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Store robbed,
man arrested

By MEGAN KEYSER
STAFF WRITER

A man was arrested Sunday night in association with a robbery at the Skinny's Convenience Store located at 1125 Speight Ave.

John (Henry) Lloyd, 43, was booked at the McLennan County Jail at 11:49 p.m. Sunday on charges of robbery and parole violation, a jail representative said.

Lloyd was arrested at 9:16 p.m. Sunday in the 900 block of South 11th Street, five minutes after officers responded to a call from the Skinny's clerk reporting the robbery, Waco Police spokesman Steve Anderson said.

A man fled the store on foot after taking an unknown amount of money from the store cash register, Anderson said.

No weapon was found. The clerk identified Lloyd, and the money was recovered, Anderson said.

Lloyd is being held in lieu of \$800,000 bail but cannot be bonded out because of a parole violation, the jail representative said.



SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Connecticut's Andre Dixon escapes a Baylor tackle from No. 21 free safety Jordan Lake in Baylor's 30-22 loss to the Huskies.

Bears learn from loss

By CHRIS DERRETT
SPORTS WRITER

Baylor struggled to contain Andre Dixon and Jordan Todman as the Bears fell 30-22 to the Huskies on a night also marred by missed chances and a stagnant first half offense.

The running back duo combined for 252 yards against the Baylor defense that was on the field for 40 minutes Saturday night.

Baylor was looking for a second-half spark but instead started the half with two fumbles, one on Mikail Baker's opening kickoff return and another on the first play Baylor's next possession. After both of those fumbles resulted in Connecticut touchdowns and a 27-7 Husky lead, Art Briles sensed a change.

"I think the momentum changers were the two back-to-back turnovers," Briles said. "We knew at halftime we weren't playing well, but we were still

in the game."

Another home game next Friday against Northwestern State leaves the Bears with no time to sulk, though. After looking at the tape on Sunday, the team goes back to another week of business as usual, said Baylor linebacker Joe Pawelek.

"We just had some first down situations and gave up five or six-yard carries, which makes it difficult," he said. "We have to come in, see the mistakes we made and try to correct them."

Fellow linebacker Antonio Jones was also disappointed with the loss but feels that his unit can and will play stronger in the upcoming weeks.

"I don't think we played to the best of our abilities today," Jones said. "Defensively we didn't play well at all. But the season is not at all lost; that was just one game."

Offensively, Briles took responsibility for the team's lackluster first half and looks to im-

prove as the season progresses.

"We didn't do a good job of establishing consistency and give ourselves a chance to counteract UConn. It's my fault, but we'll get better, figure out what we need to do," he said.

Quarterback Robert Griffin was frustrated after Saturday but does not think any less of the team's physical talent. He remains confident in the receiver duo of David Gettis and Kendall Wright as well as the offense's overall explosiveness.

"We know nobody can run with us on the outside or inside. We have tremendous speed all across our offense," Griffin said. "What we have to do is learn from this and regroup."

Though the Bears had few positives for much of the game, they received a solid performance from Jay Finley, whose 72-yard touchdown run added

see GAME, pg. 6



ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Marine Esteban Martinez Russi, right, speaks with a farmer, center, during foot a patrol in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan on Sunday.

Drug, alcohol violations on continuous decline since 2001

By MEGAN KEYSER
STAFF WRITER

Most university campuses are not immune to the seduction or the pressure of drugs and alcohol, but in the midst of the issue, Baylor has seen declining numbers in drug and alcohol violations since 2001.

According to Baylor Judicial Affairs statistics, the number of total violations – which include but are not limited to alcohol and drug violations, theft and traffic violations – has steadily declined since 2001.

The numbers, which totaled

707 in 2001, were down to 530 in 2004; and, by the 2008-2009 school year, the total number of violations was 254. That is a 64 percent decrease in seven years.

More specifically, the total number of alcohol violations went from 179 in 2007-2008, to 88 in 2008-2009. Also, though the decrease was not as dramatic, the total number of drug violations declined from 36 to 30.

"Since 2001, we have had consistent sanctions for (drug and alcohol) violations, which I think has helped us see a reduction in these types of violations," said Bethany J. McCraw,

associate dean for judicial affairs, in an e-mail to the Lariat. "I believe that the message we provide to our new students has also helped in the reduction we have seen for these types of violations."

McCraw said the department checks the violation numbers daily.

"Our numbers right now are in line with what we saw at this time last year," McCraw said.

The decline in alcohol and drug violations has not gone unnoticed in Waco.

Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse coun-

selor Paul McCollum said that while HOTCADA used to see a few Baylor students each year for alcohol-related incidents, it has not seen any Baylor students in a few years.

Although they are declining, violations still occur and there are serious consequences and procedures for violations.

"When officers encounter a drug violation, the violator may be arrested or issued a citation for the violation, dependent upon the situation," Baylor Police Chief Jim Doak said in an e-mail to the Lariat. "Students in possession of drug parapherna-

lia or small amounts of marijuana may be issued citations – but not always – and larger amounts generally result in incarceration. All violations are routinely referred to the office of Judicial and Student Legal Services in addition to the student's arrest or citation."

Some violations are more common than others.

"Alcohol related issues far outnumber any narcotic or drug related occurrences," Doak said. "Marijuana is by far the most

see DRUGS, pg. 6

sides.

"In the last decade we have added 25,000 alumni, the BAA has only added 1,000 new total members, and membership has declined," Beauchamp said.

"Compare this to the things the university is doing with the Baylor Network, which has grown dramatically because of thousands and thousands of alumni attending events. If we combine the two groups we can build the best alumni group."

In an e-mail on Monday, Interim President Dr. David Garland said that it was in the best interest of the university to have Baylor's alumni activities part of Baylor itself.

Links to the BAA were removed from the Baylor Web site "Alumni & Friends" page without warning, which came as a surprise to the Baylor Alumni Association. In addition, the university requested the association change its Web site from bayloralumni.com to bayloralumniassociation.com

The university said it was honoring the alumni association's request to be independent. Jeff Kilgore, executive vice president of the Baylor Alumni Association, told the Lariat in a previous interview, that when an important function of independence is that it allowed the organization to serve as checks and balances to the university's administration and governing board. Beauchamp said the university hopes the association accepts the proposal, but the Regents realize that ultimately it is the association's decision.

Lori Fogleman, director of communications for Baylor, said the proposal is under review with the board. "It is our understanding that the association and its board are considering the proposal," Fogleman said.

"We expect that in the near future there will be conversations between the association and the university about the proposal," she said.

More troops needed, general says

Top U.S. commander fears 'under-resourcing' may worsen Afghanistan situation

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The situation in Afghanistan is serious and growing worse and without more boots on the ground the United States risks failure in a war it's been waging since shortly after the terror attacks of September 2001, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan, says in a confidential report.

"Resources will not win this war, but under-resourcing could lose it," McChrystal wrote in a five-page Commander's Summary. His 66-page report, sent to Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Aug. 30, is now under review by President Barack Obama.

Details of McChrystal's assessment were first reported late Sunday by The Washington Post. The newspaper posted a link to the report on its Web site, with some operational details withheld at the request of the Pentagon.

"Although considerable effort and sacrifice have resulted in some progress, many indicators suggest the overall effort is deteriorating," McChrystal said of the war's progress.

While asserting that more troops are needed, McChrystal also pointed out an "urgent need" to significantly revise strategy. The U.S. needs to interact better with the Afghan people, McChrystal said, and better organize its efforts with

NATO allies.

"We run the risk of strategic defeat by pursuing tactical wins that cause civilian casualties or unnecessary collateral damage. The insurgents cannot defeat us militarily; but we can defeat ourselves," he wrote.

In his blunt assessment of the tenacious Taliban insurgency, McChrystal warned that unless the U.S. and its allies gain the initiative and reverse the momentum of the militants within the next year the U.S. "risks an outcome where defeating the insurgency is no longer possible"

The Pentagon and the White House are awaiting a separate,

see TROOPS, pg. 6

Lariat Letter

I'm pleased that the topic of languages appeared on the opinions page of the Lariat on September 9, 2009, and that the editorial there, "Foreign Language Requirements Abound with Inconsistencies," advocated the study of another language for all Baylor students.

What concerned me was the assertion that two semesters of study is sufficient. In support of this assertion, the editorial described language study as difficult and questioned the usefulness of advanced language study for majors in certain fields.

The editorial was accompanied by a cartoon that alluded to Dante's *Commedia* (or, *Inferno*), citing a line in English translation (the original reads: *Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch'intrate*). The cartoon suggested that language study is a hopeless endeavor. But is it?

The mission of Baylor University is to prepare students for "worldwide leadership and service."

A single year of language study does not give students the depth of knowledge and skills necessary to function and flourish in a global environment.

There are a number of pragmatic arguments in favor of language study: language students improve their skills in their native language, they achieve higher standardized test scores, they gain admittance to more prestigious graduate programs, and they find better jobs.

But there are also other arguments for the value of studying languages and cultures or, in the words of a recent report from the Modern Language Association, fostering "translingual and transcultural competence."

Studying another language, like studying history, philosophy, or mathematics, helps students develop analytic skills that enable them to participate effectively in their communities, ranging from neighborhoods and churches to local, national, and international organizations.

Knowing another language enables you to understand events on the global stage, and to read a variety of firsthand news sources.

You gain entrance into a wealth of artistic appreciation through film, music, and other media. Studying a language helps you to understand diverse cultures and perspectives.

Visiting a country without knowing the language means remaining a tourist rather than becoming a traveler in the richest senses of that word. It is difficult to explain the personal transformations that can come about through developing competence in another language.

For many students, such transformations mean nothing less than developing a fuller sense of what it means to be human.

Some Baylor students have recently drawn upon their language skills to compete successfully for prestigious Fulbright grants. It is my sincere hope that more Baylor students will apply for Fulbrights and other such awards. Many students have been able to build upon their existing skills in language and awareness of cultures through immersion experiences abroad in programs like Baylor in China, Baylor in Spain, Baylor in Germany, Baylor in Mexico, and Baylor in Paris.

Thanks to growing interest in languages at Baylor, the Department of Modern Foreign Languages plans to expand our course offerings in Arabic, Chinese, and Italian.

Learning another language may not be easy, but I hope I have suggested why it is a worthwhile endeavor.

And so I say: give us more language study, not less. Baylor students deserve to participate, contribute, and serve as true global citizens in the world of the future.

Dr. Heidi Bostic, Chair, Department of Modern Foreign Languages

Opinion Policy

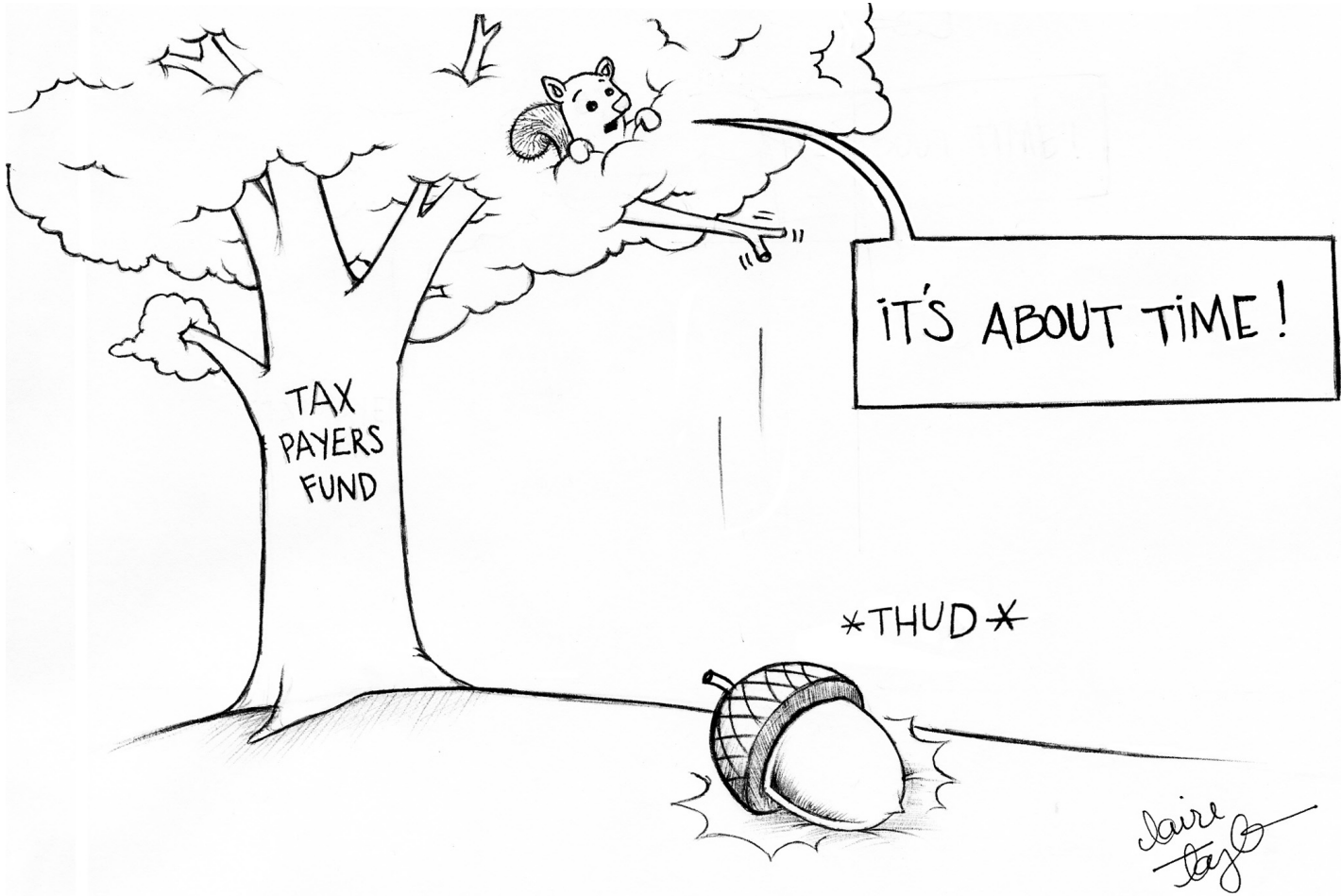
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Congress makes admirable advances to suspend tax money from ACORN

Editorial

The House of Representatives and Senate should be commended for attempting to withhold taxpayer funds from the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, or ACORN.

ACORN claims to promote a necessary cause of helping with community organization of low- and moderate-income people.

Recently released videos, shot by two undercover individuals, provided evidence that employees in four of the community-organizing group's offices condoned the illicit actions suggested by the individuals which were centered around organizing a brothel for underage Salvadorian women.

Both sides of Congress passed separate bills this week that would end all funding to the group. Last Thursday, the House, in a 345-75 vote, affirmed a stipulation attached to the recent student aid bill that would deny funds to ACORN.

Also, the Senate attached a similar provision to an Interior Department spending bill with a vote of 85-11.

The U.S. Census Bureau now has no connection to ACORN after it, following the release of the videos incriminating ACORN, took prompt

actions to dissolve all affiliations. The census bureau found the 'lack of accountability' a factor that required the severed ties, according to White house Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

Scandals are not foreign to ACORN. Eleven states are currently investigating claims of voter registration fraud against ACORN during its voter registration drives for the 2008 general election. The group was in hot water in 2007 when the state of Washington contended that 1,700 fraudulent voter registrations had come from several of ACORN's paid employees. The state filed felony charges against the employees.

ACORN has insisted that all of the incidents brought forth should be seen as isolated incidents and they do not reflect the true character of the group.

However, the combination of scandalous accusations and prevalent disdain called for the separation of ACORN and taxpayers' money.

Since 1994, the grassroots group has collected approximately \$53 million in federal aid, an investment that calls for heavy oversight. Any hint of scandal or fraud should be handled seriously, just as our Legislature has done.

Though Democrats supplied the only dissenting votes in the House's denial of funds

provision, most representatives and senators have looked beyond party lines and agreed the group should be denied funds.

The passing of both bills may cause problems for the legislature in that the House and Senate's provisions are attached to separate bills that may not both pass through as laws.

Thus, House Minority Leader John Boehner is taking commendable steps and calling for a separate vote that would implore the legislature to decide on the issue without the added pieces of legislation. Boehner has penned this movement the 'Defund ACORN Act', an act that the Lariat feels should pass.

A present cutting of ties with ACORN and government funding is not permanent. If the investigation proves the allegations false, Congress can then decide to continue funding the group.

As internal investigations and perhaps even the Federal Bureau of Investigation research the chaos surrounding ACORN, both parts of Congress should continue to avoid partisanship. The way to protect the American people is to deny their tax money from ACORN's potentially harmful hands.

Campus housing begins to feel like home, after relocating to off-campus housing

When I came to Baylor my freshman year I was excited about everything, most notably about moving into a dorm that would foster the majority of my freshman circle of friends.

Despite numerous horror stories I had heard about freshman year roommates and community bathrooms, I was thrilled at the possibilities my freshman residential experience would bring.

In Collins I made some of my closest friends and felt an incredible sense of community.

My friends and I congregated in the halls at night to talk, ate nearly every meal together, made late night trips to Walmart and had Friday night Guitar Hero marathons that lasted until 2 a.m.

I was independent and had my own activities, but if I ever got lonely I knew those wonderful friends were just a few doors away.

Near the beginning of the on-campus housing sign-up, my tiny room and community bathroom had me itching for a bigger space. So a few friends and I started making plans to move off-campus. We looked at apartment after apartment for months, but none of them was quite what we were looking for, and by the end of that school year I made up my mind to stay on-campus for the remainder of my undergraduate education.

Well, things didn't work out quite as I had hoped. By the time my sign-up date arrived, the type of room I wanted was no longer available,

Point of View

BY MEGAN KEYSER



so I once again changed my plans, and I now live off-campus with a friend.

I love my apartment. I have more than enough closet space for all of my stuff, I have my own bedroom and bathroom and I get to cook my own food.

But as much as I love my space, I often feel nostalgic for my on-campus days. Living on 5th and Bagby, I am almost on-campus, but despite my close proximity to campus, I feel a separation and a distance. I feel outside of the Baylor bubble, and while this may be a welcome escape to some, for me, it is a feeling of loss.

Each new semester I begin seems to pass a little faster than the one before and brings with it a renewed realization that this experience will soon be over. I have the rest of my life after college to deal with monthly rent checks, utility bills and weekly trips to the grocery store. Why rush

into it?

Dorms certainly have their flaws, and in my two years of living on-campus, I made my share of complaints to family and friends.

But I know that once I leave here with my diploma and venture into the real world, I will wish I still had the opportunity to live in a building with my best friends, get food and do laundry with the swipe of a card and wake up and get to class or work in five minutes or less.

Having an apartment is great, but I miss looking out my window and seeing Pat Neff, running into friends and classmates in the hall or laundry room, and believe it or not, I even miss swiping my card to get into my building.

A certain feeling comes with living on-campus that can't be found anywhere else, even three blocks away. It is a feeling of community that just isn't the same once you change your address. It is the knowledge that this place isn't just classrooms, professors, libraries and coffee; it's home.

Megan Keyser is a junior, journalism major, from The Woodlands. She is a staff writer for the Baylor Lariat.

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Please Recycle This Issue

Freshman class elects officers

By BETHANY MOORE
REPORTER

Students gathered Monday night in front of the Judge Baylor statue, across from Waco hall, to hear the freshman class election announcements.

After a week of campaigning, roughly 33 percent the freshman class voted online Monday for three 3 class officers and 13 senate positions from the 60 applicants who ran.

With ten freshmen running for class president, Calhoun, Ga., political science major Zach Carrier filled the position.

"I wanted to run to unify our class," Carrier said. "I just want to get everyone involved and show their Baylor spirit."

Carrier said he has big plans to kick start the year, but before his administrative duties begin he wants to celebrate his new position with his friends.

"I'm going to call everyone," Carrier said. "Were going to have a party tonight, for sure."

Wahiawa, Hawaii medical humanities and pre-medical major Michael Shelton was elected one of the freshman senate positions. He said he is excited to work to bring positive changes to campus.

"I really wanted to work on reforms, especially parking," Shelton said. "I mean its pretty crazy with the amount of spaces that are available."

Shelton also plans to stay involved with senate throughout his college career to see other bills and resolutions through.

Student Body President Jordan Hannah there to welcome

Freshman class officer results

President
Zach Carrier

Vice President
Briana Treadaway

Class secretary/treasurer
Michelle Singleton

Freshman Senators

Jason Lambert,
Sarah Caldwell
Tyler Tribble
Ben Van Sickle
Josh Cantu
Brian Kim
Michael Shelton
Arash Amjad
Connor Smith
Travis Cox
Courtney Yankowski
Shannon Moore
Lindsey Miner

and congratulate the new officers.

"We're really happy to have senate full now and really be able to get a lot of work done," Hannah said.

Hannah remembers the night he was elected and said he can relate with the new members excitement and hopeful feelings.

"It felt great when I got elected, it is a great honor to know that you the voice of roughly 12 thousand undergraduate students," Hannah said.



SHANNA TAYLOR | LARIAT STAFF

That Good Old Baylor Line

The class of 2013 runs the Baylor Line for the first time before the home opener against the University of Connecticut Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium. Baylor fell to UConn 30-22.

Leading researchers join Baylor faculty

By ALYSSA MENDEZ
REPORTER

During the past five years, the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor has been assembling researchers in the field religion.

The Institute for Studies of Religion, in an effort to further it's studies and research on religion, has added four leading American researchers: J. Gordon Melton, Jeff Levin, Thomas Kidd and Philip Jenkins.

"Some of the new people that are going to be working with us are going to bring a whole new set of initiatives and possibilities," said Byron Johnson, director for the institute and professor of sociology.

The new additions to the Institute for Studies of Religion were drawn to Baylor for many reasons, including the research opportunities that are available here.

"ISR already has a really top-notch reputation as a place for social and policy research on religion — probably the leading center of its kind in the academic world," said Jeff Levin in an e-mail to the Lariat.

An area that is being researched by the Institute for Studies of Religion is the global studies of religion, which focuses on topics such as changes in religion in Africa, America and China.

"Why is it that people actually help other people?" Johnson said. "Why is it that people are generous and give their money away and volunteer?"

Questions about religion are important to the Institute for Studies of Religion's research initiatives.

"Those are the kinds of factors

that we're interested in, and as it turns out religion is a key component in that," Johnson said.

These questions are some of the basis for the pro-social studies of religion and are questions that will be answered with the findings of this research. The Institute for Studies of Religion also has publications that relate to the topical areas of research done.

Johnson is also doing research on the role of religion in pro-social youth development. The institute is publishing studies and documenting the role religion plays in helping to protect youth and adolescents from various forms of crime and delinquency.

"We're trying to make Baylor a grand central station for the study of religion, and with Baylor's overall mission it seems to be a good thing," Johnson said.

Students will not have to look far for some of the best information religion scholars offer. Information can be found here on campus.

"It's a neat opportunity for students," Johnson said. "You don't have to go to the north east or go to the east coast or the west coast to actually be exposed first hand to some of the best scholars that are doing work on religion."

With the new additions to the Institute for Studies of Religion comes a new enthusiasm for the field of religious research.

"I have the most interesting job in the world," said Gordon Melton, director for the Institute for the Study of American Religion, in an e-mail to the Lariat. "I travel, I meet absolutely fascinating religious leaders and believers and I am privileged to associate with some of the best minds on the planet."

Students expand cross-culturally

By OLGA GLADTSKOV BALL
REPORTER

Medieval architecture, the Five coast and an abundance of history could be in some students' backyard this spring.

The Baylor in St. Andrews program, currently in its fourth year, takes students to the University of St. Andrews, which was founded in 1413, making it the oldest university in Scotland.

"Scotland is an amazing place," said Dr. Jonathan Tran, assistant professor of religion, who went to St. Andrews with the program last spring. "The people are friendly and generous. They do a lot to help students succeed."

Students participating in the program are given a Brit rail pass, which allows them to travel around Scotland and England.

Many cities close to St. An-

draws are accessible with the Brit rail pass, including Edinburgh, London, Cambridge, Oxford, Salisbury, Stonehenge, Bath and many other cities.

Cumming, Ga., senior Derek Sanders said he took advantage of the Brit rail pass while he was studying at St. Andrews.

"I felt like I had more time because we would work at our own pace to do weekend trips," Sanders said.

Tran said classes in St. Andrews are on a module system, a compromise between the system in the U.S. and the less structured system in the United Kingdom.

Sanders enjoyed his classes while he was at St. Andrews.

"The classes were more graduate style: no tests, no little assignments and a lot of emphasis on teaching yourself," Sanders said.

Students enroll in the class of-

eling with them, as well as any classes offered by St. Andrews' four colleges. Dr. Paul Martens, associate professor of religion, will travel with the Baylor in St. Andrews group this spring and will teach "War and Peace in the Christian Tradition."

Martens crafted a different version of the course for St. Andrews because of the violent reform activities that occurred around the city.

"We will be reading voices of people from Scotland," Martens said. "If you want an intellectual challenge, this is your program."

Martens considers St. Andrews to be the third best school in the United Kingdom, behind Oxford and Cambridge.

However, Martens, Sanders and Tran emphasized that the semester is not just school work. During the two-week spring break, the group takes a trip to

London.

"It was a time for us to be together outside of class," Tran said. "Students spend a lot of time at museums and take advantage of the nightlife."

Tran said many students told him the trip to London was the highlight of their semester.

He also said the semester is made up of three things: the Scottish people and the university, the beauty of the country and the students who participate in the program.

"Scotland has got to be one of the most beautiful countries in the world," Tran said. "Students come back as lifelong friends."

The spring 2010 program will begin Feb. 1 and end May 29.

More information will be available at an information session at 7 p.m. Thursday in 109 Cashion Academic Center.

Baylor initiatives charity involvement with United Way

By LAURA PATTON
REPORTER

Today's Dr Pepper Hour marks the first official campus kicks off Baylor's annual involvement with United Way.

United Way is a nonprofit organization that hopes to "advance the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on education, income and health," said it's Web site.

"The goal of the Dr Pepper Hour kickoff is to educate faculty and staff about what United Way is about, to give back to the com-

munity," said Patricia Pack, co-chair of the campaign.

Pack has been with Baylor for 19 years and has always given to United Way. She said Baylor has been connected with United Way for many years.

The kickoff is a new addition this year in hopes of raising faculty awareness. Dr Pepper Hour is being extended to 11 locations, including the Louise Herrington School of Nursing in Dallas.

"This is a big deal for Baylor because it is our only official charity," said John Whelan, associate vice president of human resources.

The goal of the kickoff is to get the word out and get people involved, Whelan said.

"The campaign is an annual event we coordinate with the McLennan County United Way," Whelan said. "The objective is for faculty and staff to contribute. We'd like to make people aware of the great need in the community, and we want people to know the campaign is started."

Whelan said this year's United Way efforts are important.

"With the economy the way it is, there is a greater need for the community to pitch in and help out," Whelan said.

He introduced the "Baylor Family Compassion Fund" to this year's campaign. Inspired by a similar program at Notre Dame, where he previously worked as director of human resources, the compassion fund is set up to more directly assist members of the Baylor community in need.

"People who contribute can elect to have 5 percent of their contribution go into a fund that is designated to go to Baylor faculty, staff and those who work on campus in service jobs," Whelan said. "It is intended to help people in unforeseen crisis situations."

The money contributed to

United Way is used to help people in need in the community. As for the Baylor campaign, the money donated on campus will go back to faculty, staff and staff members of contracted partners, such as Aramark. The money will stay within the Baylor family.

The goal of the compassion fund is to get more faculty members to donate to United Way. Since only 5 percent of a faculty's donation can be contributed to the compassion fund, United Way will still make money for the Waco/McLennan County community, because 95 percent of donations made by a faculty

member will still go to the local campaign.

"United Way is considering making it a national program," Whelan said. "Baylor is the second organization to put it in place."

Whelan hopes that more people will donate with the incentive of money staying in the Baylor community, making it "a win-win situation."

Unlike past years, there is not a set goal for the campaign. This year's theme is "More Than Me."

"We want the giving to be more than it was last year," Pack said. "We can always do more."

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‘Cloudy’ faithfully recreates children’s book

By Andrew Munoz
Contributor

This weekend, fans of the 1978 book “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs” got to see the beloved book from their childhood make its grand debut on the big screen. In 3-D, no less.

The movie follows the life of aspiring inventor Flint Lockwood (Bill Hader) as he struggles to prove to the town of Swallow Falls that he can contribute something positive to revitalize the town’s struggling economy that currently relies on sardine production.

The movie begins rolling by showcasing all of young Flint’s failed inventions that eventually lead up to the creation of his greatest invention, a machine that converts water into food.

After the machine’s second test run, it finally affects the weather by forming purple storm clouds that begin raining cheeseburgers on the startled town, leading to weather intern Sam Sparks’ (Anna Faris) big break as she becomes the first person

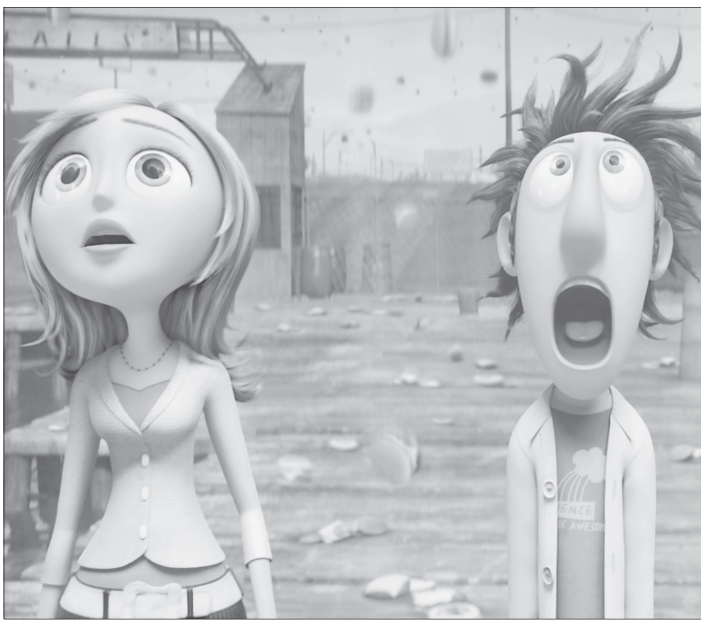
to report on the spectacular new phenomenon.

Of course it all goes wrong and Sam and Flint are forced to destroy the machine before the “Perfect Storm of Food” envelops the entire world and buries it under a layer of gargantuan food stuffs. Every movie needs some sort of conflict, after all.

It’s obvious that “Cloudy” was written to appeal to a younger audience, but what was truly surprising was the film’s ability to keep its older viewers interested as well.

I went into the theater expecting to be decently entertained, but I was pleasantly surprised when I discovered that the movie was written and designed to keep all of its viewers engrossed as it told the surprisingly endearing story of how people should strive to showcase who they are to the world and never be ashamed of this.

One of the movie’s strongest selling points are the vibrant visuals presented in 3-D. The entire look and feel of the movie was perfectly matched in order to



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Sam Sparks and Flint Lockwood look up to the sky as cheeseburgers begin to rain down on Swallow Falls in “Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs.”

convey the story in an appealing manner. From quirky character designs to twisters composed of spaghetti and meatballs, the world designed to showcase the

story crackles with life and keeps audiences enraptured as they attempt to take it all in.

And the 3-D simply pulls it all together in a most spectacular

fashion. Instead of cheesy sight gags, “Cloudy” makes use of the fact that it was clearly designed to be viewed in 3-D.

The added sense of depth enhances the overall experience and makes the action sequences found in the film’s second half, which parody a number of action movies such as “Armageddon” and “Twister,” all the more impressive; few things in life can top the thrill of watching gigantic meatballs rocket toward oneself.

Furthermore, the film’s voice-acting is top notch. Everyone present gives an excellent performance, but the real surprise comes from Neil Patrick Harris.

Yes, NPH, a man who can do no wrong, voices “Steve,” Flint Lockwood’s monkey sidekick who possesses a thought translator and voices his opinion in random, monosyllabic outbursts.

It truly is surprising how much raw comedic value can be derived from a monkey whose only ambition is the acquisition of gummy bears. Whatever works, works, I suppose.

While the movie itself was a fantastic experience, potential viewers should note that it does deviate heavily from the book.

It’s worth mentioning because die-hard fans might not appreciate the new-age spin put on their beloved childhood memories.

It didn’t quite work in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” after all. But the movie does stay true to some of the more iconic images found in the book. The scene involving a giant stack of pancakes crushing the local school can still be found in the film adaptation.

Barring a few stale jokes and an overly graphic meatball found toward the end of the film, “Cloudy” stumbles very little throughout its 90-minute run. Audiences can expect a fun time for the kids, and older viewers can enjoy keeping up with the never-ending stream of pop-culture references; all in all, the forecast for “Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs” is exceptionally bright.

Grade: B+

Cody captures teenage angst in ‘Jennifer’s Body’

By Ash Anderson
Entertainment Editor

Diablo Cody’s latest trip through the mind of a teenage girl isn’t anything what “Juno” was.

In fact, it’s quite the opposite. “Juno” dealt with a coming-of-age story that almost happened too quickly for the titular character to handle.

“Jennifer’s Body,” on the other hand, is a campy teenage angst-filled comedy that was, in my opinion, mismarketed as a horror movie. There is nothing scary about this film. Rather, the scariest thing about the entire thing is how spot-on Cody’s writing is when it comes to filling the mouths of teenagers with her dialogue.

Meet Needy Lesnicky (Amanda Seyfried). She’s your average small-town girl from Devil’s Kettle. Don’t worry. The name

just comes from the waterfall that runs outside of the town. Apparently the water falls into a hole in the ground and doesn’t come out anywhere. But that’s a story for another day.

Needy is best friends with Jennifer Check (Megan Fox), the “it” girl in Devil’s Kettle. Jennifer is beautiful, and she knows it. She uses her sexual prowess to make boys (and men, like the rookie cop in town) bend to her will. She gets anything that she wants, and Needy is just along for the ride.

The relationship between Jennifer and Needy is subtly unveiled throughout the course of the movie.

When the duo heads to the lone bar in Devil’s Kettle to see the indie band Low Shoulder —“They’re so salty,” Jennifer says—they stand in awe of the lead singer, Nikolai Wolf (Adam Brody).

Why is Low Shoulder in

Devil’s Kettle, you ask? Nikolai makes it plain and clear. “I think that it’s important that we reach out to our fans in the (expletive) areas, too.”

But apparently they’re there for something else, or else we wouldn’t care.

During the concert, a fire breaks out in the bar, causing multiple deaths that shake Devil’s Kettle to its core. More importantly, though, Jennifer is kidnapped by Nikolai’s band and, you guessed it, turned into a boy-eating terror.

As the rest of the movie unfolds, you really get the feeling that Cody has a knack for teenage dialogue.

When Chip Dove, Needy’s boyfriend, is warned by his mother that there’s someone or something out there targeting boys, Chip scoffs and tells his mother that he’ll be fine—he’s been using the Bowflex.

The most interesting part about the movie, though, is how Needy reacts to Jennifer’s sudden changes. While Jennifer has always been superficial and air-headed, she was never just plain mean. That all changes when Jennifer changes, and Needy makes it her mission to stop Jennifer’s murderous rampage before too many people get hurt.

If you go into ‘Jennifer’s Body’ expecting a horror movie, you’ll be disappointed. Instead, get ready for barrage of pop culture references and teenagers that sound just like you did when you were their age.

For example, when Jennifer asks how a certain girl in her class came across a specific piece of information, the girl gets defensive and almost looks hurt. Fighting back tears, she screams, “It says so on the Wikipedia page!”

Sound familiar? Maybe you



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Jennifer Check and Needy Lesnicky sit and watch the indie band ‘Low Shoulder’ in ‘Jennifer’s Body.’

didn’t cry. Maybe you did. Either way, you owe it to yourself to see this film if you’re looking for a heap of laughs. Just

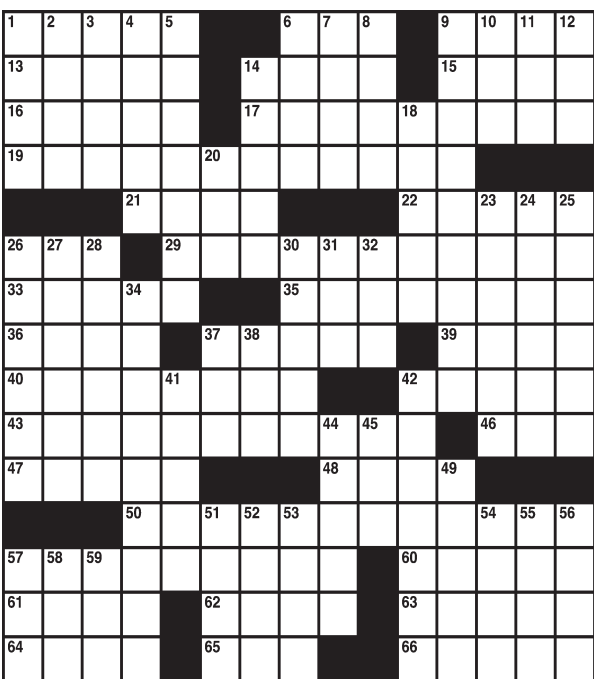
don’t expect to take anything the movie has to say seriously.

Grade: B+

FUN TIMES

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McClatchy-Tribune



Across

- 1 Bergen’s dummy Mortimer
- 6 Letter after pi
- 9 Preschool lessons
- 13 George who played Sulu on “Star Trek”
- 14 Castle protection
- 15 Finish second
- 16 Halo wearer
- 17 Quarreling once more
- 19 “A Beautiful Mind” star
- 21 Give off
- 22 Elegant tapestry
- 26 __ Lanka
- 29 Certain mollusk’s protection
- 33 Colorful aquarium fish
- 35 Tough-guy trait
- 36 “__ Only Have Love”: Jacques Brel song
- 37 Pretentious one
- 39 Broadway event

- 40 Bloom with sword-shaped leaves
- 42 With a single voice
- 43 Marathoner’s bane
- 46 Onetime Leno announcer Hall
- 47 The “A” in “CAT scan”
- 48 Philbin’s sidekick
- 50 Steal a herd
- 57 Gambling metaphor for a risky venture
- 60 Harold of “Ghostbusters”
- 61 Gigantic
- 62 Storybook monster
- 63 Standing upright
- 64 “Yeah, sure!”
- 65 Steno’s need
- 66 Sausage servings

Down

- 1 Night twinkler
- 2 Half of Mork’s signoff
- 3 Cardiologist’s tests, for short

- 4 Pee Wee of the ‘40s-’50s Dodgers
- 5 Catch-22
- 6 Univ. military org.
- 7 Barber’s concern
- 8 Conductor Klemperer
- 9 Suspected Soviet spy of the McCarthy era
- 10 __ constrictor
- 11 TV forensic drama
- 12 Obama, before he became pres.
- 14 Blended ice cream drinks
- 18 Inundated
- 20 Lucy of “Kill Bill”
- 23 Do a smith’s job
- 24 __ Joy: candy bar
- 25 Lost speed
- 26 Scarlet letter, e.g.
- 27 Stomach acid problem
- 28 Formal words of confession
- 30 Bit of mudslinging
- 31 Water, in Cannes

- 32 Watch display, for short
- 34 It’s rolled out for celebs
- 37 “The Raven” writer
- 38 Utah’s capital: Abbr.
- 41 Like bks. with pictures
- 42 Clothes
- 44 Rugged ridge
- 45 Speaker’s amplifying aid, briefly
- 49 Video game pioneer
- 51 Boutique
- 52 Old Roman attire
- 53 British title
- 54 Feds under Ness
- 55 Moisten, as a stamp
- 56 Body shop nos.
- 57 Cubs, on scoreboards
- 58 Massage
- 59 Get older

SUDOKU

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Level: **1** 2 3 4

3							9	2
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				7		1		
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		1		9		7		
						2	4	
5	2							1

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

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SARAH GROMAN | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

CD release draws a ‘Crowd’

David Crowder sings to fans at The David Crowder Band’s CD release party. The event was held to celebrate today’s release of the band’s newest CD, ‘Church Music.’

TROOPS from pg.1

more detailed request for additional troops and resources.

Media reports Friday and Saturday said McChrystal has finished it but was told to pocket it, partly because of the charged politics surrounding the decision.

McChrystal’s senior spokesman, Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, told The Associated Press on Sunday the report is not complete.

Obama is re-evaluating whether the renewed focus on hunting al-Qaida that he announced just months ago has become blurred and whether more forces will do any good.

“Are we doing the right thing?” he asked during one of a series of interviews broadcast Sunday. “Are we pursuing the right strategy?”

A spokesman for Afghanistan’s Defense Ministry said Sunday the Afghan government would not second-guess international military commanders on the need for more troops, but said that the greatest need is actually on the other side of the Afghan-Pakistan border.

“The focus should be on those points and areas where the insurgency is infiltrating Afghanistan,” he said, referring to the Pakistan border region where Taliban and al-Qaida fighters hide and plan attacks.

In Congress, the war has taken on a highly partisan edge.

Senate Republicans are demanding more forces to turn around a war that soon will enter its ninth year, while members of Obama’s own Democratic Party are trying to put on the brakes.

Obama said in the Sunday interviews that he will not allow politics to govern his decision.

Nor has the president asked his top commander in Afghanistan to sit on a request for U.S. reinforcements in a backsliding war.

“No, no, no, no,” Obama responded when asked whether he or aides had directed McChrystal to temporarily withhold a request for additional U.S. forces and other resources.

But he gave no deadline for making a decision about whether to send more Americans into

GAME from pg.1

to his eight carry, 121 yard rushing effort. Finley remains just as optimistic as any of his teammates about the season’s prospects.

“We’re going to rebound, I can promise you that. You will see a better Baylor football team next time we step on the field,” he said.

When asked about the increased attention to Baylor’s run-

DRUGS from pg.1

abused contraband. Occasionally officers deal with cocaine or certainly illegally obtained prescription drugs, but marijuana stands alone in first place.”

Despite these trends and continued drug and alcohol violations, Doak said the majority of Baylor students show good judgment in regard to drug and alcohol use.

“Baylor has a foundational core of Christianity and moral values that I am pleased to report the majority of our students subscribe to. Our administration has taken a stand over the years

harm’s way.

“The only thing I’ve said to my folks is, ‘A, I want an unvarnished assessment, but, B, I don’t want to put the resource question before the strategy question,’” Obama said.

“Because there is a natural inclination to say, ‘If I get more, then I can do more.’”

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress last week he expected McChrystal’s request for additional forces and other resources “in the very near future.”

Other military officials had said the request would go to McChrystal’s boss, Gen. David Petraeus, and up the chain of command in a matter of weeks.

The White House discounted that timeline, but has remained vague about how long it would take to receive the report and act on it.

In the interviews taped Friday at the White House, Obama mentioned concerns about the “mission creep” that befell former President George W. Bush’s attempt to build and prop up a

ning game, he added. “People are going to know who 32 is by the end of the season.”

The loss stung fans who see bowl game possibilities in this year’s squad, but with ten games remaining, the team knows their road has not ended yet.

“We understand that we’ll be judged in December, not in September,” Briles said.

that is supported by our Board of Regents that Baylor will address these matters head on,” Doak said.

“I believe BU stands apart from many institutions of higher education when it comes to its aggressive stand toward matters relating to alcohol and drug violations. Yes, we do have some students that make rather poor choices occasionally when it comes to ingesting alcohol and or drugs, but it is my sincere belief that Baylor University fares quite well in a positive vein when compared with other institutions.”

viable democratic government in a country unaccustomed to central rule and sensitive to foreign meddling.

Obama said he’s asking this question now of the military regarding his plan: “How does this advance America’s national security interests?”

How does it make sure that al-Qaida and its extremist allies cannot attack the United States homeland, our allies, our troops who are based in Europe?”

“If supporting the Afghan national government and building capacity for their army and securing certain provinces advances that strategy, then we’ll move forward,” the president continued.

“But if it doesn’t, then I’m not interested in just being in Afghanistan for the sake of being in Afghanistan or saving face or, in some way, you know, sending a message that America is here for the duration.”

Obama spoke on CNN’s “State of the Union,” ABC’s “This Week,” NBC’s “Meet the Press,” and CBS’ “Face the Nation

BearBills brings new services

By CAROLINE SCHOLES
REPORTER

The creators of BearBills are in the process of launching two new services, Bear Necessities and Simple Bills, in response to the success of BearBills in the Baylor community.

“BearBills has been so helpful and easy to use I’m excited to see what new services they are offering,” said junior Kaylanne Larrabee from Littleton, CO.

Bear Necessities will launch in two weeks and will offer a wide-range of services to Baylor students. The service is meant to simplify students’ lives.

The business will offer 15 different services such as car washes, oil changes, computer repairs, a handy man, laundry, grocery services and delivering purified water. These services will initially only be offered to students registered as BearBills customers. However, all Baylor students may have access to the services in the future.

Only basic groceries, such as bread, eggs and milk, will be provided in the Bear Necessities grocery service. The creators of Bear Necessities believe it is easier for a group of roommates to decide which staple groceries are needed in the household, a discovery they learned from their own roommate experiences. “I like Fruity Pebbles and my roommate liked Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal but they both require milk,” said Baylor alumnus Ryan Gibson, who had an active role in the beginning stages of BearBills.

Though BearBills creators developed the idea of Bear Necessities, BearBills will not own Bear Necessities. BearBills is choosing between a few local businesses to orchestrate the new service.

Prices of the Bear Necessities services are not yet known. The Bear Necessities bill will be combined with the monthly Bear Bills utility bills and can be paid by check, money order, automatic draft or credit card online. Payment for these services

can also be done online using a BearBills account. BearBills was created in spring 2009 by Baylor alumni from an idea Kevin Jones and Colin Heller had.

Jones and Heller wanted to create an easier way for students to pay their bills. They pitched their idea to Gibson who took leadership of the project, and together the three of them created a business. “Our goal is simplicity,” Gibson said. “We want to make living with roommates easy.”

The creators of BearBills also wanted to make it easy for parents to be involved with paying and viewing students’ bills. Parents can receive the e-mail that the student receives detailing their bill and the amount that is due.

“We can’t help cover bills or give people extra time to pay; we just make paying more simple. It’s a great service if people realize their responsibilities as well as ours,” said BearBills employee Brad Norcross. “We feel that it’s very important for students and customers to know that we are a bill-splitting service. Their relationship with their utility providers remains the same, we just make paying all the bills totally simple.”

Simple Bills, which is still in the early planning stages, will first be offered to young professionals living in Waco and the surrounding area and will then expand to the University of Dallas. Future plans also include offering Simple Bills to young professionals throughout cities in Texas which are yet to be determined.

“We don’t want BearBills to be limited to only Baylor students, so we came up with the idea of Simple Bills, which offers BearBills services to young professionals in the Waco area,” said Collin Heller, creator of BearBills.

According to the creators, Simple Bills will make easy their customers’ lives. This is the first time a program like this has been launched in Texas.

The sad part is, even with all of this, there’s actually very little light in this city.



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