



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

# THE BAYLOR LARIAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008

## Candidates battle over economic woes



Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., right, and Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., shake hands before the start of the town hall-style presidential debate Tuesday at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn.



In the second presidential debate, candidates John McCain (Left) and Barack Obama clashed over topics such as the economy, health care, energy, spending and taxes. The next debate is scheduled for Oct. 15 in Hempstead, New York.



By Charles Babington  
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Barack Obama and John McCain clashed repeatedly over the causes and cures for the worst economic crisis in 80 years Tuesday night in a debate in which Republican McCain called for a sweeping \$300 billion program to shield homeowners from mortgage foreclosure.

"It's my proposal. It's not Sen. Obama's proposal," McCain said at the outset of a debate he hoped could revive his fortunes in a presidential race trending toward his rival.

In one pointed confrontation on foreign policy, Obama bluntly challenged McCain's steadiness. "This is a guy who sang bomb, bomb, bomb Iran, who called for the annihilation of North Korea, that I don't think is an example of speaking softly."

He spoke after McCain accused him of foolishly threatening to invade Pakistan and said, "I'm not going to telegraph my punches which is what Sen. Obama did."

The debate was the second of three between the two major

party rivals, and the only one to feature a format in which voters seated a few feet away posed questions to the candidates.

"It's good to be with you at a town hall meeting," McCain jabbed at his rival, who has spurned the Republican's calls for numerous such joint appearances across the fall campaign.

They debated on a stage at Belmont University four weeks before Election Day in a race that has lately favored Obama, both in national polls and in surveys in pivotal battleground states.

Not surprisingly, many of the questions dealt with an economy in trouble.

Obama said the current crisis was the "final verdict on the failed economic policies of the last eight years" that President Bush pursued and were "supported by Sen. McCain."

He contended that Bush, McCain and others had favored deregulation of the financial industry, predicting that would "let markets run wild and prosperity would rain down on all of us. It didn't happen."

McCain's pledge to have the

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### Points of View



Adam Arrington

"McCain didn't just have command of the stage, but command of the issues. Unlike the last debate, McCain seemed more comfortable, more spirited ... Obama seemed stiff by comparison."

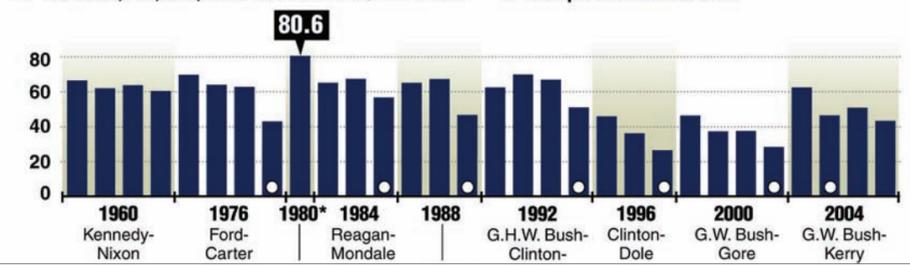


Emily Childs

"Obama clearly thinks in the long-term and more rationally. McCain is spreading a lot of misinformation about Obama and his policies."

### Watching the debates

TV viewership of past presidential debates, in millions: ○ Vice presidential debate



Graphic courtesy of McClatchy

## Sam Houston to make campaign stop in Waco

By Molly MacEwan  
Reporter

The green sauce may not be the main draw of afternoon patrons at Ninfa's Mexican Restaurant today. Sam Houston, Democratic candidate for Texas Supreme Court, Place 7, will be holding a meet and greet at 12:30 p.m.

Houston graduated from Baylor's Sheila and Walter Umphrey Law Center and said he is excited about returning to his roots.

"I enjoyed my three years in Waco as much as any of my education," Houston said. "I lived downtown in an old duplex on Austin Avenue."

Even Houston's campaign



Houston

manager, Josh Cohen, said he can see how much Houston likes Baylor.

"He's been nagging me to come campaign in Waco," Cohen said. "He definitely has an affection for Baylor and the town."

Anyone is welcome tomorrow at Ninfa's, Cohen said. They are expecting most of the crowd to be local democratic supporters, law students and other people who want to meet a candidate.

Houston will be running against Republican incumbent

Dale Wainwright. The two identifiers, republican and incumbent, will be his two biggest hurdles he said.

One of the main talking points of his campaign is the problem with backlogging decisions.

"There are statistics to show a two-year waiting period between the hearing of a case and the announcement of the decision," Cohen said.

Houston said the wait is an inexcusable delay of justice.

"One person can't do it; there are nine justices," Houston said. "But I will bring a different perspective. Most of my focus has been on the trial docket rather than the appellate docket."

Houston's "Texas Justice Tour" campaign has been traveling around the state to get the word out.

"I think we're doing exactly what we need to be doing to win," Houston said. "We want justice for everyone, I'll bring change to the court."

He said the change he wants is balance in the court.

"As a lawyer, I do not believe enough importance has been given to jury trials," Houston said. "It needs to come back to center."

Another problem he wants to address is the use of anonymous opinions by the Court, he said.

According to a press release by Houston, 57 percent of opinions issued in the 2006-2007

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## Senator shares leadership skills

By Ashley Corinne Killough  
Staff Writer

Texas State Senator Royce West spoke to a crowd of more than 100 students Tuesday in the Cashion Academic Center. He highlighted leadership skills needed in public life and discussed issues addressed in the current presidential election. West was the third speaker in the Leadership Lecture Series for the fall semester.

Dallas County area, West said he's learned the values of being a servant leader by maintaining a well-rounded, open-minded and innovative attitude.

"I encourage you to not just study leadership but become active in leadership," West said to the group of students.

West emphasized that consistency in learning new concepts and a willingness to embrace unfamiliar ideas can enhance one's leadership abilities.

*"I encourage you to not just study leadership, but become active in leadership."*

Royce West  
Texas State Senator

Please see LEAD, page 6



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

Texas Senator Royce West speaks to students Tuesday evening in the banquet room inside the Cashion Academic Center. West was voted one of the 25 most powerful people in Texas politics by Texas Monthly magazine.

## Documents reveal AIG executives hid details of finances

By Andrew Taylor  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Executives at American International Group Inc. hid the full range of its risky financial products from auditors as losses mounted, according to documents released Tuesday by a congressional panel examining the chain of events that forced the government to bail out the conglomerate.

The panel sharply criticized AIG's former top executives, who cast blame on each other for the company's financial woes.

"You have cost my constituents and the taxpayers of this country \$85 billion and run into the ground one of the most

respected insurance companies in the history of our country," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. "You were just gambling billions, possibly trillions of dollars."

AIG, crippled by huge losses linked to mortgage defaults, was forced last month to accept an \$85 billion government loan that gives the U.S. an 80 percent stake in the company.

House Oversight Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., unveiled documents showing AIG executives hid the full extent of the firm's risky financial products from auditors, both outside and inside the

Please see AIG, page 6

# Students need to learn to write well for real world

Go pick up a newspaper. Just kidding, you're actually already holding one. Among my favorite things about them are oversimplified and borderline tautologous headlines: "Traffic Slows Commuters," or "School Improves Education, Studies Say," or my favorite, "Oranges Can Be Orange."

In the world of journalism, headlines are designed to communicate as much as they can through as few words as possible. Sort of like poetry, only not as mysterious and depressing. But too often, I think, a writer forgets the point of his or her rules, and that's when we end up with meaningless headlines,

which don't really communicate anything.

We'd be in good shape if that were the only problem we seem to deal with when writing. As an English major, I'm sought from time to time for advice concerning how to write a basic composition.

So I've seen a lot of writing across the board in my generation of Baylor students and I've got to say, a goodly portion of us might as well be writing with crayons rather than Macbooks, because the kids I work with in Sunday school could produce the same quality of work or better, without even trying very hard and I work with third graders, who are

## point of view



BY ADAM AMBERG

usually too hyper for their, or my, own good. The sentence I just used, for example, could be considered a run-on. How do you suppose I could improve such a wordy mess? Strike a prepositional phrase or two? Add a colon? How about a semi-colon? What the heck is a semi-colon, anyway? I don't think many of us ask ourselves these questions when we read or write.

But I cannot condemn anyone. If there are so many people who cannot write, then we should look at the ones who should have taught them. I would be willing to bet that most of my readers have had similar experiences in high school. They were probably told to begin with an introductory paragraph, which usually opens with something grandiose and offensively cliché: "For centuries, philosophers have been trying to pass the TAKS test, because that is the point of education." Then, without worrying too much about a thesis or anything like that, they are to jump into a body paragraph. These generally go by the rule of three. There

should be three paragraphs, each with three quotes, each followed by a paraphrase of said quote. They should always contain five to seven sentences.

A paragraph should never contain less than five sentences. Lastly, we wrap up our essays by copying and pasting our introductory paragraph. This is called a conclusion, and nobody knows why it exists, but it does. We learn to write in this manner because this is how those who grade state-required standardized tests like them. These people sit around all day grading, so they undoubtedly want things as formulaic as possible. It makes the work go faster, but it leaves us

ill-equipped to write in college or (dare I say?) the real world.

It's not our fault but, now, it is our responsibility. We need to realize the implications of our becoming a generation of people who are unable to communicate. What good is a businessman with great ideas, but the utter inability to decently express them?

As long as we are here at Baylor and surrounded by so many educators capable of teaching us how to communicate, we ought to take advantage of that. And now, I'm ending without a conclusion, because I hate those stupid things.

Adam Amberg is a senior English major from Houston.

## Editorial

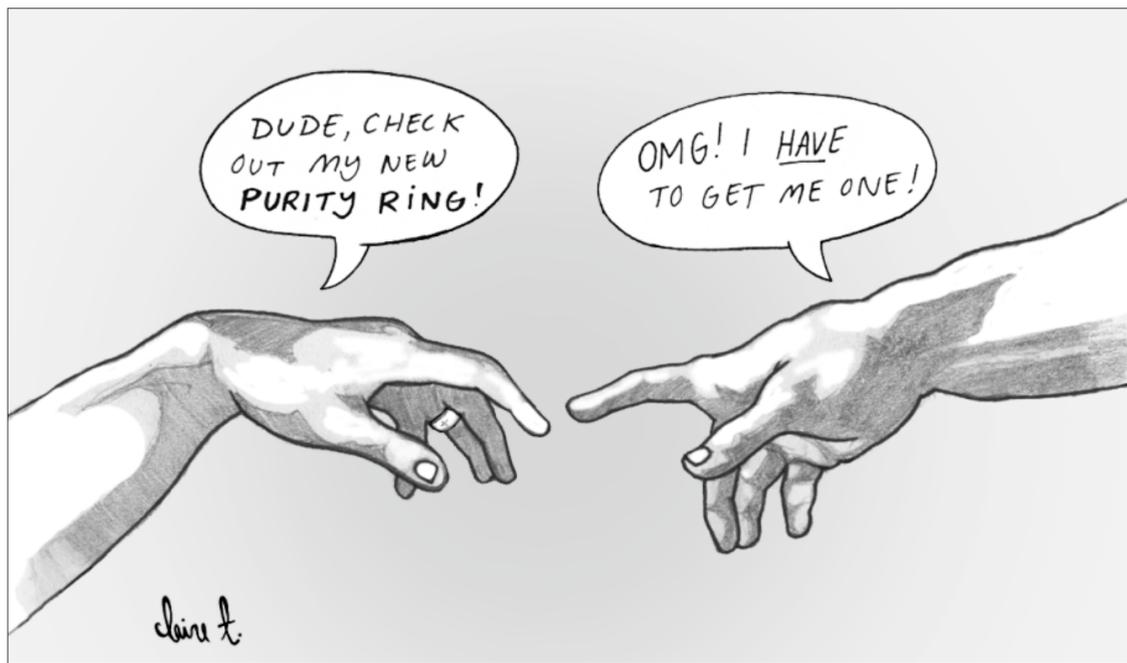
# Purity rings are a moral, not a fashion, statement

Celebrities are known for setting the stage when it comes to fashion. This season, the trends are plaid shirts, black lace dresses and ... purity rings. More and more teen stars are proclaiming abstinence with rings on their left hands, making it into more of a fashion statement than a moral statement.

Purity rings originated in the '90s among Christian groups. The rings are used as a physical symbol of the promise a young person makes to remain celibate until marriage. While the practice has been around for more than a decade, it's starting to work its way into pop culture and even into the once-rebellious rock-and-roll scene.

The Jonas Brothers, a teen band sensation, have come into the public eye recently for sporting purity rings. The three brothers, ages 16, 19 and 20, each have a purity ring to symbolize their commitment to abstinence until marriage. At MTV's Video Music Awards last month, host Russell Brand made fun of the rings as part of his comedy routine, which brought Brand criticism, but brought attention to the practice. When "American Idol" winner Jordin Sparks came out to present, she defended the Jonas Brothers, saying, "Not everybody - guy or girl - wants to be a slut." Sparks also wears a purity ring.

It seems every young star in the 15 to 20 age group is jumping on the chastity bandwagon. Disney Channel stars Selina Gomez, Demi Lovato and even Miley Cyrus also sport these rings, which con-



veniently helps bolster the image Disney would like them to present.

If celebrities are going to wear something that represents purity, they should also make sure to present themselves as pure. It sends mixed signals to fans if they don't seem to follow through with their commitment and cheapens the promise that their rings represent. Miley Cyrus can wear a purity ring, but her revealing photographs contradict her promise of purity.

Britney Spears had a purity ring at the beginning of her career, but admits to breaking her promise of abstinence before marriage, and presented an image more of sexiness than innocence. Her actions also send the message to fans that marriage isn't to be taken too seriously when she rushed into a 55-hour marriage in Las Vegas.

Those who wear purity rings because they want to imitate their favorite celebrity are more likely to break the commit-

ment, since they were probably not very serious about it to begin with, especially if they see the stars they are mimicking acting in a way that doesn't seem to fit with their commitment.

This isn't the first time that celebrities have made a belief, like abstinence until marriage, into a trend. About five years ago, Kabbalah bracelets were all the rage. After Madonna started wearing one, the red string popped up on the wrists of many other celebrities, including Ashton Kutcher, Demi Moore, Britney Spears and David Beckham.

Since then, Spears has abandoned the practice and there have been rumors that Kutcher and Moore have quit Kabbalah, as well.

Kabbalah is a form of Jewish mysticism. As with any religion, there are many complexities that can't be understood without studying the religion. But after A-list celebrities started wearing the bracelets, people across the nation went

online to purchase the \$26 strings without understanding what they really stood for. The bracelet was a trendy accessory instead of a symbol of a religious belief.

The same thing is likely to happen with the purity ring fad. Many young adults will want to be like their favorite Disney stars and wear a ring without fully realizing the commitment it stands for.

While it is refreshing that celebrities, especially young ones, are now setting positive examples with their actions, abstinence shouldn't be made into the latest style. It's a personal decision that everyone has to make individually, not because it is the popular thing to do.

Celebrities need to realize that they have a strong influence over their young fans. If they choose to make a moral statement by wearing purity rings, then they need to be serious and committed. If young fans can imitate their moral choices, then they can imitate their immoral actions, too.

## Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, libel and style.

Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat\_Letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat\_letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

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# Palin's religious perspective is powerful, may effect political policies

As a child, I was exposed to the horrific, apocalyptic visions of Chicken Little. I read of the fictitious fowl's good-hearted attempt to warn her friends that the sky was falling. As it turns out, Chicken Little wasn't the smartest bird. Her intentions were noble, but the collapsing sky she warned of was merely gravity's effect on a loose acorn.

As an adult, I've seen the Chicken Little tale frequently reenacted. However, these modern portrayals don't take place in children's books, but in churches across America. Preachers flip to the back of the Bible and, with noble intentions, tell their parishioners that the sky is falling.

Gloom and doom eschatology's popularity has exploded over the last decade. Countless

sermons and literature have celebrated the book of Revelation as a road map to the end of the world. To many evangelical circles, this outlook is as sound a doctrine as any in Christendom.

Last month, proponents of this view received a national spokesperson when John McCain named Sarah Palin as his running mate. Thanks to the majesty of YouTube, the Alaska governor's religious views became available to the world.

A video surfaced of Palin giving a speech at a youth program graduation ceremony at Wasilla Assembly of God, her long-time home church. The speech is now pundit fodder on account of her prayer requests for a pipeline and claims that the war in Iraq is a "task from God."

## point of view



BY CHAD SHANKS

The youth who never imagined they would see the backs of their heads on the Internet were graduating from an alarming fundamentalist group called The Master's Commission. The group's mission, according to their promotional videos, is to prepare teenagers for the imminent "end of days."

Palin praised the theological militant group and was later joined on stage by their leader, who confidently proclaimed that

Alaska would be a refuge for the lower 48 states during the last days. The future vice-presidential candidate nodded in approval.

Since her meteoric rise from obscurity, Sarah Palin has invigorated the religious right with her Ned Flanders like folksy talk and bold evangelical proclamations, but even some conservative Christians are concerned about her association with groups espousing such radical eschatology. Critics wonder, if elected, would her religious beliefs affect her political policies?

Not all Christians adopt the stereotypical evangelical interpretation of Revelation. The Preterist view sees Revelation as a symbolic polemic against the oppressive first-century Roman Empire that openly persecuted Christians.

But with a book so old and complex, readers have formed hundreds of interpretations. Who am I to discount any of them?

I'd like to discount the view that Revelation predicts the end of the world.

Ockham's Razor insists the simplest explanation is correct. Biblical scholarship convincingly argues that Revelation's author references the first-century world using coding familiar to its readers. The book is not describing haunting futuristic visions of science fiction movies come to life, but the oppressed first days of a new religion.

Many Palin critics are uncomfortable potentially placing the proverbial bomb-controlling red button in inexperienced hands hungry to help usher in the

divinely predicted apocalypse. The leader of the free world making decisions while believing that the world will soon be destroyed and replaced is frightening; especially since John McCain's age increases the odds this leader will be Sarah Palin.

A person's deepest beliefs will undoubtedly influence their most important decisions, regardless of their contrary denials. Future perspective is a powerful motive on present action. So, I won't follow Chicken Little. I won't fall in line behind the clamor and blindly go tell the king the sky is falling. Instead, I'll find someone who knows to search for that gravity-stricken acorn.

Chad Shanks is a journalism grad student from Dayton and is a staff writer for The Baylor Lariat.

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## SUDOKU

THE SKRAMBLER OF PUZZLES By The Mapham Group

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## THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

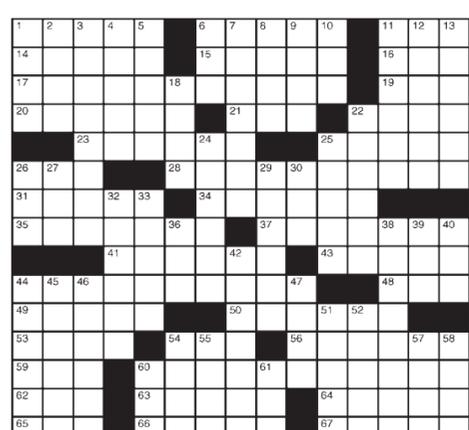
### ACROSS

- 1 Token booth
- 6 Kick out
- 11 2nd sight
- 14 Celestial hunter
- 15 Shearer of "The Red Shoes"
- 16 Blanc or Tillis
- 17 Beginning of autumn
- 19 Bikini part
- 20 Taking the place (of)
- 21 Just released
- 22 Sillitoe or Paton
- 23 Strays from the script
- 25 Thin pancake
- 26 Shade tree
- 28 Cam-controlled tool
- 31 Subject matter
- 34 Freeway access
- 35 Russian horseman
- 37 Pain reliever
- 41 Infamous cow owner
- 43 Steps over a wall
- 44 Windblown vegetation
- 48 Favorite
- 49 Assumed name
- 50 One-ups

- 53 Cold War power
- 54 Bashful
- 56 As an example
- 59 Verizon, once
- 60 Place to jot a note
- 62 That girl
- 63 Romeo
- 64 Fulton's power
- 65 Undertake
- 66 Pages in papers
- 67 Rumormonger

### DOWN

- 1 Diplomat Annan
- 2 Turkey neighbor
- 3 Old light sources
- 4 Unbroken
- 5 Prepare to pray
- 6 Flightless bird
- 7 Becomes part of
- 8 "\_\_\_ kleine Nachtmusik"
- 9 Cornfield critter
- 10 Uncle Sam's take
- 11 Insignia
- 12 Mexican shawl
- 13 Board smoother
- 18 Bow out
- 22 Deodorant spot
- 24 Former NBC anchor
- 25 Bivouacs
- 26 Space-saving abbr.
- 27 Old card game
- 29 Devout request
- 30 Doesn't lack
- 32 Weather-map line
- 33 Phones
- 36 Middling grade
- 38 Indelicately unwraps
- 39 Land in la mer
- 40 Ping pong partition
- 42 Keyed in again
- 44 Instructed
- 45 Long overcoat
- 46 King novel
- 47 Hilary of pop
- 51 One of Potter's rabbits
- 52 Babble
- 54 Trough chow
- 55 Center of activity
- 57 Well-kept
- 58 Humorist Bombeck
- 60 \_\_\_-mo replay
- 61 Hosp. areas



By Doug Peterson  
Pasadena, CA

10/8/08

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

# Workshop focuses on jobs

By Jillian Henderson  
Reporter

Graduation is approaching quickly for those graduating in December. For those who have jobs, there are no worries, just the anticipation of getting across the stage and into the workplace.

But for those students who haven't found jobs yet, Career Services is holding a job-searching seminar.

Career Services held a job-searching strategies seminar Monday, sponsored by Enterprise Rent-A-Car with guest speaker Ryanne Janca, a recruiting supervisor for the company. During the seminar, Janca highlighted the major tips for job hunting and getting a job.

During her presentation, Janca said the first thing students need to know is their required skills, competencies and qualifications.

"When I was younger I worked in retail. During this, I learned I liked working with people, and I learned things I wanted and what I didn't," Janca said.

Janca then moved her focus to job hunting and where to look to get a job.

"There are a lot of resources you have as a student. Number one is Career Services. Others include the Internet, networking, friends and peers, faculty and coaches, and career fairs," she said.

She said she highly recommended that students take advantage of the programs offered through Career Services to help them find jobs.

Janca said students should use Web sites such as BusinessWeek.com, Monster.com, Careerbuilder.com, Hotjobs.com, on which to post their resumes.

She said one of the most important services at Baylor is the mock interviews available through Career Services.

"I cannot stress enough how valuable mock interviews are," Janca said.

Janca said she recommended going to mock interviews to practice what to do before actually going out and participate in the real thing.

Janca stressed that, during an interview, applicants should bring multiple resume copies, make good eye contact, and accentuate the positive about themselves.

Janca also stressed that applicants should not talk too much during the interview.

"The first interview is all about making that connection," said Kevin Nall, associate director of Career Services.

Networking is also important, Janca said. Students should network with friends, peers, faculty, coaches, or grad students who have a similar degree or experience in the student's field of study.

Orange senior Justyn Kuykendal said the seminar was helpful.

"It gave a perspective change from the recruiting side rather than just the interviewee side," he said.

To complement this workshop, Career Services is holding another seminar, called Networking 101, from 4 to 5 p.m. today in D109 Baylor Sciences Building.



Alex Song/Lariat staff

## Showboating it, Pat Neff style

Lake Kiows senior Lance Adsit poses in a boat Tuesday in front of Pat Neff Hall. Adsit and the boat are part of the making of a catalog for the Baylor Water-Ski Club. For more information about the club, visit: [www3.baylor.edu/waterski](http://www3.baylor.edu/waterski).

# Bernanke predicts more pain

By Jeanne Aversa  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warned Tuesday that the financial crisis has not only darkened the country's current economic performance but also could prolong the pain.

The Fed chief's more gloomy assessment appeared to open the door wider to an interest rate cut on or before Oct. 28-29, the central bank's next meeting, to brace the wobbly economy.

Bernanke said the Fed will "need to consider" whether its current stance of holding rates steady "remains appropriate" given the fallout from the worst financial crisis in decades.

If the Fed does lower its key rate from 2 percent it would mark an about-face.

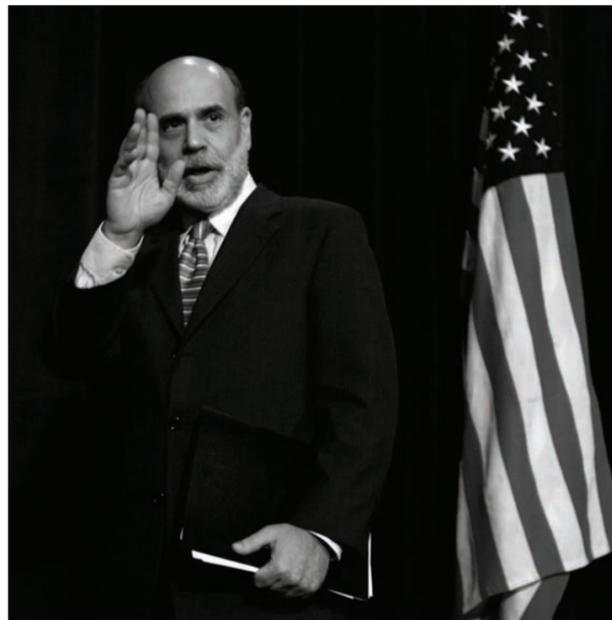
The Fed in June had halted an aggressive rate-cutting campaign to revive the economy out of fear those low rates would aggravate inflation.

Since then, financial and economic conditions have deteriorated, while inflation pressures have calmed, giving the Fed more leeway to again cut rates.

Many believe the country is on the brink of, or already in, its first recession since 2001.

"The outlook for economic growth has worsened," Bernanke said in prepared remarks to the annual meeting here of the National Association for Business Economics.

All told, economic activity is likely to be "subdued" during the remainder of this year and into next year, Bernanke said. "The heightened financial turmoil that we have experienced of late may well lengthen the period of weak economic performance and further increase the risks to growth," he warned.



Associated Press

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks to the National Association for Business Economics Tuesday in Washington. "The outlook for economic growth has worsened," he said.

Consumers, major shapers of economic activity, have buckled under the weight of rising joblessness, shrinking paychecks, hard-to-get credit, declining net wealth and tanking home and stock values.

All the strains are "now showing through more clearly to consumer spending," Bernanke said.

Meanwhile, worsening sales prospects and a heightened sense of uncertainty have begun to weigh more heavily on businesses, making them more cautious to hire and to invest in their companies, he said.

Employers cut jobs in September at the fastest pace in more than five years, the government reported last week.

Payrolls were slashed by 159,000 last month alone. It was the ninth straight month of job losses. A staggering 760,000 jobs have disappeared so far this year.

The financial and credit crises, which took a turn for the worst in September and continue to stubbornly persist, are

likely to "increase the restraint on economic activity in the period ahead," Bernanke said.

Even households with good credit histories are now facing difficulties obtaining mortgages or home equity lines of credit, he noted. Banks are also reducing credit card limits and denial rates on auto loan applications are rising, he said.

Banks, too, are feeling the strain of a lockup in lending, particularly in the market for commercial paper.

To that end, the Fed on Tuesday announced a radical plan to buy massive amounts of this short-term debt in an effort to break through a credit clog that is imperiling the economy.

"The expansion of Federal Reserve lending is helping financial firms cope with reduced access to their usual sources of funding," Bernanke explained.

Invoking Depression-era emergency powers, the Fed will begin buying commercial paper, short-term funding that many companies rely on to pay their workers and buy supplies.

# Retirement accounts post \$2 trillion loss

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans' retirement plans have lost as much as \$2 trillion in the past 15 months, about 20 percent of their value, Congress' top budget analyst estimated Tuesday as lawmakers began investigating how turmoil in the financial industry is whittling away workers' nest eggs.

The upheaval that has engulfed financial firms and sent the stock market plummeting is devastating people's savings, forcing families to hold off on major purchases and delay retirement, Peter Orszag, the head of the Congressional Budget Office, told the House Education and Labor Committee.

As Congress investigates the causes and effects of the meltdown, the panel pressed economists and other analysts on how the housing, credit and other financial troubles have battered pensions and other retirement funds, which are among the most common forms of savings in the United States.

"Unlike Wall Street executives, America's families don't have a golden parachute to fall back on," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., the panel chairman. "It's clear that their retirement security may be one of the greatest casualties of this financial crisis."

More than half the people surveyed in an Associated Press-GfK poll taken Sept. 27-30 said they worry they will have to work longer because the value of their retirement savings has declined.

Orszag indicated the fear is well-founded.

Public and private pension funds and employees' private retirement savings accounts, like 401(k)'s, lost about 10 percent between the middle of 2007 and the middle of this year, and lost another 10 percent just in

the past three months, he estimated.

Private retirement plans may have suffered slightly more because those holdings are more heavily skewed toward stocks, Orszag added.

"Some people will delay their retirement. In particular, those on the verge of retirement may decide they can no longer afford to retire and will continue working," Orszag said.

A new AARP study found that because of the economic downturn, one in five workers 45 and older has stopped putting money into a 401(k), IRA or other retirement savings account during the past year.

Nearly one in four has increased the number of hours he works.

More than one-third of these workers have considered delaying retirement, according to the study, which also found that more than half now find it difficult to pay for basic items such as food, gas and medicine.

The hearing came just as workers are receiving, or about to receive, their quarterly retirement savings account statements, which are likely to show disheartening drops in the value of holdings.

Jerry Bramlett, the head of BenefitStreet Inc., a retirement savings plan administration company, said there's a risk that people will overreact to the bad news by pulling their money out of the accounts, which could add to their potential losses.

"For participants with many years of retirement, a drastic abandonment of equity positions in their retirement account will only serve to lock in as-of-yet-unrealized losses. Markets do go up and down, and 401(k) participants must try to think long-term," Bramlett said.

Still, he said workers should do their best to diversify their retirement savings accounts and "perhaps consider less volatile investments."

## BEAR BRIEFS

**Steppin' Out** registration deadline is Friday. To register an organization and for additional information, visit [www.baylor.edu/steppin\\_out](http://www.baylor.edu/steppin_out).

**BearAware 2008: Data Security** seminar is at 2:30 p.m. today in 103 Cashion Academic Center. Jon Callas, Chief Technology Officer for PGP Corporation, will speak on the need for increased data security and the way encryption schemes can be used as an effective form of protection against data theft. For additional information, contact [Carl\\_Flynn@baylor.edu](mailto:Carl_Flynn@baylor.edu).

**Baylor University Investment Society** meeting will be at 6 p.m. today in 205 Cashion Academic Center. This meeting is open to all majors. For additional information, contact [cayla\\_wright@baylor.edu](mailto:cayla_wright@baylor.edu) or visit [www.buison-line.org](http://www.buison-line.org).

**Indian Subcontinent Student Association** presents Dandiya Night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. tonight in the Barfield Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. Everyone is invited to come out and learn traditional and fast-paced Indian dancing. For additional information, contact [George\\_Kannarkat@baylor.edu](mailto:George_Kannarkat@baylor.edu).

**The Parents' Weekend Choral Concert** will be held at 5 p.m. Friday at the Jones Concert Hall. Included in the program are Baylor ShowTime!, Concert Choir, Women's and Men's choirs and the A Capella Choir. This is event is free of charge and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.baylor.edu/music](http://www.baylor.edu/music).

To submit a Bear Brief, send an e-mail to [lariat@baylor.edu](mailto:lariat@baylor.edu)

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# Uproar to offer recording experiences for Baylor artists

By Andrew Martinez  
Reporter

Baylor's Rising Artist Network (BRAN) and Uproar Records are coming together to hold auditions for Uproar's first compilation album of up-and-coming Baylor artists.

"We're looking for artists who write their own music," said Garrett Burnett, a member of Student Activities and Uproar. "We really want artists of all variety, not just Christian artists."

While BRAN has been active at Baylor since 2003, Uproar is a new presence in the Baylor music scene.

Uproar is a creation of the music and marketing major offered to business majors. The group provides an opportunity for music and marketing majors to gain experience by running

a record label in a controlled campus environment. Uproar was modeled after other independent music labels.

Artists chosen to record for Uproar's album will have to sign a contract making them an Uproar recording artist. In return for signing a contract, an artist will have the opportunity to be professionally recorded and work with producers to improve their sound.

Uproar president Ben Rodgers said the opportunity to be a part of an independent record label offers students valuable experience.

"For majors it shows how important it is to find talent and help them record and then to distribute and produce an album," Rodgers said. "And for artists, it helps them better understand the music business."

Natalie Reese, vice-president

of promotions for Uproar, said that Uproar hopes to invigorate the local music scene. Reese said besides the upcoming compilation album, Uproar hopes to stage a concert next year featuring some of the album's chosen artists.

"There really is no outlet for Baylor artists other than BRAN, so we wanted to take the next step," Reese said. "We want to help artists get outside of the routine of just playing on the weekends and then when college is over - having to get a real job."

Music and marketing majors also work in conjunction with members of the Industry Club to run Uproar. The Industry Club is a group of non-music and marketing majors interested in the music industry.

Rodgers said he and Uproar hope to eliminate any simple-

minded notions artists might have about what it takes to become successful in music.

"Making it is one of those things that's idealized - get signed by a record label and get famous," Rodgers said. "What most artists don't understand is that this isn't about luck. You need skill and talent and dedication to be a successful recording artist."

Auditions are being held Oct. 15 and 16 in the Houston Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Recordings for chosen artists will take place between Nov. 7 and Jan 25 at a recording studio 20 minutes outside of Waco.

Sign up for auditions are either at [www.baylor.edu/BRAN](http://www.baylor.edu/BRAN) or the Campus Program Center at the Bill Daniel Student Center.



Photos Courtesy of Verve Music Group  
Matt Hales (left and top) is the alternative artist Aqualung.

### Standout Tracks

"Slip-Sliding Away"  
"On My Knees"

# 'Words and Music' stays true to Aqualung sound

Kelli Boesel  
Entertainment Editor

Similar to Aqualung's previous albums, "Words and Music" has a calm, cozy vibe. When listening to the album, all I wanted to do was curl up on my couch with a hot cup of coffee and enjoy the music.

### ALBUMREVIEW

I became interested in Aqualung after hearing "Strange and Beautiful" in the movie "Wicker Park," starring Josh Harnett, in 2004.

Since then, I haven't been able to find anything by Aqualung that I like quite as much as that song.

So, while listening to "Words and Music" I couldn't help but compare each song to that one.

Even though I didn't find anything to measure up to "Strange and Beautiful," I was excited about the music.

The melodies on the album rely on a piano base, which gives the album a "coffee-shop" sound. The songs are good as background music and don't take away from other things going on.

But calling the album background music doesn't give it justice. "Words and Music" is worth a deeper look into the lyrics and the intricacies of the melody.

One track that stands out because of its lyrics is "Slip-Sliding Away." The alliteration in the title and hook gets the song stuck in my head. The lyrics are paired with up-and-down beat that kind of slip in and out focus. It's clear that Matt Hales, who is Aqualung, thought about his work as poetry and created the song in a way that the words are intentionally paired to a rhythm in order to flow effortlessly together.

Another track that stands out is "When I Finally Get My Own Place." The song describes a house as a metaphor for life and love, which is a common metaphor used in poetry and music. An overused metaphor has the risk of sounding stale, but instead, the comparison in the song offers a universal message to listeners.

As far as melodies are concerned, I preferred two songs that had a faster tempo than the rest of the album.

"On My Knees" was released as a single in September. The song is a good choice as a single because it shows a different side to Aqualung, but still maintains Hales' sound. The difference in tempo comes from the keyboard, which is set to be more electronic. The song also features a significant amount of percussion, which is absent in a lot of Aqualung's songs.

There are two editions of "Words and Music." The bonus track edition may be more expensive, but it's worth the bonus song, "All or Nothing."

The brass instruments introduced into the melody give the song a big-band feel. Also, a clapping feature keeps the beat, which make you want to clap along.

Beyond the melody, what's great about the song is that it's completely different from all the rest, but still interesting. Usually when artists attempt to deviate from their normal sound, the songs fail. "All or Nothing" is far from a failure and is a good addition to the original album.

Even though the album didn't reach my high and very narrow standards, I enjoyed it and will listen to it when I want to unwind and enjoy life at a slower place.

Grade: B

# Fashion show provides for students chance to target different markets

By Jacqueline Deavenport  
Reporter

It might have been fashion week last week in Paris, but Tuesday in McLennan County, members of the Retired Teacher's Association had a style show of their own.

It was full house. Murmurs filled the room as attendees anticipated the show.

The show started. Cameron senior LaScott Wood was the commentator for the show. To open the show she said the clothes would "make you turn red with envy."

Baylor family and consumer sciences students built ties in the central Texas community by planning, developing and executing a fashion show, Timeless Elegance, at the Stilwell retirement residence. Members of the Retired Teacher's Association modeled the clothing.

Retired teachers floated down the aisle sporting the latest fall season and holiday fashions.

The styles mixed classic colors, - red, tan and black and white motifs - with style and comfort. The overall style was casual but professional.

A collection with vibrant colors and patterns was also featured for those who are "wild at heart."

"From the perspective of the audience, it's educational for upcoming fashion trends and it also has entertainment value," said part-time lecturer Dr. Jaylie Beckenhauer, professor of the 17 visual merchandising and promotion students that put on the show.

The show was a hit. "I was very pleased," Lenora Crowder said. "It was nicely done."

Crowder was the person to initially approach Beckenhauer about doing a style show for the Retired Teacher's Association.

This is the third fashion show put on by students in Beckenhauer's class.

The vibrant patterns were received the best by the audience.

"Our next jacket Geraldine has on, has an urban jungle floral flare and is actually two jackets, since it is reversible," Wood said.

Expressions of the audience showed that styles in the show were well received.

Amid the oo's and ah's, there was also a bit of laughter.

"Our next outfit is modeled by Mr. Manning and with this Maroon and white windowpane, ProTour Performance Knit Golf Polo will keep you cool during the hottest of days," Wood said. "This polo offers quick-dry moisture wicking technology and allows you to move with ease."

Charles Manning, walked down the aisle with confidence, took a golfer's stance, and motioned his arms as though he were swinging at a ball. Laughter erupted from the crowd.

Two-year-model veteran Manning is a Baylor alumnus.

"My motive is to make people laugh, depending on how much ham I've got in me," he said.

Stilwell retirement residence is a not-for-profit organization, owned and operated by the Texas Retired Teachers Residence Cooperation. Since 1964, it has served as a second home to retirees from Texas and other states throughout the country.

Belk, Cold Water Creek and other local merchants provided the merchandise in the show.

For students, it was a valuable learning experience.

"It gives my students the opportunity to practice what they are studying," said Beckenhauer. "One of the reasons we do this show is because it is a different target market."

The show took one month of preparation and collaboration between the students, the merchants and models. The



Alex Song/Lariat staff

Volunteer model, Geraldine Dickey, walks onto the stage in Stilwell Retirement Center Tuesday. The fashion event was presented by the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences for the Waco-McLennan County retired Teachers' Association.

objectives were to develop merchandise assortment, represent the store image and target the customer.

"From a class perspective, it gives my students a chance to work with a target market different than the 18 to 35 market they usually encounter," Beckenhauer said.

Waco junior Emily Abbe

was the models' director for the show.

"It was entertaining. The men, funny enough, took longer than the women (to dress)," Abbe said.

In the spring, Baylor family and consumer sciences students will hold another fashion event featuring Baylor students' designs and creations.

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# Football needs special teams coach

SPORTS COLUMN  
by Garrett Turner

After starting the game against the University of Oklahoma last weekend with 33-yard and 12-yard punts, it looked like Baylor's punter Derek Epperson was in for a rough day. Both punts put Oklahoma's lethal offense into great field position giving the Sooners two quick scores, which tacked on 14 more points to give the Sooners a 21-0 lead in the first quarter.

On a day where every shortcoming had exponential consequences against the No. 1 team in the nation, special teams should be the last of a coach's worries.

Even though Epperson had a rough start, he was able to make it up by producing great kicks of 42, 45, 50, 51 and 44-yards. In fact, even if you consider Epperson's inconsistency this season, his punting team still ranks No. 3 in the Big 12. To put it even simpler, if you take away those inconsistent punts, the Bears could be ranked even higher. The Bears would be able to pin teams even further into their own territory, giving the defense a chance to give the ball back to Baylor's up-and-coming offense. There-in lies the problem: the Baylor Bears coaching staff does not include a special teams coach, which prevents any type of consistent practice, which shows on game days.

The coaching staff tackles the special teams as a platoon, which means the coaching staff as a whole influences the special teams. Fans have already seen tremendous improvements on offense and they're even doing a little better on defense. Coaching

is obviously the best way to get better. Giving the long snappers, punters and field goal kickers a structured, focused itinerary will undoubtedly improve the special teams. Because football is the ultimate team sport, improving one component of the team will in turn help the team as a whole.

I'm sure there are perfectly

good reasons why there is not a special teams coach. Financial and technical reasons that are beyond the average readers' understanding. When the punters and kickers do their warm-ups during the first quarters of games, it can kill a team's momentum and chances to win. At a position where consistency is the most important issue, it

seems logical the special teams should be getting more and more consistent.

Epperson is a great talent at punter and kicker Ben Parks has a great leg, but fans saw in the game against Oklahoma how any inconsistent punts breaks the defense's back and shifted all the momentum of the game to Baylor's opponent's side.



Alex Song/ Lariat Staff  
Baylor punter Derek Epperson (38) punts the ball against the Oklahoma Sooners Saturday. Epperson has averaged 42.3 yards per punt. He ranks No. 3 in the Big 12 Conference in net punting.



Shanna Taylor/ Lariat Staff

Junior setter Taylor Barnes serves during the second set against the University of Oklahoma Sept. 24. Baylor will face Texas, its third ranked team, tonight.

## BU ready for Texas

By Justin Baer  
Reporter

A weekend off allowed Anna Breyfogle to escape the spotlight of a Big 12 Conference athlete and for once, she lived the glorified life of an average college student.

With no Big 12 foes slated, no practices scheduled, Breyfogle even managed to sleep in Saturday and make a trip to the Heart of Texas Fair.

"It was good to have a break and kind of recuperate from all that's been going on," the Buda junior and most recent Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week said. "It was nice just to sit around and do nothing."

But the respite was brief, as Breyfogle and the rest of the Baylor volleyball team (12-3, 4-1) re-enter play at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Austin with the No. 3 ranked University of Texas Longhorns (10-2, 4-1) looming in the schedule.

"Being the No. 3 team in the country, they are the most athletic team," head coach Jim Barnes said. "We have to play the game of volleyball better than them. We have to be very consistent and put a lot of pressure on them with our serving and blocking."

Baylor has lost its lone two games against nationally-ranked teams this season—against then-No. 10 University of Oregon and No. 18 Kansas State University.

Still, the start has Baylor receiving votes in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Poll for the first time since 2001, so the opportunity to upend a national powerhouse comes not as an intimidation factor, but an opportunity to establish a name in dominant conference.

"I think UT is going to be a huge game for us to once again to prove ourselves to the Big 12 and the rest of the volleyball world that we can hang with the best," Breyfogle said.

Destinee Hooker has built off a tremendous sophomore season, in which she received second-team All-America honors. She now leads the conference with 4.28 kills per game. "It's so fun to play her," Katy junior outside hitter Katie Sanders said. "She is such a great person and is really one of the best outside hitters in the entire country."

Meanwhile sophomore outside hitter Juliann Faucette was not only the AVCA Freshman of the Year, but a first-team All-American in 2007.

## Men's basketball selected No. 3 in Big 12

By Brian Bateman  
Sports Editor

The Big 12 Conference released its annual preseason coaches' poll, and Baylor earned its highest ranking — tied with the University of Kansas at No. 3.

Fresh off its first NCAA tournament berth in 20 years, the

Bears were ranked four spots higher than their previous high at No. 7 in 2006-07.

Baylor ranks behind No. 1 University of Oklahoma and No. 2 University of Texas. Texas A&M University rounds out the top five. All five made the NCAA tournament last year along with Kansas State University, which comes in ranked No. 8 in the

conference.

Baylor received two first place votes and a total of 103 points. Texas received 107 and Oklahoma had 109.

Baylor returns every starter from last year's 21-11 squad and will add depth at the forward position with freshman Quincy Acy, Anthony Jones and Duran Diaz and forward/center Epke

Udoh.

Texas, which won the regular season Big 12 title, returns four starters. Kansas, the tournament champions and National Champions, will employ a completely new line-up.

Baylor will open the season against Paul Quinn College at 3 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Ferrell Center.

## BU students place in bike race



Sarah Morris/ Lariat Staff

John Springs of Texas State University rides through the forest of Cameron Park at the Baylor Bike Bash Sunday afternoon.

Baylor club members Brandon Thomas, Alex Maxwell take eighth place at Baylor Bike Bash in Cameron Park

By Kyle McKanna  
Reporter

More than 70 participants from seven schools turned out for the Baylor Mountain Bike Bash this weekend at Cameron Park. The two-day event consisted of both short track and cross-country events.

"Overall I think it went really well," Baylor Club Cycling President and Garland Senior Brandon Thomas said. "Everyone seemed to enjoy it."

Because most of Baylor's club cyclists were volunteering at the event, only two competed in the Bash. Thomas, who raced short track, and his cycling club teammate, Plano senior Alex Maxwell, a cross-country rider, finished eighth in their respective races.

Overall the event was viewed as a success.

"We'll do it again," Thomas said. "It's one of the premiere venues on the collegiate calendar."

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**LEAD** from page 1

"Take every opportunity to acquire knowledge—both inside the classroom and out," West said. "Listen to the ideas and opinions of others."

One of the most challenging tasks in his career as a legislator, West said, is sorting through diverse opinions and deciding the best policies for his constituents.

He cited the \$700 billion rescue plan that recently passed in Congress as an example of difficult decision-making.

"Most of their constituents were calling up and saying 'no,' that they didn't want the bill passed," West said. "Members of Congress had to choose between what the people wanted and what they thought was the country's best option."

Recently named as one of the 25 most powerful people in Texas politics by Texas Monthly magazine, West spoke on his experience in helping develop the University of North Texas at Dallas, the first public university within Dallas' city limits.

He also talked about his involvement in creating the top-10-percent rule, a law that guarantees acceptance into any public university for graduating high school seniors ranked in the top 10 percent of their class.

"I wanted everyone to have an opportunity to go to college," West said, adding that this was another example requiring him to stand up for his constituents' interests despite opposing arguments.

When faced with divergent opinions, West said he tries to find common ground and bridge any disagreements into a compromise.

"My philosophy of leadership is about coalition building. And these coalitions are built on mutual interests," West said. "I have to look across the aisle and look for that mutual interest."

West said at the core of any effective leadership is a humble attribution to God.

"As a leader, you must make certain it's not your will that's being carried out—but the Real Leader's will," West said.

West also addressed concerns over the leadership of the next president.

"The question is: Why type of leadership do we need for the future? Not the qualities of great leaders, but the qualities of leadership? That's what we need to look at in these two candidates," West said.

Touching on healthcare, foreign policy and the economy, West sparked a discussion among the students on how the next president should lead.

As a leader in the NAACP and the Association of Black Students, Duncanville sophomore Diamond Vaughn said she thought West's presentation was informative and interesting.

"I liked how he talked about having faith as an important leadership quality," Vaughn said.

Garland freshman Morgan Libby said she enjoyed the discussion on politics.

"I thought Sen. West was very knowledgeable on issues in Texas, and I appreciated how he asked for feedback from students on what mattered to them," Libby said.



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff

**Please pass the Grey Poupon**

ATO members keep their manners in mind while eating a salad as part of an etiquette class the fraternity held for inductees. Guest speaker Martha Lou Scott, associate vice president of student affairs, taught members and inductees how to politely pass the bread Tuesday evening in the Baines room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

**DEBATE** from page 1

government help individual homeowners avoid foreclosure went considerably beyond the \$700 billion bailout that recently cleared Congress.

"I would order the secretary of the Treasury to immediately buy up the bad home loan mortgages in America and renegotiate at the new value of those homes at the diminished value of those homes and let people be able to make those payments and stay in their homes," he said.

"Is it expensive? Yes. But we all know, my friends, until we stabilize home values in America, we're never going to start turning around and creating jobs and fixing our economy, and we've got to get some trust and confidence back to America."

McCain also said it was important to reform the giant benefit programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

The two men also competed

to demonstrate their qualifications as reformers at a time voters are clamoring for change.

McCain accused Obama of being the Senate's second-highest recipient of donations from individuals at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the two now-disgraced mortgage industry giants.

"There were some of us who stood up against this," McCain said of the lead-up to the financial crisis. "There were others who took a hike."

Obama shot back that McCain's campaign manager, Rick Davis, has a stake in a Washington lobbying firm that received thousands of dollars a month from Freddie Mac until recently.

Pivoting quickly to show his concern with members of the audience listening from a few feet away, he said, "You're not interested in politicians pointing fingers. You're interested in the impact on you."

But that didn't stop the two men from criticizing one another repeatedly as the topics turned to energy, spending,

taxes and health care.

The debate also veered into foreign policy, and the disputes were as intense as on the economy and domestic matters.

McCain said his rival "was wrong about Iraq and the surge. He was wrong about Russia when they committed aggression against Georgia."

And in his short career he does not understand our national security challenges. We don't have time for on the job training."

Obama countered with a trace of sarcasm that he didn't understand some things, like how the United States could face the challenge in does in Afghanistan after spending years and hundreds of billions of dollars in Iraq.

The audience was selected by Gallup, the polling organization, and was split three ways among voters leaning toward McCain, those leaning toward Obama and those undecided.

Tom Brokaw of NBC, the moderator, screened their questions and also chose others that had been submitted online.

**AIG** from page 1

firm, as losses mounted.

Waxman also released testimony from former AIG auditor Joseph St. Denis, who resigned after being blocked from giving his input on how the firm estimated its liabilities.

Three former AIG executives were summoned to appear before the hearing. One of them, Maurice "Hank" Greenberg — who ran AIG for 38 years until 2005 — canceled his appearance citing illness but submitted prepared testimony.

In it, he blamed the com-

pany's financial woes on his successors, former CEOs Martin Sullivan and Robert Wil-

lson. The hearing is the second in two days into financial excesses and regulatory mistakes that have spooked stock and credit markets and heightened fears about a global recession.

**CAMPAIGN** from page 1

term were unsigned.

"While per curiam opinions serve a necessary purpose in our judicial system, they should never be used to shield the Court from criticism on controversial issues before it," Houston said.

After receiving a degree in business administration from the University of Texas, Hous-

ton came to the Baylor law school, then started practicing at the firm Andrews & Kurth. He later left and joined Cruse, Scott, Henderson, & Allen, where he became a partner within a year.

"Sam Houston is a very, very fine lawyer. He is experienced and smart," said Gerald R. Powell, professor of evidence law at the Baylor law school. "Maybe the most important thing is that Sam has a good sense of

the proper place of both judge and jury in our civil justice system. It is refreshing these days to see a candidate who believes so strongly in trial by jury."

Houston's last name is commonly associated with that of the past president of the Republic of Texas, but there is no relation.

According to Cohen, they are not running solely on the name, but want to take every advantage they can.

THE BEALL-RUSSELL LECTURES IN THE HUMANITIES PRESENTS

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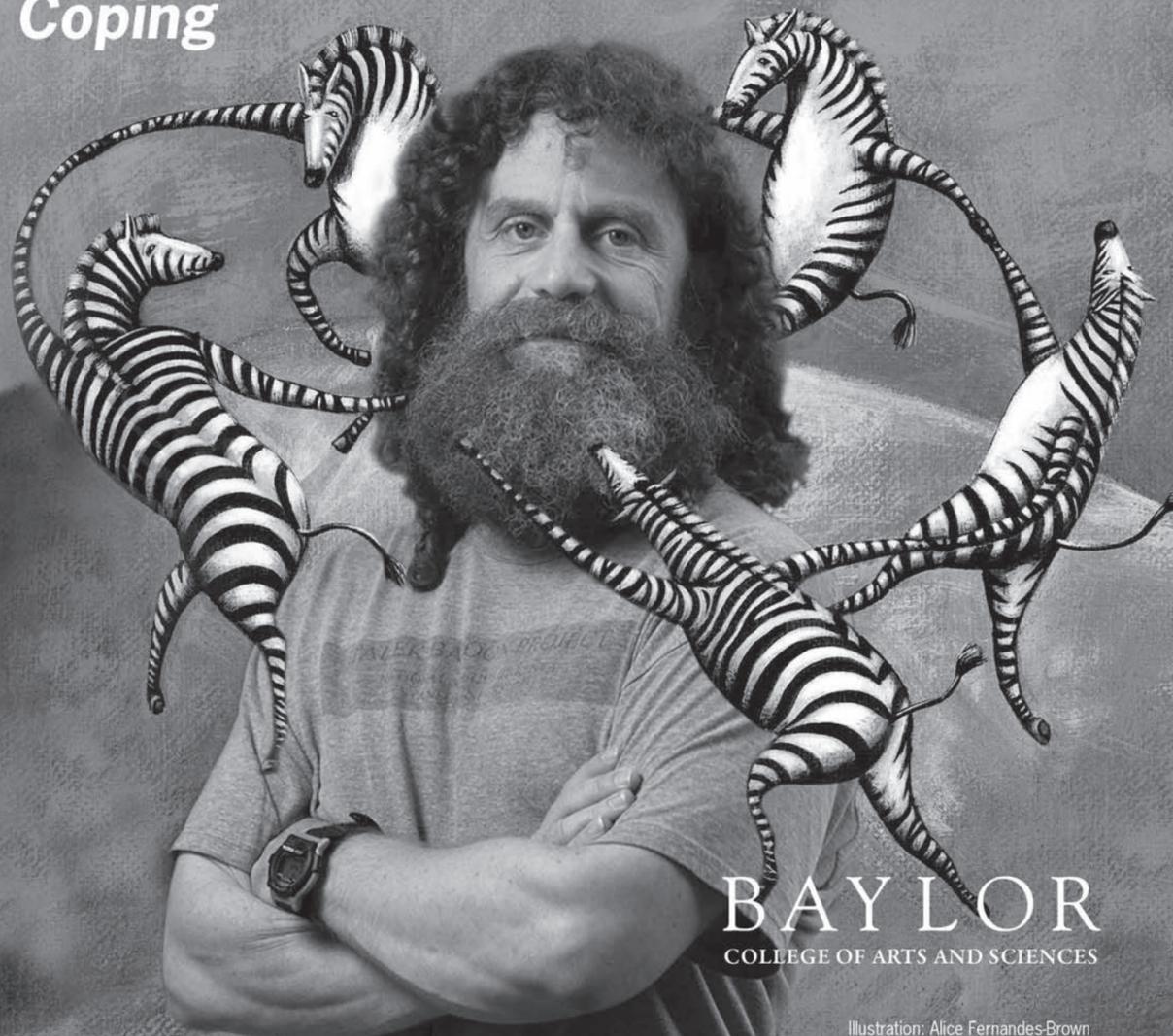
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Thursday, October 9, 2008  
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