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Cal Poly is one of more than 1,600 locations hosting "Focus the Nation" events across the United States. One of the most active college campuses.

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David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Sen. John McCain won a breakthrough triumph in the Florida primary Tuesday night, seizing the upper hand in the Republican presidential race ahead of next week's coast-to-coast contests and lining up a quick endorsement from soon-to-be dropout Rudy Giuliani.

"It shows one thing: I'm the conservative leader who can unite the party," McCain told The Associated Press after eating past former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for his first-ever triumph in a primary open only to Republicans.

"We have a ways to go, but we're getting close" to the nomination, he vowed, saying he would abide by the Republican Party's rules and agree to seat the delegates on the basis of the night's vote, but he decried the party's decision to increase troop deployments to Iraq.

"Those decisions will be made after the nomination, not before," Obama told reporters Tuesday on a plane from Washington to Kansas.

"Obviously, I care a lot about the people in Michigan and a lot about the people in Florida. And I want their votes in the general election," he added. "We'll be actively campaigning for them.

"This is a good location so people will stop by to find out more about political affairs," business junior Davey Young said.

"I felt that they were not informed about the issues of the different candidates and were hoping to learn more," he said.

"It's less money means less faculty, which means fewer classes available to students," said Richard Sauer, president of the Cal Poly chapter of CTA. "We're already overcrowded this year. With fewer resources, the departments won't be able to meet the needs of the students. It's not good."

"It's not the solution to our state's money problems."
"What celebrity news are you most tired of hearing about?"

Compiled and photographed by Britney Clyde

"Britney Spears and her baby-making sister."
— Jeremy Cleveland, business sophomore

"Britney Spears because it's overplayed, overdone, and they need to leave that poor girl alone so she can get her act together."
— Kelly Dziuba, biology junior

"It would probably have to be Britney Spears."
— Kate Cappe, animal science junior

"My frat brothers and I are tired of hearing about Oprah Winfrey."
— David Haas, crop science sophomore

**State**

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A Michigan woman accused of soliciting for a hit man on the popular online bulletin board Craigslist will be returned to California to face charges.

Ann Marie Linscott, 49, of Rockford, Mich., will be extradited to Sacramento next week to face federal charges that she tried to get someone to kill the 56-year-old wife of her Orville boyfriend.

FBI agents say Linscott posted a generic Craigslist advertisement for "freelance," and offered respondents $5,000 to be "silent assassins."

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A state assemblyman was unable to overcome auto industry opposition and has pulled a proposal that would have charged car buyers a fee for purchasing high-polluting vehicles.

Redwood City Democrat Ira Ruskin withdrew his bill Tuesday because he did not have the votes to pass it. He would have imposed a $2,500 surcharge on vehicles that spew the highest levels of greenhouse gases.

Ruskin and environmental groups had tried for more than a year to create a program giving incentives to Californians who buy cleaner cars, sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks.

**National**

NEW YORK (AP) — An all-chocolate room was unveiled in Manhattan Tuesday — a pre-Valentine's Day creation complete with furniture and artwork made of the sweet stuff.

"It's the perfect bit of sin," said Ali Larter, star of TV's "Heroes," of the Godiva chocolate "pearls" that are her private daily indulgence.

Here, they were dripping off the chandeliers above the dining table, which was a sea of stars, truffles and crescents — all chocolate, of course, under glass.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The number of chinook salmon returning to California's Central Valley has reached a near-record low, pointing to an "unprecedented collapse" that could lead to severe restrictions on West Coast salmon fishing this year, according to federal fisheries regulators.

The sharp drop in chinook, or "king," salmon returning from the Pacific Ocean to spawn in the Sacramento River and its tributaries this past fall is part of broader decline in wild salmon runs in rivers across the West.

The population dropped more than 88 percent from its all-time high five years ago, according to an internal memo sent to members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and obtained by The Associated Press.

"Most Cal Poly students drink under four drinks in one sitting."

 message brought to you by Cal Poly Students based on a survey of Cal Poly students.
Celebrity News

Getting help

Barbra Streisand says she has been contacted by Terri Irwin's manager and "very good friend," Sam Lufti, who says the pop singer has seen a psychiatrist.

Lufti told the 26-year-old pop singer "is suffering from what he describes as mental issues which are insurmountable," Walters said Monday on ABC's "The View."

"He said that she has been to a psychiatrist and that she, I assume, is getting some kind of treatment," said Walters, a co-host on the ABC daytime talk show.

Autopsy still unhelpful

Los Angeles County authorities say an autopsy on Christian Brando did not immediately determine what killed the eldest son of the late actor Marlon Brando.

Coroner's Official Ed Winter said the cause of death was listed Tuesday as deferred pending results of toxicology tests that may determine whether Brando had prescription or other drugs in his system and whether a medical condition was involved.

Results should be available in six to eight weeks.

Christian Brando died Saturday at a Los Angeles hospital. An attorney representing Marlon Brando's estate said the 49-year-old died from pneumonia.

First of its kind

Tom Cruise is the first on the list to get Ducati's new-camshaft motorcycle — a $72,500 superbike bristling with titanium, magnesium and carbon fiber technology that can scoot up to 200 mph.

Cruise is scheduled to take delivery of the Desmosedici RR at Beverly Hills Ducati this week. Only 1,500 of the red-and-white Moto GP racing replicas motorcycles will be made and Cruise gets the first.

Michael Lock, chief of Cupertino-based Ducati North America, said the Desmosedici RR is "the impossible dream — made possible."

"We are delighted to be able to deliver the world's first production unit here in the USA to Tom Cruise, who is a well-known Ducati enthusiast," Lock said in a statement.

Movie star in rehab

Sean Young has entered rehabilitation for alcohol abuse following a weekend outburst in which she was heckling from the audience at the Directors Guild of America awards.

The 48-year-old actress was escorted from the ballroom at the Hyatt Regency in Century City Saturday night after sparring with Julian Schnabel, who was nominated for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly."

"Actress Sean Young voluntarily admitted herself yesterday to a rehabilitation center for treatment related to alcoholism," a statement from Insignia PR says Tuesday.

Country baby

Maggie of the Dixie Chicks and her husband, Garrett, are expecting a third daughter.

Maguire, 38, announced her pregnancy on her group's Web site Monday.

She wrote that her 3-year-old twin daughters, Eva and Katie, "are very excited to have a new baby sister."

"Three girls, what a magic number!" Maguire said. She said the baby is due in late summer.

Iconic band back

Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page said Monday he was ready to take the iconic band back on world tour after burning up the stage at last month's reunion concert in London. But it probably won't be before September.

"The amount of work we put into 02 was what you would normally put into a world tour anyway," Page, 64, said of the intense rehearsing the band did for the Dec. 10 concert in London's O2 Arena.

The band's three surviving members — Page, singer Robert Plant and bassist-keyboardist John Paul Jones — were joined at the sold-out benefit show by the late John Bonham's son Jason on drums.

Relief may be on the way for all those youngsters trembling at the thought of another needle jab.

One day the flu vaccine may simply be placed under the tongue.

Korean researchers say the new vaccine worked in mice, avoiding not only the painful prick but also the discomfort some people feel from the injected vaccine.

"The team led by Dr. Mi-Na Kwun of the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul reported their findings in Monday's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Better ways of delivering vaccine have long been under study, ranging from orally to inhaled, but all seem to have drawbacks."

Now, Kwun and colleagues say, two doses of influenza vaccine under the tongue of mice primed the animals' immune system to fight off what would otherwise have been a deadly dose of flu.

"Next, they are turning their attention to people, to see if the under-the-tongue vaccine also prompts a strong immune response."

"Pleasing a couple of drops of liquid under the tongue may simply be a matter that "many people are averse to people messes with their nose... so they have a chance to swallow," Lock said.

"So for researchers looking for another means of doing this, "just a drop under the tongue gives you a way to protect mice... that's a very exciting and promising line of investigation," Lock said, adding that he was not part of the research team.

International Briefs

GUANGZHOU, China (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers desperate to get home for the Chinese New Year shivered in the cold under a sea of umbrellas outside train stations Tuesday, as the worst winter storms in half a century paralyzed China.

One of the world's biggest annual mass movements of humanity — a record 178.6 million people, more than the population of Brazil — were expected to travel by train for the holiday, according to railway officials estimates.

Most of those stranded at train stations were migrant workers trying to leave the booming southern Guangdong province — often called the world's factory floor — because it makes everything from Honda sedans to Apple iPods and Nike sneakers.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — It was luncheon time in one of Haiti's worst slums and the Rev. Lawrence Dumas was eating mud.

With food prices rising, Haiti's poorest can't afford even a daily plate of rice, and some take desperate measures to fulfill their daily demands.

Charlene, 16 with a 1-month-old son, has come to rely on a traditional Haitian medicine for hunger pangs: cookies made of dried yellow dirt from the country's central plateau.

The mud has been long prized by pregnant women and children here as an antacid and source of calcium.
Spoiler warning: The following contains important plot details.

"What would you do if you only had one more day?" read the front cover of "The Amazing Spider-Man" No. 544, the first of a four-part storyline that revamped the superhero's life.

To answer the question, if fans value the character of Peter Parker, reading that very storyline would not be included on their list of things to do.

The crossover, which concluded in December and is still settling into the acceptance of nerds everywhere with the ease of an Atari being crammed into a pocket protector, was the final arc of writer J. Michael Straczynski's seven-year tenure penning the series to pleasantly refreshing plateaus of newfound sophistication.

But "One More Day" unraveled much of that work. Even Straczynski himself, apparently at a loss with what was primarily Marvel editor-in-chief Joe Quesada's vision, said there was a "lot" he didn't like and at one point wanted his name removed from the final two issues he was associated with.

The first half of "One More Day," made up of "The Amazing Spider-Man" No. 544 and "Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man" No. 24, are relatively harmless, seeming to calmly wind down the fallout from Marvel's "Civil War," which led to Spider-Man revealing his identity to the public, resulting in Aunt May taking a bullet that was meant for him.

It's in part three, "The Sensational Spider-Man (Vol. 2)" No. 41, that the Spider-Man, or more importantly — the Peter Parker — we all knew and loved begins to be butchered. It starts innocently and interestingly enough, though, pulling the curtain on a cast of mysterious characters Peter briefly comes across. At the beginning, he talks with a young girl we were introduced to on the final page of part two. The perplexing, red-headed child, whose mischievous smirk and piercing emerald eyes evoke images of a possessed Regan MacNeil, eventually stops in her tracks and snaps at Peter, "And what if I never grow up? You know what your problem is? You're selfish! ...You're selfish and you're self-involved and you always put...

Of course, readers weren't the only ones dismayed at the implications of the tragedy. Even Straczynski himself, apparently at a loss with what was primarily Marvel editor-in-chief Joe Quesada's vision, said there was a "lot" he didn't like and at one point wanted his name removed from the final two issues he was associated with.

Marvel took beloved Peter Parker down a dark, horribly written path in the latest installment of "The Amazing Spider-Man" (No. 544).
‘Kitsuné Maison 5’: pretentious dance-pop (that will make you want to wiggle and jiggle like Jell-O)

OK, guys, so I might be a bit of a fan of Kitsuné Records, and if that makes me one of those douchey, indie-dance-pop sleazeheads, I don’t even care. I don’t even care. Because I just listened to their new compilation, “Kitsuné Maison 5,” and it’s actually probably the fanciest one they’ve done so far! It is in the spirit of this fanciness that I write this mildly review.

Kitsuné’s newest seasonal compilation features a hodgepodge of artists on the spectrum from marginally obscure to probably-already-radiant-newly-existent-yet (also known as Bands That Are Well-Known To Hipsters). However, I assure you, the strangest public that every track on this album is sold like a bomb. A cloud that’s been thrown.

The label collects these tracks, which are an assortment of new songs and previously unreleased recreations of songs that are megahit-y-see-for-yourself type of music. They have been created by the boss who asked the question, “Does It Offend You, Yeah?” (That’s also their band name.) Not only do they have some really talented keyboardists in there, but they also have one guy who lives (I Die From Above 1999?) and some fuzzy drums, too. Soulful and the artists on top of dimensionally, as the von oh gers, “Let’s make out! ” “Let’s make out! ” “Let’s make out! ” “Let’s make out! “Let’s make out! ” “Let’s make out! “Let’s make out! ” “Let’s make out! ”

Kitsuné’s 5 deals with the Victorian Black, a mini compilation that is divided into approximately 140 other people. Victors. They do it by pitching an epic song with catchy hooks, delectable breakdowns, and hooks that will grab you right away.

But, ultimately, something would happen there. It’s no surprise that there’s nothing-sounding music that happens. I mean, you could throw any kind of everything that happens. It’s a mini compilation, right? What if, after you throw all the strings and instruments, making, the boxcar want to cry or make sense? Probably both, at the same time, a sort of strangulated sound. Which sounds outside of the album quite nicely, I think.

’Anthem’ by Blek is a graphic description written and self-proclaimed Director of Bombing and Hugging at KCRW. San Luis Obispo, 9:33 AM.

She’s also completely full of it.
your pain at the center of the universe.

She then vanishes out of sight and Peter gives chase before suddenly encountering a bespectacled, heavy-set, slightly depressed-looking middle-aged man.

The man, who says he "fell into" a tailing existence as a software designer after high school, implies that he's unfulfilled for the power he has that someone like himself could only dream of obtaining.

Another lecturer reveals himself as a successful businessman and polyamorous inventor who believes losing his love of his life, for which he never found a personal match, is a great loss.

Fed up with the riddle, Peter demands of whoever is behind the character to reveal his or her true self.

True to form, Mephisto, a lord of hell, present himself to Peter in a masterful couple of pages, drawn by Quesada and colored by Richard Horoń, whose demonic, glowing red hue is completed by pure, pervasive blackness palpably capture the essence of evil.

On cue, the visuals alone do not make the story worthwhile.

The netherworld ruler alludes to making Peter a deal that would save the life of his aunt, but Peter replies that he could not rescue each character on his own. On cue, Mephisto transports them beside Mary Jane Parker, Peter's wife.

In one of the most devilish faces ever appearing in a mainstream superhero comic, Mephisto, with scaring, yellow eyes, tells them that, in exchange for May's life, he wants their love and marriage.

As we find out in the story's conclusion, "The Amazing Spider-Man" No. 545, he wanted to dissolve their marriage to deny God a love like theirs. They belong in the past, done for.

Peter Parker may have had more inherent appeal when he was young and single, because so many Spider-Man fans are themselves, but in trying to recapitulate the essence of that alien, Marvel has fallen into the trap that the character himself.

Following Peter to be go of his aunt and the scornful grief he has carried, an opportunity for tremendous growth on Peter's part was squandered.

Moreover, aside from any waste of would-be character development and a rightful send-off for Stacy, Quesada, and company also simply made an egregiously nonsensical, offensive decision in having Peter choose his aunt over his wife, with whom he had so many years left in a love and a marriage most of us could only aspire to have. Peter's decision is simply not believable.

Whether the new, retconned, "back-to-basics" approach was devised of true conviction concerning the character, or merely an attempt to make him more conducive to the financial success enjoyed by the movies is ultimately irrelevant.

In hating and trading the ongoing life of the character for the most recognizable, marketable, patented punchline of the now-transformed character — denying the aged, tried-and-tested Peter his actual future — they denied his fans the privilege to find out what truly forever happens to him next.

And that, after all, is what a good comic book should be for.

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Mission Accomplished Part II: The Surge

Republics have been crowing recently about the "progress" we've been making in Iraq as a result of the surge. At his final State of the Union Address (thank God), the president said that the policy has "achieved results few of us could have imagined" and that people like John McCain said that Iraq has been "utterly transformed" because of the surge. Now, I have heard a lot of lies and disingenuous drivel about Iraq from Republicans over the last several years (WMID, Mission Accomplished, etc.), but this surge-making-"progress" argument is reaching a startlingly new level of bullshit.

I am sure Republicans will now claim that anti-war people like me are living in a state of denial, especially since numbers show a reduction in violence and casualties in Baghdad. According to the military, violent deaths in Iraq are down approximately 50 percent, to 800 deaths per month, from a few months ago, when Iraq was averaging 1,600 deaths.

However, these violent death counts underrepresent the true number of casualties caused by violence in Iraq, because they don't include the deaths resulting from Iraq's crumbling infrastructure, which has deteriorated from the fighting.

Even with the surge-making-"progress," more than 60 percent of Iraqis still lack access to adequate water supplies, while hundreds of thousands are suffering from malnutrition. However, not only are Iraqis dying from a lack of food and water as a result of all the violence, but Iraqis are also dying from shortages of medicines, poor sanitation, and disease outbreaks from poor sanitation. None of these Iraqis are included in the violence casualty counts, even though violence is what continues to degrade their quality of life. As far as I am concerned, this political gridlock is the death drop-off in violence.

This view of Sadr's influence is even more shared by General David Petraeus, who told the Christian Science Monitor that because of the ceasefire, "the Surge" has been "a noticable impact on some of Baghdad's most violent areas."

As if the fact that a radical Shiite cleric like Sadr has as much power in Iraq as our military wasn't bad enough, there is also the disturbing trend of whom the U.S. is arming to help re-deuce the violence in Iraq.

According to the New York Times, for the past several months, the U.S. has been arming and supporting Sunni militia groups to fight extremist Sunnis in Iraq (such as al-Qa'ida). The problem with these Sunni militia groups, collectively known as the Awakening, is that many of them are comprised of the same insurgents who fought against Americans in the past, and are now very little keeping them from switching their allegiance again. This fragile situation can be summed up by First Sgt. Richard Mier of the Army's Third Infantry Division when he states, "We're paying them not to blow us up. It looks good right now, but what happens when the money stops?"

Furthermore, despite their opposition to al-Qa'ida, the New York Times reports that most Awakening members feel even more alienated from Iraq's Shiite central government led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who has openly stated that he plans to force-fully disarm the Sunni militias once they finish eliminating al-Qaida from Iraq.

The ongoing religious hostility between Sunni militias and the Shiite central government in Iraq is also contributing to Iraq's political divisun. So far, Iraq's government has yet to pass major laws that would redistribute oil revenue throughout the country, return low-level Bush's to power, or even hold elections for local positions.

As far as I am concerned, this political gridlock is the death toll for any talk of "progress." The surge has brought to Iraq, because, according to the Bush administration, the whole point of the surge was to give the Iraqi government time and "breathing space" to reach political reconciliation. Consequently, without any uniform Iraqi government policy in place, any hopes of a stable Iraq disappear as they will continue to argue and fight. This sentiment is shared by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who recently said that "tactical security gains may not endure without economic rebuilding and better governance."

Ultimately, to boisterous-ly claim that the surge has worked is once again pre-mature and false. Sadly, by any measures or metrics, there are very few signs of "progress" in Iraq. By digging even a bit below the surface, we can see that the hypocriti-cal tactics the U.S. employed (arming our former enemies) while relying on the whims of radical Shi­ite clerics and tolerat­ing the political grid­lock, weakens Iraq only further.

Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily lib­eral columnist.
Ah, equality... doesn't the word make you feel all fuzzy inside? Equality is one of those things we know to be inherently right, something we should stand up for. Equality is typically equated with civil rights and parades and movements, things typically associated with liberals. However, since I joined the Republican Party, I've met more people that are willing to stand up for equality than I ever did while a registered Democrat (Shadaddy*).

Equality in this country would mean that all our citizens would be treated equally. However, sometimes equality and diversity are mixed up. As of 2005, Cal Poly was about 65 percent white. This is a problem to those who would like a wider mixture of cultures. Diversity is about people's minds and backgrounds, not just their ethnicities. People seem to strive so much for physical diversity that they forget that equality's more important.

A liberal's answer to a lack of diversity on campus is affirmative action. That's where somebody with a lower grade point average and fewer extracurricular activities gets preferential treatment because they can't be described as Caucasian. This kind of policy was ruled illegal by the Supreme Court in 2003 against the University of Michigan, which had used an admissions point system that granted extra points to minorities.

The legal alternatives are programs that increase equal opportunity. Since the 1980s, Cal Poly has had community outreach programs in which students go to low-income schools and talk to kids about college. These programs are great; they open kids' eyes to all of their potentials and opportunities. However, when we still end up with a mostly white campus, liberal students get up in arms. Liberals mostly white campus, liberal students get up in arms.

Shh! Liberals don't want equality

Diversity is about people's minds and backgrounds, not just their ethnicities.

Ah, equality... doesn't the word make you feel all fuzzy inside? Equality is one of those things we know to be inherently right, something we should stand up for. Equality is typically equated with civil rights and parades and movements, things typically associated with liberals. However, since I joined the Republican Party, I've met more people that are willing to stand up for equality than I ever did while a registered Democrat (Shadaddy*).

Equality in this country would mean that all our citizens would be treated equally. However, sometimes equality and diversity are mixed up. As of 2005, Cal Poly was about 65 percent white. This is a problem to those who would like a wider mixture of cultures. Diversity is about people's minds and backgrounds, not just their ethnicities. People seem to strive so much for physical diversity that they forget that equality's more important.

A liberal's answer to a lack of diversity on campus is affirmative action. That's where somebody with a lower grade point average and fewer extracurricular activities gets preferential treatment because they can't be described as Caucasian. This kind of policy was ruled illegal by the Supreme Court in 2003 against the University of Michigan, which had used an admissions point system that granted extra points to minorities.

The legal alternatives are programs that increase equal opportunity. Since the 1980s, Cal Poly has had community outreach programs in which students go to low-income schools and talk to kids about college. These programs are great; they open kids' eyes to all of their potentials and opportunities. However, when we still end up with a mostly white campus, liberal students get up in arms. Liberals mostly white campus, liberal students get up in arms.

Shh! Liberals don't want equality

Diversity is about people's minds and backgrounds, not just their ethnicities.
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 1219

Across
1  "Eat Care" (1930s musical)   17 20 52 60   64 D.D.E.'s purview
2 Hymn type
3 Familiar sitcom figure
4 Guy ready to sing the national anthem?
5 Era ended by Vesuvius?
6 H'wood type
7 Football lineman
8 Mid first-century B.C. historian
9 Years and years and years
10 "Dang!"
11 Title brother in a 1973 Elton John hit
12 Mr. Gorgeous
13 Little canine
14 Mgr.'s helper
15 Project detail, for short
16 März
17 Former Texas governor Richards
18 Gym class exercises
19 Embassy figure
20 Meditation goal
21 Making the most of a "Super Bowl Party" at the last minute
22 "Just have to try them on again and see how they fit. They can wait!"
23 "If all else fails"
24 "Em's buddy"
25 "They need to be knowing: I'm stuck as a mummy after the party."
26 "Am I even pretty?"
27 "What shall we do now?"
28 "Dad!"
29 J.F.K. guess
30 "Are video games your life?"
31 "Less than wonderful"
32 Baseball's Little Giant
33 "...a go!"
34 "Have something to say?"
35 "Sorry, you're not on the list."
36 What shall be - or words that can precede 12, 23, 52 and 60
37 "Dad!"
38 "IF all else fails"
39 "We're here for Harris'
40 "We're here for Harris' Bradley and Marshall"
41 "If all else..."
42 "Dad!"
43 "Sorry, you're not on the list."
44 "We're here for Harris' Bradley and Marshall"
45 "If all else fails"
46 "Dad!"
47 "IF all else fails"
48 "Dad!"
49 "Sorry, you're not on the list."
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Down
1 V.I.P.'s ride
2 Pizzazz
3 Unable to hit a pitch?
4 Tangle up
5 Girl's buddy
6 Sleep out
7 Football lineman
8 Mid-first-century B.C. historian
9 Years and years and years
10 "Dang!"
11 Title brother in a 1973 Elton John hit
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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com

Are video games your life?
McGrady never should have led the guards because they give the West the best shot at winning. In return, if the Denver Nuggets make it to the Finals, Carmelo Anthony, Iverson and their fans will be rewarded with homecourt advantage.
The starter selection could even become a chess game of sorts in which fans of Eastern Conference teams might make player selections such as Chauncey Billups, a veteran Finals MVP, and Richard Hamilton, who both are much better outside shooters than All-Star runners-up Jason Kidd and Dwyane Wade. Similarly, in the West, fans might actually try to outvote China and pick Marcus Camby instead of Yao Ming, which would boost team defense.

The possibilities are endless, and one thing is for sure — the "fan's game" could become the first All-Star Game that is actually special to count on voters for defense because players actually will be playing to win. We will no longer have to watch careless turnover after turnover on missed alley-oops.

This change could also solve the issue of power shifts between conferences. If the Boston Celtics reach the Finals with the best record, they won't necessarily be homecourt advantage due to their easier schedule in the weaker Eastern Conference. With an incentive in the All-Star Game, who wouldn't want to see the best players on each side duke it out for 48 minutes for such high stakes?

Fans of playoff teams would be forced to vote for the players that give their conference the best shot at winning. It would be incredible to see Denver Nuggets fans vote for Steve Nash and Dirk Nowitzki because they give the West the best shot at winning.

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fighter Chuck Liddell for a UFC fight, which
the coaches who has greatly impacted Men­
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when his dad started to teach him the sport.
Mendes said he was a hyperactive child, and
Mendes chose to compete at Cal Poly. One o f
Mendes has won a few state titles and he knew that
wrestling would always be a part of his life.
"Wrestling is a feeling you can't describe
unless you've done it, being able to dominate
and not only use your physical strengths but
mental as well. It's man vs. man," Mendes says.
Mendes started wrestling at the age of 5,
when his dad started to teach him the sport.
Mendes said he was a hyperactive child, and
wrestling was a way to curb his energy and put
it toward good use.
"My dad was a wrestler, and he thought that
Heaton and Rick Worel topped the polls for
the Top 100 wrestlers in the nation, according to the
ing the nation in his weight
class (141 pounds) and boasts a 19-0 record this season.
"I have a huge family, eight siblings and lots
of aunts and uncles. They are all really support­
ive and are behind me with what I'm doing," Men­
des said. "I love my family, and they keep me ready
for competition."
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