



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008

President search may get outside input

Baylor alumni call for open communication during president selection process

By Ashley Corinne Killough
Staff Writer

The Baylor Alumni Association released a resolution last Thursday, calling on the Board of Regents to include representation from Baylor's various constituent groups on the presidential search committee.

Approved unanimously on Oct. 11 by the Association's Board of Directors, the document models and supports a similar resolution passed by Faculty Senate in September.

While regents have traditionally constituted the search committee, the two resolutions recommend that faculty, staff, students and Texas Baptists also be represented with voting rights. Dr. Howard K. Batson, chair of the Board of Regents, responded to the Senate's resolution two

days after it was approved with a statement sent to Dr. Georgia Green, chair of Faculty Senate.

Citing the Southern Association of College and Schools, Batson wrote that "the responsibility of selecting a president and the method by which a president is selected belongs to the Board."

He said that while he could not promise "voting rights" to any party other than the Board, he hopes "the search committee would take seriously the advice and recommendations of the various members of the Baylor family."

He also included that the Board is looking at "best practices for presidential searches" and "will consider both what Baylor has done in the past as well as models from other universities."

Search committees at other schools tend to include more university-wide representation, said Dr. Lynn Tatum, immediate past president of the Texas American Association of University Professors.

"At the nation's most prestigious universities, the search

process is a joint effort centered around regents and faculty members," Tatum said.

The faculty-trustee balance is approximately 50 percent to 50 percent on search committees at Stanford University, Duke University and Dartmouth College. At Yale University and Princeton

University, the balance is about 30 percent to 70 percent. In addition, Tatum said there are usually representatives from the student body, alumni and staff.

In Baylor's last presidential search, the process involved two groups: the advisory committee and the search committee.

The advisory committee, which included representatives from various constituencies, sat in on most of the interviews and met with the search committee. While individuals on the committee could express their opinions, they didn't have voting rights.

The committee consisted of a representative from Faculty Senate, a representative from Baylor's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, a third faculty member selected by the regents, one

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Bill presented to unify search process

By Kate Williams
Reporter

A special proposal calling for representation of faculty, staff, students and alumni in the university Presidential Search Committee is being presented to Student Senate this evening.

Student Body President Bryan Fonville, Student Body Internal Vice President Parker Short and Student Body External Vice President Nicole Yeakley drafted the bill last week as

part of a new effort to unify the campus while regents search for a new president.

Sponsors of the bill include Okalahoma City senior Tommy Takyi-Micah and Garland senior Andy Beall.

Beall said she is concerned about how a new president might affect students.

"I think it that is very important that the student body has a say in who becomes the next president," she said.

Fonville stressed that it is vital students have a role in

Student Senate Meeting

Tonight at 5 p.m.
403 Cashion Academic Center

The meeting is open to the public and Reagan Ramsower, vice president for finance and administration, will be taking questions.

absent from the process of finding an interim president.

"It is our hope that the Regents and the administration will correct this oversight and allow students to serve on the Presidential Search Committee," he said.

Selecting a president is an important decision for Baylor's future, and students deserve to be involved, he said.

If student senators approve

Please see PROPOSAL, page 5

Candidates meet in West, talk politics

Congressional candidates discuss war and economy, stress importance of upcoming election

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

Congressman Chet Edwards, D-Waco, and his Republican opponent, Rob Curnock, made an appearance at the Kiwanis Club's Annual Meet the Candidates Day Wednesday in West, Texas.

Though it seems that politicians tell the public that every year is the most critical election of our lives, Curnock stressed that the cliché holds steadfastly true this year.

"This year, this time, it is the most critical election," he said. "This year is the year we will decide which direction our country will go in, and the two directions couldn't be more drastic. What I'm offering you

is a choice."

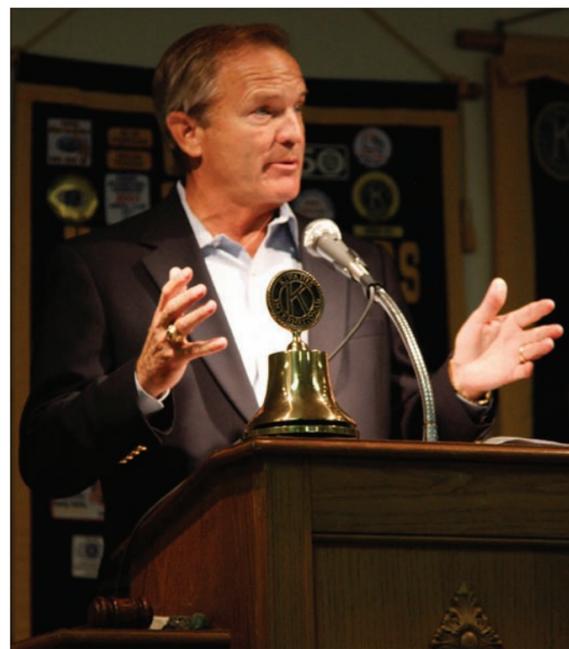
That choice is based on what he has to offer in comparison to Edwards' policies.

Highlighting the differences between he and his opponent, Curnock talked about his own views on the war in Iraq and the \$700 billion Congressional bailout plan.

"Veterans' issues — that's where my basics are," he said. "We need to support our troops to victory instead of bringing them home in defeat as my opponent would have it. I also disagree strongly with the bailout plan, although I admit that we did need to do something. My opponent and I are just in disagreement on who we are as a nation and where we're going."

Edwards, who voted in favor of the bailout plan, did not focus on that issue in his address. Instead, the 18-year incumbent emphasized what he has done for the people of McLennan County.

"I've worked as hard as I



Candidates Chet Edwards (Left) and Rob Curnock (Right) spoke at the West Community Center on Wednesday. The candidates briefly addressed some of their political views and met with community members who attended the event.



Christina Kruse/Lariat Staff Photos

Debate '08

Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum

Monday at 6 p.m.
College Station Hilton

know how to make a positive difference for the people in West, the people in McLennan County," Edwards said. "When the officials at the national level tried to close the VA hospital, I rolled up my sleeves and went to work to keep it open and get more funding. And we won that battle."

As the son of a World War II veteran and chairman of the

Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, veteran needs are at the top of Edwards' priority list as well, he said.

"I've been a champion at the national level on veterans' issues," Edwards said. "And that is because I believe we have a moral obligation to those who have protected us. The key question is who can make a difference for veterans? Is it going

to be a freshman politician or someone who secured the spot of chairman of the Veterans Affairs Appropriations Committee?"

Though Curnock doesn't have the same national experience as Edwards, he relied heavily on experience of his own — as a small business owner in Waco — to establish a connection with the people, especially over the current financial situation.

"I myself have been hurting from what's been going on in the

economy," he said. "But I believe in lower taxes and I want the IRS gone. As someone who has been creating jobs for years, I know that without doing these things, it hurts the creation of jobs."

Larry Hunter, manager for the Rob Curnock campaign, believes the Capitol needs more people like Curnock in office.

"We need people who have created jobs, balanced budgets, and understand how an

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Sarah Morris/Lariat Staff

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's ...

Bre Marchand works on a pose in the rest and relaxation class in Rena Mars McLean Gymnasium on Wednesday afternoon. The class introduces students to various yoga positions and breathing techniques.

Police arrest and charge man for vehicle burglary

Jade Ortego
Staff Writer

At 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, Baylor police arrested a man on eight charges of burglary of a motor vehicle, all state jail felonies.

Sunday morning, police discovered eight cars with broken-in windows in Fifth Street Parking Garage.

After a pursuit that lasted from Monday evening until the arrest, Mark Anthony Kirkland, 29, was taken into custody. In addition to the burglary charges, he was charged with criminal trespass-

ing, a class B misdemeanor, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a class C misdemeanor. Kirkland is at McLennan County Jail with bail set at \$210,000. Kirkland is not being very cooperative, said Baylor Chief of Police Jim Doak.

Doak said he commends his

officers for their dedication during the investigation.

"Our personnel went above and beyond. They have not left (work) for 30 hours," he said.

Doak said that this is not the first time the police have encountered Kirkland. He was given a warning for criminal trespassing in March, and he was already known for criminal activity. "We let him know (in March), 'You're not wanted here,'" Doak said.

Kirkland will probably get six months in jail for

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Kirkland

US weapons sale to Taiwan should to be halted

Amid a perpetually fragile relationship with China, the Bush administration's decision early this month to sell \$6.5 billion in advanced weaponry to Taiwan was a diplomatic mistake.

This business venture by the U.S. came amid Taiwan and China's first peaceful negotiations in a decade, their first step in an effort to arrive at an eventual peace agreement.

The U.S. would have been smart to act as a good neighbor and watch from the sidelines at this crucial diplomatic time between the two nations.

Compromising China's trust could not have come at a worse

time in respect to the U.S.-China relationship. This business move on the part of the Pentagon is irresponsible considering that the U.S. needs China's support both financially and diplomatically.

The U.S. owes China nearly \$500 billion dollars, a figure quoted by Sen. McCain in the second presidential debate. This, in addition to the multitude of economic entanglements between the two countries, makes toying with Chinese trust a dangerous thing to do.

In addition, the U.S. and China were engaged in secret talks regarding North Korea's

point of view



BY LIZ FOREMAN

instable future. China abruptly halted this collaboration after the weapon sale was announced.

The arms sale is justified, the U.S. government says, through the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979. While the act historically binds the U.S. to supply defensive arms for Taiwan, it does not justify the recent decision from a

diplomatic perspective.

China's threats to cut off state-to-state and military ties with America for continued weapon sales to Taiwan should be taken seriously.

By continuing weapon sales, the U.S. has failed to honor a joint agreement with China made in 1982, in which the U.S. declared its intent to decrease the number of arms sales gradually.

Surely, U.S. government leaders cannot continue to breach China's trust and still build and maintain a working relationship with the offended party. From a cultural perspective, it has not been easy for China to open itself

up to military and diplomatic collaborations with the U.S. It has been an ongoing process for the U.S. to build a relationship with the very private country.

In recent years, the positive changes taking place within the Chinese government are evident. Years ago, the world may not have witnessed China firing city officials because of a milk scandal. China is making an effort to step onto the world stage and build a relationship with the U.S. something that has taken years to do.

The Bush administration could not have decided on this bad diplomatic endeavor at a worse time. It is imperative

that the United States maintain friendly relations with China. With the vast amount of debt that this nation owes China, as well as the symbiotic economical relationship the U.S. and China share, it is important for the U.S. to act responsibly in relations with Taiwan as not to harm those with China.

If the U.S. plans to balance their tense relationship with China, all weapon sales to Taiwan should be halted indefinitely.

Liz Foreman is a junior international studies and journalism major from Beaumont and the assistant city editor of The Baylor Lariat.

Editorial

Roommate pairing method needs improvement

Having a good roommate can either make or break a student's first year of college experience.

Learning to get along with a complete stranger is hard, especially if that person rocks out to old 98 Degrees albums and snores really loud. One can only pray for a roommate match made in heaven, but some prayers go unanswered.

More than likely, college is the first time a student is away from home and for some students, it may be the first time they will have to share a room or living space. A compatible roommate can make all the difference in the difficult transition from cozy bedroom to cramped dorm room. The stresses of class and exams, on top of missing mom and dad, can be exasperated by roommate conflicts.

In most universities, including Baylor, using the standard five-to-ten question method of pairing students can spell disaster. In an effort to stop problems before they start, universities around the country are adopting news ways of pairing roommates beyond potluck picking.

As stated on the Baylor University Web site, currently students are assigned a roommate in the order in which housing applications are received. Mutual roommate preferences are

considered first, while students who do not list a roommate preference get assigned according to space availability. These students are randomly placed in available space without any regard for compatibility.

This type of random pairing should be revised to allow students more input and control over with which they will spend their first year of college.

Baylor requires all incoming freshmen to live on-campus so it would make sense that more effort and consideration be put into roommate pairings. It's not fair that students have to live out the consequences of someone else's bad pairing decision.

A recent article from the McClatchy-Tribune News explored the methods of The University of Richmond and their success with hand matching roommates using in-depth questionnaires.

Unlike most universities that offer the usual vague questionnaire questions such as "Do you smoke?" and "How would you describe your study habits?" Richmond created questions that can reveal more than just what is directly being asked.

For example, students are asked how often they nap, but the student's answer may also reveal how much time will be



spent in the dorm room. Therefore, a more suitable roommate can be chosen according to the student's answer.

In 2003, The New York Times published an article, First Test for Freshmen: Picking Roommates, that described Emory University's method of roommate pairing. The university allowed freshmen students to pick their own roommates using an online roommate-selection system, similar to the idea behind online dating systems.

The online service was provided by WebRoomz, and cost the university approximately \$35,000, depending on the number of students.

Similar to online dating sites, students created a screen name to hide their identity, and post-

ed a profile of themselves that contained personality information such as interests, music tastes and work habits. Student also rated whether they wanted to "do almost everything" with their roommate or "lead separate but compatible lives."

Students were able to view other student's profile and decide whether they would like to contact the person and ultimately agree to room together for the academic year.

This process took place over the summer and allowed students the opportunity to take control of their roommate selection process and have a hand in deciding who they would share a room with.

Baylor doesn't have to invest thousands of dollars into new computer-matching software,

but things like having a more in-depth questionnaire or taking the time to hand sort and match students can make a difference.

A dorm room should be a haven to come home to after a long day, not a battle ground with a duct tape line of divide down the center.

All too often roommate, conflicts are considered commonplace and a part of the college experience when they don't have to be.

A university that focuses so much on community owes it to its students to put more human effort into the roommate process.

Taking more time to thoughtfully select roommates for students can mean a better, more enjoyable freshman year.

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.

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Online display of genetics can be used in negative manner

On Monday, ten people allowed their genetic coding to be publicly displayed on personalgenomes.com. These volunteers are intellectuals, some of which include psychologists, authors, astronauts and professors.

This move sets in motion something that has been feared and protested by many.

According to the Web site, "the Personal Genome Project is an open-ended research study that aims to improve our understanding of genetic and environmental contributions to human traits." The purpose of putting a participant's genetic informa-

tion on public display is for scientist's research to benefit from such a large set of data.

Though this project is aimed at advancing medicine, there is too much room for backfire.

According to an article published in The New York Times on Sunday, the extent of the personal information that will be on public display, in addition to their genetic code, include "photographs, their disease histories, allergies, medications, ethnic backgrounds and a trove of other traits, called phenotypes, from food preferences to television viewing habits."

The public information of a

point of view



BY CHRISTINA KRUSE

person's genetic predispositions could induce discrimination in the areas of employment, insurance coverage or financial aid. Participating in the project could lead to potentially being judged and rejected before even meeting with an employer or insurance agent.

Right now, the Web site just

seems like a genetic Facebook. On sites like Facebook or Myspace, more often than not, users display pictures of the alcohol-fueled party they were at last night, which is available for a great number of people's viewing pleasure.

Some of these people who are looking at your beer bash pictures include employers who are gathering background information on a prospective employee. Same with displaying your genetic make-up online. Your genetic dirty laundry is displayed for everyone, and everyone looking will draw their own conclusions.

Right now, insurance companies are increasing or refusing to cover someone based on their smoking or medical history. However, if your genetics prove that you might suffer heart problems sometime in the future, that could possibly be enough for insurance companies to reject individuals.

The site also warns potential participants that someone could "make synthetic DNA corresponding to the participant and plant it at a crime scene." This suggestion seems like something out of a science fiction novel. DNA is hard evidence that can prove a defendant guilty of an

accused crime.

If synthetic DNA recreation becomes a fairly common practice, how will the criminal justice system cope in finding criminals when it already has such a hard time?

Even though the goals of the Personal Genome Project web site is meant for positive use, such as helping researchers find a cure for a disease from a large set of data, there is still too much information that could be used in a negative manner.

Christina Kruse is a senior journalism major from Haker Heights and is the photo editor for The Baylor Lariat.

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THE SAUNAN OF PUZZLES By The Mapham Group

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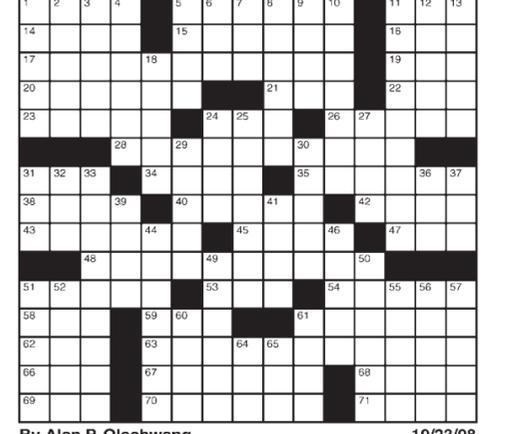
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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

- ACROSS
1 Vino region
5 Was defeated by 11 Letters for shock treatment
14 Any time now
15 Provo resident
16 Quid pro
17 Start of Ed Howe quip
19 Mentalist Geller
20 River ends, often
21 "Scream" director Craven
22 Down with the flu
23 Ford dud
24 Scottish uncle
26 "Fiddler on the Roof" role
28 Part 2 of quip
31 Aged
34 Egg-coloring brand
35 Emetic medication
38 Cover
40 Part 3 of quip
42 Casa chamber
43 Birthplace of St. Francis
45 Em, to Dorothy
47 Drink like a dog
48 Part 4 of quip
51 University of Maine town
53 Citrus drink
54 Brahman, e.g.
58 Reed or Rawls
59 Scram!
61 Seal engraved on a ring
62 Lodging house
63 End of quip
66 Tenth mo.
67 Can skip
68 Bygone time
69 Urgent letters
70 One thing after another
71 Jewish month
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4 Part of a foot
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6 Polo Grounds great
7 Adage
8 What's worldwide
9 Container weight
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11 Undecided
12 Like Shirley Temple's hairdo
13 Linen fabric
18 Billy of the Dead End Kids
24 Biblical twin
25 Lost
27 Somme summers
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49 Shaving foam
50 Honshu city
51 Medleys
52 Popeil company
55 Woman's netlike cap
56 Aquarium fish
57 Old-time anesthetic
60 Slurpee rival
61 Certain NCO's
64 Despot Amin
65 Wind dir.



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/23/08

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

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AP poll shows Obama leading by a hair

By Liz Sidoti
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The presidential race tightened after the final debate, with John McCain gaining among whites and people earning less than \$50,000, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll that shows McCain and Barack Obama essentially running even among likely voters in the election homestretch.

The poll, which found Obama at 44 percent and McCain at 43 percent, supports what some Republicans and Democrats privately have said in recent days: that the race narrowed after the third debate as GOP-leaning voters drifted home to their party and McCain's "Joe the plumber" analogy struck a chord.

Three weeks ago, an AP-GfK survey found that Obama had surged to a seven-point lead over McCain, lifted by voters who thought the Democrat was better suited to lead the nation through its sudden economic crisis.

The contest is still volatile, and the split among voters is apparent less than two weeks before Election Day.

"I trust McCain more, and I do feel that he has more experience in government than Obama. I don't think Obama has been around long enough," said Angela Decker, 44, of La Porte, Ind.

But Karen Judd, 58, of Middleton, Wis., said, "Obama certainly has sufficient qualifications." She said any positive feelings about McCain evaporated with "the outright lying" in TV ads and his choice of running mate Sarah Palin, who "doesn't have the correct skills."

The new AP-GfK head-to-head result is a departure from some, but not all, recent national polls.

Obama and McCain were essentially tied among likely voters in the latest George Washington University Battleground Poll, conducted by Republican strategist Ed Goas and Democratic pollster Celinda Lake.

In other surveys focusing on likely voters, a Washington Post-ABC News poll and a Wall Street Journal-NBC News survey have Obama up by 11 points, and a poll by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center has him leading by 14. Polls are snapshots of highly fluid campaigns.

In this case, there is a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points; that means Obama could be ahead by as many as 8 points or down by as many as 6.

Charles Franklin, a University of Wisconsin political science professor and polling authority, said variation between polls occurs, in part, because pollsters interview random samples of people.

"If they all agree, somebody would be doing something terribly wrong," he said of polls. But he also said that surveys generally fall within a few points of each other, adding, "When you get much beyond that, there's something to explain."

The AP-GfK survey included interviews with a nationally representative random sample totaling 1,101 adults, including 800 deemed likely to vote. For the entire sample, the survey showed Obama ahead 47 percent to 37 percent.

He was up by five points among all registered voters, including the likely voters.

A significant number of the interviews were conducted by dialing a randomly selected sample of cell phone numbers, and thus this poll had a chance to reach voters who were excluded from some other polls.

It was taken over five days from Thursday through Monday, starting the night after the candidates' final debate and ending the day after former Secretary of State Colin Powell broke with the Republican Party to endorse Obama.



Sara Morris/Lariat Staff

Freshman Ashlyn Bufton (left) watches as freshman Mattie Gunther (right) begins to paint her new TOMS shoes with yellow polka dots at Common Grounds Monday.

Company gives shoe for shoe

By Ashley Erikson
Reporter

Representatives from TOMS Shoes came to Baylor's campus Wednesday to discuss how one can be in business and not run solely on profit.

Interns Kelsey Brandon and Laura Hardin from California stopped by Chapel for their "Vagabond Tour," a 10-week, 11-state tour from August to December.

TOMS began in 2006 with a mission to donate one pair of shoes for every pair that is purchased, Brandon and Hardin said. Since then, they have given away more than 70,000 pairs of shoes to children in need and plan to give away more than 300,000 pairs in the next 12 months.

"I worked with TOMS this summer in Los Angeles so I helped set up the events at Baylor," Allen senior Seth Hale said.

Wednesday at University Baptist Church, Hale, Brandon and Hardin presented TOMS Shoes' business model for a town hall meeting.

"The main goal is to start conversations on campus about doing business for more than just a buck," Hale said.

UBC Community Pastor John Mark Seelig lead the meeting where Longview senior Ben Carroll and Houston senior Nick Deere discussed Kenyan businesses. Austin senior Whitney Petty spoke about World Hunger Relief Farm.

"As Americans, we'd love to grab at all the profit out there," Seelig said. "But as Christians, we need to say 'OK, stop. I have enough.'"

Where the lines between business ethics and Christian morals meet, there is a question about profit and whether or not it can meet both business and Christian standards at the same time, Deere said.

"Profit isn't necessarily a bad thing when it comes to business," Deere said. "It helps businesses focus on a goal and keeps them in line. But what you do with that profit may be the bigger question to ask yourself."

Hale told the story of how he came to work for TOMS Shoes this summer and how it has

affected his life.

"You don't have to join the Peace Corps to do good deeds," Hale said. "Just pay more attention to where your money is going and who you are working for."

At UBC, sales representatives from Congress Clothing, who sell the shoes locally, said that TOMS are easily the store's biggest seller, ranging from \$42 to \$58 per pair of shoes.

"The company's still making profit, but they feel the need to give a little back," Seelig said. "And that's the difference."

With help from Stephanie Ard, show coordinator at Common Grounds, Hale set up the "Style Your Sole" dance party at Common Grounds where music and social work collided Wednesday night.

"During 'Style Your Sole' we (sold) canvas TOMS that people could paint themselves," Brandon said.

Musicians Brady Johnson, Caroline Turner and Griffin Kelp played at the free concert.

"TOMS makes money off shoes, but it's taking business in a good direction," Hale said.

Outside concert rocks for CASA

By Arielle Cayia
Reporter

Kappa Alpha Theta is holding Theta Rocks the CASA with Emory Quinn tonight at the outdoor amphitheater of Indian Spring Park.

Theta Rocks the CASA is an annual concert benefiting Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, and will begin at 7 p.m. tonight.

In the past, a Journey cover band played for the Theta's event, but this year, the band Emory Quinn will be performing, said Jacqueline Alvarenga, Houston senior and Theta philanthropy chair.

"We wanted to change it up a bit and get a band that's new and fresh," Alvarenga said.

Emory Quinn, a Texas country band, has been touring with the Eli Young Band and recently

opened for them at Wild West in Waco, Alvarenga said.

"They're well-known among Baylor students," she said.

Information about Emory Quinn and samples of their music can be found by visiting www.myspace.com/emoryquinn.

"I'm hoping that it will be more about the community and other people because we're bringing a bigger name this year," said Cypress senior Kristen Nelson.

The opening act begins at 6:30 p.m., and will be performed by Cameron Lokey, an Oklahoma State University graduate, before Emory Quinn takes the stage.

"I hope it will be another fun band with just good music, atmosphere and friends," said Temple junior Brad Bartels.

The environment will be more "chill," than it was been in

the past, and attendees are welcome to bring blankets to sit on, Alvarenga said.

"It will be a good break, especially after midterms and before the busy-ness of homecoming kicks off," Alvarenga said.

Indian Spring Park is located in downtown Waco next to the suspension bridge, across from the Hilton on University Parks Drive.

Alvarenga said the set-up at Indian Spring Park consists of a small hill area where people can spread out that is angled down toward an amphitheater.

Theta Rocks the CASA is open to Baylor students and the Waco community.

Proceeds from ticket and T-shirt sales will be donated to CASA.

"I love the atmosphere of Indian Spring Park," Nelson said. "I'm hoping it will be a really relaxing night."

Prison authorities nab 13 phones

By Michael Graczyk
Associated Press

HOUSTON — An intense shakedown of Texas' 155,000 prison inmates yielded 13 cell phones and 12 phone chargers in a growing scandal over prohibited telephones being smuggled in to inmates.

Authorities charged a second person Wednesday, accusing her of being involved in a death-row inmate's possession of a phone.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice officials also said officers have seized at least one subscriber identity module, or SIM card, a postage-stamp-size tool that plugs into cell phones and transfers information from one phone to another.

A phone and a charger were found in the ceiling of a shower area in the death row building at the Polunsky Unit outside Livingston, agency spokeswoman

Michelle Lyons said.

The 111 prisons in the nation's second-largest corrections system have been locked down since Monday evening after Gov. Rick Perry ordered agency officials to ferret out any contraband.

The order followed the disclosure that death row inmate Richard Tabler had made threatening calls to a state senator and had shared his illegal cell phone with at least nine of his fellow inmates.

Later Wednesday, officers found Tabler had ripped a 3-foot piece of bedsheet, attached it to a light fixture in his death row cell and had red marks around his neck. The inmate then was transferred to a prison medical psychiatric facility outside Houston because officials feared he had been attempting to kill himself.

The 10 condemned prisoners made 2,800 calls in nearly a

month and the inmate's mother, Lorraine, was arrested Monday and jailed on suspicion of paying for phone minutes. It is illegal to give inmates prohibited items like cell phones or the minutes needed to use them.

Tabler's sister, Kristina Martinez, turned herself in to police in Killeen Wednesday after she was named in a warrant, Lyons said. Martinez and Lorraine Tabler were charged with providing a prohibited item to a corrections facility, a felony. Martinez posted \$10,000 bond and was released. A woman who answered the phone at the bail bondsman's office in Killeen did not know whether Martinez had an attorney.

The systemwide lockdown means inmates are confined to their cells and normal visits with relatives have been suspended. Employees and visitors also are subjected to searches with hand-held metal detectors.

BEAR BRIEFS

Baylor University Health Center will sponsor open flu shot clinics from 10 a.m. to noon today in Sid Richardson Science Building, and from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday in the seminar room of Brooks College. For more information, visit http://www.baylor.edu/health_center/.

Interest session for Summer 2009 BaylorBound and Baylor Line Camp leaders will take place at 3 p.m. today in the Beckham Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center. To apply, visit www.baylor.edu/baylorbound/apply.

Campus Living and Learning is holding a community leader interest meeting at 4:30 p.m. today in the Alexander Reading Room in the Honors Residential College. Applications are available online at www.baylor.edu/cll/clapp and due Nov. 4.

Baylor Apple Students is holding an interest meeting, Mac 101: iLife and iWork, at 7 p.m. tonight in room G32 in Moody Memorial Library. For more information, contact lauren_woodruff@baylor.edu.

Kappa Alpha Theta is holding Rock the CASA from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. tonight at Indian Spring Park. All proceeds will be donated to the Court Appointed Special Advocates, (CASA). For more information, contact Jacqueline_Alvarenga@baylor.edu.

Indian Subcontinent Student Association is holding its Mehndi Sales event from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Friday in the Bill Daniel Student Center. Henna tattoos are being sold starting at \$3. For more information, contact Mihir_Pankaj@baylor.edu.

The Kenny Barron Trio will be performing at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Glennis McCrary Music Building. For more information, visit <http://www.baylor.edu/music>.

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Student Government to sponsor Hay Day Straw Poll

By Jennifer Sutton
Reporter

As the presidential race nears its conclusion, the Baylor Student Government seeks to politically educate students, faculty and staff about the presidential candidates.

The office of the student body external vice president will be holding the annual Hay Day Straw Poll from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday at Fountain Mall.

Hay Day is an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to come and cast their votes for who they want to be president.

Student Body External Vice President Nicole Yeakley, a junior from Lindale, said that the straw poll is done to get an idea of who the president might be.

"It is an important way for us to do something interesting on campus for an election," said Ruston, La., sophomore Matthew Moore, assistant director of legislative relations.

Baylor Student Government and Student Activities held Rock the Vote last month to encourage students to register to vote.

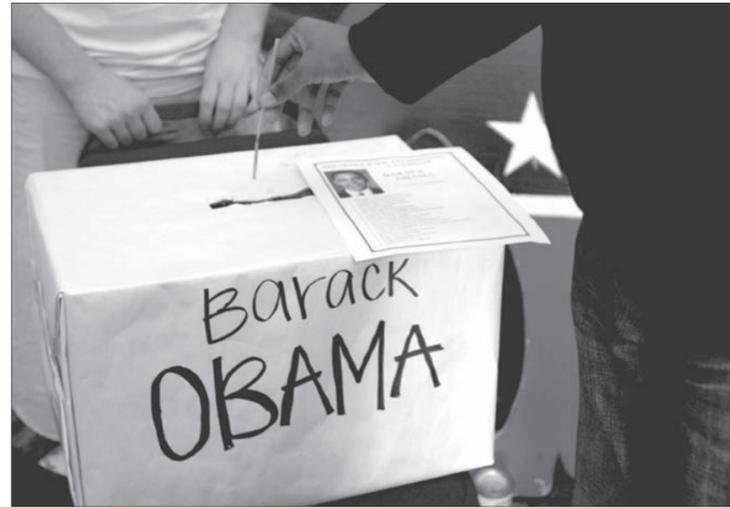
Hay Day is designed to educate students, faculty and staff about the presidential candidates so that they can make informed decisions come Election Day.

"Our goal is education," Yeakley said. "Our biggest issue right now is to get students educated."



Lariat File Photo

In this photo taken in February on Super Tuesday's primary election straw poll, a ballot for then-Republican primary nominee Sen John McCain wins a vote.



Lariat File Photo

In this photo from the Super Tuesday primary straw poll in February, Sen. Barack Obama gets a Baylor vote. Student government is holding a national election straw poll Thursday.

Pamphlets with information regarding each candidate's political platform will be on hand so that people have the information they need to make an informed voting decision.

"In a fun and informative manner, we are trying to get students excited and informed about the election," said Westcosville, Pa., senior Sam Chen, director of legislative relations.

Spring senior Cassidy Ford said that it is important for voters to be informed when head-

ing to the polls.

"We have a duty as responsible citizens to vote and part of that responsibility is informing ourselves," Ford said. "If we want them (our leaders) to act responsibly on our behalf then we need to be responsible in how we vote."

This will be the second Hay Day to be held at Baylor. The first was held on Super Tuesday in February to see how the primaries might end.

When the Hay Day straw

polls closed on Feb. 5, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., won the Democratic and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. won the Republican straw poll primaries.

"We held one of these in February and Obama won the plurality of the votes," Moore said.

Yeakley said she doesn't feel that Baylor's conservative reputation will highly sway the results of the straw poll.

"I know during the primaries a lot of students expected the Republican candidate to win,"

Yeakley said. "It's feasible for Obama to win our straw poll."

Moore said that he doesn't know who is going to win but that the poll should be interesting with just two candidates.

Over 500 people attended the first Hay Day and Student Body President Bryan Fonville said that he expects a good turnout this year, because of the historic nature of the election.

"This is an important time in our nation's history and more young people are interested

in voting than ever before and as a student government, we feel it is important to highlight important issues in our national government and help students make informed decisions come election day," Fonville said.

Student body representatives said they are hoping for a good turnout.

"I just want to invite students to come out, have a great time, eat some great food and learn more about the presidential candidates," Yeakley said.

Sensitivity toward poor goal of global poverty symposium

By Jillian Henderson
Reporter

Baylor University's Institute for Faith and Learning is holding a global poverty conference all day today through Oct. 25, titled "Bottom-up Approaches to Global Poverty: Appropriate Technology, Social Entrepreneurship and the Church" in the Cashion Academic Center of the Hankamer School of Business.

The symposium focuses on the way that Christians respond

to people most in need of help in society. The global poverty conference will consist of 80 presentations addressing topics from the challenges of global poverty, the potential to create genuine social change and the expression of the Christian faith through the convergence of three forces, including the local church, appropriate technology and social entrepreneurship.

"The purpose of the conference is to bring together a diverse group of people inter-

ested in eliminating global poverty to create a genuine social change," said Dr. Darin Davis, interim director for the Institute for Faith and Learning.

This conference is aimed at everyone in the Baylor community prompted by God's call to meet the needs of the poor, marginalized and oppressed.

The program will include the following speakers: Bernard Amadei and Christopher Barrett, Ruth Padilla DeBorst, Ken Eldred, J. Andrew Kirk, Perla

Manapol, Caesar Molebatsi, Dwight Nordstrom, Ray Norman, Bill O'Brien, Paul Polak, and Glenn White. These range from professors to missionaries to CEOs.

"I hope that all who attend would be so sensitized and aware of the issues that relate to poverty, that they would be a part of their lives. We'd love to see the investment of people's lives in some way," said Dr. Gaynor Yancy, associate dean of the School of Social Work.

This conference is also intended to bring about an awareness of the pressing needs of the poor of the world, in hopes that it will bring the Baylor students and faculty into action on the issues of poverty.

"I would like those who attend the conference to take away a heightened sensitivity to the pressing needs of the poor people of the world, and be informed on the strategy to elevate poverty around the world," said Dr. Joseph a McKinney, Ben

H. Williams professor of international economics.

The conference is open to anyone who wants to come.

"All of those who care about people in need, interested in eliminating global poverty, and Christians seeing the call in the gospel to eliminate global poverty. It's a bottom-up approach to elevate global poverty," Davis said.

For more information about the symposium, visit the Baylor Web site.

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SEARCH from page 1

undergraduate student, one member of the Baylor staff, one academic dean, one representative of the Alumni Association, one representative of the Baylor Foundation and one representative of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. It was chaired by long-time Baylor supporter and donor, Ambassador Lyndon Olsen.

The search committee, which was made up entirely of regents, recommended a candidate to the Board of Regents for approval.

The resolutions passed by Faculty Senate and the Alumni Association propose that the search committee include members representing other groups at Baylor rather than just Regents.

Bill Nesbitt, president of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors, hasn't received a response from the Board of Regents, but he remains optimistic that they will respond favorably to the resolution.

"I think they have suffered with the difficulties they've had with former presidents John Lilley and Robert Sloan, and I think they know the university has suffered," Nesbitt said. "They've got such an obvious ticket, and I don't believe they will let this opportunity pass. It's too golden."

After receiving feedback from more than 100 alumni for a Baylor Line magazine feature on ways to build unity at Baylor, Nesbitt said the most common request was for more open communication between the various groups.

"The Board is not obligated by the law of the land to be open, but they are obligated by the law of human nature to be open. If people aren't in on it, or properly elected representatives aren't in an orderly and democratic process, then human nature isn't going to be as supportive," Nesbitt said.

He added that an inclusive search committee would be the most important factor in bringing the various constituencies together.

"(The Board of Regents) should trust the people who form the heart of the university," Nesbitt said. "If the heart isn't the faculty and the students, backed



Sarah Morris/Lariat Staff

Can you dig it?

Kathy Chenoweth measures a 1x1 meter square in the grass in front of Mars McLean Science Building for her class "Methods in Archeology." The precisely measured square, facing magnetic north, is nailed out the ground an outline with brightly colored string.

up by the alumni, then I don't know who is."

Nesbitt said he was pleased this summer when Batson approached both Faculty Senate and the Alumni Association for input on naming an interim president and provost.

"He called and asked for my opinion, and while I had no time to think about it, it was still warmly received by me," Nesbitt said. "It was a breath of fresh air to have your opinion solicited at all."

The Board, however, did not approach Student Government regarding the administrative appointments.

Garland senior and student body president Bryan Fonville said while he was glad to see the Board reached out to Faculty Senate and the Alumni Association, he was disappointed the student

body's voice was not included in the decision.

"We are a huge part of the university. We fund 70 percent of the university's operations, and we feel the full effects of the university's decisions. We, just like everyone else, ultimately want what's best for Baylor," Fonville said.

Student Government will present and vote Thursday on a resolution supporting the other two groups' resolutions for an inclusive search committee.

"We believe that the best way to achieve a better Baylor is through a more open dialogue with regents, administrators, faculty, alumni and staff," Fonville said. "We hope that, in future decisions that significantly affect students, the board will feel comfortable approaching us for our input."

CRIME from page 1

trespassing because of the prior warning, Doak said. "But the state jail felonies should be his real concern right now. Especially eight of them. That's unprecedented. That's pretty bold," he said.

Baylor police had warrants to search two vehicles and an apartment, where some of the stolen property was recovered.

"(Kirkland) frequents the campus. Maybe this will convince him not to come back," Doak said.

Police know that the burglar had an accomplice. Someone was arrested Tuesday night on charges of drug possession. This person will likely be charged with burglary of a motor vehicle within the next day, Doak said.

The targeted vehicles appear

to be random. "They needed money and they needed it quick," Doak said.

Doak emphasized that students should take obvious precautions.

"Camouflage stereos in cars, and don't leave property like wallets in your car. People will look for opportunity," he said.

Nathan Reynolds, Dallas sophomore, says he should have taken that advice. His car was one the ones broken into.

His window was shattered, and someone had removed the faceplate from his stereo and left it on his seat and his stereo was partially pulled out.

"I guess they got spooked because they just left it," Reynolds said.

"If I would have taken my faceplate off and hidden it, that probably would have prevented the whole thing," he said.

Also, he'd left his car for two

weeks in the parking garage. "I definitely shouldn't have left my car in the same place for two weeks. Someone probably walked by everyday and got used to seeing it, and felt pretty comfortable with breaking in to it," he said.

Reynolds said he feels an amount of satisfaction that someone was arrested in connection with the burglary.

"I felt like my car was safe on campus. It's very frustrating, and now I'm out \$250, (the cost to repair the window)," Reynolds said. Also, he said, when he took his car to have the window repaired, a cat jumped out. It had given birth in his car.

Reynolds said he's pleased that an arrest happened this fast.

"Officer Kevin Helpert (who participated in the investigation) told me it might take a few months," he said.

PROPOSAL from page 1

the bill, it will be the first president-related proposal since former president Lilley was fired in July.

The bill follows similar proposals set forth last month by Faculty Senate and the Alumni Association.

While the Alumni Association suggested that the most critical challenge facing the university is uniting the Baylor family, Faculty Senate's bill cited monetary reasons.

Faculty Senate's bill, which was approved Sept. 9, argued that Baylor's capacity to raise necessary funds had been significantly disadvantaged by the temporary leadership and disunity among constituents.

Yeakley confirmed that donations had ceased to a new low in the previous months.

"We have lost a large amount of donation money as a result of disunity in the Baylor family this past year," she said.

Both Faculty Senate and the Alumni Association amicably agreed to find a solution to end the division among constituents in order to garner the support of necessary donors.

While Student Senate's proposal does not cite monetary problems, it does call for unity between the administration, students, faculty, alumni and staff.

Fonville said he hopes the Regents will not only consider student government's resolution, but the similar resolutions passed by the Faculty Senate

and Alumni Association.

He said he also plans to work diligently to address the concerns of students, as Baylor gets closer to selecting a new president.

"Looking at other top-tier universities, we've seen very high levels of student involvement. The University of Pennsylvania had two students on their last presidential search committee ... our hope is that the Baylor search committee will include students as well," he said.

Student Government will meet at 5 p.m. tonight in 403 Cashion Academic Center.

Reagan Ramsower, vice president of finance and administration, will be answering questions regarding the SAT situation.

WEST from page 1

economy really works," Hunter said. "Congress is broken, our economy is in bad shape, and all we hear is excuses from politicians. The truth is, if Rob and other business people ran their businesses the way Congress has run our economy, those places would be out of

business."

Edwards, a Democrat who has been endorsed by conservative organizations such as the National Rifle Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, believes more bipartisanship is what D.C. needs.

"I am proud to be a Democrat. But when I take my oath of office, I go to work for all the citizens, regardless of party,"

he said. "Citizens ask for a fair chance, quality education for their children, retirement security - these are my values. I've stood for our troops, fought for our district, and would be honored to have your support."

Both candidates will attend the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum at 6 p.m. Monday at the College Station Hilton.

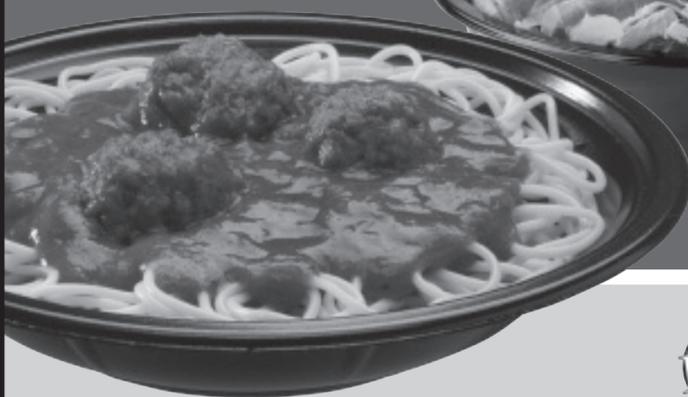
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Offense sparks Bears past Jayhawks in straight sets

By Justin Baer
Reporter

Baylor volleyball cruised by the University of Kansas, providing the Jayhawks with their first losing sweep of the conference season in a 3-0 (25-17, 25-18, 27-25) toppling Wednesday night at the Ferrell Center. Sparked by its highest hitting percentage since the Bears shot .441 against Tennessee State University on Sept. 9, 2006, Baylor's .427 hitting propelled Baylor (14-6, 6-4) to one game behind Kansas State University for third place in the Big 12 standings entering Saturday's match with the Wildcats at Baylor.

"It was a great offensive night for us," head coach Jim Barnes said. "It started with our passing. Allison (King), Katie (Sanders) and Caitlyn (Trice) all did a great job back there tonight."

With the Jayhawks predominantly focusing on Anna Breyfogle — who entered the match as the No. 1 blocker in the nation with 1.64 blocks per game — Ashlie Christenson's door of opportunity hinged

open, and the sophomore outside hitter took full advantage of the one-on-one coverage.

"She is the benefactor of them trying to double team Anna, because she is usually right next to her," Barnes said. "When she is going like she is tonight, she is one of the best outside hitters in the Big 12."

Christenson finished with a match-high 14 kills, while Sanders, Breyfogle and Ashley Byrd also compiled double-digit kills with 13 kills, 11 kills and 10 kills respectively.

Baylor rode its .500 hitting in the first set to pounce on the Jayhawks in the early going.

"I came into the match just wanting to play for the team," Christenson said. "I tried to keep a level head and do my job. We were really aggressive tonight. We passed really well, which gives us a lot of options on offense."

Kansas never had a lead, and Breyfogle's five kills in the first set were unscathed to set the early tone. Although Breyfogle only recorded four blocks on the night, a low number by her standards, Barnes said the subpar blocking game was

negated by the Bears' offensive domination.

"Today wasn't a great blocking performance for us," Barnes said of his team who entered the match as the No. 18 blocking team in the nation and No. 1 in the conference. "But it didn't matter because we were so good offensively."

Baylor carried its first-set performance into the second set, with its aggressive tendencies leaving Kansas without an answer.

After see-sawing through the first half of the set, Christenson's and Sanders' consecutive kills put the Bears up 18-14. Sanders then connected for kills on three of the next five points, and with the Jayhawks collapsing on defense, Baylor effortlessly took the match 25-18.

The third match presented more of a challenge for the Bears, but in the end resulted with the same conclusion as the first two sets.

"You know we talk about being connected; we visualize things before games," Breyfogle said. "I feel like tonight we were actually connected."



Sarah Morris/ Lariat Staff

Baylor's Ashley Byrd (6) goes up for a spike while Taylor Barnes (9) looks on, in the third game against the Kansas Jayhawks Wednesday night at the Ferrell Center. Baylor improved to 6-4 in Big 12 play with the 3-0 decision.

Soccer heads north to face Mizzou, KU

By Joe Holloway
Sports Writer

Baylor's last home game ended in a 1-0 heart breaking loss to the University of Oklahoma, but the Baylor soccer team hits the road this weekend to take on No. 20 University of Missouri and unranked University of Kansas.

The Bears (5-9-2, 1-5-1) travel first to Columbia, Mo., where the Tigers (11-4-0, 5-2-0) are fresh off an upset victory in College Station that helped drop the Aggies from No. 6 to No. 14. The Tigers look to continue their success Sunday night.

"They beat A&M 3-0 so they can definitely score," head coach Marci Jobson said. "They're a very, very athletic team. They're tough, aggressive and physical."

Jobson said the type of soccer the Tigers play is much in the same vein as how she wants her own team to perform.

"I really respect the way they play," Jobson said. "It's the way that I think we're trying to continue to grow our team toward. I think it's going to be a great game."

Riding a two-game win streak into their first national ranking of the year, Missouri would

seem to have a good amount of momentum in their favor. But after one of their toughest losses of the year, the Bears appear ready bounce back and give the Tigers a good match.

"We are so ready to go after them," junior defender and midfielder Megan Humke said. "They're a very physical team, but so are we. I don't know if people have physically challenged them the way we will."

After Friday night's game, the Bears will travel to Lawrence, Kan. for their match against the Jayhawks (10-5-1, 3-3-1). Senior midfielder Andi Fagan, who will have to miss the Missouri game due to a suspension stemming from a red card she received against Oklahoma, will return to the Baylor lineup for Sunday's action. She said she hasn't heard too much about what kind of team the Jayhawks are and prefers to focus on trying to beat them as she plays them.

"I really don't know what to expect, but that's the way I like it," she said. "I don't like to know what I'm getting myself into because I might give a player too much respect. In the past if we've given a team too much respect, (and) it has shown."

Becoming a better team on the road has been a goal for the team this year and Jobson said



Alex Song/ Lariat Staff

Baylor's Gianna Quintana (right) punches the ball while Courtney Seelhorst (left) jumps to head the ball during practice on Wednesday.

that will come with maturity, to which she hopes this weekend's action will contribute.

"It doesn't matter if you have your friends and family watching you play or if you have no

one watching you play," Jobson said. "If we want to be one of the teams at the top of the conference we have a lot of things we need to improve and one of those is being a better traveling team."

Vitale backing Rays

By Dick Jerardi
McClatchy Newspapers

Dick Vitale has been a Tampa Bay Rays season ticketholder since they started playing baseball in front of all those empty seats at Tropicana Field and losing all those games.

"I had my season tickets for 11 years and I couldn't even give them away and my section is great," Vitale said Monday, the day after the Rays somehow got themselves into the World Series against the Phillies. "I'll be right next to Charlie Manuel, the first row next to the Phillies' dugout. Now, my phone is constantly ringing with people wanting tickets. I couldn't give them away for 10 years."

Vitale, being Vitale, he has a basketball analogy.

"You know what I relate it to," said Vitale, who has been doing college basketball analysis on ESPN since 1979. "It's very similar to me, the little guy David and Goliath, a la 1983 with Jimmy V (Valvano and his North Carolina State team). He shocked the nation and won the national championship when nobody thought that he would get in the tournament. They had to beat Carolina with (Michael) Jordan and beat (Ralph) Sampson and Virginia just to get into the NCAA Tournament. It was unbelievable."

"This is a club in a division

with the Yankees and the Red Sox. They win the division. (Derek) Jeter and (Alex) Rodriguez make more than the entire payroll of the Rays.

"What makes it exciting for me is that I really know the manager and the players really well."

And why wouldn't he? For years, he was the only one there.

Vitale's home is about 40 minutes from St. Petersburg, where the Rays play. He kept making the trip because he had a love for baseball, something he got as a kid growing up in North Jersey.

"From the time I was a little kid, I've had a passion for baseball," Vitale said. "I'm not proud to say I would cut school and go to Yankee Stadium and hang out for hours where the players would walk in."

Vitale will be rooting for the Rays, but admits to being a bit torn. Jamie Moyer, son-in-law of ESPN colleague Digger Phelps, arranged for tickets to a Phillies-Pirates game at Citizens Bank Park this summer.

"It's unbelievable to think a World Series is going to be here," Vitale said. "I've been here when they announced 10,000 and there was like 7,000 there. It would break your heart."

And Dick Vitale, a Tampa Bay Rays fan, will be there for the home games, how ever many they are. He won't be alone this time.

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AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL

Documentaries take a look into odd lives

By Liz Foreman
Assistant City Editor

The city of Austin, notorious for its strange places and even stranger people, was no match for the people featured in a series of documentary short films Saturday at the Austin Film Festival.

The 87-minute peek into unique fanaticisms featured seven different documentary shorts. From a crazed Bigfoot hunter to a modern day Spidermen, the range of real characters could make even the most eccentric person feel a little more normal.

MOVIEREVIEWS

The first film, Bartosz Blaschke's "Zietek," awed with cinematographic depth. It featured an elderly Polish man who spends his days carving and collecting figures of women. Bogdan Zietek's home is a shrine to women, with Playboy pin-ups, statues and figurines dominating the interior. As a hobby he carves life-size women out of wood and claims to communicate with them. Zietek's reality is captured through thoughtful cinematography. In a telling scene, the frail man sits at his dining table staring blankly at his wife in the kitchen. The camera follows as he strains his neck to look at an old portrait on the wall of a young, glowing woman. The image seems to taunt Zietek as his gaze returns reluctantly to the same woman in the kitchen, now stooped and wrinkled.

"Drag King," a short film by Don Lewis and John Beck, made NASCAR look tame. The 'Fiberglass 500' is a new motor sport where drivers race demolition derby cars around a track towing a boat and aim to destroy opponents' marine vessels. The new humorous take on demolition derby made up for the lack of depth in the documentary. The film was as straight forward and as rough-edged as the subjects.

The fanatic in Will Dotter's "True Believer" took Bigfoot obsession to an eerily intense new level with the subjects conviction about the beast's existence. Dotter's short film was not long enough, as it followed the hunter into the depth of the woods in search of the beast that he believes is purposefully eluding him. Until this film, I had no idea Bigfoot could read minds. This film had me laughing out loud and at the same time, feeling sorry for the man who spends time making devices such as a hat with a built-in camera in an effort to outsmart the ape-like creature.

Another obsession with an animal took filmmaker Carlos Barbot to Manhattan to capture a group of people obsessed with the city's most notorious vermin — rats. The director filmed rat owners at home discussing their rats' unique personalities and allowing their rodents to crawl all over them. "Rattus" proved that rats can be more than sewer dwelling, disease-carrying creatures. The intimate interviews with rat owners may have even convinced me that the rodents are worthy of love.

"Smokey," a film by Paul Thurman, featured a man who has kept Elvis Presley alive through impersonation in a small Texas town. In a shiny white suit, Smokey has gyrated and lip-synched for decades, seeking only smiles. Unfortunately, this short film lacked the creativity and fervor to match Smokey's, and the film had the feel of a 1990's PBS special.

Perhaps the most striking of the seven short films, Felipe Trevino's "The Art of Displacement," delves into an emerging artistic endeavor called Parkour. Parkour practitioners in the film display Spiderman-like abilities in traversing the faces of buildings and moving with ease along modern urban structures. Upbeat music and a fast-paced style exemplified the chaotic urban feel in this physical activity that combines exerting strength to overcome obstacles. Trevino did a brilliant job in capturing the spiritual depth in this physical activity that boasts a cult-like following.

The final film, Nicholas Berger's "Nutkin's Last Stand," gave the American gray squirrel a bad name. The film documents groups in the United Kingdom that are striving to protect the British red squirrel from extinction by their disease-carrying American cousin, the gray squirrel. I was torn and rooting for the cute red squirrels' survival but also distraught over the manner in which the grays were executed by a single shot to the head.

The odd array of documentary short films were, as a famed journalist once said, "like a miniskirt: long enough to cover the story but just short enough to be interesting." The range of emotions explored by each short film was more powerful than the majority Hollywood blockbusters can accomplish in two hours. I recommend the shorts to anyone with a short attention span or a general interest in the offbeat.



Photo by Jack Plunkett/Austin Film Festival

Director Danny Boyle at a screening of his new film 'Slumdog Millionaire' at the Austin Film Festival in Austin on Friday. Over 3,000 people attended the 15th Annual Film Festival conference and about 10,000 people attended the festival. The Austin Film Festival focuses on the storytelling aspect of film.

'Twilight' star shines in film, 'How to Be'

By Kelli Boesel
Entertainment Editor

After a long day at the Austin Film Festival, I was ready to sit down, relax and enjoy a full-length feature film. Unfortunately, not all my wishes were fulfilled. I did enjoy "How to Be," but it was far from a relaxing experience.

MOVIE REVIEW

Since the movie theater was 15 minutes away from downtown Austin, I decided to leave early to make sure I found the place. To my surprise, I pulled up to the theater and found two lines wrapping around the building.

After getting in line, I found out director and writer Oliver Irving and actor Robert Pattinson would be at the screening of the film to hold a question and answer session after the movie. After shamelessly eavesdropping on several conversations, I discovered the attraction of the film; Pattinson plays Edward Cullen in "Twilight." With a few exceptions, everyone in line was eager to meet the actor.

Finally, after two hours standing in line, we were ushered into the theater.



Kelli Boesel/Entertainment Editor

Oliver Irving, writer and director of "How To Be," signs autographs Saturday outside Regal Arbor Theater in Austin.

Nestled into my seat eager for a great movie. Sadly, the movie was delayed because the sound was not correct. The audience watched the first five minutes of the movie about six times before the sound was quite right.

"How To Be" follows the life of Art, a musician going nowhere fast. He has relationship issues that stem from a cold childhood. Desperate for help, Art turns to a self-help book and its Canadian author, psychologist Dr. Ellington.

Art tries to work out his fam-

ily issues, which leads to funny situations and heart-breaking moments.

The film has an independent look to it, meaning it wasn't produced on a multi-million dollar budget. The style depends a lot on the score, which is a good thing because the music is dif-

ferent and interesting. Art is an aspiring musician; unfortunately he isn't very good at it. Despite Pattinson's so-so vocals, which adds to the character, the songs are funny and deeper than expected.

The plot is character-centered and Pattinson carries most of the movie. He is awkward and cute, which helps sell the character. It's hard to determine whether you like Art or you just want him to get over his issues and move on. He whines throughout the entire movie and expects every-

one else to solve his problems with minimal effort from himself.

With a less pleasing actor in the lead role, the movie wouldn't be worth much. Pattinson was cast brilliantly, being able to whine but be lovable at the same time. His acting makes you sympathize with Art's problems.

Another saving element to Art is his obvious caring heart. He struggles with selfishness throughout the film, but he eventually gets his heart in the right place with a genuine desire to help people.

The other characters in the film are significantly unimportant. His parents are absent and unloving. The psychologist functions as Art's impulse and brain. The ex-girlfriend only functions as an example of Art's dysfunctional relationships. His two friends are a little deeper characters and add a lot of comic relief to the movie.

Overall the movie felt a little long for 83 minutes, but it was worth the hours I spent waiting to watch it. "How To Be" is the type of movie where you have to believe in and love the main character or you won't enjoy one minute of the movie.

Grade: B-

Experienced screenwriters of 'Twilight,' 'Shrek,' 'Big Fish' offer advice to young filmmakers

By Lynn Ngo
Opinion Editor

Behind every line uttered by actors on small screens and big screens are the screenwriters that create them. The 15th annual Austin Film Festival, which closes today, has assembled a number of television and feature writers over the years.

This year, John August ("Big Fish," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," both Charlie's Angels movies) Terry Rossio ("Shrek" and Pirates of the Caribbean movies) and Melissa Rosenberg ("Twilight," "Step Up," "The OC") are among the screenwriters featured in panels that were scheduled over this past weekend.

August, Rossio and Rosenberg spoke on the Young Filmmakers Panel on Saturday at the Texas State Capitol building. Each screenwriter discussed how they got started writing films and answered questions from the audience, who were mostly students aspiring to work in the film industry.

Rosenberg wrote the movie script to Stephenie Meyer's bestselling book series, "Twilight," centered on the love story between a vampire and a human.

Rosenberg began her professional career not as a screenwriter but as a dancer. Because of her dance background, she started her screen writing career with 2006's dance movie "Step Up."

"All these things I wanted to do, music and dance, all came together on the same page," she said of her launch into the screen writing world.

She recommended that aspiring filmmakers attend film school to learn and network.

"The most important thing in the film business is about relationships; it's all about who you know," Rosenberg said. "It's another reason to go to film school."

Rossio, who co-wrote the first animated film to ever win an Academy award, "Shrek," in the Best Animated Film category, encouraged young filmmakers to be active in pursuing a career.

"Get out there and shoot some video," he said.

August, who attended the University of Southern California and studied in the Peter

Stark film program, has screen writing credits including "Go" and both Charlie's Angels movies. He told students to utilize the many resources that are available to them today.

"Today's filmmakers have more options — Internet and videos are easy to access," he said.

The best scripts are out there on the Internet for students to read and learn from and they should take full advantage, he said.

In an effort to help young filmmakers understand the pitching process and how they should go about it, the screenwriters talked about their own styles of pitching.

Pitching is the process that writers and producers do to sell their work to a studio, or publishing company.

Rossio talked about the importance of conveying a key

image, while August described his style was like pitching to a friend.

"It's like when you see the best movie ever and you're trying to tell a friend about it," August said.

Like the pitching process, to work in the film industry takes a good attitude and a lot of perseverance.

"When you write something that you think is great and it doesn't do well or is ignored" is the hardest part about being a screenwriter, August said.

You have to get used to getting fired too, because you'll get fired a lot in this industry, Rosenberg said.

"You got kicked in the teeth a lot," she said. "You have to have a lot of inner pompous or delusional optimism. That quality more than talent or craft makes you a successful screenwriter."



Courtesy of MCT