Vigil condemns Prop 8

It's a hard knock life for SNAPs

Students and community members gathered at the San Luis Obispo Mission Plaza at 5:30 p.m. to unite the community after the likely passage of Proposition 8. Over 100 people attended the candlelight vigil, which organizers started planning at 1 p.m.

Rachel Glas

Opponents of Proposition 8 gathered together and waved candles to demonstrate against the measure at a candlelight vigil yesterday. The measure appeared to have passed Tuesday to define marriage in the California Constitution as between one man and one woman, after a contentious $70 million dollar campaign was waged by both supporters and opponents of the measure.

Over 100 opponents showed up at the San Luis Obispo Mission Plaza, some carrying signs, others wearing homemade shirts, to show support for each other, and against the proposition. Organizers handed out candles, and the crowd gathered silently on the mission steps to comfort one another and plan their next moves.

"The fight isn't over. There are still 3 million votes to be counted," said speaker David Kilburn. "There are groups ready to file suit under the equal protection clause!"

Susan Precht, a pastor for the community church in Atascadero, said she was grateful to be in the company of those who understood "what it feels like to be so sad in my soul." Over 10 speeches were given, including one by Associated Students Inc president Angela Knecht, who spoke of her experience coming out to her family and how they eventually came to accept it.

"This is a separate but equal situation and we shouldn't have to take it anymore," she said.

The speeches were interrupted when a passing man shouted, "homosexuality is an abomination," but the message didn't phase the crowd, who continued with their evening.

Biology senior Megan Farrell said she came to accept it. "I'm glad Prop 8 passed, not because I judge people on what they do, I think they should have all of the same rights, but religiously, marriage is between a man and a woman," she said.

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... see Vigil, page 3

Obama picks Clinton alum Emanuel chief of WH staff

David Espo and Nedra Pickler

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama picked quickly to begin filling out his new administration on Wednesday, selecting hard-charging Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel as White House chief of staff while aides stepped up the pace of transition work that had been delayed in pre-election secrecy.

Several Democrats confirmed that Emanuel had been offered the job. While it was not clear he had accepted, a rejection would amount to an unlikely public snub of the new president-elect within hours of an electoral college landslide.

With hundreds of jobs to fill and only 10 weeks until Inauguration Day, Obama and his transition team confronted a formidable task complicated by his anti-lobbyist campaign rhetoric.

The official campaign Web Site said no political appointees would be permitted to work on "regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years. And no political appointee will be able to lobby the executive branch after leaving government service during the remainder of the administration."

But almost exactly one year ago, on Nov. 3, 2007, candidate Obama went considerably further than that while campaigning in South Carolina. "I don't take a dime of their money, and when I am president, they won't find a job in my White House," he said of lobbyists at the time.

Because they often have prior experience in government or politics, lobbyists figure as potential appointees for presidents of both parties.

On the morning after making history, the man elected the first black president had breakfast with his wife and two daughters at their Chicago home, went to a nearby gym and visited his downtown offices.

Aides said he planned no public appearances until later in the week, when he is expected to hold a news conference.

As president-elect, he begins receiving highly classified briefings from top intelligence officials Thursday.

In offering the post of White House chief of staff to Emanuel, Obama turned to a fellow Chicago politician with a far different style from his own, a man known for his bluntness as well as his single-minded determination.

... see Obama, page 3

Today's Weather

Sunny

High 70°/Low 46°

Arts

Slam poet "square bear"andom Abladieke mixed in some politics.

Sports

Cal Poly men's basketball looks to defy naysayers with up-tempo style.
New Congress turns more... much more Democratic

Laurie Kellman

Democrats broadened their control of Congress, though in the Senate they fell short of the 60 votes needed for a filibuster-proof majority that would have given them almost unbridled power over legislation.

Voters ousted Senate Republicans in North Carolina and New Hampshire and added three seats held by retiring GOP incumbents to the Democrats' fragile 51-49 majority. Four other Senate races involving Republican incumbents remained too close to call Wednesday, including Georgia where a run-off election was scheduled and Minnesota where the margin was so close that state law forced a recount. The GOP retained some leverage in spite of Democratic gains.

"The people have spoken. We hear the vote and now it's time to come behind our president," Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, told "The Early Show" on CBS Wednesday. "The Senate is going to have to work things out in a bipartisan way, and I think the text is going to be right there.

In the Georgia Senate race between Republican incumbent Saxby Chambliss and Democratic challenger Jim Martin, each candidate was just shy of the 50 percent of the vote plus one required to win, so the state on Wednesday set a run-off election for Dec. 2.

The Associated Press called the Senate race in Minnesota prematurely, Republican Sen. Norm Coleman finishing ahead of Democrat Al Franken in the final vote count, but Coleman's 770-vote margin falls within the state's mandatory recount law. That law requires a recount any time the margin between the top two candidates is less than one-half of 1 percent.

The AP also took back a call for a Republican win in an open GOP Senate seat in central Ohio. Republican Steve Strick finished ahead of Democrat Mary Jo Kilroy early Wednesday, but the Franklin County board of elections said later that its unofficial vote count finished had included results that had already been counted in two other counties. The race remained too close to call.

In the House, Democrats captured GOP-held seats in every region, adding at least 20 seats to the 30 they took from Republicans in 2006. Democrats could gain as many as three more seats when they led an undecided races. Going into Tuesday's election, Democrats controlled the House 235-199 with one vacancy in a formerly Democratic seat.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Democrats' first order of business was a lame-duck session to quickly enact economic stimulus package but cautioned that it would take time to achieve the party's top priorities.

"The country must be governed from the middle," Pelosi, a California Democrat, said Wednesday. "You have to bring people together to reach consensus on solutions that are sustainable and acceptable to the American people.

Pelosi said no decisions have been made on a post-election session. But she said talks are continuing with the White House on the terms of an economic aid measure, which would include additional assistance for people who are out of work.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said speculation and record turnout helped propel Democrat Barack Obama to victory.

"Obama ran a terrific campaign, he inspired millions of people," Reid said in a telephone interview. "It's been a really good night.

Even as they celebrated, Democratic leaders pivoted to looming issues big and small, including whether to pass or tolerate a Senate ally who endorsed Republican John McCain. There were bigger questions down the road: how to resolve deep differences in their own ranks over promised reforms like universal health care and energy independence — and just how much the public would punish Democrats if they fail.

However daunting, those were nice problems to have compared with the hangovers of Republicans. Before Obama had finished his acceptance speech, GOP lawmakers had turned a harsh eye on themselves.

"We have got to clean up, reform and rebuild the Republican Party before we can ask Americans to trust us again. This must begin with either a change of command at the high levels or our current leaders must embrace a bold new direction," Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., said in a statement moments after Obama clinched the election. "Our party must start today to admit our mistakes, fight for our convictions and encourage new conservatives to run for office.

There were signs of a GOP shakeup to come. Rep. Adam Putnam of Florida, the No. 3 Republican, told colleagues in a letter released near midnight that he was stepping down from his leadership post — "reluctantly," Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., a leading conservative, announced he would seek the No. 2 GOP slot.

But one Republican defeated a Senate Democrat. But the GOP blocked a complete rout in that chamber, holding the Kentucky seat of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and a Mississippi seat once held by Trent Lott...
Among voters' concerns, exit polls showed that the conflict helped Obama, exit polls showed. There is reason to believe that the recount could take weeks. Joining the debate was John Kerry of Massachusetts, who defeated Democratic Sen. John Edwards in Iowa, Arizona, and Nevada. Democrats also rode the coattails of a decisive victory by Obama in New Mexico to win one House seat they had lost in four decades and another the GOP had held for 28 years. Both were left up for grabs by GOP retirements.

"It's not true. It's ridiculous," she said in an interview. Announce of the transition team came in a written statement from the Obama camp. The group is headed by John Podesta, who served as chief of staff under former President Clinton. Podesta, who has been Obama's chief of staff in the Senate, and Valerie Jarrett, a friend of the president-elect and campaign adviser. Several Democrats described a spreading operation well under way. Officials had kept deliberations under wraps to avoid the appearance of overconfidence in the weeks leading to Tuesday's election. They said the group was stocked with longtime associates of Obama, as well as veterans of Clinton's White House. The House is scheduled to hold a extension session in two weeks, and Speaker Nancy Pelosi held a news conference Wednesday to reinforce her call for quick action on a bill to stimulate the economy.

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A Message from the College of Liberal Arts

The report of the most recent expression of bigotry directed toward students of color and/or within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) community has left many in our college awash in feelings of anger, dismay, outrage, and sadness. Like others in the Cal Poly community, we want “something to be done,” and that “something,” we believe, should seek not merely to preserve or defend the reputation of the university, but to address the abiding issue of a less than welcoming climate for underrepresented students, faculty, and staff at Cal Poly.

As a result we, the undersigned faculty and staff of the College of Liberal Arts, wish to affirm two cardinal principles:

• The right of every member of the Cal Poly community to the benefits only an inclusive educational experience can provide.
• The right of every member of the Cal Poly community to be free from discrimination, harassment, and fear.

We believe we must explore deeply what the pervasiveness of this “less than welcoming” environment means to those individuals who find themselves targeted as “strangers,” as “others,”—not just once or twice, but over and over again—within a learning community purportedly dedicated to their success and well-being.

We believe we must also ask ourselves what the pervasiveness of such an environment means for those within it who denigrate others with hurtful actions or speech, as well as for those of us who wish to create a campus climate free of such denigration. The Crops House incident would seem to present three potential questions for us to consider:

What is our community to the failure on the part of our community to foster the success and well-being of all, and each requires not only our thoughtful consideration, but specific and purposeful action.

We shortchange our students—all of them—when we do not address these failures decisively, for not only are we not preparing them to be informed and thoughtful citizens of a diverse world, we are abdicating our responsibility to speak clearly and firmly to the values we share. As one of the placards at the protest rally on Friday read: “Hate is not a Cal Poly value.”

As members of a community we embrace, we, too, wish to be “on the record,” as no longer willing to stand, as another placard read, for “Intolerance, injustice, inequity, and invisibility.” Cal Poly is a fine institution, but this blight of intolerance, injustice, and inequity—together with its insidious insistence that our underrepresented students subside into invisibility—must be rooted out, whatever its cause. We, the faculty and staff of the College of Liberal Arts, commit ourselves as partners in this task.

Keith Abney
Elizabeth Adan
Teresa Allen
Rocio Alvear
Tom Antl
Mary Armstrong
Patty Arnold
Jennifer Ashley
William A. Ausmus
Tim Barnes
Michael Barton Miller
David Beals
Jennifer Becker
Penny Bennett
Sky Bergman
Tom Bernard
Richard D. Bese
Chris Bickel
Suzy Black
Juan Bland
Valerie Bluet
Mike Blum
Greg Bohr
Linda Bonstad
Margaret Booker
Ken Brown
Kurt O. Brown
Shawn Burn
Kathy Caime
Chris Bickel
Roslyn Caldwell
Linda Carmel
Brad Campbell
Jesse Chavarría
Kevin Clark
Lisa Coffman
James Coleman
James Conway
Barbara Cook
Tenn Cook
Kevin Cooper
George Cotkin
William Covell
Judith Cross
Nancy Collins
Carol Curiel

James Cushing
Denise Daniels
Connie Davis
Chris Den Hartog
Ron Den Otter
Carolyn Dentler
Robert Detweiler
Lorraine Donegan
Kate Dore
Daniel Dove
Kathy Driscoll
Rachel Duchak
Bernard Dufy
Susan Dufy
Tim Dugan
Linda Eaton
Dan Ellen
Bud Evans
Kevin Fagan
William Feldman
Francisco Fofilore
Rachel Fernfiores
Giancarlo Fiorenza
Basil Fiorito
Christina Fipros
Manzar Foroohar
Kathy Friend
Sheyl Frisch
Tara Galtari
Julie A. Garcia
Annie Garner
Howard Gee
David Gillette
Richard Graziano
Lou Greenberg
Elizabeth Haas
Ken Habib
Linda Halisky
John Hampsey
Mary Kay Harrington
Nishan Havandjian
Brenda Hembrecht
David Hennessey
Adan Hill
Robert Howell
James Howland
Denise Isom
Lorraine Jackson
George Jerich
Jennifer Jispson
Eric Johnson
Terry Jones
Eileen Joseph
Jasna Jovanovic
Manja Junco
Corina Kainhe
Lisa Kawamura
James Keese
Malcolm Keil
Alison Keleher
Harold Kerbo
Laura M. King
Donna Kranzof
Daniel E. Krieger
Debi Linderholm
Carlo Linder
Carrie A. Langner
Mary LaPorte
Gary Laver
Jenny LeHir
Anika Lethner
Harvey Levenson
Dan Levi
Patrick Lin
Debi Linderholm
Stephen Lloyd-Motfett
Molly Loberg
Mindy Lorenz
Enrica Lovaglio
Bill Loving
Jody Loving
Elizabeth Lowham
Joseph Lynch
Josh Machamer
Ken Macro
Andrew Maness
Paul Marchbanks
Kathleen J. Martin
Erie Martin-Elston
Charmaine Martinez
Kathryn McCormick
Steven T. McDermott
Korla McFaul
Patrick Mckim
John McKinsty
Rachel Messner
Paul Miklosz
James Miller
Juanita Minor
Matthew Moore
Olivia Morales
Kelly Moreno
Barbara Morin
Barbara Morningstar
Karen Moro
Andrew Morris
Karen Muñoz-Christian
Patrick Munroe
Kathleen S. Murphy
Michael Pershall
Marnie Petrey
Bob Pinnk
Sari Pinto
William Preston
Elvira Pullman
Tony Rector-Cavagnaro
Jeanine Richison
Robyn Riganø
Mark Roberts
Johanna Rubba
Stacey Rucan
Nancy Rucci
Kathryn Rummell
Kathleen Ryan
Donald H. Ruyhin
Diane Salmon
Rick Salomon
Terry J. San Filippo
Elena Scarn
Al Schnupp
Jeffrey Schultz
Ned W. Schultz
Debora Schwartz
Tan Scriven
Melanie Senn
Allen Settle
Kathleen Severn
Christine Shea
Linda Shepherd
Lyndee Sing
John Seshinger
John Soares
Diana Stanton
Glen Starkey
Gary Steenerson
Lynn Steiner
Velanche Stewart
Meg Steff
Russell Swanagan
Doug Swanson
Lisa Sweatt
Bill Treadwell
John Thompson
Benjamin F. Timms
Yolanda Ticiano
Tom Trice
Vince Uhler
Debra Valencia-Laver
Steve Vázquez
Margie Valine
Victor Valle
Jeff Vankleek
Catherine Watson
Chris Walla
William Walters
Nancy J. Ward
Jean Wetzel
Amy Willey
Deborah Wilmer
Jason Williams
Jean Williams
T. C. Wenzelren
Grace Yeh
Jan Zahn
Ning Zhang
Supporters of President-elect Barack Obama cheer in the streets in downtown Chicago on Tuesday. Obama's victory met with tears and traffic jams

Sharon Cohen

Crowds danced in the streets, wept, lifted their voices in prayer and brought traffic to a standstill. From the nation's capital to Atlanta to Los Angeles, Americans celebrated Barack Obama's victory and marveled that they lived to see the day this black man was elected president.

Jubilation stretched into the early morning Wednesday in Washington, where a large crowd paraded on Pennsylvania Avenue with drums, balloons and a life-size cutout of Obama.

Supporters of President-elect Barack Obama cheer in the streets in downtown Chicago on Tuesday.

Thursday, November 6, 2008

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Supporters of President-elect Barack Obama cheer in the streets in downtown Chicago on Tuesday.
Russian threats, Afghan deaths mean a sober wakeup

Anne Geran
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nothing quite like Russian missiles to stoop on a guy's big election buzz. Before Barack Obama even got up to speak, the first day as president-elect, Russia threatened to station missiles across U.S.-aligned countries in eastern Afghanistan. After initially denying any such missiles had died in that attack, a U.S. report ultimately concluded that 33 were killed.

Following that operation, Karzai said relations between Afghanistan and the United States were very badly damaged, though his fragile government depends heavily on U.S. military and financial help.

Karzai hoped the election would bring peace to Afghanistan, life to Afghanistan and prosperity to the Afghan people and the rest of the world. He apologized and expressed confidence in the United States.

The headlines were a sober reminder that despite a tide of international goodwill, Obama inherited wars, dictators and dangerous territories that could spell doom for the world that Britain chiefly defined as American power.

"Mechanisms must be created to block mistakes, and sometimes simply demonstrate serious intentions of certain members of the international community," Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said.

There was no doubt he was talking about the United States, and that he didn't make much distinction between the old U.S. president and the new.

In Afghanistan, the U.S.-backed president demanded that Obama change U.S. tactics as villagers said U.S. warplanes killed 37 people — nearly all of them women and children — during a cat-and-mouse hunt for militants.

"We cannot win the fight against terrorism," President Hamid Karzai said. "This is my first demand of the new president — to put an end to civilian casualties.

The alleged strikes came only three months after the Afghan government said the United States operation killed civilians in eastern Afghanistan. After initially denying any civilians had died in that attack, a U.S. report ultimately concluded that 33 were killed.

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Not exactly a silent auction: 
KCPR turns airways into bidding war

Random Abiladeze showcases politics in poetry

Items are auctioned off in packages. Below are pictures of the "Bike" Package (left) and "Tunes" (right) package that will auctioned off at the end of the week.
The Vivian Girls are a group of seven or more sisters with penises. They go around The Realms of the Unreal and fight evil, sadistic adults with the help of Blengins, or dragon-like protectors of children that are both terrifying and kind.

But that's the world created by Henry Darger, an outsider with seemingly no knowledge of the female form; this is a punky, shrilly femme trio on the Los Angeles based label In The Red.

This reassurance of a previously limited edition pressing off of Mauled By Tigers is actually the latest object of my desire. I've spent the last couple of days listening to this album and only this album on a continuous loop, trying to figure out why I'm so excited to see them when they play with Love is All at the punky shoegazy female trio on the Los Angeles based label with seemingly no knowledge of the female form; this is a protectors of children that are both terrifying and kind.

Being in love with female rock bands, which is plenty enough reason for this here cowboy. I've decided that what really turns me on is the fuzz. Mauled Oy Tigers is actually the latest object of my desire. I've spent the last couple of days listening to this album and only this album as the girls create a wall of fuzzed snare and tambourine. So as I sway, bop out guitar, bass and vocals so that the only aspect that tells you how hard you should dance is the fuzz. I'm willing to put money on it. And that will inspire the most missed connections. I'm willing to put money on it. And that will inspire the most missed connections.

Furthermore, the rock factor is off the charts for real. The album is like hopping into a pile of sleeping Shiba Inu puppies and telling all of them about your day as they paw at your tummy, hair and socks. For all these reasons and more, I feel that it will be acceptable to take your favorite new band to come home to. It's cynical hope.

Fortunately, the band has adopted my favorite emotion: passivity. Even as they sing about childish crushes, they seem very distant, letting the music tell a different story with a drones out sound and danceable two beat drum patterns. Such songs as “Wild Eyes” and “Tell the World” are like your first kiss with the foreknowledge that you will probably break up in about a month or two. It's magic, but with reason. Like a book of matches in a dark closet. Like a long hard day with puppies who have yet to learn the cold hard ways of the world.

People have identified me as a religious rapper. Along with commenting on the nation's media-driven society, Random intertwines spiritual messages throughout his work. This has caused many to mistakenly classify him as a religious rapper. The Sacramento-born poet attributes his popularity among the youth to their ability to relate to his message and youthful appearance.

Random began rhyming at the young age of 12 as a dare, when older kids told him to string a few lines together. After a positive reaction after performing the freestyle rhyme, Random realized he might have a future as a rapper. I'm still a square, people just think I'm cool because I put words together,” he said.

Random established his reputation in Sacramento through open-mic nights and opening for larger acts, such as Nas, Immortal Technique and Tech N9ne. “I realize people are saying the same things I'm saying, just in different ways,” he said. “People have identified me as a political rapper and that I expose the same things, but my words (tend to) hit some people harder.”

The Sacramento-born poet attributes his popularity among the youth to their ability to relate to his message and youthful appearance. Along with commenting on the nation's media-driven society, Random intertwines spiritual messages throughout his work. This has caused many to mistakenly classify him as a religious rapper.

“I forget we are all unified, but we won’t admit there is the same energy in all living things,” he said. “God is in all of us in the most literal sense.”

Random is a two-time champion of the Got Spit! Poetry Slam, hosted by the Sacramento chapter of Hip Hop Congress. He was voted Youth Speaks Male Poet of the Month for Oct. 2007 in San Francisco. In 2008, Random came in first place at both Stanford University’s Battle of The Bay poetry slam and Sacramento State University’s Words As Conscious Action poetry slam.

He compared his poetic style to an english essay: a hook, body and conclusion. His poems are full of alliteration, double entendres and allusions. “Try to end all my poems with a moment of clarity”,

Chloe & the Only Everyone Band (Broad Street) Sorbello (Chorro Street) Nima & Merge (Garden Street) Garth Wilwand (Morro Street)
Michael Crichton, the million-selling author who made scientific research terrifying and irresistible in such thrillers as "Jurassic Park," "Timeline" and "The Andromeda Strain," has died of cancer, his family said.

Crichton died Tuesday in Los Angeles at age 66 after privately battling cancer.

"Through his books, Michael Crichton served as an inspiration to students of all ages, challenged scientists in many fields and illuminated the mysteries of the world in a way we could all understand," his family said in a statement.

"While the world knew him as a great storyteller that challenged our preconceived notions about the world around us — and entertained us all while doing so — his wife Sherri, daughter Taylor, family and friends knew Michael Crichton as a devoted husband, loving father and generous friend who inspired each of us to strive to see the wonders of the world through new eyes."

He was an experimenter and popularizer known for his stories of disaster and systemic breakdown, such as the rampant microbes of "The Andromeda Strain" or the dinosaurs running madly in "Jurassic Park."

"Many of his books became major Hollywood films, and Michael was a principal writer of screenplays of his work. In 1997, I wrote 'The Great Train Robbery' and he co-wrote the script for the blockbuster 'Twister.'" In 1994, he created the award-winning TV hospital series "ER." He's even had a dinosaur named for him, Crichton's ankylosaur.

"Michael's talent out­scaled even his own dino­saurs of Jurassic Park," said "Jurassic Park" director Steven Spielberg, a friend of Crichton's for 40 years. "He was the greatest at blending science with big­topical concepts, which is what gave credibility to dinosaurs again walking the Earth."

Michael was a gentle soul who reserved his flamboyant side for his novels. There is no one in the wings that will ever take his place."

John Wells, executive producer of "ER," called the author "an extraordinary man. Brilliant, funny, erudite, gracious, exceptionally inquisitive and always thoughtful."

"No lunch with Michael lasted less than three hours and no subject was too prosaic or obscure to attract his interest. Sexual politics, medical and scientific ethics, anthropology, archaeology, economics, astronomy, astrophysics, and molecular biology were all regular topics of conversation," Wells said.

Neal Bar, a physician who became an executive producer on "ER," was a fourth-year medical student at Harvard University when Wells, a longtime friend, sent him Crichton's script.

"I said, 'Wow, this is like my life.' Michael had been a medical student at Harvard in the early '70s and I was going through the same thing about 20 years later," Bar said. "ER" offered a fresh take on the TV medical drama, making doctors the central focus rather than patients. In the early life of "ER," Crichton, who hadn't been involved in medicine for years, and Spielberg would take part in writers' room discussions.

In recent years, Crichton was the rare novelist granted a White House meeting with President Bush, perhaps because of his skepticism about global warming, which Crichton addressed in the 2004 novel, "State of Fear." Crichton's views were strongly condemned by environmentalists, who alleged that the author was hurting efforts to pass legislation to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.

If not a literary giant, he was a physical one, standing 6 feet 9 inches, and ready for battle with the press. In a 2004 interview with The Associated Press, Crichton came with a physical appearance that has charmed TV viewers, and used writing as a way to escape; Mark Twain and Alfred Hitchcock were his role models.

"I have a lot of trouble with things that don't seem true to me," Crichton said at the time. "I'm a physical person, and I tend to look over the shoulder of scientists, we are not qualified to look over the shoulder of anybody, then we're in some kind of really weird world," he said.

A new novel by Crichton had been tentatively scheduled to come next month, but publisher HarperCollins said the book was postponed indefinitely because of his illness.

One of four siblings, Crichton was born in Chicago and grew up in Resoln, Long Island. His father was a journalist and young Michael spent much of his childhood writing extra pa-
Virtual world celebrates Obama's win

Derrick J. Lang

LOS ANGELES — From YouTube to Flickr, from Facebook to Twitter, images and sentiments from celebrations across the nation flooded into the Internet’s media-sharing sites, just moments after Barack Obama clinched the presidential election.

Some were simple photos of TV screens claiming the Democrat’s win. Others were unfettered images of jubilant celebrations captured immediately after polls closed Tuesday on the West Coast, when Obama was declared the president-elect.

And while crowds gathered at public rallies and millions of others simply glued themselves to television news coverage, many spent election night online — and they had plenty of company. Students at Nauroro College posted a video of themselves reacting — screaming, jumping up and down, more screaming — to Obama’s win. Another YouTube user uploaded histoast to Obama: He gulped a 2-liter bottle of soda.

Others used the moment to joke. One tag-clad man posted a YouTube video reminiscent of Chris Crocker’s infamous Britney Spears rant, instead shouting “Leave McCain alone!” in front of a sheet. Some shared impromptu songs about the election’s outcome. One man at a piano sang, “You all changed things/And that’s what you gonna get/But the change that you will see/You’ll most likely regret.”

Elsewhere, dozens of Obama supporters clapped, danced and cheered inside the behemoth virtual world Second Life immediately after the Democrat’s nominee seized the electoral votes. Many avatars were left out of the virtual celebration in Obama’s unofficial Second Life headquarters because the digital enclave had reached maximum capacity Tuesday.

“The long nightmare is OVER!” an avatar named Jordana Beamonte exclaimed. The Straight Talk Cafe, a Second Life space supporting John McCain, was nearly a ghost town after McCain conceded the race. Inhabitants for both campaigns had officially stopped for months inside the virtual world for the presidential and vice presidential candidates — collecting donations, registering voters, building monuments and handing out virtual hair and T-shirts.

Throughout the election, the nonprofit site TwitterVoteReport.com aggregated micro-blog Twitter.com posts — called tweets — to monitor polling places and estimate voting times across the country. The evening, many people tweeted 140-character- or-less dispatches from rallies, election parties and their living rooms using their cell phones and the Web.

“They were news people from all over the world at the Biltmore tonight,” posted hoyzophne in Phoenix, who McCain’s camp was watching the returns. “And while CNN’s camp was watching the returns, their cell phones and the Web. They were news people from all over the world at the Biltmore tonight.”

KCRP

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right at the end, people will call when there is five seconds left and out bid each other.

So far this week, approximately five to seven packages have been auctioned off each day in between auction hours 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. This year, KCRP will auction off around 35 packages. Some consist of CDs, records, T-shirts and gift certificates to local businesses and restaurants. Some of the more unique items are a guitar and set of hongos.

Hildebrandt said that the best packages are usually auctioned off on Thursday and Friday, and is personally looking forward to the Hipster Bullshitter package, which includes a Palm Theater super card.

Conservative bloggers who had been posting about the election results kept their comments brief after Obama’s win. Liberal blogger Sara K. Smith at Workettc.com posted, “We are Americans first, and therefore I wish the Obama health and happiness. It’s even possible to wish them success — so long as it is in keeping with the best traditions of American democracy.”

And while Sarah Palin may not have won the vice presidential spot, she was popular as a doll. Out of the four of Cabbage Patch Kids crafted to look like the presidential and vice presidential candidates, her doll nabbed a $10,000 bid when the auction closed Tuesday. The lid Obama, McCain and Palin together only earned offers of $480, $600 and $3,500, respectively.

Crichton

continued from page 9

His books seemed designed to provoke debate, whether the theories of quantum physics in “Time-line,” the reverse sexual discrimination of “Disclosure” or the specter of Japanese eminence in “Rising Sun.”

“The initial response from the (Japanese) establishment was, ‘This is starkly eye in the proceedings. instructied readers to, ‘Take a glow to your Republican friends because it was not so long ago that you (liberals) were precisely in your position, and remember how much it sucked.’

Conservative bloggers also kept their reactions concise and polite. Carol Platt Liebau at Townhall.com posted, “We are Americans first, and therefore I wish the Obama health and happiness. It’s even possible to wish them success — so long as it is in keeping with the best traditions of American democracy.”

And while Sarah Palin may not have won the vice presidential spot, she was popular as a doll. Out of the four of Cabbage Patch Kids crafted to look like the presidential and vice presidential candidates, her doll nabbed a $10,000 bid when the auction closed Tuesday. The lid Obama, McCain and Palin together only earned offers of $480, $600 and $3,500, respectively.
Conservatives lost the battle but not the war

Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States. As an American, I am proud for what this historic election means for our country. But, I am also wondering if the electorate really knows what they voted for.

Like many of you, I flipped through the cable networks watching the returns come in on Tuesday night. While I was expecting Obama to win, when it came down to the wire, I had "hope" for a "change" in the results towards McCain. Alas this was not the case. Barack Obama, congratulations on winning the race, congratulations on being the first minority president, congratulations on progressing this nation further socially.

With that said, where do we go from here? Well, I think we are just more than 145 days until the next election, so I suggest we make the most of it. I do not believe that Obama's election is by any means a mandate for liberal-socialist values, even thought this is what people will do. People elected a socialistic liberal. He rightfully earn and give it to people who do not use smaller words that make sense. He is the right person to continue the education system to promote competitive education, so students actually learn rather than students just be taught. We need to promote these and other conservative issues.

As Californians, we added several new state-wide propositions. As for the other issues on the ballot, I cannot believe that Prop 8 passed here in California. I was frankly surprised that in this state so liberal and "progressive" people would vote FOR marriage being exclusively between a man and a woman. I personally voted for Prop 8 because I want to make it very clear that I do not believe that people should have marriage. As I have said before, marriage is not a religious institution between a man and a woman. The problem is that you cannot both be a conservative and a liberal. People are essentially fighting over a title, not over basic freedoms. I contend that if you really want same-sex marriage, fight for government to get out of the marriage business entirely, not the other way around. I am glad Prop 8 passed, because it sends a clear message to activist judges who are legislating from the bench to begin with.

I am disappointed in the other propositions. As Californians, we added several new state-wide bonds. I contended prior to the election that many of these bonds were great in theory, but bad in practice. California does not have the money! We will be forced now to increase our taxes. Thank you voters. Thank you for screwing this state even more.

As a state we also voted yes on Proposition 2. To thank you, we are going to make you buy 10 dozen eggs from China, Mexico and Arizona. We just lost a battle in the war of politics. It is frustrating as a conservative but is a great opportunity for real change. We are on the road to rebuilding and we can get back in power again. However, I once said that we have no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit. Let's move forward and take back the shining beacon on the hill.

Ian Nachreiner is an agricultural science senior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Harassment still unacceptable during a game

I was disgusted to read comments from people condemning the behavior of some of the students at the Cal Poly vs. UCSB soccer game on Oct. 17. I was right in the middle of the group of students responsible.

Throughout the game, I heard a group of guys shouting homophobic and racist slurs directed towards UCSB. One person in particular shouted that a black player on the UCSB team should be burned. To me, this behavior is not "passionate," it's harassment and it is unacceptable.

Susannah Bonn
business administration senior

Shake it up, Mustang Daily political columnists!

Oh, how the tables have turned! I can't wait for everything to flip around. Next year really will be the conservos' turn towards UCSC. I personally in particular shouted that a black player on the UCSB team should be burned. To me, this behavior is not "passionate," it's harassment and it is unacceptable.

Can't you feel the change already? Yes we can. Yes we can. Please Do! Be a breath of fresh air this coming Jan. Don't give us the same old pointless drivel you've been spewing since anyone at Cal Poly could remember. Engage us, the readers. Give us things to argue about with our friends. Let's hope we don't sound as un informed as D.L. Hughley is bound to on his new CNN show!

If you want to make a point that won't alienate the conformist population of a heavily large and conservative agriculture/biased set of humans at one of the worlds most revered and decorated state colleges (ad attempt to use big words instead), then stop just using big words to try to sound awesome! Use smaller words that make sense and say it more smarter.

Possible side affect: you will find that a second grader trying to talk about Barack Obama. Newslines: You currently sound like second graders talking about Barack Obama.

John Turner
electrical engineering sophomore

Truth, Justice and CONSERVATIVE Way

by Ian Nachreiner

November 5, 2008
Volume LXXVI No. 44 ©2008 Mustang Daily

"My brain was strong!"
Less book for your buck

Rising education costs don’t help during economic downturn

The United States is really the land of opportunity. Anyone can study what they are passionate about and build a career. However, to have a real opportunity to land that dream job, earning a college degree is more important than ever. It is not to say that one cannot be successful without a college degree because they can, but the chances of being hired for a coveted position over competition in the same field and earning a higher salary are far greater with one.

The cost of higher education continues to rise substantially each year and it should be the other way around. Education should be affordable for everyone so each individual can have the same opportunity to attend college. All colleges should be made more affordable, but I would like to emphasize the need to lower public school costs, since these have risen faster than private schools and community colleges.

With rising costs, lower-income students may not have the chance to go to college. It would be disappointing to see higher education only go to those who can afford it when every person deserves to expand their minds.

The median income for students with only a high school diploma compared to the median annual income for a student with a bachelor’s degree is 80 percent lower, according to The College Board’s annual report. Students who are able to complete college deserve a high salary for the hard work they put in, but if the cost of education was more affordable, an even larger amount of people could attend college after high school and earn just as high of a salary. More people attending college would be positive because less people would struggle financially, the unemployment rate would be lowered, and there would be more educated, productive members of the community.

Incoming college students should not have to take out student loans just to pay for an overpriced education that may not get them jobs they expected. If higher education costs were lower, there would be fewer students taking out these loans and fewer in debt immediately out of college.

Not only is it difficult for parents to come up with the funds to help put their child or children through college, it can be difficult for the student as well. I cannot imagine having to pay for tuition, along with rent, car payments, gas, cellular telephone bills, and countless other expenses that need to be paid on a monthly basis. College as a whole is far too expensive.

Textbooks, which are most likely not read in their entirety, cost a fortune, but can only be sold back for a small portion of what was initially paid, or nothing at all. Book buybacks should not be called book buybacks because a lot of the time, I am not able to return the book because a new edition is being used. Paying $150 for a textbook I will probably never open again is not affordable for the average college student.

To actually lower the cost of college, tax cuts would be fine if they were not given to the wealthier class, since they are most likely not having as much difficulty paying as the lower and middle-classes. Instead of tax cuts, however, which is one reason for the substantial budget deficits, I think students should be given an education without the high costs — similar to high school and all schooling before that. Also, financial aid should only be given to students who really need it. Instead of loans, they should be given grants or scholarships so repayment is not necessary. If they must receive a loan to go to college, subsidized loans are better so they do not have to worry about interest until after graduation.

For a more affordable college education, it should only take four years to earn a bachelor’s degree. I often hear about fifth or sixth-year students, which is understandable at Cal Poly, especially if you switch majors, but it should be able to be completed in four years to save students from having to pay for an additional year of school.

Samantha MacConnell is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily reporter.
Economy makes free-agent signings even more risky

Sports agent Scott Boras is the center of attention upon his arrival at Major League Baseball's general managers meetings Tuesday in Dana Point.

Tim Dahlberg

Associated Press

Hard to blame him, because fellow pitcher CC Sabathia figures to make double that by the time he reports to spring training a few months from now. Besides, there's always the nagging worry that a new administration taking office soon just might be coming after some of his fortune.

Some teams, perhaps even the Blue Jays, will pay Burnett what he wants. They will because this is baseball and, as super agent Scott Boras points out, the economic rules that govern normal civilized society don't apply.

"In our wacky world," Boras said, "there's a lot of fixed elements that frankly are not applicable to the outside world."

It was mere coincidence that Boras made his comments the other day at the sameoodle resort where AIG executives paraded after taking billions in a government bailout. But a lot of people in baseball seem to have the same disconnect with reality as the people who took big gambles and lost for one of the biggest companies in the world.

They may listen and nod approvingly when Bud Selig says times are tough and that teams should watch what they do with their money, as he did in a video call to general managers meeting this week in Dana Point, Calif. But too a top starting pitcher in front of them, and even the mid-market teams start salivating and begging their bankers for a loan.

The economy is tanking, Americans are worried about their jobs and their houses, and no one can tell you how things will be even six months from now.

Yet the Milwaukee Brewers reportedly offered $100 million over five years to Sabathia and not only was the silence deafening from the other end, but some baseball scribes weighed in to say it wasn't even a legitimate offer.

Burnett, Sabathia and even Manny Ramirez have the right to earn as much money as they can in the relatively short time that athletes have to make their fortunes. And it's certainly true that baseball owners make enough, with the major leagues bringing in $6.5 billion in revenue last year alone.

But ultimately it's the fans who lose the pockets of the owners and the players. And while the core of those fans has proven remarkably loyal despite annual increases in ticket and concession prices, a deep and protracted economic recession might cause them to re-evaluate how often they make the pilgrimage to the ballpark.

Selig seems to understand that, even if most others in baseball don't. He saw that baseball attendance declined last year for the first time in four years as fans stayed home because of high gasoline and ticket prices. He couldn't have helped but notice that the World Series was the lowest rated ever on television.

The fact that Selig felt it necessary to warn general managers about the fragile state of the economy just as they start drawing up their free-agent wish lists was more than just significant, especially since any attempts to reduce spending could be viewed as collusion by the players' union.

Selig worries, but the union doesn't have to. There will be offers aplenty for the top tier of free agents, enough for Burnett to get a nice raise out of his current deal and more than enough for Sabathia to get an even bigger deal than the six-year, $137 million pact signed last year by Johan Santana.

Boras didn't seem too worried, either, talking Wednesday about how baseball revenues have doubled in the last seven years and that the franchises that have increased their wealth are because of long-term TV contracts and marketing deals.

It's true that baseball has a financial security blanket of sorts, at least in the near future, because of long-term TV contracts and guaranteed contracts for major league players. But is that enough to justify being reckless by offering the biggest guaranteed contracts in American sports at a time when the economic future is so uncertain?

Ultimately, there's a call only team owners can make. So far most of them have gotten even richer than they were before getting into the baseball business, so they either know that they're doing or simply bought at the right time.

Still, there's little doubt that the risky business of signing free agents has now gotten even more risky. Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlber@ap.org.
at the Berlin Olympics, and in the bargain exposed the claims of white superiority as a lie.

It would be nice to recall Owens being interviewed on his return home, but it would also be untrue. More than a decade passed before any black were accorded similar opportunities in sports. Cal Poly had to do without a living athlete who had nothing to do with his color — unless you count the 75 years during which he spent a few years running track races against horses at county fair.

But at Owens’ funeral in April 1980, activist Dick Gregory told a story about the impact the man had on his life and, indirectly, on more than a few others.

It began with Gregory remembering him, as a younger, “would run through his black neighborhood and adjoining white areas on his way to school, and how, after Owens’ agi-tation, he could run the entire route for the first time with his head held high.”

“We black kids would look out the window and see me running to the streetcar and call me Jesse Owens,” Gregory said. “Jesse created an atmosphere that gave a lot of white folks, who never thought about calling us black folks anything other than ‘nigger’, a word they could handle that was respectable and nice.”

By the time of Owens’ passing, sport was a different place. Robinson’s major league exploits and the rise of black athletes professionalized long since forced owners to acknowledge a shameful past and integrate teams in every sport Ali’s principled defiance taught everyone there was no running back to the old ways. Then came Jordan, so clutch that moving against him was a waste of time, and showed enough as a pitchman to demand a share of the profits from the best-selling brand he built along the way.

There were too many others, before and since, in the evolution of the greater sporting public to call any list comprehensive. But there’s no question who occupies the top spot. To decide for yourself whether Woods’ crossover appeal is considerable enough to have smoothed over a few of the bumps in Obama’s path, read the Golf Digest article.

This is how it ends:

“Here’s the big difference so far: Woods has achieved truly great things in his field, while Obama has yet to. But I’m convinced, for reasons mostly visceral but nonetheless real, Woods has helped people believe that Obama will.”

I was standing on the lawn behind the clubhouse: it was the Masters on that Sunday morning in 1997, when Woods made people begin to believe. Past champions, current players, Augusta National members and assorted captains of industry — nearly all of them white — stood mesmerized, elbow to elbow in the shade of a great live oak along the first tee.

At the last moment, the line was extended by a half-dozen or so clubhouse and kitchen attendants — nearly all of them black — carrying their jackets and aprons. A Wood’s shot recorded in the distance, everyone exhaled and began clapping Woods as if he were one of their own.

Considering the challenges the new president is about to face, that’s not a bad place to start. Woods had said that the Mustangs would be fine in his first season against Sun Belt Conference foes. It’s one of 15 home contests for the Mustangs — three more than last year.

Bromley said he’s pleased with how the schedule turned out, especially in the latter part of the season, where Cal Poly will host six games in a row before the conference tournament.

“This is just the beginning,” Bromley said. “You need momentum, and you need to be playing well going into the conference tournament. If you can get a top-four seed, you’ve got a very good chance of playing in the NCAA Tournament.”

After being picked to finish no higher than 15th in the Big West Conference-leading Mustangs (10-4-3, 5-2-3), who could’ve clinched the conference’s regular-season title with a win, visit UCLA at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Cal Poly senior goalkeeper Eric Brunagan-Franco made five saves, more than any of his Guangzhou counterparts, Christopher Minton.

Mustang forward David Zamora took a team-high four shots — two of which were on goal. Although play was momentarily stopped due to two men who stroked as the pitch, there weren’t any widespread riotous actions taken at the latest installment of the rivalry.

Lelia LaRue, right, shows her 112-year-old father, George Francis, The Sacramento Bee on Wednesday, the morning after Obama was elected.

"My sophomore year they picked us to finish seventh and we ended second in the conference. We were considered one of the top teams after winning the conference and we lost in the last couple numbers of the vote against the conference championship game," Clark recalled.

Bromley expects the memories of climate change and Obama and Shelton to keep the team from falling into a state of complacency.

"It starts with our seniors," he said. "They've all had some great experiences. They've played deep into the conference tournament. They've played in a championship game, so I think there's added re-sence and motivation."

But as just two years ago they defied expectations, last season they failed to meet them. Picked to finish second, the Mustangs finished sixth.

"It was like adding fuel to a fire," Clark said of the recently released preseason polls. "But most of the conference can't say they've had any bad year. It's nothing but a number to us. The returners have a different attitude this year. Everybody is just thankful to be good. Nobody wants that feeling again."

Bromley likened the sixth-place prediction to "being picked last at a gym pickup game" and said that the Mustangs would be more motivated because of it.

Shelton agreed and said he was ready to get back on the court to prove the naysayers wrong.

"There's always motivation when you don't have respect for your team," he said. "Shelton said. "But coach says that respect is earned, and we're looking to earn that respect."
Heading into last season, the Cal Poly men's basketball team was filled with hope and promise. After a lackluster regular season and a humbling first-round exit in the Big West Conference Tournament, the Mustangs were forced to go back to the drawing board.

Eight months later, many of the players still feel the sting. "We have a bad taste in our mouth from last year," Mustangs senior power forward John Manley said. "We weren't happy."

Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley wasn't, either. But a different diagram from past years, one that will rely heavily on team speed and guard play, now has Bromley thinking the Mustangs can compete for a Big West championship.

"Guard play is the key, because guards can control the tempo," he said. "They can push it, they can slow it up. They can break you down on penetration."

Bromley was quick to note that with offseason improvements made by senior point guards Trae Clark and Chaz Thomas, and the emergence of shooting guard Lorenzo Keeler as a primary scoring threat, Cal Poly has the backcourt necessary to compete in the conference.

"I think we have really good guard play," Bromley said. "I see that with my two seniors. I think Lorenzo has really improved his game over the summer. It's like having three really good quarterbacks. With good guard play, I think you're always in the hunt."

Clark and Keeler both averaged a team-high 10.3 points per game last year for the Mustangs, who finished 12-18 overall and 5-9 in the Big West.

The guards aren't the only ones expected to be quick this season.

Forward Titus Shelton slimmed down over the summer and is expected to be a major contributor in the up-tempo offense.

"Offensively, he is quicker to the ball," Bromley said. "He's better off penetration now. He's got a little bit of drive game. Titus is going to be hard for big men to keep in front of themselves."

Bromley said that Shelton, who was the conference's defensive player of the year two years ago, could be even better defensively.

"He's going to be quicker to the ball, quicker to jump," Bromley said. "Quicker to get up on the glass and fight around the post, being a good team defender."

Shelton, who has lost more than 30 pounds since beginning his Cal Poly career, noticed the results immediately upon returning from his summer-long workout regimen in Arizona.

"It helps offensively and defensively," Shelton said. "I've already seen the improvements as far as defensive rebounding and blocking shots. And offensively, it's pretty easy to see the difference in my quickness."

Cal Poly will need Shelton to stay on the court this year after several key cogs departed from the Mustangs frontcourt.

"We have a bad taste in our mouth from last year," Mustangs senior power forward John Manley said. "We weren't happy."

Yet sports were one reason the civil-rights movement, which played out in a way that was less in this presidential season. It's far from the biggest reason Barack Obama was swept to the threshhold of the White House late Tuesday night. The civil-rights movement, marked by several key cogs departed from the Mustangs frontcourt.

"We have a bad taste in our mouth from last year," Mustangs senior power forward John Manley said. "We weren't happy."

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