

News in Brief

Ferry, boat collide, killing 1, injuring 2

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. (AP) — A ferry carrying 120 passengers collided early Monday in heavy fog with a smaller boat about 15 miles off Marco Island, killing one person and injuring two others, one seriously, authorities said. The person killed and the two injured were on the smaller boat, Aggies spokesman Jorge Aguilera, spokesman for Collier County Emergency Medical Services. Their names were not immediately available.

Earthquake rocks San Francisco Bay

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — An earthquake sent a jolt through the San Francisco Bay area Sunday afternoon but no damage was immediately reported. The quake had a 4.4 magnitude, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. It was centered 11 miles east of San Jose. Earthquakes with a magnitude stronger than 4.0 can cause moderate damage.

Hoop dreams



Jonathan Monroe participates in a basketball practice at the Lincoln Center Monday night. The practices are led by Project Sunshine and allow children with disabilities to interact.

Per-capita power consumption low in California despite overall usage

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California's power crisis has led neighboring states to accuse the Golden State of hogging electricity. But the numbers tell a different story. California does use a vast amount of electricity. But it consumes less on a per-capita basis than all other states except Rhode Island. The mild climate and less heavy industry than other states are part of the reason. Experts say credit also must go to stringent conservation measures. "It's true we're big, and it's true we didn't build a lot of power plants. ... But we're not energy hogs at all," said Arthur Rosenfeld, who sits on the five-member California Energy Commission. "We're almost as good as Western Europe, and Western Europe is about twice as energy-efficient as the United States." Among the 50 states, only Texas consumes more energy — measured by its total use of electricity,

natural gas and oil — than California, the nation's most populous state.

However, California ranks 47th in per-capita energy use — well below No. 4 Texas, No. 20 Washington and No. 27 Oregon, according to the Energy Information Administration, which is part of the U.S. Energy Department.

When looking specifically at per-capita electricity consumption, California ranks 49th, at 24.2 million BTUs, the agency said. Californians' per-capita electricity use is only 60 percent of the national average.

For air conditioning alone, a typical California household uses one-third the amount of electricity consumed by a household in Texas or Florida, according to the U.S. Energy Department's 1997 Residential Energy Consumption Survey.

California has "a different climate, so even if you do have warm summers, they're not humid, so you don't have the big, huge air conditioning load you see in Florida or Texas," said Robert Latta, the survey's manager at the Energy Information Administration.

California also uses electricity, as well as natural gas, oil and coal, more wisely than most states thanks to aggressive conservation efforts started during the oil shocks of the early 1970s, federal and state data indicate.

Key to those efforts are stringent standards for new homes and commercial buildings that dictate such things as the types of windows and lighting and the amount of insulation.

"If it is not the leading state, they are at least tied for it" in efficiency standards, said Ed Wisniewski, deputy director of the Boston-based Consortium for Energy Efficiency. "Historically, they have been very progressive, and

many of the programs we advocate nationally were started in California."

California's per-capita use is lower because many energy-intensive industries are located elsewhere. Aluminum smelting and paper manufacturing, for example, are clustered in the Pacific Northwest.

The industries that are located in California, are generally more efficient in their use of electricity than industries elsewhere, according to 1998 figures from the California Energy Commission, which shapes state energy policy.

Companies use just 0.2 kilowatt-hours of electricity to produce every dollar's worth of goods and services in California, while businesses in neighboring states use twice as much, according to commission figures.

"The concept that California is a big, wasteful state really isn't true," said Latta, of the Energy Information Administration.

There is still room for improvement in California, particularly when it comes to conservation. California ranks just 17th among all states in spending by utilities on energy-efficiency programs as part of their revenue.

In 1998, California utilities reduced spending on energy-efficiency programs, though the current crisis has prompted the major utilities to reverse that, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

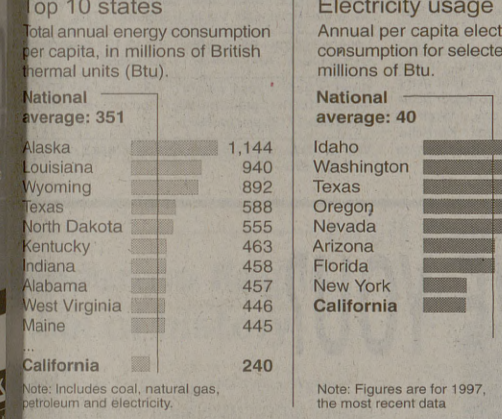
Gov. Gray Davis recently released a \$404 million conservation program designed to control growth in the state's demand for electricity.

Maintaining energy efficiency and keeping demand in check as the population grows will be among the toughest challenges in the years ahead.

Energy use per capita is up 10 percent over the past two decades. Californians used about 7,000 kilowatt hours per year in 1980, compared with about 7,700 kilowatt hours last year, according to scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

California: big, not wasteful

California has one of the lowest per capita consumptions of energy in the United States, ranking No. 47.



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in the Governance Room in Koldus, formerly known as Room 144, but now renamed, you guessed it, Room 228!!

Student leaders and local celebrities will be chatting about their experiences in dealing with risky business.

Contact Regina Rosell for further information at 845-0692 or regina02@tamu.edu



Department of Student Activities
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Hey Current Students...

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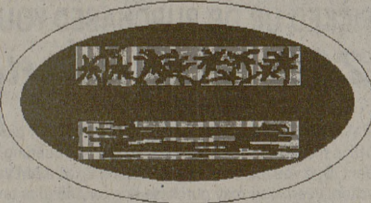
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Deadline is March 1, 2001 at 5:00 PM!

For more information, please contact:
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Texas A & M has received 20 spots for the spring round of Hillel's Birthright Israel Trip. All bed, boarding and transportation costs are taken care of from the departure hub city (LA, NYC, Chicago) until your return two weeks later.

We are tentatively scheduled to leave on June 7-14. Dates will be confirmed as soon as they are available. Register for the trip on line at: www.israel2000.org/application.htm Registration closes March 6th! Additional information on the itinerary and FAQ is at: www.israel2000.org

The tentative timetable for recruitment and registration is as follows:
Completion of interviews: Friday, March 16
Notification of participants: Monday, March 19
Last day for roster: Monday, March 26
All Forms/deposits at the DC Hillel: Tuesday, March 27

All dates are subject to change.

Requirements: 1) Identify with the Jewish people
2) Never traveled to Israel in another Jewish affiliated college program
3) Get your own round-trip ticket to an assigned departure hub city
4) Age 18-26 years old

For more information contact TAMU Hillel Foundation at:
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Phone: 696-7313; Web: www.startel.net/Hillel

