Restriction may hurt gas stations

By Emily Wong

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By Leah Mori

Tibers honored with President’s Arts Award for time and donations

By Anastasia Killham

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Restriction may hurt gas stations

By Emily Wong

When Home Depot made its way into San Luis Obispo, special considerations were made to widen Los Osos Valley Road, despite environmental impact reports. Now, the San Luis Obispo City Council may be creating loopholes for the new Costco coming into town, which could be allowed to sell alcohol and gasoline on the same lot.

In 1982, San Luis Obispo passed an ordinance against selling beer and wine at service stations in an attempt to curb drinking and driving. The City Council decided to reconsider the ordinance in October and voted on Feb. 17 to allow the sale of alcohol 250 feet from gas pumps. The council will revisit the issue at their March 1 meeting and vote on a final decision. If approved, the changes will take effect in 10 days.

The ordinance would accommodate Costco, because if the large lot it is proposed on, but most of the city’s service stations will be left out.

see COSTCO, page 2

College campuses get more conservative

By Leah Mori

College campuses have seen a shift in the right as students are becoming more political and more conservative.

According to a USA Today survey, 65 percent of college freshmen believe it is “essential or very important” to keep up with politics. In addition, the gap between the amounts of liberals and conservatives is steadily decreasing. Twenty-four percent of students say they hold liberal views, 21 percent say they are conservatives.

Steve Hinkle, president of the Cal Poly College Republicans said that Cal Poly students are split 50-50 between liberals and conservatives. Despite this, he says they have begun to see a higher number of conservative students. About three quarters of the members in the club have joined this year.

While other universities’ College Republicans are out to spread liberals and push their beliefs on students, Cal Poly’s efforts to promote conservatism are different.

“We’re not trying to promote conservatism in a negative way,” said Laura Freberg, adviser for the club and psychology professor. “We’re not trying to convert people.”

Freberg has been the adviser for about 10 years. She became an administrator in the San Luis Lounge, the performing arts center. She reads textbooks to students who are not able to read them for life, she said.

The Tibers have donated time and money to a number of causes besides the arts, at both Cuesta College and Cal Poly.

For almost 18 years, Sheila Tibers has served as a volunteer reader at Cal Poly’s Disability Resource Center. She reads textbooks to students who are not able to read them on their own.

“(The Tibers) are big believers in education,” said Delve McAdoo, the

see TIBERS, page 2

Tibers honored with President’s Arts Award for time and donations

By Anastasia Killham

They pedaled into town 26 years ago on a bicycle built for two, since that day, arts and cultural opportunities in San Luis Obispo have never been the same.

Two behind-the-scenes contributors were recently recognized publicly for time and money donated annually to improve community access to education, arts and literature.

Sheila Tiber accepted Cal Poly’s President’s Arts Award on behalf of herself and her late husband Yosef Tiber before the Feb. 22 performance of “Giselle” at the Performing Arts Center.

The Tibers held a lifelong interest in theater, music and the arts. Knowledge of continued access to high-quality performances greatly affected their decision to relocate to San Luis Obispo from Los Angeles, which is known for its many diverse, artistic cultural opportunities.

Their friends were shocked when the couple decided to move to a small town with comparatively few cultural activities, Sheila Tiber said.

“We promptly joined everything in sight,” Tiber said. “And over the years have just become more involved.”

The native of England describes with a British accent her interest in introducing young people to live performances.

“Nothing can take the place of sitting in a live audience. When children are exposed to the arts at a young age they acquire a love of them for life,” she said.

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see TIBERS, page 2
THEFT continued from page 1

“Every year, we have a great deal of bikes go missing, and campuses are often targeted since there is a large percentage of bikes in a concentrated area,” he said.

Edds said inexpensive locks can be broken easily with hammers, blunt objects or sometimes by hand. He suggested students use the designated locks and high-quality locks to help reduce the chance of theft.

UDP officials said if students were to take the proper precautions, their bike would decrease dramatically.

TIBERS continued from page 1

DRC’s alternative media coordin­ator who organizes volunteer services.

In 1993, the Tiber established the Sheila and Yosef Tiber Scholarship Fund at Cal Poly. This scholarship provides $2,000 to $3,000 for incoming high school students with a minimum 3.5 GPA and new members of continuing students with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Recipients of the scholarship must demonstrate both the potential for success in their chosen major and a financial need.

“They are not just sending money, they are really out there doing things, said Francis Robertson, administrative services manager of the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center, who worked extensively with the Tiber through the years.

The Foundation for the Performing Arts is “completely reliant” on these kinds of donations, Robertson said.

The couple while Yosef completed his physician’s residen­cy at Los Angeles hospital where Sheila worked as a nurse. They eloped months later and were mar­ried for 45 years before Yosef passed away from leukemia-related complications in 2001. Sheila Tiber has “put carrots on the lega­cy,” Robertson said.

In a press release, Harry Hinkle, chair of the President’s Arts Award Nomination Committee and dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said, “The Tiber were a unanimous choice of the committee. They have done so much for Cal Poly and the arts community in general on the Central Coast.”

TRACING continued from page 1

view that they are larger than they are.

“Some people think it’s scary to do this exercise,” said Maya Andlig, coordinator of gender and sexuality for Student Life and Leadership.

“They are surprised at how positive the experience is. It challenges women’s perception of their bodies.”

After the body tracing, there will be time to journal about their response to the tracing. The journaling will be a guided experience by art­sen Erin Partridge.

“Our goal is to have people feel comfortable sharing parts of them­selves that aren’t usually com­fortable sharing,” Partridge said.

Partridge has been involved in body tracing before and said it shows participants how distorted their body image really is.

The journaling allows participants to explore the relationship between their body and their self-image.

“During the open mic, participants are encouraged to share anything from realizations or revelations to personal experiences. It is a chance to let people share their stories and learn from each other.”

The specific goal of the event is to help participants to walk away with a less adversarial relationship with their body, Andlig said.

“ ‘We want people to walk away with a more nurturing, healthy and respectful relationship with the body they have,’ she said. The event is open to students and faculty. Although the week’s events are aimed toward individuals with a more body image, everyone is welcome.

“A negative body image has a huge impact on all aspects of life,” Andlig said.

News

POLITICS continued from page 1

er because students had asked several faculty members to lead them in their conservative club, but none would accept. They believed advising such a group would ruin their careers.

Through the traces, students have seen a drastic increase of conservative students, but the number of active mem­bers in the club has steadily increased.

In addition to Freberg, associate librarian Lynne Gamble is an advisor to the club.

“They are both a huge asset to us,” Hinkle said.

An issue that conservative students face is being opinions in the class­room. More liberal-minded professors have been accused of pushing their political beliefs on their students.

When faced with the issue, students and staff react in different ways.

“I respond with the facts and let them know that they’re wrong,” Hinkle said, “I think it’s important that students get a balanced educa­tion. It’s important that teachers don’t force their political views on students.”

Hinkle said he has become more conservative while attending Cal Poly because he has been forced to argue his beliefs in the classroom.

As a professor, Freberg handles the situations differently. She said some students have devoted her to situations with professors and the students to the professors.

Generally Freberg says professors are unaware that they have pushed their beliefs on students and will fit the problem. Other complaints involve stu­dents being told their beliefs are wrong.

“As a professor you have to respect where your students are coming from,” Freberg said.

“ We’re not here to tell students what to think, we’re here to tell students to think.”

A main goal of the club is to encourage students to participate in elec­tions. Students generally are lam­municated because they are not involved in the political process, Freberg said.

The club has been the only group to speak about conservative issues on campus. They have planned events and brought guests, such as Paul Stein, to campus.

The Cal Poly College Republicans meet every other week to get to know fellow members, plan social events, discuss political plans they are involved in and other political events that are going on in the com­munity.

The next meeting is Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the University Union, room 216.

COSTCO continued from page 1

“The city is playing tricks on us,” said Jim Rogers, owner and dealer of Mission Chevron on Marsh Street.

“They know we can’t comply with that. It’s pure and simple discrimina­tion,” he said.

Rogers said service stations that are not able to have a 5 percent price advantage over the big banks may he in the black, Rogers said, but he said there is not much else he can do.

City council members were unavailable for comment by press time.

But in another news report, assoc­i­ate planner Phil Dunsmore said, “I would allow them (Costco) to proceed as planned. They want to break ground in May and open up by late October of this year.”

Earn 8 Units in Mexico This Summer

Four-Week Spanish Language Immersion Program

Summer 2004 - Guanacaste

- Select one Cal Poly Spanish course: Span 101, Span 102, Span 103, Span 111, Span 112 and Span 113, Span 121, Span 122 or Span 124
- Choose one Cal Poly summer course:
  - Hum 101 (C4), Poli 325 (D5) or Jur 401

General Information Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 11-12 a.m.
Education Rd (12), Room 205
Thursday, February 26, 5-6 p.m.
Heter Apt 406 Rd (10), Room 125

For further information, contact
Dr. Kevin Fagan, 796-2750
e-mail Kgaga@calpoly.edu
Dr. William Martinez, 796-2669
e-mail wmatinez@calpoly.edu
Continuing Education at 756-2750
 e-mail continuing ed@calpoly.edu http://www.continuinged.calpoly.edu/travel_mex.html

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A surge in the production of almonds, the biggest crop requiring honey bees for pollination and one of the few crops farmers consider a money maker, has created a bee shortage throughout California.

While farmers once had easy access to bees, the prices they pay for the hives they need to pollinate their crops has gone up this year.

“It’s kind of supply and demand. The beekeepers are in charge now,” said Joe Velez, en­ch manager for Maddow Farms near Fresno, who found himself without honey bees for his almond trees in December.

Along with increased almond acreage and the main problem, good honey prices and fall wildfires in Southern California have con­tributed to the bee shortage, driving up prices and highlighting the importance of the pollination.

More than one million honey bee hives are needed to pollinate the 500,000 acres of almond groves that line the Central Valley, mak­ing up California’s $1.19 billion almond industry and producing 8 percent of the world’s supply.

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WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats on Tuesday blocked the latest GOP effort to curb medical malpractice lawsuits, but Republicans who say the bill is needed to bring down health care prices promised the issue would return later in the year.

"We're going to keep going until we succeed," said Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., as the GOP looked to force Democrats to consider a bill curbing medical malpractice damages against obstetrics and general surgeons.

It takes 60 votes to invoke cloture to consider a bill, but Democrats were not able to muster that goal in the 48-43 vote.

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, normally bitterly divided, was united Tuesday in deciding to reconsider a Virginia case involving a death sentence imposed on Delma Ranks more than two decades ago, and delivered a strong rebuke of Texas officials and judges who say the bill is crucial for the availability of health care services.

The court lifted the death sentence imposed on Delma Ranks more than two decades ago, and delivered a strong rebuke of Texas officials and judges who say the bill is crucial for the availability of health care services.

The opposition rejected a peaceful protest plan that would have kept Aristide as president, but with diminished powers and compelled to share government with his rivals.

PARIS — The United States is suspending imports of French cold cuts and foie gras because of food safety concerns, France's Agriculture Ministry said Tuesday.

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**Hormones might raise asthma risk**

**By Lindsey Tanner**

CHICAGO — Hormone supplements may be linked to yet another health problem in women: asthma.

A study found that women who use hormones during menopause run double the risk of developing the respiratory ailment.

The study was not as rigorous as landmark research halted in 2002 after more hormone users developed heart problems and breast cancer than women given dummy pills. And the overall risk of developing asthma lags in this study.

Still, the findings might be something women will want to consider when debating whether to take hormones for hot flashes and other menopause symptoms, said lead researcher Dr. R. Graham Barr of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

The findings appear in Monday’s Archives of Internal Medicine.

“For women who have severe asthma that develops later in life, they may want to consider a trial of stopping hormone replacement therapy to see if this alleviates their condition,” Barr said.

The study was part of the Nurses’ Health Study by Harvard’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital and involved more than 20,000 women in their 40s and older. They were questioned about hormone use and any diagnosis of asthma. They were followed for about 10 years, until 1998.

During that time, 342 women developed asthma. Current users of either estrogen alone or estrogen plus progesterone supplements were about twice as likely to develop asthma than nonusers.

The increased risk was found mainly among current users, not past users, suggesting that stopping hormone treatment can even the odds, Barr said.

The study does follow the government’s landmark Women’s Health Initiative study, which reported the link with heart problems and breast cancer and led doctors to recommend limiting hormone treatment to low-dose, short-term use for menopause symptoms.

WH researcher Jennifer Hays of Baylor University questioned whether hormones cause asthma and said there are other explanations for the link. It might be that something about the lifestyles of hormone users puts them at increased risk for asthma, Hays said.

The researchers acknowledged that women who take prescription hormones might be more likely to be diagnosed with asthma simply because they might have more doctors’ visits than nonusers. But they also found an increased asthma risk among hormone users who had few doctors’ visits.

Asthma involves inflammation that constricts muscles in the airways, causing attacks of wheezing and shortness of breath. An estimated 20 million Americans, including 14 million adults, are affected.

Barr said the exact relationship between hormones and asthma needs further study.

But estrogen tends to make cells retain more fluid, which might narrow lung airways, he said. Also, some data suggests that hormones and hormones supplements can increase levels of certain inflammatory markers in the blood, which might also affect asthma risk, he said.
'College Dropout' quite educational for a producer's debut album

By Josh Madden

IOWA STATE DAILY (IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY)

AMES, Iowa — Usually, when hip-hop producers pick up a mic (e.g. Jermaine Dupri, P. Diddy), most people want to awe them.

But with producer/rapper Kanye West's "The College Dropout," it's time to listen as closely as possible.

Best known as a producer for such artists as Jay-Z and Talib Kweli, the Chicago-born West's debut album is innovative, inspirational and even instructional — in a way.

In "The New Workout Plan," West pokes fun at prospective groupies by educating them on how to please their respective rapper/athletes, with lyrics like "Give head, stop, breathe, get up, check your weave / Don't drop the blunt and disrespect the weed."

Though it may be his first effort, West joins the ranks of the best storytellers in hip-hop, painting pictures with his words that you can't help but visualize.

In the album's first single, "Through the Wire," West takes the listener back to his October 2003 car accident, which left him with a plate in his jaw. The imagery is so vivid, it sends chills down the spine (the first verse of the song was picked as Rhyme of the Year by The Source).

West even rapped the song while his jaw was still wired shut, hence the title.

West doesn't stop there with "Dropout," creating some of the most inventive and original beats and samples since the early days of The Neptunes. On "Jesus Walks," the military drumbeats and methodic chants feel as if you're really walking in heaven. West doesn't stop there, using the one and only Harlem Boys Choir for hook and chorus on "Two Words."

The release of "College Dropout" solidifies West's role as one of the leading ambassadors of the future of hip-hop and charts the course for him to one day be at the top of the modern rap game.

As an engineer in the U.S. Air Force, there's no telling what you'll work on.

(Seriously, we can't tell you.)

United States Air Force applied technology is years ahead of what you'll touch in the private sector, and as a new engineer you'll likely be involved at the ground level of new and sometimes classified developments. You'll begin leading and managing within this highly respected group from day one. Find out what's waiting behind the scenes for you in U.S. Air Force today. To request more information, call 1-800-423-USAF or log on to airforce.com.
Not a warm ‘Welcome’ for Romano, Hackman

• Welcome to Mooseport’ proves television star should stay on small screen
By Randi Block
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

There are a few select television stars who can take to the silver screen and still keep us on the edge of our seats. Ray Romano is one of the latter.

While he is the star of an undeniably funny show, “Everybody Loves Raymond,” Romano was unable to duplicate any entertainment value in his debut movie, “Welcome to Mooseport.” While many Romano fans rushed eagerly to see him hit the big screen, all expectations were shattered.

The fact that this movie is labeled a comedy is ridiculous. The few funny parts, which receive a mere pity chuckle at best, come from a few nutty townspeople who spend the entire movie yelping and name-calling.

Soon the whole town is involved, and Monte (Gene Hackman) begins a publicized relationship, which is predictable, yet random at the same time — cannot revive the movie. Even the end of the movie, which is predictable, yet random at the same time — cannot revive itSELF and finish with an endearing experience.

Ray Romano and Gene Hackman appease one of the peculiar townsfolk in the film “Welcome to Mooseport,” which falls flat in capturing Romano’s television humor.

Raymond” will continue for a long time because this adventure may have ruined any chance Romano has of ever getting into the movie business.

More than a waste of money, this movie is a complete waste of time. The best part is definitely when the lights come on at the end.

French ‘Triplets’ make for unique movie-going experience

• Quirky animation, Oscar-nominated soundtrack drive independent film
By Lacie Grimshaw
FOREIGN FLICKS

Forget obvious, sugar-sweet characters typically found in overly commercialized animated films. “The Triplets of Belleville” is a blended medley of shapes and textures that inspires the imagination and reminds audiences what animation looked like before computers.

After grandmother Madame Sox discovers her young grandson Champion’s love for bicycles, she becomes determined to train him for the Tour de France. After many years, Champion succeeds in becoming good enough to compete in the race. As if the Tour de France isn’t hard enough, the real trouble begins when Champion is kidnapped mid-race by two strange men. In order to save Champion, Madame Sox and her dog Bruno travel to the town of Belleville, where they meet three renowned retired singers from the 1930s who assist them in Champion’s rescue.

One aspect that sets this foreign film apart from typical Disney fare is that “The Triplets” animated characters are intelligently manipulated for the enjoyment of adults.

The animated French film “The Triplets of Belleville” deviates from the standard animated film, with its emphasis on intricate detail and odd noises to convey its message. The creativity used to make the unimaginable seem real is fascinating to watch. Nothing about the film seems contrived; everything works together simply and flawlessly.

The creatively imaginative animation lacks nothing from the minimal use of dialogue. Renditions of “Tom and Jerry” cartoons, very few words are spoken. Most of the sound is in the form of the theme song, “Belleville Rendez-vous,” a finger-snapping, foot-tapping classic performed by the renowned Triplets of Belleville.

Objects in the environment provide the remainder of the sounds. The creak of the stairs, the clank of a train and the little things people forget to hear when they’re caught up in conversation create the soundtrack for the film.

Although the feature had a short running time of one hour and 22 minutes, like stretched out taffy — tasty no matter the shape — it still sunk a little in the middle. However, the movie was able to revive itself and finish with an ending worthy of its beginning.

Released in 2003 by Sony Pictures Classics, “The Triplets of Belleville” has been nominated for two Academy Awards, including best animated feature film and best song, “Belleville Rendez-vous.”
**CONCERT REVIEW**

The Liks deliver true hip-hop to SLO Brew crowd  

By John Sanders  
 inadvertently staff writer

Discovering a true hip-hop band in San Luis Obispo is like trying to find a needle in a haystack, but this is exactly what San Luis Obispo Brewing Co., aka SLO Brew, offered an entertainment enthusiast last Wednesday night.

The local bar and restaurant, which usually plays popular dance music and mainstream rap and hip-hop, opened its doors to an audience thirsty for a different brand of music from artists who are speaking from experience and not from the usual word-of-mouth thinking.

The Liks, formerly known as the Allahkicks, were the main attraction, but many local bands and talents performed not only in opening acts but also as proof that San Luis Obispo has its own brand of underground hip-hop that is slowly but surely surfacing.

Animal science senior Rich Ford attended the event and also performed in his hip-hop trio, Blacc Out.

"We don't talk about guns and money and shit, we don't have," Ford said. "We talk about things that we do.

This message was reiterated when English and journalism senior Tom McCauley performed as his stage name Jon Doe. Allowing the crowd to jump in on several songs, Jon Doe screened phrases such as "the pen is mightier than rims" until the end I'm living your life to the fullest," he said.

"My music is about positivity and living your life to the fullest," he said.

"Basically, the opposite of what everyone else is talking about."

The night also served as a venue for a local group composed of five MCs calling themselves The Cathedral. The group sees itself winning five Grammy's by next year, but now has a compilation CD called "Street Religion: Chapter 1."

However, amateur and locals aside, the headliners took the stage at 11:45 p.m., giving the crowd and local artists who performed a taste of what they had been waiting for all night long, seasoned and professional talent.

The Liks, now consisting of J R i> , E and Tash, brought more than a decade of experience of how to get the crowd hyped and excited by using a combination of Jedi mind control and my bad hacker skills, was able to secure a simultaneous reactionary interview with both "singers." Here's a complete transcript.

**Commentary**

**DP:** Thanks for meeting me on such short notice. I hope I wasn't interrupting anything.

**BR:** Britney Spears, no problem, y'all been just cutting the d Reeves and bottom halves off my shirts.

**BR:** Christina Aguilera. Yeah, I was just cutting the crotch out of my outlaws. Great, great. So, first off, Britney, what are your immediate reactions to comments about your physique?

**BR:** I've never done anything I'm not proud of.

**BR:** What about that drunken marriage thing?

**BR:** Except that...

**BR:** And the thumbnek-nipple thing at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards in 1999?

**BR:** And that...

**BR:** And what about dropping a half-dozen F-bombs at that concert when you didn't know you were still wearing a microphone?

**BR:** And that the winner will receive an all expense paid trip to the lovely San Luis Obispo, one of the group members.

**BR:** There were about three winners who received this wonderful "trip."

**BR:** All kidding aside, The Liks were not alone in performing their lyrics. By the end of the night everyone in the crowd was screaming. "We are The Allahkicks," they were shocked in their hand or not.

**LOS ANGELES — Christian pop music singer Stevie Orrico made certain scanning remarks to reporters at the MTV Asia Awards last Saturday.

Orrico commented that she felt that Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera were revealing clothing that was "degrading" and added that, "From the time they're 7 or 8 years old, girls are being taught that the only thing that makes them special and beautiful is their sexuality, and I think that's wrong."

Spears and Aguilera were initially unavailable for comment, but by using a combination of Jedi mind-control and my bad hacker skills, was able to secure a simultaneous reactionary interview with both "singers." Here's a complete transcript.

**BS:** I was just asking...

**CA:** Yeah, but I'd like to keep it free of mud, so let's just stick to the interview. Otherwise, we're going to have a problem.

**CA:** Whatever.

**BS:** So how do you feel about those comments?

**CA:** I think that (explicative) needs to keep her dirty (explicative) mouth shut.

**BS:** Funny, I was saying the same thing about you just the other day. Now do you consider yourselves role models?

**CA:** Absolutely. I'm totally flat-tered if someone wants to imitate what I do.

**BS:** Same here.

**CA:** Could you imagine Pennsylvanias sexy and not Pennsylvanias sexy then Pennsylvanias sexy, but no Jessica Simpson, no Christina Aguilera? They've managed to sell millions of records without degrading themselves by exposing their bodies.

**BS:** Yeah, but I'm hotter than they are.

**CA:** Me too.

**BS:** That's not the point. The point is that the two of you are emulating the teen and pre­

teen girls. If you promote yourselves as sexually promiscuous, girls are going to think that people will only like them if they act that way.

**BS:** Sorry, I stood out for a while. What happened? We didn't get married, did we?

**CA:** Ooh, I like younger guys. Do you want to...

**BS:** No. And I thought we agreed you'd stay off the furniture.

**CA:** Sorry.

**BS:** What about Avril Lavigne or Stevie Orrico? They've managed to sell millions of records without degrading themselves by exposing their bodies.

**BS:** Yeah, but I'm hotter than they are.

**CA:** So, you're single? Do you want to...

**BS:** Down, Christina! Stay... stay... stay... — good. Any final comments?

**BS:** Hit me baby, one more time.

**CA:** Thanksfully not.

**BS:** Oh boy, I'm hotter than they are.

**CA:** Me too.

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The advantages of hybrid cars

I

The advantages of hybrid cars

Imagine a world where a person could drive from Sacramento to San Diego on one tank of gas pollution was reduced significantly, and the nation's dependency on foreign oil was nonexistent. If hybrid cars' popularity increased, the world would be a reality.

Currently there are three hybrid cars available for purchase: Honda's Civic Hybrid and Insight and Toyota's Prius. There are no drivers, nor buyers, on the market, but General Motors, Ford and Daimler-Chrysler are all working to produce a version of their own. The Prius was the first hybrid and has been sold in Japan since 1998. It gets more than 50 miles per gallon on an average tank. In 1999, the Insight became the first hybrid to be sold in the United States. It gets 66 miles per gallon on city streets and 70 miles per gallon on the freeway.

Although getting slightly lower gas mileage, the Civic Hybrid provides excellent drivability in addition to great gas mileage. It is its 80 percent reduction in hydrocarbon emissions. The 2004 Civic Hybrid gets 60 miles per tank and has an automatically recharging battery. This car starts at $19,650, which is only slightly more than other models of new Civics.

Doctors say price is the main reason for not purchasing a hybrid. The benefits of saving money on gasoline over time would make up for the extra money shelled out during the initial purchase. Considering gas prices are currently more than $2 per gallon, saving money on this evil necessity would be a great benefit to everyone, not to mention future tax breaks.

Any of the three cars qualify for tax credits if purchased after 2001 for personal use. Before that, only cars used for business purposes qualified for the tax credit. The most credit, $2,500, 2002 Priss was worth $3,929. Federal tax law grants owners a one-time credit of $1,320 for the purchase of their car.

The fact that the federal government is recognizing the importance and growing popularity of these cars makes a strong statement. They are endorsing these products enough to offer numerical incentives to owners.

Buying a hybrid is a gift that continues to give. If we get used to not having to buy a hybrid, the environmental impacts can be Carbone monoxide emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels are the principle cause of global warming. With the environment in such a dire situation, helping to prevent this is important. That's where the hybrids come in. The fuel efficiency of these cars greatly reduces the negative pollutants entering the air. No one can deny the necessity of transportation, but finding more eco-friendly ways to perform these tasks leaves everyone better off.

Finally, hybrids are a positive addition to car lots because they release some of the United States' reliance on foreign countries for oil. If drivers require less fuel, the nation as a whole does not need to rely as much on foreign oil. Persian Gulf countries account for 25 percent of the United States' oil imports, with Saudi Arabia leading the pack and constituting 14.5 percent. Saudi Arabia recently released a list showing 600,000 barrels daily to America. If the United States could increase fuel efficiency by 7.6 miles per gallon, we would be able to get by with less oil imports.

This is very important for people to consider, especially in light of recent terrorist acts. Currently, the United States depends on foreign countries as providers of fuel. This affects what the country does when it comes to foreign policy. The United States always has to consider that they could take away our source of gas. It would be better for the nation if we could operate independently of other countries. If this were true there would be stricter rules on these countries because we would have nothing to lose from fighting them.

Hybrid cars are affordable, gas efficient and lessen our dependence on foreign countries. Drivers who choose not to take advantage of these benefits lose out independently and impact the entire nation.

Randi Block is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Opinion

Is there life after 'Sex'?

Don't have an excuse to drink champagne on Sunday nights anymore. I'm sure there are some who scoff at the show that made great cocktails, great sex and great shoes seem as fundamental as oxygen is officially off. Never mind the last season. The last episode that has been telecast has been replayed more than once, and the fans are begging for more. It is the show that got people talking again.

The message boards at the official 'Sex and the City' HBO Web site are packed with fans sharing their favorite memories and explaining how a television show could become so personal. It put the spent back into me when I found myself in a bad relationship, one woman posed. Another who has an aspect of each episode that makes you 'laugh, think, cry, etc.' The show is so good because it operates in reality — each episode reflects the transience of life.

As viewers we have weathered the bad dates and post-breakup nights right along with the characters because we have always wanted more than 'Sex and the City' dated to eschew tradition and offer up the notion that life can be anything it wants to be. It is a fairy-tale ending. We were introduced to four single female New Yorkers who simultaneously embarked and rejected traditional stereotypes. Miranda was the go-getter, Carrie was the attention seeker, Samantha was the dreamer, and the City' has affected our culture. This show has generated much more than a loyal fan base through the years. That's where the hybrids come in. The fuel efficiency of these cars greatly reduces the negative pollutants entering the air. No one can deny the necessity of transportation, but what are the costs of such measures?

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Randi Block is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.
Opinion

More letters to the editor

Shout out to 'real' men, women

Editor,

I smiled when I read that request for the rebuttal of men to stand and be counted, in spite of Mr. Scott's and the like, to show the women of Cal Poly that there are a few gentlemen around. I also think there is room here for a "shout out" to the "gentle-women" of Cal Poly.

Here's to the real men, who don't care if they're a 2-stroke, who don't use the word "like" every other syllable, who don't flash their breasts on Mardi Gras, who don't take their breasts to von Mardi Gras, who don't take their breasts to the city. I'm sure your "liberal" eight-ten-year-olds would love to see an annual parade where all the participants wear those lovely, delicate, non-swimming, transcendent, rationaly coherent God, the Christian God.

Joshua Kob is a political science junior.

Joshua Kob is a political science junior.

Bus graffiti not the answer

Editor,

What's up with the spray painting around campus that has a picture of Bush and a caption "I'm getting a 'one-term president'"? I'm really concerned as to why this has to happen. I can't stand to see Bush's face every day. Although there is no way in hell I will be voting for Bush, vandalizing our campus is not the solution to convince others that Bush's economic, foreign and domestic policies are worth worrying about. re-election. I'm concerned that for most of us nerds, politics isn't something that makes me think...will only, nothing.

Here's to the people whose idea of "partying" is getting their hands dirty in Mar mello's (too, that's not alcohol), dancing at Firestone's and a game of cards, swing-dancing in Starbucks, bowling and Barnes & Noble.

Nathanael Johnson is a computer engineering sophomore.

Problems with atheist letters

Editor,

I agree with the concept "one-term presi dient," but we need to be serious about it. I understand that atheism is an entertaining idea. Just like tough fut fans who watch football, politics gives me the same thrill. I've read and listened to a few "intellectual" reductions around the area, I'm no longer having fun and am serious about getting rid of Bush.

For the students on campus who want to vote for a third party candidate in November, you should really think it through. Do you want to take votes away from the Democrat who is nominated and give Bush another four years to appoint right-wing Christian fundamentalists to the Supreme Court? Also, if you think the last four years were bad, think about the next four when Bush will not have to worry about re-election.

Overall, our main objective in the next election should be to get rid of Bush and vote for the Democrat who is nominated. We will have a better chance of influencing Kerry or Edwards than Bush. Let's unite and show the Americans we do not approve of a socially consci ous and fiscally irresponsible president.

Joshua Kob is a political science junior.

Plan B is an early abortion

Editor,

I am writing to correct the few errors that appeared in a recent Mustang Daily article ("Morning after pill" to be more accurate) Feb. 20. Ms. Lyon stated that Plan B "does not work if a baby is in the womb," and that this is an "early abortion.

In fact Plan B (levonorgestrel) works the same way that the original emergency contraception, "the morning after pill," does. It can stop a fertilized egg from attaching to the womb, while also exposing the hormone progesterone, which makes it unfortunate that this error was made.

Plan B is a way to prevent pregnancy. It should not be considered an abortion. The real origins of Mardi Gras. . .

Ken Kieno/ is a mathematics senior.

Poly needs sustainable dorms

Editor,

In a state where one in five architects in California are Cal Poly graduates and our campus is one of the most attractive in the nation, Cal Poly knows about success and paving the way for the future. A new trend is needed in our Student Housing North to monetarily and environmentally. Sustainability is quickly becoming the new trend for a sustainable future.

One way sustainability can be implement ed is in Student Housing North. If Student Housing North is designed to incorporate more natural light instead of a depend ency on electric lighting, and solar panels are used to create renewable energy use for the buildings, this would certainly help in reducing energy bills and keep students from buying much for utilities which are incorporated in the rent payments. Our administration must take the plans for Student Housing North go through it will be built very inefficiently and students will pick up the tab. Republican or not, green or student-focused, everyone has an some environmental students.

Let's make Cal Poly green and reduce energy efficiency by finding that save money while creating a sustainable and clean environment.

Sustainability is quickly becoming the new trend for a sustainable future.

Blake Bolton is an industrial technology senior.

Holbus' column misinformed

Editor,

John Holbus' article "Politics" is rather naive and is rather naive. Holbus' column on Kerry ("Kerry's war record doesn't match his policies, political equality"") was laughable. Holbus wants everyone to tire of anything relating to Bush's service record, political equality or Kerry's record. Of course, when your candidate is facing a war hero, flying outdated jets in a National Guard unit filled with sons of priv ileged Texans doesn't look so hot. Also he wants us to grow weary of hearing about the decision-making process that led to the war. Don't worry, Bush supporters. Let me tell you to look into this "intelligence failure," but it conveniently won't report until after the elections.

The author states Bush and Kerry are in a dead heat, when the latest Gallup Poll shows Kerry leading.4 points ahead. Kerry and Bush has yet to tap his vast reserves of campaign cash (his recent trip to the Super Bowl) on campaign cash. When he does, pay close attention to what is said. If you are expecting substance, you prob ably won't find it. There are understandable collections of weapons of mass destruction in Israel. Holbus also states there is no comparison between McCain and Kerry, but McCain has stopped at nothing to smear McCain. Kerry was the front-runner. The Republican strategy is clearly apparent in the first six sentences of the column, where Holbus uses the word "liberal" eight times. Gentlemen, start your muddling.

Craig Merceik is a psychology graduate student.

The real origins of Mardi Grass

Editor,

As a native of New Orleans, I can tell you that Bush's "Whitacker's rule" had nothing to do with Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras is incorrect. There is nothing worldly idolatrous or satanic in order to participate in Mardi Gras. In fact, it predates the Christian Church. The origins of Mardi Grass started with an early Catholic saint, Saint Solomon. Hobbes keeps referring to a "woman's heart" as though the only way to adhere to that atheist's moral judgments, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgments, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment, in order for an atheist to make any moral judgment.

In light of some recent atheist letters submitted to the Mustang Daily, I would like to speak to everyone, however, for better chance of influencing Kerry or Edwards than Bush. Let's unite and show the Americans we do not approve of a socially conscious and fiscally irresponsible president.

Ken Kienow is a mathematics senior.

Sustainability is quickly becoming the new trend for a sustainable future.

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Plan B is a way to prevent pregnancy. It should not be considered an abortion. The real origins of Mardi Gras...
Tracking disease could save lives, study says

By Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — A University of California study Monday said the state could save lives as well as millions of dollars each year by creating a first-in-the-nation system to track chronic illnesses and environmental hazards.

It costs Californians $12 billion annually to fight nine diseases like cancer, lead poisoning and childhood asthma for which economic data is available, according to the university system’s California Policy Research Center.

If tracking those diseases cut environmentally related illnesses by 1 percent, the state would save $120 million annually, the study projected.

“Then noted more than 33 million state residents live in areas where air pollution brings an increased health risk.

About 74,000 California children are affected by asthma, and about 1,100 children are diagnosed annually with cancer.

The study stems from a 2001 law authored by Sen. Martha Escota, D-Northridge, making California the first state to plan an environmental health tracking system.

In a statement Monday, Escota said accurate information about who is exposed to what environmental risks is necessary to guide the state’s public health and environmental policies.

She envisions a system that would monitor both the frequency and geographic distribution of illnesses and exposure to known health dangers.

Some of that information already is being collected, but the state needs a new coordinating office to analyze it and to tell the public about environmental hazards and related diseases, said Dr. Joyce Loshot, who chaired the university study.

The researchers recommended that California create an inter-agency Office of Environmental Health Tracking, run by the Department of Health Services and the state Environmental Protection Agency.

The state also should increase the ability of state laboratories to check for contaminants in humans; provide health education to communities experiencing, for instance, suspicious disease clusters; and keep track of disease and health risks based on race, ethnicity and income level.

The researchers said environmental hazards are disproportionately a problem for those with lower incomes and among certain races and ethnic groups.

The state also should spend more to fight environmental health threats, or it will be useless to track their effects, the researchers said.

While a health and disease tracking system would be beneficial, the researchers cautioned it would take a commitment from both the Legislature and executive branch of state government, along with communities, universities and companies.

Eye disease could be checked earlier

By Lauran Neergaard

WASHINGTON — Millions of middle-aged and older Americans unknowingly harbor one of three eye diseases that could blind them — diseases that could be detected in time to save at least some sight if they get regular eye exams.

Glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy all sneak up on their victims, destroying vital eye cells before the person is aware there’s anything wrong.

Risk increases with age. Indeed, the government predicts the number of people left blind or seriously visually impaired is likely to double in 10 years as the baby boom generation ages.

The elderly are most at risk of these diseases, but people in their 40s can get them, too.

Vision specialists say far too few people get regular comprehensive eye exams — not where you read the “E” on an eye chart, but where your eyes are dilated to the optometrist or ophthalmologist can spot any disease.

Now, the government has issued the eye charity Prevent Blindness America a five-year grant to help fight age-related eye disease by funding free screenings for older people around the country. For locations, check http://www.preventblindness.org.

And a coalition of eye doctors and genitor advocates has begun a campaign to teach people about who’s at risk.

Eye exams aside, among the advice: Protect your eyes from sun, don’t smoke, which damages eyes, too, and eat lots of vitamin-packed dark, leafy vegetables. Those steps may help prevent these diseases from ever forming, says Northwestern University ophthalmologist Dr. Susan Taub, who chairs the Better Vision Institute.

There are no national figures on how many Americans over 40 follow guidelines to get a comprehensive eye exam every year or two. Diabetes and others considered at high risk, such as those with affected relatives, are urged to get annual exams. Such exams cost about $123, and insurance seldom pays for middle-aged healthy people.

Some sobering statistics suggest skipping those exams costs vision: Glaucoma, for instance, affects more than 2.2 million Americans, half of whom are unaware they have it, according to the government. Up to a fifth of the nation’s 13 million type 2 diabetics already show signs of early-stage retinopathy at the time their diabetes is diagnosed, and officials from the American Diabetes Association.

And while 1.7 million Americans have low vision or advanced-stage macular degeneration, another 7.1 million are at very high risk because the disease has reached intermediate stage without symptoms, said representatives from the National Eye Institute.

http://www.preventblindness.org
The joys of arbitration: Gagne to earn $5 million

VERO BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Fresh off his loss in arbitration, NL Cy Young Award winner Eric Gagne started workouts with the Los Angeles Dodgers camp.

Gagne will make $5 million this season after getting a 2-year, $12 million deal, matching all 55 of his save opportunities last year. He had asked for $8 million.

"Arbitration’s never fun," Gagne said. "I’ve never heard anybody say, ‘I had a lot of fun at an arbitration hearing.’ Nobody likes to go to arbitration, but it’s over with. We just have to go on and think about winning games.”

Gagne’s manager, Jim Tracy, spoke on the phone with Gagne last week and acknowledged the closer was upset about the loss.

Last year, the Dodgers renewed Gagne’s contract for $550,000. Gagne responded with one of the best seasons of his career, saving 47 games and helping the Dodgers win the NL pennant. The Dodgers offered Gagne a one-year deal worth $1.5 million, but Gagne rejected the offer and asked for arbitration.

"I am happy to get the guaranteed money in my pocket," Gagne said. "It’s not a lot of money, but it’s a lot more than I would have gotten in arbitration, but it’s over with. We just have to go on and think about winning games."