

# Animators win for 'Lucky Day'

Award marks second consecutive year team gets top honors

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Staff Writer

A team of Chico State University students have made making cartoons into their lucky day.

The computer-animated cartoon "My Lucky Day" won Best of Show last month at the Seventh Annual Media Arts Festival, sponsored by the California State University Summer Arts Program.

This is the second consecutive year Chico State has taken top honors for both animation and Best of Show at this event.

"My Lucky Day" is a three-and-a-half minute piece submitted by editor Derek Krauss.

It tells the story of a man writing a letter to his insurance company explaining the multitude of accidents that occurred during the construction of a radio antenna tower.

Although the award was given to Krauss, as many as 25 students from two classes, Computer Science 240 and Music 206, worked on the project, which took three semesters to complete.

Krauss put many post-production hours, working in the basement of the library even into the beginning of the summer to have the piece ready for

the arts festival. Along with winning both in animation and Best of Show, Krauss was awarded with a \$1,000 prize, which he donated to the music department.

He said the music department put a lot of effort into the production and did not receive proper recognition for last year's winning piece, "Hoop Dreams."

"I just wanted to participate in the piece for the experience, not the money," Krauss said.

Although Krauss did not attend the arts festival in July, Rick Vertolli, the faculty advisor for the production did and accepted the award for Chico State.

Vertolli said Chico State did very well competing with the 22 other CSU campuses.

San Francisco State University and Cal State Long Beach dominated the festival in years past.

Both schools have established film studies departments, he said.

Vertolli, who was a semi-finalist judge of the event for the campuses in Southern California, said the competition was stiff because the quality of all entries was excellent.

"It was quite an accomplishment to see Chico State perform so well in all of the festival categories."

CSU faculty judged the semi-finalists in six categories including documentary, music video, animation, public affairs, experimental and narrative.

The CSU Summer Media

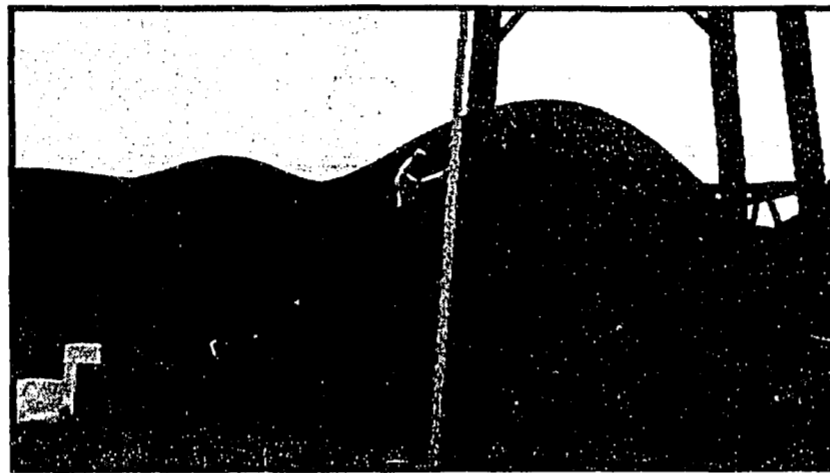
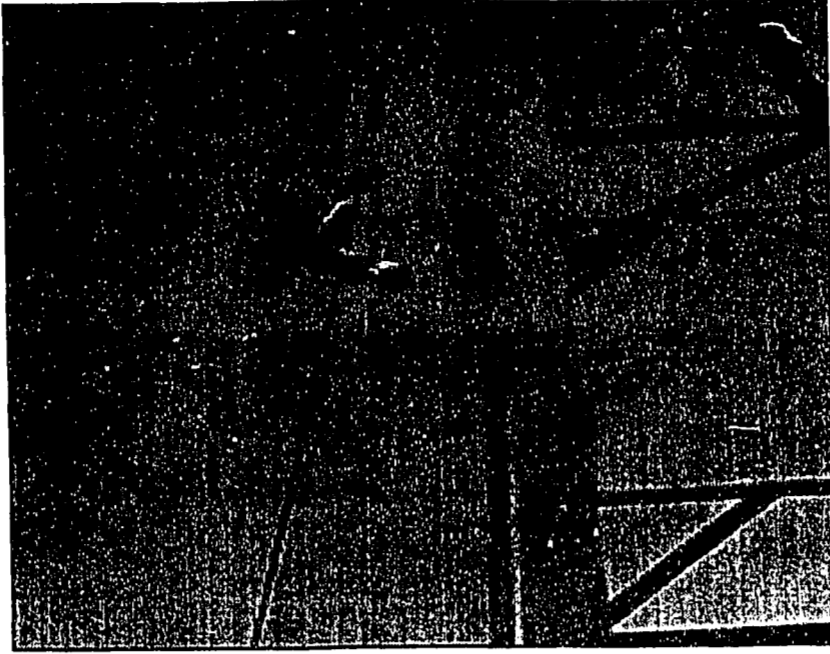


Photo courtesy Media Arts Lab

"My Lucky Day" is a three-and-a-half minute piece submitted by editor Derek Krauss. Along with winning both in animation and Best of Show, Krauss was awarded with a \$1,000 prize, which he donated to the music department. An Entertainment Tonight editor offered Krauss a job after his piece had won the top prize.

Arts Festival was founded by film director Francis Ford Coppola.

Professionals who work in the film and TV industry judged the final round of the festival. Chico State had five finalists this year.

"Having five finalists from Chico State out of 22 CSU campuses is very honorable," Vertolli said.

Winning the award got Krauss more than praise last month.

One of the final judges, who works as an editor on the show Entertainment Tonight, offered a similar job to Krauss after his piece had won the top prize.

Krauss said he is unsure of his plans after graduation in May, but that he would keep that offer closely in mind.

## Chico State Shorts

### The Orion again wins top awards at CNPA contest

Chico State University's award-winning newspaper received the first-place award for general excellence at the California Newspaper Publishers Association's Better Newspapers Contest in July.

It marked the third straight year that The Orion, which has dozens of regional, state and national honors in recent years, earned the top plaque in CNPA's University Division. The Stanford Daily was runner-up.

The purpose of the association's annual contest is to recognize superior achievement and to stimulate the improvement of newspapers in California.

The Orion's contest submission was three consecutive issues from March, 1996. At that time, Todd Bishop was managing editor, Katie Fiscus was art director, Andy Pederson was business manager and Colleen Cotter was faculty advisor.

### Off-campus student e-mail no longer unlimited

The campus-provided free modem service will no longer provide unlimited dial-in access for off-campus students.

Standard campus-unix or ect-unix accounts — including normal e-mail accounts — will be allotted 25 hours per month of free dial-in modem usage. Once the time is used up, the student will not be allowed to dial-in using the free modems until the beginning of the next month.

This will not affect e-mail users who are on campus, such as those using computer labs, the BMU or the library.

Usage time is being cut to more equitably distribute scarce modem resources. For those requiring unlimited hours of usage, Communications Network Services offers a Premium Modem Service for \$15 per month. Call 898-6868 for details.

### Biotech company comes to Chico

A start-up biotech company developing treatments for autoimmune diseases will be relocating to Chico and conducting research on the Chico State University campus.

Atlantic BioPharmaceuticals, Inc., seeks to produce medically useful chemical products through genetic engineering, targeting rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis and breast and prostate cancers.

In the first two years, the company will be doing basic research in facilities in Holt Hall. After that, ABI will be moving to a permanent site off campus.

Dr. Robert Murgita, ABI's chief scientific officer, said he expects to develop new and novel pharmaceuticals for production at its planned Chico facilities and to continue research in conjunction with faculty and students.

### Campus tour program looking for guides

Students looking for an opportunity to build self-confidence while talking to groups or in developing tour-guiding skills have a new program to consider.

The Campus Tour Guide Program gives students a chance to earn two units of credit while giving visitors a general overview of the physical features of the Chico State University campus and a realistic view of collegiate life.

For more information, call Rocky Raquel at 898-6886 or Jon Hooper at 898-5811.

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