



The Baylor Lariat

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 9, 2012

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Society influences faith

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The place to go to know the places to go

Film in Castellaw

Texas Independent Film Network and Baylor’s film and digital media department will host the Fall 2011 Film Series from 7 to 9 p.m. today in 101 Castellaw Communications Center. Each screening will be followed by Q&A with one or more special guests from the film’s production.

Valentine’s Day fest

The Armstrong Brown-ing Library will host a romantic afternoon filled with music, poetry, deserts and door prizes from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday in the McLean Foyer of Meditation. Entertainment will include Romantic Gold: songs from the ’50s and ’60s by Dave Tanner and the Creating Elizabeth Barrett Brown-ing project with Barbara Neri. Tickets cost \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.baylor.edu/lib/vday.



baylorlariat.com

Class builds student entrepreneurship

By TREVOR ALLISON
REPORTER

Students in the Accelerated Ventures entrepreneurship course at Baylor were given the opportunity to start a real business and make real money. And some are already having success.

That is the process and goal of the class, taught by Dr. Leslie Palich and 2007 Baylor graduate David Grubbs.

Grubbs, an entrepreneur who graduated with a degree in business administration, and Palich,

associate director of entrepreneurial studies at Baylor, independently came up with ideas for a class that integrates entrepreneurship with the Internet and social media.

They brought their ideas to Dr. Kendall Artz, director of the entrepreneurial studies program. Artz arranged for Palich and Grubbs to meet, and the Accelerated Ventures class, formerly known as Applied Ventures, was the result.

In the class, 12 students are divided into four groups and given

\$4,000 to start a business. The students form a company, open a business bank account and find clients.

“Students come up with [the business] and launch and develop it, so at the end they have a true business,” Palich said. He said the money does not need to be repaid, however. If the students’ business is profitable, they are encouraged to repay the money so that other students may have the same experience.

Palich said repayment of the funds will help build a self-sus-

taining program that can expand to more sections.

Fredericksburg senior Charlie Gasmire’s group started a website called My Wedding Connection that helps vendors find brides-to-be who are planning their weddings instead of waiting for brides to come to them.

“We did research and realized there was a gap in the wedding industry,” Gasmire said. He said they liked the idea because people will always get married and spend money on weddings, regardless of the state of the economy.

San Antonio senior Jordan Rhodes was in a group that formed LMR Consulting, a business-consulting firm. Her business dissolved, but several opportunities became available through her experiences in the class.

“I have two jobs doing everything I learned in that one semester,” Rhodes said. She currently works with Harley-Davidson of Waco and iProspect, an Internet search marketing firm that does search engine optimization for companies like Neiman Marcus,

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New graduate course explores storytelling

Class studies how technology has changed writing

By MATTHEW HELLMAN
REPORTER

Storytelling in the 21st Century, a new course offered at Baylor, offers graduate students the opportunity to learn how modern technology is evolving the methods the film industry uses to tell stories.

“Storytelling in the 21st Century is all about how storytelling is changing as a result of the modifications in technology, and the way technology fluctuates impacts the way we experience media,” Chris Hansen, associate professor and film and digital media division director, said.

Throughout the class, students will explore methods of making modern media, while also learning about the approaches taken by various successful producers in the field, according to the course syllabus.

“With the technology, movies are becoming less difficult to produce, enabling producers and cinematographers to see their ideas physically, visually represented rather than just in their head, telling the element of the story they want to tell,” master’s candidate and student in the course Bailey Eubanks said. “If they can think

it, they can do it.”

The course will also involve discussions on the negative influences of new technology on filming methods, devices and concepts in storytelling.

“There are different agendas concerning the minds of Hollywood. Mostly it is about the money,” Eubanks said. “People are becoming more apt to staying in the home versus attending the theaters. The general public is not concerned with the deeper message, art or the viewing etiquette. Through that, a lot of the magic is lost.”

For their final project, students will have the choice of producing a piece of media or submitting a conference paper that expresses their understanding of the influence of technology on contemporary storytelling.

“What I am trying to do with the class is get students to think through these ideas for new media possibilities, engage with them and actually produce work that is attempting to be futuristic by thinking outside the box and telling stories in a way that would be different from what they imagine they would be doing,” Hansen said.

The course will provide students with the opportunity to meet Dr. Chuck Tryon, the author of “Reinventing Cinema: Movies in the Age of Media Conver-

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MATTHEW HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Hard hit for the Bears

No.55 guard Pierre Jackson exits the court after the Bears suffered a 68-54 loss to the Jayhawks in the Ferrell Center on Wednesday. See story on page 5.

KWBU flourishes despite times

By ROB BRADFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Anyone trying to prove that radio was on the decline would be hard pressed to find proof at KWBU.

The station first came on air in 2000 as an affiliate of National Public Radio and Public Radio International broadcasting on FM band 103.3 and local television Channel 4.

Since then, the television station has shut down, but KWBU radio has increased its audience.

Among the reasons for its success in a market the size of Waco are public radio’s ability to adapt to new technology, the station’s relationship to the Waco community and its partnership with Baylor, KWBU president and CEO Joe Riley said.

“Radio is still strong, and will be certainly for the near future,” Riley said.

Each year, KWBU holds three pledge drives to raise almost half of its operating funds. The station has had to increase its efforts recently because of increased cost.

Two years ago, the station lost a programming discount NPR offers its affiliates before they reach 10 years of operation.

This year’s drive came within \$1,000 of KWBU’s \$45,000 goal. Riley said the number of radio listeners has grown in recent years, and more people, some as far away as Argentina, have been streaming KWBU online. Even with the amount of support the Waco community gives, KWBU still relies on funding from the in-

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ROB BRADFIELD | STAFF WRITER

Joe Riley, KWBU President and CEO records a broadcast at the station Wednesday in the LL Sam’s complex on La Salle Avenue.

Lecture calls Christians to acknowledge violent Bible texts

By DANIEL C. HOUSTON
STAFF WRITER

A new Baylor professor and author challenged Christians at a public lecture Wednesday to grapple with passages that appear, at least on the surface, to encourage violence and indiscriminate warfare.

Dr. Philip Jenkins, distinguished professor of history, argued some Christians too often criticize Islam for violent passages in its scriptures while turning a blind eye to passages from the Bible that called for “herem,” or

absolute destruction of societies in the Old Testament.

Jenkins, laying out the thesis of his new book, “Laying Down the Sword: Why We Can’t Ignore the Bible’s Violent Verses,” said these passages should be read as a warning for the Jewish people to remain faithful to God, rather than a license to commit aggression.

“Where people are reading the Bible wrongly, in my view, is they are reading the Bible absolutely differently from the way it’s written,” Jenkins said. “How it’s written is the herem ‘threat’ ... is meant

to apply not to foreign people, but to the Israeli people themselves. If you betray monotheism, terrible things will happen to you.”

Approaching the text without trying to understand the message the authors were trying to portray has misled some Christian scholars, Jenkins said. He said many acts of historical violence, including the 1994 mass killings in Rwanda, have been mistakenly justified on religious grounds.

“Ultimately,” Jenkins said, “I think what we have to do is to read the Bible as it stands and try to understand why they are

presenting this message, why the writers are presenting this story. When you read it in this way, I think ... you realize the absolutely abominable foolishness of people who would take the scripture as a justification for any form of violence.”

Dr. Elizabeth Davis, executive vice president and provost, said Jenkins’ book “provides a vital framework for understanding both the Bible and the Quran.”

At the lecture, history professor Dr. Andrea Turpin asked Jenkins whether he thought the violent passages in the Quran

should be interpreted in the same manner as he suggested the Bible should. In response, he said Muslims have historically interpreted the Quran in various ways, but the Quran should also be understood in terms of the intended message.

“If Christians and Jews do not acknowledge these [violent] texts are there,” Jenkins said, “what basis do they possibly have to speak honestly to people of other religions about violence? But also, what right, what ability, do Chris-

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BU’s dorms deserve proposed renovations

Editorial

At last Thursday’s Student Senate meeting, the Senate voted to recommend renovating five university dorms – Collins, Penland, North Russell, South Russell and Martin. While the plans aren’t final, they will likely call for adding ad-

“Before construction begins, there are some things to consider as Baylor administration addresses its housing situation going forward.”

ditional student lounge and study spaces, improving bathrooms, replacing floors and ceilings and improving the technological capacities of the residence halls. The plan would be implemented over the next 15 to 20 years.

The Senate overruled a veto by student body president Zach Rogers, who opposed the bill because of the cost of adding Wi-Fi throughout the dorms. Rogers said he supported the bill but was concerned about the estimated \$750,000 to \$1 million needed for Wi-Fi in the dorms.

We agree with Student Senate. Baylor’s largest dorms are due for upgrades, and there is a reason some of them aren’t used for summer camps when Baylor wants to put its best foot forward for prospective students.

But before construction begins, there are some things to consider as Baylor addresses its housing situation.

The biggest issue Baylor needs to fix before upgrading the dorms is making sure there are enough options for incoming students who are required to spend their freshman year on campus. What good does an improved study room do if students have to live in that study room because of excess occupancy?

Baylor has already moved to add one more dorm via the East Village project. But prudent projections are necessary to ensure that even if the student body in-



creases over the next 15 years, the big five dorms won’t be overcrowded.

Assuming study rooms will actually be available to students in the renovated dorms, Baylor should also consider the plan’s time frame and its impact on the dorms’ appeal. The university has to ensure that upgrades done now won’t need additional improvements after the 15- to 20-year process is finished. In

other words, if the first set of renovations comes in 2014 and Baylor completes the final pieces of the plan in 2034, the 2014 upgrades must still be on par with those of 2034. That might prove a difficult task, as a brand new study room might be much more aesthetically appealing than a 20-year-old study room. If Baylor sees this as a potential problem, perhaps the university should consider a smaller win-

dow of time to complete these renovations, like five or 10 years.

Finally, technology needs to take priority in upgrading these dorms. With the increased usage of smartphones and tablets, neither of which can utilize the Ethernet-only Internet connection currently available in dorm rooms, Wi-Fi is absolutely necessary for future generations of Bears.

If Baylor wants to consider itself on the cutting edge of technology, there is no excuse for students to lack the same wireless Internet option that has existed for more than a decade.

Baylor would take a much-needed step with these proposed renovations. To deem the upgrades a success, though, they have to be completed in a timely fashion and in students’ best interests.

To risk parking fine, or be late to class: That is the question

Let me start out by saying that I am a rampant parking violator.

Seriously, I have paid Baylor nearly \$500 in fees over the past four years. I get them because I knowingly park illegally. I openly acknowledge my parking infractions and used to accept them as just part of the Baylor experience, but one recent event has pushed me over the edge.

Early last semester I received a \$40 ticket for parking for 20 minutes in 45-minute Starbucks parking. I walked out to my car after sitting in Starbucks enjoying a cup of coffee to find one of the parking attendants writing me a ticket. When I explained to him that I was in Starbucks, he demanded to see my receipt. I didn’t have one because it never occurred to me that I would have to prove at some point that I was drinking coffee, so he issued me a ticket.

At this point I might have lost my temper. It seemed that the attendant was finding some perverse pleasure in watching me rave. He almost appeared to enjoy the small amount of power he had over my parking record.

I hope my experience is not typical, but a person would be hard pressed to find a routine



Rob Bradfield | Staff writer

commuter that hasn’t had some sort of run-in with Parking Services.

It’s not that we enjoy getting ticketed, sometimes in excess of the \$40 that I paid, but it’s often unavoidable. Many professors have absence or tardiness policies that require students to get to class quickly, which can be hard when the closest parking is a 10-minute walk.

Baylor, intentionally or unintentionally, has forced students to choose between making it to class or violating its asinine park-

ing policy – a situation worthy of a Joseph Heller novel.

It’s no secret that Baylor wants more students on campus. The second goal of Baylor 2012 explicitly states that Baylor wants to create a “truly residential campus.” To that end, Baylor has built pseudo-apartments like The Arbors for upperclassmen, created LLCs that require students to live on campus for two years, recently bought one of the largest off-campus apartment complexes and are planning large-scale renovations of the “Big 5” dorms.

The reason for this is fairly transparent – Baylor wants to exert more control over what students spend their time doing. Students that spend all their time on campus are much less likely to get involved in things that Southern Baptists don’t approve of – like drinking, premarital sex and Methodism. This interest in student behavior wouldn’t be a problem if it didn’t create hardships for the rest of us.

The last time Baylor got rid of parking it was because they want to create a “more pedestrian campus.” And they have for the most part; I think the amount of student/vehicle interaction has significantly decreased. What’s

odd about this is that they haven’t done anything further to encourage students off campus to walk or ride a bike to class. Baylor exercises a large amount of influence over the neighborhoods around Baylor and could easily construct more bike lanes, improve sidewalks or encourage apartment complexes to install better bike racks.

As it stands most cyclists have to ride in the street, and many areas around Baylor don’t have adequate sidewalks for dedicated pedestrians.

Baylor’s bus line also falls short of the mark. Sophomore year I made an earnest attempt to use the bus line in order to avoid the parking situation. The buses ran at odd intervals, and if they were even a little bit early it was easy to miss.

Unfortunately, most of the time the buses were late. My stop was the farthest away on the longest route, so the average ride was generally 20 minutes or more, which was incredibly unhelpful since my destination was on the other side of campus. For students that live away from the bus routes or have classes later than 5:30 p.m. taking the bus can be impractical, so naturally they are

forced to drive and face the parking system.

Students that feel that they have been ticketed wrongly have 14 days to file an appeal, and after filing an appeal, they have to show up to a Student Court meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Mondays. The appeals are addressed on a first-come, first-served basis, so there’s no guarantee that the court will ever even hear your case.

The fact that the courtroom is tucked away in an obscure part of the Bill Daniel Student Center means that first time plaintiffs can have trouble finding it and end up with a place at the bottom of the list.

Unlike criminal courts in Texas, the judges that sit on the Student Court are all appointed. Baylor also differs in that plaintiffs are presumed guilty and must prove their innocence. This means that students wrongly ticketed have virtually no chance of winning a case, and there’s no real way to change the system. The student government has only as much power as the university allows, our judiciary is a kangaroo court and students are left with no real way to address grievances.

I sincerely hope I’m wrong,

but when you look at it all at once, it seems like Baylor is actively making it difficult for students who commute to campus. I can’t say and won’t make any speculation as to whether the reasoning is financial or to encourage students to live more fully inside the Baylor Bubble.

I will say that a better solution for our parking woes would be to invest in reliable public transportation that also includes the Waco community, creating a safer way for students to bike and walk to class, and restricting the number of parking tags given to students that already live on campus.

But since I’m not a regent or an administrator or a student politician, I have really only one place to take my concerns.

So, Judge Starr, I know that you’re tired from kicking Aggie butt and holding the Big 12 together with sheer strength of will, but if you get the chance, could you maybe step in and sort out this parking thing for us? The other students and I would really appreciate it.

Rob Bradfield is a senior journalism news-editorial major from Waco and is a staff writer for the Lariat.

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Getting pious with a little help from your friends

By MEGHAN HENDRICKSON
REPORTER

A Baylor study has found that friendships with fellow churchgoers have the strongest effect on a person's belief in church doctrine, even more than their gender, geographic location, denominational background, level of education or income level.

The study was completed in August by Samuel Stroope, a Ph.D. candidate in sociology. "Social Networks and Religion: The Role of Congregational Social Embeddedness in Religious Belief and Practice" is the name of a study researching the relationship between an individual's religiosity and their participation in church social groups. Religiosity refers to one's level of devotion to his or her beliefs.

Stroope said his study showed results significant for Baylor students.

"Many Baylor students are religiously active," Stroope said. "So if a Baylor student wants to maintain his or her faith during their college years, they might want to think about who their friends are."

Dr. Kevin Dougherty, associate professor of sociology, said Stroope's research also has implications for broader church congregations.

"It is not enough to put on big Sunday shows and attract huge crowds," Dougherty said. "To forge disciples, congregations need to link worshipers to one another in personal, meaningful ways."

To complete his study, Stroope said he used data from the Baylor Religion Survey, a national survey of adults from various denominations regarding their religious beliefs and practices.

"I analyzed data from the survey and found that when people draw a greater proportion of their friends from their own congrega-

tion, that's associated with higher religiosity," Stroope said.

"It is not enough to put on big Sunday shows and attract huge crowds. To forge disciples, congregations need to link worshipers to one another in personal, meaningful ways."

Dr. Kevin Dougherty | Associate professor of sociology

Stroope said his interest in this study stems from others' research on religious cults. In the 1960s and '70s, society had a fear of religious

cults, and sociologists were curious as to why a person would join one, Stroope said.

Stroope said when researchers asked members of religious cults why they joined, people would often say they were drawn to the group's theology.

"People would talk about how this doctrine about such and such was so attractive," Stroope said.

However, when sociologists observed the process of how people joined cults, Stroope said a person's acceptance of theology followed joining the group.

"People first formed friendships, and later they would adopt the theology that was in line with their friends," Stroope said.

As a young graduate student, Stroope wondered if this discovery would apply to other groups. He never found a national study covering the issue, so Stroope began his own in 2009.

Religiosity can be measured

in hundreds of ways, but Stroope focused on five specific criteria: behavioral measures, which were analyzed by participation in both church activities like choir or Sunday school and devotional activities like prayer or scripture reading; the belief component, measured by asking if individuals had absolute belief in supernatural entities like God, heaven, hell, angels, demons or Satan; literary perspective, tested by asking participants if they hold a literal view of the Bible; and religious exclusivity, or "how narrow heaven's gates are," Stroope said.

While Stroope's study ignored causality, meaning he can't prove a person's church friends specifically cause them to adopt certain religious beliefs and behaviors, Stroope did find a positive correlation between the two.

Stroope said he found Protestants get a greater return on church friendships and participation

than Catholics.

"It makes a lot of sense, because Protestants think of church as more of a social hub, a place to belong and engage in a lot of social activities," Stroope said. "Wherefore Catholics, they're more focused on sacrament and liturgy, so friends may not encourage you as strongly to make sure you're at choir practice."

Sociology graduate student Aaron Franzen said he was intrigued the difference was significant only between Protestants and Catholics and not between different Protestant traditions.

"This is surprising, because we know that there is a lot of variation in what different Protestant churches do and believe," Franzen said. "But these smaller differences may matter less than larger differences between Protestants and Catholics on the question of what church, in and of itself, is to begin with."

Gay marriage approved in seventh state; opponents will fight

By RACHEL LA CORTE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington state lawmakers voted to approve gay marriage Wednesday, setting the stage for the state to become the seventh in the nation to allow same-sex couples to wed.

The action comes a day after a federal appeals court declared California's ban on gay marriage unconstitutional, saying it was a violation of the civil rights of gay and lesbian couples.

The Washington House passed the bill on a 55-43 vote. The state Senate approved the measure last week. And Democratic Gov. Chris Gregoire is expected to sign the measure into law next week.

However, gay couples can't begin walking down the aisle just yet.

The proposal would take effect 90 days after the governor signs, but opponents have promised to fight gay marriage with a ballot measure that would allow voters to overturn the legislative approval.

If opponents gather enough signatures to take their fight to the ballot box, the law would be put on hold pending the outcome of a November election.



Rep. Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, speaks to begin debating in the state house to legalize gay marriage Wednesday in Olympia, Wash.

Gay marriage is legal in New York, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington D.C.

Lawmakers in New Jersey are expected to vote on gay marriage next week, and Maine could see a gay marriage proposal on the November ballot.

Proposed amendments to ban gay marriage will be on the ballots in North Carolina in May and in Minnesota in November.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday ruled against California's voter-approved same-sex marriage ban, known as Proposition 8.

The three-judge panel gave gay marriage opponents time to appeal the 2-1 decision before ordering the state to allow same-sex weddings to resume.

The judges also said the decision only applies to California, even though the court has jurisdiction in nine western states.

Lawyers for the coalition of conservative religious groups that sponsored Proposition 8 said they have not decided if they will seek a new 9th Circuit hearing or file an appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Washington state's momentum for same-sex marriage has

been building and the debate has changed significantly since 1998, when lawmakers passed Washington's Defense of Marriage Act banning gay marriage.

The constitutionality of that law ultimately was upheld by the state Supreme Court in 2006. But earlier that year, a gay civil rights measure passed after nearly 30 years of failure, signaling a change in the Legislature.

The quick progression of domestic partnership laws in the state came soon after, with a domestic partnership law in 2007, and two years of expansion that culminated in 2009 with "everything but marriage" expansion that was upheld by voters.

In October, a University of Washington poll found that an increasing number of people in the state support same-sex marriage. About 43 percent of respondents said they support gay marriage, up from 30 percent in the same poll five years earlier. Another 22 percent said they support giving identical rights to gay couples, without calling the unions "marriage."

If a challenge to gay marriage law was on the ballot, 55 percent said they would vote to uphold the law. And 38 percent said they would vote to reject a gay marriage law.

The gay marriage bill also has the backing of several prominent Pacific Northwest businesses, including Microsoft, Nike and Starbucks.

Transit dispute leaves two dead

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Local and federal authorities offered to help secure Dallas-area bus and train stations Wednesday after a shootout on a platform in Richardson left two people dead, the latest in a string of violent incidents on Dallas mass transit, an agency spokesman said.

Richardson police identified the suspect who allegedly instigated Tuesday's shootout as 27-year-old Cory Jones of Dallas.

A man got into an argument with a bus driver when his bus pass was rejected, Richardson Police Sgt. Kevin Perlich said. The driver saw DART police officer Nikisha Manderson outside his bus and went to talk to her.

The man left the bus and crossed to a nearby light rail station, where Manderson confronted him, Perlich said.

When Manderson asked the man to take his hands out of his pocket, he pulled out a gun and opened fire, Perlich said. Manderson fired back.

Two passengers standing on the platform were hurt by the crossfire. Eric Johnson, 42, died of his injuries, and 54-year-old Russell Weinstein was later released from the hospital. Manderson was hurt, but released from the hospital Wednesday and rejoined the investigation, Ball said.

Other DART officers pursued the man and exchanged fire with him in a nearby warehouse, Perlich said. Jones was found dead.

Perlich said it was too soon to confirm the sequence of gunfire, and a forensics report would likely take a couple of weeks to complete.



GET THERE FROM HERE

"The part-time program at South Texas was one of the major attractions for us because we were both working full-time when we applied. Now we are operating a real estate practice that allows us to take daytime classes."

Byron Alfred '12 **Johnny Alfred '12**

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Key & Peele take on comedy

By ROB BRADFIELD
REPORTER

Comedy veterans Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele are no strangers to cutting-edge improv, but their new show explores topics that until recently remained untouched.

Their new show “Key and Peele,” which recently premiered on Comedy Central, explores their own experiences as bi-racial Americans. Known from their appearances on “MadTV” and in “Funny or Die” sketches, the duo’s new sketch show picks up in the same vein as established comedy shows like the “Chappelle Show” and “Saturday Night Live” but features the unique vision of Key and Peele.

“We really, really wanted to do something different,” Peele said.

Sketch-driven improvisational comedy is nothing new to Key and Peele. Both are former members of the Second City theater troupes and castmates on “MadTV,” where they gained a reputation for their character development and celebrity impersonations. Most recently Peele has gained recognition for his impersonations of President Barack Obama, with Key supporting him as the president’s “Anger Translator.” On the whole, their new show derives more of its comedy from their experiences than any of their previous work.

“Most of it comes from the way we see the world as African-Americans, and the way we see the world as bi-racial Americans,” Key said.

“Key and Peele” has also given the duo a chance to explore a little known facet of black comedy that they call “the nerdy black guy.”

According to Peele, the idea of a black character that was funny and intelligent has been nearly absent from comedy until very recently, with the exception of cartoonish



COURTESY PHOTO

“Key & Peele,” a new sketch comedy show starring Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele, airs on Comedy Central at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

characters like Steve Urkel from “Family Matters.” The other extreme they cited was intelligent artists that adopt the gangster image in order to be accepted.

“You can be street wise, and be as smart as Cornell West is, but what matters is the way you’re packaged,” Key said.

According to Key and Peele, the election of Obama has significantly changed the way African-Americans can be portrayed in comedy. Comedians have a difficult time writing traditional political material about Obama, but Key and Peele have zeroed in on his reputation for calm responses to stressful situations in their “Obama Anger Translator Speech.” His greatest contribution, according to Key and Peele, was making black culture mainstream.

“One of the things that Obama did was put our type on the map,” Peele said. “There wasn’t a place for bi-racial, nerdy, black guys before

in society.”

That doesn’t mean that they won’t still poke fun at the president, or anyone else for that matter. The duo is almost constantly brainstorming ideas for new sketches. Even while on a conference call, they unintentionally started pitching ideas for a sketch about Liam Neeson’s recent run of revenge movies.

Even with constant brainstorming it can be difficult to write timely material. Writing, filming and production can take from anywhere between several weeks to several months, so sketches have to have broad and lasting appeal. From pitch to premiere, the initial episode took nine months to complete, but the pair is committed to their show and even are even hinting at the possibility of a second season.

“It’s been a long process. It’s been a fulfilling process, but long,” Key said.

Hoboken rejects proposal to film Snooki’s ‘Jersey Shore’ spin-off show



AMY NICOLE WALTNEY | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The mayor of Hoboken, N.J. has denied a request from 495 Productions to film Snooki’s spin-off show in their city.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOBOKEN, N.J. — The city of Frank Sinatra’s birth has denied a request for a spinoff of MTV’s “Jersey Shore” reality show to film in the city.

Hoboken Mayor Dawn Zimmer says the Film Commission’s decision was made based on safety and quality of life concerns for residents of the city along the Hudson River.

Hoboken officials say 495 Productions was seeking a 24-hour filming permit to follow two “well-known reality television celebrities” who would live in the city.

It’s not clear who the personalities would be. But The Jersey Journal reported last month that MTV was scouting locations for Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi and Jenni “JWoww” Farley.

The company, which has filmed “Jersey Shore” in Seaside Heights, Miami and Italy, can appeal the decision to the Hoboken City Council.

Stark takes fresh look at Christian history

By JOSHUA MADDEN
A&E EDITOR

Trying to document the history of the world’s largest religion would be a difficult task for anyone, but Baylor Distinguished Professor of the Social Sciences Dr. Rodney Stark decided to fit in all in a book around 500 pages long without sacrificing quality or accuracy.

I’m happy to say that the result, his book “The Triumph of Christianity: How the Jesus Movement Became the World’s Largest Religion,” succeeds in that respect. The book is, quite simply, excellent.

“The Triumph of Christianity” is quite possibly the best nonfiction book I’ve read this year. The only book even close is Michael Lewis’ “Moneyball,” but given that it discusses baseball statistics and “The Triumph of Christianity” documents the history of the world’s most popular religion, I think Stark’s book is certainly more meaningful. “The Triumph of Christianity” has certainly made more of an impact on my life than “Moneyball” did.

I picked up the book expecting it to be an exploration of Christian theology. While there is some of that sporadically throughout the book, Stark’s purpose is more to answer a relatively important question: how did an obscure Jewish movement become so big?

Whether you’re religious or not, you’ll find that this is indeed an important question. Why is it that so many people around the world believe in Christ? That’s not something that happens on accident — for some reason, whether you believe in Christ or not, you have to admit that his message resonates with people.

Stark starts the book out before Christ, focusing heavily on the religious elements at play in the Ro-

BOOK REVIEW

man empire and he shows that this was a group of people who were desperate for some kind of meaningful belief system. In a world with high infant mortality, short life-spans and widespread poverty, Roman citizens were looking for some reason to not simply give up hope.

One of the most interesting concepts that Stark presents in the book is the idea of divine accommodation, which can be summarized as the belief that a divine power will shape its message and the delivery of that message in a way that resonates with the people who are expected to believe in it.

In the case of Christianity, there was a significant build-up to the Christ story; the idea that an all-powerful God would send his son to die publicly in order to wash away the sins of mankind is something that resonated with Roman citizens and, as Stark points out, is still resonating with more than a billion people around the world.

Stark goes through human history explaining how this message continued to resonate with people and also wasn’t responsible for many of the negative things that people associate with Christianity.

For example, Stark goes through “the Dark Ages” and shows why they weren’t dark at all. They weren’t a backwards time in which people weren’t developing at all; they were a time that led to major developments in art, engineering and even something that non-Christians can embrace: the development of modern capitalism.

That’s just one of many topics that Stark takes on — darker areas of Christian history aren’t safe from Stark’s analysis either. He shows

how the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition were not as simplistic as many modern scholars tend to present them. It’s interesting reading the book because what Stark says goes against what you may have been taught in classes, but when you look at the evidence that Stark presents in the book, it’s hard to argue with his conclusions.

“The Triumph of Christianity” is not a book by a Christian trying to force his beliefs down the throat of his readers. Stark’s claims are well-researched and well-documented — this is very much a historical work.

As strange of a comparison as this is to make, it’s much like Judd Apatow’s terrible film “Funny People.” Many people thought that a movie about comedians would be funny, but it was actually a drama and the dramatic participants just happened to comedians.

Much like “Funny People,” just because the topic matter is a religion, “The Triumph of Christianity” is not a religious book; it is a book about the history of a religion. There’s a big difference between the two. Unlike “Funny People,” however, “The Triumph of Christianity” is worth your time.

I don’t care if you are the most devout Christian or Christopher Hitchens, you owe it to yourself to read this book. Understanding the historical context that surrounded Jesus and the rise of the religion after he left the earth is something that every literate person owes it to themselves to do.

I can cite very few books that have had as much of a meaningful impact on me as “The Triumph of Christianity” has. Nearly every Christian facet of my life has been placed in a new context thanks to this book. It is my sincerest hope that you will read the book and find it as rewarding as I did.

FUN TIMES

- Across
- 1 Honda Insight, e.g.
 - 7 Like some mus. keys
 - 10 Bale filler
 - 13 2000s New Hampshire senator John
 - 14 Be up against
 - 16 Roth of “Inglourious Basterds”
 - 17 Where pros play
 - 19 Vital statistic
 - 20 Actress Kudrow
 - 21 Word with the 57-Across in 10-Down
 - 23 Woolen caps
 - 26 “This American Life” host Glass
 - 28 Like some silverware
 - 29 Prefix with meter
 - 30 Lists of priors
 - 32 Man of the cloth
 - 34 Mean mutt
 - 35 She, at sea
 - 38 En route to the mechanic
 - 39 Permit
 - 40 Twangy guitarist Eddy
 - 41 Word with the 57-Across in 25-Down
 - 42 In great shape
 - 43 Spot on a horse
 - 44 Signed up
 - 47 Hear here
 - 48 Wish
 - 50 Cleveland pro, for short
 - 51 Dreyer’s brand, east of the Rockies
 - 52 Olympics participant
 - 54 Far from fatty
 - 56 Actress Charlotte
 - 57 Night sky feature, and hint to a four-letter sequence hidden in 17-Across and 10- and 25-Down
 - 62 Short, for short
 - 63 Dry run
 - 64 Peter of “My Favorite Year”
 - 65 100%
 - 66 Dallas opening?
 - 67 Stout

Answers at www.baylorlariat.com — McClatchy-Tribune

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- Down
- 1 Dallas closing?
 - 2 Trophy, often
 - 3 “Dear Yoko” dedicatee
 - 4 Home perm features
 - 5 One opposed
 - 6 Word with the 57-Across in 17-Across
 - 7 Scratch
 - 8 Ill-fated brother
 - 9 Gin flavoring
 - 10 Like most valentines
 - 11 Aquarium gunk
 - 12 Right-of-way sign
 - 15 Put on ice
 - 18 Org. promoted by Betty White
 - 22 Relishes, as gossip
 - 23 Talking point
 - 24 Hersey’s bell town
 - 25 Ammo for a simple cannon

- 27 Buddhist monk, e.g.
- 30 Steinbeck’s “Cannery __”
- 31 Marching syllable
- 33 It shines on the Seine
- 36 Cabinet design feature
- 37 __ of the realm: noblemen
- 39 Lucy of “Ally McBeal”
- 40 Pa
- 42 Stewed
- 43 Work on film
- 45 Aquafresh rival
- 46 Locker room supply
- 48 Alfalfa’s sweetie
- 49 Net sales?
- 51 Belgian avant-garde painter James
- 53 Facility
- 55 Mercury or Saturn, e.g.
- 58 GPS offering
- 59 One of the small fry
- 60 Bent piece
- 61 Juan Carlos, to his subjects

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Bears fall to KU's second half surge

By GREG DEVRIES
SPORTS WRITER

The No. 7 Kansas Jayhawks beat the No. 6 Bears for the second time this season 68-54.

The leaders for the Bears were junior Pierre Jackson and senior Quincy Acy with 16 and 11 points respectively. Acy also tallied 10 rebounds and recorded his 15th career double-double.

The Bears started the game strong on both ends of the floor. Their full court press forced Kansas to turn the ball over four times in the first five minutes.

Kansas had a tough time dealing with Baylor's double team in the post.

"The first 12 minutes, that was ugly," Kansas head coach Bill Self said. "I mean that was some ugly ball."

On the offensive end, Baylor was winning the battle in the paint. Easy baskets were falling, and Baylor had a 10-point lead with nine minutes left in the first half.

Kansas was eventually able to stretch the floor and get the looks they wanted.

A run of its own would tie the game, and the teams would go back and forth until halftime, when Kansas went into the locker room with a 33-30 lead.

"The end of the first half was really a turning point," head coach

Scott Drew said. "We should have finished with momentum and we didn't."

Thomas Robinson may have been the focus for the Bears defensively, but it was Jeff Withey that kept the points coming for Kansas. He finished the first half with 17 points on 5-6 shooting. He was also 7-8 from the line and was the only player in double figures at half for either team.

"He was huge tonight. I'm happy for him," Kansas guard Tyshawn Taylor said.

Thomas Robinson only had four points, and Taylor was only 2-6 from the field going into the locker room for the Jayhawks. Jackson and Acy finished the half with eight points each.

"The end of the first half was really a turning point. We should have finished with momentum and we didn't."

Scott Drew | Head Coach

The Bears came out slow in the second half, but the Jayhawks came out firing.

A 19-4 run gave the Jayhawks a



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Junior Pierre Jackson darts through two Kansas defenders on a fast break Wednesday at the Ferrell Center. The No. 6 Bears lost to the No. 7 Jayhawks 68-54, the second loss against Kansas for Baylor this season.

lead the Bears could not overcome for the rest of the game.

"We just let one mistake lead to two, and they got some easy transition buckets," Acy said.

Sophomore Perry Jones III finished the game with five points and three rebounds on just 1-8 shooting.

"That was obviously a big blow to them and a big help to us," Self

said about Jones III and Miller's combined eight points.

The Jayhawks held the Bears to a 0-5 performance from the arc and 36 percent shooting in the second half.

Baylor uncharacteristically shot just 57 percent from the free-throw line and 37 percent from the field. Kansas shot over 50 percent from the field and grabbed more

rebounds than the Bears.

Bench play partially made up for the hole that Kansas was digging for the Bears.

Sophomore Cory Jefferson finished with 11 points, five rebounds, and three blocks in 23 minutes of play.

In the end, however, Baylor couldn't put together a big enough run to counter the way the

Jayhawks opened the second half.

The Jayhawks (19-5, 9-2) lost to rival Missouri in their last game, but they haven't lost back-to-back games since the 2005-2006 season.

Baylor (21-3, 8-3) will take on the Big 12-leading Tigers at 12:45 p.m. Saturday at Mizzou Arena. The last time Baylor played Missouri, the Tigers took the win at the Ferrell Center 89-88.

Giants RB, Patriot QB's wife both need to keep a lid on it

By TYLER ALLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

Unless you've been living under a rock or you are clearly reading the wrong page, you know the New York Giants defeated the New England Patriots 21-17 in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

One of the unfortunate stories to come out following the game is the comments made by Gisele Bundchen, Victoria's Secret model and wife of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

Bundchen was caught on video after the game saying, "My hus-

band cannot f----- throw the ball and catch the ball at the same time. I can't believe they dropped the ball so many times," in response to a number of dropped passes in the fourth quarter by Patriots receivers.

After hearing these comments, Giants running back Brandon Jacobs said of Gisele, "She just needs to continue to stay cute and shut up."

First off, Jacobs should not have said what he said to the media. Bundchen was not taking a shot at him or his team, so I really see no reason for him to even care what

she said.

Also, as she is married to Brady, of course she is going to defend her husband, especially in the heat of the moment as these comments came right after the game.

Do I think Gisele should have kept her mouth shut? Of course.

SPORTS TAKE

She should stay out it, but she did not mean for her comments to become public. She was reportedly being heckled by a fan saying Giants quarterback Eli Manning was

owning Brady when she made her comments, and they were captured on video, not by the media.

Jacobs, on the other hand, took the time during an interview to make his comments. Unacceptable.

By the way, Brandon, you had nine carries for 37 yards in the game. Just be happy Eli carried you to a Super Bowl ring.

There were a couple of other prominent stories to come out after the Super Bowl I should touch on.

GRONK'S PARTY FOUL
Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski was seen dancing and taking his shirt off at the team's

postgame party following the loss on Sunday.

Former Patriot and current NBC football analyst Rodney Harrison said Gronkowski showed "immaturity" with his actions at the party.

What Harrison forgets is, yes, Gronkowski is immature. He's a 22-year-old rookie. That means he has one year on me.

He has not been to all the Super Bowls Brady and other Patriots have been to. This was his first.

I would be worried if it was reported he locked himself in his hotel room. He's a 22-year-old who

did something stupid at a party. Not an issue.

ELI'S LEGACY
Retired quarterback Kurt Warner said he did not think Eli Manning was a Hall of Famer right now. Apparently this sparked a debate. I don't see how.

He's not a Hall of Famer right now. But he also has plenty of years ahead of him to improve his numbers and possible win more rings.

On that same note, can we stop comparing Eli to Peyton? They are two different people.

The arguments we make in sports sometimes astound even me.

Softball season launches Friday

By KRISTA PIRTLE
SPORTS WRITER

The weather has cooled off and the wind has picked up. Yes, it's softball season.

This weekend the Lady Bears will begin play in the Gettman/QTI Classic that will take place at Gettman Stadium here in Waco.

The Lady Bears are returning seven starters from last season's World Series squad, including junior pitcher Whitney Canion, who pitched for Team USA over the summer.

"The days are going by slower the closer it gets," Canion said. "I'm so excited for Friday."

Baylor will face Wichita State and Iowa Friday afternoon, Arkansas and Belmont Saturday afternoon and UT-Arlington Sunday afternoon.

This weekend, however, head coach Glenn Moore wants Canion to focus on the bullpen, starting her for two of the five games this weekend.

Junior pitcher Courtney Repka will start against Wichita State, sophomore Liz Paul will start against Arkansas and freshman Linsey Hays against Belmont, leaving Canion Iowa and UT-Arlington.

"Hopefully we'll throw her only two times this weekend, maybe let her close something to loosen her up Saturday and get some soreness out," Moore said.

Canion is also making a name for herself in the batter's box.

"I'm excited to see her buy into that," Moore said. "For the majority of the weekend you'll see her bat the four hole because she's really that big of a threat and has had that good of an offseason."

Behind Canion will be a solid lineup on both sides of the ball.

In addition to seven veterans, the Lady Bears have added eight freshmen to the 2012 squad.

"Were just building off of last year because we have so many returners and just lost one starter, Dani (Leal), our shortstop," senior right fielder Kayce Walker said. "We really are excited and anxious to see how all the freshmen play in their roles."

Up the middle defensively will be the primary display of the talented freshman class, as Jordan Strickland will start at shortstop and Delaney Guy at second.

"We lost two pretty important middle infielders, Dani (Leal) and K.J. (Freeland)" Moore said. "But I think we've replaced them with equal talent, not experience. It will take some time for them to get their feet wet."

The only position up for grabs at this point is left field, tossed up between senior Sydney Wilson, sophomore Shelbi Redfearn and Hays.

Moore said the starter for this position will be determined by offensive production.

As a whole, the lineup for this season's squad holds promise for both the short and long game.

The leadoff will be junior Kathy Shelton, who,



CHRIS DERRETT | LARIAT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Junior pitcher Whitney Canion winds up during pitching warm-ups Wednesday at Gettman Stadium.

along with Canion, is on the top 50 watch list for the Player of the Year.

"I just set the table for my teammates and get on base as much as I can," Shelton said.

Following her is Walker, sophomore first baseman Holly Holl and Canion.

The fifth hole will belong to senior third baseman Megan Turk.

"When you have Whitney on base you're always nervous anyways and then you're going to put a left-handed hitter that could really pull and hit her with a line drive," Moore said. "That along with the fact that Megan is a good hitter gives us a pretty solid five holes of hitting."

This weekend provides Baylor softball with a clean slate founded on the success of last season.

Look for a softball season full preview in the Lariat's special issue on Feb. 17.

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(11:00) 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

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(11:00) 1:30 4:15 7:15 9:50

THE SITTER (R)
(11:30) 1:35 3:40 5:50 8:00 10:00

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