



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

Texas may dodge economic woes

By Kelley Shannon
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry and the state comptroller warned Wednesday that the national economic crisis is starting to seep into state government, but they said Texas is in better position than most states to weather the storm.

Slower sales tax growth and other financial factors, like sagging public pension funds, are among their concerns and will be awaiting lawmakers when the Legislature convenes in January. Comptroller Susan Combs will tell legislators immediately before the session how much state money is available to spend.

"Our state will not go untouched," Combs said of the national recession, as she presented online ways for the public and elected officials to better watch over government spending.

"I don't think it's a mystery that sales tax revenue is down from a robust growth."

Two years ago sales tax was growing at a rate of 12 percent, and now that has slowed to 5 percent, she said. The state has been helped by sales in the energy sector, but sales tax revenue is softening at some individual retail stores, Combs said.

Texas has been spared the housing downturn that hit some regions of the country, in part because home prices didn't skyrocket to "stratospheric" levels as they did in other states, Combs said. She said the number of home foreclosures in Texas is relatively low compared with other places, like Nevada.

At a separate event Wednesday, Perry met privately with representatives of the auto, retail and restaurant trade associations to see how the economic crisis is affecting their industries. Before the

meeting, Perry told news reporters that Texas has created a business-friendly environment and that it must keep working to create jobs and maintain its competitive edge in the difficult national economy.

Perry, who joined other governors in meeting with President-elect Barack Obama on Tuesday and praised Obama for reaching out to consider states' needs, said Texas is one of only nine states with a budget surplus.

However, only part of Texas' projected \$11 billion surplus was uncommitted to spending, and now costs from Hurricane Ike and Medicaid enrollment growth are likely to take up that money.

Perry said budget constraints resulting from the economic slowdown could make it difficult to return surplus money to taxpayers, as he'd once hoped. But he said "it's a wise conversation to have for future legislators, future executives of the state. AI to have

a tool, if you have a surplus ... to be able to redistribute that back to the people."

He said he and some legislators are concerned state general revenue could be needed to shore up public pension funds, such as the retired teachers fund.

"It is important for us to keep our pension funds solvent," Perry said.

Perry said he is not worried that companies receiving money from his Texas Enterprise Fund will fail to keep their promises to create jobs in the state, even though some of the firms are struggling amid the national financial crisis.

"I don't worry about enterprise fund companies because we have a very clear contract with them and a clawback provision," which requires a company to pay money back to the state if it doesn't create the promised number of jobs,



Courtesy Photos

Texas Gov. Rick Perry (Right) greets Sam Pack (left) as John Esparza looks on, as they begin a meeting with leaders of key trade associations Wednesday in Austin.

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Season of sharing



Courtesy Photo

Members of the motorcycle group Riders of the Son stand in line to donate toys to the Mission Waco Christmas toy store. The store sells toys to low income families for a lower price and will open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Mission Waco Children's Center.

Mission Waco helps spread holiday spirit through toys, giving

By Chad Shanks
Staff writer

Mission Waco's annual Christmas Toy Store opens this Saturday to brighten Waco children's holidays by providing discount toys for low-income families.

The Christmas Toy Store sells new unopened toys donated by the community to local parents for 20 percent of the original retail price.

"Our philosophy at Mission Waco is to preserve integrity and instill pride in the people who come through our program. We want parents to be able to say they bought Christmas presents for their children with their own money," said Joyce Brammer, Mission Waco's special events planner.

According to Mission Waco Director Jimmy Dorrell, the Christmas Toy Store originated in the late '90s when several people wanted to sponsor poor families for Christmas, but their well-intentioned approaches didn't allow parents to be a part of the giving.

"I heard about this model

from a man in Atlanta and we decided it fit our empowerment approach. After doing it the first year, we were convinced that it was a perfect model for helping. Those who had been blessed got to give and those who struggled finally had the joy of buying for their own children," Dorrell said.

The store opens Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Mission Waco Children's Center at 1525 West Ave. It will also open on Dec. 10, 13 and 17.

The first two openings are reserved for families previously affiliated with Mission Waco to give those who need the most

help the first opportunity. The final two openings are available to the general public.

Brammer expects to go through over 10,000 toys and anticipates about 700 parents shopping for over 2,600 local children, up 20 percent from 2007.

"Parents can come in with a \$20 bill and walk out with \$100 worth of merchandise. They can get larger gifts like boom boxes and bicycles that would normally be unobtainable to lower-income families. It's also a chance for us to help the members of the

Please see **TOYS**, page 8

Sustainability remains focus of committee

By Christina Kruse and
Jennifer Sutton
Reporters

A carbon footprint is the measure of the impact that human activities have on the environment, measured in units of carbon dioxide.

With 14,541 pairs of undergraduate feet walking on campus, many environmentally conscious Baylor employees, professors and students have realized the university's need to reduce its carbon footprint.

In fall 2007, the University Sustainability Committee was created. Already, the committee has tackled recycling and energy conservation efforts on campus.

"I believe that as a Christian it is my responsibility not just to care for God's creation, but also to teach others to do the same," said Vance Woods, third-year master's student in the J.M. Dawson Institute of Church-State studies and member of the USC.

The USC has joined forces with the City of Waco and Keep Waco Beautiful in order to keep the community green.

All of the committee's efforts are focused on long-term environmental sustainability.

"As we continue and expand upon these programs, I hope our work will spark thoughts, conversations and actions in our community for environmental stewardship," said Dallas senior

Robert Kent, undergraduate representative to the USC. "In a larger context, I think that the USC could make Baylor a very strong voice for Christian environmental stewardship and a leader in this field for the larger Christian community."

Kent said he also hopes that the university will create a position that solely concentrates on environmental sustainability.

"A year from now, we should all be doing our part in the sustainability effort on campus without even having to think about it," Woods said. "It should be second nature."

The committee knows what steps to take, but it is just a matter of when to take them, said Carl Flynn, director of marketing and communications for information technology and university libraries.

"It's an assessment of (the steps) we've done and meeting with folks to determine what it actually takes to do this plan," he said.

This teamwork is evident at Baylor athletic events, which both Waco and Baylor community members attend.

The athletics recycling program was jumpstarted after a grant, funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, was awarded to the City of Waco, Keep Waco Beautiful and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments.

The grant covered two

Please see **USC**, page 5

Class experiments with coconuts to create profit

By Sommer Ingram
Staff writer

Dr. Steve Bradley's Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development class is learning the art of turning trash into cash for underprivileged nations.

The class is working on a project that utilizes the fiber of a coconut's outermost shell, literally turning it into a profitable business for developing countries. The class has spent the semester engaging in a feasibility study to determine whether starting a business based on these coco-

nut shells will be profitable in Ghana, Liberia, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

"These countries don't have a lot to offer," Bradley said. "Their educational situations have been very poor, so they don't have the same knowledge that our country does. But what they do have is fairly unique resources."

Bradley partnered with his father, Dr. Walter Bradley, distinguished professor of engineering, to develop technology that will make waste products such as the coconut shell profitable. One major use the researchers

have come up with for the coconut fibers is to use them to make truck liners, door panels, and floorboards in automobiles.

"We are developing technology that has the potential to provide economic stimulation and demand in these poor nations," Walter Bradley said. "If we can help them make more money off of this, then their income will go up, and that's our ultimate goal."

The researchers have already engaged in conversations with Hobbs Bonded Fibers, a large fiber processing company who provides services to General

Motors, Toyota, Nissan, and Honda, about the coconut fiber.

"They (Hobbs) already sell large volumes of conventional material, which is polyester, to these automobile companies," Walter Bradley said. "When we came to them with the idea about the coconut fiber, they talked to the automobile companies, and they were extremely enthusiastic."

If the project proves to be feasible, the U.S. will buy the necessary equipment for processing the coconuts in the developing nations and hire locals there to

complete the processing and preparing for export.

"We can get conglomerates of people — in this case, farmers — to put in the resources and then get back what they put in," said Lago Vista senior Amanda Casey, a student in the class. "Our goal at the beginning of all of this was to create something to employ people, and the beauty of this business is that it gives them an opportunity to help themselves. We just give them the plan of how to start everything; the rest is up to them."

In Brazil and Sri Lanka, the

land to cultivate the coconuts has already been rented. But none of the equipment has been purchased for the processing of the coconut fiber.

"The initial capital investment is anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000," Steve Bradley said. "So the risk is pretty high, and we are trying to get people here to invest in that. But if the returns are good and the social benefits are high enough, it will be well worth it."

Unlike some resources that are

Please see **COCONUT**, page 8

Editorial

Voluntary pay cuts praisable in time of recession

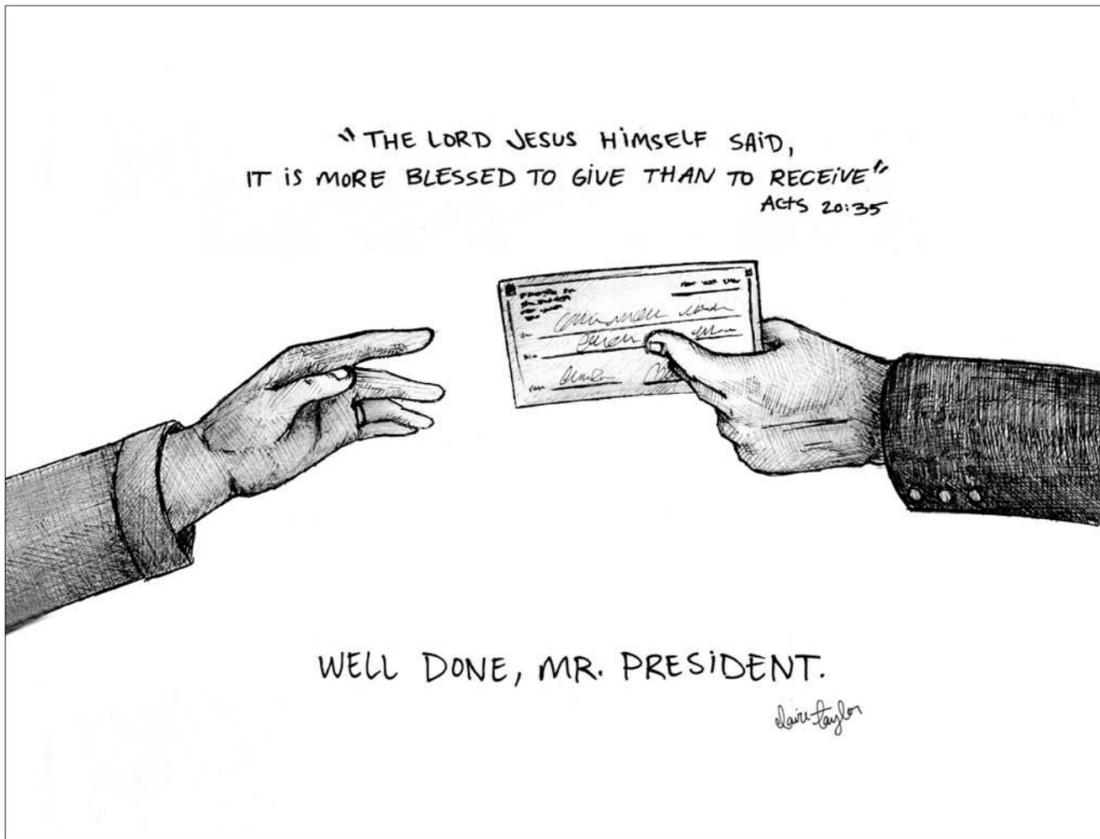
The recent mortgage crisis has led to financial troubles throughout the country. The stock and equity markets have taken a nose dive, which in turn has spread to other parts of the economy. From banking giants to automakers and the downtown mom-and-pop stores, the economy is struggling.

It hasn't been any easier on universities. Although most schools have enough funding to continue basic operation involving classes and general upkeep, other portions of universities are suffering.

For example, Baylor has recently eclipsed the \$1.1 billion mark in endowments, but fell below \$1 billion in recent weeks. Endowments are funds that accrue interest over time, giving the university more buying power than if the original donation was spent at once. Since the billion-dollar mark is one of the keys to becoming a tier-one university, a loss of at least \$100 million is a hard pill to swallow.

That's why several college presidents are leading the charge in stemming their own checkbooks. According to the New York Times, Mark S. Wrighton of Washington University announced he would take a five percent cut in his salary.

Amy Gutmann, the University of Pennsylvania's president, made a \$100,000 donation to her school. The president of the University of Washington declined a raise and the president of Washington State University volun-



teered a \$100 thousand pay cut.

As leaders of an institution, the president's actions are followed closely and with good reason. Showing financial restraint will go a long way in providing a model for students, faculty and staff, as well as the regents who make monetary decisions for the university.

Not every school follows that plan. The California State University system, which runs 23 schools in the state, recently increased the salary of eight vice presidents. Twenty-six faculty members of the California State University Sacramento campus wrote a column in the student newspaper, calling it "irresponsible leadership." That does not bode well for a system that has to deny nearly 10,000 students this year.

Furthermore, responsible financing reminds the school's populace that a

university's purpose is to educate, not to make money.

Many times a president is seen as the chief executive officer, the man in charge of creating a vision for the school. It is comforting to know that these few presidents have the school's best interests in mind.

Some may say that the returned funds are not enough to make a difference. True, a \$100 thousand addition to the budget won't make up for a \$250 million loss, but it will set a good example for the rest of the university. Besides, if the president offers a conservative fiscal solution to the problem, his stance will have much greater leverage when his actions synchronized with his statements.

More college presidents should take this into consideration. Granted, there

are different situations for each individual and not every university luxuriously pays its president.

The Chronicle of Higher Education lists the median salary for public university presidents at \$427,400. Even though some college presidents are making well above the average, they are still forgoing a hefty percentage of their income.

Eelson S. Floyd, the president of Washington State University who volunteered to take a \$100 thousand pay cut, will lose 13.8 percent of his \$725 thousand paycheck this year. The fact that he was willing to sacrifice any of his own money at all is commendable.

Those presidents that have put their university before their own monetary interest during this recession sets an example that others should follow.

point of view

Proving God exist is a heavy-duty chore

I was crammed into a middle seat. The guy in front was practically in my lap and I had my arms drawn in tightly as I pecked furiously on the keyboard. God glanced over. "What are you working on?" He asked.

"A column," I said. "About you, in fact."

He lifted an eyebrow. "Oh? What did I do now?"

"Well, not you per se," I admitted. "It's about this Atheist group, the American Humanist Association. They stirred up folks in Washington, D.C., recently by running a billboard on the buses. It said, 'Why believe in a god?'"

God was curious, so I passed Him the computer. Just then, the plane lurched violently. The

guy next to me spilled his drink and muttered a curse. God paid no attention. When He finished reading, He passed the computer back. "That's not about me," He said. "It's about defending their right to free speech."

"Sure," I said. "What else would I do?"

God shrugged. "Why not just answer their question?"

"What do you mean?"

"Well you know," He said, "you've got the holidays coming. Might be appropriate to remind people of who they're thankful to."

I considered it. "That could be a good idea," I said.

He gave me a look. "OK, OK," I said, "ALL your ideas are good. But you know, proving you exist is a heavy-duty philosophical chore. I suppose I could go with the complexity of life argument, talk about how if people see something as unremarkable as a cardboard box they assume it had a maker, but if they see something as intricately designed as a person — or heck, an amoeba — some folks say, 'Oh, it just ... happened.'"

God was unimpressed. "I don't need you to prove I exist," He said. "I am the great I am, remember? Besides, that billboard doesn't ask for proof of my existence. It asks, why believe? Isn't that a fair question?" He gave me an expectant look.

I looked past him, out the window. We floated above a deck of clouds, the sun falling toward the horizon, the whole world the color of gold. It was like poetry in midair. I said, "I believe because I've seen you. And because I've heard you."

The plane jolted again. Two rows behind, a baby started shrieking, hitting notes I'd have sworn were impossible for a human larynx. The man ahead of me shifted heavily in his seat. My tray table pressed hard against my stomach.

God gave a smile I couldn't read. "It's not all poetry in the sky," he said. "Where you see poetry, somebody else sees only a flaming ball of gas circling the earth, light refracted through crystals of ice and pollution in the air. Where you see eternity, someone else sees an ocean. Where you hear my voice, someone else hears thunder."

"What are you getting at?" I asked.

"What do you see then?" He said. "What do you hear when no one else sees or hears? When you walk in places where no one knows your name? When you curse the brokenness of your own life? When flood and famine strike the wretched and the vulnerable? When the diagnosis is cancer? Do you see me then? Do you hear me then?"

It took me a moment. "Sometimes," I said finally. "Not always." I thought about it a second, then added: "But I'm always trying."

"Why?" asked God.

I looked past him. The sun seemed to be sinking into the clouds. The sky was growing dark. "Because nothing else makes sense to me," I said.

God smiled. The captain announced that we were about to land. We were asked to shut down and stow our electrical equipment. The guy in front returned his seat to its full upright and locked position. The baby kept squalling. Moments later, the plane touched the tarmac. It had been an awful flight and I was glad to be home.

"Thank God," I whispered.

"You're welcome," He said.

Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald.



BY LEONARD PITTS

Corrections Policy

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.

On page of five of Wednesday's paper, the wild art features Adam Garst playing the Viscount de Valvert not Callen McLaughlin playing Christian de Neuville in Baylor Theatre's Cyrano de Bergerac.

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Letters to the editor

CSU's decision is easily-justified

While I agree with the Tuesday's editorial's view that increased opportunities for higher education are a beneficial thing for our society, the state of California's decision to roll back student admissions is an easily-justified one.

California has run a budget deficit in the billions for several years now, and with the recent passage of Propositions 1A, 3 and 12, the deficit looks only to get larger, barring a massive increase in taxes or the beginning of oil drilling off the coast of California (neither of which will likely occur anytime in the near future).

Furthermore, the CSU system will benefit from raising their admission standards, since their retention and graduation rates will likely rise by not accepting less qualified students.

Fortunately for Californians, many of them have the reasonable option, if denied immediate entry into a state school, to enter vocational institutions such as ITT Tech and professional schools like

DeVry University or the University of Phoenix.

These institutions provide quality training and preparation for those enrolled in fields such as information technology, business, and nursing, and though they don't carry the prestige of other schools, many of their qualified graduates still find work in their respective fields.

And though their endowments might not grow at the same rate as the past few years, I think Harvard and Boston College will survive the economic recession just fine with their respective estimated endowments of \$30 to 36 billion and \$1.8 billion.

Aaron Bae
History & American Studies,
'08

Kudos for coverage of city meeting

I was really impressed to see The Lariat had someone covering Tuesday's city council meeting. Thank you for doing that. Kudos to Chad Shanks for his article.

Elizabeth Smith, '85

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

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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 Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA 12/4/08

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

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Sarah Morris/Lariat staff

McAllen senior Miriam Castro stands beside a rack of clothes in Pink, her newly opened boutique. She decided to open a store after recognizing the need to fill the name-brand clothes store niche in Waco.

New boutique aims to fill niche

By Jillian Henderson
Reporter

Pink is not only a Victoria's Secret brand name, but a new store started by a Baylor student.

McAllen senior, Miriam Castro, opened her new store, Pink, Nov. 18.

Castro started the store to give Baylor women a place to shop that is reasonably priced and close to campus.

The store, located at 1219 Speight Avenue, across from Scruuffy Murphy's, is mainly targeted toward college women, with brand-name clothes that appeal to those in the Baylor community. Castro carries women's clothing, including semi-casual dresses, dressy shirts, and accessories. The store carries famous brands including Ed Hardy, Free People, BCBG, Lucy Love and other boutique fashions.

"Pink is my favorite color, I'm all about pink," Castro said, explaining the reason behind her store name.

Pink is open Monday through Friday, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The store is laid out in a boutique style, with one room containing several racks of clothing. In the front of the store are two display windows showing off some of the fashions available. The room is a pink shade, with turquoise stripes adorning the top of the walls. The check-out island is located at the back of the store, covered in a zebra style print.

To make customers shopping experiences more enjoyable and relaxing, Castro plays house music.

Two fitting rooms located in the back of the store for customers.

Castro said she started the store because she didn't want to have a normal college job. She said, "I love fashion, but it was difficult to find a place to shop in Waco, so I found out what I needed to do to start my own business."

Even though the store just opened, Castro has already had several satisfied customers.

"I really like the styles at the store, they're really modern, and the prices are very good," Houston senior Jenny Liro said.

According to Castro, the prices at Pink are much lower

than her competitors.

"I'm trying to keep it affordable for college students." She said. "Prices range from around \$15 and \$30, but there are some prices that are above and below this range."

Castro said that she plans on posting special holiday hours and special hours during finals on the door of the store for the convenience of shoppers.

Though Pink only carries women's clothing, men can also stop by and get accessories or pick up something for their girlfriends for the upcoming holidays.

"I would shop at Pink for my girlfriend Jenny, because the prices are good, the service is great, and the styles are hot," said Nathan Stanton, owner of Stanton Woodworks in Waco.

Castro is also offering special deals for Baylor students. If students show their Baylor identification, they will receive a 10 percent discount off of their purchases anytime they come in. Pink now accepts major credit cards, debit cards, and cash.

To get customers in the holiday spirit, Castro is offering free holiday gift-wrap for all purchases.

'SLC Doctor' prescription for success: teamwork

by Alex Maxwell
Reporter

Dr. Sharon Stern, or to some students, the "SLC Doctor," has been an Aggie and a Longhorn, but currently serves Baylor Bears as the medical director of Baylor Health Services.

As medical director, Stern deals with a administration duties, overseeing all of the staff at the Health Center, the pharmacy and physical therapy, but sees patients for the majority of her time.

Stern said that she really likes working with students. She said that getting to know students and building with them is really gratifying to her.

"When freshmen get here they often need a mother, not a doctor, but it's great to watch students grow and change," she said. "They become real adults, not just legal adults."

Stern explained that the best part of her job is being able to watch students over the years.

"I really do love it here, I love the university," said Stern.

"When we've had challenges here, like meningitis, it's really fascinating seeing all the departments pull together and

work together. There are very few settings where that can happen."

While she was in school, she worked as a nurse's aide at a doctor's office and as an aide in The University of Texas health center.

She was the first in her family to have an interest in the medical field. Stern's father was a choir director at East Texas Baptist University and grew up in a family of all church musicians.

She veered far from the path of her family and pursued a medical career.

She started undergrad at Texas A&M University, finished at The University of Texas, and continued at UT for medical school.

While in residency in Houston, Stern married and started a family with her husband, Charles.

"We got tired of living in Houston," said Stern. "Charles took a job with the Scott and White Clinic here in Waco, so I moved, for the first time, without a job to go to."

In September of this year, the health services center became accredited by the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care, and Stern came on board as the medical director the last few months of the accreditation process.

"I was offered a temporary position in August of 1992 at Baylor and really enjoyed it," said Stern. "I wanted to be able

to spend time with my kids so I continued to work part time up until last March, which is when I became the Medical Director here."

"When we've had challenges here, like meningitis, it's really been fascinating seeing all the departments pull together and work together."

Sharon Stern
Medical Director
Baylor Health Services



Stern

Stern said that the time she spends with students is greater than the time she spends with the staff, but thinks that the group that works at the health center is amazing.

The nursing staff described Stern as a dedicated professional who shows genuine concern and compassion.

"She's very thorough in emergencies," said Tina Dulock, another appointment clerk at the center. "She cares about the students and very nice to the staff."

A family woman, a compassionate director, and a heart that strives to relate to students, Stern has combined every aspect in her life to be able to serve as the medical director of Baylor Health Services.

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Texas officials say number of injuries to mental health patients “disturbingly high”

By Jeff Carlton
The Associated Press

DENTON, Texas — For more than a century, thousands of mentally disabled Americans were isolated from society, sometimes for life, by being confined to huge state institutions.

In at least one place, they still are.

Texas has more mentally disabled patients in institutions than any other state, and the federal government has concluded that the state’s care system is stubbornly out of step with modern mental health practices.

Critics allege that Texas remains stuck in an era when the mentally disabled were hidden away in large, impersonal facilities far from relatives and communities.

“In Texas, it’s like a time warp,” said Jeff Garrison-Tate, an advocate who wants to close the 13 facilities called “state schools” and move patients into group homes.

For the third time in three years, the criticism has attract-

ed the attention of the Justice Department, which on Tuesday accused Texas of violating residents’ constitutional rights to proper care.

Investigators found that dozens of patients died in the last year from preventable conditions, and officials declared that the number of injuries was “disturbingly high.”

In addition, hundreds of documents reviewed by The Associated Press show that some patients have been neglected, beaten, sexually abused or even killed by caretakers. Inspection reports also describe filthy rooms and unsanitary kitchens.

Many of the nation’s mentally ill or disabled in the 1800s were housed together in institutions, sometimes called insane asylums. But by the 1960s, most experts concluded that mentally disabled patients fared better in smaller, community-based settings.

The American Institution on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities says large care facilities — usually those with at least 16 residents — “enforce

an unnatural, isolated, and regimented lifestyle that is not appropriate or necessary.”

Because of those concerns, eight states have abolished large institutions for the mentally disabled. Another 13 states closed most of their largest facilities, leaving just one open in each state.

But Texas has remained “the institution capital of America,” said Charlie Lakin, director of the Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota.

The 13 facilities in Texas house nearly 5,000 residents — more than six times the national average.

On a per-capita basis, Texas has 20.4 people per 100,000 in large institutions, Lakin said. The national average is 12.2 people.

Other states with large populations such as New York and California — which have rates of 11.2 and 7.5 people, respectively — rely far less on large institutions.

Federal law requires the mentally disabled to be treated

in “the most integrated setting” possible — a factor that led to the Justice Department rebuke of Texas.

Laura Albrecht, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, said the agency is expanding community-based services.

Texas officials say keeping the facilities open is a matter of preserving as many treatment options as possible.

But critics allege that “warehousing” patients in large institutions invites abuse. Patients are isolated from their families and communities, making regular contact with loved ones more difficult. And caretakers often get overwhelmed by the large numbers of patients, Garrison-Tate said.

In Texas, officials verified 465 incidents of abuse or neglect against mentally disabled people in state care in fiscal year 2007. Over a three-month period this summer, the state opened at least 500 new cases with similar allegations, according to federal investigators.



Alex Song/Lariat Staff

Triumphant march

Baylor Air Force Reserve Officers’ Training Corps members carry the U.S. flag and the official flag for the Air Force Wednesday during the parade on the Baylor Sciences Building fields to celebrate the end of the fall 2008 semester.

USC from page 1

components: the first is an education campaign used to notify community members about how to recycle correctly; the second component provided enough funds to buy 20 recycling bins.

“The most valuable thing has been the partnership with Keep Waco Beautiful and the City of Waco,” said Pattie Orr, vice president for information technology.

Waco has loaned recycling bins to the university so they can be used at athletic venues and other major outdoor events. The city has also worked with Baylor athletics to produce public service announcements that educate citizens how to correctly recycle at athletic events.

“A lot of people who aren’t just Baylor are learning about recycling,” Orr said.

Members of the USC, Keep Waco Beautiful, Baylor athletics staffers and the City of Waco first met over the summer and discussed athletic recycling strategies and infrastructure.

The USC originally planned to implement recycling at ath-

letic venues next year, but the grant posed the opportunity to advance plans.

“I don’t think I would have attempted (the athletic recycling) this year, but because of the grant opportunity and because of the encouragement of those people who had been working on outdoor stuff, I said, ‘Well, let’s talk about it. Let’s see if we think we can do it,’” Orr said.

On campus, USC funded recycling bins that have already been placed in residence halls, offices and classrooms.

In addition to recycling, USCis focused on finding ways to consume less energy and produce less waste on campus.

“During the spring 2008 semester, we surveyed the campus population and found that 74 percent of Baylor’s campus was in support of going tray-less,” said Dave Thiel, service manager for ARAMARK Dining Services.

The committee is already seeing results after removing trays from the dining halls.

“When trays were available, we measured the amount of food waste and on average, each customer discarded a half

pound of food per meal period,” Thiel said. “Tray-less campus customers are only taking what they will eat, and the waste has been reduced to 0.13 pounds per patron.”

After reducing the amount of food the Baylor community

“(Baylor) ought to be in touch with what the Waco community is doing and support them.”

Pattie Orr
Vice President for ITS

throws away, the USC is encouraging the same group to walk and ride bikes more instead of driving.

“How students get to and from school is very important to sustainability strategy. Since this is an environmental and convenience issue, the development of alternative modes of transportation will require a practical and nuanced approach,” said Kent, who is also head of the transportation subcommittee.

The subcommittee’s main goal is to implement programs that make it easier to get to campus without driving, Kent said.

Kent hopes to include bicycle lanes on major streets and around campus, as well as an on-campus bicycle repair shop, a feature that several other schools across the county have implemented.

“I talk to so many people who say that they would ride their bike, if only it was safer or if they could fix a flat tire,” he said. “I think there is a lot we can do to practically cater to these needs.”

The USC also wants to focus more on water conservation.

“We have students actually telling us we can save water by not watering the sidewalk,” Flynn said. “We actually had the grounds folks work their sprinklers and make sure that doesn’t happen.”

According to an e-mail interview with Andy Trimble, Baylor grounds and general services manager, an irrigation system may have been over-watering.

“The system was checked and a minor adjustment was made to the watering schedule,” Trimble said.

The USC realizes that their efforts will have greater impact if there is more student involvement.

The RecycleMania subcommittee, co-headed by Austin Lindsay-Cook and Kent, will be focusing on making the event more student-organized and executed compared to last year.

According to the RecycleMania Web site, it is a “friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities” that is held within a 10-week period.

“The USC has made a lot of good progress over the past year,” Kent said. “I love what’s going on with Aramark and Dining Services, and thanks to the new recycling program, we’ve doubled our recycling diversion rate since last year.”

In 2008 for RecycleMania, Baylor recycled 96.13 tons of campus materials compared with 43.43 in 2007, Thiel said.

Orr’s hope is that the USC becomes more in tune with the city’s projects for the future.

“(Baylor) ought to be in touch

with what the Waco community is doing and support them,” she said.

Orr said the committee looks to develop a sustainability policy outlining future goals.

Janna Quinn contributed to this story.

Recycle the right way

According to the USC Web site, the following can be recycled in the containers across campus:

- White paper
- Cardboard
- Colored paper of all weights and types
- Empty aluminum cans and other aluminum items
- Empty plastic bottles and other plastics graded #1 to #7

The following can not be recycled:

- Styrofoam, including “to go” boxes and cups
- Pizza boxes coated with sauce, cheese or oil

For more information on the USC and recycling drop-off locations, visit www.baylor.edu/sustainability/.

BEAR BRIEFS

Kappa Omega Tau's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Benefit Concert T-shirts and fleeces are now on sale in Penland, Collins and Memorial residence halls and at Bill Daniel Student Center, Baylor Sciences Building and Hankamer School of Business. T-shirts are \$12 and fleeces are \$40. For additional information, contact Bo_Weathersbee@baylor.edu.

Christmas on 5th Street will be held from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday at the Bill Daniel Student Center, Fountain Mall and the Burleson Quadrangle. Activities will include Kappa Omega Tau's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Concert, the Annual Baylor Christmas Tree Lighting and Concert, pictures with Santa, and a live Nativity and petting zoo. For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/student_activities.

The Campus Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Glennis McCrary Music Building. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the School of Music.

The Combined Choirs Christmas Concert will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Glennis McCrary Music Building. To purchase tickets, call the music school box office at 710-3571 or buy online.

Baylor Theatre Arts will present the play *Cyrano de Bergerac* at 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday at the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center. For more information, visit www.baylor.edu/theatre.

The School of Music will present a Chamber Singers Christmas concert at 3 p.m. Sunday in McLean Foyer of Meditation in Armstrong Browning Library. For more information or for tickets, call the Baylor School of Music at 710-3571.

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Photo illustration by Christina Kruse/Lariat staff

Shopping for Christmas the economically conscious way

Editor's note: This is the final installment of a column series where The Lariat explores living inexpensively.

By Christina Kruse and Melanie Crowson
Reporters

Many Americans believe that they should get up at 5 a.m. the day after Thanksgiving in order to buy that perfect Christmas gift for a bargain price. If you were not able to wake up before the sun dawned the day after Thanksgiving due to a turkey overdose, have no fear. With only \$25, the Internet or a little crafty know-how, Christmas shopping will be stress free and inexpensive.

When beginning to holiday shop, first set a budget for your holiday shopping. Twenty-five dollars may not seem like a lot for some, however, a lack of funds is a problem for many college students.

"I'm not buying anybody anything for Christmas. I work and I've got to pay rent," Columbus-junior Kandace Hillebrandt said.

Some buyers start off with an easy route to gift giving—the gift of plastic.

"I'm a gift card kind of person," Webster junior Callan Davis said.

Buyers beware, not all of the businesses and stores that are currently open and still distributing gift cards will be open after the holiday season.

Due to the economic crisis, many corporations are having to shut down stores. For a full list of stores closing go to <http://money.aol.com/special/retail-stores-closing-doors>.

Online shopping can provide a cheaper alternative to shopping in-town, however, look out for the cost of shipping before you purchase anything. Often on Web sites, you will not be able to find out the shipping price until you enter your credit card information. Also, if you are shopping online, remember to purchase early, that way there

is plenty of time to gift wrap or return the item if it is damaged or completely different from the online image.

Always keep in mind what your gift receiver really wants. Here are a few examples of gifts that will fit several different tastes.

The Classic Gift:

A classic gift can consist of clothes, jewelry, a photo album or a book. Even though these are safe gifts, try finding a different version of the classic piece.

An alternative to a book would be a book on tape, or find a book that differs from what your bookworm usually reads. For example, one popular do-it-yourself book instructs readers how to make a working light saber.

Instead of a photo album, create a slideshow of pictures of friends or family, add the images to a CD, and send it to them.

Try to find an overseas alternative to something like a scarf or pair of earrings.

The Web site: www.overstock.com

The gift: Traditional handwoven scarf from Guatemala
Price: \$24.99

The Web site: www.amazon.com

The gift: Electronic Gadgets for the Evil Genius
Price: \$16.47

Socially Conscious Gift:

Some people seem to have it all. For those people who really don't need one more gadget, give them the gift of giving itself — donate to their favorite charity. Or, give them a gift card that will allow them to donate the money to any charity of their choice.

The Web site: charitynavigator.org

The gift: the 'Give Card'
Price: \$25

Also, check out fair trade markets, which are stores that ensure that the producer of the product being purchased is paid fairly for their work. These stores generally sell items from artisans in poor countries.

The Web site: www.thekarmarket.com

The gift: Jute totebag from Calcutta
Price: \$20

The Do-It-Yourself Gift:

For crafty, do-it-yourselfers, there is always the option of creating your own gifts to give to your loved ones.

Hobby Lobby is one of the many places you can go to find supplies for a project, www.hobbylobby.com even offers a "Project Inspiration" link on its home page, which gives whole lists of projects and the supplies needed to make them.

Oprah is also gearing up her viewers with thrifty gift ideas. Recently, her show aired an episode titled, "How to Have the Thriftiest Holiday Ever" and it highlighted not only gift ideas, but party ideas and party favors as well as cooking ideas — all at a low cost.

One of the main highlights was a gift idea, called the "Gratitude Box." According to the Web site, www.oprah.com, these boxes cost anywhere between \$6 to \$36 to make, and they consist of decorating a cardboard box with beautiful paper and ribbons designated for a certain friend, then having other friends write notes and putting the notes into the box.

Finally, if you are having trouble finding the perfect gift, just remember that the effort you put into finding the gift is often greater than the gift itself. Also, remember that the holiday season is not about key chain plants or a homemade light saber — keep in mind what Christmas is really about.

Good sites to check out for more ideas:

thisnext.com
uncommongoods.com
blissworld.com
perpeturalkid.com
thrifty-gifts.com

Holiday festivities to deliver art, music, food to Fifth street

By Janna Quinn
Reporter

Christmas on Fifth Street and Kappa Omega Tau's 43rd annual Christmas Tree Lighting will allow Baylor students, faculty and their families to celebrate the holiday season early with free concerts, an arts and crafts marketplace and fun for all.

Festivities begin tonight at 6 p.m. with free family activities, both inside and outside the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Inside, people can take pictures with Santa Claus and enjoy free hot chocolate, coffee and cider. Outside the student center, a live nativity, pony rides, petting zoo and free carriage rides will be available for enjoyment.

Marketplace vendors, such as Annie's Custom Jewelry, Heart Creek Designs and Mission Waco "Fair Trade Market and World Crafts," will be selling items in the student center Den.

This year, the Kappa Pickers will open for the Robbie Seay Band, Waking Caleb and Steven Curtis Chapman in Burleson Quadrangle.

The fraternity chose the bands because of their Christian aspect, Longview junior Conrad Steele said.

"We wanted to hone the focus into a more Christmas-y feeling," he said. "We wanted to focus more on the Christmas story, so we decided to go with Christian artists."

This year, the proceeds from KOT's T-shirt and fleece sells will benefit Shaohannah's Hope, a non-profit organization founded by Steven Curtis Chapman and his wife Mary Beth.

"When my dad (Steven Curtis Chapman) found out the night



Sarah Morris/Lariat staff

Houston sophomore Will Touchstone wraps Christmas lights around a tree on a ladder in front of Old Main for KOT's 43rd annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Christmas on Fifth Street. The lighting will take place tonight at 7:15 p.m.

was a benefit for the Shaohannah's Hope, he was excited to do it," said Emily Chapman Richards, Baylor alumna and Shaohannah's Hope's international program manager. "Shaohannah's Hope is something he believes in, and it is so important for Christians to care for orphans, like James 1:27 calls us to do."

According to the Shaohannah's Hope Web site, part of its mission is to help Christian families reduce the financial barriers to adoption. Financial grants are awarded to qualified families already in the process of adopting.

"Each grant that (Shaohannah's Hope) gives is about \$3000," said Waco junior Bo Weathersbee. "We are estimating to give \$20,000 to that charity, which will fund almost seven

grants." The reading of the Christmas story and lighting of the 32-foot-tall tree will be at 7:15 p.m.

"I hope people will slow down and listen to the Christmas story and not have it be mundane," Steele said. "Christmas is about love and God giving his son out of love, and us turning that around and showing the same love."

The Baylor Religious Hour Choir will also present Selah, a Christian group made up of Amy Perry, Allan Hall and Todd Smith.

Baylor is Selah's first stop on their Christmas tour.

If people have never been to Christmas on 5th Street, Selah will add to the overall experience, said Kennedale senior Lindsay Power.

BRH will open for Selah with a few Christmas songs and songs from the album they recorded in November, Power said.

"I hope it will give everyone a chance to fellowship and worship together and focus on what Christmas is about," she said. "I am blessed to be a part of that."

Steele said his favorite part of Christmas on 5th Street is the community.

"It's time to slow down and spend time in the Baylor community," he said. "We need to focus on why we're here and what the Christmas season is all about."

The night's intention is to have an event that is focused on Baylor students and faculty, Weathersbee said.

"The purpose is to have a sense of fellowship and a way to celebrate the birth of Jesus," he said. "So we use the concert and the tree lighting as a way to do that."

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Behind the scenes of the Bowl Championship Series

By Kyle McKanna
Reporter

When most people receive over 1,000 e-mails in a day, it usually is attributed to a virus that has infected their computer and allowed an influx of spam to be sent their way. For Maxey Parrish, a personal responder and Web editor to the e-mails sent to the Bowl Championship Series Web site, it's just another day at the office.

Parrish, who is also a senior journalism lecturer at Baylor, works as a Web editor for college football's current national ranking system: the Bowl Championship Series. This time of year is his busiest, as thousands of fans usually feel slighted by the system and where their team is ranked. As long as the messages are nice, he will respond, and that means he has quite the daily workload.

Q: What is it exactly that you do for the BCS?

A: My job title is web editor I make sure there are no big mistakes or links aren't broken or people misidentified or anything like that. The actual content on the Web site is provided by the FOX television network. They have access to all the things that FOX news can access, so they have a lot of different sources of information. They have a person in California that does the hands-on stuff of getting the material on the Web site.

My job is to be kind of an independent set of eyes that checks everything out on the web site and makes sure it is correct The majority of what I do involves answering e-mails that come in. The Web site has a "contact us" button, and whenever somebody contacts us that means me

Q: So the e-mails must be coming in?

A: They've been pretty fast and furious here, and they

1998-1999

BCS passes over No. 3 Kansas State in favor of No. 4 Ohio State and No. 8 Florida.

2000-2001

Florida State (12-1) chosen to play Oklahoma (12-0) despite loss to No. 2 Miami (12-1).

always are toward the end of the year ... Of course, right now the two big controversies are Texas and their position in the standings relative to Oklahoma. That had a huge impact on the Big 12 title game because the Big 12 conference chose - and I might add that Texas is a member of the Big 12 and is part of their legislative process - that league chose to use, as its fifth tiebreaker, the BCS standings.

The BCS had absolutely nothing to do with that decision ... the top four tiebreakers were still a tie and so then they came out to use tiebreaker No. 5, which happened to be the BCS standing.

So Oklahoma, based on strength of early season schedule, which I think everyone would agree was probably stronger than Texas', and the fact that they were playing so very well late in the season against good teams, particularly their win against Texas Tech, moved them past Texas ... With the exception of the one game that OU lost to Texas, they probably had a better body of work throughout the entire ... So there is a lot of compelling reasons for both teams.

And having said all of that about OU, you have to say that Texas beat them in its one and only opportunity to do so, so that's a compelling reason. So it was close, but the voters and the

2001-2002

Nebraska chosen despite losing the Big 12 Championship to Colorado, who the Huskers edged by .05 points.

2003-2004

LSU (13-1) and Oklahoma (12-2) play, leaving the AP poll's No. 1 USC (12-1).

computer polls put Oklahoma ahead of Texas.

Q: Outside of the Big 12, what are people saying?

A: Yeah, Utah is pretty happy because they are sitting in good shape right now. Boise State is really upset because it looks like they are going to be on the outside looking in They're a great program and there is no doubt that if indeed it works out where they are not part of a BCS bowl then they're a good team that won't make it

What a lot of people forget is that under the old bowl system every bowl was free to pick whoever they wanted. There were lots and lots of really good teams that got passed over every year for a variety of reasons So those issues were there long before the BCS and so you're going to have disputes no matter what you do. And that's just part of the game.

Q: Do you feel like it is the best system, or do you think a playoff might be better?

A: Well, I think that given the circumstances that we have the BCS is the best system. What you have to understand is the BCS is not a governing body. It's not even an organization. The BCS does not have headquarters, it does not have permanent, full-time employees. The BCS is nothing but a series of contracts ... between its members.

So, people talk about the BCS as being some kind of monolithic entity up on a hill somewhere. It really doesn't exist in that fashion The BCS is nothing but contracts and between the bowls and the conferences and the teams that make up its members, ...

Is it perfect? Absolutely not. Is it the best we've got? Absolutely so.... Every year it is reviewed from top to bottom. There's adjustments made as necessary, and I do believe it is the best system.

On the topic of a playoff, what

2006-2007

Separated by .0101 points, No. 2 Florida was picked over No. 3 Michigan to play Ohio State in the championship. Undefeated Boise State also left out.

2007-2008

The top two teams lost on the same weekend for

every one that has foul language. If it's just a rant, like "I hate you," and I get a lot of those, that's not worth responding to. But if it's a legitimate question like "what does this rule say?" then we'll answer every one of those.

Unless something drastic changes What you have to understand is that when you're going to try to change the minds of those people, the presidents and chancellors, you're looking at people that have the 30,000-foot view not just of football, but just of college athletics, but of all university life He's seeing things we can't begin to fathom, because he's taking a big picture view of things It's all a matter of perspective And again this is someone who's dealing with, not just athletics, but all of higher education and their view is no way.

I'm not saying it won't happen at some point There's just reason after reason after reason and I just don't see it happening.

Q: What is the most unique e-mail you've received?

A: I've been called every name in the book. The amazing thing to me is that somebody, a doctor, a dentist, a lawyer, whose name is on the email will sit there and just cuss you like a sailor. To me the thought of a doctor sitting down at a computer to write anonymous vulgarities, it's astounding.

Very few of them are reasonable... but occasionally you do get something that's a good, honest legitimate question and I'm very happy to address those. I've even written people back four or five or six times going back and forth discussing different issues. If they're responsible and reasonable... We automatically eliminate

two weeks straight. LSU is catapulted from No. 7 to No. 2 and eventually beats No. 1 Ohio State. LSU received only 60 of 65 votes.

2008-2009

A three-way tie between Oklahoma, Texas and Texas Tech was broken

by the Big 12 Conference's 5th tiebreaker: the BCS standings. Oklahoma edged Texas and will play Missouri in the Big 12 Championship. Texas beat Oklahoma on a neutral field in October 45-35 and defeated Missouri 56-31 in Austin.

Q: How many e-mails do you receive?

A: It varies from year to year and here's what I've found: If there is controversy in the SEC, the volume of e-mails is over the top. A couple of years ago there was a lot of controversy in the SEC and ... I received 1500 e-mails one day

With this whole Texas thing this week, I've probably received from Texas fans related to that issue probably 1500 total all week That's just how passionate they are in the SEC. It's a completely different animal over there. If everything's clean cut and there's no controversy I'll run through 40 or 50 a day

Q: Do you think Congress should step in and regulate how the college football post-season is run?

A: No, I don't. Unless there's something illegal going on, unless there's some tremendous violation of a trust Congress has more than enough on its plate than to worry about what is nothing more than entertainment. We've got to put this in perspective and realize that football is entertainment.

It's like going to a play or going to a concert... It's fun. It's not life. We're not curing cancer. We're not ending the wars and we're not fixing the economy. We're just having fun and Congress has more to do than worry about people having fun on a Saturday afternoon. That would be a horrible overstepping of its bounds.

I heard the interview in which president-elect Obama suggested a playoff and he made one great error. He said lets just shorten the regular season and have a

playoff. That shows a gross lack of knowledge of how the system works. Schools make their schedules To say lets just cut back on the number of games, it just couldn't occur because we're talking about 115 different entities out there negotiating their own contracts

In fact, most schools negotiate contracts as far as 10 years out in advance The NFL has not set a schedule for 2009, you know, they will make that up, they announce it usually in February or March.

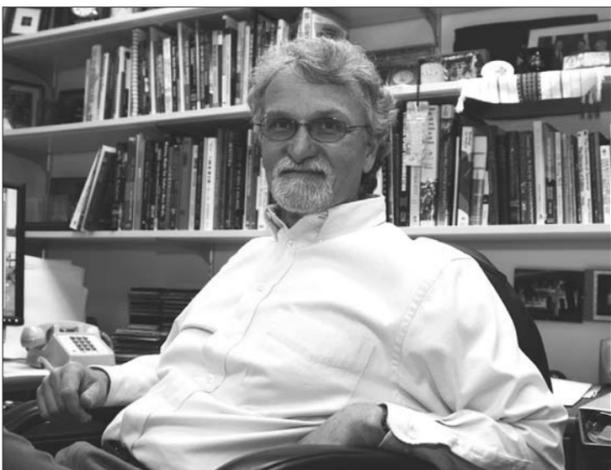
I promise you, 99 percent of the college football games for 2009 are set now and may have been set for 10 years. It's not just 'oh change the schedule,' you just don't do that in college athletics That's part of the misunderstanding with this whole thing, really.

Q: If the season ended today, who should be in the national championship game?

A: Well I really have to go with Oklahoma based on the way they played down the stretch and the people they beat down the stretch. They are as good an offensive team as I have ever seen and they have that typical great Bob Stoops defense.

If I had my pick for the national championship game right now ... I would pick Texas and Oklahoma to play again I think if OU could play Alabama say 10 times, OU probably beats them seven. And I think if Texas could play Alabama 10 times I think Texas probably beat them six or seven. So I think clearly the best two teams in the country, in Maxey Parrish's opinion, are Texas and OU, and I think Alabama is probably up their third, fourth of fifth.

But I don't think Alabama is the best team. I think they are the only undefeated team, and I think they are out of the SEC.... And if it does come down to an OU/Alabama game I am really thinking OU is going to win.



Sarah Morris/ Lariat Staff

Maxey Parrish, a Baylor senior lecturer in journalism, is also a Web editor for the Bowl Championship Series. When championship weekend approaches, he receives between 500 and 1500 e-mails per day.

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