Tech News

Platypus genome sequenced

The genome sequence of the duck-billed platypus has been determined. It is just as weird at the genome level as it is anatomically. It has both mammalian and reptilian features in its genome. There is an article in *Nature* about the interesting stuff being found in the genome (unfortunately, you need a subscription to read it, unless you go to a library that subscribes, like UCSC). You can find tidbits from the article by searching news with Google for "platypus".

The UCSC genome browser at genome.ucsc.edu has the platypus genome as one of the 20 vertebrate genomes that they analyze and display.

30th anniversary for spam

The first e-mail marketing message was sent on 3 May 1979 to 400 people, and the unwanted e-mail (now called "spam" after a Monty Python sketch, which you can see at http://www.youtube.com/v/ anwy2MPT5RE) has now become ubiquitous.

Summer Camps

There are a lot of techie summer camps around. Two local ones to check out are iDtech camps at UCSC http://www.internaldrive.com/   and Cabrillo College Extension (which has several classes for kids) http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/extension/

Flash animation is a good follow-up to the Scratch programming of Tech Club.

Pictures from Maker Faire last weekend—it was a lot of fun. Think about going next year!