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Motorcycle man
BU lecturer talks on a motorcycle group that provides toys for kids

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‘New Moon’ debut
Vampire sequel brings light-hearted humor to silver screen

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Battle of the Brazos
The Bears’ hunt for a bowl game intensifies
Baylor’s game against the Aggies

SPORTS PAGE 5

Out with a bang
The Lady Bears look to snap a two-game losing streak at their home finale

Group traps UCLA regents in building

MICHAEL BLOOD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The governing board of the University of California approved a \$2,500 student fee increase Thursday after two days of tense campus protests across the state. The vote by the Board of Regents in a windowless University of California, Los Angeles, meeting room took place as the drone of protesters could be heard from a plaza outside. Scores of police in riot gear guarded the building. The 32 percent increase will push the cost of an undergraduate education at California’s premier public schools to more

than \$10,000 a year by next fall, about triple the cost of a decade ago. The fees, the equivalent of tuition, do not include the cost of housing, board and books. “Our hand has been forced,” UC President Mark Yudof told reporters after the vote. “When you don’t have any money, you don’t have any money.” Board members said the 229,000-student system had been whipsawed by years of state budget cuts, leaving no option other than turning to students’ wallets. Yudof has said the 10-campus system needs a \$913 million increase in state funding next year, in addition to higher student fees. State Assembly Speaker Kar-

en Bass, a Democrat who sits on the board, said she would push for higher taxes, possibly on higher-income residents, to finance education. The state could face \$20 billion shortfalls during each of the next five years. At the UCLA campus, the meeting room was closed to visitors for the second day after repeated outbursts by demonstrators. Hundreds of students and union members gathered at the arched doorways of the building, waving signs, pounding drums and chanting “We’re fired up, can’t take it no more” and “Shame on you.” Armed police, some with beanbag-firing shotguns, lined

up behind steel barricades, watching over the protesters. Some staff and board members were trapped in the building for up to several hours after the meeting because of the disruption outside. A van carrying regents and staff leave campus was surrounded and delayed by protesters as it tried to leave campus. Three hours after the meeting, Yudof was escorted out by police, with protesters in pursuit shouting “Shame.” Authorities said there was one arrest. David Valenzuela, who graduated three months ago from

see UCLA, pg. 6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators chant as they sit on a road Thursday on the UCLA campus to block a van holding attendees from driving away from the Covell Commons building where University of California regents were scheduled to vote on a 32 percent student fee increase



MATT HELLMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Words of Relaxation

Kokernot Resident Chaplain Jake Maxwell enjoys light reading while “hanging out” in his hammock in Minglewood Bowl.

Part two of a series that follows developments with the Central Texas Research and Technology Park and the BRIC.

BRIC: An economic force for Waco

By LAURA REMSON
STAFF WRITER

As the details of the Central Texas Research Park and Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative are solidified, it is expected that the organizations will have a major economic impact on Baylor, Waco and the Central Texas community. “I think it will be the biggest impact that Waco, Texas, has had since Baylor University decided that they would relocate to Waco,” said Waco businessman and philanthropist Clifton Robinson, who donated the building that will one day house the research park.

“Baylor is by far the largest asset of this city. It always has been and always will be,” Robinson said. “But second to that, [BRIC] will have as big an impact as Baylor University.” On Oct. 23, at the homecoming weekend announcement of the park, Interim Provost Elizabeth Davis referenced a study conducted in 2007 regarding research parks in America. The study, Characteristics and Trends in North American Research Parks: 21st Century Directions, completed by Battelle and Association of University Research Parks, stated that, on average, 2.57 jobs are created outside of a park for every job inside a park.

The study also pointed out that each park typically has 750 employees, putting the potential job gain for Waco and Central Texas at 1,927.5 jobs. Robinson said this will change the face of Waco. “It will bring in ultimately billions of dollars to this community,” Robinson said. “It will bring in an enormous number of jobs. It will bring in recognition that we could never get any other way. It will enhance Baylor enormously, affording the largest research center in any college campus I think in the world. That’s quite a feat, I’d say.” The study also pointed out that of the more than 100 re-

search parks in America they surveyed, 95 percent said that creating an environment of incubation and entrepreneurship was a high priority. At the announcement, Davis said the new Central Texas park will do the same. “Over the long term, the combination of research and advanced work force training with a business and technology incubator will provide an economic development engine, producing new business starts expected to create high technology jobs locally,” Davis said. According to the study, re-

see BRIC, pg. 6

mate executed this year in Texas and the second this week.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE — Texas inmate Robert Lee Thompson was executed Thursday evening for his part in a fatal Houston store holdup after Gov. Rick Perry rejected a parole board’s recommendation to spare Thompson because he wasn’t the gunman. Thompson, 34, was an accomplice to triggerman Sammy Butler when 29-year-old store clerk Mansoor Bhair Rahim Mohammed was gunned down 13 years ago. Butler received life in prison. A jury gave Thompson death. Thompson’s lawyer told the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles Thompson’s punishment wasn’t fair and the panel voted 5-2 Wednesday to recommend his sentence be commuted to life.

Perry didn’t have to follow their rare recommendation and the execution was carried out about 45 minutes after his decision. Thompson, in brief comments from the death chamber gurney, invoked Allah as his God, thanked friends and his mother for their love and support and urged his mother, who sobbed as she watched through a window: “Smile, be happy, don’t cry.” He said he had not meant any harm to his victims’ families, none of whom was present. “I know Allah will forgive me,” he said. “Allah is the forgiver.” His mother cried uncontrollably, stomped her feet and finally demanded to be taken from the witness area before her son was pronounced dead at 6:19 p.m., nine minutes after he was injected with the lethal drugs. Thompson was the 23rd in-

Earlier Thursday, Thompson also lost an appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the punishment. The parole board’s 5-2 vote came in response to a petition from Patrick McCann, Thompson’s attorney, who argued the case was similar to that of Kenneth Foster, who also was convicted and sentenced to die under the Texas law of parties. Under that law, offenders conspiring to commit one felony, such as robbery, can all be held responsible for another ensuing crime, such as murder. “After reviewing all of the facts in the case of Robert Lee Thompson, who had a murderous history and participated in the killing of Mansoor Bhair Rahim Mohammed, I have decided to uphold the jury’s capital murder conviction and capital punishment for this heinous crime,” Perry said in a statement. “There is no reason to set aside the capital murder conviction handed down by a Texas jury and upheld by numerous state and federal courts.” Perry commuted Foster’s sentence to life two years ago. Foster became only the second inmate since Texas resumed carrying out executions in 1982 who won a recommendation from the parole board as his execution loomed. In the first case, in 2004, Perry rejected the board’s recommendation and mentally ill prisoner Kelsey Patterson was executed. Perry’s explanation for commuting Foster’s sentence was that Foster and his co-defendant were tried together on capital murder charges for a slaying

see INMATE, pg. 6

Atheism: Striving for knowledge, but not faith

By CHAD SHANKS
CONTRIBUTOR

Before beginning this semester as a Baylor freshman, Alex McElroy sat down to finally tell his father. His mother already knew, having found out indirectly through his offhand comments, but he had to formally tell Dad. He worried how his father, a former Marine and Baylor statistics Ph.D. student who raised him in church, would handle the news, but he needed to share this part of his life with him. This was the day Alex McElroy told his father he is an atheist.

McElroy’s dad did not disown him after his confession. He told his son he is simply going through a phase, but his son responded that he could never return to his faith. McElroy said he still loves his parents and wants them to be proud of him; they just disagree on one issue — albeit a major one. A 2007 Pew Research Center for the People and the Press survey found that 20 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 25 say they have no religious affiliation or consider themselves atheists or agnostics, nearly twice the percentage of a similar survey 20 years ago.

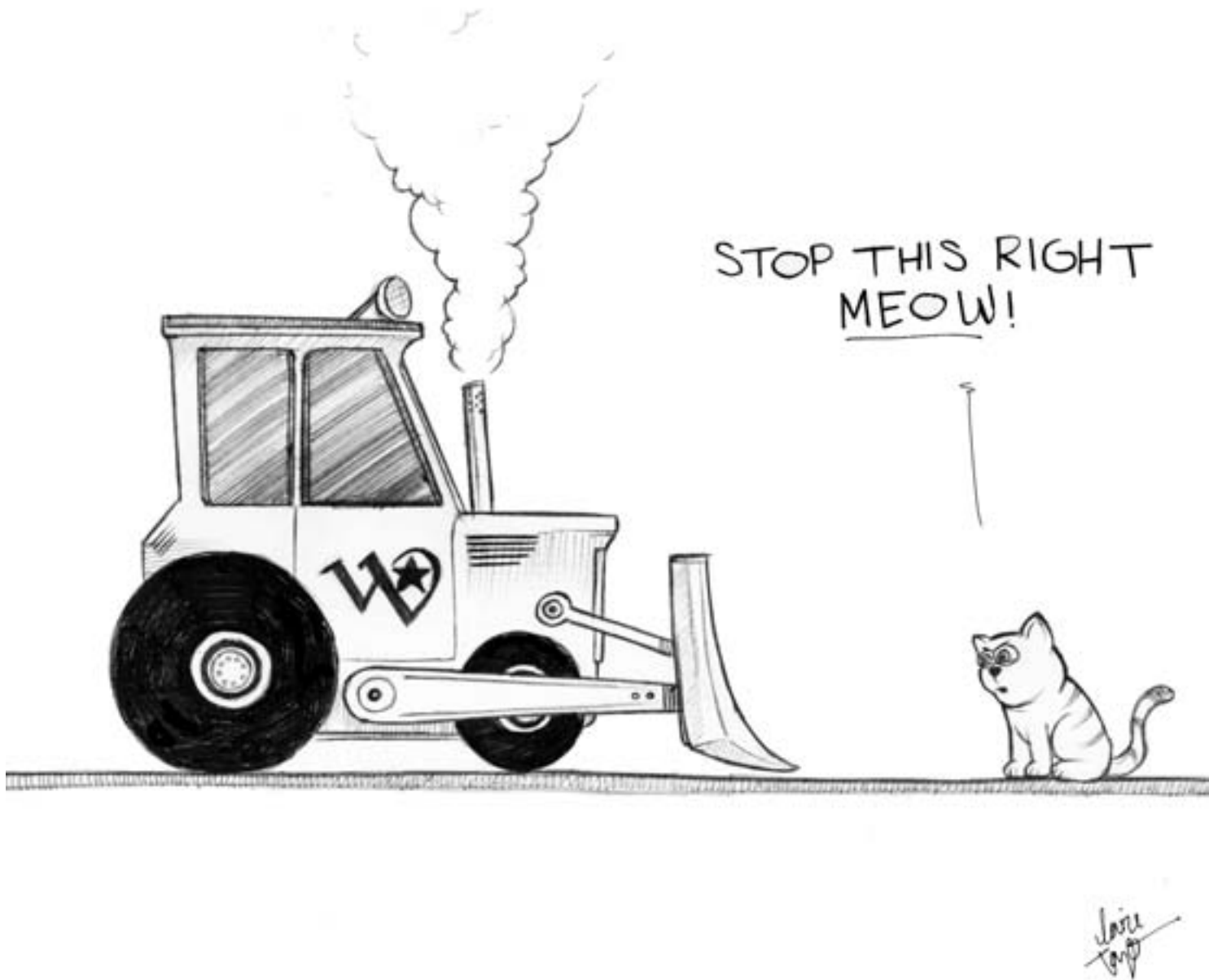
Other surveys indicate those numbers are increasing — so much so that even a Christian environment like Baylor can count atheists and agnostics among its numbers. According to Baylor Institutional Research and Testing data, 140 enrolled students have identified themselves as atheists since 2004, and 315 students enrolling this fall chose “no religion” on their applications. However, McElroy has not always identified himself as an atheist. He was confirmed in the Lutheran church and even once considered himself an “amateur apologist,” agitating his high school biology teacher with cre-

ationist arguments he learned while home-schooled with Christian curriculum. Like many professing atheists, though, he went through a “deconversion,” turning away from the faith of his youth because of what he believes is a lack of evidence. “The burden of proof is on the theists,” McElroy said. “Why should I accept a hypothesis with no evidence?” McElroy identifies himself as a de-facto atheist, a term used in Richard Dawkins’s book, “The God Delusion,” to identify people who claim to not know for certain, but believe the existence of God is improbable and live

their lives under the assumption that God does not exist. “No intelligent person who has thought through the issue can be dogmatically certain either way,” he said. “I think it’s probable that there is no God, but completely ignoring the idea would be arrogant.” While enrolling in a Christian university would seem to be problematic for an atheist, McElroy knew what he was getting into. “Baylor is definitely a Baptist school,” he said. “You don’t have to be reminded you have to play by their rules, but I put belief on the back burner to focus on my education because Baylor is a

great academic university.” Galveston senior Oscar Boleman, however, was unpleasantly surprised by the degree of Christian influence on Baylor’s academic programs after choosing the university over several others because of the strength of its engineering program and its proximity to his family. A former Catholic school student with a mother who teaches Sunday School, Boleman claims never to have identified with a football team, much less a religion. His journey to atheism began after his own confirmation, an

see BELIEF, pg. 6



Court-ordered demolition unjust in McGregor cat-rescuer’s situation

Many cannot imagine, nor want to imagine, sharing a home with 24 cats. Likewise, it is tough to imagine one’s home being demolished by the city. For Kathryn Pace, a 72-year-old McGregor woman, this is reality.

On Oct. 28, a jury in the A 414th State District Court found Pace’s home a public nuisance after complaints from neighbors regarding foul odors and unsanitary conditions sparked a city lawsuit. It’s no doubt, in referencing court documents, that Pace’s affinity for felines led to the current state of her home. The appraiser cited in the lawsuit documents that the house was overridden with animal fecal matter and urine, posing a health hazard to the occupants of the home and neighbors.

Despite city orders to get rid of her cats, she claimed to average around 24 cats at any given time. Pace, who claims that she found new homes for all of her cats, may soon be searching for a new home if the city prevails.

The city has proposed a judgment to Judge Vicki Meynard to demolish Pace’s home.

As Judge Meynard deliberates on the judgment, we ask her to consider Pace’s position and not order the demolition of her home, or in the least, offer her aid in acquiring a new residence. We do not believe the city should destroy

Editorial

Pace’s home based on a jury verdict, but if it must be done, her situation should be taken into account. While the appraiser said Pace’s home is not in the condition to be renovated, she should have at least been given help relocating.

The city is right in aiming to protect its citizens, including Pace’s neighbors who complained about the sanitation of this neighborhood eyesore. Many people would find living next-door to 24 cats undesirable.

However, Pace and her grandson, who also calls the house “home,” are citizens who should be extended the same protection and courtesy as the rest of the neighborhood. .

Josh White, the city of McGregor attorney told the Waco Tribune Herald, “This is not a case to celebrate... I hope the verdict gives the neighbors some relief, and I hope that Mrs. Pace can get some help.”

Not only does that response appear insensitive, but it illustrates the unwillingness of the city to help Pace. The elderly woman is retired and most likely does not have the means to build a new house or relocate.

It seems Pace did what she could and made an effort. After hearing about the suit in October, she took measures to fix-up her home.

The city should have considered this when proposing its judgment to Judge Meynard. Likewise, if the judge decides to accept the judgment, the city should help Pace find a new residence, as demolition could likely negatively alter Pace’s quality of life.

McGregor is a small town. It’s safe to say that people know Pace around town, considering that she taught locally for 37 years. Even the city’s mayor Jimmy Hering, who supports the demolition, was an elementary student of Pace’s. What ever happened to small- town courtesy and Christian good will?

The city’s proposed judgment does not seem to take either of these into account, opting instead for a decision lacking any glimpse of humanity.

Judge Meynard should exhibit compassion toward this loyal McGregor resident when making a decision about the future of her home. Demolishing Pace’s home without any sort of aid would be unethical and exhibit a flaw in the leadership and justice system in the city of McGregor.

Sleep lacking from college-student lifestyle

As a very active college student, I don’t sleep. I go to class, I go to work, I go to my respective meetings and I do homework. Sometimes, if I’m lucky, I get five hours of sleep.

In a good week, I get six or seven hours of sleep a night.

Last week was a very, very good sleep week.

I read a study by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine that said college students need eight hours of sleep a night. They cited poor performance in school, poor physical health and poor mental health as possible side effects of poor sleep.

Concerned for my grades, my health and my sanity, I experimented with sleep last week and took to heart some of the suggestions offered by the study for better sleep.

Step No. 1: Go to bed early.

My bedtime last week was midnight. Period. No ifs, no ands, no buts. I did not stay up to work out, I did not stay up to get more homework done, I did not stay up to visit with my friends. I got off work, and I went to bed. (My only saving grace in this experiment was that the deadline for my beast of a paper over “The Republic of Plato” had been pushed back.)

Step No. 2: Get out of bed.

It sounds so simple. It is just the application that is a little bit difficult. I need to work on this

Point of View

BY CATY HIRST



one. My roommate, Rena, can testify to my inability to turn off my alarm and get up. This is a daily struggle.

Step. 3: Limit naps.

Haha ... yeah right. But really, I did not take a nap. Not one, all week long. Naps are supposed to keep you from going to sleep earlier, so I was diligent in not napping.

Step 4: Avoid caffeine.

What? Pardon me? Caffeine is the well of life for college students. Despite this, I did not have a Monster all week, or even something as harmless as Dr Pepper. (I did have some chocolate, but I am not sure if there is enough caffeine in chocolate for it to count.)

My conclusions:

Going to bed before you get your homework

done is bad. This negatively affected my class performance. (Who would have thought that?) Going to bed before you work out is bad. This negatively affected my physical health. Going to bed without going to meetings is stressful. This negatively affected my mental health.

Getting out of bed when you have slept a lot is just as hard as getting out of bed when you have slept a little. I am sorry, Rena, for my belligerent alarm that I never hear.

Naps are a gift from God. Naps are the key to the energizer bunny. (They just don’t show that part of the commercial.)

Caffeine sharpens your mental awareness even when you are tired, which makes sleep completely superfluous. It keeps you awake and active for class — so I don’t fall asleep in the front row.

Final conclusion: Sleep is overrated. Homework is important and must get done. My million and one activities look great on my resume, but where am I supposed to put sleep on my resume?

So, future employer, I know I did not get good grades in school and I know that I was not involved in very many activities, but I got eight whole hours of sleep a night. I bet none of your applicants are that impressive.

Caty Hirst is a Caddo, Okla., junior majoring in journalism and a copy editor for the Baylor Lariat.

2012 paranoia yielding undue concern

Point of View



BY SOMMER INGRAM

Let’s fast-forward three years, one month and one day.

December 21, 2012: the date the world, including you and me, will cease to exist.

For some years now, the end to the 5,125-year cycle known as the Long Count in the Mayan calendar has been anticipated. Along with the resetting of this calendar supposedly will come a catastrophic end to the entire world as we know it.

Breakaway oceans and continents will dump cities into the sea. Massive tidal waves, shattering earthquakes and unprecedented volcanic eruptions will wreck havoc across the planet, leaving the earth just a crusty, hollow shell of what it once was. The sun will become nothing more than a black splotch in the sky. There’s no way to stop it — only the prepared will survive.

Forgive me, but I simply don’t believe it. Yes, the Mayan civilization is responsible for providing the basis for many mathematical and scientific guidelines, but for all the hype, there is little evidence that these people ever intended for their calendar to spur the neurosis of our society.

Scholars, including astronomers, have gone on the record saying that it would be essentially impossible for the Mayans to have predicted the end of the world.

Susan Milbrath, a Maya archaeoastronomer and a curator at the Florida Museum of Natural History, was quoted saying that, “We have no record or knowledge that they would think the world would come to an end at that point.”

Yet the madness continues.

The buildup to 2012 echoes the fear and paranoia surrounding the new millennium, orY2K, though on a smaller scale. As a 10-year-old, I didn’t fully understand how man could predict the ending of a world God created. And I still don’t, today.

A simple Google search of the term “2012 end of the world” will leave you with countless books, Web sites and the like engineered by people playing the role of God in predicting just how the world will end.

Some say the north and south poles are preparing to reverse positions in a magnetic flip, causing major confusion. Plans have been drawn up to buy plots of land high up in African mountain land where the beastly tidal waves won’t be able to reach.

Some accounts predict that a strangely-named planet will crash into us, hurling deadly asteroids at us at best and obliterating our entire planet at worst. But these claims have been made before and have been proven wrong.

“If there were a planet or a brown dwarf or whatever that was going to be in the inner solar system three years from now, astronomers would have been studying it for the past decade and it would be visible to the naked eye by now,” NASA astrobiologist Morrison said. “It’s not there.”

And now, with the release of the dramatic movie “2012,” paranoia is reigning at an all-time high. Hollywood took this and ran, maximizing play on irrational emotions. Already the total U.S. gross has reached \$74,903,880.

Oftentimes these movements that predict the end of the world go much deeper and reflect fears about the state of our society as a whole.

John Hall, a professor of sociology at the University of California Davis who is writing a book on the history of apocalyptic ideas, said, “Terrorism, 9/11 ecological disasters, floods and earthquakes — there is a sense that modern civilization has had its run. Those kinds of anxieties are much more widely shared than simply among people who believe in the exact date.”

So before going to buy an African plot of land to hide out on, the public should stop to consider what it’s really afraid of. Furthermore, it should seek out scientifically-based information that these scientists are willingly providing.

And beyond that, save the five bucks you would spend this weekend going to see the film — I hear that “Twilight” movie is pretty good.

Sommer Ingram is a Texarkana junior majoring in political science and the city editor for the Baylor Lariat.

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Please Recycle This Issue

Journalism lecturer bikes for dream, charity

By KELSEY MOHR
REPORTER

"I had wanted to get a motorcycle for years and years and I just didn't think I would ever get one," said Kevin Tankersley, journalism lecturer and motorcyclist.

In addition to teaching at Baylor, Tankersley is a husband and father, deacon of his church, freelance writer for the Dallas Morning News and a member of the Christian Motorcyclists Association.

While working at Baylor, Tankersley took the motorcyclist's class at the Harley Davidson dealership for a Wacoan article he was writing and after years of wishing began looking for a bike.

"My wife and I talked about it and she was dead set against it, especially once we had kids," he said.

It was a mixture of \$4 gas prices and the realization of a longtime dream that finally provided Tankersley with his chance to ride.

After getting his bike, Tankersley began to look into the Christian Motorcyclists Association and decided to join.

The local chapters focus on fellowship with like-minded Christians, according to the CMA Web site.

It is a way for motorcyclists who share beliefs to meet and

spend time riding.

"I think it is a great thing for motorcyclists to do. With the popularity of motorcycles and the Harley riders, they tend to enjoy riding together," Baker said.

The vision statement for the CMA is "Changing the world one heart at a time." One of the ways the Waco chapter of CMA is trying to achieve that goal is through a toy run that occurs the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

"Last year this toy drive helped 1,800 families have a merrier Christmas, so our goal this year is 2,000 families," Tankersley said.

The day begins with fellowship at the Flying J at I-35 and New Road and ends at the Church Under the Bridge, where the toys are dropped off.

"There's nothing like going to church, a very conservative church, and a bunch of bikers come in. It's late November and it's usually cold, so most of us are clad head to toe in black leather," Tankersley said.

"It's kind of a contradiction between the mostly conservative-dressed folks and the leather-clad bikers."

Many people are involved in this event in addition to the bikers who pick the toys up.

"It's kind of awe-inspiring to see the generosity of folks and how much they give to this effort.

We're just a very, very small part of it," Tankersley said.

Before Tankersley's motorcycle days, he attend school at McLennan Community College before going to Baylor to finish his undergraduate degree in business journalism.

"I was kind of working my way through school, paying my way and I was already here. I had contacts and jobs, so I just stayed in Waco for school," Tankersley said.

While at Baylor, he ran a photography lab, worked at Pier One and freelanced for the Waco Tribune-Herald. He met his wife while reporting in Waco about a summer teachers' conference and a whirlwind romance begun.

"I was walking down the hall with a lady from the school that was hosting the conference and this group of teachers walked by going the other way and one of them looked over at us and said 'hi' and so I asked the lady I was walking with who that was, and she didn't know.

She was tall and blonde and pretty," Tankersley said.

He immediately wanted to know more about the woman he had passed.

"I found out where she taught school and called her a few days later," Tankersley said. "We went to lunch the next day and a movie



Journalism lecturer Kevin Tankersley stands with his wife Abby and children Sophie and Brazos on Tankersley's 2004 Triumph America motorcycle.

that night and lunch the day after that. We met in July of 1996, got engaged August of 1996 and got married in December of 1996. We both admitted it later that we were sitting at lunch the first day thinking this is it."

Tankersley and his wife eventu-

ally left Waco to work in the sports information office at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock, which allowed him to get his master's degree at the same time, but returned to Waco so that his children could grow up near their grandparents.

Clark Baker, journalism depart-

ment chair and associate professor, has been at Baylor for 16 years and remembers when Tankersley was first hired.

Baker said Tankersley has been a great part of the faculty and is well-integrated into the tight-knit group of professors.

Global Community serves tea, learns about cultures

TRENT GOLDSTON
STAFF WRITER

Students in the Global Community Living and Learning Center held a special event at Brooks Flats Thursday night that recreated tea ceremonies from countries around the world.

Beth Walker, international student relations coordinator for international student and scholar services, said this event is a quintessential example of the opportunities for students involved in the Global Community Living and

Learning Center.

"The Global Community Living and Learning Center here in Brooks Flats puts language learning and cultural experiences together," Walker said. "This event is special because the students are taking the lead."

The event was attended by students from all reaches of campus. The students were split into groups and seated at six different tables, each of which represented a different nation from around the globe. China, Costa Rica, England, Ethiopia, Thailand and the United

States were all represented.

Each table was adorned with the unique beverages and serving devices from that nation, and had the country's flag draped from the ceiling. Tables were led by a host, who would discuss the available beverage, its nutritional benefits, serving custom, history and cultural significances. Students would rotate tables so everyone was able to try each of the teas.

Jennifer Perkins, the coordinator for living and learning programs, said the Global Community was started last year, and has been

successful in recruiting students dedicated to the program.

"We have roughly 45 students currently," Perkins said. "Our goal for next year is (to have) over 50, and we (would) like to do even more in the future."

Perkins said the Global Community gives students a unique opportunity to get a world perspective while studying at Baylor. Perkins said that being cultured is important this day in age more than ever.

"I think [the benefits] are multifold," Perkins said. "The mission

of the university is to prepare its students for worldwide service. This is often a stepping stone to study abroad programs."

Perkins said that students in the Global Community have the opportunity to make connections with alumni in the Baylor Global Network.

Dallas junior Makenzi Epps said being a part of the Global Community has been one of the best decisions she has made at Baylor.

"I joined when it first started," Epps said. "I love the Global Com-

munity. I'm coming back as a senior. That really says something."

Epps explained that the Global Community is a great place for students pursuing a career abroad.

"It's awesome being around people who are interested in the same topics as you," Epps said. "People just as motivated."

Perkins said anyone interested in joining the Global Community should consider it.

"We are currently accepting applications," Perkins said. "[Global Community students] have a lot of opportunities."

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‘New Moon’ barely delivers on massive hype

By ROGER MOORE
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The “Twilight” soap opera continues with a lighter, goofier and far less erotically charged sequel, “New Moon,” a movie directed by a man and not a woman.

Thus, the sex and the threat of it are gone in this golden-hued virginity metaphor, a teen romance novel that Mom might approve of.

But it’s a funny film, a movie in on the joke that the most luscious girl in rural Forks, Wash., might be fought over by pale, aged vampires and buff, Native-American werewolves.

That flip tone — the gags and one-liners — get us past the longing, the depression, the sulking, the almost comically swooning moments when Bella (Kristen Stewart) goes weak in the knees, determined to abandon her humanity for her one true love, 109-year-old high school hunk vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson).

“You can’t trust vampires, trust me,” he purrs.

Then Edward stupidly ditch- es Bella in a dense Washing- ton state forest. Hey, he had no choice. She’s been nagging him to “Change me” — the nakedly obvious vampire-virginity meta-



Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) sit together in a car in a scene from “The Twilight Saga: New Moon.” Bella is heartbroken over the departure of vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), and so she turns to Jacob in her desperation.

phor. And Edward, being gallant in addition to oh-so-pale, won’t have it.

Chris Weitz working with a larger budget that Catherine Hardwicke had in the first film, conjures up vivid, ghostly visions of Edward, who still watches over Bella after he’s abandoned her.

His image warns her away from cliff diving, bikers and rid- ing without a helmet. But her “recklessness” has her thinking that death will unite them, or that danger to her will bring him back. And that’s not happening.

What is happening is old fam- ily friend Jacob (Taylor Lautner),

who’s been hitting the gym.

Either that, or he’s secretly a werewolf, coming of age just in time to fend off fresh threats to Bella from the same folks we were sure Edward’s clan had fended off and/or killed off in “Twilight.”

Bella notices Jacob: “You’re

sort of beautiful.”

“I won’t let you down,” he promises. Then he turns into a digital dog and things get even more complicated.

Stephenie Meyer’s novel keeps Edward at a distance for the most part, and the film does the same, bringing him back for an eye-roller of a finale. Weitz’s comic touch shows in casting (he brings in Graham Greene as a funny, vampire-savvy Native American character) and in many a comic exchange.

“Freaked out yet?” “You’re not the first monsters I’ve met.”

“That’s right. You’re good with weird.”

The saga sags when Bella triple-dates to a zombie movie, where all the jokes about weary monster-genre movies sting with the awareness that the pot is mocking the kettle.

Stewart plays grief rather than naked lust this time, and it’s not her strong suit. Her best moment — reaching out and pushing Jac- ob back, letting her hand hit the middle of his new six-pack and linger there, tempted.

The whole series seems too chaste for her, though not for Pattinson, who so underplays Edward that his golden contact lenses and perfect hair do most of his work for him. He may kiss

her and kiss her good. How he got to be 109 and hang onto his schoolboy clumsiness is a Van Helsing-sized mystery.

And “New Moon” goes com- pletely off the rails the first time we see the great British character actor Michael Sheen show up, in full Roddy McDowell regalia, as leader of the vampire nobility, the Volturi. He’s done an “Under- world” movie or two, he knows how this goes. but he’s laughably broad here, a bad performance by a fine actor.

And his awfulness only sets the stage for an off-putting turn by Dakota Fanning, determined to be a teenager and be in a hit movie, even if her best acting is now a decade behind her. At least this time the movie is m

Most of the laughs are inten- tional, and we get the sense that even though a guy directed it, he wants the mostly female fan base to revel in the overheated romance, the blood-enforced chastity and the sacrifices this toothy “Romeo and Juliet” tale serves up.

But you can’t make a whole movie out of the balcony scene, all doe-eyed proclamations of true love that can never be. Soon- er or later, “Twilight’s” going to have to show its fangs.

Grade: 2/4 stars

Reel World Sense: ‘Twilight’ saga outpaces classics

By ASH ANDERSON
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

With the release of “New Moon” comes the rise of a pro- verbial behemoth.

Distinguished feats, such as being the movie with the most pre-event ticket sales in the history of the box office, have been taken away from blockbuster hits like “The Dark Knight” and have been given to the latest adaptation of Stephanie Meyer’s vampire romance saga.

But why? What makes these movies so compelling that they outsell some of the greatest lit- erature adaptations of all time?

“The Lord of the Rings: The

Return of the King,” “The Dark Knight” and “Harry Potter and the Half- B l o o d Prince” all manage to rein in an ensemble cast while being able to main- tain qual- ity acting and pow- erful cin- ematogra- phy.

Unfor- tunately, at this point in its de- velopment, the “Twilight” saga



Anderson
A&E Editor

cannot say the same thing.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying that each individual member of the cast doesn’t have any talent.

Kristen Stewart (Bella Swan) is, in my opinion, the next great method actress. Her per- formance in “In the Land of Women” was extremely moving and her portrayal of a troubled young adult in “Adventure- land” gave depth to a charac- ter that would have otherwise fallen flat.

Robert Pattinson (Edward Cullen) could have gone down in history as Cedrick Diggory — the young wizard that met an untimely demise at the hands of

He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named. Instead, he’s going to be remem- bered by some as “That Stupid Vampire,” “The Twilight Guy,” “My Husband Edward Cullen” and “The Most Beautiful Non- Human Ever.”

Sad times indeed, friends. Sad times indeed.

Of course, it could be because it’s the “Romeo and Juliet” for this century. It’s no surprise that the play is referenced repeat- edly.

Bella believes that she is des- tined to be forever in the arms of her love, Edward, but he thinks that their relationship is too dan- gerous. He then leaves, and she is heartbroken.

Enter Jacob Black, played by almost-legal Taylor Lautner. Only a few more months, girls. That six-pack can be yours for the low price of \$19.95.

Jacob rescues Bella from her sadness, and, of course, Edward returns just in time to profess his love. Again.

After seeing the throngs of people camping outside of the- aters to see the movie, I realized that the fad doesn’t make sense to me.

Sure, I’ll admit that the books are somewhat entertaining (I’ve read up through the third one), and that the movies are a mind- less two hours, but the cult fol- lowing behind them is starting

to rival that of Harry Potter.

Neither medium has enough imagination or depth behind it to warrant hype of this magni- tude.

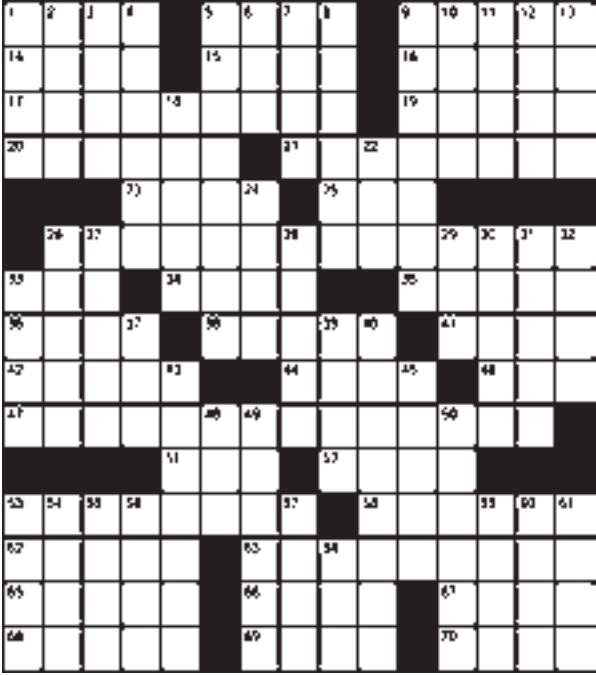
While I understand that the majority of my reasoning will fall of deaf ears, I still can’t help but wonder how in the world a romance saga could garner such unbelievable hype.

From teeny-boppers to col- lege students to full-fledged adults, the “Twilight” series has its teeth sunk into the jugular of society, but you won’t see me going out of my way to see it, especially with the lack of imag- ination that hinders the films from being of a higher quality.

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Bowl implications enhance Battle of the Brazos

By CHRIS DERRETT
SPORTS WRITER

Last season Baylor and Texas A&M entered the 105th Battle of the Brazos with essentially forsaken seasons, the Bears' bowl game hopes mathematically eliminated and the Aggies needing a win in Waco and an upset of No. 4 Texas the following week.

The stakes are raised in 2009, as Baylor enters College Station needing to win its final two games for a chance at postseason play, and Texas A&M looks to secure its sixth win before hosting the Longhorns next Thursday.

Players and coaches on both sides are fully aware of how much Saturday's matchup means.

"We feel a sense of urgency just by the fact that the season is ending," junior Aggie quarterback Jerrod Johnson said. "Of course bowl eligibility is on our minds, but at the same time we just want to when every game we play."

Unlike Texas A&M's senior class, who went bowling in 2006 and '07, Baylor's senior class will remain without postseason experience if the team loses Saturday.

Senior linebacker Joe Pawelek knows the tension inherent with the Battle of the Brazos each year.

"With both sides coming in, they need one more and we need two more for bowl contention. I think that it'll be nothing short of how it usually is," Pawelek said.

Each team brings its own set of strengths and weaknesses to Saturday's game.

Baylor began the season hoping to continue its running game success and achieve a more balanced offense than during the Guy Morriss era. Plagued by running back injuries and an offensive line struggling to create holes, the Bears have averaged just above 100 yards per game on the ground.

In its 40-32 win over Missouri, Baylor recorded a single-digit net rush total, but the passing game provided enough octane to move the ball efficiently. Freshman Nick Florence proved his capability that day, connecting 32 of 43 passes and throwing no interceptions.

The Aggies send a defense



Kendall Wright (left) prepares to make a cut following a catch in Saturday's loss against the University of Texas. The Bears need to win both of their two remaining games to become bowl eligible.

sive line anchored by junior Von Miller to disrupt Florence and plug the running lanes. Miller, a 6-foot-3, 240-pound blend of speed and strength, is projected to be a first-or-second round

draft pick should he pursue the NFL after this season.

"(Miller) had a great game against Jason (Smith) last year because he was so quick Jason had a hard time getting on him," Head

Coach Art Briles said. "They're moving him around and setting him up differently, so it's hard to get a read on where he's going to be and why he's there."

Johnson presents the Bears

with a defensive challenge, having the ability to scramble along with 6-foot-5, 235-pound size. He remembers how the Bears rendered him ineffective last year and wants to adjust to Baylor's defensive looks.

"I remember they schemed up pretty well. They always tried to disguise what they were doing by moving around right before the ball snapped," Johnson said.

He does not have to do it all by himself, however, as a young backfield led by sophomore Cyrus Grey and freshman Christine Michael can generate ground yardage. Johnson and the two running backs have combined for 1,725 rushing yards.

One certainty for the game lies in Kyle Field itself. The stands will be rocking, and 70,000-plus fans wanting an Aggie victory will bear down on the Bears.

"It's definitely crazy and the better they're playing, the louder the crowd gets into it," senior center J.D. Walton said. "We've been telling the younger guys to be ready for it to be loud and don't be staring at the stands, be focused on the game."



SHANNA TAYLOR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Buda senior Anna Breyfogle spikes the pass Nov. 11 against the University of Colorado. Breyfogle is one of three seniors who will play their last game at the Ferrell Center on Saturday.

Volleyball faces stiff test in home finale

By KEVIN TAMER
SPORTS WRITER

The No. 24 Baylor volleyball team will look to break a two-game losing streak as it plays host to the No. 2-ranked University of Texas in the Bears' home finale at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Ferrell Center.

The Bears are coming off a disappointing loss to the University Nebraska in which they hit a season-low .089 hitting percentage, marking the first time all season they hit below .125. Katie Sanders led the way with nine kills and nine digs, but it was not enough as the Bears lost in three sets, falling to a 21-8 overall record and 10-8 in the Big 12.

The Longhorns on the other hand, come into Waco with a 21-1 record on the season, and

16-1 in the Big 12. Their only loss of the season came in five sets against Iowa State University on the road, in which they hit a season-low .189 hitting percentage, despite getting a career-high 27 kills from senior All-American Destinee Hooker.

The last time Baylor and Texas met was in the two teams' conference opener Sept. 16. Texas handed Baylor its first loss of the season, taking the match in three sets as the Longhorns recorded seven blocks and Hooker totaled 15 kills and a .459 hitting percentage. Baylor libero Allison King is confident about how her team has played in recent games and welcomes the challenge Texas brings.

"We came out of the Nebraska game feeling very confident about ourselves," King said. "Go-

ing into this game against Texas we are going to be focused and ready to play. We will see how we can really compete with the top teams and hopefully come out with a win."

The Bears' task of suppressing the Texas offense is monumental. The Longhorns rank atop the Big 12 and second in the nation with a .324 team hitting percentage and rank No. 4 in the nation in blocking with 2.93 blocks per set. Despite Texas' impressive numbers, Baylor head coach Jim Barnes believes his team has improved and has a great opportunity to upset the Longhorns.

"We certainly want to beat a ranked team and finish the season strong," Barnes said. "Going against the No. 2 team in the nation, it's one of those opportunities we have to knock off

a team like that and move up in the rankings. Right now we are happy our team is improving and teamwork has improved. I think good things are going to happen because of that."

For seniors Katie Sanders, Taylor Barnes and Anna Breyfogle, this game will mark their last home game of their careers. While this game won't have NCAA tournament implications on the line, setter Taylor Barnes believes getting a win would mean a lot for the seniors.

"It's going to be our last match at home, and for seniors it means a lot so we will be working extra hard," the Arlington native said. "We know we are probably going to make it to the NCAA tournament, but it is still important to come out against Texas and fight, and hopefully get a win."

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BELIEF from pg.1

event his family promised him would be transformative.

"They put oil on my head and I thought, 'Is that it?' I thought there would be more," Boleman said.

At Baylor, Boleman said he tolerated the plethora of churches trying to recruit him and hearing people say "God bless" more than he would prefer, but eventually switched his major from engineering to psychology after disapproving of an engineering professor's lecture on how Christian ethics supersede all other ethical systems.

"If morality is so closely linked to Christianity, why do so many societies who've never heard of Jesus have the same moral codes? It's just universally beneficial for the species to do good," Boleman said.

As Baylor students, Boleman and McElroy frequently interact with classmates whose religious beliefs are the cornerstones of their lives. Mostly, these interactions have been civil and non-confrontational.

"The most common response I get when I tell people I'm an atheist is them saying, 'Oh, that's cool,' and then telling me how they have other atheist friends," McElroy said.

However, some well-intentioned fellow students have randomly approached them to remind them of God's love.

"People sometimes tell me they'll pray for me," Boleman

said. "I just respond, 'I'll think for you.'"

McElroy said he tries to remain polite when confronted with theistic arguments in order to be a good representative of atheism, but tires of those who believe their logic will instantly change his beliefs.

"You can't just cite the Pascal's Wager argument assuming atheists have a belief switch that will flip and they will disregard everything they've come to believe over time," McElroy said.

Boleman and McElroy said their beliefs, or lack thereof, are not emotional responses but positions arrived at through careful thought and deliberation. McElroy said he has heard the argument that religion is about faith, not evidence, but questions why faith is considered so virtuous. Boleman said he has heard belief in God gives hope for the afterlife, but prefers a quest for knowledge rather than inventing answers to make himself feel better.

Two student organizations, the Atheists and Agnostics Association and Open Dialogue, hold meetings for Baylor students to express viewpoints that are not often aired at the university.

"Being an atheist at Baylor isn't easy," McElroy said. "But it has helped to find support and to know you're not the only one."

Now McElroy joins his father at Baylor, both walking across the same grass, but with different opinions on its origin.

BRIC from pg.1

search parks are communities generating innovation, technology and knowledge in three ways: growth of existing companies, creation of new companies and commercialization of intellectual property.

"When you look at economic development, it's a collaborative goal," said Sarah Roberts, senior vice president of economic development for Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce. "The end goal is creating wealth in the community, not for individuals, but for community economic prosperity."

Roberts, who has been working on this project and its community impact, said that there will be huge benefits in all areas of Waco.

Roberts pointed out that the physical location of the new facility is also going to have a major impact. She explained that when the former General Tire Facility shut down in the 1980s, it devastated the area.

"The quality of space provided within the BRIC will also attract research and high technology companies, which in turn

should have a significant future economic impact on the area," Davis said. "Finally, use of the facility for university-industry partnerships has the potential to unite academic and commercial enterprises, providing a fertile environment for new or existing high-tech businesses."

Roberts agreed, noting that the new research park will not only create jobs, but higher-quality jobs for the knowledge industry.

On Nov. 4, Texas voters approved Proposition 4, which is designed to assist the state's universities to become national research institutions.

"There's literally hundreds of millions of dollars lying in foundations around the world that is designed strictly for research and those research dollars can now be funneled into Waco, Texas, for projects," Robinson said.

"Having this community involvement with MCC and TSTC and Baylor and free enterprise like L-3 Communication out there," Robinson said. "It's unbelievable, the opportunity. I cannot over emphasize how big it's going to be."

UCLA from pg.1

UCLA, said he was on campus supporting friends when police pepper-sprayed him. "I didn't even get a warning. My face was on fire," said Valenzuela, 23.

Board members said students from households with incomes below \$70,000 would be shielded from the fees, and financial aid would help others defray the higher cost. But that did little to ease the mood on campus, where some students wondered if they could afford the jump or qualify for more borrowing.

Ayanna Moody, a second-year prelaw student, said she feared she might have to attend a community college next year.

"I worked so hard to be at one of the most prestigious universities. To have to go back, it's very depressing," she said. Administrators "already cut out a lot of our majors and programs. I'd rather they cut some of their salaries."

UCLA graduate student Matthew Luckett agreed: "They should cut from the top," he said, referring to administration salaries.

About 30 to 50 protesters

staged a takeover of Campbell Hall, a building across campus that houses ethnic studies. They chained the doors shut and there were no immediate plans to remove them.

On Wednesday, 14 demonstrators were arrested at UCLA and demonstrations spread to other campuses.

Yudof told reporters Wednesday he couldn't rule out raising student fees again if the state is unable to meet his request for more funding.

"I can't make any ... promises," he said.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger blamed UC's financial crisis on the Legislature's failure to reform the way the state collects and spends taxpayer money.

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INMATE from pg.1

in San Antonio. In Thompson's case, he and Butler were tried separately.

At least half a dozen other Texas inmates have been executed under the law of parties.

The U.S. Supreme Court since 1982 has barred the death penalty for co-conspirators who don't themselves kill.

"That's the foundation of our system," he said. "But I am against the unfairness of the

system, the way it picks and chooses." Thompson was 21 at the time of Mohammed's shooting. Another clerk at the same store was shot four times by Thompson but survived.

Evidence showed he and Butler were responsible for at least eight other convenience store robberies, three of them resulting in deaths.

Thompson blamed the spree on the recklessness of youth.

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