



WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU CAN'T BE

The Baylor Lariat

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 1, 2010

www.baylorlariat.com



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Worthy opponent

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Most wonderful time

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Movie review

Disney's "Tangled," based on the fairy tale of Rapunzel, is a "frank, abrupt, tongue-in-cheek animated musical"

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Bountiful blessings

Watch Baylor students share what they're thankful for at the Thanksgiving feast on Fountain Mall

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Bear Briefs

The place to go to know the places to go

Visit from pro

The Baylor Triathlon Club will host a discussion panel with professional triathlete Amanada Stevens at 6:30 p.m. today in the Baylor Sciences Building.

Horns of plenty

The Baylor Trombone Choir will perform a free concert at 7:30 p.m. today in Jones Concert Hall in the Glennis McCrary Music Building.

Dance the day away

Come to the McLane Student Life Center courts No. 1 and 2 between 1 and 2:30 p.m. Saturday for the Zumba Master Class. The class is \$5 and will be led by certified instructors. Get in the holiday spirit by bringing a canned food donation for the Caritas food drive.

Foreign students tackle holiday dilemma

By YUEQIN YANG
CONTRIBUTOR

For many international students, there is definitely that 'OK, I should be going home, too' feeling when classmates hoist baskets of laundry into their cars, and drive back to see families and friends. But home is too far away.

When San Antonio senior Jack Chen headed back home for Thanksgiving on Nov. 23, he didn't go alone. He was joined by Hunan, China, graduate student Wang Yao, who was invited to Chen's house for the holiday.

"My parents really love to meet the friends from college," Chen said. "Wang is a great friend. We prepared dinner, played games, went to church, had Thanksgiving dinner with some international students from the local colleges and did some shopping."

Chen is not alone in welcoming Baylor students home for the break. Many international students who live far from Waco spent Thanksgiving with their professors, welcome families, friends and classmates.

"Americans open their homes to international students — they want to spend the special time with the students," said Alexine Burke, international student adviser for the Center for International Education. "Baylor has organized a program that connects international students with [People Around the World Sharing] partners and welcome families to provide them an opportunity to know more about America culture."

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MAKENZIE MASON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

All I want for Christmas

McAlester, Okla., junior Akisha Keval admires the Christmas sets Monday on the second floor of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Political expert to visit Baylor

By SARA TIRRITO
STAFF WRITER

The post-inauguration portion of the Presidential Symposium Series will continue today with political philosopher Dr. Jean Bethke Elshtain speaking to the Baylor community about the importance of a liberal arts education at 3 p.m. in Kayser Auditorium of the Hankamer School of Business.

Elshtain is the Leavey Chair in the Foundations of American Freedom at Georgetown University and the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political

Ethics at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. She has written and edited a number of books and also has been published in various journals of civic opinion.

"She's a nationally and internationally recognized expert in a number of fields of political science, political thought, international relations, ethics — a whole range of subjects that are also important to Baylor," said Dr. David Clinton, professor and chair of the political science department at Baylor. "She has published widely. She has been the prolific analyst of contemporary events. So she's

brought political, ethical, moral [and] philosophical thought to bear on real contemporary issues."

A friend of Elshtain's, Dr. Byron Johnson, co-director for the Institute of Studies of Religion and distinguished professor of social sciences, said Elshtain's breadth of expertise in various fields is impressive.

"She's just a giant in the academy and she's one of these rare scholars whose record in so many different disciplines is just astounding," Johnson said. "So whether you're talking political science or you're talking philosophy, she has

very few peers."

Because of Elshtain's interest in Baylor and its mission, Johnson said he believes she was a good choice to bring to Baylor.

"She's kept a close eye on Baylor. She's a Christian and there are so many Christians throughout the academy all across the country, and I think across the world, that really are watching Baylor and trying to see if this grand experiment, what we call Vision 2012, can really be achieved — being world class in terms of excellence and also being

SEE **SERIES**, page 5

Oral stories of Wacoans frozen in history by tour

By CARMEN GALVAN
STAFF WRITER

StoryCorps, a nonprofit organization dedicated to recording and preserving oral history, is visiting Waco this holiday season.

The mobile tour began recording in Waco Central Library on Austin Avenue on Nov. 26 and will be scheduling appointments until Dec. 20, said Eloise Melzer, state supervisor with the StoryCorps mobile tour.

"Our mission is to record the stories of everyday Americans of all different backgrounds and walks of life," Melzer said. "We want to record them and preserve them for future generations, and

we want to archive their stories in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C."

The national oral history project records the conversations and interviews between friends and loved ones with the purpose of preserving their diverse life experiences and memories. Once recorded, the interviews have the possibility of being broadcasted through National Public Radio or other national media outlets, Melzer said.

The project was initiated by Dave Isay, a radio documentarian who has been producing radio documentaries for National Public Radio for years. Melzer said Isay developed a documentary

that taught people to use the recording equipment to record their own lives and he produced a piece based on the collected footage.

"Through the process [Isay] saw how empowered people felt by documenting their life and the ability to ask questions of their family members that they normally wouldn't ask," Melzer said. "The participants also walked away with the recording of their family's voices."

This type of documentary inspired Isay to begin StoryCorps in 2003, and the project has expanded to a national organization since then, recording more

SEE **TOUR** page 5



COURTESY PHOTO

The StoryCorps bus travels across America recording the conversations of ordinary people for preservation in the Library of Congress.

Ants go marching: Insect discipline applied to military

By MEGHAN HENDRICKSON
STAFF WRITER

Baylor engineers are researching swarm patterns of insects to provide swarm intelligence for the nation's military.

According to Dr. Robert Marks, distinguished professor of electrical and computer engineering, there is increasing military interest in unmanned autonomous vehicles. A collection of vehicles can act like a swarm of insects, and Marks and his team are researching to find simple rules the vehicles can follow to enable the military to complete its mission.

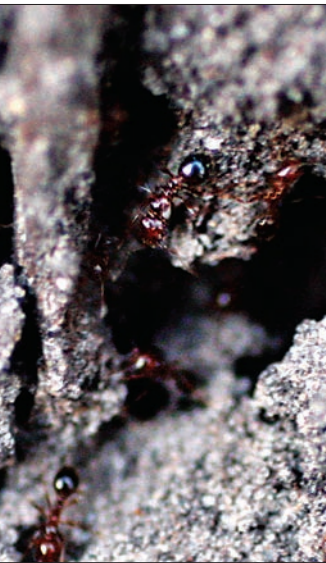
Marks is working with Dr. Benjamin Thompson of the Applied Research Laboratory at Pennsylv-

ania State University and his research assistant, Albert Yu, who just received his Master of Science in electrical and computing engineering from Baylor, to conduct research for the Office of Naval Research to develop swarm algorithms for Navy applications.

"Dumb bugs do smart things," Marks said. "Bees build intricate hives. Ants build and defend ant-hills."

Marks explained how ants figure out how to get the Milky Way candy bar someone drops on the sidewalk back to their home by traveling the shortest distance, despite obstacles that prevent that path from being a straight line.

"Using the same algorithm we learn from ants, we can get mes-



MAKENZIE MASON | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

sages, Milky Way bars, over communication paths to their destination using information packets, ants, in a very efficient way," Marks said.

Marks went on to say that social insects are robust and adaptive. He said that even if someone steps on half the ants taking the Milky Way bar to their home, the ants will still complete the task; it will just take longer. He said that ants are individually unaware of the overall task they are performing and they continue to follow their simple rules to complete their mission, without a master controller directing their every move. It is these simple rules that Marks and his team are trying to create for the military.

Thompson, tactical processing

and control department head at the Applied Research Laboratory and Baylor alumnus, said that the ultimate goal is to create great engineers to further the mission of the Navy.

"Along the way, with this particular effort, we hope to discover new and interesting things about how swarms of autonomous vehicles can be created to interact with some predefined and useful purpose," Thompson said.

Marks' research stems from an idea he learned from his grandfather.

"My grandfather, who had a third-grade education, once told me that man has never done

SEE **INSECTS**, page 5

The Grimm tale of politics and celebrity

Once upon a time — in a time far, far away in the future — there is an American political sphere that cherishes realism and rationalism. After years upon years of praising the stunt politicians and media-attention seekers,



Nick Dean | Editor in chief

Americans will use the power of their votes to force out the celebrities and usher in politicians that are actually real. It's a fairy tale I daydream about — but I don't think it's far off.

Voters are exhausted. They are tired of the lies and the hyperbole. The major players in American politics aren't real. They are like protagonists and antagonists in a highly dramatic, twisting piece of literature. Barack Obama plays the role of a struggling president hoping to bring much change but instead finds himself sitting idle, promising much and delivering little. He can't please the furthest of the Left and he's a socialist to most Republicans.

Nancy Pelosi is the wicked witch of the East. Politicians only use her name in two ways — to show that they are not like her or to show that their opponent voted for her. When someone attempted to dethrone her from the top of the party, she still managed to finagle her way to the top.

But the fairy tale isn't contained to America's Left. The Right has its stars. Sarah Palin, the Alaskan mother rallying fellow hockey moms to combat the Establishment and reclaim America for the family.

And we can't forget Rush Limbaugh, the conspiracy guru who broadcasts drama from his radio lair for all the Right to hear. He's on record as saying that he would have moved out of the country if Barack Obama won the presidency. (Obama won. Rush stayed.)

These are the characters of our current political situation. How did this happen? How did pragmatism slip away from the American public while hyperbole stole the spotlight? When did we begin to value celebrity over aptitude?

Nothing about the people influencing our policies seems real and I'm ready for that to change. Voters ought to reconsider the qualities we need in our nation's leaders. A certain level of celebrity is inherent for the top leaders of our nation. But when is it enough? How many more TV shows? How many more media stunts?

Let's take Palin for example. Far from insipid, Palin is an active topic in the news realm where she is in a constant battle with her nemesis, the media.

I wonder why she's covered so much. It's not like she was a vice presidential candidate in 2008. Or that her daughter just got third place on a B-grade TV show. Or that she just finished a weeklong series on TLC about her homeland of Alaska. Or that she just started a book tour for her recent release.

This problem isn't just caused by the votes constituents cast. Journalists are partly to blame. News outlets need to recognize that perhaps Palin has staked her claim as the archenemy of the media just to get more attention. (Clearly, she made it into my column.) The truth though, is that Palin quit her public service job. She didn't finish her governorship in Alaska. She hasn't announced that she is running in 2012 yet. The only reason the media continue to cover her is because she rants about political issues on Facebook and her daughter has third-place dancing skills.

Palin has created her character perfectly and that false identity has sparked in me the urge for a more realistic, more beneficial political system. I am determined to seek out the true character of those wishing to be elected to serve the public. I want real people leading my country. I want the people that will work toward legitimate change, the candidates that care more about their constituents than press coverage. I want candidates that care.

And that may take awhile, but a guy can dream.

Nick Dean is a junior journalism and political science double major from Austin and the editor in chief of The Lariat.



College football should abandon BCS system

Editorial

In 2009 the University of Texas saw a team it defeated compete for the national championship. This season Texas A&M will watch two teams battle for the Big 12 Championship, both of which the Aggies beat earlier in the year.

While college football fans can and do enjoy debating who is better than whom, the official BCS rankings pose a problem and keep teams with championship potential out of the running for the title.

The ranking system, using computer algorithms and human voters, dictates the teams placed in the national championship game and the four BCS bowls, the four most prestigious bowls of the college football season.

It is also the last ditch tie-breaking procedure in the Big 12, SEC and ACC, which each hosts its own championship games.

The BCS rankings are released beginning with the eighth week of the season, presumably to give teams the majority of the season to build their "resumes" and plead their case for BCS appearances.

Despite the generally strong teams and competitive games the BCS produces, its methods of ranking teams and awarding bowl bids can prove unfair.

A large problem with the BCS is its failure to acknowledge how well a team is playing at the end of the season.

Teams in other NCAA championships, like the College World Series and men's and women's basketball tournaments, know they have a chance to win if they reach their potential by the end of the season.

If a football team plays poorly at the beginning of the season and makes changes to the starting lineup that improve its quality, it is rarely taken into account in the BCS rankings.

Seasons like this can occur

in basketball as well, but despite receiving a low tournament seed because of early season losses, an improved team has every opportunity to make a championship run.

Conversely, if a highly ranked football team loses a key player to injury in the last week of the season and therefore becomes weaker than lower ranked teams, there is no chance for those teams to defeat it in postseason play like a No. 7 basketball seed beating a No. 2. The bowl bids are already settled.

Another issue with the BCS is its automatic conference qualifiers.

Usually the conferences whose champions automatically go to a BCS game (SEC, Big 12, Pac 10, Big Ten, ACC and Big East) produce at least one team that most would agree should be in a BCS bowl.

But it is not always the case. Take the Big East, whose current leader, Connecticut, is unranked in the USA Today coaches poll.

If the Huskies can defeat South Florida next weekend, they will earn a BCS berth instead of numerous teams that coaches and media have deemed better than them. Maybe they are, and maybe they aren't.

But the current system gives no chance for higher poll-ranked teams to prove themselves over lower-ranked automatic qualifiers.

There are many solutions BCS opponents have offered, most being a variant of a playoff system.

Even if the automatic BCS qualifying conferences sent one automatic qualifier to a playoff, with 10w additional at-large bids joining them, more teams would have a championship opportunity.

As it stands, roughly 18 percent of Division I men's and women's basketball teams receive a spot in the NCAA tournament.

That is the way it should be, not the 1.6 percent that college football currently allots.

Embracing challenges: When it comes to change, don't just talk the talk

Change. We all love to hate it. Particularly in this season filled with mittens and cocoa and heartwarming memories, we don't look on change with deep longing in our eyes.

And we're not talking about the nickels and dimes jingling around in your pocket.

We're talking about the change you have to make every morning from warm, cozy blankets to cold, crisp blue jeans, from paying less than a dollar for a gallon of gas to almost three, from sitting half-awake in a classroom to sitting half-exasperated in a cubicle with an angry customer or boss gripping in your ear.

And then there are other kinds of change.



Matt Larsen | Sports writer

Like when a spouse loses a job, a childhood friend gets diagnosed with cancer or a car crash takes a loved one. Big or small, when change comes knocking we fidget and squirm, we run and escape, we cry and mourn.

We do this for good reason with many kinds of change. Our bodies are made to cope by way of tears and long conversations.

Yet, in all our deep-seated desire to outrun change, we simultaneously can't wait to grab a front row seat as we tell the world to change around us.

With popcorn in hand, we cozy up in our comfortable La-Z-Boys to watch our favorite show: the lives of those around us (and if we are feeling anti-social, we'll settle for a sit-com). We love nothing more than to watch other people's lives change dramatically around us because we can feel a part of the change without really changing much.

We watch that guy down the hall go build a well in Africa and

feel a part. We watch our philanthropy chair change majors after meeting the kids he is serving halfway across the world and we feel a part. We watch our older sister move to the most poverty-stricken county in the U.S. to use her economics degree and we feel a part.

We even like cheering on that change when it comes to change in our government. We watch and cheer because of that old phrase we laugh about called "living vicariously." I can think back to so many times I have enjoyed a hearty chuckle at the notion of parents (or other older family members) living vicariously through their kids as they appear to maintain a death grip on the past.

Then one must consider what living vicariously means in its simplest sense, and that is living through the life of another.

Ouch. I believe we are so quick to watch and chant for change yet also so quick to run from it in our own lives. Of course, hold onto your memories. But we can't ask the world and those "in charge" of it to change when we ourselves are scared to commit to changing our sheets every other week.

We are scared what life without iPods and armchairs and all-you-can-eat meals might look like.

We are scared of what living off a dollar a day in a neighborhood teeming with sex slavery might actually feel like.

We are scared of what "that" risky step, to which every inch of our body and spirit cries out "Yes!" might ask of us. So we instead choose to listen to that nagging voice of doubt we so quickly label reason.

We have to change. It's plain and simple and completely outside our control whether our lives will change. It's unavoidable.

Our question is whether we simply watch lives, including our own, change around us or choose to take the little steps toward a life that embraces and dare I say even longs for that change we so love to hate.

Matt Larsen is a junior journalism major from Katy and a sports writer for The Lariat.

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Christmas gets B.A.S.I.C. with New Anthems

By JADE MARDIROSIAN
STAFF WRITER

Baylor's annual Christmas on Fifth Street will include a new event this year, New Anthems for an Old Story.

Dr. Burt Burleson, university chaplain and dean of spiritual life, spearheaded the new project, which is a musical advent service that will take place Thursday.

The service will include originally composed hymns and anthems written by Burleson and Carlos Colón, artist-in-residence at Armstrong Browning Library and a resident fellow at Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion.

Burleson described the songs as being

composed specifically for the Baylor community for this Advent season and noted a number of reasons that motivated the writing of these pieces.

"We really believe that a Christian institution needs to have its life together punctuated by worship and have the community come together in worship events specifically during special seasons," Burleson said. "The season of advent is really about waiting and anticipating the coming of Christ. The songs we have written are really to help us get in touch with our long-ing and waiting for God."

Colón describes Burleson's lyrics as soul stirring and explains the two worked closely on composing the songs.

"When I write something like this, the text is the most important thing because it is the message," Colón said. "He is very rigorous with his lyric writing and he would go back and make many changes with his lyrics and I would make changes to the music until we had something that felt right, that we could sit down and sing together."

Colón describes the music as being melodically very accessible to the Baptist tradition while remaining connected to older traditions.

"I would say it is music that will connect with a community like Baylor, it is music that is sing able," Colón said.

B.A.S.I.C.— a chamber choir, a string

orchestra and different ministers in the community—will help lead the service.

B.A.S.I.C. is based at Central United Methodist Church in Waco, and includes members from several churches in the community.

The choir will perform some pieces alone and will also act to lead the audience in other hymns and songs during the service.

"It may feel like a musical, but instead of the audience being spectators, they will be participants," Colón said. "In other words, this is not something you come to just sit and listen to. Instead you partake and participate; it's a musical for the congregation."

Burleson and Colón both hope this service will become an annual event at Christmas on Fifth Street and part of a greater tradition at Baylor.

"We feel that this piece will be a complement to the joy at Christmas on Fifth Street," Colón said. "We hope that it will provide people with an opportunity to start with a moment of reflection or to end their joyful experience at Christmas on-Fifth Street. I love to sing and make music with students and I hope that as many students as are able come and connect with the music."

New Anthems for an Old Story will be held at 6 and 8 p.m. Thursday in the Armstrong Browning Library.

Palestinians ready for statehood in August despite setbacks

By KARIN LAUB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANI HASSAN, West Bank — Palestinians will be ready for statehood by August, as promised in a two-year action plan, Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad said in an interview Tuesday, dismissing a host of steep obstacles to independence.

The former World Bank economist visited rural West Bank road destroyed by Israel to demonstrate his belief that independence is inevitable as long as Palestinians don't lose faith.

The road was torn up by Israeli troops last week, on grounds that it was paved in a nature reserve in an area under full Israeli rule.

Fayyad pledged to repair it immediately as part of his new campaign to challenge exclusive Israeli control over large tracts of the West Bank.

"This is where the struggle is, in the rural areas," Fayyad said during the ride back to his Ramallah office.

Despite Fayyad's optimism, signs abound that independence is still a long way off: his motorcade was led by an Israeli police cruiser, and Israeli settlements and unauthorized hilltop outposts on either side of a main West Bank highway.

Fayyad acknowledged the limitations to his authority. The Israeli police escort is "basically a way of saying, we are in control here," Fayyad said.

Israel cites concerns for his safety as the reason for insisting on sending a patrol car whenever he leaves his office in the West Bank town of Ramallah, he said.

Fayyad's Palestinian Authority operates with limited autonomy in 40 percent of the West Bank, where most of the territory's 2.3 million Palestinians live. Another 60 percent, home to more than 120 Israeli settlements, remains under full Israeli control.

In August 2009, Fayyad presented a two-year plan for building state institutions, including schools, courts and infrastructure. The idea was to generate momentum for independence regardless of crisis-prone Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

With his plan in its final phase, Fayyad said it's time to challenge Israel's exclusive control over vast tracts of the West Bank.

Rebuilding the little road is just a symbol. Fayyad said his next big project is a \$400 million interna-

tional airport near the West Bank town of Jericho.

He acknowledged that he does not have funding yet, but said he wants to put facts on the ground. Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev recommended cooperation.

"This must be done in coordination," he said, "and I think if we look at the progress of the last few years, though many challenges remain, we can see there have been many positive developments."

While Israel has significantly eased restrictions on Palestinian trade and movement, spurring modest economic growth in the past two years, it rarely grants construction permits in the areas under its control.

Major development projects, including industrial parks and the Palestinians' first planned city, have been held up because Israel would not give the go-ahead for sections under their control.

Even so, Fayyad said his government has made good progress on the two-year plan.

"It could happen tomorrow, it could happen next month, but certainly no later than August of next year," he said.

Fayyad said his government is



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Palestinian man extinguishes a fire Palestinians say was started by Jewish settlers Tuesday, in a field on the outskirts of the West Bank village of Burin, near Nablus.

becoming less dependent on foreign aid, reducing outside support for the operating budget from \$1.8 billion in 2008 to \$1.2 billion this year, out of a total of \$3.8 billion.

By 2013, he won't need any foreign help with the budget, he predicted.


A gaping hole in many statehood plans is what to do with Gaza, which is to be the third component of a Palestinian state, along with the West Bank and east Jerusalem, but has been controlled by the Islamic militant Hamas since a violent takeover in 2007.

The deep political split between Hamas and the more pragmatic West Bank government is no closer to being healed after repeated reconciliation efforts.



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Author of Oklahoma ban on Islamic law slams judge

By SEAN MURPHY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma state lawmaker who wrote the proposed ban on the use of Islamic law and other international tenets in state courtrooms lashed out Tuesday against the federal judge who blocked it, calling her the exact kind of “liberal, activist judge” the plan hopes to stop.

Former state Rep. Rex Duncan, R-Sand Springs, criticized U.S. District Judge Vicki Miles-LaGrange’s ruling this week to grant a preliminary injunction that prevents the state from certifying the results of the Nov. 2 election. More than 70 percent of voters approved State Question 755, which would place the ban into the state constitution.

Duncan, who attended the federal hearing in Oklahoma City, said Miles-LaGrange appears to be sympathetic to the plaintiff, Muneer Awad, a Muslim living in Oklahoma who claims the proposed ban is unconstitutional.

“She was well known to be a liberal, activist state senator, and I don’t know that her ruling is far from what one would have expected,” Duncan told The Associated Press on Tuesday. “One would surmise that her sympathies were with the plaintiff. But hers won’t be the final order on the matter.”

Meanwhile, the Oklahoma State Election Board voted Tuesday to ask the attorney general to appeal the court’s decision to grant a preliminary injunction. Charlie Price, a spokesman for the attorney

general’s office, told The Associated Press that such an appeal is “likely.”

Duncan, who stepped down from his House post to run for district attorney in Pawnee and Osage counties, said he sponsored the measure because he thinks Muslim rights groups such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations want to hijack the country’s legal system.

“CAIR and other groups ... have been working deliberately to get Sharia statutes, Sharia-compliant banking, and to expand those thresholds further into a greater presence in American courts,” Duncan said.

Awad, the plaintiff in the suit, is the executive director of the Oklahoma chapter of CAIR.

Duncan said he’s also heard

from lawmakers in as many as a dozen states who are interested in introducing similar bills, although

“Politicians play on fears while statesmen rise above them. It’s pretty clear that politicians won the day with the passage of the amendment.”

Joseph Thai
University of Oklahoma
Constitutional Law Professor

he declined to say which states. “It’s my understanding that

some of these efforts probably won’t include Sharia by name, but will be intended to prevent foreign law, international law, from being used in those respective state courts,” Duncan said.

Gov.-elect Mary Fallin, a Republican, said Tuesday she supports the intent of preventing the use of Sharia law in Oklahoma courts. But she said she’s also heard concerns from some businesses that the measure could adversely affect international contracts.

“We’re going to work with incoming Attorney General Scott Pruitt to look at how we can maintain the intent of the law, but also deal with any of the unintended consequences that may come out of its passage,” Fallin said.

University of Oklahoma consti-

tutional law professor Joseph Thai described the proposed amendment as “a case study in bad drafting” that could take years to wind through the court system.

Thai accused Duncan of pandering to voter fear for political profit at the expense of religious minorities, the business community and Oklahoma taxpayers.

“Oklahoma voters may not have the legal background to understand that neither international law nor Sharia law presents a credible threat to the state, but our lawmakers should know better,” Thai said.

“Politicians play on fears while statesmen rise above them. It’s pretty clear that politicians won the day with the passage of the amendment.”

TOUR from Page 1

than 35,000 conversations in all 50 states.

StoryCorps has three permanent recording locations in New York, Atlanta and San Francisco, but the organization’s mobile tour travels across the United States to capture the stories of different backgrounds and experiences.

“Every place we go we partner with public radio, and the mobile booth travels through the country,” Melzer said.

“We try to go to a diversity of places: large cities, small towns, rural areas, places where there is different diversity, history and experiences. We’ve never been to Waco before, so we partnered with KWBU and we are just thrilled to be here and to document the unique oral history of Waco.”

Brodie Bashaw, FM station manager for KWBU, a National Public Radio affiliate, said the StoryCorps visit is a great opportunity for citizens of Waco to have their life stories documented.

“I think it’s really going to help in opening eyes to the number of different cultures here,” Bashaw said.

“StoryCorps is a chance for John Doe and Jane Smith to go and tell their stories.”

The opportunity also emphasizes the tradition of listening, said Dr. Stephen Sloan, director of the Institute for Oral History and assistant professor of history.

“The focus of StoryCorps is that listening is important,” Sloan said. “Taking the time to listen and to really understand one another’s experiences is a dying art that is deeper than tweets or status updates. As our attention span gets shorter and shorter, it’s something we really need to be intentional about.”

Melzer said participants have 40 minutes to record their conversation, which may cover all life’s topics from honoring a deceased loved one to life lessons.

“We find that a lot of people say they don’t have a story, but everyone has a story and you ask one question and 20 minutes go by,” Melzer said.

“When you’re in the recording booth, it’s a really intimate experience because the world falls away and it’s just you two having a conversation.”

Participants receive their own copy of the conversation and the option to have their recording considered for national broadcast, but all recordings are preserved in the Library of Congress.

Melzer said that StoryCorps still has recording sessions available at the Waco Central Library. Appointments may be scheduled at www.storycorps.org or at 1-800-850-4406.

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NICK BERRYMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER

Lord of the rings

Jeff Kilgore, executive vice president and CEO of the Baylor Alumni Association, presents class rings Tuesday at the official Baylor Class Ring Ceremony in Waco Hall.

INSECTS from Page 1

anything that God didn’t do first,” Marks said. “He is right. All of man’s engineering designs can be found in nature.”

Marks helped found the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computational Intelligence Society, a professional society that carries the motto “Nature Inspired Problem Solving.”

Marks looks at the intelligent design found in nature to try and mimic that design in his man-made creations, a process known as biomimetics.

Marks uses simulations of computer generated swarms at Neo-Swarm.com in order to find patterns in swarm behaviors. He has been surprised to find interesting responses that he did not plan.

One of Marks’ computational intelligence master’s students, Daniel Jepson, uses the simulations for the class research.

“My research revolves around a

small band of fierce Spartans fighting their way out of an overwhelm-

“Along the way, with this particular effort, we hope to discover new and interesting things about how swarms of autonomous vehicles can be created to interact with some predefined and useful purpose.”

Dr. Benjamin Thompson
Penn State University

ing army of drunken Persians,” Jepson said. “The research uses swarm inversion and outfits each Spartan with a few simple rules. The goal is simple: help the Spartans escape

from the ambush.”

He said that after approximately 24 hours of computer simulations, interesting behaviors emerged from the swarms. Some behaviors modeled ancient Greek tactics such as the phalanx and others sent the Spartans running for their own lives, forsaking their friends.

“Computational intelligence has revealed a new world of exciting research — the kind that makes me cheer for Spartans running across my screen into the wee hours of the morning,” Jepson said.

Thompson said this project has been one of the most intellectually rewarding research projects he has been involved with.

“It seems like we come up with new and surprising insights into swarm intelligence as applied to autonomous vehicles every week, and it’s been a lot of fun along the way,” Thompson said.

HOME from Page 1

Three other Chinese students, —Dong Guan, China, senior Sunny Gao; Shanghai graduate student Rui Zhang; and Dalian, China, graduate student Fan Zhang — spent Thursday night at retired English professor J.R. LeMaster’s home.

“We gathered with LeMaster’s families that night,” Gao said. “We gave thanks to each other, enjoyed delicious food like a real family.”

When Keller senior Jasmine Koontz went home for Thanksgiving, she brought her friend Lenka Broosova from Slovakia with her.

“I lived in South Korea for five years,” Jasmine said. “I know the feeling living in a foreign country, especially in the holiday. I think it would be nice for Lenka to have a family time.”

Shanghai sophomore Ruoyun Chen said she originally thought she would be alone when her roommates and friends all headed home.

“But I was wrong,” she said. “The Bostics, my adopt parents, invited me to their house to have dinner together.”

With turkey, pumpkin pie, raspberry Jell-O, salad and the most important thing, warmth, Ruoyun spent her first Thanksgiving in the U.S.

Although Thanksgiving is typically associated with sentimental images of slices of turkey, globs of cranberry sauce and heaps of Grandma’s stuffing, for some students, the holiday isn’t just about dinners.

James Yao, who is pursuing his Ph.D. in biology, drove to Houston with four of his fellow Chinese friends.

“We went fishing in Galveston Island, watched a NBA game and did shopping in Black Friday,” Yao said. “We enjoyed the trip, even though there is no turkey, pies and family time.”

For some international students, Thanksgiving was busy in the run-up to term papers and final exams.

Yaoundé, Cameroon, journalism graduate student Jessica Foumena said she spent most of the break reading books and writing papers.

“I also went shopping on Saturday afternoon,” said Foumena with a smile. “Look at my Puma shoes.”

SERIES from Page 1

committed to the Christian faith,” Johnson said. “So for someone like Jean Elshtain ... she just has a very keen interest in what’s gong on here, not to mention the fact that she shares the same mission and vision of Baylor herself in her own life.”

Dr. James Bennighof, professor of music theory and vice provost for academic affairs, said he thinks Elshtain’s lecture will help students understand the importance of classes that are not as career-oriented and the more abstract ideas taught in those classes.

“A lot of the times the value of such things has to do with devel-

“Jean Elshtain is one of the most gifted public intellectuals in the United States.”

Dr. Thomas Hibbs
Dean of the Honors College

oping the ability to think critically, having examples of how great thinkers throughout history have dealt with problems that are not necessarily career-oriented,” Bennighof said. “I think that [the lecture will] shed light on the value of liberal learning, and especially with respect to some of the ideas that she’s found important to write about.”

In 2004, Elshtain spoke at Baylor as part of a conference titled “Christianity and the Soul of the University: Faith as a Foundation for Intellectual Community.”

Dr. Thomas Hibbs, dean of the Honors College, said it is an honor to have Elshtain come back to Baylor this year.

“Jean Elshtain is one of the most gifted public intellectuals in the United States,” Hibbs wrote in an e-mail to the Lariat. “Her lectures are always topical and informed by her prodigious scholarship, witty and tough-minded. It is a great honor for Baylor to host her yet again.”

The next presenter in the symposium series will be Dr. Nancy Cantor, chancellor and president of Syracuse University, speaking on university-community engagement. Cantor’s speech will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday in the Cashion Academic Center’s Blume Banquet Hall.

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Video from Crowder Band shines with praise



David Crowder sings with his band at the grand finale for his Fantastical Church Music Conference in October. Crowder is a graduate of the School of Music and a board member of the church music program.

By LIZ APPLING
REPORTER

An unusual but creative concept for a recent music video is now the backdrop of yet another triumph for the David Crowder Band.

Although the band has been making albums for several years, the “SMS (Shine)” film debuted as the second official music video released by the band and turned into an immediate success, drawing recognition from outside the Christian music community.

Using 700,000 Lite-Brite pegs, the video combines 1,200 images to create a live-action sequence for a love story that becomes the focus of the video.

Lead Singer David Crowder said the interpretation for the video intends to reinforce that grace and redemption exist in proximity no matter how “bleak life may seem.” “That’s the intent of the video, is to in some way be light in the spaces that we enter,” Crowder said.

This video was difficult to create and has gained acclaim for its creativity.

The video has been featured online by national publications, such as USA Today and Entertainment Weekly.

Paste Magazine also endorsed it as an “Awesome of the Day” while Fox and Friends included it in a recent morning newscast.

In addition, it has also been posted in Billboard Magazine’s video vault.

Crowder said the making of this video was extremely different than the first video, making the entire process a new learning experience for the already-accomplished band.

Crowder said video uses stop-motion and still photography to create the animation effect for the Lite-Brite concept.

“One thing we found out from using stop-motion is there is a lot of problem solving,” Crowder said.

For instance, the band had to think of a method to efficiently assemble each Lite-Brite picture during the month of filming, Crowder said.

He explained they had to explore ways to have about 100 individual Lite-Brite frames assembled for continuous and faster filming rather than reassembling one Lite-Brite each time the frame changed.

Ultimately, the band made the concept work by recruiting volunteers from University Baptist Church, where David Crowder also serves as the music and arts pastor,

to help build the Lite-Brite frames for upcoming days of filming.

Toph Whisnant, the community pastor at University Baptist Church, said the band made an announcement after church one Sunday that they needed more hands on deck for this project, drawing in nearly 75 volunteers for the first afternoon of Lite-Brite picture-making.

The church’s volunteers continued to help until filming was completed by taking the supplies home and working individually or in a group, then bringing the assembled frames to the church to be delivered to the barn the band uses for recording and, now, filming.

Carrollton senior Drew Waggoner said he was impressed with the video immediately, noting it was a great song choice for the band as well.

“I knew David Crowder was gifted musically, but seeing the video gave me a better appreciation for how artistically talented he is as well,” Waggoner said.

Waggoner said Crowder’s albums and live performances are always good quality, but now they are truly taking their gift to the next level with this video.

Television catches on to teen trend: pregnancy

By MALLORY HISLER
CONTRIBUTOR

Teen pregnancy is a popular topic for TV shows, movies and documentaries. Because the issue is generally considered controversial and there is not an agreed-upon way on how to handle it, the media continues to explore it in different ways.

“I know that I can barely take care of myself, and they have to take care of another life,” Austin sophomore Melissa Principe said, referring to the large number of teen mothers in America today.

The media portrayal of teen mothers is pervasive and many people with basic cable are exposed to them on a daily basis.

“Shows on teen pregnancy are everywhere,” said Victoria sophomore Emily Guerra, listing multiple shows such as “Teen Mom,” “16 and Pregnant,” pregnancy shows on Discovery Channel and Lifetime movies.

The problem a lot of people run into is the question of whether the media is helping by portraying teen pregnancy as it is, or glamorizing it.

Well-known cable network MTV has multiple reality shows dedicated to letting viewers see the lives of young mothers. They follow a few teenage girls throughout the country who have gotten pregnant and film as they go through the pregnancy, birth and life thereafter.

The programs have many dedicated viewers who are intrigued by the lives of their peers who must bear the responsibility of taking care of another life instead of just their own.

“I have known friends who have gone through teen pregnancy, and I find it interesting to see what life is like behind closed doors for these girls who deal with this,” Guerra said.

“I fell like it’s reality TV and hyped up and ridiculous.”

Abby Gallegos

Guerra is certainly not the only female who finds interest in the life of young mothers.

“I think it’s interesting to look into the lives of teen moms, because it is something that I don’t think will happen to me,” Principe said.

Many viewers feel the shows adequately portray teen pregnancy, and even offer a glimpse into just how hard raising a child as a teen can be.

“I honestly think TV doesn’t glamorize it,” Guerra said. “It shows how the girls are struggling to finish school because they have a baby now, or how their parents kicked them out because of having a baby and the girl and her boyfriend are trying to make it when they barely have any money to take care of the baby.”

Principe, though admittedly a fan of the shows, has mixed feelings about how they present the lives of the young mothers.

“There are scenes where they show you the hard stuff, and a lot of the girls say that it is hard to be a teen mom and they wish that they wouldn’t have done it,” Principe said, “but then there are times when you’re like ‘who has the baby and why are they out partying or messing around?’”

Although a large number of people believe the shows give the viewer a truthful representation of teen pregnancy overall, there are many who would disagree with that opinion. Eureka, Mont., senior Abby Gallegos, who helped raise her brother’s two children when

his girlfriend got pregnant at 16, sees the shows from a much different perspective.

“They aren’t accurate,” Gallegos said of the shows. “I feel like it’s reality TV and hyped up and ridiculous.”

There are many people who believe that giving young mothers a reality TV show automatically glamorizes teen pregnancy. Just looking around at the weekly tabloids, it is possible to see many of the mothers from the MTV series on the covers.

The instant fame that comes with being on television can be alluring and is what worries those who believe that media attention to teen mothers is detrimental to other teens.

The ideas on how the media portrays teen pregnancy are mixed at best; however, most agree that teen pregnancy is not an optimal choice for a young girl.

“Your life and everyone’s life around you is affected,” Gallegos said.

“I think it is the hardest thing any teenage girl could go through,” Guerra echoed.

Texas is one of the 10 states with the largest number of teen pregnancies, and its rate is 63 teen pregnancies for every 1,000 teen girls. McLennan County’s rate of 61 pregnant teens for every 1,000 is on par with that of Harris County, Dallas County, Bexar County and Travis County, homes to the state’s largest metroplexes with 64, 78, 67 and 54 pregnant teens for every 1,000, respectively.

So as the problem of teens getting pregnant continues to grow close to home, there will also be a growing number of people trying to find ways to fix the problem — be it by attempting to educate them with reality TV shows of pregnant teens, or the censoring of shows of that nature.



COURTESY PHOTO

With her pet chameleon, Pascal, on her shoulder, Rapunzel holds Flynn Rider hostage with her hair after he climbs into her tower. Rapunzel is voiced by Mandy Moore. Flynn Rider voiced by Zachary Levi.

‘Tangled’ fails at attempt to be fresh or classic Disney

By CARA LEIGH
CONTRIBUTOR

In an attempt to wring a modern twist out of a fairy tale classic, “Tangled” fumbles around on screen with much-intended charm which, in the end, turns out to be the stubborn knot in this new Disney charade.

A savvy re-vamp of the fable of Rapunzel, “Tangled” is a frank, abrupt, tongue-in-cheek animated musical about the girl with the long blonde hair.

After drinking an elixir from a single enchanted healing flower, a sick and pregnant queen gives birth to a princess with radiant golden locks which, it turns out, contain concentrated magical healing powers as well.

But not all is well in the kingdom: the vain old hag Mother Gothel wanted to use the rare flower as her own fountain for beauty and youth and in greed snatches up the baby princess in order to exploit the child’s magical power.

Rapunzel (Mandy Moore) grows to be a feisty and wistful stowaway, and with the sensuous and seductively wicked Mother Gothel (Donna Murphy) hiding her from the kingdom and the world, the teenager and her quirky pet chameleon soon get cabin fever within the confines of their tall, lonely tower.

The blonde beauty is endearing enough, but her naivety and wide-eyed innocence is an act that we’ve all seen before thanks to the very same hands of Disney’s animation studio. She adds nothing new to the Disney vault with her gump-tion (Belle, Pocahontas, Jasmine and Ariel), woes of confinement (Ariel, Jasmine, Pocahontas and Cinderella) and stunningly good looks (any Disney princess ever conceived).

This unoriginality flattens out her character into a well-meaning but fairly boring princess, and the introduction of the disarmingly debonair bandit Flynn Rider (Zachary Levi) does not help her

case. Pooling all of their resources to make a cad-like Rider pop off of the screen, the animators ended up neglecting poor darling Rapunzel.

With some assistance from a bloodhound of a white stallion and an ensemble of an exaggerated and spirited nature, “Tangled” is a silly, slapstick comedy lathered in a sappy, melodramatic finish.

Its angle was to appeal to a more advanced and informed crowd, one that has grown weary of happy endings and trite, fairy tale narratives. It was supposed to appear laughably self-aware, supposed to be snappy and fresh.

It makes for a cumbersome musical, has little sense of rhythm or nuance, and is — despite a briefly intriguing climactic twist — predictable. Disney has lost its once-invaluable ability to tell a good, simple story well, and with this talent they also lose their luster.

“Tangled” is a cheesy fairy tale, and a far cry from a masterpiece.

Grade: B+

FUN TIMES

Find answers at www.baylorlariat.com

McClatchy-Tribune

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Across

- Chews the fat
- “Here’s to ...” tribute
- Lingerie size
- Inuit word for “house”
- Like bighorns
- Obsessed fictional captain
- Modeler’s aid
- More inclined to butt in
- Comes together
- Viral illness associated with a rash
- Paint base
- A major, e.g.
- Healthful resort
- 911 responder, for short
- Lanchester of “Witness for the Prosecution”
- Like Fran Drescher’s voice
- List that comes from the top
- Cuba or Mallorca

- Thumper’s friend
- Agenda listing
- Possible response to “Gotcha!”
- Like some waves
- Have to have
- Fond du __, Wisconsin
- “School’s out” response
- “Eeeuw!”
- Bloodsucker
- Pie with a fluffy topping
- Tight
- Sister’s daughter
- Humorist Bombeck
- “Going __, going ...”
- On the wrong side (of)
- Track competition
- Stir-fry cookers
- Full of juicy tidbits
- Longings

Down

- Embarrassed reac-

- tion, maybe
- Shining brightly
- Exclaims suddenly, with “out”
- “Do something about it! I dare you!”
- Betwixt and between
- Egg, to Ovid
- Right-hand man
- Tiptoe
- Succinct
- Place with bars
- Where to find four knights
- “Friendly skies” co.
- “Masterpiece” airt
- Hatchet man
- “Coal Miner’s Daughter” subject Loretta
- Glass section
- Former senior, for short
- “Rio __”: John Wayne film
- Wingspread, say
- Madison Ave. figures
- Dijon honey

- Statistical input
- Reed instrument
- Red, white or Blue Nun
- Bitty start?
- Islamic branch
- Gambler’s favorite woman?
- Svelte
- 1551, on monuments
- “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” villain
- Keen judgment
- Marked deck users
- Movie barbarian
- Swiss Army __
- Foe hiding, in a way, in the puzzle’s four longest answers
- Hot times in the cité
- Catty remark
- Old gold coins of France
- Bank (on)
- Auto club service
- Year, in Yucatán

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

2	3		7	4			1
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		5			2	1	
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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

Women take on Fighting Irish

Lady Bears expect strong defense from No. 16 team

By MATT LARSEN
SPORTS WRITER

After holding three opponents in a row under 45 points, the No. 2 Lady Bears prepare to host one of the best defensive squads they have seen this season in No. 16 University of Notre Dame at 7 p.m. today at the Ferrell Center.

“We think we are pretty athletic and quick, yet if you look at the number of steals, they have played one less basketball game than we have and they have like [125] steals to our [73]” head coach Kim Mulkey said. “For a team that mixes their defense as Notre Dame does, playing zone and man, they are just a hard-nosed, aggressive team.”

Leading the nation in steals, the Fighting Irish bring a 5-2 record to Waco where they play Baylor (7-1) for the first time in the two programs’ history.

Notre Dame is the only team in the top 25 AP or coaches poll to have two losses, but both came to Top 15 teams.

Its first slip up came against No. 13 UCLA in an 86-83 double overtime loss and the second came at No. 8 Kentucky, 81-76.

Even with the two losses, Mulkey said she believes the team probably deserves to be ranked higher.

Her squad already knows about close losses to tough teams as the Lady Bears’ only loss came on the road by one point to No. 1 Connecticut.

Baylor demonstrated its abil-

ity to win against Top 25 talent three days later when it beat No. 25 Michigan State 78-52.

The schedule once again heats up for the Lady Bears as their next three games feature two ranked opponents in No. 16 Notre Dame and No. 9 Tennessee and a dangerous Minnesota squad sandwiched in the middle of the home stand.

First, they will look to handle a Notre Dame squad hungry for a top ten upset.

“Muffet McGraw is one of the finest coaches in the country,” Mulkey said of the 29-year coach who will be inducted into the Women’s Basketball Hall of fame in 2011. “She has won a national championship; she has been to a couple of Final Fours, Sweet Sixteens. While they did lose three players from that starting lineup last year, I would venture to say that this team is as good as the one they had last year.”

The Irish return three seniors, but are led in scoring by a pair of non-senior guards.

Junior Natalie Novosel averages 17 points a game while sophomore Skylar Diggins adds 12.9.

They also depend on their ability to spread the scoring responsibility around as they have seven players averaging eight points per game or higher.

With no one on the roster taller than 6-foot-2, the Irish have no imminent post player to match up with 6-foot-8 sophomore post Brittney Griner, who has averaged nearly 30 points a pop in her last four outings.

Mulkey expects to see some mixing of different defensive sets that play to Notre Dame’s quickness, but is confident her team won’t see any big surprises.

“I don’t know that there is any



NICK BERRYMAN | LARIAT PHOTOGRAPHER
No. 32 forward Brooklyn Pope draws a foul in Baylor’s matchup against Michigan State on Nov. 19 at the Ferrell Center. The Lady Bears won, 78-52. They face No. 16 ranked Notre Dame at 7 p.m. today in Waco.

team that can do something that we have not seen,” she said. “We have seen it all.”

If Notre Dame decides to put multiple defenders in and around the paint to keep Griner from getting as many looks, senior guard Melissa Jones believes the answer is simple.

“A lot of people doubling down on Brittney opens things up for perimeter shooting,” she said.

The Lady Bears currently have four players with significant min-

utes averaging .389 or above from 3-point land.

Jones has been the most dangerous, going 9 of 18 so far from behind the arc.

Regardless of how many defenders they put around her, Griner looks forward to being tested every time up and down the court again.

“You can’t take any one play off,” she said. “For me, I love them [the big games]. Each play is kind of back-and-forth.”

Sports take: Heisman race raises questions

By KRISTA PIRTLE
REPORTER

The 76th annual Heisman trophy will be awarded to the most outstanding college football player in the nation Dec. 11 in New York City.

This season, one name has been used in connection with this prestigious award, Cam Newton, the explosive quarterback at Auburn; however, after allegations came out about his conduct while attending the University of Florida, this front-runner might not leave with the Heisman after all.

While attending the University of Florida, he was arrested on charges of stealing a laptop, as well as facing a possible expulsion because of three separate instances of academic cheating.

On top of that, two sources who recruit for Mississippi State said Newton and his father, Cecil, based Newton’s college choice on monetary incentives.

All of these allegations have not hurt Newton’s eligibility to be included on the Heisman list, but should it hurt his votes?

With the recent issue with Reggie Bush returning his Heisman, this process has been taken a lot more seriously, which it should be.

If the Heisman Trust awards the Heisman to Newton but the allegations prove true, the moment of receiving such an honor has been ruined for Newton.

Moreover, the moment for the rightful winner has been taken away.

Back in 2005, the race was neck and neck between USC’s Reggie Bush and the University of Texas’ Vince Young. The Trust gave Bush the honor, after which Young played an outstanding game against Bush and his Trojans for the national championship.

On most award watch lists,

Newton’s name isn’t alone. Alongside it are Stanford’s Andrew Luck, Oregon’s LaMichael James, Boise State’s Kellen Moore and Oklahoma State wide receiver Justin Blackmon.

Sure, you can compare stats, but the Heisman runs much deeper than mere numbers on a piece of paper. It is the single most celebrated award in American collegiate athletics.

Actually, if you go by stats alone, Kellen Moore has more yards and touchdowns for the 2010 season than Newton. So what is it that puts him at the top?

Look at their conferences. Boise State is in the WAC, which hardly contains any powerhouses. Thus, a 6-1 record is not that impressive against sub-par teams.

Auburn is in the SEC, said to be the best conference in Division I college football.

Play on the field is important to determine the winner, but how does conduct off the field measure up? What if the allegations hold true, yet Newton receives the award? Is that ignoring his past conduct and making it permissible? Should it be looked over because that was years ago?

Those questions are going to go under great consideration this next week. After the conference championships are played, there will be a better understanding of who should get the Heisman.

But only Newton, James and Moore will get to prove themselves, as Moore and Blackmon finish out their seasons after the bids are given and the votes are counted.

Even though there does seem to be a front runner in this year’s race, will the off field conduct overshadow the on field performance?

Krista Pirtle is a sophomore journalism major from Olney and a reporter for The Lariat.

Q&A: Norwegian Mikkelsen describes golfing, living in U.S.

By TYLER ALLEY
REPORTER

Joakim Mikkelsen had a busy fall semester. He not only attended Baylor classes, but he participated in four golf tournaments, one of those being held in Argentina. He took some time out of his busy schedule to answer some questions about that tournament and Baylor men’s golf, among other things.



Mikkelsen

Q: What did it mean to you, personally, to be able to represent your home country of Norway in the World Amateur Team Championship in Argentina?

A: It meant a lot. I have played for Norway before but not in a real championship kind of setting.

Q: What did you take away from the experience?

A: I’ve played in big events before. This probably the biggest one I’ve played in. It’s just the same

as all the other tournaments. It’s good to play against the best amateurs in the world. You try to learn from some and beat others.

Q: Your Baylor teammates had a tournament a couple days after that you could not be at. Was it difficult to not be able to participate in Baylor’s final tournament on the

fall schedule or were you just completely focused on the WATC?

A: It was a little weird. Our tournament is one of my favorite ones. I like the course in Dallas real well. I went from straight from the airport in Dallas. I watched them play the final round. It was canceled the last day.

Q: Baylor men’s golf got off on the right foot at the beginning of the year. In the first tournament, three guys shot under par. What contributed to the team’s good start?

A: I think our finish in the first tournament is what we expected, at the very least; that’s how we want to play. I think some of us played a lot over the summer and got prepared. I think that’s pretty much it.

Q: Since then, the team has had declining results. It went from fifth place to seventh to ninth and again ninth. In your eyes, what is

the reason for the slide the team has gone through?

A: I don’t think there is any specific reason. It really varies how you play in golf. I think it was just a little slump. We just need to get ready to get back in the spring.

Q: What is your view on the results of the fall schedule?

A: Oh, we all feel bad about it. We feel like we’re way better than how we’ve done. I think we are all confident we’ll come back and do well in the spring. We had a rough stretch in the beginning of the spring last year and we came back and played well in the postseason.

Q: The team just got two letters of intent from an Italian player and a Norwegian player, Mikkel Bjerch-Andresen. Do you know him personally?

A: Yeah I know him a little bit. He’s from a golf club about 40 minutes away from where I lived. So I don’t really know him that well but

I’ve met him through tournaments and national team stuff back home. So I think he’ll be good for us.

Q: What was the transition like for you, over two years ago, from living and playing golf in Norway to going to college in Central Texas and playing on courses in America?

A: Well moving here was pretty much a whole new life. You leave all your friends and your family, everything back home. There’s the culture. You have to speak another language in your everyday life. There’s a lot of new people and a lot of new things to get used to. And golf-wise, it’s different. The grass can be a little different, and the course can be longer and have different layouts. Eventually, it’s still the same game; you just have to adapt.

Q: Final question. I have a quote from you earlier in the year. You said, “We want to make it back

to nationals. And then we want to take it one step further and make the cut at nationals.” Do you still think this goal is reachable, and what is it going to take for the team to reach this goal after a disappointing start?

A: I think we should be disappointed if we do not make nationals. And then, when you first get to nationals, you never know what’s going to happen. Making match play is hard, but if we can make it to the tournament there’s no reason why we wouldn’t be able to compete with the teams there. But for us to get there, I think we all need to get after it right when we get back from Christmas. Hopefully we can make good progress as the tournaments move on and be at our peak for the postseason.

The men’s golf team returns to action Feb. 14 at the UTSA Oak Hills Invitational in San Antonio.



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