



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006

Dustin Dorsett, a junior from the Woodlands, Nacogdoches sophomore Lindsey Finley and Houston freshman Courtney Ervin piece together a project Wednesday for their business class in the Moody Memorial Library foyer. The library will extend its hours until 3 a.m. for study days and during final exams. Seventh and James Baptist Church also offers study space for students until 3 a.m. during finals.



Melea Burke/
Lariat staff

School pressure can lead to suicide

Baylor provides link to Web site to help students who are at risk

By Analiz González
Staff writer

Death. Most people associate it with pain, finality and fear of the unknown. But for those who suffer, it may seem like the only way out.

Gary Norman, director of programs for Suicide Awareness Voice of Education, said suicide is the third leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24. Norman added that students in schools such as Baylor, who are considered privileged, might be overlooked because people assume the wealthy have no reason to struggle emotionally.

But no one is immune from reaching a point of hopelessness, he said.

"The assumption is that, well, you are going to a good school and you're well off, so you should be fine," Norman said, adding that contrary to popular belief, overachievers are often at risk.

Often, he said, students take their failure too seriously when they set the bar to succeed very high.

"In colleges, there can be a lot of pressure that is put on students to succeed," Norman said.

"And when that isn't balanced and people get so focused on success that they lose sight of trying to fit other things into their lives, it becomes problematic."

According to a study on Dimensions of Perfectionism and Suicide Ideation published in the journal Cognitive Therapy and Research, frequent suicidal thoughts are associated with perfectionism.

Dr. Susan Matlock-Hetzel, a staff psychologist

Please see HELP, page 8

Students find peace to study

With exams approaching, some find private, quiet spots to prep for finals

By Sarah Viesca
Reporter

With finals a week away and students dealing with plenty of stress already, the one thing they won't have to worry about is finding a good place to study.

From 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Tuesday,

Seventh and James Baptist Church will be providing all students with a spacious studying environment.

"We're just trying to provide a place to study," said Matt Rosencrans, minister to students.

Seventh and James has been opening its doors during finals for about the past 10 years, he said. Each semester the church sets up college study tables for plenty of study space and also provides free snacks.

"Usually we serve hot coffee,

chips and dip and several church members bake cookies for the students," Rosencrans said.

Turnout at the church varies from year to year mostly because of the weather, Rosencrans said, but usually several hundred students come throughout the week.

Rosencrans said several teachers often show up to grade papers and will help students if they have a question and some even hold small study sessions the day before the final.

While students are able to enjoy the available space and food, they are required to sign in and out.

Rosencrans said the reason for this is not to keep tabs on people or try to contact them to join the church, but for safety reasons. Students are also asked to be respectful of the building to prevent any damages.

If students feel more comfortable studying on campus, Moody Memo-

Please see STUDY, page 8

Christmas tree lighting, food, music draw crowd

By Katelyn Foster
and Cat Smith
Reporters

The warm glow of an enormous Christmas tree will once again light Burleson Quadrangle as the fall semester comes to a close.

Today at 7 p.m., Kappa Omega Tau will host its 41st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting to celebrate the holiday season.

"Our biggest goal is to see all of Baylor come together to enjoy the spirit of Christmas and the reason for the season, to celebrate our savior," said Austin senior and Christmas tree chairman Zach Stanke.

The Kappa Pickers will start the evening at 6:30 p.m. with Christmas carols followed by the lighting of the tree and a

reading of the Christmas story. A concert will follow featuring Christian artists Jason Morant, Bethany Dillon and the group Shane and Shane.

Shane Everett and Shane Bernard make up the top-selling musical talent Shane and Shane and are both alumni of Texas A&M University.

Bethany Dillon is an 18-year-old singer who debuted in 2004 and is known for her single "All I Need."

Jason Morant, a 24-year-old Christian singer from New Orleans, is known for melody-driven songs that address issues close to his heart.

"We are very excited about the artists coming," said Waco junior and Christmas tree chairman Browning Wayman. "Shane and Shane is a big name

in Christian music and Bethany Dillon is on the rise as well."

Stanke said it's comforting to hear people excited about the bands. He also said the event is a "spirit rejuvenator" with multiple reasons to attend.

"Aside from being a free concert, it's a good time for everyone to embrace the Christmas spirit and hang out with friends before the break," Stanke said.

Dr. Alton Hassell, KOT adviser and senior lecturer in chemistry and biochemistry, said he thinks the evening will welcome the joy of the Christmas spirit and help alleviate tension before finals.

Hassell knows from experience what a great night it will be. He was a member of KOT in 1965 when the fraternity noticed there were no outside



Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

Lake Travis junior Chris Monson, a member of KOT, places the final decorations on the Christmas tree Wednesday for the lighting ceremony.

Christmas decorations on campus and the fraternity wanted to help bring the Christmas spirit. They bought a 10-foot tree and invited students to join them in reading the Christmas story and singing carols.

"It's very thrilling for someone who put up the first tree

to see what a magnificent occasion it has become," Hassell said. "It'll be a nice evening with pretty scenery and remembering what the season is all about."

In the past, the event has at-

Please see KOT, page 8

Global warming debate heats up

By Mallory Briggs
Reporter

Global warming is a hotly debated topic worldwide. Many may ask to what extent is it hype and what extent is it reality.

Global warming is an observed, measured and forecasted increase in the average earth temperature, said Dr. Steven Driese, chairman of the Baylor geology department. He said it is chiefly attributed to fossil fuel burning and the release or emission of greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases are gases like carbon dioxide, methane and water vapor that get released in the earth's atmosphere, acting as a blanket to trap heat, Driese said.

What has yet to be determined is if these problems are actually occurring.

John Topping, president of the Climate Institute, and Peyton Knight, director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs for the National Center of Public Policy and Research, both agree that over the past century, the earth's temperature has risen. However, scientists interpret this fact differently.

"Political activists on the left claim basically that the sky is falling and man is doomed," Knight said.

He said the period of time

Please see GLOBAL, page 8

BU Memorial slated Friday for Adam Todd

A campus memorial service for Adam Todd, the Oklahoma City junior who died Nov. 11 in his Waco apartment, will be held at 4 p.m. Friday in Miller Chapel.

Funeral services for Todd were held Nov. 20 in Oklahoma City.

Condolences to the Todd family may be sent to George and Lila Todd, 3008 Oak Hollow Road., Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Radiation on plane linked to spy's death

By Tariq Panja
The Associated Press

LONDON — Officials found traces of radiation on two British Airways jets as part of an investigation into the poisoning death of a former Russian spy, and the airline appealed Wednesday to tens of thousands of passengers who flew to Moscow or other cities to contact health authorities.

Two Boeing 767s at London's Heathrow Airport tested positive and a third was grounded in Moscow awaiting examination, British Airways said. The airline said "the risk to public health is low" but that it was attempting to contact to some 33,000

passengers who have flown on the jets since Oct. 25.



Litvinenko

tions of Iran and North Korea. Britain has been careful not to blame the Kremlin for the death of

Alexander Litvinenko, a former KGB agent and fierce critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin. But criticism of Putin's increasing authoritarianism has intensified since the poisoning, even within Prime Minister Tony Blair's Cabinet.

The tests were conducted after the British government contacted British Airways on Tuesday night and told the airline to ground the jets and allow investigators looking into Litvinenko's death to examine them for possible radiation.

The search of the planes came as investigators checked places Lit-

Please see SPY, page 8

Americans unfamiliar with religious leaders, says survey

By Claire St Amant
Reporter

T.D. Jakes has been called the next Billy Graham, but this will be a hard prophecy to fulfill when 68 percent of Americans have never heard of him.

A survey released Monday by the Barna Group revealed that while entertainers such as Britney Spears and Denzel Washington are household names, major Christians leaders are scarcely recognized by the general population or by Christians.

"I have never heard of T.D. Jakes," Ohio senior Mary Snyder said. "Should I know who that is?"

Maybe not. Clif Mouser, director of the Baptist Student Center, said he doesn't think it's a big deal whether or not Christians know who best-selling authors or pastors of megachurches are.

Mouser believes as long as Christians are connected relationally to church leadership and other Christians, then the "icons of Christianity" aren't as necessary.

Mouser also recognized his view as denominationally driven.

"As a Baptist, I'm comfortable with sole-competency," he said.

"Local leadership, relational leadership is how Baptist churches function. For Catholics, having an identifiable, unified leader is very important."

Snyder expressed similar thoughts, pointing out the importance of people recognizing the name of Jesus and the teachings of the Bible above recognition of the pastors of megachurches.

Dr. Jonathan Tran, assistant professor of religion and ethics, said a shift in the media's cover-

Public Opinion Toward Public Figures

	Positive	Negative	Never heard	Don't know
George W. Bush	47	50	1	3
Bill Clinton	64	32	1	4
James Dobson	27	8	57	9
T.D. Jakes	22	4	68	8
Joel Osteen	18	6	67	11
Britney Spears	34	54	3	9
Denzel Washington	85	2	7	6

*Numbers reflect percentages

Positive included "very favorable" and "somewhat favorable."
Negative includes "very unfavorable" and "somewhat unfavorable."
Margin of sampling error is more or less than 3.2 percent.

Source: The Barna Group, Oct. 2006

age of Christianity has contributed to the lack of recognition of modern Christian leaders.

"It's been awhile since a Christian of significance has

been recognized by the media," Tran said.

"If the media does give attention to Christianity, it's usually negative."

Tran cited the '40s, '50s and '60s as eras when "theologians were cultural icons" and even graced the cover of *Time* magazine.

Somewhere along the way, Tran said, the media started focusing on the scandals of the church rather than its teachings and charitable efforts.

"Rick Warren (author of *The Purpose Driven Life*) has really taken a stance on social justice issues and his church has given a lot of money to Africa, but no one is talking about that," he said.

"The media would rather talk about church sex scandals than the good things churches are doing."

Tran also mentioned the media's tendency to simplify Christianity.

Reducing Jesus' message to love is one example of what Tran called "a flat image."

"Flat images of the world translate to flat realities," he said.

"And that is a scary thing." True Christianity, Tran believes, is too radical for the media.

"It's easier, less controversial to speak in abstractions," he said.

Mouser also believes the media has played a role in North American Christianity.

"We are victims simply because of where we are on the planet," he said.

As Christians living in a "consumer culture," Mouser said he believes the media markets celebrities and sports stars in such a pervasive way that there is little room left for Christian leaders.

"It is easiest to consume what is placed before us, and Rick Warren isn't on an RCA record label," he said.

Bush to sit down with al-Maliki despite canceled visit Wednesday

AMMAN, Jordan — President Bush's high-profile meeting with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki on Wednesday was canceled in a stunning turn of events after disclosure of U.S. doubts about the Iraqi leader's capabilities and a political boycott in Baghdad protesting his attendance.

Instead of two days of talks, Bush and al-Maliki will have breakfast and a single meeting followed by a news conference this morning, the White House said.

The abrupt cancellation was an almost unheard-of development in the high-level diplomatic circles of a U.S. president, a king and a prime minister. There was confusion — and conflicting explanations — about what happened.

Bush had been scheduled to meet in a three-way session with al-Maliki and Jordan's King Abdullah II on Wednesday night, and had rearranged his schedule to be in Amman

for both days for talks aimed at reducing the spiral of violence in Iraq.

The last-minute cancellation was not announced until Bush had already come to Raghadan Palace and posed for photographs alone with the king.

White House counselor Dan Bartlett denied that the delay was a snub by al-Maliki directed at Bush or was related to the leak of a memo written by White House National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley questioning the prime minister's capacity for controlling violence in Iraq.

"Absolutely not," Bartlett said.

He said the king and the prime minister had met before Bush arrived from a NATO summit in Latvia. "That negated the purpose to meet tonight together in a trilateral setting."

The Jordanians and the Iraqis jointly decided it was not the best use of time because they both would be seeing the presi-

dent separately, said the official.

Members of the Jordanian and Iraqi delegations contacted Khalilzad, who called Air Force One and spoke with Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, giving them a heads-up, the official said.

However, Redha Jawad Taqi, a senior aide of top Shiite politician Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim who also was in Amman, said the Iraqis balked at the three-way meeting after learning the king wanted to broaden the talks to include the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Two senior officials traveling with al-Maliki, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information, said the prime minister had been reluctant to travel to Jordan in the first place and decided, once in Amman, that he did not want "a third party" involved in talks about subjects specific to the U.S.-Iraqi relationship.

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World Cup Cafe fights poverty

By Lindsey Grewe Reporter

World Cup Cafe, Waco's No. 1 new restaurant according to a reader's poll in the *Waco Tribune-Herald*, is driven by a purpose that goes beyond serving good food.

Mission Waco saw a need for more economic development in North Waco, the side of town which holds the highest crime and poverty rates, Mission Waco volunteer Josh Dorrell said.

As a result, Mission Waco helped fund World Cup Cafe.

"We want to mobilize the middle class and make them see the other side of Waco," Dorrell said. "The socioeconomic barriers in this city are huge. We want to give people who wouldn't come to this side of town otherwise a reason to be here. If you don't see the poverty, you can pretend it doesn't exist."

From this, the idea for World Cup Cafe was born.

Beginning as a coffee and pastry shop, breakfast and lunch were quickly added to the menu. Hours have recently been extended to include dinner Monday through Saturday.

"Our purpose is to regenerate this side of town and make a stronger community," Manager Shayla Brown said. "We make sure our prices are what people in this neighborhood can afford."

World Cup Cafe has provided a number of new jobs and offers training for people to increase job placement opportunities.

"We helped one gentleman who came from a homeless shelter, and he has been able to move onto bigger and better things," Shayla Brown said.

"We want to give citizens new skills to get better jobs," Dorrell said.

Shawn Brown, World Cup Cafe's head cook, had rebuilt his life after a stint in Mission Waco's Manna House. Sober



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

World Cup Cafe employees Shayla Brown, general manager, and Shawn Brown, kitchen manager, show off the Best New Restaurant award they received from the *Waco Tribune-Herald's* 2006 Reader's Poll.

since 1997, Shawn Bell recently left a managerial job to work for World Cup Cafe.

"I took a \$45,000 pay cut to come here," Shawn Brown said. "I've been through troubling times and gotten through them. Being here, I go home knowing I can pass down something that was passed down to me."

World Cup Cafe serves traditional meals from various poverty-stricken nations such as Honduras, Haiti and Madagascar. Alongside the food, handmade crafts from the featured countries are sold.

For Christmas, World Cup Cafe is selling a larger selection

of crafts for their first bazaar. The bazaar started Tuesday and will also take place from 9 to 11 a.m. on Dec. 2 and Dec. 7. Items being sold include handmade soaps, jewelry, Christmas ornament and art. Items have been donated from several countries, including Honduras, Thailand, Indonesia, and Mexico, Shayla Brown said.

All proceeds from the restaurant and the bazaar go towards funding Mission Waco programs.

"We want our restaurant to help people in this neighborhood and people in Waco," Shayla Brown said.

Santa bound for SLC

By Lauren Hightower Reporter

Gather your good will and holiday cheer. Santa is coming to Waco.

The 14th annual Santa's Workshop is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon Friday in the McLane Student Life Center, said Missy Davis, graduate assistant for community service.

More than 800 impoverished children from around the Waco area, all between the ages of 3 and 5, will participate in the event.

"I think it's a great opportunity for Baylor students and the surrounding community to cooperate and do something good together," Davis said.

Preparations have been underway for this special day for more than a month and a half, said Shreveport, La., sophomore Catherine Hiller.

"I can't wait," she said. "This is such a great chance to bring joy to kids."

The volunteers have planned several activities for the children, Hiller said. Each child will receive a goody bag, complete

with a free toothbrush and toothpaste donated by local dentists. There will also be some crafts, such as cutting snowflakes out of folded paper and decorating Christmas cookies.

"This is so wonderful," Overland Park, Kan., senior Jessamy Ross said. "It brings back a time of innocence when everything was so exciting."

Santa's arrival is the main event. All of the children will sing "Here Comes Santa Claus" as the honored guest enters. Then each child will have a chance to sit on Santa's lap and receive a present, Ross said.

"It's just amazing to see how that many children respond to seeing Santa and receiving gifts," Davis said.

To prepare for the coming party, there will be two different parties today for anyone who wishes to help, Ross said.

There will be a decorating party in the McLane Student Life Center gym from 3 to 6 p.m. There will also be a gift-wrapping party from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Bill Daniel Student Center. Pizza, drinks and hot chocolate will be provided.

Baptists decide to turn report over to authorities

DALLAS — The executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas has decided to turn over a report on misuse of church-starting funds to law enforcement officials.

Charles Wade is attempting to set up meetings with several agencies to determine who should receive the information, spokesman John Hall said Wednesday.

The 42-page investigative report, made public last month, found that more than \$1.3 million contributed by Texas Baptists over a six-year period was supposed to help fund 258 new churches in the Rio Grande Valley.

But, the report showed, only a few churches were opened. The convention-commis-

sioned probe found that some monthly new church reports, which were used to obtain funding, were fabricated.

In some cases, the money was used to enhance other mission projects unrelated to the new churches. In other cases, where the money went remains unknown.

The Baptist convention's executive board, meeting privately earlier this month, authorized Wade to consider action to recover the money and to consult with legal counsel on referring the report "to any appropriate government investigatory agency."

The report contains the names of three Rio Grande Valley pastors who the report says misused the funds.

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Bears rip up Grambling State Tigers

95-69 blowout improves Bears' record to 5-1

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

Behind stellar first-half shooting, a solid second-half performance and a career night for freshman guard Tweety Carter, the Baylor basketball team coasted to a 95-69 victory over Grambling State University to improve its record to 5-1.

Carter set career highs with 19 points and five assists in the win.

"A lot of doors were open for me tonight and I just took advantage of it," Carter said.

But Carter was just one of many Bears whose shots were falling Wednesday. The Bears rushed out to a 14-5 lead in the first five minutes and didn't look back.

every open look in the first half, hitting 12 or their 16 attempts from 3-point range. At one point, the Bears hit seven straight 3-pointers in a six-minute span to stretch its lead to 32-14.

"When we're on the line, get open looks and get good ball movement, all of our guys can knock down the 3," junior guard Aaron Bruce said. "We just got open looks and that's how we need to play; we need to find the extra man because we have a lot of threats out there."

Bruce, who scored 17 second-half points Monday against Alcorn State University, led the charge in the first half against the Tigers.

He scored 13 of his 18 points in the first half and hit three of his four 3-point attempts. Sophomore guard Curtis Jerrells also had a big first half, hitting all four of his 3-point attempts and scoring 12 of his 17 points in the first half.

But after a first half that saw

"All of our guys can knock down the 3."

Aaron Bruce
Junior guard

the Bears shoot 73 percent from the field and 75 percent from long range, the Bears shot 42 percent in the second, hitting just one of their eight 3-point attempts.

But with the poor outside shooting, the Bears' scoring moved inside, where they scored 24 of their 40 second-half points in the paint and got to the free throw line 19 times.

Head Coach Scott Drew said he was happy with the way his team adjusted in the second half.

"I was very proud of our guys because we're one for eight in the second half, but we did a great job recognizing that we weren't hitting

the 3," he said.

"Instead of shooting another 16 of them, we started taking the ball to the basket."

While Baylor guards accounted for 61 of the Bears' points, Baylor got a solid performance out of its post players as well.

Sophomore forward Kevin Rogers and sophomore center Mamadou Diene each scored 9, while freshman center Josh Lomers pitched in with 6 points.

Rogers also had a career-high 11 rebounds, including one that led to a put-back dunk that brought a crowd of almost 5,000 to its feet.

"The good thing this year is when you come to the Ferrell Center and watch the Baylor Bears play, we do have some explosiveness on offense," Drew said.

The Bears return to action at 3 p.m. Saturday when they play Texas State University at the Ferrell Special Events Center.



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Sophomore guard Carl Sims weaves between two Grambling State University defenders Wednesday on the Bears' way to a 95-69 win over the Tigers.

Lady Bears return from Bahamas tourney to face Islanders

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

The Lady Bears basketball team (5-1) swings into action at 7 p.m. today against the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Islanders (1-4) in the Ferrell Special Events Center.

With this game Baylor begins a grueling section of its non-conference schedule.

The Lady Bears will play three games over the next five days, and withholding the constant barrage of fatigue is on the top of head Coach Kim Mulkey's wish list.

"That's a tough turn-around," Mulkey said. "But any time you play an in-state school, it's important."

This will be the Islanders' second trip to the Ferrell Center in as many years, losing 94-62 last season.

The Lady Bears enter the contest having outscored their opponents by a combined 52 points over their last three games. They appear to be hitting their mid-season stride earlier than expected.

Nevertheless, the team continues to push hard and focus on getting to conference play in

January with as few unexpected bumps as possible.

"They're a pretty good team," said guard Jessica Morrow, who, despite being one of the team's most lethal three-point threats, is shooting just .235 from behind the arc this season. "They've competed against some good teams and they're a team that we really need to take seriously."

The Islanders finished last season at a respectable 18-12, but they are dealing with serious turnover this year.

Not only did they lose Terra Andrews, their leading scorer

from last year with 15 points per game, but first-year head Coach Robert Robinson has just one win to his credit.

So while the Islanders continue to struggle through a rebuilding year, the Lady Bears appear to be fraught with confidence after tearing through the Junkanoo Jam tournament last week in the Bahamas.

Senior leader Bernice Mosby continues to prove her worth, leading the team in points per game (19.4) and rebounds per game (10.9) through Baylor's first six contests.

"It's always harder to focus

when you're in the Bahamas," sophomore guard Jhasmin Player said. "But Coach Mulkey made sure that this team was focused. As young as we are, we can't overlook any of the teams we're scouting."

The Bahamas were good to the Lady Bears. Baylor first beat Central Florida by 30 points and then topped the South Dakota State Jackrabbits 71-63 a day later to win the Lucaya bracket.

After playing two games in two days, the team took Sunday and Monday off for their first two-day stretch without practices since school began in August.

Perhaps guarding against a let-down coming off such a lavish road trip, Mulkey amped up her practice Tuesday, making sure the team didn't languish and fall into a post-Bahamas lull.

Player said winning on the road for the first time this year was a solid watermark of the developing maturity the team is cultivating, but beating the Islanders is all they have on their minds right now.

"Texas A&M-Corpus Christi is the next big opponent on our schedule," Mulkey said.

"That's where our focus is."

Cowboys confident

By Stephen Hawkins
The Associated Press

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys are in the same situation they were a year ago, atop the NFC East with a 7-4 record and headed to play the division rival New York Giants.

Still, things are different this time. Mainly the Cowboys' confidence.

"Right now, it's obviously we're definitely playing the best ball we've been playing all year," linebacker Bradie James said Wednesday. "We've been in this position before. You don't get too many opportunities to become No. 1. That's what this game is about."

The Cowboys head to the Meadowlands on Sunday with a three-game winning streak and wins in four of their last five games — all since Tony Romo became the starting quarterback. His first extended action was after halftime in the game before that, a home loss to the Giants.

When the Cowboys went to New York last year, they were coming off a Thanksgiving Day overtime loss against Denver.

This year, Dallas won its traditional holiday game when Romo matched a team record with five touchdown passes in a 38-10 victory over Tampa Bay. That came only four days after Romo outplayed Peyton Manning and the Cowboys handed Indianapolis its only loss of the season.

"There is a lot of confidence building around this team right now," tight end Jason Witten said.

"We're just excited. We're playing well, not turning the ball over. Everybody's expectations are up right now."

Only the Chicago Bears (9-2) have more wins than the Cowboys in the NFC. Dallas has a one-game lead over the Giants in the NFC East.

"Guys are just focused more, not to say last year we weren't," defensive end Marcus Spears said. "I think the magnitude of what we can do now and how we can set ourselves up in the future and hopefully getting into the playoffs, I think it's important and it's prevalent. The air is thick right now."

His teammates echoed the same opinion.

"It's almost like guys are smelling it," cornerback Aaron Glenn said.

"Last year, it was almost like, 'Wow' that we're in it. This year, all the guys expect to be in it. That's different, expecting it than when it jumps on you like 'Wow.' It's a different confidence."

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This season's holiday albums hit or miss in every genre

By Jonathan Takiff
McClatchy Newspapers

Year-round Christmas stores survive on the premise that people can never have too many ornaments for their tree.

Four months of the year, the music industry operates with the same logic. From late August to early December, music outlets let loose with a steady stream of sparkly and earthy new albums of holiday musical cheer.

Classic carols, sentimental ballads, kiddie fables and funny novelty tunes are always staples of the seasonal music scene and practically the only "standards" that everyone still has to share and sing in common.

What keeps things interesting are the varied stylistic spins — the unique craftsmanship that contemporary performers put on tried-and-true tunes — plus the fresh originals the most ambitious performers contribute to the repertoire.

Novelty kings

The wooziest, weirdest Christmas album this year is Bootsie Collins' elfish *Christmas Is 4 Ever* (Shout! Factory, A-), introduced with the pre-emptive warning, "I'm sure there's going to be more than one unpleasant surprise before we're done."

Decorating with free-style rap and spunky singing, trippy scratching and bouncy rubber horns, Collins lets loose with a "colorized" audio ... movie about the holiday, "N-You City."

Classic Christmas tunes are stomped on and changed up, too, like the big-band/hip-hop rewrite of Rudolph, now a "funky soul reindeer," which you'll be rolling on the floor with laughter while listening.

Twangin' around the tree

Country music folks don't have far to travel to embrace and embellish holiday standards. But I'm afraid a couple of big stars are resting on their laurels this season.

George Strait plays 'em way too straight on *Fresh Cut Christmas* (Hallmark, C). It's only available at Hallmark stores, but why bother?

Even more boring is Wynonna's assembly-line production, *A Classic Christmas* (Curb, C-), hardly salvaged by a show-closing original.

Really jumping out of this pack is *Brad Paisley Christmas* (Arista, A-). What makes this set are clever Paisley originals.

A crunchy granola Christmas

Sarah McLachlan evokes a snowy, north country holiday



Daryl Hall, left, and John Oates perform Nov. 22 in New York's Rockefeller Center on NBC's *Today* show. Hall and Oates' new Christmas album, *A Home for Christmas*, was released in stores Nov. 21.

Associated Press

with the wispy, atmospheric *Wintersong* (Arista, B+).

Smoky, sorrowful stylist Aimee Mann's *One More Drifter in the Snow* (Super Ego, B) is not what you need to hear if you're in a holiday-spawned depression.

A standout last year, the

charming *James Taylor at Christmas* (Columbia, A) now warrants a mainstream label release in slightly altered form.

Souled out

Hall and Oates' classic, creamy R&B stylings are applied with exceedingly good care to

Home for Christmas (DKE, A), a distinctive and hearth-warming package of Philly-style cheer.

Standouts include the first-rate original, "No Children Should Ever Cry on Christmas," and the rousing, gospel-flavored read of "Children Go Where I Send Thee."

Or go for the more progressive, jazz-inflected but still warmly organic vocal sound of the Manhattan Transfer, offering their version of *A Capella Christmas* (Rhino, B+).

While often tagged a blue-eyed soul singer, Robin Gibb (of the Bee Gees) hardly stirred mine with the wimpy *My Favorite Carols* (Koch, C-).

Kosher for the holidays

Speaking of which, please to note how that nice Jewish lady Bette Midler neatly segues out of "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" just before the zinger affirmation, "Christ our Lord," on her new album *Cool Yule* (Columbia, A-).

Midler's entertaining variety show mix of swinging seasonals and poignant ballads is so ecumenical it could play on Shalom TV.

Threatening to set back Judeo-Christian relations, by contrast, is Dee Snider's heavy-metal assault on the seasonal fare, fronting *Twisted Sister on*

A Twisted Christmas (Razor & Tie, D). The disc's basically stupid. And ugly.

Jazzin' up the season

The splashy, sassy sampler *New Orleans Christmas* (Putumayo, A-) is a spicy treat, strongest on trad jazz performances by the likes of keyboardist Ellis Marsalis, the New Birth Brass Band and talented young trumpeter James Andrews.

Smooth jazz fave Brian Culbertson serves a surprisingly funky, non-syrupy set, *A Soulful Christmas* (GRP, B), including a Buddy Rich-inspired treatment of "Jingle Bells."

Show-stoppers

The name suggests only the kids will appreciate it. But *The Berenstain Bears Save Christmas* (Good Mood, B+) has a Broadway-style musical score that adults would relish equally. The fine tunes by Elliot Lawrence and Jamie Broza hint of past glories by Leonard Bernstein and Frank Loesser.

As this title very aptly implies, *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* (Walt Disney, C) is not a festive filmic romp in the snow. Halloween goblins kidnap "Sandy Claws." Dark and spooky music by Danny Elfman prevails.

'Epsilon Zeta' gives readers inside scoop on fraternity pledging

By Amanda Toller
Contributor

Many things happen behind the closed doors of a fraternity house, and most of the time these things stay hidden from those outside the greek system.

BOOKREVIEW

But in *Epsilon Zeta*, Jock Young gives outsiders an honest look inside a fraternity.

Young, a Sigma Chi who graduated from Florida State University, creates a story about one semester in the fictional Epsilon Zeta fraternity at Northern Florida University. Like many

fraternities across the country, they have been in trouble and put on probation until they can clean up things. While the novel itself is fiction, Young based the events and characters around those in his own fraternity.

Arguments over reinstated members, rolled pledges and substance abuse have divided the Epsilon Zeta house in two, creating a house full of brothers who can't stand each other.

Young also presents issues such as racism and homophobia within the fraternity system. Members of the pledge committee blatantly refuse to allow one man into the fraternity purely because of his race, saying that

he should pledge one of the historically black fraternities.

Young doesn't disprove any of the stereotypes of fraternities; in fact, he reinforces them. While the Epsilon Zeta brothers don't physically beat their pledges during initiation, they do mentally abuse them to the point of exhaustion. They claim to be nicer than the other fraternities, but even the seniors' girlfriends say their pledges look worse than anyone else's during initiation.

Young depicts every member of the group in a harshly honest light. Even the so-called good guys constantly talk about their latest sexual escapades and

relentlessly tease those who are not as successful. The men with steady girlfriends discuss their sex lives to their brothers, who can't even look the girlfriends in the eye after hearing the stories.

The brothers' treatment of women is not just inappropriate, it's disgusting. One senior's advice to a new freshman is that women are insecure, and the only way to get a woman is to control her insecurities until she'll do whatever you want.

The members of the North Florida chapter of Epsilon Zeta spend the semester battling each other and nationals to hold their group together. Both sides accuse each other of forgetting

the meaning of brotherhood, and both sides fight to have their definition prevail.

Epsilon Zeta tries to be heart-wrenching and thought-provoking, but the number of characters complicates the story. I almost needed a roll sheet with the names, offices and hometowns of the members in order to keep track.

The men in the fraternity are rarely surprising; each sticks to his own stereotype throughout most of the novel.

Young does provide a positive view of the national organization. The regional director for North Florida's chapter understands the men are just

following tradition and trying to figure things out, but he is quick to state what is and is not acceptable. He works to ensure the officers know that unacceptable behavior will result in the chapter being shut down.

Overall, *Epsilon Zeta* provides an interesting look at a fraternity. Young does not pass his own judgment but instead leaves that up to the reader.

What I found most surprising was that the author was a fraternity member but didn't try to beautify his characters or overly preach that fraternities are all about good friends and brotherhood.

Grade: B



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GLOBAL from page 1
 from 1900 to 1940 is where most of the temperature change occurred, before any major industry could have had an effect. From 1940 to the 1970s, there was actually a cooling period and since then the planet has gotten warmer, Knight said. "The earth's temperature is in constant flux. There is no such thing as balance," Knight said. "There are no problems to date."
 Topping, however, warns of what might happen with continued global warming. He said that over the next century there

could be an increase of seven to eight degrees, which would cause severe problems including glacier melting and a rise in sea level.
 Dr. Susan Bratton, chairwoman of the environmental studies department, said it's more global climate change than global warming because not every area will get warmer.
 "It's actually being predicted you could have a warming climate and have an area like Britain be colder because of ocean currents," she said.
 Beyond the debate on the negative effects of temperature change, there's also a debate

about the cause. Tyson Slocum, director of Public Citizens Energy Program, said "human activity is the major contributing factor to this warming trend."
 Knight completely disagreed and said there is absolutely no evidence that man is causing the temperature increase and that none of the evidence is rooted in science.
 Other negative effects predicted to occur are a change in precipitation, more storm threats, a rise in sea level and a rise in tropical diseases, Bratton said.
 If the sea level rises, which would be difficult to reverse, it

could have huge implications such as putting New York City underwater, Topping said.
 "Our great-grandchildren could be facing massive evacuations," he said.
 Slocum said this is a serious threat.
 He said that ground in the arctic, which has always been frozen, is now mushy and that 90 percent of the world's glaciers are melting.
 If all the ice melts, the projected rise in sea level will be approximately 300 feet, Driese said, making Waco near-beach front property.
 Amid all the concern over

negatives, Bratton and Knight believe there could be positive outcomes to global warming. More precipitation could cause a boom in agricultural areas experiencing drought.
 Others think that a change in climate would have a negative effect on food production. There could be a large-scale famine, Topping said.
 The only positive effect of global warming is that "fewer people are going to freeze to death."
 Texas emission levels of carbon dioxide per capita are the highest in the U.S., but Topping said the state will soon pass

California for the most wind energy.
 "There are wind mills out there the wazoo as you go into west Texas," Driese said.
 Five faculty in the geology department are researching ancient climates to help predict future earth changes. Bratton and Knight both agree that the main problem is that scientists don't know how global warming will affect the environment or how to predict it accurately.
 While there are still no definite answers to the questions about global warming, Bratton said it's better to be safe and "ride your bike."

KOT from page 1
 attracted about 6,000 people, but Wayman said they are expecting a crowd of more than 7,000 this year, including the local community and visitors from Dallas and surrounding cities.
 Austin junior and Christmas tree chairman Jim Young said his favorite part is the atmosphere of the event.
 "For me, I love the whole environment of the night. There is the big tree lighting, bands, Christmas carols, trash can bonfires and hot chocolate," he said. "It's just a great way for students to come together and hang out

before Christmas."
 The Christmas tree lighting draws more than a Baylor crowd. Young said local youth ministries, camp participants and students from other universities also attend.
 "I also love that it's a great way to incorporate the outside community," he said. "We have people from all over coming to see this."
 The Place 2BU and KOT have joined forces the last two years and will provide festivities including pictures with Santa, ornament making, cookie decorating, a Baylor Religious Hour Choir performance, present wrapping, horse-drawn hay-

rides and a live nativity.
 "It's a fun tradition and we just try to give as much fun, free stuff as possible," said Amy Reeves, assistant director of Student Activities.
 "Every year it seems a little bigger and a little better," Has-sell said.
 Students and faculty are equally excited about the fun festivities.
 "This is the first time I'm going to the tree lighting because I heard about all of the great stuff they have going on this year," Tyler junior Rebecca LaFlure said. "I'm really excited to see the singers that are performing and the live nativity scene."

STUDY from page 1
 rial Library has extended its operating hours till 3 a.m. during the days of finals this semester, providing students with two additional study hours.
 "The extension of hours will include the whole library and not certain sections," Internal Vice President Travis Plummer said.

Plummer said he was pushing for the library to be open 24 hours, but when he spoke with Library Dean Bill Hair, he was informed that the idea wasn't financially possible.
 Some students prefer to study alone and select their own locations to study or create a schedule to study at one place for only a few hours at a time.

Nathalie Pelka, a freshman from Ventura, Calif., said she won't be studying at the library because she doesn't like it, but she will study in various spots located throughout campus instead.
 "In the morning I'll study in my room, during the day probably a coffee shop and at night a quiet spot like the lobby of my dorm," Pelka said.

SPY from page 1
 Litvinenko and others who met with him had visited in the weeks before he fell ill Nov. 1. Litvinenko had said before he died that a group of Russian contacts who met him Nov. 1 had traveled to London from Moscow.
 Authorities would not say if the radiation on board the two jets was polonium-210. High doses of polonium-210, a rare radioactive element usually made in specialized nuclear facilities, were found in Litvinenko's body, and traces of radiation have been found at six sites in London connected with the inquiry into his death Nov. 23.
 All three Boeing 767s had

been on the London-Moscow route, British Airways said. In the last three weeks, the planes had also traveled to routes across Europe including Barcelona, Frankfurt and Athens. About 33,000 passengers had traveled on 221 flights on those planes, said Kate Gay, an airline spokeswoman.
 Three thousand crew and airport personnel had contact with the three planes.
 The airline has published the flights affected on its Web site, and advised customers who took the flights to contact a special help-line set up by the British Health Ministry.
 "We want to ensure the absolute health of our passengers," Gay said, adding that the air-

line was working closely with police.
 British Airways said it would not publish a list of passengers who had used the planes.
 It said data protection rules meant it could not even if it wanted to.
 Following Litvinenko's death, more than 1,300 people called a health hot line over concerns they might be at risk from polonium poisoning, which is deadly in tiny amounts if ingested or inhaled.
 Sixty-eight have been referred to health authorities, the Health Protection Agency said.
 Twenty-one have been referred to a special clinic as a precaution. The tests should take about a week.

HELP from page 1
 at the Counseling Center, said something as small as making a "B" can be enough to push someone over the edge.
 Every person is different, she said.
 Matlock-Hetzel said it hasn't been uncommon at the center to see students who struggle with thoughts of suicide or have suicidal friends. She said the staff at the center wants to empower people to help others and learn what the warning signs are.
 She advises students who have suicidal friends to speak up and get help even if they don't know whether their friends are serious about killing themselves.
 "I would take any hint as not a hint," Matlock-Hetzel said. "If I were suicidal and had a friend who overreacted, I might be angry at that person, but I'd be alive."
 "I'd have hope that things

could be (better). In many ways, that friend (would be) the holder of my hope," she said.
 She said friends and family of the suicide victim often struggle with feelings of guilt and trying to make sense of the situation.
 "It's important for survivors to seek support system out and check themselves to make sure there is a place to express thoughts and feelings," she

Source: Dr. Susan Matlock-Hetzel

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