Students and community members gathered in the University Union last night to remember Carson Starkey, the Cal Poly freshman and SAE pledge who died Tuesday morning.

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 moment of silence.

Some students and community members have consistently shunned, the Big Three were contemplating a government-run restructurings that could yield results similar to bankruptcy, including massive downsizing, reorganization and perhaps 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
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, see Bailout, page 3

Auto executives are to make their case at a House hearing on Friday, and Congress could take up rescue legislation next week in an emergency session.

But Democratic congressional leaders were leaning on the White House to act on its own. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., wrote to President George W. Bush on Thursday asking him, as they have repeatedly, to use the $700 billion Wall Street rescue fund to help the auto makers, something the administration has consistently refused to do. They argued that such a course was justified because of the potential for grave harm to the financial sector in the event of a carmaker collapse.

Bush, too, was skeptical.

In an interview with NBC News, he said, "No matter how important the autos are to our economy, we don't want to put good money after bad. In other words, we want to make sure that the plan they develop is one that ensures their long-term viability for the sake of the taxpayer."

President-elect Barack Obama was keeping his distance, and Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who has been dealing with both the financial bailout and the auto rescue proposal, said, "He's going to have to be more assertive than he's been."

Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., which will conduct Friday's hearing, said, "We're not going to leave town without trying." Delays, however, are likely.

Frank is chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, which will conduct Friday's hearing.

Respondent after a bunched first crack at bailout pleas, the executives from General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC all agreed during Thursday's session that a multibillion-dollar bailout deal would include a supervisory government board that could order major overhauls of the companies if deemed necessary for survival.

"We produced more vehicles than our customers wanted, then slashed prices," he said. But as a result of these past mistakes, "we are really focused," he said.

Wagoner took a stab at explaining what the auto-makers should have done differently in the past.

"We made mistakes, which we're learning from," GM chief Rick Wagoner said. Ford CEO Alan Mulally also acknowledged big mistakes, saying his company's approach once was "If you build it, they will come."

But even as they admitted to past errors, they were seeking more help. And they told Congress that the Bush administration was ready to act.

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Mora
continued from page 1
recipient of a previous government-subsidized rescue loan in the 1970s that expanded, would reimburse taxpayers by 2012 this time and would repay, would reimburse tax-recipient of a previous government-

Bailout
continued from page 2
morning.
erved Cornél Morton also expressed the importance of having outreach to stu-
Cal Poly Counseling Services is offering outreach counseling to those affected by these trag-
dents, friends, faculty and staff for counseling and support.
"Data shows Cal Poly to be one of the safest campuses, but you never know what's going to happen," he said.
Mora is the third Cal Poly student to pass away in the last month, in addi-
tion to Starkey and business senior Frances Chung, who died Nov. 10 in San Luis Obispo.
In the six institutions Morton's worked at, he has never experienced three student deaths in such a short period of time. "This is unusual," he said.
"(The deaths) remind every-one of the importance of being

related are not expected for sev-
eral weeks, according to San Luis Obispo police captain Dan Panks.
Cal Poly has suspended the fra-
ter's charter, and the national organization of SAE has also sus-
ponded the Cal Poly chapter's ac-
tivities until further notice.
"It's unfair to paint the whole greek system as problematic," said Cornél Morton, vice president for Student Affairs. "Many involved are responsible in regards to alcohol and student life.
"But, I tell them, you'll find

yourself under the spotlight... if only one of you gets in trouble, be-
cause the perception of greeks in college and university life is that they're party animals." He urged fraternities and so-

nories to take responsibility for their actions and abide by their risk management programs.
"They have to ensure no one in any ac-
tivity sponsored by them comes to any emotional or physical harm," he said.
"Managing editor Gina Mag-

nol contributed to this report.

Starkey
continued from page 1
related to substance abuse or foul play.

"I hesitate to use the term 'natural causes,' because there is nothing natural about a 19-year- old dying," University Police Chief Bill Wattson said.
Holz described Mora as "en-
joyable to be around" and some-
one who "made light of any situ-
ation" yet was "very studious.
"He was athletic, loved soccer, the movie 'The Dark Knight,' and Tupac's song 'Changes,'" he wrote.
"I deeply regret his passing and I'm duly honored he called me his friend."
Mora's death comes 48 hours after the passing of architectural engineering freshman Carson Starkey, who was found dead after a fraternity party Tuesday

in the U.S."

Friday, December 5, 2008

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Iraq OKs security pact; attacks kill 17

A wounded Iraqi policeman is brought to a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday. The man was among two policemen wounded when their patrol car was struck by a roadside bomb.

The man was among two policemen wounded when their patrol car was struck by a roadside bomb.

Robert H. Reid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

of Fallujah — where the U.S. military has stroked for years to

bombers killed 17 people and wounded more than 100. Two

Americans were among the dead.

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 Doberthy said. 'Iraqi police said eight people were wounded, most of them civilians.'

The brazen attacks — the deadliest in the heavily guarded city of Fallujah — where the U.S. military has struggled for years to maintain order raised questions about Iraq’s ability to ensure its own security as the U.S. scales down its own combat role under the newly ratified U.S.-Iraqi pact, which calls for an American security force capable of maintaining order after American troops have gone home.

The two Americas 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 Doberthy said. "Iraqi 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 bombings 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-Qaeda 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 dusty-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 BASRAH, another one-time Sunni militant stronghold, killing three people and wounding 10, according to police at the security headquarters for the surrounding DIYALAH province.

U.S. commanders say attacks are down 80 percent nationwide since last March but that al-Qaeda 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 militant 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.

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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 surpassed 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 Kio Bridge and back into El Paso, where she died of her wounds.

The killing of Velasco, her sister Canthia Judith Sagredo Escobedo, 28, and another fellow American, 32-year-old Raymond Martinez and Ruth Sagredo Velasco, 31, have raised tensions and added to the growing fear over the shooting, the Justice Department recently lost a similar case against former Marine Jose Luis Nazario Jr., who was charged in Riverside, Calif., with killing four unarmed Iraqi detainees.

Further complicating the case, the State Department has been cautious about traveling to Mexico.

In a travel alert issued in October, U.S. State Department officials warned that "the situation in Ciudad Juarez is of special concern."
WORD ON THE STREET

"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 alternatives and pay cuts should be one of them."
-Ryan Shobell, 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

"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 Domhart, mechanical engineering junior

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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 last 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 governorraised millions for this year's measure, and claimed victory on Nov. 5 despite the close race.

Bowen's office reports that Schwarzenegger supporters had 3.95 million votes to 3.56 million for opponents. Bowen is scheduled to verify 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 as prosecutors tried to assure jurors that he wasn't hurt by the attack of a criminal street gang, a characterization that carries stiffer punishments.

Beth Fouhy

Hollywood, CA

“I am looking to bar Barack Obama for leadership in reaching a global climate treaty next year, but no nation will be able to sign an agreement before a nuclear war 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."

Beth Fouhy

Friday, December 5, 2008

News

Clinton scrambles to reduce campaign debt

With just weeks before President-elect Barack Obama is sworn in, his choice for 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 head a major debt retirement event in New York Dec. 15 with "Ugly Betty" 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 sell a children's book, titled "Dreams Taking Flight" by her brother Kathleen Krull, about her pioneering candidacy. Clinton's mother, Dorothy Rodham, is planned to send an e-mail to supporters 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 e-mail to supporters asking them to send a note of congratulations to his wife and including a link for contributing to her debt repayment.

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

At the beginning of November, Obama said he had $7.5 million in campaign debt. That is about $5.3 million is owed to donors, according to campaign finance records. The largest share of the debt is about $3 million that is owed to the polling firm of Mark Penn, the Clinton's longtime political strategist. She owes hundreds of thousands of dollars for printing, equipment rental, phone banks and other services.

Clinton has slowly been trimming the debt since surrendering 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 covered by the Hatch Act, which regulates political involvement by federal employees. Clinton has already been approved by the Senate committee, but not by the full Senate.

A 2007 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," which means Clinton's political committee would keep raising money to pay off her creditors, but without her direct involvement.

The lack of access to Clinton could pose a disincentive for donors, said Sally Krumholz, who directs the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks political donations.

People were just as likely to get into the room with a candidate or government official. If she's legally barred from fundraising, the introduction is over and it's about the negotiation," Krumholz said. "It's like attending a wedding and the bride isn't there."

The advisory opinion does allow the former candidate to appear briefly at fundraising events and thank donors. That restriction could sour Clinton well, according to some of her top bundlers who say neither she nor her husband 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 her to come back and try to get some face time with the incoming secretary of state.

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International

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) —
Israeli soldiers and police stormed a disputed building in the 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.

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United Nations (AP) —
Countries around the world are looking to Barack Obama for leadership in reaching a global climate treaty next year, but no nation will be able to sign an agreement before a nuclear war 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."
Democrats want a more assertive Obama

Two Democratic senators involved in trying to salvage the auto companies have said Obama could help move the process along and should become more engaged.

"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 course of the funds," he said. "I want him to offer his assistance. He is a person who can really bring people together."

Frank, shouted and, while still seated, 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," he said. "My one difference with the president-elect, about whom I am very enthusiastic, is when he talks about being post-partisan."

"Having lived with this very right wing Republican group that runs the House most of the time, the notion of trying to deal with this as if we can be post-partisan gives me post-partisan depression," Frank said.

Good cheer may spread itself, a study suggests

"This type of technology enhances your contact with friends, so it should support the kind of emotional conta- 

"This type of technology enhances your contact with friends, so it should support the kind of emotional conta- 

tion we observed," he said.

Christakis and Fowler estimate that each happy friend boom your own chances of being happy by 9 percent. Having grumpy friends decreases it by about 4 percent.

But it also turns out misery don't love company. Happiness seemed to spread more commonly than unhappiness. But that doesn't mean you should drop your gloomy friends.

"Every friend increases the prob- 

This paper being published Friday in A

Title: AHC spring semester runs January through May 2009 (some classes end sooner).

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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 merry 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. “This is the fifth year that we are doing the production. It is a full length holiday production; it includes ‘Winter Concerto’ and ‘Le Patineurs,’ which is a ballet within a ballet and ‘The 12 days of Christmas.’ It is all told through dance,” said Blair London, assistant director of Ballet Theatre San Luis Obispo. The performance will feature 70 dancers all from the San Luis Obispo area. Their ages range from 4 to 84. London said, “It has ballroom, ballet dance, swing dance it has comedy it has touching moments, it has everything.” London said. It will get you in the holiday mood quickly and get you into the holiday spirit.” Performances will be held at Spanos Theatre Saturday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets range from $18-$33.

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 Brammeier will debut a new song “A Christmas Lullaby” performed by the Poly-Phonics.

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.

5. The Joyous Sounds of Christmas
The Vocal Arts Ensemble will be performing “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 Cal Poly Concert, 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 Kilmen 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 McConnville
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 bookellers 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.

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 ($3.5 million).

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.

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Rowling told the schoolchildren at the launch that the book was published after complaints from readers over the sale.

"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 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 CHESSIN 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".
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 between the district attorney’s misconduct.

Polanski, 75, has been living in self-imposed exile from the United States since August 1977. He performed in 1978 movie "The Thief of Baghdad," which he says was shot in 1971.

A statement from attorneys Chad Hummel and Brad Dalton, Denver, 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 August 1977. He performed in 1978 movie "The Thief of Baghdad," which he says was shot in 1971.

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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. 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.

Sanitee Gibbs, 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 while in exile, including the Holocaust drama "The Pianist," for which he won an Oscar in 2003.

The woman with whom Polanski admitted having sexual intercourse has said she wants the charge dropped and that Polanski should be allowed to return to the United States. The new effort to wipe out the charge comes in the wake of an HBO documentary, "Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired," in which the man who prosecuted Polanski, retired Deputy District Attorney Roger Gunson, said that if he had been in Polanski's position, he also would have fled the country.

The documentary also portrayed the late Superior Court Judge Lawrence J. Rittenband as a publicist 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.

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 presentation of the star, her contribution to early Hollywood, her marriage to Rogers, Pickford's work as a Douglas Fairbanks, an influential actor, director and producer and television personality, as well as her many appearances in movies, television shows, and even a timeline onto a large screen near jurors. Fie also introduced 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 Passin 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 the agreement made the award "untraceable.

Passin 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," Passin said.

The trial is expected to conclude next week.

In this March 26, 1976 file photo, actress Mary Pickford, 83, a star of Hollywood's silent film era, holds the Honorary Oscar given to her in recognition of her contributions to the film industry, at her home in Beverly Hills, Calif., March 26, 1976.
Dear Editor,

Why I can't be a Democrat

The fundamental difference between liberals and conservatives is why I can't be a Democrat. Heck, I can hardly stand being a Republican. There is a difference between standing in your self-interest and being self-interested. Both liberalism and conservatism decry selfishness, but liberalism often attacks self-interest as well.

I am a conservative libertarian because I believe that I matter as an individual, and that I have the right to spend the rewards of my enterprise and creativity as my values direct. I fear liberalism 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 somebody else's wonderful plan for my life. I fear that liberalism attempts to take away my adulthood and make me a perpetual ward of the state.

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

Neither can offer any sort of guarantee. However, I choose conservative libertarianism because it treats me like an individual and a adult. I want to make a living by helping others become self-reliant adults as well. Liberals talk about fixing problems without understanding them, and understanding, but when a problem surfaces most liberals say that people should be doing whatever the experts claim is best. I want to improve the world by changing it; I want to create a perfect social machine that individuals cannot change.

Eric Baldwin
Electrical engineering senior

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Clinton cabinet pick a shrewd political move

Rob Coniglio

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 incredibly able and an excellent politician and that by choosing her, Obama has eliminated the Clintons as a threat to his administration. Besides the abilities that she brings to the office, her placement within the administration gives her (and by extension Bill) real interests in seeing Obama succeed. As the saying goes, "Secretary of State, Clinton would be more interested in "pissing out of the tent." It would also give Clinton the opportunity to continue building her resume for a future run at the Presidency (just imagine a Clinton settlement to Israel-Palestine issue, or something of that nature). Clinton would have the opportunity to win over her skeptics in the Democratic Party and among Americans in general by giving her a position with high profile and high margins for success (or failure), but also one that involves being a team player. By inviting his biggest (Democratic) rival into the cabinet, Obama has put action behind his promise of a "team of rivals" administration.

Beyond the sheer politics of a Clinton pick, I think that fit into Obama's negotiating strategy. We have seen it already with the choice of Biden as VP and Emanuel for 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 so as to prevent 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 be better for it.

Rob Coniglio is a columnist for the Cornell Daily Sun at Cornell University.
SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Chargers finally looked like world-beaters. It’s probably too late.

LaDainian Tomlinson scored on a 3-yard run against his favorite punching bag and Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes, including a 59-yarder to Vincent Jackson, to give the Chargers a 34-7 victory against the Oakland Raiders on Thursday night.

It was San Diego’s 11th straight win over their archrivals in a series dating to the birth of the AFL in 1960.

The Chargers (5-8) snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the second time in seven games. Once considered favorites, they are still going to need a miracle to reach the Super Bowl, they’re 3 ¼ games behind Denver by 2 ½ games in the AFC West, and the Broncos have four to play.

San Diego’s Darren Sproles caught two TD passes. His 87-yard touchdown on a punt return in the fourth quarter was called back after throwing his right shoulder. They trail Denver by 2 ½ games in the AFC West, and the Broncos have four to play.

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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.

Breehan Yohe-Mellor

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

San Francisco makes Renteria its new shortstop

Janie McCauley

SAN FRANCISCO — Edgar Renteria is back in the National League, where he belongs.

Renteria became the second free agent to join the San Francisco Giants in two days, receiving an $18.5 million, two-year contract Thursday to replace 11-time Gold Glove shortstop Omar Vizquel.

A five-time NL All-Star, Renteria gets a $2 million signing bonus, $7 million next year and $9 million in 2010. The Giants have a $10.5 million option for 2011 with a $500,000 buyout.

Giants general manager Brian Sabean has had a busy week, signing Renteria salary arbitration Monday. The sides had all but finalized a deal during a meeting Wednesday.

Renteria, a career .290 hitter, was back in Miami on Thursday after a quick visit to San Francisco.

“We really appreciate his interest and look forward to a relationship that’s going to be fruitful on both sides, I don’t think Edgar needs any introduction,” Sabean said. “We’re just thrilled to put him in our No. 2 spot in the lineup and at shortstop and move on to other business.”

The Tigers declined to offer Renteria salary arbitration Monday.

see Renteria, page 16

Barden honored

NICK CAMACRO Notebook Daily

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 restaurant include Pro Football Hall of Famer John Madden and National Baseball Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith. To find out what ESPN’s Todd McShay said about Barden’s NFL Draft stock, please see Monday’s Mustang Daily.