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Washington — Rising prices for gasoline, air travel and clothing propelled consumer costs 0.5 percent higher in March, raising the possibility that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates this summer.

Wednesday’s reading on the Consumer Price Index, the government’s most closely watched inflation measure, revised costs of three months’ housing and asked for ice cream. The hospital didn’t indicate when she might be released.

SAN DIEGO — The manufacturer of San Diego County’s electronic voting equipment blamed a faulty power switch for problems that delayed the opening of 40 percent of polling stations, according to a report released by Diebold Election Systems Inc.

Switches on computer encoders malfunctioned, the report said Tuesday. In some cases, voters were trained to see another screen. Voters were delayed, said Ray Weldon, a University of Oregon geologist.

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Ruby Bustamante was taken to Riverside Regional Medical Center, where a hospital official reported Wednesday that she was in good condition, sitting up in bed and asking for ice cream. The hospital didn’t indicate when she might be released.

One of the nation’s top cancer hospitals, which has treatedSprings — The San Andreas Fault may be on the cusp of producing larger and more frequent earthquakes in a flurry of seismic activity that could rattle Southern California with a strong tremor every few decades or less, a geologist said Wednesday.

A detailed analysis of two periods of past quake activity on a section of California’s most notorious fault suggests a drawn-out period of little seismic activity may be coming to an end, said Ray Weldon, a University of Oregon geologist.

The problem occurred because the faulty switches did not shut off the units, and the battery power drained. When workers trained to see another screen. Voters were delayed, said Ray Weldon, a University of Oregon geologist.

Workers then turned on the machines, a Windows screen. The computer displayed the wrong opening of a new Editor-in-Chief for the 2004-2005 school year.

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One of the nation’s top cancer hospitals, which has treated
A Hayward, Calif. — The killing of a transgender teen was cold­blooded murder carried out by three men furious they had been deceived by a beautiful girl who turned out to be biologically male, a prosecutor said as he began presenting his case Wednesday.

"Make no mistake about it, Eddie's death was an execution," said Chris Lamiero, making his opening statement in the case of Eddie Araujo, a transgender teen who turned out to be biologically male. The prosecutor said he began presenting his case Wednesday.

"They decided ... that the wages of Eddie Araujo's sin of deception were death," Lamiero said.

On trial are Michael Magidson, 23, Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, both 24. A fourth man, 20-year-old Jaron Nabors, initially was charged with murder but pleaded guilty to a manslaughter charge instead of murder. Cazares' attorney has said the other two shared that bias.

The trial had met Araujo as "Lida" in the summer of 2002 and had become friends with her, often hanging out at Merel's house in Newark, a San Francisco suburb. But suspicions about her gender arose and Merel and Magidson, who both had both sex with Araujo, began to compare notes about their encounters, setting the stage for the showdown at Merel's house on Oct. 3.

Attorneys for Magidson and Merel have suggested their clients may have acted in the heat of passion, which would support a manslaughter charge instead of murder. Cazares' attorney has said he may have helped bury the body, but he was not part of the killing.

On Wednesday, Lamiero showed jurors a picture of Araujo, long blonde hair flowing, to show that "Eddie made a very beautiful woman." Of the three defendants, looking clean cut in court with short hair and dark jackets, Lamiero said Merel had "absolutely no use for gay people," but it wasn't clear whether the other two shared that bias.

Still, the case, said Lamiero, isn't about Araujo being transgender; it is about her murder.

"They decided ... that the wages of Eddie Araujo's sin of deception were death," Lamiero said.
Thursday, April 15, 2004

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**Weekly are for Vussies**
Student charged for fake abduction

Woman charged with two misdemeanor counts of obstructing officers, faced with $20,000 fines, jail time

Jenny Price
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. — A college student accused of faking her own kidnapping last month was charged Wednesday with lying to police in what they suggested was a desperate attempt to get her boyfriend's attention.

Audrey Seiler, a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, was charged with two misdemeanor counts of obstructing officers. Each charge carries up to nine months in jail and a $10,000 fine.

Seiler disappeared from her off-campus apartment March 27 without her coat or purse. She was discovered curled in a fetal position in a marsh four days later, and told police that a man had abducted her at knifepoint.

But police concluded Seiler made up her story after obtaining a store videotape that showed her buying the knife, duct tape, rope and cold medicine she claimed her abductor used to restrain her. Seiler confessed after she was confronted with the tape, according to authorities.

"I set up everything. I'm just so messed up. I'm sorry," she quoted as saying. But she later recanted the statement, insisting she had been abducted.

Hundreds of people from Madison and Seiler's hometown searched for her after she disappeared, and her claim about an armed man touched off a major manhunt that authorities said cost the police about $96,000.

Her first court appearance was scheduled for Thursday, but her attorney was expected to appear in her place.

Seiler had also reported an unexplained attack in February, saying she was struck from behind and left unconscious. But the complaint does not say whether police believe that attack was also fabricated.

According to police, one woman spotted Seiler on a bike path near the marsh on March 29, 30 and 31. On March 31, the woman said, she saw Seiler lying in the fetal position. When she asked how Seiler was, Seiler sat up and said she was OK and liked to come to the marsh after class to relax.

Seiler's mother told police her daughter had not been herself lately and was "extremely needy" of Fisher.

Three days before she disappeared, her laptop was used to log onto Fisher's e-mail account and read exchanges "with romantic overtones" between him and another woman, according to the complaint.

A message left at Seiler's home in Rockford, Minn., was not immediately returned. There was no answer at the campus telephone number for Fisher, Seiler's boyfriend.

Hopper said Seiler was home with her parents and receiving "medical care and the care and support that she needs from her family."

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Tax returns longer, more complicated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taxpayers working feverishly to meet the April 15 filing deadline can take some comfort knowing they are not alone when it comes to scratching their heads over this year's forms. Tax returns are getting more complicated.

The government estimates that the average taxpayer filing a typical tax return with itemized deductions and income from interest, capital gains and dividends, has to spend 42 minutes more than last year's forms. Tax returns are getting more complicated.

It is not only frustrating, but economically counterproductive, said David Keating, senior counsel for the National Taxpayers Union and author of a new study on tax complexity.

Even the simplest Form 1040EZ tax return takes three hours and 43 minutes to complete.

Some of this year's paperwork burden stems from changes in the taxpayers' favor, such as new laws that reduced the rates on capital gains and dividends and increased the child tax credit. The Internal Revenue Service reported Wednesday that the average tax return takes three hours and 43 minutes to complete.

Tenet, appearing before the commission for the second time in three weeks, said that in the 1990s the CIA lost 25 percent of its personnel with the Aug. 6, 2001, memo given to President Bush that described the terrorist threat.

"We don't want to have historians look back and say, 'OK, you won the war on terrorism but you lost your civil liberties,'" Mueller said. "We have become, since Sept. 11, a member of the intelligence community in a way we were not in the past."

The panel's vice chairman, former Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, said most commission members support some sort of intelligence overhaul, "but we have come to no judgment about the nature of the problem we will recommend."

After the hearing, Kean, a Republican, told reporters the commission had requested declassification of a December 1998 presidential daily briefing — an intelligence memo summarizing world events prepared for President Clinton. They want to compare it with the Aug. 6, 2001, memo given to President Bush that described Osama bin Laden's determination to strike inside the United States.
SACRAMENTO — California must choose between protecting the environment or protecting life and property as homes spring up in what once were wildland areas in the nation’s most populous state, a governor’s review panel concluded Wednesday in the aftermath of last fall’s devastating wildfires.

The failure of state and federal lawmakers and administrations to make those tough decisions stalled prevention efforts that were and remain the primary hope of stopping wind-driven fires such as swept Southern California in October, panel members said.

Once ignited, weather conditions determine the outcome far more than anything firefighters can do, the panel said, though it outlined 48 changes that could be made to better prevent and respond to wildfires.

Those include better cooperation and communication between fire agencies; more training and improved equipment; quicker use of military aircraft; and reconsideration of the sunset deadline for launching firefighting aircraft.

All those responded directly to complaints about how local, state and federal agencies handled the firestorms that killed 24 people in the fires and 16 more in resulting mudslides, destroyed more than 3,600 homes and burned nearly 740,000 acres.

Changes could cost billions of dollars, panel members said as they presented their final report, but they said most would be nearly useless unless policy makers set a priority of protecting life and property over trees, wildlife habitat and other environmental concerns.

“It is essential to understand that unless and until public policy makers at all levels of government muster the political will to put the protection of life and... property ahead of competing political agendas, these tragedies are sure to continue,” said the panel’s chairman, retired state Sen. William Campbell. Without that priority, he said, “anything that we do moneyside is not going to be that important.”

His comments were echoed by other panel members and in the report itself, though Andrea Tuttle, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, and Dallas Jones, director of the Office of Emergency Services, said there can be common ground between environmentalists and developers.

Environmentalists, too, recognize that there are benefits to thinning forests to prevent high intensity fires, said Tuttle.

“Stopping growth in those areas is not really an option. But doing smart growth in those areas is. It’s really up to us,” said Jones.
Foot fetish

Whether they're cheap or designer, trendy or trash, sandals are everywhere.

Story by Tamah Graves
Photo by Keith Wetherite
Finding the ideal flip-flop depends on the wearer's preference

Recently popularized by California surfers and beach bums, flip-flops have come a long way since the days when only Asia's elite wore them.

Now it is impossible to cruise through a coastal community without having at least one flip-flop (a.k.a. sandal, thong, go-ahead, slipper) sighting.

In the last few years, flip-flops have broken the beach barrier and are now making appearances worldwide.

One of the great things about flip-flops is that, regardless of fashion knowledge, virtually everyone can work them into their everydayion knowledge, virtually everyone has broken the beach barrier and carry.

However, there are a few things a notice flip-flop connoisseur should consider:

While anyone can swing into the local dollar store and grab a pair of those day-glow orange plastic flip-flops, it is not recommended.

Manufacturers of these models use rigid plastic to make the straps, which go between the toes and over either side of the foot. This is not good—especially to the rookie flip-flopper whose tender feet haven't yet been exposed to the elements of nature.

Consequently, the plastic has been known to cause extreme toe and foot chafing, making it hard to get out of the store, let alone make it to the beach.

Another hazard is the possibility of the strap coming undone from the base, causing the wearer to remain barefoot until back-up footwear arrives.

Splurging on a semi-substantial pair of flip-flops will save your feet from much anguish, pain and suffering.

"I have had tons of the cheap pairs, but they only last a little while," said flip-flop addict Elaine Ball. "Now I get the ones that are a bit more expensive because they last forever."

Rainbow brand sandals are a popular alternative to the cent bargains, using more foot-friendly and durable materials.

Native to Southern California, Rainbows were first worn by the beach-goers of Newport, Huntington, Venice and Manhattan beaches, now gaining in popularity throughout the rest of the country.

The leather of the toe piece and straps is soft upon purchase and only relaxes more as the flip-flop gets worn in.

The sole of the Rainbow comes in various thicknesses and the leather is available in an array of colors. Several local surf stores carry Rainbows, including Moondoggies Beach Club, Central Coast Surfboards and Surf Sisters.

With the warranty that comes with each pair of Rainbows, which covers normal wear and tear, the glue used on the sole wearing out and any broken straps, what could be more perfect?

Unfortunately, even the blissful world of Rainbow sandals sometimes has problems.

Ball, who works at Moondoggies, is a flip-flop advocate. However, sometimes even she gets discouraged by her kicks because, "when my Rainbows get wet they get kind of slippery," she said. "I think that could be dangerous.

Another popular brand of flip-flops is Chaco, which uses a durable material that is less slippery in the water.

April showers may bring May flowers, but sandals are worn year-round by some.

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Flip-flops
continued from page 10

Though many Southern California natives are loyal to the Rainbow name, Jerrell Wallace, a Cuesta College sophomore and native of Orange County, prefers Reef.

"Reefs are more chill and comfy," Wallace said. "They are quality things and don't cost a ton.

"Reef enthusiasts are still prone to the occasional slipperiness of the flip-flop, but the incidences are less frequent. And tooting is a thing of the past. The soft cloth of the Reef straps provide a comfortably snug fit while still allowing the toes to breathe. This prevents the common phenomena of toe claustrophobia."

Flip-flops make a popular leather model, the black Reefs. Though many Southern Californians wear black Reefs, "My Reefs are my favorite pair of flip-flops," Len said. "I think everyone who has black Reefs will be in Cal Poly's house to lay another set of guitar riffs at UU Hour today at 11 a.m.

"Reefs are more chill and comfy," said UnderRated, a.k.a. Josh Leidnerman, one of the two MCs who make up Poluck, said he makes almost all the beats for the group. Raised in Humboldt, the small Jewish guy said the small-town vibe and the nice, tolerant people of his hometown who "just love to smoke," are what he tries to reflect in his music and lyrics."

The other member of Poluck is "r 1 Ton" or James Kerri, who raps for the group. He owns part of the independent label Lost Koast Productions and he said takes care of the company's business aspects. Some of his musical influences are groups like Living Legends, Blacalicious and Jurassic 5 who, he said, helped develop West Coast underground rap. 1 Ton also said he likes Buggie, E-40 and Fat Joe "for representing for fat people."

Poluck's debut CD "Humboldt County High" has been their most successful release, selling 10,000 copies.

"You can't complain about that," said UnderRated, adding that "Humboldt County High" earned a nomination for best new hip-hop group from the Los Angeles Independent Music Awards.

The group's second record, "The Lost Koast Collector," is off to an even faster start and features a compilation of MC's from various cultures. Their records are sold all over the world but mostly in the western United States, UnderRated said.

"In Humboldt County we sell more records than Britney Spears and N'Sync," he said. "So that's gotta mean something."

The group has an upcoming recorded called "Harvest Time" featuring Living Legends and E-40, which is due out in September.

Poluck came together in 1996 when UnderRated and 1 Ton, along with two other artists involved with Lost Koast Productions — Jeffrey Simmons Jr., a.k.a Aaron Abeyta (Mixes, plays guitar and part label owner), and "James Boy" a.k.a James Calderon (a solo artist featured on many Poluck tracks) — met during a nightclub DJ tryout. Since UnderRated is Jewish, 1 Ton is black, Simmons is Mexican and James Boy is Puerto Rican, and they all partake in recreational marijuana smoking, they decided to call themselves Potluck.

Along with the privilege of wearing flip-flops comes a few simple grooming rules to abide by in order to set you apart from the grungy boys of "jackets" and impress even the perfectly coiffed gang from "Queen Eye For The Straight Guy:"

• Wear your shoes.
• Keep feet moisturized.
• Girls, a little nail polish is always a welcome bit of flair.
• Before you blind the world with winter whitened feet, expose them to the sun or outdoor excursions to get them used to the light of day.
• Keep feet moisturized.

Northern California-based hip-hop group Potluck plays UU Hour today at 11 a.m.

"A double meaning," said UnderRated. "Get it?"

Potluck has since toured with big names like Ice Cube, Xabiv, Too Short, Sir Mix A Lot, Ben Harper, the Marley Brothers and many others, who have all helped Potluck in different ways, UnderRated said.

Potluck kicked off a small, two-week tour this week, performing at a couple spots in California, Colorado and Oregon as a warm up for the Van Warped Tour in June. This will be Potluck's fourth year playing, on the tour, and 1 Ton said they always enjoy.

UnderRated said he hopes the group can keep earning a living making music together.

"If we can do that, I think we'll be happy, and that's all you can ask for out of life," he said.

He also said it would be great if the group can stay independent, but sell their records at mainstream outlets.

"But being able to say what we want to say is the most important thing to us," UnderRated said. "If that keeps us from going mainstream, then oh well."
Road extension raises student safety issues

Commentary

An anonymous e-mail sent to Mustang Daily over the weekend claims an informal study has concluded that the proposed extension of California Boulevard to Highland Drive "could kill students." The sender also said he has been passed by other motorists travelling at about 60 mph in the 35—mph zone on California Boulevard on a regular basis. The sender feels the roadwork is somewhat inevitable, and more measures should be taken to slow down drivers.

It is no secret that a myriad of traffic laws are broken every day — changing lanes without a signal, speeding and the infamous "California" (no pun intended) roll­thru. There should obviously be a concern for the safety of pedestrians and bikers — unlike cars, they aren't enclosed in reinforced steel and equipped with seat belts and airbags.

A typical statistic found in most elementary criminal justice books say the average motorist violates a traffic rule at least once every two city blocks. Based on that data, the average driver would break about three to four more laws if the extension took place.

More traffic signals, speed bumps and an increased police presence have been suggested and would indeed provide a more secure environment.

With that being said, which follows that there is more potential for accidents when roads are built in heavily-travelled areas.

Granted, the extension of California Boulevard to Highland Drive does have this potential, but an increased police force and increased alertness of students crossing the road to and from school every day.

San Luis Obispo is only going to continue to grow. With expansion comes the need for more routes to travel if we want to avoid the gridlock of other cities that must are hope to escape.

Sooner or later, San Luis Obispo will have traffic issues that dwarf the current problems. The solution should be to address these issues now before they become a greater dilemma.

Unfortunately, the California budget is not to be emulated. There are enough current expenditures to deal with, let alone having enough funds to plan ahead. The only choice left is to do what we can now, because kicking ourselves later won't help.

Nobody except lawyers with 1-800 numbers like to see a learning disability, OK?"
Liberal radio has potential

Commentary

It's about time.

That's the feeling among many liberals in the United States after the launch of the Air America Radio network about two weeks ago. The hope is left that liberal talk radio will finally take some ground on a medium that has been virtually unserved by conservatives like Rush Limbaugh.

Air America combines political-minded comedians like Saturday Night Live alum Al Franken, with liberal personalities and commentators, such as journalist Laura Flanders.

While this network is a great concept, what's more crucial is whether or not a president, the New York Times op-ed page contained a surprise for many of its readers. Not only may the junior senator from Massachusetts find himself in the Oval Office next January, but he may do so with Clinton as his vice-president.

Stephen Gillers' March 3 op-ed does not suggest that Kerry might tap the former president as his vice-president. That Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton is running mate, but rather means that her husband may make the running mate ticket. Although Gillers correctly notes that constitutional concerns bear no impact on the president and vice-president running as a ticket, the idea that Clinton might be the running mate for Kerry is intriguing. It may present a viable alternative to the current ticket and, perhaps, keep alive the hopes of those who were disappointed with the decision to run without a vice-presidential candidate. While Clinton's name on the ticket certainly w...
Governors urged to use clean energy

Barry Massey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Western states should take the lead in renewable energy production to meet growing power demands and help establish a balanced energy policy for the nation, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Wednesday.

At the opening of an energy summit organized by the Western Governors’ Association, Richardson challenged leaders of western states to support policies and projects that would increase the production of so-called clean power, such as electricity generated by solar, wind and biomass.

Richardson, the chairman of the governors group and a former energy secretary during the Clinton administration, also urged Congress to approve legislation to provide for mandatory reliability standards for the electricity grid.

He warned that the nation remained vulnerable to blackouts such as an outage in August 2003 that cascaded from Michigan to New York.

“I am concerned that we’re setting ourselves up for other blackouts in the summer, especially with high temperatures, high heat,” Richardson said at a news conference.

The energy summit, which runs through Friday, is bringing together governors from Western states, officials from Canada and Mexico, energy industry leaders, environmentalists and scientists.

Richardson wants the gathering to serve as the starting point for the West to assume a larger role in national energy policy.

Energy legislation is stalled in Congress and Richardson expressed doubt that it could be approved this year because of election-year disputes. However, he recommended that Congress move ahead with several critical provisions, such as the grid reliability and extension of a federal renewable energy tax credit, and pass those at separate measures.

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This bull is part of the rodeo.

The National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) says it’s “proud to be associated with” the spit tobacco industry. What? Proud to associate with products that kill when used as directed?

The NCAA, the Olympics and most other college sports know better. What would happen if athletes were禁止 to use cigarettes?

Is the easy cash more addictive than tobacco? That’s not the way it should be for college rodeo. We can change it. Check out www.BuckTobacco.org.

Let’s keep rodeo a sporting event with real bulls, not a spitting event that’s all bull.

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A good walk spoiled

Commentary

Don't let anyone tell you golf isn't physical.

"Anyone who disagrees should try it," said golf coach Scott Cartwright.

"Try playing 72 holes and sleeping in a strange bed. We spend more time competing than any other sport. We spend 14-15 hours competing in two days."

When I go to the local nine-hole par-3, I'm usually dejected by the third hole, tired of pulling my cart behind me by the fourth fifth holes.

I've spent my mugallas like a sailor spends his paycheck — foolishly.

And then there's Travis Bertoni and his pal on the Cal Poly men's golf team who play 72 holes in a 48-hour span.

"I'm used to it. It's to us," said Bertoni.

"There's no rest," Cartwright said.

"There are moments when you have to kick them, hand them a sack lunch and kick them in the butt," Bertoni said of the par-70, "because you had the entire course, as well as on-course sustenance like energy bars and water, and, in inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather, rain suits and inclement weather.

"Men's tennis ended its six-game losing streak Wednesday as they defeated UC Santa Barbara. It was a much-needed win and boost in the team's confidence as they look toward the upcoming Big West tournament.

"The team's record now stands at 11-11. The season just got a whole lot better," head coach Trevor Kronemann said. "Lately we've had trouble putting it together and today we finally did that."

"When I go to the local nine-hole par-3, I'm usually dejected by the third hole, tired of pulling my cart behind me by the fourth fifth holes.

"I'm used to it. It's to us," said Bertoni.

"There's no rest," Cartwright said.

"It's touch, but this course was fairly flat," Bertoni said of the par-70, 7,133-yard Talking Stick North Course. "I'm used to it. It's tough to get used to when you've never really seen it before. The first couple times it's pretty rough.

"The Mustang golfers must carry their own bags — stashed with 14 clubs and balls — the entire course, as well as on-course sustenance like energy bars and water, and, in inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather, inclement weather.

"Don't let anyone tell you golf isn't physical.

"Anyone who disagrees should try it," said golf coach Scott Cartwright.

"Try playing 72 holes and sleeping in a strange bed. We spend more time competing than any other sport. We spend 14-15 hours competing in two days."

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