Children’s Center gets large cut of ASI budget

Many students, staff and faculty members bring their children to the on-campus Children’s Center.

Sara Wright

It may be alarming for some students that the ASI Children’s Center receives around 40 percent of the Associated Students Inc. budget. Why is so much money given to the facility?

Children’s Center Director Tonya Horsen said a referendum students voted on a decade ago determined the percentage of student fees that would be allocated to the center.

“At that time, the students voted to support the Children’s Center through their fees, and that was increased over time, so it’s now a little over $9 per student per quarter indicated,” Horsen said.

That amount increases yearly, based on the Higher Education Price Index, which is the increase in costs in certain services purchased by higher education institutions.

The student fee breakdown for the 2007-2008 school year is: 55 percent for the University Union Budget, funds the Rec Center, the University Union, sports complexes and maintenance.

The Children’s Center offers a variety of programs, including the infant-toddler program, transition program, preschool, kindergarten and Poly Trekkers, a summer program for school-aged children. For most of the programs, there is a fee of one adult for every two to three children.

Currently, 78 full-time employees and 125 student employees work for the Children’s Center. All full-time employees have bachelors degrees in child development, early childhood development or a related field.

The Children’s Center has been on campus for more than 20 years, Boom said. She compared the current Children’s Center, which has been in its present location next to the university president’s campus residence, to the trailer it once operated out of before 1993.

The Children’s Center is separate from the child development department lab, which is near the Robertsee Center.

By The Numbers

40 Percent of ASI budget that goes toward the Children’s Center budget

5 Percent of student fees that goes toward the Children’s Center budget

141 Current number of full-time and student employees at the Children’s Center

How’s my driving?

Members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints stand near their temporary housing in San Angelo, Texas.

Raid on polygamist sect takes more than 400 children into custody

Michelle Roberts

ELDORADO, Texas — More than 400 children, mostly girls in pioneer dresses, were swept into state custody from a polygamist sect in what authorities described Monday as the largest child-welfare operation in Texas history.

The dayslong raid on the sprawling compound built by now-jailed polygamist leader Warren Jeffs was sparked by a 16-year-old girl’s call to authorities that she was being abused and that girls as young as 14 and 15 were being forced into marriages with much older men.

Wearing home-sewn, ankle-length dresses with their hair pinned up in braids, some 133 women left

SUNRISE RETREAT CENTER, El Paso, Texas — 600 children, mostly girls in pioneer dresses, were swept into state custody from a polygamist sect in what authorities described Monday as the largest child-welfare operation in Texas history.

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Members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints stand near their temporary housing in San Angelo, Texas.
The center is located on the edge of campus near the president's house.

E. Kennedy Library.

Students, faculty and staff may bring their children to the center, and depending on income and other factors, some full-time students may receive a discount on enrollment fees for their children. Depending on the program and whether children remain at the center for part or all of the day, students' parents may pay $23 to $34 per day, staff and faculty pay $26 to $58 a day, and alumns and community members pay $26 to $44 daily.

"The prices are very competitive," Broom said. "I'm sure students and faculty appreciate the childcare opportunities available at the Children's Center."

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Hundreds flee the fighting in Baghdad

Robert H. Reid

Hundreds of people fled fighting in Baghdad's Shiite militia stronghold Monday as U.S. and Iraqi forces increased pressure on anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, who faces an ultimatum to either disband his Mahdi Army or give up politics.

Although al-Sadr holds considerable influence through the Mahdi fighters — estimated at up to 60,000 — political exile for his movement would shatter his dream of becoming the major power broker among the country's Shiite majority.

In the Baghdad area, nine of them in Sadr City — some carrying their sons.

An Iraqi family leaves the Shiite enclave of Sadr City district of Baghdad Monday due to a violence that broke out on Sunday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

R ob e rt H . R e id

Despite the rapid tumble back to street battles in Baghdad — at an intensity not seen since last year's flood of U.S. troops into the city — a worrisome backdrop to Wednesday's planned appearance before Congress by top commander Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker to report on progress in Iraq and prospects for further troop reductions.

With the crisis showing no sign of abating, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki raised the stakes.

Angst bubbles up around the sprawling Sadr City district that serves as the Baghdad nerve center of the Mahdi Army, which has been under siege since last week by about 1,000 U.S. and Iraqi troops.

Police said at least 14 civilians were killed in clashes Monday in the Baghdad area, nine of them in Sadr City. Frightened families poured out of Sadr City — some carrying their belongings in sacks or piled in pickup trucks.

Three American soldiers were killed Monday in separate attacks in the capital — one by small arms fire and two others by a rocket-propelled grenade, the U.S. said without specifying the neighborhood or whether Shiite extremists were responsible. At least 10 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq since Sunday.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Apr. 3, 09:36 - Officer responded to a refuse fire at the rear of Fremont Hall. The fire was extinguished upon arrival.

Apr. 2, 11:54 - Officer investigated a late report, injury traffic collision occurring at an unspecified location on campus.

Apr. 1, 17:58 - Officers investigated a complaint of a possible stalker.

Apr. 1, 16:16 - Officers provided first responder medical aid to a toddler victim of injury.

Apr. 1, 15:12 - Officer investigated complaints of harassment at a Mountain Hall.

Apr. 1, 10:31 - Officer investigated complaints of possible marijuana sales taking place at a residence hall.

Mar. 30, 17:30 - Officer arrested a driver for DUI at the UU.

Mar. 26, 13:50 - Officer investigated a male seen in the Mott Gym women's locker room.

Mar. 24, 13:24 - Officer arrested subject(s) for theft of produce at CP Lemon Field.

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WORD ON THE STREET
“What one modern invention could you live without?”
Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

“I could definitely live without a cell phone.”
— Jim Mackerras, English sophomore

“I could live without a toilet because I could use a bush.”
— Mike Schor, business junior

“A telephone — when it dies, I feel like I can’t function, slightly.”
— Sophie Kweskin, business sophomore

“A calculator. I don’t use it much in my classes.”
— Shaikh Ali, electrical engineering sophomore

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A look at addiction from two angles

Recent releases “Beautiful Boy” and “Tweak” explore the experiences of a young man addicted to crystal meth from two distinct angles. “Tweak” is written by 21-year-old Nic Sheff, an addict himself, while “Beautiful Boy” is penned by his father, journalist David Sheff, who watched his son struggle for many years.

Father and son released their books at the same time in order to give the public the ability to hear two concurrent accounts of the experiences of addiction. At the same time, they desired to reach a variety of audiences: “Tweak” is better suited for older readers who either know Nic or cling to and describe as his support system look similar to someone having a high price buffet. "Beautiful Boy" is penned by his father, journalist David Sheff, who watched his son struggle for many years.

How to bet ‘21’

Jeff Ma is the man behind Jim Sturgess’ character in the film “21.”

Amanda Pacitti
THE ARTS EDITOR NICHOLAS WARDINSON (C)

Reflecting on his experiences in Las Vegas casinos, renowned card counter and inspiration for the new film “21” Jeff Ma said, “It’s sort of similar to someone having a high price buffet.”

But instead of indulging in potato salad, Ma and his classmates at M.I.T. returned from casinos with myriad luxurious prizes and thousands of dollars. Their story was first chronicled in the book, “Bring- ing Down the House: The Inside Story of Six M.I.T. Students Who Took Vegas for Millions,” by Ben Mezrich, and now by Columbia Pictures in a film released last week.

“I think it definitely was something that came out of audacity,” Ma said in an interview with The Hatchet. “Blackjack gives me elements of my personality.”

He is portrayed in the film — under the name Ben Campbell — by up-and-coming Jim Sturgess (“Across the Universe,” “The Other Boleyn Girl”).

Ma explained that he was initially hesitant to count cards, citing his more conservative upbringing as a factor holding him back.

“I was definitely reluctant to get involved,” Ma said. But his apprehension apparently dissipated once he started hitting the tables more aggressively.

While at M.I.T., Ma and others were trained in card counting by professor Mickey Rosa (Kevin Spacey), who encouraged students...
to hit Vegas casinos on the weekends. Soon after, the students were beating casinos on the blackjack table, earning thousands of dollars each time and inevitably running risks along the way. For example, the students in the film meet an unfriendly casino owner (Lawrence Fishburne), who is less than amused with their finely honed skill.

Ma had the chance to turn the tables — figuratively — when he was invited to participate in the film as his real life opponent, a blackjack dealer. And though the film adaptation changes some arguably relevant details of the story (Ma, of Chinese descent, is played by British actor Sturgess), he said the necessary and enduring qualities of his experience remain.

"I think there's been a lot made of (race). This really isn't a race story," he said, explaining that the bond between the students was captured effectively onscreen.

"The most important part was bonding with friends to win casinos," he said.

He added there was no one more appropriate to play himself than Sturgess, appearances aside. "He took such an interest in my story," Ma said, citing that he was happy Sturgess didn't view the role as another "notch in his belt."

Ma also pointed out the value in his experience for his personal success. Now a business owner running a fantasy sports stock trading website called FroTrade.com, he credits his card counting as formative to his accomplishment. For example, Ma earned his first job as a Wall Street trader when an employer took interest in the "card counting skills" listed at the very bottom of his resume.

"There isn't one path to success," he said. "The reality is that the experience has put me in a better place to succeed."

“1 Giant Leap,” a film that looks at humanity on a global scale through music, will show tonight at the Honeymoon Café in Pismo Beach. Musicians Brian Eno (left), Neneh Cherry (second from right) and Michael Franti (right) are all featured in the documentary. Second from left, Jamie Catto and Duncan Bridgeman, the pair behind “1 Giant Leap,” arrive at the 2003 Grammy Awards, where the filmmakers were nominated in the Best Long Form Music Video by Various Artists category.

Uniting the world, through music

Grammy-nominated film takes viewers on a melodic global journey

Brittney Clyde
MUSTANG DAILY

The ancient rhythmic beats of drums play as men and women dance collectively. Music, in this film, is used to unite language, sounds and images from more than 25 countries in “1 Giant Leap.”

Now locals can experience the world music documentary tonight at the Honeymoon Café in Pismo Beach.

If this film’s description — “one minute you can be dancing in the aisles, while the next minute you could be listening to a sacred prostitute philosophize on the meaning of true intimacy” — from HopeDance.org sounds intriguing, then watching the documentary is a must.

This feature-length music documentary was created by musician/film editor/director/photographer Jamie Catto and artist/producer Duncan Bridgeman. The duo traveled the globe for more than six months with a digital camera, laptop and mixing desk, visiting such countries as India, London and Bangkok, to gather music from cultures they found to be inspirational.

The film’s soundtrack includes music by Baaba Maal, Michael Franti, Brian Eno, Michael Stipe and Neneh Cherry.

After its creation in 2002, the film was nominated in 2003 for a Grammy in the Best Long Form Music Video by Various Artists category.

In a TheCelebrityCafe.com review, Rachael K. LeVilley described the film as “a compilation of the spoken word, sounds, rhythms and images connecting the human spirit, the human culture, and nurtures the human existence, like a mother’s voice does for a restless newborn.”

Chirsty Rivera, who works at the café, said that twice a month on Tuesdays the location shows HopeDance films.

“Bob Banner, the brain-child for HopeDance, approached us wanting to know if we would show films here,” she said. “The film looks really interesting and I can’t wait to see it.”

HopeDance is a free magazine available at locations such as Linnea’s Café, New Frontiers and the Palm Theater. Its mission statement, as per the Web site, is “to report on the outrageous, pioneering and inspiring activities of outstanding individuals and organizations who are creating a new world — regardless of their spiritual tradition or political agenda.”

Editor Bob Banner said that although there is a new film like “1 Giant Leap” being made, it is still “on the editing floor probably.” The version being shown at the café is the one that “won so many awards years back but is still so hot today,” he added.

It is $10 to view the film at the café, which will also serve finger foods starting at 6:30 p.m. The viewing starts at 7 p.m.
It's not the plague, it's an HIV test

Allan Acevedo
THE MUSTANG DAILY

I had the funniest HIV test two weeks ago. The nurse at the clinic was hilarious — she had plenty of comments after every question she asked me. Not to mention, it was a bit interesting discussing my sex life with someone old enough to be my grandmother. As funny as I thought this experience was, none of my friends cracked a smile when I relayed my anecdote. At first I thought it was one of those things you had to be there for, but then I realized the reason people weren't laughing. It's because of the three-letter word that's dreaded like the plague back in my generation in which sex is so openly discussed, sexually transmitted diseases are put on the backburner, then HIV is out there and, as scary as it is to find out, it's always scary the first time you go. I regret not taking the test sooner and not practicing safer sex.

College students are at a great risk for contracting unwelcome infections such as Chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea or even HIV. If these are left untreated, they can result in illness, infertility and even death. While college is a time to explore, there are safer ways to go about it. It may be awkward to bring it up in the middle of foreplay, but when you're more focused on other things, think back to your freshman year in Econ and practice safer sex. If you're mature enough to have sex, you're mature enough to get tested and know your status.

It's always scary the first time you go. I remember when I first went. I knew I had been playing it safe and using protection, but then I started to question myself. People wonder how condom use started in the first place. And it's not until the confirmation that you are HIV-free that you can begin to explore, there are safer ways to go about it. It may be awkward to bring it up in the middle of foreplay, but when you're more focused on other things, think back to your freshman year in Econ and practice safer sex. If you're mature enough to have sex, you're mature enough to get tested and know your status.

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About an hour south of San Luis Obispo is the best place on earth. There are hieous rolling hills and countrysides that stretch into the Los Padres National Forest and beautiful beaches with golden sand. Within this small community is a huge industry that you may have seen in an independent film that won several oscars a few years back. I am talking about the Santa Ynez Valley, and the movie I am referencing is "Sideways."

My family has always loved wine. Living in wine country, we have the best selections of Pinot Noir, Syrah, Chardonnay, Merlot and Tempranillo California has to offer. Our climate is comparable to the south of France and northern Spain in which these varietals prosper. My parents taught me about the art of wine when I was young, and how to appreciate a fine glass of fermented grape juice. ("Grape" was my first word, by the way.)

When I turned 21, I went to work in the wine industry, and took courses on the processes that turn my favorite fruit into a wonderful drink. I worked at a tasting room in Santa Ynez, and really got my hands dirty. I was able to talk about wine all day long, taste it directly from the barrel and put together events on my favorite subject.

When I heard about this movie filmed in the valley, I was so excited because it was a way to see our little community on the silver screen. I went with my best friend, who also worked in the wine industry at another winery, and we were filled with anticipation as the lights in the movie theater in Buellton went down.

As the movie went on, and on, and on, I was utterly horrified. There was my hometown, almost looks like something out of "Pirates of the Caribbean." She was working a lovely Sunday afternoon, when a bus full of overweight, middle-aged men came crashing through to get wasted. One man offered my sister $200 to drink the spit bucket. (For those who don't know what that is, a spit bucket is where you spit the wine out because if you swallow a lot of wine your palate becomes dull and you can't appreciate the flavors and aromas. Or you don't want to get trashed.) Just because Paul Giamatti's character does it in the movie doesn't mean people actually do this.

Conversations turned from how wonderful the wine was, or what kinds of food to pair a Cabernet Sauvignon with, to the movie and what wineries were featured in the film, and do bartenders really have sex with the customers?

One day when I was at work again, some drunk guys came in and one guy got a little too close for comfort and asked me out. And no it was not flattering, so I kicked them out.

I've had it with this movie and the people it brought to my town. Don't just go wine tasting to get smashed and drive around the area, because the cops are on the lookout for those people. They love pulling over the idiots who think they can cruise around, top down and drunk just because the characters in the movie got away with it.

The baristas will kick you out when you get a little too frisky, and the waitresses are not whores. The Valley is not some place to run naked in the streets, please have respect for those who are serving you. They are more inclined to give you tastings that aren't on the list, or bigger pours, or a discount on the price if you are nice and engage in conversation.

Santa Ynez Valley is a lovely place to visit and spend a day at beautiful wineries with people who want you to be there and enjoy the atmosphere. Hopefully, the presence of the "Sideways" enthusiasts will go away and they'll make another movie somewhere else and the attention can navigate away from the Valley.

Feel free to come and savour the wine, just don't grab the barista's ass.

Raiza Carmelo is a journalism senior and a reporter for the Mustang Daily.
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Edited by Will Shoilz

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

su|do|ku

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Championship continued from page 12

ment in which 42 of 63 games were decided by double digits. This was the first overtime in the title game since 1997, when Arizona beat Kansas State 84-79. Kansas, mostly Collins, put the clamps on Rose for the first half, allowing the freshman only four shots and leaving him spiking the ball on the floor as he walked to the locker room after a frustrating 20 minutes.

It stayed that way for the first five of the second half, but Kansas couldn't pull away. Douglas-Roberts made sure of it, winning enough of the 1-on-1 matchups that the Memphis offense creates to keep the Tigers in range.

Then, finally Rose took over — a 3-pointer here, a scooping layup for a three-point play next. Then, the capper, an off-balance, 18-foot shot off glass with the shot-clock buzzer sounding. It gave Memphis a 56-49 lead. Most teams would have been demoralized.

Clearly, Kansas is not like most teams. In fact, the Jayhawks are a team that has come together in tragedy over the last several months. The deaths of friends and family of coach Benjke over the last several months. The deaths of friends and family of coach Benjke over the last several months. The deaths of friends and family of coach Benjke over the last several months.

He worked his way back into shape this season and is playing his best right now. He didn't have the most impressive stat line of the post-Bonds era. "It was a little bit off but three hits and one run through seven innings, come on," said manager Bud Black. "He doesn't care if he doesn't feel good or is a little bit off. Some guys don't fight through that but he does. Every pitch he tries to get it together. He found it in the middle of the game and toward the end and ended up doing very well."

There was a different feel at the ballpark in the banners honoring record-hitting home run No. 756 and the Bonds home run counter were gone.

In their place was a plaque honoring Bonds' record-setting homer and a tribute to the four Giants in the 500-home run club: Bonds, Mays, Willie McCovey and Mel Ott.

The absence of Bonds must have been especially welcome for the Padres, who allowed 87 of the slugger's 763 career home runs, a record. The Giants will record the best right now.

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Chalmers sends Kansas to OT and 75-68 championship win

Eddie Pells

SAN ANTONIO — So patient for 29 years, Kansas had no problem working an extra five minutes to bring a long-awaited championship back to the heartland.

Mario Chalmers hit a 3-pointer with 2.1 seconds left in regulation to push the game into overtime, and the Jayhawks grinded it out from there for a 75-68 victory Monday night over Memphis in one of the best title games in recent memory.

Chalmers’ shot pulled Kansas into a tie after being down nine with 2:12 left.

“We got the ball in our most clutch player’s hands, and he delivered,” Kansas coach Bill Self said.

It was the first title for Kansas since 1988, when Danny Manning, now an assistant coach for the Jayhawks, led them to an upset of Oklahoma. And the shot earned Chalmers the most outstanding player honor.

“I had a good look at it,” Chalmers said. “It went in.”

The most memorable performance in this one came from freshman Derrick Rose of Memphis, who completely took over the game in the second half, scoring 14 of his team’s 16 points during one stretch to lift the Tigers to a 60-51 lead with 2:12 left.

But Kansas (37-3) used the strategy any smart opponent of Memphis would — fouling the heck out of one of the country’s worst free-throw-shooting teams — and when Rose and Chris Douglas-Roberts combined to miss four of five over the last 1:12, it left the door open for KU.

Hustling the ball down the court with 10.8 seconds left and no timeouts, Sherron Collins handed off to Chalmers at the top of the 3-point line and Chalmers took the shot. It hit nothing but net and tied the score at 63.

Robert Dozier missed a desperation shot at the buzzer, and Rose went limping to the bench, favoring his right leg. Brandon Rush, Darrell Arthur and Darrell Jackson scored the first six points of overtime to put Kansas ahead 69-63.

Memphis, clearly exhausted, didn’t pull within three.

Chalmers’ shot pulled Kansas back on track before Big West play resumes

Josh Dubow

SAN FRANCISCO — Greg Maddux had to take a few extra minutes of preparation before facing the San Francisco Giants for the first time since they cut ties with Barry Bonds.

Maddux has faced Bonds more than any other hitter in his storied career and always knew what his strategy would be against the slugger with the game on the line.

Maddux managed just fine after a shaky first inning, retiring 19 of his final 20 batters to earn his 348th win and spoil the Giants’ home opener by leading the San Diego Padres to an 8-4 victory Monday.

“It is different,” Maddux said. “He’s probably the best player I’ve ever had a chance to face. I know when you used to go over the Giants lineup, you worried about eight guys because you know you’re going to walk Barry if it matters. I actually had to worry about one more guy.

It took a little bit longer.”

Adrian Gonzalez went 4-for-5 with a homer and four runs, Khalil Greene drove in three runs and Jim Edmonds hit a pair of RBI singles to lead the Padres.

The Giants celebrated the 50th anniversary of their move from New York without the player responsible for the bulk of the team’s highlights the past 15 seasons.

The team decided not to bring back Bonds after he broke Hank Aaron’s career home run record last season, and the slugger remains unsigned.

So far, the post-Bonds era has provided few highlights for the Giants.

While the fans were still getting settled following a three-game series against Pacific at 6 p.m. Friday.