Union Station visits Upper School

By STEPHANIE CHAI
News editor

Union Station’s Director of Volunteer and Community Programs and a former resident visited Upper School student during Friday’s assembly to talk about their program and share their experiences.

Sophomores Ella Ancheta, Anna Hackel and Annie Salvati spoke about continuing the Adopt-a-Meal program at Poly. As leaders of the program, Ancheta, Hackel and Salvati work with groups of Poly students to prepare dinner for Union Station residents once a month.

Octavia Sisely ’02 is Union Station’s Director of Volunteer and Community Programs. She described the organization’s housing programs and the homeless community in the Los Angeles area.

Dennis Wafford, a former Union Station resident, spoke about his experiences as a resident and how he was able to change his life thanks to the help from Union Station.

Wafford had a successful career as a businessman in sales but then decided to begin a career in photography. After encountering some hard times, Wafford found himself divorced with a daughter and no money.

A friend connected him with Union Station where he and his daughter stayed for four months while he tried to earn some money to get back on his feet.

Today Wafford is happily married, works in sales at Direct TV and continues his photography business.

During his time at the shelter, Wafford said he learned a lot from those he lived with, especially how to parent his child as a single father. Wafford still keeps in touch with a few of his former roommates.

Wafford is just one of the examples of the power of Union Station and the impact it has on the community.

Senior ASB President Nikolaos Angelopoulos commented, “There are two important takeaways from Friday’s important assembly. The first is a sense of perspective: reminding us that we are all privileged by our education and that there is a world beyond our campus. The second is a sense of duty: because of our collective privilege, we must serve our brothers and sisters who do not have the same resources we do.”

Machinal brings unexpected expressionism to Garland Theatre

By NICHOLAS MEDRANO
Staff writer

Adding to its array of unconventional productions, the performing arts department brought groundbreaking Machinal to the Garland stage.

Machinal, an expressionist work by American playwright Sophie Treadwell, features a young woman struggling with marital pressures while trying to find happiness and true love.

Poly’s production included a twelve-person cast, a four-person technical crew and, for the first time in the history of the fall play, a student assistant director.

Technical directors Richard Sherrell and Tom Allard worked with junior Sam Clark on expressionist lighting and stage design.

The play’s use of a harsh, expressionist style typically seen in film was new to the performing arts stage.

The lack of props and the simplistic costumes emphasized the machine-like ambiance the play sought to engender.

Director Cynthia Crass explained, “I was curious to see how an audience was going to react to it because it’s not something we’d ever done here before.”

Cast and crew also worried the serious nature of the play might be difficult material for high school students to accurately and sensitively portray.

Set in the 1920’s, Machinal relates to current issues of feminism and gender identity. According to Crass, “We are struggling with some gender issues at Poly, so it was in my mind to use art to start a conversation.”

Senior Tanya Jain, who played the main character Helen Jones, commented, “The idea of consent even within the context of marriage was a very important theme. Domestic rape is still a subject on ongoing conversation around the world.”

The play also contains other important themes on the rise of technology, an issue especially relevant today as smartphones and computers surround all aspects of daily life.

A post-show Q&A session with the cast and Poly’s resident FemEd club sparked conversation about gender equality and life-work balance.

“The play resonated with me because deals with societal pressures, which I think we all experience, regardless of the exact era,” said senior Morgan Kail-Ackerman, the production’s assistant student director.

Kail-Ackerman worked closely with Crass and particularly enjoyed working with the student actors. She said, “I loved seeing the actors transform into their characters and losing themselves in the script.”

Machinal opened on November 13th and continued until November 15th.

Poly welcomes Tehmina Jaffer ’92

By BEVERLY SHEN
Assistant news editor

“Upper School students had the pleasure of having Tehmina Jaffer ’92 on campus to share her journey from Poly classrooms to working in the business affairs team for Netflix’s original series.

Jaffer was invited to speak as a part of the PolyConnect lunch program.

After graduating from Poly, Jaffer attended Brown University, where she took an interest to disc jockeying for the school’s radio station. At Brown, she realized her passion for music and considered pursuing a career in music. However, wanting a more stable career path, she decided to go to law school instead.

While in law school at the University of Pennsylvania, Jaffer had the opportunity to write, a passion fostered by Poly English teacher Grace Hamilton.

Jaffer is grateful to Poly for the emphasis on writing in the academic curriculum, and shared how being able to write well has changed her career for the better.

“It was really interesting to hear Ms. Jaffer talk about how she trusted her passion to write to guide her through her professional career,” said senior Salma Kamal who attended the lunch.

During graduate school, Jaffer worked as a paralegal at Latham and Watkins, during PolyConnect, page 2.
November Bulletin

Diwali Food Sale
Senior Brinda Patel organized a Fun Food Friday sale of Indian food in celebration of the Hindu festival Diwali. Students were able to select from a menu of chicken tikka masala, paneer tikka masala, samosas and sides of traditional rice and naan. All proceeds from the sale were directly given to Pratham, one of the largest non-governmental organizations in India that works to improve the quality of education among impoverished youth populations.

Fall Pep Rally
Gamble Gym buzzed with excitement earlier this month as the Student Athletic Leadership Council (SALC) hosted the annual fall pep rally in preparation for the first round of post-season playoffs. The SALC, along with the Dance Team and Mascots, opened up the spirit assembly with an upbeat routine and were followed by the varsity girls volleyball team who performed a choreographed act of their own. Varsity volleyball players entertained the crowd with an obstacle course that incorporated an element of grade rivalry. SALC members concluded the celebration by leading the student body through a student section cheer that has become part of the Panther name.

See Sports for updates on the fall athletic season.

FemEd Sit-in
FemEd, an Upper School club focused on gender equality, organized a lunchtime and F period sit-in to support the cause of sexual assault and raise awareness about rape culture. Over 50 students from all grades participated in the sit-in, which occurred on November 4th. FemEd continued to discuss and clear the air about rape culture.

The Peru Project will include a special feature next month, which will examine sexual assault and provide students with an overview of sexual assault laws and their legal rights.

Japanese Students
Poly’s Global Initiatives Program has continued its five-year tradition of hosting students from Mishima, Japan. Each year during their tour of the United States, a group of students leave their host for one night and stay with a Poly family. This year, 42 students from Ni-rayama High School interacted with students and faculty on campus, visited various classes and spent the night with their host families.

Before the students arrived on campus, seniors Gabi Van der Velde-Kraft and Sean McMahon taught the Upper School students a number of simple Japanese phrases they could use when they first met the visitors. Sophomore Tom Ambry who hosted a pair of Japanese students commented, “They were so much fun to have at the house with us, and they taught my family and me so much about Japanese culture.”

The Quotable Feynman
Senior Julia Rocha, one of the largest law firms in New York City. Although she did not particularly enjoy her work as a paralegal, Jaffer says it was a good learning experience.

Upon completing her graduate degree, Jaffer returned to working at a law firm, and, heeding the advice of a few studio representatives, decided to pursue a legal career in the music business. From there, she moved to ABC Studios and was involved in work dealing mostly with TV production.

As she learned more about the negotiations surrounding production, Jaffer was able to use her law background to her advantage and is now working in business affairs for the world’s largest provider of on-demand Internet streaming media. Along with the rest of her team, Jaffer is responsible for negotiating contracts for the actors and screenwriters involved.

Jaffer is currently working on upcoming comedy productions “Planked” with Will Arnett and Judi Apatow’s “Love”, among others. Jaffer appreciates the flexibility of her job, where “it’s not a place where face time is very important,” and she has the option to work at home, allowing her to spend more time with her family.

Kim Saville discusses Tanzanian school project
By ANDREW MECUM
Assistant news editor

Kim Saville, director of The School of Saint Jude in Tanzania, recently spoke to a group of 50 Upper School students about educational programs in poverty-afflicted Tanzania.

Saville, a native of Sydney, initially planned to volunteer at Saint Jude’s for a few months but then decided to accept an administrative position as Director of International Relations on the school’s board. She has now been at Saint Jude’s for over a decade.

Saville explained, “I thought if I was going to be working 21 hours a day I would rather be making a difference.”

Saint Jude’s was founded in 2012 by Gemma Sisia, an Australian volunteer worker. Sisia was inspired to build a school in an impoverished Monosho village in Arusha, Tanzania after teaching at a girls’ center in Uganda. As a result of Sisia’s dedicated efforts, the school is able to educate around 2000 students per year.

Even though it has only graduated one class so far, the School of Saint Jude is already considered the best school in the Moshomwe region and is the largest non-denominational school fully funded by scholarships and donations in Africa.

Saville explained Saint Jude’s mission is to help improve Tanzania’s economy. Saint Jude’s buys most of its supplies locally and pumps millions of dollars into the local economy to create a sustainable environment.

“Many of Saint Jude’s students are now applying to universities,” said Global Initiatives Program coordinator, Rick Caragher. “The hope is that most of those students will study at a University in Tanzania and then go back and help their communities. Students are also expected to complete one year of community service upon graduation.

Junior Michael Hatch and Senior Himmatt Saha are planning to start a club to help support Saint Jude’s. Hatch stated, “Our hope is that we can fundraise for Saint Jude’s continue its work in Tanzania. Hopefully as time goes on Poly can have a closer connection with Saint Jude’s, and maybe connect on a more personal level.”
Clad in costumes ranging from TY Beanie Babies to Donald Trump, Upper School students congregated in McWilliams Courtyard for the annual music assembly featuring the Vocal Ensemble, the Jazz Band, the orchestra and a special chamber music performance.

The morning’s program began with the Upper School orchestra conducted by instrumental music director Megan Foley, and freshman trio Annette Lee, Ava Miralles and Chanel Shen treated the audience with their performances on harp, violin and flute respectively.

Directed by Alan Geier, the Vocal Ensemble’s act was highlighted by a memorable rendition of “Monster Mash” appropriate for the occasion. The ensemble’s interpretation of the perennial holiday favorite featured sophomore Danny Halsted as the lead vocalist who delighted the crowd with his animated expression.

The Jazz Band rounded out the assembly with a unique arrangement of Stevie Wonder’s “Superstition” and American rock band “Fats’ hit “Africa”.

Throughout the rest of the day, students milled about the South Campus comparing costumes and posing for photos in-between classes.

Compiled by JULIANNA LAI
News Editor
Honing Our Scouts

**The Paw Print** would like to offer its congratulations to all of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the class of 2016 who earned their Eagle Scout rank and Gold Awards.

- Compiled by Stephanie Chai

**Dylan Magsarili**
- St. Rita’s Parish, Sierra Madre
  Magsarili constructed a walkway for the Prayer Garden in Sierra Madre and refurbished a small kneeler for use in the garden. The walkway and kneeler not only improved the look and visibility of the garden, but it also made it easier for parishioners to use.

**Matthew Van Citters**
- La Crescenta Presbyterian Church
  Van Citters stripped down old wood on staircases at his church, sanded it and covered it with finish and polyurethane. He also created and installed a picture-hanging system of the church’s various ministries in the church office.

**Jack Queen**
- Jackson Elementary School
  Queen refurbished and repainted bookshelves for Reading Partners. Refurbishing the bookshelves enabled them to have a more efficient classroom to help the kids. Queen also ran a book drive collecting over 500 books to donate to the organization.

**Brennan Hart**
- Los Angeles, CA
  Hart compiled a book of short stories, articles, and poems to raise awareness for issues young women face on a day-to-day basis. She received submissions from teens all across the country, even from people she had never met before.

**Shirali Jain**
- Polytechnic School, Pasadena
  Jain created and taught a dance program with the purpose of improving health. She taught classes ranging from ballet to hip hop for kids ages 6 to 10, bought the kids ballet shoes, and created a dance space that can be used for dance in the future.

**Andrew Feldmeth**
- Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center
  Feldmeth built a walking labyrinth and meditation spot around a cross, which formerly was displayed at St. Luke’s Hospital in Pasadena.

**Robert Boghosian**
- Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena
  Boghosian built 16 linear feet of wooden storage space cubbies for the children to put their belongings in when they come to the Club.

**Aaron Lew**
- Union Station Homeless Services
  Lew removed an existing patio and pathway. He reinstalled and expanded refurbished paver stones with new borders.

**Mary Holt**
- St. Andrew School, Pasadena
  Holt cleaned, plastered, spackled, painted, and installed a picture-hanging system at the church’s various ministries in the church office. The transformed room has become a sanctuary for prayer, the children, teachers, and administration where they can stop in any time of the day and reflect.

**Shuchi Sehgal**
- MDJunior Organization
  Sehgal established a branch of MDJunior, participated in a medical outreach trip to Honduras, and opened more club branches at other schools. Sehgal distributed over 2,000 bags of medications, and arranged for the donation of 29 pints of blood to the Huntington Hospital.

**Jack Amsbry**
- Cleveland Elementary
  Amsbry built bookshelves and a table for Reading Partners and conducted a book drive, adding over 500 books to their collection and donated about $500.

**Lauren Wilmore**
- Jackson Elementary
  Wilmore took pop songs, changed the lyrics to be educational for a third through fifth grade level, recorded an album, created a student booklet and teaching guide, and taught the songs to third through fifth graders. Lyrics videos can be found on YouTube under “School House Pop.”

**Queen**
- Union Station Homeless Services
  Queen refurbished and repainted bookshelves for Reading Partners. Refurbishing the bookshelves enabled them to have a more efficient classroom to help the kids. Queen also ran a book drive collecting over 500 books to donate to the organization.

**Matthew Roychowdhury**
- Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena
  Boghosian built 16 linear feet of wooden storage space cubbies for the children to put their belongings in when they come to the Club.

**Tanya Jain**
- Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena
  Jain created and taught a dance program with the purpose of improving health. She taught classes ranging from ballet to hip hop for kids ages 6 to 10, bought the kids ballet shoes, and created a dance space that can be used for dance in the future.
Green Apple Gourmet rebrands to Yummy Undeniable Cooking

By TEDDY DEBREU
Opinion editor

In an attempt to create the facade of a legitimate business, Green Apple Gourmet finally decided to change its business name. GAG slides nicely off the tongue, but the company’s image consultant decided that YUC better portrayed the nature of the food.

In many ways, one can compare YUC to the best gastronomic restaurants in the world. For all the contents of your bank account, you can eat foods ranging from traditional French cuisine, French Toast and French Fries, to a multitude of other breakfast meals. The quantities are just the right size but, since only so much is edible, you end up striking the perfect balance between utter starvation and satisfaction. It should come to no surprise that you would need to make a reservation three months in advance.

Sophomore Jackson Walters McDonald commented, “Honestly, I hate their food and prices. But YUC is part of the Poly community, and we need to make sure it feels safe and secure.”

This Week’s Menu

Monday
Sushi and mustard from the Haaga House refrigerator
Best by November 3, 2014

Tuesday
Unlimited Salad and Fruit
Freshly picked from Arden Lawn

Wednesday
“Pizza”

Thursday
Sloppy Joes
Extra sloppy ;)

Friday
Sweet Relief

Studies show:

70% of Poly Students hold strong opinions about things they know nothing about

A new study by Buzzfeed confirms that Polytechnic students can debate and discuss issues that they are completely unaware of. While many say that the teenage brain continues to develop into the early 20s, our students have already achieved enlightenment before they enter freshmen year. Even in the face of ignorance, Poly students still manage to lead the nation in strong opinions. Poly students already knew this though.

“I will not stand for this issue. I will sit.”
-Junior Stacy Lastname

“Never let facts get in the way of how you feel.”
-Senior John Smith

“A^”
-Sophomore Seymour Butts

Poly varsity water polo wins new CIF ‘Most Improved’ award

By TOWNSEND WALTERS MCDONALD
Staff writer

With a soundly mediocre season, Polytechnic’s Varsity water polo team has beaten out both Brentwood and Milken in the receiving of this honor. The new CIF award was created this year after debates revolving around hurt feelings started to grow out of hand. This honor has been met with gratitude, with Junior Matt Arena saying, “It’s better than when we got the participant award last year.”

The participant award is of course the blue ribbon that says the words “at least you tried” scrawled across it in sharpie.

While some people are calling it “dishonorable” and “not a real award,” many others are glad that the team has finally won something after all the super-star players graduating years ago. Co-captain Dean Behary commented, “Winning really isn’t important to us, what matters is going in and building friendships. That’s why I take everyone out for ice cream after the game. I wouldn’t want a player to feel sad. Polytechnic is a safe space for all of us, so it’s about time that we get awards for not winning.” Co-captain Teddy Debreu says, “At least we did better than last year I guess.”

Others don’t share this approach. Freshmen Diego Jaime has expressed concern over how this will affect his sponsorships, and other players are worried that they won’t be able to live up to this award next year. Faculty is hesitant to express their opinion, worrying that it might offend the football and volleyball teams, both of which didn’t qualify for the award.
Music Review: “Divers” by Joanna Newsom

“The cause is Ozymandias, the map of Sapo-
kanikan is sanded and bevelled, the sand low and
levelled by some unrecorded and powerful hand.”
In her lyrics, Joanna Newsom doesn’t hold back,
referring to both a classic Shelley poem and a 16th
century Native American village within 5 seconds
of the lead single off her new album Divers.

To those unfamiliar with her work, opening
lines like these and the high-pitched, dissonant
nature of her voice might make the 33-year-
old singer songwriter seem a bit pretentious. But
for those who have been waiting five years since
her last release, this eccentricity is exactly what
they’ve come to expect. To quote the highest-rated
comment off the song’s music video on Youtube;
“I didn’t understand it then, but I love it now.”

To paint Newsom’s music as inaccessible for
the sake of being inaccessible would be untrue to
what she has accomplished with this record. While
some tracks may sound jarring at first, Divers
is ultimately an album that rewards repeated
listens. Each song’s daunting wall of sound gradu-
ally unravels its elegance over time; lyrics gain
more depth, and the many recurring mo-
tifs grow in clarity. There’s nothing more sat-
isfying than realizing an arcane statement
made on one track is really a delayed an-
swer to a question asked several tracks ago.

At its core, Divers is an album about love,
birth and loss—all tropics Newsom has covered
many times before. However, what separates
Divers lyrically from the rest of Newsom’s dis-
cography is its thematic emphasis on time.
Whether it be through framing Shelley’s poem “Ozymandias” in modern day NYC or through
describing an imperial British navy with the
power to time-travel and conquer different time
periods, each song on this record features the
inevitable damage of time as a recurring theme.

This focus on the passage of time reflects the
harpist’s growing maturity, especially with respect to
her recent marriage with Andy Samberg, as she told
Uncut in 2013. “When I crossed that line in my mind
where I knew I was with the person that I wanted
to marry, it was a very heavy thing, because you’re inviting
death into your life. The idea of death stops being ab-

The idea of death stops being ab-

struck, because there is someone you can’t bear to lose.”

Born and raised in rural Northern California, New-
son began playing the piano at four years old and the
harp at five. After dropping out of Mills College, she
signed to the Drag City label and released her
first album, “The Milk-Eyed Mender,” in 2004 at the young

age of 22. Very quickly, Newsom established a reputa-
tion as one of the most polarizing acts in indie music.

While many were turned away by Newsom’s sharp
vocals, poetically dense lyrics and eclectic aesthetic,
these same qualities attracted a very avid following
that praised Newsom for her innovation and un-
abashed lyrical sincerity. Since then, Newsom has re-
leased two additional albums, 2007’s Ys—an autobi-
ographical masterpiece that features only five tracks
over the span of an hour—and 2010’s Have One On Me—a two hour long triple LP that required planning
and preparation in order to finish in a single setting.

Unlike its predecessors, Divers is much more
conventional with its format. Gone are the sprawling epics of Ys (the lon-
gest track being 17 minutes) and the obscure length of Have One On Me, and in their place we are left on Divers,
a 11-track album that clocks in at roughly four to five minutes in length. This is a very
welcome change, and it makes Div-
ers a great starting point for any
Newsom fan who finds the time required
for some of her earlier works daunting.

One personal highlight off Divers is its title track, a seven-minute-long
song and the longest track on the re-
cord, whose content warrants its length.
Here, Newsom’s harp playing—deli-
cate and gracefully tragic—complements
her vocals almost flawlessly. “I can’t
claim that I loved you first,” sighs Joa-
nna on this track, “but I loved you best.”

Another favorite is the closer, “Time,
As a Symptom,” in which Newsom’s vo-
cals are driven by the pulsating rhythm
of a piano into a breathtaking finale. The
harpist’s voice is looped on top of itself
as the strings, horns and drums all play in
full force, forcing Newsom to sing high-
er and louder in order to compete, before
being cut off completely mid-sentence.

Sorry, Kendrick, but Divers might just
be the album of the year, if not my personal
favorite. Listening to it makes it difficult
to imagine the person behind this music do-
ing ordinary things like watching television or going
to Trader Joe’s, for with Divers Newsom has crafted
another album that totally suspends the listener from reality and creates a disconnect from everyday life.

- Andy Rickert
Meet the Operations Staff: Gary Wert & Felix Reyes

By Alex Patzakis
Assistant life editor

Our campus does not thrive miraculously on its own. Toilet paper rolls do not suddenly appear fastened in bathrooms, the disarray of spoiled trash that lines each class patio does not instantaneously vanish, and copy paper does not fill itself in office shelves. A tireless staff, mostly unknown to students, performs these essential functions that keep Poly in full operation each day and night. This feature marks the unfolding of an attempt to express our appreciation of these incredibly dedicated, talented, yet anonymous individuals. Many of them go unnoticed, their names never known, their thoughtful stories never heard or shared, and their exhausting work never truly appreciated. This small accumulation of brief introductions serves as a simple gesture to the maintenance staff, facilities crew, and security guards, among many others who allow our school to prosper. And in the issues to come, we will continue to feature various members of the operations staff.

Gary Wert

Amidst the gloomy, dreadfully early mornings, Gary Wert offers a gentle smile, exhibiting a calm nature as he stops the path of cars to let fatigued students cross the street. Gary’s long tenure at Poly spans 39 years, beginning at the young age of 21. A native Californian, he is originally from the San Gabriel Valley. Wert focuses much of his day on the North campus, including the Kindergarten and Dining Common areas. His duties involve a mix of daily routine tasks, along with specific, customized tasks issued in the form of written work orders. He does many repairs, setting up various equipment and tables. This year, he is also helping to direct traffic for the carpool lines. Interestingly, Wert enjoys motor sports, and is a big drag racing aficionado. He has followed the sport for over 50 years and used to race a bit when he was younger. Wert even maintains a small side business for motor-related hobby and toy collectibles, which he sells and trades on eBay and Amazon. Despite his many interests, Wert has enjoyed his time at Poly, where he has been for nearly half his life, and humbly calls the campus home. “I love Poly, the people are nice and it’s a great place to work. And I love being outside!”

Felix Reyes

As his orange cart rounds the corner in a quick blur past a group of students, a warm smile illuminates Felix’s face in greeting. Felix Reyes has been on the maintenance staff since 1997, after transitioning from a previous maintenance job. His routine encompasses both the North and South Campuses. Originally from Zacatecas, a central state of Mexico, Reyes emigrated to the United States in 1979. However, he maintains eloquent English, talking passionately whenever conversations spring up.

Reyes arrives unfathomably early in the morning to open up the Poly campus at 5:30 am, before any of us arrive at school, and works throughout the day until 3pm. His routine takes him all over campus, but is mostly focused on the North Campus, where he performs routine janitorial work and maintains various supplies, such as filler paper, in the classrooms and offices. As a boy, Reyes played catcher on the baseball field. Since his immigration to the United States, he has maintained his fond connection with the sport, and is an avid Dodger fan. Reyes noted that despite his recent hiatus from playing, he is still fascinated by the game.

Reyes also enthusiastically describes his love for American football, his adopted sport. Before his arrival in the United States, he had never heard of the game; now, he calls himself an impassioned fan of the USC Trojans and longs for the belated return of the NFL Rams back to Los Angeles. Reyes plays football every Saturday afternoon with his 10 year old grandson, moments that he keenly cherishes. Throughout all of these years, Felix has maintained a great passion for his work at Poly, noting, “Every day is a nice day [at Poly],” “I love working at this school. I love the people and never say no to anything that arises.”
Stephanie Pham '14, a sophomore at Stanford University, has been dedicating her time to activism revolving around sexual assault. Recently, she founded One in Five, an unofficial student organization that seeks to expose the Stanford community to the immediacy of sexual assault issues on campus, shed light on inaccurate rape myths and provide a safe platform that provides moral support for rape survivors and encourages them to publicize their stories.

Pham convinced the issue stem from her involvement with anti-human-trafficking organizations beginning in high school and her passion for advocating human rights, especially in the realm of feminism. In September, Pham participated in a course taught by law professor Michele Dauber on the political aspects of campus sexual assault. For her culminating class project, Pham organized a demonstration at Stanford’s New Student Orientation in which they handed out flyers and held up signs alerting the freshman class to the prevalence of sexual assault. However, the backlash she faced even before the demonstration was surprising.

Pham recalls, “I cannot tell you the number of times I had to re-read the campus policies to make sure we were in the clear for our demonstration. I was so frustrated by how much I was being told to shut up and ignore the issue, ignore the survivor stories.”

The demonstration itself had an immediately positive impact, illustrating the potential and power of student activism, a support that sparked Pham, along with other students, to create One in Five.

The name “One in Five” illuminates a shocking statistic: one in five women in college report being sexually assaulted each year. However, Stanford fails to acknowledge the gravity of such a statistic, instead publicizing that, “only 1.9% of Stanford students have reported experiencing an incident of sexual assault.” To put that into perspective, this percentage advocates that a person would have a greater chance of being struck by lightning than being sexually assaulted. Pham believes that these numbers falsely reassure and minimize the impact in the students’ eyes while simultaneously creating a sense of isolation for rape and sexual assault victims.

“Pham believes the current campus climate shames rape and sexual assault victims into silence, and that a sustained effort towards combating rape culture can only be achieved through a combination of constant student activism and support for these rape and sexual assault survivors.”

In the future, Pham hopes to work with Stanford’s SARA (Sexual Assault and Relationship Abuse) office to bring up the issue of sexual assault in student conversation as well as partner with other organizations and universities to spark a campus-wide movement.

Pham will continue to advocate and fight for survivors of sexual assault at Stanford. “Sexual assault is an epidemic,” Pham argues. “It is an issue that permeates every single college campus in this nation. Stanford University is no exception.”

By SARAH OHTA
Assistant life editor

Stephanie Pham founds One in Five Club

David Ebershoff’s The Danish Girl

Poly class of 1987 alum David Ebershoff’s book, The Danish Girl, depicts the story of Lili, one of the first identifiable transgender persons of the world who underwent gender reassignment surgery. After being released in 2000, this book received the Lambda Literary Award for Transgender and is soon to be released as a feature movie on November 27 of this year.

1) When you were at Poly what were some of your fondest memories?
I went to Poly from pre-K through 12th grade, so I had many wonderful teachers who affected me in many profound ways. But when I think back on my life at Poly inside the classroom, I tend to think first of the many English classes I took. I learned to read at Poly — I don’t mean basic reading (although Poly taught me that too) but to read critically, independently, creatively, deeply, passionately, widely, openly, counterintuitively. To read in a way that challenges me, changes me, undermines what I thought I understood. This turned out to be the most vital training I could have had for my life as a writer and editor. My life today is pretty much all about words and stories, and this all began in those English classes at Poly. And when I think back on my life at Poly outside the classroom, my fondest memories are filled with the friends I made there, many of whom I have known since I was three. I have many fond memories of sitting outside in the sunlight studying (or not studying) with my friends.

2) What inspired you to write The Danish Girl?
Lili Elbe was a transgender pioneer. Almost a century ago, when the world understood very little about gender identity, she found the courage to be herself. This was at a time when there were no role models or examples for her to follow. No allies or resources for her to turn to. No media coverage or public awareness. And almost no medical knowledge or experts for her to seek help from. She had to create her own path in order to be happy; to be the person she was meant to be. This inspired me greatly — the idea of defying convention and expectations to be yourself. I wanted to understand the kind of courage that requires, the intelligence and imagination, the determination. I decided to write The Danish Girl in order to explore all of this.

3) What is special about this book?
That’s mostly a question for others to answer. But what’s special about it for me is that it was my first book. I wrote it when I was still navigating my journey as a writer. While writing The Danish Girl I learned that in order to write, to create, to do something new, you simply have to do it. There will be obstacles and gates, mistakes and wrong turns, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t try. I didn’t know if I could write The Danish Girl. I didn’t know if it would be published. I didn’t know if readers would like it. I certainly didn’t know that it would be made into a movie. There were so many unknowns that if I had stopped to think about them I might have talked myself out of it. Instead, I simply told myself to try and see what happens.

4) What made you want the book to turn into a movie?
I wanted more people to know the story of Lili Elbe. She’s a pioneer and an inspiration. She lived her life truthfully. From her I learned important lessons about being true to yourself. Her story tells all of us that a false life is no life at all. I wanted even more people to understand her journey and accomplishments and place in LGBT history. I was very fortunate that a group of incredibly talented and intelligent filmmakers wanted to create a movie based off Elbe’s story. I trusted them and knew they wanted to tell Lili’s story for the same reasons I did.

5) What change or thought did you hope to inspire through your work?
I’ve often written about people at the edge of society; people who don’t fully fit in. People who defy norms and expectations. These kinds of characters can encounter ostracism and backlash, but they can also achieve personal freedom. I hope some readers find inspiration in that. I know when I was a young reader I was looking for characters like this in books — people who had to leave the world they came from in order to become themselves. When I was younger I turned to books to feel less afraid and alone. I hope others can find the same kind of companionship and spirit in my work.
Hillsides Hosts Halloween Carnival

About 10 Poly students made their way to Hillsides Home for Children in Pasadena to help run their Halloween carnival in October. The volunteers ran booths and games for the carnival for the Hillsides students in attendance. Hillsides, a group home and educational center, aims to provide care and support to vulnerable youth and their families in the community.

Features at the carnival included traditional games, such as a bean bag toss, a face painting booth and a bouncy house. With prizes available at every booth, the 30 children and teenagers at the event were eager to participate. After the carnival, the Poly volunteers and the children at Hillsides ate dinner together, connecting over conversations and shared experiences.

Poly freshman Cole Swanson, whose experience at the carnival was his first visit to Hillsides, commented, “I learned a lot about what the students have been through and how they found themselves at Hillsides. Through the time I spent there, I felt a real connection with the students and had a great time hanging out with them.”

Poly’s Middle and Upper School Community Outreach Coordinator Renée Larios, noted that many kids at Hillsides seemed shy or did not push themselves to play. However, the volunteers encouraged the students, and Larios said, “I was really touched by our students’ ability to stay positive.”

Because of the smaller size of both groups, Poly’s volunteers were able to interact and spend lots of time with the students. On his experience as a volunteer, freshman Diego Jaime said, “I’ve learned that I really like giving back to my community. If I had the chance to do it again, I would.”

Beyond interacting with the students at Hillsides, the Poly volunteers found that they formed stronger connections with each other as well. Overall, the evening was a connective one, and Larios emphasized the rewarding nature of the experience, commenting that “It doesn’t feel like service; it feels like play.”
L’horreur!
Four students respond to the Paris attacks

By CÉLINE VENDLER
Editor-in-chief

As we reel from the Paris attacks that killed 129 and wounded 415, that brought hate into the City of Love, that nearly extinguished the light of La Ville-Lumière, we must remember our own responsibility—albeit distant and indirect—for the great tragedy. Hillary Clinton said in the latest Democratic Debate that the fight against Daesh—better known as ISIS—“cannot be an American fight.” I couldn’t disagree more. Even disregarding the fact that France is our oldest and most loyal ally and that as such we should actively defend France and the western liberty it stands for, this fight absolutely is an American one—and has been for the past 14 years.

While the Obama administration largely is found to have ignored the “no more boots on the ground” narrative, seeking to undo the havoc wreaked by the Bush administration, we have not yet ceased to be at war in the Middle East since 2001. And while our immediate targets have shifted—from the Taliban and Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan to “weapons of mass destruction” in Iraq to Daesh in Iraq and Syria—our larger, more nebulous enemy has remained the same: terrorism. And today, we do not join France in its fight against Daesh; France joins ours against terrorism—now on a global scale.

On September 11, 2001, terror swept the nation, a terror on which then-President George W. Bush capitalized in March 2003 when he justified the vote to wage war on Iraq for having and hiding “weapons of mass destruction” (it really only had oil). America “conquered” Iraq—toppled Saddam Hussein’s Sunni regime (which we had backed previously), set up a makeshift, unstable Shia regime in its place—unfortunately quickly. On May 1, 2003—not even two months after the war started—President Bush gave a speech announcing the war’s end under a banner that read “Mission Accomplished.” How presumptuous.

As a result of America’s regime reconstruction in Iraq, there was a Sunni insurgency, which led to a brutal civil war in 2006, drew in terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda and made the state vulnerable to Daesh expansion. By the time of the Arab Spring in 2010—during which Syria’s president Bashar al-Assad refused to step down—there erupted in Syria a civil war of their own, which similarly attracted terrorist groups. Daesh—seeking to form a legitimate Islamic state—invaded Syria and expanded further. Today, it still controls parts of Iraq and Syria as well as the minds of inspired followers around the world.

And yet over the past 14 years—blinded by wishful thinking and messages of “Mission Accomplished” and “no more boots on the ground”—we have until now underestimated our enemy at not only our expense, but also that of France, Lebanon, Russia, and many others. The Obama administration crafted quite a comforting narrative of Daesh and its scope, influence and capabilities. Despite Daesh’s inconceivable brutality, mercilessness and inhumanity, we have deluded ourselves into thinking that it is a primitive, rudimentary and disorganized terrorist group mostly comprised of “inspired” lone-wolf suicide-soldiers; and we concluded that, as such, it can be “contained”—an effect control of Daesh can be “contained”—with the help of some of the most sophisticated security and intelligence systems in the entire world as well as the most comprehensive and well-funded army in the world.

We have turned our noses up at Daesh so much that we failed to see Daesh expanding right under them. Indeed, Obama once likened Daesh to a JV basketball team trying to be Kobe Bryant. But clearly—with 224 dead from the Russian plane crash, over 40 dead from the Beirut bombing and now 129 dead from the Paris attacks all within the span of two weeks—it’s time to come down from our American hubris, acknowledge the role we played in creating an environment in which Daesh could thrive and recognize Daesh as a global threat—and fight it like one. This is an American fight.

This is our fight. As F. Scott Fitzgerald said, “The best of America drifts to Paris. The American in Paris is the best America.”

Mass surveillance, therefore, impinges upon the freedom of the individual, as it psychologically manipulates that individual into censoring his or her own thoughts and beliefs regardless of whether or not they are related to terrorism. Mass censorship certainly is not consistent with a western conception of freedom; governments that conduct the mass surveillance and the consequent mass censorship of their citizens contravene the very values they are trying to protect.

Furthermore, such a manifestation of biopolitical control by governments over their citizens does nothing to help prevent the horrific terror attacks those governments are trying to stop in the first place. For example, for over five years the NSA collected data on more than 300 million people; ultimately, according to the New America Foundation, that data had no discernable effect in stopping any terror plots.

It is evident that while governments desire to protect their citizens, they often overreact. In order to preserve the freedoms that are at the root of western liberty, especially after the recent attacks in Paris, America, France and the rest of western civilization must strike a balance between governmental authority and individual rights. In our darkest hour, it is the torch of liberty, not the darkness of fear, which will help us prevail.

By NICK WUTHRICH
Assistant opinion editor

The killing of over 120 people in Paris last week by members of the self-proclaimed Islamic State was a uniquely tragic event, unparalleled in scope in the past decade. Yet, as the conversation shifts from prayer to prevention, western nations must deeply consider what type of response is appropriate.

Although the West must do all it can to prevent another terror attack of this magnitude, it must not at the same time forget the values that define it. The self-proclaimed Islamic State would like nothing more than to provoke widespread xenophobia, state-endorsed surveillance and restriction of religious freedom in nations like France and the United States; western nations must therefore stand united in combating terrorism while still protecting citizens’ freedom.

Without the liberties of free speech, free press, freedom of religion and freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, the United States, France and the rest of the Western world would be no different from the nations and organizations we fight against; these are the liberties that fundamentally define us. As such, they must be vigilantly protected.

Yet terrorism often results in political fear mongering and the subsequent erosion of these vital civil liberties. After 9/11, for example, the U.S. intelligence community capitalized on American fear and vastly expanded its powers. The National Security Agency (NSA) used these powers to undermine due process of law—collecting the emails, phone calls, and personal data of every American citizen. In the United Kingdom, the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) engaged in similar programs, as did Australian intelligence agencies. A similar program was proposed in the French Parliament earlier this year.

Mass data collection serves as a rejection of the very freedoms that separate the West from organizations like the self-proclaimed Islamic State. In its scope and breadth, it is highly invasive, as it includes the Internet searches, personal correspondences and metadata of every citizen; it amounts to a sort of ‘field of visibility’. And as the great French philosopher Michel Foucault once noted: “He who is subjected to a field of visibility, and who knows it, assumes responsibility for the constraints of power; he makes them play spontaneously upon himself… he becomes the principle of his own subjection.”

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On the peaceful, chilly night of Friday, November 13, Paris was torn apart by the deadliest terrorist attack on Western Europe since the 2004 Madrid train bombings.

Three coordinated terrorist groups, armed with assault rifles and suicide vests, targeted four different sites in Paris: the Bataclan theatre, the French national soccer stadium and two restaurants. The majority of casualties took place at the Bataclan, where an American rock band was performing for a sold-out concert hall.

Five of the six named attackers were French citizens. The sixth was carrying a Syrian passport, but discrepancies in the passport’s data and the man’s fingerprints have been called into question. Searches for the remaining attackers, of whom authorities believe there are nine, continue.

Immediately after the attacks, French president François Hollande declared France in a state of emergency.

Hollande was quoted saying, “France is at war.” On Sunday night, with the assistance of US forces, France executed an air strike in Raqqah, Syria, targeting a known ISIS site.

Hollande has called for stricter laws and increased spending in public safety. He has also pledged to keep French borders open to Syrian refugees despite fears of a potential security breach.

As the tragedy continues to unfold, authorities will disclose new information. The following articles are accurate as of the time they were written. The Pau Print encourages readers to keep informed through online news sources.

—Isabelle Phinney
Editor-in-chief
By TEDDY DEBREU

Opinion editor

The deadly terrorist bombings and shootings this past Friday, November 13 have left the French people wondering, “What comes next?”

In early 2015, France suffered the Charlie Hebdo attacks against journalists who exercised the country’s culture of provocative freedom of expression. In August 2015, a terrorist armed with semi-automatic rifles was apprehended in a fast speed train traveling from Brussels to Paris. Luckily for all on board, among them a Poly family. American off-duty servicemen aborted what would likely have become a massacre.

Now, just three months later, eight suicide bombers armed with powerful, military-capacity weapons created chaos throughout Paris as itself and 129 civilians, wounding many more others. They detonated explosives near a major football match and shot civilians as they ate dinner in ordinary restaurants in working class districts and attended a rock concert.

Even though the French are no strangers to terrorism, having dealt with the 1995 St. Michel and other metro bombings, among others, this multiplication of attacks, feels different. The French population sees the situation as very complicated. At a political level, most French would agree that the vacuum created by the Iraq War made it possible for ISIS and other extremist groups and behaviors to form and gain strength. It also destabilized the Middle East. The Arab Spring was an opportunity lost in large part. It demonstrated that massive numbers of moderate Arabs, mostly Muslims, exist and are seeking a peaceful transition to democratic governments.

However, transitions to more open governments from the autocratic rule of dictators like Assad has led to civil war and more destabilization. The continued disarray has created a space for extremism, especially ISIS.

France’s very large Arab population makes the situation even more complicated. France has been open to Arabs, partially because of its history of colonialism in North Africa. Paris has moderate Arabs, educated Arabs, and mostly fully integrated Arabs who are as French as any other French. However, Arab integration has not always been easy or fully successful.

At the outbreak of the current Syrian civil war, approximately one thousand French citizens of Arab descent traveled to Syria to join ISIS. French authorities postulate that French citizens who have returned from Syria are at the source of the current terrorist attacks. ISIS has used sophisticated techniques to recruit and radicalize disenfranchised French citizens of Arab descent, not Syrian refugees (to be clear), to carry out the attacks.

The French government will deal with the terrorism problem on many fronts. They will redouble their counter-terrorism activity as they try to isolate potential terrorists within the French territory. After the 1995 Paris metro bombings, they isolated and destroyed the terrorist cell.

At the same time, they will be seeking political solutions in many parts of the Middle East, but specifically Syria and other areas where ISIS is strong. They do not support the Assad government. They do not support dictators who unleash chemical weapons on their own civilians. Even more fundamental, they see democratic institutions, not autocracies, as a form of stability that can eliminate the radicalism that fuels groups like ISIS.

In other areas of the Middle East, the French also seek to affirm democratic rule. They understand that, like any religion, Islam has been used by radicals for their own agenda. The French do not support any religion over another, which means that they do not object to moderate Islam, since it shares the fundamental French values of democratic freedom and tolerance. They support the moderate Palestinian government of Abbas and a two-state solution with Israel so that both countries can move toward a peaceful solution that values the rights of Palestinians and Israelis equally. They support moderate leaders of all religious persuasions because this fits their democratic values and because the rise of extremism diminishes moderation and tolerance of religious and other differences encourage strong and stable governments.

The French see great challenges in integrating the huge numbers of refugees that have left Syria, primarily because they do not have the space or the infrastructure. Like other Europeans countries, they do not see the refugees as a terrorist threat. It would help France, and all countries in Europe struggling with the refugee crisis, if the United States and Canada, countries with much larger land masses who are less culturally specific, would welcome much larger numbers of refugees, especially given the added safety of sophisticated screening methods.

In a more interconnected world, France sees moderation and the values of human dignity as the long-term solutions in order to avoid the chaos following wars and failed politics that create the extremist space where groups like ISIS operate. France will seek to combat ISIS’s hatred by empowering the millions of Arabs who are seeking peace and by isolating the extremists, making them irrelevant.

Ever since September 11th, things haven’t been the same for Muslims in America. This is a fact, born out of a conclusion drawn by many; that because Al Qaeda was an Islamist for extremism, especially ISIS, the French do not object to moderate Islam, since it shares the fundamental French values of democratic freedom and tolerance. They support the moderate Palestinian government of Abbas and a two-state solution with Israel so that both countries can move toward a peaceful solution that values the rights of Palestinians and Israelis equally. They support moderate leaders of all religious persuasions because this fits their democratic values and because the rise of extremism diminishes moderation and tolerance of religious and other differences encourage strong and stable governments.

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Xenophobic fear of Arabs is not the answer. Ever since September 11th, things haven’t been the same for Muslims in America. This is a fact, born out of a conclusion drawn by many; that because Al Qaeda was an Islamist for extremism, especially ISIS, the French do not object to moderate Islam, since it shares the fundamental French values of democratic freedom and tolerance. They support the moderate Palestinian government of Abbas and a two-state solution with Israel so that both countries can move toward a peaceful solution that values the rights of Palestinians and Israelis equally. They support moderate leaders of all religious persuasions because this fits their democratic values and because the rise of extremism diminishes moderation and tolerance of religious and other differences encourage strong and stable governments.

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Xenophobic fear of Arabs is not the answer.

By BELÉN CAHILL

Opinion editor

The most chilling aspect of terrorism is its blind inhumanity. Walt Whitman, in his poem, “Thought,” wrote, “There is something profoundly affecting in large masses of men following the lead of those who do not believe in men.” Although I do not know if Whitman intended for his words to be applied in this way, I do know I could not elucidate the fundamental evil manifested in terrorism any more accurately than he did in that one line.

But another, less obvious tragedy reaped by acts of terror is the trust broken in millions by the unforgivable crimes of which they are guilty. Terror is the trust broken in millions by the unforgivable crimes of which they are guilty.

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Xenophobic fear of Arabs is not the answer.

Four governors have issued executive orders detailing such, and twenty three out of the twenty four are republican. Stephen I. Vladeck, an American University law professor, commented, “Legally, states have the authority to do anything because the question of who should be allowed in this country is one that the Constitution commits to the federal government.”

Buying into this blatant abandonment of empathy and promoting baseless callousness—as President Obama remarked, shutting out “widows and orphans” is not just extremely anti-American, but also anti-human.

What happened last week in Paris is just a glimpse of what has been happening in Syria since 2011. Although it is exceptionally hard to react to acts of evil with acts of good, there is no other way.

Terrorism won’t be assuaged by more hostility, as natural or right as it may feel. And so, I would hope that if Los Angeles were actually asked to take in 10,000 Syrians we would take a deep breath, and say yes.
Drilling in the Arctic: stopping environmental destruction

By JACK WALLIS
Staff writer

Tales of trillions of dollars worth of oil and gas lie in the ice of the Arctic. But the fight for the Arctic’s riches is just beginning.

For the past 30 years, the volume and area of the Arctic sea ice have been declining as a result of global warming. Consequently, access to resources has increased and new shipping routes have appeared, threatening the race for the Arctic and pitting countries against each other as they vie for economic opportunities in one of the harshest environments on Earth.

Small, shallow drilling operations have existed off the coast of Alaska since the 1980s, but the plans for the first major drill emerged in 2008, when Royal Dutch Shell bid $2.1 million for drilling leases in the Chukchi Sea.

Fast-forward to present day, and a myriad of issues ranging from bad weather to failed emissions tests have delayed Shell’s plans to drill for seven years, resulting in additional expenditures of nearly $7 billion.

Coupled with oil prices and public opposition, the company announced an end to their drilling in the Arctic in October, a huge win for conservationists around the globe. Just weeks after Shell’s announcement, President Obama announced that the Interior Department would be cancelling the sale of drilling leases for the Alaskan Arctic along with the renewal of two current leases in the Arctic.

However, Arctic drilling is by no means gone for good. In northern Russia, offshore drilling platforms are currently pumping oil out of the Pechora Sea with plans for new rigs on the way.

The main issue its acrossing Arctic drilling is that conditions are so harsh that the likelihood of a spill is exponentially greater than in a conventional drilling project. Coupled with the fact that oil operations in the Pechora are state-run and subject to far less scrutiny than western companies, a big spill seems inevitable. Moreover, international sanctions are currently in place against Russia, preventing the influx of the newest, and safest, platform drilling technology.

Not only is Russia’s drilling technology old and susceptible to a massive spill, it is also steadily leaking. Greenpeace Russia reports that 500,000 tons of oil leak into the Arctic every year, along with another 4.5 million tons that are spilled on the Russian mainland.

Despite Russian protests against Arctic drilling, Putin has made it clear that he has no intention of slowing down the development of his assets in the north.

Russia’s aggressive foray into Arctic oil must be stopped, or, at the very least, regulated by an international authority. It has been demonstrated that the current regulatory organization, the Arctic Council, is powerless to stop drilling in the Pechora, so the task falls to the UN to severely curtail Russia’s operations in the Arctic. While the US sacrifices economic gain for environmental stability, Putin cannot be allowed to industrialize the Arctic with total disregard for the effects of drilling on the Arctic and the world.

Advanced math at Poly: unleashing students’ potential

By MATT ARENA
Staff writer

As a preface to this article, I want to make clear the fact that I am not criticizing any of my math teachers I have had during my Poly tenure. In fact, the math teachers I have had for the past four years have been and are passionate and intelligent; I am grateful for having learned from them. The revisions I would like to propose are directed purely towards the ideology underpinning the math department.

When people hear that I skipped a grade in math, they often tell me I must be very smart. This has always been uncomfortable for me because I do not see myself that way. I think the reason they say this about me is because only five other students have skipped a year, especially if the math curriculum doesn’t emphasize logic and combinatorics, the basis for good performance in Calculus. Yet my abilities, and those of other students who were enough for some to make the argument that even though those subjects only constitute an extremely minute portion of the math in sophomore year and none of it is built upon in future math classes (Calculus AB and BC), the value of these areas and do not want them taken out of the curriculum. However, if the math department emphasizes simply the importance of exploring these areas when students attempt to move up a year in math, the department should actually build in these concepts after the first quarter of sophomore year. The aforementioned subjects should not be enough to keep students enthusiastic about math from moving up a year, especially if the math curriculum doesn’t emphasize those subjects.

Poly very exclusively allows for this math class “skip” between freshman and sophomore year, and even then the move-up only happens after many many meetings with multiple teachers against skepticism and discouragement. This process is one of rejection and disincentivization and this process, rather than a lack of math proficiency, is why there are so few students who have jumped a year ahead.

During the process, I was told many times I was going to miss out on sophomore-year mathematics. I already had a strong foundation in pre-calculus and combinatorics, the basis for good performance in Calculus. Yet my abilities, and those of other students who were enough for some to make the argument that even though those subjects only constitute an extremely minute portion of the math in sophomore year and none of it is built upon in future math classes (Calculus AB and BC), the value of these areas and do not want them taken out of the curriculum. However, if the math department emphasizes simply the importance of exploring these areas when students attempt to move up a year in math, the department should actually build in these concepts after the first quarter of sophomore year. The aforementioned subjects should not be enough to keep students enthusiastic about math from moving up a year, especially if the math curriculum doesn’t emphasize those subjects.

The other major question the department posed to me and other students looking to move up in math was what students do for math senior year. Currently there are three options for taking post-Calculus BC classes: Pasadena City College, Caltech and the Global Online Academy. Each has its own logistical issues. Instead of the math department discouraging and impeding students from moving up because of a lack of options during senior year, the department should instead create a single class of multivariable calculus at Poly. The Poly math department would not even be novel in creating this class; many other top tier schools have such a class. Flintridge Prep, Harvard-Westlake and Malborough as well as elite New York schools like Packer, Trinity and Horace Mann all have classes for students who have completed AP Calculus BC.

It would seem a little ridiculous to have a class only for one student for a senior year math course. That is why I believe that more people should be encouraged to move up in math every year. I can head think of five students in my class alone that could immediately make this transition, two of whom were discouraged and denied from moving up freshman year. I am confident that there are many more students in every class that have the ability to make the transition.

I did not move up in math because I was the strongest at the subject within my class. I moved up in math because I fought the longest and hardest against the math department.

Poly should be a school that encourages students to pursue their passions to the fullest extent possible, and in many ways it is. Yet the math department has long seemed more concerned with creating a uniform system rather than recognizing students’ potential and encourage-
In defense of Jay Z: our desire to create something touchable

Inspired by Jenny Zhang’s “How It Feels”

By MADDIE KIM
Life editor

On a plane ride back home from New Jersey, the boy sitting next to me asked me how brooding I was after I told him I had just spent the weekend at a poetry festival. He smiled condescendingly, told me that I would have a hard time finding a job and that the intellectual climate of the contemporary world cared more about fact than feeling after I told him about my weekend spent enthralled by the snow, the readings, the brunches I ate in the salons of a beautiful house.

It’s a familiar story: a classmate tells me I look “super hipster,” my friends joke that I will have an easier time getting into college than them because I’m interested in the humanities, a stranger who sees me writing in a notebook asks me how angry my poetry is. At the beginning of a certain college tour, when we went around and shared the area we were most interested in studying, someone actually laughed when I said English (I was the only person to say English).

And I felt so embarrassed. I still feel so embarrassed—whenever someone makes a comment about how “writery” I am, whenever I get an answer wrong in physics, whenever it becomes obvious that I actually did the reading for English class. It’s a story I never tell: how ashamed I am of my love for poetry, how I feel like writing is turned into a joke about the loftiness of some heavy sentiment ascribed to me.

An eight-year lawsuit against Jay Z over the use of Egyptian musician Baligh Hamdi’s “Khosara Khosara” as a sampled loop in “Big Pimpin’” was just settled last month. Hamdi’s heirs claimed that Jay Z violated Hamdi’s “moral rights” by using the song without Hamdi’s permission even though Jay Z had paid all the copyright fees, an accusation which was only compounded by the fact that “Big Pimpin’” applauds men for having lots of sex without growing attached to the women with whom they sleep, a message that would have appalled Hamdi, were he still alive.

The lawsuit brings up important questions about the purpose of art and the extent to which art belongs to the public—where was it in Jay Z’s place to reappropriate the song of another artist, possibly even tainting the legacy of the original song? At the end of October, judge Christina A. Snyder ruled in favor of Jay Z and overturned the lawsuit. And I couldn’t be any more in agreement with her.

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We spend a lot of time trying to delineate what is and isn’t art. When we’re not standing in front of a chalkboard with a million little scribbles in a museum and scoffing “this isn’t art,” we’re laughing art off, especially contemporary art, for its sentimentalism: any overt display of emotion is either funny and embarrassing. The stigma on sentimentalism and the belief that art consists of a specific realm and anything outside of that realm doesn’t qualify as art has been rooted in human culture since the onset of the postmodern era: modern art is criticized by those who don’t believe it to be art, rap music is accused of fraudulence and illegitimacy for its subject matter. When British artist Tracy Emin’s “Everyone I Have Ever Slept With,” an art installation comprised of a tent with over a hundred names stitched into it, was burned down in the 2004 Momart London warehouse fire, those who found it “rubbish” instead of art mocked its destruction.

I think that this widespread criticism and stringent classification of what is and isn’t art, the tendency we have to make fun of things that are overly sentimental, is why a lot of us never even try to create art in the first place. It’s why I hate telling people I want to be a writer—there’s so much criticism of the arts and humanities all around us, it’s easy to feel drowned in a culture that constantly whispers what’s the point of it all.

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When it comes down to it, we all want to create something touchable, don’t we? I think the fear of living a life without contributing something meaningful to the world is a universal fear. I also think we’re afraid of creating something bad, of emotionally investing ourselves into something that may just become criticized or laughed at. It’s a valid fear. It’s a tragic fear.

But an even greater fear is perhaps allowing that fear of judgment to prevent us from fully expressing ourselves, living our lives without leaving something that could last.

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Here’s why Jay Z is justified in legally using “Khosara Khosara,” and any other song or piece of artwork he may want to use, in his own art: be creation of art itself is grounds for preservation, and just because “Big Pimpin’” conveys ideas that Hamdi may have considered obscene, the sanctity of the creation of art transcends Hamdi’s personal opinions on the work of art inspired by his own art. Isn’t the whole point of putting a creation out in the world to somehow touch someone else, to inspire someone to mold it into something new?

Thus, the fact that Hamdi’s music inspired Jay Z and Timbaland to write a song with the same underlying melody and the subsequent influence the two artists have over all of their fans demonstrates the way art fulfills its purpose, the way it effects change and stimulates the creation of more art. I’m not saying the message behind the song is morally correct—Jay Z even admits that he wrote the song at a stage in his life in which he believed things that he no longer believes. I’m saying that Jay Z has every right to use a song that he enjoyed in his own music, as long as the song’s owners were compensated and correct credit was given.

By suing, Hamdi’s heirs were saying “you took something that belonged to Hamdi and therefore belongs to us and turned it into something unworthy of being called art.” Yet for so many people, the songs, artwork, poetry and writings of others is their way of connection to the art world. So many artists at the beginning of their careers create art that resembles the work of the artists they admire, the artists who inspired them, before they truly discover their own voice. The process of artistic self-discovery begins with mimicry: you try something you’ve seen before, then you stumble upon something completely new. Judge Snyder’s ruling proved that just as Jay Z could use the work of another artist as the baseline inspiration for his own song, we can, too.

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Art is born and reborn out of emotional vulnerability. This is as terrifying as it is liberating. I hope that, as Poly students and as humans, we can incite our own internal, personal revolutions every day in order to give ourselves the courage to make something touchable, to put something of value to us into the world. While of course there’s a line between citation and plagiarism that one must be careful not to cross, we should allow ourselves to be inspired by other artwork, to allow it to become so mal-leable that we have the freedom to create something of our own, even if it’s not “real art,” because what even is real art?

I am tired of living in a world where sentiment and vulnerability are laughed at. I don’t want to be embarrassed anymore. I want to cry unapologetically for the first time, I want write poetry unapologetically. I want feel everything and nothing at once. I want to be brave enough to write something and let people touch it. I’m listening to the “Big Pimpin’” as I write this, and all I can hear is Hamdi’s melody, not the lyrics, and I can only think that this is what Hamdi set out to do all along. The air around me is full of music, poetry, and art, and the beauty of it all is that there is yet still more space, waiting to be filled, waiting to be touched.
Girls cross country places 5th at Riverside to advance to CIF Finals

By ROBYN LEE
Sports editor

Placing fifth at the CIF SS Prelims at Riverside, Poly's girls cross country team has its eyes set on a deep postseason run. After edging out Chadwick to advance to CIF Prelims, the team looks to continue to train hard and stay healthy to maintain their momentum throughout their postseason.

Providing much needed depth to the squad, the underclassmen have led both teams and exhibited great potential.

At League Finals, freshman Vivian Wheeler and sophomore Sophie Schleifer led the girls’ team with times of 19:38 and 19:50 respectively.

The boys team beat out Chadwick to take 3rd place, assuring their spot in CIF Prelims.

Last Saturday at CIF Prelims in Riverside, Wheeler once again led the varsity team with a time of 19:41, claiming 7th place and setting a school course record for freshman girls.

Schleifer finished close behind Wheeler with a time of 20:06. Senior captain Isabelle Phinney filled the third scoring place and took 23rd with a time of 21:16.

The boys’ team was led by sophomore Xian Shively, who ran a personal best of 16:31 at League Finals.

Junior Jeffrey Silver took 8th place with a time of 16:59.

The boys finished second behind Flintridge Prep. At CIF SS Prelims, the boys team struggled with illness and several injuries. Shively finished 11th with a time of 16:32. His 11th place finish will allow him to advance to CIF Finals as an individual runner.

Juniors Jeffrey Silver, Aidan Crochettiere and Michael Yen finished in close succession with only a mere 6 points.

Head coach Rick Caragher said, “We have some excellent role models in the program: student athletes who started training in the summer and train straight into the school year. Their drive is contagious. We can’t control what other teams do, but if we are ready, we will run well, and thus contend for a berth in the CIF SS Finals.”

Along with training hard to keep up their momentum, the Panthers are working towards staying healthy and mentally focused to for a strong finish to the season.

“This year, we had several unfortunate injuries, and the flu that was going around school set us back significantly,” said Phinney. “However, the girls’ pushed through and had a great race at Prelims. Now we’re focusing on staying healthy, treating our injuries and preparing mentally.”

CIF Finals will take place on November 21st at Mt. SAC, and the statewide finals will take place on November 28th at Woodward Park.

Football falls to Rancho Mirage 34-14 in the first round of the CIF playoffs

By JUSTIN AUH
Assistant sports editor

Poly’s varsity football team fell to Rancho Mirage 34-14 in the first round of CIF Playoffs last Friday, ending their season with a 7-5 overall record.

Rancho Mirage took advantage of the Panthers’ opening turnover on downs, culminating their opening drive with a seven-yard touchdown run by the quarterback.

Following a quick possession by the Panthers in which they gained no yards, Rancho Mirage capitalized on the excellent field position. The Rattlers continued to overwhelm Poly with their powerful running game, scoring a 20-yard touchdown off another quarterback run early in the second quarter.

The Panthers had a strong ensuing possession, displaying a balanced offense of runs and quick passes. However, a potential touchdown pass to sophomore Christian Henderson fell incomplete, and the Panthers failed to score despite driving down to the opponent’s 36-yard line.

Despite the missed opportunity, the Panthers’ defense bunched back, stuffing Rancho Mirage’s run game 18-yard touchdown.

Following a successful two-point conversion, the Panthers cut the lead to 14-8.

However, Rancho Mirage countered with a short three-play drive, all of which were runs over 15 yards. The Rattlers extended their lead to 20-8 following a 21-yard touchdown run.

Poly continued to find success attacking Rancho Mirage’s defense, reaching the opposing 38-yard line on their next offensive possession.

However, a costly interception abruptly ended the drive, ending the half.

In the beginning of the second half, Rancho Mirage continued to rely on their run game, attempting only one pass during their opening drive. A Rattlers’ wide receiver scored on a 10-yard end-around run, further adding to his team’s gaudy rushing totals.

Later in the third quarter, Rancho Mirage put the game out of reach with a 25-yard touchdown pass following a poor punt by the Panthers.

Despite the deficit, the Panthers continued to battle to the end. In the fourth quarter, senior running back Jack Queen culminated a lengthy drive with a 15-yard rushing touchdown, the final score of the game for either side.

Junior cornerback Josh Hee said, “Our offense drove the ball down the field the whole game, but we left points on the field. Defensively, we struggled in the beginning of the game to stop Rancho Mirage’s run game, but we had key stops when we needed it most.”

With the loss, the Panthers ended a successful season in which they finished second in the Prep League and clinched yet another postseason appearance. The Panthers will miss the contributions and leadership of the nine seniors who fought hard in their final game of their high school career.
Finishing fourth in league, volleyball falls to South High School in playoffs

By WILL McCONNELL
Sports editor

In the first round of CIF, Poly's girls varsity volleyball team was defeated in three sets by South High School out of Torrance California. The squad was unable to slow down South's potent offensive attack and struggled to consistently run their offense.

The team was plagued with injuries heading into their first round match.

Among other injuries, senior middle Carter Woodruff was battling shoulder pain from a dislocated shoulder suffered in an October 29th match against Mayfield. Additionally, senior setter Kennedy Cameron was hurting from an ankle injury.

Senior Carolyn Shanks said, "Injuries really hit us hard at an unfortunate time of the year, and I can't help but think we could've made a playoff run if we were healthier. As it stands, however, I'm proud of the resilience of this team and our ability to come together and play hard in the face of adversity."

The loss brought an end to an up-and-down season for the young Panther squad. The team struggled to string together wins, finishing with an 8-11-2 overall and a 6-6 league record. The Panthers were swept by league rivals Chadwick, Mayfield and Westridge, winning just two of 18 total sets played against these teams.

"Though we did lose to Chadwick, Mayfield, and Westridge, each of those three teams finished in the top five of our overall CIF division, with Chadwick earning the number one overall seed. It was just unfortunate for us that three of the division's top five teams happened to be in our same division this year," said senior Kennedy Cameron.

Cameron, along with Shanks, facilitated the Panthers' offense from the setter position throughout the year.

Woodruff said, "Our setters, Carolyn and Kennedy were definitely a strength this year. They were both so good at moving their feet and chasing down passes, while still delivering great sets. Additionally, they were both very savvy about their sets, knowing how to exploit the other team's weaknesses and utilize our own team's strengths, without being predictable.

They also knew when it was time to simply feed the ball to the hot hand."

Often, it was Woodruff with the hot hand. The middle led the team in kills and commanded the large majority of Cameron and Shanks' sets.

Despite the mediocre season, many young players gained valuable varsity experience, including sophomores Natalie Clark and Halston Harper and freshman Alexis Pappachen. Pappachen in particular earned significant playing time and will be a key player for the Panthers in the coming years.

With a losing record, boys water polo finishes fourth in Prep League

By MATT ALISON
Staff Writer

After falling to rival Flintridge Prep (18-5) for the second time, Poly varsity boys water polo team wrapped up their season with a 7-19 record.

Although the Panthers endured another frustrating season this year, senior captains Dean Behary and Teddy Debreu emerged to provide the young team with leadership, filling the key roles left behind by last year's seniors.

Behary spearheaded the team's offense with a strong showing of 68 goals overall. Debreu paced the Panthers with 31 assists along with 26 goals this season.

Junior Matt Arena said, "Debreu and Behary were absolutely crucial to our growth not only through their contributions on the stat sheet, but also with their work ethic in practice and leadership in games."

Senior leadership this year was crucial for the inexperienced varsity roster, including several underclassmen who have taken over key roles. Juniors Isaac Harris, Dean Johnson, and freshman Diego Jaime have shown bright potential as new additions to the varsity roster.

"Despite grooming several underclassmen on varsity this season, our team showed massive improvement during the second half of our schedule. We possess amazing young talent in the program; we have a lot of work to do, but I believe there are much better days ahead for us," Johnson said.

Though the Panthers were disappointed by this season's results, their returning players view next season as a great opportunity for the team to regain the Prep League title.

Girls tennis finishes with a 7-8 record, falls in first round of CIF

By RJUL GARG
Assistant sports editor

The girls' varsity tennis team experienced a rocky season after the loss of numerous seniors from last year's CIF-winning squad.

With a number of underclassmen filling important roles on the team, it was difficult for the Panthers to fully establish their team chemistry.

To balance out their youth, the team relied on the veteran leadership of junior Shalini Haupt and senior Sam Collins. The emergence of freshman Tara Adarkar also greatly contributed to the team's success.

Sophomore Ashley Wu commented, "Shalini was definitely a key player this season as she was able to defeat the majority of her opponents. Sam and Tara were also a big part of our team in doubles. They played extremely well together, and stepped out on the court with confidence in every game."

Although the team began the regular season with a 4-2 start, the inexperience of the Panthers began to affect the team, which ultimately wrapped up the regular season with a 7-8 record.

The season did not go as well as hoped, but it provided vital time for the development of younger players.

Haupt said, "I think this year was definitely a rebuilding year for us. Having said that, there are some underclassmen, including Tara, Katie Gallaway, and Ashley, who I'm confident will step up and lead the team in the upcoming seasons."

Following a tumultuous set of matches, the team had to defeat staunch rival Flintridge Prep in a tie-breaker match in order to earn a CIF bid. Led by their doubles teams, who won all nine of their sets, the Panthers ended their regular season on a high note with a decisive 11-7 victory.

After this win, the team moved on to a CIF wildcard match with Charter Oak High School. Despite an impressive team effort, the Panthers came up short, losing the match 7-11.

Haupt said, "While we didn't make it as far as we would've hoped, there wasn't a single match this year in which we weren't competitive. Everyone always gave it their all in matches and I think everyone also improved a great deal during the season. Hopefully we can build on the improvements we made this year for a more successful CIF run next year."

Senior Mary Holt returns a volley in a game against Firebaugh. The team won 18-0.
Athlete of the Issue

Joe Edwards

One of the best inside linebackers in the Prep League, three-year varsity football player Joe Edwards delivered a remarkable season in his final year with the program. Leading the team in tackles on defense, and consistently making key blocks at fullback, Edwards’ impact was felt on both sides of the ball.

Throughout the season, Edwards exemplified consistent play and was able to make crucial blocks on offense and important tackles on defense. He helped fuel Poly’s return to the playoffs by preparing well for each game and playing with passion.

Coach Garrett Tyau said, “Edwards is passionate, focused, spirited and determined; there is a steely focus with all that he does, but he is also contemplative and empathetic.”

“Not only is Joe the most physical player on the team, he is also a student of the game. He commands our defense and has been a mentor to me the past two years. More than being a mentor, he is a brother,” said Brady Carter.

Coach Tyau went on to give Joe the highest form of praise, saying, “Edwards demonstrates a reverence for the great sport of football that is unique amongst his peers; he plays the game the way it’s meant to be played... with passion.”

- Justin Hogan

Athlete of the Future

Vivian Wheeler

As the girls cross country team advances past the first round of CIF, freshman standout Vivian Wheeler continues to exceed expectations and earn top times for the squad. At CIF Prelims at Riverside, Wheeler led the team with a time of 19:41, taking seventh place and assisting the varsity team in securing a spot in CIF Finals at Mt. SAC this Saturday.

Joining a team with just one senior runner, Wheeler’s immediate impact has helped offset the team’s lack of experience. Her exceptional performances were key in getting the Panthers into CIF.

Junior Matt Alison said, “Wheeler has been phenomenal this year, especially considering the fact that she is just a freshman. She consistently leads the girls team in races and is clearly a very gifted runner.”

Though Wheeler possesses an abundance of natural talent, her strong work ethic has enabled her to experience as much success as she has. Several teammates lauded her consistent effort in practice, including fellow freshman standout Shaya Naimi.

Naimi said, “Wheeler has been such a great, supportive teammate from the day she joined. No matter how hard our workout is, she is always super positive, hardworking and encouraging to her teammates.”

Looking forward, the team will rely heavily on Wheeler in the years to come.

- Will McConnell

Athlete of the Issue

Angela Liu

Junior Angie Liu has emerged as one of the best golfers in the Prep League. She was a major contributor to the Panthers’ 7-4-1 record this season.

Liu joined the Poly girls varsity golf team as a freshman. Not only was she named the team MVP her freshman and sophomore years, but she also won Prep League MVP and placed first at the 2014 Prep League championship.

She has been golfing since the age of six, and every weekend she practices at the San Gabriel Country Club. Her years of experience have helped her develop consistency and composure on the golf course.

Coach Michael Babcock said, “The place where Angie really shines is her consistency. No matter what time she is playing or where she is playing that match, she plays consistently.”

Outside of Poly, Liu golfs with the San Gabriel Country Club Junior Team, the 2012 and 2014 Metro League champions. She won the San Gabriel Country Club Junior Girl Golf Championship in 2010, 2012 and 2013, respectively.

Senior Captain Brinda Patel said, “Liu leads through example. She comes to practices and gives it her all. She works hard but is also great at livening the atmosphere with her jokes or stories.”

- Matt Kim

By The Numbers

127
Total number of saves by senior goalie Brett Kidman

402
Total points overall for Poly football during their season

16:31
Xian Shively’s time at Pierce College League Finals, placing 6th

68
Number of goals overall for Dean Behary for the water polo season

Varsity girls tennis defeats Flintridge Prep 11-7 to secure a spot in CIF playoffs.