

Ch-ch-changes After being turned away from the PAC-12 conference and a break-up threat, the Big 12 looks to rebuild

## **Brutal reputation**

Media coverage of a hate crime may have been to blame for a Texas town being labeled racist

## **Driving interest**

The new film "Drive" has been getting some buzz this week, but it's based on the original book by James Sallis

### **In Print**

regulars as well.

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### >> 'Roar' radio Uproar Record's new radio show will feature artists each week, and possibly some Common Grounds

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>> Volleyball Baylor played No. 25 Oklahoma on Wednesday at the Ferrell Center, ending with a 2-1 loss.

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### >> Baylor green

A new research method proposed by Baylor professors makes it possible to detect which chemicals are harmful to the environment

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### **On the Web**



Worth 1000 words Miss anything this week? Check out the photos of the week only on baylorlariat.com

### Viewpoints

"Although teachers should be granted



Rital and Ritag Gaboura were born a year ago today as conjoined twins. The sisters are craniopagus twins, a condition only one in ten million survive. Rital and Ritag have undergone a series of four surgeries to separate their skulls, all of which have been deemed successful.

# Modern marvels save lives



Rital and Ritag Gaboura recover after a final surgery to separate their skulls. Success rates in separating conjoined twins is extremely rare.

## Risky operation separates conjoined Sudanese twins

Pioneer of risky surgery shares his life story

### By Ashley Yeaman Reporter

Ben Carson always wanted to be a doctor. Medicine, he said, was the only thing that ever truly interested him. As a child, he would gravitate to the radio or television to listen to medical news. He even enjoyed going to the doctor's office for appointments.

But it seemed an impossible dream for the boy with poor grades in all his classes, the boy who was called "dummy" by classmates so frequently that he believed it himself.

Carson's mother, however, challenged her son to work toward excellence, despite having only a third-grade education herself.

geries, among them the first successful hemispherectomy, or the removal of half the brain, and the first successful separation of conjoined twins who were connected at the back of the head.

The Waco community had the opportunity to hear from Carson at the annual McLennan Distinguished Lecture Series on Tuesday at the McLennan Community College Conference Center.

Carson spoke on both his personal story of overcoming challenges throughout his life to reach his goals, as well as the importance of academics and discovering human potential.

As a child, Carson faced many difficulties, both in the

# Second try for denied charter

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By DANIEL C. HOUSTON STAFF WRITER

The Sexual Identity Forum, an unofficial group of Baylor students, will re-apply this semester for a charter as an official student organization, according to one of its officers.

While the prospects for the forum's official recognition are uncertain, a Baylor spokesperson announced Wednesday the university is preparing a professionally facilitated program for discussing similar issues.

Following the university's denial of a charter for the group last semester, SIF president and Fort Collins sophomore Adam Short said it is unlikely Baylor will change its mind, but said the more times an application is submitted and considered, the more likely he thinks the administration will be to grant a charter in the future.

"We just finished revising our constitution completely," Short said. "We went through and basically rewrote our entire organization's constitution to make it more clear that it's just a discussion group and that we discuss sexual identity issues."

The Student Activities Charter Council denied the organization a charter last semester because it was concerned "the organization's intent was not consistent with University policy," according to an e-mail provided to its officers. Dr. Kevin lackson, vice president for student life, upheld the council's decision when it was appealed by SIF officers. The university's statement on human sexuality holds that "both heterosexual sex outside of marriage and homosexual behavior" are deviations from a biblical understanding of proper sexual behavior, and that "it's thus expected that Baylor students will not participate in advocacy groups which promote understandings of sexuality that are contrary to biblical teaching." Although it is not clear how the university's statement on sexuality would apply to a discussion group that does not engage in advocacy, last semester the university did release a statement ruling out the possibility of allowing students to moderate a discussion group of this nature. "Having healthy and responsible dialogue is best established through established and professionally facilitated programs," Lori Fogleman, director of media relations, told the Lariat in March. "It's the university's opinion that a chartered student organization is not the most viable medium through which to pursue such dialogue." Fogleman affirmed Wednesday that the university's stance on this issue remains unchanged, but said Jackson is moving forward to provide such a forum based on a model that would allow 10 to 15 professionally trained students to moderate discussion on a wide array of difficult issues, including human sexuality.

an agreeable contract with the school district, deciding to go on *strike to achieve* it is not the best way to fix the problem."

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### **Bear Briefs**

The place to go to know the places to go

### Welcome home

**Baylor Parents** Weekend is this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The school of music will kick off the festivities with a concert at 5 p.m. Friday in Jones Concert Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building.

### Undefeated

The Bears will play the third football game of the season from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium against Rice University. Will we go 4-0?



### BY RAPHAEL G. SATTER Associated Press

Sudanese twins born with the tops of their heads joined together have been separated in a rare and risky series of operations at a London children's hospital, officials said Sunday.

Facing the World, a charity which helps disfigured children, said it had helped fund the fourstage operation on 11-montholds Rital and Ritag Gaboura.

Twins born joined at the head are known as craniopagus twins and they occur in about one in 2.5 million births. Separating them can be dangerous, especially if - as in this case - there's significant blood flow between their brains.

"It's extremely high-risk," said Dr. James Goodrich, who

SEE **TWINS**, page 3

Today, Carson is a professor of neurosurgery, oncology, plastic surgery and pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore, Md., and has also been the director of pediatric neurosurgery of the Johns Hopkins Children's Center for more than 25 years.

Carson is known worldwide for his innovative brain surclassroom as well as at home.

"My parents got divorced when I was young, and that was devastating," Carson said. "[My mother] discovered some years later that [my father] was a bigamist, had another family. And we winded up moving to Boston to live with her sister. We lived in a multi family home in a very bad neighborhood. I remember seeing people lying on the

SEE CARSON, page 3

SEE CHARTER, page 6

## Georgia follows through with execution

### BY GREG BLUESTEIN Associated Press

Georgia executed Troy Davis on Wednesday night for the murder of an off-duty police officer, a crime he denied committing right to the end as supporters around the world mourned and declared that an innocent man was put to death.

Defiant to the end, he told relatives of Mark MacPhail that his 1989 slaying was not his fault. "I did not have a gun," he insisted.

"For those about to take my life," he told prison officials, "may God have mercy on your souls. May God bless your souls."

Davis was declared dead at 10:08 Central Daylight Time. The lethal injection began about 15 minutes earlier, after the Supreme Court rejected an 11th-hour request for a stay.

The court did not comment on its order, which came about four hours after it received the request and more than three hours after the planned execution time.

Though Davis' attorneys said seven of nine key witnesses against him disputed all or parts of their

testimony, state and federal judges repeatedly ruled against granting him a new trial. As the court losses piled up Wednesday, his offer to take a polygraph test was rejected and the pardons board refused to give him one more hearing.

Davis' supporters staged vigils in the U.S. and Europe, declaring "I am Troy Davis" on signs, Tshirts and the Internet.

Some tried increasingly frenzied measures, urging prison workers to stay home and even posting a judge's phone number online, hoping people will press him to put a stop to the lethal injection. President Barack Obama deflected calls for him to get involved.

"They say death row; we say hell no!" protesters shouted outside the Jackson prison where Davis was to be executed. In Washington, a crowd outside the Supreme Court yelled the same chant.

As many as 700 demonstrators gathered outside the prison as a few dozen riot police stood watch, but the crowd thinned as the night wore on and the outcome became clear.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters chant anti-death penalty slogans for Georgia death row inmate Troy Davis Wednesday in Jackson, Ga. Davis was scheduled to die Wednesday for killing off-duty Savannah officer Mark MacPhail. Davis was executed at 10:08 p.m. Central Daylight Time Wednesday.

The scene turned eerily quiet

as word of the high court's deci-

sion spread, with demonstrators

hugging, crying, praying, holding

candles and gathering around Da-

national said the execution would

Laura Moye of Amnesty Inter-

be "the best argument for abolishing the death penalty."

"The state of Georgia is about to demonstrate why government can't be trusted with the power over life and death," she said.

SEE **EXECUTION**, page 6

vis' family.

# 2 | ≇Baylor Lariat Uncertainty is all part of plan

I guess it's just part of being a senior, but as soon as people find out you're in that fourth year of school, they inevitably ask, "What are your plans after graduation?"

I clam up every time I hear this question because I have no idea how to answer it.

I started out with something vague and safe, usually something like, "I'll probably go to graduate school." After all, I didn't really want to pin myself down to one particular profession or field when in reality I didn't have a clue.

But of course, that made it seem as though I didn't have any plans at all for the future.

I could see in people's eyes surprise and confusion. How could I not have a clearly defined plan of action for the "next chapter" in my life?

Of course, they don't really say that. They just smile, nod their head and say something like, "You have plenty of time to figure it out."

But I'm feeling the pressure. Should I start applying for graduate schools, and if so, which ones? Maybe I should start looking at job opportunities? Will I stay in Waco or move somewhere else?

So many questions and no answers

I've always been a little jealous of those who have a perfectly crafted answer, those whose major translates into a career. You know these people. They've known exactly what they've wanted to do since they've been in elementary school

Sadly, I wasn't one of those kids. My answer to the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" changed every year. My responses ranged from beautician and architect to meteorologist and novelist.

But it was okay, because I'd figure out all that stuff when I was grown.

But here I am at 21, with interests almost as scattered as those from my childhood, illustrated through my two majors and two minors. (Yes, I know I'm insane.)

We come to college to gain knowledge and find answers, but really, there are many things we're perfectly content with not knowing.

Things like the name of that student sitting in your class, or that new song playing in a restaurant or even mundane facts. It doesn't matter if you don't know these things, because modern technology can help you have the answer in a matter of seconds.

Ashley Yeaman | Reporte Pull out your iPhone and Shazam can tell you who sings that song

and what it's called. And anything can be googled. The answers are out there,

quite literally at your fingertips.

We take comfort in knowing that fact, so it's especially uncomfortable when we don't have the answers

But really, who knows what the future holds for them, even those who "know" exactly what they want to do with their lives?

If there was a way you could see your future, would you really want to?

Some days, I might say yes. It would be nice to have some answers to where I'm going in life.

But there's something to be said about not knowing, too.

Not knowing allows us to be pleasantly surprised. Our life may go in directions we could have never planned or imagined.

Not knowing allows us to make mistakes. On the surface, this seems like a bad thing, but some of the greatest lessons in life can be learned through failure. Opportunities and worthwhile experiences can surface in these situations that you might not have put yourself in if you had "known" about them beforehand.

Not knowing is really our natural state. Only one truly knows our future.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future."

I take comfort knowing that someone immeasurably more knowledgeable than I has my future planned out.

So if you've known what you've wanted to do since you were in elementary school, or if it's easy for you to answer the question "What are your plans after graduation?"

Teachers in Tacoma, Wash., have gone on strike over pay, class sizes and the handling of job transfers, causing 28,700 students to be unable to attend school since Sept. 12.

Unfortunately, teachers believed they were forced into a strike because of the district's inability to form a contract the teachers would agree with, causing them to work without a contract from the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

Although teachers should be granted an agreeable contract with the school district, deciding to go on strike to achieve it is not the best way to fix the problem. In fact, being on strike is an illegal action in the state of Washington.

Pierce County Superior Court dge Brvan Chushcoff has found the Tacoma teachers to be in violation of the state's no-strike order and has ordered them to return to work immediately. Only 90 teachers out of the 1,900 on

strike returned to work on Tues-

day.

### Editorial

Opinion

Obviously, they see their concerns as more important than students' education.

With this decision, the entire Tacoma Public Schools must figure out ways to get students back in classes. No teachers means no one to educate students.

Teachers are role models, and the act of quitting to get what they want is not the best lesson to give students

Yes, fighting for what you believe in is a good lesson to teach children, but the manner in which the Tacoma teachers are representing themselves teaches students that simply quitting is a viable solution.

Being on strike not only hurts the students, but also the pardifferent districts or even enroll them in online classes.

In a Tacoma newspaper, The News Tribune, Tacoma students

*"The manner in which" Tacoma teachers are* representing themselves teaches students that simply quitting is a viable solution.

said they wish they could get back to school soon.

"I would love to stay at Stadium [High School] and graduate, but I'm missing too much school right now," 17-year-old junior Corey Joyner said. "It doesn't make

me feel good at all." Transferring students to other Sound Christian School, where, according to The News Tribune article, they would pay anywhere from \$2,926 to \$7,410 per child.

The third option is to enroll their students in online classes, but the problem with these is that some of the classes are hybrids taught with teachers from the Tacoma Public Schools who are on strike.

For younger students, parents have struggled to find daycare options, as local daycares are rapidly filling with many kids who would normally be in school. Despite the best efforts from local nonprofit organizations, not every parent can find free childcare for his or her children.

Tacoma public school teachers ought to go back to work so that students can go back to school. They can keep trying to resolve problems with their contracts when they are not in class.

### THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 www.baylorlariat.com



students, sets terrible example

MOM ... WHAT'S A "STRIKE"?



Chances are you can find out that student's name on Facebook.

that's great. But if you're like me, and have

no idea, that's OK, too.

Ashley Yeaman is a senior journalism and anthropology major from Teague and is a reporter for the Lariat.

ents. Most parents are at work throughout the day or have other things they need to do; if their children are at home rather than at school, parents must find a way to make sure they are taken care of, or transfer their children to high schools is a difficult task for many families because many high schools in other school districts are full and cannot accept any more students. This forces parents to either enroll their children in a private school, such as, South

Causing students to miss classes for over a week hinders their education and burdens their families, and overall, it hurts the school district more than helps it.

## Four-legged unconditional love worth every penny

Juliet is a 5-pound Chihuahua I adopted from the Waco Humane Society last year. She is also the Lariat's mascot, a guard dog and my best friend.

I should have known better than to go to the Humane Society that day. My plan was to play with the kittens, but when I walked in the cat room, the pathetic, shivering dog sequestered in a cat kennel captured my heart.

She was underweight, dirty and shy, but none of the other dogs I saw affected me the way she did. It was Parents Weekend, and when my parents got into town the next day I took them



Amy Heard | Copy desk chief

back to see the dog I had fallen in love with.

I had counted on them to talk me out of getting a pet, but they knew I needed her as much as she needed me.

Some forms, \$50 and a very expensive trip to the pet store later, Juliet had a pink collar and a new home. My mom loves to tell people the story of Juliet's first shopping trip — the way she tells it, Juliet perked up the minute I placed that pink collar on her neck. She knew it meant she belonged to someone.

Juliet has a crate and a dog bed, but she sleeps under my covers every night. When I'm stuck at school longer than usual, I worry

"My bank account *definitely took a hit when I decided to become* a dog owner, but I wouldn't trade Juliet for anything."

about her. She won't eat her dinner unless I watch her do it, and when I get home she does the cutest dance and squeal I've ever

We had pets my whole life, but I have never been so attached to an animal as I am to Juliet.

companion and a stress reliever, Juliet has also been a major responsibility.

I never understood how much went into owning a pet until I was on my own for veterinarian bills, flea medicine, food and everything else Juliet needs (seasonal outfits included).

My bank account definitely took a hit when I decided to become a dog owner, but I wouldn't trade Juliet for anything. She takes some getting used to (aka, if she hasn't met you multiple times she assumes you're a threat) and it can be annoying when she de-

Apart from being my constant cides midnight is a good time to get aggressive with her toys, but there's nothing quite as effective at lifting my mood as a loving dog.

I am far from having a family, but caring for Juliet has given me a small taste of what it's like to have something be completely dependent on you.

In return, I have received unconditional love, unlimited baths and an unbelievable amount of black dog hair on my white duvet cover.

Amy Heard is a senior journalism major from San Antonio and is the Lariat's copy desk chief.

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## **≝Baylor Lariat** | **3**

## Old data used in new tests

By Robyn Sanders Reporter

A group of Baylor environmental science researchers has proposed a new method in predicting the environmental safety of chemicals.

Dr. Bryan Brooks, associate professor of environmental science and biomedical studies, and director of the environmental science graduate program; Dr. Spencer Williams, a research scientist at Baylor; and Dr. Jason Berninger, who just received his Ph. D. from Baylor in August, are co-authors of the study, titled The Application of Chemical Toxicity Distributions to Ecotoxicology Data Requirements under REACH.

The study was published in August in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, a journal for the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

The is not much data on the hazardous effects of many of the industrial chemicals in use, Berninger said.

As a result, the European Union established a set of regulations called REACH, the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemical Substances, which require industries to provide safety information on the chemicals they produce.

"There are something like 40,000 industrial chemicals and probably 10,000 of them are produced in pretty high volumes, and of those chemicals, there's very little actual ecologically-relevant information out there on the toxicity," Berninger said. "So we don't know what happens when some of these things are put in the environment."

Baylor researchers wanted to

### TWINS from Page 1

coordinated a similar separation of conjoined twins at New York's Montefiore Children's Hospital in 2004.

But the alternative can be just as bad. Because conjoined twins almost never pump the blood across their bodies evenly, the strongest sibling strains his or her heart trying to pick up the slack.

Facing the World said that Ritag's overworked heart was already failing by the time her family arrived in Britain.

The charity said that the separation took place in stages at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital. Two operations took place in May. Tissue expanders - essentially balloons intended to help

look at whether or not these chemicals will cause problems when they get into the environment, such as killing fish and other invertebrates, and how they would affect human health.

There is a series of tests that can be done on animals to find out if a chemical is a problem, but in Europe, there are efforts to cut that kind of testing down and to emphasize the use of "non-testing approaches," Williams said.

Part of the goal of REACH is that the regulations of REACH, or at least their principles, will spread globally, Williams said.

"There's really a movement to standardize the way people look at chemicals worldwide," Williams said.

The Baylor researchers want to develop an approach of this type that industries could use in Europe without testing on animals.

"What we were interested in is finding ways to answer questions about these chemicals - whether or not they might pose a problem or a hazard — by using data that's already available," Williams said.

"So if we know a lot about chemicals that are similar, how can we take that information and make scientifically robust conclusions?" he continued.

The group's research took about a year and most of it was based on data that had already been produced, Berninger said.

They took what data was available to them and put that into chemical toxicity distributions, which calculate the probability of negative impacts of a chemical.

Based on these calculations, they could determine a safety value for a concentration of a chemical that won't have negative environmental effects, without having to

with this condition is extremely rare," lead surgeon David Dunaway said in a statement released by the charity. "The task presented innumerable challenges and we were all very aware of our responsibilities to the family and these two little girls."

The charity released before and after photographs of the twins. The before photo showed the two sprawled out on a bed, with their heads joined just above the hairline to form what appeared to be a single, solid unit.

The after photograph showed both side-by-side looking alert and healthy, clutching white stuffed animals.

test on animals.

The group proposes that finding safety values for chemicals with a lot of data can also predict safety values for other chemicals that don't have much data.

The ultimate goal is finding out what potential concentrations of chemicals could enter the environment without harmful effects, Williams said. For example, they could find out the concentration of a chemical that could be in water without adverse impacts on fish.

There are different sets of criteria for the safety of chemicals for human and environmental health, but that their method can still be applied in the same way, Berninger said.

"If you have chemicals where you don't know the toxicity to humans, you can use the same approach to develop a prediction," Berninger said. "And with humans we're always much more conservative because we're concerned with the individual and not just the population."

Another aspect of the group's research is the application of green chemistry and green engineering, Williams said. According to the Center for Green Chemistry and Green Engineering at Yale website, the goals of green chemistry and engineering are finding ways to reduce the number of hazardous chemicals in the environment.

"Green chemistry refers to the idea of creating chemicals that do what we need them to do without harmful side effects, or as few as possible," Williams said. "Using chemicals is always a trade-off, but for the most part we understand how to control the disadvantages and maximize the advantages. And that's really what we're trying to ac-

cords that one of the first successful operations to separate craniopagus twins took place in 1956.

In 2003, surgeons in Dallas separated two-year-old Egyptian twins joined at the head, and a year later Goodrich was one of a team of doctors which separated Filipino twins in four major surgeries that took place over 10 months.

Even successful operations can leave neurological damage, although that didn't immediately appear to be the case with Rital and Ritag.

"Within days the twins were back on the general ward interacting and playing as before," the charity said. Its executive coordinator, Sarah Driver-Jowitt, predict-



MATT HELLMAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, assistant professor of journalism, believes that initial coverage of the James Byrd Jr. dragging murder unfairly stigmatized the city of Jasper as racist.

# Media researchers study Jasper hate crime

By Jade Mardirosian STAFF WRITER

Texas executed a man Wednesday for his role in the hate crime that a Baylor study says resulted in the unfair labeling of the small East Texas town of Jasper as racist.

Lawrence Russell Brewer, 44, a self-labeled white supremacist, was executed after being convicted of taking part in the murder of James Byrd Jr. 13 years ago.

Byrd was chained to the back of a pickup truck and dragged for miles, dying when his head struck a cement culvert and he was decapitated.

Dr. Cassy Burleson, lecturer of journalism who has been studying the effects of media coverage on the community of Jasper since the crime, said the initial coverage was clearly prejudiced.

"The community was so much more progressive than other communities at the time of this murder," Burleson said.

"I began to look at the facts of how many people of color were on the school board and were in leadership positions throughout the town; I realized that people had gotten it wrong, particularly the media who covered the story in the beginning days," she continued.

Dr. Mia Moody-Ramirez, assistant professor of journalism who is working with Burleson on the study, said many newspapers used of the tragedy.

"Larger newspapers like the New York Times covered it from a stereotypical perspective," Moody-Ramirez said.

"They used frames that had previously been used to cover tragedies in Texas like 'gun toting,' 'backwards' and 'racist.' Later, their coverage changed and it became more realistic of Jasper. It was found that the three individuals who committed the crime were not the norm in the town," she continued.

Though coverage changed to portray Jasper more realistically, the stigma of a racist community still affected its economy.

"The economic decline of that area was created as a result of what three people did to one other person and that stymied the growth of Jasper," Burleson said.

"It is something similar to what happened in Waco with the David Koresh incident. These major news events color people's images of any community," she continued.

Burleson and Moody-Ramirez found through their study that leaders in Jasper were able to build community from such a widely publicized hate crime, even holding prayer vigils and concerts to unite people and promote healing.

"There are so many small-town heroes in this story and so much good that occurred in the community over time in terms of racial

Moody-Ramirez echoed the same sentiments.

"Thanks to how the key leaders handled what happened, Jasper was able to heal and is now held up as an example of how to handle a hate crime," Moody-Ramirez said. Burleson said the study is ongo-

ing, as the story is not finished. Two other men were convicted

for the murder of Byrd. John William King, 36, is on death row. His case remains under appeal. Shawn Berry, 36, has been sentenced to life in prison.

Burleson said what happened in Jasper 13 years ago can help build a more peaceful world.

"I hope that this story and the effects it had helps people to appreciate diversity more and eliminate the prejudices they may have about other people and about other places, to try to build a world that has more harmony," Burleson said.

Moody-Ramirez said she believes the research and study done on the effects of the media coverage on Jasper can help to serve as a reminder of the importance for news services to remain unbiased and neutral.

"Our hope is that our study will help reporters in the future have a more objective lens when they go into this type of situation," Moody-Ramirez said. "[Reporters] need to be willing to talk to many different people and get a feel for the situation while making sure coverage is fair and balanced."

# "Incidences of surviving twins

complish."

stretch the babies' skin over their newly exposed heads - were inserted in July. The final separation took place on Aug. 15.

### CARSON from Page 1

ground with bullet holes and stab wounds."

Carson's mother worked multiple jobs to provide for him and his brother. She wanted more for her children, Carson said, and therefore stressed education by challenging her children academically.

"My mother wanted to know what she could do to get her children to understand the importance of developing their minds," Carson said.

Reading gave Carson an escape from his struggles.

"In between the covers of those books, I could go anywhere," Carson said. "I could be anybody. I could do anything. I began to know things no one else knew. Within the space of a year and a half, I went from the bottom of the class to the top, much to the condemnation of those who had called me 'dummy."

Carson continued to expand his knowledge base, learning about classical art and music outside of his classes-topics that he didn't know would come in handy later. He graduated third in his high school class and was accepted to Yale University on a scholarship, where he graduated with a degree in psychology in 1973.

When he chose to pursue neurosurgery, he applied to the medical school at the forefront of the field, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Applying would teach him the importance of knowledge - even facts that others saw as mundane.

"Out of 250 applicants, they only accepted two. Well, when I went for my interview at Hopkins, the fellow in charge was also over cultural affairs in the hospital," Carson said, "and we talked for a

Although rare, operations to separate twins linked by their heads aren't unheard of. The U.S. National Library of Medicine re-

ed that the girls' parents - who haven't been named - may soon return home "with two healthy, separate girls."

stereotypes in beginning coverage healing," Burleson said.



while about medicine, and then somehow the conversation turned to classical music, and we talked

for over an hour. I was on cloud nine. There was no way he wasn't taking me. It just goes to show that there's no such thing as useless information, because you never known when it could come up."

Once in medical school, however, Carson struggled again with poor grades, so much so that he was told by an advisor that he was "just not cut out to be a doctor."

Close evaluation of how he was studying helped him turn these grades around.

To succeed, Carson said it's important to "learn how you learn."

"Everybody learns differently, and when you try to put yourself in someone else's shoes, that's where you make mistakes," Carson said. "Tailor a program to take advantage of your strengths, and that moves you away from your weaknesses."

Academics, however, has lost its importance in this country, according to Carson, which could lead the nation "down a path of self-destruction" if not corrected.

"Thirty percent of our young people do not graduate [high school] in the information age," Carson said. "This is unacceptable if we are to maintain our position in the world, and yet it wasn't always like this."

Carson said that students today know more about sports stars and celebrities than true knowledge.

"We have dumbed things down to that level, and we need to bring it back up, because that was the thing that distinguished our nation," Carson said. "People realized that they could use their intellect to better their situation and the lives of others in their communities."

To counteract the current situation of America's youth, Carson and his wife created the Carson Scholars Program, which provides scholarships to high-achieving students and creates reading rooms in schools around the country to foster the joy of independent reading, according to the organization's website.

"We started the first scholarships 15 years ago, and we gave out 25 scholarships that year," Carson said. "As of last year, we now have over 4,500 scholars [who have received scholarships] in over 45 states. Teachers tell us that after a student is recognized as a scholar, the GPA of the entire class goes up. [The scholars] become positive role models."

Through his surgeries, books and humanitarian work, Carson has become a positive role model for others, according to Dr. Floyd Barry, teaching chief of pediatrics at the Family Health Center in Waco, who introduced Carson's speech.

"If you are a young person, you must read Dr. Carson's stories," Barry said. "If you read all of his accomplishments, it will take your breath away. The total story is tremendous."

Carson said he is fortunate to have the opportunity to positively impact lives through his passion for neurosurgery.

"I count it as a great privilege to be able to intervene in people's lives and to give it back to them in an enhanced form," Carson said. "It doesn't make me a superior being or anybody special. It makes me just extremely blessed by God to be able to do this."

### Arts & Entertainment

# Uproar Records debuts new radio show

By Jessica Foreman Reporter

4 |≝Baylor Lariat

Uproar Records recorded their first official radio show in a traditional broadcast format, "The Roar," and the recording is now available to stream online at the student-run record label's website.

The first edition of "The Roar" can be found at uproarrecords.com under the radio tab. The website will be updated weekly.

"The Roar" features interviews with a new artist each week and also contains a variety of Top 40 songs, signed Uproar artists, local music and the newest hits.

Signed Uproar Records artists include Trannie Stevens, Layne Lynch, Holly Tucker, O, Loveland (a duo consisting of returning artist Amy Boykin and new artist Clark Jones) and a band consisting of brothers Jacob and Michael Agnew, Cameron Butcher and Byron Roldan.

"I think it is a great idea, and just another creative aspect of Uproar and the enterprising activity that students are taking on while they are studying here at Baylor. I really hope it takes off and students take advantage of unique radio show we have now. It's a great way to stay informed about new bands, shows, big things on campus," Boykin said.

"Our guests are going to vary week by week," said Ryan Anderson, Uproar Records president and the program manager of Uproar Radio. "We will of course feature artists on Uproar Records, local Waco talent (including a high school band), as well as bigger artists such as Andy Davis. We are currently working on a Mutemath interview, but no promises."

senior Shelley Keller and junior Caleb Powell, are the hosts for the weekly radio show.

Keller has been working with Anderson since spring to set up the show's structure and has contacted artist managers to schedule on-air interviews for "The Roar." Anderson said Kelly's experience as a Clear Channel intern has enabled her to produce an excellent radio program.

"The two hosts together balance the dynamic of the show," Anderson said.

The first edition of "The Roar" was made available online Monday by Uproar administration.

Uproar released two shows last semester through Uproar Radio, which were designed as trial shows and were never actually aired on radio, but only online.

This is, however, the first semester that the record label has had a traditional show schedule, said Anderson.

Uproar Records is working alongside KWBU's 103.3 FM and has scheduled a regular airing time 9 p.m. Mondays.

The first show featured several songs from Uproar artists, including "Stuck" by Zoo Studio, "Guard" by Tidewater and "Songbird" by Jillian Edwards, an Uproar artist who will be featured on the show in coming weeks.

Special guest Ben Rector discussed his fourth CD, "Something Like This," on-air after the singer/ songwriter performed at Common Grounds.

Rector said the CD, released Sept. 13, was a year long process of growth for him as an artist. He wrote all of the songs contained on the CD.

"There wasn't one major theme Baylor University students, or anything," Rector said on the



Common Grounds, a local music venue and coffee shop at 1123 S. 8th Street, offers a relaxing environment for students to study and see live performances of various artists. Upcoming artists include Lomelda performing on Oct. 1 and Mutemath on Oct. 8.

show. "It was just kind of soaking up life."

During a cover of "Free-Fallin," Rector split the crowd into two parts, and with crowd participation attempted to create a harmonizing effect, Powell said.

The first "The Roar" show con-

cluded with Keller and Powell's favorite songs of the week, "Decode" by Paramore and "Desperately Wanting" by Better Than Ezra.

"We're here to be a platform for y'all to hear the music that you want," said Powell. "Anyone that can sing the rhythm and tap their shoes, you're definitely welcome on our show to come show us what you got."

Anderson has realistic expectations for the new show.

"Uproar's first radio station is bound to have its road bumps," Anderson said. "We are continually working to solidify a solid corporate radio sponsor. The show will be a learning experience. As program manager, I will need to work hard to make sure that the radio show is grounded in a solid foundation to continue long after we graduate."

# 'Drive' is ultimate look at neo-noir Hollywood

By Joshua Madden A&E Editor

Could you make it as a daytime Hollywood stunt driver? Probably not. Could you make it if you worked at night as a criminal getaway driver? Definitely not.

James Sallis' neo-noir look at Hollywood, "Drive," asks just those

### BOOK REVIEW

of art. If you think about "Max Payne" somehow combining with Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction," you have a bit of an idea of what reading "Drive" is like.

Sallis made a criminal getaway driver named Driver into a character for readers to sympathize with and that speaks to the quality of his writing.

The other characters are bit players in the novel, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. Driver is by far the most interesting character in the novel, and Sallis wisely



questions.

You're probably familiar with "Drive" because of the recent release of the feature film starring Ryan Gosling, but many people don't realize that "Drive" was actually first born in the form of a short novel

This is not a novel where you should just say, "Oh, I'll see the movie instead of reading the book."

"Drive" is worth every bit of the time it will take you to read, which isn't too much because of the book's relatively short length.

The novel follows a character who is, in true neo-noir style, named Driver. Struggling through foster homes as a child, Driver decides to go out to California to make it as a Hollywood stunt driver.

He also ends up working as a criminal getaway driver and meets some of the more questionable characters that the underbelly of Hollywood has in its ranks.

Attempting to give a plot summary for "Drive" would be difficult, mainly because so much of the enjoyment from the novel comes out of the fact that it is written in a non-sequential style. The story is revealed in pieces that come together to form a complete work. It might be easier to explain the novel by comparing to it to other works

MAKES YOU DUMBER?"

In fact, Tarantino probably has more in common with this book than any actual book would, with the possible exception of Michael Connelly's hard crime novels.

Tarantino's habit of mixing cinematic references in with graphic violence and casual criminality is present here in Sallis' work.

The similarities between Stuntman Mike in Tarantino's "Death Proof" and Driver in "Drive" are too prevalent to ignore, but the characters are definitely distinct creations from each other.

"Death Proof" and "Drive" are clearly two works from the same world. Such a world is clearly a strange and arguably even warped place, but it's evidently a place were great art is inspired.

This may go almost without saying after that favorable comparison, but I need to get it off of my chest: "Drive" is excellent and holds up against these works.

The novel is fast-paced. I personally read the whole thing in one sitting — I simply couldn't put the novel down.

Driver, despite the name, is actually a compelling character. He's somehow incredibly likable despite the horrible things he does in the novel, partially because you can't help but feel sorry for him as he moves from scene to scene.

focuses on him and his story

The one exception to this is the major villain who eventually emerges over the course of the novel, and he is fascinating as well. There's a strange dynamic that Sallis creates between Driver and his enemy, but it works for the story.

Part of this is because of the neo-noir element of the story and Sallis integrates this into the story in an excellent way. Characters act a little differently in this sub-genre than they might in others, but this is something Sallis takes advantage of when creating the relationships Driver has with the other charac-

I haven't read a significant number of neo-noir works - despite the fact that I do tend to enjoy them — but it's worth noting that "Drive" is by far the best one I can remember reading.

There's just very little to complain about in "Drive." The story is fast-paced, the characters are compelling, the writing is sharp. Everything in "Drive" just works.

Don't let this one drive by you too fast. Go pick up "Drive" before vou miss out.

Reviews in the Lariat represent only the viewpoint of the reviewer and not necessarily the views of the rest of the staff.

WWW.phdcomics.com JORGE CHAM @ 2003



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## **Baylor Lariat 5**



No. 1 Setter Brittany Ridenour tips the ball over the net against Oklahoma in the Ferrell Center on Wednesday. The Bears suffered a 3-1 loss to OU.

## Volleyball unable to catch Oklahoma

### By Laurean Love Reporter

Despite their efforts, the Lady Bears' volleyball team could not keep #25 Oklahoma from their first Big 12 win; however Baylor gave them a run for their money with a 3-1 match (25-22, 24-26, 26-24, 25-18.)

Baylor dedicated their match to 10-year-old cancer survivor Molly Martinsen, whose mother, Jennifer (Putty) Martinsen play volleyball at Baylor from 1985-87.

"We are doing a pre-camp before one of our games to help support her and with medical bills so we have definitely taken her under our wing," Torri Campbell said.

Baylor recorded 62 kills for the evening, hitting at .190 with 77 digs, seven blocks and three service aces with nine errors.

The Sooners had 52 kills hitting at .195 with 79 digs, 14 blocks and five service aces with three errors.

"In set 3, we had 17 kills and four errors, which is incredible offense," head coach Jim Barnes said, "You really have to mess up and make a lot of unforced errors to not win with an offense that good".

"We out-killed them by 10, I don't know how many teams have ever lost getting 10 more kills. The reason it happened for us was because there was always one person not doing their job, so the chain link would come lose because you have to have all six doing their job"

Junior middle blocker Torri Campbell had the most kills, 15, for the evening. Campbell also had more than Oklahoma's Suzy Boulavsky with only 13 kills.

"We were really excited to play OU in the first conference game and we had excitement through the whole game but at the very, very end it just trailed off," Campbell said.

Freshman utility Adri Nora came in right behind Campbell for the most kills with 14 kills for the evening. Freshman right-side hitter Alyssa Dibbern followed with 10 kills.

Baylor beat Oklahoma's kills in every set (13-16, 13-17, 12-15) except the first set in which they tied with 14 kills.

Eight errors by Baylor fueled the Sooners to coast to a win for the first set.

Baylor's 16 kills and only seven errors at .214 gave them a victory in the second set for a 24-26 score.

Although the Bears had 17 kills and only four errors they could not ride that momentum in the third

set for a victory. In the final set, Baylor had a total of 15 kills and with 10 errors

at .128. The Lady Bears are now 11-4 for the season and 0-1 for the Big 12.

# **Big 12 Weekly Review** OSU, Texas A&M face off in heavyweight bout

By Krista Pirtle SPORTS WRITER

### 1 Oklahoma (2-0)

The Sooners made it known that it truly is the No. 1 program in the nation after beating No. 5 Florida State 23-13.

Oklahoma only recorded 310 total offensive yards. Coach Bob Stoops said this game was not pretty. The Sooners scored on their first possession and not again until the fourth quarter. Junior quarterback Landry Jones threw for 199 yards and a touchdown with two interceptions.

Junior running back Dominique Whaley led the rush game with 71 yards. Sophomore wide receiver Kenny Stills took the field for the first team since he was suspended from the first game of the season due to an offseason DUI. He made up for lost time as he led the receiving core with 125 yards and a touchdown.

Saturday the Sooners look to avenge the 36-27 upset defeat against Missouri last season for the Tigers' homecoming. After playing a top-tier program in Florida State, Oklahoma should have no trouble defeating Missouri in Norman.

### 7 Oklahoma State (3-0)

Last weekend's game started well after head coach Mike Gundy's bedtime. Due to a lightning delay, a game originally scheduled for 9 p.m. began at 12:16 a.m. and ended at 3:35 a.m.

The late night didn't affect the Cowboy's offense as it went on to win 59-33 against Tulsa. Senior quarterback Brandon Weeden threw for 369 yard and three touchdowns with two interceptions.

Senior inside receiver Josh Cooper caught 78 of those yards, leading the receivers. Sophomore running back Joseph Randle rushed for 128 yards and three touchdowns. At 2:30 p.m. Saturday in College Station, Oklahoma State will battle Texas A&M.

The offensive line will need to step up to defend the highly effective blitz of the Aggies. On the season, Weeden has been sacked once per game. We will see if any effects of a late game the week before will impact the high intensity needed to play in Kyle Field.

8 Texas A&M (2-0)

touchdowns.

Saturday, A&M looks to top OSU on the field and in the polls. Defensively, the Aggies have 11 sacks on the season due to their effective blitz. Offensively, A&M has not allowed any sacks thus far.

This will be A&M's first real test of the season. This game will see two teams of offensive dynamic duos, OSU's Weeden and Blackmon and A&M's Tannehill and Gray, face off in a game that could possibly decide the Big 12 champion-

17 Baylor (2-0)

ship.

Lightning wasn't the only thing striking last weekend at Floyd Casey Stadium.

Junior quarterback Robert Griffin III threw for 265 yards and three touchdowns in Baylor's shutout victory against SFA 48-0. The Bears accumulated 545 total yards in three quarters of play. Senior running back Terrance Ganaway broke through the line for 80 yards and a touchdown. Once again, senior inside receiver Kendall Wright was the favored target of Griffin with 123 yards and a touchdown

At 6 p.m. Saturday in Waco, the Bears take on old Southwest Conference rival Rice, which is coming off a dramatic win over Purdue 24-22. Last year, Baylor beat Rice in Houston 30-13. This year should be no different, as Rice does not have a decent offensive threat.

If Baylor's defense improves on its performance from last weekend, Baylor students and their parents will be celebrating a 3-0 start by the Bears.

### 19 Texas (3-0)

With junior quarterback Garrett Gilbert out after undergoing season-ending shoulder surgery, sophomore quarterback Case Mc-Coy has stepped in to fill the void. McCoy threw for 168 yards

and two touchdowns last weekend against UCLA. Freshman running back Malcolm Brown proving is to be the

one to go to for the Longhorns as he rushed for 110 yards and a touchdown. Junior tight end D.J. Grant caught for 77 yards and three touchdowns. The Longhorns had two fumbles but intercepted three passes from UCLA.

The defense is getting stronger, but the offense really needs time to develop under McCoy. Texas

has the weekend open to solidify its offense and

Texas Tech (2-0)

deepen its threats.

The Red Raiders are coming off a big road win against New Mexico 59-13. Offensively, Tech was finding its groove, recording 624 total offensive vards. Juquarterback Doege comhis troops 407 yards

touchdowns.

w i d e

Darrin

caught for

Shontrelle Johnson led the team with 65 yards. This bye week will give them a chance to clean up their offense before opening conference play next week hosting Texas.

### Kansas State (2-0)

Kansas State soundly defeated Kent State 37-0 last weekend.

The Wildcats recorded 335 total offensive yards, led by junior quarterback Collin Klein with 74 yards and a touchdown. Junior wide receiver Chris Harper caught for 38 of them. The rush game was more prominent for Kansas State as Klein led the way with 139 yards and two touchdowns.

At 2:30 p.m. Saturday the Wildcats take on Miami in South Beach. "The U" is coming off a 24-6 victory, upsetting then No. 17 Ohio State. This game will be a blowout by Miami. Because of the lack of offensive attack for the Wildcats Miami will dominate on both sides of the ball.

### Missouri (2-1)

The Tigers bounced back from a loss to Arizona State to blow out Western Illinois 69-0.

Missouri recorded 744 total offensive yards, controlled by sophomore quarterback James Franklin who threw for 246 yards and three touchdowns. Sophomore tailback Henry Josey ran the ball for 263 yards and three touchdowns, and junior wide receiver T.J. Moe recorded 68 receiving yards and a touchdown. The Tigers held Western Illinois to 44 total offensive yards and only one first down.

Missouri will face No. 1 Oklahoma at 7 p.m. Saturday in Norman. OU will be the toughest competition it has seen thus far. Yes, the Tigers recorded outstanding offensive numbers this past weekend, but that was against a subpar team. Missouri does not have the offense needed to overcome the Sooners.

### Kansas (2-1)

The Jayhawks must have left their defense back home as they allowed 768 total yards in their loss to Georgia Tech 66-24.

A whopping 604 of those yards were rushing. Georgia Tech players referred to this game as a "video game." One where you keep pressyards and a touching the right buttons on the con-Senior troller and score with ease. For Kansas, this was its 10th-straight receiver Reynroad loss. The Jayhawks acquired 362 total offensive yards. Sophocaught more quarterback Jordan Webb 128 of those threw for 148 yards. yards Freshman running back Darrifor two touchan Millar ran for 53 yards and two downs. touchdowns while junior wide receiver D.J. Beshears caught for 65. The rush The Jayhawks have a much-needed bye week before they host Texas Tech the following weekend.

118 of those yards and three touchdowns. The run game was not as strong in this game, as junior running back Eric Stephens led the way with 92 yards and a touchdown. At 6 p.m. Saturday in Lubbock,

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Junior

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Texas Tech will go up against Nevada, which narrowly defeated San Jose State 17-14 last weekend. This matchup should provide Tech with a 3-0 record heading into conference play.

### Iowa State (3-0)

Who had Iowa State beginning their season at 3-0?

Probably not many since this has not happened since 2005. The Cyclones came out on top in their first road game against UConn last weekend 24-20. A slow start by junior quarterback Steele Jantz, whose first four passes of the game consisted of three interceptions, did not phase the

rest of Iowa State's game, as it went on to record 341 total yards.

Jantz came back to throw for 200

Baylor is on the road this weekend, against Kansas State at 7 p.m. on Saturday, followed by a match against the Aggies next week.

## Big 12 must find stability after Pac-12 makes decision

### BY IEFF LATZKE & IIM VERTUNO Associated Press

Turned away by the Pac-12, the Big 12's most powerful members are trying to find ways to live together again after weeks of hurtling toward a break up.

Texas President William Powers declared Wednesday that the Longhorns - who receive more media money than other members of the Big 12 — are open to a new revenue-sharing model and have already suggested that toplevel television and cable money be shared equally.

What's not on the table is the money from Texas' 20-year, \$300 million deal with ESPN to create the Longhorn Network, which has been blamed in large part for Texas A&M's pending departure from the Big 12.

"That's never been in play, that's not in play," Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds said.

So with that line drawn in the sand, the Big 12 leadership has scheduled a key meeting Thursday, Oklahoma President David Boren said.

"The most important goal for the University of Oklahoma is conference stability," he said. "We intend to support actions that will strengthen and stabilize the conference at the very important meeting of the conference board."

The Pac-12 late Tuesday squashed any hope of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas and Texas Tech heading west in what surely would have been a death blow to

the Big 12.

But the conference realignment wheels are still turning, especially with the Aggies planning to join the Southeastern Conference as soon as legal threats are out of the way.

"Certainly the position of Oklahoma State and I think most of the schools, if not all, is that we want to add a 10th team," said Oklahoma State president Burns Hargis, a member of the league's expansion committee. He listed TCU, Houston, SMU, BYU, Utah and Air Force among the potential expansion targets before saying "we've talked about a lot of ideas?

The talk of saving the Big 12 centers on sharing television revenue equally — a core principle of the Big Ten and Pac-12.

The Big 12 splits the revenue from its \$1.2 billion Fox Sports contract evenly, but only half of the money from its top-tier deal with ABC goes into equal shares.

The rest is weighted toward the programs that play on the network more frequently, such as Texas and Oklahoma.

Dodds said Big 12 athletic directors more than a month ago approved Texas' suggestion to equally share to network revenue around the league. He said the plan has not been voted on by league presidents.

Texas Tech president Guy Bailey said he doesn't anticipate much opposition to that idea.

"I would be surprised if there weren't a change in that, in some way," he said.

The Aggies defeated Idaho 37-7 last weekend in College Station.

Offensively, A&M recorded 517 total yards, led by senior quarterback Ryan Tannehill, who threw for 331 yards for two touchdowns with one interception. Junior wide receiver Uzoma Nwachukwu recorded 80 receiving yards. Senior running back Cyrus Gray stepped up for the Aggies with 101 rushing yards and two

down. wide Darius TEXAS TECH olds game was not prominent for the Cyclones as sophomore running back Seth Doege, Texas Tech quarterback - AP

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### EXECUTION from Page 1

About 10 counterdemonstrators also were outside the prison, showing support for the death penalty and the family of Mark MacPhail, the man Davis was convicted of killing in 1989. MacPhail's son and brother attended the execution.

"He had all the chances in the world," his mother, Anneliese MacPhail, said of Davis in a telephone interview. "It has got to come to an end."

At a Paris rally, many of the roughly 150 demonstrators carried signs emblazoned with Davis' face. "Everyone who looks a little bit at the case knows that there is too much doubt to execute him," Nicolas Krameyer of Amnesty International said at the protest.

Davis' execution has been stopped three times since 2007, but on Wednesday the 42-yearold ran out of legal options.

As his last hours ticked away, an upbeat and prayerful Davis turned down an offer for a special

### CHARTER from Page 1

"The model that they're working on is called the 'discerning dialogue' model," Fogleman said. "It's a model that supports the ability to last meal as he met with friends, family and supporters.

"Troy Davis has impacted the world," his sister Martina Correia said at a news conference. "They say, 'I am Troy Davis,' in languages he can't speak."

His attorney Stephen Marsh said Davis would have spent part of Wednesday taking a polygraph test if pardons officials had taken his offer seriously.

"He doesn't want to spend three hours away from his family on what could be the last day of his life if it won't make any difference," Marsh said.

Amnesty International says nearly 1 million people have signed a petition on Davis' behalf.

His supporters include former President Jimmy Carter, Pope Benedict XVI, a former FBI director, the NAACP, several conservative figures and many celebrities, including hip-hop star Sean "P. Diddy" Combs.

"I'm trying to bring the word

engage in civil dialogue with one another over complex issues to help educate ourselves about these issues and their multiple perspectives." to the young people: There is too much doubt," rapper Big Boi, of the Atlanta-based group Outkast, said at a church near the prison.

The U.S. Supreme Court gave Davis an unusual opportunity to prove his innocence in a lower court last year, though the high court itself did not hear the merits of the case.

He was convicted in 1991 of killing MacPhail, who was working as a security guard at the time. MacPhail rushed to the aid of a homeless man who prosecutors said Davis was bashing with a handgun after asking him for a beer.

Prosecutors said Davis had a smirk on his face as he shot the officer to death in a Burger King parking lot in Savannah.

No gun was ever found, but prosecutors say shell casings were linked to an earlier shooting for which Davis was convicted.

Witnesses placed Davis at the crime scene and identified him as

the shooter, but several of them have recanted their accounts and some jurors have said they've changed their minds about his guilt.

Others have claimed a man who was with Davis that night has told people he actually shot the officer.

"Such incredibly flawed eyewitness testimony should never be the basis for an execution," Marsh said. "To execute someone under these circumstances would be unconscionable."

State and federal courts, however, have repeatedly upheld Davis' conviction. One federal judge dismissed the evidence advanced by Davis' lawyers as "largely smoke and mirrors."

"He has had ample time to prove his innocence," said MacPhail's widow, Joan MacPhail-Harris. "And he is not innocent."

The last motion filed by Davis' attorneys in Butts County Court challenged testimony from two witnesses and disputed testimony from the expert who linked the shell casings to the earlier shooting involving Davis. Superior Court Judge Thomas Wilson and the Georgia Supreme Court rejected the appeal, and prosecutors said the filing was just a delay tactic.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which helped lead the charge to stop the execution, said it considered asking Obama to intervene, even though he cannot grant Davis clemency for a state conviction.

Press secretary Jay Carney issued a statement saying that although Obama "has worked to ensure accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system," it was not appropriate for him "to weigh in on specific cases like this one, which is a state prosecution."

Dozens of protesters outside the White House called on the president to step in, and about 12 were arrested for disobeying police orders.

Davis' best chance may have come last year, in a hearing ordered by the U.S. Supreme Court. It was the first time in 50 years that justices had considered a request to grant a new trial for a death row inmate.

Spencer Lawton, the district attorney who secured Davis' conviction in 1991, said he was embarrassed for the judicial system — not because of the execution, but because it took so long to carry out.

"What we have had is a manufactured appearance of doubt which has taken on the quality of legitimate doubt itself. And all of it is exquisitely unfair," said Lawton, who retired as Chatham County's head prosecutor in 2008.

"The good news is we live in a civilized society where questions like this are decided based on fact in open and transparent courts of law, and not on street corners."

The university-organized
forum could hold its first session
before the end of the fall semester,
Fogleman said, although the subject matter of the first session

has not yet been selected. Short expressed optimism that this type of forum could be a positive thing, but only if students of all perspectives on sexuality are

given the opportunity to particim that pate and be heard.

"If they are actually going to be a group that would foster discussion in an open and accepting environment then I support it wholeheartedly," Short said. "I'd really like to see how they go about it before I make any more statements beyond that."

