

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2007

New energy contract to save BU millions

Baylor won't renew deal with Reliant when it expires in '08
By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Baylor will soon be saving some green. The university's new energy contract, announced Thursday, will go easy on the environment — and on Baylor's wallet.

Administrators have made the decision to change power companies in July 2008, when the university's contract with Reliant Energy expires. The switch to WPS Energy Services Inc. is designed to save Baylor money, said Don Bagby, director of facilities management.

After changing companies, the university expects to save more than \$2 million of the \$13.5 million Baylor spends yearly on power, he said.

In addition, the university will start using wind power, a renewable energy source, through WPS.

"We're winning on both counts," Bagby said.

Although not all of Baylor's energy needs can be met by wind power, he said a "significant portion" of them will be.

Bagby said wind tends to move faster during daylight hours than it does during the night, so Baylor will receive

more renewable power during the day.

"We're buying wind power capacity out of West Texas," Bagby said.

Although Baylor will be paying WPS Energy Services Inc. for renewable energy, power from many different companies goes into the Texas power grid.

When Baylor uses power, renewable energy may not be directly transmitted to campus, but the university will be pay-

ing for the development of West Texas wind farms.

"That's really wonderful," said Austin junior Jenny Parker, an environmental studies major and member of Baylor's Environmental Concern Organization. Christians often forget that they've been "entrusted" with the earth, she said.

Parker said it's a "disservice to God" when excessive amounts of power are used. Replacing demand for "brown"

nonrenewable energy with "green" renewable energy sets a good example, she said.

"We do care about our air," Parker said.

"It's exciting that Baylor as a Baptist institution would take the lead. That's what Baylor seems to be doing."

Mary Darden, president of Keep Waco Green, shared Parker's enthusiasm.

Please see WIND, page 4



David Poe/Lariat staff

Wii are the champions

Austin freshman Anand Venkatrao, right, claims victory over his opponent Thursday while playing tennis on his newly purchased Nintendo Wii in Martin Residence Hall while his friend, Austin freshman Nick Herring, looks on.

Students address regents

Top concerns include coal plants, representation on board

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Several students were given the chance Thursday to speak to the Baylor Board of Regents' student life and academic affairs committee about student interests.

This semester, the student body officers were given 30 minutes to talk — more time than they were given in the past, said Student Body President Mark Laymon, a Richardson senior.

"It was very gracious of the regents to give us 30 minutes this time to share student perspectives with them," he said.

"We wanted to make sure that we were good stewards of that time."

The goal for each of the student body officers was to present "what students care about," Laymon said.

Parking has been an issue this semester, and Laymon said he reiterated to the committee the various ways the administration has demonstrated its willingness to try and help accommodate student concerns.

Please see REGENT, page 4

Senate allocates \$9,150 from Student Life Fund

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Student Senate allocated \$9,150 of the Student Life Fund to Phi Iota Alpha's Fiota Cup, the Student Foundation's Bearathon and Baylor Habitat for Humanity on Thursday.

Senate voted unanimously to allocate \$1,000 to Phi Iota Alpha to host the Fiota Cup, a soccer tournament. This allocation will make up 45 percent of the total cost of the tournament, which will be held on April 13 and 14.

There is expected to be at least a 300-member audience, Midland senior Chaz Castillo said. The teams will be from various residence halls and or-

ganizations on campus.

"(The Cup) is a chance for women to participate in athletics outside of intramurals and to offer more diverse competition within organizations," said Sam Garcia, a Dallas senior and Phi Iota Alpha member.

Garcia said eight teams have already signed up for the event and that since both greek and non-greek organizations will be participating, the event promotes unity.

"It's truly an all-university event," Garcia said. "I just hope that everyone will come out and take part in it."

Senate voted 18-11, with two senators abstaining, in favor of allocating funds to Student Foundation for Bearathon. Ac-

cording to the bill, the \$2,650 allocation is 35 percent of the total cost of the event.

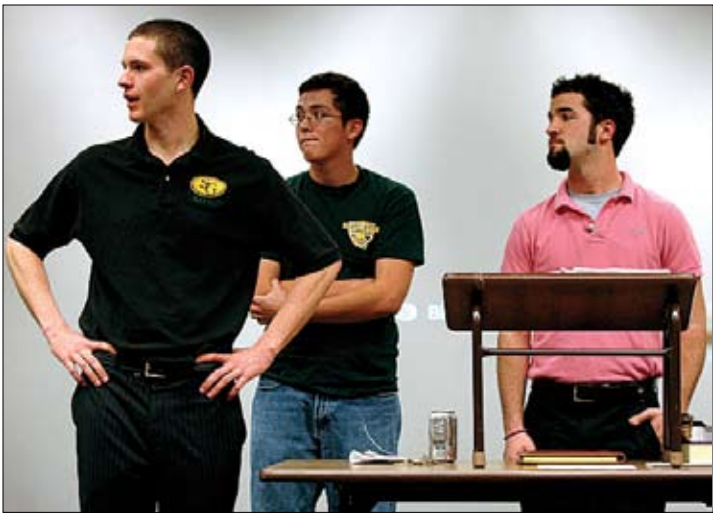
"It's a wonderful event. It is a certified half-marathon," said Kevin Giddens, a Whitehouse junior and one of the bill's sponsors.

"It brings in people from all over the state and all over the country."

According to the bill, 340 runners entered last year's race.

Will Simmons, a Frisco junior and Student Foundation member, said the funds from Bearathon will go toward Student Foundation's student scholarships.

"That really is the core of what our organization is about,"



David Poe/Lariat staff

Richardson senior Mark Laymon, from left, Laredo senior Miguel Romero and Lindale freshman Noah Hutchison field questions Thursday at the Student Senate meeting.

Simmons said.

The Senate voted 14 to 12 to allocate \$5,500 to Baylor Habitat for Humanity to help cover the cost of constructing a home in the Waco community. Brent

Wilkins, a Crawford senior and one of the bill's authors, said Baylor Habitat for Humanity was the first collegiate chapter

Please see FUND, page 4

Student charged with mischief

By Melissa Limmer
Staff writer

Houston sophomore Stephen Buchanan was arrested by Baylor police Thursday on criminal mischief charges stemming from a Jan. 24 vandalism incident on campus.

Buchanan was booked in McLennan County Jail on charges of criminal mischief and released Thursday night on \$3,500 bond, a jail spokeswoman said. The criminal mischief charge is a state jail felony.

Sometime around 2:30 p.m. Jan. 24, tires were slashed on five vehicles and profanities scratched into the side of a week-old Hummer in the parking lot between Waco Hall and Tidwell Bible Building, said Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak.

Buchanan was arrested after another student came forward and admitted to witnessing the event.

Doak said the vandalism was a "major act of anger."

During the arrest, Buchanan was "upfront and very humble, remorseful and cooperative," Doak said.

Penalty for a state jail felony could result in up to a \$10,000 fine and six months to two years in jail.

Turn to page 3 for this week's police blotter.

Anna Nicole found dead in hotel

By Suzette Laboy
The Associated Press

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Anna Nicole Smith, the pneumatic blonde whose life played out as an extraordinary tabloid tale, **Playboy** centerfold, jeans model, bride of an octogenarian oil tycoon, reality-show subject and tragic mother, died Thursday after collapsing at a hotel. She was 39.

She was stricken while staying at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and was rushed to a hospital.

Edwina Johnson, chief investigator for the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office, said

the cause of death was under investigation and an autopsy would be done today.

Just five months ago, Smith's 20-year-old son died suddenly in the Bahamas in what was believed to be a drug-related death.

Seminole Police Chief Charlie Tiger said a private nurse called 911 after finding Smith unresponsive in her sixth-floor room at the hotel, which is on an Indian reservation.

He said Smith's bodyguard administered CPR, but she was declared dead at a hospital.

Through the '90s and into the new century, Smith was famous for being famous, a pop-culture punchline because of her up-

and-down weight, her Marilyn Monroe looks, her exaggerated curves, her little-girl voice, her ditzy-blond persona, and her over-the-top revealing outfits.

Recently, she lost a reported 69 pounds and became a spokeswoman for TrimSpa, a weight-loss supplement.

On her reality show and other recent TV appearances, her speech was often slurred and she seemed out of it. Some critics said she seemed drugged-out.

Her former lawyer Lenard Leeds told the celebrity gossip Web site TMZ that Smith "always had problems with her weight



Former model and reality TV star Anna Nicole Smith died Thursday after collapsing in a hotel room in Hollywood, Fla. Smith's son died in the Bahamas about five months ago shortly after she gave birth to another son. An autopsy will be performed today.

Associated Press

Please see ANNA, page 4

Community volunteers accept recognition

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

It won't be a black tie, red carpet affair flanked by paparazzi. It just wouldn't be fitting for the inaugural winners of the George W. Truett Servant Leader Award. Instead, the winners will be honored by Jimmy Dorrell, director of Mission Waco and adjunct Truett professor, with an announcement at Chapel services Monday. The award winners were chosen for their outstanding volunteerism in the community and will be presented with a miniature bronze sculpture of Jesus washing Peter's feet. Additionally, they will receive \$250, of which one-fourth (\$65) will be donated to the nonprofit organization of their choice.

This year, nominations were made and voted on by staff at Mission Waco, Dorrell said, but they plan to expand the nominations to a wider network of organizations next year.

"Because it's the first year, we weren't able to get everything in place to open the award to programs on the entire campus and Waco area," Dorrell said. "We are going to continue to mature the program."

One of the winners, Colleyville senior Catherine Meadows speaks Thursday to students at Waco High School as part of the Communities in Schools program.



Chris Weeks/Lariat Staff

Colleyville senior Catherine Meadows speaks Thursday to students at Waco High School as part of the Communities in Schools program.

"My kids really want to take a field trip to the Baylor campus," she said. "I hope the money will help that happen."

In addition to the \$65, Meadows said she plans on donating extra money to King's Club, a Mission Waco program that works with children in area housing

projects. Meadows has been a member of King's Club since fall 2005 and now serves as a site leader for the Estella Maxie location.

Another winner, Beaumont sophomore Amanda Beattie, has volunteered with Mission Waco's GED tutoring pro-

gram since January and also participates with King's Club on occasion. Beattie, who plans to donate the allotted funds to the GED program, said she hopes the money will go toward new books. Beattie and Austin senior Megan Gary, the third award recipient, are both recipients of the service and leadership-based Carr P. Collins Scholarship. As a condition of the scholarship, Beattie and Gary document 60 hours of service a year, Gary said.

"It's not just clocking in for hours," she said. "It's about relationships and getting to know people."

While Gary has been involved with Mission Waco's King's Club, Poverty Simulation and Kids' Cafe all four years at Baylor, the latter has been her main commitment. Gary hopes the award allotment will be used to buy more kitchen supplies and "stock the pantry a little more."

Aravada, Colo., junior Morgan Caruthers has been volunteering with Mission Waco's Alpha Quest, an after-school program for junior high and high school students, since spring 2006.

The students participate in a variety of activities including drama classes taught by Caruthers. She is also a mentor through Mission Waco and works with the Church Under the Bridge youth group.

Caruthers will give her \$65 to Mission Waco, and hopes it will be used for building renovations.

Clubs team up to 'perk up' ministry funds

Star de La Cruz
Reporter

Free Starbucks coffee, baked goods and performances in various languages will all help support a worldwide ministry this weekend.

Baptist Student Ministry Internationals, along with other BSM teams, will host Coffee-house Concert and Bake Sale Auction at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Bobo Baptist Student Center. Admission is \$5. Reyna Vergara,

intern for the Hispanic Ministry, said the purpose of the event is to raise funds for students to go on mission trips around the world. The silent auction will sell baked goods from different cultures.

"Our baked goods will vary from tres leches cakes, Mexican flan, brownies and other sweets from different cultures," Vergara said. "Some tables will have samples to taste so people will want to bid for it."

The concert begins at 8 p.m.

and includes student performers from culturally diverse groups playing music from around the world. Becky Robertson, BSM international ministry coordinator, said some of the expected performers include Isaac Casal, Guilherme and Carla Almeida, Yasuko Amano, Angela Carolina Fuentes, Jonathan Lee, Ariana Phillips and a special performance by Curt Kruschwitz.

Casal, a graduate student from Panama and a member of the Hispanic Ministry, will per-

form a Colombian bolero. "I'm playing the cello and guitar and Carolina will be singing," Casal said.

San Antonio junior Brad Goodine said this is the first year the ministry has hosted this event.

"We have a goal to raise between \$600 and \$700," Goodine said.

"We expect 100 people to show up, so we should be able to meet our goal with the support of everyone on campus."

Robertson encouraged students to come out to hear poems and Scriptures from some friends and summer missionaries.

"God calls His people to be active in the lives of each other and in the life of the world," Robertson said. "Students can support efforts of the BSM to participate in what God is doing around the world and in the hearts of those whom He asks to be His hands and feet and ours, to other places."

BEAR BRIEFS

Minister to speak about race
The 13th Joseph Velez Latin American Studies Conference will be held Friday and Saturday in the North Village Community Center. The theme of the event is race, religion and democracy and will feature Dr. Jeffrey Klaiber. For more information contact Lilly_Fuertes@baylor.edu.

Want to study abroad?
An information session will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. Monday in the Poage Library Room of the W. R. Poage Legislative Library.

Guest speaker to lecture
A lecture on leadership in social issues will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Alexander Reading Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. The guest speaker is Raj Gandhi, medical director at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center's trauma center.

Prepare for Bear Fun Run
The 6.1-mile Fun Run will start at 9 a.m. and the 3.1-mile Fun Run/Walk will start at 9:15 a.m. Feb. 17 in front of the McLane Student Life Center. Registration is \$10 before Friday and \$15 on race day. There will be awards for first-place finishers in each group. For additional information, contact Marianna_Clement@baylor.edu.

To submit a bear brief, e-mail Lariat@baylor.edu.

CONTACT US

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Newsroom	710-1712
Sports	710-6357
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POLICE BLOTTER

Week of Feb. 5 - 9

Feb. 5 Accidents
An accident with failure to stop and identify occurred at Lot 32.

Assault
A Class C assault was reported at Collins Residence Hall. Baylor Police pulled over a car with three female students who were squirting liquids, including salad dressing, out of their car at pedestrians said Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak.

Burglary
A car was burglarized in the Speight Plaza Parking Garage.

Criminal Mischief
Criminal mischief occurred in the Dutton Avenue Office and Parking Facility.

Criminal mischief occurred sometime between 2 and 4:30 a.m. at the Fairmont Apartment Complex.

By Allie Cook
Entertainment editor

Heavenly Voices will host its 18th annual Gospel Fest at 7 p.m. Saturday in Waco Hall.

Heavenly Voices, a singing group that's part of the dept. of multicultural activities, will perform along with groups from Texas A&M University, the University of North Texas and Texas State University.

Several local organizations, such as rap group F.L.O.W., will also sing, and Myron Butler & Levi, a gospel group from Dallas, will join the gospel choirs. Formerly part of Kirk Franklin's music group God's Property, Myron Butler & Levi hold acclaimed status in the gospel community, said Jennifer Wright, a Garland junior and secretary of the Heavenly Voices.

Ashley Richard, a Dallas junior and president of the group, said she hopes the event will be a good time for everyone to en-

joy one another and the music. "We work very hard and want to see the fruits of our labor," Richard said.

Wright said part of what makes Gospel Fest important is its ability to attract a lot of people to Baylor's campus who "wouldn't necessarily have the opportunity otherwise."

"It bridges a lot of gaps that occur between the Waco community, Baylor campus, gospel recording artists and churches," Wright said.

Heavenly Voices started in October 1988 when Tanja Carpenter auditioned for the Baylor Religious Hour choir her freshman year but was turned down.

"I just wanted to be able to use the gift God had given me - singing," Carpenter said. She said she was encouraged by a faculty member to start her own choir.

"I needed to be around students that believed the same way I did," Carpenter said.

When the choir started, Carpenter didn't necessarily think it would become a lasting organization on campus.

"I guess I never really thought about it, but I think it's wonderful," Carpenter said.

Richard said Gospel Fest started two years after Heavenly Voices was formed.

"It gives an opportunity for college choirs to be showcased and have fellowship," Richard said.

"It's another outlet to share our faith."

Wright said the group's main purpose is to minister to the community, trying to "perpetuate the gospel of Jesus Christ through song."

She said the group has had the opportunity to perform at various local and state venues.

Conroe sophomore DeAndre Upshaw is enjoying his second year in Heavenly Voices and is looking forward to this weekend's Gospel Fest.

Gospel Fest to feature guest choirs

He first got involved with the group during his freshman year because a Facebook group advertised it.

"I like the fact that we're a group on campus that allows students to worship in a style that a lot of people might not be too familiar with," Upshaw said.

Upshaw first started singing gospel music at church and school before coming to Baylor.

He said he's looking forward to Gospel Fest this year because the event draws so many like-minded people from Baylor and the Waco community.

"Just because of the nature of the event, it gets so many people together to worship God and to show what gospel choirs have to offer," Upshaw said.

Tickets for Gospel Fest are \$10 in the Bill Daniel Student Center today and \$15 Saturday at the door.

AileenWongcontributedtothis story.

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BEARBUCKS ACCEPTED

N. Korea makes initial agreement to disarm nukes

By Burt Herman
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Talks on North Korea's nuclear programs resumed on a positive note Thursday, with the Chinese hosts distributing a draft agreement and the North agreeing in principle to initial steps to disarm.

Envoys from six nations are trying to agree on steps to implement a September 2005 deal in which North Korea pledged to disarm in exchange for aid and security guarantees. The 2005 deal, the only one to emerge since negotiations began in 2003, was a broad statement of principles that did not outline any concrete steps for dismantling North Korea's nuclear program.

The main U.S. envoy, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, said the new proposal would be "a set of actions that would have to be taken in a finite amount of time." He declined to give specifics, but said moves would occur in a matter of weeks.

"The delegations are coalescing around some of the themes that we believe should be the basis for a first step in implementing" the 2005 agreement, Hill said. "The first step of a journey is often the most difficult step, and this effort is in fact proving that."

A South Korean official, speaking early today on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing diplomacy, said China circulated a draft proposal. The official gave no details, but other delegates said earlier that the agreement would outline initial steps for implementing the 2005 accord.

Such an agreement would set the stage for the first tangible steps in more than three years of negotiations.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Washington she was "cautiously optimistic" that the implementation of the agreement could begin.

At the last round of talks in December, in the wake of North Korea's Oct. 9 underground nuclear test, the communist nation refused even to talk about its nuclear programs. Instead, Pyongyang demanded the U.S. lift financial restrictions targeting alleged North Korean counterfeiting and money laundering.

Since then, the U.S. and North Korean nuclear envoys held an unusual one-on-one meeting in Germany last month where differences between the sides were apparently discussed, although no details of any concessions have been made public. Pyongyang and Washington held separate talks in Beijing late January on the financial issue, although it has yet to be resolved.

Unlike in the December talks, negotiators Thursday "were able to make progress in discussing denuclearization," Hill said.

South Korea's envoy Chun Yung-woo said all sides agreed that "it is important to reach agreement at this round of talks on first-phase measures."

The North's chief negotiator had said before the talks began that his country was "prepared to discuss first-stage measures" toward nuclear disarmament.

"We are going to make a judgment based on whether the United States will give up its hostile policy and come out toward peaceful coexistence," Kim Kye Gwan said on arriving in Beijing for the meeting at a Chinese state guesthouse.

American experts who visited Kim in Pyongyang last week said North Korea would propose a freeze of its main nuclear reactor and a resumption of international inspections in exchange for energy aid and a normalization of relations with Washington.

The North, which suffers from chronic power shortages, is also seeking electricity supply or an annual import of at least half a million tons of heavy fuel oil.

North Korea and the U.S. agreed in 1994 for Pyongyang to freeze its plutonium-based nuclear reactor in exchange for energy aid. The North promised to eventually dismantle the facility following construction there of two light-water nuclear reactors for electricity, a type more difficult to divert for weapons use.

REGENT from page 1

He addressed student concerns about the recently cut forensic science degree, which has impacted students in the anthropology and forensic science fields.

Laymon said he thanked the committee for the board's decision to build the on-campus practice facility, adding that students have been encouraged by the action.

External Vice President Allan Marshall, a Cuny senior, talked to the board's student life and academic affairs committee about "strengthening the Baylor-Waco relationship,"

In particular, he said he advocated for an "educational forum" about coal plants to inform Baylor students about the ongoing controversy surrounding the nine of 17 proposed Texas plants, nine of which will be built within 50 miles of McLennan County.

Marshall said he also talked about Baylor's policy for religious organizations.

Student Senate recently passed a resolution about that policy, 15-12, asking that non-

Baptist groups receive the same privileges as Baptist organizations.

The resolution has been a controversial one, dubbed the "anti-Baptist" resolution by a student senator before it passed Student Senate Feb. 1.

Internal Vice President Travis Plummer, a San Antonio junior, said the main message he wanted to take to the committee was the idea of the student regent.

"The idea of having a student representative is not because there's a lack of communication (between students and the board)," he said.

"More opportunities for those interactions could have outstanding results for the university."

Plummer said the student body officers already have the ability to communicate to the regents in meetings like Thursday's.

The difference is that a student regent would be able to provide feedback to the entire board in general meetings, he said.

"The communication we've been able to foster has been so beneficial," he said. "We want to provide the entire board — not just the student life and academic affairs committee — with the opportunity to have first-hand contact with students."

He said this semester, communication between the student body and the board of regents has improved.

He pointed to the increased amount of time given to the student body officers in Thursday's meeting and Baylor Regent Minette Drumwright Pratt's question-and-answer session with Student Senate at its Jan. 18 meeting.

"It was an absolute blessing for us to be able to have contact with these regents," Plummer said. "By permitting that contact, you really see how committed to students they are."

Details about the new on-campus football practice facility, Baylor 2012 progress, discussion about the class of 2011 and an official announcement about Baylor's new power contract are all expected agenda items for this week's regents meetings.

Although committees met Thursday, today's meeting will include the full board.

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FUND from page 1

of the organization established and will begin constructing the house in November to celebrate its 20th anniversary as a chapter.

"(Habitat for Humanity) gives us a hands-on opportunity to work in the community as outreach," Wilkins said, speaking as a member of the organization.

According to the bill, the total cost of the building is estimated to be \$45,918.84. Baylor Habitat for Humanity has committed \$19,073 of its

own money to the project and has already raised \$1,495.18 through fundraisers over the last semester.

"I'm positive this bill is going to affect a different part of the community, and the effects can't be measured monetarily," El Paso junior Jen Kim said.

In other business, the Senate filled several empty government positions. Mallory Driggers of El Paso and Thomas Herndon of Kansas City, Kan., were confirmed as junior class senators.

Herndon said he hopes students realize that senators

are their voice in government and feel comfortable talking to them.

"I see our organization as one of the few groups on campus with the resources ... to help students solve their problems," he said.

Jose Valles of New Braunfels, Jessica Kim of El Paso and Jessie Graf of Camarillo, Calif., were confirmed as freshman senators.

"It's really exciting," Valles said.

"It feels good to vote and to make decisions for the students."

WIND from page 1

"Texas is ranked No. 1 in the nation in wind power potential," she said. "I would love to see Central Texas supplied by wind power."

Darden said she hopes Baylor's decision might lead other nonprofit organizations and corporations to switch to wind power as well.

"Because coal is slightly cheaper — and I do mean slightly — than other sources of fuel, (corporations) will make higher profits," she said.

Darden said she hopes Baylor's publicized savings

on wind power will provide a new reason for companies to switch.

"Baylor is showing outstanding leadership," Darden said. "We are in the midst of global warming and we need to take radical steps."

Waco has had its share of environmental controversy already, with proposals for nine new coal plants within 50 miles of McLennan County.

John Nicholson, a Waco senior, is one of the sponsors of a Student Senate resolution intended to help prevent the proposed coal plants from coming to Texas.

The resolution entered its first reading Thursday at Student Senate's weekly meeting and likely will be voted upon Feb. 15.

Nicholson said he likes Baylor's decision to switch to more environmentally friendly power sources.

"Part of our Christian mission is being good stewards," Nicholson said. "I think it's great that Texas and Baylor in particular are looking at alternative energy."

Saving money is always a good thing, he added, but said the decision should come from a sense of "moral concern."

ANNA from page 1

going up and down, and there's no question she used alcohol." Leeds said it was no secret that "she had a very troubled life" and had "so many, many problems."

"She wanted to be like Marilyn her whole life and ironically died in a similar manner," Leeds said. Monroe died of a drug overdose at age 36 in 1962.

Her attorney Ron Rale told The Associated Press that he had talked to Smith on Tuesday or Wednesday, and she had flu symptoms and a fever and was still grieving over her son.

"Poor Anna Nicole," he said. "She's been the underdog. She's been besieged ... and she's been trying her best and nobody should have to endure what she's endured."

The Texas-born Smith was a topless dancer at a strip club before she entered her photos in a search contest and made the cover of Playboy magazine in 1992.

She became Playboy's playmate of the year in 1993. She was also signed to a contract with Guess jeans, appearing in TV commercials, billboards and magazine ads.

In 1994, she married 89-year-old oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall II, owner of Great Northern Oil Co.

In 1992, *Forbes* magazine estimated his wealth at \$550 million.

In a 2005 interview with ABC, Smith recalled meeting Marshall at what she called a "gentleman's club" in Houston.

"He had no will to live and I went over to see him," she said.

"He got a little twinkle in his eyes, and he asked me to dance for him. And I did."

Marshall died in 1995 at age 90, setting off a feud with Smith's former stepson, E. Pierce Marshall, over whether she had a right to his estate.


A federal court in California awarded Smith \$474 million. That was later overturned.

But in May, the U.S. Supreme Court revived her case, ruling that she deserved another day in court.

She starred in her own reality TV series, *The Anna Nicole Show*, in 2002-04.

After news came of Smith's death, G. Eric Brunstad Jr., the lawyer who represented Marshall, said in a statement: "We're very shocked by the news and extend the deepest condolences to her family."


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File Photo

Sophomore starter Randall Linebaugh delivers a pitch during the Bears' 10-4 win over TCU on March 21, 2006. After going 6-1 last season with a 3.45 ERA, Linebaugh will anchor the Bears' rotation in 2007.

Bears' hopes rest on pitchers' arms

By Will Parchman
Sports writer

After reaching the College World Series in 2005 and falling just one game and a walk-off home run short of the championship game, the Bears are striving for more.

Two years later, head Coach Steve Smith's 24th-ranked Bears appear poised for another successful season amid high expectations.

The pitching staff is leading the way.

Smith's successful 13-year run at Baylor, including the most successful eight-year span in program history, culminated in the nation's top-ranked recruiting class after the 2006 season.

The signing of larger-than-life prospects like pitcher Kendal Volz, *Baseball America's* 11th ranked freshman; outfielder Aaron Miller, Big 12 preseason freshman of the year; and utility player Dustin Dickerson, *Baseball America's* seventh-ranked freshman marked a team that could compete for World Series Championships in the near future.

But even with their undeniable youth, the players feel they have the veteran pieces in place to make a run at the post-season sooner rather than later.

"I think our team has just the right mix of veteran and young guys," said junior Preseason All-Big 12 pitcher Randall Linebaugh. "I think we'll be able to compete right off the bat and not have to worry about these guys being freshmen. They can jump right in there and get the job done."

Smith was decidedly less optimistic.

"We will be young on the field position-player wise, and while we won't be young on the mound, we have a lot of guys that need to prove themselves," Smith said. "Even if some of these guys have experience or ability, they still have a lot to prove."

Linebaugh is among a core group of veteran pitchers who

will add much-needed maturity to a young team.

One thing Smith will lean on this season is his depth in pitching staff.

Helping Linebaugh will be upperclassman pitchers Jeff Mandel, Jake Weghorst, Nick Cassavechia and Tim Matthews. All of those pitchers logged at least 25 innings last season.

Linebaugh said the pitching staff has already fallen into the groove it set last season, an added bonus of knowing the players around them.

"Our pitching staff already has established roles on the team in terms of knowing our jobs," Linebaugh said. "But it's also about being a leader and taking some of the younger guys under our wing and not looking at them as competition but as a teammate."

Cassavechia will pick up where he left off in 2006 at the closer position, anchoring a deep bullpen. Despite spending just two months at the position last year, he compiled eight saves, good for fourth in the Big 12.

Matthews, Weghorst, junior Drew Jeffcoat and sophomores Reed Woytek and Bruce Ary will all provide depth in the bullpen.

Volz will compete with Cliff Springston for a chance to join Linebaugh and Mandel in the weekend rotation. When it came to touting Volz's strengths, Smith couldn't say enough.

"Kendall is one of the most polished freshmen we've ever had," he said. "The guy is extremely gifted, and we need to do a good job of keeping him healthy."

Even with experience in the right places and the best freshman class in the country, Smith said the season will all boil down to the pitchers.

"There's not going to be a whole lot to prepare these guys for games without just playing them," Smith said. "This team isn't any different from any other team from the standpoint that I think we'll only go as far as our pitching will take us."

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

There's no question that the Baylor baseball team will be led by its veteran pitching this season. But Baylor head Coach Steve Smith knows you can't win with pitching alone.

Fortunately for Smith, his young but talented position players have the potential to succeed at the plate and in the field.

With freshmen sluggers Aaron Miller and Dustin Dickerson joining a lineup that already has proven commodities in senior centerfielder Chase Gerdes, senior first baseman Tim Jackson, sophomore shortstop Beamer Weems and sophomore left fielder Ben Booker, the Baylor lineup has the potential to eclipse the 361 runs it scored last season.

But with just four returning starters from last year's team, there are many question marks.

"I think we are talented," Smith said. "We're just really young. There are going to be a lot of situations that come up in games that we haven't been exposed to. I just hope at the end of the day, talent wins out."

The Bears will have four freshmen position players getting heavy playing time this season.

But senior closer Nick Cassavechia said the young players' transition to the college game has been relatively seamless and they should be able to step in and contribute.

"I don't think anyone even considers them freshmen," he said. "They've adapted so well. They're taking on big roles and doing a great job blending in. You can hardly tell which ones



File Photo

Sophomore shortstop Beamer Weems gets ready to swing in Baylor's pro-alumni game on Feb. 5, 2006. Weems hit .297 with 8 homeruns and 47 RBIs last year and is expected to be a big part of the Bears' offense this season.

are old and which are younger."

The way the young hitters blend in will largely determine the Bears' ability to produce runs. While Miller and Dickerson were the most highly regarded recruits and are garnering most of the attention, the Bears will also have freshmen at second base and third base. Shaver Hansen will become Weems' double play partner at second, while Raynor Campbell will share third base duties

with sophomores Seth Hammock and Drew Bias.

With Dickerson and senior Jackson sharing the first base roll, Smith said he thinks his infield could be just as good as it was in 2006, when Weems led the team with just 10 errors.

While Miller, Gerdes and Booker are all talented hitters, the outfield defense is expected to be a slight downgrade from last season.

Gerdes is an excellent defensive center fielder, but Booker

Bears use bye week to buckle down on defense

By Lequalan McDonald
Reporter

With a full week to practice, Baylor basketball head Coach Scott Drew preached defense to his players as they prepared for their home match-up with the University of Oklahoma at 3 p.m. Saturday.

After giving up 91 points and losing by 40 to the Sooners last time the two teams met, Drew said the defense must improve.

Sophomore guard Curtis Jerrells said the team is more concerned with fixing its own problems than getting revenge.

"You can't really dwell on (the Oklahoma loss) but you can't forget it," Jerrells said. "They handed us our worst loss all season. But it doesn't matter who we have next, we just got to win."

But it's not just another game

for Drew.

"We won't call it just another game from the standpoint they really gave it to us pretty good," he said. "We were really disappointed in our performance, and we are looking forward to showing we are a better team than the one that went up there."

Drew said it was good to be off this week so the team could work on fundamentals, brush up on its defensive skills and get some players healthy.

The most notable would be Mamadou Diene, the 7-foot sophomore center from Yeumbeul, Senegal. Diene missed the last two games with a sprained ankle and has suffered from knee tendonitis most of season.

Drew said Diene practiced Thursday, and they'd decide if he could play based on the workout. He said having him back would really help the team.

"Defensively, Mamadou really provides us a presence inside," Drew said. "We miss his rebounding and blocked shots."

Senior forward Tim Bush said the extra time spent on the fundamentals helped the Bears and provided time to focus on weaknesses after losing to Iowa State University 71-58 on Saturday.

"At this point in the season, we're probably the only team in the country doing defensive drills, trying to correct defense," Bush said. "But that is what happens when you have a young team. That was the whole point of the off week, to learn and get better. I can say we definitely got better."

The way the Bears lost to Iowa State — scoring just 58 points and allowing the Cyclones to shoot 61 percent from the field in the second half — prompted

and Miller will have trouble filling the holes left by the departure of Seth Fortenberry and Kevin Sevigny. Booker was moved to the outfield this year and Smith said Miller doesn't have the range that Sevigny or Fortenberry had in right field.

Tim Jackson said it will be hard for this year's outfield to match last year's, but the players know what's expected of them.

"Losing Seth Fortenberry and Kevin Sevigny out there is tough," he said. "That was one of the best outfields in the nation by far. But guys like Aaron Miller and Ben Booker are taking over, and they know their roles and how big it is."

Another area of concern entering this season is catcher.

After losing Zach Dillon, the heart and soul of last year's team, the Bears will be forced to use a pair of guys at the position this year. Seniors Matt Sodolak and Matt Czimski will split time behind the plate.

Both are fine defensive catchers, but neither are capable of matching Dillon offensively. Sodolak hit .257 with 29 RBIs last year while Czimski hit .208 with 1 RBI — both well below the .364 batting average Dillon posted and the 47 runs he drove in.

Smith said Dillon was a special player, but he thinks his two catchers this year can combine to fill the roll well.

Despite the youth, the Bears enter the season ranked 24th.

Booker said if things go the way the team plans, they could be very good.

"As soon as these young guys come around and we gel as a team, our ranking will be a lot higher," he said. "We're going to surprise a lot of people."

an intense week of practice..

"It seems like this whole season we have been in some kind of camp, but Saturday we will see if we have improved defensively," Scott Drew said. "Offensively, you're going to have nights where you don't shoot well, but for us to play as poorly defensively as we did is disappointing."

Jerrells said with the way the team played against Iowa State and the way they lost to Oklahoma in their first match-up, the Bears should have plenty of motivation heading into Saturday's contest.

"We didn't forget about (the Oklahoma game). If anyone on the team did, that would be crazy," Jerrells said. "We lost big, but we can't look back on that now. We have an opportunity to get a win."

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