

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. XCVIII, NO. 3

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MID OCTOBER 2011

## This Club Is for Keeps

Teens for Christ is about relationships, not religion.

By Maureen Kang  
Staff Writer

Teens for Christ (TFC) is no ordinary Poly club. The group takes a different approach, you might say. "In the bible, it says that whatever you say to someone will stay with them," says Teens for Christ club president Amy Ayala. "So once we say something like 'God loves you,' that'll grow within the person. It'll grow and won't go to waste."

That, essentially, is the purpose of the club, Ayala says.

"Even the little kids I teach at church remember the smallest things I tell them," said Ayala. "We, as teens, will definitely remember."

Tirzah Castillo and Elmer Cartagena started the club six years ago, according to Spanish teacher and sponsor Lilian Bonar. Cartagena was an illustrator for comic books.

"Even the little kids I teach at church remember the smallest things I tell them," said Ayala. "We, as teens, will definitely remember."

"It was very active when he was around," Bonar said. "He used to invite students to draw on T-shirts. Kids would come and see what was drawn. That's when he invited people to join TFC."

President Amy Ayala joined the club at the end of last year.

"The interesting thing is that when a girl is president, more than half of the members are girls," said Bonar. "Same thing happens with a boy."

"The thing is, not a lot of people know about us," said Ayala.

The club currently has 17 members.

"Two of our members are youth leaders at their church," said Ayala. "The rest are new."

The club meets in room 23 every Monday during lunch.

"We're hoping to do two meetings a week - general members in the first and the core members in the second," said Ayala.

Meetings are low key, Ayala says.

"In the beginning, we welcome them and let them talk about their week."

"Then, we read a verse from the Bible. From there, we start our conversation."

"Like last week, it was

[ See TFC, next page ]



Photo by Diane Alvarado

**TEEN IDOL:** Poly senior Abdi Lozano won Parrot hearts at Poly Idol.

## Ready to Rumble

### Aca Deca scrimmage score says squad is ready for state.

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Editor in Chief

Poly's Aca Deca squad bested Grant and North Hollywood in an informal scrimmage double-header in the cafetorium.

"We are scoring at a level that should get us into state," said Parrot coach Brian Block.

Scrimmages at this level are designed to encourage the Aca Deca teams to work harder in preparation for a District-wide scrimmage involving all 70 teams.

"The scores are incomplete," Block said, "but it looks like we're scoring at the 23,000 point level. Grant came in at around 22,000 and

North Hollywood at 21,000."

Grant has been a top-20 contender for the past decade under veteran coach Kevin Kruska. Ethan Bradley coaches North Hollywood's team.

"As coaches, we're very happy," Block said.

The three teams got off to a good start with an icebreaker.

"We got a block of ice and some baseball bats and whacked away," Block said.

This year's Aca Deca team includes the 9th, 22nd and 27th ranked seniors at Poly. Block was voted Coach of the Year two years ago.

"I'm doing a better job every year with the added experience," Block said. "I'm giving them the material

[ See Aca Deca, next page ]

## You Are Entering a Construction Zone

Roof repair and solar panel installation should make for plenty of noise on the Parrot campus, much of it during school hours.

By Kimberly Cañas  
Staff Writer

That noise on the roof isn't Santa paying an early visit.

Parrots are now in a construction zone, and those roofers overhead will be here for a month.

"Everything is going to be remodeled," said Assistant Principal Lourdes De Santiago. "Poly is being worked on from left to right, top and bottom."

A ten-man LAUSD crew is doing roof repair from 6:30 am to 3 pm, or the entire school day.

And there's more to come.

Installation of solar panels on the 10's, 20's, 30's, 40's, 80's and 90's will begin Monday, October 24.

"The entire buildings will be covered with panels," De Santiago said.

Los Angeles firm Solar Power is installing the panels, which are manufactured by Sun Power Corporation.

"We are hoping that in the future we can put solar panels in the parking lot areas," De Santiago said. "In twenty years, Poly will save 150,000 watts of electricity."

The solar panels will be installed after normal school hours.

"We are coordinating with adult school," De Santiago said.

Byrd Middle School has solar roof covers over the teacher parking areas, De Santiago said, and LAUSD is putting solar panels in several high schools in the downtown areas.

## ABDI WINS POLY IDOL

Parrots pick the bespectacled brunette as their favorite.

By Yenifer Rodriguez  
Editor in Chief

Parrot senior Abdi Lozano won the new and reborn Poly Idol singing Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You."

She got 177 votes from her Parrot peers.

The audience cheered and shouted encouragement during her performance.

"It was the best birthday ever," said Abdi Lozano after learning she had won.

Poly senior Jesusa Carvajal and sophomore Elenoa Taulaki were the other two finalists competing to be Poly's next "Idol".

"I thought Elenoa or Jesusa was going to win, they're really talented" said surprised Lozano.

Elenoa Taulaki opened the show with Christina Aguilera's "Reflection." Jesusa Carvajal sang and played "Soil Soil" by Tegan and Sara on her guitar.

"It was fabulous," said Drama teacher Katy Groskin, who brought back Poly Idol after a three year absence.

Lozano won two tickets to see Lady Gaga, U2, and Usher.

Poly's drama teacher, Groskin and substitute teacher Amy Showalter got the crowd energized with an acoustic version of "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga.

"I was sad that not all of them

could have won" Groskin said.

Showalter, Brian Leclair and Glen Phillips did role play on the judges from "American Idol." Showalter played Paula Abdul, Leclair was Simon Cowell and KYDS teacher Glen Phillips was Randy Jackson.

Out of 28 that auditioned only 20

[ See Poly Idol, next page ]

## Getting in the Spirit

By Jessica Flores, Jacky Galvan and Ana Gonzalez  
Staff Writers

Parrots will have plenty of opportunities to get in the spirit for Homecoming.

Four days of lunchtime games and a second-period pep rally on Friday will culminate in a 26-float parade.

Football action starts at 7 pm when the Parrots host the Wildcats from nearby Sun Valley. Both teams sport 2-4 records.

Fans could be in for a thrilling evening. The Wildcats average 16 points a game, the Parrots half as many. Sun Valley's offense has scored 98 points this year, while Poly has managed only 47.

But popular high school sports website Maxpreps has Poly as a three-TD favorite, so Parrots should have plenty to cheer about.

Friday's pep rally will feature MC duet Katy Groskin and Mario Rivera in a three-part skit involving a kidnapping, some "angry birds" and a daring rescue by Poly Mascot Joe.

Cross country, tennis and football players will be introduced, along with the Homecoming Court. Cheer, Drill, Color Guard and the Band will add to the exuberance.

A wide array of floats will circle the football field before the game. Shrek (Ninth Grade Council), Peter Pan (Girls Soccer), Snow White (11th Grade Council) and Harry Potter (Filipino Club) are among the entrants.

Parrots spent most of the week bobbing for apples, tossing water balloons, getting their faces painted and their stomachs stuffed with apple pie at lunch.



Google Image

## Give Art a Chance

Have great covers gone the way of vinyl records?

**MEDIA - page 4**



Google Image

## Hollywood Halloween

Vintage scares can tickle your funny bone.

**CINEMA - page 7**

## OPINION

## LETTERS/EDITORIAL

## Survey says

Former Apple CEO Steve Jobs passed away Thursday after a lengthy illness. Known the world over for his innovations in personal technology, Jobs was at the digital revolution from the start and continued to be a visionary leader until his death. We asked students what they knew about the man and here's what they told us.

He is famous because Apple is the most known and sold line of electronics and electronic accessories. He changed the life of almost all Americans. He made life so much easier for everyone and if he hadn't died he would have kept inventing more genius products. A lot of people owe a part of their lives to him. May he rest in peace forever.

– Huri Sanchez

Steve Jobs was an Apple CEO. He created Apple and invented the iPod and many other things. He affected my life by his creation with Apple. I own an iPod myself so it does affect my life knowing that the creator died. The iPod has helped me with many things such as homework. I can quickly use the web on the iPod to find important information. Steve Jobs was a great guy and should always be remembered.

– David Moreno

Steve Jobs is a genius inventor and founder of Apple. The things created in Apple have helped many of us students and adults. iPods are useful to teenagers so they can hear music anywhere. Apple laptops have helped business men on the go, including Apple computers to help small or big businesses.

He was a great man to the world and everyone who owns an Apple product should be thankful to him. Yet his knowledge will stay with the company.

– Aaron Chavez-Verduz

From what I heard from my sister, he invented Apple. What Steve Jobs did was amazing. I mean many people today own an iPod in their homes. Or have anything that is Apple. I use the iPad for everything. I think it was basically the first touch thing that made every company want to have. He is amazing at what he did and everyone will remember him.

– Ruby Ruiz

Steve Jobs was a wise man. His invention completely changed the way we all do stuff in our lives, the way we listen to music and go on the internet and Facebook. He thought of things that no one would ever think of. He was very smart.

– Jose Dominguez

Steve Jobs was the co-creator of all things Apple. It's such a tragedy that he died last week. This amazing man helped invent iPods, iPads and many others. His work affected our life by advancing our technology and allowing us to have much easier life. His work will be cherished for a life time.

– Vanessa G.

Steve Jobs was a famous man because of his work. His work has made music easy for me to listen to, enjoy, and take to go. The apps are fantastic. His work will not be forgotten. He was a man with a great idea that turned into a fantastic part of our life.

– Adrian Ramos

Steve Jobs was the CEO of Apple. He was a co founder of Apple. Many of his inventions made a great affect on society. For example, the Apple iPod was a major invention. It gave people a portable way to listen to their music on the go and just relax while they listen to music. Another great invention of his was the Apple computer. It helped write documents, surf the internet, create music, and many things more. It is sad that he died but at least he died knowing he made an impact on American society.

– Anthony Ceballes

## You're Only As Smart As Your Phone

## Has technology transformed how we communicate?

Some would have you believe that texting is the new writing. If Dickens were alive today, they posit, he'd be doing "A Christmas Carol" on an iPhone, thumbs flying.

Who needs grammar, spelling and punctuation, argue some cultural observers? Texting is making "baby talk" the real English.

The ability to apply sentence structure, punctuation, and the parts of speech is becoming the new "unfamiliar."

But that's bad news. Because texting isn't writing.

Writing, in addition to structural competence, is attentive to diction and syntax.

Choosing words with the best connotation.

Forming sentences in the most effective way.

In other words, in addition to competence, writing is always attentive to style.

So how do writers learn about the power of words to communicate and connect with others?

So how can today's would-be writer best develop a sense of style?

By reading widely. If you really want to write, then read and read and read.

Read Fitzgerald, Hemingway and O'Connor. Faulkner, Cather and Bellow. Dorothy Parker, Cormac McCarthy and Tom Wolfe.

Learn competence in the classroom.

But learn style from masters of our literature.

And never confuse writing with "texting."

Guest editorial by Adriane Sommers.



## Teens For Christ

[From TFC, previous page]

temptation."

The club occasionally has speakers from Bible colleges or churches who come.

Non-Christians are welcome.

"I was talking to the old president and she was telling me how she got offended that this club was called a 'Christian Club,' as if it's only for Christians," Ayala said. "It's an open invitation to anyone."

"Most people see this as a religious group," Ayala said, "but it's an open invitation to build a relationship with God. It's not just a religion."

"Some of the friends I invited are Catholic, Ayala said. "This isn't a club where we discriminate; anyone's welcome. It's about building that relationship with God."

"Once they're more into it, I'll invite them to deeper conversations."

"It's a hard position to be a Christian," Bonar said. "Even I have to separate my personal views from my job."

"Last year, no one paid for the expenses. It was actually pretty sad and somewhat funny to see.

Everything we printed was in black and white and we would just color them in."

"For every other club, you see a nice poster. But for TFC, you get this ugly black and white paper."

"But now, we got money from the senior council, \$400," said Ayala.

A club constitution is like an application that needs to be approved to get money from the student store, according to Ayala.

"We're trying to get the teens bibles with the money," Ayala said.

Religious dogma and theology are not discussed.

"The vice president told someone, 'Believe in God' in a commanding tone and I stopped her immediately," said Ayala.

"There should be no forcing in this club. Nothing like 'you need to repent or else you'll go to hell.'"

"I want to build an atmosphere where people feel comfortable," Ayala said.

Bonar thinks the kids value the club

"It's been pretty strong, very strong, actually," said Bonar. "You can see passion and a calling to serve Him."

"When I see something I know in my heart that I can improve, I step in," said Bonar. "Otherwise, I let the group lead it."

## Abdi Wins Idol

[From Poly Idol, previous page]

made it. But ten were eliminated in the round one. By the third round only five were left and of those five two were eliminated.

Poly Idol was held in the cafeterium during fourth period Friday. Friday was also Abdi's 17th birthday.

## Aca Deca

[From Ready to Rumble, previous page]

they need."

Block said this squad studies better than any he has had in his six-year tenure.

The theme for this year is the Age of Imperialism.

"This year we're strong on art, physics and economics,"

Block said.

The Academic Decathlon competition is open to ninth through twelfth grade students. Areas of competition include art, music, science, language/literature, social sciences, mathematics, economics, speech, interview and essay.

Each nine-member team must include three A grade students, three B students, and three C or below students. Academic Decathletes take 30 minute multiple choice tests in each subject. In addition, each team member gives a planned 4 minute Speech and a 2 minute impromptu Speech, sits through a 7 minute Interview, and has 50 minutes to write an Essay.

The public Super Quiz Oral Relay requires each team to perform as a unit before a large, enthusiastic audience. The theme for 2011-2012 is the Age of Imperialism.



## the OPTIMIST

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

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.

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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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## INTERVIEW

# a PARROT at PRINCETON

By Shean Santy  
Staff Writer

Poly senior Ruben Jimenez spent the summer at Princeton getting smarter. We asked him what that was like and here's what he said.

#### The Program

Junior State of America is the largest student-run political awareness club for students to learn and debate local, state, national and world issues. Students from across the USA and its territories meet in the summer for 3-4 weeks not only to take classes on politics but also to debate issues that affect our current society. Admission to the JSA program is competitive and based on academic achievements, leadership ability, maturity and interest in politics. A recommendation from a social studies teacher and two essays (min. 600 words) are also required.

I first learned I had been accepted to the JSA program when checked my email on my phone during a break in the CST Math test. I was stoked but couldn't tell anyone because we had to finish the second half of the test.

The program had a little over 100 students, with students from across the United States and its territories.

Princeton, Stanford, Georgetown and Capital Normal University in Beijing, China held summer programs. I chose Princeton for the scholarly academic environment of an Ivy League university.

My big interest is politics and I joined JSA to express my political perceptions of our current society to the other politically-driven students from across the nation.

#### A Day In the Life

We arrived in Newark Liberty National Airport and a shuttle took us to Princeton University, which took about an hour and twenty minutes. As I got off the shuttle, I was horrified by the unusual weather. I was expecting typical East Coast weather - cold to moderate - but my body was forced to suffer from the blazing sun and humidity, which was completely different from California weather. One day it was 100 degrees when I went to class and when I got out, there was a thunderstorm. The weather was very unpredictable.

We stayed at Holder Hall, a dorm built in the late 18th century. We had regular meetings at McCosh 50, the room where Shia Labeouf (Sam Witwicky) starred in "Transformers 2."

The architecture was dope and I felt like I was living in a giant castle with all the necessities that I can possibly need. It felt cool living in a non-modern looking community.

I started the day with breakfast, which is served from 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., then I have AP U.S. govt. from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., AP U.S. govt. (afternoon session) from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Congressional Workshop from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and dinner from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Congressional workshop is a congressional (parliamentary) style debate program where all the JSA students were divided into legislative houses. Students had to research and debate a variety of controversial issues almost every night. In one debate, a student must be responsible for leading the debate and discussion by giving the main speech either for or against their resolution.

I had to complete a full AP course in three weeks. In fact, I had to take my midterm just a week after I had arrived.

#### Extracurricular Activities

We attended the 71st Annual JSA Summer School Speakers Day in New York at the United Nations and New York University (NYU). Dena Gudaitis (Public Information Officer for the World Food Programme), Kevin Cassidy (Communications and External Relations Officer for the International Labor Organization) and Howard Wachtel (Franklin Fellow, Political Section-Sanctions Unit for the Permanent Mission of the U.S. to the U.N.) spoke at the UN.

NYU speakers included Susan N. Herman (President of the American Civil Liberties Union), David Burstein (Founder and Executive Director for Generation 18) and Neal Shenoy (founder of 212 Media).

On our last Sunday, we went to Fifth Avenue in New York and shopped practically the whole day.

Winning my debate was definitely my most memorable experience. The resolution was "The U.S. should withdraw from Afghanistan now that Bin Laden is dead" and I was in the negative stance. At the end of the debate the moderator asked for the votes in the house. The affirmatives were 13 votes and the negatives were 13, but there was one abstention. Since the abstention favors the negative, I won my debate.

#### Getting Personal

I want to double major in Political Science and Business Administration.

Princeton is my top choice though I am considering other privates and UCs.

I have taken AP Biology, European History, English Language, Chemistry, United States History, Comparative Politics, Physics C, Spanish Language and United States Government (Princeton).

I'm a four-year varsity volleyball player and currently the captain for the team. I play all around outside hitter which means I play both front row and back row. Our team is very dedicated. We practice about 15 hours a week.

When we're not in season, we complete our off-season training by going to summer, fall and winter leagues which are basically



Photo by Diane Alvarado

**BRAINY BIRD:** Parrot senior Ruben Jimenez is a four-year varsity volleyball player.

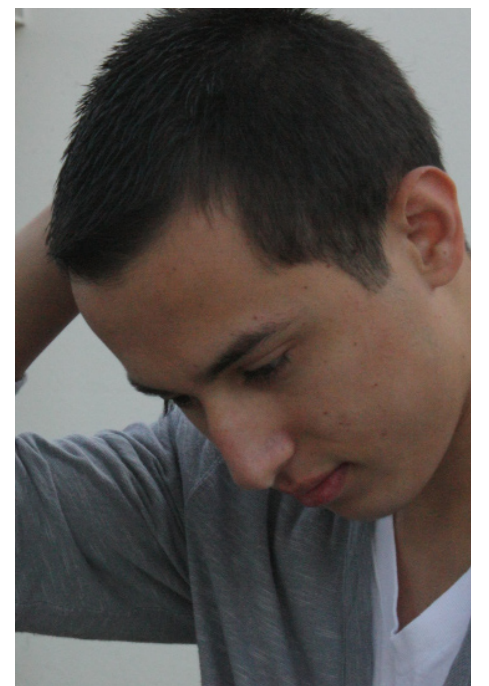
tournaments held at least one day during the weekdays. At times it does get difficult managing academics with volleyball since I often get home around 9:30.

I've been an active member of CSF since my freshman year. I am currently General Secretary. I'm also president of NHS and a member of the Interact Club.

I like all sorts of music except country, with the exception of Taylor Swift, because she is hot! I currently listen to Foster the People and Tyler the Creator.

I admire Barack Obama for his debating and speaking skills. But my biggest role models are athletes such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Kobe Bryant, Blake Griffin and Dwight Howard. I admire their hard work and ambition to be the best.

If I was president of the United States, I would reduce and set strict limits on credit spending. If people don't have the money to pay off their debts, then why get into debt in the first place?



One day it was 100 degrees when I went to class and when I got out, there was a thunderstorm. The weather was very unpredictable.

## MEDIA

# Shrinking Album Artwork

Smaller formats are squeezing the art off of album covers.

By Jasmine Aquino  
Staff Writer

The digital revolution is influencing album art.

Album cover lovers watched in dismay as their 12 by 12 inch record albums shrank down to 5 by 5 inch CDs—18% the size of a record album.

The shrinkage forced album art to shift from elaborate and creative covers to simpler and less detailed ones.

“I’ve definitely noticed this shift,” said Donny Phillips, an art director at Warner Brothers Records. “I’ve heard a lot of marketing people and managers say, ‘You have to make it simple because of iTunes.’ People are conscious of this.”

Today, fans are viewing album covers on their smartphones, iPods, and other mobile devices, necessitating even smaller and simpler cover art.

“The album cover has become just a pictographic button, some little thing on a Web site that you can click on to listen to or purchase some music,” said Frank Olinsky, a designer who has worked on covers for Smashing Pumpkins and Sonic Youth.

Graphic designer Michael Carney’s straightforward album jacket for the Black Keys’ “Brothers” fits the latest industry format, though not by design. The album cover consists of two simple sentences: “This is an album by the Black Keys. The name of this album is Brothers.” set against a black background.

Major acts, such as Red Hot Chili Peppers, embrace the new trend. RHCP’s new release “I’m With You” features a photograph of a fly settled upon a sleeping pill. (Art far less flamboyant than the entwined illustration on the cover of their classic “Blood Sugar Sex Magik” 20 years ago).

New bands such as indie rock duo Broken Bells have quickly adapted. Bells’ 2010 debut features a pink Chinese lantern.

The late 1960’s saw the beginning of album artwork as an art unto itself. Fans loved the covers as much as the music. The Beatles’ innovative cover photo for “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club” had fans staring at every celebrity’s image shoved into the picture. Fans perused every photographic detail in the street panorama on Beastie Boys’ “Paul’s Boutique.”

As the vinyl LP transformed into a CD format in the late 80s, art directors received their first creative hit. Twelve-inch LP canvases shrunk down to 5 by 5 inch pictures almost overnight. Nirvana’s “Nevermind” seemed to dodge the restrictions, though, with their memorable underwater baby image.

Compared with recent releases in the social-media era, the 20<sup>th</sup> century covers feel like mementos from a Renaissance. Arctic Monkeys’ “Suck It And See” and the Zac Brown Band’s “You Get What You Give”—which look more like signs than album covers—feature titles set against white backgrounds.

Pop artists including Lady Gaga, Rihanna, and Selena Gomez and the Scene present close-ups of each singer on their album, as if designed with iPhones in mind.

Fleet Foxes’ current “Helplessness Blues” presents an ornate collage of faces and shapes, breaking the trend and embracing complexity. Foster The People’s “Torches” features an array of monster figurines.

Art directors say their intentions are not to be more elementary, yet they admit the transition to easily grasped images is an essential part of the move from 12 inch CDs to MP3s.

“A thumbnail-size image can’t replace an LP or even a CD cover,” Olinsky said. “But these days I’m not sure that matters to people. It’s what people are used to, and they’re getting more used to it all the time.”



“

The album cover has become just a pictographic button, some little thing on a Web site that you can click on to listen to or purchase some music.

”



## COVERS

“Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” (1967), the Beatles (left).  
“I’m With You” (2011), Red Hot Chili Peppers (right, top).  
“Brothers” (2010), Black Keys (middle).  
“Suck It and See” (2011), Arctic Monkeys (bottom).

## TRAVEL

## Parrot Mary Newcomb's 1984 Fulbright Scholarship landed her in the middle of Eastern Europe's Cold War.



Photos, from left above: pyramids at Giza, Egypt; Knossos, Crete – Palace of the Minotaur; temple of Athena, Aegina, Greece; temple of Aphrodite, Greece. Below: Vlad Tepe's Palace (Dracula), Brasoo, Romania.

## Coming in From the Cold

By Lisa Guardado  
Staff Writer

*International Flavor*

I speak Spanish, Italian, Greek, Serbo-Croatian, and Romanian.

I learned languages by being involved in different cultures and spending time there. Because it's my talent and it's what I like and I'm good at it too. I am a linguist, so learning other languages comes easy to me. None of these languages were learned in school. I learned them by acquisition, by ear.

*The Fulbright*

The Fulbright award is like an international exchange program. You apply for it and if you get accepted they send you to another country to study.

I applied in October of 1984 and they called me in on June 1985 and sent me that September.

I picked Yugoslavia because my doctoral thesis was on the comparison between Yugoslavian and American educational systems.

I was sent to Osijek, Croatia to teach and work on my doctorate.

I taught teachers, people who already knew English. I was teaching them writing. I was like teacher-training them to become English teachers. I was teaching in the University for future teachers of English. I was working for the Fulbright embassy.

The Fulbright award paid for expenses, my apartment. They would pay me a stipend, for working in the University, to cover expenses.

I rode the bus. In those countries, nobody has a car. Everyone gets on the bus. You go all over town on the bus.

I was in Yugoslavia one academic year, from Sept 1985 to May 1986.

Living and teaching in Yugoslavia didn't change me, but it broadened my view of the world. I understand things now. It made me understand people.

After traveling and meeting so many people, the only thing I've learned is that there are two kinds of people: good people and bad people. There is no race or color difference - there are only good people and bad people in the world.

*Chernobyl*

Living in a Communist country, I had to learn a whole new system of living. Shopping was different. If I wanted to return shoes that didn't fit me or a perfume I couldn't return it. There is no profit in these countries. Whatever it cost to make the product, that is exactly what you're going to pay, because the profit does not go to the country.

The only thing that affected me was the nuclear explosion at Chernobyl, Ukraine. I remember I saw all the farmers throwing away all their food on the streets. I turned on the T.V. and they just said that the radiation cloud was going to affect them. We had to eat only canned foods and if we wanted to go to a restaurant we had to eat foods that were frozen because all the food was contaminated by the radiation.

I remember I was at the market and I asked the lady for milk and she said there was no milk, it was all contaminated and we couldn't drink it. And a lady behind me asked me if I wanted

milk. I told her yeah and she said she had some milk from back then and she gave me a little bit of milk that she had and I remember I went home that night real happy that I had some milk.

The nuclear explosion happened in April of 1986 and I left in May because the academic year that the Fulbright covered was over.

The radiation stopped at the West, exactly on the western border which was weird, everyone where I was had to throw away all their food. But the western countries, right on the border, the radiation stopped. You know, the radiation cloud kept going.

Most countries in Europe at that time were highly homogenous. Most of the people in France were French, most of the people from Germany were Germans. The economy in Europe was strong, crime was low.

*Passport Handy*

I go to Europe every year, sometimes twice a year. I go to visit friends, mostly to Serbia, Romania, and the Czech Republic.

I've also been to Spain, France, Greece, Turkey and Egypt. Egypt is a lot like Los Angeles. It is a bit hotter. We're the same latitude basically. When I went to see the Giza Pyramids, there were no tourists there. It was so quiet and there were these men on camels and they let me go on a camel. It was the same sky, the same sand, the same pyramid and the same sphinx that someone had seen 4,000 years ago. I felt like I was there, you know, the same sand, same sky, same everything, and the place was quiet. It was just me on the camel and it felt like I was back there.

*Newcomb Remembers*

A man, the husband of another Fulbright scholar, was taking pictures of a bridge. In a lot of countries, you are not allowed to take pictures of bridges and stuff because it could be strategically important. But he was just taking a picture and he got arrested and then he called me and he wanted my husband to go help him but my husband said no because in countries like that you don't want to get yourself involved with people with those kinds of trouble because then you end up in trouble right away.

You know, if you see an Arab there taking a picture of a bridge, what are you going to think? Spies maybe or something. And so they arrested him. They let him go a few days after. Maybe they took his film or something.

When I was in Bosnia, my husband and I and his family went out to eat at a restaurant and I saw the corner where Francis Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated. They have a little monument in the corner. It was very cool to see that.

*What a Life*

I was born in Buffalo, New York. My childhood was happy, with all the attention my parents gave me and the fact that they let me be independent. They let me ride the bus on my own, let me go on my own into the city.

My father worked, my mother was a housewife from Boston and my father was from Buffalo.

They were both avid readers. We would play board games together, games like Scrabble.

I have a sister who lives in Buffalo. She works in a hospital

there. It was only the two of us and I was the oldest.

My first job was working part time at the University as a medical reference librarian. I was 17 or 18.

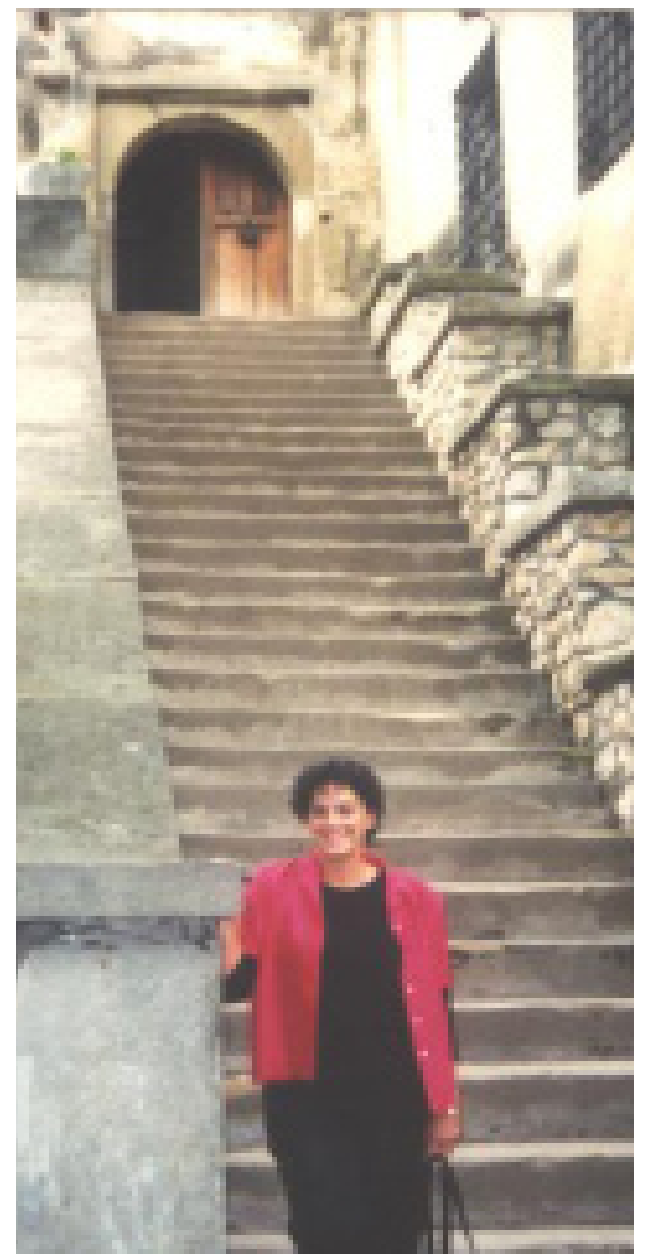
My first job in education was teaching bilingual education at a junior high in Buffalo in 1974.

I studied Education, Spanish and teaching English at SUNY in Buffalo. I moved to Los Angeles in 1980, where I got my PhD. in policy and administrative planning at USC in 1984.

*The Poly Experience*

Teaching at universities was getting kind of boring. I felt that in high school I could make a difference in somebody's life. In universities, you are supposed to be successful already.

I came to Poly in 1989. I teach ESL English, Spanish, Spanish for Spanish speakers and LAPL.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Where's the Scary Stuff?

By Lisa Guardado  
Staff Writer

Each year, Los Angeles hosts fun and scary Halloween events, many of them free.

Parrots who want to show off their cool costumes and check out everybody else should go Hollywood.

Each year, the tourist hotspot closes down Hollywood Blvd from sundown to 10 pm on October 31. Wander around, meet new people and see exotic costumes. Admission is free and you'll be home in plenty of time to rest up for class Tuesday.

The "Haunted Hollywood Scavenger Hunt" makes for a big adventure. Get a team of up to six and check out ghost-plagued buildings on Hollywood's famous strip, find out why the pool at Hollywood High is a dangerous place and watch for the ghost who likes to pace in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater.

Dates are October 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30, from 6- 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person. Top three teams get prizes.

Over the hill, Griffith Park is hosting "Haunted Hayrides." Scary stuff includes a 15-foot mascot of death, 400-year old children and clowns interested in more than clowning around.

Tickets are \$25. Griffith Park is located at 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Out west in Thousand Oaks The Janss Marketplace presents "Reign Of Terror," featuring a Victorian haunted house, an asylum filled with psychotic nurses and doctors and for gore fanatics, a "Blood Manor" filled with you-know-what.

Tickets are \$13. Dates are October 21, 22, 28, 29, 30 and 31. Janss Marketplace is located at 197 N. Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks.

Pierce College has the "Fright Fair Screampark: After Dark At Pierce College." The festival has fun mazes, haunted houses and a scary trail where "Creatures of the Corn" pop up out of nowhere.

Admission is \$5.00. Pierce is located at 20800 Victory Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA, 91367.

For teens with younger siblings, try "Boo at the L.A. Zoo," featuring jack-o-lantern carvings, photo opps, fun crafts and entertainment.

The L.A. Zoo is located in Griffith Park at 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Scariest of all and most popular are Universal Studios "Horror Nights," Magic Mountain's "Fright Fest" and the Queen Mary's "Dark Harbor."

"Horror Nights" themes include "Eli Roth's Hostel: Hunting Season," "Rob Zombie's House of 1,000 corpses in 3D Zombievision," "Alice Cooper's Welcome to My Nightmare" and "The Wolfman: The Curse of Talbot Hall."

See prices at [www.halloweenhorrornights.com](http://www.halloweenhorrornights.com). Discounts offered for nine or more

Six Flags Magic Mountain hosts "Fright Fest," featuring terrifying mazes, wandering zombies and creepy clowns. The park turns off the lights on the roller coasters at random times, leaving Halloweeners to face their fears in complete darkness.

The Aftermath, one of the largest mazes in Southern California, is "a post-apocalyptic city inhabited by nomad warriors who rule with bone-crushing iron fists." Children 12 and under are allowed to wear costumes, but masks and gore are not allowed.

This one is pricey at \$39.99 for online general admission tickets.

Queen Mary hosts, what else, "Dark Harbor." The legendary ghost ship will have scary mazes, live bands and gory tours. Spend the night if you dare.

Tickets start at \$20. The Queen Mary is at 1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach, CA 90802.

Knott's Berry Farm's "Halloween Haunt" will have three horrifying new mazes (13 in all) and a new scare zone. Legendary hosts Jack the Ripper-inspired Terror of London and zombie-filled Virus Z promise to thrill.

"Halloween Haunt" runs through October 31st. For tix, visit [tickets.knotts.com](http://tickets.knotts.com).



Google Image

CULT HIT: Audiences liked "Walking Dead's" dystopian drama about zombies vs. survivors.

## Return of The "Walkers"

By Shean Santy  
Staff Writer

"The Walking Dead" was a huge and surprise success for television drama in 2010. Based on the Robert Kirkman comic book series, the apocalyptic thriller gave viewers an adrenaline rush of tension and emotional drama in a well-acted, well-scripted package.

The series is centered around a small group of survivors of an Atlanta epidemic whose lives are threatened by ravaging zombies. The survivors are led by Sheriff's Deputy Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) and his family, wife Lori (Sarah Callies) and son Carl (Chandler Riggs). The rest of the group includes Shane Walsh (Joe Berthal), Glenn (Steven Yeun) and Andrea (Laurie Holden).

"Walking Dead's" melancholic tone set the series apart from other zombie films. The pilot was reminiscent of Danny Boyle's "28 Days Later" - isolationism as theme and survival as the goal. Films such as "Shaun of the Dead" and "Zombieland" were good for a laugh but "The Walking Dead's" realism led to its success and cult hit status.

The series garnered five million viewers an

episode, the most-watched basic cable series during its first season.

Channeling drama through a horror series is a tricky concept but the tandem of Frank Darabont ("The Shawshank Redemption") and Robert Kirkman proved equal to the task and had themselves a massive hit. Season one's memorable moments included a crawling half-zombie and a zombie horde surrounding downtown Atlanta.

The series' unique approach to the genre is original for television, a decided advantage when stacked against the other satirical fantasy shows with their vampires and dinosaurs. Technically, the make-up crew is outstanding. The zombies look more realistic than in movies. Those jolts of emotion the series delivered makes the show a must-watch.

AMC's line-up of award-worthy series includes "Breaking Bad" and "Mad Men." With the addition of "The Walking Dead," AMC becomes a network to be reckoned with. For those who haven't seen the show, season one is available via DVD and Netflix streaming.

Season two started Oct. 16 and is slated for 13 episodes.

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## CINEMA

## RETRO MATINEE

By Joel Garcia

# When Scary Was Funny

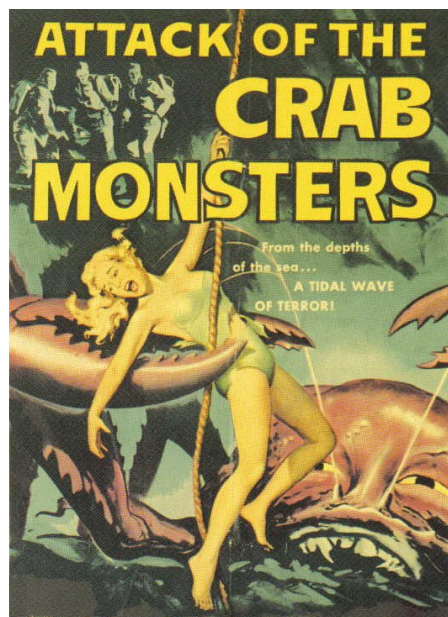
Halloween is coming up, and with it, plenty of old horror films. Here are some of the worst to watch or watch out for - five meant to terrify that turned out terrible.

## No 2. "Attack of the Crab Monster" (1957)

I have mixed feelings about this film. It's not a bad movie for its time. But I can't help feeling I've seen this film before. Let's see . . . giant monster . . . created by nuclear devastation . . . city made of cardboard . . . expendable characters destined to be crushed by a giant monster.

OH RIGHT!!! Now I remember. My childhood hero - Godzilla!

"Attack" is basically an Americanized Godzilla - same dialogue, same scenes. I'm not kidding. Can anyone say copyright infringement? So this one makes the list for a lot of reasons.



## No 1. "Plan 9 from Outer Space" (1959)

WHY OF COURSE AN ED WOOD TITLE WOULD BE ON TOP OF THIS LIST. Wood is considered the worst director of all time. He created terrible movie after terrible movie and somehow got paid for his failures. And none failed more badly than "Plan 9 from Outer Space."

From beginning to end, the movie is awful. The camera shots are terrible, the makeup is terrible, the sound is nonexistent and the little bits of dialogue can't be heard. The story is just . . . here make sense of this. The movie starts out with two grave diggers doing what else? If you guessed plumbng, you are correct. A very familiar actress appears and kills them . . . for some reason. It turns out the actress is the leading lady and that scene is never discussed again. Also, there is a UFO - I CANT KEEP TRACK OF THESE THINGS.

My advice: just give in to lighten the torture you'll feel when watching this disgrace. It's not a film to watch for a laugh, it's a film to . . . just cause you so much pain.



## No 5. "The Creature from the Black Lagoon" (1954)



This film, one of the first black and white films I ever saw, is dear to my heart. But some back story first. The film was directed by Jack Arnold, who did "Tarantula" and "Space" and many other science fiction horror flicks. One day Arnold got lucky and scored a gig with Universal Studios. The big-time producer told Arnold he could write and direct something but the budget had to be rock bottom, even for a B- movie. The producer was betting against his director. But Arnold made "Lagoon" with eight actors and six locales (excluding back drops and scenes on the boat) and came in under budget. The film made over \$15 million at the box office.

## No 4. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" (1957)

No, not the classic Disney film, the 1957 French version, directed by Jean Delannoy, who made only French independent student films. Spoiler alert. The film doesn't follow the famous novel but some other famous book instead.

Mr. Hunchback (because what else would you call him?) is working on a cure for . . . something and accidentally splashes himself with whatever the heck was inside the test tube. Now every full moon he turns into a hideous creature and kills innocent people. It's Jekyll and Hide meets Wolf Man.

The story of how it came to the big screen is even worse. Delannoy was lecturing to his students when suddenly a good friend appeared in his class room, a big-name movie producer looking for a movie to sell to the Americans. On Delannoy's desk were films from long ago, one of them being "The Hunchback of Notre



Dame." The producer borrowed "Hunchback," mistook it for a comedy and thought it was brilliant. He sold it to a now-defunct movie studio. When Delannoy asked what movie he was doing, the producer said "Hunchback." Delannoy said "that old horror movie?" and the producer said "Horror?"



## No 3. "The Tingler" (1959)

This one made it only because Vincent Price is in it. The narrative concerns small parasites that feed on fear. Get scared while carrying the parasite and die. The story is stupid, the characters are stupid, but more than anything,

"Tingler" is a stab in the back of Vincent Price. Mostly Price just mumbles and he always arrives at the scene looking tired and disheveled. You are better than that, Price. And you call yourself a doctor.

Well, there you have it, five movies so bad they're horrible instead of horrifying. Next month, we'll look at Clint Eastwood's pasta Westerns. Until then, happy trails.

## SPORTS

## HOMECOMING

# Parrots Tame Wildcats 37-13

## Spirited play from Poly caps homecoming week.

Compiled by Sports Staff

**P**oly riddled Sun Valley's defensive line for 37 points Friday, more than enough to clinch a dominant win at home.

The Parrots had more points, more yards and more completed passes than any game this season in their 37-13 rout of the Wildcats.

Newly eligible Parrot QB Jose Orozco took the helm for Poly for the first time and went to the air early, throwing wide receiver Horacio Barron a 20-yard touchdown pass with 6 minutes off the clock. Poly didn't get the two-point attempt and settled for a 6-0 lead.

With the clock running out in the first, Sun Valley scored and made the point after to lead 7-6 after one.

But the fireworks were just beginning.

Poly senior wide receiver Rene Aguilar caught a tight pass in the corner of the end zone to put the Parrots back in the lead. Poly senior Paul Mata got the two-point conversion for a 14-7 Parrot advantage with 3 minutes gone in the second.

Poly seniors Kevin Avelar and



Photo By Diane Alvarado

**SURROUNDED:** Parrot senior Paul Mata goes for the two-point conversion in Poly's 37-13 rout of Sun Valley.

Tony Ephriam also scored in the second. Aguilar set up Ephriam's 35-yard scamper with a nice catch from Orozco. Another Mata two-point conversion gave Poly a 22-7 halftime lead.

Orozco got the passing game up and running again in the third, throwing a 30-yard pass to junior wide receiver Juan Valdivia to set up Parrot senior Kevin Arrue, who ran five yards into the end zone for a 30-7 lead with 3 remaining.

Wildcat junior quarterback Jose Muro threw three passes, one for 40 yards and two for twenty to quickly pick up the last Sun Valley score of the evening. The kick for point after

### The kick for point after hit the left pole and the Wildcats settled for 6, leaving Poly up 30-13.

hit the left pole and the Wildcats settled for 6, leaving Poly up 30-13.

Mata's 25-yard run put Poly on the Sun Valley 10. Orozco dumped another short pass up the middle to Barron on the next play for Poly's

final TD of the night. The third quarter and the scoring ended with Poly up 37-13.

Poly had 350 yards rushing on the night and 183 passing yards. Mainstays Mata and Ephriam had 117 and 104 yards respectively on the ground, while Orozco had 47. Orozco was 13 for 21 throwing for 183 yards.

The Homecoming halftime activities featured Poly's marching band and the annual fireworks display.

Poly (3-4, 2-1) goes on the road next week against Verdugo (5-2, 3-0) while Sun Valley (2-5, 0-4) welcomes winless NoHo (0-7, 0-3).

## FIRST PERSON

## Boxed In

For one Parrot, the manly art provides a lot of answers.

By Michael Garcia  
Staff Writer

The world of boxing has always fascinated me. But only recently have I become part of the boxing world.

About seven months ago (one day before my birthday), I was out celebrating with my family at Venice beach when I was attacked. I suffered a concussion and had to have my head stapled five times.

As soon as I recovered from my head injury, I signed up at the boxing gym. While I knew boxing was no walk in the park, I never expected it to be so difficult. Luckily, with the support of my family and my coaches, I continue to remain focused on refining my boxing techniques.

I train about six times a week (Monday through Saturday) for about 2-3 hours a day. When the hands are wrapped, and the gloves are on, there is no time to slack off. Training is all work and no play. Everyone is there for the same reason - to better themselves and give their gym credibility.

The coaches make sure their fighters have the basics down before going in the ring with another fighter, but nothing is more nerve-racking than the first spar. You get in the ring, stare at your opponent and wait till the round starts. Your legs feel as if they're going to give out, and all eyes are resting on you. The bell rings. You tap gloves, and all of a sudden, all the nerves go away. The first punch is thrown and you just do what you've been trained to do. If you are lucky, the nerves eventually go away the more you spar, but for the most part, they're always there.

While boxing seems to be about upper body strength, a fighter's legs are actually just as important as his arms. Leg work is crucial in boxing. A fighter must learn how to move to his left and right without losing his stance. A boxer standing wrong can get knocked down rather easily. Another "secret" not too many people know is that body shots do more damage than head shots. A fighter can recover from blows to the head within a couple of seconds. Blows to the body, on the other hand, continue to add up until the person is eventually knocked down.

To prepare for a fight, a fighter must learn self-discipline, must be mentally and physically strong.

In the gym, conditioning can include anything from shadow boxing to hitting the mitts with the coach to practicing on the punching bag. On a fighter's own time, he/she must run at least two-five miles to build endurance and a fighter must always watch his diet and make sure to get enough rest. Boxing is a zealous sport and requires a 100 percent commitment.

## Seeing Doubles

Alex Dimas  
Staff Writer

Up-and-comers Jade Lim & Pia Ros talk tennis with the OPTIMIST.

**How long have you been playing tennis?**

This season is our first

**What inspired you to play tennis?**

My family made me play tennis - Jade.

I needed a sport for college - Pia.

**What do you like about tennis?**

I like the sound of the ball hitting the racket - Pia.

Being able to play actual tennis - Jade.

**How do you prepare for a tennis game?**

I eat a lot the day of the game - Pia.

I like to be relaxed and not think of the game - Jade.

**How much do you practice on weekends?**

About fifteen hours a weekend - Pia.

**What's your strong suit?**

My favorite is my backhand - Jade.



**TWO CAN PLAY:** Parrot sophomores Jade Lim and Pia Ros figure prominently in Poly's future.

**Why does your coach say you two are the rising stars?**

Because we're improving a lot with every game - Pia.

And there's nothing to compare us to - Jade.

**Were you two friends before tennis started?**

We joined together because neither of us would have done it alone - Jade.

**Does tennis interfere with your school work?**

It's harder to keep them but my grades have dropped since - Jade.

Only on certain days - Pia.

**Why do you think you two play so well together?**

We were friends before so that helps a lot - Pia.

And it's better to know each other in the court because then if I miss the ball I know I have a back up behind me - Jade.



Photo by Diane Alvarado

**What makes you stand out from the others?**

We're more social than most of the group - Jade.

We have a good attitude and we both learn fast and improve quickly - Pia.

**How did you feel being #1 doubles on Wednesday's game?**

I was scared because it was our first time in a while - Pia.

It shows that we are improving - Jade.

**Are you still going to play tennis next season?**

We are both definitely going to be playing next year - Jade.

But single, unless Jade plays volleyball - Pia.

**What do you think about this season so far?**

We could have done better - Pia.

But the problem is our team needs more experience overall - Jade.