard work and commitment to Poly's journalism program and our school memories. I learned much from all of you. Remember there is nothing more powerful or long lasting than the written word – especially in cyberspace. (lol).

– Ethel Matlen, English teacher

Class of 2011

I can't thank you enough for the joy you have brought to my life as an educator here at Poly HS over the past four years, and for a few of you, the past six years. Let me clarify, C. Torres, A. Rodriguez, G. Wheeler, J. Castaneda, A. Aparicio, S. Mendez, Y. Flores, C. Amescua, U. Delgado, D. Barba, M. Castellanos, H. De la Cruz, M. Diaz, the Guardado twins, H. Guzman, B. Ku, J. Martinez, M. Martinez, S. Nieto, A. Ojeda, H. Rivera, D. Quinonez, S. Rivera, C. Rocha, and Anabel Soto amongst others, were students of mine as 7th graders at Byrd MS!

How you all have grown from the little 7th grade squirts you were, to the fine young men and women you are today. It was such a gift to work with you both in middle school, and as part of our first Advantage Plus class!

– Sean W. King, Mathematics teacher



the
OPTIMIST

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

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The OPTIMIST is the voice of the Poly community, and follows the Code of Ethics for the Society of Professional Journalists. Editorials are the opinions of the staff.

COLLEGE



Grads College Acceptances

Some stay close to home.



Brown University

Fabiola Esquivel

Bucknell University

Melissa Cuevas

Carnegie Mellon

Quenten Millhauser

Columbia University

David Nwachukwu

Cornell

Denise Acosta

Georgetown University

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Harvard University

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Dianna Barba

Hawaii Pacific University

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

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Jonathan Lim
Andres Martinez
Cesar Martinez
William Martinez
Lesley Moreno
Vanessa Marroquin
Jose Martinez
Javier Negrete
Jessica Pineda
Jennifer Quiroz
Cesar Quiroz
Yara Rodriguez
Susana Reyes
Karen Sosa
Jonathan Sura

Pierce Community College

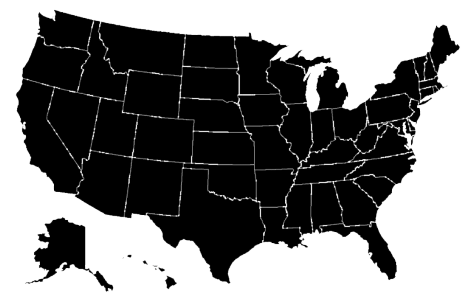
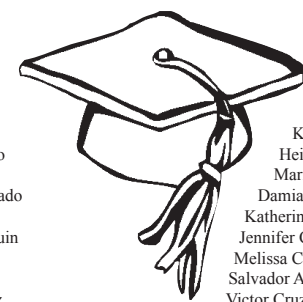
Ernesto Barbosa
Melissa Camarena
Roman Esquivel
Vanessa Marroquin

Santa Monica College

Cynthia Amescua
Damian Centero
Victor Cruz
Ramon Moreno
Reno Villanueva

Mission Community College

Cynthia Amescua
Karla Ayala
Karen Barrera
Jorge Calderon
Damian Centero
Kevin Carias
Heidy Carrera
Mario Castillo
Damian D. Centeno
Katherine Chaavarrria
Jennifer Collantes
Melissa Camarena
Salvador Aguilar-Camacho
Victor Cruz
Shermaen Enriquez
Juan Gonzalez
Enrique Garcia
Jose Gomez
Yesenia Gonzalez
Jocelyn Gonzalez
Antonio Guevara
Candido Hernandez
Cinthia Huerta
Sergio Ibarra
Jose Ibarra
Adilena Larios
Josue Lujano
Eduardo Martinez
William Martinez
Josue Mendoza
Christian Meza
Matthew Moran
David Munoz
Jose Olmedo
Nicholas Perez
Jose Perez
Christian Rodriguez
Galday Sanchez
Miguel Sanchez
Marialuz Silva



FASHION

Summer has arrived. Time to look your best during the summer vacation, especially for those seniors who want to make a good first impression in college.

First on the summer must-have list is the maxi dress. The long, elegant flow of the maxi is perfect for summer and flattering for any body type.

Summer is blouse season, so add at least one soft blouse to your top collection as soon as possible. The loose-fitting style makes this wardrobe staple a necessity for summer heat.

Pencil skirts and figure-hugging dresses dominated summer fashion shows from Chanel, Louis Vuitton and Dolce and Gabbana.

You can't go wrong with stripes this summer. Multi-colored, low contrasting, high contrasting, narrow, bold, anything will do. Striped tees and knit tops are an easy solution, but don't limit yourself with just tee shirts. Jackets, blouses, skirts, shorts, shoes, dress, headbands, hats and handbags all work in stripes.

Don't be afraid to wear your favorite bright bold colors. Dolce and Gabbana's summer collection featured many risky colors, so be daring and rock the hot colors.

Nothing says spring and



Summer Must Haves

By Diane Alvarado
Staff Writer

summer quite like white, however. Lighten up your look with white tops, bottoms, jackets or dresses. Accessories such as footwear, handbags, watches, belts and sunglasses work well in white too.

Let summer be the occasion to put away the mini skirts and bring back the mid-skirts. Skirts and shorts an inch or so longer were seen all over Chanel's runway shows this summer.



Another item for this summer is the romper/jumpsuit. The mixture between a dress and shorts will have you looking ready for summer. Celebrities from Victoria Beckham to Beyonce to Rihanna have been seen sporting the romper look.

Dare to be daring. Statement necklaces are the perfect accessory. Throw one on with a simple outfit and transform your look from simple to stunning.

Don't forget about your feet. Wedged sandals are all the rave this summer. From tall to short heels, you can't go wrong with this look.

Finally, consider the safari look in earth tones like copper, tan, khaki and sand. Pocketed shirts, combat boots and accessories in gold, wood and leather suggest you're a world traveler, or at least dress like one.

College Wardrobe 101

Even that chemistry class will be easier in the right wardrobe.

By Krystal Schipper
Staff Writer

You'll need more than a smart phone and an iPod to succeed at college. The post-

secondary experience is a big change in lifestyle from high school and that means wardrobe changes too. Go for comfort and versatility first and consider ticket price second. Here are a few garments or accessories you shouldn't leave home without.

Bathrobe and Flip Flops

Students often share single gender bathrooms, so a bathrobe will not only keep you dry and warm, but provide a cover-up around new students as you move between your dorm and bathroom. And sandals provide a barrier between your toes and the nasty foot fungus that may lie on housing shower floors.

Lounge Pants

Lounge pants are great for studying in your dorm or on a sleepover. Popular brands such as Victoria's Secret Pink provide a laid back transition from out and about to girls' movie night.



Jeans

Denim is often thought of as simply casual, but the right wash and fit jeans look perfect on a dinner date. For example, black straight-leg jeans work well with a graphic tee but can be effortlessly paired with a silky top for a formal look. Keep a few pairs in your closet for an inexpensive and highly versatile wardrobe.

White Button-up Shirt + Slacks + Black Heels

A white button-up shirt is a prerequisite to nail those job interviews and internship positions. Add one or two bold accessories, such as a necklace or earrings, to neutral slacks (no jeans!) and the shirt tucked in for a fresh and polished look. Black closed-toe heels are always appropriate.

Winter Coat

Splurge on a winter coat that is correct for the weather at your college and keep colds at bay. Pea coats are a popular choice for snow dwellers along with faux fur trimmed parkas. California residents will have no problems getting by with one pea coat for rainy days and a few pullovers for brisk mornings.



Basic tank tops + cardigans

A colorful cardigan and tank, paired with cute jeans is an easy everyday outfit for class. Skip cashmere cardigans unless you plan on paying for dry cleaning. With a wide array of colors and prints, you can create a cute outfit in seconds, especially for those mornings after final exam study sessions.

Flats

Ballet flats are comfortable, come in many styles and are a highly affordable way to add girly style to your wardrobe. They pair easily with casual and formal outfits, depending on the look you want to create.

Underwear

Obviously underwear is the basic. Spend the time and money at stores like Victoria's Secret and feel a whole new meaning of comfort under clothes.



CINEMA



By Diane Alvarado
Staff Writer

Digital cameras make it easier to be anywhere and get noticed. The idea of “Hollywood” is fading away but I definitely do think that it is important in the film industry. The industry has changed in the past 20 years so budding filmmakers can go any which way.

A good movie has a good script that has heart and makes you care about the characters. A movie could have amazing effects and great acting but bottom line is, is the story good?

Anyone can write a script, but will it be good? Probably not. The biggest mistake is that people think it's easy to write a script when in reality it takes a lot of time and work. There is a process to it. But there is also some talent to it.

production - the actual production and post production - which is the editing. This is a very technical class.

This is my first year teaching film production at Poly but I taught screenplay writing at Roosevelt High School back in '05 and '06.

We use cameras, tripods and boom mics, but as the class progresses we will be using more sophisticated equipment like better lighting and audio set ups. We use Final Cut Pro from Apple to edit and HD consumer cameras, although they should be pro cameras.

At any one time there are about 5 to 8 films in production and by the end of the year about 25 films.

Next year, I'm thinking about having a Film Festival during lunch in the auditorium. We would screen the films that the students produced and if possible hand out awards. This will happen if things go right but we're still working out the kinks.

In the fall, the counselors just put whoever in the class but by the spring word had gotten out and it became harder to get in. I even had to work with the counselors to transfer people out.

This isn't a blow-off class. There is actual

Herrold

at the movies

Some people are just better writers than others and know what would capture an audience. The best way to be good at it is through practice and learning from yours and other people's mistakes.

I taught myself how to work camera and edit. I directed two shorts and co-directed three others. I've written six screen plays, I've done a little bit of acting.

I went to school for script writing at Hamilton College in New York not for film though. You don't need to go to school for that, its an apprentice skill.

I worked with kids in a program called The Story Project in East LA, which exposed at-risk youth to the art of film production. So teaching this class was a natural progression.

In this class I expose students to a little bit of everything in the film industry. They write scripts, produce films and edit them together.

Back in the fall, when the class was barely starting, I had to focus more on the script writing because I didn't even have cameras, let alone any of the equipment that we have now. As time progresses, we will be working more on post-production.

I am still trying to get the right equipment.

Basically, my students learn how to make a movie from start to finish. I teach them how to write a good screenplay, how to plan

work and we are working all the time.

This class also teaches a lot of life lessons. It teaches you how to work with people and with people that are particularly hard to work with and with frustration. When you create anything, you come across frustration and work to overcome it and this class definitely teaches you that.

Q: What movies have you seen lately?

“The Social Network” had powerful drama and made something that would seem boring, very exciting, and it had strong directing.

“Scott Pilgrim” was very original, probably the most original movie since “Napoleon Dynamite.” It integrated so many things from pop culture and just made it work.

“How to Train Your Dragon.” I watch a lot of kids movies because I have kids. Kid movies don't have to be stupid. They should have things that adults can enjoy too so that they can watch with their children and Pixar knows how to do that.

CAMPUS

War Stories of a WWII Vet

[From Bombs Away, pg 1]

would say not that I missed the town, but we were so smart we spotted this ammunition dump. We received the Distinguished Flying Cross because of that. And that's the fortunes of war.

Home Front

I grew up in a cotton plantation in Greenville Mississippi. My father was the "storekeeper." The tenants on the farm got their provisions in that particular store. The storekeepers work the farms and split the profit with the landlords.

It was not a bad place to grow up. But my world was before the day of TV and just radio, my world revolved around the school about 4 miles away. There were 4 white families and 4 black families. My playmates were mostly black. I had a close friend, Jack. In those days it

was completely segregated. I would take the bus on the way to school, while he would go to the railroad tracks and go to school in town. I remember me going in one direction and him going to another direction.

Enlisting

When I graduated, I was fortunate enough to get a scholarship to the University of Alabama. Then the war broke out. So I was in school for about two months. A close friend and I went to Atlanta to enlist in the navy. That was a big adventure because I had never been east of Alabama.

The Navy

When we got into the Navy, we took all the tests. The last test we had to take was one where they twirled you around in a machine to test your ability to stand G4s in the air. My friend did very well and I completely

fainted. So I decided to join the Air Force.

The Army Air Force:

The Army Air Force sent us to college for training. I was lucky to go to Miami. Then I went to Montgomery, Alabama, then to Georgia, where I took primary flight training as a pilot. The second stage to go into the Air Force was basic training. The basic training determines whether you would be a fighter pilot or a bomber pilot."

Unfortunately, when I went to basic training, I thought I was a real hotshot. I got my wings and spent the time chasing cows into fences around Georgia. I was about as cocky as some of you guys in here. I just turned 18.

When I graduated, I was sent to Greenwood, Mississippi, which was six miles from my girlfriend's house. That was when I got in trouble and

got court-martialed.

I was flying solo in a single-engine plane. I knew Jane's house was just six miles away. So I thought I should buzz the house and do some acrobatics. The whole family was out in the backyard waving at me. I was at the top of the mountains. When I got back to the field there were two MPs waiting for me. So I got court-martialed and busted from the cadets and sent to gunnery school in Panama City, Florida."

While I was going through the course, I learned that the life expectancy of a tail gunner in Europe in actual combat was less than two months. So I had second thoughts about glory. Fortunately, my cousin was able to transfer me to a navigation school and I graduated.

I was sent to Tampa, Florida, where we got the crews together for the B17s to go overseas. One Saturday night, two MP showed up at my room. They told me to get my bags together and that I was leaving that night. I said that my crew isn't scheduled for another six weeks. They said that a group of West Pointers who joined the Air Force division of the Army, cause that's where the glory was, were heading out, and their bombardier got appendicitis and couldn't go, so they drafted me.

Graduation Logistics

[From Logistics, pg 1]

will not get the tickets.

PIP prints the guest tickets, which are color-coded to prevent duplication. Each student gets four guest tickets.

"We use color-coded tickets so parents will know where to sit so they can see their child," said Nereyda Canales. "It worked alright. We noticed counterfeits quicker."

But duplicated tickets aren't the only issue.

"Any child who can walk needs a ticket to get in," said clerk Gracie Banuelos. "We get parents walking in holding seven year olds with a blanket. They get creative trying to get extras in."

Seniors must have IDs to check in for rehearsal and are asked to bring a towel because the chairs collect dew overnight.

Rehearsal takes place on graduation day to make sure seniors do not forget where to line up and to make sure they can attend class. Each senior gets a seating card so his or her parents will know where he or she is seated.

"The rehearsal starts early in the morning so that we don't end up in the sun," said Le Clair, "and lasts until the rehearsal can do the rehearsal twice with no mistakes."

AP Elidia Vazquez organizes security, which includes checking tickets and supervising after the ceremony.

Outside companies set up the chairs and sound system. The chairs are from Aztec Rentals and the sound equipment is rented from Hollywood Sound.

Luther Fuglsang and Elton Feri stay overnight to make sure no one messes with chairs. They help set up and take care of the sound system.

"We bring everything down after the ceremony," said Feri.

The student body pays to rent the equipment.

Usually 10 to 15 people work security, covering every parking and entrance gate, and standing and looking at the bleachers.

Security personnel consist mostly of campus aids, Special Ed assistants, teacher assistants, office assistants, parent volunteers and clerical personnel.

"If we had money, we would always pay more," said Vazquez. "It is hard work to turn people away at the gates."

All Poly parking lots are open to anyone attending graduation. Security will close any lots that fill up.

"The fire department always stops by to check that we are not over capacity," said Vazquez. "If we are, they can stop the graduation."

Any student arriving late for graduation will be escorted to the back of the seats.

"If a student comes as names are being read, he won't be allowed onto the field," said Vazquez. "It is too distracting."

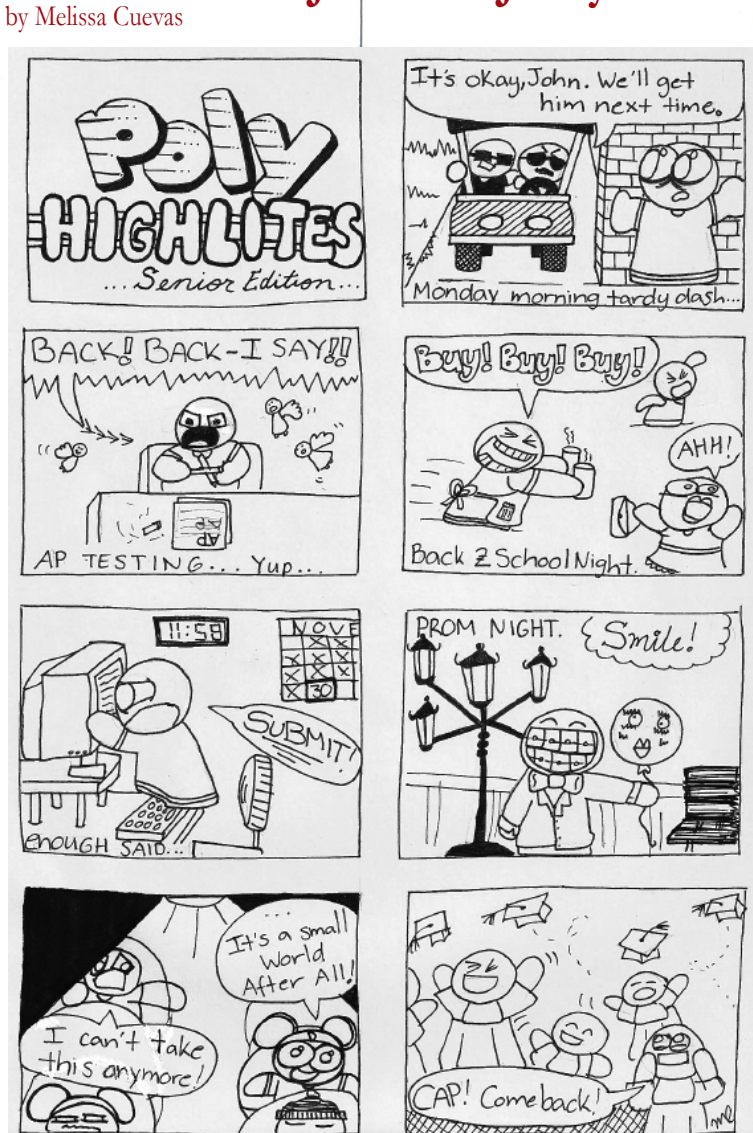
This year, "thank you" recordings made by seniors will play as the parents enter. Poly's band will play "Pomp and Circumstance" as the seniors and Poly faculty enter.

The District funds \$3,000 of all graduation expenses and the student body funds the rest, according to Poly Principal Gerardo Loera.

Me and My Monkey by Ronald Ruiz



Adventures of Jack and Jacky by Melissa Cuevas



SUDOKU

June Senior 2011

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

June Solution

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

Ninth Grade

[From Long Distance, pg 1]

room, also part of building C.

Byrd Middle School was originally designed as a high school. When the decision was made to change the school to Byrd Middle School, the physical plant required fewer buildings, so the structures now under construction were just not built.

Building across the street is in the best interest of the district, according to Bennett.

"The district needed to leverage a state grant they received to remove the bungalows from Poly to be able to build a facility," Bennett said.

A \$7M state grant called the Overcrowding Relief Grant will fund removal of the Ninth Grade Center bungalows on Poly's campus.

Poly Principal Gerardo Loera will be principal for the new Ninth Grade Center.

The new facilities have not yet been named.

Awards

[From A Little Something, pg 1]

higher and a larger number received silver tassels for GPAs of 3.0 to 3.59.

Students received department awards from all Poly departments.

"This is a day that we want to recognize all the efforts and hard work that students have put in since 9th grade," said college counselor Leona Warman.

A full house of parents, relatives, friends, Parrot seniors and Poly faculty attended the ceremony. Principal Gerardo Loera delivered opening remarks.

CINEMA

AT THE MOVIES - IVAN ESCOBEDO



Most of this summer's film offerings are sequels and stylish adaptations, with few original scripts.

Of the early releases, "X-men: First Class" and "Bridesmaids," now playing, have engaging stories, but "Pirates 4" and "The Hangover Part 2" seem hopelessly afflicted with sequelitis, designed mostly to part moviegoers from their fun money.

Still, the hottest months are yet to come, so hit the cineplex and take a seat. Nothing to add but A/C and popcorn.

SUPER 8 – June 10

Young Joe Lamb (newcomer Joel Courtney) and his friends witness a train wreck

while making an amateur movie in 1979 Ohio. A powerful being bursts out of the wreckage. Disappearances and inexplicable events follow.

Joe's father, Deputy Jackson Lamb (Kyle Chandler from "King Kong") struggles to solve the case. The situation worsens when the

government steps in.

Writer-director J.J. Abrams (2009's "Star Trek") and producer Steven Spielberg ("War of the Worlds") make this the obvious summer must-see.

THE GREEN LANTERN – June 17

Test pilot Hal Jordan gets ring from alien recently crash-landed, acquires super powers. So it's not "War and Peace." Get over it. The year's only DC Comics superhero movie stars fast-talking funny guy Ryan Reynolds.



CARS 2 – June 24

The computer-animated sequel to the 2006 talking cars movie. The storyline is international this time, moving beyond the NASCAR-centered original.

Disney-Pixar always dishes out funny and family-friendly films and "Cars 2" looks to be no exception.

TRANSFORMERS: DARK OF THE MOON – July 1

Previews offer few clues on the storyline to this one, but if "Moon" is as confusing as the last "Transformers," no one will care. Fans can simply overdose on director Michael Bay's SFX and explosions.

HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART 2 – July 15

Ten years on comes the conclusion of the series that has filled hearts and imaginations worldwide. Previews peg this one as a full-on action finale.

The last of English author J.K. Rowling's coming-of-age novels, "Hallows" finds teenage wizard Harry Potter facing the evil Dark Lord Voldemort at a final battle at

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE FIRST AVENGER – July 29

The third Marvel superhero release, behind "Thor" and "X-Men: First Class." Joe Johnston ("The Wolfman") directs and "Chronicles of Narnia's" Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely pen the script.

Wimpy WWII soldier Steve Rogers (Chris Evans "Fantastic Four") takes a super-serum as part of Operation: Rebirth, a U.S. Army super-soldier program, and turns superhero. Tommy Lee Jones and Hugo Weaving costar.

RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES – August 5

A prequel explaining how apes became the dominant species in the 1968 classic "Planet of the Apes." The "Avatar" art crew is on board this time, so think visuals.

James Franco (the "Spiderman" films and "127 Hours") plays a research scientist experimenting on ape brains.

HERE COMES SUMMER

Three months of comic book heroes, sci-fi and SFX await your pleasure.

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Friends and allies from earlier episodes return to fight against Voldemort's followers, the death eaters.

Filled with surprises (unless you've read the book) and loose ends from previous installments suitably tied.

COWBOYS AND ALIENS - July 29

From the graphic novel by Scott Mitchell Rosenberg.

Cowboys and Indians mix it up until a space alien interrupts and all hell breaks loose.

A-listers Harrison Ford ("Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones") and Daniel Craig ("Casino Royale") star. This genre-mixer could be the wave of the future, or just plain spacey. See for yourself.

30 MINUTES OR LESS – August 12

Two middle-aged losers decide to make a fortune by strapping a bomb to a pizza delivery guy. Expect dumber and dumbest. Stars Jessie Eisenberg ("The Social Network").



SPORTS

Parrots Make Hall of Fame

Gail Goodrich, class of '61, was among four Poly grads inducted.

By Kelsey Cruz
Sports Editor

Parrot basketball star Gail Goodrich and three other Poly alumni were among 55 athletes inducted into LAUSD's inaugural LA City High School Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony June 5 in the Town and Gown Room at USC.

Dick Bishops (gymnastics), Mary K. Browne (tennis) and Tom Bradley (contributor) were the other Parrots that made the first cut. Goodrich is the only one still living.

In 1961, Goodrich, a 5-foot-11 left-handed guard with a remarkable shooting touch, scored 29 points to lead Poly to its only City final championship, despite suffering a broken ankle in the third quarter.

Goodrich is the only player to play on an LA City High School championship team, an NCAA championship team (twice), and an NBA championship team.

Goodrich was the LA City High School Player of the Year in 1961 and averaged 23.2 points per game. He went to UCLA and became the All-American choice in 1964 and 1965 while playing on UCLA's first NCAA championship team.

Goodrich played on three teams during his NBA career from 1966-79. In 1972, he was part of the Lakers' NBA Champs and was the All NBA choice in 1974. Goodrich scored over 19,000 points in his professional career. His jersey is retired here at Poly (#12), at UCLA (#25) and in the Staples Center (#25).

Goodrich is a member of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Goodrich, 68 and currently living in Greenwich, Conn., grew up in North Hollywood, and practiced his shooting skills anywhere and everywhere.

"I grew up with a basketball in my hand," he said.

As a young boy, he tagged along with his father, a basketball official, to small college games and shoot between breaks.

"I'd take a volleyball because a basketball was too big and I'd shoot at halftime," Goodrich said.

Nothing changed when he got to Poly, according to Nelson Burton, 84, Goodrich's coach.

"Goodrich and some teammates figured a way to get into the gym with a coat hanger, made their own light key and came in and practiced on weekends," said Burton, 84, who is living in a retirement home in Medford, Ore.

Bishop graduated in 1930 and first started competing at Compton Junior College. Bishop received a spot in the 1932 U.S. Olympic gymnastics team and placed fourth in the rings.

After his UCLA graduation, Bishop coached at LA Jordan High then Roosevelt High in 1942 and won six City Championships while coaching at Roosevelt (1946-47, 1949-50, 1952-53). Bishop continued to teach, but not coach, at Fairfax and El Camino after leaving Roosevelt.

Browne graduated in 1909 and was the first nationally recognized female athlete to come out of Los Angeles and was the first American woman professional tennis player. Browne also won U.S. Amateur golf events and was the second woman to be introduced into the Tennis Hall of Fame.

Browne won numerous tennis events including the U.S. Open tennis singles in 1912-14 and was the number one player in the U.S. during 1913-14. Browne also won the U.S. Open mixed doubles in 1921 and the U.S. Open women's doubles in 1921 and 1925. Browne was also a winner of the Women's doubles in 1926 at Wimbledon and the playing captain of the U.S. Wightman Cup team in 1925 and 1926.

Bradley graduated in 1937 and grew up as the grandson of slaves and the son of a sharecropper. Bradley moved to LA from Texas and was the LA City track champion in the 440 in 1935 and the runner-up in 1936. He was also the All-City football tackle in 1936.

Bradley attended UCLA, joined the track team then dropped out to join the LAPD where he climbed to the rank of lieutenant.

Bradley graduated from the Southwestern Law



FIRST IN: From left, tennis star Mary K. Browne, LA Mayor Tom Bradley and NBA ace Gail Goodrich.

School and went on to become a Los Angeles City councilman and later the 38th mayor of Los Angeles and the first African American mayor. Bradley served five terms, from 1973 to 1993, the longest-serving mayor in LA history.

Selection criteria included having significant

accomplishment in sports in high school and beyond and good character. All honorees had to be at least 35 years old.

The Los Angeles City High School District, forerunner to the current Los Angeles Unified School District, was founded in 1890.



Photo by Mariana Santos

ON TRACK: Poly's girls were successful in the one-mile against visiting North Hollywood track team.

Plenty of Playoffs for Parrots

Fans had plenty to cheer about, including a City title.

By Kelsey Cruz
Sports Editor

Poly's sports teams made the playoffs in 10 of 13 sports, with three squads reaching the CIF City finals and one taking the championship.

The softball girls (18-8, 10-2) beat Franklin 4-3 to win the 2011 CIF City Invitational champions under head coach Manny Peralta. Parrot victims included Maywood Academy 9-2 in the first round, Roosevelt 1-0 in quarters and Westchester 4-2 in semis. Poly last took the title in 2006.

Girl's volleyball (27-6, 12-0) lost the CIF City finals 3-0 to No.2 Pacific Palisades. The girls defeated Panorama 3-0 in the first round, Verdugo 3-0 in the quarterfinals and Taft 3-1 in the semis under Parrot head coach Gaby Gallardo.

The volleyball girls went undefeated in the East Valley league.

Track team member Alvarro Barragan placed second in the 3200 meters of the CIF City finals, while teammate Armando Pablos placed seventh in the pole vault. Graciela Vargas placed 18th in the City semifinals in the mile, the two mile and the 800 meter in the semis.

Varsity football under head coach Scott Faer went undefeated in the East Valley League (9-3, 6-0) and defeated El Camino 24-14 in the first round before losing to playoff rival Palisades 50-40 in the semis.

Boy's volleyball (21-7-2, 10-0) were also

league champions under second-year head coach Gallardo. The Parrots defeated El Camino 3-0 and West Adams Prep 3-0 before losing to Palisades 3-0 in the semis.

Brian Block's boys' tennis squad (12-3) made the semifinals for the first time in 20 years. The Parrots, seeded number one in Division 2, aced Wilson and Sylmar before Granada Hills edged by Poly 15-14.5.

Girl's basketball (14-16, 9-3) made the quarterfinals for the second year in a row and their fifth consecutive playoff berth under head coach Tremeka Batiste. The Lady Parrots lost to Reseda 65-46 in the second round after beating Franklin.

Boy's basketball's (6-25, 4-8) 74-69 loss to Garfield in the first round of the playoffs ended a lackluster season for returning head coach Brad Katz, who nevertheless saw some positives for next year.

Boy's soccer (8-5-6, 5-2-5) made the playoffs for two consecutive seasons under head coach Rafael Loza. The Parrots lost 2-0 to Manuel Arts in the first round.

Girl's soccer (8-4, 6-3) lost to Eagle Rock 3-0 in the first round of the playoffs for first-year head coach Jose Alvarez.

Girl's tennis (6-7) missed the playoffs but had their best season to date, according to 14-year athletic director Kim McEwen and first-year head coach Evan Rabins. The Lady Parrots started the season winning five successive games.



Google Image

NOT PHIL: New Lakers coach Mike Brown replaces Phil Jackson.

What Now, Lakers?

By Amy Ayala
Staff Writer

June is here, and Finals too, but no Lakers, no Celtics, no Spurs. So the past couple of weeks have been a little weird.

The latest shocker - former Cleveland Cavaliers coach Mike Brown will be the Lakers 22nd head coach. He holds a career coaching record of 410-272 (.663), led the Cavaliers to the 2007 NBA Finals - their first - and won the 2009 NBA coach of the year award.

"Surprised" is pretty much how most fans also feel about the Brown hire. His name didn't pop up in the list of possible candidates nor was he suggested by any of the Laker players.

Brown used his introductory press conference to separate himself from former Laker coach Phil Jackson.

"I'm not sure what size shoe he wears, but I'm not here to fill his shoes," Brown said. "I'm here to help this team and this organization carve our own path to success."

Fans can expect big changes next season, including the offense. Brown won't use the triangle. Instead, he'll run what he learned from his time as an assistant to San Antonio Spurs head coach Greg Popovich, and mix in other things too.

"We had two big skilled seven footers and so we'll do something similar to what they did, with a little sprinkle of the triangle offense and a little sprinkle of what I want to bring to the table also and kind of combine it."

Dwight Howard reportedly said he wants to play for the Lakers. When asked who he wants to play with, without hesitation he answered, "Kobe Bryant." With Howard, a younger and more athletic point guard and a better bench, the Lakers would improve dramatically.

The ESPN trade machine suggests sending Andrew Bynum, Steve Blake, and Luke Walton to the Magic for Howard and Jameer Nelson. That could net the Lakers 17 more wins next season.

Derek Fisher would be the backup point guard, which could be great for the team because of his leadership skills. Shannon Brown would stay at the shooting guard spot, Matt Barnes would be a small forward, Lamar Odom could play either power forward or the center spot and one of the starter bigs could join in.

Mike Brown said the Lakers are now hungry again. We'll see if that's enough to bring a 17th championship to the Lakers organization.