

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

BU to sell \$274.1 million in bonds

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

Baylor University will begin selling \$115 million in fixed interest bonds to the public Wednesday. The university, through an independent banker, will look for buyers for an additional \$159.1 million of variable interest bonds April 7.

A bond is a loan to a community, school district or company for a specific purpose. Unlike stockholders who own a piece of a company, a bondholder merely loans money to an entity. The bondholders receive their loan back, plus interest, by a specified date, known as the bond maturity date.

The bonds issued Wednesday will come with a fixed interest rate of close to 5 percent, while the bonds issued April 7 will have a variable rate that is yet to be determined. A “fixed rate” is a set interest rate that won’t change over the life of the loan. A “variable rate” fluctuates according to economic factors.

Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration, said variable rate bonds are traditionally traded every week as the market fluctuates. The university favors offering investors “a diversified mix of bonds,” Ramsower said of the two bond types.

The bonds issued this year will be used to pay back bonds issued in 2002 and 2006, which total \$274.1 million.

“This particular refinance will not have an impact on our operating budget,” Ramsower said, reiterating that the university isn’t looking to raise money through the bonds.

Part of the bonds issued this year will also be used to cover costs associated with the circulation of bonds, according to a *Waco Tribune-Herald* classified ad appearing in early March.

The ad served as an announcement of a public hearing regarding the bonds March 18. The Waco Education Finance Corporation gave the meeting, with their attorney Dan Pleitz overseeing.

The Waco Education Finance Corporation is a non-profit organization that helps area private schools borrow money tax-free. The tax-free aspect translates into a lower interest rate on the bonds, Pleitz said. Public schools may borrow money tax-free on their own behalf because they are government entities.

The Lehman Brothers Investment Bank will underwrite the bonds and connect the university to lenders. The bank has served this intermediary role between the university and lenders for all past bond issuances, Ramsower said.

Attaining a lower interest rate will be possible with the drop of the bond insurer, XL Capital. As XL Capital struggled to keep its head above water this year in the sub-prime mortgage crisis, the company’s credit rating plunged to a BB-.

Corporations are assigned a set of letters to show credit rating, AAA being the highest score and DDD being the lowest.

Ramsower said of XL Capital’s score, “You can’t get much worse than that,” adding that most companies that invested heavily in sub-prime mortgages, “suffered huge setbacks.”

The *Dallas Business Journal* reported a similar problem debt taken on by the City of Arlington and the Dallas Cowboys.

“The city of Arlington and the Dallas Cowboys

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Courtesy photo

April Fool’s

South Russell Residence Hall director Nadine Bruner reacts to an April Fool’s Day joke played on her by South Russell residents and staff. Buner’s office was filled almost completely with multi-colored balloons.

Raul Castro offers more reform

Cubans were afforded greater rights for consumer goods, private farms

By Will Weissert
The Associated Press

HAVANA — Cubans snapped up DVD players, motorbikes and pressure cookers for the first time Tuesday as Raul Castro’s new government loosened controls on consumer goods and invited private farmers to plant tobacco, coffee and other crops on unused state land.

Combined with other reforms announced in recent days, the measures suggest substantial changes are being driven by the new president, who vowed when he took over from his brother Fidel to remove some of the more irksome limitations on the daily

lives of Cubans.

Analysts wondered how far the communist government is willing to go.

“Cuban people can’t survive on the salaries people are paying them. Average men and women have been screaming that at the top of their lungs for many years,” said Felix Masud-Piloto, director of the Center for Latino Research at DePaul University. “Now after many years, the government is listening.”

Many of the shoppers filling stores Tuesday lamented the fact that the goods are unaffordable on the government salaries they earn. But that didn’t stop them from lining up to see electronic gadgets previously available only to foreigners and companies.

“They should have done this a long time ago,” one man said as he left a store with a red and silver electric motorbike that

cost \$814. The Chinese-made bikes can be charged with an electric cord and had been barred for general sale because officials feared a strain on the power grid.

On Monday, the Tourism Ministry announced that any Cuban with enough money can now stay in luxury hotels and rent cars, doing away with restrictions that made ordinary people feel like second-class citizens. And last week, Cuba said citizens will be able to get cell phones legally in their own names, a luxury long reserved for the lucky few.

The land reform, however, potentially could put more food on the table of all Cubans while helping to develop a new consumer economy.

Government television said 51 percent of arable land is

Please see **CUBA**, page 6



Associated Press

A woman leaves Tuesday after buying a pressure cooker in a store in Havana. Cuban shoppers are buying goods for the first time that were previously available only to foreigners after the government of new President Raul Castro lifted a ban on products that affected Cuban citizens.



Associated Press

Sean Dickey with Pinnacle Construction, installs a sign on a new fuel pump Tuesday at a Chevron gas station in Anchorage, Alaska. The BP building and fuel prices are seen in the background.

Congress presses oil chiefs on big profits

By H. Josef Hebert
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Don’t blame us, oil industry chiefs told a skeptical Congress.

Top executives of the country’s five biggest oil companies said Tuesday they know record fuel prices are hurting people, but they argued it’s not their fault and their huge profits are in line with other industries.

Appearing before a House committee, the executives were pressed to explain why they should continue to get billions of dollars in tax breaks when they made \$123 billion last year and motorists are

paying record gasoline prices at the pump.

“On April Fool’s Day, the biggest joke of all is being played on American families by Big Oil,” Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said, aiming his remarks at the five executives sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in a congressional hearing room.

“Our earnings, although high in absolute terms, need to be viewed in the context of the scale and cyclical, long-term nature of our industry as well as the huge investment requirements,” said J.S. Simon, senior vice president of Exxon Mobil Corp., which made a

record \$40 billion last year.

“We depend on high earnings during the up cycle to sustain ... investment over the long term, including the down cycles,” he continued.

The up cycle has been going on too long, suggested Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo. “The anger level is rising significantly.”

Alluding to the fact that Congress often doesn’t rate very high in opinion polls, Cleaver told the executives: “Your approval rating is lower than ours, and that means you’re down low.”

Several lawmakers noted the rising price of gasoline

at the pump, now averaging \$3.29 a gallon amid talk of \$4 a gallon this summer.

“I heard what you are hearing. Americans are very worried about the rising price of energy,” said John Hofmeister, president of Shell Oil Co., echoing remarks by the other four executives including representatives of BP America Inc., Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips.

While Democrats hammered the executives for their profits and demanded they do more to develop alternative energy sources such as wind,

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College, reality get in way of childhood dreams

Growing up, they always tell you that you can be whatever you want to be. President, chef, Barbie; you name it, you can be it, as long as you set your mind to it.

In pre-school, we put on a show for our parents where we all sang about what we wanted to be when we grew up. No one said anything when countless princesses, cowboys and superheroes took the spotlight and proclaimed their career goals. Instead, they just clapped and encouraged us to go after those princes or bad guys.

Even N*Sync sang about it on an episode of Sesame Street. You can be whatever you want

to be, in perfect boy band harmony. I didn't watch Sesame Street regularly at that age, but if Snuffalufagus and Justin Timberlake are teaming up for a duet, I'm going to listen.

I miss those days when we were allowed to dream often and dream big. When thinking about careers as a kid, I never had to consider the rising cost of living or the job market or employment benefits. I didn't even have to think about talent or gender or reality.

If I had said I wanted to be a member of a male weight-lifting team in an alternate dimension, I'm sure my parents would have just handed me some dumb-

point of view



BY BETHANY POLLER

bells and patted me on the head. Those were the days.

Now my parents would just refuse to pay for the sex change, protein shakes and psychiatric help necessary to make my dreams come true.

In elementary school, I wanted to be a writer, a pianist, a teacher and a biochemical engineer. I didn't even know

what that last one meant, but it sounded important so I wanted to do it. Since then I've added hundreds of careers to that list.

I want to be a photographer, a novelist, a greeting card writer, a painter, a taste-tester and a professional sleep-study participant.

I want to be a rock star, even though I have a lack of musical talent and an aversion to leather pants. But I've played Guitar Hero and I've got a new addiction to Garage Band so I think I'm on my way.

I want to be a mechanic, even though I have dainty hands and hate getting grease under my fingernails. But I enjoy chang-

ing my oil and I get more flat tires than I can count, so I think being a mechanic could be a good fit for me.

Even with so many aspirations, 6-year-old me wouldn't have been discouraged. I had no reason to believe that I couldn't fit all of those careers into one lifetime.

But since elementary school, my parents, those same people that told me I could do whatever I set my mind to, have also told me that I have to go to college so that I can support them in their imminent old age.

Don't get me wrong. I like college. I like the idea that college is the place where you start

to make your dreams a reality, or something equally cheesy. And I am excited to start the career that college is preparing me for.

But what about the other careers I want? College is doing nothing for my career as a trapeze artist. It has killed my dreams of ever being a dermatologist. College is keeping me from being all the things I want to be.

Six-year-old me would be so disappointed. N*Sync would be, too.

Bethany Poller is a junior journalism major from Mansfield and the assistant city editor of The Baylor Lariat.

Editorial

Task force for fans not needed

It's no secret that things got a little out of hand at the last men's home basketball game against Texas A&M University. At a student government meeting last week, President John Lilley addressed the incident, suggesting the formation of a task force to watch activity at basketball games in the future. The task force might include monitors to keep an eye on students and other fans who may get too rowdy.

Another suggestion was to make students sit in the seats assigned to them on their student tickets. Though these suggestions are well-intentioned, they are premature and ultimately an overreaction to the situation at hand.

By forcing students to sit in their assigned seats, a key aspect of extracurricular activities and sporting events is neglected. The idea of community and social interaction is lost when sporting events become more rules-driven than fan-driven. Imposing guidelines about who can sit where and by whom would most likely detract from spirit and potentially even discourage students from attending games at all.

Sporting events, and particularly basketball games this past year, have become a highlight of student life. By limiting the ability of students to fully engage in events, student life and the events themselves are compromised.

The idea of a task force is a valid proposal in theory, but a less severe approach should be taken. Baylor fans have never been known to be hostile on a regular basis and will not suddenly become so just because of



one game. If a task force was formed to impose strict guidelines for fan behavior, it would confirm the false reports in the press that Baylor fans are unsportsmanlike and need to be controlled.

Instead, we should ask Baylor fans to step up and be a true representation of the university by showing positive spirit and sportsmanlike conduct. With regard to the Texas A&M basketball game, a number of factors led to the bad behavior of a small handful of fans. It should be a lesson learned, but not an instance for punishment for the

entire student body.

Baylor Athletic Director Ian McCaw said a "sportsmanship initiative" has been discussed even prior to the events at the Texas A&M game and would entail a marketing campaign of sorts to promote positive fan behavior and sportsmanlike conduct.

McCaw also echoed the idea that the fan behavior at the A&M game was an isolated incident and that in general, Baylor fans "are doing great," with excellent enthusiasm and energy at most games.

He remarked that the game dem-

onstrated a few instances of poor fan behavior, but that Baylor Athletics wants to focus on the positive things that have occurred in the past year as well.

"Student attendance at the basketball games has really skyrocketed, reaching nearly 3,000 students at times," McCaw said.

We agree that although the few instances of bad fan behavior are disappointing, a focus on promoting positive aspects of fan involvement would be a better solution than implementing more rules that could restrict involve-

Free albums only help artists if there's an eventual payoff

The past year has seen an onslaught of change in the music industry, much of which was spurred by the introduction of free downloadable albums initially launched last fall by Radiohead.

The idea that a band or artist would offer its album (the fruit of hours of hard work) to listeners for whatever price they feel like paying, or even more shockingly, for free, seemed absurd at first.

The notion of an unpriced album was innovative in itself, but the other revelation was that the album would be available for download directly through the band itself, instead of through a label release. Suddenly, one

band flipped the script on the music industry and things have not been the same since.

Like a domino effect, the Radiohead-effect has been pervasive, with numerous artists from Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails to Jack White and the Raconteurs offering albums (almost immediately after their completion) to listeners as a digital download online, forgoing the need for a label at all.

The Internet has undoubtedly revolutionized the industry and allowed for innovation previously unimaginable.

The availability of music is as easy as the click of a mouse, and legal and illegal downloads can be found with the same amount

point of view



BY AMANDA ROBISON

of ease.

Though the advancements the Internet has brought for music are incredible, there is also a big downside. The vast amount of music that is available through the Internet and file-sharing is taking away from the artists and threatens to devalue and ultimately decrease (or worse, completely destroy) the value of music altogether.

And if you're like me, a typical college student who can't live without your tunes, this is a bad sign.

Artists like Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails have well-established careers and extensive fan followings that have allowed them the freedom to offer their albums as no- or low-cost downloads.

But this definitely isn't the case for most artists out there. The term "starving artist" didn't come out of nowhere. For many artists, it is a struggle just to get their music out there. The price of producing an album is extremely high, and if you want to get word out about it, you have to have marketing and

advertising, which also costs tons of money.

Now I'm not suggesting that you're going to hell if you download music illegally (I've done it, too), and I'm not saying that you should never download any songs. What I am suggesting is that if you download music and you like it, support that artist and buy the music. If you download it and it sucks, don't. Whatever.

The point is, all of these technological advancements have not only made music readily available for free, but they have also made it as easy to purchase it online as off.

If you can't get enough of just one song from an artist, take five

seconds and 99 cents and buy it on iTunes (or Amazon, or countless other Web sites).

Record stores nationwide are closing in record numbers because no one is buying music anymore, and that means artists don't get paid and eventually may have to stop making music completely.

I know you've heard it a million times, but if you really love music and appreciate the art at all, show some love and support the artists so we can keep enjoying the tunes we live our lives to.

Amanda Robison is a senior journalism major from Waco and the entertainment editor of The Baylor Lariat.

The Baylor Lariat

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THE Daily Crossword

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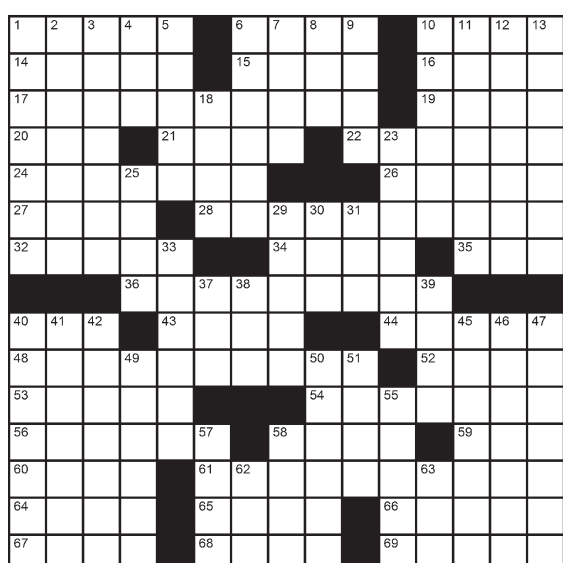
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- 46 Outermost
- 47 Explanatory drawing
- 49 "Fideles"
- 50 Sensuous
- 51 Golfer Sabbatini
- 55 "John Brown's Body" poet
- 57 Mennen product
- 58 Cattle poker
- 62 "The Lord of the Rings" baddie
- 63 Wedding vow



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

4/2/08

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

Walk Across Texas begins

By Lynn Ngo
Reporter

From border to border, covering 830 miles in the span of about two months is the goal of Walk Across Texas.

The walking challenge, which starts Saturday and ends May 31, will consist of teams of eight working together to collectively walk the distance across the state.

This is the first time Baylor will be participating in the walk, which was started in 1996 by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and today includes the participation of numerous counties in Texas, said Van Davis, assistant fitness director of Campus Recreation.

“The whole point of the campaign is to try to reduce instances of obesity in McLennan County,” said Marianna Clement, health services coordinator and health educator of Waco-McLennan County Public Health District.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to sign up by Saturday, and there is no registration fee, Davis said.

An interest meeting will be

held at 3 p.m. Thursday in 308 Student Life Center.

The program seeks to improve the health of individuals and does not seek to raise funds for any particular cause.

“The program encourages people to become active for the next couple of months,” she said.

Judy Mills, academic/student support associate, was immediately interested in joining Walk Across Texas.

“I almost died in 2005 from a heart attack, so I’m more passionate about getting going and getting others motivated,” Mills said.

Prior to her health scare, Mills considered herself to be active but not active enough.

“I just really believe that people take their health for granted,” she said. “The main thing is to get people up and to show them that exercise can be fun and not hard.”

Mills said she hopes that Walk Across Texas can help make a difference in keeping people active.

The teams will have roughly two months to walk individually. Each week, team members

are to keep track of the miles they’ve walked and report the number to their chosen team captain on either Sunday or Monday.

The team captain is responsible for entering the mileage on the Walk Across Texas Web site.

Keeping up with the miles walked will be easy to do since each participant will receive a pedometer, free of charge from Division of Student Life, Davis said.

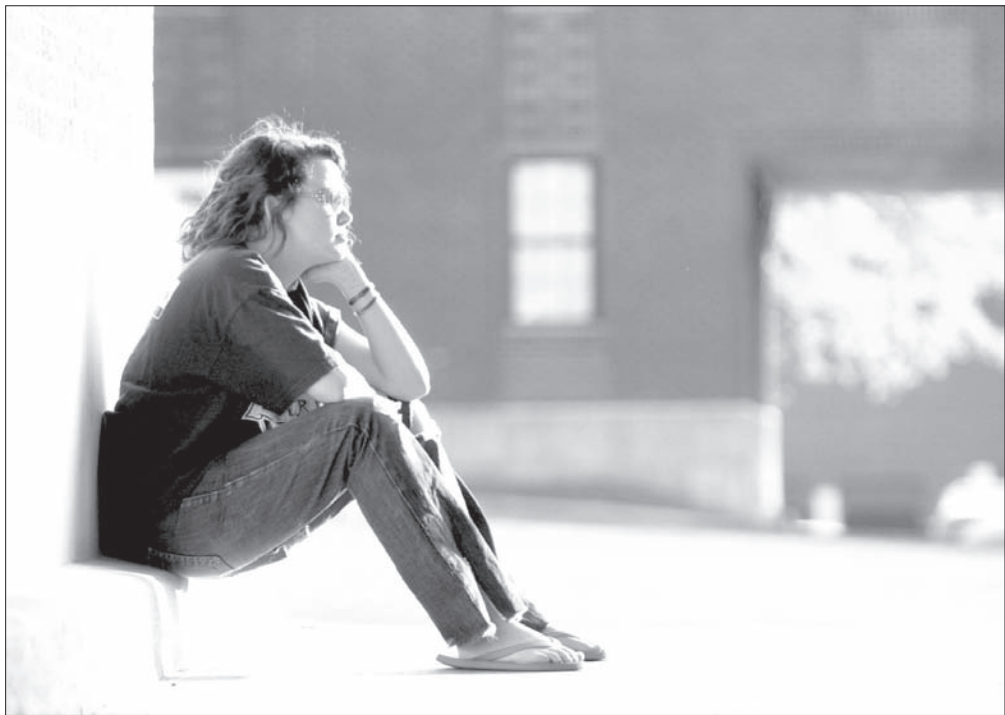
According to the Walk Across Texas Web site, participants can choose to do other activities such as swimming, dancing, or roller skating for mileage equivalencies.

“It’s almost too easy not to do,” Clement said.

Teams that reach the 830-mile mark by May 31 will be awarded with T-shirts.

“If everyone averages about 13 miles per week, then it should be easy to complete the miles,” Davis said.

All teams are invited to the Walk Across Texas Kick-Off at 9 a.m. Saturday at Bledsoe Miller Recreation Center on 300 Martin Luther King Boulevard.



Alex Song /Lariat staff

Enjoying elusive sunshine

Shreveport, La., freshman Emily Thompson sits Tuesday in the quadrangle in Russell Residence Hall.

Web site offers tutors, free notes

Belinda Colunga
Reporter

Note-taking just became easier for college students with the creation of Schoology.

Schoology.com is designed to improve a student’s college experience by creating a portal to notes and tutors for a greater learning experience. Four Washington University juniors created the site February. 25.

“We were thinking about ways in which we could enhance the college experience,” said Justin Friedman, founder of the site. “We want to bridge the gap between what is learned inside the classroom with what is learned outside the classroom.”

With more than 1,500 registered users, more than 200 tutors and more than 80 institutions participating, Friedman said Schoology is seeking to expand itself nationwide and establish a system that professors can use in class.

“We urge educators and administration not to be concerned about the resources that Schoology offers. Our ultimate goal is to work closely with educators to provide resources that rival those of Blackboard,” Friedman said.

Although the Web site hasn’t been researched in depth by the Office of Academic Integrity,

it doesn’t seem to violate the Honor Code, said Linda Cates, director of the Office of Academic Integrity.

“I sure can see the potential for its use and I just encourage everyone to cite their own original work,” Cates said.

While college students are the main users of the site, any student, regardless of grade, can take advantage of its services.

“We’re really trying to promote the sharing of knowledge, the power of the Internet, and expand into the educational sector ... toward the next generation of education where people can learn more and have access to much more information,” said Ryan Hwang, another of the site’s creators.

Schoology offers services such as downloads of class notes, online interaction with professors and students, free chat sessions to search for tutors, and profits for simply posting notes on the site.

Ninety percent of the profits made from advertisements are distributed to anyone who uploads their notes. Students receive more money depending on how often people download the notes.

Notes are rated on a scale of zero to 100 by other students to enhance their credibility. Professors can also ensure notes

are legitimate by going online to verify their quality and accuracy, Friedman said.

Creating a personal account, downloading notes and PeerTutor are free of charge to anyone until students choose to hire a tutor, Hwang said.

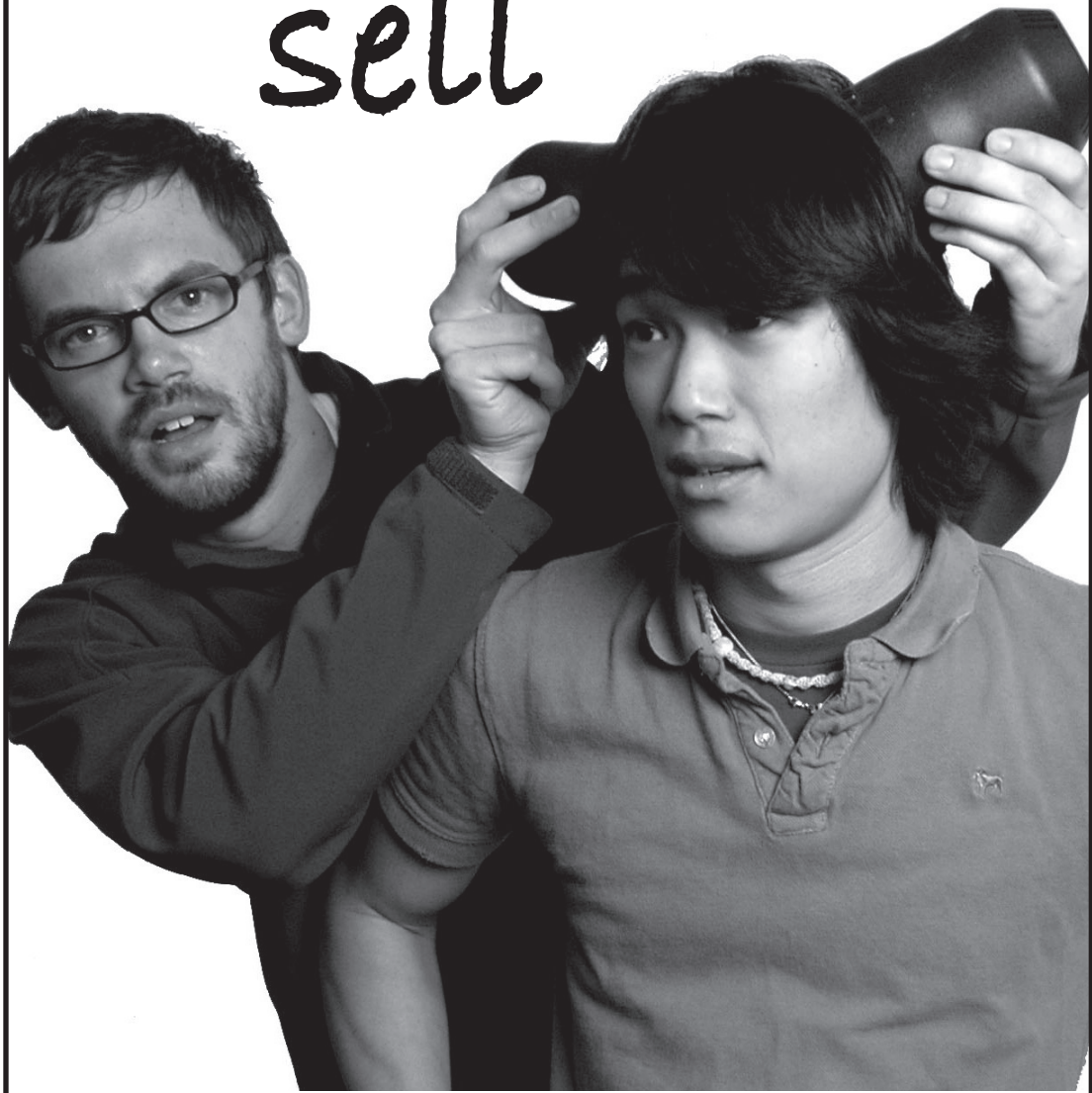
Anyone can register to become a tutor, including professors and students, but they first go through an evaluation process, Hwang said. Each tutor has his or her own profile, similar to Facebook, where students rate them by stars.

“You can never really rely on the notes 100 percent because nothing beats the information you get from a lecture, but I would definitely use them as a supplement to fill in any gaps I missed,” McAllen senior Karla Larraga said.

She said it would be interesting to get staff and students involved in the site, but it could encourage students not to attend class. However, “the money is good incentive” for those who are qualified to tutor and who would like to post notes, Larraga said.

If there is any insecurity about Schoology, feedback is welcomed by the group, Friedman said. Students can also join the Facebook group, schoology.com, to familiarize themselves with the site.

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Courtesy of Texas Christian University

Gregg Glime prepares to bat in the game against Texas Christian University at the Lupton Stadium Tuesday. Baylor lost, 3-2.

Bears fall to TCU, 3-2

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Chris Ellington's two-out double in the eighth inning scored Matt Vern, giving TCU a 3-2 win over Baylor on Tuesday.

Vern struck out with two outs in the eighth, but reached first base on a passed ball, essentially giving the Horned Frogs (15-12) an extra out.

Ellington followed with a double to center field, scoring Vern.

Relief pitcher Andrew Cashner (4-1) pitched a 1-2-3 inning in the ninth, striking out two.

Baylor (16-10) tied the game at 2 in the top of the eighth inning with a leadoff home run by pinch hitter Ben

For Brian Bateman's story on the Baylor/TCU game, visit www.baylor.edu/lariat

Booker.

The Bears loaded the bases later in the inning, but Jon Ringenberg struck out to end the threat.

TCU starter Seth Garrison struck out eight and gave up one run on three hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Craig Fritsch fell to 1-2. He gave up two runs on four hits in five innings, striking out seven.

The game started more than an hour late because Baylor's team bus broke down on the way to Fort Worth.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Members of the softball team are warming up prior to a tripleheader against the University of Louisiana at Monroe on March 1-2. Baylor won all three games.

Baylor Crew in need of new equipment

By Joe Holloway
Reporter

The Baylor Crew will hold a fundraiser from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today at La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant and Cantina.

Members of the club rowing team will be on hand to encourage guests to tell their servers that they're "with Baylor Crew." Fifteen percent of participants' bills will go directly to the team and will be put toward the purchase of new boats, equipment and the maintenance of existing boats, equipment and facilities.

"Everything gets really expensive," sophomore coxswain Alison Macfarlane said. "Especially the boats. They're like 50 feet."

Sophomore head coach Cory Osburn said most of the boats the team uses are too old for members to even remember who donated the money to get them.

"A lot of these boats were bought with large sums of money donated directly to the team," he said. "Most of the team, until now, couldn't tell you when or who what was because it just fell through the records. "This semester, we're turning that around."

A big part of the fundraiser will simply be thanking everyone who comes to support Baylor Crew.

"The big thing we're trying to do is change relations with people who do donate to us," Osburn said. "We want to be there to let people know that we really do appreciate them helping us out."

Crew has recently done catering work with Aramark as another means of fundraising. They also made shirts, which they sold at the Waco Scrimmage held in Cameron Park March 23.

Between school requirements and actually taking time to train and row, opportunities to raise money are few and far between.

"It's tough," Osburn said. "It's entirely student run, so it's very difficult to be giving so much



David Poe/Lariat staff

Baylor students learn how to carry a boat on Sept. 20, 2007 at the boat house. Baylor Crew is holding a fundraiser at La Fiesta Mexican Restaurant and Cantina from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. today.

of your time to this team and do everything else at the same time."

In addition to raising much-needed funds for the team, Osburn also said he hopes the event will raise general awareness.

"We're really trying to make the team more visible," he said. "This is just another way of doing that and getting some valuable fundraising in at the same time."

Members of crew are enthusiastic about their sport.

Not an easy attitude to have when practice often starts at 5 a.m.

"It's really fun. It's really laid back," freshman Josh Brame said. "You don't always have the right mindset at five in the

morning, but that just makes it more fun."

Brame also said that he hopes to spend more time on the water for the rest of the semester.

"We didn't have a whole lot of water time this semester just because there was a whole lot of stuff going on," he said. "We're training some new guys. We plan to have a lot more people and a lot more time on the water."

Women are also encouraged to join the team.

Women make particularly good coxswains since they are generally smaller than men. Coxswains steer the boats and provide motivation and coaching while the boats are in the water.

"We're always looking for coxswains," faculty adviser Amy

Goodman said. "If people are loud, bossy, or petite, they can be a coxswain."

Anyone who wants to be involved with Crew should contact the team president, Brian Reed, at Brian_Reed@Baylor.edu.

"It's open for all skill levels," Goodman said. "You don't have to have any experience to join."

Osburn said though sacrifices have recently been made in terms of going to regattas this semester, he believes fundraising like the event at La Fiesta will allow the team to do more next year.

"We're trying to cut our losses and build a nest egg for next semester," he said. "We can go to bigger competitions, do more hosting and things like that."

Softball can't bank on former success

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

With the amount of success the Lady Bears have had in previous years — most recently a trip to the Women's College World Series in 2007 — there's a distinct standard of excellence which Baylor softball is obliged to live up to.

But as the midway point of the conference season approaches, the Lady Bears' concerns have shifted more toward the prospect of just making it to the postseason.

Seven games into conference play, head coach Glenn Moore's team (18-12, 1-5) has already surpassed the number of losses suffered in Big 12 play from last year's squad. But Moore thinks there's still ample time to create success out of this year's team. Although the squad is laden with youth — as many as seven underclassmen start at times — the Lady Bears still boast a plethora of talent.

All 11 underclassmen earned All-State selections in their respective states at least once while in high school, including sophomore Kirsten Shortridge, who was named the 2006 Gatorade National Player of the Year while a senior at Keller High School.

So for Moore, it's not an issue of whether his team has the talent to compete in the Big 12 Conference, but discovering a way to get his team to mesh together and play prototypical Baylor softball.

"We have established a pretty consistent program here, and this year has just been a fight to keep our head above water in all aspects of the game," said Moore, whose team dropped out of the Top 25 Tuesday for the first time in nearly five years. "This program has a pretty firm foundation, so we will weather the storm. We have the right

players in here, they just have to decide they can get it done."

But crawling out of a slump is a lot easier said than done, especially when competing in the Big 12, one of the toughest conferences in the nation.

Even then, it will take a lot more consistency in the circle to revive the Lady Bears this season.

One of those players who has been struggling in the circle is Shortridge, who finished Big 12 play last season with an unblemished 6-0 record and 1.84 ERA. So far in conference play this season, Shortridge is 1-2 with an overwhelming 5.50 ERA.

"I am trusting my team, and I am trusting my good faith in the way God works and what he's doing with me to bounce back," Shortridge said. "I don't know what's going on. I'm giving my heart, and I'm working hard every time I step foot on the mound. It's just not falling my way."

Even with her sagging pitching performance, Shortridge is still making contributions to the team.

The pitcher/right fielder is leading the team with a .370 batting average and 17 stolen bases.

But until Shortridge can cure her blunders while pitching, Moore will have to rely on another arm to propel Baylor out of its slump. That arm could be the one of freshmen Shaina Brock.

Brock pieced together a strong season thus far and is the likely starter for tonight's game in Austin against the University of Texas Longhorns.

"I feel pretty confident from Sunday," Brock said. "If I do get the start, I think it will be good."

First pitch for tomorrow is scheduled for 6:05 p.m. and will be televised nationally on ESPNU.

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Chevelle, Finger Eleven rocked at rowdy show Sunday

By Jessica Belmares
Reporter

Admission lines that move at turtle pace, 10-minute concession lines and a random teeth-knocking punch to the face were all redeemed by rock and roll Sunday.

CONCERTREVIEW

Whiskey River, formerly known as Graham Central Station, located off of Highway 6 and Bosque Blvd. hosted a concert with performances by God or Julie, Finger Eleven and Chevelle. If it wasn't for the amazing show the artists delivered, I would have never stepped foot in Whiskey River again.

After arriving when the doors opened at 7 p.m., there were two long lines on both sides of the building that took five minutes just to walk to the end of. By the time I arrived inside the actual building, one hour and 45 minutes had passed, causing me to miss the opening act, God or Julie. Before the show, I was able to listen to a few of the band's



Courtesy photo

Finger Eleven played at Whiskey River Sunday night along with Chevelle.

songs from *This Road Before*, God or Julie's most recent album.

"We started our band about two years ago, but we really got things together about a year ago when Aaron and Matt joined," said lead singer Jon Paul Johnson. Drummer Aaron Stern was previously the drummer of Matchbook Romance until its dissolution in 2007.

Although a few songs, such as "Nothing Further From the

Truth" and "Let it Bleed Again," reminded me of Muse, but make no mistake, they still have their own unique sound worth listening to.

"We have a lot of influences," Johnson said. "I grew up with bands like Queen, The Beatles, Muse, Queens of the Stone Age and Foo Fighters."

Definitely take a peek at "Say Your Last Goodbye," which begins with such a beautiful

guitar riff that it gives your ears this elegant relaxed peacefulness only the rain and a few songs are able to achieve.

If it wasn't for the poor management of such a large crowd at Whiskey River, I would've actually been able to see them play, but I did make it in time to see headliners Finger Eleven and Chevelle.

And to my amazement, Finger Eleven rocked the stage so much that it erased the idea from my mind that it's a pop-rock band.

"We've always sort of written songs in order to write," Guitarist Rick Jacket said. "Sometimes they turn out like heavy rock and roll songs, and sometimes like pop-rock, but I think if we had to place ourselves in a genre, we tend to consider ourselves just a rock band."

Guitarist Rick Jacket delivered a performance that was the epitome of a rock artist. He and fellow band members were so into the music, you'd think this was their first time ever playing in front of a live audience.

The show was so energy-filled

and loud that crowd-surfing and mosh pits began to form in front of the stage. Jacket's lively performance (including his long black hair that he whipped around like a shampoo commercial), put a huge smile on my face and made me want to jump just as much as he did, only with an air guitar.

"It's all just self-expression," Jacket said. "If you can relate to it that's amazing. If it makes you feel great, then that's even cooler and if we can make you dance – that's awesome."

Some of the songs they played were from the 2007 album *Them Vs. You Vs. Me*, which included "Talking to the Walls," "Falling On," "One Thing" and their recent hit "Paralyzer."

Toward the end of "Paralyzer," Finger Eleven transitioned to a few covers, like Franz Ferdinand's "Take Me Out" and Pink Floyd's "Another Brick in the Wall," which had the crowd of a few hundred people singing louder than the band.

After Finger Eleven left the stage, rock band Chevelle topped the night off with a very energetic

and motivating show. The crowd was singing, jumping, dancing, moshing and crowd-surfing to every song Chevelle played.

The band began the act with "Antisaint," a song from its latest album, *Vena Sera*, as well as songs from prior albums, *Point #1*, *This Type of Thinking Could Do Us In* and *Wonder Whats Next*, with songs "Red," "Get Some," "Vitamin R" and "SMA."

After Chevelle ended, a man next to me was punched in the face and had his teeth knocked out, with no security in sight as he bled and smiled with only one tooth visible.

Overall, Whiskey River did a poor job handling the large crowd both inside and outside of the building. But seeing Finger Eleven and Chevelle made up for all of the negativity of the experience, including missing the the first act.

The energetic show was much better than listing to the albums in your car or at home.

If you're lucky enough to see this line-up, then go. Because these bands put on a once-in-a-lifetime rock and roll show.

'Run, Fatboy, Run' finds quirky fun factor from Simon Pegg

By Stephen Jablonski
Reporter

I never thought romance would be the next domain in Simon Pegg's portfolio of comic cinema.

Shaun of the Dead managed to impress by effectively lampooning the range of zombie flicks, and *Hot Fuzz* did the same with the cop action-genre.

Fans most likely met *Run, Fatboy, Run* with groans of pure pessimism.

MOVIEREVIEW

The previews made *Run, Fatboy, Run* out to be just as easily dismissed as every other hackneyed romantic comedy.

But while it does maintain some resemblance to the romantic comedy mol, *Fatboy* diverges in the style of writers Pegg and Michael Ian Black (from *Wet Hot American Summer* and short-lived Comedy Central sitcom *Stella*), and fledgling director David Schwimmer of *Friends* fame.

Personally, I think Black is brilliant, as is Pegg.

Both have constantly managed a reputation of outstanding comedic writing – and *Fatboy* doesn't disappoint.

Dennis (played by Pegg) ran out on his pregnant fiancée, Libby, (played by Thandie Newton) on their wedding day.

Five years later, he's trying to win her back and maintain a relationship with his son (Matthew Fenton) as the new boyfriend, Whit, (Frank Azaria) moves in.

Pegg has made a compelling protagonist since *Shaun of the Dead*. He's personable and relatable; you want to see him succeed because he's believable as an honest, kind-hearted schlub.

Aided by his strange and sloppy sidekick, Gordon (a character reminiscent of *Notting Hill*'s Spike, played by Dylan Moran) and mentor Mr. Ghoshdashitdar (Harish Patel), Dennis effortlessly gains the audience's full-fledged support against Azaria's notable portrayal of the self-absorbed Whit.

Newton, however, is somewhat stale as Libby.

Her performance as the desirable "one-that-got-away" relies heavily on assurances that Dennis and Libby's relationship was, in fact, one of unprecedented chemistry.

Libby is beautiful, but bland; Dennis is flawed, but personable.

It takes some imagination to believe that these two were meant to be. Cute-kid Matthew Fenton as Jake seems like the real risk for Dennis.

Pegg and Fenton are well-paired for a father-son dynamic, and any scene when they share the screen works.

Run, Fatboy, Run starts off fairly slow, and some crucial plot points seem rushed, including a scene that involves a 30-second cameo by Stephen Merchant (co-creator of BBC and NBC's *The Office*).

But, like a fat kid on a down slope, the momentum builds for the last half of the movie.

Once the characters are established, the story engages in effortless comedic interaction and Dennis' unsteady metamorphosis.

Grade: B



Courtesy of New Line

Simon Pegg stars in the comedy *Run, Fatboy, Run*, which hit theaters Friday.

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Godspeed by Ben Humeniuk



FRAT from page 1

Within the Panhellenic system, however, the groups seem to come together to support the sororities in need, Knight said. An example he gave was of T-shirts the council sold in the past in support of other groups during their continuous recruitment.

“That would never happen with fraternities. There’s no way. And I think a lot of that is because the sororities are tied together through the Panhellenic Council,” Knight said.

Austin junior A.J. Meditz, the recruitment chair for IFC, said the council is working to unify the fraternities it includes.

“Ideally, we’d like the structure that Panhellenic has,” Meditz said. “We’re trying to create a Greek life that the fraternities can get plugged in to.”

The members of IFC are also working to create a medium for continuing to host rush events including non-IFC fraternities such as Kappa Omega Tau, Phi Kappa Chi and Beta Upsilon Chi.

At the moment these groups participate in IFC recruitment events without paying the membership fees the other chapters do.

Outside of the support IFC or Panhellenic provides the organizations, Meditz said he believes the success of a group comes from the members the group recruits as well as the goals it sets.

Director of Student Activities Scott Wade said in an e-mail that he has found that five things lead to an organization’s success. The first two are the group’s knowledge and pursuit of their goals and the perseverance the group possesses when they encounter challenges. Others include the involvement of the group’s advisers, alumni and national organizations, if applicable.

BOND from page 1

hired MBIA Inc. and Ambac Financial Group, respectively, to insure their stadium debt, unaware that those companies were heavily exposed to subprime debt,” the article reads. “Now that the subprime lending industry has collapsed, both companies have been fending off challenges to their top-notch financial ratings, which reflect directly upon the quality of the stadium’s debt in the marketplace.”

Likewise, as XL Capital continued to decline, the interest rate on university bonds escalated. The better the credit score of a company or individual, the less interest they will pay on borrowed money.

The 2002 and 2006 series bonds hovered near a 3 percent to 4 percent interest rate, Ramsower said, but shot up to 8 percent in recent weeks.

Ramsower said the university has decent credit and would be “rocking along” if it hadn’t looked to an outside insurer.

Dropping the bond insurer meant the university, for the first time, attained a credit rating on its own merit, without the assurance of an insurer’s good credit. The university applied to receive its own credit score through Standard

and Poor’s, and Fitch Ratings. The two companies assigned Baylor a rating of AA-.

Bonds issued in 2002 and 2006 were rated AAA, according to Moody’s Ratings.

Jonathan Hook, chief investment officer, supports the financial action Ramsower and the university treasurer’s office took to obtain a credit rating.

“It is important for Baylor to be able to issue new debt on our timetable and under our own credit rating,” Hook said. He also said the insurance of XL Capital “went from being an asset to the University to being a liability.”

In an article on the Web site of *Business Weekly*, Fitch Ratings named “a sustained track record of healthy operating performance and liquidity; storing student demand and competitive academic profile; and an experienced management team which possesses a solid planning and financial/investment management background” as contributors to the AA- rating. The article also listed offsetting credit factors, including a lack of fundraising over the last five fiscal years, but said university fundraising efforts have picked up in recent years.

The article also cites “an increasing, though still man-

CUBA from page 1

underused or fallow, and officials are transferring some of it to individual farmers and associations representing small, private producers. According to official figures, cooperatives already control 35 percent of arable land —

and produce 60 percent of the island’s agricultural output.

“Everyone who wants to produce tobacco will be given land to produce tobacco, and it will be the same with coffee,” said Orlando Lugo, president of Cuba’s national farmers association.

The change is a sharp contrast to the early days of

ageable, debt burden” as another detriment, saying this debt may become a problem if not met by philanthropic support.

But Ramsower said university debt, different from personal debt, is not something to be rebuked.

“Debt for a university is not something that has to be combated. There is a level of debt that is prudent and wise. As a university grows, that level can grow as well, but we always have to be very mindful that the amount of debt is manageable, that it is prudent, and that it is adding value,” Ramsower said.

He said the primary use of the 2006 bonds was funding Brooks Village, while 2002 bonds went to funding the Baylor Sciences Building and North Village. Ramsower said incurring debt for these projects was worthwhile.

Another advantage of issuing these bonds, Ramsower said, is that many generations of students will ultimately pay for the use of these facilities.

“Should the parents of one generation of students have to pay for the science building or should the whole cohort of students who will use that building have to pay?” Ramsower said. “That’s the concept of a bond...everybody pays a tiny bit.”

Cuba’s revolution, when the government forced or encouraged private farmers to turn their land over to the state or form government-controlled collective farms. But without more details, it was difficult to tell the significance of program, which began last year but was announced only this week.

Third-graders plotted to attack teacher, cop says

By Russ Bynum
The Associated Press

WAYCROSS, Ga. — A group of third-graders plotted to attack their teacher, bringing a broken steak knife, handcuffs, duct tape and other items for the job and assigning children tasks including covering the windows and cleaning up afterward, police said Tuesday.

The plot involving as many as nine boys and girls at Center Elementary School in south Georgia was a serious threat, Waycross Police Chief Tony Tanner said.

School officials alerted police Friday after a pupil tipped off a teacher that a girl had brought a weapon to school. Tanner said the students apparently planned to knock the teacher unconscious with a crystal paperweight, bind her with the handcuffs and tape and then stab her with the knife.

“We did not hear anybody say they intended to kill her, but could they have accidentally killed her? Absolutely,” Tanner said. “We feel like if they weren’t interrupted, there would have been an attempt. Would they have been successful? We don’t know.”

The children, ages 8 to 10, were apparently mad at the teacher because she had scolded one of them for standing on a chair, Tanner said.

Two of the students were arrested on juvenile charges Tuesday and a third arrest was expected. District Attorney Rick Currie said other students told investigators they didn’t take the plot seriously or insisted they had decided not to participate.

“Some of the kids said, ‘We thought they were just kidding,’” Currie said. “Another child was supposed to bring a toy pistol, and he told a detective he didn’t bring it because he thought he would get in trouble.”

Currie said the children

are too young to be charged as adults, and probably too young to be sentenced to a youth detention center.

Police seized a steak knife with a broken handle, steel handcuffs, duct tape, electrical and transparent tape, ribbons and the paperweight from the students, Tanner said.

Currie said he decided to seek juvenile charges against two girls, ages 9 and 10, who brought the knife and paperweight and an 8-year-old boy who brought tape. He said all three students faced charges of conspiracy to commit aggravated assault, and both girls were being charged with bringing weapons to school.

Nine children have been given discipline up to and including long-term suspension, said Theresa Martin, spokeswoman for the Ware County school system. She would not be more specific but said none of the children had been back to school since the case came to light.

The purported target is a veteran educator who teaches third-grade students with learning disabilities, including attention deficit disorder, delayed development and hyperactivity, friends and parents said.

The scheme involved a division of roles, Tanner said. One child’s job was to cover windows so no one could see outside, he said. Another was supposed to clean up after the attack.

“We’re not sure at this point in the investigation how many of the students actually knew the intent was to hurt the teacher,” Tanner said.

He said the teacher told detectives the children involved weren’t known as troublemakers.

“You can’t dismiss it,” Tanner said. “But because they are kids, they may have thought this was like a cartoon — we do whatever and then she stands up and she’s OK. That’s a hard call.”

OIL from page 1

solar and biofuels, Republican lawmakers called for opening more areas for drilling to boost domestic production of oil and gas.

What would bring lower prices? asked Rep. James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin, the committee’s ranking Republican.

“We need access to all kinds of energy supply,” replied Robert Malone, chairman of BP America, adding that 85 percent of the country’s coastal waters are off limits to drilling.

But Markey wanted to know why the companies aren’t invest-

ing more in energy projects other than oil and gas — or giving up some tax breaks so the money could be directed to promote renewable fuels and conservation and take pressure off oil and gas supplies.

“Why is Exxon Mobil resisting the renewable revolution,” asked Markey, noting that the other four companies together have invested \$3.5 billion in solar, wind and biodiesel projects.

Exxon is spending \$100 million on research into climate change at Stanford University, replied Simon, but current alternative energy technologies “just do not have an appreciable

impact” in addressing “the challenge we’re trying to meet.”

The appearance Tuesday before the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming was not the first time that oil executives had faced the harsh words of a lawmakers frustrated over their inability to do anything about soaring oil and gasoline costs.

In November 2005, executives of the same companies sought to explain high energy costs at a Senate hearing at which Hofmeister emphasized the cyclical nature of his industry. “What goes up almost always comes down,” he told the senators on a day when oil cost \$60 a barrel.

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