library exhibition displays geographic software technology

Breehan Yohe-Mellor
mustangdaily.net

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 theme is 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 Mastin, 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. Wherever there is a place on the Earth and you have data about it, you can probably make a map," Schuldt said.

"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 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 custom 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 off 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.

Mastin 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 use quite a bit once they get out of college," said Mastin, a lecturer in bioresources 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. 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 course 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 how much you can do."

The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday on the library's third floor.
Cal Poly recognizes that sustainability is one of the handful of defining issues in the 21st century.

—Warren Baker
Cal Poly president

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 Consortium) meeting and enrollment in the organic farming class has increased. Montezuma said he no longer tries to separate his involvement in sustainable organizations and his academic endeavors from his personal life.

The university was slow to join in," Chishman 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 a middle-man 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 Wastebusters, 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)," Chishman 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-urbanized and over-populated." 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.

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Doctors transplant windpipe with stem cells

Maria Cheng
STAFF WRITER

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," said Castillo. "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."

"I walk to campus every day, I helped compost this summer."  

-Amy Laun, graphic communications sophomore

"Simple things such as recycling, not littering. Picking up trash on the beaches and I planted trees over the summer."  

-Tori Broberg, biochemistry freshman

Spitzer prostitute sits down for TV interview

The prostitute at the center of the salacious scandal that brought down former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and generated national headlines is going to dish on her life as a pricey escort.

"I don't like to drive. I don't like to guzzle all that gas. I like to use my bike. It's an easy way to get around campus."  

-Justin Mancheije, biomedical engineering freshman

"I have two roommates and one of them wasn't very big on recycling, when she first got here, but I really encouraged them to do that in our room."  

-Emilie Schneider, graphic communications sophomore

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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.

British government wants crackdown on a sex trade

Paisley Dodds

As sex trade is already heavily restricted in Britain, unlike in many of its European neighbors where prostitution and solicitation are tolerated in 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 moralistic.

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.

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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. This holiday we coming: Thanksgiving is in one month and a half away from 2009. Our tradition is to spend our holidays with my grandparents and we're only a month and a half away from 2009. I was feeling sentimental. Don't be surprised, we'll write a piece about it. Everyone wants someone to talk to, to spend time with, to cuddle with. Though all those requirements can be filled 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 as easy as 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 not necessarily refer to material things. Maybe the only thing we want isn't a something, but a someone. Not necessarily grow up. I wish you could find someone who complements you. That person who you can sit cuddled up next to on the couch watching re-runs of your favorite television show for the millionth time; that person who you will put up with your silly girl movies just because you enjoy them; that person who makes you smile on days when you want to do anything but, but also lets you cry when you need to; that person that will put up with your sappy tunes when they aren't encouraged. Love is out there for everyone when they choose to accept it and other times when they aren't even looking. When you find that special someone, embrace and appreciate them. And don't forget that even with spontaneous dancing in the rain or nights out to dinner or great conversations, physical intimacy is still important. Love each other, love their body and love their soul. And feel free to give me some of the credit if it works out. Stay safe, and keep the projections solely for sex and not for your heart.

Melissa Norman is a psychology senior and Mustang Daily sex columnist. You can contact her at thebencherheaven@gmail.com.

Sharing is caring!
e-mail this story @ www.mustangdaily.net

(Hey, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.)
Distinctive beep signaled that she had just received a text 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.

“Yeah, I was just thinking...”

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 esay. It’s just becoming habits,” 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 one for “oh my god” or “my life” “talk to you later” professors are not thrilled to see “txt,” 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, 60 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 their writing and communication skills are suffering. The issue, as suggested by James Billington, the Librarian of Congress, is that young Americans’ use of electronic communication might be damaging “the basis out of human thought— the sentence.”

“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

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—Lindsey Soli

Katie Koschalk

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Wednesday, November 19, 2008

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IS TXTING THE NME? (Is text messaging the enemy?)

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see Texting, page 7

Lambda Chi Alpha

The Lambda Chi Alpha University of Iowa chapter held a formal dinner dance to celebrate the end of the fall quarter. The Lambda Chi Alpha opened its doors to guests and visited with the UI chapter. The Lambda Chi Alpha chapter is known for its philanthropic efforts, and it is has encouraged peer literacy and a blunt, chatty style of wits with academic rigor.

Clearly this phenomenon is becoming an issue around 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.

“The point of text messaging is to be short and to the point and to avoid all the fluffy stuff. 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, Shanae Shea.

While many educators say that the language of text messaging may be pouring over into the 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. It basically takes the place of face to face communication,” said neurology sophomore, Lindsey Soli.

Face to face communication, the most formal and personal type of communication between two people, is becoming increasingly less used as college students look to the quick and instantly gratifying benefits of text messaging.

Johanna Rubba, a Cal Poly associate professor of linguistics in the English department, acknowledges a trend that she has noticed in her students.

“They now have the ability to multitask and they have a very short attention span. It’s the kind of life the generation looks for. For example, they don’t want to waste their time creating a sentence that could be paraphrased,” Rubba says.
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. The Fab Four 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, gurgling and shouts of "Barcelona!" and "Are you all right?" from McCartney and John Lennon.

McCartney said during a recording session at Abbey Road studios he asked the other members of the band to "just wander round all of the stuff and hang it, shout it. It doesn't need to make any sense."

"I like it because it's The Beatles free, going off piece," 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 had a master tape of the piece and "the time has come for it to get its moment."

McCartney, usually regarded as the most 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 Beatles' "Anthology" compilation, but was vetoed by his bandmates.

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

Texting continued from page 6

because they think they've received the whole 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 straining students' use of complex thoughts. These instant messaging devices are promoting conversations of low profundity on accounts 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 limited," Rubba said.

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

"It's a shame that 10 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 so than ever 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 workforce? 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 isn't even crossed mind of Cal Poly students. What do they care, they say, as they sit in the hon and now is maintaining good social contact and keeping up with the ever-expanding directory of test 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), "NYT" (talk to you later), "thx" (thank you), "omg" (oh my god), among hundreds of others. This slang is becoming a language among the young generation, in turn creating 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's having an effect on relationships and communication between the past and present generation.

"My mom 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 if I say I talked 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 language. "Everyone has a different voice, and you can't distinguish individual voices through technology. Text messaging is making the whole existence of people more impersonal. If the youth are relying so much on technology to communicate now, I can't imagine how people will be communicating 10, 20, 100 years from now," Nez said.
Washington doesn't have the right to bankroll Detroit

by Jeremy Hicks

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 audit.

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 current fiasco that shrugs 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 has the victim of a global financial crisis. If Wall Street, which deserves the orms of guilt for the mess, is greedily suckling away at Uncle Sam's ponderous 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 heard or read: "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's more terrifying if you lose your job. If you want to keep a copy of our Constitution and see for yourself how terrible things are, just pick up a copy of your local newspaper. The government has no right to bankroll companies with American taxpayer money.

Our Constitution rightly limits government to very narrow, specific duties. Among those duties, picking winners and losers in the business world is most certainly not one. It's that plain and simple.

So is 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 rudder 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.
Santa Claus might not be coming to town this Christmas. I'm not suggesting that no one will be putting toys under the tree this December, but an economic recession won't prevent parents from leaving surprises in stockings. But this year's Santa Claus shortage will be evident not in homes but in malls, parades and winter festivities nationwide.

In a gloomy economic climate, it seems as if Santa Claus impersonators are the first to feel the cold. But the nation's sudden penny-pinching isn't the only problem. The story begins with the Amalgamated Order of Real Bearded Santas, or AORBS. The organization sounds like a secret Masonic order dedicated to the celebration of fantastic facial hair, and that's more or less 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 and suffering numerous television appearances was (and remains) the official Santa of the Hollywood Christmas Parade. If there was an Oscar for Santa Claus, Connaghan would win it. As a 6'9 Nick, he impersonated Santa only until he was the best in the business, but he wanted more out of his career. Even as he retired membership in AORBS to 700 people, he was still interested in department store appearances with assorted parents, frightened children and irritable elves.

Connaghan had ambitions. He signed a contract with a production company interested in doing a film on the Santa Convention that AORBS participate in. The contract would have brought AORBS $50,000 — an amount of money that the Santas might have found useful given the grooming technology or a trip to the North Pole.

But it wasn't meant to be. Connaghan would have been in a "consultant" to the film and earned himself $25,000. Amid complaints about a conflict of interest, Connaghan resigned as president and lost his beard. Connaghan was the best in the business, but he wanted more out of his career. Even as he retired membership in AORBS to 700 people, he was still interested in department store appearances with assorted parents, frightened children and irritable elves. Connaghan had ambitions.

The next president failed to unite the now disgruntled Santas. According to an article in the Wall Street Journal, which covered the controversy of the real-bearded Santas with impressive detail, the new president ruled "with an iron glove." He stripped 20 Santas of their membership for abusing the Web site's message board, Elf Net, and used physical intimidation to silence dissenters.

"There is no evidence that the threat "I'll roast your underwear on an open fire" was ever used, but

Students who have grown white beards, though, should consider going to Connaghan's International University of Santa Claus, or IUSC. After all, times of economic uncertainty are a great time to further your education.

Diversity is more than ethnicity.

Laura Reeve

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diversity is more than ethnicity.

I think we can all agree that the incident at the crop house was unfortunate. But is anyone else getting tired of the suddenly overblown emphasis on diversity? Don't get me wrong, I believe that skin color has absolutely no relation to a person's individual value or qualifications to attend Cal Poly. And that's exactly my point. If all people are truly equal, why does it matter how many minorities students attend Cal Poly? Is there a magic percentage of whites to Hispanics to African Americans to attend Cal Poly? Is there a magic percentage of minorities to whites? Isn't giving "preferential treatment to women or unrepresented groups" a form of discrimination against non-minority students? Cal Poly isn't purposely rejecting applicants because of their ethnicity. The two reasons we are a predominantly white campus are few minorities apply, and it just so happens that they have high hopes that it was.

Some of the groups' founding members objected, and one even hacked into the AORBS Web site and revealed to Santa Claus the "real" story of AORBS. AORBS was forced to change its name to AORBS Inc. and get a new domain name.

The former jolly Santas are now fractured, united only by their seasonal jobs and their mutual hate of synthetic beards. To make matters worse, this year's economic downturn is taking a toll on those portly, white-bearded men.

Another article in the Wall Street Journal noted that the demand for hired Santas has decreased "steeply," in some areas by as much as 50 percent. Many organizations that have previously hired Santas are instead choosing to find volunteer Santas. The reason for the decrease in expenses, it is safe to assume that these Santas don't have as much to spend on a beard.

Students who have grown white beards, though, should consider going to Connaghan's International University of Santa Claus, or IUSC. After all, times of economic uncertainty are a great time to further your education.

I doubt IUSC has a lot of international students; Connaghan probably just threw on the "International" so his school wouldn't get confused with our own. It would be very problematic for employers if students with degrees from the University of Santa Claus got to put "IUSC" on their resumes.

IUSC is a respectable program, though, and students can study the history of Santa Claus, the art of working with children, marketing Santa and trends in Santa. Graduates of the program get a B.S., a Bachelor of Santa Claus.

The best part is that it's only two days long, which would make it a lot less time consuming and expensive, than, say, medical school.

In the meantime, if you see a Santa Claus at the mall or at a festival, take the time to wait in line and sit in his lap. Then check to see if his beard is real; if it is, you can ask him about AORBS, and his thoughts on the organizations scandal. Then, medical school.

Laura Reeve is a columnist for the Daily Trojan at the University of Southern California.

PROTESTS DON'T PROVE PROP 8 WILL BE OVERTURNED; MAJORITY RULES

While McAleer's arguments struck me as absurd, Consider the purpose and history of the matter of time and hard work on the part of those who understand what is at stake to win equality for all. This opinion does not contain any decent base for argument. It implies that her opponents are imbeciles, and that there is no opposition to her opinion! Gale "knows" that Prop 8 will be overturned, "100 people who assembled at the corner of Main and Broadway." This logic follows that lots of people want 8 overturned, therefore it should be overturned. The majority of voters in California voted for 8, 100 protesters is such meaningless.

The next point Gale makes is not a point, but rather an appeal to diversity. She claims that a diverse group of people are against Prop 8. Her argument is that 8 must be bad if a "diverse" group dislikes it. Actually, minorities are largely in favor of 8, with an estimated 70 percent of Black Californians supporting it. Only 45 percent of whites voted yes.

Gale asserts: "We are all equal!" Screaming rite slogans is not a respectable argument. Finally, do not compare Prop 8 to segregation and racial rights; they are separate matters. Discriminating against race is wrong, because everyone is born different. No one is born gay; sexuality is a social decision. Since race is established at birth and sexuality is a choice, the two can't be compared freely.

Aaron Baldwin

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Eliminating SAT scores is not the way to increase diversity. SAT and ACT scores are one of the only "level playing fields" that exist in the college admission process.

By eliminating those scores you will have students getting in with high GPAs because they went to easier high schools and thus were not prepared for college. By contrast, you will have students with lower GPAs being turned away because they went to harder schools that challenged them and adequately prepared them for college.

By eliminating standardized testing schools you'll achieve diversity alright - diversity of intelligence and college preparation.

Jen

Response to "Being black on a white campus"

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Mustangs regroup

Cal Poly's Lorenzo Keeler, right, guards Arkansas-Little Rock's Matt Mouzy 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 concern dividing student-athletes. "The athletes we recruit have a diverse kind of group, "Samuels said. "We're looking for someone who's going to go to school, have a degree, and be someone in the community."

Shannon Stephens said teams end up being athletes' support systems and "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." An athletic recruiting and academic recruiting are similar in that athletes want to be with people on their team. And for athletes who are a minority, it's a first huge step when they walk into this environment.

The athletes we recruit have met with their coaches and some of their teammates, with race; we've done in-house visits, and they visited the campus once or twice," he explained. "They know people before they come here. So I think that if administration did something similar to that, in which a minority student knows people before they get here, I think they can really help.

The Mustangs regroup

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This doesn't sit well with the NFL, which sees a half-century after being bludgeoned by illegal betting of star players Paul Hornung and Alex Karras continues to fear its games might be compromised by 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 respectable in a league that worries more about players placing a bet than almost anything else.

I'm not sure if you can still bet up Stipes 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 tried mightily to separate itself from the betting industry, the NFL and gambling are still inextricably linked to each other. They have been since the early days of the league, when bookies discovered point spreads and fan-discouraged it to have as few backs riding on the team of their choice.

The fear in the league has always been that players would fall into the group of bookmakers and begin throwing games. But players are so well paid to this day 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 worked to make it harder to bet through the Internet, the league also pushed for the expansion of former leagues from the ban. Those leagues, like betting, spur interest in the NFL, but an argument could easily be made that they're nothing more than gambling since money is usually at stake.

Not as much money, though, as was paid on the Vegas Strip on Sunday — the Chargers-Steelers game came to a lurching end. While the referees debated Polamalu's apparent touchdown, there was as much confusion in the books as there was on the field with millions of dollars hanging in the balance.

The NFL would later agree the ruling was incorrect and the touchdown should have counted. But the score stands 1-1, and a lot of bettors who had a lot of money riding on what looked like a miracle finish on the final play tossed their tickets in the trash.

The books were down this way, as they often do. They and the NFL have both been on a winning streak for many years.

"Good for us," Avellio said. "But we've been on the wrong side of it before, too."

Tom Dahlberg is a national sports columni st for The Associated Press.
Cal Poly athletes overcome racial barrier

One of the first things I remember when I came to this school is at a party, someone asked me, "So what sport do you play?" said Louis "L.J." Lumpkin, psychology junior and track and field athlete.

"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 'I'm-racist-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 2007, of the campus' total enrollment of 19,777, just 237 — or 1.2 percent — were black.

That kind of statistic is enough for people to make assumptions, track and field athlete and social sciences senior Jhana Samuels said.

"There are times when I'm out and about and I hear people say 'n-----s here and there. That's basically saying that all we can do is walk in the park."

O'Bryant knows the black-athlete stereotype all too well. "It wasn't the first racial thing I have experienced here," he said. "Sometimes at parties, the white kids call black kids n-----s here and there."

Most black athletes said it would be nice to see them with a jersey on. "If you're a football player, you're an athlete because you're black, but that they only got into Cal Poly because they can play a sport, typically gets attached to males more than females," Philadelphia.<ref name="Troy Polamalu as time ran out in an out of 10 bettors — a winner.

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