Over the past year, with gas prices increasing, many people, and especially students commuting to college are looking for less expensive, economical transportation. Motorcycles are what many people turn to. Motorcycles are reliable, much less expensive than cars and get great gas mileage, but are also controversial because of the danger factor.

Of course, there are many ways to help prevent serious injuries.

The Department of Public Safety strongly encourages riders to attend a professionally taught motorcycle safety course, wear protective equipment, especially helmets, drive defensively, avoid driving while intoxicated and avoid speeding. Motorcyclists wearing proper protective gear greatly reduce their chances of injury if involved in a collision.

According to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, motorcyclists should be visible – many vehicle drivers have a hard time seeing motorcycles, so wearing bright colored clothing, or protective jackets with reflector tape make riders easier to see. Make sure the headlights on the motorcycle are in working order.

The foundation also suggests riders apply effective mental strategies – It’s suggested that the riders pretend they are invisible and ride extra defensively, watch for turning vehicles, signal moves in advance and allow plenty of space and time to respond to other motorists’ actions.

Finally, know the bike and how to use it – Get formal training and take refresher courses and practice riding techniques before going into heavy traffic. Know how to handle the bike in various conditions, such as wet roads, sandy roads, high winds and uneven surfaces.
Opinion
Smart ideas needed for economic woes

KELLY SHURBET
Staff Writer

AIG is the biggest insurer in the nation and it is collapsing as a public corporation. As an ex-employee of AIG I, felt they were the most people-oriented corporation I had ever been associated with but I still have to ask: should we bail out our failing corporate entities? No.

Throwing money at problems does not correct the broken situation. Money does not absolve pain or reverse the past. Nor, in this current economic climate, will it stop the tidal wave already in motion.

We now, more than ever, need to discuss problems, demand changes, and help one another. One person or sector of our society does not hold the key to correcting our current situation. America's future appears gloomy, but does it need to be?

America is still the best country in the world. She is an infant in the eyes of time and like any young person, she has made some mistakes. Can we correct the problems? This American says, “Yes we can.”

Youth of today will hold in their hands the possibility of limitless knowledge and capabilities. But without good leadership in education, economics, and environmental awareness, even the greatest potentials can be lost or destroyed. The future is still in the hands of those who want to make the changes and learn from mistakes.

As a nation we are beginning some of the toughest times in our history.

Opinion
Stress is simply just real life

STEPHANIE NORMAN
Co-Editor

Stress is what most people know it as, but the real name is life.

It’s similar to the feeling of a strong tension pulling and pushing your insides. You can’t think straight, your head begins to ache, and all you want to do is sleep the pain away.

Stress is what most know it as, but the real name is life.

The world is an abstract piece of mind that young ones have not yet found. Trying to understand how and why things are the way they are is beyond your attention. At such a young age, “stress” is not in your vocabulary. Little kids sit and play with plastic Barbie dolls for hours on end. Kids dress the dolls up and make them do anything they want. That’s all there is to it.

Kids play the role of the decision makers. The dolls act as models of what kids believe to be true. The dolls have a perfect little world with no worries.

There is only one thing missing, and that is life... they are fake, plastic, toy dolls.

 Finals, deadlines, and...
Features

Banned books bring out creativity at PJC

Sponsored by the American Library Association, Banned Books Week: Celebrating the freedom to read, is observed during the last week in September every year. This year marked the 27th anniversary. Staff members and students dressed up as a “banned book” to show honor.

To the left is, Beth Shelton dressed as Huckleberry Finn, ‘Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’ by Mark Twain. Bottom, Marsha Dennis and Carl Covert dressed as a witch from the book “The Witches,” and Covert, the book “Gone With the Wind.”

Student Center grand opening

Hot dogs, ice-cream, punch, X-Box and a pool table

PJC student, Jennifer Sneed, decides to put whipped cream on her ice cream after carefully choosing out of the many options there were. Along with the whipped cream, there was chocolate and caramel syrup, peanuts, cherries, and sprinkles. The “make your own sundaes” really made a big hit with the crowd.

Above is, AJ Rockwell, PJC athlete, plays a game of pool against friend, at right, Chris Bonner, also a PJC athlete, during the grand opening.

Above are students, Annisa Dejoux, Caitlin Commiato, and Denecia Graham. They listened to Dr. Pamela Anglin read “The Color Purple” out loud in the foyer of the library.

To the right is Diann Mason, dressed as Professor McGongall from the “Harry Potter” series. She carries her broomstick and banned book in her arms as she heads to the library.

Jordan Easom decided to put chocolate syrup on his vanilla ice cream sundaes.

Jeremy Lee, PJC cheerleader, carefully places ketchup on his hotdog at the grand opening of the SC.
The Paris Junior College basketball team has some big shoes to fill after going to Nationals last season.

Assistant coach, Brian Burton, said the scrimmage, held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, was a good opportunity for the freshmen to feel the difference between college and high school basketball. Burton said “speed” is a main factor for beginning college players, and the “physicalness of it,” added head coach Ross Hodge.

Although both teams put forth all their effort, Hodge’s team kept the lead throughout the game. It was an intense second half, as Burton’s team racked up their points at a rapid pace, making the ending score a lot closer.

Their first game is scheduled for 4 p.m.

What’s in your portable player today?

This past summer, during the Olympic Games, reporters sighted many athletes plugged into their iPods. One such athlete they frequently reported on was swimmer Michael Phelps, who tunes into his before he races. More and more athletes use music to relax themselves and focus on their main goals.

Students at PJC also have their ears tuned into their iPods. Many students use music as a way to blow off steam and concentrate on their studies.

“I memorize what I study to the beats of the music; learn what I’m learning by matching it to the tune,” said Chase Caldwell, Caldwell, a freshman this fall, owns three iPods and is tuned in eight hours a day listening to Thousand Foot Crutch, Skillet, Hawk Nelson and Reliant K the majority of the time.

“I always have it with me and always have a song playing in my head,” said Caldwell.

Erin Jennings said she has a different song playing in her head depending on whatever mood she is in.

“The genre changes daily,” said Jennings. “Anything from Rage against the Machine to Saosin. It’s just about the driving base and raging vocals.”

Music is something students relate to on a personal level.

“Each different genre or artist can bring out a different side of you,” said Sheridan Jones. “Growing up around music really played a big role.”

Kimberly De La Torre said she relates to the lyrics on a certain level.

“Any kind helps me, mostly the beat and the