

Fuel costs change lifestyles

LEA SHORES

Anyone who thinks that the ongoing conflicts in the Middle-East and North Africa don't affect them is severely disillusioned.

Drive by the Dillon's gas pump and notice that gas is around \$3.20 per gallon. As of Sunday, the national average for regular fuel was \$3.29, with prices as high as \$3.71 in some places.

Unrest in parts of the world has made some fearful that the oil supply might become disrupted. This fear became a partial reality when Libya joined the list of countries in chaos. It went unnoticed by most of us, but there were some disruptions to the shipment of high quality crude oil from Libya, pushing the cost per barrel over \$100.

This is only the second time

in history that oil has cost over \$100, the first being in 2008.

Paying so much for gas may seem like just a nuisance to us now, but we need to be prepared to pay more at the pump.

The economy was finally entering recovery and we have been allowing ourselves more luxury, including travel. The increased demand of fuel has pushed the cost of fuel higher still.

If Algeria, Libya's eastern neighbor, suffers any cut off oil shipments, the cost of oil could rocket to over \$220 a barrel. Imagine the price at the pump then.

It's not over. As consumers, we're going to have to make up for the rising cost of fuel somewhere else. Some might have already noticed an increase in prices at the supermarket.

It takes fuel to distribute food

all across the country. A lot of it.

Admittedly, even with the sharp increase in gas prices, the United States still has some of the cheapest fuel costs in the world. However, many of us will not be able to keep our present lifestyle long with the rising cost of fuel.

We have to be prepared.

No, I'm not talking about creating stockpiles of nonperishables in the basements and expecting doomsday.

We've known for a long time that the supply of crude oil is limited and some have speculated that we are rapidly running out. It seems like a good time for us all to start thinking about a more sustainable lifestyle.

Already, many of us have had to cut down on pointless trips to Wichita or not go home as often.

However, some of us come to Southwestern from a distance several days a week or more. So we eat out less and buy only the necessary items.

We hear all the time to make green choices and unfortunately, some of these choices, like driving less, carpooling and eating locally, could be forced upon us.

It's possible that things will smooth out in the Middle East and Africa and the cost of fuel will drop back to what is "normal" but it's only a matter of time until we have to deal with the real looming issue of a permanent disruption of the crude oil supply.

Our small changes now will help us to make big changes later, when the situation is more dire.

Lea Shores is a senior majoring in English. You may e-mail her at lea.shores@sockans.edu.

PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

How has the rising cost of fuel affected your budget?



ANNA STEVENS

I am pretty used to the price right now but later when it rises it will affect me more. Hopefully it doesn't rise TOO much before May 8, as I commute back and forth between Ark City and Winfield every day. I will definitely re-think unnecessary trips and try to cut back in

other areas if I do have to travel more. It will eventually affect the price of everything because it will cost more for merchandise to get to the stores so everything will go up in price... that seems to be fast, so people will obviously just have to cut back in other areas of their budgets. I am thankful that it has not been completely outrageous these last few years of commuting.

With everything going on in the Middle-East, it does not look like they will be coming down in price very soon so we probably all need to take the actions necessary to adjust accordingly. It is also a "heads-up" for America to try to establish independent oil resources.

Anna Stevens is a senior majoring in music.

Word on the Hill

By Paige Carswell

If you had the power, what class of your choice would you put into the course catalog?

	"A culinary art."		"A self-defense class."
Bailey LeGrand psychology sophomore		Lauren Moser general studies senior	
	"A class that teaches you how to study."		"Optometry 101 or any classes that deal with optics."
Caleb Chua philosophy & religious studies freshman		Melissa Roetzer biology sophomore	
	"A woodshop class."		"I think that the chemistry department should offer a class that has students learn how to use different instruments for the industry."
Hank Futhey business administration sophomore		Tristan Walters biochemistry senior	



JENNIFER CONRADY

As a non-traditional student who commutes I drive about 350 miles a week to come to school at Southwestern, spending approximately \$75 a week on just gas. This does not include the hours I travel for observations as a part of my education major.

The rising prices have affected everything for my family of three. I have to strategi-

cally plan out my trips to make sure that I'm not driving out of my way to get somewhere, and some days it means a very long day on campus to avoid driving.

We continue to cut back on the fun things in life, like going to a movie, eating out, cable TV and anything else that might be unnecessary, to try to save on money.

We have to carefully watch our budget to make sure bills get paid and I have funds to go to school.

It's a struggle, don't get me wrong, but I constantly remind myself of the education I am receiving here and that although it's tough—it will be well worth it when I am handed my degree next year!

Jennifer Conrady is a junior majoring in elementary education.

If only every semester was sink or swim



PAIGE CARSWELL

Faced with a choice between a swimming class and a business class this past semester, I carefully weighed my options. It went something like this:

I can't swim = -5 for swimming.

I hate homework = +5 for swimming.

If I go to class, the only way I could fail is if I drown = tie between the two.

In the end, what pushed me over the edge, and into those

chlorine-filled waters, was the fact that swimming would, in fact, force me to exercise. It was like having a personal trainer for the next four months, who would only bother me for one hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Perfect.

I'm sad I didn't learn until my last semester of college that these "pass or die" classes exist. I can only imagine the possibilities I may have missed, thanks to my adviser who thought it was actually important for me to graduate from college in four years. Why didn't I get to sign up for the "Running from a lion" or "Jousting" classes?

I never even looked through the entire catalog, which is probably why I missed all the best ones. And, while I was mourning the loss of all of the classes I could have taken while eating popcorn and cupcakes (which is okay, I've told myself, as long

as it's the night before a swimming class), it got me thinking. There are legitimate classes that I've missed and should have taken. I'm not certain of the accuracy on all of these names, but here are a few I missed in my four years that I'll never get the chance to sign up for again.

1. The "Sorry I missed your class" class. The setup is easy enough. Starting at 1 p.m., when I was fully awake, I would walk into a room full of stationary, chocolate buttons, bowls of fruit and containers of Visine. The baskets of thoughtfulness I took to my teachers who taught my morning classes, coupled with fake tears, would ensure that I was a standout student, not a "stand outside in the hallway while we take this quiz, because you're late again" student.

2. The "Sleeping" class. This

one-credit-hour class meets every day for six hours in the privacy of each person's room. It seems unnecessary, until studies show how much more productive the students enrolled in this class are every day. Those precious hours would do the college good.

3. The "Not raising your voice when you get angry" class. Seriously. Has anyone taken this yet?

4. "How to Facebook without seeming pretentious and/or obnoxious and/or crazy and/or moronic and/or..." This class must cover at what angle to take a photograph, how to not call out coworkers for being <explicit>, how to use the spellcheck BUILT INTO your web browser and how to not spam every friend you have left. It's like how to be a decent human being on the interwebs zomg **giggles**

5. "Don't listen to everything

PERSONAL COLUMN

'I Am Number Four' doesn't impress

LESLIE ASH

If you were to take Spiderman minus the webmaking, Edward Cullen, minus the blood sucking and Superman minus the flying, you will get "I Am Number Four."

The movie starts out a handsome character named John Smith, acted by Alex Pettyfer, who must live under the radar with his protector Henri because he's being hunted down by his enemies the evil Mogadorians, an alien race.

Their goal is to destroy the last of the good Mogadorians, in order from one to nine. Number three has died and John Smith is number four.

In some ways the character, John, reminds me of Edward Cullen from "Twilight." He has the same handsome features and strength similar to Edward. Plus, he's a not human and he falls in love with a human.

John goes to a high school in Ohio, where he falls for the

MOVIE REVIEW

girl next door, played by Dianna Agron, mostly known for her role in the TV show "Glee." In school he discovers his power and he must hide his powers from the people he cares for most, similar to Spiderman.

The movie has the same over used high school drama with a bully, a nerd, pranks, parties and teenage love.

Toward the end of the movie, John and number six meet and

must face their enemies at the high school without his protector, who is killed protecting him. He also must protect the earth from being taken over by the evil Mogadorians.

In some ways this reminds me of Superman, who must fulfill his destiny, so his parent's death is not in vain and to save his new home from destruction.

The movie was produced by Micheal Bay, known for films like "Transformers", "Armageddon", "Pearl Harbor" and the director D.J. Caruso, who directed "Disturbia" and "Eagle Eye," you would expect a great action film from these two, but with this film it didn't.

The CG and explosions were nice but you didn't see any this

till the end of the film.

The movie is based on a book by Pittacus Lore and is intended to be a four book series. Currently only the first book has been written, but the author is working on the second, which means the movie will be a series of films.

If I were to rate this on a scale of one to 10, I would have to give it a six and a half. It had its moments of action, but you see most of them in the trailer. As far as the love story element it seems like it's been done before. Overall, not a bad movie, but not one to buy as soon as it comes out on DVD.

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