

ROUNDING UP CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1900

THE BAYLOR LARIAT

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007

Morriss' dismissal raises head coach questions

By Brian Bateman
Sports writer

As of Nov. 18, Baylor's head coaching position is vacant. Gone is Guy Morriss, who managed more Big 12 victories than any other Baylor coach, yet never found his way to a bowl game.

Replacing him are doubt, conjecture and rumor. Offensive coordinators, linebacker coaches and even rival school's head coaches have been tossed around, many times without those men even knowing it.

And with Texas A&M Uni-

versity, which recently ended its contract with Dennis Franchione, announcing Houston Texans' offensive coordinator Mike Sherman as its new coach, the Bears won't have to worry about coaches matching their offer in Bryan-College Station.

One member of Baylor's "short list" -- Mike Singletary has already fallen out of Baylor's crosshairs.

Baylor director of athletics Ian McCaw met with Singletary over the Thanksgiving break for a chance to bring the former Bear back to Baylor.

McCaw was engaged in a meeting for most of the day and was not available for comment Monday afternoon according to administrative assistant Donna Perry.

It wasn't about money, Singletary said, but it was a difference of opinion on coaching philosophies.

It would be very important that Baylor found a coach willing to follow Grant Teaff's lead -- dedication and hard work, he said.

The front-runner is Houston Nutt, formerly the head football

coach at the University of Arkansas. He was the second-longest employed coach in the Southeastern conference. In his 10 years at Arkansas, he has posted a 75-48 record, including three seasons with at least a share of the SEC West title.



Morriss

Embattled at Arkansas, Nutt has been criticized for his conservative strategy and misleading recruits. But his ability to blue-chip recruit Darren McFadden and Mitch Mustain kept him in many games in which the Razorbacks shouldn't have been competitive.

Nutt has three confirmed offers; Baylor, Southern Methodist University and the University of Mississippi.

Art Briles and Larry Fedora are other names on the Bears' "short list."

Briles, the University of Hous-

ton head coach, has led his team in a strong turn-around. A winless team in 2001, the Cougars posted a 10-win season in 2006. He has experience with Baylor's offense, serving under Mike Leech at Texas Tech University for three years. Briles' offensive-minded schemes led to a 1,000-yard receiver, a 1,000-yard rusher and a 3,000-yard passer in the same season.

And with offensive coordinator Lee Hays running the same offense, the Bears might find

Please see **COACH**, page 7



The Associated Press

Smile, it's the holidays

Fargo Entertainment Company photographer Randy Long helps Brooke Peterson, 4, of Fargo, N.D., with her smile in the Santa Claus photo booth Nov. 24 at West Acres Shopping Center in Fargo.

BU in Mongolia project completes testing phase

Biology department works to address health hazards

By Amanda Allen
Reporter

Baylor experts have recently completed phase one of the "Baylor in Mongolia Project."

Researchers in the biology department are actively addressing environmental contamination in Mongolia due to toxic chemicals in the water.

The two main issues being addressed are water purification and emergency contamination remediation.

Skin rashes, severe headaches, seizures and liver problems are a few of the symptoms one might suffer from exposure to the toxic levels of cyanide, mercury and other heavy metals being found in the water.

Results from the study identified around 1,000 people in the small town of Khongor who have become sick because of environmental contamination from industrial mining. Roughly 70 percent of Khongor households have at least one sick person.

"Mining is having this effect because mercury and cyanide are the chemicals used to extract gold from the soil," said Dr. Renee Massengale, assistant professor of biology.

Massengale, who is the leader of the clean water project, was asked to lead the water study in Khongor after giving three Darkhan dignitaries a tour of Baylor in 2006. Dark-

han is a region in northern Mongolia.

Massengale traveled to Mongolia in July with a team of Baylor students who did environmental testing and household health surveys.

Her second trip, in October, completed phase one. Over 2,400 tests were completed. In this trip she led a team of Mongolian technicians. She said they were able to give researchers enough information to proceed with phase two.

"We worked for nine days, about 14 to 16 hours per day," Massengale said.

After meeting with the national University of Mongolia in October, she said a future effort would be to start a Baylor in Mongolia program in which Baylor and Mongolian students could participate.

Massengale said they are working to train community educators to work with local villages "from the bottom up" to provide better sanitation.

Progress is being made, but there was significant contamination of the soil and the building where illegal mining took place. Massengale said the toxic chemicals being released are still a health hazard to the community.

Stacy Pfluger, one of the doctoral students traveling with Dr. Massengale in her July trip, said she jumped at the experience to work in a different environment.

"I know there's definitely plans for the next year or two,

Please see **HAZARD**, page 7

Study outlines 12 unconventional reasons for high college costs

By Anita Pere
Staff writer

Many college students and their families have wondered why the price tag attached to higher education keeps rising with no relief in sight.

Dr. Richard Vedder, director of the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, presented 12 unconventional

reasons for skyrocketing tuition prices, along with some untried ideas for bringing down college tuition costs, in his recent study, "Over Invested and Over Priced: American Higher Education Today."

His most significant reasons include third-party pay systems and a lack of a concrete "bottom line."

Resource rigidities, such as

faculty tenure, lack of price competition, public support/control and price discrimination to needy or talented students are among other reasons. Research grants and other forms of over compensation, a lack of efficiency in non-profit organizations, the questions of who exactly owns and also governs a university; and a lack of transparency to consumers (or students)

also are listed as reasons in the paper.

Instead of blaming inflation or the increased demand for university services, as many tuition experts have, Vedder argued these points and focused his stances on his position that money at universities is largely mismanaged and spent frivolously.

In a recent interview, Vedder

said his opinions are gathering some clout.

Relative to his view on the frivolous spending of universities, his number one reason for high costs is third party payments, meaning those receiving a service do not directly pay bills.

"When someone else is paying the bills, consumers are less conscious of cost consider-

ations, and that in turn leads to some distortion and inefficient use of inputs used to produce higher education services," Vedder wrote in the study. He went on to cite an example of this phenomenon occurring in the health care system, as it partially operates using third-party payments.

Please see **COST**, page 7

Report shows shift to activism in college students' political attitude

By Sommer Ingram
Staff writer

According to a recent study, college students' attitudes toward politics and civic engagement are shifting from apathetic unawareness to civic activism.

The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement (CIRCLE) and the Charles F. Kettering Founda-

tion released a report earlier this month that revealed the Millennial Generation, those born between 1985 and 2004, are more eager to become engaged politically and civically than their predecessors, Generation X. Particularly members of this generation enrolled in college show a strong interest in political discourse free of confrontation yet full of diversity.

The report serves as a follow-

up to a 1993 study published by the Kettering Foundation that showed college students to have little to no interest in politics, as they felt it was irrelevant to their lives.

However, current students recognize the importance of being educated about various issues, but ignore much of the information provided for them because it is often thrown at them in a biased and controver-

sial way.

"Young people sometimes wonder why everyone is trying to pitch them into such a black and white political spectrum," CIRCLE research associate Karlo Marcelo said. "They are trying to figure it out, trying to navigate through all their options, and maybe being faced with such bold debates and feeling forced to pick one side or the other is unappealing."

Whereas the 1993 study found college students to be largely focused on individual, causing alienation from the community as a whole, this recent study shows students are becoming increasingly more civic-minded and willing to become politically involved.

"Programs that encourage service refocus students on the idea of community and taking an active part in the political

activities that go on," Marcelo said. "We are definitely seeing a shift in the Millennial Generation. I think they have been given more of a chance to focus on channeling their energy to creating change one step at a time. Community service plays a strong role in developing a well-rounded individual."

Some students that partici-

Please see **CIVIC**, page 7

NoZe bros need to try something new ... like humor

I like the idea of the NoZe Brotherhood.

I mean, what's not to love about a band of merry pranksters who raise Cain all over our precious campus?

It's no secret that Baylor can become a cushy little bubble, and I'm of the opinion that we need a little healthy needling sometimes to keep things fresh.

Especially through good satire, which I'm told should be available in the copies of that delightful NoZe periodical, The Rope.

You can imagine my delight and joy then, when I cracked the latest issue to page 4 ... and saw my own face staring back at me. I laughed my head off.

I guess I should probably be grateful.

After all, not everyone gets

singled out in the Rope during their Baylor career.

And I guess they got me pretty spot-on, too.

I think I've written about this dating thing more often than anything else the Lariat's let me run in this spot.

Let me check: Yes. A grand total of once. Twice if you count the Russian thing.

The biographical details were pretty funny, though. The whole Match.com thing was ridiculously clever.

As was the stuff about Model UN, or Wired magazine, which would totally make sense.

The shower comment was a little below the belt, though. (Ahem.)

So, why lie about it? I got pwned.

However, rather than get

point of view



BY BEN HUMENIUK

angry, me and the roomies cut out my little slice of Noble NoZe fame and put it on the fridge. It's a good reminder that a little humility can go a long way.

But I have to wonder aloud here ... was that the best the NoZe had?

If we're going to be honest about the humility thing, I'm not so vain as to think that the majority of campus reads my sporadic columns and celebrates my ... um, celebrity.

My ego would appreciate

that, of course.

Maybe it was a slow couple of news weeks at Baylor. Maybe there wasn't a lot to make fun of.

After all, besides the requisite front-page jokes about President Lilley, we also got articles about cold weather and ... Chic-fil-A condiments?

Someone call Harvard Lampoon, please.

Honestly, the answer may be that our current iteration of the NoZe is a poor placeholder for the memorable satirists of years past.

Your current Brotherhood membership numbers at a whopping 11; 13 if you count the Neophytes (which is NoZe-ish for "pledges").

Kind of paltry compared to around 25 members not even

four years ago.

Granted, the Brothers lost a lot of guys to Venerable Exile-dom, but it doesn't look like many people have rushed over to fill in the ranks.

And the Rope seems to be a cut-and-paste affair most of the time.

Every time I crack it open, I know I'm guaranteed a Poppa Rollo's sausage joke, a slam on the Lariat (not always undeserved, I'll admit) and a riff on how metro the Fijis are.

Well, splendid. What about something fresh?

I guess what I'm trying to say is, fair is fair, brothers. You got me pretty good, so all right. No more dating columns.

But what about you? I used to think y'all were kind of tired, though now I have

some hope that you can take the satiric brilliance you leveled on me and apply it to the rest of your paper. And maybe your on-campus antics as well.

I think the last thing you did of note was bring a donkey to Chapel?

This campus (myself included) can get really complacent sometimes.

We need someone to rock the boat a bit.

And your voice is one that people hear.

So next time, why not invest your energy in more things that matter ... besides your humble columnist, that is.

Now if you'll excuse me, my Match.com account tells me that I've got a new view...

Ben Humeniuk is a senior English major from Brownwood.

Editorial

Disclosure lacking in ID dispute

When the Lariat editorial board met with President John Lilley in September, one of the issues we brought up was that of administrative transparency.

Lilley then asked for our definition of transparency. It was an understandable question since we were leveling the charge that Baylor as a whole is not famous for the quality.

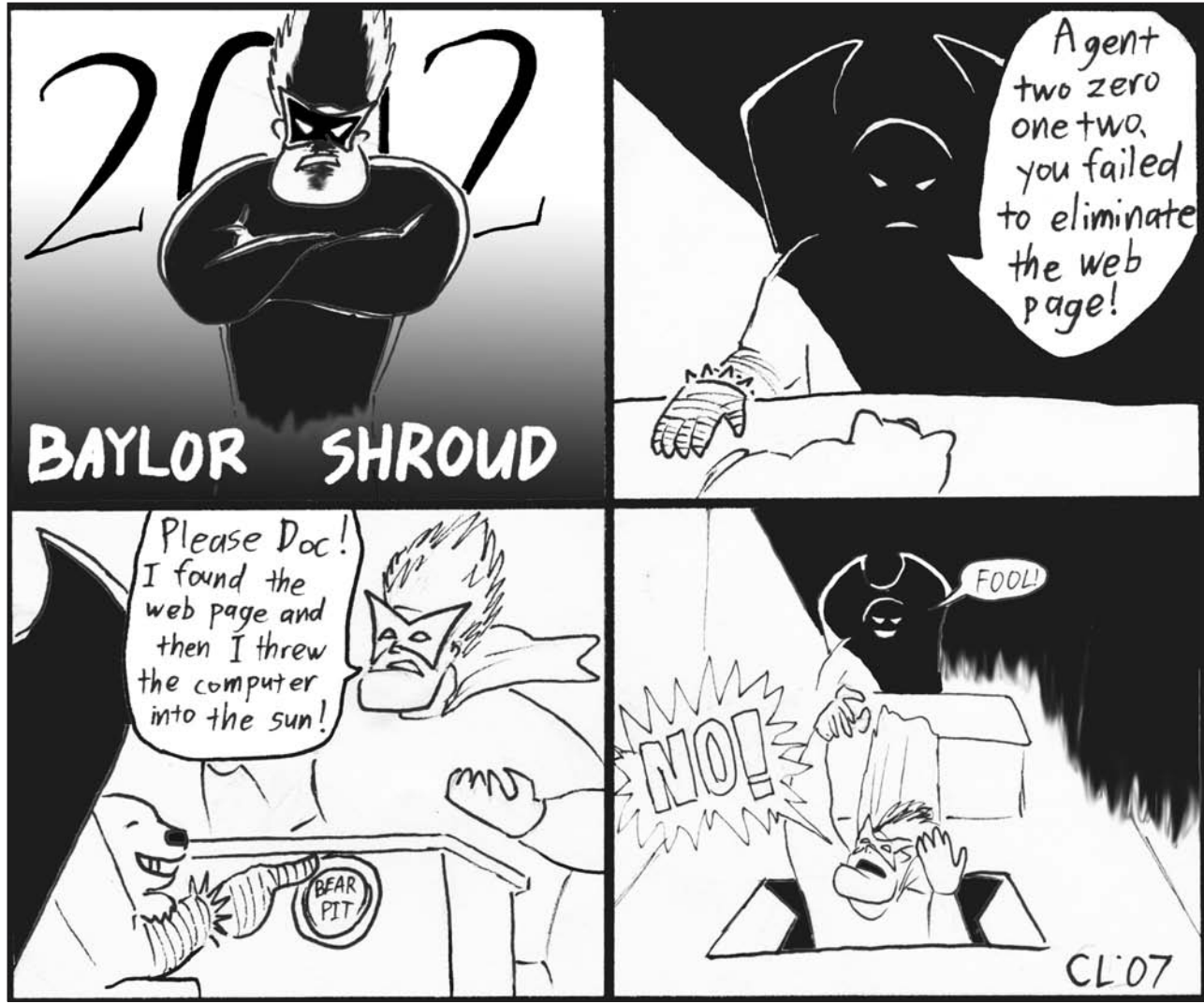
In light of the Nov. 16 article we ran on Baylor's history with intelligent design research, perhaps we can offer a few clarifications on what transparency does and does not entail.

The controversy around intelligent design research came into focus when Dr. Robert Marks, distinguished professor of computer science and engineering, procured a private grant to hire a researcher. His research assistant was Dr. William Dembski, who once ran Baylor's controversial Polanyi Center, which addressed science and religion.

Dembski was mentioned in the grant proposal, but since it was not processed through proper academic channels according to university claims, key figures were not aware of Dembski's involvement until his arrival. The administration returned the grant money, effectively terminating Dembski's position.

Trying to find out the details behind this story proved that truth comes out eventually, and when there's nothing to hide, there's no real reason to skirt around an issue.

Certain professors contacted for the story refused to comment on the situation. One was gracious, respectful and open.



The other was rude, condescending and hostile. He refused to answer even general questions and literally told us we were "barking up the wrong tree," even though he knew information that would have shed light on the issue at hand.

He said certain things are better left out of the light and away from others' knowledge, and he responded to almost all our questions not with answers, but with charges that we were irresponsible and unethical for even asking such things.

Irresponsible for asking a question?

That's a sad thing for a professor to say. Being inquisitive is not the same as forming an inquisition, and even if the former is mistaken for the latter, one can at least be civil in responding.

We relate his message for no other reason than to give a clear picture of what we mean when we say Baylor has problems with transparency.

But Baylor is not the only player with transparency issues. Although intelligent design advocates often accuse Baylor of violating academic freedom and being less than forthcoming in its dealings with the controversial field,

perhaps both sides in the argument have something to learn about conducting business openly.

If Marks had wanted to give the administration a heads-up about bringing a controversial figure back to campus, he certainly could have done so, academic channels or not.

This entire situation closely resembles the inner workings of boardroom politics, an unfortunate reality at a Christian institution of higher education. But as in politics, openness and honesty are the best ways to tackle a problem, no matter the side you're on.

Opinion policy

The Baylor Lariat welcomes reader viewpoints through letters to the editor and guest columns.

Opinions expressed in the Lariat are not necessarily those of the Baylor administration, the Baylor Board of Regents or the Student Publications Board.

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 discretion.

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, Discover and MasterCard payments may be phoned to 254-710-2662. Postmaster: Please send address changes to above address.

Homeless would be better served through charities, not handouts

We have all been in line at What-a-burger and heard a story about how a car broke down or ran out of gas, or how someone needs money ... for a bus fare.

For all I know, those stories may be completely true.

But I heard some interesting information last spring that has influenced my view of the Waco homeless.

I used to live in a rough neighborhood with cheap rent.

We kept a homeless man on our front porch to serve as a sort of 24-hour surveillance system.

He got a free place to live, we got a free security system.

One day, he was telling me that most of Waco's homeless population goes to Dallas over the summer.

He was surprised that I didn't know this.

When I asked him how they got up there, he explained that some used the bus, others went on bikes and a few hitched rides.

Another guy I know, who used to be homeless, also said the same thing.

He, too, was surprised I didn't know this — he treated it like a known fact.

He explained that during the

point of view



BY JOHN EISEN

school year, a lot of people in the homeless community prefer Waco to Dallas because of the \$10 handouts they can get from Baylor students.

Over the summer, these same individuals make their way up to Dallas, where they can get \$5 handouts from the

people up there.

The fact that I heard this information from two separate people that I trust, both of different ages and races, both of whom have ties to the Waco homeless community — that is enough for me to believe it.

And if that weren't enough, I've spent two summers in Waco myself.

The funny thing is, there are a lot fewer homeless people around during the summer.

Now I want to be clear: I'm not out to attack the homeless community, or those that have genuine needs in their lives.

Ministries like the Salvation Army have provided help to those in need for years.

My grandparents immigrated to the United States from Germany in the 1950s, and the Salvation Army helped them when they first arrived.

It made a big impression on my Dad, and he continues to support local charities as a businessman.

So what are we supposed to do?

I don't think it's right, or even smart, for Baylor students to be giving money to people who may just be using them.

The last thing some people need is for you to "help" them out.

Helping them out may actually cause them harm in the end.

If we give money, we should give it to charities with a solid reputation that we know we can trust.

Don't feel guilty into giving people money — if they're guilt-tripping you, they probably don't need it.

John Eisen is a Pre-Law English major from Minneapolis-St. Paul. He serves as an associate justice on the Student Court.

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

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V. EASY

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THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- 1 Actress Address
- 7 Gangster's gal
- 11 Greek X
- 14 Poem of 14 lines
- 15 Tony's cousin?
- 16 Fowl female
- 17 Motherly command
- 19 Aerial RRs
- 20 Plant swelling
- 21 Doofus
- 23 Royal ruler
- 26 ___ a one (none)
- 28 Plumed velvet cap
- 29 One in Toledo
- 30 Surgical cutter
- 32 Hindquarters
- 33 Use a diving rod
- 35 ___ Five-O"
- 37 Rude
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- 3 Commercial word with "Cone" and "Cap"
- 4 Dismantle mortise joints
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- 12 Blimp filler
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- 18 Somali supermodel
- 22 Pat of "Happy Days"
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- 25 Motherly command

27 Twelve months

- 30 First name in denim?
- 31 One and one
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By Robert H. Wolfe
 North Woodmere, NY

11/27/07

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

Helping U Find That Place Called Home.

THE CENTRE

QUADRANGLE APARTMENTS

The Oaks

BAYLOR PLAZA Two

Island CONDOMINIUMS

The Place

COUNTRY Place

Bandera RANCH TOWNHOMES

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THE CENTRE COURT APARTMENTS

ASPENHEIGHTS

FAIRMONT APARTMENTS

Jamestown

BENCHMARK

Program offers another chance to study, volunteer abroad

By Shannon Daily
Reporter

Projects Abroad, an England-based volunteer group, held an interest meeting Monday in the Baylor Sciences Building. Program adviser Jacob Lowe spoke to students about Project Abroad's goals, which are helping others, helping students learn and exploring new places.

The group sends around 3,500 volunteers out each year. About half of the volunteers are from England and the rest come from the United States and other countries all over the world.

Aside from resume purposes, the opportunity to study abroad provides students a chance for true cultural immersion, offering language and dissertation

programs. These placements are more educationally based, but still provide participants with a chance to volunteer.

"If your main goal is to become fluent in another language, then getting kicked off in the deep ends is a primary motivator," Lowe said. "You learn more in a month than you would in school for a whole semester."

Teaching English and studying medicine are two of the main things students participate in on these studying abroad trips, but there are an array of other areas of study such as business, journalism and law.

Those interested in corporate law go to China to help foreign investors navigate the extremely complicated legal system.

Volunteers rarely get to choose

the when, where and why of their excursions, but Projects Abroad aims to allow its volunteers to outline the parameters of their trips to meet personal needs.

For a price, participants are able to work in areas anywhere from wildlife conservation to medicine to photojournalism and from as short as two weeks to as long as a year.

"If someone has more tailored needs we can see if we have something that works for them," program adviser Kelsy Nelson said.

What makes Projects Abroad stand out from other volunteer organizations the most is its personal relationships with the people it volunteers for.

It doesn't subcontract or send anyone out on their own, and

every volunteer has a local Projects Abroad office they can go to for help if anything comes up, Nelson said.

When the application process begins, applicants provide general information and references to the program. "We need someone who will vouch for them that they will be successful in an overseas situation," Nelson said.

Then it begins to narrow down the region the volunteers will work in and what type of work they'll actually do.

"Our most popular placements are in medicine, teaching and working in orphanages," Nelson said. "You have to make sure you know what you're interested in. If you just volunteer to work in an orphanage because

it sounds good, the experience may not be as worthwhile."

Baylor alumni Marilyn Lim and Van Darden have each worked with the program. Lim traveled to Shanghai, China, last year to work as an intern for an English-language magazine while Darden had a journalism internship in Brasov, Romania.

"I've definitely thought of going abroad and that seems like it would be a cool way to do it," Houston junior Dodge Grootemaat said.

But the \$1,500 price tag would be reason to reconsider, he said.

Students now are interested for both the academic and volunteering experience.

"It'd be cool to pick where you go or what you do," Cypress senior Courtney Oehler said.

As a pre-med student, Oehler has her future in mind. "Something med schools look for is showing that you really have a compassion for people."

Lowe said college is the best time for students to take advantage of such a learning opportunity.

"Nothing teaches a student more about who they are and who they want to be than studying abroad," he said. "Stepping outside of the box, stepping away from the influences of your family, friends and professors teaches you to grow. Initially, you embark upon this journey by yourself, and you'd be amazed at how much you can push yourself to do."

Staff writer Sommer Ingram contributed to this story.

Bush, leaders voice optimism about peace prospects

By Anne Gearan
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush stepped cautiously into the most direct Mideast peace-making of his administration on Monday, meeting separately with the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to explore whether peace is possible. "Difficult compromises" will be required but the Israeli and Palestinian leaders are committed to making them, he said.

A day ahead of a major Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, Md., Bush said he was optimistic. The gathering is to launch the first direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians of Bush's nearly seven years in office, and has attracted Arab and other outside backing.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders have already said they want to conclude a bargain within the 14 months that Bush has left in office. The two sides were unable to frame a blueprint for the

talks before they came to the United States, and negotiations over the text were expected to continue into Tuesday.

At an evening dinner at the State Department for members of some 50 delegations invited to the talks, Bush toasted the effort and told the guests: "We've come together this week because we share a common goal: two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security. Achieving this goal requires difficult compromises, and the Israelis and Palestinians have elected leaders committed to making them."

Bush earlier emerged from an Oval Office meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and told him: "I'm looking forward to continuing our serious dialogue with you and the president of the Palestinian Authority to see whether or not peace is possible. I'm optimistic. I know that you're optimistic."

Next, he met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas,

who stressed the need to address issues of Palestinian statehood, sticking points that have doomed previous peace efforts.

"We have a great deal of hope

that this conference will produce permanent status negotiations, expanded negotiations, over all permanent status issues that would lead to a peace

agreement between Israel and the Palestinian people," he said. "This is a great initiative and we need his (Bush's) continuing effort to achieve this objective."



Palestinian women hold pictures of prisoners held in Israeli jails Gaza City Monday. Israel's Cabinet agreed recently to free 441 of more than 9,000 Palestinians prisoners as a Mideast summit was getting under way Monday in Washington, D.C.

Associated Press

Deal sets stage for long-term Iraq presence



Associate Press

A U.S. soldier searches a house during a patrol mission south of Baghdad, Iraq Monday.

By Ben Feller
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday signed a deal setting the foundation for a potential long-term U.S. troop presence in Iraq, with details to be negotiated over matters that have defined the war debate at home — how many U.S. forces will stay in the country, and for how long.

The agreement between Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki confirms that the United States and Iraq will hash out an "enduring" relationship in military, economic and political terms. Details of that relationship will be negotiated in 2008, with a completion goal of July, when the U.S. intends to finish withdrawing the five combat brigades sent in 2007 as part of the troop buildup that has helped curb sectarian violence.

"What U.S. troops are doing, how many troops are required to do that, are bases required, which partners will join them — all these things are on the negotiating table," said Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute, President Bush's adviser on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The proposal underlines how the United States and Iraq are exploring what their relationship might look like once the U.S. significantly draws down its troop presence. It comes as a Democratic Congress — unsuccessfully, so far — prods Bush to withdraw troops faster than he wants.

Bush and al-Maliki signed the new U.S.-Iraq "declaration of principles" during a secure video conference Monday morning.

Al-Maliki, in a televised address, said his government would ask the United Nations to renew the mandate for the multinational force for one

final time with its authorization to end in 2008.

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Lott says he'll resign Senate seat at end of year

By Michael Kunzelman
and Jack Elliott Jr.
The Associated Press

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Lott after his remarks about Thurmond, increasing pressure on the lawmaker to step down from the No. 1 Senate job.

Asked about his conversation Sunday with the president, Lott said, "He was very kind in his remarks. Over the years we've had our ups and downs, good times and bad times, both of us." Bush, Lott said, "felt like I'd be missed in my role" as Senate minority whip.

Bush issued a statement calling Lott "an outstanding advocate" for his state and a leader who remained "true to his principles."

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Deal sets stage for long-term Iraq presence



Associated Press

A U.S. soldier searches a house during a patrol mission south of Baghdad, Iraq Monday.

By Ben Feller
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Monday signed a deal setting the foundation for a potential long-term U.S. troop presence in Iraq, with details to be negotiated over matters that have defined the war debate at home — how many U.S. forces will stay in the country, and for how long.

The agreement between Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki confirms that the United States and Iraq will hash out an “enduring” relationship in military, economic and political terms. Details of that relationship will be negotiated in 2008, with a completion goal of July, when the U.S. intends to finish withdrawing the five combat brigades sent in 2007 as part of the troop buildup that has helped curb sectarian violence.

“What U.S. troops are doing, how many troops are required to do that, are bases required, which partners will join them — all these things are on the negotiating table,” said Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute, President Bush’s adviser on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The proposal underlines how the United States and Iraq are exploring what their relationship might look like once the U.S. significantly draws down its troop presence. It comes as a Democratic Congress — unsuccessfully, so far — prods Bush to withdraw troops faster than he wants.

Bush and al-Maliki signed the new U.S.-Iraq “declaration of principles” during a secure video conference Monday morning.

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final time with its authorization to end in 2008.

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Strength in numbers propels Lady Bears

By Justin Baer
Sports writer

Five minutes into Sunday's game against the No. 12 University of California Golden Bears, Rachel Allison aggressively reached in for a steal.

Instead of coming away with the ball, the Jonesboro, Ark., native picked up her second foul of the game.

Disgusted by the call, Allison glared at the official before reluctantly taking a seat on the bench.

Allison joined fellow starter and post Danielle Wilson on the pine, as Wilson had beat Allison to the two-foul mark.

The two dominant posts sat on the sideline for the remainder of the half, watching their team struggle to keep up with the Pac-10 powerhouse.

Agitated head coach Kim Mulkey was forced to rearrange her lineup, putting four guards and backup post Jessica Bradley on the floor. The Golden Bears took advantage

of a depleted Baylor frontline and a makeshift zone defense.

California chased the Lady Bears into the locker room as time expired at the half, ending the last six minutes of play on a 17-3 run, deflating any momentum Baylor had from an earlier lead.

"We knew that the first half was going to end at some point, so we just tried to hold on until halftime," junior guard Jhasmin Player said. "We knew that in the second half that Danielle and Rachel would come back in the game, so we wanted to go back inside to them. Both of Cal's posts played a lot of minutes in the first half, and we knew that Danielle and Rachel would be fresh and could have an advantage inside."

The Lady Bears trailed 32-25 at intermission but emerged as a completely different team in the second half.

Allison and Wilson's inside presence was immediately recognized. The two 6-footers answered the call

to defend California's duo of Ashley Walker and Rama N'diaye, who had combined for 15 points and 10 rebounds in the first half.

Wilson and Allison finished the afternoon with a combined total of 16 points and nine rebounds, the majority of those numbers accumulated in the second half.

So was it irony that Baylor outscored California 44-24 in the second half to earn a respectable 69-56 victory and maintain its undefeated season? Think again.

"The difference for us was that we had our post players on the court in the second half," said Mulkey, who is in her eighth year as Baylor's head coach. "We played with a lot of intensity in the second half and were able to get some transition baskets."

Not only does Baylor's second-half performance prove the worth of Allison and Wilson, but it justifies critics' beliefs that this team needs support from its entire cast to succeed in big games this season.

The likes of All-Americans Sophia Young and Bernice Mosby are faint memories, so instead of Baylor relying on a key player this year, it has resorted to a spread-the-ball-around offense.

Five Lady Bears are averaging double-figure scoring, with Bradley just missing the group with 9.4 points per game. Player and Wilson lead the way with nearly 15 points per game, while Jessica Morrow, Angela Tisdale and Allison are all over 10 points per game.

Baylor's diversity in scoring options makes the Lady Bears a tougher team to defend.

However, without a standout player, a missing link or two in Baylor's offense is detrimental to the team. Just look at Sunday's first half for further reminder.

Baylor travels to Southeast Missouri State University Thursday to take on the Redhawks with tip-off scheduled for 7:30 p.m.



File photo

Sophomore forward Danielle Wilson marks a University of Texas-Pan American player Nov. 15 in a 76-39 win. Wilson is second on the team with 14.4 points per game.

Stolen funds don't deter Baylor Fencing from enjoying sport

By Rea Corbin
Reporter

Dressed in white with faces hidden by black mesh, students attack and parry across the floor of Russell Gymnasium.

At their practices Tuesday and Thursday nights, members of the Baylor Fencing Club work on footwork and three styles of fencing, despite a need for new equipment.

Club president Kate Thomas, Katy junior, said they had been planning to order new equipment, but \$1,000 of club funds were stolen from the club secretary's car.

The funds were from the Adelman Memorial tournament, a ranked competition in honor of the club's founder.

Baylor annually hosts the tournament, which Thomas said is one of the team's greatest fundraisers.

Before the treasurer, Paris junior Zac Ressler, had a chance

to deposit the money, it was gone.

"It didn't seem like forced entry, but like someone just opened the door," Thomas said. "His roommate woke him up and said 'Your car alarm is going off.'"

Thomas added that nothing else was stolen from the car.

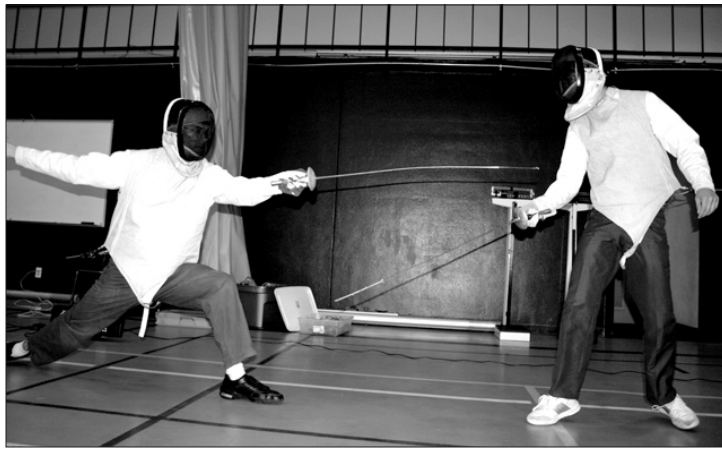
The club has expanded enough that Thomas said it was planning to order more masks, jackets and epees, one of the weapon styles used in fencing.

Without the funds that were stolen, the club has to make do with its existing equipment.

"Fencing requires a lot of equipment to do safely," Tomball senior Toan Nguyen said. "And with a lot of equipment, used twice a week for five hours a week, things break down."

Thomas said a typical practice starts with warm-ups as fencers trickle in the door, "notorious for not being punctual."

After about half an hour of



Stephanie Jeter/Lariat staff

Arlington junior Shayne Hassler (left) battles Chinese graduate student Han Peng Thursday during practice in Russell Gymnasium.

warming up, the fencers suit up in their gear: mask, a jacket, gloves and weapon.

The weapon can be a foil, epee or saber, and either electric or dry, meaning some equipment can be hooked up to an electric score-keeper to aid judging.

ers to score points when they are considered the "attacker," it encourages fencers to follow the correct steps in a fight.

"The idea is that if one is attacked, no matter how much faster or stronger you are, you must defend yourself before you attack," Nguyen said.

He added that epee appeals to fencers who are alert and "a little foolhardy or reckless."

Fencing duels were originally to "first blood," he said, influencing epee fencing.

Either fencer can score a point through a touch anywhere on the opponent's body.

"In epee, attack and defense are blended and are almost one and the same," Nguyen said.

Saber simulates fencing on horseback, he said, making the target area only above the waist.

Attacking the legs would have little effect because the rider would have remained on the horse, which is a focal point of the drill.

Arlington junior Shayne Hassler said the club, though at times inactive in its 90-year history, is currently strong despite financial setbacks.

"As disastrous as it seems, I don't think it will affect the club that much," he said. "When I first joined the club it only had \$19 in its general account."

He added that the same year, the club managed to purchase a large equipment order.

"These things happen, but fencers know how to adapt to the circumstances," Hassler said.

Hassler said he learns a lot in the club and not just about fencing.

Because of the fast pace of the sport, fencers often have to learn self-control and grace under fire, which he said can be applied to other facets of life.

"You have to learn how to think critically quickly while under pressure," he said. "That's a skill everyone could use."

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Laurisa Lopez/Lariat staff

Theater students act in Monday's performance of 'All My Sons' in Jones Theatre.

'Sons' stresses social responsibility

By Katherine Farlow
Reporter

War and responsibility are things the world is currently dealing with on a daily basis, and Arthur Miller's play, *All My Sons*, presents these old topics which are still important to people today.

Baylor Theatre will present *All My Sons* at 7:30 p.m. today in Jones Theatre of the Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.

Graduate student Graham Northrup will direct the play, which originally opened on Broadway in 1947.

Northrup said Miller, who also wrote *Death of a Salesman* and *The Crucible*, is one of his favorites.

He chose the play to be his thesis production.

"It's about a family just after World War II in 1947," Northrup said. "One son has been missing

for three years."

Atlanta junior Justin Locklear said for the mother, Kate, it's important to believe her son is alive.

The play looks at the circumstance of factory owner Joe Keller, his family and his responsibility to fellow men following a fateful decision, Northrup said.

Set in Joe Keller's backyard, the play takes place in a small American town during the course of one summer day.

Northrup said people can recognize themselves in the characters on stage.

The play is not just for entertainment, but has a moral compass people can appreciate, he said.

The overall message is that people need to be responsible for each other, Northrup said.

The play, which is still relevant today, "questions how much emphasis we should put

on protecting our family versus where do you draw the line?" Northrup said.

This is the 60th anniversary of *All My Sons*, which was Miller's first play.

"Thematically what Arthur Miller was getting at is we are all responsible for each other," said Marion Castleberry, associate professor of theatre.

Castleberry said the play attempts to embody the sense of truth and rightness toward each other.

"I think that's still significant looking at our world today," Castleberry said.

Locklear, who plays Frank Lubey said, "All My Sons presents an American epic of sorts, fashioned to real struggles of pre-war American culture and family."

Miller uses Lubey as a contrast in the play to show the difference between living a decent

life and living a deceitful life, Locklear said.

Locklear said the play asks the question of how you can honor responsibility as a citizen and honor important things in people's lives around you?

"I think they're really hard questions to ask, especially today," he said.

Locklear said he thinks every community inherently requires responsibility.

Miller is well-known for his work as a playwright.

"In terms of the American drama, Arthur Miller is a very important figure," Locklear said.

All My Sons will run nightly through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The last performance will be Sunday at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for students and are available at the box office in Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center.

'August Rush' provides perfect mix of sound, sentimentality

By Elizabeth Suggs
Contributor

The orphans will get you every time. *Annie*, *Oliver Twist*, *Pollyanna* and now *August Rush* all possess that very special talent of tugging at the heartstrings of movie audiences everywhere.

MOVIE REVIEW

August Rush, the story of an orphaned boy who happens to be a musical prodigy equal to Mozart, hit theaters just in time for the holiday rush.

And it is definitely well timed. For not many years has there been such a perfect film for holiday moviegoers (particularly females of a certain age) looking for a good cry and a lot of good feelings.

August Rush is a tearjerker in every sense of the word — but especially in the good sense.

Freddie Highmore, who you will undoubtedly remember for his talented portrayal of Peter in *Finding Neverland* (2004) oppo-

sites Johnny Depp, plays Rush, the 12-year-old musical prodigy.

In the film, his musical talent is mostly portrayed by the hands of an adult female guitarist, Kaki King.

But unless you're an accomplished guitarist, or Eric Clapton himself, you probably won't notice, because Highmore acts so well.

His performance, like in all his films, conveys a seamless complexity far beyond his years.

The same could be said for Keri Russell, who plays Rush's birth mother, at least as far as the "seamless" part goes.

Russell and Highmore complement each other well on the screen, both in terms of physical appearance and personality, so much so that the audience wants them to be related.

Supporting cast includes Irish import Jonathan Rhys Meyers, who performs his own vocals; Robin Williams, who doesn't quite play his usual funny-man role; and Terrence Howard, who

plays a likeable, albeit typical, social worker-type.

However, it's arguable that the star of the film was no actor at all.

The original soundtrack, composed by Mark Mancina, seems to outshine just about everything but the beautiful cinematography. It's truly a tour de force — at least to the ears of moviegoers.

The film's tagline reads, "The music is all around us. All you have to do is listen." But after seeing the film, the only thing you'll want to listen to is the soundtrack.

Cynics may tend to lop this soundtrack-propelled film in with all those sappy Hollywood movies that have endings tied up in big, red bows — you know, the pre-packaged plots where everyone gets married and comes back to life in the last 10 minutes.

But that is simply not the case with this saccharin-free film.

Any sweetness in this film is pure authenticity, with no sub-

stitutes added.

The final scene will leave you on the edge of your seat, not because of suspense, but for fear of cliché.

You keep expecting the movie to disappoint or get too sappy, but it doesn't.

Like a good piece of music, it gracefully dances on the line between pure elation and the beginnings of over-sentimentality.

A diabetic-inclined reviewer at *The New York Times* said the film was "shock-inducing sugar content."

And if you enjoy a bitter taste in your mouth, you might agree. But if you like to leave the theater without the desire to kill yourself, then you may just love this movie.

It seems to be popular among critics and intellectuals to give a big thumbs up to films that strip all meaning from human life.

It's obvious we're not in the golden days of Hollywood anymore.

And the days of leaving the



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

Freddie Highmore stars in *August Rush* as an orphan with a musical gift on a search for his birth parents.

theater with a smile on your face and a song in your heart are mostly gone too.

But *August Rush* brings those days back.

It makes your heart soar and lets you believe in dreams, true love and, above all, hope. It is a film packed with sentimentality

in the best sort of way. If you love films, music and life — see this movie.

It's worth the \$10 you'll spend on your ticket, as well as the other \$20 you'll spend on the soundtrack as soon as you leave the theater.

Grade: A-

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COST from page 1

Another component of the third-party system lies in federal aid. Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of the financial aid Web site finaid.org, noted that if financial aid was completely eliminated, college costs would be driven down.

For example, The Baylor Lariat reported in October that Baylor spends \$88 million on financial aid annually.

But without these breaks, only the wealthiest families could send their children to college, Kantrowitz said.

"Is the goal to keep college costs low or to make sure everybody is able to afford

a college education? I think the latter is more important," he said.

Vedder's third reason for out-of-control costs is the non-existence of a bottom line, or a standard system for judging successes or failures of universities.

"It's hard to work towards a goal when you don't have a way to measure your success in reaching that goal," Vedder said in a phone interview with The Lariat.

Kantrowitz disagreed, saying colleges have measures to gage performance.

"The colleges do have a variety of measures of success- retention rates, graduation rates, job placement rates...," Kantrowitz said.

He said he thinks an

across-the-board methodology to grade universities would be a mistake.

"It's certainly empowering to the consumer to provide them with this information, but imposing a particular standard on colleges would be a mistake," Kantrowitz said.

Dr. Franklin Potts, associate professor of finance, offered opinions similar to Vedder's on the debacle of college prices.

He pointed to the unnecessary "mushrooming of the administration" as a source of higher educational costs.

"We've got layers of administration. Sometimes they have a real function and sometimes I wonder," Potts said.

He also criticized the pouring of federal money into public universities.

"When the government gets involved, (costs) always go up because a lot of this stuff the government does on a cost-plus basis," he said.

In a cost-plus scheme, private contractors maximize costs to earn bigger profits, essentially providing no reason to cut costs.

Vedder favored ways private colleges benefit from other forms of government aid, such as tax exemptions.

Although these experts had different ideas regarding how all-time-high tuition prices should decrease, each agreed that immediate action is necessary to resolve this problem.

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and I hope that I can continue to participate in them," Pfluger said.

One of the most notable things Pfluger recalled was being in an area where socioeconomic differences are so dramatic. She said most lived in temporary housing with very little plumbing but that strangely enough, most had televisions and cell phones.

Brent Edwards, director of Baylor Global Network, was also on the trip and said it's interesting, in that situation, to find people who have so little and expect so little, but who have massive visual and cultural differences.

"They live in facilities that

would cost us \$10 to \$15 a month to operate, and the average income is a little over \$40 a month, yet they have luxury items of high values. It's quite the paradox," he said.

The Mongolian people live in what Edwards described as mobile, transportable nomadic living quarters in which one could see move 100 or 200 feet in one day.

Though the central issue is in Khongor, Massengale said she estimates there are dozens, if not more rural areas in Mongolia affected by the same problem.

"Our water quality program has great potential to directly meet human needs around the world, and our science faculty is doing that in a number of ways," Massengale said.

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continuity in an offense that lacked any methodical production last year.

Larry Fedora is the current offensive coordinator at Oklahoma State University.

He has coached for 16 years at the college level, including a five-year stint at Baylor, molding running backs, tight ends and wide receivers.

Much like Briles, he is an offensive coach, and has two former players - lineman Charlie Johnson and fullback Shawn Willis - on NFL rosters.

Fedora's ability to plan around both the opposition's defense and his own player's strength and weaknesses will be his selling point.

Tommy Bowden and Gary Patterson have also been mentioned but could not be confirmed as targeted coaches.

Special teams coordinator Kasey Dunn, who has assumed a head position, declined to comment Monday on the coaching situation.



Stephanie Jeter/Lariat staff

Tennis time

South Lake senior Brandon Whitacre plays tennis Monday night at the McLean Tennis Courts.

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pated in the CIRCLE survey indicated that universities provide unstable and unequal chances for political engagement and awareness.

They feel there is a delicate balance to be maintained between information overload, which often causes students to feel pressured, and little to no opportunities for political involvement at all.

"While I cannot speak for other universities, I would say that Baylor has a reasonable amount of political activity," said Dr. Joseph Brown, associate professor of political science. "I know of at least two organizations, the Young Democrats and the Young Conservatives, that are reasonably active. These kinds of organizations tend to provide an outlet for students interested in political activity, while not putting any kind of pressure on every student to partake in a political cause."

Marcelo said universities can encourage political discussion without overdoing it by creating forums for stu-

dent discussion and opportunities for involvement.

"There need to be classes that focus on dialogue and delivery at universities," he said. "Also, opportunities should be provided for students who don't come upon these classes in their field of study by creating peer dialogue. A peer group could be formed and have a discussion about, say, interracial dating, as a way to exchange information, experiment, and run things by their fellow peers."

In the past, the younger generation's disinterest in politics was said to stem from the lack of information provided to them.

The CIRCLE study disproved this hypothesis and showed that information overload is more often the reason why students become frustrated with politics.

"Young people are simply trying to filter the truth," Marcelo said. "The array of different viewpoints, coupled with the increased capabilities of technology that get things out so much faster, make it easier to get inundated with all these things."

YouTube, a video sharing Web site, has begun hosting

presidential debates through online videos. The footage will be available for anyone to alter to create new videos. Houston sophomore Christopher Paxton plans to take advantage of this new venue.

"YouTube is a very important tool in technology," he said. "Mass media has a huge force on U.S. politics by opening candidates to questions not usually filtered in by the mainstream press. Things like the environmental agenda take center stage, and fringe groups have really put their issues in the spotlight more and more."

Paxton said he believes that the interest level in politics has risen significantly, but that there is still a group of "militantly apathetic" students who are turned off at the very thought of politics.

"One thing we can do at Baylor to cut through that apathy is tell students what politics means to them, what ramifications it does have on their lives," Paxton said. "What we have here is a lack of what we call political efficacy as a result of the myth that one vote out of thousands doesn't matter, and that's not true."

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No horsing around

The equestrian team, a recent addition to Baylor's sports family, is quickly gaining ground and becoming a family of its own

Photos and story by contributor Henry Chan



Assistant Coach Trista Armstrong watches as the Western riders warm their horses up. Armstrong always brings along a yellow "Growl Towel" to the competitions to wipe off dust on the riders' boots. "You never know what those girls get on their boots just from walking around," she said.

Top: English rider, Kendra Vicary, a freshman from Toledo, Ohio, gives "Rooster" a kiss before she starts her practice session. "I just think he's a big teddy bear," Vicary said. "I go in and give him kisses every day. If I don't, he sticks his nose out and wonders where his kisses are." Above: English rider Mary Smitson, a sophomore from Zionsville, Ind., leads a horse back to its stable after rinsing it off.

Despite being the largest women's athletics team on campus, the Baylor equestrian team still maintains a low profile among students.

The Woodlands sophomore Cara Wilson recalled that when she told a friend about her involvement in the equestrian team, he responded, "Oh yeah, I almost did that last year" — not realizing the equestrian team was a women's athletics program.

All things considered, it's an understandable response. The Baylor equestrian team has only been in existence for three years, and the sport doesn't exactly share the national spotlight with the likes of college football and basketball. Despite this, it has become one of the fastest-growing athletic programs at Baylor.

"When we started ... we had no facility, we had no horses, we had no assistant coach, no girls or anything, and it just fell together so fast.

"... God put things together," head coach Ellen White said. "We had girls contacting from all over the country. We had top recruits that we really took away from other schools on our first year. The fact that they came and saw the Baylor campus and how Baylor supported their students and athletics, and they were willing to be one of the founding team members, so we really took girls who were wanting a team to be a championship team."

White said the team received donations of money and land and has facilities right by campus.

"When the other teams come and compete against us and have been doing this for years ... they just wonder 'how did you do it?'" White said.

The Baylor equestrian team primarily competes in two styles: English and Western. English is done through jumps and flats, while Western riders compete by reining and horsemanship. All categories test the rider's form and control over the horse.

However, team members are often not restricted to a single riding style.

Western team captain Kim Marlowe, an Albuquerque, N.M., junior, actually rode English before joining Baylor's team.

"The coaches asked if I would like to try something different, so I rode Western," she said.

Brighton, Colo., sophomore Beth Banister, who now rides English, had previously been competing for Baylor under both English and Western categories.

"I pretty much started riding at birth," said Banister, whose parents run a horseback

training and horse breeding business.

"I've done the English fences ... I've done Western horsemanship and reining," Banister said.

The Baylor equestrian team was the only first-year program in 2006 to have both the English and Western teams compete at the Varsity National Championships.

In April, Baylor stepped up to host the 2007 Varsity National Championships in the Heart O' Texas Fairgrounds.

The team also plans on hosting the championship shows for at least the next two to three years.

"Where many teams are located, they don't have the facilities to host a championship," White said. "It was really a dream of mine to be able to do something in the community with greater Waco and Baylor University. We have the facilities and the teamwork here at Baylor so that we can put on the national championship."

White said the team needs 107 horses to compete in the national championship meet, which often takes a toll on the team's already heightened stress levels.

"I don't think I got any sleep during the competition last year," White said.

When the team does not host shows, it travels around the country to compete in other shows. The horses that the team uses for practice, however, stay in Waco.

The equestrian team trains hard as well. Aside from anywhere between two to six practices a week at the equestrian center, the team is also required to work out at least two times a week.

Equitation sports also have a certain amount of danger involved.

Marlowe recalled that when she was new to the team during her freshman year in 2005, a fellow member had fallen off a horse four times during a jump, because another team member had "flipped" the horse the day before.

"It all comes to the knowledge you have with horses," Marlowe said.

"The fact that (horseback) is very dangerous and you could die doing it ... is also why I love it," Banister said. "I would say that I'm a little bit of an adrenaline junkie," she added.

Though the Baylor equestrian team is still a new program, the advances made point to a prosperous future.

"I feel like all things are falling into place for us to be national champions," White said. "We certainly have Baylor and supporters behind us giving us horses, facilities and everything we need. It's not a matter of if but a matter of when."



English rider Beth Banister, a Brighton, Colo., sophomore, polishes her boots before her turn to compete at Baylor's Equestrian Invitational in October. "I'm not an avid boot polisher," she said, "but some girls could use up to five to 10 tins of boot polish a year if they compete a lot."



Horsemanship rider Lindsay Douglas (left) peers over her teammates Morgan Williams (center) and Anna Bowers as they inspect the horses they will be competing on. Below: Western team captain Kim Marlowe, a junior from Albuquerque, N.M., brings her horse alongside the arena to prepare for a slide stop in a reining event against Texas Stephen F. Austin University.



Western rider Lindsay Douglas, a sophomore from Issaquah, Wash., helps her teammates, Morgan Williams (left), a freshman from Alexandria, La., and Granbury freshman Anna Bowers fix their hair before a show against Texas A&M University. Western riders who compete in reining events wear ponytails while horsemanship riders fix their hair in buns.



English rider Lauren Purkey, a freshman from Redmond, Wash., jumps her horse while competing against Delaware State. The English team competes in jumps and flats.