THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007

# Group targets sexuality policy

Petitioners want Baylor to be more accepting of homosexuals

By Jon Schroeder Staff writer

Almost two weeks after Soulforce Equality Ride's stop in Waco, the Baylor campus is still feeling its ef-

This time, it's in the form of an online student petition protesting Baylor's statement on human sexuality.

Addressed to President John Lil-

ley, the petition reads, "We, as students, recognize Baylor as a Christian University, and place an utmost importance on love and acceptance. We find Baylor's attitudes, actions and policy on homosexuality to be offensive, bigoted, and antiquated and wrong.

"Our goal is to have a University that is tolerant of sexual minorities. We feel that spiritual superiority and judgment does not further our Christian message, but degrades it. Fueling attitudes of fear and hatred towards those of homosexual orientation is wrong, regardless of how one feels about how the Bible inter-

prets homosexual practice."

San Antonio senior Christina Cigala, who wrote the petition, said it didn't come as a result of Soulforce's Waco stop, but that she was troubled by some students' reactions to the visit. She started the petition to raise student awareness of the issue and to start conversations about it.

"The conversations I heard among my peers during the Soulforce incident concerned me enough to raise awareness about what some feel is a moral view, although it may not be the popular view at Baylor," she said.

Cigala said the petition will be

sent to Lilley's office "when and if" she gets enough signatures. As of press time, 56 students had signed, although some did not use their last names.

"Baylor has had policies that have changed as a result of the way society has changed," she said, citing changed policies on dancing and interracial dating as examples.

"Whether the petition will cause Baylor to change the policy is highly doubtful, but presenting an opinion is the first step in facilitating change," she said.

Please see **POLICY**, page 6



### Mystics take Mosby 6th

Staff report

After leading the Baylor women's basket-ball team to the second round of the NCAA tournament this season, senior forward Bernice Mosby was rewarded for her hard work as she was taken with the sixth pick in the WNBA draft by the Washington Mystics

Mosby, who transferred to Baylor from the University of Florida prior to the 2005-06 season, led the Lady Bears in points and rebounds this season, averaging 17.6 and 9.1 respectively.

"I am very excited to be able to continue playing basketball at the next level," Mosby told baylorbears.com. "It has always been my dream to play in the WNBA."

my dream to play in the WNBA."

Mosby is the fifth Baylor player to be taken in the WNBA draft and the fourth to be taken in the first round.

# Chaplain addresses faith, politics

By Jon Schroeder Staff writer

Dr. Barry C. Black, chaplain of the U.S. Senate, spoke 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Paul Powell room of George W. Truett Seminary.

The Lariat sat down with Black after the speech, taking a peek into the state through the eyes of the church.

Q: A common perception of U.S. politics is that our leaders do not communicate well across party lines. Is that view a correct one, or do our leaders in the Senate take time to sit down

and talk with each other about issues going on in American life?

I think that the issues they debate are nuanced, and many times the members of the different sides give the talking points of their particular party.

Like a debating society, you can hear what the other side is saying, but you're pri-

marily interested in defending your position.

Obviously at a prayer breakfast they sit, and they eat together at a weekly basis at a Bible study. They discuss theological issues, and what is happening in the Senate may creep into those discussions. So they do talk, but the way a position is set up and argued, it's more like the prosecution and

defense in a courtroom.

It's set up that way. Even as you would not be frustrated because the prosecution and the defense aren't talking to one another, the nature of the deliberative process is adversarial.

Two stories are being presented, and people

Please see **BLACK**, page 6

**Black** 

# Court orders funds repaid

Student officials claim African group misused appropriated money

**By Kate Boswell** Staff writer

Five months after receiving \$3,500 from the Student Life Fund to sponsor the eighth annual Baylor African Student Association Cultural Extravaganza, the African Student Association was ordered by Student Court to return \$603.66 to the Student Life Fund.

Tolu Itegboje, a senior from Nigeria and the association's president, said the issue had been resolved but that he wished Student Senate had not taken the matter to the court.

"My organization, including the officers and the advisers, just wish Student Senate would try to dialogue in the future instead of going through the court process," he said. "This could have been resolved if we had been given a chance to sit down and talk. We were not given that chance."

Internal vice president and San Antonio junior Travis Plummer said taking an organization to court was up to the attorney general's discretion, not Senate's.

"Senate takes no one to court," he said.

"Senate only passes legislation and allocations. The attorney general, who is under the executive branch, takes some-

Please see **REPAY**, page 6



David Poe/Lariat staff

### Blasting the competition

Kosice, Slovakia, junior Zuzana Zemenova serves Wednesday against the University of Texas at the Baylor Tennis Center. Baylor defeated the Longhorns to move to 7-1 in conference play. For the full story, please see page 4.

# Armstrong to host Shakespeare play

By Kate Boswell

In Shakespeare's classic comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream, a group of rustics (the Elizabethan equivalent of rednecks) struggles to put together an amateur production of a famous tragedy. They fail miserably at the tragedy part, much to the amusement of their onstage audience, and the rest is theater history.

Dr. Stephen Prickett, director of the Armstrong Browning Library and the Margaret Root Brown professor for Browning Studies and Victorian Poetry, has assembled his own crew of amateur performers to put on a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream beginning at

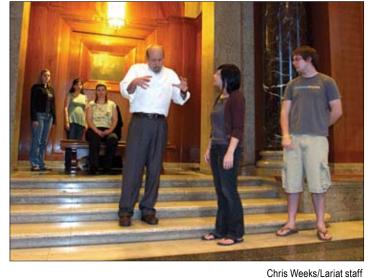
7 p.m. Tuesday at Armstrong Browning Library.

This is his second play at Baylor (last year he directed **Twelfth Night**), but directing amateur productions of Shakespeare has become something like a second job for Prickett.

He produced four plays during his time at Australian National University and once directed a traveling production of Macbeth in Nigeria. He directed his first play, Shakespeare's Pericles, Prince of Tyre, while in graduate school at Oxford.

Carrying on the tradition when he moved to Baylor in 2003 seemed like the natural thing to do, Prickett said.

"Have you seen it?" he asked, referring to the architecture of the Armstrong Browning Li-



Cast members rehearse in Armstrong Browning Library for Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, set to open at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

brary's McLane Foyer of Meditation, which includes a balcony and roof-to-floor length pillars.

"As soon as I walked in the room, it shrieked to me, 'This place needs a play!"

He said there were a few initial doubts.

"People here took me aside and were telling me, 'This is Baylor. You can't do Shake-

Please see **PLAY**, page 6

# Iran leader releases captive British sailors

By Nasser Karimi The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad defused a growing confrontation with Britain, announcing the surprise release of 15 captive British sailors Wednesday and then gleefully accepting the crew's thanks and handshakes in what he called an Easter gift.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair expressed "profound relief" over the peaceful end to the 13-day crisis.

"Throughout we have taken a measured approach, firm but calm, not negotiating, but not confronting either," Blair said in London, adding a message to the Iranian people that "we bear you no ill will."

The announcement in Teh-

ran was a breakthrough in a crisis that had escalated over nearly two weeks, raising oil prices and fears of military conflict in the volatile region. The move to release the sailors suggested that Iran's hard-line leadership decided it had shown its strength but did not want to push the standoff too far.

Iran did not get the main thing it sought, a public apology for entering Iranian waters. Britain, which said its crew was in Iraqi waters when seized, insists it never offered a quid pro quo either, instead relying on quiet diplomacy.

Syria, Iran's close ally, said it played a role in winning the release.

'Syria exercised a sort of qui-

Please see **IRAN**, page 6

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# Going back on your word has serious consequences

I'm tired of excuses. I'm tired of complaints. Just do it. Nike gets it, but you don't. Yes, I'm talking to you, the college student with no sense of respon-

You volunteered to be a Peer Mentor, but the freshman still wander aimlessly. You agreed to lead a Bible study, but you never show up. You signed a 12month lease on an apartment, but you're moving out at the end of the semester.

Did anyone force you to commit? Did they hold a gun to your head and say, "Get involved or else"? And yet this campus is crawling with students who consistently renege on their selfimposed responsibility.

There's a host of excuses why students go back on their words: I'm just too busy; I didn't realize how much work it would be; I'm allergic to peanuts, and so on. The crux of the matter is accountability

I don't care if you never join a single committee or if you join 10, provided you keep your word. If you agree to be a Spanish tutor and a bewildered Anglo calls you frantically on a Sunday afternoon, don't turn off your phone and go see Harry Potter you have a job to do.

You need to keep promises, not solely for the sake of integrity, but because you're dealing



with other people. Commitments may not have life or death consequences now, but treating them so flippantly could have dire consequences later.

When you get married or land a big job, there will be trying times. That's the nature of any real commitment. It's hard. Learning to persevere and work through problems is something drilled into our heads since we sprung from the womb, but few learn how to make it a habit.

I'm not saying I'm perfect. I quit band in the seventh grade. The trumpet and I did not get along. Sometimes the most responsible thing to do is step

Just don't confuse convenience with recognizing what's needed. You made an agreement - they could have picked someone else, but they picked you. Don't make them regret it.

No one takes pride in work anymore. When you tack your name on the front of an assignment or on the dotted line of a legal document, you've just

Some of the most painful experiences in college can be summed up in two words - group project. I'm not sure what's worse: a group that does nothing or one that goes the extra mile to fool you. I think it's the group that puts on a show.

They go through the motions and then do nothing. I'd rather know my group members have no intentions of completing a task than work with con artists.

I'm not asking for more diligent students – just more transparent ones. Students who join clubs to actually get involved and keep up with their responsibilities are few and far between.

No one is impressed with a laundry list of organizations when the motive isn't sincere.

The purpose of a resume isn't just to fill white space, so watch out when a company starts assembling committees of its

You'll be expected to participate, and I mean really participate. If you've never actually done all the things in your resume, you'd better be a quick

This time, it won't matter if you're allergic to peanuts – you shouldn't have volunteered to be a taste-tester.

Claire St. Amant is a junior professional writing major from Katy.

**Editorial** 

# Just leave the BMW at home

Last semester when Baylor began construction on the new parking garage across the street from Collins Residence Hall, Baylor started another bus line for students from the East Campus Parking Facility to various locations on Eighth Street.

According to Shelley Deats, manager of parking services, only 600 students have ridden on the blue route, which ran until 2 a.m. daily, during the four months it was running.

There are a lot of legitimate complaints that the student body has against our administrators and a perceived lack of flexibility, whether it be the Soulforce saga, the attendance policy or time between classes.

But one complaint that students lodge too many times is the lack of available parking on campus.

We already have a negative stereotype as spoiled, rich kids who have had everything handed to us, but add on top of that the fact that a large segment of our population throws a fit when we can't get parking right by our building

Baylor provides its students with more than enough parking spaces, as well as plenty of buses and trolleys to take us from one side of the campus to the other – and they provide it free

Many apartment complexes located farther away from campus also offer their own buses to campus.

At campuses of comparative size, many students drive from a lot farther away just to get to a parking garage so that they can board a bus to get to



campus, where they then have to walk to class.

If students were to just wake up a few minutes earlier and make plans to catch Baylor-provided transportation, not only could they get to class on time, but they wouldn't have to spend each morning stressing about not being able to find a parking spot 30 feet from their classrooms.

With most students living in close proximity to campus – or in the case of freshmen, on campus - walking or biking to class is already a viable alternative.

We seem to have enough energy when we head to the McLane Student Life Center to run on the treadmill for an hour or practice for All-University Sing or StompFest, but having to wake up and walk 10 minutes to class is apparently too much to ask.

We shouldn't have to explain the economic and environmental benefits of making the choice to leave the car at home; it's too obvious. When you think about it, walking, biking or taking the bus just makes sense.

The East Campus Parking Facility and the Dutton Avenue Office and Parking Facility are never full, even during peak class hours.

Baylor is already spending money to provide free transportation, so it would only make sense for us to take advantage of it.

We're not too good for public transportation, and we're really not that pressed for time.

#### Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest col-Opinions expressed in the

Lariat are not necessarily those

of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board. Letters to the editor should include the writer's name, major,

graduation year, phone number and student identification number. Non-student writers should include their address. Letters that focus on an issue affecting students or faculty may be considered for a guest

column at the editor's discre-All submissions become the property of The Baylor Lariat. The Lariat reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length,

libel and style. Letters should be e-mailed to Lariat\_Letters@baylor.edu or mailed to The Baylor Lariat, One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX 76798-7330.

#### Corrections policy

The Baylor Lariat is committed to ensuring fair and accurate reporting and will correct errors of substance on Page 2. Corrections can be submitted to the editor by sending an e-mail to Lariat\_Letters@baylor.edu or by calling 254-710-4099.

A subscription to the Lariat costs \$45 for two semesters. Send check or money order to One Bear Place #97330, Waco, TX, 76798-7330 or e-mail Lariat\_ads@baylor.edu.

Visa and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662.

# What music would Jesus listen to? Probably not Christian rock

I'll be the first to admit I'm a bit of a music snob. If it wasn't made at least 10 years ago, I'll probably be really judgmental about it. I might not even give it a second listen.

And as a Christian, it personally stings me a bit to have to trash something that supposedly speaks for my faith. But I'll come right out and say it -I can't stand Christian rock music.

I'm not trying to paint with too broad a brush or anything; I know there are always excep-It's just that somewhere along

the line, bands tried to take what works in church and make it into a commercially viable product. I think that cheapens Christianity.

Secular bands that have some

sort of spiritual conversion and remain secular aren't the ones I have a problem with.

After Bob Dylan was "born again," he continued to make great music - including some really good gospel material.

I've also found that secular bands with Christian members aren't what get me either. What I have a problem with

is the Christian music industry trying to marry Christianity and rock. It just doesn't work. This is about the only point

you'll ever hear me agree with a fundamentalist on: Rock music is Satan's music. It's a guilty pleasure and that's the way it should be. Let's face it, AC/DC is just

a lot more fun to listen to than Stephen Curtis Chapman.



Rock is about expressing feelings, and all good rock has an element of self-pretentiousness to it. It shouldn't go too far; though – we learned that in the

Even Kurt Cobain exuded a look at me not caring if you're looking at me" persona.

That pretentiousness is something that doesn't jive with Christianity, at least not the way it's currently being done.

It makes more of a mockery

of faith than anything else.

I know it's cliché to say, but it really is all about the music for me. There are plenty of secular bands that capture themes Christians can identify with.

That's the reason why Christian rock will never be taken seriously. The songs are always "Lord" this and "Jesus" that, "We want to praise you," "you're my rock" and all that other stuff. It's too overt, too cheesy, too manufactured. They're just amplifying the same mistake a lot of secular music is making

And I'm sorry, but if you're really that artistically inspired for Christ, then learn how to play more than three chords of the guitar.

A lot of people defend Chris-

tian bands by saying that it's not about the music but the message. That's about the biggest cop-out I've ever heard. It's like having faith without works. If it was about the message of Christ, then more people would be acting on the Christian message instead of buying all their crap at Mardel.

Radical leftist bands like Rage Against the Machine and System of a Down inspired action, and I just don't see that with Christian bands. They spend too much time celebrating Christ rather than fighting for him

Good rock music is subversive, and so was Christ. The Christian music business doesn't seem to understand that. Or maybe it just doesn't care. It's being tailored for an audience, and stifles creativity.

This convinces me that it's more about the money than the music or the message.

I'm sure there's some decent Christian rock being made somewhere. I just haven't found it yet. Perhaps someone could direct me to some cool underground Christian music, because whenever I hear Christian radio, my ears feel violated.

This column isn't just meant to bash Christian music or anything, but if there's ever going to be a breakthrough Christian band that appeals to a wider audience, they'll have to learn that rock isn't about sunshine. It's about anger, pain, suffering and then healing. Brad Briggs is a junior journal-

ism major from Mesquite.

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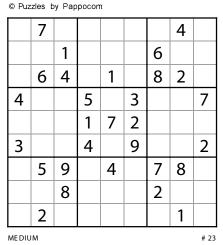
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#### THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams 58 End of quote

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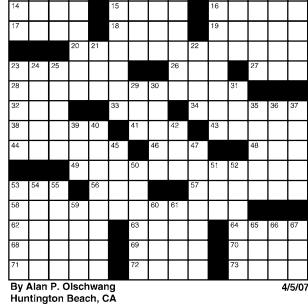
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66 Joe and his comrades? 67 Do something



For today's crossword and sudoku answers, visit www.baylor.edu/Lariat

# CARE Week will now include Locks of Love

By Sapna Prasad

Hair today, gone tomorrow. The newest addition to Kappa Phi Gamma's annual CARE Week is the Locks of Love Hair Donation, which will take place Tuesday as part of the kick-off CAREnival at Fountain Mall.

The South Asian Interest sorority will have stylists on hand to cut, package and mail the donated hair, said Minal Shah, a Plano junior and Kappa Phi Gamma service chair.

Getting a haircut is not a big deal for most people, but cancer patients usually don't have a choice, Shah said. She said she's "a little bit nervous" about donating her hair.

# Obama raises \$25M, rivals Clinton

By Nedra Pickler The Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa - With a stunning \$25 million fundraising haul for his presidential campaign, Democrat Barack Obama affirmed his status Wednesday as Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's chief rival.

The freshman Illinois senator proved he could channel his appeal into significant financial muscle, and he dispelled, for now, questions about the durability of his anti-war, "hope"driveń candidacy.

Obama's total for the first three months of the year stopped just short of the record \$26 million Clinton brought in. By any measure, it was an astonishing figure for a political newcomer elected to the U.S. Senate just two years ago.

Obama was in Iowa Wednesday, with a rally in Mason City planned for the afternoon.

In an e-mail message to supporters, he said his fundraising success represented "an unmistakable message to the political establishment in Washington about the power and seriousness of our challenge.'

His campaign released additional details illustrating the breadth of Obama's support. He had 100,000 contributors in the first quarter, with more than half donating online for a total of \$6.9 million.

Clinton, by contrast, had about 50,000 contributors and raised \$4.2 million online.

The campaign said at least \$23.5 million of the \$25 million total was available to be used in the highly competitive primary

The Clinton campaign has yet to disclose how much of her \$26 million can be used for the primary and how much was earmarked for the general election.

Clinton also transferred \$10 million from her Senate account, bringing her total cam-

"I've never had hair that short before," she said. "But it's such a small thing to give up, and it makes a big difference in the lives of cancer patients."

Locks of Love is a nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from medical-related hair loss, Shah said. Locks of Love requires a minimum hair length of 10 inches for donation.

Shah said the sorority decided on hair donation because the members wanted to help in a different way. After speaking with a fellow sorority sister and cancer survivor, Shah realized what a huge impact the donations would have on a cancer patient's self-esteem.

April is National Cancer Awareness Month and every Kappa Phi Gamma chapter donates one week in April to cancer awareness, said Ramla Razzak, a Tuscaloosa, Ala., senior and president of Baylor's chap-

CARE stands for Cancer: A Real Effort, and Razzak said this year CARE Week is from Tuesday to April 14. She said the week's events include a candlelight vigil, CAREwash at Exxon and the famous Mr. CARE Week pageant, featuring Baylor men as superheroes. Razzak said she hopes the events will educate the Baylor community about the causes of cancer and the importance of preventive measures.

"Cancer is so common among

**Associated Press** 

showed Edwards surging into

second place. Clinton was leading with 27 percent, Edwards

had 21 percent and Obama 20

percent. Clinton was at home in

New York Wednesday and had

no comment on Obama's an-

ment congratulating Obama and

said the fundraising of all the

Democratic contenders "demon-

strates the overwhelming desire

tallies show the Democrats vast-

ly outpacing their GOP counter-

Democrats raised about \$80

million combined, while Repub-

licans pulled in only about \$40

John Edwards reported \$14 mil-

lion in new contributions, in-

cluding \$1 million for the gen-

Among the Republican candidates, former Massachusetts

Gov. Mitt Romney was the top

Giuliani raised \$15 million for

the quarter, while Arizona Sen.

John McCain posted \$12.5 mil-

Former New York City Mayor

money-raiser with \$23 million.

Former North Carolina Sen.

Indeed, first quarter financial

Preliminary figures show the

for change in our country."

But her campaign manager, Patti Solis Doyle, issued a state-

nouncement.

parts.

million.

eral election.

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama, D-III., speaks Wednes-

day during a rally with local residents in Mason City, Iowa.

paign funds to \$36 million.

Obama's strong showing was

a blow to Clinton, who sought

to position herself as her party's

strongest White House contend-

er in part through her fundrais-

ing a national fundraising net-

work through two Senate campaigns and her husband's eight

Obama began his campaign

with a relatively small donor

base concentratéd largely in Il-

the Iraq war and voter excite-

ment over his quest to be the

first black president quickly fu-

eled a powerful fundraising ma-

ecutives and big-money Hol-

lywood moguls like billionaire

David Geffen, a former Clinton

supporter who shifted allegianc-

es. But he also focused on small-

er donations and raised money

in several small cities, a practice

Clinton aides say she will follow

numerous state and national

polls that show Obama consis-

Democrats by CNN and WMUR

tently trailing Clinton.

Still, her strategists point to

A new poll of New Hampshire

this quarter.

He attracted Wall Street ex-

But his early opposition to

She has spent years develop-

ing prowess.

years as president.

linois, his home state.

our generation and it affects every one of us in some way," Razzak said. "We know we're a small organization, but we still want to make a significant im-

All the proceeds of the chapter's CARE Week events will benefit cancer research at Scott & White Hospital and Clinic in Temple, said Amreen Dharani, a Dallas senior and vice president of Kappa Phi Gamma.

She said the sorority chose Scott & White, the largest cancer clinic in Central Texas, because the donations would have a direct impact on the Waco community. Dharani said the sorority raises about \$1,000 annually for this cause. The funds contribute specifically to Scott and White's HOPE fund, which is used to assist patients with educational materials, scarves, hats, wigs, prosthesis and other expenses outside the usual medical needs, Dharani said.

The chapter is hoping to double its donations this year. Nationally, Kappa Phi Gamma has raised more than \$30,000 for cancer awareness and research through CARE week events since its establishment in 1998, Dharani said.

"We hope the Baylor community will join us in the fight against cancer," Dharani said. 'No deed is too big or too small. Whether you can give monetarily or you can lend a helping hand, there is always someone

## Friendly fire possible in 2 soldiers' deaths

By Lolita C. Baldor The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – A week after acknowledging a litany of errors in the friendly fire death of former NFL star Pat Tillman, the Army said Wednesday two soldiers killed in Iraq in February may also have been killed by their own comrades.

The Army said it is investigating the deaths of Pvt. Matthew Zeimer, 18, of Glendive, Mont., and Spc. Alan E. McPeek, 20, of Tucson, Ariz., who were killed in Ramadi, in western Iraq, on Feb. 2. The families of the two soldiers were initially told they were killed by enemy fire.

According to Army Col. Daniel Baggio, unit commanders in Iraq did not at first suspect they were killed by U.S. forces, but an investigation by the unit concluded that may be the case.

A supplemental report filed Feb. 28 suggested that the initial reports might have been wrong but that an investigation was still under way, he said. According to the Army, the unit did not include friendly fire in that report "because they were reluctant to make the claim until the unit-level investigation was complete." It took another month before the families of the two soldiers were told, on Saturday, that friendly fire was

Rose Doyle, McPeek's mother, declined to discuss the latest development. "I don't feel comfortable talking," she said. 'Whatever I say isn't going to bring my son báck."

Wednesday's comes on the heels of the announcement on March 26 that nine high-ranking Army officers, including four generals, made critical errors in reporting the friendly fire death of Tillman, an Army Ranger, in Afghanistan. The military found no criminal wrongdoing in the shooting of the former Arizona Cardinals defensive back. Three other soldiers were wounded in the incident that killed Zeimer and McPeek. There has been no indication whether they were also hit by friendly forces.

According to published reports at the time of the incident, McPeek, Zeimer and other soldiers came under attack by insurgents at their outpost in central Ramadi. A report in the Army Times newspaper said the two soldiers ran to a roof to fight back, but a shot was fired through a concrete wall near them and the impact killed them. Army officials said they could not confirm those early reports, and they said they have no new details on what actually happened.

#### **BEAR BRIEFS**

**Design-A-Stud for Habitat** 

Show off your organization by decorating a stud for Habitat for Humanity. The studs will be displayed and voted on at Diadeloso through donations. The organization that raises the most donations will win. The entry fee is \$30 and all proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity. The deadline to sign up is today. For additional information, contact Sonya\_ Maness@baylor.edu.

Fiesta on the River

The Hispanic Student Association needs organizations to participate in its annual Fiesta on the River celebration April 11. Each organization will be in charge of a table where members can serve food, run games or pass out information about its philanthropies. The deadline to register is today. For more information, contact Andra\_Nava@baylor.edu.

To submit a bear brief, e-mail Lariat@baylor.edu.

#### CONTACT US

Newsroom

710-4099

#### **POLICE BLOTTER**

Burglary of habitation Saturday — A burglary of

habitation occurred at Penland Residence Hall between 7 and

Sunday — A burglary of habitation occurred at Penland Residence Hall between 3:30 and 8 p.m.

**Disorderly conduct** Saturday — Disorderly conduct occurred at Speight Avenue

and Fifth Street at 11:06 p.m.

Saturday — A theft between

\$50 and \$500 occurred at the 1400 block of South 7th Street between 10:30 p.m. Friday and 1 p.m. Saturday. Tuesday — A theft under \$50

occurred at Armstrong Browning Library between noon Monday and 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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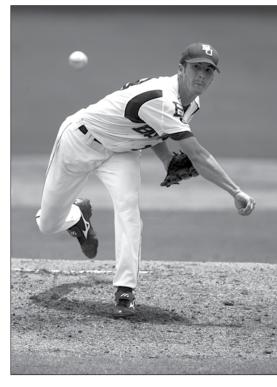
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Junior starting pitcher Randall Linebaugh delivers a pitch during Baylor's NCAA Regional matchup with Rice University on June 5, 2006. Linebaugh has been one of Baylor's most steady pitchers over the past two seasons. but he and the est of the Bears' pitching staff have struggled in recent weeks, posting a 7.99 team ERA in Big 12 play.



Baylor Photography

# Struggling pitchers look to bounce back

By Daniel Youngblood Sports editor

Baylor baseball head Coach Steve Smith has made it no secret this year that his pitching staff's success would be the key to a successful season.

With a lineup built predominantly of freshmen and sophomores, it was understood heading into the season that a largely veteran pitching staff would have to be the steadying force anchoring the team if they hoped to reach postseason play.

While the Bears' staff has managed to do this at times this season, they have struggled with consistency against the better offensive teams they have faced.

Baylor pitchers have allowed 5.75 runs per game in their 24 weekend games and have struggled even more since the beginning of conference play. In their nine Big 12 games, they're sporting a 7.99 ERA and a .345 opponent's batting average

Junior starter Randall Linebaugh, who's 2-3 with a 4.43 ERA this season, said the pitchers' struggles have had a lot to do with the quality of the teams they've faced. Three series into Big 12 play, the Bears have already faced the two best hitting teams in the conference in No. 6 University of Texas and No. 15 Oklahoma State University.

"We've run into some tough teams," Linebaugh said. "We haven't pitched terribly bad, but any time you face lineups this good you have to be on top of your game. We've made a few mistakes to some good hitters, and they made us pay almost every time."

Junior closer Nick Cassavechia said the Bears have struggled a little bit adapting to the level of competition.

"The competition we played early in the season wasn't quite as challenging, and we got away with a lot of average pitches," he said. "With the start of conference play, we hopped right into tougher teams, and they're hurting us when we make those same pitches."

The Bears are off to a 2-7 start to Big 12 play. Over that stretch, getting people out has been a problem for the team's starters. With three conference starts apiece, senior starter Jeff Mandel and Linebaugh – the team's dual aces – are a combined 1-4 with 7.56 and 7.41 ERAs respectively. Freshman starter Kendal Volz is 1-1 with an ERA above 10.

Smith said he's not discouraged, and he thinks his two veterans have been better than the stats have shown.

"Our starters just need to rebound," Smith said. "We've gotten some pretty good starts out of Mandel and Linebaugh, but that third spot has been a crap

But tough sledding in Big 12 games hasn't been unique to the rotation. The bullpen, which has a 4.11 ERA in 96 1/3 innings on the season, has allowed 27 earned runs in 31 1/3 innings during conference play.

Smith said part of the reason for his bullpen's struggles is that his relievers have occasionally been overexposed. He said getting more consistent pitching out of his two veteran starters would help this.

'We really need solid outings out of Mandel and Linebaugh to keep us out of long relief in their starts," he said. "We can piece together one game a series, but it's tough to piece together two or three games."

Fortunately for the Bears, Linebaugh said he expects the pitching to improve as the Big 12 season rolls on.

The Bears will get their chance at 6:30 p.m. today when they begin a three-game home series with No. 22 University of Oklahoma (21-9, 3-3).

This weekend will be a good test for our team and a good chance for our pitchers to return to form against a lineup that's not quite as strong as a couple of the ones we've faced," Linebaugh said.

Smith called the Oklahoma team a "very solid club" but said it's a more pitching-oriented

The Sooners are fourth in the Big 12 in batting average at .304, but they don't have the power bats that Texas or Oklahoma State's lineups do. They're sixth out of the 10 Big 12 baseball teams in home runs, with 19, and in runs scored, with 207.

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# Women's tennis levels Horns, 6-1

No. 20 lady netters move to 7-1 in Big 12 with 6th straight win

By Justin Baer Sports Writer

Baylor continued its domination in Big 12 play as the No. 20 Lady Bears (14-6, 7-1) easily defeated the No. 36 Lady Longhorns (9-7, 6-1) by a final score of 6-1 Wednesday night at the Baylor Tennis Center.

The Lady Bears extended their overall winning streak to six matches and their home court winning streak to 32 matches

Head Coach Joey Scrivano realized the importance of winning a Big 12 game at home, especially against a team like

'Anytime you play Texas, it's a big match," the Baylor head coach of five years said. "We get extra focused when we see that burnt orange. Fortunately we played well enough to beat

Scrivano added that he can't take all the credit for his team's strong performance Wednesday, as his coaches and players have been waiting for Texas to visit.

'Home wins are great, and you should win at home," Scrivano said. "Our fans helped us tonight for sure."

He said Baylor has played well against Texas lately. 'I give our players and staff

a lot of credit - they prepared really well against Texas," he said. "We are playing good tennis right now and we have im-



Junior Zuzana Zemenova hits a forehand during the Bears 6-1 win over the University of Texas Wednesday. Zemenova and senior doubles partner Iva Mihaylova helped the Bears take the doubles point, and the Bears took five of six singles matches to seal the victory.

proved over the course of the season. I am pleased with where The Lady Bears gave the

crowd their money's worth early on in the match, with the doubles matches ending in an exciting finish. After Lenka Broozova and

Klara Zrustova put away the twosome Petra Dizdar and Ristine Olson 8-3, Zuzana Cerna and Zuzana Chmelarova fell 9-7 in their doubles action. The tiebreaker went down to

the wire, but Zuzana Zemenova and Iva Mihaylova put away Texas (9-8,(5)) to give Baylor one point. "For whatever reason, we

didn't play our best doubles tonight," Scrivano said. "Texas re-

ally did a great job of coming out and competing hard and getting an edge on us. It wasn't the best way that I would like to win a match, but we pulled it out and I am happy for that."

The Lady Bears continued their domination in singles play with Cerna taking a quick defeat over Dizdar (6-1, 6-0). Mihaylova then defeated Marija Milic (6-3, 6-1) soon after, and Klara Zrustova was victorious over Stephanie Davison (6-4, 6-1) to clinch the victory for the

Yet despite knowing they had come away with the victory, the Lady Bears continued to battle nonstop. Baylor No. 1 seed Zemenova (currently ranked 28th in the nation) defeated Vanja Corovic to put the Lady Bears

"I think it was great. Coach was really happy," Zemenova said. "He was impressed that we came here and took care of busi-The most exciting match

of the night by far came when Lenka Broosova came back after losing the first game to defeat Stephanie Davison (6-7(4), 6-4, Even though she knew her

team had taken the victory for the night, Broosova said that it's matches like these that can help her on later down the road. "I know every single match

when I am playing this close, it can help me in other matches," Broosova said. "It just helps me as a tennis player." The Lady Bears head back to

the court Saturday when they host Pepperdine University with

# Track shines at Stanford, travels to Austin

By Will Parchman Sports writer

While the field portion of Baylor track and field hasn't always been Baylor's strength, one junior is quickly changing that.

Following up on a string of impressive performances this spring, Brittany Devereaux shattered two of her own school records at the Stanford Invitational last weekend. She broke both her discus and hammer throw records, the former by almost a foot. She's now ranked fourth in the country in discus throw and track head Coach Todd Harbour said even he was a little taken aback by all of her success.

"She had a really tremendous meet out there. I was really surprised," Harbour said. "She threw the discus really well, but when I saw she was ranked No. 4, I was like, Whoa. She's really an outstanding lady."

Now that all-world track stars like Jeremy Wariner and Darold Williamson have moved on, Devereaux has pulled the spotlight back inside the track. She broke a 30-year-old discus throw record during her freshman year - four times. During her sophomore year she set the school record in the weight throw to win the title at the Tyson Invitational. Later that year she broke her own school record in discuss and earned an automatic bid for the NCAA Championships.

"She's doing some great things this year," Harbour said. "I really don't have enough good things to say about her.' After setting a number of

impressive performance benchmarks this season, it appears Baylor track has its most impressive record of the year. The men's 4x400-meter relay team took home first place at the

Stanford Invitational over the weekend, recording the fastest time in the event of any school this season. Baylor hasn't lost a mile relay race to a collegiate team all year. In all, Baylor set 20 regional

qualifying marks last weekend. marking what Harbour called the event. 'the best meet we've ever had. In terms of individual marks,

he's right – the 20 total marks is the most Baylor has ever achieved in a single competi-

They'll be able to use those qualifying marks to enter the regional competition later this spring. If the runners do well at the NCAA Midwest Regional in Des Moines, Iowa, they'll earn a

bid to the coveted NCAA Championships. The Bears have now recorded

29 regional marks entering the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays this weekend, which offers 29 chances to improve upon last year's 19 athletes in the championships. Individually, the Bears fared

well in California. Sophomore Quentin

Iglehart-Summers won the  $m\ e\ n\ '\ s$ open 400 meters on Saturday, marking the second consecuhe's won

Iglehart-Summers Iglehart-Summers said the team's first traveling outdoor tournament was a rousing suc-

"I basically wanted to hit a regional (qualifying mark), and I did, so I was happy," he said. "I was definitely satisfied."

Junior distance runner Lauren Hagans took first place in the 800 meters, and Harbour said it was definitely a perfor-

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mance for the program to fawn

"It was amazing," Harbour said. "You don't see that very often. There's Olympians that compete in races out there, and in fact there were two NCAA champions ahead of her, so I think it was a big win for her."

For Hagans it was more about finding the appropriate reserves and keeping herself fit, which she said she's done all season. "I just felt good that week-

end," Hagans said. "The weather was perfect, there was barely any wind and my legs just felt really good. It was just a good While the team found an en-

couraging stride in Palo Alto, Calif., they've got no time to rest. The Texas Relays, one of the marquee outdoor events of the spring, begins today in Austın.

Where the team goes from here, Harbour said, is up to

"It's a big carnival down there," Harbour said. "It's always a lot of fun, a lot of people come to it and it's the premier track meet in Texas by far. We're ready to run so hopefully we'll go down there and take care of



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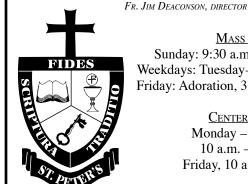
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Dr. Anton Armstrong, guest conductor in the School of Music, directs Baylor's Concert Choir during a recent practice. Armstrong will hold "Bach's Lunch" at noon today in the Barfield Drawing Room in the Bill Daniel Student Center.



Courtesy photo

# Food, music meet for Bach seminar

**By Ida Jamshidi** Reporter

When you pack your lunch today, don't forget your singing voice.

The Baylor School of Music will present "Bach's Lunch" at noon today in the Barfield Drawing Room of the Bill Daniel Student Center.

Students are invited to bring their lunch and come sing along with Dr. Anton Armstrong, the 2006 recipient of the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great

Armstrong will lead the audience in Bach's Cantata No. 4, "Crist lag in Totesbanden," as well as give some historical context and a theological overview of the cantata. Vocal scores of the piece will be distributed for the sing-along session, and members of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra also will perform.

Dick Veit, concert and promotions manager for the School of Music, said the event is being held in part to celebrate Holy Week.

"The timing of this is because of Easter," he said. "The cantata has an Easter theme."

Christians celebrate Maundy Thursday today, a holy day commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the apostles.

Bodie Gilbert, a Comanche graduate student in the School

of Music, will attend the lunch today. But he said even students without a background in music would find the event interesting.

"Of course those who study music will most likely be the ones who are a little more involved, but it's a great learning experience for anyone who's in attendance," he said.

Gilbert said his faith also contributes to his interest in attending the event.

"As a music student I look forward to getting to be a part of it because I enjoy the art of singing," he said.

"As a Christian, I value the opportunity to celebrate Maundy Thursday through the musical arts."

Dr. Randall Bradley, professor of church music and director of the church music program, said that the School of Music does not often get the chance to present events like "Bach's Lunch."

"It's really rare that we get to do these kinds of activities," he said. "To get to do it in a crossuniversity environment is a rare opportunity."

Bradley added that students who attend the event are not obligated to sing; they can just come to listen.

"We hope this will be an opportunity for people across campus to engage in a musical experience," Bradley said. "I hope lots of folks come and be a part of it"

# 'Grindhouse' imitates beloved genre

**By Steven Rea**The Philadelphia Inquirer

The National Association of Theatre Owners would beg to differ, but it's still possible in a few multiplexes across the land to "enjoy" the grindhouse experience.

You know, a theater with floors glazed in Coke and rotten Raisinets, upholstered seats you don't want to see with the lights up, a couple of drunks down in front providing running commentary and maybe a guy in military camouflage with a bulging duffel bag, grunting to himself one aisle over.

"Admittedly, that was never the best part of it," says director Quentin Tarantino, waxing nostalgic about the days decades back when he'd venture into some grungy one-screen in downtown L.A. to see a cheapo vigilante flick or a babes-behind-bars thriller.

Still, for most folks going to **Grindhouse** — the double-feature package of Tarantino's **Death Proof** and his buddy Robert Rodriguez's **Planet Terror**, opening Friday — the venues will be tidy and tiered, with state-of-the-art cupholders for those \$6 cappuccinos.

It's the stuff up on the screen that will pay homage to the 1960s and 1970s exploitation indies, not the theaters themselves.

"I think of it almost like a grindhouse ride," said Tarantino.

"I like the fact that we're turning the multiplex into the grindhouse. It's just a little safer. But if any gang violence breaks out during the course of the movie, or anything gets screwed up in the projection booth, a reel goes missing, that's all good. It just adds to the experience — it makes it all the more organic."

It was Sin City and Spy Kids director Rodriguez — looking at a poster he owned for a 1950s hot-rod double bill (Drag Strip Girl and Rock All Night) — who came up with the idea of releasing two pics together.

So off they went, psyched to re-create the look and feel of the

vintage low-budget, no-star B-movies — produced outside the Hollywood mainstream.

Rodriguez's entry, Planet Terror, which he shot last spring around his hometown of Austin, is a mash-up of zombie horror and renegade-hero action.

Freddy Rodriguez (no relation) plays the loner hero Josh Brolin, a demented doc, and Rose McGowan is Cherry Darling, a go-go dancer who loses a leg in a roadside zombie attack and has it prosthetically replaced — with a machine gun. Bruce Willis, Marley Shelton, lad-mag cover-girl chanteuse Fergie and a hammy Tarantino also appear.

Freddy said the film was especially exciting for him because he was able to do most of his own stunts.

"It was the most physically demanding character I've ever played and that was quite new for me," Freddy said.

Freddy said he highly recommends this movie because of its high-paced, high-excitement atmosphere

"Grindhouse is just a wild rollercoaster ride of a film. You just kind of sit back, strap your seatbelts on and enjoy the ride for two and a half, three hours," Freddy said.

"It's a classic Quentin Tarantino, Robert Rodriguez movie, and if you're fans of those directors then you're going to be huge fans of the film."

McGowan and other cast members show up in Tarantino's **Death Proof**, too.

Tarantino, in his first directing foray since the 2003-2004 Kill Bills, drew from high-octane car-chase pics and slasher pics in which a maniac stalker preys on a bevy of nubile beauties.

Death Proof was shot last fall over 10 weeks, more than half of it devoted to 100-mph car chases. The cast: Kurt Russell (the Snake Plissken of Carpenter's Escape From New York) as Stuntman Mike, a scarred and lecherous stunt driver stalking a trio of fetching femmes, played by Sydney Tamiia Poitier (daughter of Sidney), Jordan Ladd and Vanessa Ferlito. Rosario Daw-



McClatch

Kurt Russell stars as Stuntman Mike in Quentin Tarantino's *Death Proof*, one of the films in the double-feature *Grindhouse*.

son, Zoe Bell (Uma Thurman's stunt double in **Kill Bill**) and Omar Doom also star.

Ferlito said she enjoyed her role in **Death Proof** because it is empowering to women.

"I'm in the beginning part. I'm one of the girls that had no idea we were being stalked," Ferlito said.

"It was great to be a part of — to be able to play a strong woman and also (be) very vulnerable."

Thomas said the rumors about Terontino's high-energy profile on-set are true.

"His energy comes from the fact that he really, really loves what he does," Thomas said.

"You want to work for somebody who just loves what he does so much because often in this business people work for money or status or it's politics or something else. But he really does it out of the love of making movies. And it's refreshing."

Thomas also said Tarantino really invests himself in the making of each film. She described one particular car-chase scene as an example.

"What he did was, he had a monitor in the car so that he could yell to us from the camera car," Thomas said. "We're all acting and screaming and running and chasing and driving from Kurt Russell, and then all of a sudden Quentin would start yelling from in this little box. He just incorporates himself into the scene. I've never seen anything like it in my life."

To complete the whole grindhouse experience, Rodriguez and Tarantino added "damage effects," post-production tweaks to make the prints look scratched, burned, jumpy and frayed, just like the exploitation fare that inspired them.

"It's used for dramatic effect, too. It's not really just aging for the sake of aging. What's cool is I got to use those as tools. Usually your film grammar includes the fade, or the cross-fade, or the jump-cut, and that's about it," he said. "Now, you've got the splice-cut, you've got the filmburn, you've got the missing reel, you've got a lot of things to help accent the film dramatically."



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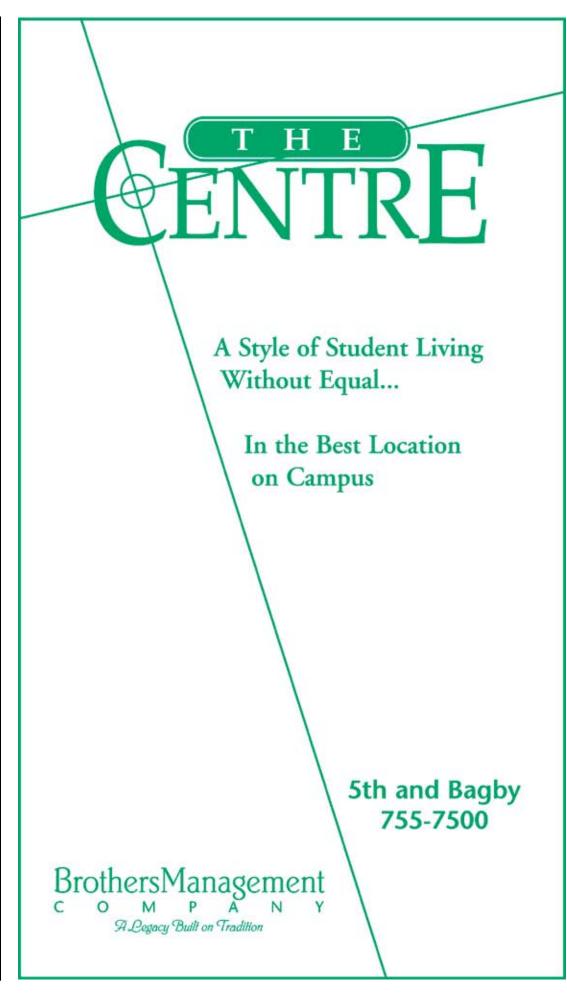
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#### POLICY from page 1

Baylor's statement being criticized by Cigala's petition reads in part, "Christian churches across the ages and around the world have affirmed purity in singleness and fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman as the biblical norm. Temptations to deviate from this norm include both heterosexual sex outside of marriage

"It is thus expected that Baylor students will not participate in advocacy groups which promote understandings of sexuality that are contrary to bibli-

and homosexual behavior.

cal teaching."

Dub Oliver, vice president for student life, could not be reached for comment, and Lilley declined to talk about the

Oliver did address a related

issue March 19 in an e-mail sent to students prior to the Soulforce Equality Ride's Waco stop.

"Baylor is comfortable with conversations regarding human sexuality," it said. "Indeed, our mission seeks to equip our students for worldwide leadership, and you must be informed about issues of human sexuality. You have had, and will continue to have, opportunities to discuss human sexuality issues.

"We acknowledge that in today's culture Baylor's standard of conduct is a high standard. Baylor has always been an institution with a Christian mission, and we continue to uphold those values in our policies and practices today."

Houston senior Meredith Morgan, one of the signers of the petition, said she hopes the Equality Ride helped start conversations about changing Bay-

lor's statement sexuality.

"I really do hope it changes the school," she said. "We're supposed to be a Christian university. We're supposed to be inclusive, not exclusive."

Morgan said discussion of the issue is important as well, regardless of whether that discussion takes place in a chapeltype situation or just between friends.

Of the religion classes Mor-

gan has taken, she said not one has addressed homosexuality in

"I feel like anything that's not popular opinion is not discussed here," she said. "And I think it's important to discuss it."

Cigala agreed that communication is important.

"This issue has polarized our campus, and I would rather see students engaged in debate than divided," she said.

#### **BLACK** from page 1 are trying to make a case.

Do we stay in Iraq? I think we should stay the course. I think we should leave.

You know, occasionally you'll have some unanimity, but for the most part ...

#### Q: What is the spiritual state of the U.S. government? Do our leaders pray together?

They pray together. They attend prayer breakfasts together, each week they go to Bible studies together. They certainly attend some worship services together when we have special

**REPAY** from page 1

Plummer said all organiza-

tions that receive money from

the Student Life Fund are in-

formed that they are required to

meet with the attorney general

within two weeks after the event

and are required to present an

expense report and account for

not happen in this case," he

Senate is responsible for manag-

ing the Student Life Fund wisely

and that the attorney general is responsible for ensuring funds

are spent for the purpose they

resource for students, and sen-

"The Student Life Fund is a

"To my knowledge, that did

Plummer emphasized that

all the funds used.

are intended for.

worship services in the Capitol.

#### Q: What are the most important things we should be praying for our leaders about?

I talked about wisdom, I talked about favor and I talked about unity. And I think that those are the three critical things.

#### Q: What is the most common sort of spiritual help that our leaders

Most will ask questions about the Bible, questions about Bible prophesy, and very often request for prayer, either for themselves or for significant others.

ate (members) are charged to

be good stewards of it," he said.

"The attorney general takes his

The group was found guilty

March 26 on two charges: fail-

ing to follow procedure regard-

ing use of Student Life Fund

money and failure to return

\$407.56 in unused funds to the

Cultural Extravaganza, which

was held Nov. 3 and 4, were to

provide for 37 percent of the

court opinion, the African Stu-

dent Association was missing

receipts and could not account

was no way to verify any misuse

of funds because of the missing

for \$530 of the money spent. The court ruled that there

However, according to the

event's total cost of \$9,735.

The funds allocated for the

job seriously.'

Student Life Fund.

#### Q: How do you provide spiritual guidance to men and women coming from so many varying religious traditions?

Well. I meet the needs of those I can whose backgrounds I have in common, whose backgrounds are common to mine Christians – and then I facilitate for the others. I have a rabbi who comes in and conducts Torah studies, I have an imam who comes in and ministers to Islamic individuals, so you facilitate to those whose spiritual needs you can't meet and you meet the needs of the ones you

receipts, but that "there was a clear violation of procedure," according to the court opinion.

Since the bill allocating the funds clearly states that all receipts must be presented in a final expense report to the attorney general within two weeks of

According to the African Student Association's final expense report, the cost of the event was \$8,357.94.

The group can only prove that \$7,827.94 went to the Cultural Extravaganza.

Since 37 percent of this amount is \$2,896.33 and the association was actually provided \$3,500, the court ruled that the difference between the two amounts, \$603.66, must be returned to the Student Life

#### **PLAY** from page 1

speare here.' I said, 'I did it in rural Australia," he said.

For his plays, Prickett intentionally recruited students, faculty and staff from all departments of Baylor.

"I like to mix them," he said. "For one thing, you can get everybody the right age. Your young lovers can be quite young and your duke can be stately."

According to his cast, he has a reputation for being very persuasive when it comes to convincing people to join the

Dr. Carolyn Roark, an assistant professor in the theater department who is playing Titania, was a member of last year's production as well. When asked how she came to join this year's production, she laughed.

Stephen Prickett gets his claws into you and never lets go. He's very persuasive," she

Richardson senior Karen Abrahamson, who plays a fairy, said she was visiting her boyfriend at rehearsal one day when Prickett found out she was a harpist.

"The next thing I knew, I was getting e-mails about being in the play," she said with

Prickett gave Abrahamson the task of setting the play's songs, which have lyrics but no written music to a tune.

"We tried to set the text to tunes everyone knew," Abrahamson said. She accompanies the singers on a borrowed Renaissance lap harp.

Dallas junior Stephanie Ogbodu, who is in charge of costuming, had a similar experi-

Ogbodu, who works at Armstrong Browning Library, said she was at her desk one day when Prickett asked her if she was a fashion design major.

"I said yes and he asked me if I liked costumes," Ogbodu

"I said, 'Sure.' I mean, I have nothing against them. He said, 'Great. You can be in charge of costuming.'

The costumes are from the Victorian era, which Prickett said was a condition of performing in the Armstrong Browning Library.

All of the cast members agreed that the production was a good experience, though many said it was a balancing act to juggle the play and their other duties. David White, a lecturer in

classics who plays Puck, said he just finished a role in the Waco Civic Theatre's production of Inherit the Wind while rehearsing for A Midsummer Night's Dream and teaching.

'I can't do other things while rehearsing," White said. "I worry about getting distracted and missing a cue. I wish I could, though. It would make grading papers easier."

Jonathan Sands-Wise, a Waco graduate student in philosophy, said being involved in the production as an actor can take up a lot of time, but it has been worth the effort.

"It's a bit of a pinch, timewise, but it offers something substantially different from scholarly pursuits," he said.

It even offers something out of the ordinary for Roark, who said she doesn't consider herself an actor though she is a member of the theater depart-"I'm actually a historian and

a theorist by trade," she said. "I enjoy acting, but I don't consider myself an actor." She said the play offers a

chance for her and the others to enjoy acting even though it's not a part of their professional lives.

"We do this because it's fun," she said.

"The nicest thing is that there's no expectation beyond people watching us doing a play we really love. It takes the pressure off me as an ama-

Roark said she believes audiences will enjoy the play even if they have never read any Shakespeare.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of the most accessible of Shakespeare's plays," she said. "It has one of the least complicated plots, and it has all the things we like best in theater: magic, romance and adven-

#### IRAN from page 1

et diplomacy to solve this prob-

with President Bashar Assad in Damascus, trying to show that a U.S. dialogue with Syria, rejected by the Bush administration, could bring benefits for the Middle East.

The British sailors were not coincide with her visit.

Iran's official news agency said the British crew was to leave Iran by plane today at 8 a.m. By Wednesday evening they had still not been handed over to the British Embassy in Tehran and the embassy said it was not clear where they would spend the night.

Britain's ambassador met

with the sailors and confirmed they were in good health, Britain's Foreign Office said.

Ahmadinejad timed the announcement so as to make a dramatic splash, springing it halfway through a two-hour news conference.

The president first gave a medal of honor to the com-

guards who captured the Britons and admonished London for sending a mother, Leading Seaman Faye Turney, on such a dangerous mission in the Persian Gulf.

mander of the Iranian coast

He said the British government was "not brave enough" to admit the crew had been in Ira-

nian waters when captured. Ahmadinejad then declared

that even though Iran had the right to put the Britons on trial, he had "pardoned" them to mark the March 30 birthday of the Prophet Muhammad and the coming Easter holiday.

"This pardon is a gift to the British people," he said.

lem and encourage dialogue between the two parties," Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said in Damascus.

The announcement of the release came hours after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi met

part of their talks, and it was not clear if the release was timed to

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