4 Cal Poly students charged in connection to Starkey's death

Four Cal Poly students were arrested Thursday in connection with last year's alcohol-related death of architecture freshman Carson Starkey after nearly six-month investigation by the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

Investigators say the death was the result of a night of excessive drinking as part of a hazing ritual for pledges in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) fraternity. Agriculture business sophomore Haithem Ibrahim, 20, of Lafayette and agriculture senior Zacary Ellis, 22, of San Luis Obispo were each charged with one felony violation of hazing causing death or great bodily injury and one misdemeanor violation of permitting a minor to consume alcohol. Computer engineering senior Russell Taylor, 22, of Fresno and agriculture business senior Ailani Marszal, 21, were each charged with two misdemeanor counts of the same violations.

The four surrendered themselves Thursday morning after warrants were obtained for their arrests and were booked at the San Luis Obispo County Jail. Bail was set at $50,000 for the felony charges and $10,000 for the misdemeanors. Each posted bail by Thursday afternoon.

If convicted, the suspects could face up to three years in state prison for the felonies and up to a year in county jail for the misdemeanor charges.

At a press conference at the San Luis Obispo Police Department Thursday afternoon, San Luis Obispo Police Department Chief of Police Deborah Lindsey said the investigation "exposed a ritual that was as disturbing as it was deadly."
**Obama fights to take command of Guantanamo debate**

Jennifer Loven

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama fought Thursday to retake command of the emotional debate over closing Guantanamo, denouncing "war-mongering" by political opponents and insisting that mass internment in the U.S. can safely house dangerous terrorist suspects transferred from Cuba.

Obama made his case moments before former President Dick Cheney delivered his own address defending theBush administration's creation of the prison camp as vigorously as the new president denounces it.

Obama, appearing at the National Archives said shutting down Guan­tamano would "end our values" to make America safer. Speaking a day after an overwhelming congressional vote transferred control of the camp to his pledge to close the prison, he forcefully declared the war on terrorism against a "rally cry" — not a "sine qua non" to preventing future terrorist attacks. He contends that the prison, which has held hundreds of detainees for years without charges or trials, motivates US. enemies overseas.

The president promised to work with lawmakers to develop an "ap­propriate legal regime" for those who can't be tried and are too dangerous to be released. Still, he did not pro­vide the level of detail about his plans that lawmakers, including Democrats, demanded in a 90-6 Senate vote de­manding money for the shutdown on Wednesday.

Liberals have expressed dismay at what they view as a Democratic presi­dent acting much like his predecessor. They cite Obama's movement re­verse him and fight the court­ordered release of prisoner-abuse photos, to revive military tribunals for some terror suspects (although he is revamping how they would work), to oppose a truth commission to inves­tigate past detainee treatment and to continue using in some cases Bush's "enhanced" techniques. "They claim un­checked presidential power to prevent information disclosure in court.

In his speech, Obama cited a law passed unanimously in Congress to close the prison, which he described as a "demeaning trap." It allows the government to drag out legal proceedings on detainees still held at the camp.

He said the law is a "preview of the speech by the president a day earlier, was not assuaged.**
**State**

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — A former Santa Barbara County psychologist convicted of sexually abusing female patients has now pleaded guilty to sexual exploitation of another patient, according to court papers.

Fernando Cedeno, who worked for Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services in Santa Maria and taught psychology at Hancock College, entered the felony plea on Wednesday.

**ORANGE, Calif. (AP) — Police say a student carrying two air pellet rifles that he was planning to use in a acting props brought a search of an Orange County college.

Orange police Sgt. Dan Adams says many calls shortly after 8 p.m. Wednesday reported a person carrying a gun in a parking lot of Santiago Canyon College.

Adams says officers spotted a truck with what appeared to be magazines from a rifle. They then saw a man walk up carrying two airsoft rifles in a case.

Adams says the man told officers the guns were for an acting class for "some sort of war scenario."

The student was questioned but released after he was deemed not a threat. Earlier, police questioned a man toting a similar gun on the Irvine campus. He also was questioned but not arrested.

**Briefs**

**National**

**JOLIET, Ill. (AP) —** An autopsy performed Thursday on a bludgeoned, arrowed skeleton found along the Des Plaines River yielded inconclusive results, leaving questions about whether the badly decomposed body was one of two women whose disappearances have drawn national media attention.

The skeletal remains were not enough to determine an identity, race or gender of the corpse, Will County Coroner Porter O'Neil's office said in a statement.

**PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) —** An ex-offender convicted of raping and killing an Iraqi teen and murdering her family was spared the death penalty Thursday and will serve a life sentence after jurors couldn't agree unanimously on a punishment for a brutal crime that the defense blamed partly on combat stress and a lack of military leadership.

After an afternoon of card playing, sex talk and drinking Iraqi whiskey, Pfc. Steven Dale Green, 24, of Midland, Texas, and three other soldiers in March 2006 went to the home of 14-year-oldmeer Qasim al-Janabi near Mahmoudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad. Green shot and killed the teen's mother, father and sister, then became the third soldier to rape the girl before shooting her in the face.

**International**

**PARIS (AP) —** A thousand French Internet users a day could be taken off line following approval of President Nicolas Sarkozy's pet project — an unprecedented law to cut the Internet connections of people who repeatedly pirate music and movies.

As the husband of supermodel-turned-pop star Carla Bruni and friend to some of France's most powerful media figures, Sarkozy has long bashed in his cozy ties with the entertainment industry, which has embraced the measure.

But many in Europe have denounced it, saying government controls needed to enforce the law could open the way for invasive state monitoring that violate privacy.

**ISLAMABAD (AP) —** Donations to help refugees fleeing Pakistan's latest offensive against the Taliban surpassed $300 million Thursday, as the country's allies sought to curb a crisis that risks sending public support for military action against the militants.

About 1.9 million people have fled the fighting in the Swat Valley and surrounding areas, a mountainous region not far from the Afghan border where the Taliban have found a safe haven in recent years. More than 360,000 are staying in sweltering camps just south of the battle zone, the rest have been taken in by relatives.

**WORD ON THE STREET**

"Should the students connected with Carson Starkey's death suffer any consequences?"

"I think that the law should handle it. I think they should be punished with accordance to the law."

Kevin Waibling, chemistry senior

"It really depends on how much evidence is gathered. It does need to be punished to the point where sororities and fraternities take this seriously and not just here at Cal Poly, but everywhere."

-Teresa Leonard, history and liberal arts senior

"They should take responsibility for what they did. (It) using that kind of hazing they could instead use something that does not involve alcohol."

Jillian Rice, history freshman

"(Carson Starkey) had the choice. There was peer pressure but he should have been strong."

Gabriel Santos, architecture freshman

3 U.S. soldiers, dozens of Iraqis killed by bombings

Robert H. Reid

Bombers struck in Baghdad and a northern city Thursday killing three American soldiers and nearly two dozen Iraqis in a new spasm of violence that has taken at least 66 lives in two days.

A spate of attacks since April seems aimed at stoking sectarian tension and undermining public confidence only weeks before U.S. combat troops are due to leave Baghdad and other cities, handing security responsibility to Iraq's security forces.

Although recent violence has not been strong.

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Iraq
continued from page 3
risen to levels of two years ago, it has
dulled public unease over whether
Iraq's army and police can maintain
the security gains since the 2007 U.S.
troop surge.
Most of the attacks this year have
been on Shiite targets, suggesting
that al-Qaida and other Sunni Arab
extremists are trying to undermine
Shiite-led government efforts to stabi-
ilize the seciiritv' gains since the 2007
U.S. withdrawal.
Paramilitary groups, known as
Awakening Councils or Sons of Iraq,
have been frequently targeted by al-
Qaida and other Sunni insurgent groups.
Surn Ghayashi, 37, who was among
the wounded in Kirkuk, said the
colorful local council members had been
waiting three months to receive their
salaries.
"While we were waiting at gate
talking to one another a big explo-
sion took place," he said from a
hospital bed. "I saw several colleagues
dead, among them my cousin. I have
no idea how this suicide bomber got
among us." Asn Thuurb, a bomb exploded
in a trash container inside a Baghdad
police station, killing three policemen
and wounding 19 others, an Iraqi police
officer told The Associated Press.
"It happened near a crowded area,
and in some cases offer reassurance
to friends and family to guide students
toward professional help where
appropriate," she said. "They don't get
help at a time when they're just venturing
off on their own."
Most said they'd go first to
counseling centers, a good resource, she
said, although they're not all set up take
care of serious mental health issues.
"There should be somebody who could at least assess this, and
in some cases offer reassurance that I'm sure you'll feel better after
exams are over," she said. "Serious cases can be referred for treatment,
said — and "treatment works."
Au Revoir Simone's new record will put you in your place

Here's the thing. Au Revoir Simone has the potential to be written off as total manufactured hipster bullshit. They are three girls, who look like they just stepped out of the Urban Outfitters catalog, singing softly and coaxing gentle melodies out of a pile of synthesizers and Casios. Their name manages to be both kitschy (for being a Pee-Wee's Great Adventure reference) and pretentious (for being French). And to top it all off, they're from Williamsburg, Brooklyn (Otherwise known as "Fucking-Hipster-Williamsburg").

So this being my first encounter with the band, I had some reservations when I started listening to "Still Night Still Light," but I was genuinely weirded out when Au Revoir Simone seemed to anticipate my scotching and then immediately throw it back in my face, giving me a harsh reprimand with the album's opening lyrics."Don't tell me it's another likely story." It took them about seven seconds after that to utterly destroy what remained of my flimsy defenses.

It would be easy to credit my pushover conversion entirely to my pathetically impotent willpower (not a stretch), but I think the tenacity of the band's songcraft is the real culprit here. Far from a flavor of the week creation, Au Revoir Simone (Annie Hart, Erika Foster and Heather D'Angelo) have been developing their sound since 2003. This is their third release on their own label, Our Secret Record Company, but the band really began to take off in the last year or so.

Songs on this record revolve around carefully layered synths and vocals that derive their emotive impact from their detached, wounded indifference. Now, this description might seem indicative of a band somewhere between Stereolab and Cassie and the Casuals for the Painfully Alone with three vaginas, but there are a couple of caveats to that: There's some super-cute all girl harmonizing here, and the pop hooks have the immediately accessibility."Irresistible is not too strong a word for Au Revoir Simone. Just try not to fall in love when they almost whisper in your ear, "I'm the one you won't regret," on the gossamer "The Last One." Don't judge them by their cute frocks, they're for real.

Jesse Bo Widmark is a KCPR DJ and a Mustang Daily music columnist.
Josh Green

When did it become a party foul to talk politics in public? At my recent wedding reception I started talking politics with an Orange County Republican who I thought was actually pretty articulate for a guy who thought McCain would make a better president than Obama. There is always an unavoidable, and often annoying, pattern when you have to engage in small talk with strangers.


God, I hate small talk. This is why I ran from the corporate ladder and into the academic one, a haven for socially stunted non-small-talkers.

To make the dull, stuffy stuff of barbecues and parties even more bearable, I try to get a few people to mix it up with me. Just to avoid boredom, most of the time.

But at this wedding reception I looked around the table and realized that the OC Man and I were the only ones comfortable with the politics repartee. In fact, some people were visibly squirming. I suppose they were worried that some kind of doinbrook would break out and ruin the wedding. But more likely that half didn’t know enough about politics to get in on the conversation, and the other half thought that asking others about their political views is like belching loudly at the table.

Maybe it’s only natural that people don’t want to get political, but there is something comforting about the politics for, some, is kind of like cracking your best ethnic jokes before you’ve figured out everyone in the room is Irish. It’s just a thought.

I try not to judge those who would rather talk about the latest funny cat videos on YouTube than the future of the middle east. I’ve turned it impossible not to judge. One woman I know does not vote at all because she doesn’t follow politics and doesn’t see the point of voting. These are people I cannot relate to.

The Internet’s great wealth of information creates a paradox in today’s democracy. The more information we have, the less interested we are in the things that determine how our society survives, like, you know, the dominoes in Washington or Sacramental.

Responses to “Four Cal Poly students charged in Starkey’s death”

Carson was my friend and floor mate here in Yosemite. There are only 12 of us on our floor, so we are all very close. His death was a tragedy that shocked our lives and should be honored, not forgotten. As his friend and somebody who is emotionally involved in this, I’ve got to say that learning about these young men facing criminal charges does nothing to set my mind at ease. I’ve never met them, but I can nearly guarantee you the guilt they feel is more painful than any time they will do in prison.

Sending these boys to jail won’t make anything better. It will only spread pain and suffering into more lives as a result of a single, tragic accident. Nobody wanted Carson to die. These guys didn’t hold him down and force him to drink. Sure, they encouraged it. They facilitated the atmosphere, but Carson drank the alcohol. He chose to consume beyond his physical limit and died as a result. That was his choice. I love Carson, but punishing these students for his death doesn’t feel right to me.

Just a thought.

John D.

Response to “Four Cal Poly students charged in Starkey’s death”

I agree with you John regarding the fact that Carson made the decision to drink and his friends should be held accountable. But it’s also important not to forget as a pledge you look up to the members in the greek system and often see them as mentors. So when they encourage a certain behavior, you don’t want to let them down, even if you know it’s wrong. The power of influence that someone can have on another life is truly unbelievable. It may be hard to believe that something to this extreme can happen as a result, but had they not set the situation up this most likely would not have happened. Yes, the guilt in the end is going to be the worst part of this situation for them, but the reality is, they did something wrong and they need to be punished. These situations have happened before at other colleges, so these ‘boys’ knew what the penalties would be for their actions if their hazing, which isn’t allowed to begin with, went wrong.

Just another thought.

Alpina

I also agree with John that it was Carson’s choice. Yet, delivering the right amount of punishment will have a long term impact on others in the future. Future members of the fraternity will be less likely to drink when they recall that some­one was charged with a felony for it. They will see this and prevent another death from occurring. However, there may be other ways of sending the right message instead of locking students up in jail.

Matthew
Women's lacrosse faced stiff competition at nationals

Alex Kacik
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly women's lacrosse team was out for retribution as it found itself battling against a familiar opponent during its final game at the Women's Division Intercollegiate Associates National Championship — Colorado State.

It was hard because we do have a younger team that hasn't had national exposure. A bunch of D1 players played on club level and we were able to compete.

—Ashley Hemmen, senior midfielder

In last year's championship game, the Rams beat seven-time champion Cal Poly by scoring the final six goals to overcome the Mustangs in overtime. Yet, this year was a bit different; the squads weren't accustomed to, Burtis said. The Mustangs were forced to play from behind during the next three games against improved national competition, a formidable task.

"A lot of these teams are coming out to beat us, we have a long history of being the best so they are fired up to play us," Burtis explained. "For us it was just another game; we tried to work on that mindset — approaching games knowing that this team wants to kill us."

The Mustangs will focus on maintaining consistent training during the offseason to improve their play, Curry said.

"We really hadn't had to push ourselves in the past," she explained. "Now (the competition) is keeping with their training programs throughout the year, so we must incorporate more things to prepare for the season."

According to Burtis, a parent of a University of Michigan player came up to Cal Poly defensiveman Laura Hopson's mom after the Mustangs lost in third game 8-10 to commend Cal Poly.

"Cal Poly raised the bar so high that no team could ever reach it for seven years, and now they are finally starting to get there," the opposing team's parent said.

"She gave up everything for the team," Spalding said. "That right there says more about a team than winning."

Hemmen said she was impressed her team could compete with Division 1 players and was excited to undertake the leadership role of goalie and hopefully inspire her team.

"It was hard because we do have a younger team that hasn't had national exposure," she said. "A bunch of D1 players played on club level and we were able to compete."

After finishing the season 7-3, No. 5 Cal Poly began the 16-team national championships by defeating No. 12 Georgia 15-14, a close first-round competition the Mustangs weren't accustomed to, Burtis said. The Mustangs were forced to play from behind during the next three games against improved national competition, a formidable task.

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Women's lacrosse faced stiff competition at nationals

Colorado State broke Cal Poly's seven-year national championship streak last year the teams faced off in a battle for seventh place May 9.