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OPINION

Toyota: Trying to be responsible despite recalls

By **FARRAH SIDDIQI**
Contributing Writer

As a proud driver of a Toyota, when I first heard about the recall, I was pretty concerned firstly about safety, but after discovering that my vehicle was not involved, I began to worry about the reputation of my beloved and soon-to-be tarnished brand.

Now, with further research, I feel the likelihood of getting hit by lightning twice might be higher than having an unsafe Toyota.

Okay, obviously the manufacturer was alarmed enough about safety to have the largest recall in its 50-year history, but the fact that this has happened proves to me that they care and are willing to take a big hit to make things right. The real issue for me was about the coincidence that this would happen now, while our American automotive industry is already suffering.

It's ironic that a government agency, NHTSA, is identifying all the Toyota incidents after the government became GM's owner,

which happens to be Toyota's primary competitor.

NHTSA's website also says the CTS accelerator pedal is not only used for Toyotas, but also many other vehicles, specifically GM's Pontiac Vibe. Fremont's own Nummi plant is where GM and Toyotas are made together using this accelerator pedal. Yet we're not hearing too much about them. Honda also uses the pedal. Really, the bigger issue should not be about pointing fingers to a specific car company but about how to determine if your particu-

lar accelerator pedal, whether you drive a Toyota or not, is an affected pedal.

It's nice to see that despite the recall, Toyota seems to be doing a lot to make things right for its customers. Not only did they stop production immediately, but also they mailed letters to owners of affected vehicles and they have extended dealership hours to accommodate for the repairs, some even to 24 hours. They are not hiding. Information about the recall is right on the company's homepage. GM's

online recall information can only be found after clicking on the news link and picking the corresponding headline on their website.

Spending hours in research to determine which car companies CTS makes its pedals for might become exhausting. Their website isn't clear at all. They outline having received awards for their pedals from Toyota and Honda, but no other company is mentioned on their website. The NHTSA's government website seems to be the most clear in help

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Monopoly: Tradition being replaced by technology

By **ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN**
Opinion Editor

About a week ago I came across an online article that featured the new Monopoly that's definitely far from the original version. This new edition is circular and does not involve any play money. Instead, it provides players with a credit card and a pin number that is used with the calculating ATM-like machine.

There have been many Monopoly editions like the *Star Trek*, Junior Disney Princess, Electronic Banking and even the online City Streets edition. Honestly, I have never played any of these editions aside from the original one and that is probably why hearing about the latest round edition surprised me.

My first reaction to this change was, "Why?" I didn't like how the

traditional feel of Monopoly has been completely taken away. The shape repulsed me and finding out about the credit cards turned me off even more. I know this sounds ridiculous how I am reacting to a game but this isn't just about the board game. This is more about how Monopoly mirrors real life and the fact that Monopoly has adapted to the new electronic age just seemed too modern for me.

I guess I am afraid of how fast things are changing in our world. I am afraid of how buildings are being built, torn down and reconstructed all within a few years. I am afraid of how technology is rapidly taking over everything in our society. The idea that some day people will never see each other in person and instead use a web-conference-like device to go online-shopping

together really freaks me out. I am afraid of one day losing one of the things I enjoy most, in-person human conversation.

Another thing that I find scary is how this game makes perfect sense. I mean, in just a few years cash will probably not exist at all. No one will have to use cash when they have their credit cards. What's the point of printing money when technology can easily calculate a person's earnings and expenses with codes and whatnot. It just makes sense that Hasbro would come up with this new Monopoly edition and forget about the old and traditional one, so much sense that it's scary.

Upon thinking about this idea of technology and change that is truly just mirrored from real life into Monopoly, I found myself thinking, "Will there come a time when peo-

ple completely forget about their old values and traditions as they allow themselves to be consumed by technology?" It's a huge question for me because secretly, a part of me was amused by the new Monopoly and I cannot hide that I too am a huge fan of change and technology. Pondering on this idea served as a wake-up call to me. It made me realize that because of my love for new things, I might find myself without values and a part of some new tradition.

I may be going over the top here, but if you really think about it, why not? Why wouldn't we all lose ourselves along the way? We already have, haven't we? I mean, there are barely any guys out there who take their time in courting the girl they like. Most guys just call, or worse, text message and chat to win the hearts of the girls they like. Also,

the number of families that eat dinner together at the table really has decreased. Instead of eating together, we've all found it so much more convenient to watch television in our own rooms or work on the computer while eating by ourselves.

It's sad how technology and change has affected all of us in such a negative way. Don't get me wrong, I am not against technology—it has its up-side too—and I have nothing against the new Monopoly. Hey, maybe someday I might even get one. It's more like the realization of how much the changes in our world seem to be taking away much of the comfort we have living in tradition and old values. It's just threatening. What I hope for everyone is that we learn to work with these changes that come, while still applying tradition and values in our daily lives.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Which movie deserves to win best picture?



Ha Hoang
UNDECIDED

"Avatar, because it had good graphics."



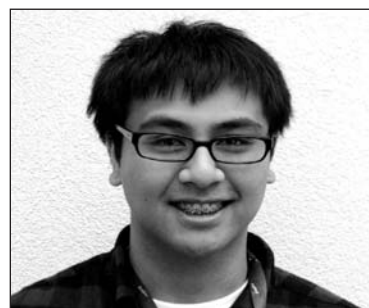
Kyle Olson
UNDECIDED

"Avatar, because they're blue."



Jeselle Hoque
LIBERAL STUDIES

"Precious. It had a sense of the harsh realities of life."



Jason Vitales
UNDECIDED

"Avatar, because of all the action."



Jennifer La
UNDECIDED

"Avatar, because it created a new era of movies."