



**BEARS BOUNCE
BACK TO RUN-RULE
RED RAIDERS PAGE 6**

**GUEST CONDUCTOR
TO LEAD BAYLOR
CHORUS PAGE 7**



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2007

SUB plays host to postcard campaign

By Jon Schroeder
Staff writer

Even with two local representatives in the Texas Legislature already supporting the creation of a tax-free textbook period, Baylor's student will continue to push for their support.

Student representatives will set up a table from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Wednesday in the Bill Daniel Student Center, giving students a chance to send postcards to State Sen. Kip Averitt, R-McGregor, and Rep. Charles "Doc" Anderson, R-Waco, asking them to contin-

ue to support Senate Bill 49, a bill similar to House Bill 1890, and House Bill 1434. Each bill designates two annual periods during which students could buy textbooks without paying taxes.

Student government members will talk to students about the upcoming legislation and hand out candy, raising awareness of the issue in preparation for a rally April 11 in Austin.

Student senator and Waco senior John Nicholson said he wants the Waco representatives to do more than just support the bills — he and student lead-

ers from the University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University and other universities and colleges hope their respective legislators will co-author or sponsor the bills, sending a stronger message of support to other representatives.

That's because support for a bill often is not enough to get it passed, Nicholson said.

"The Texas Legislature, unlike many legislatures, only meets (for about five months) once every two years," he said.

Since the House of Representatives and the Senate work on

such a short timeframe, the current tax-free textbook bills will need "strong interest" to make it through this year, Nicholson said.

In addition to the table today and Wednesday and the ongoing postcard campaign, Nicholson said he's talked with members of Baylor Ambassadors about lobbying for the cause.

The prohibitive cost of needed textbooks leads some students simply to do without them.

"One of the studies (at the University of Texas) said more than 40 percent of students

have not bought a book because of price," Nicholson said, adding that while the cost of textbooks is a "much larger" problem than just the tax, making textbooks tax free would be a good start.

During the tax-free weekend for clothes and school supplies, students can buy Baylor apparel without paying taxes — but not textbooks, Nicholson said, calling it an "irregularity in Texas law."

Parker Short, a Dallas junior and the student senator who wrote a resolution supporting the pending legislation, said there are "just a lot of reasons"

for students to care about the outcome of the bills' journey through the Legislature.

Lindale sophomore Nicole Yeakley, working on the campaign as a part of Student Senate's academic affairs committee, said that in addition to other campaigning, Baylor student leaders will participate Monday in a conference call with representatives from other universities, discussing their progress on the issue and planning the April 11 rally.

Yeakley said Baylor's efforts may expand to include some students' home districts.

Percentage not in pews holds firm

By Claire St. Amant
Staff writer

If you felt bad about sleeping in Sunday morning, you weren't alone.

Nearly 100 million U.S. residents are "un-churched" as defined by a new survey released by The Barna Group, a Christian research organization.

Despite considerable shifts in popular culture, fashion, architecture and technology, the percentage of Americans who have stayed outside of the church walls since 1994 has remained stable.

Dr. Kevin Dougherty, assistant professor of sociology and a co-investigator of the Baylor Religion Survey, said Barna's definition of unchurched misses a "fundamental difference between those who don't have a church and those who choose not to attend regularly."

Barna defines unchurched individuals as those "who haven't attended a religious service of any type during the last six months."

While Barna identifies one out of every three Americans as unchurched, according to the Baylor Religion Survey, nine out of 10 Americans have a religious place in their life they can turn to if the need arises.

Please see CHURCH, page 8

Nursing student dies in home

Coppell senior Patricia Ring, a nursing major at Baylor's Louise Herrington School of Nursing in Dallas, died Sunday at her Coppell home.

A press release sent to students Monday said an autopsy would be performed to determine the cause of the "unexpected" death.

Family visitation will be 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Foust Funeral Home in Grapevine. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at First Baptist Church in Grapevine.

Counselors at the Counseling Center and University Ministries are available at 710-2467 and 710-3517, respectively.



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

With these two hands

Kara Gilbreath, a Houston senior, designs a clay leaf Monday in her beginning ceramics class in the Lewis Art Building.

Dating crosses racial borders

By Whitney Farr
Reporter

There are even more fish in the sea when students cross racial and ethnic boundaries set by past generations.

Last August, East Carolina University polled 620 students on issues concerning interracial dating. Almost half of the college students in the sample said they were open to involvement in a relationship with someone of another race. Almost a quarter had been in such a relationship.

Racial barriers are coming down as students test interracial relationships for themselves, according to the study.

But not everyone is as open to the idea.

Mansfield sophomore Jamil Brown said older generations seem to be less accepting of interracial couples.

This idea rang true when Rachel Chandler, a Garland senior, told her parents that she and a male friend, who is black, were starting to date.

She said her parents were completely against it. Her dad said it was against God's will for a white woman to date a black man, and Chandler's mother couldn't even finish her meal, Chandler said.

"I've never been taught to see color," she said. "I've been taught we're all equal. I didn't understand how I could be taught one way, but my parents could see differently. It's a generation gap."

Using the words "unequally yoked" from 2 Corinthians 6 is

Please see DATING, page 8

Writer, alumnus shares experience

By Kate Boswell
Staff writer

Christian novelist and screenwriter Mark Olsen returned to Baylor on Monday to speak to a screenwriting class about his experiences as a published author.

Olsen, a 1989 Baylor graduate in English and professional writing, said he understood where the students were coming from — he had once been an aspiring writer hoping to make it big.

"I've been where you're sitting," he said.

In Olsen's case, it's literal. During his time at Baylor, he took associate professor of journalism Robert Darden's writing class.

Olsen, who has published several novels and recently released a movie, said he does not identify himself primarily as a novelist or as a screenwriter.

"I'm really trying to be a storyteller, but that just sounds pre-

Please see WRITER, page 8



Melea Burke/Lariat staff

Screenwriter and novelist Mark Olsen, a 1989 alumnus, talks to associate professor of journalism Robert Darden's screenwriting class Monday.

Soulforce's Kentucky sit-in ends in arrests

By Dylan T. Lovan
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Members of a gay-rights group were arrested Monday after staging a sit-in at a Baptist seminary whose president is drawing criticism for his comments on prenatal treatments that would influence a child's sexual orientation.

The group, Soulforce, attempted to meet with the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's president, the Rev. R. Albert Mohler Jr., an influential

evangelical leader.

About a dozen members of the group were arrested, escorted off the campus and charged with criminal trespassing after sitting in front of Mohler's office for about two hours, said Jarrett Lucas, a co-director of a Soulforce tour that is visiting Christian colleges.

The group did not contact officials at the private campus in advance of the visit, said Lawrence Smith, the seminary's vice president of communications.

Last week, five members were arrested at Baylor.

Soulforce's methods will overshadow conversation

Have you ever asked a friend for an invitation to their birthday party? That request declined, have you ever shown up anyway?

Soulforce has. Between 52 people comprise the group this year, traveling on two bus tours. One of those buses stopped March 19 and 20 at Baylor, although its request for a university-approved dialogue had already been declined.

The goal of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights group is to secure freedom from oppression for LGBT students by using "relentless nonviolent resistance."

When five Soulforce riders

were arrested Tuesday on campus, I was disappointed in Soulforce — and in Baylor.

We should have known better. Maybe we should have let them do whatever they wanted to. Because the Soulforce trip, however well-intentioned, has become a publicity stunt. By now, just about every media source in town has covered the arrests. This might be an unpopular thought, but that's a cheap trick.

"But Ghandi was a nonviolent protester!" you say. Absolutely. He, like Martin Luther King Jr., like so many tall-standing leaders of our past, was arrested as a result of passive protests.

point of view



BY JON SCHROEDER

But the Soulforce riders weren't arrested for the same reasons.

They, unlike the examples they undoubtedly look up to, were arrested without purpose.

The Soulforce riders decided to write in chalk on the sidewalk. When asked to stop, they refused.

And in the eyes of the gay

community, the Soulforce riders became martyrs in that moment. Martyrs for gay rights.

Because, in the eyes of America, they were treated wrongly, differently, simply because they stand for gay rights.

But were they treated so differently? What if a group of, say, 52 young Methodists from SMU were traveling the country on two buses, promoting a "dialogue" about the George W. Bush Presidential Library. We'll call them Bushforce. Just hypothetically.

So let's say Baylor decided not to make Bushforce's protest an official university event. Let's even pretend Baylor allowed

them on campus. And let's say that this group of hip, rebellious youngsters decided to write their message all over campus in chalk, just to make a point.

What would happen? After asking them courteously to stop, Baylor police officers would arrest them. Soulforce proved what we already knew: If you go to a new place and break its rules, you get in trouble.

Last time, that place was Oklahoma Baptist University, where five of the riders were arrested for trespassing. This time, that place is Baylor. Next time, who knows where they'll get arrested?

But we can be sure there will

be a next time and a time after that. What else would you expect? When you want to have a reasonable discussion, you don't insult the person you're trying to convince.

I'm not saying Baylor is in the right, and I'm not saying Baylor is in the wrong. I'm just sad that the real conversation will now be lost in the new controversy.

Soulforce — it's not that you have had motives.

I can't speak on your cause because I've never been in your shoes. It's that your method destroys any legitimacy you might have had.

Jon Schroeder is a senior journalism major from Arvada, Colo.

Editorial

Lilley leading by example

President John Lilley said goodbye to the heart of Texas on Saturday in order to travel with a delegation to India.

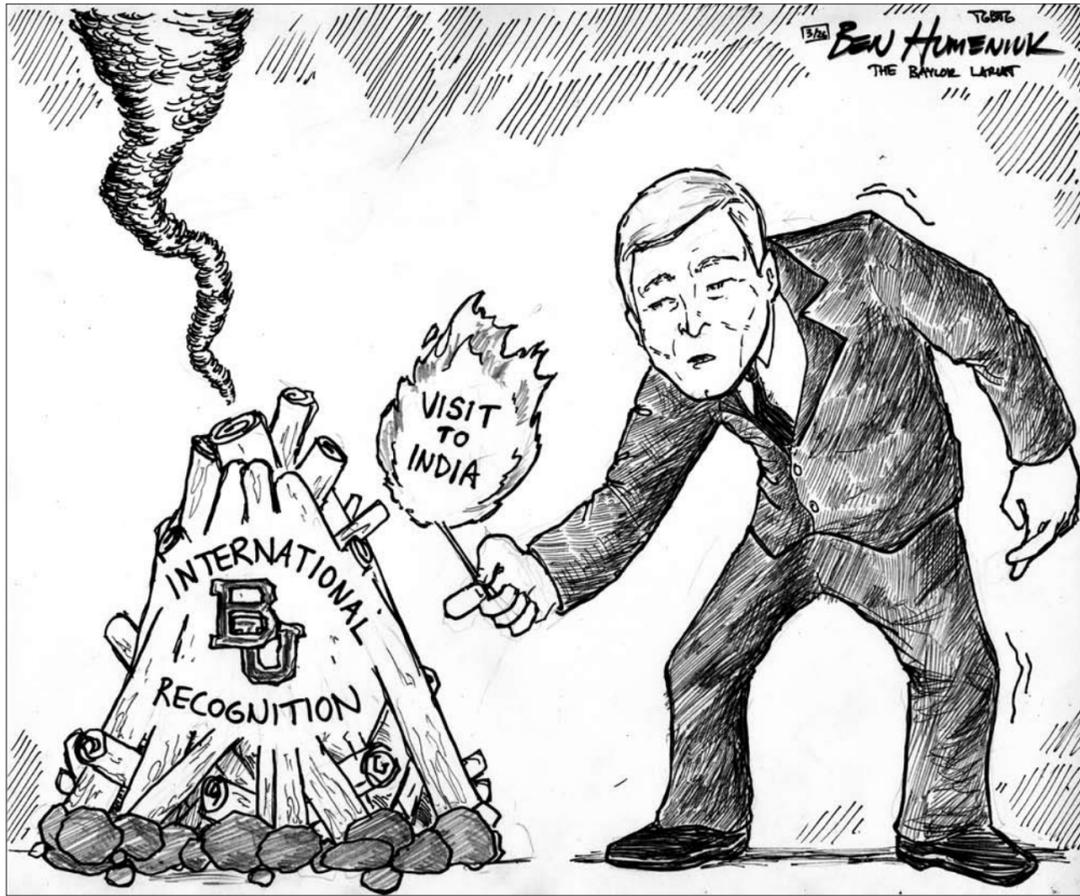
Lilley will make the trip with six representatives from other universities along with Karen Hughes, secretary of state for public democracy and public affairs. Thomas A. Farrell, deputy assistant secretary of state for academic programs, will also be traveling with the group.

During the week, the delegation will stop in New Delhi, India's capital, and Mumbai to strengthen relations between the U.S. and India while also promoting the importance of higher education.

It's an honor for our president to be chosen to strengthen ties between our country and India. Being appointed to such an esteemed task is a positive sign that Baylor is heading in the right direction and being recognized for its academic standards.

Lilley should continue to seek out these kinds of opportunities to make Baylor's name stand out among our peers in the academic community and increase our international profile.

This trip also points toward a strong commitment to Baylor 2012. Imperative IX calls for the forming of meaningful relationships and interaction with "government and other regulatory bodies and members of the higher education community of institutions." Imperative XI issues a call for



global education, giving a pledge to "gather an ethnically diverse faculty and student body." Lilley is leading the way in these imperatives and setting a good example for others at our university to do the same.

We hope this trip will prove to be a fruitful one for our campus since our number of international students has remained flat over the last several

years. According to the 2006-2007 Common Data Set released by the university, there are a total of 389 international students studying at Baylor. In a spring 2006 document that showed trends at Baylor from 1999 to 2005, the lowest number of international students was 340 in fall 1999. The increase in international students since then is only 49 and can be sig-

nificantly improved.

Hopefully, Lilley's visit will provide a spark to improve our international recognition and recruitment of students. We hope that while in India, Lilley will give prospective students a taste of the warmth of Texas and offer them numerous reasons why studying at Baylor will prove to be an asset to their lives.

Letters to the editor

Members showed audacity

Let me get this straight. Soulforce informed the university that it was one of its tour stops.

Because the group was not coming at Baylor's invitation, the university denied it permission to do things like chalking. Soulforce chalked anyway. The campus police asked them to stop. They didn't.

Sounds to me like they wanted to be arrested.

Now they have the audacity to complain about how they were treated?

What is courageous about braving a punishment you think will be minor? And what is noble about griping to the media when you get more than a slap on the wrist?

Civil disobedience always has consequences, no matter what the message is. Part of daring to be arrested is dealing graciously with what happens

after the arrest. You may have the most righteous cause in the world, but if you can't do the time, don't do the crime.

Elisabeth Wolfe
Ph.D. English 2009

An invitation to discussion

I was surprised to see letters appear in last week's editions of *The Lariat*. Not because there was no issue to be discussed, but mostly because this campus rarely pays attention to any external issues.

The main controversy seems to stem from individuals being arrested on campus for chalking.

While I support any individual's right to free speech, we must keep in mind that these individuals were arrested for defacing Baylor's grounds after being warned against doing so — regardless of their message.

I applaud the student body

for recognizing that, as Christians, we love the sinner, not the sin and realizing that all sin is equal in God's eyes. I also applaud Baylor and Dub Oliver for making sure that they conveyed this through their messages and actions.

Keep in mind this group was allowed on campus to speak to students and given recognition at chapel.

They weren't given a public forum to speak, and as a private university, Baylor is entitled to make the decision as to which groups they give a forum.

I'm guessing Baylor wasn't given enough notice to provide a well-prepared response. This justifies not granting a forum.

As Oliver mentioned in his statement, Baylor didn't want the discussion of human sexuality to be controlled, instigated or led by an outside organization.

This seems perfectly rea-

sonable and it's audacious to categorize the e-mail as one of hate, intolerance or ignorance as some have claimed.

Soulforce didn't receive enough opposition, so they created their own sensationalism. It shouldn't come as a shock that Baylor did not roll out the red carpet.

Soulforce is protesting a policy that doesn't discriminate against anyone. They apply to every student — straight or gay. Sexual relations outside the context of marriage are against the rules at BU. Luckily, Baylor also has a policy of "constructive forgiveness" for these acts.

For further discussion, The Young Conservatives of Texas will be having a weekly meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Baines room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

We welcome anyone to discuss concerns in a truly open-

minded dialogue.

Adam D. McKee
Chairman, Baylor YCT
Economics 2008

Riders abused their privilege

Some have compared the Soulforce Riders to Gandhi and Rosa Parks. I am personally reminded of Socrates.

He was a man who believed so much in an educated society that he allowed himself to not only be arrested, but to executed rather than break the law.

When peaceful protesters in the past have broken the law, they did so because the law was unjust, not because they felt they were above it as Soulforce seems to.

In fact, Baylor's policies (supported by general property law) are beneficial in keeping the KKK, the NRA and all other sorts of political activists from campaigning on campus.

Flaunting disregard for the

law in order to be arrested (as they have done on several campuses), knowing that your sponsor will post bail, is not courageous. It is a shallow gesture, disrespectful to the campuses they visit, and as Socrates believed, violent to the laws.

Baylor's administration showed a fair amount of class and tolerance to Soulforce while upholding the university's policy and values.

Seeing the riders' intent to cause drama instead of dialogue only affirmed the wisdom of Baylor's policy. The riders are not Baylor students, such as Baylor Freedom, nor do they represent us — they are political activists.

Though they are free to voice their opinion in any public forum — across the street if they wish — they have deliberately abused Baylor's rights and good will.

Chris Bailey
Mechanical Engineering 2008

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 CDs' ancestors
- 4 Musical study
- 9 Adam and Mae
- 14 Online guffaw
- 15 Discussion
- 16 In progress
- 17 Big galoot
- 18 High-jump style
- 20 Disfigure
- 22 Isl. off Australia
- 23 Tic-tac-toe win
- 24 Former Scottish county
- 26 Miraculous cure shrine
- 30 Road test maneuver
- 33 Type of spoonbill
- 34 Afore
- 35 Persian rulers
- 38 Schedule abbr.
- 39 "The Body" Ventura
- 41 Romana
- 42 Capital on the Delaware
- 44 Monongahela's partner
- 49 Athlete's no-no
- 50 Battery parts
- 52 Exec. order
- 53 Orange seed
- 55 Arizona city on the

Colorado

- 56 Puzzle theme
- 61 Pullman or sleeper
- 62 Central Park canine statue
- 63 Hard liquor
- 64 Heart-chart letters
- 65 Of bees
- 66 Loafed
- 67 Told ya!

DOWN

- 1 Domesticated guanaco
- 2 Warhol's genre
- 3 Santa's vehicle
- 4 Like some apts.
- 5 Plays a flute
- 6 Bear in the air
- 7 Localizes a soundtrack
- 8 Down Under bird
- 9 Exit
- 10 Strong attempt
- 11 Our star
- 12 Also
- 13 The Racer's Edge
- 19 Arledge of TV sports
- 21 Gift of the magi
- 25 Gorcey and McKern
- 26 Repetitive recital
- 27 Membership payments

28 Goes astray

- 29 Dundee dagger
- 31 Looked intently
- 32 Like some cereals
- 35 Spring resorts
- 36 Sentry's command
- 37 Wheel connector
- 39 Sign on
- 40 Diplomatic agent
- 42 Leg part
- 43 Classic circus movie
- 45 Mistakes list
- 46 Takes place
- 47 Brings out
- 48 Do over
- 51 Military three-striper
- 53 Walk heavily
- 54 Reversed figure
- 56 TV guide abbr.
- 57 "The Raven" poet's initials
- 58 Letters for 41
- 59 Sash for a kimono
- 60 Part of MD

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By Edgar Fontaine, Dighton, MA 3/27/07
For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat

Baylor holds tryouts for 'Next Top Model'

Fashion majors employ fellow students to model designs

By **Brittany Mihalcin**
Reporter

Monday night was a busy one for 15 senior fashion design students.

As part of a two-day audition process for Baylor's Next Top Model, the design students fitted aspiring models for their custom-made clothing designs.

Anyone interested in modeling was invited to attend.

The event was sponsored by the design students in the senior mass marketing and design class.

"The name was to get people interested enough to come to the meeting," Burleson senior Jenna Jerome said.

The design students' main advertisement was through the Facebook group they created, which boasts 196 members.

"We've had a lot of interest through this group, and so far we've fit about 10 people," Jerome said.

The group grabbed the attention of Dallas freshman Adeola Aro.

"I saw it on Facebook, so I thought I'd come to the meeting," she said.

"I was a model for senior pictures advertisements, and I've been in a fashion show."

No prior experience was required to volunteer as a model,

which worked in the favor of Rockdale junior Tanya Baker.

"I've never modeled," Baker said. "I was invited by one of the designers who I know through the sailing team," Baker said.

Dr. Jaylie Beckenhauer, family and consumer sciences professor, said the main purpose of the women who volunteer will be to serve as a "fit model."

A fit model is a woman who has the measurements of a standard size eight.

The designers will fit their garments to the live models to make sure their pattern is standard size.

"Every year the senior-level design students are required to have a warm body they can use to fit their garments," Beckenhauer said.

This is required not only to make sure the garment fits, but also to ensure the final product is how the designer wants it.

Jerome said as long as volunteers meet the required measurements, the designers will use every model who wants to participate.

After fittings Monday night, models were informed there will be a jurying process in front of judges Tuesday night.

"The judges are kept anonymous, but in the past they have been from places like Neiman Marcus," Jerome said.

On April 20, the student designers will take their work to career day, which Jerome said is a national convention held in Dallas for fashion design stu-



Melea Burke/Lariat Staff

Rockdale junior Tanya Baker (right) tries on a dress designed by Waco senior Lynnea Erickson (left) on Monday in Mary Gibbs-Jones Family and Consumer Sciences Building.

dents from all over the country.

There, students attend seminars, and at the end of the convention a major fashion show is held featuring the design students' garments.

"We're using these models as fit models so our clothes will fit the professional models at career day," Jerome said.

As part of the fashion design major, students get several other

chances to enhance their education through field experiences such as seminars, guest lecturers, Dallas career day, work with apparel manufacturing firms and professional meetings.

BEAR BRIEFS

Take a 'vacation'

The Baylor Counseling Center and Student Outreach Steering Committee will sponsor Virtual Vacation 2007 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. today and Wednesday in the Bill Daniel Student Center. Free food, massages and more will be offered along with the chance to win gift cards, CDs and an iPod Nano. For more information, contact Katie_Treadwell@baylor.edu.

Catch a free movie

Bears for Life will hold a short film viewing of *A Distant Thunder* at 4 p.m. today in 107 Fashion Academic Center. A discussion session will be held immediately after the movie.

Dine with Democrats

The Baylor Democrats will hold a dinner to bring together Baylor and community Democrats from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday at Uncle Dan's BBQ. Tickets cost \$12 for registered members and \$15 for nonmembers and include a traditional barbecue brisket and turkey dinner with all the fixings, iced tea and dessert. The deadline to RSVP is Wednesday. For more information and to RSVP, contact BaylorDemsRSVP@gmail.com.

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

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Gonzales aide to refuse questions at hearing

By **Laurie Kellman**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' liaison with the White House will refuse to answer questions at upcoming Senate hearings about the firings of eight U.S. attorneys, citing her Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination, her lawyer said.

"I have decided to follow my lawyer's advice and respectfully invoke my constitutional right," Monica Goodling, Gonzales'

counsel and White House liaison, said in a statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee. The House was to vote late Monday on stripping him of his authority to appoint U.S. attorneys without Senate confirmation, similar to a measure the Senate passed this month. Bush has signaled he would not veto it.

John Dowd, the lawyer for Gonzales counsel Monica Goodling, suggested in a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., that the Democrat-led panel has laid what amounts to a perjury

trap for his client.

Goodling, one of several aides involved in the firings of federal prosecutors, will refuse to answer senators' questions.

"The potential for legal jeopardy for Ms. Goodling from even her most truthful and accurate testimony under these circumstances is very real," Dowd said. Goodling was key to the Justice Department's political response to the growing controversy. She took a leave of absence last week.

Gonzales had promised to let his top aides testify under oath

before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

"It is the politically charged environment created by the members of the committee ... that has created the ambiguous and perilous environment in which even innocent witnesses would be well advised not to testify," Dowd wrote.

Democrats allege the firings were a purge of those deemed by the Justice Department not to be "loyal Bushies" — and a political warning to other prosecutors to fall in line with the administration. Gonzales has denied that.

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Married students balance life, love against the odds

By Brittany Mihalcin
Reporter

Some people think odds are against them, but some Baylor students have already said their "I do's."

Dr. Robyn Bateman Driskell, associate professor of sociology, said there are three main factors that contribute to the success of a marriage.

The couple's age, how long they have known each other and whether or not they live together before marriage all play vital roles in the success rate of a marriage.

"Statistically, the later you get married and the longer you know a person, the more likely your marriage will last," Driskell said.

She said those who live together before marriage have a higher chance of divorce.

One Baylor couple thinks

their life is little different from being single — and it is.

San Antonio senior Scott Milam and San Antonio junior Danielle Milam met when she was a high school freshman.

They dated throughout high school but never planned to attend college together.

Scott came to Baylor in the fall of 2003. Danielle intended to stay home to attend a sign language program in San Antonio. But things changed when Danielle decided to major in special education.

"When I started researching what schools have the best special education programs in Texas, Baylor came up as number one," Danielle said.

So she followed Scott to Baylor in the fall of 2004.

Scott proposed a few months later after planning a surprise engagement party with friends and family from San Antonio.

"It's the struggles that cause really deep love."

Dr. Byron Weathersbee
interim university chaplain

It didn't go the way he'd planned because Danielle woke up sick on the morning of his "big surprise."

Scott wasn't deterred but scrapped the romantic evening. Instead, he proposed to Danielle while she was in her pajamas in her dorm room.

Scott and Danielle were engaged over a year before their summer wedding in June 2006.

"Originally, we had thought about getting married the sensible way," Danielle said, meaning waiting until after college graduation.

Neither has a job and they

said they couldn't make it without help from their parents.

"If our parents weren't supporting us, we would never have gotten married until after college," Danielle said.

They said their biggest struggle is making time for each other.

"People told us, 'It is going to be tough being married and being in school.' But I don't think I fully understood until we actually got married," Danielle said.

Both Scott and Danielle are admitted overachievers who are very busy.

They said they've had to work to say "no" sometimes to strengthen their marriage.

"It's been a lot of give and take and knowing the limits," Danielle said.

They also have to work harder to make their friendships work.

"Sometimes, I feel very dis-

connected from my girlfriends and disconnected from Baylor as a whole," Danielle said.

"We're breaking the traditional ways people do things. You just have to be flexible. You can't bring in your expectations of the way things should be," Scott said.

Both Danielle and Scott said they want to have stable jobs before they even think about starting a family.

"It's not the case where I came to Baylor to get married. I'm so passionate about working in a school and being a teacher," Danielle said.

She said that when the time is right they will start a family, but added that they aren't anywhere close now.

"We know that we are an example to our friends, and we want to show them a Godly marriage," Danielle said. "We're not perfect. But we try."

Dr. Byron Weathersbee, interim university chaplain said everybody struggles in marriage.

Weathersbee, who leads a marriage preparation class with his wife, said it would be nearly impossible, especially at Baylor, to find a couple who would openly talk about their struggles, though.

"I don't think you're going to find anyone who is going to say, 'You know, my marriage sucks and I really want to tell you about it.'" Weathersbee said. "Everyone has just as many bad days as they do good days."

The struggles of marriage can even bring a couple closer.

"I've been married 22 years, and it's the greatest thing I've ever experienced," Weathersbee said.

"It can be a struggle though, but it's the struggles that cause really deep love."

Sept. 11 remains reportedly misused

NYC landfill accused of using debris to fill ruts, potholes in city

By Thomas Zambito
McClatchy Newspapers

NEW YORK — The pulverized remains of bodies from the World Trade Center disaster site were used by city workers to fill ruts and potholes, a city contractor said in a sworn affidavit filed Friday in Manhattan Federal Court.

Eric Beck, a senior supervisor for Taylor Recycling, said debris powders — known as fines — were put in a pothole-fill mixture by crews at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island, N.Y.

Fresh Kills is a site where more than 1.65 million tons of debris from the World Trade Center was deposited after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I observed the New York City Department of Sanitation taking these fines from the con-

veyor belts of our machines, loading it onto tractors and using it to pave roads and fill in potholes, dips and ruts," Eric Beck said.

Taylor Recycling is a private contractor hired to sift through debris trucked to Fresh Kills after the trade center attacks.

Before the arrival of Taylor's equipment at Fresh Kills in October 2001, the debris was sifted manually by workers using rakes and shovels.

Beck's affidavit was filed by lawyers for the families of Sept. 11 victims who are suing the city in hopes of creating a formal burial place for debris that they say contains human remains.

"It's devastating," said Norman Siegel, an attorney representing the families, of Beck's statement. "When the 9/11 families found about this, they were wiped out."

The families argue that the cleanup was hurried and slipshod, with the result that more than 400,000 tons of debris weren't properly combed for hu-

man remains.

The city recently asked Manhattan Federal Judge Alvin Hellerstein to dismiss the lawsuit.

Also, Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of New York City, has said he would like to turn the garbage dump into a "beautiful park."

In his first few months on the job, Beck said Taylor Recycling's mechanical sifters found about 2,000 bones per day.

He recalled finding "bones, fingers, skulls, feet and hands," as well as a man's chest and "the full body of a man dressed in a suit."

The remains were catalogued and turned over to the city, he said.

But Beck said he was pushed to sift the debris quickly, and that remains may have been missed.

"I was constantly told . . . to move the job, to run the conveyor belts faster and to keep the tonnage up," Beck wrote.

Other affidavits support Siegel's claim that the sifting pro-

cess was shoddy.

One comes from Theodore Feaser, the retired director of mechanical operations for the city sanitation department.

"From my experience at Fresh Kills, I am absolutely convinced that if the City of New York unearthed, resifted and washed the debris at Fresh Kills . . . it would find hundreds of human body parts and human remains," said Feaser, a 20-year veteran who supervised the recovery effort at Fresh Kills for the sanitation department.

Diane Horning, the president of WTC Families for Proper Burial, urged Hellerstein to allow the sifting to continue so that loved ones' remains will be found.

"There is no place to leave flowers," said Horning, whose son Matthew, an employee of Marsh and McLennan, was killed on Sept. 11.

"There is no feeling of solace or closeness to your loved one," she said.



McClatchy Newspapers

Eric Chappell, of the NYPD works in June 2002 at a conveyor belt at the Fresh Kills landfill, examining debris from the World Trade Center attacks. He and others were looking for personal effects, body parts and other items.

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Israel, Palestine will resume face-to-face talks, U.S. says



Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice walks Monday with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas before their meeting in Amman, Jordan.

By Anne Gearan
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert agreed Monday to resume open-ended, face-to-face talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in a possible step toward restarting substantive peace talks, a U.S. official said.

Olmert and Abbas will initially hold low-key “confidence-building” sessions, the official said. Israel has refused substantive talks since Abbas, a moderate leader whom Israel has called a partner for peace, joined Hamas militants in a coalition government this month.

The talks between the Palestinian and Israeli leaders will be open to all issues, said the U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of a planned address by Rice today.

Olmert’s agreement to new talks was a small step, since he had held such sessions with Abbas before the Hamas deal, but it still was seen as a sign of fresh and surprising progress toward

peace talks despite the complication posed by Hamas.

Rice has shuttled between Israeli, Palestinian and Arab leaders this week, trying to rally greater Arab support for eventual peace negotiations, and to persuade Israel to be more flexible in its dealings with Abbas.

Rice held two sessions apiece with Abbas and Olmert, including a lengthy evening meeting with Olmert in her Jerusalem hotel on Monday. The agreement for new meetings with Abbas apparently came then.

She had canceled plans for an evening news conference, at which she had been expected to announce progress toward talks. She will hold that session on Tuesday instead, before returning to Washington.

Also Monday, Israel welcomed the idea of a regional peace summit, although no such meeting is set, and Saudi Arabia suggested it would consider changes in a dormant peace initiative. The developments came at a time of high-profile diplomacy, with Rice and United Na-

tions chief Ban Ki-Moon both in the region for talks with Israeli and Arab leaders.

“I don’t intend by any means to take control of the Palestinian-Israeli bilateral dialogue,” Rice told reporters before a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. “I think it’s extremely important that that continue.”

Olmert said he “wouldn’t hesitate” to take part in a regional summit. Palestinian officials cautiously endorsed the idea.

Any such meeting — especially if Saudi and Israeli officials were to publicly meet — would be a huge symbolic breakthrough. Saudis and Israelis are believed to have held private meetings in the past year.

Rice said it was “premature to talk about any specific kind of meeting,” but another U.S. official said the idea of a large group meeting was one proposal among several under discussion.

A regional gathering would bring Israel and the Palestinians together as part of wider talks

involving moderate Arab countries and four would-be Mideast peacemakers: the U.S., European Union, U.N. and Russia.

The Arab countries involved in the efforts would include Egypt and Jordan, which both have peace agreements with Israel, as well as Saudi Arabia, which does not.

Olmert said he would look at an invitation to such a summit “in a very positive manner.”

Hopes have been raised in the past, only to be dashed.

For Rice, this trip follows several months in which she has tried to put substance to President Bush’s goal of an independent Palestinian state. On this trip, Rice says she is developing a common set of questions that both sides can use for discussions with her or on their own.

The signs of progress came ahead of an Arab summit in Saudi Arabia this week, where the Saudis are expected to relaunch a 2002 proposal calling for a comprehensive peace deal between Israel and the Arab world.

Iran questioning 15 Britons

Sailors, marines held for alleged entry into Iranian waters

By Nasser Karimi
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Monday it was questioning 15 British sailors and marines to determine if their alleged entry into Iranian waters was “intentional or unintentional” before deciding what to do with them — the first sign it could be seeking a way out of the standoff.

The two countries continued to disagree about where the military personnel were seized Friday, with Britain insisting they were in Iraqi waters after searching a civilian cargo vessel and the Tehran regime saying it had proof they were in Iranian territory.

said they were seized in the Shatt al-Arab, a waterway flowing into the Persian Gulf that marks the border between Iran and Iraq. But the dividing line in the waterway, known in Iran as the Arvand river, has long been disputed.

The Iranian emphasis Monday on the detainees’ intent was a noticeable pullback from the certainty expressed Saturday by Iran’s military chief, Gen. Ali Reza Afshar.

Afshar said then that the 15 confessed to “aggression into the Islamic Republic of Iran’s waters.”

Other Iranian officials suggested afterward that the Britons might be charged with a crime — presumably espionage or trespassing — for knowingly entering Iran’s territorial waters. Deputy Foreign Minister Mehzi Mostafavi took a softer line Monday while saying that the

14 men and one woman were still being interrogated.

“It should become clear whether their entry was intentional or unintentional,” Mostafavi said. Iran has refused to say where the captured Britons were being held or to allow British officials to speak with them, but assured the British ambassador to Tehran, Geoffrey Adams, that they were in good health.

During an official visit to Turkey on Monday, British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett called for Iran to allow access to the captives.

“We will continue to press the Iranian authorities until the incident has been resolved with the safe return of our personnel and their equipment,” she said.

In London, Iranian Ambassador Rasoul Movahedian was summoned to the British Foreign Office for the third time since the standoff began. Lord



Associated Press

Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of Iran, speaks Sunday during a news conference in New York.

Triesman, Foreign Office undersecretary, again demanded the safe return of the detained personnel, the Foreign Office said.

Calls for the release of the Britons also came from the European Union, Iraq and the United States, under whose command the military search team was serving when it was captured.

No crime in Tillman’s death, military says

By Lolita C. Baldor
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — High-ranking Army officers made critical errors in reporting the friendly fire death of Army Ranger Pat Tillman in Afghanistan, but there was no criminal wrongdoing in the shooting of the former NFL star by fellow soldiers, the military concluded Monday.

Army and Defense Department investigators said officers looking into the incident passed along misleading and inaccurate information and delayed reporting their belief that Tillman was killed by fellow Rangers. The investigators recommended the Army take action against the officers.

The highest current ranking officer blamed in the incident

is Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of the Joint Special Operations Command. Investigators said he was “accountable for the inaccurate and misleading assertions” contained in the papers recommending that Tillman get the Silver Star.

But investigators said there was no broad cover-up. “We thought there was never an attempt to cover up that we saw,” Gimble said.

The conclusions were described by Army investigators as they released a pair of reports into Tillman’s 2004 killing. The military initially told the public and Tillman’s family that the death had occurred during an ambush in a remote part of Afghanistan but did not say it was caused by members of his own unit.

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Hot bats give Bears series win over TTU



File photo

Sophomore shortstop Beamer Weems runs to first during the Bears' 5-3 victory over Steven F. Austin University on Feb. 17. Weems had nine hits and seven RBIs in the Bears' series with Texas Tech University.

By Daniel Youngblood
Sports editor

Entering its series with Texas Tech University last weekend, the Baylor baseball team's offense had been inconsistent in its 18 weekend games. While the Bears had posted double-digit run totals in three of those games, they were averaging just 4.33 runs per contest.

Led by sophomore shortstop Beamer Weems, the Bears (15-11, 2-4) got plenty of offense against Tech as they racked up 26 runs to take two of three games from the Red Raiders.

Weems went 9-for-13 for the series with a home run and seven RBIs. This, combined with a two-hit, two-RBI performance Tuesday against Texas Southern University, earned him the title of Big 12 Conference Player of the Week.

But Weems said the Bears' improved hitting is a product of hard work in practice and growth as a team.

"We just started working real hard in practice and working a

lot on hitting," he said. "It seems like we're starting to gel a little bit, and I think as the year goes on, we'll keep getting better."

Baylor got timely hitting in its 5-1 win on Friday, but it was excellent pitching that stood out most. Senior starter Jeff Mandel pitched 6 2/3 strong innings, allowing just one run on a fourth-inning solo shot.

Mandel is 3-4 on the season with a 3.28 ERA, and head Coach Steve Smith said the Bears feed off his consistency.

"He's gotten us to the seventh inning his last three starts, and he's been very consistent," he said. "He's shown a lot of maturity and a lot of focus this year — the kind of stuff you want a senior to have. Our club is so young that they will have confidence based on who is on the mound."

The Bears didn't get the same type of consistency from their pitching staff in the second game. Despite being given a two-run lead heading into the eighth inning and a one-run lead heading into the ninth, the Baylor

bullpen failed to close out the game as the Bears lost 8-7 in the 10th inning.

Junior starter Randall Linebaugh allowed three runs and a career-high six walks in five innings, and the bullpen combined to allow five runs in the final five frames. Junior closer Nick Casavechia allowed a bases loaded balk in the 10th inning to give Tech the win.

The Bears rebounded to clobber Tech on Sunday, 14-4. Freshman pitcher Kendall Volz threw five scoreless innings, and a 12-run fourth inning put the game on ice.

Senior catcher Matt Czimskey, who hit a home run in Sunday's win, said it was important to finish the series strong.

"Saturday was tough on us because we should have won a few times, but it was good to come out, play well and win the series," he said.

The Bears hope to keep their momentum going as they hit the road to play the University of Texas at Arlington at 6:30 p.m. today.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball makes history

The Baylor softball team swept the University of Nebraska for the first time in school history last weekend. The Bears took the first game 2-0 on Saturday behind Lisa Ferguson's sixth shutout of the season. The Bears shut out Nebraska in the second game as well, winning 3-0 and handing the Cornhuskers their first back-to-back shutout losses since 1999. The pair of shutouts assured Baylor a 2-0 conference start. The Lady Bears return to action Wednesday when they host the University of Texas at San Antonio for a doubleheader. The games are scheduled for 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Tennis matches canceled

The No. 4 men's tennis team had a doubleheader scheduled for Monday, but it was postponed because of inclement weather. The Bears were slated to play St. Edwards University at 3 p.m. and the University of Texas at Arlington at 7 p.m. But with heavy rainfall all day, they couldn't get either match in. The matches have been rescheduled for April 10. Baylor is 14-2 on the season and won its Big 12 opener 7-0 against Nebraska on Friday.

Women's golf places sixth

The women's golf team tied for sixth at the Mountainview Collegiate Sunday at the 6,178-yard, par-72 Mountain View Golf Club in Catalina, Ariz. Senior Allison Martin had Baylor's best day, tying for 10th for her fourth straight top-10 finish. Freshman Hannah Burke finished 19th and junior Sian Reddick tied for 32nd. The Bears return to action at the Susie Maxwell-Berning Classic April 8-9 in Norman, Okla.

Equestrian receives bid

The Baylor English and Western equestrian teams received bids Monday to compete in the 2007 Varsity Equestrian National Championship. The event, which is hosted by Baylor, will be held on April 18-20 at the Heart O' Texas Fair Complex. There were 12 teams chosen in each discipline to participate. The Bears head into the championship seeded sixth in English and eighth in Western. This is Baylor's second invitation to the championship in as many years.

Women's tennis blanks VCU, 6-0

By Ida Jamshidi
Reporter

The No. 24 Baylor women's tennis team defeated No. 25 Virginia Commonwealth University 6-0 on Sunday, improving its season record to 11-6, 4-1.

The match was scheduled to begin at 1 p.m., but VCU had a 6 p.m. flight out of Dallas, so matches began 15 minutes earlier and singles matches were played first instead of the traditional doubles start.

Senior Klara Zrustova and freshmen Zuzana Chmelarova and Lenka Brosova earned the first three singles points for Baylor, winning each of their matches in straight sets.

Zrustova said her opponent gave her shorter balls in the second set, and the weather may have been a factor.

"The wind was (an issue)," she said. "It was tough to handle in some situations."

Senior Zuzana Cerna clenched the win for the Bears, pulling out a 6-0, 7-5 victory.

"The first set and a half, I didn't make many mistakes," Cerna said.

Her opponent, Viktoria Koustantinova, made fewer errors in the second set, but Cerna said the struggle only motivated her.

"I take it as an opportunity to play a good, tough match. That's the only way I can improve," Cerna said.

Senior Iva Mihaylova added a fifth win to the Lady Bears' side with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over VCU's Maria Klokotzky.

Shortly after Mihaylova completed her match, junior Zuzana Zemenova defeated Marianna Yuferova in a tiebreaker for the third set to win the first-seeded singles matchup and complete the sweep.

"I was just trying to keep every ball in the court," Zemenova said after her 2-6, 6-4, 12-10 victory. "I knew she couldn't hit more than 10 balls back."

Zemenova said she remembered defeating Yuferova two years ago 6-0, 6-1. But every match is different, she said.

"The main point was I didn't fold my game plan," she said.

Head Coach Joey Scrivano said he noticed that the team was start-

ing to put things together this week in practice.

"We just really focused on cutting unforced errors," Scrivano said.

Scrivano said he was pleased with his team's play, calling it "very disciplined."

Zrustova said the Bears are optimistic about the rest of the season. The team didn't have a great start, but it is getting back on track. The Bears lost four of their first six matches but have won nine of 11 since.

"We have been improving gradually over the last weeks. I can see that happening in the matches," she said. "If we can carry it on into the season, we can really accomplish great things."

Sunday's match marked the women's fourth straight home victory this season.

The team will play its next four matches at home, starting with a conference match against Kansas at 5 p.m. Friday. Next the team will play a pair of Big 12 teams, University of Missouri and No. 40 University of Texas, and then host No. 19 Pepperdine University.



File photo

Freshman netter Zuzana Chmelarova hits a forehand during Baylor's 7-0 win over Harvard University on Feb. 18. Chmelarova and her teammates won every singles match Sunday to defeat No. 25 Virginia Commonwealth University 6-0.

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Courtesy photo

Concert choir members rehearse Friday for today's concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Jones Concert Hall located in the McCrary Music Building. Guest conductor Anton Armstrong will conduct the choir.

Visiting conductor to perform with choir

By Perla Sanchez
Reporter

The Baylor Concert Choir will perform with Dr. Anton Armstrong, a conductor from St. Olaf College in Minnesota, at 7:30 p.m. today in Mary Gibbs Jones Concert Hall.

Armstrong received the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching, the single largest award given to an individual for great teaching, this past January.

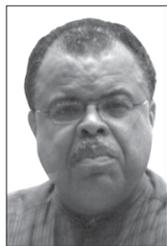
The award granted him \$200,000 plus \$25,000 for his home department and he is teaching in residence at Baylor during the 2007 spring semester and first summer session.

"He's a very good friend of mine," said Dr. Jeffery Ames, assistant director of choral activities. "It's wonderful to have him here and work together."

Tonight's concert theme is "Food for the Soul: An evening of Choral Music."

The choir will perform 12 songs. Featured songs include "Sing Unto God" by G.F. Handel, "Amazing Grace" by Keith McCutchen and "The Church's One Foundation" by John Ferguson.

Armstrong will conduct



Armstrong

said the choir usually performs classical sacred music.

"It is music that touches the soul," Barras said. "Our performances are genuinely heartfelt and allow us to share God's love and grace with others through beautiful music."

The choir is one of the main performing ensembles at Baylor.

It consists of 84 students from a variety of majors and classifications.

Auditions for the choir are held at the beginning of each school year and practices are held during class time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"I really love having a mixture of majors and a mixture of classifications in the choir," Dr. Ames said.

"We all work together and see

the importance of everybody as individuals."

The choir has been under his instruction for the past two years. Dr. Ames came to Baylor after receiving his doctorate in choral conducting and choral music education from Florida State University.

He said picking the repertoire is a bit of a challenge because he has to keep in mind how the group is going to balance.

"I chose music that's 50 percent right on the singers' level," Ames said.

"Twenty-five percent are challenging pieces, and 25 percent are easy pieces."

Katy senior Christin Abbott encouraged people to attend the concert.

She said the repertoire picked for the concert has a message and the pieces are very relevant.

"I think it'll be a good concert," Abbott said.

The choir's next performance will be in April with Mahler Resurrection Symphony.

The performance will include the A Capella Choir and the Baylor Symphony Orchestra.

Tonight's concert is free and open to students. It will be the choir's only performance with Armstrong this semester.

Anna Nicole's autopsy shows death by accidental overdose

By Matt Sedensky
The Associated Press

DANIA BEACH, Fla. — Former *Playboy* Playmate Anna Nicole Smith died of an accidental overdose of a sleeping medication and at least eight other prescription drugs, and she had recently had a bacterial infection from injecting drugs into her buttocks, authorities said Monday.

Broward County Medical Examiner Joshua Perper said Smith died of "combined drug intoxication" with the sleeping medication chloral hydrate as the major factor. She had been taking a lengthy list of medications, including methadone and valium, but those drugs were at therapeutic levels, he said. A bacterial infection from injecting medication in her buttocks and the flu contributed to her death, according to the report.

Chloral hydrate is a sedative used to treat insomnia and alcohol withdrawal, relieve anxiety and ease post-surgery pain. The drug is rarely prescribed and is known to be fatal if combined with certain other drugs — including the sedative Lorazepam, which the autopsy showed she was taking, said Dr. Chip Walls, a forensic toxicologist for the Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami.

Perper said Smith also had been on several antidepressant and anti-anxiety drugs and had recently taken longevity medications, vitamin B12 and growth hormone.

"We found nothing to indicate any foul play," said Chief Charlie Tiger of the Seminole, Fla., police department.

Smith felt ill shortly after ar-



The Associated Press

Dr. Joshua Perper, the medical examiner for Broward County, discusses the death of Anna Nicole Smith Monday during a press conference in Dania Beach, Fla. The *Playboy* Playmate died Feb. 8 of an accidental drug overdose, according to an autopsy released Monday.

riving in Fort Lauderdale from the Bahamas on Feb. 5, and she eventually developed a fever of 105 degrees but refused to go to a hospital, Perper said. He said Smith had a blood infection that could have been caused by a contaminated needle, but it was brought under control by antibiotics and an ice bath.

The report listed several reasons Smith's death was believed to be accidental. It said that suicide victims typically take far more of a lethal drug than the chloral hydrate found in Smith's body, and that Smith had "a long history of prescription drug use and over-self medicating." It also cited her religious upbringing and the recent birth of her baby girl.

Smith had arrived at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, Fla., on Feb. 5. She planned to leave four days later aboard a new yacht that her companion Howard K. Stern was arranging to buy.

Because her death was so sudden, and because her 20-year-old son Daniel died under suspicious circumstances five months earlier, there has been speculation about possible criminal activity surrounding the deaths. The Seminole Police Department investigated the case because the casino is on tribal land.

An inquest into Daniel's death is scheduled to start today in the Bahamas, where he died.

Smith grew up in Texas and went from topless dancer to *Playboy* Playmate of the Year, Guess jeans model and bride of 89-year-old oilman J. Howard Marshall II. She took her fight for Marshall's estimated \$500 million fortune as far as the Supreme Court, and the ongoing battle could make her infant daughter, Dannielynn, very wealthy. Stern and two other men have claimed to be the baby's father.

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CHURCH from page 1

"That's not necessarily 'unchurched' as we would define it," Dougherty said. "It's just not being active in a worshiping body and practicing your faith at a high level."

Dougherty also said different viewpoints about who God is and how that motivates people cause a wide array of expressions of faith.

"Most people are motivated by their religion in some way," he said. "It's not always church attendance that reflects this, but how you view God."

Dougherty said what the Barna survey fails to recognize is that Christians express their faith in different ways. One example, he said, is seen in the breakdown of church attendance across the political spectrum. Barna found 47 percent of political liberals are unchurched, compared to 19 percent of conservatives.

"That doesn't mean Democrats aren't Christians," he said. "It means they are motivated by their religious convictions in a different way than conservatives."

The Baylor Religion Survey discovered those who align politically with the Democratic party were more likely to view God as distant, and political conservatives commonly identified God as authoritarian.

Dougherty said these distinctions provide rationale for political agendas.

"Because Democrats see God as a distant being, they feel that the care of this world is on their shoulders," he said. "It makes sense that they are concerned with environmental issues and making the world a more equitable place across race and gender lines."

Conservatives, he said, relate to the authoritarian God as a cornerstone for "moral absolutism" and a means of justifying stances on abortion and heterosexual family structures. Issues like the environment and social and economic justice aren't as pressing for Christian conservatives, he said.

Besides a considerable distinction across political lines, church attendance also varies

among races. Barna reports 63 percent of Asian-Americans are unchurched, compared to 32 percent of whites and 25 percent of blacks. Hispanics rank in the middle, with 34 percent unchurched.

Dr. Johnathan Tran, assistant professor of religion, said he thinks one reason for the racial discrepancy is the association of wealth and American culture common to immigrant communities.

"Asian-Americans have to battle between their Christian self and the material and cultural self," Tran said. "Like most immigrant communities, they identify Christianity largely as wealth."

He said "the dream of upward mobility" is often stronger than one of Christian suffering.

"Immigrants could've experienced suffering in their own cultures," he said. "They came to the U.S. for the American dream of material prosperity."

Rae Wright, associate director of Baptist Student Ministries, said the unchurched population is a byproduct of a pluralistic world.

"The church is undergoing just as much struggle as the rest of society to define itself in this age," Wright said. "Our culture doesn't have dominant music, art, literature or architecture; the church is dealing with the fact that there isn't a single shared value or experience anymore."

Wright said 20 years ago the approach to evangelism, or the unchurched population, was a "sales pitch," or a "three-step process."

Now, she said, the focus is on relationships, and not everyone is comfortable with that freedom.

"Some people in churches are really at a loss as to what to do with their unchurched neighbor," she said.

Tran said he believes this generation has room for both individual and communal aspects.

"Now there seems to be a deep understanding of the need for Christian community and friendship as well as an individual, personal relationship with God," he said.

DATING from page 1

an argument she's heard against interracial relationships," but Chandler said the passage is being taken out of context.

"That passage has nothing to do with interracial relationships," said Dr. Bob Patterson, religion professor and director of graduate studies in religion. "It has to do with Christians and non-Christians."

Dr. Kevin Dougherty, associate sociology professor, said certain racial and ethnic mixes seem to be more accepted in this region and may not face the same hardships as a black and white couple do.

"My gut feeling is if you're going to see an interethnic couple, you are more likely to see a white non-Hispanic date a Hispanic, rather than white and black," Dougherty said. "In part that is because in the South there are more Latinos, but it also goes to the black experience in America being very different than other ethnic groups because of their past."

Plano sophomore Chanel Brasher, who is white, is dat-

ing Roundrock sophomore Joey Mayorga, who is Hispanic. Brasher said she has seen people give funny looks to a white and black couple on campus but has never faced that in her own relationship.

"It never occurred to me that we were in an interracial dating relationship," Brasher said.

She said she believes the reason a black and white couple may be more out of the ordinary as opposed to a white and Hispanic couple is that many black students at Baylor stay within their circle when it comes to friendships and dating.

"Because many African-Americans tend to be friends with other African-Americans and stay in that circle, it's more noticeable when they break from that group for a dating relationship," Brasher said.

Hispanic and white couples may not confront as much opposition, but many of the couples have discovered some extreme differences in family values.

Jacksonville, Fla., junior Shawn Warner is white and is dating Killeen graduate student Jonathan Garcia, who is Hispan-

ic. Warner said Hispanic culture has an extremely different idea about the role extended family plays in a person's life.

In contrast to Warner, who only sees members of her extended family about once a year, her boyfriend's extended family is very involved in his life — some of them are even more involved than members of his immediate family.

When Garcia met Warner's extended family at an annual gathering, he commented on the major difference.

"When he met my family, he told me that we all acted as if we were strangers," Warner said.

Warner also said Garcia's family is very welcoming and considers her to be a part of the family.

The mechanics of the Hispanic family are very different, Brasher said.

"His family is like a big party every time they get together," Brasher said. "Family is really important to him. That is not necessarily the thing for me."

When Chandler looks outside her boyfriend's relatives, another type of family comes

into play. She said she feels a close bond when she visits her boyfriend's mainly black church.

"I have noticed that when I go to church with him, everyone is family," Chandler said.

"When kids are acting up in church and the parents don't want to deal with them, someone other than the parent will take the child and discipline them."

According to Chandler, at her boyfriend's church, the close family structure is apparent when a mother gets tired of holding her baby and simply passes the child down the pew.

Dougherty said our nation has done a poor job crossing racial boundaries in religions, friendships and romantic relationships.

Fewer than 10 percent of American marriages are biracial, so America is still a very divided country, he said.

"Places like Baylor that have a mix of students from different cultural backgrounds are a great opportunity to break down those walls of separation," Dougherty said.

WRITER from page 1

tentious," he said. "I find novel writing a little more meaty and satisfying for some reason, but really I'm just a writer."

Olsen's novels include *The Watchers*, *Rescued*, *The Assignment* and *Hadassah*, a retelling of the biblical story of Esther. Olsen co-wrote the novel with Tommy Tenney, and it was the basis for the recent film *One Night with the King*.

Olsen said it's always a bitter-sweet experience for him to see his work on the screen. Because of the common policy of bringing in other writers to rewrite parts of scripts, the finished product is always different from Olsen's original draft.

He said that *One Night with the King* is very different from the novel.

"The dramatic ending of the movie is not even Scriptural and it certainly wasn't what was in my book," he said.

Olsen's most recent novel, which has not yet been published, is called *The Road Home*

and is an adaptation of the story of Ruth.

"The biblical story, if you'll remember, starts out in Moab and goes to Jerusalem.

"My characters start out in Moab, Utah, and wind up in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania," Olsen said.

He said faith was important to him at an early age and that he sees his writing as a ministry.

"I've grown up in church — my parents were missionaries — and I'm familiar with the ways (conversion) is described," he said. "I try to use new ways to look at that. I try to keep the awe of the supernatural in my writings."

He said readers have contacted him and told him his novel *Rescued*, which he describes as having "a strong spiritual theme," changed their lives.

"That's more important to me now than even getting good re-

views," he said. "It's more important for someone to say, 'This changed my spiritual life' than, 'I couldn't put this down and stayed up until 3 a.m. reading it' — though that's my second-favorite reaction."

The Music Within, Olsen's latest film, opened last weekend at the American Film Institute in Dallas.

Buddy Steele, a Sherman junior, said he found Olsen's visit encouraging.

"He's the first actually published screenplay writer that I've ever talked to," Steele said. "I was really interested in knowing how you get something published when you have a finished screenplay in your hand. He was really helpful."

Olsen named Darden and Ann Miller, professor of English, as two professors who had an impact on him at Baylor.

"Bob Darden was an awesome support to me," he said.

"He's been there every step of the way with feedback and encouragement on books."

Darden remembers Olsen as an especially gifted student.

"I've had some extraordinary students, all who went on to do great things. Mark was the very first," he said. "My job as a writing teacher was not to screw him up."

Darden added that one of the things that set Olsen apart was his work ethic.

"The thing that separated Mark from other gifted writers is just dogged persistence," he said.

Olsen remains humble about his success and claims he is a procrastinator.

"I don't know why I'm not one of those people (who never finishes a novel). I'm a pathological procrastinator," he said.

"But something made me finish, and I fell in love with finishing."

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