Poet shares celebration of women

By Lisa Parsons

The challenges and joys of being a woman are celebrated in the form of a poetry reading Monday.

Gloria T. Hull, currently a professor at UC Santa Cruz and black women's studies scholar, shared some of the poems from her book, "Healing Heart," with a medium-sized crowd of women and a sprinkling of men as part of Cal Poly's Women's Week.

Hull's poems told of the importance of family, love, intimate relationships and the strength of women. She recalled the less troublesome issues of food never tasting as good as the way one's mother prepares it because "mother love has taste," to more serious issues such as abortion. She said "when women write about these subjects (like abortion), it's not pro-choice or pro-life, it's (just) thinking about it".

Hull's poems deal with the reality of being a woman, and sometimes the subject matter can be a little weighty, but she said she likes to keep her message positive. "I think it's important to keep an affirmative vision," she said.

She said her book charts the healing process of a woman and part of that healing process is dealing with anger which "is one of the hardest things (for a woman) to confront."

One of the poems she shared, "At My Age," celebrates "a certain point in which we women come into our power and stand firmly on our own ground."

Women gaining strength is an important theme in Hull's poem and one of the things she said women need to avoid is feeling responsible for "Women are great at taking on guilt - it's hard to let it go and love ourselves," she added.

Hull has been a black feminist literary critic for 15 years and calls herself "a passionate entrepreneur of other women's talents." She said she saw other black women poets and authors "struggling to create their own racial and gender selves," and views her own poetry as a "self-revelation."

She has expressed "a sharing of our female selves, our female spirit, and sometimes in a way that is not always obvious. Or (sharing) aspects of ourselves that we don't always put forth."

Hull's sense of humor and joy in being a black woman left her audience feeling proud and a little misty-eyed.

Voters still like Prop. 103
But they doubt it will help reduce rates

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Voter approval of Proposition 103, the insurance-rate-cutting initiative, has swelled in the wake of its passage, but most voters doubt it will do much good, according to the latest California Poll.

The initiative passed with 51 percent voter approval in November but now enjoys the support of 62 percent of voters surveyed.

Only 20 percent said it was bad, while three percent had mixed feelings and 15 percent had no opinion.

Prop. 103 mandated a 20 percent reduction in premium rates and imposed sweeping reforms on the insurance industry, but immunity from rate rollback has been blocked by lawsuits filed on behalf of insurers.

The state Supreme Court is expected to rule on its constitutionality this summer. Almost 38 percent of those surveyed said they expect no change in rates, while 23 percent believe that rates will actually increase.

Only 29 percent expected a rate cut and 10 percent had no opinion.

The findings reveal public skepticism, said Mark DiCamillo, managing editor of the California Poll. "People are looking back and saying it was a good thing that Proposition 103 passed," he said.

"Because, if nothing else, it sent a message to the politicians and the insurance companies." 

Speaker says politics no longer exclusive to men

By Steve Harmon

A Cal Poly professor outlined the history of women's political participation and projected optimism for the future despite the recent trend toward what she described as a conservative political climate in America.

Dianne Long, a political science professor, discussed the growing impact women will have on American politics.

Her speech, part of Women's Week activities, was attended by about 25 women and one man.

"I think we'll see a woman president within the next 20 years," Long said. She said she predicted a woman in the Oval Office was and continues to be laid by the efforts of candidates such as Geraldine Ferraro, who ran as vice president on Walter Mondale's ticket in 1984, and Rep. Patricia Schroeder, who contemplated a presidential bid in 1988.

"In Schroeder's case, I think she realized the climate wasn't right and she withdrew," Long said.

Part of the problem, Long said, is the continuation of conservatism evident by the election of George Bush. With conservatism comes a reluctance to "upset the apple cart."

Long said it's also a matter of finding a woman who is qualified for the office.

Success for women, Long said, are women entering the political forum on the local, state and national level. More and more women are being elected to the office of mayor and to city council positions.

And they are making strides in national politics in other ways.

"The campaign manager for Dukakis was a woman," Long said. "In the Jackson campaign, the person who headed that campaign happened to be a woman. So we have women who are actually making decisions — they are no longer stuffing envelopes. They are out there raising money and out there actually organizing and becoming involved in other than the issues. They are involved with the candidates."

Long said some of the difficulties for women entering politics are lack of financial support, various economic interests and political action committees that are not interested in supporting women candidates.

On the voting side, she said women immigrants, who represent the greatest potential influx for women into the political machine, tend to be from cultures that are not democratic and that treat women as non-participants in politics.

Therefore, Long said, once they arrive in See POLITICS, back page

Nuclear de-salting plan angers environmentalists

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Politically, it appears the most unlikely of ideas: That nuclear power might be used to desalinate seawater for use in parched Southern California.

Environmentalists who on Monday blasted the suggestion by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are amazed the district would even consider bucking the strong anti-nuclear sentiment in the region.

A Wall Street analyst who follows the oil industry was surprised the suggestion of a nuclear power project in Southern California has been blocked by lawsuits filed on behalf of environmentalists who insist such a plant — which would produce electricity and use excess heat from the nuclear reaction to distill fresh water from seawater — is a sensible approach to expected shortages of both water and power in the next century.

A $300,000 feasibility study reported to the board of the six-county water district Monday finds the technology promis-
Letters to the Editor

Abortion is not an easy choice

Editor — I have been following the letters in the Daily on abortion and there is yet one viewpoint I have not expressed — the viewpoint of a woman who has had an abortion.

I can tell you the choice to have an abortion is not made on a whim, nor is it out of some sick desire to butcher or inflict pain. The woman who finds herself in this situation often feels alone and helpless, unsure of whether to condemn herself or anyone, even though it be from good intentions.

The few people who knew of the choice I made — my need to make that choice — were all trusted friends, and supportive of me and whatever decision chose to make. The first person I alerted was my boyfriend since I chose to make. The first person I alerted was my boyfriend since I got at the abortion. And then the second decision was made.

My viewpoint is that anyone has the right, even the right to accept or reject Jesus. It's wrong to take an innocent life, and I don't partake in abortions. It's wrong to take an innocent life, and I don't partake in abortion.

By example, Charles Manson, Adolph Hitler, and Josef Stalin all made their decision and right or wrong. I think my father is a strong influence in the midst of all of this.

One must be careful in how much freedom is allowed in defining right and wrong. Surely, nobody has the right to force a set of beliefs on others. You do. However, the right, even the right to tell you about the clear wrongness of certain actions. It's not right to talk about an innocent life, and I don't particularly want to hear somebody say, "Well, that's your code of ethics, not mine. I personally don't agree with that," nor has been made clear.

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Oscar nominees announced today

By Leigh Rubin

BEVERLY HILLS (AP) — Dustin Hoffman and Melanie Griffith, two actors on the rebound, were among the favorites for best actor and actress at Wednesday morning's nominations for the 61st annual Academy Awards.

Coming off his catastrophic clunker Ishtar, Hoffman was widely acclaimed for his portrayal of an idiot savant in Rain Man. Griffith, after a string of lesser parts in mostly forgotten films, landed a winner with her starring role in Working Girl.

There were 22 Oscar categories, with the awards to be presented on March 29. Nominations were scheduled to begin at 5:30 a.m. local time Wednesday to facilitate coverage by the networks' morning news programs.

A number of races looked far too close to call.

Contending for best picture nominations were the autism drama Rain Man, the Australian-themed melodrama Mississippi Burning, the corporate Cinderella comedy Working Girl and the minimalist liason story Dangerous Liaisons.

Possible nominees for best actor, in addition to Hoffman, included Gene Hackman (Mississippi Burning), Tom Hanks (Big), Kevin Costner (Bull Durham), Edward James Olmos (Stand and Deliver), William Hurt (The Accidental Tourist) and Jeremy Irons (Dead Ringers).

Joining Griffith on the list of best actress possibles were Sigourney Weaver (Gloria in the Mist: The Adventure of Dan Fouts), Meryl Streep (A Cry in the Dark), Shirley MacLaine (Madame Sousatzka), Glenn Close (Dangerous Liaisons) Susan Sarandon (Bull Durham) and Christine Lahti (Running on Empty).

Veteran actor Alec Guinness (Little Dorrit) appeared likely to be nominated for best supporting actor, among such other candidates as Martin Landau (Tucker: The Man and His Dream), Michael Keaton (Batman), Dean Stockwell (Married to the Mob), Joe Mantegna (Things Change), Liam Neeson (The Good Mother) and River Phoenix (Running on Empty).

For supporting actress, the list of favorites featured Geena Davis (The Accidental Tourist), Frances McDormand (Mississippi Burning), Elizabeth Perkins (Big), Barbara Hershey (The Accidental Tourist), Diane Venora (Bird) and Lena Olin (The Unbearable Lightness of Being).

More than 30 countries submitted entries for best foreign-language film, including Spain's Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, Denmark's Pelle the Conqueror, Hungary's Hanussen, India's Salam Bombay, and China's Red Sorghum.

More than 4,600 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, sponsors of the Oscars, were given ballots this year. Academy members vote on their area of specialty — the Academy's actors branch, for example, is the only group to select nominees in the four acting categories.

The Last Emperor, director Bernardo Bertolucci's epic chronicle of the China's last monarch, swept last year's Oscars with nine trophies. The film won for best picture, best director, best adapted screenplay, best cinematography, best art direction, best editing, best costume design and best original score — taking a statue in every category it was nominated.

Other prominent 1988 winners included Cher (best actress for Moonstruck), Michael Douglas (best actor for Wall Street), Sean Connery (best supporting actor for The Untouchables) and Olympia Dukakis (best supporting actress for Moonstruck). Denmark's Babette's Feast was named best foreign film.
Wednesday, February 15

- meet with Hughes
- Student Union-Room 207
- bring 5 resumes

Interview Sign-Up and Information Day

Make a date to get to know us on February 15th. Drop by between 9:00am and 2:00pm and we'll tell you what's on the horizon at Hughes Aircraft Company, and we'll answer any questions you may have.

Meet representatives from our different organizations and present your resume to those that interest you.

Interviews will be scheduled for February 16th.

We're seeking qualified graduates in:
- Electrical Engineering
- Computer Science
- Mechanical Engineering
- Applied Math
- Physics
- Engineering Technology
- Industrial Engineering
- Industrial Technology

We want you to have all the information you need to make one of the most important decisions of your life.

Hughes Aircraft Company is an equal opportunity employer. Proof of U.S. citizenship is required for most positions.

Creativity America depends on.
When discussing the AIDS epidemic, Jon said, "For a gay guy, this is like living in the middle of a holocaust. I may know 100 gay people and about 20 of them are dead, and that is a bit trying." Jon explained that having a disease such as AIDS costs a lot. He used to drive a Jaguar, now he spends the little money he does have on staying alive.

"Fortunately, I have health insurance and I can afford to pay some pretty big bills," Jon said. "I have what they call wasting syndrome. They put a central line into my chest and five nights a week I hook up to a machine and it pumps nutrition into my body. People can live off this sort of thing. If they have the money," Jon said, as he pointed to the part of his body that the machine was hooked up to.

"I don't work anymore. I'm on disability, but I don't have anything on disability. The lack of people are (tested) positive and still working, these are the ones that are real secretive about it." Although Jon is generally positive about his whole situation, he is often sick and constantly burdened with this disease.

"The main symptom I've had is a fever. I can get up and operate for an hour or two and then I have to lay down and rest. If I try to go for more than a couple hours, I start vomiting," Jon said.

"It only takes one person, you really can't trust anyone." — Jon

"They didn't even have a blood test for AIDS before 1986; as soon as they did, I had my suspicion confirmed. They told me I had ARCH (AIDS-Related Condition). They told me it may not progress, but did it." When setting up an interview with Jon, his friend suggested an early appointment because "he got hooked up to his machines at 9:00." Many people envision people with AIDS as thin, old-looking and curled up in a bed. Jon does not look like he is dying.

He talked a lot about his future. He plans to keep on living. Preventative drugs give him hope — it's the only thing he has left to live for. He knows he is not going to "live like a normal person," but he hopes to die in peace. Other people have to deal with the loss of loved ones, but Jon is more fortunate — he has made it his job. He is a volunteer at the Hospice, an organization that offers a support group for grieving people. He helps people with the bereavement process.

"I've thought about suicide several times. I've been to a lot of counseling at the Mental Health Department," Joe said. "I've thought about suicide for a long time. I often used to feel sorry for them, nor are they going to die. These people, whose names have been changed, have AIDS. The stories of their experiences are not being told for you to feel sorry for them, nor are they being told for you to learn about the disease, because, anyone can read that in a book.

These stories are being told because AIDS will more than likely touch your life; no matter how firmly you believe it won't. Straight or gay, drug user or not — AIDS will probably affect you in some way; if it hasn't already.

I was getting dark out when the reporter arrived at the house. Jon, a 32-year-old Cal Poly student, opened the door with a smile and a courteous handshake. He was ready and willing for whatever questions were asked of him. Jon has AIDS.

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Congress takes challenge to pass S&L crisis plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration vowed Tuesday to fight any effort by savings and loan lobbyists to preserve their close relationship with federal regulators and said it's ready to work with Congress to gain speedy passage of the president's plan to deal with the industry's crisis.

Richard C. Breeden, Bush's top adviser on S&Ls, said the president's proposal to restructure the thrift regulatory system is inseparable from any infusion of taxpayer money.

And, in an interview at the White House, he vowed to "spare no effort" in helping Congress meet Bush's challenge to pass the S&L program in 45 days.

Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr., D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and Sen. Jake Garn of Utah, the committee's senior Republican, have already agreed to introduce the administration program. An inch-thick draft of the bill was sitting on Breeden's desk Tuesday and he said it likely would be submitted to Congress next week. He described the tone of discussion on the issue between the administration and legislators as excellent.

"I hope things will go smoothly, but I don't want to be unrealistic," he said. "We are proposing some profound long-run changes in the regulatory system."

Last week, Bush proposed spending $126 billion over the next decade to close or sell failed thrift associations, $40 billion of it a direct charge against the taxpayers and federal budget.

He also would wrap the independent Federal Home Loan Bank Board, which regulates the nation's 3,000 S&Ls, into the Treasury Department and merge the staff of the S&L deposit insurance fund into the larger Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which guarantees commercial bank accounts.

Thrift industry officials have denounced the restructuring plan as a power-grab by the Treasury Department and have vowed to fight it.

Rep. Frank Annunzio, D-Ill., chairman of the House banking subcommittee with jurisdiction over S&Ls, has promised to help them.
From page 1

POLITICS

women beginning in 1776, with Abigail Adams recognizing the lack of equal rights for women, leading up to the 1980s, where the Equal Rights Amendment is all but dead.

According to her diagram, the 1960s saw a dramatic increase in women's rights as an unexpected side benefit of the civil rights movement. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 turned out to be significant. “Here we have this piece of legislation that’s in committee and it says nothing about gender,” Long said, “and it goes to the rules committee — the rules committee is a very powerful committee in the House (of Representatives) because it determines the rules like in a game of Monopoly or whatever — and they didn’t want this (Civil Rights) bill to pass.”

The rules committee did not want equity. They wanted to say they were for equity but thought that this kind of legislation would be disruptive to the society. So the head of the rules committee said that if we put in this little phrase that we cannot discriminate on account of sex then it will be killed in the House, they will laugh at this piece of legislation.

“But they voted for it,” Long said.

Passage of the act led to the formation of the federal Equal Opportunities Commission. But Long said frustration at lack of representation from that commission eventually caused the formation of the National Organization of Women.

“It was due to the anger of having equity in law but not in fact,” Long said.

She said the objectives of NOW were to develop a coalition to fight for pay equity and equity under law. A third item NOW had on its agenda dealt with lesbian rights.

In the 1970s the momentum of these advances led to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment and subsequent ratification in some of the states, Long said.

However, the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade, which granted women the legal right to an abortion, and the support of homosexual and lesbian groups for the ERA caused a backlash anti-ERA coalition. Long said.

“It wasn’t because there was a majority of society who were against the ERA,” Long said. “It was because the opposition became more vocal, more organized and became more influential with legislatures.”

Long said “issue politics” ultimately defeated the ERA and is growing in popularity in the 80s.

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