MSL brings Boyle, promotes kinship
By LILLIAN MECUM
News editor

Father Greg Boyle of Homeboy Industries, a Los Angeles youth service organization founded in 1988, shared his moving experiences recently organized by the Men’s Service League.

Boyle spoke of the importance of kinship and reaching out to those in need. Boyle also clarified that the purpose behind service should not be to alleviate the less fortunate but rather to unify the entire community within a “circle of compassion.”

With facilities in one of the nation’s most crime-ridden cities, Homeboy Industries supports at-risk youth with a variety of employment opportunities and free programs. Many of Homeboy’s beneficiaries are former gang members or recently released convicts who have also dealt with alcoholism or drug abuse.

During his presentation, Boyle recounted personal stories of young people he had worked with in the past through Homeboy. Boyle remembered that one youth’s mother beat him so badly through out his childhood that he had to wear three shirts every day in order to cover his bleeding wounds, a habit that he could not break even years after he had moved out. Boyle met another member who had recently begun counseling at Homeboy had asked Boyle why no business was willing to give him a job. At that time, the youth had a large, ob-square tattoo across his forehead, as well as tattoos covering nearly every inch of his body. However, with tattoo removal treatment, he was able to eventually find a job placement with Boyle’s assistance.

Other stories did not end so happily, with former gang members slipping back into old lifestyles or cycles of substance abuse. Boyle shared that he has buried over 100 of his Homeboy youth over the past two decades.

However, Father Boyle remains positive about the potential of Homeboy to bring positive change to the neighboring communities of Los Angeles. Homeboy Industries now offers a job training program called Jobs for a Future.

Secretary Bryson to speak at commencement
By LINA VADLAMANI
News editor

Secretary of Commerce John Bryson has been confirmed as the Commencement speaker for the class of 2012. A recent addition to President Obama’s cabinet, Secretary Bryson was sworn in to office last October.

Bryson graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history from Stanford University and later earned a law degree from Yale. He went on to serve as a chairman of the California State Water Resources Control Board and then as president of the California Public Utilities Commission. He was Chairman, CEO and President of Edison International, the parent company of Southern California Edison, and was also a director of the Boeing Company, the Walt Disney Company and Coda Automotive, Inc. He is a past trustee of the California Institute of Technology and Stanford University, and served as a director of both the W.M. Keck Foundation with USC and the California Endowment.

President Obama cited Secretary Bryson’s vast experience working with American and foreign companies as the reason for his nomination for the position, saying “by working with companies here at home, and representing America’s interests abroad, I’m confident that he’s going to help us meet the goal that I set of doubling our nation’s exports. John will be able to draw on decades of business experience. That’s the expertise that will help us create new jobs and make America more competitive in the global economy.”

Bryson has strong connections to Poly — his four daughters, Julia, Jane, Ruth, and Kathleen graduated from Poly, and both he and his wife, Louise served on Poly’s Board of Trustees.

See BRYSION, page 2

RIVALRY WEEK: The Seniors won the tug-of-war, which concluded the festivities on the fourth day of the annual Poly tradition.

By NOAH KIM
Assistant news editor

The AP Art class traveled to the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) to help mixed media artist Cai Guo-Qiang in the installation of several of his pieces. In a meticulous process, the class worked with stencil and gunpowder in order to set up the exhibit.

Several years ago, Dominic Ng, the father of junior Rachel Ng, purchased a collection of artwork from Cai and was offered the opportunity to meet him in Houston at the opening of his “Odyssey” exhibit. When MOCA Director Jeffrey Deitch offered Cai an opportunity to install an exhibit, Ng was able to set up a volunteer opportunity for the AP Art class.

“It was incredible just having a world renowned artist like Mr. Qiang to communicate with,” said Head of the Upper School Art Program Amor Baetvedt. “Just seeing him in action and learning from him made you feel as if you were an integral part of something "incredible.”

See ART, page 3

Diversity Day comes to Poly
By AVRA JULIANI
Student contributor

Poly will host its second Diversity Day on March 21st, focusing this year on topics of immigration and identity.

The concept of hosting a Diversity Day stemmed from the Diversity Task Force, an ensemble of Poly Board members, teachers, faculty members and parents, in 2007. The first Diversity Day was held on April 3, 2009, when the Lower, Middle and Upper schools joined to explore the theme of the day, “The Power of Stories.”

Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs and organizer of Diversity Day Carmie Rodriguez said, “The intent was for Diversity Day to be a school-wide, daylong event which would serve as a reflection of the work that Poly does on an ongoing basis in the area of diversity and inclusivity as well as an incentive to keep the work going.”

Due to the success of the first Diversity Day, the event is now scheduled to occur every three years.

The day will begin with a keynote presentation from South Korean immigrant and award-winning author, Helie Lee. As a political activist, Lee has written to raise awareness about human rights for North Korean refugees. Students will then have the opportunity to choose from either one full morning workshop or two 50-minute morning workshops centered on the idea of immigration. The workshops will be taught by an array of teachers, students, parents and guest speakers.

See DIVERSITY, page 2

Opposition to tax hike urged from students
By AVRA JULIANI
Student contributor

Students are divided over the governor’s proposed budget plan which would raise billions in taxes and cut billions in spending. The proposed cuts come in a year when Poly has not had a tax increase since 1991. The proposed cuts also coincide with the state deficit as California faces $16 billion shortfall.

The debate over the tax increase was brought to the Assembly last week when the student government presented the state legislature with a letter urging students to stand against the tax hike on the March 2nd deadline.

See N. CALIFORNIA, page 3
Juniors give speeches around campus

By RYAN HYGON
Assistant news editor

Every year, the English Department gives students the opportunity to be a speaker at commencement. The junior class is given the chance to memorize and perform an original speech reflecting personal and profound interests.

Some juniors present their speeches during Morning Meeting, in front of the entire high school, while others perform in front of their peers during lunch. This year, some even ventured into Old Town Pasadena, where they attracted small crowds of curious passersby.

Bryson
Continued from page 1

Head of School Debbie Reed said, “When I approached Sec- retary Bryson about speaking at commencement, he replied that he would love to do it and would take a personal day to make sure that he would be available because he cares deeply about Poly.”

Bryson will be able to speak about his experiences in the busi- ness world and in clean energy re- search. He is currently working on foreign trade agreements – most notably with China – and promot- ing domestic businesses. He has stated his vision for the American economy to incorporate “support- ing advanced manufacturing, in- creasing our exports, and attract- ing more investment to America.”

Commencement is a time to recognize and celebrate the senior class as a whole. Senior class Pres- ident Robert Lantry remarked that Bryson was a great fit as a speaker for the class of 2012, say- ing “I feel he embodies our class because he is a hard working, successful person who in turn wants to do something good for the world.”

Senior class treasurer Taani Ahluwalia re- marked, “It is a privilege to have someone from the current presidential cabinet speak at our commen- tation. I think there are so many people in our grade who are interested in global issues and pub- lic service who will enjoy hearing him speak and find his words inspiring.”

Reed noted, “Secretary Bryson’s experiences as Secretary of Com- merce and his work with President Obama will be very interesting to hear about. I expect that he will speak about public service and challenge students to become involved in and contribute to their community.”

Diversity
Continued from page 1

Following the morning work- shops, another keynote presenta- tion was made by Said Allah, who wrote and starred in “Pales- tine,” an off-Broadway production about Said’s identity as an Arab- American. In the afternoon, students will have the chance of attending an additional identity workshop or an affinity group. Affinity groups will work to unite students through their common identities such as ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation.

“This topic of immigration is one we hear about all the time, espe- cially in the year before an election. Often the focus of immigration dis- cussions is on illegal immigration alone. We hope that on this day, students will have a chance to view the history and complexity of im- migration in all of its glorious and not so glorious moments and to hear stories from those who have come as immigrants,” said Rodriguez.

Junior Shelayla Gaya, a student organizer of the event, said, “The theme of identity allows for every- one to reflect on themselves and what about them helps to contribute to the diversity at Poly. The focus on this theme also encourages students to identify with characteristics that they might not usually feel defined by. Part of what makes this theme so effective is the openness of the community for everyone to reflect on their own situations while at the same time thinking about others.”

Students can sign up for specific workshops and groups by filling out a form or submitting an online re- quest.

Junior Orianna Torres, a Diver- sity Day affinity group leader, said, “I think that having affinity groups on the workshops will appeal to dif- ferent students’ interests. Diversity Day has the potential to really help in contributing to a more accepting community if people have an open mind.”

Alumni host Service Day

Over 70 Poly students, parents and alumni pitched in at the an- nual Poly Alumni Community Service Day this past Saturday to assist worthy local charities.

Community Service Day was created by a group of Poly alumni who understood and believed in Poly’s long tradition of service to its surrounding community. Since 2001, Community Service Day has provided an annual opportunity for Poly participants to continue their education through helping others.

Alumni Relations Officer Irene Mason affirmed the importance of integrating days like this into Poly’s schedule, saying, “It’s important to become a responsible member of our community.”

One group of students, parents and alumni went to Hillside, a foster home and school for abused children. These volunteers cleaned and refreshed Hillside’s library.

Another group of volunteers visited the McKinley School and contributed to the “School Clean-Up Day,” while another group cleared non-native plants in Rubio Canyon, benefiting the Arroyo Seco Foundation.

The last Poly group was assigned to “babysitting” at Club 21, a place of comfort for children with Down Syndrome. Freshman An- nika Lars, who spent Community Service Day at Club 21, said, “The joy the kids brought us and the joy we brought them was clearly equal. Everyone got something out of it.”

The MSL offered a different service opportunity. Eighth graders had the chance to clean up the La Cañita Verde Pre- school for the second year in a row by partaking in tasks such as gardening and painting.

Andy Ebenbichler, who has actively participated in the Com- munity Service Day over the past ten years, said, “Working with Hillside and Poly community members during the school has been a given. This group was able to do it to the best of their abilities in a focused way, which we believe is the most important.”

The MSL also organized a grant competition in early March, which was open to Poly students. The grant was awarded to a Poly student who in turn wanted to start a club or a form or submitting an online request.

Junior Orianna Torres, a Diver- sity Day affinity group leader, said, “I think that having affinity groups on the workshops will appeal to dif- ferent students’ interests. Diversity Day has the potential to really help in contributing to a more accepting community if people have an open mind.”
Students attend Archer Literary Conference

Four Upper School students presented writing at the “Literary &” conference at Archer.

By RACHEL HOANG
Assistant news editor

A literary conference hosted and sponsored by the Archer School for Girls drew four poly students last month. Junior Joe Bohlinger and seniors Harry Hodgkins, Connor McKnight and Lina Vadramani were accompanied by Upper School English teachers Grace Hamilton and Charity Hum.

Hoping to inspire students’ natural curiosity, the theme of this year’s conference was “Literary &.” Students who wanted to be considered for the conference submitted work to Hamilton, who then sent the entries to the head of the conference.

Once accepted, students were placed in one of six panels: Poetic License, Creative Writers Tell Their Stories, I.A. Stores, Gender Trouble, Women on Shakespeare or Their Stories, L.A. Stores, Gender placed in one of six panels: Poetic License, Creative Writers Tell Their Stories, I.A. Stores, Gender Trouble, Women on Shakespeare or Their Stories, L.A. Stores, Gender

English teachers Grace Hamilton, senior Harry Hodgkins, Connor McKnight and Lina Vadramani presented works at the Archer Literary Conference.

Hillsides Dance Day tradition continues

Steps for Change, a dance outreach club, organized a dance workshop for children at Hillsides, a foster care facility for abused children.

By ERIN LEE
Student contributor

Steps for Change, a dance outreach club headed by seniors Lauren Christopher and Mackenzie Lee and advised by Upper School Dance Program Director Cindy Montoya, coordinated the second annual Hillsides Dance Day to raise awareness for Hillsides, a nonprofit treatment and foster care facility for abused children.

Poly’s dance program first became involved with Hillsides two years ago, when dancers performed at a Hillsides fundraiser event. The Poly dancers were excited to have an opportunity to be able to reach out to the community to raise money for a worthy cause, and their performance was a success.

Montoya had been working with Hillsides for a couple of years to promote art in the children’s lives, and when the dancers were asked to perform again for Hillsides, the enthusiastic reviews from both the attendees and the dancers motivat- ed the GSS to co-sponsor the first official Hillsides Dance Day with Montoya.

This year, Montoya worked with Steps For Change co-presidents Christopher and Lee, as well as with ten volunteer dancers, to organize the event. In the weeks leading up to Dance Day, which took place on March 4, Steps for Change members organized meetings and tutorials for learning the routines that the dancers would teach at Hillsides.

After a group warm-up, the Poly dancers split the group of kids into smaller groups to learn a choreographed hip-hop combination to the song “Loopy” by Dev. Then, the dancers and Hillsides kids formed a freestyle dance circle in which the kids were able to improvise and show off their moves from Michael Jackson impersonations to hip-hop routines and break-dancing.

Sophomore Victoria Peng, who volunteered at the event, explained, “I really enjoy working with us and appreci- ated our effort.” Being unfamiliar with explo- sives, the students were forbidden from handling the gunpowd- er, a privilege reserved for Cai himself. On Saturday, March 10, the art class gathered around the exhibit to watch Cai complete the piece by detonating the explosives.

“I think this experience was extremely eye-opening because I think one can’t truly enjoy a piece of art without having been through the process of creating it,” said Rachel.

“aranged gunpowder is detonated. In an impressive and exhilarating display, the class created covers and stencils for the gunpowder. Some of the stencils are extremely detailed, especially the laser cut ones, and we had to pick and cut out all the tiny pieces,” said Rachel. The members of the AP Art class were somewhat in control of the images put on the main piece and given a moderate amount of control over the placing of the stencil. “I was really sur- prised by how much control he all- owed us to have,” said junior Aria Griffin, one of the volunteering AP Art students. “He was really nice, and you could really tell that he enjoyed working with us and appreci- ated our effort.” Being unfamiliar with explosives, the students were forbidden from handling the gunpowd- er, a privilege reserved for Cai himself. On Saturday, March 10, the art class gathered around the exhibit to watch Cai complete the piece by detonating the explosives.

“I think this experience was extremely eye-opening because I think one can’t truly enjoy a piece of art without having been through the process of creating it,” said Rachel. “This experience made me fully appreciate Cai’s art because now I understand how difficult and time consuming it is to create one of his pieces.”

Junior Aria Griffin, senior Brit Gates-Kayyem and junior Rachel Ng were among the students who helped with the installation.

Art

Continued from page 1

spectacular. It was an unbelievable process.”

Cai Guo-Qiang is known for creating life-sized, abstract repli- cas using unconventional materi- als, such as gunpowder and tax- idemy animals. One of his pieces, exhibited in 2004 at the Guggen- heim Museum, included several real cars and life-sized wolf sculp- tures suspended from the ceiling. Another piece, entitled “Head On,” utilized over a hundred wolf replicas. At the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, Cai cre- ated the famous “footprint fire- works” which lit up a path through the sky leading towards the Bird’s Nest stadium.

Rachel said, “I really enjoy Cai’s work because he’s such an important artist. No one has ever done work like his, and he always incorporates traditional Chinese symbolism with modern day tech- niques, mixing the east with the west, which is a growing theme in today’s society.”

The AP Art class worked on the main piece of the “Sky Ladder” exhibit, “Childhood Spaceship,” a large-scale piece that mostly con- sists of residue left after the ar-

The Steps for Change dance outreach club sponsored the annual Hillsides Dance Day, teaching the kids a hip-hop routine.

“It was so heartwarming to have some of kids who participated last year come up to us and say ‘I remember you guys from last year! This is one of my favorite days!’” Dancers commented on how outgoing and genuinely happy the kids were, even when they weren’t danc- ing.

A couple Hillsides boys taught the dancers some moves of their own, including the dougie, cupped shuffle, and jerk. Victoria Gu, an- other sophmore dance volunteer, said, “The kids’ enthusiasm was contagious. Some were really tal- ented and could dance better than we could! Such an experience is so fulfilling, seeing that they really en- joued it and look forward to it next year.”

Both the Hillsides kids and the Poly dancers are excited for the po- tential of the program. Lee com- mented, “It is so wonderful to see the Hillsides kids’ sense of pride and confidence in what they’re do- ing.”

Montoya also hopes to increase dance outreach by Poly dancers and has co-founded a non-profit organization, the Pasadena Dance Outreach Company, in which many Poly dancers participate. Montoya said, “We hope that this year Hillsides Dance Day will continue to be an annual event for the Steps For Change club.”

Poly dancers lead Hillsides children in a warm-up routine to Shakira’s “Waka Waka” before teaching the hip-hop dance routine.
Hollywood’s Creative Void

By CONNOR MCKNIGHT
Chief online editor

In the modern era of crises and catastrophes, the rapid decline of America’s most cherished industry has gone unnoticed. A form of art has been decapitated. The stars it boasted have dimmed. The epics have lost their firepower. Put simply, the movie industry has taken a hit; Hollywood is devoid of the originality it used to possess.

Now, you might naively believe that it takes an astronomical amount of creativity to churn out the 100 minutes of “cinematic gold” that make up a Hollywood movie. The elaborate plot. The flawless character development. The director’s vision. The stunning visuals. Even the breathtaking screenplays, exceptional directing and masterful performances stealing the box office glory. Now, the next adventure of Optimus Prime, featuring the Autobots taking on their slightly less colorful counterparts, threatens the $500 million mark.

The introduction of 3D has also allowed for this lack of creativity to be further relegated for cheap thrills. We have movies like Saw 3D which profits on the idea that the audience can be vicariously tortured with saws and other sharp projectiles flying out of the screen. We have instances where the talents of A-listers have rapidly driven up production costs, studios have been willing to sacrifice the one thing that makes you rethink eating apple pie have? When is Nicholas Sparks going to run out of novels? Of course, this problem stems from the fact that Hollywood is a business. The big blockbusters that flaunt their superheros are guaranteed to produce a profitable return. The studios focus on avoiding risk in the production process, so heroes are guaranteed to produce a profitable return. The lackuster plots will always be put on an assembly line for production. The superheroes will always rise, the comedic sequels will always find a way, and that trivial love triangle will become the next chick flick.

This, unfortunately, is what Hollywood has become. But there is hope. The consumers still have power over Hollywood. It’s time for them to use it. There are original, creative movies out there, lost in the flood of mindless blockbusters. Seek out the few gems that exist. Go see them. We, the people that purchase tickets, can take a stand. When looking up at that box office, you are choosing between creativity and drivel. As a man once said to his spider-like son, “Remember, with great power comes great responsibility.” It is time for you to make your choice.

How many times are we going to see a man in vibrant tights conquer the same evil that continually threatens the world?”
Kony 2012 and the Dawn of Hope
How social media can inspire a generation

By SEBASTIAN HART
Student contributor

In the span of the last week, Invisible Children’s “Kony 2012” awareness campaign has taken the world by storm. Racking up 70 million views in 7 days, K12 has become the fastest growing awareness campaign the world has ever seen. Ignored and mocked, the awareness campaign is a lightning rod for controversy, especially about Invisible Children’s use of donations (only 37 percent of the charity’s funds are spent on programs in Africa.) Countless “memes” have sprung up across the Internet with satirical humor. “You do not simply,” one such meme declared, “destabilize a Ugandan warlord.”

Amidst the churning torrent of biting criticism and aloof skeptics, those harping on “Kony 2012” miss the point. As K12 continues to raise awareness through social media, this outpouring of passion and emotion suggests one of the most important social developments in (perhaps) our lifetime—America’s youth discovering a sense of social activism.

On an even more basic level, K12’s success raises awareness for Great Lakes country embattled by militias such as Kony’s LRA. Though the LRA’s power has waned since its heyday as a 30,000 strong army, the LRA continues to launch small but brutal attacks throughout rural Uganda. Other militias—many utilizing Kony’s tried-and-true tactic of enslaving child soldiers—continue to plague countries throughout Uganda and her neighboring countries, especially the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In addition, the fact that K12 developed purely through social media suggests that social media has the potential to organize political and social change in America just as it ignited youth movements overseas. Throughout the Arab Spring, Facebook and Twitter helped organize and sustain the youth’s appetite for political change. In America, K12 reflects our generation’s growing ability to organize into a cohesive movement through social media.

Most importantly, the reaction to this awareness and the popularity of “Kony 2012” seems to signal something much bigger—those 70 million views suggest the dawn of a new age of social activism for America’s youth.

Of the hundreds of causes just as emotionally charged as “Kony 2012,” none have received the attracton lavished upon “Kony 2012.” Whether it be climate change or immigration, refugees refused to get up off the couch. Plagued by a history of inaction and disinterest, our generation seemed unaffected and passive compared to the activist youth of the ’60s.

At long last, it seems the fire of compassion and social activism has been kindled.”

By HENRY BROOKS
Student contributor

$5 per gallon gas may be the most important yet ignored factor of the 2012 election. Historically, when gas prices have gone through the roof, voters have wanted change in the White House. People will recall 1976 as the final days of the Ford Administration. Some attribute the loss in his race for a second term as being a result of pardoning Richard Nixon, others to his negligence towards the pressing issue of the Cold War. The reality: Ford’s presidential career ended as a direct result of the 1976 oil embargo imposed on the U.S. by their Middle Eastern rivals. American citizens had become alarmed by the prospect of losing the product that had literally been fueling the nation for a century, and they selected a new man to fix the problem. Unfortunately, that man turned out to be Jimmy Carter. Needless to say that his tactic of advising Americans to bundle up in light of price hikes in the oil market went over poorly. Both presidents saw themselves in and out of the White House after one term. In 2012, energy has returned a similarly critical importance.

The facts: the United States currently consumes more than 29,000 trillion-hours of energy a day. And although the green-energy movement has lowered America’s dependence on fossil fuels, 37 percent of U.S. demand for energy is still met with oil. Unfortunately for the United States, the price per barrel of crude oil keeps rising, driven by the dual factors of the increased demand from China and other developing nations and the increasing unrest in the oil-rich Middle East.

To be fair, the Republican candidates do not appear to have given the issue much traction — yet. For the most part these presidential contenders have called for more drilling in Alaska, offshore and on federal lands, and for increased transportation networks, including the Keystone XL pipeline from Canada. But these solutions do not guarantee increased oil supplies in the U.S., only on the world market. The Democrats argue that domestic drilling does not come close to meeting the U.S.’s insatiable need for oil and can have detrimental environmental consequences.

While the Republican candidates may not yet be contemplating solvency to the energy crisis, the man who promised change almost four years ago has failed to bring America a solution. On the one hand, President Obama has tried to preempt the issue by opening drilling in Alaska and in the Gulf, beginning in 2010. But ironically, that might cost him support among environmentalists and other core liberal supporters who lament that he did so without any new safety regulations. On the other hand, Obama has most recently said that drilling “is not a strategy to solve our energy challenge.”

The president’s solutions to the oil crisis will do nothing to alleviate America’s immediate pain at the pump.”

The current oil crisis is only made worse by our deteriorating relations with Iran. At the worst possible time, the Middle East is becoming dangerously destabilized. As a radical Islamist regime, Iran presides over the enriching of its own uranium, as its neighbors—namely Pakistan—obtain nuclear weapons. And finding suitable allies in the Middle East continues to be difficult for the United States.

Guided by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the United States has joined with NATO and other American allies to isolate Iran from international trade and to subdue any nuclear programs in the works. Not surprisingly, it turns out that economic sanctions are a two-way street. While Iran now suffers from frozen assets in banks that have aligned themselves against the theocracy, the United States, Britain and their allies must endure the cold truth that an energy short-age is at hand. And as more and more Americans turn down their thermostats, the Obama administration will be put on the hot seat.

Increasingly, as Americans contemplate the effects of the administration’s green-energy solutions and its policies in the Middle East, they will be doing so in the cold of their own homes. The question will inevitably be: have the last four years of economic policy worked? With gas approaching five dollars a gallon, many of the commodities Americans have grown to rely on will be out of reach, and America will be left to stand on one leg as its crusts are hastily removed. Carpooling, bicycling and walking would become necessities, particularly in megacities such as New York and Los Angeles. Similarly, as homes become more expensive to heat, people would have to pay for better efficiency, or transfer to a more modest lifestyle. What to expect in the aftermath is still unclear, but one thing is certain: maintaining the pre-oil crisis lifestyle would become a luxury reserved only for those few who could afford it.
Chess
Fischer-Petrosian, Candidates match (game 7), 1971

By SAMUEL PULIAFITO
Features editor

Bobby Fischer died in 2008 at the age of 64. Last Friday would have been Fischer’s 69th birthday. Fischer was the quintessential chess player. He was a prodigy possessed by a maniacal, single-minded drive to win the World Championship, a goal he ultimately achieved in 1972. And after winning, almost on cue, he took a turn toward madness. But for all of Fischer’s disgusting, and really, tragic hatred his story always ends back where it started: with the chess.

In 1971, at the Candidates Match in Buenos Aires, Fischer met Tigran Petrosian, his final competitor before proceeding to the World Championship. Petrosian, who died in 1984, was famous for his solid, defensive play. Prior to the match, both sides exuded confidence, with Fischer telling the press, “I am the best player in the world, and I am here to prove it.” And Fischer probably had reason to do so. He had just won 19 consecutive games against two of the strongest players in the world.

After six rounds, including one in which a fuse was blown in the auditorium and the lights went out and another in which a stink bomb was set off in the back of the auditorium, Fischer was leading 3 ½ - 2 ½.

Fischer develops the seventh round slowly and positionally, in a style similar to Petrosian’s. Fischer playing White, in his normal fashion, opens with the King’s pawn that leads to a Sicilian, Kan variation. On move eight, Fischer plays c4, which sufficiently threatens Petrosian’s unsupported pawn center. By 10 . . . exd5, Petrosian’s queenside flank is almost entirely empty of pawns or developed pieces. Petrosian, perhaps out of desperation, plays 12 . . . Qd7, offering a queen exchange. Fischer ignores the offer in favor of putting his rook onto the more open e file. At move 16, Fischer wisely goes after Petrosian’s dark-squared bishop, leaving the light-squared bishop responsible for pawn protection, a terrible burden.

Fischer plays Nc5 at move 18. Knight to c5 leaves White with a good bishop, but Black obtains a well-supported, albeit small, pawn advantage in the center: 18. Nc5 a5 19. Nxe6 fxe6.

By the 22nd move, Petrosian’s bishop is the central piece of his entire position and is thus severely limited in terms of mobility. Fischer’s knight, on the other hand is positionally strong, allowing him powerful combinations in few moves. That’s why the next move is so remarkable. Fischer plays Nxd7, exchanging his good knight for his opponent’s bad bishop. But the move allows Fischer to tie up Black’s queenside position and win a round he was already well in control of.

After two more rounds, Fischer won the match after more than 42 combined hours at the chess board.

Sicilian Defense

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Rivalry Week in Pictures

Mark Loyola / The Paw Print

Grady de los Santos - The Paw Print

Mark Loyola / The Paw Print

Mark Loyola - The Paw Print
Artist of the Issue: Heather Choi

By MACKENZIE MARCOTTE
Life editor

Hailing from a family of artists, it comes as no surprise that senior Heather Choi has found her niche in the studio. However, what may come as a surprise to many is that she only recently began pursuing art in an academic setting. Armed with the fundamentals she picked up from her freshman year drawing and painting class, as well as with a substantial amount of natural talent, Choi began painting classes in the summer of 2009. Approaching art with a focus and dedication beyond her years, Choi enrolled in six-hour classes at a private studio in La Habra on Saturdays and during school holidays. Although acrylic and canvas are her preferred forms, Choi has participated in ceramics, enameling and now silk painting during her time at Poly. As she plans for the next four years, she says that she is looking forward to further developing her craft by pursuing a major in either studio art or art history. If her past is any indicator, Choi's art has become more serious in recent years, as she has moved beyond typical daily encounters, such as old photograph or bizarre splashes of color. Recently, she began experimenting with incorporating puzzle pieces into her art, as well as themes, such as addiction. She notes that since freshmen year, her art has become more serious and meaningful. “I always try to include some kind of hidden message for the viewer to decode,” she said.

Although acrylic and canvas are her preferred forms, Choi has participated in ceramics, enameling and now silk painting during her time at Poly. As she plans for the next four years, she says that she is looking forward to further developing her craft by pursuing a major in either studio art or art history. If her past is any indicator, Choi’s art career, in whatever direction it may take her, will not doubt be followed closely by success.

This painting, entitled “The Sky is Falling” is one of Choi’s personal favorites.

The artist at work.

Courtesy of Heather Choi
Burgers around town

The Paw Print's finest food columnists hunt for Pasadena's best hamburger

FATBURGER by Daniel Leon
Nearest Location: 743 N. Lake Ave.

The only thing I don't like about Fatburger is the name. People generally don't want to go to a place associated with fat, but all should enjoy the delicious burgers at Fatburger. I am a big fan of fat because of their juicy patties and unique sweet pickles. You may not know that I regard Fatburger as one of the best drive-thru burger joints in Pasadena, even above the acclaimed In-N-Out.

BOBBY'S PLACE by Daniel Leon
Nearest Location: 680 E. Walnut St.

Formerly known as Rick's, Bobby's Place is tucked away one block north of Pasadena's entertainment and shopping hub on Colorado Blvd. Bobby's serves classic hamburgers of all sizes. While my personal favorite item at Bobby's Place is the Spuderito, a burrito filled with fries and cheese, their hamburgers are no pushover and were ranked #1 in Pasadena on Yelp. The classic atmosphere adds to the experience of a good old fashioned American meal.

BURGER CONTINENTAL by Daniel Leon
Nearest Location: 535 South Lake Ave

What can you buy with three dollars? Three candy bars? Six gumballs? I'll tell you what you can buy with three dollars: a burger, fries and a drink, included in Burger Continental's Poly Special. I know there are some skeptics out there; many complain about the price increase of the Poly special from two dollars to three dollars. But this problem is fixed with one simple fact: the quality of the food has improved drastically. One year ago, I would not even think about including Burger Continental in a list of Pasadena's best burgers, but recently the restaurant has really stepped up its game. Although the best part about this burger lies in the thirty-five price, the burger does not disappoint and the variety of fries—cross-cut, crinkle-cut, thick and regular—are perfect complements.

WOLFE BURGERS by Daniel Leon
Nearest Location: 46 N. Lake

Self-acclaimed as "The Best Little Burger Joint in Pasadena," Wolfe Burgers serves high-quality food at a fair price. As well as having delightful hamburgers, Wolfe Burgers stands out because of its delicious breakfast specials, which includes pancakes, "woofles," omelettes and breakfast burritos. Our very own Mr. Feldmeth described Wolfe Burgers as his "favorite breakfast place in Pasadena."

THE DOG HAUS by Daniel Leon
Nearest Location: 105 N. Hill Ave.

Overshadowed by the selection of gourmet hot dogs, the burgers at The Dog Haus deserve your attention. The Freiburger, a Dog Haus specialty, is one of the most unique burgers I've ever tasted. Served on slightly toasted Hawaiian rolls, the Freiburger consists of cheese, fries, cole slaw, a fried egg and the juiciest patty in Pasadena. As The Dog Haus gains popularity around town, look for their many mouth-watering hotdogs, but don't forget about their underrated burgers.

THE COUNTER by Audrey Chai
Nearest Location: 140 Shoppers Lane

Opened in 1950, Hamburger Hamlet quickly became a Hollywood landmark with celebrity regulars like Ronald Reagan, Sammy Davis Jr., Bobby Short and Dorothy Malone. A half-century later, the company has expanded their casual American dining experience throughout Southern California. Large booths, wood furniture and classic rock and roll music create an old-school feeling in this classic family restaurant. The "Martha's Burger," named after one of the original chefs, is dressed up with avocado, jack cheese and Dijon mayonnaise. While burgers continue to be the chain's specialty, the expansive menu offers a variety of different items, including gourmet soups, outstanding garlic fries and delicious sandwiches. Stop by the Hamlet for a good taste of American comfort.

B-MAN'S by Daniel Leon
Nearest Location: 3007 Huntington Dr.

Ever since it opened in 1963, Pie 'n Burger has been employing the same recipes, products, methods and even one of the original chefs. Walking through the doors sometimes feels like you've stepped into a different era, with their Formica counter, swivel stools and familiar cooks and waitresses. With a small-town feel and quality food, this restaurant truly embraces the ideas of tradition and the simple pleasure of a fresh burger and warm pie. Said to have some of the best burgers in the Los Angeles area, Pie 'n Burger serves up well-done juicy burgers topped with their homemade thousand island dressing. When paying a trip here, eating a slice of pie is a must. The flaky crust and warm filling pairs best with a cold scoop of vanilla ice cream and is the perfect ending to a meal.

B-MAN'S by Daniel Leon
Nearest Location: 3007 Huntington Dr.

It's as easy as ABC. Avocado, B-Man's Teriyaki Sauce and Cheese. B-Man's serves the best teriyaki burger in Pasadena, complemented by crisp crinkle-cut french fries. On the outskirts of Pasadena, B-Man's may be more familiar to people from Arcadia, San Marino and San Gabriel, but any and everyone in the San Gabriel Valley should try this refreshing blend of teriyaki and ground beef.
Putting the student-athlete first: how Poly is getting it right

By ANNA WOHL
Editor-in-chief

The U.S. Soccer Academy recently announced that, starting in the fall of 2012, the Development Academy program will be expanding its season to run from September to June. For those unfamiliar with the Academy, it is an elite soccer program designed to allow young players to train and compete at the highest possible level, with the ultimate goal of molding the next generation of players for the U.S. national team. Since its formation in 2007, the Academy program has forced players and their families to make a difficult and potentially life-changing choice: Academy soccer or high school soccer?

It is unlikely that many Poly athletes will ever face this decision. However, this issue represents an extreme version of a familiar pattern that frequently arises in youth sports in California: sacrificing invaluable experiences to achieve an elusive end.

Like many extracurricular programs, the Academy gives players access to exclusive opportunities, specifically by exposing them to tougher competition and by putting them in more direct contact with college coaches. Since it is a year-round program, if one chooses the Academy, he or she may not participate on a varsity school team in that sport because of CIF rules. For players who choose the Academy over their high school teams, it is a means to an end—the end being college soccer and perhaps a spot on the national team. For a school team, it may mean that the best soccer players in the school can never be part of the program.

The Academy’s policy creates two major dilemmas. First and foremost, the academy essentially forces young players to put all of their chips on one number—and a risky one, at that. Due to the intense level of commitment, many Academy players find that their academics almost inevitably take a big hit, often closing the door to top colleges.

The second issue is that the unique experience of playing sports in high school—while not for everyone—is completely lost. Players who choose to play at the Academy level—or in equivalent programs for other sports—miss out on the opportunity to represent their schools and to involve themselves in their communities on multiple levels. On a team designed for recruiting, the reality is that each player is out there for him or herself, reducing the sport’s ability to cement bonds and to provide a sense of a larger community.

As student-athletes who fall across a wide spectrum of participation—from the rare few who only play their sport at a high level outside of school, to those who play three sports, or more, as Panthers—it is important to recognize that Poly and other schools in the Prep League, which encourage participation on school teams rather than an exclusive club experience, are getting it right. With limits on season durations and encouraged participation in multiple sports, our current system doesn’t overemphasize any one thing at the expense of another.

Our athletic program has seen huge successes in recent years, with several teams reaching the CIF finals. However, this year, both girls volleyball and girls waterpolo fell in the finals to teams comprised of almost all club players. There’s no question that our approach means we don’t always win—a fact that may exclude certain people from being attracted to our school. But by avoiding recruiting, Poly has chosen a more thoughtful path and has created a culture that is fundamentally pro-student. We as students—and as athletes—should not only acknowledge our school’s deliberate approach but also should take advantage of the opportunities that it presents to us.

Movie Review: Citizen Kane

By MADDY MENDELL
Staff writer

This year, the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival managed to do what Orson Welles must have thought—way back when in 1941—to be impossible. The annual film festival managed to convince Steve Heart, great-grandson of the famous and infamous William Randolph Hearst and Vice President of the Hearst Foundation, to show Welles’ film, Citizen Kane, at the Hearst Castle.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with this monster of a movie, which is considered by many to be the greatest American film of all time, Welles “loose ly” based his character Charles Foster Kane on W. R. Hearst, the newspaper mogul and failed politician of the time. Hilariously, the woman introducing the film emphasized that Kane was not Hearst and that this was not a biopic about five times.

The whole scene at the Hearst castle is quite an odd, even the historic one—very presentational. Without actually explaining any of Hearst’s politics or business strategies, the docent of the tour managed to handily show his immense riches and the masses of art he collected and displayed to showcase his wealth. This idea of presenting Hearst’s riches and material legacy completely contrasted with Orson Welles’ film, which depicts the complex Kane, the dissolute Kane, the bared Kane. This particular juxtaposition of the indictment of Hearst and the glorification of Hearst was especially jarring after watching an incredibly cheesy introduction film, entitled Heart: Building the Dream, created to show his majesty. The experience of watching the number one film on the American Film Institute’s list on a big screen is unimaginable, not to mention the location. On a smaller screen, the cinematographic achievement is noticeable but not so blatant as it is on the large IMAX screens of Heart Castle. This film was one of the first to use the method of having multiple narratives to tell a story, not only giving a more interesting plot but also giving Welles the opportunity to experiment with different cinematographic tactics for each act.

Every single technique employed by Orson Welles is amplified a thousand times. For example, the scene of Kane’s political downfall shot from the floor (the cameramen dug trenches in the building to shoot from that angle) makes Kane and Leland both appear bigger in stature. This scene was the first shot of its kind and is monumental in status. Another scene that, while observable on a smaller screen, is not comparable to the experience on the large screen, is the scene in which Kane and Susan Alexander (Dorothy Comingore) are fighting over her career in which Kane and Susan Alexander (Dorothy Comingore) are fighting over her career. The lighting here is so effective that Comingore’s entire face disappears except for her glowing, glittering in the darkness. The collective gasps of wondrous “wowww” and “oh my God’s” were heard throughout the entire theater.

Unfortunately for movie lovers everywhere, this magical experience will probably never happen again. Nevertheless, I encourage each and every one of you to watch Citizen Kane, a beautifully filmed movie that has earned every right to be in its number one spot.

Tenacious

This issue represents an extreme version of a familiar pattern: sacrificing invaluable experiences to achieve an elusive end.

The Tenacious Político-Sociales durante la segunda República Española

By ORIYANA TORRES
Student contributor

Con anterioridad a la segunda república española (1931-1939), existía en España un gobierno monárquico encabezado por el Rey Alfonso XIII. Este era un sistema de gobierno donde sólo una minoría tenía poder, mientras que la mayoría de los ciudadanos no estaba representada en las decisiones del gobierno. La mayoría de la población vivía en el campo; eran campesinos y trabajadores, mientras que la minoría eran ricos, de buena posición social y tenían todo el poder político. Con el paso del tiempo, las tensiones entre la élite —mayormente aristocrática— y el pueblo fueron aumentando, y con el descontento de los ciudadanos con el monarca. Tal fue el momento de la pobreza, el desempleo y demás problemas que dieron lugar a los conflictos sociales de esta época. En ese contexto, los conflictos sociales comenzaron a surgir, y con ello la Segunda República Española.

La República fue establecida bajo un gobierno provisional dirigido por Niceto Alcalá-Zamora. El gobierno se propuso establecer un gobierno socialista, pero no fue lo que se esperaba. El gobierno tuvo que lidiar con problemáticas internas y externas, y no pudo resolver ninguno de ellos. En cambio, la dictadura fascista que se estableció en Italia y Fráncia durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial, no pudo hacerlo.

La Segunda República Española intentó renovar el país y crear un gobierno donde toda la población tuviera voz en la política. Sin embargo, la situación era crítica, y la tregua no duró mucho tiempo. La situación se complicó aún más con la Guerra Civil Española, que marcó el fin de la República. En ese contexto, la Segunda República Española se convirtió en un ejemplo de cómo la democracia puede fallar. La experiencia de la Segunda República Española es un recordatorio de que la democracia no es una realidad fácil de conseguir. Es un camino largo y arduo que requiere la participación activa de todos los ciudadanos. Es importante recordar que la democracia no es una línea recta, sino un camino lleno de obstáculos y desafíos. Es importante recordar que la democracia no es una línea recta, sino un camino lleno de obstáculos y desafíos.
Ten reasons why you should watch the NCAA Mens Basketball tournament

By KEVIN CHU
Opinion editor

It’s that time of year again… March Madness is finally here (not to be confused with the month angry Poly students find out about course acceptance/rejections). For those of you who are already basketball buffs, those of you with no idea what March Madness is, and those of you who know about it, but don’t care too much for it here are my top ten reasons why you should tune into the 2012 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament.

1. Harvard
Harvard, no this is not a typo. Harvard has earned a tournament berth for the first time since 1946. Along with the craze surrounding that one Harvard-alumna kid by the name of Jeremy, I’m sure Harvard will nonetheless be a fun team to follow.

2. “DEE-FENCE!”
This all-encompassing “word” basically summarizes what March Madness NCAA Men’s Basketball is all about. The intensity level by far surpasses any regular season NBA game as these college by far surpasses any regular sea

3. “Cinderella Teams”
Every year, there are the “Cinderella Teams” that demand your attention and utmost respect. The “Cinderella Teams” come from the most unexpected schools and show off superior performances from the most unlikely of all players. Two years ago, that team was Butler, coming one half-court fling shy of an incredible upset of Duke and the championship. Last year it was Coach Shaka Smart’s Virginia Commonwealth, Rams, who upset the #1 seed Kansas Jayhawks to reach the Final Four. Who will it be this year? Watch and find out.

4. Indiana’s return to the national spotlight
Indiana, for those who are not too familiar with basketball, has a rich basketball history that is most famously seen through the 1986 movie Hoosiers. Hoosiers does depict one aspect of Indiana basketball culture. Since the Bob Knight era, the Hoosiers have unfortunately struggled and have had four coach changes in the past decade. This year, they have finally rejuvenated their program, led by freshman Cody Zeller, and have earned 15th seed for the tournament in the Associated Press national rankings.

5. Battle of the Brothers
With the likes of multiple brothers surfacing in this year’s tournament such as notables Tyler and Cody Zeller (North Carolina and Indiana), Mason Plumlee and his Plumlee brothers surfacing in this year’s tournament, it’s only fitting that the Plumlee brothers, Mason and Duke

6. Anthony Davis’ unibrow
If you haven’t seen it already, please do yourself a favor and Google “Anthony Davis’ unibrow.” Not knocking the Kentucky star’s game in any way (Davis is an absolute monster all over the court), Davis simply has a hilariously hideous unibrow that cracks me up every time I see it. In fact, I am quite convinced that the Kentucky coaching staff encourages Davis to keep his unibrow in tact, purely to serve as an intimidation factor against other teams.

7. Power house teams Syracuse and Kentucky
Both of these teams are the “favorites” of the tournament, despite the famously erratic and unpredictable nature of March Madness. Nonetheless, the balanced offensive and defensive presence of both Kentucky and Syracuse, led by Anthony Davis and Kris Joseph respectively, will get the chance to prove to the nation who deserves the national championship once April 1.

8. Watching Duke lose
Now I can’t be the only one, but I absolutely despise the Blue Devils on the basketball court. Maybe it’s Coach Krzyzewski (I can’t even pronounce his name) and his embarrassing scarlet glow. Maybe it’s the likes of annoying players Ryan Kelly, the Plumlee brothers, and alumna Nolan Smith. Whatever it may be, I simply want to see Duke lose – it’s as simple as that. Hopefully those of you who don’t know what I’m talking about will share this hatred with me once you witness one of Duke’s games.

9. Cheering for the home team
Now that UCLA basketball is done for (at least for this year), we need a new team to fill UCLA’s shoes and to give us a home team to root for. Fortunately, we can cheer on the San Diego State Aztecs, led by Jamaal Franklin. Hopefully the Aztecs will fight their way to victory in a few games. Another notable home team is the St. Mary’s Gaels (Moraga California), which qualify as a potential “Cinderella Team” this year. If anything, at least follow the California teams playing for glory this year.

10. Predict, Watch, Payday
If the previous nine reasons didn’t convince you to watch March Madness 2012, the universal lottery money will. If you’re looking for some easy (depending on how lucky you are or how much time you’re willing to commit) money, do some research on this year’s tournament, fill out a bracket, and enter some sort of bracket pool. If your predictions are accurate, you’ll win yourself some money – it’s as easy as that. So clear out your remaining March plans, appointments and commitments, and make way for March Madness 2012!

March madness bracket predictions from The Sports Section staff

Final Four: Duke, Ohio State, Georgetown, Michigan State
Winner: Duke

After reaching the Sweet 16 last season, the Duke Blue Devils are poised to take the Final Four: Duke, Ohio State, Georgetown, Michigan State. After reaching the Sweet 16 last season, the Duke Blue Devils are poised to take the title this year. The team has the raw tools to win the title, with freshman guard Austin Rivers leading the way with 15.2 points per game. The Plumlee brothers, Mason and Slate. After reaching the Sweet 16 last season, the Duke Blue Devils are poised to take the title this year. The team has the raw tools to win the title, with freshman guard Austin Rivers leading the way with 15.2 points per game. The Plumlee brothers, Mason and
Defending CIF champion baseball team starts season, goes 2-2 in Arcadia Elks tournament

By CHARLES PATTERSON Assistant sports editor

Returning to the diamond after a year of off-season, the boys varsity baseball team has high hopes as they return one CIF championship stronger. Forming an amazing run in the 2011 postseason, the squad came away with Coach Wayne Ellis’ first title at UC Riverside. Last year, Poly benefited from one of the strongest baseball teams it has seen in years. Although the arms of Jordan Kutner and Brian Holman, as well as the bats of Hunter Merritt and Matt Saeta, were missed, experienced returners as well as some key underclassmen will keep the team strong in the coming season.

The Panthers began the season with a 12-6 loss to Alhambra in the opening game of the Arcadia Elks tournament. Errors plagued both teams, but the Panthers could not overcome an early deficit. With a 2-2 record, the team has some work to do before league play next week.

Optimistic at the outlook of the season, senior pitcher Dave Fenn commented, “I think we’ll be able to have a lot of success this year. There is no doubt that we lost some key players on offense and on the mound, but last year was the best team Poly has ever had. We have a lot of a top-caliber baseball players, and we’ll play solid fundamental baseball like we always do and that will bring our team to an average where our program has always had.”

Ellis, manager and head coach, who matched his 400th win last year in the Poly program, explained the team has already had some success, with a strong 4-2 win over El Monte, and a 8-5 win over Montebello.

A large contribution to these wins came from talented underclassmen, whose skill has aided the squad in its wins. Sophomore David Ondorff, a strong hitter and pitcher, is excited to play on the varsity team or early in his high school career. He commented, “We have a nice blend of our seniors, juniors and sophomores. The seniors have really made the newer players feel welcomed and also keep everyone loose and relaxed, I think the team will surprise people this year.” Ondorff has pitched in two games so far this season.

Also optimistic about the season is sophomore Zack Bern. “Although the team has lost many seniors from last year, this year’s seniors have picked up where they left off. Being a younger player, it’s nice to have skilled respectable leaders to look up to, whether it’s advice on the field or in the dugout. With our combination of skill and leadership, I think many opponents will be surprised at Poly’s yet again strong lineup.”


tennis draws to early 3-0 record

By IAN MCKNIGHT Sports editor

The boys tennis squad has begun the season on a good note with an impressive 3-0 record. With consistent contributions from their most experienced players, the Panthers have won each of their matches by substantial margins. Recently, the group defeated Pasadena High by a 4-4 score.

In the season opener against South Pasadena High School, the team beat the Tigers, 14-4. The team then won against La Salle High School in the second matchup of the season without much of a contest, recording a score of 15-3. Sophomore Sachin Puri, who went 3-0 in doubles play in the match, commented, “We have a solid team this year, and I believe that our opening matches against South Pasadena High and La Salle reflect the teams’ strength, which I hope is carried on to future match ups.”

In singles play, freshman Henry La Soya went 3-0 and junior Aj Singh posted a 2-1 score. On the doubles side, sophomore Matthew Johnson and Puri went undefeated. The team’s success stems from the senior leadership provided by senior Matt Ross. Ross has been a vital member of the tennis team since his freshman year and has given the squad solid performances. The team looks for him to be a leader and mentor for the younger members of the group as the season gets underway.

With big league games looming into view, the squad hopes to continue their non-league success into Prep League play and compete for the title.

Led by Saeta and Woolway, boys volleyball takes third in Providence Tournament

By HUNTER WORLAND Student contributor

With initial successes and a new head coach in Jordan Insufili, the boys volleyball team anticipates a winning season. It has recorded wins against Temple City, Santa Monica, St. Genevieve, Flintridge Prep, and Whittier Christian.

Outside hitter and senior Michael Saeta led the team with his experience and leadership, contributing 29 kills to the victory. Saeta’s consistency on the court earned him CIF Division 5 Southern Section Player of the Year honors in 2011.

Senior four-year varsity player Colin Woolway had eleven kills to the team’s total of 46. The senior was also credited with 13 aces.

The team hopes to continue to capitalize on its depth and unity as it moves forward in the season. “Everyone expects big things from our team,” Saeta said. “We may have some younger players on this team, but everyone is learning at an amazing rate and we are coming together very quickly.”

The Panthers have won league play in the Providence Tournament, where the squad took third place. The team opened the tournament with an easy win against Santa Monica, (25-16, 25-21) and a victory over St. Genevieve (25-7, 25-14).

With two wins on their back, the Panthers proceeded to the semi-finals of the tournament, facing Chadwick. The Dolphins asserted their control of the match in the first game, defeating the Panthers (25-9). In the second game, Poly’s offense rallied a comeback, tying the match 1-1. In the final game, the Panthers failed to hold off the Dolphins, falling to their Prep League adversary in a 2-1 defeat.

The Panthers’ loss brought them to the third-place game against their rivals Flintridge Prep. The team bounced back from their loss against the Dolphins and finished the tournament in third.

Tennis

Swimming and diving teams fall to Pasadena

By OLVIA TREISTER Student contributor

This spring, the varsity swimming and diving team returns the pool with a big splash. Whether examining meet results, the workouts in the pool or the close relationships of teammates, one can see that the team has a strong season ahead of them. The girls side is especially primed to produce on last season’s 6-3-1 record as it returns upperclassmen including juniors Aninka Lenz, the reigning CIF Champion in diving, and Justine Cheng, as well as seniors Michelle Miller and Hannah Grotzinger.

The girls team also fell to Pasadena, losing by a score of 93-76. Poly won the medley relay and 200 freestyle relay, as well as a few individual events. Cheng won the 100 butterfly at 1:02.10, Grotzinger won the 100 freestyle at 1:01.41 and sophomore Caroline Harvey won the 50 freestyle with a 27.08 time. On an individual level, several swimmers put out solid performances, but the team could not win in a collective effort.

This year, which sees Jesse Reges and Charlene Beerman have the swimming and diving team capitalizing on practice time. The training not only has the team working in the 200 medley and the 100 backstroke with times of 2:25.95 and 1:10.40 respectively, and Kelly McGee won the 100 butterfly at a 1:00.68 clip. Even with these great performances, the Panthers fell, 84-52.

The senior duo of team remarked, “Senior leadoff hitter Logan Beerman (left) connects during the win against Montebello while senior Chris Ward (right) looks up toward a pitch earlier in the game. Beerman is hitting .312 on the year while Ward has ten strikeouts in only eight innings pitched.”

The senior leadoff hitter Logan Beerman (left) connects during the win against Montebello while senior Chris Ward (right) looks up toward a pitch earlier in the game. Beerman is hitting .312 on the year while Ward has ten strikeouts in only eight innings pitched.

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With big league games looming into view, the squad hopes to continue their non-league success into Prep League play and compete for the title.
David Hong

Newcomer David Hong has strengthened the Panthers' lineup with his solid play. Hong has a 43.4 average and has earned two top-10 finishes this season, including a second-place finish at the CIF Championships. His consistency and ability to shoot under pressure have helped the team achieve its goals.

Manny Medrano

Junior Manny Medrano has been a key component of the Panthers' success. Medrano has a 42.0 average and has helped the team to a 213-242 victory at the CIF Championships. His strong play and leadership have been instrumental in the team's early season success.

Brooke Edwards

Senior Brooke Edwards has been a consistent performer for the Panthers. She has a 54.6 average and has earned early victories throughout the season. Her strong play and dedication have been key to the team's success.

Top Golfers

- David Hong: 43.4 average, 2 top-10 finishes
- Manny Medrano: 42.0 average, second in CIF championships
- Brooke Edwards: 54.6 average, early season victories

Softball

Poly's softball team has a 3-1 record and is coming off a strong performance against Pasadena. The team has managed to score four runs in each of their last two games, leading to their current winning streak.

Track and Field

Poly's track and field team has benefited from the addition of new members and has shown improvement throughout the season. The team has earned victories in both the boys' and girls' divisions, with strong performances in long distance events.

Female Athlete of the Issue

Brooke Edwards

Junior Brooke Edwards has been a key player for the Panthers. Her leadership and strong play have been crucial to the team's success. She has earned early victories and has been a consistent performer throughout the season.

Male Athlete of the Issue

David Hong

Freshman David Hong has been a key player for the Panthers. His solid play and consistency have been instrumental in the team's early season success. He has earned two top-10 finishes and has helped the team achieve a 213-242 victory at the CIF Championships.

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