

OPINION PAGE 2

“Not only is UNT making a managerial mistake, but it is also compromising education by threatening the jobs of a university’s biggest asset — its educators.”

NEWS PAGE 3

Laser turns 50

A laser light show will be held with the Waco Symphony Orchestra to celebrate laser

A&E PAGE 4

Hanks, Spielberg’s ‘The Pacific’

New World War II drama series debuts on HBO to 3.1 million viewers, follows in “Band of Brothers” footsteps

Man wields gun, steals student’s car

Baylor Police say suspect may still be in area, stress safety procedures

By KATY McDOWALL
REPORTER

Police are looking for a man who threatened a Baylor student with a gun and stole the student’s car Monday morning. The suspect is a 25-to-30-year-old black male and was last

seen wearing blue shorts, a dark green or blue hoodie, slippers and a white cap, and is approximately 6 feet tall and 220-240 pounds, according to an e-mail sent to Baylor students and faculty Tuesday evening. He also has a pencil-thin beard extending from ear to ear.

According to the e-mail, the man was last seen in the student’s car, a 2004 Saab with Texas license plate Y71CMS.

“This guy has been seen recently and we believe he may still be in the area,” said Bay-

lor Police Chief Jim Doak. “We want students to be aware of his possible presence.”

Doak said the man approached the student outside of Common Grounds, claimed he was homeless and requested a ride from the student.

The student agreed to help the man and walked with him to the Fifth Street Parking Garage where the two entered the student’s car.

The man asked the student to stop at an apartment near the intersection of South 10th Street

and Speight Avenue so he could speak to a friend, and then returned to the vehicle with a gun. According to the e-mail, the man then forced the student to drive to a local bank and withdraw cash. Minutes later, the student was able to safely escape from the vehicle and call 911. Doak said that further details of the crime have been withheld for safety purposes and that Baylor Police have been receiving updates all day.

“It is unusual,” Doak said. “You don’t expect someone to

walk up to Common Grounds and be that bold about this kind of thing.”

The e-mail asks students to use sound judgment when confronted by individuals seeking money, and to avoid permitting strangers to gain entry to their vehicles. “Our goal is to keep students cognizant,” Doak said.

“These people that are asking for money are not all safe. People shouldn’t be giving money to them; they should direct them toward something like the Salvation Army.”

The number of people seeking handouts on the streets has grown in recent years, according to the e-mail, and students are advised to take care of “number one” and to avoid putting themselves at risk with a stranger.

Baylor Police are asking that any sighting of the suspect be reported immediately at 254-710-2222. As of press time, The Lariat was unable to get comments from the Waco Police Department.

Nick Dean, The Lariat’s news editor, contributed to this story.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesting Calderon

A protester sits in front of a line of federal police during a demonstration Tuesday against the visit of Mexico’s President Felipe Calderon in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Calderon is on a one-day visit to the northern border city terrorized by drug gang violence.

Pulitzer poet Wilbur visits campus

By HOGAN ALLCORN
REPORTER

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Robert Wilbur gave a special reading and discussion of his poetry Tuesday in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Union Building.

The lecture was sponsored by Phi Beta Kappa honorary society for liberal arts and sciences.

Dr. Michael Foley, an associate professor of patristics in the Honors College and current member of Phi Beta Kappa, said Wilbur is considered to be one of America’s greatest living poets.

“It’s not just my opinion, it is a widely held belief that he is one of the best,” Foley said. “When I told one of my colleagues in the English department, they couldn’t believe it.

They were amazed.”

Wilbur, now 89, published his first poem in John Martin’s Magazine at the age of 8. He won a Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1957 for “Things of This World” and in 1989 for “New and Collected Poems.”

Wilbur is the author of French playwright translations of Molière and Racine, nine collections of poetry, two books of prose and of several children’s books. His 10th poetry collection titled “Anterooms,” which included the first poem of the night’s readings, will be published this fall.

“This book is not called ‘last poems,’ but I suppose there is such implication in the title,” Wilbur joked before his read-

see POET, pg. 6



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer-Prize winner Richard Wilbur hosts a lecture and poetry reading Tuesday in the Barfield Drawing Room.

Professors see need for book availability, price improvement

By CATY HIRST
STAFF WRITER

Faculty Senate members addressed some concerns with the Baylor Bookstore at their last meeting, including the availability of books, the price of books and questions about evolving book technology.

Dr. Sara Stone, journalism professor and senator on Faculty Senate, said professors have had problems with books being available to students for the first day of class.

William Nors, the director of the Baylor Bookstore, said it can be difficult to accurately order books and that many factors can influence how many books the bookstore has available to students.

“Students don’t have to buy from us,” Nors emphasized.

Because students can buy from many other vendors or even opt not to buy books, Nors said it is hard for the bookstore to know how many books are needed.

In addition, Nors said the availability of books can also be affected by the vendor. If the

book is released late or other complications arise, the bookstore receives the books at a later date.

“That is an important issue, absolutely,” Dr. Dennis Myers, the Faculty Senate chair, said about book availability.

Nors said the bookstore tries to be as accurate as possible but sometimes miscalculates how many students will shop at the bookstore.

Myers also said faculty members are concerned about the prices of books and said the faculty members are aware of the high costs of textbooks.

“Students tell me they can get books less expensively on sites such as amazon.com,” Myers said. “I think faculty, just in general, are aware of incredible costs of textbooks. So advocates for students are finding ways for students to get them less expensively.”

Nors said the publishers set the price of the books at the bookstore.

“The professor picks a book and the publisher sets the price of the book,” Nors said. “When we get the pricing, there is a contractual mark-up from that price that the university and the bookstore has decided upon.”

Nors said the mark-up pays for labor, storefront, freight and

see BOOKS, pg. 6

National scale of new curriculums

Questions arise as the state looks to alter social studies textbooks

By LAURA REMSON
STAFF WRITER

As news of the vote for possible amendments to the Texas State Board of Education social studies curriculum disseminates, questions are being raised as to the national impact of these decisions.

Because Texas is the largest consumer of public school textbooks in the nation, it holds a power over national publishers and the content they produce for other states.

Neal Frey is the president and senior textbook analyst for Educational Research Analysts, a conservative Christian organization that reviews public school textbooks. He spends much of his time looking over books that have been submitted into the Textbook Review and

Adoption Process.

“Texas is one of 22 states that has a state textbook approval process,” Frey said.

“Texas is one of the two biggest states, because of the size of Texas textbook purchases. The textbook market of Texas is very important to publishers,” Frey said. “Publishers tells us that, of the two largest states, the other being California, most other states prefer textbooks that are written to Texas standards because the other states say they feel like Texas textbook rules are clearer and more reasonable than California’s.”

He explained that recently California withdrew from the state textbook approval process until at least 2016, making Texas a default monopoly on new textbook content.

“Publishers are going to take very seriously whatever Texas finally concludes upon,” Frey said. “Publishers are going to revise their textbooks quite closely according to Texas

see TEXAS, pg. 6

Web site counsels couples in conflict

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Keith Sanford, associate professor of psychology, has created a free Web site to help couples better their relationships. The Web site, Couple Conflict Consultant, is located at www.pairbuilder.com.

Within the first two weeks of the site’s existence, Stanford said more than 100 accounts were created.

Sanford said conflict can have both adverse and positive effects, which can either ruin a relationship or help it to grow and become more intimate.

“If conflict goes poorly, it tears a relationship apart and makes life miserable. If conflict

goes well, it can make a relationship better,” Sanford said. “The Web site is important because it addresses conflict, which is an important area of life functioning, and the Web site provides a unique approach to helping people build skills in conflict resolution.”

Sanford said he believes the site’s use of feedback is unique among relationship enhancement programs.

“It’s not a one size fits all. It’s feedback-based guidance in the same way that a coach might provide feedback [to an athlete],” Sanford said. “To my knowledge, I’m not aware of any other program that uses that type of extensive feedback system as the main focus of the

program.”

Sanford used a Baylor faculty research investment program grant to pay for the site so that it can be free to users. However, because the site is part of Sanford’s research, users must consent to participating in that research in order to create an account on the site.

Sanford said putting a relationship enhancement program on the Internet provides many advantages to its users.

“The prevention or relationship enhancement programs are usually things like a weekend seminar, or you go see a counselor for a couple sessions of one-on-one counseling, and one key disadvantage of that is people who are inclined to say

‘let’s go to a relationship enhancement seminar’ are often the ones who don’t need it,” Sanford said. “So I realized it would be cheap, people could use it whenever they want in the privacy of their home, they can use it at the times when they’re most motivated, they could use it as often as it’s needed. And probably the biggest thing is it’s convenient and there’s no stigma attached.”

Dr. Tamara Rowatt, senior lecturer in the department of psychology and neuroscience department, said the site could provide help to those who are reluctant to see a counselor.

“In my opinion, I think one

see COUPLES, pg. 6

Cancer reality yields life’s value

Point of View

By CATY HIRST



When I was little, my mother was a fanatic about having a clean house. We always had a clean house, especially if company came over. And “company” included close family friends and even immediate family.

Our perfectly cleaned house would be scrubbed for hours before company came — the floors were swept again, the furniture was dusted and checked, the knickknacks were arranged perfectly, the living room was “straightened” and all extraneous items were put away.

But this week, when I went home for spring break, we had company over. Twice. And I did not have to clean our relatively clean house. The living room was vacuumed and straightened... but that was it. I was confused.

“I have a list,” my mom explained. “I have a list of things that just don’t matter anymore.”

One thing on this list was making sure the house is ridiculously clean for company. “If they are our friends, they won’t care if there is dust on the furniture. And if they do, I don’t want them as friends anyway,” my mom said.

This sudden change from Type A personality to a more laid-back approach, I think, is because of how much she has learned as a cancer patient.

She quickly learned who her real friends and supporters are. With her hair gone, the sickness and exhaustion caused by intense chemotherapy zapping her energy and the loss of her active career life, she discovered some interesting things about herself and life.

She no longer wants to surround herself by people who may not care about her. If she is going to be surrounded by people, they will be people she loves. Love is real and love is rare. Don’t waste it.

Family games of Monopoly and friendly Wii bowling competitions are some of life’s greatest enjoyments and should be treated as such. Family time is

precious. Don’t waste it.

Friends are some of God’s greatest gifts. They will come out of the woodwork to support you and surround you in times of need.

They will take out your trash, bring you casseroles, take care of your dogs or even shave their heads with you, just so you aren’t the only bald person in the room. Don’t neglect them.

The true friends and family don’t care if the house is not pristine. Coming over to the house is not about seeing a perfectly arranged living room, but about seeing and supporting a dear friend. It’s about being there for each other and having fun together. It is about creating memories together that will last a lifetime — a lifetime that may be shorter than we ever hoped or expected.

As college students, I think these are things we forget. We are young and death seems so far away. We get busy.

We are concentrating on school, work, extracurricular activities, resumes, internships, job applications and outdoing the ever-present competition. These things are not necessarily bad things. In fact, I would say they are imperative parts of life.

But my mom has taught me the importance of being real about life.

The importance of surrounding yourself with people who care about you — not your car, how you dress, or the kind of cosmetics you wear. The importance of calling home, sending e-mails and sharing your life with your family in every possible way. The importance of valuing your life, and the lives of others. The importance of recognizing that our life, while we seem to think it will go on forever, it is infinitely short.

We only have so much time here. We only have one time to get this life right. Don’t waste it.

Caty Hirst is a Caddo, Okla., junior majoring in journalism. She is a staff writer for the Baylor Lariat.



Independence gained, UNT Dallas unfairly cuts contracts with its faculty

Editorial

A position as a university faculty member is a notoriously shaky one, as the politics of academia often wreak havoc on professors’ careers.

Thirty-eight faculty members at the University of North Texas-Dallas realized this firsthand when they were told earlier this month that their contracts would not be renewed in May. This revelation came after the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board declared UNT Dallas a free-standing university. Due to a bill that was passed in 2001 stating that UNT Dallas could be independent once enrollment reached 2,500, the university will become the University of North Texas at Dallas starting in September.

This seems like the perfect example of a university subjecting its faculty to politics at the expense of education.

The logic behind the decision was summed up by the CEO of UNT Dallas, John Ellis Price, in a March 4 interview with the Chronicle of Higher Education.

“As a new state agency, we’re obligated to abide by the law and fill these positions based on processes that are fair and equitable,” he said.

Essentially, Price cited obscure legal reasons for the inability to transfer the 38 faculty members. However, when two branches of Texas A&M University, Texas A&M - Central Texas and Texas A&M

at San Antonio, became free-standing universities in May, all faculty received transfers and those on tenure-track did not lose their status.

This makes the approach of UNT even harder to understand. Either UNT is acting on an unknown interpretation of the law, or there is something else going on behind the scenes. Either way, the 38 faculty members who found their contracts terminated should be given more than an encouragement to reapply for the jobs they now hold. They were qualified enough to be hired initially, so it does not follow that they are unqualified to hold positions at the new university.

Not only is UNT making a managerial mistake, but it is also compromising education by threatening the jobs of a university’s biggest asset — its educators.

Although leaders of the new campus say they are bound by law to hire employees from a great pool of applicants, transferring existing employees should not be out of the question. Even the president of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools’ Commission on Colleges told the Chronicle that transferring appointments still qualifies as hiring a new staff.

The actions of UNT leaders have surely

alienated many professors who spent time at the university focusing on attaining the goal of an independent institution and working to build their careers.

In addition, many current tenure-track professors who have worked to gain tenure status could, if hired back, lose their ranking due to the implementation of a title system that changes the titles of those hired on term contracts to lecturer, senior lecturer and professors of practice.

With this possibility, why would anyone on tenure-track want to risk reapplying for their current job and being hired under a less prestigious title?

Not only does this make little sense, but there also seems to be a large communication gap between the administration and the terminated faculty, which does not make for the best learning environment. A faculty member who spoke with The North Texas Daily said that faculty members were explicitly told in December by Price that their contracts would be renewed in Fall 2010.

It may be too late for the university to take back its ludicrous actions and win back the trust of its faculty, but it should have the courtesy to issue a public apology or clearer explanation to those whose lives it has drastically uprooted with little more than a vague reassurance that they will possibly be rehired.

Reconciliation could mean ‘bitter division’ for Senate

By DAVID BROOKS
NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNIST

Human beings, the philosophers tell us, are social animals. We emerge into the world ready to connect with mom and dad. We go through life jibbering and jabbering with each other, grouping and regrouping. When you get a crowd of people in a room, the problem is not getting them to talk to each other; the problem is getting them to shut up.

To help us in this social world, God, nature and culture have equipped us with a spirit of sympathy. We instinctively feel a tinge of pain when we observe another in pain (at least most of us do). We instinctively mimic, even to a small extent, the mood, manners, yawns and actions of the people around us.

To help us bond and commit, we have been equipped with a suite of moral sentiments. We have an innate sense of fairness. Children from an early age have a sense that everybody should be treated fairly. We have an innate sense of duty. We admire people who sacrifice for the group. We are naturally embarrassed when

we’ve been caught violating some social code. We blush uncontrollably.

As a result of this sympathy and these sentiments, people are usually pretty decent to one another when they relate person to person. The odd thing is that when people relate group to group, none of this applies. When a group or a nation thinks about another group or nation, there doesn’t seem to be much natural sympathy, natural mimicry or a natural desire for attachment. It’s as if an entirely different part of the brain has been activated, utilizing a different mode of thinking.

Group-to-group relations are more often marked by calculation, rivalry and coldness. Members of one group sometimes see members of another group as less than human: Nazi and Jew, Hutu and Tutsi, Sunni and Shiite.

Political leaders have an incentive to get their followers to use the group mode of cognition, not the person-to-person. People who are thinking in the group mode are loyal, disciplined and vicious against foes. People in the person-to-person mode are soft, unpre-

dictable and hard to organize.

There’s a scene in Anthony Trollope’s political novel, “Phineas Finn,” in which young Phineas, about to enter Parliament, tells a party leader that he is going to think for himself and decide issues as he sees best. The leader, Barrington Erle, looks at him with utter disgust. To Erle, anybody who thinks that way is “unstable as water and dishonest as the wind.”

In the United States, leaders in the House of Representatives have done an effective job in getting their members to think in group, not person-to-person, terms. Members usually vote as party blocs. Individuals have very little power. That’s why representatives are often subtle and smart as individuals, but crude and partisan as a collective. The social psychology of the House is a clan psychology, not an interpersonal psychology.

The Senate, on the other hand, has historically been home to more person-to-person thinking. This is because the Senate is smaller and because of Senate rules. Until recently, the Senate leaders couldn’t just ram things

through on party-line votes. Because a simple majority did not rule, and because one senator had the ability to bring the whole body to a halt, senators had an incentive, every day, to develop alliances and relationships with people in the other party.

For decades, individual senators have resisted their leaders’ attempts to run the Senate like the House and destroy these relationships and these humane customs. A few years ago, when Republican leaders tried to pass judicial nominations on party-line votes, rank-and-file members like Barack Obama, Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton spoke out forcefully against rule by simple majority.

But power trumps principle. In nearly every arena of political life, group relationships have replaced person-to-person relationships.

The tempo of the Senate is now set by partisan lunches every Tuesday, whereas the body almost never meets for conversation as a whole. The Senate is now in the process of using reconciliation — rule by simple majority — to try to pass health care.

Reconciliation has been used

with increasing frequency. That was bad enough. But at least for the Bush tax cuts or the prescription drug bill, there was significant bipartisan support. Now we have pure reconciliation mixed with pure partisanship.

Once partisan reconciliation is used for this bill, it will be used for everything, now and forever. The Senate will be the House. The remnants of person-to-person relationships, with their sympathy and sentiment, will be snuffed out. We will live amid the relationships of group versus group, party versus party, inhumanity versus inhumanity.

We have a political culture in which the word “reconciliation” has come to mean “bitter division.” With increasing effectiveness, the system bleaches out normal behavior and the normal instincts of human sympathy.

David Brooks’s Op-Ed column in The New York Times started in September 2003. He has been a senior editor at The Weekly Standard, a contributing editor at Newsweek and the Atlantic Monthly, and he is currently a commentator on “The Newshour with Jim Lehrer.”

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Please Recycle This Issue

After 50 years, laser still fascinates physicists

By JAMES BLAKE EWING
REPORTER

On May 16, 1960, American physicist Theodore Maiman demonstrated the first laser, a device that is developing even more new technologies 50 years later.

"So much has happened in 50 years," Dr. Linda Olafsen, professor of physics, said.

Olafsen said lasers have many everyday uses, such as scanning groceries and playing Blu-rays.

The laser has enabled all kinds of technical developments, such as infrared lasers that are imperceptible to the eye and helpful in redirecting missile attacks.

"It diverts it [the missile] from following the heat signature it was following," Olafsen said.

Olafsen worked as a post doctorate student at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., before coming to Baylor and still works on this kind of technology by researching potential semiconductor materials that are used for infrared lasers.

Houston senior Ian Reeves, a physics major, is helping Olafsen investigate a better way to study lasers.

"It's been a lot of fun," Reeves said. "It's exciting to get to do in-

teresting stuff working with big lasers."

As it currently stands, Reeves and Olafsen are assembling data by placing together the average of the waves.

Because a laser beam is made up of a series of pulses, they have to piece the pulse together from multiple pulses to find a way to look at one pulse.

"It's a beautiful way to learn more about light."

Dr. Linda Olafsen
Professor of physics

They are developing ways to take pictures of the whole beam and see how it changes.

"The biggest thing is realizing how finicky they are. The slightest adjustments can throw everything off," Reeves said.

Lasers are also being developed as weapons, the focus of the Directed Energy Professional Society.

Laser stands for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.

The laser contains a material — usually a gas or a solid such as a semiconductor that contains the

electrons.

"Electrons give up their energy to photons that stimulate other electrons to drop to lower energy levels, yielding even more photons," Olafsen said.

This material is called gain medium, and it results in the emission of light. Mirrors stimulate the electrons to emit more photons by reflecting the photons inside the gain medium, increasing the light intensity.

Olafsen says some of the benefits of lasers are that they are coherent, focused and directed in time in space.

"Some colors that correspond to waves are easier to get," Olafsen said, specifically citing that blue is an easy color, hence the use of Blu-ray.

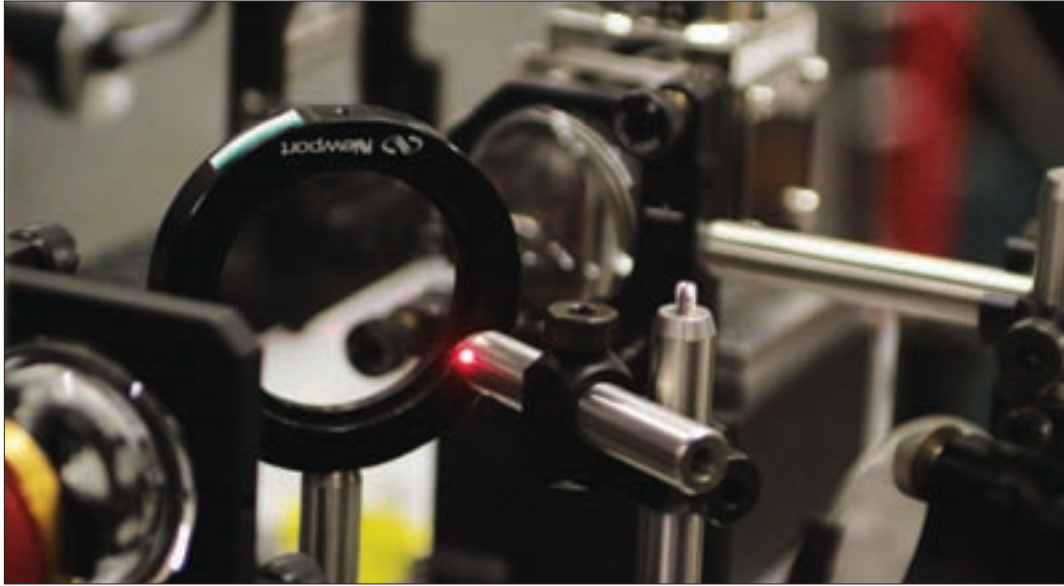
Olafsen works in a lab with select undergraduate and graduate students and uses mostly pulse lasers, but said she would like to get more lasers in class.

"It's a beautiful way to learn more about light," she said.

Dr. Darrin Bellert, chemistry professor, also uses lasers in his classes.

"We look at low-energy pathways for the production of fuel gasses," Bellert said.

He used laser radiation to cause catalytic reactions with methane and ethane gasses to learn more about how and why



JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR

A small infared laser is used to align a high-intensity, near-infrared laser source in the Baylor Sciences Building. These lasers are used to illuminate semi-conductor materials to create eye-safe infrared beams which can be used for defense and environmental monitoring.

catalysts work.

"Once you know, you can control," he said.

Olafsen said the Department of Homeland Security will drive laser technology in the future.

Whatever demands Homeland Security has are usually one of the big advancements.

One current example is the development of X-ray technology.

"People are trying to come up

with a safe but effective technology for scanning," Olafsen said.

Olafsen also said that entertainment drives a lot of the technology as well and that one might see a move from the blue laser light of Blu-rays to the faster ultraviolet light.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the laser, there will be a laser light show designed by Prismatic Magic in conjunction with

the Waco Symphony Orchestra.

The event starts March 20 at 6 a.m. at the Baylor Sciences Building.

Shuttles will take patrons over to Waco Hall to the 7:30 p.m. concert titled "Bells, Brass and Beyond."

The cost is \$5 for Baylor students and free for faculty and staff. Tickets can be bought at www.wacosymphony.com.

Haitian women, children suffer sexual assaults

By MICHELLE FAUL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — When the young woman needed to use the toilet, she went out into the darkened tent camp and was attacked by three men.

"They grabbed me, put their hands over my mouth and then the three of them took turns," the slender 21-year-old said, wriggling with discomfort as she nursed her baby girl, born three

days before Haiti's devastating quake.

"I am so ashamed. We're scared people will find out and shun us," said the woman, who suffers from abdominal pain and itching, likely from an infection contracted during the attack.

Women and children as young as 2, already traumatized by the loss of homes and loved ones in the Jan. 12 catastrophe, are now falling victim to rapists in the sprawling tent cities that have

become home to hundreds of thousands of people.

With no lighting and no security, they are menacing places after sunset. Sexual assaults are daily occurrences in the biggest camps, aid workers say — and most attacks go unreported because of the shame, social stigma and fear of reprisals from attackers.

Rape was a big problem in Haiti even before the earthquake and frequently was used as a

political weapon in times of upheaval. Both times the first democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was ousted, his enemies assassinated his male supporters and raped their wives and daughters.

But the quake that killed an estimated 200,000 people has made women and girls ever more vulnerable. They've lost male protection with the deaths of husbands, brothers and sons. And they are living in close quar-

ters with strangers.

The 21-year-old said her family has received no food aid because the Haitian men handing out coupons for food distribution demand sexual favors.

Sex-for-food is not uncommon in the camps, said a report issued Tuesday by the Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development in Haiti.

"But nobody says anything because they're scared, scared of the criminals and scared of the

police," he said.

Pierre has documented three other gang rapes in the camp, including of a 17-year-old who says she was a virgin before six men attacked her and raped her repeatedly.

"I really worry about the teenager because she has no one to look out for her. She says she sees her attackers but is afraid to report them because she would then have to leave the camp and she has nowhere to go," Pierre

HPV Fact #19:

In a study of female **college students**, about **60%** of them were found to be infected with **HPV** by the end of **3 years**.

HPV Fact #6:

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HBO’s ‘The Pacific’ debuts to huge audiences

By Joe Flint
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES – About 3.1 million people signed up for the Sunday night premiere episode of HBO’s expensive World War II epic, “The Pacific,” according to Nielsen.

HBO, which spent around \$200 million making the 10-part miniseries and millions more on hype, said the audience for the debut was 22 percent higher than the premiere of its last big miniseries, “John Adams.”

The pay cable channel has been heavily promoting the Steven Spielberg- and Tom Hanks-produced event and even took the unusual step of offering the first episode for free on DirecTV as well as on its own Web site and on Fancast.

For those curious as to how “The Pacific” stacks up against “Band of Brothers,” HBO’s first big World War II miniseries from Spielberg and Hanks, which premiered in September 2001, comparisons are more difficult.

That’s because at that time

Nielsen did not measure HBO’s individual channels, but rather combined the audience for all of HBO’s channels into one number.

Having said that, it seems safe to say that “Band of Brothers” had a bigger audience in its debut. HBO had 10 million viewers that night, and it seems hard to swallow that 7 million of them were actually watching old movies on HBO’s various sister channels.

However, the way people watch television has changed dramatically since 2001 and comparing ratings for individual episodes from these two eras may be stretch.

Besides general media fragmentation and a growth of viewing options both on television and online, there was no HBO On Demand then, and the digital video recorder was still a dream. TV shows didn’t show up on DVD until months after their premiere.

In other words, there was more of a must-see approach to viewing television then. Ratings

for other HBO shows back this up. Last season, a typical episode of “Curb Your Enthusiasm” averaged 1.5 million viewers in its Sunday night run, but when on-demand and DVR and second runs are factored in, that number grew to almost 6 million.

In the case of “True Blood,” the Sunday night episodes average about 5 million viewers, but when all other viewing options are factored in, that number jumps to over 12 million. HBO insiders are betting on a similar trend for “The Pacific.”

Of course, because HBO doesn’t sell advertising, it always stresses that ratings are not its main consideration in determining the success of a program.

Instead, HBO banks on maintaining its reputation for high-quality programming you can’t get elsewhere, building its subscriber base and developing ancillary revenue streams.

“Band of Brothers” sold about \$250 million worth of DVDs. Of course, one still needs compelling programming to keep those revenue streams flowing.



James Badge Dale, center, and Joshua Helman, right, star in HBO’s 10-part series, “The Pacific” produced by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks.

HBO has already sold “Band of Brothers” abroad and will likely sell “The Pacific” here to a basic cable network after its run on the pay channel is done.

The History Channel bought “Band of Brothers,” and it scored 4.6 million viewers when it made its debut there in 2004.

Baylor grad’s jewelry appears in ‘Bachelor’ wedding

By Racquel Joseph
Reporter

When Baylor alum Natalie Burkholder began her jewelry line, AddieMia Designs, she never expected to be featured on national television. But then, she never expected to profit from her creative talents either.

On March 8, Molly and Jason Mesnick from the 13th season of “The Bachelor” were married in a televised ceremony and the bridesmaids were wearing Burkholder’s AddieMia creations.

Burkholder’s new jewelry line became a star on the small screen through a simple connection.

A friend of Burkholder is a mid-level producer on the ABC

show “The Bachelor,” a dating show where 25 women compete for the affections of one man in an attempt to find true love.

The bride and planners were looking for custom-made jewelry for the bridal party and AddieMia had a chance to be considered as part of the ceremony.

When the friend provided her the opportunity, Burkholder “thought, why not? Why waste an opportunity?”

Though daunted by the idea of competing against other jewelers, the task at hand was even more challenging.

“A lot of my items are small and dainty and she wanted something chunky and bigger that would show up on TV,” said

Burkholder.

However, it did help that the bride wanted green and gold.

“It was fun. I was thinking of the Baylor fight song the whole time,” Burkholder said.

Burkholder created a necklace of jade green freshwater pearls and beads strung alongside thickly layered gold chains. The necklace is topped with a small detachable handmade flower in a shimmering fabric. The bridesmaids also wore matching green pearl stud earrings encased in thin gold wire to complement the necklace.

The results of Burkholder’s rise to the challenge won over the bride and gave AddieMia a shot at much higher profile. Since the

show aired, Burkholder has had increasing orders for the jewelry on the show and custom orders for more brides.

Burkholder came a long way to get where she is now. After graduating from Baylor in 2001 with a degree in telecommunications (now known as film and digital media), Burkholder immediately moved to Los Angeles. From Los Angeles, Burkholder worked in production on films like “Lord of the Rings” and “Rush Hour.”

Burkholder also completed a stint as a children’s therapist and took a trip to Africa.

After her return to the States, Burkholder found herself in the midst of getting her master’s degree in business administration

and working in high-end retail. During Burkholder’s time in retail, her unique jewelry line, AddieMia, was born.

Burkholder said the the name of her jewelry line, that is available at www.etsy.com/shop/AddieMia, was made of her grandmothers’ names and the line was inspired by a general “love of loveliness.”

Though she ended up abandoning the MBA courses because they “didn’t suit her,” Burkholder used the lessons learned there to help her brand grow.

Baylor communications professor Dr. Michael Korpi taught Burkholder when she was a student.

“She was an excellent student,

very creative. If we’re going to L.A., she’s always the first person I call.”

Kirsten Dickerson, co-founder of Raven + Lily, a design studio, met Burkholder during a Los Angeles event for Baylor alumni and has since become a good friend.

Dickerson received one of the early pieces of AddieMia as a gift and she was excited to hear of Burkholder and AddieMia’s recent achievement.

Dickerson also believes that Burkholder’s jewelry line not only displays her talent, but also her character.

“Natalie is a warm, creative and beautiful person inside and out and her jewelry reflects that.”

FUN TIMES

Answers at www.baylorlariat.com — McClatchy-Tribune

- Across**
- 1 Repairs with thread
 - 5 Burning
 - 10 Part of C.W. Post: Abbr.
 - 14 BCS org.
 - 15 Tot watchers’ nicknames
 - 16 Muscle quality
 - 17 “Unbelievable!”
 - 19 Radio toggle switch
 - 20 What you can’t have success without?
 - 21 Abate
 - 23 La Méditerranée, e.g.
 - 25 *Knitting aid, in a way
 - 28 “Born Free” lioness
 - 30 Record book
 - 31 Evaluates
 - 32 Adopt, as a stray
 - 35 Cosmetic surgery, for short
 - 37 *Office component
 - 42 R.E.M.’s “The ___ Love”
 - 43 Like angry bees
 - 45 Highway with a terminus at Dawson Creek, British Columbia
 - 49 Night sch. course
 - 51 Give off
 - 52 *Legendary archer
 - 56 Évian, for one
 - 57 Each
 - 58 Japanese-American
 - 60 Almond __: crunchy candy
 - 61 *Cartoon beeper
 - 66 Reactions to no-brainers
 - 67 “Coffee __?”
 - 68 Nevada neighbor
 - 69 Renege on a dele?
 - 70 Oracles
 - 71 Links warning, and a prefix with the second word of the answers to starred clues

- Down**
- 1 __-Cat
 - 2 Old French coin
 - 3 Wakeboard relative
 - 4 Exams for srs.
 - 5 Yosemite photographer

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60						61	62	63					64	65
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- Adams
- 6 ‘60s-’70s Saudi king
 - 7 Having one sharp, musically
 - 8 Cry of support
 - 9 Competitor of Helena and Coco
 - 10 Mississippi River source
 - 11 Vegan’s credo
 - 12 Add, as if by pouring
 - 13 Plays the siren
 - 18 Cleopatra’s undoing
 - 22 Equipment for 52-Across
 - 23 Came across
 - 24 Jack of Westerns
 - 26 Recital performer
 - 27 Pre-weekend “Phew!”
 - 29 Cold War agcy.
 - 33 Like some unexpected endings
 - 34 Lille denial
 - 36 Home-school link: Abbr.
 - 38 Appear to be
- 39 Have debts
- 40 Collides with
 - 41 Leak
 - 44 Beantown transit syst.
 - 45 Oscars and such
 - 46 Curl around the edge of the hole without going in, in golf
 - 47 Stale expression
 - 48 Blue Jays’ div.
 - 50 Bank, often
 - 53 Houston hockey team
 - 54 Turkish money
 - 55 Sch. with a Shreveport campus
 - 59 Ample, slangily
 - 62 Pay dirt
 - 63 Had
 - 64 Auditory organ
 - 65 Scoreboard letters
- The correct clues and crossword puzzles are now available on www.Baylor.edu/Lariat.

	7	9	4					
		4		5		2		
3	5				2			
			3	8			4	
4				6				3
	6							
			7				3	2
		1		3		6		
					4	7	1	

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

There’s no wrong answer to this multiple choice question.

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Bears launch spring practice with Griffin back

By MATT LARSEN
SPORTS WRITER

Football was flying inside the Allison Indoor Practice Facility Tuesday as spring rains ushered in the first day of spring ball for the Bears.

"The great thing about spring is, what are you preparing for? Yourself," head coach Art Briles said. "When you're in season, you spend all your time working against opponents' schemes and personnel. Right now, we're preparing for Baylor. That's what I love about it — is, because it's football in its purest sense."

And football in its purest sense is exactly what the Baylor squad is ready for.

After an injury-plagued fall, capped off by quarterback Robert Griffin's season-ending ACL tear, the Bears have long awaited the opportunity to step back on the field with their quarterback.

Although Griffin has said he feels ready to go, Briles is putting the reins on his talented quarterback. Griffin will work out with the team, but he isn't expected to participate in any contact drills.

"He's healthy. We've all been following his progress," senior offensive tackle Danny Watkins said. "We're really excited that he's going to be back for spring ball, and were all hoping for that bowl game. That's our goal and everyone is really confident that it's going to happen this year."

Griffin himself voiced his enthusiasm for getting back to workouts with the team.

"The blood is flowing," he said. "It's great to be back out with the guys, be a part of the team not just mentally but physically, [and] let the guys know I'm here."

No one needs to hear him say he's ready, since the redshirt sophomore, who underwent surgery and has been rehabbing ever since going down three games into last season, displays an enthusiasm to fully rejoin his team.

"I can't imagine what it was like sitting on the sideline watching the games go by," Watkins said. "But you don't even have to talk to him. You can look at him and he's ready to go."

Griffin did more than just twiddle his thumbs on the sidelines last fall, however, and feels

he has grown in ways he could not have if he had been on the field.

"It allowed me to watch, so it accelerated the mental process," he said. "[It] let me see things I couldn't see while I was playing. I actually got to sit out for a year, which I didn't get to do when I first got here like most quarterbacks do. So I think mentally I'll be farther ahead than I was."

Griffin will put that mental understanding to use with an offensive line in front of him that was left with some holes with the departures of James Barnard and J.D. Walton, who is expected to be one of the top centers selected in this year's NFL Draft.

"I think the [offensive] line just got thrown in a blender and shaken up because we're losing two great players," Watkins said.

Sophomore Philip Blake and junior transfer Robert T. Griffin will be expected to rise to the occasion.

"Those are a big set of shoes he's got to fill," Watkins said in reference to Blake stepping into the role of center for Walton.

"But Phillip and Big Rob both are solid athletes. [I'm] not worried about it all."

With the quarterback Griffin's return and the influx of new faces, the Bears open spring ball with a renewed set of goals, especially in light of their fellow Bears' success on the basketball court.

"It's very encouraging," said sophomore wide receiver Kendall Wright, who was also on the basketball team his freshman year. "Because nobody thought our basketball team could do what they are doing. And I think they have a chance to win it all. It has encouraged us a lot, we had the ability to be good the last few years, but we just had a few little things that hurt us."

According to Griffin, the team is ready to put those little things as well as past expectations behind them.

"I know they were really high last year," he said of the expectations of last year's squad. "And things didn't quite go our way. But we can't worry about those expectations."

"We just got to worry about what we can control and that is how we play, so we're just going to go out there and control that."



JED DEAN | PHOTO EDITOR

Robert Griffin (No. 10) converses with teammates during Baylor's first spring practice Tuesday afternoon in the Jay and Jenny Allison Indoor Practice Facility. Griffin missed the majority of the season with a torn ACL and will not participate in contact drills.

Woods to make anticipated return at Masters

By MARK HERRMANN
McCLATCHY NEWS

Tiger Woods will enter his new world by going back to the best part of his old one. He announced Tuesday he will return to golf next month at the Masters, the event that established him as a major personality and that always has made him feel most at home.

On April 8 at Augusta National Golf Club, as controlled an environment as there is in his sport, Woods will play competitive golf for the first time since his life and image were shattered by a scandal that began last November. His fall—starting with an SUV crash and continuing with a series of revelations about affairs—was as swift, devastating and intensely covered as that of any public figure in recent memory.

So his return was sure to be dramatic, no matter where it occurred.

He chose a place where he feels most comfortable, rejecting the chance to play a tune-up for the season's first major championship at a regular tournament.

"The Masters is where I won my first major, and I view this tournament with great respect. After a long and necessary time away from the game, I feel like I'm ready to start my season at Augusta," Woods, a four-time Masters champion, said in a statement released Tuesday morning.

"The major championships have always been a special focus in my career and, as a professional, I think Augusta is where I need to be, even though it's been a while since I last played."



McCLATCHY NEWS

Tiger Woods, left, adjusts the 2002 Masters Green Jacket he received from Augusta National Golf Club chairman William W. "Hootie" Johnson in this April 14, 2002 photo. Woods said Tuesday that he will play at the Masters after a four-month hiatus because of a sex scandal. The Masters begins on April 8.

Billy Payne, chairman of both The Masters and Augusta National, said in a statement, "We support Tiger's decision to return to competitive golf beginning at this year's Masters Tournament. Additionally, we support and encourage his stated commitment to continue the significant work required to rebuild his personal and professional life."

Woods apparently is confident the Masters can absorb the attention without exploiting it. The tournament is run by the club and is sold out every year. Its media credential allotment is fixed. Local law enforcement is well versed in handling traf-

fic flow and security outside the gates.

Arnold Palmer, whose invitational tournament at Orlando's Bay Hill next week was reportedly under consideration for Woods' comeback, told Golf Channel, "They will control everything. If there is a place in the world you can do this, it will be there."

A photo of Woods and his wife Elin on their property near Orlando, taken last Saturday, has been widely circulated.

"I have undergone almost two months of inpatient therapy and I am continuing my treatment. Although I'm returning to

competition, I still have a lot of work to do in my personal life," Woods said in his statement.

As wild a spectacle as his return likely will be, it actually will represent a step toward normalcy for him, his family and his sport. PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said on Sunday that he has been asked "300 times a day" when Woods will come back.

In a statement Tuesday, Finchem said, "He has invested a lot of time taking steps, both in his personal and professional life, in order to prepare for his return. We all wish him and his family the best as he rejoins the Tour."

Sports briefs

Football facility receives environmental mark

The U.S. Green Building Council awarded Baylor's newly constructed Jay and Jenny Allison Indoor Football Practice Facility a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Rating.

The practice facility, which opened in the fall of 2009, is now the nation's first true football fieldhouse to receive this recognition.

Big 12 Pitcher of the Year to miss rest of season

Baylor softball was dealt a huge blow with the news that sophomore pitcher Whitney Canion will miss the rest of the season with an injury to her pitching arm.

Canion, last year's Big 12 Freshman of the Year, currently has a record of 5-3 and a 1.58 ERA.

The Lady Bears (16-7) are on the road today against the UT-Arlington Mavericks (15-9).

Women's tennis clinches top spot in poll

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association now has Baylor's women's tennis team as the No. 1-ranked team in the country for the first time in program history. Baylor has won its past five matches, including wins over two top-four opponents in UCLA and North Carolina.

The Lady Bears continue Big 12 play Friday against the Oklahoma State Cowboys at the Baylor Tennis Center.

Track places at NCAA Indoor Championships

The men's 4x400-meter relay, winner of the previous three National Indoor titles, finished in second place at the NCAA Indoor Championships last Saturday. The Bears' time of 3:05.01 clocked in 0.61 seconds behind Texas A&M University.

With the indoor season now over, Baylor's track and field team begins the outdoor season by hosting the Dr Pepper Invitational Saturday at the Hart-Patterson Track and Field Complex.

Men's golf continues play

The men's golf team heads to the National Invitational Tournament today at the Omni Tucson National Golf Club in Tucson, Ariz.

Last week, the Bears placed seventh in the Seminole Intercollegiate behind a strong performance by junior Payne Gniwek, who also finished in seventh place.

Men's tennis squad takes on TCU today

The No. 8-ranked men's tennis team plays host to TCU today for the second time this year. Baylor took down the Horned Frogs 7-0 in their last meeting.

The Bears are currently riding a winning streak of seven matches, highlighted by a successful road trip to California where they beat No. 8-ranked UCLA and No. 24-ranked Pepperdine.

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TEXAS from pg. 1

standards. Then they will market these books to other states across the nation."

Sherry Smith, director of purchasing for Waco Independent School District, isn't sure the exact reasoning for Texas' influence over publishers.

"It's just the number of kids," Smith said. "Because the size of [Texas] and our population, publishers are going to hear our needs so they can sell books to us. And the rest of the nation just kind of has to deal with it and deal with what Texas wants because they want to sell to Texas because that's where the money is. We're the biggest volume user from what I understand ... You cater to who's got the money. We've got the money and we buy the most books."

Frey said other states are free to use books that do not go through the Texas approval process, but that when they do, it's a marketing point for other states.

"Major publishers actually appreciate the Texas process because it's a filter," Frey said. "They get a lot of factual errors corrected here."

BOOKS from pg. 1

other costs and that the average mark-up on a textbook for most bookstores is 25 to 28 percent and that Baylor Bookstore falls in this range.

Students have many options to shop for books, which has influenced the sale of books at the bookstore, Nors said.

"There has been some type of decline," Nors said.

"That could be because students have been purchasing ebooks, digital books, or they have been purchasing other areas or they have gone into purchasing a rental. We have not seen a huge influx in our numbers."

Web sites like Amazon typically sell books much cheaper than Baylor.

For example, the English 2303 book "Norton Anthology of English Literature" is \$51.30 if you buy it used at the Baylor Bookstore.

But you can buy the same book at Amazon for \$24.14.

However, Nors said to be careful when shopping online if the books come from individuals.

"You might want to be concerned with what you are getting," Nors said.

"You may not be getting what it is showing you on the screen."

COUPLES from pg. 1

of the greatest values of what he does is that he reaches what might be traditionally considered an underserved population," Rowatt said.

"These would be people who would not traditionally seek martial counseling, because a lot of people are resistant to going into somebody's office to get help, so they can still get access to help through the Internet without having to go to a clinician's office."

Neil Luft, president of Internet Imagineering, the Waco-based custom Web development firm that helped engineer the site, said the Web site is beneficial because of the amount of information it makes available to couples.

"The Web site is really kind of an all-in-one solution to let couples examine conflicts that they might have in their lives and their relationship," Luft said.

"We built it in a way that allows them to get instant feedback on some of their conflicts, and the other thing that's really key is it provides a wealth of educational material to allow them to examine textbook definitions based on the conflicts that they're having," Sanford said both members of a couple can use the site, or one member can use it alone.

The process involves completing an assessment over 14 areas of conflict resolution, which gives immediate feedback and shows areas of high and low concern for the individual.

For each area there are links to a resource bank that provides information and various improvement strategies that individuals can choose from.

There is also a goal worksheet to help users determine what they want to achieve, see their progress and decide what techniques might work for them.

Users can repeatedly come back to the Web site to work on resolving new conflicts or to find new techniques to use in resolv-

Karen McDonald, social studies content specialist for Waco ISD, said the district is coming up for new textbooks in the next two years.

She anticipates a huge effect from the decisions of the Texas State Board of Education.

"We would have to make sure that the changes that are made on the text would be incorporated in the books that we choose," McDonald said.

"But it's also going to make an impact on how we teach because we have to teach the state mandated curriculum. As you know, Waco ISD uses a curriculum program called CSCOPE."

McDonald said CSCOPE is making some changes within the curriculum and that textbooks would have to work within the curriculum changes.

As to the overall effect on textbooks, McDonald said it depends on the specific content that's being changed.

"We'll use George Washington for example," McDonald said.

"If George Washington is already in the textbook, but the texts come out and say put less of

an emphasis on George Washington or put more of an emphasis on George Washington, then no, it's not a big impact on the textbook because it's already there. It's just how the teacher teaches that is the difference."

One of the more affected topics is the idea of 'capitalism' changing to 'free enterprise.'

"It's going to affect fifth grade U.S. history, Texas history, eighth and 11th grade U.S. history," McDonald said.

"It's going to affect government. It's going to affect economics.

So you've got several more courses where that concept is going to be affected ... it's just a broader scope."

Like other changes before, McDonald said, the curriculum will adapt.

"We adjust and we continue," McDonald said.

"We don't always have to agree with everything that's put in there. Whether we do agree or we don't agree, we have a state-mandated curriculum and that's what we will teach."

books, the bookstore is already stocked in the books they need. If students sell books back during finals, and the book is used the next semester, students can get up to half of the cost of the book.

Myers and Nors both mentioned the possibility of the bookstore implementing a book-renting program, which would save students money in the costs of books.

However, this program is still being worked on and the details are uncertain. Nors hopes to have more information in about a month.

Stone also said faculty members are curious about new technology, such as the use of ebooks. She said faculty members have questions about the future of where book buying is heading.

Myers said these issues will be addressed at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

"A representative from Follett Corporation, the vendor for our bookstore, is a national bookstore contract coming to Faculty Senate on April 13," Myers said.

Myers also said Chris Krause, assistant vice president for Campus Services, will be coming to Faculty Senate to address faculty's concerns.

POET from pg. 1

ings.

German professor and Pi Beta Kappa member Dr. Jennifer Good said the was a conversation with Wilbur about his stories and how the world inspires him.

"Hearing someone talk about poetry is moving," Good said. "When you hear the author you have this open door to understanding."

Alaphretta, Georgia senior and classics major Noelle Jacot finds Wilbur's poems simple enough for anybody to understand yet they still have a certain deepness to them.

"Even if I get lost, I can see what he is trying to say, which encourages me to read more poetry," Jacot said. "His writing is very skilled. Like C.S. Lewis' Narnia series, you see more and more things as you get older, but still understand it as a child. It's an important piece of work with many layers; You understand a

Professor embeds into lifestyle to learn culture

By LELA ATWOOD
REPORTER

The wall of Dr. Lynn Tatum's office is covered with photos of people clad in Middle Eastern robes. When asked about a worn piece of pottery that was pieced together, he remarked that it was made during the time of Abraham.

Tatum, a professor of the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, said his love for Middle Eastern culture started when he was a student at Baylor. His summer study abroad trip to Russia fell through at the last minute, so he went to Israel instead.

"I love everything about the Middle East from the dawn of civilization to Middle East Politics," Tatum said.

Tatum said people need to go live in another culture to better understand their native culture.

"We all think our culture was handed down from Mount Sinai where you start school at 5, go to college, get a job, start a family," Tatum said.

"You learn that cultural values are ultimately choices."

After graduating from Baylor, Tatum enrolled in a program at Duke University that gave him the opportunity to study at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

To get a fuller picture of the

local community, he lived in the Jewish community, the Muslim Community, the Arab Christian community, and the Armenian Christian community.

"On the biggest issues of justice and morality they all agree, but they get caught up in particular squabbles that keep them at odds with one another," Tatum said.

Tatum also said that they distrust other people groups.

"Everyone wants peace and justice but they're afraid to put themselves at the mercy of the other groups," Tatum said.

Alison Dunn, a senior speech communications and religion major from Dallas, said that Tatum is good at helping students figure out their personal viewpoints.

"Dr. Tatum is the most amazing professor ever," she said. "He asks questions that are difficult to grapple with that make you think, but he allows you to develop your own thoughts and doesn't pressure you to believe the way he believes."

While in the Middle East, Tatum had the opportunity to be a part of many archaeological digs, an activity he doesn't plan to stop doing any time soon.

"It's eerie to be digging through ash from the devastation of Judah from Nebuchadnezzar," he said. "You pick up smashed

pieces of pottery and you can connect it with in a moment in time so crucial of our understanding of God."

Tatum has also had the opportunity to spend time with the Bedouin people, a Muslim nomadic group that has had the same life style for millennia. Tatum described the Bedouins as people who live similar to those in Abrahamic times.

He remembers their hospitality when he stopped by a tent to go to a wedding.

"They never asked me why I was there. They just fed me the best food they had and constantly brought me coffee," Tatum said.

Although remnants of this lifestyle still exist, Tatum said that it is fading quickly as more people work in surrounding towns.

"It's sad to see a lifestyle that existed for millennia go away, but they now have good medical care, girls learning to read and write, and they can go to college," Tatum said.

Erica Cyril, a junior psychology major from Dallas, said that Tatum effectively presents his topics in a way that engages students.

"I like his teaching style a lot because he's animated, and he seems to love what he teaches," Cyril said. "That gets students excited about it as well."

Israel, U.S. back from rift

By ANNE GEARAN
AND STEVEN GUTKIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The United States and Israel stepped back Tuesday from their deepest rift in decades, a dispute over new Jewish homes in a traditionally Arab part of Jerusalem that quickly became a test of U.S. and Israeli commitment to peace talks and one another.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said U.S. and Israeli officials are in intense talks about resuming peace negotiations, moving past the breach opened when Israel announced last week, during a visit to Jerusalem by Vice President Joe Biden, that it will build 1,600 more Jewish houses in east Jerusalem.

Israeli officials privately say Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — Washington-bound next

week — is willing to go to some lengths to calm tensions. U.S. officials are also looking for a way to finesse their demand that Israel cancel the construction.

There is no obvious half-measure, and both countries are wary of looking weak to the other, to important political constituencies at home and to the Arab world. Still, the rhetoric from both capitals suddenly softened.

"We have a close, unshakable bond between the United States and Israel and between the American and Israeli people," Clinton said. "We share common values and a commitment to a democratic future for the world and we are both committed to a two-state solution. But that doesn't mean that we're going to agree."

Clinton has been the leading voice of U.S. outrage over the episode, which embarrassed Biden and called into question Israel's stated willingness to resume talks with the United States as an intermediary.

She has called the announcement an insult and dressed down Netanyahu by telephone last week. The United States wants to see a gesture from Israel to the Palestinians and a statement that the biggest issues dividing those two parties, including the fate of Jerusalem, will be on the table for talks.

"Israel appreciates and values the warm words of Secretary of State Clinton about the deep ties between Israel and the U.S. and the commitment of the U.S. to Israel's security," government spokesman Mark Regev said in Jerusalem. "Concerning the commitment to peace — Israel's government has proved over the past year its commitment to peace, in words and in deeds."

For President Barack Obama, the unusually public fight tests his willingness to take Israel to task in the name of Mideast peace, even if it means angering

some powerful political forces whose support is necessary to further his domestic agenda.

For his part, Netanyahu is left to choose between his desire to populate east Jerusalem with Jews and his need not to alienate his all-important U.S. ally.

Netanyahu's looming visit leaves little time to paper over the rift. If Netanyahu gets a cold shoulder, he has little incentive to scrap settlements the United States sees as an affront to peace talks. If he skips the trip entirely, the Obama administration risks a backlash from the pro-Israel lobby and its congressional backers, many of whom think Washington has already taken the spat too far.

The dispute exposed tensions that have been simmering between the two allies since the election of a liberal-minded U.S. administration and a right-leaning Israeli government more than a year ago. The United States views the housing expansion as a deliberate complication to an eventual peace deal.

Palestinians want east Jerusalem to be the capital of an eventual independent state.

Netanyahu on Tuesday ordered his ministers and spokespeople not to talk publicly about the building plan.

However, Interior Minister Eli Yishai, whose office issued the order for the new homes, did agree to speak to The Associated Press about other issues, such as the need to calm tensions with the U.S.

"I am very sorry that there is an escalation now and we are taking many measures to calm this," he said. However, he added that "Israel is independent and can do what it thinks is right."

An AP reporter was poked in the back by a Yishai aide when he asked the minister about the construction plan. The minister then ended the interview, removing a microphone from his lapel.

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