Wind wrecks havoc in Pasadena
Santa Ana winds leave Southern California without power, school cancelled.

By RYAN HYON
Assistant news editor

Devastating Santa Ana winds tore through the San Gabriel Valley during the first week of December and left widespread destruction in their wake. The disaster provoked an official state of emergency in Los Angeles County. Topped trees and power lines obstructed roads and left thousands of citizens without power.

These annual late-fall winds usually only reach top speeds of 40 mph in Pasadena. However, this year’s winds reached up to 100 mph and left utility crews struggling to restore power to over 600,000 homes. Winds reached 140 mph at higher altitudes, a speed equivalent to Category 4 hurricane winds.

The clash between a high-pressure system over northern California and a low-pressure system in Arizona produced the winds. Pasadena, among the hardest hit cities, released preliminary estimates of damage costs of nearly $20 million.

CIF-SS: realignment for failure

By CALEB LEE
Sports editor

Last winter season the girls varsity basketball team won the CIF championship and the return of many key starters has it poised to repeat the victory this season. Other than Prep League rival Chadwick, there is little standing in the way to prevent another long postseason drive. There’s one problem, though, and it’s called realignment.

This year the Southern Section division of the California Interscholastic Federation decided it was prime time to move basketball programs around, all at the same time. Strong teams that were doing too well for their own good were moved to higher divisions and under-performers were demoted. All for fairness’ sake, right? Not really, if you take a closer look at the decision CIF-SS made and what the criteria was for moving up and down.

The decision-makers used enrollment requirements and a “weighted power point” system to

Poly Pilferer strikes again

Unknown bandits repeatedly steal valuables from students, suggesting a culprit within the community

By NOAH KIM and RACHEL HOANG
Assistant news editors

For the last few months, an apparently connected series of thefts has affected the Upper School. Over $1,000 worth of valuables has been stolen from numerous locations on both the North and South Campuses.

Upper School Director Jamie Neilson noted that there have been two kinds of thefts. The most common ones appear to be the organized work of outsiders. In one instance, students returned from sports practice in the Poly gym and field to find that someone has rummaged through their athletic bags. Missing items included smartphones, iPods, iPhones, camcorders, wallets, calculators and Ray-Ban sunglasses.

Outside robberies are not new to Poly. Last year, several instruments were stolen from the orchestra room in Garland. After one of these instruments was found for sale on eBay, the robbers were traced back to a Poly late-night security guard. Neilson said, “I expect that these outside folks arrange to have lookouts, and stay in contact with one another by cell phone so that they can escape quickly if need be.”

Director of Buildings and Grounds Dale Rasmussen has been working with the Pasadena Police Department to try and prevent these outside thefts.

Other thefts have occurred in places not easily accessible to strangers, such as near the freshman locker area and on the junior patio, suggesting that the work may be connected to someone within the Poly community. Mostly involving cash, these larcenies began shortly after announcements about outside robberies were made in Morning Meeting. Appeals have so far been ineffective, and the number of thefts is escalating. More than $150 has been stolen in addition to a boombox, an iPhone and several calculators.

Junior Allison Ball lost her wallet on the junior patio, only to find it one week later in the classroom of Upper School math teacher Eric Strom, emptied of cash and gift cards. Ball said, “No one besides a student would steal a relatively paltry amount of cash, and then return the wallet to somewhere near the scene of the crime. I hate to judge so many by the actions of one, but I don’t feel safe leaving my belongings around my peers anymore.”

Additionally, an iPod belonging to Writing Center Director Grace Hamilton was stolen from her desk in Boswell Labratory in early November. It was found in the Garland parking lot by one of the visiting students from Narayama High School after Hamilton issued an appeal for its return in Morning Meeting. The latter crimes particularly distress Neilson. “Do we really want to feel as though we need to report one another for suspicious behavior?” he asked. “I don’t think we do, and it definitely undermines my own sense of living in a community where people are looking out for me just as I try to look out for others.”

Poly prides itself on its spacious, open campus, but in this case, it serves as a pitfall. Anybody interested has easy access to the Poly campus. Neilson advises students to refrain from leaving anything of value in a location that is out of their sight. In addition, students should avoid going through other people’s bags and should report any instances of such activity—particularly during time periods when the campus is relatively deserted.
Students analyze budget crisis

By LINA VADALAMANI
News editor

With the United States over $15 trillion in debt and its economy in shambles, citizens are taking a more hands-on approach to bringing about the change needed to balance the nation’s budget. Ten Upper School students traveled to the Crawford Family Forum at KPC’s Pasadena studio to participate in a budget-balancing activity for Kiri Rysdahl’s show “Market Place.”

The show brought together students from Poly, Maranatha and Waverly to see whether groups of students could come to an agreement about ways to reduce the national debt in 20 years, a feat that Congress’s Budget Super Committee recently announced that it was unable to do.

The students played Budget Hero, an online simulation game that shows the national debt as a series of buildings. Each building represents a particular sector of the economy, including social security, taxes, defense, health and foreign aid. Players either increase revenue through taxes or decrease spending. The students also had to choose badges that represented their values and guide their choices through the game, ranging from support for the Tea Party to an emphasis on energy independence.

Lunch in the boardroom with John Keatley

Poly alumnus John Keatley ’91 spoke to students last month as part of the Lunch in the Boardroom Program, an Alumni Office series designed to share insight into being an effective leader.

Keatley, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Green Dot Corporation, began the meeting by asking the attending students to discuss some of the ways in which they have been successful and unsuccessful leaders. Keatley examined different leadership methods without endorsing one particular style. He instead emphasized the importance of finding a “leadership culture” that is effective for the specific situation.

Keatley also discussed the challenges of starting a successful business or corporation from scratch. He shared his own experiences in establishing an online education service that would connect Ivy League university professors with interested students and saw the business vacillate."We had enough money raised, we had an amazing team of people working with us, we had a viable idea, but we lacked a clear audience.”

Keatley also discussed the shortcomings of this business and reflected, “We had enough money raised, we had an amazing team of people working with us, we had a viable idea, but we lacked a clear audience.”

To conclude the discussion, Keatley had students brainstorm ways for Green Dot Corporation to market its products to college students, an age group he believes would benefit from having a reliable card with no overdraft fees and no credit rating attached. Despite the enormous success of Green Dot Corporation and his success as CFO, Keatley hopes to start his own business in the future.

Ryan Kidman

Poly questions the value of the AP Program

The English Department held a symposium examining the relevancy of APs at Poly. An Advanced Placement Program symposium drew an Upper School audience on December 1 to discuss ideology and current culture. The debate was facilitated by Poly parent and KPC’s Lila Mantle. Featured speakers included former Headmaster of Crossroads School Roger Joliffe, who argued against the continuation of the AP Program, and Chief Reader of the AP English Language and Composition exam David Joliffe, who argued in favor of the AP Program. The speakers addressed the question, “Is the AP Program relevant for independent schools?”

Joliffe and Roger Weaver shared the stage at a symposium concerning the AP Program in independent schools. The symposium allowed the students to express their views through a stylistic format. The debate, the students analyzed the effectiveness of each speaker’s argument.

After briefly introducing each speaker, Mantle gave each side the opportunity to explain their stance. In opposition to the AP Program, Weaver explained that Crossroads School eliminated the AP Program from its curriculum in 2005. Weaver emphasized that Crossroads replaced the AP courses with equally demanding interdisciplinary courses, thus maintaining a rigorous curriculum. Collectively known as the Crossroads Advanced Studies (CAS), Weaver stated that these specialized courses better cater to students’ interests. Courses such as the Advanced Study in the Marine Biology of the Urban Coast of California instill a genuine love of learning and actually make students stay out during the college admissions process.

Joliffe emphasized that the purpose behind AP courses is to give students the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest to them in more depth. In general, the two debaters agreed with each other about a variety of issues. Both maintained that overly demanding course loads were not healthy for students and that the College Board runs a corrupt monopoly that generates $580 million in profit each year despite its front as a non-profit organization.

In addition, Joliffe and Weaver maintained that well-written exams reduced the essential for the AP Program to be useful for students. Joliffe highlighted the AP English Composition and Literature exams as particularly well-designed tests that encouraged students to “construct, rather than reproduce, their knowledge.”

Weaver argued the exact opposite, using the AP Biology exam as evidence that the AP Program forces students to simply “regurgitate” information. Junior Michael Caughron reflected, “I wouldn’t go so far as to say that the symposium was a debate, since both speakers argued for the same points. It was hard to tell who was on which side. Overall, the symposium did not live up to my expectations.”

Wind Continued from page 1

The students of the temporary closure of school due to concerns regarding student safety. Westridge School, Mayfield School and the majority of public schools in the San Gabriel Valley also closed school for the day. The winds disrupted the lives of Poly students and faculty alike. Although students were given a day to recuperate at home, communication issues due to the long-term power outages engendered confusion among students regarding the postponement of classes, tests and assignments. Poly reopened school the following day, only the one schools in Pasadena to do so.

I was disappointed by the administration’s decision to re-open school so soon. Poly was the only local school that reopened on Friday, and many students still didn’t have any electricity,” said junior David Rodgers. “It seems contradictory to force students to go to school when there’s a chance that they won’t even be fully prepared for a day of new intellectual material. Did Poly really expect us to be ready for school after just one day of recovery after such a crisis?”

Many residents were still left without power midway through the following week. “My house didn’t have power for at least 132 hours after the winds hit. These blackouts are usually resolved within 24 hours,” said junior Audrey Xu. “Since I couldn’t do anything at home, I had to go out every night to do work and kill time.”

However, the severe windstorm may also have had a positive impact on the community. Senior Kevin Chu reflected, “It was really inconvenient, but it was also more aware of how fortunate we are to have electricity.”

"The Paw Print was established in 1913 and is the official newspaper of Polytechnic High School. This online version is published by the Journalism program in conjunction with the English Department.
PROS

Positive outcomes of the schedule change include late starts, longer periods for tests and labs and a truer rotation of classes.

I am thoroughly enjoying the block periods. Students and I arrive with a kind of settling in’ feeling, ready to take time to go in-depth into a subject or do a variety of exercises. I don’t feel rushed. I had the opportunity to shadow a senior during an ‘A’ day, and she and I talked about the quick, fragmented and sometimes overwhelming feeling of those days—water skiing through academics with little or no connection. As a teacher, I can do a quick 45 minute lesson, but I think it is difficult for students. They have all of their classes, plus all of their homework in two days. Several have told me that come Wednesday, they are completely exhausted.

-Maya Omori ’15

Most students said they are less likely to take arts classes under the new schedule, with additional sleep being the most common reason. One student said, “With this new schedule, participating in a relaxing, stress-free activity like photography or woodworking means sacrificing an hour and a half of sleep each night.” Another said, “Despite this sentiment, arts enrollment is not signifcantly down compared to last year; it is pretty much the worst since you have to do six classes’ worth of homework that night.”

-Brianna Chu ’14

Overall, I really enjoy the schedule here at Poly. The up and down, push then pull feel of the week helps me pace my homework and after school activities, and going to classes at different times during the day avoids the risk of a monotonous routine. Also, sleeping in a few days a week is always a plus!

-Maya Omori ’15

SCHEDULE

Poly’s new schedule debuted this year to a decidedly mixed reaction from the student body. Among other things, it shifted arts to the morning, introduced block periods and established a rotating system. Here, students and faculty give their impressions.

Schedule By the Numbers

The percentage of respondents who didn’t know why Poly changed the schedule.

37

The number of students shadowed by teachers through a school day as a way of evaluating the new schedule.

19

The number of years ago that the former schedule was created and put into use.

19

The number of times that the Schedule Committee met during the 2010-2011 school year.

Looking Forward

Upper School Head Jamie Nelson has announced that Poly will not be returning to its former schedule. However, it is likely that there will be modifications in years to come. Nelson said, “There are always going to be problems with the schedule. What we don’t want is to create new problems by moving too quickly.” He asked students to suggest ways in which to improve the schedule.

•Commit to a full block schedule with a truer rotation.
•Never have all six classes in one day, and get rid of A period on Thursday.
•Switch the Tuesday and Wednesday schedules to even out the work load.
•Make lunch earlier and longer. Without arts/labs, we need a break in the middle of the day.
•Move Advisee back to two days a week.
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•Move Advisee back to two days a week.

CONS

Negative aspects of the schedule include uneven homework loads, inconsistent times (starting, ending and lunch), lack of free time and early scheduling of arts classes.

The new schedule has taken a toll on the strong community vibe that has always been a distinguishing factor of the Poly campus. With everyone—both teachers and students—constantly running from class to class, it’s extremely difficult to find times to meet with teachers, see friends that aren’t in your classes or just stop by Mrs. Williams’ office with a quick question. Also, lunch and conference period at the end of the day are too short.

-Mackenzie Maccio ’12

If you have a sibling or a cousin, you have to come to school early anyway and don’t get the intended “extra sleep” to compensate for the extra homework on block days. Plus, the new schedule was intended to encourage kids to take more art classes, but a lot of people don’t because they don’t want to have to wake up earlier.

-Natalia Pithon ’15

I think the schedule moves us through the day at a rapid pace with lots of classes packed in, which is both mentally and physically exhausting. I appreciate classes starting later, but I believe that the Arts Department really took the biggest hit, with classes starting at 7:45am. I know of some kids who dropped their participation in arts simply because of the early start time. This meant that kids who either wanted to take certain sciences or kids with schedules that were too hard to manipulate in another way were forced out of the option of taking an art.

-Catlinn Burns ’12

I feel like having the new schedule and the construction at the same time is a lose-lose situation, and most people aren’t happy with the fact that they’re not entirely sure what time they need to show up in the morning. For some arts classes, like acting, the class is one of your block periods, leaving you no free period at all. Also, Monday schedule is pretty much the worst since you have to do six classes’ worth of homework that night.

-Brianna Chu ’14
Occupy movement sets sights on Rose Parade but questions abound

By LUKE ASPERGER and NICKY STIEDEL
Online sports editor and Online features editor

A few weeks ago, the Occupy Los Angeles camp was disbanded by the Los Angeles Police Department. Occupy LA had been struggling to draw around 2,000 protesters at the peak of the movement, making it one of the largest of the approximately 2,500 Occupy locations. Though Occupy Los Angeles and many of the Occupy protests across the nation have now been cleared and organization is low, Occupy Pasadena, the Occupy movement’s Pasadena division, has denied any affiliation with Occupy the Rose Parade.

Thottam was arrested in Mexico in June 2003 for shoplifting a pair of socks. In 2004, Thottam was disbarred from the practice of law after being caught shoplifting books at UC Irvine. He is a leading figure in the 9/11 Truth Movement. Thottam was a prominent leader in a similar but smaller demonstration in the 2008 Rose Parade that protested the Iraq War and that called for the impeachment of President Bush and Cheney.

However, questions as to the legitimacy of the planned march, not to mention those directed at Thottam himself, have arisen.

Occupy activists in Pasadena are continuing efforts to drive their message to the public. Plans have emerged to stage a large protest during the 2012 Rose Parade on January 2nd, a world-wide broadcast that attracts 50 million viewers in the United States and an additional 200 million internationally. The demonstration hopes to draw thousands of protesters from other Occupy movements nationwide who will converge to form “a human float,” carrying large signs and banners to express their message.

Former lawyer Peter Thottam, a resident of Venice, California, who has a long history of anti-government activism, is organizing the event. Thottam was a prominent leader in the Occupy movement. Unlike many of the other Occupy movements, which have been critiqued for a lack of clear objectives, Thottam has laid out specific demands and goals.

Foremost among these goals is reining in the Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, which held that corporations and unions couldn’t be limited in political spending. Occupy the Rose Parade believes that such a reversal must be followed by Congressional action to completely ban corporate money from elections.

“Citizens United single-handedly has given control of the electoral process to Fortune 500 companies and the banks that finance Fortune 500 companies, so one thing we have to do is take away the influence of these banks,” Thottam said. Thottam also suggested making a switch to the European parliamentary system, which he believes would hold the government more accountable to the people.

Thottam hopes for a large turnout and initially called for 40,000 protesters to participate, but Thottam could not provide an estimate as to how many people currently plan on attending. “We’ve seen endorsements from a couple regional Occupies, including Denver… but the headcount and all, that still remains to be seen.” When asked whether he anticipated any arrests during the demonstration, he said, “We can’t predict that with certainty. Our purpose is to be nonviolent and that’s how we were in 2008, and not a single person was arrested in 2008.” However, Thottam said the Los Angeles Times reported that one protestor was arrested for interfering with the parade.

No funny ha-ha here

By MICHAEL LIRUCA
Features correspondent

Each Friday, at the Pinridge Retreat Center, a small group of people come together to participate in laughter yoga. Recently, I joined one of these weekly classes.

The purpose of laughter yoga is to simulate authentic laughter to the point where one is essentially feeling the body into laughing wholeheartedly. Laughter yoga does not only consist of laughing, but it also incorporates the mental and spiritual aspects of traditional yoga as well. As I learned from a long-time participant, “We hardly ever use more than 10% of the air in our lungs, but this class forces us to use 100% of it.” This type of yoga breathing, along with positive reinforcement and mental discipline, sets the environment for individual improvement over the course of an hour.

There are no Fight Club-type antics at laughter yoga. There isn’t anything secretive or exclusive about it. Laughter yoga is first and foremost a welcoming and pleasant experience, that is if you can get over the social barrier that prevents most people from laughing for no reason.

Upon starting the class, the instructor will introduce the five rules of laughter yoga. First, cross your arms into an “X” and declare that there will be no new pain during the class. Then make eye contact with fellow classmates; each member of the class exchanges glances one at a time. Third, talking is prohibited. Fourth, fake is fine. Fake laughter is acceptable if one does not benefit from laughter simulation. One does not benefit from laughter by leading with the body, which is why some people advocate for performing laughter yoga. Recently, I joined one of these weekly classes.

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Crossword
by Matt Rossi and Allan Wu

Across
1. Beneke of “Breaking Bad”
4. Top left key
10. … and beauty continuously displayed by senior Courtney Yang is no longer surprising."
11. “Become one with the _____”, Asian spiritual goal
12. Father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth
14. It has layers, like an onion
15. Food’s masterpiece
16. Give in
17. Hackneyed
19. Contains 29 islands, 661 cays, and 100 miles of reef
21. Bernie of Ocean’s 11
23. Risqué dance location
24. You can water ski with it
25. Battlechips or Mastermind piece
26. Prefix with green or glades
27. “… _____, Thy will be done…”
31. “…_______, Thy will be done…”
32. Wasted Boston Party drink
33. Caltech cocktail venue
35. … fried for Tea: Tea Bar & Restaurant
36. End of “Finding Nemo”?
37. Month by a South American river?
41. Entered into a computer
45. Grammy counterpart
46. JFK predecessor (for short)
48. “… be thought…”
49. It comes before a famous Lisa
50. Honda hybrid model
51. Notry
52. Neighbor of Sre
t
53. TI-84 power source
54. Bond or Rosenberg, e.g.

Down
1. Common frat party attire
2. Gain (as respect)
3. One who is in REM
31. A’a’ is a type of it
33. Tuna type
34. Monkeys might pick one
35. _______ for Tea: Tea Bar & Restaurant
36. Prefix with green or glades
37. Traffic snack topping?
38. On a roll: “I _____ fire!”
39. Less than micro and more than pico
40. a.k.a. Lady’s Fingers or Gumbo
41. Entered into a computer
42. Ruby slippers or Vader’s helmet
43. Pro athlete award
44. It’s before “Ray,” to the Von Trapps
45. Longoria of “Desperate Housewives”
46. The First Person to Turn in a Completed Puzzle Will Receive a $10 Gift Card to Starbucks!
47. Longoria of “Desperate Housewives”
48. “_______ he thought…”
49. It comes before a famous Lisa
50. Honda hybrid model
51. Notry
52. Neighbor of Sre
t
53. TI-84 power source
54. Bond or Rosenberg, e.g.

A tradition of giving continues
By AUDREY CHAI
Life editor

With a relationship dating back to the 1980s, Poly has been coor-
dinating volunteer efforts with the Union Station Services Center to
provide hot meals for homeless men, women and children. With
the “Adopt a Meal” program, vol-
unteer groups cook and serve food
for those in need. Dean of Students
Branden McCrual took over as Poly’s faculty liaison to the “Adopt
a Meal” program in 2005. Each
year he chooses a student coordina-
tor to oversee the menu, shopping
and preparation of the meal. This
year’s student coordinator is senior
Mackenzie Lee.

Once a month, a group of ten
Upper School students take the
drive to the homeless center
and prepare, cook and clean
for the entire evening. Lee cus-
tomizes the menu each time to in-
clude dishes such as BBQ chicken
or tacos. Students ranging from
freshmen to seniors and amateurs
to experienced chefs all find a
way to help out. Even McCrual,
who deems himself “far from an
expert chef,” finds himself a mas-
ter vegetable chopper and produces
the best salads every time.

The people on the receiving end
of the students’ hard work are more
than grateful. Lee said, “They al-
ways come up to us smiling and
appreciative. They are thankful
that we take the time, money and effort
to do this for them. And after every
dinner, they always give us a round
of applause. It makes you feel
proud of the work you do and shows
that the intense three hours of hard
work you just put in, did not go unno-
ticed.”

But perhaps more than just the
homeless benefit from the
students’ work. “I think it’s a good experience
for all of us,” said Lee.
“A lot of the time, Poly stu-
dents are ac-
counted
of being stuck in our own
bubbles of privilege, and
we often over-
look the ways
that we can get in touch with our local
community.” Opportunities such as cooking for the homeless
are some of the best ways “to get to
know our area fully and really make
an impact on the world around us,”
concluded Lee.
The doubtful future of American innovation

By CONNOR MCKNIGHT
Chief online editor

Since the foundation of our country, American innovation has gone hand in hand with financial success and technological progress. We transcended the boundaries of science, we stretched our borders from sea to shining sea and, in a mere 200 years, rose from a group of revolutionary colonists to an unstoppable kingdom on the international stage.

We have had innovators like Benjamin Franklin, who conjured up the idea of flying a kite in the middle of a severe storm to set a foundation for our understanding of electricity, all the while serving America as a diplomat and statesman. Thomas Edison and his think tank at Menlo Park took electricity and made a device that is seen in nearly every household across the fifty states: the light bulb.

The Manhattan Project, which culminated in the revolutionary and horrifying discovery of the atomic bomb, took our economy plummets into financial oblivion and our national debt has surpassed the point that politicians can no longer hide the astronomically negative number, the future of American innovation has never looked so bleak.

While the government starts to address the deficit with budget cuts by still attempting to implement promised social services to the increasingly angry public, research and development has been the first to go. NASA has started to disappear off the map. Science has seen its government support vanish in a fortnight. Alternative energy has been pushed to the periphery and its development has been neglected due to the lack of financial backing. The result is an incredible progress of medical research. Funding is increasingly being routed away from technology.

Over the summer, I had the opportunity to listen a series of speakers from the Hamilton Project, a program at the Brookings Institute dedicated to continue the advancement of “America’s promise of opportunity, prosperity, and growth.”

With speakers ranging from leading scientists, economists, presidents of universities, members of the Obama Administration, and from the first time, last minute, last minute, last minute for the future of American innovation.

Analyzing the trends of American growth in correlation with technological advancements, it has been clear that the countries and developments at which new advances are invented are directly proportional to the state of the economy. During the Age of Industrial Revolution, modified versions of the cotton belt flooded the market with consumer goods and provided jobs for people in urban environments. Following World War II, with a flood of innovation in weapons and technology to help defeat the Axis powers, the American economy boomed after finally emerging from the Great Depression. Even in the 1990s, when it appeared that the United States was about to hit another financial roadblock, the introduction of the Internet directly correlated to an economic surge.

But now, according to economists who work at the Hamilton Project, we are entering “an era where we’ve going to have to do more with less.” American innovation will have to find a way to preserve despite brutal cuts in research and development. As of now, promising economies overseas are benefitting the most from new technologies. Only 35% of patents in the world now remain in the US, and 4 of the 5 world’s supercomputers are in foreign countries.

Firms devoted to pioneering innovative devices are losing productivity due to their lack of financial support. In their eyes, the government does not understand that innovation “is not a 100-yard dash, it’s a marathon.” Without sufficient funding, completing this marathon and continuing along the path that Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Edison set as the American standard for ingenuity seems impossible.

Education is the key to promoting innovation in this financially challenged era. Supporting creativity in our younger generations fosters the entrepreneurial that has always driven American innovators since Franklin.

But as the next generation enters their undergraduate studies, universities have started to see their research funds diminished. Governor Jerry Brown cut 14% of the funding for the research universities in the University of California system. In the past, an undergraduate exposure to research has enormous ly encouraged creative development, and that will be essential for the future.

However, there is still a glimmer of hope for these young minds. The co-founder of PayPal Peter Thiel has had the most extreme response to this decreased funding for universities, receiving plenty of criticism for his efforts. He created Thiel Fellowship, a program where he offers $100,000 for students to drop out of college and pursue their innovative interests. In a New Yorker feature about Thiel, it was noted that “something about the turbulence of this age, the deep sense of dissatisfaction with things as they are, prompts people to discard the stale verities and invent new ones. Which, after all, is a very old way to respond to distress in this country.” That spirit of invention is necessary for America to get back on the track towards a prosperous future, one devoid of economic turmoil.

The United States cannot respond to financial crisis by destroying the foundation of American success. Before we shore research and development aside to cut costs, we need to think about the real basis for our prosperity. It starts and ends with innovation.

The Chris Paul trade in the post-lockout era

By DAVID RODGERS
Student contributor

Lockout, blockbuster trades, Metta World Peace. It’s been an off-season to remember for the NBA.

When I saw that Chris Paul had been traded to the Los Angeles Lakers, my boring afternoon was suddenly transformed into world of purple and gold. I was excited about this trade and how it would affect the offense? Can we win it all in 2012?

Then I saw the follow-up reports that Paul had asked for a trade. Chris Paul, the star guard for the New Orleans Hornets, had told his teammates that the Lakers were going to have to do more with less. The Lakers are a winner’s team, they are already successful winners, and the Lakers have been successful winners, winning the last four NBA championships. It seems however, that David Stern opposes such transactions, and Chris Paul is a winner. The Lakers are a winner’s team, and winning is the primary goal of David Stern.

Stem is sending a dangerous message to the owners and players that he cares more about equality than he does about the game.

The United States cannot respond to financial crisis by destroying the foundation of American success.
Relatively inexperienced boys basketball team begins season with mixed results

By HUNTER WORLAND
Assistant sports editor

The relatively inexperienced boys basketball team began the season with mixed results. CIF-SS student contributor Hunter Worland comments on the boys basketball team, which includes some of Monrovia’s top scorers.

"I think our expectations have to be realistic. We lost a lot of our team from last year and so we are going to have to play through some of our mistakes," commented senior Logan Beerman. The loss of six graduated players, two of whom now play college basketball, will be felt throughout the course of the season. The graduated seniors, Daniel Wohl and Hunter Meravsky, were pivotal to the team’s success, as the Panthers placed them the way to the CIF Semi-Finals. They ended the season with a 24-3 overall record, 7-1 in the Prep League. The Panthers come into the new season with two seniors and only four returning varsity players. Despite its lack of experience, the squad hopes to compete with enthusiasm from the very start.

Junior and three-year varsity player Curtis Toyota noted, “It’s hard having so many young guys because we find ourselves physically outmatched more often than not. But we can make up for this by working harder and smarter.”

Senior Ali Kamal, an assist from Sophia Ward, graduated or will very soon. “I think our expectations have to be realistic. We lost a lot of our team from last year and so we are going to have to play through some of our mistakes,” commented senior Logan Beerman. The loss of six graduated players, two of whom now play college basketball, will be felt throughout the course of the season. The graduated seniors, Daniel Wohl and Hunter Meravsky, were pivotal to the team’s success, as the Panthers placed them the way to the CIF Semi-Finals. They ended the season with a 24-3 overall record, 7-1 in the Prep League. The Panthers come into the new season with two seniors and only four returning varsity players. Despite its lack of experience, the squad hopes to compete with enthusiasm from the very start.

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Despite recent losses, the team started the non-league season strong with a 48-36 win against Thatcher. The Panthers continued their strong play with a solid win over Fillmore High School from New Mexico. The team did well in the league contest, paced by senior guard Will Genske, who scored 25 points in the 37-44 victory. Toyota scored ten points to back him up.

Toyota has proven himself indispensable to the team. The team recognizes him not only as a stand-out player, but also as a team leader.

Genske commented, “We started out struggling to find leadership but I definitely think it’s coming from Curtis Toyota on the court because of his ability to not be mentally rattled.”

After starting off the Poly tournament strong, the Panthers suffered a setback, losing to Burroughs. Genske led the Panthers with 16 points. The loss only increased the Panthers’ motivation, with a lot of support provided by the seniors. The Panthers do not open league play until early January, and will be working hard to improve team chemistry and gain experience in multiple non-league games.

“Win or lose, the Poly girls can avoid the fact that they are stuck in a higher division against larger and stronger schools for an indefinite period of time. To be moved down only a half a division (e.g. from 4A to 4AA), a program must earn zero weighted power points over a period of four straight years.

Thus, for the Poly girls to go back down one-and-one-half divisions to Division 6A, they would have to win the first half of the season for the next twelve years, all because the previous seasons dictate their performance of players that have likely graduated or will very soon.

Win or lose, the Poly girls for basketball did not go as far as the girls in the past four seasons; otherwise, the current group may have been placed in a higher division with the likes of much larger public schools like La Cañada or Muir too.
Girls basketball squad picks up where it left off, wins Poly Tournament

By OLIVIA TREISTER
Staff writer

The reigning CIF Division 5A champions have resumed their positions on the court this winter. Injuries have plagued the varsity girls’ basketball team early in the season. Sophomore Karly Olah suffered a neck injury in the season opener against La Salle, while senior Tessa Loera sat out the first game due to a concussion.

But regardless of the setbacks that led to a hard 4-9 loss against La Salle, the girls showed that they are ready to play when they won the Poly Tournament. The team defeated Verdugo Hills, 71-17, the Poly Tournament.

With the girls varsity basketball team only four games into its season, a new player already distinguished herself: Kiki Yang. As the only freshman to make the varsity team this year, her skills have added a new weapon to this already dangerous offense.

The girls basketball team is facing a difficult season in a higher division, but with recent road wins, it is poised to exceed expectations. In the first game of the season against a strong La Salle team, Yang scored nine points.

In the Poly-hosted tournament, Yang contributed a valuable 15 points in Poly’s 72-27 victory over Verdugo Hills. "Kiki always hustle, looks for the open man and is a great dribbler. She fits well into the team dynamic on the court,” said her teammate, senior Tessa Loera.

With many important games ahead for the team, a lot will be demanded of Yang and her teammates. Yang’s future on the team is quite promising if she continues to play with the same motivation and determination as she has demonstrated thus far.

"As a result of CIF realignment, the team moved up to Division 4AA, compared to 5A last year. Potentially facing teams like Windward High School, ranked 16th in the nation, the team will clearly face challenges this season, especially in the playoffs.

By THE NUMBERS

Points scored by senior guard Michelle Miller against Verdugo Hills in the Poly Tournament.

Length in days of the NBA Lockout. Players and owners recently ratified a new bargaining agreement.

Points scored by sophomore center Will Gen against Windward High School from New Zealand.