The Chaos of Physics

by Vassil Kriakov

Polytechnic University’s Physics Department has been a cacophony of misconceptions, miscommunications, aggravations and other unpleasantness since the beginning of the school year. Officially, there is no Physics Department. In the past, the department was part of the Dept. of Applied Mathematics and Physics. Edward Wolf, a physics professor, noted that after the department’s separation, problems have arisen due to lack of a solid administrative unit to hold it together.

As adjunct John DiBartolo put it, “If you cut off a person’s arm, how would you expect it to survive on its own?” The conflict with the Math Department was based on the department’s lack of interest in the laboratories for physics. Strong PH Labs are a primary ingredient for the education of students majoring in physics. Among everyone, the persons most severely harmed by these problems will be those who are currently majoring in physics. From the Fall Course Offerings booklet it can be noted that the variety of physics courses has been severely limited.

Another problem infesting the department has been the lack of students interested in physics. Interest in physics as a major has drastically decreased over the past few years. Furthermore, it is a competitive field not only for the people seeking employment, but also for the universities offering the major. Poly has been trying to attract such students by advertising its above-average involvement in research.

However, the simple fact that there are now five physics professors at the university, reveals the mediocre performance that can be offered by the field of study at Poly. Over a decade ago, the department had had 16-18 professors and numerous Teaching Assistants. Today, there are five professors and no TAs. According to Professor Leung, “the university has consciously allowed us to contract” by not approving the hiring of additional professors.

Poly May Increase Tuition... Once again

by Stefan Kostial & Dave Klein

The Polytechnic University Board of Trustees will meet this January to consider a tuition increase for the Fall ’99 semester. The current price tag for a full-time undergraduate semester at Poly is $9,765—or $19,530 per year. Over the past six years, Polytechnic University has increased tuition steadily, about 4.5% yearly on average. The 1999-2000 academic year shapes up as being no different, in spite of the recent windfall endowment of $145 million bequeathed by the Othmer estate.

In a recent Student Council meeting, it was revealed that Poly is going to consider yet another 4.5% increase in time for the Fall ’99 semester. When asked to comment, Vice President of Finance Greg Smith said he would respond to our questions after the board meets next year.

Polytechnic Radio: Another Step up the Ladder

by Vassil Kriakov

As many students and faculty might have observed, the two hour test run of Polytechnic Radio on November 18th (two weeks ago) was a flawless success. The radio station was broadcast for two hours in the Rogers Hall Lobby. With the help of Neeraj Verma, a computer connected to the internet was set up at the lobby.

The actual broadcasting was done from the media lab in the Dibner Library Building by President of Polytechnic University Radio (PUR) Michael Golas and by Jason Feliciano. The computer at Rogers Hall, ran a RealAudio application that, through the Internet, played the radio over powerful loudspeakers that competed with the noise of the club hour crowd.

I and Steven Wang recruited people interested in being part of the radio station. The turnout was amazing: over 50 people signed up, constituting about 2% of the university’s students. What was more important, the students’ enthusiasm in becoming part of the radio and their universal support for its realization, even if they could not provide their time.

Scheduled to start running on February 1st, 1999, PUR will broadcast over the Internet and anyone in the world will be able to tune in. Both Brooklyn and Farmingdale campuses will contribute to the broadcast, which will continue from 10 A.M. until 6 P.M. from Monday to Friday. At the Brooklyn Campus, popular students hang-out places such as the student lounge, the cafeteria, and the fitness center will be hardwired to play the radio full time.

To familiarize faculty and alumni with the future functions and roles of PUR, last Friday, December 4, 1998, the staff of the radio provided a brief and informing presentation. Among the audience were President Chang’s wife — Cecilia Chang, the wife of the President and CEO of Time Warner Pictures — Mrs. Parson, and Yvonne Liu who, along with her husband Arthur Liu, owns 18 radio stations.

A students radio station will benefit Polytechnic University tremendously by giving a big nudge to currently somewhat inefficient internal communications, consisting mainly of black on white print. In addition, it will bring about a new exciting breath of life in the daily lives of the students.
Since the inception of the present recycling program, which was started in the Fall of 1995 by the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity (APO), the university has failed to launch a fully constituted recycling program. A fully functional recycling program would have prevented the school from being confronted by the Brooklyn Sanitation Department earlier in the semester.

But why hasn’t a well-known, prestigious university such as Polytechnic instituted such a much needed system? This question might be answered by our very own personnel. The Facility Department’s Annie Carino who admitted that the school “has been dragging it’s foot on the matter for years.” She explained that besides from recycling being a new statewide program, the school has just started establishing a recycling system, and that her department has been communicating with the foreman for the area to get through to the elected official for the area to reach a negotiation on the problem. The problem is that the Brooklyn Sanitation Department wants the school to collect and store the recyclables overnight and then “truck it” to the pick up point for the county. From there the county’s department will do the rest. However, Poly does not have the facilities to store the recyclables overnight much less the equipment to truck it to the pick up point. And so, this is where we have a standoff.

Carino gave the Reporter some knowledge of how her department has been aiding the APO with facilities to cope with the burden. These facilities ranged from bins to some storage areas in the school. Earlier when the APO had started the program, the disposal company that did the collecting did so for no charge and donated some of the money it collected from the school to the APO. This turned out to be a major contribution to the recycling program, but then they stopped altogether. However, the recent initiative by the school to start a full recycling system is receiving much praise from both the APO and the Facilities Department.
Metro Café Receives Thumbs-Down from Students

by Debobroto Deb

Two years ago, Polytechnic University promised to provide better food service for the students. However, it seems that Metro Café, Poly’s food vendor, has so far failed to fulfill the students’ expectations.

A number of students believe that the food service needs to be improved. “The current cafeteria is bad and needs radical improvement. Some of the people who work there are very rude,” said Amy Sun, a senior majoring in Computer Science.

However, not everyone seems to agree with Sun. Priya Aggarwal, a sophomore Computer Engineering major, believes that the cafeteria staff are friendly and the service is very fast.

“Theyir breakfast service is good and affordable, and I don’t need to wait in long lines,” says Aggarwal.

A number of students seem to share her opinion. They said that Metro Café’s breakfast is probably one of the best around Poly. However for other meals they express a different opinion. “Metro Café has to provide better lunch and dinner services. Right now, they are in horrible condition,” said Stacy Camacho, a senior majoring in Technical Writing.

Students have been complaining about Metro Café’s food since it opened its door in September 1997. The two major complaints against the restaurant are the lack of variety and the prices. Students also complain that the Metro Café management has been ignoring their demands.

Zhi Che, a Computer Science junior, used to buy lunch at the cafeteria. However, he says that the lack of variety in the cafeteria’s menu has forced him to buy lunch elsewhere.

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Zhi said, “The Cafeteria should offer other kinds of food, such as soup, gyros, Chinese, Mexican, etc., so that students don’t have to waste their time to buy their food outside.”

Another complaint is cost. Metro Café increased its price at the beginning of the Fall ’98 semester. Mike Golas, a computer science senior, was surprised by the price hike. “It was outrageous,” he said. “You can get better food for less money outside Metro Café,” Golas said.

Polytechnic’s Undergraduate Student Council has recently started to pay close attention to the cafeteria issue. Nick DiDomenico, the current Vice President of Facilities, said that the council is working with the Metro Café management to fulfill students’ demands.

“The Council will conduct a survey among the students to determine their preference of food, so that the cafeteria can adjust its menu,” DiDomenico said.

The cafeteria management is already attempting to fulfill a couple of the students’ demands. The addition of soup and vegetable dishes is a good prime example how it is attempting to meet the students’ desires. Fabio Della Valle, the supervisor of Metro Café, said, “We are open to any suggestion. If students have any ideas then they should let me know about it.”

Concerning the issue of cost, Della Valle, the supervisor of Metro Café, said, “We are open to any suggestion. If students have any ideas then they should let me know about it.”

Concerning the issue of cost, Della Valle said that a price of the restaurant’s $5.95 meals includes everyth- ing – the main dish, two side dishes, and a drink. “We also provide a free soda refill if you buy a complete meal,” he said.

In addition to the different types of foods, the cafeteria now has different varieties of candies and snacks. Della Valle hopes that these new items will attract more students to the cafeteria.

Dorm or Gym? Decision ’98

by Joshua Nieves

The most talked about question in Poly this semester has been, “dorm or gym?” This question has raised everyone’s attention in the University. Those who ponder the availability of the endowment fund are optimistic about whether any change will come soon. From most of the students who have voiced their opinions, there is about an equal partition on both sides.

Many students wish to get a dorm because of its proximity and easy access to school. Others, including many of Poly’s athletic clubs and teams, wish to get a gym for their use.

Lamont Chichester, a freshman on the Poly Basketball team said, “Why should we have to travel so far to practice when we could do it on our own campus?”

Another freshman said, “A place for recreation in the Brooklyn campus will always be occupied, no free time will be available, so why not get a dorm?”

What will become of this heavily debated project? Ask yourself the same question and have your voice heard. Leave your responses at the Poly website: www.poly.edu, under “Vision 2000”.

Left: Fabio explains the fine art of management
Top: a typical day at MetroCafé

Cast your vote on MetroCafé online:
http://students.poly.edu/reporter
On Thursday, December 3, the Office of Student Activities & Leadership Development sponsored their first Multicultural Holiday Craft Fest. The event was coordinated by the office’s new Coordinator of Student Center Resources, La’len Dingle.

The Craft Fest featured over a dozen vendors who displayed crafts and artworks that were available for purchase. Among the most popular items were candles, picture frames and holiday ornaments. Most of the vendors were local but one traveled all the way from North Carolina to be at Poly’s event.

A second feature of the fest was a series of performances by members of the Polytechnic community and local performers. Organizations that performed included the West Indian Student Association (WISA), National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), the Polytechnic Italian Cultural Club (PICC), the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and the South Asian Student Association (SASA). WISA provided storytelling, Stephanie Kolker from NSBE explained the traditions of Kwanzaa, James Rosario from PICC played guitar and sang in Italian, and students from SHPE and SASA provided examples of dances from their native lands. Also on the program was a Native American story teller, a group of steppers from Westinghouse High School (The Utopia Steppers) and a Poly instructor, Jerry Epstein, who sang American folk songs.

The program’s coordinator, La’Len Dingle, said “we all work with each other every day yet we don’t take the time to get to know anything about each other’s cultures. I hope this event helps change that.”
Thanksgiving Dinner

The annual International Student Thanksgiving Dinner was held on Tuesday, November 24, in the Student Center. The evening included a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, including a turkey carved by Dr. Chang. Live entertainment was provided by folksinger Mark Rust from Woodstock, New York and as a special treat, campus favorite Robin Greenstein (seen at the last 3 NSO’s) came by to join in on a couple of songs. Donald Ivanoff and Robert Griffin also got into the act by singing at the appropriate times. Before the evening was over students, faculty and staff were square-dancing in the Student Center. Over 70 people enjoyed the event. The event was sponsored by the Department of Student Development and the Office of Student Activities.
Pi, the movie (soundtrack)
Record Company: Thrive Records
Stars: 4**1/2

A collection of sound bites compiled in this soundtrack calls for an exact rendition of the movie’s themes and symbolism. The compilations range from techno, trance, trip-hop to a unique display of mechanical elements. Listening to the different tracks you can recall (if you’ve seen the movie) what themes and symbols the mechanical sounds and haunting synths might help conjure up. The mysteries of the universe, the make-up of the world around us, plus mathematical theories beyond average comprehension, are possible subjects to contemplate. It may give rise to whatever feelings you can gather just by opening up your mind to the enchanting rhythms of these tracks.

The movie, p, which in mathematics equals to the number 3.141592…, is also an infinite, surrounds the theme of the movie. The subject is a number theorist, in search of the ultimate numerical pattern, who is trying to predict the pattern of the Stock Market. For the last ten years, Max Cohen has been trying to crack the code, to find a repeating pattern to the stock market by merely producing a few numbers with his computer (not as easy as it sounds). All in the meanwhile, a Jewish Sect and a few corrupt stock brokers are out to get him, not for what he can solve but for what’s in his brain (watch the movie a few times and you might get the hint, if you didn’t the first time). Filmed in black and white against the settings of Lower East Side, the soundtrack lives up the movie to its entirety. This independent film allows the audience to interpret its visuals as well as its audio.

Relating deeply to the research of p, the Chaos Theory (from order to disorder and vice versa) and the magic ratio, the movie explains how mathematical patterns everywhere make up the universe and our environment. This album brings together some great artists like Orbital, Aphex Twin, Massive Attack, Clint Mansell, who also composed the original score and many other artists. The haunting spells caused by the instrumental melodies can definitely describe the ideals of the movie.

Depeche Mode – The Singles 86-98
Record Company: Reprise Records
Mute Records
Stars: 4**

Here is a singles collection that brings together the best of some eclectic tunes and the latest in mellowness. 21 songs over the course of 12 years captured a time where this band gradually changed their tone of music. The punk/new wave characteristics no longer peaks through that of what use to be an entirely synth band. They reformed their line-up over the recent past to include guitars, drums and gospel singers. One example is Gahan’s drastic transformation from handsome and clean cut in “Violator” to a long hair, tattooed biker when they did “The Songs of Faith and Devotion”.

Having started over again with the trio, David Gahan (vocals), Martin Gore (writer) and Andrew Fletcher (keyboard/synths) (Vince Clarke who begun the band, left in ‘81, then joined by Alan Wilder a year after, who left recently in ’95), moved on without hesitation, and have adjusted quite well. Alan Wilder was the musical input for Depeche Mode’s songs for the past 15 years but went on to start his own group, Recoil, but now its back to the three devoted members again. Deriving from Basildon, U.K., they’ve survived the early 80’s dead new wave scene along with bands like New Order and Pet Shop Boys, while other one time successes have been left in the dust.

Along with this new singles collection, it includes their new hit single, “Only When I Lose Myself”. There are two different versions, one on the singles album and one on the CD-Maxi single. “The Singles” include early songs like “Stripped”, “Question of Lust”, “Somebody”, “Personal Jesus”, “Enjoy the Silence”, “Barrel of a Gun”, etc. A collection to treasure but all of their albums are also worth collecting if you’re a fan or even like them enough. And if any of you were quick enough to purchase the singles album earlier, some of them even came with a Limited Edition CD. It contained a 4 track remix of “Rush”, “Enjoy the Silence”, “World in My Eyes” and the once B-side, “Dangerous”.

The US release of the CD-Maxi Single included a different version of “Only When I Lose Myself”, four B-sides: “Surrender”, a melodic, enveloping mix of vocals by Gahan, “Headstar”, two mixes of an excellent electronica track and a remix of “Only When I Lose Myself”. As obscure as they’ve been to the public, Depeche Mode has long been perceived as a possible use for an aphrodisiac (so take some notes guys). This might describe how their music is loved by many. At times it can be haunting, others enchanting, allowing a mix of synthesizer driven sounds and chants. Depeche Mode opens a world of screaming females for lead singer, but for just those who want to listen, DM produces a category of music that keeps them still at their best.

Artist: Method Man
Album: “Tical 2000: Judgement Day”
Rating: * by Joshua Nieves

Method Man, Tical, Iron Lung, whatever his name is you can add to the list; Sophomore Jinx. That is what has seemed to happen to Method Man. His long overdue album, Tical 2000: Judgement Day, is a big bust. After all the hype of his album finally being released he disappoints his fans with mediocore production and numerous skits.

It seemed as if this album would never be released due to the many pushed back release dates. Method Man’s monotonous voice gets very dull & boring after one song, but it managed to receive one star. The guest appearances on his album made this lackluster production a little better. Featured artists are : D’Angelo, Left-Eye (TLC), Wu-Tang members (Raekwon, Inspectah Deck, Streetlife, Killah Sin, and many more), Mobb Deep, Ed Lover, Donald Trump, & Chris Rock.

Overall, take my word, get a dub or bootleg a copy of this album. Its promotional stickers are better than the album.
The Week of December 7, 1998

The Siege

At first, this motion picture presents itself as just another good guy versus bad guy action flick full of political nonsense. When a terrorist bomb destroys American marines’ barracks in one of U.S. military bases overseas, the country is outraged and overwhelmed with grief. Taxpayers demand justice. So the government, or one of its better left unnamed factions ambushed and kidnaps the culprit behind the bombing.

A month later, FBI is anonymously alerted that there’s an explosive device on one of New York’s public buses. Denzel Washington’s character, an idealistic and stubborn agent assigned to the investigation, arrives at the scene to find out that the device is actually a paint bomb, a warning of the troubles ahead.

But the FBI isn’t the only government service that gets involved in the investigation. CIA as well is on the trail of bombers-to-be. Annette Bening, an elusive CIA spook with a background of her own in black ops in the Middle East joins the party. Washington soon confronts her on grounds of illegal government practices outside of her jurisdiction. A familiar inter-agency struggle arises between the two, each in pursuit of his/her own personal career goals.

However, they are both powerless to stop the next terrorist act, this time, a suicide bombing, which ravages a Brooklyn bus packed with people. From then on, the familiar story twists and quirks that usually accompany a movie of this sort are not as apparent. The story is still predictable, but the emotions involved are complex. Denzel and his CIA counterpart realize that the only way to stop the bombers is to work together. They are effective in bringing down one of the wings of the terrorist organization involved in the bombing. The faction responsible is a Palestinian liberation army demanding the return of its leader. But neither CIA nor FBI has him in custody. So they involve another party, more closely involved in his retrieval from abroad. Bruce Willis, President’s military advisor and the career-oriented, duty-blinded Army General is approached regarding the whereabouts of the prisoner. Willis, however, denies the Pentagon’s involvement.

The next terrorist act is even more ominous, when a powerful explosion takes out a crowded Broadway theater. Public is overwhelmed with rage and fear. People are leaving the city. The government demands action. A meeting between different city and government officials is called to create a plan of action against terrorism. The Islamic community leaders support any actions taken by the government to stop the bombings and find those responsible. Declaration of a Military law is being considered as a means of emergency. Bruce Willis, speaking for the military is opposed to this idea. The Army is a broad sweep, not a scalpel. Inserting armed forces into the crowded metropolis would not assure security among citizens trying to lead their normal lives.

But as the meeting progresses, the sounds of hundreds of beepers going off among the committee members slowly grows into the most terrifying scene in the movie, as the audience is warned of another heinous act of violence. This time, the FBI building is destroyed, as a van full of explosives rams through its front doors. Hundreds of people are dead. Countless more are wounded. The decision is made. The army is to take possession of N.Y. Now, the attention of the viewer shifts from the Arab terrorists as the bad guys to America’s own armed forces. Eagerly taking the command of the occupation, Bruce Willis decidedly puts tanks on Brooklyn Bridge, cutting the borough off from all sides. Soldiers with automatic weapons are put on every corner. Armed searches are made into houses of Arab Americans. Everyone who matches the profile of a terrorist is detained or arrested. Freedom is no more. Realizing that, Washington and Benning must do everything in their power to stop the army from getting carried away. Already concentration camps like the ones created for Japanese in WWII are being set up in city stadiums, and citizens are unlawfully snatched from the streets and tortured to extract information. The public, again, is outraged. All communities rise up in one demonstration in support of their Arab neighbors. Some inspiring scenes are displayed, as Arabs, Jews, Italians, African Americans and all the other communities populating New York protest against army’s actions.

To stop the nightmare, the remaining FBI agents and CIA team up once more and put their careers and lives at stake, trying to stop the violence.

There are films out there that only portray the two-sided nature of political conflicts. There’s the evil side and there’s the good side. But this movie does not belong to the same category. There are many sides to human nature and many more to politics. Being one of the main ideas displayed in the movie, it’s a bloody good one.

As to the other important aspects of the film, such as special effects and on-screen chemistry between Benning and Washington, I would have to say that everything was given in even measure and only upon need. That way you don’t get too involved in the relationship between two agents and don’t get too grossed out by violent scenes. The action sequences are well made and special effects are up to date, if not frequent. Much is left to your imagination, which is good, since it makes the movie more psychological than physical. “The Siege” gives you the same edge-of-the-seat thrill you get when watching reports on Oklahoma bombing and war on terrorism in the Middle East. The movie may not be Oscar material, but it’s an intense, thought-provoking political thriller, depicting true dangers of terrorism.

The Mask of Zorro

Zorro, the legendary superhero of the 19th century Mexico returns as talented Anthony Hopkins. Zorro’s plot is simple. The movie opens with a bunch of peasants being publicly executed by the order of California’s evil governor, who just uses them as bait to capture Zorro. Of course, the masked avenger kicks ass, embarrasses the main bad guy in front of his men and saves the day. Following this scene, Zorro is spending time with his family, as the governor and his soldiers break into his home. Zorro’s wife is killed and his baby daughter kidnapped by the governor. Zorro himself ends up behind bars, where he survives for twenty long years. Antonio Banderas is later introduced into the movie, playing a thief who once as a boy saved Zorro’s life. Antonio returns to California seeking vengeance for the death of his brother. But he finds escaped Zorro, who trains him to wear the mask of avenger with honor and style. Now, it’s the two of them against the new former governor of California who reenters the plot with a sinister plot to buy the state from Mexican authorities. To do so he plans to mine for gold utilizing the forced labor of oppressed peasants. In the end, the work (continued on page 9)
Freshmen Reevaluate After a Semester at Poly

by Mark Khusid

As final exams quickly approach, we can’t but help and look back at the semester gone by. Once again the cycle is heading toward its final resting-place, only to start anew thereafter. This semester’s freshmen have had the opportunity to be in the front lines and experience Poly no held’s barred.

On a typical school day the lobby of the first floor of Rogers Hall, commonly known to students as “by the EG labs,” was a blur of colors as students rushed forward and backward in what looked like an intricate dance. Through the eyes of a Poly veteran it became immediately apparent that the freshmen were beginning to acquire that “seasoning” that upperclassmen have had in their blood.

Here is a first hand account of what some freshmen had to say about Poly. When asked whether Poly had lived up to her/his expectations, “I like Poly,” replied Daniel S., “it is challenging, the professors are good, I have a lot of friends and it is close to home.” When asked the same question, another freshman, who asked to remain anonymous, replied, “It did in the effect that it came out to be a lot of work.” A freshman named Kate replied, “I expected it to be this way.”

So much has changed over the past few years – this freshmen class and the ones to follow have several advantages that the now upperclassmen have had to do without. Poly now has fully upgraded and wired computer labs with ftp and telnet capability.

Gone are the days when submitting CS homework was postponed because Barney crashed. How many of you remember staring blankly at a morbid gray NCD screen that has simply refused to respond to your desperate attempts to save your work after Barney hiccuped? We all now use Utopia. Let us see what freshmen had to say about Utopia. “Internally it is reliable,” said Daniel S., “but it is slow when the CS200 homework is due at 6:00 PM. The dial-up gives me trouble to log-in or it doesn’t respond at all.” Francois G., a Poly freshman, had this to say about Utopia. “The problem with Utopia is the users and not the administrators. The administrators could use some help too.”

Another recent change in Poly is the cafeteria. There was once a time when a hungry Poly student had to choose between a frankfurter or a bagel with cream cheese. Now Poly has its very own Metro Café on campus with a wide variety on their menu. “The breakfast is good,” replied a freshman who asked to remain anonymous. “Others had a more shrewd opinion. “It is not that bad,” said Francois G., “I wouldn’t recommend surviving off of it.” Another freshmen put it more succinctly, “I think it sucks,” said Daniel S.

The question, “What would you like to see done differently at Poly?” drew a wide variety of responses. Smaller classes, better paid teachers, more computer labs… “Renovate Rogers Hall externally and it looks like a hospital internally,” says Daniel S., “some lecture rooms should be renovated and should have microphones. The mice and keyboards in the computer labs need to be changed.” “Parking would be really nice,” replied a freshman who asked to remain anonymous.

Now that the freshman class of Fall 1998 is almost done with their semester, they are full of advice for the next incoming freshman class. “Study hard, especially for the first midterms,” said a freshman named Julie, “communicate a lot with the professors and graders.” “Get a laptop,” remarks Daniel S., “The computers are always taken.” More freshmen were asked the same question, they replied with, “stay focused all the way, forget your personal life, go to class and meet people that can help.” Others said, “Study, don’t take anything for granted,” and, “bring entertainment to class to stay awake, such as a puzzle pen.”

The Chaos of Physics

(continued from front page)

To add to the mix of chaos, seemingly impossible to resolve internal conflicts, on a professional as well as personal level, plague the department. The five professors seem to have opposing ideas on every issue involving the department: “We are so small and very polarized at the same time,” spoke Ming Leung of the department. Lack of adequate resources has further added to the aggravations.

How is this problem going to be solved? Last week dean Bill McShane held a faculty meeting with the purpose to create a Task Force that will deal with the issue. The Task Force will be officially assembled next week. Its members are to investigate the current problems. After close examination, they should propose a solution to the chaotic situation of the department.

One possibility is that there is not going to be any physics department at Poly at all. Each of the current professors would be moved to different departments. For example, Professor Leung (currently teaching PH107) might become part of the Computer Science Department and start teaching courses such as CS201. According to him, such transitions have to happen in order for the University to be able to adapt in accordance with the current trends (such as an increase in CS majors). This will not only change his personal career plans, but it will have an effect on the physics courses offered at Poly. However, most professors agree that in the foreseeable future, no major changes will be noted in the current physics core curriculum.

On another level, the Curriculum Committee has decided to further add to the problem by reducing the core physics credits from 11 to 10. In an engineering university, the basic physics classes provide the fundamental and most essential part of an engineer’s understanding of the world. If Poly takes actions to reduce those fundamentals, it will effectively reduce its own image of an engineering university.

Regardless of the outcome, many professors are confident that Poly will eventually do what is best for the university and current problems will be resolved successfully. It’s just a matter of getting the Physics Department back to controlling chaos, instead of chaos having its rule over the department.

High School Day

by Joshua Nieves

Remember when you were juniors in High School and curious about college? Well that was the basis of High School Day. There were about 60 to 70 high school students from Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. They came from Queens Vocational, Alfred E. Smith, Catherine McAul, Columbus, and East Side Community High School.

High School Day was sponsored by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). Lexido Arias, who is in charge of public relations in SHPE, coordinated the event.

High School Day gave the students an opportunity to obtain a first hand look at college life. Speeches were given by David Chang (President of Polytechnic University), Ellen Hartigan (Student Affairs), Yona Jean-Pierre (Librarian), Mona Goldberg (Financial Aid), and Stacy Walters (Admissions). Current Students at Poly gave informational tours and answered many of the High School students’ questions. The whole experience helped them get the information they needed to apply at Polytechnic University.
The Mask of Zorro
(continued from page 7)

force, as well as the mines must be destroyed to prevent Mexican govern-
ment from finding out that they have been paid for California with their own
gold. Leaving his understudy, Zorro pursues his personal goal of getting
back his daughter. As usual, good guys win, the old Zorro dies and the new
one gets the girl and marries her with

A good movie, if not simple
one. Anthony Hopkins, as usual, de-
livers a dazzling performance with
Antonio Banderas just barely trying to
keep up. Special effects are attractive,
action breathtaking, if not too unreal-
istic (some of Zorro’s stunts seem
downright inhuman), and the bad guys
are better than ever. The governor
deserves every bit of contempt for his
dislike of the common man, and his
main goon, an American soldier, is just
as repellent. The latter claims honor
and valor, while collecting body parts
in water jars as trophies.

No matter how unoriginal or
dull the movie seems, I still like it.
Rent it, it’s worth the money.

The Negotiator

Samuel L. Jackson plays a
brilliant police negotiator, who’s been
praised as a hero for his role in a re-
cent hostage rescue. However, his
portrayal in the media dramatically
changes, as he is accused of killing
his own partner and embezzling po-
lice disability funds. In order to save
his family, in order to save himself,
he does the very thing he knows best,
hostage negotiation, except he’s the
one being negotiated for their release.
This is an only way for him to buy
time for finding those to blame for
framing him.

He has no one to trust, not
even his old buddies from Chicago
police department. Any one of them
could be in on this. So when you can’t
trust friends, trusting strangers is your
only option. That’s why Samuel re-
quests another colleague of his,
played by Kevin Spacey, as his hos-
tagge negotiator. Now it’s up to the
two of them to save the hostages, as
well as their own lives from corrupt
cops who would do anything to stop
the truth from getting out.

“The Negotiator” is an
intriguing, mind-challenging and
positively exciting psychological
thriller. If not for its originality, the
acting abilities of Jackson and Spacey
put the movie on the pedestal. It’s
amazing what good storytelling can
do in combination with well thought-
out action and acting worth many
Academy Awards.

Abuse of Council E-mail
List Annoys Students

by Jason Feldman

What started out as minor
annoyance has turned into a big head-
ache. The Association of Computer
Machinery (ACM) last Thursday shut
down the council and the allsorgs e-
mail list because of a string of e-mails that had nothing to do with the Student
Council.

The e-mails began a few days
ago when Yuan Yuan Zhao, a Fresh-
men Representative, sent an e-mail
to some people but also to the allsorgs
council list. This caused people to respond to the e-mail which in-
creased traffic considerably.

As people became more an-
noyed they started replying to the
same list causing even more traffic.
All of the unwarranted traffic of e-

mail caused Nicole Massey, President
of the Student Council, and Spencer
Kormos, Vice President of public re-
lations, to send an e-mail warning that
if this continued there will be suspen-
sions of e-mail accounts and charges
of harassment.

The e-mail lists are supposed
to be used by the council e-board to inform students of meetings and other
events. The original email was sent
from rockinron@aol.com to Zhao,
who is the Freshmen Representative
to the Student Council.

The contents of the original e-
mail could not be published here but
you can look for it at our web site
http://students.poly.edu/reporter. Ba-
sically, the e-mail was defending
Zhao from a previous editorial that
was in the October 22nd edition of The
Reporter about the freshmen elec-
tions. The e-mail then denigrated into
nasty insults and what could be called
sexual harassment.

This is not the first time stu-
dents have abused the list. Last month
an e-mail criticizing the locker pro-
posal by the Student Council was sent
to all clubs, organizations, and even
President Chang. The author did not
give his/her name and tried to hide
the locations that he/she sent the e-
mail to.

Jon Simantov, President of
ACM, said the lists will be re-en-
abled next week with stricter con-
trol over their usage.

Poly to
Hold off on
Construction
by Jason Feldman

Polytechnic University has
announced last Friday that they will
hold off a decision to begin con-
struction of any new buildings until
February. “The full board must make any decision…which they will
take up at the next board meeting in
February,” said President David
Chang.

This comes after Poly began
preliminary ground work two weeks
ago. “Some students said that the
dorm will enhance campus life
while others said that the money
could be used on more important
things,” asserted Chang.

Chang also said that they are
looking for more input about what
they should build. He also said that
students who are interested in this
or other topics relating to the
Othmer bequest or the Capital Cam-
paign could look at Poly’s web site
where they will find an on-line dis-

cussion forum.

This is not the first time the
dorm project has been pushed back,
when Poly first heard about the
Othmer bequest they decided that the
dorm should be built in front of
Rogers Hall instead of a plot next to
Westinghouse High School. Poly
also said that all they were waiting
for was approval from the city’s Land
Use Review Board to start construc-
tion of both the gym and a 14-story
dormitory.

Whether the plan for a
dormitory in front of Rogers
Hall will be realized is doubtful.
Are you tired of how you look? Do you feel like you’re in a rut? If so, there’s always the option of cosmetic surgery to make you look good and feel great about yourself. The same holds true in the NHL, where the Rangers did a little operating on themselves last week, giving their lineup a makeover by shipping talented but inconsistent Alexei Kovalev and Harry York to the Pittsburgh Penguins in exchange for high-profile holdout center Petr Nedved, in addition to Sean Pronger and Chris Tamer.

The trade has transformed the Rangers’ lineup and paid instant dividends. By adding Nedved’s speed and offense centering a now-formidable second line with Niklas Sundstrom and Mike Knuble, pressure has been taken off the first line of Wayne Gretzky, Kevin Stevens, and John Maclean, and the Adam Graves-Marc Savard-Todd Harvey third line is now free to create some offense and cause havoc at will at the offensive end of the ice.

In the four games since the trade, the Rangers have shown themselves to be faster, bigger, and, most of all, a deeper team. Other teams now have to contend with three strong lines, and can’t count on winning games simply by shutting down the Gretzky line. The power play has also improved with Nedved at the point, from which he has been firing deadly accurate shots and creating rebound opportunities for his teammates.

Even the Rangers’ luck seems to have changed for the better. Against Florida last Monday, the Blueshirts battled back from several deficits and managed to tie the game at 4-4 on Brian Leetch’s goal off a fluke rebound with 0.3 seconds remaining in regulation, then won the game in overtime on Adam Graves’ one-timer goal. And Wednesday night in Uniondale, an apparent Islanders goal that would have brought them to within 3-2 wasn’t allowed because the water bottle on top of the Rangers’ net obscured video officials’ overhead view of the puck crossing the goal line. The Rangers went on to their third straight victory, bringing them within a game of .500.

And more good news may be around the corner. It’s no secret around the league that the Rangers are still engaged in talks with Canucks GM Brian Burke to obtain his unhappy superstar scorer, Pavel Bure, who has sworn he’ll never play another game for Vancouver. If the Rangers can add the speedy Bure to a lineup that has already undergone vast improvement since the start of the season, it’s fair to assume that the Broadway Blues would suddenly become one of the teams to beat in the Eastern Conference, and would have a legitimate chance to go deep into the playoffs.

Oh, the wonders of cosmetic surgery!

AROUND THE NHL:

The Rangers also sent Bill Berg to Ottawa for promising young defenseman Stan Neckar, which means they now have 10 defensemen on their roster. If a trade is made to reduce the crowding on the blue line, look for Jeff Beukeboom and Eric Cairns to be the odd men out....The Phoenix Coyotes continue to tear up the league, embarking on a recent 14-game unbeaten streak and giving up two goals or less in their last 17 games, one shy of the record set by the 1959 Montreal Canadiens....Los Angeles Kings forward Matt Johnson was suspended 12 game by the league for his vicious punch from behind which knocked out Beukeboom on Nov. 19th....The expansion Nashville Predators continue to draw well, averaging 15,000 a game. Hockey has definitely scored a big hit in country music land—even Reba McEntire has season tickets....On a somber note, prayers go out to defenseman Jeff Libby of Lowell, the Islanders’ AHL affiliate, who lost an eye in a freak accident when an opponent’s skate blade came up and sliced across his face. The incident has renewed calls to mandate that players wear protective face shields in the NHL; however, the league continues to resist the idea, as does the NHL Players Association, which would have to agree to amend the collective bargaining agreement in order to implement any change.
The final events for the Fall Intramural 1998 program included table tennis, fitness competition and football. On November 3rd, 15 students participated in the first round of competition in table tennis. This was a single elimination 21 point game to establish the semi-finalists. On November 11th, 1998 the four finalist played a best of 3, 21 point games.

The finalists were Alex Reley, Joel Hofman, Adel Kouar and Svetlana Panich with Svetlana beating Adel 21-12 and 21-19 in the finals.

In the Fitness Competition, where the each participate had to do push ups, pull ups, sit-ups, pull ups, squat thrusts, bench press, shoulder press, leg press, and the broad jump. Daniel Winchester came in first with a total of 67 points, followed by Stephane Gautier in second with 36 points and tied for third was Anuj Sinha and Joe Chen with 27 points.

The last event was the Flag Football Competition. Four teams played a 30 minute game to determine who will play in the Polytechnic Annual Turkey Bowl in Commodore Barry Park. The two teams, named: The Fab Five and the Statix or AKA the Birds played to a 6-6 tie at the end of regulation play. On the first series of downs, the Fab Five with Daniel Winchester, Derek Jobe, Craig Maitland, Darnell Gentles, Shaun Greenicke, and Olakonle Delalis scored the go head touchdown winning the Turkey Bowl 7-6.

The winning team was: Danny Winchester, Derek Jobe, Craig Maitland, Darnell Gentles, Shaun Greenicke, and Olwicnle Delan.
The Polytechnic Reporter

POLYTECHNIC VARSITY SPORTS

POLYTECHNIC VARSITY SPORTS

team up date

by Nick Russo

On Saturday, November 22, 1998, the Polytechnic Bluejays opened their 1998-99 season against Keene State, competing in the New York University Tournament.

This year’s Blue Jays under 11th year Head Coach Laddy Baldwin and his assistants, Artie Williams and Narciso Paterson, are now rebuilding for the future. With the help of returning letterman Ahmed Abdul-Wali, Shane Paterson, Earl Thomas and some new freshman recruits, the Bluejays are bound to have all of the elements needed to provide them with another great season.

Ahmed Abdul-Wali, senior/guard from Brooklyn, NY averaged 14.6 points per game which earned him recognition as the ECAC rookie of the week. In 1996-97 Ahmed averaged 13.8 points per game. He also averaged 22 steals and 2.3 assists per game which again earned him the ECAC player of the week. Ahmed was the leading rebounder with 7.1 rebounds per game. In 1997-98 Ahmed averaged 14.3 points per game, had 123 rebounds, and 52 assists.

Also coming back is Shane Paterson, junior forward 6’2”. In his rookie season, Shane scored 279 points making him the third leading scorer on the team. Last season Shane averaged 13.1 points per game and had 4.8 rebounds per game.

Also back is Earl Thomas Forward/Center 6’4”, from Deer Park, NY. Off the bench Earl averaged 3.0 points per game with 70 rebounds and 10 blocked shots. Devon Foster and Mohammed Rahman are also returning to this year’s team.

Joining the Bluejays this year include freshman starter Jername Megras 6’2” forward. Off the bench are Graig Maitland, 5’7”; Junior Guard, Lamont Chichester, 5’10’’143 lb. freshman guard and Julius Franklin, a 5’10” guard/forward.

As of press time, the Bluejays were 0-4 with games against Brooklyn College on Tuesday, December 8th at Brooklyn College starting 7:30pm, at Saint Joseph’s Brooklyn, on Thursday, December 10th, 1998 at 8:00pm and the final game against Yeshiva University at the Farmingdale Gym, Saturday, December 12th, 1998 at 8:30pm.

We will update you on this year’s progress in the next issue of The Reporter.

Homecoming 1998

On Saturday, November 29th, 1998, the 27th Annual Home Coming was held in both the Bronx and Long Island. The day began with the 37th Annual Polytechnic Alumni-Varsity cross-country match at Van Cortland Park in the Bronx.

Founded by alumni runner and Head Coach of the Polytechnic Cross Country Team, Rich Lucian, class of 1962, the Alumni return to their place of glory at one of the oldest cross-country courses in the United States during the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

In this years contest, 11 runners participated with varsity runner Saba Rajput completing the course with a time of 36:59. The first alumni to cross the finish line was Phil Canion, Class of 1972, with a time of 39:26. The final tally shows that the alumni won 21-40 and now leads the series 27-10.

In Farmingdale, Cecelia Meza, class of 1998, joined the men’s volleyball team for a contest before the 27th Annual Varsity Alumni basketball game.

In that contest, the alumni won with a lay up from George Mueller, class of 1981, with an assist from Mike Polychroniades, Class of 1998 with 3 seconds to go. The final score was 84-83.

George Mueller who is third highest scorer in Blue jays modern history with 1650 points scored 26 points and had 6 rebounds. For the Varsity team it was Shane Patterson, who was the leading scorer with 25 points and 3 rebounds followed by Ahmed Abdul-Wali with 14 points.