Eight Fresno State students have been chosen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to conduct an experiment in its Grant Us Space Reduced Gravity Education Flight Program. The students’ experiment is to test the formation of a substance called calcium oxalate to see how it reacts in a microgravity environment. “This is important because in humans, (the substance) causes kidney stones,” Craig Seber, a senior majoring in plant science, said. “For astronauts who have a diet high in calcium oxalate, it could potentially be a problem without a doctor up there.”

According to NASA’s website, due to prolonged exposure to a microgravity environment, astronauts are at risk for developing kidney stones because of the loss of bone calcium and decreased fluid intake. These kidney stones can form during or after the flight, and can pose serious consequences if not treated immediately.

By Dana Hull
The Collegian

Riann Egusquiza (left) and Jordan Ringel (right) conduct a preliminary experiment in Fresno State’s science lab. They are preparing for their big experiment this summer when they are to lift off from NASA headquarters in Houston, Texas.
Re-evaluating Republican values

By Christine Mahackian

Tsince 1972, the General Social Survey has collected data on the opinions and beliefs of people with a wide variety of demographics and backgrounds. The GSS recently published results of surveys conducted from 2008 to 2010, and for the first time more Americans support than oppose same-sex marriage.

As a Republican, I previously felt I had to oppose same-sex marriage, and I won’t alone. According to the Pew Research Center, 81 percent of Republicans oppose same-sex marriage.

My main argument against same-sex marriage was that I believed it would destroy the sanctity of marriage. That’s where I went wrong. That’s where I let my faith take precedence over my allegiance to the United States and the Constitution.

I feel that many Republicans put their faith and religious beliefs before the Constitution. Perhaps they should take a closer look at the Republican Party Platform and see what it truly means to be Republican.

On page 8 of the Republican Party Platform, it clearly states, “Individual rights and the responsibilities that go with them are the foundation of a free society. From the time of Lincoln, equality of individuals has been a cornerstone of the Republican Party.”

Sounds like 81 percent of Republicans decided to ignore that, or perhaps, to that 81 percent, equal does not really mean equal. There was something similar not too long ago, way back when, equal was considered equal despite being separate.

If Republicans continue to read their party platform they will find it also states “We consider discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion, creed, disability, or national origin to be immoral, and we will strongly enforce anti-discrimination statutes.”

According to Merriam Webster’s dictionary, to discriminate is “to make a difference in treatment or favor on a basis other than individual merit.” What do same-sex marriage couples do that does not merit the right to marry? Republican opposition to same-sex marriage is not only discriminatory, but a downright contradiction to what a Republican is supposed to stand for.

The platform opens by saying, “It is grounded on our heartfelt belief that our principles, our policies, and our vision of American freedom and prosperity and liberty mankind has only begun to explore.” I once followed the Republican path I thought was leading to prosperity and liberty. I re-examined what it means to be American. Many, what it means to put my country above all else. I now am a proud Republican that is anti-abortion, supports the right to bear arms and supports same sex marriage.

Ramirez should not resign

By Leonard Valero

I feems easy for bystanders to say, “Pedro should resign” as the semester continues to wind down. Some may think it would be best for the new president-elect and current vice president, Selena Farnesi, to take her position early to put “focus” back into the student body. By doing this, Ramirez can have a “normal” life again and move on. However, Pedro shouldn’t resign early until the position goes to the newly elected president. Of course the controversy of him being “undocumented” trumped what he did as a president and I assure you he did the best he could to continue his oath as the student body president. Yet, there were people constantly crying over his undocumented status and set a path of ostracizing him no matter the cost. If anyone is to blame, it is the people like the tea baggers that continuously whining and making it a big deal. The media attention, articles and depictions of those opposed to Pedro clearly didn’t make things better. Pedro was not the distraction, only it would destroy the sanctity of marriage. That’s where I went wrong. That’s where I let my faith take precedence over my allegiance to the United States and the Constitution.

I feel that many Republicans put their faith and religious beliefs before the Constitution. Perhaps they should take a closer look at the Republican Party Platform and see what it truly means to be Republican.

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“The right to run and be president and he has the right to end his term when it ends.” Ramirez became a representative for any ALL 540 students, supporting immigration legislation and the DREAM Act, which are in fact student issues. He managed to bring a voice and put a face to something we never pay much attention to. Through this experience, many of us that were unaware of these issues were able to learn about immigration legislation, and the problems and solution needed to create better resolutions. We see the racism come out of people that negate what they preach in terms of morality, freedom and human rights, not only here in Fresno, but across the nation. Many say “illegal aliens” that in actuality sets this dehumanization of an “us versus them” mentality. Those that claim they would become citizens the “legal” way obviously don’t pay attention when people say it’s not that easy. If it was, then people would have done it.

Farnesi’s election didn’t open the doors for Pedro to resign gracefully. I hope it is his decision to see it to the end since he’s gone this far throughout the chaos. He will move on, but it won’t be the same as before. Hopefully, he will continue in his leadership and understanding that he has made a difference. And that is something that we can remember and try to mimic in our own lives.
NASA: Fresno State is accepted into program where students experience zero gravity

CONTINUED from page 1

According to Seber, calcium oxalate can be found in many plants and fruits on earth. Two chemists, a plant science major and a group of engineers, will band together to find out if the substance formed more or less abundantly in a zero gravity environment. To test this, they will make a mock plant cell to see if they could possibly create something to remedy this problem.

“NASA is going to fly us up to see if gravity has an effect on plants on regular earth,” he said.

“The overall experience includes scientific research, hands-on experimental design, test operations and public outreach activities,” said Mujahid Umar, a mechanical engineering major and captain of their team, said that not only will this experiment create networking opportunities and leadership skills for the students involved, but it will also create an overall knowledge of the subject even after the students leave the university.

“Calcium oxalate causes a lot of problems,” he said. “Hopefully we can use [the data we collect] to alter outcomes.”

Joy Goto, a professor in the biochemistry department, gives all the credit to the students for making this opportunity happen.

“They went through and figured out what the process is and wrote it up,” she said.

“They did all the work.”

The students will be departing to Houston, Texas on July 5, where they will go through training before they lift off.

Lawyers say plant leaked toxic chemical for years

By Gosia Wozniacka
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Cancer-causing chemicals leaked from a Central California manufacturing plant owned by a former subsidiary of drugmaker Merck & Co. and contaminated the surrounding groundwater, air and soil for decades, lawyers for nearby residents told jurors Tuesday in closing arguments of their lawsuit against several companies.

Attorney Mick Marderosian, who represents 2,000 plaintiffs, said plant operators failed to alert a Merced housing community directly across the street about contamination from hexavalent chromium, the chemical made famous in the film “Erin Brockovich.”

The now-shuttered Baltimore Aircoil plant, which manufactured cooling towers, used the chemicals to pressure-treat wood from 1969 to 1991. The plant was shut down in 1994.

“There was massive release of chemicals. They migrated, entered the air and water in areas where people would have been exposed.”

Marderosian told jurors in U.S. District Court in Fresno. “People were subject to contamination without their knowledge.”

The first phase of the trial focuses on whether contamination did leak from the plant. If jurors find that to be true, the trial’s second phase would be true, the trial’s second phase would focus on whether residents were harmed by the chemical exposure.

Merk, which used to own Baltimore Aircoil, is leading remediation efforts at the plant. Company officials acknowledged that hexavalent chromium contamination occurred but denied that any of it left the confines of the plant at levels that could have harmed the health of residents.

“Did contamination migrate to a location where it could impact residents? The answer is no,” said Merck attorney John Barg.

State regulators testified during the trial that they see no current evidence of contamination outside the plant site or evidence of contaminated drinking water.

Marderosian said a contamination plume in the groundwater polluted the primary well supplying domestic water to Merced’s Beachwood subdivision, located about 1,600 feet from the site.

Merk sold Baltimore Aircoil in 1985 to Amsted Industries Inc., which is also a named defendant. Because plant records no longer exist, it’s not known how much hexavalent chromium could have leaked into the environment.

Marderosian told jurors the plant continued pressure-treating wood with dangerous chemicals even when officials became aware of contamination.

Merk first found hexavalent chromium in 1984 and was issued a violation in 1987. But according to documents, the company did not start remediation until 1991, when a Merck consultant excavated contaminated soil from the pond and disposed of it at a landfill in Kettleman City.

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Public safety assistants to the rescue

The Henry Madden Library is equipped with more than just computers and books

By Dylan Patton and Janessa Tyler
The Collegian

A group of students keep their eyes wide and ears open for anyone in need of assistance along with the University Police Department.

Public Safety Assistants can be found in the Henry Madden Library — ready to assist students, faculty and staff if and when they need help. The library isn’t the only place PSAs are helping students; they’re also an extra set of eyes for UPD for students who live at the University Courtyard.

According to UPD’s website, the library has 12 PSAs that “are dedicated to safety and security in the library.” There are also PSAs who work along with the Residential Housing Staff to assist students who live in the campus dormitories.

PSAs use a set of monitors to watch the library entrance. Library patrons walking through the glass double-doors can find a PSA monitoring several areas of the library at the end of the Circulation Desk.

Pre-veterinary major Breanne Curwick has been working in the library as a PSA since August 2010. She said being a PSA has given her a chance to learn more about the library and the school.

“Even though it’s not in our job description, we can help out by showing you around the library.”

— Breanne Curwick, Pre-veterinary major

There are also PSAs who work along with the Residential Housing Staff to assist students who live in the campus dormitories.

PSAs use a set of monitors to watch people in the library, and patrol on foot to enhance the safety within and around the building. If needed, a PSA will call a campus officer to escort the individual in need of assistance to their vehicle or to their dorms.

A PSA can be located on the first floor of the library next to the Circulation Desk. The Circulation Desk is on the left side of the library entrance. Library patrons walking through the glass double-doors can find a PSA monitoring several areas of the library at the end of the Circulation Desk.

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“Even though it’s not in our job description, we can help out by showing you around the library.”

— Breanne Curwick, Pre-veterinary major

Criminology major Amber Cocilova has been a PSA for almost two years. She previously worked in the dorms and that the location is close to his home in Fresno.

“It’s a great job, it’s a great environment,” Henderson said. The PSAs who are on duty at the time control the building during library hours. The library is open from 7:45 a.m. Monday through Thursday until 11 p.m., and until 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The library is open for eight hours Sunday; 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. for anyone needing assistance when classes aren’t in session.

Curwick revealed that she has never felt threatened while on the job. People may raise their voice, but the situation has never escalated. Despite what some may think, being a PSA is a safe job.

“People Skills Help,” Curwick said. “It’s nice to work where you’re comfortable.”
Nixon Center debuts new LGBT collection

By David Germain
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — J.J. Abrams is making good use of his boyhood apprenticeship shooting super-8 movies.

The director of 2009’s “Star Trek” and creator of TV’s “Lost” revisits his childhood with this summer’s “Super 8,” about a band of kids shooting a monster movie who end up documenting a train wreck that unleashes an alien force.

The movie is the most autobiographical he has worked on, Abrams said in an interview at CinemaCon, a Las Vegas convention for theater owners where he showed off footage Monday Night.

The youths in “Super 8” are doing exactly what the 44-year-old Abrams was doing three decades ago, when he was obsessed with making his own horror films and monster flicks.

“It was sort of an uncanny thing shooting it, because it felt like I had gone back to my childhood in a way that was just incredibly surreal and oddly disturbing,” Abrams said.

“I have no idea why it’s so controversial,” Carpenter said. “It’s an innocent book.”

The controversial book, based on the true story of two male penguins in The Bronx Zoo in New York, is banned in several schools, but not Fresno State.

“I love it,” Robertson said. “That’s what libraries are for.”

One children’s book in the collection, “And Tango Makes Three,” is one of the most censored books in the country. The controversial story about a baby penguin with two dads has had readers so up in arms that elementary schools across the country have pulled it from library shelves, or else moving it to restricted sections of the library.

“I was always trying to do things that any kid now with a computer would fall over laughing at the preposterous-ness of it,” Abrams said.

“Super 8” has an alien master among its producers in Steve Spielberg, whose blockbusters include “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial” and “War of the Worlds.” Spielberg also gave Abrams an early job as a teenager.

After reading a news story about Abrams and other young filmmakers, Spielberg’s office contacted him with an offer: repairing and restoring the super-8 films Spielberg shot in his own youth.

Abrams said the offer flabbergasted him, figuring Spielberg must have had a huge team devoted to preserving the early work. Why would he hire unknown kids?

“It was because he knew we would care about doing it,” Abrams said. “He had done the same thing we were doing.”

The controversy over “Tango” has been fueled by those who say the book is not appropriate for its target age group.

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ACROSS
1 Run through with a saber
5 Roberts of "Everybody Loves Raymond"
10 Still in one’s bunk
14 "Les Misérables" author
15 Public relations concern
16 Beginning for “normal” or “legal”
17 Unknown author, briefly
18 University of Florida athlete
19 Pre-1917 autocrat
20 Two after the news
23 Offensive-smelling
24 They rise above sea level
25 Gets shipshape (with “up”)
28 Lift with effort
30 Surrounded by
31 Fling
33 Tree fluid
36 Two after the news
40 Type measures
41 Baby hooter
42 Slimy crud
44 Detests
45 Alehouse
46 Broad necktie
47 Like days-old bread
48 More tender to the touch
49 One with a dreaded hairstyle?
50 Steel town of Germany
52 Make a blunder
53 Better... than never
54 “American ___” (TV show)
55 Singing Fitzgerald
56 They’re found in a

DOWN
1 False pretense
2 Fish many eat for lunch
3 On the edge of one’s seat
4 Genuine
5 Fingers and toes
6 Arabian peninsula resident
7 Put on a scale of 1 to 10, perhaps
8 Young Frankenstein’s hunchback
9 Beyond dry
10 Best-suited
11 Type of metabolism
12 Backspace
13 Has the courage to try
21 One of a jazz duo?
22 Career military person
25 Crime-scene barrier
27 Quick swims
28 Hatchet handle
29 Adam’s mate
31 Argument weakness
32 Chicago-to-Detroit dir.
33 ___ as a bug in a rug
34 Teen’s skin woes
35 Dog with a flat face
37 Far from cramped
38 100 lbs. in the U.S.
39 What vanity fares will buy?
43 Large silvery fish
44 Detests
45 Alehouse
46 Broad necktie
47 Like days-old bread
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Puzzle by Mike Peluso

CROSSWORD SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu


SUDOKU

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

Word of the Day

Hipster head bob

A small nod of the head, done repetitively in synchronization with music. Denotes approval of music by the listener. Performed at concerts by concert-goers, or while listening to music by the listener.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

CAMPUS LIFE

The Ins, Outs, Ups and Downs of life on campus

A mariachi band performs at The Cesar Chavez Memorial event yesterday in the Peace Garden. Students, faculty, school staff and members of the local community showed up to celebrate Chavez’s life and accomplishments.
CONTINUED from page 8

Logan Harrell came on strong in 2010, recording 10.5 sacks alongside WAC Defensive Player of the Year Chris Carter. Harrell is back, but Carter is not, and numerous players are in line to fill out Fresno State’s front four in 2011.

Continued from page 8

D-LINE: Bulldogs will be young up front

Harrell exploded onto the scene in the season opener against Cincinnati last year, sacking Bearcats quarterback Zach Collaros three-and-a-half times, which was just a glimpse of Harrell’s dominance throughout the year.

“Right now we don’t have a Chris Carter-type,” Bulldogs head coach Phil Hall said. “We got some young guys that are very promising, but Chris Carter in his senior year was one of the best in the country. We don’t have a guy right now that has proven that on the field yet.”

But the unit’s potential is intriguing with a plethora of rising young players, and the return of defensive anchor Logan Harrell, a first-team All-WAC performer up front.

“Harrell can play about any position on that front,” Plemons said of Harrell. “He’s a guy that left his junior year finishing 10th in the nation in sacks from tackle. We think a lot of him.”

Harrell is back, but Carter is not, and numerous players are in line to fill out Fresno State’s front four in 2011.

Although Bulldog coaches are eager to work with their young student-athletes, they understand that none will be able to generate the game-changing impact, at least right now, that Carter provided last season.

But outside of Harrell and McKennt, the game-starting experience drops off dramatically.

“I’m really looking forward to working with that front,” Plemons said. “But we’re young, we haven’t done anything yet.”

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“I’m really looking forward to working with that front,” Plemons said. “But we’re young, we haven’t done anything yet.”
The biggest improvement for Fresno State football from the 2009 season to the 2010 season was along the defensive line, and the numbers were there to prove it. Fresno State recorded a WAC-worst 11 sacks in 2009, but was second in the conference in 2010 with 37, only behind Boise State. But the Bulldogs lose WAC Defensive Player of the Year Chris Carter this season, as well as two other starters on the defensive front, leaving Pat Hill searching for answers.

 asks us to make. A brief investigation of the reimbursements allegations was “flawed.” That probe found no evidence of any such wrongdoing.

Woods, vice president of Waste Management Inc. for the Western Region, played a major role in saving the PGA’s Phoenix Open. Now he’s got a far bigger cleanup effort.

He said the actions of Junker “unfortunately, have tainted the stellar reputation that the Fiesta Bowl has worked so hard to maintain for more than 40 years. The Fiesta Bowl, however, is greater than a few individuals; it is the product of thousands of dedicated volunteers and exemplary employees who work tirelessly and care so deeply about the Fiesta Bowl and all it does for the state of Arizona.”

Woods outlined the time line that began with a report in The Arizona Republic in December, 2009, that five former or current Fiesta Bowl employees had been reimbursed for political donations. They were encouraged to make. A brief investigation by former Arizona attorney general Grant Woods, no relation to the board chairman, led the board to conclude there was no credible evidence to support the allegations. Now, the board says that report was “flawed.”

Duane Woods said that last September, an employee came to his office and told him that indeed the reimbursements had been made. That led to the lengthy probe that resulted in Tuesday’s report.

See CEO, Page 7

Fiesta Bowl CEO John Junker was fired after a scathing internal report found "an apparent scheme" to reimburse employees for political contributions.

By Bob Baum
Associated Press

Fiesta Bowl in danger of no longer being a part of the Bowl Championship Series

The entire Fiesta Bowl family is anguished and disappointed by what we’ve seen in the report and by the actions of Mr. Junker,” Fiesta Bowl board chairman Duane Woods told reporters at the event’s headquarters in downtown Scottsdale. "The Fiesta Bowl is greater than a few individuals, and the lesson here really is that we placed too much trust in a single individual.”

Woods did not take questions.

Junker, in his ubiquitous bright yellow Fiesta Bowl sports jacket, had been the face of the event for three decades, leading it from an upstart event to one of the BCS giants. With an annual salary of about $600,000, he had been on paid administrative leave since Feb. 4, after the board said, he failed to comply with two written directives to cooperate with the investigation.

The board said the probe also uncovered "excessive compensation, nonbusiness and inappropriate expenditures and inappropriate gifts." The 276-page report of an investigation that conducted by Fiesta Bowl board members and a retired Arizona state Supreme Court justice, was published on the bowl’s Web site fiestabowl.org.

The investigators said they found the “apparent scheme” to reimburse at least $46,539 for employees’ political contributions.

"A lot of them saw Chris Carter might be taking his talents to the NFL, but his work ethic has rubbed off on former teammates on the defensive line."

Defensive line coach Will Plemons said that the young and inexperienced players took note of Carter’s hard-working, blue-collar lifestyle during his time at Fresno State, and the Bulldogs now understand what it takes to elevate their game from good to great.

"A lot of them saw Chris Carter work as hard as he did,” Plemons said. “It’s been

See D-LINE, Page 7

By Yongni Yang
The Collegian

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Fiesta Bowl CEO fired after internal probe

Fiesta Bowl in danger of no longer being a part of the Bowl Championship Series

By Bob Baum
Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — The Fiesta Bowl fired president and CEO John Junker after a scathing internal report released Tuesday found “an apparent scheme” to reimburse employees for political contributions and “an apparent conspiracy” to cover it up.

The reimbursements, listed as at least $46,539, are an apparent violation of state campaign finance laws and the charter that allows the Fiesta Bowl its nonprofit status. The Arizona attorney general’s office is conducting a probe of the matter.

The BCS reacted swiftly, saying it would undertake an investigation of its own to consider whether the Fiesta Bowl should remain a BCS bowl game or other appropriate sanctions.

The Fiesta board of directors voted unanimously to fire Junker “for his improper and inappropriate activities documented in the report.”

The "entire Fiesta Bowl family is anguished and disappointed by what we’ve seen in the report and by the actions of Mr. Junker,” Fiesta Bowl board chairman Duane Woods told reporters at the event’s headquarters in downtown Scottsdale. "The Fiesta Bowl is greater than a few individuals, and the lesson here really is that we placed too much trust in a single individual.”

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