



ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008

Unstable economy creates uncertain future

Economy talk draws crowd

By Molly MacEwan
Reporter

As this year's poor economy causes wallets to thin and wrinkles to form, Dr. Kent Gilbreath was flooded with questions Friday when he gave an impromptu lecture explaining the current economic crisis, as "a portrait of a very precarious situation."

Room 303 in Cashion Academic Building was full. People sat on the floors. Others listened through the door and tried to grasp what was happening. Students did not receive extra credit, a usual incentive, for attending.

"I feel blinded by the crisis," Indianapolis sophomore Sarah Bahn said. "But I know it's exciting to be living at this time."

In spring of 2007, Gilbreath, a forensic economist, wrote a 29-page paper titled "The Coming 'Perfect Economic Storm,'" which was the basis of his lecture, "The Perfect Economic Storm." He said his questions about the crisis started when he decided to explore what indi-

vidual problems might mean to the overall American economy.

The problem is that "the reality that many or even most of those individuals who experience the damages we assess in the courtroom, have seen their wages grow at a rate lower than the growth rate of inflation," Gilbreath said.

This basically means that paychecks are not keeping up with consumer prices, he said.

One of the first things to understand is the difference between the "real sector" and the "financial sector" of the economy. The financial sector includes banks, credit card companies, investment funds and stock brokers. The real sector includes manufacturers and businesses that everyday people use, such as the grocery store and the gas station.

Right now, only the financial sector has been having trouble, but the crisis is just the "tip of the iceberg," said Gilbreath.

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Associated Press Photo

Traders crowd the post that handles Morgan Stanley Monday on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Wall Street fell in early trading as investors nervously awaited further news about the government's plan to buy \$700 billion in banks' mortgage debt.

Congress, Bush talk finance terms

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Scrambling for a swift deal on the \$700 billion bailout for failing financial firms, key Democrats and Bush administration officials agreed Monday to include mortgage help for beleaguered homeowners but wrangled over

other issues, including "golden parachutes" for executives who benefit from the unprecedented rescue.

Democrats demanded that the measure limit pay packages for executives of companies helped by the biggest financial rescue since the Great Depression. The administration was balking at that, and also at a

proposal by Democrats to let judges rewrite mortgages to lower bankrupt homeowners' monthly payments.

President Bush prodded Congress during the day to pass the rescue plan quickly, declaring, "The whole world is watching."

Rep. Barney Frank, the House Financial Services Committee chairman, said the administra-

tion essentially had forced Congress to the negotiating table by creating an expectation in financial markets that a massive bailout was on the way.

"By the declaration that they made, by sending this proposal, I think we have to recognize the reality that we don't have a

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Job market stable for college grads

By Sommer Ingram
Staff Writer

The crisis on Wall Street may not prove to be as big of a crisis for outgoing college seniors.

Despite employment numbers falling off, frozen credit markets and huge bank meltdowns, the college generation may not be hit hard immediately.

"It is near impossible to predict what will be the result of the most recent economic activity in the future, but while the overall job market has been weak, for college graduates it has been holding up well lately," said Dr. Steve Gardner, Herman Brown Professor of Economics and director of the McBride Center for International Business. "It's

a matter of the kinds of jobs people go into. A lot of people go into jobs in the service sector of the economy, not manufacturing where they would be exposed to all sorts of foreign competition."

Even with the volatility of the economy, employers who responded plan to hire 6.1 percent more new graduates in 2008-09 than they did in 2007-

08, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employer's 2009 Job Outlook Preview Survey.

"There is no need for graduating seniors to freak out," said Dr. David VanHoose, Herman Lay Professor of Private Enterprise and professor of econom-

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Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

Dr. Kent Gilbreath, professor of economics in the Hankamer School of Business, gave a lecture exploring the causes behind the current economic crisis.

Vacancies alleviate crowding in dorms

Editor's note- This is the last installment of the series covering campus crowding.

By Liz Foreman
Assistant City Editor

As capacity continues to be stretched in residence halls, Campus Living and Learning offers new options to students in crowded living arrangements as spots become available.

Many freshmen began the semester living in such arrangements as three people in a two-person room, or sharing a room with a Community Leader.

As the semester gets into full swing, expanded occupancy spaces are being arranged and rearranged.

Some halls, such as Brooks College, are not experiencing such a crowding problem, but others, like South Russell Residence Hall, have remained over capacity.

With 178 students still being housed in expanded occupancy spaces, down only 13 from the originally projected amount, the residence halls remain cramped at 103 percent occupancy overall, said Frank Shushok, associate dean of Campus Living and Learning.

"It's about what we expected," Shushok said.

Shushok attributes the slowly dwindling numbers to students who were expected to come but bailed out at the last minute, and to those who stayed a few days or weeks then left.

The process of relocating those in expanded occupancy spaces varies when spaces open.

"It's on a case-by-case basis," Shushok said. "Our first priority is to take those out of the least ideal environments, but also to let students stay within the community that they're in."

South Russell, which usually



Shanna Taylor/Lariat Staff

Covington freshman Leslie Horn (left) unpacks in her new room, a converted study room, she shares with three roommates in North Russell.

houses 286 residents, is currently housing 298, said Nadine Bruner, director of South Russell Residence Hall.

"If I have someone move out, they've moved someone new in," Bruner said. "They are trying to take people out of the really crunched areas of extended expanded occupancy, so they're moving those out and into other places."

Most of the students moving into South Russell are freshmen

living in on-campus apartments that want to live in residence halls with more freshmen, those living in an exceptionally small CL rooms or those living in less-than-ideal expanded occupancy spaces, Bruner said.

These less-than-ideal spaces include some former study rooms that contain the closets housing the residence hall's

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Student relief fund to aid Ike victims

By Ashley Corinne Killough
Staff Writer

To assist students who were directly affected by Hurricane Ike, Baylor has started a relief fund to provide financial support.

University Development sent an e-mail Thursday to alumni and friends with information on giving to the fund, and as of late Monday afternoon, more than 60 gifts had been donated, totaling more than \$7,500.

More than 800 current students, around six percent of total Baylor students, felt a direct impact from Hurricane Ike, according to an e-mail from the president's office.

"The fund will be used to help students whose families were affected by the hurricane and whose needs could not be covered by financial aid packages," said Ali Abercrombie, assistant vice president and

campaign director of university development.

Abercrombie said financial aid counselors are working one-on-one with students to help resolve any financial issues resulting from the hurricane, such as difficulty in paying for tuition and books.

She said university development sent an e-mail to students from the counties most damaged from the hurricane, notifying them of the fund.

"Student Life set up a similar fund for students affected by Hurricane Rita in 2005," Abercrombie said. "It was really beneficial, so the university wanted to do the same thing again."

Students who are seeking assistance should contact their financial counselor, Abercrombie said.

Student Life, Financial Aid

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Taking sides in politics can be an intimidating affair

After years of personal conflict, I thought I had finally discovered the safest, non-offensive way to describe my political stance. That is, until I offended a Republican state senator from Maryland in a conversation on ideology this summer.

When he asked me where I fell on the political spectrum, I said I had a “liberal heart and a conservative mind,” that I lined up with the right when it came to the fundamentals, but that I deeply admired the left’s compassion and drive toward equality.

That theoretically, for example, I agreed with the notion of a small government, but realistically, I didn’t see how the “least among us” would fare well without the state’s assistance.

I have since learned you’re likely to upset everyone with this point.

The senator quickly misinterpreted my statements, assuming I thought conservatives were heartless. And when I presented my opinions to a friend from the other side of the aisle, she thought I was implying liberals weren’t smart.

So in my attempt to be the least insulting person possible, I managed to do the exact opposite.

I realized if I wanted to cut the number of offended people in half, then I had to choose a side. And I had to stand on that side firmly and confidently, something I’ve hesitated in doing, because with the left portrayed in our society as a bunch of

point of view



BY ASHLEY KILLOUGH

baby-killing, unfriendly, liberal granolas, and the right, a bunch of money-loving, oil-obsessed, judgmental Christians, it’s easy to be stereotyped. And I didn’t want to fall into a certain mold.

I decided freshman year to start from scratch on my political leanings, refusing to blindly accept the conservatism I grew up with and allowing my experiences to shape my viewpoints. I wanted to weigh both sides, find compromises, be an idealist,

solve all the world’s problems.

Unfortunately, I found that life is full of gray; hardly anything is black and white (or in this case, red and blue).

A liberal arts education forces a greater understanding of diverse topics and the reasoning behind various arguments. Perhaps the most important lesson I’ve learned at Baylor is to be open-minded.

While ideal, this often causes confusion and indecision. Life would be much simpler if we all remained set in our ways, closed off to any unfamiliar perspectives or progressive thoughts.

But at the heart of it, the fear of offending people has kept me from identifying with a certain side. Politics is as deep as religion, and, together, they form

a worldview. So it makes sense how relationships can be torn apart by divergent political opinions.

However, I’ve come to realize that it’s indeed possible to take a stand without seeming ignorant or unapproachable.

After doing a little more soul-searching and discovering that Republicans have compassion too (they just don’t think the federal government should be the one paying for it), I’ve since abandoned my attempt at bipartisan approval and am now comfortably reestablished in my red state roots — a born-again conservative, if you will.

But only on the following conditions: no liberal-bashing, no closed-mindedness and definitely no taking myself too seri-

ously.

It involves a little research and discipline, but once you finally start feeling confident in your ideology then don’t hold back out of fear. Sure, people will disagree and some might be offended, but if you assert yourself in a respectful way, people will respect you.

Some of my most interesting conversations are with those who disagree with me. We all benefit from freely discussing our opinions.

Actually, now that I think about it, the sheer liberty to offend is what makes this country great.

Ashley Corinne Killough is a senior journalism and international studies major from Plano and a staff writer for The Baylor Lariat.

Editorial

Poverty minor can help transform city

As the fifth-poorest city in Texas, Waco desperately needs all the good that would stem from the Baylor School of Social Work’s proposed poverty minor. University officials should realize the positive impact a program such as this could have on the community and approve the minor.

Students from various departments should be allowed to complement their major with this program as early as fall 2009.

Student volunteer organizations do a world of good for Waco, but, judging by the city’s ongoing struggle with poverty, we must do more.

The 2007 U.S. Census Report found that 21.9 percent of Waco families are living below the poverty line, and 13.7 percent of all families in McLennan County are living below the poverty line. This is a far cry for the national average poverty rate of 9.5 percent for families and 13 percent for individuals.

Living below the poverty line means a family or individual doesn’t have an income sufficient enough to pay for necessities such as food, shelter, medical care and clothing. The minimum income needed to pay for these basic necessities grows each year because of inflation.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

releases annual poverty guidelines, which are a simplification of the census bureau’s poverty threshold. The poverty guidelines released by the department of health and human services are used to determine financial eligibility for federal programs. According to the 2007 poverty guidelines, a family of four with a household income less than \$20,650 is poor. For an individual, an income less than \$10,210 means living in poverty.

An individual with an annual income of \$10,210 is living on less than \$28 a day, or about \$868 a month. You would be lucky to rent a decent one-bedroom apartment for that price in some U.S. housing markets.

Think of it like this: almost 22 percent of Waco families earn about \$3,000 less per year than what Baylor tuition costs for the 2008-2009 academic year.

The current poverty figures are cause for alarm. Dr. Robyn Driskell, associate dean of sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences, spoke to KWTX News Channel 10 last month regarding the poverty rate, saying, “The greater concern is persistent poverty ... We have compiled historical data, and the area just doesn’t show progress over time.” Driskell is referring to her research conducted for the University’s Center for Community Research and Develop-



ment, a multidisciplinary body that hopes to improve the quality of life in Waco.

Although university faculty, staff and administrators are usually categorized as middle to upper-class, they, too, would gain from an improvement in the quality of life for less fortunate Wacoans. More opportunities for businesses, entertainment and careers also provide for a safer Waco. The most dangerous cities in America, such as Compton, Calif. and Camden, N.J., are also among the poorest.

Other than in instances of

crime, students are also affected by Waco’s poverty. The economic climate here factors into internship and job prospects in Waco.

Even though most students have a discernible end date for their time in Waco, many Baylor graduates choose to launch their professional life in Waco. Alumni with the poverty minor on their resume will be well equipped to help the community develop programs and resources to combat poverty.

But we should reach out to the poor in our community for

reasons other than selfish ones. As Christians, it’s our duty to help the less fortunate. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus bids us to not be respecters of persons, saying whatever we do for the least of us we also do for God.

One of the imperatives of Baylor 2012 is to help students realize a life of stewardship. The university’s approval of the minor would produce a three-fold benefit — Baylor would be closer to achieving the goals of 2012, while educating students and positively impacting the community.

Native American stereotypes perpetuated by sports mascots

Being from Arizona, I am usually met with a chuckle when I tell others I graduated from Cactus High School, and my mascot was a cobra. Yes, it’s true. Maybe we Arizonans have a thing for offbeat mascots. After all, Scottsdale Community College boasts a fighting artichoke as its mascot.

A mascot is a person, animal or object adopted by a group as a symbolic figure, especially to bring them good luck. Who knew that such a simple definition could draw up so much conflict?

As a Native American, a member of the Navajo tribe, I have been especially intrigued by the Indian mascot controversies. Sports teams like the National Football Leagues’ Washington

Redskins and the Major League Baseball’s Cleveland Indians, along with other colleges and universities, have been at the center of controversy for their use of Native American mascots.

Supporters of the mascots say they are meant to pay homage to the culture by focusing on the bravery and courage of Native Americans rather than anything derogatory.

Opposition to the use of the mascots argues that they further stereotypes and are disrespectful to the culture.

Well, I can see the points of both sides because I support the education of others about Native American culture, but I prefer it be done correctly. There is more to Native American culture than feathers and moccasins.

point of view



BY CHARLY EDSITTY

It wouldn’t be an issue if these mascots actually did interpret Native Americans correctly, but they don’t.

It’s unsettling to watch someone who is not Native American present their interpretation of a culture they are not a part of for entertainment value. The majority if these mascots throw on some buckskin, beads, war paint and prance around the field and consider that authentic.

I have seen firsthand sacred

ceremonies performed by people who dedicate their lives to the traditional Native American lifestyle. These individuals are revered throughout the community. The Native American lifestyle is not something to be taken lightly.

To see the life’s work of these people mocked and mimicked at sporting events for entertainment value is offensive because it belittles what defines us as people: our culture.

If teams want to highlight the bravery of Native Americans, then how about focusing on something relevant, such as the Navajo Code Talkers, who were instrumental in the United States’ victory in World War II?

Nowhere is there a team that uses cultural aspects from Afri-

can American, Asian or Hispanic cultures. Would those be as well received?

There seems to be a fascination with a fictionalized version of Native American culture.

Realistically, Native Americans largely reside on desolate reservations, live below the poverty line, suffer from unemployment and are in a losing battle with diabetes and alcoholism.

This is not the type of Indian being portrayed by sports teams. These mascots, instead of bridging the cultural gap, continue to build upon the stereotypes.

I have encountered people who still thought I lived in a teepee and hunted buffalo for food.

Well here is a reality check: My war paint is from Sephora,

my moccasins are Steven Madden, I traded in my tomahawk for a Blackberry and my mustang has a V-6 engine.

The bottom line is that what is portrayed inside a gymnasium or on the 50-yard line isn’t an accurate portrayal of Native Americans. It never was and never will be.

This is a culture and a way of life. It is something that people identify with and look to for guidance in a nation that is dominated by the American way of life.

Until they get it right, sports teams should put away the head-dress.

Charly Edsitty is a senior journalism major from Surprise, Ariz. and is the news editor for The Baylor Lariat.

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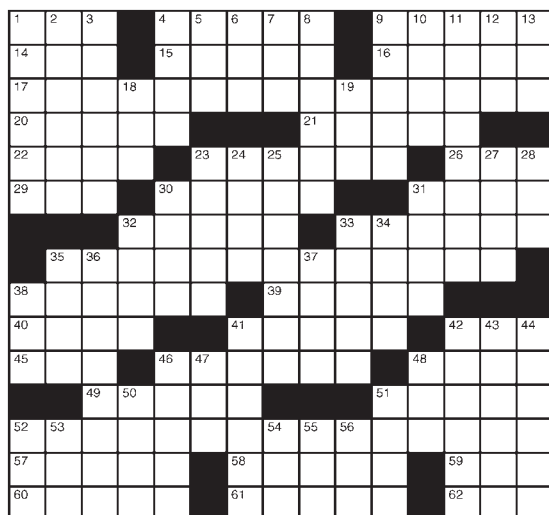
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ACROSS

- Backyard pie ingredient
- Watchband
- Slip of the mind
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- At large
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- Biblical injunctions
- Kick out
- Drink to
- Grazing grounds
- Plays a banjo
- Tentative taste
- NBC classic
- Series shutout
- Dry by rubbing
- Oyster’s gem
- Online bookseller
- Did some questionable redistricting
- Sprites
- Hot, spicy drink
- Dollar, slangily
- Cancun cash
- Rwy. stop
- Shepard or Houston
- Go downhill

- Bridle strap
- Student of Socrates
- Jinxed
- Charlemagne’s domain
- In the open
- Utah home of BYU
- Mexican Mme.
- Private Eye’s projects
- Becomes weary
- Middle of 17A, 35A and 52A
- Ramada chain
- Lopsided
- Refusal to admit
- Niche
- Hanks or Cruise
- CD—
- Simile middle
- Kept inside
- Actor Lorenzo
- Pub potatoes
- Runtish
- Clique
- Punner’s duo?
- IV quantities
- Comic DeLuise
- Vacillates

- Period of time
- Demonstrates connections
- Portable media player
- Farmyard enclosure
- Very dry
- On one’s guard
- Puritanical
- After-market item
- Rx items
- Colorado tributary
- Specimens
- Plane front
- IBM units
- On time
- Gender bias
- ___ del Fuego
- From the mountains of Peru
- Bumps on a hog?
- Of the ear: pref.
- GOP member
- Greek harp
- Med. care gps.
- Ad ___ committee
- Eggs
- Onassis, to pals
- “...___ gloom of night.”
- First lady of Eden



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

9/23/08

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

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ics. “There is more of a concern for sophomores and juniors.”

The job market looks more grim for younger college students, but anyone with a college degree is increasing their chances of being hired. “College graduates have the luxury of moving into a somewhat more protected sector of the job market,” Gardner said. “Things hold up well for college graduates because we need people to understand all the problems we are faced with. There is a continuous demand for people who have higher levels of education.”

And though students graduate from college with an increasingly staggering amount of debt, the return on higher-level education proves to be a worthwhile investment.

“Education is primarily an good investment with some consumption aspect to it,” said Dr. Earl Grinols, Distinguished Professor of Economics. “Any debt incurred should be treated like an investment in a business sense. The benefits of having a college degree are greater relative to not having a degree— this kind of borrowing is good for the economy.”

With the current housing situation teetering precariously on the edge of failure, the economy has seen a general drying out of credit opportunities.

“The housing market was the root of the problem and was kicked off by lots of irresponsible lending,” Gardner said. “The world economy has never passed through a period like this, with a rich country like the United States borrowing so much from China, a poor country. It just puts us all in a very unusual state of affairs.”

But whether the initial clamp-down on credit standards will weigh heavily upon the ability of college students to obtain loans is yet to be seen.

“It really boils down to the fact that it’s way too early to know,” said Carolyn Haferkamp, Central National Bank vice president. “Even with the tightening of credit standards, it’s too soon to tell whether loans will become harder for college students to get. Really, it depends on who bears the majority of the losses.”

Haferkamp stressed the difference between local banks and huge national banks.

“People have called concerned about the national problems and what repercussions they will have locally,” she said. “But the main difference between our banks and national banks is that we don’t participate in those riskier situations that ultimately lead to a national crisis.”

But no matter what happens, professors still stress the need for higher level education.

Molly MacEwan contributed to this story.

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choice now of debating whether this is a good or a bad thing,” said Frank, D-Mass, who was leading negotiations with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson.

Congressional aides said the House could act on a bailout bill as early as Wednesday, but leaders emerged from a closed-door meeting late Monday with no firm timetable for action.

However, Wall Street wasn’t comforted by the progress of the talks.

The Dow Jones industrials plummeted 372 points, oil prices soared \$25 a barrel at one point and gold prices surged anew as investors searched for

a safe place to park their money. And despite encouraging talk on Capitol Hill, lawmakers on both the right and left were already assailing the deal-in-progress.

The emergency legislation would give the government broad power to buy up devalued assets from troubled financial firms in a bid to unlock the flow of credit and stabilize badly shaken markets in the United States and around the globe.

In one expansion of its original proposal, the administration is asking for broad power to buy up virtually any kind of bad asset , including credit card debt or car loans , from any financial institution in the U.S. or abroad in order to stabilize markets.

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“Like the melting ice pack causing weather changes, the problems are about to start trickling down.” He also made mention of the Titanic.

Household income is going up, but individual income is not. This is because women left of the home and entered the labor market about 40 years ago. This caused households to have two incomes, but because wages were not keeping up with the inflation rate, personal incomes decreased.

The female labor force participation rate peaked in 1998 and is steadily declining. On the other side, the men’s labor force participation rate has been declining since 1965.

Thus, unemployment rates are going to continue to rise, especially due to the crisis, and household incomes will continue to drop. When adjusted for inflation, the average real growth is dropping in 6 out of 13 occupations.

The alternative minimum tax, AMT, was established in 1969 to keep the wealthiest citizens from avoiding paying any Federal income taxes. When it was created, tax brackets were not indexed, which means the AMT brackets will not be adjusted for inflation.

What started only applying to a very small number of the richest Americans, is now creeping up on middle-class Americans because wages increase even though buying power, called real income, is not.

Nor are people saving the wages the receive. Beginning in 1982, savings began to fall, and by 2000, people were saving less than 2 percent of their wages. By 2005, people were spending money they did not have, while trying to keep up with the fashionable times.

“We were on a spending spree we couldn’t afford,” Gilbreath said. Now, the economy

is becoming more inelastic and interest rates are rising.

A few hot catch phrases currently floating around are: the housing market, sub-prime mortgages and financial investments.

Gilbreath explained in layman’s terms how the three are correlated. Housing prices have been increasing since 1975, when the average price was \$60,000, until now, where the average price is \$390,000. People started speculating in the housing market instead of stocks because they had only ever experienced increases in home prices.

This led to sub-prime mortgages.

“Prime” means a very worthy lending customer, someone the banks can trust. “Sub” indicates a riskier loan. Historically, banks were careful with sub-prime loans.

Mortgage rates became increasingly lower because banks could make the loan and get payment for selling it to an investor.

Financial institutions will purchase investments then buy insurance against them. AIG, for example, is a big insurance seller to many investment groups.

“It was startling to realize that one of the significant causes of the downturn is irresponsible decision-making,” said Tyler junior Caroline Smith. “By both financial entities (in their lax credit standards and securitizing of loans) and individuals (in their willingness to take on more debt than they can reasonably afford).”

Outside of the financial sector and lingo, everyday luxuries are going to change. People may start to panic and the consulting of psychologists is going to rise, Gilbreath said.

“Psychology is a very powerful economic force,” Gilbreath said. “There is reason to be afraid because of our current situation. People will have to make lifestyle changes and start counting pennies.”

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mechanical and computer equipment. If technicians must access these closets for repairs, this can cause major inconveniences for residents living there, she said.

“It may be too much harassment for residents. It’s not the ideal situation,” Bruner said. “However, if they really don’t mind, and want to stay, we let them stay.”

Campus Living and Learning places the most importance on the desires of the students when deciding on relocations, said Terri Garrett, director of Campus Living and Learning.

“Our belief is that most students

want to stay within the hall. That’s the feedback we’re getting, and we want to honor that. They have made friends within their community,” Garrett said. “This has been a transitional issue in itself, and to require someone to move to a hall they didn’t want to live in would be difficult and not what we envision for our community.”

Whitney Collela, a senior CL in North Village from Coopersburg, Penn., was living with a roommate who was offered a room in North Russell and decided to move out of the non-traditional room into the freshman hall.

“There was a room that

became available for her in North Russell, because either someone’s roommates didn’t show up or they left,” Collela said. “They’ve been telling us to prepare to live with others the entire year, but I heard a rumor that by the semester there will be a lot more openings.”

Despite the adjustments that overcrowding requires, Bruner sees more interest in living on campus as a good thing.

“It’s going well, everyone has a good attitude and they realize that it’s good for Baylor,” Bruner said. “We’re not going to build any residence halls if we can’t fill the ones we’ve got. The overflow is proof that students want to live on campus

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and the Paul L. Foster Success Center are all working to help students adjust to unexpected changes relating to the hurricane.

Orange senior Justyn Kuykendall had to miss a day of school to be with his family who had evacuated to Austin. His hometown, located on the Texas-Louisiana border, was hit hard by the hurricane.

“The whole town was under water,” Kuykendall said. “Fortunately, our house only had a little bit of flooding. But the last I heard, there was a tree that fell on the house, possibly causing some structural damage.”

After working with students impacted by Hurricane Rita in

2005, Brandon Miller, assistant vice president of student success at the Paul L. Foster Success Center, said he understands how maintaining academic responsibilities can be harder than usual for students affected by Hurricane Ike.

“It is difficult to focus on studying for exams when a student is anxious and worried about their friends and families back home,” Miller said.

Miller said the center is available to students who need academic support and assistance.

“I understand where these students are coming from and what they are dealing with, since my own hometown and family were impacted by the hurricane, as well,” Miller said. “The Foster Success Center team cares about the success

of these students impacted by Hurricane Ike and we hope that all students will take advantage of our services, programs and study space.”

Sugar Land senior Amanda Mullings recently learned that her family’s beach house, purchased six months ago, underwent significant damage. The house was located on Tiki Island, just outside Galveston.

“My parents were able to check on it this weekend, and our first floor was totally wiped out,” Mullings said. “The front door window was blown out, along with a lot of other things attached to the outside of the house.”

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Courtesy photo by Michael Amsler
The Grammy-winning Turtle Island Quartet will kickoff the Baylor School of Music's Distinguished Artist Series 7:30 p.m. today in Roxy Grove Hall.

Turtle Island String Quartet to bring sample of Coltrane to concert series

By Jillian Henderson
Reporter

Travel back to the 1960s, where jazz was on the ticket and Coltrane was the “cat” to know. The Turtle Island String Quartet blends classical with jazz and will bring “A Love Supreme” to Baylor.

The quartet will perform at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Roxy Grove Hall, as a part of the Baylor School of Music's Distinguished Artists series.

“The Turtle Island Quartet is known for their cross-over between classical music and jazz,” said director of jazz studies, Alex Parker. “They won a Grammy in 2006 for their cross-over album.”

The concert is entitled “A Love Supreme: The Music of John Coltrane,” and is a live version of the group's Telarc CD release of the same name.

The concert is a rendition of Coltrane's landmark album “A Love Supreme,” said Bay City junior Daniel Webbon.

“There is not a lot of original material with the string quartet,” he said. “It's their take on jazz material and I'm interested to hear their renditions.”

Coltrane has influenced musicians of every genre, from Jimmi Hendrix, Santana and The Doors to Outkast.

“We're all jazz musicians who have spent years listening to and transcribing his solos. So we're trying to play this in a way that we're really breathing his breath, but also incorporating these other influences that we feel,” said David Balakrishnan, Turtle Island's first violinist, according to a press release sent by the school of music,

The concert is a learning experience for the students as well, Parker said.

The students in the School of Music have the opportunity to attended a seminar and learn from the musicians about the business of music, he said.

“It is just going to be a beautiful event, lovely music and phenomenal musicians,” said assistant professor Michael Alexander. “It will be a night for the senses.”

Due to the unique quality of the quartet, there will be music that everyone can enjoy, Parker said.

“If you like classical music there's some of that, and if you like jazz, there will be a lot of

that,” Parker said. “Its a nice mixture of the two.”

Webbon said that since the music is well-known material most people can relate to it.

“They are incredible musicians,” he said. “And anyone can appreciate great musicians.”

The Distinguished Artists series is a set of four concerts. Other artists include Anonymous 4, Julliard String Quartet and Nathan Gunn, Baritone.

The music school faculty is included in the process of choosing the artists for the series, Parker said.

“There are a couple of divisions in the School of Music and each is asked to come up with artists we would want to see on the series,” Parker said.

Admission is \$10 for students and faculty and \$15 for the general public.

Tickets can be purchased by calling 710-3571, at the music school Web site or at the door, if available.

“This is an opportunity to see internationally-renounded musicians in Waco,” Parker said.

Kelli Boesel and Courtney Webb contributed to this article.

‘Ghost Town’ delights with refreshing story line, jokes

By Lian Qiu
Reporter

Unlike most contemporary-mainstream romantic comedies, clichés do not dominate “Ghost Town.” The movie offers a fresh look at a New York love story.

MOVIE REVIEW

The movie opens with tuxedo-clad Frank Herlihy (Greg Kinnear) having a phone conversation with his wife, Gwen (Téa Leoni). She has just discovered he is having an affair.

I instantly thought this philandering-married man would be the leading character in the movie. I was wrong.

A moment later, Frank gets flattened by a bus, and becomes one of ghosts roaming around the streets of Manhattan.

The movie moves forward to Bertram Pincus (Ricky Gervais), the most unpleasant dentist in the city.

Gervais is relatively unknown in the United States. He is probably best known for the British version of “The Office” or HBO's “Extras.”

Gervais is an unconventional and even risky choice as the lead in a romantic comedy. He is plump, and he plays the selfish, cold Bertram so well that he is thoroughly unlikable.

The character is a hard sell as a man a woman would fall in love with.

Bertram finds delight in his profession when it is time to make a mold of the patient's teeth. He finally can prevent a patient from talking with him endlessly.

“You're resting your jaw. I'm resting my ears. We're all winners.”

Then something happens that changes everything.

During a routine colonoscopy, Bertram has a bad reaction to the anesthesia, and dies for seven minutes. The near-death

experience leaves him an annoying after-effect — he can see dead people.

As Bertram is the only person who bridges the worlds of the living and the dead, he is followed by dozens of ghosts. They beg him for help in settling their unfinished business. Eventually he meets Frank.

They make a deal.

Bertram agrees to help break up Gwen's impending marriage to a human-rights lawyer (Billy Campbell) and Frank promises to keep other ghosts away.

The romance is interesting to

wit and skill.

Both Frank and Bertram transform throughout the movie.

It's predicable that Bertram's armor of abrasiveness must be peeled away, with his good and kind nature will be revealed. And Frank must make amends, even after death.

The details in the plot are carefully orchestrated.

For example, the death of Frank is funny and surprising.

The ghosts haunting Bertram add to the plot as well. They include constructions workers,



Courtesy photo by Paramount Pictures

Ricky Gervais (left) plays Bertram Pincus, a dentist that can see dead people after dying for seven minutes while under anesthesia.

because it is not a typical love triangle.

Three suitors are vying for Gwen's heart, and one is a ghost.

Frank tries to convince Bertram that the lawyer is only interested in her money, but it turns out the lawyer is a flawless person, apart from being too serious.

And when Bertram and Gwen find chemistry, Frank feels jealous.

The screenplay is well-crafted and the actors perform with

a nurse and a naked guy.

Together with plot and every punch line Gervais delivers, the movie provokes chuckles and laughs every 10 minutes.

There are pacing problems, and the plot sometimes is predictable. But these flaws don't hinder the movie's likable qualities.

“Ghost Town” is written, directed and acted with wit, and no doubt worth your time and money.

Grade: B+

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File photo
Kevin Rogers (left) sets for an outside jump shot. Rogers returns from a 21-11 squad that made the NCAA tournament for the first time in 20 years.

Men’s basketball reveals schedule

By Brian Bateman
Sports Editor

Baylor basketball, which posted its first NCAA appearance in 20 years, will play 18 home games and 14 on the road according to the new schedule released Monday.

“We have a very solid schedule that includes as many as nine NCAA Tournament teams from last season,” head coach Scott Drew said in a press release. Baylor faces eight teams from the NCAA tournament:

the Universities of Washington State, Texas at Arlington, Texas A&M, Texas, Portland State, Oklahoma, Kansas State and national champion Kansas.

Baylor will complete two home-and-home contracts with Washington State and the University of South Carolina. Last year, Baylor invited the Cougars to Waco and traveled to Columbia. The venues will flip this year.

Baylor will start conference play Jan. 10 at home against Texas Tech University.

Soccer downs Houston 1-0

By Joe Holloway
Sports Writer

An intense defensive battle brewed at the Betty Lou Mays Soccer Field Sunday afternoon as the Baylor Bears downed the University of Houston Cougars 1-0.

It was the second match of the weekend, the first being a 2-0 loss to the University of North Texas Friday.

Evenly matched, the teams combined for only five shots in the first half. Houston managed three shots with one shot on goal. Baylor’s two shots, one by senior Andi Fagan and one by sophomore Lotto Smith, were both on goal.

None of those shots were particularly easy to come by, as both teams engaged in rough play that had fans from both sides screaming at officials.

The struggle only intensified in the second half. Freshman midfielder Bethany Johnston got Baylor’s first yellow card of the season after tackling a Houston player in the 62nd minute of the game, and a yellow card was issued to the entire Houston bench in the 76th minute.

“I wasn’t pleased with (the team’s) matching the physicality of Houston in the first half,” head coach Marci Jobson said. “Houston came out battling and we have to match it and elevate. So I was pretty fired up at half-time saying we have to match that. I think I even kicked a water bottle.”

Whatever she did, it worked. “They matched it the second half and rose up a little bit,” she said. “We created chances, so did they, and, luckily, we finished ours.”

Freshman midfielder Christina Clark put the finishing touch on one of those chances, scoring Baylor’s lone goal in the 68th minute of play, off a rebound that gave freshman Hannah Diskmuke the assist.

“The goal was a great entrance pass by Beth (Johnston),” Clarke said. “If Hannah wasn’t there to tackle the goalie I wouldn’t have been able to finish it.”

The tackle was called legal and the goal counted. In fact, it was probably appropriate given the physical theme of the day.

“It was rough but it’s nothing we haven’t seen before,” Diskmuke said. “We’ve been work-

ing on practicing (against men) so we’re used to it.”

Jobson said she credited both girls with creating the chance that produced the winning goal.

“Hannah’s coming along really well,” she said. “She’s a scrappy fast player and she’s good at pressure. She caused that goal and then Christina had composure and finished it.”

The win comes just two days after the Bears lost 2-0 to the University of North Texas on Friday.

“North Texas is a very good team. They’re very athletic. They’re tough. They’re good in the air and they play very direct,” Jobson said.

She also said that both Houston and North Texas are similar-caliber teams and that she wouldn’t put one higher than the other. The difference in the final scores, she said, came in how Baylor played on the respective days.

“(Sunday) we were able to be solid on our set pieces, we were able to counter on a goal and finish our chances,” she said. “Friday we didn’t finish our chances.”

Sports briefs

Baseball America selects Baylor pitchers Tolleson, Volz to college top 25 list

Junior Kendal Volz and sophomore Shawn Tolleson were selected by Baseball America as top college prospects for the 2009 Major League Baseball draft.

Volz had a 3-6 record with a 4.20 ERA, while Tolleson posted a 6-4 record and a 5.04 ERA.

Volz was selected at No. 6, while Tolleson enters at No. 23.

The right-handed pitchers are joined by three other Big 12 players: Kyle Gibson, a right-handed pitcher from the University of Missouri, Andrew Oliver, a left-handed pitcher from Oklahoma State University and Tyler Lyons, a left-handed pitcher from Oklahoma State University.

Women’s cross country wins meet in College Station

Erin Bedell finished No. 2 overall and six other female runners placed in the top 20 spots as the Lady Bears cruised to victory Friday at Texas A&M University.

The squad, ranked No. 24 in the nation and No. 3 in the South-Central region, still holds the standard for the men. Jeff Sadler finished at No. 9 with a time of 25 minutes and 4.3 second on the 8-kilometer course.

Sophia Young selected to WNBA All-Defensive Team

Sophia Young, a Baylor forward from 2002 to 2006, was selected to the WNBA first-team defense squad.

It’s Young’s first such award in her two years at the professional level. She earned a spot by averaging 4.1 defensive rebounds and .5 blocks per game.

She shares space with Lisa Leslie, Tamika Catchings, Ticha Penicheiro and Tully Bevilaqua. Former Louisiana State center Sylvia Fowles was named to the second team.

2009 Equestrian schedule includes all top-5 teams

The equestrian squad has 10 home competitions this year, including the Varsity Championships at the Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo Complex in April.

Baylor will face the top-five ranked teams in the nation at home.

By Brian Bateman
Sports Editor

Last year, Baylor ran the option once for the entire season. This year, Art Briles is running it on every play.

It’s not the prototypical option between a quarterback and running back, but an offensive mind-set that has helped to augment quarterback Robert Griffin’s talent while keeping his inexperience in check.

“We’re just (trying) to make it as easy as possible for (Griffin),” wide receiver David Gettis said. “I think the more options for him, the better.”

Baylor’s base running play, the zone-read, forces Griffin to choose between handing the ball to his running back or keeping it and scampering the opposite

direction of the blocking scheme. It’s the play that caused Jay Finley to fumble on the hand-off against Wake Forest University, Griffin to race 64 yards during the fourth quarter against Washington State University and Griffin’s 2-yard run in the third quarter Friday.

“They either can take me out of the game or take Jay out of the game,” Griffin said after the Sept. 12 game. “They couldn’t do either.”

On passing downs, Griffin has tough choices as well. The quarterback is responsible for reading



Griffin

the defense, but for Baylor, it’s the receivers and running backs job as well. Every game, Baylor’s receiving leaders have.

Kendall Wright, another true freshman and inside receiver, grabbed the game-high six receptions for 114 yards Friday. Gettis had three receptions for 75 yards against the Huskies, Ernest Smith and Thomas White tied with 59 yards against Northwestern State and Gettis had five receptions for 46 yards against the Demon Deacons.

The major difference between the losses and wins has been Griffin’s consistency.

“I think consistency is the key to success,” Briles said. “That is in everyday life and not just football. Whatever you do, you have to form good habits. That is what we are in the process of still doing here.”

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Participants start the walk at approximately 9 a.m. by leaving Meyer Center, located on Washington Avenue. Christian singer Bob Bennett performed there before participants started the 1.4 mile walk.



Allbree Sharp, 3, gives a smile during Mission Waco's Walk for the Homeless Sunday. Allbree and his mother, Ayolandra, lived in Hope House, part of Compassion Ministries, for six months after Allbree was born. Compassion Ministries focuses on episodic homelessness, those which is homeless because they have fallen on hard times. Allbree's mother became too sick to work after getting pregnant with Allbree and used up her savings trying to pay rent. When Allbree was two months old, they moved into Hope House until Ayolandra could get back on her feet and finish her degree.



(Above) Walk for the Homeless participants gather in front of My Brother's Keeper and listen to scripture. It was one of seven stops on the walk. This was the eighth year Mission Waco has sponsored the walk. (Right) Local street preacher Virgil Bell (left) plays the washboard and sings "Faith, Faith, Faith, Just a Little Bit of Faith," while Church Under the Bridge pastor and director of Mission Waco Jimmy Dorrell claps along during the 16th anniversary service at the church after the walk. Over 500 people attended.



Photos by Christina Kruse and Shanna Taylor

Hundreds come for annual event

Christina Kruse
Lariat Staff

Almost 350 people walked Sunday from the Mission Waco Center to Church Under the Bridge in order to raise awareness about homelessness in Waco. This is the eighth year Mission Waco has sponsored the Walk for the Homeless, where participants walk 1.4 miles, and stop at seven different locations along the way. The seven locations include the Family Health Center, Compassion Ministries, Caritas, Ax Christian Fellowship, My Brother's Keeper, Heart of Texas Region Mental Health Mental Retardation Center, and the Gospel Café. At each of the seven locations, participants listened to speakers, read scripture and prayed. Several groups attended the walk, including the Association of Black Students, Baylor's Cross Country team and First Baptist Church of Lorena. This was the largest participation the Walk for the Homeless coordinators had seen, said Jimmy Dorrell, director of Mission Waco.

Student editorial plays key role in release of prisoner

Christina Kruse
Lariat Staff

A religious-minority rights activist was released from prison last Wednesday due partially to an editorial written by a Baylor student. Plano senior Ashley Killough held an internship at Voice of America this past summer. The Voice of America is multimedia international broadcasting service funded by the U.S. Government. "Our main point of U.S. policy is to promote human rights around the world," said Charles Goolsby, director of the U.S. policy department of Voice of

America. Killough wrote an editorial entitled "Tehran's Wedding Planners," that called for the release of Azeri-Iranian rights activist Vedud Asadi. "It is our job as journalists to bring truth to light," said Julie Freeman, director of student publications. "We don't always get to see people released when we call for change." It is not often that editorials gain widespread attention that causes someone's prison release, Freeman said. "To be apart of a voice that helped release this man — that's just amazing," she said. On Killough's last day of

her internship, Killough was assigned an article about the Azeri-Iranian rights activist. Since May, Iranian authorities had detained Asadi with no official charges. Those of the Azerian religion are heavily persecuted in Iran. In addition, those who monitor human rights, believe Asadi was arrested because of his traditional Azeri wedding, which he celebrated with traditional Azeri colors on his wedding cake, flags, folk songs and dances. Before Asadi's detainment in May, Asadi was previously arrested in 2006 during protests that started after a state-run newspa-

per depicted a cockroach speaking in the Azeri language. Killough said there was a woman who usually handles Iranian issues, but she was really busy that day. Killough added she only had a few hours to work on the editorial. "We were calling for his release. We wanted to get it done as soon as possible," Killough said. "I was back in school by the time it broadcast," Killough said. All editorials produced by the Voice of America are displayed on their Web site, and are sent to a news wire.

From there, international news organizations have access to the article, in order to translate the article and broadcast it on the radio. Currently, the Voice of America editorials are translated in 45 languages and reach an audience of 134 million people. The "Tehran's Wedding Planners" generated buzz about Azari and human rights Web sites since it aired. After hearing about Asadi's release, Killough said she has thought about the impact of her editorial. "It was definitely a rewarding moment and very affirming in what I want to do in internation-

al journalism," Killough said. Killough also has received gratitude from the Azeri-Iranian rights activist. "He (Vedud Asadi) believes that your editorial has brought attention to his case and has helped him out very much," said Fakhteh Zamani, the director of the Association for the Defense of Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran, in an e-mail to Killough. Killough also interviewed Zamani for the "Tehran Wedding Planners." "Without journalism, this newlywed would still be in jail, all for the colors of his wedding cake," Freeman said.