

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

Interlocking BU back on football helmets

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

Advocates of the interlocking BU spurred enough protest to the marketing scheme of spelling-out “Baylor” that university officials budged. The traditional BU will still appear on football helmets, according to an e-mail from the president’s office sent to faculty and staff Thursday afternoon. “We determined initially that we should leverage the

strength of the Baylor name by using it on our football helmets in place of the interlocking ‘BU.’ We have heard from a number of members of the Baylor family, however, and, as a result, we have concluded that while this suggestion makes sense from a branding perspective, we acknowledge the value of our traditional symbols. We will honor our past by retaining our current football colors and our interlocking ‘BU’ logo,” the e-mail reads.

Colorado Springs, Colo., freshman John Funk, who favors the BU, seemed pleased with the decision. “That’s a start,” Funk said, regarding the football helmet logos. “That’s good that (the administration) is listening to (students). (Administrators) should think about our roots... and our tradition.” Phoenix, Ariz., junior Brett Waltemath agreed, saying, “I know a lot of students are really passionate about it and want to

see it remain on the helmets.” Dr. David Eldridge, a biology professor who has been at Baylor close to 40 years, supports the BU mark. “I think it’s an important part of Baylor history,” Eldridge said. In an effort to more effectively market Baylor, the university sought the help of a third-party branding consultant, who recommended the university write out Baylor in place of BU wherever space permitted.

This would avoid confusion between Baylor and Boston University, which also goes by BU. However, Boston’s mark does not interlock and boasts the colors red and white. Despite these differences, Oak Cliff senior Benny Barrett saw the reasoning behind the need for marketing distinction. “Clearly, it’d be in Baylor’s best interests to distinguish itself from Boston University, lest those who are colorblind

mistakenly travel to the Northeast for their education.” Students asked President John Lilley Monday at an open forum about the reasoning behind the marketing endeavor. One student said the marketing scheme seemed to suggest that Baylor is “inferior” to Boston University. “It’s the ‘Baylor’ that has the big quality, national reputation. It’s just common sense,” Lilley said at the forum.



David Poe/Lariat staff

Former Baylor softball pitcher Cristen Vitek returns to Gettman Stadium Wednesday to throw out the first pitch at the Lady Bears’ game against Texas. Vitek broke many records during her time at Baylor and graduated in 2004.

Record-breaking alum overcomes critical obstacle

Former pitcher returns to Gettman Stadium to throw first pitch after surviving kidney failure, complications

By Will Parchman
Sports editor

Cristen Vitek slips indiscreetly from her car in the vast Gettman Stadium parking lot less than two hours before Baylor softball’s 6:30 opening pitch in Wednesday’s contest against the University of Texas. She knows this, of course, because she’s the one throwing it. Walking gingerly to the softball clubhouse, she greets Baylor players with warm smiles and genuine hugs, some of whom she’s met before, some she’s only talked with through circuitous well-wishes and encouraging text messages. She graduated from Baylor and the program in 2004, so most of her personal friends are gone. From the outpouring of support from these perfect strangers, you could never tell. It’s a strange sight for Vitek, considering the tumultuous ordeal she recently went through. “I always used to get nervous and (get) butterflies before the

game, and it’s the same way now being back here — so it’s good to have that feeling again,” Vitek said. “It’s great to be back here.” The sympathetic looks on the players’ faces are for Vitek’s miraculous rise from the edge of death. The pitcher who once looked invincible in setting the NCAA single-game strikeout record with 28 in 2004 was humbled by kidney failure in January and laid lower by the ensuing infections. As her ruddy complexion and bouncy step can attest, those days are largely behind her. Vitek established an unparalleled level of success for Baylor softball during her tenure. Head coach Glenn Moore recruited her voraciously during his time at Louisiana State University and loved her so much that he made Vitek the keystone of his first Baylor recruiting class in 2000. She didn’t disappoint. Vitek set and currently owns 13 career and season Baylor pitching records, including most career wins. She also owns the top two single-season strikeout performances in school history and has struck out 150 more batters than any other Baylor pitcher. As Moore freely admits now,

Please see **VITEK**, page 4



Associated Press

Children from the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are transported Tuesday from the San Angelo Coliseum to various parts of the state after 51st District Judge Barbara Walther signed an order to place the children in foster care facilities.

Waco home expects to receive 47 compound children

By Victoria Mgbemena
Staff writer

The Waco Children’s Methodist Home is expecting to receive 47 children taken from the Eldorado compound of polygamist leader Warren Jeffs within the next 24 hours. The update came Wednesday afternoon. Local media had been camped out in front of the home, awaiting the children’s arrival and receiving briefings on the status of the situation. State officials raided the compound April 3 after receiving a tip from a teenager who alleged she had been abused within the compound. The compound was home to followers of The Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The Associated Press reported Wednesday that DNA testing for the paternity of the children, who were temporarily housed at a coliseum in San Angelo, had finished. The children are currently being taken to foster care facilities statewide. Bryan Mize, Waco Methodist Children’s Home public relations director, said that, to date, the home has not received any children, nor received any requests from the state, but is

Please see **WACO**, page 4

Dyer to leave School of Social Work at semester

By Shannon Daily
Staff writer

With photos of his children and grandchildren on his door and lining his office walls, it’s not hard to see what Dr. Preston Dyer finds important. “You can always tell where Preston’s grandchildren are in life because of the pictures on his door,” said Dr. Gaynor Yancey, associate dean of baccalaureate studies for the School of Social Work. Dyer, a professor emeritus in the School of Social Work, will retire at the end of this semester after close to 40 years of work with the university. He originally came to Baylor from Georgia as a student headed for the pulpit, but changed his plans after taking an introductory course in social work. “I’d never even heard of social work before,” Dyer said. “I cancelled my apartment and cancelled my admission at the seminary and instead went to social work school.” Now, Dyer is known for his integral part in taking social work at Baylor from a simple course series

to an independent school within the university, having been in administrative and teaching roles since 1969. “He actually hired me. He hired most of us,” Yancey said. “And I think this is part of his legacy for us. He’s had the vision of what we need to be as a school.” In his position as a teacher, Dyer is best known for his marriage and the family class. “It’s a very well-attended class with as many as 200 students,” Yancey said. Dyer has taught the course at Baylor five times a year since 1969. That makes close to 200 times he’s taught the class. While he originally taught the class by himself, he said he felt it needed a female voice. “There ought to be a male and a female voice in this course, because there really is a male marriage and a female marriage,” Dyer said. So in 1990, Dr. Genie Dyer, Dyer’s wife, began co-teaching the class with him. Genie retired from teaching in the spring of 2007. “Interestingly, we had students say a lot of times that they learned



Jeff Leslie/Lariat staff

Dr. Preston Dyer, professor emeritus in the School of Social Work, and his family Thursday at First Baptist Woodway church. Dyer is retiring at the end of the semester after working close to 40 years at Baylor.

more from watching how we dealt with each other than they did from what we said,” Dyer said. “And I should’ve known that.” Dyer said the class had a male and a female voice: as well as a third voice, the voice of the marriage. The co-teaching also offered an example of a long-term, functional relationship, he said. “Almost every semester we’d have at least one student say, ‘this is the first time I’ve ever seen a marriage in which both people are happy,’” Genie said. Dyer said he’d heard of marriage and the family courses being co-

taught before, but never by a married couple. Outside of his work in the classroom, Dyer also has a private practice in marriage therapy, and works with Genie in bringing a more academic side to social work in the nation of Moldova. After his retirement, he will continue his work in these areas as well as teach two internship courses for the School of Social Work. So some people may wonder, is he really retiring? He paused, then smiled and said, “What I’m looking for out of retirement is more flexibility.”

Student Senate allocates \$7,000 to senior gift

By Sommer Ingram
Staff writer

In Thursday night’s meeting, Student Senate voted to allocate more than \$7,000 to the senior class for their senior gift. The money will come from the Student Life Fund, which currently has a surplus, and will help the senior class establish an endowed scholarship. The scholarship will be permanent and grow every year from its generated interest, and in fifty years has the potential to become the largest endowed scholarship at Baylor. “The senior class has been working really hard this year and has been really successful in raising money,” said Plano sophomore Jessica Liu, sponsor of the bill. “The more we put into this, the more we get out of it. This is something that’s always going to be here and I think it’s great.” The scholarship will be based on merit as well as need. “I’m really in favor of this because something we haven’t really done with our (fund) this year is work on making long-lasting improvements with our money,” Kansas City, Kan., senior Thomas Herndon said. “By donating to this, it allows us to have a lasting impact on our Baylor community.” Houston sophomore Chris Paxton said that

Please see **SENATE**, page 4

Olympic boycott harms athletes, not governments

This world is defined by diversity. With nearly 200 countries, around 6,800 languages and thousands more cultures and societies, it's hard to imagine something that connects all the dots of humanity.

But once every four years, we see it happen.

During the triumphant opening ceremony of the summer Olympic Games, the world's problems seem to melt away. As the flags and peoples of different nationalities march proudly around the stadium, a medley of cultures is paraded for all to see.

It seems as though each ceremony tries to top the previous one, often resulting in some of the most beautifully innovative performances of our time. Even

if you're watching the spectacular night on television, it's still a fascinating experience. Who knew that souls could be so intoxicated by such sights, sounds and feelings?

Then, for a couple of weeks the world lives in harmony, as nations come to compete, not to fight. Hate is replaced with the spirit of athleticism, and the incredible talent represented enthralls us all.

Granted, the Olympics is never free from controversy. But it's the closest this world has ever come to gathering peacefully. It's a much-needed pause from reality, one that turns the spotlight on healthy competition rather than hopeless disparities. It's a time to connect, to admire and to revere the variety



BY ASHLEY KILLOUGH

this world has to offer.

But this year is different. Still four months away, the Beijing Olympics have already been stamped with objection.

Instead of shining its symbolic light to welcoming audiences around the world, the Olympic flame has been greeted with protests and attacks. This summer will be marked by more boycotts and condemning statements, rather than the excited anticipation that usually ampli-

fies in the months leading up to the Games.

Talk about a downer.

On the one hand, it's admirable that some world leaders and a few athletes care enough about human rights to pass on such a historic event. I'd say that's a pretty selfless and respectable move.

On the other hand, is that really going to help anything?

It's like refusing to go to an art show because the gallery owner partakes in some shady deals with business partners. Sure, the owner will be short the money he put in for the show, but the artists are the one who are truly affected. They're the ones who've worked passionately and fervently, only to have their talent ignored.

Boycotts hurt athletes and the spirit of the Olympics, not the host country. While I wish the Chinese government would allow more freedom for its people and cut its deals with Sudan, I don't think causing commotion over the Games (an event the nation has spent billions in preparation for) is going to influence China to change anything. There are other, more diplomatic ways to handle this.

On a side note, thousands of journalists will be flooding Chinese streets this summer. In a country where the domestic press faces harsh restrictions, here is a chance for the foreign media to expose some of China's hidden secrets. But if no one goes to the Olympics, journalists have less incentive,

and probably less freedom, to investigate.

Call me an idealist Olympo-holic, but this is a crucial time for the world to come together and appreciate our cultural mosaic rather than bicker over who has a better human rights record. I hate to see this momentous occasion ruined by the telling signs of our world's problems.

Anyone who knows me knows that I'm passionate about this world being a better place. However, as Paul McCartney sings, there will be an answer. And I don't think that answer is to boycott an event shared by all nations.

Just let it be.

Ashley Killough is a junior international studies and journalism major from Plano.

Editorial

U.S. owes veterans better treatment

No matter how divided the nation's opinion on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is, nearly all Americans believe we should honor our veterans. Sadly, when soldiers return home from the battlefield in the Middle East, they are facing a domestic attack as well.

After the mental health ward at the Dallas VA was shut down in early April because the fourth suicide of the year, more questions are being raised about the quality of veteran suicide prevention.

Tuesday, in a lawsuit questioning the mental health programs at VA hospitals, an expert witness testified that veterans are killing themselves at three to seven times the rate of the general population, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

Perhaps that statistic shouldn't come as a surprise, considering VA lacks a comprehensive plan for suicide prevention.

While the Dallas VA has spent more than \$250,000 in the last six months in the name of suicide prevention, the money was used to safety-proof rooms of at-risk patients, not to create a better plan for diagnosis and treatment. Obviously, ensuring that doorknobs, shower curtains and light fixtures could not be easily used to hang oneself is an important part of making veterans safer.

But the more important issue is: why do they want to take their own



life in the first place? We must look deeper into the issue rather than settling for a quick fix.

Unfortunately, if someone really wants to inflict personal injury, there is no amount of metal filing or safety locking that can prevent it.

We must look beyond furniture renovations to address the increased rate of depressed and suicidal veterans. The current method of "diagnosing" the severity of mental illness includes asking the patient if he or she

has thought about committing suicide or that life was meaningless in the last two weeks. This is an insufficient way to treat any human being who has experienced trauma, much less our military heroes.

These men and women have seen unspeakable horrors of war and deserve much more personal attention and mental analysis than is currently provided.

Especially considering the possibility that large levels of troops will

be headed home in the next few years, we need to take a more proactive approach to suicide prevention.

We have already lost more than 4,000 soldiers in combat and we cannot afford to lose any more to suicide.

Before the Dallas psychiatric ward re-opens, there needs to be more comprehensive psychological treatment in place. When treating a mental illness, one must take into account more than just the physical environment as a means of prevention.

Letters to the editor

Reviews shouldn't grade play

I wanted to say that I appreciated the review of "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" that appeared in the April 24 issue of *The Baylor Lariat*. As a theatre program that wants audiences, we appreciate any press, especially such positive comments as those expressed in the review.

I would like to make a suggestion however. The article concluded with a grade for the production.

In this case, the reviewer gave a favorable "A-", so it may seem like splitting hairs, but I question the authority of a student who is not educated in theatre to evaluate the play holistically. It is certainly appropriate to give

a "student's perspective" on the play, describing how much it was enjoyed, who would most benefit from seeing it, etc. Perhaps even a less objective sounding scale (like thumbs up or down, stars or bear claws) would be more appropriate for such a task.

However, to plaster an arbitrary grade at the end of the article implies an authority the reviewer has not earned. It would be ridiculous for me, a theatre graduate student, to assume I could accurately evaluate the quality of a law student's arguments, a chemistry student's experiments or even a journalism student's review of a theatre production. I could offer up details about my personal reactions, but my wholesale evalua-

tion of their efforts wouldn't be worth much.

I'm not suggesting that you do away with reviews. In fact, I think it somewhat courageous to allow students to express opinions about the arts and entertainment produced by other students. I merely question *The Baylor Lariat* staff's qualifications to give an objective, authoritative grade to a work of art.

Dan Buck
Directing 2010

Baylor needs ID discussion

It has been many years since I have written to *The Baylor Lariat*. Last night, I went to a theater to view *Expelled*, the new film

by Ben Stein. This documentary highlights many incidents in which anyone who favors intelligent design over Darwinism is persecuted by the academic elite.

Unfortunately, Baylor was depicted as one of those institutions that does not tolerate dissent when it comes to politically-correct Darwinism. This film is now being shown all over the country and will likely be seen all over the world.

I would like to challenge the students and faculty to show the rest of the world how searching for truth and how honest intellectual inquiry should work in a Christian university.

Why not invite Ben Stein to come speak at Baylor, and inter-

act with students? Why not contact the Discovery Institute and host one of their conferences on Intelligent Design (like the one held at SMU last spring)?

Remember what the old Book says, "Wake up! Strengthen what remains..."

Tim Stainback
Alum 1986

'Expelled' film just a joke

Re: the April 24 article "*Expelled* encourages intelligent design discussion, Chen says."

The film portrays the science community as a close-minded group of naysayers that cannot accept challenging hypotheses.

What is especially telling is the number of scientists who do

indeed look at creationist science and ID to refute them.

Now, is that because there is a close-minded establishment or is it because the ID evidence is intellectual swill that is a danger to the legitimate pursuit of science?

This isn't about academic freedom — it's about ID and creation science playing the victim to pass a fraud on the American public.

How about a little sympathy for evolutionary theory, which, even though backed up by strong evidence, was repressed by religious dogmatism to a much greater extent than ID will ever face?

Ryan Latham
Law 2009

The Baylor Lariat

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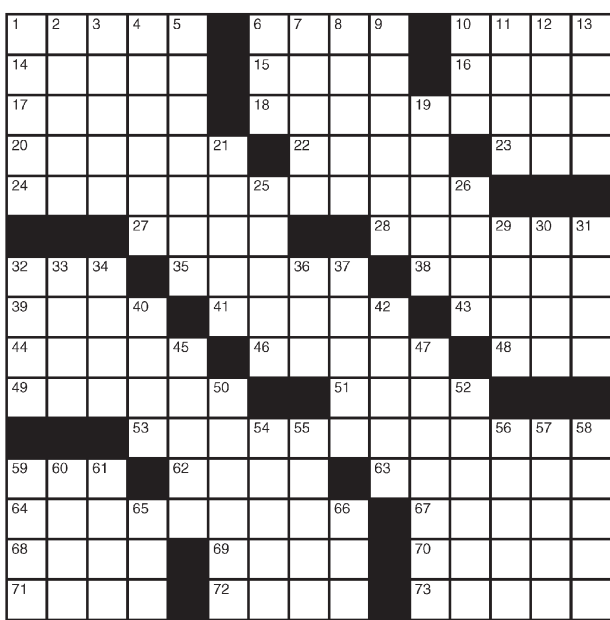
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By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

4/25/08

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

Bears remain in play

Lacrosse team digs in for quarterfinals in playoffs against University of North Texas

By Lori Cotton
Reporter

Texas Tech University was all that stood between the Baylor men's lacrosse team and the 2008 playoffs.

So when Baylor beat the Red Raiders 9-8 in Lubbock, sending them to the playoffs for the first time in the team's history, Baylor was treading brand new ground.

The Baylor club team is gearing up to play in the Division I North quarterfinal match-up against the University of North Texas. The game starts at 7 p.m. at host-school Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

After playing a 12-game season against teams in the Lone Star Alliance, Baylor is facing off against their biggest rivals in the sport. Baylor and UNT are tied with four division wins in the conference. A win on Saturday will send Baylor to the semi-finals to be played at Texas Stadium.

Earlier this season, Baylor lost to UNT, 11-12 in overtime. But the win over Texas Tech gave them a shot for a rematch against the Mean Green.

"It was a do or die game for both of us but everybody dug deep and our team played great," junior midfielder Michael Magee



Courtesy photo

Senior Andrew Brochu drives to the goal against Vanderbilt University at the campus of Southern Methodist University February 10. The Bears lost, 40-18.

said about the win.

Freshmen Luke Whyte and Ben Kessler and seniors Andrew Brochu and Chris Jones are ranked among the top 25 scorers per game in the Lone Star Alliance this season.

"This year, we have the most talent, we've put a lot into the team and we keep getting better and better," junior defense Preston Benditz said.

Head coach Jonathan Cofer has seen an increase in team commitment since he began coaching three years ago.

"The team really came together and believed in themselves," he said.

The team goal for the 2008 season was to make it to the conference championship. Baylor lost to only two teams in the conference this season, SMU and UNT, by a combined two goals.

"This is the first time Baylor lacrosse has made it to the playoffs during the four years I have been playing on the team," captain Andrew Brochu said. "So I am really excited to finally be able to complete in postseason games."

Coach Cofer said this has been the best week of practice this season. His advice to the team for the rematch against UNT is "to take advantage of the opportunity, and act like this is our championship game."

"We want to get them back. There's a big revenge factor," Benditz said.

A win on Saturday would send the team to Texas Stadium on May 2 to face off against Texas A&M University, the No. 1 team in the LSA South. The conference championship will be played May 3 at Texas Stadium.

Tennis aims for Big 12 titles

Lady Bears strive for third consecutive title in College Station

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

When describing the Baylor women's tennis program's success over the past few years, anything less than sheer domination would be a catastrophic understatement.

Winning the past four consecutive regular-season Big 12 championship titles and past two consecutive Big 12 Tournament titles has created quite the lofty resume for the No. 3 Lady Bears.

Add in Zuzana Zemenova's 2005 NCAA Singles Championship, and it's no wonder why head coach Joey Scrivano's club is the heavy favorite to win the 2008 Big 12 Tournament this weekend in College Station.

"We had to work real hard to get on top and now that we are there, we don't want to lose that position," Scrivano said. "We have got a big bull's-eye on our back, but I wouldn't have it any other way."

The Lady Bears (25-2, 11-0) recently finished off the regular

Bears to face strong competition from Oklahoma State

By Joe Holloway
Reporter

The No. 11 men's tennis team travels to College Station as the second-seeded team to take on the seventh-seeded University of Nebraska in the first round of the Big 12 Championship at 9 a.m. today.

The tournament comes a week after Baylor clinched a share of its eighth Big 12 title in nine years. The Bears dominated the Huskers a week ago at the Baylor Tennis Center, taking the match 7-0.

"Nebraska's a match that we feel, if we play at our level, we'll be fine," head coach Matt Knoll said.

Should Baylor come away with the victory, they will then play the winner of the Oklahoma State University-University of Oklahoma match. Knoll said he believes that Oklahoma State will be the victor of that match, and that a match between the Bears and the Cowboys would be the first "compelling" match of the tournament for Baylor.

"That's a match that we're going to have to play well," he said. "We split with them this year. They're every bit as talented as we are. We're going to have to be ready to go."

The loss to Oklahoma State came early in the season at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association National Team Indoor Championships. Despite taking the doubles point for an early lead, the Bears were only able to win one singles match in the 4-2 loss to the Cowboys back in February.

"Oklahoma State was better today," Knoll said at the time. "They competed and played at a higher level than we did."

However, when the two met again in April, Baylor was able to take the doubles point and five of six singles matches to take home a lopsided 6-1 victory.

season with a 7-0 sweep against the No. 21 University of Texas. No opponent got closer in Big 12 play than 5-2 against the Lady Bears, but as Scrivano said, the postseason is a completely different atmosphere.

"The regular season's over, and that was great that we played well," the sixth-year head coach said. "Now it's the postseason and you have to really focus. I think our players realize that this is what we have been practicing for the whole year."

But it will be more than focus that will be driving Zemenova, one of the greatest players to come through the women's tennis program, this weekend at the George P. Mitchell Tennis Center.

Zemenova holds an unheralded 36-0 record in Big 12 regular season play during her tenure at Baylor. Her lone loss as a Lady Bear came in last season's Big 12 Tournament against the University of Texas's Vanja Corovic.

Although Zemenova redeemed herself against Corovic last week in Austin with a 6-2, 6-1 victory, she said the redemption would be much sweeter on a more substantial stage.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

David Galic pumps his fist in a game against Texas Tech University April 19 at the Baylor Tennis Center. The Bears won, 5-2.

The winner of a match between Baylor and Oklahoma State would then advance to the finals, where they would play the winner of a match between the University of Texas and either Texas A&M University or Texas Tech University, depending on the winner of the match between the Aggies and the Raiders. But, Knoll said that the focus remains mostly on Oklahoma State.

"It's easy not to look beyond them because we know we're going to have our hands full there," he said. "They're ranked in the top 20, so it's a nationally competitive match."

However, after a heartbreaking 4-3 loss to Texas little more than a week ago at the Baylor Tennis Center, the Bears would love to get another shot at the Longhorns in the final.

"In conference, we beat every-

"I beat her last week, and of course I am going to beat her this week," the Kosice, Slovakia senior said. "We have played all these teams before, so we know what to expect. If we come out and do what we are supposed to do, we are going to win the tournament, in my opinion."

Even though Zemenova plays on the No. 1 court, it is her sophomore teammate Lenka Broosova who currently stands with a No. 17 national ranking, seven spots ahead of Zemenova. Broosova could boast the fact that she is ranked ahead of her elder teammate.

But instead she is worried about a more critical ranking — the team ranking — and more importantly, what the team's ranking is at the conclusion of the season.

"We are third in the nation," the Banska Bystrica, Slovakia native said. "Any team that is lower than us is going to come with the best tennis they have, because they want to beat us. We are one of the best teams in the nation."

Baylor opens up tournament play at 9 a.m. today when it plays the winner of the University of Oklahoma-Texas Tech University match.

Business students win symposium

By Ashley Killough
Reporter

A team of business students placed first Saturday at the Texas Investment Practicum Symposium hosted by Texas A&M University, marking Baylor's second year to win the competition.

During the symposium, students pitched their student-managed investment portfolio to a group of judges in a 10-minute presentation on why someone should hypothetically invest in their portfolio.

Baylor's team members included Ft. Worth senior West Gotcher, Plano senior Samer Baransi and Mansfield senior Kyle Moses.

After competing with students from the University of Houston, University of Texas, Rice University, Trinity University and Wesleyan University, Baylor tied with Rice for first place. As a tiebreaker, the judges were asked which team they would trust with \$1 million of their own money. They said Baylor.

"I was not surprised, but certainly excited," Gotcher said. "Considering we were defending champions, the bar was set high for the team. We took it upon ourselves to rise to the challenge and take home first place

again."

Moses said participating in the competition affirmed him in his work of managing the portfolio.

"Being able to beat other major universities in Texas was a pretty impressive feeling," Mansfield said. "It definitely makes you feel good about what you're doing."

Established in 2000 with an initial endowment of \$250,000 from Philip Dorr of Chicago and \$150,000 from alumni, the fund has grown to close to \$6.5 million.

It's managed by students in the Portfolio Practicum class taught by Scott Pittman, director of investments and lecturer of finance, insurance and real estate. Once a year, the fund provides a cash distribution for scholarships going to athletes who wish to pursue a degree in business.

The class presented a check in February at the UT — Baylor men's basketball game for \$215,000. A highly competitive course, admission to the class is application-based. It meets weekly in the Southwest Securities Financial Markets Center, located in the Hankamer School of Business.

Curriculum includes the class-wide management of a portfolio which replicates the

Standard & Poor's 500, a stock market index containing the stocks of 500 corporations.

Baransi said he appreciates the class for its effectiveness in teaching students how to operate in real world investment opportunities.

"The responsibility of managing millions of dollars make it one of my favorite classes," Baransi said. "It keeps us accountable and adds to the value of the work we're doing."

Baransi said taking the class this spring was especially timely.

"It was an exciting semester, because we were right up there on the front lines with the subprime mortgage crisis and the buy-out of Bear Sterns," Baransi said. "It was a good time to learn what makes companies resilient."

Baransi strongly recommended the class. He said the best way to fully experience the course is to keep up with the markets and read the Wall Street Journal on a daily basis. The practicum's realistic assignments gave Gotcher a taste of life after Baylor.

"The learning experience in the practicum has been tremendous," Gotcher said. "It offers students a chance to get out of the classic classroom environment and gain the experience needed in the world of finance."

BEAR BRIEFS

The freshman class officers are holding the Freshman Class Prayer Breakfast for Dinner at 6 p.m. Sunday in Barfield Drawing Room in the Bill Daniel Student Center. There will be free breakfast food. The event is only for freshman. For more information contact Emily_Saultz@baylor.edu.

Student Foundation will hold interest meetings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the Ed Crenshaw Center. For more information contact Jacki_Jensen@baylor.edu.

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Common Grounds to sponsor benefit event

By Emily Monti
Reporter

Imagine waking up and being surrounded by trash.

For the people of La Chureca, Nicaragua, this is a reality.

Love, Light and Melody, an organization that benefits the poor in Nicaragua, will be holding an event at Common Grounds from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday to raise money for the poverty-stricken people of Nicaragua.

The event is being sponsored by Common Grounds, Love, Light and Melody, and Jedidiah, a clothing company.

Jill Mashburn, who owns Common Grounds and who assists Love, Light and Melody, is

putting the event together.

“This is a combined effort of different people with different talents coming together for a common purpose to help people,” Mashburn said.

Mashburn got involved with the organization through founder Brad Corrigan, lead singer of Dispatch.

For the past two years, Corrigan has brought support to various Nicaraguan organizations working with the people of La Chureca, through an event called Dia de Luz, or Day of Light.

The event will feature live music and art by Esther Havens, who has taken photographs for the organization for two years.

Havens said her goal is to con-

nect with the people as much as possible.

“Even though these people are living in extreme poverty, they have a joy about them that I have never seen before,” she said.

Starting at 8 p.m., Seth Philpott and Whitney Whyte will take the stage for the remainder of the night. The show costs \$5.

A portion of sales from Common Grounds and money from all of the art sold will be donated to Love, Light and Melody.

“When I was in the trash dump (in La Chureca), I decided that 100 percent of my artwork sales would go to profit the mission of Love, Light and Melody,” Havens said.

During the event there will be

an option to make donations, and artists Kelli Murray, a designer for Jedidiah, and Austin Blasingame will be painting a mural on the side patio of Common Grounds.

Blasingame said he has always wanted to help people, and is now using his art to do just that. The mural will incorporate the event and will stem off of what Common Grounds is really about.

“The mural will be about bringing people together, which is a common goal of Common Grounds as well as Love, Light and Melody,” Blasingame said.

The mural will be started Friday so it can be completed early Saturday.

“The goal during Dia de Luz is to come together and walk with

the people of La Chureca hand in hand, showing that we care about them,” Havens said.

Close to 400 people are involved in Dia de Luz, and Love, Light and Melody is looking for more support, Mashburn said.

“We are trying to create an awareness of practical ways for people to get involved in the fight against extreme poverty,” Mashburn said.

Eventually, Love, Light and Melody would like to expand its reach farther than Nicaragua and plans to fight poverty on a broader level, Mashburn said.

For more information or to view some of the artwork being featured, visit lovelightandmelody.org or estherhavens.com.

SENATE from page 1

since the senior class has already met its set goal of \$25,000 for the scholarship, there is no need for the senate to allocate them additional funds.

“I do have concerns regarding the fact that this does set precedence,” Paxton said. “I wonder if this senior class sets the bar with getting money from the Student Life Fund, if this will become a pattern for the years to come.”

However, the senate previously allocated \$10,000 to the Immortal Ten statue, a past senior class gift.

“The precedent has already been set,” Silsbee junior Sam Moore said. “We have allocated money to a senior class gift before, so I don’t think this creates a dependency on the Student Life Fund. Because this gift builds on itself, I think it’s a unique opportunity for us.”

Senate also passed a support resolution to amend the attendance policy. As it currently stands, there is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences. Even university-excused absences, such as university-sponsored events and chronic illness count against students. The resolution also points out that Tier 1 universities, such as Harvard, Rice, and SMU, don’t have campuswide attendance policies.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Freshman Anna Imose had concerns about the resolution.

“To put a blanket policy over the entire student body kind of allows all people to claim that they have all sorts of problems and get out of class,” she said. “This bill sets us up to kind of do away with an attendance policy that is set up for a certain reason.”

The support resolution calls for the policy to be amended so that university-excused absences don’t count toward automatic failure of a class, and that students with serious illnesses should only be required to release pertinent medical history in order to secure an excused absence. It proposes that students be allowed excused absences on top of the 25 percent of classes they are already permitted to miss.

“It’s important to have a set policy in place so that some people don’t get accommodations made for them while others don’t,” Herndon said. “If there is a policy covering everyone, there is no bias in terms of some people getting lucky and talking to the right people while others don’t. I’m all for this bill.”

Junior Ray Panneton was appointed as a justice on the Student Court, and deputy chief justice Matt Crosby is the new chief justice.

VITEK from page 1

getting a player of her skill level to an unestablished program like Baylor’s was nothing short of a coup. She chose Baylor in part because of the visual commitments Baylor made to the softball program, but mostly to start a path to medical school and, eventually, to become a chiropractor.

“Knowing what she did for this program, she pretty much put us on the map in softball,” Moore said. “And that was back in the days where it wasn’t easy to get a top, high-caliber pitcher committ to you.”

“The Miracle Girl”

It was barely 10:30 on a cold Tuesday morning in late January 2008 when Vitek crammed herself into a car with a sore throat en route to the hospital. It seemed innocuous enough for the former Baylor softball pitching star, certainly not enough to cause serious alarm.

The doctors at the emergency care clinic at Memorial Herman Hospital in Katy promptly diagnosed her with pneumonia and sent her home with some routine antibiotic medicine.

But her condition upon her return home took a sudden and drastic downturn. A group of capillaries in her lungs had ruptured from an excessive amount of coughing, leaking dangerous bacteria into her blood stream and putting Vitek into septic shock. Her organs – most notably her kidneys – shut down as a result of a rapid loss of fluid, placing Vitek in a near-deadly stasis.

“I felt feverish one day; the next day I woke up with pneumonia and by that night I was septic,” Vitek said. “It was just so fast, there was no way to know.”

The early days of her hospitalization were full of uncertainty. She wasn’t allowed visitors because they agitated her delicate condition. She would often wake and grope wildly at the number of tubes that pulsed live-saving medicine through her veins. Vitek woke up during her first Saturday and motioned for a pen. With it she scribbled just three words onto a paper – “get me out.”

The following week was trying for the Vitek family. Cristen struggled with a recurring fever that befuddled the doctors, dialysis treatment wasn’t kick-starting her kidneys like it was meant to and a host of violent bacteria wouldn’t clear out of her system. The doctors taxed Vitek’s body to the limit, pumping her with over 100 pounds of excess fluid to flush out the harmful bacteria.

The family was locked in a state of limbo that had Vitek on continual deathwatch.

“I’m speechless. I don’t really know why it happened,” Vitek said. “I remember going into the emergency room but I don’t remember anything for awhile. It was really scary, because the methods they used were the last resort they had.”

Then, three weeks after that first cold January morning, Vitek’s kidneys simply started working. The nurses took to calling her “Miracle Girl” as she began roaming the hospital corridors, lost the dialysis machine and broke her interminable fever for good. She walked 240 feet during her first walk through the hospital halls, just far enough for a ball to clear the centerfield wall at Getterman Stadium.

“She looked at death in the eyes just a little while ago. Not only has she recovered, she looks awesome,” Moore said. “She’s almost a walking miracle, when they call the priest in and the family, and basically were prepared to say goodbye to her.”

From The Brink

Where Vitek’s kidneys failed, her friends and family succeeded in filling her hospital room with support. The tubes that weaved their way down her trachea during those first volatile moments prevented Vitek from speaking, but they couldn’t hide her smiles when her parents read her the scores of text messages from her former teammates, coaches, friends and family.

On Jan. 29, the nurses presented Vitek with more than 250 letters wishing her a speedy recovery. None of them had seen anything like it. Her family put together a binder that pieced together the emails and letters they’d received for her recovery. Former teammate Kelly Osburn even started a Facebook group monitoring Vitek’s condition that garnered 81 members, most of whom were current and former softball players.

While junior pitcher Brittany Turner might not have known Vitek personally, it didn’t stop her and the rest of the team from reaching out to her.

“We were really worried about her when she was sick, and we prayed for her a lot,” Turner said. “We had constant updates on how she was doing. She’s a fighter. The coaches always described her as a fighter, so deep down we all knew she’d be okay.”

Vitek still hopelessly gropes for the words to show how thankful she was for the continual support, some of which was from people she didn’t know, like Turner.

“I can’t even describe how amazing it was just to feel and have that support,” Vitek said. “You always think about what you would say to somebody in that situation, but I realized it doesn’t really matter what somebody says to you. It’s just the fact that they’re thinking and praying for you. That really means the world.”

The illness forced Vitek to drop out of school for the semester, but her quest to become a licensed chiropractor and continue on with what she sees as a blessed life is only just beginning.

“She’s one of the most competitive athletes I’ve ever coached,” Moore said. “Probably that will and determination is why she’s alive today.”

Businessman makes plea deal

By Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An Iraqi-American businessman who admitted helping Saddam Hussein’s government in the oil-for-food scandal was fined \$300,000 and sentenced to probation by a judge who said he provided substantial assistance to the U.S. government after his

arrest.

“He was a terrific witness,” U.S. District Judge Denny Chin said Thursday as he bestowed leniency on Samir A. Vincent, who could have faced years in prison.

Vincent, a 67-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen from Annandale, Va., testified at two trials, including one that was interrupted when Texas oilman Oscar Wyatt Jr. pleaded guilty to conspiracy.

been no specific plans as to when and how the services will be offered.

“There are a significant number of unknowns in this situation,” Mize said. “We don’t know the expectations of the state as far as to what extent we will assist them. We expect that state officials will be working with us to determine what steps will be taken to assist the children psychologically and emotionally.”

Sociology senior lecturer Kay Mueller said that she would imagine that the children would undergo emotional stress as they faced being uprooted from the only way of life with which they were familiar.

“I couldn’t imagine any child over the age of six who was separated from their parents not being traumatized from the situation unfolding before them,” Mueller said. “If you were suddenly taken away from where you lived all of your life and put into what they call the outside world, would you not be shocked?”

Mueller said that sects like FLDS are innovations of existing faiths and therefore would be classified as new religious orders, as being called a cult indicates that the children had no freedom of choice.

“It appears that most of the children have not spent any time in the outside world,” Mueller said. “These organizations adhere to religious beliefs that would classify them as a new religious movement. Regardless if it is right or wrong, children can undergo cultural shock if at first isolated from an outside community and suddenly introduced into one. I would be concerned about the psychological and sociological stress that they are facing.”

Mueller said that the difficulty lies in determining what will happen to the children after the investigation has completed.

“You have to question how it could best be determined if a child has been mistreated, and if so, decide whether they should be taken to new homes or given back to their parents,” Mueller said. “It’s a double-edged sword, but it’s the responsibility of the state to protect the children.”

Mize said that the home would not know how the children were divided to each of the care facilities until they arrive.

The Associated Press reported the case as one of the largest custody cases in U.S. history.

WACO from page 1

prepared to take in the children as soon as the state calls. Mize said that the home would be expecting to receive children five years old and older.

“Based on conversations between our president and state officials, we have been given a time period and estimate of how many children to expect,” Mize said. “We will not know anything for sure until we receive the call from the state and the children are on their way.”

Mize said that the home has increased security within the past few days, enlisting the support of the Waco police department and preparing personnel. The home has had beds and living quarters prepared in the event that the children come.

“We’re anxious to see if we receive the children,” Mize said. “We’ve had 24-hour around-the-clock security. Our primary goal will be to ensure their safety, privacy and well-being.”

Mize said that the home will have social workers and counselors to work with the children, although there have

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PROM NIGHT (PG-13) 12:45 2:55 5:25 7:40 9:45

NIM'S ISLAND (PG) 12:35 3:00 5:05 7:10 9:20

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HAROLD AND KUMAR: ESCAPES FROM QUANTANAMO BAY (R) 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

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TYLER PERRY'S: MEET THE BROWNS (PG-13) 12:55 3:15 5:30 7:50 10:00

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UNDER THE SAME MOON (PG-13) 12:25 2:5 5:15 7:40 10:05

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