

# The Poly Optimist

John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

VOL. XCIX, No. 10

SERVING THE POLY COMMUNITY SINCE 1913

MAY 2014

## Faculty Gets New UTLA rep

By Adrianna Garcia  
Staff Writer

Tenth grade English teacher Larry Carstens is Poly's new United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) chapter chair.

Carstens replaces former UTLA rep and science teacher Robert Scott, who was chapter chair for four years before losing this election.

"Some things were being done very well and I think Mr. Scott deserves a lot of credit for working on the pilot program and for other things," said Carstens. "But I do want to represent my colleagues in a way that's more assertive and proactive."

Carstens promises to be a good listener.

"I want to hear what teachers have in mind."

As chapter chair, Carstens will bring UTLA news to Poly's faculty and represent the faculty to UTLA. The chapter chair also speaks for the faculty on administration and District issues.

UTLA is a state union that represents non-administrative staff in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Carstens' main responsibility is to pass along information from UTLA to the Poly faculty.

"If there's a strike or something, I get that information out and make sure teachers are informed and ready to participate as best as possible," said Carstens.

Carstens also acts as an advocate and defender for faculty.

Elections for chapter chair and other positions were held this month. Tenth grade biology teacher Julie Keiper was the election chair.

Teachers also voted for school site council and governance council members.

Carstens received 58 percent of the approximately 120 votes cast.

Magnet teachers hold their own elections. The magnet chapter chair is Doctor Ron Lehavi.

Carstens, who ran against Scott in earlier elections and lost, was chapter chair from 2007 to 2008.

"I really enjoyed the job before and I hope I do an even better job this time," said Carstens.

Carstens doesn't expect big changes.

"We're a great school and the teachers and administration are doing a great job," Carstens said. "So I don't foresee the need for any big changes. But it is a possibility at some point."

[ See Poly Gets, pg 6 ]



Photo by Lirio Alberto

**FUN MONEY:** MIT5 accept checks from Farmers Insurance at ceremony.

## Parrot scholars get insurance checks

By Nicolette Reneau  
Staff Writer

Each of Poly's five MIT magnet scholars accepted a check for \$1,000 from LA-based Farmer's Insurance during a ceremony in the auditorium on Tuesday. The five Parrots, GiMin Choi, Reymundo Cano, Kevin

Escobar, Andrew Koh and William Lopez-Cordero, offered thanks to teachers who guided and inspired them.

"I came to this school with one goal, to go to MIT," said Cano. "I told that to Mr. Gomez, who always believed in me, and Ms. Martin and Dr. Lehavi too. I've finally reached my goal and I'm really happy and I'd like to thank all of them. Thank you so much."

"I have to thank all my teachers," said Escobar. "Quite frankly, I don't think I would have gotten accepted to MIT, which has been my dream for a while, without them."

"I want to thank all the teachers, especially Mr. Alonso, for inspiring me to dream big," Choi. "Thank you."

"It's the teachers here that help students succeed," said Lopez-Cordero. "They help students reach their maximum potential. I'd like to thank all the teachers of Poly, especially Dr. Lehavi, Mr. Alonso and Mr. Gomez for all their hard work. Thank you."

On stage for the special event were the MIT5, Farmers' national manager of education programs Randy Rice and Head of Sponsorships and Corporate Giving Charles Browning, LAUSD Intensive Support and Care Center (ISAC) Superintendent Tommy Chang, ISIC Director Elena Paul and Poly Principal Ari Bennett.

[ See MIT5, pg 6 ]

## Favorite Parrots Set to Move On

By Joanna Rosales  
Staff Writer

Two veteran Poly clerks, Maricela Rojas in the Main Office and Louie Olvera in

Attendance, have recently completed degree programs and are looking for employment in their chosen fields.

"I want to teach ESL or Spanish," said Rojas.

Rojas majored in Spanish and minored in ESL at CSUN, graduating in 2012.

"The District plans to hire 80-100 PSA counselors for next school year," said Olvera, "so I'm just applying and hopefully I get lucky."

Olvera did undergrad studies at University of Phoenix and graduate work at Cal Lutheran in counseling and guidance. He received his credential in May of 2011.

Rojas is currently finishing her teaching credential at CSUN.

"This is our last week," Rojas said. "I've passed all the requirements, all the tests. I just need to finish teaching the school year and I'm done."

Rojas started student teaching with Monica Correa in



Photos by Lirio Alberto  
Louie Olvera & Marisela Rojas.

August 2013 and is currently teaching one period of Spanish with Lilian Bonar and one period of ESL with Aviline Espinoza.

"I'm looking for jobs now because May and June are when schools are looking for teachers," Rojas said. "If there isn't anything, I'll stay another year as a clerk."

Olvera says he would prefer a counseling position, but the District has no openings.

"I have wanted to be a counselor ever since I started working here," Olvera said. "I've also been applying to other districts and to community colleges."

Rojas has been in the Main Office since 1997, while Olvera started in Attendance the next year.

"I graduated from Poly in June 1989 and started working with the bilingual office as a TA in September," Rojas said. "I did that for a few years and then worked in the bilingual office, the counseling office and the textbook room office"

Olvera came to Poly after 13 years with K-mart.

[ See Rojas, pg 6 ]

## Poly Takes Field Test

Juniors get first look at Smarter Balanced test of Common Core.

By Joshua Penado  
Staff Writer

Poly has completed a successful field test of the Smarter Balanced computerized testing program that California will use in 2015 to test the Common Core State Standards. The test was administered to all juniors over the last two weeks.

"Overall, the testing was a success," said Parrot Principal Ari Bennett. "Everyone got tested. But we will not be receiving any results."

Not everything went smoothly, however.

"The District sent four iPad carts, each with 25 tablets," said testing co-coordinator Amy Showalter. "We had originally set up eight labs with iPads and our school computers. The first day we came in the iPads were not working. They wouldn't connect and some wouldn't even turn on."

"The direct access router (DAR) they gave us was proprietary," Bennett said. "It only functioned with their servers. Connecting it to ours was impossible because the iPads were locked. Connecting to their servers took hours to create a stable connection. And the iPads got so hot that we had to shut them down and wait for them to cool off to avoid fire hazards."

As a result, the first day of testing was cancelled.

"We had to reschedule all those classes and drop the carts," said Showalter. "The testing went from one week to two weeks."

[ See Poly Does, pg 6 ]

## First Parrot AP Fair Set

By Zein Delgado & Nicolette Reneau  
Staff Writers

Poly's first AP Community Fair will inform parents and students about the rigors and requirements of being in an AP class, the time commitment and what students should expect, according to AP Biology teacher Irene Maliwan.

The Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm in the Cafetorium.

History teacher Elva Madrigal and Maliwan will co-host the fair.

The night will start with a 20 minute PowerPoint introduction to AP, why a child should be in an AP class, how a child can benefit and the advantages and disadvantages of taking a college class.

From 6 to 7pm, parents will go to booths to visit each AP course and to talk to the teachers or look at posters and brochures about the class or ask questions.

Each of Poly's 17 AP subjects will get a booth. Maliwan will be at the biology booth.

"I will tell them what grade the course is typically offered for, what the time commitment is, what the homework requirements are, what to expect," Maliwan said. "Sometimes we do Saturday sessions at UCLA, so that extra time beyond your normal school day."

"I will talk about things to do if a child is struggling, things to buy, like work books, flash cards, internet access. What the student needs to succeed, so the parent can prepare them."

"For example, AP Calculus. We have calculators, but the students will need those calculators when they go off to college, so they should invest in one now. Why not have

[ See Poly, pg 6 ]



Photo by Lirio Alberto

## Planting Her Retirement

ESL's Hidalgo will work outdoors.

CAMPUS - page 4



Photo by Lirio Alberto

## Stepping Out in Style

Lyrical yes, Tutt too for this pop and lock trio

DANCE - page 5

## OPINION

## EDITORIAL

## From the Editor

The OPTIMIST is the oldest high school newspaper in Los Angeles. It started in 1913 and has grown into a model newspaper for other schools in the valley.

The OPTIMIST makes an impact in our school. The newspaper, I believe, is a reflection on the school.

The paper has taught me responsibility and commitment. I've learned that if I can deal with daily deadlines for four years, I can survive in just about any work place. The paper shaped me into a responsible young adult.

20 years from now when we're all gone, students will look through our newspaper and see the big events at the time. They'll see what happened every single month. They'll see how we dressed, talked and wrote.

They'll probably be laughing – at our ridiculous styles and interests.

The OPTIMIST has a delightful, hard working staff. They manage to put out a newspaper every month. I think our current staff is the best, even if most of the times we're eating and giggling.

Not everyone can write for the paper. You have to have an opened mind and the will to learn. Those who have joined us, even if for a while, know how we work.

Come August most of us won't be here and neither will our advisor but the OPTIMIST will live on. Although most of our staff is leaving the OPTIMIST is a high quality paper that will continue to shine, regardless of who produces it.

Goodbye class of 2014.

Yenifer Rodriguez  
Editor-in-Chief  
The OPTIMIST

## My Blue Moon

The position of editor-in-chief for the OPTIMIST is a tough one. There's nowhere to run. The buck stops on your desk. You round up the stories, you check the spelling, you decide what goes where and then you fit it in.

The job requires a unique skill set and not surprisingly, very few do it very well. It's one part writing background, one part reporter's news sense, one part technical expertise and one part negotiator. You're the first among equals, but the idea is not to make it too obvious. After all, your fellow classmates are also your staff.

You start with eight blank pages on the first of the month and three weeks later you better have eight pages of copy and photos and it better be interesting. As the weeks unfold, you make a thousand decisions as you find a place for 20 stories, 2000 words a page and photos to match.

You're writing headlines and subheads as you go along, because a newspaper is put together on the run. The version Parrots see is sometimes the sixth draft, sometimes the 16th. Proofing all that creativity requires 12 staffers and two days. And you still don't catch all the mistakes.

And then of course every day you have to work with me. I'm cranky, demanding, impatient and a perfectionist. I hate anything less than superior. A photo must be better than good, a lead must be accurate, brief and clear.

You'll crop a photo and try it a dozen different ways, then

tuck it in the copy in a variety of layout configurations. You'll do that for days, until your fingers cramp on the mouse and your eyes blur. And then something will bother me about that last version and I'll ask you to trash it and tweak out something better.

You won't leave school when the other kids do and you won't have all night to yourself once you get home. You'll work weekends, both days. You'll get texts before school and come in at lunch to layout a just-arrived story. With me always over your shoulder.

In short, you better be tough. Some of the good ones last a year, others fall by the wayside quickly. That rare standout student with guts and creativity may last two years and still be smiling. But four years as OPTIMIST editor-in-chief? Are you kidding? Once in a blue moon.

Meet the blue moon. Her name is Yeni Rodriguez. She's got four years with me and she was smiling when we said 'see ya' today. Her last edition is on its way to the publisher. She'll throw her cap in the air at graduation and move on to CSUN in the fall. I can't picture her looking backward, only forward.

We were all lucky to have her. Thanks for everything, Yeni.

John Blau  
Faculty advisor  
The OPTIMIST

## Dear Freshman

Whether 2014 is your first, second or third year in high school, it's another year in the backpack of your educational career.

Congratulations.

But before you say "sayonara" for the summer, remember that vacation ends in August.

Granted, you have a while to chill, kick back and hang, but in the blink of an eye, you'll be back in school and looking for colleges that suit you personally, academically and financially.

Some of you may be undecided about what to do after high school. That OK, but you should at least familiarize yourself with your options and know their pros and cons before deciding.

Don't worry about what everyone else is picking. Opt for what fits your situation.

Most adults will encourage you to do this as soon as possible.

There is no time for procrastination. The sooner the task is accomplished, the sooner you won't have to stress over it.

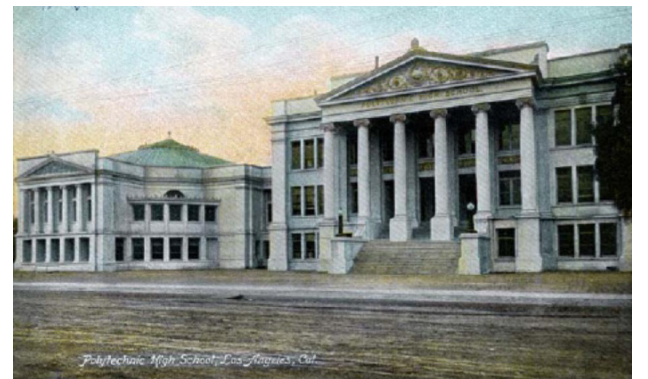
"Senioritis" is a close relative of procrastination. Symptoms include tardiness, lack of motivation and the over-usage of the phrase "yolo."

Upon entering the final high school level, seniors tend to get lazy instead of studious.

And while it's important to have fun at school through extra-curricular activities, keep your eye on the ball.

Before you know it, you'll be writing one of these.

Good luck,  
Successful Senior



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## ACCEPTED

Everyone wants to feel accepted. Here's a big list of smart Parrot seniors and universities that want them.  
By Leona Warman

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## CH CH CH CHANGES

Veteran Magnet English teacher Dennis Madrigal has big changes planned for Jeff Herrold's film class.  
By Zein Delgado & Nicolette Reneau

4

## ANIMAL FARM

All ESL's Margie Hidalgo wants to do in retirement is play with her animals and do a little gardening.  
By Christine Maralit

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## THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Watching this trio of hip hop dancers move body parts in ways you never thought possible will make anyone feel young again.  
By Joanna Rosales Photos By Lirio Alberto

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## GIRLS JUST WANNA REBEL

When these three tweensters run out of things to complain about, they decide to start a punk band. Too bad they have no talent.  
By Adrianna Garcia

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## TEXAS NOIR

Michael C. Hall kills a man in director Jim Mickle's "Cold in July." But that's the least of his problems. From Jon Lansdale's novel.  
By Adrianna Garcia

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## "DUTY" CALLS

"Ghost" is the latest Call of Duty and that's enough for most fans of this hit series. But the franchise is wearing thin as a ghost these days.  
By Michael Manzano

7

## HUNGER GAMES-ISH

Jennifer Lawrence, move over. There's a new heroine at the bookstore. And a new trilogy called "Divergent" to bury yourself in. Read on.  
By Karen Gasparyan

8

## LEAGUE LEADERS

Poly's track girls took first place in league this year and are headed to city finals. Expect big things from shot putter Ele Taulika.  
By Luisa Gonzalez

8

## GONE FISHING

Bell handed the volleyball boys a 3-1 loss in the first round of the playoffs, ending the Parrots' season.  
By Joanna Rosales

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## RIGHT ON TRACK

Poly did well enough in the semis to send 14 Parrots to city finals in track and field, a new record.  
By Luisa Gonzalez

8

## SEVENTH INNING SCARE

Softball's Lady Parrots needed every trick in the book to hang on to a narrow one point lead in their Division I playoff game against frequent foe San Pedro.  
By Nicolette Reneau

8

## WHO BROUGHT THE BATS?

Parrot baseball suffered another one-run defeat, this time in the first round of the playoffs. Now for a summer of batting practice.  
By David Salazar

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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.



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.

# INTERVIEW



## Grads' College Acceptances

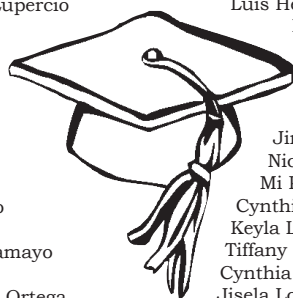
Some stay close to home.

- Rice**  
Luis Curiel
- Notre Dame**  
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- Cornell**  
William Lopez-Cordero
- Xavier**  
Jeanette Gredonia
- Johns Hopkins University**  
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Yenifer Rodriguez
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- Fordham**  
Gi Min Choi

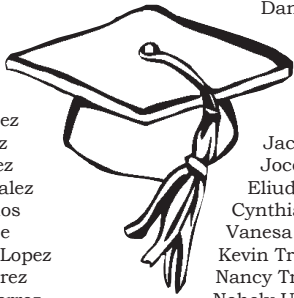
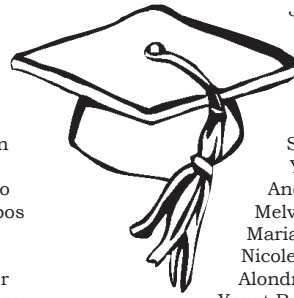


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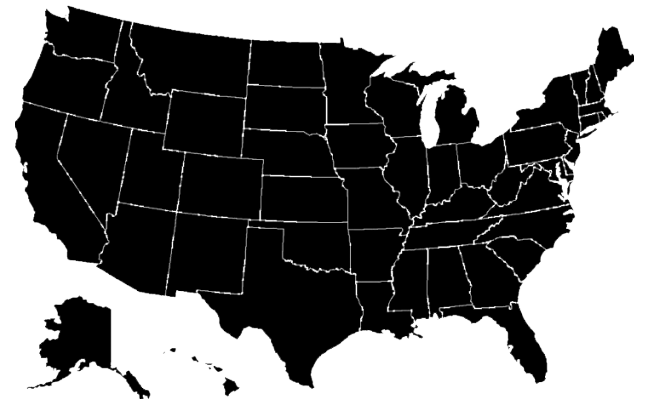


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Veena Yomjan  
Alan Zambrano  
Luis Zamora
- California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA)**  
Martin Alcalá  
Lorena Aguilar  
Jazmin Chavez  
Lizette Escobar  
Yesenia Carretero  
Emely Gonsalez  
Jisela Lopez  
Edwin Pleitez  
Yaravidd Ramirez  
Yenifer Rodriguez  
Joanna Rosales  
Karen Villaneda  
Jessica Orellana  
Melvin Ramos  
Luis Zamora  
Agnelia Catalan  
Jessica Mazariego  
Jailene Mercado  
Stephanie Gurrelo  
Savannah Rose Rodriguez  
Genesis Mollinedo  
Terence Jon Nerona  
Diana Cervantes  
Zulema Estrada  
Sandra Gonzalez  
Antonio Rojas

- California State University, Channel Islands**  
Miriam Andino  
Itzel Silva-Morin  
Alberto Vargas  
Genesis Mollinedo  
Selvin Andrade  
Antonio Rojas
- Yale**  
Reymundo Cano  
Luis Curiel
- Williams University**  
Josselyn Barahona  
Luis Curiel  
Kevin Escobar
- Syracuse University**  
Sorinna Buo
- St. John's University**  
Geovani Mejia Jr.
- Johnson & Wales**  
Geovani Mejia Jr.
- University of California, Merced**  
Martin Alcalá  
Marie Flores  
Daniel Mejia  
Valeria Silva  
Diego Barreto  
Luis Zamora
- California State University, Long Beach**  
Kathleen Biane  
Elmy Martinez  
Jennifer Molina  
Marelyn Portales
- California State University, Fullerton**  
Kathleen Biane  
Marie Flores  
Alejandro Navia  
Marelyn Portales  
Diana Cervantes
- California State University, Chico**  
Stephanie Gurrela  
Angelica Gutierrez  
Geovani Mejia Jr.  
Jennifer Molina  
Ricardo Buggerin  
Nora Ibarra
- California State University, Dominguez Hills**  
Kathleen Biane  
Marie Flores  
Johnny Avitia  
Marelyn Portales  
Dianna Cervantes  
Natalie Campos
- University of California, Riverside**  
Miriam Andino  
Marie Flores  
Emely Gonsalez  
Jeanette Gredonia  
Caitlin Heavner  
Orlando Milan  
Anthony Mora  
Jessica Orellana  
Jorge Palacios  
Edwin Pleitez  
Alberto Vargas  
Terence Jon Nerona  
Giselle Zumeta  
Ricardo Buggerin  
Savannah Rose Rodriguez
- California State University, San Bernardino**  
Lizette Escobar  
Marie Flores  
Agnelia Catalan  
Antonio Rojas
- Dartmouth**  
Josselyn Barahona  
William Lopez-Cordero  
Reymundo Cano  
Kevin Escobar
- Emory**  
Luis Curiel



## CAMPUS



Photo by Lirio Alberto

# The Madrigal Sessions

By Zein Delgado & Nicolette Reneau  
Staff Writers

Poly Magnet English teacher Dennis Madrigal will assume Jeff Herrold's filmmaking classes in the fall. The OPTIMIST recently sat down to see what his plans were. Here's what he told us.

## What are you going to do with the film class?

I want to find a way to help kids tell their story and film is an outlet to do that.

My long-term objective is to have community involvement, get small businesses to partner up with students. Businesses that can't make their own commercials can partner up with students and make commercials together.

Students will have professional, commercial work in their portfolios and businesses benefit by having commercials.

I want kids to leave the film class with real-world experience, helping corporations, helping families, helping the communities. I want to incorporate the class with projects that are directly relatable outside the class.

All of this is just a puzzle and I am trying to figure out how I am going to put all the pieces together and the stress and concerns of leaving English and transitioning to a film program.

## What goes on in a film class?

Number one is story. This goes back to what I said earlier about helping kids finding their story.

**What is the purpose of this? What are you exploring? What truth are you trying to find? What question are you exploring? What makes it interesting? Or are you just putting plot points together?**

I want to number one: help students find their voice, help students refine their storytelling ability and then through the technology, help communicate that.

The technology is an outlet for the story. They have to learn how to tell a good story.

The technique, the technology, follows that. If you have the story down, you have the foundation, you have interesting characters, you have interesting themes, you have an interesting direction you want to go, an angle that you're curious about, a question you genuinely want to know, then you're already in a good starting place.

## Will you add new technology?

The goal is to help the program grow and that requires money. It is going to require a lot of fundraising, a lot of checking for grants and finding money.

Filmmaking is a pricey medium. You need a story and a good technological foundation to back that up.

I would love eventually to have kids fund their own products through Kickstarter, a class so advanced that all they need is funding, so they go through Kickstarter to fund their project.

Down the road, I would love to focus on the elements of filmmaking.

I want to have a screenwriting class, where kids can workshop their screenplay, a screenplay class working in tandem with advanced filmmaking class.

We would have kids with a screenplay well workshopped, edited and revised, working with kids very knowledgeable with the technique, and see what kinds of

partnerships we can produce.

Maybe even animation, but animation is pricey. Animation requires a whole new technology, but I love animation too.

## Will you do a film club?

I think you're going to struggle as a filmmaker if you have not seen what people have done, have not seen and experienced the greats.

The film club can be a great way to get together, watch great films, maybe have screenings once a quarter and watch these keystone films, have conversations about them.

I want to do a Podcast, see if we can do the first Poly Podcast, maybe do a partnership where we can get the Podcast mentioned in the Poly Optimist to combine media.

We can make not just the film program grow, but also the film conversation, have everybody participate in a conversation that gets much deeper into these films, and in the process, help students communicate. The better they can talk about films, the better they will be able to articulate any thought.

I think they are all connected.

We will read articles about films, what people have said that is important. But we'll also go deeper into the medium, understand how certain shots signify certain moods and how directors use the color palette or color grading to influence the audience's emotions.

We need analytical writing and reading to be able to get as deep as I would like to get in the medium.

## Favorite movies?

"Pulp Fiction." I love the way it plays with structure. I still quote that movie on a weekly basis. It's brilliant. "Pulp Fiction" changed my idea of how you can tell a story.

The screenwriter is shifting everything around. It is not about plot, it is about characters, about exploring these random ideas. We're talking about burgers, we're talking about words.

It is a movie about language and I love that.

"Memento." I think Christopher Nolan is brilliant and that film absolutely blew my mind.

My favorite films are the one that changed the way I see movies. They show me what films can do.

"Memento" just took away the whole foundation of story-telling and made you realize how much you can take out of a story by shifting the chronology, by having a great mystery. There aren't even real answers to this movie.

It is a movie about a fractured mental state told in a fractured way on camera.

"Adaptation," much underrated, has my favorite screenwriter, Charlie Kaufman. I love films about writing and I have never seen a movie do it like this before. The way it shifts genres, the way it shifts perspective. It is incredible what he is doing with the medium.

And how do you not mention "The Godfather?"

You know you're watching something special. You're watching a three-hour long movie, but you don't feel those three hours.

I love a good character arc, an arc that shows how a character changes and what they're learning in the process. That gets me sucked into a film, You get some insight into humanity.

You look at Michael Corleone and his journey from the underling in the family, an outsider, to somebody who takes charge of the family. That journey is incredible.

The things we learn about ourselves when we look at Michael's journey I find so telling.

I could gush all day, I didn't even talk about comedies or other genres, but those are probably the four that I would put up there.

# ESL Expert to Retire

By Christine Maralit  
Staff Writer

Poly will lose a vital cog in the Parrot ESL machine with Margie Hidalgo's retirement in June. Before she exits, the OPTIMIST managed to get her to sit still for an interview. Here's what she told us.

## Here and Now

At Poly, I make sure that every single student that comes in to this school is placed in the correct program.

I work with teachers, providing them with strategies to differentiate and provide access to the core so students do well in biology and English.

I also make sure that parents get the language support that they need.

I do a lot of professional development.

As a counselor, I program all my students and meet with all of them. I also work with a lot of parents in the English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC).



## Getting Here

I graduated from Grant in 1970 and from CSUN as a Spanish major in 1974. I got my teaching credential there as well.

In high school, I was a bus girl and in college I was a waitress. I also worked at the swap meet when I was younger.

After college, I worked for Guadalupe Union up north and then moved to San Diego to work for Carlsbad Unified. I went to Mexico in 1977 with my husband and taught at Escuela de las Americas from 1977 to 1983. We came back to the US in 1984.

When I came back, I taught at Canterbury and Fernangeles.

I enjoyed moving from one school to another. I learned a lot and had new experiences. There are different systems. It wasn't hard, it was fun.

The transition from elementary students to high school students was very different in some ways because the kids were bigger than me. I wasn't use to that. And adolescents are very different from seven-year olds.

In the beginning, the discipline was a challenge, but the administration was so supportive. And the parents, oh I love working with the parents. The parents were very supportive. Whenever I called home, the next day there would be a change. You could really see the impact the parents had. Teachers in the ESL department were so supportive, so helpful. Whenever I had a problem, they would come to my aid. As soon as I stepped on to campus, I felt the love. I felt like "Oh, people love me here."

Other things were not so hard because deep down inside, even though they're bigger than me, they're still kids. The same instructional strategies I used in elementary school worked here. In fact, I think I was successful with my students because I used those strategies.

I wanted to be a teacher since I was in second grade. I used to love playing teacher. There weren't any white boards but we had chalk boards. That's what I used to play on all the time. I used to make my sister be my student all the time. So I think I was just born that way. It just called me.

I've wanted to be a bilingual teacher as long as I can remember. I didn't just want to be a teacher, I wanted to be a bilingual teacher. I really believed passionately in that, always. I don't know why, I just loved it. I wanted to be a bilingual teacher. I always believed in the power of primary language strengthening the second language.

## Family

My husband Javier and I have two boys, Fernando Daniel, whom we call Danny, and Javier Samuel, whom we call Sammy. Both were born in Mexico. When we came here, the oldest was four and the youngest two.

Fernando graduated from North Hollywood High in 1998 and went to Princeton for his B.A. Then he taught a year in China and received a Fulbright scholarship to do research on voting in Brazil for one year. Then he got his Masters and PhD at Berkeley. He is currently a professor of political science at MIT. He lives in Cambridge with his wife Sonali and they are currently expecting their first child.

Javier graduated from North Hollywood in 2000 and got his BA from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Then he got a Fulbright scholarship to work in Frankfurt, Germany. From there, he attended Princeton University, where he got his Ph D. in Political Theory. He is currently teaching Political Theory at Richmond University. He lives in Richmond, Virginia with his wife Jessica and their three children.

## Retirement Plans

After Poly, I'm just going to sit. I'll probably travel a little bit. I'll probably be doing landscaping. My hobbies are landscaping, gardening and designing gardens.

I'll spend time with my animals. I have peacocks, chickens, dogs and cats. For a while, we even had a pig. We had goats and fish and turtles, because we have a pond. We have lots of animals.

I'll do some professional development at Poly, but not every day.

# DANCE



Photos by Lirio Alberto

ROMEIRO'S ANGELS: Juniors Giselle "Gigi" Rodriguez, Jose Zuniga and Vanessa Gonzalez perform a hip hop dance routine at the pep rally.

FORMED JUST TWO MONTHS AGO and already sensational, KYDS dance crew Romeiro's Angels is a trio of talent. All juniors, the crew is Vanessa Gonzalez, Giselle "Gigi" Rodriguez and Jose Zuniga.

## TUTTING LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

The Angels' latest appearance at the Pep Rally included much of their repertoire of tutting, hip hop, pop and lock, dub step, break dancing, cumbia and merengue.

By Joanna Rosales  
Staff Writer

But this creative crew does their own choreography. Each member has developed a unique style as well.

"I don't name my moves," said Zuniga, "I just dance. You'll just have to watch me dance because I do a lot of moves."

Rodriguez and Gonzalez have professional training, while Zuniga is self-taught.

"I took dance classes in my aunt's studio when I was six," Rodriguez said. "I've been on a dance team since ninth grade."

"When I was nine years old, I was in a hip hop class," Gonzalez said. "I've been dancing ever since."

"But feel and flow are what counts in modern dance."

"In dancing, you have to just let it flow," Zuniga said. "You can't think about it too much or it's not going to look as fluid."

Gonzalez dance styles include lyrical, a kind of ballet. Rodriguez specializes in splits, turns and the hair flip, her signature.

Zuniga wants to be a choreographer.

"I want to go to Cal Arts and study dance," Zuniga said. "I plan to get my own studio and start teaching."

Rodriguez too is dedicated to dancing.

"I hope to keep dancing forever," Rodriguez said. "It's a part of me. I have a different persona when I dance. Dancing is what makes me who I am today. When I get on that stage, I feel like I'm in a different world."



## CAMPUS

## MIT5 Gets Checks

[ From Parrots, front page ]

Farmers also used the occasion to launch their nationwide “Think Big Challenge” competition, in which the insurer will award \$100,000 grants to five teachers who write compelling requests.

“We wanted to find something special and really worthy of this launch and we thought you guys were the perfect choice,” said Farmers’ national manager of education programs Randy Rice.

“I think the story of the MIT5 is so inspiring and your school is an inspiration and is driven by your teachers,” Rice said. “The five students that are going to MIT have all had teachers who have helped them make that happen. So we want to not only congratulate these students but congratulate and thank the teachers who helped make that happen.”

“We’ve come here to announce that we’re going to be giving away five \$100,000 grants around the country,” Rice said. “Today we will officially open our website where schools can submit nominations.”

Farmers will take submissions for the next three months. Then in August they’ll pick 15 teachers around the country and do a short documentary on each one.

Poly Principal Ari Bennett also had words of thanks for Poly’s faculty.

“Our teachers make this school run,” Bennett said. “We have an opportunity, thanks to the MIT5, to recognize their accomplishments, to take this moment to say thank you to all of our teachers.”

“Teachers make this world a better place. Every famous person you know has been inspired by a teacher. Every star out there has a coach, a teacher, a mentor guiding them along the way.”

“At Poly, the teachers are our talent. They’re the ones that are working with you students every day, so you can have a better future and an opportunity for success and reach higher and further than you ever thought possible.”

Farmers is in the middle of their “Thank A Million Teachers” campaign, which recognizes great teachers across America with awards of up to \$2,500 a year.

“We want to put the money right in the teachers’ hands since they know what’s the best thing to do with that money,” said Rice.

Farmers launched the Thank a Million Teachers and Give a Million Dollars program in January 2014.

“We had Jack Black give the first official thank you on the website,” Rice said. “He thanked his middle school teacher for saving his life and she goes ‘yeah, he was quite a bum when I got my hands on him.’ She was his drama teacher and she changed his life and it gave us an example of just what teachers can do.”

To date, Farmers has thanked over half a million teachers and given out almost \$200,000.

“We spent a year trying to convince our home office,” Rice said. “It takes a long time to get a company to get on board with something this big. We had to explain why we thought this was a good idea and there was a real need for this out there.”

“We should be thanking teachers, not trying to give them a hard time,” Rice said.

Bennett closed the ceremony.

“When I first became principal at

Poly HS,” Bennett said, “one of the things I wanted to do was to make Poly the school teachers across the city would want to come to, the school that treated their teachers the best, that took care of their teachers the best, the one that removed obstacles so our teachers can support what goes on in the classroom for our students.”

“There’s no finish line there, we’re always going to try to do better,” Bennett said. “Poly needs to be a great place for teachers so it can be a great place for students. And so for every student that has had a positive experience at Poly, we thank our teachers.”



Photo by Lirio Alberto  
UTLA: Newly-elected chapter chair and English teacher Larry Carstens.

## Poly Gets New Rep

[ From Faculty, front page ]

Carstens, who helped and defended faculty members as chapter chair before, once needed help of his own.

“A number of years ago I was in trouble with a previous administration,” said Carstens. “I was falsely accused. Things were said about me by the administration that were not true and I was under fire.”

The incident drew Carstens to the union.

“Before that happened, I wasn’t all that interested in UTLA,” said Carstens. “I never thought I needed to be represented.”

“But even a good teacher sometimes will get falsely accused,” Carstens said. “If they anger someone in power, that person might say false things to try to ruin their career.”

Carstens believes the experience prepared him for his current post.

“I think teachers feel a lot safer if they know that somebody who has been in a situation like that is representing them,” said Carstens.

Overall Carstens is looking forward to his new position.

“I really believe in the teachers’ union,” said Carstens. “I may not agree with everything the teachers’ union says politically, but their basic purpose and the way that they’re fulfilling that purpose, which is to look out for teachers and to defend them when they’re falsely accused, is a very important thing that the union does and I want to be a part of it,” said Carstens.

“I think this position is an honor and a privilege.”

Carstens, a seventeen year Poly veteran, also teaches English at College of the Canyons.

SNEAK PEEK

## Punk Rock is the Cure

Pre-teen rockers shake up 80s Sweden in director Lukas Moodysson’s return to more upbeat fare.

By Adrianna Garcia  
Staff Writer

Swedish director Lukas Moodysson’s sweet coming of age comedy “We Are the Best!” tells

the story of three 13-year old girls living in Stockholm.

In a time when pink spandex, big hair and synthpop is king, Bobo, Klara and Hedvig want to start a punk band.

But the girls have no musical talent, no peer support and more importantly, no cause for rebellion. The three have supportive families and welcoming homes. Hardly the stuff of youthful unrest.

But no worries. Awful 80s trends, mandatory physical education and not enough time in the youth club’s music room soon fuels their rebel fire.

Though trivial, these annoyances make the angst pre-teen trio feel they don’t belong, which in turn makes them feel angry, which in turn forces them to release their anger in a three-piece punk band.

Though cheerful, Moodysson’s film is soberly realistic.



Bobo, Klara and Hedvig don’t become superstars or win a talent show. “We are the Best!” just follows the average experiences in its heroines’ lives.

“Best!” was a big change for Moodysson, who created some dark and depressing films following early, decidedly upbeat work like “Show Me Love” and “Together.”

The new film was inspired by Moodysson’s wife, Coco, and is based on a graphic novel that tells a fictionalized version of her years as a punk rocker.

The director is happy with the outcome.

“It’s a movie that says life is difficult sometimes and you’re lonely

sometimes, but there are things in life that are fantastic and you can turn things around on your own to make it good,” Moodysson said.

“It is possible to find strength, even when people don’t like you. And that’s important to say, both to young people and to adults.”

## Poly Does Smarter Balanced

[ From Poly Takes, front page ]

“The testing would have been much smoother had we not had the iPads at all,” Bennett said.

Other problems arose as well. “We had audio problems,” said Testing Coordinator Royce Stuckey. “Students had problems plugging in their earphones to hear the test. We had to plug the earphones into the back of the tower, which I thought was ridiculous, because at the library, we had to pull out the towers from their units. There were also some log-in issues.”

California’s legislature suspended the API for two years because of the

testing transition and mandated that school districts try the Smarter Balanced online testing format.

The District is expected to pick the iPads by the end of May. No decision has been made on whether or not to keep the iPad portion of the test.

“The District said that there will be a fully operational test next year,” Stuckey said, “but in my personal opinion, they might postpone it because of the bugs in the actual test. I don’t think they are ready to run a fully operational test next year.”

Stuckey says the Smarter Balanced is an improvement over the CST test.

“For example, the English section is not all multiple-choice,” Stuckey said. “There were some free response and other kinds of answer types, so I think on a content level, it is a big improvement, because some people can explain themselves better by writing.”

“The math section was a little bit procedural and conceptual, so I think it is going to be better because it has many more relevant topics and isn’t just bubbling in a bunch of bubbles.”

All first period teachers with juniors participated in the test. Testing lasted two hours. Subs filled in for testing teachers for the first 30 minutes of period two.

## Poly to Hold First AP Fair

[ From First, front page ]

them use their own top calculator rather than ones that the school provides, which might be a couple of years older?”

For the fair, Comprehensive and Magnet booths will be the same except for AP Physics, which is open to Magnet students first and some comprehensive students, depending on availability.

“This is fair and equal access to anyone who wants to take the course,” said Maliwan, “as long as a student maintains the requirements the course demands and keeps up his grade and does the studying.”

Because the courses are so hard, some students enroll and then end up dropping the class, so the fair will ad-

dress that issue, because some students don’t know what they’re getting themselves into. They’re like ‘Oh! I heard about this AP and I’m interested in this,’ but they don’t realize how hard it is.”

“We’re trying to let students know what they’re in for and plan accordingly,” said Maliwan, “but when they think they can’t handle it, we can find alternative courses.”

Faculty at fair booths include AP English teachers Wendy Elam and Michelle Nellon, science teachers Angela Campbell, Ramon Gomez and Mauricio Alonso and math teachers Azucena Hernandez and Monica Casillas. Booths without teachers will have posters and brochures with information on AP classes

History teacher Elva Madrigal is organizing the fair.

## Rojas, Olvera Move On

[ From Favorite, front page ]

“I worked there part time in 1986 and graduated in 1987 from San Fernando High,” Olvera said.

“Then I just moved up the ranks at Kmart.”

Both Rojas and Olvera are loyal Parrots.

“My daughter graduated from Poly in 2011 and my son is graduating this year in 2014,” Rojas said. “So my husband, my daughter, my

son and I graduated from Poly.”

Olvera also has two children. “One is 20 and graduated from Poly,” Olvera said. “He’s in college at Sacramento State. The other is four years old. He is also coming here for preschool. I’m Poly all the way.”

Rojas is too. “Poly has been a great support to me,” Rojas said, “and I couldn’t have done it without the wonderful

people at Poly. They are the ones that really have helped me move on.”

Olvera says he has been advising Poly students for some time.

“I tell kids to go to college right after high school, even if it’s a community college,” Olvera said. “I should have gone to college right after high school.”

## MEDIA

# “Cold in July” Brings the Heat

By Adrianna Garcia  
Staff Writer

When local Richard Dane shoots and kills an intruder on a warm summer night in a small town in Texas, he expects legal trouble. Instead, he gets praise

from both the cops and the townfolk.

But Dane (Michael C. Hall) is tormented with doubts about the man he killed. After the dead man's father (Sam Shepard) is released from prison, the two play a violent cat and mouse game until both realize their encounter and the events preceding it might not be coincidental.

As they look deeper into what the police department knows and try to piece the puzzle together, an entirely new explanation begins to emerge.

This is the premise for author Joe R. Lansdale's moody



Texas thriller, “Cold in July,” and the basis for writer/director Jim Mickle's latest film.

“It's a wild ride,” said Mickle. “It starts off and you get an idea of where it's going to go and then it goes in ten different directions after that.”

Mickle and writing partner Nick Damici were featured at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival for their 2013 remake of the horror film “We Are What We Are.”

Hall is the lead in Showtime's violent hit “Dexter.”

“Cold in July” promises to be more than an updated Clint Eastwood revenge movie and just right for Mickle's edgy touch, dark and gory fight scenes and pulpy noir sensibility.

# “Ghost” Offers Mixed Results

By Michael Manzano  
Staff Writer

Woodland Hills-based Infinity Ward's “Call of Duty” series originated in 2003 as a WWII reenactment. In “Ghost,” the latest version, a dystopian, futuristic landscape modernizes the action.

The results, however, are mixed. Greatly improved visuals are a positive but a story line that substitutes action for continuity is not. The game's heavy “shoot everything that moves” missions are mostly to blame.

The characters become less relatable after the “Homecoming” mission, when their reactions seem unpredictable and less real.

“Extinction” replaces the previous version's Zombie Mode with waves of monsters similar to “Killing Floor's” monster waves. The change is not an improvement.

But the cooperative game mode now offers more support as the player and three others kill aliens.

Changes from previous versions include shoot-to-kill missions that now kill people in space and on water while



driving cars, tanks, and planes.

The “run, spray, and pray” game's long range rifles now do more damage than the automatic weapons. Landing a shot with the long-range rifles is harder but more rewarding. Automatic weapons now need more shots to kill.

New larger maps complement this change, offering many different pathways to get to the same objectives. But the larger maps can also separate the teams, leaving players moments of no action while looking for an enemy.

But gamers using the multiplayer will need to customize their characters to have a fighting chance against other players. And “Ghost's” many combinations of perks and gun attachments require hours of experimentation to figure out their importance and winning combinations.

Plus the game's enhanced graphics and game play limit the player count to 12, slowing down the action even more.

Like it or not, however, Infinity has a bestseller on its hands, with \$1B in sales so far and units still flying out the door.

Gamers on a tight budget may want to wait. “Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare,” is set for a November 4 release.

# “Divergent” Catches Fire

Teens can't get enough of dystopian stories with strong females.

By Karine Gasparyan  
Staff Writer

Girl warrior Beatrice Prior is the heroine in author Veronica Roth's dystopian trilogy “Divergent,” set in Chicago. If that sounds like

Suzanne Collins' “Hunger Games” all over again, it should. The two have many similarities.

Both are YA novels about a determined and resourceful female heroine who wages a fight for survival in a dystopian society. “Divergent” has five factions, “Hunger Games” has 12 districts. Both novels have North American settings. The list goes on, but there are differences too. “Game's” Katniss is more iconic, for example, while “Divergent's” Tris is a soldier and an outsider.

Critics generally dislike both films or line up behind “Games.” But teens happily consume both series, oblivious to anything but their own passions and preferences.

In “Divergent's,” first book, Tris struggles to learn about who she is, while “Insurgent,” the second book, shows her dedication and her love for her friends and the risks she takes to protect them. All is explained in “Allegiant,” book three, with Tris learning what Divergence is and what it means.

The government, in order to control its citizens, creates a society that separates individuals by characteristic traits. Each 16 year-old is forced to pick from one of five factions:



Dauntless (brave), Amity (peaceful), Erudite (intelligent), Candor (honest), and Abnegation (selfless).

The day before Judgment Day, each teenager is given an aptitude test that determines the correct faction. Those who choose new factions will never see their families ever again.

Prior, born into the Abnegation faction, is fit for three factions. She chooses Dauntless. But anyone who fits more than one faction is considered divergent, a threat to government control, and is eliminated.

Tris remains strong and overcomes all the conflicts thrown

at her, including cynical and cruel bullies who torment her.

Jeanine Mathews is the leader of the Erudite faction and the villain in “Divergent.” She's in charge of creating the serums and fear landscapes for each initiate in the Dauntless faction. But Divergents can fight off the serums and cannot, under any circumstances, be controlled. So Divergents must keep their status secret or risk assassination.

A film of the first book was released in March. Directed by Neil Burger and starring Shailene Woodley as Tris, the movie in general followed the book's themes and primary story line.

Fans were impressed and the movie has grossed \$147M to date.

Teens find Tris's refusal to be categorized and her strength in standing up for her beliefs as qualities they can identify with. Tris's trials, taken to epic proportions, seem to mirror what most teens experience, or at least perceive – stressful situations, hard choices and of course, a conflict that requires inner strength and determination to overcome.

Both book and film get their points across and are equally effective at portraying strong-willed heroines who reach their goals after intense struggles.

YA readers seem to be getting the message.

# SPORTS



Photo by David Simms

**FLYING HIGH:** Junior Sarah Plato takes 1st in 110 hurdles at league finals.

## Girls Win League

By Luisa Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

Poly's track and field girls captured the East Valley League title and the boys finished third in what was generally a strong season for both squads.

"The girls were league champions and that was expected," said sprinter coach Tremeka Batiste. "The boys were close but it was also expected that it was going to be difficult."

The boys placed third behind Monroe and North Hollywood. "We will find out who qualifies after today," Batiste said. "To qualify for city prelims you have to be the fastest from a set number."

Batiste has high expectations. "Shot putter Elenoa Taulaki should go to state," Batiste said. "The girls 4 by 4 relay has a good chance. And two 800 runners can make it."

### LEAGUE RESULTS

Varsity won the 4 by 4 in league finals. Senior Elenoa Taulaki won shot put. She won city the last two years in a row. Junior Sepi Aliko came in second in league. Ele and Sepi are the top shot putters. Senior Cristina Ruiz is the fastest 400 runner in league. Our 4 by 4 is one of the top six in the city. Senior Alexis Contreras won the mile and the 800 for league. Senior Isabel Ochoa won the two mile for league. Junior Edwin Rocha won the 800. Ruiz came in second in the 200 by 1/100th of a second at 27.45. It was a photo finish. Junior Sarah Plato finished first in the 110 hurdles and second in the 300 meter hurdles.

- VOLLEYBALL -

## Bell Tolls for Poly Volleyball Season

By Joanna Rosales  
Staff Writer

The Parrot volleyball boys played Bell close for three of four games

before falling 3-1 in the first round of the CIF LA City Section Division I playoffs last Thursday. Bell lost to #2 seed Carson 3-0 on Tuesday.

Bell was seeded 15 and the Parrots were 18.

"It was a tough game, a hard road match for us," said Parrot head coach Sina Aghassy. "You really need experience for playoff games, especially when you go to another school. There are people yelling at you and cursing at you, people yelling in your ear."

"When its 24-24, it's a little more intense if you're not at home," Aghassy said.

But Aghassy had good words for his Parrots.

"I'm pretty proud on the way we played," Aghassy said. "We gave a pretty good fight."

Bad decision-making down the stretch proved costly, Aghassy said. "When we were tied 24-24, we

went to a set that we haven't set all year," Aghassy said. "You make one different decision and it could be a different outcome of the game."

The Parrots got off to a slow start, always dangerous in a playoff situation.

"We came out flat, intimidated by their 6 foot 9 guy," Aghassy said. "But after that, we started to calm down."

"We had a lead in the second game. Blew it 27-29. Third game we came out fired up and won it 25-22. But we weren't able to finish."

Parrot senior Kevin Moore had 25 kills.

"You talk about a guy 6 foot 9 on the other side of the net, Kevin matched up pretty well with him and still gave us the same production that he usually does," Aghassy said. "That was pretty impressive."

Poly (13-21, 7-5) finished the regular season tied with Verdugo for third place in the East Valley League behind Grant and NoHo.

Bell (14-9, 8-4) finished third in the Eastern League behind South Gate and Jordan.

### Playoff Scoreboard - First Round

	S1	S2	S3	S4	Final
Poly	18	27	25	22	1
Bell	25	29	22	25	3

### PLAYOFFS

- SOFTBALL -

## Lady Parrots Sink Pirates

Poly's first Division I playoff win is a thriller.

The Lady Parrot softball girls scored five runs in the top of the second to take an early lead and held on for a narrow 5-4 win over San Pedro Friday on the road in the opening round of the 2014 CIF City playoffs.

"This win will go down as the biggest win in my career," Peralta Said. "Four times we've been there for playoffs and four straight times they killed us. We never scored a run until today. Been mercied three times."

By Nicolette Reneau  
Staff Writer

But not this time. With the bases loaded and two outs, senior outfielder Alondra Rodriguez hit a slow roller to third and beat out the throw, scoring one run. Senior infielder Dezaere Casares singled to left, scoring another.

Desiree Ibarra then doubled to deep right, clearing the bases and giving Poly a 5-0 lead and the margin of victory.

"Desiree's hit was huge, but I knew a five-run lead was not safe," Peralta said. "We were still going to need some big plays to win."

The Pirates got a run in the bottom of the third when three bunt-defense errors loaded the bases for the Pirates with no outs. Only one run scored, however, before the Lady Parrots got out of the inning.

"Our bunt defense is always excellent," Peralta said, "but it wasn't today."

In the bottom of the fifth, San Pedro picked up three more runs (two unearned on two more Poly errors), putting the Pirates within a run. With two outs and the tying run on first, Pirates senior Angelina Boskovich doubled to left-center. Freshman Andrea Cline tried to score from first, but a relay from Poly senior Sabrina Juarez to senior Alexis Serafin to senior Erica Tzic cut

Cline down at the plate and got Poly out of the inning.

Then came the seventh inning scare. "They had a leadoff double to right center," Peralta said. "She moved to third on a single and tagged up on a fly out to right. But she left the bag early and we got that call on appeal and that was two outs. The final out was a pop up."

Whew. Veteran Poly hurler Angie Ramos pitched the win, yielding seven hits, striking out one and issuing no walks. The victory was Ramos' 17th against six losses.

"Angie Ramos pitched a great game for us," Peralta said. "I told her on Wednesday that she would need to pitch her best and she did just that."

For the Pirates, senior Jaclyn Rivera pitched two innings and took the loss. Pirate senior reliever Jocelyn Kondash held Poly scoreless for the remainder of the contest.

"We have never won a Division I playoff game," Peralta said. "Now the monkey is off our backs."

Eleven seed Poly is back on the road Tuesday against the three seed, Port of Los Angeles (P.O.L.A.). San Pedro was seeded six.

Port of LA was Division III champ for last three years. This is their first year playing Div I.

"Their pitcher is one of the best in the city, with 18 wins," Peralta said. "They just beat Lincoln 3-1."

El Camino and Carson are seeded one and two.

- BASEBALL -



Photo by David Simms

**BUNT:** Senior David Reyes bunts in 8-1 loss to Kennedy.

## Baseball is Out

By David Salazar  
Staff Writer

Parrot baseball's 2-1 loss to Cleveland in the first round of the 2014 CIF playoffs was vintage Poly - strong pitching and no help from

the offense.

"It's a shame for Jason because we had no run support all year," said Poly head coach Gabe Cerna. "He pitched well."

Cavalier junior pitcher Ben Kaser got the win, yielding five hits but just the lone run. Poly junior Jason Cisneros took the loss, giving up two runs, one of them unearned, on three hits. Cisneros had six strikeouts.

Both players went the distance.

David Reyes scored Poly's run in the bottom of the fifth. He singled to left, took second on a sacrifice bunt, advanced to third on a single from senior Javier Vasquez and scored on junior Francisco Perez's single.

The Cavs then answered with two runs in the top of the sixth.

Cerna was unhappy with the officiating.

"There was one questionable call that I went to go argue," Cerna said, "and then there was another one where the umpire said he didn't see their player get pushed by their base coach. But everybody else saw it."

Poly did a fine job despite losing, Cerna said.

"The team played great yesterday," Cerna said. "I have nothing bad to say about them. They played at the level that they should have played all year."

"I don't like to lose, but it's the way you lose and yesterday they left it all out on the line."

Poly (13-18, 7-5) settled for a third place finish in the East Valley League behind NoHo and Verdugo.

- TRACK -

## Poly Sends 14 to City Finals

By Luisa Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

Parrots qualified in 14 events at the City Semi-finals held Thursday at Birmingham and will advance to next Wednesday's City Finals.

Varsity teammates junior Alexis Contreras and seniors Erica Magee, Isabel Ochoa and Cristina Ruiz set a new school record of 4:10 in the 4x400 meter relay, one second better than the previous mark.

Parrots competing in the City Finals include varsity members Sepi Aliko (Jr.), Girls shot put; Alexis Contreras (Jr.), Girls 800M run; Erica Magee (Sr.), Girls 400M dash; Luis Martinez (Jr.), Boys pole vault; Paolo Morales (Jr.), Girls pole vault; Isabel Ochoa (Sr.), Girls 1600 M run; Edwin Rocha (Jr.), Boys 800 M run; Cristina Ruiz (Sr.), Girls 400 M dash; Ele Taulaki (Sr.), Girls shot put.

Also competing are frosh/soph members Noemi Silva (Fr.), Girls 1600M run; Axel Perez (So.), Boys 800M run; Sebastian Magana (So.), Boys 1600M run; Yara Galsim (So.), Girls shot put.

Sprinters must place first in their heat or run one of the top six times to qualify. Distance runners must be one of the top three in their heat or have one of the six fastest times to qualify.

### Girls Regular Season Meets

A Panorama	W	65-35
A North Hollywood	W	75-33
H Arleta	W	80-28
A Grant	W	75-35
H Verdugo	W	85-24
A Monroe	T	57-57

### Boys Regular Season Meets

A Panorama	W	78-32
A North Hollywood	L	55-56
H Arleta	W	75-32
A Grant	W	72-39
H Verdugo	W	82-27
A Monroe	L	60-44