

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

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Sing 2010 Results



1st Place
Kappa Omega Tau
The Toys are Back in Town



2nd Place
Phi Kappa Chi
Good Ol' Rocky Top



3rd Place
Sing Alliance
A News Sensation

Also Headed to Pigskin

Delta Delta Delta
C'mon and Swim

Alpha Tau Omega
A Pirate's Life for Me

Chi Omega
Splish Splash

Kappa Alpha Theta
Ring By Spring

Kappa Kappa Gamma
Hey Big Spender

People's Choice

Best Backdrop
Sing Alliance

Best Choreography
Delta Delta Delta

Best Vocals
Phi Kappa Chi

Best Costumes
Kappa Omega Tau

Best Music
Alpha Tau Omega

Best Theme
Development
Kappa Omega Tau



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Learning to Strum

A small Waco boy is given his chance to try his fingers on the acoustic guitar Saturday during a service project as part of Mission Waco's Poverty Simulation weekend at Blairas Cove in downtown Waco.

BU business magazine nabs top spot

Public relations association names Baylor Business Review recipient of Silver award

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

The Baylor Business Review will be presented with a Silver award in the Texas Public Relations Association's Best of Texas magazine competition at the Texas Public Relations Leadership Day and Gala Friday in Austin. The Silver award is the competition's top honor.

The Baylor Business Review won the award in conjunction with the photography department at Baylor and Pollei DesignWorks, both of which contribute to the production of the Baylor Business Review by providing photographs and the overall design, respectively.

"It's a great honor to be recognized by professional organizations such as the TPRA," CJ Jackson, director of communications and marketing in the Hankamer School of Business, said. "Our work is put up against the best work in the state, so obviously we're happy to have been recognized. Every single issue, I always say this, was the best issue ever, and I really believe it too."

Julie Fix, TPRA Silver Spur/Best of Texas competition manager, said competition applicants must meet several criteria for their publication's content and also be able to prove that their publication is achieving its goals to win a Silver award.

"The judges are going to look for appropriate research, appropriate planning and overall excellence for the content. They also are looking for results," Fix said. "They want to see that in the entry summary there is some indication given of how successful the publication is in meeting the stated objectives and goals."

Fix said the competition is focused on finding the top public relations publications in the state.

"We call this contest recognizing the best of the best in Texas public relations work, so that is what we're looking for — the best of the best," Fix said.

Kristin Stires, assistant director of communications and marketing in the Hankamer School of Business and managing editor of the Baylor Business Review, said teamwork plays a big part in producing the magazine, which is published once a semester.

"It's always nice being recognized by your peers, but we have a really talented team of people that work on the magazine, in-

see **AWARD**, pg. 7

Struggling Hippodrome closes doors

96-year-old local theater cancels performance, lays off staff due to lack of funds

By LAURA REMSON
STAFF WRITER

The Waco community was greeted with the news Friday morning that the Waco Hippodrome was closing its 96-year-old doors.

The Waco Performing Arts Comp. board canceled Thursday's performance of "One Night of Queen" and was forced to let go of its staff after an emergency board meeting Wednesday night that determined a lack of funds for the performance,

said Dr. Jim Kendrick, Baylor film and digital media assistant professor and WPAC board of directors member.

One person affected greatly by this closing is Brandon Burns, Waco resident and former technical director/facilities manager for the Waco Hippodrome.

"I went and filed for unemployment this morning and I've got to go find another job and I'll probably have to move out of Waco, but it is what it is," Burns said. "In the economy and the times that we live in, arts aren't supported."

Burns was not shocked by the closing, but by the timing.

"I was surprised at the suddenness of its closing," Burns said. "For us that work there, it's

been having money problems for some time so it's nothing new to us. We just did what we could to save money wherever we could."

It wasn't enough. The theatre's financial troubles have been in the news for the past few years. A comedy group, Greater Tuna, canceled shows in September of 2009 and March of 2008, leading to much of the financial difficulty the Hippodrome faced in its last year, according to a March 2009 release.

The Hippodrome is currently seeking a lawsuit to recover these funds.

"Unless the judgment from Tuna is a figure that is going to

see **THEATER**, pg. 7



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Houston native and graduate from the University of Texas at Austin, Afshin Ziafat leads Vertical Ministries Monday night at the Ferrell Center. The student organization was forced to relocate due to the recent closing of the Waco Hippodrome Theater.

Dialogue: Alumni discuss Starr's appointment

By ERIN NIPPER
REPORTER

Since Ken Starr was announced as the 14th president of Baylor University on Feb. 16, a wide array of discussion has taken place, particularly among alumni. Some question his capabilities, while others are confident in them.

When Chip Bricker, CEO of independent recording studio Smart Productions and 1989 Baylor graduate, found out that Starr had been named Baylor's new president, he was pleased. "It's a good thing," Bricker

said. "He could bring a broader perspective for Baylor's future."

Some alumni fear that Starr, best known among the general public for serving as prosecuting attorney in the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, as well as for his large role in the Whitewater investigation, will do the exact opposite.

Larkin Page, a 1988 Baylor alumnus who is now a professor within the Texas A&M University system, is skeptical of Starr's abilities.

"Does he have the knowledge to continue to advance Baylor toward its goals beyond

a regional institution, toward a national, research-based institution?" Page said. "I think Baylor must continue to advance themselves toward becoming a national research institution. This brings continued value to the degrees of current and future students."

While some alumni envisioned Baylor taking a more progressive route, others are proud of Baylor's Baptist heritage and feel that Starr's presidency simply restates the core values of the university. Most students understand that being a Baylor graduate sometimes creates a

stereotype that they are conservative, based on the university's Baptist background.

"When people see that I graduated from Baylor, they automatically ask me if I'm Baptist or conservative," 2009 graduate Andrew Scheller, who is now a law student at University of Houston Law Center, said.

Scheller said the effects on the university because of Starr could go either way.

"I had hoped they'd be more mainstream," Scheller said. "On one hand it could be bad, because Baylor wants to be considered a national top-

tier school like [Dartmouth or Georgetown], that are religious in name, but don't practice. This could put them in a different category."

Although Starr could dissuade a progressive image for the university, Scheller said this could be a good thing for enrollment reasons.

"Anyone who would have gone to Baylor will probably go here anyway, and some alumni could see that Baylor is going back to its roots, be pleased that the university is going back to

see **ALUMNI**, pg. 7

Christian environmental group highlights Baylor

By HOGAN ALLCORN
REPORTER

Baylor University is one of 52 Christian colleges and universities highlighted in the inaugural Green Awakenings Campus Report.

After seven months of reporting, Green Awakenings was released last week by Renewal: Students Caring for Creation, a Christian environmental group led by students.

Renewal is a growing movement of young Christians dedicated to caring for the Earth

through mobilizing and equipping their campuses to be better stewards of the environment.

Matthew Sleeth, author of "Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action," explained how Renewal is fulfilling God's purpose in the forefront of the report.

"The work of Renewal is a confirmation of both what God promises us about young people standing up for Christ and what I have seen in churches and college campuses around North America," Sleeth wrote. "The ministry of Renewal, a growing

number of Christian colleges and universities are, for the first time, asking professors and students to think about God's creation in the context of campus and classroom settings."

The Green Awakenings Campus Report highlights various activities that Christian campuses in the United States and Canada are doing to help the green movement. One of the main purposes behind the report is to not only unite Christian campuses but also to spread awareness about how students can help the environment.

"The Green Awakenings Campus Report demonstrates to the world what happens when Christian students and campuses come together to care for Creation," Ben Lowe, Renewal's co-coordinator, said. "Our two-fold goal is to demonstrate to colleges, churches and communities how we are working together for the renewal of God's creation and inspire others to join us."

By meeting 13 of the 18 initiatives that Renewal's report promotes, Baylor is one of the greenest Christian campuses.

The initiatives include having a sustainability committee, participating in Earth Week and offering majors relating to the green movement.

Campuses involved in environmental efforts range from George Fox University in Oregon to Liberty University in Virginia and from Trinity Western University in British Columbia to Abilene Christian University in Texas.

The projects these campuses have undertaken include recy-

see **GREEN**, pg. 7

Hummer’s too-high costs have rightfully led to its demise

Synonymous with excess and gas guzzling, the Hummer has been a staple in the American car culture for the past 18 years since the beginning of the military-inspired vehicle’s mass production.

Now, however, the Hummer has finally met its match: a poor economy and high gas prices. Last Wednesday, General Motors Co. accepted the super-SUV’s defeat and announced that the plans to sell the brand to a Chinese company had failed.

The result is the death of the Hummer. The Hummer gained popularity with the endorsement of Californian governor and action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger, who reportedly fell in love at first sight when he witnessed a caravan of the Hummer’s military father, the Humvee, pass by.

After lengthy negotiations, Schwarzenegger procured one of the military vehicles for himself and encouraged producers to begin making the vehicle for civilian purchase. In 1992, Schwarzenegger’s dreams became reality and he purchased the first two Hummers off of the assembly line.

Fast forward 10 years. Sales of the oversized mini-tank skyrocket from 20,000 in 2002 to more than 71,000 worldwide in 2006. Schwarzenegger’s career skyrockets, as well, when he is elected governor of California in 2003.

However, as the American consciousness began to sprout thoughts of green living, the Hummer continued its regular gas guzzling diet.

The H2 Hummer weighs more than 8,500 pounds and gets 10 mpg, or less depending on after-market accessories that the owners may add to the vehicle (sound systems, rims, grill guards, etc.).

Moreover, the first nail in the Hummer coffin came in 2008 when gas prices shot to more than

Editorial

\$4 for the first time ever. When Hummer owners had to pay \$4 to go 10 miles, Hummer sales fell, without surprise to consumers.

Even last year, when the price of gas began to drift back down, only 37,573 Hummers were sold globally, a steep drop-off from the 71,000 sold in 2006.

The more environmentally conscious that Americans became, the harder it was for General Motors, a company who was already in trouble economically, to afford to produce the Hummer brand.

Last October, when Chinese company, Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery, reached a settlement with General Motors to purchase the brand, the company knew that it would be essential to the further success of the brand to make the Hummer more environmentally efficient and economically sound for buyers.

Plans were put into action to make the Hummer alternative fuel powered, diesel powered and even run with a six-speed transmission. However, without the approval of Chinese regulators, the deal fell through.

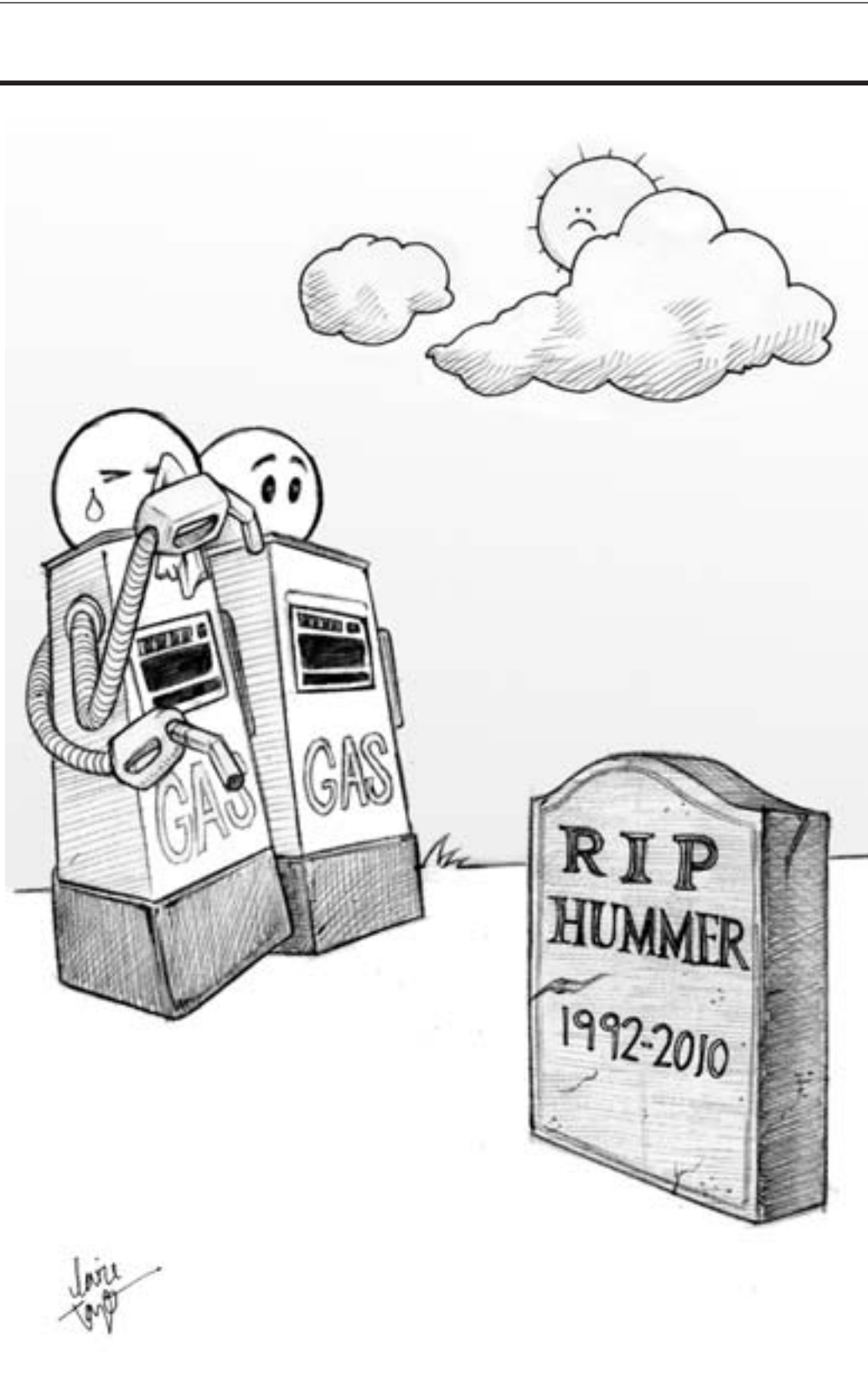
Now it seems clear that General Motors will cease future production of the giant.

This is the best decision that General Motors could have made.

The American public has learned a lesson in the past year — excess is not the best life style. The public has a desire to live consciously.

Moreover, Hummers are costly to operate, simply due to gas. With such an unsure economy, purchasing a Hummer is not only a gamble because of the base price, but also a gamble with the price of fuel and maintenance.

The end of the Hummer shows a turning point in the priorities of the American culture and this change is for the better.



Lariat Letters

Neutrality: best option for boosting Baylor relationships

I am writing in response to the recent editorial regarding the role of student government and its approach to the announcement of Judge Ken Starr as the 14th president of Baylor. Though I serve as a senior student senator, I have not been asked to write a response to the editorial nor do my views necessarily represent the general perspective of student government — I am writing on my own initiative and defending my own independent opinion.

First, I would like to thank the editorialist of Friday’s article for an engagement in the discourse of campus issues and participation in the activities of student government. While I may not agree with all of the perspectives presented in the piece, the expression and presentation of a variety of attitudes pertaining to Baylor student life remains essential for the operation and success of both student government and the broader campus.

As such, I would like to present my own responses to many of the issues presented in Friday’s editorial and attempt to provide my personal rationale for supporting the recent actions and positions of student government — specifically in respect to the appointment of Judge Starr.

The purpose of student government exists as the representation of student concerns and the promotion of the interests of the collective student body, a task accomplished through the facilitation of

dialogue and cooperation with the Baylor administration. Actions that jeopardize the relationship between student government and Baylor officials preclude such a mission and ultimately inhibit the opportunity for student government to effectively communicate student concerns and accomplish any substantial institutional reform.

While this dynamic certainly does not imply student government must always defer passively to Baylor decisions, the importance of the relationship renders any interaction between Student Government and the Baylor administration as worthy of unique prudence and wisdom.

As such, considering the anticipated future cooperation between student government and the new Judge Starr administration, the most appropriate student government response resembles a hospitable welcome of Judge Starr to the Baylor community and an optimism regarding future collective efforts between both parties to enhance the Baylor environment.

Official student government expressions critical of Judge Starr’s appointment not only represent a premature pessimism prior to any action (positive or negative) on behalf of the new president, but also present a potential obstacle to constructive dialogue in the coming years.

Though, as the editorial references, some dissen-

tion exists among both faculty and students of Baylor concerning the presidential nomination, student government assumes deliberate neutrality regarding the issue due to recognition of diverse perspectives among Baylor students.

Any alternative partisan position would present a distorted representation of the collective student perspectives on campus and inevitably marginalize specific factions of the student body.

Instead, I support Baylor student government’s maintenance of attitudinal neutrality regarding the nomination. student government’s expression of gratitude to the Baylor Regents and student representative Chelsea Saylor for their exhaustive efforts in researching potential candidates and simultaneous congratulations of Judge Starr on his selection as the 14th president of Baylor both represent positive stances that strengthen administrative relationships and promote positive future dialogue.

Regardless of one’s individual perspective regarding the appointment of Judge Starr, all Baylor students should be excited to experience such an influential period in the history of Baylor and express immense pride in the collective accomplishments of the university. Sic ‘Em Bears!

Hunter Oliver
San Antonio senior

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Corrections

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

Letters

Letters to the editor should include the writer’s name, hometown, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor’s discretion. All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style. Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu.

StuGov leaders speak up on ways they’re representing student needs

It is our distinct honor and privilege to serve as the duly elected student body officers of Baylor University. This is not a position we take lightly, and as such, we felt it appropriate to respond to the concerns raised in last Friday’s editorial: “Student Government should better represent its students.”

Let us preface by saying that we humbly accept constructive criticism from all constituents. We will consider it as we strive to serve the entire student body. We would also like to note that the student body officers and the Lariat share a common interest in ensuring that the student voice is clearly represented to the Baylor community.

Throughout this school year, we have focused our attention and efforts on three main goals we feel are necessary to articulating a strong student voice on campus. Our first goal focuses on building positive and lasting relationships with all Baylor constituencies. This includes the administration, alumni, faculty, staff and, of course, students. The second goal is to promote and strengthen relationships within student government so that all three branches can work together

to serve students more efficiently. Our third goal is to strengthen the bond between the student body and student government. We feel this is our most important task. We have taken great steps to enhance the connection between student government and the student body. From the early stages of our administration, we have focused on making student government more accessible to the student body. This initiative took the form of several new programs.

Because student government cannot be effective in representing students’ voices if we don’t know what they want, we established a new program in order to obtain students’ opinions. This interactive polling program is called “Issue of the Week.” Since October, student government has gathered over 6,000 student body responses on issues ranging from parking to financial aid. We have seen fantastic results. Just this past week, student government handed out Dr Pepper on Fountain Mall and asked students to share their thoughts. This week’s “Issue of the Week” focused on the how effective student government is in representing student concerns.

The facts we gathered have not gone to waste. In the fall, we were able to formally present our findings to the Board of Regents. Again, the response was overwhelming; this was the first time in many years the Regents had been given poll results that directly represent the voice of the student body. These have already been presented in a public forum (at Student Senate, which is open to all students), and we would be thrilled to show them to anyone who stops by our office.

This letter is not our first attempt to share our results with the student body. We recognize the students need better access to the information, but we would like to stress that we have fully addressed each student concern with the appropriate administration and staff. We are working to identify concrete steps that can be taken to improve each issue.

Through the polling, we found that the most immediate concern is the rising cost of tuition. When you combine this with a lack of increase in merit-based financial aid from Baylor, tuition hikes have become a significant burden on the student body.

We have had several successful meetings with the Board of Regents, as well as monthly meetings with Interim President David Garland and a positive meeting with President-elect Ken Starr. In fact, the Board of Regents is finding unique ways to address student concerns — there is no doubt that you are being heard and we are making progress. We will continue to gather students’ opinions throughout the remainder of this semester. We are exploring new ways to connect with the student body, and we encourage everyone to watch for further details.

In closing, the student body officers, elected by the student body of Baylor University, are fully committed to serving the voice of the entire student population. If, at any time, the Lariat or any student has questions or concerns, we would be more than happy to discuss those concerns and work together to find a positive solution.

Michael Wright, Emily Saultz and Jordan Hannah
Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Student Body President

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Please Recycle This Issue

Select students meet billionaire Warren Buffet

By JOHN D. ELIZONDO
REPORTER

Very few people can say they have met a multibillionaire in their lifetime, but last Friday 26 Baylor students had the opportunity to meet businessman Warren Buffet in his hometown of Omaha, Neb.

Dr. Hope Koch, Baylor information systems professor, had been trying for a long time to get Baylor invited to this exclusive Warren Buffet question-and-answer event.

"I have been working for three years to just get us into this event," she said. "It is very difficult to be invited by Mr. Buffet because he only invites the top [business] schools."

Buffet, who is the chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, has held his question-and-answer session for a couple of years now, Koch said, and he hosts only six sessions a year.

"As a part of his legacy, he wants to give back to students," she said. "During this [session] he will let them ask any question about life or business, and then he will respond with some insight."

Only five other schools were invited to the event: Ohio State

University, Duke University, University of Texas, Creighton University and Western Ontario University.

Each school brought representatives from their respective MBA programs, but Baylor was the only school to bring undergraduate students from the information systems program.

Baylor was also the only school to get funding for its students' trip from an outside source, instead of requiring the students pay.

ConocoPhillips made the trip financially possible for Baylor students.

"The main reason why I did this was because there is a shortage of students to go into the field of information systems," Koch said. "Part of what I am trying to do is to build up our information systems program by giving our students exceptional experiences and showing them that they are valued."

League City senior Jacquell Haywood, who is a part of the information systems program, said she enjoyed the trip.

"Getting to hear and see Warren Buffet and sitting next to the man was great," Haywood said. "He had great insight to the questions that were asked."

Students asked questions about ethical situations, obstacles Buffet has faced, rules for investing and the future of the American economy.

Southlake senior Tim Tye said the question-and-answer was better than he expected and that he learned much from Buffet.

"A lot of the students were really serious, but [Buffet] was actually less serious than everyone else. He was cracking jokes and had a great sense of humor," he said. "I feel that I have learned a lot and he has a great philosophy of life and a very strong optimistic outlook on the American economy."

Afterward, the students were treated to lunch and root beer floats at Buffet's favorite restaurant in Omaha, Piccolo Pete's.

One Baylor student was also given the chance to ride in Buffet's car with him to the restaurant.

After they ate, everyone was given a chance to take a picture with Buffet before they left.

"He was so gracious with his time. He knew everybody would want a picture, so he stayed around to take pictures with every school and he took individual photos with every student," Koch said.



Baylor undergraduate students give a Sic 'Em with billionaire Warren Buffet, who only invites students from the top business schools to his annual question-and-answer event. Only a select few Baylor students attended the event, and their trips were funded by ConocoPhillips.

Magnolia senior Stephanie Posey said this trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and one that she will remember for the rest of her life.

"I think it is life-changing because when you go for interviews for a job that will always be something that you can talk about," Posey said. "Only 180

students were there, so you were one of only 180 students to have that experience."

When asked about the chances that Baylor students would be given the opportunity to do this again, Koch said it is not likely because of the long waiting list. Knowing about the rarity of the trip, Haywood said that she is

honored to receive the opportunity to meet Buffet.

"I said when I was there that I am extremely proud to represent Baylor University at this event because I know it is extremely special," Haywood said. "Meeting someone of [Buffet's] caliber is just exciting to know that I am a part of something very unique."

In the final stretch, Bears don't want to lose focus

By JUSTIN BAER
SPORTS EDITOR

They say change can be a good thing.

Baylor has sweated through the latter part of the past couple of seasons to clinch an NCAA Tournament bid. Now entering the final week of the regular season, the Bears have scrapped their way to No. 21 in the AP Poll and secured a virtual lock for the NCAA Tournament. The Bears are also the highest-ranked team in Texas this week. With the assurance of making it to the Big Dance, head coach Scott Drew is assured his team isn't becoming complacent.

"It's a huge difference because every night you don't have to see your name on the bubble ... it was so important to get into the tournament (in 2008)," Drew said. "Once you have been there, you want to stay there."

Adding further implications to the final stretch is the chase for a top-four spot in the Big 12 Tournament next week. Currently in third place in the conference standings, Baylor controls its own destiny. If the Bears win their last two games, they will qualify for a coveted first-round bye.

"If you are going to make a run in March, you have to be

"We still want to come out and play. This is what we were working for last summer. We want to keep working because it doesn't stop there."

Tweety Carter
Guard

peaking now," Drew said. "So these last few games and practic-

es are very important to us."

This week, Baylor will tackle two in-state opponents that it has already defeated earlier in the season. The Bears will compete in their final road game of the conference season tonight against Texas Tech University before welcoming a slumping University of Texas squad Saturday at 3 p.m. on ESPN.

"We still want to come out and play," guard Tweety Carter said. "This is what we were working for last summer. We want to keep working because it doesn't stop there."

Tonight's opponent, Texas Tech, is familiar as the Bears faced

off against the Red Raiders just 13 days ago. In the match, Baylor retained a five-point lead at half-time before rummaging together an early second-half spurt to pull away in a lopsided 88-70 victory. Tech has failed to live up to early season expectations, as the team that once ranked as high as No. 16 has tumbled to a 4-10 conference record. Despite the disappointment, the Red Raiders possess a 13-4 record at home and present a difficult task, Drew said.

"We have always had hard-fought games (in Lubbock)," Drew said. "Just like any other Big 12 game, it usually goes down to the wire. Whoever makes a

couple shots and a couple stops usually wins the game."

Last weekend, Baylor budged past the University of Oklahoma in the last two minutes of Saturday's contest in Norman, Okla.

Forward/center Ekpe Udoh catalyzed a solid defensive effort in the final stretch and Baylor was a perfect 6-for-6 from the free-throw line to close out the late rally.

"I think they did a good job, but we came back and punched them in the nose," Udoh said after the game.

Tonight's game tips off at 7 and can be seen on Fox Sports Southwest.

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Fresno County Sheriff's Lt. Rick Ko walks through a camp site at an abandoned marijuana growing site in the Sequoia National Forest near Fresno, Calif.

Drug gangs taking over public lands, parks of U.S.

By ALICIA A. CALWELL
AND MANUEL VALDES
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST, Calif. — Not far from Yosemite's waterfalls and in the middle of California's redwood forests, Mexican drug gangs are quietly commandeering U.S. public land to grow millions of marijuana plants and using smuggled immigrants to cultivate them.

Pot has been grown on public lands for decades, but Mexican traffickers have taken it to a whole new level: using armed guards and trip wires to safeguard sprawling plots that in some cases contain tens of thousands of plants offering a potential yield of more than 30 tons of pot a year.

"Just like the Mexicans took over the methamphetamine trade, they've gone to mega, monster gardens," said Brent Wood, a supervisor for the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

He said Mexican traffickers have "supersized" the marijuana trade.

Interviews conducted by The Associated Press with law enforcement officials across the country showed that Mexican gangs are largely responsible for a spike in large-scale marijuana farms over the last several years.

Local, state and federal agents found about a million more pot plants each year between 2004 and 2008, and authorities say an estimated 75 percent to 90 percent of the new marijuana farms can be linked to Mexican gangs.

Growing marijuana in the U.S. saves traffickers the risk and expense of smuggling their product across the border and allows gangs to produce their crops closer to local markets.

Distribution also becomes less risky. Once the marijuana is harvested and dried on the hidden farms, drug gangs can drive it to major cities, where it is distributed to street dealers and sold along with pot that was grown in Mexico.

About the only risk to the Mexican growers, experts say, is that a stray hiker or hunter could stumble onto a hidden field.

The remote plots are nestled under the cover of thick forest canopies in places such as Sequoia National Park, or hidden high in the rugged-yet-fertile Sierra Nevada Mountains. Others are secretly planted on remote

stretches of Texas ranch land. All of the sites are far from the eyes of law enforcement, where growers can take the time needed to grow far more potent marijuana.

Farmers of these fields use illegal fertilizers to help the plants along, and use cloned female plants to reduce the amount of seed in the bud that is dried and eventually sold.

Mexican gang plots can often be distinguished from those of domestic-based growers, who usually cultivate much smaller fields with perhaps 100 plants

"They know the terrain better than we do. Before we even see them, they can shoot us."

Lt. Rick Ko
Drug investigator,
Fresno Sheriff's office

and no security measures.

Some of the fields tied to the drug gangs have as many as 75,000 plants, each of which can yield at least a pound of pot annually, according to federal data reviewed by the AP.

The Sequoia National Forest in central California is covered in a patchwork of pot fields, most of which are hidden along mountain creeks and streams, far from hiking trails. It's the same situation in the nearby Yosemite, Sequoia and Redwood national parks.

Even if they had the manpower to police the vast wilderness, authorities say terrain and weather conditions often keep them from finding the farms, except accidentally.

Many of the plots are encircled with crude explosives and are patrolled by guards armed with AK-47s who survey the perimeter from the ground and from perches high in the trees.

The farms are growing in sophistication and are increasingly cultivated by illegal immigrants, many of whom have been brought to the U.S. from Michoacan.

Moyses Mesa Barajas had just arrived in eastern Washington state from the Mexican state of Michoacan when he was approached to work in a pot field.

He was taken almost immediately to a massive crop hidden in the Wenatchee National Forest,

where he managed the watering of the plants. He was arrested in 2008 in a raid and sentenced to more than six years in federal prison. Several other men wearing camouflage fled before police could stop them.

"I thought it would be easy," he told the AP in a jailhouse interview. "I didn't think it would be a big crime."

Scott Stewart, vice president for tactical intelligence at Stratfor, a global intelligence company in Austin, Texas, said recruiters look for people who still have family in Mexico, so they can use them as leverage to keep the farmers working — and to keep them quiet.

"If they send Jose from the hometown and Jose rips them off, they are going to go after Jose's family," Stewart said. "It's big money."

When the harvest is complete, investigators say, pot farm workers haul the product in garbage bags to dropoff points that are usually the same places where they get resupplied with food and fuel.

Agents routinely find the discarded remnants of camp life when they discover marijuana fields. It's not uncommon to discover pots and pans, playing cards and books, half-eaten bags of food, and empty beer cans and liquor bottles.

But the growers leave more than litter to worry about.

They often use animal poisons that can pollute mountain streams and groundwater meant for legitimate farmers and ranchers. Because of the tree cover, armed pot farmers can often take aim at law enforcement before agents ever see them.

"They know the terrain better than we do," said Lt. Rick Ko, a drug investigator with the sheriff's office in Fresno, Calif. "Before we even see them, they can shoot us."

In Wisconsin, the number of confiscated plants grew sixfold between 2003 and 2008, to more than 32,000 found in 2008.

Wisconsin agents used to find a few dozen marijuana plants on national forest land. Now they discover hundreds or even thousands.

"If we are getting 40 to 50 percent (of fields), I think we are doing well," said Michigan State Police 1st Lt. Dave Peltomaa. "I really don't think we are close to 50 percent. We don't have the resources."

Along south-central Chilean coast, tsunami devastates towns

By MICHAEL WARREN
AND ROBERTO CANDIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALCAHUANO, Chile — When the shaking stopped, Marioli Gatica and her extended family huddled in a circle on the floor of their seaside wooden home in this gritty port town, listening to the radio by a lantern's light.

They heard firefighters urging Talcahuano's citizens to stay calm and stay inside. They heard nothing of a tsunami — until it slammed into their house with an unearthly roar about an hour after Saturday's magnitude 8.8 quake.

Gatica's house exploded with water. She and her family were swept below the surface, swirling amid loose ship containers and other massive debris that smashed buildings into oblivion all around them.

"We were sitting there one moment and the next I looked up into the water and saw cables and furniture floating," Gatica said.

She clung to her 11-year-old daughter, Ninoska Elgueta, but the rush of water ripped the girl from her hands. Then the wave retreated as suddenly as it came.

Two of the giant containers crushed Gatica's home. A third landed seaward of where she floated, preventing the retreating tsunami from dragging her and other relatives away.

Soon Ninoska was back in her mother's arms — she had grabbed a tree branch to avoid being swept away and climbed down as soon as the sea receded.

Gatica's son, husband and 76-year-old father were OK as well, as were her sister and her

family. The only relative missing was her 76-year-old mother, Nery Valdebenito, Gatica said as she waited in a hundreds-long line outside a school to report her losses.

"I think my mother is trapped beneath the house," Gatica said.

As she spoke, firefighters with search dogs were examining the ruins of her home blocks away. Minutes later, the group leader drew his finger across his neck: No one alive under the house.

"We were sitting there one moment and the next I looked up into the water and saw cables and furniture floating."

Marioli Gatica
Victim

Such horrors abound along the devastated beach communities of Chile's south-central coast, which suffered the double tragedy Saturday of the earthquake and the tsunami it caused. Of the quake's 723 victims, most were in the wine-growing Maule region that includes Talcahuano, now a mud-caked, ravaged town of 180,000 just north of Concepcion.

Close to 80 percent of Talcahuano's residents are homeless, with 10,000 homes uninhabitable and hundreds more destroyed, said Mayor Gaston Saavedra.

"The port is destroyed. The streets, collapsed. City buildings, destroyed," Saavedra said.

In Concepcion, the biggest

city near the epicenter, rescuers heard the knocking of victims trapped inside a toppled 70-unit apartment building Monday and were drilling through thick concrete to reach them, said fire Commander Juan Carlos Sube-caseux. By late Monday, firefighters had pulled 25 survivors and nine bodies from the structure. Chile's defense minister has said the navy made a mistake by not immediately activating a tsunami warning. He said port captains who did call warnings in several coastal towns saved hundreds of lives. The waves came too quickly for a group of 40 retirees vacationing at a seaside campground in the village of Pelluhue. They had piled into a bus that was swept out to sea, along with trucks and houses, when the tsunami surged 200 meters (yards) into the summer resort town.

As of Monday, firefighters said, five of the retirees' bodies had been recovered. At least 30 remained missing.

Most residents in Pelluhue, where 300 homes were destroyed, were aware of the tsunami threat. Street signs point to the nearest tsunami evacuation route.

"We ran through the highest part of town, yelling, 'Get out of your homes!'" said Claudio Escalona, 43, who fled his home near the campground with his wife and daughters, ages 4 and 6. "About 20 minutes later came three waves, two of them huge, about 6 meters (18 feet) each, and a third even bigger. That one went into everything."

"You could hear the screams of children, women, everyone," Escalona said. "There were the screams, and then a tremendous silence."

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Rogue Wave releases uncharacteristic album

By JAMES BYERS
REPORTER

Since the release of its last album, “Asleep at Heaven’s Gate” in 2007, Oakland, Calif., band Rogue Wave has undergone the kind of turmoil that would force most bands to go on permanent hiatus.

ALBUM | REVIEW

Drummer Pat Spurgeon battled kidney failure and was saved by a miracle transplant. Evan Farrell, a former member and friend of the band, died in a house fire. And lead singer and founder

Zach Rogue was hospitalized last year with two slipped discs in his neck that left him temporarily paralyzed and unable to move his hands.

What’s shocking, then, is that the band’s new record “Permalight” isn’t depressing or desolate. In fact, it’s rather happy and upbeat.

A press release for the album, the band’s fourth overall and second on Jack Johnson’s Brushfire Records, calls it “an astonishing change of direction, to say the least.” No argument here.

Whereas previous albums crafted lush, spacey folk pop (and frequently drew comparisons to former label mates the

Shins), “Permalight” strips back the layers and focuses on dance rhythms.

Unfortunately, that change of direction doesn’t suit the band.

I’m not anti-dance music. The problem with “Permalight” is that these songs are catchy in all the wrong ways.

They’re stuck in your head, and you desperately wish you could expel them. Take the title track, for instance. The awkward chorus is hammered into listeners’ heads as Rogue manages to rhyme “light” with “night” two separate times. This is not what Rogue Wave does well.

Rogue laments about the state of the nation on first single “Good

Morning (The Future),” a politically-tinged electro rocker (“Do you think that we like to take our orders from fools? / They’re so behind”).

If the lyrics don’t scare you away, then the pulsing, unimaginative beat that drives the song will.

“We Will Make A Song Destroy” begins promising enough, with Rogue’s lofty falsetto, but halfway through it lapses into another generic pop song.

The up-tempo songs don’t work and the slower songs are mostly dull and homogeneous. “I’ll Never Leave You” would be good if a thousand other bands hadn’t written a song just like it.

“Fear Itself,” the album’s longest song (at only four and a half minutes), is less than engaging. It comes and goes without making much of an impact.

Is this really the band that wrote the majestic “Lake Michigan” just three years ago?

There are some bright spots. Rogue’s lyrics resonate on “Solitary Gun,” the fast-paced opener. The acoustic “Sleepwalker” paints a pleasant, slow-burning atmosphere. But these moments are few and far between.

The brisk “All That Remains” mercifully brings the album to a close. Clocking in at less than 40 minutes, “Permalight” is 17 minutes shorter than “Asleep at

Heaven’s Gate.”

Forty minutes is quite short for 12 songs. While the brevity may be attributed to the change in style, it also shows a lack of substance and craftsmanship. It’s almost as if the band regressed and made a conscious decision to dumb down its songs.

Perhaps the subpar quality of the album can be chalked up to the awful circumstances that surrounded its recording. You have to admire the band members for overcoming tragedy and recording a fourth album at all. Hopefully the fifth will be a return to form. I’m rooting for them.

Grade: C-

Against all odds, Sandra Bullock may end up with an Oscar



McClatchy

Actress Sandra Bullock arrives at the nominees luncheon for the 82nd Annual Academy Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

By JOHN ANDERSON
NEWSDAY

On the gateway outside the Memphis prep school where so much of “The Blind Side” happens, there is a quote from Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:26): “With God all things are possible.”

Indeed. Maybe even an Oscar for Sandra Bullock. Right now, Bullock seems poised to be named best actress when the 24 statuettes are handed out March 7.

Long one of Hollywood’s more popular players, Bullock is also a major star, especially if one gauges stardom by box-office numbers: Among her competition, Helen Mirren, so strong in “The Last Station,” has made movies with a cumulative gross of about \$630 million. Bullock’s figure is \$1.6 billion (figures courtesy of boxofficemojo.com).

As they say in boxing, a good, big fighter will always beat a good small fighter.

In terms of Hollywood accounting, Bullock is Mike Tyson, and most of her opponents are the St. Louis Ballet. Moreover, while money isn’t everything –

from “The Dark Knight” to “My Big Fat Greek Wedding,” many of the all-time box-office earners were not even nominated for best picture – the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences clearly loves it when a moneymaking performer gives a performance that can credibly be defined as Oscar-worthy (Nicole Kidman in “The Hours,” George Clooney in “Syriana,” to name two).

Of course, it isn’t Mirren whom Bullock has to worry about. It’s Meryl Streep (“Julie & Julia”), whose performance as Julia Child seems as beloved as Julia Child herself.

Having won critics’ prizes in New York, Boston and San Francisco, Streep also took home the Golden Globe this year for best actress in a musical/comedy.

She’s always a contender. The ever-aging academy membership knows who she is.

This is an advantage not necessarily held by the two fabulous younger actresses in the mix, Carey Mulligan (“An Education”) and Gabourey Sidibe (“Precious”).

But Bullock has also tapped into something this year that has

gotten a response across the demographic board – a \$250-million response, at last count.

As Leigh Anne Tuohy – rich, white, Republican, gun-toting, outspokenly Christian – Bullock does everything right: When she meets Big Mike Oher (Quinton Aaron), a homeless, athletically gifted teenager, she immediately brings him home, clothes him, feeds him and sees that he gets into her children’s school. It is, we are told repeatedly, the Christian thing to do.

And, of course, it is – although not exclusively, which seems what the movie would have you believe.

Dramatically speaking, Bullock’s performance doesn’t seem to have more than a couple of dimensions; Eva Longoria does much the same thing every week on “Desperate Housewives,” and Julia Roberts did exactly the same thing in “Erin Brockovich” – which, not coincidentally, won her an Oscar.

Bullock, like Roberts, has spent a career playing America’s sweetheart – smart, savvy, but usually the girl-next-door.

Bullock doesn’t exactly do a

Mary Tyler Moore (a 360-degree image reversal, a la “Ordinary People”), but as Leigh Anne, she’s all hard shell and upscale, a woman of a certain age (Bullock is 45) who looks the way she does, one suspects, thanks to personal trainers and starvation. The physical aspect of Bullock’s performance should not be discounted; it likely compensates in a major way for the fact that Leigh Anne’s soft, gooey center, which we have to believe exists, never really oozes out.

Like Roberts’ Brockovich, Leigh Anne may do good things, but revealing a rounded personality is not one of them.

But again, like Roberts, Bullock may benefit from the fear among Oscar voters that they may never get another chance to give an Oscar to an actress they like, and who has raked in so much dough.

Bullock has specialized in romantic comedies except when she did action movies like “Speed.” It’s a generalization that Oscar always pretends doesn’t exist. “The Blind Side” may be the anti-“Precious” – an upbeat movie – but it’s not a romantic comedy.

FUN TIMES

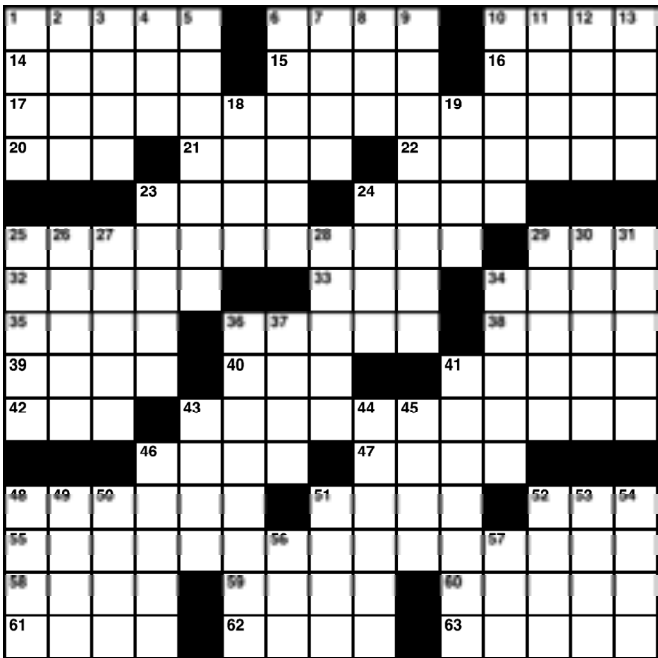
Answers at www.baylorlariat.com ——— McClatchy-Tribune

Across

- 1 Palindromic title
- 6 Ashen
- 10 Interrupter of a bad act, on an old game show
- 14 Word after horse or soap
- 15 Elvis ___ Presley
- 16 Mayberry kid
- 17 Government declaration of its intentions
- 20 Prefix with gram
- 21 Modest shelters
- 22 Madison Square Garden et al.
- 23 Variety of lily
- 24 1998 animated bug movie
- 25 Vietnam War defoliant
- 29 Speed Wagon maker
- 32 Velma’s rival in “Chicago”
- 33 Chat room chuckle
- 34 Detained at the precinct
- 35 Electrical network
- 36 Pigs and hogs
- 38 Etcher’s need
- 39 Leer at
- 40 Scepter’s partner
- 41 Emulate Cicero
- 42 Betty Ford, ___ Bloomer
- 43 Gold Rush villain
- 46 Jockey’s tool
- 47 Hearing requirements
- 48 Displaying buoyancy
- 51 Periodic table no.
- 52 Protrude, with “out”
- 55 High-octane fuel
- 58 Having all one’s marbles
- 59 Rotary phone feature
- 60 1988 film farce fish
- 61 School on the Thames
- 62 Bobbles the ball
- 63 Taboos

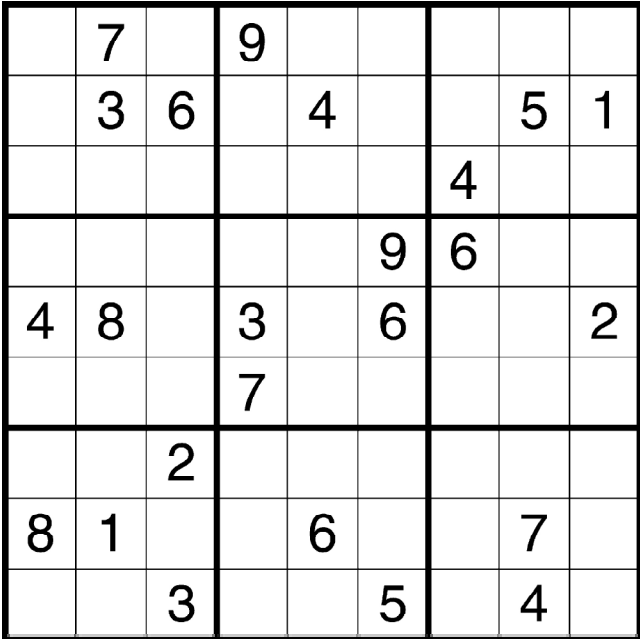
Down

- 1 Sulk
- 2 Each
- 3 Supermarket section
- 4 “Entourage” agent Gold
- 5 Bushwhacker’s tool



- 6 Congregation leader
- 7 Humanities
- 8 Mauna ___
- 9 Involve, as in a sticky situation
- 10 Morticia’s mate
- 11 Bid one club, say
- 12 “Project Runway” judge
- 13 Understands
- 18 ‘80s-’90s Serbian auto import
- 19 One-named Deco designer
- 23 Insinuating
- 24 Soon, to the bard
- 25 Fluorescent bulb gas
- 26 Stuff (oneself) with food
- 27 “The Man Without a Country” hero, for one
- 28 Suspect’s excuse
- 29 Sports show summary

- 30 Upper echelon
- 31 More strange
- 34 Injures
- 36 Isolation
- 37 Sandwich in a tortilla
- 41 Thornton Wilder classic
- 43 Spiced Indian beverage
- 44 Gold and silver
- 45 Shark flick
- 46 Part of NOW
- 48 Church recess
- 49 Toga party setting
- 50 Jay seen at night
- 51 Culture medium
- 52 Arabian folklore spirit
- 53 Reverse
- 54 43-Down et al.
- 56 Space station for about 15 years
- 57 Vientiane native



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Hitting woes hamper baseball's weekend

Bears win one of three at Baylor QTI Classic

By DANIEL CERNERO AND
CHRIS VERRETT
REPORTER AND SPORTS WRITER

Baylor's offense was limited to seven runs during a three-game span last weekend at the QTI Classic at Baylor Ballpark, as the Bears suffered two losses during the tournament.

The Bears (3-3) snatched the first game of the series against Texas State in a comeback 3-2 victory Friday night. But Baylor's offense was silenced by solid pitching from the opponents in the next two games against Texas A&M University and Western Kentucky University.

An early lead by the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers proved to be too much to handle for the Baylor Bears, as they dropped the last game of the QTI Classic 6-2 Sunday at Baylor Ballpark.

After being down 4-0 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning, the Bears put two runs on the board behind a two-run single by designated hitter Dan Evatt, scoring Logan Vick and Joey Hainsfurther, who had walked and doubled, respectively.

"I was seeing the ball really

well," Evatt said. "I saw some good pitches to hit today and took advantage of it."

Evatt finished the day going 3-for-4 at the plate with two RBI.

The Hilltoppers quickly answered in the top of the fifth inning with two runs of their own to regain their four-run lead for good. With no runners on, centerfielder Kes Carter launched a home run to left field, ending the day for Bears' senior starting pitcher Willie Kempf. This prompted the Bears to call on left-hander Josh Turley to come in relief, but the outcome remained the same. Turley gave up a homer to catcher Matt Rice, his first batter he faced.

Kempf pitched 4.1 innings, striking out six batters and walking only one, on the way to his first loss of the season.

The Hilltoppers' pitching frustrated Baylor hitters all day long, routinely bailing their team out of jams and preventing Baylor runners from crossing home plate, especially in the later innings as the Bears attempted to put together a rally.

With runners on first and second base and one out in the bottom of the eighth inning, Hilltoppers relief pitcher Phil Wetherell forced pinch hitter Steve DelPorto to ground into a double play,

thus ending a potential rally.

Western Kentucky starting pitcher Shane Cameron led the way for the Hilltoppers, picking up the win while going six innings, striking out eight batters, and walking two.

"I don't think we pitched incredibly poor," Baylor head coach Steve Smith said. "But they pitched very well and that was the difference in the game."

Freshman pitcher Kolt Browder shined for the Bears out of the bullpen in the first appearance of his career.

"Today was his first college outing and he really competed," Smith said. "He didn't look like a first-time guy and he was aggressive."

Browder pitched three shut-out innings, allowing only one hit over that span. It was his quality outing that gave the Bears offense a fighting chance late in the game.

The win for Western Kentucky earned them the title of QTI Classic Champions, after sweeping through Texas A&M, Texas State, and Baylor over the weekend.

In Baylor's Saturday matchup, Logan Verrett suffered his second loss of the season as the Bears dropped a 4-2 decision to the Aggies. Verrett lasted seven innings, allowing four earned runs on 11



DANIEL CERNERO | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman pitcher Kolt Browder hurls the ball to the plate in the Bears' 6-2 loss to Western Kentucky Sunday at Baylor Ballpark. Browder pitched 3.0-shutout innings, giving up only one hit.

hits while striking out seven batters.

Texas A&M broke open the game in the sixth inning. Kenny Jackson scored on Caleb Shofner's RBI single, and Hinojosa and Tyler Naquin each crossed the plate following a Gonzalez double.

The Bears' attempt in the bottom of the sixth to close the deficit could not match the Aggies'

output. Freshman Logan Vick led off the inning with a single, earning his seventh hit of the season in the process in as many games.

"I've just been patient at the plate, looking for something I can drive and trying to put a barrel on the ball," Vick said.

Vick's single on Sunday extended his hitting streak to seven games.

Vick scored via a Max Muncy

RBI single. Three batters later, Raynor Campbell drew a bases-loaded walk and cut the margin to 4-2 favoring Texas A&M. It was as close as Baylor would come to taking the lead.

Much of Baylor's late inning struggles were credited to the effort from Aggie reliever John Stilson. Stilson struck out five batters over four relief innings, combining a 95 miles-per-hour fastball and lower 80s breaking ball to confuse the Bears' hitters.

"(Stilson) had four pitches that were plus-plus in my opinion," Campbell said. "He's tough to hit."

As far as Baylor's pitching is concerned, coach Steve Smith felt Verrett gave a solid effort on Saturday.

"I thought (Verrett) threw pretty good. He's at the 100 pitch mark pretty early in the year," Smith said.

Verrett totaled 102 pitches, 69 of them strikes.

Friday, Gregg Glime's eighth-inning sacrifice fly proved to be the game winner in the Bears' 3-2 win against Texas State University. Brooks Pinckard earned his third consecutive save by shutting out the Bobcats.

The Bears continue their home stand today when the BYU Cougars come to town at 6:30 p.m.

Women's tennis suffers second loss of season to top 10 foe

By DANIEL CERNERO
REPORTER

The No. 5-ranked Lady Bears took the No. 8-ranked University of Michigan team down to the wire before falling 4-3 Friday in Ann Arbor, Mich.

With the score tied at three apiece, it all came down to the No. 5 court in a match between junior Taylor Ormond and Michigan's Whitney Taney. After splitting the first two sets, Taney edged out Ormond 6-4 in the third set to lock up the win for the Lady Wolverines.

"To play this sport at the highest level, doing the right thing, takes an incredible amount of focus," head coach Joey Scrivano said. "(Taylor's) learning how to get that mental stamina. Unfortunately against Michigan, she was just a little short of finishing the job."

The Lady Bears lost the doubles point for only the second time this season, the other time coming against now No. 1-ranked North Carolina in the NCAA Indoor Championship. Both of the losses for the Lady Bears this season have come after dropping

the doubles point, and the Lady Bears sit with a record of 6-2.

The No.12-ranked duo of senior Lenka Broosova and senior Csilla Borsanyi continued its winning ways, knocking off Rika Tatsuno and Taney of the Wolverines 8-4 in the Lady Bears' only doubles win of the day.

"We didn't play really well, to be honest," Broosova said. "We just competed and stayed with it, and stuck to the game plan."

After losing the doubles point, Baylor bounced back and looked poised to lock up the match with a strong singles performance.

Of their six singles matches, the Lady Bears won the first set on all but one court. The Wolverines were resilient, though, and managed to force a split of the six matches, leading to their eighth win of the year.

"We had our chances to win ...," Scrivano said. "And it was unfortunate that we didn't take advantage of those opportunities."

Broosova and sophomore Nina Secerbegovic remained undefeated this season, both winning in straight sets, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) and 6-2, 6-0, respectively.

Scrivano has dubbed this one-two punch the "backbone" of the team.

At the No. 3 position, Borsanyi put together a strong match to knock off Michigan's Tania Mahtani in three sets, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2, snapping a five-match losing streak.

"Personally for me it was a great improvement, because I was finally able to win a match after a month," said Borsanyi on her singles play. "I'm sure it's going to better now. I just needed that one match, that one breakthrough."

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AWARD from pg.1

cluding Pollei DesignWorks and Baylor photography,” Stires said. “It takes several months to put each issue together, so we spend a lot of time and dedication on each issue of the magazine.”

Jackson said that after the magazine’s overhaul in 2003, the team has worked on improving each issue. Jackson said she believes the publication has been strengthened by focusing on a specific theme in each issue. Jackson said the two issues submitted for the TPRA competition were focused on corporate social responsibility and innovation.

“Basically what we do is for each issue we have a theme and we build the entire issue around that theme. By doing that we can really pick some topical issues that impact business practitioners everywhere and we can really go in-depth into those themes,” Jackson said. “I think that makes it a strong publication. It’s a great-looking magazine, but it also has really good quality content; we pay attention to every aspect.”

Stires said the Baylor Business Review also focuses on news specifically about those involved with the business school.

“We really strive to tell the stories of our students and alumni in an interesting way,” Stires said, “and when you have interesting stories about students and alumni, it makes our jobs a lot easier.”

ALUMNI from pg.1

where it was ‘when they were there’, and be more likely to send their children,” Scheller said.

With the university’s religious affiliations aside, some eyebrows have been raised at Starr’s Church of Christ background.

Starr and his wife plan to join a Baptist church when they make their permanent move to Waco.

“For a while Baylor was straddling the line between being religious in name but doesn’t practice or being a hardcore Baptist school,” Scheller said. “Naming Starr as president, I think, has finally shown that they have made up their minds.”

Bricker said that if Starr believes in the Baptist doctrine, then it is a good decision for him to convert — but only if that is how he believes.

“He needs to convert for himself,” Bricker said.

Page said that he believes Starr’s decision “is a personal one,” and that a decision like religious denomination should not be made based on a job position, but on personal belief.

Buzz of positive things that Starr could bring to Baylor, such as fundraising potential, have some alumni feeling uncertain.

“He will bring more attention to the university but I’m not sure if it is the right kind of attention,” Page said. “In the context of fundraising, contacts, publicity and enrollment the results may vary. I believe the publicity has not been favorable and only time will tell.”

Starr served as the Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean of the School of Law at Pepperdine University for five years and has a resume filled with prominent positions of leadership.

GREEN from pg.1

cling and restoration, transitioning to 100 percent wind energy or converting waste vegetable oil to biodiesel fuel for campus vehicles.

Baylor sustainability coordinator Smith Getterman penned the Baylor section of the report, which highlights Baylor students’ recycling efforts at athletic events.

“In two years, Baylor has collected over 16,700 pounds of biodegradable products during sporting events, including more than 267,200 individual plastic bottles,” Getterman said.

This fall, 200 recycling bins were added around Floyd Casey Stadium and student volunteers encouraged fans to recycle their trash.

“The athletics recycling effort began as a combined effort of the university’s sustainability committee and Baylor Athletics,”

THEATER from pg.1

allow them to pay off all debts and restart the business, that’s the only thing that’s going to allow this to happen at this point,” Burns said.

WPAC hopes to refund tickets that have already been purchased.

If the WPAC does not recoup its losses from the ongoing lawsuit, the group will not be able pay back current ticketholders.

The Baylor student group Vertical Ministries has held events in the historic theater since the beginning of last semester. One of the founding members, Carter Hopkins, said the group was notified late Thursday morning that they would need to find a new location for Monday’s worship.

“God opened doors into places we would have never been able to get in,” Hopkins said. “We made a couple phone calls to some people who knew about Vertical and they were able to help us out. So we were really, really thankful. It was one of those things; us by ourselves would not have been able to do something like that. God for sure helped us out, getting that location.”

Monday’s event was held at the Ferrell Center, but a permanent future location is still unknown.

“We don’t know where we are going to be in the next couple of weeks,” Hopkins said. “I don’t think that would be an option (to stay in the Ferrell Center), but we would be interested. Right now we are just trying to find a location that would hold 1,000 people.”

The historical theater opened in February of 1914 as a venue for vaudeville performances, road shows and movies. The theater suffered a fire in November of 1928, which burned the front of the building. After the fire, the new façade was built in a Spanish style, and the theater reopened its doors to acts such as Elvis, John Wayne and Ann Margaret. John Wayne brought 10,000 people to the theater, the largest crowd in its history. The fire was not the last disaster of the Hippodrome’s history. In 1978, the theater closed because of disrepair and was not opened until February of 1987, because of \$2.4 million raised by the Waco community.

It reopened Feb. 26, the same day that the theater officially closed its doors last week. Larry Holze, director of communications and public information for the City of Waco, said the city has no intentions at the moment to intervene in the closing of the Hippodrome, noting that they haven’t been asked to do so, either. “At this time, there’s nothing been thought of or planned,” Holze said. “Nobody’s come in, anything toward the city. That’s not normally anything the citizens are expected to step forward and take care of. We certainly support the need for and success of what it can bring, but the city, at this stage, is probably not going to do anything about it.”

Still, Holze said the city is sad to see the theater close. “Certainly, the city of Waco is disappointed on that occurrence,” Holze said. “Downtown Waco thrives on the lights and excitement that the Hippodrome has provided.”

Getterman said.

“The environmental science department is instrumental in supporting us through student volunteers and now, student groups throughout the campus, such as Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta and Alpha Tau Omega, among others, have joined in,” Getterman said. “We expect this project to continue to make a major contribution in sustainable living on the Baylor campus.”

Like the athletics recycling effort, the Green Awakenings Campus Report may spread environmental awareness.

Katy junior Joey Darwish serves as the public relations intern for Baylor sustainability.

“Spreading awareness is the foundation of what sustainability is all about because in order for anything to change, the daily activities that one person does has to change,” Darwish said.

Last sweep before primary

Candidates travel around state before today’s vote, look for last-minute supporters

KELLEY SHANNON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — With the clock ticking in a rough Republican primary, Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison swept through the urban areas of Texas on Monday seeking votes in their gubernatorial showdown.

GOP activist Debra Medina, a favorite of many tea party voters, is also in today’s contest — a race that could result in a runoff if no one wins a majority. Perry wants an unprecedented third full four-year term; Hutchison argues that he’s trying to stay too long; and Medina says she’s the best alternative to the establishment candidates.

Perry, the state’s longest-running governor, visited Harris County Republican Party headquarters on Monday and told supporters packed into a small room to get themselves and their friends to the polls today and help him “get this behind us.”

“A resounding victory tomorrow is going to be about Texas. It’s going to be continuing to send a message to folks all around this country that Texas is the land of opportunity,” he said, praising the state as a place of fiscal responsibility and criticizing Washington, D.C., for wasteful spending.

Trying to combat Perry’s anti-Washington message, Hutchison told voters at a Houston shopping mall that she was the “real conservative.”

She said she had fought in Washington for Texas and against President Barack Obama’s stimulus and health care proposals.

“Tomorrow’s my big day,” she told people munching on their lunches in the food court as she handed out her card and urged



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas GOP gubernatorial candidates Gov. Rick Perry, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and Debra Medina debate at the WFAA Channel 8 studios in downtown Dallas on Jan 29. The three candidates are all vying for the top spot on the Republican ticket.

them to vote. She said she would institute state ethics reforms and combat the 30 percent dropout rate.

Among Democrats, ex-Houston Mayor Bill White is the front-runner looking to defeat wealthy Houston hair-care magnate Farouk Shami, a political novice who put up large sums of his own money to run.

Houston, Dallas and San Antonio were hot spots on the campaign trail for the major candidates Monday. Hutchison also ventured into East Texas, visiting Tyler. Perry had to cancel one stop in Beaumont because of bad weather, but called in to the scheduled rally there so he could speak to voters.

Hutchison and Perry each spent millions of dollars on television ads in a heavyweight race that Texas hasn’t seen since Republicans began taking over state government — with George W. Bush leading the way —

in the 1990s.

White, who’s been airing TV ads too, greeted lunchtime diners at a Mexican restaurant in San Antonio on Monday. He said he grew up in San Antonio and hopes to be seen as a hometown candidate.

He acknowledged that much of the attention has been on the Republican fight, but he said that hasn’t been a disadvantage for him.

“I get to learn what Texans are thinking, while the career politicians are just worried about staying in office,” White said.

A multitude of other state and congressional offices are on today’s ballot.

Some of the more competitive down-ballot races are between Democrats, such as the one between comedian and author Kinky Friedman and cattle rancher Hank Gilbert in the race for the agriculture commissioner nomination. And there are heat-

ed Republican races for the State Board of Education, where some GOP candidates are trying to unseat prominent Christian conservatives.

Early voting over the past two weeks was high compared with the last gubernatorial primary year, as measured in the 15 most populated counties by the Texas Secretary of State’s Office. Agency spokesman Randall Dillard said it was difficult to say if that would signal a higher-than-usual election turnout overall.

A total of 491,116 early votes were cast in the 15 most populated counties, or 6 percent of the registered voters in those counties. In 2006, when there was last a governor’s race, early voting in the 15 most populated counties totaled 251,432, or 3 percent of their registered voters.

This year 62 percent of early ballots cast in those high-population centers were in the Republican primary.

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