SLO County home to highest
gas prices in nation

SLO County’s Lowest
GAS PRICES

LOCATION
Grover Beach
Arroyo Grande
San Luis Obispo
Paso Robles

STATION
Chevron
Girl’s Liquor
Flyer’s
Valero

PRICE
$3.89
$3.75
$3.73 with cash
$3.79 with credit
$3.67

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 for reputable or locally owned stations.

COSTCO also offers relatively cheap gas to those with a membership card, charging $3.69 per gallon.

— Information compiled by Mustang Daily reporters and staff.

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 pullouts beyond this summer, holding his ground against impatient Democrats and refusing to commit to more withdrawals before President Bush leaves office in January.

Army 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 sees Iraq, page 2

Petraeus refused to say when he sees Iraq, page 2

Gen. David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker testify on Capitol Hill Tuesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.
thought it would be safe to resume troop reductions beyond July without risking "fragile and reversible" security gains.

"Unchecked, the special groups pose the greatest long-term threat to the viability of a democratic Iraq," Petraeus said.

Gen. David Petraeus, left, accompanied by Ambassador Ryan Crocker, testifies on Capitol Hill Tuesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the status of the war in Iraq. EPA

Petraeus made no mention of reducing soldier tours of duty in Iraq from the current 15 months to 12 months, but the administration is expected to announce a decision to do that this week. It would take effect this summer, coinciding with the completion of the drawdown to 15 combat brigades in Iraq.

Petraeus said his plan is supported by Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who has been notably public in his expressions of concern that the heavy commitment of troops in Iraq has limited U.S. military options elsewhere and has put enormous strain on troops and their families.

"Weakened, the special groups pose the greatest long-term threat to the viability of a democratic Iraq," Petraeus said.

"It is hard to see how this situation supports a narrative of progress in Iraq," Crocker said. "There is not a lot of progress. When you compare the policies of the Bush and Obama administrations to bring about change, relative to where we are, it is hard to see a difference."

Petraeus said there are many additional steps that must be taken in order to stabilize the situation without them. "The goal to get to that point will be impossible without the commitment to the three- to four-month transition to Iraqi forces that is necessary to stabilize the situation without us," he said.

Petraeus said his plan is supported by Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who has been notably public in his expressions of concern that the heavy commitment of troops in Iraq has limited U.S. military options elsewhere and has put enormous strain on troops and their families.

"If you believe as I do — and the commanders on the ground believe — that the way forward on reductions should be conditions-based, then it is just not responsible to try to put down a stake in the ground and say this is when it would be or that is when it would be," Petraeus said.

One of three scenarios that Petraeus wanted to announce a decision to do that this week. It would take effect this summer, coinciding with the completion of the drawdown to 15 combat brigades in Iraq.

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Bill Clinton backs Colombia trade deal
his presidential candidate wife opposes

Charles Babington

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 pressure to the New York senator’s bid to woo Democratic voters in Pennsylvania and elsewhere who believe 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 she would do everything in her power to defeat the Colombia Free Trade Agreement now before Congress.

Her campaign spokesman, Jay Carney, said in a response to a query from The Associated Press that the senator’s opposition is “clear and firm.” He added: “Like other married couples who disagree on issues from time to time, she disagrees with her husband on this issue. President Clinton has been public about his support for Colombia’s request for U.S. trade preferences since 2000.”

Bill Clinton has been his wife’s most prominent campaign surrogate and advocate for months.

A high point of his presidency was passage of the North America Free Trade Agreement, which his wife now criticizes at virtually every campaign stop. White House records show that as first lady, Hillary Clinton attended several meetings designed to build congressional support for NAFTA in the early 1990s. She says she had reservations about the pact at the time, and made her feelings known in such gatherings.

Speaking about the Colombia trade deal Tuesday to a meeting of the Communication Workers of America, she said: “As I have said for months, I oppose the deal, I have spoken out against the deal, I will vote against the deal, and I will do everything I can to urge the Congress to reject the Colombia free trade agreement.”

On Sunday, 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.
celebritynews

Clooney As Activist

George Clooney paused from promoting his latest film Tuesday to meet with British Prime Minster Gordon Brown, as he continued pressing governments to speak out about China's policy in Sudan.

The two met as the Olympic torch arrived in San Francisco for the only North American stop in the Beijing Olympic torch relay, which has been dogged by human rights protesters in London, Paris and Istanbul.

The protests have been fueled by anger over China's human rights record, in grip on Tibet and China's support for Sudan despite years of bloodshed in the country's western Darfur region.

Conan Has a Stalker Too

A priest accused of stalking Conan O'Brien pleaded guilty Tuesday to disorderly conduct.

Rev. David Ajanian, 46, admitted in Manhattan Criminal Court that he sent letters and DVDs to the NBC talk-show host's home and office, and said he also sent mail to the home of Mr. O'Brien's parents. He said he never meant to cause anxiety or to upset anyone.

Eminem Controversy

Eminem's mother was sued by a man who alleges he was cut out of the profits.

Aieniian said as he left court. "I plan to return to the music business and I get

Ailing Braxton

A hotel official said Toni Braxton has been hospitalized in Las Vegas.

Late "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin concealed pain with his pmbation. But music magazine NME cited a court spokesman as saying Doherty had used different kinds of drugs, breached "time keeping" and generally not complied with his probation.

Broken Probation Means Jail

Pete Doherty was sentenced to 14 weeks in jail for violating a probation order. His record company said the sentence handed down Tuesday by a London court means the Babyshambles frontman's planned concert at Royal Albert Hall on April 26 will be postponed.

Parlophone Records didn't say how the rocker broke his probation. But music magazine NME cited a court spokesman as saying Doherty had used different kinds of drugs, breached "time keeping" and generally not complied with his probation.

Secret Side of Steve

Last "Crocodile Hunter" Steve's father said his son masked during his public performances.

He gave no details of the reason for his son's private suffering.

Stair Steps to the Gods

Building the Great Pyramid at Giza

Craig B. Smith

Thursday, April 10
11:10-12:45 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
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) — The California Department of Education should be dissolved and its functions transferred to the state's community colleges, a state commission recommended Tuesday.

The commission offered its recommendations Tuesday for the state's new, consolidated K-12 education agency, which will take over on July 1, 2009.

National

ATLANTA (AP) — A soldier's widow has succeeded in having sperm taken from his body 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. Davee Darren Dhansoo- led, 26, died March 31 when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad. He had talked often with his wife Kyoshia 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 Dhansoolal's sperm were extracted.

LEESBURG, Va. (AP) — A daughter of a civil rights icon who served as a top lieutenant to Martin Luther King Jr. testified Monday that 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 the sex 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 tagging 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 deadlock over a disputed inventory of the communist nation's nuclear programs.

"I would say it was a good discus- sion," 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.

BVAiilagers 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, Lali, apparently has an extremely rare condition known as conjoined duplication, where a single head has two faces. Except for her ears, all of Lali'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.

Lali has caused a sensation in the dusty village of Sai! Suapura, 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 Sahab Ali, the director of Safi Hospital.

"She drinks milk from her two mouths and opens and shuts all the four eyes at one time," Ali said.

Rural India is deeply supersti- tious, 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 Lali at her home every day to touch her feet out of respect, offer money and re- ceive blessings, Singh told The Associated Press.

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

Lali'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.

The Rev. James L. Bevel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mother Sulama holds her daughter Lali as her husband Vinod Singh stands nearby at their residence in Sai! Suapura, east of New Delhi, India.
Gazans run to black market, liquid gas cars to fight fuel shortage

By Naufal Barakat and Diaa Hadid

Gaza residents turned to the black market Thursday evening after the government banned the sale of gas containers.

"We have no choice," said a driver who was selling fuel to Gazans in an underground market. "We can't go to regular stations or sell our fuel to the government." Mr. Barakat asked not to be named.

The black market operation started after a fuel shortage hit the Gaza Strip, causing long lines of cars and fuel trucks to form at the gas stations.

"We are completely cut off," said a driver who said he had been sitting in his car for hours at a gas station in Gaza City. "We can't do anything without fuel." Mr. Barakat asked not to be named.

The government announced earlier that it had banned the sale of gas containers to Gazans, but the ban failed to stop the black market operation.

"We are not going to give up," said a driver who was selling fuel to Gazans in an underground market. "We can't go to regular stations or sell our fuel to the government." Mr. Barakat asked not to be named.

The government said it was trying to resolve the fuel crisis by importing more fuel from Egypt.

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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 hunks of albums a week to review, devour and share with our listening community. Of the CDs that come in — an average of nearly 200 a week — about 12% are complete garbage. Once we filter the crap to its proper holding receptacle, we have to review, devour and share with our listening community. At least in that pit of unaccepted, unmentionable and unforgivable stabs and inclusion imposters, crap. Countless b.mds soulfully怀着; mother .S.o albums that are

filter the crap to its proper

with our listening community.

the tempo increases,

quiet moments, I joyo' s per-

amusing, and few of them as they did not come from

a familiar promoter and do not have a recognizable la-

backing them. These

musicians prove themselves

and able to come out on their own, surprising the most

skeptic of cars. Over the past year, the albums I

include the non-effect-

luities of Mattress the heavy;

shocking does not let

and the highly manned

bedroom-pop CD-R of

of Jerem Jerem Jesus. These records represent the cutting-edge

musician KCP! stroll the

best represent and support

Our mission is to provide al-

terative programming that

and informs, and informs, that

opens local listeners' minds to

the vast array of sonic

innovations taking place in

the nooks and crannies un-
tained by mega-corporate

moneybags, industry song-

ets, Internet-type machines and hipster bullshit.

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 fa-
miliar with these labels (Tower Recordings and

recordings respectively) when these albums arrived, I could not have anticipated the strikingly emotional, original and innovative sounds these CDs encompass.

Curiosities, 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 "wasp stings the List

and embodies his remarkably

grounding the hazy acoustic

surrounds the audience while

grounding the hazy acoustic

and haunted songs comprise his

first release supported at one time

and Digitalis labels. Though I was roughly fa-

tasted the album "bitter rivor," out now on

haunted songs comprise his

fully realized, oragnized and

branches expanding. Such music should be

heard on headphones in your

rooms. This guitar comes chiser

the fiendishly lonelv vocals

and the second KCP! release

that blew me away was Scott

Tuma's "Not for Nobody CP!

which struck me with the

same emotional response I had

after hearing Bura's self-tit-

ed LP for the first time. Few

recordings can capture such a

reverting, melancholic lone-

liness. Such music should be

heard on headphones in your

rooms. His guitar comes closer to Lahey's ghost than any of his contemporaries, its lay-

ers making James Blackman look like a amateur ma-

Chamine. Tuma embodies a fresh

and timeless broad American

country guitar album, where the

notes he leaves behind create

atmosphere as thrilling as the

chords he commands. His

endurance, full of creeks and

found sounds, coupled with the

fondly lonely vocals on the tracks that booked the

otherwise instrumental al-

bum, captivating and surround

the listener while alienating the music ema-

nating from Tuma's intricately recorded guitar. This album will enter KCP! 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,
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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 clean, 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 to listen, 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 droning 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 KCPR 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 KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.1 FM. He’s also completely full of it.
Bringing big-city music back to the Central Coast

Aaron Gaudette

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 Odell. 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.

Word has spread of Raynor's undertaking to the point that, while he contacts many of the artists who tour to schedule performances, just as many contact Raynor expressing interest in performing in the beach communities.

"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 Ray Yarbrough, New York City trombonist Elizabethteil, 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 concerts. 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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To the great president of our wondrous and diverse university

Dear Warren J. Baker,

I recently read your one-page "advertise-
ment" about diversity that came out on April 2. and I would like to take the time to express my opinions to you.

First of all, I am particularly pleased and im-
pressed 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. Unfortunately, I don't think you actually value that respect and civic engagement. In fact, I actually agree with your statement that "far too often, campus public discussions and debates about these issues have been characterized by poorly informed, emotional and even hurtful rhetoric and symbols.

Unfortunately, Mr. Baker, I don't know if we can correct this hurtful rhetoric or misinformation after the fact. Instead of having a dialogue with students about, oh, Cal Poly's deal with a certain Middle Eastern University, I think I would prefer to have a dialogue with students about the values of diversity, you and your admin-

instead of allowing students to express their opinion and ask questions at last quarter's Aca-

demic Senate meeting, the students were ig-
nored (not one student's question was all-

owed!). Instead of asking or informing students about a deal between Cal Poly and Jubail Uni-

versity, you have buried the issue, re-

fused to talk to us face-to-face, and have failed to release the most current details of the con-

trac
tion. It seems the administration have chosen to ignore your students' opinion of a deal be-

tween Cal Poly and Jubail University. I am
to have taken the time to write a series of let-

ters or statements personally directed toward me, but I would honestly prefer a more personal experience (an actual meeting would be nice!).

I am glad that in your letter you were aware that we are not just jumping into the 21st cen-

tury (I mean, when I woke up today, it shocked me when I realized it was 2008 and not 1996).

and that we live in a rapidly changing world. In fact, your students, who interact with this environment every day and who are entering this workforce, may be even more aware of it than you are.

That's why students care when the rights of women, Jews, homosexuals, as well as the values of diversity, are threatened to be sold for Saudi dollars. It's for the same reason that we are concerned when you want to start a pro-

gram that doesn't promote a cross-cultural ex-

change (a deal where no Saudi students come to Cal Poly or Cal Poly students go to Saudi Arabia seems to contradict the university's position that this deal is all about cross-cultural exchange). Instead, we become very concerned when Cal Poly attempts to appease a Saudi Arabi-

an university that operates in clear violation of Cal Poly's mission statement (true me, free inquiry and cultural diversity isn't really up to par at Jubail University or in the rest of Saudi Arabia).

Maybe, Mr. Baker, you're shy, you don't like seeing students in public, or you're just too busy to talk to your students. I guess that's under-
standable. I remember last year there was a $50 reward offered by the Mustang Daily for the first student to be photographed with you and the April 1, 2007 issue of the Mustang Daily. Unfortunately, not but surprisingly, no student was able to collect on this reward. I guess stu-

dents just thought it was an impossible mis-

sion.

If you do see the Mustang Daily, Mr. Baker (and I hope you do, considering the fact that you wrote letters to me in it), I ask you to for-
mally announce a debate or forum, in the spirit of civic engagement and mutual respect, where students can openly discuss the issues of diver-
sity with you — face to face. I also sincerely hope that you did not sign a deal with Jubail University College without consulting the stu-
dents 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 and unfortunate. In that case, my only request is that your future letters involve less copying and pasting from university codes and statements and more personality and passion.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Mr. Baker.

Sincerely,
Brian E. Effler
Brian Effler is a materials engineering senior and a conservative columnist for the Mustang Daily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 women out there who actually can separate emotions 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 easier for the other to say, "just move on," or "They aren't worth your time." As much as a person truly does want to get over it, I think it's unreasonable to assume that one (or both) of the people involved can leave an intimate situation with no emotional investment.

If there are people out there who just want to have sex for the sake of having sex, then go for it. Sex is a base, carnal desire that all humans have. I get it. Nevertheless, a person who wants to establish the parameters of a relationship before or after having sex is no cause for the other person to freak and "peace out."

Believe it or not, some people just knowing that the person they are involved with is not involved with several other people simultaneously. I understand that society is changing and the "make out and peace out" scenario is becoming ever more prevalent; however, I still maintain that some people prefer to be in a committed relationship before taking a dive.

After all, what is the point of being with another person if you cannot be with them wholeheartedly?

Stephanie Davirs
Music senior
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 be obsessed 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 Sierra or if you'd like, but these "unpatriotic," claims, however lame 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 unorthodox campaign?

Remember the discussion about those pictures of Obama clasping 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 controversial ex-runner, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and the comments he made that somehow through osmosis became Obama's own radical views? It's always "discussions." Instead of saying straight-up that Obama is unpatriotic, these peddlers simply ask questions like, "Do you believe Barack Obama presents the right amount of patriotism to be president?" or, even better, "Is Obama's lack of patriotism something that will make you less likely to vote for him?"

Yet their strange magnetism to these questions, and clearly why they keep pounding them into our skulls, is that whether you feel strongly either way that he is or isn't "patriotic," you instead get so wrapped up in the question that it's easy to forget the overwhelming truth and the overarching question:

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 it could be. It is only useful to the extent that it unifies our country; if it divides us to the point that it is detrimental to the country we claim to love and is merely pretentious fiction dressed up in red, white and blue.

Anyone who tells you otherwise, well, they must not be as patriotic as I am.

Jake McGowan is a political science sophomore and a Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

Are relationships evolutionary in nature?

Amanda Teuscher

The Pont (UIC C.)

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 outlets around the world have reported 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.

One of the stories mentions 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 words of 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 dissatisfied 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: "Dishy lads make 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 a man in 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.
**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, may have been, it still seems somewhat), says 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.

Lehr 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 NHL, that black male bodies are represented as ‘tamed and controlled’ within images of, and commentary and news about 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, generally reinforces the notions of white supremacy and white male superiority, 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 condemns current criticisms of American basketball as racist.

“It’s silly to consider the offense the magazine cover may cause, does it matter that Whitlock is black? Given the range of people facing an outcry, race per se doesn’t matter so much as the history and experiences that contribute to people’s minds and worldviews, leading them to see racism and other forms of oppression where others don’t,” he said.

While those involved in creating the magazine cover may have been a little too creative, others insisted they had not intended 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 neat. Maybe it’s the same situation there.

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

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 drive the intentions behind their instigation.

Sara Wright is a Mustang Daily reporter and a journalism senior.

**Championship**

*continued from page 16*

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 10-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 Parker had to carry the Lady Vols, her supporting cast came through. Shannon Bobbitt scored 13 points and came through. Shannon Bobbitt scored 13 points and made a nifty layup to cap the spurt.

Nicky Anosike added 12 points, eight rebounds and three steals, including one that led to a breakaway dunk by Hornbuckle with seven-tenths of a second left.

The Lady Vols ended a nine-year drought with their championship last season. They won their other two games in the tournament when the teams met. Tennessee won 107-111.

Stephanie Yocum’s final-round 77 and 157 total, three strokes better than the field’s best.

Sara Wright is a Mustang Daily reporter and a journalism senior.

The teams traded baskets before two free throws by Bobbitt gave the Lady Vols a 35-25 lead — their biggest of the half.

The Lady Vols advanced to the championship game by beating LSU 47-46 on Sunday night on Alexis Hornbuckle’s putback with seven-tenths of a second remaining.

The Cardinal shocked UConn 82-73 in the other semifinal. The victory redeemed the Lady Vols’ season-long drought in the semifinal win over UConn. They finished with 25 for the game.

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

Wiggins and Jayne Appel provided the only offense for Stanford, 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 lost since dropping consecutive road games to UCLA and USC in the first week of January.

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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.

Kurt Suzuki singled up the middle off right-hander Jeremy Accardo (0-1) with two outs in the ninth. Sweeney then hit a triple to right. He finished 2-for-5 with five runs in the second. Suzuki, Ryan Sweeney, Travis Buck, Mark Ellis and Darius Benton 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 time in 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. The 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.

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 right-hander Justin Duchscherer, on the 15-day disabled list with a strained biceps.

Baseball continued from page 16

Pete Lee and Schaffer — whose hit streak is now at nine contests — each added two hits.

Peppers (20-11), which will see San Luis Obispans on May 13, compiled 12 hits.

Sophomore right-hander D.J. Madison (3-4) walked up the victory while allowing two hits and no walks with one strikeout in 2 1/3 scoreless innings.

Jordan Darttance (2-1), the third of five Waves to take the mound, picked up the loss.

Opening a six-game home stand, the Mustangs will take the diamond against another non-Big West Conference foe, Fresno State (16-14), at 6 tonight in Baggott Stadium.

Sophomore right-hander Kevin Canzer (3-1, 5.09 ERA) is expected to face Cal Poly, and junior right-hander Tanner Schep­pers (4-2, 2.22 ERA) for the Bull­dogs, who have already two of three from the Mustangs this season.
Player of the Year leads Tennessee to second consecutive national championship with 64-48 win over Stanford

Doug Feinberg

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

Parker scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds to help Tennessee capture an 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 have 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 (1979-80).

Stanford’s loss ended Candice 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. Cheryl Sweatt 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) further 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 went a long-sleeve shirt under her uniform to try to, as she said, to not focus on the injury.

While still clearly not 100 percent healthy, the expected No. 1 pick in Wednesday’s WNBA draft didn’t shoot nearly as many jumpers as Sunday night, instead taking Tennessee coach Pat Summit celebrates her school’s eighth national women’s basketball championship.

Even if not deliberate, Vogue cover still offensive to some

Sara Wright

LeBron James = King Kong?

I saw the cover of the “shape” issue of Vogue magazine, which features model Gisele Bündchen and LeBron James as examples for the story “Secrecy 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’s core, 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 Gisele’s pretty dress and LeBron’s hot tatts, but at first glance, I didn’t notice the King Kong-distrusted dame pose the duo assertively 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 difference between his body type and Gisele’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 bewitch 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