Welcome Back to Winter in SLO
Amount of money given back to students at buyback last year:

Over $765,000

Amount of money given back to the University over the last five years:

Over $2.5 million

Number of students employed over the last five years:

Over 3500

Sales taxes paid to support schools, social services, and public agencies last year:

Over $1 million

Amount of money given back to students at buyback last year:

$0

Amount of money given back to the University over the last five years:

$0

Number of students employed over the last five years:

0

Sales taxes paid to support schools, social services, and public agencies last year:

$0

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New state laws to affect students

Emily Rancer
MUSTANG DAILY

As soon as the clock flashed midnight on Jan. 1, fireworks weren't the only things set off in California. Several new laws took effect too and some will benefit students.

Perhaps the most sweeping good news for students is the 75 cent rise in the state's minimum wage. The hourly rate went from $6.75 to $7.50 and will shoot up to $8 an hour in 2008.

This jump affects 180 students employed by ASI who, prior to Jan. 1, were making less than $7.50. All those students were bumped up to the new minimum wage standard while those already making $7.50 or more were not affected.

"The best thing about it is that the student population will not see a difference in the programs and services offered," said ASI public relations director Michelle Broom. "We are trying to absorb this added cost on an inter auditor level."

Broom said that the estimated annual impact of the raise in minimum wage for ASI will be $78,515. The number of students employed by the university itself will not be known until later in the quarter, according to Marc Benadiba, the assistant director of Fiscal Services. He said that on average, about 1,700 to 1,800 students work for Cal Poly every quarter.

The various departments that employ students will be responsible for covering the added expenses, he said.

The Mustang Daily also benefited from a new law that officially protects the student paper from censorship by the school's administration. The law, signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last year, prohibits censorship of college media by administrators, making California the first state in the country to enact such a law.

However, the Mustang Daily's facility advisor, George Ramos, said that he doesn't expect the new law to impact the paper much.

"I don't think that the Mustang Daily will be affected by this new law because the administration has always had — and with very rare exception — a hands-off attitude toward the news content of the paper," said Ramos, who is also the journalism department chair. "I don't think it's going to change anything."

For many San Luis Obispo renters, a newly enacted law will help them out too. As of Jan. 1, landlords are required to give 60 days' notice any evicting month-to-month tenants who have lived in a rental for at least a year and haven't done anything to warrant eviction. Landlords previously had 30 days to give notice.

While some smokers gave up their habit as a New Year's resolution, those who continue smoking will be puffing on slightly different cigarettes this year. California merchants can now only sell "fire safe" cigarettes intended to prevent fires by going out quickly when not being puffed. Those cigarettes will be sold once merchants have depleted their supplies bought before Jan. 1.

Students under 21 beware: drinking and driving under the legal age is no longer a civil penalty, but a crime. The law eliminates confusion by prior law that made it a criminal offense for a person under 21 to possess alcohol, but did not make it a crime for that same person to drive a vehicle intoxicated.

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By the NUMBERS

60 The number of days' notice landlords must give month-to-month tenants before evicting them.

$7.50 The new minimum wage in California.

6 Maximum number of months a person serve in jail for leaving pets unattended in a car.

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Jenny Pedersen
The California Alumni (UC-Davis)

Let's be honest: There is nothing left to celebrate. Christmas decorations have gone on clearance for half price and the new year is already well underway. It's time we all returned to the regularly scheduled programming of our humdrum lives — except for one small glimmer of hope that may prove to keep my spirits high throughout the rest of this bitterly cold and boring January.

That's right, folks: the rise of your cappuccino foam and the number of ice cubes you put in a glass has been slightly reduced. Similarly, the sting is less smarting from heavy-handled hints about your future unemployment which are casually dropped into conversations after every shift.

Though what may be worse is a manager who feigns false pleasantries is fine, great, so good, just happy to be here serving your fine establishment. When, in reality, you'd rather secretly entertain visions of flinging your pen straight into the eye of the next unfortunate soul to step up to the cash register.
Then there is every service worker’s nightmare: the stingy tipper, a category of person I personally feel has their own reserved place in the cafeteria, where every food dish has been spit onto. Now, I realize this is a college town, where we’re all poor and unwilling to tip for any service short of being spoon-fed. A slight word to the wise cheap-skates, because some of you could really use the good karma. For instance, guys who can’t seem to raise their eyes anywhere above the neck (you know who you are). If you treat the women who serve you with the same amount of love, or at least paid to be the one giving the orders. But in the meantime, take your 75 cents and go buy yourself a gumball. It’s something to celebrate!

In reality, the jobs we hold now are mostly a passing phase, a lesson in humility that reminds us why we’re in school: to reach the world beyond, a world where we’re paid to do what we love, or at least paid to be the one giving the orders.

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‘Museum’ skimps on laughs

Christina Choi
MetroDaily Staff (C. McElhany)

At last, a history lesson that won’t make you fall asleep.

Well, sort of. While “A Night at the Museum” will nearly as hardcore as the special you might come across on the History Channel in the early hours of the mourning, the film does give its viewers basic facts of the past amid its layers of skimpy comedy. Who would’ve thought that knowledge of Attila the Hun’s mysterious power of an ancient Egyptian tablet.

Though his aging predecessors caution that this is no ordinary job, Larry finds out the hard way, and his first night is predictably wrought with surprises. After he’s attacked by miniature Indians, reduced by a mentally impaired statue from Easter Island and barely escapes an encounter with Attila the Hun, Larry is rescued by a gallant Theodore Roosevelt (Robin Williams, “Man of the Year”).

Teddy explains that it’s his duty to keep the peace at all costs and shows him that he’s capable of being a great man — not that this lesson is half as memorable as the one with its light-hearted tone. Despite fancy visual effects and a few chuckles, “Night” is in sore need of sharp one-liners. Instead it relies heavily on Stiller’s reputation as a funnyman to carry scenes. This only works to a certain extent, but without any quick humor written into the role, the physical antics grow stale.

Nonetheless, a Hollywood comedy with any educational value is so rare today that “Night at the Museum” might be worth taking your little sibling to.

And with as light-hearted tone and guaranteed happy ending, it might have just enough spark for adults as well.

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'Godfather of Soul' James Brown laid to rest in style

Andrew Sargus Klein

It's difficult to summarize the life and accomplishments of James Brown in a manner that could actually do the man and his music justice. There simply is too much to mention, too much to devote whole paragraphs, chapters and books to. His music is irrevocably entrenched in American culture, from the all-night diner's jukebox to hip-hop sampling. Along with Little Richard, Sam Cooke and Ray Charles, Brown was part of an enormous transition in popular music, combining gospel traditions with R&B, mixing in rock beats and crossing racial barriers.

The best eulogy for Brown, who died Christmas Day of heart failure, must involve actually listening to his extensive catalogue. Dubbed "the hardest working man in show business" for a reason — no one can resist his beats, much less the desire to throw out an "uh!" or "good God!" when the mood strikes — "I Don't Want Nobody To Give Me Nothing (Open Up The Door, I'll Get It Myself)" and "Goodbye My Love, Pt. 1 & 2" which can both be found on "Foundations of Funk — A Brand New Bag: 1964–1969" are two iconic tracks that defy the constraints of popular music. The former is a political attack entirely removed from the poetry of Dylan or the straight-ahead rock of the Rolling Stones. The latter is one of the greatest funk ballads of all time. Brown made the groove — the funk-laced, sweating groove — his own creation, and the fact that he could deliver such a product again and again is staggering.

Brown isn't leaving this world anytime soon. Few artists have been or will be able to burn hotter than he did or play as active a role in the evolution of music as he still does. His influence will live for as long as there is music to be listened to, performed and written.

Dubbed "the hardest working man in show business" for a reason, Brown brought his fire to every record he produced, creating grooves that were more than the sum of drums ...

As a last resort, use the Mustang Daily as a tissue.

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Arts continued from page 6 scholarship.
For example, proponents of history and mythology single out the necessity of understanding past atrocities to guiding our future actions. Meanwhile, philosophers cite its importance in empowering us to deliberate circumspectly about imperative and to confront our principal failings. Then, there is math, literature, divinity and so on. Where does this argument leave us?

As Fareed Zakaria, the noted Newsweek columnist, once remarked, the past 10 years have witnessed faster changes than the past 200 years. Hence, important as the visual arts or lyrical poetics are to our holistic well-being, the new realm of development is one engineered by technological advancements and economic thought. Jobs today reward the capacity to actively create and innovate, primarily in the financial services, tech companies and health care industries.

While monetary gains are no substitute for character, America could best heed lessons of the past. The ostensible leader in the 20th century, Oxford no longer commands that lofty distinction. Because while she persisted in the arts and letters, her American counterparts were embracing research.
New bill to require Calif. girls to take HPV vaccine

If passed, California would be the first state to mandate the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, effective July 2008.

Lizbeth Cazares
The campus news (U.C.-Irvine)

In 2005, an estimated 9,700 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer in the United States. In an effort to fight what legislators and health officials have called a life-threatening disease, a new bill was introduced in California that would require all girls to be vaccinated against the Human Papilloma Virus prior to entering the sixth grade.

Assembly Bill 16, presented in early December, aims to reduce the amount of cervical cancer cases by making California the first state to mandate an HPV vaccine. The bill is currently in its early stages, but if passed, AB 16 would become effective in July 2008.

State Rep. Sally Lieber introduced the bill and said AB 16 is a good opportunity to reduce serious medical problems related to HPV.

“This is the first vaccine produced that prevents a form of cancer,” she said. “Around 80 percent of women will contract HPV by the time they’re 50, and while only 10 percent will develop cervical cancer, HPV can lead to other health problems like cervical dysplasia. This bill provides an opportunity to prevent both cervical cancer and HPV.

If passed, AB 16 would add the HPV vaccine to California’s immunization requirements, which currently includes measles, mumps, polio, tetanus, rubella, whooping cough, diphtheria, hepatitis B, chicken pox and haemophilus influenza type B.

Additionally, AB 16 would be the only required immunization in the state to target a specific gender and the only one aimed at a virus contracted solely by genital contact.

While the vaccine now costs approximately $360, Lieber said she has talked to different agencies that would provide the vaccine at low to no cost.

She said ultimately the price for making this vaccine mandatory is less than the $1.4 billion a year the United States pays in medical costs to fight cervical cancer.

“We currently pay the price for it in our community where we provide help for those suffering from cancer,” Lieber said. “It’s more expensive when it’s out in the community and when we have to deal with those costs and the cost of evasive treatment.

Some groups, such as Planned Parenthood Federation of America, also support the new bill.

Katharyn McLearan, director of PPFA’s public affairs for the Sacramento region, said Planned Parenthood is very excited about the vaccine in general because the group feels it is critical to protecting women’s health and safety.

“The vaccine prevents against two strains that cause 70 percent of all cervical cancer cases,” she said. “It works to prevent a very preventable form of cancer.”

She said the organization strongly supports including the vaccine in the Vaccines for Children program.

“The quickest path to eradicate cervical cancer is widespread vaccination,” she said. “The most successful immunization programs, such as those for small pox or polio, are those that require (vaccination).”

Linda Klepacki, the sexual health analyst for the organization, said while the group highly supports the vaccine itself, the organization thinks that parents should make the decision about whether a child should be vaccinated.

“We are very pro this vaccine and think it’s a historical step for the prevention of cervical cancer,” she said. “But we are also very for parents’ rights. Unlike previous vaccines, this is used to prevent a sexually transmitted infection.”

She said since the disease is not acquired at a school, then it should not become mandatory for sixth-graders.

“We know that hepatitis B is transmitted disease and it can be transferred through the bloodstream,” she said. “Children don’t contract the disease just by being in the classroom.”

If AB 16 is passed, it would allow for families who do not want their child to be vaccinated the ability to waive the vaccine — similar to other mandatory vaccines.

While there is debate on whether the vaccine should be mandatory, many agree that this is an important vaccination.

“The best way to protect our daughters from risk is to make sure the HPV vaccine is widely available and administered to all women at risk of infection,” McLearan said.

At approximately $360, it is the most expensive vaccine ever.

— Katharyn McLearan
Director of PPFA’s public affairs for the Sacramento region
Fearless freshmen

Natalie DeBruin

New Year’s Day has passed, but don’t think it’s too late to add one more New Year’s resolution to your list. “Do one thing every day that scares you,” said Eleanor Roosevelt. Perhaps she meant doing something like turning the lights off and watching “Saw” every night before you go to bed, but I don’t really think so. That may scare, but I doubt it would be very beneficial. More likely, she’s encouraged us to make sure that our fears don’t keep us in a box.

I come from a one-stoplight town. My high school class graduated 93 students, and the nearest fast food restaurant was a 20-minute drive from my home. You could say I experienced a little culture shock coming to Ohio University. Athens may be considered a small town, but it’s bigger than the one from which I came.

There are lots of opportunities here that were never really an option before. I’d never taken a Pilates class or gone out dancing on a Saturday night. Who am I kidding? Before I came to Athens, I’d never gone to the theater to see an R-rated film.

I guess you could say I’m a little sheltered.

The point here is that I’ve had (and still have) ample opportunity to try something new. Whether rational fear or irrational fear, ranging from a few butterflies to sheer panic, that fear comes whenever I do something for the first time.

Fear is a natural reaction; it’s actually a good thing in many situations. That “fight or flight” response is a biological instinct to assist us in times of danger, like if we’re about to be mugged by a bear, or if we’re considering eating leftover EasyMac that’s been in the refrigerator for a month. It helps to keep us from doing things that are harmful or self-destructive.

The trick is to be able to overcome fear when it’s keeping you from really experiencing life. Safety isn’t necessarily a bad thing (always wear your seat belt, kids), but failure isn’t always as bad as we think it is, either.

Am I afraid of looking stupid? Am I afraid of feeling out of place? These things are easily overcome and soon forgotten. These fears shouldn’t be allowed to rule our lives. There is so much real fear in the world. Life is too short to spend being afraid of the little things. Trust me, humiliation is a little thing.

A dollar spent on a Power Chai (Chai plus espresso) is a little thing, see Resolution, page 11

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New Year's resolution: Make multiple impressions

Carolyn Gerecht

First impressions are formed within the first three seconds two strangers meet. So, it's no surprise that those impressions are usually dead wrong.

Yet somehow, we still manage to use our first impressions of each other as a basis for how we interact from there on out — whom we call, whom we like and dislike. An awkward comment from a classmate's mouth in an early conversation can cause you to think of her as an awkward girl forever.

Despite the fact that we've all been fooled by our first impressions at some point or another, they still have value in our world. This makes no sense at all.

Embodyed on a pillow or printed onto a Dixie cup, one can find the expression, "First impressions are the most lasting." Gentle reminder to always make a strong one. Even my psychology textbook informs me that I am more likely to pay attention to what I first learn about a person than anything else I discover downstream the road.

The mere fact that, if we could, we'd all make excellent first impressions all the time is a dangerous sign pointing to their importance. But first impressions shouldn't play such a big role in our opinions.

Of course, we can't help but form them. It's human nature to judge, to stereotype and to generalize, which is usually how errors occur. Thus, the battle instead comes in pushing those thoughts to the back burner. We must give a real chance to unboxed second and third and maybe even fourth impressions.

Think of every time you ran into that cutie from bio while wearing a veil if you decide it's disgusting and move on. Everyone deserves that. It's human nature to judge, to stereotype and to generalize. And especially in an environment as diverse and drastically different as college, it's only fair to allow for both parties to modify their likes and dislikes.

No, I cannot possibly demand that we all forget first impressions entirely, if that's even an option. As human beings, we need a base for figuring out who we want to hang out with or study with or bring home for Thanksgiving. We can, however, work to remember that our first impressions are probably going to be mistakes.

The best way to handle that is to give as much importance to the impressions to come. Currently, forming relationships is a matter of creating a first impression and then working to maintain or overcome it. There's no reason for that — we should be able to create first impressions, create second impressions, and so on. Everyone deserves that.

Don't you?

Resolution (continued from page 10)

even if you decide it's disgusting and move on it down the drain before tossing the cup into the recycling bin. These are the little victories of the spirit, and the little things take all the difference.

This is my goal. I will try new things. I may be afraid, but it's not going to stop me. Of course, on my 2007 list of things I must do, there may be things that I am to bring up for the fear of my own making, and that's perfectly fine.

As students, we must face up to the fear of missing out. Failing to try something new yourself. That's what it's all about. Or maybe the bokey-pokay is what it's all about. Either way, I'm going out on a limb to write this words won't mean much if the reader gains nothing from it.

Here's to 2007; may it be full of vanquished fears, both yours and mine.
Seasonal Affective Disorder more than just the winter blues

Mandi Smith
Associate professor of psychology at Luther College

Winter has many people feeling depressed, but it may be more serious than that. Between 6 and 8 percent of the general population suffer from a severe form of the winter blues called Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD. "SAD can be a disabling condition... (resulting in) a lack of motivation," said Dr. Joseph Breitenstein, an associate professor of psychology at Luther College.

"Depression in general is often viewed as the 'common cold' of mental disorders." It is not uncommon for many people to feel a sense of the winter blues as the cold weather and short days set in. However, SAD and the winter blues are not the same condition. Although the difference is only a matter of a degree, SAD debilitates a life while the winter blues simply seems to dampen it.

Everyone gets (the winter blues) but it shouldn't make one dysfunctional," Breitenstein said.

SAD has many symptoms that go beyond a simple feeling of depression. These symptoms include a lack of motivation, excessive sleeping, headaches, a craving for sweets, weight gain, anxiety, social withdrawal and preoccupation with food. These symptoms will, as a result, affect work and relationships.

The cause of SAD is currently unknown. However, it is fairly certain that the condition has a multifactorial explanation. "(SAD) may be caused by a combination of biological, psychological and social factors... each person is a time to mature," Breitenstein said.

Dr. Joseph Breitenstein

It can be a serious disorder and shouldn't be stigmatized any more than we would someone with diabetes. It's a disorder they didn't choose to have." "(SAD) is a definitive diagnosable disorder," he said. "It can be a serious disorder and shouldn't be stigmatized any more than we would someone with diabetes. It's a disorder they didn't choose to have."

SAD is a common disorder and affects millions of people. If help is necessary, don't be afraid to ask for it. "I would urge (those who may be suffering from SAD and depression) to talk to health care providers," Breitenstein said.

More information can be found at http://mayoclinic.com

Dr. Joseph Breitenstein

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— Joseph Breitenstein

Associate professor of psychology at Luther College
California budget gets millions from Google employee income taxes

Aaron Davis
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Someday, they may be called The Google Years.

California, where budget revenue slides up and down like a yo-yo with capital gains and stock options, is once again counting on outsized income tax filings from a handful of tech executives to help balance its budget.

For this wave, California can largely thank Google.

After cashing in more than 9 million shares valued at $3.7 billion last year, 16 Google employees will owe the Golden State as much as $380 million in taxes — enough to cover the salaries of more than 3,000 state workers.

Taxes paid by Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page account for nearly half the amount. There is virtually no way for them or other California billionaires to escape a 9.3 percent state capital gains tax or a recent voter-approved 1 percent tax on the wealthy to underwrite the state's mental health programs.

"On behalf of a grateful state, I'll be happy to wash their windows or mow their lawn," said H.D. Palmer, spokesman for California's Department of Finance.

In the often slippery world of state finance, the wildly successful Google has had an unusually tangible effect on California's state budget. It has become the face of an extraordinary two-year resurgence in state capital gains and stock-options revenue, much of which can be traced back to the tech sector.

Mega-sized tax filings from Google executives began flowing into state coffers in earnest last year after the company went public in 2004. The receipts helped fuel a multibillion dollar tax windfall last spring that allowed Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to pour money into roads, classrooms and other programs.

See Google, page 15
Calf with two faces born at Va. farm

RURAL RETREAT, Va. (AP) — One of the newest arrivals at Kirk Heldreth’s dairy farm is drawing crowds. A calf with two faces was born Dec. 27 at Heldreth Dairy Farm, and word has spread in southwest Virginia as residents flock to his farm.

The animal is normal from its tail until its unusually large head. The calf breathes out of two noses and has two tongues, which move independently, according to Heldreth. There appears to be a single wecker containing two eyes where the head splits.

“It’s the craziest thing I’ve ever seen,” the dairyman said.

During the calf’s birth, Heldreth said he first thought there were two calves. The calf has two lower jaws, but only one mouth. Heldreth feeds her through a tube, and acknowledges he probably can’t maintain that feeding schedule for long.

The calf was the product of artificial insemination, which was supposed to create a genetically superior specimen. “Genetically, this is one of my better calves,” he said.

Bob James, a professor in the dairy science department at Virginia Tech and Heldreth’s former teacher, said such births are unusual.

“It’s pretty rare,” he said.

James said the abnormality could be caused by a developmental problem or a genetic quirk. According to MedicineNet.com, the condition is called diprosopus. It happens when twins start to form and don’t completely separate. In most cases, the twins are completely fused with one set of limbs, but part or all the face is duplicated.

Holdreth said the calf doesn’t appear to have any other physical ailments or complications. “It’s as healthy as can be,” he said.

Holdreth expects many more people will be curious enough to stop by. “I’ll just have to tie the dogs extra tight,” he said.

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UU Hour Table... Thursday, January 11

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Google continued from page 13
popular programs, pleasing political
enemies and helping smooth his
path to re-election.

Schwarzenegger’s good fortune, it
turns out, did not end there.

As Google’s stock topped $500 in
2006, company executives contin­
ued to sell hundreds of thousands of
shares each month, according to an
analysis of insider transaction data
provided to The Associated Press by
research firm Thomson Financial.

The analysis makes clear that
California will reap big benefits
from a rebounded tech economy for
the budget year* that will begin in
July. The revenue even might allow
Schwarzenegger to avoid painful
cuts to a budget that ballooned 11
percent last year, to $131.4 billion.

According to the state’s latest fig­
ures, capital gains and stock options
accounted for nearly 14 cents of
every tax dollar collected in
California in the fiscal year that
ended last summer. Similar numbers are
expected this year. That’s nearly
double the percentage two years
ago, following the dot-com bust.

Next year the total income taxes
Google executives will have paid
California since the company went
public are on pace to top $1 billion,
or about 1 percent of the state’s
entire general fund budget.

While the company is helping
push capital gain revenue above
historical averages, state officials say
they are closely monitoring the
income.

For comparison, during the
heady days of the Internet boom in
2000, capital gains and stock options
accounted for a whopping 40 per­
cent of all personal income in
California and a quarter of the
state’s tax revenue.

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Rachel Konrad  
ASSOCIATED PRESS  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —  

Crouched in military fatigues, you peer through night-vision goggles and brandish a semiautomatic gun as you hunt down terrorists who’ve overtaken Las Vegas.  

Incongruously, while patrolling a neon-decorated side street in the video game “Rainbow Six Vegas,” you spot a jar of body wash. You spray the container with bullets, and voila! A 60-second video of whimsical bloopers pops up, and billboard advertisements of scantily clad women hawk Unilever Corp.’s Axe shower gel: “Score with Axe.”  

Welcome to the new world of video gaming, where software companies are becoming more imaginative in wringing money from gamers.  

In-game advertising has been going on for years as marketers try to reach people who’ve largely stopped watching television. But beyond running crass advertisements on billboards written into the gaming landscape, many game developers now accept product placements for milk, DVDs and other wares, embedding them deep into the game’s software codes. You’d need the type of secret tips and tricks long circulated for unlocking special powers and other bonuses.  

Other companies are charging real-world dollars for the privilege of gaming magical powers and better equipment for virtual characters, leading to complaints the companies are exploiting gamers who already pay $60 or more for the most popular titles.  

Veterans of the $7 billion U.S. video game market defend the corporate co-option of the techniques once solely the realm of techies: If Hollywood has been employing product placement and other unconventional marketing tricks for years, why not the game industry?  

The standard advertisements aren’t waiting. But gaming executives say the newer, unusual pitches are more effective: They can be funny and tap into many gamers’ desire to explore the darkest nooks and crannies of a game and discover tricks they can boast to friends. “Purist gamers see this development as negative, and it can ruin the game for someone,” said Peer Schneider, vice president of content publishing at IGN Entertainment. “But our kids don’t see it as negative. They see it as an unexpected thing in the game.”  

For more than two decades, programmers have tucked silly surprises into the recesses of computer games — from the 1980 Atari 2600 game “Adventure” to the current hit “Scarface: The World Is Yours.” In many games, players who enter the top-secret “cheat code” could become invisible, get unlimited ammunition or play in an all-powerful God mode. Or they’d play for hours until discovering brightly decorated circles or balls — known as Easter eggs — that unlocked bonus points, monster-slaying swords, extra lives or infinite health.  

Only recently have game companies found ways to profit from these quirks. Software developers are now coordinating with marketing executives — and with Madison Avenue advertising gurus — almost from the game’s conception. “Developer teams have always said, ‘We have these codes if you want to use them,’ but only in the last two years did the marketing teams significantly incorporate them into our strategy,” said Jill Steinberg, director of promotions for San Francisco-based Ubisoft. “The goal of the promotions is to get buzz.”  

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**BCS good, bad for smaller football programs like Fiesta Bowl champ Boise State**

Andrew Bagnato

Say what you will about the BCS, and many have said plenty. But if it wasn't for the Bowl Championship Series, most football fans wouldn't know Boise State from Boys Town.

The ninth-ranked Broncos would never have been given a crack at No. 7 Oklahoma on a stage as grand as the Fiesta Bowl. They'd have run all the gadget plays against Memphis, or someone like it, at the YourNameHere Bowl in Shreveport. Ian Johnson would still be a 5-foot-11 all-star nobody wanted. Well, nobody except a certain cheerleading captain.

Instead, he's the giddy kid who proposed to his girlfriend on national television moments after scoring the game-winning points.

On WFAN radio in New York Tuesday morning, they interrupted their regularly scheduled lineup of pro sports to rave about ... Boise State.

That's the power of the BCS. It creates storylines even if it sometimes leaves out the happy ending.

But the BCS also did what no one else could this year: it stopped the Broncos cold.

The BCS gave the Broncos their moment on the national stage and then quickly ushered them out the side door.

It was more than a little symbolic that the Broncos had to check out of their resort hotel here Tuesday to make room for the Florida Gators, who arrived to begin preparations for their title game showdown with Ohio State.

Thanks for coming, Broncos. Have a safe trip home!

The Broncos' performance made the BCS look like geniuses. It also gave them another reason to do everything they can to prevent a play-off.

In a playoff, the power conferences will have to deal with Boise State every year — or Utah, Fresno State and Brigham Young. And the more exposure and money those programs receive, the bigger and better they'll become.

Once upon a time, there was a women's college in Tallahassee, Fla. It decided to admit men and fielded its first football team in 1947, losing all five of its games.

This team eventually became the fearsome Florida State Seminoles.

Boise State started playing Division I-A football in 1996. Eleven years later, it won the Fiesta Bowl.

The BCS doesn't want to see Boise State every year. But it can put up with the occasional upset, if that's what Boise State's victory was. Think about this: the Broncos beat five bowl-bound teams during the regular season. Those teams went 4-1 in the postseason. The Sooners beat six bowl-bound teams. They went 2-4.

The BCS honchos went into full self-congratulation mode Tuesday for showing the foresight to invite the Broncos. Don't be fooled. Boise State and its ilk gained admission only under threat of federal legislation and lawsuits.

But it was nice of the Broncos not to embarrass themselves when they showed up. They used the right fork at team dinners and accepted the Fiesta Bowl's lavish hospitality with grace.

Then they smoked the Sooners to the delight of millions.

Now the Broncos have returned to the land of potatoes, but they've left a lot of us wanting more.

More trickery. More undersized and unrecruited players. More of rookie coach Chris Petersen, looking like a man who had a peak at the cash after the dealer shuffled.

Petersen was caught smiling on the sideline Monday night. Doesn't he realize how serious this is supposed to be? Bless him if he doesn't.

Petersen wouldn't bite when reporters asked if he planned to decline to team the uncrowned national champions.

"Hey, we don't worry about that," Petersen said. "We just go and play and our players go out there and do what they have to do. And we just worry about what we can control.

"We just do our best and we don't worry about the rest."

"It wouldn't be a bad idea. The Broncos might be overmatched. Jim Tressel's well-drilled Buckeyes wouldn't fall for that amazing Statue of Liberty play, would they?"

Thanks to the BCS, we'll never know.

This is as good as it gets for Boise State — for now, and maybe forever.

**Cal's Lynch to enter NFL draft**

The Pac-10 offensive player of the year rushed for 1,356 yards and 11 TDs as a junior.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Running back Marshawn Lynch will skip his senior season at California to enter the NFL draft.

Lynch was the Pac-10's offensive player of the year after rushing for a conference-best 1,356 yards and 11 touchdowns, leading Cal (10-3) to a league co-championship and a victory over Texas A&M in the Holiday Bowl with 111 yards and two scores.

As a sophomore in 2005, Lynch became the fourth Cal tailback in four years to rush for 1,000 yards under coach Jeff Tedford. The Oakland native rushed for 3,230 yards and 29 touchdowns in his three seasons at Cal.

"The opportunity to play in the NFL is something that I have always dreamed of," Lynch said. "Right now, it is just hitting me that my dreams are going to have the chance to come true."

Lynch is just the second Cal player to enter the draft early in Tedford's five seasons.
The senior football player is the Mustang's third straight defensive player of the year in Division I-AA.

Tristan Aird
Sacks

One day after taking home the Buck Buchanan Award as the top defensive player in Division I-AA, Cal Poly senior linebacker Kyle Shotwell was just as relieved as he was excited.

“I was kind of relieved because I wasn’t the guy who broke the tradition at Cal Poly,” Shotwell said Dec. 15 in a phone interview. “I wanted to keep the streak alive.”

Shotwell is the third-straight Cal Poly football player to win the award. He led the defense in tackles for loss (21) while posting 122 total tackles, seven sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. The Mustangs (7-4) finished 10th in the division in fewest points allowed per game (14.7), fifth in total yards allowed per game (248.3) and third in least passing yards given up (1,463).

Shotwell was presented the award at a banquet Dec. 14 in Channahon, Ill., on the eve of the I-AA title game, in which defending champion Tennessee went 0-4 and reached the I-AA playoffs for the first time in program history.

Shotwell set a school record in 2004 for a season in which he racked up 155 tackles, 5.5 sacks, four interceptions and six forced fumbles.

“It’s crazy to think we were on the field at the same time,” Shotwell said of the 2004 season. “If you look back at that year, we had an amazing defense. We didn’t know exactly how good we were back then. That was a pretty exciting time to be playing defense at Cal Poly.”

Cal Poly has reached new heights in recent years under head coach Rich Ellerson’s arrival in 2001. His double-eagle flex defensive scheme, which looks like everything from a 3-4 to a 5-2 during the course of a game, has helped the Mustangs become a mainstay in the national rankings. Cal Poly was ranked as high as No. 3 in I-AA each of the past two years and closed this season ranked 15th.

Shotwell said what might make him most proud is the reaction he received Dec. 14 from coaches around the nation.

“It’s great for Cal Poly football the way people respect our team and the players on our team,” Shotwell said. “Nationally, it’s incredible meeting the coaches from UMass and Appalachian State who said, ‘I love watching you and your teammates. Keep doing what you guys are doing.’ People are watching us and not just the schools we play against. That makes me proud because coach ‘E’ has instilled that in us.”

Created in 1995 by The Sports Network, the Buchanan Award is named after former Grambling State and Appalachian State defensive lineman Buck Buchanan, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It has since been won by NFL stars Derrick GOney (1995-96), Edgeron Hartwell (2004), Redmean Mathis (2002) and Jared Allen (2003).

Both Beck and Gocong were chosen in the third round of the NFL Draft.

“I believe that I am an NFL-caliber player,” Shotwell said. “I’m going to have some opportunities. I really think that I deserve that shot and I’ll get that shot.”

Shotwell’s agent, Ryan Tollner, is part of a Rep1 Sports Group whose clients include Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Mark Brunell, Arizona Cardinals’ offensive tackle Leonid Davis, Oakland Raiders linebacker Kirk Morrison and Beck, among others.

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Florida feels underrated going into tonight's national title game

Ohio State is favored by at least a touchdown according to most Las Vegas oddsmakers.

Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

"The Florida Gators are feeling unappreciated and they're not happy about it."

There's no doubt the Gators are the underdogs heading into the BCS championship game against top-ranked Ohio State tonight.

The unbeaten Buckeyes have been No. 1 all season and very challenging, outscoring opponents by 292 points per game. They've got the Heisman Trophy winner in Troy Smith and coach in Jim Tressel with a national championship on his resume and a reputation for being as good as it gets in big games.

But the Gators have an imperfect record, several close victories and their only All-American in defensive tackle Reggie Nelson.

"You might say, 'Oh, Florida's a little team,'" defensive tackle Ray McDonald said. "The top two teams in the country are playing."

In Las Vegas, Ohio State is a huge favorite. Benton said. "We're a huge underdog."

"We're a huge underdog," defensive tackle Joe Cohen said. "And people have to respect us."

"People say we are (the underdogs) but we really don't feel like underdogs," defensive tackle Ray McDonald said. "The top two teams in the country are playing. Why should there be an underdog?"

Benton said. "We did feel like we were a little bit better than we were." Ohio State is favored by at least a touchdown according to most Las Vegas oddsmakers.

"I remember we got a little bit of a victory party in Miami for when they got back before the game," Benton said. "We did feel slighted. I think it definitely helped." Ohio State's 14 wins were by seven points or fewer. Half of Florida's victories have been by 10 points or fewer. Both teams played strong defense and lots of close games. Half of Ohio State's 14 wins were by seven points or fewer. Half of Florida's victories have been by 10 points or fewer. The Buckeyes have been careful not to feed Florida's us-against-the-world attitude by throwing nothing but praise at the Gators. The Florida Gators are feeling unappreciated and they're not happy about it."

"I don't look at ourselves as a favorite," offensive tackle Jon Runyan said. "I don't look at ourselves as a favorite, we're going to prove them wrong."

Even back home in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., for Christmas, Baker heard the Gators being bad-mouthed. As he walked around the mall, he overheard a couple of kids predict gloom and doom for the Gators.

"A kid didn't even know I was standing there," Baker said. "And I heard him tell another little kid — they were probably like in sixth or seventh grade — they were saying I can't wait until the game to watch Ohio State beat up the Florida Gators." Baker said. "I'm like this is a Florida guy not even giving us an opportunity. He had on a Florida Gator hat but was saying we were going to lose." Ohio State can relay, at least a little, that the Buckeyes' fifth-year seniors were part of Ohio State's '02 championship team.

Baker said. "The Buckeyes' fifth-year seniors were part of Ohio State's '02 championship team."

"The way the talk is we don't really deserve to be here."

"If you ask me, I don't look at ourselves as a favorite," offensive tackle Jon Runyan said. "We want to shock the world." Ohio State defensive backer Joel Peterson and Florida's, "Man has to think weaknesses." Ohio State's 14 wins were by seven points or fewer. Half of Florida's victories have been by 10 points or fewer. Both teams played strong defense and lots of close games. Half of Ohio State's 14 wins were by seven points or fewer. Half of Florida's victories have been by 10 points or fewer. The Buckeyes have been careful not to feed Florida's us-against-the-world attitude by throwing nothing but praise at the Gators. The Florida Gators are feeling unappreciated and they're not happy about it."

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When asked recently what his future is with the Chargers, Marty Schottenheimer said, "You're asking the wrong guy."

Bernie Wilson  

As his San Diego Chargers rest up for a playoff run they hope will end with the franchise's first Super Bowl victory, it remains to be seen if that's how far coach Marty Schottenheimer needs to advance in order to keep his job.

While Philip Rivers' sore right foot and LaDainian Tomlinson's freshness after a sensational, record-setting season are the main concerns for the Chargers entering the playoffs, Schottenheimer's job status will at the very least be a sideshow.

That's even though no one is asking much about it.

Schottenheimer's relationship with general manager A.J. Smith has been icy for months. It got so rocky that team President Dean Spanos called them into his office on a Saturday and told them to start pulling in the same direction.

That relationship doesn't appear to have thawed much even though the Chargers went an NR-best 14-2 and wrapped up home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

Although Schottenheimer joined an exclusive club with his 200th regular-season victory Sunday, his playoff record is an unsightly 3-12. He has a five-game losing streak dating to 1993 and his teams have been one-and-done eight times.

Schottenheimer said there haven't been any discussions regarding a contract extension.

"I don't think there should be," said Schottenheimer, who has coached the Chargers to 33 victories and two AFC West titles in the last three seasons. "Absolutely not. We've got work to do. Let's not put the cart in front of the horse."

Schottenheimer was reminded that Smith has extended the contracts of several players, some during the season.

"But they weren't 63 years old," the coach said with a chuckle. The most ever man will say about their relationship is that it's fine. Schottenheimer said he hasn't had any conversations about his job performance with Smith during the last six months.
Hybrid technology means faster laptops

May Wong
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JOSE, Calif. - Patience may be a virtue, but when it comes to getting faster boot-up times for computers, no one will complain. That's why a new industry alliance is promoting a hybrid technology aimed to speed up the starting process for laptop users.

Free leading hard drive makers have come together to push for a new storage component which incorporates flash memory onto a computer hard drive. The so-called hybrid hard drive also will prolong a laptop's battery life on a single charge, according to the newly formed Hybrid Storage Alliance.

NAND flash is a type of memory commonly used in MP3 players or digital cameras. Unlike hard drives, which store data on spinning disks, flash memory stores data on a microchip. The form of nonvolatile memory retains data even when the appliance is turned off and can access data more quickly than a hard drive.

A laptop with a hybrid hard drive could see up to a 20 percent improvement in the time it takes to boot up and open an application, compared to one without, the alliance said.

The hybrid technology is designed to work hand-in-hand with the advances in Microsoft Corp.'s new operating system Windows Vista, which will become available to consumers later this month.

Joni Clark, the chairwoman of the alliance, expects hybrid hard drives to appear on higher-end notebook models by the end of the first quarter. Eventually, the technology is expected to become a standard component across all models, she said.

The technology helps to shorten a Vista-based machine's startup time by booting the system straight from the flash memory chip instead of waiting for the system to turn on and start spinning the platters on the hard drive.

If a laptop with a hybrid hard drive is put in hibernation mode, resuming any open applications is likewise a faster process.

Drawing on the flash memory also consumes less power than a hard drive, thus extending a machine's battery life, the alliance said.

The founding members of the alliance are Fujitsu Ltd., Hitachi Ltd., Samsung Electronics Co., Seagate Technology LLC, and Toshiba Corp.

In the high-tech industry, the pairing of the storage technologies is akin to a marriage between two enemies. As the maximum capacity of flash memory has increased in recent years, it repeatedly competes against hard drives to be the keeper of digital files in portable gadgets such as media players, cell phones or cameras.

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Giant California earthquake of 150 years ago is little remembered

Alicia Chang  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — It’s the California earthquake hardly anyone has heard of — strong enough to rip 225 miles of the San Andreas Fault and make rivers run backward, but left not enough shake to be felt by the San Francisco Quake of 1906. It was development at their California wintering grounds. Researchers estimate that more than 1 million monarchs roost at winter nesting grounds from Santa Cruz to Baja California. In the eastern half of the U.S., an estimated 300 million butterflies travel to wintering sites in Mexico each year.

Poly researchers tag and track monarch butterflies

The research suggests that the monarch population’s decline in recent years is likely caused by severe drought conditions at their summer breeding grounds. Researchers have tagged some 26,000 butterflies at their wintering grounds on California’s Central Coast since Project Monarch began in 2002.

The project effort — spearheaded by the nonprofit group Venture Wildlife Society and the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo — seeks to understand the monarchs’ threatened habitat. The project includes tagging butterflies, tracking them from traditional wintering sites in Monterey and San Luis Obispo, and later releasing them in their natural habitat.

The researchers have learned that monarch movement in the winter is limited almost exclusively to other nesting sites along the coast. They also found that, just a few days or warm dry weather can trigger a prematurity mass exodus in January or February.

The research collaboration between Project Monarch and the San Luis Obispo-based Ventana Wilderness Society and the California Polytechnic State University began in 2002 with the goal of understanding the monarch butterflies’ movements and behavior, and identifying critical breeding areas for the species.

Several key questions remain unanswered, including where the monarchs breed, how weather influences migration and whether their migration routes differ from year to year. Researchers are baffled about how they know how to get to the Pacific Coast and when to move on. Most don’t travel huge distances — usually 50 to 100 miles, with many ending up in areas around Sacramento and the Central Valley. The researchers are considering the possibility that the monarch populations decline in recent years is likely caused by severe drought conditions at their summer breeding grounds.

Guests at the Embassy Suites on Madonna Road were woken to a fire alarm sounding early Monday morning when a dryer caught fire.

Laundry fire causes hotel to evacuate guests

Christina Casci  
Associated Press

A small fire broke out at the Embassy Suites Hotel on Madonna Road early Monday morning, causing the fire alarm and sprinkler system to go off. No one was injured.

“The fire started in the laundry room when a commercial dryer overheated,” said Tim Billings, the hotel’s general manager.

The San Luis Obispo City Fire Department sent 14 personnel and four fire trucks to the scene at about 1:10 a.m., according to the press release issued by the department.

The firefighters found that the sprinkler system just above the driver had been activated, which held the fire in check until the firefighters could go off. No one was injured.

“Our fire system works on only the space that is on fire,” Billings said. “The fire was limited to the dryer, and it was quickly extinguished.”

The cause of the blaze was the result of an electrical spill, according to the press release.

CHRISTINA CASCI  EMBASSY SUITES  
Embassy Suites on Madonna Road early Monday morning when a dryer caught fire.
Fire

Fire continued from page 1
doors to the public area were closed off immediately when the alarm sounded and the sprinklers went off.”

The damage was minimal, Billing said. “There was a little water on the floor that I mopped up when I got here, but that was pretty easy.”

While Billing stated the damage was small, the fire department estimated $10,000 worth of damage in the press release.

“The guests were evacuated and nobody was hurt,” he said. “They were outside for about half an hour, but that is about normal for a small incident like this.”

According to the press release, the firefighters were at the hotel for about an hour. The guests were allowed back into the building shortly thereafter.

“The only problem with what happened is that it can challenge the guests’ pleasant, Billing said. “However, most of the time, guests are very understanding.”

.United is just wanting to make sure they will all be right, he added.

“As long as they are safe, they don’t have too many complaints — even with false alarms,” Billing said that the hotel makes sure that the guests are as comfortable as possible no matter what the circumstances.

“We offer them complimentary breakfast and evening snacks, so they are pretty well taken care of and understand when things happen that are out of our control,” he added.

Billing said that the guest’s safety is the Embassy Suite’s No. 1 priority.

“Everything ended fine because all the guests were safe and not too much damage was done, just a few small parts will fit the appliance and the other one is working fine,” Billing said. “That what fire alarms are for, right?”

Earthquake

Earthquake continued from page 1
Southern California Earthquake Center “We want to make sure that people are constantly reminded about the possibility of a much larger earthquake.”

California is prone to earth­quakes because it straddles two massive plates that make up Earth’s crust. Quakes occur when the plates grind past each other along the 800-mile-long San Andreas fault and its offshore faults.

While scientists cannot predict when the next quake will strike on the San Andreas, they say the southern segment that runs from the city of San Bernardino, 60 miles east of Los Angeles, to near the Mexican border is the most likely to break, since it has been building up stress for the longest time. It hasn’t popped in three centuries.

According to some estimates, there is a 30 percent to 70 percent chance a magnitude 7.5 to 7.8 quake would rupture the southern San Andreas within the next 30 years.

“It’s really dangerous,” said seismologist Lucy Jones of the U.S. Geological Survey. “It could be any day.”

The Fort Tejon quake hit on the morning of Jan. 9, 1857, breaking a 225-mile middle portion of the San Andreas from Parkfield, northwest of Los Angeles, to San Bernardino.

The ground shifted up to 30 feet in places. Rivers were report­ed to have run backward or been thrown out of their banks. The Army’s lonely Fort Tejon was hit hard — two buildings were left uninhabitable and three others were badly damaged.

One woman who survived the magnitude-7.8 San Francisco quake was on hand for last year’s remembrances, memories of the Fort Tejon quake live only in his­tory books.

Lacrosse player sues Duke

Lacrosse player sues Duke

THE CHRONICLE (Durham)

DURHAM, N.C. — A senior from the 2006 men’s lacrosse team filed a civil suit Thursday against his former university, alleging a professor discriminated against him because he was on the team.

The lawsuit filed in Durham County Court says visiting political science professor Kim Curtis originally failed Kyle Dowd, Traynery ‘06, because he was a member of the team that became embroiled in a national controversy after an exotic dancer accused several men of assaulting her at an off-campus party.

According to court papers, Dowd had received Cs on his work to the point of the semester — work that would have counted for 50 percent of the overall grade. After the March 13 party, Dowd received Fs for his class participation and final assign­ment, causing Curtis to issue a fail­ing grade for the course.

The University ultimately allowed Dowd to graduate, counting extra transfer credits from John Hopkins, which Dowd had attended for two years. Over the summer, Duke changed the grade from an F to a D, citing a “calculation error.”

Had his original two grades been averaged with the two failing grades, it would have resulted in a D.

Because of the circumstances, however, the lawsuit asks for the grade to be changed from a D to a D+ for “passing.” It also asks for $60,000 in damages.

Dowd’s younger brother was one of four recruits who chose to com­mit elsewhere while Duke’s program was suspended last spring. He is now at Georgetown.

Cort in could not reach for comment Friday. Messages left at his home and at the number provided by the Department of Political Science were not returned.

Curtis was one of 88 professors who signed the controversial ad in an edition of The Chronicle last spring entitled “Does a Social Disorder Sound Like?”

Duke spokesman John Burness said the University’s lawyers were reviewing the lawsuit and the school would not have further comment as it let the legal process play out.
Bills National

CLEVELAND (AP) — Van Halen trade a "jump" into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Monday along with Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five, R.E.M., the Ronettes and Patti Smith. A panel of 600 industry experts selected the five artists to be inducted at the annual ceremony, to be held March 12 in New York. Van Halen was the 1980s hard-rock epicenter led by guitarist Eddie Van Halen, outrageous lead vocalist David Lee Roth, and later rockers Sammy Hagar, that put out his hits such as "Jump" and "Dreams." • • • BEVERLY, Ohio (AP) — An explosion killed one person and injured another a dozen others Monday at a coal-burning power plant in southeastern Ohio, utility officials said. The blast occurred as workers were unloading hydrogen gas used as a coolant for steam generators at the Muskingum River plant, but it was not clear what exploded, said Melissa McQuerry, a spokesman for American Electric Power, based in Columbus. • • • AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Police that have 10 blocks of businesses in the heart of downtown early Monday after dozens of birds were found dead in the streets, but officials said preliminary tests showed no dangerous chemicals in the air. As many as 60 dead pigeons, sparrows and grackles were found overnight along South Congress Avenue, a main thoroughfare through downtown. No human injuries or illnesses were reported.

International

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Georgian oil exports to European neigh­ bors Belarum halted Monday as a bitter trade dispute between Moscow and Minsk spilled over into several countries including Germany and Poland. EU energy chief Andris Piebalgs said the situation posed "no immediate risk" to energy supplies. "But, that he was seeking an "urgent and detailed explana­ tion" of the cuts from authorities in Belarum and Russia. The impact of a short-term stoppage is likely to be minimal, as refineries maintain strategic oil stocks.

LONDON (AP) — The British inquiry into Princess Diana's death in a 1997 car crash in Paris resumed Monday with a plea from her sons that conclu­sions be reached quickly. "It would just be their desire that the inquest should not only be open, fair and transparent, but should move swiftly to a conclusion," according to a letter from Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, private sec­ retary to the princes, which was read at the opening session.

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — David Ervine, a one-time Protestant paramilitary who once worked as one of Northern Ireland's most articulate and forward-thinking politicians, died Monday after a heart attack, according to a statement from slain Ulster Volunteer Force, private sec­ retary to the princes, which was read at the opening session.

Schwarzenegger calls for centrist approach at inauguration

Timothy Joe
THE CALIFORNIA ALIEN (OCI-63-20)

DAVIS — Touting a new era of bipartisanship for California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was sweated in on Friday before an audi­ ence of 3,000 invited guests at Sacramento's Memorial Auditorium in a splashy Hollywood-produced inauguration ceremony that featured big-name politicians and celebrities.

The governor, who was injured in a Dec. 23 skiing accident in Idaho that left him with a broken right leg, appeared on crutches halfway through the ceremony to take the stage. "And for a second, I guess an inau­ guration speech that pushed a centrist approach toward governing the state in his new term, incorporating prag­ matic ideas from both liberals and conservatives.

"It is time we combined the best of both ideologies into a new cre­ ative center," the governor said. "This is a dynamic center that is not held captive by either the left or the right or the past."

"It is time that the California legislature stop to make decisions that benefit the state, but that do not benefit the people of California," the governor said. "It is time to consider the future of our state and our nation."
20 years later means a whole new world

Ryan Chartrand

Children of Men" is a film in which its premise alone is enough to keep you talking for hours. When it comes to actually executing that premise, however, is it enough to deliver it solely through a restless visual experience?

Director Alfonso Cuaron ("Y Tu Mama Tumban") believes it is, and his latest visually enthralling sci-fi film doused in delightful pessimism could prove it. Loosely based on the novel "The Children of Men," by British writer H.G. Wells, "Children of Men" takes a grim look into the future where the world isn’t filled with merciless robots, but something far more devastating.

It’s a world where women are infertile and the youngest child is 18 years old. It’s a world where every country has become a dystopia and civil wars erupt daily. It’s a world where merely the sound of a baby crying can halt an army of men in its tracks. It’s the premise directors with a love for imagery would die to have.

The year is 2027 and the only country barely holding itself together is England (what do you expect from a British writer?). Clive Owen ("Inside Man," "Closer") plays a former activist looking for hope, for a life where chance doesn’t rule and having the power of choice is actually significant.

Ironically by chance, however, he finds his reawakening; a miraculously pregnant woman who he finds his reawakening; a miraculously pregnant woman whom he protects. His name is men, Owen tries to keep her hidden until their journey becomes filled with an attach thrilling action as "Saving Private Ryan" but about as much point as "Just because."

Through the use of his uncom­fortably moving handheld camera technique, every scene is brought to life with over-the-shoulder shots intended to place you in England’s dystopia. Through the use of his uncomfortably moving handheld camera technique, every scene is brought to life with over-the-shoulder shots intended to place you in England’s dystopia. Through the use of his uncom­fortably moving handheld camera technique, every scene is brought to life with over-the-shoulder shots intended to place you in England’s dystopia.

Frances McDormand ("Three Billboards"), Sigourney Weaver ("Alien: Covenant"), and Y Integral Bartender School will be back in SLO one week only. Day/Eve.

Earn $100-$200/shift. No experience necessary.

International Bartender School will be back in SLO one week only. Day/Eve.

Erika Thrasher, who switched back and forth with the band’s other guitarist. Her time on guitar saw her slaming hard into the instrument while the other members built loud sounds around her. Let’s face it: hot girl in a primal band is amazingly hot especially when the music is this enthralling.

The show was definitely a great performance to start the year off with. It has also set the tone. Steynberg Gallery has become the new place for all-ages independent shows as it provides one of the best artistic environments in town.

In addition, a good turnout for a winter break show holds promise for an enlarging scene.

Last Saturday brought Boy’s Night Out which meant a noise rock show at the Steynberg Gallery. Strangely enough, the crowd was rather decently sized as Indian Jewelry headlined the show coming off of an extensive tour. Additionally surprising was that this was one of the best shows that I’ve seen in a while.

Local act Meal opened up the show. Their set was less noisy and more drum-driven than when I’ve seen them before and overall it turned out much better. The set was followed by the first La Maison show since summer.

People then shook off their earplugs as Indian Jewelry began to set-up the stage. In addition to their regular equipment, red lights and smoke were scattered throughout the equipment, which caused the area to already seem frenetic and disorienting. What followed was a mix of wild tribal drumming, guitar blasts, keyboards and noise. Throwing someone along the lines of Animal Collective meets dance party lighting scheme would give you the best idea of this. The most enthralling part of the performance had to be guitarist/synth player Erika Thrasher, who switched back and forth with the band’s other guitarist. Her time on guitar saw her slamming hard into the instrument while the other members built loud sounds around her. Let’s face it: hot girl in a primal band is amazingly hot especially when the music is this enthralling.

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Men

continued from page 4

angles much like a video game, but with more realism and in-your-face flair.

Cuarón amusingly piles heaps of action into a single shot that ultimately buries the audience in their chairs and keeps each environment so dynamic. He couldn’t have done it, however, without the right cast leading the tenue audience through it all.

Owen, the legendary Michael Caine and an array of lesser-known talents pull off their own little nightmare distinctively buries the audience in their...
HUMOR COLUMN

A man's guide to proper bathroom etiquette

First of all, welcome back from break. Hope it was a good one. You still look good as ever, and sure haven't lost your charm. Glad we got that whole chemistry thing out of the way because I want to get straight to this week's topic with well, the most literal meaning of "proper hygiene" that I can. I'm not really talking pee pee and poo poo "proper hygiene," as fun as that is to write, but rather something that is much more high-brow... male bathroom etiquette. While it seems like it might be a straightforward type of thing, guys seem to still, for lack of better words, act crappier in the bathroom.

Before we get any further, ladies, I'm sorry, but I really don't know much about your restrooms. You see, it is not quite socially acceptable for me to go in one of your restrooms, so any sort of research would be close to impossible. I'll continue to assume though, like most gals, that your bathrooms are full of things like rose gardens, classic music and beautiful fountains. I mean, why else would you girls get together to wait in such long lines to get in there, and then once in, want to stay for so long? For now though, the mystery of the women's restroom will be as obscure, as I don't know, who really did use the dogs out?

OK, so back to us dudes. The first rule I think is pretty straightforward for all you men out there. Of course, is to go to the farthest urinal from the door. The restroom is for everyone to share, my fellow men, and going straight for the first urinal right by the door is not the most inviting to anyone else coming in. I suppose if it is an emergency and the first urinal you can get to is the first one you must use, then so be it, but otherwise, slide to the last one in on your own.

Speaking of this whole friend-ship being invitating thing in bathrooms, really, there is no reason to make any eye contact or conversation with anyone in there that you don't know. Basically, just go in, do your busi-ness, and get the hell out. There are a few exceptions to this rule though. The first is that it is OK to do a head nod if eye contact is absolutely unavoidable. This is the nod from up to down though, and not from down to up. Big differ-ence.

I mean, if I mean, read those motions through and do it yourself for practice. Ah yes, getting interactive with this week's "Guide to Life."

The second exception to the rule is that the only conversations you can have can be about two things: One is the weather, and the second thing to talk about is how close the current day is to the weekend, and how you can't wait for it to come. For example, you can say, "Man, sure is cold outside" or "Thank God it's Thursday. This has been the longest week." That is it. Nothing more, and saying less is actually still encouraged. The third rule is that you must get out of there as quickly as possible. Once you're done, there is no reason to really stay in there. Look at yourself in the mir-

* See, using the word "etiquette" already makes me sound so much more mature.
* And apparently it is in, "immoral," "disgusting," "unethical," "irresponsible," and "illegal" to put cameras in girls' restrooms. Who would have thought?
* The only fountains I ever see are when I try to pee as far from the toilet as I can.
* Seriously, who does that?
* Wanking at yourself, pointing at yourself, and flexing are also acceptable, unless someone spots you doing it.
* And hey, to be honest, nobody really washes their hands after peeing anymore, so don't do it just for show.
* OK, I know that most of us just aren't that weird and that most likely nothing is going on in a male restroom.
* Hello, I just wanted to put that picture somewhere in this article. And no, that is not the actual size.

STAFF EDITORIAL

If they don't play by the book, buy the book elsewhere

The start of a new quarter often goes hand in hand with a collective sigh and increase in complaints over book prices. Students check their budgets in long lines at El Corral, all the while loathing the fact that they are paying too much. Many students have turned to alternative sellers when buying textbooks to save money. For example, El Corral sells the textbook "Personalized," required for PSY 365, for $127.75 new and $96 used. The same book costs $118.95 at barnesandnoble.com and $95.16 if you are a Barnes and Noble member.Hall, Elly:

If more students turn to these alternative sources, maybe it would force campus bookstores to decrease their prices to a more competitive level. In addition to the inflated prices, El Corral pressures professors to move to the newest version of the textbook by offering students lower buyback rates for the older version. Many professors have stopped reserving textbooks for their classes through El Corral altogether. Instead, they are advising students to shop at Aida's, a local bookstore located on Football Boulevard, where students can usually buy their books for much less.

The Mustang Daily urges you to consider these alternative options when selling and shopping for your textbooks this year. Save yourself some money and show the bookstore that students have had enough.

Editorial reflects the opinion of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.
Clippers defeat Hornets, 100-90

Los Angeles shot 7 for 16 from 3-point range and 19 for 21 at the free-throw line.

Jeff Latke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sam Cassell scored 31 points, Curuto Mobley added 20 and the Los Angeles Clippers started looking healthy again in a 100-90 win Monday night against the New Orleans Hornets.

Playing for the first time in three weeks, Cassell scored 10 points during the Clippers' decisive 17-3 run in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter. Cassell had missed seven games with plantar fasciitis in his left heel before returning against the Hornets, and Mobley hyperextended his left knee last week in Miami.

They showed no mercy against the Hornets, who are without injured power forward Chris Paul (shoulder), Peja Stojakovic (back surgery) and David West (right elbow surgery) before returning against the Hornets, and Mobley hyperextended his left knee last week in Miami.

David West (right elbow surgery) added 15 of 20-point games since his final three games with Milwaukee at the end of the 2004-05 season.

It wasn't enough to prevent the Hornets from getting swept on a four-game homestand for the first time since March, when they lost three games in Oklahoma City and one in New Orleans. The last time the Hornets lost four home games in the same city was from Jan. 26 to Feb. 4, 1994 in Charlotte.

Ethon Brand added 18 points and 12 rebounds and Tim Thomas scored 12 for the Clippers.

Cuttino Mobley added 20 and the Clippers' decisive 17-3 run in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter, which gave Los Angeles the lead for the first time at 76-77 with 9:12 to play. He sandwiched another 3-pointer between two jumpers, and Mobley added a jumper for a 91-80 Clippers lead.

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David West (right elbow surgery) added 15 points for a 91-80 Clippers lead.
Florida outgained Ohio State 372-82 in yards from scrimmage.

Ben Walker
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not even close.

Florida — yes, Florida — owned the field it wasn’t supposed to be on, embarrassed Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith and No. 1 Ohio State 41-14 on Monday night to run away with the national championship.

Chris Leak and Tim Tebow showed off coach Urban Meyer’s two quarterback system to perfection. No. 3 Gators became the first Division I school to hold football and basketball titles at the same time.

Now, only one question remains: What about Boise State?

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Meyer himself said for weeks that the Buckeyes were the team to beat. Florida was just a good team, maybe even the best team, but not great enough to beat Ohio State.

And then it quickly fell apart for the Buckeyes. He hobbled off minutes later with an injury and by the time he returned for the second half on the sideline, the game was over.

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Florida outgained Ohio State 372-82 in yards from scrimmage.

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