Some reel issues

David Meny is an emerging talent in two industries faced with vexing questions.

By Katie Portillo
Associated Press

In just a "Blink," computer science senior David Meny landed the internship of his dreams. A job that Meny thought was only a shot in the dark could be his big break into spare time programming computer games, for the new action thriller, "Blink." He was on to produce two more. "Total Recall" and "Rookie of the Year." As video games become more technologically advanced, there continues to be a controversy over their violent content.

"Blink," a character struggles to identify a murderer in a police line up through her haunting vision (above). Computer science senior David Meny has already written original video games and provided special effects for the new thriller "Blink" / Daily photo by Scott Robinson.

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"Blink," a character struggles to identify a murderer in a police line up through her haunting vision (above). Computer science senior David Meny has already written original video games and provided special effects for the new thriller "Blink" / Daily photo by Scott Robinson.

I was in a game program in elementary school and junior high," he said. "We did beginning programming. At recess, there were games we could play on the computer and I got hooked on them." During high school, Meny spent his spare time programming computer games. He released his first action adventure game, "Peter's Quest," into the public domain when he was 17 years old. He went on to produce two more. "Video games are so popular right now," he said. "Companies are producing these games and they're becoming more popular — that's what people are spending their money on.

Meny's fortes — movies and video games — have something in common: both contribute to the rising concern over graphic violence that is so pervasive in today's culture. As video games become more technically advanced, there continues to be a controversy over their violent content. Meny said while some games are portrayed in a cartoon-type manner, others are actually using real pictures of people as characters. "They're well suited for young adults — I was in a game program in elementary school and junior high," he said. "We did beginning programming. At recess, there were games we could play on the computer and I got hooked on them." During high school, Meny spent his spare time programming computer games. He released his first action adventure game, "Peter's Quest," into the public domain when he was 17 years old. He went on to produce two more. "Video games are so popular right now," he said. "Companies are producing these games and they're becoming more popular — that's what people are spending their money on.

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SENATE: Ethnic studies autonomy decision sparks protest in Academic Senate

From page 1

Critical of the administration and others involved in the switch for not clearing the plans first through the body which represents faculty.

Although Academic Senate Chair Jack Wilson said after this Tuesday's executive meeting he felt some of the differences had been smoothed over, the mood of the meeting indicated deeper animosity.

Wilson pledged at last week's meeting to find out more about the change of structure, and Tuesday said he still felt uncomfortable with the administration's decision.

The partial resolve came when Irvin and Ethnic Studies Director Bob Gish — both in attendance at the executive session — separately told the members they were not opposed to modifying the name of the newly restructured program to something other than a "University Center."

The prototype for this restructure is the currently operating University Center for Teacher Education. Ironically, that center's representative, Dennis Nulman, became embroiled in the meeting's only truly bitter confrontation with Gish.

The exchanges between the two began to deteriorate into accusations before Wilson interrupted and moved the discussion onward.

Wilson conceded after the meeting that if the administration's intention was not to create a "University Center" some of his objections would evaporate.

"I think the issue now has been diffused somewhat because the administration says this will not now be a University Center," Wilson said. "If the intention was not to make it a University Center, I'm not sure the faculty should have been consulted about the restructuring."

During the meeting, however, Wilson suggested the administration was fudging facts in an attempt to make peace.

"I think they changed their mind to diffuse the issue," Wilson said.

"It probably was not appropriate to be using that term (University Center)," Irvin said after the meeting.

He added, however, that future decisions of a similar nature would not involve faculty consultation.

"This decision) concerned the academic (vice president), Liberal Arts, and the Ethnic Studies Program," Irvin said.

Gish said after the meeting he felt the whole confrontation reflected a larger trend.

"The faculty is trying to preserve the status quo and the administration is trying to pursue change," he said.

Gish also said he felt no guilt for circumventing the Senate in the decision to make ethnic studies an independent program.

"What I did was just straight out of the administration book, as I understand it," he said.

He said the Senate takes a pejorative stance on ethnic studies, and that he has had to fight for all the advances he's made.

Wilson disagreed.

"I have bent over backwards to try to push through ethnic studies," he said. "So I don't have to apologize to Bob Gish or anyone about it."

Two weeks ago, the Academic Senate approved an ethnic studies minor almost unanimously.

HARDING: Olympic fate uncertain, as figure skating association considers options

From page 1

returning to Portland Jan. 10 that people close to her were involved in the Jan. 6 assault on Kerrigan. Harding has not been charged.

In court, a somber Gillooly spoke quietly and answered to Multnomah County Circuit Judge Donald Lender with short answers. He said he understood the charge against him.

"What is your plea?" Lender asked.

"Guilty," Gillooly said, redding his head slightly.

In a later statement to reporters, Hoevet said Gillooly attended a Dec. 28 meeting with the three other men charged in the Kerrigan case.

"After the meeting, while driving toward home, Tonya got away driver Derrick Smith to Detroit to club Kerrigan in the knee."

Harding was struck on the right leg, forcing her to withdraw. Both women were named to the Olympic team.

Harding faced the national championship after Kerrigan was struck on the right leg, forcing her to withdraw. Both women were named to the Olympic team.

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VIOLENCE: Explicit video games, movies are target of censors, but Poly senior Meny says the problem is not out of hand

From page 1

One such game licensed for the Sega system — "Mortal Kombat" — has received a lot of public criticism. It involves barehanded martial arts moves. Amazingly realistic street fighting action. "It's going toward computers because it looks better and the quality is better," he said. "It's still very labor-intensive, though. I'm happy because that's where I'm going."

Meny said there are about 30 shots in the movie "Blink" where Metrolight uses computers to create images that enable the audience to see things through the main character's eyes. The film, starring Aidan Quinn and Madelaine Stowe, is about a woman (Emma) who loses her eyesight at a young age then regains her vision after a cornea transplant. While becoming adjusted to seeing through her eyes, you see really bright white, and then you see the doctor sitting in front of her — this was all done on computer."

Meny said he wouldn't object to creating violent special effects in the future. He said movies containing that kind of violence are usually rated "R," and therefore are suited for more mature audiences.

"I think it depends on what is being portrayed," he said. "If I was offended, and I felt what was being portrayed in the movie was wrong, then I would ask to be shifted to another project or maybe another 'shot' where it wasn't an issue."

But Meny believes that some violence can be used effectively. "For example, Schindler's List... is a violent movie in that many people are getting shot for no reason," he explained. "But I think Spielberg is very effective in making you feel sympathy for those people."

In addition, some senators are sponsoring a bill in Congress to make the rating of violence in video games mandatory. "I think that rating video games is a good idea, but the process would be more successful without legislation."

"I think the people who should rate the games are the ones who are most informed about it — and that's the industry," he explained. "Game producers know what is violent and what's not."

Electrical engineering senior Troy Sanabria and his roommates have two Super Nintendos and two Sega systems in their apartment. Sanabria said the violence makes the games more realistic. "I don't think companies should be censored," he said. "I like to see better effects, I don't mind the violence."

However, Sanabria said he believes consumers should be able to distinguish how much violence is in games when they buy them. He also said that magazines such as Electric Game Monitoring and Nintendo Power help monitor violence.

"These magazines will give you 'blood codes' to make more or less violent effects," he explained. "You can punch in numbers in the game to make the game move graphic. The codes are easy to get, but a good way to cut back on how much blood I see."

While Meny's computer games are still on the market, he is glad his internship last summer gave him the confidence and experience to pursue a career in the movie industry. "I was looking for an internship program because I knew I didn't have the skills to come in and start working on a job," he said. "I learned so much this summer at Metrolight — the film jargon and new techniques."

Meny said the majority of special effects in movies is now being done on the computer. "It's going toward computers because it looks better and the quality is better," he said. "I'm still very labor-intensive, though. I'm happy because that's where I'm going."

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Announcing information sessions for:

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If you are interested in becoming a resident advisor for the '94-'95 school year, please attend one of these information sessions. Applications will be available there.

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7 p.m. Fremont Hall • 9 p.m. Trinity Hall
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7 p.m.-Sanford Hall • 9 p.m. Fremont Hall
7 p.m.-Yosemite Hall • 9 p.m. Trinity Hall

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Any questions (?), contact Chris Peterson 543-8959

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Serious people keep podiatrists in business

Newspaper editors are said to set the news of the day, using their judgment to determine what subject will be the hottest. They decide what the lead stories will be, based on how important, or sensational, the information is.

This is why I'm writing a "serious" column. Maybe the editors didn't think what I wanted to write about was important or sensational enough.

I had planned on breaking up the opinion page with a light column about eating on campus. I told all my friends about it. But alas, editors have their jobs to do — and they decided to do a job on me — thinking.

All my friends about it. But alas, editors have their jobs to do — and they decided to do a job on me — thinking.

I know there will be times when I will have to be insincere and pretend I'm serious. When I'm sad or taking life too seriously, I repeat the quote to myself. I try to imagine being blind and walking in a room with razor blades all over the floor. I believe those are words to live by.

This is what Skinny Puppy says life is like for people in the world. They are not as occupied with the need to be serious.

In their song, "First Aid," the industrial band Skinny Puppy said, "Taking in too serious a face creates a monotonous life, walking infinitely blind through rooms strewn with razor blades.

I got the impression you considered it a burden upon you if the only kind of guys you know are the kind that some "drivers are tired of walking to class from parking"

I also feel sorry you have such a hard service to move you to your class — is to get a little exercise. Walk.

I don't know why public safety doesn't just explain this. It's called "leaving your house earlier." My advice for students is to get a little exercise while you walk.

Next time students want to complain about how far they have to walk to class, they should remember that San Luis Obispo is only about five miles across.

Speaking as a Jewish faculty member at Cal Poly, I wish to underscore the comments made in Elizabeth Patrouch's article.

My younger sister could do better.

I think my younger sister would enjoy writing the essay, "If men could have babies." I am not sure what she would write, but I can say her result would be much more intelligent and thought-provoking than the column Pamela Slaughter produced.

I find that comforting. It provides a welcome counter example to the notion that all women think like Slaughter.

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Although one might argue this was an isolated incident, there is an ongoing tradition at Cal Poly that is hardly accidental. The Christmas decorations that sprout up all over campus during the holiday season.

This year in a tense rap is a case-in-point, is a case-in-point.

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Most Californians fear becoming violent crime victims

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A majority of Californians fear they will become victims of serious crimes, but they are confused about where guns fit into the equation, according to a Field Poll released Tuesday.

Two in three people responding to the January poll said guns were too easy to buy, yet opinion was more closely divided over whether stronger gun control laws would help reduce violent crime.

Most people interviewed said they don’t believe having a gun would reduce their chances of being attacked. Still, the 30 percent who own guns said they felt safer, the Field Institute said.

Fifty-three percent of those responding said they were very or somewhat fearful of being a victim of a serious crime, up from 42 percent two years ago and 38 percent in 1987.

Another 46 percent said they were not too fearful or not at all fearful of becoming a victim, while 1 percent had no opinion.

The poorest people were most scared, the study showed. A quarter of all respondents with household income of less than $20,000 said they were very fearful.

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In 1994, PG&E is increasing its contribution to this program by $1 million, bringing PG&E’s total REACH contribution to $3 million. Customer and employee contributions, totalling $2.4 million last year, are also expected to increase in 1994.

• ECIP (Energy Crisis Intervention Program). For low-income households who are experiencing energy-related emergencies, this federally funded program provides assistance.
• LIRA (Low Income Ratepayer Assistance). PG&E provides a 15% discount on monthly energy bills for qualifying low-income households.
• HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program). This federally funded program gives help to low-income households that fall within 130% of federal poverty guidelines.
• MEDICAL BASELINE. For customers with medical needs, PG&E provides additional gas and electricity at the lowest rates.
• RATE OPTIONS AND RATE ALTERNATIVES. There may be lower rates for customers who are large energy users or who can switch their use to off-peak hours.

This winter, take the chill out of your energy bills and sign up for any of the Winter Stretch programs. Call your local PG&E office about them or look for the enrollment information in your next PG&E bill.

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SOFTBALL
From page 8
"I feel like we have a 480 batting average and 12 stolen bases. She also batted in 29 runs. Helping her in the batting box will be junior third baseman Kelley Bannon. The speedster hit .327 and stole 11 bases.
Boyer and her squad are ready to begin their Division I switched schedule Saturday when they travel to San Francisco State and Cal State Hayward.
"This team is much further along than last year's at this point," Boyer said.

SKIER
From page 8
"Discovery Blind Sparta at Kirkwood, agreed with Morsed.
"With her attitude, she will go far," Paesavento said.

And going far to Godwin means placing in some regional races and eventually competing on a national level. "I met a lot of people who encouraged me to keep going," Godwin said. "I want to "I want to race. I'm competitive." Last summer, she trained five days a week for three hours a day. She hopes to start racing this year.
But even if she doesn't rip down the slopes hoping to edge out a competitor, Godwin will have a smile on her face when she steps onto her skis with snow on her boots. "I love the feeling of being on top of the mountain," she said.
Lookin’ to slide into NCAA tourney

Poly Briefs

Wrestler wins prestigious tourney

Senior Jake Gaier (150) pulled out the big win Monday in the All-Star Wrestling Classic, but it was not against the big opponent.

Gaier, ranked second in the nation, won a 6-5 decision over the eighth-ranked Keith Taylor of West Virginia in the Classic, which attempts to match two of the top-three ranked collegiate wrestlers from the 10 weight classes.

Gaier, 20-1, was scheduled to wrestle top-ranked Lincoln McIlravy of Iowa in a rematch, but McIlravy dropped out of the tournament due to a neck injury. McIlravy handed Gaier his only loss of the season in the Las Vegas Tournament in December.

"He looked forward to wrestling him again," said Wrestling Head Coach Lennis Cowell. "He was psyched up for the match and was ready to pull off an upset."

Regardless, Gaier won in the final six seconds of the match that was tied 1-1 before he ankle picked his opponent to the mat.

With Gaier locked onto his ankle, Taylor fell with his back to the mat. Gaier quickly rolled on top of his opponent for a two-point takedown, two points near pin and the victory.

"This is a big confidence boost for him," Cowell said. "I just hope he keeps going."

Gaier was the first Mustang to compete in the event since Scott Heaton took to the mat in 1980.

The Mustangs are 7-5 in dual meets.

Gaier was scheduled to return to San Luis Obispo at 4 p.m. Tuesday and was unavailable for comment at press time.

Poly’s tennis team splits season openers in trip south

The men’s tennis team initiated its 1994 campaign with a convincing 9-0 victory Saturday over UC-San Diego. The next day UC-San Diego’s neighbor San Diego State retaliated against Cal Poly and blanked them 7-0.

Tennis Head Coach Chris Esptricht said his team showed few signs of first match jitters in the match against UC-San Diego.

"Usually in the first match you are nervous and inept, but the guys came out loose and played well," Esptricht said.

He said freshman Rafael Huereta was exceptional.

"He beat a real good player real badly," he said.

Huereta defeated Vern Yarwell 6-0, 6-1 at the No. 2-spot.

The most games an individual Mustang lost in a single set was three. That was senior Marc Olivas, who defeated Dan Cross 6-2, 6-3 at the No. 1-spot.

Poly hosts all games against Cal State Northridge

The recent earthquake has forced Cal Poly to reshuffle away events against Cal State Northridge to home events.

In doubles, the competition proved a little tighter. All three doubles matches were won in two sets, but each of the final sets were pushed to seven games.

But it was in the doubles matches where Cal Poly got its lone victory of sorts Sunday against the Anteaters.

Junior Josh Johnsten and freshman Casey Wood teamed up at the Mustangs’ second slot to defeat Marc LeMonica and Robert Malquist 8-6. In Division I scoring, the team winning two of the three doubles matches is awarded a single team point.

Cal Poly’s openers came a week later than expected when the Mustangs were forced to forfeit their matches against the University of Arizona and University of Northern Arizona.

The team could not catch a flight out of Los Angeles due to inclement weather.

"This is a big confidence boost to others," Morsed said.

Mike Pesavento, coordinator of the ski program at Kirkwood, added. "She is the one I credit keeps batters off balance."

"Now they look like naturals (on field base)," Punches said.

"I can pass on to others," he said. "I finally got the chance (to try it) when I was 13."

"She went blind as a result of an allergic reaction to chicken pen and aspirin. The allergic reaction is called Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, and it permanently scarred the mucous membrane of her eyes. After many operations Godwin is still unable to distinguish colors or light.

"Regardless of this, she was not afraid to give skiing a try. "It was never frustrating," she said. "I just laughed and got up every time I fell."

After attending a ski training camp and working with a ski guide, Godwin is falling less and less and is even skiing backward.

"She is an extraordinary person because of what she gives out to others," Morsed said.

"Michelle gave me something I can pass on to others," he added. "She is the one I credit with helping me become a better guide to blind people."

Mike Pesavento, coordinator