New Poly Building completed on schedule

After more than a year of construction, the Upper School unveiled the new Poly Building

By NATHAN LEE
Assistant news editor

Completed this past summer, the Poly Building is the newest and final addition to the South Campus. Giving the Upper School a new front, the Poly Building represents the school’s evolving environment with its modern interior.

The three-story building houses both the math and science classrooms in addition to an expansive library on the third floor.

The new library provides students with atmospheres suitable to individual study and interactive group study. The combination of classic chairs and tables with comfortable couches provides a relaxing ambiance. In addition to an extensive collection of both leisure and research literature, the library also offers textbooks, laptops and computers for student use. The north-side balconies and patio provide additional space to study and lounge.

The new science classrooms take advantage of newly updated technology in order to make labs and presentations more effective and engaging. New lab workstations line the walls of every science class, offering an interactive setting for students to actively participate in classroom demonstration.

The new math classrooms are organized with order and precision, carefully designed to be as efficient as possible. The north-side balconies and patio will provide an atmosphere suitable to group study. The combination of classic chairs and tables with blackboards provides a functional yet comfortable environment for students to actively participate in classroom demonstration.

The new Poly Building provides the Upper School with a modern environment while retaining a design reminiscent of its older structures.

Student athletes collaborate to form the Prep League Athletic Council

Prep League student leaders join forces to create a credo of sportsmanship on and off the field

By NOAH KIM
News editor

Last year, athletic directors and student representatives from Polytechnic, Flintridge Prep, Webb, Mayfield, Rio Hondo, Westridge and Chadwick gathered together to discuss how to better develop a sense of athletic sportsmanship and community within the Prep League. Organized by the athletic directors from each school, the Prep League Athletic Council was formed as an opportunity to bring student-athletes from every school face-to-face and give them a voice in what is happening in the league.

One of the main events that precipitated the formation of the council was a girls varsity soccer game between Poly and Flintridge Prep. During the first half, the friendly rivalry between the two schools crossed the line when Prep fans hurled insults and racial slurs at African American Poly students, including, “Our black girl is better than your black girl” and “Orange and black? It isn’t Halloween.” Horrified by the comments, administrators and coaches from both schools took steps to develop a more communal athletic environment with higher standards for player and fan behavior.

This year, representative student athletes have cooperatively come up with goals and a mission statement constructed to send strong messages to the Prep League community with regard to how athletes should treat each other on and off the field. The representatives collectively agreed to have team captains read the two statements before all Prep League games.

“They are also looking at ways the league can come together socially,” said Poly Athletic Director Steve Beerman. “Many students at the first meeting stated how fun it was to meet athletes from other schools in a non-competitive environment, and we want to provide the athletes with more of these sorts of opportunities.”

Poly was fortunate to be a school with a pre-installed athletic leadership group. The Student Athletic Leadership Council (SALC) was founded in the 2011-2012 school year. The four returning members of the SALC, seniors Courtney Foster, Caleb Lee, Rachel Hoang and Katie Wardlaw, will represent Poly in the Prep League Athletic Council.

Headed by mentor-coaches Steve Beerman, Jessica Berger, Charlene Beerman, Rick Caragher, Brad Hall, Doug Jolly and Laura Holmgren, the SALC’s main function is to use athletics to promote community outreach and service, education and spirit throughout the Prep community through athletics.

This year, the Student Athletic Leadership Council is hoping to obtain a greater amount of publicity for how they work.

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See Building, page 3
**New Faculty**

**Polytechnic welcomes incoming faculty members Tiffany Chen, Inez Hernandez, Michele Sanchez, Betsy Sullivan and Owen Kiely**

**Tiffany Chen** has joined the Poly faculty as the new Assistant to the Upper School Director. She attended the University of California in Irvine where she minored in educational studies and received a bachelor’s degree in sociology. Chen has been an educator for six years at a variety of schools, serving as the director of the dance department, teaching math and Mandarin, and giving voice lessons.

When Chen moved to the United States from Taiwan at the age of seven, she did not speak any English. To help her learn and make a smooth transition to life in America, her mother hired a tutor to work with her every day after school. Her tutor’s attentiveness and kindness inspired Chen to become a teacher so that she too would be able to positively influence and impact the lives of students.

During her free time, Chen enjoys participating in outdoor activities such as hiking and often runs ten-kilometer races and half marathons. With an avid interest in food and other cultures, she loves to travel and has previously visited China and Mexico.

Chen admires the respect that everyone has for each other at Poly and how Poly balances education and fun. She is looking forward to games, rivalry week and building good memories and relationships with the students and faculty. In the future, Chen wants to pursue a sports entertainment career on the side.

**Inez Hernandez**, Poly’s new College Counseling Coordinator, is a Pasadena native. After graduating from Pasadena High School, she attended California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. She then returned to Pasadena to teach as a substitute for the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). Hernandez taught a range of subjects to all grades, from kindergarten to twelfth grade. She eventually acquired an interest in college counseling and returned to school at Point Loma Nazarene University in Arcadia to earn her Masters Degree.

Hernandez learned about Poly through the former Skills Enrichment Program Director Margaret Shoemaker, her long-time mentor and fourth grade teacher. She did not, however, become the College Counseling Coordinator until Gillian Bush took over Shoemaker’s position as the Director of the Skills Enrichment Program. After that, said Hernandez, “it all just fell together.”

When asked about her favorite aspect of the Upper School, Hernandez stated, “I love the sense of community.”

**Michele Sanchez** has joined the admissions team at Poly this fall. Sanchez attended Dartmouth University where she majored in history with a minor in women’s studies. At Dartmouth, she admired how dedicated the professors were to teaching and supporting their students. She has previously worked in admissions for schools in New York City and Oakland.

Sanchez loves cooking and listening to live music. She was originally drawn to Poly because she noticed that Poly was a member of the Center for the Studies of Boys’ and Girls’ Lives, a national organization which the action research team in the Upper School is part of. Sanchez stated that she is “really enjoying meeting the students and feels that [she has] been well received by the faculty.”

Sanchez is looking forward to becoming more involved in the lives of students and shaping the Poly community through her work in admissions. She is excited to help the Upper School with logistics, organization and outreach and wants to be seen as an “extension of the admissions office.” Sanchez also wants students to know that her office is a safe place whose door is always open to all.

**Betsy Sullivan** joins the Poly community as the new freshman and sophomore English teacher. While Sullivan herself was born in Reno, Nevada, her mother was raised down the street from Poly and was a factor in Sullivan’s decision to join the school. After taking a gap year after high school to work in Italy as a reporter, Sullivan acquired her undergraduate degree at the University of California at Santa Barbara in literature, art history and Italian. She later went to the American University in Washington D.C. for her graduate work, receiving a Masters in literature and theory.

Initially, Sullivan planned to be a modernist or a theorist, but she eventually realized that her true love was teaching. Sullivan taught at a community college in Las Vegas for two years, but found that she preferred to teach younger students. She went on to teach elementary school before applying for a teaching position in the Upper School English Department. When asked why she decided to teach at Poly, Sullivan replied, “Besides my relatives’ encouragement, Poly just felt right.” She commented that her favorite thing about Poly so far is “the intellectual curiosity of the students.”

**Owen Kiely** is the newest addition to the Science Department, teaching chemistry and biology in the Upper School. He has already integrated himself in the Poly community by coaching cross country in the fall. He attended Wesleyan University and graduated with a degree in neurobiology. Before coming to Poly, Kiely taught at Chadwick and Sage Hill School. Originally from Massachusetts, Kiely moved to California in 2008 because he wanted to learn how to surf.

Kiely is an enthusiastic track and field fan. He runs twelve miles a day, usually averaging ninety miles a week. He is currently training for a Boston marathon that is taking place in six months.

Kiely came to Poly because of his interest in the Upper School Science Department. His favorite thing about Poly is that “the students are really serious about academics, but also fun and friendly. They are easy to work with and fun to work with.” After settling into life at Poly, Kiely hopes to become more involved with cross country and track. He is looking forward to meeting more students and getting to know the student body and faculty.

**Students take a bite out of Green Apple**

**The Upper School introduced Green Apple Gourmet as this year’s new lunch provider**

By JULIA WOHL
Assistant news editor

The Upper School welcomed a plethora of new transformations for the 2012-2013 school year with one of the major changes being the new lunch provider: Green Apple Gourmet.

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As the lunch program has been the subject of controversy in recent years, a number of enhancements have been made this year to address some past student complaints. With the new hot lunch program, students have the freedom to pick their price range along with their food. Options include a main entrée, a customized sandwich or pasta, or a fruit and salad bar.

Sophomore Jared Lim remarks, “With California Fresh [Poly’s former lunch program], I never felt satisfied after a meal, but this year I do. The meals are bulky enough so that I’m not hungry throughout the afternoon.” Students can also set up a debit account online with Green Apple Gourmet that automatically deducts funds each time a student purchases a meal. However, the new lunch program is not without fault. Although Green Apple promotes healthy eating, students are criticizing the repetition in their meal plans, especially compared with the variety offered by the Upper School’s previous lunch provider.

The meals’ alcohol content often slows me down.”

With an avid interest in food and other cultures, she loves to travel and has previously visited China and Mexico.

Chen admires the respect that everyone has for each other at Poly and how Poly balances education and fun. She is looking forward to games, rivalry week and building good memories and relationships with the students and faculty. In the future, Chen wants to pursue a sports entertainment career on the side.

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Poly students spend summer in Cuba and Peru

The Global Initiatives Program sponsored two international trips last June

By RACHEL HOANG
News editor

In an effort to promote global awareness among Upper School students, the Global Initiatives Program sponsored two summer trips, one to Cuba and one to Peru.

In 2006, Upper School teachers created the Global Initiatives Program to encourage students to seek a better understanding of the world through studies, interaction, and service. To earn a Global Studies Certificate, students must take four years of modern language, interact with students from foreign countries on an international level, attend eight GIP-sponsored cultural events, complete a global service, take three globally oriented senior courses and complete a senior Global Studies project.

The GIP sponsors a few trips each year to give students the opportunities to explore other countries and to meet and interact with people from other countries.

Peru

Thirteen Upper School students traveled to Peru this summer to hike the Inca Trail, pioneering Poly’s first international outdoor education trip.

Accompanied by Upper School history teacher Josef Mielgona and creative writing teacher Grace Hamilton, the students spent their first four days in Cusco in order to acclimate to the high altitude. They visited a llama farm, explored ancient Incan sites and bartered at a local market.

Students also visited an local elementary school. Senior Katherine Berry said, “Getting to see children who walk five hours to get to school and were still excited to show us their farm and include us in their festivities really put in perspective how lucky we all are for the conveniences of where we live.”

After their stay in Cusco, the group set out on the four-day hike, accompanied by an Incan trail guide. The students explored different Incan sites and enjoyed the scenery during the nearly 10,000-foot ascent. On the last day, the group woke up at four in the morning to hike the last stretch in time to see the sun rise over Machu Picchu.

“Getting to see Inca sights on the trail that are only available by foot was an amazing experience,” said Berry. “I will never forget what it was like to be almost completely alone taking in the amazing structures they built with nothing but a few friends and herds of llamas and alpacas.”

Hamilton said, “It was great to watch the students experience this beautiful culture, [the students and the teachers] are so lucky that we have this opportunity that not many other schools have.”

In addition, the Student Athletic Council, but this year, coming back, “Last year was a learning year for the students, many of whom were not given the opportunity to own their own lockers during previous years, this is a welcome convenience.

About half of the Upper School lockers are located in the Poly Building, while the rest are spread throughout the campus.

“The lockers have plenty of space for all my materials and are conveniently located next to the majority of my classes,” said sophomore Megan Tcheng. “It’s nice to have somewhere to store all of my textbooks. They can be a burden to carry around everywhere.”

Although the addition of more lockers has been generally well-received, students have also been quick to point out changes that are not necessarily improvements.

Senior Tanya Yang noted, “There seems to have been an emphasis on the aesthetics [of the Poly Building] rather than its functionality.”

Senior Ella Young noted, “The color of the math classrooms is rather oppressive and makes it difficult to pay attention in class.”

With the completion of the Poly Building, the whole Polytechnic School campus is now construction-free for the first time in almost a decade. The building provides students with a communal atmosphere while reflecting a fresh look for the future of the school.

Building

Continued from page 1

as possible in order to provide distraction-free environments. Document projectors in every classroom give students a more collective and productive learning experience.

The Poly Building also houses rows of new student lockers, allowing each Upper School student a storage space for personal belongings. For a great number of students, many of whom were not given the opportunity to own their own lockers during previous years, this is a welcome convenience.

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Skills Enrichment Program

During the summer, Upper School teachers aided high-achieving PUSD students through the Skills Enrichment Program.

This past summer marked the 23rd year of the Skills Enrichment Program (SEP), a program that allows Poly faculty to share their resources and expertise with students in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). Since its formation, SEP locations have now expanded to the campuses of Chandler, Mayfield Junior and Westridge.

The program is an intensive five-week summer program for fifth through twelfth graders from PUSD. SEP aims to provide students with small class settings and low student-to-teacher ratios in order to stimulate academic performance. In the fourth grade, PUSD students with high academic potential and low economic status are selected to participate in the program. They are expected to attend the program every summer until they graduate from high school, after which some students return to serve as interns.

Upper School math teacher Eric Strom, who has just finished his second year as an SEP teacher, thoroughly enjoys working with the students. He said, “I think I like most about SEP is that I can work with kids that, unlike Poly students, are not necessarily high-achieving kids. More importantly though, it’s really about getting to know kids that come from very different backgrounds and that gives me a social perspective I wouldn’t normally get at a school like Poly. I find that they are kids that grow excited when presented with challenging problems. They think: someone really believes in us.”

In her second year as SEP’s Executive Director, Upper School science teacher Gillian Bush feels that Poly’s commitment to SEP is reflective of the National Association of Independent Schools’ mission to work with public institutions.

This year, the program will undergo a strategic planning process in order to make sure that it is accomplishing its stated goals. Bush hopes to implement changes, such as encouraging alumni contact and increasing interaction with SEP students during the school year, in order to enhance the program's impact.
Extraordinary summer experiences of Poly students

Jackie Olive: combining art and music

Amidst the emotional ups and downs of high school, music has been a proxy to celebrate my successes and to lament and eventually overcome my disappointments. Yet five years ago, music was simply a pleasant way to pass a long car ride, a weekly piano lesson, and a seasonal recital. I certainly felt accomplished after mastering a difficult piece, but where was my unique musical niche?

I needed more than a fleeting sense of fulfillment to fuel the chore of practicing day after day. I found my answer when I was introduced to music therapy as a volunteer at Pasadina Child Development Associates, which strives to build self-esteem and the quality of life for children with developmental disorders. PCDVA’s program implores cognitive and motor skills and develops the emotional and social behavior of its patients.

Music therapy stimulates certain regions of the brain to take over the functions of damaged regions as the brain has remarkable potential for rewiring and thus can develop new synapses from preexisting neurons. Music with a strong, rhythmic beat can stimulate motor function and enhance coordination. Listening to music can also indirectly induce the recall of memories otherwise incapable of being retrieved.

Recently, I had the opportunity to perform music therapy sessions to assist post-surgical rehabilitation and Alzheimer’s patients. This past summer, one patient interaction in particular made me realize how therapeutic music can truly improve a person’s life.

Fabian had been emotionally detached since his invasive brain surgery. He and his wife found some solace when they joined me as I was singing and playing “Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again” from The Phantom of the Opera. As fate would have it, the opening night of Phantom in London many years ago was their first date, and the music triggered a deep-seated memory of love. He held her hand, looked into her eyes, smiled reassuringly and rested his head on her shoulder.

Their rekindled love left an indelible impression on my soul. I realized how privileged I was to take part in these intimate human connections. Although I was told that Fabian passed away a few days after our musical connection, I still believe our encounter occurred by fate and was a blessing for the three of us. It is a constant reminder to me that throughout our daily ups and downs, our health and our human interactions lead to our greatest fulfillment.

Members of the Poly community all have some control of their own health and the physical and mental well-being of others. Learning what and how much we can do to be physically active and constantly stretching our minds helps to deter the types of degeneration that I witnessed during therapy sessions. Music can play a role in promoting a positive focus, perhaps to allow better concentration during exercise, to achieve a healthier physical and emotional well-being of others. Limiting what and how much we consume, throughout our daily ups and downs, our health and our human interactions lead to our greatest fulfillment.

Brett Laudeman: teaching in France

This past summer, I was privileged to experience a one-month language and culture immersion odyssey in France. My first stop was Paris, where I stayed for five weeks with my host family, whom I first met in an exchange program that I participated in following my freshman year. Afterward, I took the high-speed train to Grande Vitesse (TGV) to Le Blanc, a fifteenth century Gallo-Roman village in central France.

I volunteered at Château Vert International, a non-profit school for the “lost” arts in its early stages of development. Château Vert enrolls emancipated youth from the San Gabriel Valley foster care system and focuses on establishing values, intellect and professional skills through a nine-month apprenticeship for one of many classical French trades. As a volunteer, I helped restore the Château, while, at the same time, I was able to enjoy the small village’s wonderful local culture.

I traveled to Le Blanc, I traveled to Charles de Gaulle Airport, where I met up with the Debro family and dove to Pas-de-Calais in the north of France. There, I spent five days in Marquey, a rural farming village along the north coast of the English Channel teaching English at the St. Mary’s school.

Each day was a full schedule; students ranged from grades five to nine and before each class, the teachers provided us with the area of focus, whether it was teaching different verb tenses or vocabulary. Each grade level presented us with unique challenges. The younger students knew very little English, while the older students knew a fair amount of English, but were not thrilled to be taking instruction from teenagers.

I, too, was particularly challenging because not only am I not fluent in French, but this was also my first teaching experience. Teddy, Willy Debre’s younger brother, was a huge help during classes because he could translate what the students were saying as well as instructions that I could not quite put into words.

Occasionally, we would split the classes in half so that both Teddy and I were teaching a class on our own. This was difficult for me at first, but after a couple days, I learned the ropes and began to truly enjoy teaching and helping the students learn. I found that when the students liked a particular activity, they became respectful, had fun and learned. The experience was particularly rewarding because once I earned the students respect, they helped me improve my French by correcting my mistakes and helping me keep order in class.

Overall, I found the experience to be very gratifying. As I practiced my French, I also learned what it is like to be a middle school teacher and have definitely gained a newfound respect for the profession. I was extremely grateful for this opportunity and would encourage anyone who is up for a challenge to take part in this amazing experience.

Manny Medrano: performing in Prague

Now that school’s back in session, and we return to the business of everyday life, I reflect back upon the fantastic summer I enjoyed. The 90 members of the Pasadina Youth Symphony Orchestra and I embarked on a nine-day trek to perform on some of the grandest stages in Austria and the Czech Republic.

We began in Vienna, playing our repertoire for passing tour groups in Haydn’s Hall. I recall the elaborate architecture of the space, the twin spiral-staircases leading up to the second-floor balcony, all of my observations distracting me from the fact that the entire orchestra were dressed in black from head to toe, my turban/costume constantly reminding me that it was a humid 90 degrees, and this building had no AC.

We continued on to Prague, the bus ride a time to listen to music and watch the villages blur by, a vast expanse of farmland filling up the spaces between them. Another performance and another sweaty turban/costume later, I examined the exterior of Prague Castle, ever aware of its age. “The front of the castle,” I recall our tour guide explaining, “is quite new, it dates back only to 1700.” … “What? How could I go around thinking that the liberty man was one of many to seek help, and his problem was anything but rare. Scores of patients without access to health care came to visit the crowded clinic run by LIGA International in San Blas, Mexico, where I worked as a Spanish translator for 14 hours a day.

On our second day, an old woman came to the clinic seeking help with her failing eyesight. With cataracts in both eyes, her condition had advanced to almost complete blindness. I held her hand and lead her to a decrepit wooden chair. Despite exuation and hunger from hours of waiting, she smiled graciously. She thanked the ophthalmologist and me.

Although the majority of operations typically took place after a six-month to one-year waiting period, this woman’s eyesight was so poor that we rallied to provide immediate care. I returned her smile, informing her that she could return tomorrow for surgery in one of her eyes.

She beamed, and her look of exuberance roused my tenderness and respect for her: Holding her wrinkled hand, while supporting her, I guided her carefully to the clinic gate, inspired by her delight at the prospect. I spent five days with her.

The next day, as I was about the clinic, I spotted the same woman several times. Her ever-cheerful demeanor made me smile in the hot, crowded halls of the clinic. I noticed an “X” drawn in crayon above her right eye to indicate to doctors the eye most in need of surgery. A halved tennis ball applied pressure to her eye as a prerequisite to surgery and was held in place by an elastic strap around her head. As an American nurse injected her eyelid with a local anesthetic, I translated procedures just prior to their occurrence.

Once she was placed in the operating chair, I held her hand and reassured her. She was at ease, leaning back and trusting herself as the doctor cut into her eye and removed the lens, replacing it with a plastic one. She walked out, disoriented and smiling. She kissed and blessed me and the doctor, “Qur Dios lo bendiga.” “Taking her arm, I walked with her, releasinf her to her loved ones for continued care. This was a woman that had known life and all of its hardships, and she faced them with a grin and amble gratitude.

Clearly, I had more to learn and receive from her than anything I could provide.

Milan Mosse: LIGA International

“Their look like catactus to me. Tell him he can come back in six months for surgery. We can’t do it now.” I looked into the pale, cloudy eyes of the elderly man before me. He had waited for 15 hours in the sun, hoping to receive at least minimal medical treatment. We gave him some eye drops and a pair of glasses before I escorted him gently out of the room. He walked out slowly, gazing up at the hot summer sun that had insidiously damaged his eyes.

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I had the good fortune of meeting the members of a children’s choir from South Africa, a group of which participated in the same music festival as PYSO. I learned about their interests—some of which were eerily similar to ours (like Facebook and the use of their smartphones) and some of which were completely different (like big-game hunting. A fellow choir member told me “that only the rhinoceros are off-limits.”)

PYSO continued the tour for a few more days. Now that I’ve had time to process my experiences in Europe over this past summer, I am able to reach a conclusion as to the trip I took: Through standing on a hill in Prague and learning about big-game hunting from a South African choir member, going to Europe really wasn’t about learning Bach, or Haydn or Beethoven—it was about learning culture.
Surviving high school
By RYAN HYON and JANE REM
Life editors
Two seniors share their words of wisdom with incoming freshmen and upperclassmen.
One way to math class, I always get the distinct feeling that I’m in a high school movie. The rows of lockers lining the long hallways seem so clichéd. It’s like I’ve been transported to another place because, in a strange way, Poly and high school are separate eras in my mind. For me, the two simply do not mix. Walking across the lovely outdoor campus and studying in the new collegiate library is like stepping into the adult world because Poly just doesn’t fit the typical high school stereotypical portraits in my mind. Ryan and I will attempt to share with you some tips that will hopefully help you get the most out of the unique Poly experience.

Ryan: Try befriending students from all walks of life at Poly. Don’t feel that your friends have to be restricted to students in your own grade. Trying shoes or swapping your lunch with a stranger. This is a perfect way to break the ice with someone new, and you’ll be making a lot of friends in no time.

Ever since freshman year, I’ve met older students through arts, electives, clubs, and sports who have given me invaluable tips on how to study and what to expect in certain classes.

It’s extremely helpful to be able to talk to other students who have once been in your shoes. Their advice helped me beyond just academics through arts, electives, clubs, and sports who have given me invaluable tips on how to study and what to expect in certain classes.

Jane: Discover the things that interest you and make them your passion. At the beginning of freshman year, I was pretty much a blank slate with no idea what to do outside of the classroom. However, I soon discovered that I loved writing and art, and I gradually began to join clubs and organizations that exposed me to those interests.

For example, I joined The Paw Print and the Art Outreach Club my junior year. Both experiences were-and still are-amazing. The Paw Print has pushed me to become a better writer, especially since I am writing about things that are interesting and useful. I just wish I had started earlier! Make sure you capitalize on your interests early in your high school career-there’s no harm in getting a head start.

R: Be yourself. Try not to let other people discourage you from doing something, whether it be running for ASB treasurer or singing karaoke in front of the entire school in Guamland. Of course, my rivalry-week karaoke performance last year was flawless; but had I performed poorly, I wouldn’t have regretted it. Why? Because singing is my passion. Nothing, and I mean NOTHING, will stop me from pursuing my passion. If you have the self-confidence, you can accomplish anything.

J: Spend some time with your teachers. You might be surprised at how many teachers love to hang out with students outside of the classroom, even if they have not had them in their class yet.

Besides, it is always nice to get to know a teacher in that context.

So the next time you have a free period or want to eat somewhere air-conditioned, see what classrooms are open. Also, a lot of teachers have delicious snacks and desserts in their offices.

R: And finally, relax. You’re going to encounter so many frustrations—so many students will see things from your perspective. If you’re feeling a little stressed, take a relaxing break and chat with some friends. Keeping something stressful inside of you will only make you more stressed. When something grinds your gears, keep your chin up and walk it off. Blowing your spout won’t do you any good.

For example, even though I was mistakenly accused of lighting Mr. Stroos’ toaster on fire, I know in the deepest depths of my heart that I was actually the one to extinguish it. Seeing the Fullerton building from turning into the Foxton building.

Why did you want to be an AFS student and how did you select the United States?
I think the best way to become fluent in a foreign language is to immerse yourself in the culture and the language, so I wanted to come to America to become fluent in English. I also find American history really interesting, and America’s such a big and powerful country, and I thought it would be fun to experience it.

How is the food different here?
Well there’s a lot more fast food here. Like in Germany, there’s only McDonald’s and Burger King, and I think In-N-Out was the best burger I’ve ever had. [The McConells] eat really healthy food too, which is different from what I’m used to. But I miss the bread in Germany; it’s really good, and Germany’s famous for it.

How are Poly and your school in Germany different?
In Germany I went to a public school, so it’s a lot bigger, and it’s unusual for kids to go to private school. The weather’s a lot nicer here, and everything is bigger. You have a lot more choices for classes, like my school in Germany doesn’t have a film history class. And in Germany, you go to school just to take classes and study, then you come home and then you go to clubs. But here, you do a lot of stuff like sports and clubs at school too.

What did you do on your last day in Germany?
We went to a café to get ice cream with a bunch of cousins and aunts and uncles. Everyone else was sad and saying they were going to miss me; I was the only one who was really excited! My parents told me that no matter what, they’d always love me.

Top five things you want to do in Southern California?
Get a tan, speak fluent English, make new friends, and go to Disneyland and Six Flags.

Is it a challenge to attend classes in English?
Right now math is my worst subject because it’s taught differently here than in Germany and I’m not really a math person. My understanding of English varies—sometimes I understand 100% of a sentence, sometimes it’s 70%, sometimes 50%, or even just a few words.

How are American students different from German students?
They’re really open-minded and friendly. Everyone I’ve met here has introduced themselves so well and has been constantly willing to help me. Students here are also more focused on getting good grades.

What were your expectations of the US or California? Any of them confirmed?
I thought I was going to have a really hard time with the language, but it’s been easier than I thought. I was also surprised by the weather. When I was packing to come here, everyone told me to bring long-sleeved shirts, sweaters, trousers . . . but when I arrived it was like 90 degrees! I had only brought a few tank tops and shorts!

What do you miss most about home and Germany?
My family and friends. And my noodle puppy!

ASB’s “The Last Luau” a success
By DAVID OHTA
Assistant life editor
Poly’s ASB chose “The Last Luau” as the theme for the opening-of-school dance on September 8th.
When I arrived, the Grace Herley Patio outside of Gossney Auditorium was filled with students sporting various different styles of Hawaiian attire, the most popular being floral-patterned button downs coupled with colorful leis. Many donned floral laurels and hula skirts, perfectly invoking Hawaiian vibes.

When asked what he thought about the dance, freshman Evan Kim commented, “I thought it was pretty cool that people actually took the theme seriously; it’s one thing to announce a theme as Hawaiian, but seeing people actually wearing the leis was entirely different.”

Colorful beach chairs paired with umbrellas were scattered across the lawn. Approximately 260 students flooded the area, participating in activities that varied from taking fun group photos to testing their flexibility at limbo.

While some preferred to immediately head to the dance floor, I opted to talk with my friends while dodging the occasional sprinklers cooled us down from the lingering summer heat.

As the evening came to a close, friendships were renewed, and memories were made.

Most students agreed that “The Last Luau” was a great way to kick off the new school year.

“I thought the dance was a huge success! [The ASB] worked super hard for this dance and our hard work definitely paid off,” said ASB VP Christina McCarthy.

September 27, 2012

AFS student interview
By ERIN LEE
Assistant life editor
Alissa Russcheuy, this year’s AFS student from Wermelskirchen, Germany, sits down with The Paw Print to talk about iPhones, Disneyland and fast food.

Why did you want to be an AFS student and how did you select the United States?
I wanted to be an AFS student because I really wanted to experience different cultures. I wanted to meet a lot of new people and experience a new place.

How are Poly and your school in Germany different?
In Germany I went to a public school, so it’s a lot bigger, and it’s unusual for kids to go to private school. The weather’s a lot nicer here, and everything is bigger. You have a lot more choices for classes, like my school in Germany doesn’t have a film history class. And in Germany, you go to school just to take classes and study, then you come home and then you go to clubs. But here, you do a lot of stuff like sports and clubs at school too.

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What do you miss most about home and Germany?
My family and friends. And my noodle puppy!

Courtesy of Harry Templeton

The Limbo contest slowly progressed into a high jump competition (although the game was halted when the crossbar snapped, some tape quickly set the contest back in motion). As some students continued to watch the high jump, others entered the auditorium to dance the night away. Junior DJ Zack Bern and Brian Ward provided the dancers with a night full of lively music.

One of the most popular songs of the night was the new hit “Gangnam Style” by PSY. Although most students, myself included, did not actually understand the song’s lyrics, the energetic rhythm of the music was certainly felt by all.

Meanwhile, students relaxing on the lawn suddenly found themselves in the middle of a tropical storm courtesy of the sprinklers. Far from putting a damper on the party, the sprinklers cooled us down from the lingering summer heat.

As the evening came to a close, friendships were renewed, and memories were made. Most students agreed that “The Last Luau” was a great way to kick off the new school year.

“I thought the dance was a huge success! [The ASB] worked super hard for this dance and our hard work definitely paid off,” said ASB VP Christina McCarthy.
LAKE ASPERGER
Assistant opinion editor

By the time Barack Obama assumed the presidency in 2009, the United States federal deficit had skyrocketed to an astounding nine trillion dollars under President George Bush. Amidst a crushing recession and two expensive wars, Obama has been criticized harshly by the right, even as Bush’s own wars and recession added another six trillion dollars to the debt. Though circumstances are still dire, the deficit has actually begun to decrease as a share of GDP for three years, and Obama has proposed a plan, which, if able to get past congressional Republicans, would take the first meaningful steps towards lowering the national debt.

President Obama released his own plan months after the debt crisis in July of 2011 that had, due to partisan bickering, resulted in a mere 1.2 trillion dollars of spending cuts over the next ten years derived mainly from spending cuts. The President’s proposed plan, albeit far from perfect, would reduce the deficit by an additional projected 3.6 trillion dollars over the same time period.

A key aspect of the President’s plan is the revenue increase, which was vehemently blocked by congressional Republicans during the July debt crisis. Totaling approximately 1.5 trillion dollars, the plan increases revenue through a combination of letting the Bush-era tax cuts expire for Americans making more than $250,000 a year, capping some tax deductions by those same Americans, and closing tax loopholes for the oil and gas industries. These proposals represent the most controversial aspect of the plan, as most Republicans condemn any tax increase.

However, at this point, the question of whether or not to increase taxes to reduce the debt becomes an issue not of preference, but of practicality. As Bill Clinton pointed out in his speech at the Democratic National Convention, it becomes an issue of “arithmetic.”

Let’s consider for a moment trying to find an alternative way to make up those 1.5 trillion dollars. One option is to cut entitlement programs such as Medicare or Social Security, but in order to reach 1.5 trillion dollars, there would have to be quite substantial benefit cuts. The U.S. could also reduce its military spending, but the military is even more untouchable than tax increases in the eyes of congressional Republicans. Finally, the last option is, as Paul Ryan and Mitt Romney’s budgets have proposed, to massively cut non-military discretionary spending, which would mean cutting areas such as education, housing development, health and human services, and the justice department.

The president’s plan already contains some 580 billion dollars in spending cuts to programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and agricultural subsidies. The last major sources of savings are the 1.1 trillion dollars in spending cuts over the next ten years derived mainly from spending cuts. The President’s proposed plan, which, if able to get past congressional Republicans, would take the first meaningful steps towards lowering the national debt.

Although the President’s plan includes some 580 billion dollars in spending cuts to programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and agricultural subsidies, the last major sources of savings are the 1.1 trillion dollars in spending cuts over the next ten years derived mainly from spending cuts. The President’s proposed plan, which, if able to get past congressional Republicans, would take the first meaningful steps towards lowering the national debt.

The Master
By MADDY MENDELL
Assistant opinion editor

The Master attempts to depict the origins of a new cult, led by the enigmatic cult leader, Lee. According to the main character, Ewell, the cult leader, “The Master” is the essence of hypocrisy. He extols extreme and brutal Christianity, but he is not a sort of friend with Quell because this “Christian” of Quell’s makes him deliver an excellent performance as a manipulative man capable of giving the women of ‘The Cause’ to disrobe for him and his followers at a gathering.

The story starts with Quell as he becomes involved in the cult after several violent episodes that are witnessed by him. He is led to believe his political ambitions to participate in the film. Quell fears a painstaking slow montage in which Quell learns control through Dodd’s methods, which include an exercise in which he is forced to block or respond in any way as theischer is humiliated.

This sequence is the most important part of the film, as it demonstrates the methods of manipulation ‘The Master’ employs. The scenes are perhaps as awful for the audience to witness as they were for the characters to endure, creating a not-critically-achieved congruity between the audience and the film. Unfortunately, this scene is the only one of its type and caliber, as the rest of the film turns out to be incoherent.

While the character work is phenomenal, the audience never actually understands what it is that drives the other, something usually considered necessary to flesh out the natures of characters in any drama. This incongruity results in a complete lack of plot, which is not necessarily a bad thing, as non-plot-driven films can be quite good. However, in the case of The Master, the deficiency only confuses the audience and detracts from the performance of the actors. What Anderson was attempting to do was track these two characters and their interactions, expressing and critiquing not only Scorsese as a whole, but also how easily one man managed to manipulate, control, and ruin his fellow’s lives. However, Anderson was unsuccessful and what results is a messy, incoherent film: sloppy and lacking the intended tight character analysis and poignancy.
Voter ID laws: Is requiring an ID a form of discrimination?

By HENRY BROOKS
Assistant opinion editor

In commemoration of Labor Day, the usual two-day weekend is supplemented with a third day, as is a tradition every year. This particular Labor Day weekend, to recognize summer’s last stand before the start of the school year, my grandma came to visit us. She, my dad, my younger siblings and I squeezed into our Toyota Highlander and sped down the 110 Freeway to Santa Monica where we were going to go bike-riding along the beach. After a half hour of driving, finding parking and walking to the bike rental shop, we were finally ready to rent bikes and take off on an hour of cycling along the ocean.

While my grandma, my siblings and I browsed the collection of possible rentals, my dad stood in line to pay. As it turned out, we didn’t need to pay until after the ride. All the rental company needed from us was a credit card (in case we were the type who stole rentals) and an ID.

Insert pause for thought here. IDs, I thought to myself, haven’t those been in the news recently? After thinking for a second, I remembered that, in fact, IDs had been in the news recently. The whole controversy over requiring an ID to vote, that’s what I was remembering! As I pondered more about it, a thought popped into my head: people are arguing that it is not fair to ask for ID when it’s time to vote, but is it fair at other times? What began as a pleasant day at the beach got me wondering: what places can obtain. The local DMV is required to dispense IDs to fact that IDs – photo or otherwise – are not difficult to...

1. Checking into a hotel requires an ID.
2. Getting past security at the airport requires an
3. Renting bikes at the beach (or anything, anywhere, for that matter) requires an ID.
4. Checking out a book at the public library requires a library card, which can only be obtained with an ID.
5. Opening a bank account requires an ID.
6. Driving requires an ID.
7. Withdrawing money from the bank requires an ID.
8. Cashing checks requires an ID.
9. Applying for public benefits such as health insurance requires an ID.
10. Applying for a lease requires an ID.

Let’s get serious. Rasmussen Reports show that 73 percent of Americans at this moment are pro-photo ID requirements when it comes to voting. The same study also delves deeper into case studies of Indiana and Georgia — two states that have adopted voter ID laws — and reveals that voters from both parties actually required to present identification. This increase was evident among all demographics, including minorities.

The same study conducted by Rasmussen Reports indicates that 64% of people interviewed believe voter fraud is “a serious problem.” Statistics cited by John Fund of the National Review show white Americans registering 63 percent agreement and African-Americans 64 percent.

The beef between conservatives and liberals on voter ID lies in the presumption that minorities, the elderly and the poor — all demographics more likely to vote Democrat — get caught in a state of limbo in which they are still citizens but do not have any form of identification with which to vote. This belief, however, overlooks the fact that IDs — photo or otherwise — are not difficult to obtain. The local DMV is required to dispense IDs to those who come and order them. Heck, even Polytechnic School, our own high school, dispenses photo IDs. So disenfranchisement isn’t a foreseeable problem.

Second, consider that people living below the poverty line already need ID in order to collect benefits from government programs like Medicare and Medicaid, and also to collect unemployment benefits, so a substantial quotient of the population under the poverty line already has an ID. Those who don’t must go out of their way to avoid getting one.

The bike ride my family went on was very enjoyable. There was a mild breeze paired with cool coastal temperatures, and it made for a pleasant day at the beach.

OPINION

September 27, 2012

Johnny Franks
Student contributor

Following the spread of an anti-Islamic film throughout the Middle East this past week, extreme anti-American protests have been taking place outside of American embassies all over the region. The film, a low-budget production titled *Innocence of Muslims*, is poorly made and inflammatory to the Muslim world because it portrays Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam, as, among other things, a pedophile and womanizer.

The creator of the film, a Coptic Christian Egyptian-American named Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, has been taken into questioning by the FBI. Nakoula is a convicted felon with a history of using false names to cover his actions. While to non-Islams these protests might seem ridiculous and out of place, the film does exactly what Muslims forbid: it portrays Muhammad in human form — even worse, a repulsive and degrading form.

Of course, while protests should be allowed worldwide, there is no justification for the storming of embassies or the ruthless attacks on the innocent people who work inside them. One of these anti-American protests in Benghazi, Libya, involved a militant attack on the American consulate, which resulted in the death of four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens.

Although it is debated whether the attack on Ambassador Stevens was related to the film protest — that it was a planned attack of vengeance — the fact that an ambassador was murdered in cold blood. It does not matter what country the ambassador is from, ambassadors should never be harmed. That is an unspoken rule that was violated.

As gunmen stormed the embassy, firing rocket-propelled grenades, shooting anyone in sight and setting buildings ablaze, the situation in the Middle East became extremely dangerous. The Pentagon immediately responded by sending Marines to the affected embassies in the region to increase security as more violent protests were expected. Two American warships have also been sent to the coast of Libya in case further action is needed.

In Egypt, angry Muslim protesters also stormed the American embassy and erected flags of Islam in place of American flags. While this took place, the American media was reporting on the events as they happened, but not in the way that they should have.

As I watched CNN the night Ambassador Chris Stevens was killed, Anderson Cooper was more focused on Mitt Romney’s campaign statement than the blazing situation in the Middle East. This enraged me. Despite its being four a.m. in Egypt and despite the large crowds of protesters surrounding the American embassy in Cairo, CNN cared more about these events than the Egyptian election. Mitt Romney said this, President Obama said that. Sure, these events will impact the election, but the real-time protests should have taken precedence.

CNN seemed to disagree, as did other outlets like MSNBC and Fox News. While they showed one camera angle of the engulfed protests in Cairo in a small square off to the corner of the screen and continued to babble about politics, American lives were at stake.

As politics in this country continue to go down the wrong path, it seems as though the American media is being dragged along with it. My hope is to see a drastic change in how these situations are handled — human lives are more important than politics. No matter what.
The Brothers Castro by Max Harmon -- Features editor

Cuba—that most polarizing island just 90 miles off the coast of the United States—the nation that housed our country’s backroom dealings; Cuba—the nation that harbored the threat of war and garnered the friendship of the United States’ most troubling enemy. Cuba was all of these things. But now—welcome to 2012. We now live in a country that no longer knows the omnipresence of organized crime, that no longer fears the threat of communist takeovers and, most importantly, no longer looks across the ocean and sees nothing but a block of ice. Where a contracting Russia faced with immense internal challenges. And yet, when all the factors that used to determine Cuba’s identity have changed, we still cherish our position toward that island nation frozen in time.

Cuba is no longer ruled by Fidel Castro. Raúl is slightly younger, though still considerably elderly brother now governs the country. Fidel is now 85 and Raúl is 81, perhaps a last tribute to the social and health care system of Cuba. Perhaps Obama should have lauded the ripe old ages of the Castro brothers as reason for the nations in which “no subject is off the table.” The White House has weakly responded that while there are abuses of human rights taking place in Cuba, no such discussion to normalize relations will take place. While on the face of it, this response is perfectly legitimate and arguably admirable, it is necessary to recognize the hypocritical nature of US policy in this regard. Saudi Arabia and Honduras are examples of the US taking a friendly approach to a government that under the Cuban precedent should not even be acknowledged. While these US policies are by no means only afforded to the current president, it is important that the next four years bring some sort of change or at least a formal reassessment of the US policy with its closest neighbors. There may be legitimate reasons for the US policy, but it is not good enough to half-heartedly decry crimes that in any other country would be considered mere realities of the modern world.

Cuba’s leader is ready to make changes if it means a more prosperous future for his people. The Castro saga is nearly complete and we have in our power the ability to define its remaining years as a time of reconciliation and mutual benefit. After all, what’s in a name?

A Poly Summer by Pete Sanders — Managing editor

I sat down today planning to write an article about how Poly students treat the summer differently than their peers across the nation do; where others see pool parties and camps, we see unpaid internships and resume padding. I Googled around unsuccessfully, looking for something to back up my preconceived notion about how Poly students differ from other teens and came up short.

Instead I discovered troubling information about the changes of our society, of the emergence of rope swings, mowing lawns, waiting tables and road trips are suffering.

This shift is cultural more and more, teens are taking voluntary summer courses and spending their precious three months of freedom to further pad their resumes. If the quality of your summer is to spend more time in a classroom sounds crazy to you, you must be new to Poly.

But the more troubling aspect of this paradigm shift is the simple fact that jobs for teens are drying up faster than a puddle of Mountain Dew in a Chuckie Cheese parking lot. The educational inflation that has slowly raised the level of qualifications required to get a job has led to teens getting off the short end of the stick. Only 29.6 percent of teens were employed last summer. 44 percent of teens looking for summer jobs don’t get them, or get as many hours as they want. Entry-level jobs now have experienced, older applicants applying to them, causing depletion, depriving teen of the experience that will help them in future jobs. This vicious cycle of job market feel-good leaves our generation frighteningly ill-prepared for the real world, as the transition from teen to self-sustaining adult must now be made suddenly, and with much risk.

The most troubling part of this is that more affluent teens are twice as likely to get a job than their peers from lower income homes. The people who get the jobs the most, in order to cover the rising cost of living are precisely the ones who aren’t getting summer jobs. Moreover, these poor teens are less likely to move on to further education and risk the job market as well. In any case, with Fidel effectively in charge, we have in our power the ability to define its remaining years as a time of reconciliation and mutual benefit. After all, what’s in a name?

The Tea Party by Nicky Steidel — Features editor

The future of the Republican Party and the outcome of this election will no doubt be impacted by the Tea Party. Since its emergence in 2009, the Tea Party has garnered a remarkable amount of influence in Congress, and within the Republican Party.

But what are the truest, the most genuinest of the Tea Party? Media outlets provide differing opinions on what truly represents their ideologies. In an effort to answer the question myself, I went to the local Tea Party meeting at the Pasadena Patton’s building on Green Street.

Not really knowing what to expect, I walked into a small office where fifteen people were gathered, the majority of whom were middle-aged and elderly white men. The people that greeted me were quite friendly—despite one man introduced, himself, by telling me he had $50,000 of the national debt on his head. They were open to my questions about what they stood for and what their goals were.

In general, the Tea Party met many of my expectations, but also broadened my understanding of what they stood for. Yes, they are a far right wing conservative group. But even with this acceptance, I simply could not take some of their ideas as anything more than impoverished ignorance.

The first issue I had with Tea Party ideology was what they called their platform as the “Government Class.” The Tea Party envisions the existence of “an insidious alliance of elected officials—-who profit from [the government’s] decrees.” The pamphlet goes on to state, without a shred of evidence of its existence that this so-called “Government Class” has paved the Road to Serfdom with our money.

There were many things that led me to question the logical and fact-based nature of the Tea Party’s claims of this political group. Many of the people I spoke to had plenty of reasonable political beliefs, but they also held many ignorant or opinions based on misinformation. The people in the office often accused of being accused of bigotry, and then proceeded to make ignorant claims that generalized entire ethnicities. A woman to whom I spoke was completely intolerant of homosexuality and thought that the government should not decide who could marry and who could not, but he had blatantly intolerant views about the Mexican population in the southwestern United States. He said that he had a specific problem with the cultural pride of first-generation Mexican immigrants because “they came here waving a flag. If they became American citizens, or if they were just quieter about [their culture]... After all, [Mexico] is just a piece of dirt.”

When I asked the man if people should abandon their culture in order to satisfy him, he responded: “If you’re an American citizen, and you live in America, you have to be American...”

One particularly ignorant and intolerant idea brought up later in the meeting was that the United States should put Muslim-Americans in internment camps as we did with Japanese-Americans during World War II, because of their perceived threat to national security. Need I say more?

Another one of the key principles of the Tea Party is their economic policy. The Tea Party, according to its pamphlet, believes in completely dismantling the modern welfare state, which they call “Mountain Dew in a Chuckie Cheese parking lot.” They propose a solution for a renewed, unreregulated economy after a financial meltdown attributed to lack of regulations and oversight.

The man to whom I spoke about economics told me, “You know, you’re supposed to have morals. And as a businessman, there are laws you have to follow. There’s also a God-given thing... God is not involved with Obama or his administration. God is the basis of what Adams and Washington and Jefferson and all those people put together... God is all over Washington. So if you have a fear of God, and a love of God, and you have all of these things, you’re going to treat people properly... You’re going to make what you make without a name?

Essentially, this man was arguing that in a secular nation, where many people do not believe in the God of which he speaks, businesses who have morality because of their fear of God would ensure that no one would cheat the system, thereby eliminating the need for regulation.

Morality is important. However, there is simply no feasible way in which one could ensure that the free market economy would stay fair if we only had the personal assurances of businesses who said they respect God. This system would be friendly and open to discussion. However, the simple fact that this selection of politically active, voting Americans was so inherently misinformed troubles me.

What does this say about how we, as a nation, value the truth?
As I approached AJ in the weight room to begin our interview, he was still recovering from a severe back injury suffered a few months ago. I watched as he completed pull up after pull up. When I asked him if he wanted to take a seat to take the stress off his back, he looked me straight in eyes, and asked me “why do we fall?”

AJ was born in a remote Tibetan village that he prefers not to talk about. When I pressed him on the subject, he simply said, "I made the climb, as the child did. Without the rope."

AJ began his Poly athletic career as a tennis player of unusual ability. Known by his tennis opponents as “The Anaconda,” AJ combines a terrifying combination of long reach and unrivaled power paralleled only by the fearsome Amazonian snake. AJ has now transferred his talents to the football field where he is a real cog in the gears. One of his teammates said that “he reminds me of a young Pinion.”

The first Poly athlete to ever earn a varsity letter in both football and tennis, AJ is truly a marvel. I asked AJ what his secret was. “I do a lot of unorthodox training. Every morning at four AM, I go down to the local ocean and just try to karate chop the waves and stuff, you know. It’s really a great workout especially for your calves. Sometimes I just try to catch a seagull or something for to get me those cardio and vascular workouts.”

As a 6'4, 225 pound sophomore, the sky is really the limit for AJ.

Ron Paul Realizes Feasibility of Marijuana Legalization, Splits the Difference

Mitt Romney Dyes Skin Green to Appeal to Illegal Aliens, Promises to “Take them home”

Obama Stops Campaigning Altogether: "Mitt does enough for the both of us"

Santorum Declares War on Porn, Re-enters election on the back of Mike Huckabee. Literally.

"Miss Me, Sinners?"

Rush Limbaugh Comes Out, Calls Self a Slut

“Hey Guys—HEY GUYS! Revolution is love backwards!”

Photo art and headlines by Satire Staff

Advertisement

Melan’s Sensual Serbian Sausage Shack: The Future of Intestinal Blockage

If you’re on the market for Serbian service with a smile, look no further than Melan’s Sensual Serbian Sausage Shack. Curiosity is always on the menu! Chef Melan never divulges his ingredients or recipes, and every meal served up has a surprise in store! Critics Rave:

“Taste that crunch of bone in my links. It really adds texture!”
—M. Elan Jaich

“Rabbit? Squirrel? Rat? Who cares! Chef Melan is a culinary visionary!”
—Elvy Yang ’14

“I didn’t know this many Serbians lived in Los Angeles. Do they have reunions or something?”
—Melan Mose ’25

“I found a sparrow in my sausage. I’m not complaining, I’m just making sure everybody’s aware.”
—Jimmy Zhou ’14

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Photo art and headlines by Satire Staff
Fencing takes a stab at opposition in the Scholastic League High School #1 foil event

By RYAN KIDMAN 
Staff writer

Since its founding four years ago, the Poly Fencing Team has seen huge increases in student participation every year, with a record 34 fencers this trimester. Due to the enormous size of team, the program has recently split into official varsity and junior varsity designations with a rotating practice schedule to allow for both teams to practice efficiently in the limited space available. The fencing program has had a very successful season so far with several historic performances.

The United States Association of Fencing Rankers (USAF) is the governing body of fencing in the United States. The USAF ranks fencers based on skill level on a scale from “U” to “A.” All fencers begin as an unclassified, or “U,” rating and try to move up to “E,” then “D” and so forth. Each unclassified-rated fencer can earn their “E” rating for excellence performance at a USAF sponsored tournament. Recently, senior co-captain Michael Chen earned his “E” rating for placing third at the Gypsy Phoen Club E and Under Tournament on September 9th, beating fellow Poly fencer All fencers begin with an unclassified, or “U,” rating and try to move up to “E,” then “D” and so forth. Each unclassified-rated fencer can earn their “E” rating for excellence performance at a USAF sponsored tournament. Recently, senior co-captain Michael Chen earned his “E” rating for placing third at the Gypsy Phoen Club E and Under Tournament on September 9th, beating fellow Poly fencer.

San Bernardino Three Weapon Open Event, where she took seventh place. The recent success of Chen and Gifford in foil marks the first time in the history of the Poly fencing program that a fencer that practiced exclusively with Poly has earned an official USAF rating and has served as a huge inspiration to other Poly fencers, who have all been working towards their “E” rating as well.

Poly also recently hosted its first Scholastic League Tournament with events for both high school and middle school fencers. The event was attended by over 200 fencers from the Southern California area, 25 of which were from Poly.

In a strong field of 63 competitors, seniors and fellow captains Chen and Ben Smith led the way for Poly’s mens team with a 28th and 29th place finish respectively, while junior Erik Chan finished not far behind in 32nd.

On the womens side, Gifford led the way with a second place finish, winning all of her pool play bouts with a total score of 9 of 25 touches scores with only eight touches scored against. She then went on to advance through elimination, first to 15 touch bouts en route to a finals appearance. Junior Maddy Mendell took fifth as she too won all of her pool bouts and senior co-captain, Lam, took tenth in the event.

Varnoza Prep forfeit due to a lack of healthy players.

With her quick footwork and timely parries, junior Emily Gifford (far left, lunging) earned second place at the Scholastic League High School #1 foil event. Gifford had earned her “E” ranking in foil the previous week. Senior Ben Smith (far right, also lunging) reaches in for a touch in the mens event at the same tournament.

Girls tennis serves up Flintridge Prep Rebels

By OLIVIA TRIESTER 
Assistant sports editor

With school back in session, the tennis team is back on the court with some new additions. Starting off to a record of four wins and two losses, the girls are excited to be hitting again.

Coach Howie Farer, a loyal physical education teacher and community was sad to see Coach Farer leave, but he still comes and supports us at our matches.” The entire Poly community was sad to see Coach Farer leave, but the tennis team is looking to the future with a new coaching staff, CIF hopes, and a young team.

New Coaches Sheryl and Boris Bakhalo are the newest members to the tennis family When asked about her new coaches, senior captain Aria Griffin, said “It’s definitely different with the new coach.”

In the match against Flintridge Prep, the No. 1 team of senior girls’ tennis, senior Aria Griffin and sophomore Brooke Olson swept the rebels (6-3, 6-0, and 6-0). And likewise, the No. 3 team comprised of junior Erin Lee and junior Gisela Baker were victorious with scores of 6-4, 6-3, and 6-0. In the single match ups, sophomore Anna Wohlb. These victories led to a successful day for Poly’s squad as they trounced our rivals.

With the new strategy, the team is looking forward to the postseason with the leadership of the new coaching staff. Griffin, a third-year member of the varsity team, has been a constant source of support. Johnson said of Aria, “She has really helped the team become what it is now.” Griffin, who has served as a huge inspiration to other Poly fencers, who have all been working towards their “E” rating as well.

Poly’s offense managed to score multiple touchdowns despite leaving the field goal range. A week later, the Panthers scored their first touchdown of the season in a blowout win against Blair. Surprisingly, the Viking defense proved no match for Poly’s offense. Only six plays into the game, running back Carter returned a kick to Malibu’s twelve-yard line, leading the Panthers to the lead with a 46-yard run. With two minutes on the clock, the Warriors gained momentum and tied the game, inching towards field goal range. With two minutes on the clock, the Sharks quarterback hurried the ball at a Malibu wide receiver running towards the end zone but was off the mark. After the ball bobbled in the hands of his teammates, Carter secured the interception and the victory.

Carter said, “The win at Malibu gives the team the confidence it needs going into league play.”

Varsity boys football team continues to tackle opposition, off to 4-0 start
**Exploring the psyche of baseball’s new drug users**

By JP OLINSKI  
Sports editor

The recent suspensions of Melky Cabrera and Bartolo Colon have raised questions about the effectiveness of the current drug program in Major League Baseball. The program has the merit of bringing an end to the rampant steroid use of the ‘90s and early ‘00s, so why have players become confident enough to start using again?

More advanced chemistry is one answer: players think that newer, more difficult to detect drugs can deceive the system. However, players were naive to think they could outsmart a system that has already thwarted a number of highly-creative users. Among the persecuted: Manny Ramirez and his male fertility pills in 2009, Marlon Byrd’s breast cancer therapy in 2012 and Cabrera’s and Colon’s female fertility pills in 2009, respectively. As the new season is underway, the Polys boys and girls are prepared to find new talent among the 50 available players.

**After close losses in league play, volleyball looks to rebound**

By CHARLIE RAMIREZ  
Assistant sports editor

After two consecutive CIF Finals appearances, the new-look Poly girls volleyball team hopes to bounce back from a tough start. However, the squad’s current record of 6-7 (0-3 in league) means that a CIF run will be a difficult but still a possible task.

The Panthers lost key players Alexis Genske, Michelle Miller and Sam Montgomery from their solid CIF run last year. But with ten returning players from last year’s squad, Poly does have a solid amount of experience on the court. Senior captain Olivia Treister and seniors Will Hubsch, Ashley Bohlinger, Asimov and Hubsch will have to step up this year to support Caulhoun if Poly hopes to upset Chadwick and compete with Flintridge Prep in Prep League.

**Water polo does more than stay afloat**

By IAN MCKINIGHT  
Sports editor

As the new season is underway, the Poly boys water polo team looks to continue their streak of stellar seasons. With the loss of some key seniors, such as UCLA recruit Henry Bray and Hernandez, the team has some big roles to fill. However quickly bounced back by winning eight of their next nine games.

In the Los Altos Tournament, the squad faced four games in four days with scores of 9-8 and 7-6. Rogers commented on the squad’s tournament play, “I thought we did a really great job at the Los Altos tournament. We were without Kelly but no one used that as an excuse. All of the starters stepped up and the bench made huge contributions without him and we were able to beat teams from higher divisions and take La Serra in overtime. We have a really great group of guys and we play well together, and all of us in train so that we can win league for a third year in a row and go back the CIF finals this year.”

In more recent games, the squad crushed Malden and Webb by posting double-digit scores. As the season moves on, the team looks to continue its hot streak and make a deep run in CIF playoffs.

**Cross country looks to build on fast start**

By JP OLINSKI  
Sports editor

Coming off of a third place finish in Prep League and a near trip to state, the Polys are confident enough to start using again.

Senior Tim Goodwin (left) and freshmen Allie Annick and Isabel Phinney (right) race in the Don Bosco Invitational. 15:24, a personal best and four seconds ahead of Sugimoto. Goodwin and Annick ran well at the Don Bosco Invitational, placing 23rd and 26th respectively.

The Paw Print  
September 27, 2012

**More advanced chemistry is one answer: players think that newer, more difficult to detect drugs can deceive the system.**
Athlete of the Issue
Nolan Mulligan

As the varsity football season moves on, senior captain and quarterback Nolan Mulligan continues to lead his team to victories. In the opening games of the season, Mulligan’s leadership has been evident in three straight victories over Saddleback Valley Christian, Blair and Malibu high schools.

Mulligan has made an impact on both sides of the ball, starting as quarterback and an outside linebacker for the Panther’s hard-hitting defense. On and off the field, Mulligan’s work ethic and aggressive play set a good example for the underclassmen. Senior wide receiver Curtis Toyota comments, “Nolan does a great job as a leader in bringing out all of the young talent we have on the team. The underclassmen look up to him for his poise, intelligence and experience.”

In the Panther’s second matchup of the season, Mulligan completed seven of nine passes for 113 yards against Blair. In the blowout victory, Mulligan rushed for a score and also connected with Toyota for a 15-yard touchdown pass.

Against the Malibu Sharks, Mulligan contributed a game-high three touchdowns including, a one-yard quarterback sneak to put the Panthers up 22-19 in the final minutes of the game and secure the comeback victory.

Both on the ground and in the air, Mulligan has become a versatile quarterback, as his aggressive running and precise throws create problems for opposing defenses. Mulligan’s commitment to the team cannot be overlooked as he has put forth his best effort since his sophomore year on varsity football.

As the season continues, the squad will continue to look for his leadership in clutch moments, as he did against Malibu as the clock ticked down.

Jared Lim

Athlete of the Future
Matt Van Citters

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Jared Lim

Athlete of the Issue
Hannah Kaufman

Junior Hannah Kaufman, a third year varsity player and a captain of the volleyball team, is looking to lead a young Panther squad to a successful season. As the starting varsity libero since her freshman year, Hannah has been a fixture of reliability for a team that began the 2012 season with a very different lineup. Even after losing four core seniors from last year’s team, including University of Pennsylvania recruit Alexis Genske, Hannah has helped the team achieve a 4-6 record, despite moving up into Division 2-AA.

Along with filling up the stat sheet as the team’s most consistent passer, Hannah has served as a role model for her less experienced teammates. Hannah’s calm demeanor has helped her keep the team focused and looking forward to success. Sophomore teammate Dee Dee Logan commented, “Hannah is always working hard, and she pushes us to perform to our highest abilities. She’s a natural leader on and off the volleyball court.”

With the leadership of Kaufman, the team hopes to earn a CIF playoff berth. Although the team has fallen in three intense league matches so far, the players remain positive. With Hannah’s lethal combination of leadership and innate ability, the young Poly group is continuing to improve and looks to make their mark in the CIF playoffs.

Griffin Carter

The Panther Scoreboard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Poly</td>
<td>49-0</td>
<td>Blair</td>
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<td>Boys Water Polo</td>
<td>Poly</td>
<td>19-2</td>
<td>Miliken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Volleyball</td>
<td>Poly</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>Gabrielino</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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By The Numbers

- **16-2**: The score of the girl’s tennis match against local rival, Flintridge Prep.
- **117**: Number of rushing yards sophomore Griffin Carter recorded against Saddleback Valley Christian.
- **15-14**: The score of the quarterfinal bout between senior fencer Michael Chen and junior Emilly Gifford. Chen earned his “E” ranking with the victory.
- **15:24**: Michael Caughron’s time at the Prep League cluster meet. With this new personal record, Caughron won the race by 4 seconds.