**We have a new president**

Cal Poly student among millions to witness event

 Mustang Daily photographer and business senior Kristen Hays traveled all the way to Washington, D.C., where she stood Tuesday at the National Mall amid the millions of others who came to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

"I felt 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 waiting for hours in frigid temperatures to witness the moment as a young black man with a foreign-sounding name took command of a nation founded by slaveholders. It was a scene watched in fascination by many millions — perhaps billions — around the world.

"We gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord," the nation's 44th president said.

"Looking ahead, I know the path will not be easy," Obama continued. "It will require new effort on my part, and new effort on the part of all of us."

Obama called on Americans to "pursue our common journey together.

President Barack Obama, right, joined by his wife Michelle, second from right, and daughters Sasha, second from left, and Malia, takes the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts at the U.S. Capitol. A crowd of more than a million waited for hours to witness the history-making moment as millions more around the world watched the ceremony on TV and the Web.

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**Forum on Gaza conflict invites student discussion**

Samantha MacConnell  
**STUDENT EDITOR**

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


"I think for many people on this campus, the conflict in Israel is a bit of an enigma," Lloyd-Moffett said.

"It seems fighting erupts every few years and we don't seem to understand why or how it will end."

A main goal of the lecture is to analyze why the latest conflict is occurring, when it started and how to navigate to peace, Lloyd-Moffett said.

Another goal is to offer people with different views a forum to talk about the conflict in a productive and respectful way.

The Cal Poly Israel Alliance, Hillel of San Luis Obispo and Students for Justice and Peace in the Middle East aim to promote awareness of Middle Eastern issues. Though their views often differ, they worked together to organize this event.

"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. "Almost everyone who wants to see in the Middle East both organizations are trying to work together, trying to hold meaningful events for Cal Poly students and the community at large in order to build a bridge between the two groups."

The organizations agreed that having a mutual understanding is a necessary step towards creating peace in the Middle East. "I think this lecture is going to help students understand the conflict at large," Kory said. "This conflict has been going on for far too long and it's really deep-rooted animosity between Palestinians and Israelis, so seeing things in a more diplomatic view will give more sympathy to people who are examining it."

Lloyd-Moffett hopes students will view debates and discussions differently after the event.

"What I'm hoping is that students will set an example of how you don't necessarily agree with everyone with whom you speak, but you can agree that there is value in discussion and learning from each other," he said.

"The War for Gaza: Why Now? What Now?" will be presented tonight at 8 in Philips Hall located behind the Performing Arts Center. The event is free and open to the public.
Obama

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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.

Husky and rallied through the three days of pre-inaugural festivities, Obama seemed certain as he stood on the Capitol steps, placed his left hand on the Bible used by Abraham Lincoln and repeated the inaugural oath “to preserve, protect and defend” a Constitution that originally defined blacks as three-fifths of a person. A deafening cheer went up.

“What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recogni­tion, on the part of every American, that we here duties to make our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather scene gladly,” Obama said. “This is the price and the promise of citizenship.”

He added to the inability — or unwillingness — of Americans to adjust to the passing of an industri­al-based economy, “Our economy is badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some, but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare for a new age a few months,” he said, with that, the 47-year-old former Illinois senator transformed himself — from a candidate calling his campaign is about the voters to a president promise­ing to put the nation in the people’s hands.

Unlike most predecessors, Obama takes office with his agenda in many ways set for him.

One challenge that seems more far-reaching than at any inauguration since Franklin D. Roosevelt took office, with 311 million people now out of work, and trillions of dollars of stock market investments lost. Too wars, one in Iraq that most of the country has long wanted over and another in Afghanistan that is spri­tual downward and needs an over­haul. The continuing fear that another calamitous terrorism attack is not out of the question.

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More inspirational than prescrip­tive, Obama’s inaugural address only glanced mentioned a series of promises from his campaign: to get the U.S. out of Iraq, stabilize Afghan­istan, create jobs, “restore science to its rightful place,” boost the use of alter­native energy, address climate change, transform schools, manage govern­ment spending wisely and oversee a more bipartisan, less-device approach to policy-making.

The day began well before dawn as people made their way downtown to secure spots from which to witness Washington from all over to watch firsthand as one of their own at last donned a partial social barrier.

“This situation is so emotional it’s basically an unreal experience,” added 36-year-old Clinton Kandek of the LIS. “It’s like a dream.”

Others also see in Obama fresh hope for a moment at a time great national insecurity. Or a chance for rest from the eight acrimonious years of the Bush presidency.

In a country nearly evenly divided between Democrats and Republic­ans, it was notable that proteges were nearly uncore, a remarkable shift from the two Bush inaugurations that were marked by boisterous demonstrations.

With his White House campaign and landslide November victory built in part on his rhetorical gifts, Obama sought to provide reassurance for the future while compelling listeners to sacrifice.

He articulated eloquently the deeper effect on the American psyche of the problems of war and recession: “a nagging fear that America’s decline is inevitable, and that the next genera­tion must lower its sights.”

Not so, said Obama. But he cautious­ly that the effort will require all creation of a “coalition of willing and able nations that are able to act together as one.”

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

“We hope and venture, let us bravely undertake the huge current and endure what storms may come,” Obama said.

Let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come.

—Barack Obama
President of the United States

Thursday, January 21, 2009

Bush, the architect of two unfin­ished wars and the man in charge at end of economic calamities, the now-ex-president left Washington under the cloud of approval ratings hovering around 20 percent. He held up­side when Bush’s image was flashed on jumbotrons and one contingent near the Capitol sang “ena na-na, hey, hey, goodbye” in a jarring fare­well.

For all the new president’s calls for joint effort, it is political reality that it will largely be up to Obama himself to meet soaring expectations — both those he has created for himself and those others have placed on him un­bidden.

In the Oval Office awaits the workday, hard-nosed business of the daily governance of a nation of 304 million. And while Washington cele­brated events kept pouring Wall Street did, news surfaced that U.S. carmaker Chrysler could be purchased in part by Italian auto giant Fiat, and pros­ecutors at the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, sought to suspend all war-crimes trials pending Obama’s guidance.

As one of his first official acts, Obama signed a personal decla­ration declaring Tuesday a “National Day of Renewal and Reconciliation.”

He officially removed the U.S. cab­inet, except for Commerce and De­fense secretaries. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, a holdover from the Bush administration, does not need to be renominated.

The Senate convened to quickly confirm six members of the Cabinet but put off for a day the approval on his choice to be secretary of state, Hil­lary Rodham Clinton, because Re­publican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas objected to the unanimous vote.

Congress already has given Obama $3.5 billion in new financial-industry bailout money and is fast-tracking a massive economic stimulus bill to be worth $820 billion. The second in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“With hope and venture, let us bravely undertake the huge current and endure what storms may come,” Obama said.

Study continued from page 1

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

“Watching the Mall fill up with two million people was the same excit­ing as the Capitol was absolutely beautiful…” that was probably the best part,” she said.

She said the crowd became more excited as the day progressed
towards Obama’s wearing-in cer­emonies. Everyone, including the presi­dent of the United States was seen or his name was mentioned, “the crowd just went crazy… cheering, clapping, chanting his name,” says Hays.

“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 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. Both Bush and his wife were greeted with enthusiasm by seaside hills in Europe and shamans in Latin America chanting Barack Obama's name with reverence.

From Kenya and Indonesia, where Barack Obama has family ties, to Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America, Obama's inauguration sparked a volcanic explosion of hope for better days ahead. The ascendency 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 incapable of being resolved. You, Mister President, have brought a new voice of hope that we can, in fact, change the world and make of it a better place." Mandela's statement was echoed in much of the world after Obama's connections, via a great-grandfather named Fumilush Kearsy who emigrated to the United States in 1850. They also basked in a special round of applause, locally called a "brack," to sell for the occasion — with Obama's picture on the wrapping.

"As far as I am concerned, today is a holiday," said Patrick Hawkins, an insurance agent in Georgetown. "Today is a serious and historic day for everybody, a historic day."

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White House officials ordered the Secret Service to increase the security at an event in afirm. The event is to serve the inauguration ceremony. The inauguration is scheduled to take place at 12 p.m. ET on Monday, January 20, 2009.

Bush tells cheering Texans it is good to be home

Betsy Blaney

KENYANS JUMP IN JOY AS THEY SEE U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA APPEAR ON A LARGE SCREEN AS PEOPLE GATHERED TO WATCH THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION CEREMONY IN NAIROBI, KENYA, TUESDAY.

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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 on Thursday 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 parking.

BART managers are also considering cutting back on weekend and Sunday rail service.

BART officials attribute the agency's budget troubles on the weakening economy, slowing ridership growth and state diversions of transit 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 oust Hutu rebels who participated in Rwanda's genocide and have long been at the heart of the region's conflict, officials said.

Congo's government spokesman Lambert Mende said the Rwandan forces arrived Tuesday morning and that the joint military operation 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 Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said there was concern that Hutu militia might retaliate against civilians.

"I liked the way he referenced the Founding Fathers a lot, that was pretty cool."

—Daniel Simpson, sophomore civil engineering

"The part about how he said America's going to be really strong against everything going on in the world and our nation. (He also said that) we're going to unite just like we did when the Revolutionary War was going on. I thought that was really cool."

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"I think the part where he quoted scripture and misquoted it. He (read) from the Bible and he (them) misquoted it out of context and I think that stood out to me the most."

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"What stood out to you in President Barack Obama's inaugural address?"

"I like how he talked about how America is a friend to all nations and how that's going to be the defining moment... I thought that this stance on foreign policy was the most impressive part and it stood out the most to me."

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WORD ON THE STREET

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Passing sugar a whole different way

Krizia Torres

It isn’t very often when one finds an art exhibit that replaces watercolors and sculptures with iMac computer monitors, Saks-Fifth Avenue shopping bags and personal quotes made from powdered sugar. This rare occasion has come to Cal Poly in the form of an artist named Marian Bantjes.

As an artist, Marian Bantjes is a league of her own. The renowned Canadian artist recently opened her art exhibit called "Marian Bantjes Shows Off!" in Cal Poly’s University Art Gallery.

Bantjes encompasses several different forms of art, never settling on one specific medium. Her art forms include: graphic design, illustration, typographic, paint, photographic, writing, wood burning and everything in between; this mixture of genres is part of what has brought attention to her work.

"She is an experimental topographer," said Garrett Deike, an art and design senior who has visited Bantje’s exhibit. "She produces a lot of work that’s in between graphic design and fine art. She has a lot of hand-executed designs that are fluent and very appealing to look at."

Many of Bantjes’ clients embrace the edge, yet simplistic modernism found in her works, which include computer magazines to department stores to wineries. Some of her client names include: Pentagram, Houghton-Mifflin, ESPN Magazine, Details, InStyle, The New York Times Magazine, Print, and Wired.

Resting against a wall in the exhibit is an iMac monitor displaying one of Bantjes’ artworks. This project, called "Bunch!" is a flipbook-paned photographic slideshow of a ball of fir. It was created last year as a logo for the UK firm Bunch. These stills quickly show the hot pink and orange ball of fir taken on various shapes, eventually bringing the fir 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 create 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

Poet offers ‘praise song’ for Inauguration Day

Hiller Italie

NEW YORK — Following the world’s most awaited oration — 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.

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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 experimenting personally with her design before she uses it professionally. These are just time (put into them).

"It's really inspiring for graphic designers to apply their studio art skills, like hands-on design, rather than using vectorized-graphics and plain typography that you find on the (Adobe)/Creative Suite," Deiter said.

"It's interesting learning about how older 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 apply their studio art skills, like hands-on design, rather than using vectorized-graphics and plain typography that you find on the (Adobe)/Creative Suite," 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.
"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 obsessed me the way it does 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 As Elongated Man says, "Anyone who puts on a costume paints a bull's-eye on his family's chest."

Though 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.

As Elongated Man says, "Anyone who puts on a costume paints a bull's-eye on his family's chest."

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. Rags 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.

(Hey, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.)
Ms. Mother of Rome

The firstborn among all women.

Musically Speaking

by Jeremy Hicks

Every so often, a rheumatism comes along so scandalous and deviant that history weaves his name with the deeds he committed. Reaching such infamy requires a lot of hard work, and not just your average sed 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 tale 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. He exploited this idea, among others, perhaps you'll heed the electrifying words of Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill, a man who has much more to lose than he has to gain speaking truthfully. Nonetheless, in 2003, he bravely translated the writing that had King been written (in the Social Security Trust Fund).

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 harks 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-WW II 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 expression.

Since the day you first started working and tilting toward retirement age, you've contributed your share to this dream. Despite what some are, you've contributed your share to this dream. Despite what some are, the Social Security Trust Fund is not pushing any view on young women and I admire that. Definitely since I am a proud teenage feminist (19) mom of my now 3-and-a-half-year-old son and an economics sophomore here at Poly. Thank you for not being judgemental, as some are.

Barbara MacArthur Norman

Response to "Living in a postmodern man, not a God"

I just wanted to commend that I liked this article. When I first saw it, I was skeptical of it because usually whenever someone talks about pregnancy and young women, they look down on it and make a big deal about it, but it ended up being very respectful of young moms and their choices. I found it mostly informative, not pushing any view on young women and I admire that. Definitely since I am a proud teenage feminist (19) mom of my now 3-and-a-half-year-old son and an economics sophomore here at Poly. Thank you for not being judgemental, as some are.

BreccAnna McMann

Response to "Students facing pregnancy have options"

You deserve a break.

By Jeremy Hicks

Don't Tread on Me

Mustang Daily

Editor in chief: Marilize van Romburg
Managing Editor: Giana Magnoli
www.mustangdaily.net
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: “Um no, I don’t think so,” Me, extremely perturbed: “Well you need to do that or else you’re going to hell.”

Now, without continuing this embarrassing, horrible scene of dialogue from junior high, I can sum up what followed: my friend was over for a 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 believed counterpart would experience the gift of a divine alcoholic with the Lord my God, and she simply went about her business while I attended the tides. Poor Carly, if only she would listen to me. I was trying my best to see her off all.

I was told at church that anyone who did not follow Jesus would most surely spend an eternity down below. That idea stuck with me, and at such an impressionable young age, I couldn’t help but imagine walking around deciding people into categories: the heavens- 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?

But I, better interpreted the halo that I walked around with, as a fluorescent sign reading “I AM BETTER THAN THEM.” I was sure we were better.

The thing was, I was not alone in my endeavor. I had a brigade of well doers by my side in the way 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—dokey 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 without asking. It was this kind of a cause, our sins were forgiven if we asked. Our small group leader had issues of Cosmopolitan laying out on her coffee table weeks. My group was one of the few with the courage to point my moral deciphering finger at anyone who stepped out of the line.

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Shelton
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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.

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 will be given to Shelton in the spring. I think he'll be a terrific tight end," Bromley said.

Shelton has matured into a much appreciated leader. "Cal Poly has had many great athletes," 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."

Obama
continued from page 12

he thought of his grandmother who died in 2006, as he watched Obama take the oath. He said the sports world paid more attention than usual to Obama's rise because of the high proportion of African-Americans on many teams.

"It has to do with race," Hawkins said. "A lot of African-American people feel now they can relate to someone in the White House and that somebody in the White House can relate to them. He can understand their struggles. He can understand what it means to be black in the United States."

New York Mets general manager Omar Minaya also had a good view, not far from singer Al­ li's Eyes.

"I hope all kids will look at today and realize how great a country we have," said Minaya, who was appointed this month to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports by outgoing President George W. Bush.

On the other side of the world, tennis star Serena Williams followed pressurial events on television during the Australian Open, although she felt it probably was wiser to tape the inauguration rather than watch it live at 4 a.m. local time.

"There's no way I wouldn't have watched it," she said. "I live at 4 a.m. local time. The inauguration rather than watch it live."

"I try to stay politically neutral, don't get involved in worldly matters," said Williams, who doesn't vote because she is a Jehovah's Witness. "For me, because I am black, seeing that happen, I would be blind if I didn't take interest in it."

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Ft. Collins, Colo.; and AP Sports Writers Tom Wilk­ en in Cleveland; Alan Robinson in Pittsburgh, Jimmy Cauley in Boston; Will Graves in Louisville, Ky.; Doug Tucker in Kansas City, Mo., and John
"My father never pressured me to play a sport, he wasn't around much when I was little," he explained. "But when I grew up and he was around more, he told me that I didn't have to wing him away from playing basketball. I didn't have my father around was better for me because it allowed me to do things my own way."

Thus far Shelton's approach has translated into 12.1 points, 3.3 boards and 1.6 assists per game. Last year alone he racked up 31 career blocks which placed him second in career blocks at Cal Poly with 82. He was named Big West Conference Defensive Player of the Year after his sophomore year when he accumulated 38 blocks in 27 games; and he is improving.

In the offseason, Shelton went through an extensive workout routine with his brother in which he lost nearly 20 pounds. "You have to get into shape to be a better player," he said.

Loosing the weight has definitely made quicker and I've played more minutes than I have in the past," Shelton said.

Although some have called Shelton the total package like junior guard Charles Anderson, you wouldn't know that by talking to the 6-foot-7 humble "valley kid" who opted for Cal Poly over other schools like Fresno State, because "the whole thing felt like family. There's a lot of us from a good group of guys here." Here he reconnected with Anderson who he played with for two years at Bakersfield High School.

"Titus is one of the greatest athletes to ever play a sport at Cal Poly. We're very fortunate to have him."

—Kevin Bromley
Cal Poly head coach

The Boston Celtics, on the way to Miami for a road game, voted to change their flight schedule and arrive in time for the players to watch the ceremony from their hotel, even though coach Doc Rivers offered to tape it for them.

"They said, 'No, we want to see it live. We think it's that important," Rivers said. "Twenty or 30 years from now, I want to say to him, 'Look, we're just watching basketball."

Despite playing in the West Coast, the Celtics were able to watch the ceremony because of their flight schedule. Rivers watched the ceremony from his hotel in Miami.

"It was so overwhelming... Sitting right in front of the Capitol, all people kept doing was looking behind them," said Rivers.

"Titus is one of the nicest guys you will ever meet," Anderson said. "He tries to help out the younger guys who are going to take his spot when he leaves.

"Titus has the biggest heart. What he has, he gives you," Cal Poly head coach Bromley agreed.

Bromley said Shelton is a model athlete that needs to continue to grow in is... when he gets demanding: "I want the ball in my hands, he kind of constrains that as being selfish," Bromley said. "He is such the giver, almost unselfish to a fault."

"I think we've given him a lot of freedom and he's been very lucky to have him."

—Kevin Bromley
Cal Poly head coach

Sports world pauses as Obama takes office

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 break. Tuesday was the inauguration of Barack Obama.

"I was just fortunate to have a lot of inner-city kids, to African-American kids, to everyone," said Cleveland Cavaliers star James, who contributed $20,000 to the configuration.

It will be in books. It will be in schools. It will be in classes. It will be on test scores. It will be on test scores. It will be on test scores. It will be in our history. It will be in cultural lush lands of the San Joaquin Valley. I think from the flat land to the mountains, it was definitely going to give in the agriculture."

"I think that peaceful was very moving."

In Fairfax, Va., George Mason men's basketball coach Jim Larranaga used "Yes, we can!" as his thought for the day when practice began at 13:30 a.m. He pulled his players off the court 27 minutes later and took them to the locker room to watch the swearing-in and Obama's speech. The players broke out in applause several times, then returned to finish practice.

Even ESPN deviated from its sports programming to broadcast the swearing-in, and ESPN Classic followed with a 10-hour "Breaking Barriers" marathon featuring African-American athletes such as Arthur Ashe, Jack Johnson and Eddie Robinson.

Sports metaphors were heavily in use, though coach Rivers was the only one to use them. He discussed how Obama's speech related to basketball. "He's a lot better now, and more patient."

Shelton would later leave Bakersfield after his coach was discharged for reasons Shelton disapproved.

I tried to do it the right way by moving to Fresno, but the media stuff people saying things that have to do with politics. It was hard. I didn't get to play my senior year."

It was not all negative though, the controversial move from Bakersfield High School to the private San Joaquin Memorial High School in Rocklin, created new friendships and a new home for him.

"Wherever I play against Fresno, or I play in Bakersfield, I feel at home. It's like having two hometowns."

Shelton would later graduate from Clovis West High School in Fresno.

So when Cal Poly played back to back games with Fresno State and Cal State Bakersfield, losing both in a tightly contested fashion, Shelton took the losses to heart.

"That was tough losing to them because I always want to give them a good game and beat them," he said, especially since many of the players from those schools were people he had played with at one point in his life.

But other than his fierce competitiveness, a trait that is brought up as much as his athletic ability is his humility.

"He's one of the nicest guys you will ever meet," said Anderson. "He tries to help out the younger guys who are going to take his spot when he leaves.

"Titus has the biggest heart. What he has, he gives you," Cal Poly head coach Bromley agreed.

That generosity can be seen on the court, because while he gets double teamed often, Shelton relies on his team to put points on the board.

"Titus' biggest area that he needs to continue to grow in is... when he gets demanding: "I want the ball in my hands, he kind of constrains that as being selfish," Bromley said. "He is such the giver, almost unselfish to a fault."

He has definitely made an impression on... see Shelton, page 11

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 break on Tuesday to the inauguration of Barack Obama.

"What we're doing here today is an event," said Ali.

"What we're doing here today is a gift," said Johnson.

"What we're doing here today is a gift," said James.

"We're watching history," said Ali.

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