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# History professor moves to Mercer

By Anita Pere  
Staff writer

Dr. Wallace Daniel, Ralph L. and Bessie Mae Lynn Professor of History, announced his resignation earlier this month to become provost of Mercer University. The move will unite four former Baylor faculty and staff members as key players in high positions at the Baptist university in Macon, Ga.

Bill Underwood, interim president of Baylor from May 2005-January 2006, serves as president of Mercer, while Larry Brumley, Baylor's former vice president of marketing and communications, works as Underwood's chief of staff. Alan Culpepper, dean of theology at Mercer, taught religion at Baylor from 1992-1995. Daniel will join them in July.

Daniel's credentials during his 36-year tenure at Baylor include the Ralph L. and Bessie Mae Lynn Professor of History and interim editor of Journal of Church and State. He won the Fulbright Professor Award three times. After chairing the history department for four years and directing the Honors Program for 12 years, Daniel served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for nine years. He has published various articles and books relating to Russian history and culture.

"I hope the university will continue to support the J.M. Dawson Institute for Church-State Studies and the Journal of Church and State," Daniel said in an interview with the Lariat. "They represent central parts of Baylor's heritage and tradition and it is important for the university to continue to support that tradition."

In a written statement explaining his reasoning for taking the position at Mercer, Daniel noted his devotion to Baylor and called the decision to leave "one of the most difficult decisions of my life." He boasted Mercer's "impressive

professional schools" and "history of bringing together liberal arts and professional education in new, innovative forms," among other compliments, in his message.

He would not comment on his expected salary at Mercer, except to say it was "not an important consideration."

Underwood said Daniel's former peers now at Mercer may have made transferring to the college all the more alluring.

Daniel said he was scouted for the provost position by a search committee. Despite ties to administrators, Daniel said, he "went through all the proper channels" concerning his hire.

Baylor and Mercer's shared history and common objectives have made the college an appealing venue for former Baylor faculty and staff. Now the two largest Baptist universities in the world, Baylor and Mercer's joint history dates back to William Trion, a Mercer graduate and one of Baylor's founders.

The road connecting Baylor to Mercer isn't a one-way street. Dr. Benjamin Kelly, dean of the engineering school, came to Baylor in 1999 after teaching at Mercer.

Underwood called Mercer a "very, very strong academic institution" that preserves religious diversity. Likewise, Underwood had only good things to say about Baylor.

Baylor faculty and staff members had only compliments and words of encouragement for Daniel.

"Wallace Daniel is a scholar and a gentleman. He substantially supported my early years here at Baylor as I worked through the tenure process," said Dr. Barry Hankins, professor of history and director of graduate studies. "In the past year and a half we have also worked together on the Journal of Church and State. I will miss him, but I wish him the best as he takes on this new challenge,"



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

## Wild art hed here

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# Mayborn to host Forensic Forum

By Ashley Killough and Anna Taylor  
Reporters

The Mayborn Museum Complex will join forces with the anthropology, forensic science and archaeology departments to present the lecture series, "Forensic Forum: Real Science, Real Experts" on anthropological bone studies and forensics.

In conjunction with the ongoing "Bones: An Exhibit Inside You," a traveling exhibit geared toward families, the lecture series will provide information for students and adults this Thursday through Saturday.

Frankie Pack, assistant director of exhibits, said the forum's objective is to discuss different angles of bone analysis and its benefits to past and present societies.

"Scientists can identify people and how they died from their bones," Pack said. "Bones can also tell us about certain

people with different occupations and what they did or how they lived."

Featuring four notable experts, the series will take place in the SBC Theater at the Mayborn.

Galt, Calif., senior Katie Crandell, president of the Baylor forensic society said, "I think attending the Forensic Forum is a great opportunity, especially since the major has been taken away."

The forensic major was absorbed by the anthropology department in 2006 for budgetary and accreditation reasons and now is offered as a minor.

Dr. Ben Arbuckle, assistant professor of archaeology, will start the forum tomorrow at 6 p.m. He will speak about his work in zooarchaeology, or the study of animal bones recovered from archaeological sites.

"My main focus will be on the domestication of animals. I will also discuss the zooarchaeology field because generally

people don't know much about it," Arbuckle said.

Arbuckle has conducted research in North America, Pakistan and Turkey. He said he believes anthropology has a significant role in today's world by making us think critically about our own prejudices, along with the cultures and traditions of those around us.

Brawly, Calif., junior Matt Hanks said he feels called to work as an archaeologist.

"The adventure and intrigue involved in the background of events, people and geographic regions have always held my attention and sparked an interest to learn more," Hanks said.

In addition to the anthropological study of history and people, expert forensic scientists will speak on the contemporary implications of bone analysis.

Dr. Steve Symes, a national expert on bone trauma from Mercyhurst College, will lecture on the effects of sharp and blunt force trauma on bones.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, Dr. Lee Meadows Jantz from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville will speak. Jantz serves as the coordinator of the Forensic Anthropology Center, also known as the Body Farm, and has worked with federal, state and local law officials in forensic cases.

Dr. Doug Ubelaker, a curator and senior scientist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, will lecture at 1 p.m. Saturday. He will speak about his experiences as the primary consultant in forensic anthropology for the FBI Laboratory in Virginia.

The series concludes at 3 p.m. Saturday with a roundtable discussion of current projects in the anthropology department.

"People at Baylor are doing extremely relevant research," Pack said. She added, "This is a way for people in the community, along with other Baylor students and faculty, to learn what they're doing research on."

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# Bears crack top 25 as road tussle with A&M approaches

By Will Parchman  
Sports editor

The records just keep falling for head coach Scott Drew's basketball program.

Two days after snapping a nearly four-year-long Big 12 road drought in a 72-70 win against the University of Nebraska, Drew and his Bears awoke Monday to find themselves ranked No. 25 in the Associated Press's most recent top 25 poll.

It is the first time the program has been ranked in the AP Top 25 since the 1969 season, when Bill Menefee coached the Bears to an 18-6 record and a second-place finish in the Southwest Conference.

An appearance on the fringe of the AP Top 25 may not be a massive accomplishment on some campuses, but given Baylor's unique and unenviable position a scant five years ago, it's a feeling Drew's players are savoring.

At least until they travel to College Station tonight to take on Texas A&M University at 7 p.m.

"I think that shows that all their hard work has paid off," said Drew, who has coached his Bears into a two-way tie atop the Big 12 with a 15-2 overall

record and an unblemished 3-0 mark in conference play. "We had visions of what we wanted to become and where we wanted to go."

"The big thing for us is that we all realize that the season is very young and we have a long way to go."

True to Drew's words, Baylor's ascent to the top of the heap in the Big 12 is in its infancy, and Texas A&M provides as challenging a roadblock as almost any team in the conference.

The game will pit strength against weakness for both squads. Baylor's deep collection of talented guards — four of whom are averaging double digits in the scoring column this season — will be running against a Texas A&M frontcourt that is largely considered to be as deep as any in the Big 12. Lucky for Drew's pair of 7-foot centers, Josh Lomers and Mamadou Diene, the team already faced one of the most dominant centers in the country in Nebraska's Aleks Maric and held him to just 6-18 shooting.

"For the most part we were fairly effective," Drew said. "He did finish with big numbers, but at the same he didn't get them shooting 75 ... or 50 percent from the field, which he's



David Poe/Lariat staff

capable of doing."

The Aggies have struggled mightily in conference on the road this season, but they have been perfectly comfortable at Reed Arena in College Station. Texas A&M is 0-3 in away games, including losses in each of its last two Big 12 games, but is a perfect 13-0 at home this season. To that end, the Bears and Aggies couldn't be any more different.

Baylor currently ranks first in the Big 12 in free throw shooting while Texas A&M is last. Baylor averages over nine 3-pointers per game, again good for first in the Big 12. The Aggies

come in at No. 8. Meanwhile, Texas A&M dominates in the post, putting up top conference marks in rebounding defense and rebounding margin.

While the Bears have yet to beat a ranked opponent and have had some close shaves in the Big 12, the team's depth has kept it competitive deep into the second half of games this year, including the two losses.

The Bears set the tone early when they clawed back from a 12-point second-half deficit against Notre Dame University to win by four en route to a Paradise Jam title. Baylor is also the only team in the conference

without a player averaging over 30 minutes per game.

"We really don't lose anything once we sub," said junior point guard Curtis Jerrells, who is ninth in the Big 12 in assist-to-turnover ratio. "I think that's one of the strengths of the team. It keeps some of the starters fresh and keeps those guys coming off the bench fresh."

While the guards can certainly boast such depth, the centers haven't had as much luck. Walk-on forward Mark Shepherd has been the only consistent post option off the bench in conference play, and the options narrow further when the big men

get into foul trouble, as is often the case.

Even so, the defensive play from Baylor's post players has offset their offensive futility enough that the Bears are off to one of the best starts in program history.

Stir in a historically spicy rivalry that was played close last year, Baylor's next shot at a win against a top 25 program and a new ranking of its own, and this game's immediate importance becomes relatively clear.

"The good thing is that a coach doesn't need to motivate his players for a game like that," Drew said.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Briles completes football coaching staff

Art Briles announced that former Texas A&M offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Dino Babers has been selected to the Bears coaching staff. Babers, who will coach outside receivers and serve as a recruiting coordinator, most recently served as an assistant coach at UCLA during the past four years. In addition to Babers, Randy Clements and Phillip Montgomery made the move from the University of Houston with Briles. They will hold the same positions as co-offensive coordinators. Former Penn State defensive backs coach Brian Norwood replaces Larry Hoefer as defensive coordinator. Chris Achuff (defensive tackles), Kendal Briles (inside receivers), Larry Hoefer (linebackers), Kim McCloud (cornerbacks) and Theo Young (defensive ends) round out Briles's coaching staff.

### Baseball receives pre-season honors

Baseball America tabbed the Bears No. 15 Tuesday in their preseason rankings. Missouri (No. 6) is the only Big 12 school ranked higher than the Bears. This is the first preseason ranking for the Bears since they started the 2005 season at the No. 11 spot. Baylor returns six starting position players from last year's team, including 2007 Freshman All-American Raynor Campbell and 2008 Preseason All-American Beamer Weems. Pitcher and Preseason All-American Nick Cassavechia headlines the list of names that will return on the mound for Baylor. The Bears finished last season 35-27 and made a trip to the Houston Regional where they were eliminated by Texas Christian University.

### Softball picked third in Big 12 by coaches

In a recent poll of league coaches, Baylor softball was picked to finish third in the Big 12 this season behind Texas A&M (No. 1) and Oklahoma (No. 2). The Lady Bears lose senior No. 1 pitcher Lisa Ferguson, slugger Ashley Monceaux, catcher Chelsi Lake and centerfielder Miriam Romero to graduation but return a host of talent that helped Baylor to its first Big 12 title last year. Two-time NFCA All-American Brette Reagan and Big 12 Freshman of the Year Kirsten Shortridge headline a group looking to improve upon a team-record 51 wins and the first College World Series appearance in school history. On July 11, following the conclusion of Baylor's record season, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association named the Lady Bears staff 2007 NFCA Division I Midwest Region Coaching Staff of the Year.

To submit a Sports Brief, please e-mail [Lariat@baylor.edu](mailto:Lariat@baylor.edu).

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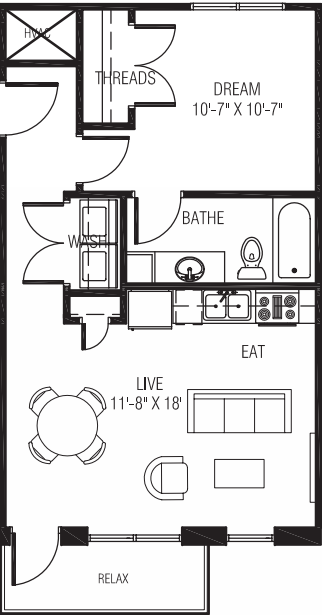
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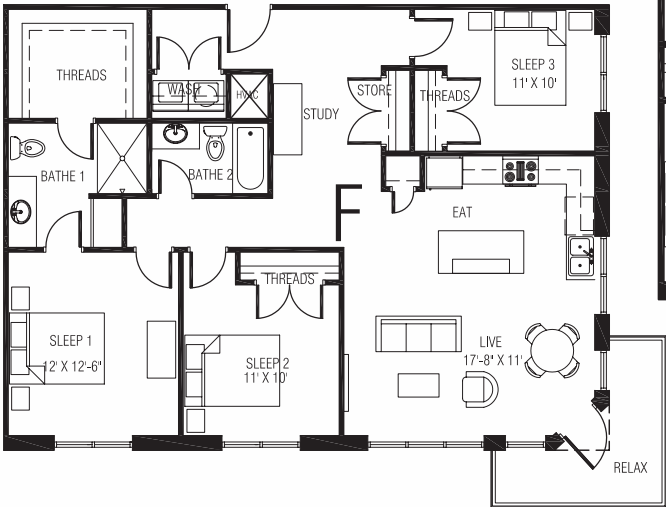


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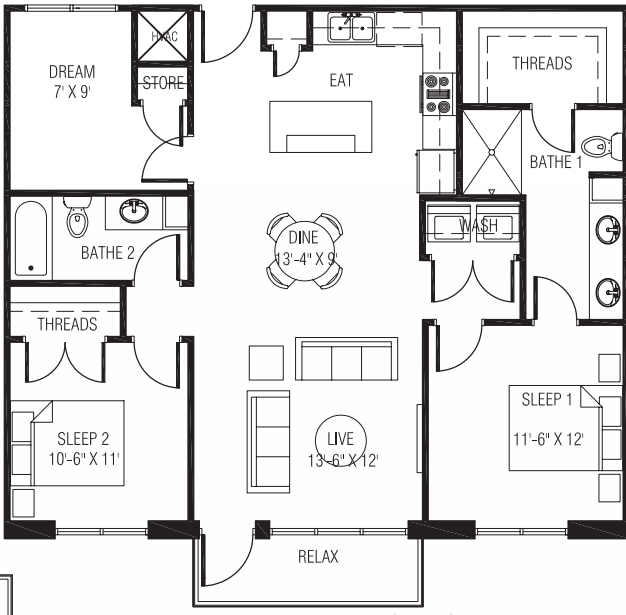


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# Lady Bears stay unbeaten in Big 12 with win over Oklahoma

By Jeff Latzke  
The Associated Press

When the women's basketball schedule was released in late August, few would have guessed that the Lady Bears would have made it through their first few conference games unscathed, especially in a talent-heavy Big 12.

But for the second time in three games, Baylor head coach Kim Mulkey got picked up as she went to walk off the court after a win against a defending Big 12 co-champion. And once again, point guard Angela Tisdale was the hero.

Tisdale, the only senior on either team's roster, scored a career-high 35 points and directed the sixth-ranked Bears' decisive run in an 84-73 win against No. 11 Oklahoma on Sunday in Norman, Okla.

Afterward, guard Jhasmin Player came over and lifted Mulkey off her feet.

The Baylor coach got similar treatment after a 59-56 win against Texas A&M last week, which Tisdale won with a late 3-pointer.

This one snapped a six-game

losing streak to Oklahoma (11-4, 2-2 Big 12).

"I don't think it has anything to do with the six in a row," Mulkey said. "I'd have to look, but there's teams that have beaten us that many times. It's the mere fact that they were picked, as was A&M, to win the league and the two of them were co-champs last year.

"That probably has more of a motivation factor for us than the six in a row."

Baylor (16-1, 4-0) is off to its best conference start during Mulkey's tenure. Mulkey, who is one win away from reaching the 200-win milestone, is on pace to become the sixth-fastest coach to reach the accolade.

"This is just one win. It's nothing more than one win," Mulkey said. "There's 12 more basketball games to be played. This win means nothing other than it helps us get to that ultimate goal of trying to win a Big 12 championship."

Courtney Paris had a season-high 28 points and 12 rebounds for her 76th double-double in a row, and Danielle Robinson scored 16 points for Oklahoma. Paris' twin sister, Ashley Paris,

also had a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Rachel Allison added 17 points, Player scored 14 and Danielle Wilson blocked seven shots — including several against Courtney Paris, the Sooners' 6-foot-4 center and reigning AP Player of the Year.

Baylor shot 53 percent overall, the highest percentage allowed by Oklahoma this season, and went 8-19 from 3-point range to make up for a 50-34 deficit on the boards. It was the second time in Big 12 play the Sooners encountered a speedy point guard and struggled to contain her. Oklahoma State's Andrea Riley scored 45 points against the Sooners in an 82-63 upset last weekend.

"It's very difficult to guard Tisdale," said Robinson, the Sooners' freshman point guard. "She's a great player, very athletic and quick, and it seemed like she was knocking down every shot that she took tonight."

"I'm definitely not that happy about how I played defensively, but she's a great player."

Tisdale had been in a 13-53 slump (25 percent) over the Bears' last four games, but

hit five of her first six 3-point attempts and was 9-12 overall before missing a few shots late. She ended up 10-16 for the game, and 5-9 from 3-point range.

Tisdale's perfection (10-10) from the free-throw line helped the Lady Bears seal the victory in the closing minutes of Sunday's showcase that featured 15 lead changes.

Tisdale, who scored her 1,000th career point earlier in the season, was named the Big 12 Player of the Week on Monday. Her teammates credited her ability to get to the basket as one of her redeeming qualities on the court.

Going forward, the Lady Bears continue their road trip as Tisdale and company travel to Columbia, Mo., to take on the University of Missouri. The Tigers are 8-9 on the season and one of seven Big 12 teams with a 1-3 league mark.

Head coach Cindy Stein and the Tigers enter the contest on a two-game losing streak after dropping contests at Oklahoma State and the University of Kansas.

Alyssa Hollins' 16.8 points per game leads the Tigers while



Associated Press

Baylor guard Angela Tisdale, center, eyes the basket Sunday from in front of Oklahoma forward Nyeshia Stevenson in the first half. Tisdale had 35 points as Baylor won the game 84-73.

sophomore Jessra Johnson, a 6-foot-1 forward, is the team's second-leading scorer and top rebounder with 14.6 points and eight rebounds a contest. Although Missouri is the heavy underdog in the game tonight,

the Tigers have upset the Lady Bears before. In 2006, the Lady Tigers ended Baylor's 30-game winning streak in a 63-61 heart-breaker in Columbia.

Sports writer Justin Baer contributed to this story.

# Renowned drug company vows to keep Texas high schools clean

By Jim Vertuno  
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — The company that conducts drug testing for the NCAA, minor league baseball and other sports leagues has been chosen to run Texas' massive high school steroids testing program.

The National Center For Drug Free Sport was selected Tuesday to run the largest steroids testing program in the country, testing 40,000-50,000 public school athletes by the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Testing is expected to begin within weeks, although the University Interscholastic League, the governing body of Texas public school sports, declined

to say exactly when.

Drug Free Sport competed with 13 other companies for the two-year, \$6 million program. UIL officials said they wanted a contractor with a proven track record of reliability and expertise.

"We look forward to working closely with Drug Free Sport in implementing a first-class steroid testing program that we feel will be a model for other states and organizations to follow," UIL Athletic Director Charles Breithaupt said.

The tests were ordered by the state lawmakers concerned that young athletes may be taking illegal and potentially dangerous performance-enhancing drugs.

The Legislature wanted testing to begin before last football season, but delays over writing the program rules and finding a contractor pushed it back several months.

"With the testing company now under contract and testing just around the corner, I believe it will deter young people from risking their lives by abusing illegal steroids," said Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the Republican who led the charge for testing.

Based in Kansas City, Mo., Drug Free Sport was created in 1999 by Frank Uryasz, who had been the director of sports sciences for the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Uryasz had developed the NCAA's drug testing program in the 1980s

and his company has handled NCAA testing since 1999.

Drug Free Sport tests about 13,000 college athletes annually for the NCAA and has separate contracts with various leagues and about 200 colleges and universities around the country, spokesman Dan Regan said.

It also conducts drug testing of high school athletes in New Jersey and Florida. New Jersey was the first state to conduct random steroid testing of high school athletes and tested 500 athletes in its first year.

Bob Baly, assistant director of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, praised Drug Free Sport's performance in his state.

"Extremely professional. It's

not like they haven't done this before," Baly said. "They handle students very well. We've had no complaints."

New Jersey's program, which began in the 2006-2007 school year, tests students who participate in the postseason and must be renewed annually.

The Texas program is much broader. Every one of the approximately 764,000 public school athletes are eligible to be tested, whether their sport is in season or not. To select athletes for testing, officials will first randomly select about 30 percent of school across the state. The schools provide lists of athletes in all sports.

Agents from Drug Free Sport randomly select athletes from

the list and go to the schools to collect urine samples, which are sent to labs for testing.

Students won't know they will be tested until they are pulled from class.

Drug Free Sport uses only laboratories accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency, Regan said, and there are three in North America: the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory, the Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the lab at WADA in Montreal.

"Drug Free Sport will rely on its vast experience in high school and collegiate steroid-use prevention in administering a top-notch program across the state of Texas," Uryasz said.



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# Acoustic Cafe to serve up hot student talent Thursday



Courtesy photo  
The Willows, made up of current and former Baylor students, performed at Battle of the Bands and will perform Thursday at Acoustic Cafe.

**By Emily Monti**  
Reporter

Students will get a chance to see some fresh talent from the Baylor campus Thursday at the Acoustic Cafe concert.

Acoustic Café, an intimate concert featuring Baylor musicians, will take place Thursday from 9 to 11 p.m. in the Bill Daniel Student Center.

The concert is sponsored by the Baylor Rising Artists Network.

It will feature three Baylor musicians who will each perform 40- to 45-minute sets.

"Each set usually infuses cover music and some original music," said Blake Reeves, coordinator of campus programs, in an e-mail to The Lariat.

The artists for Acoustic Café include Richardson freshman

"I like food, music, my friends and saving money, so it's an all-around winning situation for me."

Kelsey Kappelw  
Austin junior

Cole Edwards, Houston sophomore Lunden McGill and a band called The Willows.

Edwards will be a first-time performer at Acoustic Café and said he enjoys playing guitar and writing songs because there is no better form of expression.

"It's a great way to get things off my chest," Cole said.

Cole said he was both excited and nervous about his first performance Thursday night.

McGill, another artist sched-

uled to perform, said he is ready to share his Christian folk music at the concert.

McGill travelled and played music during the summer for the past two years. While in school, McGill said, he plays weekend retreats for churches and other organizations.

"I am no longer nervous in front of people," McGill said. "I am continuing to learn a lot every time I'm in front of an audience."

McGill said some of his musical influences include Jimmy Lynch and Matt Wertz.

The Willows also performed last semester at Battle of the Bands. Members of The Willows include Jackson, Miss., junior Elizabeth Walker and also Baylor alumni Joel Nelson, Andrew Miller and Ben Basden.

"Our music is Americana," Walker said. "It has bluegrass and alt-country influences such as Ryan Adams and The Old 97's."

Walker said the band's main goal is to entertain people with its music and to have fun.

"Hopefully people will like our music and will come to more of our shows and buy our EP," Walker said.

Acoustic Cafe is free and open to the public. Pastries, desserts and coffee from Common Grounds will be provided.

"I like food, music, my friends and saving money — so it's an all around winning situation for me," said Austin junior Kelsey Kappel.

The second Acoustic Cafe this semester will be in March and will feature all female artists in honor of Women's Education Month.

## 'No Country', 'Blood' tie for most Oscar nominations with 8 each

**By David Germain**  
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — No Country for Old Men and There Will Be Blood led with eight Academy Awards nominations each Tuesday, among them best picture and acting honors for Daniel Day-Lewis and Javier Bardem — but it remained in doubt whether any stars would cross striking writers' picket lines to attend the ceremony.

No Country for Old Men, a crime saga about a drug deal gone bad, and There Will Be Blood, a historical epic set in California's oil boom years, will compete for best picture against the melancholy romance Atonement, the pregnancy comedy Juno and the legal drama Michael Clayton.

Awards shows have become casualties of the strike by writers, whose union leaders say they will not allow members to work on the Oscars. Nominees already are saying they would stay away in support of writers if the strike lingers until Oscar night Feb. 24.



Day-Lewis  
"Best Actor"  
There Will Be Blood

without anyone on hand to accept the prizes. If guild leaders refuse to let writers work on the Oscars, it would leave nominees and other celebrities forced to choose between attending the show Feb. 24 or staying home to avoid crossing picket lines.

"I would never cross a picket line ever. I couldn't," said Tony Gilroy, a directing nominee for Michael Clayton. "I'm a 20-year member of the Writers Guild."

Viggo Mortensen, who received a best-actor nomination for his performance as a Russian mob member in Eastern Promises, said he would not go if the strike is still on.

"But I have a feeling they'll solve it," he said. "But if there's a strike I'm not crossing the line."

The acting categories generally played out as expected — with a few surprises, including best actress nominee Laura Linney for The Savages and best-actor nominee Tommy Lee Jones for In the Valley of Elah. Neither performance had been high on the awards radar so far this Oscar season.

Best actress looks like a two-person duel between Julie Christie, an Oscar winner for Darling, as a woman succumbing to Alzheimer's in Away From Her and Marion Cotillard as singer Edith Piaf in La Vie En Rose. Both won Golden Globes, Christie for dramatic actress, Cotillard for musical or comedy actress.

Yet they face strong competition from Blanchett, Linney and relative newcomer Ellen Page as a whip-smart pregnant teen in Juno.

Day-Lewis, an Oscar winner for My Left Foot, grabbed another best-actor nomination as a flamboyant oil baron in There Will Be Blood, for which he could emerge as the favorite.

Along with Day-Lewis, Clooney, Mortensen and Jones, the other nominee was Johnny Depp,



Page  
"Best Actress"  
Juno

who won the Globe for musical or comedy actor as the vengeful barber in Sweeney Todd.

With a Golden Globe and universal acclaim for his performance as a relentless killer, Bardem looks like the closest thing to a front-runner this Oscar season, which is unusually wide open for best picture and other top categories. Bardem and Wilkinson are up against Casey Affleck for The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford, Philip Seymour Hoffman for Charlie Wilson's War and Hal Holbrook for Into the Wild.

Joining Blanchett and Ronan in the supporting actress category were Ruby Dee for American Gangster, Amy Ryan for Gone Baby Gone and Tilda Swinton for Michael Clayton.

Snubbed along with Knightley and McAvoy was Atonement director Joe Wright. Besides Gilroy, the directing nominees were Paul Thomas Anderson for There Will Be Blood, Ethan Coen and Joel Coen for No Country for Old Men, Jason Reitman for Juno and Julian Schnabel for The Diving Bell and the Butterfly.

The Coens and Anderson also were nominated for writing the screenplay adaptations of their films.


The wide-open awards season had left the field up in question, and some other notable prospects were shut out, including past Oscar winner Angelina Jolie for A Mighty Heart, Helen Bonham Carter for Sweeney Todd, and Emile Hirsch for Into the Wild.

Sean Penn also missed out on a nomination for directing Into the Wild, as did Eddie Vedder, who was shut out in music categories.

The fairy-tale comedy Enchanted had three of the five best song nominations.



Bardem  
"Best Supporting Actor"  
No Country for Old Men



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<b>Van Halen</b> Saturday @ 8 p.m. American Airlines Center	<b>Hannah Montana/Miley Cyrus Aly &amp; AJ</b> Thursday @ 7 p.m. Frank Erwin Center
<b>Cory Morrow</b> Saturday @ 8 p.m. Granada Theater	<b>Sharon Jones &amp; the Dap Kings</b> Saturday @ 8 p.m. Antone's
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# Heigl's '27 Dresses' misses the bouquet

By Anita Pere  
Staff writer

"Someday my prince will come."

In the new movie 27 Dresses, Jane (played by Katherine Heigl) shares Snow White's faith, even when given sufficient evidence to the contrary.

She's been a crying shoulder, a rock of support, a confidante, a hair-dresser and a dress-mender (that is, a bridesmaid) 27 times, and she has the dresses to prove it.

## MOVIE REVIEW

Jane had known weddings were her niche since she was a child.

But this film does a fast forward to 2007, when Jane finesses her way to exemplary bridesmaid status at two weddings in one night.

What she doesn't realize is she may be stretching herself too thin and denying that her unhealthy obsession with weddings could be the result of a longing for her own special day.

Jane's got her sights set on George, her polite and chic boss, until he falls fast and hard for her little sister, Tess (played by Malin Akerman).

Jane finds herself the bridesmaid yet again, haggling for a good deal on a wedding cake and scanning items to add to the bridal registry, only this time the green eye of jealousy isn't so subtle.

Meanwhile, Jane is warming up to her new and rather intrusive friend, Kevin (played by James Marsden).

Kevin is a New York Journal "commitment" columnist who's writing a piece about Tess and

George's hyped-up ceremony.

What Jane and Tess don't know is that Kevin is actually writing a column on Jane, the 27-time bridesmaid.

Kevin's piece is a smash, but his new-found respect around the office and corresponding promotion come at a high price.

Will Jane and Kevin salvage their friendship?

Will Jane get over losing George to her Barbie look-alike younger sister?

And most importantly, will Jane ever be the bride?

By now, I'm sure you can feel the escalating tension and uncertainty as I portray the thickening of the plot.

Or, if you've ever seen a romantic comedy before, you pretty much know how this flick's going to go down.

I should have put a warning on this article: May contain plot spoilers ... without actually containing plot spoilers.

Maybe I set the bar too high. Director Anne Fletcher's only previous Hollywood credentials are as a choreographer.

Akerman reminded me of Tara Reid, in looks and inferior acting abilities.

Considering these things, Heigl stands as the film's only respectable element.

Actually, what I found just as entertaining as the actual movie was the sociology lesson of different gender preferences at the theater.

When I saw the movie, my friend and I counted only 18 males out of an audience of about 60 people.

A few men staggered in the theater with looks of impending doom, maybe because they knew they'd have to deal with toxically high levels of estrogen



Fox 2000 Pictures

Katherine Heigl (from *Grey's Anatomy*) stars as Jane, the eternal bridesmaid, in the new romantic comedy, *27 Dresses*.

for almost two hours.

Girls, make your boy-toy take you to this movie when he's been mean and says he'll do anything to make it up.

Your feelings of catharsis as he sighs through the giggles, "awwws" and "omigods!" of the predominantly female audience will surely feel rewarding.

Overall, the film was just ... OK. We've already established that it's predictable.

The timid twists didn't effectively add anticipation and excitement.

It also reeked of far-fetchedness in so many ways.

Are we honestly to think that any woman would agree to be a bridesmaid in two weddings on

the same day?

And would someone really stuff a closet full of hideous bridesmaid get-ups?

This mediocre film conveys exactly why I'm not a huge fan of romantic comedies: If you've seen one, you've seen them all (with the exception of a few diamonds in the rough, like *While You Were Sleeping* and *My Best Friend's Wedding*).

If you haven't seen *27 Dresses* yet but still want to, wait until it makes its grand debut at the dollar theater (it probably won't be too long), or rent the DVD.

In fact, I think it would complement a good old fashion slumber party pretty well.

Grade: C

# Drugs suspected in Ledger death

By Tom Hays  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Heath Ledger, the talented 28-year-old actor who gravitated toward dark, brooding roles that defied his leading-man looks, was found dead Tuesday in a Manhattan apartment, naked in bed with prescription sleeping pills nearby, police said.

There was no obvious indication of suicide, NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said.

Ledger had an appointment for a massage at the SoHo apartment that is believed to be the home of the *Brokeback Mountain* actor, Browne said. The massage therapist and a housekeeper found his naked body in the bed at about 3:30 p.m. They tried to revive him, but he was already dead.

"We are all deeply saddened and shocked by this accident," Ledger's publicist, Mara Buxbaum, said in a statement Tuesday night. "This is an extremely difficult time for his loved ones and we are asking the media to please respect the family's privacy and avoid speculation until the facts are known."

Outside the building on an upscale street, paparazzi and gawkers gathered, and police officers put up barricades to control the crowd of about 300. Onlookers craned their necks as officers brought out a black body bag on a gurney. As the door opened, bystanders snapped pictures with camera phones, rolled video, and said, "He's coming out!"

An autopsy was planned for Wednesday, medical examiner's office spokeswoman Ellen Borkove said.

Ledger was nominated for an



Ledger

Oscar for his performance as a gay cowboy in *Brokeback Mountain*, where he met Michelle Williams. The two had a daughter, now 2-year-old Matilda, and lived in Brooklyn until they split last year.

It was a shocking and unforeseen conclusion for one of Hollywood's bright young stars. Though his leading man looks propelled him to early stardom in films like *10 Things I Hate About You* and *A Knight's Tale*, his career took a notable turn toward dramatic and brooding roles with 2001's *Monster's Ball*.

"I had such great hope for him," said Mel Gibson, who played Ledger's father in *The Patriot*, in a statement. "He was just taking off and to lose his life at such a young age is a tragic loss."

Ledger eschewed Hollywood glitz in favor of a bohemian life in Brooklyn, where he was one of the borough's most famous residents. *Brokeback* would be his breakthrough role, establishing him as one of his generation's finest talents and an actor willing to take risks. He began to gravitate more toward independent fare, including 2005's *Casanova* and *The Brothers Grimm*. His 2006 film *Candy* now seems destined to have an especially haunting quality: In a particularly realistic performance, Ledger played a poet wrestling with a heroin addiction. But Ledger's most recent choices were arguably the boldest yet: He costarred in *I'm Not There*, in which he played one of the many incarnations of Bob Dylan. And in what may be his final finished performance, Ledger proved that he wouldn't be intimidated by taking on a character as iconic as Jack Nicholson's *Joker*. Ledger's version of the Batman villain made it clear that his *Joker* would be more depraved and dark.

Ledger was born in 1979 in Perth, in western Australia, to a mining engineer and a French teacher.

# 'Cloverfield' claws its way into the top slot

Hand-held views make this action flick more realistic

By Lee Ann Marcel  
Contributor

Buildings have been demolished, cars have been crunched and the Statue of Liberty's head is missing. And now rumors are circulating that *Godzilla* may have returned to reap revenge.

## MOVIE REVIEW

But that's not quite the case in J.J. Abrams' *Cloverfield*, which opened this weekend at the top of the box office.

Producer J.J. Abrams is known for producing the popular TV shows *Lost* and *Alias*.

The movie is cast with several newcomers, including Michael Stahl-David, T.J. Miller, Jessica Lucas and Odette Yustman.

Though these names do not mean anything yet, *Cloverfield* is sure to set the spotlight on them.

The short grainy trailer, which was released during the summer, has been one of the most innovative marketing strategies Hollywood has seen.



McClatchy Newspapers

Michael Stahl-David (left) and Odette Yustman co-star in Paramount Pictures' *Cloverfield*, an action-thriller about a monster attack on New York City.

tion — it only provided a release date — obviously stirred the public's curiosity, because the film drew more than \$41 million in its first weekend, breaking the January box office record.

Upon walking into theater, viewers are warned of possible motion sickness due to the unique way the movie was shot, with hand-held cameras.

On the eve of a few friends' going away party for their friend, a giant monster attacks

New York City and disrupts their plans.

The movie then follows the friends as they try to survive the disaster, all of which is caught on their personal video cameras and then replayed by the government.

As the movie begins at the going away party for Rob Hawkins, played by Michael Stahl-David, everything suddenly gets shaken up, literally, in what the characters think is a tremor

from an earthquake. Then havoc breaks loose as soon as people begin to realize that the earthquake was actually some kind of giant monster.

Though the entire movie keeps you on the edge of your chair with nonstop action, you grow surprisingly close to the characters.

The hand-held camera approach really helps put you in the characters' shoes, as if you, too, were running to save your life, rather than feeling like you're just someone watching a movie.

It would be hard to approach this movie rationally.

If you are expecting answers as to why the monster is there or its motive for the rampage, don't bother, because you're not going to get any.

*Cloverfield* is about as realistic as a monster movie can be, and though it probably won't live up to the hype, it might just surprise viewers.

Despite the fact that some parts of the movie were slightly predictable at times, I still thought it was nicely done.

Overall, the movie kept me engaged with really intense action scenes as well as with the memorable characters and their fight to survive.

Grade: A-

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KENYA from page 1

DATA from page 1

"I know that ITS monitored those calls and returned calls all weekend long," Fogleman said.

However, there are still hundreds of students without emergency contact information.

Pattie Orr, vice president

for Information Technology, met with the student senate on Thursday to discuss this issue.

Orr said Warren Ricks, assistant vice president and chief risk management officer, will be sending an e-mail out soon reminding students to fill out their emergency contact information on BearWeb.

The meeting also focused on future changes to be made to the BIN.

"We're looking at forming a committee to advise the BIN staff as we move in a new direction," said student body external vice president Bryan Fonville.

The committee will evalu-

ate the services previously provided by the BIN and decide which to keep, which to discard and what additions should be made.

One concern members of student government had was voting in student elections. Orr promised, however, "somehow, some way these people will vote."

Another concern the students voiced was for the student employees at the BIN being without work.

Orr said the students are great employees and have worked very faithfully. She also said that those students would be welcome to come work for ITS.

COCAINE from page 1

cocaine fully, 25 percent of the subjects didn't produce enough antibodies for the vaccine to work.

The remaining subjects produced reasonable amounts of antibodies — some stopped completely and other reduced their cocaine use.

With the development of the vaccine, a suggestion the vaccine be used as a preventive measure has also come up.

"As with any medical breakthrough, there's the possibility of people seeing it as a silver-bullet type thing," said Dr. Doug Matthews, an associate professor of neuroscience.

As to whether or not parents should be able to give their children the cocaine vaccine, Matthews said, "Parents should use the platform that God's given them with their children. In my opinion it's not the best route."

Kosten is now waiting for approval from the Food and Drug Administration to begin further testing.

# Israel eases chokehold on Gaza for 1 day, allowing in needed supplies

By Ibrahim Barzak  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel eased a blockade of Gaza imposed in retaliation for militant rocket attacks, allowing in some food and fuel Tuesday after the U.N. warned that international food aid to the impoverished territory may have to be suspended by the weekend.

Israel pumped cooking oil and fuel for Gaza's power plant through the Nahal Oz crossing. It was also expected to allow a single shipment of fuel, food and medicine into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing.

The closure imposed after a spike in rocket attacks last week cut off fuel supplies. On Sunday, Gaza's Hamas rulers shut the strip's power plant, leaving one-third of the 1.5 million people without electricity. Gas stations and many bakeries closed, and health officials

warned of an impending crisis in hospitals running low on generator fuel.

The cutoff of fuel prompted condemnation from aid and human rights groups. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak called Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak on Monday and urged him to ease restrictions.

Before agreeing to Tuesday's one-time shipment, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert strongly defended the blockade.

He told legislators from his Kadima Party he will not allow a humanitarian crisis to develop.

But he said Gaza's residents won't be able to live a "pleasant and comfortable life" as long as southern Israel is under rocket attack.

"As far as I'm concerned, Gaza residents will walk, without gas for their cars, because they have a murderous, terrorist regime that doesn't let people in southern Israel live

in peace," Olmert said.

Even after agreeing to the one-time shipments, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak maintained a tough tone. Speaking at the annual Herzliya Conference on security, Barak said he was prepared to hit Gaza in order to restore calm in Israeli towns battered by rockets from Gaza.

"I care more about our quiet than their quiet," he said.

Gaza's Hamas government issued emotional appeals to the Arab world, and demanded that Egypt open its border with Gaza to allow in supplies.

"We are asking Arab and Muslim nations not to leave the Palestinians alone to face the terrorist country of America and the Zionist entity," said Gaza's Hamas strongman, Mahmoud Zahar, in a televised speech.

During the past seven months, since the Islamic militant Hamas violently took over Gaza, Egypt joined Israel

in severely restricting access to territory, largely keeping its border terminal closed. An opening of the Gaza-Egypt border would mark a victory for Hamas, enabling it to claim credit for restoring the flow of supplies and stabilizing its rule.

However, it appears unlikely Egypt will do that because it is concerned about a spillover of Hamas-style militancy into its territory if the border is open.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Arye Mekel said enough fuel would be shipped to power the Gaza electric plant for a week, as well as fuel for hospital generators and cooking gas. Also 50 truckloads of humanitarian aid, including medicine, will be allowed in.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri dismissed the gesture.

"This does not mean the end of the siege on Gaza," he said, pledging to continue to fight "until we break the siege."

SING from page 1

The other changes to Sing policies stem from more economic motives.

The budget increase from \$3,500 to \$4,000 is in response to variables, such as the change in the value of the dollar over the past several years.

Riemer said he didn't think the budget had been changed since before he was a Sing chair in 1999. The costume budget, separate from the general budget, also went up.

"We changed both of those so that

students would have a little more flexibility in dealing with those constraints," Riemer said.

With the additional outside source, Sing groups are now allowed to use four sources.

These sources can be used to help with things such as the props, backdrop, costumes and music arrangement.

"I think the extra source is good because it takes a little pressure off the Sing chairs," said Richardson junior Clayton Kendall, a Kappa Omega Tau Sing chair.

GUN from page 1

the parking lot so criminals and customers are aware of the security guards' presence.

While the restaurant is taking measures to keep its customers safe, there are a few preventive measures that students can take during armed robbery.

"The longer the confrontation goes on, the greater the chance of someone getting hurt," Baylor police Chief Doak said. Doak advised students to not fight and surrender immediately.

Doak also said the best way to avoid being robbed at gunpoint is to "pay attention to your surroundings and know what is going on."

Nevertheless, this situation may present itself to anyone, and there is no absolute way to avoid it.

"I walked out of my apartment the next morning, and I was looking at parked cars — you can't be scared forever," Paladino said.

Anyone with further information regarding the robbery should contact the Waco Police Department at 750-7500.



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