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

By Katie Portillo
Daily Mustang

In just a "Blink," computer science senior David Meny landed the internship of his dreams.

A job that Meny thought was only a shot in the dark could be his big break into the movie industry.

Last summer, Meny worked behind computers and helped create special effects for the new action thriller, "Blink." He was hired as an animator by Metrolight, a computer graphics production company. The company also has worked on major motion pictures such as "Total Recall" and "Rookie of the Year."

Meny, 22, became interested in computer graphics and special effects during his younger years.

"I was in a game program in elementary school and junior high," he said. "We did beginning programming. At recess, there were games we could play on the computer and I got hooked on them."

During high school, Meny spent his spare time programming computer games. He released his first action adventure game, "Peter's Quest," into the public domain when he was 17 years old. He went on to produce two more.

"Video games are so popular right now," he said. "Companies are producing these games — have something in common: both contribute to the rising concern over graphic violence that is so pervasive in today's culture."

As video games become more technically advanced, there continues to be a controversy about their violent content.

Meny said while some games are portrayed in a cartoon-type manner, others are actually using real pictures of people as characters.

"They're well suited for young adults — I was in a game program in elementary school and junior high," he said. "We did beginning programming. At recess, there were games we could play on the computer and I got hooked on them."

During high school, Meny spent his spare time programming computer games. He released his first action adventure game, "Peter's Quest," into the public domain when he was 17 years old. He went on to produce two more.

"Video games are so popular right now," he said. "Companies are producing these games and they've become more popular — that's what people are spending their money on.

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SENATE: Ethnic studies autonomy decision sparks protest in Academic Senate

From page 1:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From page 1:

"What I did was just straight out of the administration," Irvin said after the meeting.

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

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

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

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

Wilson disagreed.

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

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

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

From page 1:

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

In court, a somber Gillooly spoke quietly and acknowledged the possibility of a grand jury charging him.

"What is your plea?" Bonder asked.

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

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In a later statement to reporters, Hoevet said Gillooly attended a Dec. 28 meeting with the three other men charged in the attack to discuss how to prevent Kerrigan from competing in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Detroit.

"After the meeting, while driving toward home, Tonya Harding won the national championship after Kerrigan was struck on the right leg, forcing her to withdraw. Both women were named to the Olympic team.

Harding said he asked Harding's bodyguard, Shawn Eckerd, to seed alleged hit man Shane Stant and alleged getaway driver Derrick Smith to Detroit to club Kerrigan on the knee.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 9

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

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

Electrical engineering senior Troy Sanabria and his roommates have two Super Nintendos and two Sega systems in their apartment. Sanabria said the violence makes the games more realistic.

"I don't think companies should be cen­sored," he said. "I like to see better ef­fects. I don't mind the violence."

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

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

While Meny's computer games are still on the market, he is glad his internship last summer gave him the confidence and experience to pursue a career in the movie industry.

"I was looking for an internship program because I knew I didn't have the skills to come in and start working on a job," he said. "I learned so much this sum­mer at Metroright — the film jargon and new techniques."

Meny said the majority of special ef­fects in movies is now being done on the computer.

"It's going toward computers because it looks better and the quality is better," he said. "It's still very labor-intensive, though. I'm happy because that's where I'm going."

Meny said there are about 30 shots in the movie "Blink" where Metroright uses computers to create images that enable the audience to see things through the main character's eyes.

The film, starring Aidan Quinn and Madelaine Stowe, is about a woman (Emma) who loses her eyesight at a young age then regains her vision after a cornea transplant. While becoming adjusted to her newly acquired eyesight, she wit­nesses a murder. Although Emma has dif­ficulty describing the killer, she works with an investigator to track him down.

"The first scene is when they take off the surgical tape around her eyes after the surgery," Meny explained. "You look through her eyes, you see really bright white, and then you see the doctor sitting in front of her — this was all done on computer."

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

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

But Meny believes that some violence can be used effectively.

"For example, Schindler's List ... is a violent movie in that many people are getting shot for no reason," he explained.

"But I think Spielberg is very effective in making you feel sympathy for these people."

Announcing information sessions for:

Resident Advisor '94-'95 recruitment

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

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Thursday, Feb. 17
7 p.m. Sierra Madre Hall • 9 p.m. Trinity Hall

Thursday, Feb. 24
7 p.m. Sierra Madre Hall

For more information, contact: Department of Residential Life and Education, 756-5601.

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Any questions (?), contact Chris Peterson 543-8959
Serious people keep podiatrists in business

Amy Miller
Serious people keep podiatrists in business

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

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

I had planned on breaking up the opinion page with a light column about eating on campus. I told all my friends about it. But alas, editors have their prerogative. I decided to do a job on me and tell me what I can and cannot write in my personal column.

Now I am forced to be insincere and pretend I'm some kind of intellectual. Being serious is not one of my favorite things to do. In their song, "First Aid," the industrial band Skinny Puppy said, "Taking the tender serious — creating a monster." And they're walking infinitely blind through rooms strewn with razor blades.

I find this to be quite true. I am so occupied with the need to be serious. I can't find close parking spaces — and want a shuttle service to move you to your class — is to get a little exercise. Walk.

I don't know why people can't just explain why spaces are being removed, but since they don't, I will.

In 1991, the Trip Reduction Plan was developed from legislation of the Clean Air Act. The goal of this plan was to reduce the number of automobiles in this country.

As of 1992, the average vehicle ridership (AVR) was 1.6. This means there is one car for every 1.6 students coming to school. In comparison, both UC Santa Barba and the University of Oregon have AVRs of 2.4.

I find Cal Poly students' driving habits atrocious, especially with a city bus service that is easily accessible, free to students and within reasonable transport times.

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

Don Buce
Director engineering service

There is no excuse for ignorance or insensitivity

Re: "Anti-Semitism: Literature, other threats on the rise," Mustang Daily 1-26

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

I have not personally experienced overt anti-Semitism at Cal Poly, although I am not entirely convinced that the university is immune from this crime. (A cynic might indeed find it curious, for example, that not one dean or vice president on this campus is Jewish.)

On the matter of insensitivity and ignorance, however, I can add the following observations.

Several years ago, when I was named department chairman, I was invited to participate at an affirmative action/ethnic diversity workshop during the Week of Alternatives.

The department heads were told it was of utmost importance to attend this. We must send the right signals to underrepresented groups. We must be sensitive to their needs.

And when was it scheduled? On Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. The message was all too clear. Sensitivity to certain minorities is necessary — sensitivity to the Jewish minority is irrelevant.

My younger sister could do better

Re: "Oh, the humanity — jock itch and PMS," Mustang Daily 1-26

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

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

Matthew White
Mathematics graduate student

Thank you for the support

On behalf of the Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mustang Daily staff for the unprecedented level of support for the ethnic studies minor.

Without your support and attention, bringing this important curricula to Cal Poly would have been a difficult task. By following the process closely, you ensured that the ethnic studies minor will have the widest possible, and best informed discussion.

Laura Forber
Chairman of the Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee

Being a woman isn't such a bad deal

Re: "Oh, the humanity — jock itch and PMS," Mustang Daily 1-26

Pamela, your article made me feel sad. I feel sorry for you if you only kind of guys you know are the kind that just "hang out at Bob's house and yell obscenities at the television set." I also feel sorry you have such a negative attitude about kids, families and being a mother.

I get the impression you considered it a burden upon all women. In this age, women have the choice to be mothers or mothers who want women. If I don't like the idea of being a mother then save yourself the agony.

Personally, I do not have a strong interest in that option. Being able to have children is a special aspect of being a human being but not much more.

I would also like to say many men have a sensitive option about abortion — an option the "liberated" women of the 60's have lost. The truth is that abortion is most damaging to women. Abortion puts us in the position of eliminating a human life. We run the risk of having our uterus damaged or becoming a victim of other medical side-effects that could leave us barren.

Abortion can also be an emotionally traumatic experience that can leave us bitter and heart-broken. All for what? All for the sake of "choice"?

Some men also have to put up with the meaning and carrying on about how we have so had. Life is what we have to do with it. But I know there is a true, the seriousness until it's needed, life will be that much more enjoyable.

Amy Miller is a journalism junior. Her column will appear every other Wednesday.

Students' driving habits are atrocious

This is in response to some past articles in Mustang Daily regarding transit and parking. I find it ridiculous that some "drivers" are tired of walking to class from outlaying areas. The farthest parking lot isn't more than a half mile to buildings across campus.

The first article in the Daily quoted a student who was blaming the reduction in parking spaces for her "loss of life").

There is an effective solution for this. It's called "leaving your house earlier." My sister can't find close parking spaces — and want a shuttle service to move you to your class — is to get a little exercise. Walk.

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Next time students want to complain about how far they have to walk to class, they should remember that San Luis Obispo is only about five miles across.
Most Californians fear becoming violent crime victims

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SOFTBALL
From page 8
She led the team with a .480 batting average and 12 stolen bases. She also batted in 20 runs.
Helping her in the batters box will be junior third baseman Kelly Beam. The speedster hit .327 and stole 11 bases.
Boyer and her squad are ready to begin their Division I switched schedule Saturday when they travel to San Bernardino State and Cal State Hayward.
"This team is much further along than last year's at this point," Boyer said.

SKIER
From page 8
Discovery Blind Sports at Kirkwood, agreed with Morsed.

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Sports

Poly Briefs

Wrestler wins prestigious tourney

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

Gaier, ranked second in the nation, won a 6-1 decision over the eighth-ranked Keith Taylor of Iowa in a rematch, but McIlravy dropped out of the tournament due to a neck injury. McIlravy banded Gaier his only loss of the season in the Las Vegas Tournament in December.

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

Regardless, Gaier won in the final six seconds of the match that was tied 1-1 before he anchored picked his opponent to the mat. With Gaier locked onto his ankle, Taylor fell with his back to the mat. Gaier quickly rolled on top of his opponent for a two-point takedown, two points near pin and the victory.

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

Gaier was the first Mustang to compete in the event since Scott Heaton took the mat in 1986.

The Mustangs are 7-5 in dual meets.

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

Poly's tennis team splits season openers in trip south

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

Tennis Head Coach Chris Eppright said the team showed few signs of first match jitters in the match against UC-San Diego. "Usually in the first match you get nerves and inexperience, but the guys came out loose and played really well," Eppright said.

He said freshman Rafael Huerta was exceptional. "He beat a real good player really badly," he said.

Huerta defeated Vern Varwel 6-0, 6-1 at the No. 2-spot.

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

Poly hosts all games against Cal State Northridge

The recent earthquake has forced Cal Poly to reschedule away events against Cal State Northridge several times.

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

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

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

Cal Poly's openers came a week later than expected when the Mustangs were forced to forfeit their matches against the University of Arizona and University of Northern Arizona. The team could not catch a flight out of Los Angeles due to inclement weather.

But the team will have to overcome personnel-power and last year's California Collegiate Athletic Association champs, Cal State Bakersfield, despite losing Julie Rene to eligibility.

Diggign their feet into the mound to fill the void left by Cal Poly's winnigest pitcher, will be three pitchers — each bringing their own style to the middle of the infield.

Senior Tricia Waayers, First Team All-CCAA last year, serves as one of the Mustangs hur-ters and will be the team's heat on the hill. She led last year's pitching staff with a 10-2 record and a 1.65 earned run average.

Junior Ruth Henry returns after striking out 76 batters in 87 2/3 innings last year. "She pitches great off speed," said Head Softball Coach Lisa Boyer. "She mixes it up and keeps batters off balance."

And like Henry, freshman Laura Richardson throws a pitch that dives down near the plate. Boyer said the Camarillo native also can make the ball move around well.

But when opposing batters do happen to connect, Boyer said the Mustang's defense in solid.

Senior secondbasewoman Christy Panchen, 1993 CCAA Player of the Year and an All-American, said the only pre-practice defense concern was three catchers splitting time at first base when not catching.

"Now they look like naturals (on first base)," Panchen said. Offensively, the Mustangs are hard-hitting with Panchen, the Cal Poly Poly's softball team figures to return to the NCAA playoffs with a balanced team after missing last year's postseason action. The layoff was the first in six years for Cal Poly.

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"Now they look like naturals (on first base)," Panchen said. Offensively, the Mustangs are hard-hitting with Panchen. See SOFTBALL, page 7

Team's balance leans towards CCAA title

The Cal Poly women's softball team figures to return to the NCAA playoffs with a balanced team after missing last year's postseason action. The layoff was the first in six years for Cal Poly.

But the team will have to overcome personnel-power and last year's California Collegiate Athletic Association champs, Cal State Bakersfield, despite losing Julie Rene to eligibility. Diggign their feet into the mound to fill the void left by Cal Poly's winnigest pitcher, will be three pitchers — each bringing their own style to the middle of the infield.

Senior Tricia Waayers, First Team All-CCAA last year, serves as one of the Mustangs hur-ters and will be the team's heat on the hill. She led last year's pitching staff with a 10-2 record and a 1.65 earned run average.

Junior Ruth Henry returns after striking out 76 batters in 87 2/3 innings last year. "She pitches great off speed," said Head Softball Coach Lisa Boyer. "She mixes it up and keeps batters off balance."

And like Henry, freshman Laura Richardson throws a pitch that dives down near the plate. Boyer said the Camarillo native also can make the ball move around well.

But when opposing batters do happen to connect, Boyer said the Mustang's defense in solid.

Senior secondbasewoman Christy Panchen, 1993 CCAA Player of the Year and an All-American, said the only pre-practice defense concern was three catchers splitting time at first base when not catching.

"Now they look like naturals (on first base)," Panchen said. Offensively, the Mustangs are hard-hitting with Panchen. See SOFTBALL, page 7

Michelle Godwin, 18, and her seeing-eye dog

Blind Skier,

Takes uphill challenge at downhill speed

By Pamela Slaughter

By Brad Homilfon

By Tom Hamilton

Zipping down the slope of a mountain at a competitive level on two four-inch-wide slivers of fiberglass takes skill and practice. Most people would say it's impossible. But Michelle Godwin, 18, is not one of those people. Godwin has been blind since she was 4 1/2 years old and has been skiing for five years.

"I heard about skiing when I was nine, and it sounded as fun and fun," Godwin said. "I finally got the chance (to try it) when I was 13."

Godwin, and others with impaired vision, ski behind guides, who offer voice commands. The physically challenged skiers also follow the sound made by their guides' skis — usually cruising 10 feet in front of them.

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

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

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

Godwin credits her skiing ability to Donald Morsed, a ski guide for the blind at Kirkwood Ski Resort.

"She is an extraordinary person because of what she gives out to others," Morsed said. "Michelle gave me something I can pass on to others," he added. "She is the one I credit with helping me become a better guide to blind people."

Mike Pesavento, coordinator

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