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Obama wants war options changed

By BEN FELLER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama does not plan to accept any of the Afghanistan war options presented by his national security team, pushing instead for revisions to clarify how and when U.S. troops would turn over responsibility to the Afghan government, a senior administration official said Wednesday.

That stance comes in the midst of forceful reservations about a possible troop buildup from the U.S. ambassador in Afghanistan, Karl Eikenberry, according to a second top administration official.

In strongly worded classified cables to Washington, Eikenberry said he had misgivings about sending in new troops while there are still so many questions about the leadership of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Obama is still close to announcing his revamped war strategy — most likely shortly after he returns from a trip to Asia that ends on Nov. 19.

But the president raised questions at a war council meeting Wednesday that could alter the dynamic of both how many additional troops are sent to Afghanistan and what the timeline would be for their presence in the war zone, according to the official, who spoke on con-

dition of anonymity to discuss Obama’s thinking.

Military officials said Obama has asked for a rewrite before and resisted what one official called a one-way highway toward war commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal’s recommendations for more troops. The sense that he was being rushed and railroaded has stiffened Obama’s resolve to seek information and options beyond military planning, officials said, though a substantial troop increase is still likely.

The president was considering options that include adding 30,000 or more U.S. forces to take on the Taliban in key areas of Afghanistan and to buy time for

the Afghan government’s small and ill-equipped fighting forces to take over. The other three options on the table Wednesday were ranges of troop increases, from a relatively small addition of forces to the roughly 40,000 that the top U.S. general in Afghanistan prefers, according to military and other officials.

The key sticking points appear to be timelines and mounting questions about the credibility of the Afghan government.

Administration officials said Wednesday that Obama wants to make it clear that the U.S. commitment in Afghanistan is not open-ended. The war is now in its ninth year and is claiming U.S. lives at a record pace as

military leaders say the Taliban has the upper hand in many parts of the country.

Eikenberry, the top U.S. envoy to Kabul, is a prominent voice among those advising Obama, and his sharp dissent is sure to affect the equation. He retired from the Army this year to become one of the few generals in American history to switch directly from soldier to diplomat, and he himself is a recent, former commander of U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Eikenberry’s cables raise deep concern about the viability of the Karzai government, according to a senior U.S. official familiar with them who spoke on condition of anonymity to

discuss the classified documents. Other administration officials raised the same misgivings in describing Obama’s hesitancy to accept any of the options before him in their current form.

The options presented to Obama by his war council will now be amended.

Military officials say one approach is a compromise battle plan that would add 30,000 or more U.S. forces atop a record 68,000 in the country now. They described it as “half and half,” meaning half fighting and half training and holding ground so the Afghans can regroup.

see OBAMA, pg. 8



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paying Respects

President Barack Obama and Gen. Karl Horst walk past grave markers Wednesday during an unannounced visit on Veterans Day to Section 60 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

First in a series that follows developments with the Central Texas Research and Technology Park and the BRIC.

BRIC: A place for engineers’ research

By LAURA REMSON  
STAFF WRITER

Since the Oct. 23 announcement to launch the Central Texas Research and Technology Park, the first one of its kind in the region, plans have been made on how to use the new facility.

One major initiative of the research park is the opportunity for graduate engineering students to conduct research in a facility adequate to their needs. Dr. Benjamin Kelley, dean of the engineering and computer science department, said the current facility, located in the basement of the Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building, is not sufficient for the research being done at Baylor.

“Our research space is kind of small,” Kelley said. “We have this professor working next to this professor and a graduate student squeezed in between. Their kinds of research is often dealing with or using electronic equipment, computers, mechanical jigs and so forth, but they’re just up shoulder-to-shoulder — there’s not enough space for them to do what they need to do now.”

The building’s inadequacies stem from growing enrollment in the engineering programs.

“The building we’re in now is a little over 20 years old now and was built totally with the thought of undergraduate research,” Kelley said. “So as

we’ve developed graduate programs and as our student enrollment has grown, we have re-configured the building because there were no research laboratories in there to begin with.”

Interim Provost Dr. Elizabeth Davis made the initial announcement and pointed out the importance of the research facility.

“Once refurbished, this facility will provide graduate research space for Baylor University’s School of Engineering and Computer Science and for select Baylor interdisciplinary research centers and institutes,” Davis said in her speech at the Oct. 23 press conference announcing the new facility. “It will also provide space for advanced technology training and workforce development for TSTC and MCC programs, space for anchor industry partners already located in, or newly recruited to, McLennan County and space for joint research symposia and educational meetings.”

One machine the school is unable to use to its full capacity is a wind tunnel, which is currently located in the Rogers building along with a special diesel engine, purchased with both Baylor and donated funds.

“We haven’t been able to install [the special diesel engine] yet because the building wasn’t designed for it,” Kelley said. “It would cost so much to modify



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Benjamin Kelley, dean of engineering and computer science, stands in front of a wind tunnel in the basement of the Rogers Engineering and Computer Science Building. The wind tunnel stands 31 feet long, 8 feet tall and 7 feet wide and is used for a variety of experiments, including a force balance for lift.

the building that we think, gee whiz, why don’t we delay it for a couple of years. So it will be one of the first projects we move out there.”

Kelly said he was not sure if undergraduate students would be allowed to use the facilities.

“It’s hard to say. I think definitely yes, but I’m not quite sure how,” Kelley said. “I would expect that some of the undergraduates will have their part-time job at the BRIC (Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative). I

would think also, that certainly that the master’s students and the Ph.D. students will be out there, but I would think as it grows and blossoms, there’s going to be companies out there as well and they are going to be looking to hire students as interns or part-time workers or to try to get them to work out there after they graduate. So I will not be surprised at all if there is a steady stream of students going

see BRIC, pg. 8

No. 3 recruit signs to play with Bears

By JUSTIN BAER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men’s basketball head coach Scott Drew has performed wonders on the recruiting trail since inheriting a dismantled program seven years ago.

However, Drew may have accomplished his greatest feat Wednesday morning when Duncanville High School senior Perry Jones, the No. 3 nationally ranked recruit according to ESPN, signed a letter of intent to play for Baylor beginning in the 2010-2011 season.

Jones, a 6-foot-10-inch, 220-pound power forward, is the highest-ranked recruit in program history, topping current Monroe, La., junior shooting guard LaceDarius Dunn, who notched a ranking as high as No. 24 in the country, according to Scout.com.

“Signing a player like Perry is a monumental moment for this program,” Drew said in a press conference. “Perry will not only be a great addition to our team, but will also open numerous doors for our program in years to come.”

Jones’ physical stature fits the mold of a transitional Baylor squad. With the likes of Edmond, Okla., junior Ekpe Udoh, Houston sophomore Anthony Jones, Killeen freshman Cory Jefferson and North Richland

Hills freshman Nolan Dennis, Drew has re-established the Bears’ as a long and athletic team.

“He has the skill set of a guard, but he is 6’10”. That makes him very versatile,” Jones’ high school coach Eric McDade said. “Baylor is a great place for him. The staff is going to find ways to utilize his abilities.”

Jones verbally committed to Baylor in 2007 and admitted he was reeled in by Drew’s conviction of Jones’ potential impact on the team. While Jones was ranked in the 50s when he committed as a freshman, his vast development escalated him up recruiting boards.

“(Coach Drew) talked to me, and he was telling me about how much potential I had,” Jones said. “We had a very long talk the very first time I came down there, when I first committed. He seemed so intent about what I could do for this program.”

While Jones initially garnered scouts’ attention for his defensive prowess, McDade said Jones’ flexible skills on offense will make him difficult to defend in high school, college and eventually the NBA.

“I think Perry is rare guy, where you don’t pinpoint him

see PERRY, pg. 8

4-year graduation now difficult feat

By TRENT GOLDSTON  
STAFF WRITER

As economic tensions remain high, there is a greater need for students to go to college. However, studies show that fewer students are able to graduate in four years, a fact that may only further personal economic troubles in post-college life because of student loans.

According to the Baylor University Institutional Research and Testing, only 50 percent of first-time freshmen at Baylor graduate within a traditional four-year plan. According to IRT studies, that rate has been consistent for the past five years.

Dr. Gardner Campbell, director of Baylor’s academy of teaching and learning, said a major reason for these statistics lies in the fact that at many insti-

tutions, the traditional four-year plan has lost its ground.

Campbell said that because many students are working part time, participating in co-curricular activities, studying abroad and becoming involved in internships they are required to have for their degree programs, a graduation date in four years becomes hard to achieve. Gardner also said students have a new outlook on higher education and that many changes in student demographics have occurred.

“We are seeing changes in how students look at traditional education,” Campbell said. “Clearly in the world we live in, [the four year model] is being substituted by other models. The larger pattern we are seeing

see FEAT, pg. 8



# Bears for Life president asks for bill that protects all life

## Point of View



BY RACHANA CHHIN

For the past couple of months many variations of health care reform plans have been proposed and debated in Congress. President Obama’s goal of re-forming an ailing health care system and helping Americans find affordable health care is an admirable one.

But one of the issues that has been the strongest roadblock toward reform passage has been that of public abortion funding.

This thorn in the President’s side has not solely been due to Republicans though; Congressman Bart Stupak of Michigan is leading a coalition of about 40 pro-life Democrats that promise to block any efforts at health care reform that does not exclude taxpayer funded abortions.

There are certainly justifiable reasons besides abortion that warrant a long hard look at the 2,000-page bill before Americans say “Yes.”

These include lowering the close to \$1 trillion cost, bureaucratic complexities and finding ways to fund reform without increasing deficit or taxes. But why should abortion, out of many others issues, be the stumbling block towards needed reform?

The fear can be explained by this: Roe v. Wade would essentially be codified into law. If pro-choice advocates consider abortion just to be like any other medical procedure – akin to removing a tooth or getting stitches – then funding it would be justified. Anything that would restrict or impede a woman’s right to unlimited, no questions-asked abortions would violate her rights.

Decades of pro-life legislation such as parental notification, ultrasound view-ing for the mother, and mandatory wait periods would be swept away.

Previous amendments to the contrary have been either voted down or denied a vote, clearly violating President Obama’s promise to the Congress in September that, “under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions.”

The Stupak amendment that passed this weekend with the support of 240 House Democrats and Republicans clearly shows thought that there is much bipartisan support for such an amend-ment. Although the certainty of the Stupak language remaining in the final bill remains up in the air as it moves into conference in the Senate.

NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and other abortion-advocacy groups are lob-bying hard to institutionalize taxpayer funding of abortions.

Thankfully a majority of Americans now identify themselves pro-life, as shown in a recent Gallup poll – the first time since 1995. The number of pro-life support goes even higher when the question of taxpayer-funded abortions is asked.

The Susan B. Anthony List, a pro-life women’s group, conducted a survey in September and found that a majority of registered voters polled disagreed with “government funding of health plans that funded abortions.”

So what is a Christian to do consider-ing all of this? How do we fight for the right of families and individuals to access affordable health care while respecting the sanctity of human life?

Pope Benedict’s XVI teachings in his recent encyclical, Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth), might help us. It is a critique on policies that on one hand “assert values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace but then, on the other hand, radically acts to the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued or violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized.”

The Catholic social justice tradition includes support not only for the unborn, but also the immigrant, the minority and the infirm.

Christians do not have to participate in the zero-sum game where we either promote reform or support the status quo.

Instead we must forge a third-path and lobby our lawmakers to support reform that respects the dignity of all human beings and ensures access for everyone, including the most defenseless, weak, and fragile among us. Real health care must nurture and promote human life – not destroy it.

Rachana Chhin is a Houston junior, majoring in International Studies and a contributor to the Baylor Lariat.

# Tweets flying unbridled

## Editorial

The Twitter phenomenon has gotten out of hand. What began as an interested Internet concept has turned into an out-of-control fad. Users are engaging in the phenomenon at inappropriate times and uploading inappropriate information, and it needs to stop.

Started in 2006 by Jack Dorsey, the free short mes-sage service (SMS) for the Internet, allows users to post short, 140-character messages called “tweets” onto their homepage. Users may comment on others’ tweets, upload photos and link to various Web sites.

However, there is no content filter on Twitter. Users may post whatever they are thinking or doing, ranging from cooking a meal to, in one woman’s case, having a miscarriage.

According to a news article on the Women’s Health News Web site, Penelope Trunk tweeted at 7:34 a.m. on Sept. 21 during a board meeting that she was having a miscarriage.

“I’m in a board meeting. Having a miscarriage,” she said. “Thank goodness, because there’s a [expletive]-up 3-week hoop-jump to have an abortion in Wisconsin.”

Trunk has reportedly received death threats concern-ing her tweet. Many bloggers voiced their disdain and disgust for her decision to portray a private affair so publically. While Trunk was well within her rights to let the world know about her miscarriage, it was a poor decision on her part to make the information widely public.

More recently, with the H1N1 outbreak, many blog sites have reported that Twitter helped launched the virus to paranoia status.

Although being able to post brief messages in a short amount of time has proved to be a powerful and useful tool – President Barack Obama himself keeps his followers updated on the ongoing health care reform – the Twitter craze has acted as a gateway for users to divulge every aspect of their personal life to the Internet. The Lariat and many other publica-tions use Twitter to send out news updates instantaneously, but using Twitter to promote a craft or better do one’s job is an entirely separate aspect to revealing intimate details of one’s life via tweets.

While a content filter is not necessary, the administration behind Twit-ter should make it clear that over-personal tweets are frowned upon. As it stands in the current terms of use policy, “[Twitter does] not endorse, support, represent or guarantee the completeness, truthfulness, accuracy,



or reliability of any Content or communications posted via the Services or endorse any opinions expressed via the Services.”

Because Twitter is a sign-up service – meaning users must create an account and abide by the policies that have been posted – those in charge have the ability to monitor content. Being able to delete Trunk’s tweet would have saved her a lot of trouble. Instead, the message became a target for both pro-life activists and general naysayers that were unhappy with the way she publicly announced an extremely personal event.

Because of Twitter’s simple user interface, the ability to use it from either a computer or cell phone, and the fact that there is no filter on the content, the line between personal and public has been blurred to such a point where nothing is sacred anymore.

Posting a message to ask some friends whether or not they want to go see a movie with you is one thing, but tweeting about something as personal and emotional as a miscarriage is taking this cultural phenomenal way too far.

# Beauty found in unlikely sport

## Point of View

BY CAROLINE SCHOLES



through the woods looking for deer.

My family has had some amazing times hunt-ing. We have made memories and traditions that will be passed on to the next generation of our family.

I was 11 when I shot and killed my first deer. It was a doe and was not very big, but I was still proud of my first successful hunt. The moment I saw the deer collapse to the ground, I felt remorse. That remorse changed into understand-ing, which is still the reason I hunt today.

The gravel crunched underneath the over-sized tires of our Ford 4 x4 truck as my dad drove me and my first successful deer kill to the check station. I was bubbling with joy and was on the phone explaining everything in detail to my mom on the phone. At the check station I hopped out of the truck and something caught my eye. Big, round blue eyes stared at me in wonderment. She was petite and fragile looking, her eyes had lost the innocent child-like spark, her clothes hung on her too-thin frame. But in her eyes I could see

hope. Grimy fingers entwined them-selves in the hand of her mothers. Un-expectedly, she let go and started to look at the deer in the back of my dad’s shiny red truck. I stood unmoving, taking all of it in. What is a little girl doing out in the cold with her mother? Their clothes were tattered and when I looked at the mother I realized that a beautiful woman was hidden behind lines of exhaustion and worry. Her eyes, the exact shade of deep blue as her daughter, told a story that was too hard for me to comprehend.

The young woman slowly raised her eyes to catch mine. I caught a spark in them: It was a woman determined to make it in spite of what life has thrown at her. I smiled in herita-tion at her and in return the corners of her mouth turned slightly upward. At 11, I was too young to understand the depth of the scene that unfolded in front of me.

Whenever I tell people that hunting is my pas-sion I commonly am asked the question, “What? You don’t feel bad for killing innocent deer?” My answer is yes. Every time I shoot an animal, for a split second something deep inside my heart aches for the loss of the animal’s life.

However, the memory of the hungry mother and daughter will forever haunt me. I picture them, hungry, eating the meat from the deer that I killed, and it warms my soul.

Caroline Scholes is a Wheaton, Ill., junior majoring in journalism and a reporter for the Baylor Lariat.

## Suggestion: Give empty stadium space to men and women of Fort Hood

## Lariat Letters

afternoon Big 12 Football and have their minds relieved of last week’s tragedy, even if it’s only for a few hours.

Baylor would be able to increase attendance at the game and also make money from conces-sions and merchandise sales.

The soldiers would be warmly received by the crowd and Baylor’s public relations would shoot through the roof.

As a Christian university, it only makes sense

that our school and its officials do what it can to support those in mourning, especially those that are so near us.

As both an American citizen and a student at Baylor University, I would love to see the Waco and Baylor community rally around these sol-diers and extend a message of support for what they do. Jesus says in Matthew 5:4, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Let’s help bring comfort to these soldiers in mourning.

Ted Harrison  
Piedmont, Okla. sophomore

### 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.

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# Lucado, Baylor daughter share life stories

By LENA WATERS  
REPORTER

Max Lucado, best-selling Christian author, will speak at 7 p.m. today in Waco Hall for the Baylor Libraries annual Ferguson-Clark Lecture. The topic, based on his latest book, is “Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear.” Students tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in the Bill Daniel Student Center. General admission is \$15.

Beyond being a pastor and best-selling author, Lucado is the father of three daughters. His youngest daughter, Sara, is a junior at Baylor.

The Lariat sat down with Max and Sara to talk more about life in and out of the spotlight.

**What is it like having all girls in your house?**

Lucado: Oh, it’s great. The more girls you have in your house, the more the dad is the king. So you can just call me “King Max.”

It’s been great. I never missed not having a son because the girls were, for one thing, just fun to be with.

And another, they did everything boys did. They got into sports and we went on a lot of trips together.

**How did your family influence your writing?**

Lucado: They’ve been really encouraging of the writing. So much so, for a lot of the children’s book [“Crippled Lamb”], the (three) girls helped me write them. We kind of came up with the ideas together. That’s pretty unique, I think.

Sara: My name is on the front of “Crippled Lamb.” Even though I was 6, I played a part.

It has all three of our names on the bottom. And we did a book signing one time and all three of us signed each book as he did. I took the longest, of

course.

**What was your connection to Baylor before Sara came?**

Lucado: It was pretty distant. I never had any family attend Baylor. Our trails didn’t cross that often. So Sara going to Baylor introduced us to a whole new world there.

**How has your relationship with Baylor changed since Sara has been here?**

Lucado: That relationship has definitely deepened. I’ve just been able to get to know some people in the administration.

As it turns out, this particular deal I’m doing [today] at the library is a good example. Pattie Orr, who is the dean of university libraries, was at Abilene Christian when I was, so we knew each other back in those days.

I don’t know if they would have asked me to come Thursday had Sara not been there. But the fact that Sara was there gave us an opportunity to reconnect on a visit to Baylor a few months back.

**How has it been for you, Sara, growing up with a dad who has a well-known name?**

Sara: In my childhood, he was dad to me and has only been dad to me, so I wasn’t affected at first.

But in high school, people placed an identity and reputation on me that I hadn’t even established for myself, just because of my last name. Because of that, I wanted to prove myself otherwise.

But ultimately, it’s been beyond a blessing because every single day, someone acknowledges my dad to me and how he has influenced them personally. I feel unworthy of being related to someone so amazingly talented and anointed and what a blessing it is to have that as an



COURTESY PHOTO

Max Lucado on vacation with his two daughters, Sara and Andrea Lucado, during the summer of 2008 in Hawaii. Sara is a junior at Baylor, and Max Lucado will be speaking at 7 p.m. in Waco Hall.

example in my life.

**How do you feel when you hear that?**

Lucado: Oh, I just want to record that and play it over and over and over. That just makes me feel wonderful.

**What has been your fondest Baylor memory as father and daughter?**

Sara: I would say recently, homecoming.

Lucado: Yeah, it was just Sara and me. That was really sweet. I was struck by how we couldn’t walk 10 or 15 feet without someone stopping her. Being there and meeting all her friends and being with her then, it was a real special time.

Sara: Just the fact that we got

to reconnect and have long conversations, it was special.

**How do you feel that Sara has never read one of your books?**

Lucado: You know what, I think that’s awesome. It’s perfectly fine.

Number one, there are a lot better books out there than my books. And I think that’s healthy.

She’s been exposed to my opinions and thoughts. She doesn’t have to read a book to hear.

Sara: I just want to say, it’s not that I don’t choose to read his books, it’s that I don’t read books. Ask me the last time I read a book on my own for fun, I probably could not remember. ...It was probably “Crippled Lamb.”

## Volunteers make Christmas blessed for less fortunate

By ALYSSA MENDEZ  
REPORTER

During this year’s holidays, a Christian organization, will continue its charity in hopes of reaching more families in McLennan County.

A Hometown Mission Inc.: Helping Families in Need, which was created in 2008, accepts applications from families all over McLennan County who are in need of assistance or who would like to be adopted by volunteers during the holiday season.

Many people, because of loss of employment, decrease in income or other family struggles, do not have the opportunity to experience the holidays the way

**“We saw people just pour out their love.”**

Courtney Adams  
Founder of Hometown Mission

more fortunate people do.

“We want to be available to our own hometown and our community and we welcome people and hope that other people would have that same feeling, that they would like to give back to our local community,” said Shelly Witt-Adams, a founder of A Hometown Mission.

Throughout this month, after receiving more than 240 applications, the organization will match families with volunteers who want to sponsor them.

In December, A Hometown Mission will begin accepting gifts, such as basic necessities and food, for families.

Volunteers can help wrap gifts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 17 to 18.

“We saw people just pour out their love last year and this year, as well,” said Courtney Adams, who also helped begin the organization. “People who came together and helped us deliver

gifts, pulled together and helped these families.”

A Hometown Mission was founded when Shelly Witt-Adams and her two daughters, Charis Echterling and Courtney, saw there was a need in Robinson.

The three would participate, every year, in the Santa in Blue program through the police department. In 2008, when they planned to volunteer, they found that the department did not feel there was a need and discontinued the event.

“I thought, ‘Not a need? How can that be?’” Echterling said.

After thinking of this for days, Echterling decided that with her mother and sister she would begin an organization that would reach out to the community.

“Last year it really hit us that there’s a need for mission work and there’s such a need for outreach,” Courtney Adams said. “Because we are not able to go overseas, what better way than to start in our own backyard and own community?”

After this experience, A Hometown Mission began.

The three initially believed there was only a need in Robinson but soon realized that the need was all over McLennan County.

“When the calls started coming in to us, we could not keep it in Robinson,” Echterling said.

In 2008, more than 100 families applied for assistance. This year, in 2009, the number of applicants is more than 240 applicants.

“It makes you stop and appreciate and thank God for what he’s allowed us to have and to be and to do, but also that he has really overwhelmed us with the desire to help these other families as well,” Echterling said.

The organization encourages anyone who wants to make a difference to become involved.

“I think it’s humbling; it makes you appreciate all the little things,” Courtney Adams said.



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# Conference sets focus on information technology

By JENNA THOMPSON  
REPORTER

Baylor Information Technology faculty gave several presentations at an international EDUCAUSE conference that took place last week in Denver, uniting universities from across the globe.

The conference was held by EDUCAUSE, a nonprofit organization for information resources in higher education.

"I presented on how we are using virtualization to improve services, save money and help our disaster recovery efforts," said Tommy Roberson, manager

of server operations with Baylor ITS.

Baylor was well represented at the conference in Colorado, with faculty giving four different presentations on various topics and one online presentation.

"My topic was sustainable IT," said Pattie Orr, vice president for information technology and dean of university libraries. "On some university campuses IT isn't included in sustainability. I talked about how to get into the conversation."

Institutions that were unable to physically send representatives registered online and par-

ticipated in sessions via video conference.

Through this method, representatives from Japan, Australia and Israel were able to participate in the conference. This also provided alternative ways for universities to participate without using funds for travel. About 217 universities registered for online meetings, while many others were involved in some other way.

"It's great because only so many people can pay the amount required to travel to EDUCAUSE," Orr said.

At the EDUCAUSE conference, a wide range of issues such as new technologies, security and

system outages were shared and commented upon within the collegiate community.

faculty included how to partner with general counsel to improve IT security and strategies for col-

used his business knowledge to give advice on how universities can achieve further success.

Attendees were pleased with the results of the conference and the information they were able to bring back with them.

"I would say we have a very strong presence for Baylor," Orr said. "Collaborating with your peers is the best way to learn. I would really encourage people to take a look at the EDUCAUSE Web site because there's a lot of research."

Universities registered online can visit the Web site and watch video recordings of presentations from last week's conference.

"Collaborating with your peers is the best way to learn."

Pattie Orr  
Vice President for Information Technology and  
Dean of University Libraries

"It was fantastic, great presentations," Orr said. "They talked about hot issues and trends they are seeing."

Other topics presented by

laboration and measurement in the IT world.

Various guest speakers were featured, including widely known author Jim Collins, who

## U.S. & World News Briefs

### Salt Lake City bans gay discrimination

The Mormon Church officially backs two Salt Lake City ordinances that make it illegal to discriminate against gays in housing and employment. The ordinances, which passed unanimously Tuesday night, made Salt Lake the first city in Utah to offer such protections.

### Brazilian blackout leaves questions

Rio De Janeiro

The huge power failure involving the world's largest operating hydroelectric plant this week was the worst in its 25 years of use, Brazilian officials said Wednesday, causing widespread blackouts that exposed the vulnerability of Brazil's electricity infrastructure. Officials in Brazil and Paraguay were still searching for answers late Wednesday.

### Soldier's body found in Afghanistan

Kabul

A week after two American soldiers disappeared in northwest Afghanistan, the body of one of them has been found by a military dive team, a NATO spokesman said Wednesday. The two men disappeared while trying to recover supplies that had fallen into a river in Badghis province on Nov. 4.

Source: The New York Times

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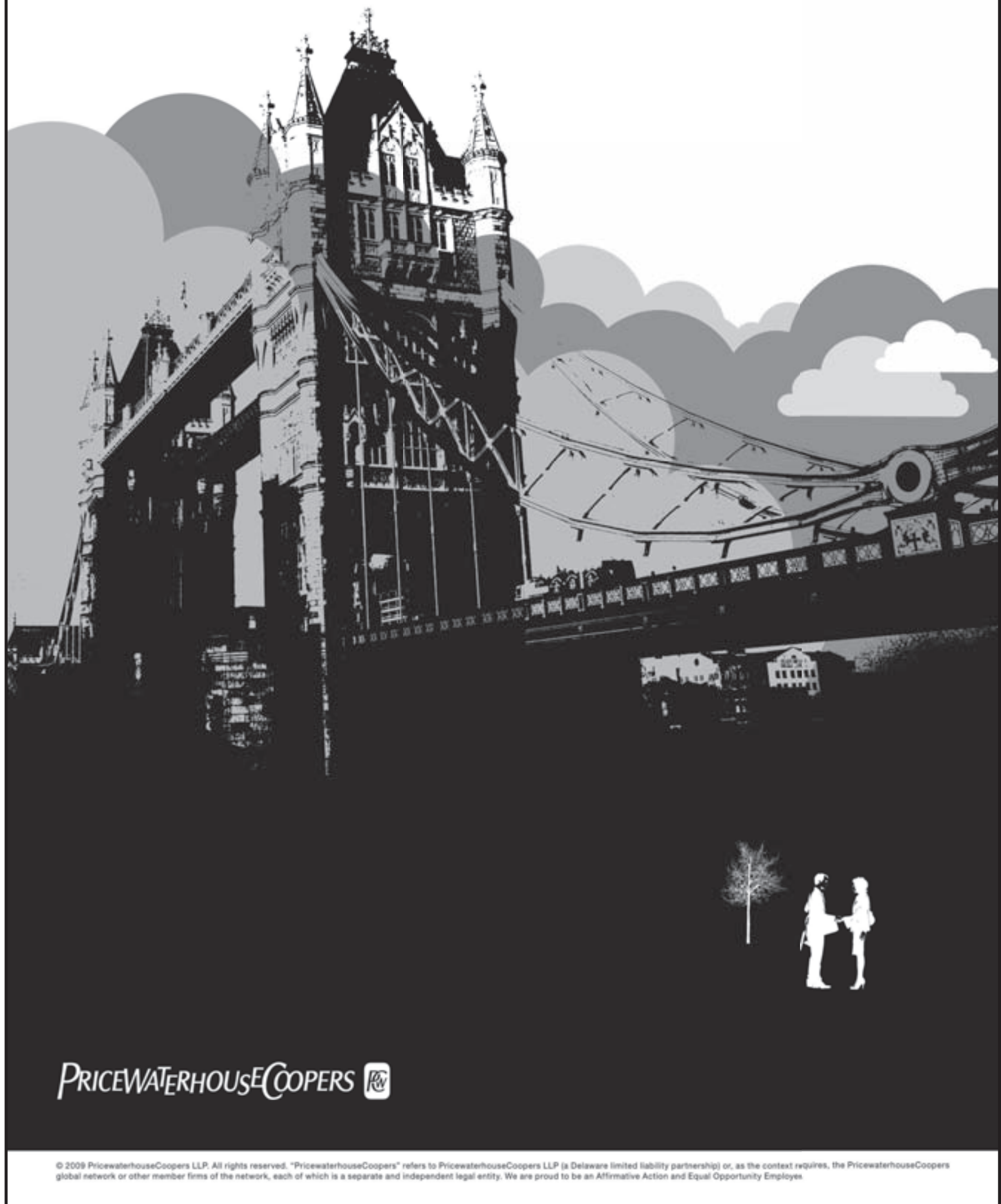
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# Uproar artist finds solace in creating music

By LINCOLN FAULKNER  
CONTRIBUTOR

A songbird can bring joy to dreary days with its sweet, playful singing.

Likewise, the effect may be similar for many who hear the high-spirited songs of Richardson junior Jillian Edwards.

"When Jillian sings about life it highlights the positive, and when she sings about love she's honest," Houston junior Laura Williams said. "It is easy to identify with the feelings she conveys in her songs."

Edwards is a returning artist on Uproar Records this year who has been making a name for herself since she was a freshman.

So far, she has shared the stage with names artists like Bethany Dillon and Leeland, and has recently released her first EP album "Galaxies and Such," which can be purchased via iTunes.

Even on a rainy day, fans endured to hear Edwards' uplifting melodies at her EP release show at Common Grounds (Sept. 10 at Common Grounds), where they were showered on.

"It was crazy to see people there," Edwards said. "That made me feel like it was well received." Edwards said music has always been a part of her life, from growing up singing in the church to beginning to write and perform her own music during high school and college.

In fact, musicianship seems to be a trait of Edwards' family. Her twin brother, Cole, leads worship at Highland Baptist Church and sisters Laine and Lauren sing and write as well. Laine, a senior, was also featured on Uproar's compilation album last year along with Jillian.

"Jill paints a picture of a beautiful world with her lyrics and melodies," Laine said. "It's a gift when someone can express something inside of them so perfectly in a song."

However, Edwards had not performed her own writing until her brother pushed her out of the nest with some unexpected motivation during church her senior year.

"He called me out in front of everyone and was like, 'My sister is going to play one of her

songs now,' and so I didn't have a choice," Edwards said. "He and my dad planned that because they knew that's what I wanted to do."

Soon after, Edwards began singing at a local Potbelly restaurant three times a week during lunch. She said the job helped her performance because she got used to playing in front of an audience.

"That was a good start for me because people weren't staring right at me," Edwards said. "I'm like background music."

When Edwards arrived at Baylor, she joined Baylor Rising Artist Network, now known as the Uproar Network, and became a frequent "open mic" performer at Common Grounds.

She also began playing worship at University Baptist Church Wednesday nights at the end of her freshman year, which further increased her confidence playing in front of an audience.

"Playing with them and working with those musicians and being in front of people on a regular basis, I feel like that has helped me a lot," Edwards said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Richardson junior Jillian Edwards, a returning Uproar artist, will perform at 7 p.m. Nov. 19 at the Mokah Coffee Bar in Dallas. Her first EP album, "Galaxies and Such," is now available on iTunes.

For the past two years Edwards has been selected to be an Uproar artist. Her experience with the label has been helpful with booking and having the experience of working with studio producers when recording, she said.

Edwards hopes to expand her musical wings by working with more musicians and learning how to write in more genres. She plans on a future in music wheth-

er that means signing to a record label or independently promoting herself.

"I write songs because I have to. It's how I get things out," Edwards said. "Usually when I write something, it's something real coming out of my life."

One of her songs, "Songbird," was written as her informal mission statement.

"I was just sitting in my backyard and it was a beautiful day and I was just thinking about what I wanted to do ultimately," Edwards said. "I want to be a light for people."

Being a light is a big goal, she said. "It's nothing that a talent can accomplish, or my skill. It's all by God's power."

Edwards said that even though most of her songs never directly say God's name, she hopes that no matter what the subject of the song may be the music would increase people's awareness of His existence.

"I think that music is a universal language," Edwards said. "I would love to be a part of letting someone step into that circle of believing or questioning."

## Jillian Edwards

7 p.m. Nov. 19 at Mokah Coffee Bar

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Dallas

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- Jacob Hooter
- Drew Greenway
- Zoo Studio
- Tommy Mote

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For more information about Uproar artists and updates on ticket information, visit [www.uproarrecords.com](http://www.uproarrecords.com).

# 'Sesame Street' characters continue to entertain after 40 years

By JENNIFER GISH  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

If you were a kid during the 1970s and '80s, you probably can't see a rubber duck without hearing Ernie's voice or you might feel a small lump rise in your throat at the mention of Mr. Hooper's name.

As First Lady Michelle Obama and a collection of stars help "Sesame Street" celebrate its 40th season, one has to wonder whether in a world of Dora, Thomas the Tank Engine and numerous cable networks devoted to kids' programming, today's kids will have those same sentimental feelings

about Big Bird and company.

"I think it's still relevant. I think kids still really love those characters. ... The difference is there's just so many other choices," says Robert Thompson, founding director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University. "Now, a kid might just as likely be popping in a DVD of their favorite Disney movie or watching 'SpongeBob SquarePants' for the 15,000th time. Like everything else, there's just a lot more competition. Kids who are now 5, when they're in their 50s are not going to be universally all talking about 'Sesame Street.' However,

there's not much that they're going to be universally talking about because there's nothing that we all share."

The show — designed as a learning-readiness tool that employs colorful Muppets and catchy songs but is built upon a strong research-backed curriculum — was such a powerful instrument that Scott Sauer, senior vice president of WMHT, which broadcasts in upstate New York, says he was once told by a former kindergarten teacher that she had to scrap her lesson plans at the start of the school year in 1970 because the kids came to class already knowing how to say the

alphabet and count to 10.

"Sesame Street" has continued to evolve with the times, adding Elmo to appeal to an even younger audience, giving its theme song a funkier groove and taking on today's issues, such as having a parent deployed in Iraq. (DVDs of old episodes even carry a parental warning because they show "inappropriate" scenes, such as children riding bicycles without helmets.)

"It's never forgotten how to have fun with kids and how to speak to kids as kids," Sauer says. His 9-year-old son learned how to count in both English

and Spanish early on from being a devoted fan, he says.

"Sesame Street" is also meant to be a shared experience between kids and adults, something many other children's programs can't match. When R.E.M. played "Furry Happy Monsters" for a cast of dancing Muppets, it wasn't really meant for kids but their parents, Sauer says.

Parents also encourage a new generation of viewers because of their happy childhood experiences with the series.

"Because it's been tested and true, and it's validated by research, I think parents (and) older siblings encourage children

to watch 'Sesame Street,'" says Nancy Cupolo, chairwoman of the teacher preparation department at Hudson Valley Community College. "It moves with the times, although the characters are constant. We've noticed a relationship-building to those characters."

Does that mean Big Bird's towering orange legs will still amble down Sesame Street or Oscar the Grouch will still occupy his familiar can in another 40 years?

It's hard to say for sure.

But as Sauer points out, "Elmo will always be 4 years old."

## FUN TIMES

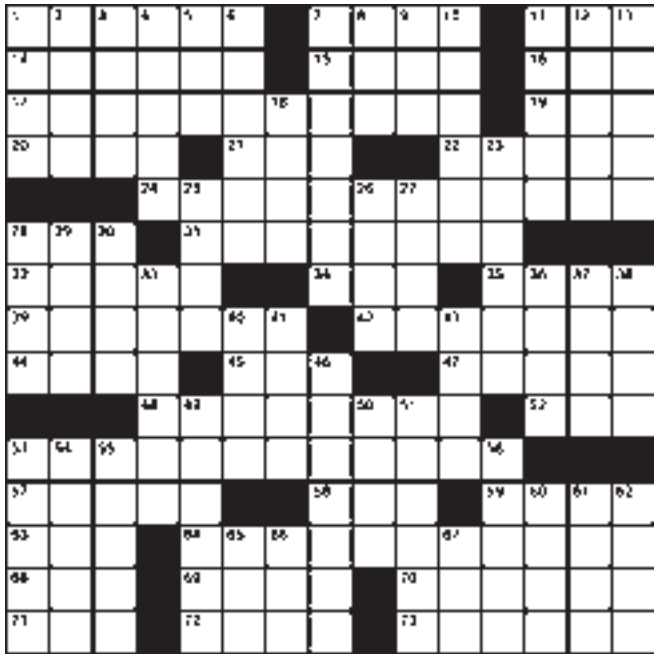
Across

- 1 FBI sting that began during Carter's presidency
- 7 In this way
- 11 Tapped-out message
- 14 Sheep herder
- 15 Old World Style sauce maker
- 16 Hawaiian Punch rival
- 17 All-big-gun battleship
- 19 It might be pale or brown
- 20 Blackguards
- 21 Powerful health care lobbying gp.
- 22 Budget noodle dish
- 24 Deeply ingrained habit
- 28 TV sched. notation
- 31 Most piquant
- 32 Extremely cold
- 34 Birthplace of "Wayne's World," briefly
- 35 Cheese in a ball
- 39 Shanghais
- 42 Gap subsidiary
- 44 "The Time Machine" leisure class
- 45 Org. with the blog Greenversations
- 47 Further off the beaten path
- 48 Convenience store
- 52 Hard-rock filler
- 53 Cuba or Puerto Rico, e.g.
- 57 Parisian's "Presto!"
- 58 Family nickname
- 59 "\_\_\_ the hint!"
- 63 Lat neighbors
- 64 Human fingerprint, and what's hidden in five puzzle answers
- 68 \_\_\_ Percé: Pacific Northwest tribe
- 69 Irish Rose's beau
- 70 Prepare to slip off
- 71 Museum filler
- 72 Barbecue site
- 73 Singer Sheena

Down

- 1 Type of elec. adapter
- 2 Afghanistan's Tora \_\_\_ region
- 3 Huskies' burden
- 4 School group
- 5 Help

Answers at [www.baylorlariat.com](http://www.baylorlariat.com) — McClatchy-Tribune



- 6 Serious threat
- 7 Unauthorized absentees
- 8 Broom rider
- 9 Exclamation with a shudder
- 10 Buddha's teachings
- 11 SeaWorld celebrity
- 12 Carrier of crude
- 13 Dramatic segment
- 18 Songwriter Tori
- 23 Show up
- 25 University founder Cornell
- 26 Pebbles' pet
- 27 "Little" Dickens girl
- 28 Pay-as-you-go rd.
- 29 Cook, in a way
- 30 Gucci of fashion
- 33 Mink or sable
- 36 Pop, to baby
- 37 Parade rtes., maybe
- 38 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 40 Remain undecided
- 41 Pirouette
- 43 Inflict on

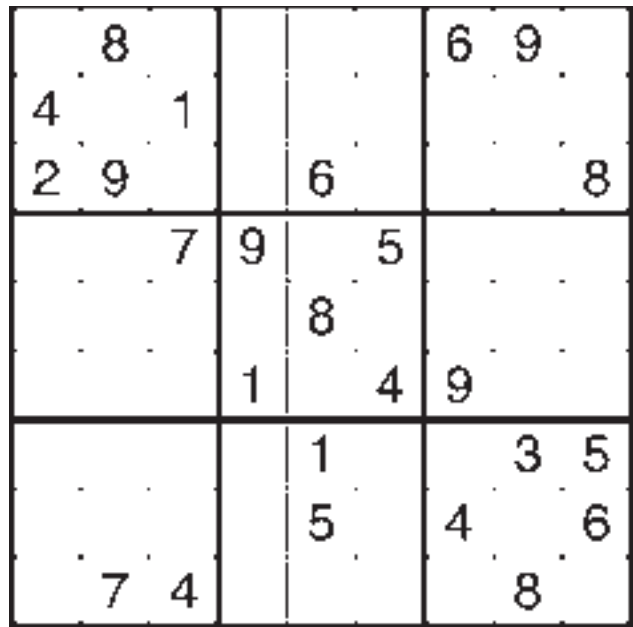
- 46 Gathered up
- 49 When Rome wasn't built?
- 50 Play to \_\_\_; draw
- 51 Off-color
- 53 Trump with a cameo in "The First Wives Club"
- 54 Not even tipsy
- 55 "Faust Symphony" composer
- 56 Physicist Bohr
- 60 Swarm insect
- 61 Nestlé cereal beverage
- 62 High schooler
- 65 Jazz org.?
- 66 Balloon filler
- 67 Italian "a"


## SUDOKU

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Object: Each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

Level: 1 2 3 4





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# Second-half stinginess

## Baylor's defense looks to expand execution throughout entire game

By CHRIS DERRETT  
SPORTS WRITER

In its last two games against Nebraska and Missouri, Baylor's defensive effort has both confused and pleasantly surprised fans in the second half.

Play execution became near perfect as the unit gave quarterback Nick Florence and the offense a legitimate chance to win both games.

The Bears were met with disapproving groans after heading into the locker room down 20-0 against the Cornhuskers two weeks ago. Likewise, the Columbia crowd had every reason to cheer their Tigers at halftime with a 27-16 lead.

But in the last two quarters, the Bears held Big Red scoreless, and Missouri's only offensive

points came on a field goal.

Nebraska was shut down by Baylor's defense and only advanced the ball into Baylor territory once, fumbling the ball on the first play of that drive. Quarterback Cody Green completed six of 12 passes for only 43 yards, and the running game produced 61 yards on 19 attempts.

The Bears also forced two Cornhusker turnovers that account for half of Baylor's Big 12 total this year.

When the stumped media asked about the Bears' halftime adjustments, both senior line-backer Joe Pawelek and junior cornerback Clifton Odom said they really did not change anything at all.

"More than anything it was everyone doing their responsibilities. We have the capability to be a great defense out there," Pawelek said after the game.

Pawelek's unit realized that capability once again in Columbia. The Bears broke up four

passes in the second half, and Blaine Gabbert completed just nine of his 23 attempts. Four sacks totaling 47 lost yards contributed to Missouri's minus-15 yard rushing total.

Junior safety Byron Landor, who made six total tackles, felt Baylor's increased aggression allowed them to disrupt Missouri's pass-heavy attack.

"In the first half we just were just sitting back in a zone. In the second half we actually called blitzes, and that's how we got pressure on them," Landor said.

The Bears face a colossal task on Saturday when the No. 3-ranked Texas Longhorns visit Waco. Heisman candidate Colt McCoy's passing offense rates 16th in the nation with 285 yards per game, and the running game generates an additional 146 yards per game.

Protecting McCoy is a line averaging 310 pounds. Baylor will look to pressure McCoy and get the crowd behind them early,

nose tackle Trey Bryant says.

"It's big momentum," Bryant said about sacks. "It hypes you up to go do it again. We always say we need pressure."

Head coach Art Briles will stress the importance of playing two solid halves on Saturday, especially considering Texas' second-half strength.

The Longhorns had a 13-10 lead Sept. 12 against the University of Wyoming before exploding for 28 second-half points to seal the win. University of Central Florida held Texas scoreless in the first quarter last week but was soon overwhelmed, losing 35-3. Against Texas Tech Sept. 19, the Longhorns managed 10 first half points and added 24 to beat the Red Raiders, 34-24.

"You can't just be up and down; you have to form some type of consistency as a program and as a player. What we've got to do is keep playing at that level and keep expecting good outcomes," Briles said.



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior free safety Jordan Lake makes a tackle Oct. 31 against the University of Nebraska. Lake and Baylor's defense have limited opponents to three second-half points in the previous two games.



SHANNA TAYLOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cleburne junior Ashlie Christenson celebrates a point during the first set against Colorado Wednesday at Ferrell Center. Baylor swept CU 3-0.

# Volleyball wins game in 3 sets

By JESSICA GOODLETT  
REPORTER

Setter Taylor Barnes snapped an eight-year record and became the all-time leader in assists in Baylor history last night as the Bears swept the Colorado Buffaloes three sets to none (25-14, 25-15, 25-14) in the Ferrell Center.

Barnes, an Arlington senior, finished the game with 20 assists and now has 4,950 assists in her career at Baylor.

"It's a huge honor to make the history of Baylor volleyball and to be in the record books. I couldn't have done it without the girls," Barnes said. "I'm so fortunate to have the good hitters around me."

One is Cleburne junior and outside hitter Ashlie Christenson, who came up big for the Bears this game. She led the team with 13 kills. She had the

kill that ultimately gave Barnes the assist to set the new record.

"She's a great player and she knows exactly where to put the ball every time," Christenson said, "She hustles and she's definitely someone to look up to."

The Bears started off shaky in the first set as they fell behind the Buffaloes 5-2. A kill from Christenson set the Bears back on track. They tied up the score at six after kills from Leander junior Elizabeth Graham and Barnes, and then a double block from Buda senior Anna Breyfogle and Barnes.

The Bears then traded points until they went on an 11-2 run to make the score 21-12. The Buffaloes looked frazzled and after serving the ball long and the Bears took the set 25-14.

In the second set, Baylor came out strong. They jumped out to a 6-1 lead after a kill from

Christenson and then a double block from Christenson and middle blocker Torri Campbell, an Amarillo freshman. A few kills from Colorado bumped the score to 6-6.

It was then Christenson that came alive putting up four kills during Baylor's 7-1 run, making the score 13-7. A kill from Katy senior Katie Sanders and an ace from Barnes put the Bears up 18-10. The Bears ended up taking the set 25-15.

Colorado started with the serve in the third set, but Baylor took it back and jumped out to 2-0 lead after an ace from Barnes. The Bears traded some points before going on a 14-4 run. It was Houston sophomore Briana Tolbert that came up big for the Bears putting down back-to-back hits and boosting Baylor to 18-9 lead. The Bears extended their lead 20-10 after a

kill from Christenson. The assist from Barnes on that kill gave her the leading assist record. The energy from the award sent Baylor on to win the set 25-14 and ultimately the match at three sets to none.

Christenson was the only player to reach double digits in kills for the Bears. Barnes dished the ball out to her 22 times.

"It was really good for her and Katie. In fact, this is the first match in a while that both of them played well at the same time," Coach Barnes said, "If we can get both of them to play well against these big teams that we're going to face, I like our chances."

The Bears move their record to 10-6 in Big 12 play and are 21-6 on the season. They hit the road for the next two matches before facing number two Texas at home on November 21.

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# Green supporters suggest less driving, more walking

By CATY HIRST  
COPY EDITOR

Many people around campus may be frustrated with parking, but there is something the Baylor community can do to alleviate the stress and help the environment simultaneously.

Sustainability coordinator Smith Getterman believes students, faculty and staff should walk, ride bikes or take shuttles whenever possible.

"We have an awesome, beautiful campus that is safe for pedestrians and has over 100 bike racks," Getterman said. "Everything is within walking distance on campus. It is a beautiful walk. It is an easy walk. It is just a matter of taking the initiative and not being lazy."

Minneapolis junior Jessica Oen rides her bike to class.

"Honestly, with the parking situation on campus now, it probably would take less time to just ride your bike than drive your car and find a place to park," Oen said.

Getterman said this movement applies to everyone in the Baylor community.

"This goes beyond just students," Getterman said. "This extends to faculty and staff as well. They have an almost greater responsibility to lead by example. This is campus-wide. Everyone on campus can do this, not just students. I really want to encourage people to start rethinking how they get to class; rethink how people are getting to their office."

Chris Krause, assistant vice president for campus services, said walking, riding a bike or making use of the Baylor University Shuttle Service are all good ways to avoid the parking hassle.

"Certainly walking to campus and biking to campus could help reduce some of the pressures we have several hours out of the day," Krause said about parking.

He said the busiest time of day for parking is about 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dallas freshman Lauren Jones rides her bike away from the Baylor Sciences Building after finishing a lab.

The shuttle service, which has multiple routes around campus and runs within a 15-minute time period, is convenient for many students.

Krause said there was a 15 percent to 20 percent increase in ridership on the shuttle service last year, and ridership continues to increase this year.

Oen believes students do not have an excuse, in terms of distance from campus, for not riding or walking. Oen lives on the south side of LaSalle Avenue but normally bikes to class.

"I think [people] definitely have the opportunity to," Oen said. "Most students don't live any farther than I do. I would say most students are close enough that it would not be a big deal."

Getterman said going green while getting to campus offers many other benefits to students, faculty and staff, besides just freeing up parking.

Getterman said the United States uses 25 percent of the world's oil, even though it only constitutes 4 percent of the world's population. Refraining

from driving reduces dependence on foreign oil.

Getterman said less driving around campus would lead to cleaner air and water and that the physical exercise necessary when walking or biking to class is healthier than driving a car.

"If you do have to drive to campus, get to campus and walk the rest of the day," Getterman said. "We are very fortunate that Baylor is as beautiful as it is and as easily maneuverable as it is. It would help everyone if everyone walked or rode their bike more often."

Also, with the addition of the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH), the Baylor community has easy access to downtown. Baylor partnered with the Downtown Merchants Association and the Developers and Public Improvement District to provide this free shuttle service to local businesses.

Krause said about 140 students, faculty and staff make use of the DASH daily.

The DASH runs every 15 minutes and stops at places such as Robinson Tower, Ninfa's and Heritage Quarters.

## BRIC from pg.1

in between that campus and this campus."

Kelley said that a new Ph.D. program was announced the same weekend as the Research Park and BRIC.

"Some people consider that kind of going hand in hand. We need a Ph.D. in engineering to have BRIC, and we need BRIC to do a Ph.D. in engineering. So they go together in a lot of different ways," Kelley said.

Dr. Steven Eisenbarth, professor of electrical and computer science, is putting together the Ph.D. program, which depends on the new facilities.

"Well I think it's a major step forward to really being committed to research at Baylor in this area," Eisenbarth said. "The problem is, I think, most major research universities typically have large medical or engineering programs [for funding, but Baylor does not]."

Kelley explained his dream for the facility by talking about an upcoming event.

"I just can't wait until I get out to the BRIC facility and I see companies and I see students and faculty from TSTC and MCC, and I see our own faculty out there and I see visitors and visiting scholars from other institutions around the United States and around the world and everything's just a hubbub of activity. That's what I'm looking forward to."

Kelley is cautious that this day is in the distant future.

"It's not going to be like that from day one, but when it's fully outfitted and there's so much demand for it, that's the day I look forward to," Kelley said.

Davis pointed to a recent report by the Engineering and Computer Science review team and its findings.

"Baylor's aspirations as a research university are substantially dependent on the success of science and engineering in developing productive research programs," Davis said, quoting the review. "Engineering as a partner in the development of the Baylor research profile is essential — for the additional reach of engineering to the federal research 'mission' agencies, for the ability of engineering research to connect to industrial interest and for engineering's capacity to stimulate economic development."

## FEAT from pg.1

is that students, faculty and institutions worldwide are experiencing changes in the way you define higher education."

Regardless of how quickly they plan to graduate, many students rely on financial support and scholarships in order to achieve their college education. For many, the economic tensions are only increased when graduation is not reached within four years.

Lori Fogleman, director of media communications, spoke on behalf of Dr. Reagan Ramsower, vice president of finance and administration. Fogleman said that 61 percent of the current freshman class applied for the Free Application For Federal Student Aid and indicated need for financial assistance.

"Ninety-nine percent of all students who enrolled in FAFSA received financial aid," Fogleman said. "Ninety-four percent of all enrolled students received some form of aid whether they had financial need or not."

Waco senior Brunshea Toliver graduated from high school in 2002 and came to Baylor in 2005. He said a four-year graduation just isn't realistic for many students.

"For people to put college in a four-year bracket is absurd," Toliver said. "It doesn't work anymore because people are going through different changes in life. That doesn't mean that you won't be able to graduate but there might be detours along the way."

Toliver said the things that happen in life are often unexpected, and that a four year graduation date is incompatible with any change that may come along the way.

"It's about how things lay out in front of you and what goals you are pursuing," Toliver said. "It's a bad stereotype to put that emphasis on graduation in four years. You can only call it a semester at a time."

Campbell said many institutions are re-examining the four-year track and are looking into different methods of higher education.

"Some schools in Europe are working with a three-year program for a BA," Campbell said. "It will be exciting to see what variety of educational programs will be emerging as we move into the future."

## PERRY from pg.1

down to a certain position," said McDade, who is taking over the national powerhouse after legendary coach Phil McNeely retired in the spring. "There are so many things he can do. You don't want to limit him. You want to give him the freedom and the ability to do some things."

Despite Drew bringing in highly-regarded recruits throughout his tenure, many feared Jones would join a lineage of recruits that include Darrell Arthur and John Wall as another great that got way. Jones noted big-name programs attempted to sway the 2008 District 12-5A Defensive MVP from his commitment, but he said the commitment was a two-way promise he couldn't break.

"When I committed to them, they committed to me," said Jones, who averaged 12 points and eight rebounds as a junior. "It was hard being recruited by the big-name schools. They were there first — they saw the potential in me. When I visited them it felt like home. I made the best decision to go Baylor, and I am very happy."

In addition to signing Jones, Drew announced Plano West senior Bakari Turner will join the program next fall. Turner plays alongside Jones on the Dallas Seawolves AAU club, and is the No. 59 shooting guard in the class of 2010, according to ESPN. Turner is returning from a season in which he averaged 13.6 points per game.

"Bakari is one of those players who continues to get better and better," Drew said. "He was such a great dual-sport athlete. Now that he's chosen to concentrate on basketball, he's improved exponentially."

## OBAMA from pg.1

The White House says Obama has not made a final choice, though military and other officials have said he appears near to approving a slightly smaller increase than McChrystal wants at the outset.

Among the options for Obama would be ways to phase in additional troops, perhaps eventually equaling McChrystal's full request, based on security or other conditions in Afghanistan and in response to pending decisions on troops levels by some U.S. allies fighting in Afghanistan.

# Fort Hood suspect drew concern of superiors months ago

## Suspected shooter raised suspicions about religious views and behavior

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A group of doctors overseeing Nidal Malik Hasan's medical training discussed concerns about his overly zealous religious views and strange behavior months before the Army major was accused of opening fire on soldiers and civilians at Fort Hood.

Doctors and staff overseeing Hasan's training viewed him at times as belligerent, defensive and argumentative in his frequent discussions of his Muslim

faith, a military official familiar with several group discussions about Hasan said.

The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the meetings and spoke on condition of anonymity.

As a psychiatrist in training, Hasan was characterized in meetings as a mediocre student and lazy worker, a matter of concern among the doctors and staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences military medical school, the official said.

The concerns about Hasan's performance and religious views were shared with other military officials considering his assignment after he finished his medical training, and the consensus was to send him to Fort Hood, the official said.

F o r t

Hood was considered the best assignment for Hasan because other doctors could handle the workload if he continued to perform poorly and his superiors could document any continued behavior problems, the official said.

The group saw no evidence that Hasan, 39, was violent or a threat. It was more that he repeatedly referred to his strong religious views in discussions with classmates, his superiors and even in his research work, the official said.



Hasan

His behavior, while at times perceived as intense and combative, was not unlike the zeal of others with strong religious views, and some doctors and staff were concerned that their unfamiliarity with the Muslim faith would lead them to unfairly single out Hasan's behavior, the official said.

The revelations about the concerns that Hasan's superiors had about his behavior before sending him to Fort Hood come amid a growing debate over what warning signs the military missed before last week's shooting rampage that left 13 dead and 29 wounded.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has found no evidence that Hasan formally sought release from the Army as a conscientious objector or for any other reason, two senior military officials told The

Associated Press.

Family members have said he wanted to get out of the Army and had sought legal advice, suggesting that Hasan's anxiety as a Muslim over his pending deployment overseas might have been a factor in the deadly rampage.

Hasan had complained privately to colleagues that he was harassed for his religion and that he wanted to get out of the Army.

But there is no record of Hasan filing a complaint with his chain of command regarding any harassment he may have suffered for being Muslim or any record of him formally seeking release from the military, the officials told the AP.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the case is under investigation.

Another Army official, Lt. Col. George Wright, said Wednesday that Hasan likely would have had to commit to another year in the military when he was transferred to Fort Hood earlier this summer.

It is common for an officer to incur a one-year service extension when they receive a transfer to another post.

An Army officer can request a discharge and offer to repay his education costs funded by the military, but in many instances such a request would be denied because it is difficult and takes several years to replace officers at that level.

"It's not unusual for medical officers to be funded by the government," Wright said, "and there is an active duty service obligation to repay that educational funding."

