

Baylor's raffle policy baffles student organizations

Good old-fashioned raffles have been raising money for folks at carnivals, fairs, picnics and other fun occasions where people gather to enjoy fellowship and fun.

Raffles seem innocent and commonplace and as American as, well, apple pie and hot dogs.

However, not everyone shares this view, as I recently discovered a couple weeks ago when I found out about the university's disallowance of raffles.

The Baylor Aviation Organization was planning a Valentine's Day fundraiser by means of a raffle. The grand prize was a sunset plane ride and dinner for the winner and their sweetheart.

Other prizes would have included dinner for two and flowers. Aurora Aviation, Elite

Circle Grill and Cricket's Bar and Grill had already signed on to donate to the fundraiser. Tickets would have cost \$5 each, or three for \$10.

Since an aviation student agreed to donate time and skill by flying the plane, and local businesses cooperated to contribute dinner and flowers, the scheme was virtually cost-free.

Baylor Aviation Organization members got hyped up about all the potential profits, which in turn could benefit the university indirectly as the club would have more money to travel to conferences or invest in projects without begging student government to dip into student life funds.

The enthusiasm was short-lived.

"The university does not, as

point of view



BY ANITA PERE

a matter of practice, raise funds using raffle sales," wrote a member of the university's general counsel in a recent e-mail to *The Baylor Lariat*.

According to a club member, Student Activities informed Baylor Aviation Organization that fundraiser approval was likely.

But club members received word Jan. 30 by e-mail that the event couldn't be tolerated because this could conflict with Baylor's classification as a non-

profit organization.

Student Activities reportedly touched base with Financial Affairs, General Counsel, Judicial Affairs, and the dean for student development, conversations which led Student Activities to deny the raffle request.

But the general counsel member said in an e-mail the reasoning behind the denial was that "(the) student organization would be breaking Texas law as it does not meet the requirement of a 'qualified organization' under the Texas Charitable Raffle Enabling Act."

The Texas Charitable Gambling Act lists nonprofit groups in existence for the three preceding years, as long as they don't give members money and don't try to influence law makers and as long as this group is

exempt from taxation as a 501(c) nonprofit.

The club, however, has only been in existence for two years.

The general counsel member also wrote that university property would be used as part of the prize, but according to the student source, the plane that would have been used is property of Aurora Aviation.

I must admit, I'm more than slightly confused.

If making money creates contention with federal classification of a non-profit organization (as members said they were told in an e-mail), how can any university entity hold any type of fundraiser?

Why, then, do I find a different club selling baked goods in the SUB every day, with its table set up a stone's throw from

the Student Activities office, no less?

If this wasn't the basis of the denial, why were members told such?

It took hours of research to get to the bottom of this, which could have been told to the members point-blank — the club did not meet requirements under the Texas gaming laws, and, even if it did, gambling isn't an approved activity for a fundraiser.

How prudent for our university higher-ups to deny this request, then give inconsistent reasons for that action, ranging from the truth to bogus excuses.

Anita Pere is a senior journalism major from Tulsa, Okla. and a staff writer for *The Baylor Lariat*.

Editorial

Pro-family policies needed

Despite Baylor's commitment to family and Christian values, some members of the Baylor family have a harder time than others — namely, those women who are starting families of their own.

Baylor has no maternity benefits in place, though employees can take up to 12 weeks off because of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) enacted in 1993.

The act also allows for time off to recover from a health condition, to care for a spouse or parent who is seriously ill or to care for a recently placed foster child or adoptee.

However, time off under the FMLA act is unpaid and not every family can easily afford to live off only one paycheck, especially with medical bills to pay.

Those saving up vacation days, be warned. According to the compensation and benefits section of the Baylor Web site, Baylor is allowed under law to require employees to use their vacation time as part of their requested FMLA leave and can count that paid leave as part of the 12-week FMLA leave.

Another solution is to accrue paid vacation days and use them for maternity leave, or to try to plan a pregnancy around school holidays, such as summer or winter breaks.

However, timing childbirth around school holidays isn't always a practical solution. Faculty members have told *The Baylor Lariat* that the lack of maternity benefits can cause a myriad



of problems, especially considering the difficulties inherent in timing a pregnancy. Premature births can also throw things off schedule, landing new mothers in a situation where they have to choose between unpaid leave or juggling work and an infant.

This situation needs to change, and soon.

Baylor is a Christian university with family values, but this particular policy is far from family-oriented. We should encourage women who want

to start families, not punish them through repressive policies.

A lack of maternity benefits just makes it that much harder for women who want to have families and an academic career and who believe that both are worth the sacrifice.

Other universities have made paid maternity leave available to their employees. Southern Methodist University offers not just paid maternity leave, but paid adoption leave to any benefit-eligible staff member who

has worked for the university for one year.

In Baylor's defense, the problem is a nation-wide one. According to a report published last February by McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy, the U.S. is the only developed country without guaranteed paid maternity leave.

So, let's set an example for the rest of the country and start putting our money (or rather, benefits) where our mouth is.

Opinion policy

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Correction

The Feb. 14 story "Sen. Obama to set up Waco campaign office" lists the *Burnt Orange Report* as a popular student web log. The blog is not run by students.

Platonic relationships ease pain of Valentine's Day fallout

Isn't it just perfect that Facebook advertisements featuring unknown women engaging in nearly scandalous postures, surrounded by the words "Meet Local Women" have appeared in the wake of V-Day?

I love those new TV ads for chemistry.com.

I'm talking about the ones that plaster a giant "Rejected by eHarmony" stamp over some of the more unlucky individuals in our society.

At one point, a dejected young female even asks, "Can't a girl get some love?"

(She happens to be very

cute.)

Sure she can, but technology might still be a few years away from giving computers the ability to give it.

Sadly, that leaves myself and other web-daters at home, eating the cookies mama sent us in the mail and listening the kind of music Ben Humeniuk likes.

I remember my freshman year when Byron Weathersbee stood up on Chapel stage and read a supposed actual note written to him from one of our very own Baylor ladies around this very same time.

In essence, we men received

point of view



BY BILLY COLLINS

an ego beating at the expense of girl's V-Day frustrations.

Granted, one very, very brave guy replied, implying that the girls around this place ought to dump their A&M boyfriends if they wanted any of our attention.

I hope he's still alive.

But what's the deal with Val-

entine's frustrations?

I think chemistry.com got it right: Rejection.

That's the deal.

What could be more frustrating than an entire day seemingly devoted to reminding those of us who belong to the "rejected singles" camp that we're, in fact, reject singles?

Most of us have even deteriorated to the point where we actually go on a date that night with all the same-sex friends who share our general dislike of Valentine's Day love.

I want to be accepted for who I am as much as the next guy,

but I think I'm even more afraid of being rejected for who I'm not.

Chemistry.com somehow found this out and started playing its commercials on my TV.

And I have a feeling I'm not the only one.

We're a desperate group of young people looking for lovin' and looking hard.

So hard, in fact, that we're trusting the Web and getting a little flustered over Valentine's Day.

There's only so much of the Baylor Bubble I can stand, but one thing that makes it worth-

while is the ease with which you can make friends.

I seem to find people who are mostly friendly and willing to strike up a good conversation.

And to me, that's what life is — relationships.

It doesn't matter if it's V-Day with your girlfriend or Mother's Day with your mama.

Relationships are relationships, and internet hook-ups aside, I think we've got it pretty good.

Billy Collins is junior religion and journalism major from San Antonio.

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 14 Surpass
 15 Haley or Trebek
 16 Implement
 17 Bedtime figure of rhyme
 20 Mach+ jet
 21 Black-tie affair
 22 Texas Hold 'Em phrase
 23 Lend a hand
 24 "All About..."
 25 Nicely-Nicely Johnson portrayer
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 34 Actor Flynn
 35 Beer choices
 36 Word of woe
 37 Indistinct
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 39 Plain to see
 40 Garden of Genesis
 41 "Leaving Las Vegas" co-star
 42 Start of a long story
 43 Comic Foxx
 44 One of Robin's Merry Men
 46 Baked dessert
 47 El Dorado's treasure
 48 Ranked at a tournament
 52 Actress Ward
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 62 Maureen of "The Quiet Man"
 63 Ties the knot
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 65 Young Turk
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 6 Texas Hold 'Em phrase
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 25 Break off
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By Randall J. Hartman Escondito, CA 2/15/08

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Groups help with hunger relief

By Erika Pedroza
Reporter

As students complain about the amount of money spent on the food served at the cafeterias, ponder these facts provided by the United Nations Development Program on the Bread for the World Web site: Half the global population lives on less than \$2 a day.

About 35.5 million people, 12.6 million of those children, live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger.

In an effort to alleviate this problem, the Baylor Center for Family and Community Ministries has joined Waco's World Hunger Relief, Inc., Carita's (a local food bank), the McLennan County Hunger Coalition Advocacy and the Texas chapter of Bread for the World to organize a local Offering of Letters Workshop Saturday at Austin Avenue United Methodist Church.

The workshops gather interested advocates to write letters of petition to Congress, lobbying for hunger relief.

"This workshop and the work of Bread for the World provide our churches with an important opportunity for faithful discipleship," said Dr. Jon Singletary, director for Family and Community Ministries and assistant professor in the School of Social Work.

Singletary, who will help lead this year's efforts, has participated in hunger alleviation lobbying for about five years.

"Christ calls us to respond to the needs of our world," he said. "Sometimes, this means acts of service and charity. It also means acts of justice. To live out God's call to justice, we have to hold our leaders accountable to our global commitments."

San Antonio graduate student Kelly Baker said she takes part in the program because she is moved by the beliefs promoted by Bread for the World.

"I strongly believe in its mission and core values and see the ways in which members are not only working for justice collectively, but helping to create change individually," Baker said.

According to the Bread of the World Web site, the expense to alleviate world hunger is less than what pet owners annually spend on animal food.

The United Nations Development Program estimates that the basic needs of the world's poorest people could be met for an additional \$13 billion a year. Americans spend \$16.1 billion a year on pet food.

"The United States has yet to fulfill our promises to the world's poorest people," said Seth Wispelwey, regional organizer of Bread for the World. "Our commitments include increasing development aid, reducing subsidies that foster market inequities, and relieving foreign debt. The president and Congress have made great strides, but there is more to do."



Luis Noble/Lariat staff

Flower Girl

Kat Reed, the coordinator for greek life at Baylor smiles as she receives flowers Thursday, on Valentine's Day.

Appointment vexes Senate

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

Constitutional technicalities were at the forefront of Student Senate's debate at Thursday night's meeting.

Five candidates were up for confirmation for vacant positions in student government, one of which was the position of assistant court clerk for the Supreme Court. San Antonio freshman Mandy Gonzalez was not confirmed for the position as an indirect result of ambiguity in the Student Government Constitution.

Although the constitution only provides specific guidelines for the court clerk, not the assistant, it does state that a can-

didate for student government must maintain a 2.5 GPA, which Gonzalez had, as well as have attended Baylor for two semesters. However, since the constitution doesn't refer specifically to the assistant court clerk, confusion arose among the Senate.

"I put Mandy up for nomination because I thought she was well qualified and legally permissible to be appointed to the job," student body president Travis Plummer said.

Gonzalez attended summer school before the fall semester began, but another point of contention quickly became whether or not that session counted as one of the two semesters required to be appointed to a student government position.

In the absence of constitutional guidelines on this issue as well, the senators were left to interpret it, and were concerned that she wasn't legally qualified.

"The decision had nothing to do with Mandy's character," external vice president Bryan Fonville said. "It was strictly a procedural issue."

Gonzalez said she was disappointed, but understood both sides of the argument.

"I think I possess a high level of maturity, and I believe have the potential to fulfill this duty," she said. "I could really be a voice for the freshman class. But if something you really want doesn't happen, it just means it wasn't in God's will for you at that moment."

Men's tennis to travel to national indoor championship

By Joe Holloway
Reporter

Senior Lars Poerschke upset Stanford's No. 2-ranked Alex Clayton in singles Wednesday to lead Baylor to a 5-2 win on the road over No. 49 Stanford.

Now the Bears travel to Seattle to compete against 16 of the nation's top teams in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Men's National Team Indoor Championship.

No. 1 University of Virginia, defending champions No. 2 University of Georgia, and No. 3 Ohio State University will all be

there. But if the fourth-ranked Bears want a shot at any of these teams, they will first have to get past No. 13 Oklahoma State University at 10 a.m. today.

"It's going to be a tough first round," Poerschke said. "They were a tough competitor last year in the Big 12."

Baylor has the highest ranked first round opponent of any of the top four teams.

"We have a real tough first round with Oklahoma State," head coach Matt Knoll said. "We know we're going to have to be ready right from the start."

Of the past 33 team indoor

champions, only nine have gone on to win the NCAA Championships. This tournament looks to give a good indication of any changes the Bears would need to make.

"It's neat to be there with all the better teams, play some great matches, and come out with a great sense of what your strengths and weaknesses are," Knoll said. "I know our guys are excited about matching up with everybody."

Junior David Galic expressed his enthusiasm for the tournament as well.

"It's going to give us a good

idea of where we are right now," he said. "All the best teams are there."

Poerschke certainly looks forward to putting himself to the test.

"The national indoors are going to be the first highlight of the season," he said. "We're facing the top 16 teams in the nation so they're all pretty good."

He did admit, however, that playing in an indoor environment may prove difficult.

"There are no indoor courts here to practice so it's kind of hard since it's different," he said. "I prefer a nice sunny day out-

side with no wind instead of having the roof on top."

But he also conceded that the indoor setting would probably just level the playing field, because of the wind.

Galic actually looks forward to the change of pace.

"Indoor is definitely going to help my game," he said. "I like to be aggressive and indoor favors aggressive players."

Other than Baylor and Oklahoma State, the University of Texas is the only other team from the Big 12 to travel to Seattle. However, it is unlikely the Bears will meet the Longhorns.

Variety show to spread culture, raise funds for missions

By Heather Fogt
Reporter

Cultures will collide at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Bobo Baptist Student Center. The Baptist Student Ministries' Variety Show will showcase students from all over the world in song, dance, fashion and other performances.

The BSM held a similar event last year with a coffeehouse theme along with music, but this year a fashion segment will be added.

Students will wear traditional clothing from countries such as Taiwan, Colombia, Ethiopia and Nigeria.

Many students are from the region or have served there as

missionaries.

Carolina Fuentes, a Houston senior and coordinator for the show, said they wanted less music and more variety this year.

"We wanted to show more of the international aspect," Fuentes said.

Ballet Folklorico Ocelotl will be presenting traditional Mexican dancing.

The performance, like the fashion segment, is designed to add to the variety of the show.

Several students from the BSM's International Ministry will be singing and playing instruments.

Proceeds from a silent auction and bake sale, along with a sug-

gested \$5 donation will go to Go Now Missions. Go Now sends students from across Texas to places around the U.S. and the world for short term, summer and semester mission trips.

Longview senior Whitney Martin will be going on a mission trip this summer with Go Now missions.

"It's really nice to know that there's people supporting us financially and praying for us," Martin said. "It's neat to see how some students who don't have much to give still give to spread the Gospel around the world."

Martin said she wants to get the word out so that people can be in prayer for the missionaries.

Many students will be sent to dangerous parts of the world.

Fuentes said it is important to give to missions because of the life experiences you get.

"We want to make the BSM effective through hands-on experiences," Fuentes said. "It encourages life change."

Fuentes participated in a Go Now mission trip to North Africa last summer.

The BSM hopes to raise \$1,000 for Go Now. The Hispanic ministry Tu Segundo Hogar will be organizing a silent bake auction throughout the night.

The rest of the BSM students can also donate items for a general silent auction. Local businesses will donate products to

be auctioned off as well.

Tiffany Harry, a first-year theology student at George W. Truett Seminary, serves as a coordinator for the show and grew up on the mission field with her parents.

"A cool thing about international students sending through Go Now is that some students will be going to home countries of the internationals or where we've grown up," Harry said.

Taipei, Taiwan sophomore Whitney Gillam helped organize the event to give people the opportunity to share the Gospel.

"I don't think anyone else does this type of fundraising on campus," Gillam said.

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COKE from page 1

ditional bottling and shipping function to more modernized production.

"The enterprises used to be a bottling facility," Connell said. "The people who ran the trucks

would normally take orders from grocery stores and restaurants."

As online purchasing becomes more popular, the company is looking to align with consumer buying trends.

"The company is trying to move into a call center centralized format," Connell said.

"Instead of traditional person to person selling, they are opening up options of online purchasing. This will free up time as well as expand and modernize their market."

The company will still maintain delivery as their primary mode of distribution.

"Each trucker with the company will be able to continue their delivery and sales market distributions," Connell said. "The online aspect will change operations for the better."

Connell said that the next phase between the company and the city will be to follow up with

construction plans.

"Our role in the project will be to continue to monitor the company," Connell said. "We will also be assisting them in their initial business retention rates."

The company's 94 employees have been working out of a temporary distribution center since

the destruction of the old site. Waco Coca-Cola Enterprises is a division of Coca-Cola Headquarters based in Atlanta, Georgia.

The company manufactures soft drinks, fruit drinks and sports drinks, and accounts for part of Waco's largest market in food and beverages.

MEN from page 1

Texas escaped the last game between these two on Feb. 1 in Austin with an 80-72 win. It extended Rick Barnes' unblemished record against Baylor and allowed Texas to lord its 21-game winning streak over the Bears for at least another two weeks.

Kevin Rogers said he wasn't aware of the extent of the streak but expressed incredulity at the prospect of it being much of a factor for the Bears.

"We don't pay attention to streaks at all," Rogers said. "Like my man (Curtis Jerrells) said awhile back, you guys know everything. We just come in and worry about things we need to take care of."

WOMEN from page 1

perimeter." Plumley, who combined with Leah Rush last year to create an imposing deep threat, has hit just 10-16 from beyond the arc, but can score if left open.

In the offseason, Plumley moved positions from point guard to shooting guard. The Sooners hadn't figured out their positions when the teams last met.

"Moving from the 1 to the 2 had to be a big adjustment for

them," Mulkey said.

On the Lady Bears' side is a home court advantage, with free gold shirts for all Baylor fans for a "gold-out" event.

And for Baylor, who is now half a game behind Kansas State University in Big 12 play, home games are essential for winning the conference.

"A crowd can play a huge role in the game," she said. "To win this league, we're going to have to win every game on our schedule. What's the likelihood of that? Kansas State has a much easier road."

VOTE from page 1

Dallas junior Rachael Chambers is registered in Waco and said she appreciates the opportunity to vote early.

"I'm excited to show my political support in this uncertain race," Chambers said. "I'm going to vote early because I have a busy schedule. I don't want to put it off and then on March 4 not have time to vote."

Students who are going home between now and March 4 can also check with their county's election office for early voting dates.

In order to vote, a proof of registration certificate must be presented. If the voter doesn't have a certificate, showing a signed affidavit along with

another form of identification, such as a driver's license, is acceptable.

Some students welcome the idea of voting from their home county.

"I don't want to deal with an absentee ballot," Plano junior Stephen Cook said. "I might try and go home after class if the polls are open late enough, since I only live two hours away."

"This is the first time in a while when every vote counts in Texas, and I'm going to be a part of it," Cook said.

There are 228 delegates up for grabs for the Democratic Party in Texas and are awarded proportionately. For the Republican Party, 140 delegates are at stake and are awarded by the winner-take-all method.

POLICY from page 1

"Barack Obama's plan does more to cut health care costs for the average American family than any other plan," Obama campaign spokeswoman Gannet Tseggai said.

Fellow democrat Sen. Hillary Clinton proposes a universal health care program that would require all Americans to have health care coverage.

According to Clinton's Web site, her plan to reform the health care system and to make it accessible for everyone consists of having new insurance coverage choices and lower premiums. Under Clinton's plan no one would be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions. To ensure that health care is affordable, Clinton would provide tax relief for working families.

On the Republican end, Sen. John McCain opposes universal health care. He believes in personal responsibility on the issue of health care.

"Families should be in charge of their health care dollars and have more control over their care," according to the McCain's official campaign Web site. His plan allows individuals to choose from any provider they want.

McCain's plan would provide individuals with a larger role in determining their health care options while also promoting competition among insurance

companies.

All individuals would be provided with a \$2,500 tax credit to "increase incentives for insurance coverage. Individuals owning innovative multi-year policies that cost less than the full credit can deposit remainder in expanded health savings accounts," according to his Web site.

Former Ark. Gov. and Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee also opposes mandated universal health care.

On his campaign Web site, Huckabee says the country doesn't "need all the government controls that would inevitably come with universal health care."

Huckabee advocates a "complete overhaul" of the current health care system. He wants to shift health care responsibility from employers to individuals.

"Our employer-based system has outlived its usefulness, but the answer is a consumer-based system, not socialized medicine," according to his Web site.

Republican candidate Ron Paul also opposes universal health care.

"The federal government will not suddenly become efficient managers if universal health care is instituted. Government health care only means long waiting periods, lack of choice, poor quality, and frustration," Paul said on his campaign Web site.

Paul plans to transform the health care system by making all medical expenses tax deductible.

He wants to implement a Health Savings Account plan that every American would be eligible for.

Though the candidates differ in their view of how the American health care system should be handled, they are consistent in promoting change.

"Americans spend more of our GDP than do Europeans generally and our health care system does not provide good care for many Americans," said Dr. Gayle Avant, associate professor of political science.

Avant said he believes that if the problems of our health care system do not get resolved, there will be repercussions.

"We will continue to have a higher infant mortality rate than many less wealthy countries, and we will continue to have poor care for many of our citizens, mainly the poor," he said.

Avant said he views health care as both an individual and a shared responsibility.

"All Americans acknowledge some level of responsibility by government for public health," he said. "If the democrats win the presidential election and continue control in the House and Senate, implementation of a reform health care system is more likely."

Judy Bowman, senior lecturer in economics, said rising health care costs make the U.S. economy less competitive than other countries.

"One of the big reasons Ford

and General Motors have a problem competing with Toyota is because of our health care cost," Bowman said.

Car industries often pay a large share of the health care cost for their workers and retirees, Bowman said.

"In Japan, health care, most of it or all of it, are paid by the public sector," she said.

Without having to pay for their employees' health insurance, companies like Toyota are able to offer their product to consumers at a lower price than U.S. products, Bowman said.

If American industries are not able to compete with foreign industries, then "they will shrink," she said.

Bowman said she is in favor of either Clinton or Obama's health care proposals. She said McCain's medical savings account "might help some people, but it's not sufficient for really major diseases. People still need some catastrophic insurance coverage even if they had medical savings account."

Though she said she believes health care to be a shared responsibility, Bowman also acknowledged that there may be some drawbacks to a universal health care program.

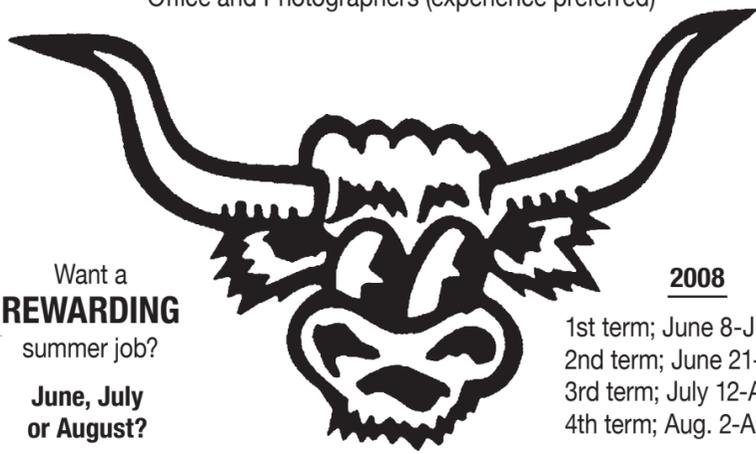
"If it's done poorly, for example not being adequately funded or not having incentives for efficiency, then it could lead to shortages to certain types of medical care and could lower quality of care," she said.

Godspeed by Ben Humeniuk



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