SLO County home to highest
gas prices in nation

SLO County's Lowest
GAS PRICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>STATION</th>
<th>PRICE (unleaded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grover Beach</td>
<td>Chevron</td>
<td>$3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arroyo Grande</td>
<td>Girl's Liquor</td>
<td>$3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>Fryer's</td>
<td>$3.73 with cash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pismo Beach</td>
<td>ARCO</td>
<td>$3.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>ARCO</td>
<td>$3.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>Costco</td>
<td>$3.69 (for members)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paso Robles</td>
<td>Valero</td>
<td>$3.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRICES BY THE GALLON

- Milk: $4.99
- Water: $1.59
- Coors' Light beer: $6.04
- Orange juice: $6.00
- Beverage prices obtained from Albertson's as of Tuesday

There's nothing like filling up your gas tank and watching your available balance disappear. With no end in sight to rising prices, the Central Coast is one of the most expensive places for gas guzzlers in the entire country.

California has the highest prices in the United States, and three of its 15 highest-priced stations are located on the Central Coast, according to californiaprices.com. Shell stations on Monterey and Santa Rosa streets and Los Osos Valley Road and Madonna streets were priced at $3.99 and $3.95 a gallon, respectively, as of Tuesday.

For the cheapest gas in the county, look to reputable or locally owned stations. COSTCO also offers relatively cheap gas to those with a membership card, charging $3.69 per gallon.

Petraeus says Iraq too fragile
for further U.S. troop pullouts

Robert Burns
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. commander in Iraq told Congress Tuesday that hard-won gains in the war zone are too fragile to permit any troop withdrawals beyond this summer, holding his ground against impatient Democrats and refusing to commit to more withdrawals before President Bush leaves office in January.

Gen. David Petraeus painted a picture of a nation struggling to suppress violence among its own people and to move toward the political reconciliation that Bush said a year ago was the ultimate aim of his new Iraq strategy, which included sending more than 20,000 extra combat troops.

Security is getting better, and Iraq's own forces are becoming more able, Petraeus said. But he also ticked off a list of reasons for worry, including the threat of a resurgence of Sunni or Shiite extremist violence. He highlighted Iran as a special concern, for its training and equipping of extremists.

In back-to-back appearances before two Senate committees, Petraeus was told by a parade of Democrats that, after five years of war, it was past time to turn over much of the war burden to the Iraqis. Those senators said Iraq will not attain stability until the United States makes the decision to begin withdrawing in large numbers and forces the Iraqis to settle their differences.

Republican Sen. George Voinovich of Ohio, a longtime critic of the administration's war strategy, told Petraeus: "The American people have had it up to here."

Petraeus responded, "I certainly share the frustration."

But when it came to promising or predicting a timetable for further withdrawals, Petraeus didn't budge. He said he had recommended to Bush that he complete, by the end of July, the withdrawal of the 20,000 extra troops. Beyond that, the general proposed a 45-day period of "consolidation and evaluation" to be followed by an indefinite period of assessment before he would recommend any further pullouts.

The Petraeus plan, which Bush is expected to embrace, reflects a conservative approach that leaves open the possibility that roughly 140,000 U.S. troops could remain in Iraq when the president leaves office next year.

On Thursday Bush will make a speech about the war, now in its sixth year, and his decision about troop levels.

In exchanges with several senators, Petraeus refused to say when he see Iraq, page 2
Iraq
continued from page 1
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Bill Clinton backs Colombia trade deal
his presidential candidate wife opposes

Charles Babington
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The presidential campaign of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday that her husband, the former president, supports a free trade agreement with Colombia that she strenuously opposes.

The acknowledgment adds new fuel to the New York senator's bid to woo Democratic voters in Pennsylvania and elsewhere who believe free trade agreements have eliminated thousands of U.S. jobs. On Sunday, she denounced her chief campaign strategist for his role in promoting the Colombia pact.

Hillary Clinton told union activists Tuesday at a meeting of the Communication Workers of America, she said: "As I have said for months, I oppose the deal, and I will do everything I can to urge the Congress to reject the Colombia free trade agreement."

On Monday, Mark Penn left his post as top strategist for Clinton's campaign after it was reported that he had met with Colombia's ambassador to the United States to discuss passage of the agreement. Colombia was a client of Penn's large public relations firm, Burson-Marsteller.

Many labor unions, including the CWA, oppose such trade deals, saying they displace U.S. jobs and encourage abuses of workers and the environment in other countries.

As president, Bill Clinton's support of trade agreements with Mexico, Canada, China and other nations often put him at odds with fellow Democrats and labor leaders who backed a more protectionist approach. Clinton argued that Democrats should support lower barriers to trade because the nation, on balance, would benefit.

Many nonpartisan economists agree.

In 2005, the former president was paid $800,000 by Gold Service International, a Bogota-based business development group, for four days of appearances in Mexico, Colombia and Brazil. The group supports, among other things, the Colombia Free Trade Agreement.

Hillary Clinton's Democratic rival, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, noted his opposition to the Colombia deal Tuesday when he spoke to the CWA group moments after Clinton left the stage. He said he opposes the treaty "because when organizing workers put an organizer's life at risk, as it does in Colombia, it makes a mockery of our labor protections."

President Bush on Monday sent the proposed Colombia deal to Congress, which has 90 days to ratify or reject it. The administration says it would help the United States by eliminating high barriers for U.S. exports to Colombia. Most Colombian products enter the United States duty free under existing trade preference laws, the administration says.

Obama did not mention Penn in his 25-minute speech to CWA activists. But in a conference call arranged by his campaign, Teamsters President James Hoffa called on Clinton to cut all ties with Penn, who continues to advise her campaign.

"This latest issue with Mark Penn really hurts her credibility," especially on trade issues, said Hoffa, who supports Obama.

In a separate conference call, Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson likened Penn to a newspaper editor who "plays an important role but isn't in charge" of the paper.

Earlier this week, aides said both Hillary and Bill Clinton were angry upon hearing of Penn's meeting with the Colombia's ambassador, which proved deeply embarrassing to the campaign.
Stair Steps to the Gods
Building the Great Pyramid at Giza
Craig B. Smith
Thursday, April 10
11:40-12:45 Lecture
12:45-1:15 Reception and Book Signing
Performing Art Center Pavilion
World-renown expert Craig Smith will present an illustrated lecture on the design and construction of the 4,500 year old Great Pyramid
Refreshments • Admission Free

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

WORD ON THE STREET

"How are you coping with the rising gas prices?"
Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

"It's ridiculous, but it's something you have to deal with. I try walking or taking the bus whenever I can."
— Alex Cordie, psychology sophomore

"My dad owns a construction business and I get to use his gas card as a write-off."
— Chad Rabello, agricultural business senior

"I take the bus to school. I did it before, but now it's helping keep my gas expenses down."
— Chelsea Button, recreation junior

"I drive my car less and ride the bus more."
— Mike Leathy, economics senior

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State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The City Council should scrap a proposal for a new ordinance limiting the activities of paparazzi around celebrities, the city Police Commission recommended Tuesday.

Calling the proposal unfair, ambiguous and likely unenforceable, police department officials told the commission numerous laws already on the books enable officers to deal with unruly paparazzi behavior.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California would protect high school and college journalism teachers from administrators upset by students' stories or editorials, under a bill approved by a Senate committee.

The bill by Senator Leland Yee would make it illegal to retaliate against teachers trying to protect students' right to free speech.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California would become the first state to ban helium-filled metallic balloons under a bill unanimously advanced Tuesday by a legislative committee.

Sen. Jack Scott, D-Alameda, who party balloons frequently break free and float into power lines, where they can cause electric wires to arc.

National

ATLANTA (AP) — A soldier's widow has succeeded in having sperm taken from his body and frozen four days after he was slain in Iraq, though medical experts said it's highly unlikely she would be able to bear his child.

Sgt. Dwayne Darren Dhanoo- lal, 26, died March 31 when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad. He had talked often with his wife Kyeesha about having children, according to court papers filed by her lawyer.

On Friday, a federal judge in Columbus, Ga., granted her request for a temporary restraining order preventing the military from embalming the body until samples of Dhanoolal's sperm were extracted.

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — A daughter of a civil rights icon was reunited Tuesday with her father regularly molested her beginning when she was 6 years old.

The Rev. James L. Bevel pleaded not guilty to a charge of incest before jury selection began Monday. Prosecutors said he had sex with a teenage daughter years ago, and told her she was part of religious training.

International

BERLIN (AP) — Never mind the burly polar bear Knut, here's the cute new cub Flocke.

With all the fanfare of a movie premiere or record release, Nurem­ berg city and zoo officials on Tuesday introduced Germany's latest winsome polar bear cub to a public eager for its first live glimpse of her.

The furry 4-month-old imp has been tugging at their heartstrings by video and photograph for months.

"Not only Nuremberg, but the whole world has been in Flocke fever," said the city's deputy mayor Horst Foerther. He said the cub has attracted millions of hits on Google since the zoo decided to raise her by hand in January.

SINGAPORE (AP) — The United States and North Korea said they made good progress in talks Tuesday on resolving a dead­ lock over a disputed inventory of the communist nation's nuclear programs.

"I would say it was a good dis­ cussion," said U.S. Assistant Secre­ tary of State Christopher Hill, the top U.S. negotiator with North Korea.

Hill said he and North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan held "a full discussion on all issues" and agreed to report back to their respective capitals.

Villagers worship baby born with 2 faces in India

Gurinder Osan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A baby with two faces was born in a northern Indian village, where she is doing well and is being worshipped as the reincarnation of a Hindu goddess, her father said Tuesday.

The baby, Lal, apparently has an extremely rare condition known as craniofacial duplication, where a single head has two faces. Except for her ears, all of Lal's facial features are duplicated — she has two noses, two pairs of lips and two pairs of eyes.

"My daughter is fine — like any other child," said Virat Singh, 23, a poor farm worker.

Lal has caused a sensation in the dusty village of Saini Sunpura, 25 miles east of New Delhi. When she left the hospital, eight hours after a normal delivery on March 11, she was swarmed by villagers, said Sahar Ali, the director of Safi Hospital.

"She drinks milk from her two months and opens and shuts all the four eyes at once," Ali said.

Rural India is deeply superstitious, and the little girl is being hailed as a return of the Hindu goddess of valor, Durga, a fiery deity traditionally depicted with three eyes and many arms.

Up to 100 people visited Lal at her home every day to touch her feet out of respect, offer money and receive blessings, Singh told The Associated Press.

"Lal is God's gift to us," said Jagat Singh, a member of the local village council. "She has brought fame to our village.

Lal's condition is often linked to serious health complications, but the doctor said she was doing well.

"She is leading a normal life with no breathing difficulties," said Ali.

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Gazans run to black market, liquid gas cars to fight fuel shortage

**Gazans run to black market, liquid gas cars to fight fuel shortage**

Besharat Barakat and Diaa Hadid

Gazans have turned to the black market in search of gasoline as Israeli fuel supplies to their territory have been cut, according to local media.

According to a local news agency, Gazans are using homemade fuel recipes to try to deal with the shortages. Gazans have turned to the black market in search of gasoline as Israeli fuel supplies to their territory have been cut, according to local media.

A Palestinian taxi driver said that he had to sell the small amounts of gasoline he has in stock or accept future shipments in the coming days. He said that Gazans are now forced to buy diesel fuel from the black market.

Other black market traders are offering two-gallon packs of gasoline and diesel fuel, with prices ranging from 30 to 40 percent of Gazans' needs. Palestinian taxi drivers are now selling gasoline at a price that is 10 percent higher than the official price.

The Hamas government has taken action to stop the black market fuel trade, but it has not been effective. Hamas has restricted fuel supplies, but the shortage has continued.

Israel has restricted fuel supplies as a result of the ongoing conflict with Hamas. However, Gazans have found ways to continue to use their cars, despite the shortages.

One Gazan, Abdul Ghani, a 44-year-old taxi driver, said that he smoked in his car at a gas station in the northern Gazan town of Jelbah. Around him were two other Gazans, each smoking a cigarette. They said that they had to use their cars to transport goods and to make a living.

Hamas officials have called for a boycott of Israeli products, including gasoline. However, Gazans have continued to use Israeli fuel, despite the shortages.

The shortage of fuel has led to increased prices, with some Gazans paying up to 100 percent more than the official price. The black market is thriving, with Gazans buying gasoline from Israelis and selling it at a profit.

The lack of gasoline has also led to increased prices for other goods, including food and clothing. Gazans have been forced to use black market recipes to make homemade fuel, but these are not always effective.

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A hodgepodge of musical gems

As a music director at a college radio station, I am lucky to be spoon-fed hundreds of albums a week to review, devour and share with our listening community.

The most recent finds that continue to make my job worthwhile are releases supported at one time or another by the reliable and underground Time-Lag and Digitalis labels. Though I was roughly familiar with these labels (Tower Recordings and Mudbox, respectively) when these albums arrived, I could not have anticipated the strikingly emotional, original and innovative sounds these CDs encompass.

Curiosity, a project by Maine-based Matt Lajoie, first received recognition from a cassette distributed through Time-Lag records. His tribal, fully realized, organic and haunted songs comprise his album “wrap stings the last bitter flavor,” out now on Digitalis and currently in rotation at KCPR. During moments of violence, Lajoie’s percussion resembles the natural rhythms of a dripping faucet, and as the tempo increases, the sound of a drum circle surrounds the audience while grounding the hazy acoustic guitar for a background of full atmosphere that frames and embodies his remarkably layered and repetitive vocals.

The second Digitalis release that blew me away was Scott Tuma’s “Not for Nobody” LP, which struck me with the same emotional response I had after hearing Burial’s self-titled LP for the first time. Few recordings can capture such a riveting, melancholic loneliness. Such music should be heard on headphones in your room. His guitar comes closer to Tuma’s ghost than any of his contemporaries, its layers making James Blackshaw look like a beginners’ ma-chine. Tuma embodies a fresh and timeless sparse American guitar album, where the notes he leaves behind create atmosphere as thrilling as the chords he commands. This ambience, full of cracks and found sounds, coupled with the soulfully lonely vocals, on the tracks that booked the otherwise instrumental album, captivate and surround the listener while alienating the music emanating from Tuma’s intricately recorded guitar. This album will enter KCPR’s rotation next Monday.

Finally, as we’ve enjoyed a slew of amazing Time-Lag Records releases over the past weeks, my personal favorite is Ilyas Ahmed’s “The Vertigo at Dawn.” Born in Pakistan, Ahmed’s ghost haunted songs comprise his album “not for nobody” LP, which struck me with the same emotional response I had after hearing Burial’s self-titled LP for the first time. Few recordings can capture such a riveting, melancholic loneliness. Such music should be heard on headphones in your room. His guitar comes closer to Tuma’s ghost than any of his contemporaries, its layers making James Blackshaw look like a beginners’ machine. Tuma embodies a fresh and timeless sparse American guitar album, where the notes he leaves behind create atmosphere as thrilling as the chords he commands. This ambience, full of cracks and found sounds, coupled with the soulfully lonely vocals,
Northeast Pennsylvania. If you love children and want a caring, fun environment, we need Counselors and Instructors for our summer camp. We will be on the Cal Poly campus February 18th to conduct interviews. Call 1-215-944-3069 or apply at www.campwaynegirls.com

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Bullshit

continued from page 5

Raised in New Jersey and now residing in Portland, Ahmed’s music is otherworldly, possessed and beautiful. I have not been able to stop listening to this album for a few weeks now. After an abundance of self-released CD-Rs, the first two of which Digitalis has packaged together for re-release, this proper full-length album shows Ahmed as a master of the reeds, strings and vocals, in a manner unparalleled in the often-contrived “psych-folk” field.

The album sounds like something Sublime Frequencies would re-release from an outsider psychedelic folk musician from Pakistan in the ’60s. But Ahmed makes these sounds today, displaying a natural disposition toward guitar, which he keeps clear, precise and distinctively Eastern in tradition while layering reed instruments for drones, percussion for dizzying oscillation and his voice to tie the whole affair together. He makes music that interacts with space in order to transcend time, and succeeds in producing an artifact not dependent on any frame of reference or solicited guarantee to envelop the listener and challenge his or her imagination.

These albums are all rather esoteric and, admittedly, somewhat challenging listens, since they lie beyond “accessible” pop categories, but they are worth the time it may take to appreciate them. Many listeners will reveal idiosyncratic intricacies, caverns of stunning experience, which of percussive primitivism, and melodies surprising and complex enough to keep you listening for long days to come.

These are only my picks, and if you were to ask any KCFR DJ for theirs, I’m sure they would easily offer five completely different albums for completely different and legitimate reasons. That is what I love about being a part of college radio — it offers a group of people a common ground for intellectual growth and stimulation with infinite resources and tireless ears.

Brian Cassidy is an English senior and a music director for KCFR, San Luis Obispo, 91.1 FM. He’s also completely full of it.

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Bringing big-city music back to the Central Coast

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

One could call jazz drummer Mike Raynor an opportunist — he's capitalized on where he lives in order to enhance his own musical abilities while enlivening the Central Coast music scene at the same time.

Raynor has successfully done this with his City Nights Jazz concert series, a set of shows performed on a monthly basis in Morro Bay and Pismo Beach that feature some of the country's top jazz musicians as they tour the West Coast.

"I wanted to create a scene here on the Central Coast where you can have a musical experience with a 'city vibe,' a vibe you get when you go to a jazz supper club in Los Angeles or San Francisco," Raynor said. "It's a chance to dress up and have a night on the town, right here on the coast."

Raynor's band, The Mike Raynor Group, is comprised of Raynor, bassist Dylan Johnson and guitarist Jacob O'Dell. Based in Morro Bay, the group performs on a regular basis at both The Inn at Morro Bay (Friday nights) and the Sea Venture in Pismo Beach (Wednesday nights).

Raynor's group has a wide variety of music it draws inspiration from, ranging from jazz artists such as Miles Davis and Bill Stewart to other, less-expected artists such as Bob Marley, Led Zeppelin, Tito Puente, and The Toons and the Maytals.

The City Nights Jazz series is a chance for residents of the Central Coast to watch artists who traditionally perform in larger venues in cities such as San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

"A lot of artists contact me while doing West Coast tours. By meeting and networking with artists from these metropolitan areas, a good amount have heard of what my group's doing and want to arrange for a quick break in the area," Raynor said. "They enjoy it just as much as the audience does. It's a nice getaway for them and exposes their music to different scenes."

Management at the venues is also enthusiastic about hosting Raynor's group, viewing it as an opportunity to both invigorate the Central Coast music scene as well as gain business and publicity for the area's hotels.

Mike Roenier, food and beverage director at the Inn at Morro Bay, expressed such sentiments.

"We started hosting the City Nights Jazz series about a year ago. It was successful and has since grown in popularity," Roenier said. "Mike (Raynor) has worked very hard in getting notoriety for his program and getting big-name artists up here, artists who not only have jazz backgrounds but also backgrounds in folk music from the '60s and '70s."

"We're very proud to be participating in a very good program, a program that we feel offers an alternative to the downtown San Luis Obispo music scene and a beautiful view of the ocean with it. It's a good opportunity for those whose taste in music is a little different."

Raynor's group has hosted such upcoming artists as Los Angeles vocalist Raya Yarbrough, New York City trombonist Elizabeth!, and vocalist Karin Carlson.

Local talent is not overlooked, however, as Raynor's group performs weekly gigs at the two venues featuring a vast array of local talent, including saxophonist Karl Welz, vocalist Sunny Wright, trumpeter Ray Chang and vibraphonist Dave Brady.

Raynor draws on his past experience as a construction manager in coordinating both the weekly gigs and the City Nights Jazz concert series. He also uses his good standing with the two hotels as a means of promotion.

"I used to manage multimillion-dollar projects a while back, so I'm used to getting all my ducks in a row," Raynor said. "But these are upcoming artists who perform at large venues, and their enthusiasm for exposing their music to new areas makes it easier to coordinate and manage them."

Both the City Nights Jazz concert series and the weekly gigs by The Mike Raynor Group are performed free of charge at the two venues.
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805.756.1143
www.mustangdaily.net
To the great president of our wondrous and diverse university

Dear Warren J. Baker,

I recently read your one-page “advertisement” about diversity that came out on April 2. I would like to take the time to express my opinions to you.

First of all, I am particularly pleased and impressed that you have indeed read the Cal Poly mission statement and are able to quote it. I am also pleased that you are particularly concerned about the values contained within the Cal Poly mission statement. I find your stated values (and I hope you do, considering the fact that you write letters to me in it), I ask you to formally announce a debate or forum, in the spirit of civic engagement and mutual respect, where students can openly discuss the issues of diversity with you — face to face. I also sincerely hope that you did not sign a deal with Jubail University College without consulting the students of your university or even the concerns of your faculty, and that a signed contract is not sitting on your desk at this moment. I also hope you didn’t just copy and paste the phrases “mutual respect” and “civic engagement” from Cal Poly’s mission statement without the intent of honoring these principles.

Finally, I really do hope you want an open dialogue and that you do value diversity in its myriad of forms. Of course, if you do not wish to meet with your students, that is regrettable to me. I am especially pleased and impressed that you have indeed read the April 1, 2007 issue of the Mustang Daily.

Perhaps, Mr. Baker, you’re shy, you don’t like your students writing letters to me in it, I ask you to formally announce a debate or forum, in the spirit of civic engagement and mutual respect, where students can openly discuss the issues of diversity with you — face to face. I also sincerely hope that you did not sign a deal with Jubail University College without consulting the students of your university or even the concerns of your faculty, and that a signed contract is not sitting on your desk at this moment. I also hope you didn’t just copy and paste the phrases “mutual respect” and “civic engagement” from Cal Poly’s mission statement without the intent of honoring these principles.

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To the Mustang Daily.

Brian Eller is a materials engineering senior and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

LETTERS

Make the commitment before taking the dive

I’ve watched far too many episodes of “Sex and the City” to ignore the fact that there are so many others out there who actually can separate emotion from sex. It is not just men. The “make out and peace out” scenarios highlight the fact that, quite often, one party in this type of pairing is ultimately hurt. It’s easy for your friends to say, “Just move on.” They aren’t worth your time.” As much as a person truly does want to be in a committed relationship before taking a dive.

I am writing to the Mustang Daily, the voice of Cal Poly since 1916, to urge you to reconsider your campus policy that allows students to express their opinion and ask questions at the April 1, 2007 Academic Senate meeting. I am writing to you about a deal between Cal Poly and Jubail University College, which you have been discussing for years, that we are indeed just beginning the 21st century. In my opinion, the Mustang Daily is a “designated public forum” and students should have the right to express their opinions to you.

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I, Patriot

Months ago, when I heard there was going to be a writer's strike, I, like many others, was concerned there would be a lack of senseless comedy this year. Little did I know I could always rely on politicians, elections and 24-hour cable-news networks. To their credit, they certainly picked up the torch and ran wild with it. I try to ignore a lot of it in the interest of staying sane, but some things just burrow too deep and too awkwardly into my mental cognition to stop bothering me.

One of these things is the persistence of those who say Barack Obama isn't patriotic enough to be president. Thus far, I can only wrap my head around two possible explanations of why these people would obsess over this:

1. They believe that patriotism (standard unit of measure: one metric flag pin or ribbon-shaped car magnet) is directly proportional to presidential qualification; in other words, CAPTAIN AMERICA '08.
2. They believe Barack Obama spent years as a community organizer in the slums of Southside Chicago, eight years in the Illinois State Senate, two years in the United States Senate, and nearly two years of what has to be one of the most grueling, stressful campaigns in American history, all as part of his grand scheme to become president and stick it to the country he (for reasons unknown) hates so much.

You can disregard the sarcasm if you'd like, but these "unpatriotic" claims, however lune and frivolous they may sound, are difficult to eradicate from the conversation completely. The lie doesn't thrive off a single event that can be discounted, but instead is designed to be a combination of trites constantly peppered at you to suggest something scandalous: a smoking gun that is simply not there.

Remember the discussion about Obama not wearing a flag pin on his lapel?

Remember the discussion about Michelle Obama saying (albeit in awkward terms) she felt a renewed pride in her country for ignoring stereotypical social divisions by being receptive to her husband's anthrowstic campaign?

Remember the discussion about those pictures of Obama clapping his hands near his waist instead of over his heart during the national anthem? (Never mind the fact that he has led the Pledge of Allegiance in the Senate multiple times.)

Remember the weeks of discussion about Obama's mental cognition to stop bothering me.

What the f@#% is patriotism?

I'll give you a hint: It's not a flag pin on a lapel. It's not a ribbon-shaped car magnet. It's not where you touch your body during the national anthem.

Patriotism is a love for all your country is and all that it could be. It is only useful to the extent that it unifies our country; if it divides us to the point that we are fighting over who is more or less patriotic, then it is detrimental to the country we claim to love and is merely pretentious fictionalism dressed up in the overwhelming truth and the overarching question:

What the flip% is patriotism?

I'll give you a hint: It's not a flag pin on a lapel. It's not a ribbon-shaped car magnet. It's not where you touch your body during the national anthem. It's an interesting study that should raise important questions about this kind of research. Women are seeking a reliable mate with whom to reproduce, while men are pickier because they are "programmed" (in the same Fox News) to look for a partner who can help them pass on good genes. The less attractive man is more likely to be proud of his beautiful catch, and the more attractive man tends to be disqualified because he knows he can do better.

Little else is said in the articles, and we are left to conclude that biologically, men care more about looks than do women. That may be true—I am not a psychologist or a scientist, and I am not questioning the validity of the study's findings. What I am questioning is the media's failure to address the underlying social factors. They whittle such surveys down to simple biological conclusions, effectively saying that things cannot change.

Articles on studies about the differences between men and women occur on a regular basis, from reports that women naturally eat less meat than men to reports that men are more likely to drown. The common culprit in all of these findings is evolution, and the tagline for each story can often be something along the lines of "Men and women really are different!"

Hormones and other biological factors undoubtedly play a role in creating differences between sexes. But when it comes to preferences, there are often greater differences within a sex than there are between the sexes. I know women who love hamburgers and women who won't go near red meat, the same with men.

Stories that sum up the "scientific" findings by creating neat little "average man" and "average woman" packages only lead to more justification for gender policing. Women are told they have to like the color pink to be feminine, and men must eat lots of steak to be manly. What some media ignore is how we are told from a young age what acceptable behavior for our gender is. We are socialized into believing this and then act on that assumption, so that it becomes self-perpetuating.

These oversimplifications are harmful to both men and women. In the case of the Tennessee study, the articles had a common theme that can be summed up by the headline in the British tabloid The Mirror: "Dodgy lab made bad husbands." The men are commodified as women are given tips on where they can obtain a "good" husband. A blog called "Mom Logic" (with the interesting subtitle "For thinking moms who don't have time to think") includes a picture of four pages of a newspaper covering his face. What if that had been a woman?

For women, the news stories imply that true happiness is having a faithful husband. But what about a career, friends and family, or even physical attraction? The success of the marriage is entirely dependent on him and his fidelity. If his eyes stray to other women, do we blame evolution instead of him? And what about the fact that women have to contend with much higher and more unfair beauty standards than men?

I don't expect media outlets and reporters who are not experts in either sociology or genetics to give solid answers to these questions. But they are certainly not asking the questions in the first place.

Amanda Teuscher

Are relationships "evolutionary in nature?"

For years I've been keeping an eye on the attractive men I pass, but apparently I've had it all wrong. If I want to be truly happy, I need to find me an ugly man.

A recent University of Tennessee study of 82 newlywed couples found that long-term (heterosexual) relationships are more successful when the woman is more attractive than the man. Various news sources around the world have picked up on the survey, first published in the Journal of Family Psychology.

It's an interesting study that should raise important questions about gender relations. But media outlets from Tennessee to South Africa reported on the survey in the same way. As in much of today's science reporting, they oversimplify, scientific research without raising any new questions about some problematic assumptions in our society.

Most of the stories mention how the study said the success of such relationships is "evolutionary" in nature. Women are seeking a reliable mate with whom to reproduce, while men are pickier because they are "programmed" (in the same Fox News) to look for a partner who can help them pass on good genes. The less attractive man is more likely to be proud of his beautiful catch, and the more attractive man tends to be disqualified because he knows he can do better.

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**Sports**

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

**Vogue**

*continued from page 16*

It's doubtful LeBron was asked to pose in such a way with negative implications, and that Vogue went with it (and he did with gusto, from the looks of it). Then again, unintentional as it may have been, it still seems something is at play.

Dr. Jane Leber, an ethnic studies assistant professor at Cal Poly, said many ethnic studies scholars study how black men are portrayed in sports and athletic representations:

"Both photographic representations and sport — including participation, prestige, rules, images, commentary, news, et cetera — are shaped by the complex history and contemporary practices of race in the United States," she said.

Leber referenced the 2007 article “The Construction of Black Masculinity: White Supremacy Now and Then" by Abby L. Ferber, associate professor of sociology and director of women's studies at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

"Abby Ferber suggests, via an analysis of the NBA and NFL, that black male bodies are represented as "inherently aggressive, hypersexual and violent" and as needing to be "tamed and controlled" within images of, and commentary on, sport, whereas white players succeed because they are "smart," she said.

Such representations of black men, in addition to admiration and worship of the athletes, usually reinforce the notions of white supremacy and white male superiority, or she added, thus: "within this context, it does make sense to ask critical questions about the Vogue magazine cover."

Whitlock, of course, is no stranger to identifying and attacking supposed instances of racism. For instance, in his column entitled "The haters can't handle the truth." he condemned current criticisms of American basketball as racist.

As we consider the offense the magazine cover may cause, does it matter that Whitlock is black? Given the range of people reacting as an outcry, race per se doesn't matter so much as the history and experiences that contribute to people's mindsets and worldviews, leading them to see racism and other forms of oppression where others don't.

While those involved in creating the magazine cover may have been a little too creative, others instead have unfortunately managed to find cruelty and hate because of what they know, what they have discerned of the past and what their experiences have been.

Some people even find the cover to be sexist. Maybe it's the same situation there.

I may be naive, but if you ask me, it just looks like LeBron and Gisele are having fun gaining fame and money — which has nothing to do with race or gender.

However, it's important to take note of the effects pieces of art or commentary may have on anyone, no matter what contributes to individual perceptions. Emotions and thoughts are what we derive despite the intentions behind their instigation.

Sas Wright is a Mustang Daily reporter and a journalism student.

The ball to the basket on an array of moves. She converted one steal in the second half into a pretty layup that gave the Lady Vols a 16-point advantage. She then followed it up with a three-point play on a driving layup. The Cardinal, who had a season low for points, would get no closer than eight the rest of the way.

With the game in hand and a minute left, Parker went to the Tennessee bench for the final time, holding up four fingers on each hand to signify the eight titles the Lady Vols have won.

"No. 8, it's all about this team," Tennessee coach Pat Summit said. "I've been very blessed with this team, these people I have around me."

Unlike earlier games in the tournament when the Volunteers had to carry the Lady Vols, her supporting cast came through. Shannon Bobbitt scored 13 points and followed it up with a three-point play on a driving layup.

Bobbitt gave the Lady Vols a 35-25 lead — their biggest lead of the game — and 157 total were good enough for a 14-point win.

The teams traded baskets before two free throws by Bobbitt gave the Lady Vols a 35-25 lead — their biggest lead of the game — and 157 total were good enough for a 14-point win.

Sophomore Madzy Fletcher, whose final-round 77 and 157 total were good enough for a 14-point win.

The Cardinal looked tight on offense, committing more turnovers in the first half than they did in the semifinal win over UConn. They finished with 25 for the game.

"We did not play well. We did not handle the pressure," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "The turnovers absolutely killed us."

Wiggins and Jayne Appel provided the only offense for the Cardinal, combining for 17 of their 29 first-half points.

Appel finished with 16 points to lead the Cardinal, whose 23-game winning streak — the longest in the nation — ended. The Pac-10 champs didn't lose since dropping consecutive road games to UCLA and USC in the first week of January.

The Lady Vols advanced to the championship game by beating LSU 47-46 on Sunday night on Alexis Hornesh's game-winning free throw after the Lady Vols jumped out to a 36-27 lead.

They came out with a great mentality to play hard, especially on the defensive end," Summitt said. "On offense we got more people involved, but it was our defense that got it done. I'm so proud of our seniors, I'm going to miss them."

Bobbitt scored all of her points in the first half as the Lady Vols jumped out to a strong 3-27 advantage. Trailing by one early, Tennessee used a 13-4 run to take a 17-9 lead midway through the half.

Bobbitt hit two 3-pointers and made a nifty layup to cap the spurt.

The Lady Vols ended a nine-year drought with their championship last season. They won their other titles the Lady Vols have won since the Lady Vols jumped out to a strong 3-27 advantage. Trailing by one early, Tennessee used a 13-4 run to take a 17-9 lead midway through the half.

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**Championship...**

continued from page 16

small town...big service
Sweeney's hit lifts A's to win

Sweeney triples home go-ahead run as Oakland beats Toronto 9-8

TORONTO — Ryan Sweeney hit a tiebreaking triple in the ninth inning, and the Oakland Athletics ended the Toronto Blue Jays three-game winning streak with a 9-8 victory.

Sweeney then hit a triple to right. He finished 2-for-5 with two RBIs.

Alan Embree (1-1) got the win despite allowing a two-run homer to Frank Thomas in the eighth to make it 9-6. The homer was Thomas' third in three games.

Huston Street worked the ninth.

Al Reddick began the ninth with a three-game winning streak with a hit.

The Athletics roughed up Toronto starter A.J. Burnett with five runs in the second. Suzuki, Ryan Sweeney, Travis Buck, Mark Ellis and Daric Barton all drove in runs as Oakland opened a 6-3 lead.

Burnett, who pitched six strong innings to beat the Yankees in New York on April 2, was not sharp in this one, allowing six runs and 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

He walked two and struck out one.

Toronto's Aaron Hill matched a career high with four hits — including a two-run homer in the fourth inning. It was the seventh home run of Hill's career that he had four hits.

Jack Cust's fielder's choice grounder and a throwing error by shortstop David Eckstein gave Oakland an 8-6 lead in the sixth. Thomas' homer tied it.

Vernon Wells hit a three-run homer in the third for Toronto.

Blue Jays third baseman Scott Rolen had a pin removed from his broken right middle finger Monday and will be able to start hitting off a tee by Friday or Saturday.

He'll join Toronto in Baltimore April 14 and 15 and begin full hitting and fielding drills shortly after.

There is no date for his return.

Oakland left-hander Greg Smith is expected to make his major league debut against Toronto on Wednesday in place of Rich Harden, who was expected to start for Cal Poly, and junior right-hander Tanner Schep­pers (4-2, 2.22 ERA) for the Bulldogs.

The Blue Jays, who compiled 12 hits, will take the diamond against another non-Big West Conference foe, Fresno State (16-14), at 6 tonight in Baggett Stadium.

Sophomore right-hander Kevin Castro (1-1, 3.09 ERA) is expected to take the mound for Cal Poly, and junior right-hander Tanner Schep­pers (4-2, 2.22 ERA) for the Bulldogs, who have already taken two of three from the Mustangs this season.
Parker, Lady Vols head and shoulders above rest

Player of the Year leads Tennessee to second consecutive national championship with 64-48 win over Stanford

Doug Feinsberg

TAMPA, Fla. — That injured left shoulder wasn’t enough to stop Candace Parker from heisting that championship trophy one last time.

Parker scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds to help Tennessee capture its eighth championship with a 64-48 victory over Stanford on Tuesday night. The Lady Vols also became the first repeat champs since Connecticut won three straight from 2002-04.

“It’s been an emotional last three days, obviously, just rehabbing my shoulder,” Parker said, “but it was all worth it to win an eighth national championship.”

The Associated Press player of the year will leave the Lady Vols (36-2) with a year of eligibility remaining, but has accomplished one of her goals by winning multiple national titles.

“You know, it’s funny because some players don’t get one, and I’m fortunate enough to have two,” Parker said with both hands raised and two fingers up on each. “It’s that simple. It’s that simple.”

Parker also became the fourth player to win back-to-back Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four honors. She joined Connecticut’s Diana Taurasi (2003-04), Tennessee’s Chamique Holdsclaw (1997-98), and Southern Cal’s Cheryl Miller (1982-83).

Stanford’s loss ended Candace Wiggins’ remarkable run through the NCAA tournament. She scored 14 points and finished with 151 over the six games — the fourth-best total in tournament history. Sheryl Swoopes holds the record with 177 points, when she led Texas Tech to the championship in 1993. Wiggins is the first player to have two 40-point games in the tournament.

Wiggins ended her stellar career by taking the Cardinal (35-4) farther than they’d been since 1992, when the program won it all. Stanford hadn’t reached the Final Four since 1997 or advanced to the championship game since the ’92 team.

“I’m sad that it’s over because of how much I love this program, this institution, this team, and my coaches teammates,” Wiggins said, breaking into tears. “It’s that amazing. This season, I could not ever have dreamed of this, so it’s more than I could ever ask for.”

She came in averaging 27.4 points in the tournament and opened the game with a 3-pointer, but couldn’t find an open look after that. The All-American scored 6-for-16 from the field and left to a standing ovation with just over a minute left in her college career.

Parker struggled with her shooting in the semifinals when she went just 4-for-27 from the field, but gutted out the championship game — not letting her injured shoulder bother her. For the second straight game, the All-American wore a long-sleeve shirt under her uniform to try, as she said, to not focus on the injury.

While still clearly not 100 percent healthy, she expected No. 1 pick in Wednesday’s WNBA draft didn’t shoot nearly as many jumpers at Sunday night, instead taking

see Championship, page 15

Tennessee coach Pat Summitt celebrates her school’s eighth national women’s basketball championship.

Sara Wright

LeBron James = King Kong?

I saw the cover of the “shape” issue of Vogue magazine, which features model Giselle Bündchen and LeBron James as examples for the story “Secrets of the Best Bodies.”

Initially confused after seeing the cover, I had to read an article by Kansas City Star columnist Jason Whitlock to grasp how one could consider the cover racist.

At Whitlock wrote, the cover came under scrutiny for presenting James “like King Kong clutching Fay Wray” while invoking an “idea of a dangerous black man.”

Maybe I was blinded by my adoration of Giselle’s pretty dress and LeBron’s hot tats, but at first glance, I didn’t notice the King Kong-distracted damsel pose the duo assertedly formed.

It’s likely the reason LeBron ended up allegedly posing like an overpowering, frightening, so-called gorilla is because Vogue wanted to show the differences between his body type and Giselle’s — he is obviously more robust and more menacing as a powerful basketball player than she is as a waif model.

And it could have easily been her bewsaw boyfriend Tom Brady on the cover, holding her up in the same way, and with the same faux-fierce look on his face — but no one likes him.

LeBron is talented and popular; it’s just a coincidence that he’s dark-skinned.

see Vogue, page 14