

The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. XCVIII, No. 10

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MAY 2013

Grant Gets Kids Books

Magnet English teacher Michelle Mitchell is the Santa Claus of books.

By Walter Linares
Staff Writer

Magnet English teacher Michelle Mitchell received a \$5000 grant from Pepsi to buy books for kids. 80% went to books, 5% to bags and tags for the books and 15% to administrative costs.

"Pepsi provided me with a Visa card," said Mitchell. "Most of the books were bought at Borders and Amazon. I bought them within a few weeks of getting the Visa. I was given the money in two installments of \$2500 each."

Mitchell provided Pepsi with a report on how and where the money was spent and who received the books.

"I had to write several impact letters on the effects for the communities," said Mitchell. "I also provided Pepsi with pictures of the book distributions and letters from volunteers."

Mitchell had student volunteers and adults from her church locate children in need of books. The distribution was over a two-year period.

"We also received several donations of books from Poly students and teachers," Mitchell said.

Mitchell worked with elementary bilingual teacher Tina Ricketts. Ricketts has worked in the Riverside Unified School district for over 30 years specializing in literacy. Ricketts donated books and helped chose books with the grant money.

"We mostly contacted school principals at schools with low-income students and asked if they had students who needed books in their homes," Mitchell said. "Most responded yes and from there we worked with teachers in grades K-6 to determine reading levels and the needs of the students."

Ricketts enlisted the help of her husband and daughter to distribute the books. Ricketts also sat with the students and read a few pages with them. Students were extremely happy to receive the books because they did not have books in their homes.

All of the students selected to receive books were from low income families. Most of the students came

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Photo by Lirio Alberto

FUNNY BONE: Evil witch Evilene has a laugh during the drama's dept's staging of 1975's 'The Wiz.' Read the OPTIMIST review on page 3.

Teachers Recognized

History teacher Chante Calzada and her CSF class know how to throw a party

By Mayra Benitez
Staff Writer

Excerpts from "The Wiz,"

an "apple tower," cupcakes topped with cupcakes, ladles of mashed potatoes, corn and chicken, salad and fruit, and a personalized heart for every teacher on campus, this year's Poly Teacher Appreciation luncheon was a sight to behold.

"Thank you Poly teachers for working so hard to make a difference for our students," Parrot Principal Ari Bennett told the assembled scholars. "You are the best team a principal could hope to have."

The luncheon was organized by History teacher Chante Calzada and the California Scholarship Federation (CSF) students.

"This was all student-driven," Calzada said. "We started to prepare for this about three months ago. We met every Wednesday for three months."

Some 25 CSF members brainstormed over ideas.

"All the ideas came from the students, from the decorations to the food to the entertainment to the cards the teachers received," Calzada said.

Calzada cited four CSF members in particular - Katherine Pozada volunteered 29 hours, Bernice De La Cruz, 24 hours and Tatiana and Tiffany Avenaoff, 20 hours.

"The students had the vision," Calzada said. "CSF recruited all the other clubs and students organizations to help make that vision happen and make the event possible."

[See Teachers, pg 6]

Scholars Honored at Senior Awards

By Lisa Guardado
Staff Writer

This year's Senior Awards Night recognized seniors who have excelled academically or have performed service to the school. Nearly 1000 parents, family and friends attended the ceremony held Thursday evening in the auditorium.

Each Poly department is given an opportunity to nominate students for a top award trophy and a certificate of recognition. In addition, students are recognized who have received scholarships from former Poly alumni who have donated money to help future Poly students attend college.

Special honors were given to Valedictorian Gi-Hun Choi and Salutatorian: Alejandro Garcia, ranked #1 and #2 academically at Poly.

Students with GPAs of 4.0 and above will graduate Summa Cum Laude and were also honored. They included Gi-Hun Choi, Alejandro Garcia, Valentina De La Rosa, Jae-Young Choi, Asher Jeong, Woo Ree Kim, Daniel Larin, Maureen Kang, Itzel Martinez, Fernando

[See Senior, pg 6]

Threat Forces Poly Lockdown

A worried mother's call put the Freshman Center in full lockdown mode during Thursday morning's CST testing.

By Yenifer Rodriguez
Editor in Chief

A Parrot freshman is in custody following his alleged threat of violence to the Freshman Center on Thursday, April 28 during the last day of CST testing.

"At 8:11 am, a mother called saying 'I'm very worried, there's a threat,'" said Freshman Center instructional specialist Lourdes DeSantiago. "Whenever we hear there's a threat to the school and the students, we have to take it seriously."

Poly Principal Ari Bennett was immediately informed of the threat by DeSantiago and Bennett put the Freshman Center on lockdown.

Bennett put Poly's main campus on perimeter lockdown at the same time. A perimeter lockdown means no one is allowed in to or off of the campus, but students are allowed to go to class and use restrooms.

Freshman Center coordinator Kirk Jeppson called campus police, who arrived at the Freshman Center campus, along with Bennett, at approximately 8:23 am.

"Our protocol is to notify school police," said Bennett. "School police notified LAPD. I contacted ESC North and they sent people to support us."

"I mobilized all my staff immediately and placed them in different areas that needed to be covered and

we made the call to Freshman Center teachers," said DeSantiago.

Freshman Center security personnel include DeSantiago, Jeppson, dean Gabe Cerna and security aide Angie. History teacher Juan Campos also serves as a dean for the second part of the day

DeSantiago confirmed that the student who allegedly made the threat was never on campus.

[See Frosh, pg 6]

Parrots At SLC Fair

By Yesenia Carretero
Staff Writer

The Poly Tenth Grade Center held its annual SLC Fair Wednesday in the Science Building. All Parrot sophomores were invited to view presentations and make choices about which SLC best fit their needs.

Poly's three upper level SLCs are HABIT (Hospitality, Agriculture, Business, Industry and Technology), FAME (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment) and Sports/EHS (Education & Human Services).

Below are summaries of what students saw and heard from various presenters.

HABIT (Room 44)

HABIT coordinator Chi-Sun Chang introduced each station.

Hospitality (Urciola, Higgins) - Cooking class seniors Melissa Montes and Cyrus Pozos handed out cupcakes, explained what happens in the class and recruited students with a sign-up sheet for the club and the class.

Agriculture (Colon) - sophomore Marciela Cortes, seniors Giovanni Diaz and Rosa Martinez and junior Michael Mendoza said students make flower arrangements, clean outdoors two days a week and collect bugs.

Business (D. Lewis) - sophomores Janette Rodriguez, Ruby Ruiz, and Erika Padilla told students "it's easy to start a business but to maintain it is a lot of work."

Industry - Chang talked about Lamos's woodshop class.

Technology (Rios) - junior Hayk

[See Students, pg 6]



Photo By Lirio Alberto

She Gets Carried Away

Lucky Prom King and his lovely Queen carry on.

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Photo by Lirio Alberto

Parrots Down Dons Twice

Romo hurls shutout in 1-0 Parrot road win.

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Don't Take Mom for Granted

Mother's Day is a day to thank your mother for everything she has done for you.

Most teens are so distracted by the opposite sex, prom, Facebook and daily high school "drama" that we forget the real reason why we're even here wasting our good time.

Our mothers.

Too many of us take our mothers for granted.

I had a dog named Clementine since the fifth grade. She died last October from a stomach virus. I always took my dog for granted, never playing when she wanted to play, never walking her when she wanted to walk. When she passed, I felt horrible. I know I could have and should have done more for her.

It made me think of all the other people in my life I constantly take for granted, like my parents.

God forbid anything happens to them, but I know my par-

ents' time will come too, just like it did for Clementine. I don't want to live with the horrible regret that I didn't do all I could have for them.

So this Mother's Day, show your mother how much you truly care for her.

If you're like me and have trouble expressing your feelings, just write her a letter, put it in the mail box and address it to "Mom."

You know you wrote it and your mom will know you wrote it. She'll get the message, even if it isn't you talking directly to her.

For those of you who don't see your mother at all, remember that wherever she is, she still thinks of you and loves you.

And starting this Mothers Day, stop taking your mother for granted.

Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda

A kindergarten classmate once told me that Einstein didn't read but he was still smart. With that simple example, he convinced the whole class that reading was "stupid" and unnecessary.

At the time, I didn't know if he was right or not. But I totally disagreed with him, arguing that books did make people smart.

Yet my Judy Blumes lay unread while I watched hours of Cartoon Network during my free time.

Now all that wasted TV time has come back to haunt me. I can't read books like I want to now. I want to be able to finish a book within a day of discovering it but I'm a slow reader and very prone to distractions.

I feel limited in talking and writing because I don't know the right words to truly express myself.

So I wonder how today's kids will feel when they grow up? In my case, the harm came not from my lack of reading but rather my hours spent on non-thinking activities.

Today's lack of interest in reading and great literature has

much to do with the overwhelming increase in mind-numbing and temporarily amusing activities.

How many kids play outside nowadays? A handful. Most spend their Saturdays at home surfing the Net or watching something on television.

Today's third graders are experts on YouTube and Instagram. How sad and lonely is that? Real-life fun is healthy, not the virtual version.

The flow of ideas contained in books never stops. It nurtures the mind with new ideas and information.

But we have become a generation that does not take advantage of this overflow of information.

As the nation's literacy rates fall ever faster, what books make the bestseller lists? "Fifty Shades of Grey."

Where is our nation headed if we can't get knowledge from books?

I don't know, but I plan to start a new book today. Maybe you should too.

Drink Up the Culture

The sights and sounds of ignorance return every May 5. Mariachi music blasting away, tequila from tio Juan and beer-sponsored girls with crop tops and short tights – that's Cinco de Mayo in the U.S. Just another holiday that justifies getting drunk.

But do people actually know why or what they're celebrating? Nope. Ask anyone you know, Mexican or not, and their answer will be either 'I dunno' or 'Mexico's Independence Day.'

Cinco de Mayo is not Mexico's Independence Day. That day is September 16. Cinco de Mayo is the celebration of General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín's 1875 victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla.

The victory was significant because 4,000 Mexican soldiers bested a much larger and better-equipped French army of 8,000. The French had not been defeated for almost 50 years. And it only took us 29 tries to do it.

Sounds like a legitimate reason to celebrate, right? Wrong. We beat the French in one battle out of 30 and then went back to losing the next day, May 6.

According to an article by Paul Rodriguez, the celebration of Cinco de Mayo was an "offspring of the Chicano studies

programs that were established by the Cal State LA faculty in the late 1960s." The idea was to introduce Mexican heritage and culture into California classroom curriculums.

But the logical day of choice, Mexican Independence Day, fell during the same week that the fall school year started. A September 16 celebration wouldn't have given teachers enough time to prepare their class lessons. Hence May 5, the next best choice.

The purpose of the event was to share the beauty of Mexican cultural arts.

The real way to celebrate Cinco de Mayo? Throw on a sombrero and Mexican-colored poncho, shake your maracas to the Mariachi music, watch the young Folklorico girls dance and enjoy a lunch of festive, homemade tamales.

Instead, we use Cinco de Mayo as a national keg party with food from Taco Bell, El Pollo Loco and McDonalds, Latinos vomiting Jose Cuervos while drinking Corona and cops dispersing crowds while looking for wasted undocumented Mexicans.

So please, next year do something more cultural than drink mas y mas cervezas. Drink up the culture instead.



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OH WHAT A NIGHT

Poly's vaunted Drama dept has a hit on its hands with "The Wiz." Sounds good too.

By Christine Maralit

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QUEEN FOR A NIGHT

She may be a recent arrival, but Prom Queen Girlie Encarnado already knows her American politics.

By Christine Maralit

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PREP TIME

Prom King Jasson Soto didn't leave anything to chance in preparing for prom. That's why he's the king.

By Christine Maralit

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GET SERIOUS

Parrots intent on gaining entry to the college of their choice know loading up on AP courses is the way to get there.

By Adrianna Garcia

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KNOW YOUR CUPCAKES

Love me, love my cupcakes says baking teacher Ellen Urciola. Her classroom smells great and you can eat your homework.

By Mayra Benitez

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NEW AND IMPROVED

Like it or not, the Strokes are moving on. Their new album has upset some fans and energized others. Who are you?

By Adrianna Garcia

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INK-STAINED WRETCH

Before there was Rolling Stone there was Crawdaddy and founder/father of rock reviews Paul Willams. Long live rock.

By Christine Maralit

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THE BOURDAIN TREATMENT

That toothy grin and devil-may-care swagger belong to world traveler Anthony Bourdain, who visited K-town recently.

By Maureen Kang

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REVENGE IS SWEET

Lady Parrots spotted Grant five runs too many in game one, then scored five of their own early in a 7-4 game two win.

By Danny Lopez

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GOING BATTY

Poly's baseball boys moved to the top of the league with a pair of wins over Verdugo. Romo blanked the Dons in game two.

By Dalia Marquez

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JUMP FOR CHOI

Parrot junior Jae Choi vanquished nearly everyone this year, leading head coach Brian Block's tennis team to a 9-5, 6-2 season.

By Alfredo Quezada

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LEARNING CURVES

It ain't rocket science, says rookie boys volleyball coach Sina Aghassy. The more we play together, the better we get.

By Alfredo Quezada



the
OPTIMIST

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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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.

THEATRE

GREAT PERFORMANCES MAKE “The Wiz” A HIT

By Christine Maralit
Staff Writer



Photo by Lirio Alberto

CAST: (from left) Senior Karen De Leon (tornado), sophomore Zein Delgado (Tinman), junior Raphael Arias, senior Alexis Campos (Scarecrow), junior Lillian Valencia (Dorothy) and junior Crystal Cruz (Lion) starred in ‘The Wiz,’ an urbanized update of L. Frank Baum’s original story.

POLY DRAMA’S WELL-PREPARED CAST “EASED ON DOWN THE ROAD” SATURDAY NIGHT IN “THE WIZ,” AN URBANIZED VERSION OF THE L. FRANK BAUM CLASSIC “THE WIZARD OF OZ.”

“The Wiz” was a 1975 Broadway musical that gave the familiar story of Dorothy and her journey down the yellow brick road a modern, street-wise angle. A 1978 film version featured Diana Ross as Dorothy and Michael Jackson as the Scarecrow.

Great punch lines and plenty of physical stunts gave Poly’s production just the right comedic tone.

Convincing body language told the story when muffled lyrics didn’t. And colorful backdrops, green-themed props and well-choreographed dancing added extra energy.

Nobody does Michael Jackson better than senior Alexis Campos. As the Scarecrow, he had a nice vocal with “You Can’t Win.”

Also strong was junior Crystal Cruz, who sang “(I’m a) Mean Ole Lion” with plenty of R & B roar.

Sophomore Zein Delgado played Tinman with rusty realism and creaky moves. His “Slide Some Oil to Me” was a solid performance.

Dorothy was junior Lillian Valencia, who did a duet with Cruz on “Be a Lion” and closed the show with the uplifting “Soon as I Get Home.” Her husky voice made the songs her own.

Valencia and Campos teamed up for the production’s signature number, “Ease on Down the Road,” throughout the musical.

Sophomore Audrianna Wilson’s Addarperle was just right on “He’s the Wiz,” Munchkins by her side.

The Wiz was sophomore Johnathan Juarroz. He ended “So You Wanted to Meet the Wizard” with some creative visual effects, including a magic wand filled with green confetti that surprised the audience.

Senior Nohemi Farijas as Eviline had plenty of volume on a convincing “No Bad News,” making a mic unnecessary.

Some mixing problems kept sophomore Jenny Martinez’s vocals on “Believe in Yourself” lower than the backing tracks, creating mostly an instrumental.

But a talented Andrea Moran danced with both street cred and style in a hip-hop interlude in Act II that went over well. Campos added some vintage Michael Jackson moves.

Cruz’s Lion wasn’t so cowardly as she “pawed” four male “poppies” during the “Ring My Bell” sequence.

The stage sets covered the basics: a yellow brick road, stair steps for the Wiz and an arched doorway for the Gate Keeper (Araxi Derderium) to peek through.

For the first time in a long time, the auditorium’s sound system gave the cast the tools they needed to be effective.

Charlie Smalls wrote the music and lyrics and William F. Brown did the book.

Drama’s Katy Groskin and KYDS’ Ciji Mitchell directed the Poly production.

Evening performances were Friday and Saturday at 7 pm. Previews for students and a Saturday matinee were also included.

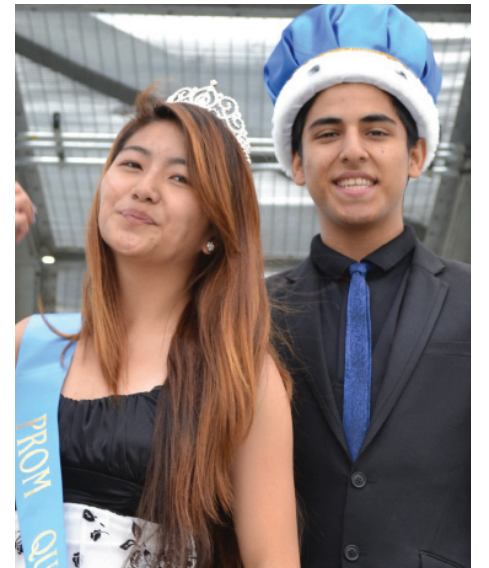
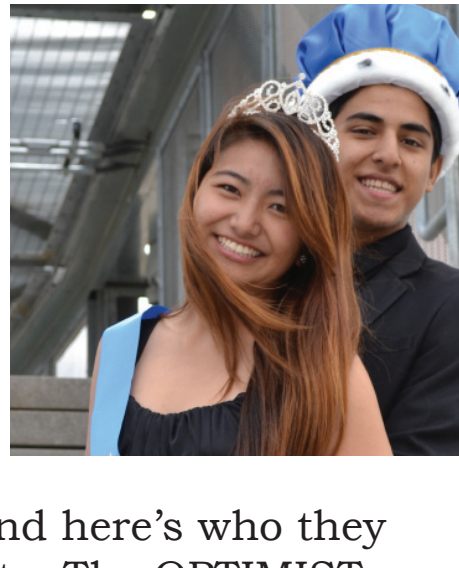
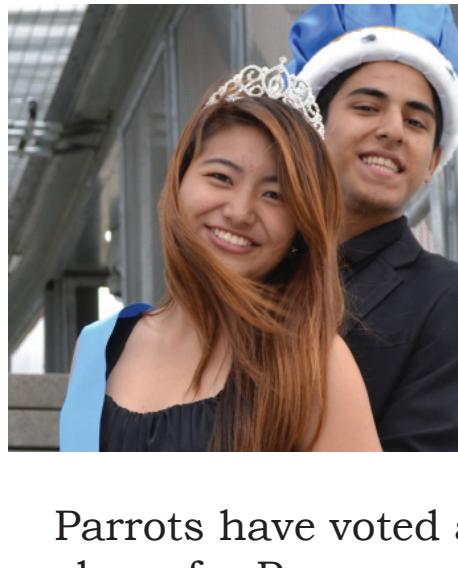


Photo by Lirio Alberto

HAVE A HEART: Sophomore Zein Delgado as the Tin Man in the Drama dept’s production of “The Wiz,” directed by Katy Groskin and Ciji Campbell.

“NOBODY DOES MICHAEL JACKSON BETTER THAN SENIOR ALEXIS CAMPOS. AS THE SCARECROW, HE HAD A NICE VOCAL WITH “YOU CAN’T WIN.” ”

SENIORS



Parrots have voted and here's who they chose for Prom royalty. The OPTIMIST spoke to Prom Queen Girlie Encarnado and Prom King Jasson Soto about their rugged campaign. Here's what they said.

By Christine Maralit
Staff Writer

GIRLIE TALK Girlie Encarnado is the Queen of the prom.

I didn't want to go to prom. Then things just started working out two weeks before prom and then Mr. Le Clair and Ms. H convinced me to go so I went and then I decided to run cause my friends were like, "You should run!" like that, and I was like, "Okay." And I wasn't expecting to win.

The day before prom, I kinda started telling everyone that I was running but I didn't wanna be all out cause I was embarrassed, I wasn't really into it. I just thought I should run. And then the day before prom, everyone was posting pictures on facebook, instagram, and stuff so I was like, I should tell people, might as well. Then I started texting them and stuff and uhm, yeah, and then I got to tell them to vote for me. And my date Mukund Prajapati also helped me out.

Most of my friends actually didn't get to vote because I really wasn't into it.

When they were announcing the names [of the prom king and queen], I wasn't there cause I was going somewhere else. I wasn't into it and then they called me. By the time that they announced it, I was dancing and I was really sweaty. I went to the restroom and was planning to take pictures downstairs or somewhere there and Lorena or Mr. Lee called me like, "You gotta go there, they're announcing prom queen!" I was pretty sure they knew it was me. And then I went there and stood on the stage.

I was planning to bust out a "Mean Girls"--crack the crown and everything but uhm, I was really happy and right after the awarding I went straight to call my mom. "Mom, mom! I won prom queen!" "You ran?" She didn't even know. I didn't get to take pictures but I was really happy.

I got a crown and a sash. But also like, you're going to carry

it [becoming a senior prom queen] all through your life, you know? I was prom queen in high school. Like, I barely came here 10th grade so like, you wouldn't imagine someone who just came to the country to be able to win prom queen and be known like that.

I've been in basketball, almost all the clubs, play production in 10th grade, academic decathlon, NHS, CSF and Leadership.

I'm going to Cal State Fullerton and majoring in Economics-- accounting.

In five years I see myself in a huge company. I have my own cubical, working by myself-- cause I like that, working by myself. You know, one of those office types and you're just there working and yeah, I like that. I imagine myself like that, and going to places.

Jasson Soto is flying high as King of the prom. He's the King

I wanted to become Homecoming king and then the plan was for my brother to be prom king but that didn't happen so I really wanted to be a king somewhere, you know.

My twin brother Kevin Soto and another twin, Favin Flores, also ran for prom king. Kevin is the older one, but he's shorter and I'm taller. We're fraternal twins. We're a minute apart. My mom had a C-section or whatever that's called.

I believe election was friendly but competitive. Like, I know there was no more than ten [votes difference] for each of us. Like, Favin probably lost by ten and then Kevin probably lost by five or ten as well. It was close, it was really tight, I know it.

To be a prom king candidate, you had to have good grades, a 3.0 and above. And you had to attach your transcript with the application and you couldn't have any D's, F's, or U's cause it should actually show that you're committed to your academics and stuff, so you had to be academically driven to be prom king.

I wanted to run with my best friend Joanna, because we couldn't go as a date. So our strategy was like, I'd get the comprehensive school and she'd get the magnet to vote for us, yeah. That was our strategy.

My date was Diana Perez.

A lot of people were happy to see me win, including my brother, he was happy for me. I saw a video today and he was happy, yeah.

The moment I was crowned as king, I wanted to cry-- not really, no. It felt good, because I really thought my brother was going to win. So uhm, when they said Jasson, I was like, "What!" I was excited, I was just very excited, uhm, just a lot of mixed emotions were going through me.

I wanted to do a speech but they didn't give me the mic. I would've wanted to though.

To be prom king, I think you'd have to be friendly, well-known, liked, you had to be smart, academically driven like I said before, uhm, and just show that you care for your school. I really love Poly.

It took me like a month to prepare for prom because I just had to make sure I wasn't doing anything last minute. So I just made sure I had my tux, I had my shoes, I had my socks-- like from head to toe I made sure that everything was good. On the day of prom, it was actually a crazy day because I had a compe-

tion the morning of prom at Six Flags. After that I just left and rushed out and went to prom so it was a crazy day for me but it was exciting.

I loved prom. I wish I could do it all over again. I loved the food, I loved the dessert.

I went straight home after prom and went to sleep because I had a drill team competition the next day. It was a busy weekend for me, to say the least.

I'm drill team captain and I'm in an independent volleyball team outside of school. And I'm senior class president. I'm also involved a lot in the college office. When people come in, I help them.

I plan to attend San Francisco State and major in Poly Sci and Business.

In five years, I see myself graduating from San Francisco State with my bachelors in Business or Poly Sci, depending on which one I finally decide to do. And hopefully going to graduate school and going to an Ivy League school.

ACADEMICS

More Pain, More Gain

Poly's AP Program offers Parrots a better chance at the college of their choice. The tradeoff is more time and more effort getting there.



Photo by Lirio Alberto

SHE'S IN CHARGE: Coordinator Irene Maliwan runs Poly's AP program.

The Numbers

Twenty Poly teachers, 10 of them magnet, teach 16 AP courses each year. LAUSD offers 33.

Of approximately 500 Parrots enrolled in AP courses, 268 of 2,580 (10%) are comprehensive students and 230 of 400 (51%) are magnet students. These students will take

approximately 800 AP exams in May.

Last year, 39% of comprehensive students passed the AP exams with a 3 or higher, while 51% of magnet students passed with a 3 or higher.

The Exam

The AP Exam is scored from 1-5, while students receive a traditional letter grade for the class

A student who passes the AP test but not the class can petition his teacher for consideration. Failing the AP test has no affect on the class grade.

Poly students take the \$89 AP test for \$6.

Gifted Coordinator Irene Maliwan has been in charge of Poly's AP program for six years. Maliwan, a Poly alum, has been a faculty member for seven years and teaching for ten years.

Origin

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program began in 1952 and featured courses in eleven disciplines. The concept was to offer college-level courses to high school students. Students passing the AP exams in May would receive college credit for the courses studied.

The College Board, a non-profit organization based in New York City, has run the AP program from the beginning, developing and maintaining guidelines for the teaching of higher level courses in various subject areas.

In 2006, over one million students took over two million Advanced Placement examinations.

Interviews - Students

The OPTIMIST recently interviewed three Parrot sophomores about their experiences with the AP program. Here's what they told us.

BRANDON VUONG

I wish all my classes were AP. Right now I'm just taking European History.

The AP tests are difficult but in the end it comes down to how confident you are in yourself. If you believe you can do well and have reason for doing so, nothing's impossible.

The increased difficulty of the AP exam means increased difficulty in the course in order to make sure that every student is fully prepared and capable of doing the best they can on the exam.

With more information covered compared to other classes, you are bound to learn more than if you take a non-AP version of the class.

Classroom behavior is the same in all classes, AP, Honors and comprehensive because behavior doesn't relate to the course directly. I'm sure a teacher would want his or her class to behave regardless of the course.

The environment feels the same as any other classroom. The students are generally more like-minded in that they want to absorb the material and that makes for a generally better-behaved class.

AP classes help to prepare you for the workload that you can expect to face when you get to college. The knowledge and the basic habituation to the workload are invaluable.

At times the AP class is extremely stressful, especially on the final studying days for the exams. You have to divert a good amount of time to studying.

I pretty much take all my classes seriously because they all matter. The title has nothing to do with value.

In an AP class you basically open yourself to more workload and therefore you need to be more responsible for what is assigned and the studying that you need to do on your own.

The first AP class I took in ninth grade was completely random. I joined the magnet and I was put in an AP class and really didn't care so I went with the flow. After that class, I strove to take more classes in order to better prepare me for colleges in the future.

Colleges like to see AP classes taken throughout high school, so I guess I will be taking more.

EMILY PINTOR

The AP curriculum is a lot harder than a regular class. I have all honors classes and they don't even come close to the work in AP.

But I learn a lot more in the AP class. It's harder work but it gets you thinking. You actually have to think about the questions. There's no simple answer

I don't think the AP teachers teach differently. I think they just go into more detail. They explain the more complex parts of the lesson that they wouldn't normally teach in other classes

AP teachers do everything faster. They care a lot more about the homework and stuff. You can't get away with not doing any work.

The AP classroom environment is louder because the students know everything, so they have discussions and stuff. It's louder, but it's better because everyone knows what they're talking about and you get to hear all these intellectual conversations and share ideas

The kids in AP give serious answers. In regular classes sometimes people just try to be funny, but the kids in AP know what they're talking about, they're more serious

I plan on taking AP courses for the rest of high school, but I don't know if I could handle taking more than like two at a time.

The AP courses are gonna help my transcripts and college applications look good. If colleges see that I've taken AP classes then they'll know that I'm serious about my school and I can handle work at a college level.

I've learned to not procrastinate because there's no time for that in an AP class.

I'm more serious about my AP class because it requires a lot more work. Sometimes the other classes get too easy and I don't feel challenged enough. But with the AP it's different.

AP courses help you become more responsible because you have to learn to get work done on time. They help prepare you for more serious responsibilities later.

I plan to go to NYU and study film and become a badass director after high school

BRYAN ROMERO

I'm currently taking AP European History. I also took AP Psychics my freshman year.

I would like AP computer science to be one of the options that Poly would offer. I'm interested in any classes that involve science and/or math.

The AP curriculum is harder than regular courses because the class has to go into depth and we have to analyze the things in the course.

I have definitely learned more than the normal courses. The teachers expect more from their students and they're more strict on how they grade the students.

I decided to take AP because my counselor is pushing me to take more difficult classes. I want to do more than the average kid.

I am certainly planning on taking at least four more AP courses. Just the ones that I think are useful.

The classrooms are a lot calmer than a regular class. I feel like the kids pay more attention and they're not distracted easily.

The students are a lot more serious inside and outside the classroom.

You have to be on top of all your work to pass the AP course with a good grade. That's going to help me for the rest of my time in school.

I've enjoyed my AP course. The teachers make the classes enjoyable.

The work cuts into my free time, but it's just something you have to deal with.

I take the AP classes more seriously. I spend about two hours a day studying the material for my APs.

I'm doing well this year, but in the ninth grade it was a little harder. I don't think I was ready for it. I'm more serious about it now.

AP courses have made me be more serious in life and become more mature. The courses make people become more responsible if they want to pass the AP test with a high score.

Interviews - Teachers

AP Calculus teacher **Devon Richter** has taught AP Calculus for five years, a Poly faculty member for ten years, and teaching for eleven.

The pass rate for her classes is typically over fifty percent.

Of 32 students in her AP Calculus class, 29 are magnet and three are comprehensive.

"To take this course, a student needs to be hard-working and detail-oriented," said Richter. "They need to have very strong

prerequisite skills. They have to have really strong math skills coming in so they need to know their trig and their graphs. And also willing to try new types of problems and not scared of new problems."

AP Physics Magnet teacher **Jim Schwagle** has taught at Poly since 1989, or 24 years. I started here.

The pass rate for students who take the AP test for his course is usually 30 to 40 percent.

Schwagle has one comprehensive student.

"To be successful in here, a student really needs to be interested in the subject, have a work ethic that allows him to study and the ability to continue working on something even if he doesn't understand it," said Schwagle. "And because of the subject, the student needs to have at least an ability to understand math because math is used a lot in AP physics."

CAMPUS

IT'S ALL GOOD



Find out why Poly's Ellen Urciola has more in her cupboard than a cupcake recipe.

By Mayra Benitez
Staff Writer

Most Parrots know faculty member Ellen Urciola by her cupcakes. But they don't know the half of it.

"I wasn't born to cook," Urciola says. "I actually wanted to become a doctor."

When I was young I worked with my uncle in a restaurant cooking up burgers. That's what made me want to become a cook. I loved cooking up food."

Connecticut-born Urciola went to Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island.

"I was working two jobs and commuting back and forth," Urciola said. "I put in 10 months of school and called it quits. After that I went to cooking school for ten months."

But cooking is more of a hands-on job, so Urciola opened up a restaurant and became a professional chef.

"I owned the Bradley Diner (72 seats) for about three years," Urciola said, "and the Hometown Eatery (84 seats) for about a year."

That's when she met her husband.

"He didn't want anything to do with cooking, so we sold the restaurant and moved to Los Angeles," Urciola said.

Now Urciola is in the kitchen and the classroom. She teaches two English classes at Poly as well as the cooking class, where she puts her business experience to work.

"The first two weeks of class, we teach them how to open and run a business," Urciola said.

Students create a company logo, write a mission statement, do a cost analysis sheet, and learn about sanitation.

And then, of course, they make cupcakes.

"The students prepare the dough, frosting and everything that will be needed to make the cupcakes on a certain day, and they bake on a different day," Urciola says.

The 35-student class makes about 12 dozen cupcakes during the period and about 100 cookies, not to mention the ones they nibble while cooking.

Every Friday, before and after school, the cupcakes, cook-

ies and pizza go on sale to hungry Parrots, teachers and staff included.

"We've been selling food since the beginning of the class three years ago," Urciola says. "This year my pizza boys are very good. They should open up a pizza restaurant, they're that good."

Since the class gets no funding from Poly or LAUSD, selling food pays the bills.

The "Almost Famous Baking Companies of Period Three," as the students named their enterprise, makes about \$120-\$150 per sale.

"We often sell out," Urciola says, "but some weeks we come up short."

Urciola shops for the class about twice a week and spends \$120- \$175 dollars a trip.

"The money for the materials comes out of my pocket and from the baking sales," Urciola says. "Chef Higgins has been very generous with equipment."

Funding aside, Urciola's students learn that cooking isn't as easy as it looks.

"My students ask me 'how come when I cook, it comes out different from when you make it?'" Urciola says.

The answer is simple.

"Cooking is not a talent," Urciola says, "it's something you acquire, like any other craft."

"For example, if you play an instrument, you get a feel for the instrument. And if you like cooking, you get a feel for it. You know by the touch, the smell, the way it looks, if something is not right, and that only comes from experience."

So it's personal, Urciola says.

"My mother hated cooking and she was Italian," Urciola says, "but I never feel like not cooking."

Urciola, who loves Julia Child cookbooks and watches "The Cake Boss" and "Cupcake Wars," says she likes "Boushon" in Santa Monica when she wants to leave the cooking to someone else.

Senior Awards

[From Scholars, front page]

Senior Class President, a silver tassel, a trophy for Social Studies and a peer counseling award.

"I had to write an essay for the scholarship," Soto said. "The prompt was 'what has changed in your life and what has gotten you there?'"

"I didn't expect to win," Soto said. "I knew a lot of people who applied and they are good writers so I mostly did it to try."

Joana Reyes won a \$250 Benjamin Kim and Yang Family Scholarship. She will attend UC Riverside.

"I'll be getting it when I have proof that I've registered for classes," Reyes said.

Organizing the Evening

Veteran College Counselor Leona Warman is in charge of putting together the program each year. The whole process can take up to three months.

"I begin by sending a memo to teachers in each department asking them to choose a student to receive an award," Warman said. "That takes about two weeks."

Parents of students receiving recognition are notified by letter a week before the event and invited to attend.

Students receiving recognition are told the week before.

Poly faculty members announce awards for their students, while Poly Principal Ari Bennett and Assistant Principal Jamille Kenion congratulate the students. A dais of counselors and representatives from Poly's Magnet hand out the trophies, certificates and tassels.

"I get the teachers from each department to attend the ceremony and read the names of each student they nominate," Warman said.

Warman is the last to speak.

"I say that we are very proud of the students' accomplishments," Warman said. I tell the students that they didn't get there alone. There was someone, a teacher, a counselor, or a parent, who helped them along the way."

Students See Fair

[From Parrot, front page]

Grigoryan and senior Juan Silva gave a presentation on a computer powered by a generator the students had built in the class.

Yearbook – Juniors Ashley Vongpradith and Jeanette Gredonia said Yearbook demands a lot of time and responsibility from students but each student gets his own camera.

HABIT Council – Seniors Jose Borjas and Josselyn Lopez and juniors Eva Cruz and Jenny Lopez recruited students and talked about the responsibilities of the council.

FAME (Room 42)

FAME Coordinator Katherine Marzolo talked about drama and showed examples of the work that is done in ceramics. Marzolo also showed a film clip from Drama teacher Katy Groskin's class.

English teacher Jeff Herrold explained that work on the school newspaper, the OPTIMIST, looks good on a student's college applications. Students in the Journalism Department learn how to write for print media, from newspapers to the Internet.

Film Production – Juniors Lillian Valencia, Marcie Celis, Lorena Aguilar, and senior Stantan Carter also talked about the film production class.

EHS / Sports (Room 43)

EHS/Sports Coordinator Kim McEwen introduced each station.

Education and Human Services Psychology – Senior Victor Sanchez showed examples of projects students do in the Psychology class and talked about the terminology of psychology.

EMS teacher Jeremy Sonenschein introduced the class and told everyone about the events EMS students work on the weekends.

Social and Human Services teacher Karen Navarrete presented a slideshow of what her class does for the community.

No Sports presentations were made.

Teachers Week

[From Teachers, front page]

Other groups involved included 10th grade council and Julie Keiper, who did table decorations.

Eleventh grade council and Sarah Rodrigues did posters and 12th grade council with Jerry Lee and Sean King provided fruit.

Newcomers club with Avilene Espinoza and Elva Madrigal did the wall decorations, Cooking club with chefs Robert Higgins and Ellen Urciola prepared food and cupcakes, National Honor Society (NHS) with Eric Thornburg did dessert and the Parent Center and Yesenia Pleitez provided drinks.

Drama teacher Katy Groskin and the cast of "The Wiz" provided entertainment.

In addition, the CSF TA committee did the table plaque recognizing contributors, as well as posters and cards.

Business teacher Chi-Sun Chang's husband's company donated the drinking mugs.

The luncheon menu included salmon sushi appetizers, California rolls stuffed with crab meat, cucumbers and bell peppers, pasta salad, fruit salad and garden salad. Entrees included Marsala chicken breast with mushrooms, mashed potatoes and a confetti corn plate with green and red peppers. Drinks included lemonade and pineapple juice.

"I was so proud and inspired by the phenomenal teacher appreciation luncheon organized by our students and parents," Bennett said. "Thank you to Poly Parent Center and student councils and clubs for co-sponsoring the teacher appreciation luncheon today."

Teacher Appreciation Week events included a number of perks. Teachers received personalized buttons on Monday, invitations to the luncheon with a little chocolate lollipop on Tuesday, Parrot paper bags with mugs inside on Wednesday, a plaque in their mailboxes that says "Keep calm, teach on" on Thursday and breakfast in the morning with pastries and coffee as teachers walked in the main office.

"Why not do something every day, I thought," Calzada said. "It sounded like a task CSF could take on."

Books for Kids

[From Grant, front page]

from Title I schools.

"In my research, I found that most low income children do not have books in their homes," Mitchell said. "The only contact they have with books was at school or in the library. I focused on low income rather than wealthier schools where access to books in the home was higher."

"I hope the books foster a love for reading in children that would not otherwise have access to books at home," Mitchell said. "Studies show that children with books in their homes do better in school academically."

"I had tons of books growing up and believe that it is fundamental to develop a love for reading early on in a child's life. Many children do not have the opportunities to go to a book store and pick out a book they may love. Most reading is done in school and not necessarily for pleasure, which can turn a child off from reading."

"I worked in college with low income elementary students who struggled with reading in 5th and 6th grade, so I have always had a passion for fostering reading in children. All my nieces, nephews and friends' children know that for birthdays and Christmas they will get books from me."

Mitchell submitted outcome reports to Pepsi on the impact of the grant money, but no long term follow-up has been done.

"I would love to work with or develop a study on the significance of early reading," Mitchell said. "In my opinion, it was worth the money, time and manpower to provide something to a child that may benefit them over a lifetime."

Mitchell is currently working with small private donations.

"It would be great to get a larger donation so we can further our work," said Mitchell.

Money to establish a non-profit organization that will benefit local communities by providing books is one option.

"Libraries are great community resources," Mitchell said, "but not all children can get to them, especially younger children whose parents work or are not as involved."

"I remember begging my mom for more books because I would read them

so fast and need another story. Now I don't have as much time to read. The most recent book I've read is "The Great Gatsby" because I teach it every year and the film is coming out on Friday."

Mitchell graduated from CSU San Bernardino with a BA and Cal Poly Pomona with a MA, both in English.

Mitchell went to Jurupa Valley High school in Riverside County and was in the first graduating class.

"I was adopted in the 1970s and it was a closed adoption," Mitchell said. "My birth certificate says Oxnard, but my adoption records say Santa Barbara."

"I was a typical child of the 80s. My sister and I made up games, created tents all around the house out of sheets, played outside a lot."

Mitchell believes reading is important and that kids today substitute technology for reading.

"Don't get me wrong, I love technology," said Mitchell, "but there needs to be a balance. There are too many kids I see who don't read anything unless it is the internet."

Mitchell's organization is ROOTS - Reading Opens Opportunities To Succeed.

Frosh Threat

[From Threat, front page]

The lockdown was lifted at 11:09. Assistant Principal Jamille Kenion was in charge of the Poly campus while Bennett was at the Freshman Center.

Bennett placed an automated phone call to parents regarding the incident and held a meeting at 5 pm to address any parent concerns.

Bennett said four parents picked up their students after receiving the call and approximately 30 parents attended the 5 pm meeting.

Bennett said teacher concerns that a complete lockdown was actually enforced on Poly's campus rather than a perimeter lockdown will be addressed.

"I will debrief with all out-of-the-classroom staff to review the incident and identify ways to improve communication between sites," Bennett said.

MEDIA



The Strokes debut release, “Is This It,” had plenty of attitude. This was a band clearly out to prove something.

The musical ingredients were lead singer Julian Casablancas’ cool, easy vocals and a churning, relentless beat, plus a heavy dose of Bob Marley.

Rolling Stone called the 2001 album a “ragged revolt” against a music industry grown predictable and stale. Before there was Kings of Leon and Arctic Monkeys, there was the Strokes, said RS.

By Adrianna Garcia
Staff Writer

But revolutions move on, and so did the Strokes’ sound. By the time they released “Angles,” their fourth album, the band had moved to a heavy electronic sound that revealed Casablancas’ interest in

80s new wave.

“Comedown Machine,” the Strokes’ latest release, is their most mature and sophisticated album yet. Once again, the band has found new horizons to explore and new ways to get there.

Nor surprisingly, some fans have rejected the band’s latest effort, disappointed in the new direction the band has taken.

“Machine” is a reflective and carefully planned album. The tracks are structurally complex, the lyrics deliberate and world-weary.

Anchored by keyboards and synthesizers, the album’s tracks flow with a smoothness never seen so clearly before in a Strokes production.

Every instrument is part of a whole, every song filled with a thick, lush wall of sound. Albert Hammond Jr. and Nick Valensi’s guitar riffs intertwine endlessly, while brief but notable guitar solos add color to most tracks.

Make no mistake, this is Casablancas’ new vision for The Strokes, including his use of falsetto to add an R & B tone to the proceedings.

But “Machine” is not a complete departure. Much like “Angles,” the new album contains a slight 80s feel, apparent in “One Way Trigger’s” resemblance to A-Ha’s “Take On Me” and opening track “Tap Out.”

Nikolai Fraiture’s subtle bass and Fabrizio Moretti’s steady drumming also remain a constant on the band’s fifth release. “Call it Fate, Call it Karma’s” upbeat acoustic sound is a nod to Moretti’s side project, Little Joy.

Despite the increasingly dominant role played by Casablancas, the band seems comfortable with the new sound, even if some fans aren’t

“We just finished the album and I feel good about it and the atmosphere in the band,” said Fraiture.

The Strokes recorded “Machine” from July to November of last year at Electric Ladyland in New York.

The album fulfills the band’s contract with RCA records, making its plain red cover with “RCA” in huge letters either a fond farewell from the band to the label or a bit of cheeky good riddance.

“Comedown Machine” was released March 26 and debuted at #10 on the Billboard 200.

The Father of Rock Journalism

A young Paul Williams creates the first magazine of rock reviews.

By Christine Maralit
Staff Writer

In the beginning, there was *Crawdaddy*, the first magazine devoted to rock criticism.

“*Crawdaddy* will feature neither pin-ups nor news briefs. The specialty of this magazine is intelligent writing about pop music,” wrote Swarthmore freshman Paul Williams, 17, the magazine’s founder, publisher and sole author.

Williams said his goal was to convey something personal that went beyond typical criticism.

“In writing about rock music, my intention was not to judge the records (like a critic) or report on the scene (like a journalist) but to explore, as an essayist, the experience of listening to certain records and feeling the whole world through them,” Williams wrote.

Williams’ writing style was intimate and honest, making the reader feel involved.

“My form has always been the essay, talking on paper. My subject matter has always been transcendence.”

“As a journalist, Williams set fundamental standards for integrity and dedication. As a writer, Williams never stopped listening. As a listener, he never stopped seeking,” said rock critic David Fricke.

“He was like a friend leaning on your shoulder, saying ‘You should check this out’—and he always had smart reasons,” R.E.M. guitarist Peter Dinklage said

“AS A JOURNALIST, WILLIAMS SET FUNDAMENTAL STANDARDS FOR INTEGRITY AND DEDICATION. AS A WRITER, WILLIAMS NEVER STOPPED LISTENING. AS A LISTENER, HE NEVER STOPPED SEEKING.”

- David Fricke

in an interview. “The passion was always there. You could tell that Paul was someone who wrote about things he actually cared about.”

Crawdaddy’s articles were reviews and analyses of rock ‘n’ roll artists like Bob Dylan, the Young Rascals and the Doors, to name a few.

“I got really excited about ‘Rolling Stones Now!’ and the single ‘The Last Time,’ and the Kinks’ ‘You Really Got Me’ and the Beatles’ ‘Ticket to Ride,’” said Williams. That was 1965.

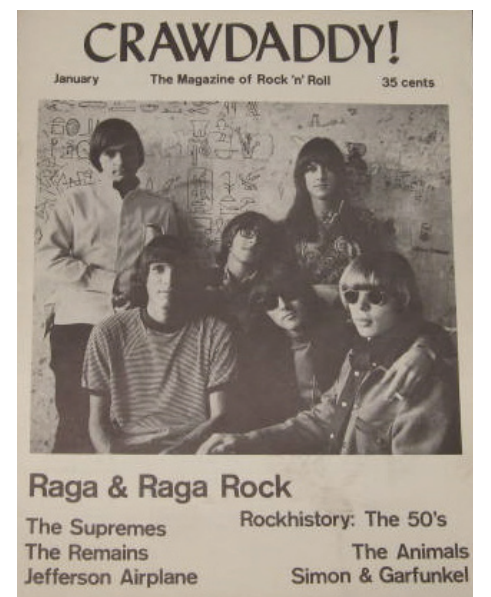
The first issue, produced in Williams’ college dorm room in January 1966, was a one-man-show, with Williams doing the writing, editing, and publishing.

“The total budget for the first issue, including postage, mimeograph stencils, paper, ink, 15-cent subway fares, peanut butter sandwiches and the one album I bought and reviewed (Simon and Garfunkel’s ‘The Sounds of Silence’) was less than 40 dollars,” Williams said.

Before Williams, rock fans had only fanzines and trade publications. Neither offered serious commentary on the music. After Williams, even the *New York Times* got in the act.

Crawdaddy’s audience grew quickly. Within a year, Williams left Swarthmore and moved *Crawdaddy* to a Manhattan office with a fully-equipped staff.

Despite *Crawdaddy*’s massive success, Williams



decided to move on. In 1968, he handed over the magazine to colleague Peter Knobler.

Back then, few realized that Williams had created an icon, or that a generation of renowned rock writers and critics, including Jon Landau, Sandy Perlman, Richard Meltzer and Jann Wenner, would get their start at *Crawdaddy*.

Williams published “Dylan – What Happened?” in 1979, a reflection on the singer’s conversion to born-again Christianity. That same year, he saw Dylan at the Warfield in San Francisco.

After the concert, Williams wrote a masterful review of the songs, Dylan’s singing and the music.

But then why shouldn’t he. Williams was, after all, the father of rock journalism.

Williams passed away on March 27, 2013 in a nursing residence near his home in Encinitas, California at 64.

BOURDAIN SAMPLES KOREATOWN

By Maureen Kang
Staff Writer

HE SMOKES, HE DRINKS, he parties hard, he travels the world and eats anything and everything. He is Anthony Bourdain and he has a sort of weekly cuisines-of-the-world travelogue on CNN in which he is the star, narrator and viewer guide to exotic dishes, local hangouts and the best food in every town he visits.

Bourdain has been all over the world, from Myanmar to Hong Kong, New York to Seattle. So imagine my surprise when I tuned in last week and saw he was in my ‘hood, Koreatown, Los Angeles.

He has been to LA before and hates the city for its traffic and grub.

This time, Bourdain found something he could love, my little three square miles of hometown locals call K-town.

Kogi food trucks founder and chef Roy Choi treated Bourdain to some Korean fusion food served from one of Choi’s Kogi trucks while discussing K-town’s history.

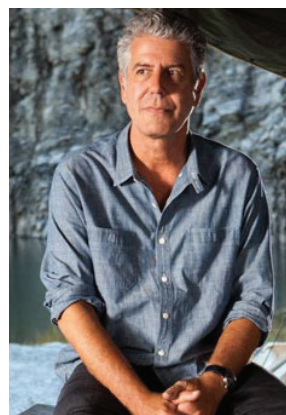
I’m sure those spicy pork tacos made his taste buds dance like they do for me.

Then Bourdain went to one of my favorite places and a Koreatown institution, Dong Il Jang, to dine on fat-marbled beef, thin-sliced rib eye and spicy squid with the traditional side dishes called ban-chan, including kimchi, pickles and preserves.

Neatly dressed waitresses made Bourdain a bok-eum-bab out of the remaining meat on the grill as a sort of dessert, mixing up bowls of rice, different side dishes and sauces and the meat on the grill.

“It makes no damn sense at all,” said Bourdain. “I love it.”

Korean barbecue places are everywhere in K-town. Customers cook different Korean meats on small grills attached to the tables for only ten



to twenty dollars.

Bourdain sampled Korean-style dumplings at Myung In Dumplings and Soon Tofu soup served with beef oysters, mussels, clams and tofu at the Tofu House.

I take my non-Korean friends there for lunch, where a bowl of rice, one small fish, other side dishes and a bowl of scorched rice soup costs next to nothing.

Next up was Filipino fast food from Jollibee, where Bourdain devoured a fried Spam slider, an Aloha Burger and halo-halo for dessert, a mix of red and white beans, chick peas, Jell-O, coconut, shaved ice and flan.

Bourdain called the purple, yellow and green dessert “oddly beautiful.”

Sizzlers, Bourdain learned, holds fond memories for second-generation Korean Americans in K-town. It’s usually the place where Korean families sample

their first American foods like meatball tacos and cheese toast. Bourdain gave it a shot.

Not on Bourdain’s journey was Guelaguetza, one of the best Mexican restaurants in the heart of Koreatown. And any K-town supermarket, spa or nightclub or karaoke would also have been on my recommended list of places to see.

But by and large, Bourdain managed to help himself to a generous sampling of the foods in my part of Los Angeles, Koreatown.

SPORTS

Parrots Play League Leaders

Baseball beats Verdugo twice while softball splits with Grant.

By Danny Lopez
Staff Writer

Poly took the second of a back-to-back with East Valley League leader Grant 7-4 Friday, thanks to a five-run first

inning that included two triples and two doubles.

Grant did nearly the same on Wednesday, putting up five runs in the top of the first at Poly and taking that game 5-2.

"We gave up five runs in the first inning last game and it shocked us," said Parrot head coach Manny Peralta.

Parrot senior Monica Mendoza pitched the win, giving up three runs, six hits and one walk. Reliever Priscilla Loredo gave up the other run.

The Lancers' Myra Valenzuela allowed 14 hits, struck out one and walked one in the loss

"I didn't really do anything different today," said Mendoza.

Coach Peralta did though.

"At practice, I put the speed up on the pitching machine," Peralta said. "Some girls were mad, but I put them in there to hit and that's what they did."

Peralta's pitchers got the first inning rally started. Mendoza doubled and scored on Loredo's triple to deep center. Loredo scored next on a triple from sophomore Desiree Ibarra. Alondra Rodriguez's single scored Ibarra to put Poly up 3-0.

Doubles from juniors Alexis Serafin and Angelique Ramos drove in two more runs to put the



Photo by Cristian Orozco

LADY PARROT: Senior Monica Mendoza.

Lady Parrots up 5-0 after half an inning.

"We played as a team today, which is why we got that big 'W,'" said Loredo.

By Dalia Marquez
Staff Writer

Veteran Parrot senior Oscar Romo (7-1) pitched a three-hit shutout to help Poly win the second game in a row

with Verdugo and move into a first-place tie with the Dons in the East Valley League.

"Oscar Romo has been our most consistent player," said Parrot head coach Gabe Cerna. "He always comes through, always comes through."

Two days earlier, senior Alejandro George allowed three runs and nine hits in notching a 7-3 Parrot victory over the league leaders.

"Our players took the challenge," said Cerna.

"They did it themselves. I'm very proud of them"

"I'm satisfied with today's game. We still need to win three more games, but I'm satisfied."

"But we still need work before playoffs. We always have room for improvement."

The Parrots broke the Dons' 8-game East Valley League win streak with a 7-3 victory on Wednesday at Verdugo.

Poly scored two runs in the top of the 1st.

Reyes singled to left and stole second. Marquez moved Reyes to third on his single to far right.

Poly sophomore Javier Vasquez doubled home Reyes from third.

With the bases loaded, pitcher Alexander George singled to left field, scoring Marquez for a 2-0 lead.



Photo by Lirio Alberto

DON DEFEATER: Senior Alex George allowed nine hits in Poly's 7-3 win on May 1.

April 24	Inning	R	H	S	W
Grant	5 0 0 0 0 0	5	9	2	1
Poly	0 0 0 0 1 0	1	2	8	7

April 26	Inning	R	H	S	W
Poly	5 0 0 0 2 0 0	7	6	0	0
Grant	0 1 0 2 0 1 0	4	14	1	1

May 1	Inning	R	H	S	W
Verdugo	0 0 3 0 0 0 0	3	9	6	4
Poly	2 2 2 1 0 0 0	7	12	9	3

May 3	Inning	R	H	S	W
Poly	1 0 0 0 0 0 0	1	2	8	3
Verdugo	0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0	3	5	3

Tennis, Volleyball End Playoff Runs

Tennis out in close loss to Birmingham, Vball exits 3-0 to Fremont.

By Alfredo Quezada
Staff Writer

Poly's tennis team had a 9-5, 6-2 season and a playoff run that included a nifty 21-8.5

win over visiting 11-seed Wilson before losing a close 16.5-13 second-round road match to #3 seed Birmingham Friday afternoon in the CIF Los Angeles City Section Invitational.

"The team came to play, and play hard," said Parrot head coach Brian Block. "They had difficulty making practice because of class conflicts. It was a constant struggle throughout the season just getting players to stay on the court and play after school because of myriad other activities they were involved with. There was not one match we played this season that I thought we had prepared sufficiently."

"Yet we were only two matches away from the semi-finals. Practice or not, when the game was on the line, they knew what to do to be victorious. This team had so much heart it would make the Tinman jealous."

The playoff format is round robin, with each ranking playing all other rankings.

Poly's singles players were 10-6 against Birmingham, including a four-set sweep, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0, 6-2, 6-0, by number one singles junior Jae Choi

Number two singles senior Gi Hum Choi took three of his four sets 2-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, as did junior Kevin Chung, 0-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0. Senior Nom Woo only managed to win four games, 0-6, 0-6, 1-6, 3-6.

Number One doubles Juniors Guillermo Contreras and Richard Lee won two of the three sets 1-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Alvin Habena and Matt Sercena's three losses, love, love and 3, gave Birmingham the win.

Lewis Ambrad and Gregory De La Rosa lost at love, 4 and 5.

On Wednesday, Poly defeated visiting #11 seed Wilson 21-8.5 in the first round of the playoffs.

"The team played as strong yesterday as I seen them play all year," said Block. "They were focused, they were on their matches, they knew what they needed to do to win the games and they knew which matches were going to be difficult to win.

"Overall they played with such an intensity and drive, it made the game exciting to watch," Block said. "They were on fire, they wanted to win and it showed throughout."

Poly's two top singles players, Jae Choi and Gi Hun Choi, swept their sets, 6-0, 6-1, 6-2, 6-0 and 6-2, 6-1, 6-1, 6-2, respectively.

Each Poly doubles took two of three sets. Richard



Photo by Lirio Alberto

RACQUET MAN: Parrot junior Jae Choi.

Lee and Guillermo Contreras won 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; Matt Sercena and Alvin Habena won 1-6, 6-2, 6-2 and Lewis Ambrad and Gregory De La Rosa won 2-6, 6-1, 6-3.

Poly finished second in the East Valley League behind North Hollywood's 8-0 perfect record.

Block on the Season

Jae has had private lessons, has played varsity for four years, knows how to play, has a powerful serve and is a skilled tactician.

I usually let my singles players come up with their own strategy. Their skills surpass mine, as does their ability to run around the court, so I let them adapt to their own strengths and weaknesses.

As for my doubles players, I stress the serve and being aggressive at the net. In my opinion, you can't be too aggressive at the high school level. The more aggressive we played, the better the results.

I'm still working on this year. The individual tournament is this week, and I am arranging for our players to play against other teams since the students involved have AP conflicts on the opening day of the tournament.

By Alfredo Quezada
Staff Writer

Poly's volleyball team made a quick 0-3 exit in the first round of the City playoffs against Fremont (16-2, 11-1)

Thursday night. Poly finished the season 7-11, 6-6.

"I was very proud of the way that we played," said rookie head coach Sina Aghassy. "I thought all the seniors and all the guys left everything out there. Their effort, energy and communication were there all match and that is something we weren't very consistent with all season. The game really came down to a few errors here and there."

Parrot Senior Middle Blocker Richard Garcia playing had six blocks, freshman Kevin Moore had three kills and sophomore Jose Garcia and senior Anthony Huzair had two kills each.

"Fremont had a certain level of urgency and com-fort," Aghassy said. "To play in their home gym with such a big crowd for the opening game of playoffs is always nice to have."

"Fremont has been together for 1-2 years, so it was hard to be on the same page throughout the whole game," Aghassy said.

Aghassy is optimistic about next year.

"Now that a lot of these younger guys have had about a year of getting the sport under the belt, we have a little more experience moving forward," Aghassy said. "Now you have about 11-15 guys returning and a bit more time to develop some of the newer guys for next year. When you look at those sorts of things, you've got to be optimistic."

"It has been a rollercoaster season, to say the least," said Aghassy, "But I am very proud of the way this team has matured and developed as a whole."

"I definitely did expect to make it this far," Aghassy said. "I am very proud of the way our guys played at the end of the season to make sure we made it."

"It's been a learning experience for me," said Aghassy. "Just understanding the environment here at Poly High School and teaching this many first-time players has been a learning experience. I am hoping to have a few more returners next year so that we won't be as far behind in the development in the season."

"Everyone improved throughout the season," said senior Middle Blocker Richard Garcia. "The Panorama tournament was memorable. Everyone was working together as a team. Even though we lost, we still thought to ourselves that we did good as an entire team."



Photo by Kimberly Garcia

EYE ON THE BALL: Seniors Victor Sanchez and Richard Garcia wait for the ball.

"I thought all the seniors and all the guys left everything out there."

- Coach Aghassy