



The Baylor Lariat

THURSDAY | APRIL 26, 2012

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Baseball defeats UT Arlington 6-4, putting them back in the win zone

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Represent greatness
Today will be the last day to cast your vote for the greatest video from our list of entries online

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The place to go to know the places to go

Moving on

The Baylor Law School Commencement will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the Jones Concert Hall of the Glennis McCrary Music Building. The guest speakers will be professors Jeremy Counsellor Hooders, David Guinn and Gerald Powell.

Band of Bears

Concert Band, directed by assistant director of bands Rick Espinosa, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in Jones Concert Hall of the Glennis McCrary Music Building. This event is free and open to the public.

Back in the diamond

Baylor baseball will play New Mexico State at 6:35 p.m. on Friday at the Baylor Ballpark. Tickets can be bought at the box office of the Bill Daniel Student Center or at www.baylorbears.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the doors of the stadium before the game.



baylorlariat.com

Move-out recycling helps charities

By TREVOR ALLISON
REPORTER

Baylor Sustainability is giving students the opportunity to recycle their waste and donate unneeded items to local charities through its Take It or Leave It program during move-out this year.

Smith Getterman, sustainability coordinator for Baylor, said the program provides an opportunity for students to donate items they might normally throw away when moving out of their

residence hall.

"Instead of trashing their couch, television or microwave, they [students] can donate it to Caritas or Goodwill at one of the locations in the residence hall lobbies or near the Baylor-run apartment complexes," Getterman said.

Buddy Edwards, executive director of Caritas of Waco, said his organization approached Baylor about the possibility of acquiring items students no longer needed at the end of the school years.

"We have partnered with the

Baylor sustainability effort for five years, and it has proven to be a valuable relationship for us," Edwards said.

The donations will help support Caritas' emergency assistance program, which provides clothing and other household items to people with special needs.

"Items are placed in our thrift stores where some are given away and others are sold," Edwards said. "Revenues from sales are used to further the emergency

services of Caritas."

Getterman said the program is important because it helps to demonstrate the university's understanding of responsibly taking care of its goods and resources.

"Instead of sending perfectly good used items to the landfill, students have the opportunity to extend the life of those items by donating them to organizations that will help get them to people who are in need," Getterman said.

He said with the way the program is set up, it is beneficial

for everyone.

"Everyone wins: students get rid of the stuff they no longer want or need, Baylor is minimizing its impact on the environment and Caritas and Goodwill capture desirable products for their customers," Getterman said.

Edwards said Caritas depends completely on the generosity of the community in receiving its donations for client services and thrift store sales.

SEE RECYCLING, page 9



MATT HELLMAN | LARIAT PHOTO EDITOR

Waco resident Xaos Giovanni reads a book about tarot cards in the meadow next to her house on March 1 on Cherry Street.

Woman converts to witchcraft in search of answers

By JOSHUA GILL
CONTRIBUTOR

From her Harley Davidson T-shirt, dark lipstick and eyeshadow against her pale complexion, red streaks in her black hair and pentagram hung around her neck, one might think Xaos Giovanni to be a Goth at first glance — but the truth is more complex.

Giovanni, mother of three and employee at Teriyaki Park and The Texas Chainsaw Nightmare Haunted House, said she finds that being the matriarch of a coven of witches is rewarding, despite the persecution she and her family endure.

Giovanni said she had her first experience with witchcraft at an early age.

"I was born this way," she said. "I was always like this. I started when I was 3 or 4. I could see ghosts."

Daughter of a Mormon mother and an atheist father, Giovanni's parents encouraged her to choose her own religion,

she said. But her mother was uncomfortable with her interest in witchcraft, so she initially settled on Catholicism, which was the most welcoming and accepting of the Christian denominations she encountered, Giovanni said.

Giovanni said she later converted from Catholicism because of her interest in "the craft" and disillusionment with Christianity.

"I follow Pan and Diana, Celtic and Greek," Giovanni said, explaining that she worships the Celtic god of nature, Pan, and the Roman goddess of the moon, birth and hunting, Diana, who is equated with the Greek goddess Artemis.

"That's who I follow. I follow the Earth beliefs," Giovanni said. "When I pray to them, I always get an answer."

Paganism, the wider religion under which witchcraft (also called "the Earth beliefs") is categorized, is a growing religion in the United States, according to

SEE WITCHCRAFT, page 9

Man discharged from Marines for Facebook post

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — A sergeant will be discharged for criticizing President Barack Obama on Facebook in a case that called into question the Pentagon's policies about social media and its limits on the speech of active duty military personnel, the Marine Corps said Wednesday.

Sgt. Gary Stein will get an other-than-honorable discharge and lose most of his benefits for vio-

lating the policies, the Corps said.

The San Diego-area Marine who has served nine years in the Corps said he was disappointed by the decision.

He argued that he was exercising his constitutional rights to free speech.

"I love the Marine Corps, I love my job. I wish it wouldn't have gone this way. I'm having a hard time seeing how 15 words on Facebook could have ruined my nine-year career," he told The Associated Press.

Gary Kreep, an attorney for Stein, said he would pursue administrative appeals within the Marine Corps but anticipates the effort will fail. He said he planned to file an amended complaint in federal court.

"As long as he wants to pursue this, we will be supporting him," said Kreep, who is executive director of the United States Justice Foundation, an advocacy group.

The Marines acted after saying Stein stated March 1 on a Facebook page used by Marine me-

teorologists, "Screw Obama and I will not follow all orders from him." Stein later clarified that statement, saying he would not follow unlawful orders.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Yoo, the commanding general of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, said in a brief statement Wednesday that evidence supported an administrative board's recommendation to discharge Stein.

Tom Umberg, a former Army colonel and military prosecutor,

said Stein persisted even after being warned.

"The Marine Corps gave him the opportunity to think about his actions, yet Sgt. Stein continued to undermine the chain of command," said Umberg, who was not involved in Stein's case. "I think his purpose was to leave the Marine Corps in a dramatic fashion in order to begin a career in talk radio or what have you."

Umberg believes the decision

SEE MARINES, page 9

New Orleans judge leans toward approval for BP oil spill settlement

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — A federal judge in New Orleans said Wednesday that he is leaning in favor of granting preliminary approval to a proposed class-action settlement that would resolve billions of dollars in claims against BP over the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

After hearing BP and a team of plaintiffs' attorneys outline the proposed deal, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier said he plans to rule within a week. Barbier would hold a "fairness hearing" later this year, possibly in November, before deciding whether to give his final approval.

The proposed agreement is intended to resolve more than 100,000

claims by people and businesses who blame economic losses on the nation's worst offshore oil spill.

"This has been a very impressive effort on the part of counsel ... in terms of getting to where you all are today," Barbier said, noting that litigation over the Exxon Valdez spill took roughly 20 years to resolve. "I did not intend for this case to go on for 20 years, not with me in charge of it."

London-based BP PLC estimates it would pay about \$7.8 billion to resolve these claims, but the settlement wouldn't be capped and likely would be one of the largest class-action settlements ever.

Barbier stressed that his preliminary approval would only mark a "starting point," with objections to

the deal to be considered in coming months. The proposal was announced March 2 and is spelled out in hundreds of pages of documents filed last week.

Objections already have begun trickling in. In a court filing earlier Wednesday, a group of commercial fishermen and industry groups said it sees "significant flaws" in the settlement and claimed it wouldn't protect most fishermen against future risks to fisheries.

BP has agreed to pay \$2.3 billion for seafood-related claims by commercial fishing vessel owners, captains and deckhands. The settlement also would compensate other categories of losses, including lost wages, businesses losses, property damage

SEE OIL SPILL, page 9



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama attorney general Luther Strange talks with reporters in Montgomery, Ala., on April 18. Strange said the proposed class-action settlement will speed up talk of a settlement in the suit by Alabama and Louisiana seeking to recover revenue the states have lost as a result of the oil spill.

Florida’s welfare drug testing proved a bad call

Editorial

From July through October 2011 in Florida, all recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families were required to undergo drug testing to receive benefits. Applicants were required to pay upfront for the test, which cost an average of \$30.

The law was originally passed under the assumption that it

“As of right now, 23 states allow age exceptions for students with disabilities. It should be 50. People who believe otherwise are stuck in very old ways.”

would save money and identify drug users within the welfare system.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott was confident the law would be a success. In an interview with T.J. Holmes on CNN on June 5, Scott said, “Studies show that people on welfare are using drugs much higher than other people in the population.”

Scott’s information was based on an annual National Survey on Drug Use & Health conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency. The report Scott used was published in 2000.

That’s 12 years ago. As ACLU’s Jason Williamson told USA Today, “This exemplifies the extent to which folks are willing to scapegoat poor people when it suits political interests. ... Subjecting people who are receiving public benefits to government intrusion, and the singling out of poor people in this country under the guise of saving money is worrisome to us.”

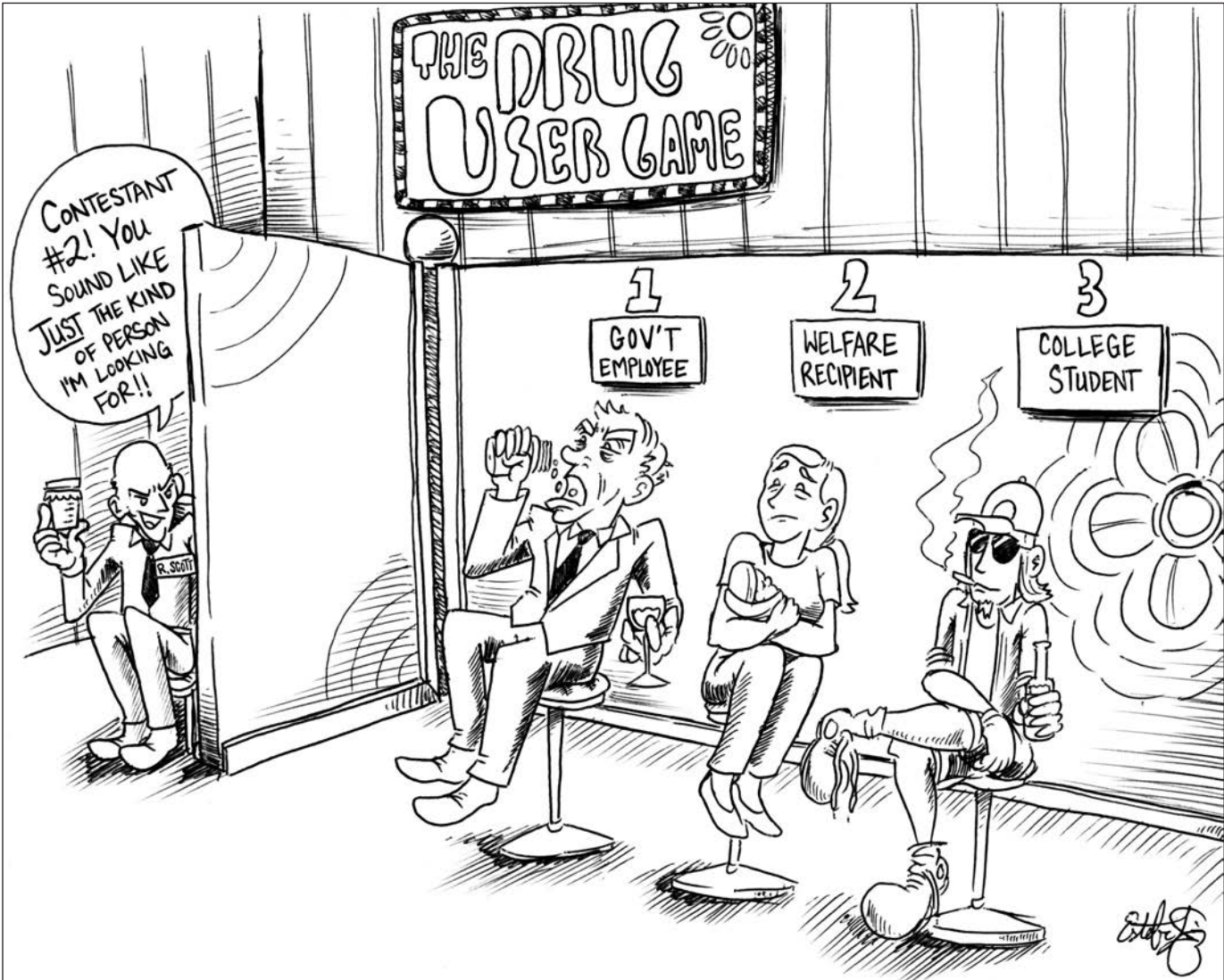
One appealing argument suggests that random drug tests can be given to recipients of government aid because by accepting government money, welfare recipients have entered into a contract with the government that apparently precludes guaranteed rights.

As a Feb. 29 USA Today article points out, if this is the logic the state wants to follow, then all recipients of government money must be drug tested. This includes college students, veterans, senior adults, and all government employees.

One can imagine that college students would have higher than a 2.6 percent failure rate, which is what Florida’s program yielded.

In fact, of the 4,086 applicants tested, only 108 tested positive. The 2.6 failure rate is one third of the 8.13 percent drug use rate among all Florida residents. Only 40 people abstained from the tests—if one assumes that all 40 of those individuals would have failed the test, the failure rate among welfare recipients would have been 3.6 percent, still less than half the rate of the general population.

Not only was the governor



wrong in claiming that welfare recipients use drugs at a higher rate than other Floridians, he was wrong in suggesting the program would save Florida taxpayers money. In fact, the state spent \$118,140 reimbursing the applicants who tested negative for

drug use. Subtract the amount the state saved by not paying benefits to the 2.6 percent of people who failed the drug test, and the state ledger stands at negative \$45,780.

The only thing this law proved was that lawmakers are

still capable of passing laws based on outdated facts and longtime prejudices rather than thinking through the consequences of legislation.

This bill demeans an entire population, curtails Fourth Amendment rights and costs

money. It was only in effect for four months in Florida before a federal court blocked it, but other states have introduced similar bills. Hopefully representatives in those states will make a better choice than Florida representatives did.

You can’t enjoy life now if you’re sitting around waiting

As my freshman year at Baylor draws to a close, I ponder the meaning of life.

That’s a bit too philosophical, right?

I may not be pondering the meaning of life, but I am thinking about how much I’ve changed since the beginning of the fall semester.

Living away from home, missing family and friends, having a roommate, eating at a dining hall every day, staying up all hours of the night, and doing pretty much what I wanted to do were some pastimes that I had to get used to.

With only a few days left of class and about a week left living here in Waco, I’ve begun to prepare myself. For what, you ask?



Linda Wilkins | Staff writer

For life. Yes, I just pulled the philosophy card. When I leave Waco for the

summer, I’ll have gained friends, had experiences and learned something. I’m not the same as I was when I came here and I probably won’t be the same as when I return in the fall.

Where is this coming from?

One night, as Laura, my roommate, and I were about to go to sleep, Laura said something that’s sort of stuck with me for a while. It’s a simple fact that many people, myself included, overlook.

Just before I turned off the lights, Laura sat up, looked at me and said, “Hey, did you know that every second that passes you can never get back?”

I looked at her for a moment, her words not yet registered in my mind.

Laura quickly added, “Not to put a damper on your night or anything.”

I laughed a little bit and said she hadn’t.

And she hadn’t.

If anything, Laura had just reminded me of what I’ve known all along.

Every breath you take. Every word. Every thought. Every sound. Every touch. Everything you do takes up time.

Time is something that we as humans wish we could play with. Wouldn’t you like to have a Time Turner to go back three hours and tell your past-self to get a move on with that essay? Wouldn’t you like a DeLorean to go back in time and undo an awkward situation?

The thing is, I think time is one of the greatest resources we waste. We’re filling our time wishing we could do this or avoiding doing that.

This past year at Baylor, I’ll admit, I’ve wasted a little bit of time. I’ve put off papers and studying (and for those of you who are wondering, I am an Honors student). My biggest time waster was the waiting.

Waiting to start homework. Waiting for dinner. Waiting for spring break. Waiting for an email. Waiting. Waiting. Waiting.

I think I’ve lived my life waiting for the next big thing that’s going to happen, and I’ve somehow overlooked how much I’ve got go-

ing for me right now.

Presently I’ve been waiting for the end of the year. But honestly I could be living up the time I have now.

It’s sad that it’s taken me this long to fully realize how fast time flies.

I guess what I’m trying to say is this: be aware of your time. Life could be gone in a blink of an eye. Fill every second of your life with memories to recall, learn from, and share. That way, your time isn’t wasted.

It’s worth it.

Linda Wilkins is a freshman journalism major from Tyrone, Ga., and is a staff writer for the Lariat.

Letters: Bill sets bad precedent

The thing that has personally insulted me the most about the Bear Pit bill is the way that those who are in favor of the bill have phrased what exactly the bill does to the Bear Pit. They have said that the bill will remove all requirements for the courtside seating that the Bear Pit currently occupies, which is correct.

However, they also continue to say that the Bear Pit will be able to continue to exist as an organization, because they aren’t revoking the Bear Pit’s charter.

To this I ask, how is this even remotely possible? There is absolutely no point of the Bear Pit if it can’t require membership for the seating, can’t ask students to have a unified look at games and do something as basic as leading the cheers.

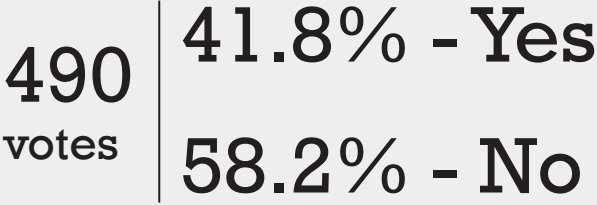
Let’s call a spade, a spade. This bill puts up a student organization for demolition. This bill sets a dangerous precedent. What happens if I have a grudge with the Baylor Chamber? Do I write a bill to take away its responsibilities? How about campus political organizations such as Baylor Democrats or YCT? AMSA, Greek Life, Wells Project, I am putting you on notice because if you don’t stand up for your fellow student organization, then you may be the next up on student government chopping block. Be careful Baylor. Don’t say I didn’t warn you.

— Michael Blair
Scottsdale, Ariz., freshman
Sophomore class senator-elect

The results are in...

Our SurveyMonkey.com poll asked the following question:

Do you agree with the Baylor Student Senate recommendation to get rid of the Bear Pit as it is currently organized for men’s basketball games and to open Ferrell Center floor bleachers to all students on a first-come basis?



Letters to the editor should be no more than 300 words and should include the writer’s name, hometown, major, graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Letters should be emailed to: Lariat_Letters@baylor.edu.

Correction: Wednesday’s editorial, “Michigan school district spoils deserving senior’s season,” featured a misleading headline. The Ishpeming School District has been fighting the Michigan High School Athletic League to allow Eric Dompierre to play his senior season.

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Opinion

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns. Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.



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TSA pat-down of scared 4-year-old causes ruckus

By ROXANA HEGEMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WICHITA, Kan. — The grandmother of a 4-year-old girl who became hysterical during a security screening at a Kansas airport said Wednesday that the child was forced to undergo a pat-down after hugging her, with security agents yelling and calling the crying girl an uncooperative suspect.

The incident has been garnering increasing media and online attention since the child's mother, Michelle Brademeyer of Montana, detailed the ordeal in a public Facebook post last week. The Transportation Security Administration is defending its agents, despite new procedures aimed at reducing pat-downs of children.

The child's grandmother, Lori Croft, told The Associated Press that Brademeyer and her daughter, Isabella, initially passed through security at the Wichita airport without incident. The girl then ran over to briefly hug Croft, who was awaiting a pat-down after tripping the alarm, and that's when TSA agents insisted the girl undergo a physical pat-down as well.

Isabella had just learned about "stranger danger" at school, her grandmother said, adding that the girl was afraid and unsure about what was going on.

"She started to cry, saying 'No I don't want to,' and when we tried talking to her, she ran," Croft said. "They yelled, 'We are going to shut down the airport if you don't grab her.'"

But she said the family's main concern was the lack of under-

standing from TSA agents in dealing with a 4-year-old child as a child and not a terror suspect.

"There was no common sense and there was no compassion," Croft said. "That was our biggest fault with the whole thing — not that they are following security procedures, because I understand that they have to do that."

Brademeyer, of Missoula, Mont., wrote a public Facebook post last week about the April 15 incident, claiming TSA treated her daughter "no better than if she had been a terrorist." The posting was taken down Wednesday. Another post said the family had filed formal complaints with the TSA and the airport.

The TSA released a statement Tuesday saying it explained to the family why additional security procedures were necessary and that agents didn't suspect or suggest the child was carrying a firearm.

"TSA has reviewed the incident and determined that our officers followed proper screening procedures in conducting a modified pat-down on the child," the agency said.

The statement noted that the agency recently implemented modified screening procedures for children age 12 and younger to further reduce the need for pat-downs of children, such as multiple passes through a metal detector and advanced imaging technology.

"These changes in protocol will ultimately reduce — though not eliminate — pat-downs of children," the statement said. "In this

case, however, the child had completed screening but had contact with another member of her family who had not completed the screening process."

In a phone interview from her home in Fountain Valley, Calif., Croft said Brademeyer tried to no avail to get TSA agents to use a wand on the frightened girl or allow her to walk through the metal detector again. She also said TSA agents wanted to screen her granddaughter alone in a separate room.

"She was kicking and screaming and fighting and in hysterics," Croft said. "At that point, my daughter ran up to her against TSA's orders because she said 'My daughter is terrified. I can't leave her.'"

The incident went on for maybe 10 minutes, until a manager came in and allowed agents to pat the girl down while she was screaming but while being held by her mother. The family was then allowed to go to their next gate with a TSA agent following them.

Croft said that for the first few nights after coming home, Isabelle had nightmares and talked about kidnappers. She said TSA agents had shouted at the girl, telling her to calm down and saying the suspect is not cooperating.

"To a 4-year-old's perspective that's what it was to her because they didn't explain anything and she did not know what was going on," Croft said. "She saw people grabbing at her and raising their voices. To her, someone was trying to kidnap her or harm her in some way."



Former U.S. senator and presidential candidate John Edwards arrives at federal court Monday in Greensboro, N.C., for his criminal trial over alleged violations of campaign finance laws.

Former aide testifies against Edwards

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENSBORO, N.C.— Andrew Young, testifying Wednesday at his longtime boss' corruption trial, said John Edwards masterminded a scheme to use nearly \$1 million from wealthy campaign donors to conceal his affair with Rielle Hunter from voters as he sought the White House.

Young testified that when Edwards asked him in December 2007 to claim paternity, the candidate pledged to set the record straight after the baby was born.

During the 2008 meeting in his car, Young told Edwards he had kept evidence of the cover-up, including voicemails, emails and an intimate tape made by the woman. He said he threatened to go public if Edwards' didn't come clean about the fact the baby was his.

The former one-term U.S. sena-

tor from North Carolina has pleaded not guilty to six counts related to campaign finance violations. He faces up to 30 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines if convicted on all counts.

Edwards denies knowing about the secret money, much of which flowed into accounts controlled by Young and his wife. Prosecutors allege Edwards directed Young to start giving money to Hunter in 2007 after she threatened to go to the media and expose the affair. Edwards suggested asking elderly heiress Rachel "Bunny" Mellon, who had already given generously to the campaign, Young testified.

Prosecutors showed the jury checks from Mellon written to her interior designer, who would then endorse them and send them to Andrew and his wife, Cheri. Starting in June 2007, Mellon would eventually provide checks totaling \$725,000, funds that Young said

Edwards and he called the "Bunny money."

Telling Mellon the money would be used for a "non-campaign" expense, Young said she offered to provide \$1.2 million over time to help. Under federal law, donors are limited to giving a maximum of \$2,300 per election cycle.

Edwards' political hopes dimmed that July in 2007 when tabloid reporters photographed him at a California hotel with his mistress and baby daughter, Frances Quinn Hunter, who was then 5 months old. Despite the grainy photos, Young said Edwards moved ahead with a planned overnight visit to Mellon's Virginia estate, where he was to ask the heiress to provide another \$50 million to establish an anti-poverty foundation.

It would be another two years before Edwards acknowledged he had fathered the child.

UT system moves fight from Sun Bowl, angers city leaders

By JIM VERTUNO AND
JUAN CARLOS LLORCA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL PASO — Angry El Paso leaders on Wednesday accused the University of Texas system chancellor of fostering a "climate of fear" by canceling a high-profile boxing event in a border city fighting to overcome assumptions it has been overrun by spillover violence from the drug war in Mexico.

City leaders were stunned when UT system Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa said Tuesday the University of Texas-El Paso's Sun Bowl stadium could not host a June 16 fight between World Boxing Council world middleweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. of Mexico and Andy Lee of Ireland. The UT system said Cigarroa made the decision based on a "higher than normal" risk assessment, but released no details.

The move prompted a wave of angry responses from El Paso officials who insist their city is safe. Despite ranking among the safest cities in the nation in terms of violent crime, El Paso officials have long complained the city gets falsely portrayed as a war zone.

"It stems from this general climate of fear being created by some ... that the border is unsafe. This is the latest example of the kind of decisions that are going to do incalculable harm to border com-

munities," said state Sen. Jose Rodriguez, an El Paso Democrat.

Rodriguez and others demanded to know the details behind Cigarroa's decision.

El Paso City Manager Joyce Wilson and El Paso Police Chief Greg Allen insisted Cigarroa show them a risk assessment report for the fight, and any others conducted for major events that have been held on system property for the last five years.

Last weekend, UT-El Paso's Don Haskins Center basketball arena hosted a Showtime boxing card, and the Frank Erwin Center at the University of Texas in Austin is hosting ESPN's Friday Night Fights this week.

The 51,500-seat Sun Bowl is home to the UT-El Paso Miners football team and the annual Sun Bowl game. It also hosted a major fight in 1998 when more than 40,000 watched Oscar De La Hoya.

The UT system said "this decision should not be generalized to other events at UT-El Paso or other UT institution facilities. If there was an elevated risk determination associated with any event hosted by the other 14 UT institutions, the same decision would have been made."

A UT system spokesman said he could not discuss the El Paso fight risk assessment and that Cigarroa was not immediately



In this photo taken Tuesday, Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., left, and his opponent Andy Lee pose for pictures during a news conference in the Sun Bowl stadium in El Paso. Chavez's father, former professional boxer Julio Cesar Chavez, is watching at right background.

him for details on the risk assessment, including whether law enforcement intelligence suggested the fight would be a dangerous event for the university and the city. Rodriguez said Cigarroa told him he had nothing specific.

"It is very difficult for me to accept," Rodriguez said, noting that former President Bill Clinton visited El Paso on Tuesday without incident. "You just don't make decisions based on 'higher than normal' risk without details."


Cigarroa informed UT-El Paso officials of his decision one hour before a news conference to promote the fight. Bob Arum, president of the boxing promotions company Top Rank, said he's ready to move the fight to San Antonio or Houston, but promised El Paso officials to wait another day to see if he and others can't get Cigarroa to change his mind.

El Paso is a natural place to host a fight with a popular Mexican fighter like Chavez, Jr., Arum said.


"It's a hot boxing town," Arum said. "I'm totally befuddled. If there is a high security problem, tell us what it is."

Arum said fights in Las Vegas at the MGM Grand and Mandalay casino resorts require spectators to go through metal detectors.

Sending 50,000 people at the Sun Bowl through metal detectors would be inconvenient and expensive, but "it's doable," Arum said.



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Students living in apartments near Baylor can easily drop off items at one of Goodwill's donation trailers located at the following locations:

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‘Art of Fielding’ author catches literary success

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

NEW YORK — There are author success stories. There’s winning the lottery. And then there’s Chad Harbach.

A long-suffering, often-starving Master’s of Fine Arts graduate, Harbach spent much of his 20s and 30s working temp jobs so he could write a novel, sometimes with barely \$100 in his bank account.

He thought no one would ever read his book, titled “The Art of Fielding.” It featured some pretty ambitious literary writing, a prominent gay character and a baseball motif, all no-nos for anyone with aspirations to the fiction bestseller list.

But after a decade of working and reworking, things began to turn around. Agency rejections turned into representation. Editor ambivalence transformed into interest.

Harbach’s book, a tale of how people’s lives at a fictional Midwestern university are toppled after a young shortstop’s wild throw, became almost magically sought-after — so much so that the publisher Little, Brown and Co. paid more than \$650,000 to secure publishing rights during a fierce bidding war.

Blurbs from John Irving and Jonathan Franzen followed. So did a Vanity Fair story about Harbach and the backstory of the book’s publication. When the novel came out last September to glowing reviews, “The Art of Fielding” had become a freight train. It has since sold more than 250,000 copies. HBO has optioned it in the hope of turning it into a series.

But for all the envy his story might elicit, Harbach’s life since the frenzy has hardly been simple. As the book is released this month in paperback, and as the author prepares for an appearance at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, his rise has also led some to paint a target on his back. It has also highlighted a vexing question: What happens when you attain unexpected literary fame?

More specifically, what happens when you live in poverty for years, consumed with something no one knows or cares about, and then seemingly overnight become the kind of figure people flock to see, parsing every sentence you write as though it’s the word of God or, perhaps better, a new Harry Potter novel?

“It’s a huge contrast, and I’m not sure I was really ready for it,”

Harbach said, a few days before his festival appearance. “When I was writing all those years, I spent all this time thinking about something that you literally can’t talk about with anyone; no one wants to go through the intricate crises you’re going through writing a book. And then it all changes, and that’s all anyone wants to talk about.”

“The Art of Fielding” concerns Henry Skrimshander, an unremarkable physical specimen who, thanks to a fictional baseball handbook and a kind of innate precociousness, becomes a prized shortstop at the fictional Midwestern Westish College. But his errant throw soon injures another player, causing a chain reaction that makes Henry question his own talent and sense of self.

The novel is populated with light and whimsical characters — including gay roommate Owen Dunne and the larger-than life university president, the avowed straight bachelor Guert Affenlight who finds himself pining for a man — as a campus novel’s themes of lost innocence play out against a backdrop of the diamond.

After growing up in Racine, Wis., Harbach attended Harvard, where he studied Herman Melville and other great American novelists. Several years after graduation, having not written or published much, he was accepted to an MFA program at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville after submitting a baseball-themed story set on a college campus, which he then tried to develop into a novel; he also co-founded a small literary magazine.

Rejected countless times by the mainstream publishing apparatus, he was discovered by a New York literary agent named Chris Parris-Lamb, and the wheels for “The Art of Fielding” were finally in motion.

Harbach’s editor, Little, Brown chief Michael Pietsch, acknowledges that “The Art of Fielding” was “one of the hardest kind of books to launch, because when you describe it, it sounds like something totally unsurprising — a baseball novel about falling in love.”

He said he believed it was the prose that ultimately persuaded critics and readers. “The key to marketing is the book itself. We knew it would win over anyone who picked it up.”

Not every reader or critic has found it so winning, and the result has been something of a backlash.

No critique was as ferocious as

the one from essayist B.R. Myers, who in a piece in the current issue of the Atlantic — seven months after the book came out — said Harbach’s tome was overhyped because of the public’s lemming-like approach to literary fiction. Using words such as “shallow” and “trivial,” Myers concluded that “The Art of Fielding” “was written for the none-too-intellectual people it depicts, both to amuse them and to plead for more inclusiveness on campuses.”

In his characteristically restrained tone, Harbach said he hasn’t read the piece. “I’ve read B.R. Myers in the past, and I stopped doing so a long time ago,” he said referring to the often contrarian writer. “I can imagine reading the piece, and if it costs me two hours of consternation, it’s not worth it.”

Pietsch had a more direct response. “I didn’t know anyone still reads the Atlantic. And if they do, good for them,” he quipped.

Since his fame has grown, Harbach has tried to stay focused. He still lives in his modest apartment in Charlottesville and continues to co-edit the literary magazine as he makes occasional trips to New York, where he would like to live after he finishes touring in the fall.

Pietsch says that Harbach’s own Midwestern roots helped the author stay grounded.

“When I first met Chad I noticed this clearly observing eye, but also felt this embodiment of sweetness and modesty,” he said.

But modesty can also come with anxiety, compounded by the feeling any buzzed-about young novelist might have when they contemplate the question: What’s next?

Many phenoms often flop with their sophomore efforts. “I don’t mean to make Chad Harbach nervous, or more nervous than he already is, but a successful follow-up to a strong first novel is very hard to do,” said Sara Nelson, the former editor in chief of Publishers Weekly and the book editor at O Magazine. “There are more examples of failure than success.”

Harbach, who has not yet begun writing a new book, said he knows he is staring into an abyss.

“There’s an anxiety that builds up when you write and rewrite a book for years, thinking if it’s ever going to get done,” he said. “I think now as I’m getting back to writing I’m going back to square zero. There’s a lot of motivation. But I also think that anxiety will quickly build up again.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crank it up

Arctic Monkeys performs on Tuesday at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands. The Arctic Monkeys played Wednesday night at the Frank J. Erwin Center, the last of three appearances the band made in Texas this month.

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FUN TIMES

Answers at www.baylorlariat.com — McClatchy-Tribune

Across

- 1 Party boss?
- 5 Bunks, e.g.
- 9 Lavish meal
- 14 Wine-growing region
- 15 Neural conductor
- 16 '80s-'90s legal drama
- 17 Frustrated crossword solver's cry
- 20 Kindle competitor
- 21 Chew toy material
- 22 Scholarship, e.g.
- 24 Spits out, as a DVD
- 27 Small beef
- 28 Move through muck
- 30 Brand at Williams-Sonoma
- 31 Little songbird
- 34 Frustrated crossword solver's cry
- 40 Kindergarten rejoinder
- 41 Kan. hours
- 42 Hacienda honorific
- 43 Frustrated crossword solver's cry
- 46 Formula One racer Fabi
- 47 Enzyme suffix
- 48 Spirited horse
- 49 Shriner hat
- 52 Two-time Bond portrayer
- 55 Ph.D. seeker's exam
- 56 Keys at a bar, perhaps
- 59 Onetime larva
- 61 Relieved crossword solver's cry
- 66 Nice states
- 67 Co-star of Tom in "Angels & Demons"
- 68 Telethon request
- 69 It may be roja or verde
- 70 Shirts with slogans
- 71 Walkout walk-in

Down

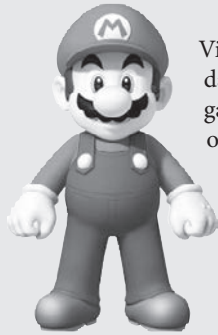
- 1 Yes, in Yokohama
- 2 ___Kosh B'Gosh
- 3 Superior talents
- 4 Save for later, in a way
- 5 Holdup

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- 6 Bus. line
- 7 Track relentlessly
- 8 Show derision
- 9 One may be fatal
- 10 Per capita
- 11 Bold poker bet
- 12 Jidda native
- 13 Short online posting
- 18 Job ad abbr.
- 19 "Delicious!"
- 22 It has defs. for 128 characters
- 23 "Didn't bring my A-game"
- 25 Business biggies
- 26 By the sea
- 29 Respond smugly to
- 23-Down's speaker
- 32 ___-bitsy
- 33 Greek letter
- 35 It may be retractable
- 36 Desert trial

- 37 Like non-hydrocarbon compounds
- 38 Baseballer married to soccer's Mia
- 39 Diving bird
- 44 Mountain warble
- 45 Takes another look at, as a cold case
- 49 Small winds
- 50 Musical with the song "A New Argentina"
- 51 Divided into districts
- 53 Till now
- 54 Rapa ___: Easter Island
- 57 "Peanuts" cry
- 58 She met Rick in Paris
- 60 UPS deliveries
- 62 Carry a balance
- 63 Brush-off on the brae
- 64 Reproductive cells
- 65 Homespun home

“Great Video Game” poll enters final day



Tomorrow marks the conclusion of our “Great Video Game” series and today will be the final day to vote in our online poll. Each of the 33 games added to the “Great Video Game” list over the course of the year is an option, so be sure to vote now before it’s too late.

Poll: www.surveymonkey.com/s/lariatgreatestvideo.
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BU baseball lands on its feet at home after Tuesday’s loss

By GREG DEVRIES
SPORTS WRITER

No. 3 Baylor baseball returned to its winning ways with a 6-4 win over the University of Texas at Arlington Wednesday at Baylor Ballpark.

Senior right-handed pitcher Tyler Bremer earned the win and moves to 4-0.

“We’re dragging a little bit right now,” head coach Steve Smith said. “That’s not an excuse, that’s just reality. Probably most teams in college baseball are. All of us are getting close to finals ... and I know our guys take those things [seriously]. So they’re burning at both ends.”

A two-run home run to center field in the first inning by senior left fielder Dan Evatt put the Bears on the board first. Junior designated hitter Nathan Orf crossed the plate as well, and Baylor took an early 2-0 lead.

“I knew the way the wind was blowing tonight that it was probably going to blow out,” Evatt said. “I hit it really well.”

Orf drew a leadoff walk in the bottom of the third inning. He advanced to third on junior third baseman Cal Towey’s single to right field. Orf scored on junior first baseman Max Muncy’s RBI groundout during the next at-bat.

Two consecutive wild pitches by Bremer in the fourth inning led to the first run of the game for UTA.

Freshman left fielder Logan Brown and Towey both reached base in the bottom of the fifth inning. A wild pitch advanced them to third and second, respectively. An RBI single up the middle by Muncy scored both runs and extended Baylor’s lead to 5-1.

Junior second baseman Steve DalPorto scored from third base on a sacrifice bunt by Brown in the bottom of the sixth inning. This brought Baylor’s lead to 6-1.

Bremer pitched seven innings, allowed one earned run on four hits and struck out a career-high

nine batters, including six in a row. “That was probably all around the best outing I’ve had. I was only a two-pitch guy tonight. Just fastball, changeup,” Bremer said. “I was able to establish the fastball at the knees ... and they were chasing the changeup all day long.”

UTA added another run in the top of the eighth inning. With base runners threatening to add more runs, junior left-handed pitcher Crayton Bare was able to get out of the jam.

DalPorto and sophomore catcher Nate Goodwin both reached base in the bottom of the eighth inning. Towey loaded the bases after being hit by the pitch. With the bases loaded, Muncy flew out to left-center to end the inning, and Baylor took its 6-2 lead into the top of the ninth inning.

“That was probably all around the best outing I’ve had.”

Tyler Bremer | Senior right-handed pitcher

Freshman right-handed pitcher Joe Kirkland came in to close out the ninth inning. Kirkland retired one batter, but was pulled after allowing two batters to reach base. Junior right-handed pitcher Max Garner took the mound to close out the game.

Garner walked two consecutive batters to load the bases and score a run for the Mavericks. A wild pitch scored the runner from third and advanced the two other runners. This cut Baylor’s lead to 6-4.

With the tying run on second, Garner recorded a strikeout for the second out of the inning. He forced the final batter to groundout to first and seal the victory for the Bears. The save was Garner’s ninth of the season.

The Bears are now 35-8 overall and will take on New Mexico State at 6:35 p.m. Friday at Baylor Ballpark.



No. 4 catcher Nathan Orf slides to safety at third as UT Arlington’s No. 37 third baseman Brent Bollinger prepares to catch the ball and tag him when baseball played UT Arlington on Wednesday at the Baylor Ballpark.

Wednesday, April 25 Baylor Ballpark													
UT-Arlington									R	H	E		
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Baylor													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9					
2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	6	10	0		
Winning Pitcher: Tyler Bremer Losing Pitcher: Adam Westbrook Save: Max Garner													

When Baylor baseball’s 24-game winning streak began (March 16)

— Men’s basketball had just defeated 14-seed South Dakota State in the NCAA tournament. Brady Heslip would soon hit nine three-pointers against 11-seed Colorado (insert 3-goggles)

— National champion women’s basketball was just heading to Bowling Green, Ohio, to begin NCAA tournament

— Spring Break was coming to a close

— Austin was hosting South by Southwest music festival

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BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Acrobatics & Tumbling ready to host championship

By KASEY McMILLIAN
REPORTER

Baylor's acrobatics and tumbling team hosts the 2012 National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association National Championships today through Saturday at the Ferrell Center.

"We've done a lot of different repetitions just working with specific skills," sophomore Lori Williamson said. "We've had to regroup a few times, but it has been working out great so we're just doing as much as we can, and we've been working on just perfecting all the little things that we can fix."

Teams from Azusa Pacific, Fairmont State, Maryland, Oregon and Quinnipiac will compete, making the championship a six-team bracket, and the individual event National Championships will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday after the meet.

During the last meet on March 11, Baylor defeated both Fairmont State and Quinnipiac but was not as successful against Oregon, Maryland and Azusa Pacific. The Bears lost two meets against Oregon and one meet to both Maryland and Azusa Pacific.

"I think our goal right now is just to focus on our team and to

focus on what we can go out and hit and knowing that we've done our best whether we have a win or not," Williamson said. "Just knowing that we've put out there what we've worked for and what we've practiced."

The NCATA National Championship will be a single-elimination tournament and the team seeds have been determined based on every teams top two home and away scores.

Maryland received the No. 1 seed, and the No. 2 seed went to Oregon, therefore, they will not compete until Friday. The first round will begin on Thursday with

the bottom four seeds.

"We are going to continue the legend that Baylor has right now..."

Tori Jackson | Sophomore

After those meets, the first-round winners will compete against the top two seeds in the second round on Friday and then on Saturday the winners remaining will compete in the Championship finals.

The No. 4 seed Quinnipiac

will be competing against the No. 5 seed Azusa Pacific in the quarterfinals at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday. Competing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday will be Fairmont State, the No. 3 seed, against Baylor, the No. 6 seed.

"We decided we're going to stay as clean as possible," Baylor head coach LaPrise Harris-Williams. "We simplified some of our skills and enhanced others. We basically just want to go in there and present the cleanest routines and skills that we can so we can get our scores maximized."

If the Bears are victorious in the first round, they will move on to the second round to compete

against Oregon in the semifinals at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. If the Bears defeat Oregon in the semifinals then they will advance to Saturday's finals at 4:30 to the winner of the other bracket semifinals including Quinnipiac, Azusa Pacific or Maryland.

"Students should come out because we're a new sport, we are on the rise and we are Baylor University," sophomore Tori Jackson said. "We are going to continue the legend that Baylor has right now and we are going to continue to produce good things and come out victorious and be confident. Confidence is key."

After Luck & RGIII, it's anxious time for other potential picks

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Andrew Luck knows exactly where he's heading, and so does Robert Griffin III.

For the rest of the college stars preparing for the NFL draft tonight, the anxiety is building. Nobody is looking forward to the green room at Radio City Music Hall.

"It kind of made me a little nervous when we were talking to the commissioner and he said, 'You'll be back there for an hour and it'll feel like you've been back there for five days,'" Southern California tackle Matt Kalil said. "I'll be sweatin' up a storm back there, and I want to have my name called and not have to wait too long."

He shouldn't have to worry much about that. Most mock drafts project Kalil to go third overall to Minnesota after Luck heads to Indianapolis and Griffin to Washington. But he knows better than to put much stock in the predraft chatter.

he might actually miss the draft-day jitters. Well, at least a little bit.

"It kind of puts yourself at ease," he said, "but it does kind of rob you of that natural draftee experience where you don't know where you're going and you're in limbo."

Added South Carolina defensive end Melvin Ingram: "Yeah, I guess that would be kind of different. You won't get that adrenaline of, 'Oh, man. I hope they pick me,' when you know where you're going."

Luck will go No. 1 overall to Indianapolis after a terrific career at Stanford. Like Griffin, he is also expected to step right into a starting job as a rookie.

"I guess it's nice, but there's always competition in football and if I go out there and lay an egg and I'm not the best quarterback out there, I hope they don't start me," Luck said.



Luck

Other players who could be top-10 picks are Ingram, Alabama running back Trent Richardson, LSU cornerback Morris Claiborne, Mississippi State defensive tackle Fletcher Cox and North Carolina defensive end Quinton Coples.

After winning the national championship in January, Alabama could be a big winner in the opening round. Crimson Tide teammates Barron, Richardson, linebackers Courtney Upshaw and Dont'a Hightower, and cornerback Dre Kirkpatrick could all hear their names called Thursday night.

"This is a great experience, especially when you have a team where we came from," Richardson said. "All these guys are going to the draft and we're all going to be in the first round. Alabama set the bar high last year when they had four come out and all four went in the first round. Hopefully we can break that record and have five."

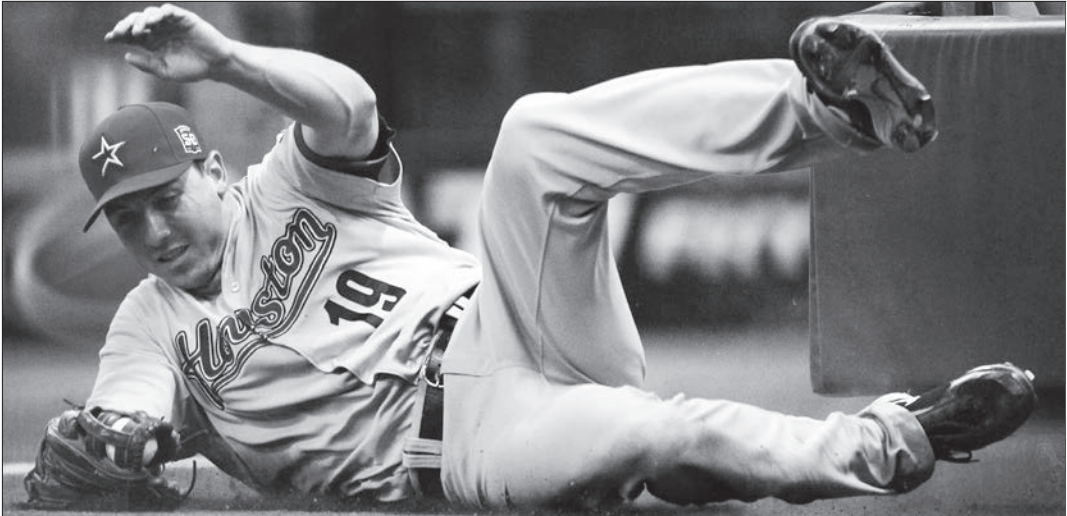


Griffin

Luck, the son of former NFL quarterback Oliver Luck, acknowledged that it was a "relief" to know he'll be going to the Colts — even if they're starting from scratch after they released Peyton Manning.

"Obviously, the slate has been wiped somewhat clean with some new coaches and some players who have gone or left, but I'll try to come in there and work as hard as I can," Luck said. "If that means it's a rebuilding process, I guess you can label it as that. The guys I'm sure are working very hard and I just want to get out there and join them."

After Luck and Griffin, Texas A&M's Ryan Tannehill is expected to be the next quarterback taken — possibly eighth overall by Miami, where he'd be reunited with Mike Sherman. The new Dolphins of-



Houston Astros' Brian Bogusevic makes a sliding catch in foul territory on a hit from Milwaukee Brewers' Cesar Izturis in the eighth inning of a baseball game Wednesday in Milwaukee. The Astros defeated the Brewers 7-5.

Altuve leads Astros to 7-5 victory

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE — Jose Altuve and the Houston Astros hit their way out of a Milwaukee morass.

Altuve had a career-best four hits, and J.D. Martinez had three hits and three RBIs to lead the Houston Astros over the Brewers 7-5 Wednesday and stop an 11-game losing streak against Milwaukee.

"Offensively, Altuve, what a day. The four hits, the big RBI single,"

Astros manager Brad Mills said. "Then you have Martinez come through with a big two-out single up the middle. Snyder going the other way and getting that knock. Those are some big hits that kind of have been eluding us a little bit."

Chris Snyder put the Astros ahead for good at 5-4 with an opposite-field RBI single in the seventh off Jose Veras (2-1) after Brian Bogusevic doubled and stole third.

Snyder slapped the ball between first baseman Travis Ishikawa and

the line when the Brewers shifted to the left.

"By no means was I trying to shoot over there. That's an absolutely an emergency hack," Snyder said. "Worked out and got the steak, put us up. We tacked on the next inning."

Wilton Lopez (2-0) pitched a 1-2-3 sixth, and Brett Myers got three outs for his third save. Houston, which hadn't beaten the Brewers since May 1, had 14 hits and won for the third time in 11 games overall.

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(11:00) 1:15 3:45 6:15 9:00

CHRONICLE (PG13)
(12:00) 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

PROJECT X (R)
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