

Rose Parade Event Begins Centennial Year Festivities

■ Grandstand seating at the Rose Parade and continental breakfast on Babcock Field kicked off Poly's hundredth year.

By JOSELYN LAI
Assistant news editor

The 118th Rose Parade on January 1, 2007, marked the start of Poly's Centennial Year when 560 members of the Poly community gathered for grandstand seating at the parade. After enjoying breakfast on Babcock Field, families of Poly students, faculty, administration, and alumni walked to Colorado Boulevard, where they occupied nearly two thirds of the Rose Parade grandstand between Wilson and Catalina.

The first event on Poly's Centennial Calendar, the Grandstand Seating and Breakfast began at 6:30 am on New Year's Day. Those who had purchased the \$70 tickets gathered on Babcock Field for a continental breakfast. Assisted by Poly's Operations Crew, faculty and administration, the Centennial Committee, and twenty alumni, the catering company Craig's Crew set up numerous tables decorated with an abundance of orange and white decorations. Decked with balloons and tablecloths, several long tables held Lisa's Bakery's pastries and fresh fruit, coffee and hot cocoa provided by the Pasadena Coffee Company, and bagels, cream cheese and drinks from Craig's Crew.

Poly's four Eagle Scouts, who had the honor of preceding trophy-winning floats, were specially selected after completing questionnaires and interviews to demonstrate qualification for the positions. After being chosen, the Scouts underwent several hours of training for the march, practicing on three Saturday mornings prior to New Year's Day.

"The work for [marching in the parade] isn't fun," admitted Hakimeh, who presented the trophy banner for the City of Cerritos float. "But the end result is worth it. Practice was... boring, but during the parade it was fun seeing everyone in the crowd. It was the experience of a lifetime."



Emily Russak/The Paw Print

Aboard the Trader Joe's float, sophomore Ally Latta (right) waves to the Poly grandstand seats at the 118th Tournament of Roses Parade.

"My adrenalin got a jolt each time I saw somebody I knew," agreed Éli Chau. "I'm extremely glad I was lucky enough to be able to walk in the Rose Parade with the Star Wars Spectacular."

As part of planning for Poly's Centennial Celebrations, the idea for the Rose Parade Grandstand Seating and Breakfast was born more than a year ago. When brainstorming for events to bring Poly alumni together in the Centennial year, the Alumni Committee suggested a Rose Parade-related event. The Tournament of Roses has

long been an integral part of Pasadena's history. Since many Poly alumni return to the San Gabriel Valley during the holiday season, this proposal turned out to be ideal.

"The Rose Parade is such a spectacular event that is unique to Pasadena," remarked Queen. "It is also an event that is wonderful for families."

After Poly parent and former Director of Alumni Relations Ann Rho proposed breakfast at Poly and reservations for grandstand seats, the committee decided to open the event to the entire Poly community.

To bring the plan to fruition, a num-

ber of people helped organize the event. In addition to co-chairs Queen and Ginger Wilson, Laura Huffman helped coordinate the event, aided by Poly's Development Office, Operations Crew, and the Centennial Public Relations Committee. Poly grandparent Don Collins further assisted with the logistics of the event.

"The Centennial Steering Committee and the Poly Administration at every level were very supportive of [the Rose Parade] event," acknowledged Queen. "[They] helped out in many ways with planning and approval."

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is interrupted when an inspector threatens to arrest the actors and audience for breaking censorship rules. The plots of the two acts merge when Easy, the main character from *Dogg's Hamlet*, comes to the aid of the actors and teaches them Dogg. When the inspector returns to arrest them and finds them speaking entirely in Dogg, he cannot charge them with breaking the censorship laws because he cannot understand what they are saying.

Although the production is very difficult to direct, Crass believes that Dubin is "doing a lovely job" with *Dogg's Hamlet*. Junior Jill Gottlieb adds, "Ethan is very involved with each actor's character development and makes sure that students keep up with their work."

Finals Schedule

Friday, January 19: English

Monday, January 22: Sciences

Tuesday, January 23: Language

Wednesday, January 24: Math

Thursday, January 25: History/Art History

All finals begin at 9:00 am and end by 12:00 noon. Second finals for language and history run from 12:30 to 3:30 pm.



Courtesy of Devon Feldmeth

The cast of Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth hard at work, rehearsing their play in Garland Theatre.

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In Brief

Cocumelli Goes on Sabbatical

Tina Cocumelli, Poly's longtime musical director, theater arts teacher, and Spirit Squad coordinator, will organize the curriculum for a new Film History and Application course during her sabbatical this spring semester. She will take classes at UCLA, acquire necessary materials, and plan lectures and assignments for the new course that will begin in the fall of 2007. She will also focus her attention on the Centennial project planning for spring and fall and the 2007 Commencement ceremony.

According to Cocumelli, her sabbatical will free up her schedule to focus on these tasks. She also intends to write or adapt several lower school plays and to reorganize the massive costume collection. Even though her courses will be covered by Cynthia Crass and Cindy Montoya, she will still be a presence on campus during the spring semester.

Having aided and choreographed many musicals, Crass will direct "Footloose" and the two third grade plays, while Montoya will assist with the musical's choreography, instruct Cocumelli's fourth grade classes in dancing, and work with the Spirit Squad.

"It's a great gift to have colleagues I can trust completely to take over while I'm gone," comments Cocumelli.

A member of Poly's faculty for the past 26 years, Cocumelli has occupied such positions as Director of Outdoor Education and Fine Arts Department Chair. In addition to her lower, middle, and upper school act-

ing classes, she developed the Interpersonal Communication course, the precursor to the current Human Development. Currently, she teaches the Human Sexuality and Relationships course, as well as her theater art classes.

Cocumelli obtained a degree in Theater from UCLA and a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling. Prior to working at Poly, she taught drama, history, and English at La Crescenta High School.

Sarah Chen

Winter Play to Premiere

This year's winter play, *Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth*, will feature twenty sophomores, juniors and seniors in its productions on February 8, 9 and 10. Written by Tom Stoppard, this intricate play showcases the playwright's manipulation of the English language to make abstract, and often political, statements. The production actually consists of two one-act plays, *Dogg's Hamlet* and *Cahoot's Macbeth*, but they are commonly performed together.

The first act, *Dogg's Hamlet*, which will be directed by senior Ethan Dubin, is an extended version of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Stoppard introduces a strange language called Dogg in which English words produce completely different meanings. This peculiarity often creates confusion when characters attempt to communicate in these different languages.

Cynthia Crass, Chair of the Arts Department, will direct the second act, *Cahoot's Macbeth*, which takes place in the former Czechoslovakia, where censorship prevents public theatrical productions. In the play, a production of

Editorial: A Serious and Underlooked Problem

Across the country, around 5% of girls in their teens and twenties have an eating disorder (according to ANDRED.com). Often, girls who develop eating disorders are perfectionists, hard-working, driven and looking to find some control in their hectic lives. Does this sound like some Poly students you know? When looking at current and past classes at Poly's Upper School, it is clear that a handful of girls in each grade have not been able to avoid this epidemic.

I don't blame Poly for fostering students who are driven and hard working. However, I do blame Poly for not providing enough resources to identify and help girls and boys affected by eating disorders. At a school that fosters students with characteristics that predispose them to eating disorders (hard working and driven are often characteristics held by people with eating disorders) everyone in the community must look out for such conditions. As the college application process looms in front of Poly students, some might find themselves searching for control through anorexia in a seemingly uncontrollable situation. Additionally, clothing and images are a large part of the Poly society. This superficiality adds to the pressure some girls feel to be thin. There are teachers and faculty members at Poly who look to help and identify students with eating disorders, but I feel that more could be done to stop new cases from developing and to help the girls already in the disease's grasp.

Firstly, I think that more education about the many types of eating disorders, body image problems and the consequences of such disorders could prevent some from developing eating disorders. Additionally, the education will help all members of the Poly community identify students in need of help. Parents of Poly students should also be educated on the different eating disorders that might be hurting their children.

Secondly, I think that there should be someone on the Upper School Campus who can specifically help students with eating disorders and their friends. The school nurse is on the North Campus, and many Upper School students probably don't know where the nurse's office is, thus eliminating her efficacy in identifying those in need of help. The school psychologist, John Bakaly, is one resource for those looking to find help for either themselves or their friends, but I do not believe that it is Bakaly's job to watch for students developing eating disorders.

My third proposition is to you, the students. If you are worried about someone, don't just sit on it. Go to an adult and get help for your friend. Sometimes fellow students know more about a person in need of help than the adults do. It is up to us to take care of each other.

Poly students spend a large majority of their day at Poly, and thus, I think that Poly has a responsibility to look out for the well being of the students.

I don't think that anyone wants to lose a student to an eating disorder. As a community, we all need to work together to stop this growing epidemic and help those who cannot pull themselves out of their own starvation.

JMQ

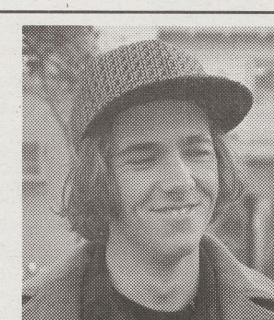


Compiled by Madeline Goldberg and Brendan Hirschmann

Do you think anorexia is a common issue among students at Poly?

Despite the large amounts of food present on the Poly campus at any given time, I can say with confidence that anorexia is an issue at Poly. There is a difference between being skinny and having an eating disorder and I feel that is where students get confused.

-Molly Thornton '10



At Poly, I've heard of a couple of cases of anorexia here and there, but it does not seem to be broadcasted as a big issue. I think that there are definitely more cases out there that are just not talked about or well hidden. Overall, I believe anorexia is a bigger issue than it is made to be, but that there are other problems that are more prevalent at Poly.

-Lara Markarian '09

Yes. Because anorexia is a very big issue everywhere that has been somehow influenced by the media. It just seems unfortunate that this disorder has reached the people of such a small and welcoming school like Poly. We all need to help make everyone feel more comfortable.

-Will Carlson '08

I don't think anorexia is a big issue at Poly. Even though teenagers obviously feel pressure to be thin, I think that most Poly students are smart enough to know that eating disorders are unhealthy and even fatal.

-Rachel Dudley '07

Poor Applicants to College Are Shafted

By BRENDAN HIRSCHMANN
Opinion editor

The surest way to economic security and prosperity in America is a degree in higher education. Job opportunity for an individual strongly correlates to the prestige of the university attended. How then, in the land of opportunity, are only 3% of the students in top universities from the lowest income quartile and only 10% from the lower half? Clearly, a grotesque percentage of students at top universities come from wealthy backgrounds. One may argue that this is the reason affirmative action should be applied to college admissions across the country. However, most of the racial minorities who receive preferential status are also from wealthy backgrounds. It is evident that affirmative action has failed in any attempt to give poorer students an equal opportunity at attending top schools. Therefore, American universities should do one of two things: either place much more emphasis on a reformed standardized test that places more emphasis on natural ability or adopt a preferential policy for students from less fortunate economic backgrounds.

The misuse of standardized testing is one reason that the number of students at top schools from lower income families is so small. American universities should revert back to an older form of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and place much more emphasis on this test in addition to grades in school. A few years ago, the SAT began to put less emphasis on abstract reasoning and more on what students have learned in the classroom. In a concrete sense, this is a phasing out of things like analogies (rhinos are to watering holes as starlets are to spas) and the arrival of more reading comprehension, algebra, and an essay. The SAT was originally designed to test raw ability with little dependence on classroom

Student Profile
Name: *Maria Suarez*
Age: 17
GPA: 3.4
SAT: 2100
Ethnicity: Latina
Family income: \$100,000
NOTES:

ACCEPTED

Student Profile
Name: *Mary Smith*
Age: 17
GPA: 3.4
SAT: 2100
Ethnicity: Caucasian
Family income: \$60,000
NOTES:

DENIED

Rose LaGrua/The Paw Print

Colleges should revise their admission process.

lessons. It has now become a test of academic achievement. This is nothing short of a travesty. The old SAT allowed students of low-income backgrounds who had nothing to offer but their brains and academic potential to gain acceptance into top schools. The new test will undoubtedly continue to prove to be many more times exclusive of poorer students because they attend weaker secondary schools with extreme disadvantages in terms of academic achievement.

Reforming the standardized testing will have little effect though, if American universities continue to consider so many factors besides test scores and grades. The Economist pointed out how "[t]he real scandal of academic selection in America is not the presumed failure of standardized tests," but rather "the increasing willingness of American universities to consider factors other than test scores when it comes to

admitting applicants." Universities may too often give advantage to applicants with family connections, the children of large donors, or minority students from wealthy backgrounds. This often leads to a disproportionate number of these students dropping out because they cannot cope with the academic load, and most importantly, destroys the desired system of meritocracy. If students were admitted solely on the basis of test scores and grades, the proportion of successful poor students would actually go up rather than down.

If tertiary education in America cannot reform in the above ways, it must simply change from a policy of racial preference to economic preference. Schools must trust the idea that bringing in the best and brightest students will inevitably lead to larger number of eligible donors even if these students are unable to pay for tuition immediately.

History is History to Our Generation

By STEPHEN WU
Student contributor

2:40 meeting with the English teacher, 3:00 sports practice, 5:45 oboe lesson, 6:45 dinner, 7:00 homework, 11:00 sleep, all while injecting time to surf the Web and chat with friends. This charming routine of a Poly student's hectic life packed with extracurricular activities, athletics, and pressing social engagements undoubtedly resounds with the average high school pupil. With all this hustle and bustle now customary in students' lives, inevitably they have to sacrifice certain activities and actions because there is simply not enough time in their schedule. I fear that what they choose to give up may be traditional values and thinking.

The age of constant connection via the Internet and instant gratification has left young people decidedly materialistic in nature and lacking in deeper understanding of life and living. The social norm has now shifted away from family and togetherness to friends and iPods. Kids today hardly

have a chance to eat breakfast, scan over the morning headlines, and interact with their family because they would rather stay in bed to recover sleep lost due to a late night of studying. Across the country, it seems that kids increasingly prize the newest pair of Nike sneakers or the latest gizmo or gadget, losing focus of the world around them. Tests show few can recognize the new Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) when shown a photograph or have the ability to locate Iraq on a map of the Middle East. Because of the internet, students can now stay in contact with each other twenty-four seven but, in doing so, lose precious time and, while certainly forwarding personal relationships, lose some of the intimacy of a face-to-face talk or even a phone call. Forsaking personal conversation for Instant Messages, the country's young population also has adopted grossly violent and often bizarre media in the form of graphic movies where the characters are hacked into a billion pieces by a whizzing chainsaw. Because of today's incredible graphics, you can also see and feel the blood on you. Music standards have

also dropped, as successful albums contain expletives for every other word. This influences the speech of children because they are brought up on the explicit lyrics of the day. Because of this new focus on material objects rather than developing social awareness and strengthening individual bonds of friendship, young men and women cannot distinguish Tom Brokaw from Dan Rather but can recite every American Idol finalist for the past three years. The "greatest generation" of our grandparents, the genteel upbringing of sixty years ago has been replaced with an obsession with new fashion. While some may advocate only looking towards the future, I cannot help but have some nostalgic yearning for the past and the graceful innocence free of harmful modern peer pressure and media-fed pop-culture. While every Poly student may have his/her individual opinion on today versus yesterday and probably will find this article mildly interesting but rather un-relatable to their own situation, next time one may think a little longer about abandoning the family dinner table for a Facebook checkup.

An Upper School publication of student news and views.

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Finals Survival Guide

By HALEY MALCHIONE

Life editor

It's the most stressful time of the year for Poly students: finals' week. The prospect of mastering an entire semester's worth of material with a depth of focus rivaling college-level exams can seem overwhelming. With the promise of spring break so hopelessly distant and the task at hand so arduous, it is easy to lose the motivation and will-power necessary to prepare for exams. Do not give in to this weakness! Follow our advice on what not to do during finals' week and you will be successful.

1. Do not waste your free time watching television.

Example: Using the week's "free time" to catch up on a year's worth of TV.

Whether your TiVo is backlogged with an entire season of *Grey's Anatomy* or you got a season of your favorite show on DVD as a holiday gift, finals' week seems like the opportune time to catch up on everything you've missed thus far.

The Drawback: Using finals' week to either catch up on or rewatch a full season of a TV show is a bad idea. In watching season one of *Battlestar Galactica* all this week in an attempt to "relax" before finals, I only made myself more stressed out by procrastinating. Not to mention I wasted a good 36 hours of my life and still don't have any idea what a "Cylon" is.

2. Do not start studying the night before.

Example: Opening your AP Biology textbook for the first time all year and deciding to read through every chapter covered this semester.

"Cramming" is not unusual among students in general, and Poly students are no exception. What other option do you have if you haven't paid attention in class all semester, yet you want to succeed on the final? My best advice is to join a study group of the most intelligent other students in your class and use their expertise to attempt to get at least a sense of what you've missed all semester.

The Drawback: Although the outcome of the exam may be excellent, cramming as a study strategy is never the best way to prepare for an exam. If you sit down and try to read 25 chapters in the AP Biology textbook the night before your

Biology final, not only will most of the information go over your head, but you will be frustrated, ruining any interest you ever had in Biology as a subject. If you must cram, do so responsibly; seek help from friends or teachers.

3. Do not avoid studying

Example: Spending hours on a Paw Print article that could have been written in 20 minutes in order to avoid studying for the English final.

Many students will go to great lengths to avoid studying. However, there is a certain sense of guilt that hovers over a student who knows he or she should be studying yet consciously is not. To validate time spent away from the books, some students immerse themselves in other responsibilities so as to create a false sense of productivity.

The Drawback: Your number one priority during finals week is finals; now is not the time to begin a habit of helping out around the house or checking over your homework assignments. If you have other things to do during finals week, don't spend any more time on them than necessary; if a Paw Print article should take 20 minutes to write, spend 20 minutes on it and then study!

3. Do not lose sleep.

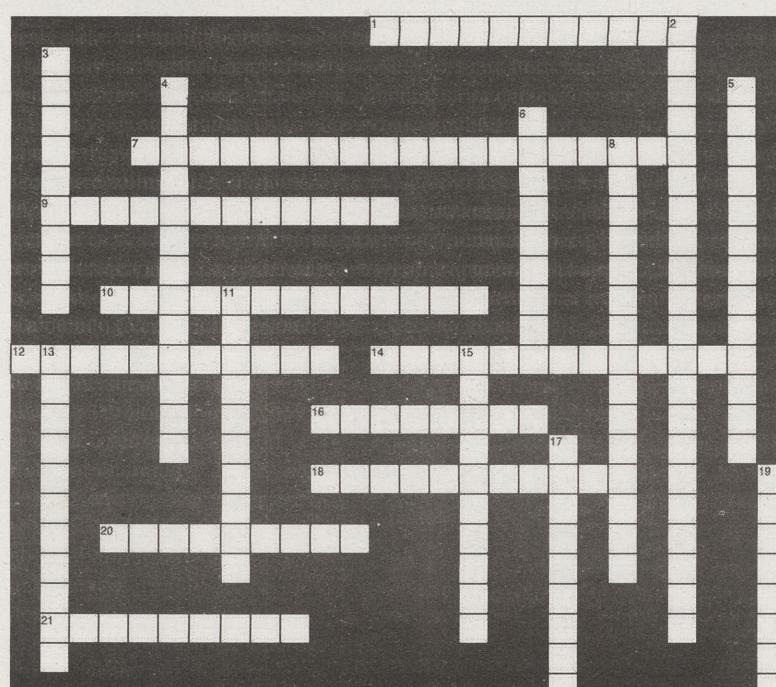
Example: Staying up every night until 3 AM studying with the resolve to go to bed extra early the night before the final.

The advice "get a good night's rest" is such a trite study strategy, but I cannot stress that enough. No matter how effectively you study, if you don't get enough sleep, it will be significantly harder for you to recall all the information you so sedulously memorized. You only hinder your chances for success by pulling late night study sessions.

The Drawback: Most students interpret this study strategy as "don't stay up late studying the night before the final;" however, if you have been up late studying every night for a week before your exam, one night's worth of sleep is not going to have an impact on your well-being. Make an effort to get to bed at a decent hour every night, and if you must stay up late, stimulate your body the next morning with a hearty breakfast or brief exercise.

Good Luck!

Best of 2006: Poly Edition



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Compiled by Amanda Fink

Battle of the Horror Movies: Both Prove a Letdown

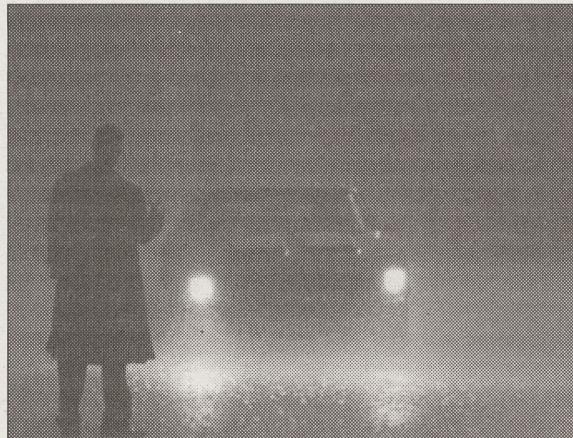
By CAITY SAGGESE

Life editor

How many times since you got your driver's license have your parents told you never to pick up hitchhikers? If you're like me, none. *The Hitcher*, the story of two college kids who did not take their parents' advice, will make you wish they had. On a spring break cross-country road trip, Grace Andrews (Sophia Bush) and Jim Halsey (Zachary Knighton) make the mistake of their lives when, on a dark and stormy night, they pick up a mysterious hitchhiker, John Ryder (Sean Bean).

Their trip soon becomes a living nightmare as Ryder turns out to be a murderous psychopath set on tormenting the couple. Not only does he threaten them personally, but he implicates them in murders that he has already committed. Just when the couple escapes the hitcher, they find that the New Mexico State Police are after them.

This film is a remake of a 1986 horror film of the same name. Different this time around is the addition of the girlfriend (Sophia Bush) as a major character. The director, Dave Myers, said that his intention in adding the girlfriend was to create a horror movie more appealing for an adolescent audience: "You see it all the time in horror films, the girl always trips, and there's a lot of bad laughs as the producers call them, and I'm trying to avoid all of those and make a "Silence of the Lambs" for teenagers, something that's much more psychological, more intense, more believable." If you like blood, violence, suspense, and terror this is the right movie for you: it is rated R for all those reasons. Opens January 19, 2007.



Courtesy of Google Images

Two college students pick up a hitchhiker who turns out to be a psychopath.

New Year's Resolutions You Can Actually Keep

By EMILY RUSSAK

Life editor

As 2007 has arrived, I know that you all have tons of unrealistic resolutions that you are bound to forget by February. While training for the L.A. Marathon may seem like an admirable feat, it might be a little time consuming. Instead of setting impractical goals, we should all strive to make realistic resolutions; resolutions we can actually keep this time.

I know we have some big time procrastinators out there. I too get distracted from time to time. So, for those who struggle to get their work done, I suggest that you set some goals just until the end of May! Instead of waiting till your free period or waking up at 5 am to finish your homework, try to set a schedule of one hour of work with a half hour break to get yourself into a routine. While this may not seem like a very fun resolution, just think about the plus side—you most likely get to sleep in later and you won't have to do work during your free period...more time for Super Smash Brothers per-

haps? It also might be a good idea to let yourself watch only two of your favorite TV shows during the week and then tape or TiVo the rest of the shows you watch and save them for the weekend. While this also might not be fun during the week, it just means that you get that much more TV time over the weekend. These are just some of the things any student, procrastinator or not, can try to do, that might actually make a difference.

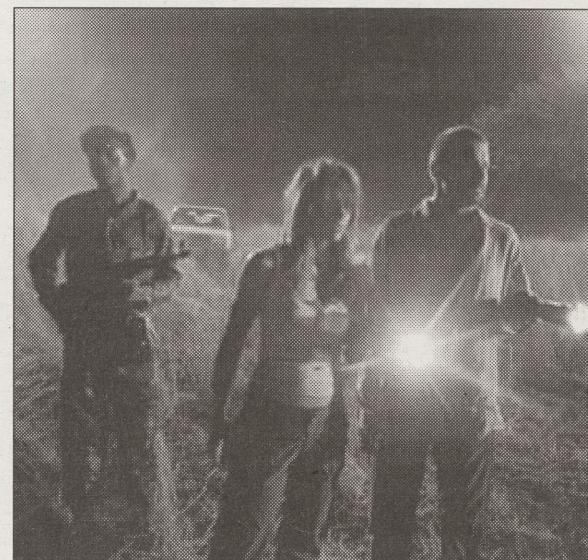
Two words: MySpace & Facebook. Ahh, the infamous websites that make the hours pass by so quickly! I, myself, am trying to be on Facebook less and while I personally know how difficult it is to step away from the computer, training oneself to become less addicted to the escapist websites we know as MySpace and Facebook may be very beneficial to one's own mental and physical health. Resolutions like this may take some very dedicated self-control but are in fact doable.

For those who wish to make exercise based resolutions, instead of saying something like, "I'm going to go running for an hour everyday," try to make

a more achievable game plan. Set limits for yourself so that, first of all, you will be able to meet your set standards, and second, if you exceed the goals that you set for yourself, you will feel that much better! Instead of promising to run everyday, plan to go running/exercising two to three times a week. Being honest with yourself and your limits will make it much easier for you to achieve your goals. Also, don't suddenly go on an extreme health diet; try and slowly integrate healthier foods into your everyday meals—the occasional sweet is not going to kill you. It is important to get the right amounts of nutrition everyday and it is very essential that you stay hydrated! I think a great resolution would be to drink more water. It might be the simplest resolution but it is still pretty effective.

Another resolution that is fairly manageable is to do community service at least once a month. Community service is fun and is something that is very accessible to Poly students. If you're not able to get a ride to your philanthropy of choice, all you really need to do is stay after school on Friday afternoons and help the Men's Ecology Service Association (MESA). This club empties out all of the blue recycling bins around campus every Friday afternoon in the upper courtyard. Anybody can help; in fact they would love more people to help get the job done faster. The club currently gives the money they make from the recycled goods to the Nomad Foundation but is looking to branch out to more charities later in the year. Giving back to the community is very important and is fortunately easy for Poly students to do.

If you think along these lines of setting realistic goals, your 2007 resolutions will not only be easy to keep, but fun as well!



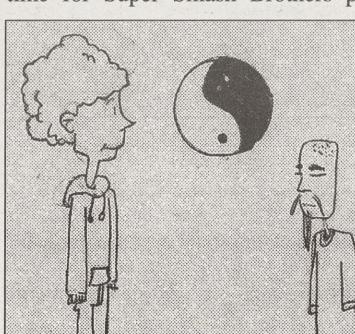
Courtesy of Google Images

Journalists Tim Manfrey (Purcell), and Aviva Masters (Langton), and cameraman Steven Johnson (Jones) search for Gustave, the infamous serial killing crocodile.

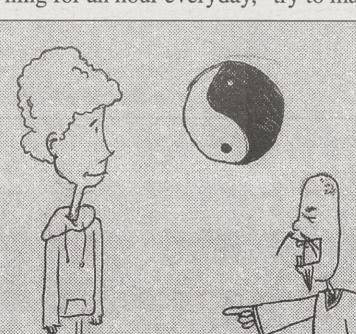
Primeval, another "nail-biting horror-thriller," according to an online blogger, opened January 12th, and is already being called "Jaws of the Jungle." Although the trailers for the film lead you to believe that it's about the world's most prolific serial killer, a killer of more than 300 named Gustave, Gustave turns out to be a 30-foot crocodile that an American news crew travels to Burundi to film and capture.

Journalists Tim Manfrey (Dominic Purcell of Fox's "Prison Break") and Aviva Masters (Brooke Langton) are joined by Steven Johnson (Orlando Jones), a wisecracking cameraman, in their journey to Burundi. They are also accompanied by their guide (Jurgen Prochnow) and an egotistical scientist (Gideon Emery) who claims to be able to trap the animal with a specially-built cage.

Unsatisfied with just a traditional good monster movie, the creators tried to incorporate "Hotel Rwanda" elements of a bloody civil war by having the American journalists get caught up in a local warlord's slaughter of his own people, a menace they call "Little Gustave." It doesn't work. In its attempt to make a political statement by making the humans bigger villains than the crocodile, the movie ends up exploiting both. For those who want to see a horror movie that is not that scary, *Primeval* is for you.



Sensei, for New Year's I have resolved to sever my ties with Facebook, Myspace, and the rest of the blogging community.



Perhaps you should start with a more simple task like walking the dog young grasshopper.
Why Sensei, is it really that hard?
For you, impossible...hahaHA HAHHAHA

Salim Moore/The Paw Print

New Girls Basketball Coach Brings A Fresh Perspective to the Team

■ The girls varsity basketball team has adjusted to new coach Kim Weber and improved on their record from last year.

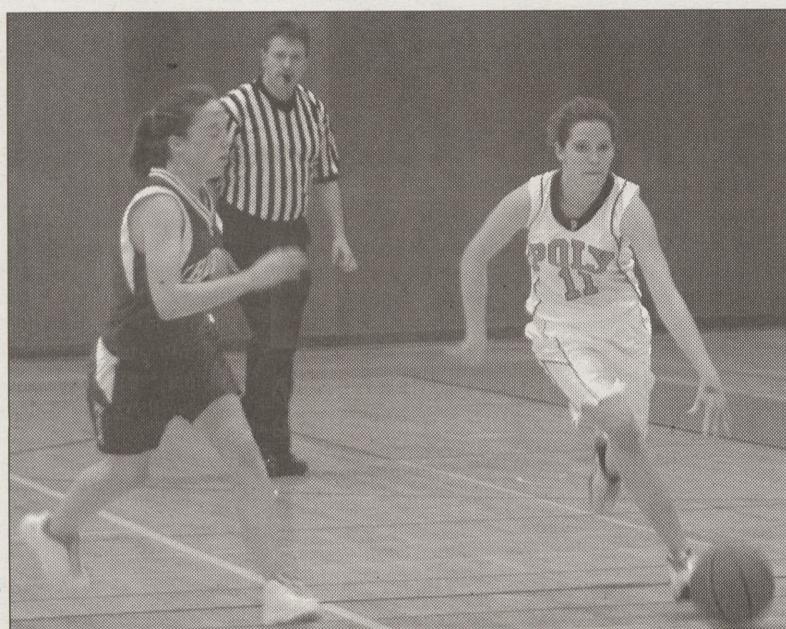
By ADITI DASGUPTA
Editor-in-chief

Coach Kim Weber is the newest addition to the girls varsity basketball team. Junior Miranda Wakimoto said of Weber, "I really like that she has a lot of passion, she always wants to win. She's very competitive." Weber first coached Poly girls JV basketball in 1996 alongside Rick Caragher, then left to be an assistant coach at Occidental College in 1999. Six years later she has returned to the school and brought a new attitude to the team.

In order to make her team competitive she has brought a tougher, more rigorous attitude to the court. The girls lift weights at least two or three times a week in order to build up their strength and run extensively during practice. Senior captain Jessie Dicovitsky feels that Weber has brought a lot of growth to the team: "I think that the team dynamic has changed completely [from last year]. It's a lot less relaxed and there's a lot more hard work being put into our play. In the end, however, we are doing much better. We already have a better record than last year

and there is constant improvement on the team." Their hard work has begun to pay off as the team currently holds a league record of 3-2.

Weber feels that the team's greatest strength is their solid defense. J. Dicovitsky leads with 38 steals, the third highest in league at this point in the season, and sophomore Kelly Prey has 13 blocks. J. Dicovitsky is pleased with the team's strong defense but remarks, "We really need to work on outside shooting, that's our point of emphasis for the year." Freshman Rose Dicovitsky



Courtesy of Jennifer Godwin-Minto

Varsity girls basketball captain senior Jessie Dicovitsky dribbles the ball down the court against Chadwick.

has played a critical role in the success of the team and leads with 115 points and 108 rebounds. Wakimoto has also stepped up as an offensive leader. Weber remarks, "[she] is a good defender

experience for upcoming years." Tonight's game against number two team Flintridge Prep will give the team an opportunity to demonstrate their solid defense and branch out offensively.

Despite this moderate start, however, the team anticipates that it will win the respective league and advance far in the CIF playoffs. Last year, the team lost to the eventual CIF champion, Los Amigos High School. It should be said, however, that the loss was a close one, and Poly was the only squad to score against them in the CIF playoffs.

According to sophomore Nick Ichien, this year's story will be different. "We are a lot more mature as a team," claims Ichien. "Last year was the first year on varsity for a lot of players," so we can only expect to build on the success from last year." Another key, he says, is the team leadership: "with so many seniors on the team, all of whom wish to attain a high level of success, it is motivational, both for the younger players but also for the seniors themselves."

To date, Poly has a 1-1 record in league. They lost their first league match to Chadwick 4-0 but beat Flintridge Prep 1-0. The Panthers continue their league play with a rematch against rival Chadwick on Friday.

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and ball-handler, and is beginning to look more for her shot." Wakimoto credits Weber with encouraging each girl to feel confident in her shot. She says now it is up to the team to take more shots and make plays happen.

This year the team has added three freshman players to the roster and brought back seven returning varsity members. Three of these returning players are seniors, the rest come from the sophomore and junior classes. The youngness of the team has not deterred the girls who have formed a unique bond. Wakimoto said, "I think we get along really well. When we see other teams get angry at each other, we don't really do that. Even when we're losing I feel like everybody is helping each other out."

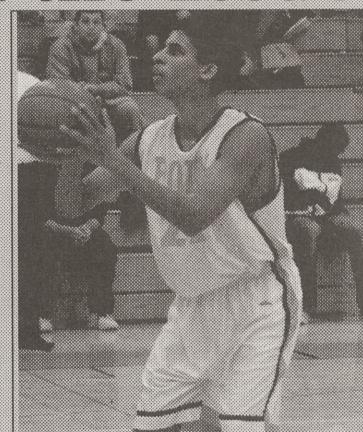
With an overall record of 7-9 the squad is currently ranked fourth in the prep league. The girls have seven more games before league play ends and playoffs begin. Weber notes, "We have a very young team. Every practice and every game gives us more

Athletes of the Issue



Courtesy of Jennifer Godwin-Minto

Maddy Russak



Courtesy of Darius Izadpanah

John Harewood

As a two-year player on the girls varsity water polo team, sophomore Maddy Russak has become an integral part of this young team. Although the team is not having a great season, Russak has scored 29 goals in 12 games and has become a serious scoring threat. At her current pace, Russak will finish with the ninth most goals in a season at Poly since 1998. According to Coach Ryan Katsuyama, "Maddy is our two-meter set, and in terms of the position she plays, she is basically the equivalent of the center in basketball in her importance to the offensive structure of the team. Maddy plays basically the entire game at this position and we rely on her for her goal scoring and her ability to draw fouls. Basically the offense revolves around her position at the two-meter set." In addition to her high number of goals, Russak ranks second on the team with 11 assists and leads the team in steals and ejections drawn, with 30 and 14, respectively.

In Friday's 6-10 loss to Westridge, Russak scored 4 goals, two of which came in the first 1:08, and put Poly ahead with a quick 2-0 lead. She then added one goal each in both the second and fourth quarters. Sadly, this loss dropped the team's record to a disappointing 2-10. However, Russak and the squad feel they have just begun to tap their potential.

On a team fielding only one senior, Russak has become a team leader. Because the team will only have one player leaving after this year, the future of Russak and the entire team looks very bright. Russak hopes to add to her scoring tally in the team's game against Flintridge Prep on Friday.

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