We have a new president

Cal Poly student among millions to witness event

Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again the work of remaking America.

—Barack Obama
President of the United States

Forum on Gaza conflict invites student discussion

Samantha MacConnell
STAFF WRITER

Students will have the opportunity tonight to participate in an open discussion regarding how the latest war in Gaza began.


"I feel that was a really historic moment, and that it would be a different feeling to be there in the capitol watching it happen rather than unfolding on TV," she said.

Hays said that she and the members of her party woke up and headed down to the National Mall amidst the millions of others who came to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

"It felt that was a really historic moment, and it's really deep-rooted animosity behind the Performing Arts Center. You don't necessarily agree with everything, but you can agree that there is value in coming together to understand what is occurring, when it started and how to navigate to peace," Lloyd-Moffett said.

The Cal Poly Israel Alliance, Hillel of San Luis Obispo and Students for Justice and Peace in the Middle East agree that the conflict is occurring, when it started and how to navigate to peace.

"Both organizations really want to see peace and calm in the Middle East," said Jacob Kory, electrical engineering senior and president of the Cal Poly Israel Alliance. "I think this lecture is going to help students understand the conflict at large, when it started and how to navigate to peace."
Let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come.

—Barack Obama

President of the United States

Obama continued from page 1

The presidency passed to Demo­crat Obama from Republican George W. Bush at the stroke of noon, mark­ ing one of democracy's greatest gifts: the peaceful transfer of power.

H悬ant and relaxed through the three days of pre-inaugural festivities, Obama seemed somber as he stood before the crowd, which pulsed with emotion.

"Every time the 44th president of the United States was seen

History, and it was to extend well past midnight through a swirl of 10 official inaugural balls and many more unofficial gala.

Blacks especially powered the jubilation that was thick in the chilly air. Even though Obama didn't give the topic of race, his or others, much treatment in either his campaign nor his inaugural, blacks poured into the nation's capital to work.

But the pillow of dollar in new spending, Obama

"The time has come to set aside history, and the hopes of war and recession: "the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and wrangling, our only hope is to bury the deepest fear that America's decline is inevitable, and that the next generation must lower its sights."

Not so, said Obama. But he cautioned that the effort will require all citizens, no matter party, age, skin color, or, or status, to get to work.

Obama thanked Bush for his service as president and never directly condemned him. But he also repeatedly talked of the need to abandon current practices, whether "the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and wrangling out, that for far too long have stagnated our politics," the lack of a watchful enough eye on financial markets, or what he called a false choice between safety and ideals — a reference to brutal interrogation practices and other actions taken by the Bush administration in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come," Obama said.

more U.S.

Student continued from page 1

at 3 a.m. Tuesday in hopes of getting the best view.

"Watching the Mall fill up with two million people was the same sensation over the Capitol was absolutely beautiful... that was probably the best part."

She said the crowd became more excited as the day progressed towards Obama's wearing-in cer­ mony. Every time the 44th presi­ dent of the United States was seen or his name was mentioned, "the crowd just went crazy... cheering, clapping, chanting his name," he said. "It was very intense.

For her, the memories that will last, and the reason she thinks Obama's inauguration will go down in history, was "the sheer number of people that were there and supporting our new president."
World watches Obama's historic inauguration

Gregory Katz

The arrival of a new American president triggered joy and jubilation Tuesday in a world made weary by war, recession and fear. Bush and goods were slaughtered for feasts in Kenya, towns were offered at black-tie balls in Europe and shamans in Latin America chanted Barack Obama's name with reverence.

From Kenya and Indonesia, where Barack Obama has familial ties to Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, Obama's inauguration sparked a volcanic explosion of hope for better days ahead.

The ascendance of the first African-American to the presidency of the United States was heralded as marking a new era of tolerance and possibility.

Nelson Mandela, the former South African president who also inspired millions, sent a letter to Obama on his inauguration day. "Your election to this high office has inspired people as few other events in recent times have done," Mandela wrote. "Amongst many around the world a sense of hopelessness had set in as so many problems remain unresolved and seemingly insurmountable. The way of being rescued, you, Mister President, have brought a new voice of hope that should not be forgotten. You, Mister President, have solved. You, Mister President, have been waiting to say for a while — it is good to be home."

In the hours leading up to his return, excerpts of some of Bush's speeches played on a large TV screen, including remarks he made to Congress shortly after the terrorist attacks in 2001.

One little boy waved a sign that read, "President Bush, thank you for keeping me safe" in multicolored lettering. "It's a special day, but it's a sad day," said Dudley Wise, a cotton farmer who drove two hours from Lubbock to greet Bush on his first stop after leaving office. "He did the job we asked him to do. He kept our values safe."

As the crowd looked on, the jet carrying the Bushes flew over downtown, then landed at the airport in Midland shortly before 5 p.m.

Jan Rhodes, a school teacher in Midland, was on hand when Bush left Midland eight years ago for his inauguration as president.

Bush tells cheering Texans it is good to be home

Betsy Blaney

Waving cardboard red, white and blue "W"s, thousandss welcomed George W. Bush and his wife on Tuesday to their post-presidential home in Texas.

"The presidency was a joyous experience, but as great as it was, nothing compares with Texas at sunset," Bush said to cheers from the crowd of about 25,000 at former first lady Laura Bush stood at his side. "Tonight I have the privilege of saying six words that I have been waiting to say for a while — it is good to be home."

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State

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Bay Area Rapid Transit passengers may face higher fares and reduced service as the transit agency seeks to close a growing budget deficit.

BART officials said Thursday they are set to discuss a report that offers a range of options to deal with a projected budget deficit of $35 million in the current budget year and an even bigger one in the next fiscal year.

Among the options are midyear fare increases of as much as 10 percent, raising parking fees at suburban stations and charging for weekend transit funds.

The agency’s budget trembles in the weakening economy, slowing rider growth and state diversions of funds.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., battling a brain tumor, became ill at a post-inauguration luncheon for President Barack Obama on Tuesday and was taken by ambulance to a hospital.

There was no immediate word from medical personnel on his condition.

"It looked like a seizure," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who said he was with Kennedy until they reached the ambulance.

Kennedy, 76, had appeared in good health and spirits hours earlier when he stepped out of the Capitol and onto the inauguration platform where Obama took the oath of office.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, 91, also was taken from the luncheon but it was not clear whether his departure was prompted by his health.

International

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — More than 1,300 Rwandan troops crossed the border into eastern Congo on Tuesday to join Congolese forces in an effort to ease Hutu rebels who participated in Rwanda’s genocide and have long been at the heart of the region’s conflict, officials said.

A Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters, said the Rwandan forces arrived Tuesday morning and that the joint military operations would last 10 to 15 days.

“We have officially asked the Rwandan army to participate in the disarmament operations of the Interahamwe (Hutu militia) which have begun," Mende said.

A Rwandan official confirmed the move.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who said he was told that Rwanda was involved in operation, said that "it is a very dangerous situation for Congo."

The rebels are fighting to reclaim land they lost in 1994.

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Krizia Torres

Staying away

It isn’t very often when one finds an art exhibit that re-places watercolors and sculptures with iMac computer moni-tors, Saks-Fifth Avenue shopping bags and personal quotes

Poet offers ‘praise song’ for Inauguration Day

Hillel Italie

NEW YORK — Following the world’s most awaited ora-tion — President Obama’s inaugural speech — poet Elizabeth Alexander echoed the new leader’s tribute to daily labor, his call for responsibility and his reminder of the sacrifices that made his election possible.

"It’s plain that many have died for this day," Alexander, 46, said Tuesday during her brief reading, in which she also spoke out to the world about "how that casts a widening pool of light, love with no need to pre-empt gnev.ince ‘

Alexander’s recital at the National Mall in Washington culminated her own surprising journey from academic and award-winning poet to a platform that only the timelier number of her peers has been granted. She is just the fourth inaugural poet, following Robert Frost, Maya Angelou and Miller Williams.

The poet, titled "Praise Song for the Day: A Poem for Barack Obama’s Presidential Inauguration," consists of 14, un-rhymed three-line stanzas, and a one-line codae “praise song for walking forward in that light.” It will be released as an iMac moni-tor displaying one of Bantjes’ artworks. This project, called "Fugue in D," is a flipbook-paced photographic slideshow of a ball of fort. It was created last year as a logo for the UK firm Bump. These-still quickly show the hot pink and orange ball of fort take on various shapes, essentially bringing the fur to life.

"I’m just really impressed with all of the detail she puts into everything," said business and social sciences junior Meghan Hazlett. "I am naturally a very detail-oriented person, so I love this. I feel like everything is so precise and yet so well done at the same time.”

Since she enjoys more artistic mediums than the standard pen and paper of many artists, Bantjes even uses food to cre ate her art; she has designed art pieces made out of powdered sugar for her New York-based client, graphic designer and typographer Stefan Sagmeister. Sagmeister, the owner of the design firm Sagmeister Inc. used Bantjes’ sugar art pieces in see Sugar, page 6

see Sugar, page 6
Sugar
continued from page 5
his book Things I Have Learned in My Life So Far, as well as in Copy Magazine.
"It's interesting because of what (the quote in the sugar) says," said Deiter. It's about ex­
perimenting personally with her design be­
fore she uses it professionally. These are just
impressive because of the dedication and the
imagination she put into them."

As a part of her work ethic, Bantjes tries
to make every piece of work individual. For
instance, she recently drew 25 intricately-
designed snowflake illustrations for Macy's
Fifth Avenue's 2008 Christmas season.
None of her 25 snowflakes are alike;
all feature a unique design.
I drew some like feathers, like antlers, with
little people, one made all of houses,
some like sparkly lights, a bunny one, a
few like ribbons, some were complex
and three-dimensional, others simple and
flat," Bantjes wrote on her Web site.
"It is really intri­
guing. Each one
has its own theme.
There's a little bit of
mystery in each one
of them," graphic
communications
senior Matthew Dei­
er said.

So, one of Ban­
tjes' regular
customers, used her
illustrations on all of
the campaign materials, includ­
ing posters, clothing and
shopping bags, which are all
on display in the exhib­
ites.

Moving along in the exhibit you find a single poster
designed for Aus­
tralia's R-Wines that houses 2,130
drawings spelling out the
names of various
vineyards. But as
you lean in, your
optic nerve sud­
ddenly tells you
brain that all these grapes were individually
drawn.
"You have to spend a while in here be­
cause sometimes you don't see the incredible
detail!" University Art Gallery coordinator
Jeff Van Kleek said.
Bantjes' hand drawn art and attention to
detail have created her own way of commu­
nication and have won the respects of many
students.
"Her art is more interesting and more
visually stimulating. Those are the ones that
stand out to me the most," Deiter said.
"Students who have already visited Ban­
tjes' exhibit understand the importance of having
such a unique art display on campus.
"It helps to increase education about art
and it's helpful for students to see what's out
there in the industry and what people are
currently doing. It helps to see what the
current trends are," graphic communications
senior Natalie Kuhl said.

Other students appreciate the new visual
outlook and artistic perspective that Bantjes
has showcased in her art and shared with the
Cal Poly community.
"It's interesting" learning about how old­
er style calligraphy and older art forms can
be modernized using old pens, everyday art
forms and media to make it look modern and
fresh," Dover said.
"I think all her designs are
really inspiring for graphic designers to ap­
ply their studio art skills, like hands-on de­
sign, rather than using vectorized-graphics
and plain typography that you find on the
(Adobe) Creative Suites," Deiter said.
"Marian Bantjes Shows Off" will be on
display Jan. 9 through Feb. 20 in the Cal Poly
University Art Gallery in the Dexter building.
Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. when school is in session.
Both the lecture and gallery are free and open
to the public. For more information, visit the
University Art Gallery Web site at artgallery.
calpoly.edu.

Several artistic mediums, including painting and photography, are featured as a part of Marian
Bantjes exhibit. The exhibit will be on display through Feb. 20.

Poet
continued from page 5
nicely surprising adjectives." He did
have a minor criticism — not with the
poem, but with the presenta­
tion.
"I wish she had something after the
resolution of the poem to let
us know clearly that it was over," Williams said. "Had she read it in
my living room, I would have said,
'Keep your voice up at the end, and
nod to the audience and say,' 'Thank
you,' when it's over.'"
“Identity Crisis” is what it means to be a comic hero

Believe it or not, I haven't always been into comics. When I was a kid I would read the occasional comic book when I went to the grocery store with my mom, but nothing ever obsessive, like you would probably say is the case now. When I got older, comic books seemed to be a nerd hobby much too far on the fringes of what could ever be conceived as "cool," or even acceptable.

I've pretty much always preoccupied myself with nerd hobbies, whether they be video games, Dungeons and Dragons or board games; the list goes on, but comics never found a place in my nerd heart.

That is, until a few years ago. An old buddy and I started hanging out again and in that time he had really gotten into comic books. I was back home in Hemet, the armpit of California in Riverside County, and had nothing to do all summer so I picked up comic books. At first, it was your typical superhero-type comics, where all the villains get punched in the face by heroes, etc. However, I finally stumbled upon a known superhero. Elongated Man, and the murder of his wife. In doing so, it delves into an age-old question: what does it mean to be a hero? Not only that, but what does that mean for the hero's loved ones? As Elongated Man says, "Anyone who puts on a costume paints a bull's-eye on his family's chest."

Through interconnecting stories of different superhero relationships, such as father and son or husband and wife, Brad Meltzer weaves a wonderful tapestry of intrigue and suspense, culminating in the shocking ending that still haunts me to this day. I wish I could talk about it here, but I don't want to give anything away.

I don't cry too often because I'm a man and it isn't really in our gender role to cry (oh, the hate mail I might get from that) but I honestly shed a tear or two while reading this book. This is not your grandfather's comic; there are some scenes in there that are intensely graphic, Lag Morales, the penciller, has an amazing skill for conveying emotion, the likes of which one doesn't see every day.

I know a lot of people might have qualms as to reading comic books. I understand, I've been there before. But if you are at all interested in superb writing and incredible art that really goes beyond genre boundaries, you should give "Identity Crisis" a shot.

As Elongated Man says, "Anyone who puts on a costume paints a bull's-eye on his family's chest."
Social security: More fraudulent than Madoff

By Jeremy Hicks

Second, in terms of wrongdoing, Madoff and Ponzi, craven as they are, look like choir boys alongside the myth-makers of Social Security Trust Fund.

Regarding size, we (the country) are all in this mess together. The Social Security Trust Fund harkens back to the glory days of the New Deal when it was pushed as a means to provide a safe, comfortable retirement for retirees. For a time, it worked (like after the post-WWII boom when there were more workers than retirees). But for this generation, the prospects of having anything approaching a dependable (much less, sustainable) paycheck from Uncle Sam during our feeble years is bleak beyond imagination.

Every so often, a rascal comes along looking scandalous and deviant that history wages its hand with the deeds he commits. Reaching such infancy requires a lot of hard work, and not just your average sad can do it. Many a fallen creature has competed for the title, but the title can only belong to one who truly earns it. Such a title once gotten is not eternally secure; it can be stolen away in the cover of darkness by one who wreaks even greater mischief.

Until recently, the name associated with financial swindling belonged to a certain Italian immigrant named Charles Ponzi. Around the turn of the 20th century, Ponzi arrived on America’s shores and began to offer investors the proverbial “too good to be true” deal.

Ponzi demonstrated his scheme by paying an initial return of 50 percent on the amount invested. But for this generation, the prospects of having anything approaching a dependable (much less, sustainable) paycheck from Uncle Sam during our feeble years is bleak beyond imagination.

Ponzi was a sad inevitability that Ponzi would eventually be swept into the lie and religiously observe wishes and promises with a cavalier indifference. This is why we have a Social Security Trust Fund.

But there’s another element to this debacle that, amidst all the collective blathering at Madoff and Ponzi, seems to be hypocratically forgotten. Let’s not forget that Madoff and Ponzi, wicked as they were, did not force us into their scheme. Sure, they were, did not force us into their scheme. Sure, they made a buck, a sizable chunk of our taxes simply goes towards propping the dying beast as it destructively thrashes about in its final throes. But for this generation, the prospects of having anything approaching a dependable (much less, sustainable) paycheck from Uncle Sam during our feeble years is bleak beyond imagination.

Since the day you first started working and filing taxes you’ve been contributing to this black hole. If you believe I make overly dire characterization, perhaps you’ll heed the comforting words of Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill, a man who has much more to lose than the has to gain speaking truthfully. Nonetheless, in 2001, he bravely translated the writing that had long been written on the wall: the Social Security Trust Fund has no tangible assets. Worse still, a sizable chunk of our taxes simply goes towards propping the dying beast as it destructively thrashes about in its final throes.

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Me, age 12, speaking sternly to my best friend Carly: “Have you accepted Jesus into your heart?” Carly, now sporting a semi-confused expression instead of her usual jovial face: “Umm, no I don’t think so.” Me, extremely perturbed: “Well, you need to do that if you’re going to hike.”

Now, without continuing this embarrassing, horrid slice of dialogue from junior high, I can sum up what fol­lowed: I convinced my friend to come over to my Christian household, so naturally I took my condemnation with a grain of salt. Her lack of reaction caused me to feel a sort of pity for her. I blessed her in my mind, and to bring it back to the Lord.

I had a brigade of well doers by my side, and at such an impressionable young age I couldn’t help walking around dividing people into categories: the heaven-bound Christians, and the despicable sinning Satan lovers. I really couldn’t fathom at that point in life that there was any other way to be. Being Christian was clearly the only true religion. Why couldn’t everyone see that?

Oh, I believe I have interpreted the hale that I walked around with, as a fluorescent sign reading “I AM BETTER THAN YOU,” and this I am sure is true.

The thing was, I was not alone in my ende­avors. I had a brigade of well doers, by my side in the form of my “small group.” It was here in this judgmental group that we would sit around in a circle once a week and divulge our sins to one another in an attempt to make it okay with God. I mean, it was okay—but that Sally gave Tim a hand job while her parents were out, and it was fine that Jenny smoked one of her brother’s cigarettes and washed it down with a swig of brandy. We were Christians, and be­cause of this, our sins were forgiven if we asked. Our small group leader had issues of Cosmolopolitan laying out on her coffee table while we were discussing the validity of the cover­to-face to point my moral deciphering finger at anyone who was-who was-who was-who was.
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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Although Bob the Tomato knew that his Veggie Tales friend was now in heaven, “death by salad” still wasn’t a pleasant sight.

Across
1. Involved
2. Trailblazer
3. Caught corngas, e.g.
4. 14th letter
5. They may have made a hole of a bridge
6. Not in a can of premium mixed Scotch
7. Bithday bit
8. On occasion
9. Lay out
10. They may have made a hole of a bridge
11. Not enforcing all the laws
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Cal Poly senior forward Titus Shelton tumbles to the ground during the Mustangs' 72-62 loss to UC Santa Barbara on Saturday in Mott Gym.

Shelton
continued from page 12
freshman forward David Hanson from Minnesota who considers Shelton a gentle giant.
"I really look to him because he
leads by example. He brings energy
everyday to practice. He works his tail
off. I see that and try to do the same," Hanson said.

One day Shelton plans on playing
overseas in Europe, but until then
Bromley said that Shelton has shown
an interest in another sport.
"He's contemplating going out for
the football team in the spring. I think
he'll be a terrific tight end." A fifth
year of eligibility lan
eartly grant
the football team in the spring. I think
an interest in another sport.

"I really look to him because he
leads by example. I see that and try to do the same." Teresa said.

From roughing up his broth­
ner Timothy playing basketball as a child, Shelton has matured into a much ap­
preciated leader.
"Cal Poly has had many great ath­
letes," Bromley said. "(Titus) is one of the greatest athletes to have ever
played a sport at Cal Poly. We're very fortunate to have him."

"I really look to him because he
leads by example. I see that and try to do the same." Teresa said.

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Megan Harrison
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Lina McBride
Tucson, AZ
Sports world pauses as Obama takes office

Joseph White
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Muhammad Ali and Magic Johnson had prime seats at the Capitol. LeBron James watched from a hotel room in Los Angeles with his two sons. Across the country, coaches rescheduled practices, and even the Super Bowl had to take a back seat Tuesday to the inauguration of Barack Obama.

"This day means to lot of inner-city kids, to African-American kids, to everyone," said Cleveland Cavaliers star James, who contributed $20,000 to Obama’s campaign but couldn’t attend the swearing-in because his team is on a West Coast road trip.

"This day will last forever. It will be in books. It will be in schools. It will be on test seats at the Capitol. Lebron James across the country with his two sons. Across the country, coaches rescheduled practices, and even the Super Bowl had to take a back seat Tuesday to the inauguration of Barack Obama.

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