Dr. Drew dishes it out

In spite of Thursday's sweltering heat, Dr. Drew Pinsky discussed drug-and sex-related topics with students in the Recreation Center. For an in-depth look at his visit, read the arts section Monday.

Garden Street Terraces approved

Kory Harbeck

Garden Street Terraces, a hotel, residential and retail complex proposed for downtown San Luis Obispo, received a major boost when the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association delivered a "vote of confidence" for the project.

The area for the proposal is the block between Garden and Broad streets between Higuera and Marsh streets. The location is currently home to a parking lot, several stores, restaurants, bars and Bubblegum Alley.

The project consists of a 70-room hotel with a restaurant and café, 25,000 square feet of commercial/retail space, 53 residential units, and 162 parking spaces. It would also implement city-approved enhancements to Garden Street that have previously lacked funding for completion.

The project is currently in the planning stages at City Hall, but that has not stopped the developer, Westpac Investments Inc., from conducting a public outreach campaign that started in 2005, sending postcards to city residents asking for their opinions and concerns.

California's top court legalizes gay marriage

Lisa Leff

SAN FRANCISCO — California's Supreme Court declared Thursday that gay couples in the nation's biggest state can marry — a monumental but perhaps short-lived victory for the gay rights movement greeted with tears, hugs, kisses and at least one instant proposal of matrimony.

Same-sex couples could tie the knot as little as a month. But the window could close soon after — religious and social conservatives are pressing to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November that would undo the Supreme Court ruling and ban gay marriage.

"Eventually, this boils down to: 'We love each other. We now have equal rights under the law,'" declared a jubilant Robin Tyler, a plaintiff in the case.

"We're going to get married. No Tupperware, please."

A crowd of people raised their fists in triumph inside City Hall, and people wrapped themselves in the rainbow-colored gay-pride flag outside the court house. In the Castro, the historic center of the gay community in San Francisco, Tim Oviatt wept as he watched the news on TV.

"I've been waiting for this all my life. This is a life-affirming moment," he said.

By the afternoon, gay and lesbian couples had already started lining up at San Francisco City Hall to make appointments to get marriage licenses.

In West Hollywood, supporters were planning to serve "wedding cake" at an evening celebration.

"It will be up to the people of California to preserve traditional marriage by passing a constitutional amendment — only then can they protect themselves and their children," said Supreme Court Justice Ronald George, who wrote the majority in ringing language that delighted gay rights activists.

"In contrast to earlier times, our state now recognizes that an individual's capacity to establish a loving and long-term committed relationship with another person and responsible to care for and raise children is not dependent upon the individual's sexual orientation," Chief Justice Ronald George wrote in an opinion concurring in the decision. ...
Marriage

continued from page 1

Massachusetts is the only other state to legalize gay marriage, something it did in 2004. The California ruling is considered monumental by virtue of the state's size — 38 million out of a U.S. population of 302 million — and its historic role in the vanguard of the many social and cultural changes that have swept the country since World War II.

California has an estimated 92,000 same-sex couples.

"It's about human dignity. It's about human rights. It's about time," said same-sex couples. "It's inevitable. It's about time thing." San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, pumping his fist in the air, told a roaring crowd at City Hall, "As California goes, so goes the rest of the nation. It's inevitable.

This door's wide open now. It's going to happen, whether you like it or not." Unlike Massachusetts, California has no residency requirement for obtaining a marriage license, meaning gays from around the country are likely to flock to the state to be wed, said Jennifer Pizer, a gay-rights attorney who worked on the case.

The ultimate reach of the ruling could be limited, however, since most states do not recognize gay marriages performed elsewhere. Nor does the federal government.

The conservative Alliance Defense Fund said it would ask the justices for a stay of the decision until after the fall election in hopes of adding California to the list of 26 states that have approved constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage.

Terraces

continued from page 1

The public comment period just closed, and now the comments will be reviewed by the environmental consultant, who should issue a response by late July in time to go before the planning committee in August.

"People are more excited than not; the majority of the responses have been very positive," said Carol Florence, principal planner for Oasis Associates, a landscape architect and project planning agency in charge of Garden Street Terraces.

"San Luis Obispo is not like other urban centers in the sense that we don't have a lot of residential in the downtown area," Florence said. "We are very hopeful and positive that this project will work very well to maintain and enhance downtown vitality.

"Members of the community who checked the box to request more information will be invited to a special hearing next month. Details are not yet available.

Some criticisms of the project include the building's size and height, as well as the fate of historical buildings on location. Developers have proposed to move the historic buildings and assure the community that the plan meets all city zoning regulations.

George Garcia, a Cal Poly alumna and head architect for the project, anticipates construction to take between 18 and 20 months.

Most of the staging for the construction will take place internally within the block, reducing the obstruction of street and pedestrian traffic in the area.

"The big issue is with existing businesses and securing the effect on them as much as possible," Garcia said. "Making sure their customers have full access and they have plenty of notice concerning closures to accommodate their needs. Our priority is not to be a hardship.

He added that all the businesses have been extremely positive and see the potential benefit for the city. At the heart of the matter is creating a hotel downtown, since the closest options currently are Apple Farm Inn on Monterey Street or Embassy Suites at Madonna Plaza.

If the proposal were to go forward, Garden Street would be home to a privately owned, non-franchised hotel that city planners hope will bring in visitors to revitalize downtown business.

The project as designed is also capable of a silver award from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

"From the get-go, it has been designed to be as sustainable as possible," Garcia said.

Most of the businesses that will be affected by the project reside in unreinforced masonry buildings that require retrofits by 2012, meaning construction, relocation and possible closures are in the future for downtown, even without Garden Street Terraces.

"The fate of Bubblegum Alley has not yet been decided, but developers have implied they will act in accordance with city planners and community opinion.

Creek

continued from page 1

rock, was divided into three sections: the horsehoe, for the planting of 40 new oak trees, which are often dormant in Poly Canyon; the pit, for catching basins and planting prickly pear cactus (which are indigenous to California); and bank stabilization.

Neal Waldron, a civil engineering senior, volunteered at the gravel pit.

"I think it's nice how students can work together and put the effort together to help the environment," he said.

Waldron has made plans to ensure Creek Day is not just a one-time thing.

"Anyone can do something once," he said. Therefore, he is pushing for the San Luis Obispo Countryside Creek Day organization to take it on in the future. The group holds a creek day in San Luis Obispo County every fall but hasn't worked with Brizolara Creek in the past.

Many groups provided funding for Creek Day, including the Empower Poly Coalition, Surfrider and the National Association of Environmental Professionals. All of the vegetation was donated for the project as well, so Waldron spent only $300 of his own money.

The project began as a long-term monitoring project under Waldron's senior project adviser Greve, with whom he took an urban ecology course in fall 2007.

"I had the document, but I wanted something practical to see results as well," he said.

Once Cal Poly decided to begin construction on Poly Canyon Village, the land around Brizolara Creek "went from cattle-grazing land to 2,700 students." Having construction means different runoff patterns, resulting in different materials ending up in the creek.

"The goal first and foremost was sustainability," Waldron said. "As a polytechnic university, it's important because you have a perfect opportunity for everyone to get into awareness. It's a really cool option as a living lab."
**State**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — The commission responsible for cleaning runaway sewage along the U.S.-Mexico border says it will upgrade an existing government wastewater plant in San Diego instead of paying a developer to build a new plant in Tijuana.

Thursday's decision by the International Boundary and Water Commission appears to end a decade-long gambit by private Baja owners to win millions in U.S. contracts to pump wastewater back to Mexico.

The commission is under federal court order to raise Mexican wastewater to U.S. standards by September but is seeking an extension.

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Today is the first Spare the Air Day of the smog season, but there aren't any free rides on Bay Area transit systems.

Air quality officials are ending the practice of providing free rides on smoggy days because federal grants failed to cover the cost.

Critics have long contended that the $2 million to cover a free ride program was too expensive.

So this year, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission will set one day for free rides.

**National**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Republican presidential contender John McCain on Thursday listed a series of prospective first-term accomplishments, including winning the war in Iraq, although he said he was not backing down on his criticism of Democrats for favoring immediate troop withdrawals.

In a mystical speech that also envisioned Osama bin Laden dead or captured and Americans with the choice of paying a simple flat tax or following their standard 1040 form, the Arizona senator for the first time set an outer limit for the war, even if he hedged on a specific end date.

**BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)** — A mother bear and her young cub stopped traffic and caused panic Thursday in central Romania after they roamed through gardens in search of food.

Residents had reported that the bear and her cub were wandering through gardens and breaking fences in search of food in downtown Brasov.

Traffic was stopped for two hours as a team tried to get the animals back to the wilderness.

Stay Connected.
Chinese wonder if animals can predict earthquakes

Henry Sanderson

First, the water level in a pond inexplicably plunged. Then thousands of toads appeared on streets in a nearby province. Finally, just hours before China's worst earthquake in three decades, animals at a local zoo began acting strangely.

As bodies are pulled from the wreckage of Monday's quake, Chinese online chat rooms and blogs are buzzing with a question: Why didn't these natural signs alert the government that a disaster was coming?

"If the seismological bureau were professional enough, they could have predicted the earthquake ten days earlier, when several thousand cubic meters of water disappeared within an hour in Hubei, but the bureau there dismissed it," one commentator wrote.

In fact, seismologists say, it is nearly impossible to predict when and where an earthquake will strike.

Several countries, including China, have sought to use changes in nature — mostly animal behavior — as an early warning sign. But so far, no reliable way has been found to use animals to predict earthquakes, said Roger Musson, a seismologist with the British Geological Survey.

But that has not stopped a torrent of online discussion, even the mainstream media has chimed in, with an article in Tuesday's China Daily newspaper questioning why the government did not predict the earthquake.

Online commentators say the first sign came about three weeks ago, when large amounts of water suddenly disappeared from a pond in Enshi city in Hubei province, around 350 miles east of the epicenter, according to media reports.

Then, three days before the earthquake, thousands of toads roamed the streets of Mianzhu, a hard-hit city where at least 2,000 people were reported killed.

Mianzhu residents feared the toads were a sign of an approaching natural disaster, but a local forestry bureau official said it was normal, the Huaxi Metropolitan newspaper reported May 10, two days before the earthquake.

The day of the earthquake, zebras were banging their heads against a door at the zoo in Wuhan, more than 600 miles east of the epicenter, according to the Wuhan Evening Paper. Elephants swung their trunks wildly, almost hitting a staff member. The 20 lions and tigers, which normally would be asleep at midday, were walking around, five minutes before the quake hit, dozens of peacocks started screeching.

There are a few possible reasons for such behavior, said seismologist Musson. The most likely is that the movement of underground rocks before an earthquake generates an electrical signal that some animals can perceive. Another theory holds that other animals can sense weak shocks before an earthquake that are imperceptible to humans.

Zhang Xiaodong, a researcher at the China Seismological Bureau, said his agency has used natural activity to predict earthquakes 20 times in the past 20 years, but that still represents a small proportion of China's earthquakes.

"The problem now is this kind of relationship is still quite vague," he said.

In winter 1975, Chinese officials ordered the evacuation of the city of Haicheng in northeastern Liaoning province the day before a 7.3 magnitude earthquake, based on reports of unusual animal behavior and changes in ground water levels. Still, more than 2,000 people died. Strange environmental phenomena, including changes in well water levels, were also reported a year later before a 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Tangshan in northeastern China that killed 240,000, Musson said.

A team of Chinese seismologists was sent to the region but didn't find any evidence to suggest an earthquake. As the seismologists were going home, they stopped for the night in Tangshan and were killed in the quake.
Hayley Bramble
MUSTANG DAILY

Those taking a foreign language or interested in foreign films will have the opportunity to take a cinematic journey held with the modern languages and literature department. From May 19 to 22, the department will present a mini film festival titled "Four Days Around the World: Movies You Did Not Expect.""Corinne Kahnke, who teaches all Ger­man language and literature classes, said it was her idea and organized the festival. She said the films have something new to offer, that they are not just the most obvious or traditional films coming from that country. The overall idea was that the films are a little bit unusual," she said. Kahnke has been screening German crime and horror films this quarter on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. "Benny's Video" (1996), the film she chose for the festival, fits in with this quarter’s horror genre and will screen on Wednesday evening. The crime and horror series will continue until the end of the quarter.

The festival includes films in Russian, Ger­man, French and Span­ish. Each of the four films are sub­titled in English and will be shown in the language lab in the Ehrhart Agriculture building, room 128. The screenings will commence at 7 p.m. and will run until about 9 p.m. with a discussion of the film afterward. Before each film, the Cal Poly instructor who chose the film will introduce it and speak briefly about it to the students. Snacks will also be provided for the festival’s patrons.

Kahnke put on an event for the department each quarter, but the film series, she said, will bring all the languages together for the first time. Her goal for the festival was to put something out where all the stu­dents could join together. Kahnke said she uses a lot of film in her lan­gage and literature classes, and that film is a great tool for learning the everyday speech of a language.

The festival opens on Monday with a Russian film, "Kazakovsky pleznik," ("Prisoner of The Mountains," 1996), which will be presented by Corinne Kahnke of the history depart­ment, who has studied Russian ex­tensively. The film, based on a story counter the idiomatic expressions and different accents. Film is "a window into any culture," and "the energy of this is so much more dy­namic than what Hollywood has to offer," she said.

The series continues on Tues­day with "Diarios de motocicleta" ("The Motorcycle Diaries," 2004), a biographical account of the early travels of Ernesto "Che" Guevara across South America. Kevin Fagan, who teaches Spanish, Ital­ian, philosophy and humanities classes at Cal Poly, will present the film.

"We want to pro­mote Latin American culture here at Cal Poly," Fagan said. "I did the Latin Ameri­can movie because I lived most of my adult life in Latin America, and my wife is South American."

Fagan, who is the faculty coordina­tor of the exchange program between Cal Poly and Uni­versidad La Serena in Chile, said he finds the film helpful for students not only to understand the cus­tom, politics and religion of South America, but also the geography of Chile, Peru and Colombia. "We think it’s important to show the reality of South America," he said.

The festival closes on Thurs­day with the French film "Gouettes d’eau sur pierres brulantes" ("Water Drops on Burning Rocks," 2006), presented by Brian Kennelly, chair of the modern language and litera­ture department.

Kennelly said that he chose the film because of its curious nature. "It involves couples, couple-­ng, transsexuality, France, Germany, the 1970s and one of France’s most avant-garde films," he said. Kennelly said French cinema tends to be bolder and more daring than what Americans are used to, but he hopes the students will keep an open mind.

"That’s the danger in showing this film, but I think people will like it."

John Mayer will join Stone Temple Pilots, Steely Dan, Toby Keith, Rod Stewart and others in this year’s California Mid-State Fair lineup.

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

Stone Temple Pilots, Steely Dan, Toby Keith, Rod Stewart and John Mayer — no, this isn’t a list of current and future members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, although that might hold true. These names are just a taste of the musical cornucopia that the 2008 California Mid-State Fair will be importing for its highly regarded concert series.

"Our fair is very unique in how much we focus on entertainment and how much we spend on the acts,” said Tom Keffury, director of marketing and sponsorships for the fair. "As the marquee event dur­ing the summer on the Central Coast, we take our fair very seriously, and we want to top it every year.”

The lineup for the Budweiser Concert Series this year looks to beat out even the stellar acts featured last year, which included the likes of Aerosmith, Godsmack, Bob Dylan, Laura Rimes and Steve Nicks. Many of the shows last year quickly sold out — especially Aerosmith — and a majority of the acts this year look to do the same.

"To be able to get names like these to play in little ‘Paso Robles is mind-blowing," Keffury said. "I feel that the lineup this year is the best we’ve ever had from top to bottom; it features a diverse variety of artists to appeal to a broad range of demographics.""The Budweiser Concert Series takes place during the fair, which runs from July 23 through Aug. 3, on two different stages, the Fort Frontier Stage and the Main Grandstand Stage. The Main Grandstand Stage features bigger-name performers, which requires purchasing separate tickets to attend, while concerts on the Fort Frontier Stage are free with admission.

The Main Grandstand Stage will feature country stars Toby Keith and Alan Jackson, rock legends Steely Dan and Rod Stewart, pop sensations John Mayer and Matchbox Twenty, and alternative rockers Stone Temple Pilots. The popular country band Sawyer Brown will also perform a concert following the Country Rodeo Finals on Aug. 2, and blues rocker Boz Scaggs will be the headliner for "An Evening of Music and Wine" on Aug. 1.

But the Fort Frontier Stage also has its fair share of big names to perform for fairgoers, including artists such as Grand Funk Railroad, Ozomatli, Gary Lewis & the Playboys, The Spinners, and Rod Piazza & The Mighty Flyers Blues Quartet.

"While rock and country are our biggest sellers, we know that everyone on the lineup is going to be great," Keffury said. "There’s a little bit of buzz being created about each of our shows, and that’s how we know that we’ve done a good job. We’ve been hearing from different people about the different bands we have coming. Those who remain on the Central Coast for the summer will be treated to a myriad of talent performed over a 12-day period. Those who’ve seen concerts at the fair in past years have expressed their enthusiasm for the quality promised at this year’s fair."

see Fair, page 6
“I saw Steve Miller Band two years ago at the fair, and it was a great show because they didn’t leave anything out,” soil science senior Ted Richardson said. “To be able to get rock legends that are the likes of those guys again is really remarkable.”

“Stone Temple Pilots is going to be even better than Bob Dylan and Godsmack, who I saw at the fair last year,” physics senior Topher Matthews agreed. “People will be waving beers and lighters in the air instead of the cans they were waving at the Dylan concert. I think everyone will be having a lot more fun.”

A complete listing of the artists who will perform at the 2008 California Mid-State Fair can be found at midstatefair.com. Tickets for Steely Dan and Matchbox Twenty go on sale today at 10 a.m.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>film</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby Mama (PG-13)</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Greg Kinnez, Da'Vine Shephard, Romany Malco, Maura Tierney, Holland Taylor</td>
<td>Summary: Unable to get pregnant, successful businesswoman Kate Humble can't wait any longer to have a baby. But when she hires a surrogate mother, she gets more than she bargained for. The Good: The Pay/Reign duo is dynamic, but the supporting actors make the film even stronger. The Bad: Unsurprisingly, a plausible main character in the company of completely unrealistic people. (Kristen Marichal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Georgie Henley; directed by Andrew Adamson</td>
<td>Summary: In the second installment of C.S. Lewis's fantasy, the Pevensie siblings find themselves again in Narnia (1,300 years have passed) to help Prince Caspian, the kingdom's right-hand man, overthrow his evil uncle. The Good: Retains some of the charm of the first film but with carefully thought-out meditations thrown in. The Bad: For those especially attached to the book, the film version might be a disappointment (of course). (RottenTomatoes.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed (PG)</td>
<td>90 min.</td>
<td>Ben Stien, Jason Colletti; directed by Nathan Frankowski</td>
<td>Summary: In this documentary Ben Stein travels the world in search of scientists and scholars being discriminated against for their lack of faith in Darwinism, meaning the misfortunes they encounter. The Good: Addresses an interesting aspect of the evolution vs creation debate. The Bad: Strong bias and lack of factual evidence does little to further Stein's argument. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R)</td>
<td>111 min.</td>
<td>Jason Segel, Kristen Bell, Milla Kunis, Bill Hader, Russell Brand, Jonah Hill, Paul Rudd, Liz Cackowski; directed by Nicholas Stoller</td>
<td>Summary: After being dumped by his girlfriend of five-and-a-half years, Peter Bretter (Segel) escapes to Hawaii. But in a sick-tum of fate, Sarah (Bell) and her new beau happen to be staying at the same resort. The Good: Clever one-liners and awkward situational humor in this &quot;ultimate romantic disaster&quot; movie. The Bad: If you don't like front-facial male nudity, be sure to close your eyes (four times). (Janelle Eastridge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold &amp; Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>John Cho, Kal Penn, Rob Corddry, Roger Bart, Neil Patrick Harris, Kal Penn, Rob Corddry, and Roger Bart; directed by Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg</td>
<td>Summary: After Kumar's bond is mistaken for a bomb on an international flight, he and Harold are thrown into and escape Guantanamo Bay. Their subsequent life on the run yields random adventures. The Good: Running jokes from the first movie, political (mixed with pot) humor, unicorns and NPH. The Bad: Don't see it if you're easily offended by anything. It pushes the R-rated envelope. (Glance Magnoli)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Man (PG-13)</td>
<td>126 min.</td>
<td>Robert Downey Jr., Terence Howard, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow, Leslie Bibb, Shaun Toub, Faran Taheri; directed by Jon Favreau</td>
<td>Summary: Robert Downey Jr. plays Tony Stark, a brilliant head of a large weapons company who creates a suit of metal to get out of the desert after being taken hostage. Gwyneth Paltrow plays his sassy assistant. The Good: The acting and special effects are stellar. The Bad: The plot lacks much forward movement. (Christina Cassi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jellyfish (NR)</td>
<td>78 min.</td>
<td>Sarah Adler, Taisoon Aper, Bruna Albeke, Ilanit Ben-Yaakov, Assi Dayan; directed by Shira Geffen and Etgar Keret</td>
<td>Summary: Jellyfish tells the story of three very different 60-something women, each struggling with different issues, whose intersecting stories weave an unlikely portrait of modern Israeli life. The Good: Highly cinematic, with a good balance between existential loneliness and magical whimsy. The Bad: Though some may find the film clever, it might strike others as slightly too precious. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made of Honor (PG-13)</td>
<td>101 min.</td>
<td>Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan, Kevin McKidd, Kathleen Quinlan, Sydney Pollack; directed by Paul Weiland</td>
<td>Summary: Tom and Hannah have been best friends since an awkward college encounter. Ten years later, Tom realizes he's in love with Hannah when she leaves for Scotland—and returns engaged. The Good: The characters are forced to reevaluate their lives with a great deal of heart after. The Bad: Full of cliches and very predictable. Plus, Dempsey plays a very unconvincing man's man. (Kristen Marschal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Racer (PG)</td>
<td>129 min.</td>
<td>Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci, John Goodman, Susan Sarandon, Matthew Fox; directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski</td>
<td>Summary: A natural-born rebel, the Speed Racer turns down an offer to join Foxbat Industries, which wants to increase its profits. He participates in the racing world's pinnacle event against stiff competition. The Good: At its best, the film is buoyant pop entertainment focused on speed, racing and cool colors. The Bad: A so-so storyline with minimal character development. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Visitor (PG-13)</td>
<td>103 min.</td>
<td>Richard Jenkins, Oliver Bokelberg, Hami Abbas, Maggie Moore; directed by Thomas McCarthy</td>
<td>Summary: The film follows Walter Vale, a disillusioned Connecticut economics professor, as he is transformed by a chance encounter and newfound connections in New York City. The Good: The film goes more or less where you think it will, but still manages to surprise. The Bad: Afraid to take a political stand, the film seems to avoid hard-hitting questions. (New York Times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>What Happens in Vegas (PG-13)</td>
<td>99 min.</td>
<td>Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Treat Williams, Dermis Farnia; directed by Tom Vaughan</td>
<td>Summary: After a rowdy weekend in Las Vegas, stalkers Jack Fuller (Kutcher) and Joy Mchale (Diaz) find themselves hitched, then must try to survive six months of &quot;wedding bliss&quot; to keep their Vegas earnings. The Good: An exceedingly bright comedy with smart lines and superb comic acting. The Bad: The stars lack the classic sparring-butt-meant-for-each-other mentality. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Year My Parents Went on Vacation (PG)</td>
<td>110 min.</td>
<td>Michael Joresias, Daniela Papietsky, Liliana Castro; directed by Cao Hamburger</td>
<td>Summary: In Brazil's 2007 Oscar contribution, a young boy is separated from his parents, who are forced to leave the country because of political turmoil, and moves to a Jewish neighborhood. The Good: Poignant and surprisingly tender at times. Plus, the film's climax is definitely worthwhile. The Bad: A film about a childhood trauma presented in a timid and sanitized manner. (RottenTomatoes.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young@Heart (PG)</td>
<td>110 min.</td>
<td>The Young@Heart vocal group; directed by Stephen Walker</td>
<td>Summary: A documentary tracking the progress of the Young@Heart vocal group, comprised of elderly men and women who sing covers of songs by Bob Dylan, The Clash and others, as they prepare for a major gig. The Good: An enjoyable film with a built-in cute factor (70). And sometimes singing good music. The Bad: Some claim it &quot;reeks of commercial calculation&quot; and lacks the grit of the group it follows. (RottenTomatoes.com)</td>
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Gas tax holiday: A little break from common sense

As the presidential primary season draws on long after most expect it to end, potential nominees continue to do their utmost to capture the critical remaining delegates. The Democratic race is still in the air, and Obama and Clinton are slowly inching up toward the 2,025 delegates needed to clinch the nomination. If, as on queue, the price of oil has also begun its yearly ascent.

American summers have always been marked by steep oil prices, but recent record-setters highs have prompted presidential candidates to make the oil availability issue one of the key themes of their campaigns. Both John McCain and Hillary Clinton have proposed a "summer gas holiday" to alleviate the extremely high oil prices of the coming months. This article will focus on Clinton's plan, since it is one of the most pronounced policy differences between her and her rival, Bush.

Clinton envisions a period from Memorial Day to Labor Day during which the federal excise tax on fuel would be suspended. This move would save consumers 18.4 cents for each gallon of gas they purchase and 24.4 cents for each gallon of diesel. According to Barack Obama, who opposes the plan, the average American driver could expect to save about $30 over the summer. But Bush is not going to solve any real problems. If implemented, the plan will almost certainly do more harm than good.

Environmentalists oppose the idea because it might encourage motorists to use more gasoline. A reduction in the price of fuel could result in increased carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. This would have an adverse effect on the stability of our climate. We should not create the illusion that oil is safely obtained, that it is inexpensive, or that it is OK to burn more of it than we already do. We simply do not have enough oil to enact policies that discourage conservation. The plan is a terrible one from an environmental perspective.

Just as troublesome as the possible damage to our environment are the potential implications of the plan for roadway infrastructure around the United States. The Federal Highway Trust Fund is the primary recipient of fuel taxes. The fund distributes tax money from fuel purchases to state and local authorities to build and maintain transportation infrastructure across the United States. Clinton's gas tax holiday would divert billions from the fund. She claims this revenue would be recaptured by imposing a "windfall profits tax" on oil companies. Unless she can get her tax policy from the drawing board onto paper and past legislators in record time, the highway construction industry could stand to lose a great deal of funding. That money is crucial to the safety of American motorists. Industry insiders estimate that thousands of highway construction jobs could also be lost.

Environmentalists and people who enjoy driving on roads are not the only ones who have taken issue with Clinton's proposal. Many economists have also voiced their strong disapproval. If the windfall profits tax were to be imposed, experts argue that oil companies would make up the money lost in taxes by charging more for petrol products. That result likely to windfall profits tax would result in even higher profits for oil companies.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, of Clinton's own home state, called the proposed gas tax holiday "about the dumbest thing I've heard in an awful long time, from an economic point of view." When recently asked if she could name an economist in support of her plan, Hillary responded, "I'm not going to put my lot in with economists.

Clinton's proposed gas tax holiday is a clear case of election year pandering. If the tax holiday were to take place, it would increase profits for oil companies, rob funding from American highway and bridge projects, and encourage increased carbon dioxide emissions. Oh yeah, it might also save you $30 this summer.

Thanks, Hillary.

Matt Huston is an environmental engineering student, member of the Empower Political Coalition and Green Spot columnist for the Mustang Daily.
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

LIKE, GEE WIZ, ACCORDING TO THIS BOOK, GREAT DANE USUALLY ONLY LIVE NINE YEARS. LIKE, WOW! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD ALREADY. ANYWAY, GOODNIGHT SCOOBY!

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0404

Across
2. Ranger rival 35. Silence
3. Linda, of movies 36. Silk Road locale
5. Olympic event since 1988 39. Key
7. Benedict's dread? 41. Stands in line at
8. Catch in pots 42. Member of an

Down
1. Tyman player in "The Seduction of Joe Tyman" 2. Parre
2. Tote bag 3. Abbr.
3. Tyler's "Plastic" Symphony is in 4. Between drei and frei
5. 6. Unfulfilled duty
7. Slang with "Blue" 8. Catch in pots
12. Number 12. Number
15. 15. Largest tenant of
16. Largest tenant of Pittsburgh's 16. Largest tenant of Pittsburgh's
17. Latest skyscraper 17. Latest skyscraper
18. Often puts linen 18. Often puts linen
19. Miami Beach hotel 19. Miami Beach hotel
20. German wine region 20. German wine region
22. 22. Peck parts Abbr.
23. "Like some cubs" 23. "Like some cubs"
24. "Meant" to please 24. "Meant" to please
27. Big Ten school 27. Big Ten school
29. Par from a deck, maybe 29. Par from a deck, maybe
30. Literally 30. Literally
31. "Women's boat" 31. "Women's boat"
32. Board 32. Board
33. Rare delivery 33. Rare delivery
34. "Aftershock" 34. "Aftershock"
35. Guatemala's national bird 35. Guatemala's national bird
36. "Pastoral" Symphony is in 36. "Pastoral" Symphony is in
37. Burger replacement 37. Burger replacement
38. "Sneak" 38. "Sneak"
40. Wholesome snacks 40. Wholesome snacks
41. Slang with "looked rather pleasantly like a blond Satan" 41. Slang with "looked rather pleasantly like a blond Satan"
42. "Torso" 42. "Torso"
43. Arsonist 43. Arsonist
44. Old man 44. Old man
45. "Feeder tubes?" 45. "Feeder tubes?"
46. "Powerful D.C. lobby" 46. "Powerful D.C. lobby"
47. "When the Feast of Lots is observed" 47. "When the Feast of Lots is observed"
49. "Powerful engine" 49. "Powerful engine"
50. "News in brief" 50. "News in brief"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S U D O K U

Edited by David Quarles

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

6 3 9 1 7
5 1 4
8 9 3
5 6 1 2
4 9 8 6 5
3

SOLUTION

3 4 5 2 1 6
4 1 6 5 3 2
5 3 2 4 1 6
6 5 1 2 4 3
1 4 7 6 5 9
2 8 9 3 7 4

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Baseball
continued from page 12

"threw it to second base."

The streak was the longest by Cleveland's starters since Bob Lemon, Gene Bearden, Sam Zief, and Bob Feller pitched 17 straight scoreless innings together over April 29-30, 1948 — all three closer bleh... It was the longest by a major league team in one season since a 54-inning streak by Baltimore's starters from Sept. 7-17, 1947, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Johnny Perkola homered for the Indians, who on Wednesday moved into the AL Central lead for the first time since the opening week.

Kosuga then fanned pinch-hitter Byrdak hasn't allowed a run in 4 1/3 innings, striking out five.

Three runs in the fifth. Billing­

Byrdak's RBI singles in the first-inning single by Brian Giles, who had three hits.

2007 when he earned All-Western State Conference Second Team distinc­

Dempster (5-3) allowed six hits in 8 1/3 innings and walked one, leaving after 115 pitches. He retired 15 straight batters after a first-innings walk. Brian Giles, who had three hits.

Maddox (3-4), who entered the major leagues with the Cubs in 1996, made what might have been his final start at Wrigley Field. He covered four runs and 11 hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Billingsley (3-5) didn't allow a hit to the Dodgers, who won three in a row, after a first-innings walk. Brian Giles, who had three hits.

Ben Francisco and Tnuvis Haf­

Five of the Mustangs' 16 acquisi­

Dodd, or a "perfect fit," as announced Feb. 6 to open the regular signing period had prep excursions, including Andre Broad­

He then had five strikeouts in his final start at Wrigley Field. File

804-357-6511 or 516-472-9318
tory, who had three hits.

MILWAUKEE — Andrew Jones, Jeff Kent and Gary Bennett homered during a six-run seventh inning, leading Chicago over the

Dempster struck out a career-high 12 and

hit a go-ahead single against Greg Maddux in the first, leading Chicago into the ninth.

Dempster (5-1) allowed six hits in 9 1/3 innings and walked three, leaving after 115 pitches. He retired 15 straight batters after a first-innings walk. Brian Giles, who had three hits.

Berkman connected off Vinnie Chulk (0-2) for the first splash-hit

Cubs 4, Padres 0

Chicago has won six of seven.

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Chicago has won six of seven.
in spite of her heptathlon achievement, Day says she'll likely save her best at mid-June's nationals for her No. 1 event, the high jump.

"I don't know that I will be competing in the heptathlon at nationals, because it'd be very difficult to try the high jump (two days) after that," she explained.

With a season-best clearance of 6 feet, 2 ½ inches at the Mt. SAC Relays on April 20, Day is still in search of a 6-4 ½ mark that would meet the Olympic "A" standard, which would substantially improve her prospects of competing on behalf of the United States at the 2008 Summer Games.

"I've had really good attempts, and I feel it's definitely attainable this season," she said of reaching the standard "any given day, (at) any given meet." Crawford is also optimistic about the chances of Day and Cal Poly as a whole.

"Over the last several years, as we've had our athletes really do well at multi-event (competition), it seems like that really sets the tone for the whole team going into the conference meet the next weekend," she said.

Also playing for the Mustangs on May 10 were Katie Robbins and Sara Klein, who took fourth and fifth in the high jump, and Corbin Duer, who came in seventh in the decathlon.

Besides Day, whose marks rest stop the conference in the high jump and long jump, triple jumper Jessica Eggelson is the only Cal Poly woman entering today ranked in the list of real schools," which isn't true, Brennan said.

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Mustang ranked second are Jasmine Pickett (in the long and triple jumps) and Jaleane DuBose (shot put and discus).

see Day, page 11

sporTS

track and field

Day leads Cal Poly into final weekend of Big West Championships

Cal Poly women's and men's squads each looking for first conference titles since moving to Division I in 1994

Donovan Aird

MUSTANG DAILY

Last weekend she made history, but Sharon Day isn't content stopping there.

The Cal Poly senior broke the Big West Conference heptathlon record while winning the title May 19 at Cal State Northridge, lifting the Mustangs women to a 19-15 victory and men to a 57-13 win.

"It's been an incredible weekend," said of the Thursday report by The Anniston Star of Anniston, Ala.

"For the Mustangs, which would substantially improve her prospects of competing on behalf of the United States at the 2008 Summer Games.

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see Day, page 11

football

Ellerson: Perrilloux report not true, Brennan off team

Donovan Aird

MUSTANG DAILY

Contrary to a report of an Alabama newspaper, Cal Poly had no interest in former LSU quarterback Ryan Perrilloux, Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson said Thursday.

"I'm not a fan of rushing and letting go of the ball," Laffey said.

"I had a lot more time than I thought I did. I just kind of rushed and let go of the ball too early. It went flying; I almost

see Baseball, page 11

INDIANS SWEEP A'S, SCORELESS STREAK ENDS

Joe Milicia

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — It wasn't even a bad pitch that ended the Cleveland Indians' scoreless streak.

An unprompted run against Aaron Laffey on his own throwing error halted the starting rotation's run of 44 1/3 consecutive shutout innings, but didn't interrupt their string of dominant outings.

Laffey pitched the Indians to a 4-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Thursday, completing a three-game sweep and giving the surging Indians eight victories in 10 games.

"When you talk about five guys — to do it in day and day out it's impressive," Laffey said.

"It's just been an incredible week of starting pitching for us." Cleveland completed a 6-1 homestand in which it allowed

The amount of innings Cleveland Indians starting pitchers had held opponents scoreless -- a streak that ended Thursday

44 1/3

"When it's an error like that, it's not true, Brennan off team

Former LSU quarterback Ryan Perrilloux, shown Dec. 1, 2007 after winning MVP of the SEC Championship, transferred Wednesday to Jackson­

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