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New quarter brings upgrades to Blackboard

Chris Jagger
MUSTANG DAILY

Students and faculty checking out their new classes on Blackboard this quarter may notice some new applications and features on Cal Poly's learning management system.

One of the biggest upgrades will be the ability to receive information posted on Blackboard without having to actually access the system. Faculty will now have the option to e-mail announcements to students, making communication more efficient. Students will also have the ability to subscribe to a forum via RSS feeds. Students will also have the ability to actually access the system. Faculty will now have the option to e-mail reminders whenever a new thread is added.

Discussion boards will be more user-friendly. Students will be able to perform a search for specific threads in discussion boards instead of filtering through them. They will also be able to save posts as drafts and run spellcheck.

A new and improved grading center will help both students and faculty. For faculty, the grading center will act more like Excel, making it easier to calculate grades. Before, students would not know why they got certain scores on assignments or exams because they would only see a number and nothing else.

"With the new Blackboard, students will hopefully be a little more connected," ITS consultant Tina Malone said. "I know that students will be on a computer off and on all day, but for them to have to go to Blackboard every single time can be a tedious thing. I know for sure that they are in their e-mail all the time."

In order for Information Technology Services to upgrade to the new Blackboard 8 system, the program will unavailable between Tuesday, March 24 and Sunday, March 29. Fortunately these dates coincide with spring break.

"If students want to see what is coming up for spring, they will not be able to access their spring blackboard courses until the blackboard system is done with the upgrade and it's up again, but a lot of faculty will either e-mail students before the quarter starts or they'll wait until the first day of class," said Malone.

ITS needs more time than usual to finalize this particular upgrade because both Blackboard's software and hardware are being updated.

"We do have regular version updates and we do get better functionality, security and all those normal things that come with the software upgrade," said Terri Bruns, coordinator of Collaboration Support for ITS.

"But in this case we're also bringing the hardware into a more modern state where we can manage it with more flexibility to ensure the best performance," she said.

According to ITS statistics, 1,149 faculty members had Blackboard turned on during winter quarter and 18,447 students were enrolled in at least one course that used it.

Blackboard gives faculty the ability to post learning resources online in a centralized location specific to class sections. Students can use the system to take online exams and quizzes, participate in discussion forums, read PDF files and view grades. Blackboard is eco-friendly as well because teachers can post resources instead of printing them.

"I think the concept of Blackboard is necessary," said Malone. "Not necessarily Blackboard itself, but the ability for faculty to share resources with students is definitely something that needs to be available."

The Blackboard support Web site, accessible through the My Cal Poly portal, has a comprehensive list of upgrades to Blackboard for spring.

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Unemployed workers start flood of volunteerism

Heather Lalley

CHICAGO (AP) — After getting pink-slipped from his cement-plant job shortly before Christmas, Nick Maloney moped from Fairborn, Ohio, watched TV, played video games and slept until noon. But then he began to consider more meaningful ways to spend his newfound downtime: volunteering with a suicide-prevention organization.

"It's very rewarding," said Maloney, who lost both his stepbrother and his sister to suicide. He is now considering making his volunteer job permanent. "There's a definite possibility of getting into this full-time. I just have to see what doors this opens."

Nonprofit groups around the country are reporting record-setting volunteer interest, helped in part by high unemployment that has given people more free time and resume gaps to fill. Charity groups also attribute the rise to President Barack Obama's call to service. And the others say they're heeding Obama's call to service. And the others say they want to help those hit hard by the financial crisis.

"It's an interesting sort of harmonic convergence," Bagley said.

The flood of volunteers has been so great that Second Harvest Heartland set up an all-volunteer "executive council" to come up with ways to mobilize all new workers. Chicago Cares has added more daytime programs, a good fit for unemployed volunteers. And Bagley admits feeling the squeeze as his group tries to find work for the flood of new helpers.

"If you hit a wall, you just have to be creative," Bagley said. "You'll get a lot of people in the door and then they're going to figure out what to do."
Wine flows through Central Coast and Cal Poly

Chris Jagger

Wine is Big on the Central Coast. Really big. So big that even Cal Poly has its own wine program—wine. The wine industry is enormous along the Central Coast and Cal Poly has its share of wine, including annual wine tours. The Cal Poly wine program recently started bottling three different types of wine.

McKinley said, "I like the full body and the taste of Central Coast wines. They're not sweet like a lot of whites." The wine culture at Cal Poly is so strong that students often purchase cheaper wines at Trader Joe's and Cost Plus. "They are often more expensive than the Central Coast wines," McKinley said. "Cal Poly has its own wine program and wine tours, which is a great way to spend a sunny afternoon while becoming familiar with the local wine culture," McKinley said. The tours are free, and sometimes bring in extra cash.

Business senior Yan McKinley has been great. When asked to name a winery, she was able to name five: "I like all of our wines." McKinley said. "They are not sweet like a lot of whites." The students have noticed an increase in wine popularity amongst students, who tend to order other items. "We've noticed a definite trend in student wine orders," McKinley said. "They like the full body and the taste of Central Coast wines." At the winery, students tend to order wines and then a couple wine tours. "We keep them coming back," McKinley said.

Whether you'd like to drink a glass of wine or purchase a bottle, there are plenty of places to do so. "There is a lot of wine culture at Cal Poly," McKinley said. "There is even a student who devotes his afternoons to wine tasting." The Cal Poly wine program recently started bottling three different types of wine.

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Wines

continued from page 7

Cham said. "We'll usually get a group of students every Saturday. Usually it's because someone's turning 21..."...continued from page 7

...truly extraordinary."

Cal Poly recently installed a new wine winery on campus, located near the Vinehouse unit. At the winery, students experiment with different varieties of grapes and actually make wine. The first wines made in fall of this year are Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Syrah and a special blend called "Mustang Red." The wine is manufactured at Orchid Road Cellars, a company located in San Luis Obispo.

Interested parties can purchase this wine online, at the Cal Poly store and at the winery.

Wine and viticulture is a great major because I am training for a something that won't be a desk job for the rest of my life," said wine and viticulture junior Steven Dempsey. "I want to be out where I can feel like you get to literally see the fruits of your labor." In his three years at Cal Poly, Dempsey has witnessed the growth and evolution of the wine and viticulture program.

"I joined the third year of the program. It's new, but it has snowballed in popularity. It's become a much bigger program even since I have been here." Some students have put their wine and viticulture knowledge to practical use. Wine and viticulture senior Chip Forsythe has already built his own vineyard on top of a large mountain in Santa Maria. Forsythe partnered with the man who owns the land to build the vineyard.

Forsythe spent a lot of time figur ing out the perfect location for his vineyard, which spans about two acres.

"Grapes will grow anywhere," Forsythe said. "They like fringes' needs. This is the only thing you need lots of sunshine and lots of water. They will grow in anything. You put in a row and it starts to grow and it gets sun for most of the day." Once Forsythe finds the right spot, he spends lots of time and money getting the soil, yard up and running.

All of his expenses were reimbursed by the owner who wanted a vineyard up on the mountain for nothing other than bragging rights, according to Forsythe.

Forsythe has more humanitarian reasons for building and operating the vineyard. His vineyard is basically a trial run. For his senior project, he plans to move to Stellenbosch, South Africa with a friend and medical student from Louisville. There, Forsythe will build a winery and vineyard. The money he earns selling wine will be used to help subsidize expenses for his friend's neighboring hospital.

Forsythe is working on a grant proposal to receive money that will help pay for the project. He has pieced together half of a business proposal as well, which includes information regarding the vineyard, winery and hospital.

"We decided we wanted to help people and be remembered permanently by changing people's lives," said Forsythe. "Africa was a good place to start."
Alternative Spring Breaks

Luis Gonzalez picks up trash above Brown Canyon in Hereford, Ariz. on Monday, March 16, 2009. Ten students at Cochise College's Douglas campus were participating in an alternative spring break program. They helped collect trash, mostly left behind by illegal immigrants traveling into Arizona.

How an iPod can be a poor man's iPhone

Andrew Vanacore

I try to keep a stiff upper lip about not having an iPhone. Just couldn't afford it — not with the $175 a month or so AT&T charges for service on top of the $199 upfront cost for the device.

I could, however, afford the $229 iPod Touch — and got it as a gift, as it happened. It has most of the same goodies: a Web browser, e-mail, YouTube. And it stores more music than the iPhone. (125)

Plus, the other day I used it to call China.

You, a call around the world — on a device that doesn’t have a phone. A handful of applications on Apple Inc.’s iTunes store will let you do this, as long as you’re in a Wi-Fi hot spot.

My iPhone complex hasn’t dissipated, but at least now I have a device that looks just like it, has no monthly service fees, and lets me make free or cheap phone calls.

UC San Diego named nation’s top surfing campus

The University of California, San Diego has been named the top campus in the nation for catching a wave.

The website surfin.com says the university's proximity and access to surf, most notably Black’s Beach, its nationally ranked surf team, surf classes and collection of surfing professors and alumni put it at the top of the list.

see Surfing, page 11

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Glimmer of hope for student aid in a bad economy

Monday, March 30, 2009

Justin Pope
ASSOCIATE DE EDITOR

True, it's not a great time finan-
cially to be going or sending a kid
to college. But from the success of
a bailout to the federal student
loan system, to the tuition "deal,"
some colleges are offering, there's
more good news out there on col-
lege aid.

For the college-bound: many public universities are likely
to impose sharp tuition increases. Maryland will try to freeze in-state tuition for a fourth
straight year. Others will keep it
closer to their usual increases, like
Kentucky with increases set for
between 3 and 5 percent.

Many private colleges have an-
ounced their smallest increases in
years. Becker and Merrimack col-
leges in Massachusetts are among
those freezing tuition, room and
board. William Jessup University
in California will cut tuition 2.5
percent.

Some are offering "specials." Laid-off employees get one-time
tuition and application fee waivers at Kent State-Tuscaloosa in Ohio. Mercer University in Georgia and
Manchester College in Indiana
promise to cover the costs of addi-
tional time of students stay on track
but are unable to graduate in four
years. Manchester will even refund
a year's tuition if you don't have a
job or a slot in grad school within
six months of graduation.

FINANCIAL AID FROM
COLLEGES
BAD: The average college en-
dowment is down around one-
fourth. Many colleges, particularly
regional universities, will be un-
able to offer much scholarship
support.

GOOD: The National Asso-
ciation of Independent Colleges
and Universities says more than
90 percent of private colleges will
increase aid next year. The group
recently surveyed about 200 in-
stitutions and found they planned
average tuition increases of 4 per-
cent, but aid increases of 9.8 per-
cent.

In recent years, some of the
priciest colleges have announced
significant increases in aid. Many
are determined to keep their
promises. Harvard, for example,
will increase total fees 3.5 percent
to $48,868 next year, but expects
aid to spend 18 percent more on fi-
nancial aid, which in some cases
goes to families earning as much
as $200,000.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS
BAD: State budget cuts will hit
a range of programs that support
students at both public and private
colleges. Certificates for merit schol-
ships in some states have already
frozen.

GOOD: The federal govern-
ment is expanding college aid, par-
specially for low-income stu-
dents. The stimulus package raises
the maximum Pell Grant from
$4,731 to $4,350 starting July 1,
and $5,550 in 2010-2011. An ex-
tra 800,000 students are expected
to get Pell funding.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS
BAD: There are two major
groups of the giant federal loan pro-
gram — direct lending by the govern-
ment and the Federal Family Educa-
tion Loan Program (FFELP). Under the latter, lender-

The best part of these applica-
tions — which require the second-
generation iPod Touch that came
carried by more than 60 percent of
students, seduced by advertising,
many students, including their
parents, have realized their error.

The current surge in demand for
federal loans suggests they're now
realizing their error.

For more info, contact your
college financial aid office, or go
to www.ed.gov.

and -S till need more money, many
are turning to private loans that don't
have government guarantees and
are usually more expensive. This
year, there is less money available.

Predictably, getting that money
is harder — particularly if you plan
to attend a for-profit college, have
bad credit or can't get someone to
co-sign a loan.

GOOD: The federal govern-
ment accounts for five times as
much student aid as do private
loans. Increased limits for federal
programs like Stafford loans have
increased need for private ones.

Try, if you still need a private loan
and can't get one, you may
have to choose a cheaper school
(or one with a higher graduation
rate) that may not be such a
bad thing. Clearly, some students
were borrowing too much. It's
even becoming clear that many
students, seduced by advertising,
were taking out private loans be-
cause they were using money that
they didn't need. The current surge
in demand for federal loans suggests they're now
realizing their error.

For more info, contact your
college financial aid office, or go
to www.ed.gov.
House backs bill to increase service opportunities

Ann Sonner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tens of thousands of Americans could see more opportunities to mentor children, help rebuild homes and participate in other national service under a measure passed by the House on March 18.

The House voted 321-105 to expand AmeriCorps and other national service programs by 175,000 participants. It would also create new groups to help poor communities with education, clean energy, health and services for veterans.

Supporters say the effort comes at a time when more people are interested in serving their communities and more people could use the extra help.

The bill "reaches out to all Americans from all walks of life and asks them to commit to service," said Jared Polis, D-Colo.

"During these difficult times, our nation needs the help of each and every one of us more than ever."

A Senate committee approved an expansion Wednesday that was somewhat similar, adding 175,000 positions to the AmeriCorps alone.

That bill, which triples the size of the program, could reach the Senate floor next week.

President Barack Obama said he was pleased by the House's action and was eager for the Senate to pass the bill so he can sign it.

"At this moment of economic crisis, when so many people are in need of help and so much needs to be done, this could not be more urgent," said Obama, who pledged during the campaign to provide government support for national service programs.

The House measure would also create fellowships for people 55 and older and a separate Summer of Service program for middle and high school student volunteers, who would earn a $300 education award to help cover college costs. It also looks for ways to get scientists and veterans more involved in community service.

Some Republicans have expressed concern the government would be taking over work that's done voluntarily by people who are not paid.

"Well, I think it's important that we encourage volunteers, but this is a paid job," said Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C. "This is a government-authorized charity."

The House measure is slated to cost $6 billion over five years. Obama's proposed budget for next year calls for more than $1.1 billion for national service programs, an increase of more than $210 million.

Some AmeriCorps participants get a living stipend while they are working for 10 to 12 months. The stipend ranges from $11,400 to $32,800 for the year. Most participants, who are predominantly 18 to 26 years old, get $11,800.

After completing the program, they can receive up to $4,725 to help pay for college or pay off student loans. The bill would increase the education award to $5,350 and requires that it match any future increases in Pell Grant scholarships.

Members of AmeriCorps work for nonprofit, faith-based or national organizations, such as Habitat for Humanity. They provide a variety of services, such as teaching young people or responding to disasters.

Over the last year, AmeriCorps has received three applications for the Corporation for National and Community Service, the agency that oversees the program.

iPhone

continued from page 10

minute (2 cents if you sign up to pay a $4 monthly fee).

Rates outside the U.S. vary wildly but you can check in the application before you dial. To call cell phones in China, for instance, is only 5 cents per minute, while France is 25 cents. Antarctica? A whopping $2.25.

You can make regular calls with Fring using a Skype account, but that's another layer to deal with.

The calls on these services sound pretty good, a little tinny but clearer than my regular cell phone connection. iPod Touch users will need Apple's $29 ear buds that have a tiny microphone on the back of the volume control along the cord.

The most serious drawback is the most obvious. While the iPhone uses AT&T's wireless network to provide Internet access anywhere, on the iPod Touch you'll need to stick to Wi-Fi hot spots. For rural or suburban dwellers who don't encounter lots of free Wi-Fi zones, that may very well mean leasing yourself to your house, or other places where there's a computer with the same Internet phone call capabilities anyway.

Surfing

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the top of the list, the school announced Tuesday.

UCSD was followed by UC Santa Cruz, California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Barbara, University of Hawaii, University of North Carolina at Wilmington, University of Rhode Island, Pepperdine University, Humboldt State University and the Florida Institute of Technology.

For my hair to be a silent pick-up line.
Famed Pakistani gang-rape victim gets married

Khalid Tanveer

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Pakistani gang-rape victim who shunned custom and rose to global fame by speaking out about her case has defied another local taboo by getting married. Mai is now the second wife of Nasir Abbas Gabol, a police officer who has helped protect her. Gabol told the AP on March 18, 2009 that he was enraptured by Mai's "extreme courage."

She was named Glamour magazine's Woman of the Year, and now runs a school in her southern Punjab province village of Meerwala. The case against her attackers is still in the court system.

Mai told AP Television News after the nuptials that she'd never completely ruled out marriage.

"When you do marriage you have to have faith in your partner," she said.

Her new husband told the AP on Wednesday that he was enraptured by Mai's "extreme courage."

"I will do whatever is possible to help my wife in her efforts aimed at raising her voice for the rights of women," he said.

Mai initially refused his offer because Gabol was already married and discouraged him from divorcing his first wife. Pakistan is a Muslim nation, and Islamic law allows men to have up to four wives.

Gabol said he was so desperate to marry Mai that he threatened to kill himself unless she relented. He said Gabol's first wife met with Mai and persuaded her to marry.

The wedding took place March 15, 2009 and a reception is planned for the weekend.

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Pakistani gang-rape victim Mukhtar Mai speaks to the Associated Press in Islamabad, Pakistan. Mai, who gained global fame by speaking out about her case, has defied another local taboo by getting married. Mai is now the second wife of Nasir Abbas Gabol, a police officer who has helped protect her. Gabol told the AP on March 18, 2009 that he was enraptured by Mai's "extreme courage."
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As with much of the college vernacular, the term “clueless” has evolved during the last decade. In the “90s,” “clueless” referred to a girl who knew nothing about the real world, a girl we would now classify as a princess.

Today, the term “clueless” refers to a boy who knows nothing about what to do when it comes to girls. The Asian protagonist in “Gran Torino” for example. These boys usually have the best of intentions, and would make really great boyfriends, but they really don’t matter how great their future would be if they like plan never leaves the ground.

For the sake of those enduring young men, and the poor girls who hope and pray for them to make a move, this article will not only provide ways to recognize a clueless one, but will provide some helpful hints for those of you who need to get a clue.

He wonders why the douchebag always gets the girl.

“I mean, what does he have that I don’t?” Ballo? Seriously, most girls do not like douchebags, but those cocky sons of bitches are the only ones that make it clear they are interested, and girls have to assume that boys who do not take any initiative are just not that into them.

He cannot discern if a girl likes him...

Just ask one of your friends (a girl, or a boy with a girlfriend, not one of your clueless buddies) to observe you two together. Trust me, they’ll know.

Keep infotainment out of textbooks

Intran Syed

Michigan Daily (C. Michigan)

When I saw a small, unfamiliar textbook lying on the coffee table at home a couple of weeks ago, I didn’t think much of it. My mother is a sociology professor and honestly, I’ve seen too many editions of too many sociology texts laying around the house. But this book was different.

I can describe it to you, but to really know what I’m talking about, go to Amazon.com and look it up: “SOC” by Jon Witt. With a flashy cover that’s more “Teen Vogue” than any textbook in your school bag, the book even had those little blurbs that magazine covers have about the stories inside. Sure, instead of “20 bright ideas to try” or “Spring fashion at every price!” this cover had hints like “Sociology is a verb,” but exciting nonetheless? Right.

Falling for the gimmick, I began flipping through the book. Introducing the author was a fill-in-the-blanks questionnaire with scribbly answers, similar to the American Express magazine ads featuring celebs like Jerry Seinfeld. Every so often, features like “Pop Soc” and “At the Movies” crop up, just in case you can’t understand, for example, the concept of “The Individual and Society” without a Harry Potter reference. Capping it all off was a back cover inviting students to check out the author’s blog.

Dude’s got a blog.

Why would a publisher feel the need to make a textbook that resembles a magazine? Luckily, the book’s inside flaps had the answer, which I’ll relay by paraphrasing it in the language the publisher clearly supposes students are always using. Being totally hip to modern trends, the straight-up phat publisher rocked the illest research, and, like, kicked it with some student interviews and what not.

How very dope.

The publisher’s research indicated that students feel textbooks are “boring,” “dateless,” and “irrelevant to me.” But those in some Beyoncé, “Juno” and Kanye, and boom -- relevancy city. The publisher is just trying to understand its consumers and give them what they want. What could ever be wrong with that?

Well, plenty — not the least of which is that a college education simply must not devolve to a game, but we’d all be better off if education didn’t go the way of a Mr. Alan’s “$25-or-two-for-$50” sale.

The central question is simple: Is education something we bring down to our level, or should we work up to its level? If education is about the betterment of individuals, then surely the latter is the smarter choice. The philosophy at work in “SOC,” however, is clearly the former, because publishers have incentives to advertise their products as responsive to students’ needs. Professors and students must not faller in our dairy to decide which products see Books, page 16.
Q-tips: friend or foe?

What the ‘uses’ on the box don’t tell you

Lewis Lehe

Can of Q-tips, by the sink

Have you ever thought Big Tobacco was staked for helping people uncontrollably kill themselves? Legend has it that at Big Tobacco HQ in Virginia, there is a smoking patio — but no one smokes. Turns out the people that sell you the coffin nails know better than anyone how your favorite way to kill five minutes will kill you.

In fact, I hear right at the top of the agenda when you get hired for a job at Big Tobacco — even a contextual position — is a week of Japanese brainwashing that instills in you to both the allure of cigarettes and the cancer troubles of others. Then fix you with that “let them eat cigarettes” attitude.

That’s old news. Let’s consider a more shocking revelation. The most nefarious schemes to enable your self-destructive impulses are not to be found at Big Tobacco, but at Big Q-tip, which acts like it doesn’t know why you’re buying those Q-tips. Everyone knows the real reason. You want to stick them in your ears.

It feels good to stick, a Q-tip in your ear, to twist it around, to scratch the sides of your ear canal to unblock the eardrum and let the summer breeze reach in. Sticking a Q-tip in your ear combines the satisfaction of a back scratch and eating a peppermint patty into one experience. That’s why everyone knows you are buying those Q-tips to stick in your ears.

The uncomfortable truth is manifest in the great precisions: Big Q-tip takes to cover its tracks. On the back of the Q-tip box is a list titled “A Houseful of Uses.” There is no mention of ears in that household, although the box does recommend using Q-tips to “delicate care for newborn’s umbilical cord.” A smoke screen.

Another use is described under the heading “Sparkling Eyes.” You’re supposed to get the Q-tips wet, put them in your freezer, and then, when your eyes get puffy, take the Q-tips out like little popsicles and dab your eyelids. I followed the Sparkling Eyes plan, and it is not as satisfying as the standard operating procedure. Anyway, it’s hard to argue that poking stickey at your eyes is an exercise subtly free of risk. You could destroy yourself with one end of the Q-tip and then turn it around and blinder yourself — a two-pronged attack.

In any case, the Houseful of Uses rings less than sincere. The idea of a common bathroom staple telling you what to do with it is pretty suspicious. Does toilet paper try to explain what’s good for Big Tobacco at least, never acts shocked that people are outright poisoning products on fire and sticking them on them like wild men when the things are really meant for building tiny cabins.

It might interest the empiricist in you to know I did an experiment comparing a Q-tip box side by side with a bag of cotton balls. The Q-tip box suggests 1,460 percent more uses than the cotton balls bag, and this is only after I generously called “great for sensitive skin” as a suggested use in the cotton ball chunk. What’s really noteworthy is that consumers seem to know what to do with cotton balls, but once the cotton migrates to the end of a little stick, we’re at a loss.

The whole affair marks a deep insecurity, a thin cotton coating over an abyssal well of moral erosion. Maybe Big Q-tip isn’t so much telling us, the customers, what we’re going to do with the Q-tips. It’s telling itself — agonizing in conscience, trying to rationalize what it knows deep down is crumbling wrong. The old “we’re just enablers” line doesn’t pass muster for late-era Q-tip execs anymore, so they’re taking a flight of fancy that, in a perturbative center on umbilical cords.

Or this is the really disturbing angle — the lic is manufactured part and parcel for our own sake. Without the Houseful of Uses, well feel an indignant outrage — who would buy from people who sell to people who buy a product just to stick in their ears? Is it a sign that the cashier without feeling like an idiot; it lets you face yourself?

“I do stick the Q-tip in my ears now and then, on a lazy afternoon, it was spat of the moment. I’m out to clean you,” the Houseful of Uses is a lie bought and sold, and we are the sellers.

Once, as a guest in someone’s home. I found a sort of Q-tip dispenser by the sink. Lifting the chrome lid revealed a delectable purpl of Q-tips not unlike a “Bloomin’ Onion” at Outback Steakhouse. Later, when I told the lady of the house how much I loved sticking Q-tips in my ears, she warned it would break my ear. When I told the lady of the house how much I loved sticking Q-tips in my ears, she warned it would break my ear. When I told the lady of the house how much I loved sticking Q-tips in my ears, she warned it would break my ear.

The idea of a common bathroom staple telling you what to do with it is pretty suspicious. Does toilet paper try to explain what’s good for?

The column was previously published in The Pat News.

Morality’s role in policy shown in stem cell debate

Carolyn Pippen

A few weeks ago, President Obama signed an executive order overturning a Bush-era restriction on the federal funding of stem cell research. As the easiest way to gain public favor these days is to sign anything that includes the terms “Bush-era” and “overturn,” the decision was quickly and eagerly applauded by our nation’s liberal base, as well as by the Hustler. While I agree that the decision shows a promising amount of proactivity on the part of our new leader and opens doors to significant scientific advancement, it is important that we take the time to completely dissect this issue before jumping to dramatic conclusions.

First of all, scientists have not been living in a “dark period” over the last eight years. Bush’s 2001 policy did not stop research using adult stem cells, and it did not stop the use of the 60 pre-existing lines of embryonic stem cells; it simply denied federal funding to the advancement of new lines. In other words, it temporarily removed the governmental stamp of approval from the expansion of that particular subset of research to which a large portion of our country has strong moral objections.

Oh, crap. I wasn’t supposed to use that word. Moral. According to Van derbilt student Aimee Sollman’s editorial, the government should not hold the right to ban things on the grounds that they are inherently “immoral.” You know, things like theft and murder.

The fact is that the vast majority of our nation’s legal policies have grounds in human morality, which is why anytime I see the word “immoral” in quotes like that, I get nervous. The ability of our nation’s citizens to determine right from wrong makes up the very foundation of our democracy, and that power cannot and should not be invalidated.

For the record, the destruction of human embryos, and thereby the destruction of human life, is not an “extreme” form of the pro-life movement, it’s pretty much right smack in the center of it. As Sobh pointed out, however, even some of us stalwart anti-abortion people understanding the complexities of such a debate.
Research
continued from page 15

Personally, I agree that the cost of an embryo that will most likely go unused in exchange for invaluable scientific discovery is an admirable one, but it wasn’t an easy decision to make, and quite frankly I’m tired of people acting like I just showed up late to the party where everyone else was smart enough to get to first.

The expansion of stem cell research is not a black and white issue, and the reason I know this is because Obama promised his decision would not lead to human cloning, a process Sobhani deemed “obviously immoral.”

Laying aside the sheer hypocrisy of that statement, this consensus tells me that all of us have a sort of moral breaking point at which we decide the costs have outweighed the benefits, and the inherent respect for human life wins out. This point comes at different times for everyone, and we will most likely never all agree, which is why I thank God for the two-party system in moments like this.

Disagreement is good, it means we’re asking the hard questions, and changing policies is even better; it means we will never move too far too fast in one direction. Was I excited when I saw that Obama had finally reopened the gates to new and unprecedented medical advancements? Of course. But my excitement was cautious, and yours should be too.

Books
continued from page 14

improve the educational experience and which ones are simply ploys to feign responsiveness for the sake of better book sales.

There’s an old book in my basement that I took from my elementary school years ago when the book was about to be thrown out. Printed in 1937, “Where Our Ways of Living Come From” is a sociology text of sorts. In the introduction, it says it provides a new approach to grade school social studies that eliminates older materials that students found meaningless. Sound familiar?

Flipping through the old book, I found that the thinking that went into it isn’t so different from “SOC.” The authors of “Our Ways of Living” also tried to target their audience better by making the book more appealing and interesting.

The difference is that they did it by rewriting the material, by broadening the perspectives presented and by suggesting and trying in classroom activities. “SOC” doesn’t seem to do any of those. It’s simply a repackaging of the same textual material with snazzy celeb photos and multiple uses of the word “blog.”

Nevertheless, “SOC” may still be as competently written a textbook as any that I’ve recycled for my mother. It’s simply that I worry about the philosophy behind its creation. While we benefit from the personalization of many things, I’m not sure Twitterizing education is going to work out so well for any of us.

And, in case you’re interested, I too am still trying to figure out how sociology is a verb.

This column was previously published in the Michigan Daily.
**Students**

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![Zero fare with Cal Poly ID](image)

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**San Luis Obispo Transit**

**541-BUSS**

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---

**BUS SCHEDULE**

San Luis Obispo Evening Service  □  Effective September 2, 2008

Monday Through Friday

### Route 2 Evening Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transit Center Depart</th>
<th>Higuera @ South</th>
<th>Prado Day Center</th>
<th>Food 4 Less</th>
<th>Higuera @ South</th>
<th>Transit Center Arrive</th>
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Note: Ellis Lane and Prado Road are not served by the evening service.

### Route 3 Evening Service

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<th>Transit Center Depart</th>
<th>Johnson @ Losue</th>
<th>Cook @ Laurel</th>
<th>Margold Center</th>
<th>Transit Center Arrive</th>
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### Route 4 Evening Service

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<th>Transit Center Depart</th>
<th>Transit Center Arrive</th>
<th>South @ Parker</th>
<th>Promenade</th>
<th>Irish Hills Plaza</th>
<th>Laguna Village</th>
<th>Descanso @ LOVR</th>
<th>Romona @ Palomar</th>
<th>Cal Poly Arrive</th>
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### Route 6A/6B Evening Services

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San Luis Obispo Transit Schedule Questions Call 541-2877 or email jwebster@Slocity.org

X indicates the bus does not sop at this location.

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Bus subsidy paid for by Cal Poly parking fees.
For more information contact Commuter & Access Services at 756-6680.
Getting back into the groove

**vinyl records make a comeback**

**TIMOTHY MILLER**
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Chris “Fresh" Groth looks through the vinyl section at Boo Boo Records in San Luis Obispo (right). Many music fans are returning to vinyl, which they say allows for better sound quality than CDs or MP3 downloads. Record companies are following suit, releasing new albums on vinyl as well.

The rise of vinyl has helped out independent music stores like Boo Boo Records, located in downtown San Luis Obispo, which has seen a drop in CD sales but a growing number of people interested in vinyl. All sorts of people are buying all sorts of records, said Miguel Avila, an employee at Boo Boo Records.

People who had stopped collecting vinyl in favor of CDs or MP3s are getting back into the older format, he said. They attribute the switch to the tactile feeling of touching vinyl, digging through it and building a collection. People are moving away from CDs because they lose their value as soon as they are opened. Also, vinyl can be bought cheaply and can appreciate in value, he added.

Ryan Tucker, who has been buying vinyl for five years, started collecting because the rise of digital downloading has not been enough to balance out the decline of CD sales. This makes the re-emerging vinyl sales a relevant part of the music industry by cushioning the overall decline of music sales. Amazon.com now has an entire vinyl store of new and used records and Best Buy will start selling vinyl in select locations.

Flipping past the dusty John Denver and Pat Boone records, Chris “Fresh" Groth is looking for an album that has real style. He digs through the milk box marked $1 LPs on the floor of Boo Boo Records, occasionally pulling out a record showing off the cover art or commenting on the value of Eddie Murphy on vinyl.

“No one wants to be holding shit like Barbra Streisand and Bette Midler," he said. “No one wants to be holding on to that.”

Satisfied with finding Grand Master Flash’s “White Lines (Don’t Do It),” he reads just his fingers and heads for the counter.

Groth, a Cal Poly senior, bought a turntable at a garage sale for $5 along with a copy of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” and has been adding to his collection ever since.

He rummages through his aunt and uncle’s garage looking for classics.

“They will have the records, but not a working player. I just kinda take ’em,” he said.

The sale of vinyl records nearly doubled in 2008 from 930,000 to 1.88 million, according to Nielsen SoundScan. Despite growing digital music sales on iTunes and other music downloading sites. However, the rise of digital downloads has not been enough to balance out the decline of CD sales.

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music he was interested was only released on vinyl. “It’s a hobby, or a habit. I’m not sure which,” he said.
The sound of vinyl, as long as you take care of your records, is better than listening to music on your computer, he added. Record labels are releasing new albums on vinyl as well as re-releasing classics to meet increased demands. Labels are even including digital download coupons with some records so that the music can be played on a turntable and on a computer or iPod. This bundling of convenience and style could be the ultimate recording format, wrote Eliot Van Buskirk for Wired Magazine in late 2007.

Optimal Media Production has created a CD that takes advantage of the renewed interest in vinyl. The product is a CD that is normal on the bottom but the top has a groove in it that can be played on a record player. It only has room for one song but it is a signal of the lengths that companies are going to in taking advantage of the trend.

The price of turntables is going down as more companies are making them again; the price of a new turntable starts at around $50. Some newer ones include all the features of a new stereo system, an alarm clock, AM/FM radio, even a MP3 playback. KCPR, Cal Poly’s radio station, is one of a dozen stations in the country that receive seven-inch discs from KRercords in Olympia, Wash. The 7-inch records are singles that bands exclusively release on vinyl. Even the mention of these rarities is hard to come by on the Internet.

Brian Hildebrand, the general manager for KCPR, started his radio show, “The Vinyl Frontier,” to take advantage of the radio station’s vinyl collection. The station has been growing its stocks for decades and some of the vinyl copies are the only versions left. Some of the music that he played he was hearing for the first time on air, he said.

He finds the vinyl experience much different from CDs because you have to go out and search for it in stores that still carry the old medium. “Everyone in one generation grew up downloading music,” he said. “If you are going to buy a CD, you might as well just download it. Vinyl’s not the same thing, they’re big; you feel like you get your money’s worth.”

Using a turntable, going through a collection of records and making sure the speed is set correctly makes him more conscious of what he is listening to. “Listening to vinyl is a ritual, it forces me to slow down,” he said. “You have to get up and change the sides.”

Groth said that listening to vinyl makes the music more tangible. He also sees it as a way to fill in his knowledge of older musicians. He is exclusively interested in older records in accessing a time that he never experience. Instead of having only a few songs by classic artists he has two whole sides to discover them.

“The best thing about it is that you can really discover old bands,” he said. “You are forced to listen to the whole thing.”

The difference in sound quality between CDs and vinyl is debated often. The difference comes down to the amount of information that is captured in the recording process. Digital recordings do not record the entire sound wave but captures the sound in steps. Vinyl recordings are made by taking the exact sound wave and carving it into the groove of the record.
Vinyl

continued from page 19

The quality of both CDs and vinyl is superior to MP3s and other compressed music formats that are played by computers and MP3 players. By compressing the music as much as 90 percent of the sound is lost, wrote Corey Binns in Popular Science.

Listeners say it is difficult to detect the difference between the analogue sound of vinyl and the digital sound of CDs.

The difference is a moot point if you do not have a good enough stereo system to hear it, Avila said. Buying a used record will also make a lot of difference as the groove will wear down and dust will distort the sound. However, this distortion is sometimes mistaken as a benefit.

Sound quality does not seem to be the main factor for the people that listen to vinyl. People seem to be interested in it for a variety of reasons, Groth said that his attraction to it was in part a reaction to having so much music that he could not touch. Hildebrand said that the musicians who produce their music on vinyl have put more care into what they were making. Avila sees people that collect records as pursuing a hobby.

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"The International:
not your ordinary action film"

Review: The International – 2009 (***)
Director: Tom Tykwer
Written By: Eric Singer
Starring: Clive Owen, Naomi Watts, Anna Mueler-Stahl

Acclaimed indie director Tom Tykwer's "The International" is unlike many other corruption-based action films I have had the pleasure of viewing in recent memory. Clive Owen ("Closer," "Inside Man") stars as Louis Salinger, a sloppy, emotionally challenged Interpol agent who is working with assistant district attorney Eleanor Whitman, played by Naomi Watts ("King Kong," "The Ring"), to bring down a shady powerhouse bank that participates in a number of unlawful acts including money laundering and weapons trafficking. To put it simply, it's a syndicate that readily profits from political anarchism, and its sole purpose is the enslavement of world populations through debt and intimidation.

It's been a while since corporate officials have been so convincingly depicted as ruthless villains, and it's a plot line that, when effective, I have missed. Sitting at the head of the table in this deceitful outfit based in Luxembourg is veteran German actor Anna Mueller-Stahl ("Eastern Promises"). Whose double dealing bank has been assassinating anyone nosy enough to interfere with their operations (which again include investing in rebels, nuclear technology and fooling both parties in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict).
International
continued from page 22

The story opens with the introduction of Owen's character, Salinger, meeting an encounter
between his partner and a bank informant. This exchange culminates in the unaccountable murder of his accomplice, which, as expected, now makes the case personal for Owen. Salinger is later joined by Naomi Watts' New York-based distric

attorney character, Whitman, for rather obscure reasons, it is essential to have an attractive but de

terminated woman somewhere in the plot, and in this story's case it most certainly

helps. The film's most satisfying scene involves a gun battle throughout the ramps of the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Why there? Because visually it is both amusing and astonishing. Most of the remainder of the movie involves witty dialogue and scheming plotters shifting

through several recognizable and intriguing landscapes including Brooklyn, Berlin and Milan (my personal favorite). As the plot began to unfold, however, I was surprised and relieved to see that the film did not rely on its climactic shootout or impressive cinematography to carry the weight. In fact, it was more interest

ing then I had initially anticipated, and the escalating wickedness and lack of remorse of this truly

"international" bank presented itself through several unpredictable and clever situations.

While it is definitely not a must-see, I thoroughly enjoyed "The International." The film's three key charac

ters are expertly portrayed by three Oscar nominated actors. Owen shines as an almost conceiv

dable hero, not participating in too many unbelievable physical feats, but still taking care of business. In

his performance, it seems as if he may be channeling "007, a possible message to the filmmakers behind

"Casino Royale," who passed on Owen in favor of the likewise excep

tional Daniel Craig. Any heroic characteristics that Owen may display in this film are effic

ently contrasted by a marvelous and villainous performance by Armin Mueller-Stahl. Naomi

Watts is also exceptional as usual as the DA, and another respectable aspect of the film is the focus on

her character's wit and conviction, downsplaying the idea of a love affair between the two main charac

ters.

Toni Tekker ("Perfume: The Story of a Murderer") succeeds in presenting an entertaining and some

what believable story that involves ad


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The right hand man

Omar Sanchez
MUSTANG DAILY

Overlooking the final details being applied to his new martial arts school, "The Pit," owner and chief instructor John Hackleman stepped back and took a deep breath.

The location in Arroyo Grande, which marks the headquarters for The Pit franchise, has come a long way from the 600 square foot backyard where it started decades ago.

Today, The Pit's martial arts style of Hawaiian Kenpo, which was developed by Hackleman, is adopted by many schools and gyms around the nation. The style that evolved from the teachings of his childhood instructor Walter Godbe, Kajukenpo (a mixture of karate, judo, jujutsu, kenpo, and boxing) which originated in 1947.

At his latest school in Arroyo Grande, the atmosphere around the site is calm and quiet on a Friday afternoon, but inside its hustle and bustle, fighters like Chuck Liddell, Antonio Banuelos and Luke Rudder train with the world-renowned "Pit Master," a nickname Hackleman has acquired over the years.

Hackleman is perhaps most famous for producing elite fighters, most notably former Ultimate Fighting Championships light-heavyweight champion Liddell, a San Luis Obispo native and Cal Poly alumnus.

Training a champion

Liddell, who wrestled at Cal Poly, trained with others, but said it was with Hackleman that he developed his signature fighting move, the overhand right.

"John helped me find my one strike knock-out power," Liddell said. "He didn't try to change everything about me. He took what I had and improved it. And he didn't try to do too much too quick."

Today, that overhand right is constantly played on cable television and is "Pit Master," a nickname Hackleman has acquired over the years. today, that overhand right is constantly played on cable television and is

see Hackleman, page 25
Hackleman continued from page 24

the Internet all over the world. "Chuck is not only a local hero, he's an international celebrity," Hackleman said. "People look at what The Pit has done for them and they think it can do the same for them." Through his unique fighting system, Hackleman himself has found fame. As one of the most sought after trainers, he's easy to spot with his shaved head, thick beard, head gear, and black framed glasses. But times haven't always been good for Hackleman. He's been fighting to get ahead all his life.

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger

The relentless streets of Honolulu, Hawaii, famous boxing promoter Keilipono, to learn self-defense at the age of 9. What started as a means for protection developed into a life passion. In high school he became a golden gloves boxer and won many martial arts tournaments. An event after high school led him to take up a different kind of fighting from what he'd been accustomed to.

In 1979, he enlisted in the Army after Iranian suffixes took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held more than 70 U.S. diplomat hostage. Hackleman went on to box for the Army team where he won numerous titles.

Out of the Army, the fast moving promoter Don King picked up the young Hackleman. Together, John accumulated a boxing record of 17-3 and was rated No. 1 in the nation. Kickboxing has never been a prominent sport, so for the young parent, he needed to find another source of income to support his family.

"I started having kids early, and I knew fighting probably wouldn't pay all the bills, so I decided in my 20s to go to college," Hackleman said. "Now I got a good job with a lot of opportunities so I jumped into running to supplement my income while fighting."

After he retired from fighting, Hackleman worked full-time as a nurse until he opened his first gym in Woodland Hills, Calif.

The Pit is born

Hackleman's first Pit was created in 1986. Over 20 years later, its more popular than ever. "Even in this rough economy, people are as young as 3 and up to 70 years of age interested in fighting and want the membership to learn and work with The Pit instructors. People realize that you can become a champion by training here, or you can get in great shape, or you can become a black belt," Hackleman said. "No other gym is this crowded and has a family feel. They see the value of this program and they don't want to let it go."

At The Pit they practice the martial art Hackleman founded in 1985, Hawaiian Kempo.

"We use what works and discard what doesn't," Hackleman explained. "We adapt new techniques and training methods all the time. But overall the philosophy has been the same: train hard, train smart, a lot of discipline, but have fun and be goofy too."

The style has gained much recognition after it was displayed on primetime television and pay-per-view by Liddell's knockout power and take down defense.

Fighting for respect

The growth of the sport is proof that it is being accepted more by Americans and the world, a trend Hackleman did not foresee.

"Americans they like baseball, basketball, football, tennis, golf," Hackleman said. "They just don't adopt new sports. They don't like professional soccer, rugby, kickboxing, and I didn't think mixed martial arts (MMA) would take off like it is."

"But (MMA) had great PR, marketing, and a great team behind them and now it's the fastest growing sport in the world."

"(MMA) has gone from human cock-fighting to the second most popular sport in the country," Hackleman continued, referring to a remark Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) made in a 1995 interview when the congressman was working on legislation to ban the sport.

When McCain made the comment, MMA was a dying sport and Hackleman admits, "It looked a lot like cockfighting for a while. He acknowledged that the UFC has done the most to put the sport in a positive light with new regulations. "The Fertitta Brothers, Dana White, they've done it," Hackleman said. "The sport has seen substantial growth in the last decade, and the growth of his gym is in indication of its expansion."

"We turn down interviews now," Hackleman said. "In the old days we would do every single one we can. Chuck turned down David Letterman. Their schedule didn't fit ours so I said 'No' But they pushed, pushed, pushed and they expedited their schedule."

Now that people accommodate him, he's found more time to focus on his fighters and schools.

Switching roles

Kiddering was introduced to The Pit early on by his father. He went for the gym's team and is 2-0 in his young MMA career.

When he fights, Hackleman is nervous, but calm.

"He moves out of corner. He slowly explains things to you. He knows what he's doing," Kiddering said. Hackleman admits he gets the jitters before his fighters compete because he wants to keep them safe.

"It's a different kind of nervous. I'm more of a father to my students. I want them to win, but I want to protect them first," he said. "So not only do they win, but they don't get hurt."

Safety is why he went into martial arts in the first place; to protect himself from harm when he was a youth. Now he wants his young students to do the same, while mentoring them at the same time.

"It's changing so many lives in a positive way. We teach against drugs, alcohol, liasons, and we push school. We check their grades a lot and stay in touch with their teachers. Before they get their next belt, we check with their teacher and make sure they're behaving in class," he said.

It's a side of Hackleman seldom heard and a side hidden behind his tough exterior.

"It's a perception, so it's a hat I wear. I don't think (I'm mean) but most people do," he said.

That label doesn't fit the Hackleman who enjoys spending time with his wife.

"We hit the beach once in a while, watch a movie, watch a show and I'm good to go," he said.

Nor does it fit the Hackleman who comforted one of his crying young students, Nicholson, during a practice fight.

Those that work with him frequently see the side the camera doesn't catch when he's in his fighters' corner.

The side that "cares about his fighters," said Hackleman. "He loves us. We're just like his kids, his blood." For a man that has learned and achieved so much with Hackleman, it's our his teachings that he appreciates the most.

"The greatest thing I've gained from John is his friendship," said Liddell.
Dogs are dying, and it's not Michael Vick's fault

Tim Dahlberg

Two dogs died in the name of sport last week, and this time it wasn't Michael Vick's fault.

Dusty and Grasshopper were their names, and they met their deaths in the Alaska wilderness as the wind howled, temperatures dropped to 45 degrees below, and their owner began worrying about his own survival.

They were sled dogs, part of a pack of 15 serving, mother Lee Parker, through his third Iditarod, and an $1,000 mile trek made even more grueling by high winds and deep snow. One other dog also perished in this year's race.

I listen to racing reporters and they'll tell you that, unlike Vick's dogs, the 5-year-old huskies died doing what they loved. Read the official Iditarod Web site and you'll find out that sled dogs are praised and loved by their masters.

They call it "The Last Great Race on Earth" and last Wednesday it was great for Lance Mackey, who had one sled dog who died on the way back to Nome to win his third straight Iditarod and the $60,000 plus new pickup that goes with it. Mackey celebrated by hugging two of his dogs and giving them treats.

Parker didn't win anything, didn't even finish. By the time searchers found him, the Alaskan doctor was no foot leading his dogs instead of the other way around as he struggled to reach the finish line.

Dusty and Grasshopper were already dead.

"I think those two guys probably froze to death in the high winds," Parker told the Anchorage Daily News. "I didn't think it possible."

The story Parker told the newspaper of his ordeal is just another that will be fodder. These are hardy people who brave the sometimes brutal outdoors because they've chosen it as their way of life.

They don't have a problem with churning up big piles of dogs, running them to within an inch of their life for sport. They accept the fact that the Iditarod is a part of the state's heritage, and its biggest sporting event.

As long as in the Lower 48, just don't get it.

As a dog owner, my first reaction on hearing that two more dogs died in this year's race was one of sadness. My second was wondering why PETAS wasn't up there making a few about it all.

The animal rights organization, after all, seems to launch a protest every time Vick's name is mentioned, and last month went so far as to send a member of the Dressing Up in KKK Outfits. They're still among those tested.

"We believe that this particular race compromises the health and welfare of the canine participants," Hodges said. "The race would violate animal cruelty laws against overworking or overdriving dogs in 36 states and the District of Columbia. Of course, Alaska has no such law!"

Alaska isn't about to get one, other. Short of an entire team of dogs dying, there's not much that will change the opinion of most Alaskans that the Iditarod is a good thing and that dogs are well-cared for.

Organizers have become savvy in recent years about how to deal with bleeding hearts when it comes to treatment of the dogs. They employ a team of veterinarians to keep the dogs healthy, give them checkups at key points in the race, and do autopsies for cause of death.

Two years ago, they suspended a top musher who was seen hitting and kicking his dogs after they refused to keep going on a stretch of ice. And just the other day, planes were called in to airlift dogs whose mushers had gotten stuck in the snow that starred Parker.

"Still, how many dog deaths are realistic? How many more must die before the fun is finally sucked out of the sport?"

Yes, the race is a tradition, one of the last great tests of endurance for dogs and their masters. There's something to be said for that, even if the dogs, unlike humans, have no choice about competing.

Unfortunately for Dusty and Grasshopper, this was one test they couldn't pass.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

The age question again haunts China

John Leicester

SportsBusiness Journal

PAMU — If you believe — and many don't — that Chinese officials have been truthful about the age of their top Olympic gymnasts, then the latest reports out of China might give you pause.

Authorities in the south of the country, using X-rays, have confirmed that 152 gymnasts were under the age of 18, one of whom is said to be 13 years old.

There's no indication that any of the female gymnasts who were gold for China at last year's Beijing Olympics were among those tested.

Nevertheless, the suggestion of widespread age-faking in China is not news for those who know。 Andes Gaubeibler, who is general secretary of the International Gymnastics Federation, has been fielding the predictable roundhouse of objections about whether China has competed with girls who were too old to compete.

"Very interesting," Gaubeibler said of this week's revelations from the southern province of Guangdong. "It certainly proves that our doubts as to the age of Chinese competitors have a certain — how do you say — have a certain reality."

Age-fraud is not unique to China.

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The physically likely have been passing themselves off as younger or older than they are since the Romans started conceiving armies. Major League Baseball is investigating 42 December as a Republican prospect was painted by lying about their age when they signed professional contracts. As far as China is concerned, it's not by the deans to win medals and make money. That's a really disturbing question with the Guangdong cases is why authorities there felt they needed X-rays to get to the truth.

What does that say about authorities' trust in their own documentation? Does that mean official ID cards, the new anti-fraud kind with an embedded computer chip that Guangdong athletes were told to present aren't always reliable? Maybe, because authorities also ordered athletes to submit to fingerprinting.

The same standards weren't applied with China's Olympic gymnasts. The International Gymnastics Federation had to take a face-saving position, too, but some say China's Olympic gymnasts.

Contact Lens Fittings
Rebates on AcuView, OASYS, O-Optix and Astigmatism Lenses
Treatment of Eye Infections
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China
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In fact, bone X-rays don’t provide a perfectly accurate measure of real age and, with adolescents, readings can be off by months or even years, which makes Guangdong’s decision to employ them doubly curious. One can only guess that officials there must have had genuine misgivings about athletes’ ages to go to such trouble and expense.

Xinhua left no doubt that age-changing is a real problem. "As many people in the sports world know, fakery is becoming increasingly intense and spreading greatly in youth competitions in our country," it said.

Shanghai Sports University professor Liu Qingzao says the problem is most prevalent in provincial-level competitions in China and he suggested that the Guangdong cases may just be the tip of the iceberg. "It's a good thing that they caught some of those athletes. But actually, they can catch even more," he said.

Perhaps gymnasts will be next. China’s girls at the Beijing Games were all cleared by their paperwork. But the gymnastics federation is still investigating two members of China’s 2008 squad — Dong Fangxiao and Yang Yun. Discrepancies in Dong’s paperwork have suggested that she might have been 14 at the Sydney Games, and Yang told Chinese state TV in 2007 that she was 14 at those Olympics.

Yang has subsequently said that she misspoke. Guenther doesn’t seem convinced. The probe could take several more months.

“We do have our doubts and we have good reasons to doubt,” he said.

John Leicester is a national sports columnist for the Associated Press.

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20-somethings find new disappointment with layoffs

Megan K. Scott

NEW YORK (AP) — Molly Stach thought she was doing everything right until she got laid off from her public relations job in December. Since then, the 26-year-old has been struggling with self-doubt.

"Why don't they want to hire me?" she asked of the companies not responding to the resumes she sends out each week. "I went through four years of college, graduated. You get praised while you are working and then all the sudden you are not employable."

For 20-somethings who are losing their first or second jobs because of the recession, the economic downturn has been an especially bitter pill. Many of them have been raised to believe they can do anything and be anything, and are finding their high expectations dashed.

"Many were raised to believe that the world was their oyster," said Alexandra Robbins, author of "Conquering Your Quarterlife Crisis." "And in this kind of economy, that's just not the case."

The national unemployment rate for people ages 20 to 24 was 12.9 percent in February up from 9 percent a year ago and higher than the overall unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics. For those ages 25 to 29, the rate — not seasonally adjusted — was 10.6 percent.

Getting laid-off is a humbling experience for Gen Yers, many of whom have never experienced real financial hardship or big disappointment, said Nancy Molitor, a clinical psychologist in Wilmette, Ill. She said many of her young adult patients feel depressed, devastated and uneasy about their future.

"A lot of these kids grew up thinking they were going to be able to have it all," she said. "They feel frozen just when they should feel excited and hopeful about the future."

While 20-somethings don't generally have the responsibilities of older workers, getting laid off is in other ways a harder blow be-
Employment
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cause they are still trying to figure out what to do with their lives and are "ardent about doing something meaningful for a living," Robbins said.

Craig Hengel, 27, of St. Cloud, Minn., was surprised to be let go from his job at a printing company.

"Losing my job is something I never thought about because I am educated, very hard working ... and have never had to deal with something like this," he said. "I don't really know what to do next and I'm not finding much answers."

In previous recessions, companies tended to let go of more senior workers because of their high salaries, said Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University. But he said younger workers are faring worse this time around as employers hold on to the workers who have knowledge, experience and better work habits.

A growing number of workers over age 60 have also been returning to the work force and capturing jobs that would have gone to young adults, he added.

Brianna D'Amico, 23, was the first to go at the high-end retail group where she landed a job in Washington, D.C. She had been there six months when the company restructured; everyone else had five or more years of experience.

"It really hurts to lose a job that you really like, that you were good at, that you were praised for being good at," said D'Amico, who is collecting unemployment. "For a while I felt so embarrassed I was laid off."

In some ways, growing up in a time of plenty has made it harder for 20-somethings to adjust because they have to learn new skills, such as budgeting, living frugally and staying out of debt, said Dr. Judith Orloff, author of "Emotional Freedom: Liberate Yourself From Negative Emotions and Transform Your Life."
Employment

By The Numbers

12.9%
percent of people ages 20 to 24 that were unemployed in February

9%
percent that unemployment rate has gone up over the previous year

8.1%
national overall unemployment rate in February

Still, the added may have a youthful outlook that there's plenty of time to fix things and get back on track.

Some are hitting up the bank of mom and dad, though mom and dad are experiencing their own financial struggles. Others are looking at the situation as an opportunity.

Hengel has taken an unpaid internship in music PR while he searches for another job. He is also moving closer to the Twin Cities, where there are more career opportunities. Darnell Hol-ldoway, 24, who was let go from an investment bank in San Francisco, is considering graduate school. He's already started studying for the GMAT.

Stach, of Wakefield, R.I., is using her free time to blog. And D'Amico, who has cut out shopping sprees, has rented four seasons of her favorite melodrama "The O.C." She also spends hours look-

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