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 haz ing 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 overload of alcohol, Cal Poly health center 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, 19, passed away the morning of Dec. 2, 2008 at Sierra Vista 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. Investigator have since performed numerous interviews and conducted search warrants on nine separate locations, concluding that his death was the result of alcohol-related haz ing at the fraternity's initiation party held at the house.

With the investigation ongoing, police are not yet proceeding with criminal charges at this time, although haz ing 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.

"Things are 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.

Carson Starkey, shown in his Facebook photo, passed away Dec. 2.

**Previous SAE issues:**

**April 2006**

Members of SAE consumed alcohol prior to a Greek Week event lip-sync. They were required to participate in community service and apologize to the Greek Week Committee and several Greek organizations.

**February 2007**

SAE sponsored a party at the Morro Bay community center that lead to damaged hardwood floors. The police report states that police showed up to find several intoxicated subjects vandalizing the property. They were arrested for public intoxication. SAE was later placed on social probation.

**October 2007**

A member of a sorority alleged that she was given GHB at a SAE and Alpha Omicron Pi exchange. The incident allegedly happened at a home where members of the fraternity lived. The woman proved positive for the date rape drug GHB in a report from Cal Poly's health center. The perpetrators were not discovered. SAE was placed on social probation.

**Cal Poly students package green future**

**Matt Fountain**

**MINIMUM GREEN**

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 Orthofix College of Business and the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences started Cal Poly's Consortium for Packaging Science and Technology to offer research and development services to an impressive list of clients, 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 Terrazak, 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.
What an opportunity we have to change this country.

—Barack Obama

President of the United States

Obama's whirlwind first day: economy, war and more

David Espo

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a first-day whirlwind, President Barack Obama showcased efforts to revise the economy on Wednesday, summoned top military officials to the White House to chart a new course in Iraq and -- literally -- used the daunting thickness of Middle East diplomacy.

"What an opportunity we have to change this country," said the 47-year-old chief executive, who also issued 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 put 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 Pentagon.

Closing the site "would further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice," read the draft 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 closer to completion.

At the Capitol, the Senate confirmed Kirkland Rodolph Chinos 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 Tim Geithner emerged unscathed from his confirmation hearing, apologizing for having failed to pay $34,000 in taxes earlier in 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 leaders, seven Cabinet members have been confirmed so far, as high as the two top officials at the Office of Management and Budget.

Obama's schedule for the day included separate sessions 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 recover from the Great Depression. Last week, he won approval to use $350 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 on Thursday:

* * *

What an opportunity we have to change this country.

—Barack Obama

President of the United States

* * *

Obama's phone calls to leaders in the Middle East were meant to convey his "commitment to active engagement in pursuit of Arab-Israeli peace from the beginning of his term."

Gilbs also that in conversations with Israelis, Palestinians, Egyptian and Jordanian leaders, the president could work with them to consolidate the cease-fire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

"Everything was new at the White House.

In the Oval Office, Obama worked at a desk built from the timbers of a British naval vessel, the HMS Resolute, and used off-and-on by presidents since the 1870s, including Bush. It also appeared that the carpet that Bush used in his second term, a yellow sunbeam design, was still in place.

"As of today, lobbyists will be subject to stricter limits than under any other administration in history," Obama told reporters as he signed the new rules. The restrictions included a ban on gifts by lobbyists to anyone serving in the administration.

He also imposed a pay freeze for about 150,000 White House aides who earn $100,000 or more. Its implementation was unclear, since none of them was on the payroll for the White House's Tuesday noontime inauguration.

On Tuesday, within hours of Obama's inauguration, his administration froze last-minute Bush administration regulations before they took effect.

Among them was an Environmental Protection Agency proposal to remove gray wolves from Endangered Species protections in much of the northern Rocky Mountains, and a Labor Department recommendation that would allow companies that manage employee retirement plans to market investment products to plan participants.

On Wednesday night, Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath to Obama at the White House in a rare do-over. The surprise moment came when Roberts's stumble, when Roberts got the words of the oath a little off, which prompted Obama to do so, too.

The White House said Obama has already been sworn in on inauguration Day but Obama and Roberts went through the drill again out of what White House counsel Craig Craig called "an abundance of caution."

Obama also dropped by a party for his staff at a packed DC Armoury, telling his supporters that they deserve credit for his historic election victory in part because they didn't know any better. "Get to Barack Obama," he prophetically told the United States, "all to authority in your grace and good will. Bless them with your heavenly gifts, give them wisdom and strength to know and to do your will," prayed the Rev. Andy Stanley, senior pastor of nine churches from several religions to speak.

Obama and his wife also played host and hostess for a select 200 at an open house.

"Watch your heels and heart around," a smiling Obama told one guest. "Don't break anything."

* * *

Packaging

continued from page 1

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

According to Kent Vorth, 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," Vorth 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 are 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 packaging'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 project 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 inherently 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 benefactor of this program. The 12 participating companies also get substantial R&D 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 to 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 benefit of more companies and researchers — 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."
State

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — A big welcome home is planned for the Danville 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," Elisa Daus, landscape architecture senior said in a statement, referring to the two met alone.

"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

Sources say Obama will order Guantanamo closure today

Lara Jakes and David Espo

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 prosecute suspects and end harsh interrogations, two government officials said.

"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."

-Kristy Cammarius, civil engineering senior

"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

For the complete list of companies and job descriptions, go to my.calpoly.edu, click on Mustang1085 and look under Events!

Career Services will host "Inclusive Excellence: The Power of Workplace Diversity" on January 28th at Embassy Suites, beginning at 5:30 p.m. to raise awareness and support of inclusive excellence at Cal Poly. The event is tied into our two-day job fair at Chumash Auditorium on January 28th and 29th, and will be used to raise funds to promote inclusive excellence at Cal Poly. All students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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!
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,mducing a fresh set 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.

Republican 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.

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

As the Senate debated Clinton's appointment, Obama wasted 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, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

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.

In the 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.
Miss America moves into reality TV territory

Kathleen Hennessey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS — It's been slow and not necessarily punchy, 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 a current television home.

This year, she's moving closer to the viewer-voting format that made “American Idol” a star. The change is just the latest in the continuing search for a new audience for a venerable institution.

The masses aren't supposed to pick the princess. Last year, she got a reality show complete with abject failure on the women they would vote in to the finals.

This year, she's moving closer to the viewer-voting format that made “American Idol” a star. "We thought it would be great to really make the contestants into the finals by viewers, dropped and gave the contestants' dated style.

"Last year's pageant was a bright night for Miss America. The number of viewers rose 30 percent over the previous year's airing on Country Music Television. The lead-in reality series “Miss America: Reality Check” appeared to have drawn new viewers by promising to make over and mock the contestants' dated style. Updates to the live pageant broadcast loosened the rules.

"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 crowd push-ups. It wasn't exactly a YouTube moment, but it flashed 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 unscripted conversation from contestants. "Extra" host Mario Lopez will be master of ceremonies. He previously hosted the pageant in 2007.

"With pageant people, we just explained to them that rather than having a top 10, we're going to have a top 15. It's a win-win for both sides," he said.

"Pageant fans had to learn to roll with the punches in recent years. 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 winner 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 Zueck, 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 getting to know these women and letting them focus in on the women they would vote in to the finals.

"The change is just the latest in the continuing search for a new audience for a venerable institution. The change is just the latest in the continuing search for a new audience for a venerable institution.

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Titus Andronicus gives universal middle finger to life's troubles

Full disclosure: I got "removed" from The Library this weekend and although this seems trivial, you have to understand that mean's I've been ejected around 01 percent of the times I've been there. Strangely, considering 10 percent of the time is conservative estimate. I am unsure of how I got banned from The Library. Either way, I refused to take elbows from broskies and delivered the most epic gesture, the middle finger. Nothing is more instantly gratifying or freeing than a middle finger. I take that back; preening on gigantic trucks when you're drunk or stealing senseless 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 malt 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 burning down a McDonald's and pissing all over it in ecstatic drunken dance while shouting down a ferry 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 Middle America" - one song that makes you think of good Bright Eyes, Hallway through the song Patrick Stickles plays the guitar and screams out in agony and you don't care, but should the shit hit the fan, I just pray for a jam session. Then the whole band yells, "Fuck You" louder than I've ever heard anybody yell and we get out of nowhere 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 centre damn album. It's all a gigantic middle finger to anything and everything. Nothing feels better than that and reaping sucks at solving your problems. Broke up with your girlfriend? Why not shoot down a fifth of vodka and kick over trashcans all night? Here, try this. Put on their song "Arms Against Amusement" and just throw your body ecstatically 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 hugelibftes you will reach zen state. Or is they put it "All the pretty horses, all flowers and trees, they will all mean less than nothing when it all has come to be."
Early Music Ensemble to perform lost treasures from California missions

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.

The music of the time period encompasses several moods and styles. Songs to be performed at the performance include "Ya se Heriza," "Credo" from the "Misa En Sol" and "Agnus Dei" from the "Misa En Sol." Music written by Fray Juan Bautista Sancho, recognized for bringing modern classical music to California missions, will also be performed.

"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."
David Germain
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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”; and the sword-and-sorcery fantasy “In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale.”

Razzie “winners” will be announced Feb. 21, the day before the Oscars.

Hilton had three nominations, worst actress and worst screen couple alongside her co-stars in “The Hottie & the Nottie,” plus worst supporting actress for “Repo! The Genetic Opera.”

Eddie Murphy, named worst actor, supporting actor and supporting actress last year for multiple roles in “Norbit,” has two nominations this year, as worst actor and screen couple alongside himself for dual roles in his sci-fi comedy dud “Meet Dave.”

Cameron Diaz also picked up two Razzie nominations for the romance “What Happens in Vegas,” as worst actress and worst screen couple alongside co-star Ashton Kutcher.

Along with Kingsley, Oscar winner Al Pacino had a worst-actor nomination for his crime thriller “88 Minutes” and “Righteous Kill.”

The stars of the remake “The Women” — Annette Bening, Eva Mendes, Debra Messing, Jada Pinkett Smith and Meg Ryan — shared a worst-actress nomination.

Joining them, Alba, Diaz and Hilton in the worst-actress category was Kate Hudson for “Pooty’s Gold” and “My Best Friend’s Girl.”

Besides Murphy, Myers and Pacino, worst-actor nominees were Larry the Cable Guy for “Waltens Protec­ tors” 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,” support­ ing actor for playing himself in “Postal” and screen couple alongside “any actor, camera or screenplay.”

Boll — 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 leg­ endary bad filmmaker responsible for “Plan 9 From Outer Space.”

“It’s pretty insulting to Ed Wood. Al­ though 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 WILKIE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this image released by Lionsgate Pictures, Paris Hilton portrays Amber Sweet in a scene from, “Repo! The Genetic Opera.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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?

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, I 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 a 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 most 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.

In 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 it is empty rhetoric that leaves the perception that America isn’t on sound footing. Yes, our nation is facing many challenges, but those challenges do not diminish the strength of our nation.

In his speech, Obama also contended that, “The old thinking is that America has shifted beneath them — that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply.” Forgive me if I’m wrong, but such challenges impede policies. Isn’t the objective to make the country better, not to stomp out opposition? These next four years will be interesting times. I predict that people will largely be disappointed with Obama’s record when it comes time to reflect him more than three years from now. It’s not that liberal agendas will not be pursued, because they will. It’s that Obama has been elevated to a god-like status. People believe he is their savior, yet he is just a man. He cannot save your mortgage, find you a job or cure your illnesses.

A friend of mine, who is a staunch Obama supporter, asked me how I felt about Obama being president and how frustrated I was. I have joked that I would douse myself in gasoline should this day come. This is far from the correct approach. Obama’s status as president marks a new day in American history. But Obama is just a man. His policies will present many challenges for our nation. We need to look beyond his messianic following, which will fade in time, to what is the best solution for our country. As a conservative, I will always argue that less government influence over our lives is better than more.

On a different note, this will be my last column for the Mustang Daily. Few realize the time and energy it takes to write a weekly column. I have been honored to have the opportunity to present the conservative message, but this column does not pay the bills. I’ve enjoyed challenging the hearts and minds of our campus and community.

Ian Nachreiner is an agricultural science senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.
So long Bush administration, and thanks for all the fish

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 pictureque 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 among 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 current 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 wore 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 us not to expect change too quickly, not to see our sufferings too soon or, well, stupid," Obama said, "to say that Obama is a radical or a socialist; to say that anyone can be president."

Obama is only one man, and many of us were left behind to surf 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.

"Yes, we can."

Stephanie England is an English junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

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"Yes, President Obama is just a man. But his platform of hope and change has more to do with our country's spirit than our policies. Try being a minority in this world, a world where we can now say that anyone can be president. Regardless of who our president is today, whether it had been John McCain or Hillary Clinton, they would have inherited our foreign and domestic disasters. To assume that so many people see President Obama as the "cure" for what this country makes it seem like we are naive, or well, stupid. Give us more credit than that.

To truly understand why citizens are holding Obama on a pedestal is because he is a dream realized. Our dreams realized."

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 deregulation helped ruin the economy. During Hurricane Katrina, one man's carelessness and cronymism 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 brands the meest, lowest 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 will 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 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 surf 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 no 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 transition to green energy, and we can reach out to the poor and exploited at home and abroad.

Yes, we can.

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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

The First Lemon

Across
1. "Numb3rs" actor
2. Bearded
9. In... (ruckus)
14. Where to go in Greenwich
15. It may be tragic
16. They start in the middle
17. Keeper of confidential information
20. Noodle
21. Sneaking
22. Wrong
23. The last king of England
25. "O tempus, abate!"
26. Like a keeper of confidential information
32. Title role for a popular tale
33. Majesty
34. First used in English jelly
35. Slippery one
36. Subject of a popular tale
38. Fruit used in an old English jelly
40. "Can't touch me!
41. "Ides of bad faith"
42. Cause of a scare
44. Daisylike flower
46. With 60-Across.
47. Tapenade
48. See 46-Across.
49. Cause of information
50. Keep... (C)roesus.com © Doug Bratton 2009
51. Unoccupied
52. Scammer's skill
53. Icelandic volume
54. "Can't fool me"
55. Home of Private Ryan
56. Djinn's home in a famous western
57. First side to vote for a President
58. Spicy chocolate
59. Big brand in athletic footwear
60. See 46-Across.
61. Slippery one?
62. Cause of a dance order
63. Hard case
64. Buck for a song?
65. Slippery one?
66. Harnesses
67. Like the sun
68. Like the sun
69. Deserve, as a reward
70. Bearded
71. Leeway
72. Lift up
73. Big Brothers Big Sisters
74. Mattie Belle's
down
1. Listing in a high-school yearbook
2. Something to pick
3. Part of many a dance order
4. Beaver of a species
5. Inverse trig function
6. "Enough!
7. Part of a famous puppet
8. Alter, in a way
9. With French, one of two official languages of Chad
10. Porche alternatives
11. Day of destiny
12. Numbers' classification
13. They may be thrown
14. Plastic soda
15. Most prized orange
16. Get it, or... (ruckus)
17. Part of a famous puppet
18. Stack of papers
19. ...and... (ruckus)
20. Flipper
21. Lift up
22. "Where to go in Greenwich"
23. "O tempus, abate!"
24. "Ides of bad faith"
25. "Can't touch me!
26. "Can't fool me"
27. "Ides of bad faith"
28. "Where to go in Greenwich"
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74. Mattie Belle's

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Bowl
continued from page 12

no survivors. Tollii’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 console friends and families. He played there in 1957-58 before going to coach at Hancock Junior College. Over time, stories spread that he was 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 got claustrophobic, and it got worse over the years."

Cal Poly canceled its final three games of the season to Midden’s request. The crash, Bow!ing Green decided to avoid air travel and instead took a train to its next road game — a 28-day ride to play Texas Western in El Paso.

After the crash, the Arctic-Pacific company lost its certificate and the FAA reviewed its procedures 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 left 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 1961 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. Heartfelt 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.

Tollii 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

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, Tollii 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 Howl de Slope in New York contributed to this story.

Want to ask new football head coach Tim Walsh something?

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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.

I was pretty much the cutoff. About 100 percent of the people sitting in front of me were killed.

—Ted Tollner, former Cal Poly quarterback

The broken hull and wreckage of a chartered plane that crashed in Toledo, Ohio. is shown.

11.23.61 The date of the Mercy Bowl.

33,000 The attendance of the Mercy Bowl at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

An accomplished athlete, actor and artist, Casey was among the nation’s best collegiate receivers in 1960. His Falcons were unbeaten going into the championship game, which was overmatched Cal Poly that October. Bowing Green romped 50-6.

With several hours to spare before their bus to the airport, some Cal Poly players went to Halloween parties at campus sororities. Others hung around the student union. That’s where Casey ran into Curtis Hill.

“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.”

Sixteen Cal Poly players were killed when the plane split in two just moments after takeoff.

And fire is about to blow. It did, soon after that.”

Firemen probe through the wreckage of a chartered plane that crashed on Oct. 29, 1960, killing 22 people, including a manager and a booster in Toledo, Ohio.

Scott Silver

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