Economy must stabilize so people can afford fuel, food

I can think of two things that people cannot live without in this day and age. One of those things is definitely fuel. I'm not only talking about the gas that we use for our cars, but I am also talking about the fuel used to run our factories and to heat up our houses. Fuel is a major part of this economy, and we all use it every day. But the prices are still going up. According to the Indianapolis Star, AAA reported that "The retail price of gasoline hit an all-time high on Tuesday ... reflecting the strong demand and the tight supplies."

The second item I can think of is food. No one can live without food. Prices vary with food and fluctuate depending on what the diet of the week is. There is a high demand for food just as there is a high demand for fuel. Fuel prices keep going up. Who's to say that food prices won't soon go up too and stay at a high price? What we don't want, however, is for our food to compete with our fuel. In this day and age people can't live without either of these things. If prices keep going up, it will be a choice: spend money on food or fuel.

At first I thought, "Well, duh, spend it on food." But then I thought, "In the winter we need fuel to keep us warm." Therefore, I realized that we need both of these things. If the economy keeps going in a steady decline, we eventually may have neither of these things. So hopefully we will be able to help our economy stabilize.

Lois High
Sophomore, School of Agriculture

General Assembly needs new priority

I'm sure glad our government has the concept of priorities all figured out. "The state has a budget crisis and Haiti is becoming rapidly unsettled, but we've got homos so we'd better deal with that first." Thank you, Indiana General Assembly, for knowing that the thing that Hoosiers care about the most isn't having a job, but that Bob and Fred want to marry each other. What's even better is that the Republicans in the House are planning to waste the rest of the session unless the state bans gay marriage. What a bunch of idiots! It makes me glad that I no longer associate myself with the Republican party. But you know the Democrats would pull something like that on another issue. It reassures me to know that as I'm struggling to find a job (indeed to pay my tuition until I graduate) that at least gays can't get married. What a load off my mind. (Please note, that I'm being sarcastic. No hate mail, please.)

Ben Cotton
Junior, School of Science

If pledge proves offensive, avoid it

Time for a reality check, people. Nowhere in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution or Bill of Rights is there an inalienable right to not be offended. I can't believe that atheist nutjob from California was allowed to drag his daughter (without the permission of her mother, the girl's legal guardian) into a national debate that has made
it to the Supreme Court just because he, not his daughter, was offended. You got to love the left-coast Ninth Circuit Court for upholding that one. Two letters on March 29 stated the First Amendment says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." I don't see how U.S. currency that says "In God We Trust" and a pledge including the phrase "One nation, under God" prohibits the free exercise of someone's religion or lack thereof. There is no rule or law that states you must recite the Pledge of Allegiance. If you don't agree with it, then don't say it. If seeing "In God We Trust" on currency repulses you, use credit cards and direct deposit for your financial needs. Problem solved. Since it seems like everybody else on campus is getting offended, I'll let you know what offends me. I am offended by viewing the aftermath of a bus or cafe bombing in Israel by Muslim extremists and how some people in the United States support this terrorism against "Zionists" in the name of freedom. I refuse to believe Muslims cannot peacefully co-exist with Jews. I refuse to believe murdering hundreds of innocent men, women and children better serves their cause than striving for dialogue and peace.

Paul Lucas
Junior, School of Technology

Indiana speed limits need to be higher

The common method of establishing highway speed limits is by setting the limit at the 85th percentile speed rounded to the nearest 5 miles per hour of the free-flowing traffic done by an engineering survey. Unfortunately, this is not the case for Indiana's interstates. According to the quarterly research done by the civil engineering department in 2003, the 85th percentile speed of rural Indiana interstates is 74.1 to 75.4 miles per hour, while 62.4 to 69.9 percent of the traffic exceeds the speed limit (65 miles per hour). I strongly urge that the speed limit be set to 75 miles per hour for rural interstates.

Before the energy crisis in 1974, the speed limit on Indiana's interstates was 70 miles per hour. Equipped with airbags, better brakes and other new safety technologies, cars nowadays can handle a lot better and safer at high speeds than cars manufactured prior to 1974.

The 65-miles-per-hour speed limit is a joke. It is more like "65-miles-per-hour minimum speed limit." I pay no respect to the 65-miles-per-hour law at all and neither do a majority of the drivers on Indiana's interstates. Speed doesn't kill if one follows the majority of the speed of traffic flow. Setting a ridiculously low speed limit is actually very dangerous. Some motorists drive at or below the speed limit to avoid being ticketed by cops. This causes a huge speed difference with the majority of the traffic flow, which is very dangerous.

Please make roads safer by establishing reasonable speed limits like 75 miles per hour on rural Indiana interstates.

Yue Wei Lu
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