Alcohol, hazing led to freshman's death

Marlize van Rensburg

The death of Cal Poly freshman Carson Starkey last quarter has been determined to be the result of alcohol poisoning. Police have further confirmed that his death was as a result of hazing and the party Starkey had attended the evening before his death was an initiation event for the fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon, which he was pledging.

Starkey's recently released autopsy reveals that he suffered from respiratory arrest due to Acute Ethanol Toxicity, and alcohol poisoning. Starkey's blood alcohol level was between 39 and 44 percent — a level exceeding the effects of surgical anesthesia. When blood alcohol levels exceed such a high percentage, the brain stops functioning due to toxic overloads of alcohol, said medical doctor David L. Harris explained.

"It's impossible for the body to metabolize that much alcohol, overwhelming the capacity to function," Harris said. "The brain tells your body to stop breathing and a number of organs in the body shut down." Starkey, 18, passed away the morning of Dec. 2, 2008 at SerraVista Regional Medical Center. At 6:24 that morning, a 911 call was received from a house on Highland Drive where Starkey was subsequently found unresponsive. Investigators have since performed numerous interviews and conducted search warrants on nine separate locations, concluding that his death was the result of alcohol-related hazing at the fraternity's initiation party held at the house.

With the investigation ongoing, police are not yet proving with criminal charges at this time, although hazing is considered a crime, said San Luis Obispo Police Captain Dan Blanke.

"We will definitely keep this story in the spotlight because of the high profile tragic event that occurred in our community," Blanke said. Following Starkey's death last quarter, SAE's charter was suspended from all activity first by the university and later by the fraternity's national organization. The chapter's charter has since been completely revoked by Cal Poly, meaning it is no longer affiliated with the university.

Stephan Lamb, associate director of Student Life & Leadership, said university officials have known for some time that alcohol was a likely factor in Starkey's death, but that it was unclear just how much alcohol he had consumed until the autopsy results were released.

Cal Poly has launched its own on-campus judicial investigation regarding the incident which is separate from the criminal investigations conducted by police. Following the first exploratory investigation, which includes interviewing fraternity members, judicial action could be taken against the individuals found to be responsible, Lamb said.

There are things happening in the Greek community and throughout the rest of the community that need to be examined," he added.

Following Starkey's death, a Greek summit was held in Cambria on Jan. 9 to 11 to discuss the future of Cal Poly Greek life activity.

"The whole Greek community knows it's under very close scrutiny right now," Lamb said. SAE's risk management contract includes sections on alcohol, drugs, sober rides and sexual assault. It states that "any and all pledge and/or new member activities will be dry" and "no member will force any other member to drink." It also prohibits underage drinking, requires the fraternity to have "at least two sober brothers" at every event and every member will be "a true gentleman" around women at all times.

In addition to the death of Starkey, SAE has had several incidences in which they had to attend meetings with Student Life and Leadership including alcohol violations, destruction of property and the alleged drugging of a sorority member with the date rape drug GHB.

The investigation surrounding Starkey's death is continuing and police are not releasing further information at this time. A call made to the Starkey home in Texas was answered by an unknown family member who declined to comment because of the ongoing investigation.

— Genevieve Logan and Giana Magnoli contributed to this report

Cal Poly students package green future

Matt Fountain

Three Cal Poly programs have launched a program that has students working with major companies to deal with environmental issues facing the packaging industry.

Cal Poly's industrial technology department in conjunction with the Orfalea College of Business and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences started Cal Poly's Consortium on Packaging Science and Technology to offer research and development services to an impressive list of companies, including Microsoft and Safeway, to design packaging materials that are sustainable and eco-friendly.

"One of the issues of sustainability is what happens after whatever's in the package is utilized and you've got the packaging left over. Where does it go?" said industrial technology chair Louis Terrazakly, a founder of the program.

"There are different options you can throw it in the dumpster and it goes in a landfill. And maybe, you think, it can then just go away, that there's nothing left after five years," he said. "But what we're finding with historical packaging is that stuff that went in the dump a hundred years ago is still pretty good. This program is using various research techniques to understand if these materials are biodegradable, are sustainable."

Participating companies pay the university an annual fee to design packaging that is sustainable and eco-friendly.
WASHINGTON (AP) — In a first-day whirlwind, President Barack Obama showed efforts to reverse the economy on Wednesday, summoned top military officials to the White House to chart a new course in Iraq and used the daunting thicker of Middle East diplomacy.

"What an opportunity we have to change this country," said the 47-year-old chief executive, who also touted new ethics rules for his administration, hosted a reception at the presidential mansion for 200 inauguration volunteers and guests selected by an Internet lottery and even took the oath of office again after it was flubbed Tuesday.

After dancing at inaugural balls with first lady Michelle Obama past midnight, Obama entered the Oval Office for the first time as president in early morning. He read a good luck note left behind by President George W. Bush, then began breaking cleanly with his predecessor's policies.

Aides circulated a draft of an executive order that would close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year and halt all war crimes trials in the U.S.

"Closing the site "would further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice," the draft read the prepared for the new president's signature. A copy was obtained by The Associated Press, and an aide said privately that Obama would sign a formal order on Thursday.

Some of the 245 detainees currently held at Guantanamo would be released, while others would be transferred elsewhere and later put on trial under terms to be determined.

Obama's Cabinet was moving close to completion.

At the Capitol, the Senate confirmed Kirkfield Rodham Clinton as secretary of state after a one-day delay forced by Republicans. The vote was 94-2, and spectators seated in the galleries erupted in applause when it was announced.

Treasury-designate Timothy Geithner emerged unscathed from his confirmation hearing, apologizing for having to pay $354,000 in taxes owed the decade.

To the evident anger of Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Republicans on the panel invoked long-standing rules to postpone a vote on Eric Holder's appointment as attorney general.

Counting Clinton, seven Cabinet members have been confirmed so far, as have the two top officials at the Office of Management and Budget.

Obama's schedule for the day included seminars on the economy and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The new president has pledged to take bold steps to revive the economy, which is struggling to emerge from the Great Depression. Last week, he won approval to use $850 billion in leftover financial industry bailout funds.

He presided over the White House reception on the economy as the House Appropriations Committee moved toward approval of $358 billion in new spending, part of the economic stimulus package making its way to his desk.

The new commander-in-chief held his first meeting in the Situation Room, where he, Vice President Joe Biden and senior military and foreign policy officials discussed plans for Obama's inauguration, his administration's approach to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Obama campaigned on a pledge to withdraw U.S. combat forces from Iraq within 16 months, and to beef up the commitment in Afghanistan.

Obama asked the Pentagon to do whatever additional planning necessary to "execute a responsible military disengagement from Iraq.

Among them was an Interior Department proposal to remove packaging

"What an opportunity we have to change this country."

—Barack Obama

President of the United States

Packaging

in exchange for these services, which range from sustainable initiatives and analysis of current products to packaging development.

According to Kent Vorst, assistant professor of industrial technology, the purpose of the program is to advance the use of alternative, greener materials, as well as develop packaging that uses less materials.

"For example,” Vorst said, “you go out and buy a Microsoft mouse. We look at designing packages that use less materials to ship that mouse or use materials that is recycled or biodegradable.”

The group is led by Tornatzky, Vorst and Jay Singh from the industrial technology department as well as Wyatt Brown from the horticulture and crops sciences department.

The consortium will focus on four projects in its first year. Tasks include analysis and evaluation of packaging materials set for distribution by the participating companies as well as development of single and multi-layer films for modified atmospheric packaging.

One such project is known as life-cycle inventory, where industry partners send in proposed packaging solutions and the team, through various software programs and research techniques, will pick the proposals apart and deliver an estimate on that package’s sustainability performance.

Another project deals with how best to use radio frequency identification (RFID), a receiver/transmitter used to monitor packaging objects in transit. RFID tags, which can be smaller than a grain of rice, can hold more information than barcodes and give companies and researchers a clearer understanding of where these materials go after a product’s use.

This program marks the first time Cal Poly has launched this type of joint public-private enterprise and substantial benefits for the university and students.

"This will make the students involved impressively hire-able, hot commodities," Tornatzky said.

"Having this consortium is a real coup for us because we’re much more nationally visible and we may be actually solving significant real problems that affect all of us.

Cal Poly is not the only beneficiary of this program. The 12 participating companies also get substantial RFID work for significantly less money, as well as access to a pool of potential student hires and early access to results.

"These companies get research done at a very inexpensive rate compared to hiring an outside consulting firm,” Vorst explained.

“They can outsource at a much cheaper rate while supporting education.”

The consortium program, though only in its first year, is expected to grow in size and scope.

According to Tornatzky, with the benefits to multiple companies and industry leaders — as well as our physical environment — more companies are already looking to get involved.

"This is an innovation for Cal Poly. I think we should do more of this,” he said. ""We should be working with industry in ways that they’re enhanced, we’re enhanced, the world’s enhanced.”

Packaging continued from page 1
WORD ON THE STREET
“What do you think about Obama’s decision to close Guantanamo?”

“I'm on the fence. I don't have a strong opinion either way. I'm sure he has his reasons, I'm sure Bush has his too.”
— Suzie Abramont, food science senior

“I think it exemplifies the impression Obama wants to make in the global community.”
— Kris Camarillo, civil engineering senior

“I don’t think it should have been open in the first place. There are a lot of legal issues and it doesn’t fall in our jurisdiction.”
— Cedar Lampe, political science senior

“I hope he goes about it with the right process and deals with the prisoners correctly.”
— Elsa Daus, landscape architecture senior

Sources say Obama will order Guantanamo closure today
Lara Jakes and David Espo (AP)
President Barack Obama will begin overhauling U.S. national security policy Thursday with orders to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center, review military trials of terror suspects and end harsh interrogations, two government officials said. Together, the three executive orders and a presidential directive will reshape how the United States prosecutes and questions al-Qaida, Taliban or other foreign fighters who pose a threat to Americans.

A senior Obama administration official said the president would sign an order Thursday to shutter the Guantanamo prison within one year, fulfilling his campaign promise to close a facility that critics around the world say violates domestic and international detainee rights. The side spoke on condition of anonymity because the order has not yet been issued.

A draft copy of the order, obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press, notes that “in view of significant concerns raised by these detention, both within the United States and internationally, prompt and appropriate disposition of the individuals currently detained at Guantanamo and closure of the facility would further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice.”

An estimated 245 men are being held, see Gitmo, page 4

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Thursday, January 22, 2009
www.mustangdaily.net
MUSTANG DAILY
News
Wire Editor: Cassandra J. Carlson

Briefs

State

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — A big welcome home is planned for the Davisville pilot who safely landed a jetliner in the Hudson River.

“I can think of at least one hundred and fifty-five reasons why our town should join together to celebrate our neighbor and friend and his family,” Mayor Newell Arnerich said in a statement, referring to the fact that all 155 people aboard the plane survived.

US Airways Pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger has been acclaimed across the country for gliding Flight 1549 to an emergency river landing in New York on Jan. 15 after reporting a birdstrike and loss of engine power.


“I hope he goes about it with the right process and deals with the prisoners correctly.”
— Elsa Daus, landscape architecture senior

National

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — A fatal stabbing on Virginia Tech campus has triggered a crisis alert system that was revamped after a deadly mass shooting there in 2007.

Students were warned Wednesday night to stay in place in an alert sent by email and text message. After a suspect was taken into custody, students were told about an hour later they could resume normal activities.

The killing took place at the Graduate Life Center. A University news release says the suspect is a male graduate student and the victim is a female graduate student.

Police found a knife they believe was the murder weapon.

The alert system was revamped after gunman Seung-Hui Cho took 32 lives in an April 2007 rampage.

“Sullenberger has been acclaimed across the country for gliding Flight 1549 to an emergency river landing in New York on Jan. 15 after reporting a birdstrike and loss of engine power.”

“The meeting with Fernandez just before she ended a four-day visit to Cuba, dispelled persistent rumors that the 82-year-old Castro had suffered a stroke or lapsed into a coma in recent days.

“I was with Fidel about an hour or more,” she told reporters at the airport as she left. “We were chatting, conversing. He looked good.”

Fernandez said Castro wore the track suit that has become his trademark mark since he fell ill in July 2006 and vanished from public view. A “sullen and frightened” Castro wore a track suit that has become his trademark mark since he fell ill in July 2006 and vanished from public view. A spokesman said the two met alone.

International

HAVANA (AP) — Fidel Castro watched the U.S. inauguration on television and said Wednesday that Barack Obama seems “like a man who is absolutely sincere,” according to Argentina’s president, who met with the ailing Cuban icon.

“Fidel believes in Obama,” Cristina Fernandez said.

The meeting with Fernandez just before she ended a four-day visit to Cuba, dispelled persistent rumors that the 82-year-old Castro had suffered a stroke or lapsed into a coma in recent days.

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The event will feature keynote speakers, recognize employers who support workplace diversity, and promote social networking. In an increasingly diverse and interdependent globalized society, understanding and embracing diversity is critical to success, for both individuals and an organizations.

Join us as we celebrate and promote diversity at Cal Poly!

Cal Poly, Building 124
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Senate confirms secretary of state

Anne Flaherty  ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Senate confirmed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state Wednesday as President Barack Obama moved to make his imprint on U.S. foreign policy, unveiling a fresh team of veteran advisers and reaching out to world leaders.

The Senate voted 94-2, with Republican Sens. David Vitter of Louisiana and Jim DeMint of South Carolina opposing. Republicans and Democrats alike said her swift confirmation was necessary so that Obama could begin tackling the major foreign policy issues at hand, including two wars, increased violence in the Middle East and the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran.

"It is essential that we provide the president with the tools and resources he needs to effect change, and that starts with putting a national security team in place as soon as possible," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Obama's presidential rival, Sen. John McCain, was among those who spoke in Clinton's favor.

"This nation has come together in a way that it has not for some time," said the Arizona Republican, on the Senate floor for the first time since the inauguration.

"We want us to work together and get to work," McCain said.

As the Senate debated Clinton's appointment, Obama took no time in his first day at the White House. According to a White House spokesman, Obama placed telephone calls to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

California health officials are reporting the second-largest number of food poisoning cases in a salmonella outbreak linked to peanuts. A total of 486 people have been sickened in the outbreak, which may have contributed to six deaths. California's Department of Public Health confirmed Wednesday that 62 of those cases are in this state.

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In this photo reviewed by the U.S. Military, a Guantanamo detainee opens a cooler in the open yard at Camp 4 detention center on the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Wednesday.

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Miss America moves into reality TV territory

Kathleen Hennessey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — It's been slow and not necessarily painless, but Miss America is moving into the 21st century — one well-practiced, high-heeled step at a time.

Last year, she got a reality show complete with absurd challenges and snarky judges. Then she was given an updated look, courtesy of the makeover special — one well-practiced, high-heeled step at a time.

The change is just the latest in the continuing search for a new audience for a venerable institution. After years of sinking ratings, ABC dropped the pageant in 2005, forcing it to uproot from the Atlantic City Boardwalk in New Jersey to the Las Vegas Strip. The pageant also moved to cable television, where only a fraction of the revenue and viewers were waiting.

Without a network television contract, the amount of scholarship money awarded plummeted. In 2007, the Miss America Organization distributed $445,000 in scholarships, less than half the total four years earlier, according to the nonprofit's federal tax returns. This year's winter takes a $50,000 scholarship along with a year of travel and public appearances.

"America's going to have a much greater impact than they've ever had before," said Brent Zaller, vice president for production and development at TLC.

"We thought it would be great to really make the whole scheme of the reality show about America get closer to the masses.""America" is a favorite moment for those involved: When Miss Utah 2008 Jill Stevens, an Army medic who was voted into the finals by viewers, dropped and gave the crew push-ups. It wasn't exactly a YouTube moment, but it was a rare hint of spontaneity in a show that has in past years offered few unpracticed moments.

TLC is hoping for more Miss Utahs this year. Clinton Kelly, the sharp-tongued star of the network's "What Not To Wear," will make a return appearance to pull some unsavory conversation from contestants. "Extra" host Mario Lopez will be master of ceremonies. He previously hosted the pageant in 2007.

Full disclosure: I got "removed" from The Library this weekend and although that sounds real hard, you have to understand that means I've been ejected around 01 percent of the times I've been there. Surprising, considering 10 percent of the time is a conservative estimate. I am unaware of how I got home from The Library. Either way, I refused to take elbows from brokies and delivered my signature gesture, the middle finger. Nothing is more instantly gratifying or freeing than a middle finger. I take that back; peering on gigantic trucks when you're drunk or stealing sensuous things like remote controls is probably equally fulfilling.

It's because times like these are so fulfilling that Titus Andronicus officially take the cake for me as album of the year for 2008. Six months of popular listening (at least two times a week) and I still haven't tired of it. Just like I haven't tired of the real energy beverage craze. Both manage to combine the perfect amount of self destruction, awareness of corporate injustice and overall sense of meaninglessness of life with large quantities of overindulgent celebration.

The album comes check full of the meat of life: realizing that everything you do is meaningless, stupid and pointless and that most likely burns down a McDonald's and pissing all over it in ecstatic drunken dance while shouting down a fancy of Old English would be the most positive thing you could do (more positive than voting for Barack Obama). The album opens with "Fear and Loathing in Muncie" — a song that makes you think of good Bright Eyes. Hallway through the song, Patrick Stickles provides the YouTube screens out in agony and you don't care, but should the shit hit the fan, I just pray my song isn't stuck in a loop. Then the whole band yells, "Fuck You!" louder than I've ever heard anybody yell and we get out of nopeville and into the real world where we solve problems by destroying everything and turning up our guitar red loud and playing drums as fast as we can.

That single moment describes this whole damn album. It's all a gigantic middle finger to anything and everything. Nothing feels better than that and nopeing sucks at solving your problems. Broke up with your girl-friend? Why not shoot down a fifth of vodka and kick over trashcans all night? Here, try this. Put on their song "Arms Against Amity" and just throw your body eternally around. I mean, like really lose your shit. Somewhere close to Stickles delivering the line "So please don't whisper sweet nothings in my ear when the sound of shredding vocal chords is what I want to hear." Like Conor Oberst with a pair of huge tesicles you will reach zen state. Or is it put all. The pretty horses, all flowers and trees, they will all mean less than nothing when it all has come to be.

You're in college so I assume on some level your life is smahtifying: angty relationships, general apathy, rampant abuse of drugs or just a really awful job. This album will make you feel good. It made me feel good every morning for three months that I had to get up to a college graduate at four in the morning, and stock tampons and douches in Los Osos. It can solve anything.

Titus Andronicus released its self-titled album last year.

---

Miss District of Columbia Kate Grindol, center, waves as she introduces herself during the arrival ceremony at the Planet Hollywood hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009.
Early Music Ensemble to perform lost treasures from California missions

Ashley Ciullo
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's Early Music Ensemble's performance of "Masters of the Mission" will feature music that was widely heard in missions throughout California during its early history. The concert will take place on Jan. 24 at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center.

The Early Music Ensemble consists of 15 students with significant singing experience. The chorus specializes in performing the technique and style of music written before 1750. Cal Poly music professor Craig Russell researched and reconstructed original pieces of music during the time he spent visiting California missions, several of which the ensemble will play.

"It's like going into a kitchen and finding ingredients to make a recipe. I'm like a detective trying to find out what music sounded like in the California missions hundreds of years ago," Russell said.

Cal Poly music professor Thomas Davies will conduct the performance. "We come as close as we can to performing music as it might have been done at that time," Davies said. "The joy the students have for being able to do something that they love to do is wonderful. After all of the rehearsing, the performance will be exciting."

A small chamber, consisting of baroque guitar, violinists, cellists and harpists will accompany the Early Music Ensemble. As a music scholar and California mission historian, Russell searched for possessions that were eventually located and now remain in consolidated centers throughout the state. When westward orchestra expansion in the United States disrupted the mission system, entire treasures including musical manuscripts, were either physically separated over time or vanished, he said.

The Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and San Fernando missions were some of the ones Russell frequented. He kept a detailed catalog of where specific parts to pieces of music were located and, after numerous visits to a variety of missions throughout California, found enough preserved elements of musical manuscripts to reconstruct some of the original written work.

"Since we didn't grow up playing music during this time, we can't experience the same feelings, since a large part of it has to be learned culturally," Russell said. "But we can get a taste of what it would have been like. Having put this together and rehearsed it, I have a better understanding of what it means to be a Californian. Music is an audible photograph of what people value. This music is amazingly magnificent."
LOS ANGELES — Voters for 2008's worst movies love Mike Myers. They really love him.

Myers' comedy flop "The Love Guru" led the field Wednesday for the Razzies with seven nominations, among them worst picture and worst-acting dots for Myers, Jessica Alba, Verne Troyer and Academy Award winner Ben Kingsley.

The number of nominations for "Love Guru" was appropriate given what a personal project it was for Myers, who not only starred but also co-wrote and produced the movie, said John Wilson, founder of the Razzies, an Oscar spoof that dishes out "dis-honors" for the lousiest stuff Hollywood dredged up the previous year.

"This is one of those auteur-of-the-awful situations," Wilson said. "I think people are tired of him in general. He hasn't really made a good movie in quite some time."

The other worst-picture contenders were "Disaster Movie" and "Meet the Spartans," Hollywood spoofs that shared a nomination for a "badly beaten dead horse of a concept"; the fright flick "The Happening"; Paris Hilton's romantic comedy bomb "The Hottie & the Nottie," plus worst supporting actress for "Repo! The Genetic Opera." "Ball — whose movies include such horror or action tales as "Bloodrayne," "Alone in the Dark" and "House of the Dead" — also was selected by Razzies voters to receive a special prize for worst career achievement as "Germany's answer to Ed Wood;" the legendary bad filmmaker responsible for "Plan 9 From Outer Space."

It's pretty insulting to Ed Wood. Although Wood didn't understand how to splice two frames together, there was a joy of incompetence in his work," Wilson said. "Uwe Boll's like our Meryl Streep. As long as he continues to work, he will get nominated, just like Meryl Streep does with those other awards."

STEVE WILKIS ASSOCIATED PRESS
In this image released by Lionsgate Pictures, Paris Hilton portrays Amber Sweet in a scene from, "Repo! The Genetic Opera."

Larry the Cable Guy for "Walt's Protection" and Mark Wahlberg for "The Happening" and "Max Payne."

"In the Name of the King" filmmaker Uwe Boll had three nominations for 2008 movies, worst director for that flick and "1968: Tunnel Rats" and "Postal," supporting actor for playing himself in "Postal" and screen couple alongside "any actor, camera or screenplay."

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In this file image originally released by Paramount Pictures, Mike Myers is shown in a scene from "The Love Guru."
Will it still be change we can believe in four years from now?

By Ian Nachreiner

On Tuesday, history was made as our nation swore Barack Obama into office. I am proud of this moment in history. I am glad our country has moved forward to a point where he has been elected and is serving as our president. However, we must remember he's just a man, and custom ourselves about tying a social movement to the policies of one man.

I am referring to latching on to an empty message of hope. Many have hung onto the coattails of Obama and his message of change, and yet this message lacks clear definition. Liberal groups have praised the election of Obama and "change we can believe in." But what does that change entail? Is Obama president today because he had the more favorable policies than John McCain? Is he president today because he isn't George Bush? Or is Obama president because of political correctness? There is no simple answer. I contend that it is a combination of these factors.

As his inaugural address Obama proclaimed, "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again the work of remaking America." President Obama, America is not broken. There may be disagreements as to how things are being done, but in the grand scheme of things this is not a broken nation, and it does not need remaking. The notion that America needs remaking is a faulty one and arguments that have consumed us for so long will largely fade in time, to what is simpler answer. I contend that it is a combination of these factors.

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So long Bush administration, and thanks for all the fish

by Stephanie England

January 20, 2009 will be a day dearly remembered by Americans and the world for more reasons than the intensity of occurring in the first black president of the United States.

It will be remembered for more than a re-lighting of the lamps of freedom and justice behind the doors of the Oval Office. It will be remembered for more than Barack Obama's moving inaugural speech, and the picturesque snapshots of our new president and first lady slow dancing among decorated soldiers and exuberant young people.

Tuesday will be remembered for the millions of people who huddled in 15 degree windchill amongst our national symbols of liberty to help make history and to hear freedom ring out with their own ears from a microphone miles away.

It will be remembered for those of us who believed in change, who helped bury the ghosts of both our distant and recent past and for those of us who "listened to our hopes instead of our fears," in the words of Michelle Obama during the 2008 Democratic Convention.

In his inaugural address, President Obama said, "What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them, that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply."

Those saying we were in a mere mortal and not a god, and who would tell us not to expect change too quickly, need not patronize their audience or seek to lower our expectations. I ask those who might claim that President Obama is only one man who can't possibly change the things he promised in his first term to consider recent presidential history.

By forcing elections in Gaza, one man gave Hamas the opportunity to launch rockets into Israel, killing innocent civilians and instigating a war. One man's adherence to an ideology of deradicalization helped ruin our economy. During Hurricane Katrina, one man's carelessness and cronyism led to over 1,300 preventable deaths. One man's words helped take a nation's soldiers to war and to their graves.

If George W. Bush has caused so much ruin in the world and America, surely Obama can influence even more good.

In his speech, Obama offered an answer to the Republican dogma of limited government when he said, "The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works, whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end."

In this time of setting aside childish things, as President Obama said in his inaugural address, fiscal responsibility should no longer mean less government spending for the simple reason that tax dollars belong to the American people, nor should we reject the necessity of spending for the common good. In this era, fiscal responsibility means that we invest tax dollars wisely. Likewise, leadership should no longer be defined by the political party that brandishes the meanest, loudest words.

I think the one issue that might persuade Obama's administration will be how we receive his speeches in contrast to the backdrop of media spin. Obama can accomplish as much as we the people allow. If we oppose his plans, our disapproval will trickle into the polls and influence our legislators.

If we oppose the president's plans for legitimate reasons, then our system of government will be affirmed. If we disapprove of his proposals because of the rigid ideologies of pundits and politicians who would oppose his plans regardless, then our system has become more corrupt than any of us can put into words.

That said, the ground certainly is shifting beneath our feet. As we tell Bush "so long, and thanks for all the fish," we also embrace the hope that, with our collective hard work and commitment, we will help make the world what it should be.

It may take eight years or four years, but we can and will get there.

What we do with this moment in history and how we collectively approach it is entirely up to us. Some will have no doubt approach it with the belief that everything we can do for this country and in the world will be wrong, or they will continue to say that Obama is a radical or a socialist; they will be left behind to sort the AM radio waves. The rest of us will approach this time with the knowledge that not everything proposed will work right away, but that we have to try. And in the pursuit of finding what works, we will be on our way to forming a more perfect union.

We are now on our way to an America where we can have universal health care, we can return Iraq to the Iraqi people responsibly, we can lessen the financial burden of a college education for families, we can transmit to green energy, and we can reach out to the poor and exploited at home and abroad.

Yes, we can.

Stephanie England is an English junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
A bar tender is needed to work during the summer at the campus student union. The position offers flexible hours and is available immediately. Applicants should have customer service experience and be at least 18 years old. For more information or to apply, call 1-800-859-4109.
Bowl

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no survivors. Toller's wife heard that while she was playing cards with the wives of other Cal Poly players.

The next day, Midden returned to the Cal Poly campus to consolé friends and family. He played there in 1957-58 before going to coach at Hancock Junior College. Over time, stories of the crash were told on the plane, and that the crash triggered his aversion to flying.

"Neither one is true," he said. "I didn't like getting on planes before that. I just claustrophobic, and it got worse over the years."

Cal Poly canceled its final three games of the season against Western by the crash. Bowling Green decided to avoid air travel and instead took a train to its next road game — a 20-day ride to play Texas Western in El Paso.

After the crash, the Artic-Pacific company lost its certificate and the FAA reviewed its procedures on takeoffs under certain conditions of poor visibility.

Five wives in the Cal Poly family lost their husbands and nine children lost their fathers. Many of the survivors spent months in Toledo hospitals and left with burns and crippling injuries.

By the following spring, a game was in the works. Pulitzer Prize winner Jim Murray of the Los Angeles Times endorsed it in his column:

"On Thanksgiving morning this year in the Coliseum, a Mercy Bowl benefit game will be played to help San Luis Obispo write off its obligations to the tragedy victims, the children they lost behind them, and the survivors."

"My feeling is, it is not only their obligation. It is the obligation of all of us interested in athletics. I can think of no better way to give thanks on that day that we are here and healthy, than to contribute to those who are alone with only memories on that day."

Bowling Green was picked to play because of its association with the crash. Fresno State College earned its spot by winning the California Collegiate Athletic Association — among the teams the Bulldogs beat was Cal Poly, which decided to continue its program in 1960 with 10 crash survivors on its team and went 5-3.

A day before the Nov. 23 game, JFK wired a telegram to the president of the Fresno State student body.

"Your efforts to aid survivors and families of victims are most commendable and merit support. Heartiest congratulations to the Mercy Bowl game and best wishes to the participating schools," it said.

While a 20-station radio network broadcast the game and asked for donations, Bear Carter threw two touchdown passes and ran for two scores. Fresno State won with a unique strategy, sending in 11 new players midway through each quarter — substitution rules at the time stated that once a player exited, he couldn't return until the next quarter.

Years later, Toller visited a Fresno State team reunion.

"He told us how much it meant to them," Carter said. "I think he really hit it in late, when it was all over. I still live in the Fresno area, a lot of us do. I still run into people who tell me they were at the game and how much it meant."

Toller was there, too. At halftime, he helped unveil a memorial plaque to the 1960 Cal Poly team that remains at the Coliseum. He often passed it when he coached at South-

CUPP'S 1969

"There are so many bowls now, I have trouble keeping track of all of them, and I'm in the business. I've been lucky and gotten to coach at a lot of bowl games. Head coach at a Rose Bowl win," he said. "But I don't think any of them were any more meaningful than the Mercy Bowl."

All the proceeds went to the memorial fund, providing $276,000 to those affected. In 2006, ESPN spoke at the dedication of Mustang Memorial Plaza on the Cal Poly campus, honoring those killed.

In 1971, there was a hastily arranged Mercy Bowl II, with Cal State Fullerton beating Fresno State 17-14 in Anaheim. The game was a benefit for the children of three Cal State Fullerton assistant coaches and a pilot killed in a plane crash a month earlier.

"You know, it wouldn't be a bad idea to play a game like that again," Midden said. "Hold a bowl game for a cause. There are a lot of good ones. I'd like to see that."

— Associated Press reporter Morn- de Shugr in New York contributed to this story.

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The Mercy Bowl remembered

Cal Poly alumni Ted Tollner and John Madden reflect on the game that benefitted victims' families of the 1960 plane crash that left 16 players dead.

He went to a life of coaching in the NFL and college, always wondering why he was allowed to survive.

Seven before the flight, Curtis Hill asked Tollner to switch seats. The received became ill on the trip to play at Bowling Green, and fired his head about better near the front of the plane going back home to San Luis Obispo.

He traded, moving back a few rows. Minutes later the plane, flying with a license that had been revoked by the Federal Aviation Administration, tried to take off.

"I was pretty much the cutoff," said Tollner, now the quarterbacks coach for the San Francisco 49ers. "About 10 percent of the people sitting in front of me were killed. Curtis was one of them. The people in my row and back mostly survived."

"A lot of things go through your mind when you get an extra bonus of 48 years to live. Why me? Why not them? You don't know about those things when you've been spared," he said.

Those tied to the day find it puzzling how the details faded so quickly. Many fans are well aware of air disasters that impacted sports, Knute Rockne, Roberto Clemente and Thurman Munson were killed in plane crashes, the US figure skating team was lost in 1961, as was the Marshall football team in 1970, inspiring the movie "We are Marshall.

But during this bit of almost three dozen bow, chances are the old Astro-Bluebonnet will get mentioned more than a game that raised over a quarter-million dollars for the schools and conferences that lost a life that day.

An accomplished athlete, actor and artist, Casey was among the nation's best collegiate stars and was named to the NFL all-star team in 1960. His Falcons were unbeaten going into the game that autumn. The Fighting Falcons were killed Oct. 29, 1960.

"We were talking about California. It had such a mystique for me, being raised in Ohio," Casey said.

"We were talking about the East-West Shrine game. I told him that maybe I'd see him out there."

Already it had been a busy day for the C-46 plane, a military transport. Earlier it carried the Youngstown University team back from a game in Connecticut, then flew to Toledo.

"It was red flag, real hard to see," Tollner said. "I've heard that some of the guys said, 'Let's give it the of college try.' They might've, but I didn't hear that."

There was and visibility, in fact, the Civil Aeronautics Board later concluded.

The pilot got to make the final call on whether to take off, and Donald Cheshier decided to roll with 48 people on board shortly before midnight. According to an FAA timeline, his license had been revoked for several violations. He kept flying, pending an appeal.

This turned out to be his last flight.

The twin-engine plane slammed into the ground on its left side, broke apart and wound up in an orchard. Several passengers were thrown from crush, strapped to their seats.

"Some of the people on the plane could walk, some couldn't," Tollner said.

The ones that could tried to get back in to help. Finally, some people started shouting that you couldn't go back in, the plane's fire and is about to blow. It did, soon after that."

Back at Bowling Green, Casey was hanging out with teammates when someone burst in with the horrific news. They ran to their cars and drove to the airport.

To this day, Casey is struck by one image. "At the terminal, the people that couldn't be saved, their bodies were wrapped in blankets.

"Twenty-six Cal Poly players went to Halloween parties at campus sororities. Others hung around the student union. That's where Casey ran into Curtis Hill.

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