

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

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SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MARCH 2013

Peer Talk Works

Peer Mediation puts students in charge of the situation.

By Yesenia Carretero
Staff Writer

Ninth Grade Center Resources Coordinator Karen Sullivan is developing a peer mediation program for Poly students.

"I wrote the materials for this program," Sullivan said. "I'm currently taking our peer mediators through a training program. They'll be really effective at doing what they do."

Peer mediation is a form of non-violent resolution that helps students solve their problems with one another without fighting. It's voluntary and confidential. Peer mediation can help with rumors and gossip, for example.

"Peer mediation is an after-school program," said Sullivan. "Our peer mediators train after school as well."

Poly has had different types of peer mediation programs in the past. The Heart Program, for example, was run by people outside of Poly.

Peer mediators are other students who have been trained and use a special type of conflict resolution. They are trained to help people find a solution without it resulting in violence.

"Right now the mediators are training once a week after school," Sullivan said. "They learn what conflict is, they learn some active listening skills, they learn how to deal with their own emotions, they learn how to deal with other people's emotions and so on."

"Then they learn the actual mediation process, which is a structured way of having a conversation. They're learning how to help people talk to one another and how to come to an agreement."

"They have been training since November. We have a lot of breaks with vacations and we're pretty much in the process of practicing the mediation process."

Judith Fonarow and Sullivan train the mediators. Sullivan has a master's degree in negotiation and peace building skills from Dominguez Hills.

"I think this school can really benefit from having peer mediation," said Sullivan. "I've seen other schools do it successfully."

"Our mediators are some of the best listeners on campus and they've been training on how to listen," Sullivan said. "We're still recruiting mediators."

[See Peer, pg 6]



Photo by Lirio Alberto

FLAG DAY: Tenth Grade Center counselor Tamika Lewis performed at the annual Teacher Lip Sync Friday in the auditorium. See story page 4.

Disappearing Act

Temporary bungalows gone, creating more open space.

By Alfredo Quezada
Staff Writer

Empty space and uneven blacktop are all that remain in areas of Poly's campus where temporary bungalows once stood.

Rooms 302-304 in front of the blue gym were removed Feb 18 and sold to a private buyer.

Rooms 329-334 were removed at the end of February.

All work was done after school.

"We are re-using everything that is still in good condition," said Poly Principal Ari Bennett. "Shelves, chairs and desks are being stored until requested. Broken equipment was sent to salvage."

The charred remains of the storage unit that caught on fire about half a year ago were removed on Feb 16. A new storage unit will be rebuilt on the same location.

[See Bungalows, pg 6]

Drill On Top

By Jasmine Aquino
Staff Writer

Poly's drill team placed first at the Sharp International Competition at Arcadia High School in

late February, beating Temple City High School and other independent groups.

"We won first place for both the medium and large routines," said Parrot senior Captain Reyna Rodriguez. "We also won the Judge's Award. I think the team did a great job. I am very proud of the girls for their hard work."

Sharp International is a high energy competition and camp circuit that serves the world of cheer and dance. Sharp hosts competitions nationwide and year-round with an array of categories: cheer, dance, drill, hip-hop, military, pep flags, color guard and tall flags.

Dance groups are arranged into divisions according to the number of performers and the genre of dance. Poly's 20-member group competed in the Senior Military Drill division.

The drill team practices two routines: a medium and a large routine. The more experienced members



Photo by Reyna Rodriguez

HIGH & WIDE: Junior Andrea Barbosa at competition.

compete in the medium routine and every member performs in the large routine.

"When it comes to medium and small routines, we either have tryouts within the team, or the captains choose the girls themselves," said Poly sophomore and drill co-Captain Jacquelyne Garcia.

"When we have tryouts for the smaller routines,

the girls in the team learn a piece of the routine, and perform it in front of the captains in groups of 3 or 4. Our best girls, which normally are old members, are the ones that end up getting chosen."

"As co-Captain, you see the team from a different view: coming up with routines, ideas, making sure

[See Drill, pg 6]

Poly's Pilot Provisional

By Yenifer Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Approval of Poly's Pilot application is closer to completion, but some issues remain on the table.

"The Pilot committee is concerned that there is not enough student and parent representation on the governance council," said Poly Principal Ari Bennett.

Executive director of Pilot schools Rachel Bonkovsky remains in negotiation with Poly's Pilot Design Team on how to get more parent and student involvement on the governance council.

"They're not asking us to change the governance council composition. But she does want us to have more student and parent involvement," Bennett said.

As a result, LAUSD's Pilot Steering Committee granted Poly a one-year provisional Pilot configuration following a recent visit to the Parrot campus.

"We were provisionally approved to go Pilot, which means it's a one-year approval, as opposed to a five year approval," Bennett said.

"We want to respect the teachers' choice to have only teachers deciding personnel issues," Bennett said. "Rachel is helping us figure that out."

"Once we do that, our Pilot application will go to the board March 19 for final step."

The Pilot Steering Committee has 22 members who participate and

vote on a rotating basis, with seven members on the Committee at any one time. The makeup is two District people, two UTLA representatives, two community-based organization representatives and one ALAH representative. ALAH is the administrative union.

"The steering committee did a site visit Wednesday," Bennett said, "and I think the visit changed some minds."

"One of their concerns was if we could get 135 teachers to come to a consensus on a common goal. They were impressed by the ability of our staff to do that and we've shown that we are doing that now. I think we helped the committee see that we do that every day."

The Committee's agenda included

[See Poly, pg 6]

Cheer a Winner

By James Torres
Staff Writer

Poly's new coed cheer squad finished third in the annual Jamz National held at the New Orleans Hotel & Casino just off the Strip in Las Vegas.

"We were competing for a national title and we did a great job," said Parrot team captain Letnia Medina. "We placed third in the nation out of five teams."

Cheer squads were judged on execution, difficulty and creativity. Three judges scored the event.

"When I found out how our team did, I was a little disappointed," Medina said, "because we put our all in that routine to make it perfect."

"The competition was very close," said rookie cheer coach Susie Garcia. "We had a legitimate chance to win first place. A lot of teams dropped stunts. We had a flawless routine."

"The winning group was good," Garcia said. "They dropped a stunt or two. They had a lot of tumbling. We didn't win because we didn't have a lot of tumbling."

"Our team right now does little tumbling because we didn't really think it would affect us too much," said Medina. "Tumbling isn't a new thing. Poly just doesn't really have it right now."

Cheer fundraised \$5,000 to cover

[See Cheer, pg 6]



Photo By Lirio Alberto

A Rocker and a Redhead

Aragon/Showalter on fire at Hip/Lip Sync.

CAMPUS - pg 4



Photo by Yenifer Rodriguez

Actor Mike Foy at Poly

OPTIMIST scores exclusive interview.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Music's Gotten Rotten

Technology is advancing, yet our music is regressing. We'd assume that music would become better, but in fact our music has become beeps and boops.

Compare a 50s song to the current fare - the difference is terrifying.

Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins and Eddie Cochran were big names in the 50s. Their popularity rested on well-written, inspirational and melodic tunes that not only defined the era but influenced future generations of songwriters and musicians.

And what do we have now?

Nicki Minaj and Lady Gaga.

The big names that represent our great era are Nicki Minaj and Lady Gaga. These women have gained their fame from dressing in outrageous outfits and grabbed viewers' attention not so much for their "talent" as their ridiculous and frequently obscene behavior.

Today's "music" is sound effects, studio tricks, electronically enhanced vocals, digital drums and other hi-tech fakery.

Back in the 50's and before, music was made from a six string guitar and a human voice. Now our music is digitized and compressed to a tiny bandwidth that puts data storage ahead of sound quality, altering, distorting and deflating what should be "real" music.

All I ask is to hear a song with a meaningful message again. I don't want to hear another song that only downgrades women and sometimes even men or talks about being boozed up all night.

Music shouldn't be violated this way. Music was never meant to be manipulated and commodified and monetized.

Music should inspire and give hope to the many who cannot express their feelings the way an artist does.

Who Needs the Green?

The Irish may cheer St. Paddy's Day, but what are Koreans to do?

The only memory I have of St. Patrick's Day is watching Teen Nickelodeon's movie "The Luck of the Irish" on a cold late November evening.

I don't remember any of my St. Patrick's Days.

My family doesn't gather together to pass green cupcakes and gold coin chocolates around the dinner table. I didn't pinch my friend because of her lack of green attire but because she was sleeping in class. I don't even remember when St. Patrick's Day is.

Paddy's Day is like any other day to me.

And I'm pretty sure it's the same way for most other non-Irish folks too.

When my friend John was younger, he came to school dressed as a leprechaun to celebrate this extra green holiday. He expected praise, but his classmates called him an ugly bearded clover. He never wore green again.

So what's the purpose of this holiday?

The Irish want to celebrate their Irish-ness and the Irish culture, I understand that.

But why is all of America celebrating? Most of us aren't even part Irish.

We may tolerate this an unneeded holiday because of the once-a-year Shamrock Shakes at McDonald's, the green-themed fun festivals, or the chance to wear that unworn green top at the bottom of the drawer.

But in the truth is, we really don't need a St. Patrick's Day.

We can decorate ourselves with shamrocks and green ribbons any old day.

And a leprechaun will always be waiting at the end of the rainbow, not just on Paddy's Day.

Can we just call the whole thing off, and save the green for Christmas?

The Origin of Easter

April means the Easter Bunny story for many children - a bunny with a basket full of colored eggs and gifts hides the eggs throughout the yard overnight.

But many folks today don't know how and where this festival/celebration originated.

The Celts used the rabbit as the symbol for Eoster (Goddess of Spring) during celebrations.

But the Easter Bunny origin came from Germany in the 1500's where the Easter Bunny was featured in "Oschter Haws" as a rabbit that delivers eggs and other goodies in children's shoes.

America started celebrating Easter when the Pennsylvania Dutch and Germans came here in the 1800s. Children would wait for Oschter Haws to deliver eggs to their homes at Easter.

Later generations saw candies and eggs production increase and children began building nests for the eggs the Easter Bunny would deliver. The nests then evolved into baskets.

Easter isn't even symbolized by the bunny in all countries. Australians, for example, use the Bilby (a mammal related to the bandicoot) as the symbol for Easter.

If you want to comment about an editorial in this issue, send us a letter.

Please include your full name and grade. Deliver to room 14 or Mr. Blau's box in the main office. Be sure to print clearly.

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HE'S FIRED UP

Poly First Responder and American Red Cross club president Adan Renteria is the kind of guy you want nearby when your body isn't cooperating.

By Jasmine Aquino

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HIPS BEATS LIPS

Odds are, few in the audience were watching lips at this year's Teacher Lip sync. Things have definitely gone south and we don't mean Florida.

By Adrianna Garcia

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MAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

Let's face it - putting on your makeup in the morning isn't easy. Now there's a Poly club for that, managed by the Buenrostro twins. Bring your own mascara.

By Lisa Guardado

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VAMPIRES ARE SO YESTERDAY

Author Isaac Marion's debut novel, "Warm Bodies," stars a zombie named "R" and a girl named Julia. You can guess the rest.

By Maureen Kang

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HE DOES IT HIS WAY

LA actor Mike Foy has his head on straight. In a town called flakey, he's got talent and an old school work ethic. An OPTIMIST exclusive. Take that, Variety.

By James Torres

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KEEP YOUTH RECORDING SOMETHING

An inside look at Poly KYDS in the recording studio. Talking 'bout your gen . . gen . . gen ... generation.

By Yenifer Rodriguez

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MESSING WITH SUCCESS

Post-punk Manchester rockers Joy Division had plenty of tension but no pretensions about who they were and what they should sound like.

By Lisa Guardado

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"FAMILY GUY" AT THE OSCARS

Find out if young and edgy host Seth McFarlane kicked butt or sank like a stone at the posh Dolby (formerly Kodak) Theatre for the Academy Awards.

By Emily Pintor

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FUMBLER FINISH

Everyone in the building thought your Parrots had this one but Poly's basketball squad managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory in the CIF City Finals.

By Amy Ayala

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SHORT STAY

Both Poly and CIF City champs Hamilton ended their seasons with first round losses in the State playoffs. Poly sensation Cesar Reyes had 32 points.

By Amy Ayala

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THE MATADOR DEFENSE

The Lady Parrots spent a lot of time watching Reseda score points in Poly's 62-33 second-round playoff loss. Poly had a winning season nonetheless.

By Amy Ayala

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SEVENTH INNING STEAL

The Lady Parrots softballers lost a close one against visiting Birmingham when a wild pitch allowed a Patriot time enough to steal home.

By Felicia Rodriguez

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SAY GOODNIGHT POLY

Poly's baseball team got two hits against Notre Dame ace righthander Eddie Muhl in a 8-1 home loss. Parrot senior Felipe Hernandez gave up seven runs.

By Octavio Tapia

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

INTERVIEW

MEDICINE MAN



Poly senior and American Red Cross (ARC) Club President Adan Renteria is headed to California State University, Los Angeles, to earn his BA in Fire Technology this fall.

Renteria is a Level II Certified First Responder (CFR-II) who spends most weekends working first aid at community events such as bicycle rides, marathons and parades, including the Tournament of Roses Parade 2013.

By Jasmine Aquino
Staff Writer

“I always geared away from the medical field. I had my mind set on becoming a mechanical engineer,” said Renteria. “But once I took the First Responder class, everything switched around.”

First Responders respond to emergency medical calls, performing medical services and transporting patients to medical facilities.

As a CFR-II, Renteria has the training to legally perform certain emergency medical procedures: perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR); usage of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED); spinal/bone fracture immobilization; assist in administering oxygen, glucose, aspirin, epi-pens and other general pharmacology products; relieve respiratory obstruction with the use of breathing devices; assist in emergency childbirth, taking vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, respiration rate, etc); and trained in packaging, moving and transporting patients.

“I have never had to perform CPR on anyone,” said Renteria. “Emergency medicine is one of the few fields where you go to work and hope you don’t have to work.”

Renteria will earn his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) degree at Cal State LA, enabling him to care for the sick or injured in emergency medical settings at a more advanced level. He will then go on to paramedic school.

Renteria took Jeremy Sonenschein’s Regional Occupational Program (ROP) First Responder class his junior year.

“I did not ask for the class,” said Renteria. “I saw the class listed on my schedule after coming back from summer break. I was drawn in because of my curiosity.”

While in the class, Renteria became involved with the EMS Club and started working events to help him become proficient in the skills required for certification.

“It was a bit of a challenge keeping up with the work but I

**“Adan is one of the finest Responders and students I’ve worked with.”
-Sonenschein.**

tried to stay on top of things and it got easier towards the end,” Renteria said. “Working events provided help because I am a hands-on learner.”

“Adan is one of the finest Responders and students I’ve worked with,” said Sonenschein. “He has unlimited potential.”

Renteria also worked first aid at the Poly football games this last football season.

“We normally have about four people work football games,” said Renteria. “Sonenschein mentioned that we work football games after I started becoming involved with the EMS Club. I asked him if I could work them and he gave me priority.”

Renteria now teaches after-school basic first aid and CPR classes.

“We mainly teach the faculty but we teach whoever wants to take the class,” said Renteria. “We charge \$35 which goes towards funding for our clubs.”

Renteria also brought back an American Red Cross Youth Group chapter at Poly this year.

“The day I worked the Rose Parade, we went as part of the EMS Club but it was all Red Cross working the Parade,” said Renteria. “The ARC Coordinator invited us to the Red Cross meeting. I attended with a fellow Poly CFR and we discussed that we wanted to bring Red Cross back to Poly.”

Renteria has two younger brothers at Poly and a younger sister. His sophomore brother, Fernando Renteria who is also a CFR-II, constantly works events alongside him.

“It’s a little hard working with him because I feel like I have to worry about him, too,” admitted Renteria.

Renteria’s mother is a homemaker and his father is a baker. He has two lovebirds at home.

When asked about becoming a veterinarian, Renteria answered: “I wouldn’t really want to become a vet because it’s harder on me emotionally to treat animals.”

Renteria is a member of the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and the Animal Lovers Club.

Renteria played soccer as a midfielder for eight years, but has stopped and devoted his time to emergency medical services for the care of the community.

“I would like to thank Mr. Sonenschein for all he has done for me and for all the support he has given me,” said Renteria.

While at Cal State LA, Renteria will continue visiting and working with the EMS Clubs as an assistant instructor alongside Sonenschein.

CAMPUS

More Hip Sync Than Lip Sync

By Adrianna Garcia
Staff Writer

More hip sync than lip sync.

That was the take away from this year's Teacher Lip Sync, held Friday in the auditorium.

Or as cohost Shakira (bewigged PSA counselor Maribel Munguia) put it to Ryan Seacrest (Special Ed's dapper Art Arhanian):

"Hips don't lie."

The biggest screams from the SRO student body were for teachers with moves.

Leading that list was the always audacious Lady Gaga (English teacher Erin Hunt) and new dance sensation Beyonce (Tenth Grade Center counselor Tamika Lewis).

Both ladies had the moves, with Hunt doing a mini-lap dance at one point. But Lewis stole the show with the best use of a flag since the American Revolution.

Not to be outdone, the Four Amigos – math teacher Sergio Lopez, track coach Mario Rivera, math teacher Hardip Singh and Spanish teacher Mario Quinteros – seemed to be onstage most of the show.

First there was Rivera as regionalist singer/songwriter Espinoza Paz. Then Lopez, backed by the Amigos, took a turn as Reik lead singer Jesús Alberto Navarro Rosas doing "Tu Mirada" from 2011's "Peligro."

The hips were shaking, the screams were ear-splitting.

All four Amigos took a turn on Mexican rock



Photo by Lirio Alberto

SLOWHAND: Math teacher Gary Aragon shreds on his vintage Les Paul at Lip Sync.



Photo by Lirio Alberto

AMIGOS: Math teacher Hardip Singh of the Four Amigos finds his inner rockero.

band Mana's "Se Me Olvido Otra Vez."

More hips, more screams.

Closing the show was Cuban salsa singer Celia Cruz (AP Jamille Kenion) doing "La Negra Tiene Tumbao (The Black Woman Walks with Grace).

Wait, what?

There they were again, the Four Amigos, this

time putting the moves on Cruz – mostly Rivera but Lopez too. It was strictly a case of "how low can you go."

You had to be there.

Hips were also involved in Carly Rae Jepsen's (AD Kim McEwen and the SLC Regulars) breakout hit from last year, "Call Me Maybe." In this case, the hips were in slo-mo and the grinding was more no-go, but the audience strongly supported the effort.

No Lip Sync would be complete, of course, without veteran custodian Steve Mares' version of Vicente Fernandez doing "Volver, Volver." For additional spice, English teacher Evan Rabins did a credible Spanish version of the Richie Valens chestnut "La Bamba,

Taking a decidedly different approach was math teacher Gary "Slowhand" Aragon, who let his fingers do the talking on Cream's 1970 swan song "White Room," joined by leather-clad Amy Showalter on vocals, hot moves and airborne red tresses.

Rounding out the show were testing czar Royce Stuckey doing a drum solo, the Madrigal family on mini-guitars doing a skit called "Rodrigo and Gabriela Guitar Battle" and girls basketball coach and Rastafarian Tremeka Batiste doing the Wailers' 1973 hit "Get Up, Stand Up," written by Bob Marley and Peter Tosh.

The other duet on the bill, English teachers Lisa Blackwell and Jeff Herrold, did the CAHSEE version of dinosaur Journey's "Don't Stop Believing."

Appropriately enough, all performers got their groove on to the "Harlem Shake" finale.

Proving once again that hips don't lie.

Face to Face: the Buenrostro Twins & the Art of Makeup

By Lisa Guardado
Staff Writer

Buenrostro twins Jeannette and Gabriela – if you think you're seeing double, you are – think every high school campus should have a makeup club. So the two seniors started one at Poly.

The OPTIMIST interviewed the pair about their new venture. Here's what they told us.

Why a makeup club?

Gabriela: I thought it was a horrible idea. But Jeannette kept pushing. I saw many people approach her and pay her to do their makeup. First she was doubtful, but I convinced her it could work.

Jeannette: Our goal is to train Parrots to do makeup. For example, the Makeup Club is doing makeup for the Drama Club's upcoming play, "The Wiz." We just did the makeup for the Teachers Lip Sync.

We want to do a makeup booth to promote the club. We do fundraisers. I like makeup as a side job. I did prom last year. I was asked by many girls to do their makeup.

We discuss different techniques for doing makeup, like applying foundation and doing eye shadow. We practice with different looks with eye shadow. We also experiment with different makeup brands.

We try to help members do their makeup the right way because you cannot just pick up a brush and say you can do makeup. That's illegal in our club. We either do makeup the right way or not at all.

I show them how to blend their color with Bronzer. That's very important. I teach them how to put on fake lashes and how to use latex for theatre. Latex is like glue for makeup. And how to try different brands. I teach them how to start off doing makeup.

Brands we use are Smashbox, Urvine Decay, Makeup Forever, Maybelline and Covergirl. I guess you can say we're saying right now we are using drugstore brands. Most of the makeup we use are "hand me downs" by me. So Ms. Keiper buys us makeup from any store. We're hoping to purchase more brands like Sephora, Ben Nyle and Kryolan, which is best for theatre makeup.

I give a few announcements like "MAC is having a sale, it ends today, so go now." We talk about new products and events we want to do.

We talk about what we're going to be doing for the week. So if we are doing smoky eyes, we're going to be talking about what it is and I tell them to practice and to bring in their smoky eyes on Friday and whoever does the best makeup gets a little prize.

This week we're going to give away three eye shadows, nail stickers and a nail polish.

The makeup club motto is "Makeup is art." Many people wear too much makeup. Sometimes it's to cover up scars, but it is always art.

So you're a makeup fanatic?

Gabriela: Kind of – I'm a fan. I just don't like how makeup looks on me. I like how it looks on Jeannette and others and the art, but I just don't like it on me.

Jeannette: Me and makeup go way back.

At first I didn't like the idea. I was a tomboy and I thought makeup was too



Photo by Lirio Alberto

MAKEUP ARTISTS: Seniors Jeannette and Gabriela Buenrostro.

girly. I started doing my makeup in the eighth grade and back then I thought it looked good. When I look back now, I'm like "What the heck was I thinking?" And many people told me my makeup looked nice.

So from there on I decided I'd do my makeup every day. I started watching YouTube videos on how to do makeup and I came across "MisfitMonroeMakeup," where I learned how to do different makeup looks. That motivated me to do my own makeup.

My obsession grew. Makeup is now my addiction. It's weird how a tomboy grows into a makeup addict.

So when Ms. Keiper gave me the idea to form a club, I did. I have always wanted to teach makeup but the pay is low, so that's why I didn't do it. So this club is just like the next best thing.

People know me as "The Makeup Artist." Most of my money goes for makeup. If I see a sweater that's \$20, I won't buy it, it's too expensive. But if I see an eyeliner that's \$20, I'll get it. My addiction with makeup is just not normal.

Gabriela: If the club was a band, I'd be a band mate. Jeannette is the manager.

We walk in, get our stuff ready. I put on her power point. I go straight to the soup. I serve myself, then I write notes from her and then we talk about fundraising.

I take notes. Whatever she says, I write down. I help her out. She wouldn't be able to do it herself. I take many notes. She rejects all my ideas.

We provide free soups, cup of noodles.

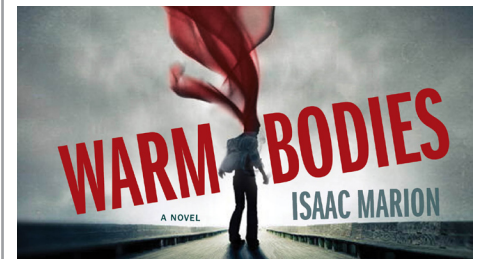
Math teacher Julie Keiper: Jeannette and Gaby did all the work to get the club going. We did announcements.

We meet after school and at lunch.

I sponsor the makeup club because I have so much respect for both Jeannette and Gabriela and for what they have contributed for school activities like multicultural fair, student spirit day and the homecoming parade.

I just provide the room, the makeup, snacks and general influence about the possibilities about the club.

I am allergic to artificial products like makeup, but I like the idea of costume makeup, makeup as an extension of a costume.



"Warm Bodies" filled with love

First-time author Isaac Marion has a zombie hit.

By Maureen Kang
Staff Writer

Vampires and werewolves are so last season. Zombies are this year's creature of choice. And the best zombie novel by far this year is first-time author Isaac Marion's hit "Warm Bodies."

A zombie apocalypse has reduced the human race to small, concentrated groups held in massive domed stadiums where conditions are worse than post-WWII Germany.

"Bodies" questions whether hope and dreams are stronger than reality.

Zombie R falls in love with human Julie, but their love isn't perfect like Bella and Edward's unconditional love in "Twilight." Their love is hesitant and sweet, blossoming into something deeper.

Plenty of wit, action, ambition and dreams also make Marion's book more interesting than the "Twilight" series.

"There is a chasm between me and the world outside of me. A gap so wide my feelings can't cross it. By the time my screams reach the other side, they have dwindled into groans," says narrator and zombie R.

R yearns for Julie's colorful life, the opposite of everything he knows.

"Her warm memories. I'd like to paint them over the bare plaster walls of my soul, but everything I paint seems to peel," says R.

In time Julie sees R has a heart and "maybe zombies are not what we think they are."

R slowly transforms, using more syllables in his conversations, dreaming and reflecting on life.

"I'm watching her talk," R says, "watching her jaw move and collecting her words one by one as they spill from her lips. I don't deserve them."

R is different from other zombies, gray and emaciated, but capable of thought. He represents hope, the novel's theme. The mistakes and failures humans make are fixable.

"Warm Bodies" was adapted from a Marion short story, "I Am a Zombie Filled with Love." The author has also self-published three novels.

The prequel to "Bodies" is available as an ebook and the sequel is scheduled for 2014.

EXCLUSIVE

LA actor Michael Foy is making a name for himself in Hollywood. Recent roles on “Justified,” “Dexter” and “Legit,” to name a few, keep him in big demand. Recently, Foy dropped by the OPTIMIST for this exclusive interview.

THE “JUSTIFIED” ROLE

Foy had a scene-stealing role as J.T. in FX series “Justified’s” season 3 episode 3, “Harlan Roulette.” (2012).

“Justified,” based on a short story by well-known crime author Elmore Leonard, stars Timothy Olyphant as U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens. The series’ setting, poor, rural, coal-mining Harlan County in Eastern Kentucky, sets the tone for much of what happens each week.

“Justified” is currently in season 4.

How did you get the part?

It was my third try. I had read the two previous seasons and wasn’t called back. My agent got me the audition.

The audition was on Lankershim in North Hollywood. That office does “Parenthood” and “Justified.”

I filmed for four days. The first day they were burying me so that’s pretty easy, I was in the trunk of a car. The second day was when I had the big scene where I’m playing Russian roulette with myself. That was pretty taxing energy-wise. It took a long time. The next two days were interior exterior stuff, pretty easy day.

We filmed in Disney ranch, near Six Flags. It looks like Kentucky out there.

You can drive through there. You see big parking lots, cars are always parked there, a lot of filming is done there so you can drive through the side streets. They won’t let you drive down to the ranch but you can see a lot of the stuff from the street.

I get paid a flat fee upfront to film, and I get residuals every time it airs. They can air it as many times as they want the first week and then after that I get residuals. When they air it in different countries, DVDs come out, I get a percentage for that.

My scene was a five-minute scene, the longest I’ve ever seen on a show. That scene was me and four different characters. We had three cameras on us. We started around 6 am and ended probably 6 pm. I was about to pass out when we were done, because the mental state you get in for a scene like that, pretending you’re going to die, and you have a gun to your head and you’re going through withdrawals, it is pretty taxing and fun. But doing it over and over, you have to keep the crazy intensity.

When I am doing a scene like that I don’t joke around. I am off doing my own thing. I am doing push-ups in a corner, running around the parking lot, trying to get my energy up, so I am kind of blocking everybody out.

Usually call time was 4 am. It was a 13-hour day. You have to remain upbeat because you have long days like 15-20 hour days half the time. You have to keep some camaraderie going, always have to enjoy who you’re working with.

The director was real supportive, he was loving everything we were doing and didn’t ask me to change anything. He was a producer on “Black Swan” and a pretty high profile guy.

Everyone else was kind of relaxing, and the pressure was on me. I was curious to see what takes they were going to use. You have three cameras on you so you don’t know where the cameras is half the time. I just dive in and do it.

We usually rehearse 15 minutes before we start filming so they can start blocking. They want to see where the shots are going, where they want to set up the cameras. I didn’t want to rehearse too much because scenes like that, you want to be natural with it. If you rehearse too much, it kills the spot.

If you don’t enjoy what you’re doing, then you should do something else.



Foy’s Way

By James Torres
Staff Writer

What’s the process for shooting a one-hour show?

Usually the script changes all the time until the day of the filming, so they’re always sending updates. Usually with the leads, they will do rehearsals and read-throughs before they start casting guest star players like me. Sometimes they call us to do ADR work, maybe a line got messed up or they want to add a line, so we go down to the studio.

I saw some of the truck clips at ADR, but I didn’t see any of the Russian Roulette part until it aired.

I was loving it when I saw it. My sister called me crying, when I got killed. I said it was just acting, if you didn’t believe it then it wasn’t that good. I have friends who had their kids watching and they started freaking out because I got killed. They said “Why didn’t you tell me?” I said I didn’t know you were going to have your kids watching a 10:30 show.

I usually meet the director when I get on set. They take me to my trailer, bring me on to the set and introduce me. I don’t like hanging out in my trailer so I like to hang out till I get to my stuff. A lot of TV directors let you do your thing because they’re so used to the fast pace. TV is a lot quicker, they usually cast the people that know what they want. There isn’t a lot of direction most of the time.

A set like “Justified” is pretty polished. Everyone knows their role, everybody works great together, they get along great.

You are dealing with more professional people. They know what they want. The show has a hit format, so they know what to work with.

Olyphant is a really good guy. I read a couple of projects with him previously that I didn’t get. It was nice to finally work with him.

From the first time “Justified” came on, I knew eventually it would be a role for me.

“Justified” is one of my favorite roles, because I got to dig in so much more. It seems

like more crazy, it jumped off the page when I was reading it, and I did the Russian Roulette scene for the audition. As an actor being able to dig in to something like that, people remember roles like that, they don’t remember the good guy. Definitely that was one of my top roles.

You have to have fun, to me if you love what you’re doing you don’t have to work another day in your life. If you don’t enjoy what you’re doing, then you should do something else.

CAREER

When did you decide you wanted to be an actor?

When I was six. I did a show called “Nashville Now” with Tom Teehan in front of a live audience. That was my first taste. I said that is what I wanted to do. I remember I hated country music but he wanted me to do the show with him. He asked my little sister, but she was too young at the time. They interviewed me after the show, so that was cool. I said this is what I want to do, don’t turn the lights off.

In the 80s, my father used to do extra work in a lot of the “Hawaii Five-O’s” and he was in “Karate Kid 2” and “Home Alone 2,” so he was on a lot of sets. My father never pursued it like I am because he had the family to raise and everything.

My dad mostly did theatre, nothing really big.

I haven’t had any formal training. I tried theatre in college, I wasn’t a big fan of theatre, so I dropped that. I probably shouldn’t have, now that I look back on it. Theatre didn’t do anything for me. To me, theatre is really over the top. I looked at it as equivalent to Nickelodeon or a Disney show. It’s really big. I preferred more realism like television and film.

I was born on an Army base in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. My father was in the military so we moved a lot.

I spent most of my life in Connecticut. I did high school and college in Tennessee and went to TSU, I majored in Speech Communication & Theatre (Radio & Television Production)

I moved to LA the end of 2005.

I didn’t know anybody. I was homeless for four and a half months, showering in a gym six days a week, eating Ramen on a hotplate. I knew what I wanted to do. All I had to do was get out here. I had nothing but a credit card.

Back home I was grinding for years doing music. I was opening for acts like T.I. Faboulous, Ludacris, a lot of big concerts. Coming from the music background, I knew it was going to be an easy transition to acting.

I was hitting the streets hard, trying to get going. I got a manager that liked me, he liked my look. Every year the roles kept getting bigger and bigger. Second audition he ever sent me on was “The Shield.” I was on “Heroes” a week later, on the first season.

The beauty of my first role on “The Shield” is that I had a song put on that episode as well. I got \$10,000. They ran my song on their website for the whole season. When I did the audition they said “you would have been perfect for this white rapper.” I told them I do music. They told me to bring my CD down to the studio and the next day they put my song on and booked me right away. The character was supposed to be a black guy, but they liked me enough to change it to a white guy.

MUSIC

I do Hip Hop, started my own label in 1998, released four albums, pushing CDs, opening for as many big acts as I could, doing as many shows as I could. I was pretty big in the Southeast.

But the Atlanta and Tennessee music was killing me. I needed to get away. I knew LA was going to be the spot.

I was running the label myself, marketing the CDs, doing everything, getting CDs pressed professionally, with barcodes. I went to every store personally, making agreements with store owners to get my product in there.

I was doing good, going to college. I had three jobs. I was doing my music at night, so I took a lot of days off from school because I was traveling.

Why transition to acting?

There is a lot more money in acting. It is a little easier, a little less BS dealing with acting than music. Music is so messed up right now, especially when you’re doing hip hop. You have to have this huge fan base. I always wanted to act. I just figured it would be a given with the music. Now I get a lot of my music on TV shows and movies.

Now I have a manager, an agent and sometimes I use a publicist. My agent didn’t have anybody edgy like me.

I met my first manager on Craigslist. It’s not that hard, if you really want one. All you do is call managements and agencies, have some head shots ready. If they like your look, they’ll take a chance. You get in a room, the rest is up to you.

I’ve played a lot of drug dealers and addicts. Even though I try to stay away from those roles, they type cast me because I have the edgy look.

I kind of like playing the bad guy. I was a serial killer in “Dexter.” I was finally killing people instead of getting accused. I like to play memorable characters. I turn down a lot of auditions because I don’t find anything there for me.

I turned down “Desperate Housewives” three times. Then they offered me a punk rock role, I was like ‘alright, sounds fun.’

Has acting proven to be as difficult a career as everyone said it would be?

Yes, that and much more. With great risk comes great reward, so you have to be willing to put it all on the line. If you put in the work, someone can only tell you “no” for so long.

CAMPUS

In the Studio With KYDS

By Yenifer Rodriguez
Editor In Chief

Poly's Keep Youth Doing Something (KYDS) after-school music club recorded "Generation of Hope" at the Idle Tuesdays recording studio in Downey on March 6.

The composition was a band original.

"I think that it was a great experience for all the musicians," said KYDS music teacher Ernest Mancía.

Eight Parrots worked on the recording, including senior Walter Linares, vocals, Ismael Lozano, lead guitar, Angel Correa and Juan Granados, rhythm guitars, Evelyn Lupercio, piano, Yenifer Rodriguez, bass and Simerpreet Singh, drums. All band members except Linares are juniors.

Linares and freshman Petra Hernandez, vocals, wrote the lyrics.

"It was hard trying to get everyone together," Mancía said, "but towards the end everybody started pulling through and we actually got a lot of work done."

Recording engineer Matt Bang mixed the 30-track, five-minute recording, with Mancía producing the session.

Some club members got hands-on experience under Bang's guidance, running wires, labeling takes and mixing with the soundboard. "The kids learned a valuable lesson,"



Photo by Lisa Guardado

SINGERS: Senior Walter Linares and freshman Petra Hernandez take a break during recording.

KYDS program manager Josue Arias said. "In the studio, your song's flaws are completely exposed. What you get away with live is completely apparent in the studio."

"Rehearse the song until you are absolutely tired of it," Arias said, "because it will pay off in the studio."

Arias and Idle Tuesdays CEO Emily Hibard met at CSUN. Both are in the same MBA program and working on their Masters in non-profit management.

"I told Emily about our after school music club," Arias said. "I asked her if she would be ok with us recording a song at Idle Tuesday and she was totally on board from day one."

"Emily believes in KYDS and saw the recording session as an opportunity for the kids to do something normally reserved for professional musicians," said Arias.

Parrots can listen to "Generation of Hope" online at SoundCloud.com and watch a YouTube video of the KYDS recording session.

Drill Wins First Place

[From Drill, front page]

the team is getting along, making sure every girl gets the moves right, pretty much anything they need help with. Even if it's someone to talk to, we're there for them," said Andrea.

"At times it can be stressful, but, at the end, it feels good knowing you have made a difference as part of the team."

The girls learn cheers and focus on being peppy during the football season; during competition season the team gets more serious and learns to perfectly execute their routine.

The drill team practices after school during fifth period, often incorporating workouts and running to ensure endurance.

"Our practices start with stretches, which help with flexibility. And we're constantly practicing routines," said Garcia. "Sometimes during practices, when we don't have much to do, we take the time to bond as a team and family. We all sit in a circle and discuss everyone's individual perspective on the year so far."

The drill team meets at Poly the morning of a competition to take care of hair and make-up and takes time to practice before performing in front of the judges.

"We watch the other performances and then go change," said Garcia. "We practice our routines before we go on, and we stretch a lot to warm up. After competing, we wait until the awards ceremony."

"Even before you begin performing, there are many fears that go through your head of what can happen," said Poly junior and drill co-Captain, Andrea. "As soon as [the music] starts you forget [the fears] and show that you have been working hard. You know the performance is going good when you feel that vibe of confidence and that's exactly what the judges want to see."

"After a competition, we all gather up for a team meeting and take the time to hear the judges' tapes. Then I usually give them a talk on what should be fixed or what we did well," said Rodriguez.

"I have never in my lifetime seen people work so hard. They practice for hours every day and work on the details and the tiny little changes, that, in order to get high scores, you have to have," said Poly teacher and drill sponsor Jodie Nathan.

Nathan acts as a "silent partner," keeping the drill team organized, playing by the rules and planning ahead.

"It's important for people in high school to get involved in something," said Nathan. "Drill team is an amazing opportunity for discipline, fitness, participation and teamwork. It's a good place to develop good habits and looks good on your résumé."

Nathan also acts as the team's financial bookkeeper.

"Our drill team does not receive funding from the school," said Garcia. "A big part of being in drill is fundraising."

The drill team hosts fundraisers at local restaurants and attractions such as Skateland and sells chocolates in order to meet financial needs.

"But fundraising does not pay for all of our expenses," said Garcia. "When it comes to football season uniforms, drill bags, bows, drill sweaters, etc., each girl pays out of her own pocket, which is why drill can be seen as expensive."

The drill team is now preparing for an upcoming competition at Knott's Berry Farm.

"The competition is going to be challenging," said Nathan, "but I think that we have a good chance of winning first again."

Poly is Provisional

[From Pilot, front page]

visits to the Ninth and Tenth Grade Centers followed by meetings with students and teachers in the SLC offices in room 95 and a meeting with Poly's Design Team.

"We had three or four people meeting us at the Ninth Grade Center where we talked with staff and some officers on the ninth grade council," said Bennett. "Instead of going to the Tenth Grade Center, we had the Tenth Grade Center people meet us in room 95 and we split up into groups."

Each Steering Committee person sat at different table. The Committee wanted to get a feel for the school by interviewing students.

Leadership students, SLC coordinators, department leads, student body president Crystal Garcia and three of Poly's parent leaders had a final meeting in room 61.

"I think they saw we were all on the same page," Bennett said.

The Pilot

Bennett said the benefits of going Pilot are many.

"The Pilot will allow us to have a lot of autonomy, a lot of independence.

"It's going to allow us, as we transition to the common core, to develop our own curricular units instead of relying on the district and being required to teach with what

the district gives us.

"With increased funding, we will be able to compliment the small learning communities that we have to develop career pathways for our kids.

"We hope to add sections specifically related to preparation for stuff like the SATs.

"We'll be hiring more teachers so more electives are available in grades 11 and 12 that focus on careers of high interest and high engagement for our students."

Who's the boss?

Most Pilot schools are new and small and receive intensive support.

But Bennett hopes Poly's support unit, currently Educational Service Center North, won't change.

"The District has to decide, but we're going to request that we remain with the support people we have so my direct boss and operational person won't change."

My understanding is the budget office downtown has already been notified that Poly is going Pilot.

The balanced traditional calendar

"In the short term, we're going to remain on the calendar we're on," Bennett said, "because if we were to go balanced traditional calendar again, we would have to fund it."

Bungalows Gone

[From Disappearing, front page]

Some areas remain fenced off until blacktop repair is completed this summer.

The eight-year old Ninth Grade Center administration building, which was permanently installed, will be demolished in April. The adjacent bungalow classrooms, built with temporary foundations, will be removed and relocated, also in April.

"Measure Q was a past school construction bond with the objective of bringing the old schools up to the standard of new schools.

"The District developed a master plan for each existing high school, addressing the school's needs and preferences," said Bennett. "Each master plan has three phases based on how much money is available."

Poly's phase one plan includes redoing the

athletic facilities – baseball, softball, football and track.

Phase two will feature a hi-tech two story classroom building and a swimming pool is part of phase three.

"Former principal Gerardo Loera requested a competitive high school swimming pool be built in the Freshman Center area in phase three of the Measure Q Bond project," Bennett said. "However, we don't know if phase three will be funded or not."

Poly's tennis courts have cracks and are currently unuseable. Poly's boys tennis team is playing all games on the road.

"We plan to completely resurface the tennis courts instead of having them patched," said Bennett.

Work on the tennis courts should begin this month.

Cheer in Vegas

[From Cheer, front page]

the \$2,500 entrance fee, hotel accommodations, meals and transportation costs.

"The trip was totally worth the expense," said Medina. "We spent three days together. We all grew even more as a team and got even closer."

The competition was Friday from 7am - 1pm., with an award ceremony after the competition.

Twenty-five students, including 16 female and seven male cheerleaders, and two equipment personnel made the trip, along with Garcia, assistant coaches Louis Lucio and Tamara Wenn and six parents.

"I think the boys helped us get a better score because of their strength," said Medina.

The group traveled in three rented vans, leaving Thursday morning and returning Saturday evening.

"The parents came along with us everywhere as chaperones," Medina said.

Cheer qualified in November at Magic Mountain for the Vegas competition.

"Poly could win the event next year," Garcia said.

Peer Talk

[See Peer, front page]

"In the spring, we will provide forms for people to refer themselves to peer mediation. We're also talking to counselors and deans right now about how we're actually going to hold the peer mediation, what time of the day. Usually, it's a about an hour conversation."

"If you think you can't work something out by talking to someone, peer mediation can help," Sullivan said. "Sometimes another person in the room makes all the difference in the world."

"Communication helps a lot more than fighting – that's the point," said Sullivan.

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MEDIA

MUSIC

A JOYFUL GLOOM

By Lisa Guardado
Staff Writer

Peter Hook and Bernard Sumner formed Joy Division after attending a Sex Pistols show in Manchester in the summer of 1976.

"We were just dead working-class," Hook said, "and had no pretensions."

Ian Curtis, 21 at the time, was a longtime friend of the two and was hired without an audition.

"He had 'hate' written on his jacket in orange fluorescent paint," Hook said. "I liked him immediately."

"I knew he was all right to get on with and that's what we based the whole group on. If we liked someone, they were in," recalled Sumner.

All three were inspired by the rebellious lyrics and attitude of the 70's punk scene.

Drummer Stephen Morris, a young scholar who "dressed like a geography teacher and lived with his overprotective parents," completed the quartet.

Joy Division, who chose Manchester's punk scene instead of London's, joined the ranks of rising punk and postpunk bands like The Cure, The Smiths and The Undertones.

Joy Division, like most young bands, had fights, did shows, took drugs and were surrounded by girls. Then they found manager, Rob Gretton, "a larger-than-life us."

Gretton created an image for the band, instructing them not to speak at interviews.

"He didn't do it to create a mystique around the band but because he thought we were cretins," said Hook. "Absolute genius."

The band refused to explain their lyrics to the press or print the words on lyrics sheets. Curtis told the fanzine Printed Noise, "We haven't got a message really; the lyrics are open to interpretation. They're multidimensional. You can read into them what you like."

Gretton also suggested that Joy Division album covers hide the members' faces or even their names.

Photographs of the group can be found with the members at a distance or to the side. Hook recalled "it was because they were 'a bunch of ugly bastards'."

The band was also discovering their distinct sound.

Hook played the high registers, making the bass a lead melodic sound. Hook said his distinctive style

was the fault of his bass amp, which couldn't handle low notes.

The guys created songs mostly by improvising. Curtis and Gretton pointed out their best riffs and worst.

"Unknown Pleasures" was released in June of 1979.

The album was recorded by Martin Hannett, who added the sound of breaking glass, ominous humming machinery and incidental laughter to the tracks. He also demanded clean and clear "sound separation" not only for individual instruments, but even for individual pieces in their recordings.

"Typically on tracks he considered to be potential singles, he'd get me to play each drum on its own to avoid any bleed-through of sound," said Morris.

"We were focused and relaxed and enjoyed the wonderfulness of being young and in a band," said Hook.

Writer Jon Savage, reviewing the album for Melody Maker, called "Unknown Pleasures" an "opaque manifesto."

"[Leaving] the twentieth century is difficult," Savage wrote. "Most people prefer to go back. Joy Division at least set a course in the present with contrails for the future."

The second album, 1980's "Closer" was produced at London's Briannia Row Studios.

In December of that year, on the ride home from a London show, Curtis suffered a terrible seizure. He was diagnosed with epilepsy and advised to take it slow. Seeing how his condition affected the band's career, Curtis brushed himself off and said he was "okay."

"Instead of getting together and working out how to adapt to our lead singer's epilepsy," he writes, "we buried our heads in the sand, Ian included," Hook said.

The lack of sleep from playing late night shows destabilized Curtis's epilepsy and his seizures were becoming uncontrollable.

Many audience members thought his behavior was part of the show.

"And seized up on the floor, I thought she'd die," she said I've lost control again" Curtis sings in "She's lost Control." The song is said to be Curtis's take on how he felt about his illness, often being unable to control his own body.

Curtis's failing relationship with his wife, Deborah Curtis and his relationship with his mistress, a



Google Image

BANDMATES: (from left) Joy Division members Bernard Sumner (lead guitar), Ian Curtis (vocals), Peter Hook (bass) and Stephen Morris (drums) were part of the post-punk rock scene.

Three decades after the rise and fall of Joy Division, the band's dark and gloomy sound, which Martin Hannett described in 1979 as "dancing music with Gothic overtones," still works.

young Belgian woman named Annik Honoré, were all contributing factors in the progression to his illness.

Deborah Curtis recalled that only with the release of "Closer" did many who were close to the singer realize "his intentions and feelings were all there within the lyrics."

"Now I'm older and wiser, and now I've looked at his lyrics and worked out what a tortured soul he was," Hook said.

In February 1980, Curtis slashed up his arms with a kitchen knife after the band returned from a tour.

The next night, the band played a show.

"We carried on like everything was all right," Hook said.

The other band members later admitted they paid little attention to what Curtis was writing.

"We just thought the songs were sort of sympathetic and more uplifting than depressing. But everyone's got their own opinion," Morris said.

Joy Division then recorded one of their most daunting songs, "Atmosphere." Hook now calls it "Ian's death march."

Early on the morning of May 18 1980, Curtis hanged himself in his kitchen; Deborah Curtis dis-

covered his body when she returned around midday.

Despite their short career, Joy Division's influence is far-reaching.

Joy Division "became the first band in the post-punk movement by ... emphasizing not anger and energy but mood and expression, pointing ahead to the rise of melancholy alternative music in the '80s," said John Bush of Allmusic.

Three decades after the rise and fall of Joy Division, the band's dark and gloomy sound, which Martin Hannett described in 1979 as "dancing music with Gothic overtones," still works.

"Peter Hook's bass carried the melody, Bernard Sumner's guitar left gaps rather than filling up the group's sound with dense riffing, and Steve Morris's drums seemed to circle the rim of a crater."

Artists like U2's Bono and former Red Hot Chili Peppers guitarist John Frusciante acknowledge Joy Division's influence on their own material.

Joy Division only produced two albums, "Unknown Pleasures" and "Closer," and several non-LP singles, including their most known, "Love Will Tear Us Apart".

But the legacy Joy Division created still touches many souls.

FILM

The Element of Surprise

The 2013 Academy Awards hosted by Seth MacFarlane, the creator of "Family Guy", ran smoothly. Many had doubts but MacFarlane proved to be a versatile host, switching from blunt comedian to charming singer and dancer.

By Emily Pintor
Staff Writer

This year's Oscars had the best ratings since 2007 and MacFarlane should get some of the credit. His voice came in handy with an opening of humorous songs and dance numbers that included stars Charlize Theron, Channing Tatum and Joseph Gordon Levitt.

This year's Oscars had a theme, music, and so musical performances galore, from Barbra Streisand to Katherine Zeta Jones. "Dreamgirls" Jennifer Hudson knocked 'em dead.

Adele, winner of multiple Grammys and a Golden Globe, won a Best Song Oscar for "Skyfall," the theme song for the most recent Bond movie. She shared the award with co-songwriter Paul Epworth.

The night's surprise big winner, "Life of Pi," raked in four awards, including director Ang Lee's Best Director statue.

The Oscars wanted nothing to do with "Zero Dark Thirty." Chris Terrio got the Best Adapted Screenplay award for "Argo."

A number of competitive categories with no clear frontrunners kept viewers watching and boosted this year's Oscar ratings.

"Django" received two awards. Austrian actor Christoph Waltz, took home his second Oscar for Best Supporting Actor and Quentin Tarantino won the gold for Best Original Screenplay.

Anne Hathaway's "dream came true" when she won Best Supporting Actress for "Les Misérables" another film largely ignored by the Academy. She graciously accepted the award and praised her fellow nominees and co-star Hugh Jackman.

One award that everyone saw coming was Daniel Day-Lewis' Best Actor nod for "Lincoln." In his acceptance speech, the normally serious Day-Lewis joked that actress Meryl Streep was actually Spielberg's first choice for "Lincoln" and Day-Lewis was going to do "Thatcher." Then he said he talked Spielberg out of making "Lincoln" a musical, a nod to "Les Misérables."

Jennifer Lawrence received "Silver Linings Playbook's" only award, beating out Jessica Chastain for Best Actress. The shocked 22-year old tripped on her way to the stage but laughed it off while accepting her award.

The surprise of the night came when first lady Michelle Obama presented the most anticipated award of the night, Best Picture, live on video from the White House.



Google Image

OSCAR ROYALTY: Best Actor winner Daniel Day-Lewis and Meryl Streep meet the press at this year's Academy Awards.

The Academy, clearly feeling bad for snubbing Ben Affleck in the Best Director category, made amends by giving "Argo" the Best Picture award.

A few speeches were cut short by the "Jaws" theme, but Affleck's wasn't. He held back tears more than once, insisting he wouldn't "hold a grudge" and thanking his wife for her commitment to him and the film.

This year's Oscars ran a marathon three and a half hours but still held viewers' attention better than many previous telecasts. MacFarlane's love it or hate it humor as host, plus plenty of big names and short speeches helped. Most of all, however, the lack of a clear frontrunner in many categories put viewers on the edge of their seats more than once waiting for that envelope to be torn open. And that was entertaining.

SPORTS

Yankees Steal CIF City Final Courtesy of Parrot Missteps

By Amy Ayala
Staff Writer

Poly had the ball to inbound with 1.5 seconds left in the contest and the score even at 51.

"We had an opportunity to take a shot, so we were going to take it," said rookie Parrot varsity coach Alan Woskanian.

But senior Parrot Kirvin Solares threw the basketball in the rafters instead of down the court. Both teams were so surprised that no one went for it when the ball dropped.

Confusion ensued. Then the officials ruled that the ball belonged to Hamilton because it hit a flag hanging from the rafters.

The officials ordered the 1.5 seconds put back on the clock. Hamilton got to inbound under their own basket.

As the red lights around the backboard flashed at the buzzer, Yankee senior Brandon Lewis made a one-foot layup. The scoreboard read 53 Hamilton 51 Poly.

"The moment, I believe, was a bit too big for some of our guys," said Woskanian. "It is my responsibility to prepare them for moments like that."

Yankee fans mobbed the court. It was Hamilton's only lead since early in the second.

Poly was down 8-2, 12-5 and 14-10 to end the first, but Parrot sophomore Cesar Reyes hit four treys to take Poly to halftime up 32-22. Momentum clearly favored the Parrots.

Then came a sloppy third quarter by both teams. Hamilton outscored Poly by a point, 11-10, but Poly missed easy shots time and again. Reyes went scoreless. Those

Poly, Hamilton Out of Playoffs

By Amy Ayala
Staff Writer

The Royal Highlanders of Simi Valley defeated Poly 71-61 in the first round of the CIF State Division III playoffs.

Parrot sophomore Cesar Reyes had 32 points, shooting 7 for 12 on twos and 5 for 12 on threes. Senior Eric Figueroa added 11. Poly shot 40% on the night.

The Parrots had six assist and nine steals, but gave the ball away 13 times. Poly pulled down 27 rebounds, 17 of those on the defensive glass.

The Parrots closed their season 19-10.

The Highlanders (24-8) face Independence (Bakersfield) (33-1) next.

Hamilton, who beat Poly at the buzzer to take the CIF City Championship 53-51, lost 75-58 to Leuzinger (Lawnsdale) (23-8) in the first round of the CIF State Division III playoffs.

The Yankees, down 44-20 at the half, made it respectable by outscoring the Olympians 38-31 in the second half. Yankee senior Jaffery Stillman had 18 points in the losing effort. Hamilton shot 32% for the game.



Photo Courtesy of David Simms

UP, UP AND AWAY: Poly sophomore Cesar Reyes drives for a layup.

mistakes would prove costly for the Parrots.

Things got worse for Poly in the fourth. Turnovers and hesitation let the Yankees back in the game.

"Hamilton began playing at a higher level of intensity that Poly did not match," Woskanian said.

The lead dwindled. A couple of questionable calls from the officials benefited Hamilton.

"Everything was going our way until the final minutes of the game," said Woskanian. "We lost composure in the last two minutes."

Reyes fouled out with a minute to go, but by then Poly's offense was totally out of sync and the Parrots were trying to protect their lead rather than attack the basket.

Hamilton outscored Poly 20-9 in the fourth, and executed when the shot was critical. The basket to tie the game at 51 was also a one-foot layup.

Reyes scored five points in the fourth and 23 on the night, while the Yankees (16-14) got a combined 25 points from seniors Kris Berry and Patrick Ebohon.

For Poly (19-9), the loss was a disappointing end to a dazzling season that saw the Parrots tie for first in league and end Grant's 39-game win streak before moving fairly easily through the playoffs.

"This was a tough way to lose," Woskanian said. "It's never fun to have a good game like this end that way."

Knights Trample Poly 8-1

By Octavio Tapia
Staff Writer

Knights senior pitcher Eddie Muhl handcuffed Parrot batters Saturday on the way to a 8-1 complete game win, striking out six and allowing just two hits. Despite hitting four batters, Muhl used just 89 pitches.

Poly senior pitcher Felipe Hernandez took the loss for the Parrots, pitching four innings and giving up seven runs. Senior pitcher Oscar Romo finished the contest, giving up one run and three hits.

Notre Dame sophomore second baseman Jake Hirubayashi led the Notre Dame offense with two doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored. The Knights got their eight runs on seven hits.

Hirubayashi doubled to open the game and scored on a wild pitch. Senior JJ Muno walked and then scored on a sacrifice.

In the second, a bases-loaded walk to Hirubayashi forced in senior Kenion Barton from third to put the Knights up 3-0. Notre Dame picked up two more runs on another bases-loaded walk and a sacrifice, giving them a commanding 5-0 lead.

Senior Alex George led off the bottom of the inning with a single and later scored Poly's only run when junior center fielder David Reyes was hit by a pitch, forcing in George from third.

Poly had two on with two out in the bottom of the seventh, down 8-1, but Reyes struck out to end the game and give Poly their first loss in pre-season play.

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Lady Parrots Out in Second Round

By Amy Ayala
Staff Writer

Reseda ousted the Lady Parrots 62-33 Wednesday in the second round of the CIF playoffs.

"Reseda came out firing," said Parrot veteran head coach Tremeka Batiste. "I think my girls got nervous."

The Regents 6'3" Ahlisha Henderson dominated the game, scoring 25 points and pulling down 31 rebounds. Henderson also had five blocks.

"Reseda's big was left alone to rebound for the majority of the game," said Batiste.

Sophomore Bella Lopez led the Lady Parrots with 15 points

Reseda was up 32-16 at the half.

"I told my team at halftime that Reseda's big girl had more rebounds than us combined," said Batiste.

But Reseda outplayed Poly all night.

"My team didn't give up in the second half," Batiste said. "The girls simply didn't box out."

Poly was outrebounded 42-17,

the majority by Henderson.

Batiste said the team didn't execute the game plan – shut down Henderson and force the other Reseda players to score.

"My bigs didn't seem to understand their roles," Batiste said. "The game plan was not followed and we lost as a result."

Poly played tentative as the Reseda lead grew.

"I needed more people to shoot," said Batiste, "but some of the girls passed up open shots."

Building confidence will be a key goal for next year, Batiste said.

"I have to work with my bigs more so they can have the confidence they need to play against any one, any size," said Batiste.

Batiste also addressed her need for a leader on the court, "I also need my point guard to lead the team on the court, be it calling plays, shooting, or calming everyone down."

The Lady Parrots ended the season 7-5.

"We had a much better season than last season, but it wasn't as good as it could have been," said Batiste.



Photo Courtesy of David Simms

WINDUP: Parrot sophomore Priscilla Loredo gave up eight hits in the loss.

Wild Finish in 4-3 Loss at Birmingham

By Felicia Rodriguez
Staff Writer

A wild pitch from Poly senior Monica Mendoza allowed Patriot sophomore outfielder Michelle Javier to score the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning and give Birmingham a 4-3 victory.

"You guys played like it was a playoff game," said veteran Parrot head coach Manny Peralta, "so don't be sad and cry, because I'm proud of you guys."

Lady Parrot sophomore Priscilla Loredo took the loss, giving up three runs on eight hits and walking three in six and a third innings.

Birmingham scored first, using a double to left from junior Jessica Moreno to go up 1-0 in the third.

Poly tied the game in the top of the fifth when junior Alexis Sefarin got a lead off double and later scored on an error by Patriots senior Vanessa Acosta in the top of the fifth.

The Parrots picked up two more runs in the 6th inning on back-to-back doubles from Loredo and sophomore Desiree Ibarra. Loredo later scored on an error by Birmingham junior Leslie Ramirez to put Poly up 3-1.

But Birmingham loaded the bases in the bottom of the seventh and Patriots sophomore Michelle Javier hit a double to right center, driving in two runs and tying the game at 3-3.

That set up the game for Javier's steal and slide at the plate.

"Defense we got it. Hitting we got it," Serafin said. "But the mentality of our players is what controls how we play. Cruise mode won't win us a game."

Poly (2-4) plays Taft (3-2) Wednesday. Birmingham (3-2) will play March 25-26 in the Charter Tournament at Las Vegas.