

Editorial: Saving money benefits future needs

With the month of May comes graduation at JCJC. Many graduates will be continuing their education, while others will enter the workforce.

No matter which group one is in, decisions must be made regarding where to continue college, where to look for a job, where to live, and how to pay for it all.

With today's economy, how is this manageable? The real estate business is going through a rough time, as are banks, loan companies, schools, businesses and car dealerships.

Many people have not planned for a secure future.

Every college student's goal should be to think smart and save smart. No one wants his first house to be a shack with no roof or front door, and no one wants his family car to be the two-wheeled bicycle

from the kid across the street.

Therefore, everyone who has read a newspaper or watched the news knows that riding the gravy train will not be as easy as years before.

The economy is in a major rut. According to author and professor Fred Moseley, the economy's former name was the "Goldilocks Economy--not too hot and not too cold." Moseley now says that the "Goldilocks (economy) has met the Big Bad Wolf."

Too many Americans have lived on a "credit card" mentality for too many years. Now that the bills have come due, millions are struggling to make ends meet.

To prevent us college students from sinking into debt and not being able to afford life's necessities, there are a few basic money saving tips that can help one save for the future.

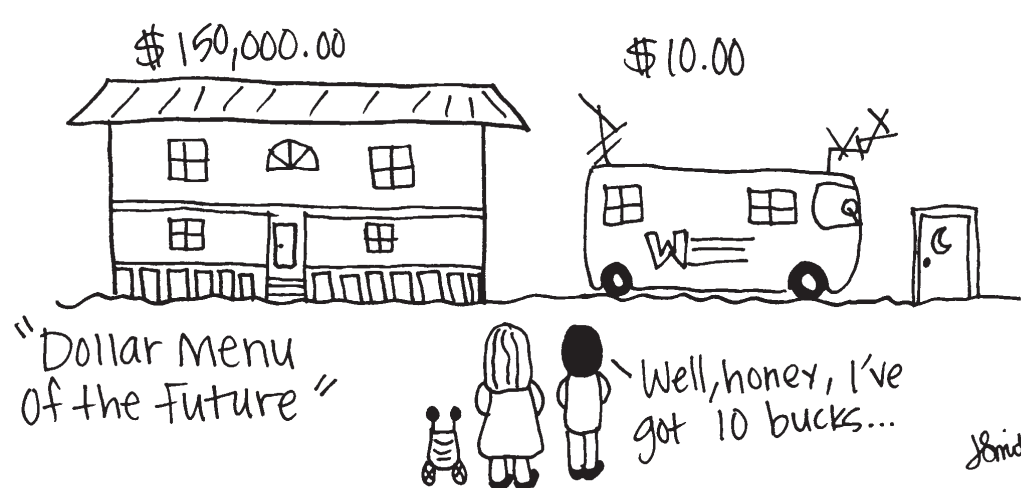
Granted, the economy is already spiraling down, but these simple tips can help.

The first tip is to save early and save often. Put pocket change in a jar. Empty pockets every day, and put those extra five or ten dollars in a safe place. By saving a little along the way, one's money will add up rather quickly.

When depositing a paycheck, automatically put a set amount into a savings account. Even \$25 a month adds up to \$300 a year plus a little interest. That is a good start.

Another tip is to set up a budget. Many of students live paycheck to paycheck. Instead of going out to eat every day and spending ten or 15 dollars at that favorite restaurant, choose something less pricy. Make a brown bag lunch.

When it comes to clothes,



shoes, compact discs or any of those other little items people think they just cannot live without, live without them.

Wait a day or two before

making unnecessary purchases. A lot of money can be saved simply by delaying a purchase.

With the economy the way it is, people should buy the things

they need, not the things they want. By not being a spendthrift, one can save money and, in the long run, become more financially secure.

Religious accommodations encourage further separation

By: Destin Morris
Staff Writer

This country was founded on freedom of religion. This freedom is a human right that no individual or government should have the ability to take away from anyone.

However, does this mean making special accommodations for those religions that require such?

In some Northeast U.S. universities, foot-washing stations have been installed for those of the Islamic faith. This is causing a ruckus of sorts with not only members of other religions but also with non-religious people.

It is certainly an arguable subject. Have special accommodations been made for all? When is it too much to support members of a certain

religion or group?

To be completely honest I think that the idea of supplying the foot-washing station for persons of a certain faith is repugnant.

Such accommodations have never been made for those of other faiths, nor have those accommodations even been requested.

As a Christian, I am not given to any form of ritualism such as this, but other religions such as Buddhism or Judaism require their members to fulfill certain obligations daily.

For those who are of non-Islamic faiths, no accommodations have even been offered.

The main question is when is it taking things too far to support a certain religion? Have we already reached the point where it is acceptable to support one and not the other?

As a country that requires equality for all

Fictional 'Atlas Shrugged' work may be turning into reality

By: Ashton Pittman
Staff Writer

Fifty-two-years after it was published, Ayn Rand's classic literary work, "Atlas Shrugged," has been hovering atop Amazon's bestseller lists, reaching Number One in its "Fiction and Literature" category.

A film adaptation is also in the works, with Angelina Jolie rumored to be playing the part of Dagny Taggart, the lead protagonist.

Some may wonder what could possibly cause a novel written more than half a century ago to experience such a sudden surge of popularity. The answer is that it is eerily prophetic of what is happening in America today.

In the America of "Atlas Shrugged," bureaucrats have decided that it is incumbent upon them to play Robin Hood by taking from those whose superior work ethic has allowed them to accumulate wealth, spread that wealth to those who have no work ethic and ensure that everyone is equally miserable, regardless of their respective productivity.

Sound familiar? It should. President Barack Obama once told a plumber last year that, because his expected income would exceed a certain amount, his taxes would be increased, going on to say, "I think when you spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody."

Obama is also seeking to nationalize health care. In Atlas, this has already happened.

A doctor recalls what happened in the aftermath of this event.

He recounted that he quit, angered that his profession, which required skill and "years of passionate,merciless,excruciating devotion" had been placed in the hands of men whose "sole qualification to rule over me was their capacity to spout fraudulent generalities that got them elected to the privilege of enforcing their

wishes at the point of a gun."

However, the similarities do not end there. An economic crisis is taking place in Rand's novel as businesses begin to fail.

"It's their lack of social spirit," said one bureaucrat in a meeting. "They refuse to recognize that production is not a private choice, but a public duty.

They have no right to fail, no matter what conditions happen to come up . . . There's no such thing as a personal matter, or a personal

the government of Rand's novel, does not believe that we should be allowed to have personal lives, free to live for our families and to be charitable how, when, and to whom we choose, and not by government compulsion.

They believe, like the bureaucrats from "Atlas Shrugged," that it is their duty to force us to learn that the government knows best.

"[They] made long speeches about it," recounts a factory worker in "Atlas Shrugged," speaking of the governmental changes, "and it wasn't too clear, but nobody asked any questions.

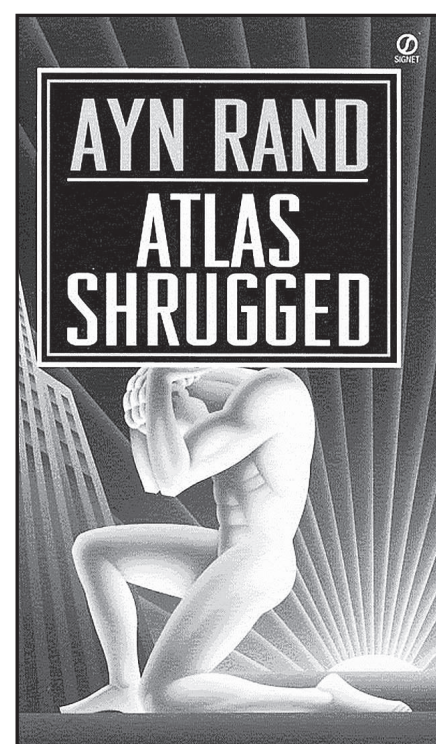
None of us knew just how the plan would work, but every one of us thought the next fellow knew it--and because they made it sound like anyone who'd oppose the plan was a child killer at heart and less than a human being."

This is striking. In a climate where our leaders are constantly wrapping their agendas in nice speeches that avoid the policies themselves, but instead focus on empowering abstracts such as "hope" and "change we can believe in," culminating in chants of "yes we can!" one wonders, "Can we?" But, more importantly, "Yes we can . . . do what?"

Much like the America of "Atlas Shrugged," we are now in a position where we are not expected to question the policies, but simply to be mesmerized as we accept Big Brother's authority.

Although not exactly being called child killers, the hundreds of thousands of citizens who have objected by means of nationwide "tea parties" have been labeled as "right wing extremists" by the Department of Homeland Security, which has also warned of potential terrorist activity.

For the sake of our nation's future, we must all hope that the tides will turn and Rand's thus far dead accurate prophecy will not reach total fulfillment.



life. That's what we've got to force them to learn."

We have a similar situation today. As General Motors and Chrysler struggle to remain viable, the U.S. government has asserted that the businesses cannot be allowed to fail, and like a good Big Brother, the government has decided to take even more of our money in order to bail the automakers out.

If the plan succeeds, then the government will have control of a large portion of the American automobile industry, already having exerted its newfound authority by forcing a GM executive to step down.

Our current government, like

Same-sex pairs seek tolerance

By: Lisa Thompson
Staff Writer

Tolerance is one of the reasons the United States is a country. There is tolerance of all different things from religion and race to what we wear.

Our sexuality should also be included in that list. However, for many the discrimination for being different from normal standards is still a dangerous issue.

Reality television recently pushed the envelope in showing the world how homosexual people are discriminated against daily.

Cameras captured the reaction of people to a public homosexual couple showing the same types of affections as heterosexual couples do. The people around the couple became outraged at what they saw.

However, these same people reacted very differently to a heterosexual couple engaging in far worse public displays of affection.

Some taunted the homosexual couple, some stared, and some became a bit violent and threw food at them. It was amazing to witness how closed-minded people are regarding lifestyle differences in 2009.

Eventually, after much public humiliation of the homosexual couple, some people stepped forward and attempted to call off the hounds, so to speak. They took a stand for the couple and for what is right.

Later in the show, the reporter interviewed the men and women who treated the couple with disrespect.

According to www.conservapedia.com, in

2002, NewsMax magazine said that "Four decades ago, media coverage of homosexuality was universally hostile... Time magazine's description of homosexuality as a 'pathetic little second-rate substitute for reality, a pitiable flight from life' deserving 'no encouragement, no glamorization, no rationalization, no fake status as minority martyrdom, no sophistry about simple differences in taste, and above all no pretence that it is anything but a pernicious sickness.'"

These people changed their tune a good bit when they found out they had been videotaped. Some said that they did not care (what the couple did), as long as they did not see it.

However, these people need to face facts. Same sex couples are and will be a part of American culture for a really long time.

If they do not like it, then have the courtesy to just turn away. Gay people deserve the same treatment as everyone else in this country. What are they doing wrong? In my opinion, they are doing absolutely nothing wrong.

People cannot help whom they love. That is something as controllable as the way the wind blows. It is not something that can be changed within people. It will always be who they are.

This society tries to make it seem wrong and evil to be open and be oneself, but what are people if they cannot be true to themselves?

Who wants to live in fear every day? There is no way this society can sit back and let this discrimination continue.

It is out of hand. How many people must be hurt before we realize it is acceptable to be different?

The Radonian

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Summer fashions show too much

By: Shauna Sherman
Staff Writer

As the semester wraps up, we get closer and closer to our favorite time of the year-summer.

This is the time that people try to lose a few pounds, pull out the swimsuits, get their tan on and get ready for the summer fun.

Summer also brings with it a whole new season of fashion. To be blunt, clothes are nothing like they used to be; and I do mean nothing.

Has anyone ever really sat down and noticed that? Clothes get smaller and smaller every year it seems.

Swimsuits are not what they used to be either. They show off more and more of things we should really keep covered up.

Modesty is very important to

me. Modesty does not mean that one should wear a turtleneck and long pants. Modesty is showing respect for the God-given body that each of us has.

Today, everything is about appearance. Yes, appearance may be very important, but what happens when one puts on a swimsuit that shows too much cleavage?

I know that it gets the guys' attention, but is that really important?

If it takes showing off a mostly naked body to get a guy's attention, then I really do not believe one cares about one's self a whole lot.

One thing that I always think about when it comes to today's skimpy fashions is the children.

Children see so much. They hear so much. With the children, it

is really a "monkey see, monkey do" type of thing.

Whether we realize it or not, there is always someone watching us. We are always going to be a role model to someone.

Again, I really am not saying two-pieces or spaghetti straps or shorts are bad. I am simply saying to purchase your things more tastefully.

We should never have to show off our whole body as some people do now. I believe that modesty is respect: respect for one's self, respect for God and respect for others.

This summer, try something new. Try this modesty thing. However, most importantly, let us be modest in our attitude. Be pure in thought and be pure in body.

Have a very fun and safe care free summer!