



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Gideon Tsang, an interim teaching pastor, speaks Sunday to the congregation at University Baptist Church. UBC is known for its postmodern service and appeals to younger Christians by implementing modern technology while preaching the gospel.

Postmodern worship on rise

Casual congregations
able to create niche
among megachurches

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

Welcome to 2007, where 5-year-olds carry cell phones and 15-year-olds know more about computers than most middle-aged people do. But advances in technology are not the only hallmark of a postmodern age. Everything

from fashion to architecture, and even Christianity, is taking on a new form.

The Barna Group, a Christian organization committed to research, development and church facilitation, released a survey earlier this month revealing a growth of independent, nondenominational house churches. According to the survey, two-thirds of house church attendees were "completely satisfied" with the leadership of their church, compared to only half of those attending a conven-

tional church.

"What most church leaders mean when they say 'postmodern' is orienting the church around a much more intimate experience within a small community, versus the idea of being an anonymous Christian in a megachurch world," said Dr. Jonathan Tran, assistant professor of Christian ethics.

He said megachurches came onto the scene during modernity, and the baby boomer generation strongly identified with them because they provided churches a fit

to the business model they knew so well.

Coppell sophomore Jack Woodward attends University Baptist Church and said he feels more comfortable there than in a traditional church.

"UBC is very forward thinking," he said. "Everything from the worship style to the preaching is progressive."

Woodward said he was drawn to the church because of its em-

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BU won't give up on library

Administrators remain optimistic
as exclusive talks begin with SMU

Melissa Limmer
Staff writer

After months of anticipation, it appears that the Presidential Advisory Committee is in its final stages of selecting a site for the George W. Bush presidential library.

Don Evans, chairman of the Presidential Library Site Selection Committee, contacted Tommye Lou Davis, the director of Baylor's Presidential Library Committee, on Dec. 21 to inform her that the committee had entered into "exclusive discussions" with Southern Methodist University.

According to Davis, Evans indicated that this announcement did not mean the committee had made a final decision or that Baylor was eliminated from the running.

Davis admitted that SMU was "obviously the front-runner at this point" but did indicate that there were "a lot of angles" that the president's committee had to discuss and consider.

"We have known from the beginning that SMU would be the sentimental favorite," Davis said.

She said first lady Laura Bush, an alumna of SMU, had said in interviews that SMU was in fact her favorite.

Davis said whether Baylor will have another chance to make a final proposal to the president's committee is not known at this point.

"Steps have been revealed to us along the way and not ahead of time," Davis said. She also said she would be speculating to say if the committee would be given a final chance to "showcase" Baylor.

The president's committee has not indicated when the final decision regarding the library could be made. Davis said a decision could be made in a matter of weeks or months and no one really knows how long the process will take.

"I suspect they want to finish out the process in a judicious manner without time constraints," she said.

Besides SMU's connection to the Bush family

Please see **BUSH**, page 9

Unofficial FAFSA Web sites charge students fees

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Some see them as a blessing. Some see them as a curse. Some students don't see them for what they are.

Scholarship and FAFSA scams have become widespread in recent years. According to a 2006 report to Congress, the Federal Trade Commission received 7,283 scholarship and educational grant complaints in 2005, compared with 4,664 complaints in 2004. Totals for 2006 have not yet been reported.

The Web sites www.FAFSA.com, easyFAFSA.com, FAFSAfilers.com, easyaid.com and similar commercial Web sites offer FAFSA preparation

services. But they also charge between \$49 and \$79 to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, available at no charge at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

A notice on the Baylor admissions Web site alerts students to the fact that FAFSA.com charges a fee of \$79.99 to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

"We are the student's advocate," said Marc Alexander, vice president for operations at student financial aid services and FAFSA.com Web master. FAFSA.com also provides a link to the official Web site, where students can file their applications for free.

Alexander said it takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete the form using

his company's services. Representatives from the company call students to verify "questionable" information.

"We offer a no-questions-asked refund policy," he said.

Celeste Sheehy, associate director of processing and audit services, said she's concerned students don't ask enough questions to know what they're dealing with. While "it's very clear" with FAFSA.com, she said some Web sites may not be so upfront about announcing themselves.

"I wouldn't call it a scam," she said. "It's a commercial service, and they charge a fee for something that the federal government will provide for free."

The Department of Education informed Baylor administrators that

some students were using the site mistakenly and Baylor posted its warning in an attempt to give students more complete information before they filed.

Students could file the FAFSA starting Jan. 1, but Sheehy said most will wait until the end of the month. She said it's beneficial for students to file early because Baylor will begin to announce awards March 1 on the university's 2007-2008 need-based financial aid "priority date."

If students still choose FAFSA.com to file their applications, Sheehy said, "That's fine if that's an informed choice. We just want to make sure it's an informed choice."

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Six Signs That Your Scholarship is Sunk:

1. "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
2. "You can't get this information anywhere else."
3. "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
4. "We'll do all the work."
5. "The scholarship will cost some money."
6. "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship, or 'you're a finalist' in a contest you never entered."

Baylor looking out for weather issues

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

Baby, it's cold outside. Recent winter storms across Texas had several schools and businesses closing or at least opening with a delay Tuesday.

But not Baylor. Lori Scott Fogleman, director of Baylor media relations said campus remained open due to safe driving conditions and a low chance of ice and snow in the area. While the office of the provost usually handles closures, Dr. Randall O'Brien was out of town, and the call to keep classes on schedule

came from Reagan Ramsower, the vice president for finance and administration, Fogleman said.

KXXV-TV News Channel 25 meteorologist Kevin Barrett said this is the worst winter weather Waco has seen in a long time.

"Last year we had a small ice storm in February, but it was nothing to this extent," he said.

Barrett said he believes the length of this storm qualifies it as more severe than other cases. He predicts the freezing temperatures and icy conditions to last

Please see **ICE**, page 9

School books are strewn outside Al-Mustansiriya University Tuesday in Baghdad. Two minivans exploded near the university as students were leaving after classes in a predominantly Shiite area of eastern Baghdad.

Associated Press



Suicide bombers kill 65 at Iraq university

By Steven R. Hurst
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Twin car bombs tore through a leading Baghdad university as students left classes Tuesday in the deadliest attack in Iraq in nearly two months, and the United Nations reported 34,452 civilians were slain last year, nearly three times more than the government reported.

A total of 142 Iraqis were killed or found dead Tuesday in what appeared to be a renewed campaign of Sunni insurgent violence against Shiite targets.

The sharp uptick in deadly attacks coincided with the release of U.N. figures that showed an average of 94 civilians died each day in sectarian bloodshed in 2006.

The blasts wrecked two small buses as students at Al-Mustansiriya University were lining up for the ride home at about 3:45 p.m., according to Taqi al-Moussawi, a university dean. The attackers stationed a man wearing a suicide belt in the expected path of fleeing students to take even more lives, but he

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Message to Texas: TAKS test needs to take a hike

Which of the following has been a result of the statewide Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills?

a) Widespread reports of cheating

b) Educators feeling forced to “teach to the test” to ensure as many students as possible pass

c) Anxiety and frustration from test-takers as young as third grade

d) All of the above

If you answered “D” you’ve done your homework. Texas’ TAKS test has morphed a time of learning and preparation for the real world and college into an extended crash course on how to pass a multiple-choice test. These kids are programmed

early on to know how to take it, and they can tell you if in doubt, choose the answer with the longest explanation. And they’d be right.

Plato would shake his head. It’s ridiculous that we demand scholastic knowledge to be demonstrated in the form of a multiple-choice test anyway. It’s 90 percent strategy and 10 percent knowledge. This strategy-heavy assessment of students in grades 3 through 11 has put the pressure on teachers and students alike to know the test inside and out.

The pressure has taken a toll. The private company Caveon Test Security flagged nearly 700 schools (about 10 percent

point of view



BY KELLY COLEMAN

of all Texas schools) for possible cheating on the 2005 test, but 592 of them were quickly cleared. Not by Caveon, mind you. The Texas Education Agency dumped Caveon shortly after it announced are embarrassingly high number of questionable schools. No, the TEA itself created a task force to look into the matter. Of the 592 schools cleared so far, the majority were

given questionnaires to fill out concerning the problems and never so much as received a visit from a TEA official before being cleared.

Teachers, too, have been done a disservice by the TAKS test. They’ve been denied their career purpose of instilling knowledge in the minds of our children and instead are being judged statistically by how many students pass an asinine test.

Too much rides on these numbers. Things like job security, promotions and recognition are now contingent on one test and not a year’s worth of educating. These teachers have been placed between a rock

and a hard place. Do you spend precious time working on test strategy to make sure students score well? Or do you actually teach? It’s a double-edged sword because no matter what you’ve taught the entire year, all that matters is the end result. No progress can be tracked and students’ achievements aren’t laid out on a time line. It’s a one-shot deal.

And the students themselves have come to expect learning about the TAKS as an entire chunk of their core subject time.

Regardless of how many good grades were made during the school year, if you screw up on the TAKS, nothing else mat-

ters. You fail, and you can’t be promoted. With so much riding on the results, can you be surprised by the absolute chaos that has resulted from this test?

Texas has made the commitment to test children yearly in order to stay in line with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Six years after being signed into law, here’s my analysis: It’s not working.

The TEA may be worried about negative publicity, but it doesn’t matter.

Here’s your negative publicity: The TAKS test sucks. Period. Fix it.

Kelly Coleman is an international journalism graduate student from Waco.

Editorial

MLK’s memory not served in Iraq

On Monday, we honored one of the most venerable figures in America’s history, Martin Luther King, Jr. One week ago we heard the president’s new plan for Iraq, which incidentally, King would have condemned.

The decision to send an additional 21,500 troops and focus on securing the Baghdad area comes belatedly when most Americans are looking for a way out. The president’s address continued to show his delayed view of reality. This is an option that is simply too late to be feasible.

Looking back at the life of King, one of the things often overlooked is his unwavering opposition to war. His critics felt he should stick to the cause of civil rights but King said the issues of racism, economic injustice and militarism were intrinsically linked. One year before he would be assassinated, on April 1, 1967, King made the decision to speak against the war in Vietnam at Riverside Church in New York.

The group King addressed was Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam. He voiced agreement with the opening lines of the committee: “A time comes when silence is betrayal.” In his address, King mentioned his enthusiasm to see people of faith opposing the war and moving past “the prophesying of smooth patriotism to the high grounds of a firm dissent.”

He also said, “Perhaps a new spirit is rising among us.” If only he could



see the events of this first month of 2007: the inauspicious marking of 3,000 soldiers dead, plus already untold hundreds of thousands of civilians dead and obscene billions spent on a losing effort.

That’s exactly what war is, a losing effort for everyone. King realized this and said he was “increasingly compelled to see war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.”

This past November, a message was sent to the Bush administration. Sadly, the message has fallen on deaf ears. Now is the time for our nation’s collective voice to be heard. “Every

man of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his convictions, but we must all protest,” King said.

King would look at our state today and undoubtedly remark upon seeing the poverty still in America today while we continue to make war. “True compassion is more than flinging a coin at a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring,” he said.

To the Bush administration’s arrogant foreign policy in general, King’s statements may be aptly applied as well: “The Western arrogance of feel-

ing that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just.” On the monetary cost of this war, he may say as he did, “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

In his speech, King did leave room for hope. He said we can lead the way in a revolution of values in America so the pursuit of peace will take precedence over war.

“The great initiative in this war is ours; the initiative to stop it must be ours.”

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Letters to the editor should include the writer’s name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address.

Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor’s discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

Corrections policy

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

A subscription to the Lariat costs \$45 for two semesters. Send check or money order to One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX, 76798-7330 or e-mail Lariat_ads@baylor.edu. Visa and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662. Postmaster: Please send address changes to above address.

Saddam video should give indigestion to those with a stomach

America as a whole seems to have a fascination with death. Think about it — when we pause on the freeway to rubberneck, we aren’t hoping the fire trucks and ambulances arrive because of a simple fender-bender. We want real events, and that means real death.

We are a bloodthirsty people. Usually the closest we get to real macabre are films re-enacting it.

The opportunity to see death up close and personal (without actually meeting the Grim Reaper) is one that most would jump to.

How else can it be explained that the holiday slasher film Black Christmas peaked at no.

13 at the box office?

On Jan. 1, while celebrating the first day of the new year, I received a most curious message to join a group on the college networking site Facebook.com.

The invitation was to join a group titled “I watched Sadaam get hung and loved it.”

While the media is grappling with whether they will show a graphic, yet-to-be-released high-definition video of the execution-which will no doubt be leaked sometime in the near future-a burgeoning online community of people who want the full video publicly viewed has emerged.

Grammatical errors in the title notwithstanding (people

point of view



BY DEANDRE' UPSHAW

are hanged, not hung), I was disturbed by the invitation to the group.

Why on earth would a person want to watch another human being lose his or her life? What is the benefit of this?

The mass media should not show the video, official or otherwise, of Saddam Hussein’s death in its entirety.

Web sites are posting an amateur video of the execution that was shot with a camera phone already. Sooner or later, these sites will get the official video taken by the Iraqi government. This is where the video should stay, online. This way, audiences can choose whether or not to view it.

With the recent deaths of Former President Gerald Ford and singer James Brown still lingering on the public radar, I can’t help but wonder why it’s so crucial to some that this video is shown. In HD, no less.

News outlets are debating whether the video will be broadcast in its entirety. According to a statement released by CNN, “We will make our final call

when we see what the Iraqi government releases.”

News stations will have to walk the line between reporting portions of the video as a real news story as opposed to sensationalized broadcasting designed to reel in viewers.

Some have already given in to the temptation, showing Hussein walking to the gallows dramatically in slow motion over and over again.

An unforeseen side effect of the broadcasting of images from the hanging are photocat hangings by at least 11 children around the globe, from as far away as Pakistan and as close as Webster, Texas, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Imitating what they’ve seen on television, these children have become casualties of this entire twisted ordeal.

Hussein’s life was one that seems to have no redeeming qualities and his death will hopefully symbolize change in a nation desperately needing it, but there is absolutely nothing to gain by broadcasting it on the 6 p.m. news.

Now that Saddam’s era is over, the best thing for us as Americans to do is move on and to focus not on the past but instead work on making the future better than what preceded it.

DeAndre’ Upshaw is a sophomore journalism major from Conroe.

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V. EASY

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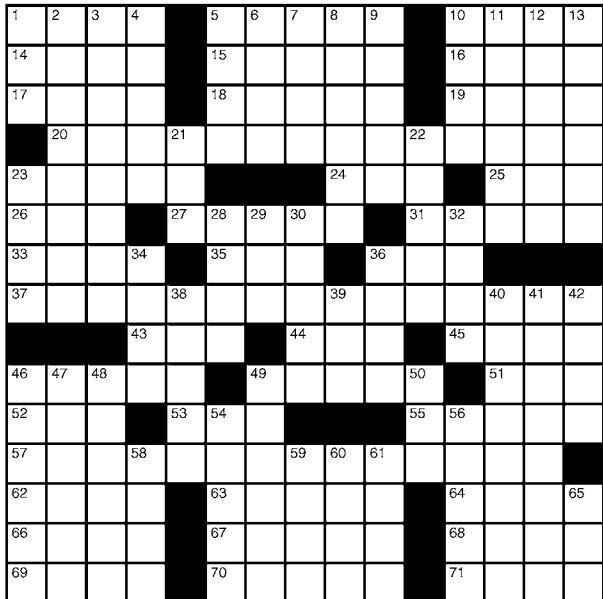
ACROSS

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- 37 Hint from Fulton?
- 43 Actress Long
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- 2 Alternative to prix fixe
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- 4 "Send Me a Lover" singer
- 5 Demolish in Leeds
- 6 Lindros of Hockey
- 7 Religious sect
- 8 Eases
- 9 Former Turkish honcho
- 10 Turnpike, e.g.
- 11 Remove, as cargo
- 12 Irritate

- 13 Pencil part
- 21 Roundball org.
- 22 Sea eagles
- 23 Frosty's eyes
- 28 Perch for several
- 29 Howdy-dos
- 30 Marry, sans ceremony
- 32 Comic Johnson
- 34 O'Neill's daughter
- 36 Rozelle of football
- 38 Top prize
- 39 With-it style
- 40 Body shop quote
- 41 nervous
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- 46 Ye Olde
- 47 Courty dance
- 48 Noted channel swimmer
- 49 Current unit
- 50 Mach+ jet
- 54 Man of fables
- 56 Climber's device
- 58 Gels
- 59 Hebrew month
- 60 Pierre's noggin
- 61 God of war
- 65 Leb. neighbor



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

1/17/07

For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat

CHURCH from page 1

phasis on community and the idea of simply worshipping God. While Tran identified the megachurch model as “very businesslike,” he said he has found the emerging church often values simplicity. Candles, individual prayers and Bible readings are hallmarks of the postmodern church, he said. But Tran also believes the simplicity offers an interesting contrast. “On one hand, postmodernism has the idea of being simple — church clothes are replaced by jeans and a T-shirt — but then the minister preaches off of a laptop and the band uses an electric guitar,” he said. “You want to be simple, but on the other hand you have a \$2,000 computer because you like technology.” Rae Wright, associate director of Baptist Student Ministries, said she believes both the megachurch model and a simpler form of church will last through the postmodern age. “We are in an era where variety and choice are a more valued part of the Christian scene than ever before,” she said. “A Baptist church has always been free to do its own thing, but in the past not as many took advantage of that liberty.” The options available today for worship range from a “high church, liturgical style,” to a “more casual approach with a praise and worship band, and everything in between,” Wright said. “Ten or 20 years ago I don’t think there was that much diversity among churches, especially Baptist ones.” Woodward said 10 years ago UBC wouldn’t have been able to be as casual as it is today. “I think UBC operating in a town like this 10 years ago would’ve been burned to the ground,” he said. “People are a lot more accepting of different styles of worship now.”

ICE from page 1

until at least today, giving the storm a five-day tour of Texas. Geology professor and Channel 25 part-time meteorologist Dr. Donald M. Greene offered advice for Wacoans in light of the severe weather. In addition to wrapping pipes and covering plants, Greene suggested checking on dogs and cats. “If you have pets, make sure they still have water,” he said. “When it freezes, people forget that any water outdoors will need to be replaced.” Greene also recommended looking up road conditions online before traveling. Fogelman emphasized the importance of the Internet and encouraged students and faculty to check the Baylor Web site for updates regarding closures and openings. “A lot of times we run into problems with local TV stations not communicating that Baylor

Wright believes a willingness to adapt and change will determine what types of churches stay on the scene in the future. “I don’t think any one style will dominate,” she said. “People value the ability to choose too much to let that happen.” Tran also finds people are attracted to the idea of free choice, but believes there is danger inherent with that model of Christianity. “When people say postmodern, you never really know what they mean. It could be the free-choice model where anything goes, or do they mean the Christianity that wants to reinstate practices that have always made the church what it is, the idea of a radical orthodoxy.” The freedom to choose between different worship styles is a positive aspect of postmodernity, Tran said, but when that same spirit of freedom changes who Jesus is, then there is a problem. Woodward said adjusting to the culture is important, but in a way that still stays true to the tenets of Christianity. If a church goes too far into the culture, the identity of Christ can be compromised, he said. Tran said one postmodern line of thought in very theologically liberal churches troubles him. “When a church says, ‘We believe in Jesus, but what we really mean by Jesus is love,’ then people are just picking and choosing what parts of Christianity to accept and the freedom has gone too far,” he said. Tran pointed out how Christians are scripturally far from “free,” citing the apostle Paul from the book of Romans who said we are either a slave to sin or to Christ. “That statement is as true in 2007 as it was in biblical times,” he said. “As Americans, that can be a particularly difficult concept to remember.”

is up and running,” she said. “They only want to talk about closures.” Baylor officials work in conjunction with Baylor police to determine if roadway conditions are safe for travel, she said. Bridges and overpasses are the first to freeze, Barrett said, because they do not retain heat as well as the highways. He also added that rural areas are more dangerous during storms due to a lower level of traffic, which results in less county maintenance. For students hoping to get an extra day off from classes this week, there is still a chance. “We are looking at a system off to the west that could be worse than what came through over the weekend,” Fogleman said. Fogleman will update the Baylor Web site at 5 a.m. to alert students and faculty of the status of classes. “It’ll be an early morning for all of us,” she said.

BUSH from page 1

through the first lady, the committee has not made any indication as to why SMU was favored over Baylor. According to Davis, the president’s committee gave no feedback on Baylor’s proposal, but Davis did say that “in the past they have very graciously let us know they felt we had an outstanding proposal ... the president, first lady and advisory team are appreciative of the work that has been done.”

FAFSA from page 1

Baylor’s financial aid office sent out an e-mail Thursday informing students that filing a FAFSA is required for most types of need-based financial aid. Baylor’s financial aid office won’t receive a copy of the ap-

Davis said Baylor’s final proposal will not be released out of respect to the White House and SMU. In an official statement on Baylor’s Web site in response to the Presidential Committee’s announcement, President John Lilley said, “as the site-selection committee continues its work, so do we at Baylor. We will continue to provide additional information as required by the committee, and we look forward to the President’s final

plication until seven to 10 business days after a student files it electronically. Beaumont junior Nekeeta Tyler-Borden said she wouldn’t use any service like FAFSA.com. “(The official FAFSA Web site) gives you ample time to look it over,” she said.

IRAQ from page 1

was spotted and shot by security men before he could blow himself up, the dean said. “The only guilt of our martyred students is that they pursued education. They belong to all religions, sects and ethnic groups,” said an angry al-Mousawi, himself a Shiite. “The terrorists want to stop education. ...Those students had nothing to do with politics.” After the explosions, a rescue worker and three men in civilian clothes scrambled through the debris to carry a charred victim away in a sheet. Firefighters in yellow helmets examined the charred wreckage of an bashed-in, overturned minivan. The university’s well-shaded campus occupies several square blocks in north central Baghdad, a mostly Shiite area. The school ranks second among institutions of higher education in Iraq. Founded in 1963, it was named after one of the oldest Islamic schools, established in the 13th century during the Abbasid dynasty that ruled the Muslim world. Thousands attend the university, known especially for its colleges of science, literature and education. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki blamed the attack on “terrorists and Saddamists” seeking revenge for Monday’s hanging of two of Saddam Hussein’s top aides, convicted with him for the slaying of 148 Shiite men and boys after a 1982 assassination attempt in the northern town of Dujail. The violence Tuesday against Shiites may signal a campaign by Sunni insurgents to shed as much blood as possible before the deployment of 21,500 more American troops. Most of the additional U.S. troops will be

used to back up the Iraqi army in a security sweep to rid the capital of Sunni and Shiite gunmen. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in Kuwait for a meeting with eight Arab nations to discuss ways to keep Iraq from sliding into civil war, sought to lower any expectations that the troop buildup would quickly pacify the country. “Violent people will always be able to kill innocent people,” she said. “So even with the new security plan, with the will and capability of the Iraqi government and with American forces to help reinforce Iraqi forces, there is still going to be violence.” She said the U.N. civilian death figures differ from others. “But whatever the number of civilians who have died in Iraq, and there obviously are competing numbers, but whatever the number is, it’s too many,” she said. The university bombing’s death toll was the highest daily toll since suspected al-Qaida in Iraq fighters staged a series of car bombs and mortar attacks on Baghdad’s Sadr City Shiite slum. That attack killed at least 213 people on Nov. 23. The U.N. civilian casualty count for last year was announced in Baghdad by Gianni Magazzeni, the chief of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraq in Baghdad. He said 34,452 civilians died, an average of 94 a day, and 36,685 were wounded. But Dr. Hakem al-Zamili, Iraq’s deputy health minister, told The Associated Press the United Nations may be using unreliable sources for its casualty count. “They might be taking the figures from people who are opposed to the government or to the Americans,” he said. “They are not accurate.” He said

decision next year.” When asked about the library at the Thursday Student Senate meeting, Lilley said, “I think it will go to SMU. I think it’s always been theirs to lose, unless there are some issues that can’t be resolved between the Bush team and SMU. I think it will go to SMU. Mrs. Bush is a regent there, an alumna. They are going to be living there. Those are all powerful reasons to have that there. If for some reason they can’t work things

In addition, she said the help the official site provides covers “every hypothetical situation.” Even when Tyler-Borden miswrote her Social Security number one year, she was sent a letter asking her to confirm her information. She fixed the error without a problem. Tyler-Borden said she

out, of course, we’ll deal with that, but I really honestly doubt it.” Despite the odds against Baylor, Davis remains positive. “I just want to thank everyone on the campus and in the Waco community for the support that has been given to this effort. The Presidential Advisory committee has been very professional throughout the process and I want to wish SMU well in what appears to be the final stage of the process.”

wouldn’t expect FAFSA.com to save her much time, either. She said it took her a long time to fill it out the first time, but only about 20 minutes each time after that. The process gets easier with practice, she said. “It’s like second nature,” Tyler-Borden said.



Associated Press

Workers sift through the wreckage Tuesday in Baghdad after a pair of suicide bombers attacked two buses near Al-Mustansiriya University in the eastern part of the city.

he would provide Iraqi government figures later this week. In early January, a compilation of Iraqi government figures put last year’s civilian deaths at just 12,357. The numbers are gathered monthly by the AP from reports by three Iraqi agencies. When asked about the difference, Magazzeni said the U.N. figures were compiled from information obtained through the Iraqi Health Ministry, hospitals across the country and the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad. He criticized the government for allowing much of the violence to go unpunished, saying urgent action was needed to re-establish law and order in the country to prevent its slide into all-out civil war. “Without significant progress in the rule of law, sectarian violence will continue indefinitely and eventually spiral out of control,” he warned. The U.N. report also said that 30,842 people were de-

tained in the country as of Dec. 31, including 14,534 held in U.S. military-run prisons. At least 470,094 people throughout Iraq have been forced to leave their homes since the bombing of an important Shiite shrine, the Golden Dome mosque in Samarra, in February, the U.N. accounting said. The report said the violence has disrupted education by forcing schools and universities to close, as well as sending professionals fleeing from the country. As bombs detonated at Al-Mustansiriya University on Tuesday, there were a series of other attacks on Shiite neighborhoods in central Baghdad. A bomb planted on a motorcycle exploded in a used auto and motorcycle parts market in a Shiite neighborhood. As people rushed to aide the victims of the first blast, a suicide car bomber drove his car into the crowd. Fifteen people died.

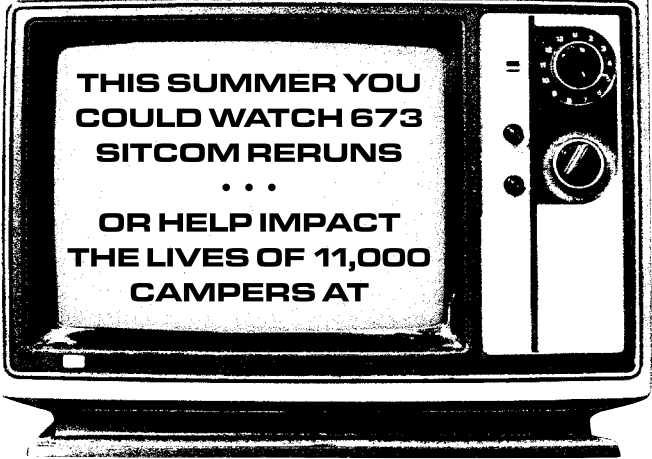
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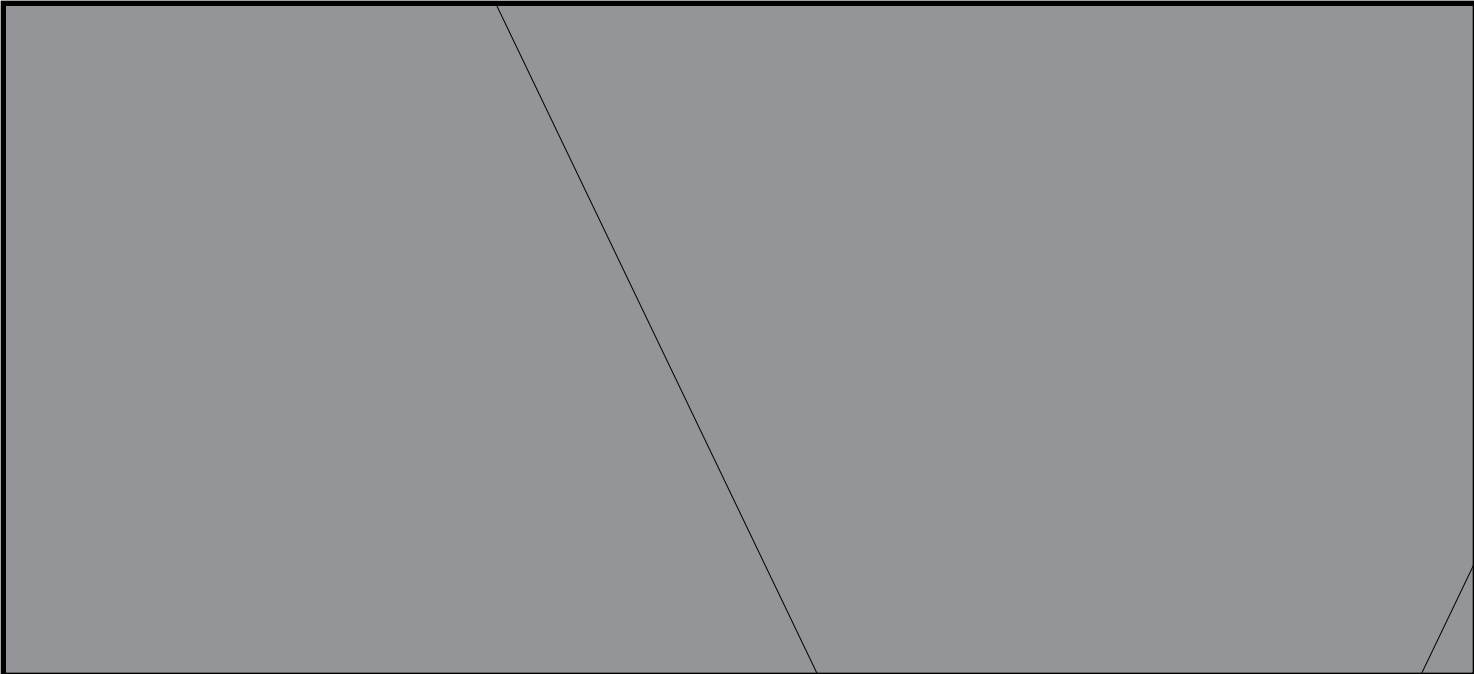
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Abbie Rosen/Lariat staff

Housing Fair

Britney Wekesser speaks with Rishi Sriram, associate director for Housing Administrations & Academic Initiatives.

Dancing instructor leaves legacy

By Melissa Limmer
Staff writer

Adjunct professor Ruby Olar danced his way into the hearts of many Baylor students. A student favorite, his classes consistently filled to capacity, with students waiting semesters to make it into one of his social dance or Tai Chi classes.

Students returned to campus after Christmas break to learn that Olar had died in the dance studio in Rena Marrs McLean Gymnasium where he had taught thousands of students.

Olar's legacy will live on at Baylor because of the many stu-

dents whose lives he touched. "He really made an effort to get to know you if you got to know him," Houston sophomore Erin Pedigo said.

While he made an impact here at Baylor, Olar's surprisingly diverse career began at the age of 16, when he founded and served as a board member of Chicago's Festival Theatre Company.

He graduated from Columbia College of Communication with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970. Olar taught and managed the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Louisville, Kentucky, the Arthur Murray Dance Studio in Miami

and at Independent Dance Studio in Chicago.

Dancing was not Olar's only passion. He also spent much of his career helping others.

He worked as a mental health therapist and a recreation therapy supervisor in Miami and at the Waco Center for Youth before coming to Baylor.

Since June 2001 Ruby taught Tai Chi and social dance at Baylor and was a lecturer for Baylor's Center for Jewish Studies. Ruby also taught classes for the city of Waco's parks and recreation department.

According to John Faribault, senior lecturer and nonmajor

human performance coordinator, Olar's social dance classes will be taught this semester by Joy Burkhart and his Tai Chi classes will be taught by Eric Shoup.

Burkhart taught social dance with Olar for the past four years.

"He was a very nice, very gracious man. I learned a lot from him," Burkhart said. "The students really liked him a lot. He cared about the kids."

Students who would like to learn more about Olar's life or give condolences to Olar's family may post them on his Web site at www.taichiruby.com.

New retirement plan a positive for some Baylor employees

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Some of Baylor's faculty members got Christmas presents this year — Baylor's retirement plan was updated over the break.

Baylor employees, including full-time and tenure-track faculty, executive personnel, professionals and regular full-time staff and lecturers over the age of 21 are eligible for the retirement plan. Those employees who haven't served five years at Baylor yet are affected by the

changes.

Starting Jan. 1, every eligible Baylor employee was fully vested in Baylor's respective retirement plans.

That means each employee "immediately becomes the owner of Baylor's contributions to the retirement account," according to Baylor's new retirement income plan.

With the previous retirement plan, employees would not have been fully vested until after five years and would not have even been partially vested until after three years.

Fully-vested employees can remove their funds upon retirement or termination, although they may have to pay a penalty to the IRS if they are younger than 59 and a half. Under the old system, all non-vested earnings would have reverted to the university.

Dr. Robert Cloud, professor and chairman of educational administration, said the changes to the retirement plan are a step in the right direction, but there are other areas Baylor could be focusing on.

He pointed specifically to

staff and faculty salaries, health benefits and tuition remission.

"That tuition remission program has been one of the most effective strategies for faculty recruitment and retention we've ever had," Cloud said.

However, the tuition remission program was "frankly mitigated" in 2003, he said.

According to Baylor's staff and children tuition remission policy, employees hired before July 1, 2003, needed to have completed one year at an accredited university for their spouses and children to be fully

eligible. Employees hired after July 1, 2003, have to complete three years of continuous employment before their spouses are fully eligible and five years before their children are fully eligible.

Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty and Staff Salaries, Healthcare Benefits and Tuition Remission has recently focused more on Baylor's compensation and benefit policies than on its retirement policy.

Randall Brown, associate director of compensation and benefits, said the change could

help Baylor become "more competitive on a national basis."

More potential employees entering the work force are educated about the value benefits, Brown said. They're becoming more interested in the total compensation package — both salary and benefits — they'll receive than in the salary alone.

In addition, Brown said the response from current faculty and staff has been positive. He said he's received e-mails and phone calls from grateful faculty, thanking Baylor for making the change.

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Partnership provides links for BU leaders

Organizations band together to create campus unity through education, events

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Most students, if they are aware of the Partnership of Student Groups of Baylor at all, probably associate it with the Thanksgiving Feast that they organized last semester. However, the Partnership of Student Groups of Baylor is providing a lot more than just free turkey.

The partnership is made up of the presidents of nine organizations: Asian Students Association, Association of Black Students, Hispanic Student Association, Indian Subcontinent Student Association, Inter-Fraternity Council, Multi-Cultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Pan-Hellenic Council and Student Government.

According to the partnership's constitution, "the primary purpose of the Partnership is to strengthen the relationships between its member organizations by facilitating communication between its organization's leaders."

It was formed last fall in an effort to bring student groups on campus together by bringing their leaders together.

"The purpose of the group is, No. 1, to build relationships between stu-



Jon Schroeder/Lariat staff

The partnership of Student Groups of Baylor worked together to create the Thanksgiving Feast in the fall.

dent leaders of different organizations," Richardson senior and student body president Mark Laymon said. "A lot of times we don't actually know a lot about each other because our campus is pretty segmented. The idea was to build unity and mutual understanding."

Other goals, as listed in the organization's constitution, include providing a forum for the discussion of various issues and advocating "to the administration and other relevant authorities on behalf of the students and student groups of Baylor University."

Laymon said one of the advantages the partnership offers is networking. He said the inaugural Baylor Thanksgiving Feast, which the partnership organized last semester, is a good example of this kind of networking.

"(Partnership members) all have very different spheres of influence," Laymon said.

"When you have those different student leaders talking to their groups, sending e-mails and encouraging people to come, you can get a lot of people out."

Albert Ho, president of the Asian Student Association and chairman of the partnership, said the organization has not yet decided on what this semester's campuswide event will be, but there are several ideas that will be discussed in the first meeting.

Some of the projects that have been discussed in the past include a roundtable with Baylor president Dr. John Lilley, a homecoming float created by the organizations in the partnership and an All-University Sing act, Laymon said.

Other projects mentioned include a campuswide Easter egg hunt and a campus prayer breakfast.

"We'll be working on planning an event for the whole campus, like the

Thanksgiving event last semester," Ho, a Houston sophomore, said.

According to the group's constitution, one of its goals is to educate student leaders and better equip them to fulfill their offices.

The partnership has discussed providing leadership training to better equip the leaders of different student organizations.

Ho said the program may be similar to the Student Organization Leadership Development workshops, put on by Student Activities, and will probably deal with issues such as how to deal with money, transition from one leader to the next and how to set goals for your organization.

"Sometimes when you become a president of an organization you haven't had any training, you haven't had any leadership experience," Laymon said. "We want to bring in some speakers from time to time and talk about leadership and what it means to be a servant. And hopefully that will be a good program to equip them to be good student leaders."

Another possible project is a program to aid freshmen in adjusting to life at college.

"We all agreed that it really is a beneficial thing for a young student who comes to Baylor to have someone take them under their wing and really engage in a conversation with them about what they like doing and how they want to achieve their goals," Laymon said. "We really want to facilitate more of that going on in an intentional way."

According to its members, the partnership was also created in part to combat the division arising from several racial incidents that occurred over the past year and to promote discussion and tolerance.

"I think it was prompted by the racial tension that occurred last year and the semester before," Sugarland senior Jennifer Simmons said.

Simmons said she believes that dialogue and education can help combat these kinds of problems.

"We're adults and we live in the real world, and we need to learn that having ignorant behavior is unacceptable," Simmons said.

"The Partnership provides an open forum for these kind of discussions. Fortunately, we haven't had any racial issues this semester, but if issues do arise, that is where they will be discussed."

Casey Martin, a San Francisco, Calif., alumnus, was involved with the founding of the group last semester and said he believes that the Partnership will encourage students of different backgrounds to connect with one another.

"It encourages tolerance, mainly just between the leaders (of student organizations), but you have to work from the top down," Martin said.

"It's an attempt to break down whatever barriers people perceive and which, unfortunately, are still there. Hopefully over time it can make a difference."

According to Ho, the group is not yet an official student organization, but members will be approaching Student Activities soon with their revised constitution.

He also said that he hopes the partnership will eventually welcome more members from other organizations.

"I don't want it to be an elite thing," Ho said.

"I know we have a lot of the bigger groups on campus (involved) right now, but I don't want to let the smaller organizations feel left out."

It seems that one thing that won't get in the way of the Partnership's efforts is ego.

"You would expect, having the presidents of a bunch of organizations together, to have a lot of people who want to do things and get credit for it, but you won't find that in this group," Laymon said.

"We don't want it to be this elite group, but just a group of students who all want to work together to make Baylor better."

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Apple hopes to devour cellular market with iPhone



Associated Press

Apple's iPhone combines a phone, music player and Internet browser with a large touchscreen.

Sticker shock scares away some consumers

By Helina Admasse
Reporter

Your whole life can literally be at your fingertips with Apple's newest project: the iPhone. The phone, announced in a Jan. 9 conference, is set for release in June.

Apple has said the device, much like an iPod, will work with PCs as well as Macs. The phone will have four main functions: a widescreen iPod, a touch screen smart phone, a PDA style layout and a state-of-the-art Web browser using Safari. The

touch screen feature is intended for the use of fingers, not a stylus, and the phone is one large screen. Dragging and dropping is as easy as pinching files with your fingers and putting them where you need them. When tilted, the phone will change its screen orientation, and when a call is answered, the touch screen will turn off.

With more than 200 patents for new technology and an arrangement of high-tech features, the iPhone promises to be a hit.

Some students, however, are reluctant to start saving up the cash for the summer release.

"It looks really great, and I'd love to have one, but not for \$500. There's no way," Hitch-

cock sophomore Brittany New-som said.

Others are unhappy that the phone will only be available to Cingular customers.

"I don't want to have to switch to Cingular for a phone," Oak Ridge sophomore Kelley Simp-son said. "I like T-Mobile, and I'm sure I'm not the only person who wouldn't switch plans for a phone."

Though the price may seem steep at \$499, Apple Inc. said in a press release that because the device is a combination iPod, which is priced near \$200, and smart phone, or PDA phone, which would be near \$300, the combination of the two prices is reasonable. The original phone

will have four gigabytes of mem-ory for \$499, and the eight giga-byte phone will cost \$599.

"I understand where they're coming from. It has a lot of great features, and everything Apple makes is really slick," Johnson City junior Whitt Eakman said. "And they're getting better at making their products compat-ible for both Macs and PCs."

With Apple's newest commer-cials starring 28-year-old actor Justin Long and iPod commer-cials aimed at America's youth, it's no wonder Apple is getting more attention from younger au-diences.

"It really is a well-developed device, and it's going to do great this year. A lot of people will

jump to get it," Eakman said.

Despite the current obses-sion with iPods and Apple's sleekly designed products, some college students plan to wait for the prices to drop.

"I like all the ideas behind it, but I'm still not going to jump to buy it right away," Newsom said.

Others will not even consider the purchase.

"I never wanted an iPod, so I bought a different brand mp3 player. I don't see a point in spending so much just for a sta-tus symbol," Simpson said.

The debate over whether the iPhone will be a success or flop will be settled when it launches in June.

Bush rues 'revenge killings'

Trusting Iraq's leaders difficult for U.S. public

By Jennifer Loven
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Tuesday the unruly execution of Saddam Hussein "looked like it was kind of a revenge killing," making it harder to persuade a skeptical U.S. public that Iraq's government will keep promises central to Bush's plan for a troop increase.

In his toughest assessment yet, Bush criticized the circum-stances of Saddam's hanging last month, as well as Monday's execution of two top aides, in-cluding Saddam's half brother.

A cell phone video of Sad-dam's Dec. 30 hanging showed the deposed Iraqi leader being taunted as he stood on the gal-lows with a noose around his neck. An official video of the ex-ecution of Saddam's half-broth-er showed that the hangman's noose decapitated him. Both hangings provoked outrage around the world, but particu-larly among Saddam's fellow Sunnis in Iraq.

Bush said he had expressed his displeasure about the way Saddam's execution was han-dled to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The president announced what he called a new strategy for the war last week, with much of it hinging on his trust in al-Maliki's government to make radical changes.

"It basically says to people, 'Look, you conducted a trial and gave Saddam justice that he didn't give to others. But then, when it came to execute him, it looked like it was kind of a re-venge killing,'" Bush said.

"It makes it harder for me to make the case to the American people that this is a govern-ment that does want to unify the country and move forward," Bush said. "And it just goes to show that this is a government that has still got some matura-tion to do."

Bush agreed to the interview, to be aired Tuesday evening on PBS' NewsHour With Jim Lehrer, as well as one last weekend on CBS' 60 Minutes to help sell his revised war plan to the public.

Polls show that Americans are overwhelmingly unhappy with Bush's Iraq policy. Seventy percent oppose sending more troops to Iraq, as he intends to do, according to an Associated Press-Ipsos poll last week.

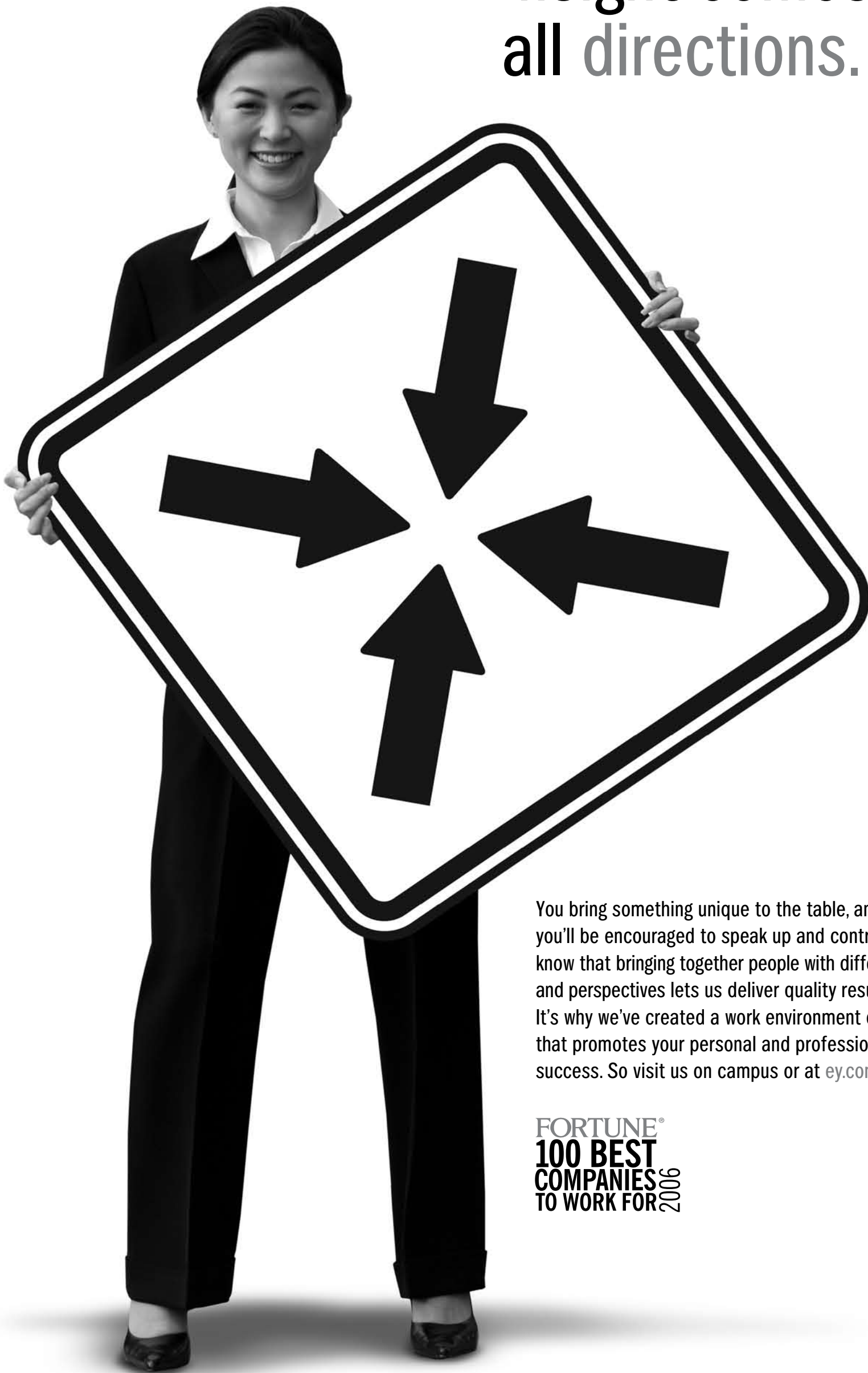
Bush said if a pollster asked for his opinion about Iraq, "I would be one of those that said, 'No, I don't approve of what's taking place in Iraq.'"

He said that keeping his old policies in place in the war would lead to "a slow failure," but withdrawing from Iraq, as some critics suggest, would re-sult in an "expedited failure."

"I am frustrated with the progress," Bush said. "A year ago, I felt pretty good about the situation. I felt like we were achieving our objective, which is a country that can govern, sustain, and defend itself. No question, 2006 was a lousy year for Iraq."

Senate Democrats plan by Thursday to introduce a resolu-tion denouncing the president's plan, with floor debate to begin next week.

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Involvement council joins interests of Baylor, Waco communities

By **Kate Boswell**
Staff writer

Most Baylor students are familiar with jokes about the Baylor Bubble, the invisible barrier that separates the university from the Waco community around it. The Bubble, so the story goes, keeps students safely inside and prevents them from ever engaging with the city that surrounds them.

One organization trying to burst the Bubble is the Community Involvement Council.

The council, which was started by Student Body External Vice President Allan Marshall, connects Baylor students and Waco community members by providing a chance for them to meet and talk with one another on a monthly basis.

"Its main purpose is to strengthen the relationship between Baylor and the Waco community, specifically to strengthen the relationship between the

Baylor student body and Waco community leaders," Marshall, a Cuneysenior, said.

Around 40 people meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues that affect both Baylor and Waco as a whole. The participants range from Baylor students to Waco's mayor, Virginia DuPuy.

Brandon Moseley, chief-of-staff to DuPuy, said the mayor was excited about the possibilities offered by the council.

"She's really excited because of the linkage between Baylor and Waco. It's important that they strengthen that relationship," Moseley said. "They have a lot of resources to offer each other."

Moseley said the mayor also appreciates that this group was started and is run by students.

"(The mayor) appreciates that this group is student-led and that it came about through their efforts," Moseley said.

During each session, the council divides into three com-

mittees: meaningful community engagement, recreation and tourism and employment opportunities.

Marshall said these categories arose from considering different questions the council is analyzing.

"One (question) is: How do we become more purposeful in engaging the Waco community? That's meaningful community engagement," Marshall said. "How do we get rid of that notion that there's nothing to do in Waco? That's recreation and tourism. How do we get Baylor students back in the Waco work force? That's employment opportunities."

The council is under the office of the external vice president, and Marshall said he hopes to eventually link it to a Web site which will further facilitate partnerships between community members and Baylor students.

"It will sort of put the CIC in

a Web site form, though the CIC will still meet," Marshall said.

Some projects being developed this semester include an outdoor recreation day and a career fair. Marshall said that the employment opportunities committee was in the process of planning a career fair for Baylor students featuring different Waco area businesses.

"There are a lot of community people and businesses in Waco that students overlook," Marshall said.

Other projects that have been discussed include pairing Baylor organizations with events in the Waco community and creating a long-term visioning project.

However, Marshall stresses that the council is primarily about building relationships, not planning events.

"I didn't want to reinvent the wheel, so I said, 'Let's not do event planning,'" Marshall said.

He said that since the goal of the group is forming better rela-

tionships through dialogue, it is a long-term project.

"It's always a long-term thing," Marshall said. "We've gotten people talking and we're linking people together, and I think that's the most important thing. When students are actually getting meaningful interaction with community leaders, I think that's a positive thing for Baylor and Waco."

Marshall said the idea of the council grew directly out of a leadership summit that met last fall. It addressed ways Baylor students could be more involved in the community and how the relationship between Baylor and Waco could be strengthened.

"I announced the idea of the council there," Marshall said of the summit. "It was so symbolic to have Baylor and Waco in the same room."

Participants agree that the council offers an opportunity for Baylor and Waco to connect with one another.

"(It's) a way for us to get involved positively in the Waco community," Centennial, Colo., sophomore Emily Hinkle said.

Elizabeth Smith, executive director of the Cooper Foundation, said she believes the council will change the way Baylor and Waco perceive each another.

"I think it will change (that) perception. I don't know whether it has done that yet or not," Smith said. "It's a two-way street. People from Baylor may see Waco differently because of their involvement in the CIC."

Marshall said he's proud of the progress made over the past semester.

"We have started to get people to think about the Baylor-Waco relationship. I think what we've also gotten accomplished is the idea of linking people together," Marshall said. "Those are the two major accomplishments right now."

Student gains fluency in Spanish, insight into culture

By **Brittany Mihalcin**
Reporter

Imagine swimming with seals, climbing glaciers and rafting - all while receiving university credit. This is exactly what Fort Worth junior Richard Shelton was able to do while studying abroad in Cordoba, Argentina, last semester.

Shelton returned from Argentina on Dec. 20, so his excitement and passion for studying abroad are still extremely evident.

"Argentina has opened my mind to a way of thinking that allows me to view issues with a more global perspective. It was the best experience of my life," Shelton said.

His main goal in studying abroad was to learn to speak Spanish fluently. Considering he had just finished Spanish 2320 for the second time at Baylor, Shelton knew this was a hefty goal.

In order to accomplish his

goal, he decided to enroll in Corboda's university, where all of his classes would be taught in Spanish. He even had to take physics taught entirely in the Spanish language.

Shelton said he quickly realized that he had to learn to speak, write and read Spanish in order to be successful in his classes and get the most out of his time in Argentina.

During his first week in Argentina, Shelton said he was paranoid and scared, and he had to force himself to go out. After a month, he became comfortable in the city. Two months after he arrived, Shelton said he actually became confused when people talked to him in English.

By the end of his time in Argentina, Shelton had successfully accomplished his goal of speaking Spanish fluently. His accent is now so proficient that most locals said they couldn't tell that he was from the United States.

"I've been taking Spanish

since I was in high school, and I've never made higher than a C," Shelton said. "Learning a language is more based on desire, not preparation or knowledge. If you want to learn, you will."

Shelton had some interesting experiences while studying abroad, in which he learned how big an influence politics play in the schooling system of Argentina. Each university department is run by separate political parties, and at one point some of Shelton's teachers actually went on strike. It took him three days to realize what was going on.

Later, the students went on strike. Being from North America removed Shelton from the political process, so he said it was actually fun attending the strikes. Being able to watch this process fascinated Shelton and taught him a lot about how different political systems are run.

Not only did Shelton accomplish his goal of learning to speak Spanish, he also was able

to travel throughout Argentina. His classes ended in November, so he traveled in Argentina for almost a month and a half before returning to the States. Some of his most memorable experiences were whale watching, swimming with seals, seeing penguins and the night life in Argentina.

At midnight, he would go out to dinner with his Spanish mother, Graciela, and at 2 a.m. she would send him off to party at a club. The club scene usually ended around 6 a.m., and he would then go to an after party until around 9 a.m. He said his professors even came out with him.

Studying abroad not only gave Shelton the chance to grow academically, but it also taught him to see things from an entirely different, more global perspective.

When asked to describe his experience as a whole, he said, "I would do it all over again. It was such a valuable experience.

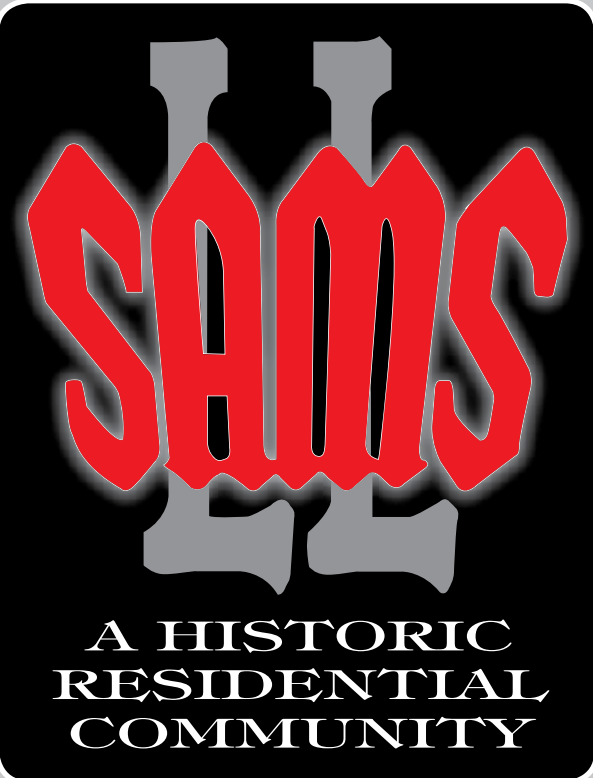


Courtesy photo
Fort Worth junior Richard Shelton spent last semester abroad in Argentina.

You come back and you have a lot more self-confidence. It is overwhelming."


Dr. William Mitchell, Director of the Center for International Education, said he hopes every Baylor student will explore the chance to study abroad.

"International education should be a top priority for every student. There is no better way to learn about people, places and global concerns than to go abroad with an academic expert on a particular country," Mitchell said.



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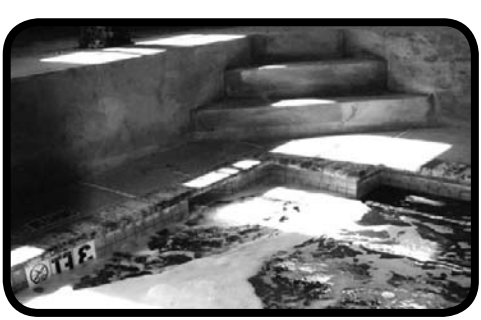
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Senior forward bounces back after rough junior season

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

To an outsider, Tim Bush's struggles last season and resurgence this year might be viewed as a simple case of a senior re-dedicating himself to basketball.

Those that know him know there's much more to the story.

While he keeps it well hidden behind a constant smile and lighthearted demeanor, Bush has faced and overcome more than his fair share of misfortune during his time at Baylor.

He'd never use it as an excuse for his dip in production, but the senior forward, who transferred to Baylor from Louisiana State University in January of 2004, had much larger things to worry about than playing basketball last season.

His troubles began between his redshirt sophomore and junior seasons, when Bush saw his hometown of New Orleans, La., devastated and his family displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

He subsequently saw his mother diagnosed with breast cancer and his family relocated to Waco, where they were saddled with the debt left by the hurricane.

And As a result of all this, he saw his grades in the classroom decline and his play on the court suffer.

After averaging 12.7 points and 5.4 rebounds in 34.1 minutes per game as a sophomore, Bush averaged just 3.4 points and 2.8 rebounds in 21.5 minutes as a junior.

Bush said his family situation affected all aspects of his life, including basketball.

"It had a major impact on my play. My numbers went down considerably," Bush said. "There were many times I felt I didn't want to be out there on the court and that I needed to be with my family."

But if there's one word that defines Bush, both on and off the court, it's strength.

Baylor head basketball Coach Scott Drew said Bush's strength has made him a leader for the Bears and helped hide his anxi-

ety when he was struggling on the court.

"Tim is a great teammate, so it was hard to detect that (he was hurting) because he really does a great job caring for the team and making sure everyone else is doing OK," Drew said. "Sometimes, those are the people that when they're suffering, you never know because they're such good people and they're too busy helping others."

But as much as Bush struggled last season, he's returned to form this season despite taking a lesser role.

"This year is completely different. A lot of what slowed me down last year has changed or improved since then," Bush said. "Now I can just play, be myself and have fun."

This is showing in his play. After starting the first 41 games of his Baylor career, Bush took on the role of a bench player this year and has averaged 7.6 points and 4.1 in 22.6 minutes per game.

Drew said that Bush's willingness to take fewer minutes for the good of the team made a statement to his teammates.

"I think Tim did a very good thing early in the year when he didn't play a lot of minutes and he was on the bench," he said. "He was still very supportive and very team-driven."

"When everyone saw just how much he cared about the team, it was very easy for them to see that it was important for them to listen to him, and that he's not just a 'what's best for' kind of guy."

Sophomore power forward Kevin Rogers, who is the Bears' leading scorer and rebounder at 13.6 and 7.1 respectively said Bush is a great leader and is largely responsible for his success.

"Tim is a great guy and a great player. He's just a great veteran leader. I have a great deal of respect for Tim," Rogers said. "I credit Tim for much of my success this year. He was a starter last year, and this year he's taken bench time for me to come into my own."

Bush has repeatedly said



that winning is all that matters to him, so even when he's not lighting up the stat sheet, he's doing little things to help his team. The 6-foot-6, 245 pound forward's versatility allows him to defend power forwards and posts, and he's been called on to do that several times this season.

In the team's opening game against Colorado State, Bush was called on to guard 7-foot stand-out center Jason Smith in the

closing minutes after Mamadou Diene and Josh Lomers fouled out. Bush was able to slow Smith down and drew a pivotal charge in overtime to secure the win.

Drew said Bush routinely plays bigger than he is and credits his desire to win for allowing him to do that.

"If we could ever make Tim Bush as big as his heart, he'd be about seven-foot, Shaq-size."

In conference play, he's been asked to play out of position



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Left: Tim Bush guards Texas Tech's Martin Zeno in the Bears 73-70 home victory over the Red Raiders on Saturday. Right: Bush battles with Jarius Jackson for a rebound. He had three points and six rebounds in the win.

and guard standout post players such as Oklahoma State University's Mario Boggan and Texas A&M's University's Joseph Jones.

Drew said Bush's ability and willingness to do this make him invaluable to the team.

"Tim does a lot of that dirty work. He sets a lot of great screens, he bangs with a lot of guys that are bigger and stronger than him and he does a very good job defensively," Drew said.

"At the end of the game, you don't want to bet against Tim Bush to get a stop or get a big rebound because he's a warrior."

Junior guard Aaron Bruce, who's played with Bush in each of his three seasons at Baylor, said Bush's strength on the court make him a tough guy to stop.

"He's a beast. He's a really strong guy, and any time he decides he wants to use that, I'd hate to be on the receiving end of it," he said.

Bush gets a chance to build on a successful season when the Bears take on the Kansas State Wildcats at 7 p.m. tonight in Manhattan, Kan. Last time they played there in 2005, Bush scored 18 points and hit a career-high four 3-pointers.

Astros lock up Lidge for 2007

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Brad Lidge agreed to a \$5.35 million, one-year contract with Houston on Tuesday, avoiding arbitration following a rough year in which he temporarily lost his job as closer the season after helping lead the Astros to their first World Series.

Lidge was 1-5 with a 5.28 ERA and 32 saves, and his struggles led manager Phil Garner to adopt a closer-by-committee approach in mid-August. He blew a career-high six save chances, including four before the All-Star break.

He will get a \$1.375 million raise from the \$3,975,000 he made last year.

"We are looking forward to

a great 2007 season with him as our closer once again," general manager Tim Purpura said. "Brad is one of the leaders of our team, and we are expecting great results from him this season."

He was an NL All-Star in 2005, when he had a 2.29 ERA and 42 saves in 46 chances. He struck out 103 in 70 2-3 innings, allowing just 58 hits and 18 earned runs.

He saved Houston's first three victories in the NL championship series against St. Louis, but gave up a memorable home run to Albert Pujols when the Astros were a strike away from the World Series. Although Houston eliminated the Cardinals the next game, Lidge had a hard time recovering.

Lidge took the loss in the Series-clinching win for the Chicago White Sox, and his difficulties spilled into the 2006 season.

He became the first reliever since Cy Young Award winner Eric Gagne in 2002-04 to strike out more than 100 batters in three straight seasons (104 in 75 innings), but he allowed career highs in hits (69), runs (47) and home runs (10).

Lidge's best season was 2004, when he assumed the closer's role midseason and finished with a 1.90 ERA, with 29 saves and 157 strikeouts in 94 2-3 innings.


Arbitration hearings begin in February for the players who can't reach a contract agreement without third-party assistance.

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Lady Bears look to rebound from consecutive losses

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

Standing up to a new challenge should be nothing new for Lady Bears head Coach Kim Mulkey. She has faced down a basketball program in tatters and turned it into one of the most successful in the country.

But now, as losers of two straight conference games, the Lady Bears are looking to right the ship before they are buried under the pressure of a trying Big 12 schedule.

The Lady Bears began conference play at 2-0 for just the second time in the past six years.

The only other time a Kim Mulkey-coached team started its Big 12 slate undefeated through those pivotal first two games, they won a National Championship.

Most of the names are different and the Big 12 has shifted, but the results somehow stayed consistent.

Freshman forward Danielle Wilson is a prime example. The McDonalds All-American averaged 9 points and 7.5 rebounds through the two wins and was named Big 12 rookie of the week for her contributions.

She's been praised for her startling 82 1/2 inch wingspan that has put her on pace to break a 27-year-old school blocks record, and is one of many first-year players picking up where her graduated counterparts left off.

But sometimes there is simply no substitute for experience.

As quickly as Baylor ascended, they fell right back down again. The Lady Bears faltered against the Oklahoma Sooners on Jan. 10, losing 76-63 in a game that was much closer than the score indicated.

After the game, Oklahoma head Coach Sherri Coale point-



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

The Lady Bears huddle during a timeout in their 76-63 loss to No. 8 University of Oklahoma on Jan. 10. The loss was the team's first since dropping a game 69-55 to Purdue in the finals of the preseason WNIT on Nov. 19. Baylor has since lost to Texas A&M, 60-52, marking the team's conference losing streak since the 2002-03 season.

ed to her "special seniors" as the key in their victory, something Baylor can't claim in similar numbers.

The impact was certainly felt in the win/loss column, but the game could have been more of a psychological barrier than anything, revealing the youth and inexperience that had previously been masked by success.

It didn't help that the loss snapped a 12-game win streak and fueled the doubts that haunted the team before the season began.

Mulkey said that it's all just part of growing with a young team.

"I have emphasized in the past that everyone's got to be involved," Mulkey said. "This team has to have a little bit of production from everybody."

"We're getting caught watching Bernice," she said.

Mulkey is referring to Bernice Mosby, Baylor's most decorated and experienced senior.

She has led the team in scoring 12 times this season and has been a vocal leader for the 15-

win Lady Bears.

Junior guard Angela Tisdale admitted after the Oklahoma loss that she was guilty of leaning on Mosby until the senior couldn't support the team any longer, a recurring theme in Baylor's three losses this year.

"I think I was sitting back and watching (Bernice) too much instead of playing my own game," Tisdale said. "And then I tried to do too much because I didn't get it done earlier."

After losing to Oklahoma at home, the Lady Bears dropped

their next game to No. 19 Texas A&M. It was the first time the team has lost consecutive conference games in four years.

Baylor was unable to break the Aggies' defense and scored a season-low 52 points. With the loss, the Lady Bears have doubled their loss total from their first 16 games in just three days.

"We're just trying and waiting on that big play," Mulkey said, "and it never came for us."

Now at 2-2 in conference play, the Lady Bears have until

Saturday to mull over their season and look for ways to get it back on track.

Then they launch right back into their conference schedule with Kansas State at the Ferrell Special Events Center.

In their past two games, the Lady Bears saw an 8-point half-time lead over Oklahoma and a 12-point first half lead over A&M evaporate.

Mulkey said they need to do a better job of playing with a lead.

"We don't know how to finish games," Mulkey said. "Big leads are hard to come by, and when we get them, we have to learn how to maintain them or extend them."

The Big 12 has typically provided some of the stiffest competition in the NCAA and has played its part as an up-and-coming conference power.

Although it doesn't house the traditional powers of women's college basketball like Pat Summitt's Tennessee Lady Vols or Geno Auriemma's Connecticut Huskies, the depth is certainly there.

The Jan. 10 match-up between the No. 9 Lady Bears and the No. 8 Sooners proves that power match-ups within the conference are alive and well.

But the emergence of the Big 12 as one of the tougher conferences around won't be enough for Mulkey. She sees the season as a series of swings, and the Lady Bears just have to catch the right one.

"Momentum is why you play," she said. "It's the greatest thing about athletics. It's people fighting and clawing and playing hard."

The Lady Bears will have to do just that if they hope to avoid a mid-season swoon in one of the country's toughest conferences.

Professors moonlight as hoops stars

By Whitney Farr
Reporter

Your professor may be hiding something under his suit and tie. Some students may guess scales, and others would suggest a heart of stone, but what about a Philadelphia 76ers jersey and knee pads?

This is the case for the associate dean of the Honors College Dr. Alden Smith. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 a.m., Smith sheds his business attire and transforms into a basketball player, wearing shorts, a Sixers jersey and yellow knee pads that he has layered under his suit for a quick costume change.

Since 1988, the noon basketball association, or NBA as they call it, has been getting together between classes for a little competition and camaraderie. The group is made up mostly of men

who serve as department heads, professors, staff and graduate students, ranging in age from 20 to 60.

"Some of us are in our 50s now and I guess we need to think about retiring. We are having a lot of fun though, so we may not," said Dr. Blake Burleson, the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Games are shirts vs. skins, which is always mildly repulsive for students when they see their old pros running topless," Baylor grad student and religion instructor, Chad Hartsock said.

While the most skeptical students may have trouble imagining their professors doing anything outside of plotting their next "multiple-multiple choice" test question, these aren't just a weekly game of horse.

The point of the game is camaraderie and exercise, so some of the conventional house rules

of pick-up games are changed to promote these goals, but the games and the participants are very competitive.

In fact, Hartstock said the most entertaining part of the games is the injuries.

"Dr. Alden Smith, who can always be seen sporting his Allen Iverson jersey, shattered several bones in his hand last semester and had to have his hand surgically reconstructed," he said. "I even had my nose broken by Dr. Smith about two years ago,"

Chairman of the philosophy department, Mike Beaty, suffered a more serious injury in one of these games, when he and Burleson were both going after a loose ball. Beaty said Burleson lowered his shoulder and barreled into him, cracking his rib. He finished the game, but his cracked rib punctured his lung in the process.

But of all the injuries, eco-

nomics professor Jim Henderson takes the cake. During a game, his heart actually stopped beating. The men circled around Henderson to pray, while CPR was performed. By use of a defibrillator, Henderson was brought back to life.

"We call him Lazarus," Smith said.

This frightening experience did not stop Henderson from playing basketball. After surgery, Henderson is back on the court feeling better than ever.

"It's great to have teamwork with these guys from different areas in the campus who you may not interact with in the office. You get to know them in the game," Burleson said.

Although the smell of sweat may burn the nose, playing a good game of basketball with friends has proven to be a refreshing experience for these players.

Rangers sign three, avoid salary arbitration

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Akinori Otsuka, who had 32 saves after taking over as the closer last season, agreed to a \$3 million, one-year deal with the Texas Rangers on Tuesday.

Outfielder Brad Wilkerson (\$4.35 million) and right-hander Rick Bauer (\$730,000) also avoided salary arbitration by agreeing to one-year contracts.

All three were set to exchange proposed arbitration figures with the Rangers on Tuesday.

Otsuka became the Texas closer after Francisco Cordero set a major league record with five blown saves in April, and was later traded. Otsuka converted 32 of 36 save chances and was 2-4 with a 2.11 ERA in 63 games.

The Rangers expect this year to return Otsuka to the eighth-

inning setup role they planned for the right-hander when they got him in a trade with San Diego last offseason.

Last month, Texas signed closer Eric Gagne to a one-year, \$6 million deal loaded with another \$5 million in incentives.

Wilkerson hit .222 with 15 home runs and 44 RBIs in 95 games last year, his first with the Rangers. He had season-ending surgery on his right shoulder

in August but is expected to be ready for spring training and likely will be the starting left fielder.

Bauer was 3-1 with two saves and a 3.55 ERA in 58 games (one start) last season.

On Monday, the Rangers agreed on a \$1.05 million, one-year contract with right-hander Joaquin Benoit, their only other player eligible for salary arbitration.

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Spring Break Special



DJ offers unique spin in career

By Aileen Wong
Reporter

He had \$400 and had to decide between taking a locksmith correspondence course or buying turntables.

Ryan Chilson, a senior entrepreneurship major from Albuquerque, NM, chose the turntables and soon became known as "DJ Chil," a nickname Chilson got from shortening his last name.

On campus, Chilson has DJed at many sorority and fraternity functions, including pledge dances and semi-formals.

"Everybody always enjoys the mixes he does and his style," said Brandon Dubuissou, a senior from Atlanta, Texas, and the social chairman for Alpha Tau Omega.

Chilson is also gaining recognition at various Baylor sponsored events, like Steppin' Out and the annual Bed Races sponsored by Alpha Tau Omega and Place2BU.

Furthermore, his mixes can be heard as visitors step into the Baylor football stadium before the game starts.

Chilson realized he had a passion to DJ in the eighth grade

when he wanted to join a traveling skateboard team.

He didn't make the team and discovered there was a break-dance team that traveled with them.

Wanting to try out for that team, Chilson went to a local hip-hop shop, which had some turntables for sale.

Chilson was hooked.

Prior to this discovery, Chilson found a love for the kind of music he would later choose to play as a DJ: hip-hop.

In the seventh grade, his sister's boyfriend played "Inter-galactic" by the Beastie Boys for him.

After hearing that song, he was sold.

"Hip-hop is an expression of yourself," Chilson said. "I feel more individualistic because of it."

Chilson working at a restaurant and saved \$400. He then purchased his first turntables on eBay, and his career began.

Chilson uses a different style than most other DJs. He mixes the music through a technique called beat-matching, in which he matches the beats of two different songs by speeding up or slowing down one of the songs



Courtesy Photo

Ryan Chilson, better known as "DJ Chil" on campus, markets his DJ business to various groups on campus. His mixes can be heard at football games and parties alike.

to match the other.

The end product is two songs smoothly mixed into one.

The more popular method of DJing is merely hitting the play button on the music player and not matching the two tracks.

"You go to an event, and people are detached from the music," Chilson said.

"The DJ is so romanceless. He is just a guy with CDs who hits play."

Chilson's love for music and DJing is evident.

"I'm really passionate about this. I wish more people were," Chilson said.

"I love what I do. I love what I

play. It's a bonding thing."

Chilson has experienced great success when he DJs at various events and has noticed that he connects with his listeners through his music.

"Whenever I play, we have a blast," Chilson said.

After graduation, Chilson hopes to pursue DJing full time. His dream is to one day do post-production remixing and provide a subscription service for other DJs to listen to and download his mixes.

To contact him for an event or listen to a demo of his music, visit Chilson's Web site, www.djchil.com.

The Format in genre of its own

By Kathryn Waggoner
Contributor

A few years ago I went to a Switchfoot concert, and a band called The Format opened the show. They were a little obscure and eccentric, but I decided to purchase the CD nonetheless.

ALBUMREVIEW

As I kept listening to the CD, I found that there was something there, something different from anything I'd heard before.

I rode home from the concert and found myself strangely attracted, tapping my toe along with a band that I thought could easily make it on mainstream radio.

And as it turned out, songs like "Wait, Wait, Wait" and "The First Single" caught the ears of the major label Atlantic Records, which attempted to make the band into the next "super-sonic success."

What truly captivated me was how unconventional they were. They weren't emo, alternative, or rock. They were simply The Format.

For three years after the release of the first album, there was nothing but silence from the band.

No early releases, no EPs, nor any upcoming album dates. I truly thought that this was one of the thousands of talented bands that got flushed by corporate America.

Thank God I couldn't have been more wrong.

In 2006, The Format released its sophomore album, "Dog Problems", which proved to be more eclectic than ever.

"Matches," the first song, instantly signals that this album will be much more daring than the first.

I remember the first time I listened to the song and how floored I was as the cache of instrumentals mimicking a circus danced in my earphones.

And when I say floored, I don't mean this grand religious experience that would change my life forever. The music actually had no initial effect on me at all.

I was angry, disappointed, inflamed; this was not the band I knew, and I was convinced it was changing colors.

Little did I know, it was actually defining them.

I found these songs had more meaning than any apathetic emo band could conjure up. These were real artists, who took the time to produce an album that proved different from anything on the Billboard charts.

The Format's growing popularity has allowed it to tour with headlining bands like Switchfoot and All American Rejects.

This summer, they're scheduled to open for Guster.

While most bands choose to organize their albums according to song tempos, the band decided to take an alternative "format."

Though there first appears to be a lack of cohesion and the song arrangement seems sporadic, the common thread running through this album is the subject matter.

Basically, boy meets girl, girl cheats on boy and now boy is having "Dog Problems," as the band so politely refers to it.

While that summary might seem typical of everything we download onto our iPods nowadays, the band cleverly orchestrated its songs to stand for more than the hypnotic choruses given it credit for.

If you enjoyed the Where's Waldo or I Spy books as a kid, you'll love unveiling the true significance of each puzzle-like song on The Format's "Dog Problems."

So I say, take a break from mainstream radio, head over to the iTunes Music Store and treat your ears to the eccentric sounds of The Format.

Grade: A

'Little Miss Sunshine' DVD delivers big

By Tamara Parker
Contributor

Chances are you didn't catch Little Miss Sunshine at the theaters this year, because it played in Waco for only about one week. But if you were one of the lucky few, you'll agree it's worth renting now that it's out on DVD and VHS.

MOVIEREVIEW

The film, starring big names like Steve Carell, Toni Collette and Greg Kinnear, takes its audience on a dysfunctional fam-

ily's determined journey to get their daughter to the Little Miss Sunshine Pageant in California despite many unbelievable and often heart-breaking obstacles.

Husband-and-wife directing team Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris take audiences into the world of beauty pageants without saturating the film in it. The main focus is on the family and the little girl, whose spirit and natural beauty contrast the glitz and glamour of the plasticized pageant world.

The wild array of character personalities may seem like the typical set-up for an indie film,

but don't judge it just yet. Little Miss Sunshine has a remarkable way of turning its stereotypes into multidimensional characters. The central story isn't so much about the success of each character but the ultimate failure of the whole endeavor, which gives the family new wisdom and insight into life.

The film's most obvious imperfection is the underdevelopment of the mother, played by Toni Collette, who exists only to hold the other characters together.

However, Steve Carell's portrayal of a lovelorn college pro-

fessor more than makes up for any other character weaknesses.

This family drama has what so many movies today lack: the ability to make you laugh while simultaneously driving home a message that gives you a warm, fuzzy feeling, even if you refuse to admit it.

Anyone with a family will find someone to relate to in Little Miss Sunshine.

And you might find yourself musing about the lovable family long after you turn off the DVD player.

Grade: A

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Martin exhibit paints Texas in a new perspective

By Ashlie Young
Reporter

When most people think of art, their minds are filled with images of famous, old masterpieces by Italian artists. Leonardo Da Vinci. Raphael. Michelangelo. However, art can be found anywhere, in any century. Texas Modern: The Rediscovery of Early Texas Abstraction (1935-1965) opens Thursday at the Martin Museum of Art. This exhibit allows viewers to experience works of art created, during an innovative period of art in the 20th century by many renowned Texan artists. Todd Neece, a sophomore economics major from Allen and the student assistant for Museum Director Karin Gilliam, encourages students to come see the collection. "Someone who doesn't appreciate classical art such as Van Gogh may be interested in the modern art displayed in this collection," Neece said. "It's very different and colorful." Neece has been helping put the exhibit together since August. Gilliam, director of Martin Museum of Art, has been working alongside others for a year and a half to put this exhibit

together. "I think that this exhibit is important because there have been so few others that have focused on mid-century Texan artists," Gilliam said. She is eager for students to view the exhibit because she said most have never seen pieces from this period of Texas art. "I grew up with this style of art in my home and I'm excited to share this with a younger generation," Gilliam said. Gilliam said she thinks students who come to the exhibit can bring a fresh, new perspective to this style of art. "I hope that they will discover the beautiful design qualities displayed in this exhibit," Gilliam said. The exhibit will come with a catalog featuring full-page color plates of all the pieces, with an introduction by art historian Katie Robinson Edwards and essays by Mark L. Smith and Jim Edwards. These essays will give viewers an analysis of both the context and formality of the artwork. Edwards, a visiting assistant professor of contemporary art from the Allbritten Art Institute, is an expert in modernism. She said this exhibit is groundbreaking because it features Texas artists who were painting



The Texas Modern exhibit at the Martin Museum of Art, opening Thursday, displays a wide array of art from Texas 20th century artists.

Chris Weeks/
Lariat staff

modern abstract art when that style was not accepted in Texas. "I want to let people know what's going on in the art world," Edwards said. "Many people see classical styles with figures and forget that there is abstract art out there. This exhibit isn't predominantly Texas style."

Edwards said the artists featured in this collection are famous for their progressive styles. Many of them either studied at or were influenced by The Bauhaus School of Germany, an avant-garde art and design school that was open from 1919 to 1933.

According to Edwards, the school was forced to close by the Nazis during World War II. Artists in the exhibit were also influenced by Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, and all of them were working to further contemporary industrialization, technology and artistry. Now this collection of their

works, some of which have been unseen for almost half a century, has been compiled for public viewing. Edwards encourages both faculty and students to attend the exhibit. "There is a piece for every person," Edwards said. "For someone who is interested in sculpture, there will be a piece they love. People who enjoy abstract, modern art will discover many pieces that they can appreciate." The opening of the exhibit and a university reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the museum, with a gallery talk by Mark L. Smith at 7:30 p.m. Smith's talk is titled "Minimal Remnant: Early Abstract and Non-Objective Painting in Texas." Another event coinciding with this exhibit is a presentation by Edwards, "Texas Modern: The Rediscovery," on at 4 p.m. Jan. 29th. The Texas Modern exhibit will run through March 3. The event is free and open to the public. Free food will also be served. For more information, call 710-1867 or visit the museum Web site at www.baylor.edu/martinmuseum.

New Beyonce CD soulfully satsifying

By Randi Dube
Contributor

Since the release of her 2003 album Dangerously in Love, fans have only had the hit single "Check On It" to hold them over. However, listeners long awaiting their Beyonce fix can stop pining. Her most recent album, B'Day, is a high-energy compilation of the pop diva's soulful vocals, which has already been highly approved by fans everywhere. More than 2 million copies have sold since its release. In the first track, "Déjà Vu," Beyonce opens another album with rapper Jay-Z. The reunion

of these dynamic artists is far from dull, and this passionate opener leaves the listener wanting more. Listeners who enjoyed the energetic yet risqué "Naughty Girl" of Beyonce's debut album will appreciate "Get Me Bodied," the second track of the album, and "Freakum Dress." "Freakum Dress" is an empowering track encouraging women to carry themselves confidently and to remind men of their worth. Every female fan is sure to identify with this track. "Ring the Alarm," a personal favorite, is the most energetic track on the album. With a commanding, soulful flair, Beyonce delivers lyrics that threaten her lover with the consequences of disloyalty. Including sirens and a muffled sound reminiscent of

a vintage record track, the song is bursting with energy. While B'Day is reminiscent of Beyonce's past work, the album incorporates new, soulful sounds, especially in songs like "Suga Mama," "Kitty Kat" and "Green Light." The hit single, "Irreplaceable" and the following track, "Resentment," feature acoustic and calming guitar back-ups and soothing vocals that add a refreshing sound to the mix. The album wouldn't be complete without a track from the Golden Globe nominee musical, Dreamgirls, starring Beyonce and other former members of Destiny's Child. "Listen" is a ballad featuring inspirational lyrics describing the desire to follow personal

dreams. The vibrant album reaches a forte and closes with an extended version of "Get Me Bodied," which incorporates all the most appreciated aspects of Beyonce's work — from intense melodies to soulful rifts appropriate for the nightlife or the iPod. Considered a pop artist, Beyonce is truly in a category of her own. Her empowering, full vocals combined with eclectic tracks and meaningful lyrics don't bend to the rules of pop music but seem to bring the genre to a new, praiseworthy dynamic. For Beyonce's B'Day fans and critics alike, this soulful album is sure to succeed not only on the airwaves, but on the big screen as well. Grade: A

Keeping workout resolutions begins with gym

By Cecilia Oleck
Detroit Free Press

(MCT) — It's here. After reveling, imbibing and overdoing it on the sweets and treats prevalent in the waning weeks of 2006, now it's back-to-the-gym time. If your plan for the New Year is to get in shape, know that you're not alone. Health clubs report an average 12 percent spike in new memberships in January, the highest increase all year. But just signing up for the gym isn't enough (sorry!). Regular gym-goers often laugh among themselves that while new members fill the place for a few weeks, it's not long before their resolve weakens. So how can you get the most out of your newfound determination to fit fitness into your life? Experts say finding a

gym or fitness club where you feel comfortable and physically challenged and that jibes with your health goals are the key. Take Tim Foehl, who feels so at home at Muscles Gym in St. Clair Shores, Mich., that he brings his bulldog Harley with him to work out. And that's OK with everyone else. "He's our mascot," says Rose Schroeder, co-owner of the gym, who holds Harley's leash while Foehl, 45, pumps iron. That level of comfort is one of the reasons Foehl finds his workouts so enjoyable. Located in a small brick building with blue awnings over the windows, Muscles, Foehl says, is the kind of place where everybody knows your name. And if they don't know it, they'll make up a nickname for you. "It's not a meat market," says Foehl, a tractor-trailer owner/

operator and bouncer who has worked out at the gym for about two decades. "A lot of these people I've known for years. It feels like a family." That grunting, dropping heavy weights and listening to loud music — banned in many fitness centers — are all allowed at Muscles is one of the reasons its loyalists — many of them police officers and firefighters — prefer working out there. How should you go about finding your ideal gym? We put together a guide to help. Finding the right gym The International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association offers the following tips. Identify your fitness goals and look for a health club that offers programs and services to help you achieve them. Ask friends and co-workers

where they work out and why. Look for a health club close to home or work. A convenient location will make it easier to get there on a regular basis — and it will increase the likelihood that you'll stick to your new exercise routine. Visit a health club during the timeframe when you are most likely to work out. This will help you gauge whether the club meets your needs and expectations. Also ask if you can get a trial membership before committing to a long-term plan. Choose a club that makes you feel comfortable. Check the locker rooms, equipment and club amenities to determine if the facility is well-organized and clean. Talk to fitness instructors about their programs and ask when classes are held and who attends.

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