Change comes to the White House

Local festivities planned to celebrate inauguration

Matt Fountain)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama, Cal Poly students and San Luis Obispo residents who could not secure a much-coveted invitation still have options to celebrate the festivities with fellow students and members of the community.

On the Cal Poly campus, Associated Students Inc., University Housing and the Multicultural Center will host a live broadcast of the inauguration in room 220 of the University Union starting at 7:30 a.m.

The live television broadcast will be projected onto a large screen and free food, coffee and juice will be provided throughout the day, according to ASI Marketing Coordinator Michelle Broom. The room will be decked out in true American fashion with red, white and blue balloons and streamers to add to the celebratory atmosphere.

"This election year was so significant in so many ways," Broom said. "For those who were following it, it was a good culmination of what that democratic process looks like. This is what it's all about.

Tuesday's all-day event is free for students, faculty, staff and interested members of the community who are encouraged to attend.

Across town, another celebration will be kicking off early Tuesday morning at the Graduate restaurant and nightclub.

The Central Coast Inaugural Ball is sponsored by SLO Grassroots Democracy (SLOGD), an independent, bipartisan organization which seeks to bring together members of the community in support of positive political action. According to SLOGD Chair Marilyn Armstrong, the group planned and organized the event because they felt it was a historic evening to be celebrated by Americans, not just political parties.

"For too long we have been debating politics and finding ourselves gridlock," Armstrong said Sunday. "Our community should attend the Inaugural Ball event to celebrate not only a new president-elect, but to celebrate America and the power of its people.

The future of our country will depend on the inspiration of all Americans, and perhaps college students most of all, who will envision a shift from an industrial growth society to a life-sustaining civilization," she said.

According to Bob Kuntz, general manager of the Graduate, a crowd of over 500 people is expected to attend. The Ball will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include a live broadcast of the inauguration, free appetizers and desserts, raffle prizes and a live DJ, providing an open format of lively music.

Attendees are also encouraged to dress up in formal or historic attire to add to the festive and historic atmosphere.

For more information, visit the SLOGD website at http://www.slograssrootsdemocracy.org.

"I didn't think I would see a black president in my generation. I just had to be here," said Donald Butler, 20, a University of Washington student.

"I'm just really happy that I'm living to see this wonderful event," said 70-year-old Betty Bryant, who rode a chartered bus from Augusta, Ga. Standing in front of the iconic Reflecting Pool facing the Capitol, she said 70-year-old Betty Bryant, who rode a chartered bus from Augusta, Ga. Standing in front of the iconic Reflecting Pool facing the Capitol, she

Obama steps into the door of White House — and history

David Espo)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama stood at the threshold of the White House on Monday, summoning fellow Americans to join him in service as tens of thousands flocked to the nation's capital to celebrate his inauguration as the first black president.

"Tomorrow we will come together as one people on the same Marck where Dr. King's dream echoes still," said the president-elect, invoking the memory of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the national holiday in his honor.

The 47-year-old former senator takes office at noon Tuesday at a time of economic crisis at home and two wars overseas. But the challenges of the moment receded into the background for many who came for a chance to witness history.

Proposition 8 opponents reconcile and regroup

Chelsea Bieker

Community members gathered at Congregation Beth David on Sunday to take a look at what they felt may have gone wrong in the No on 8 campaign that was waged last year against Proposition 8, whose passage in November banned same-sex marriage.

Marriage Equality USA chapter leader David Kilburn, whose organization helped with the event, said

he wanted attendees to remember their emotions when the proposition passed in order to make change.

"There were some horrifying, devastating stories of the emotional toll that our community and our allied community went through after being singled out to have our rights taken away," he said. "We have had some time to let things settle, but we need to feel those emotions again."
Murrell said, "I guess I assumed that since we were in California, people would be more open-minded and accepting." She said that it's important to make people more aware and accepting of same-sex marriage, "because it's not this horrible thing that the ads were saying it was.

"We want to get people to see that we're just normal people, we're trying to live our lives with every security that they have," she added.

She was also concerned about the messages the Yes on S campaign was relaying, "People are saying, 'what can I do? I didn't do enough, I have hope.' We have a lot of our straight allies coming to help us, and we have a lot of the faith communities. People are coming out knowing this is a huge issue," he said. "If a group of people can have their rights taken away, then are we next, or do they think people realize how easy it is at this point to change the constitution. It scared people.

Kilburn's husband David Perez said that the important thing for people to turn their negative feelings into positive energy.

"We never stay down, we always come back," he said. "We're going into a new time now. It may not happen just like that, but I'm going to work," he said.

"I really didn't know what to say to her," Bailey said. "She came out to the booths with us during the election season, she saw what we were doing, so she had a good idea of what Prop 8 meant to her, but she didn't understand the ramifications of the passage of Prop 8.

"We want to get people to see that we're just normal people, we're trying to live our lives with every security that they have," she said. "It was about any of that," she said. "It was about the constitution. It scared people.

"I think that it might have been the worst year I've ever felt in my life," Murrell said. "I really didn't know what to say to her," Bailey said. "She came out to the booths with us during the election season, she saw what we were doing, so she had a good idea of what Prop 8 meant to her, but she didn't understand the ramifications of the passage of Prop 8.

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**WORD ON THE STREET**

"What changes would you like to see in Obama's presidency?"

“Just for him to do better than President Bush and solve the economic problems overall.”

-Kelsuke Suzuki, aerospace engineering freshman

“Unity, I want people more united (in the nation).”

-Christian Santos, mechanical engineering freshman

“Health insurance that is available to people who don’t have it through their jobs or their parents.”

-Amy Halenicak, animal science senior

“Something better to stop the war.”

-Rosie Harris, English freshman

**NTSB investigator says probe will last a year**

Larry Neumister

The probe into the crash-landing of a US Airways jetliner will take a year, and the lessons learned from the spectacular accident will last much longer, a senior investigator said Monday.

"I think this one is going to be studied for decades," said Robert Benton, chief investigator on the case for the National Transportation Safety Board.

Benton said the fact that all 155 people aboard the plane survived requires the guilt and finger-pointing that sometimes accompany aviation accidents. He said lessons learned from the successful ditching into the Hudson River could improve air safety.

"In one like this, I think there's something to be learned from it," Benton said. "We're not just going to let this one go by the wayside."
Bush commutes sentences of former U.S. border agents

Deb Richeyman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In his final act of clemency, President Bush on Monday granted early prison releases to two former U.S. Border Patrol agents whose convictions for conspiring to furnish a Mexican drug dealer fueled the national debate over illegal immigration.

Bush, responding to heavy pressure from Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike, commuted the prison sentences of Ignacio Kamos and Jose Coronado. The two guards from El Paso, Texas, each were sentenced to more than 10 years for the shooting, which took place in 2005. They will be released within two months.

Opposition to their convictions, sent into a tailspin after "That's right," he said. "And the vice president-elect is thrilled to accept the offer."
Students to wrestle with the truth of everyday issues as part of annual forum

VERITAS FORUM EVENTS
(all events are held in the Chumash Auditorium unless otherwise noted)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
What Darwin Didn’t Know (11a.m.) Dr. Fazale Rana
The Temporal Mechanics of the Gospels: Chronology, History, Theology and the Life of Jesus (1p.m.) Dr. Douglas Estes
The Cell’s Design: How Biochemistry Reveals the Work of a Creator (8 p.m.) Dr. Fazale Rana

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
Is Christian Love Biologically Impossible? Evolutionary Theory & the Question of Human Uniqueness (11a.m.) Dr. Jeffery Schloss
Sex, Love, and Marriage (1p.m.) Jamey Pappas and Gretchen Pappas
PORN Nation (8p.m.) Michael Leahy

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
UU 220, COFFEEHOUSE
Veritas Coffeehouse and Discussion (11a.m. - 3p.m.)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23
The Death of Beauty: The Role of Beauty in the Mass Media and Spirituality (11a.m.) Lilian Barger
Atheism vs. Theism (1 p.m.) Paul Copan
Biblical Religion and the Sacred Feminine (6 p.m.) Lilian Barger
The Plurality of Religions (8 p.m.) Paul Copan

Janelle Eastridge

Searching for truth? Ever wonder what effect porn may have on relationships and society at large? Curious about how the media shapes society’s conception of beauty or whether religious pluralism is even valid?

Then look no further than the Veritas Forum for answers.

Veritas, so named for the Latin word for truth, is a four-day-long, campus-wide event focusing on—you guessed it—truth. Sponsored by Associated Students Inc., Campus Crusade for Christ and the John Templeton Foundation, the event’s goal is to discuss some of life’s hardest questions (including the ones mentioned above) by bringing together students from all walks of life.

“We just want to bring the whole campus together to enjoy each other in conversation,” said David Foglesong, Veritas co-leader and art and design senator. “I think that we don’t have that at a lot of campus, and that is why we’re providing a way of allowing students to discuss a lot of hard questions with each other. It’s going to be good!”

This campus-wide pursuit of truth is from a decidedly Christian point of view, though.

“We present these issues in a Christian context, which means speakers may have personal backgrounds in Christianity that aid their study or research issues like porn, in which speakers have been changed by the aspects of Christianity,” said Else Bartley, Foglesong’s co-leader and art and design senator.

But coordinators emphasized that the talks are open to everyone in the community, not just Christians.

Planning for the forum began last June. As Bartley explained it, during the initial stages she and others brainstormed questions and topics college students wrestle with on a regular basis. Ultimately, they decided to focus on social and cultural issues this year, and how these issues affect people. Once they had decided on the topics, the search for scholars specializing in those areas began. Bartley and Foglesong were helped along by a team of 24 students who helped coordinate everything from publicity to finances to the Veritas Web site.

The event will kick off tomorrow with Fazale Rana’s talk “What Darwin Didn’t Know,” which explores recent scientific discoveries regarding the origin and structure of life, and how these tie into Darwin’s theory of evolution. Other science-themed events Tuesday include a talk by Douglas Estes in which he will discuss the concepts of chronology, history and theology in the ancient world as they apply to the life of Jesus, and “The Cell’s Design How Biochemistry Reveals the Work of a Creator,” also led by Rana.

Wednesday’s talks will focus on sex and love with “Is Christian Love Biologically Impossible?” (11 a.m.), “Sex, Love, and Marriage” (1 p.m.) and “PORN Nation” (8 p.m.).

The week’s biggest event, “PORN Nation,” is a 75-minute multimedia presentation that explores the impact of porn, and living in our hyper-sexual culture in general, might have on students and their relationships with others.

Foglesong noted that the talk will, in some ways, be similar to last year’s Horror talk, sans the debate format and with a greater focus on how porn affects culture. “PORN Nation” will take place Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.

Thursday will be devoted to the Veritas Coffeehouse and campus-wide discussions. The Coffeehouse will take place in University Union room 220 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature artwork and short films. Food and drinks will be provided. Discussion boards will also be placed around campus — in or on UU Plaza, Dexter Lawn, Campus Market, Poly Canyon Village and the Rec Center — and provide a blank canvas on which students and faculty members can respond to previous talks, present their own talk on the topics or raise questions of their own.

The Veritas Forum will conclude Friday with a mixture of talks focusing on beauty and femininity (Ellen Burger) “The Death of Beauty: The Role of Beauty in the Mass Media and Spirituality” at 11 a.m. and “Biblical Religion and the Sacred Feminine” at 8 p.m.), and theology (Paul Copan’s “Atheism vs. Theism” at 1 p.m. and “The Plurality of Religions” at 8 p.m.).

“This is what we feel is hitting our culture a lot,” Foglesong said. “We live in such a broken world, and a lot of these topics just try to get to the center of the matter in people’s relationships. That was kind of our goal.”

These are all questions people wrestle with to
Make [responsibility] count.

Join PricewaterhouseCoopers in New Orleans for two days of community service that will inspire a new generation of leaders. Learn more and register for a chance to participate at www.pwc.tv/neworleans
"Slumdog Millionaire" has made $43 million since it opened five weeks ago. It won several Golden Globe awards and the film is set to open in India this week.

"Slumdog Millionaire" continued from page 5

Varying degrees, agreed financial coordinator and business senior Craig Moberg. "But, I think (most) people won’t go out there and pursue the answers themselves. I don’t think that most people are too motivated to find them and I think that most people just hope that the answers come to them somehow through a teacher, an anonymous person, an event or a close friend."

But that is Veritas’ goal, he said, to provide people with some possible explanations — and then to continue the discussion.

"I would love to see discussion arise on campus in which people are willing to ask of themselves and people around them the questions they wrestle with and hear some possible explanations and reasons as to why they exist," Barley said.

"I think oftentimes we can choose to be ignorant or simply to ignore our big questions out of an attempt to remain comfortable when, in reality, these questions plague all of us. I would love to see a campus seeking out truth with one another.”

Each talk will last about 45 minutes and be followed by a 45-minute question-and-answer session. All of the week’s talks, with the exception of Thursday’s, will take place in the Chumash Auditorium.

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Today we inaugurate a man, not a God

Barack Obama has always been able to get people to believe in him. From the moment he received the Democratic Party's nomination, there has been much anticipation for this day. The record-breaking inauguration crowd is proof of his ability to connect with people and strategize a genius campaign.

Jan. 20, 2009 will be a day that goes down in history for numerous reasons.

The man taking the presidency today is a radical change from the man that has been in charge of the country for the past eight years. He is America's first black president and, for many, a symbol of how far we've come in the past half-century. To top it off, his inauguration fills the day after we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday.

Still, some of the commotion surrounding the event is a little overblown.

Take for instance, the MSNBC commercial featuring a God-like picture of the president-elect's, illuminated face as a booming voice tells viewers that they will always remember where they were during the moment Barack Obama became president. Or the unprecedented MTV coverage of Obama, which currently features a list of songs inspired by him on their Web site.

The iconic Obama poster inscribed with the word "hope" has made its former street artist famous as millions post them on dorm room walls and street corners. In the midst of the celebration, people around the nation are acting as if America's hard times have suddenly changed direction.

Yet, between today's celebration and festivities, it is important to remember that today we are inaugurating a man — not a God. To treat our next president as anything but a mere mortal borders on dangerous thinking.

Obama ran his campaign on the premise of "hope" — something his supporters relish as much as his detractors hate, and for good reason. Hope is a vague word that can be full of potential or fall completely flat. Either way, it doesn't mean anything until it's put into action. Hope doesn't change things; it only inspires that change. When Obama takes the oath of office today, he will also take on two wars, a broken economy and a shaky relationship with a waiting world. Nothing will have changed except the occupant of the presidential office.

Obama supporter is sure to be disappointed at least once or twice. If you are an Obama supporter, or if you are merely breathing a huge sigh of relief when you realize that the country is changing directions, go ahead and celebrate; you're entitled. But please do not get so carried away by this wave of hope that you forget the challenges our nation faces.

Obama does not have the ability to change the nation completely happy. Some of the most iconic presidents of America's revered past, like Roosevelt and Kennedy, were able to escape much scrutiny and hark many of their respective weaknesses. Now, with a much sharper media lens focused on the White House, even the most die-hard Obama supporter is sure to be disappointed at least once or twice.

If you are an Obama supporter, or if you are merely breathing a huge sigh of relief when you realize that the country is changing directions, go ahead and celebrate; you're entitled. But please do not get so carried away by this wave of hope that you forget the challenges our nation faces.

And although Barack Obama is that symbol of hope to many, this man is only a mortal, and an elected official at that. Hope by itself leads to disillusioned citizens. Even if you agree with all of Obama's policies, you should never lose sight of the fact that he — like any other politician — is a man who must be held accountable for every decision he makes and every dollar he spends.

Just as importantly, it should be noted that although he is now the most powerful man in the world, Obama does not have the ability (or Constitutional right, for that matter) to demand change in everything.

He is not a carmaker, so he can't make green cars. He can throw stimulus checks at consumers, but that doesn't mean they'll spend them. Despite his can-do attitude, he is inheriting an economy in recession and a foreign policy tradition that leaves the U.S. with few allies.

And while many do agree with his policies of unprecedented expansion of government power and further regulation of the free market, others strongly disagree. Like any other administration, Obama's will instill policies that are liable to fail and that are met with controversy.

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Transportation investments can’t be overlooked
California’s stake in the federal stimulus plan

Just days before the inauguration, Obama takes a historic journey to enter Washington, D.C. by train, a symbolic message of his commitment to revitalize the Nation’s public transportation networks. As America aims to wean its dependence on foreign oil, California seeks a federal stimulus plan to support transportation programs, such as the recently passed high-speed rail project as a way to stimulate the states crumbling economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is often criticized for providing minimal oversight to state governments, rather than investing in smart infrastructure. California has all too often succumbed to the forces of land developers and contractors that have significant lobbying power to misallocate funds away from public transportation options. The state has proposed that only a third of the proposed stimulus budget is allocated to public transportation, while a third would be allocated to building new roads.

In tight budgetary times, the federal government is ill-equipped to address all the financial needs to reinvent the transportation sector. If Obama is committed to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the dependence on foreign oil, providing green jobs and improving local economies, he will have to make tough decisions about where and how to invest in infrastructure. Does he invest in the expansion of highways or does he create opportunities for high-speed rail and intercity transit options? Does he invest in fueling the future of automobiles or does he put money into programs that will revitalize streets to make room for bicyclists and pedestrians?

In the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, Obama makes it clear that he is committed to energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar and biofuels. He plans to double renewable energy production and improve energy efficiency in government buildings and two million American households. However, energy efficiency and technological advances alone are not enough to curb the overdependence on automobile transportation. Therefore, transportation investments need to be a critical component to improve energy efficiency.

To achieve the nation’s new vision, the federal government must share the decision-making power with local governments familiar with the most pressing community transit needs.

Obama should give California performance standards that mandate the prioritization of transit, bicycle and pedestrian options. California must be made accountable for meeting the country’s new objectives to reduce oil dependence, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen the economy through wise infrastructure improvement.

Supporting transportation investments is a critical component to meeting the rising challenges to fighting climate change and stabilizing the economy. The opportunities in times of transitional moments become clear because ideas are weighed more heavily in formulating bold new directions. Encourage your congresspeople to support public transportation investments, to ensure a healthy, safe and accessible California.

Nancy Cole is a Mustang Daily columnist, a city and regional planning senior and the former vice-president of the Empower Poly Coalition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Israel attempts to minimize civilian casualties in acts of self-defense

Grace Kirschen’s letter to the editor on Jan. 16 is informed by gross misattribution and a poor understanding of the situation. The United Nations Secretary General’s comments about Israel being less culpable than the Palestinian Authority are by no means credible if the UN was not so ripe with anti-Israel bigotry. The Israeli army repeatedly warned Gazans about impending attacks with leaflets, phone calls and text messages. It is well known that Hamas uses houses, mosques, schools and even UN buildings to launch rockets and stone weapons. Abu Bilal al-Ja‘abeh, a senior Hamas member, was personally called by Israel security to say that he had five minutes to evacuate his family and himself from his house. Instead he organized a large number of people to stand on his rooftop as human shields.

Israel can only do so much to prevent the loss of life to innocent bystanders before it must attack to defend its citizens. Grace quotes Human Rights Watch, alleging Israel is attacking civilians with white phosphorus. This is a half truth at best, and libel at worst. Israel, a proven abuser, does not attack civilians. Israel used white phosphorus to illuminate military targets and the International Red Cross said there was no evidence to suggest it was being used improperly.

Israel can call itself a democracy because all citizens are given universal suffrage, there are 12 Arab members of parliament, and an Arab in the Supreme Court. In fact, unlike most of its neighboring Arab countries, Israel, a Jewish state, affords its Arab citizens full civil liberties.

1) http://www.wired.com/view/34/1288/07/07/07
2) http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/2008/13/04_sc/ir_en_on_red_cross_white_phosphorus

Zachary Goldstein
mechanical engineering senior

The obstacle to peace in Gaza is Hamas’ refusal to recognize Israel

In response to Grace Kirschner’s letter “Israel attacks are inconsistent with human life,” the accusation that a United Nations truck was delayed by the Israeli defense forces is false. The UN has an “acquire fire, investigate later” policy that gets twisted in the media. The UN said that its workers that were killed were “no doubt hit by shells because there was an IDF tank nearby.” “No doubt” doesn’t mean for sure. Both the IDF and now the UN say they want to investigate, it is possible that the truck was hit by sniper fire from Hamas.

Grace, the cause for the recent war in Gaza is very simple. Hamas didn’t want to renew the cease fire deal without opening the crossings into Gaza. Israel will not agree to those demands until Hamas renounces violence, and recognizes Hamas. Israel explicitly calls for Israel’s destruction so it is incomparable for Israel to give into Hamas’ demands. In order to achieve its ends, Hamas launched 200 rockets into Israeli population centers forcing Israel to war.

Hamas committed three war crimes: deliberately targeting Israeli civilian population centers, hiding behind Palestinian civilians to use them as human shields, and calling for the destruction of a UN member state. The obvious solution would be for Hamas to recognize Israel and renounce violence. Palestinians would be able to import and export goods freely, and enjoy political autonomy. However, what I don’t understand, Grace, is why you spend all of your energy trying to make people hate Israel when the real obstacle to peace is Hamas’ refusal to recognize Israel.

Benjamin Nejahlain
landscape architecture senior
Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

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Papa Smurf's Racist Tendencies

Across

2. Shoulder. 31. Super-duper. 39. Things that almost represent the arts section. 49. One of a ROSE on 01/05. Please call 530.906.9354 with any information.

4. Curse of Mordor. 5. Something a cat doesn't like. 6. "Peek-a-boo!"


31. Super-duper. 32. Org. that once used the slogan "In Service to the Girls of the World" used the slogan "Mustang Mini." Contact your ad rep at 756-1143.

33. "Without delay". 34. Numbers game. 35. "Think the word is a number." 36. What the ends of 1-8 to 88-27 and 18-3 across represent.


42. "The Big Five" boy band. 43. Dactyls end. 44. W.V. ill Jason. 47. "Do... favor!"


55. U.S. and others. Alcor. 56. Tease. 58. What the ends of 11, 17, and 43 across represent.


75. Spotty Cherry. 77. Unicycles crowds. 79. Alder or elder.

80. "I.ow Mortgage Rates."


113. "What did I do to deserve this?"

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Lemieux continued from page 12
again."

Sharks general manager Doug Wilson is no stranger to reclamation projects after adding Jeremy Roenick and Sandis Ozolinsh to his club last season. He also provided a chance to Lemieux, who joined the Worcester Sharks in late November and signed a two-way contract in late December.

With Lemieux monitoring every shift on television, Lemieux had three goals and eight assists in 23 games with Worcester, racking up 24 penalty minutes and a plus-2 rating.

"Historically, people that can come back and help you later in their careers usually have similar attributes," Wilson said. "I have a love for the game, a high level of intelligence and ... being genetically gifted. He's gifted, and he's gone and put the work and time and energy in. He's not been given anything by us. If anything, we've given him a couple of reasons to say it's not been worth it."

Lemieux won't be the oldest player in the NHL, not with Detroitewan Chris Chelios turning 47 later this month. But his comeback is even more remarkable because of his lengthy absence from the game.

Montreal coach Guy Carbonneau played with Lemieux during parts of six seasons with the Canadians in the 1990s.

"I'm very surprised, even shocked," Carbonneau said after the Canadiens' practice Monday. "Chris Chelios is 46 years old, but the fact that Claude stopped playing three or four years ago, it shows the kind of character he has. I'm happy for him. When I first heard about it, I didn't think it would be possible, but it shows to show that nothing is impossible."

Although the Sharks led the overall NHL standings with 71 points entering Monday's games, their fourth line hasn't been impressive or productive since Roenick was sidelined last month with a shoulder injury. If Lemieux sticks and Roenick returns soon, the Sharks could match Roenick and Lemieux with enforcer Jody Shelley on a line that would be among the NHL's most entertaining, if no longer its most talented.

Lemieux replaces young forwards Brad Staubitz and Tom Cavanagh, who were sent back to Wrangler in mid-January. Wilson said they couldn't contribute to the All-Star break.

"Claude deserved it, he earned it, and it really can't stress it enough that the guys down in Worcester are happy for him," Wilson said. "They know he put in the work. He's happy to be here, it's that simple."

-- Freelancer Sean Farnell in Moncton contributed to this report.

Greg Beachum
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OAKLAND, Calif. — Jamal Crawford's first game with Golden State was a humiliating loss at Washington eight weeks ago. After seeing the Warriors' injury problems and daunting schedule, the newcomer sensed Golden State might be a grim place for a while.

The cloud over the Warriors finally seems to be lifting with ample help from Crawford, who has barely left the court at all during their first streak of success all season.

Crawford had 28 points and eight assists, and Stephen Jackson added 26 points in the Warriors' third win in four home games, 119-98 over Washington on Monday in a rare matinee game at Oracle Arena.

Crawford played all 48 minutes and hit four 3-pointers, scoring at least 20 points for the sixth time in seven games. The veteran has been unfailingly upbeat since joining the Warriors from New York, determined to help coach Don Nelson get his team together again.

"Now that we're finally home for a while, I'm hoping we can build on what we're doing," said Crawford, who played 47½ minutes against Atlanta last Friday and 60 minutes in a triple-overtime loss to Sacramento last week. "With a lot of games left, hopefully we can put something together. This crowd, they give us so much energy. I'm being serious. If we didn't have this crowd, I don't know if I could do it."

Corey Maggette scored 16 points for the Warriors, who had won three of four just once previously in their disappointing season. Golden State comfortably held off the Wizards, hitting 13 3-pointers and making 53 percent of its shots against Washington's sketchy defense.

"It was a game we thought we should win, and we did," Nelson said. "We finally held somebody below 100. We're counting that. I'm making it very difficult to do that, because we're a high-scoring team, but when it happens, it's kind of a special thing for us."

Even with serious injury problems, Golden State has put its game together since returning from a brutal four-week travel stretch in mid-January. With Jackson returning to the lineup last Friday, Golden State already has three wins on a seven-game homestand that still includes visits from lowly Oklahoma City and the Los Angeles Clippers.

"Our team is coming together," Maggette said. "We're doing a lot of good things, and having Jick back adds a lot more good things. We've stayed positive through all the adversity, and we're finally coming together and playing well."

The Warriors could get their first three-game winning streak of the season Wednesday against the Thunder Golden State improved to 9-7 in Oakland.
Sharks recall Claude Lemieux

Greg Beacham

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Nearly six years after Claude Lemieux retired, he’s back to pestle the NHL again.

The San Jose Sharks recalled the 43-year-old forward from their AHL affiliate on Monday, adding a four-time Stanley Cup winner to a team already tied for the overall league lead.

Lemieux probably will be in San Jose’s lineup Tuesday night against Vancouver. He spent the past eight weeks riding the bus and playing against the next generation in Worcester, Mass., making sure his physical skills still matched his desire to complete a comeback that’s been on his mind since shortly after he retired in 2003.

“The more I was told this was impossible, the more I wanted it,” Lemieux said after his first practice with the Sharks. “I still feel that way. This is just the first step to life back in the NHL. … I got into this with my eyes wide open, knowing that most folks out there would think that I’m out of my mind to attempt to do something like this.”

Lemieux once was hockey’s archetypal agitating forward, beloved by his teammates and despised by everybody else during parts of 20 seasons with five NHL clubs. He spent the past eight weeks riding the bus and playing against the next generation in Worcester, Mass., making sure his physical skills still matched his desire to complete a comeback that’s been on his mind since shortly after he retired in 2003.

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