Two deaths, two days

Deceased freshman remembered by students and community members

Rachel Glas and Marlize van Romburgh

Approximately 300 students and community members attended a candlelight vigil last night in honor of the life of Carson Starkey, the architectural engineering freshman who died Tuesday morning after attending a Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) party the previous night.

The event was organized by the brothers of SAE. Starkey's family from Texas was in attendance.

Before the start of the vigil, crowds of people, many wearing greek letters, gathered in the University Union. They huddled in small groups, talking amongst themselves, some quietly wiping away tears.

Some wrote notes to Starkey and his family on a memorial panel set up nearby that will be given to his parents.

Interfraternity council interim advisor Stephen Lamb began the vigil by asking for a see Starkey, page 3

Sophomore dead after being found unresponsive in dorm

Giana Magnoli

An electrical engineering sophomore passed away Thursday morning after being found unresponsive in the Poly Canyon Village on-campus apartments.

Favian Mora, 19, planned to graduate Cal Poly in 2011 and was a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. He graduated from Andrew P. Hill High School in San Jose, Calif, in 2007.

Mora was found by his roommate, civil engineering sophomore Zack Holtz.

"I had gotten out of bed at 7 a.m. and heard Favian's multiple tiers of alarm clocks buzzing from inside his room, so I figured I'd go wake him up," Holtz wrote in an e-mail. "He wouldn't wake, so I rushed to the (resident adviser) who then called the police."

"It's weird. You don't expect to wake up finding one of your best friends lying there in that state. No one should have to experience that."

An autopsy was conducted Thursday, but the official results will have to wait for more test results and a toxicology screen, said Rob Bryn, San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department public information officer. The results will probably take at least two weeks, he said.

There is an investigation into Mora's death, but so far, the death seems to be see Mora, page 3

Carmakers' bailout pleas hit Senate skepticism

Julie Hirschfeld Davis

WASHINGTON — Desperate U.S. automakers ran into fresh obstacles from skeptical lawmakers Thursday as they appealed with rising urgency — and a new dose of humility for a $34 billion bailout. Without help, said one senator, "we're looking at a death sentence."

With lawmakers in both parties pressing the automakers to consider a pre-negotiated bankruptcy, something they have consistently shunned, the Big Three were contemplating a government-run restructuring that could yield results similar to bankruptcy, including massive downsizing, in return for the bailout billions. But there was no assurance they could get even that.

And that wasn't all the unwelcome news. Congressional officials said one leading proposal to tap an already approved fund set aside for making cars environmentally efficient, wouldn't give the carmakers nearly as much money as they say they need.

The auto executives pleaded with lawmakers at a contentious Capitol Hill hearing, their second round in less than a month, for emergency aid before year's end. But with time running out on the current Congress, skepticism about the bailout appeared to be as strong as ever.

"In all due respect, folks, I don't think there's faith that the next three months will work out, given the past history," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y.

"No thinking person thinks that all three companies can see Bailout, page 2
Auto executives, from left, General Motors Chief Executive Officer Richard Wagoner, UAW President Ron Gettelfinger, Ford Chief Executive Officer Alan Mulally, and Chrysler Chief Executive Officer Robert Nardelli testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, before a Senate Banking Committee hearing on the auto industry bailout.

The Bush administration wants the aid to be drawn from an existing $25 billion program to help the industry retool its plants to make their vehicles more fuel-efficient.

But congressional budget analysts have privately told top Democrats that would yield only $10 billion to $15 billion in short-term loans. Congressional officials described that finding only on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose it.

The auto executives made the trip from Detroit in new-model hybrid autos made by their respective companies, two weeks after a first appeal for $25 billion in which they were chided for flying on private jets to beg for money.

Chrysler CEO Bob Nardelli promised that his company, which led a second bailout plea, would go forward with a plan that did not include retirement of workers or the closing of plants to make their vehicles more fuel-efficient.

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Bailout

recipient of a previous government-subsidized rescue loan in the 1970s that the bailout, said would reimburse Chrysler in years 2011 and 2012.

Dodd asked whether the carmakers could commit to a plan to transform the companies. "Would you commit to a plan to transform the company to the extent that people would want to buy a Chrysler product?"

Dodd added that he didn't think the companies could do so. "These are not new compa-
A wounded Iraqi policeman is brought to a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday. At least 17 people, including 11 civilians, were killed in the deadliest attack in Baghdad in nearly five years. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

Iraq OKs security pact; attacks kill 17

Iraq's three-member presidential council signed off on the pact Thursday, removing the last legal barrier so that the agreement can take effect Jan. 1. It also requires American soldiers to leave the cities by the end of June and depart the country by the end of 2011.

Approval by the presidential council came one week after parliament signed off on the agreement, which was hammered out during months of tough negotiations that at times seemed on the point of collapse.

President Bush called Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and President Jalal Talabani to thank them for their work on the pact, the White House said.

But the latest bombings underscored the fragility of Iraq's recent security gains, adding new urgency to U.S. efforts to train and equip an Iraqi security force capable of maintaining order after American troops have gone home.

The two Americans were killed when a suicide driver detonated an explosive-laden car near an Iraqi checkpoint in the northern city of Mosul, military spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Doherty said. Iraq police said eight people were wounded, most of them civilians.

In Fallujah, once the symbol of Sunni Arab resistance to the U.S. occupation, truck bombers struck within minutes of each other outside the concrete barriers surrounding two police stations in different parts of the city, killing 15 people, wounding more than 100 and shattering nearby buildings, police and hospital officials said.

An al-Qaida front group, the Islamic State of Iraq, purportedly claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on a militant Web site.

The thunderous blasts could be heard across the city of about 400,000 and sent giant plumes of black smoke rising over the dust-brown buildings.

"I was drinking tea in my house when a big explosion took place. It was like an earthquake," said Saad Ibrahim, a 34-year-old mechanic who lives near one of the police stations. "I could hear the cry of a child trapped in a house. ... We tried to help him, but the police and firefighters arrived and asked us to leave the area."

Local authorities announced a curfew and closed all exits and entrances to the city. Police said the blasts were so huge that investigators could not find the chassis or the engines of the two trucks used in the attacks.

"It looks like the trucks evaporated," a senior police official told The Associated Press.

All the police and hospital officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information.

Northeast of Baghdad, a bomb left on a parked motorcycle exploded near a restaurant in Baqouba, another one-time Sunni militant stronghold, killing three people and wounding 10, according to police at the security headquarters for the surrounding Diyala province.

U.S. commanders say attacks are down 80 percent nationwide since last March but that al-Qaida and other militants remain capable of staging limited but high-profile attacks.

The bombings in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad in Anbar province, were significant because they show the resilience of insurgents that has suffered severe setbacks over the past two years as many Sunnis turned against al-Qaida and other religious extremists.

Fallujah was effectively the headquarters of the Sunni insurgency until U.S. troops seized control of the city in November 2004 after the fiercest fighting of the Iraq war.

In the aftermath, U.S. and Iraqi authorities imposed stringent security measures, scaling off the city with checkpoints, restricting vehicle movements and requiring residents to enter and leave only after submitting to strict searches.

However, security responsibility in Anbar province was turned over to the Iraqis last September. Since then, residents said restrictions had been relaxed and people were allowed to enter the city without showing special resident identification cards.

Decisions on easing security are going to be left increasingly to Iraqis under the security agreement that replaces a U.N. mandate giving the U.S.-led coalition sweeping powers to conduct military operations.
3 U.S. residents killed in Ciudad Juarez in 3 weeks

Abigail Arredondo of the Border Network for Human Rights works to remove a memorial cross from the fence which runs along the U.S.-Mexico border Wednesday in El Paso, Texas.

Alicia A. Caldwell
ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least three U.S. residents have been killed in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, in as many weeks as the death toll in the violent border city surpasses 1,400.

The latest victim, a 32-year-old American woman, was shot several times Tuesday as she stood in front of a Juarez home, Mexican police said. The woman was taken across the border back into El Paso, where she died in a hospital.

The woman lived in the neighborhood known as "Cantera," where she worked at a day care center.

She is the latest of at least three U.S. residents killed in the border city in as many weeks.

Her killing comes as the death toll in Ciudad Juarez surpasses 1,400 people this year. The city is in a gang warfare that has killed more than 1,400 people this year.

Warring cartels have been fighting for control of the city's lucrative drug trade and human smuggling trade.

The latest victim was working at a day care center for children who have deceased parents. The center is located near a police station and is a popular target for gang violence.

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**State**

**SACRAMENTO (AP) —** Voters have approved an initiative backed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to create a bipartisan commission to redraw California's legislative districts.

**Secretary of State Debra Bowen's office is reporting that Proposition 11 has a lead of nearly 200,000 votes after counties certified their election results this week. Schwarzenegger has sought to change the way California's heavily gerrymandered legislative and congressional districts are drawn since he took office in 2003, but two previous attempts failed.

**The governor raised millions for this year's measure, and claimed victory on Nov. 5 despite the close race. Bowen's office reports Thurman supporters had 3.9 million votes to 3.76 million for opponents. Bowen is scheduled to certify the results on Dec. 13.

**SAN DIEGO (AP) —** The teenage son of former California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and three other men pleaded not guilty Thursday to murder in the stabbing death of a college student at a prosecutors' shower. Thurman supporters had 3.9 million votes to 3.76 million for opponents.

**Bowen is scheduled to certify the results on Dec. 13.**

**Top administration should take pay cuts because it would be a more responsible use of money.**

*Tom Rose, civil engineering senior*

"Yes, because Baker gets a check to help pay for his housing and his salary has at least doubled."

*Clay Glaspey, industrial engineering senior*

"Yes, because I think they make more than enough money and there is not much competition at that level so pay isn't competitive. The primary focus of college is education."

*William Dornbait, mechanical engineering junior*

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**State**

**ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)** — A woman is suing a Pennsylvania sports bar and restaurant, saying the got stuck inside a toilet bowl for 20 minutes after the seat broke.

**Kathleen Hevko of DeKalb Township, N.J., says she was in the bathroom at Starters Pub near Allentown when the handicapped toilet seat she was sitting on crashed and damped into the bowl.**

Hevko says in her lawsuit filed in federal court in November that she had hip surgery prior to the Nov. 19, 2006, incident and was re-injured when the seat broke.

The lawsuit names Starters and Robert Conlin, the company that made the toilet seat. Representatives from both companies said they'd heard of the problem.

**DALLAS (AP) —** President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush have bought a home among business leaders and prominent Republican donors in an affluent North Dallas neighborhood, where they will live after the president leaves office in January.

**Laura Bush's press secretary, Sally McDougal, said Thursday that the Bushes purchased a home in the Preston Hollow area, where some of the state's wealthiest residents live in some of its most expensive houses,**

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**International**

**HEBREX, West Bank (AP) —** Israeli soldiers and police stormed a biblical city of Hebron on Thursday, dragging out 250 young settlers in a raid meant to send a warning to Jewish extremists fighting to keep what they see as God-promised land.

But activists responded with a wave of attacks on Israeli forces and Palestinians in the West Bank, even as Israeli politicians and some settler leaders denounced them.

**UNITED NATIONS (AP) —** Countries around the world are looking to Barack Obama for leadership in reaching a global climate pact. The president-elect is expected to be able to single-handedly deliver a final agreement, a senior U.N. official said.

Robert Orr, assistant secretary-general for policy coordination and strategic planning, said the president-elect's comments on the need to address climate change are "a lot of hope," particularly at a time when some governments are talking about delaying enforcement of carbon emissions partly because of the economic crisis.

"The fact that the United States seems to be visibly moving in the other direction is a very hopeful sign for the negotiations," Orr told a news conference.

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**Clintom scrambles to reduce campaign debt**

Beth Fouhy

**Associated Press**

With just weeks before President-elect Barack Obama is sworn in, an incoming secretary of state. Hillary Rodham Clinton, is scrambling to reduce massive campaign debt before federal ethics rules prohibit her from doing so.

Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, will headline a major debt retirement event in New York Dec. 15 with "Ugly Bet­ ty" star America Ferrera as master of ceremonies. Tickets range from $50 to $1,000, with top donors earning a premium seat and a backstage photo with the former first lady.

Clinton also plans to tell a chil­ dren's book, titled "Dreams Taking Flight" by author Kathleen Krull, about her pioneering candidacy. Clinton's mother, Dorothy Rodham, planned to send an e-mail to sup­ porters later this week asking them to purchase the book to help raise funds to pay down Clinton's debt.

On Tuesday, a day after Obama announced she would serve as his top diplomat, Bill Clinton agreed to send an e-mail to supporters asking them to send a note of congratulations to his wife and including a link for con­ tributing to her debt retirement.

The urgency is rooted in the size of the New York senator's unpaid bills and the fundraising restrictions she will face once she joins Obama's cabinet.

At the beginning of November, she told Sheila Knott, one of her donors from her failed presidential bid, according to campaign finance re­ cords. The largest share of the debt — about $5.3 million — is owed to the polling firm of Mark Penn, the Clinton campaign's political strategist. She owes hundreds of thou­ sands of dollars for printing, equip­ ment rental, phone banks and other services.

Clinton has slowly been trimming the debt since suspending her campaign last June, partly with Obama's help. But her fundraising efforts will be curtailed if she is confirmed as secretary of state and becomes cov­ ered by the Hatch Act, which regu­ lates political involvement by federal employees.

A 2001 advisory opinion by the federal Office of Special Counsel said a federal employee with a campaign debt would be prohibited from "personally soliciting, accepting or receiving political contributions." That means Clinton's political com­ mittee could keep raising money to pay off her creditors, but without her direct involvement.

The lack of access to Clinton could pose a dis­ advantage for donors, said a top diplomat. Bill Clinton signed an advisory opinion by the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks political donations. People were checking to get into the room with a candidate or government official. If she's legally barred from fundraising, the No. 1 reason for giving has been removed," Krumholz said. "It's like attending a wedding and the bride isn't there."

The advisory opinion does al­ low the former candidate to appear briefly at fundraising events and thank donors. That restriction could hurt Clinton well, according to some of her top bundlers who say neither she nor her husband has ever been good at asking for donations.

But none of the Hatch Act rules apply until Clinton is confirmed, so there's an opportunity for Clinton to re­ gain some face time with the incoming secretary of state.

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**Niu Daily News**

Friday, December 5, 2008

**Briefs**

**National**

"Do you think Cal Poly's top administrators should take pay cuts due to the economic recession?"

"The idea should be looked upon. If students are struggling they should find different alterna­ tives and pay cuts should be one of them." - Ryan Showell, agricultural business senior

**"Yes, because Baker gets a check to help pay for his housing and his salary has at least doubled." - Clay Glaspey, industrial engineering senior**

**"Top administration should take pay cuts because it would be a more responsible use of money." - Tom Rose, civil engineering senior**

We also carry the Vectrix All-Electric Scooter, symolm, and Hayne's scooters and motorcycles. Renew 150 Back in stores coupons with any new scooter or motorcycle purchase.
Democrats want a more assertive Obama

An Obama official said the Bush administration reached out to the transition team about tapping into the money. The official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks, said Obama's transition team urged the administration to talk to bipartisan congressional leaders and assemble a meeting between the White House and Congress. The official said the Obama team offered to participate in a bipartisan meeting if it would be helpful.

Earlier this week, Obama was asked whether he would need to step up his economic message and do more to shore up the troubled financial sector and co-author of the study. Nicholas Christakis, a professor of professional leaders and assemble a meeting about whom I am very enthusiastic, is when he talks about being the senator, said Nov. 21 in Hartford, Conn. "In the minds of the carmakers, the financial sector or to take it from a previously approved loan aimed at manufacturing more energy-efficient cars. 'I think it's premature to get into that issue,' Obama said at the conference. "Presidents-elect typically spend the transition period assembling their cabinets, their White House staff and preparing to take the reins of power. But this transition is occurring at an extraordinary time, with bad economic news mounting by the day and one of the country's major industries begging for a hand to keep from collapsing."

This is the kind of emotional contagion we observed," he said. "When you're smiling, the whole world seems happier, and it makes people feel better about themselves. It also turns out misery don't spread more consistently than unhappiness. But that doesn't mean you should drop your gloomy friends. Having grumpy friends decreases it by about 7 percent."

"Every friend increases the probability that you're at the center of a happy community than unhappiness. But that doesn't mean you should drop your gloomy friends. Happiness is good for up to a year. "We examined one of the most public images of any president-elect. He has held half a dozen press conferences, where he has entertained question after question about the economy, the mortgage crisis, and the failing auto industry, but he has mercilessly avoided dictating policy or pressing members of Congress to embrace specific remedies."

Frank said the Obama team has to step up. Sen. Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and one of the lead negotiators, said Nov. 21 in Hartford, Conn. "In the minds of the people, this is the Obama administration. I don't think we can wait until January 20."

Two days later, Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, a point man in helping his state's main industry, called on Obama to help resolve the dispute over money for the auto loan package. "It would be very helpful if the president-elect would become more involved in resolving the issues over the source of the funds," he said. "I want him to offer his assistance. He is a person who can really bring people together."

Frank, shuttled and wozked, also poked fun at Obama's call for a "post-partisan" governing environment in Washington. Frank predicted that regulatory legislation aimed at preventing abuses related to subprime mortgages and credit card fraud — much better chance next year, when Democrats have greater majorities in the House and Senate.

"It is a great mistake to assume that parties are irrelevant to this process," said. "My one difference with the president-elect, about whom I am very enthusiastic, is when he talks about being post-partisan," Frank said.

End of Text
Jennifer Titcomb

MUSTANG DAILY

"Bundle up in your scarves and mittens and make your hot cocoa, because the holiday season is here. Look no further than the Cal Poly campus for a little holiday spirit. The December event line up will help add merriness to your Christmas season."

1. Poinsettia Sale
Cal Poly's annual poinsettia sale runs until the end of the quarter. It features over 2,500 plants. Students of the Poinsettia Agricultural Enterprise Project started growing the plants in spring and sell them for the holidays at the Poly Plant Shop. They are also available at the Campus Markets.

"We have some really fun unique varieties that can't be found in stores — we have oranges and pinks as well as the classic reds and whites everybody enjoys," said environmental horticulture senior Lisa Segler. Prices range from $6 to $60 and sizes range from 4-inch pots to poinsettias as tall as four feet.

The plant shop will be open every day except Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Poly Plant Shop open house is Dec. 5. "They're showcasing holiday plants and other Cal Poly products like honey to support the Ag department," Segler said.

2. A Modern Gospel Christmas
House of Prayer Church is hosting their 11th annual Christmas Gospel concert. The concert will feature House of Prayer Church's gospel choir and a six-piece band.

"It's like no other event that is happening on the Central Coast in that we mix gospel songs and some Christmas carols there is just something heart warming about it." said Kevin Ciridiron, music director of Cal Poly's Barbershop Quartets. The performance will feature 70 dancers all from the San Luis Obispo area. Their ages range from 4 to 84, London said.

3. Cal Poly Choirs Christmas Celebration
The Cal Poly Choirs will be performing their annual Christmas Celebration Dec. 6. The University Singers, PolyPhonics and the Early Music Ensemble will be accompanied by the Cal Poly Brass Ensemble. A Capella group Take It SLO and Cal Poly's Barbershop Quartets will also perform.

Cal Poly composer Meredith Brammier will debut a new song "A Christmas Lullaby" performed by the Poly-Phonics. The show is Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. in Harmon Hall of the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center. Student tickets are $10 and general are $17 and $20.

4. The 12 Days of Christmas
Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo will be presenting their performance of 'The 12 Days of Christmas' Dec. 6-7.

"This is the fifth year that we are doing the production. It is a full length holiday production; it includes 'Winter Con certo' and 'Le Patineurs,' which is a ballet within a ballet and 'The 12 days of Christmas.' It is all told through dance," said Blair Lunden, assistant director of Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo.

5. The Joyous Sounds of Christmas
The Vocal Arts Ensemble will be presenting 'The Joyous Sounds of Christmas' Sunday Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center. The choir will sing traditional carols as well as Christmas songs from around the world.

6. The Nutcracker
The Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo will be presenting 'The Nutcracker' at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center. The ballet has been performed in San Luis Obispo for over 30 years. The performances are Saturdays, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets range from $25 to $41.

7. Forbes Pipe Organ Holiday Concert and Sing-Along
The Vocal Arts Ensemble, Central Coast Children's Choir and University organist Paul Woodring will perform at the second annual event. The concert is interactive and all audience members are invited to participate. "People actually have the opportunity to stand up and sing along to carols and tunes they are familiar with and kind of help celebrate the holiday season," said Melody Kleinman of the Performing Arts Center. "From experiencing last year it really is a remarkable feeling and sound when you are sitting there singing along with roughly a thousand other people to Christmas carols there is just something heart warming about it."

The performance will be held Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3 p.m. at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $12 and proceeds will benefit the Performing Arts Center's Youth Outreach program and the two community choirs participating.
New J.K. Rowling book goes on sale around the world

Ben McConville   ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDINBURGH, Scotland — The latest magical tome by J.K. Rowling has started to fly off bookstore shelves.

Rowling launched "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" on Thursday with a tea party for 200 schoolchildren at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh, where she lives.

The author is donating royalties from the book to a charity, which hopes it will raise millions to help vulnerable children.

Recession-hit booksellers hope the book — a collection of five fables mentioned in Rowling's saga about boy wizard Harry Potter — will give them a festive boost.

"We expect it to come straight in at No. 1 and is very likely to be our No. 1 book this Christmas," said Jon Howells of Britain's Waterstone's book store chain. "It's in with a fighting chance of being the best-selling book of the year, even though there are only a few weeks to go.

"This is J.K. Rowling. None of the usual rules apply," he said.

"Beedle the Bard" is being published Thursday in more than 20 countries, with a global print run of almost 8 million. But it's generating only a fraction of the fanfare that greeted the Potter novels.

"The Tales of Beedle the Bard" is a collection of five fables mentioned in Rowling's saga about boy wizard Harry Potter. The book is published on behalf of the charity by Harry Potter's traditional publishers — Scholastic in North America and Bloomsbury elsewhere.

Rowling, whose Harry Potter books have sold more than 400 million copies and been translated into 67 languages, wrote the Beedle tales after finishing "Deathly Hallows" last year.

One of the stories, "The Tale Of The Three Brothers," is recounted in "Deathly Hallows," in which the storybook helps Harry and his friends defeat evil Lord Voldemort.

Rowling has described "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" as a distillation of the themes found in the Harry Potter books, calling it her goodbye to a world she lived in for 17 years.

The book was initially produced last year in an edition of seven handwritten copies. Six were given away by Rowling as gifts, and one was bought by Internet retailer Amazon at an auction for almost 2 million pounds ($3 million).

Rowling told the schoolchildren at the launch that she published the book after complaints from fans that only someone who had 2 million pounds could afford to read the book.

"There was quite a lot of high feeling from Harry Potter fans that only someone who had 2 million pounds could afford to read the book," she said. "I thought: 'fair point,' so I thought I'll publish it and then the charity can have that money too.'

Rowling read a passage from the tales to her young audience, which was given free copies of the book.

Amazon is printing 100,000 copies of a leather-bound collector's edition priced at 50 pounds, or €100 in the United States.

David Cheekin   ASSOCIATED PRESS

Author J.K. Rowling reads to around 200 schoolchildren at a tea party in the Parliament Hall Edinburgh Thursday Dec. 4, 2008, where she read passages from her new book "The Tales of Beedle the Bard".

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Roman Polanski requests dismissal of sex charge

Linda Deutsch
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Lawyers for film director Roman Polanski, a fugitive in France for 30 years in a notorious California sex case, filed a request Tuesday to dismiss the charge against him due to procedural and judicial misconduct.

The motion alleges that a documentary film about Polanski released earlier this year revealed "a pattern of misconduct and improper communications" between the district attorney's office and the judge in Polanski's case.

"This case serves as a classic example of how our justice system can be abused, and defendants' rights trampled, by an unholy alliance between courts and criminal prosecutors," said a statement from attorneys Chad Hummel and Brad Dalton. Dalton is the son of attorney Doug Dalton, who represented Polanski in the original case.

Poland-born Polanski, 75, has been living in self-imposed exile from the United States since 1978.

Folk music, civil rights legend Odetta dies at 77

Polly Anderson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Odetta's monumental voice rang out in August 1963 when she sang "I'm on My Way" at the historic March on Washington, where Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

She had hoped to perform again in Washington next month when Barack Obama is inaugurated as the nation's first black president. But the acclaimed folk singer, who influenced generations of musicians and was an icon in the civil rights struggle, died Tuesday after battling heart disease. She was 77.

In spite of failing health, Odetta performed 60 concerts in the last two years, and her singing ability never diminished, manager Doug Yager said.

"The power would just come out of her like people wouldn't believe," he said.

She was admitted to Lenox Hill Hospital with kidney failure about three weeks ago, Yager said in confirming her death.

With her classically trained voice and spare guitar, Odetta gave life to the songs by songwriters and farmers, housewives and washerwomen, blacks and whites.

First coming to prominence in the 1950s, she influenced Harry Belafonte, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan and other superstars of the folk music boom.

An Odetta record on the turntable, listeners could close their eyes and imagine themselves hearing the sounds of spirituals and blues as they rang out from a weathered back porch or around a long-vanished campfire a century before.

"What distinguished her from the start was the meticulous care with which she tried to re-create the feeling of folk songs to understand the emotions of a convict in a convict ditty, she once tried breaking up rocks with a sledge hammer," Time magazine wrote in 1960.

"She is a keening Irishwoman in 'Foggy Dew,' a chain-gang convict in 'Take This Hammer,' a deserted lover in 'Lass from the Low Country,'" Time wrote.

Odetta called on her fellow blacks to "take pride in the history of the American Negro." When she sang "Ode to Martin" at the March on Washington — along with Baez, Dylan, Josh White and Peter, Paul and Mary — "Odetta's great, full-throated voice carried almost to Capitol Hill," The New York Times said.

"I'm not a real folk singer," she told The Washington Post in 1963. "I don't mind people calling me that but I'm a musical historian. I'm a city kid who has adored an area and who got into it. I've been fortunate. With folk music, I can do my teaching and preaching, my propagandizing."

While she hoped to sing at Obama's inauguration, she had not been officially invited, Yager said. Her last big concert was on Oct. 4 at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, where she performed in front of tens of thousands at the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festival. She also performed Oct. 25-26 in Toronto.

In 1999, she was honored with a National Medal of the Arts. Then-President Bill Clinton said her career showed "in all that songs have the power to change the heart and change the world."
fleeing in 1978 after pleading guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old model in Los Angeles.

Polanski was initially indicted on six felony counts and faced up to life in prison. Instead, he pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor and five other counts were dismissed.

Polanski, who had already been incarcerated for a psychological diagnosis, skipped sentencing that would have sent him back to prison and fled to France, a psychological diagnosis, skipped sentencing that would have sent him back to prison and fled to France.

The judge issued a warrant for his arrest that is still in effect. The maximum sentence was 50 years, although prosecutors had said at the time that the typical sentence was 16 months to three years in prison.

Sandi Gribbons, spokeswoman for District Attorney Steve Cooley, said her office had not been served with the motion and only heard about it through media reports. She said the office could not take a position until prosecutors see the legal papers.

"We're looking forward to seeing Mr. Polanski in Los Angeles to litigate it," she said.

A hearing on the matter is scheduled for Jan. 21 in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Polanski, famed as the director of "Chinatown" and "Rosemary's Baby," has continued to direct films in the wake of an HBO documentary, "Roman Polanski: The Pianist," for which he won an Oscar in 2003.

The documentary also portrayed the late Superior Court Judge Laurence J. Rittenband as a publicity hound who held press conferences and engaged in extra-judicial meetings about the case.

Anthony McCartney
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Jurors deciding the fate of Oscars awarded to silent film star Mary Pickford were treated during the trial's opening Wednesday to a taste of Hollywood, complete with props, fancy visuals and a little intrigue.

Pickford was part of early Hollywood's royalty and a founding member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which presented her two Oscars over her lifetime.

Heirs of a woman married to Pickford's third husband, actor and band leader Buddy Rogers, hope to sell a statuette given to the actress in 1930 for her role in "Coquette." They claim their mother, Beverly Rogers, wanted the Oscar sold and the money donated to charity.

They also claim they are not bound to Academy restrictions barring the sale of honorary Oscars awarded later to Pickford and Rogers.

But the Academy has sued to stop any sale, claiming that Pickford agreed to rules allowing the organization to purchase the award back for $10. They say they are trying to protect their most important symbol.

Just in case anyone needed a reminder what that is. Academy lawyers had placed a pair of Oscar statuettes on a table, the little gold men directly facing the jury box.

To explain the case — and Pickford's importance to a jury comprised mostly of people too young to remember her work — Wednesday's opening statements featured a lengthy biography of the actress known as "America's Sweetheart."

Before her marriage to Rogers, Pickford was the wife of Douglas Fairbanks, an influential actor, director and producer.

Academy attorney Chris Tayback likened the pair to a contemporary power couple. "They were comparable to Brad and Angelina Jolie," Tayback said.

To help jurors follow the story of Pickford's life and the journey of her Oscars, Tayback displayed photos of the actress, document images complete with highlighted passages and even a timeline onto a large screen near jurors. He also played the complete presentation of an honorary Oscar given to Pickford in 1976 in her lavish Beverly Hills home, which was a wedding gift from Fairbanks.

It was that award — and a signature attributed to Pickford on a document agreeing not to sell any of her Oscars — that the Academy claims gives it the right to block any sale.

Attorneys for Rogers' heirs said Wednesday that they will introduce testimony casting doubt on whether Pickford actually signed that agreement, and contend that Rogers' heirs aren't bound to it anyway because they're not heirs to Pickford's estate.

Besides, attorney Mark Pasin told jurors, the agreement was signed after the 1976 Oscar was given to Pickford. "She already owned the statuette," he said, adding his contention that made the agreement "unenforceable."

Pasin said Pickford would have likely approved of selling her "Best Actress" Oscar and donating the proceeds to charity.

But just as in most of her movies, Pickford was silent on the Oscars' fate.

"No one knows what Mary Pickford would have wanted," Pasin said.

The trial is expected to conclude next week.
**EDITORIAL**

**Why I can’t be a Demo­crat**

The fundamental difference between liberals and conserva­

*Why I can’t be a Demo­

crat. Heck, I can hardly stand being a Republican. There is a
derstinate. Both liberalism and conserva­tion de­fense­ful­ness and a
liberalism often attacks itself as well.

I am a conservative libertarian because I believe that I must
stand as an individual, and that I have the right to spend the rewards of the
merit and enterprise and my values direct. I fear liberalism be­
caus because I perceive it as saying that I don’t matter — that only other

people matter, and that I should be grateful to be a pawn in someone else’s wonderful plan for
my life. I fear that liberal­ism attempts to take away my adult­hood and make me a per­fected
world of the state.

Conservatism is bad when its practitioners have bad values. Liberal­ism is bad when its practi­cers have bad values. They are only modus oper­antes, and cannot correct the darkness of the heart.

Neither can offer any sort of guarantee. However, I choose conversa­tive libertarianism be­cause it treats me like an indi­

vidual and an adult. I want to make a living by helping others

become self-reliant adults as well. Liberals talk about fixing problems with solutions and understand­ing, but when a prob­lem surfaces most liberals say that people should be taking care of them­selves instead of doing whatever the experts claim is best. I want to improve the world by changing it; I want to create a perfect sociopolitical machine that individuals cannot change.

Eric Baldwin
electrical engineering senior

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Do you wear sunglasses at night?**

Marci’s world of the week

9. Persistently educates people on topics he mistakenly thinks he knows more than we do (i.e. inform­ing Avila locals about shark attacks)

10. Tucks up pants with holes that go down past the top of short­ers

11. Advertisement of the exact dollar amount spent on alcohol for his last house party

12. Tug to remove his shirt while in a room full of people who remain fully clothed

13. Abundant amount of yelling at sports officials (bonus points if he’s been thrown out of a game)

14. Complains about unfair compensation for a volunteer job

15. Aben­corb/ Hollister/ etc. (because those collars are always puffy)

* Of course, not every single

sign indicates a douchebag every time. But, they add up. So if you, or that guy giving you the “Let’s go to the Library and I’m not talking about Kennedy,” look, are flaunt­
ing douchebag signs, you might want to think twice.

* With most signs are not douchebag guarantees, a multiple popped collar ensemble is a clear defi­

nition, indication of douchebag­

nism.

* Marci Palla is a public policy graduate student and the Mustang Daily’s new opinion editor. Marci’s Work of the Week will run in this section on Fri­

days and will explore some of the more important issues of our lives.

**Mustang Daily**

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neigh­br­ing community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your criticism­suggestions to: mustangdaily@gmail.com.
Clinton cabinet pick a shrewd political move

Rob Coniglio
CORNELL DAILY SUN, (ORONO, U.)

I have to admit when I heard the possibility of Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State I thought it was a ridiculous choice. Here's Senator Clinton, who in the primary, bragged about "coming under gunfire" in Bosnia and whose "deep" foreign policy experience included tea with such foreign leaders as President Obama's foreign policy chief. But then I thought about it a little more and realized that it is a shrewd political choice that aims to neutralize the Clintons and their followers within the Democratic Party.

It goes without saying that Senator Clinton is inacquainted with rivals' administration. She has put action behind his promise of a "team" of rivals administration.

Beyond the sheer politics of a Clinton pick, I think that it is fitting into Obama's negotiating strategy. We have seen it already with the choice of Biden as VP and Enmanuel as Chief of Staff. When Obama has "attack dogs" as his chief advisers, he gets to play the nice guy. With Clinton as Secretary of State, a similar dynamic of "good cop, bad cop" can emerge in US negotiations with the world. Such a dynamic can play into US policy interests by forcing concessions from foreign leaders as to not to give up President Obama from appearing to cater to foreign interests. So although Obama may meet with leaders we dislike, they also have to meet with Secretary Clinton first, and we all should benefit for it.

Rob Coniglio is a columnist for the Cornell Daily Sun at Cornell University.

Use of pop-psychology to analyze male and female psyche, resulting in obvious conclusions that usually contradict an archaic stereotype.

- Detailed description setting the scene for a male-female romantic or sexual interaction, ending in failure to obtain an assumed goal on the part of one or both parties. Rheto­rical question as an attempt to force the reader to relate to the previously described situation ("Has this ever happened to you?").

- Generalizing statement concluding that both assumed goal and cause of failure in obtaining said goal are common among audience's peers (or, for the truly bold, columnists, the world). Promise to relieve reader of woes with exclusive wisdom that can only be found in the following column, without any indication of credibility or reliability on the writer's part.

- Unnecessary statement regarding the existence of differences between men and women, sometimes accompanied by an admission of the existence of variation within each sex. Breakdown of personalities within the sexes into oversimplified categories. Filled with obvious or offensive sex stereotypes and gender roles.

- The conclusion that the writer has the power to make his or her own decisions regarding sexual and romantic life, presented as though the writer is generously relinquishing this power. Avoidance of claiming an opinion or preference of one solution over another in spite of the column's location in the opinion section of the newspaper. Ending is either another cliché or a terrible pun remotely relating to the title of the piece.

Jenna Ray is an English senior and a Mustang Daily guest columnist.
**Pop Culture Shock Therapy** by Doug Bratton

How the King Landed his Mascot Gig

Across

1 Take in ___
6 Unenthusiastic response
14 Comparison of ___ at San Simeon castle
16 Like friendship ___
17 Dualistic deity
18 Club restriction
19 Ordinary human ___
20 2 precursor
22 Signs of Disease
23 Big exporter of ___ from CA to ___
24 Black Forest ___
25 ___ M. de Waart
27 ___ It Grand Boys’ Swim standard
29 Sea 35-Down ___
30 Hunters’ Bait

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2 Ausie with ___ hair and ornate glasses
3  ___ reserved
4 ___
5 Stretch in a seat
6 "Easy does ___"
7 Sammy nicknamed "The ___"
8 1977 memoir set at Harvard
9 Year Marlon ___ became emperor
10 But abroad ___
11 Open-sided ___
12 A long story short
13 Sisters of ___ and family
14 ___ (Azores island)
15 24-Down ___
16 Check ___ of a ___
17 Ancient ___
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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Renteria continued from page 16

While he was being pursued by three or four teams, Renteria said the Giants' strong interest meant a lot to him in making the decision.

"I want to go where the people want me to go. I don't go where they don't want me," he said. "The Giants were interested in signing me. That's a great way to play baseball.”

Renteria will be looking to have a better year in 2009. He batted .270 with 10 home runs and 55 RBIs this season for the Tigers, who afterward declined their $11 million option and gave him a $3 million buyout. Sabean isn't concerned about Renteria, especially considering he had a better second half.

"We have no reservations of him being a shortstop and what he's going to do for our offense," the GM said. "It's an upgrade.”

The Giants haven't reached the playoffs since 2003 and were in a rebuilding phase last season, going 72-90 while using many young players in key roles. Having a veteran shortstop will be a big help considering Vizquel provided that kind of stability during his four years with the club.

"To get somebody with his resume is huge for our ballclub. He's a winner," manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's versatile as far as hitting in the batting order. He helps solidify our defense up the middle. This is a very great sign for us and I couldn't be more excited to have a player of his caliber.”

Sabean said after the 2008 season there was "zero" chance the Giants would bring back the 41-year-old Vizquel despite his popularity and still-reliable defense in the middle of the infield.

"Everybody knows Omar is one of the best shortstops in the game," said the Colombian-born Renteria. "Two Latin guys, All-Stars. To replace Omar, for me that's an honor.”

San Francisco also had been interested in Rafael Furcal, but the 34-year-old Renteria certainly because of a medical risk considering Furcal — also being courted by the Oakland Athletics — was sidelined for all but 36 games last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers because of back problems that required surgery.

With the acquisition of Renteria, Sabean now might look to trade talented prospect Emmanuel Burriss — or give Burriss more time to develop and perhaps even use him at second base. The 23-year-old Burriss, selected by San Francisco in the first round of the 2006 draft, played 95 games last season as a rookie.

Sabean said he and his staff would discuss not only Burriss but also infielders Kevin Frandsen and Eugenio Velez during next week's winter meetings in Las Vegas.
Members of the Cal Poly Wheelmen cycling club, along with others, get off the starting line at the West Coast Collegiate Cycling Conference Championships in Santa Barbara in November.

This coming year, I'm looking at sending a full squad to road nationals and trying to take a national championship.

— Blake Anton
Cal Poly Wheelmen President

Barden honored

All-American receiver Ramses Barden, who finished his Cal Poly football career Nov. 29, poses Thursday night with his jersey at Firestone Grill, which hung it to commemorate his accomplishments (including school career records for catches and touchdowns). Other Cal Poly alumni honored by the Mustangs included Pro Football Hall of Famer John Madden and National Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith. To find out what ESPN's Todd MeShay said about Barden's NFL Draft stock, please see Monday's Mustang Daily.