Library exhibition displays geographic software technology

Breehan Yoble-Mellor
MUSTANG DAILY

Although the term geographic information systems (GIS) may sound foreign to most, chances are, they’ve used GIS in the last week or even day.

The software program responsible for the popular Google Maps and Google Earth, as well as Cal Poly’s campus map, can also be utilized in countless ways for students and professionals alike.

To help promote understanding of GIS use, the Kennedy Library and the San Luis Obispo GIS Users Group will be having its annual GIS Day Thursday.

This year’s event features about 20 exhibitors from on and off campus, including businesses such as engineering companies, consultants who do GIS work and government agencies such as CAL FIRE.

Other GIS users will be giving half-hour presentations on the software’s various aspects.

“It’s sort of geared towards students just to come and look and see what’s going on,” said Tom Martin, coordinator for the GIS minor that Cal Poly offers.

“It’s not highly technical at all.”

GIS Resources Coordinator Carole Schuldt put up large posters printed with examples of GIS map use by local businesses in preparation for the event.

Sheexplained that everywhere that you have a place on the Earth and you have data about it, you can probably make a map.

“Let’s say you want to know how long houses have been on the market in San Luis Obispo County over the last year. You could plot every single dot for each house that’s sold and color code it according to how long it was on the market before it sold and you could plot that on your map and you could just look at it and see what the answer is.”

The software package for GIS comes with various applications that allow the user to create maps with different layers. For example, one of several posters currently hanging in the library shows residents of San Luis Obispo how long it would take the city’s fire department to respond to a fire at a residence, depending on where they live on the map.

“They say a picture is worth a 1,000 words and this is a perfect example because (instead of) to tell someone this is about how long it takes to get our fire response out to your property, you can show them the map,” Schuldt said.

“You can show them the map and all of a sudden it makes perfect sense.”

Other posters show a projection of which local neighborhoods would flood if Laguna Lake overflowed, prompting homeowners to raise the foundations of their houses in areas that would be affected. A map for Cal Trans employees shows all the land-use designations of Paso Robles. This in turn helps them see how land use changes would affect traffic.

Martin said that although the maps can be used with many majors, he mostly sees students studying engineering, forestry, agricultural systems management and biology.

“There are quite a number of majors that have GIS as a tool that they can use quite a bit once they get out of college,” said Martin, a lecturer in bio-resources and agricultural engineering.

“People start to easily see the benefit of it. It’s easier to put in the info, it’s easier to get the info out.”

Schuldt said that agricultural students frequently utilize GIS.

“It’s used in agriculture to plant crop rotations, used in planning to make sure you fertilize properly because you can set up monitors on a plant and track soil moisture (and) particular chemicals in the soil. Then you can upload your info on your map where you need to do less fertilizing or more fertilizing,” she said. “One student wanted to do an atlas based on GIS using on the human body. Instead of having the intersection of Madonna Road and Los Osos Valley Road, you would have a spot on the chest and that would be where the heart was. It’s just so versatile.”

For students who can’t take the minor but still want to learn about GIS, the library also offers a free online class where they can get tutoring in how to use GIS properly.

“Some of the students have never seen it before and have no idea that they can use it for their major.” Schuldt said. “I probably say (GIS) is so cool way too much (but) it’s just amazing what you can do.”

The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday on the library’s third floor.
gallons of water and 2.6 million BTUs of energy, according to the Second Biennial Progress Report for Cal Poly facilities and operations.

Though the interest and awareness of sustainability has deepened over the years, it is an ongoing project for the Cal Poly community, and supporters on the campus have only scratched the surface when it comes to environmental issues.

Recently, Cal Poly’s student involvement in sustainability was graded as a “C” from Greenreportcard.org, with the campus getting an overall evaluation of a “B-“. The site only mentioned two instances of student involvement on Cal Poly’s campus: the California Alliance to See Energy’s Green Campus Program, and 12 student groups that have joined forces to create the Empower Poly Coalition. Greenreportcard.org failed to mention that the coalition is a much larger umbrella organization that unites over 22 clubs together in their efforts to promote sustainability among Cal Poly.

In response to the lower grade, Montezuma said, “I think there’s a lot more going on on campus. I went on the Web site and checked out UCLA; we have some of the same clubs and they got an A-.”

Ben Eckold, the president of the Empower Poly Coalition, also disagreed with the grade because “the administration got a better grade than the students,” he said.

Campus dining received an “A” from the Web site, largely due to the efforts of Associate Campus Dining Director Alan Cushman, who has been involved with sustainability since the 1980s, when composting first began on campus.

“The university was slow to join in,” Cushman said when talking about attempts to make the campus more sustainable.

Currently he is partnering with the Bio-diesel Club to convert all the Campus Dining trucks to run on bio-diesel fuel. Since the trucks that currently run on cooking oil have to purchase it from another vendor, the main objective of the club is to eliminate the cooking oil and build a processor to convert the campus dining cooking oil into bio-diesel right on campus.

In addition to the Bio-diesel Club, there’s also the Zero-Waste club, the Fair Trade club, Engineers without Borders, the Cal Poly Organic Farm and many more in the coalition.

“There’s a greater voice in the student body because of them (the Empower Poly Coalition),” Cushman said.

Montezuma is the external vice president of the Empower Poly Coalition, as well as the President of the Sierra Student Coalition, the nation’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization.

He was born in Lima, Peru, which he described as “over-congested and over-polluted.” His father, a mechanical engineer, had a uranium company that sent the family to a variety of places such as San Jose and Costa Rica. Eventually Montezuma and his family ended up back in Peru where his mother worked for the environmental department in the city. While visiting his mother at work, Montezuma realized that he loved science and math and decided to choose that career path as well, meaning he had already decided his future before moved to the United States.

Montezuma said he no longer tries to separate his involvement in sustainable organizations and his academic endeavors from his personal life.

“Some people try to put work here, school here, and life over here,” he explained while sitting on the grass barefoot, his bike next to him, “but back in the day you lived to work, and the concept of fun was built into work.” Montezuma said, “I don’t think it’s a bad thing to mix everything, you just have to find a balance.”

Interest in sustainability has expanded on campus since the last SARC (Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center) meeting and enrollment in the organic farming class has increased.

Tom Nebbia, professor of food science and nutrition and advisor to the Fair Trade Club, believes many people are aware of environmental issues on campus. But making measurable progress toward a more sustainable university is a constant battle he said.

“This campus has a reputation of being very passive (concerning sustainability) and it’s time for that to change,” he said.

Brianna Booright, a Fair Trade Club representative and nutrition sensor, thinks each and every person can help to encourage positive change on campus.

“I joined the club my last year at Cal Poly because I felt like it was time for me to be active on campus and try to make a difference,” she said.

Bud Evans, a political science professor that teaches in a set of courses centered on the concept of sustainability, agrees with Montezuma that there needs to be more advocacy on campus.

“What we’ve observed with Poly is that it’s taking time, but we own’t really come through and deliver except when it is really forced to,” he said.

Howard-Greene explained the campus’s priorities on the subject of sustainable development.

He said that it is important to the administration to maintain the campus in a sustainable way “not only because it’s the right thing to do, but also because it creates teaching and research opportunities by doing that.”

Yet the number one priority for the administration is educating and exposing students to sustainable development within the educational programs on campus. The creation of majors, minors and other classes relating to sustainability has already begun.

Howard-Greene said, “We’re working across the curriculum in ways in which we can engage in sustainability,” he said. “In the administration’s view, the biggest impact that Cal Poly will have on sustainability, both in the near-term and long-term, is in the kind of students that we graduate.”

Examples of sustainable practices on campus include a recent energy audit of the campus, constructing buildings to be LEED certified, recycling and reducing the consumption of energy on campus.

The new Poly Canyon Village is contracted to be LEED certified, and the Faculty Offices East (Building 25) has been chosen as the first demonstration building to be submitted for certification in the spring of 2008.

In the end, faculty, students and the administration seems to agree this campus is making progress to become even more sustainable, and that the students’ efforts are in fact making a difference.

“We’ve had a tremendous amount of growth in grass roots activity on campus,” Howard-Greene said.

After finishing Cal Poly and getting work experience in his field, Montezuma would like to return to South America to help with sustainable development in developing countries, and have them share experiences, he said. “Involvement has become a part of my life now; it’s not bad, it’s just my life.”

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Doctors transplant windpipe with stem cells

Maria Cheng  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doctors have given a woman a new windpipe with tissue grown from her own stem cells, eliminating the need for anti-rejection drugs.

"This technique has great promise," said Dr. Eric Genden, who did a similar transplant in 2005 at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. That operation used both donor and recipient tissue. Only a handful of windpipe, or trachea, transplants have ever been done.

If successful, the procedure could become a new standard of treatment, said Genden, who was not involved in the research.

The results were published online Wednesday in the medical journal, The Lancet.

The transplant was given to Claudia Castillo, a 30-year-old Colombian mother of two living in Barcelona, suffered from tuberculosis for years.

After a severe collapse of her left lung in March, Castillo needed regular hospital visits to clear her airways and was unable to take care of her children.

Doctors initially thought the only solution was to remove the entire left lung, but Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, head of thoracic surgery at Barcelona's Hospital Clinic, proposed a windpipe transplant instead.

Once doctors had a donor windpipe, scientists at Italy's University of Padua stripped off all its cells, leaving only a tube of connective tissue.

Meanwhile, doctors at the University of Bristol took a sample of Castillo's bone marrow from her hip. They used the bone marrow's stem cells to create millions of cartilage and tissue cells to cover and line the windpipe.

"They have created a functional, biological structure that can't be rejected," said Dr. Allan Kirk of the American Society of Transplantation. "It's an important advance, but constructing an entire organ is still a long way off."

So far, Castillo has shown no signs of rejection and is not taking any immune-suppressing drugs, which can cause side effects like high blood pressure, kidney failure and cancer.

"I was scared at the beginning," Castillo said in a press statement. "IJoctors initially thought the only solution was to remove the entire left lung, but Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, head of thoracic surgery at Barcelona's Hospital Clinic, proposed a windpipe transplant instead. They used the bone marrow's stem cells to create millions of cartilage and tissue cells to cover and line the windpipe. Experts at the University of Milan then used a device to put the new cartilage and tissue onto the windpipe. The new windpipe was transplanted into Castillo in June. "They have created a functional, biological structure that can't be rejected," said Dr. Allan Kirk of the American Society of Transplantation. "It's an important advance, but constructing an entire organ is still a long way off."

So far, Castillo has shown no signs of rejection and is not taking any immune-suppressing drugs, which can cause side effects like high blood pressure, kidney failure and cancer. "I was scared at the beginning," Castillo said in a press statement. "I am now enjoying life and am very happy that my illness has been cured."
British government wants crackdown on a sex trade

Paisley Dodds
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The British government wants to make it illegal to pay for sex and is considering a plan to "name and shame" men who visit prostitutes — a move critics say would turn back the clock to Victorian times.

The sex trade is already heavily restricted in Britain, unlike in many of its European neighbors where prostitution and solicitation are tolerated to some form. Denmark has even decriminalized the business.

But Britain wants to go its own way, marking yet another foray into human foibles by a government many people call overly moronic.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the son of a Presbyterian minister, has already backed a series of sin taxes on alcohol and cigarettes, called for tougher drug laws and scrapped plans for Britain's first Las Vegas-style casino.

Officials say there is also a need for a crackdown on prostitution.

"Basically, if it means fewer people are able to go out and pay for sex I think that would be a good thing," Home Secretary Jacqui Smith told The Guardian newspaper over the weekend, ahead of the government's announcement of the plan's details Wednesday.

Any changes will have to be approved by Parliament, where Brown's Labour Party has a 63-seat majority. Debate is expected next month.

The proposal would make paying for sex illegal and carry additional penalties for men who have sex with women forced into prostitution, the Home Office said. But it declined to give details on fines and other penalties before the formal announcement.

Men who frequent prostitutes could also be identified publicly, as they are in the London borough of Lambeth, where police send warning letters to the homes of drivers whose license plate numbers are caught on closed-circuit television picking up street walkers.

In addition, the plan would make it a criminal offense to pay for sex "controlled for another person's gain" and could bring rape charges against men who knowingly paid for sex with a woman forced into prostitution.
It's OK to fall in love

While being single and loving it seems to be our anthem, I think we're just scared.

Disclaimer: You have to cut me some slack. The holiday season is in full swing and we are now only a month and a half away from 2009. I was feeling sentimental.

Don't be fooled, we'll return to your regular, sexually-revitalizing segment.

Men and women want everything, but that it doesn't necessarily refer to material things. Maybe everything we want isn't something, but a someone. No one wants to be alone. Everyone wants someone to talk to, to spend time with, to cuddle with. Though all these job requirements can be fulfilled by a teddy bear or even an F-WB (friend-with-benefits, for those of you that don't understand acronyms), a partner that you can grow with and fall in love with is the best option.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that long-term commitment is easy at getting a free drink at the bars. And sometimes the whole non-commitment thing works...at least for a little while. But where we come together is in our desire to find someone to share our life with. Whether or not we are meant to grow old together with matching rocking chairs or if it lasts for only a short time, we have to realize that we are allowed to fall in love with each other. We're in our early twenties, and while being single and loving it seems to be our anthem, I think we're just scared. Being involved in something where we become vulnerable is intimidating.

It's time to stand up, but not necessarily grow up. I wish you luck in finding that someone who complements you. That person who you can sit cuddled up next to on the couch watching reruns of your favorite television show for the millionth time; that person that will put up with your sappy golly movies just because you enjoy them; that person who makes you smile on days you want to do anything but, but also lets you cry when you need to; that person that understands you completely but lets you pretend to still be mysterious; that person who touches you in a way that you never imagined possible — that person who just fits.

Love is still important. Love each other, love their body and love their soul. And feel free to give me some of that credit if it works out. Stay safe, and keep the protection solely for sex and not for your heart.

Melissa Norman is a psychology senior and Mustang Daily sex columnist. You can contact her at ephetweenthesheets@gmail.com.
I can’t even understand what is trying to be said, I think the slang and shortcuts do affect students’ writing skills. I have heard of students accidentally writing a shortcut in a school essay. It’s just becoming habitual,” said Nitz, who has developed a habitual use of text messaging, claiming it is her primary form of communication among friends.

As convenient as it may be to substitute slang for “oh my god” or “it’s” for “talk to you later,” professors are not thrilled to see “lol,” an expression of laughter, attached to the end of sentences or “T” used in place of the word. According to a 2008 national telephone survey conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project and National Commission on Writing, 69 percent of teens say they sometimes use informal writing styles instead of proper capitalization and punctuation in their school assignments; 58 percent say they have used text shortcuts in schoolwork such as “lol” and 25 percent have used emoticons (symbols like smiley faces) in school work. Educators worry that these abbreviations and symbols focus on a daily basis may lose the capacity for more advanced, grammatically correct writing. Additionally, the teachers are suffering a decrease with as little text as possible concerns some educators who feel that this technique may pour over into schooolwork and cause students to struggle when asked to write an essay of length.

Proof of this growing obsession goes beyond the Cal Poly campus. Take, for example, an article from MSNBC, which reported on a 23-year-old woman from Singapore who set a world record for number of text messages sent over a mobile phone. Kimberley You transmitted 26 words in 43.24 seconds into her phone. Or an article from BBC, which reported a 13-year-old Scottish schoolgirl who handed in an essay written entirely in text message shorthand, which needed to say, “For a task such as this, you are required to hand in your essay written in text message form. Please ensure that your essay does not exceed 150 words.”

People say things in text messages that they wouldn’t normally say just because it’s not in person and it’s so quick.

—Lindsey Soli

Katie Koschalk

A distinctive beep signaled that she just received a message. With a quick flick of the wrist, Megan Nitz flipped open her phone and read the message displayed on the screen. With the instinct of an animal, she began a high-speed thumb choreography, fingers bouncing off the buttons like hot oil in a pan. With the same quick flick, the phone was closed. “Sorry, where were we?” she asked, returning to the question.

Already a phenomenon, text messaging is becoming an obsession among college students like Nitz, an animal science junior. As more and more college students immerse themselves in the language of text-messaging over their cell phones and computers, language develops into shortcuts and slang.

The abbreviations and slang used in text messaging, referred to as “text speak,” is known to sacrifice grammar, verbs, and punctuation for the sake of speed and brevity. And educators worry that their writing and communication skills are suffering. The issue, as suggested by James Billingen, the librarian of Congress, is that young Americans’ use of electronic communication might be damaging “the basis of human thought—the sentence.”

“I receive my messages on a regular basis that are electronic, do in person, sometimes

encouraged poor literacy and a blunt, chatty style at odds with academic rigor.

Clearly this phenomenon is becoming an issue across the world, but how is it affecting students on the Cal Poly campus?

Many Cal Poly students agree that text messaging is convenient and quicker than calling a friend or talking to them in person.

“That’s the point of text messaging. To be short and to the point and to avoid all the fluff. I think that students might get used to being as brief as possible and using incorrect shortcuts in an effort to be quick and will have trouble when trying to write a formal essay,” said psychology sophomore, Shauna Shea.

While many educators say that the language of text messaging may be pouring over into schoolwork, many Cal Poly students acknowledge the effect that text messaging is having on their communication skills.

“People say things in text messages that they wouldn’t normally say just because it’s not in person and it’s so quick.”
McCartney hopes to release funky Beatles track

LONDON — Paul McCartney says it's time an experimental Beatles track saw the light of day.

McCartney says he wants to release "Carnival of Light," a 14-minute experimental track he first recorded in 1967 but never released.

The band played the recording for an audience just once, at an electronic music festival in London. It reportedly includes distorted guitar, organ sounds, gargling and electronic music.

McCartney said during a recent session at Abbey Road studios he asked the other members of the band to "just wander round all of the stuff and hang it out," and they recorded it.

"It doesn't need to make any sense," he said.

"I like it because it's The Beatles free, going off pieces," he told the BBC in a radio interview to be broadcast Thursday. Extracts of the interview were published Sunday in The Observer newspaper.

McCartney said he still held a master tape of the piece and "the time has come for it to get its moment."

McCartney, usually regarded as the more melodically inclined Beatle, told the BBC he had a long-standing interest in avant-garde music. He said "Carnival of Light" was inspired by experimental composers John Cage and Karlheinz Stockhausen.

He said he had wanted to include the track on the Beatle's "Anthology" compilation, but was vetoed by his fellow bandmates.

McCartney would need permission from Ringo Starr and the widows of Lennon and George Harrison to release the track.

Texting

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because they think they’ve received the wrong message. I have to ask them to let me continue. There is a problem with focus of attention and they don’t engage in the kind of thought to function in the wider world.

As acknowledged by Rubba, the use of text messaging may be evolving students’ use of complex thoughts. These instant messaging devices are promoting conversational levels of profundity on a account of the kind of communication used in the medium. "The length and depth of content have become limited. In text messaging, you have to be short. You rarely will engage in philosophical discussions because it’s not suited to the medium. It discourages deep thought and discussion because the primary focus is quick social interactions. Abstract thoughts are becoming compromised," Rubba said.

The increase in cell phone use is having educators wondering if the age at which a child starts communicating through this medium affects how well they develop language and communication skills, and if it retards their preparedness for college and the real world.

"It's a shame that 19 and 11-year olds are texting so frequently at a time when they should be developing verbal communication and social skills with their peers. In the future, I think that the children of this generation will have a hard time verbally communicating in ordinary day-to-day social, academic, and business situations," said schoolteacher at Ten Valley Elementary School in Mill Valley, California, Marilyn McGahey.

Children are using technology more and more before, which will undoubtedly affect their writing, language and communication skills as they mature. "They could find themselves feeling very uncomfortable and lacking confidence when they enter the work force and have to face interviewers and interact with people in the business world. In the business world, you're not texting your clients. You're sitting around a table in the Boardroom selling yourself. You need verbal skills," McGahey added.

What does this mean for the future of college students? Will they have the skills necessary to do well in a professional interview or be successful in the workplace? Rubba feels that this generation will indeed have problems after graduating college. "Students won’t have the breadth of language and skills necessary to communicate in the real world."

While excessive text and instant messaging may affect a student’s future, the thought hasn’t even crossed most Cal Poly students’ minds. What they care about, they say, is the here and now in maintaining good social contact and keeping up with the ever-expanding dictionary of text messaging slang.

"The slang used in text messaging is complex, sometimes downright impossible to translate into formal English. Some terms are common knowledge across campus, such as "lol" (laugh out loud), "ntf" (talk to you later), "brb" (be right back), "omg" (oh my god), among hundreds of others. This slang is becoming a language among the young generation, in turn causing an increasingly large generation gap.

Both Rubba and Cal Poly student Lindsey Soli agree that the generation gap is widening due to the language used in telecommunications.

"Text messaging is an insider language, and that language and understanding is limited to the generation that uses it. It's essentially a translation problem," Rubba said. Even the younger generation agrees that it has an effect on relationships and communication between the past and present generation.

"My parents can’t do anything involving technology. She can’t even check her voicemail. I’ll be like, ‘Mom, I called you. Did you get my message?’ and she’ll tell me that she doesn’t know how to check it. My main form of communication is texting so I talk to someone. My mom doesn’t understand that I mean I text messaged someone, not talked to them face to face,” Soli said.

From writing to verbal communication, text messaging is inevitably having an effect on this generation's thinking.

"Everyone has a different voice, and you can’t distinguish individual voices through technology. Text messaging is making the whole existence of people more impenetrable. If the youth are relying so much on technology to communicate now, I can’t imagine how people will be communicating in 10, 20, 100 years from now," Nutz said.

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Washington doesn't have the right to bankroll Detroit

by Jeremy Hicks

Mustang Daily political columnist.

Looks like another crisis is ripe for the political harvest. Last month it was the banks that needed Uncle Sam. This time it's Detroit automakers. A variety of arguments in favor of the bailout present themselves. They are endorsed by some of the loudest and most respected voices in Washington and the media, and, unsurprisingly, they receive a lot of attention. Sadly, these arguments are so starved of common sense that even a two-bit writer like myself can have a go at them.

One of the boldest arguments is that Detroit deserves taxpayer assistance just as Wall Street was recently succored. But surely the Detroit dilemma poses an opportunity to reverse or modify the present course of government bailouts. There's no need for this dreary fatalism that abounds unchecked. The sands of precedent are hardly an excuse for making the same mistake twice for consistency's sake.

A slightly nuanced addition to the above position attempts to frame Detroit as a hapless victim of a global financial crisis. If Wall Street, which deserves the brunt of guilt for the mess, is greedy sucking away at Uncle Sam's generous breasts, why should Detroit be shoved away like the ugly twin? Granted, this is a bit more of an attractive argument because it appears to be basing itself on the principle that government should at least treat innocent parties impartially, if not more favorably than the guilty.

But this argument is flawed for at least two reasons. First, it makes the earlier mistake of insisting on the status quo for no higher justification than that it's the status quo. Furthermore, it assumes that Detroit bears little to no fault in its downward spiral, which is certainly not the case. Read Financial Times, The Economist, or the Wall Street Journal if you want the particulars.

Then, there's another argument that has always been used with great success in convincing the dull masses. It employs a mesmerizing mixture of overblown scare tactics of apocalyptic proportions and dazzling prophecy. Here's a sample of a talking point you're probably already read or heard: "Millions of jobs could be lost and more than $100 billion could be lost to the U.S. economy." Truly, a horrifying possibility. Of course, it'd be more terrifying if the wizards making these predictions or their more sophisticated models had any credence. But I must ask the obvious. Dear Mr./Ms. Politician, why are your predictive powers now upon you? Why could this immense capacity for prophecy have not been used to avert or at least mitigate the present disaster at an earlier stage?

The well of laughably idiotic arguments has not nearly been run dry, but it comes time to draw a conclusion and toward that end we must give some attention to examining the facts. The facts are these. Over the last 50 years, the Big Three have been the epitome of business failure and incompetence. It's no wonder these days that the big American auto manufacturers are far behind the curve. From employee organization, to designs, to performance, Detroit's a dinosaur waiting to be tamed. With a cash burn rate of over $2 billion a month, they're probably not far from it.

But that's my two cents, and it's probably worth less than that. I'm not a business analyst and I don't pretend to possess the power of prophets. Whether Detroit goes under or it reverts to a museum. With aedish burn rate of over $2 billion a month, they're probably not far from it.

So as this "crisis" develops, be prepared to face a flood of expert calculations and authoritative-sounding predictions attempting to sway your opinion. But if you want to keep a firm thread through the storm, just pick up a copy of our Constitution and see for yourself whether government is authorized to meddle in Detroit, or any business for that matter. You don't have to be an expert of any particular political party stripe to see the daylight on this one, just an average American with a modest concept of the limits on government.

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarian Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
Santa Claus might not be coming to town this Christmas. I'm not suggesting that no one will be putting toys under Christmas trees Dec. 24 — even an economic downturn won't prevent parents from leaving surprises in stockings.

No matter how bad times are, the birth of Jesus will always be celebrated with gifts, at least one of which is an electronic toothbrush, a dictionary or a towel. Can always count on receiving one of these gifts "wrapped" in a plastic bag; this is how Jews celebrate Christmas. And that's exactly what it is. The organization began in the mid-'90s, when a group of 10 Santas responded to a casting call for a commercial. In the process of filming, the Santas discovered that they had a lot in common; presumably, a lot of stories about getting paid on and similar amounts of old food loaded deep inside their beard. The Founding Father Christmas shared some food, dished about Mrs. Claus and decided to make a tradition of it.

By 2003, the organization had swollen to 100 members and a list of clients nationwide.

The formerly jolly Santas are now fractured, united only by their seasonal jobs and their mutual hate of synthetic beards. They wouldn't get confused with our own, but rather an appeal to diversity. She claims that a diverse group of people are against Prop 8. Her argument is that Prop 8 must be bad if a diverse group of people are against it. Discriminating against race is wrong, because it implies that her opponents are imbeciles, and that those who understand what truly is at stake to win equality for all. This opinion does not consider that a diverse group of people are against Prop 8. She claims that Prop 8 must be bad if a diverse group of people are against it.

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Football

Cal Poly's Lorenzo Keefer, right, guards Arkansas-Little Rock's Matt Moezy during the Mustangs' 67-40, season-opening loss Friday night at Mont Gym. Cal Poly will begin the BYU Tournament against Rice in Provo, Utah at 8 p.m. Thursday.

Athletes

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For some, those questions concerning recruiting were answered by associate director of admissions, recruitment and financial aid Walter Harris in a recent Mustang Daily story concerning the recent diversity forum hosted by Associated Students Inc. president Angela Kramer.

"From what Walter Harris said in the paper, 'People have to compete on the same playing field whether they had the same opportunities for preparation or not,' " Samuel said. Athletics academic advisor Shannon Stephens said teams end up being athletes' support systems.

"I definitely believe athletics provides a diverse kind of group, with regard to this campus," he said. "Athletes walk onto this campus and already have a common bond with the people on their team. And for athletes who are a minority, it's a first huge step when they walk into this environment."

Athletic recruiting and academic recruiting are similar in that administration did something similar to that, in which a minority student knows people before they get here, I think it can really help."

The Mustangs regroup

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This doesn't sit well with the NFL, which sees a half decade after being besmirched by the illegal betting of star players Paul Hornung and Alex Karras continues to fear its games might somehow be compromised because of all the millions wagered on them.

It's pretty much nonsense born of fears rooted in a time that no longer exists, but it's not legitimate in a league that worries more about players playing a bet than almost anything else. Program Jones can still bust up Strip clubs in Las Vegas without much fear of penalty, but place one bet in a sports book and he's gone.

But try as it might — and it tries nights — to separate itself from the betting industry, the NFL and gambling are still inseparable linked to each other. They have been since the early days of the league, when bookies discovered point spreads and fans discovered that it was fun to have a few bucks riding on the team of their choice.

The fear in the league has always been that players would fall into the grasp of bookies and begin throwing games. But players are so well paid today that there isn't much incentive to risk their careers for a few more dollars, and games are watched so closely that anything suspicious would immediately draw attention.

While the NFL would like to make it harder to bet through the Internet, the league also pushed for the expansion of fantasy leagues from the ban. These leagues, like betting, spur interest in the NFL, but an argument can easily be made that they're nothing more than gambling since money is usually at stake.

Not as much money, though, as was bet on the game in Nevada alone, which Avello estimates was $2 billion, mostly attenuated — caught a break.

First try as it might — and it tries
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The Mustangs regroup

continued from page 12

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...
Cal Poly athletes overcome racial barrier

James Noble (far left), Jared Houston (third from left) and Tre'daJe Tolver (far right) were among several Cal Poly football players who on Oct. 30 protested the university's response to the recent crop house incident involving a negro, a Confederate flag and an allegedly discriminatory slur at the on-campus crop house.

"It kind of feels like you're alone and you want to relate to certain people, but you know they can't," he said. "At the same time, you don't want to be that stereotypical 'non-smart-at-everybody' black person, but you also want to let people know that it offends you.

According to California State University data, as of fall of 2007, of the campus' total enrollment of 19,777, just 237 — or 1.2 percent — were black. It was the lowest percentage throughout the 23-campus CSU system.

That kind of statistic is enough for people to make assumptions, track and field athlete and social sciences senior Jhana Samuels said. "With numbers like that, basically, people assume, 'Well, you must be here to play a sport,' " she said. "That's what most people think.

Kinesiology department chair Camille O'Bryant knows the black-athlete stereotype all too well. "I'll hear someone yell 'n------' out of their car," he said. "As a team, we came together and spoke about the issue at hand and attended a lot of the meetings to prevent acts (like the crop house incident) from happening again."

Most black athletes said it would be nice to see Athletes, page 11

One of the first things I remember when I came to this school is that at a party, someone asked me, 'So what sport do you play?' " said Louis "L.J." Lumpkin, a track and field athlete and psychology junior. "In a way, it's kind of a compliment, but then I realize that's what people assume when they see me on campus. I know it's not everyone, and I know people weren't trying to be insulting by it, but it gets old.

He said being an athlete and a student isn't a walk in the park. "We're held more accountable than the average student," Lumpkin added. "We have to be more careful because it's easier to get reprimanded if you're a familiar athlete. The only real benefit we get is priority registration, and it's only during the season and it's only to schedule classes around our sport. And the whole idea that we're here just to play sports is wrong. Most athletes hold 3.3 GPAs. I'm here for my education first and foremost."

Coming from Salinas, where the community is largely Latino, Lumpkin has come to cope with a lack of ethnic diversity at home and at school.