Minimum wage vote doomed in House

By Alan From
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defying the Democrats and some of their own rank and file, House Republicans leaders on Wednesday virtually ruled out scheduling a vote on a minimum wage increase.

Speaker Newt Gingrich and Majority Leader Dick Armey issued a written statement as the White House and congressional Democrats, pressing an election-year cause, escalated their attempts to schedule a minimum wage vote. It wasn’t clear what, if any, effect the decision would have in the Senate, where Bob Dole, the majority leader as well as presumptive GOP presidential nominee, is under pressure to schedule a minimum wage vote.

"Republicans know that low-wage workers and their families suffer most from the destructive policies of big government," Gingrich and Armey said. "This is why we are working to get the floor legislation that will enable all Americans to earn more and keep more of what they earn, so they can do more for their families and communities."

The list made no mention of the minimum wage measure.

"I don’t always comment because they are not enough students don’t comment because they are not enough students and professors’ performances, but said it’s because he feels negative comments will not do any good.

"I read every comment, whether they are negative or positive," Roger Keep Industrial technology professor

for each class he teaches. It is the only college on campus that requires every professor to be evaluated for each class.

According to Steven Perez, a financial management senior, he only makes serious comments about 10 percent of the time.

"I would say in most cases negative comments don’t really help professors," he said. According to Mike Suess, director of Faculty Affairs, all faculty are evaluated by students each year. Although some departments vary as to how often they do it, they all must be evaluated at least once a year.

"I don’t always comment because sometimes I just want to get out of class," Perez admitted he has given more positive than negative comments, but said it’s because he feels negative comments will not do any good.

See BUDGET page 3

See PAGE 5

Gasoline prices creep to $2 per gallon mark

By Michael White
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Gasoline prices crept toward $2 per gallon in California on Wednesday, reminding analysts of Gulf War-era price peaks and driving some motorists into carpools, buses and trains.

The outlook for prices didn’t get any better as talks that could lead to new supply contracts for Iraq oil oil are world markets stall out.

Oil prices rose on international markets in response to news of U.S. and United Nations negotiators failed to reach an agreement on lifting the 6-year embargo on Iraq.

"We’re probably as high as we’ve been since the Gulf War," said J. Scott Busch, vice president of Paul, Jones-based Computer Petroleum Corp., which monitors gasoline prices nationwide.

"We would say in most cases negative comments don’t really help professors," he said. According to Mike Suess, director of Faculty Affairs, all faculty are evaluated by students each year. Although some departments vary as to how often they do it, they all must be evaluated at least once a year.

"I don’t always comment because sometimes I just want to get out of class," Perez admitted he has given more positive than negative comments, but said it’s because he feels negative comments will not do any good.

See EVALUATIONS page 6
Correction:
In an article in yesterday’s paper we misreported Barbara Mori’s profession. She is a social science professor.

Today
The Physics Colloquium is having a discussion titled "S.L.O. Rocks: Basic geology of the SLO area" at 11:10 a.m. in building 52, room E-45. Larry Balthaser will be leading the discussion.
An American Scholar Lecture is taking place at 7 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. English professor Patricia Troxel will discuss "Pink tanks, tribal pieces and a good night out: Living in art and the academy."

Upcoming
An open forum will be held in the U.U. from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. April 30 to discuss the issues of the ASI candidates. This is an opportunity for candidates to address concerns and answer questions.
The City of San Luis Obispo is commencing a new phase of the Public Art as an important civic investment. Interested artists are invited to submit proposals for works of art commemorating the historic Chino Town district in downtown San Luis Obispo. Deadline for proposals is April 30.

Correction; 22 days left in spring quarter

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Beaten baby clings to life as fate of suspected attackers is debated

By Richard Cole

SAN FRANCISCO — A hat­tred infant clung to life Wednes­day while authorities debated the fate of the 6- and 8-year-old boys who allegedly punched, kicked and possibly beat the baby with a stick.

Four-week-old Ignacio Ber­nudez suffered two skull frac­tures and internal bleeding in the Monday attack that came when the three boys allegedly sneaked into a Richmond apart­ment to steal a Big Wheel tricycle.

The doctors remain on life support in extremely critical con­dition at Children's Hospital in Oakland.

"The doctors really have no idea how things are going to turn out," said hospital spokesman Steve Teixeira.

The three boys were being held in Contra Costa Juvenile Hall in Martinez for investiga­tion of several crimes, including attempted murder, and were likely to face a detention hearing Thursday, said Harold Jewett, head of the juvenile unit for the district attorney's office.

"We haven't made a decision yet whether or not to file formal charges," Jewett said. "The investiga­tion is ongoing.""  

Juvenile courts have wide authority over the children, range­d from those in their parents' custody to remov­ing them from the home or con­fining them to juvenile hall or ranch facilities. But the age of the three boys involved makes long-term confinement unlikely.

The 6-year-old is believed to be the youngest person ever tem­porarily placed in the county's juvenile facility, authorities said. Neigh­bors said the 6-year-old had a reputation for using sticks to strike at other children.

A broken stick was found in Ignacio's bassinet, and neighbors say the boy was spotted with a stick around the time of the at­ tack, which came while the baby's half-sister was in another room.

The same youngster had walked into the baby's apart­ment two weeks earlier, asking if he could get a stick he believed was inside, according to Sura Kammer, who lived upstairs from the victim.

He was "always getting into trouble," she said.

The 6-year-old and the 8­year-old twins had entered Igna­cio's apartment previously without permission, a relative who spoke on condition of anonymity told The Oakland Tribune.

Child psychiatrists urged im­mediate intervention for the three boys, but warned that punishment for children so young was useless.

Authorities should look im­mediately at their home life, said Dr. Glen R. Elliott, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of California-San Francisco.

"We've got the Menendez brothers," he said. "It can happen in any economic strata."

Richmond is 10 miles north­east of San Francisco."
Supply and demand, and demand, and demand

by Reneta Everett

Here's a novel question: Why do so many Mexicans sneak across the border into California? Why did they start coming? And why do they continue to come by the thousands? Well, it's no secret — they come to make money. How? Working. So if they're working, and making money — and they must be, they wouldn't keep coming — then must be there a few people employing them. You don't hear of Mexicans flooding into Guatemala, their southern neighbors, because that's not where the demand is. The demand is here, in United States. And where there is demand, there is a supply. If there were no jobs for them, they wouldn't come.

Who's employing all these illegal immigrants? Hiring undocumented workers is a crime. Why don't we hear anything about going after the criminals who employ the criminals? Simply because the largest sources of jobs for undocumented workers is also the industries that grow and serve the food on our table — agriculture and restaurants.

Why employ Mexicanos and not U.S. citizens? After all, every contractor has the choice. In the 1990s, you'd be hard pressed to find many legal U.S. citizens eager to pick oranges all day, six or seven days a week, under the Central Valley sun for minimum wage or less, and no benefits. Why do we have to allow companies to complain that the Mexicans have taken their jobs? In fact, don't we have to protect the illegals? And let us all do our jobs. For the Mexicanos, on the other hand, working all day out in the field is a hell of a lot better than what they can do at home.

So what we have is a hypocritical situation. While our employers sustain the demand, we blame the supply. But what to do? Here are two solutions:

First, crack down on the contractors, restaurant owners, hotel managers, and farmers who employ illegals. Does this mean more government intervention into business? Not necessarily. Many employers hire only U.S. citizens and pay at least minimum wage, plus benefits as appropriate. In many cases this means losing out to competitors who hire illegals and thus have lower labor costs.

Second solution. We can formalize and document work permits of those people in general would rather be doing something in their families, in their hometowns, in their culture. This would be a mutually-beneficial system.

In either case, no real change is going to occur until we really start to think. To solve the conflict that has been the source of so much politics, money, publicity and pain, we have to be honest and look at the root. Illegal immigrants wouldn't come here if employers didn't employ them.

So let's decide: stamp out the demand, or accept the terms of the supply. Whatever it is, we can't keep feasting the very people who are part of system from which we benefit.

Renata Everett is a mechanical engineering sophomore.
Colored chalk that will cover the hands and shoes of more than 200 artists. Vivid Italian images will emerge from the street surrounding the Old Mission Church. And gradually, the Mission Plaza will be transformed into an outdoor museum for San Luis Obispo's fifth I Madonnari Street Painting Festival on April 27 and 28.

"The festival is a celebration of the arts," said Kathy Friend, project liaison for the Children's Creative Project, a nonprofit arts education organization.

"There will be music, arts activities and an Italian market, in addition to the unique street paintings that serve as its inspiration."

Street painting is an Italian tradition dating back to the 16th century. Vagabonds and disabled veterans would follow the Italian church festivals into small towns and villages to paint images on the sidewalks and public squares.

The street painters were called "I Madonnari" because they often reproduced images of the Madonna in front of the catholic church.

The Children's Creative Project was the first to bring the public art forum of I Madonnari to the United States. The organization developed the concept of the festival as a fund-raising event in which a grid is drawn on the pavement dividing the street into 200 squares. The squares range in size from 4' x 6' to 12' x 12', each one bearing the name of the sponsor who purchased the space for $75 to $450.

See FESTIVAL / page B4
Saxophonist David Murray to bring trio's talent to town

By Greg Manifold
Daily News Staff Writer

For some people, jazz is an unfamiliar style of music that presents a new mix of melodies to the ear. An excellent way to experience jazz for the first time would be to watch and listen to one of the best performers in the genre.

Called the "Jimmy Hendrix of the tenor saxophone" by his bass player Kelly Robery, David Murray is one of the nation's hottest jazz stars.

Murray and his group, the David Murray Trio, head into San Luis Obispo in only their second week on this year's tour. The trio plays Sunday night at Mother's Tavern and gets started at 8 p.m. Joining Murray and Roberty to form the trio is Brad Edwards on the drums.

Roberty was the only member of the band that could be reached, as Murray is in San Francisco recording a musical with members of the Grateful Dead. Edwards also could not be reached.

San Luis Obispo isn't a new stop; the trio played in town last January. Roberty said the show was a very memorable one for the group. "It was great," Roberty said. "There was a huge turnout and the audience listened well and was of a high intellect. I'm looking forward to coming back."

Murray is a native of Oakland and first began playing the saxophone at age 9. Since then, he has recorded 300 tracks on more than 200 albums.

"David is one of the most prolific jazz players around," Roberty said of the 43-year-old Murray. "He lets his musicians do what they want within a certain piece. There is a lot of freedom to express yourself in a concert."

But Roberty isn't the only one who recognizes Murray's talent. In an article in Image magazine three years ago, the writer called Murray one of the best-kept secrets in the music business—a powerful arranger and improviser in American jazz.

In another article in Down Beat magazine, Murray talked about his relentless touring schedule that keeps him constantly busy.

"By the time I die," Murray said. "I would like to be able to play with any musician on the planet and know something about what they do as well as they know something about what I do."

* * *

Award-winning artists show works nationally at ARternatives show

By Jennifer English
Daily News Staff Writer

The sandwashed earth tones of the gouache form endless patterns around the corner of a doorway into darkness.

The piece is called "Entranceway #5," and it shares Top Award honors in the ARternatives National Juried Exhibition. The show, which is the first competition of its kind for the non-profit arts group, will be open to the public from May 1 to June 15 in the Central Coast Mall.

"Entranceway #5" was created by Tracey Adele Corlies, a graduate art student at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Corlies shares the top honors with Melody Guichet, an art professor at LSU who also mentored Corlies.

Guichet's oil-on-wood entry is titled "Communication." It contains an image of a gray entity projecting a storm, which is depicted as it reaches the blue depths found inside a mouthlike figure. Against the dark background is a yellow triangle which symbolizes the balance within the painting.

Both women will receive cash awards and a two-person show at ARternatives in 1997.

The competition, which was open to artists in all media, received more than 1,000 entries in the form of slides. Of those, 80 works from 67 artists were chosen by juror Noel Korten, curator for the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery.

Though competing entries came from all over the nation, five local artists were chosen to exhibit in the show. David Howthorn, Lori Wolf, Michael Grahek, Marcia Harvey and Tom Sage are all county residents who will be displaying a broad range of media at the Central Coast Mall.

"This area does target a specific art crowd ... it's neat that they're dealing with other mediums," Wolf said. "It's exciting to bring artists from other communities as well as allow work from this area."

According to director Evaso Lupiske, ARternatives is a non-profit group supported by the City of San Luis Obispo, the Arts Council, the Central Coast Mall and Embassy Suites. In addition to providing a venue for talent, the group is introducing a National Slide Registry to make the work of local artists more accessible.

"The venue's great," said Sage, a Paso Robles artist. "And they provide many services beyond showing — it's not just a place to put up a show."

A reception for the artists and the public will be held Wednesday, May 1 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will also be live music at the opening. Lupiske said.

After the opening the gallery will be open Thursdays and Fridays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
**Different media captured in inspiring Galerie exhibit**

By Coni Forrest

Daily Staff Writer

Instead of the hassle of cleaning paint brushes and struggling with the caps of paint tubes—some artists paint with oil sticks.

Longtime artist Sally Tippman, an Atascadero resident, did just that.

"Having worked in every art medium, I have spent the last five years using oil sticks," Tippman said. "The "bead" of color that allows me to move from drawing into painting with spontaneity, richness and complexity.

To view Tippman’s diverse works of art, her "handful of color" paintings will be on exhibit in Cal Poly’s University Union Galerie beginning Saturday, May 4, through Tuesday, June 4.

The exhibit, titled "Configurations," is in the culmination of a lifetime of studying and creating art in a variety of mediums.

Although the exhibit will include a mixed collection of Tippman’s work, the focus will be on her fascination with the "figure." "My work has evolved from objective painting to pure freedom," Tippman said. "Becoming free, becoming loose is important." Tippman has been a lifelong student of art. She knew she wanted to be an artist from the moment she first picked up a crayon.

And from then on she has studied and gained experience at a variety of schools.

"While attending Big Sky high school, she took a number of art classes before earning a Master of Fine Arts in painting from Columbia University. She studied printmaking, sculpture and painting at the University of Arizona.

Her college career did not stop there For 16 years, Tippman studied at a place she loved to Arizona. The public is invited to an art-reception from 3 to 5 p.m. opening day, May 4, in the Galerie.

For more information, call 756-1182.

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**KCPR's Top Ten List**

For the week of 4/18/96

1. Schoolhouse Rocks
2. DJ Krush: "Meiso"
3. Rage Against the Machine: "Evil Empire"
4. Let's Go Bowling: "Mr. Twist"
5. "Kids in the Hall:" Brain Candy (Sndtk)
6. KRS One: Self-titled
7. Skatellites: "Greetings from Skamania"
8. Rage Against the Machine: "Evil Empire"
9. KRS One: Self-titled
10. Thinking Fellars Union Local 282: "I Hope It Lands"

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**RAGE RESURGES WITH NEW CD, SIMILAR ANGER**

By Matt Berger

Daily Staff Writer

They’re back and angry as ever, but any misunderstood youth could have predicted that.

In a testosterone-pumping, 11-track CD, Rage Against the Machine returned to the recording studio after a three-year vacation. Besides some small side projects, benefits concerts and singles during their break, Rage has been quiet the calm for longer than many fans wanted to wait.

In the past few months, rumors of a new CD have trickled. Then an early radio release of the new album and an appearance on "Saturday Night Live" exposed the returning band to its loyal fans. The curious whispers turned into anxious questions as the long-anticipated renditions came from the fearless band of punkers hit the record stores.

The songs on "Evil Empire" make no leaps and bounds in any obscure directions. Instead, they continue in a similar but funkier style originated on the first album. Most of that funk can be attributed to the fortitude of the lead singer.

Lead growler and singer Zack De La Rocha is like a bomb that’s ready to explode, shooting out lyrics like sparks from a fuse. I wouldn’t be surprised if he took the few voice lessons from Cypress Hill before recording this album. De La Rocha expresses many of his radical, anti-establishment feelings without boring listeners with sound, the songs are conservative compared to the grunge scene that is so popular today. They conserve the sounds that flourished in the early '90s when they came out with their first album.

The CD may be holding on to the past, but the band is entering the future of entertainment. They include on their album the angry involved in the music. His biting lyrics are blanketed by natural sounds before Morello regains control of the melody.

Before the songs get too spacey, bassist Tim Bob leads the melody back to earth. He continues to deliver hard-hitting funk, sending the music below the earth’s surface.

The songs undergo continual mood swings affecting the speed and temper of the music. The final track on the CD, "four of the Boomerang," sounds almost as if the guitarist is having memory lapses, but the band members successfully keep up with his unexpected starts and stops.

One of the most distinct styles that Morello’s band has added to its music on the CD is the sounds Bob and Morello make with the help of heavy distortion, a Wha Wha pedal and many digital effects.

Despite their experiments with sound, the songs are conservative compared to the grunge scene that is so popular today. They conserve the sounds that flourished in the early '90s when they came out with their first album.

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Rosanne Cash's plunge into prose, surfaces to success

By Stan Colburn
Daily Staff Writer

When you hear the name Rosanne Cash, music comes to mind. Now Cash is trying to associate her name with the written word.

The success of Cash's songwriting naturally led her to try creating longer pieces of prose. The result is a compilation of stories, "Bodies of Water," that delves into the inner lives of women searching for freedom, resolution and self-forgiveness.

Cash's writing explores every nook of personality, and the painting that she created of Rosanne Cash is.

"I have had Bach playing, and blues for the morning," said one movie-goer. "By the end of the film, it was "I like (painting) for the mood," said Mel Grimes. "It was like one huge Seinfeld episode," said one movie-goer. "I Madonnari also serves as a tourist attraction for the city and stimulates downtown business. The colorful event expects to attract 10,000 local and out-of-towners this spring.

Don't miss the opportunity to see our familiar avian transfers to bright, large-scale drawings, if only for the moment. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday and Sunday.

Festival: Local artists to fill SLO streets with vibrant colors for public enjoyment

Presents the following activities for all Cal Poly Students

Thursday, April 25

• Shival Experience performs for SLO Brew at 9:30. No cover.
• The Roadhouse Rockers come to BackStage Stage at 9:30. No cover.
• The Roadhouse Rockers bring their beat to Mother's Tavern at 10:30. $3 cover.

Friday, April 26

• Susan Foster plays original folk for Linnaeus Cafe at 8. No cover.
• Upsett delivers ska to SLO Brew at 9:30. No cover.
• Bad Sushi gives blues and rock to Mother's Tavern at 10. $3 cover.

Saturday, April 27

• Snag gives such as concert to Linnaeus Cafe at 8. No cover.
• Conglomerate does "Room Service" at 8:30. $2 cover.
• Rooby Rocks plays music at SLO Brew at 9:30. No cover.
• Rokie of Belodi dances at the Jewel of India and Afro-Cuban traditional restaurant at 7 and 8:30 p.m. No cover.
• The Roadhouse Rockers bring their beat to Mother's Tavern at 10:30. $3 cover.

Sunday, April 28

• Bluegrass plays for the third year in a row and likes to participate because it's such a different medium for art.

The city washes the chalk off the grounds Sunday evening, after the activities come to a close.

"I like (painting) for the mood, and then it's gone," Bennett said. "It's totally interactive. People watch everything you're doing."

I Madonnari also serves as a tourist attraction for the city and stimulates downtown business. The colorful event expects to attract 10,000 local and out-of-towners this spring.

Don't miss the opportunity to see our familiar avian transfers to bright, large-scale drawings, if only for the moment. Hours are from 11 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday and Sunday.

A benefit concert for Take Back the Night rally will be held at Oddfellows Hall on Dana Street this spring. The concert will include performances by Opus, Rodriguez and The Imperial Cruisers.

• Bluegrass plays for the third year in a row and likes to participate because it's such a different medium for art.
WAGE: Proponents of increase say it is long overdue; opponents say it will discourage new jobs

Supporters of an increase say that when inflation is taken into account, the minimum wage is approaching a 40-year low in purchasing power. Opponents say an increase would cost jobs because the additional cost would discourage businesses from creating employment.

House rules make it difficult but not impossible to force a vote against the leaders' wishes.

The House Republican leadership is expected to seek a vote by the end of this month on what would be a slightly higher increase of $1 an hour, after considering the 70-cent increase that was reduced to 90 cents last week.
Keeping Cal Poly's Promise...

The Cal Poly Plan

Additional Student Surveys

Surveys are under way in classes across campus to find out the level of student support for the Cal Poly Plan.

Some 1,600 students in the scientifically selected sample are being asked to help the Cal Poly Plan Steering Committee set priorities among the principles identified to guide the plan.

In addition, the survey solicits opinions about improvements to be funded through a modest increase in student fees proposed by the committee.

Students not selected in the initial random sampling will be invited to fill out the questionnaire at a central campus location in early May. The time and place will be advertised as soon as they are set.

Last fall, students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni were widely surveyed to provide the data used by the Steering Committee in writing a Cal Poly Plan in order to renew and enhance the University's academic programs while assisting students and faculty to be more successful.

EVALUATIONS: Evaluations are used for promotions

From page 1

choose the classes," Suess said.

How often the evaluations are done also depends on the professor's teaching status, he added.

"(For example), a probationary professor is evaluated in every course," Suess said.

However, with no standardized form to follow, all departments are required to have a comment section along with the multiple-choice section.

Suess said the multiple-choice questions give professors a summary of the average class opinion.

"The quantitative results are put into the faculty personnel files and are reviewed periodically," Suess said.

When a professor comes up for promotion, tenure or retention, their personnel files are reviewed and can play a factor in the decision, according to Suess.

"It is an important part of the process," Suess said. "A vast majority of people seriously consider the evaluations."

According to the College of Science and Mathematics, the comments made by students are only read by the professors. They can ask to have others read their comments or they can do what they want with them.

History professor Max Riedlsperger said he looks at all the comments, but only a small number of them are written with any intelligence.

"I might say 20 percent of the comments are meaningful and say something that is worthwhile," Riedlsperger said.

Riedlsperger said although students don't always take them seriously, he reviews them carefully and feels they are important.

"I only wish more students would take the time to comment," Riedlsperger said.

Construction management senior Dario Pascarelli said he always writes a comment to his professors.

"I will tell them how I felt about their class, whether it is negative or positive," Pascarelli said. "I believe constructive criticism will help, and positive comments will reinforce their teaching."

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Blasts follow IRA warning calls

By Robert Seely

LONDON — Two loud blasts rattled the Hammersmith Bridge area of west London Wednesday from the Irish Republican Army. There were no immediate reports of injuries, and it wasn't clear whether the blasts shortly after 11 p.m. (6 p.m. EDT) were set off by bombs or by explosions set off by police to destroy suspicious devices.

The blasts came more than half an hour after one warning call to The Associated Press of the bridge and sent in sniffer dogs.

A resident living near the south side of Hammersmith Bridge said the whole area had been sealed off by police, who had warned people to stay indoors.

"The police came round and told us that if we heard a couple of bangs they would be controlled explosions," said Simon Tyrrell.

Kevin Martin, manager of the Blue Anchor pub in Hammersmith, some 50 yards away from the scene of the explosion, said: "There were two really loud bangs so I went outside to go and have a look."

The IRA has waged a 25-year campaign of violence against British rule in Northern Ireland. A cease-fire that began in September 1994 was broken in February with a bombing in east London's Docklands business district that killed two newspaper workers.

The IRA said it ended the cease-fire due because of British intransigence in attempts to bring peace to the British-ruled province.

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**Auction sales bring more than expected**

By Catherine Crocker  

NEW YORK (AP) — After a frenzied, 16-minute duel between two telephone bidders, the desk on which President Kennedy signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 was sold for $1.43 million Wednesday.

By the time the hammer went down, cheers resounding through the sales room, the cost of the Louis XVI mahogany table had soared to 48 times its estimated sale price of $30,000.

The treaty desk, which went to an unidentified European foundation, was the afternoon’s top prize on the second day of Sotheby’s auction of the belongings of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. The day’s sales reached $7 million in all, beating Tuesday’s total take of $4.5 million.

“This may be the loveliest it’s taken to ever sell a piece of furni­ture,” said the auctioneer, Sotheby’s president Diana Brooks. “I just had the chills selling it. It was selling history. There will never be another moment like that.”

Legions of fans packed the auction house to bid on worn sofas, salt shakers and jewelry. The most expensive item in the catalog, a diamond engagement ring valued at $500,000 that was a gift from Aristotle Onassis, was scheduled to be sold Wednesday night.

“This is the last opportunity people have to be a part of her life,” said Larry Richmond, a Boston dealer. “You take Jackie’s name out of this, and it’s like any antique auction.”

“They are market prices — what people are willing to pay,” said Andrew Bevens, who owns a suburban real estate company and paid $161,000 for a book valued at $2,500. The book was inscribed to Mrs. Onassis by its author, Israeli founding father David Ben-Gurion.

Winning bids were about 10 and 20 times the presale es­timates listed in the catalog, which Sotheby’s bases on the in­

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**GAS: Prices not likely to go down in near future**

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immediate future, he said.

“Now we’re sitting here at al­most the end of April with gasoline prices that already are historically high, and the driving season when prices tradi­tionally go up is about to begin,” he said.

Prices were up nationwide but Southern California has hardest hit, with self-service prices rang­ing from $1.53 a gallon in Los Angeles to $1.65 in Santa Bar­bara. Self-service premium was selling for $1.89 in Santa Bar­bara, and the full-service price sur­passed $2 at one station.

“A lot of people don’t notice when they’re pumping, but then they double check when they see the (price is) $30 to $40 to fill up,” said Ernest Martin, who helps run his father’s station in downtown Los Angeles.

As he spoke, business was brisk and customers were grum­bling. Dennis Rouse, 53, of Long Beach said he is paying $5 to $6 more to fill up his Dodge minivan than he did two weeks ago.

“It’s another example of stuff that’s harder to do now,” Rouse said. “I haven’t heard any reason why it’s at this level now. How can you get mad at this guy?” he said, as he drove off.

In Denver, salseman Jerry Smith, 34, said he had no option but to pass higher prices in Denver as were at $1.30 for regular self­service and $1.48 for premium, about 10 cents to 13 cents more than area stations.

Smith said it makes him mad.

“The charge for fuel is ridiculous, but there’s nothing you can do about it. You just pay more, and you can’t do anything about it. In today’s society, how do you not drive?”

For some Californians, mass transit provided a solution.

American Motorists Inc. is serving five Southern California metro­ropolitan areas as north as 10 percent on some lines during the past week, Metrolink said in a news release.

One of the new riders was 76­year­old George Crego. He parked his car and took the train from suburban Northridge to downtown Los Angeles on Wed­nesday partly because of gasoline prices.

“The cost will add up and the gas is getting more expensive,” he said.

Southern California RideShare, which helps match up carpooling commuters in the Los Angeles region, also saw an increase in calls from people seeking in­formation, spokesman Jim Sims said.

On a typical day the agency gets 100 calls from motorists seeking information. On Wednesday a dozen callers said specifically they were motivated by the gasoline price increase, he said.

Analysts blame the higher prices on a combination of fac­tors, including the longer-than­expected winter that prompted refiners to produce more heating oil and less gasoline.

Expectations that the United Nations was about to lift the em­argo on Iraqi crude added to the problem. Expecting prices to drop when Iraqi oil hit the market, many refiners put off purchasing of crude oil, said Gary Havis, an analyst with Argus Research in New York. As the costs, he said, many were forced to go ahead and buy more expensive crude.

“People were waiting for the market to open, he said.

Negotiators halted talks on Wednesday, but agreed to reschedule them next month.

And the dollar’s stronger factor has come into play in California. Produc­tion values for California has been shown by renova­tions and repairs at some West Coast refineries.

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