



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007



Chris Weeks/Lariat staff

Students line up Wednesday at St. Peter's Catholic Student Center to receive their ashen crosses for Ash Wednesday, the traditional beginning of the 40-day season of Lent.

## Lent more than sacrifice

Students find more to sacred holiday than giving up luxuries

By Melissa Limmer  
Staff writer

Students and other Christians celebrated Ash Wednesday by attending services at St. Peter's Catholic Student Center as well as at churches of many different denominations throughout Waco.

Ash Wednesday began the 40-day season of Lent. Besides receiving an ashen cross on the forehead, another tradition of Ash Wednesday is giving some-

thing up for the 40 days.

Rev. Jim Deaconson, priest in residence at St. Peter's Catholic Student Center, said the reasoning behind giving things up for Lent is both biblical and cultural.

The biblical doctrine stems from both the Old and New Testament, in which Jewish people were often commanded by the ruling king to "put on sack-cloth and ashes" and fast in order to repent of their sins.

In the New Testament Jesus also commands repentance acts not to be "holier than thou" but to be closer to God, Deaconson said.

He said that today, giving up

things for Lent should be about sacrificing to be closer to God.

"It is not a sin offering, but a self-discipline," he said.

While sacrifice is important, Deaconson said, the true meaning of Lent is not about giving up things but about turning back to the Lord.

"What God would rather have is public service, alms giving, giving aid to those in need," he said. "The whole idea of Lent is doing what Jesus did."

Granbury junior Amanda Ford, who is in the process of converting to Catholicism, said what she is giving up this year is a little different than the coffee, chocolate or Dr Pepper she

gave up in years past.

"I am giving up worrying about what others think," she said.

"I don't need 8,000 other voices drowning out what God is saying."

Ford said that giving things up for Lent isn't for the individual's personal gain, but to remind us of Christ's suffering and God's work through suffering.

"Without suffering there is no redemption," she said.

Patrick Adre, Granbury senior and Grand Knight of the St. Peter's Knights of Colum-

Please see LENT, page 8

## College women top egg donors

High IQ, SAT scores desirable traits for prospective parents

By Claire St. Amant  
Staff writer

In America, quality is everything. From selecting electronics to purchasing a car, consumers want to know they are getting the best merchandise available.

While few people consider daily shopping an ethical issue, questions arise when the product is DNA.

In several online listings such as classified ad Web site Craigslist and California-based www.eggdonors.com, infertile couples can browse a virtual human-shopping mall for their offspring. Donors are profiled by physical characteristics like hair and eye color and intelligence markers including SAT and IQ test scores.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, college-age women are meeting the demand for

highly specific egg donations in record-numbers.

The latest survey released by the center reported 10,000 women donated eggs in 2004.

The director of the Egg Donation Center of Dallas, who requested to be identified only as Joan, advertises with numerous university newspapers and described the donation process as a "win-win situation."

"For the recipients, it's the only way they can expand their family," she said. "It also helps

students who are struggling with the rising cost of tuition and living expenses."

Despite the popularity and profitability of in vitro fertilization, Lariat policy prohibits advertisements for any type of sperm or ovum donation, as well as any ad for contraceptives.

Joan said the center has ongoing ads with the University of Texas and many other state schools in Texas and Oklahoma.

The ads, which offer thousands of dollars for donors with a specific grade point average, SAT and health standards, have been more successful at state schools than private institutions, she said.

"We've found that generally in private schools students have scholarships or other financial support and do not have to pay for their education, so the incentive to donate just isn't there," she said.

W a y n e Roche, assistant director for advertising at the University of Texas student newspaper The Daily Texan,

said the ads have been running for a number of years and don't violate newspaper policy. The only restriction on advertising for The Daily Texan is material that is discriminatory to race, ethnicity or gender, specifically editorialized ads and anything that implies or explicitly states one gender should be under the control of another, Roche said.

Other controversial advertisements that aren't in those

Please see EGGS, page 8

## Baylor aims to lead Christian music field

By Jon Schroeder  
Staff writer

Baylor's hoping to make some waves in the Christian music industry by becoming the worldwide leader in the field.

The Center for Christian Music Studies board of directors will hold its first-ever meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. today to discuss the center's future.

The 25 members that comprise the board include David Crowder, recently named MSN Music's 2006 Artist of the Year, and Robert Sterling, five-time Dove Award recipient.

The board also consists of prominent businessmen, representatives from other universities, church leaders, composers, performers, senior pastors and music ministers — the "full gamut" of Christian music representatives from around the country, said Dr. Terry York, an associate professor of Christian ministry and church music and a member of the committee.

According to the vision document which will be given to the board of directors, "The vision for the center is to provide leadership in all aspects of Christian music by

becoming the pre-eminent Christian music center worldwide and to foster the growth and effectiveness of efforts to utilize Christian music to its God-given potential."

York said providing leadership in Christian music will probably mean holding conferences, bringing recording artists to campus, publishing books and perhaps a journal, doing academic research, mentoring, creating internship possibilities and hosting think-tank gatherings.

This board of directors is a good example of that sort of think tank, York said.

The church music program is a part of the Center for Christian Music Studies, as is a master's degree in music and divinity through the George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

While the center has been around for a while, today's meeting will help provide direction for the program.

York said the program complements the church music program by providing the curricular flexibility the church music program cannot.

"Christian music is very dynamic," York said. "It changes rapidly. Our core curriculum cannot be changed quickly,

denomination of also failing to root out molesters.

The Chicago-based Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests has started a campaign to call attention to alleged sex abuse committed by Southern Baptist ministers and concealed by churches.

SNAP presented a letter Mon-

day to Southern Baptist Convention executive committee members in Nashville, asking the group to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on sex abuse and to create an independent review board to investigate molestation reports.

Church leaders concede there have been some incidents

of abuse in Southern Baptist congregations, but say their hands are tied when it comes to investigating complaints across the denomination.

Unlike the Catholic Church, which has a rigid hierarchy, Baptist churches are independent. They make their own decisions about hiring ministers

and conducting investigations, Baptist leaders say.

"They don't want to see this problem," said Christa Brown, a SNAP member from Austin, who says she was sexually abused as a child by a Southern Baptist minister.

"That's tragic because they're imitating the same mistakes

made by Catholic bishops."

In the past six months SNAP has received reports of about 40 cases of sexual abuse by Southern Baptist ministers — with some of the incidents dating back many years, Brown said. SNAP leaders hold that abuse

Please see SBC, page 8



File photo

Baylor alumnus David Crowder is a member of the Center for Christian Music Studies board of directors.

and it shouldn't be chasing after the latest trend."

That's where the Christian music program comes in, he said. It will "continually address and monitor changes in

Please see MUSIC, page 8

## Flu season hits later than normal

By Kirsten Horne  
Reporter

Do a runny nose, fever, sore muscles and chills sound familiar? Chances are high that they might.

"Right now many Baylor students are coming down with the flu," said Nancy Keating, director of nurses at the Student Health Center. "It is a little later than normal, though. We usually see this many cases in late October and the month of November."

While it may seem as though more students than usual are coming down with the flu, Keating says that the numbers aren't any higher this year than last.

"February 10 was the peak of flu symptoms this year," said Adam Price, media relations director for Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center. "It has been a normal season this year with typical numbers."

Students may not be sick but

may have roommates or close friends who are, Keating said. The Health Center is prescribing the drug Tamiflu to students who may come in with this problem.

"Tamiflu is a prescription drug for those who may be around those who have been diagnosed with having the flu," she said. "This means that the drug must be taken within the first two days of exposure. Tamiflu can also be used for those students who are already experiencing flu-like symptoms. In this case, Tamiflu will just keep them from having such a severe case."

Keating said many students are coming in with high fevers and are contagious. Because of this, students are missing school and their extra curricular activities.

One of the biggest activities being affected by this flu out-

Please see FLU, page 8

## Baptist leaders come under fire for failing to root out sex offenders

By Rose French  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The victims' advocates who dogged the Roman Catholic Church over sex abuse by its clergy have now turned their attention to the Southern Baptists, accusing America's largest Protestant



# Realities of suffering in world lie behind headlines

It seems like on a daily basis, we're inundated with news of war, violence and tragedy. Death and destruction seem to be the common theme of every front page and news program, while positive news stories seem to be few and far between. Amid all the chaos the world is encountering, I find myself immediately assuming the worst in situations and expecting tragedy on a daily basis. Something is not right here. My homepage is set to Yahoo.com, and the first thing I do when I get online is check out the top headlines and stories. I usually scan quickly to see if there's anything that grabs my interest or jumps out as abnormal.

This time, instead of moving on immediately after reading headlines, I stopped what I was doing. What affects me today about headlines is when I don't merely read them as negative words on a page. I realize these stories are real events that happen halfway across the world. One day, there was news of a bombing in Baghdad as well as a train bombing in Pakistan. I suddenly realized that there were now more than 120 people dead. That means there are now numerous children who are without a mother or father and hundreds more who will grieve the loss of a friend or family member.

## point of view



BY AMANDA ROBISON

It seems like every day we see stories just like this. But do we ever even contemplate them for longer than the time it takes to read the headline? I know too often this is the case for me. It made me wonder: "How did it come to this? How can any human being be unaffected by stories of tragedy?" I came to the realization that war, death and violence have become such a common occurrence in our daily lives that we

hardly bat an eye when more than a hundred people's lives are ended in a split second. Our own soldiers — our brothers and sisters, neighbors and friends — are dying daily in Iraq in a war that frankly, America is tired of hearing about. Have their deaths been in vain? (Of course not, one would immediately think — and then we immediately change the channel to avoid hearing of such tragedy.) After all, it could ruin our day. Now the question that haunts me is: "Has the war in Iraq made us all numb?" In our celebrity-obsessed culture, the death of one semi-celebrity tops headlines for

weeks without end. Yet when 120 people die on a single day in another country, one headline and a fleeting thought is all they get. It doesn't seem right and it definitely isn't fair. But what are we supposed to do? How do we get past the state of being comfortably numb? I'm not really sure, but I know it starts individually. We have to change the way we view discouraging news. We need to realize that things are happening all over the world right now — terrible things. It may be small, but if you can change something, do it. Our nature is to be self-centered and self-indulgent, but at some point we have to realize that there's a whole world out there and 6 bil-

lion self-centered people are not going to change anything. The media may be littered with negativity and the news may even be painful to absorb sometimes, but this is our world, and we are the only ones who can do anything about it. So maybe as you read that tragic story today — and of course there will be one — consider it. Consider the actual people involved and the lives changed forever because of it. If indeed we have become numb to such tragedy, we are the only ones who can turn it around and create the positive news that is needed. Amanda Robison is a senior journalism major from Waco.

## Editorial

# Fast-track bill can open doors for groups

Everyone likes to root for the little guy. Today, the Student Senate will consider giving some of the "little guys" on campus more of a fighting chance. The Senate will hear arguments for a measure that would put organizations asking for \$3,000 or less from the Student Life Fund on a fast track to approval. The bill calls for the creation of an activity planning committee that will be in charge of part of the overall fund. Two-thirds of the committee would be required to approve the allocation, and the committee would have to follow many of the same guidelines regarding allocation requests as before. They will also be charged with working alongside those asking for funding and providing assistance when necessary. This is a big and important step for organizations to be able to secure funds for use in an event. Much of the time, the legislative process and allocation of funds are devoted to larger fraternities, sororities and service organizations that hold many events throughout a semester. This change will benefit smaller organizations and make it easier for them to enter into the process, too. Putting smaller proposals on a fast track helps pair the requesting group up with capable people who can ensure a smoother process for everyone involved.



It gives senators and organizations alike the confidence to be able to ask for an allocation, even if it is a small amount. If the bill passes, student organizations should jump at the opportunity to take advantage of this. If approved, this new committee could play a big part in helping raise the profile of smaller organizations. Other than being able to receive money easier, they could be able to host more events and recruit more members

due to being able to secure money faster. It will also help cut through some of the red tape for the large organizations that simply need a smaller amount of money for a particular reason. When the Senate meets this evening, it should keep in mind that much of the response to this proposal has been positive. Regardless of what you think, let a Student Senator know what your feel-

ings on this issue before the meeting. You can also give feedback on the bill on the student government link on the Baylor Information Network Web site and vote in the online poll at bin.baylor.edu. With this new legislation, the Student Senate is sending a positive message to the student body. It communicates that no matter how big or small, any organization that wants to use funds to enhance the Baylor experience has a place at the table.

## 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.

# U.S. imperialist adventure left El Salvador in shambles for years

"I ask that if you truly want to defend human rights, you must prohibit this military aid to the Salvadoran government, avoiding a major spilling of blood in my long-suffered country." The phrase is an excerpt of the letter sent by Oscar Romero, the Salvadoran archbishop, to President Carter in 1980. Oscar Romero was murdered a month later by the Salvadoran army while he was celebrating Mass. His letter was ignored. The U.S. kept sending money to the Salvadoran military junta: \$1.5 million in military aid every day for 12 years. Between 1980 and 1992, El Salvador was engaged in a civil

war. After the conflict was over, the United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador published a report on the human rights violations committed in the country. In a small nation of almost seven million inhabitants 75,000 people had died. The report cited the officers responsible for the worst atrocities. About two-thirds of those named had been trained at the School of the Americas, a U.S. combat training school for Latin American soldiers. It is still open under the name of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, but known by many as the School of Assassins.

In January, I went to El Salvador with a human rights delegation for two weeks with Global Youth Connect. During those weeks we learned that by the time the war was over, 85 percent of the rural population in El Salvador lacked electricity, running water and adequate sanitary facilities. Also, half of the children under 5 were malnourished. We came to understand that after 15 years, the situation hadn't improved much. For four days, we stayed with poor families in the countryside living a bit of their lives — sleeping in hammocks, taking showers with cups and using the bathroom in a hole. I heard my host complain

about the rampant poverty in his country how his life had worsened after the substitution of the colon for the dollar: "I can't buy half of the things I could buy before." And I heard his son's indignation over the fact that El Salvador was the only Latin America country with troops in Iraq. In the capital, we met women who worked in the maquilas and earned \$5 a day to make clothes for large, famous American brands. They also shared with us their concerns about the U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) which was signed by the Salvadoran government at 3 a.m. in order to avoid protests.

In the last days of our trip, we had a workshop with young Salvadorans who told us that 16 percent of the Salvadoran national income came from remittances sent by Salvadorans living in the U.S. We learned that ARENA, the conservative party, won the election by saying that if the left-wing party won, the U.S. would not allow the remittances to go to El Salvador anymore. And we were silent when they asked us why the U.S. government did not speak out against such threats. El Salvador has strong ties with the U.S. It is important that Americans know the history to better understand the present,

to try to fix old mistakes and to avoid committing them in the future. I'm an exchange student, and something that has always caught my attention about Americans is their strong nationalism. Nationalism, however, is a feeling that sometimes scares me. George Orwell wrote, "The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them." Americans, hear about El Salvador! Raquel Nunes is a Baylor Law School student from Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

## The Baylor Lariat

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## THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

### ACROSS

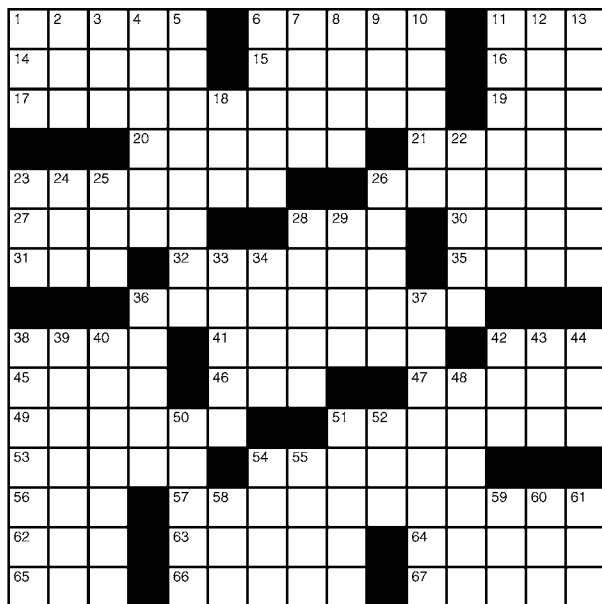
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- 31 Ostrich's cousin
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- 54 Non-violent protests

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- 4 Formalized argument
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- 7 Cognizant of
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- 9 NASA vehicle
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- 38 Part of gravel's make-up
- 39 Frighten into defeat
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- 42 Obtained
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- 48 Energetic drive
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- 54 Japanese wrestling
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- 60 Tokyo, formerly
- 61 Game pieces

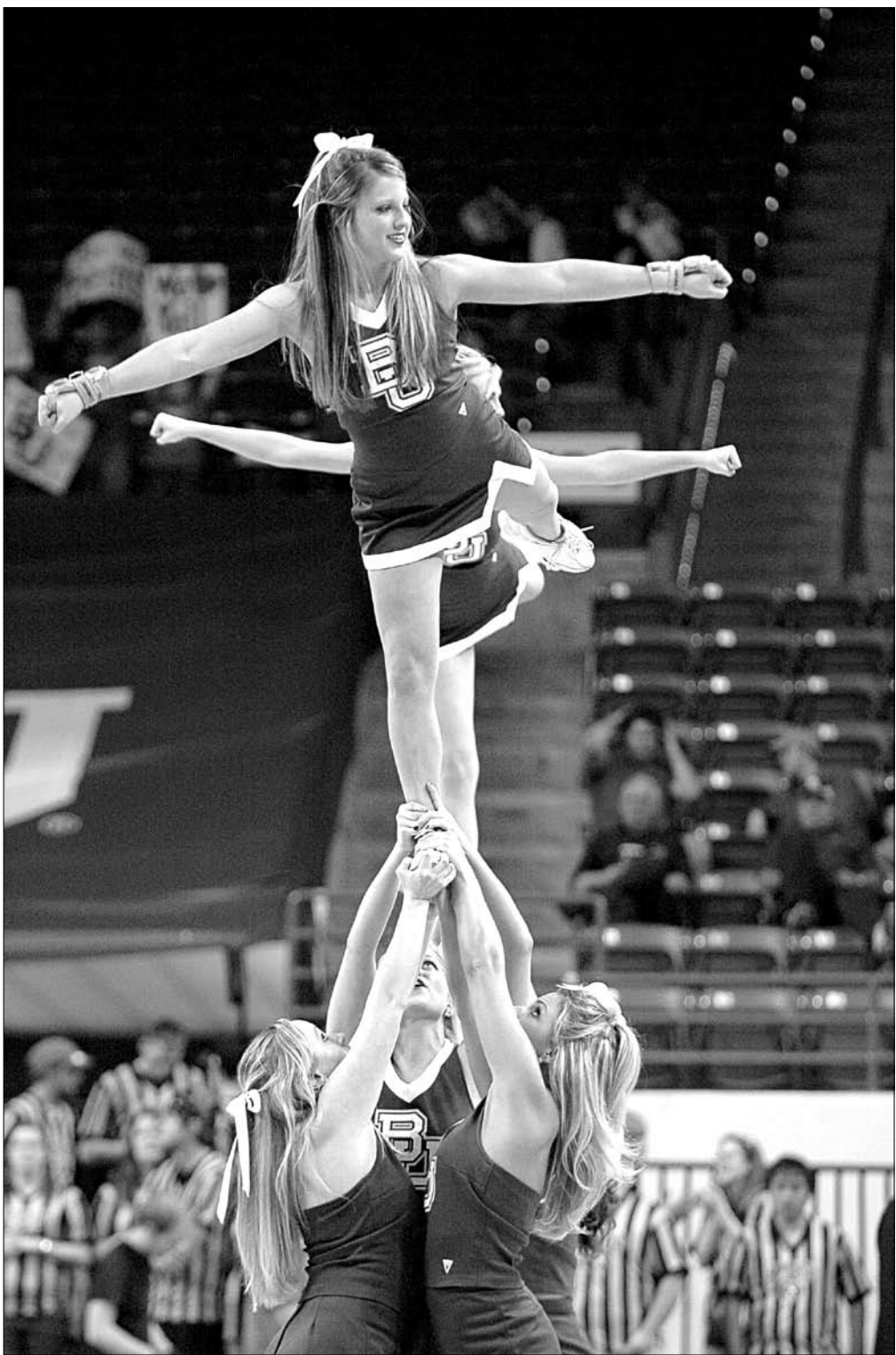


By Alan P. Olschwang  
Huntington Beach, CA

2/22/07

For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit [www.baylor.edu/Lariat](http://www.baylor.edu/Lariat)





David Poe/Lariat staff

## High-flying cheer

Members of the all-girl yell leaders perform stunts during a time-out at the men's basketball game Wednesday night against Nebraska. The Bears won 63-59 in their first win in the last nine games.

# Environmental groups help delay coal plant hearings

By April Castro  
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — The permitting process for six coal-fired plants was pushed back four months Wednesday, as an administrative panel of judges granted a request from environmental groups who wanted more time to prepare their cases in opposition.

A day after a state court blocked Gov. Rick Perry's order fast-tracking the permits, a panel of administrative judges set June 27 for the start of hearings over Dallas-based TXU Corp.'s proposal to build six coal-fired plants in North, East and Central Texas.

The process before the State Office of Administrative Hearings, which was to begin Wednesday, will be slowed to "provide a bit more time to allow all the parties to fully prepare, have their Ts crossed with

response to testimony and that sort of thing," administrative judge Kerry Sullivan said.

TXU's five-year, \$10 billion plan is considered bellwether, and is being closely watched by industry analysts, lawmakers, competitors and environmentalists across the U.S.

"We're disappointed in the SOAH judges' action today," TXU spokeswoman Kim Morgan said. "Texas needs reliable and affordable power, and we're concerned that today's action slows progress toward that objective."

Lawyers for citizen groups opposed to the plants argued that Texas and Oklahoma residents didn't have enough time to prepare for the high-stakes permit hearings.

"We've had numerous problems with the process in this case, and we continue to have those issues," said Karen Hadden, executive director of the

Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Coalition.

Many of the experts and professionals approached by the environmental groups said they didn't have enough time to adequately analyze the data, said Tom "Smitty" Smith, director of the Texas office of Public Citizen. "What a bunch of nonsense," TXU attorney John Riley said, who argued the groups had not made an adequate effort "in terms of preparing themselves with what was supposed to be a hearing today."

A state district judge ruled Tuesday that Perry's executive order to speed the permitting process for 19 proposed plants is not binding on the state hearing administrators.

The state can appeal that ruling, potentially putting the permitting process back on a fast track, but calls to Perry's office inquiring about an appeal were not immediately returned.

## Study says being bilingual offsets aging

Daily Pennsylvanian

(U-WIRE) — Little did University of Pennsylvania junior Robby Snitkof realize that, when he began studying Spanish, he may have been staving off some of the perils of old age.

A study by York University Psychology professor Ellen Bialystock published in this month's *Journal of Neuropsychologia* suggests that individuals who are bilingual can offset the

symptoms of dementia by up to four years. "My belief is that these benefits come from thinking and engaging the cognitive systems" involved with speaking two languages, she said.

A renowned expert in bilingual studies, Bialystock said she used data compiled from patients who had dementia and were bilingual and proceeded to find the age for the onset of the disorder.

"This is one of the first stud-

ies that proves what researchers long suspected — that there are cognitive benefits to bilingualism," Penn linguistics professor Gillian Sankoff said.

Bialystock emphasized that all of her subjects in the study had been speaking more than one language for their entire lives. It is not known if individuals who gain fluency at the university level will receive the cognitive benefits found through her study.

### BEAR BRIEFS

**Celebrate Chinese New Year**  
Place 2BU is holding its annual Chinese New Year party from 7 to 9 p.m. today on Fountain Mall.

**Win free Sing tickets**  
Fill out the Campus Improvements survey at [bin.baylor.edu](http://bin.baylor.edu) by Friday for a chance to win either All-University Sing tickets or Bearbucks.

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# BSM to show home state to international students

By **Star De La Cruz**  
Reporter

This spring break, the international ministry of the Baptist Student Ministries is hosting the first Tour of Texas, which will take students to the Capitol, the San Antonio River Walk and other famous Texas sites. "The trip is designed for international students," said Becky Robertson, coordinator for the international ministry. "They can't go home, so we decided to provide them with a

cultural experience at a low cost. However, other students are more than welcome to come to befriend and interact with international students." Robertson said the group will travel in vans and spend two nights at the San Antonio First Baptist Church and three nights in Houston's Tallowood Baptist Church during the trip, which takes place March 10 to 15. She also said students will need to bring sleeping bags or blankets because they will all be sleeping in the churches' gyms.

"We want to cater to and do the best we can to provide activities that interest every student," Robertson said. Gina Romero, a Fort Worth senior, decided to go on the tour because she wants to make sure international students get a good experience and don't go home without having anything to share with their families. "Aside from having fun, I hope to get to know these students better with all the time there will be available, and even reach a deep level of friendship,"

Romero said. "I am also excited about going to the Exotic Zoo. I've never been there." During past spring breaks, Romero has traveled to Fort Worth and Europe, but she said this year she'd like to make an impact by sharing her knowledge of Texas culture. Rae Wright, associate director of the BSM, has been helping plan the trip with Robertson. Wright said some of the places they are hoping to visit include Houston's Art Museum and Galleria, The San Antonio

Institute of Texan Culture and San Jacinto Park. "There will be a day where the vans will split up and students will have choices on where they would like to go," Wright said. "Once all the applications are in and we know who is going for sure, we will have meetings to talk about what kind of places students are most attracted to so we can include them on our tour." Applications for the trip are due Friday along with a \$75 deposit to reserve a spot.

Robertson said a small survey on the application asking students what type of activities they enjoy will help the coordinators determine what other places to visit. The cost for the trip is \$175 for food, lodging and transportation. In an effort to offset some of the cost, the BSM is subsidizing the Tour of Texas with outside donations. Students who are interested can sign up at the Bobo Baptist Student Center or notify Becky Robertson at [baylor.edu](mailto:baylor.edu).

# Democrat presidential candidates engage in Iraq debate

By **Beth Fouhy**  
The Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Former Sen. John Edwards jabbed gently at Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton Wednesday in the first all-candidates forum of the 2008 Democratic presidential campaign, saying her refusal to disavow a 2002 vote on Iraq was "between her and her conscience." "It's not for me to judge," said Edwards, who — like Clinton — voted in 2002 to authorize the invasion of Iraq, but unlike her, has since apologized for his vote. The event format did not permit Clinton to respond to Edwards' swipe, which stood out on an afternoon in which Democrats launched serial attacks on President Bush's war policies. "The worst we can do is tear each other down," said New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who called on his Democratic rivals to sign a pledge to avoid negative campaigning and concentrate their energy on taking the White House away from the Republicans next year.

Among Democratic presidential contenders, only Barack Obama skipped the event, which was hosted by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union. The Illinois senator campaigned in Iowa instead. But the Iraq war overshadowed all else at the two-hour event, Democrat after Democrat vying to show their eagerness to end U.S. participation in a conflict that has resulted in the deaths of more than 3,100 U.S. troops. Former Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska, a quarter-century out of office, was also a participating candidate. Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut, the first to speak, brushed aside a suggestion from some administration allies that the withdrawal of troops from Iraq would create chaos. Edwards said it was time to begin a troop withdrawal. "If we want to live in a moral and just America, and we want America to be able to lead in a moral and just world. We need a leader who is honest, open and decent and trying to do the right thing."

Stephanopoulos asked Edwards moments later whether he had been referring to Clinton. "Well, whether it's good enough I think it's between her and her conscience. It's not for me to judge," said the former North Carolina senator. The program called for each contender to make brief opening comments, then field three questions from Stephanopoulos, an ABC News broadcaster and former aide in Bill Clinton's White House. The Republican National Committee used the forum to try to put its own spin on the candidates, releasing "research documents" containing unflattering critiques of each of the Democrats hours before the event. In recent years, Democrats have sensed political opportunity in the West, a fast-growing region long dominated by Republicans. Nevada, with its large Hispanic population and influential labor unions, was considered a battleground state in 2004, and President Bush won the state by just 3 percent age points.



Associated Press

George Stephanopoulos (left), moderator of a presidential candidate forum, is corrected Wednesday by Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., of Connecticut after he incorrectly pronounced "Nevada" in Carson City, Nev.

# Medical groups, parents oppose mandatory HPV vaccine for girls

By **Linda A. Johnson**  
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Pediatricians, gynecologists and even health insurers all call Gardasil, the first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, a big medical advance. But medical groups, politicians and parents began rebelling after disclosure of a behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign by Gardasil's maker, Merck & Co., to get state legislatures to require 11- and 12-year-old girls to get the three-dose vaccine as a requirement for school at-

tendance. Some parents' groups and doctors particularly objected because the vaccine protects against a sexually transmitted disease, human papilloma virus, which causes cervical cancer. Vaccines mandated for school attendance usually are for diseases easily spread through casual contact, such as measles and mumps. Bowing to pressure, Merck said Tuesday that it is immediately suspending its controversial campaign, which it had funded through a third party. "Our goal is about cervical cancer prevention, and we want

to reach as many females as possible with Gardasil," Dr. Richard M. Haupt, Merck's medical director for vaccines, told The Associated Press. "We're concerned that our role in supporting school requirements is a distraction from that goal, and as such have suspended our lobbying efforts," Haupt said. Last month, the AP reported that Merck was channeling money for its state-mandate campaign through Women in Government, an advocacy group made up of female state legislators across the country.

Conservative groups opposed the campaign, saying it would encourage premarital sex, and parents' rights groups said it interfered with their control over their children. Texas Gov. Rick Perry on Feb. 2 issued an executive order requiring Texas girls entering the sixth grade as of 2008 get the vaccinations, triggering protests from lawmakers in that state. Parents there could opt out for their daughters if they state religious or philosophical objections. Dr. Anne Francis, who chairs

an American Academy of Pediatrics committee that advocates for better insurer reimbursement on vaccines, called Merck's change of heart "a good move for the public." "I believe that their timing was a little bit premature," she said, "so soon after (Gardasil's) release, before we have a picture of whether there are going to be any untoward side effects." Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, however, say that reports of side effects through the end of January don't raise any red flags about the situation.

The vaccine also is controversial because of its price — \$360 for the three doses required over a six-month stretch. Because of that cost and what pediatricians and gynecologists say is inadequate reimbursement by insurers, many are choosing not to stock the vaccine or requiring surcharges to administer it, increasing the cost for many families and making the vaccine hard to come by. Merck shares fell 37 cents to \$44.13 in after-hours trading Tuesday after rising 22 cents to close at \$44.50 on the New York Stock Exchange.

# College couple airs split on YouTube

By **Meiling Arounnarath**  
McClatchy Newspapers

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — It used to be couples broke up quietly over dinner, over the phone, via e-mail, via text message. But in the age of cell phone cameras and the video-sharing site YouTube, a breakup at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill has played out before thousands: as of Tuesday. A friend told the Mindy Moor-

man to be at The Pit, a sunken brick courtyard outside the student center, on Valentine's Day, she said. She said she knew something was going to happen, but not that her boyfriend of four months, Ryan Burke, was about to dump her. "He wanted a show, so I helped give him a show," she said of the profanity-laced exchange. James Mundia, the Student Television station manager who posted some of the videos on YouTube, thinks the breakup was fake. "It just kind of seemed very forced and very contrived. What

was said was very, very cliché," Mundia said. "There was no quivering, no stuttering. It was almost like they were reading a script." Burke invited people via Facebook to watch the breakup. He said he got the idea after watching a couple break up on campus a few months ago. "Everyone kept on walking but I just stopped and watched," he said. "I just thought it was so interesting. And I thought it would be so interesting for people to watch that."

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# Groups aim to shut down ‘jail-like’ immigrant facility

By Suzanne Gamboa  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Immigrant families, many with small children, are being kept in jail-like conditions in Texas and Pennsylvania, according to advocacy groups that say the Texas facility is inhumane and should be shut down.

In a report being released Thursday, the groups seek the immediate closure of the T. Don Hutto Residential Center north of Austin, the Texas capital. The center, which opened in May, used to be a jail.

The groups, Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, based their findings on their members’ visits and interviews with detainees.

At the Hutto site, a child secretly passed a visitor a note that read: “Help us and ask us questions,” the report said. The groups reported that many of the detainees cried during interviews.

“What hits you the hardest in

there is that it’s a prison. In Hutto, it’s a prison,” said Michelle Brane, detention and asylum project director for Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

The Pennsylvania center — the Berks County Shelter Care Facility — has about 84 beds and the Texas facility can house up to 512 people.

The groups fear that government will expand detentions in similar facilities.

That facility, a former nursing home in Leesport, Pa., near Philadelphia, is “less jail-like,” allowing families to go on field trips and having a better education system for children.

But it also has problems, the groups said. It is part of a larger juvenile facility housing U.S. citizens charged with or convicted of crimes and detained juveniles. The groups suggested that immigration officials release families who are not found to be a security risk.

They also said that the federal government should consider less punitive alternatives to the detention centers, such

as parole, electronic bracelets and shelters run by nonprofit groups.

“Unless there’s some crime or some danger, families don’t belong in detention,” said Ralston H. Deffenbaugh, president of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

“This whole idea of trying to throw kids and their parents in a penal-like situation is destructive of all the normal family relationships we take for granted.”

The Homeland Security Department defended the centers as a workable solution to the problem of illegal immigrants being released, only to disappear while awaiting hearings.

Also, they deter smugglers who endanger children, said Mark Raimondi, spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the DHS division that oversees detention facilities.

“ICE’s detention facilities maintain safe, secure and humane conditions and invest heavily in the welfare of the detained alien population,” Raimondi said.



Associated Press

A cell with a baby bed and children's toys that houses an immigrant family is shown at the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas, Feb. 9. Officials with Immigration and Customs Enforcement describe the facility as a residential, nonsecure environment that keeps families together.

## Smith’s burial place remains undecided

By Matt Sedensky  
The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Anna Nicole Smith’s estranged mother tearfully acknowledged Wednesday that her daughter last told her she wanted to be buried in California near her idol Marilyn Monroe — an admission that could hurt the woman’s fight to have the pinup laid to rest in her native Texas.

Virgie Arthur, 55, said her last conversation with her daughter about her burial came more than 10 years ago.

“Wherever the stars are buried, that’s where she wanted to be buried,” said Arthur.

Smith’s ex-boyfriend, photographer Larry Birkhead, also testified Wednesday that Smith wanted to be buried in California.

The testimony came in a dispute between Arthur and Howard K. Stern, the lawyer who

had been Smith’s boyfriend for many years.

Stern wants to bury the former centerfold in the Bahamas with her son, Daniel, who died last September at age 20 of apparently drug-related causes.

Arthur said she believed any mother would want to be buried with her children. She said she wants to exhume the son and rebury him in Texas.

Smith, 39, died Feb. 8 in a Florida hotel of unknown causes.

The Florida hearing is just one part of the legal battle surrounding Smith. In California, a judge is trying to determine who fathered Smith’s 5-month-old daughter, Dannielynn, who could inherit millions, depending on how Smith’s estate is divided.

Stern is listed as the father on the birth certificate, but Birkhead, who once dated Smith, says the girl is his.

On Tuesday, Stern testified that Smith had insisted at her son’s funeral on being buried with him in the Bahamas.

But Stern also acknowledged that she had once asked to be buried next to Monroe.

On the stand in Fort Lauderdale, Arthur was hammered with questions about any compensation she has or would receive from news organizations for access to interviews or footage after the deaths of her daughter and grandson.

She frequently said no to questions about arrangements with specific media outlets, and sidestepped other questions or claimed she didn’t understand them.

“Have you in any fashion profited at all from the death of your daughter?” asked Krista Barth, an attorney for Stern.

Arthur stared for a moment. “I’m trying to process that question,” she said. Then Arthur at-

tempted to deflect the attention, pointing at Stern.

“He has,” she said.

It was a refrain Arthur repeated several times in an attempt to raise suspicions about Stern and the unsolved deaths of her daughter and grandson.

For a second time, Broward County’s chief medical examiner, Dr. Joshua Perper, warned the judge that little time remains before Smith’s body becomes too decomposed for a public viewing.

Circuit Judge Larry Seidlin promised a ruling by Friday.

Deterioration begins at the moment of death, and embalming only slows the process, so the face could undergo unsightly changes in color.

Smith was the widow of Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall II. She had been fighting his family over his estimated \$500 million fortune since his death in 1995.



Associated Press

Anna Nicole Smith’s boyfriend Howard K. Stern, right, walks out of the courtroom Wednesday with his attorney Krista Barth for hearing recess at the Broward County Circuit Court in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

## Ministers-to-be learn to mind their manners at Florida university

By Kelly Griffith  
McClatchy Newspapers

Forget country preachers spitting fire and brimstone from the pulpit.

Today’s preachers come not only with advanced college degrees but also, for some ministers-to-be, a good dose of refinement.

Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla., a Christian college offering master’s degrees in ministerial leadership, hopes its etiquette course not only teaches its students which fork to use, but also how to use mealtime settings for a bit of business networking.

The class, a part of professor Joe Davis’ Leader as Communicator course, recently finished its second year.

Students agree it is needed.

“If you are sitting down trying to get sponsors, they may

be very educated and they do expect the etiquette,” said Morgan Midkiff, 21, of Orlando, who is working on her master’s in ministerial leadership at the university, which is affiliated with the Assemblies of God. “Powerful people could be in your congregation, and you’ll need that sort of protocol.”

One survey of Americans show etiquette is going to, well, heck.

A telephone survey of more than 2,000 Americans conducted by Harris Interactive Inc. in 2006 showed nearly 40 percent ranked Americans’ manners as low overall.

Only 15 percent rated Americans’ manners highly, down from 26 percent in 2004.

“Rude, rude, rude,” said Jeanne Hebert of Lakeland, who teaches the etiquette portion to the ministerial students. She was speaking not of the college

students, but of society in general.

Hebert, a reading teacher at Lakeland High School, is also the director of instruction for the Lakeland Cotillion Club and usually teaches etiquette and ballroom dance to children in sixth through 12th grade.

Recently, she took the 21 ministerial students to downtown Lakeland’s posh Terrace Hotel for a fine-dining meal complete with a professional maitre d’ to round out their training.

From knowing which fork to use to how to introduce the people around the table, Hebert aimed to make sure the students would be able to conduct themselves professionally and with ease in not only professional and formal situations, but also in daily life.

“(This group) was a very mixed bag ... I found them all very receptive,” she said. “So,

you skip some of the basic things that are just common sense and good social graces.”

Like what?

“Well, like not chewing with your mouth open,” she said. “That grosses me out.”

Hebert instead focused her short supertime lesson on things the students might not know and stressed the things they might think are old-fashioned: They should always stand

when introduced, and men should open doors for women.

Students had plenty of questions, such as whether it still held true that a man walking down a sidewalk with a woman should walk on the street side.

“Well, yes, yes, he should,” she said.

“I know it sounds old-fashioned, and I don’t expect him to throw his coat over a mud puddle, but he should walk on the

outside. It’s just the polite thing to do and is a safety thing.”

Davis, who is assistant professor of theology at the university, has extensive experience in ministerial work, including as a senior pastor.

He added the etiquette course to his class last year, saying that most people felt intimidated in formal settings and he wanted to give his students confidence in those arenas.

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David Poe/Lariat staff

Sophomore guard Henry Dugat dribbles while looking for an open path to the basket during the Bears' 63-59 victory over Nebraska Wednesday. Dugat scored 15 points and pulled down six rebounds in the win.

# Bears break streak, beat Huskers

By Brian Bateman  
Reporter

For the second time in their last two games, the Bears had a lead in the second half. This time, they didn't lose it.

Baylor (13-13, 3-10) saw a 12-point lead slip to 3 but held on to beat Nebraska (15-11, 4-8) 63-59 in front of more than 5,500 at the Ferrell Special Events Center.

The win was a welcome one for Baylor after it lost four straight games and eight of its last nine.

"I'm just happy we won," freshman guard Tweety Carter said.

Henry Dugat hit two free throws with 4.3 seconds left to put Baylor up 63-59.

Cornhusker guard Jay-R Strowbridge was called for a charge, giving the ball back to the Bears with 0.6 seconds left on the clock, ensuring the Baylor win.

Junior guard Aaron Bruce returned to the lineup after missing two games, pitching in with

7 points and five rebounds.

"I felt a little bit rusty," Bruce said. "We've had games when we've had leads and watched it dwindle away. It was good to close one out."

Baylor came out early with two consecutive 3-point baskets from Curtis Jerrells and Aaron Bruce to take a 6-1 lead.

Jerrells' shot brought Baylor to its 200th made 3-pointer on the season.

However, Nebraska was able to come back on two quick Mamadou Diene fouls, taking the lead back 11-10.

Aleks Maric, Nebraska's leading scorer, only scored 11 points on the night, thanks in part to constant double-teams from Baylor.

But the attention Maric demanded left the door wide open for deep shots.

"We had to double-team him and our guards did a great job," head Coach Scott Drew said. "If you double him, you give up the perimeter."

With that, the Bears watched an odd sight; the visitors hitting

more 3-pointers than they did. Baylor hit 11 of 22 from beyond the arc, while Nebraska hit 12 of 33. By halftime, both teams had scored 36 points from downtown.

One of those threes came at the end of the first half, with Jerrells breaking the tie 29-26.

Baylor was plagued with fouls in the first half, committing 10 fouls to Nebraska's four. Baylor turned the tables in the second half, forcing 17 Husker fouls.

Baylor shot only 38 percent from the field but still managed to keep Nebraska to 34 percent. Even though Nebraska scored more threes than the Bears, the Huskers took 11 more shots to do it.

At the start of the second half, Nebraska came out and hit two threes in 45 seconds, taking the lead 32-29.

But Baylor would come back to dominate the rest of the second half.

Bruce stole the ball from guard Ryan Anderson and passed it down the court to Jer-

rells, who went to the line, scoring two.

After a three-minute drought by both teams, Henry Dugat started a 17-4 run with his 3-point shot seven minutes into the second half. Baylor took the lead 52-40.

But the 12-point lead was just enough for Drew's conservative plan to run out the clock.

Trouble brewed for Baylor, which had problems down the stretch, missing five of six free throws.

The lead drew even slimmer when Bruce was called for a foul on a Nebraska 3-point shooter.

But Nebraska failed to convert all three free throws, and Baylor escaped with the win.

"Being so close for so long from a coach's standpoint, I am very pleased. We really picked it up and got numerous stops," Drew said.

The win was the Bears' third in conference and made the Bears .500 on the season.

Baylor will play Texas A&M University at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at College Station.

# Bradley leaves BU for NFL

By Daniel Youngblood  
Sports editor

Baylor football head Coach Guy Morriss lost the fifth member of his coaching staff this offseason Wednesday when defensive coordinator Bill Bradley took a defensive assistant coaching job with San Diego Chargers of the NFL.

This will be Bradley's third stint in the NFL. After working as a secondary coach for the New York Jets and the Buffalo Bills, Bradley will work alongside Chargers' secondary Coach Brian Stewart in San Diego.

Morriss said he'll miss working with Bradley.

"For me, it's like losing a brother," Morriss said. "We're good friends, former NFL teammates and coaching mates. He was more than just working for me."

Since taking over for the late John Goodner in 2004, Bradley's Baylor defenses were ranked 92nd, 63rd and 110th among NCAA Division I teams.

However, The Bears were among the nation's best in

takeaways. In 2005, they were ranked 14th in the nation, forcing 29 turnovers, and in 2006, the Bears ranked 29th with 27 takeaways.

Bradley said the decision to leave Baylor was a tough one, but that it ultimately came down to better job security.

"These were the best people I've ever worked for," he said. "I'm really going to miss Baylor. The school was very very good to me."

Morriss announced Wednesday that he will promote safeties Coach Larry Hoeffler to take Bradley's place as the defensive coordinator.

Morriss said he expects Hoeffler to do a good job. He said one of the reasons he made the decision to promote him was Hoeffler's relationship with the



Bradley

team and his experience with the 4-2-5 defense.

Aside from the loss of Bradley, four other Baylor coaches have left since the end of last season. Receivers Coach Harold Jackson and special teams Coach Chris Lancaster resigned following the season. Cornerbacks coach Wesley McGriff left for the University of Miami in January and quarterbacks coach Wes Phillips left for the Dallas Cowboys earlier this month.

Morriss hired Casey Dunn from the University of Arizona to be special teams coordinator, and Jason Phillips and Clay Jennings from the University of Houston to be inside receivers coach and cornerbacks coach.

Morriss said it's been a tough offseason with all of the changes but he thinks the guys coming in will pick up where the others left off.

"We looked for good character people to represent our school," he said. "We've hired some good ones, and no offense to those that were here before, but I think we've strengthened our staff."



Associated Press

## Rising above the competition

Bernice Mosby elevates for a jump shot over Colorado's Susie Powers during the Lady Bears' 75-67 win over the Buffaloes. Mosby had 15 points, 11 rebounds and 4 assists in the victory.

# Shortridge making mark on and off the field

By Brian Bateman  
Reporter

Fearless.

That's what softball head Coach Glenn Moore calls highly touted freshman pitcher Kirsten Shortridge.

Coming from one of the top-ranked high school programs in the nation, Shortridge exudes tenacity daily, starting as a pitcher and seeing time as a utility player in just her first year at Baylor.

"She fears no one," Moore said. "She's got confidence in her ability."

But that confidence didn't start in the pitcher's circle.

Shortridge began her athletic endeavors in cheerleading and gymnastics.

But her father enrolled her in

a fastpitch softball program before starting the seventh grade.

"I really didn't know what I was getting myself into," Shortridge said. "Most people start with tee-ball, but I was behind."

Working hard to make up for lost time, she found her trials paid off.

A strong career at Keller High School landed her many awards, including two state championship appearances and a state title in 2005. She managed a .22 ERA, 438 strikeouts and 23 shutouts in her high school tenure.

But the biggest achievement was the Gatorade National Player of the Year award, which included a trip to ESPN's award show, the ESPY's, in Los Angeles. High school players from across the nation joined her all

from different sports.

"She came in with a lot of awards," senior pitcher Ashley Monceaux said. "We treat everyone equally and you have to earn respect."

But her statistics speak for themselves.

In her short career, she has made strides toward that mark. Shortridge has earned a 4-0 record with a team-low 1.14 ERA, striking out 34 batters while allowing just 23 hits.

She's also managed a .432 batting average and even launched a home run on Feb. 9, in the Gettman Classic against the University of Southern Mississippi despite her reputation as a slapper.

But on-the-field accomplishments are only part of Shortridge's life. While softball takes

up most of her time, she has other priorities.

One of the main reasons she chose Baylor was the school's proximity to her home in Keller.

Going to school at Baylor allows her to go home occasionally to take care of her 15-year-old brother, who has special needs.

"He's severely handicapped," she said. "He can't talk, can't eat, and he still wears a diaper."

With her experiences helping her brother, she intends to help children with special education needs as a career. But that won't happen until she's taken a shot at professional softball, she said.

"We expect a lot from her," said senior catcher Chelsie Lake, a fellow Keller High School alumna.



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# From Waco to Music City, grad moves up in the world

By Aileen Wong  
Reporter

It seems appropriate that Seth Philpott would start a new chapter of his life on New Year's Day.

Philpott, originally from China Springs, graduated from Baylor in December and moved to Nashville, or "Music City USA," just two weeks after he walked across the stage to pursue his dreams as a songwriter. He had played at various coffee shops, bars, Baylor functions and other events in almost every major city in Texas, but he was ready for a change in scenery.

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"I wanted to join the music community of people that can't be found anywhere else," Philpott said.

"Music is the vibe of the city. It oozes rhythm."

Now Philpott's working with musicians like Dave Barnes and Andy Davis to help find his strengths and weaknesses in music. Barnes and Davis, already popular musicians, are helping him pick out songs for a five-song album he hopes to put out later this year.

Many aspiring artists decide

to move to big cities like Nashville or Los Angeles to pursue their dreams. They hope to be discovered by some big record company at an open mic night and for their careers to suddenly skyrocket.

But while Philpott may seem to be living the dream life, he isn't aiming for stardom.

"It's not about people knowing who I am. I just want to move people," Philpott said.

Philpott said he plans to complete his album soon. After the recordings are complete, he hopes to gain a record deal.

Philpott said his love for music started in seventh grade when he asked for a guitar for Christmas and saw his cousin play.

He received the guitar for Christmas, and he hasn't stopped playing since.

Philpott made a music video in December for a song called "Heartbreaker" while completing an independent study course with Justin B. Wilson, lecturer of Film and Digital Media at Baylor.

"I like Seth's music, and doing a music video was something I wanted to do myself," Wilson said.

Wilson and Philpott not only collaborated on the music video project, but have similar music tastes as well.

"I like that he's a white guy who sings soul music and that's



Courtesy photo

Seth Philpott graduated in December and moved to Nashville less than a month later. In Nashville, he's taking the opportunities presented him to work with other artists and gain experience in songwriting and performing. Philpott will perform Mar. 3 in Waco Hall with Dave Barnes and Andy Davis for a concert benefitting Omega Kids.

the kind of music I like," Wilson said.

"His music is a combination of soul and rock. It has some

strength to it."

Part of Philpott's charm is his personality and the way he approaches the music, Plano se-

nior Erin Chaney said.

"He's a really emotional performer," Chaney said. "You feel what he feels when he performs.

# Tex-Mex restaurant pleases tastebuds

By Brittany McGuire  
Contributor

There are three things I love about Texas: the Houston Astros, 70 degree weather in December and most importantly, great Tex-Mex. The latter has been a staple in my 21 years of enjoying food, and it's been my goal in life to hunt out the best haunts in the area.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

While I don't consider myself an arrogant person, I am somewhat of a Tex-Mex snob. And over the years, it's becoming increasingly difficult to please my particular likings. If the salsa isn't hot enough or the tortillas aren't fluffy enough, you've already lost me as a customer.

Because I found out beforehand Casa De Castillo was family-owned, I had high expectations for the little restaurant. I didn't just want a great home-

made dinner — I expected it.

And when I left Casa De Castillo, I was one happy camper.

Walking into the restaurant, I felt like I was walking into a family's living room. The inside was homey and decked out with authentic south-of-the-border décor, including a stuffed parrot in the corner.

Although the tables were packed closely together, being near other people added to the restaurant's family environment and appeal.

The waiter immediately had water and fresh chips and salsa on the table and asked if I'd ever dined there before.

When I said no, he was eager to tell me about any dish I wanted to know about and offered his own opinions on menu favorites.

As I was checking out the appetizers, the cheese-stuffed jalapenos caught my attention right away. I love all things hot and spicy, so I told my server to bring it on.

Less than 10 minutes later, I was munching on my crispy, delicious appetizer. The jalapenos tasted fresh — like they were just plucked off the plant — and the breading gave them a nice crunch with every bite.

My only problem with the dish was that they were served on top of fried flour tortilla strips, which lacked flavor altogether.

Right after the appetizer plates had been cleared, the server had dinner waiting beside the table. I ordered the spinach enchiladas with sour cream sauce, and my date ordered the chicken enchiladas topped with ranchero sauce. We might be redundant, but we know good enchiladas.

Although my spinach enchiladas weren't as hot as I would have liked them, they were full of flavor. They were fresh, and the sauce went with the dish perfectly. I tried a bite of the chicken enchiladas, and they were just as good as my own entrée.

If I hadn't remembered my table manners at the last minute, I might've just swiped my date's food right off his plate.

Casa De Castillo offers a wide variety of Tex-Mex, including nachos, fajitas and combination plates for the indecisive and the picky — all priced between \$4.80 and \$11.65. The "Special Dinner for Two" is perfect for sharing. It includes a half order of nachos, guacamole salad, tacos, rice and beans, cheese enchiladas, sopapillas for dessert and drinks.

Although the salsa was watery and my dinner not as hot as it could've been, the food and the service made my meal memorable. My glass was never empty, my food was never late and my waiter even gave me a history of the restaurant and its two founders.

Open since 1985, Casa De Castillo is located at 4820 Sanger Ave., tucked away just off Valley Mills Drive. It looks more like a house than a restaur-



Chris Weeksr/Lariat staff

Casa de Castillo, located at 4820 Sanger Ave., offers a variety of Mexican dishes with a Texan twist. The restaurant is also available for catering.

rant, and the food tastes like it came directly from Mexico with a classic Texan twist.

Forget Taco Bell, Taco Bueno or Taco Cabana. Since we're in Texas, we should eat real Tex-Mex food.

Casa de Castillo is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The restaurant is also available to cater for events in Waco.

# Beats, geeks form genre that's got Silicon Valley hoppin'

By Cary Darling  
McClatchy Newspapers

WACO — A cramped upstairs bedroom in an apartment complex with all the whimsical charm of a Soviet prison block doesn't seem like the kind of place where a new branch of hip-hop would take root.

But here, within hollering distance of Baylor, are Fort Worth's Kristin Ritchie and Tannar Brown — aka MC Router and producer T-Byte — staying inside on a sun-washed Saturday afternoon to lay down a rap that combines their love of high-tech and hard beats.

"One of my very first raps was a Halo' rap," says Router, 20, referencing the popular video game. "And then 'Bill Gates' was the first professional one."

She's talking about "Bill Gates Revolution," a track on her coming album that's an anti-Microsoft rap where "the operating system is so old, it was a horror story my grandmother told."

Welcome to the world of nerdcore — some call it "geek-sta" — where math majors, computer-code cowboys and other young scientific Americans celebrate their love of algorithms and hip-hop rhythms. Among those whose burgeoning underground success is exacting sweet revenge on those who excluded them from high school's cool-kid cliques:

◆ MC Plus+, a Ph.D. candidate at Purdue University, took his name from a programming language and named one of his albums **Computer Science for Life**.

◆ Computer programmer

Monzy has a master's degree from MIT and is a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford. His debut disc: **Drama in the PhD**.

◆ Boston's MC Frontalot, whom some consider to be the nerdcore George Washington because he whipped up the geek anthem "Nerdcore Hip-Hop" back in 2000, is a Web designer who only recently cut back on his client list to concentrate on his music career.

◆ New York's MC Chris is known for his high-pitched raps and Cartoon Network connection (he's the voice of MC Pee Pants in "Aqua Teen Hunger Force"), but his background includes stops at the Art Institute of Chicago and NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

To quote another nerdcore performer, MC Hawking, who raps in an electronically distort-

ed voice that makes him sound like famed physicist Stephen Hawking, they're "young, gifted and tenured."

Others, from Lords of the Rhymes (who claim to be "straight out of Hobbiton") to Optimus Rhyme (whose name is a salute to "Transformers" robot-hero Optimus Prime), are more geared to pop-culture geek smarts.

At first a minor curiosity spread by word-of-mouth and MySpace pages, nerdcore is starting to attract broader attention.

While major labels have yet to take the plunge, two documentaries, **Nerdcore for Life** and **Nerdcore Rising**, are in the works. And nerdcore performances were featured during last month's CES (Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas,

where all the tech gurus gather to sample the latest gadgetry.

For MC Router and T-Byte, 19, both former Arlington Heights High School students who are representing "the nerdy South," it's less about the degrees they hold — she briefly joined the Army after high school and now works at a Fort Worth Starbucks, while he's studying audio technology at McLennan Community College — than just talking about stuff they like: computers, video games and hip-hop.

"It wasn't until I started getting into it and taking it more se-

riously, and coming out with actual good songs, like 'Bill Gates Revolution' and 'Emulation Station,' that I started meeting and hearing about other nerdcore artists," says MC Router, who used to be more of a Blink-182 fan before discovering hip-hop.

Now, she has "geek life" tattooed on her knuckles, is Texas' best-known nerdcore geek, and is one of the relatively few female performers in the genre.

"I said, 'OK, I'm a nerdcore artist,'" she says.

"And this is what I do."

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# Tony Blair planning gradual withdrawal from Iraq

By David Stringer  
The Associated Press

LONDON — British troops have achieved many tangible successes in Iraq, securing oil platforms, rounding up rogue police units and driving smugglers carrying weapons and contraband from waterways and border crossings.

Now some of these tasks will be ceded to Iraqi troops for good.

Under proposals laid out by Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday, Britain will withdraw about 1,600 troops from Iraq over the coming months and hopes to make other cuts to its 7,100-strong contingent by late summer.

British troops would likely stay in the southern Basra re-

gion until at least 2008, training local forces, working to secure the Iran-Iraq border and maintaining supply routes to U.S. and coalition troops in central Iraq, Blair told legislators.

Britain could further reduce its force level to below 5,000 once a base at Basra Palace is transferred to Iraqi control in late summer, the prime minister said.

“What all of this means is not that Basra is how we want it to be. But it does mean that the next chapter in Basra’s history can be written by Iraqis,” Blair said.

The announcement, made on the same day Denmark said it would withdraw its 460 troops, comes as the U.S. is implementing an increase of 21,000 more troops for Iraq, putting Wash-

ington on an opposite track as its main coalition allies.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice played down the British pullback, saying it is consistent with the U.S. plan to turn over more control to Iraqi forces.

“The British have done what is really the plan for the country as a whole, which is to transfer security responsibility to the Iraqis as the situation permits,” Rice said. “The coalition remains intact and, in fact, the British still have thousands of troops deployed in Iraq.”

British troops have performed many humanitarian tasks, helping open hundreds of schools, fitting hospitals with modern equipment and replacing leaky water pipes, but some say the real British legacy is likely to be a consolidation of

Shiite control.

British forces already acquiesced to a “situation of quiet sectarian cleansing” in the south, said Anthony Cordesman, an expert on Iraq at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. The decision to pull out of Basra only underscored the political reality of Shiite primacy in the region, he said.

Rear Adm. Richard Cobbold, director of the military think tank Royal United Services Institute in London, said Britain’s decision to pull back “needed to be made.”

“I would admit that there is a sense of uncertainty, but things are not getting better with the British in Basra,” he said. “The British are aggravating tensions by just being there.”



Associated Press

British Prime Minister Tony Blair leaves 10 Downing Street Wednesday for the House of Commons where he discussed the gradual withdrawal of British troops from Iraq.

## SBC from page 1

is typically underreported because being molested is such a painful experience that victims often wait years before stepping forward.

Southern Baptist Convention President Frank Page said the denomination plans to teach its churches how to conduct background checks, and to require letters of recommendation for job candidates.

But he said the Southern Baptist Convention, which has 16.3 million members, does not have the legal authority to create an independent board to investigate abuse complaints.

“As much as possible within our structure, we’re going to assist churches,” Page said. “We’re deeply concerned about this. We believe children are the most precious gifts from God.”

The SBC passed a resolution in 2002 urging its churches to discipline ministers guilty of sexual abuse and to cooperate with authorities in their prosecution.

But Brown said that’s not enough.

She said the Southern Baptists need an independent review board precisely because there’s no clear chain of command among Baptist churches. The SBC also does not keep a list of ministers who have been accused of abuse. Advocates say this means molesters could move from church to church.

“I believe kids are not safe in Southern Baptist churches,” said Brown, who runs a Web

site called the Voice to Stop Baptist Predators.

One SNAP member, Debbie Vasquez, said she was raped by a Southern Baptist minister in Texas when she was 15 years old.

Now 48, Vasquez filed a lawsuit last year against the pastor, the Rev. Dale “Dickie” Amyx and his current church, Bolivar Baptist in Sanger about 45 miles north of Dallas.

She claims the church knew, or should have known, about Amyx’s past.

Vasquez says she was raped when Amyx was a minister at the now-defunct Calvary Baptist Church in Lewisville, another town north of Dallas.

When she became pregnant with Amyx’s child at age 18, church leaders forced her to go before the congregation and ask forgiveness as an unwed mother. But the congregation was never told it was Amyx’s baby. The lawsuit claims Calvary Baptist helped Amyx get another job at a church in Arizona.

Amyx acknowledged in court documents that he had a sexual relationship with Vasquez and was the father of her child.

Texas court records also show that Amyx was convicted in 1967 for giving beer to a minor.

When reached at home Wednesday, Amyx said he couldn’t comment on the case and referred all questions to his lawyer, James A. Harrison. The attorney did not return multiple phone calls.

Vasquez said she filed the

suit because she fears Amyx could be abusing other girls and she wants to see him removed from his position.

“In any denomination where you have these men with this power that’s not questioned and you have these people who are vulnerable ... you’re going to have a problem,” Vasquez said.

Philip Jenkins, a professor of religious studies and history at Pennsylvania State University and author of the book **Pedophiles and Priests**, said it’s harder to track child sexual abuse in Protestant denominations.

“Southern Baptists are massively decentralized compared to the Catholic Church,” he said.

“They’re independent. It’s very difficult to gauge how many abuses might be occurring within the Southern Baptist Convention.”

Several child sex abuse cases in Southern Baptist churches have surfaced recently.

Bellevue Baptist, a megachurch near Memphis, fired a longtime minister, the Rev. Paul Williams, last month after he acknowledged sexually abusing his son 17 years ago.

The investigation began in December only after the prodding of Williams’ son, who asked Gaines why his father was allowed to continue as a minister even after leaders had found out about the abuse.

“I accept full responsibility and could have handled this in a more appropriate way,” Gaines told the congregation last month.

## FLU from page 1

break is All-University Sing.

“I heard about entire Sing groups getting sick,” said Plano sophomore Ryan Machen, chairman for Sing Alliance. “We have a few getting sick in our group, but we are hoping that everyone is well for these next performances this weekend.”

Some groups are having problems with their soloists getting sick.

“For Friday’s performance only two of our five vocalists were healthy enough to sing,” said Houston junior Lindsey

Coffman, Sing chairwoman for Kappa Alpha Theta.

“We are trying to stay positive for this weekend, though. This has been the year of our lives and we just want to keep putting our best foot forward. With all our sicknesses and all the last-minute switching we have been doing, I think we deserve the flexibility award.”

There are things students can do to help prevent themselves from getting the flu.

“Get lots of rest,” Keating said.

“It is very important to be well rested. Also, you may want to take Tylenol and just try to

treat your symptoms. Drinking lots of fluids is important as well. And above all just try to limit yourself to exposure.”

Keating also said hand washing is very important to staying healthy.

“Just be aware of what your hands touch,” she said.

“There are so many places where students’ hands will come in contact, and that is one of the biggest ways to spread germs. Just remember to stick to a healthy diet and take good care of your body in order to stay healthy this year.”

## EGGS from page 1

categories are judged on a case-by-case basis by students from the editorial and advertising departments.

“Egg donation advertisement is really a student decision,” he said. “It’s their call whether it runs or not.”

Private institutions are split on how to deal with the issue. While Southern Methodist University policy prohibits advertising for these services, Joan said Texas Christian University allows the center to advertise through the campus newspaper.

“We ran ads with TCU for a long time, but we stopped because the results were very poor,” she said.

Dr. Robert Kruschwitz, director of the Center for Christian Ethics and professor of philosophy, said he finds the issue to be one of ethics and not just economics.

“I would say it’s on par with selling people into slavery,” Kruschwitz said. “You are selling eggs that will ultimately produce a human being.”

Kruschwitz said whether you believe life begins with an egg, a fetus or at life’s first breath, people are still being bought and sold through this process.

“A person prepared to sell eggs for this purpose is encouraging or at least not standing up to humans being reduced to commodities,” he said.

The French government has attempted to humanize the process by making it illegal to pay donors for their part in the process of donating eggs.

The government pays for all the expenses incurred by both the recipients and the donors but doesn’t guarantee the eggs will result in a pregnancy.

Kruschwitz said even though he believes a lack of payment is an important distinction, creating life unnaturally is still unethical.

“It’s critical not to see the child as something we can put together and produce piece by piece, but as a gift from God,” he said.

“The drive to manipulate the process for our benefit, even if the egg donor isn’t paid, is a misdirected altruism.”

Dr. Johnathan Tran, assistant professor of religion, said he believes the issue is especially sensitive for Christians because of the biblical understanding of what it means to have children.

“Infertility for Christians is associated with cursedness, and having children, especially in the Old Testament, is con-

sidered a blessing,” he said.

Tran, who teaches a class on bioethics, said Christians have a hard time remembering the church of the New Testament is not supposed to grow chiefly from a family bloodline, but by witnessing and conversions.

“An interesting question is why as Christians we feel like we need to have our own children,” he said. “The argument is usually something like, ‘I want to have my blood continue,’ which is a completely pagan argument.”

While many egg donation organizations tout the idea of helping infertile couples realize the dream of having children, Kruschwitz said there is a better way to handle the situation: community and congregational support. Instead of searching for egg donors, he said, couples should turn to their community of faith for guidance and support for adoption or other options besides in vitro fertilization.

Tran explained that for Christians, honor doesn’t come from bloodline or birthright but from adoption into the family of God through Christ.

“I think adoption is the perfect metaphor for the Christian faith,” he said. “As gentiles we’ve been adopted into the Jewish covenant.”

## MUSIC from page 1

Christian music.”

There are changes happening on all fronts of Christian music, he said.

Congregational worship, the Christian music scene and denominational interchange are

all dynamic parts of what is called Christian music.

“The center allows us to have a sort of parallel track which will allow us to respond more quickly,” York said.

John Woods, one of the board’s organizers, said this meeting will “open a new chap-

ter in the life of the center,” as it represents the efforts of the center’s leaders to improve its programming.

“With the board in place, the center is set on the cusp of being able to move out and accomplish new initiatives,” he said.

Woods said the main pur-

pose is to talk about where they are now and the current state of Christian music is.

He said he hoped the meeting would allow the board and other involved leadership to figure out “what God has in mind, rather than what we have in mind.”

James Kimmel, a Richardson junior majoring in church music, said he’s hopeful the board will greatly improve the program.

“This is a big deal,” Kimmel said. “I think what we’re trying to do here is make (the Christian music curriculum) relevant

by addressing all the types of issues in Christian music.”

The high-profile members who are “actively engaged” in the center should help add prestige to the Christian music program, he said.

“This is a good thing, and it can only better our university.”

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